

Working Bee May 28th 2016

By Terry Lane

I woke up to a wet miserable day for our May working bee the plan being to do more planting down by the creek that FOOPs have been doing as part of the 20 Million Trees Project.

I arrived at the Western Plains Flora Nursery around 8.15 to pick up the plants and found Ian Taylor already in the office; we loaded up 175 tube stock of Blackwood, Silver Wattle, Prickly Moses, Tree Violets and Sweet Bursaria.

I got to the Organ Pipes around 9 and opened up the works depot, before long Doug, Deb, Maelor Neil, George and then Robert Irvine arrived and after a cup of coffee to warm us up we loaded up the Ute and headed off down to the work site.

The constant rain over the past week made for quick and easy digging and before long we were going back and forth to the Ute for more plants, guards and stakes.



The Ute had no trouble getting down there but I had a feeling going back up would be different.

The rain had stopped when we started planting.



Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*)



We were planting alongside one of Jerry's plots that were put in some years back; we were advised from Melbourne Water that a fenced area regardless of shape made from a 50metre roll of wire would deter kangaroos from jumping in as they would feel it too small.

We beg to differ, we put many plants in only to return some months later to find that virtually all had been eaten, we placed wire guards over those remaining and they have survived



The rain started again and we decided to stop for a break but with not much shelter it wasn't pleasant, but the setting was.



The rain was getting heavier but we carried on regardless.



Maelor



Neil



Around 12 we decided we had done enough having put in some 120 plants.



So we packed up and head back to the depot.



I was right in thinking the old Ute would struggle back up the slope, twice we got bogged but we finally made it back and enjoyed a well-earned BBQ.

