

December 2018



SUBARU 4WD NEWS

New meeting place starting January

Moresby Street Hall, Kensington

7.30pm

The day changes to the **2nd Tuesday of the month**

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

2017/2018 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Adrian Longwood	0424 723 558 president@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
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EDITOR:	Stephan Millett	0405 221 845 editor@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Tony Richards **9386 7705**, Travis Maskey **0422 815 737**, Joanne Norton **0411 151 024**, Jim Wilcox **0419 040 969**, Ross Mead **0417920848**

comm@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au

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	Jim Wilcox	0419 040 969
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	Keith Low	0407 477 980
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PROPERTY OFFICER:	Tony Richards	
ENVIRONMENT OFFICER:	Joy Unno	0429 374 709 environment@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
SOCIAL MEDIA:	Jason Moore	0423 088 587 socialmedia@subaru4wdclub.asn.au

Club member of the Year 2018-2019: Robert Griffiths

Life members: Fred Offer, Keith Anderson, Jonel Householder, Ray Stewart, Ian Johnson, Peter Andruszkiw, Ron Counce, Jim Wilcox and Tony Richards

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Due to a strong show of support, or everyone else happily evading nomination, I've found myself President for a third year running and will happily chair the club for another year. Last month's AGM saw most committee roles remaining unchanged, but with Erica taking over the Treasury, and Ross joining the committee.

Personally, thanks to our previous committee for a good year and Katie and Alex for their efforts, as they missed out on committee positions this year. Behind the scenes the committee put a lot of effort in to planning the year and it's all voluntary. Give the team a pat on the back next time you see them.

Looking ahead in to 2019, we will be celebrating our **40th Birthday** as a Club, which is a huge milestone. There will be a few things going on and the committee will firm up plans in the near future. If you have any suggestions they would be appreciated. Just contact anyone on the committee.

We've been invited by Matt and the team at ORE (Off Road Equipment) to come along to a HEMA training night run by their rep. It involves a detailed talk and **presentation on the HX-1 GPS** unit and very well worth the cost. Register with Matt directly, with more details further on in the mag.

Ever wondered if you've overloaded your car on a camping trip? Well the chances are higher than you think. Vehicles are all rated with a GVM (gross vehicle mass) and a Kerb Mass (empty weight, with fuel) and on most of our Subarus there's a 450kg or so difference between the two. That remaining figure is all you're legally allowed to carry. Put 2 Adults, and 2 kids in, and there's 200-250kg, put fuel in, there's 50kg, before you've even put any camping or outdoor equipment in you have less than 200kg allowed. Tow a trailer? That uses up 80-100kg. Worried what your tent, esky, food, crockery, stoves, recovery gear, kayak, water may put you over the edge? Well read on and see what our typical luggage adds up to and how much you may be tipping the scales at.

Memberships are due by the end of this month and anyone yet to renew will become un-financial and lose website access and Membership rights from that point. Travis will be in contact shortly with a reminder to follow up soon. You can pay by cash, direct deposit, credit card in person or online to the treasurer. Season's greetings to all. **The Pres, Adrian Longwood**



TRIP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

The trips tend to go quiet during December as everyone has Christmas functions to attend to, but don't worry we will be back in January with our **annual beach run** on the 13th. Then on the Australia Day long weekend we are going somewhere new, to **Deepdene Farmstay** just out of Augusta. **And...**

We have started planning two big trips for next year

Warriédar and beyond

The first is a combined Easter / Anzac day trip to Warriédar station for April 19 to 22 and then on to probably another 4 or 5 stations in the Murchison, staying a couple of nights where we can, and returning April 28. So, if you are working, **take April 23, 24 and 26 off and you will get a 10-day break** 😊.

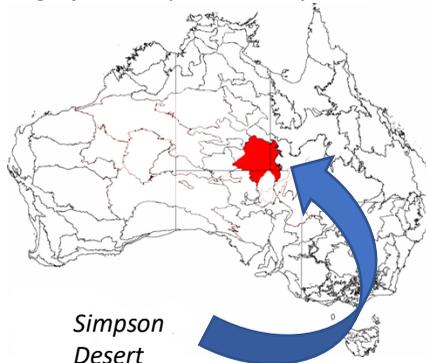
Karratha to Alice, Simpson Desert, Coober Pedy and...?

The other big trip is to celebrate the club's 40th anniversary. This trip starts in Karratha on July 15, after the 4WD Association Gathering, and heads to Alice Springs via the **Gary Junction Road**. I'm planning it so there is the option for people who don't have much leave to meet us in Alice Springs (they leave Perth on July 20). From there down

past the geographical centre of Australia (did you know there are 5 different centres depending on how it's calculated!). Then across the **Simpson Desert**, down the **Birdsville Track** then to **Coober Pedy**. Here the time-poor people can head back to Perth arriving August 11. I'm still toying with other return options for people who have a bit more time. Anyone interested in the **Anne Beadell Highway?** Cheers David



Images from Wikipedia. Thank you.



Simpson Desert



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NEWS

Not so surprising birthday

Club members were well represented at a birthday picnic for David Peck recently. The celebration at the Pioneer Women's Memorial in Kings Park was supposed to be a surprise ... until one member rang up David to ask directions. No names, but a moustachioed figure was allegedly involved.

Happy 60th birthday David



Marian and David



Jo shows off her decoration centrepiece

Christmas at Jo's

The annual Christmas party was at Jo Norton's place again this year. Thanks Jo. As usual the salads were great, the numbers good (although maybe fewer than last year) the desserts inviting and Jo's famous Christmas decorations front and centre.



Travis tucks in

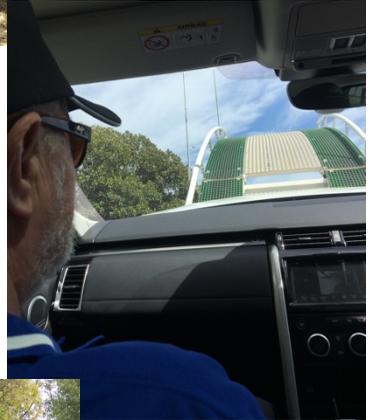
NEWS

Better setting for clubs at 4WD and Camping show

The new location for 4WD clubs at the annual 4WD and camping show was a mixed success. There was more space, less sand and the 4WD Association had a big tent showing a video compilation of the new Mundaring to Albany Track and videos from clubs. Thanks to Wayne for our great video, which another club thought was so good that we had paid a consultancy to do it.

The new area for clubs gave us more space but we were still out of the main display area. The good thing about this, though, was that the people who passed by the tents had often come with the intention of talking to the clubs.

The clubs were still in a cul-de-sac, but a bigger, brighter cul-de-sac with a few attractions around it. We were next to the Army display, behind the daredevil driving and opposite the 4WD track.



Top: Three likely lads at the ready in the Club tent.

Middle: Ray Dobson in the new Land Rover Discovery going up, and over.

Left: The market-like feel of the new area

Strong turnout for Lancelin Dunes

There were 19 Subarus traversing the dune at Lancelin last month. Nearly half of those attending were new members or people who had signed up after hearing about it at the 4WD and camping show. That is a great result.

Adrian led the newbies and less experienced drivers and David took the other group, but the newbies probably got the more hair-raising introduction – according to one unnamed

member who enjoyed the direction of both leaders on the day.

There was a bit of digging to do, a bit of snatch-strap work – and lunch in a hollow on the edge of the dunes. The day was not overly hot and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.



Above: New member Nishal bottoms out before a steep descent .**Below:** one of our visitors proudly shows what his new Outback could do for Nishal.

Bring a plate

Our December general meeting is a little festive and we bring a plate to share. Doesn't need to be much, just something small is fine.



Watch your weight: “There’s a thousand grams in a kilogram”

A lot of us are putting more and more stuff on our cars – bullbars, roof racks, tyre carriers, awnings and so on. All of this adds to the car’s weight and makes it easy to become overloaded.

And overloading can bring trouble.

We are overloaded when our car and contents (including people) is greater than the Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) printed on the car’s compliance plate.

The GVM is defined under Australian Design Rules as the maximum allowable mass of a vehicle when it is fully laden. If we go over that, it can affect how well the car handles and make accidents more likely, and it can exceed the load rating of tyres and cause things to break. You just may get stuck on a sandhill or rough track. But, there could also be implications for insurance if you are in an accident. To work out how much you can carry in your car, take the Gross Vehicle Mass and take away the Unladen (or Kerb) Mass. The Unladen mass is the mass of the car with all standard equipment, a full tank of fuel and all fluid reservoirs full, including fuel.

GMV – unladen mass = what you can carry

For example,

the Unladen mass of a 2.5 litre CVT 2014 Forester is 1528kg. Its Gross

Vehicle Mass is 2055kg. This means the car can carry 527kg. **Cont. p. 10**

Item	(kg)
Awning	12.0
Bull bar	40.0
Cargo barrier not sure of weight	
CB radio	1.0
Chairs (2)	8.0
Clothing	20.0
Compressor	5.0
Drawers, boxes, storage	
Eating/cooking utensils	6.0
Extra spare wheel	30.0
Spare Filter Air (est.)	0.3
Spare Filter Cabin (est.)	0.2
Food (dry)	30.0
Fridge, full	40.0
Gas bottle	6.0
Inverter 240v	0.7
Jerry cans (40 Litre, full)	40.0
Oil-auto trans	1.0
Oil-gear 500ml	0.5
People (2)	160.0
Recovery gear	12.0
Roof rack	15.0
Second battery, with wiring	22.0
Shovel	2.0
Sleeping gear (2)	15.0
Stove	4.0
Sump guard	?
Table	2.0
Tent, poles etc	5.0
Tow bar (with receiver?)	18.0
Tow receiver 2.2 steel	2.2
Water jerry cans (40 Litre, full)	40.0
Total (Minimum)	537.9

Watch your weight: it could save you a lot of bother

Other things ...	
Backpacking stuff	10.0
Books/Maps	10.0
Camp oven	8.0
Drinks	10.0
Extra water	20.0
First aid kit	2.0
Kids ??	
MaxTrax	8.0
Solar panel	10.0
Spares - nuts and bolts, electrical cable, fuses, tape, WD-40, grease, brake fluid, cable ties, tie wire	7.0
Tools	20.0
Torches, spare batteries, GPS Navigator, Tyre Dogs, ScanGauge, etc	4.0
Total extra (Minimum)	109.0

From. p.9

Let's see how easy is it to fill up with more weight than is legal

The two tables makes a conservative estimate of the weight of each item: e.g. an 80 Amp/hour battery weighs less than a 120A/h battery; two people may total more than 160kg; roof racks, bull bars, awnings etc, all vary in weight.

Look through the tables: and be honest with yourself. What do you carry that you can do without?

What are you not carrying that you should not do without?

What can you share between others in a convoy?

Information and ideas from Ian Johnston, Stephan Millett and Adrian Longwood.

Things to know about your club

Your club is an incorporated club, with a recently-revised constitution, elected executive committee and general committee. The Club's calendar year is until 31st October and the AGM follows the ordinary general meeting in November, when all positions are declared open and all memberships are due for renewal.

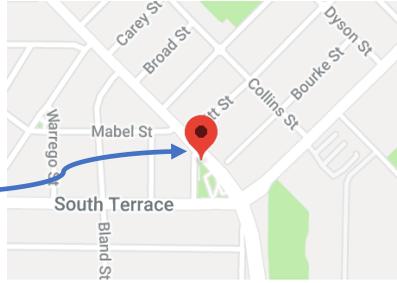
To see and contact any of the current committee or Webmaster, find their names in the 'Contact Us' section of the website, or look on the inside cover of this magazine.

In 2019 the Club turns 40 and we have members who remember many of those 40 years. Have a chat, listen and learn. Marvel at what your club has done over the years. Use the website: there is a lot on it to find out.

We're moving!!!

This December will be our last meeting in the current hall before we relocate to the other side of the highway.

Starting in January our new meeting place will be Moresby Street Hall, Kensington and changing to the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm



Learn how to use the new HEMA

Matt Ledger, dealer coordinator of Off Road Equipment (ORE), has invited Club members to a training session on the new HEMA HX-1 – the latest GPS navigator from Australia's best-known map people. The session is Thursday evening 20 December at the ORE Myaree. Cost is \$50 and time about two hours. Contact Matt Ledger on mattl@offroadequipment.com.au or 08 93172344.

For all your 4WD Subaru tyre and wheel needs, see our friendly sales teams at the following locations:

Belmont
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www.belmonttyrepower.com.au

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9286 2299
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SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

CLUB CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2018							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Saturday 1. Christmas party at Jo's Tuesday 4. Committee meeting Wed 12. Club meeting
31						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

JANUARY 2019							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	No committee meeting Tues 9. General meeting Sun 13 Annual beach run Sat 26-Thurs 31 Deepdene Farm Stay Augusta
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY 2019							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Tues 5. Committee meeting Tues 12. General meeting Sat 9. Fish and chips at the beach. Woodman Point Thurs 14-Sun 17. Albany Explorer and Field of Lights
					1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28			

SUBARU 4WD CLUB OF W.A. INC.

CLUB CALENDAR

MARCH 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Sat 2 – Mon 4. Camping trip.
Venue tba
Tues 5. Committee meeting
Tues 12. General meeting
Sun 17. Sunset picnic and paddle

Quiz. Who is the rookie of the year? Answer to the editor

APRIL 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Tues 2. Committee meeting 7pm
Tues 9. General meeting 7.30pm



Deepdene Farm Stay Augusta, January 26-28

Deepdene Farmstay is a rural property about five minutes' drive from Augusta and about 900m from Jewel Cave which has a café. Beaches are also close by. The campsites overlook paddocks of cows and horses, with a number of large trees to offer shade in the summer and frequently a lovely breeze. Facilities are basic but clean and tidy. There is no power, but there are solar lights and waterless compost toilets, and a solar hot water shower. Pets are not permitted. Bring camping gear, food, water, beach gear etc. Please have a full tank of fuel for the trip down. We depart at 9am. David Peck is leading this trip. Please sign up on the website.

TRIP REPORTS

Planning pays off for long Kimberley trip

Purnululu and Gibb River Road

Planning was intense and this paid dividends – no injuries to person, itinerary, catering, vehicle, battery or tyre! I put this down to a very strong preparation program which all participants followed to the letter or better, so congratulations everyone for a job well done. Lots of things to do from check

lists! These and other charts of trip records are available.

We went direct to Purnululu National Park with five stops just off the narrow ‘black island’, the last was at Halls Creek caravan park. None of the stops in around 3000km evoked superlatives.

We were anxious about the dirt drive into Purnululu, but tyres were deflated and it was actually easy, and our ‘wading tarps’ were not needed as the 46 creeks were all low or dry. A dream run compared to my last visit in 1986 in a 1981 Subaru when it was all crashes and bangs!

Fuel Used Chart		Purnululu Trip 22 July 2018 to 16 August 2018							
		Names							
Subaru Model	X, Automatic	Year	2010						
Tyres	BFG A/T 215/70 tyres in place of 215/65 HT tyres.								
Modifications	1" lift, Bullbar, bash plates, roof cage, auto transmission oil cooler 2nd battery, solar panel on top of roof cage, steel rims in place of alloy. Fly screen to cover the front grille.								
Place	Date	ODO Refill	Stage Kms	Litres	Kms/L	L/100	Price \$	Total \$	
Winthrop full tank	22/Jul/18	70994							
Geraldton	22/Jul/18	71424	430	53.02	8.1	12.3	1.439	76.30	
Billabong Road House	23/Jul/18	71656	232	30.41	7.6	13.1	1.591	48.38	
Carnarvon	23/Jul/18	71901	245	25.28	9.7	10.3	1.530	38.68	
Nanutarra	23/Jul/18	72261	360	41.97	8.6	11.7	1.889	79.28	
Port Hedland	24/Jul/18	72745	484	57.67	8.4	11.9	1.659	95.67	
Sandfire	25/Jul/18	73024	279	30.91	9.0	11.1	1.986	61.39	
Broome	25/Jul/18	73307	283	33.62	8.4	11.9	1.699	57.12	
Fitzroy Crossing	26/Jul/18	73663	356	40.83	8.7	11.5	1.840	75.13	
Halls Creek	26/Jul/18	73952	289	32.84	8.8	11.4	1.809	59.41	
Kurrajong (Jerrycan)	31/Jul/18	74362	410	9.00			1.439	12.95	
Warmun*	1/Aug/18	74473	111	53.54	8.3	12.0	1.890	101.19	
Wyndham	2/Aug/18	74763	290	35.13	8.3	12.1	1.600	56.21	
Gibb River Station	5/Aug/18	75109	346	40.87	8.5	11.8	2.150	87.87	
Mt Barnett GRR	7/Aug/18	75289	180	21.92	8.2	12.2	2.150	47.13	
Derby	12/Aug/18	75742	453	52.14	8.7	11.5	1.805	94.11	
Roebuck	13/Aug/18	75928	186	17.54	10.6	9.4	1.699	29.80	
Sandfire	13/Aug/18	76210	282	30.56	9.2	10.8	1.885	57.61	
Marble Bar	14/Aug/18	76487	277	28.9	9.6	10.4	1.699	49.10	
Newman	15/Aug/18	76828	341	37.48	9.1	11.0	1.479	55.43	
Meekathara	15/Aug/18	77251	423	45.73	9.2	10.8	1.659	75.87	
Mt Magnet	15/Aug/18	77436	185	20.05	9.2	10.8	1.658	33.24	
Wubin	16/Aug/18	77734	298	36.11	8.3	12.1	1.605	57.96	
Murdoch-home, full	16/Aug/18	78068	334	35.68	9.4	10.7	1.464	52.24	
Totals			7074	811.2	8.72	11.47	1.728	1,402.06	
Adjusted 2% ODO error reading under			7215		8.895	11.24			

Vital information. This fuel chart from the trip gives vital information for future trips. Charts like it were used to plan this long trip. Also check the weight charts in this magazine (like Ian did). It all helps with planning and it all helps to get the group there and back.

Cont. p.15

Purnululu fuel estimates were tight, but we made it

From p. 14 We spent another five days soaking up the spectacular scenery, walking, scrambling, scudding overhead in a chopper and relaxing. Capping all that off was a total eclipse of the Moon! One of the wonders of the world and worthy of another trip – anyone can organise that!

Thereafter we had two nights at Wyndham, four two-nighters at the best stops along the Gibb River Road and two at Derby. Homeward bound the convoy splintered into different timetables. I cannot possibly mention all the highlights, but we did a lot of walking, scrambling, swimming, soaking up the warm weather and relaxing and eating at delightful campgrounds (though now everything is much, much busier than 32 years ago!!!).

The cars all coped easily, but out of Purnululu some of us thought running out of fuel might be interesting. *Puggle* got down to 1.1 litres remaining at Warmun; Raj would have run out about 22km before there but added a can of



Aerial view of the beehive formations of the Bungle Bungle ranges (Purnululu)

fuel; and we had 30 litres between us as backup. All now know Subarus have a 60 litre tank (since 1985), and all have a record of what economy to plan around the next [similar] trip.

Dust is a huge issue. The engine air cleaners had to be knocked or blown clean a couple of times, as did the cabin filters, even though we all kept out of the talcum like dust as much as possible. This was not easy as the traffic is unbelievable on the GRR, as are speeding vehicles towing all sorts of 'housing'. I suggest taking a spare filter for both applications.

It was a long trip and after 7,500km and 28 days we arrived home very, very tired and, I guess, so was everyone else! Thank you all for joining us and I trust there are plenty of memories, more chatter and many photos. **Ian Johnson**



A dream come true among towering banded domes

Experiences of a first-timer

I was captivated when I first heard of Purnululu and saw photographs of those rounded towers of horizontal black and orange bands all close together looking like a dome city. It felt like a dream come true when we were on our way. I was very excited as we had two failed attempts to get there years before, and I really wanted to do some paintings of these unusual, weathered, sandstone sculptures but thought that I needed to feel the immensity of the place and to see the true colours before I could put paint to paper.

It was such a grand sight to behold. I felt so privileged to be walking around the banded domes towering majestically all around. Cathedral Gorge was spectacular but the walk was challenging and involved short steep slopes, narrow ledges, pebbles and potholes and honeycomb rocks between towering cliffs to reach an amphitheatre.

I enjoyed the rest, the space, the cliffs of weathered, rugged red rocks, parts of which were glowing in the sunlight. The Whip Snake Gorge walk was along sand and rock in a river bed leading to another amphitheatre with a small permanent pool. Along the way I picked up a few water tumbled egg shaped rocks as I was quite attracted to them and stashed them in my backpack to take home with me for memory sake. Some of these stones were found in the bottom of deep straight-sided holes drilled into the riverbed by the powerful grinding action of rocks tumbling for millions of years during big floods.



Seed pod memento

Cont. p.17

A dream come true

From p.16. Dawn and sunrise walking along the creek beds of tumbled, rounded rocks and pebbles of Piccaninny Creek, watching the deepening orange glow of the domes as the sun rises and touches them was a truly special experience.

The peace, the tranquillity of being surrounded by these magnificent, 'beehive' domes, and the fresh, cool of the early mornings made me feel just so alive, so wonderful, so lucky and happy to be there by



In the pools I had to swim hard to stay afloat

ourselves enjoying this beautiful moments of our lives together. It was a very different kind of experience walking the tracks of Echidna Chasm and Mini Palms. It was a challenging walk towards the end getting more difficult with steeper slopes and negotiating fallen rocks as the tracks penetrated the escarpment. It was spectacular. I kept stopping to admire and enjoy looking up at the beautiful orange cliffs soaring straight up from the valley floor. I especially like the golden glow of the sun on the red cliffs.



Just made for hugging

Cont. p.18

A dream come true

From p.17. Tall palm trees line the valley floor and grow out of impossible nooks and crannies high above the ground.

The most exhilarating experience of my life came with the helicopter flight. I was a bit nervous during the take-off but in no time I was high up in the air, the cool wind rushing through the door-less helicopter. The panoramic view of the vast landscape was astounding, the whole of the range was laid out like a map. Purnululu is as fascinating in overview as it is from only a few metres away. Its magnitude is breathtaking and so is its complexity. When we landed I was tingling with 'pins and needles' and numbed from the excitement of the flight and the continuous cool wind rushing past me. It was a mind-blowing experience.



Pic from helispirit.com.au

I was unsure of what the Gibb River Road would be like, but was

prepared for a long, remote and rough ride with bad corrugations and many river crossings. Bumping along the heavily corrugated sections of the dirt road was not relaxing, it was terrible, it was most uncomfortable, it was tiring and it seems to keep on going. I am not sure which is worse – the bumps or the dust. The dust was so bad, you smell it, you feel it and it obliterates whatever is in front of you. The 'bull dust' sections really need to be experienced - it was scary, you hang on tight to whatever you can get hold of as the car is wallowing in the dust struggling to move ahead, you see nothing but clouds of fine, dirty, brown dust, it was everywhere outside and inside.

The Gibb River Road took us through vast wilderness, dramatic gorges, lush rock pools and waterfalls and huge cattle stations. I was attracted to the massive, magnificent gorges, the thundering waterfalls, the gurgling streams and the crystal-clear pools and the untouched landscapes. Swimming in these beautiful rock pools was so different to swimming in the ocean. The water felt cold and I had this sinking feeling so I had to swim hard to stay afloat. I enjoyed swimming in the pools, **Cont. p.19**

A dream come true

From p.18. it was refreshing especially after our long and challenging walks to get there. I enjoyed the diverse Kimberly landscape from tropical vegetated river gorges to vast woodlands to open plains. The boab trees are quite a sight to behold and are common across the Kimberley. My favourite ones are the ancient, gigantic ones with a huge, swollen base and a massive, bottle shaped trunk. I really like them for their unusual form, every tree seems to have their own character and personality, they look magnificent in their skeletal, leafless form in the dry season. They are the signature trees of the Kimberley, they stand out, reach out, and call out to you - you just cannot miss them. I simply love those trees.

Camping across a variety of places, by the roadside, free 24 hour campsites, caravan parks, cattle stations, and national parks was an experience I will always remember. I love the isolated, quieter sites where there were not so many campers. Our bush camp in a gravel pit was one of my favourites where I truly enjoyed the

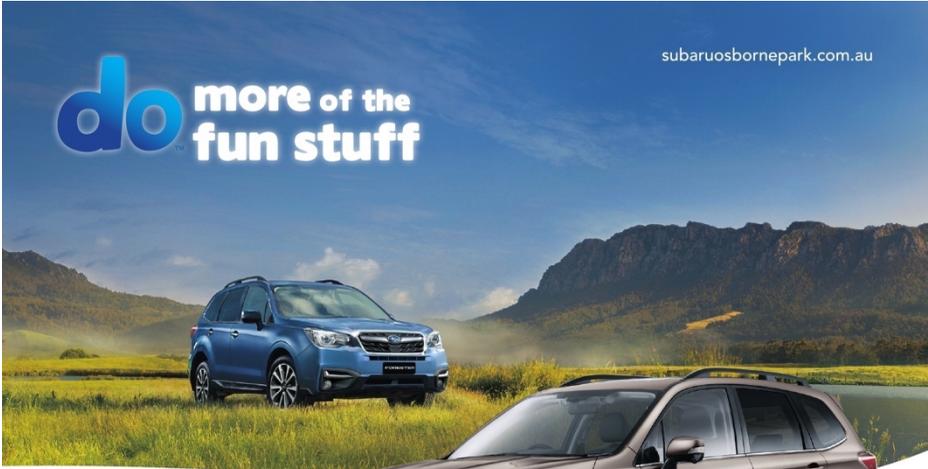


Stone memories

group company, sitting around the blazing fire during the night, chatting, feeling and feeding the fire. The night sky was always so beautiful to watch with its galaxy of twinkling stars and the chill glow of the bright moon. It was always nice to wake up to the chatter and chirping of noisy birds at sunrise. Camping amongst the eight monstrous mango trees at Mount Elizabeth Station with the semi-wild chickens, the peacocks and hens was quite special even though the hen did not choose to visit our tent and leave a token egg.

I collected a few things which interested me on the trip, a bag of little 'iron nuggets' stones, a bag of egg shaped rocks, a bunch of deep red nuts, a cotton flower and some sticky wattle seeds. I think I could make some very nice necklaces out of the nuts after drill holes through them.

Our sincere thanks to Ian and Nina for taking us, guiding us and looking after us on this trip. I had the most joyous adventure. I have met, got along and found some new friends and had so many wonderful, memorable new experiences and have learnt how to cope with the not so easy ones. **Catherine Bedo. Rookie of the Year 2018.**



Quiz. Who is the rookie of the year? Answer to the editor



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Herding cats in the Stirling Ranges and Porongorups September 22-24

The assembly point for this trip was the McDonalds car park in Armadale, however this proved rather busy as an astonishing number of the general population seemed to feel the urge to have Sunday breakfast there.

Although a total of 26 people in 11 cars registered for this trip, the actual number of convoy participants was more limited as Ray and Joanne plus Keith and Fiona had made their own way south the previous day. Also Deb, our trip leader, advised that Erica had contacted her to say she would make her own way as she was two hours behind schedule. Clearly this was a case of Auld Long Time. Joy, her daughter and grand daughter also travelled separately.

Deb shared her car with her brother Paul. Both had always wanted to climb Bluff Knoll and this trip provided the opportunity to do so.

One member of the convoy group distinguished himself by turning up wearing 2 different shoes. He did successfully manage to choose 1 left and 1 right and they were both brownish. It rated a "Silly Award" at the annual dinner. Later, after we reached our destination, Keith queried whether he had another pair just like these at home.

We departed pretty much on time with Williams as the first scheduled stop. Our vehicle was the nominated Tail End Charlie but somehow I managed to pass Adrian's highly distinctive Forester without even registering until I spotted

Cont. p.23



Paul, Deb, Mel and Adrian get their heads in the clouds

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Herding cats

From p.21 him in my mirrors. Clearly my recent move from 2 to 2.5 litres is paying dividends.

A brief stop at Kojonup was followed by a late-ish lunch at Mt Barker Bakery. A short drive after lunch had us at the Porongorup Tourist Park. Checking in was somewhat congested as we arrived in a group and payments were cash only. This was a great base with grassed sites, excellent facilities and the opportunity to sit round a fire at night. An additional bonus was a pub next door with interesting beers and good food. This was definitely a first for any club camp I have been on.

The next day (Sunday) everyone dispersed to check out options which included local markets and various walk trails in the area. Adrian, Mel and Paul successfully climbed Bluff Knoll. Deb reportedly got a fair bit of the way whilst Erica pulled out early with foot problems.



Drinks and dinner at the pub was very enjoyable with much animated conversation. This was followed with an evening sitting round the campfire swapping tales.

Most of the group left on the Monday morning. Six of us were lucky enough to avoid the Long Weekend traffic by staying an extra night.

This was Deb's first time as a trip leader. She probably now has advanced cat herding skills. All of us participants really appreciated her efforts in what proved to be a very enjoyable trip. **Tom Minto**

More from Deb next issue: Ed.



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