



THE WITCHIPOOL WORKERS

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WORKS UPDATE

Well, you can clearly see where we have been.

RAINFALL

Since an inch and a half of rain fell in late April early May there had been little rain. 22 Points fell on Wednesday and with more to come.

The total to date is only 380 points for nearly six months.

It has generally been fine and sunny north of the ranges with a number of very severe frosts and some very cold windy days.

FENCING

The fencing around the house and Dam Paddock was undertaken over two weekends in May and June. The weather for both weekends was less than favourable with the Saturday of the May weekend and the Sunday of the June being very cold with strong southerly winds making working conditions less than pleasant.

After some delay with equipment setup two section of fence were completed the first weekend.

After that weekend some additional post were installed and the majority of the gates hung.



A couple of well hung gates.

The remaining sections were installed on the Saturday and Sunday of the June long weekend.

Stock can now be excluded from around the house and shed area.



Workers completing the last section near the "Pig Yard"

The Monday of the long weekend saw the replacement of a 160m section of dodgy fence along Greens Road west of the channel.

GENERAL CLEAN UP / OTHER WORKS

Two loads of old fencing wire etc laying around Douglas's was removed over a couple of days in April. It is now (relatively) free of old rusty wire and scrap flat iron.

The larger items of scrap have been relocated to the remnant timber near the house. The Reo Speedwagon has also been relocated to the remnant and the last load of the old useless wire etc was taken from the remnant to the tip.

The removal of old wire, bits of flat iron etc has now been largely completed. The only area containing those items which will definitely not "come in handy one day" is the old dam in the timber paddock.

All the box thorns in the Old Paddock and along Greens Road have been uprooted and heaped ready for a pyromaniacs attention.



The first of two loads leaves Douglas's

There have been a large number of loads of old wire and other useless scrap iron removed to the Donald tip for recycling over the last five years. No records have been kept of the actual number but the combined volume and weight have been considerable and probably well excess of 35 tonnes and probably in excess of 50 tonnes..

Probably the largest load was the wire from the fence along Melican Road, it is shown below tied down with the load compacted by the tie down straps. The capacity of the trailer is a little less than two tonnes and this load would be at least that much.



The wire from Melican Road

REVEGETATION

Rob "Rabbit" O'Shannessey is to round up 200 or so understorey species for us to plant in the remnant at the end of the Old Paddock and The Paddock Behind the Dam.

Hopefully with some rain we may be able to plant these in late August / September along with a small woodlot along the fence between the house yard and the "Hay Paddock".

FUTURE WORKS

Fencing.

The North section of the Dam Paddock to exclude stock from this paddock (after the installation of water troughs)

The remaining two sections of the Pig Yard.

Fencing for shelter belts – Next year some time.

Water Reticulation

The fast tracking of the Wimmera Mallee pipeline project could see the Litchfield area connected to the pipeline in three to four years.

The main pipeline to Watchem and Birchip is planned to run along the Laen Litchfield Road and probably inside the fence in Douglas's.

Connection to the pipeline system will require stock troughs in each paddock and a tank to supply them. GWM Water will provide connections just outside the property boundary.

We are entitled to three connections as the property is separated by roads. The longest run of pipe will be from the Laen Litchfield Road to the house yard area and the reticulation system for the troughs in the main block.

General Cleaning Up

As previously mentioned the majority of the cleaning up of rubbish, old wire etc. has now been completed with the exception of the old dam in the timber paddock.