



The Nature and Agriculture Rehabilitation Association Inc

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NARA is a unique new conservation organization in Australia, our base of operations is on the outskirts of Coolgardie, a small mining community (1200 people) in the Goldfields of “outback” Western Australia. Our property has an interesting history dating back over hundreds of years, in the last century it has been used as a Miners Homestead lease for two families the Bows and Meadows, each had a 500 acre property used for grazing and cropping of cereals and hay. In more recent times it has been cropped for wheat and used for grazing horses and camels from the local Camel Farm. Mining and prospecting has been carried out on the property but little of significance has been found though gold made Coolgardie world famous in 1892.

The property is 774 hectares comprising open previously cropped areas and large stands of eucalypt woodland, mainly salmon and York gums and gimlet with an under story of shrubs, mainly Emu bushes. Saltbush and more palatable species have been eaten out by the camels over the last 15 years. Though somewhat degraded there is no serious erosion problem and where the camels have been excluded there is some natural revegetation.

The wildlife on the property comprises emu, red and grey kangaroo, pygmy possum and a host of birdlife, a full inventory of flora and fauna has yet to be done. The potential for the area to support a wide range of species is great given the different habitats present and planned to be enhanced to obtain maximum biodiversity. We recently started running slow release programmes for large marsupials that have been hand reared. We hope to work with rehabilitating a range of wildlife including reintroducing endangered species that roamed this land before cats, foxes and wild dogs nearly wiped them out.

Where appropriate on the property it is planned to develop commercial scale trials of different crops and management systems suitable for the arid Rangelands. The previously cropped areas occupy an alluvial plain with friable sandy loam soils. We are grateful for the support of many agencies in helping us realise the potential unique to our site and hope that with donations and grants the work of NARA can impact the State and Nation.

Our vision statement is to “promote the awareness and care of the environment along with education and personal development”. The educational aspect of our vision is not narrow but encompasses people of all ages having access to an experience of the environment both natural and man-made that will inform and uplift.

NARA Past, Present and Future :

The concept of NARA originated from two couples concern for the environment and seeking ways to appropriately deal with wildlife and land rehabilitation. A group of friends and interested people supported them to establish an incorporated body in March 2003 that now has charitable status. The present office holders are:

Chairperson: Trevor Sholson *Deputy Chairperson:* Steve Florisson
Secretary: Rowena Vermeulen *Treasurer:* Anne Kent

The committee comprises 9 people including a Shire representative and the organisation is open to membership from individuals to corporate bodies who share the vision “to see the land and all in it healed”. Although the process has at times been difficult we look back and are amazed at what has happened and feel excited about what is to come. We have had some great donations, support and assistance: an individual gave us a computer, a graphic designer did our logo, a local car firm offered us a vehicle, a local lawyer and accountant donated their time, the Shire of Coolgardie has been supportive as has John Bowler, MLA and Barry Haase, MP for Kalgoorlie and we have a wonderful group of volunteers who do amazing things over many hours.

The recent agreement to release to the wild the majority of animals currently held at Hammond Park in Kalgoorlie is a significant event in the development of our rehabilitation of wildlife. We envisage putting more than 45 kangaroos through our slow release programme and releasing 12 emus onto the land. There is a current “envirofund” application for nearly \$30,000 going in for land rehabilitation and a man-made wetland for wildlife, this will be an important first step in a sustainable biodiverse area at the centre of NARA’s property.

We welcome new members or enquiries about what we are doing.

Enquiries for wildlife care :

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