

YONGERGNOW AUSTRALIAN MALLEEFOWL CENTRE NEWSLETTER

December 2010

Edited by Vicky Bilney

YONGERGNOW VISION STATEMENT COMMUNITY, CULTURE, CONSERVATION

"For Yongernow as a community owned and operated interpretive centre to be recognized as a centre of excellence for environmental awareness and education, with special focus on conservation of the mallee and its endangered flagship species, the magnificent Malleefowl."

LOOKING BACK ON 2010: THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY AT YONGERGNOW

2010, my first year at Yongernow certainly included a very steep learning curve. The end of it is, alas, nowhere in sight... Working two full time jobs (Community Resource Centre coordinator and Yongernow administrator) which are crammed into one part time position can be quite interesting at times. Cleaner to office administrator, IT consultant to café staff, newsletter editor to conservation biologist, I dutifully change hats as required. It can be challenging - but I love it! I get to work with the most marvellous, tireless, enthusiastic and passionate volunteers, donors, suppliers and stakeholders, so what better place could there be?!

2010 proved to be a successful year for Yongernow. Several functions were hosted and co-hosted with the co-located Community Resource Centre: a Biodiversity Dinner and a French Night in March, Noongar Mallee Arts Days for regional schools in August, a Night under the Stars and launch of the Great Southern Art and Craft Trail exhibition in September. Private and community functions were held like the Ongerup Community Development's business dinner, a birthday party and the Ongerup Book Club's Christmas barbeque. A market day was held at the centre, as were a chocolate-making and a card making course and a concert of the Berliner Philharmoniker was broadcast to the centre, truly fulfilling the *community* and *culture* aspects of Yongernow's missive.

YONGERGNOW CONTACT DETAILS

PO Box 9, Ongerup 6336
Lot 260 Jaekel St, Ongerup 6336
phone 08 9828 2325
fax 08 9828 2326
email visitor@yongernow.com.au
web www.yongernow.com.au



OPENING HOURS

Mon, Wed, Thu 9am to 4pm

Sat, Sun 10am to 4pm

CLOSED

Tue, Fri, Christmas, New Year's Day
GROUP BOOKINGS WELCOME

As for the *conservation* part, Yongernow has developed into an active centre for Malleefowl conservation, and is hoping to diversify more broadly into mallee flora and fauna conservation.

Malleefowl 'teenagers' Happy, Dopey, Rhea, JC, Ralph and Henry are living proof of this year's activities as centre of excellence for conservation through captive-raising, and the most exciting bit of news is that they have been joined by chicks Klukka (Karara), Steggle and Lou, who only hatched within the last two weeks.

These three chicks (and one additional egg of uncertain viability) were the result of a recent rescue mission to the Perenjori area, where two Malleefowl mounds were threatened by a mining development. Yongernow was invited to collect the eggs and raise the chicks for release back into



the wild next year. The chicks will most likely be released at Wadderin Sanctuary near Narembeen, where Ralph and Henry will go in January, too.

Malleefowl chicks Klukka (Karara) and Steggle, two of Yongernow's newest additions. PHOTOS Paula Chisholm.

YONGERGNOW
AUSTRALIAN MALLEEFOWL CENTRE
ABN 49 489 859 404

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FROM THE BOARD - POST AGM YONGERGNOW REPORT 2009 - 2010 BY KEN PECH AM, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

We are now well focused on stabilizing the affairs of Yongergnow. With Phil Burns on the Board and taking control of the Financial Reporting we have a much better idea of our situation. He has done an excellent job of giving us a well ordered Financial Statement. Even though we went backwards by \$8000.00 we are in much better control and hopefully will have opportunities to turn the situation around.

Vicki Bilney has resigned from the Board and become the Administrator of Yongergnow and the Community Resource Centre. The CRC, formerly Ongerup Telecentre is now combined with us in the Yongergnow building but both operate as separate Boards. Tony Sands is now on the Board and brings with him a wealth of business and tourism expertise. Alan Faulkner has resigned from the Board. I thank him for his involvement.

We have finally acquitted the Western Power grant and are now in the process of applying for a grant from Lotteries to assist in constructing a second Aviary to use as a backup. We successfully reared six Mallee fowl chicks, two of which will be released to the wild. We intend to take other opportunities to rear and preserve this and possibly other species.

Visitors are a very important part of our operation approximately 2000 paying to maximise our cash flow, both for sales of merchandize and hospitality for groups and visitors. I emphasize that this would not be possible without the tremendous support and loyalty we get from the Volunteers. I acknowledge that it is quite demanding on family and personal time and a huge commitment to make.

The effort that Vicki is making to secure business and keep the organization running within budget constraints is highly commended.

I thank the Shire Council and particularly Aaron for their support. It would be very difficult to operate without it. The Board is very focused and I thank them for their support: Len for his guidance, Jan as interim treasurer and particularly Fred for his practical expertise and doing those jobs that have to be done with the aviaries and other construction such as with the chick pens. All of you, Board and Volunteers have helped steady the direction and viability of Yongergnow. Thank you to everyone who has in any way assisted.

BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman Ken Pech, **Vice Chairperson** Jan Savage, **Secretary** Tony Sands, **Treasurer** Phil Burns, **members** Len van der Waag, Shane Woods, Fred Duncan, **co-opted member** Stephen Davies, **ex officio members** Vicky Bilney, Jessica van der Waag, Russell Pritchard



Thank you, dear vollies, and thank you, dear Mallee Donors, Friends, and Patrons, for helping make Yongergnow's dreams a reality with your generous contributions. Running this place would not be possible without your support. I look forward to another year with you and wish you all **A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY YEAR 2011.**

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RENEWED MALLEE DONORS THANK YOU FOR JOINING AND/OR RENEWING

We are very grateful to Warwick Jones, Lisa Mazzella and Marg and Digger Weir for so kindly contributing to Yongergnow's conservation goals by renewing their affiliation or by joining in. Allan Hillier became a new Mallee Patron: he generously donated \$500. The Malleefowl Preservation Group donated an incredible 3/4 of their small merchandise stock to Yongergnow. Thank you all so much! A heart felt thank you goes to all who donated anonymously and who "just give a bit" - like Kingsley Vaux and Barry and Graeme Savage, who donated their time and expertise to teach staff and volunteers how to operate the fire pump protecting the aviary and other emergency responses. Or to Carmel Charlton, who donated the revenues from her Up down South CD sold at Yongergnow to the centre. Or to Tony Sands, whose contribution has made Yongergnow's upcoming rainwater project possible. Or to Margaret Jones and Denise Deering for volunteering their time on weekends: without them we would struggle to be open on Saturdays.

Countless people have contributed with their knowledge, expertise and time. Without you Yongergnow would be so much poorer—in every aspect of the word! **THANK YOU!**

MALLEE DONORS' CORNER

Thank you very much for supporting Yongergnow in its aim to raise environmental awareness and provide education about the mallee and its precious Malleefowl and other creatures. Yongergnow board, staff and volunteers are more than grateful for your ongoing support and hope to see you soon at Yongergnow.

Entrance fees are, of course, waived for you. If you would like to renew your donation or become a Mallee Donor, please contact Vicky at Yongergnow. You can become a

- **Mallee Patron (\$500 and over)**
- **Mallee Friend (\$250 to \$499)**
- **Mallee Donor (\$50 to \$249) or a**
- **Mallee Fowl Friend (\$15 to \$49)**

New Patrons, Friends and Donors will be mentioned in future newsletters. Yongergnow is happy to include logos of Patrons and Friends who are businesses in the Yongergnow newsletter.

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