

## Friends Of Organ Pipes Workday report 26 March 2011, by Robert Irvine

With Kevin Jones, George Westwood and myself driving together we had a late start, as George was a bit slow off the mark. Thus we only got to Organ Pipes National Park about 10 o'clock missing the one other person who turned up. (It was Claude and it made me realize we should know mobile phone numbers so we can call each other) Tammy and Brendan were at the office but as we started late we skipped the cuppa, put on the new vests and headed out with a mattock.

We decided to have a look at the exclusion plots on Jacksons creek where we had done so much work clearing all the weeds. Most of the plants inside had grown tremendously but the kangaroos had been into it and eaten lots of small Hop bush, any thoughts that those red tapes working was proven wrong. In fact I think the kangaroos have learnt that where ever there is a green frame there is food. We spent the morning digging up Artichoke thistles and protecting struggling seedlings. It was very clear to see that anywhere the soil is opened the thistle seeds germinate so inside they were thick but outside almost no thistles.

Lunch on the creek bank gave us a view to a cleared water flow and debris swept downstream. On the neighbors property the Melbourne Water plots showed strong growth so they were a great success but the hill above was cover in Thistles , they must have taken the stock off.

We also had a chance to look closely at our success with the large chicken wire frames.



All the plants had grown a lot due to the rains this year. We took the chance to swap the frames from establish plants to struggling ones.

Further downstream at the rapids it was amazing how the removal of the willows has opened up that part of the river.



We swapped over more tree frames from the River Red Gums to the eaten Wattles up the slope. On the way back I noticed some Wattle seedlings growing under Allocasuarina something we didn't think possible. Its clear to see the effect on suppressing grass underneath.

