



Meckering Busy Bee

October 2/3/4/5 2020

Trip Leaders: Kerry and Steve

Participants: Kerry and Steve Mike and Clare
 Jan and Terry Doug
 Hertha and Andrew

Report By: Kerry Gillies

Meckering is such a short distance away from Perth and we are so lucky to have the use of a spot on a farm. Our purpose for this trip was to effect repairs on the toilet cistern. Bill Clarke, (Terry's neighbour, plumber, and Mellenbye Christmas in July fame), provided us with the bits for the toilet. Terry and Jan were able to arrive on the Thursday, Andrew and Hertha arrived early on the Friday and Steve and I arrived a few hours later. There was some shuffling and manoeuvring of vehicles for a bit and then everyone was settled, and the afternoon progressed with a general assessment of the situation. Then followed the recording of the scene in oils. Terry and Steve painted the big tree on their canvases and discussed the finer points of the craft.



Andrew arranged the tools on the bench for easy access on Saturday. Jan stitched, Hertha read her book and I wrote for the best part of the afternoon. Andrew maintained the fire in the washing machine drum fire pit (We did have a permit), and the fire was a joy to sit around as the evening wore on.



Hertha and Andrew were camping in their tent.... brrrrrrr.
And Steve and I had hired a caravan. Terry and Jan were in their caravan as usual. With a predicted -1 degrees it was going to be a 6-layer night!

And cold it was, but quite bearable in the caravans. Hertha and Andrew were comfortable in their sleeping bags, but it was chilly outside.

The morning warmed up with the six of us laying bets on the time Mike and Clare and Doug would arrive. The prize offered was a fine free weekend. Thus, I was the self-appointed Fines Master.







Soon after 9:00 we commenced the work.

Terry began the Plumbing Patrol with the assistance of Andrew, Mike, and Doug. Steve recorded the day on his canvas. Hertha waited for what seemed a very long time for the kettle to boil and supplied Carrot Cake, and we kept the workers supplied with coffee.

Progress was steady and positive until we needed a connection thingy and could not make a substitute. Doug went for a ride/fly in a Ranger with Andrew to Cunderdin, the nearest place with a hardware store. It was a 22-minute drive and they were soon back with the appropriate connection thingy.

The sink and the cistern were replaced and almost working perfectly except for the need for a washer or two. Which we will bring up next time we go. The ladies made a table-top to make the big drum rim fire pit useful as a table, and we cleaned up another table that was inside the shed and it now sits out on the verandah. Clean and stable. Jan and I cleaned out the pump room, removing paddy melons and bits of alsonite which had shattered from the end wall and was in bits on the floor. Not much of the equipment in there is currently operational but the potential is there.



Doug left us mid-afternoon and we discussed the woes of the world for a while until it was time to clean up and head to town to the Sporting Club for a Club Tea. A fabulous meal with dessert at a bargain-basement price was enjoyed by all. We returned to our camp, relit the campfire and sat telling stories for a good hour. We



had a coffee after we'd waited for Hertha's kettle to boil. The promise of another very chilly night had us scurrying for the covers about that time and a snug night was had by all.

Sunday morning saw the artists up painting at about 7:00 and their partners supplying coffee. Andrew and Hertha waited for the kettle to boil...

We had a relaxing morning which included a tour of the hired caravan, waiting for the kettle to boil for a coffee and the offer of the last of the carrot cake.

Our 4WD part of the weekend was an exploration of our track and looking for new sections to add. Steve and I lead the others. I drove and he walked and cleared our way through some great new challenges for our members. Mike and Clare followed us, and Andrew and Hertha brought up the rear. There was a lot of stick and root removal and waiting for the convoy to proceed. It took us two and a quarter hours to drive for one hour and five minutes. It was a good drive, and we look forward to sharing it with our members.



After a late lunch it was time to sit and contemplate the way the world works.



As the afternoon went on it became necessary to play a couple of fundraising rounds of Dice. The RFDS was the winner. Later in the afternoon we had a visit from Jesse, (my son) who called in on his way home from bowls in Meckering.



We all had our leftovers for tea, and then discussed what everyone had eaten in great detail.



Neville (the farmer) and Peter (his cousin) dropped in for a chat and then...

Hertha and Andrew created the most amazing, crisp-on-the-outside, light and fluffy-in-the-inside, laced with plump sultanas, dripping with butter, melt-in-the-mouth... damper that I've ever tasted.

And that was that. The temperature plummeted and it was time...



The night was as cold as any we had had, and all 6 layers were applied. Our tenters were snug. the next morning was chilly, but Mike and Clare still hadn't surfaced from their caravan until about 8:30. The rest of us had finished our breakfast and had all but packed up. It was quite windy and it took nearly the whole village to pack up Andrew and Hertha's tent.



Neville called in for a last hello and then we all left the campground around 10:00. Another great weekend at our Meckering campsite.

