

MEMBERS PAGE

PLAN YOUR COUNTERATTACK AGAINST MARAUDING RING-NECK PARROTS!

Jan Rowley

The 28 parrot has an irreversible means of killing many specimens of xanthorrhoeas in the course of its insatiable summer smorgasbord diet. To counter the disastrous demise of a number of 1-2 metre high majestic examples of long-lived xanthorrhoea on our verge in Chittering, I trialled a possible recovery plan.

Last summer, before the birds completely eradicated the green growing shoots at the core of the plant, I used some of the circles of dead stem from previous years to cover the growing shoots. I made certain that the green tips were about 12cm at least below the top of the collar. As the shoots grew, I just increased the height of the collar.

The birds did no further damage to the plant and so far as I know did not attack other specimens nearby. When the rains produced other sources of food and the topknot was growing well, I removed the collar. Next summer I plan to collar the growth early and watch for the results.

If any readers have other ideas – proven or otherwise – for countering damage caused by the b***** 28s (I mean 'beautiful', of course!) please let me know on (08) 9571 4152.

[Loss of balgas to 28s has been an enduring issue for many LFWers. Concern and possible action was highlighted way back in WW 1/3 (July 1997) and 1/4 (Oct 1997). As well as letting Jan know your ideas, could anyone send LFW some photographic evidence of long-term protection that has worked? – Ed.]



Fig 1. In this group, parrots killed one of the 5 heads in summer of 2004. The damage done in earlier years is clearly visible. In early 2005, a 'circle for survival' was placed around the struggling growing tips of the remaining 4. This photo is Aug 2005, showing good growth at all four sites.



Fig 2. A collar in place.

Bush Detective



What's in this photo?

This 'living log' is a Bush Stone-curlew sitting on its nest. Bill Dawes from Yealering sent in this photo after reading an earlier article about Bush Stone-curlews living near homesteads. This one was nesting near some old machinery. Unfortunately, Bill says it is about 10 years since he last saw or heard a stone-curlew in his area.