TRACK CARE

The Newsletter of Track Care WA (Inc.)
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September 2014

Chairman's Report

Hello Track Care members. 2014 is rapidly passing and we can now sit back and reflect on the year that has passed and the work that has been undertaken. You all did a fantastic job, as is evident in the following articles. First and foremost, we all survived the ventures. And that's good. That, I feel, is partly because we have all undertaken to think about our own personal safety and the safety of those around us in a different light. That is not to say we didn't before, but the discussions we have all been a part of during the year, boring as they may have been, has brought the safety subject to our attention. I really want to thank the various project leaders for their devotion to the cause.

The future of our projects is reliant on forward planning by not only the team leaders but those many members who attend and do the hard yards. Many of our members are retired, so careful planning and budgeting is required by all to continue the involvement. The team leaders are also now required to plan and budget up to 12 months in advance for the projects because available funds are drying up. It's the times we are entering into. We have to adapt our methods and look for different options if we wish to keep the projects alive.

With the year entering its final months it brings us closer to the TCWA Annual General Meeting in October. I would like to think that all members would give serious consideration to attending the meeting and also to think very seriously about stepping forward, putting your hand up and taking a position on the management committee. We all love to do the easy things like attending projects in fantastic locations and enjoying the freedom that being in the bush brings us, but there is a time when we all must face the fact that the same persons can't carry the load all the time.

See you all at the AGM.

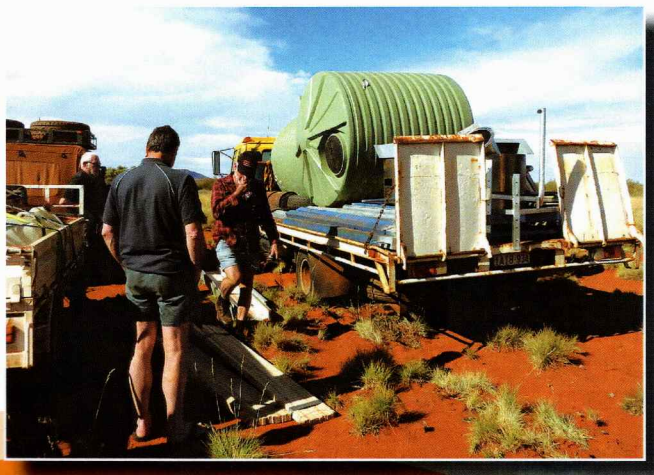
Eric Loughton

TCWA Chairman

YAMADA CAMPSITE - Carnarvon Range - June 2014

The Yamada campsite project, created within the Carnarvon Range, was an outstanding success. The project team was led by Des Bunter and Eric Loughton. Our CSR Project Leader Ben Blomfield, was unable to attend after extensive planning, coordination and effort.

This was one of two projects funded by Natural Resources Management (NRM) through TCWA in collaboration with the Birriliburru people who are based in Wiluna. An identical project was undertaken about 20 km away at Good Camp, and completed with funds and personnel from Telstra, and Ben & Dan Blomfield in 2013. Both include a TCWA designed toilet, BBQ's and a water catchment shelter feeding two rain water tanks.



The logistics for the Yamada project were a challenge and the leadership team learnt from Ben's experience in the Good Camp project, approaching the site from the north to miss negotiating the large sand hill. A group of twenty three TCWA participants arrived on site, utilising the three TCWA trailers and a four tonne tilt bed truck to transport the material and equipment from Perth and Geraldton. The truck could only get within 20 km of the construction/camp site, so some of the building materials were transferred to the already partially loaded TCWA camper trailers as the group passed by. The remaining items were moved to the construction site the next day using two TCWA trailers.

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YAMADA CAMPSITE *(continued)*

Three days travel from Perth to the construction site, with one participant covering 2040 km on the round trip. The majority of the team camped together on the second night at Ned's Creek station letterbox. Des and Jan Bunter had already travelled within 20 km of the site to deposit the truck and returned to Ned's Creek. To put that in perspective, the team took most of the following day to reach the truck from Ned's Creek, then moved to site. It was an exceptional effort by both of them. Travelling on station roads and then 4WD tracks is sometimes an effort but with a truck it is slow and bumpy. The group quickly jockeyed for the best campsites. In hindsight, some locations proved to be on the downwind side of the BBQ and dust prone areas. One happy camper moved but another happy camper put up with the wind shaking the roof top tent and one period of smoke from a sleepless camper's BBQ at 3.00am.

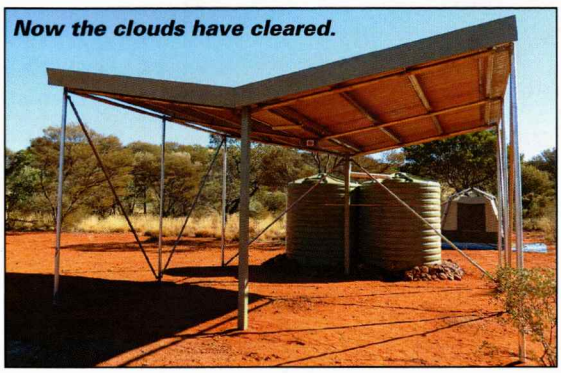
Raising the 'dunny.

On day 4 the trailers were unloaded and preparations commenced for the toilet and water catchment structures. The weather played its part by being fine each day but the lazy cold wind not only froze the group during the day, it increased in strength at night sending many from the campfire to the blankets at an early hour.

Fresh scones with jam and cream were supplied on the second work day morning tea break and they were superb. Further feeds of home baked cakes and campsite baked pikelets from the ladies kept the team well fed and coming back for more.

From the start, water was going to be an issue. Des and others secured nice tea colour water from a soak only a kilometre away which served well for the concrete mix and for showers.

Six Birriliburru Rangers arrived during the evening of the first day's construction and settled in adjacent to the TCWA camp site. During the next couple of days they installed temporary signage throughout the Carnarvon Range area to assist the tour permit holders during July, assisted with the shelter construction, and painted the flashings for the toilet, with one showing a natural skill with the brush.



Now the clouds have cleared.

The traditional TCWA Hedland Red colour was changed for this project and the toilet and shed were painted green to match the water tanks. Des remarked the shelter would require 200mm of rain or a thunderstorm to fill both tanks. Both structures were finally completed and not a moment too soon as the wind was starting to create havoc with dust in the camp site.

The traditional photo was taken on the steps of the toilet with a toilet paper ribbon breaking ceremony.

During the project Libby Sakker from Sydney, our dedicated photographer, took many hundreds of photographs, hustled for jobs like painting toilets, and shared her extensive knowledge over many subjects to all in a quiet and gentle way. She's one outstanding lady.

The next two days were spent sightseeing under Des Bunter's guidance. The group visited places like Serpent Glen and Virgin Springs that were food for the soul. Libby left after lunch of the second "tourist" day to commence her epic journey, driving back to Sydney.

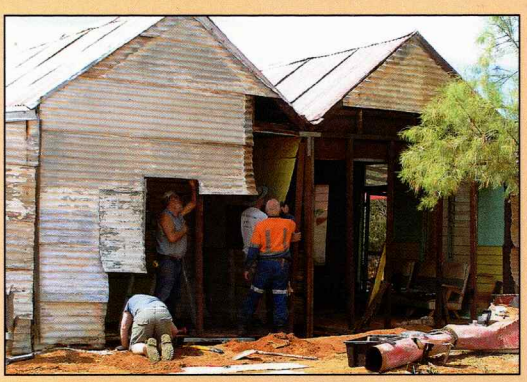
The rest of the group left to return home on Sunday the 15th of June via Ned's Creek Station, picking up the truck on the way. The overall project was a great success with all returning safely. There were problems but all were overcome by co-operation and team effort. Eric as trip leader for most of the convoy did an outstanding job. The next stage of the grant will be to install the same system at a site east of the Calvert Range.

This is programmed for 2015 and due to this very remote site, the logistics will be a far greater challenge. The likely route will be through Carnegie and the Eagle Highway which is overgrown. With no water in the area it will need to be taken in with the equipment, with showers coming after the concrete is set. If you have a spare and free helicopter available to move the equipment, let the CSR Project Officer know before the event.

Virgin Springs.

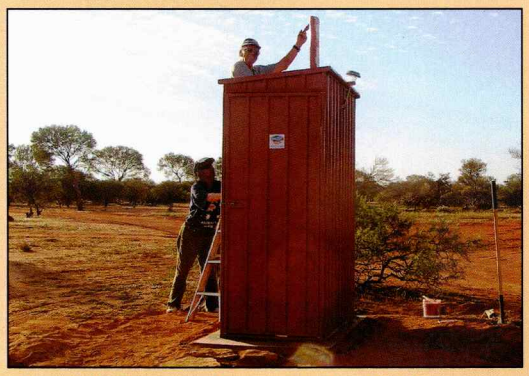
Terry Wilson - *Photos: Libby Sakker*

NARLOO RESTORATION - August - September 2014



▲ ***White ants had been very busy!***

▲ ***Now it's our turn.***



▲ ***Finishing touches to Narloo 'loo'.***

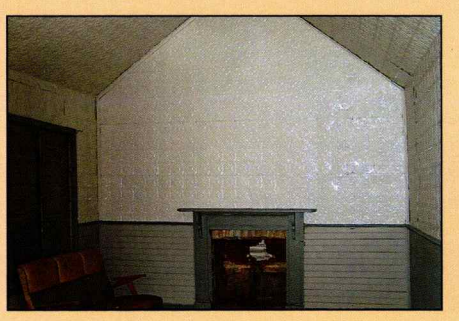
Narloo homestead is timber framed with corrugated iron and pressed tin cladding, inside and out, and was built in two stages with each section having a peaked roof. The original lounge/bedroom area was constructed before 1900 and the kitchen/dining/bedroom section a little later. The bathroom/laundry and front bedroom are more recent additions.

Bruce Brand is a great grandson of the original owner, and he joined us to assist with this restoration. Aside from the work being undertaken, Bruce and Jon, a mate and family friend, were able to regale us with tales of the family and their life at Narloo as well as show us some of the sights within the area that was very much appreciated by everyone. We travelled out to an impressive granite outcrop that contained some aboriginal artwork within a cave under a huge overhanging rock. These rocks are well frequented by the local goats and the view was fantastic. We were within sight of a John Forrest cairn, but didn't venture up there, however we did travel on to the Greenough River and left as the sun set – could be the setting for an evening picnic next time. On the next trip we also hope to visit the lakes, breakaways and rock holes that are on the western side of the property. Two days into the project, as I worked on the flaking paint on the pressed tin walls, I was contemplating this article and thought an audio tape and some pictures would tell the story very well. Every wall in the house was being worked on, with hammers, drills, generators, chisels, scrapers and wire brushes etcetera all adding to the cacophony of sounds.

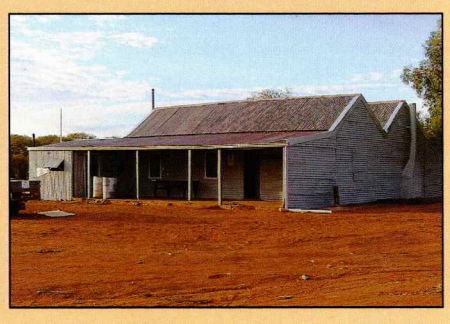
Due to white ant damage, the western wall of the house was removed and completely rebuilt, including repairing the fireplace and replacing some of the pressed tin. The front verandah had blown off in a storm, so this was rebuilt and a new roof and guttering were installed right across the front of the building. The roof got an overhaul with several sheets of tin replaced and flashing affixed. Pipes were installed to supply rain water runoff from the house to a water tank. Lining boards, corroded pressed tin and corrugated iron were repaired or replaced wherever possible and the entire building, inside and out, was cleaned, scraped down and painted by hand, except for the main bedroom and the smaller back bedroom. These two rooms still require some timber work to be replaced before they can be completed. The panelled doors did get a coat of undercoat but many of them need to be reconstructed or replaced. A hand pump was installed over the bore and the water was improving with use, although the recovery rate at the well was rather slow. A drop toilet, utilising a 44 gallon drum, has been erected near the shed, using Tony's bobcat to excavate and move soil to save some aching backs. A huge thank you to Tony, as his machinery saved many days of hard labour. Even using a digger, going deeper than about 1 metre was difficult, so the loo is raised, necessitating some stone paving. If you bring your own water the 'flushing' toilet at the house is also available. Every morning tea was a pleasure, with campfire fruit and pumpkin scones with plenty of jam and cream, pikelets, cakes and sandwiches on offer every day. While some of us ate at our home-away-from-home, the 'Lunchtime 9' gathered under the peppercorn tree at midday to eat and watch the war of Willie and Crow, who were both protecting their nests. This group created a 'barber shop' style song that they sang for Jeff on the last evening in recognition of his solar light over the Narloo 'loo'. A very special thanks to all 24 people who came out to make this project so successful. - **Lyn Hemsley**

▲ ***Morning tea - always a great spread in the shed.***

▲ ***Lounge before.***



▲ ***Lounge after.***

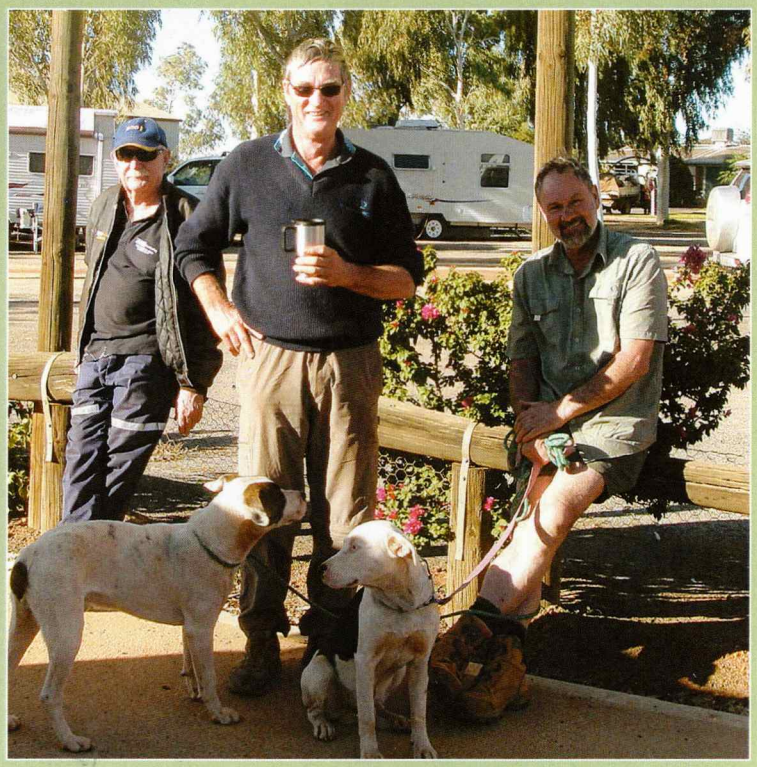


A Dog's Tail *(Tale)*

As the trip leader entered Great Northern Highway from North Wiluna Road on day two of the trip home from Yamada, two dogs were sighted running near, and then onto the road. Selwyn Scott and Brian Roberts were in the group at the rear of the convoy that stopped to investigate and remove the dogs from danger. After some coaxing and offers of water, the hungry and thirsty dogs were brought into the safety of the vehicles.

As the convoy journeyed toward Meekatharra the two dogs travelled in one vehicle with one sleeping and the other one guarding. Later in the trip they were separated to allow their carers to observe their reactions. They looked related and were most likely brothers with one being the dominant protector. The sleepy one had a docked tail and someone named them Care and Track.

They did not look like station dogs, no collars, lost and hungry but the affection shown by the group and their two adopted carers was heart-warming. Their personalities, if dogs have them, shone as they bonded with the group.



A visit to the Meekatharra police station, then the shire office did not resolve the ownership. If they stayed at Shire depot, they had four days before they went to heaven. That was not an option and further enquiries were undertaken. They were taken to Malaga RSPCA, and could look forward to a brighter future as they would be fostered or adopted.

Selwyn and Brian who took the lead role in the repatriation put in a fantastic effort.

Many thanks from the rest of the group.

Terry Wilson

MEETINGS & MEMBERSHIP

Meetings:

Track Care WA (Inc) holds a monthly meeting on the last Wednesday of each month at 7.00 pm at the Gurney Club, East Victoria Park Vietnam Veterans RSL, 1 Fred Bell Parade, East Victoria Park 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

The dates for the Track Care WA meetings for 2014 are:

April - No Meeting
May 29
June 26
July 31
August 28
September 25
October 30 (commences 6pm)
November 27

All monthly meetings commence at 7pm.
In October our Annual General meeting commences at 6pm to allow a meal beforehand.

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