



THE WITCHIPOOL WORKERS

FIRST PUBLISHED 2002
VOLUME 10 – AUGUST 2006



RAINFALL

Two words, "bugger all"

FENCING

All the remaining gates have now been hung. Three gate openings were straightened by reblocking five or so stays prior to the gates being installed

The hung gates include the pair of "Gerry's Gates" which have now been reunited and hung together as they were originally intended.

Images of the newly hung gates can be seen in the new competition section of this edition.

OTHER WORKS

Although not planned, a couple of weekends in late July early August has seen significant progress in the project which will no doubt be referred to as "The Great Shearing Shed Repairs of 2006"

As you will no doubt be aware the shearing shed has suffered some extensive damage and general deterioration over the years. The most significant event was a summer storm a few years ago that removed or loosened a significant proportion of roof iron. The storm also lifted the east wall and the bottom plate from the floor boards and deposited it on the ground.



The Shearing Shed Roof Damage

Along with the east wall sitting on the ground there was also problems with the stumps, bearers, bottom plate and flooring.

The most significant problem with the bearers and stumps along the east wall was that they were just not there. The bearer/joist on the end of the south wall was also largely missing.

The most difficult part of the process was to work out where to start, so after much scratching of the head and other parts of the anatomy, and accompanied by an equal or greater amount of arm waving, the initial blow was struck.



The Works Begin

The South end of the floor and the South Eastern corner were jacked up (very carefully) and stumps and other structural necessities reinstated. Works then progressed to the East wall.



The end of the first weekends work saw all the structural elements in the South wall replaced and the bearers, parts of the floor boards and the bottom plate replaced on most of the East wall. The studs were then reinstated and sheets of iron were replaced where possible.



End of the first week

Works moved to the North East corner at the start of the second weekend with the remaining bearers replaced along with the bottom plate, and some studs etc. Rafters were secured to the top plate and other remedial works undertaken.



Works start for the second weekend

Whilst the renovation works are not complete a substantial amount has been achieved. Iron has been replaced on the East wall, the double doors framed and the small door in the south wall removed and iron also replaced. The North wall has been secured from the weather until this section can be completed.

Additional works required to complete the project are, manufacture and hang new double doors,

repair the north wall, install spout on the East wall, replace glass in louvre windows, install stumps in the centre of the floor to remove the springiness.

These works will be undertaken in due course but the main objectives of reinstating the structural integrity of the East wall and protecting the shed from the ravages of the weather have been largely achieved.



The works to date

REVEGETATION

The plan was to plant some 250 of various understorey species provided by the Buloke Biolink Project in the remnant in the Old Paddock this spring.

Like all good plans it has now changed completely and the new plan is to plant a woodlot in the House Yard area some 30 x 230 metres along the old Hay Paddock fence around the existing small stand of Sugar Gums. This will in future provide timber and also a substantial windbreak from those cool southerlies. The number of trees to be planted is not large some 550 to 600.

The area has been “rounded up” and hopefully rows ripped in the next week. With a bit of luck and some rain the plan is to plant on or about the weekend of the 16th of September.

This weekend coincides with the start of the school holidays and also the weekend of Greg Hogan’s 80th birthday.

The old plan has not been scrapped but will be implemented in the autumn of next year after the first substantial rain.

MATCH THE GATES COMPETITION

A new and exciting competition for the readers of “The Workers” Submit answers to “The Editor”

The object of the exercise is to match the photo of each of the new gates to the list below.

<u>Name/Location</u>	<u>Photo</u>
1. School Paddock	_____
2. School Paddock Remnant	_____
3. Timber Paddock	_____
4. Jerimaihs Remnant	_____
5. Channel Paddock	_____
6. Douglas’	_____
7. House Yard (West)	_____
8. House Yard (East)	_____
9. Dam Paddock	_____
10. Reserve Paddock	_____



Gate A



Gate B



Gate C



Gate D



Gate E



Gate F



Gate G



Gate H



Gate I



Gate J

There is also something not quite right about one pair of double gates, which gate? and what is it about the gates? Which gates are “Gerry’s”?