

Working Bee Report - Saturday 28th August 2010

By Neil Duncan

A good crew turned up to help with the planting but Hayden was sick and Brendan had to rush in to open up the office, although he is still acting Ranger in Chief at Westerfolds.

We had a new member Leah Newey and a first visit from Ron and his two boys Casper and Rory (although they had been with their mum Sonia to a working bee last year).



Leah Newey

As Terry and Neil loaded Terry's ute with the plants and tools the others headed down to Costa's to the plots Gerry made a couple of years ago.

The plots had orange tape strung across the top but the kangaroos or wallabies still had in and eaten most of the plants in the plots.

We soon settled into a routine with Ron and his boys, Leah, Karen, Terry, Robert Irvine and Maelor busy planting while George collected old corflute guards and Kevin reassembled them to go around the

plants. Meanwhile Neil was the water boy.



George still working hard for the environment

As we planted the plots there was a lot of discussion about how best to deter the animals. Our smaller plot, constructed last month is working well with the plants untouched so we decided to break the larger plot into smaller plots – but we didn't have any wire or star pickets. Terry went looking, found some star pickets, and then borrowed a strand of the orange tape from another plot to create four smaller plots within the larger plot. Kevin and others had also put guards around most plants so hopefully we will have better success this time.

After a good mornings work most had to go but after lunch Robert, Terry, Kevin, George and Neil continued the planting and guarding. Again, we didn't have enough pickets or tape so instead of four plots this one has only three long and narrow plots. As guards had also become scarce Robert and Neil went scavenging for old boxthorn to place over the plants for protection. By 2.30 we had done enough so packed up and headed back to

the cars, feeling satisfied with the days work.



Hard at work.



One plot now four.

One issue raised during our morning coffee with Brendan was that as a result of the Royal Commission into the bushfires, the Organ Pipes office is going to be moved across to Woodlands – which is closer to the bush fire prone areas. Obviously they don't have grass fires!!

We also discussed the AGM and Brendan offered to be the guest speaker on the Melbourne Fire management plan and its implications for the Organ Pipes NP. The date as yet to be finalised.

Next Working Bee, Saturday September 25th

Weeding on the main flat