

NELL'S BLOCK RESTORATION

It was a pleasure to upgrade 'Nell's Block' at Yarloop from interim to full and to present a sign to the organising committee. This 16 ha was originally owned by Kathleen Ellen Piggot (Nellie) who was a very independent woman and developed her own poll Hereford stud and a passion for the land. In 2005, the block was bought by ALCOA and a partnership was formed with a number of community groups.

When the site was first registered in 2006, the virtually treeless paddock was being cut for hay. "Wildlife – what wildlife?" I often heard people say. But even then there was wildlife, people just hadn't noticed. Scores of little dragon lizards lived in the dry cracked soil. Hundreds of Christmas spiders dangled from the boundary fence line, numerous common grass-blue butterflies and native wasps visited the pennyroyals. More than 20 bird species were recorded and the latest count by the Mandurah Bird Observers group listed 32 bird species, including the southern boobook owl.

Baseline data was recorded and photopoint monitoring conducted for visual impacts. Weed management was instigated and on-going. During the past two years, 26,000 rushes, sedges and seedlings, have been planted. The vision is to extend this wide wildlife corridor, from the Darling Scarp all the way to the Harvey Estuary

Witnessing the dedicated determination of a whole range of people, transforming this landscape back to life is truly inspiring and infectious. Congratulations on your 'full' membership with *LFW*, it's been great to work with you!

Heather Adamson