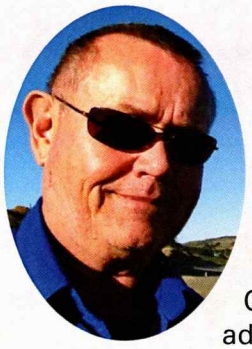
TRACK CARE

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

October 2015



Chairman's Report

While drafting this Introduction I have been again struck by the enormous effort and project success achieved by our members since the last newsletter. A number of these achievements are recounted in the following pages. Thank you everyone.

Other good work that has been underway includes the Wandoo National Park adoption project, which is progressing well. Together, the Motor Trade Association of Western Australia (MTA), the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) and Track Care WA Inc. (TCWA), with significant input from Tony Rouphael and Jean and Fred Hort, have identified two priority Conservation Wetland areas that need work to reduce off road vehicle damage. A third sensitive area has already had an abandoned caravan removed and the surrounding area given a targeted clean-up. This clean-up effort was undertaken by Ashley Jolley (Perth 4x4) and his volunteer team with the assistance / guidance of Doug Giles (DPaW). It is expected that the first proposed wetland project will have the on-ground works completed with a working bee event before Christmas 2015. Depending on seasonal conditions, the second project is planned to be completed by another working bee event on a suitable weekend in March / April 2016.

The Shire of Halls Creek's staff are currently preparing the documentation required to enable a draft MOU (with TCWA) to be presented to their Council for endorsement and approval. It is anticipated the MOU will be placed on the agenda of the first meeting following the October 2015 Local Government elections. This will further formalise our relationship with the Shire, which incorporates the northern end of the Canning Stock Route.

Dr John Collins

Wonderful Wandoo

The rain threatened but never eventuated, giving us another wonderfully relaxing day exploring the Wandoo Woodland led by Geoff and Tony. Tony's obvious passion for the area was contagious as we learnt about this fragile ecosystem and aspects of Aboriginal and European histories. It is interesting to see the vegetation change as you pass through the different soil types with many areas almost serene parkland under the eucalypt canopy. We enjoyed the displays of flora as well as trying to remember the many different species of eucalypt and their variations.

Thank you to Joy, Geoff and Tony for another great day out. Full report on the website at www.trackcare.com.au

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Well 12 refurbished

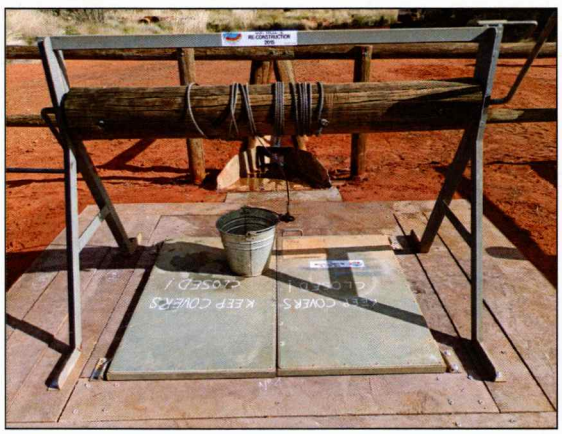
One of the most iconic 4wd tracks in Australia today has to be the Canning Stock Route. Knowing that Angela and I have limited time in WA, it's always been on my 'must do' list, so when Track Care WA announced that they were going to rebuild Well 12, we were IN!

I had no idea what the track conditions would be like, but Track Care gave us a vehicle preparation sheet which basically required the entire car be checked and rebuilt as required. Possibly irresponsible, but no time for that as I had been in Darwin for the three weeks prior, therefore I threw in a small tool box and a couple of spare bits and bobs, checked the oil and we were off.

▲ ***Terex - worth many good men.***

We met most of the crew at Bindoon bakery (as you do) and then made our way north. Most of the vehicles were towing trailers with the new sleepers and various maintenance equipment, along with Shane towing Terex the mighty digger. Our first night was spent just north east of Paynes Find at Camel Camp beside the Rabbit Proof Fence. On to Sandstone with a small tourist detour to check out London Bridge and the old underground brewery. Another experience not to be missed, is enjoying one of Lady Di's Pies, set up in the main street under a pergola. Not only is she a true blue Aussie character but her pies are pretty special also.

On arriving at Wiluna we discover that all dirt roads are closed, therefore we weren't able to access the CSR the next day as planned. Our rest day allowed us to have a look around Wiluna and we helped the elderly owners of Gunbarrel Lager by picking mandarins and installing a new washing machine.



As trailers aren't allowed between Well 1 and 5, we entered the CSR at Well 9 via Glen Ayle station. Let the fun begin. Some of the track was still very wet and slippery with some major washouts. In addition some of the dry areas had very deep corrugations. Terex's trailer was very low and reduced the speed of the convoy, but still very much worth it.

On arrival at Well 12, Michael went to inspect it and almost fell through the top due to termite damage. The next couple of days had the team remove the windlass, remove the termite damaged sleepers and replace them with new age composite plastic ones. The windlass was re-positioned and the area cleaned up. The camp area was cleaned up and the previously installed Track Care toilet was serviced. Departing south we performed minor maintenance at Wells 9, 6 and 4. We overnighted at Well 6, previously rebuilt by Geraldton 4WD Club - what an awesome campsite. We departed the CSR at Well 5 heading into the Carnarvon Range. This was another bonus as the traditional owners have closed off this range to the general public but they had given us permission to enter. The range is truly amazing with lots of stunning scenery.

A very long day winding our way back to the Great Northern Highway via Ned's Creek station. Angela and I departed the south bound convoy and headed west to Gabyon Station for an enjoyable couple of days. Accommodation is basic (old shearer's quarters) which adds to the charm of staying there. If you want hot water for a shower, no problem, just fire up the wood heater etc. Angela enjoyed feeding the orphan lambs and kangaroo and we very much recommend staying at Gabyon.

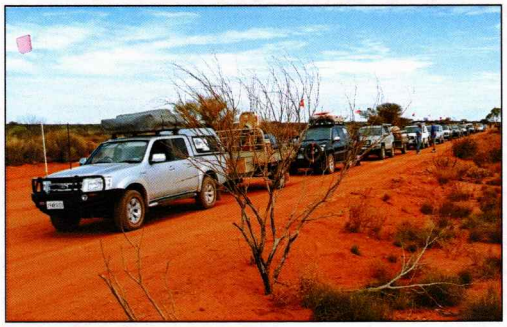
Angela and I thoroughly enjoyed the time we spent with Track Care. Not only have we had a taste of the CSR but hopefully we've left behind a legacy that will be enjoyed by fellow travellers for many years to come. If you get the opportunity to be involved in something similar I fully recommend you jump in boots and all.

Picture is worth a thousand words, check out the slide show on You Tube. Just search: Canning Stock Route Well 12 refurbishment June 2015 – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loKrMV-qfCc

Mark and Angela Follett - TLLC

Campsite for Mungkulu – August 2015

The Mungkulu camp site project commenced on the 15th August, with a convoy, once fully assembled, of 21 vehicles making the epic four day journey from Wiluna to the Mungkulu Clay pan in the Gibson Desert carrying almost 4 tonnes of gear.

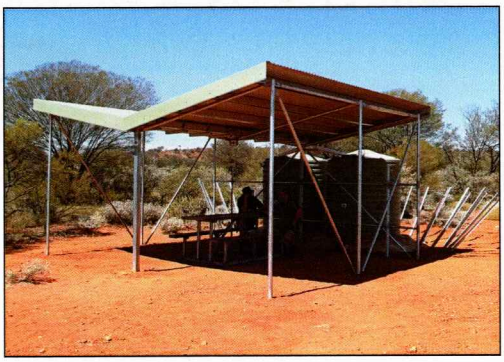


Along the way traditional owner for the area Geoffrey Stewart immersed us all in his stories and knowledge of country, a rare and privileged opportunity to hear from a man who walked this country as a young man in his 'bujiman' days. Rita Cutter and Georgina Brown both walked the country as young kids with their families and shared their story and deep knowledge of bush tucker with the group.

Construction commenced on the morning of the 22nd August after a team/site safety induction meeting held by trip leader Eric. It was a real ant nest operation with many eager hands at work. Thankfully the site selected was not rock based so digging of footings was easier.

After 2 days a "lay day" was called, with the traditional owners taking any who wanted on a tour of the Mungkulu Gorge, complete with dream time stories and Hamish's stick description of the Aboriginal occupation of the Australian continent. Georgina Brown also took us to the water hole where she and her family were introduced into western civilisation in the 70's. It was quite an emotional experience for both Georgina and the group and brought a lot of meaning and significance to the area and our operation.

Construction recommenced the next day and the structures were all but finished when operations were interrupted by a medical emergency that required our first ever RFDS evacuation from a TCWA project. Having the RFDS medical chest on site paid off big time. Two TCWA vehicles transported the patient to Cotton Creek via the "closed" Calvert Range being a 2 day return journey. I am pleased to report that the patient survived the vehicle journey and the RFDS evacuation flight and is recovering.



Rudall's Desert Queen Baths

With the others having already left, the TCWA team packed and departed for the Warri site and Veevers Meteorite Crater just off the Gary Highway. We continued onwards to Kunawarritji and "K Mart" for fuel and supplies, overnighting at Well 33. The group at this point broke into several smaller parties making their way home through either Newman, Rudall River or Carawine Gorge. It was a lengthy operation/project (the trip leader completing 5351kms) filled with many challenges or events, but none the less a very rewarding one. Thanks to all who participated throughout the process because without you all and your involvement, support and co-operation, it would not have happened. The trip for various reasons was hard on parts of our equipment and vehicles. There was some trailer spring damage as well as a "few" tyre problems. Final tally being 17 vehicle punctures, 1 side wall split to a trailer tyre and 6 trailer tyre punctures. All punctures were successfully "plugged".

Eric Loughton

Sensational Sausage Sizzlers!

A huge THANK YOU to the 14 members who helped out on 10th October at our first Sausage Sizzle of the year. You'll be very pleased to hear that because of all their hard work, we raised $2,400! Now that's a very consistent stream of customers. Many thanks to the cooks who slaved over that hot BBQ, to the servers, the roll cutters, the money takers, the stocker-uppers (Pete!) and everyone for working so well as a team. Special thanks to Ben Blomfield and Eric Trevaskis for staying back to help Pete & I clean up at the end of the very successful day. So all in all, a very worthwhile effort ... a few hours work has raised a whopping amount for Track Care.

Well done everyone! *Joy Mack-Heaven*

Looking cool before the rush.

The heat is on.

Memories of Narloo

We came from many walks of life,
And trekked to old Narloo,
With tools and tucker and camping gear,
We had a job to do.

The old homestead could use some help,
Some paint, some timber new,
A door fixed up, old cladding repaired,
And a general cleanup too.

Concrete was poured, downpipes were fixed,
Drains, we dug a few,
A wall was pulled in, guttering replaced,
And painting was long overdue.

We saw in our wanderings, some parts of the land,
As we drove under sky so blue,
A lake, round rocks and ant-hills galore,
And even a grave, it's true.

Sometimes in our camp on the dry dusty ground,
It felt like we'd stopped in a zoo,
With plenty of birds, a wily bungarra,
Even a poor lost duckling passed through.

We had bugs by the score, centipedes on the floor,
And scorpions passing our shoes,
So with nature's delights to liven our nights,
There was never nothing to do.

Then our work was all done and the time it had come,
Our last pack-up we had to do,
The job was complete and she looked a real treat,
'Twas farewell to dear old Narloo.

Kim Knight

Narloo gets a makeover

The project team arrived at Narloo from various directions but all set about the scope of work with the same enthusiasm we have come to know on Track Care projects.

The walls and ceilings of the old homestead were cleaned and painted where required and the bedroom furniture removed and cleaned while the side wall panelling and roof sections were removed to enable their repair. Once these repairs were finished the furniture was replaced. The outside was also cleaned and tidied.

Time was allowed for a very pleasant day sightseeing, first to the rock pool and O cave, discovering an old grave along the way, then west for some bush bashing to One Mile Windmill and the First Lake.

On the journey home, Gabyon was visited to assess repair work required to one of their stone buildings. Several days were also spent at Warriedar effecting repairs to the roof of the homestead, inside wall panelling, replacing glass, plus a thorough clean up, before checking out some bower bird nests and old mine site.

Thanks to the Track Care WA team. Everyone takes on a task and runs with it with minimal input required – you should be very proud of your achievements. Full report on the website.

Brian Roberts

MEETINGS & MEMBERSHIP

Meetings:

Track Care WA (Inc) holds a monthly meeting on the last Wednesday of each month at 7.15 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 7.15pm except September (6pm).

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