

## Quagi Beach Moir Homestead Weekend

Department Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions (Parks & Wildlife)  
Liaison Officer Report / incorporation Moir Homestead Clean up Trip

This proposed trip initially came before the Club back in December 2016 and finally came to fruition 24 September 2017 with the following members participating: Geoff & Anthea Draper, Todd Bennett and Dave Taylor. Some weeks prior to the trip, it was advised there would be about 11 people attending. However, due to various reasons this was not to be.

Geoff, Anthea and Dave departed around 12 noon Thursday 21 September heading for Quagi Beach Camp ground in very inclement weather. Somewhere around Gardiner/Fitzgerald area, heavy rain squalls impeded progress somewhat and driving conditions were difficult to say the least. It was surprising to note that during these rain squalls both going to and from our destinations, some oncoming vehicles refuse to turn on headlights to make themselves more visible. Maybe they just have a death wish or think that driving during the day will flatten their battery.

The trio arrived at Quagi Camp ground around 5.30pm and selected respective camp sites. There were already quite a few campers in residence which was a little surprising as when Dave checked



out the site a couple of times in weeks prior, there had been only one van in residence. Camps were quickly set up and the usual happy hour or two followed. Weather during the night was wet and windy but no damage to our happy campers was sustained.

Friday didn't see much change in the weather but did allow us to do some exploring on foot and by

vehicle in the area. Heading west from Quagi in Geoff's new Isuzu D-Max on a rough limestone track was soon abandoned but some great ocean vistas were noted.



Saturday morning showed no improvement in the weather so we headed into Esperance for a look see and coffee. Esperance was very busy but a welcome coffee house was soon found where seating was in short supply. A table for 6 was found for the 3 of us so we soon offered the vacant chairs to a Queensland couple and interesting conversations soon followed. We were back at camp just after 12noon and had a relaxing afternoon and finding new friends during the course of the afternoon.

Dave endeavoured to make contact with Todd who was departing Albany at 0900 Saturday to ascertain what arrangements had been made with Ranger Dave re the work schedule. All to no avail. The same applied with Dave to Ranger Dave. Eventually all was sorted and we would meet Sunday at Moir Homestead around 0900. Geoff and Anthea were not so lucky with their camp site which was close to a group from Kalgoorlie who listened to the footy on their boom box which then changed to music until around 12.30am.

The clean up consisted of pruning regrowth around the 4 buildings and water tank whilst Ranger Dave did whipper snipping on pathways. Whilst being allocated our work tools a large swarm of



feral bees approached us so cover was taken behind the Ranger's ute. Ranger Dave had smoked the beehives in the residence a few days previously but they were still in residence. It only took about 1.5 hours to complete the work so we ventured off to Fanny Cove for lunch. Ranger Dave gave us directions to get to Bedford Inlet & Bay. This was a relatively easy 4WD trip to the beach which Todd had previously found a few years earlier while looking for firewood. Camping at the beach would be very limited but would be okay for small tents. The day was uneventful with the only bit of excitement (for Ranger Dave) was when a tiger snake lashed at him and hit him on his boot. The day was concluded with happy hours around the camp-fire.

Monday morning saw us packing up and getting ready to head for home. Initially the weather was okay but not long after leaving Ravensthorpe the weather changed for the worst making for difficult driving again. There was lots of water over the road between Wellstead and Mt Many Peaks. It was suggested at some stage over the weekend that the September Queens Birthday long weekend could be made into an annual event. Over to you.

Cheers  
Dave