



Swan Region Snapshot

Number

Focus on Perth Hills District

Baden Powell blitz

Creating a World Class Parks System

Second only to Jamie blitzing your own backyard, is the anticipation associated with the \$1.66m redevelopment of Baden Power Recreation Area in Lane Pool Reserve.

Joint funding

Redevelop and Manage Recreation Areas

The project is due for completion by late in 2012. Royalties for Regions have injected \$1m over two years with a further \$660,000 coming from Alcoa of Australia as part of an offset package associated with the mining and blasting operations near Lane Poole Reserve.

Community consultation

Provide visitors with enriched experiences

Of course, stakeholders have also been consulted in the development of the plans and this communication will continue throughout the project. Valuable input has been received from the Shire Councillors of East Ward Murray Shire, members of the Dwellingup Community Compact, local commercial tour operators, Dwellingup business community, Pinjarra and Dwellingup Information Centres and Dwellingup DEC staff.

Top right: DEC officers, Alan Clarke (Overseer), Rod De San Miguel and Andrew Rutherford clearing the new campsite ready for the construction of the toilet block.



Separate day visits from camping!

Main objective

The plan is to separate day-trippers from campers. Presently, the different demands of each group are causing congestion, confusion and some potential safety issues.

The chosen site is slightly above the present site but is hidden within the natural landscape.

Stage 1 sees the construction of a sealed access road to two separate camping loops. Gravel roads define the loops and, thereby, retain the off-road thrill factor - *we've been bush*. Campers will be able to choose their level of pioneering experience: with or without tent pad and with or without table.

Pine debris that was removed to create the tracks has been converted into mulch for use elsewhere. If things run to plan, the new campground should be ready by Spring 2011.



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future 



Visitors will not be inconvenienced

Jamie Ridley, District PVS, Perth Hills District, emphasises that the sequence of the implementation is designed so that visitors are not inconvenienced. The new camp loops are being built first and once the campers have moved there, then the redevelopment of the day visit area can begin. Visitors will still be able to use the day area during its development because each end will be done separately.

A camper's dream

I got into an argument with a girlfriend inside a tent. That's a bad place for an argument, because then I tried to walk out and slam the flap. How are you supposed to express your anger in this situation? Zipper it up really quickly? ~ Mitch

No arguments here! These sites will have everything! There will be sites on either side of each track. Each site will have a sense of privacy as it will be surrounded by native vegetation. A photograph identifying each site will be on the (eventual) on-line booking system so that visitors can pick their favourite site. Toilet blocks, large camp kitchens and shelter sheds are being prefabricated at DEC's Jarrahdale Recreation Workshop. This aspect of the work is running ahead of schedule.



Above and right: Two views of the facilities: a camp kitchen in use and another one showing another one in place in the bush environment.

Larger Groups



Here we see Baden Powell in action: a large group canoeing, two ducks and new stabilization of the rocks to the left.

The provision for larger groups will be greatly enhanced. The large internal space created by the loop will be fenced and be able to be locked. This area will have its own toilet block and camp kitchen facility. There will be two clear sides of a central track (groups may wish to allocate males on way and females the other). These features greatly enhance the safety of the site and the opportunities for appropriate adult supervision of children.



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future 



The Day Site

Jamie Ridley, District PVS, Perth Hills District, emphasises that the sequence of the implementation is designed so that visitors are not inconvenienced. The new camp loops are being built first and once the campers have moved to the new area, the work on Stage 2 will begin.

Can one ever be too popular? Well, yes.

Unfortunately, this site suffers from an excess of popularity: the soil is compacted, the picnic facilities worn and the barbecues are still of the open variety. Some of the pine trees are reaching the end of their lives and there will need to be some judicious culling.

The opportunity here is to create an area which gives visitors more space, new seating and new barbecues moved there, then the redevelopment of the day visit area can begin. Visitors will still be able to use the day area during its development because each end will be done separately.



This picture shows clearly the degradation of the site: compacted soil, some leaning pines and the sign does not stand out.



Another view of the current day site showing a dilapidated table and barbecue and a rather awkwardly placed toilet.

Day site to accommodate History

Increase involvement of indigenous people in managing 'country'

An ethnographic site identification survey is being prepared and then the final details will be used to enhance and protect the sites of value to various cultural groups. Appropriate recognition of Aboriginal heritage and culture and compliance with Native Title legislation is being ensured through ongoing consultation with the local Aboriginal groups.

How we camped then

In 1929 "the centenary scout corroboree" was held at Baden Powell. A few cuttings:

The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879-1954), Friday 11 January 1929, page 20

That the campers did not go hungry is shown by the following list of food that was consumed by the 156-boys in 3 days:— 312 saveloys,- 600lbv of bread, 600,-apples, 200lb. of potatoes, 12lb. of rice, 12lb. prunes. 300lb. of flour, 50lb. of cake, 200 tins of fruit, 50lb. of cheese, 14lb. of tea. 200lb. of jam,' 100lb. of butter, 200 packets of biscuits, 100lb. of sugar, 400, eggs, and 200 tins of camp pie.

The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879-1954), Wednesday 9 January 1929, page 6

On arrival at the Waterspout, it was discovered that the winter flood waters had jammed a log across it, which prevented it from doing its usual task of shooting the water several feet in the air. The scouts were disappointed. We should be so lucky!



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future

