

YONGERGNOW AUSTRALIAN MALLEEFOWL CENTRE NEWSLETTER

November 2010

Edited by Vicky Bilney

YONGERGNOW VISION STATEMENT COMMUNITY, CULTURE, CONSERVATION

"For Yongergnow 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."

SPRING AT YONGERGNOW

What a busy spring we've had! The wildflower season kept staff and volunteers at Yongergnow very busy, with event following event and visitor numbers skyrocketing. Several tour coach companies have repeatedly visited Yongergnow, and community groups such as the Albany Port Rotary Club and the Albany Veteran Car Club have chosen Yongergnow as a destination for their outings.

We are very pleased to see that our Malleefowl were unperturbed even by large groups of admirers and we are thrilled and very sad at the same time about the prospect of the imminent release of Ralph and Henry, two of our captive-raised Malleefowl.

It was a privilege to welcome volunteers of the Malleefowl Preservation Group (MPG) who participated in the Ongerup Malleefowl survey in early October. A thrilling result of the survey was the discovery of a new mound, possibly built by birds that researcher Jessica van der Waag released at the site several years ago!

ABOUT THE BIRDS

EXPANSION PLANS: NEW AVIARY

We're currently awaiting a response to our application for funding for a second aviary from Lotterywest.

Adult male Malleefowl are very territorial. Therefore, we need to build a second aviary to provide the best possible conditions for our two pairs of birds. So far, we can keep all birds in the one aviary because the males are too young to think about territories and reproduction yet.

YONGERGNOW CONTACT DETAILS

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OPENING HOURS

Mon, Wed, Thu 9am to 4pm

Sat, Sun 10am to 4pm

CLOSED

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

WORKING WITH WADDERIN

Thanks to Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) approval, Yongergnow will assist volunteers and consultants of the community-run Wadderin Sanctuary near Narembeen with captive-raising and re-introduction of Malleefowl into this fully fenced and predator-controlled community reserve. Chicks Ralph and Henry will find a safe new home in this sanctuary, and will hopefully be joined by more Malleefowl (to be raised at Yongergnow) in winter/spring 2011.

SCRAMBLED EGGS? NO THANKS!

Yongergnow has been approached by DEC with the request to submit a proposal to rescue and incubate Malleefowl eggs out of a mound which is imminently threatened by a mining development. Chicks out of these eggs would be raised at Yongergnow and be released at Wadderin Sanctuary.

MALLEE ARTS AND CULTURE DAYS

In August, Yongergnow's tradition was revived to invite schools to participate in Environmental Art and Culture Days to learn about Aboriginal culture, music, food and of course the Malleefowl. Yongergnow staff and volunteers and a group of Noongar people around Eugene Eades, Shane Woods and Ezzard Flowers facilitated the workshops. Schools from Jerramungup, Ongerup, Tambellup, Pingrup and Bremer Bay attended the events. Everyone enjoyed themselves on the days,

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participating in a Noongar bush walk, didgeridoo and guitar music and indigenous art and we had some magnificent feedback. Special thanks goes to principal sponsor Healthway, all volunteers and before all volunteer project manager Judy O'Neill for making these magic days possible!

COOPERATION WITH THE ONGERUP COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

Thanks to the Ongerup Community Resource Centre's (CRC) location at Yongergnow and the close cooperation of both organisations, hosting several events was possible this spring.

NIGHT UNDER THE STARS

On 17th September, Yongergnow Malleefowl Centre and the Ongerup CRC hosted a Night under the Stars. Jerramungup caterer Jane Vandermaat with her magnificent food creations entertained the guests' palates while her husband, hobby astronomer Harry, showcased the night sky using his telescopes, patiently taught the fascinated guests how to find due south with the help of the Southern Cross and generally amazed everyone with his knowledge. Another highlight of the evening was Northcliffe-based astrophysicist Jo Davis' presentation about (you guessed it) the night sky, our solar system, the universe and some of their secrets. Jo's talk had her audience glued to their chairs! It was especially gratifying to see that even the attending children and teenagers thoroughly enjoyed stargazing and listening to the theoretical part Jo delivered so masterfully. Yongergnow is very grateful to Jane, Harry and Jo for providing their expertise on the night and of course to the tireless volunteers. This magnificent night would not have been possible without the assistance of the Ongerup CRC with support from Royalties for Regions and the Department for Regional Development and Lands.

VICE-REGAL VISIT

As part of his visit to the Great Southern, His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC, Governor of Western Australia, graced Yongergnow with a visit. Yongergnow, the Ongerup CRC and the Great Southern Development Commission co-hosted morning tea for his Excellency on 22nd September. Yongergnow Chairman Cr Ken Pech, CRC President Cr

Jan Savage and Administrator/Coordinator Vicky Bilney showcased the centre and of course the resident Malleefowl, ably assisted by school prefects Montana Hooper and Hayley Curtin.



His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC, Governor of Western Australia with Ongerup Primary School prefects Hayley Curtin and Montana Hooper (photo Fred Duncan).

After Yongergnow Chairman Cr Ken Pech's welcome, the Governor gave a short speech thanking the town and Centre for the warm welcome. CRC President Cr Jan Savage then presented His Excellency with one of Nancy Dewar's photographs as a memento of his visit.



Yongergnow Chairman Cr Ken Pech (left) and Ongerup Community Resource Centre President Cr Jan Savage (right) presenting His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC, Governor of Western Australia with one of Nancy Dewar's famous Malleefowl photos (photo Fred Duncan).

The Governor mentioned his strong interest in conservation and emphasised how important it is to look after the environment. On his walk around the aviary he was intrigued by the Malleefowl, and said that he would like to be informed about the future of our birds. His Excellency found something

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pleasant to say to everyone, and especially sought out volunteer Gail Vaux to compliment her for her outstanding scones. It was a very pleasant morning, and I dare say that everyone enjoyed it very much.

BUSH FRIENDLY GARDEN WORKSHOP

Also on 22nd September, three enthusiastic speakers Diane Harwood (Denmark Weed Action Group), Coral Turley (Esperance) and Barbara Miller-Hornsey (Bremer Bay) gave presentations to an equally enthusiastic audience at Yongergnow. The list of weeds that threaten our native bush was endless but there was plenty of sharing ideas of how to get rid of them and how to enhance the local plants. The overall idea is to plant suitable native plants for your area and soil type. We could say we are 'lucky' around this area that we don't have the weed problem that the south coast areas have. A walk along Yongergnow's trails afterwards was a revelation with the learned ladies pointing out plenty of orchids and other spring flowering beauties and also commenting on how everything needs a good drink! Thank you to the Pallinup Landcare Centre for organising the interesting day and speakers. (Sandy Vaux)

GREAT SOUTHERN ART AND CRAFT TRAIL 2010

On Friday 24th September, Yongergnow Australian Malleefowl Centre opened its doors to arts enthusiasts as a Great Southern Art and Craft Trail venue for the third year in a row. Shire President Kerry Stone launched the exhibition. In her short and to the point speech, she acknowledged the important role Yongergnow plays in the Shire as a centre for community, culture and conservation and emphasised the artists' great effort to make this exhibition possible.

The Ongerup and Surrounds Community of Artists (TOSCA) have again produced some magnificent works of art. This year's topic was **all about me**; a very personal motto inspiring the artists to express themselves on many different media in many different ways. As individual as their creators, exhibits ranged from classical paintings to homemade jam! It was good to see Yongergnow Board member and CRC President Jan Savage in attendance. The lovely evening was crowned by a full moon rising,

huge and orange - while at the same time the International Space Station zoomed past!



Yongergnow Board member Cr Jan Savage (right) pointing out the International Space Station (photo Nancy Dewar).

Yongergnow would like to acknowledge principal sponsor WFI, and also Fonty's Pool Wine, Ringwold Cheese and Bronwyn Gaze as sponsors for the night. Without their contribution, this wonderful event would not have been possible. Bronwyn donated a new art hanging system. This was installed at the last moment by volunteers Barry Savage and Mick Newitt, so sincere thanks goes to them, too, as goes to all the tireless volunteers who make Yongergnow such a special place.



Shire President Kerry Stone sampling Ringwold goats' cheese, presented by volunteer Jane Campbell (photo Nancy Dewar).

YONGERGNOW AGM

Yongergnow's AGM will take place on Thursday 25th November at 11am at Yongergnow.

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RENEWED MALLEE DONORS THANK YOU FOR JOINING & RENEWING

We are very grateful to Christine Trappit, Merle Bennett, John and Judy McDougall and John and Celia Barnesby for so kindly contributing to Yongergnow's operations. It was a great pleasure to meet most of you recently.

A great thank you goes to all who donated anonymously and who "just give a bit" - like **Bronwyn Gaze** who sponsored a picture hanging system for Yongergnow's gallery. **John and Judy McDougall** loaned Yongergnow their giant metal bobtail sculpture for a few weeks in October. The **Naked Bean Coffee Roasters** didn't charge us enough for coffee and donated the difference when the discrepancy was pointed out to them. **Sandy Vaux** donated trays for the kitchen. **Nancy Dewar** donated a framed photograph as gift to departing volunteer Maja. 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.

THANK YOU!

No newsletter about Yongergnow would be complete without a heart-felt thank you to all the volunteers who so tirelessly contribute to the day to day running of this spectacular centre. Thank you, dear vollies, for keeping Yongergnow ticking, and thank you, dear Mallee Donors, for making it possible with your generous contributions.

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STOP PRESS FOR THE WORLD'S BEST ORCHESTRA


On Sunday 14th November, the Ongerup Community Resource Centre will host a broadcast of a performance of the **Berliner Philharmoniker** on a big screen TV at Yongergnow.

Do join us from 7.30pm. Black tie or op shop glamour welcome. Light refreshments will be provided. Soft drinks will be available. BYO alcohol. RSVP by 11th November to 9828 2325 or visitor@yongergnow.com.au.

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