



Moore Catchment Council

P.O Box 337

Moora WA 6510

Phone **(08) 9653 1355**

Fax **(08) 96531366**

Email: moorecc@bigpond.com

www.moorecatchment.org.au

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

15th
Aug
2014

New habitat planted for Malleefowl at Maya

Malleefowl have had a welcome boost to their habitat near Maya this year with local landowner Phil Nicolaou rehabilitating thirty hectares of his farm with native species. Moore Catchment Council obtained funds through the State NRM Program to carry out this project to help conserve Malleefowl populations in the area by rehabilitating cleared land with native plants and improving connectivity between remnant vegetation.

MCC NRM Officer Rachel Walmsley said "Malleefowl have got it all against them. This once widespread bird has been reduced to a few pockets in WA with the Maya area being one of them. In WA Malleefowl are classed as 'fauna that is rare or is likely to become extinct' and their downfall is due to mass clearance of their habitat, predation from foxes and cats and their low ability to adapt to human impact from fires and traffic."

This project involved partnering with the North Central Malleefowl Preservation Group (NCMPG) and Department of Parks & Wildlife (DPAW) to plan activities. The farm has also been awarded Land for Wildlife status by DPAW for retaining good quality native vegetation through large remnants and connecting corridors.

Rachel said "Phil has been keen to balance productive agriculture on his farm with preserving and rehabilitating native habitat for Malleefowl and other native fauna. Phil, his son and Peter Waterhouse (local farmer and NCMPG member) planted 29,000 mixed local species in June which include Acacias, Melaleucas, Eucalypts and Allocasuarinas. Hopefully survival will be high as Phil and his team have done an excellent job in establishing the seedlings to coincide with the rains."

The projects also donated 1000 seedlings for the recent community planting day in Maya organised by NACC. Next event planned will be a comprehensive assessment of one of Phil's remnants to look for Malleefowl activity. This will involve local volunteers walking through the bush in a systematic way with GPS logging any Malleefowl mounds or birds. This information will be fed into the National Malleefowl database and help build a better picture of Malleefowl presence in the area. Anyone interested in volunteering their time, please contact MCC on 9653 1355.



Peter and Phil inspect seedlings at Maya



New seedling



Malleefowl near Latham (Photo: P Waterhouse)



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