

MEMBERS PAGE

THOSE DAM SWANS!

Fostering and Assistance for Wildlife Needing Aid (FAWNA Inc) had received into care approximately 80 cygnets, apparently as a result of parents abandoning them and heading inland when food on the coast became scarce (came to the coast because of lack of rain/food inland, but after rain moved back?). These abandoned cygnets were cared for by FAWNA wildlife carers but, due to the large numbers already on waterways along the coast, FAWNA were seeking other suitable release sites.

As the dam on our property (in the Kirup area) had some native vegetation around it and was of a suitable size it was decided to release 22 cygnets there. The cygnets stayed in a pen that had been erected on the edge and into part of the dam for three days and were then released. They were fed twice a day while in the pen and this was continued after their release. Although they were whistled



to at first to let them know it was feed time they rapidly got to know the sound of an approaching vehicle usually meant food.

Some of the fully feathered cygnets did not remain long and, after a short move to some ponds on the property next door, eventually flew off. Two cygnets were lost to predators when a family of four wedge-tailed eagles decided to place young swan on their diet before moving on to other parts of their territory. There are still nine almost fully grown swans on the dam that are not yet showing any inclination to move on, probably because we still give them a (gradually reducing) quantity of feed once a day, and even a few of the resident coots and ducks now come in to see if there is a free snack in the afternoon.

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