

September 2017



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

2016/2017 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Adrian Longwood	0424 723 558 president@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
SECRETARY:	Joy Unno	0429 473 709 secretary@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
TREASURER:	Tony Richards	9386 7705 treasurer@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
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	Stephan Millett	0405 221 845
	David Peck	0402 177 886
	Alex Tayler	0439 929 373
	Jim Wilcox	0419 040 969 comm@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
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	Stephan Millett	0405 221 845
M'SHIP CO-ORDINATOR:	Alex Tayler	0439 929 373 membership@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
PROPERTY OFFICER:	Keith Wilcox/Jim Wilcox	
ENVIRONMENT OFFICER:	Joy Unno	0429 473 709 environment@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au

Club Member of the Year 2016 - 2017: David Peck

LIFE MEMBERS

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

August was a wet meeting full of drama with it being a rainy night, but more importantly the key and lock box was missing from the hall and we couldn't get in. A suggestion of the Como (Hotel) and a quick call saw us wetting our lips with a drink while getting through the meeting tucked in a corner.

With a group away on the extended trip to Rudall River and surrounds having fun it meant numbers were low and we fell short of a Quorum, which was frustrating as there were items to seek membership approval for. I urge all members to come along as often as possible to ensure there's a quorum achieved and keep up to date with everything going on. There are varying guest presenters and plenty of other informative nights across the year.

There's a new club outdoor long sleeve shirt so come along and try and size and grab one for yourself.

We are getting close to the end of the club's year with the Annual Dinner catching up fast. Please get your names down early and reserve a room if you need to. Set the date aside for the night of the year! That does mean voting for the club awards will be due soon, simply log on to the website and get your votes in.

Safe travels and see you at the next GM.

Adrian Longwood, The Pres.



STOP PRESS

GME will be guest speaking at this September general meeting so please come along to hear the latest in UHF radios.

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TRIP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Hi All

I've been telling people that if you need camping gear, that they should ask either Adrian or myself. As we have multiple tents, sleeping bags, mattresses, stoves..... you get the point. This got me to wonder what a basic set up to go camping would cost. So, I got on to the Getaway Outdoors website to check out what it would cost a couple to put together a very basic camp set up. This is what I came up with.

Tent (3-person dome) \$100. Double mattress \$35. Foot pump \$20. Sleeping bags (2) (minus 5 rating) \$70. Stove \$100 (gas bottle is extra). Chairs (2) \$100 (you can go for more, or less expensive, chairs, but this was about the midrange). Table \$80 (Ali, slat table). Esky \$150 (57 litre). 2-way hand held radio \$25. Headlamps \$50 (2) (once again you can get more expensive ones but this was about the cheapest one on their site). All this comes to \$730. Yes, it is a lot of money to spend to live like a hobo for the weekend. The older members who have been with the club have built their gear up from a set up like this to more elaborate, and comfortable, equipment. But it has taken a few years to do it. But we all started with a basic el-cheapo, bargain basement, poor quality gear. Heck, I still have most of it floating around somewhere. But, it did the job at the time. Plus, it did it well enough to get me on a trip, or several, before it craped out. In that time, I saved up to get the better tent. The better stove. The better sleeping bag.

My point is that you don't have to spend a thousand dollars on a tent if you don't have the money to do it. If you do have the funds to get the good gear up front, then that's great. If you don't, then get the best gear you can afford. There is no use spending all your money on the top of the range gear, if you then can't afford to get out and use it. And as always, if you need anything, let either Adrian or myself know and we'll sort something out for you.

See you all out there.

Note: as a Subaru 4WD club member you can receive a discount at Getaway, Bentley making the above prices even cheaper. (Ed)

TRIP PROMOTIONS/ INFORMATION

Murray River Fireline - Sunday September 10

Explore the Lane Poole Conservation Reserve from Dwellingup south along the Murray River Fireline through to Lake Brockman.

This is a day trip south from Dwellingup along the Murray River Fireline in the Lane Poole Conservation Reserve, through to Hoffmans Mill campground and Lake Brockman, before heading out to the South Western Highway and home.



Murray River Photo credit: Walk GPS

There is plenty of interesting country to see on the way and lots of fresh air to take in!

We will be using established forest tracks and, provided the weather is reasonable and there is not a lot of water around, I expect the driving will be easy. The trip is therefore suitable for drivers of all skill levels.

Meet at: McDonald's Armadale Car park, 69 Jull Street, Armadale. Take the Armadale Road exit off the Kwinana Freeway and then take the last turn right (Church Avenue) before South Western Highway and then first left at Jull Street.

Time: 8.15 for an 8.30 departure

Bring: A full tank of petrol, some water and lunch

Contact: Tony Richards 0414 224 734

Barrabup Sanctuary Sat 23 - Mon 25 September

It is some time since we visited the Barrabup Sanctuary near Nannup. The LWE in September is an ideal time to visit the area for flora and fauna.



Plus the Blackwood River Classic 250 dinghy race is on this weekend as well. The Sanctuary is 32 Hectares of mainly Jarrah, Marri, Blackbutt, Banksia and Rivergum with frontage at the beautiful Blackwood River.

We will be staying at a campsite right by the river which has toilets, showers and a large covered area for congregating. There is no power so bring everything for as you would for a bush camp. A trip on Sunday will be made to Workers Pool and Barrabup Pool where you can walk, swim if warm enough or launch a canoe or kayak if you have one.

Cost: to be confirmed but around \$15-\$20 per person per night.

Bring: tent, camper trailer or small caravan, gas cooking gear.

Trip leader: Keith Wilcox 0413 266 245

TRIP PROMOTIONS/ INFORMATION

Pines Parade & Wilbinga Sleepover - 14-15 October

Spend Saturday arvo traversing Gnangara & Pinjar Pine Plantations, then go home or continue on to camp overnight at Wilbinga and sand drive on Sunday.

Joy will lead the group for an informative tour of remains of the Gnangara and Pinjar wetlands commencing in the afternoon.

Once reaching the northern limits on Wanneroo Rd attendees have the choice to return home or continue on across the road in to Wilbinga where we will camp the night and explore some sandy tracks the next day. Weather permitting fishing, swimming and kayaking is envisaged.

Continuing on to Wilbinga overnight, we will need camping gear to be self-sufficient for the one night, as there are no facilities.

Bring: Tent, bed, chair, stove, lights, sand pegs, etc. Also bring enough food for dinner, breakfast and lunch, as well as nibbles and drinking water.

Exploring Wilbinga on the Sunday along the beach and dunes before returning home in the arvo.

Meet Point: End of Sydney Rd

Meet Time: 1pm

Completion Time: 4pm (if returning home)

What to bring:

UHF Radio (Club Channel 16), air gauge/deflator, air compressor, shovel and basic recovery gear. Self sufficient camping and cooking gear for one night (camp fires may not be allowed)

Trip leader (Pines): Joy Unno 0429 473 709

Trip leader (Wilbinga): Adrian Longwood 0424 723 558

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- \$60.00 - Hitch Receiver w/shackle
- \$70.00 - SUV Snatch Strap (6T)
- \$88.00 - Digga 3pc H/D Shovel
- \$126.50 - 3pc 2/3m Sand Flag
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- \$250.00 - Black Max Compressor
- \$350.00 - Max Air III Compressor



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TRIP PROMOTIONS/ INFORMATION

Overview – Great Jaurdi Gilgies 10th to 18th June '17. Ian Johnson

In the promo I said "...it's all about bush camping and exploring tracks"; and so it was. It was an excellent trip and everything I had hoped for. Great two-night campsites in the woodlands, cooking over coals (thank you Nina) using a different species of eucalyptus each night. All were very good for cooking coals and every morning one of the Keiths (Keith Low - Ed) was able to leap out of bed and re-kindle the fire so the crew could gather around the glow and shift from torpère into life.

We had only a brief look at the Die Hardy Range, but we all want to go along those tracks at a later date as it was so different to where we had been. All tracks were in very good shape and perfect for any Subaru.

It was the maiden trip for our 'new' 2014 2.5i Forester v² "PUGGLE" with CVT. A rather large tech leap forward from the 2001 namesake. We may never get used to, or use, all of the electronics but it definitely more powerful and economical so we trust it will go past PUGGLE v¹ 350,000+kms.

Several highlights, after the eucalyptus woodlands, were travelling the 'new' tracks; finding the Reid Stone Hut and the associated twin wells; revisiting Pigeon Rock after the first time there when leading a club trip in 1992; and of course the wonderful camaraderie of our small group. I thank you all for making the trip a success and look forward to running a similar trip next year to another part of the Great Western Woodlands. Regards, Ian and Nina.

Let's Go Camping in the Bush! Put your name down now!

Perth 4WD and Adventure Show - November 10-12

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 (up to a maximum of 4 members per shift):

If you can help man the stand, please indicate on the website.

Entry is free for those helping on the stand.

Contact: home on 9386 7705 or mobile 0414 224 734. Tony Richards

TRIP PROMOTIONS/ INFORMATION

Annual Dinner - Saturday 28 October

Join us for a night of catching up with members laughing at those that receive silly awards and congratulating those that receive the annual awards.

Location: Castle Hotel, York

Time: 6pm for pre dinner drinks and 6.30pm for the meal a 3 course set menu for \$35. Full cooked buffet breakfast available for \$20 Sunday.

FOR MEALS TO BE PAID IN CASH TO ME ON THE NIGHT. PLEASE DO NOT MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PAY ON YOUR ROOM BILL AS THIS CONFUSES MY CALCULATIONS.

Dinner menu:

Entrée

Soup of the day with crusty bread
or Bruschetta on garlic bread

Main

Grilled spotted emperor with char sui salad and beer battered steak fries
or T-bone steak with beer battered fries and salad
or Pumpkin and chicken risotto with spinach, onion, pepito and aborio rice

Dessert

Chocolate mud cake with cream
or Apple crumble with cream

Tea and Coffee

Drinks to be purchased individually at the bar

Accommodation options:

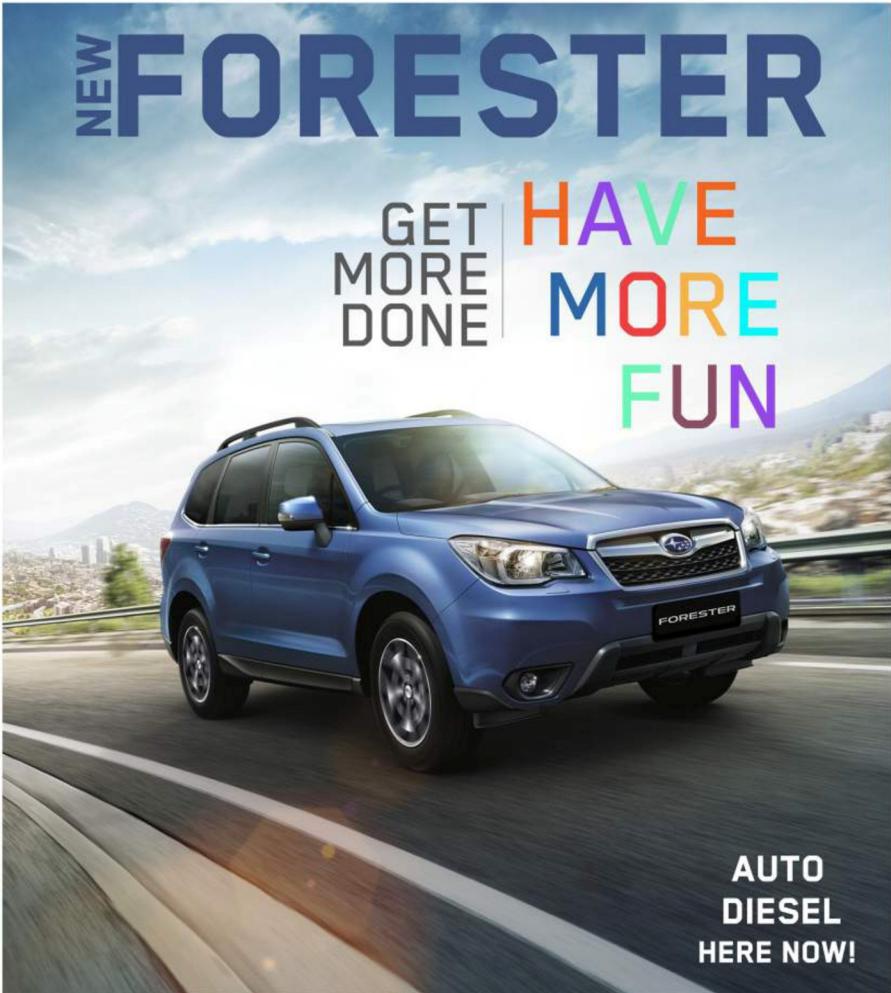
Motel (2 beds per room)

\$125 for 1 person, \$140 for 2 people

Hotel (1 bed per room shared ensuite)

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Put your name on the website or Contact: Joanne Norton 0411 151 024



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SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

CLUB CALENDAR

September 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
					1		Sun 2nd Mundaring Powerline Clean-up
3	4		6	7	8	9	Tue 5th: Committee Meeting Sun 10th Murray River Fireline - Page 5
	11		13	14	15	16	Tue 12th: General Meeting
17	18	19	20	21	22		Sat 23rd-Mon 25th: Barrabup Sanctuary near Nannup - Page 6
		26	27	28	29	30	

October 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			4	5	6	7	Tue 3rd: Committee Meeting
1	2		4	5	6	7	Tue 10th: General Meeting
8	9		11	12	13		Sat 14th-Sun 15th Pines parade & Wilbinga sleepover - Page 7
	16	17	18	19	20	21	Sat 14th-Sun 22nd: Israelite Bay & Balladonia
22	23	24	25	26	27		Sat 28th Annual Dinner - Castle Hotel York - Page 10
29	30	31					

November 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4	Tue 7th: Committee Meeting
			1	2	3	4	Fri 10th-Sun 12th: 4WD Show Volunteers needed to run our stand - Page 9
5	6		8	9			Tue 14th: General Meeting
	13		15	16	17	18	Sun 19th: Lancelin Sand Dunes
	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30			

SUBARU 4WD CLUB of W.A. INC

December 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
31					1	2	Tue 5th: Committee Meeting Sat 9th: Christmas Party at Jo's Tue 12th: General Meeting - Bring a Christmas plate
3	4		6	7	8		
10	11		13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

January 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Tue 9th: General Meeting Sun 14th: Annual Beach Run Fri 26th-Sun 28th Aust Day LWE - Rountuit Northcliffe CP
7	8		10	11	12	13	
	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25			
	29	30					

Upcoming trips:

March 3-5 LWE: Yeagarup Hut
Mar 30-Apr 02 Easter: Bremer Bay

SCHOOL AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

School Holidays: Sept 23 - Oct 8, Nov 27 - Feb 26

Public holidays: September 25, December 25 & 26, January 1 & 26

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

Jaurdi Gilgies - Monday June 12 - Keith Low

Today was the first 'rest day' of the trip but I was up early because my back was sore. Keith W was up a little later and quickly headed down to Kurrajong rock hole to see if he could spot and photograph some birds around the water. The rest of the crew took advantage of the day off and enjoyed a nice lie in, joining me by the campfire for breakfast at various times.



The lazy breeze meant it was really quite cool as we all enjoyed a relaxed morning circled around the fire, thankful for the great firewood so plentiful in the Great Western Woodlands. Keith returned mid-morning after what he said was a good bird spotting and photography session down at

Kurrajong rock hole. One bird he was able to photograph was hard to identify and caused quite some conjecture but we eventually came to a collective decision that it was most likely to be a Gilbert's whistler.

Much of the day was spent simply socialising around the fire and enjoying our beautiful woodland surrounds, although some time was spent trying to diagnose and fix the problems I'd been experiencing with my radio antenna.

Mid-afternoon we all set out for Pittosporum Rock which was about 8km from camp and south-west of Kurrajong rock hole on the track from the Helena and Aurora Ranges. Keith W was leading but stopped along the way for photos where a flock of purple-crowned lorikeets seemed to be feeding on some flowering gums. There were heaps of these distinctive little birds around but they aren't easy to photograph because they spend so much time on the wing and fly very swiftly. Keith indicated he would rejoin the rest of us at Pittosporum rock a little later, and he probably had more chance of a photo without us there, so we left him to it.

On my previous visit I'd fairly confidently assumed that Pittosporum Rock was named for the quite large and attractive pittosporum tree immediately adjacent

to it, and it seemed a fair bet. Thankfully the tree was still there! There was some water in the depressions on the rock as we walked around and we could clearly see the Helena and Aurora Ranges off to the south-west. Whilst there I collected some Dianella leaves to try making some rope, and some dead branches off the pittosporum tree to see if they were suitable for fire lighting. I was keen to try some of the skills I'd learned on a survival course a few weeks earlier, although I wasn't confident many timbers here in the Goldfields would do the job.

I headed back to camp a little earlier than the others - and just as Keith W was arriving - because I wanted to test my radio - or rather the aerial - out at a distance. However, it didn't work, so I was probably going to have to get by with a hand-held for the rest of the trip.



Purple-crowned Lorikeets

Needless to say, I got back to camp first, so I stoked up the fire and collected some additional fire wood before the others returned.

As we sat around the fire before dinner, I bound some cord around the walking stick – which Ian had cut for Nina yesterday to help support her bung knee - to make a more comfortable grip. The evening light on the salmon gums around the camp was beautiful, and the rest of our social evening around the fire - including a great chicken Maryland from Nina - saw the sky change several times from clear to cloudy and back again, although it didn't appear likely to rain.

Jaurdi Gilgies - Friday June 16 - Keith Low

We woke to find quite a bit of dew on our tents - the first moisture we'd seen on the trip other than the almost negligible rain yesterday morning. Keith W had no sooner joined me at the fire and started his coffee than he spotted a bird that he thought was an elusive quail thrush. He raced off to grab his camera and disappeared into the scrub in pursuit, returning a little later with a smile on his face and a great photo confirming his initial hunch. Soon afterwards he headed off to Pigeon Rocks to see what he could spot down there.

After breakfast I made a hopeful effort to repair my self-inflating mattress - which had burst a seam and self-deflated, thereby significantly spoiling my sleep - with help of Tom's tyre repair glue. Regretfully, I can report this repair did not hold long, so my poor sleep and early rising pattern remained 'de

SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS



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rigueur' for me!

Just after 10am, Leanne and I, and Tom and Jenni, headed down to the Pigeon Rocks. Keith W was just getting back to his vehicle as we arrived and reported that he had not seen a lot of birds. After we left Keith, and as we were looking for a track through the thick scrub to the rock, we came across the old tram! It had been so prominent on the club's previous trip 25 years ago but totally invisible yesterday – now we knew why. It was another reminder, after the wells near the remains of Reid's hut a couple of days back, of the capacity of the environment to recover and radically change how places appear. Not surprisingly, the tram was very dilapidated, and was very much enveloped in the thick scrub, but we took some photos for posterity before heading on.



Whilst Tom and Jenni walked to a nearby high point, Leanne and I struck out for the summit, although we again experienced some difficulty getting through thick scrub, this time growing in crevice gullies in the rock and doing its best to thwart us. We were not to be deterred, however, and when we reached the top



we were rewarded with mobile reception, so both spent some time on our phones. There were also views to the Yokradine Hills to our east and the Winding Hills and mine to the south. The west and north was an expanse of eucalypt and mulga. We weren't sure whether we were actually at the highest spot on the rocks so we walked 5-600m south to a second peak and this one had a cairn (with

wooden post), which we assumed meant it was the high spot! Our trek back down was much more direct and easy, and was coincidentally timed well with Tom and Jenni's return. We all got back to camp just before midday.

In the period up to lunch, I connected my solar panels for the first time on the trip, and we sat around and talked. Subjects included the old tram and several things that Ian had discovered around our camp - a solid acacia gall, *Acacia tetragonaphylla* or 'dead finish' and its superior firewood properties, and a good haul of sandalwood nuts.

After lunch, Ian made up some Johnnie cakes in a dead finish fire somewhat like how Aboriginal women do. They were very enjoyable! Then most of us had some quiet time whilst Ian and Nina went down to Pigeon Rocks to check out the old tram. Tom went for a walk, and Keith W rose from his siesta and also went to check out the tram. Before going he also helped me out with a spare fly net as I had forgotten mine and the flies were getting very friendly. While the others were away I helped Leanne fill her tank from her jerry's as she was planning to head home a day ahead of us tomorrow.

It was a beautiful evening with a lovely starry sky, good company and the bonus of Nina's lamb roast for dinner, followed by roasted sandalwood nuts from Ian. It was hard to beat and made me feel that the trip was too quickly drawing to an end.

Jaurdi Trip Saturday 17 June - Jenni Ibrihim

This report covers the last day's camping in the fabulous Great Western Woodlands on the Jaurdi trip, led so capably by Ian Johnson and Nina McLaren.

(The following day, before departing for Perth on the Great Eastern Highway we explored south of the highway. But that is a story for someone else to tell. Maybe they already have). This account is so long overdue that it needed a little scene-setting.

On rising at "white cypress camp" we were surprised to see a heavy dew had settled. Leave those synagogue jokes alone, Jenni. My friend the "bop-been" bird was up and calling out to all who would listen. Never did discover what bird that was. Help, recreational ornithologists and bird watchers!

We are out today to find Faye's Bluff, near the Yorkradine Hills, in the huge and wonderful Mount Manning Nature



Reserve. Luckily Ian and the two Keiths have map references, as it is rather hard to find. Part of the way involves the Bullfinch-Evanston Road. As for other days on this trip, the landscape varied considerably over the course of our journeying. From yellow sand, mulga and melaleuca to brown soil, rocks and eucalypts, nearer the base of the hills. We turn off towards Faye's Bluff after bidding farewell to Leanne who leaves to head south on the Bullfinch Evanston Road and Perth via the Great Eastern Highway. Our convoy is now four vehicles.

A recent issue of Western 4WDriver magazine featured an account of difficulties travelling along this track to Faye's Bluff, so Ian and Nina leave us to check out the current passability and whether there are any turnaround spots. The Western 4WDriver story featured much "gardening" and many staked tyres. It is good to be cautious. Over the radio we hear encouragement to proceed with care, and turn onto a "bouncy" track, with many sharp stones, small gums and acacia, alongside. This track is little used; bushes are in close to the vehicles and down the centre of the track, though there are signs of recent "gardening". We reach the Die Hardy Range, a class A nature reserve, north east of the Yorkradine Hills. A gold mine was established in the Die Hardy Range in 1932 and had been worked intermittently since then. The mining industry is of course still interested in the area but hopefully the unique flora and fauna is protected now that it's been declared class A.

Unfortunately the previous track clearing didn't quite go down to ground level (these "heavy" drivers). So many short sharp stems poking up from the ground. So much potential for Bob Jane to make a mint. Drivers need to be alert for staking. Most of this section we don't exceed 10-12kph, accompanied by sounds of scratching. Anyone with new duco would probably be horrified.

Previous track gardeners have left some of the smaller stems and trunks jutting out horizontally into the track too. Tyre wall alerts were issued. The surface is otherwise OK, no significant washaways. At a T-junction we turn right, into the bright morning sun which obscures driver vision and casts long shadows over the track. Some of the central shrubbery is as high as the bonnet. At a second T junction we again turn right and Ian calls "Morning tee-ee" in his own special way. We stop in the track for a cuppa and an exploration. There's a broken tail light cover from a previous driver. Lots of interesting and unusual plants.

The track has been slowly climbing, but we've reached 550m altitude with no bluff in sight so far. I reflected on the early white settlers from Britain and Europe. How amazed they must have been to see such dense and diverse vegetation. The naked green hills of English poetry had been chopped down over the centuries.

On a small crest we stop to take photographs of the Helena and Aurora Range laid out ahead of us. Our track eventually crosses the Bullfinch Evanston Road (which leads to the Great Eastern Highway at Southern Cross). On the way we

get a view of red dirt mounds of the Windarling iron ore mine near Mount Jackson. The mine is slowly eating up a ridge. We reach the wide and smooth dirt and gravel of Pigeon Rocks Road and have successfully travelled the stakey track without the tyre dogs (pressure monitors) yelping.

Beside the road huge eucalypts are widely spaced out across the woodlands and present a beautiful scene, reminiscent of a Hans Heysen painting. Wrong geography and species, I know.

Again we reach the Bullfinch Evanston Road and head south along it briefly into the shire of Yilgarn and another view of the Helena and Aurora Range. The road seems like a highway after what we've driven along today. A cloud of dust approaches and we pass the first vehicle we've seen in a week. We have now travelled a total of 400km since we were in Southern Cross a week ago.

We pass another mine, the old Atkinson Find, first established in the 1890s, though little has been done there for 100 years. Gold, galena and rare minerals have been found in the dolerite there. The vestiges of this abandoned mine contrast with the infrastructure around the modern Cliffs Natural Resources iron ore mine, further along the road.

Those in the lead vehicle spot a family of emus crossing the road, but they are gone into the bush before others can see them, since the dusty conditions force us to spread out.

Lunch time approaches and we slow down to find a nice shady spot to stop. Yes, it is winter, but the sun is bright in a cloudless blue sky. Tom's tyre dogs start to bark warning of a slow leak. At the lunch spot the offending tyre is changed and there's damage to the tyre wall. So we didn't get out of the stakey track unscathed after all. The tyre is of course a write-off.

Over the past week the only casualties have been Keith Lowe's deflating self-inflating mattress and CB antenna; plus Tom's tyre. Not bad considering the terrain today.

After lunch we continue through such beautiful country. Large gums on pale brown sand. Small wispy clouds are building up on the horizon. Signs of settlement are now visible – road edge posts, the vermin proof fence, a sign declaring "Wild Dog Control Area", a ploughed field, seed bins, and even rubbish on the roadside, tossed by people too blind to see the beauty of the area they were passing through. We are briefly back on the edge of the Wheatbelt. We spot red tailed black cockatoos, pink and grey galahs and a Nankeen Kestrel, a red-brown and white falcon.

The trees in this area are the fluted bronze trunked gimlets (*Eucalyptus Salubris*), and *E. Sheathiana*, the one I like to call the maypole gum. Long strips of bark dangle in the breeze from the branches and trunk, like the ribbons on a maypole. Another emu father and seven chicks cross the road ahead. We

blink as we pass through Bullfinch, then Corinthia, a small group of five houses, and Lake Koorkadine, a wet lake with lovely reflections and saltbush on the northern outskirts of Southern Cross.

Mid-afternoon we make Southern Cross which welcomes RVs. After refuelling at the Shell servo on the Great Eastern Highway we turn east towards Yellowdine, with the Mundaring to Kalgoorlie water pipeline to the north of the road. Just before Yellowdine we turn south onto the Nevoria-Yellowdine Road, a pale coloured sandy road, edged with mulga and small



gums. Despite rather needless warnings, “Not an all Weather Road”, “Road Closed, Enter at own Risk” we climb the track up the hill. The track is dry and the several large smooth deep holes in it pose no problem today. Some sections are corrugated, again manageable.

With a clear blue sky and the afternoon rays falling on the tall bronze trunked gimlets, I'm in heaven. We are now in the Yellowdine Nature Reserve. Lots more E. Sheathiana and E. Salubris, with some more open areas suitable for camping by a small group such as we are. We turn left towards the old Heaney's Find vermiculite and gold mine which has been there since at least 1940. After a big dip in the track Ian and Nina check out a potential camp site on the left hand side. Yes, it meets standards. As at previous camp sites on this trip, a different treescape. At 3.35pm we stop to set up camp among the maypole gums. So we never did find Faye's Bluff but we did have a wonderful day of driving.

This Jaurdi trip is coming to an end tomorrow and I for one regret it. It shows just how much fantastic country there is still to explore in the Great Western Woodlands, the largest and healthiest temperate woodland left on Earth. Larger in size than the whole of England and Wales, the Woodlands cover over 16 million hectares.

More

Birdlife Australia's video about birds of the GWW <http://tinyurl.com/ycrjp3m3>

Lancelin Winter Wonderland trip report - Karen E

Despite feeling terrified for most of the day, I was pleased that both myself and my car survived and it wasn't necessary to catch a taxi home because my car was buried under six feet of sand. The meeting point at Drovers carpark, organised by Adrian, happened to have a really good bakery which also did coffee. The sun was shining and it was a perfect day to be heading to Lancelin. After a quick stop at the Lancelin bakery, we were all eager to hit the sand. Once on the dunes, there was a quick lesson on using a tyre deflator effectively and what the best tyre pressure is to drive through certain sandy conditions. This was useful to me as I had never driven in these conditions previously and therefore, had no idea of optimum tyre pressure and how to use a tyre deflator.



Adrian talked briefly about important points of driving through sand and the rest we learnt along the way. It was exhilarating to realise the capabilities of your own car and also disappointing to learn the lack of capabilities of the driver (I speak for myself). I was the first (and second) person to be bogged and in fact, the only person to be bogged all day. I learnt pretty quickly that just because you're a girl, this does not automatically mean when you get into trouble, a male will come and drive you to safety. You get bogged, you get yourself out and I had quite a bit of practice throughout the day. By the end of the day, I had my groove on and was getting some confidence up.

For our lunch entertainment, a quadbike rider tried his luck riding diagonally up the sand dune we had been trying to get up, without success and ended up in the bushes at the bottom of the dune. Luckily for him, that Luke and Adrian were able to tow him out of the bushes and up onto the dune safely. We continued on the hunt for more adventures after lunch and found more great dunes to drive up and down (and in my case, get bogged on again). One group picture at the top of a dune, then it was time to disband, with some heading for the back beach for some practice with beach driving and others heading home. All in all, it was a fantastic day, with many new skills learnt in a safe and supportive environment. Well worth getting up early on a Saturday for!

Adrian's powerpoint presentation. Part 4.

Solar Panel types and Charging Regulators

Panel Types:

- Polycrystalline – Most efficient Panel but only at best when at tangent to the sun
- Monocrystalline – fairly efficient panel and works better than Poly in low/weak light
- Amorphous – often small panels used in calculators, garden lights etc. (300% less efficient)

Solar Regulators:

- PWM - Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) to slowly lower the amount of power applied to the batteries as the batteries get closer and closer to fully charged
- MPPT - Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) controllers are basically able to convert excess voltage into amperage and achieve higher charging outputs from lower voltages

Why do we need a regulator?

- Panels produce up to 18.5V and that's too high for 12V batteries
- Panels would keep pumping in voltage even if the battery is full

Regulator Features:

- Control and regulate Voltage going in to battery to max ~14.5
- Capable of charging 10-20amps
- Actual current is regulated and optimized
- Can have appliances run via regulator to act as a low voltage cut off to protect battery

12V Charging via DC-DC Chargers (RED-ARC / C-Tek):

- Capable of charging 20-25amps
- Actual current is regulated and optimized (including for different battery types and temperature and level of charge)
- Switches between Alternator and Solar automatically

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