

## NEWS

### COCKYS FOR LANDCARE - COME FOR A DRIVE WITH US!

*Sarah Mason*



OUR group is the Calingiri/ New Norcia Land Care District Committee and, as you will have noticed, that is a mouthful. We realized that if we are to get corporate sponsorship we needed a good name and marketable logo. Carnaby's cockatoo nests in our area and we know it is endangered, so it

seemed logical to adopt it as our emblem, and have as our name "Cockys for Landcare". We know the spelling is incorrect; however we wanted to be memorable and distinctive and utilize the play on words!

To promote the work being carried out by landholders in our area, we devised a Landcare Drive. We hope that this will bring visitors into our Shire and so aid the local off-farm economy. We chose 7 sites that are representative of what we wanted to showcase. All have signs with a small amount of information on them, and usually a question to stimulate people to think! The drive starts at the Rica Erickson Reserve between New Norcia and Calingiri and includes a salt scald, an artificial nest for Carnaby's Cockatoos, farm forestry, remnant bush management and other sites of interest.

We have been fortunate to get some of the State's experts to talk on the CD (and Peter Garrett to introduce it!). This will hopefully lead to an increased understanding of some the issues facing landowners in the agricultural areas. We also give a contact for those who wish to find out more, or visit our Shire as a volunteer, which is an extension of our policy of encouraging city/country links. The CD, brochure and map can be collected from the Tourist Offices in Bindoon, New Norcia and Wongan Hills. Visitors can take the brochure with them and are requested to leave the CD at the last site.

We have plans to expand the drive to incorporate other areas within the Shire, as we have quite a varied landscape and we want to promote those farmers who are caring for the land. We see the Landcare Drive also as a way to market products from producers who are diversifying, such as bush foods, olives, soft wheat milling and others. The group thanks the NHT Envirofund, the Shire of Victoria Plains and the speakers for funding and other support.

*For further information, contact: Elizabeth Tierney, Landcare Coordinator, ph: 9628 7004, email: etierney@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au*



### "BRINGING BACK THE BIRDS"

WALLATIN WILDLIFE AND LANDCARE INC (Kellerberrin) obtained funds from the Gordon Reid Foundation to have CSIRO design a nature conservation plan for the Wallatin Creek Catchment. The design uses the 'focal species approach' whereby the most 'bush-dependant' birds are chosen and reveg planned to benefit them, on the assumption that it will also benefit all the rest of the native fauna. The proposal is then considered in the farming context, and the combined design is the plan.

The plan was launched by naturalist Eric McCrum, in Rod and Judy Forsyth's SUPERB woodland. (Over 50 native plants were seen in the short bush walks, as well as dozens of dependant fauna.) The Wallatin group are good at forming partnerships, and present at the launch were representatives of the Commonwealth Government (CSIRO); State Government (LFW / CALM); NGOs (GAWA, WWF and WA Naturalists' Club); NRM groups (Avon Catchments Council), and, of course, the people on whom the future of the landscape really depends, the landholders themselves. With such a force working together for sustainability, how can we fail?

*For more info, contact: Sue McFarlane, ph/fax 9045 8244, email: msmcfarlane@bigpond.com*

*Did you know?*

That the curled up new fronds of bracken will take the sting out of a bull-ant bite? You just rub the young green frond on the offending area.

*Dorothy Redreau, Albany*