

# Subaru 4WD News



January 2021

## President's Report January 2020

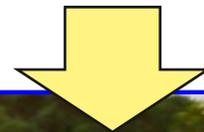
I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year, we are very fortunate that we have the freedom to be with friends and family over this time.

Thanks to Jo for hosting the Christmas party. We all appreciate the work she puts into decorating her place and making it ready for Club members – and there is always plenty of good food too.

December and January are usually pretty quiet for club trips, but we do have our annual beach run coming up which is always popular. This is a good chance for new members to see how well the Subarus go in the sand, and a chance to learn what to do if you get bogged.

**David Peck**

## Look what's coming soon



Scheduled for introduction in the first half of the 2020s, Subaru's all-electric vehicle the **Evoltis** will be a mid-size SUV, similar in size to the Subaru Forester model. It will be built on a platform shared with Toyota." To read the full report, go to.

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

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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



**Christmas by the pool - thanks Jo!**



More in pp 4&5



**Happy Members**





**Happy  
Christmas**



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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.

## 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

### Forthcoming trips

gear and basic 4WD gear. Foresters, Outbacks and XVs are all suitable for this trip.

**Leader: Adrian Longwood**

## Esperance Adventure

23 - 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.

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## Forthcoming trips

# Nornalup nature navigations

27 Feb - 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 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**

# Paddle and Sunset picnic

24 Jan - day trip

This is a social outing where we will meet at the Kent Street weir for a paddle and picnic dinner. There will be spare canoes and kayaks available if you want to give it a go.

The Kent Street Weir is a popular recreation spot and has a pedestrian crossing on top of the concrete piles of the weir. There are

barbecues, sheltered picnic tables, toilets, children's playground and a designated canoe launching facility.

Kent Street Weir is part of the Canning River Regional Park. The section downstream from the Weir contains some of the best estuarine

vegetation in the Swan Canning Riverpark. Most famously at this point of the Canning River both estuarine and riverine waters are divided by the Kent Street Weir.

Pets permitted.

**Trip Leaders: David Peck, Deborah Thyne**

## 4WD training and recovery day in sand

21 Feb - day trip

This is a dedicated training day for sand driving, negotiating small dunes and hills – and learning about recovery methods using shovels, tracks and snatch straps. This trip is for members only.

Members are encouraged to come along and learn about sand driving techniques, dropping tyre pressures, and negotiating hills and obstacles. Self-recovery and snatch recovery methods will also be demonstrated. All equipment will be provided.

Learn how to use the features of your car and how they help or hinder on different terrains, Meet at 8:30am. Location TBA. Bring lunch and drinks for the day.

Recovery gear will be provided but bring everything you currently have.

Wear appropriate clothing for the weather. Long pants and long sleeve shirt are a good idea. Enclosed shoes are required. There will be soft sandy conditions with assorted debris in the dirt. And it is likely to be hot, so bring plenty of drinking water.

**Leader: Adrian Longwood**

I have a 2010 Forester with a LED light strip on the tailgate which normally comes on automatically when the tailgate is opened.

On a recent trip it stopped working and I noticed the tailgate open warning light had also stopped working so I figured it must have been the switch that was

common to both. When testing the switch with the multimeter I touched

something which shorted and then there were no interior lights at all. I also lost remote locking, radio with GPS and reversing camera, dash lights, clock/fuel economy, and puddle lights - which was unusual.

I started by checking the illumination fuses and audio fuses and they were all OK so I continued pulling fuses trying to find the right one, and testing each one with a multimeter. This wasn't successful so I went searching through the wiring diagram to see if there was a common fuse and found a 20 amp one in the engine bay fuse box labelled B which was a Backup. It was blown and

after much anxiety the problems were fixed.

Later I started having some troubles with the external handle to operate the tailgate. This was not actually a handle but was an electric switch with a rubber cover over it which had started to tear.

This meant to open the tailgate I had to climb into

### Not just a simple fuse issue

the back of the car to remove the square plastic cover and operate the manual release

mechanism (it's in your owner's manual).

So I decided to replace both the tailgate latch and the switch. The latch was straight forward but I could not buy the switch separately and had to replace the whole wiring loom in the tailgate.

Afterwards I found that the XV does have a separate switch which may have worked for half the price.

I have now covered the rubber over the exterior switch with a piece of Gaffa tape which should protect the switch from getting dirty or wet and increase its working life. This may be something worth considering for your car too.

**David Peck**

# Rough seas, but smooth sailing over the sand

**S**ixteen cars met at the BP just off the freeway near Safety Bay Road, and we all headed off for the drive down to Myalup Beach. Of course, we couldn't go past the Crooked Carrot without stopping and most enjoyed a coffee along with a comfort break.

We left the Crooked Carrot, immediately turning right into Myalup Beach Road, and then a short drive to the beach car park. From there we got our instructions from our most capable trip leaders Adrian and Joy - most importantly tyre pressures, how low they should be, and how the lower pressures would affect our steering. All good information, particularly for the newbies on the trip.

From Myalup we were on the beach, unfortunately realising immediately there wouldn't be any swimming or other water activities today. The ocean was particularly rough and unappealing. However, from the comfort of the car it was a still beautiful sight to



look out into the stormy sea.

The cars all performed beautifully on the run south from Myalup. At first we all "followed the leader" most too cautious to move out of the tracks in front. It soon became clear that that wasn't necessary, and most began to drive their own path, enjoying the feeling of the "Subis" gliding across the sand.

We had to move off the beach and through the Binninyup beach car park, because that is a controlled swimming beach, not that anyone would have been swimming, but that's beside the point, I guess. It's a no go area for cars. Back on the sand immediately, and further south.

By then it was lunch time, we stopped at an interesting rock formation. It's definitely south of Buffalo beach but

couldn't say exactly where. Due to there being no swimming we had an extra long lunch break, enjoying the company of other club members.

There also was Hondo, the wonder dog with us, along with Jo's very quiet pooch and another I wasn't introduced to. Hondo enjoyed Tony's apple core (What! Tony had an apple?) It seems to be the routine now, when Hondo sees Tony he knows that core is coming.

Finally, time to head north and home. Again, it was a wonderful drive without any drama. No digging anyone out of the sand today. We're all Subaru legends. We left the sand at Buffalo beach, pumped up, and said our goodbyes before heading back on the freeway home.

Thanks to all, especially Adrian and Joy for organising the trip. We always enjoy those beach runs.

**Nick and Leanne**

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# Leaving the Kennedy Ranges

## Day 7 – 21 August

Most of us were up before sunrise to get photos of the cliffs in front of our camp which were illuminated by the rising sun causing them to change colours. This didn't last too long as there was some clouds, but it made a spectacular sunrise.

We were on the road and headed towards Gascoyne Junction which was only 60km south and on the way Ross spotted an Australian Bustard on the side of the road and we managed to get a couple of good photos.

We had morning tea and refuelled at Gascoyne Junction and most people had a look around the small museum there.

We headed south east on the Carnarvon Mullewa road and



stopped at a signposted Sea Shell Fossil stop. This was an attraction on the Kingsford-Smith mail run and it had us searching around a bit to find them and they were just under the sign!

We stopped for lunch at a waterhole on the Gascoyne River before turning south towards Murchison Settlement. As it was getting

late in the day none of us wanted to stop at Errabiddy Bluff, and Jason and I noticed a slow leak in a tyre. We stopped for fuel and a shower at the settlement and I changed the tyre.

Our camp for the night was on the banks of the Murchison River which was a lot lower than what we expected given the recent rain. It cannot have made it to the catchment.

Jason and I wanted a campfire to cook pizza in the camp oven. They turned out pretty well but unfortunately the crust on Jason's was burnt. Still that left him room for dessert and we did baked apples stuffed with brown sugar and sultanas, served with custard which everyone said they enjoyed.

**David and Jason Peck**

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



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## Kennedy Ranges trip Day 8 Saturday

It was a beautiful start to the day: the birds were in song and the low sun turned the river pools to mirrors reflecting the overhanging trees. I took my morning cuppa to the river bank and enjoyed a quiet moment before having the rest of my breakfast and packing up.

Others had gone for walks along the river, with reports coming back of a seeing a Black Breasted Buzzard, so just before we all departed at 8.30 David and Jason drove out and managed to capture a great image

We left the Murchison River and travelled south on the Wooleen Merbeenie Road as far as Twin Peaks Road where we turned off. Before heading to Mullewa on the Carnarvon Mullewa Road we turned north briefly to investigate the restored Well 9 on the ET Hooley stock route. The well was restored a few years ago and there was water in it – which could be hauled out with a windlass and bucket. Water obtained in this way was poured into a long trough for the cattle.

As we headed south Ross stopped to move a dead kangaroo from the middle of the road, making the road safer for all users who followed.

Just north of Mullewa we topped a ridge on

## Wildflowers, a canola B'wana, a priest and his church, a water crossing and a pretty final campsite ...



the road through the Urawa reserve and beheld a sea of colour from a great wildflower season. We stopped when it was safe and spent some time marvelling at the range of species on show. For those not familiar with WA wildflowers, it is worth getting down low and looking closely at what is at your feet. The flowers are often small, but are also often individually delightful.

In Mullewa we stopped for fuel and lunch – with some reminiscences of previous visits where mechanical issues had been the main reason for stopping. A highlight was a visit to the Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic church – which was designed by the Franciscan priest Monsignor John Hawes.

When we arrived at the front door, a man about my age was washing the step with a hose. He made conversation and, although the Church was about to close, he invited us inside. The man was Father Robert O'Brien, who says Mass there. Although he was struggling with a head cold he shared some history and some of the problems with caring for a church of great historical interest – notably a leaking cupola, the ever-present risk of break-ins and damage to some of the beautiful stained glass panels.

We left the church and Father O'Brien to rejoin the others and around 2pm the convoy left Mullewa and headed toward Geraldton.

Some way out of town we took a left turn at Eridu South Road, a winding road through small hills that gave beautiful views over rolling fields of healthy green barley and golden canola. We shortly came across a sign saying "Road Open" – which was good news as none had suspected it might be closed. The sign clearly was there for the headwaters of the Greenough River which crossed Pamsey Road as a flat floodway. The floodway had a welcome firm rocky base and flowing water, and we enjoyed negotiating it. Just after leaving the



floodway Chris listened to his inner child and – complete with pith helmet – ducked into a canola field looking the part as the great White B'wana (or was that banana). Shortly we arrived at Ellendale Pool campsite. The





pool is a natural deep stretch of the Greenough River about 1500m long, with a vertical cliff of what looks like sandstone on the side opposite to the small, but tidy and busy campsite. The sounds of birds and frogs rang out clearly across the water. We found places to pitch our tents on a grassed area with shelters and cooked our last meals for what had been a wonderful, challenging, emotional, and tumultuous trip.

The next day I was up early and decided to leave the group and make my way

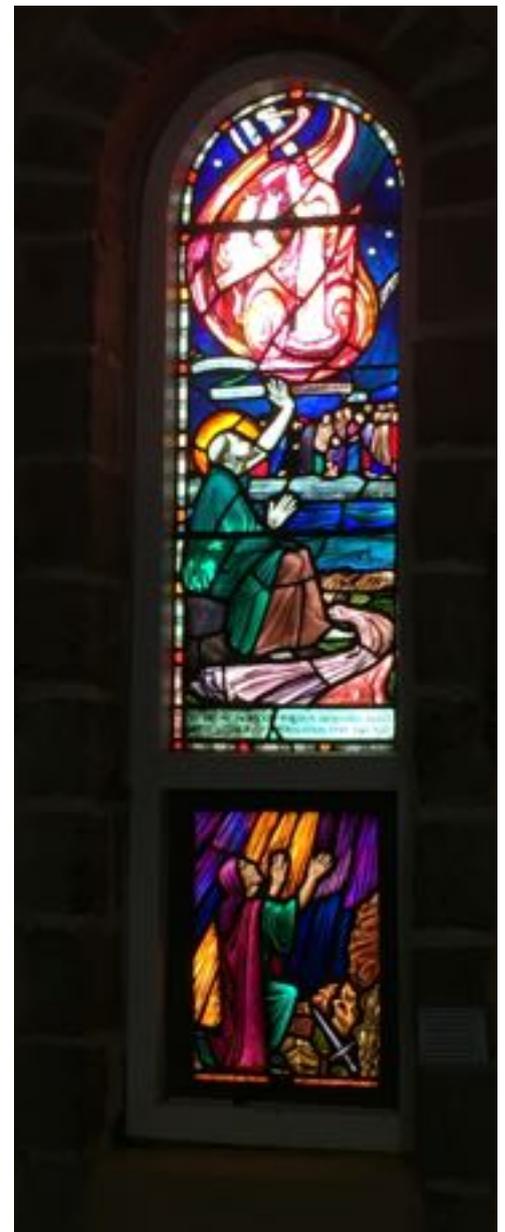
home via Burma's Rd and the Midlands way. The views were especially pretty on this route. I was able to make it home in time to join my son in inspecting the house that he and his partner now own.

The whole trip to Mount Augustus, Kennedy Ranges and Ellendale Pool was exceptionally well planned by Ross, with support from David. Thank you both. And thank you to my travelling companions for the good times, their knowledge and their care.

**Stephan Millett**

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**Happy travelling**



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