

CFA 4WD Club MINUTES of Meeting

19th June 2003

Held at Scoresby Fire Station

TRIP REPORT

CFA 4WD Club Craigs Hut Working Bee – Saturday 17th May 2003 Subtitled: The Brick Floor Is Complete !

Attendees: Rod Hanscomb, 60 series Cruiser
Graeme Linaker, 60 series Cruiser
Andy Kass, 60 series Cruiser
Andrew Oldroyd, 42 series Cruiser, and Chas
Clayton Bryant, Maverick
Allan Layton, Defender
Dave and Neil (Mansfield Alpine 4WD Club) in Neil's Jackaroo

Rod, Graeme and Allan met at Mansfield about 1800hrs on the Friday, and contacted the local friendly garden supplies operator, who promptly dispatched a guy to open the depot and load us with a good (very good) cub. metre of packing sand. This was shared amongst Rod and Graeme's trailers and the back of Allan's ute, which already carried the extra 180 bricks we were taking in case we ran short.

Whilst we had a counter tea, Andy spotted the parked cars and joined us. We were going to luxuriate the night away at Helen & Brian's lodge near Sawmill Settlement. (Thanks Helen & Brian, hope your Canadian hol is going well.) Andrew was going to camp at the hut, and Clayton was coming up early Saturday to meet us, as were the Mansfield guys.

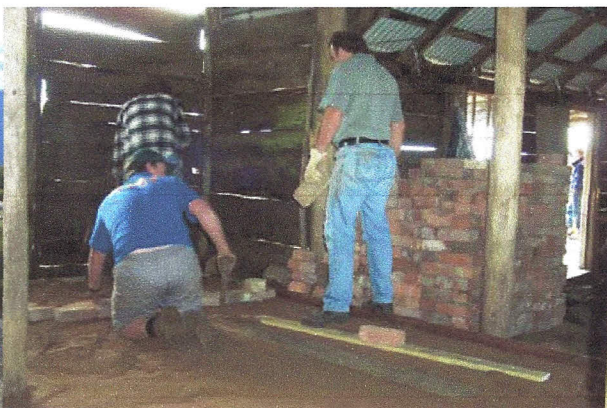
Anyway, as we convoyed our way past the Merrijig pub, a plaintive voice was heard on UHF ch14. "Is that the CFA 4WD Club". It was Andrew calling. "Where are you going, where's the lodge?" So he and his mate Chas also joined us for the night. I don't know what attraction kept them away from the hut and the mountain. Maybe it was the warm fire, the soft bed, the hot and cold running water, the cooking facilities, or the clean dunny. Who knows? It could have been all or none of the above. It might have been our company, although I doubt it.

We headed off towards the mountain about 0745hrs Saturday; being joined by Clayton (after a 3-hour drive) just as we were loading up to leave the lodge.

The local guys arrived at the hut shortly after us, just after we completed unloading, and surveying the repairs that would be needed to the fencing. Dave and Neil had all the bricklaying gear – the dumpy level, screeds, brick cutting saw, generator, water pump, plus all the usual carpentry tools. Whilst they got organised, Graeme and Allan took the Defender off into the bush looking for fence posts. The others started unbolting broken rails (and recovering the bridge spikes and bolts) and digging out the rotten posts.



Andrew and Rod, fencing.



Neil, Andy & Dave (background) flooring.

Things started in earnest around 1000hrs. Two teams – one inside the hut working on the floor. The other working on the fence. Allan alternated between teams. Just as one team would catch onto the fact that he wasn't actually doing anything, he'd head off and repeat the performance with the other team. Most successfully too, if I must say so myself.

The "inside" team removed a wall panel on the back of the hut to give access, and allow in some extra light. Levels were shot. Soil dug out and removed. The timber retaining frame (to stop the edges of the brick floor migrating outwards) was laid around



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the inside of the shed posts. Gravel and road base material was brought in, and the motorised “whacker” got into action. Then the packing sand was laid on top and screeded off. The laying of bricks proceeded with suitable haste.



Clayton takes a break.



Chas works on.

Meanwhile Allan and Graeme and a few others were off finding fence rails this time. After they returned, it was time for Dave and Allan to take the ute with 200 litre plastic drum and pump down to the creek. Upon return the pump was hooked up to the cutting saw, and bricks were cut to size to fit around the rock, the internal hut posts, and the obligatory ½ bricks needed in each of the long runs.

It was obvious early on that we didn't have quite enough of the hand-made bricks that Rod had originally scrounged for us (about 2,300 of 'em), so we deliberately used the rougher looking ones of the wire-cut ones (the 180 that Allan carried up last night), again, that Rod had scrounged for us. These were used in the little alcove at the remote end of the hut, where it's a little darker and they're not so obvious. They were also laid with a different pattern, rather than trying to get them to blend, as being machine made and newer they were actually a little bigger than the old well-worn ones.

Meanwhile, the fence work was proceeding. The more they looked, the more they found to do. Expert at scrounging, they used broken long rails, to cut down to make suitable short rails, to avoid the need to go looking in the bush for more timber. Bridge spikes were straightened and reused. A long length of reo was cut into suitable lengths and then sharpened on an angle grinder to make additional nails.

At last the floor was done. The bricks are down. A last bash around with the “whacker”, with plenty of sand being swept into the cracks between the bricks. Back and forth for about ½ an hour. Looks good guys.

Time to pack up. The shadows are getting long. The temperature's dropping, and Neil is on a 'promise' back at Mansfield (or so we suspect) such was the haste with which we cleaned up and packed up. The wall panel was re-erected, the area cleaned up, the tin re-erected around the bottom of the hut (several sheets had been removed to get the wall panel out), the rain drains re-established, the leftover sand and gravel and the soil were graded out. Timber scraps were cut into suitable lengths for the potbelly stove and stacked in the hut ready for any skiers needing refuge during the winter.

A final look over, everything clean, neat and tidy, and off we went. A red sunset, and we needed the headlights to get out.



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Now for a celebratory beer and a feed at Merrijig pub, then home. Wrong. The pub was packed. Head to Mansfield. Watered and fed, and goodbye.

Thanks everyone, it's great to see the floor complete. It's now just over 2 years since we first liberated the bricks in Melbourne, and commenced carting them to Mansfield. Since that time we've had a number of members involved in the project, plus the usual maintenance activities, and a big thank-you to each and everyone.

Trip report by Allan Layton.

See also the report on the lying of the first two floor sections in Feb 2002. This report is available on the CFA 4WD Club website <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~cfa4wd/r>