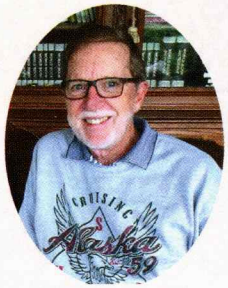
TRACK CARE

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

July 2017

Vice-Chairman's Report



At the time of writing this Report, our Chairman, Dr John Collins is in the Kimberley enjoying the warmer weather and taking the opportunity to have a look at current and potential Track Care projects. I suspect that it is also a shake-down of his much loved Unimog 4WD which he has been converting into a camper van.

John has taken the opportunity to visit Well 49 on the CSR following the completion of the construction of a Rangers Camp nearby. This was a joint project involving Track Care and the Ngurrara Rangers and, from what I understand, it has been a most successful project although there were a few challenges along the way. In early May, Track Care's projects along the CSR were the subject of a 2-page spread in the Weekend West.

John has also met with the CEO of the Shire of Halls Creek with whom we already have a MoU. The Shire is very supportive of the work that Track Care does and is keen for us to comment on its draft Local Planning Strategy once it is released.

This year so far has been particularly busy for Track Care's Committee and Executive with projects happening on the CSR including a toilet construction at Well 15 and the Ranger's Camp at Well 49. In the Rangelands, the focus this year has been Damperwah with a number of trips being made to fulfil our agreement with Parks & Wildlife.

The joint project in the Wandoo National Park has focussed on the Piggery Rd area with several trips to site to rationalise the plethora of tracks and erect signage. These joint projects also involve the MTAWA and the 4WD Association and have been very successful.

The Executive has also been busy building relationships with like minded organisation such as Pew Charitable Trusts who are committed to the Indigenous Ranger Program and Create Ranger Parks. Graham and I recently attended the release of its book titled "My Country, Our Outback" at Fraser's Restaurant in Kings Park. The Outback (which occupies about 70% of the Australian mainland) and its restoration is the focus of the book.

Finally, the Committee has commenced planning for our 20th Anniversary Celebration to take place in Latham. The decision was made following an online survey of members where nearly 85% of those who voted said "Yes" to Latham on the September Long Weekend. The AGM will still be held in conjunction with the September General Meeting in Carlisle and will start early with a barbecue.

Steve Wilke

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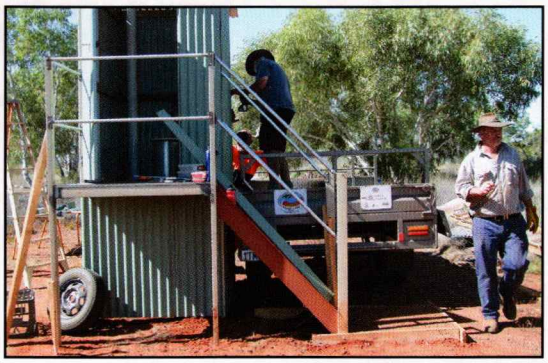
Heavy going reaching the CSR

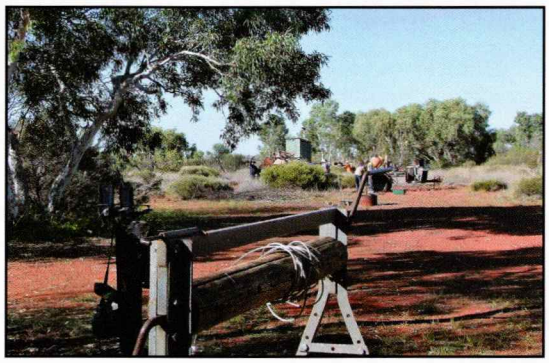
The May Canning Stock Route project began with members travelling from as far south as Benger (near Harvey) and Falcon (near Mandurah), as far north as Geraldton, and as far east as Sydney. Camping beside the Great Northern Highway we were joined by Libby. She had travelled over 1,000 kms per day for 4 days to arrive half an hour after we had made camp. Not bad timing.

Well worth their weight.

After travelling to Jigalong to re-fuel and meet with elder Brian Samson we were on our way. We were expecting a challenging track and that is what we found. Washaways, creek crossings, sand, bog (like jelly) and detours. One day we travelled only 28 kms. However, this included dropping out a radiator and repairing it after a stick had penetrated both the radiator and air conditioner. By crimping two cells and injecting plastic metal the vehicle successfully completed the whole journey. By 12:20 pm next day we had travelled 500 metres, most of it on a 'Maxtrax highway'!! We finally reached Durba Springs three days behind schedule. Regardless of the challenging terrain we were still able to enjoy the profuse flora and fauna, including a mountain devil, and dingoes howling at night.



A two day build.



In the Little Sandy Desert.

Despite being so far behind schedule at this stage, the team was able to complete all the planned tasks. With fine leadership and willing workers, good time was made and the project ended only one day over schedule. The Well 18 bucket was replaced and weeding of buffel grass carried out. The Durba Springs toilet was serviced and the dunny trolley repaired. A new toilet was constructed at Well 15 in two days. Moving on to service toilets at Wells 12 and 6 (also replace skirt) and Windich Spring (replace skirt) our work on the CSR was finished successfully. Lime buckets were renewed in every toilet. All wells were pumped out to clean the water, BBQ pits were cleaned, and a small amount of rubbish collected.

During our return journey, the toilets at Good Camp and Yamada were serviced. With permission to exit through Ned's Creek Station our project was over. Members exited onto the Great Northern Highway heading north, south and west in their own time, some to prepare for the Well 49 project in a little over a week. Many, many thanks to Des & Jan Bunter and Peter MacGill & Lynn Phillips for the pre-fabrication, pre-trip preparation, enthusiasm and knowledge of the outback, and leadership during the trip.

The Team.

Participants were: Des & Jan Bunter, Peter MacGill & Lynn Phillips, Merv & Liz Bradshaw, Brad Courtney, Mark & Sandy Hughes, Tom Marshall, Brett O'Leary, Craig Ruddick, Libby Sakker, Peter & Ria Stolp, Peter Valenti, Geoff Young & Jenny Taylor.

Elizabeth and Merv Bradshaw

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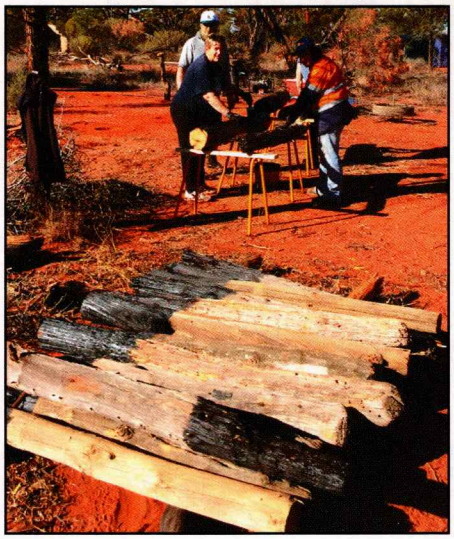
Damperwah Stage 2

Damperwah.

A week prior Tim & Andrew drove to Ellenby Tree Farm to pick up the trailers they offered to loan us. After finding the correct nursery, we travelled via Bullsbrook to Jeff's, to find the CSR guys en-masse fixing trailers and loading. After some maintenance, we loaded the water tank and tools.



Preparing poles.

Clive, Merv & John headed up Thursday via Warriedar, with John inadvertently taking them on a "sightseeing tour" via Kadji Kadji, therefore camping a little later than expected.

The rest rocked up at various points on Friday and we pitched camp in red dirt country.

Parks & Wildlife had removed and buried all the rubbish from the previous trip so the site looked much prettier – although missing the wildflowers we had last time.

In the packing Andy managed to forget Jimmy's Thunderbox Loo, but we were saved by Grant's loan of his portable toilet (Grant's Thunderdome?).

Stringing the wire.

Saturday morning, after the safety meeting and completing paperwork, we split into teams – one to fetch posts, wire & steel piping (for bracing) from the old Kadji Kadji homestead, one to fetch water from Karara, one to fetch the supplies from Perenjori and the last to prepare the holes and pick up more rubbish.

Clive, Merv & John had figured a very efficient way of pulling posts – using a chain, a lever pole and Clive's car. This was way faster than the auger-wobble method used previously. Unfortunately, most of the poles were again either badly weathered or eaten by termites, so pickings were slim. We wound our way back down the newly-signposted Lochada 4WD track to camp, eyeing out the fencing as we went. There were a few ruts but it was an easy ride.

Elizabeths scones worth waiting for.

Back at camp the ladies had picked up another ton of rubbish using the Keep Australia Beautiful bags donated to us.

Grant organised the fencing team, cleaning and treating the poles and drilling out the post holes. The remaining corner posts were cemented in ready for wire stringing on Sunday.

As the sun set we stoked the campfire, pulled out the wine and relaxed to the sound of a PVC didgeridoo, complete with kangaroo and bird sounds, thanks to our multi-talented Grant.

Sunday saw us split into 2 teams again, one hunting poles and the other erecting the fencing.

Damperwah team.

We had a visit from the Wanneroo 4WD Club mid-morning, showing them what we were up to before they took off looking for the Lochada 4WD track we pointed them at.

We discovered the drill-bits we'd brought were too small for the bracing pole studs, so Grant & Peter ground a stud down into a perfectly-sized drill bit!

By mid-afternoon the fence posts were up and we started stringing the wire through.

Parks & Wildlife ranger Paul Robb came by to introduce himself and we took the chance to ask him a ton of questions. He gave us some history on how the 6 ex-pastoral stations in the region (Burnerbinmah, Kadji Kadji, Lochada, Karara, Warriedar and Thundelarra) now make up the new Karara Rangeland Park, which he now looks after.

It was a late afternoon but the team worked tirelessly through to 5pm, even managing to tension the existing 2 house fences. The Gripples sure made it a lot faster to tie off the wire.

All that was left on Monday was for Grant to trim the posts to size. An absolutely amazing effort in such a short time.

Most of us broke camp midday, leaving Noel and a few others to hunt for graves, take some photos of Warriedar and do some sight-seeing. A bunch of us pottered up to the Lookout and the Camel Soak on the way out before heading back to Perth.

Many thanks to a great bunch who did a sterling job and gave so much time, tools, effort and smiles.

Andrew Davies

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Wilbinga 2017

The Wilbinga annual clean-up was a very successful day.
Initially 158 volunteers registered to assist on the website, but on the day 82 volunteers did the paperwork - 37 new volunteers, 45 repeat volunteers, 76 that registered didn't show.
A list of clubs and organisations that contributed to the day

- Air Down 4x4;
- Full On 4x4;
- North Coast News Group;
- Rigs & Rutz 4wd club;
- The 4wd Club of WA;
- Ultimate 4wd training;
- Full Flex 4x4;
- KABC;
- Over the Edge 4x4;
- Rise Above 4x4;
- The Wall's;
- Wilbinga shacks 4x4 crew (the hosts).

The weather turned out spectacularly good for the duration of the days event.
Areas and projects that were undertaken by our volunteers: -
Vehicle wreck removal - Full On 4x4 & Air Down 4x4;
Full northern boundary sweep of the park - Full Flex 4x4;
Sweep of the middle section of the park-Air Down 4x4;
Main southern access beach track clearing -The 4wd Club of WA;
The fig tree repairs- Ultimate4wd training, the Wall's, a rep from Rigs & Rutz, Track Care WA and number of new volunteers;
Extraction of an old rubbish pile. Over the Edge 4x4 and Rise Above 4x4:

While doing a clean-up at the fig tree, Geoff and another vehicle went to recover a bogged vehicle on the beach near the water line.
DPaW supplied the 6-tonne truck that quickly filled. Two of their new guys handled the lunch time bbq, with everybody getting a good feed.
Full On 4x4 organised a tilt truck to assist getting more than expected car wrecks out of the park so they could be picked up at the eastern end of Wilbinga Road.
A very good day with everyone heading out around 2.30pm.

Laurence Hull

MEETINGS & MEMBERSHIP

Meetings:

Track Care WA (Inc) holds a monthly meeting on the last Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the **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.

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

The dates for the Track Care WA meetings for 2017 are:

25 January
22 February
29 March
26 April
31 May
28 June
26 July
30 August
27 September (AGM), 6pm start with meal.
25 October
29 November – no meeting in December.
All meetings commence at 7.15pm except September (6pm).

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