



TRACK CARE

The Newsletter of Track Care WA (Inc.)

PO Box 8338 Perth Business Centre, Perth WA 6849

Website: www.trackcare.com.au

June 2014



Hello Track Care members

As winter commences for yet another year and the cold wet days become the norm we can reflect upon a very busy 6 months of feverish TCWA activity. The Rangelands crew has excelled with their work on Woolgorong Outstation and Warriedar homestead. And the CSR crew have undertaken some difficult projects as well both on the CSR and the Carnarvon Ranges.

This first 6 months has also shown us all that we are not indestructible with several members suffering personal situations that have seen them pull out from projects. I wish a speedy recovery to all members who are suffering at this time. I would like to stress to all members that in these busy periods we all stop to consider our wellbeing. Now I'm not saying that the TCWA activities have caused the problems with the members, what I'm saying is lets slow down and enjoy what we are doing and do the tasks in as safer manner as possible. Nothing we do has to be finished yesterday. Let's make sure we all are able to participate in projects throughout the rest of 2014 and into 2015.

I want to thank all those members who have stepped up and supported the project leaders during 2014. Well done. Your efforts have certainly lifted TCWA's profile in the wider community.

Eric Loughton

TCWA Chairman

Did you know?

The very first Public Access Route (PAR) in Western Australia was declared in April 2013? The Secret Creek Public Access Route was needed due to approximately 20 coastal recreation sites being lost to the public due to resource industry development near Onslow. PARs may provide access to areas of recreational or tourist interest in Western Australia, over Crown land whether unallocated or subject of reservation, management order, dedication, lease or any other tenure, or subject to an Act such as the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984. PARs are not part of the formal road network but, are 4wd dirt access tracks that provide right to use in dry conditions over pastoral land without the need for travellers to ask permission from the lessee.

In South Australia a network of 24 PARs provide more than 650 kilometres unimproved dirt tracks that facilitate public access to pastoral land ranging in length from 500 metres (Beresford Bore) to 226 kilometres (Walkers Crossing). See (<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/files/133038ba-107b-4784-bd32-a2cf00b8f072/rangelands-public-access-routes-fact.pdf>). The Secret Creek Public Access Route is a very important first that will hopefully lead to a network of publicly accessible dirt tracks over the Crown Lands of Western Australia.

Dr John Collins

*Don't get
bogged down in
the mud pools of
life but instead
travel the open
pathways leaving
the dust of our
passing way
behind.*

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A welcome sight.



Comfortable Quarters AND Water

The happy group of campers for the Warriedar Project met at the rest area at Dalwallinu around lunch time, consisting of Paul, Brian, Jeff & Lyn, Clive & Sylvia, Errin, Maureen & John. Arrived Warriedar late afternoon and set up camp. Woke to a bright sunny day and Jeff & Clive delegated various tasks to the enthusiastic group. Corrugated iron walls on the shower block were rubbed down and then painted by the ladies, while floor boards were removed in the remaining two rooms for the shearer's quarters by Clive & John. Jeff, Paul & Brian removed the old wall cladding from the school room at the main house. Lyn set about repairing the broken windows.

Kevin & Jill arrived around lunch time and were quickly put to work on cleaning walls and Kevin to hanging the seven doors on the shearer's quarters. John, from the Department of Parks & Wildlife had visited in the morning and returned in time to assist with the installation of the hand pump over the bore hole. All these tasks took a couple of days to complete.

After removing the old walls and ceiling, Jeff & company re-sheeted the walls & ceiling with gyprock sheets. Unfortunately Paul had to leave on Friday to return to paid work. With the shower block freshly painted, the floor boards complete and the school room ready for painting, our intrepid leader Jeff said we could have Sunday off. The weather so far had been warm days & cool nights with only a thunderstorm on Wednesday night. So on Sunday led by 'he who must be obeyed' we set off in convoy to visit a nearby abandoned mine site. All very interesting as a lot of mining gear had been left, then off again on a track - Jeff had no idea where we went. After a short time our leader's voice came over the C.B. "The track ahead looks a bit soft". The first three vehicles went through OK but the last two had a little bit



Oops! We have 2 down.

of trouble. Much fun & excitement was had getting them out, thanks to Clive who came to the rescue.

A pleasant surprise awaited our return, with Peter & Ria having arrived and set up camp. Errin, Kevin & Jill had to leave on Monday but Peter & Ria stepped in. Over the next few days the painting inside the homestead was finished, a new top was made to cover the well below the disabled windmill near the house and a big cleanup was done around the site. With the projects finished our happy little band left for home on Thursday just waiting to return again soon.

John Cardew



(Photos: Brian, Jeff and Kevin)

Dewars Track Cleanup

Everyone arrived between 7.30-8.00am on the 24th May for the clean up of the Dewars Track. After dropping tyre pressures to 18 psi, we then proceeded to the car park area for a briefing, where we signed in and divided into our individual groups.

We set out at 8.30am to our allocated areas to start collecting rubbish. It was windy and raining for the best part of the day.

We also had a play in the dunes before taking our rubbish back to the car park to unload into trailers.

By this time lunch was being prepared on the bbq, so we decided this would be a good time to talk about the day and get to know each other while we ate.

After lunch some signed out and went home or went and played in the dunes, while the others set off to collect more rubbish. I couldn't believe the wide range of rubbish collected.

Because of the constant rainfall, it was decided to call it a day around 3.00pm. So we headed back to the car park where we unloaded the rubbish into the trailers, hitched trailers back up to vehicles and signed out.

Laurence Hull

(photos courtesy of Mark ~ 4WD'ing Responsibly)



Libby

A scientist and enthusiastic photographer, joined the CSR project in Wiluna after driving from Sydney. Libby has had several forays along the CSR and hopes to have many more. Having been a teacher for most of her life, she remains an enthusiastic student with a real passion to learn more about the indigenous and non-indigenous history of Australia, as well as the geography, the geology, the biology and the ecology, and thinks the CSR is a magnificent area to do this. Libby is very aware of the dangers of travelling in this remote area and appreciates the value and assistance of travelling with groups like Track Care WA.

Happy to contribute, Libby has assisted by recording GPS points for various parts of the project which will assist in assessing the success of the project over the long term. Conducted flora and fauna surveys and even nailed the droppers to the fence lines.

It is meeting with people like Libby that add to the experience and can give a whole new perspective and appreciation to what is being achieved by Track Care WA and its members.

Peta Roberts
(Photos Ben and Brian)



◀ Lift gates and fencing. ▶



Protecting the Track – Erosion Control on the CSR

After meeting at the Bindoon Bakery we meandered our way to Wiluna, staying along the way at the Breakaways, then North Pool. We also had a look around a most beautiful spot called London Bridge as well as another site called the Brewery. Well worth taking the time to stop and check it out.

We had to stop at Cunyu Station to collect a couple of vehicles. One was being driven by Michael, a young man who had agreed to come on the project with his boss Dave. This was Michael's first trip in such a remote area. Michael had never driven a four wheel drive before, let alone on an outback track in a vehicle that had done many years of hard labour in tough conditions. He did remarkably well and arrived at the depot incident free. Michael was later heard enquiring about what the requirements were to join Track Care WA - old, retired and senile!! The project went very smoothly under the watchful eye of Ken Shaw, the Cunyu Station owner. Over 5 kilometres of electrified fence line, 2 gates and 3 lift gates were completed. To see the way the lift gates work was fascinating.

To help prevent the erosion of the track, five Bunds were put across the track using a front end loader. Branches were then strategically placed in front of the Bunds to prevent them from being washed away.

Two picnic tables were also erected at Windich Springs.

The project was completed in remarkably quick time despite one afternoon of rain. A quick response from Eric to close tent flaps etc. saved most of the camps getting too damp. We then moved on to Well 3, all successfully crossing the "No Trailer" crossing without any problems. Well 3 was pumped out, sleepers replaced and the site around the well generally cleaned up. Anyone suffering from lack of protein had the opportunity to rebalance this due to the excruciating abundance of flies. Half a forty four gallon drum had been left at Well 3 and conscientious camp dwellers had over time filled it to overflowing with rubbish. Not being sure when the next rubbish collection day would be, Peter Mack-Heaven decided it would be best to dispose of the rubbish in a more practical manner and set about doing just that. **Peta Roberts**



▶ Well 3.....



▶ Well done.

Woolgorong Outcamp – Nearly There

Saturday April 12th 2014 saw seven hard working and enthusiastic volunteers heading north for their third year of the restoration of the Woolgorong Outcamp project. On Saturday night one group were able to relax at the Coalseam Miners Camp north of Mingenew, whilst the other couple stayed overnight in Mullewa. Sunday morning saw all seven arrive at Woolgorong early in the afternoon, having picked up the dunny from where it was stored at the present Woolgorong Homestead. Having erected the dunny and unloaded all the work equipment and materials, whilst the unseasonably hot sun beat down, the work crew discussed the job ahead, then relaxed for the remainder of the day. During the next few days the last of the wall reconstruction was completed and the lime wash scraped off the internal walls and then rendered. The two new windows were fitted and the frames painted. The two doors that were made from recycled material were hung and handles fitted.

By copying the window and door construction from the original fittings and using the existing mud bricks on site the overall effect is of a homestead built in the late 19th century. Since the homestead is one of the original buildings in the Murchison district built before 1897, the many Track Care volunteers and 4WD friends can be very proud of the end result.



▲ Before.



▲ After.



▲ A warm hearth.

Although working hard, friendships have been made during the last three years. Hot scones have been baked in the camp oven for long morning tea breaks, much chatter and laughter can always be heard and the day always ends with drinks, nibbles, stories and more laughter.

During the 2012 reconstruction when 13 volunteers were working feverishly, an aboriginal gentleman called in. He had his niece and her daughter with him and he had brought them out to show them some of the country. His grandmother had lived in the homestead when the Station was mustering sheep in the western paddocks. He was thrilled to see the home being restored. Some members of Track Care have also had experiences of people who had connections with the Station and therefore are also thrilled to know the old homestead has been saved.

Elizabeth Bradshaw

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 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:

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

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