

## A COFFEE MORNING AT WYADUP

*A Land for Wildlife 10th anniversary event*

On 17 January, the third *LFW* coffee morning in the Busselton/Margaret River area was held on Neil and Gail Taylor's property in Wyadup. It has 19ha of bushland, creekline, olives, proteas and an orchard.

We started off with morning tea and a welcome to the 13 visitors from Neil. He outlined the property's main features which includes the 1.7km feral-proof fence he researched, designed and built. Handouts on feral-proof fence construction and an interesting one on how high different animals can jump/climb a fence were distributed.

We walked to the creekline and had a look at the marron ponds, as well as the new regeneration occurring since the construction of the feral-proof fence. Previously there were high numbers of kangaroos and rabbits on the property that were causing disturbance. Neil and Gail 'shooed' out some of the kangaroos, leaving a manageable number inside the fence. The rabbit warrens are fumigated regularly to control numbers, while traps are laid for feral cats. Neil gave a few special hints on feral control that he has picked up along the way



*Neil at culvert feral barrier*



The next stop was to look at the feral proof fence - its design of skirt on the bottom and electric wires on the top. Neil says he has since learnt that there are many other effective ways to construct a fence such as this, but that his second hand materials were of excellent quality and strength and will last well into the future. Neil made the entrance gate himself - electronic and powered by solar panels. On the western boundary, he has installed a system where water rats can escape under the fence.

Returning to the house, we had another cuppa and Neil and Gail showed us how the blue wrens will come and feed off meal worms bred especially for the little birds. It was a great opportunity to catch up with local *LFW* property owners of the area, most knew each other

already but had not had time to touch base for quite a while, others met new people and enjoyed the company and chatted about their individual properties while sitting in the cool shade overlooking the creek with blue wrens curious as to what was going on.

Another excellent day! Thanks to Neil and Gail.