

The Witchipool Workers

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The "The Workers" has been in abeyance for the past 16 months but the works at Litchfield have continued.

Works Roundup

Machinery Shed Removal

The old machinery shed had suffered the ravages of time and a severe white ant attack and as a result became an occupational health and safety hazard. It was progressively dismantled with part of the new section being removed after the white ants had caused a minor collapse.

The majority of the main structure was removed in March 2003 with the remaining bay removed partially by the wind and totally by manual means in September of the same year. The underground tank was removed a short time later leaving a large hole.



The Shed Demolishers.



The Shed Gone.



The Great Hole.

Recently "Jack Death" filled the hole with the aid of his grader and the area has been planted with black box seedlings.



"Jack Death" and Grader.



The Tree Planting.

Tree Planting

As part of the first stage of the Biolink Project approximately 400 trees and saltbush were planted in September last year. The planting in Jeremiahs along McNamaras Road joins with the existing remnant around the old dam and will supplement the re growth of black box along the channel.

Assisting with the second stage of the tree planting was Riiko an international exchange student from Japan. Riiko was residing with the Michael and Julie Melican and family and travelled to Litchfield for the weekend.



Riiko



Simone



The Other Tree Planters

Despite the extremely dry conditions some regular watering has resulted in a survival rate of approximately 65 to 70 per cent.

Vermin Eradicators

Various vermin and weed eradication activities have been undertaken since the last edition.



Great White Hunters with Their Trophy.

Other Shed Removals

The old chook house and the “new” cow bail have both been removed. As neither of these structures had a roof their usefulness was dubious to say the least. Their removal involved more cleaning up than demolition as they both fell to pieces after the removal of only a few pieces of iron.

Fence Removal

All the remaining internal fences in the house block and around the yard have been removed.

The boundary fences in the School Paddock along McNamaras Road and the Laen Litchfield Road were removed earlier this year as they were in very poor condition.

The yards around the shearing shed have also been removed due to their poor state of repair.

The size of the stack of old posts has increased dramatically.

General Rubbish Removal

A considerable amount of general metal and fencing wire with absolutely no use what so ever has been relocated to the Donald Tip. All metal taken to the tip is free as it is all recycled.

The remnants of the wood heap was also burnt and sundry items of wire, scrap etc. were cleared from the site.

Future Works

Tree Planting

Robert “Rabbit” O’Shannessey reported the Buloke Biolink Project has gained funding for at least the next three years.

We have been included for two additional plantings to supplement existing remnants. The project for the current year is to replant a 20 meter strip in the “Timber” Paddock along McNamaras Road from Jerimiahs to the gate.

Next years project is to re plant trees in the south of the School Paddock to supplement the remaining trees around the dam and the larger ones in the paddock generally.

Fencing

The first priority is to fence the end of Jerimiahs along McNamaras Road to enclose the existing remnant and the new planting. This is being funded by the Biolink Project and will finish the first stage.

The second stage is in the Timber Paddock from Jerimiahs to the gate for the new planting this year and from the gate to the Laen Litchfield Road. This will complete three sides of the Home Block with only the Melican Road section to complete.

The School Paddock will have to be re fenced along the road boundaries and approximately 65 per cent of the north – south fence adjoining “Spud” Hepworths. The revegetation area will also have to be fenced. This is a project for later in the year or next year.

General Rubbish Removal

The bull mallee remnant in Jerimiahs near the house contains a large amount of rubbish, some has been sorted into those two major categories, but the recent burn has uncovered more. It is envisaged this will be cleaned up next working weekend if time permits.



After The Burn

The Next Weekend

The next weekend will be organized for some time in May, hopefully it will have rained and settled the dust a little by then.