

April 2012



SUBARU 4WD NEWS

Meetings of
THE SUBARU 4WD CLUB of WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.
are **normally** held at
7.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month at the
Rotary Hall, 55 Sandgate St., South Perth

Subaru 4WD Web Site: <http://www.subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au>
SUBARU 4WD CLUB of WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC
P.O. BOX 434, SOUTH PERTH, W.A. 6951

SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

2012 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Tony Richards	9386-7705 president@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
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	Keith Low	9459-3358
	Karen Taylor	0402418871
	Ian Johnson	9448-5419
	Travis Maskey	
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WEB MASTER:	Karl Boeing/ Rob Griffiths	9341-5087 0411249933 webmaster@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
4WD ASSOC DELEGATE:	David Peck/ Tony Richards	0402177886 9386-7705
M'SHIP CO-ORDINATOR:	Keith Low	9459-3358 membership@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
PROPERTY OFFICER:	Peter Andruszkiw/Simon Newton	

Club member of the year 2011: David Peck

LIFE MEMBERS

Fred Offer, Keith Anderson, Jonel Householder, Ray Stewart,
Ian Johnson, Peter Andruszkiw and Ron Counce.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT April 2012

Fellow Members,

My thanks to Ian Glyde of 4x4 Equipe for taking the time to present to Club members at the March meeting. There was a high level of interest in the items displayed and quite a few Club members took the opportunity to buy on the night. Ian also indicated that an opportunity may be provided to buy the items displayed online at a special discount for Club members. Stay tuned.

There will be no speaker at the April meeting, although we may have a new XV at the meeting, courtesy of Subaru Osborne Park. I will let members know by email when/if this is confirmed. We will also, of course, have the usual tea and coffee break after the meeting, which provides a great opportunity for Club members (and any visitors) to catch up with each other and share information and stories.

A number of members turned up at the 4WD Association Trade night on Tuesday 20 March and took advantage of the 20% discount on offer. Congratulations to Phil Read, who won a fishing rod as a door prize. The main door prize, a car awning, was won by Craig Perry, President of the WA 4WD Association.

Simon and I have pre-tripped Collie Capers (June LWE) and I am pleased to report that, so long as the tracks pre-tripped remain open (not closed because of wet weather or by DEC), those in the Club looking for a little bit more of a challenge should find the tracks to their liking. Please see the promo in the mag on page 16

Keith Low's Coolgardie Woodlines at Easter is coming up very soon. I am sure it will be a good trip. At the time of writing, it was still open but, as it already has a dozen cars, it could close at any time.

I look forward to catching up with you all at the April meeting.

Tony Richards

TRIP CO-ORDINATORS REPORT April 2012

Unfortunately the day trip to Margaret River we had planned for March had to be cancelled but we plan on having a replacement trip this month which will make it very busy.

At Easter we have the Coolgardie Woodlines trip and if you have never been out this way it is really surprising how interesting it is, and Keith plans on taking us to all the top spots.

On April 15th is the replacement trip around the Clackline refractory which sounds very interesting.

On April 28th & 29th and In lieu of ANZAC day long weekend we have the camp oven cookout and Gymkhana at Wickepin.

May is quiet again for day trips as we have an overnight camp at the end of April and another at the beginning of June. The date for the Kaarakin busy bee can not be changed so we thought of spending the Saturday night at Kaarakin with some people from the Compact 4WD Club and Mitsubishi 4WD Club. On Sunday we will then have our daytrip around the Wandoo woodlands east of Mundaring. Join us for the busy bee and or the day trip.

I like to think we try to cater for all types of trips and interests and that is part of the attraction of the club. We try to plan the majority of the trips a 4WD type trips but some other members prefer a more relaxed trip taking in the sights and we want to accommodate them as well.

We are always looking for trip leaders so if people want to do some more off road trips just put them up on the website.

Cheers David

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS MAGAZINE ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE HELD BY

THE SUBARU 4WD CLUB OF W.A. INC.

Please send articles and photos to the Editor by the Thursday before the end of the month (earlier is better).

Email: editor@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au in Word format or plain text

Subaru 4WD Club WA Website:

Editor's Notes:

The email notification about the March edition of the magazine included advice as to how members could access a PDF version of the magazine. It seems almost no-one noticed this information. I told those present at the March General Meeting about this. A PDF file of the current magazine will now routinely be uploaded to the Members Library section of the website.

If you wish to access the PDF version to easily print the calendar etc., you must first log on to the Club website as a member then go to the Library section.

You will still be able to view the magazine including past issues on the Club website as before. If you have chosen to receive a hard copy, this will also continue.

The March edition of the magazine had the wrong date for "Fiddles and Nibbles". My apologies for this. The correct date is Sunday May 20

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TRIP PROMOTIONS/INFORMATION



Burra Rock

COOLGARDIE
WOODLINES

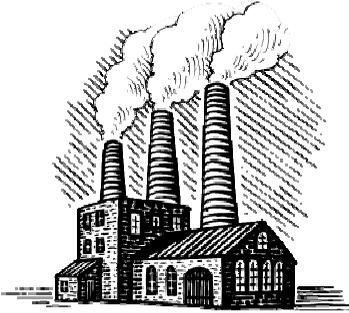
April 6-9

Travel through the heart of the beautiful Great Western Woodlands on picturesque and historical woodline tracks.

The Great Western Woodlands in the WA Goldfields is the largest area of arid woodland in the world and contains some magnificent eucalypt woodlands including beautiful gimlet, Goldfields blackbutt and a myriad of other species.

We will see the wonderful regenerative capacity of the woodlands, some amazing history associated with the woodline era, climb a few big rocks and even enjoy the opportunity of a refreshing dip in one or more of the purpose-built dams created to keep the water up to the trains.

Our route will take us to Coolgardie, then south via places like Burra Rock, Cave Hill and Sunday Soak and some lovely lake country .Contact Keith Low on 9459 3358 (a/h), 0407 477 446 , or k_low@iprimus.com.au.



CLACKLINE DAY TRIP

Sunday April 15

Join us as we head out to Clackline, the little known Refractory, and the tracks that lay within.

The location is about 15km Southwest of Northam. Tracks thread their way through the bush land behind the Refractory.

The tracks themselves aren't too bad, but there are some boggy sand patches, washouts and the trees and bushes aren't paint friendly. Those with low clearance might find the going a bit rough as well. The bush is really thick in places and there are lots of tracks running everywhere. We will need to follow convoy procedures closely, so we don't lose someone.

What to Bring

Full tank of fuel
Morning tea
Lunch
Drinks

Meet at: Lakes Roadhouse (Cnr Gt E. Hwy and Grt Southern Highway)

Time: 10 am for 10.30 start

Any questions? Contact Travis on 0433 424 659



CAMP OVEN COOKOUT AND GYMKHANA

April 28-29

Flock to Wickepin for this event.

Actually, it is a bit East of Wickepin but the principle is we head out to the wheatbelt for several days of fun and good company.

Thanks to family connections, we will be camping on a farm. Apart from lots of space, there are assorted livestock (sheep, cattle etc), a kaolin mine site, old ruins etc.

The big cook up takes place on the Saturday.

Sunday provides the opportunity to participate in a gymkhana based on the Red Bull Air Race but closer to the ground (even for those with lift kits). This should be fun for both participants and those who choose to watch. Gymkhana participation is restricted to paid up Club Members. We should be finished by 12.00 and head back about 14.00.

Meeting place:

In front of Kelmscott Getaway Outdoors, 2938 Albany Hwy.

Meeting time: 08.30 for 9.30 (expect to get to farm by 12.30)

Trip Leader: Travis Maskey
043 3424659



FOR ALL YOUR FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ACCESSORIES GO TO

The ARB logo consists of the letters 'ARB' in a bold, black, sans-serif font, enclosed within a red rounded rectangular border. The logo is positioned at the top left of the main graphic area.

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They carry a wide range of accessories to interest most four wheel drivers and campers.

These products include Roof Racks (Rhino and Thule) 12 Volt fridge/freezers, compressors, tyre gauges, tents, recovery gear including Max Trax, driving lights, dash mats, seat covers, Hi-lift jacks, exhaust jacks and many more great products and gifts.



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TRIP PROMOTIONS/INFORMATION



Carnaby's Black Cockatoo

**KAARAKIN WORKING BEE
AND/OR WANDOO WAN-
DERINGS
MAY 12,13**

Come up to Kaarakin and help out with some Planting and Traffic Control on 12/5

The 4WD Association has volunteered to help the people of the Black Cockatoo Preservation Society with their regular busy bees at Kaarakin and our Club has selected this date.

More information about what the Black Cockatoo Society does can be found on their website

<http://www.blackcockatoorecovery.com/>

Meet at Kaarakin

322 Mills Rd. East Martin. The work is planned for Saturday morning from 8 till 12. Why not camp at Kaarakin on Saturday then join the:

WANDOO WANDERINGS.

Come join us for a trip on easy forestry tracks through undulating Wandoo woodlands.

A day trip along a series of forestry tracks stopping at Mt Dale for an optional climb. Then circling the edge of the water catchment area through the Wandoo National Park (probably doing some of the 4WD days out of Perth Wandoo North trip in reverse). Also stopping at Mt Observation and ending up at "The Lakes".

Meeting Details

Where: Kaarakin, 322 Mills Road East

When: Sunday 13th May at 9:00

Brig: Radio, Full tank of fuel, food & drink.

Contact: David Peck on 0402 177 886

The all new XV has arrived and is available to test drive at **SUBARU WANGARA**

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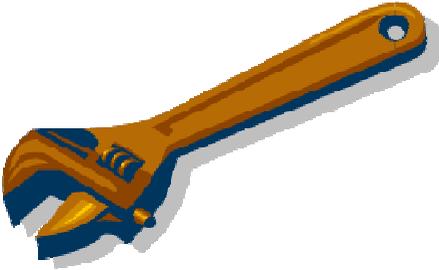
info@subaruwangara.com.au

*Membership must be mentioned at time of booking



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FIDDLES AND NIBBLES

SUNDAY MAY 20

(PLEASE NOTE : AN INCORRECT DATE WAS PROVIDED IN THE MARCH MAG. THE CORRECT DATE IS 20/5)

Are there any jobs that you would like to do on your car and maybe need a bit of guidance to achieve them? Well this is the idea of the day. It allows you to get in there and tackle projects that you otherwise may not do.

.Start 9.30 onwards, BBQ available if you are staying thru lunch. BYO everything.

Extra details are on the Members section of the website.

Call Jim: 0419040969 if you have any questions or need further details

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CLUB CALENDAR

April 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			4	5			Tue 3rd -Committee Meeting
1	2		4	5			Fri 6th-Mon 9th: Coolgardie Woodlines (Trip closed)
			11	12	13	14	Tue 10th – General Meeting
	16	17	18	19	20	21	Sun 15th: Clackline Day Trip. Page 8
22		24	25	26	27		Mon 23rd: Magazine articles deadline
	30						Sat 28th-Sun 29th: Camp Oven Cookout/Gymkhana Wickepin. Page 9

May 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			2	3	4	5	Tues 1st Committee Meeting
			2	3	4	5	Tue 8th General Meeting
6	7		9	10	11		Sat-12th –Sun 13th Karaakin working bee and Wandoo wander Page 11
	14	15	16	17	18	19	Sun 20th:- Fiddles and Nibbles Page 13
	21	22	23	24	25	26	Mon 28th: magazine articles deadline
27		29	30	31			

June 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
					1		Sat 2-Mon 4: Cool Collie Capers. Pages 16-17
			6	7	8	9	Tue 5th: Committee Meeting
10	11		13	14	15		Tue 12th: General Meeting
17	18	19	20		22	23	Sat 16th: Casserole Night
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Tue-21st: magazine articles deadline <u>(Please note early deadline)</u>

SUBARU 4WD CLUB of W.A. INC

July 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2		4	5	6	7
8	9		11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25		27	28
29	30	31				

Sun 1st to Sun 28th: Central Circle (Trip closed)

Tue 3rd: Committee Meeting

Tue 10th: General Meeting

Sat 21-Sun 22: 2 Day trip TBC

Tue-26th: magazine articles deadline

August 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1		3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	20	21	22	23	24	25
26		28	29	30	31	

Tue 2nd: Committee Meeting

Tue 10th: General Meeting

Sat 11-Sun 12: Westerways Wildflower

Sat 18: Restaurant Meal

Mon 27th: magazine articles deadline

SCHOOL AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

School Holidays: Apr 6-22, Jul 7-23, Sept 29-Oct 14, Dec 19-

Public holidays: Apr 6-9 (Easter), April 25, June 4, Oct 1

Potential members are most welcome to come along on any Club activities before joining. Please phone the Trip Leader for further information.

Register with the trip leader if you are wanting to join a trip or social. Also contact the trip leader if you have to cancel, as we don't want to wait for someone who does not turn up!

Some trips are ideas only and may be subject to change. Some of the later trips need trip leaders – volunteers please.

COOL COLLIE CAPERS –
JUNE LWE – SAT 2 TO MON 4
JUNE



Join us on a trip down south to Wellington National Park. We will be staying at one of the DEC camp grounds in the National Park (hopefully Honeymoon Pool) and exploring the local area and tracks.

The plan is to do a combination of two “4WD Days out of Perth” trips – “Down Around the Coalfields” and “Collie Climbs”. Both of these trips have been pre-tripped. **They both have challenging/difficult climbs.** As a result:

unfortunately, **only experienced drivers will be eligible to undertake the trips** – however, other members are more than welcome to attend the weekend and undertake other activities;

because of its poor approach angle, Outbacks will not be able to participate;

I doubt that diesel Foresters (with no low range) will be able to make the climbs;

unlifted Foresters should be OK; and
autos are also OK.

However, if the tracks are wet or rain is forecast, other tracks will need to be found, as the climbs will become impossible and the descents too dangerous. Of course, DEC may also have closed the tracks by the time we arrive.

Full details (and photos) of the Honeymoon Pool camping ground can be found at the DEC website.

The winding road into the camp grounds is suitable for small vehicles only – no caravans are allowed. The prices for this campground are – Adults \$7/night; Concession card holders \$5/night; Children (under 16) \$2/night. In addition, a National Park entry fee of \$11.00 per vehicle is payable. _____/Continued Page 17

Contact: Tony Richards on 9386 7705 or email to: president@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au

MEETING DETAILS:

We will meet at the corner of Albany and South Western Highways, in the car park behind the Inne - **9.15 for a 9.30 departure.**

TRIP & SOCIAL REPORTS

January 2012 Bunbury Beach Run

Forecast was for a fine day with a little relief from the baking hot weather that we'd been having. While we convened outside the Baldives Hungry Jacks, Peter A gave handouts of maps and a photo of a site. "Had we been recruited on a secret mission?", I thought. Not quite Hollywood but also not disappointed, we would be making a stop to see the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant at Binningup.

As an engineer myself, this was brilliant, a field trip!! I had my imaginary hard hat at the ready.

The convoy down was easy as pie apart from radio troubles that sent us momentarily on to a different channel.

We arrived at the SSDP along an access road that skirted its north side. We took out the map to identify the various parts of the plant while also appreciating its size. It struck me how quiet and benign it was compared to the oil and gas 'clink and clank' plants that I was used to.

The access road gave way to sand and we got as far as we could until it was engines off and tyres down. Then onwards to the beach for morning tea. The explorers in us climbed the dunes to look back inland for a view of the SSDP to try catch a glimpse of where inlet/outlet pipeline might be. But not much could be spotted.

Unbelievable...while most of us had a tea time snack or cup in hand, Daniel had his fishing rod in hand and the line already wet. Would you believe, on the first cast a Long Tom!!!

Tea time over, it was time for some fun in the sand as we headed south. First in single file, then when we were all warmed up we

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spread out across the beach like a Subaru commercial on TV.

Lunch was at the Bunbury Groyne. Not just bonnets up but also awnings. Adrian had his 'master of ceremonies' job. Then there was Phil T's cheap and cheerful one from a competitor of Adrian's. It was clear Adrian's reigned supreme on this day, although it did require a loan of a guy rope for success.



The midday sun didn't disappoint to ensure a good dip in the ocean for some. Then it was

northward bound for more play. A couple of recoveries needing a push from behind or a minor dig, to keep our practice up. But mostly an enjoyable cruise along our amazing coastline. We got as far as Myalup where 4WD beach access was prohibited for a section of swimming beach. .

We needed to turn south again and find the Taranto Rd entry point. This was going to be our exit back to the highway and then in again

at Myalup. From Myalup we could go north and we did, with Preston Beach our destination. At Preston we decided that time was not on our side to complete the trek to Whites Hills, if we wanted to be back home before dark. The trip formally finished at Preston. 3 cars however with Adrian leading elected to continue to achieve the last leg and from all reports they did it quite comfortably.



Souk.

Hamelin Ramelin: Day One: Saturday 3rd March

Written by: Karen Taylor & Gracie Bear

Once all our Saturday convoy vehicles had assembled at the at the Baldivis Shell Stn, we had a quick meet n greet, topped up fuel then were soon heading south down the Kwinana Fwy, performing a radio check on the way, leaving the bulk of the 'concrete jungle' behind us. John Cahill, our Trip Leader, left the day before in an effort to beat the traffic and to try to secure our camping spots at the DEC Boyanup Campsite which had only seven sites avail..This was most generous of him, as he even offered to take all our tents down with him to setup camp for us. With the growing numbers of Perth vacationers , a.k.a . 'Tourerists' as some South West locals might possibly call us hehe, heading south this long w/e, it was first in first served with the limited campsites. Even with John's generous effort we still missed out on the Boyanup site as it was full when John got there Friday, but luckily he and Jenelle managed to secure an alternate site a bit further north, called 'Point Road Campsite'. This was simply lovely. If anything, I reckon it might have been quieter than Boyanup due to a little sign further back near the entrance stating '4WD access'. Even as we arrived at Boyanup Road, we had four street cars on our tail. They quickly changed their mind when they saw the ever so slightly rocky, undulating track that our Foresters easily negotiated. ;)

Earlier, on the way down from Perth we had a quick Morning Tea stop at the rather congested Busselton, aptly named as it sure was a 'bustling town' on this day, complete with rows of glistening Street Machines in a Car Show on the oval. By the time we left 'Busso', yet more Tourerists were pouring in.

John C met us at the entrance near the Caves Road intersection and escorted us in, through the gorgeous, breathtaking, majestic Karri giants looming above us. The sun was flickering between the

branches, lighting up columns of dust particles around us. There was a welcoming birdsong of various species in the background as we eventually reached the Point Road Campsite. This was nestled among a grove of large Peppermint trees which lay between the Karri forest and the coastal area and was absolutely lovely!

Sadly, you can't camp among the beautiful Karri's due to the risk of dead branches falling on top of you! One of the club members mentioned that the ancient translation for Karri tree in Aboriginal meant 'Quick Death' or something similar. One kid years ago apparently died instantly when a branch landed on his tent, so now sites are only permitted on the fringes.

So thanks again to John and Jenelle for helping secure our sites and setting up our tents for us! :) Soon, we were all busy unpacking our gear into our tents and performing the finishing touches. During this effort, my poor air mattress decided to give me grief by refusing to inflate. It was near new, only used once, so was rather frustrating. The image of me sleeping on the deck with only a blanket brought a frown to my forehead and images of visiting my chiro back at Perth hehe. Travis offered his newer pump which still didn't work, so that eliminated my flimsy pump as a weak link. After a last ditch thorough investigation it turned out I had a few very fine grains of sand in the lip of my release valve. I cleaned it out and voila ! she inflated for me, thank heavens too! (Breathes sigh of relief)

Once our camp was set up, John led us out to investigate the surrounding bush and coast. First stop was the 'Boranup Lookout' by around 3pm. This had a lovely view below of the Hamelin Bay to the Nth West and Karri forest behind and south of us. (Sounds of camera shutter sounds in the background)

Next stop was 'Foul Bay' (I believe named after the smelly seaweed). This was a nice lil sandy bay, so we got out and explored the beach on foot. Most of us finished with a dip in the refreshing ocean. After a long tiring drive and the semi warm dusty conditions, it was a welcome reprieve. The bay didn't smell bad at all I thought. The next location to visit, was 'Cozy Corner', at another bay to the South. This had a surprisingly cozy lil south facing semi sheltered alcove and calmer seas. A very inviting sandy beach below had gorgeous deep aqua blue ocean bordering it. We had a lil explore by foot on the small cliff with our cameras, then hopped back in our Subes with an aim to drop by Hamelin Bay itself to wash the sea salt and sand off at their public beach shower. However, the place was wall to wall chockers with caravans, tents, kids on bikes and people wandering around. The shower had a few people waiting so we decided to give it a miss and headed back to camp to freshen up before dinner.

Back at camp, refreshed and cleaned up for dinner, the highlight to the evening was watching our poor guests Andrew and Marguerite fess about trying to get their lil stove fixed and set up. We did offer our stoves but they were determined. :) An hour later they finally got it fired up and cooked their dinner. Their small lightweight camp fuel canister looked more like a Fire Extinguisher than a gas bottle hehe. John and Jenelle had their 'Yellow Light District' campsite glowing away hehe. Using a yellow light instead of white apparently reduces the number of insects drawn to the light. Heading to bed that night, we noticed a Possum who was not shy at all. His 'demonic' glowing red and yellow eyes shone in the light from our torches.

Day 2 of the Hamelin Ramelin

An early start for Travis, John and Karen, who tried their luck at catching a gourmet dinner for the evening. Travis was heard saying later that day " John hooked a pilchard.... just before he cast off...!" The two were puzzled as to whether it was the moon or.. the sun.. or the bait, but whatever it was... it kept the fish away.

Fish: 1, Humans: 0.

An early start for Katie, not having slept a wink the previous two nights. And subsequently an early start for Andrew, awoken as Katie tripped on the guy rope with a thud and a consequential bruise to her knee, a new type of alarm clock for Andrew.

Guy rope: 1, Humans: 0.

John wasn't having much luck. upon returning to camp, he was promptly stung by a bee. Thanks to Joy's quick thinking and scientific remedy of applying hot water to the sore spot to neutralise the venom, John's might have been swollen hand showed no evidence other than a small red mark.

Draw.

After a leisurely breakfast under the Karri trees, we headed off to explore the beautiful Margaret River coastline. First up, The Point, followed by South Beach where we discovered a protected pool for swimming later on that afternoon. We then headed to The Lake Cave, where we went on a tour, seeing the only tabletop formation in a tourist cave in the world, according to our unen-



Lake Cave

thusiastic guide. A unique sight that plays tricks with your eyes. It was a beautiful cave, and our guide treated us to a light show where we saw the dragon and the lost city and other formations of stalactites which resembled various items. John, always on club duty, and eager to drum up business, spotted a fellow Subaru at the carpark and followed up promptly with a membership form and invitation to join the club.

Then to the much raved about Berry Farm for lunch, where Karen enjoyed photographing the blue wrens, which were attracted to the whipped cream, soon placed strategically by her camera. The infamous boysenberry pie was to be sampled along with the assorted berry ports and liqueurs to acknowledge Port O'Clock. Most of us left with some decadent purchases to be enjoyed later. A lunch spot to be remembered.

At Travis' request for a "heart starter" we continued onto the Yahava coffee place, to sample their variety of lovely coffees in a quaint setting, and after that to some wineries chosen by John including Red Gate and Voyager.

We then ventured onto Conto Springs, and took a lovely stroll down to the beach, however the elusive Springs evaded us and remained undiscovered.

Conto Springs: 1, Humans: 0.

Karen meanwhile had been exploring in preference to wine tasting and had managed to get a stake through her tyre along Georgette Road. Karen rejoined the group at South Beach for a swim and speedily changed her tyre all in a days work.

Sharpened roots: 1, Humans: 0.

We retreated to the calm pool we had discovered earlier that day to enjoy the cool water, not game to venture into the waves as the swell was quite impressive. Joy almost marooned herself as a wave came right up the beach between her perch on a rock and us. Katie en-

SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

joyed some snorkelling and the rest of us enjoyed paddling.

Waves: 1, Humans: 0.

It was high time for Beer O'Clock and we raced back to the campsite to enjoy it. John and Jeannine celebrated the occasion by bringing out a magnum of Tyrells Heathcote 2006 Shiraz, which was appreciated by the group. Poor John and Jeannine were rewarded for their generosity by a swarm of bees which proceeded to prevent them from cooking, and post moving their whole operation to a different location then had their half cooked meal attacked by a magpie.

Wildlife: 1, Humans: 0.

We reminisced about "Wolf Creek" and such car tampering antics and then swiftly tried to put it out of our minds as dusk turned into night and more lighthearted topics filled the conversation as the stars emerged.

Despite the many setbacks, it was a great day and everyone came out a winner.
Andrew and Marguerite

BUSH FIRE SAFETY

At the April 4WD Association meeting the Wanneroo Wanderers related an event that happened to them on the Labour Day long weekend. They were camped outside of Nannup and were sitting around having a few after dinner



drinks but they had no campfire due to the weather. They noticed a glow a short way down the track and went to investigate and found a fire. They assessed it and decided it was too big for them to try and extinguish with what they had available. Luckily it was a still night so

it did not spread quickly and they were in phone coverage to call for the fire brigade. They decided to evacuate the camp and at the meeting raised the question about planning your campsite to facilitate this, which is something we should consider.

They subsequently found out an arsonist had set an incendiary device to light the fire and had lit several others in the area.

The following information is from various websites and is food for thought when we are camping.

Leaving early is the safest way to survive a bushfire.

You will need to know the safest route to take and have an alternative route in case a road is blocked or congested.

Be prepared to change your plans on hot, dry and windy days.

Carry hard copy maps. GPS or mobile phones might be affected by smoke.

Carry a portable AM/FM radio with you and listen for information and remain alert for any signs of smoke or fire

Radiant heat is more likely to kill you, and will take your life before flames do." The best protection from radiant heat is distance.

The spread and heat of bushfires is determined by wind, slope and available fuel such as leaves, twigs and vegetation.

Fire will generally travel faster up a slope than it will down a slope.

Fire will travel with the wind, rather than against it.

Fire will travel faster in fine fuels and where vegetation is thicker and drier, than it will in vegetation that is damp, sparse or composed of larger material.

If a fire starts and it's too late to leave, avoid seeking refuge near trees, scrub, long grass and leaves instead try to find shelter in a solid structure if possible to help block radiant heat.

Regarding campfires

Children get burnt on the morning after a fire, and as a result of contact with hot ashes and embers rather than with active fire.

CFA guidelines state that:

- an area three metres around the barbecue or fire should be cleared of flammable material
- the flame should be fully contained in a fireplace or trench at least 30cms deep in the case of an open fire
- an adult must be in attendance at all times
- the wind must be light
- the fire must not be within 7.5 metres of any log or stump
- water must be on hand in case of emergency.
- If the fire is an open one, it should be no larger than one square metre.

If you are caught in a fire whilst in a car

- Stay in the car to protect yourself from radiant heat. It offers better protection than being outside. Do not get out and run.
- Find a clear area to park away from trees, shrubs or long grass. If possible, park behind a solid structure to block radiant heat.
- Keep windows up and vents closed.
- Put hazard and headlights on and keep the engine running.
- Set the air-conditioning to recirculate to prevent smoke entering the car.

SUBARU 4WD CLUB of W.A. INC

- Cover exposed skin with clothing made from natural fibres such as cotton or wool.
- Get down as low as possible below window level and cover up with a dry woollen blanket until the fire front passes.

David Peck

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1. Based on a highway cycle of 5.6 litres per 100km and fuel capacity of 65 litres and tested in accordance ADR81/01. 2. Ground clearance at kerb height. 3. Price is the manufacturer's recommended all-inclusive retail price only and may vary between Retailers. Price is based on a private purchaser with a good driving record and may be higher for other purchasers. Vehicles may only be purchased from Authorised Subaru Retailers. Offer excludes fleet and government buyers. 4. Rating by Australasian New Car Assessment Program. SUB908