

Perfect Place for a pizza

Friday morning I headed for the 4WD association working-bee at Pine Hut Soak in the Ngarkat Conservation Park. This is held every year with DEWER Park rangers. My route took me down Pine hut road (no relation) to Swan Reach crossing on the ferry and stopping at the coffee shop for some morning tea.

Finding some nice dirt roads (and one rather sandy track) I went through and on to Lameroo bakery for something to tide me over till dinner time. I found a back road to Rosie Pine road, avoiding some large sand holes forming in the gravel. Close to the Park a few sand holes became unavoidable had to be manoeuvred through, till getting into the camping area I got the back wheel stuck and needed a push to free the bike to make the final 40 metres to a suitable spot near the table and chair setup.

After setting up camp and meeting new neighbours, we were kept amused by people coming in with campers and caravans also getting bogged, engaging 4WD getting deeper into the sand, then letting tyre pressures down and sometimes having to use max trax.



In the morning, Daryl McMannis organized us into 3 groups , Mitsubishi club, Adventurers club and the 7 from other assorted clubs.

The Mitzy club towed a trailer down the border track to pick up rubbish from the camping areas (supposed to be not left of course), and clean out the fire rings. The Adventurers had some jobs on the Centre track replacing fence poles and clean ups.



NGARKAT Working Bee (24th-25th) March 2018

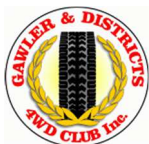
I rode with Richard in a Hilux, our group first put up a no camping sign at Scorpion Springs, then removed a vehicle counter at the border gate. Travelling down the Border track, we straightened posts, re-joined polly pipe rails and put up new fence lines, before our last assignment of repairing some traction matting which was needing re pinning to the ground at the edges.



These jobs kept us busy all day so much so that by the time we got back to the campsite everyone else were eating pizza cooked on site by some locals starting up a new catering business.



Pizzas kept coming till everyone was full, then cheesecakes were brought out.



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After it became dark there was a video shown on a large screen taken in 2005 of earlier working bees activities (recognising myself and Martin on screen), then a short video with comparison to the track then and now.

Three cheers were given to the pizza caterers, and thanks given for the screen show before things were packed into the Parks vehicle and the crowd dispersed back to their caravans and tents.

In the morning, some people were off early, while I helped with replacing timbers on a low tent/swag platform table. Just as the paint had been applied down came the rain, so my tent had to be packed up soaking wet. I tried to get my bike out of the camping area before everyone left, and I got bogged again, and pushed out again!



Up the track I got stuck again, the wet sand was not any firmer, so I got the fold up spade out and dug the bike out. All part of the outback experience. Might have to get some new tyres on the fourby so I can take it next year!

Cheers [Martin Kisbee]