

## Wilbinga Shacks 4x4 Crew Annual Clean-up May 2016

### Wilbinga Conservation Park – Track & Area Adoption

Report by Geoff Couper on behalf of Shannon Steele and the Shacks Crew

The weather to the lead up of this event wasn't shaping up to well with 6-8 meter swells forecast along the coast and 40-50 knot winds the day before with consistent heavy rain.

Organisers had feared the worst in terms of volunteer's numbers actually turning up with Sea Sheppard cancelling at the last minute.

A few precious comments arriving through on social media that the event maybe cancelled wasn't helping either.

The event seemed to be shaping up to be a repeat of last year's rather dismal efforts with a possible 100 registered volunteers only about thirty turned up.

Well, the sun came out and the day ended up being just perfect for the event, none could have predicted the weather changing so dramatically after a storm had put 30,000 Perth homes into black outs or brown outs.

The volunteers on the day equalled the number of volunteers registered for the clean-up event, 72 volunteers and approx. 140 volunteer hours committed, what an awesome effort, best effort in the 5 years the Shacks Crew have been honoured with the Adoption of the Wilbinga Conservation Park by Parks and Visitor Service Swan Coastal – The Department of Parks and Wildlife.

Estimated tonnage of what was extracted is yet to be determined but at a guess, more than ever before has been observed in previous years.



Here is a list of groups, clubs and organisations in support this year...

- Wilbinga Shacks 4x4 Crew
- The 4wd Club of WA
- 4wding Responsibly
- SRS Fabrications
- Over the Edge 4x4
- Air Down 4x4
- The Department of Parks and Wildlife - PVS Swan Coastal
- Ultimate 4wd Training
- The Wally's
- WA Prado 4x4
- The Gin Gin Shire
- The WA 4wd Association
- Track Care WA
- Keep Australia Beautiful Council
- Vicki Winfield & Associates PTY LTD

The day started at 8:00am and continued to mid-afternoon.

Parks and Visitor Service Swan Coastal – DPaW supplied another 400 heavy duty bags on top of what Keep Australia Beautiful Council (KABC) provided of 150 orange bags, 30 hessian bags and a supply of gloves. Thanks to Brett Fitzgerald for topping up with the bags as we just under estimated with what we got from KABC.

More trailers heading in this year than any previous years which was what was required for such a huge effort, thanks to ALL those towing trailers of all shapes and sizes, they were all very handy.

All the Shack owners were on site making the camp area as comfy and safe as possible for all the volunteers, thanks to the team, Garry, Neil, Shannon, Dave, Ken and Bob the Builder, you guys are AWESOME!

This year the event was imitated by Shannon Steel of the Shacks Crew.

All groups, clubs and individual volunteers signed in on the DPaW 208 volunteer form and made their way in or up the road heading in from a different direction further to the north. 208's have since been submitted.

I can't really pick one out from the other as everyone worked so, so well together in a unified front of very concerned and responsible outdoor recreational enthusiasts that so happens to drive an on road registered 4wd vehicle and I have to say that the condition of Wilbinga Road on the way out was way better than on the way in, great to see so, so many that can actually drive a 4wd.

We noticed three vehicles, young fella's airing up at the Western end of Wilbinga Road, can we not do this please as you are wrecking Wilbinga Road on the way out, please air up at the Eastern end and just go slow on the way out. 30kph to 40kph will suffice thanks. I guess they know no different.

Vicky Winfield from Vicki Winfield & Associates in her capacity as a registered landscape architect was at the Shacks engaging with all 72 volunteers during the course of the day presenting maps of how the Park was from 2002 to 2010 to 2016. Mapping provided was a very powerful visual aide in terms of what we 4wdriver need to be concerned with in the future management of the Conservation Park. Thanks Vicki.

If the parks ecosystems keep degrading the way it has been over the last 14 years we will be facing wholesale closures so efforts like this go a long way in maintaining our access. If we do not give back we will lose it and this fragile coastal area is the very last area we got left to us – closest northern beaches we can recreate on responsibly and it has to be sustainable.

So it's vital we play our part as 4wdrivers now and every time any of us head out there and that is extended to ALL 4wdrivers, even those that did not volunteer their time this time.



4wd vehicles as far as the eyes can see shown in the photo above.

Each organisation looking after their own in their own groups was nothing short of spectacular, certainly made life easier in coordinating the event, that's for sure.

Thanks to the two DPaW lads for putting on the BBQ and drinks, well worth it after a morning's effort of volunteering. Oh and thanks to Aaron Mortimer for lending me his trailer for this effort.

From the Adoptees – organisers, a show of appreciation and gratitude to ALL the volunteers, you all did 4wding in Western Australia very, very proud yesterday, thank you all so much.



Swan Coastal PVS have a bit of a task to get their bit done now ;-)

I'd like to dedicate this events report to Mike Camilleri (AKA Sandgroper) whom would have been there on the day if not for health issues.

Sandgroper has been a very big part of the Wilbinga Shacks 4x4 Crew over the years and he is well respected and was really missed yesterday.

Access for the future is crucial for the survival of our chosen recreation – just 4wding.

Hope to see everyone again next year out there where it really counts, take care.

Report ended.

Kindest Regards,

Geoff Couper on behalf of Shannon Steel and the Wilbinga Shacks 4x4 Crew.

Dated: Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2016.