



WILBINGA SHACKS 4X4 CREW

2017 Clean-up event report by Geoff Couper

The very first multi group/club/organisation Wilbinga Conservation Park Clean-up was achieved successfully on Sunday the 17th of April 2011.

On the Saturday the 27th of May 2017 the Wilbinga Shacks 4x4 Crew in partnership with the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) Swan Coastal District PVS ran their annual 6th Wilbinga Conservation Park clean-up.

There were initially 158 volunteers registered to our website to assist in this 2017 annual clean-up.

The reality of volunteers and vehicles numbers when everything was tallied up post event is as follows;

37 new volunteers

45 repeat volunteers

82 volunteers in total that did the paperwork.

So about 50+ vehicles suggested which looks about right from what I saw out there on the day.

158 volunteers registered though.

So 76 no show from those that registered online on our websites as opposed to who actually turned up on the day.

A list of supporting organisation can be found on our website.

The 2017 clean-up effort has been the most logistical challenging event to date being that there were 12 groups / clubs / organisations to coordinate with different tasks on the day.

Here is a list of these groups / clubs / organisations in alphabetical order that contributed to the day;

1. Air Down 4x4;
2. Full Flex 4x4;
3. Full on 4x4;
4. KABC
5. North Coast News Group;
6. Over the Edge 4x4;
7. Rigs & Rutz 4wd Club;
8. Rise Above 4x4;
9. The 4wd Club of WA;
10. The Wally's;
11. Ultimate 4wd Training;
12. Wilbinga Shacks 4x4 Crew (the hosts).

The weather turned out spectacularly for the duration of the event, just perfect with many, many volunteers offering up their time, energy and resources to help maintain what can only be described as a coastal paradise.

North Coast News Group was approached and they were happy to advertise this event on the front page of three local Newspapers this year which were;

1. North Coast Times;
2. Joondalup Times;
3. Wanneroo Times.

With changes to DPaW's Health and Safety policy and procedures Wilbinga Shacks 4x4 Crew went onto distribute these new policy and procedures to ALL the volunteers via its website.

The sheer volume of reading material and the structure of these policy and procedures we believe are in real need of reviewing to prevent scaring of potential volunteers to this event moving forward.

Rubbish bags were supplied by DPaW and Keep Australia Beautiful WA, thank you.

These were the projects that were undertaken by the volunteers;

- Vehicle Wreck removal – Full on 4x4 & Air Down 4x4
- Full northern boundary sweep of the park – Full Flex 4x4
- Sweep of the middle section of the Park – Air Down 4x4
- Main southern access beach track clearing – The WA 4wd Club;
- The fig tree repairs – Ultimate 4wd Training, The Wally's, a rep from Rigs & Rutz and Track Care and number of new volunteers;
- Over the Edge 4x4 and Rise Above and my sons mob – Extraction of an old rubbish pile;

To quote an old pun; Many hands make light work and it was very true of the group I was leading, incredible how quickly we clean-up up that Fig Tree. Shame really because it gave me the unwelcomed opportunity to recover some Muppet bogged up to the eye balls on the beach and in the water on the incoming tide.

Auto Clean WA offered a voucher to be presented to a volunteer after the event to the effect of a \$250.00 - a mini 4x4 detail.

DPaW again this year supplied the 6 tonne Truck that quickly filled up and released a couple of their new guys to the event to handle the lunchtime BBQ, pretty sure all the volunteers got a feed thanks.

The setup of the BBQ Trailer was really quite good and though out this year I thought, well done boys for manoeuvring that BBQ trailer into that spot as that was awesome ;-)

With so many vehicles heading up and down of Wilbinga Road at the right speed and with lower than usual tyre pressures, Wilbinga Road had a bit a flattening out of corrugations I'd noticed when I headed out at 2:30pm.

Full on 4x4 had organised a tilt truck to assist getting more than what was expected as car wrecks out of the park so they could be picked up at the Eastern end of Wilbinga Road, this was a great effort.

Air Down 4x4 also jumped in and offered to skull drag some wrecks out with drag chains.

The rubbish dump point ended up being quite a lot and it only took from 9:00am to 2:00pm to get it done.

I'd like to make special mention to the following volunteers that helped me put on a great day on behalf of the Wilbinga Shacks 4x4 Crew;

- Brett Fitzgerald;
- David Charles;
- Debs Benedetto;
- Laura Pond;
- Cory McKnight;
- Scott Walsh;
- Marc Griffiths'
- Kevin Richards;
- Monz Keatly;
- John DuPont;
- Julian Matthews;
- Wayne Champion;
- Barry Callen.
- Vanessa Abbot;

Shacks Crew;

- Smithy;
- Gary;
- Ken;
- Dave;
- Shannon;
- Wally;
- Neville.

Without the support and assistance of these guys coordinating their respective groups, clubs and organisations my job would have been so, so much harder. I really enjoyed working with you all.

Without these measures of an adoption program forwarded to the sustainability and protection of this coastal paradise, the noted sheer volume of rubbish we have extracted as volunteers over 6 years I'd hate to think how this Conservation Park would be today – probably closed!

We as volunteer have earned our 'privileged' access and I for one congratulate you all for your efforts.

The bottom line is, if we protect this beautiful northern coastal bushland and its beaches, in turn we WILL protect our future sustainable access.

There are left over rubbish bags at The Shacks, so please if you come across anyone out there that even looks like leaving rubbish behind and someone is up at the Shacks, go see them and grab a few.

Also, please get the message out to everyone you talk to that the signs going up out there are access signs, they are not signs to restrict access and they need to be respected and left alone. Too many are being destroyed out there.

And please get the message out there that we MUST ALL remain on the 4wd tracks, do not drive off into and on top of virgin bushland.

Let's not let the morons out there affect our resolve in looking after this precious 'Paradise' and our access. Thank you.