



LAND FOR WILDLIFE

ANNUAL REPORT July 2011 - June 2012



Love your bushland! York.



Department of
Environment and Conservation



***LFW* will aim to:**

- increase the wildlife habitat area under private and Local Government management which is actively managed for wildlife conservation (as “off-reserve” nature conservation);
- establish a register of properties included in the *LFW* scheme;
- provide advice to enable such properties to be managed on a sound ecological basis to enhance wildlife habitat value;
- provide direct assistance (if available) to landholders for fencing, replanting, managing wildlife habitats (especially demonstrations of new techniques), or alternatively, steering landholders towards appropriate grant schemes;
- facilitate the expansion of the areas under such management through encouragement and the provision and identification of other resources and advice;

and

- encourage (or establish) wildlife monitoring programmes.

**These can be summarized as:
the acceptance of nature conservation as an integral part of all land management.**

To achieve its aims, *LFW* has the following strategies:

- develop a strong, positive, coherent identity as a team of professional ecologists
- have clear, unambiguous entry formalities
- provide information and assistance at the time of entry, verbally during the site visit, also as a written report in a standard format and a package of printed materials tailored to individual needs
- provide on-going information, both through printed materials and in response to requests for assistance
- target communication tools to specific client types
- create opportunities for networking through provision of field days, workshops etc
- provide opportunities for landholders to interact directly with academic researchers
- have sufficient staff and resources to meet the expectations raised by the programme.

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.

The first stage is mapping, and division into areas managed primarily for conservation, the '*Land for Wildlife sites*', and other areas of the property with other prime purposes.

In the example shown, a 921 ha property at Tenterden, the area used for cropping and sheep is 119 ha, leaving 715 ha of mostly excellent quality woodland and wetland as *LFW sites*.

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. Experts from many areas of WA are always helpful here.



What's this, please?



Resting stage of the Stinkhorn. ID help: DEC Herbarium



Hairy Flower Wasp. ID help: WA Museum

Management undertaken

Management actions to conserve and enhance biodiversity on the property are discussed, including revegetation, 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.

The adjoining photo shows a direct-seeded windbreak . Victoria Plains.



Summary of LFW activities during 2011/12

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 81
- Number of properties deleted from the register 72

All of these deletions were due to property sales and therefore change of ownership.

New properties include:



6 ha of good quality wandoo woodland. Gidgegannup.



This 800 ha property has 210 ha of remnant vegetation, including some banksia woodland in excellent condition. Winchester.



100 ha of LFW sites, mostly excellent quality woodland, on a 159 ha property, the majority of the rest of which is planted to Tasmanian Bluegums. Narrikup.



375 ha of excellent quality woodland/kwongan. Gingin.

Property assessment

The core of *LFW* is the property visit, when the landholders and the *LFW* Officer carry out an on-site inspection and have a wide-ranging discussion about wildlife habitat and its management. The *LFW* Officer writes up the topics discussed as a '*LFW* Report'. Properties are assessed as 'full' if they already have wildlife habitat, or 'interim' if they are developing habitat on the property. A target is set for interim to be converted to full.

Number of properties visited 2011/12:

| | |
|--|-----|
| First assessment | 76 |
| Revisit | 35 |
| Total number of formal property visits | 111 |

New properties visited for 2011/12 encompass:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Total area of the properties (ha) | 17,227 |
| Area of remnant vegetation (ha) | 6,041 |
| Area of <i>LFW</i> sites (ha) | 5,688 |

(See map of all property locations on page 11.)

The table below gives the statistics for currently active properties as at 24th May 2012:

| Registration type | Number of Registrations | Area of whole property (ha) | Area of remnant vegetation (ha) | Area of <i>Land for Wildlife</i> sites (ha) |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Full registration | 1,640 | 1,228,725 | 495,534 | 316,947 |
| Interim registration | 194 | 13,807 | 1,418 | 1,814 |
| Not yet assessed | 145 | not known | not known | not known |
| Total | 1979 | 1,242,532 | 496,952 | 318,761 |



This 976 ha property has approximately 700 ha of remnant vegetation. The above panoramic photo-stitch image was taken in the south-eastern corner. It shows the expansive area of remnant vegetation that occurs along the whole southern portion, as well as the relatively flat topography with the odd sandy rise that typifies this property. Esperance.

Stewardship

This consists of revisits, preparation of Voluntary Management Agreements, assistance with funding applications, nomination for awards and general contact time.

Revisits

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Total revisits during the year | 35 |
| • general (5 or more years on) | 16 |
| • new owner | 3 |
| • field day | 1 |
| • reassess for funding application | 3 |
| • miscellaneous specific requests | 10 |
| • upgrade from 'interim' to 'full' | 2 |

Example of a map and revegetation species list prepared for a SWCC funding project. Narrogin.

Assistance with funding applications

Staff assisted landholders with 29 applications for funding.

These included requests to Caring for our Country, Environmental Community Grants, and Regional NRM bodies.

Land for Wildlife entered into an agreement with the South West Catchments Council to provide site assessment and project plans for several on-ground remnant protection and revegetation projects in the eastern part of their region. This work was done on a 'fee for service' basis. It is worth noting that many of these landholders were already in Land for Wildlife and so benefited from rapid access to funds to advance their planned works, while others joined the scheme as a result of the contact.



Species List:

| Botanical Name | Common Name | Quantity |
|---|----------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Atriplex semibaccata</i> | Creeping saltbush | 2400 |
| <i>Rhagodia preissii</i> | Ruby saltbush | 2400 |
| <i>Maireana brevifolia</i> | Blue bush | 1800 |
| <i>Melaleuca adnata</i> | Stiff leaved honey myrtle | 1800 |
| <i>Melaleuca brophyi</i> | Paperbark | 1800 |
| <i>Melaleuca halmaturorum</i> | Paperbark | 1800 |
| <i>Melaleuca lateriflora</i> | Oblong leaved honey myrtle | 1800 |
| <i>Hakea preissii</i> | Needle bush | 1200 |
| <i>Acacia saligna</i> | Golden wreath wattle | 1200 |
| <i>Casuarina obesa</i> | Swamp sheoak | 2400 |
| <i>Melaleuca strobophylla</i> | Paperbark | 1200 |
| <i>Eucalyptus vegrandis</i> | | 1800 |
| <i>Eucalyptus Loxophleba subsp loxophleba</i> | York gum | 1800 |
| Total | | 23400 |

Threatened species and communities

During the year 133 occurrences of rare and threatened species and communities were noted:

- occurrences of threatened or priority flora 28
- occurrences of threatened or priority fauna 105



New population of Column Hakea, *Hakea aculeata*. Cunderdin.



Numbat. Pingelly.



Mardo. Denmark.



Spiky Adenanthos, *Adenanthos pungens* subsp. *effusus*. Beaufort River.

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:

- Print media 18
- Radio talks 1
- Talk, field day, workshop etc * 43
- Display 23

* This includes 20 events 'badged' with *LFW*.



A walk on the Holland Track. Lake Grace.



A birdwalk. Tenterden.



This display at the Small Property and Harvest Festival in Denmark was designed to attract children, with a colouring-in competition, play dough and touchy-feely. While the kids were learning by doing, the parents found a lot of interesting information too!



An open-air stall at the Beverley Harvest Festival. A big drawcard at this type of event is the presence of 'Harmony' the educational Carnaby's Cockatoo (seen on the shoulder of the *LFW* Officer), whose shrieking calls fascinate visitors.

Publications

Four issues of *Western Wildlife* were produced. Currently, 2,200 copies are printed and distributed by mail.

In many instances, an attempt is made to involve readers by seeking, and publishing, stories that extend the same theme in subsequent issues. A recent case in point is the sequence of articles related to the Cypress-pines, *Callitris* spp.:

- | | | |
|---|----------|--------------|
| • Cypress-pines in WA . topic: outline and brief description of the family author: <i>LFW</i> | WW 15/1. | January 2011 |
| • Cypress-pines and Aboriginal burning regimes topic: letter to the Editor, commenting on a point raised in previous article author: DEC Science Division | WW 15/2 | April 2011 |
| • Cypress-pines and birds topic: elaborating on value of genus for birds author: retired academic | WW 15/2 | April 2011 |
| • Persistence of <i>Callitris</i> in a flammable heathland topic: research study to provide data for fire management author: student reporting on Honours project | WW 16/2 | April 2012 |

Funding

Income

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Salinity Action Plan | \$400,000 |
| DEC Species & Communities Branch | \$117,585 |
| recoup, SWCC | \$ 17,875 |

Expenditure

\$535,460

Special projects

Spatial database

All of the *LFW* sites (where the owner has given permission) 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 available 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. The downside is that undertaking this databasing causes *LFW* Officers (all of whom are part-time) to have less time available for their prime purpose of landholder contact.

***LFW* property owners' database**

The details of every property registered with *LFW* are entered on the *LFW* property owners' database. Each property is given its own registration number which stays with the property even if the ownership changes. After the property is assessed a copy of the property assessment report is sent to head office at Kensington for entering on the database. Information such as the date of the assessment, size of the property, the area of remnant vegetation and area of *LFW* sites as well as details of the soil, vegetation complex, vegetation health and fauna present on the property is recorded. The property owner's database is used for administrative purposes within *LFW* but the ecological detail could, with the landowner's permission, be provided to other areas within DEC.

Working with Carnaby's Black Cockatoos

Two Wheatbelt-based *LFW* Officers, Mal Harper from Merredin and Phil Worts from Kojonup, continued to combine their normal *LFW* duties with extension work targeted at properties that could provide useful habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoos. They have produced management plans targeted at actions that could benefit Carnaby's Cockatoos so that future funding requirements can easily be identified.

Mt Clarence Bush Reserve Fauna Survey

The *LFW* programme in Albany has been running a small mammal fauna survey in the inner urban Mt. Clarence and Mt. Adelaide bush reserves for two years. 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. A report collating all data has been submitted to the City of Albany by *LFW* in 2012. 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. For a copy of the report, please contact *LFW* Albany.

National *LFW* Forum in Victoria

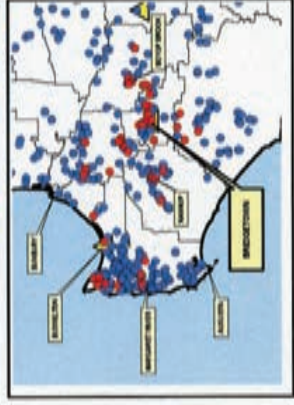
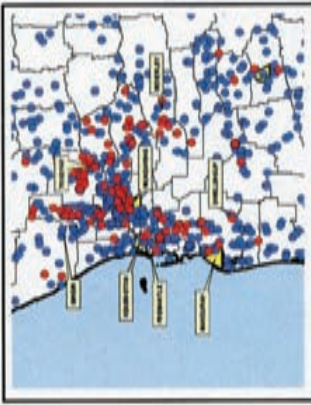
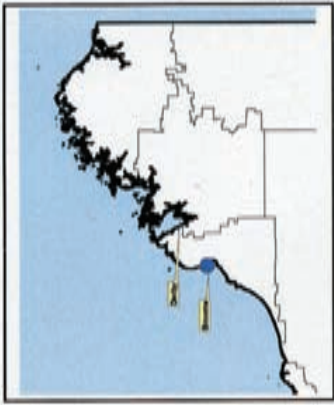
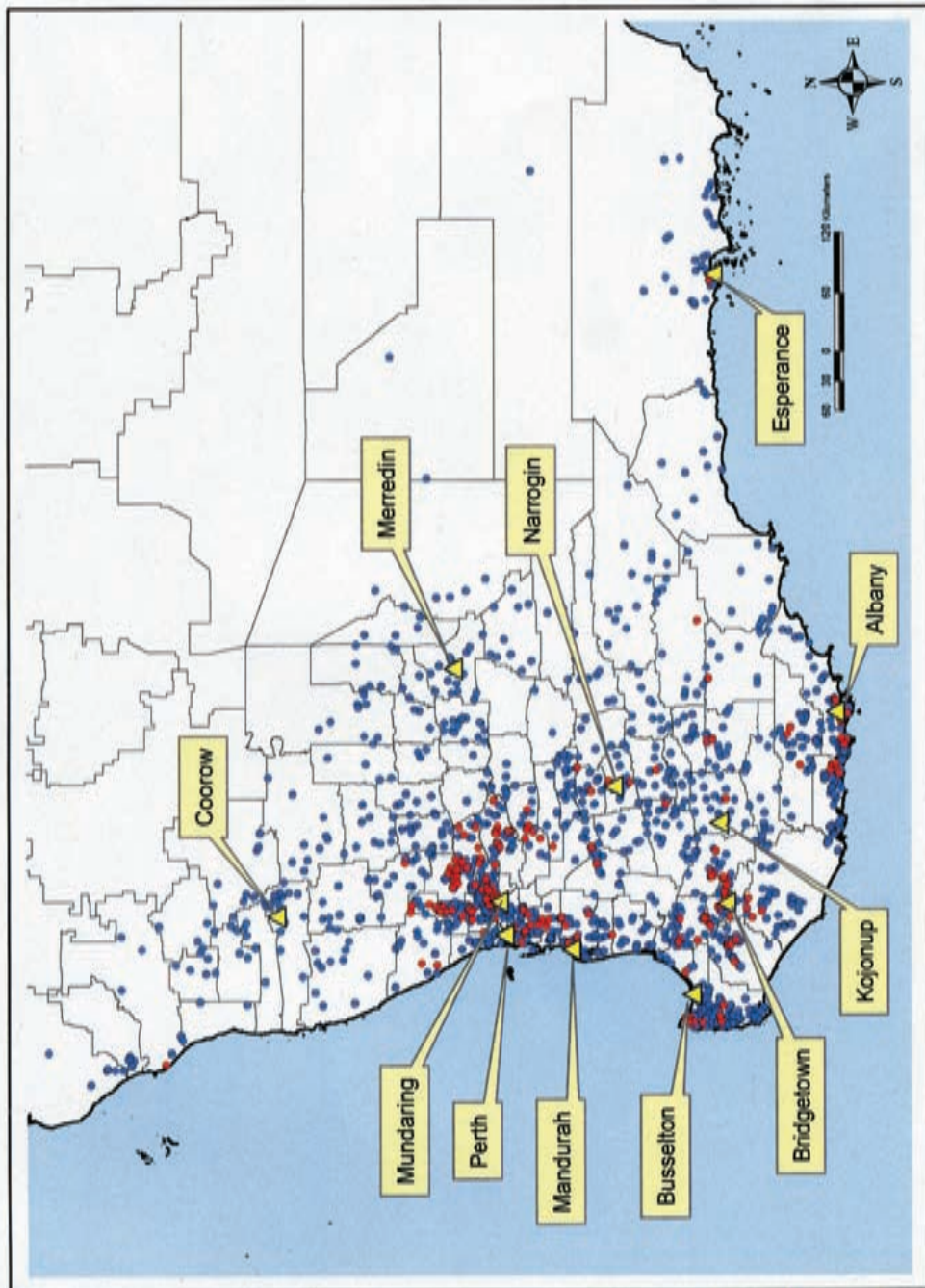
It is 30 years since *LFW* was started by the Bird Observers' Club in Victoria, and the Department of Sustainability and Environment hosted a forum to celebrate this event. Since that first beginning, *LFW* has proved a valuable way of providing nature conservation advice to private landholders, and it is now running in the NT and all states except South Australia. Two staff members from WA were subsidised by *LFW* Victoria to attend, and they presented a talk on the operation of *LFW* in Western Australia. It was a very productive and useful networking event, enabling exchange of ideas between *LFW* organisers from all the different jurisdictions.

Visitor from New Zealand

Alan Fleming, a staff member from The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand, visited Australia under a Churchill Fellowship, to study the operation of *LFW* and see whether it would be useful to start a similar scheme in New Zealand. He spent five days in WA, on visits and meeting people. He seemed very impressed with the way *LFW* delivers a consistent message across the national scene, although it is organised very differently in each State, and it is hoped that a pilot scheme will start in New Zealand in the near future.

Location of registered properties

**Land for Wildlife Sites in Western Australia
as at 8 March 2012**



Legend

- ▲ LFW Officer - location
- Local Government Authority
- Land for Wildlife registration
- All
- Private



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Prepared by Claire Hall under the direction of
Kieran McInnes, Director General,
Department of Environment and Conservation



Staff

During the year, the following staff were employed:

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Coordinator | Kensington | Full-time | Penny Hussey |
| Technical Officer | Kensington | Full-time | Claire Hall |
| Officer | Albany | 0.4 FTE 0.2 FTE | Sylvia Leighton Dorothy Redreau |
| | Bridgetown | 0.4 FTE | Sheila Howat |
| | Busselton | 0.4 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 | Malcolm Harper |
| | Mundaring | 0.4 FTE | Zara Kivell |
| | Narrogin | 0.6 FTE | Avril Baxter |
| 13 staff overall | | 6.5 FTE | |

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



The annual *Land for Wildlife* staff workshop was held in Perth during May 2012.

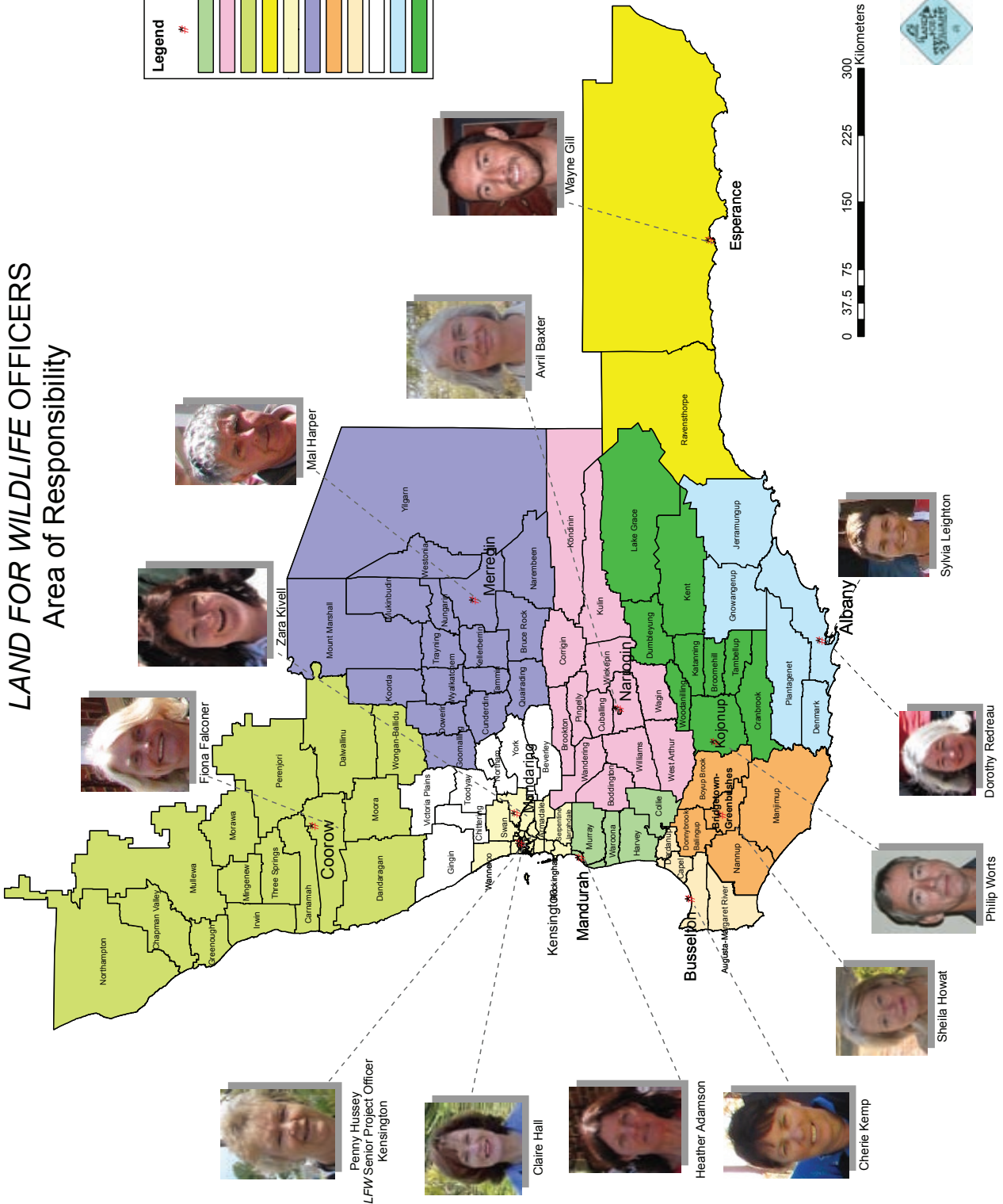
Back row, L-R: Fiona Falconer, Wayne Gill, Penny Hussey, Sheila Howat, Mal Harper, Phil Worts, Sylvia Leighton
 Front row, L-R: Heather Adamson, Dorothy Redreau, Zara Kivell, Avril Baxter, Cherie Kemp, Claire Hall.

LAND FOR WILDLIFE OFFICERS

Area of Responsibility

Area of staff responsibility

| Legend | LFW Officer - location |
|--------|------------------------|
| | Heather Adamson |
| | Avril Baxter |
| | Fiona Falconer |
| | Wayne Gill |
| | Claire Hall |
| | Mal Harper |
| | Sheila Howat |
| | Cherie Kemp |
| | Zara Kivell |
| | Sylvia Leighton |
| | Philip Worts |



Prepared by Claire Hall
under the direction of
Kerian McNamara, Director General
Department of Environment and Conservation

Acknowledgements

This document is based on the reports by individual *Land for Wildlife* Officers. Compilations of individual reports have been forwarded to the Regional and District Managers of the DEC sector within which they operate.

During the year, *LFW* has worked towards biodiversity conservation with over a hundred and fifty other organisations – community groups, non-government organisations, natural resource management bodies, local and state government officers as well as educational institutions at all levels of study. This collaboration has pooled knowledge and extended action, to maximise the spread and take-up of the conservation message.

Fuelled by the advancement in digital technology, many individuals are now requesting information about photographs they send in. Often, these images pose a question that cannot immediately be answered by the *LFW* officer. In departments and institutions across the State, individuals with expertise are called upon to help, which they unflinchingly do with alacrity and good humour. As another example of the assistance that is freely tendered, many experts give talks or lead excursions, mostly without any financial recompense. In addition, experts write for *Western Wildlife*, a publication that gives pleasure and interest to readers, but provides authors with neither financial rewards nor academic ‘brownie points’.

Staff from other areas of DEC, especially Regional Services and Science Division, also freely give of their time and expertise. Whether it be identifying something, dealing with *Phytophthora* or fire, or coping with the complexities of electronic mapping programmes, being based within DEC provides superb back-up resources.

Without the support of all these people and organisations, *LFW* would not be able to offer the high quality advice that has given the programme such a good reputation for the dissemination of accurate, cutting-edge information. The *Land for Wildlife* programme is deeply grateful to all these people.

The images in this document have been supplied by: Avril Baxter, Fiona Falconer, Wayne Gill, Claire Hall, Penny Hussey, Sylvia Leighton, Chris Murphy, John Pate, Margaret Pieroni, Basil Schur, Margaret Tonkin, Diana Webster, Louisa White and Phil Worts.

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.

Penny Hussey
Senior Project Officer *Land for Wildlife*

28/06/2012

Contact details for *Land for Wildlife* staff

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| Philip Worts | Kojonup | (08) 9834 2242 | philip.worts@dec.wa.gov.au |

Website: www.dec.wa.gov.au/landforwildlife

People helping nature along!



The western minnows can't get upstream? Remedy, build a fish ladder. Collie.



The nest is too small for the willy wagtail brood? Remedy, provide duplex housing! Esperance.