

A Celebration of the 2000th Registration!

In the years since *LFW* first started in 1997, over 2000 landholders have registered their properties with the scheme. It was decided to celebrate the 2000th at Kaarakin, the Black Cockatoo Rehabilitation Centre (BCRC).

The BCRC had recently moved from private property to a site vested in the City of Gosnells, formerly occupied by the Cohunu Wildlife Park. The 16 hectare site has some good bushland, but also areas of overgrazed kangaroo enclosures, so the *LFW* report concentrated on bushland rehabilitation techniques. Coincidentally, this location demonstrates how threatened species can unite all levels of the community in working to ensure their survival. State and local government, community groups, private landholders and volunteers are all involved in helping Kaarakin become established, and all were represented at the celebration, as well as a large number of *LFW* members.

The occasion began with a 'welcometocountry' from Nyoongar elder Trevor Walley. He also presented firesticks - smouldering banksia spikes - to both the BCRC representative and to the Minister for Environment, Donna Faragher,



The Minister with a symbolic firestick. (Maureen Griffiths)

as a symbol of the importance of fire in caring for country.

The Department of Environment and Conservation's Director General, Keiran McNamara, spoke on the department's role in conservation on private land.

We were very pleased to welcome Ms Faragher who emphasised the importance of biodiversity conservation in WA and congratulated all *LFW* members on their commitment. She then presented BCRC's Glenn Dewhurst with a framed certificate, the 2,000th sign, the property report and, as an extra, a cheque for a grant from the Minister's Community Conservation Grants.

Glenn responded with an outline of the future for the BCRC, and a huge vote of thanks to all volunteers.

The site is vested in the City of Gosnells, and the Mayor, Cr Olwen Searle JP, outlined the many initiatives that the City has undertaken to maintain biodiversity on its land. She, too, praised volunteers.

Refreshments were then served, and Kaarakin volunteers took groups of visitors around to see the facilities and get close to these beautiful birds.



Harmony was a great favourite! Here she is with Cr Julie Breat, Deputy Mayor, City of Gosnells. (Maureen Griffiths)



From L-R: Trevor Walley, Glenn Dewhurst, The Minister for Environment Donna Faragher, Penny Hussey, Keiran McNamara. (Catherine Jack)



Are these forest red-tails being a bit too friendly! (Catherine Jack)

It was a very enjoyable event, and I would personally like to thank all those who helped in the organisation, especially Zara Kivell and Claire Hall, who undertook most of the work.

Penny Hussey