



Yongergnow
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MALLEEFOWL CENTRE

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Yongergnow's April 2008 Newsletter

One Year Old!

The first birthday of the Yongergnow Australian Malleefowl Centre was celebrated on 15 February 2008. Guests were treated to a rendition of the environmental song "Who Cares" by the Ongerup Primary School children and the hauntingly beautiful didgeridoo played by Ken Haywood. Ken was accompanied by Eugene Eades who gave the traditional noongar welcome, and board member Shane Woods.

Following the open-air formalities, guests gathered inside the centre to view the new artworks on display from Katanning's Mungart Boodja Art Gallery and four stunning wildflower illustrations by renowned watercolourist Phillipa Nikulinsky. The works are part of a collection owned by Russell and Peta Timms who have very generously allowed the collection to be on loan to Yongergnow.

Afternoon Tea was enjoyed on the verandah with guests enjoying the ambience of the surrounding mallee bushland. The celebrations ended with a barbeque and music by Neil Morgan, Fred Duncan and Ross Strahan.

A HUGE thank you to all the volunteers and to everyone who came to celebrate the first birthday of Yongergnow.



Ken Hayward

"Who Cares" by Ross and the kids



Healthway

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Great Southern
Area Consultative Committee



Change of Direction

In mid-February the Yongergnow Board determined that due to financial constraint; in order for the centre to remain open it was necessary for it to run on a volunteer basis without a paid Centre Manager.

Yongergnow continues to open as per the normal trading hours through the willingness and commitment of the volunteer team. An interim Management Committee has been appointed to oversee the operations and to actively pursue other income streams such as corporate sponsorship and donations.



Thanks to our major sponsors:



Ongerup Community Development Inc.
Working for our Community



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Visitors – local and International!

Visitor numbers have been encouraging during February and March with group bookings and functions contributing to the individual visitors.

During the summer months we enjoyed the company of visitors from all over Australia and from Germany, UK, Switzerland, France, Denmark and the USA. Among our international visitors was a group of 21 from Reunion Island (A French speaking country 220km's south-east of Mauritius). As the group spoke very little English it was necessary to communicate through an interpreter. This made for an interesting experience for the volunteers delivering a presentation on Malleefowl!

We enjoyed a lively time together, especially the children who helped prepare the meal worms to feed the malleefowl. They were undeterred even when they found out they had to squash the heads of the mealworms they just proceeded to do so with wrinkled up noses and looks of disgust!



Visitors from Reunion Island
enjoying the Yongernow experience



School Kids sing for Cabinet

Once again the Ongerup School Children were treated to an excursion to Albany to sing “Who Cares” for the State Government Cabinet meeting. Accompanied on guitar by the song-writer, Ross Strahan. The children sang with gusto for Ministers Kim Chance, David Templeman and Michelle Roberts as well as the meeting of the South Coast Natural Resource Management group. An added bonus for the children was a trip to the port to see the berthed cruise ship QE2. Thank you to Len Van der Waag and staff at Great Southern Area Consultative Committee, staff at SCNRM and the staff at Ongerup Primary School for facilitating this wonderful opportunity for our kids.

All roads lead to Yongernow!

Thanks to a grant from Lotterywest, the road signage is now complete with fourteen new signs being erected at strategic points along the major highways. Thank you to Brenndon Deering for organising the signage erection.

“The Yongernow Pow Wow”

On 18 April 2008 an interactive community information forum will be held at Yongernow to keep the Ongerup and wider community up to speed with the changes that have recently been instigated in terms of management of the centre. It is also a forum to ask our community and our supporters for their ideas about how we can better run the centre, what more we can offer and how we can attract financial support for this world class facility. The forum will be facilitated and will involve some informal workshop ‘brainstorming’ sessions.

Your attendance is most welcome! Please call the centre if you would like to be involved in the forum or you would like more information.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL OUR DONORS FOR YOUR ON-GOING SUPPORT TO KEEP THE
YONGERGNOW AUSTRALIAN MALLEEFOWL CENTRE OPEN**

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