

# The Witchipool Workers

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After a protracted drought "The Workers" is back with the second edition in two months. Let's hope the rainfall adopts a similar pattern this year.

Two working weekends on the 29th – 30th of May and the June long weekend have resulted in considerable progress with fencing, tree planting and general cleaning up. Thanks to all those who contributed to the works and those in support roles.

## Works Roundup

### Fencing

The fencing in Jerimaih is to protect the new tree plantings and the remnant vegetation around the old dam. It will also protect the large number of naturally regenerated trees from grazing stock.

The fencing in timber paddock is along the McNamaras Road boundary from the Laen Litchfield Road to the gate. From the gate a 20 to 30 metre strip extends to the boundary of Jerimiah's for the plantings for this year.

The weekend of the 29th and 30th of May saw the installation of blocks and stays in Jerimiah's and the Timber paddock. The gate posts in the Timber Paddock were also installed. The barbed wire was attached and strained, steel posts erected and the barbed tied to the steel posts ready for the cyclone.



***Posts and Stays in Jerimiah's revegetation area.  
(Character wondering what the hell to do with that  
roll of cyclone)***

The fencing continued on the second weekend with the cyclone being strained and attached to the posts. All that remains to complete the fencing along McNamaras Road is a 20 metre section and the installation of gates.



***Straining the cyclone in the Timber Paddock.***

### Tree Planting

The trees, guards and the cost of fencing materials are provided as part of the Buloke Biolink Project.

***"The Buloke Biolink Project is a remnant protection and enhancement project that also establishes new vegetation across the landscape of the Buloke Shire." Source Biolink Web Site***

For more information the Biolink the web address is <http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/buloke-bio/web/index.html>

We were allocated 500 trees to revegetate the 20 metre strip in the Timber Paddock and to supplement the 400 or so planted last year. Approximately 270 were planted in the strip in the Timber Paddock on Saturday afternoon by a dedicated team who worked into the failing light to complete the task



***Fencers and Nocturnal Tree Planters "socializing"  
after a hard days work..***

### Tree Planting cont.

The tree planting continued on Sunday with the remaining trees planted in Jerimiahs to supplement the trees planted last year.

The trees have been naturally watered with 23 points of rain falling on Monday 14<sup>th</sup>..

For those interested the species planted are:

Black Box (Eucalyptus largiflorens)  
Buloke (Allocasuarina leuhmannii)  
Umbrella Wattle (Acacia oswaldii)  
Gold-dust Wattle (Acacia acinacea)  
Golden Wattle (Acacia pycnantha)  
Manna Wattle (Acacia microcarpa)  
Weeping Pittosporum (Pittosporum phillyreoides)

Approximately 300 of the trees are Black Box and Buloke with the remaining 200 made up of equal numbers of the other species.

Young Jack Melican from Birregurra gained some insight into species identification during the planting.



***Young Jack and his Tutor.  
(Young Jacks father appears in the background  
seemingly doing "bugger all")***

### General Rubbish Removal

More cleaning up in the bull mallee remnant in Jerimiahs was undertaken on Sunday afternoon with general rubbish being bagged for later removal. Scrap and other metal items have been placed in heaps for later removal to the tip or retention in the case of larger heavy scrap metal items.



***More blokes standing around watching Jerome  
placing a guard on a tree.***

### Social Activities

The social activities consisted of a BBQ lunch at the farm on Saturday afternoon and the evening entertainment was a large bonfire (with refreshments) in the pig yard. Two participants reported seeing the flames from Litchfield.

No rabbits or other wildlife were seen escaping the flames.

A couple of the participants were also seen in the Watchem Pub on Friday night but seemed to escape relatively unscathed.

### Future Works

#### Fencing

The next project will be to fence the School Paddock. Hopefully we will do this later this year when the crops are fence high with the potential for a bumper crop.

#### Tree Planting

The tree planting program is complete for this year and hopefully we will have sufficient rainfall to sustain them without the need for watering.

We have been booked in for trees to extend the remnant in the School Paddock for next year.

#### General Rubbish Removal

Remove the remaining rubbish from the bull mallee remnant in Jerimiahs.

#### The Next Weekend

The next organized weekend will be some time in Spring.