

Protection and Conservation of the Morbinning Hall Reserve



Morbinning Hall Reserve is a 31 Ha reserve located within the Shire of Beverley, where there is less than 4% of remnant vegetation. Whilst the reserve has areas of intact bushland, it has a large rabbit population which has allowed an infestation of agricultural weeds to take hold in areas. It is a significant remnant in a cleared landscape. The Morbinning Catchment Group has been working over the past 20 years to establish bush corridors in the Morbinning region, and this reserve is an integral part of that network.

The reserve comprises of open wando, low shrubland, mallet ridge and lateric breakaway ridge and pockets of deep sand where hakeas are prolific. It has been known in the past to contain rare flora, and a seedbank may remain. Several species of *Drosera*, an insectivorous genera, are also found within the reserve. Bird surveys conducted in the reserve have indicated large number of priority

and remnant dependent bird species.

Morbinning Catchment Group applied to Wheatbelt NRM in 2012 for a Small Community Grant in order to:

- Reduce the impact of rabbits and foxes in the reserve by 1080 baiting,
- installation of a perimeter rabbit proof fence
- spraying weeds
- revegetation with indigenous species. The placement of seedlings in the degraded areas will help combat erosion and increasing the diversity of the remnant vegetation.

The rabbit proof fencing in conjunction with baiting of rabbits has been very successful, with a lack of rabbits being noticed.

A successful planting day was held in July 2013, completing the project.

Wheatbelt NRM Small

Community Grants 2012

Recipient: Morbinning Catchment Group

Amount Funded: \$ 9760

People Involved: 22



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