

From: Price, Melissa (MP) <Melissa.Price.MP@aph.gov.au>
To: 'kdeepop2 kdeepop2' <kdeepop2@bigpond.com>
Date: Jun 24, 2020 8:08:10 AM
Subject: **RE: Community support for Carnaby sculpture**

Good morning

The Hon Melissa Price has asked that I reply to your email on her behalf and to advise you that she is in full support of a Carnaby's sculpture and thinks it is an excellent idea.

As such the Minister wants to donate \$500 towards the project. When you are in a position to provide an invoice for \$500 please forward to this email address in order to facilitate payment.

Kind regards

De-Arne O'Neil

Office Manager

Office of the Hon Melissa Price MP | Federal Member for Durack

Minister for Defence Industry

Follow Melissa:



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**MELISSA
PRICE MP**

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR DURACK
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE INDUSTRY



09.02.21



**Message
from**

**The Honourable Kim Beazley, AC
Governor of Western Australia**

for

Moore Catchment Council

Thank you for your warm welcome and hospitality when I visited the Shire of Moora and was shown around Candy's Bush and the Old Reserve in November 2020.

I have been delighted to hear recently that your plans to create a 'Big Cocky' sculpture have come to fruition. It is such a lovely way to highlight the plight of the endangered Carnaby Black-Cockatoo and the important work that is being done in Moora to protect and conserve the species.

Australians and tourists alike seem to be drawn to the whimsical 'big' sculptures around Australia and the world, so I am hoping that this trend plays out in Moora. It will be terrific for you to raise much-needed awareness and tourism dollars that can be put towards the future preservation of these fascinating birds here in Western Australia.

I wish you all the best in your endeavour and look forward to seeing the 'Big Cocky' sculpture when I'm next in the region.

Yours sincerely

GOVERNOR

Costa Georgiadis Official
21 February · 🌐

This story has so many layers. The classic context of a “big” something in a town does so much to amplify regional significance. In this case it is wonderful to see a bird, a threatened species get the spotlight shine upon it forever more. Every visitor, every tourist brochure, every local will speak the word Carnabys cockatoo on a regular basis. This will embed the story, the importance and the connection to landscape, ecology and biodiversity in many many ways.

The doc... See more



to



**an anonymous donor
for donating \$45,000
today towards
building the
Big Carnabys
Sculpture in Moora**

Big Carnabys sculpture
20 February · 🌐

Do miracles happen? Well today a Monday marvellous miracle happened 😊 A lovely local Midwest person came into the office and donated the remaining cash needed ... See more

You, Lizzie King, Bronwyn Williams Fox and 309 others 27 comments 7 shares

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Costa Georgiadis Official
21 February · 🌐

This story has so many layers. The classic context of a “big” something in a town does so much to amplify regional significance. In this case it is wonderful to see a bird, a threatened species get the spotlight shine upon it forever more. Every visitor, every tourist brochure, every local will speak the word Carnabys cockatoo on a regular basis. This will embed the story, the importance and the connection to landscape, ecology and biodiversity in many many ways.

The documentary [Black Cockatoo Crisis](#) is bringing awareness to the plight of our cockatoos. Having a town build their story into the everyday is priceless. Big congratulations to everyone involved and to everyone who has contributed to the fundraising. I can't wait to see this creative work grow into three dimensional reality and to one-day stand in front of it.

I know Milly [Wing Threads](#) will be stoked to hear about this unfolding story of significance to birdlife in Australia.

[BirdLife Western Australia](#)
[BirdLife Australia](#)
[Remember The Wild](#)
[Kalamunda Garden Festival](#)
[Landcare Australia](#)
[Bush Heritage Australia](#)
[Australian Citizen Science Association](#)
[Australian Association of Bush Regenerators-AABR](#)
[ABC Australia](#)
[Australian Story](#)
[Permaculture Australia](#)

travel

OUR NEXT 'BIG THING'

The town of Moora wants a big drawcard for tourists . . . and it's settled on a \$288,000 Big Carnaby. The huge sculpture of two Carnaby's cockatoos will, say supporters, increase tourism potential, put Moora on the 'Australian Big Things' map, and highlight Moora as an important place for Carnaby's conservation in WA.

The three dimensional fibreglass sculpture of two cockatoos will reach to 10.7m tall and be in Apex Park. It is being made by the Natureworks company in Queensland. The Kerkhof Carnaby Group, driving the project, is still appropriately short-billed of its financial target by \$90,000, and is asking for public donations. Contact the Shire of Moora.

CARNABYS LOVE-IN

Carnaby's (or short-billed) black cockatoos are critically endangered and come to Moora to breed in the hollows of old salmon gums and wandoo trees. See them between August to January. (Make a note for spring.)

■ In the town, Carnaby's Cockatoo Interpretative Walk Trail is a flat walk through eucalypt woodland along the banks of the Moore River, and nice in the cooler months coming.

■ A good spot is Koojan Salmon Gum Reserve. 18km south of Moora on the Bindoon-Moora Road.

■ In Candy's Bush Reserve, follow the Candy's Walk Trail – a companion booklet is available from Moora Visitor Centre, which tells more of the ecology of the reserve and the local Yued Aboriginal culture.

Local Wally Kerkhof and the Kerkhof Carnaby Group have had significant success in increasing the population of Carnaby's black cockatoos in the Moora district. It is believed there were maybe a dozen pairs in the 1980s and now there are around 100 breeding pairs.

Wally has spent over 30 years designing and constructing artificial logs for Carnaby breeding areas in Moora and Mogumber. Around 80 chicks are born each year in the artificial logs and natural hollows. Wally has earned his nickname 'the Carnaby's black cockatoo's best friend'.

EXPERIENCED CREATIVES

Natureworks has more than 40 years' experience in moulding critters, and renewed the famous Luna Park entrance in Sydney. Sydney's Luna Park, with its fantasy architecture in the Art Deco style, opened in 1935, and as based on the success of the first Luna Park, which opened on Coney Island, New York in



Impression of the Big Carnabys destined for Apex Park in Moora.

1903. American entrepreneur Herman Phillips and others had brought the idea to Australia. They opened Luna Park in Melbourne in 1912 and Luna Park Glenelg, Adelaide, in 1930.

When the entrance face at Sydney's Luna Park needed a facelift, Natureworks created a scale model of the whole piece and sculpted the 8m high face in polystyrene – doing this vertically to match how it would be displayed.

OTHER BIG THINGS

Other Big Things in Australia:

- The big prawn, in Ballina, NSW.
- Woombye, Queensland, has a big pineapple.
- A big potato in Robertson, NSW.
- Kingston's big lobster, South Australia.
- The (ghostly) big koala at Dadswells Bridge in Victoria.
- The (excellent) big golden guitar in Tamworth, NSW.
- A big banana in Coffs Harbour, NSW.
- And, of course, in WA, the giant ram in Wagin and big crocodile in Wyndham.

HIKE TO SUPPORT NURSES

Royal Perth Hospital Nursing Research Foundation has its inaugural Cape to Cape Hike Fundraiser walk in May. The all-inclusive, three-day walk, with participants staying in comfortable accommodation and served good food and wines, costs \$1750 each. Each participant is asked to raise \$1000 for nursing research. The group is limited to 12 to 16 people and the foundation hopes to raise at least \$20,000 from its 2021 Hike for a Cause. The foundation was established in 2001 with the aim to raise funds so that nurses can undertake research to improve patients' health and

quality of life. The walk proceeds will support the Doreen McCarthy Nursing Research Grant, named in honour of Professor Doreen McCarthy, former director of nursing at RPH, who was a champion for nursing research. For more information on the walk and to register: mycaulise.com.au/events/capetocapehike_rph/.

PIG-HEADED PLAN

Mike and Tania Armstrong have a WA drive plan for "when we retire in a couple of years". The Balingup couple reckon southern WA looks like a "rather well fed porky" . . . hence their nickname for it, The Pig. And they have worked out a route to cover The Pig, driving just over 2100km, with 12 stops, in Torbay, Albany, Bremer Bay, Stokes National Park, Esperance, Norseman, Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie, Merredin, York, Perth and, in their case, heading back to Balingup. "We figure a spring or autumn month-to-six-week-long sojourn would be just the ticket," Mike says. "My idea would be to turn it into an iconic road trip for all to enjoy, with places along the way offering incentives for people doing the full circuit."

PS: Mike generously adds: "You and your team delight us all with each weekend."

WHALE OF A TIME

There's a lot going on at Albany's Historic Whaling Station in April:

- Nocturnal Wildlife Tours are back for the school holidays, guided by wildlife keepers. They are on for evenings only – Wednesdays 7, 14 and Thursdays 8 and 15.



Mike and Tania west, with its eye near

■ The Twilight Interesting sto experienced g the Cheynes B open, then the Galley Cafe.

■ The extens newly instal to help identif Albany's His open for 9ar school holiday holidays. discoo 9844 4021

ESCORTED

Rod Garnaut a Heights has co escorted guide and around Pe Chittering Walk Norcia, Mandu Pinnacles, Guil around Perth. \$120, including fees and lunch dessert, tea ar several metrop drop-off point to Albany, all-i twin share. Cai

TOP TOWN

Voting for WA' Small Tourism April 8. Seven categories hav awards, t

The To categ B C I Kar Pinjarr Tow a



Cover image: Australia road sign.

The West Australian
Saturday, March 18, 2023

travel

COCK-A-HOOP

A local walked into Rachel Walmsley's office in Moora on Monday and donated \$45,000 – the final money needed to build its Big Cockies sculpture. Eighty per cent of the \$390,000 needed for the 10.5m Carnaby's black-cockatoo sculpture has come from private donors. "Amazing, hey!" says Rachel, who is community landcare co-ordinator for the Moore Catchment Council. "A Monday marvellous miracle happened. What can you say to that – apart from WOW, WOW and WOW?"

DARK DAYS

The Big Cockies

BIG COCKIES

Compared with the previous “tried and true” icons, this is a big thing in the making. The town of Moora, in the Wheatbelt north of Perth, has been looking for a big tourist drawcard, and settled on the \$390,000 Big Cockies. The 10.5m-tall sculpture of two Carnaby’s black cockatoos will, say supporters, increase tourism potential, put Moora on the “Australian Big Things” map, and highlight Moora as an important place for Carnaby’s conservation in WA. The three-dimensional fibreglass sculpture of two cockatoos will reach to 10.7m tall and be in Apex Park. It is to be made by the Natureworks company in Queensland, with the Kerkhof Carnaby Group driving the project. As I reported in March, a local recently donated



\$45,000 — the final money needed to build the Big Cockies sculpture. Eighty per cent of the \$390,000 has come from private donors. “Amazing, hey,” says Rachel Walmsley, who is community landcare co-ordinator for the Moore Catchment Council.

GIANT KOALA

Still on native wildlife, we head to Dadswells Bridge in Victoria and its Giant Koala. He’s known as Sam, in honour of the koala that captured the world’s collective heart after being photographed

drinking from firefighter David Tree’s water bottle in burned bushland in 2009. In western Victoria’s Wimmera region, Sam (the sculpture, thankfully) is 14m-tall and made from 12 tonnes of steel, fibreglass and bronze. About 30 years old, the sculpture was designed by Ben Van Zetten.

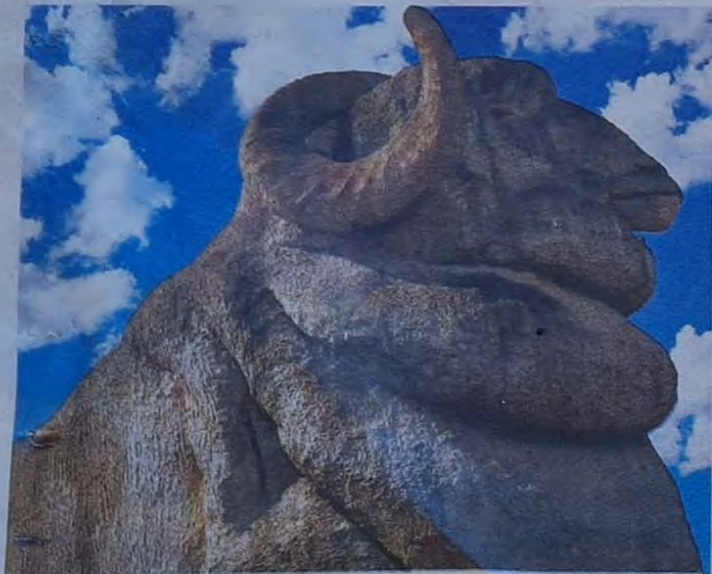
BIG PRAWN

Still native, but from the water, comes the Big Prawn in the northern NSW town of Ballina. It has been standing in its current spot since 2013, having vacated a

previous position above a cafe. Robin Osborne has written a couple of books about the prawn, and still misses the spiral staircase, which used to take visitors up the inside.

BIG LOBSTER

And finally, in Kingston, South Australia, we have Larry the Lobster. The four-tonne crustacean has had a bit of a spruce-up, including new feelers (half his luck). On the Limestone Coast, he’s a big thing — and a big attraction.



The big merino in Goulburn weighs 100 tonnes. Picture: Getty



The giant koala is modelled on this koala drinking from a firefighter’s water bottle in Victoria in 2009. Picture: Facebook



A representation of how the Big Cockies sculpture could look in Moora.



Moora's Carnaby crusaders

By **Kyra Burns** - October 3, 2019

Approaching the north end of Moora, the home of Carnaby crusader Wally Kerkhof is easy to spot. If you somehow manage to overlook the nesting logs set high in the sky, or gum trees laden with the imposing large grey-black cockatoo, the sound of bird calls emanating from his backyard and Carnaby hide will soon draw you in.

Wally and the Kerkhof Carnaby Group have had great success in increasing the population of Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) in Moora and surrounds, from merely a dozen pairs in the 1980's to approximately 100 breeding pairs this season. This is thanks to the artificial nesting logs designed and built by Wally to replicate the breeding areas lost to the birds through habitat destruction.

Wally spent twenty-six years single-handedly working to restore the Carnaby population, and cultivating a love of nature with a devotion to all birds that is incredible – foraging in the bush for hours to source appropriate food for different species, and even feeding baby birds by mouth himself to ensure their survival.

"I'll give you an idea of much Wally loves the birds," says Wes Porter, Kerkhof Carnaby Group member. "I went to his house one day and he had a tin of dog food open on the table. I said 'Oh, who do you feed that to?'. Well, he was eating it himself! Going without food and eating dog food because it was cheaper! That's just how passionate he is about the birds. It didn't kill him," Wes laughs.

Maintaining this level of commitment to a cause can take a toll, both emotionally and financially, and this was noted by Wally's friends. They decided to step up their support, but in a more official capacity with the creation of the Kerkhof Carnaby Group.

"The group was formed in 2011," explains secretary, Topsy De Vries. "Wally was running short of funds to feed the birds. A few of us around Moora started to organise fundraising events. We became a constituted group within a few years and it's grown from there. Each year we raise enough money to help with the food and to help with the nests," said Topsy.

"I needed a group," admits Wally. "Dr Nathalie Casal from Perth was our first, and only sponsor, for the first three years. She would bring up \$1500 worth of seeds every year."

Altruistic causes that achieve the level of success that Wally and the Kerkhof Carnaby Group have done quite often have the backing of a wealthy philanthropist, people with the means and connections to make a difference. Wally has had none of those. Indeed, his extraordinary start to life could have set him on a very different track.

"I was born in Scotland, my mother was Scottish and my father; well he couldn't marry my mum – he was a priest!

"There was a little girl that my mother handed me over to and said 'Can you look after my wee bairn?'. She never returned. The young lady could no longer afford to look after me so I was taken to the police and then an orphanage," he explains.

Wally was one of thousands of disadvantaged children shipped abroad by the UK government in a resettlement scheme that ran from 1945-1970.

"Luckily," says Wally, "I landed in WA."

Wally's knowledge of the ecology of the land where he lives is immense and full of the intricate detail you can only acquire from thousands of hours of on-the-ground study.

"It all started when I was kid," says Wally. "You will learn more from observation and being hands-on than you will from all the text books in the world."

His decades of observation have raised concerns about the decline in all bird species and numbers.

"I remember in the 50's and 60's you would see all sorts of birds – and not in ones or twos; large flocks. That's not the case anymore.

"If I can save one species, without interfering with it, without putting it in captivity, then I have done well," says Wally.

The Carnaby population in the Moora townsite is now steady, and any new nesting logs will only be established in the surrounding areas. The Kerkhof Carnaby Group do have other big plans for Moora in the future – quite literally!

"We are wanting to build a Big Carnaby statue," explains Topsy. "We want Moora to be known as a Carnaby town and to do that we need funds, and local artists to come up with ideas."

If you can help the Kerkhof Carnaby Group either in their quest for a big Carnaby, with donations to help the birds or can help the group acquire a small cherry picker and crane for their nesting log projects you can contact secretary Topsy on 0427 343 968.

In recognition of his services to the Carnaby population, Wally has been nominated for a 2019 WA Landcare Award. The winner of which will be announced at the Landcare Awards Gala Dinner in Mindarie on October 4.

"I'm not interested in accolades as such – unless there's money attached that can help the birds," says Wally.

He adds, cheekily, "Accolades are something I have to pick and dust every day, I'm sick of it. I'm too fastidious around the house!"



Kyra Burns

Interview with Michelle Stanley ABC 02.09.21

<https://fb.watch/b2ZHjgYdT5/>



22.02.23 <https://www.abc.net.au/wheatbelt/programs/breakfast/big-carnabys-cockatoo-sculpture-taking-off/102008630>

Big Carnabys Cockatoo sculpture taking off

ABC Midwest & Wheatbelt
Broadcast Wed 22 Feb 2023 at 6:35am



abc.net.au/wheatbelt/programs/breakfast/big-carnabys-cockatoo-sculpture-taking-off/102008630

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In the Wheatbelt of Western Australia, one town's dream of having WA's next biggest thing is on track after an unknown person donated the final \$45,000 needed for the artwork.

The big Carnaby Black Cockatoo sculpture will be 10.5 metres tall and cost a total of \$390,000.

All the money has been raised through donations, including from some high profile supporters such as Gardening Australia's Costa Georgiadis.

The secretary of Moora's Kerkhoff Carnaby Group, Topsy De Vries, tells the story behind hearing the exciting news.

Credits

- Jeremy Jones, Presenter
- Glenn Barndon, Producer

Broadcast 22 Feb 2023

Breakfast

- Midwest and Wheatbelt Breakfast**
7h ago / with [Jeremy Jones](#)
- Midwest and Wheatbelt Breakfast**
Yesterday / with [Jeremy Jones](#)
- Midwest and Wheatbelt Breakfast**
Fri / with [Jeremy Jones](#)