



NGARKAT NATIONAL PARK

WORKING BEE

ANZAC DAY LONG WEEKEND 25TH - 27TH APRIL 2008

Left home 6am Friday 25th April not having to wait for someone in a car park, who is not turning up, for a relaxing drive with no one for company but my music. Arrived at Pine Hut Soak camping ground around 9.30am set up camp and was welcomed by Donna-DEH Ranger. With no time to rest I was sent on my way to join the working group some 10kms down the track just in time for morning tea.

The day's chores consisted of carting brush from a stock pile down the one way track to be utilised for track diversions. This in its self was challenging, keeping the brush on the trailers whilst negotiating the very bumpy and sandy sections of the track (good exercise gained by all collecting the brush that kept jumping off the trailer).

This was followed by pruning of bushes etc along the side of a previously closed section of track until approximately 4pm. Back at camp about 5pm we all settled down for an enjoyable and well earned "couple" of drinks and a feed.

Happy hour around the fire continued into the night – to who knows when.

I crawled out of the tent 6.30am Saturday, time for breakfast and then back to work just as the drizzly rain began, digging holes in sand to erect post and rail fencing to keep unwanted vehicles out of designated areas. Lunch was at Hensley's Trigg with more fence to build, many hands made light work of this chore and by 3.30pm we headed for the southern end of the track putting up one sign on the way down and returning to Pine Hut Soak via the centre track arriving at camp in the dark to have a feed and more drinks.

Sunday morning brought a presentation to Donna for being promoted to District Ranger for the DEH and a group photo. In total 58 people, 33 vehicles and 13 clubs were represented on the weekend. An enjoyable time was had by all and I encourage other club members to participate in future working bees as they are not hard work and more of a social event for all the family. I met some very welcoming people particularly members from the Mitsubishi 4WD Club and the Jeep Club, but was glad to get home out of the rain.

Paul Bartel