



**The Nature and Agriculture Rehabilitation Association Inc**

PO Box 86  
Coolgardie WA 6429  
Contact: 9026 6376 or 9026 6234  
Fax: 9026 7110

Email: [tree.top@bigpond.com](mailto:tree.top@bigpond.com)

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NARA is approaching an exciting new era with financial support from the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission under the Goldfields-Esperance Regional Development Scheme an initiative of the Government of Western Australia to establish the infrastructure to begin trials in the growing of indigenous (native) plants suitable for production of wood, food and by-products. NARA received nearly \$80,000 from the State Government and will seek more funding to complete this project. We will be up-grading our water supply in the near future and fencing the area prior to planting. We have assistance from Griff Morris an architect from Solar Dwellings in the preparation of plans for a facility building which will provide a base for workers and visitors to NARA. It is hoped the building will showcase best practice in sustainable energy use and recycling of waste water.



**Visit of the Minister for Goldfields/Esperance Ljiljanna Ravlich and John Bowler to announce funding support from the State Government.**



In late December the last group of kangaroos from Hammond Park were released after a year long process of moving 47 kangaroos that the City of Kalgoorlie –Boulder had agreed to be rehabilitated for release back to the wild after years of captivity. We were told to expect losses of about 25% especially where half the animals required sedation, but with the help of the Vet and Hammond Park staff we had only 3 animals lost during the process. Congratulations go to all who helped Rowena and John, it was very rewarding seeing the animals hopping free – oh what a feeling! Most of the emus previously released at NARA from Hammond Park are still on the property and a few wild ones have been seen since Christmas due to the lack of rain and high temperatures.

We have had a number of visitors to NARA over the last few months and if demand continues to grow we will have to consider organised tours. A few more people have joined the ranks of our amazing volunteer carers, with hopefully a big increase in CALM accredited carers to happen later this year when a CALM Carers Course will happen in the Goldfields over one weekend in May. If anyone is interested in doing the course please contact Brett Lewis at the CALM office in Kalgoorlie. Rowena was successful in obtaining a small grant to assist with feeding costs from CALM. In February we had visits from the Forests Products Commission (FPC) and CALM who were very supportive and offered advice and assistance in the developments proposed at NARA.

Trevor and Rowena gave a presentation to a local mining company recently and we are in on-going discussions to determine how best to proceed from here. It is hoped that a long-term association might be established that will be mutually beneficial. Louis Voortman has put a lot of enthusiasm into moving this process along which we are very grateful for.

Numerous groups will be working or studying at NARA over the coming months enlarging the number of people in the region that will utilise the site and improve it. CALM Bush Rangers and the Kalgoorlie Boys Brigade will be involved in projects including revegetation, wildlife surveys and repairs to the old Miner's Cottage. Some people from the Coolgardie and Kurrawang Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) will be assisting with the crop trials to start soon. A new employment training program may start later in the year, more detail about that in the next newsletter along with a membership update.



**Grant Pronk from FPC inspecting vegetation near NARA's big Salmon gum**



**Kangaroos from the first release in 2004**