

# Subaru 4WD News



December 2020

## Guest speaker **Different cameras and tips on taking better photos**

**L**ong-time member Keith Wilcox will be our Guest Speaker for the December meeting.

Keith is an avid - and excellent - bird and wildlife photographer who has had numerous photos published.

Keith will talk on the different types of camera available and what to look out for when choosing one

He will also share some tips on how to take better photos

Right: a selection of photos Keith took on the Simpson Desert trip last year.



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

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



<http://www.subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au/>

# Subaru 4WD Club of WA Inc. 2019/20 Committee

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## Club member of the Year 2019-2020

[Joanne Norton](#)

**Life members**

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

# Your Club Committee for 2021



## Meet the Committee

*Counter-clockwise from top left:*

**David Peck**, President; **Deb Thyne**, Secretary; **Adrian Longwood**, Treasurer; **Karen Eldridge**, Committee; **Travis Maskey**, Trips; **Stephan Millett**, Editor; **Stu Rosethorne**, Committee; **Ross Mead**, Committee; **Jim Wilcox**, Committee; **Vanessa Carn**, Committee; and below: **Jo Norton**; Social Organiser.



# Keeping up a history of willing help and friendliness

## President's report

Firstly thanks to Adrian for doing such a good job of guiding the club during his four years as president. Keeping up with some of the innovations he has implemented will be a challenge, but with your help we can make the club even better.

Thanks also to the outgoing committee members who have kept the club running smoothly, and a special welcome to Stu Rosenthorne and Vanessa Carn. It's good to have new people who bring in fresh ideas, and if you have any they would be welcome. Vanessa has hit the ground running as the new Social Media organiser, so get in touch with her with your ideas for getting the word out about what the club is doing.

A bit about me for the new

members; I joined the club in 2005 after buying a Forester as a good safe family car. I found out about the club and must have had a bit of a mid-life crisis as I immediately threw myself into the club's activities. I had done camping before, but never 4WDing. All of the club members were so welcoming



and helpful. That friendliness and willingness to help have been a mainstay for the club and I'm proud to see it continuing.

Most people start off leading a day trip but the first trip I led was a two-week trip from Karijini to the Ningaloo coast. I admit to enjoying trip planning and tend to do many of the longer trips.

If you have any ideas about what the club might do, just let me know.

I have recently taken up voluntary redundancy and decided to call it retirement, but with a 2 year old granddaughter and another granddaughter born last month, I have been busier than ever, and enjoying it.

Cheers

**David Peck**

*PS Pictured is my latest project, Charlotte (and her 'helping Mum' stool.*

## QR Code for Club meetings

The Club has created a QR code to be Covid-compliant at meetings.

For signing in at the door Members should ideally have a smart phone with QR Code or add extra details to the sign-in book for all meetings after December 5 as per WA government regulations.

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# Forthcoming trips

Despite Covid restrictions the club has had around the yearly average number of trips this year. We routinely schedule more than 30 club outings each year, and most are really well attended. There is one last trip for this year – the annual Christmas get together, and a few more during the summer. **Read on**

## Christmas party BBQ

5 December

It's time to sit down and relax and celebrate the start of the festive season and the end of another busy year in the club. Have a dip in the pool or dip your crackers in some hommus. This year Jo has opened her house to members for our annual Christmas get together.

Come along for an afternoon/evening of socialising with other members.

NOTE: With the new government rules from the day we meet, we will have a QR code for you to scan on arrival, so get the Safe WA app. If you don't have the app you will need to complete a manual registration.\*\*

Please also bring some cash to make a donation to the Royal Flying Doctor Service on the day.

Come from 2pm onwards and stay until late (barbecues go on around 5pm). Bring meat (or fish or veg) to cook, drinks, salad or dessert to

share, swimming gear, and chair just in case... there will be paper plates, cutlery and bread rolls.

Most importantly bring your laughter.

*We are seeking expressions of interest for the following*

- First Aid training - usually done mid-year, before the big trips head out.
- Karijini and Exmouth - May or July.

*If you would like to go on one of these trips let me know. Also if you have any trip ideas please get in touch. **Travis Maskey***

## Beach run for families

(and others)

10 January 2021

It will be hot, and we'll be heading out to cool off at the beach. Which beach exactly? Wait and see on the day.

We will head north for a beach and dune 4WD Day, stopping with time to enjoy the water for swimming, kayaking, fishing or just

relaxing. This is a family friendly easy 4WD day out. Come prepared with beach gear and basic 4WD gear. Foresters, Outbacks and XVs are all suitable for this trip.

**Leader: Adrian Longwood**

## Esperance Adventure

23Jan 2021 to 30Jan 2021

This is a week in and around Esperance exploring the pristine beaches and other amazing scenery. We will stay at Bathers Paradise Caravan Park. Sites need to be booked, with a deposit paid at the time of booking, so please confirm as soon as possible if you would like to attend this trip. Deposits are non refundable.

Sites have been booked for all of those registered by 3 August. Anyone else wanting to attend the trip will need to contact the caravan park direct to check for availability of space. It is a long weekend so it is filling fast. Booking is from 23 January 2020 to 30

January 2020. We will decide depending on those attending if we leave on the Friday and overnight somewhere halfway down to break up the trip or not.

## Nornalup nature navigations

27 February -1 March

This is an opportunity to escape the summer heat of the March long weekend on a trip to cool karri forests, spectacular south coast beaches, and the deep rivers of the Walpole/Nornalup



Inlet area.

We'll be staying at Charms Country Retreat, Nornalup. This is a lovely, rustic alpaca farm near National Park forest and Bellanger Beach. We have our own private paddock for unpowered, self-contained camping with shady trees and flowers in

season.

This is a large enough area to have one or two caravans or camper trailers.

Unfortunately there is no further space available for vans and trailers, but there is a waiting list. There is one spot that has power.

Facilities are limited. There is

**Cont. p.8**

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**Richard's Tyrepower**  
Osborne Park Belmont Claremont

**Trips, from. p. 7**

rainwater (unfiltered) from a tank tap near the house but there are no toilets, showers or camp kitchens. We will have the Subaloo tent toilet, or bring your own chemical toilets. There is a dump point 12 km away at the Walpole public toilets. Dogs are allowed at camp but must be on a leash if walking past stock. Dogs are not allowed in the Walpole-Nornalup National Park.

There is a room inside the farmhouse with double bed and ensuite access which you can book yourself. Mention that you are with the Subaru Club and have difficulty sleeping in a tent.

The campsite is close to many attractions, such as the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk, the Giant Tingle Tree Loop, Swarbrick Art Trail, the Knoll Drive, swimming at Coalmine Beach (child-friendly), fishing or kayaking on the Frankland River, bushwalking, visiting the magnificent ocean beaches at Conspicuous Cliffs, Mandalay Beach or Peaceful Bay and 4WD driving. We will be driving the sand track into Blue Holes and walking over the dunes to Bellanger Beach. There are cafes and a restaurant in Walpole and a very good cafe in Nornalup.

**Leader: Joy Unno**



*Jim makes the most of the tight space*

# Perth 4WD Show

6 to 8 November

There had been a lot of speculation about how the Show organisers would deal with Covid restrictions, beginning with a proposal early in the piece to spread the Show over four days (from Thursday 5 November), so the usual number of Show-goers could be accommodated without any crowding. Thankfully, this proposal was subsequently abandoned and the Show ran over the usual three days only. The only Covid precautions in place that I saw or experienced were (the compulsory) bottles of hand sanitiser at the entrances and an instruction

that all stand-holders observe the 2 square metre rule and wipe down tables/ other surfaces every two hours, which was duly observed by the WA 4WD Association reps at the Association stand. However, based on the size of the Association marquee (10m x 10m), the 50 person limit was never really in danger of being exceeded!

This year also, the Association had decided that it was not prepared to pay for individual 3m x 3m marquees for 4WD clubs attending the Show. So, it was that all attending Clubs shared the Association's marquee, which was relocated back into the south-east corner of the site (near the stage), which had been the case prior to last year.

**Cont. p.15**

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## Building a custom fuel can holder

When I'm ready to do a longer trip, I didn't want to have to carry extra fuel inside the vehicle so I've been looking at what options I have. I also didn't want to lift 20+kg jerry cans onto the roof but obviously I'd need more than one of any smaller size jerry cans. I settled on the 10L ProQuip jerry cans, which were on sale at Supercheap Auto (\$20), but you could choose any size and make the same inexpensive carrier to suit. Here's how I went about it and an indication of price, all available from the big green warehouse.

For the base I started with a secondhand security screen (\$15) and cut this down to size to fit the 4 x 10L cans. To stop the cans from sliding about I used 32mm x 32mm x 1.5mm x 0.9m slotted black angle for the long slides (2 x \$7) and a 0.6m length to cover the short sides (\$5). These were screwed into place over the modified security screen.

To make the hinged 2-part theft cover I used 4 x 50mm x 40mm x 1.2mm primed butt hinges (4 x \$1.50), 50mm x 3mm x 1m aluminium flat bar (2 x \$16) for the vertical uprights and 2 x 32mm x 3mm

x 1m aluminium flat bar (2 x \$10) for the horizontal bracing which covers the spouts, ventilation breather and rear of the jerry cans so they cannot be slid out from the base. The hinges were bolted to the base and all the aluminium was riveted together after some trial and error with bending to fit over the jerry cans. The latches (2 x \$6) were riveted to each part of the cover and the fixing points needed to be high enough to enable the top part of the cover to open without hitting the cans.

A bit of filing, cleaning, priming (\$13) and satin gloss black paint (\$14) the project is finished. Since I have a Rola Titan roof platform, I drilled the mounting holes in the base frame to suit the spacing between channel slots where it can be secured with 4 x T-bolts. So for around \$130 I have a jerry can carrier that suits my needs. Assorted rivets, screws, bolts and nyloc nuts were in the garage but they are a negligible cost.

**Mark Smithers**



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# When the RFDS crew left with Steve, we had some 'down time'

## Mount August trip Day 3

*Last edition featured the major dramas of our trip to Mount Augustus, including Steve being evacuated by the RFDS. But there were some lovely times and places, too.*

There was already a patient on-board when Steve was picked up and we were advised the plane was going to Meekatharra where there would be a change of crew and the plane would then go on to Jandakot where the patients would be transported to hospital. The plane was not on the ground for long and, after watching it taxi and take off, we headed back to the campground for lunch. There was discussion on how to manage the trip schedule



with the lost time at Mt Augustus. It was proposed and agreed that we would stay an extra night at Mt Augustus and drop the second night at the Murchison River. The group also agreed it would be good to have some 'down time' and decompress from the incidents that had been dealt with (very well) by the group in the first two days of the trip.

After lunch we all headed out

to Cattle Pool (**above**), on the Lyons River, which is a tributary of the Gascoyne River. The water hosts a wide range of bird life and Tony had spent time taking photographs and let us know what birds he had seen and pointed some of them out to us. Schools of fish could be seen 'dancing' in the water. The movement of the schools of fish I found to be a particularly relaxing pastime as they made different shapes near the surface. There were a few wildflowers to be found and the river gums on the edge of the water were beautiful exuding lots of character in their trunks and branches. Later we all agreed Cattle Pool is a particularly picturesque and beautiful part of the Mt Augustus experience.

On the way back to camp





*Joy & David checking out the petroglyphs at the Flinstone.*

David, Jason, Deb and Chris stopped into Gum Grove not far from the caravan park. Here, there are more river gum 'characters' but there were few flowers to be found unlike our visit five years beforehand when flowers and vegetation were prolific. This provides a very palpable reminder of the effects of rainfall, or lack thereof!

We returned to camp for the evening and prepare dinner. Still learning to use a camp oven, Deb used coals from the fire to make a respectable gluten free, cheese and bacon damper and a coconut rice pudding that was shared amongst the group.

It had been a long day so it was good to retire for the night with plans to explore the attractions around the base of Mt Augustus the next day.

**Deborah Thyne**

## After a leisurely breakfast, time for some exploring

### Day 4

After the chaos and stress of the previous couple of days, it was nice to relax over a leisurely breakfast before heading out to explore Mt Augustus. The morning view of Mt Augustus was highlighted by early sun and a crown of cloud over just the top of the Mountain.

Stephan decided to have a quiet day around camp and maybe a visit to Cattle Pool. Tony headed off to Kennedy Ranges for a 2 day camp before continuing on to Broome for some more bird watching. It was planned to catch up with him at Kennedy

Ranges the next night. The rest of us, with David leading, set off to do a loop of Mt Augustus and visit the key sites.

First stop was "The Pound". This is a valley within the mountain where stockmen used to hold their mobs of cattle. With the steep hills on 3 sides, it meant they only had to patrol one side to keep the cattle contained. We all headed off on our first walk of the day up Saddle Trail. As the name suggested, this walk

track took us up to a saddle in the hill where we were able to get good views to the north of Mt Augustus and also south back over "The Pound".

Next place to explore was a place called The Flintstones. Here there are a number of Aboriginal petroglyphs underneath a slab of rock in a rock water course. The best way to view them is to crawl/slide in under the rock. Unfortunately, I don't understand the symbology of the stone carvings. A possible reason as to why the carvings were created in this location is that it is protected from the weather and was probably a cool place to be in the heat of summer. There are a number of sites around Mt Augustus that have aboriginal petroglyphs, all of which attest to the importance of the



*Joy & Deb enjoying Edney Spring*

mountain to local traditional owners.

Near the Aboriginal petroglyphs, we came across a small cave which had a large number of what appeared to be kangaroo bones. Perhaps it was a dingo's den. Jason crawled into the cave for several metres to check how far back it went. He confirmed that the bones were scattered throughout the cave.

We came across more Aboriginal stone engravings

on the Petroglyph Trail and again on the Ooramboo Trail.

David and Jason decided they would walk the trail up to Edney's Lookout. The rest of us decided to check out Edney Spring which is situated about 200m further on from the engravings. What a lovely little spot. Very unexpected with its small pool of water with clumps of grasses situated in a grove of River Gums.

We decided to return to camp for a leisurely afternoon while

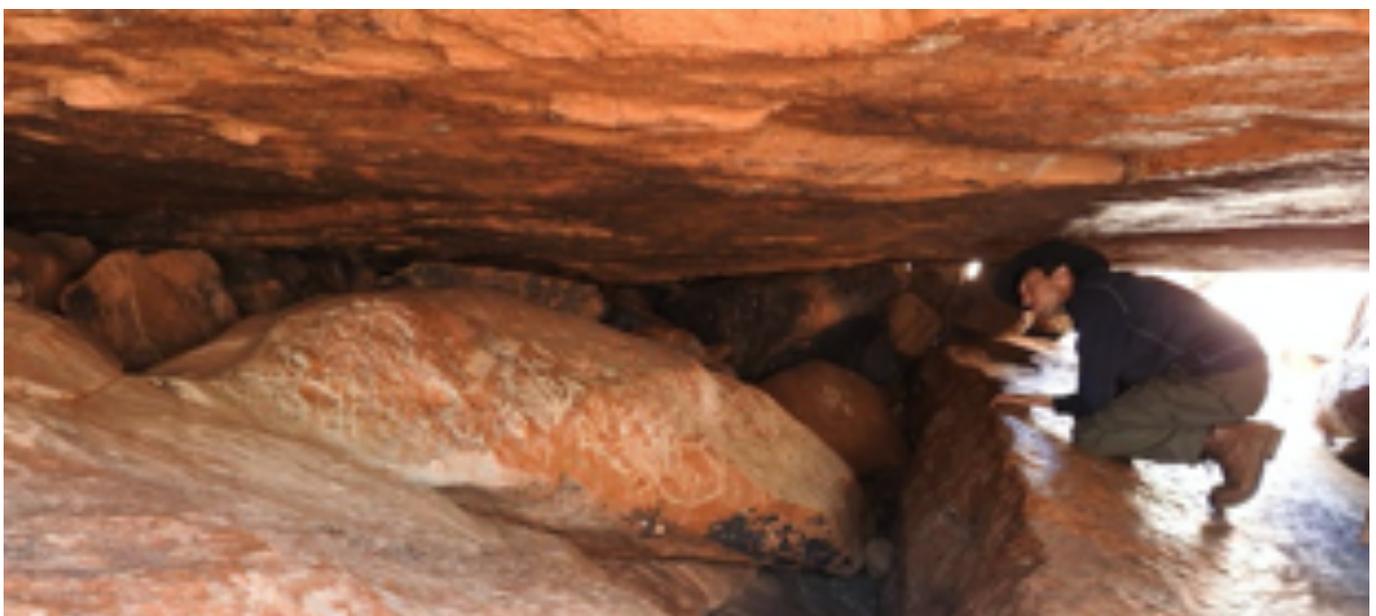
David and Jason completed their hike up to Edney's Lookout. They managed to call us on the radio from the top of the hill to confirm all was well.

As it was our last night at Mt Augustus it was decided we should go out to Emu Hill to watch the sunset light on the mountain. So, packed the nibbles, drinks, chairs and cameras then set off. Arrived at the view point to meet up with a number of others with the same thoughts.

Unfortunately, the sun decided not to play so there was no spectacular evening light to admire. However, it was still nice to sit out with friends whilst enjoying good food, drink and appreciate the view. After the sun had set and the last of the light receded, we drove back to camp in the dark for tea and then a sit around the campfire.

**Ross Mead.**

*Below: Jason investigates*



## Eventually, we headed west ... and found a good camp

Mount Augustus  
Day 5  
19 August

The episode reported last edition where my diesel was topped up with petrol. This put us way behind schedule as we were supposed to make it to the Kennedy Ranges for the night, but we decided to go as far as we could before dark. We managed to make it about 150km and found a camp listed in WikiCamps on the banks of Mangaroon Creek. This ended up being a nice spot even though the creek was dry.

Deb offered to do dinner for Jason and me with some of Stephen's food and she made Sloppy Joes with baked potato. This was followed by banana and custard, which Jason had a second serving of. We heard donkeys a few times during the night and they sounded fairly close. I had left the back doors on the car open to air out the diesel smell, but ended up getting out of bed to close them in case a donkey got too close.

**David Peck**



*Our camp at Mangaroon Creek. Thanks, WikiCamps*

## ... and on to the beautiful gorges at Kennedy Ranges

Day 6  
20 August

After a peaceful night (except for the occasional donkey braying), at our camp at Mangaroon Creek, we set off southwards down Ullawarra Road, passing the track to Mangaroon Homestead. About 9.15 am we pulled over to chat to Tony who had gone earlier to the Kennedy Range and was now heading northwards towards Broome. He had expected to see us at Temple Gorge the previous evening so we filled him in on the Famous Fuel Fiasco (I could have used another word here, but it's a family magazine). Parting on our

separate ways, the convoy arrived at the Kennedy Range Ranger Station about an hour or so later. The huge rocky headlands of the range looked very impressive, promising us some very scenic walks and views.

Arriving at the Temple Gorge campground, we found it to be packed with happy campers and wondered if all our Subarus would fit in there. A conversation with the very pleasant and informative campground hosts, Doug and Chris, had us heading up to the overflow camping at Honeycomb Gorge parking area. There were a group of

**Cont. p 16**

**From p. 15**

"Involuntary Australians", backpackers stuck in Australia by COVID-19, who had been staying there but were packing up to move on. Although the ground was very rocky to be pitching tents on, the view was spectacular as we were surrounded by a "U"-shape amphitheatre of red, rocky cliffs.

After lunch, we did the short walk (500 m) into Honeycomb Gorge. The campground hosts had kindly lent us a booklet on "The Geology of the Kennedy Range Area" so we knew that the Kennedy Range was composed of sedimentary rocks formed by the marine deposition of sand, silt and mud 275 -265 million years ago in the middle Permian Period. Marine fossils and burrows have been preserved in some of the rocks. Later, permeation of iron-rich groundwater and precipitation of hematite (ironstone) formed extensive sheet-like ironstone layers or large iron nodules. Geological processes such as uplift, weathering and erosion have resulted in the current landscape that we see today. Sure enough, one of the first things we saw were the giant iron nodules. Some were visible embedded in the sheer cliff face and others were in large rock blocks that had broken off from the cliff and tumbled to the ground.



*Honeycomb Gorge*

Following the walking trail along the creek, past the picturesque red cliffs, we eventually came to the 15 – 20 m high waterfall and plunge pool at the head of the gorge. The waterfall was not running but there was a decent amount of brown, mud-stained water in the pool. These features were quickly eclipsed, however, when we saw the amazing lattice of honeycombed rock on either side of the waterfall. Indeed, the Honeycomb Gorge was aptly named with the intricate network forming a natural artistic wonder. According to the helpful booklet, this amazing rock pattern was formed by "the action of salt and wind in a coastal and semi-arid environment. After

many cycles of wetting and drying crystallisation of a salty fluid in a wall of rock loosens the rock grains and they are swept away by wind ". The booklet didn't explain how large pebbles got into the holes of the rock lattice and a lively discussion ensued with suggestions from large birds dropping them in to 14-year-old boys having a rock throwing competition. Then it was back to Temple Gorge again but this time to take the 500m walk to the sandstone hill known as "The Temple". The walk, although requiring some agility and perhaps walking sticks to get over the uneven rocks, was very picturesque, with lots of pools in the creek bed, photogenic cliff walls, and a

flowering plant or two. The Temple resembled a Mayan pyramid complete with a flat rock altar at the base. We felt reasonably fit so we continued on to the end of the gorge where there was another waterfall and plunge pool (both dry), with some honeycomb structures, although not as spectacular as at Honeycomb Gorge. Interestingly, I found fossil burrows (created in the sediment by Permian marine worms) preserved in the ironstone rocks. These burrows were quite common in the area once you knew what to look for.

Then it was back to the cars and on to Drapers Gorge. It really was a busy day and I'm even feeling quite tired just writing about everything we did! The helpful campground hosts had told us about marine fossils visible in the rocks in a creek just before Drapers Gorge so we stopped

there. The marine fossils were small but easily visible in the greenish limestone rocks – crinoids (sea lilies) and bivalves (mollusc shells) being

the most common. Crinoids are echinoderms that have a stem of calcium carbonate discs attached to a substrate and fringed arms. Mostly in fossil rock you see the round, white cross-section of a stem plate (~10 mm diameter). As the sign warned, the Drapers Gorge walk trail involved scrambling up escarpments and walking along rock ledges but that was the same with the previous gorge walks. There were



*The Temple at Temple Gorge*

some good views of large pools in the creek down the valley to the East as well as a waterfall (dry) and plunge pool (wet) with associated honeycomb structure. Again, not a patch on Honeycomb Gorge. Back at our carpark camp it was Happy Hour before getting the campfire going and the camp ovens on the coals for dinner. We sat in our chairs enjoying the magical sunset turning the clouds pink behind the dark outline of the massive rock headlands. I've visited many ranges and gorges and the Kennedy Range rates as one of the most memorable landscapes that I've had the pleasure to visit. After the stress of the early days of the trip I'm sure everyone was glad to relax in the peace and serenity of this unique rocky range. Thanks Trip Leader Ross, and thanks to all you wonderful trip companions. **Joy Unno**



*Walking through Temple Gorge*

# 4WD Show

## From p. 8

Last year, the Association and Club marquees had all been on the northern side of Taylor Street, next to the 4WD test track. This year, the Show did not occupy any part of McCallum Park north of Taylor Street and there was no 4WD test track. Also, notably, there was no Subaru dealer presence this year.

In terms of actual space in the marquee, each club was allocated half a 2m table (each table was shared by two clubs) so, yes, it was a bit of a squeeze! That also meant we only had 1m of hanging space (behind that table), which simply wasn't enough. After the Show last year, we had decided that we would move away from hanging photos (with velcro dots) on the blue felt "pin boards" and, in future, hang laminated photos, which had been hole punched, in columns held together by curtain rings; and we had more than enough to fill our "usual" space. Alas however, in the Association marquee, we only had room for two columns of photos. But, luckily/thankfully, the Club sharing our table let us have a bit of their hanging space, so I was able to hang the Club's new laminated A1 trip



map (thanks Dave and Mark). By the by, when I say above that "all attending Clubs shared the Association's marquee", this was not quite true. The Toyota 4WD Club

## Like the 'good old days'?

(which has recently resigned from the Association) had their own small marquee, as did the Western Patrol 4WD Club.

To me, there seemed to be as many Show attendees this year as there was last year; perhaps even more. Attendances were clearly higher on each of the mornings and by mid-afternoon, numbers began tailing off quickly, as is usually the case. The weather was also good, with no rain recorded and temperatures in the high 20s. Certainly also, Covid did not seem to have

topped anyone from attending and I would have to say that I did not notice any real attempt at maintaining "separation", apart from at food stall

queues. It was just like the "good old days"!?

We recorded about six or seven names on the Register of Interest in the Club, which is about usual, but unfortunately none of those people was able to attend the beach run on the following Sunday.

My thanks to all club members who came along to assist at the stand. The reduced space we had meant that there was plenty of time for those Club members to get out and about and have a good look at the show. And entry was free, as usual.

**Tony Richards**

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