

Bidgee Bulldust

Toopuntul

Winter, 2011

Manager's Report

Hi all unless you have been under a rock Toopuntul Station has had a great last 6 months with rain & flooded rivers.

It has been an interesting year with 2010 being one of the wettest years on record at Toopuntul. To this point in 2011 we have already received the yearly average rainfall due to the 230mm (9 inches) in February.

November to February were quiet months on the campground front due to floods and rains. New year the usual program of mustering/preg testing and weaning was completed whilst juggling dry paddocks.

In October we took delivery of weaners from Western Australia for trading purposes and in January and February we took delivery of cows in calf from Western Australia to help boost breeding numbers. Property conditions are good however we could do with a drink now.

Mick and Kate



Rain water looking at toopuntul from oxley station

Australia Day Long Weekend Fishing Competition 2011 (ADLWFC)

Can you believe it "Cancelled due to Floods" how fantastic is that! stay tuned for the 2012 event.

Camp MisFits.

EASTER (Toopuntul style)



The Good Friday BBQ gathering



The Duck Race

Easter was a successful weekend with many families appreciating the break. The 3rd generation of several families came together to enjoy the beautiful weather and the pursuits the property has to offer. The social shoot attracted the usual suspects followed by the bbq attracting a crowd of 126. Thanks to the ladies that wandered down to help with prepping for Friday's BBQ and the crew who cooked a great feed, Saturday afternoon and evening was spent making sure no one in campground got de-hydrated!! Easter Sunday began (very slow for some people) with the Easter Egg hunt/carnival activities (Olympic games crew well done) /duck race/drawing competition all creating absolute organized chaos, but fun anyway. All this culminated with the most spectacular fireworks on Sunday Evening.



fireworks; it's a big event with a lot of hard work throughout the year, with there help a great event become a "grand and spectacle event" now that's fun, "Rumour has it" that there is going to be a leap year for fireworks 2012.



Mandy Gowty winner

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO CREATING A GREAT SOCIAL WEEKEND, ESPECIALLY TO COLIN AND STEVE FOR THE FIREWORKS AND THE PINGIARO FAMILY FOR THE DUCK RACE. (K & M)

Fireworks, what can I say, this year the motto was loud, louder, loudest, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the supporters of the

Grapevine (2012)

Romour has it there will be our own Country Music Night next year (bring your owns DVD's) – or is it a live show – not sure!!!!!!stay tuned. Then on the Sunday night there will be a Movie Night.



Lachlan Country

Apparently a huge screen is being organized so all we need is the soft drink/ice creams and popcorn!

BUT it takes a lot of work, and then SOMEONE has to clean it all up, again thanks to those who help. It can't do done with out you.

Drawing competition/ Fireworks

"The Drawing Competition" well done to Georgia and her helpers for running a great event.

Sponsored by Camp Mis-fits

Murrumbidgee River at a good height

As I sit on the veranda of my hut I hear a boat running down the river, nothing unusual about that but this time it wasn't a fishing rod with a lure hanging off the back of it, it was a white guy knee boarding, yes for the first time in my memory a bunch of loony ticks took to the water with knee boards in hand, fired up the 40 Merc strapped on a ski rope and off they went, that's a first in my book.



WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH,

Now, did you all see how fast the rubbish dump filled up after we all had a great fun time over the Easter long weekend?

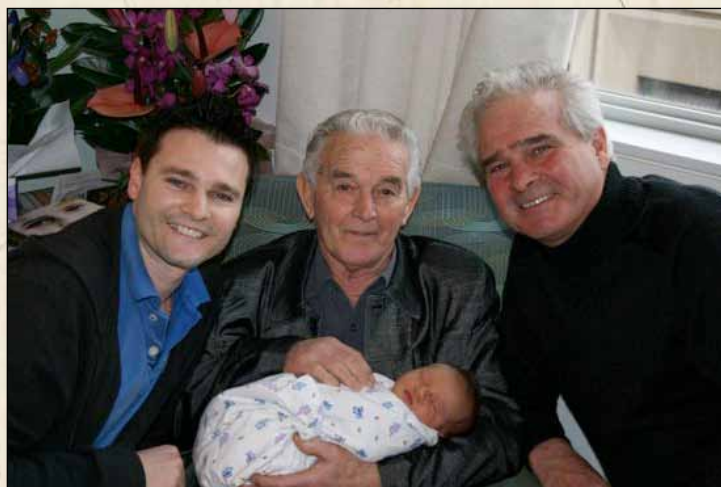
We can take our rubbish home, if we all do a little there will be fewer holes in the ground.

Thumbs UP



Congratulations to Arthur Comelli who recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Arthur has been coming to Toopuntul for 50 years and has been a shareholder since the inception of Toopuntul. Presently Arthur, his three sons and grandson hold shares. In 2010 great grandson Cooper arrived making him the 4th generation who will get to grow up at Toopuntul.

Arthur is still enjoying his sporting and recreation activities having just been quail shooting in Victoria with other Toopuntul shareholders.



Comelli family - 4 generations

Well done to the young fellows in "Ruby Red" who did the run around and pick up bins of rubbish and dumped them at the tip so someone else didn't have to.

Thumbs Down



Don't leave all our spent rubbish, yes rubbish all rubbish lying around on the ground at the gun club or around the farm

Melbourne Cup Weekend (November 2010)

I got the tribe into the car for the trip to the farm, got the call from Mick that it had raining and we couldn't get in for a few days. "Now what", kids & the bride all in disarray so we decided to go for a drive to Narrandera via Howlong & Urana, flood water everywhere, Hume weir at 99%, driving through water across the road around Urana in the Holden with the boat on



the back, it's been great fun so far.

Got the call from Mick to come on in, what a great drive from Narrandera to Hay along the Murrumbidgee, as we came down the farm road we met up with my bro driving out, he and his group had just been kicked out by the river rising up and under this new hut and into a 4 man tent at night (that would be fun, not). I hear the area is now called "Camp Venice"

Now my wife for years has been saying why did you build the hut so high and so far back from the river and I'd been saying "Just you wait".

Well, we had gone from not being able to see the river for years to "lake views", quickly we unloaded the car etc and moved the car to high ground just in time to see the river cut the track into the camp ground and surround the hut.

The kids and I spent the next 4 days helping Mick prepare the farm for a flood, now that's fun.

Melbourne Cup weekend & Calcutta (November 2011)



This is another great event and don't forget to pencil in for this year. A great night put on by the Oxley Recreation Club, **Sunday 30th October.**

I hear the airboat races are back on, we will miss Des Painter and I wonder how that hovercraft will go, might need to handicap that thing. I hear one boat is going to try the old smoke screen trick or lay down an oil slick, "that should fix them up" We will see how the "predator" goes.

Notes and letters from the "teens and under"

Lets go, I invite all the "Next Gen" to start with their own space here at "Bidge Bull Dust" so come on get the kids and have go, email in their thoughts, Photos and stories.

On the way to "Toopuntul Station"

As I drive along the black top I'm thinking of my stomach and a thought of the pie shop on the single carriageway just south of Marong comes to mind, I've see it a dozen times before with the idea of stopping, I round the corner, see the store and hit the indicator to pull in, I stop, get out and see the sign "CLOSED" I get back in the car and drive off "TOO LATE", we pass through the little small towns that are dotted along the way, kids crying, the better half in tears, mates needing a stop by the side of the road or tapeworm biting, we should take the time to pick up the items that we "could" buy in the big smoke that we should "choose" to pick up and give a smile to the owner/operators/teen person of the little shops we pass, e.g. Maude store (no not the pub), Wanganella servo, Marong, Boorooban (got a kids play ground), Homebush Pub <http://www.homebushcountry.com.au/> Bridge Water, just to name a few, all it takes is an ice-cream, milk, bread, paper, bait (good local type) Fuel, Coffee, these places help us break up the trip, keep us awake and provide a service to the local community. If you think the trip is boring now think what it would be like with out them.

From the other mob, as a small convoy of cars, boats & campers moved across the Hay plains, it was heard over the UHF "where did all the trees go" it was followed up with "where did everything go"

The Easter break was our virgin voyage to "Toopuntul" or as we found out as we arrived at the front gate "Toopuntul". We did not know what to expect but as we soon discovered it is a piece of paradise in the middle of nowhere!! People asked us What did you do? All we could reply was not much but on reflection ... we drank, we chatted endlessly around the fire, gasped as Mark used a chainsaw, we witnessed the Colin and Steve show (with the odd firework or two thrown in for added entertainment!), the kids fished, played in the mud, explored and went Easter egg hunting. But to top it off, Lachie (7) and Archie (4) came home with a whole new repertoire of fart and bum jokes to share with their mates which they learnt from the dads banter around the fire! Toopuntul: Traditions in the making. We had a blast!!

Thanks Colin, Karen, Georgia, Joel and the Toopuntul crew for allowing us to experience your little piece of paradise.

The McCombs

I'd like to note that 2 other reports are "MIA" and boy are they in trouble.

Hi all, now let's get going with 2011

Web Site it's up and running, oh no it's not, but wait yes it is, just a small hiccup we are there!!!!!!!!!!!!

BUT "the stick"

Now it will only be as good as the information that we can post on it, the shareholders need to contribute. Your story's, yarns, information, photos, you're going to sick and tired of my story's fast.

In 2009 we started and still not much content emailed from the shareholders, so where's all story's, yes and the information, we can post it on the site "the good, the bad and the down right ugly".

**Please send to
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Wild Poppies



Dry lake paddock



Bart the bull - 2 weeks old