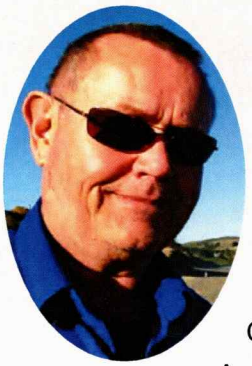
TRACK CARE

The Newsletter of Track Care WA (Inc.)
PO Box 8338 Perth Business Centre, Perth WA 6849
Website: www.trackcare.com.au

February 2015



Chairman's Report

The period since the AGM has been busy for Steve and I as we come to grips with the day-to-day activity and governance of Track Care. I would like to thank Eric Loughton for his efforts and also all of the TCWA members who worked with him to make 2014 such a successful year. I also note that this combined contribution to the wider community was recognised in the Four-Wheel-Drive Champions article published in the Summer 2014-15 issue of Landscope.

As the CSR project continues to progress smoothly, both Brian (Rangelands) and Laurance (Adoptions) continue to work towards solving project challenges. The Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) continues to experience funding contraction, which impacts project planning and has implementation ramifications for Brian and Laurance. While these funding ups and downs will alter the way projects are undertaken, there is still an abundance of potential projects to carry forward. The bushfire season hasn't helped Brian and Laurance to resolve their project initiatives as it has been increasingly difficult to contact DPaW staff because they have been either actively engaged in fire-fighting or catching up on work otherwise put-off due to fire-fighting.

Dr John Collins

SAUSAGE SIZZLED!!!

I would like to say the 27th of September was a glorious Spring day, but alas, it wasn't – it tipped down. No amount of water could stop our intrepid sausage sizzlers though!

Track Care's major fundraising event for the year was underway with Charm, Tom, Steve, Laurence, Kate, Lyn, Jeff, Ken, Ben, Chilli, Terry, Nanette, Selwyn and Ria on the hustle to sell as much as they could. Neither the AFL Grand Final, nor the weather was going to stop them! Joy and Pete kept restocking all the supplies as needed during the day.

With the rain and cool weather, the day started slowly, but did pick up pace as the day got drier. The only drama was the shelter leaked (take a good look at the photo) and there was a mad scramble to stop the bread rolls getting wet.

Unfortunately for us, but fortunately for the Salvation Army, 270 rolls, 18 bottles of sauce and 10kg of sliced onions were left over. We were very pleased they didn't go to waste!

All Joy's organising and looking out for bargains meant we raised $1,300 on the day.

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Bicycles for Punmu

From the 17th to the 22nd of September 2014 two members of Track Care WA Incorporated, Graham Weber and I, delivered 40 BMX bikes plus spare wheels, spare tyres and tubes and helmets to the Punmu Primary School Community – Martu People of the Western Deserts. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martu_people.

All 40 BMX bikes were kindly donated by 'Bicycles for Humanity', with their volunteers and employees of Iluka Resources putting the bikes together and making them all operational. To find out more about this great not- for-profit organisation please see their website. http://www.bicyclesforhumanity.com.

It was as if this project was meant to happen. From the formation of the original proposal through to the fluke contact with 'Bicycles for Humanity' by our Grants Officer, Kerry Bessen. Throughout the planning stages all the round pegs fell comfortably into the round holes, so to speak.

The bikes were loaded onto the Track Care trailer a week before leaving. Because they were stacked so high on the trailer, I could not secure them all at my place, so another very good mate John DuPont came to the rescue.

After collecting the trailer and bikes, the first leg was a fairly casual drive up to Cue enjoying the usual stop at the Bindoon Bakery that many Track Care volunteers know so well. Staying overnight at a bed and breakfast enabled us to get an early start in the morning and push through to sunset, managing to get within 70km of Marble Bar, find a patch of dirt and swag it for the night.

Next morning, after a hearty bush breakfast we packed up and headed into Marble Bar to refuel and take a bath at Chinaman's Pool before heading out on the Ripon Hills Road for the Oakover River causeway for lunch. The initial plan was to camp out another night before heading into Punmu Community Saturday morning but we were making good progress over some pretty horrendous corrugations past Telfer Mine. Deflating our tyres to the conditions certainly paid dividends in terms of comfort levels and dealing with the ever relentless fatigue. Closer to Punmu the road was being graded which enabled us to drive into Punmu Friday afternoon, meet up with the Primary school teachers (Jo and Josh), unload the BMX bikes at the Primary School, as well as set up camp outside the Community at the ranger's camp and cook a late dinner. That evening we were visited by a very cunning and annoying little Dingo, named Fart by the Rangers, intent on cleaning up our scraps from dinner. In the morning we were fortunate to have a chat with the rangers before Jo and Josh arrived to work out a plan for the day. Being that the AFL footy semi-finals were on that day and the daily temperature was spiking to about 40°C - we took Jo and Josh's offer to pack up and head to their place in Community for some air conditioned comfort and spend the next evening there, which enabled us to make an early start Sunday morning for the trip home.

▲ ***Packed to the rafters.***

Saturday afternoon Graham and I were treated to a very special event when we were invited to accompany the students on a hunting expedition for goanna a few km east of Community. Jo and some of the students prepared all veges for the camp oven. Unfortunately no goanna ended up in the pot so it was an all vegetarian meal that evening. Many thanks to Deborah who supervised and did most of the camp oven cooking. Very tasty indeed- even without the goanna. The students tried real hard to chase down a goanna too, like mountain goats, bare feet all over a hill with alarmingly sharp rocks. On the way back to Community, Graham and I were treated to (apparently) a very rare occasion, with the students all singing together in the back of their Troopie over the UHF radio, and they were really good too. Graham and I cannot thank the Punmu Community enough for the generous hospitality shown toward us during our very short stay. It was much appreciated.

▲ ***Goanna hunting.***

However, we were on a tight schedule to get Graham back to Perth. We said our farewells to everyone early Sunday morning and headed out at 6.30am, back onto that horrible corrugated road. With an empty trailer I decided to show Graham Carawine Gorge and then enter the Upper and Lower Carawine, take a swim during lunch in the Oakover River then head to Nullagine

via the Skull Springs Road. Graham did a detour to Running Waters while I continued on- too hard to turn the trailer around in there. Graham did eventually catch up to me.

Pushing down to Capricorn Roadhouse into a fairly stiff head wind and alarmingly horrible fuel economy, we bunked down for the night in a couple of their new Dongas enabling us to make an early start the next morning to take advantage of a tail wind. Overnight the wind changed direction and we were faced with another head wind, this time the worst since we left home 5 days earlier – just bad luck I guess.

First and foremost I'd like to thank Graham Weber for his AWESOME company for the duration of this event, Track Care WA Incorporated and Bikes for Humanity for their much needed support to see this project through.

Hopefully the primary school students will now have a real positive reason to come to school.

Last we heard a BMX track is in the planning stages of being built by Community.

Report and photos by

Geoff Couper and Graham Weber.

Successful Partnership on Show Again

Once again Track Care partnered with the WA Four Wheel Drive Association and Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) to share a stand at the 2014 Four Wheel Drive and Adventure Show. We had a last minute cry for help from the Pilbara Development Commission, which saw Cathy fly down from Karratha to join our stand. And what a ray of sunshine she was – fitted in like she had known everyone for years and did a great job plugging Track Care.

Everyone on the stand received free entry for the day, and with only half a day of work required, there was plenty of time left over for a look around. Why do I always find something to spend my money on! Thanks to Des, Andrew, Eric L, Eric T, Ben, Terry, Pieter, Ria, Pete and Joy for helping to spread Track Care's ethos to the world.

The idea of the stand is to primarily promote the strong partnership between Track Care, the WA Four Wheel Drive Association and DPaW. It is interesting to see people move from one organisation to the next and at the end see how we complement each other and work so well together. All positive steps towards responsible four wheel driving and access for the future.

We even got a plug from Ernie Dingo with a short interview on the Engel Outdoor Stage! I think he was chuffed at seeing the restoration of Woolgorong where his mother was born and raised.

Special thanks go to Davis and Gavin from the WA Four Wheel Drive Association for representing us in discussions with the show organisers, and Danielle from DPaW.

Wandoo Wanderers

Time to explore

The weather was fantastic, and the destination a treat
as twelve 4WD's headed for Wandoo Woodlands in the east.
1 EMU stalked the convoy, collecting coins for a good cause
as that coin was tossed at each corner to decide the track that we should use.
We could have gone in circles and no black top did we encounter
as we travelled along gravel tracks enjoying nature's display and convivial banter.
One fallen tree became the challenge with the boy's toys being deployed,
finally removing it from the track when the correct anchor was employed.
We did encounter rubbish mainly at an abandoned campsite
of some poor homeless, shameless soul, old furniture an ugly sight.
The day was a great success, the weather, company and nature
inspiring us all to part with coins, with SIDS and Kids the benefactor.

2015 - Planning for another busy year

CSR Projects

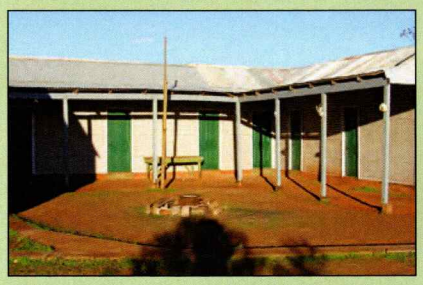
Well 12 – 30th May – 6th June

More participants are required to join the well building team replacing the top section of timbers at Well 12, then visit Durba Springs on the way to repair the top timbers at Well 18. Also required is one participant that can tow a trailer.

Mungkulu – 15th August – 4th September

Not for the faint hearted. Isolation, and long distances to bring in all supplies to build a Campsite, toilet and shed at Mungkulu, east of the Calvert Ranges.

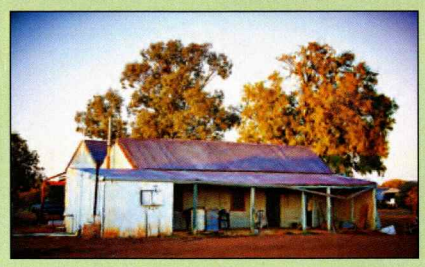
Unfortunately, no more participants are required for this project.



Rangelands Projects

Warriedar – 10th – 17th April

Join Clive to assist in replacing the floorboards in two rooms in the Shearer's quarters and other work as required around these restored buildings.



Narloo – 14th – 23rd September

Travel back to the Murchison to complete the renovation work started last year on this interesting double pitched roof residence.

MEETINGS & MEMBERSHIP

Meetings:

Track Care WA (Inc) holds a monthly meeting on the last Wednesday of each month at 7.00 pm at Star Street Uniting Church, corner Star and Archer Streets, Carlisle. All members are welcome to attend and encouraged to contribute. Visitors are most welcome.

Membership:

Membership fees are for 12 months and renewable annually from 30th June.

Full Membership with voting	$80.00
Associate Membership no Voting	$40.00

2015 meeting dates for Track Care WA are:

28 January
25 February
25 March
29 April
27 May
24 June
29 July
26 August
30 September – NEW date for our AGM, 6pm start with meal
28 October
25 November – no meeting in December.
All meetings commence at 7pm except September (6pm).

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