

CALM staff and families in Bibbulmun busy bee

A GROUP of CALM staff (most with relatively soft hands) discovered their prowess with shovels, crow-bars, power tools, wood and nails during a weekend on the Bibbulmun Track.

The enthusiastic volunteers were recruited from the Division of Parks, Recreation, Planning and Tourism staff, their families and friends.

Construction team

The team of 18 adults and five young people constructed a roofed and open-sided, shelter, two tent sites, connector trails, a toilet and a barbecue area in less than two days.

The location was a scenic spot known as White Horse Hills north-east of Dwellingup about one hour away by four-wheel drive.

At around 8.00 am on the Saturday a small convoy made its way from CALM's Dwellingup compound to the construction site where the occupants alighted and proceeded up an incline to survey the task at hand.

Digging, gouging, cracking

Participants located various elements of prefabricated materials which they later moved into position once trenches were dug, holes gouged out, boulders upended and cracked into bits.

Small work teams evolved under the well-organised and patient leadership of Peter Bidwell, Noel Davenport, Wayne Burton, Raelene Hick and Annie Keating.

An impressive effort on the first day led to a night of mild cavorting with hearty food from the CALM fire trailer and several types of appropriate beverages.

A few suffered in silence the next day, but that did not stop progress and it was back into the sweat and grime for the finale.

Motivation remained high as shorter tasks were completed and all the teams joined forces



Some of the construction gang, left to right, CALM volunteers Jim and Kirsty Cave; CALM staff landscape designer Mike Bodsworth, construction supervisor Noel Davenport, special projects co-ordinator Annie Keating (squatting), project officer Arvid Hogstrom (behind Annie), volunteer Michelle Cave (at rear), business manager Val Cave, and assistant project co-ordinator Peter Bidwell (both CALM staff). Photo by Elio Novello

by Val Cave & Lotte Lent

at the shelter site to clapboard the three walls, fit the roof, guttering and rain water tank.

Certain images will be hard to erase like:

- Raelene's husband Peter standing on the fire trailer

using a hard hat to scoop water out of the tank and over his close-to-naked body in a lame attempt at cleanliness;

- Pluggie Burton (nicknamed after the famous Swans footy player) lying exhausted in a wheelbarrow as it was getting close to bedtime;

- a group of tired bodies sitting around the campfire contemplating the rocks, potholes and trees to avoid on their trek to the loo, their sleeping bags and finally to rest under the jarrah trees and twinkling stars.

- And of course the two team members who managed to sleep in until 10:30 on

Sunday morning amid the noise of four hammers banging, a circular saw, electric drills and a blasting generator!

Great pride

When the last few people finally made their way home at around 4.00 pm on Sunday, it was with a great sense of

pride—the progression from lots of bits and pieces to completion of a sturdy retaining wall, a beautifully constructed cabin, creatively designed walking paths leading to a handsome dunny and naturally landscaped tent sites, all making the weekend a special achievement as well as a lot of fun.



SH... Happens!

or

Who's going to tell Peter he's
dug the dummy hole in the
wrong spot!





Who invited
Gae Waterhouse?



Moving all the Cits
up the hill!

HLA 026 0111 NNNN



Moving all the
bets up the hill

HLR 026 0111 NNNN



Morning after
the BIG night.



A long day

HLR 026 0111 NNN



Pluggen Burton

HLA 026 0111 NNNN















Just about there













25

7

Not all the team
- some had to leave
early.