

NEWSLETTER

October 2008

Yongergnow Vision Statement: 'For Yongergnow as a community owned and driven interpretive centre to be recognized as a centre of excellence for environmental awareness, education and research, focussing on the malleefowl and its habitat'.

As the wildflower season draws to a close, the Yongergnow team can pause to take a much needed breath and reflect on a very successful 'busy season'.

With visitor numbers up on the 2007 wildflower season, the increase in revenue to the centre comes as a much needed injection as the centre works towards attaining a more secure level of financial security and sustainability. Of course, for any community project with ambitious goals, immediate self-sustainability is very rarely achieved and, like many other tourist driven environmental centres throughout Australia and beyond, Yongergnow still has challenges ahead in terms of achieving financial self-sustainability.

To this end, we have been thrilled and delighted with the response to the ***Mallee Donor Giving Programme***. This fund-raising campaign was launched as part of 'Good Neighbours Month' in August. There has always been a membership available and the Mallee Donor programme is simply an extension of this membership which offers differing levels of donations to enable any member of the public to make a donation within their commitment range. Complimentary entry for one year, invitations to Yongergnow events and regular information updates are all part of the package.

We absolutely welcome any donations, small, medium, big or bigger! For as little as \$25 per year, you can become a Mallee Donor. Not only does your donation keep the centre doors open, but it grows the Yongergnow support network and helps to inspire and drive the board and volunteers who are working hard to keep the long term vision alive. Please contact Centre Administrator Karla Newitt at Yongergnow on 98282325 for more details.

mallee landscape art exhibition

Yongergnow was part of the 2008 Bendigo Bank Southern Art & Craft Trail during September and October which coincided very nicely with the wildflower season. An exhibition called 'mallee landscape' was shown in the Yongergnow Gallery featuring new works from the Ongerup Art Group. Several paintings were sold which was terrific. A fabulous Opening cocktail party was held on Wednesday 24 September, hosted by the event sponsor, Wesfarmers Federation Insurance Ltd. Regional Manager Chris Kennington made the trip down from Perth to attend with the Albany team of Jeremy Sutherland accompanied by wife Sandy, Scott Sedgewick and Cindy Sedgewick. Jeremy Sutherland officially opened the exhibition and offered great support for the local community and to Yongergnow.

David Bowden from Fonty's Pool Wines of Manjimup also attended. Fonty's Pool Wines are the official wine sponsor for Yongergnow events and David offered tastings of Fonty's Pool wines as well as providing the wines for the evening.

The support from our corporate partners is extremely important to Yongergnow and we are grateful for this strong show of belief. Yongergnow continues to seek support from the corporate and small to medium business sector. If you fit into any of these categories and feel that a partnership with Yongergnow would be beneficial to your business, please don't hesitate to make contact. Please phone Marketing Consultant Ellen Milne on 98279209.

Bored? How about the Board!

Nominations for positions on the Yongergnow Inc. Board will be called for very soon. Several positions will become available, so if you feel you may be interested, or know someone who is, please contact Chairman Leslie Briscoe on 0419 915158 for further details. It is vital to the future of Yongergnow that the Board remains committed, enthusiastic and prepared to offer real time to leading the centre forward, so please give making a community contribution to this exciting project some thought.

Still bored? Become a Yongergnow volunteer!

Yongergnow has a wonderful group of very committed volunteers and would love more to join them! If you have an interest in the malleefowl, the mallee bushland, art, food or people then Yongergnow is the place for you. Staying open 7 days a week is a pretty formidable challenge and the need for volunteers is a constant. There are all sorts of jobs that need doing, and any contribution is greatly welcomed. Training is all part of the package, so come along and get involved; meet lots of interesting travelers and grab a great dollop of community pride for your trouble. Contact Karla at the centre for more info.

A word on the birds...

Gnowie and Koomal have started building a mound! It's still early days, but the signs look promising. Their vigorous activity also indicates they have settled into their new captive surroundings happily and feel at home in their new environment which is very reassuring to the volunteers who care so well for and so much about these rare and special birds.

If you haven't been out to Yongergnow for a while, *gnow* is a good time to visit. Koomal, the male, is particularly protective at the moment and spends much of his time following visitors along the fence line. Don't forget, if you are part of the Mallee Donor Programme, your entry is free for a year!

Yongergnow has just joined the Australia's Golden Outback regional tourism association as well as being part of Australia's South West, and is finding its way into the regional media and the West Australian Newspapers. We are working hard to raise the profile of the centre and hope that you will assist us in this task by sending people our way!

Don't forget, if you have any great ideas or thoughts, any concerns or complaints, please pass on your feedback to us. Contact Ellen Milne on 98279209 or ellen@eventuate.net.au

