

October 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

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## 2016 COMMITTEE

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Tony Richards	<b>9386 7705</b> <a href="mailto:president@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au">president@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au</a>
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Joy Unno	<b>0429 473 709</b> <a href="mailto:secretary@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au">secretary@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au</a>
<b>TREASURER:</b>	Adrian Longwood	<b>0424 723 558</b> <a href="mailto:treasurer@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au">treasurer@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au</a>
<b>SOCIAL ORGANISER:</b>	Joanne Norton	<b>0411 151 024</b>
<b>TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR:</b>	David Peck	<b>0402 177 886</b>
<b>EDITOR:</b>	Keith Wilcox	<b>0413 266 245</b> <a href="mailto:editor@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au">editor@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au</a>
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS:</b>	Katie Maskey	<b>0408 937 924</b>
	Travis Maskey	<b>0422 815 737</b>
	Stephan Millett	<b>0405 221 845</b>
	Alex Tayler	<b>0439 929 373</b>
	Jim Wilcox	<b>0419 040 969</b>
<b>MERCHANDISE:</b>	Tony Richards	<b>9386 7705</b>
<b>WEB MASTER:</b>	Rob Griffiths/ Jim Wilcox	<b>0411 249 933</b> <b>0419 040 969</b> <a href="mailto:webmaster@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au">webmaster@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au</a>
<b>4WD ASSOC DELEGATE:</b>	David Peck/ Tony Richards	<b>0402 177 886</b> <b>9386 7705</b>
<b>M'SHIP CO-ORDINATOR:</b>	Alex Tayler	<b>0439 929 373</b> <a href="mailto:membership@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au">membership@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au</a>
<b>PROPERTY OFFICER:</b>	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

Fellow members,

Unfortunately, I was unable to make the September General Meeting at the AMCAP distribution facility in Welshpool. However, I would like to sincerely thank all those members who did attend. I hope you enjoyed the visit and warehouse tour. I would also like to thank Neil Thomson again for his very generous offer to host our meeting and for his hospitality on the night.

Since my last report, I have enjoyed the Collie camping trip overnight on Saturday 10 September and the Kings Park BBQ on Sunday 18 September. See the reports later in the mag.

As our Club year has now ended, you need to act quickly to vote for Club Member of the Year (and other Awards) and submit your funny award nominations. These awards will all be presented at the Annual Dinner on Saturday 29 October and, with a voting cut-off of 22 October (to enable awards to be prepared etc), there is not a lot of time left!

Voting/Nominating can all be done online, through the Club's website. All you need to do is View any trip on the Trip Calendar and, on the right-hand side you will see a "Nominate for Award" button. Click on this button and you will be taken through to the general Awards page (not trip specific). Alternatively, you can also email your award nominations to the Secretary (Joy Unno) using the email address:

[secretary@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au](mailto:secretary@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au)

If you only have limited access to a computer, a voting box will also be available at the October General Meeting, but this is a last resort. Electronic voting is absolutely the preferred method. I encourage you strongly to vote for these most important awards.

I also encourage to think hard about participating in the management of your Club, by agreeing to join the Committee at the November AGM.

I confirm that membership fees will continue to be held at their current level – \$50.00 for a metropolitan single/family membership and \$40.00 for a country single/family membership. Memberships are due for renewal on 1 October. **PLEASE RENEW NOW.**

The Club's bank account details are in the Membership Renewal Form on the Club's website, under "Links". However, you do not need to actually use the form – an email to Alex Tayler (Membership) or Adrian Longwood (Treasurer) will also be sufficient.

Tony Richards

**TRIP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT**

Wow; September was a busy month with the powerlines cleanup, Col- lie camping, Kings Park lunch, camp oven learn how and Coalseam wildflowers trip.

It was unfortunate that 1/3 of the camp oven learn how convoy had to get transported back to Perth by truck with mechanical problems. Jo had oil problems and I had a turbo hose fail so we both limped into Badgingarra and got a ride home with the RAC.

We have the Israelite Bay trip and the annual dinner at Toodyay coming up this month. So 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 you can nominate someone via the website or by a nomination form.

Cheers David

**Perth 4WD and Adventure Show Fri 11th - Sun 13th November**

There are 6 "shifts" and the club is looking for 2-3 members per shift (up to a maximum of 4 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 indicate on the website the number of the shift you can help with.

## TRIP PROMOTIONS/ INFORMATION

### Sand Driving & Recovery Training Day - Sunday 16 October

Take you Subaru and your skills to the next level with an in depth Sand and Recovery Driver Training Day with the clubs very own 4WD Instructor.

Using the soft sand bowls in the Gnangara / Pinjar Pine Plantation (well what's left anyway) we will take our cars through a variety of very soft sandy conditions involving very low tires pressures.

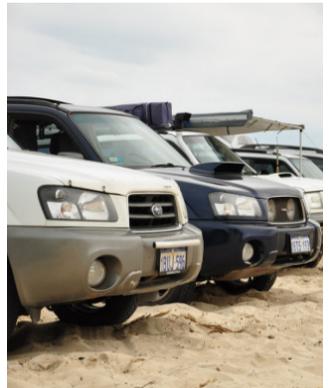
In these conditions you will experience the importance of lowering tire pressures for different conditions and terrains and the effect they have on the cars handling and traction.

Whilst amongst the soft sand there will be some Vehicle Recovery demonstrations so you'll know the safest and simplest way to get your car out of trouble should you ever find the need.

Recovery Methods and safety guides will include:

- Self Recovery with minimal equipment
- Self Recovery with Traction aids
- Snatch Strap Recovery
- Wheel winch recovery (if they arrive in time)
- Tire Changing - yes we will change someone's tire!

You'll also get to see a variety of tire deflators, gauges, shovels, compressors and other offroad equipment in use.



Whether you're experienced or new to Subaru's offroad there's something in it for all! More details on the website.

**\*\*Please Note only current Club Members can attend this trip\*\***

#### **About the Trainer:**

Adrian has been in the Subaru 4WD club of WA for 8+ years and has come into a variety of good (and bad) situations in a variety of terrains and locations across WA and now runs WA's only Specialist AWD/compact 4WD offroad driver training business, known as Premium SUV offroad training.

Contact: Adrian 0424 723 558

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**TRIP PROMOTIONS/ INFORMATION**

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**Annual Dinner - Saturday 29 October**

Join us for our Annual Dinner and Awards Night. Dinner will be at the Freemason Hotel in Toodyay from 6pm. The cost of the 3 course meal is \$40 per head. They will put on a buffet breakfast in the morning at a cost of \$17.50 per head if we have enough people interested.

Please put your meal choice in your booking. These will be ordered a week before.

**Entrée**

Chefs Soup of the Day

Bruschetta

Mini tempura seafood platter

**Main**

Chicken Parmigiana with chips and salad

Fish and chips with salad

Rump Steak cooked to your liking with mushroom, pepper or garlic sauce with chips and salad

**Dessert**

Homemade apple crumble with ice cream

Sticky date pudding with cream

Mini cheeseboard with dried fruits

Please let me know any dietary requirements that are not catered for above and they will be able to cater for these.

**Accommodation**

The hotel has pencilled us in for all of their rooms. Please call them on 9574 2201 to make a booking. Prices are from \$85 per night.

The Toodyay Caravan park has sites from \$32 and cabins from \$85.

This is a decent walk from the hotel. Call them on 9574 2612.

The Victoria Hotel is a short walk and can be called on 9574 2206 to book a room.

There are many bed and breakfasts a bit further out of town see <http://www.toodyay.com/accommodation.asp> for other accommodation options.

**Book for the Annual Dinner before the deadline of 14 October.**

Don't forget to get your votes in for the awards.

**TRIP PROMOTIONS/ INFORMATION**

**LANCELIN DUNES  
SUNDAY 20th NOVEMBER**

The Subaru 4WD Club wants  
to invite

XV, Forester and Outback  
owners to our

Annual Lancelin Dunes Trip.



This is a fun, safe day out to see what you and your car can do, in a controlled environment, with very experienced 4WD enthusiasts.

We'll demonstrate techniques to drive on soft sand and over dunes. Show how tyre pressure can affect your car's performance in sand, and if the opportunity arises, how to safely recover a bogged vehicle. We split into groups depending on experience and start off easy, progressing to something more challenging. Due to the way we run this trip, numbers will be limited.

This is a trip for all members in all model 4WD Subarus (except unlifted Libertys or Imprezas). Outbacks 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.

For more information or to put your name down for the trip, either send an email to [trips@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au](mailto:trips@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au)

TRIP PROMOTIONS/ INFORMATION

**Christmas Cheer - Saturday 3rd December**

Join your fellow club members for a relaxing afternoon/evening catching up before Christmas at Jo's grotto.

Bring: Meat for the BBQ, a salad or dessert to share, drinks, a chair just in case I don't have enough, your bathers and towel if you fancy a dip in the pool.

I will have some nibbles, bread and sauces etc.

Its a relaxing afternoon. The BBQ will be started about 5pm. Those that have commitments in the day can come late or leave early if you have something on in the evening.

Be prepared to be annoyed by musical Christmas toys.

Time: From 2pm

Contact: Jo on 0411 151 024



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**TRIP PROMOTIONS/ INFORMATION**

**Esperance Trip - 21 to 26 January 2017**

Whitest beach, fish leather, a tank, skylab, pink lakes and, ah, stone henge.....

Esperance, on the south coast, is a picturesque town that has had a couple quirky events in it's past. From a freak storm, that caught a French research vessel off guard, to an American space station falling on it, but for the most part that's not what we're heading down there for.

The National parks down there are hidden gems. Cape Le Grand national park has the whitest beaches in Australia. The view from the top of Frenchman's Peak is magical.

Pink Lake is just out of town. The colour changes with the temperature, and is never the same.

Day 1. It is a big day to travel down there we should get into Esperance around 4ish.

Day 2. A relaxing look around Esperance see the Pink Lake and perhaps the magnificent beach at Twilight Cove.

Day 3. A full day visiting Cape Arid NP, Duke of Orleans and Cape Le Grand NP.

Day 4. Option of a half day Woodie Island cruise and/or more sightseeing around the town including the Mermaid fish leather factory or the Museum which includes pieces of Skylab.

Staying: Bathers Beach caravan park

Difficulty: Depends on the beaches really, will need to lower the tyre pressure a bit, but it should be straight forward.

Scratchometer: Practically nil. To and from are on bitumen and the gravel roads are supposed to be good.

Fuel: As we're heading to the bottom corner of the state fuel is a little on the expensive side.

Previous experience is not necessary, and would be good for a new member. Book and see more information on the website.

Any questions? Email [travismaskey@gmail.com](mailto:travismaskey@gmail.com) or call 0422815737

**TRIP PROMOTIONS/ INFORMATION**

**Cliff Head North - February 18/19**

Cliff Head North is a free camp within the Shire of Irwin. It is situated on Indian Ocean Drive, approximately 6.5kms south of the junction with the Brand Hwy.

Other than for a toilet, there is not much else at the site in the way of facilities; after all, it is a free camp! Sorry, no open fires as there will be a summer fire ban in force.

No activities are planned at this stage. Assuming the weather is good, you can go for a swim, do some fishing (which is supposed to be quite good) or simply relax on the beach. Or you could explore the coast by car. Sounds good to me.

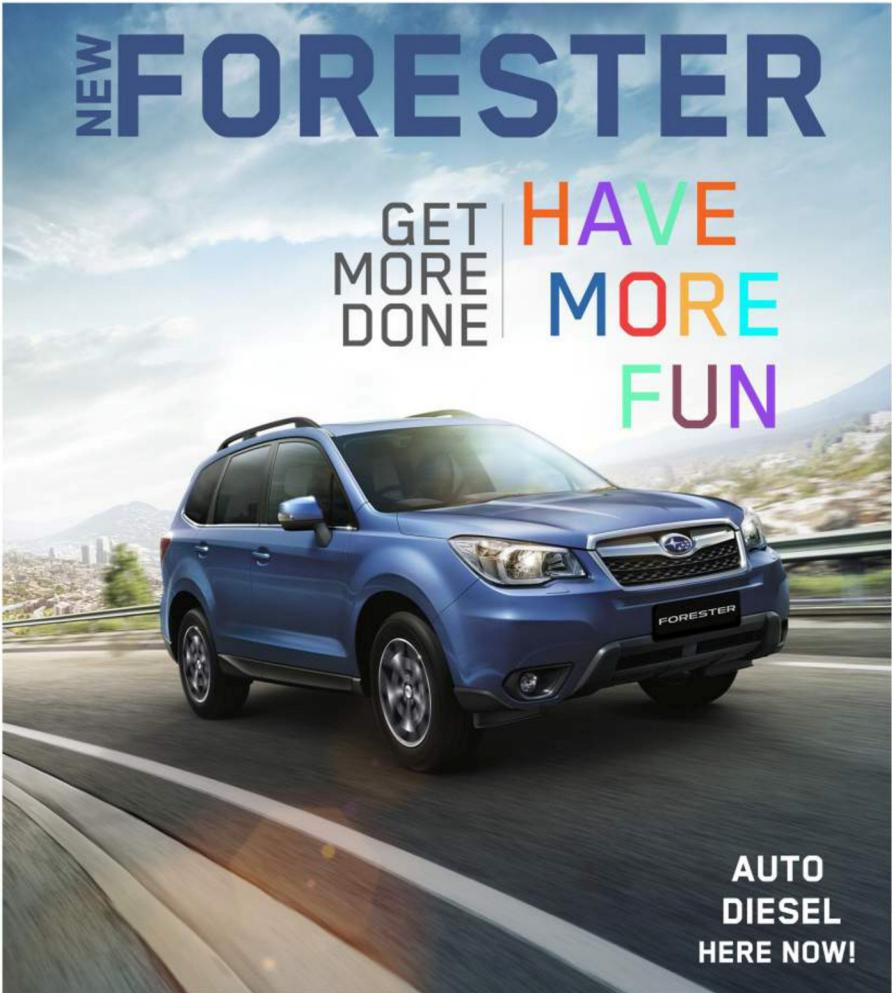
Trip Leader: Tony Richards 9386 7705

**Memberships Renewal**

Hi everyone it's that time again for memberships renewals. The renewal form can be found under the links page. Just print and fill in the form and send in the form to P.O. BOX 434 SOUTH PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 6951.

The membership fees can be paid by cash or cheque or direct credited to the Club's bank account with Westpac – BSB 036-078 and account number 28-9726. If you pay by EFT just put your "name" and "renewal" so the treasurer and myself knows who paid.

Regards Alex  
Memberships coordinator



As a 4WD club member receive  
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# SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

## CLUB CALENDAR

October 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31					1
2	3		5	6	7	
9	10		12	13	14	15
	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

**Tue 4th:** Committee Meeting

**Sat 8th - Sun 16th:** Israelite Bay

**Tue 11th:** General Meeting

**Sun 16th:** Sand Driving Training  
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**Sat 29th:** Annual Dinner at Toodyay Page 6

November 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			2	3	4	5
6	7		9	10		
	14	15	16	17	18	19
	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

**Tue 1st:** Committee Meeting

**Tue 8th: Annual General Meeting**

**Fri 11th- Sun 13th:** 4WD Adventure show Page 4

**Sun 20th:** Lancelin sand dunes Page 7

December 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
4	5		7	8	9	10
11	12		14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Sat 3rd:** Christmas Party at Jo's Page 8

**Tue 6th:** Committee Meeting

**Tue 13th:** General Meeting (Bring a plate)

## SUBARU 4WD CLUB of W.A. INC

### January 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	<b>Sun 8th:</b> Beach run
 8	9	 10	11	12	13	14	<b>Tue 10th:</b> General Meeting
15	16	17	18	19	20		<b>Sat 21st - Thu 26th:</b> Esperance trip finishing on Australia day
 22	 23	 24	 25	 26	27	28	Page 9
29	30	31					

### February 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4	<b>Sun 5th:</b> Fish and Chips on the beach
 5	6	7	8	9	10	11	<b>Tue 14th:</b> General Meeting
12	13	 14	15	16	17	 18	<b>Sat 18th-Sun 19th:</b> Overnight trip to Cliff Head Page 10
 19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28					

### Upcoming trips see website:

**March 4 to 6 - Margaret River 'The Project'**

**April 14 to 17 - Murchison house Easter escape**

**April 17 to 25 - Anzac long way home via Shark Bay & Karijini**

### SCHOOL AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

**School Holidays:** Sep 24 - Oct 9, Dec 16 - Jan 31, Apr 8 - Apr 23

**Public holidays:** Dec 26 & 27, Jan 2 & 26, Mar 6, Apr 14, 17 & 25

**Potential members are most welcome to come along on any Club activities before joining. Please phone the Trip Leader for further information. Also contact the trip leader if you have to cancel, as we don't want to wait for someone who does not turn up!**

TRIP & SOCIAL REPORTS

**Lorna Glen Day 9 (Monday, 11-07-16) Joy Unno**

The day dawned cold but mostly sunny as people prepared for their departure after breakfast. Stephan was the first to go, heading towards Kalgoorlie to catch up with Ray and Dena. Next, at about 8 am, was the Party For Perth (PFP) led by Jim and the trailer, then Deborah & Chris with Joy as tail end. We bid farewell to Lorna Glen station - pity the weather had not been better - but it had been a remarkable visit and we left with a definite sense of accomplishment and pride in the Club's construction efforts!

Chris had expressed an interest in stopping to look at old cars at Suzuki Downs (Millrose Station) as his first car was a Suzuki. This led to a funny interlude with a gentleman called "John" who was caretaker there. We found him in one of the



sheds trying to back out one of the aforementioned Suzuki's and a trailer. Showing no surprise about a bunch of strangers suddenly turning up with an interest in Suzuki's, he soon had Chris in the driver's seat backing the trailer out for him. He obligingly said Deborah could take as many photos of Suzuki's as she wanted (at \$20 each, ha, ha), then directed us to the graveyard of old Suzuki's down the road which Chris happily investigated. As we left I took a photo of the sign just as a Brown Falcon being harassed by a Pied Butcherbird flew by.

The Granite Peak Road was in good condition with only one big puddle across the road and this had a firm base, no problems with traversing it. By the time that we arrived at the Wongawol Road t-junction and turned right towards Wiluna, we could hear from chatter on the CB that the Long Way Home Group (LWHG) were close behind us. Apparently they

## TRIP & SOCIAL REPORTS

had had some excitement getting away from the station as Daniel's car battery was flat and needed jump starting. We all met up at Wiluna for refuelling and morning tea before travelling together down the Goldfields Highway to Leinster for a hamburger lunch. Here the two groups parted company, with the PFP going down the Mt Magnet/Sandstone Road and the LWHG heading on towards Leonora.

We made good time to Sandstone where we had a pit stop and a bit of merchandising with Sandstone logo polo shirts being half-price at the Visitors Centre. Then it was onwards to Mt Magnet where the ULP people had a brief stop for fuel. About 55 km southwards of Mt Magnet on the Great Northern Highway, we arrived at Kirkalocka Station around 5 pm. Surprisingly, there was already quite a crowd of campers and others at the Shearers' Quarters, but I had booked ahead and so there was no trouble getting a bed. The accommodation was very rustic but there was a modern gas stove next to the classic Metters No 2 iron oven in the camp kitchen and we were able to rustle up dinner very quickly. Our friendly camp hosts, Ann and Geoff, provided plenty of wood for the open camp fire and we had a convivial evening sharing travel stories. Chris and Deborah found a couple of locals from the Merredin area where they used to live, and I chatted with two high school teachers travelling back from Broome with their tent and portable gas Weber packed into their i30. There was also a bush poet who, according to Deborah, gave a very good poetic rendition but I had retired to bed by then.

### **Lorna Glen Day 10 (Tuesday, 12-07-16) Joy Unno**

We awoke to find the area invaded by ISA (Institut de Sélection Animale) brown chickens and horses. The white horses were looking a little on the red side, no doubt due to the red



### TRIP & SOCIAL REPORTS

mud from the unusually high rainfall the station had experienced recently. After breakfast, we went up to look at the old homestead built in 1909 and still in quite good condition. Then it was on the road again, only 516 km to go. Every now and then there would be a noise as chunks of dried red mud fell off the cars onto the highway.



We stopped briefly at Paynes Find for an ice-cream, then drove past the weird tyre Minion thingies back onto the highway towards Wubin. There were huge flocks of white corellas (also looking a little on the red side from the mud),

mixed with pink & grey Galahs at Wubin near the train station museum where we stopped for morning tea. The clouds were gathering on the horizon as we travelled further southwards.

The rest of the trip was quite uneventful which is the best way to be. Lunch was pasties and gourmet pies at Bindoon Bakery with Berry Cheesecake and Banoffi Cream Paris buns for later on. Jim & Joy said farewell to Deborah and Chris and left the Great Northern Highway for Muchea and Neaves Road. An interesting trip but good to be home.





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## Review Kurrajong to Credo

It was a great trip. We followed the planned route and had no trouble with the terrain or vehicles. There were some muddy areas after we had some rain whilst camped the first two nights at Johnson Rocks.



The Great Western Woodlines were as always, superb. The soil and vegetation changed rapidly and dramatically the whole time, and it was the best wildflowers I have ever seen in the area.

The planning took some 8 months, but it could have been longer given that I was also planning and plotting other trips at the same time - how unusual!



Thank you Keith, Ray and Daniel for joining this trip. A small group, excellent food cooked on open fires, and happy travelling through what is arguably the best part of the state.

In fact the trip was so good I would like to run it the other way around next year. If you like the idea, please let me know so you can go on the list.

Ian Johnson.

## Collie trip Day 1

I was running late for the meet but wasn't the last to arrive until we called Ray and Jo who had their weekends mixed up. A nice drive through the countryside through Boddington that let us down not having a bakery then into Collie for fuel and the obligatory bakery stop.

In to Honeymoon Pool. Claim out space setting up some tents then out to play.

We headed out to the power line track which had a steep climb and then an interesting down hill. Some technical driving was required to not bottom out. We then headed up Mount Lennard where the view was of the tower on the hill. From there we decided to head for the western boundary.

Travelling along nicely we found a decent with a nice drop off at the end. Oscar (Jo's nickname for her Outback - Ed) needs a nose reduction and some liposuction on his bum and he proved a little long, now the dented right tail pipe matches the left. From then we continued going along at a little slower pace and we come across some obstacles. Then we got a big decent which obviously is followed by a big ascent. Tony in the lead with Adrian hot on his tail. Much bouncing from Tony and he decided it wasn't a track to be followed, unfortunately he was at the point of no return. Adrian too was not able to head back. They continued through what can only be described as terrain they wouldn't wish on the rest of us. The rest of us did 20 point turns and headed down and overgrown but very easy to drive track



The next track we thought we would try was gated so it was back to camp. Eric and Cam headed off home and the rest of us settles in for nibbles by the campfire.

Some good chatter around the campfire into the evening. Tony was asleep in his chair before 9pm as usual.

Jo

**Collie Camping Overnighter  
Day 2, Sunday 11 September 2016**

We had 8 cars on this trip, including 2 cars (Eric and Cameron) who were attending for the Saturday afternoon only and met us at Honeymoon Pool.



On Sunday, we were down to 6 cars. However, Steve decided that he wanted to stay on at Honeymoon Pool for the morning, to do a few of the local

walks, and Nick and Dave decided that they would prefer to head straight home. That left 3 cars – Jo, Adrian and I.

As there had been some rain both before and after we arrived, the local tracks were all muddy/greasy. On Saturday, my car and Adrian's car had both taken a beating when we descended (slid?) down the park's western boundary track (the other cars turned back). Jo was also in Oscar, her Outback. This all impacted our choice of route home.

We therefore decided not to try anything adventurous or challenging. We would take Gastaldo Road to Collie Tallanalla Road to Hoffmans Mill. From there we would take Dupont, Logue Brook and Nanga Roads through to Dwellingup and then home.

The problem was that, despite what was indicated on all my maps, you could not get from Gastaldo Road to Tallanalla Road, as the track traversed private property (part of Worsley Alumina Refinery) and no entry was permitted! Strange that it is apparently a gazetted road which you are prevented from using? [See Note 1 below]

So we headed further north, with the idea that we would take the next main track east (Myles Avenue) which intersected Tallanalla Road closer to Hoffmans Mill. However, that was not to be either. Travelling east along Myles Avenue, we turned on to a track signposted Tallanalla Track, only to be stopped by a closed gate as we were in a water catchment area (Stirling Dam)!  
[See Note 2 below]

Ok, third time lucky? Back along Myles Avenue for a short distance and then north along Lancaster Road, which looked like a main



(albeit unsealed) road that would take us through the catchment area around Stirling Dam. Again, another locked gate. At that point we gave up and headed out along Mornington Road to Wokalup on the highway.

We stopped at Harvey for morning tea (coffee at a café), which went down well. From there we headed home, slowing as we went through Yarloop to check out progress since the devastating fire that destroyed a large part of the town on 8 January this year. While a lot of clearance work had been completed, there was not a lot of reconstruction yet.

Thank you to all trip participants for attending.

**NOTES:** Looking now at my maps and the track plot, it would seem that:

1. We should still have been able to go south around the Refinery to get to the Collie Tallanalla Road.
2. The Tallanalla Track that we went down was incorrectly signposted (it was still Myles Avenue) and we should have headed further east along Trees Road West to the Collie Tallanalla Road.

Tony Richards

### **When it's freezing, do you keep taking the tablets?**

For my trip across the Red Centre I decided to make my own navigator from a Samsung Tab S (8.4 inch screen). The Samsung Tab S has one of the best inbuilt GPS chips of all the tablets on the market, and after loading OziExplorer for Android, buying a mount to stick on the windscreen and road testing the tablet over several trips I was confident that it would do what I needed.

And it was very good.

The tablet has some great advantages: OziExplorer Android can be installed; the screen is large and very clear, but not too big that it was a road hazard; it can take great pictures; it can play music (and videos); it has a full function word processor for writing a journal; and it can send and receive phone calls, texts and email.

It worked a treat, until one morning... on the Great Central Road... it froze. I don't mean froze in the sense we normally use when talking about computers. I mean icy cold freezing.

I was at Tjukayirla Roadhouse on the second night of my Red Centre Run, having spent the previous night at Laverton. At Laverton, after a cold night I scraped ice off the inside and outside of the tent. At Tjukayirla there was more ice, quite a bit more (but not as much as at Warakurna the next night, but that is another story). The plan was to be on the road early so while I waited for the tent to defrost, and the kettle to boil, I opened the car and turned on the tablet, which was on the driver's seat. The screen flickered and died and nothing I could do would get it to go. I assume it did not like starting when the temperature was low, but I am not sure. I had hard copy maps and a basic Garmin handheld GPS from which I could get an accurate position, plus that section of the trip was pretty straightforward, so I was not going to get lost. But when the tablet failed, I lost my music, my audio books, my journal, and other useful things like internet and email (when in range).

I considered not replacing the navigator and just using the backup maps and GPS, but I was to be on the road for another month – from Tjukayirla to Alice, from Alice via the Plenty and Donohue highways to north central Queensland and back to Perth via Townsville, Brisbane, Sydney, outback NSW, South Australia and WA. So, I bit the bullet and when I got to Alice Springs I bought a new Hema Navigator HN7 (with the new 1:150k moving maps for the bush, and a separate city navigator). The Hema uses OziExplorer software running on Windows CE. And having learnt how to manage OziExplorer through the somewhat clunky and underdeveloped Android version needed for the Samsung, using the Hema was straightforward. While on the road I could not import any of the tracks I had developed for the Android, but the Hema will be able to use them in future.

I learnt to really like the Hema Navigator. It worked every day. It has not frozen, despite more ice on the tent. The maps were detailed. The interface was

more straightforward than the Android version and marking and naming waypoints was a breeze (something the Android is not at all good at). It also showed my location in real time (degrees and minutes in my case as this is how the campsites were noted in the Camps8 book I travelled with). And it has a separate city navigator (iGo) built in. This was very useful when I got to cities and large towns and I could use it to locate campsites etc if I needed to. Outside the cities, the offroad navigator (OziExplorer) used Hema's new 1:150,000 moving map which shows most rest stops, campsites, caravan parks and fuel stops.



Picture from the companies' website

I like the Hema HN7. While the seven inch screen does not have as much screen real estate as the Samsung and the resolution on the Samsung is better, the Hema is sharp enough and touch screen is easier to use while driving than the tablet. It will also play videos and music if you upgrade the microSD card that contains the map files. The Hema comes with an 8 Gigabyte micro SD but the map files use up all of that. It will take up to 32 Gb cards. Any OziExplorer format map files can be used in the Hema, but a new and bigger microSD card will be needed if maps other than those loaded are to be used. The Hema 1:150,000 map is less than a year old and does a really good job.

My experiment with an Android tablet as an outback GPS navigator is over. It was fun, in a challenging sort of way. The Android version of OziExplorer has more limited functionality than the Windows CE version and is not as easy to learn as you have to understand Android file structures and storage methods before you can use the navigator effectively. The tablet has lots of pluses, but its catastrophic failure was not one of them.

Stephan Millett

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