

January 2016



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

2016 COMMITTEE

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	Travis Maskey	0422 815 737
	Stephan Millett	0405 221 845
	Alex Tayler	0439 929 373
	Jim Wilcox	0419 040 969
MERCHANDISE:	Tony Richards	9386 7705
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M'SHIP CO-ORDINATOR:	Alex Tayler	0439 929 373 membership@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
PROPERTY OFFICER:	Keith Wilcox/Jim Wilcox	

Club Member of the Year 2015 - 2016: David Peck

LIFE MEMBERS

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT January 2016

Fellow members,

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. In 2016, you have lots of trips and events to look forward to. Check out the trips calendar.

I am writing this report from Ushuaia, Terra Del Fuego, at the southern most point of South America. Today we set off on our Antarctic cruise, which is a destination that I have long wanted to visit. Hopefully, the weather, particularly as we cross the Drake Passage, will be kind!

Before arriving at Ushuaia, we had 3 days at El Calafate in Southern Patagonia (approx 500kms north of Ushuaia), where you can visit Argentina's largest glaciers. They are huge with the total area of the largest glacier measuring some 50+ square kms.



Viedma Glacier is a large glacier that is part of the huge Southern Patagonian Ice Field. The glacier is a valley glacier and its moraine-rich terminus flows into the western end of Lake Viedma, which is fed primarily by its melting ice. Viedma Glacier is located in the Los Glaciares National Park, which was declared a World Heritage Site in 1981. The Southern Patagonian Ice Field is 13,000 square kilometres (5,000 sq mi).



I was also lucky enough to see some Andean Condors. Condor is the common name for two species of New World vultures – the Andean Condor and the Californian Condor. They are the largest flying land birds in the Western Hemisphere. The Andean Condor has a mass of 7.7 – 15 kg and a length of 1.1 m. And not to forget my connection to the Club, I am pleased to report that I have also made several Forrester sightings, although they do seem to be few and far between.

That's it for now. Enjoy your time out in the Australian bush!

Tony Richards

TRIP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT January 2016

This year we have a good variety of trips planned already with the long weekends that occur early in the year filling up already. It's good to see some new places being tried and if anyone knows of any other please let one of the committee know, as we are always keen to get ideas for trips or social events.

We also have a couple of overnight camps planned for normal weekends so it will be interesting to see how well received they are. One is at Logue Brook and another one is at Herron Point, so they are both fairly close to Perth.

The extended trip this year is to Lorna Glenn station which is full but there is the possibility of sharing a ride or you could put your name on the waiting list. The other alternative would be to head up there for the end of the stay and join me on the trip home along the Gunbarrel highway and Great Central Road*.

Cheers David

*Ed: or join Stephan on his Red Centre Run - see the website

Mini Golf Glitz & Glamour - 12 March

Good food, Great Company, Mini Golf with a TWIST and lots of fun to be had. Everyone has played mini golf at some stage, but who has played it at night-time under the stars with LED golf ball and the golf course lit up.

The plan is to have dinner first at the Leapfrogs café (located at the Botanic Golf) then have a game of Mini Golf afterwards. Depending on what time we finish up, head back to Leapfrogs to unwind and to reminisce on who got the lucky shot.



Dinner is at 6pm at Leapfrogs cafe and Mini Golf is at 7:30pm

Botanic Golf is located at: 25 Drovers Place, Wanneroo, 6065

If you want further details contact Alex Tayler on either 0439 929 373 or alex@pmtco.com.au. The trip will be closed off on 5 March.

TRIP PROMOTIONS/ INFORMATION

SIZZLING SUMMER BEACH RUN

Sunday 10th January 2016

VISITORS WELCOME



Our annual beach run is on again second Sunday in January. In traditional fashion it takes in the coast between Tims Thicket and Myalup. We will decide closer to the day as to whether we go North or South. This is always an excellent day to experience beach driving. Suitable for everyone. If you have just joined the Club please come along. Weather permitting you will get a chance to have a swim or a spot of beach fishing at the lunch break.

What to bring: usual picnic lunch, sun protection gear bathers (if you wish to go for a swim- we will make time for this), tyre gauge and pump (not needed if you are a visitor or first timer), camera and whatever else you think necessary.

Pets: OK on the beach, but your responsibility.

Difficulty: suitable for everyone, novice upwards.

Finish time : Depends on how much fun we are having, what the weather is like and what you feel like. I would like to be around the Dawesville area by around 3.30pm.

Join on the website: <http://www.subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au>

Or contact Trip Leader Adrian on 9279-8993.

TRIP PROMOTIONS/ INFORMATION

SOUTH COAST CRUISE

23 - 26 JANUARY 2016

Extra laid back extra long weekend, being extra family friendly. We will be staying at Ayr Sailean, a working farm between Denmark and Walpole, off the South Coast Hwy near Irwin Inlet.

There are no real plans for this trip. The only thing is for everyone to get back to camp for 5 o'clock drinks, share what they did that day and to plan what they'd like to do for the next day.

I will have brochures for everyone to have a look at, and a few things that I found on Google, like the Koala Place & Denmark Dinosaur World, but more about that when you get down there.



The other thing is I'd like to set up a communal breakfast/drinks/board game/cards area. So if you have a gazebo with a wall or two please bring it down. I'll be bringing some board games and a few decks of cards to play some games at night time. If you'd like to do the same please do. I'll make up some lights but we may need extras.

Ayr Sailean has a limited number of camp sites available. When I enquired they did have 15, but they do go quickly for this time of year.

Powered \$35/night(2 adults)

Unpowered \$30/night (2adults)

Extra adult \$15/night

Extra Kid \$11/night

If we do get more than 12 sites booked and show up they will knock 10% off.

You can book through their website <http://www.ayrsailean.com/> or call them on 9840 8098. Deposit is \$55.00.

When you book over the internet please put Subaru4X4Club in the comments section so they put you in our group.

<http://www.ayrsailean.com.au/ menus/main/>

Travis & Katie 0422 815 737

LOGUE BROOK CAMPING
SAT 13 -SUN 14 FEBRUARY 2016

The plan is to travel via the Nanga Heritage 4WD Circuit to the recently upgraded P&W Logue Brook campground and stay overnight.

See the Club website for attached pdfs - Nanga Heritage 4WD Circuit, Nanga Heritage 4WD Circuit Notes and Logue Brook Opening.



See also:

<http://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/site/logue-brook-campground>

Travelling south from Dwellingup, we will, weather permitting, head south from Dwellingup to Nanga Mill and Nanga Townsite and then follow the Nanga Heritage 4WD Circuit south to Driver Road and from there further south down Nanga Road to Hoffman's Mill and then west on Clarke Road to the P&W Logue Brook Campground for an overnight stay. Camp sites have been booked.

Camp fees are \$10 adult per night or \$6.60 concession card holder per night. As the camp is NOT in a National Park, dogs are permitted on a leash.

Hopefully, we will arrive in time for some water activities (fishing, swimming or canoeing) or a spot of bike riding on the Munda Bidli Bike trail, which is close by.

The following day, we will head home via the other half of the Nanga Heritage 4WD Circuit (travelling north this time).

Unfortunately, nothing can be towed on the Nanga Heritage 4WD Circuit, so those wanting to use a camper trailer at the campground will need to go direct and meet us there.

Join the trip on the Club website or contact Tony on 9386-7705.

TRIP PROMOTIONS/ INFORMATION

RAVENSWOOD RAMBLING DAY TRIP
SUNDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2016



Putting a fun twist on an aussie tradition, we will be heading to Ravenswood Hotel for a Social Pub Lunch.

Game Plan 1: Pre-Lunch morning activities from 9am

With the Murray River passing right on by, why not make the most of its picturesque facilities, whether it be a nice walk with the camera, dropping in a line or paddling along at your own pace, there's about something for everyone to enjoy.

Game Plan 2: Nosh-up lunch at the Ravenswood Pub 1 pm

"Located on the banks of the Murray River WA, the Ravenswood Hotel is renowned for its idyllic setting, live entertainment, charming riverside restaurant and lounge bar providing hearty, affordable bistro dining."

Join this day trip on the website.

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CFC - Crabbing Fishing Contest

20th - 21st February 2016

Our Annual Fishing Challenge is back, but with a twist. Swapping the lines for scoops and catching Crabs in the Peel-Harvey estuary. Camping over night at Herron Point camp area.

The plan is to head down for midday arrival at Herron Point campsite (inland side of the estuary) and take a boat out for dropping nets for crabs. As the sun lowers we can walk the shallows scooping for Crabs. Cooking up a feast for dinner (hopefully with all fingers and toes attached)



and having a camp under the stars. Herron Point campsite has very basic facilities, and self-sufficient camping is required. Toilets (long drop) are at the camp ground but no drinking water is available. The next day people can either join the lunch at Ravenswood (see previous page) or head on home.

Make your own way to Herron Point campsite (accessed via the Forest Highway) preferably my midday but earlier the better to secure a good spot (can't book sites).

- Camping equipment to be self-sustainable for one night only
- Bring equipment such as: scoop, water shoes, hat, sunnies, high powered torch/headlamp, bathers
- Fishing rods if you intend to fish in the river at Ravenswood
- Appropriate clothing for a hot day and possible cool night
- No off-road equipment needed, but a UHF would be handy
- Scoops can be purchased from Getaway Outdoors in Bentley, but spares may be available if you can't bring your own
- There are no camping fees, toilets available
- The boat ramp is a beach/sand launch that is usually firm, but may be soft at times.

TRIP PROMOTIONS/ INFORMATION

BEAUTIFUL BREMER EASTER LWE
FRI 25th TO MON 28th MARCH 2016



Photo credit: bremerbaycaravanpark.com.au

Come explore beautiful Bremer Bay over the Easter Long Weekend. We will be staying at Tozers Bush Camp. Cost for adults is \$15 per person per night. Children are charged at a lower rate. They will not charge for the Thursday night unless we are there.

Saturday we will head out and explore the Fitzgerald River National Park and any surrounding areas we have time and are keen to see. Sunday we will head to Wellstead Heritage and find some other touristy places to visit. Again more details to follow.

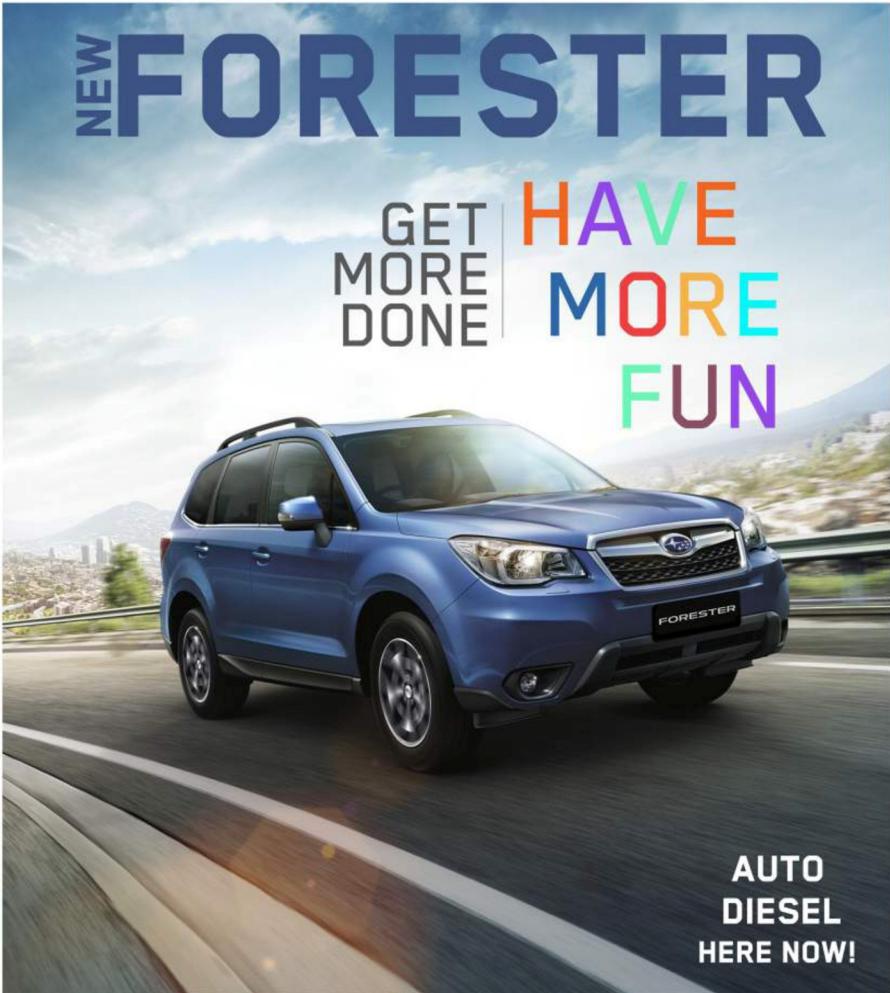
On the way down we will travel Albany Highway. Any suggestions for best morning tea and lunch stops greatly appreciated.

On the way home we will come back up Great Southern Highway to hopefully avoid some of the long weekend traffic.

It is a bush camp with no power. There are toilet and shower facilities.

Join the trip on the Club website: <http://www.subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au>

Trip Leader: Jo Norton

A blue Subaru Forester is shown driving on a road, with a city and mountains in the background. The text 'NEW FORESTER' is at the top. Below it, 'GET MORE DONE' is written in black, followed by 'HAVE MORE FUN' in colorful letters. In the bottom right corner, it says 'AUTO DIESEL HERE NOW!'.

NEW FORESTER

GET MORE DONE | HAVE MORE FUN

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SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

CLUB CALENDAR

January 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
							Sun 10th: Sizzling Summer Beach Run page 5
31					1	2	Tue 12th: General Meeting
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	23rd - 26th: Australia Day LWE South Coast Cruise page 6
	11		13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22		
			27	28	29	30	

February 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
							Tue 2nd: Committee Meeting
	1		3	4	5	6	Tue 9th: General Meeting
7	8		10	11	12		Sat 13th - Sun 14th: Logue Brook Camping page 7
	15	16	17	18	19		Sat 20th - Sun 21st: Crabbing Fishing Contest page 9
	22	23	24	25	26	27	Sun 21st: Ravenswood Ramble page 8
28	29						

March 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
							Tue 1st: Committee Meeting
			2	3	4		Sat 5th - Mon 7th: LWE Porongorups page 14
			9	10	11		Tue 8th: General Meeting Guest Speaker on Whiteman Park
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Sat 12th: Dinner & Mini Golf pg 4
20	21	22	23	24			Fri 25th - Mon 28th: Easter LWE Beautiful Bremer page 10
		29	30	31			

SUBARU 4WD CLUB of W.A. INC

April 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4		6	7	8	9
	11		13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	
		26	27	28	29	30

Tue 5th: Committee Meeting
Sun 10th: Waterside Breakfast
Tue 12th: General Meeting
Sat 23rd - Mon 25th: TBA
 (Anzac LWE)

May 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2		4	5	6	7
	9		11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Tue 3rd: Committee Meeting
Sun 8th: Moore River
Tue 10th: General Meeting
Sun 22nd: Fiddles & Nibbles

SCHOOL AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

School Holidays: Dec 18-Jan 31, Apr 9-25

Public holidays: Jan 1, Jan 26, Mar 7, Mar 25-28, Apr 25

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.

TRIP PROMOTIONS/ INFORMATION

PORONGORUPS AND WINE FESTIVAL 5-7 March 2016

We are spending the long weekend down at the Porongurup Ranges which are located 380kms South-East of Perth. Even though it's not the peak wildflower season there is still plenty to do with the National Park having a number of walks as well as being a haven for birdlife. On Sunday from 10:00 to 4:00 it is the Porongurup wine festival which is at Karrivale with fun & festivities for all.



<https://www.facebook.com/porongurupwinefestival/>

We've reserved 6 unpowered camp sites at the Porongurup Tourist Park at \$28 per night for 2 people. Caravans and camper trailers are welcome but please contact the park and book your own site and let them know that you're with the club. No credit card facilities - Cash only!

The Granite Skywalk is one of the walks. This 1.5 km (2 hour) walk trail begins from the picnic area at Castle Rock Road and at the summit you will find a suspended walkway that spirals around the huge granite outcrop of Castle Rock. The Granite Skywalk has two lookouts, a lower and upper one. The upper lookout perches over the side of Castle Rock and requires scrambling over rocks and climbing a ladder. There are spectacular views of the park and across undulating farmland to Albany on the south coast, with views to Mt Gardner and Mt Manypeaks to the south-east. This remote engineering marvel provides safe access and simulates a rock climbing perspective when suspended on ropes.

See more at: <http://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/site/granite-skywalk>

We will also do the 23 km drive around the entire range (mostly unsealed with steep sections) via Bolganup Road, Angwin Park Road, Woodlands Road, Millinup Road, Chester Pass Road and Mount Barker-Porongurup Road

Trip Leader: David Peck, dpeck@ozemail.com.au 0402 177 886

Pets Allowed: by prior arrangement with the caravan park but not allowed in the National Park.

TRIP & SOCIAL REPORTS

WOODLANDS & WOODLINES DAY 5 - Wed 9th

Most of us had another shower this morning just for the luxury, would be a while before we get another.

Left Norseman heading east on the Eyre Highway, maybe should keep going, Dave has to be in Sydney by Sunday for work. Soon turned north to Buldania Rocks, to follow the Luigi Kappa trail, (brochure from the tourist bureau.) This tourist trail follows various old roads giving access to the northern woodlands east of Lake Cowen. The area is regrowth forest and scrubby low bush. Again there were plenty of wildflowers, so travel was slow as we stop frequently for photos. Came upon an old sandalwood pullers camp. Still plenty of the bark in heaps and also an old truck that has seen better days. Stopped and had a look around the area. Must have been an optimistic crew as the truck speedo showed 120mph painted on the dial.



This road followed one of the old wood-line railway forms. The rails had been removed and relocated to another area once the timber was cut out. Plenty of old rail spikes all around to show where they had been. At the top of the road we turned east to another form, and then south, making a triangular route back to the highway. Lots of evidence of the railway and the telegraph line along the way. Partway down this road we made camp. Again the evening repast was delicious, and consumed with gusto. (No, this is not a particular sauce)

We will continue to Norseman tomorrow and on to who knows where as yet.

Ray (Rabbit) Stewart

WOODLAND WOODLINES – DAY 6 Thurs 10/9/15

We left camp at 8 am (on schedule) as this was to be a long day of driving. The overnight temperature of 1.5 degrees provided something of a challenge when packing up. However, once inside the warmth of the cars we were able to enjoy the ever changing scenery. We continued along the Luigi Cappa 4WD loop. After we left behind the Mallee/ Spinifex combination, we passed through sections of pink grasses.

Ian and Nina spotted the first kangaroo of the trip though there was ample evidence on the track of both their presence and that of camels.

Ian stopped at a waypoint in his map and found an unusual rock formation some 30 metres off the track. This had folded rock layers which had eroded to form a deep hole in the anticlinal fold. No water was visible in the hole, but Ian pointed out that the presence of feral bees meant there was seepage under the rocks.



The track took us across a small section of salt lake. We had already encountered some mud during our travels so there was clearly water about. "Puggle" was driven very carefully across. The rest of the group crept across at slow speed but made the crossing successfully. The exit point from the lake had extremely sticky clay. This later

contributed to wheel vibration when we did eventually get back on the bitumen as these were out of balance.

The vegetation continually changed with the variation in soil types. Sections of gimlets and salmon gums were interspersed with some tight sections where the cars had to pass through scratchy bushes.





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SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

Frequent stops were needed to move aside fallen trees. In a few instances these were beyond our capacities so we had to create a new "go around". Keith made a surprising sighting of a bat (mobile) in the middle of the day.

Lunch was at the site of a former woodcutter's settlement. This included the wreck of an old truck with 140 mph written by someone on the dashboard in a moment of heady fantasy. The image of this particular truck was used in a



promotional leaflet for the Luigi Cappa track. The bush was littered with the detritus of a temporary settlement. These included old drays, a railway wagon, bits of metal and masses of old glass. The timber cutters clearly occupied their breaks with a few drinks as there were huge quantities of beer bottles. Surprisingly,

we found a few that still had their caps on. We noted an outside temperature of 37 degrees at one point which meant a 35.5 degree variation within the one day.

The track eventually reached the Eyre Highway which we travelled on for 62 km to revisit Norseman. This was travelled at reduced speed as many of us had front end vibration despite scraping off as much clay as possible from the wheels.

We refuelled at Norseman – fuel (cars), ice cream (people) and set off on the Hyden-Norseman Road. We passed the roads to Lake Johnson, Victoria Rock and McDermott Rock. We were looking for a suitable campsite after 4 pm but ran into extensively burnt out areas. Eventually we headed up the Nervonia-Mt. Day Road. This was really more of a track. Judging by the tyre tracks, this appeared to have been mainly used by motor cyclists.

Our campsite was on a strange, spongy red clay. Ian noted that if we had any significant rain we would have to break camp during the night or we would be stuck for days, Tom and Jenni had to set up camp twice as the latter came under attack from large biting ants. We did have very strong winds early in the evening but fortunately the rain was quite limited. This was fortunate as we had travelled just under 300 km during the day so packing up in the dark did not present as an appealing prospect.

Tom

TRIP & SOCIAL REPORTS

Lancelin Sand Dunes on Sunday 15 November 2015

The Club has for a number of years had a (tent) stand at the Perth 4WD Show and this year was no exception. The prime reasons for attending the 4WD Show are to let people know that the Club exists (although our website does a pretty good job of this!) and to encourage interested Subaru owners to visit our tent and have a chat, in the hope that they might eventually become Club members. To facilitate this process, we offer interested visitors the opportunity to experience sand driving in their vehicle (at Lancelin) as part of a Club trip and we hold that trip on the Sunday of the weekend following the 4WD Show.

So it was that we ended up with 8 visitor cars on the trip, although (in fact) a number of these trip guests were added to the attendee list prior to the show. I expect they found out about the trip from our website.

The day was already fine and warm as I travelled up the freeway heading for Drover's carpark at the corner of Wanneroo Road and Joondalup Drive, which was the meeting spot. When I got there, Tom had already arrived. However, as departure time approached, I did think it was a bit strange that a large number of cars had yet to turn up. Then I saw a Club member walking towards me, who explained that the rest of the group were parked around the corner out of sight (but still in the carpark) in the shade!

After the driver briefing and distribution of radios to those who did not have them, the large convoy of 18 Subarus (including a Tribeca and Outback) set off from the carpark for a day in the sand. We got way from the carpark at about 8.40 and arrived just over an hour later at the Lancelin bakery for morning tea. When that was complete, we drove to the dunes and stopped to let tyres down. And, of course, I had to take the obligatory group photo!:



SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

With all tyres down around the 14psi mark, Adrian and I split the group into two, with most of the beginners going with Adrian and the others coming with me. We headed in different directions, so as not to get in each other's way. We were also operating on different radio channels.

The day proceeded pretty much as expected. We started off with a wander around the sand ,to get a feel for the sand and the amount of traction we had. We then tackled a few easy downhill slopes first, followed by steeper downhill slopes. However, we did experience one little hiccup (my fault) when I asked drivers to make a relatively hard right turn to descend a dune. One driver got stuck making the turn and my maxx tracks were put to good use to get him unstuck. When making a turn in softish sand, you should always try to make it as gently (in as larger arc) as possible. After that, we tackled a few uphill slopes, which is a more difficult exercise. While a couple of drivers had more than one attempt at the climbs, they all got to the top eventually.

Then it was time for us to make our way to the "bowl" for lunch. My group got there first and Adrian's group came along not long after. However, one



member of Adrian's group had managed to lose sight of Adrian and was unsure which way to go. Not only that, they had managed to get themselves bogged. So Adrian and I went off to assist. Soon, all members of both groups were safely enjoying lunch. At the conclusion of lunch, Adrian gave a brief talk about the various items of recovery gear he carried.

We then packed up and, after spending some further time wandering around the dunes, putting to use skills learned in the morning, we headed back to the town park to pump up. It was about 2.30. Pump ups completed, radios collected, some members of the group then elected to head straight home, while others went to the shops for a coffee and/or ice cream.

Chatting to the trip guests, it seems all of them had enjoyed the experience and I expect to see most of them again at another Club trip some time in the future. All in all, a good day. My thanks to Adrian for contributing to the success of the day.

Tony Richards.

Lancelin Dunes Trip Report - Adrian

So the day began nice and early, loading the car with all the recovery gear, and getting on our way to the meet point. With the traditional meet point under reconstruction with roadworks, we assembled at Drovers Market carpark. It was a group of half a dozen that was there ready, and we began chatting as more rocked up. It wasn't long before Karl walked over and said there's the other half of the group parked round in the shade near a coffee shop so Tony and I moved our small group around to find another half a dozen vehicles gathered. Soon enough the last attendees arrived and the briefing began.

With radios distributed I then led the group out and on our way north. It didn't take long before our group of 19 cars was split over traffic lights and other cars. As we neared Lancelin the group slowly got back together and we arrived to the bakery in good time for the usual morning tea before adventuring out in the dunes. With everyone fed, and making use of the amenities while we had them, I rounded up the group for another briefing for the days events. Once everyone had a good idea of our mission, we rolled on out, through town to the Lancelin Dunes Entrance.

Lining up in 2 rows the group started airing down tires to 14psi, posed for a photo shoot, and gathered for one last chat before splitting in 2 groups. Tony Richards taking off with 8 cars in follow including a mix of club members and guests with some experience. I led of with 9 followers made up of mostly guests, beginners, and a few club members. Tom picked up the tail of my group and on we went. Explaining to the group I was going to ease them into some descents and hill climbs, getting bigger as the day went on. Began winding up a moderate dune that turned in to a steep descent of a descent size. Well they are in the deep end now! Too late to reverse back down, one by one they got a surprising start, with a few stunned faces coming down.

After the nerves settled the group continued on to roll through an assortment of dunes, taking the easy way up and down were possible. It was not long before Folios and family found themselves in a sport of bother, taking the wrong line on a ridge and wedged awkwardly. After many attempts rocking back and forward with the aid of the Maxtrax and TREDs we couldn't get the car out. I soon had a peek in the cockpit to find the car was equipped with Traction Control (ESC) much to the disbelief and unawareness of Folios. With the car partly bellied it was beyond the capabilities of the recovery tracks, time slipping by it was time for the snatch recovery equipment to come out.

Stuck in an awkward spot I had to reverse my car up the dune, getting it in a good spot after a few attempts. Using the Hitch Receiver Snatch Block in my towbar, a 6Ton SUV snatch strap, and equaliser bridle on the front of the Tribeca, and safety dampener in the middle, the car came out first attempt and there was cheers all round. Plenty of hands had the gear packed up quickly and we continued on our way.

SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

Tony piped up on the radio asking about the Lunch stop and time, explaining it was nearby to my location we shortly crossed paths and they stopped in, not before getting our groups mixed as we crossed, ending up with a few joining my convoy. Once I found the intruders and quickly guided them on their way back to Tony, and I continued on with my group having one last play before lunch.

In my efforts to find a track in to the lunch spot I followed tracks down a dune, only to be stuck at the bottom looking at a narrowing track used by motorbikes. Forced to make an 8 point turn in a tight spot to make attempts of climbing back up a large steep dune with no run up. While this was happening Dom managed to get stuck after coming over a crest into some really soft sand. After a few stalls in my attempt at turning the car around, I finally was facing the right direction and managed to boost my way back up the dune (when I say boost, I meant BOOOOSSTT). Up and in a safe spot, I took the drivers seat of Doms stuck forester and slowly jiggled his steering wheel from left to straight, bit by bit. With the wheels in the correct alignment I then simply drove it down carefully turning the car right to balance out the angle and I was out in no time.

The extended pre-lunch play took more time than planned and we quickly set on to join the others for lunch. The group split as most turned down to the bowl at the lunch spot, Tom not seeing the vehicle in front turn continued on searching. Going to higher ground for better vision, he soon found himself in a hole. I heard cries for help over the radio for help, so Tony and I ventured back up to find the last of my group and see where Tom had burrowed himself. The 2 other cars saw us and went down to lunch and then Tony and I spotted Tom, perched along a ridgeline. Getting closer we found the hole he fell into, with a wheel high in the air and space to set up camp underneath the car, it was a great effort, and the only way out was a tow. Tony lined his car up, picked up the tension and carefully towed him out using the snatch gear. Hooray! Straight out and off we went back to lunch.

Time to relax! Definitely an adventure filled morning. Food and refreshments, and having a laugh and chat with people in the group is always a good way to unwind, especially in the shade of a few awnings. With everyone fed I rounded the group back together and explained some of the recovery gear used and other things available. Time now to pack up and get back amongst the dunes. It was here that a certain member was having difficulty packing away his chair, young Alex Taylor was unable to fold his camp chair back up and was seen trying to squeeze it in the back of the car. As Tony's group was leaving he ended up joining my group so they weren't delayed, after a few of us attempting to fold the chair with no success I decided we must get moving, and we tied it to Tom's roof basket and got on our way.

Taking the group through more dunes expanding on the mornings activities we can across a monster of a dune, coming down the bottom to show everyone the size of it, then heading up with a sand show of glory I was fortunate (BOOSTED) enough to make it all the way up. Turning around and returning down the steep dune, it was time for others to test their car and ability. With a few attempts from some, and no one successful, they had to reverse back down the large dune carefully. Jordan, one of the guests young boys wanted to go up, so I took him in as a passenger and I went up for a second time. Successful again, despite a patch of light headedness half way up. You couldn't wipe the smile of Jordan's face after that!

With time getting away from us it was required to make our way out and back in to town to re-inflate the tires. Almost out, but not before Jo and Oscar fell short of cresting a small dune in super soft sand. Clearing a bit of sand, Maxtrax and quick push back down so Jo and Oscar mobile again, all back in transit again, regrouping and driving carefully back to town, stopping at a park with Tony's group and pumping up. This was the official end of the trip with people slowly departing, but for some, an opportunity for an ice-cream at the local IGA.

Western Ground Parrot

You are no doubt aware of the recent bushfires that have swept through the Esperance region. Sadly, Cape Arid National Park which is the home of the last known population of wild Western Ground Parrots was also affected. The fate of the remaining birds is unknown. At this stage it is impossible to know how many have survived the fires. The situation is grim to say the least.



The Friends of the Western Ground Parrot have set up a campaign to raise funds for the recovery project in the aftermath of the devastating bushfires. Please don't let the Western Ground Parrot be the forgotten victim of the Esperance bushfires. You can help by supporting the campaign either through a donation or by sharing the news about the uphill battle the Western Ground Parrot now faces to stay one step ahead of extinction.

Visit their website <http://www.western-ground-parrot.org.au/>

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