



Green Patrol Activity

Koolandilly

9 – 12 October 2009
Lachlan Hatton

Koolandilly was such a great experience last year that when the email came from Egil that he was thinking about going again if any one was interested I responded straight away as there were limited spots. I was first in.

The first six people in were Daniel Murphy, Jack Heskett, Lachlan Dunn, Ben Ricketts, Joshua Cupitt and myself. Because we were going in the school holidays it was agreed that we would leave on the Friday afternoon about 2 pm and return on the Monday at around 4 pm. But the week that lead up to us going was awful weather really cold and rainy so when we left it looked like we might come back early – on the Sunday.

As 4 of us were doing the blue level journey the following week Egil suggested that we use the Koolandilly trip as a practice run for packing. So every thing had to fit in the back pack! However because it was so cold I took 2 blankets, even though I only ended up using one of them. I sat on the blankets in the car. We left on time for scouts at 2.20 pm.

Our first stop was Mittagong where we stop to play in the park and go to the toilet. We finally got to Koolandilly early evening and commenced to put up our tents and the dining fly on a nice flat site near the river.



Camp Site



Relaxing by the camp fire

The last bit was slow as the road was dirt and very windy. We had taken the 3 man light weight tents and split up into pairs to sleep in them. Daniel and Lachlan D, Ben and Jack, Joshua and me. These teams were also used for cooking and cleaning up duties. Joshua and I cooked breakfast and cleaned up lunch. Daniel and Lachlan D cooked lunch and cleaned up dinner and Ben and Jack cleaned up breakfast and cooked dinner.

Bilby had organized the food for the camp and we tried a few new things. There was a lot a pot cooking and way too much onion. I don't like onion and didn't eat anything with onion in it, but I made up for it by eating lots of dessert. The best meal was breakfast of course

perfectly cooked! Of the dinners, I liked Sunday's dinner best – travelers stew and anything with custard is great.

Koolandilly is the Toyota 4WD club property set on the Wollondilly River and the reason that we went there was to do some community service. So on Saturday morning after being woken up by the birds and having breakfast of sausage muffins. We went to find out what jobs we had been allocated. We had to make the ground level and dig out the rocks. This was great as it was the same task that we had last year and was great fun. We got pick axes and shovels and started to dig out the rocks. There were lots of little rocks that we got rid of but one rock was not what it seemed. It started off like every other rock and as we tried to dig it out it got bigger and bigger. It took a long time and a lot of effort to get out.



The Big Rock!



Finally we got it out

We worked up until lunchtime - hamburgers. After lunch we went back to work and planted a banksia and we christened the tree the Bangor Banksia. After that it started to rain but not enough to stop us working. But later that afternoon the rain became heavier and we stopped work. I went and had a shower but the others decided to go and have a swim in the river in the rain. They got very cold and wet. I stayed around the camp fire. We had fish for dinner and some of the native wild life visited – Egil said it was a satin bower bird. It continued to rain hard and we all sat under the kitchen fly. Went to bed early and had no trouble getting to sleep.

Sunday was cold but not raining. We were again up early and breakfast was bacon and corn on the cob. Today we had to undo all the work we had done the day before – fill the holes that the rocks were in with sand. We filled the old trailer with river sand to fill the holes. At morning tea time we meet the other people that were there and Egil made us tell about ourselves. I kept my bit as short as possible. They said that they were very happy with the work that we had done and would be welcome to come back at any time.

We had to hurry to finish filling in the holes as the clouds were building up again and it looked like rain. Luckily we got it finished just before it started to rain again. Lunch today was BBQ sandwiches. In the afternoon because it was raining we stayed and talked under the dining fly. Most of the talk was about Jamboree. Some of the others went swimming again in the rain – but not me! Too Cold! After the rain stopped we chopped some more fire wood. We had to put in well under the trailer so that it would stay dry and we did some badge work.



Men at Work

Trailer Load

The rain came back really heavy during the night and there was a lot of Thunder and wind. When it eventually stopped the stars were great – you could clearly see the Milky Way. The others tell me that there was another storm at about midnight – I didn't here it I was too busy sleeping.

Monday morning was foggy and cloudy but not actually raining. I had a sleep in and breakfast was a bit later than on the other days – bacon and potato cakes. There were a number of Kangaroos around the camp site this morning. One had a joey in its pouch. We tried to get the tents and stuff packed up before it started to rain again but we were not fast enough. We also had to clean up the camp site.

We ended up leaving at about 1 pm. We stopped again at Mittagong for afternoon tea with the ducks at the lake. There were lots of stories happening in the car on the way home and the trip went quickly. We got back to the hall at 4 pm and unpacked the trailer.

It was my second time to Koolandilly and it was just as good as the first time. I hope that we get to go again!

Thanks to Egil, Bilby and the Toyota 4WD club.

