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LAND FOR WILDLIFE

ANNUAL REPORT July 2009 - June 2010



A Red-tailed Phascogale returning home after a night in an Elliott trap. Kondinin. (Rob McMillan)



Department of
Environment and Conservation



Land for Wildlife (LFW) continued its successful programme of providing biodiversity conservation advice to landholders in WA.

Landholders register their properties with *LFW*, then during the property visit, a wide range of topics is discussed, concerning the diversity and health of the remnant vegetation, the flora, fauna and fungi present and methods of management to enhance the quality and sustainability of the natural assets, integrated with whatever else the property is being used for.

People are often keen to know what species they have on their block, and increasingly, digital images are being emailed to *LFW* officers for identification. 2010 is the 'International Year of Biodiversity' and to celebrate this, members were asked to send in pictures illustrating the biodiversity on their block. Below are a few of the stunning images that were received.



Owlet Nightjar, Kendenup. (Eddie Wajon)



Spider Wasp with prey, Margaret River. (Stuart Hicks)



Double trouble! Walpole. (Mike Murphy)



Eye-lash Cup Fungi, Warwick. (Mark Brundrett)



Inland Dotterel, Carnamah. (Peter Wittwer)



Southern Cross, Albany. (Julie-Anne Davis)

Management actions to conserve and enhance biodiversity on the property are discussed and the landholder is informed of organisations that may be able to assist, including providing grants for on-ground activities.

Positive actions are noted and encouraged. This can often be seen on revisits, especially if a series of monitoring photographs have been taken.



Revegetation for biodiversity, July 2008 and February 2010, York. (Chris Pullin)

Summary of *Land for Wildlife* activities during 2009/10

Registrations and deletions

Landholders request that their property be registered with *Land for Wildlife*. The property may be deleted from the register whenever the owner requests that this be done. The most usual reason for deletion is sale of the property.

- Number of properties newly registered in 2008/09 89
- Number of properties deleted from the register 15



Robyn and Andy McElroy, Boyup Brook

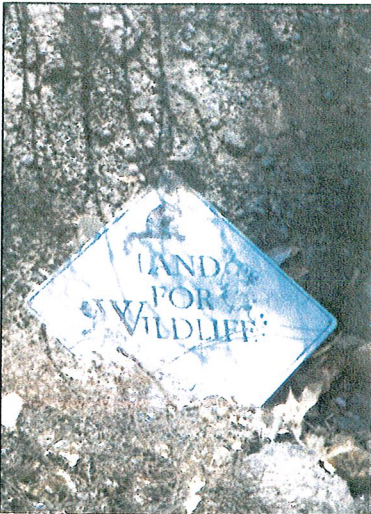
Extension

As well as working directly with *LFW* members, staff also provide information to the wider community in a number of ways, including through the media and by giving talks or mounting displays at agricultural shows or similar.

During the year, the following were organised:

Media	
Print	29
Radio	2
Conference paper	1
Talk, field day, workshop etc *	66
Display	23

* This includes 27 events 'badged' with *LFW*.



After the fire field day, Toodyay. The sign survived, and the bushland will regrow. (Zara Kivell)



Managing breakaways in the Chapman Valley. (Fiona Falconer)



Plant propagation workshop, Dunsborough. (Cherie Kemp)



Balingup Show, with *LFWO* Sheila Howat.



Constructing Bushland Trails Workshop, Denmark. (Dorothy Redreau)



↑ Fauna trapping weekend, Kondinin. (Rob McMillan)

Publications

Four issues of *Western Wildlife* were produced. In April 2010, for the first time, the magazine was produced in colour.

Special projects

Spatial database

All of the *LFW* sites continue to be digitised as a separate layer, and installed within the DEC corporate spatial database. Updates are on-going, and the '*LFW* layer' is now automatically distributed to all users within DEC.

This is proving useful to DEC, NRM and other government staff who work on a diverse range of projects, as it shows how existing *LFW* sites augment nature reserves and substantially increase the area devoted to nature conservation.

Working with Carnaby's Black Cockatoos

During 2010, two Wheatbelt-based *LFW* Officers, Mal Harper from Merridin and Phil Worts from Kojonup, combined their normal *LFW* duties with extension work targeted at properties that could provide useful habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoos. They have identified a number of properties where Carnaby's Cockatoos occur, that had not been recorded before, and recommended a number of vegetation management actions that could provide long-term benefit to these endangered birds.



LFWO Phil Worts (on right) discusses Carnaby's Cockatoo habitat with a landholder at Wagin Woolorama. (Nerilee Boshammer)

Mt Clarence Bush Reserve Fauna Survey

The *Land For Wildlife* programme in Albany has been running a small mammal fauna survey in the inner urban Mt. Clarence and Mt. Adelaide bush reserves for eighteen months. Under the DEC license of *LFW* Officer Sylvia Leighton and guidelines from the Animal Ethics Committee there have been four five-night trapping sessions covering seven sites. The project has been supported by volunteers from the local TAFE college, the local Bushcarer Association and Friends of Mt. Clarence. There have been media releases promoting the project. The ecological balance of fauna in the reserve appears to be out of balance with the Western Native Bush Rat dominating and smaller mammals like Honey Possums, Pygmy Possums and Dunnarts almost absent.

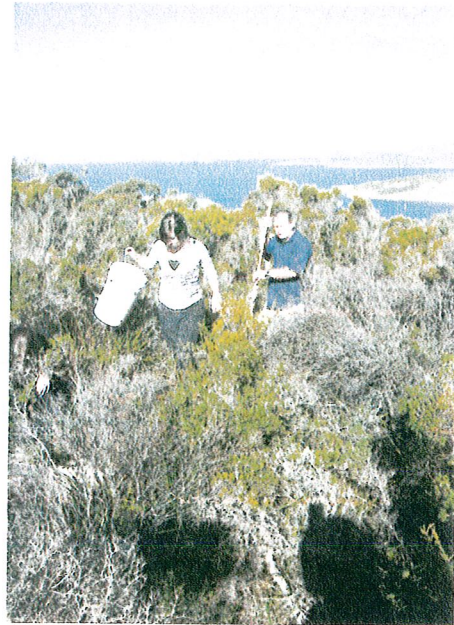
LFW has also been running spotlighting evenings in the reserve for over ten years. This monitors the location of the endangered Western Ringtailed Possum and Brushtailed Possums within the reserve. A 'maildrop' public survey was also carried out, requesting that Albany residents who live adjoining the Mt. Clarence and Mt. Adelaide bush reserves report fauna sightings.

A report collating all data will be submitted to the City of Albany by LFW at the end of 2010. It is hoped the report will assist the City of Albany to manage the inner urban bushland reserves in order to preserve the native fauna populations.



↑ Two mischievous Western Bush Rats in the one cage trap. (Sylvia Leighton)

TAFE students digging in a trap site with quite a special → View. (Sylvia Leighton)



Using motion-sensitive cameras

Increasingly, LFW is promoting the use of motion-sensitive cameras to document fauna on members' properties. These devices are easy to use, stress-free for the animals, and provide verifiable evidence of presence of fauna. Some landholders purchase their own cameras, others are on loan from DEC.

Unfortunately, many cameras - like the one opposite, installed at a small creek crossing in Boya - record only foxes. (Claire Hall)



Others prove to be much more exciting!

Here, a Red-tail Phascogale forages around a *Banksia sphaerocarpa*. Kondinin. (Avril Baxter)



On this property at Esperance, diggings were occasionally noted that might have been a quenda, rather than a rabbit. A Nightstalk failed to locate the digger. But the camera saw it! Unfortunately it also saw at least one fox ... (Wayne Gill)



Funding

Income

Salinity Action Plan	\$400,000
DEC Species & Communities Branch	\$133,189

Expenditure

\$533,189

Staff

During the year, the following staff have been employed:

Coordinator	Kensington	Full-time	Penny Hussey
Technical Officer	Kensington	Full-time	Claire Hall (seconded elsewhere 13/4/2010) Nina Stick (commenced 3/5/2010)
Officer	Albany	0.4 FTE	Sylvia Leighton
		0.2 FTE	Dorothy Redreau
	Bridgetown	0.4 FTE	Sheila Howat
	Busselton	0.6 FTE	Cherie Kemp
	Coorow	0.4 FTE	Fiona Falconer
	Esperance	0.4 FTE	Wayne Gill
	Kojonup	0.3 FTE	Philip Worts
	Mandurah	0.6 FTE	Heather Adamson
	Merredin	0.4 FTE	Mal Harper
	Mundaring	0.4 FTE	Zara Kivell
	Narrogin	0.6 FTE	Avril Baxter
12 staff overall		6.7 FTE	

(See map attached for location and area of operation of LFW staff.)

The annual *Land for Wildlife* staff workshop was held in Perth during May 2010.



From left to right, front row: Phil Worts, Nina Stick, Avril Baxter, Mal Harper, Dorothy Redreau, Sheila Howat, Sylvia Leighton, Wayne Gill; back row: Fiona Falconer, Cherie Kemp, Zara Kivell, Penny Hussey, Heather Adamson.

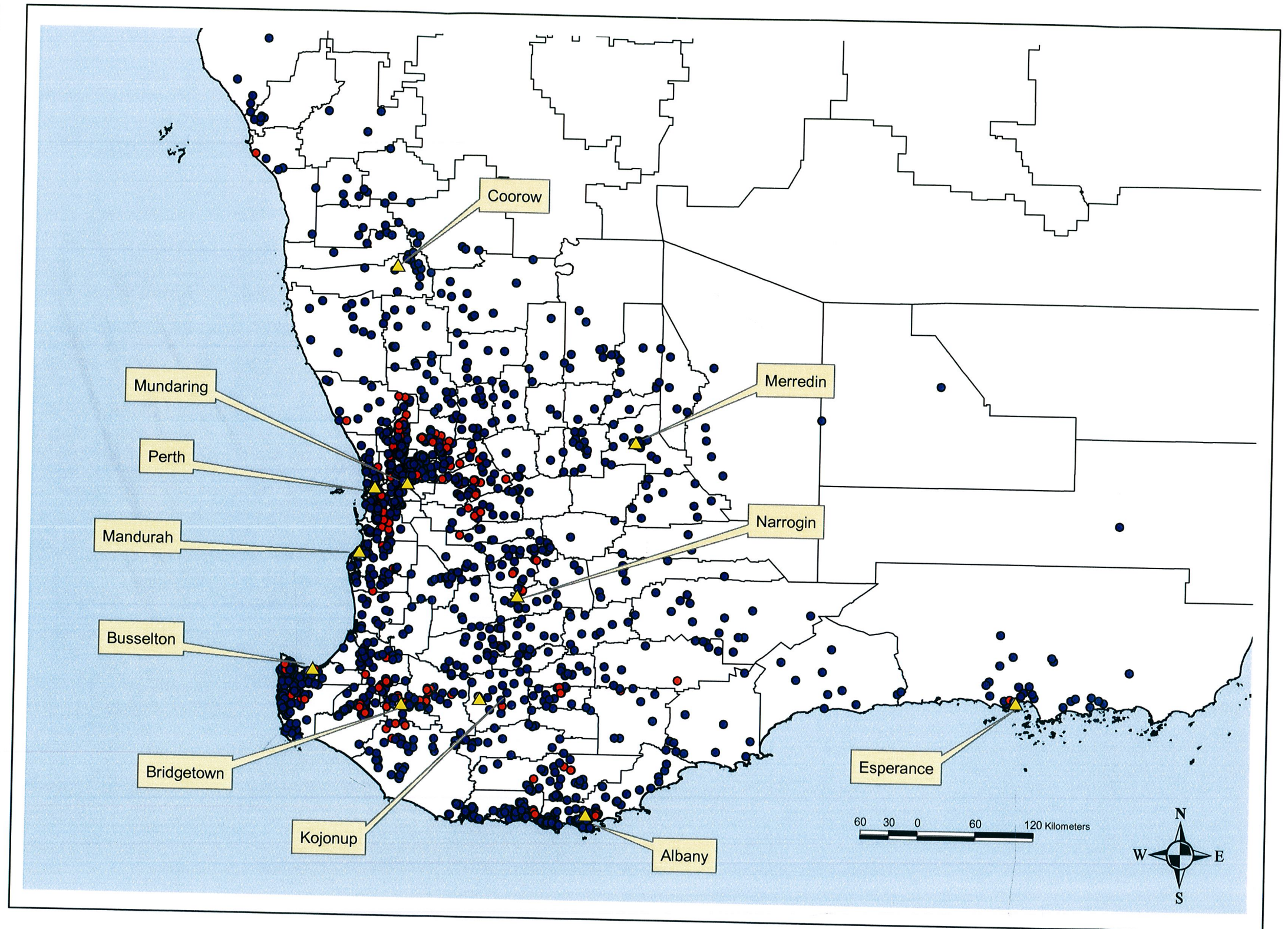
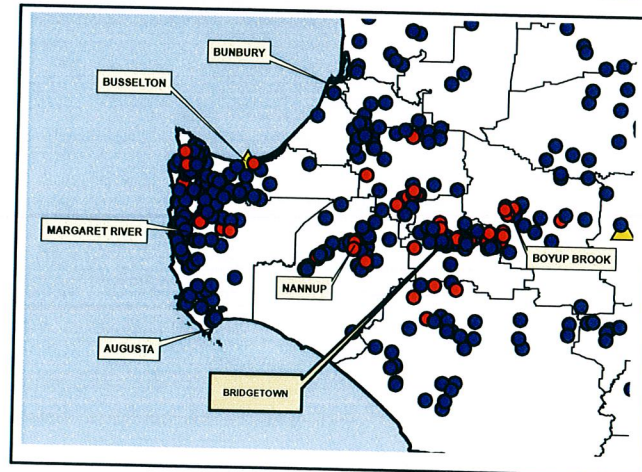
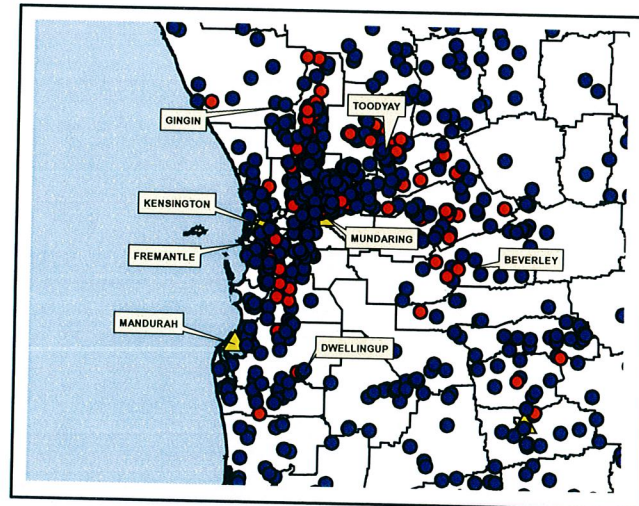
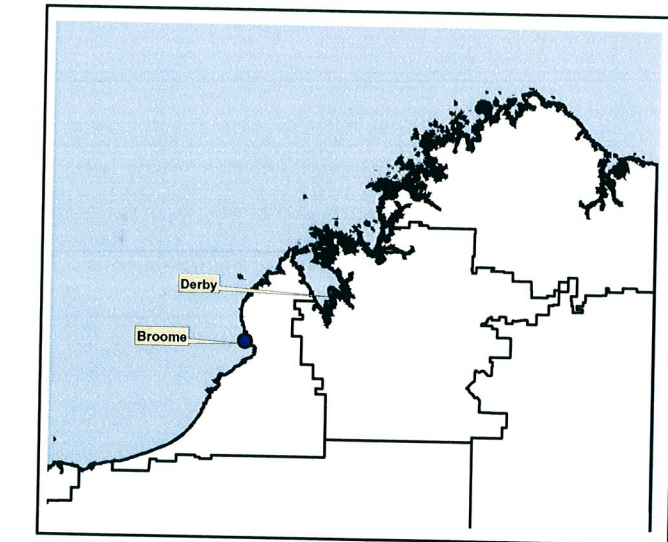
Further details of all operations, including individual *Land for Wildlife* Officer annual reports, may be obtained by contacting the Senior Project Officer *Land for Wildlife* on (08) 9334 0530.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Penny Hussey', written over a horizontal line.





Penny Hussey
Senior Project Officer, *Land for Wildlife*

21/7/2010

Land for Wildlife Sites in Western Australia as at 05 July 2010



Legend

-  LFW Officer - location
-  Local Government Authority
- Land for Wildlife registration**
-  full
-  interim



Department of
Environment and Conservation



Prepared by Claire Hall under the direction of
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