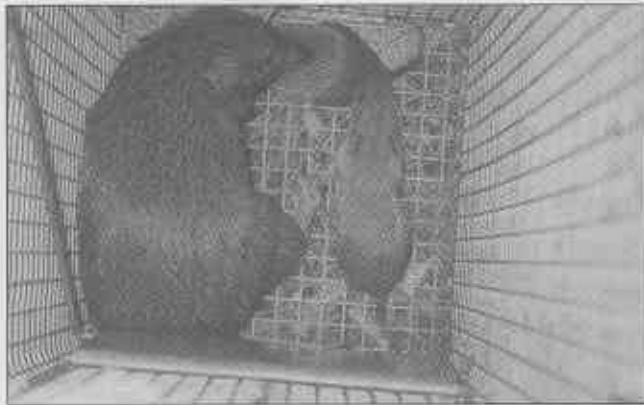


LFW NEWS

FAUNA SURVEYS ON A PROPERTY IN YELVERTON BROOK NEAR MARGARET RIVER:



Quenda mother and baby. (photo: David Marshall)

IN October fauna surveys were carried out on a *Land For Wildlife* property to ascertain what species of fauna were in the bushland.

The property consists of a lovely creekline full of reptiles and birds, it is well vegetated with a diverse variety of flora. There are dense thickets of shrubs and sedges - but the most attractive to the many birds is the scarlet flowered swamp bottlebrush. Jarrah/banksia bushland to the north of the property has a wealth of species. At the western end of the property is banksia bushland where the vegetation is sparse but there are plenty of bobtail skinks.

The property owners obtained a licence to survey fauna during October. They used casual observations, spotlight and sand surveys along the boundary fencing to see what might be coming through or under the fences. There were many tracks seen on the smooth sand and quite a few observations on a daily basis. For four days a consultant, Dr. Per Christensen, and myself, together with students from Busselton TAFE Land Management course and the property owners, carried out fauna surveys by different methods.

Two years ago there were signs of tiger snakes, bobtails, a range of birdlife, frogs and quendas. This was before fox baiting had started and before a boundary fence was constructed. Foxes are still entering the property, as shown clearly by the

sand surveys but appear to be controlled. Baiting has been in place for the past two years and our results show that although the same species are on site, their numbers have increased, especially the quendas. More quenda diggings are visible and quendas with young were seen near the creek.

Some very clear messages arose from this survey:-

- (a) Fauna surveys can be carried out in many ways - observations and sand surveys being less invasive but still very interesting and accurate survey methods.
- (b) Fox baiting is essential if you want to bring wildlife back.
- (c) Fencing of bushland can fence in wildlife as well as fence out ferals.
- (d) Feral proof fencing is not always completely feral proof.

If *Land For Wildlife* property owners would like to carry out fauna surveys on their own properties, take a pair of binoculars and go for a gentle walk every morning and take a torch or spotlight out with you every night, and smooth sections of yellow builders' sand out along firebreaks. This is always a great start - you see what is on your property and it has less impact on your little inhabitants. There is also the Fauna Survey Booklet available through *LFW* Officers.

Cherie Kemp

CREEKLINE REVEGETATION WORKSHOP - BUSSELTON

LFW and Ribbons of Blue held a workshop on the 28th Nov. at Busselton TAFE Campus. Of the 41 people who attended, 31 were *LFW*ers.

Among the most popular of the topics discussed was the inter-relationship between plant species and fauna habitat, and during the picnic lunch under the peppy trees we were able to see a ringtail possum drey and possum box where the resident possum sleeps, and raids the nursery by night. All attendees of the workshop were encouraged to take advantage of looking at and taking home some tubestock of indigenous species grown by the TAFE students, to use for next year's plantings.

After lunch everyone travelled to Dunsborough to visit a streamlining project which involved community members including Toby Inlet Group, Greencorps, TAFE students and other volunteers.

Immediately following this was a visit to the refreshing property of Jan and John Hemsley in Dunsborough which has a diverse range of vegetation from a creekline, granite outcrop areas, ironstone areas and jarrah/banksia forest. John explained how the property was once part of a large farm owned by his family and when subdivided he was given custody of the only patch of bush remaining on site. It also adjoins a reserve where the locals enjoy bushwalks and the company of many kangaroos hopping through the bush beside them. We had a lovely bushwalk with local botanists Richard Clark, Mary Hughes and Daniel Winton assisting with the identification of plants and seed type.

It was a very warm day outside but a very pleasant day was had by all. This one was so successful, and so much fun, we will definitely be having more next year.

Cherie Kemp