

October 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
	Ian Johnson	9448-5419
	Travis Maskey	
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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 October 2012

Fellow Members,

I'm just back from my trip, so apologies for the short report. I haven't yet caught up with all the Club news.

Thanks Dave for chairing the September meeting.

I hope members enjoyed the September trips (particularly Dave's LWE trip to Ninghan Station) and we were well represented at the power line cleanup.

We are now into a new Club financial year. If you have not already done so, can I ask you to please renew your membership.

Also, reminders for Club Member of the Year and other Award nominations, the Quiz Night and the Annual Dinner. For further information, please refer to my September report and the Club website.

Finally, please think hard about participating in the management of your Club, by agreeing to join the Committee at the November AGM. Because Dave and I have both served in our respective positions for 2 years, the positions of Trips Co-ordinator and President will both become vacant. There will also be vacancies for ordinary Committee members.

See you all at the October general meeting!

Tony Richards.

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:

<http://www.subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au>

TRIP CO-ORDINATORS REPORT October 2012

Well September was a busy month luckily with good weather for our trips but October is a bit quieter due to the long weekend camp at the beginning and only one day trip planned; "Metro in the country" which now has the trip promo on the website.

Don't forget your nominations for Trip of the Year, Social Trip of the Year, Trip Leader of the Year or Social Trip Leader of the Year. These will be presented at the annual dinner and as mentioned before there are several ways to nominate someone (see September presidents report). We have had a number of new trip leaders I would like to thank them for leading some really good trips.

Cheers David

CHALLENGE



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TRIP PROMOTIONS/INFORMATION

METRO IN THE COUNTRY

Sunday 14 th October



This is a fairly gentle day trip through the Perth Hills along little travelled tracks and roads from Mundaring through to Serpentine. Part of our journey will include Metro Road.

If you have a National Park pass bring it along to take a look at Serpentine Falls

It is a gentle trip on reasonable gravel roads/tracks without any scratchies or rocks to worry too much about. We will be meeting at **8:45Am for a 9:00AM departure** and expect to be back home about 3pm. Bring morning tea and lunch.

Register your interest through the web site or call John on 0439 922 338.

Meet in the BWS carpark, 262 Kalamunda Road, Maida Vale 6057.

Take the Maida Vale road exit off Roe Highway heading north or the Kalamunda road exit heading south. See you there!

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

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*Membership must be mentioned at time of booking



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SUBA QUIZ EVENING

Proudly sponsored by Subaru Osborne Park

- 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

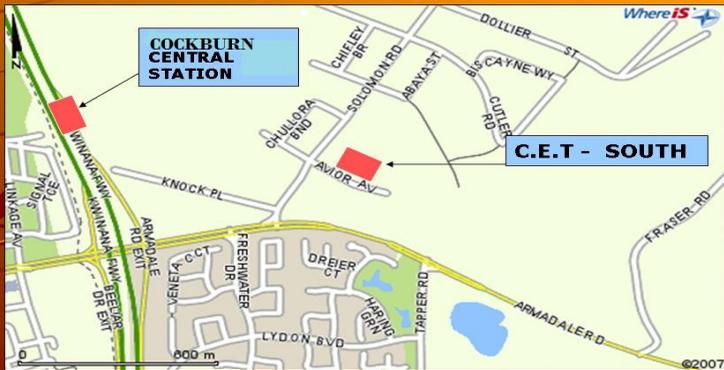
The themes for the evening will be as follows:

- 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 upmarket 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.

4 WD Show
November 9-11



This is an annual event. We need members to "man the stand" for the 3 days. Come along and enjoy the company, the people, the 4WDs and what's on offer.

There are 6 "shifts" and I am looking for 2-3 members per shift:

- Shift 1 is Friday 9.00 to 1.30;
- Shift 2 is Friday 1.30 to 6.00;
- Shift 3 is Saturday 9.00 to 1.30;
- Shift 4 is Saturday 1.30 to 6.00;
- Shift 5 is Sunday 9.00 to 1.00; and
- Shift 6 is Sunday 1.00 to 5.00.

If you can help man the stand, please contact me on 9386 7705

Thanks, Tony Richards.



**NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW
YOUR CLUB MEMBERSHIP**

LANCELIN SAND DUNES
SUN 18TH NOVEMBER

Peter A. will again be leading our annual, excellent day out at the Lancelin Dunes.



This is a trip for all members in all model 4WD Subarus (except unlifted Libertys or Imprezas). Out-backs have had a few front clearance problems in the past, so if these owners have any concerns please contact the trip leader. Also it pays to remove the plastic splash tray under the engine if it has not already been replaced with a sump guard. Prospective, new and existing members are all invited to learn the capabilities of their vehicle and their driving ability.

We split into groups depending on experience and start off easy, progressing to something more challenging. It is a fun day in a safe area with experienced members who will give you advice on all facets of driving on sand including tyre pressures, choosing the right gear ratios and how to get out after getting stuck in the sand.



Bring: Full tank of fuel, lunch, drinks, snacks, tyre pump, tyre pressure gauge, hat, sunscreen and camera.

Contact Peter on 0419854671
or put your name down on the website.



XMAS PARTY



Saturday 8 December



Venue: Robert & Wendy's place



We'll be making the usual collection on behalf of the Royal Flying Doctor Service – so bring some gold coins.



Time: From 6pm – Lights start around 8pm.



Bring: All your BBQ meats, deserts & drinks.



Rob & Wendy will provide Nibbles & Salads



TRIP & SOCIAL REPORTS

The Greenhead Fishing Challenge (GFC)

With the intention of kicking off the day with a relatively early start we amassed at the 10th light horse trail off Wanneroo road. All together seven Subarus ranging from a vintage Brumby (pronounced “Broomby” if Andy was asking) to the latest Diesel model. After some initial banter and a quick catch up convoy protocols kicked in and the journey to the Sandy Cape camping site was well underway. Five minutes later we found ourselves pulling up at the fuel station for a quick fuel up giving us the opportunity to get Marks beefy CB radio some juice.

Adrian led the convoy gladly taking the brunt of the insect army which we encountered along the way only to offer up a couple of large size pebbles in return. It was a pleasant and smooth journey and we found ourselves entering the campsite just before lunch. After quickly setting up at an idyllic cove in the sandy cape reservation we began scouting for a good fishing spot. This required a beach reconnaissance mission in the Brumby and Charlie’s For-ester.

After settling in at our chosen fishing spot, the kayaking and fishing gear was pulled out and we all set in for the challenge. Now I’d like to tell you all that we came out on top with a couple dozen of her-ring, Skippy and a mulloway to boot but the real count came in at 13 wrasse, 2 Skippy and 3 (decent sized) blowies. With that per-formance it was lucky that we all brought a back-up dinner. Not long after sunset, we all decided to pack our gear up and head back to the campsite to focus our attention on much easier tasks.

We all gathered around with our stoves and cooked up a feast, lighting was ample, with Mark’s super bright LED set-up, which we later termed Santa’s grotto, we were surely visible from space. After some hardy debate it was decided that the best catch of the day had to be Ray’s tuna, which was given a special viewing ses-sion at the end of the night. Ash and Niv . (Continued p 18)

SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

CLUB CALENDAR

October 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
	 1	 2	3	4	5	6	Tue 2nd Committee Meeting
7	8	 9	10	11	12	13	Tue 9th General Meeting
 14	15	16	17	18	19	 20	Sun 14th: Metro in the Country Day Trip P 7
21	22	23	24	25	 26	27	Sat 20th: Quiz Night p 9
28	29	30	31				Fri 26th: magazine articles deadline

November 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
				1	2		Sat 3: Annual Dinner Yanchep p 10
4	5	 6	7	8	 9	 10	Tue 6th: Committee Meeting
 11	12	 13	14	15	16	17	Fri 9th-Sun 11th: 4 WD Show p 12
 18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Tue 13th: General Meeting/ AGM
 25	 26	27	28	29	30		Sun 18th: Lancelin p 13
							Mon 26th: magazine articles deadline

December 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
30	31					1	Tue 4th: Committee Meeting
2	3	 4	5	6	7	 8	Sat 8th: Christmas Function p 14
9	10	 11	12	13	14	15	Tue 11th: General Meeting
16	17	18	19	20	 21	22	Fri 21: magazine articles deadline
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	

SUBARU 4WD CLUB of W.A. INC

January 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5	Tue 8th General Meeting
							Sun 13th: Beach Trip
6	7		9	10	11	12	Sat 19th: Social (TBC)
	14	15	16	17	18		Sat 26th-Mon 28th: Camping Trip (TBA)
20	21	22	23	24	25		
		29	30	31			

February 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
					1	2	Tue 5th: Committee Meeting
							Sun 10th: Social Breakfast Burns Beach
3	4		6	7	8	9	Tue 12th: General Meeting
	11		13	14	15	16	Sun 17th: Powerlines/Lake Leschenaultia
	18	19	20		22	23	
24	25	26	27	28			

SCHOOL AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

School Holidays: Sept 29-Oct 14, Dec 19– Feb 3, April 20-May 5

Public holidays: Oct 1, Dec 25-26, Jan 1, Jan 26, Mar 30, April 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.

Sunday.

After a fairly relaxed breakfast we gathered up camp and readied ourselves for the fishing trip to Jurien Bay. We left sandy bay in convoy and made the short trip down the road to Jurien Bay.

In true club style there was a cake shop located where a few members got their sugar fix whilst the others topped up the tanks with petrol.

After morning break we made our way to the marina where Ray already had the boat in the water ready to go. We decided amongst ourselves who would take the first trip and set sail for a reef area around 3 k off shore whilst the remainder of the group dropped a few lines from the jetty.

On the first boat outing there was plenty of fish caught between the group (Javier, Adrian Ray and myself). Skipper Ray AKA "Tuna 1" had found us a little goldmine of fish for us to hook into. There was wide array of fish caught, most with hilarious nick names. After an hour or so fishing party one returned to the marina to show their catch and make way for the next trip.

Fishing party two (Andy, Ray, Alex and Myself) made their way to the same location as party one as it proved a great area first time round. Again we caught a great variety of fish. And on the final drop of the trip I managed to hook into a Dhu-Fish. I got quite a shock as it struck the bait hard and went on a hard run leaving me holding on tight.



After an awesome fight I finally got the fish close to the surface where skipper Ray, net in hand made a positive ID of a Dhu-fish. After a few minutes we had the big Dhuey in the boat. I was pretty happy with myself as it is only the second time I've been on the sea in Australia. To be honest, I'd have to say luck was a big factor in me hooking it as we were all using roughly the same gear.

After the excitement, fishing party two returned to the marina so we could get ourselves ready for the long trip home from Jurien Bay and find out the results of the fishing competition. It was decided that I had won on the count of the Dhu-fish, Ray in second place with his awesome Tuna and Javier won the Specsavers award for smallest catch, Trip guest Mark won a small prize for 'the one that got away' when out on his kayak the previous day.

As trips go. This was a great social event where everyone had a great time whether they were fishing, oiling the jaws for tall tales around the camp, cruising on the beach or kayaking around the bay. There was plenty to do. And would like to thank Adrian for organising such a great weekend of fun for all. It was great to see some new faces and trip guests who all came together to enjoy what proved to be a really excellent weekend. I would also like to thank Ray for bringing his boat up and taking people out sea fishing.

Charlie



L to R: Tuna (without cap) , Tuna 1

CENTRAL CIRCLE TRIP (16/7 TO END)

Monday 16 July – Hugh River to Glen Helen

It got down to -2° overnight, which was pretty cold! Water standing in my wash bowl was frozen.

We got away by 10.00. Val and Jon were leading. It was a short distance back out to Namatjira Drive and then along to Ellery Creek Big Hole, with great views of the West MacDonnell Ranges on the way. We stopped at



the waterhole for morning tea. It was a short walk into the waterhole itself.

We then went into Serpentine Gorge. We decided to go for the walk into the gorge (1.3km) before lunch. Serpentine Gorge is a stop on the Larapinta Trail .

After reaching the gorge, we climbed to the lookout at the top of the gorge. We were rewarded with some really great views north up through the gorge (which seemed to go through another chasm) and south across to the other range.

We left the gorge at about 2.30. The group wasn't going to stop at the Serpentine Gorge chalets, but then Simon decided to stop and so we decided to stop as well. We had a look at the site where the chalets had been. We thought that we might be able to get through to the dam (that provided water for the chalets) on a 4WD track, but there was a locked gate.

Our next stop was the Neil Hargrave Lookout for some more great views. The lookout is also a 24 hour travellers/wayside stop. From there, we then continued on to the Ochre Pits. The ochre pits played an important role in the culture of the local aboriginal people, the Western Arrerente. We had a good look around. I got some great photos, as the afternoon sun was shining directly on the ochre pits.

From the Ochre Pits, we went on to Glen Helen Gorge. We set up camp up on a grassy area just in front of some chalets, to the sound of a live rock band. There was a wedding on that night. The music was not too bad by my accounts!

We were at Glen Helen for two nights. As the sky had been reasonably clear during the day, a cold night was expected!



Ochre Pits

Tuesday 17 July at Glen Helen

Cold overnight. It was -2° . And, yes, I was cold. I will need to put on more clothes tonight!

Slow start to the morning. At about 9.30, we headed off to Ormiston Gorge and arrived there at about 10.00. We did the gorge walk first – 500 metres. Once in the gorge, we had a good look around. We were able to get a good view from both sides of Ormiston Creek. We saw some Dingoes walking along the bank.



We then all ended up going back to the gorge for a presentation by a University of Adelaide Geology lecturer, Dave. He spoke about the geology of the surrounding area in a bit of detail, although he tried to keep it simple enough for everyone to understand.

After lunch, we decided to do the Ghost Gum Walk, along the western side of the gorge. It included a lookout/viewing platform. On the way back through the gorge, we saw more dingoes.

John and Joy walked with us. By the time we got back, the others had left and gone on to Redbank Gorge. We packed up, left Ormis-



ton Gorge and went on to the Mt. Sonder lookout. This gave some great views of Mt Sonder. From there, we went on to Redbank Gorge..

Simon and Anne had left Glen Helen early in the morning to walk from Redbank Gorge to Mt. Sonder. When we got there, their car was still there, but they had not yet returned. The other members of the group were just leaving Redbank, on their way back to camp.

There was water at the end of the gorge and, like other gorges we had visited, you couldn't get through. However, there were a couple of people who went in further, using a rubber ring. A man from Belgium and then a lady to whom he had lent the ring. She said she went through a couple of pools and, after that, it got a bit slimy and was still twisting and turning. Then, as she couldn't see any way through, she gave up and came back.



Simon and Anne eventually arrived back from Mt. Sonder at about 4. I then went down and had a look at Glen Helen Gorge itself. Quite impressive but, again, you couldn't get through. Then it was time to clean up for dinner, as we were eating in the resort dining room. Tomorrow we head off to Palm Valley.

Wednesday 18 July – Glen Helen to Palm Valley

Another cold night overnight - minus 1.3°. The first stop was the Mt. Sonder lookout, as Simon had not seen it. From there we went on to look for Roma Gorge. The information sheet which we got from Glen Helen said that it was signposted. "Slim Pickens" (the singer in the bar) had said we should be able to get through without any problems.



Glen Helen Gorge

We initially overshot the turnoff to the gorge, because it was not in fact signposted. The track went up a river bed. When we came back, Simon went up along the track for a distance and radioed that he was scraping and the track was just going to be too rough for the group. We abandoned our attempt to visit the gorge.

We pushed on to Tyler's Lookout (altitude 832 metres) then on to

Gosse Bluff. The car park is within the crater. The inner crater is 5 km in diameter. The comet impact that formed the crater released one million times more energy than the W.W.II Hiroshima bomb. There was a loop walk through to 2 lookouts. The first lookout was



Gosse Bluff

only slightly raised but the second lookout was up on the top of a little knoll and we got some great views (and photos) of the surrounding crater.

Our next planned stop was Hermannsburg. En route we paused at Albert Namatjira's house. The house only had two rooms. Albert and his wife and their 7 kids all lived there. However, when one of their children died, they abandoned the house, as required by aboriginal custom, and moved elsewhere.

We drove into Hermannsburg and stopped outside the mission. When we got there, Keith discovered that he had a flat tyre that needed changing.

We had a look at the Lutheran Church and then went into the mission and had a good look around. We also saw the Carl Strehlow Clinic and the grave of Moses, who was (I think) Strehlow's first aboriginal convert.

From Hermannsburg we took the Palm Valley turnoff. We collected firewood on the way. The track into Palm Valley was mostly along, and in and out of, the Finke River.

We made the camping ground at about 3.00. We decided to camp in the overflow area, so we could have our own fire that we could all sit around. It cost \$6.60 each for the night. The main campground had a nice clean toilet block with hot (solar) showers.

Thursday 19 July – Palm Valley to Kings Canyon

We slept better overnight because the temperature was positive. We were ready to go at 8.50 and, as Tom and Jenni were also ready to go at that time, they joined us for the drive to Palm Valley itself. Simon and Anne had gone earlier. The rest followed later. We got down to the valley car park without any trouble. The journey

only took us half an hour There were some big step ups and step downs, a little bit of sand and lots of granite river bed to cross, but no water. So, the track wasn't really that hard and the cars made it safely. Some rocks had scrape marks and oil stains suggesting past problems. Still, a little bit of fun and certainly more challenging than the drive in. to the campsite.

Palm Valley has short (1 hour) and long (2 hour) walk options. We did both. Fortunately, it was a clear day with plenty of sunshine, although it was cool in the shadows.

Both walks were very pleasant, with lots of Cycads, Cabbage Palms, Gums and other vegetation to see. The walks took in the narrow valley before climbing up to the ridge for some great views.

After everyone returned to the campsite we headed off for Kings Canyon. We paused at Grintys Lookout for a bit of a birds-eye view of the George Gill Range. This contains Kings Canyon, all of which is within Watarrka National Park.

We arrived at Kings Canyon Resort about 4.30 and checked in. It was reasonably expensive – \$19.00 per person per night. The fuel economy rate of the Turbo over the last 4 days ranged from 10.8 to 12.2 litres/100km. We were cooking tonight It had been a pretty good day, with lots of exercise early in the morning. And tomorrow we have the canyon rim walk to look forward to!

Tony Richards



Palm Valley

Friday 20 July

It was about 2 deg overnight slightly warmer than it had been. Today was a full day to see and walk Kings Canyon and it was cool and sunny ideal for walking. I had not been here for 16 years when Fiona was 7 months pregnant with Teleah, so that time we walked the track along the Canyon floor. This time I wanted to do the rim of the Canyon walk



Garden of Eden

which I had done before 35 years ago! The first part is the toughest straight up for 15-20 minutes. At the top it flattens out and it is a great walk up one side down into 'the Garden of Eden, up again and back along the other side with spectacular views everywhere. The Gar-



Kings Canyon

den of Eden is very lush with a permanent waterhole which runs over into the Canyon in the rainy season. We spent 4 hours on the walk with lots of stops for photos.

Back at the Resort we had a lazy afternoon. At around 6 we all headed off on a short walk to the sunset viewing platform. The Resort brings along a trolley loaded with drinks to further enjoy the sunset over the Canyon. Pizza was the choice of dinner tonight with some entertainment thrown in.

Saturday 21 July

With not too far to go today we departed at 9.00am and had our first

stop at Kathleen Springs. A pleasant walk to the springs and return took just under the hour. This small gorge had been fenced off in its heyday to stop cattle polluting the permanent waterhole at the end. A small cattle yard, an old water tank and a windmill were all that remained. After morning tea it was all bitumen over undulating country and past Desert Oaks to the Lassiter highway.

Our next brief stop was the lookout to Mt Connor; an impressive flat topped mesa. The view from the sand dune lookout also afforded a view of salt Lake Amadeus in the other direction. Lunch was had at Curtin Springs station and they had aviaries of native birds and some old Southern Cross pumps which were of interest to Jon. It was roughly 100km from here to Yulara so we arrived at the campground about 2.00pm. There was some confusion with which camp site we had booked. Initially they said we had a gravel coach bay but subsequently we were told a lawn section had been set aside for us which was to be our home for the next 3 nights. The afternoon was spent setting up and driving to the shopping centre to check out the well-stocked reasonably priced supermarket and shops.

That evening we all went to the Dingo bar at the nearby hotel for a BBQ at which you purchased your meat and cooked yourself. There was a variety of fare on offer including crocodile, buffalo, emu, kangaroo and beef. One option ordered by a few in the group was a combination of the lot! A very talented singer/guitarist kept us entertained with his varied request list.

Sunday 22 July

Fiona and Teleah were flying back to Perth today (school tomorrow) so with everyone doing their own thing we first headed off to Kata Juta formally known as the Olgas. Some had gone off to see the sunrise but apparently it was not that good. The Olgas are some 50km east of Yulara and are most spectacular. The girls did a short walk into Walpa Gorge but it was still quite cool in the shade and came back early.

We then drove to Uluru (Ayres Rock) to give them a whistle stop tour of the Rock before their flight. The walk up the Rock was still closed. Even a short ascent was not an option so we enjoyed a walk near the base. I then drove around the base before taking them to the airport. The rest of the afternoon I spent back at the Rock sight-seeing. Everyone did their own thing for dinner. A few of us had an

Asian take away from 'Ayers Wok', yes that really is it's name.

Monday 23 July

Another cool sunny day today I decided I wanted to do the 'Valley of the Winds' walk at Kata Juta. I had only gone up to the first lookout 16 years ago so I was determined to do the lot. The walk up to the first lookout was fairly easy but after that there are some ups and downs and scrambling over rocks. The views are fantastic, you walk through a gorge between the rocks and then it is a climb to the second lookout. A steep descent then past an area which people have piled up with hundreds of cairns, more ups and downs then along a stony creek bed.

The final climb takes you back to the first lookout before it is down to the car park. It was a great walk took and about 3-1/2 hours I am glad I went it was fabulous and well recommended.



Tony, Jeanette and John managed to do the walk up to the top of the Rock this afternoon as it was opened due the wind dying down at the summit, it took about 2 hours.

You can't go to Uluru without viewing a sunset and we did this this evening. It is well set up with a separate car park for cars and coaches. The car one has probably 100 bays all in a line facing the Rock. We parked near the far end to make a quick exit. The sunset is special and enjoyed with a glass or two of wine but if you go do not get too carried away as they sometimes breathalyse on the road back to Yulara!

Keith W

Tues Jul 24th.

Very cold morning at the Yulara campground so got away earlier than the group and headed out to Kata Juta for an early morning walk into Walpa Gorge. Strange place, freezing cold but as we walked warm pockets of air were evident, don't know why.



Returned to meet the group as arranged and came upon 3 Camels, so called the Group to let them know a good photo opportunity was available, Camels foreground, Olgas background.

Hammered along the corrugated road to Docker River and the WA Border, having a morning tea stop at Lassiters Cave. He reportedly wrote in his diary here 'What use is a reef of gold? I would give it all for a loaf of bread and a glass of water'.

He died just down the road.

A couple of cyclists were trying to help some Aboriginals get a car out of a soft river bed, a decent heavy was needed to sort that so we declined to get involved.

On to Warakurna/ Giles, campground looked ok so camped there the night, \$10 ea but we could have a fire, much missed at our stay at Yulara. Not being able to have a campfire ruins the whole experience of being out there and therefore not being able to have one, along with Karaoke should be banned by the UN as extreme forms of torture! Anyway, the shower was hot.

Pat and Josan cooked an excellent meal of Bangers and Mash and we settled down to a surprisingly quiet night apart from my irritating cough which is hard to get rid of.

Wed July 25th

Off we go at 8am to the Giles Weather Station which turned out to be just across the road so we had a look at Len Beadells grader and the remains of a Blue Streak Rocket while we waited for the place to open. Tracking Rockets and Nuclear Bombs was the reason the

place was built in the first place. The gate swung open and a jovial bearded chap named Craig guided us in. Easy to tell he had done a tour of duty in Antarctica as he wore shorts and light shirt while we were all rugged up against the cold wind.



Met a chap named David Hewitt who worked on well 23 with Ian Johnson. Small world!



We were there to see the Balloon being released. Not only did we see that but Craig and Colin gave us a full on guided tour of the place which we were not expecting.

This may not happen much longer as Craig has been given the flick, result of cutbacks and budget in the department .(The same happened to Anne while away)

Back to the settlement to fuel up and kept going until lunch at Tim Ballinger Memorial.

Not much info on Tim, he met his fate in an encounter with a tree it appears.

We had a look at a Rockhole and put in a solid afternoons driving until Josan had a Blowout in a rear tyre after running over an old leaf spring.

This took some time to change so we made a late camp in a dis-used gravel pit.

Joy and John C excelled themselves cooking Beef Stroganoff and Desert of Bananas in Pajamas.

Thurs July 26th

Frosty morning again, no flies! Road good to Tjukyiria Roadhouse where we stopped for fuel and food. Got some directions to some caves about 15 km down a track but nothing spectacular. Back on the road, a short stop at Cross Caves, easy to see as a large white cross sits on top of the hill above the caves in the side of a break-away.

Had lunch at a rather nice shady campsite not far from where the Anne Beadell Hwy. joins the main road.

On towards Laverton. Stopped to check out the scenic Giles Break-away and decided to make camp early. A drive around revealed a nice camp in Mulga woodlands near the edge of the Breakaway. Not the safest campsite, sharp sticks and crumbly breakaway edges nearby but we made it through alive and without incident. Would say that some good photos were taken here with the colors of the rocks as the sun went down.

Anne and I took our turn to cook Tuna Bake in the camp ovens.

Fri July 27th

Didn't take much effort to get the fire going, still red hot from last night.

The group left as we packed up finally. A stop at a Gnamma hole and on to Laverton.

Stopped by Police for a breathalyzer out in the sticks which was a challenge for me with this awful cough so they let it go with minimum effort.

Getting fuel in town was a challenge as they only have a machine which is hard to work out. Some elected to wait till Leonora.

The Explorers Hall of Fame was most interesting and we spent a fair



Explorers Hall of Fame-ILeonora

bit of time there.

Meanwhile John C was doing a sterling job trying to organize meals and rooms in Coolgardie for us.

On to Leonora for lunch and fuel for some. Straight run to Kalgoorlie with a P in Menzies. A quick look around Kal for those who have not been before and a whizz down to Coolgardie. John had booked us the only remaining room in a Hotel so into the bar we went to check in. The barmaid seemed out of her depth but Anne paid while I took the car to be locked in around the back.

However, the key didn't fit and the barmaid couldn't solve the problem so we canned it and checked into the Goldrush Motel .Their staff were most polite and helpful. Nice room, seniors discount. Spot on.

We were booked into the Hotel for meals which was a worry considering the earlier experience but it all went ok if somewhat slow for some to get their meals.

It was Jenni's birthday on Monday and she brought along a cake, unfortunately I was still crook so had to leave everyone to celebrate and get an early night.

Sat July 28th

9am start today, our last on the trip. Some were up early, having breakfast at the Motel and exploring the old pioneer's cemetery. A stop at Southern Cross for fuel and morning tea then on to lunch at Merriden . Had the final stop and group photos at the info bay at the Northam turn off and said good bye to Jon and Val.

Another successful trip largely due to all the planning that Dave Peck did.

Next time its Dave's turn to sit back, relax and drive while we do the work!

Simon and Anne.



Footnote: Josan, our Chief Bird Spotter, accumulated sightings of 64 different bird species during the course of the Central Circle Trip.



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