

## THE SECOND MARGARET RIVER COFFEE MORNING

*A Land for Wildlife* 10th anniversary event

This coffee morning was held on 7 December last year on Janne and Pat O'Dwyer's property which is a small lot in semi rural subdivision near Margaret River with a creekline and a small dam. When they moved in, the property was mainly paddocks with some peppermint trees along the creek. They proceeded to plant along the creek and around the dam with local indigenous species. A windbreak/wildlife corridor was also planted around the property and more recently a corridor across the property to link all areas together. They also have planted vegie gardens and fruit trees close to the house as well as having chicken pens.

The 17 attendees were split into two groups, with Pat taking one group to one end of the property and Janne to the other. They showed everyone their achievements both in the native gardens which are full of birdlife, bandicoots and black skinks (and more recently a dugite as Janne found out to her surprise!) and also the revegetation

efforts, weed control, feral animal control and wildlife habitat creation.

Janne explained how she sets traps for the rabbits and foxes and feral dogs - the local rangers support rabbit, cat and dog trapping and they will collect anything trapped and either find its correct home or, if feral, dispose of it humanely. In a small semi rural subdivision, you cannot lay baits or set off firearms, which makes feral animal control more difficult. Over the years there have been struggles with many issues but Janne and Pat have remained dedicated to wildlife management on their property throughout the whole time.

The day went longer than expected, finishing with a very welcome home brewed coffee, cake and biscuits. Everyone stayed and chatted and enjoyed the social aspect of meeting other *LFWers* from the area.

Thank you, Janne and Pat.