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Carnaby's and Clean ups in Candy's Bush Reserve

Candy's Bush Reserve is a small but important patch of remnant Salmon Gum/Wandoo woodland on the edge of Moora. As part of a Moore Catchment Council's State NRM Program project to protect and promote the reserve, a small but dedicated group of volunteers from Friends of the Moora Woodlands and MCC got together on December 10th to remove rubbish. Rachel Walmsley MCC's NRM Officer said "The group spent three hours ridding the reserve of old car batteries, a pram, a fan, a microwave, car exhausts, and hundreds/thousands of bits of glass from broken beer bottles. All this rubbish was discarded before the reserve was fenced in 2013. Before then it was a dumping ground and place to hoon about and smash bottles but now it is a clean and safer place to visit." Additional thanks to the Shire of Moora for allowing a free tip pass and also for installing picnic tables near the reserve's eastern entrance.



Volunteers take a well earned break from picking up rubbish



Ute load of rubbish removed from Candy's

One of the unexpected and exciting outcomes of the Candy's project so far came after two artificial nesting logs for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo were erected in the reserve in September 2013 by local Carnaby's carer Wally Kerkhoff. There are no trees old enough with hollows in the reserve to offer natural breeding so these artificial hollows provide a much needed alternative. There is also a shortage of hollows around Moora due to lack of suitable trees and competition from other birds and bees. Moora townsite is a designated Birdlife Important Bird Area for the endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo with around 60 pairs coming to breed every winter.

"A pleasant surprise came in August this year when both boxes in Candy's became occupied by Carnaby's hens," said Rachel, "this is great news for both the species recovery and for Wally's design of nesting boxes. He uses natural hollow logs which he 'burns' the middle out to enlarge them. I accompanied Wally and the Shire on a nest check in late November and two healthy chicks were observed."

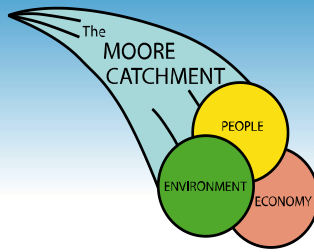


The Moore Catchment Council promotes Natural Resource Management in the Moore River Catchment

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Moore Catchment Council

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Wally takes a ride in the Shire's cherry picker



Healthy Carnaby's chick in one of the nesting logs

There are a forty or so of Wally's nesting logs around Moora and most are occupied by Carnaby's year after year, although Wally has stated that no more should be erected due to the lack of forage habitat around town for the Carnaby's and their new chicks. Unfortunately success has to be scaled back sometimes which is no fault of Wally's. The Wally Kerkhoff Carnaby's Group's next plan to roll out more nesting logs in Coorow, Mogumber and Wannamal to help with breeding there.

Anyone wanting to find out more about Candy's Bush Reserve or Carnaby's then please phone Rachel Walmsley at Moore Catchment Council 9653 1355 or mcc.nrmo@bigpond.com

