

FAUNA

CARNABY'S COCKATOO RELEASE



Cocky away! (Photo: Rick Dawson)

As a volunteer with the Black Cockatoo Rehabilitation Centre (BCRC), I had the privilege, early in May, to be involved in the release of 21 Carnaby's cockatoos at Yanchep National Park.

It was a special day, with perfect weather, lovely surroundings, and a good turnout of spectators including members from the Perth Zoo, DEC staff, and volunteers from the BCRC, all of whom were involved in the actual release of the birds from their carriers.

This was the largest release of rehabilitated black cockatoos ever undertaken in WA. In the past 12 years 90 Carnaby's cockatoos have been released in small groups of up to 13, but this is the largest flock to go at one time. The rehabilitation and release of these endangered birds are important parts of the recovery plan for the species.

The number of white-tailed black cockatoos has declined in the past 50 years, due to a loss of habitat and a low rate of reproduction, which averages only 0.6 chicks

per breeding pair per year. This species (Carnaby's) is endemic to the south-west of WA and individuals have a lifespan of between 25 and 50 years.

The BCRC is a dedicated small group of volunteers who work closely with DEC and the Perth Zoo specialising in the care of sick, injured and orphaned red-tailed and white-tailed black cockatoos. For info contact Glenn: 0417 988 872.

Zara Kivell

Did you know

... that dog excreta contains significant amounts of nitrogen and phosphorous? Figures from CSIRO suggest around 2 kg of nitrogen and 1kg of phosphorous are contributed to the landscape per household per year by dogs in the Perth Hills. Nutrient contributions from this source into your bushland will depend on the area and the number of dogs, but it is a significant external nutrient input to be considered.

Wayne van Lieven, City of Gosnells