

September 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
SECRETARY:	Phillip Read	0438926274 secretary@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
TREASURER:	Adrian Longwood	9279-8993 treasurer@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
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TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR:	David Peck	0402177886
EDITOR:	Tom Minto	9382-4678 editor@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
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	Keith Low	9459-3358
	Ian Johnson	9448-5419
	Travis Maskey	
MERCHANDISE:	Tony Richards	9386-7705
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 September 2012

Fellow Members,

At the time of issue of this mag, Jeanette and I will be enjoying an overseas holiday and I will not be back until the end of the month. So, my apologies for the September meeting. Dave Peck has kindly agreed to act as Chair of this meeting. Please give him your support.

The end of our Club year is 30 September. As I did in my last President's Report, can I ask you again please to use the Club website to lodge your Club Member of the Year and other Award Nominations. You can either click on the "Nominate for Award" button on the right-hand side of the individual trip page, or you can go to the Membership page, hover over the member you wish to nominate and click on the yellow star that shows up. Both ways you get to the same Awards page.

The end of the Club year also means that your membership needs to be renewed. As the Club is in a good financial position, the Committee has agreed to hold the fees at \$50.00 for a single/family membership and \$40.00 for a country membership. A Membership Renewal Form can be found on the Links page of the website. You do not need to be logged in to access it. I confirm fees can be paid by direct credit: <http://www.subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au/uploaded/pdf/SUB849.pdf>

I would now like to get in another plug for the Annual Dinner – the Club's "gala" event of the year. It's on Saturday 3 November at Yanchee again. Make your booking now!

Also not to be missed is the Club Quiz Night on Saturday 20 October. It's our first quiz night for a while, but I'm sure this one will be our best yet. Subaru Osborne Park has kindly agreed to sponsor the event, so there will be plenty of opportunities to win a great prize. Ray Dobson is the Organiser – thanks Ray. Please get your name down.

Finally, I thought I would look online for any official announcements yet about the introduction of an auto gearbox for the Subaru diesel motor. For those who missed it, on 15 May, a report was published that the Subaru diesel-powered Outback models will at last gain the 'Lineartronic' Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) in early 2013. However, indications are that this gearbox will not be available in Forester diesels before 2014, not even in the new generation Forester due out next February.

Tony Richards

TRIP CO-ORDINATORS REPORT September 2012

The Westways wildflower trip in August had a great turnout but we were just a bit early for most of the wildflowers. Still it was a good excuse to get out of the city and try somewhere new and I think most people agreed we would like to go back again sometime.

We have quite a few activities planned for the next couple of months to make the most of the weather and wildflowers.

If you are interested in the Moore River Kayak Crusade on September 9 but don't have a kayak or canoe please come along as I will have a kayak, a surf ski and a Canadian canoe which you are welcome to try.

The Parkerville Hike should be great at this time of year and as usual Phil has put a lot of detail into the promo on the website. He promises it will be a relaxed family style walk.

There was talk of a trip to the Helena and Aurora Ranges for the long weekend at the end of September. We decided this was just a bit too far for a 3 day trip and instead we are going to Ninghan Station. See the promo in the mag for more details.

If you have enjoyed the Mundaring Powerlines track, September 23rd is the time to help out with the cleanup run by the 4WD Association and DEC. There will be a number of other 4WD clubs attending and DEC will be putting on a BBQ afterwards to thank those who help out.

Cheers David

CHALLENGE



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TRIP PROMOTIONS/INFORMATION

MOORE RIVER KAYAK CRUSADE?/CRUSADE ?
SEPTEMBER 9

Sunny Weather, peaceful river, and family fun are a few easy ways to describe Moore River. So, all there is to do is make the most of it! What better way than to KAYAK along the gentle curves getting the best view in town?

The Plan is to paddle along the Moore River from the river mouth in the centre of town, and then go along as far as members feel comfortable to, have a bite to eat for lunch, then turn around and check out the view from the other direction. upon returning to the river mouth we can make use of the public barbecues for dinner and relax by the river soaking up the afternoon sun.

Meeting Point:

10th Light Horse Memorial - Wanneroo Rd, approx ~3kms north of the joondalup drive intersection

Meeting Time: 9am for a prompt departure

Other Important info:

Please bring a pre-prepared lunch, or purchase something from the local store that you can take with you on the paddle for the lunch stop up the river,

make sure you have adequate drinking water for the journey - approx 3 litres onboard and another 2 litres for the arrival back at the launch area.

Safety gear such as lifejackets (PFD's) are strongly recommended

Hat, sunglasses, shoes/reef shoes, sun-gloves, appropriate clothing and sunscreen should be worn for your comfort and protection.

TRIP LEADER: Adrian 9279 8993



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

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PO Box 1701, Wangara WA 6947

Ph: (08) 9309 7888 Fax: (08) 9309 2261 DL17103

info@subaruwangara.com.au

*Membership must be mentioned at time of booking



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PARKERVILLE HIKE SUN16/9)

Come for a casual walk into John Forrest National Park from Parkerville. It is about 4.5 to 5 km along a wide gravel track also used by horse riders and mountain bikers. It passes by the historic Hovea Train Station and the Avon River, including Hovea Falls. The track is suitable for kids with push bikes and prams but the ground is uneven gravel. Allow about 4 hours for return journey, stopping in John Forrest National Park for drinks and nibbles.



I enjoy walking in the rain so only extreme weather will cancel the trip.

Meet at 1.30 pm at car park opposite Parkerville Tavern on Owen Rd for a 1:45 pm start.

What To Bring.

Good enclosed walking shoes and drinking water (**compulsory**), hat, weather appropriate clothing and back pack.

Nibbles to share.

portable gas or spirit stove, or thermos if you want hot drinks, mugs. Coles and Woolies sell 100 mls of long life milk.

Other tips

Foot care. Use band aids or coat your feet with vaseline (especially between toes) to prevent blisters (you will be washing your socks afterwards anyway).

Use layers of clothing. It may be warm in the afternoon but cold at dusk.

For those who want to meet us in John Forest, go to the end of Park Road and we will be on the Eastern Side on the other side of the brook. I will have a hand held radio set to channel 16.

For more information contact **Philip Read. 0438926274**

POWERLINE TRACK CLEANUP

SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2012

Over the past twelve months the W.A. 4WD Association has been working closely with DEC to devise a track assessment program that hopefully over time allow us to have ongoing access to property that DEC manages. Currently DEC have some funds which are available to do work in the Mundaring area. It was agreed at a recent DEC meeting that they would like to have a cleanup of the Power Line Track and DEC have asked both the WA 4WD Association and Track Care for assistance.

What are DEC providing ?

Caged trailers and other hand tools

Skip bins to be located at West Talbot Road, Flynn Road and Gorrie Road (junctions with the Power Line Track)

BBQ at the end of the cleanup.

What does DEC want from us ?

Three teams of helpers that will commence at either West Talbot Road, Flynn Road or Gorrie Road and proceed down the track towards the water tanks at the Mundaring end.

The track is a reasonable distance to try and cover in one day so DEC needs 20+ vehicles to knock it off in one day.

Further information on what to bring will be confirmed once we have numbers of starters from the clubs.

What do clubs need to do?

It would be fantastic to see as many clubs as possible support this cleanup. Could all clubs please discuss this clean-up at your next meeting and add the clean-up to your calendars. If your club is able to assist the contact details for any questions or to report numbers are listed below.

Guy Lehmann (Land Manager WA 4WD Association)

M: 0409 112 435 Email: guy.lehmann@bigpond.com

NOSING AROUND NINGHAN (29/9 TO 1/10)

Ninghan Station is situated approximately 360 kilometres from Perth on the Great Northern Highway and we will be bush camping away from the crowds.

The idea is to drive around the area and stop at a few of the points of interest and hopefully see some wildflowers.

There are many granite outcrops scattered throughout the property which support many birds and animals and in spring it can be full of wildflowers including many varieties of orchids.

Mount Singleton is 671 metres high and has a rocky 4WD track to the summit which gives great views of the surrounding area.



Trip Leader: David 0402 177 886 or email tripcoordinator@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au

Departure Location: Gingers (Gull) Roadhouse, Great Northern Highway, Upper Swan.

Departure Time: 0815 for a 0830 start.

Total Distance: Approx 800 to 900 km. Probably 450 km max between fuel stops.

Rating: Moderate- station tracks though they may be scratchy with many sharp rocks washouts and sharp sticks/roots. Bring spare tire. Rough and rocky if driving to summit of mount Singleton.

Toilets available? No

Equipment needed: Full bush camping gear for long weekend, food, water, and camera.

Cost: \$7 per person per day

No Dogs



SUBA QUIZ EVENING

- Venue - College of Electrical Training 5 Avior Ave Jandakot
Time - Arrive 6.30 Quiz 7.00pm till 11.30 pm
Bring - Nibbles, Drinks and Glasses for your table
Cost - \$2 each to fund the wonderful prizes on offer
Travel - Cockburn Central Station is a 5 min walk from the College
Date - Saturday October 20

Details

When final numbers are known teams will be drawn from hat and you will be assigned to a table. The Suba Quiz will consist of a series of questions from 8 Themes punctuated by 3 Who am I type activities. There may be subtle clues given during the evening

The themes for the evening will be as follows:

- 1 Australian Places
- 2 Music – Songs and Artists
- 3 Movies
- 4 Where in the World
- 5 Sport
- 6 Literature
- 7 Clues and Riddles
- 8 General Knowledge

No smart phones are to be used and the Judges (Ray and Joanne) decision will be final, can we make decisions ? Well yes and no.

So come along and have fun, eat drink and be knowledgeable. 😊

Locality – Southern Campus



Club Annual Dinner – Saturday 3rd November, 2012 *Yanchep Inn, Yanchep National Park, Yanchep, WA*

The lovely Banquet Room at Yanchep Inn where we will enjoy our Annual Dinner

The historic Yanchep Inn within the surroundings of Yanchep National Park is a pretty, historical venue, perfect for our Annual Dinner. Combining first class cuisine and service with the serene and tranquil surroundings of the Park, located just 45 minutes from Perth. It is the second time the Club has visited here for the Annual Dinner.



The dinner will be buffet style, at a cost of \$39.50 per person. The menu is as follows:

Entrée – Leek & Potato soup.

Main: Continental Meat Platter (including various cured meats, cheeses & continental variety) plus:

Leg of Pork with crackling & apple sauce;

Baked Barramundi Fillets with lemon & herbs;

Lasagne; and

South-West Beef slowly braised with onions, button mushrooms & red wine.

Potato Selection: Jacket potatoes.

Vegetable dishes: Mixed seasonal greens and Baked Pumpkin.

Salad Dishes: Greek and Pasta.

Dessert: Apple & Blueberry Crumble.

We should be able to cater for any vegetarians

Accommodation at the Inn is available at various tariffs, depending on whether you choose to stay at up-market motel units or in the historic old Inn itself. The old hotel rooms are \$105 a night for room plus buffet breakfast included the next day.



The rooms are clean and open onto private verandahs overlooking parklands. There are some 21 rooms available in the old Inn itself, some with extra beds for family groups. Members wishing to stay should contact the Inn direct on 9561 1001.

Other accommodation options include units with spas and modern facilities.

Members should contact the Inn for details, or if camping, the Capricorn resort, nearby is an option. The Inn is clean and comfortable but basic, with bathrooms at both ends. With open fires, weather permitting, and the charm of leadlight windows, the beautiful *Banquet Room* overlooking the gardens should be a lovely place to spend some time together. Put your name on the trip list online with any special dietary requirements.



DON'T FORGET TO RENEW
YOUR CLUB MEMBERSHIP

TRIP & SOCIAL REPORTS

CENTRAL CIRCLE TRIP -cont. from Aug. edition

Editor's note: The opportunity to write trip reports was shared between participants. Everyone has done a great job of completing their sections already. Three more sections are in this edition. The page limit of this magazine means I cannot fit more in this edition. The final instalments should be in the next edition of the magazine.

FOWLER'S BAY TO GOOG'S TRACK TO COOBER PEDY 4-7/7

(Or 101 Uses For Gaffer Tape in the Deep Desert and Elsewhere)

Wednesday 04-07-12 Fowlers Bay to Goog's Lake:

Reasonably warm night (approx. 5°C). Packed up tent quickly and went for a walk on the foreshore, reading the signboards. Fowlers Bay is a very historical town named in 1802 by Flinders after his 1st Lieutenant. It was the starting point for several inland exploration journeys carried out by the likes of Eyre and Giles and was a centre for whaling in the early 1840s. A pleasant stroll up the 346.5 m jetty (restored in 2002) was highlighted by a sighting of a leaping sea lion frolicking in the blue waters. Then, with Tom & Jenni in the lead, it was back onto the Eyre Highway heading east through thick fog in places. Jenni was hoping to catch up at Ceduna with her brother and sister who were driving over from Eyre Peninsula to join us on the journey up Goog's Track.

Continued p 18

SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

CLUB CALENDAR

September 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1	Tue 4th: Committee Meeting
 30							Sun 9th: Moore River Kayak Crusade p7
2	3		5	6	7	8	Tue 11th: General Meeting
 9	10		12	13	14	15	Sun 16th: Social Hills Walk p9
 16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Sun 23rd: Powerline cleanup p10
 23	 24	25	26	27	28	 29	Mon 24th: magazine articles deadline
							Sat 29th to Mon 1st October: Nosing around Ninghan p 11

October 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			3	4	5	6	Tue 2nd Committee Meeting
							Tue 9th General Meeting
7	8		10	11	12	13	Sun 14th: Day Trip (TBA)
 14	15	16	17	18	19	 20	Sat 20th: Quiz Night p12
					 26	27	Fri 26th: magazine articles deadline
21	22	23	24	25			
28	29	30	31				

November 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
				1	2		Sat 3: Annual Dinner Yanchep p 13
							Tue 6th: Committee Meeting
4	5		7	8			Fri 9th-Sun 11th: 4 WD Show
 11	12		14	15	16	17	Tue 13th: General Meeting/ AGM
 18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Sun 18th: Lancelin
25		27	28	29	30		Mon 26th: magazine articles deadline

SUBARU 4WD CLUB of W.A. INC

December 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31					1
2	3		5	6	7	
9	10		12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Tue 4th: Committee Meeting
Sat 8th: Christmas Function
Tue 11th: General Meeting

January 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7		9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	
20	21	22	23	24	25	
		29	30	31		

Tue 8th General Meeting
Sun 13th: Beach Trip
Sat 19th: Social (TBC)
Sat 26th-Mon 28th: Camping Trip (TBA)

SCHOOL AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

School Holidays: Sept 29-Oct 14, Dec 19-

Public holidays: 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.

SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

Arriving in Ceduna at 10.45 am we passed through Quarantine and stopped to pick up fresh Ceduna oysters in the shell, a bargain at \$11.50/dozen. People went their separate ways, supermarket shopping, getting the Goog's Track permit at the Information Centre, having a foccacia lunch at the bakery and refuelling (Shell V-Power \$1.59.9/L, much cheaper than the Nullabor). We needed a sand flag for Goog's Track so John C foraged around in the hardware store and came out with a 2.5 m length of orange conduit, a long bolt and some orange fluoro bunting which he gaffer-taped to the conduit. At about 1 pm the group drove north out of Ceduna and onto the dirt, stopping to erect sand flags. John C's creation was heavily gaffer-taped to the roof rack and got some ribbing about how big it was, being by far the tallest flag in the bunch. After driving 30 km down the dirt road we reached the Yumbarra Conservation Park and the start of the red sand dunes of the famous Goog's Track. The



track was very bushy in places - 100m down the track, Tom & Jenni lost their sand flag, retrieved by the following vehicle (Tony & Jeanette, I think). John H & Val got stuck in Park at one point but sorted things out. The going was not too difficult as the dunes were certainly not as high as those in the Simpson Desert. However the ruts on the dune crests were sometimes very deep. Val & John bogged on a large dune 30 km south of



Goog's Lake but got going again. Pat & Josan then got royally stuck on the same dune crest and had to be snatched out by Keith. While this recovery was in progress, Jenni's family (brother John K from Cowell & friend Tony and Jenni's sister Jane) caught up with us on the Track. There was a big family reunion and introductions at the memorials for Goog and son "Dinger" and we all realised that there would now be 3 Johns and 2 Tonys on the cb radio!

Eventually the expanded party arrived at Goog's Lake about 4.30 pm. This was a beautiful area of red sand and green native Cyprus trees (*Callitris* sp.) overlooking a large salt lake. No-one else was there so we spread out and set up camp. Some big mallee roots had been collected 5 km back



down the track and a camp fire was soon lit. John C discovered that a join on the PVC pipe water tank on the roof rack was leaking so he wrapped it up with gaffer tape. We ate the Ceduna oysters with lemon for entrée and Tony & Jeanette cooked up sausages & macaroni cheese for mains. It was very cold but with a good fire we made it to 9 pm before bed.

Thursday 05-07-12 (My birthday) Goog's Lake to Mt Finke: Very cold night, minimum - 2°C. Frosty morning with ice on tent, car, everything. After a bacon & egg brekkie, while the tents were thawing out in the sun, John & I went down to look at the rocks on the lake bed. They were ironstone and chert cobbles from breakaway outcrops on the lake shore. Industrious previous campers had arranged some

rocks in circles and lines. Heading off at 9.30 am we drove around the lake looking for a Lookout mentioned on the map, during which trip we discovered another campsite (with campers), and eventually the said Lookout. After morning tea, we set out to the north towards Mt Finke and soon discovered that this was the *real* Goog's Track. The dunes were bigger, very soft on top with deep ruts and the approach was often badly humped by heavies, resulting in a pretty bumpy ride. The humps



were worse on the southerly approach and generally smoother on the north side of the dune. Josan got the first bog of the day then others also had to reverse back down for another go. Everyone stopped to let tyres down to ~ 18-20 psi and, with a bit of track work on the deeper ruts, soon got into the rhythm of dune hopping. Trip leaders for the day, John H & Val set a cracking pace accompanied by Val's acerbic comments over the radio warning those following behind that "This one is a cow!" and such like. I discovered that automatic turbos can walk up dunes that non-turbo manual cars would need a good run at. There were some dunes that even the turbos had to go hard for, crash, bang wallop!

Eventually we reached the tortuously windy little track into Mt Finke



and arrived to join the hordes of other campers travelling the Track. Mt Finke is a spectacular double humped quartzite monadnock towering over the landscape but the surrounding rocky countryside with sparse bushes and no campsite toilet made calls of nature a bit of a challenge until it got dark. John K (Jenni's bro) had hurled some

mallee stumps into his ute on the way in, so again we had a roaring fire. Val and John organised Savoury Mince for dinner and Josan cooked some of Jenni's sister Jane's home-grown pumpkin in the camp oven. Later, I got a round of the "Happy Birthday" song from the group and reflected that there were certainly much worse places to celebrate a birthday than under the blazing stars amongst friends next to the impressive bulk of Mt Finke along the Goog's Track.

Friday 06-07-12 Mt Finke to Coober Pedy: Minimum -0.8°C. We left camp at 8.30 am with Tripleaders Josan & Pat leading the way through a maze of tracks past Mt Finke and back onto Goog's Track. The dunes along this section were very chopped up so there was lots of rock n roll but no-one got bogged- we were hardened Goog's Track veterans by now. Then it was farewell Goog's Track as we left the Conservation Park, stopping for morning tea and pumping up tyres before going onto the Trans Access Road.

We reached a railway crossing just as a blue freight train passed through and then beat the train into Tarcoola, a deserted railway siding town with currently only one remaining resident. Here we said goodbye and thanks for the pumpkins to Jenni's relatives who were travelling back east while we were going north. Lunch was at a good park with benches & toilets in Kingoonya, another largely deserted town with no fuel or caravan park despite the signs. Then 30 km of dirt to the Stuart Highway and a straight run into Coober Pedy. Pat got a close up look at emus crossing the road and there were numerous wedge-tailed eagles soaring above. Mining activity soon became evident as we neared Coober Pedy as we passed huge underpasses for mining trucks. Then there was the bizarre Martian landscape of conical piles of white or red dirt scattered over the entire landscape on the outskirts of the town. The dirt piles were accompanied



by strange trucks with giant overhead drums. Warning signs graphically illustrated the presence of many deep holes indicating that off-road driving might be rather hazardous (and brief) in this area. People went their separate ways in town, some doing the underground experience at Riba's, others opting for above ground accommodation.

Saturday 07-07-12 Coober Pedy and the Breakaways: the morn-

ing was taken up with washing, food shopping and browsing in the multitude of opal shops in the main street. John C actually managed to buy a pair of bathers (for Dalhousie Springs) in Coober Pedy, how lucky was that! In the afternoon. The measure of the weirdness of the landscape was the remaining stage prop for a apoplectic sci fi movie



“Pitch Black” in the main street. Several cars made an excursion to

the Breakaways, about 40 km north of the town. These were certainly worth a visit with very scenic views of eroded mesas stained with red,



yellow, white and ochre colours.

One formation consisted of two rounded adjoining hills, one white and one red, called the Papas (Two Dogs), a place of Aboriginal significance. Returning to town via the Stuart highway, we stopped at Tom's Working Opal Mine and did the \$10 self-guided tour of the underground mine and the above ground machinery. It was an informative look at the process of opal mining and the history of the area.

Those big drums on the trucks were blowers that separated the dust from the opal chunks and created the conical piles. Others in the group had attended a local footy match where Pat was introduced to Aussie Rules. The end of a busy day was dinner at John's Pizza Bar and Restaurant, a very popular eatery with good food and reasonable prices.

Joy U & John C

SUNDAY JULY 8-WEDNESDAY JULY 12

Sun: Jon and I are up at 0530 to pack for an early departure from Coober Pedy. After a quick breakfast we meet up with the rest of the group. Ready to leave at 0745 we learn that Simon is unwell and has decided to stay put at the motel to recover. Cooking pots, food and hotplate are shared out among those with car space and we are off.

We stop for morning tea at Arkaringa station where we have a look around and chat to other campers and then it's back on the road and

into the hills of the Painted Desert. What a glorious sight. The brave ones make light of the steep climb to the top and numerous 'Kodak moments' ensue. We head off to Oodnadatta over a rough and often rocky road, anxious to beat a coach-load of elderly tourists, en-route to the Pink roadhouse. The thought of being in a queue of 40 odd people ordering lunch spurs us on.

Lunch eaten, cars refuelled and a quick look at the museum there and we're on the road again, stopping briefly at Perduka siding (part of the Old Ghan railway system.) Later, in the rocky terrain we are lucky to find a sandy spot with lots of wood for the fire and we make camp. Dinner is a big success as Simon has marinated some chicken in Tandoori sauce for us all and eager helpers cook it in the camp oven while others make a tasty salad. A cold night but the myriad of stars overhead is truly spectacular.

Mon: Dingoes calling wake us at 0600 and we leave camp two hours later for Dalhousie ruins. Falcons and bustards are sighted on the way and well-fed cattle roam freely on the plain. A lot of re-planting has been done since some of us were last at the ruins but the palm trees have been removed which has spoilt its appeal...in my opinion. We sight a flock of small birds...possibly finches both in the trees and on the ground. We all have our cameras at the ready. It's time to move on to Dal-



housie Springs, most of us eager to swim in the warm pool there. After lunch we meet a convoy of Subarus from Queensland on the Mt Dare road, heading for the Simpson Desert and their 17th crossing. More 'Kodak moments' and chatter and we are off again to Abringa, another Ghan railway siding. We have afternoon tea there before passing through new Crown homestead and on into the Northern Territory. What a difference in the road! It's

smooth driving to Mount Finke where we make camp at Goyda creek.

Josan and Pat's spaghetti bolognese is well received and we lounge around the fire after, sharing chocolate and Sambucca, Yum!

Tues: After a minus 6 degree night it is icy-cold! A big fire is lit to thaw us all out as we eat breakfast. We leave camp at 0900 and drive to Finke, once a part of the Ghan system and now Apatula Aboriginal Community. The sun is warm in a clear blue sky and it's hard to believe the nights are so cold. Nigel, the store-keeper in Finke, dispenses petrol and explains the ways of the locals who are indifferent to tourists and reluctant to show us their craft-work. Finally, Pauline one of the women there takes me to her friend's house where I am delighted to buy a carved wooden snake, about 45cm long, for a reasonable price.

Leaving town we discover the two-lane dirt road is due to the annual Finke car race from Alice Springs and back. The left-hand track has man-made dips in the road to make the race more exciting I suppose while the right track follows the old rail line. As the latter is heavily corrugated we often have to switch lanes. It's good fun though. We pause for repairs to John C's car which has a broken sway bar, have morning tea while the guys get the job done and then we're off to Bundoora siding. Sitting at a large wooden table under desert oaks we enjoy a lazy lunch as kestrels fly overhead. A large water tank on legs stands nearby which, with the ladder still attached just begs to be climbed and Patrick takes up the challenge. The tank is empty. A good 'Kodak' moment though.

Alice water hole is our next objective. The going is a bit rougher and we see a herd of wild donkeys on the way. The water hole is a lovely spot and would make an ideal camp-site. The wide sandy river-bed is lined with





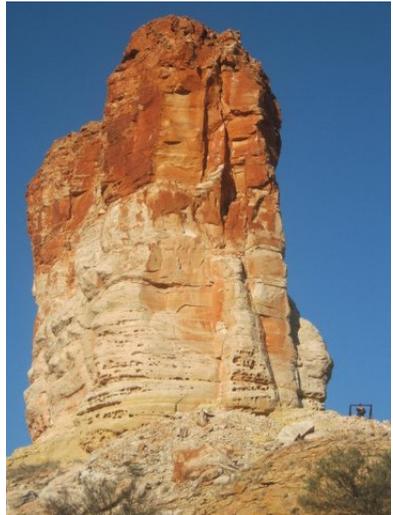
massive gums measuring about 4 metres around. It is a pity we can't stay longer but we are soon passing through Titjikila community heading for Chamber's pillar.

The countryside is quite spectacular, heavily wooded with Charlotte range in the distance. We pause to gather wood for

the camp and continue on to our destination, noting the road kill (two calves.)

'Chamber's Pillar Historical Reserve' camp- ground is reached at 1630 and we find room among the many other visitors to make camp. Later, we climb a hill to watch the sun set on the landmark pillar, an impressive sight.

Dinner is rosemary chicken cooked to perfection by Joy and John C. It is another cold and very windy night.



Wed: It's a bright sunny day and after breakfast we all go out to the pillar to climb up to the look-out. The scenery is remarkable with many interesting rock formations. We head off for Alice Springs at 0910, stopping at Rodinga siding for morning tea. There are several sightings of flocks of small green and yellow parrots / budgerigars? We pass two graders 60 Ks out from Alice and lots of wrecked cars. It is interesting to note that there are flood indicators every few kilometres with stretches of bitumen for about 50 metres. Soon the Bitumen becomes permanent and there is a 100 KPH road-sign... hooray, 'Solar City' here we come.

Turning right onto the Ross highway we relay directions on air to

the following driver only to have an 'outsider' cut in with disparaging remarks punctuated with four-lettered words. Hopefully he is not an indication of what the rest of the locals are like!

Heavitree Gap Resort lies in the shadow of two large rocks that rise above Gap road on either side. The camp-ground is crowded. There are camp-sites, cabins and motel rooms, a nice pool area plus a small supermarket and tavern on site. Several of us opt for a motel room with en-suite ...at \$80 a night its good value.

Simon and Anne have checked in earlier having driven directly from Coober Pedy via the Stuart highway. He is still unwell though.

We have a quick lunch, a very welcome shower, and head into town. After some retail therapy we linger in the mall near John Flynn church where we are entertained by a group of indigenous gospel singers. Such an uplifting experience and what an appreciative crowd! Back at camp we visit Anne and Simon and then watch the rock-wallabies as they scramble down the rocks behind the units for their evening meal, (special pellets hand-fed by eager tourists.) This apparently is their usual sunset ritual and attracts quite a crowd... especially young children.

Jon and I decide to try the tavern bistro and enjoy a delicious meal while being entertained by a singer-guitarist. Later, back in the motel we relax in front of the television and catch up with messages from home. Val & Jon Hunter.

THURSDAY JULY 12 –SUNDAY JULY 15

Thursday July 12

This was our first full day in Alice Springs. The group visited the Alice Springs Desert Park. Pat enjoyed the nocturnal exhibit where lots of the nighttime animals were on display. We enjoyed the beautiful (but repetitive) call of the chiming wedgebill. Some of our group attended an interpretive talk where the echidna was a star.

We caught up here with Simon and Anne, who had come straight here from Coober Pedy to give Simon a chance to rest up. Fiona and Teleah flew in from Perth to join us for our week in the Alice Springs/Uluru area.

A series of brief rainshowers settled the dust and cooled us off a bit after the previous day's warmth. Laundry, car-washing, battery charging and a general cleanup occupied the rest of the daytime

hours. As daylight faded, we enjoyed feeding the well-trained wallabies in the campground. A group dinner at the Red Sea Restaurant gave us a night off from cooking chores.

After lights-out, an impromptu fireworks show got our attention and set the galahs to screeching for about ten minutes.

Friday July 13th

Keith led us on a day excursion to the East McDonnell Ranges, and Teleah provided commentary over the radio as we visited Emily and Jessie gaps, Corroborree Rock and Trepkina Gorge. Pat was thrilled to get his first glimpses of aboriginal rock art at Emily Gap, and later to see the many petroglyphs at N'dhala Gorge.



Several water crossings on the way in to N'dhala Gorge gave drivers a chance to splash around a bit and knock some dust off the cars. JC was awarded best wall-of-water while Josan was a close second. Video footage from Keith will hopefully confirm this judgment.

No ice cream was available at Ross River resort, so we sulked back to Alice Springs to rest up for tomorrow.

Saturday July 14

It was a cold morning at -2C but this was OK since we had a relaxed day ahead of us, with an unplanned day in Alice Springs. The highlight of the day was the Camel



Cup, an annual spectacle where nonplussed camels made life diffi-

cult for their handlers and riders. The day is a local fundraiser, carnival-style, and was well worth the price of admission. Many locals were out in full colour and the community's spirit was easy to see and feel. We have no idea who won or lost the Camel Cup.

After the races, we visited the Cultural Precinct which includes the Albert Namatjira gallery and a fantastic museum of natural and geological history. As we were walking back to our car, a local aboriginal artist named Cecily proudly showed us the paintings she was working on. Pat bought a lovely traditional painting from her.

We decided to eat downtown at the Rock Pub, where a talented local guitarist showed his stuff. Most folks moved into hotel rooms for the final night in Alice. We heard that Tony and Jeanette were seen dancing to the band at the Heavitree Pub.

Sunday July 15

The group headed to the West McDonnell Ranges at 9 am. Simpson's Gap and Standley Chasm were our first two stops. The rough track into Hugh Gorge proved too rocky for the Subarus and so we turned around after much banging and bumping. Josan's car suffered a flat tire on the road in.

Camp was made along a sandy river bottom. Several folks climbed the adjacent hills to enjoy views from higher up. John C amused us by returning without his camera, whereupon he climbed the big hill for a second time. A flock of red-tailed cockatoos flew over at dusk while Keith, Fiona and Teleah prepared a delicious dinner of honey mustard chicken followed by a dessert of golden syrup dumpings.

Pat and Josan

Westways Wildflowers 11-12 August Day 1

After a relaxed start from Ginger's Roadhouse on the Great Northern Highway 11 Subarus set off for Westways not long after nine o'clock with Keith Wilcox in the lead. Members welcomed guest Joy and Vernon and their two children, and Daniel Belo's wife Catherine. John and Val Hunter were to meet us at Westways, since they live in Northam. Our destination was [Westways Wildflower Farm](#) north of Moora. .

As we left the outer reaches of the metropolitan area we were glad to see a few early signs of spring in the splashes of colour along the

roadside and hoped there would be plenty more by the time we reached Westways. Some had their doubts since it had been a very dry winter and, technically speaking, winter was still with us.

Passing through Bindoon at 84 km a few of us took note of a couple of new eateries for the trip home the next day. There are also some interesting historical buildings just south of Bindoon township – a heritage church and museum.

From Moora we continued north, the road now called The Midlands Road, still on tar for a further 20 km, where we turned left on the Coomberdale West Road and then right onto Prices Road. Finally we were off the bitumen! Well, we are a 4WD club! After a short distance we came to the Westways sign.

We were warmly greeted by Clive and Maureen Tonkin who took over what was mainly a sheep farm established in the 1960s. The 2,000 hectare farm still runs sheep but now the focus is also on es-



establishing tree plantations and harvesting native wild flowers which they process and export to Japan. They offer a self drive wildflower tour around the farm to places of natural beauty and provide a well notated map (with GPS coordinates). They also invited us to visit the shearing shed where they process the wild flowers, an offer we took up the next morning.

Meanwhile, we decided to first set up camp and then take on the tour which is a loop round the property. It was surprising and pleas-

ing to see just how much land on this established farm remained un-cleared. The campsite was located along the loop road, 5 km from the shearing shed and well away from the farm house. The campsite was set among a pretty patch of York gums and acacia, and even featured a very clean smelling long-drop (an unexpected bonus!) and a picnic table.

Setting off from the campsite we travelled along firm red and, later, yellow sandy tracks. Some of us recently had rather more challenges during the Club's recent Central Circle trip to Central Australia - so most were happy to take it easy for a change. The track took us past tree plantations, natural bush and wetlands. Each point of interest on the map included an invitation to look for something and we all piled out of our vehicles into the bush, sometimes only a 100m or so from the last point. Some took the opportunity to have a walk between points of interest.

If you have a good imagination you can just detect the Yallalie meteorite impact crater, discovered in 1990, and about 12km in diameter. The crater is obviously very ancient and more easily detected by special aerial imaging techniques.

We certainly didn't see heaps of wildflowers - it was still August - but we did see enough to make us all satisfied, among them some bright red *Verticordia*, *Grevillea*, *Stirlingia*, tiny purple fairy orchids.

We ended a very enjoyable day around the campsite and were pleased to have our hosts Clive and Maureen drop in for a while to see how we were getting on. A warm and welcoming couple.

Jenni I.



Replacement radio and Oziexplorer Configuration.

I have replaced the standard radio in my MY10 Forester with a double DIN unit off ebay which cost \$540 which I installed myself. It has radio, bluetooth connectivity, DVD player, MP3 player off a micro SD card, reversing camera and GPS which can do both on road navigation and run OziExplorer for offroad navigation on a seperate micro SD card.

When running OziExplorer on the unit which has an 800x480 screen I had trouble reading the menus and operating the touch screen buttons as they were all too small. One of the fixes was to include a file called hires.dat in the OziExplorer folder on the SD card but this didn't help with the small size of the writing.

So after playing with the configuration settings I found the right combination and here is what I did.

- Start OziExplorer on the car head unit
- Select Config
- Select General settings
- Select sys 2 tab and adjust the settings to
menu font size = 9 and the main thing is to TICK the box adjacent to menu font size
dialog font size = 14
toolbar size = 24
menu bar = 1
keyboard size = 6
- Select Ok and restart OziExplorer.

One of the other things I have done is download OziExplorer CE Screen Designer which allows you to customize the screens in OziExplorer and I have removed some information and added buttons to allow easier loading of waypoints and tracks.

David Peck

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