

Dec 2018

Summer
Edition

The Yongergnow Centre

Ongerup's Yongergnow Centre includes Yongergnow Australian Malleefowl Centre, the Yongergnow Sanctuary and the Yongergnow-Ongerup Community Resource Centre (CRC).

Our vision: community culture conservation

"For Yongergnow as a community owned and operated interpretive centre to be recognized as a centre of excellence for environmental awareness and education, with special focus on conservation of the mallee and its endangered flagship species, the magnificent Malleefowl."

Opening Hours Open:

Tue - Sat 9am to 4pm

Closed:

Sun, Mon, **Australia**

Day, Good Friday,

Christmas (24th-27th

December) & **New**

Year's Day (1st

January)



Yongergnow

Australian Malleefowl Centre

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Ongerup WA 6336

P 08 9828 2325

E visitor@yongergnow.com.au

W www.yongergnow.com.au



NO GOODBYES, JUST SEE YOU LATER!

Following the welcome from our last newsletter front page, this edition sees us say goodbye to not only our Malleefowl chicks but a prominent figure within our organisation!

In our last newsletter, we reported we had 15 wonderful chicks making an appearance in our smaller aviary. After going to press this total continued to grow, until we were left with 23 happy and healthy chicks, all surviving the epic battle to get to the top of the mound and enter the world officially. This means that at one time, we had a total of 31 Malleefowl at our centre!

It was a fantastic time for staff and visitors alike, being able to see these magnificent birds in such a vast quantity but understandably, this also stretched Yongergnow's resources in happily accommodating and feeding all of our inhabitants. Not only this, but Yongergnow's vision is based on conservation, not breeding, and so as much as we were thrilled to have Maggie and Dre pair and give us so many wonderful additions, the realisation that we had to release the chicks in to the wild dawned on us quickly.

Read on further to find out more of what happened next!

Another Yongergnow resident we said our farewells to in June was the Chairman of the Yongergnow board for many years, Mr. Ken Pech.

Ken has retired from his position and handed over the reins to former treasurer Jan Savage, who we welcome to this position with open arms. Ken left some very big shoes to fill but we are sure that Jan is more than capable of this - also being a member of the board for many years, Jan is already extremely familiar with procedures!

Despite our fair share of goodbyes this year, we have also welcomed new board members who have been a fantastic addition to our team already. Having a familiar person fill Ken's role is fantastic however at Yongergnow, we also appreciate input from fresh faces to inject a new lease of life in to our day to day running's. Sarah Bungey, Harry Creagh, Rivers Hyde, Andrea LePage, June Meredith and Beau & Rohan Vaux, welcome to the team!
Continued on page 2...

RETIREMENT JOY FOR OUR CHAIRMAN

A new chapter for the Pech family & Yongergnow



Following his resignation, Yongergnow said our goodbyes to Ken back in June and so we felt it was only appropriate to take a moment to acknowledge all of the hard work that was contributed to Yongergnow by Ken Pech and family.

Ken's involvement with the Yongergnow board began in 2010, when he was originally appointed as a representative from the Gnowangerup Shire. Due to his long involvement with local government, Ken was already equipped with a good knowledge of governance and meeting procedure.

Following his retirement from the Shire, we were lucky enough to keep Ken on and to further secure his position with us, he was appointed as Chairman of the Board in 2011.

Our new Chairperson, Jan Savage, has nothing but nice things to say about Ken and noted that he was a "very enthusiastic and conscientious advocate for Malleefowl and the Yongergnow Centre". The Savages and Pechs have been friends for many years and with both retiring to Albany we are confident this friendship will continue!

Ken has been an incredibly generous towards our organisation. As well as the various donations and purchases he has made to Yongergnow over the years, Ken has also given a huge amount of his time and effort, with Jan recalling "when we became aware that records and assets of the previous Malleefowl Preservation Group were sitting in a shed in Perth, Ken arranged for a truck load of material to be collected and delivered to Ongerup. He was also pleased to be involved in the very successful 10th birthday celebrations in April 2017, which showcased Yongergnow to the wider community" and as you may

recall, it was during these celebrations we had a guest appearance from John Williamson, who announced his patronage to the centre.

With our most recent arrival of chicks last year, Ken is thrilled with the number of live hatchlings produced and was the encouragement behind attempting to replenish Malleefowl numbers in the wild, on reserves and private properties. Proving that Yongergnow's conservation based constitution is etched in his mind, Ken and the Board enlisted Biologist Vicky Bilney to work through the release protocols, enabling the release of several birds. Ken was very keen to assist Barry Savage for one of the releases, where the men collected 5 young birds and made the long trip to Dryandra to release them, what better men for the job?! We were extremely confident our Malleefowl were in good and caring hands for this big transition.

A final note here from Jan, "on behalf of the Board and staff at Yongergnow, we thank Ken for all his efforts and wish him and Judith well in their retirement".

Thank you!



Ken speaking at Yongergnow's 10th Birthday



NEW BOARD MEMBERS BRING LEASE OF LIFE

Say hello to the new faces of Yongergnow!

With the Yongergnow AGM taking place at the end of October, we saw a re-shape of the representative positions on our Board.

As mentioned before, our Chairman, Ken Pech, has resigned and our former Treasurer, Jan Savage has graciously filled the role. Jan has taken over the role of 'Tour Guide' during our bus season and gives such interesting and informative talks to our visitors. After moving to Albany earlier in the year, Jan and Barry both now make the big trip to Ongerup for meetings and for that we are extremely grateful.

We welcome new Board member Sarah Bungey to the team. Sarah has taken Jan's position as Treasurer. It is great to have somebody from outside the Ongerup community take on a key role and contribute to the centre.

The role of Vice Chairman has been handed over by Tony Sands to new Board member, Rohan Vaux. Rohan, and twin brother Beau, are members of one of the founding families of Ongerup and their family have had a huge impact in the running and maintenance of the centre throughout the years. Since joining, Rohan has already proved himself as a keen addition with a 'Can Do' attitude. We are very excited to see what ideas he brings with him to future meetings.

Emily Jaekel has proven to be a wonderful Secretary and so has retained her position. Emily is also a member of one of Ongerup's founding families and is a great burst of young, fresh energy to the board with an extensive knowledge of the area and community.

It is great to see new board members taking on the responsibility of key Board positions, however that doesn't mean that the rest of our Board Members make any less of a contribution and we are just as honoured and thrilled to have them make the commitment.

Barry Savage and Tony Sands have been on the Board for many years now and have had various roles within the centre.

Barry will now be making the trip from Albany with Jan to attend meetings and recently offered his services with Ken Pech to help with the relocation of the last batch of Malleefowl chicks. Barry is always prepared to lend a helping hand and we always love to see both his and Jan's faces around the centre.

This year Tony handed over the reins at the Stirling Range Retreat and relocated so he is yet another familiar face we won't see as often. However, his familiarity and knowledge of the area is fantastic for us and Tony is always more than willing to make the trip to Yongergnow for meetings, sometimes travelling from Perth and back again, in a day.

June Meredith also makes the huge trip from Perth, just to attend Yongergnow meetings. June attended the first Malleefowl Monitoring at Corackerup Reserve in 1992 and was a member of the MPG from then on. June was also a Yongergnow member before she was a Board member, so has a long history of involvement with Malleefowl! June has been to the last couple of Malleefowl Monitor Training days, hosted at Yongergnow by the National Malleefowl Recovery Team and is always keen to lend a helping hand.

Andrea LePage has taken up the role of Natural Resource Management Officer with the North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources (NSPNR), located in Borden. Andrea has a fantastic attitude to all that she does and is another Board Member with a really prominent 'Can Do' outlook. Her energy rubs off on everyone around her!

Beau Vaux is a barrel of laughs and an animated character to have within the team. If you look closely enough, you may be able to spot a very youthful Beau & Rohan feature in one of the videos we have playing in the Interpretive Display area!



The NEW Yongergnow Board:

Chairman

Jan Savage

Vice Chairman

Rohan Vaux

Treasurer

Sarah Bungey

Secretary

Emily Jaekel

Board Members

Barry Savage

Tony Sands

June Meredith

Andrea La Page

Beau Vaux

Rivers Hyde

Harry Creagh

Son of Ongerup Farm Supplies owner, Mick Creagh, Harry Creagh has spent a long time in Ongerup since finishing school and so has an excellent knowledge of the area and community. His background in farming is extensive and he is another young, fresh face who can bring some potentially great ideas to the table.

Rivers Hyde, the youngest of all our members, comes from a local farm and so is understanding and passionate about the Malleefowl and their conservation.

We are very excited that the next generation are willing to be apart of the Yongergnow Board and Rivers' contribution means we have a full range of ages within the team.

Thank you to all of these people for making the time and commitment to continue on Yongergnow's work. Without you, the organisation wouldn't be able to continue.

A note for missed familiar face and key figure at Yongergnow

Biologist Vicky Bilney has fled the nest...for now!

This year was the first year that we didn't have Biologist Vicky coming in regularly for either work or visiting commitments. Vicky, her partner Paul and son Benedict, have relocated to the Porongurups and seem to be settling in to life very well there.

It was fantastic having Vicky and Benedict back at the centre recently, working their magic with our Malleefowl, preparing them for release. Benedict has become the budding Biologist and ran a very tight ship!

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank Vicky, who has formally resigned from her office position at Yongergnow, for all of her hard work and dedication through-out the years. Yongergnow has certainly lost some of it's character and brains now Vicky isn't around as often!

This being said, Vicky worked tirelessly in facilitating our recent Malleefowl releases, liaising with many people in various departments to ensure everything was done in accordance with guidelines and regulations. She is also available as a consultant and so we are pleased to say that we haven't seen the last of Vicky just yet!

Thank you again, from all of us at the centre, staff, board, visitors and members. Don't be a stranger!

Vicky speaking at Yongergnow's 10th Birthday Celebrations



WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Yongergnow's Malleefowl have entered the big, wide world

Perhaps the most, nerve wracking, of our goodbyes was that of our Malleefowl. In total we released all 23 of our chicks and even 3 of our long term lodgers in the larger aviary, in various locations.

With this being said, all properties and locations have strict regulations in regards to releasing an endangered species on them and have been checked and vetted by various wildlife departments and figures.

Perhaps reminiscent of parents waving off their children on the first day of school - or worse still, University, the knowledge of the best possible location for our... 'babies' didn't ease our feelings of dread and sadness as we waved goodbye to our residents as they embarked on their new lives, where they are meant to be—in the wild!

Please continue reading for the press release which was published following the rehoming;

“More Spring colours in Ongerup's mallee

Spring is not only the season for an immense wealth of colourful wildflowers in Ongerup's Mallee. Last Friday extra colour was added to pristine Malleefowl habitat on two private properties near Ongerup.

The captive Malleefowl at Ongerup's Yongergnow Australian Malleefowl Centre were extremely successful at reproducing in the last breeding season, and now is the time for the

young birds to find a new home in their native bush.

All released birds are colour-banded, which means they wear two colourful 'bracelets' on each leg. Attached by a professional bander under the guidelines of the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme, those bright additions do not disturb or hinder the birds in any way. Each bird has an individual colour code and the bands will help provide information on each individual Malleefowl's lifestyle when birds are re-sighted in the future.

In spite of strict guidelines for the release properties, several landowners in the Ongerup area have offered to host Malleefowl on their properties.

More young Malleefowl will be released at Dryandra Woodland in cooperation with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and Yongergnow is negotiating options for releases of more young Malleefowl in National Parks, Nature Reserves and on private conservation properties.

Yongergnow's Chairman Jan Savage said: “The release project was born out of necessity; no-one expected our Malleefowl to breed so successfully. With a chick survival rate of 1 to 2 % in the wild, we did not expect 20 surviving chicks from 38 eggs. And this season, there are another active mound at Yongergnow...”

Yongergnow's consulting Biologist Vicky Bilney said she really

visit us at
www.yongergnow.com.au

Development of the website was supported by the Great Southern Development Commission and Regional Development Australia

Site design by Alan Thompson / Warped Time Productions

You can also find us on:

 @YongergnowMalleefowl

 yongergnow_malleefowl

 @YongergnowFowl

OR LEAVE A REVIEW OF YOUR EXPERIENCE ON

 tripadvisor

Simply search for 'Yongergnow Australian Malleefowl Centre' on Tripadvisor

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our members, supporters, staff and volunteers for the difference you're making to Yongergnow, Ongerup and conservation in our area.

What would you like to see as a Yongergnow member??

We're calling for everyone, current member or not, to give us feedback on what you think a Yongergnow membership should entail!

Our customers/ members are always at the forefront of our mind and we want to ensure everybody gets the experience they would like out of not only visiting the centre, but also signing up to become a member.

Contact us today via telephone;
08 9828 2325

Or email;
visitor@yongergnow.com.au

With any suggestions you can think of. We value all feedback so please do not be afraid to submit to us your advice!

appreciated the wonderful volunteer support for the process of catching and banding the birds, and really enjoyed the eagerness of Ongerup's primary school students (and teachers!) to learn about bird banding.

Yongergnow is calling the public to report any sightings of Malleefowl, particularly of colour banded ones, to

visitor@yongergnow.com.au or to fauna@dbca.wa.gov.au. The Yongergnow team are also working on a Facebook page for Malleefowl sightings."

RELEASE ENDS

Media Enquiries:

Yongergnow: Jan Savage OAM JP,
Chairman 0427 986 476

Technical aspects: Vicky Bilney
0429 337 658

DBCA: Species and Communities Program,
fauna@dbca.wa.gov.au

Despite these releases, we still have 3 adults in our larger aviary and our loved up pair, Maggie and Dre, working away on their mound in the smaller aviary. Whether or not we will get more chicks surface in the coming months is yet to be discovered, however although our chicks from last year will never be replaced, new, fluffy bundles of joy will certainly make for some happy staff at the centre!

Feel free to visit us at our wonderful centre, Tuesday to Saturday 9am to 4pm, over these coming months to find out whether Maggie and Dre have blessed us once again!

We have also included a Malleefowl Report Form over the page, just in case you do make a sighting in the wild!



"Welcome to the Outside World"



"Spot the Malleefowl Roaming Free"



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



Malleefowl Report Form

Version 1.0 January 2016



Please return this form to Yongergnow Australian Malleefowl Centre or to DPaW

PO Box 9 Ongerup WA 6336
e visitor@yongergnow.com.au

ph 08 9828 2325
www.yongergnow.com.au

fax 08 9828 2326

Are you a member of Yongergnow Malleefowl Centre?

Yes / No

Would you like to become a member?

Yes / No

ANIMAL NAME: Malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>)	NUMBER SEEN: _____
OBSERVATION DATE: _____	TIME: _____
OBSERVER NAME/S: _____	
EMAIL: _____	PHONE: _____
ADDRESS: _____	

OBSERVATION LOCATION (Coordinates - latitude and longitude, property address, distance to nearest intersection, etc.)

CERTAINTY OF ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION:

Not sure

Moderately certain

Certain

Photo

DESCRIPTION OF MALLEEFOWL (Include comparisons e.g. similar size to chicken, number of adults and juveniles etc.)

OBSERVATION TYPE: (Select as many as applicable)

Live

Day sighting

Night sighting

Remote camera

Trapped

Spotlighting

Dead

Roadkill

Found shot

Found poisoned

Killed by another animal

Unknown cause of death

Secondary signs

Mound

Egg or shell

Feathers

Tracks

Scats

Diggings

Heard

Bones

OBSERVATION DETAILS (What was the malleefowl doing? Mound description, habitat type, associated flora species etc.)

OTHER COMMENTS (Include details of additional data available and how to locate it, land tenure and use, fire history etc.)

ATTACHED: Map Mudmap GIS data Photo Field notes Other: _____

COPY SENT TO: Regional Office District Office Other: _____

Submitter of record: _____

Role: _____

Date submitted: _____

Please return form to:

fauna@dpaw.wa.gov.au

or Species and Communities Branch, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983

Record entered by: _____ Date entered: _____ Database no: _____

YONGERGNOW'S YEAR

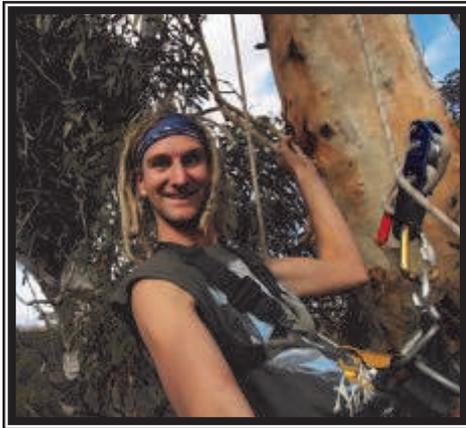
What else has been happening this year at Yongergnow?

In between hello's and goodbye's, it has also been business as usual at Yongergnow. Here's a snippet of our year...

School children soar with the eagles

A school excursion, with a unique insight

In May, we were lucky enough to have Environmental Scientist, Educator & Wildlife Enthusiast (among many other things!) Simon Cherriman pay Yongergnow a visit to give the children from both Ongerup & Borden Schools a short talk on the majestic wedge tail eagle.



"Hanging out with my new pals at Yongergnow"

Simon gauged the children's interest magnificently, with his friendly and fantastic insight, from his many years of engaging with the Australian bush and its creatures. This gentle giant made it easy to see how he has built such a rapport with nature, with his kind heart and humour, there wasn't anything we didn't love about Simon!

Simon spent his youth climbing trees, observing birds and being the adventurer most of us aspire to be, leading him towards having a knowledge like no other.



At 15 years old Simon found a giant wedge tailed eagle nest and from then on, he was captivated and inspired to dedicate more than half of his life studying,

photographing and filming this wonderful bird. Those who attended were given a glimpse in to this work, followed by a demonstration by Simon, on how he climbs the trees to get up close and personal to his favourite, feathered friends.



It was a pleasure to have Simon at the centre and we can't wait to have him here again hopefully, in the future! If you're reading this Simon - thank you, and hello, from Yongergnow!

Malleefowl Monitoring Methodology taught in Ongerup

Essential tools in understanding endangered species, the Malleefowl

In November, the annual Malleefowl Monitoring



Training workshop, hosted by the National Malleefowl Recovery Team, came back to Ongerup to teach attendees about the Malleefowl, their amazing nests and how they are monitored.

With the catchy tagline "Bushwalking with a purpose", attendees were given the chance to explore mounds in the area while being taught the correct way to monitor Malleefowl, so that all research done on the species is done in an identical fashion. A great opportunity to learn the ways and participate in a Citizen Science Project, whilst also being able to mingle with some very knowledgeable people.

The Malleefowl Monitoring Workshop is held in various locations every year. For more information please contact Elizabeth Kington at the National Malleefowl Recovery Team on **0417 996 719** or lizk@nationalmalleefowl.com.au.

Another wildflower season came and went...

With our usual tour bus crowd in tow

Our busiest time of year here at Yongergnow, is also one of the most beautiful in the area. The wildflowers were a little late to bloom this year but that didn't mean to say we didn't have an abundance to admire and enjoy.

The Ongerup Museum successfully hosts its Wildflower show every year, with this year being its **40th** since beginning!

Attracting tourists from far and wide, it is a fantastic boost for our quiet and quaint town and is a time of year where you can really feel a buzz around!

In conjunction with this budding time of year, we get a lot of bus tours come through Yongergnow and it is always our pleasure to accommodate them. Whether it is just a lunch stop, or a tour of our centre as well, we love to welcome and chat with all the new faces. One Saturday in October even saw a tour bus in the same day as a prominent family reunion was taking place at the centre, meaning over the course of the day we fed and entertained 75 people in total, excluding our normal flurry of customer we get coming in who are on the road or staying in Ongerup!

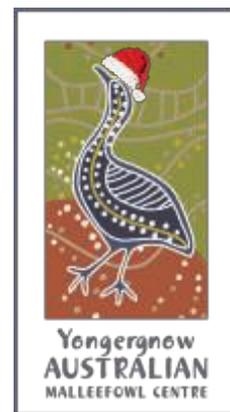
If you know of, or are involved with, a tour company who you think would enjoy a visit to our centre please feel free to contact us for some more information on what we have to offer. We are already taking bookings for 2019 and the sooner we get bookings, the more we can do to accommodate them and to also avoid disappointment on dates! Feel free to contact us during our opening hours on Tuesday to Saturday, 9am to 4pm via email on visitor@yongergnow.com.au or via telephone on 08 9828 2325.

We hope to see you at our centre soon!



Notice of Christmas Closure

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year



Please be advised that we will be closing at 4pm on Saturday 22nd December and will reopen in the new year, on Wednesday 2nd January 2019 at 9am for business as usual.

The staff and board of the Yongergnow Australian Malleefowl Centre would like to thank you for your continued efforts and support of our organisation. Without you all of this would not be possible so we sincerely thank you. Wish you a truly safe and merry festive period and we look forward to hopefully seeing you at the Centre in 2019.

An important note for Members

Your renewals may now be due

Your Yongergnow membership may be due for renewal! Please fill out the form included over the page and send it back to us to ensure you retain your membership and keep up to date with all the goings on at our centre. We are aware that some people have renewed or started their membership at a different time of year to now so please feel free to contact us if you are unsure and we will be happy to provide you with any assistance or information you may need.

We are always happy to welcome new members as well. If you like what you see in this newsletter and want to help us in our fight for the Malleefowl as well as receiving unlimited entry to the centre, please also fill in a membership form over the page or get in touch with us by whichever means is more convenient for you!

Memberships help fund our mission to conserve the wonderful Malleefowl

MEMBERSHIP FORM & RENEWALS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE IN DECEMBER EACH YEAR

Yongergnow Australian Malleefowl Centre in Ongerup is a community-owned and operated centre for community, culture and conservation focussing on the conservation of the mallee and its unique flagship species, the Malleefowl. Fees are subject to change without notice. ALL REGULAR ENTRY FEES ARE WAIVED FOR MEMBERS. Please post your completed membership form to Yongergnow Inc. PO Box 9, Ongerup WA 6336, fax it to 08 9828 2326, or email it to visitor@yongergnow.com.au.

MEMBERSHIP TYPE <i>(Please tick)</i>	FEE (AUD)
Single Adult [<input type="checkbox"/>]	\$35.00
Family [<input type="checkbox"/>]	\$60.00
Corporate [<input type="checkbox"/>]	\$120.00
Concession* [<input type="checkbox"/>]	\$20.00
Newsletter by email [<input type="checkbox"/>]	no charge
Newsletter by mail [<input type="checkbox"/>]	plus \$15 per year
Donation [<input type="checkbox"/>]	plus \$_____
Amount payable	\$_____
Please tick if you require a receipt [<input type="checkbox"/>]	
* Senior's card holders and children from 6 to 15	

PAYMENT METHOD

CREDIT CARD: please ring us with your details on 08 9828 2325 during opening hours. **CHEQUE:** please make out to Yongergnow Inc. **CASH:** please pay at the Yongergnow Centre or to a Yongergnow representative. **ELECTRONIC TRANSFER:** to BSB 306-056 A/C 006174-8, stating **MEMBER** and **YOUR NAME** on the transfer description. Please let us know once you have transferred funds. Thank you!

Last name: _____

First name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Postal address: _____

Post code: _____

Signature: _____

WITH THANKS FROM ALL THE TEAM AT
YONGERGNOW,

YOUR SUPPORT IS MOST APPRECIATED

Yongergnow is proudly supported by:

