

March 11th – 13th 2016

1. **Participants:**

- Pieter Conradie – project leader, liaison and coordinator
- Neil “The Machine” Ross – Whip-cracker and project Engineer
- Peter Bartholomew – worker and front-runner for the Egar Paddle award
- Bill M^cAinsh – worker and group Caterer and Chef
- Nick “What goes on tour, stays on tour” Tyllis, worker, chronicler, photographer
- Krystjan – Worker, Ross Engineering
- Johnny L, itinerant Worker from Amata

2. **School¹:**

Watarrka school is a pre-/primary school, located in the community of Lilla and serves three communities: - Lilla, Ulpanyali, about 3 Km to the North West, and Wanmarra, about 31 Km East of Lilla.

The single Principal/Teacher is Ms Christine Munro.

Current enrolment for 2016, is 13 students



Google Earth screen capture showing Lilla and surrounding communities. Red line is Luritja road.

¹ Source: Education directory - <https://directory.ntschoools.net/SchoolProfile.aspx?name=Watarrka%20School>

3. **The Project:**

Erect a basketball goal post, to complete the basketball court

4. **Materials:**

Basketball goal post set

9 x 20-Kg bags cement

1.5 tonnes (approx.) concrete pre-mix

1 snatch strap

2 x D-shackles

We loaded the truck at Ross Engineering and left Friday 1730 hours, to get to Erldunda Roadhouse and camp. We arrived at Erldunda at around 1930 hours.

Saturday morning, we departed for Lilla, arriving at 1020 hours. We were delayed by an unfortunate group of travellers with a broken down and broken into vehicle.

At Lilla, we were met by "Saltie", the school caretaker who showed us to the work site and unlocked the school generator to power the concrete mixer.

A 900 mm x 900 mm x 900 mm hole had to be dug. This was digging was done manually. The ground was soft and the task was accomplished in two hours.

The hole was filled with approximately 1.7 tonnes concrete surrounding the sleeve for the basketball goal post. The mixing and pouring of the concrete and clean-up was accomplished in another two hours.

The concrete was left to cure overnight and the team Checked into Watarrka/Kings Canyon resort at around 1600 hours.

Sunday morning, the team returned to Lilla to erect the goal post and officially hand-over to Ms Christine Munro.

The team departed for Alice Springs at around 1030 hours, via the Ernest Giles track, getting bogged, getting un-bogged (thanks to Peter Bartholomew and Bill M^cAinsh) and finally arriving at Alice Springs at around 1500 hours.



On the road - Left to Right: Pieter Conradie, Bill McAinsh, Peter Bartholomew, Neil Ross. Photo: Nick Tyllis



Digging a hole - left to right: Johnny L, Bill M^cAinsh, Krystjan. Photo: Nick Tyllis



Hole dug to bury the Doctor - left to right: Peter Bartholomew, Bill M^cAinsh, Nick Tyllis, Neil Ross. Photo: Pieter Conradie



Pouring - left to right: Peter Bartholomew, Johnny L, Krystjan, Bill M^cAinsh (again). Photo: Neil Ross



Neil supervising the workers. Photo: Nick Tyllis





Pouring complete. Photo: Nick Tyllis



Bill cooking dinner. Photo: Pieter Conradie



Breakfast cook-up. Photo: Pieter Conradie



Breakfast - left to right: Krystjan, Pieter Conradie, Nick Tyllis, Bill M^cAinsh. Photo: Neil Ross



Erecting the goal post. Photo: Nick Tyllis



Mission accomplished with presentation and hand-over to Christine Munro. Photo: Neil Ross



Testing the work. Photo: Neil Ross



Photo: pieter Conradie



The bogging of the truck. Photo: Nick Tyllis



The un-bogging. Photo: Nick Tyllis