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# M E D I A R E L E A S E

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## Carrah Farm open to Carnabys

Figuring out which plant species will attract Carnaby's Black Cockatoo on your property can be difficult. Sarah Mason of Carrah Farms, Calingiri decided to share her experiences to help inspire others by running an info day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May as part of the Moore Catchment Council's WA Natural Resource Management Program Carnabys project.

The afternoon began at the front gate of Carrah Farms where Sarah greeted everyone with a quick hello and spray of the footwear with method to prevent the spread of Phytophthora (dieback).

Sarah explained to the small but keen and interested group who had travelled from Carnamah, Gingin and Perth, the various plantings that had occurred over the past with funding from Moore Catchment Council and Birdlife Australia to provide Carnaby food species. She told of the failures, mostly Dryandra and successes which are dominated by Hakeas. The best performer is Hakea Francisiana which is sadly not yet recognised by the local birds as food.

Then into the remnant bushland to look at what is growing and providing nutrition for the Cockies. This part of the walk was led by the Metcalfs; (who have done much work in Landcare and ecological surveys). Lots of different dryandras as pointed out by Veronica who specialises in plants, many of them flowering already. Her husband Brenden (bird expert) located potential nesting trees and revealed some of the ways to know if a hollow is being used without disturbing the hen and chick.

Walking to the house we went past a hollow log on a 6m steel pole that has been utilised in past years was a good introduction to the various types of artificial nests. This included the more aesthetically pleasing section of tree trunk from Moora's Carnabys nest builder beside the recycled black 300m diameter pipe from Serpentine/Jarrahdale LCDC. The poly pipe ones have proved very popular with Carnabys due to the large size and length, the more natural looking ones also get regularly used.

During afternoon tea, discussions were had regarding what more can be done to help these iconic birds. Topics included more plantings and protected those areas that already support Carnabys both in the breeding season in the Wheatbelt areas and on the Coastal Plain. Sadly the speaker from Muchea Trees had to cancel, however a selection of their seedlings were on display, and have since been planted.

Moore Catchment Council thanks Sarah for being an excellent host and sharing her experiences.



Sarah shows off her native plantings



Hakea in full flower



Poly pipe style cockatoo nest

Thanks to Barry Callen and Helen Watkins for the photos



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

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