

Narloo/Warriedar Homestead Restoration Trip Report (14-23 Sept 2015)

Preamble:

I wasn't sure how this trip was going to pan out, what I had forgotten, etc, any procedure I hadn't covered, but in the end, all came together, again thanks so much to the efforts of all the team members, it was a fantastic achievement by all, there was no accidents or injuries reported, so well done

A small crew meet at Bindoon Bakery around 09:00 am, Ray, Peta, Peter, Joy, Merv, Elizabeth and myself, we grabbed a drink and a snack to eat, had a chat, around 10:00 we decided to make tracks

Pete, Joy & Merv, Elizabeth travelled to Coalseam for the night camp and Ray/Peta and myself/Rani travelled to Warriedar for the night

John & Maureen had left on the Sunday 13th Sept and travelled up at their own pace!

Kim & Meryl travelled to Coalseam on the Sunday 13th Sept and met Pete/Joy & Merv/Elizabeth on their arrival Monday arvo, and all travelled to Narloo as a group, the following morning, they arrived at Narloo around 12:00 and set up camp Peter said the Miners camp at Coalseam was near full capacity

We arrived at Warriedar around 3:00pm and Ray/Peta set up camp and I threw the swag down There was a couple there from Westfield intending to stay a couple of days, (Tim & Angie) They said they loved the place and thought it was great someone like Trackcare was attempting to keep the homestead alive, Tim knew the one of the previous owner (I think he said his name was Jack)

There was a group of vanners down at the shearers quarters, so I went down and had a chat, they also loved the place and was thankful of the work Trackcare had done, so the point, the leader of the group indicated they were going to make a donation to Trackcare, so that would be great, the group name was Westside Caravans

We left Warriedar around 08:30 and travelled to Thundalarra, stopped in but no one answered, so we moved on and headed to Yalgoo, we stopped here for morning smoko and then headed to Gabyon to pick up Mark & Angela, arrived approx. 11:40, also spoke to Emma from Gabyon Station, about the Fleece sorters quarters which needs repairs, had a quick look, agreed to drop in on return trip to Warriedar in approx. 5 days, take measurements and photos, so we all departed heading thru Tardie station to Narloo, had to check on which was correct way to Narloo, after Mark & Ray confirmed directions we were off again, the track was rough in spots, sandy river beds and rocky outcrops, 1 hour 40 and we had arrived at Narloo Merv, Elizabeth, John, Maureen, Pete, Joy & Kim, Meryl had already set up their camps, quick chat and we off loaded the submersible and unloaded the trailer, set the submersible up, and had it pumping into two 44 gal drum for easy water, then set up our camps, we then had a look around the homestead and sat around the camp fire at 05:00pm and had a few drinks and chat & Nibbles

Wednesday 16th Sept

THE TEAM



The Project



Rise and shine, the team was ready at 08:00am and we looked over the homestead and everyone read the JSA and signed on, we then commenced the works, the ladies Maureen, Elizabeth, Meryl & Peta, started on the house with minor painting and cleaning of walls and ceilings, removing all the

furniture from the main bedroom, cleaning all the furniture, ready to re-install, minor timber repairs and painting Maureen was the guru for the correct paint colour for each job

Ray, Kim, Merv & John got stuck into removing roof and side wall sheeting, so the repairs to the roof could be done Ray and Kim carried on with the roof repair and Merv, John & Peter did some minor timber repairs inside, including installing a brace from the front wall to internal wall

Mark & Angela repaired missing external wall sheets on the laundry wall Around 11:30 am Darryl Welsby arrived, told him to find a camp spot and to come and join the crew at the front of the home for lunch, all intro's were done and we finished lunch and Darryl joined Ray & Kim on the roof repair

Mid avro 2 characters pulled up, Malcolm and Sharkie, they are travelling to Dirk Hartog Island with Mark & Angela on Friday More intro's and they set up camp and came over to the camp fire that night

We had a visit by the local Bungarra, who thought he owned the place Finished the day off with chatter, drinks and Nibs by the camp fire

Thursday 17th Sept

Ray & Darryl finished off some minor timber work on the roof repair and Kim, Darryl, Ray and myself put two coats of paint in all the bare timber, ready for sheeting tomorrow

Then the full team did some site seeing, firstly to the rockpool and then to the O-caves, I missed the correct turn off to the O-Caves, but luck would have it we came across a burial cross marking with a s/steel placard, referencing a "Shepard Anthony" murdered on this site, 11th March 1876, there was no hint as to who had placed it, it didn't look that weather beaten?? We returned to camp for lunch and then headed west to find the One mile Windmill and the First Lake

Luckily, the lake had plenty of water in it, and was a very pleasant arvo, mind you it was a bit of bush bashing to get there, Darryl was able to down load the co-ords Bruce Brand had sent me, (Relative to original owners), but the tracks were near non-existent, time was getting on, so we left the lake and all returned to camp, just in time to welcome Kevin & Jill, who arrived approx. 16:40, they said hello and then set up camp, but had to be back the homestead for the group photo, which Kim had agreed to do, so all smiles and the shoot was done, so we all got back to our chatter, drinks and nibbles

Friday 18th Sept

We said your goodbyes to Mark & Angela, Malcolm & Sharkie and they were on their way to their next adventure Dirk Hartog Island, have a safe trip and hope to hear how the trip went on your return

Work would carry on

The ladies were all busy painting walls and ceilings, cleaning furniture, John/Kim also helped painting the high parts of the main bedroom and dining/kitchen ceilings

Merv & John did repairs the front entrance door, Peter continually cleaned approx. 100 mtr radius of the homestead of all broken glass and general rubbish

Ray, Darryl & Kevin started on replacing the wall and roof sheeting, along with minor paint touch ups

Kim, Peter & myself started to clear a pathway to the hand pump and around the pump itself, and around the water tank near the homestead

We then started on the repair to missing down pipes and cut in some temporary drains, with the intent to bury some water pipe on the next trip? It was decided to work till Lunch time tomorrow and then everyone can start packing up, ready to leave Sunday morning, heading to Warreidar via Gabyon station

More drinks and Nibbles around the camp fire and a lot of chatter! Later that nite the camp fire had a visitor , a small, very young duckling, wanting warmth from the fire! Merv & Elizabeth then tried to save the little guy by wrapping it up in a towel and placed in a box in their ute overnight, but unfortunately, it passed Kim & Meryl also had a small duckling pass thru their camp area that night!

Saturday 19th Sept

The ladies and John carried on with the final painting of walls and ceiling in the main bedroom, cleaning the furniture, and Merv, Ray, Kevin and the ladies re-installed the clean furniture

Pete carried on cleaning the perimeter around the homestead

Darryl, had decided to leave due to his Solar panel failing, (only 2 weeks old), thanks for your help, was great to have you on board, hope to see you on future project

Kim, Ray, Kevin and Kim also carried on with the temp spoon drains

Around 11:00 am we started to clean up all the paint gear and the surrounding area, loaded up the trailer with all the rubbish and took a run to the homestead rubbish dump, the only problem was, the ladies brought home more stuff than we had dumped HaHa!

So back to the homestead and lunch was on the cards, the avro was set aside for the team to break down their annexes, do final clean up in and around the homestead, then reload the work trailer

Drinks, nibbles and banter around the campfire for the last time this trip, the big thanksyou to the Trackcare team, what a great effort, everyone should be very proud of what was achieved at Narloo

And to Kim for the "Memories of Narloo" Poem, it described the "area & atmosphere" to a "T"

As the team organizer, it was such a good project team, everyone just pick up something and ran with it, with minimal guidance required from me, Jeff has taught you all very well Ha Ha!

A special thanks to all the ladies for the Pancakes, fruit cakes, chocolate cakes, scones, jam & cream and fruit damper, for smoko and all the campfire nibbles, cheese/olives, biscuits, nuts, chocolate, salami & chips etc

It was a shame Jeff & Lyn Hemsley couldn't join us on the trip, I Hope your back is better now Lyn!

Sunday 20th Sept



Everyone was madly doing their final packing, ready to head off to Warriedar, with everyone packed we headed off around 09:30 to Gabyon Station, to have a look at a possible project there, Arrived approx. 10:30, I went to see Gemma & Mick, (Owners) while the team sorted out their smoko, Mick and Gemma came down and we all had a chat while going over the building (Believed to be the old Wool classers digs, must have been up the food chain, also had a Metters stove?)

An assessment was done with measurements and it was time to leave for Warreidar, via Yalgoo, stopped here for lunch approx @ 13:30 and left around 02:30 for Warreidar, Kim & Meryl left us here and were heading to Mount Magnet/Sandstone/Kalgoorlie on their way home to Esperance, thanks for your efforts on the Narloo project and hope you enjoyed yourselves and would be great to see you both on future projects

Mick, Gemma's dad, had crashed his plane 3 weeks earlier, the crash site was only approx. 500 mtrs from their homestead, luckily he got away with sore ribs/chest, so lived to tell the tale

We arrived at Warreidar approx. 4:30pm

Surprisingly no one else was there!

Everyone set up camp and the fire wood was sourced by Pete & Joy, we had a chain gang filling up the toilet water bin ready for the next couple of days

Around the campfire for the normal gathering although the team was getting smaller with Kim and Meryl heading home.

Monday 21st Sept

The Team



The Project



Rise and Shine, everyone was up and ready to go, everyone signed the JSA and commenced work, the ladies started straight away on clean up, both inside and outside around the homestead Maureen on the inside, with Elizabeth, Jill & Joy on the outside around the homestead

Ray, Merv, John, Pete & myself started on the roof repair, Kevin started on the window pane replacements

Due to the size of the fascia board, the boys had to come up with a resolution, which they did and into full swing they went, Pete was sorting out the required bolts, while Ray Merv & John did the timber work

Both Pete and myself, stripped down the damaged internal wall panelling to see what was salvageable and then re-installed good sections, completed as far as practical, then repainted the section of replaced wall. Also, the internal step into this room was spared no expense, and received a white strip to warn people of a potential trip hazard, recommended by Pete, and it worked! Ha Ha!

A visitor arrived for water and Merv & Elizabeth had a chat with him, he seemed to know the area very well and gave them a location of a bower bird nest! Then he was on his way

By close of day the roof repair had been completed, and first coat of paint went on, ready for second coat tomorrow morning, the ladies had cleaned inside and around the homestead, everything was looking good

Around the campfire, with the usual banter and nibbles & Drinks, you just gotta love the campfire

Someone made the comment, that the campfire at Warreidar had more atmosphere than Narloo, and then I thought, yeh, their right, strange that! Not sure why?

It was agreed tomorrow we would work up to Lunch time including packing up the work trailer and then venture out to a bower bird nest and onto the old Kyarra mine site

Tuesday 22nd Sept

The teams up and eager as anything, the Elizabeth, Jill, Maureen & Joy are straight over to the old yards with Merv cleaning up and fixing up, John & Kevin joined in later on

John & Ray doing final coat on the roof repair

Pete & myself, cleaned up around the hand pump, including trimming of above ground pipe ends

Kevin & Merv repaired the rear fence sheeting

A couple had arrived to have a look around, turns out they had a farm in Three Springs, and had just sold it, they moved out in February 2016 He used to come here as a young kid, friend of the original owners.

After morning smoko, I started sorting the trailer for loading, Pete, John Merv & Ray gave me hand as required, I had a particular way the trailer needed to be loaded, so it was easier to do most of it myself, around lunch time the trailer was sorted and equipment was loaded, ready to do final tie down tomorrow morning

We all had lunch and around 13:00 we left to find the Bower bird nest and then on to the mine!

The guy had been very nice and marked the location of the Bower bird sites, after seeing these we were off to find the old Kyarra mine, out thru the back paddock and past old pump stations and

water tanks, we finally arrived at the old mine site, same old rubbish there, both the mine and camp need a good clean up, both would need heavy equipment to do the clean

Then it was back to camp, at approx. 04:30pm, we sat down and had a chat for a while, then a few drinks, nibbles etc, dinner and then a few more drinks and banter. It was agreed to have a 09:00am get away, with a quick gathering at 08:45 tomorrow. This time everyone was heading in different directions, Pete & Joy heading straight home, John & Maureen off to a place near Quairading for a caravan Rally, Kevin & Jill off to Kalbarrie to catch up with family, and Merv & Elizabeth, Ray & Peta Rani and myself are off to Thundalarra and Burnerbinmah stations to touch base.

Everyone was up and about, doing final packing and clean up, we all met at the campfire @ 08:45 and I thanked the crew for their fantastic effort and achievement on this project and hoped everyone had a fun time and a safe trip to wherever they are traveling.



So at 09:00 we departed ways, we headed to Thundalarra and this time someone was home, DPaW now has a full time caretaker Andrea & Okla.?, also meet the manager of Baja homestead, so Merv Elizabeth and myself had a good chat and exchanged contact details, They seem very keen to stay there for a while, DPaW moved this couple from Dalgarranga?, After confirming correct way we were off to Burnerbinmah, hoping to catch up with Ron & Rhonda, but unfortunately no one was home except the dog, so we turned around and drive a couple of hundred metres down the track and pulled up for smoko under a shady tree, Merv pumped up a tyre, finished smoko and we were on yr way again.

On the way to Paynes Find, we stopped at a place called Fields Find Cemetery, it has been restored by Richard Douglas from Warreidar Homestead in 1999.

We arrived at Paynes Find @ 01:00pm and had lunch, chips and Icecream Ha Ha!

On the road again and we fuelled up at Wubin and travelled on thru Dalwallinu and stopped at Jibberding Camp area for smoko and then on the road, home Time was moving on, so it was going to be a long day, we pulled up just south of Bullsbrook and said our goodbyes, luckily Merv & Elizabeth were staying in High Wycombe, so didn't have to travel all the way to Benger, I arrived home approx.

07:00pm, had a shower and hit MY BED, gezz, you don't know how much you miss the hot shower and bed till yr HOME!

The weather for the whole trip was fantastic, Clear sky's and great views of the night sky

Again Thanks to the TCWA Team, well done and everyone should be very proud of their achievements, and that we had "NO" accidents or incidents

To the TCWA Rangelands Team, Thanks for all the support over this year, and a special thanks to Clive for his much appreciated running of the Warreidar project, April this year

Regards

Brian Roberts

Rangelands Team Leader 2015

The "Memories of Narloo" poem below, thanks to Kim Knight

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.**