

Gardens of Stone NP



Participants

17 clubs, 176 people (of which 22 were from SD 4x4 club in 9 vehicles) many thanks to all the club members that made the journey and helped out.

Roger & Robert Pollet - Colorado
Allen Willingale - Trol
Susan & Bryan Dixon - Prado
Cameron Dunn (Kids William & Georgia) - Prado
Brad & Jenny Lyttle - FJ Cruise + trailer
Ian & Jill Bamforth - Landcruiser
Marian & Michaela (Kids Michelle, Mark, Maks) - Trol
Gary & Jesse - Trol
Nigel Ward - Landcruiser

Equipment

1000 trees
1000 tree guards
Approx 2500 bamboo stakes
Approx 2km wire fencing with star pickets.

The Event

It was another wet lead up to the weekend, not sure what I've got myself into ... wet, cold, muddy and just plain terrible. Well, it couldn't have been further from the truth. Fine on Saturday morning in Sydney, real foggy up in the mountains and just glorious on the other side, as was the weather all weekend.



We met at Lithgow "Macas" to group up. We couldn't go down the Baal Bone trail as the rain during the night before made it too slippery and dangerous and besides the Association had already closed it, which we found out when we got down there.

We aired down at the entrance to the farmers land as we were advised the ground was quite soft. We then proceeded through the farmers property, which I don't think he thought too much of, the track across his paddocks were quite soft and well, I guess you get the picture. We all lined up, got inducted for safety and then got on with the job. Thankfully for the rain beforehand, the ground was nice and soft, just right for planting.



We all worked well together, a good opportunity to further positive interaction between two organizations (clubs and NPW), it also shows how 4x4 clubs are evolving at wanting to get more involved. It also should be an opportunity for a win win result to help out the NPW and gain entry to more of the locked-off areas.

Here we have a sample of the end result of the little seedlings, after a day and a bit of hard work.



Each plant had to have a weed mat and protection, either with plastic or milk carton and wire fence. It took 6hrs to plant 928 seedlings on the first day with finishing off the balance on Sunday morning.

The camp site was just great, plenty of open areas and lots of likeminded people even



if some have a liking to country style music (Willie Nelson and Slim Dusty) to share experiences with, thanks Bryan and Susan, lots of knee tapping and butt slapping “ye ha” to the beat! A big campfire and all sitting around enjoying the great outdoors. With the “Crossed Up 4x4 club” handing out show bags and things to those who wanted, which added to the overall positive atmosphere of the evening.

The next day was another beautiful day and after planting the final few seedlings, we headed out down the track we couldn't come in on the previous day. The departing group of three vehicles consisted of Susan and Bryan, Brad and Jenny, Jesse and I. The track was very nice with great views and in sections quite steep with a clay base. It would have been very slippery in the wet. There weren't any issues getting through even with the trailer, except at the very end (20 ft from the top) the FJ pulling the trailer lost traction and had to have another crack at it with just a little more mumbo! From there it was just a casual drive back to Ben Bullen and home.

Thanks Nigel for organising the event, which was a great success.

