

May 2020



## ***SUBARU 4WD NEWS***

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**SUBARU 4WD CLUB of WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.**

**P.O. BOX 434, SOUTH PERTH, W. A. 6951**

**Due to**

**Covid-19 pandemic**

**ALL IN-PERSON MEETINGS, AND TRIPS,**  
**ARE STILL CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**SUBARU 4WD CLUB OF WA Inc. 2019/2020 COMMITTEE**

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***Club member of the Year 2018-2019:*** Stephan Millett

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



No, not the dog-house: Adrian says it's backyard camping

**Dear Members,** I'm hoping you have managed to do a little camping in the back yard, or you're cleaning out all the gear, seasoning that cast iron or waterproofing tent seams and canvas! Make good use of the time at home. Restrictions are starting to ease with small gathering allowed (upto 10) but it's not enough for us to resume activities as a club since border restrictions are in place and we have more than 70 fantastic members. We must sit tight a little longer until larger groups are allowed to gather and region restrictions are lifted.

Our broadcast to members indicating all trips were cancelled until June 3<sup>rd</sup> remains in place for the foreseeable future. WA is doing well compared to other states so we can hope to see our restrictions within WA lifted well before we are allowed interstate and international travel again, which means club trips and meetings will be able to resume in coming months.

We can use this time to start 're' planning our trip calendar for later in the year, so list your favourite trips and send them to Travis M (Trips Co-ordinator) so he can try to include as many member favourite trips as possible. ➡

➤ There's plenty of extra time available for planning and prepping so why not consider leading a trip yourself? Take us all exploring through the southern forest in spring? The sand dunes in Lancelin late winter? Or a school holiday trek in September?

Rest assured the committee will be following Government updates closely and notify you all when club trips are able to be recommence and when the monthly club meetings are able to recommence. For trips to recommence we need permitted group numbers to be around 20+, and regional border restrictions lifted. For club meetings (@South Perth Library Mopoke meeting room) to recommence we need allowed group numbers to be around 40~ and social distancing requirements relaxed otherwise we wont have enough room in the hall.

In the meantime I've included some pics of my camping from home setup and you can watch a video on Facebook of the setup. A few other members also have posted their pics so why not do the same? Pop them up directly on the facebook page and send a copy to Stephan M (Editor) for the mag.

Don't forget our club sponsors during this time. It's hard for them too, and we need to make sure we help each other.

Safe Subaruing! **The Pres. – Adrian Longwood**



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To receive offers members must mention they are Westcycle members at time of bookings or prior to negotiations. Offer excludes Impreza.



## Kayaking on Swan makes a great Good Friday

The Easter long weekend was looming and, with all non-essential travel banned due to COVID-19, the Subaru club trip to Murchison was cancelled.

Being confined to a city office all week it seemed a daunting prospect to be spending the whole four days at home. I needed some exercise and contact with nature! With social distancing to 1.5 metres to be observed, my thoughts turned to how I could enjoy some of the outdoors during my Easter break.

Exercise is still an option under the state of emergency and what better way to this and social distance but kayaking! Yes, you can socially distance while kayaking because, if you don't, someone may get whacked with a paddle and/or end up in the water! Perfect, I hadn't had my kayak out for about a year!

I emailed three club members who I knew were keen on kayaking and had a vessel at their disposal. So, on Good Friday David Peck, Ross Mead and I met at Fishmarket Reserve in Guildford for a planned 9am start. Wendy Griffiths had already made other arrangements however we did see her and had a chat during our paddle. Chris Thyne tagged along complete in his Qantas uniform ready to head off to work when the time came. He parked himself in a chair on the river bank as we headed off. It was a glorious morning with almost no breeze and an expected maximum temperature of 36°C. ➡

➤ On the whole outing we only saw one power boat so it was unusual, but welcome, that is was so quiet and peaceful. There were a number of fellow paddlers and people fishing from the river bank and we all exchanged



*Ross comes in to shore*

greetings as we passed.

Paddling upstream from Fishmarket Reserve we rounded the bend that brings the bridge on West Swan Road into view. With very little river traffic we were pretty relaxed about where in the river we paddled. Further upstream we passed a new building set back from the river bank and we contemplated what it might be. Ross looked it up when he got home and found it is a boatshed belonging to Guildford Grammar School.

We paddled up past Guildford Grammar School seeing various walking paths where people were walking and exercising their dogs. We noticed there were some lovely seating areas along the river bank with chairs made of various materials including railway sleepers. Shortly after passing the school, morning tea was called by David and we pulled into the bank under the shade of some trees for a good drink of water and a well-earned rest! We turned back and started our return journey from this point.

Along the way we saw many cormorants that appeared to be in new plumage, a few ducks and a couple of pelicans. The pelicans were lurking near a fisherman, looking for an easy breakfast. In parts of the river small fish could be seen jumping just above the waterline. ➤

▶ We also saw some very attractive houses along the way and we contemplated which one we would choose if we won \$80 million! On the return paddle we



*Chris lazed away some hours before going to work*

approached an electronic sign on a post in the river that gave a read out of how many knots a passing vessel was doing. With the screen blank I wondered if it was not operational. However, I was soon proved wrong as the screen came to life telling me I was doing three knots followed by a green smiley face! It made my day and pondered how much fun you could have going backwards and forwards past the sign seeing how fast you could go!

With what seemed a little tidal assistance our return journey to Fishmarket Reserve didn't seem to take as long and the day was certainly heating up. Ross paused along the way to eat his morning tea.

For the last couple of kilometres I could certainly feel the fatigue in my shoulders and was relieved when Fishmarket Reserve came into view. We had been out for a little over two hours. Chris helped me load the kayak onto the car and I enjoyed a well-earned hot cross bun for a late morning tea. Chris was surprised how long we were gone and it was almost time for him to head off to work. In our absence he had enjoyed his time taking in the surroundings and comings and goings of people.

When Ross got home, he was able to work out we had paddled a total of 9.5km and certainly the longest kayak trip I had ever done. A good effort considering none of us had paddled for quite some time. If the weather holds, we plan another paddle in a few weeks time when we have recovered!

**Deborah Thyne**

**do** more of the  
**fun stuff**



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## Chingarrup Sanctuary

After hearing from Joy Unno about her experiences at the same event last year, which included watching Malleefowl stroll freely around the property (and see their mounds), I decided that I would like to attend the event this year.

Of course, there is much more to the event than simply watching the abundant birdlife. I was also able to observe the mist netting of birds for banding. A number of children in the group also assisted with the release of the birds after banding. When caught in the net, the birds were then “rescued” by a dedicated

**Family Nature Experience**  
March long weekend

team of banders, who inspected and measured the birds and then banded them, so the number and type of birds on the property can be monitored from year to year. Birds caught included Purple-gaped Honeyeaters, New Holland Honeyeaters and Splendid Fairywrens. After banding, a number of children in the group assisted with the release of the birds.

Then there was the opportunity with others to install new pit traps in the “reveg” (areas revegetated with mallee heath) to expand ground fauna monitoring capacity at the sanctuary. This involved the use of an auger (what a wonderful machine!) that dug a hole in the ground into which a large white paint bucket was inserted. A lid was then added on metal skewers so that there was a gap between the top of the bucket and the lid. ➡

## **Trips co-ordinator**

Hi All

I hope that you're all keeping at home safe and sound, isolating and sanitizing. With all the efforts most of us have been taking to keep ourselves to ourselves social distancing has been rolled back. Plus the vaccines that are being developed by various countries, could see us all being allowed out and about again in a few months. With all the downsides focused on, there are some up sides. Most of the camping and 4WDing stores are having weekly sales. Some are quite good and should be taken advantage of. When you do get some new gear, try it out in the backyard, and when the travel restrictions are rolled back, a private trip.

See you all out there in a month or two.

**Travis**

### ***ANNUAL DINNER IN NANNUP***

*The Annual Dinner will be at the Nannup Bowling Club in October. The date is far enough ahead that it's likely to continue as planned. We're in the early days of planning and gathering details.*

 Various insects and animals would then find their way into the buckets. They would be collected, details recorded and then released. For the kids (and adults), there was a trip to Bremer Bay one afternoon and also an excursion to the Ochre Cliffs, enjoyed by all. For me however, the call of the birds was too strong and I instead chose to walk the property looking for some of the 111 species recorded!

The property is a great piece of "bush" and I certainly enjoyed my time there. And it was a pleasure to meet Ed and Donna Wajon and to work with them, and rest of the group of volunteers who also helped, including the kids. I encourage others to get involved.

**Tony Richards**

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## **Finska is still with us**

**The Finska World championship is not cancelled, just postponed.**

**When the Coronavirus craziness has abated we'll run it, and crown our new champion!**

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*... and yes, there was cake. Each of the committee members brought cake and a candle, then surprised Deb with Happy Birthday and then all blew out the candles on their cakes - at home!*

## Deb Zooms in on a special birthday meeting

The Club committee held its May meeting virtually – on Zoom. It was also Deborah Thyne’s birthday, so the committee celebrated with her by singing the birthday song, lighting candles on little cakes and then scoffing them in front of their screens at home.

The virtual meeting proved a success and members are asked to think whether they would like Zoom access to be an option for club meetings if some members can’t attend in person. Let one of the committee know what you think.



*The face in the middle is Erica Auld, who Zoom-bombed in from Victoria just to wish Deborah a happy birthday.*

Let one of the committee know what you think.

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\*Subaru 4WD Club Members receive 10% discount on RRP. Does not apply to monthly specials.



*Coodamurrup Beach Australia Day 2020. Photo: Mark Smithers*

## **Australia Day at Coodamurrup Beach**

### **Down Northcliffe: Day 2, Sunday 26 January**

We gathered at camp for the pre trip briefing with trip leader Ross Mead. Ten cars departed along Boorara Road for what proved to be an exciting day. Zero punctures, many bogged in sand and one badly sprained ankle requiring hospital care.

Headed south along Boorara, Beebee, Love Rock and Gardner River Roads to reach Chesapeake Road the long way (since the Gardner River Bridge is no more).

A cautious roo decided against contact with Jason and Julia's vehicle. Others seemed to be beside the road, permanently "resting"- since Nathan (5y) and Adelaide (18m) might be upset by the word "dead". Turns out both children were "dead to the world" but the term has now stuck.

We enjoyed the beauty of several National Parks during the course of the day, the first being Shannon where red dust assailed our air filters and made the convoy spread out considerably through the tall timber. 

➤ Eventually we reached the start of Moore's Track at a boundary with D'Entrecasteaux National Park. We stopped to reduce tyre pressure to 18 psi (later this would come down even further).

We reach what has long been known as Moore's hut, a relic from the pastoral era and the Wheatley family. It is now known as Coodamurrup Hut (and can be used for camping). Over 100 years old but considerably refurbished. Camp sites are also provided in nearby peppermint woodland. The area is attractive to birds with many blue wrens and scarlet robins sighted by our group, inducing Keith and Tony to disappear with their cameras. From here driving required great concentration, 4WD needed and traction control off. We ploughed on, waiting for someone to get bogged in the soft sand on vegetated dunes, eventually reaching Coodamurrup Beach.

We were not waiting for long. Several cars opened the bidding war for who would get stuck. The high dry sand central ridge, steep dunes and deep holes were usually major factors. An oncoming driver and passenger appeared over the crest of the hill and kindly expedited the gardening required, with some personal pay-off, obviously. At the next opportunity we dropped our tyre pressures even further, to 12. On the way to the beach we skirted round the edge of Muir's Paddock, a piece of private land excised from the national park, where the Muir family would bring their cattle to graze. This was not – as you might expect – an open paddock, just slightly more open bush than the surrounding national park.

At the beach the younger members of our convoy played in the damp sand, which looked eerily pretty, decorated with beached blue bottles, deterring a swim. To get to our lunch spot we headed back up the dunes to return to Moore's Hut and take the other road towards Fish Creek. We could not reach Fish Creek as a large wash away near the mouth of the creek had made crossing impossible. Never mind, Ross had another cunning plan.

At West Cliff Point - in sight of the mouth of Fish Creek - lunch was had and the kids played with sand and water again. Stu went for a dip. Alas! After jumping for a wave he landed badly and dislocated his right (driving) ankle. ➤

➤ On reaching dry land it was clearly swelling fast and the first aid skills of trained nurse Deb Thyne were called into action. She later encouraged everyone to do a first aid course so they too would know what to do in such a situation.

**Deb had to drive Stu to hospital**

Driving was out of the question for Stu, so Deb also kindly drove his Outback for the rest of the trip, despite not feeling confident with this model at first. Anyway, she did brilliantly and managed every dune without getting bogged. She later drove Stu to Manjimup Hospital where she and Joy waited until it was decided he would need to stay the night since getting into a swag and getting up the hill to the loo at Sid's Camp would be too difficult. Then Joy and Deb (in two cars) drove back to camp from Manji through roo country in the dark. Heroes! All wishing Stu a speedy recovery. Back to West Cliff Point, we started the trek back to Moore's Hut once again for the drive back home. Taking a different route from the way we arrived there, Ross had navigated us virtually round the Fish Creek wetland, a large open area, not far inland.

Throughout the day we had passed through a variety of vegetation types, the most beautiful of which of course was the karri forests. An especially picturesque spot was selected for restoring tyres to road pressure, just near the northern end of Moore's Track. For Ross (and for me) that was the most beautiful spot in the whole trip. We returned along Deeside Coast Road, Middleton Road and Wheatley Coast Road, Boorara Road and Riverway Road to Sid's camp after a wonderful Australia Day seeing some of the best that the southern beaches and forests have to offer.

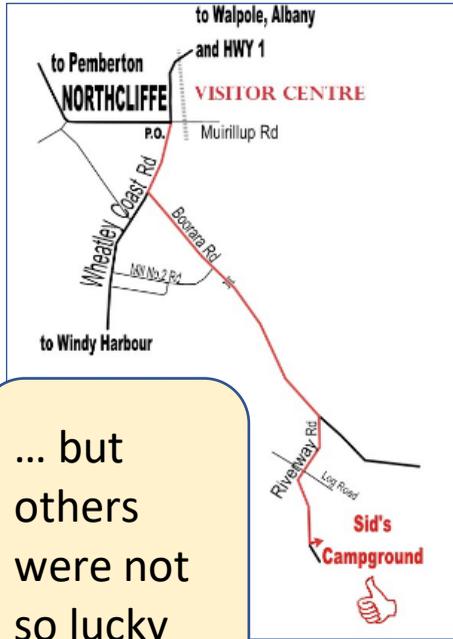
Ross Mead was a marvellous trip leader: very clear directions, informative commentary on the layout of the tracks and roads, the trees (of course) and the local settler history too. I would love to come back to that spot where we raised the tyre pressures (34°51'03.9"S 116°17'24.6"E). I would like to thank everyone on the trip for their company and support. This has been my first opportunity to get back into camping after a nine month hiatus due to illness. My spirits are soaring! **Jenni Ibrahim**

## We made it home before the regional borders closed

It seems there is always a reason why Leonie and I don't end up doing as many activities with the Subaru club as we would like to, but of course Covid 19 has curtailed pretty much all club activities which for us includes guiding on Rottnest Island, choir, chess clubs, over 55 walking club and a couple of different retired officers lunch groups.

We had been away in the southwest with the A'van club (towed by the trusty H6) when Covid 19 all started unfolding, making it home just before the cut-off date affecting intra-state travel.

Sid's Camp was one of the places we stayed at before deciding to come home. This is a terrific spot that we of course didn't get to with the Subaru club. As a former owner of a series 2A Landrover, I really appreciated the "Looland Brothers" toilet at Sid's. It gave me quite a different perspective of the inside of a Landrover that I spent a lot of time in the early 80s – for different reasons! At Sid's in particular we had the opportunity to chat at a safe distance with a number of travellers in different circumstances. It really put faces on the many reports we have caught up on since arriving home last week. We spoke with young backpackers sleeping in a small tent and living out of an old Magna, down to their last \$200, desperate for work and concerned about how to get home. One-way fares back to Europe were already \$10,000 and beyond them. A German/American couple in their 40s who had purchased



... but others were not so lucky

southwest with

▶ their own 4WD camper and with adequate finances, simply didn't know where to continue to and were feeling increasingly unwelcome in south-west towns - something we experienced a little of too at the IGA in Pemberton. Another gentleman from Queensland with a serious off-road setup was resolved to stay put at Sid's for as long as he was allowed to or until things at the the state borders settled down.

Leonie and I were offered a job looking after a caravan park still hopeful of their Easter tourism windfall. They were keen for us to stay on even when it became clear Easter would likely be a quiet affair. The thought of self-isolating in the Southwest for the duration appealed but at the end of the day we would likely come into contact with more people there than at home, so decided to come home. It was nice to have choices.

We feel so lucky that we live in age where the internet provides a ready means by which to stay safely connected. Stay well everyone. **Brian Overste**

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**Saturday  
10 August  
2019**

## **Anne's Corner to near the camping exclusion zone**

## **The Deserts Trip 2019 Heading home**

We had some drizzle overnight and a bit more before David got up at 7, when it was overcast and 9 degrees. We were all packed up and on the road just after 8 and the track was damp which we speculated made it feel smoother than yesterday. Keith commented that we were travelling faster than when we did it 10 years ago and I was comfortable sitting in third gear which equated to about 40km/hr.

We stopped on the track for morning tea and mid-morning entered the Mamungari (Unnamed) Conservation Park. We stopped for lunch at Vokes Hill Corner, which is where a track heads south to Cook on the Trans Australia railway. We signed the visitor's book and took photos of another of Len Beadell's marker signs.

After lunch there were a number of signposts with corresponding notes on the Hema map for a number of different trees. The terrain varied considerably, with red dunes, rock sections, sandy sections, washaways, tree lined avenues and the ever present corrugations. It was also smaller with sections just two wheel ruts with vegetation in the centre of the track and it was windier and slower going. Everyone was amazed that, considering we were in a desert, there was so much vegetation, which varied from spinifex to marble gums. 

➡ We continued to make good time and it was obvious that we would soon run into a 50km 'No Camping' area. We heard another single vehicle heading east towards us and they stopped just outside the 'No Camping' area. We decided to have an early camp and we stopped before 4 about 10km east of the 'No Camping' area, or about 100km from the WA border, and Julie and Wayne cooked chicken with mash potato and carrots, followed by bananas in warm custard much to Jason's delight.



*If it didn't have a name, why did it have a sign?*

The cloud cover cleared during the day and the wind dropped off and there was a colourful sunset through the trees. The wooden spoon was presented to Wayne for dropping his stubbie holder when he was getting his drone out to photograph the track. We did 178km averaging 9.6L/100Km. **David and Jason Peck**

## **A cold night on the Anne Beadell Highway:**

### **Deserts Trip Day 35 – Sunday, 11 August 2019**

It had possibly been the coldest night of the trip to date, and Stephan actually had ice on his tent in the morning. Several of us had to revisit the fire regularly during packing up to get circulation back into our hands.

We soon came upon the eastbound couple who we'd conversed with on CB the previous evening and who had camped just east of the 'no camping' zone. We ended up talking to them for about 45 minutes. They were from Stratford in Gippsland, Victoria, had been on the road since April and were due home in October. We liked their registration plates – SKI CLUB, standing for 'spending kids inheritance'.

Not long after resumption we passed an area with some lovely big kurrajongs, and it was noticeable that the area had not seemed to be scorched by ➡

▶ the fires that had obviously burnt through. We also thought there were more birds around than there had been before. After morning tea around 10am, we passed two east-bound 'cruisers, and then two more doing some repairs., although the road was generally quite good. Our lunch stop was about 15km east of the border in another spot that would make a good campsite. Soon after lunch we arrived at a knoll on the eastern side of the Serpentine Lakes which approximate the border. We all took photographs, and Wayne launched the drone to take footage of us all crossing the lake. On the western side, we stopped again at the border to take photos of the multitude of signs – a Len Beadell plaque plaque, Shire of Laverton, and several for the Spinifex people and Ilkurlka store. We were now 'home' in WA.



About 10km further on, we stopped briefly at the water tank and toilet campsite where David and Keith thought they had camped on the 2009 trip – although they were confident there had not been a toilet then. The road now differed in character from earlier, with constant moderate

corrugations, heavier sand, and quite a few dunes - with resultant twists and turns. Afternoon tea was enjoyed at a lovely spot amongst marble gum (*E. gongylocarpa*) between two close east-west dunes.

Afterwards the going got a bit easier as the track was generally firmer and straighter track. We noted an area where a fire a few years previously had almost cleared all the mature marble gum, but there was a lot of regrowth. David and Keith also noted a turn-off down to the Wanna Lakes which they'd checked out in 2009. ▶

▶ About 5km short of our designated campsite, Wayne and Julie ran out of fuel and Stephan and Keith stopped to help them put their last jerry into the tank before we moved on. We camped at the next water tank and toilet installed by the Spinifex people for travellers, but space was comparatively limited. David had a message from Jo which she had sent last night to say she was in Southern Cross, so we assumed she was ahead of schedule and was probably home and preparing for the concert she'd been keen to attend as we received the message.

We enjoyed a nice sunset, after which Daniel did a lovely honey mustard chicken for dinner, followed by fruit and custard for dessert. The night was showing signs of being cold again, so we huddled around the campfire. Julie won the wooden spoon for running out of fuel (it wasn't Wayne!!) and Stephan did another poem, this time about Jason and his fast driving. **Keith Low**

## **Fuel, a shower and a crash site. 12 August.**

Monday. We camped the night at 50 East emergency water tank built by the Spinifex People, a remote community with title over the area. Left camp hour after dawn after a freezing night that left ice on my tent. The bag liner I bought in expectation of cold desert nights did well and I was warm all night. We had a good run into Ilkurlka – the only fuel stop between Coober Pedy and Laverton.



Ilkurlka is controlled by the Spinifex People, whose main living place is the Tjuntjuntjarra community about 130km south. This community is closed to those without permission to enter. Ilkurlka itself has a small number of ▶

➤ modern houses, a large shed and a building with an office and a small art gallery, along with a small number of groceries.

Diesel was pumped from bowsers, but Opal fuel had to be pumped from 200 litre drums in the shed out the back. In the office, as we paid for fuel we learnt of hot showers being available, heated by a wood-fire donkey boiler. We happily paid the \$5 each for the luxury of hot running water. We had morning tea at the shower area. While there I took the back off my Hema Navigator (again) and used a piece of gaffa tape (yes, that handy black tape) and managed to stop the clip for the screen cable dislodging and cutting out the video feed. This solution is still working. David set about to fix a stove that had some scary trouble with at breakfast. We then headed west again and stopped for lunch at 50 West water tank.

We made a detour to visit the site of a crashed Goldfields Airlines Cessna 310 about 9km north of the track, over multiple dunes reminiscent of the Simpson. The plane had had engine trouble or ran out of fuel and was set down in a swale in 1993. Wayne spent some time choreographing a series of photos that he planned to make into a montage. The road, once we re-joined the main track, was variously very corrugated or very smooth. There were few camping spots beside the road but we made it to a site marked on the map, just after we passed a couple in an Iveco, whom I stopped to speak with. We camped near Neale Junction, Keith cooked sausages and onions and I made sweet potato mash with gravy with reconstituted broccoli. **Stephan Millett**

### **Neale Junction: Day 37 – Tuesday, 13 August 2019**

Another cool morning greeted us, though not as cold as the previous morning. Daniel broke the morning stillness with some rather basic ‘panel beating’ of his the wheel he badly damaged the day before and was able to get it to the stage where it would hold air, at least.

When we got away at 8am, there was no sign of a camp up the road, so questions were asked of Keith about the lights he claimed to have seen last night! Just after we’d departed, Stephan noted that his trip meter has ➤

➤ just clocked over 8000km for the trip to date. The track was in relatively good condition through to Neale Junction, with only light corrugations, and we arrived there about 9am. We spent some time at the junction (of the Anne Beadell and Connie Sue Highways). Then we moved the short distance east to the camping area for morning tea and some fascinating time watching a small snake hunting a gecko



Some of us put a couple of pounds more air in the tyres due to our speed on the better road. However, when we left, we soon found the road to be considerably rougher, and stopped after about 25km to let some air out! We travelled through a lovely area of marble gums.

Then we were a little bemused to see a quarantine restriction sign at the intersection with the Spackman Track - which goes south to the Lake Rason Rd. Just after this, David, we encountered a group of EarthCruisers who were ahead. After a brief stop to allow the shockies to cool - though they weren't too bad - we came across and passed the rear two vehicles of the EarthCruiser convoy. We stopped again at a memorial sign to Anne Beadell – with a background cleared by a recent hot fire - and were surprised that they didn't catch up with us again, but David heard them on Ch40 shortly after we got mobile again saying they'd arrived there.

After lunch in a the only bit of green bush in a large burnt-out area, it was only about 10km to Bishop Riley's Pulpit, where we came across the other five EarthCruisers. All of us but Julie climbed the Pulpit. The climb was not difficult, although Daniel and David checked out some small caves on the way up ➤

➤ and then climbed to the top by a harder route on the far side. We stayed about 10 minutes or so to take in the views and some photos, before climbing back down and taking some photos of the Pulpit itself. We headed off quickly again to stay in front of ECs which were about to depart, and headed to Yeo Lake homestead to camp. Not long after our arrival a couple heading east drove in with a camper trailer. Our discussion revealed they were quite experienced and knew what to expect. They were from Pingelly and were on a quick three week road trip. It turned out the chap worked for Parks and Wildlife and knew several of my former colleagues.

Once they left, we had a team meeting and decided to go on a bit further and leave Lake Yeo to the ECs.

We ended up camping at Point Sunday, about 25km west of Lake Yeo homestead. David, who arrived ahead of us, reported that there was a dearth of firewood and asked the tailenders to pick some up if we could, so Stephan and I obliged by towing three substantial dead mulgas the last 300m into camp behind our car.

Setup was a bit slow as I damaged one of my tent poles, and Stephan and Wayne worked on fixing Wayne's broken aerial. David and Jason prepared a lovely tuna mornay for dinner. Once it got dark, we sighted some lights away to the northwest that we figured must be a mine site, as nothing showed on our maps. After dinner, David presented Wayne with the wooden spoon for getting very close to the snake at Neale Junction in order to take a photo with his GoPro. Stephan did a good poem about himself and his 'mud crab' moniker, earned on the Eyre Creek bypass earlier in the trip. His ability to compose them quickly was quite impressive. **Keith Low**

## **Day 38 – Wednesday, 14 August 2019**

A milder night and a bit of breeze in the morning heralded the possibility of a bit of weather coming in. Most of us took the opportunity to make the easy climb to the top of the point where there was a stone cairn around an old wooden post, and excellent views of the surrounding area. There were ➤

▶ characters carved into the wooden post, but the passage of time had made them largely indecipherable, and we didn't know if it was an old trig point or of other historical significance. The view also confirmed that the lights we had seen last night were from a mine site which was now plainly visible.

Soon after we got going, we passed a sign to the Gruyere Mine, operated by Gold Road Resources. We assumed they weren't mining cheese! An advantage of the mine was that the road was much better maintained from here and we were able to get along at a faster pace.

We stopped briefly for morning tea east of White Cliffs and then again between White Cliffs and



Laverton to check out a gnamma, which proved a bit difficult to find. When we did, we weren't really surprised to find that it was dry.

Just before midday, we stopped for photos at the western end of the Anne Beadell Hwy, just outside Laverton. In just under a week we had traversed the full 1325km of often rough going without major mishap or damage, other than Daniel's damaged wheel which had not proved crucial. It was another tribute to the capacity of the Foresters, of various ages, and the care and skill of the drivers. It was notable that the combined new prices of our small fleet would be about half that of just one of the EarthCruisers we'd passed yesterday!

Photos done, we headed into Laverton for lunch, refuelling, and a bit of a break. Some took the opportunity for a look at the exhibits in the Explorers Hall of Fame in the Great Beyond Visitor Centre, and others to call family or friends whom we'd not spoken to in a week. Whilst in Laverton there was a little bit of the rain that we'd had a hint of this morning.

After lunch, we hit the blacktop towards Leonora, with a longer-term plan of heading west from Menzies to camp at Lake Ballard and check out Antony Gormley's statues. However, after a brief stop at Leonora the rain began to get heavier, and by the time we reached Menzies it was decidedly wet! The ▶

➤ road to Lake Ballard had not yet been closed but there was a chance it might be. Just as importantly, none of us felt like camping in the wet and gloomy conditions, and all thought we'd earned something more comfortable. As a result, there was a quick, collective decision that we would drive on to Kalgoorlie and find accommodation there.

On the way south Stephan and I felt some disconcerting and unexplained shuddering as our car went around bends and had to slow briefly on each occasion. However, there was nothing obvious that might be causing it, so we drove on cautiously. It was approaching dark when we arrived in Kalgoorlie and, based on some groundwork as soon as we were 'connected', headed for the Albion Hotel in Boulder. There was some difficulty in fitting us all in but we eventually managed to find rooms, and all enjoyed a shower! A number of us had dinner in the pub, and Stephan took the opportunity to catch up with his brother who lives in Kal. **Keith Low**

### **Day 39 – Thursday, 15 August 2019**

There was nowhere near as much packing to do on this, our last morning of the trip, although we still had to get everyone through the showers! Those who had not taken the opportunity to do so last night went and fuelled up before we got away.

Although it was still grey as we left Kalgoorlie, it was quite pleasant by the time we had a brief stop in Southern Cross for morning tea. Merredin seemed rather busy when we stopped there but we were soon on our way again as we all felt the call of home.

Nevertheless, we stopped again in Meckering, as the 2009 trippers had done, to farewell each other before we went in different directions as we got into the suburbs. In addition, we once again thanked David for his excellent and tireless work in planning and leading the trip. It had turned out excellently, was without mishaps beyond what is expected in the terrain we covered and had been thoroughly enjoyed by all. *All agreed it was a fitting commemoration of the Club's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.* **Keith Low**

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