



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

MEDIA RELEASE AUGUST 19, 2012

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE MALLEEFOWL!

If you're a holiday-maker with a conscience, why not join the next 'voluntour' *Science Safari* with Global Gypsies and make a difference!

In a joint venture with the Yongernow Australian Malleefowl Centre and Bush Heritage Australia, the Gypsies are running a special ***Malleefowl Voluntour*** from November 22 – 25. Participants will have the opportunity to help conservation efforts of this endangered native bird while enjoying a short, fun escape into WA's beautiful Southwest during wildflower season.

Caravans, motorhomes, camper trailers or campers are welcome and the tour will be self-catering. It will be led by Global Gypsies Directors Jeremy Perks and Jan Barrie who will donate part proceeds to the two conservation organisations.

It is the Gypsies second Science Safari this year. The first, run in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Conservation, visited the Lorna Glen Nature Reserve in May. Participants helped release golden bandicoots into the wild and raised \$2500 for DEC's conservation efforts.

Participants on the '***Malleefowl Voluntour***' will be able to assist with such tasks as:

- preparation of chick pens ready for the next captive raising project
- assisting with malleefowl mound monitoring
- checking remote cameras to assess the presence of other native animals and predators.
- planting native vegetation in the aviary and bush garden
- compiling a bird list
- supplying building material (leaf litter collected nearby) to the birds
- assisting to catch the birds for health checks
- creating bush paths
- weeding
- labelling native plants
- assisting with maintenance, fencing, painting & other 'odd jobs'

Plus there will be lots of fun evening activities with the group.

Included in the package price of \$575 per person will be:

- Donations to Yongernow Australian Malleefowl Centre and Bush Heritage Australia
- Presentations by Vicky Bilney, Biologist, Manager of the Yongernow Centre, Ongerup and Angela Sanders, Ecologist for Bush Heritage Australia

- A range of supervised tasks and activities
- Camping/caravan sites for three nights
- Complimentary Welcome Dinner
- The satisfaction of knowing you have helped a worthy cause
- Fun times with a group of like minded people!

For further information on the **Malleefowl 'Voluntour**, please contact Global Gypsies on 9341-6727; email admin@globalgypsies.com.au; website: www.globalgypsies.com.au .

Background Information

Yongergnow Australian Malleefowl Centre in Ongerup, WA, opened its gates to the public in 2007 and has since grown dramatically. The award-winning Centre is community owned and operated, aiming to link together community, culture and conservation with a special focus on the local mallee country and its flagship species, the endangered Malleefowl.

Malleefowl are unique birds as they do not build nests like most other birds, but build huge mounds of soil and leaf litter, in which the decomposing material creates heat to incubate the eggs. The parent Malleefowl spend 11 months of the year tending their mound, but once the chicks hatch (up to 1m underground!), they are completely on their own.

Malleefowl have suffered dramatically from land clearing, changed fire regimes and introduced predators and have been declared an endangered species. Yongergnow keeps WA's only captive Malleefowl in a huge natural bush aviary and captive-raised Malleefowl are released in suitable (predator controlled) habitat.

Bush Heritage Australia is a national non-profit organisation that protects Australia's unique animals, plants and their habitats by acquiring and managing land of outstanding conservation value, or by working in partnership with landowners. Their vision for 2025 is to protect one per cent of Australia.

In WA, Bush Heritage currently protects 105,777 hectares of land, including five conservation properties in the South West. They have purchased four properties between the Stirling Range and Fitzgerald River National Parks, known as the FitzStirling area. This area will eventually be an integral part of the Gondwana Link pathway, a bush link that is being developed across 1000km from Margaret River on the west coast east to the Nullarbor. The FitzStirling properties are home to many endangered species, including Chuditch, Dibblers, Western Whipbirds and Malleefowl.