

SEPTEMBER 2020



SUBARU 4WD NEWS

Subaru 4WD Web Site: <http://www.subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au/>
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Subaru4wdClubWA/>

SUBARU 4WD CLUB of WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

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

Next meeting September 8

Mopoke Room, South Perth Library
or by *Zoom* online

SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

PRESIDENT:	Adrian Longwood	0424 723 558
	president@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au	
SECRETARY:	Deborah Thyne	0420 791 762
	secretary@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au	
TREASURER:	Joy Unno	0429 374 709
	treasurer@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au	
SOCIAL ORGANISER:	Joanne Norton	0411 151 024
	social@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au	
TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR:	Travis Maskey	0422 815 737
	trips@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au	
EDITOR:	Stephan Millett	0405 221 845
	editor@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

David Peck **0402 177 886**, Jim Wilcox **0419 040 969**, Ross Mead **0417 920 848**,
Mark Smithers **0415 954 898**, Karen Eldridge **0412 133 629**

Contact 'all committee' on comm@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au

MERCHANDISE:	David Peck	0402 177 886
WEBMASTER:	Rob Griffiths	0411 249 933
	Jim Wilcox	0419 040 969
4WD ASSOC DELEGATES:	Adrian Longwood	0424 723 558
	Keith Low	0407 477 980
MEMBERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR:	Ross Mead	0417 920 848
	membership@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au	
PROPERTY OFFICER:	Tony Richards	
ENVIRONMENT OFFICER:	tbc	
	environment@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au	
SOCIAL MEDIA:	tbc	
	socialmedia@subaru4wdclub.asn.au	

Club member of the Year 2018-2019: Stephan Millett

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's crowded out there ...

Forget queues at the bank or shops, there are now people lined up to get into *towns* along the northern coastline. Not long ago you couldn't get in to Exmouth without a confirmed booking. The town was full, with accommodation, fuel and food starting to stretch thin. So it looks like everyone has the same idea, to tour WA and make the most of a #staycation.

Assorted Club trips have been on but I've also noticed a stack of members taking time off and heading around the state. Great to see you're out and about exploring. Speaking of recent trips, the club is snapping in to Spring, literally. Our Kennedy Ranges trip had quite a variety of snapped items and mishaps. Thankfully every person and vehicle is safe and in the process of recovering. I won't spill the beans yet. You can find out all the drama in trip reports. All I can say is there is huge value in travelling in groups, and being part of a club with skilled and supportive members.

ANNUAL DINNER

Make a weekend of it in Nannup

The Annual Dinner will be at the Nannup Bowling Club on 24 October. We get to play lawn bowls in the afternoon and can make a short walk to our camp after dinner. The caravan park is next door. Put your name down soon so we can confirm numbers.

Restriction easing dates continue to be pushed back, currently estimated for mid-late October so our Online (ZOOM) and in-person meeting room (max 25) style of meetings will continue. A trip placeholder on our website will be there. We really only need to use this for those attending in person now. Just to ensure we keep to our 25 person limit.

Those tuning in online should read on as we have been forced by Zoom to set a password. To find out what it is, jump on the club website or read the article on page 6. The Meeting link is a recurring weblink so the same link will now work month after month. I'm aware some had issues with the link last time but that's resolved now.

Read on to the sections on upcoming trips and get your name down. You'll only regret the trips you missed.

The Club's calendar year is quickly coming to an end and that means the AGM is approaching which means our Gala event, the "Annual Dinner & 

➤ Awards Night” is also rapidly approaching.

Get your names down now! The venue is locked in for Nannup – at the bowls club – so make a weekend of it and tour the Blackwood valley while you are there. The dinner and awards night is always a fantastic night for the club. Make sure you get your nominations in for awards – serious and silly! New camping spots have just been announced by DBCA. Read on to get the goss.

Western 4WDer Mag September edition is out now. If you’re not a subscriber, you can jump in to 4WD shops and grab a copy. And don’t forget our Club Sponsors during this time. It’s hard for them just now and we need to make sure we’re all in this together. **Safe Subaruing! The Pres. – Adrian Longwood**

Time to take the lead – on a trip

Hi All. It’s getting closer to the greatest sporting event in the Subaru Club calendar. The Finska World Championship is just around the corner, and the competition looks like it will be a great one. Ray, Adrian and myself are the favourites. There are some dark horses that could make an upset, and

TRIPS COORDINATOR

this is the year of the sporting upset. Like most sporting trophies, this year could have an asterisk next to the winner's name. It’s fun to watch, point and laugh at the bad bounces, so put your name down, and who knows, you may end up with a trophy or two to take home.

The other thing I was wanting to put in my little spiel, is we are looking for new people to lead trips. It’s not that hard to do and can be fun. There are plenty of people who will help out, and there are resources to help you on the website. If you want to know what is involved in running a trip please also ask some of our previous trip leaders. They will be happy to pass on what they have found works for them, and some experienced leaders may be able to come with you to help. **Travis Maskey**

New sites and trails in mid-West

Parks and Wildlife has announced three new camp and a big new walk near Jurien Bay.

Karda campground is 20km east of Jurien and has 31 sites.

Wanagarren track has 15 sites now open for 4WD only. A 27 walk trail in Lesueur National park will be open later in the year

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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.

Track Care projects delayed, but the fishing is still good

The Coral Bay project has been delayed until March. It will start with track rationalisation at 5 Fingers and the group is still to get a good and closer campsite. Likewise the Dirk Hartog Island project with DBCA, is delayed, with a start date unclear. Another project with island owners to cut up and remove a 20m barge may possibly happen in February/March. This work can be done only at low tide so there is lots of time for fishing.

Discussions are under way with with Collie/Rowlands indigenous community about projects. These will probably be on weekends. Rowlands farm was one of the places where the kids from the stolen generations were taken. Camping will be on site with the community.

Track Care WA is offering to take RFDS medical equipment to remote communities and Birdlife Australia approached TCWA about observations when out bush. **David Peck.**

Subaru dealership now in Gosnells

Southern suburbs members please note that City Subaru have closed their Maddington centre, and are now located in with Gibbons Holden at 2325 Albany Highway Gosnells. Gibbons is now service only but the **Subaru** section has the full dealership and service centre facilities as they had at the previous premises, with the same staff. **Ray (Rabbit) Stewart**

Password for Zoom meeting

The password to attend club meetings via Zoom, is SUBARU. Use all-caps.

You'll get a reminder by email before the next meeting, so save the password and the link.

The link should remain the same for the rest of the year. The password is needed because Zoom has changed its security arrangements.

We are not likely to get interlopers crashing our meeting, but the President and the Secretary can remove people from the meeting. We may need a rule to protect people who make too many bad puns, though – not pointing, just saying 😊

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Simple stone deflector

When I'm ready to tow my trailer, I didn't want my vehicle to throw stones up and damage it but I also didn't want to spend a lot of money. I decided to make my own which can easily be removed from my tow hitch.

The support is 25mm x 25mm galvanized steel square tube which is 1.5m long so it sits across the back of the vehicle and not protruding out the sides. The rubber is 6mm insertion rubber so that the fabric construction ensures it doesn't tear when driving along at higher speeds. The rubber is screwed to the tube through some 25mm x 3mm aluminium strip at 100mm intervals to ensure an even pressure on the rubber and so the screws don't pull through. A 50mm galvanized U bolt mounts the tube to the hitch using— M8 nyloc nuts ensure it shouldn't work loose. The rubber has a few holes for the exhaust pipes, trailer plug and is split under the hitch to get it in place. I might need to re-visit the split as it takes some effort to fold the rubber back given I have a short hitch, a longer hitch means you don't need to fold the rubber back as far.

Mark Smithers



Porongurup posing

September 26 – 28

FORTHCOMING TRIPS

Take a trip down Albany Highway to the Porongurup Tourist Park. From there we will explore the area. Some wildflowers should be around and a walk up to Castle Rock Granite Skywalk makes for great viewing for those who dare. We'll also be running a competition for the photo of the best (safe!) pose in a location on this trip. **Trip leader, Jo Norton**

Wandoo and Wildflowers: 12-13 September

This aims to be fun weekend chasing wildflowers at Dryandra conservation reserve. This reserve between Wandering and Narrogin is the largest conservation reserve in the western Wheatbelt and home to an array of birds, reptiles and mammals, including the WA animal emblem, the numbat. The wandoo woodlands and breakaway country is picturesque at anytime but, in spring, it explodes with wildflowers. We will spend a night at one of the campgrounds and a couple of half days exploring the area to enjoy the wildflowers and a bit of the history of the area as well. If we are particularly lucky we may even see a numbat. The tracks around Dryandra are generally formed gravel or sand and the most challenging terrain may be an occasional 'wash-out'. No particular vehicle modifications or recovery equipment is required. Bring food, water and camping and cooking gear. It can be cold at Dryandra so bring some warm clothes. As campfires are likely to be allowed it would be good if each vehicle could bring a little firewood too. No pets please. A full tank of fuel on departure should be sufficient for the return trip. Departure is 8.30. **Trip leader, Keith Low**

Wheatbelt Rocks 28 Sept - 3 Oct

This is five days of self-sufficient camping in the Wheatbelt area, with three nights near Elachbutting Rock then two at Moon Mia, with side trips to



<https://www.westonia.wa.gov.au>

other rocks: Berrinbooding Rock, Billacatting Rock, Marshall Rock, Datjoin Rock, New Caribbean Rock, Mollerin Rock, Christmas Rock and Dingo Rock. These rocks have some stunning views and unique plant life and quite a bit of history as a number of them were transformed into water catchment and storage areas which were a lifeline for the early farmer-settlers. **Leaders Leanne Enslly and Nick Evans.**

The gloves are on for Finska championship

19 September – day trip

YES sports fans it's on again! For real this time. Corona virus has not stopped the sticks, so let the wooden pegs fly!



Mel was super dominant last year – taking out the trophy in 5 throws (the drug tests are still to come back). Wayne, like Stephan the year before, got taken out in the first round. Stephan made it to the final, but didn't get any where near Mel. Dave had a bit of controversy, with a foot fault that had to go to the video replay for him to admit it. The bung chuck was taken out by Wayne, with a majority vote. This time, will Adrian and Trav remain bridesmaids? Will Dave get smaller shoes? Will Mel's urine sample show some Chinese performance enhancing drugs? Find out on the 19th.

Not sure how to play, don't worry. The rules are easy – and if you can throw a stick under arm, you know enough to play. Just want to point and laugh? That's OK too. Bring lunch and drinks. Chairs and sunscreen are a good idea too. There are BBQ facilities there so you can cook up steaks and snags. Like last year I'll be videoing the games, to keep people honest and to work out who will get

the prestigious bung chuck. If you have a camera and maybe a tripod that can be used on the day we would appreciate it.

The venue is Tranby Reserve – at the corner of Hardey and Clarkson roads Maylands. Be there for 10.30am. To help make this COVID-19 compliant there will be gloves to wear. If you have sensitivities to nitrile golves please let me know. **Leader: Travis Maskey**

Dwellingup Dawdle

10th October - 11th October

How about coming for a gentle (???) drive through the forests down past Dwellingup and on to the Logue Brook dam area. This can be done as a day trip or overnight camp.

We will set off from Byford and head along good roads, not so good roads and the odd miserable track down to Dwellingup and on to the Logue Brook Area. There will be views of the Jarrah forest (lots), hills, valleys, creeks and rivers, sky and white knuckles clenching the dash (possibly). The trip will be suitable for adventurous types in their Outbacks, Foresters and XVs. **Leader: RossMEAD**

Six of the best for this Outback outing

The old H6 Outback hit the road again, camper trailer in tow, for a couple of weeks of warmer weather in the mid west in July and August. Leonie and I did just over 2000km.

We took a bit of a chance by not booking ahead in places like Kalbarri

and Denham where, despite being out of school holiday season everything was pretty much fully booked. We got lucky though with late cancellations and having a smaller van seemed to help with squeezing us in.

The new Skywalk in the Kalbarri National Park is well worth a visit if like us it's been a while since last going to Kalbarri. The weather was sensational, with mostly warm sunny days and cool nights. It was little bit early for us to catch the wildflowers but the landscape in both bush and agricultural settings was all looking really good.

We keep talking about "upgrading" the old six-cylinder H6 Outback but it does the job so well it's a case of if it "ain't broke don't fix it" and, of course, there is the issue of Subaru specifying an 80kmh top speed when towing in newer models.

...And would our 40th anniversary club coffee mug look as at home in a new Outback? **Brian Overste**



SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWSLETTER

CLUB CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2020						
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 1. Committee
Tues 8. General meeting
Sat 12-Sun 13. Dryandra overnight.
Sat 19. Finska championships
Sat 26-Mon 28. Porongurup Posing
Mon 28 – Sat Oct 3. Northern Wheatbelt big rock hopping

OCTOBER 2020						
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	31

Tues 6. Committee
Sat 10- Sun 11. Dwellingup Dawdle
Tues 13. General meeting
Sat 24-Sun 25.
Annual Dinner. Nannup.



NOVEMBER 2020						
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 3. Committee
Thurs 5-Sun 8. Perth 4WD Show
Tues 10. General meeting and **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
Sun 15. Subaru Sunday Swim

SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWSLETTER

CLUB CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2020						
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	31

Tues 1. Committee meeting
Sat 5. Christmas party
Tues 8. General meeting

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Nina takes under the roof of Dulcie Tank

Finding Dulcie on the road to Marvel Loch

6 September: Hyden Hideouts Day 3

Well, Monday night has been a bit on the brisk side. I had to pull the covers over my ears to keep them warm. Up and about just after 0700 hrs for breakfast. The morning was clear with sun shining (just as well) and no dew on the tent which made packing up easier. Ready to hit the road at 9.15.

Unfortunately, Keith Wilcox was suffering from a stomach bug which had necessitated several trips out in the cold during the night so he and Fiona decided to cut short their trip and head for home.

The rest of us headed off down the Parker Range Road towards the Marvel Loch – Forrestania Road. On the way we met the local government dogger at the corner of Emu Fence Road. He was pretty upset about the fact that people had been interfering with his traps. We assured him that we were not the

culprits but would let others know of his concerns.

Our first stop for the day was at the Parker Range Tank which is located on the south side of Parker Range Road. This was another in the system of below ground tanks constructed by the Government throughout the goldfields to supply water for early gold miners and prospectors. This particular tank was made of concrete and situated in a drainage line. The tank had a sill in the creek before the tank to slow the water which would cause the silt to settle out of the



The interior of Dulcie Tank

water before flowing into the Tank. Unfortunately, the tank was now full of dirt and also had trees growing in it. There is a very good example of a restored tank of similar design on Credo Station.

It appeared that a willy-willy had gone through the area around the tank in the not too distant past as there were a large number of Gimlets blown over. At first I thought someone had gone through what was a dense stand and thinned it out but there was no evidence of human intervention, purely natural selection in action.

From here it was south down the Marvel Loch – Forrestania Road There is a lot to see along this road as it traverses the old Parker Range mining area with its remnants of past mining activity. It appears there is renewed interest in mining here again as we passed a couple of drill rigs working on taking ore samples

near the edge of the road. We also passed a roadside memorial dedicated to Muzza Highwood dated 18 December 2000. There was even the remains of cleared farmland which had been abandoned and is now returning to bushland.

Ian's call of "morning tea" brought a halt to our travels at 9.40. We pulled up in an opening in the bush on top of a hill which had scenic views out to the east. All this was appreciated along with a piece of Nina's excellent camp oven. Apple Cake baked the previous night.

After morning tea, our next stop was Dulcie Tank which is on the western edge of the road just south of the Dulcie Mine. This particular tank is quite different to the others we have seen. Dulcie Tank has concrete below-ground storage but the water comes from a corrugated iron roof built just above the ground to catch rainwater and direct it into the tank. All the other tanks I have seen are designed to trap water flowing over ground in a creek system.



Dulcie Mine Mud House 1994



Dulcie Mine Mud House 2020

Ian took photos in 1994 and when he found the cottage at Dulcie mine again this year, he took a photo for comparison. Nothing much had changed!

From here, we went on a search to find an old mud-brick house Ian had discovered in a trip to the area more than 25 years previously. We started following tracks through the bush west and north from Dulcie Tank: most of the tracks had changed since Ian's last visit. It was during our explorations that Joy staked the left hand front tyre on her XV. Fortunately, it was a small stake but through the sidewall high on her nice new Cooper Discoverer tyres. It didn't take too long for the offending piece of wood to be removed and replaced with a tyre repair plug and the tyre reinflated so Joy could continue.



Joy had to stop when this stuck into her tyre

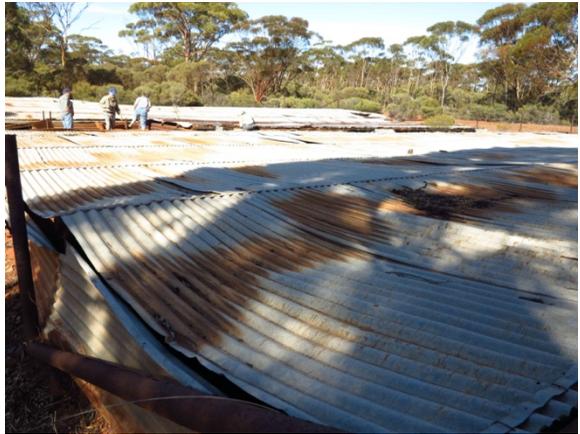
After a bit more meandering, we were rewarded with Ian's excited radio call of "found it". The old house was still exactly as he had previously seen it. The house is constructed of mud bricks with mud mortar between the bricks and with a corrugated iron roof. There are four rooms including a kitchen complete with wood fire and old fridge plus bedroom and bathroom. The kitchen has a proper brick chimney for the Metters stove. The bricks also have local mud mortar. The old house was still quite useable as a warm dry bush dwelling.

From the house, it was back to the main road via some more recent mining exploration and then south and west along Dunbar Road to our lunch stop. It was along Dunbar Rd that I found out why the mortar in the old house was local mud. There were a couple of wet spots on the road and I made the mistake of not following the existing wheel tracks through one of them. It took me quite a while to remove the extremely sticky mud from the car's wheel arches during our lunch stop. I am sure it would have set like concrete if I hadn't removed it.

After lunch, the plan was to head for Skeleton Rock. Unfortunately, the new vermin proof fence also proved to be Subaru proof as it prevented us accessing the road into Skeleton Rock. After following various tracks and fence lines with

no luck, it was decided to cut our losses and head to Hyden for our refuel stop. This was easier said than done as we had to get across a fence line which had been erected across the end of the road we needed to travel along. Fortunately, this fence was only a four-strand farm fence and we were able to lay a section down and drive over it to reach our destination – without damaging fence or cars. With the fence back in its correct position, it was off to Hyden via Emu Fence Road for a car refuel and ice-cream for the drivers. With full cars and happy stomachs, it was back on the road at 3.30. From Hyden, the convoy travelled east out along the East Hyden Bin and Norseman Roads. There had been a significant bushfire in this area last summer with large areas of farmland and bush burnt. Several farmers were busy replacing gates and fences. We saw a sign for the BlazeAid group at one farm so assumed they were assisting with the restoration work.

We continued east along the Norseman Road then north back on the Marvel Loch – Forrestania Road to our next camp spot amongst a stand of Morrells. Camp was not reached until about 5pm so it was a very quick set up before the sun left us. The camp fire was established as first priority followed by erection of the Subaloo then we set-up our own gear.



Inspecting Dulcie Tank

After heating a pre-prepared meal of chicken stir fry followed by a tub of yoghurt, it was time to sit around a warm campfire with a glass of fine Irish whiskey and discuss the day's travels and solve other important world issues. Finally dragged myself away from the warm fire and climbed into my sleeping bag at 9.30. I pulled up the blanket as it was going to be a chilly night. **Ross Mead.**



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Morrel camp, Lake Cronin and Mount Holland

10 June: Hyden

Hideaways Day 4

It is a lovely morning at our Secret Camp. Cool and crisp chill in the air, with the sun breaking through to light the bush. The Gimlets were glowing red. Later in the morning we headed for Lake



Cronin nature reserve. The lake and the central water storage dam have been dry for a long time. There was a concrete sluice over one side of the earth dam which seemed unusual as the walls were higher than the surrounding lake floor, which would impede the natural flow of water into the “tank”. We speculated that they must have pumped the water over the wall into the dam to increase the volume of water saved, as the lake dried out.

Time to head back to camp, but first we went back up the road to Mount Holland for a look from the top. Ross and Stephan each drove to the top while the rest walked from the car park. Not a bad view out over the surrounding flat landscape. Ian had called on the radio to come down to see the “tank” at the junction of the road and the Holland Track. We found a round concrete tank on the track but it was nothing special. Ian called again and told us to go to the road junction – where we found the tank dug into the hard rock.



The original gnamma near Mount Holland can be seen as a tube in the top left of the tank dug into the rock

It was originally a gnamma but had been blasted out to form the tank. About to head to camp, when we found that Ross had a puncture, which was plugged on the spot with Joy filming a running commentary. Then to camp for nibbles around the fire. **Ray Stewart**

Loafing at camp

Day 4 finished with us loafing at our Morrel Camp, so named after the lovely grove of *Eucalyptus melanoxylon* - Black morrel. We were in part of what is an extensive forest, probably young, same-aged trees which erupted after an equally large fire many years ago. They are straight, but quite small compared to the final aged size of up to 30m. Lake Cronin Reserve was a fantastic visit, and demands another after rain, and in the spring, hopefully to see it full of fresh water, lots of birds, and flowers.



Walking into Lake Cronin

We also drove up to the vicinity of Mount Holland where we found 'Holland Tank', which was the last of the tanks on the long journey from Parker Range. This one is a classic excavation which may have had some sort of roof over it to keep out rubbish and animals. Advantage was taken, as it often is, to utilise the existing gnamma made by Aboriginal people. The gnamma was blasted with dynamite, destroying the centuries-old gnamma in the process.

Day 5 – Thurs 11 June

Ian and I were sound asleep, when the sound of two or three raindrops on the tent penetrated my subconscious like a klaxon. We both popped out of sleeping bags like toast from a toaster. 'Rain!' we cried. And so we were up at the ungodly hour of 6.50am.

We were fortunate that it was just a few drops, as our camp was a bit of a mess with camp ovens strewn about along with chairs and books and all the other detritus of a pleasant fireside evening. So our few raindrops were just an early warning, and we were able to break camp in the dry. Once again the dunny was full, and many thanks to Stephan for fixing this with dunny shovel duty, with everyone ready to leave before 9am.

It was a beautiful campsite, on the edge of a clearing full of bluebush (*Cratystylis conocephala*), looking like a blue grey lake surrounded by Morrel gums. We'd been there several years before, and although there has been subsequent mining exploration, there is still a magical quality to the place. Besides the bluebush 'lake' there are several small pans, dry of course, but with unusual plants which can withstand occasional inundation.

Joy had found a blooming sedge nearby, one of the few blooming plants found on this trip. Although a flowering plant, a sedge is not what you normally think of when you are looking for wildflowers! We saw only one gum tree with flowers, in a sandy depression on Tamarin Rock (we thought it might be *E. eremophila*), one very early grevillea, probably *G. juncifolia*, a small patch of yellow scaevola on Lake Cronin, and a few glischrocaryon (probably *G. flavescens*, practically a weed) near Mt Holland. I'm not counting the wattle blooming in the Parker Range Tank, definitely a weed.

And so we headed out to the Forrestania – Marvel Loch road, past the lovely Holland Tank which is like a great cube cut out of solid rock. The clouds were beautiful, with shades of blue and white and grey, with ethereal shafts of light. Unfortunately, this started up a protracted discussion about Michaelangelo's artwork, then religion, finally spiralling into philosophical technicalities. Easily fixed – radio off! Checked in 5 minutes later, conversation still continuing... radio off again! Moral of the story? Don't mention the clouds!

We stopped for morning tea at a dry lake near the Parker Range Mine. By then we had mobile data access and could update the weather. Quite marginal for the rest of the trip, so we had a huddle and discussed the alternatives. The rain was expected to be 0-2ml for today, but 2-6ml the next morning. Should

we put up with it or not? Ross asked the key question – what winds are expected? – which helped us decide to pack it up, as some decent winds were on the way. There are two more trips to the GWW this winter, so plenty of time to return later.

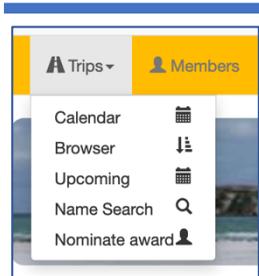
We decided to wend our way north where the weather was expected to be less severe. We stopped in at the Mt Palmer pub (after a bit of consternation over more roads stolen by miners), and then headed due north along the old track to Yellowdine. We stopped along the track just before joining the Great Eastern Highway, for our last meal in the bush. The wind had really picked up, and I for one was happy that Ross had made us consider the wind in addition to the rain. Once on the highway, it became very gusty indeed, and all the cars felt it. Some of the road trains looked a bit unsteady.

We stopped in Southern Cross for fuel and the obligatory ice cream, at a bleak and soulless yet strangely comforting roadhouse. Any creature comfort is a delightful treat after a few days in the bush. A flush toilet, running water and soap, and ice cream...

We battled the wind through to Merredin, where we stopped in town for a snack and said goodbye to Ross, who was taking the scenic route home via Quairading. Stephan sped ahead, leaving Joy and Ray with me and Ian. We met a wall of rain on our way out of town,

which was dispiriting and I wondered if we would make it home at all – perhaps better to hole up for the night? – but the rain came and went, and came and went again, so we made it home safely just before last light.

A beautiful trip, with two lovely campsites and two nights at each so that we had time to fully enjoy each spot. What a wonder to be out in the bush after months of being Perth-bound with Covid 19. And although the weather went a bit sour, we missed some big rains in Perth while we were away, so the timing worked very well indeed. Thanks to Ian for many months of planning! **Nina McLaren**



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