

Bidgee Bulldust...

MANAGER'S REPORT

First of all I would like to thank the Toopuntul Team for Easter. In the Toopuntul tradition this is a family weekend and it is alive and well. The Preston Camp organized egg hunt and carnival. It is not easy working with kids and dogs but they did a fantastic job. The Quick camp organized a colouring competition, carnival and a terrific fireworks display. Thanks to the boiler attendants and everyone for contributing to a great weekend. Great to have everyone travelling safely as well. Our biggest effort was from the Preston's coming from Ballina, and I believe one family became grandparents in a rush over the weekend. Congratulations June and Russ. Well done to Vickie for organising the badges. We have also been fortunate enough to receive a donation by the way of a tip truck which has already been put to work. Thank you Herb.

At the time of going to press we have had 25mm or rain which is timely. Cattle are calving and our numbers are reduced by 80% due to the obvious ongoing drought which is the worst in recorded history in combination with extremely low rivers. Great effort has gone into keeping a herd at Toopuntul and sound business decisions by the Board will bring Toopuntul through this drought. Rivers are extremely low with depressed allocations and

a nearly unboatable river in the Bidgee and no water outside the river bed in the Lachlan. No constant water outside the Lachlan river since 2003 makes our wetlands a memory at this point. However I am working with several government bodies to make sure our wetlands are to receive a priority for environmental flows when available. The benefits of this for all concerned goes without saying!!

Updated 16/06/09

Hi All

It has finally been our turn. Since Anzac weekend (24mm) we have had 103mm or rain (412 points). Rain that fell from 31st May to 10th June (49mm) was the slow rainfall required to soak in. On Monday we had another 30mm for the day and it is now extremely wet. This is the best rainfall we have had in the last 7 years.

It will be quite a while before anyone can move in or around the place. There is more rain forecast – so here's hoping!!

Cheers, Mick

Have had 48mm rain since start of June , with only one day not receiving rain , it is the best rain[Quality not Quantity] that has fallen here since Kate and I have been here, I know that it needs to continue [Next Sat is forecast] but as I said at the last board meeting the indicators are promising .We need another 20mm to get Pump Frontage going before we purchase stock , I know prices of stock are rising with improved condition in many areas but I am not prepared to gamble on the season just yet, if we had gambled in the past 4 years we would have been burnt .

There were 9 camps booked in for the long weekend In June, cancelled all on the Friday.



FISHING COMPETITION

With fine weather saw the start to the annual Australia Day Long Weekend Fishing Competition (ADLWEFC), 6 starters, with their rods in their hands hit the water in all sorts of locations, from in the camp area to driving to the good old spots on the bends of the Murrumbidgee, there was even enough water in the river to float a boat, but in the end it was Lyn Zammit from camp Mark McCullen that took the prize with a heap of small Cod and Carp (all catch and release, except the Carp), must have been hard to be in the same boat as the leading number one fisher woman for 2009.



Well done Lyn.

Just on a small note Mark's fishing rod last seen water skiing south down the Bidgee connected to a world record size Cod (*Mark make a mental note to self stop drinking that lunatic soup you had in the boat...or was that Lyn's*) All entry money to BJ to go to restocking the water ways

Trophy and weight in BBQ denoted by camp mis-fits.

Nice to have some of the locals drop in and join in.

To all shareholders **"update your e-mail address"**, we would hate to think you might miss out on some info, if you need to get this from some other source please send an email to Kate Callanan (toopuntul@bigpond.com) so you can get some details as to what's on and where. **This is the last newsletter by way of post, so hook up an email contact.**

THE RUMOR FILE

• Chairman of the boards nephews, Chris and Co bogged in Nooran Bidgee Bulldust couldn't stop them from laughing to get an interview, so get the story from Chris when you next see him. Glad to see someone else gets bogged in a drought.

• I hear that Pete the Possum catcher is to be setting up in the camping grounds to remove and desex all known possums within a 30km radius of the camp ground, this is by order of Kate after her shower at the ADLWEFC BBQ, I hear the shirt has been burnt and buried!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

• I hear on the grape vine that NORMS PUNT OF DEATH strikes again. One 76 year old seafaring sort of a fellow had to make a budget cut due to the "global economic down turn" by reducing the quality of the out-board tie chain with "D" shackle to a piece of rusty tie wire, which failed after running into the mud bank and loosing the motor overboard in the very low waters of the Lachlan river (100mm, you could still see the top of his Blunstone) Please lookout in the "for sale advert" for an outboard motor slightly used, driven by an elderly man only on the weekends, Yamaha 15hp that's been dropped in the river only once.

WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH

Did you know that over 450 people visited the camp ground last year, did you know that the size of the new tip site (the old tip site was near the tanks for the new watering pipe line) is a 148m³ hole, if we fill this every year, that will be 5920 m³ of rubbish when my son reaches my age, that will need 3863 m² of ground, that's just short of an acre. When the season breaks and more of us visit with our friends to enjoy the long green grass, quiet fishing spots in a river that is nearly full of water will only put more load on the RUBBISH problem. Have a look in the picture; we bring items to Toopuntul in vehicles and some with trailers, it's time to take back those items we no longer need in those vehicles and trailers.

It's time (slowly) to think about recycling, some shareholders have brought up some more first class wheelie bins that can be colour coded BUT this doesn't work if YOU are not prepared to help, remember that scape metal, paper, aluminium cans, glass can make money BUT not if someone has to sort it. If we get this right, camp ground fee's could be reduced

So we're a smart group, If you have an idea or a way to start to get organised, send in an email to Bidgee Bulldust c/o cquick@kaneconstructions.com.au. Remember people get frustrated if there the only ones doing it.



Easter Friday night BBQ this year was attended by 93 people, (a new record) fantastic food, cold beer and some good fun had by all.

Many thanks to the very small band that support Kate to bring together a great night, it starts weeks before and ends with the girls from the Callanan camp washing a very large amount of dishes. Great Job.

Drawing competition

Wow! What a great group of entrants, many drawings and colouring in from all, we need a bigger west side of a shed to put next years on, very well done and congratulations to all the winners, which is every entrant for taking time and effort. Just a note on the presentations the MC is looking to get some Monkeys to help with the prizes after Karen & Sue's effort. You know what they say about working with our other half and children.

Shooting Report:

Good Friday Shoot saw a field of 27 shooters keenly contest the event. Winners were:-

Overall & AA Grade	Xander Landale (Deni poacher)
A Grade	Mick Callanan
B Grade	Neil Headdon (Hay poacher)
C Grade	Mick Schram
Hunter	Ian Jeffreys (Deni poacher)

Thank you to Denis Comelli for generously donating the prizes for the shoot. Very much appreciated. Denis' daughter Olivia shot at the ACTA Nationals in Roma the previous week and won Champion of Champions in C Grade (mixed target event) and her consistent efforts all week saw her winning Overall C Grade. Well done Olivia. Move over boys – the girls are coming!!!!

Balranald clay target comp.

Toopuntul was well represented at the Balranald 2 day F&G shoot at Homebush with 9 shooters (plus the Hay boys). There was some keen competition between our team.

Winners were:-

Overall	Sam Callanan – prize being a shotgun
Lucky door	Ian Jeffreys – gun as prize

Manager Mick, Denis Comelli, Olivia Comelli and Terry Preston Jnr were all able to bring home trophies.

RUMOR HAS IT THAT

SOMEBODY'S EYE DOCTOR IS GOING TO GET

A LOT OF BUSINESS AFTER A REPORTEDLY HALF BLIND SHOOTER DID ALRIGHT

THE OVERALL WINNER WAS LEADING WITH A TOOPUNTUL LADY SHOOTER ON SATURDAY, WHEN HE HAD A BIG NIGHT OUT AT THE CONCERT THEN BLASTED THE COMPETITION AWAY THE NEXT DAY – THAT'S YOUTH FOR YOU.

A SHOOTER WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH SATURDAY'S RESULTS SO STAYED HOME TO GO FISHING THE NEXT DAY.

HOT OF THE PRESS ALSO IS THAT THERE WILL BE TOOPUNTUL TEAM SHOOTING SHIRTS BEING ORGANISED FOR NEXT YEAR.

HOME BUSH PUB

Saturday night at Homebush was a great success with those attending recommending the night out.

THE DERBYSHIRE'S INVADE THE BUSH

John, Sue & kids Deanna 16, James 14 make the 8hr drive to the best place at the end of Toopuntul road. This little trip started about 4 week before Easter with the "come on you'll have fun" from my better half (Karen) of "camp mis-fits", so after the logistics was sorted out at a fine restaurant in the Melbourne city china town called The Shanghi Village (yes we all live in Mornington but that beside the point)

The trip gets going at around 11am Thursday before Easter, after a fuel stop in Echuca it's on to Hay for dinner, Fish and Chips was the order of the day. John & Sue noted that if they have driven for this long in England they would have been in Italy by now. So turn left on to the dirt road and down to the camping ground, well our camping ground was not what they thought of a camping ground in the middle of nowhere, neat, nicely spread out, fantastic toilet block with all the fine trimmings, now with their minds at ease, kids off and running, (putting the tent up was fun) they settled in for the best time with good people, good fishing and driving boats, fun nights, playing cards, cooking over a camp fire, driving around in cars, seeing just about every animal on the place. Deanna would just like to mention that she didn't miss her phone for one minute.



The Derbyshire's

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday Easter Egg Hunt saw the camp Prestons fire up early with 3 age groups vying for some chocolate eggs that were well hidden. Elbowing, eye gouging and running interference on the under 4 year olds was band this year.

Toopuntul Olympics started around 4pm with some fun games and a tug of war. We're going to have to find a job for Bob to keep his mind off finding way to cheat.



"Good work" to the Preston group.

A NOTE FROM KATE

Sunday saw the troops assemble for the egg hunt which was very successful with the surprise arrival of a big red truck causing great excitement. Carnival activities have quickly surpassed the Oxley Gymkana with kids and adults alike enjoying the games. This was topped off by a magnificent fireworks display, which will be hard to beat. Neighbours were away or had valid excuses for not attending, but next year they will be on board contesting the tug-of-war with the Toopuntul team. A duck race from woolshed to tin shed is also planned for next year. *****



Sunday night lights at the south end of the airport was supported by a very large number of people this year, under that orsome night sky with bright colours, big bangs and with most kids running mad with grow sticks and sparkles. That sort of stuff puts a smile on your face.

Just a note on the cleanliness of the toilet block this Easter, it has been reported to BBD that the boys win for keeping their side very clean and that makes it very easy for the cleaning team under the guidance of Kate to maintain, yes she dose it all year, better luck next year girls maybe you should try leaving the toilet seat up.

