

## King River Hut Opening

The Wangaratta 4WD Club was well represented at the opening of the rebuilt King River Hut on 18 January. Irene and Noel dropped in on their way home from a few days in the High Country, Craig and daughter Madeline arrived in the FJ Cruiser (with L plates) and left under power, and Graham, Sue and I made an early start to the Pinnacles/Zeka Spur trip.

The hut was destroyed by fire in 2008, and following three years of red tape was rebuilt by volunteers last year. Our contribution took the form of two days of hard labor (and the injection of a fair bit of common sense and

knowhow) by Craig and Noel. Their efforts were well rewarded in the form of a very sturdy finished product and some good publicity for the club.



The opening was attended by about 50 people including Bill Sykes, the heavies from Parks Vic, the President and Vice President of 4WD Vic (John Turbill and Graeme Walsh), 4WDV Events coordinator Wayne Heavy, Ken Birch President of the High Country Huts Association, and several representatives of the families that used the original hut when they grazed cattle on the High Country.

Parks Victoria and DSE provided a BBQ lunch which gave us a chance to raise a few issues with the visitors from the big smoke. All up, it was a very pleasant experience which provided good PR for our club. The repeated references to our club during the speeches (many) made those of us who had just turned up for the ride wishing we had been part of the action.

After the dust has settled we made camp for the night at what must be one of the better and most accessible sites in the area.

Bruce G

