

# Subaru 4WD News



April 2021



## We had a great meeting in store

Thanks to Glen for hosting us at Ranger Outdoors for the March meeting. Glen always has some good things for us to buy and gives us a good price. Drop in to the store with your Club shirt on next time you are shopping for camping gear.



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

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



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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



## Welcome Minabelle!

We would like to announce the arrival of Minabelle Katherine Moore on the 25th of February.

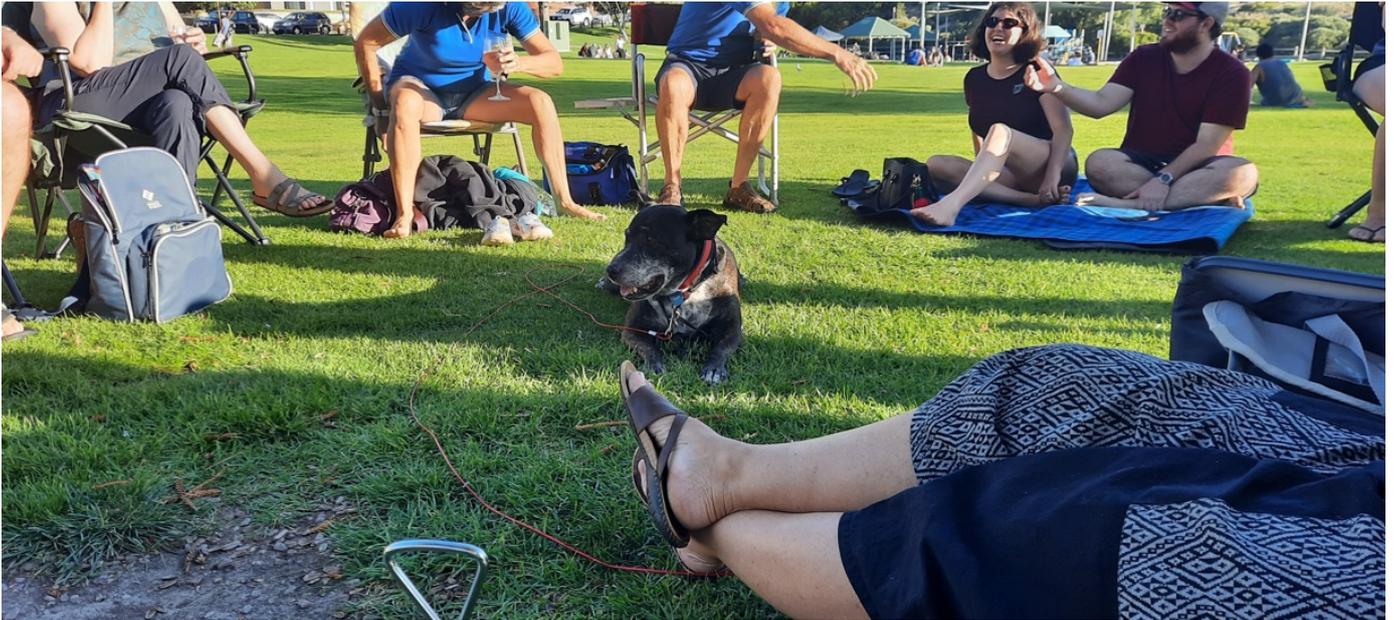
Our last trip with the club was in July last year. Unfortunately due to Julia's nausea and mobility issues we had to cancel a number of trips at the end of last year. We are itching to get back out bush and out in holidays with the club again. Don't worry we fit 3 car seats in the Forester.

**Julia and Jason Moore**



### Inside your magazine this month

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## Mixed feelings on new beach venue

We tried a new venue for our annual Fish and Chips at the Beach social outing – with mixed success. We went to Clarko Reserve just on the north side of the Trigg beach café and there was a strong turnout. Many people loved the grass and the fact that they could eat and talk in comfort away from the strong winds across the dunes, but others missed being able to sit in their chairs and watch the sunset - they had to walk up to the top of the dunes instead. Parking was also an issue, with



... although Sam the dog had no complaints

few spaces to spare and some people having to walk a fair way to meet up with the Club. There were also fewer food choices available compared to City Beach. Sam the Dog, however, had no complaints and paid close

attention to people's food choices.

If you have an idea on where the next Fish and Chips at the Beach might work better – let Jo Norton know or one of the other committee members.

## Notes from the WA 4WD Association

- There is a clean-up day at Kaarakin on 18 April. Two or three Club members are needed to help. Kaarakin hosts the HQ of the WA 4WD Association .
- On 28 August there's a **Movie Night** at the Koorda drive-in. The film is Cry of the Forest
- A 4WD Show is being proposed for the Perth Convention Centre in May
- The Association executive has met with the Road Safety Commission and has meetings organised with the RAC and WA Local Government Association



# Good numbers for Easter trips

## President's Report

It's good to see that both trips at Easter have such good numbers. With the trip locations being quite different this gives us some good ideas for future trips.

However, we need more day trips. With the increasing number of visitors and new members we need to run more, easy day trips.

We also need to have more people willing to learn how to lead a trip. You might like to start with day trips to places such as these, where the club has been before;

- Avon Valley
- Baden Powell, Yarloop
- Beach Run - White Hills, Preston Beach, Tim's Thicket
- Binningup
- Capel
- Collie
- Dandalup (south)
- Darling Scarp (See Hills)
- Dwellingup
- Captain's Fawcett track – temporarily closed
- Fig Tree/ Wilbinga
- Gnangara Pines
- Harvey
- Hills (GE Hwy)
- Hoffman's Mill
- Jarrahdale
- Julimar Forest
- Lake Clifton

- Logue Brook Dam
- Mandurah
- Mt Dale
- Mt Observation
- Mundaring Powerline
- Murray Pines
- Murray River fire trail
- Myalup
- Nanga Heritage 4WD Track
- New Norcia
- Pinjar to Gingin
- Pinjar to Wilbinga
- Preston Beach
- South Dandalup
- St Ronan's Well
- Tallanalla
- Tim's Thicket
- Toodyay
- Wandoo Forest
- Wariin Spring
- Waroona Dam
- Wellington Dam area
- Whitakers Mill
- Wilbinga
- Yalgorup
- Yanchep Beach

If you are interested in going to some of these places let me, (or one of the committee) know and we can help plan the trip. It can be as simple as driving down to Collie to look at the new artwork on the wall of the Wellington Dam – which we haven't done yet.

**David Peck**

## Irwin to charge for camping on Indian Ocean Drive

Effective Monday 22 March 2021, the Shire of Irwin will be implementing paid camping. This means visitors will be charged \$20 per vehicle per night to all camping along Indian Ocean Drive within the Shire of Irwin

## Recovery points available for some Foresters and XVs

A recovery point system for a Subaru is now available.

The recovery points from Subxtreme are for the front of some models of Forester and XV and mount across and under the Sump Guard. They are the first such points available for many years.

They are only available for a couple models at the moment but they will expand the range to suit most models in the coming weeks.

A new winch and bull bar system is also on the way. Adrian is trying to get information on how the recovery points are rated.

<https://www.subxtreme.com/shop/subxtreme-recovery-points/>

*\* If you find newsworthy items, pass them along to the Editor (see p.2 for contacts)*

# The tension was palpable, the players on edge and the result? One for the history books

The day has come and gone. Finska was played and the trophy handed out to the victor. The triumph and misery are still lingering in the air like a bad smell for some and sweet, sweet perfume for others.

For those who weren't there, too bad (just kidding). You get to read this and imagine you were there.

The day was a cracker. Sunny. Late 20's early 30's. A bit

windy, but it was a Trav trip. If it's not raining and windy, it doesn't feel right. We had the same place as we had the last few years. The grass hadn't been cut, and was a bit longer than it usual. The other thing I noticed was that the ground was a bit softer than previous years. A few divots resulted and the throwing stick was halted on more than one occasion.

Last year's winner, Adrian came down for the practice



match, then left. So for a 4th year in a row there would be a new name on the trophy. Feel the suspense build..... The first round saw Tom, Kris, Cornelia, Henry, Alex and the Jo's go head to head. Cornelia proved to be a dark horse, taking just 8 throws to get to 50. Not far off the record, and

**Cont. p. 8**

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



## Finska final finishes with a flourish

### From p.7

for a 1st time player a monumental effort. Alex, Kris and Henry struck out and some of their efforts will become Bung Chuck candidates. Joanne N. was next to get to the magic number and Tom, a few behind her. Young Jo was robbed, just 6 off the mark. But, to get near is not good enough, especially in Finska. Suspense build further.....oh it's going to be good

The other game saw John, Haze, Vanessa, Greg, Mark, Ross and Travis battle it out. This group looked on paper to be the better of the 2 groups. And the play looked like it would be proved wrong.

John was the first to progress to the final, with another 8-throw win. Ross knocked himself out with a spectacular 3 striker on only his 6th throw. The battle for the other 2

**Cont. p. 10**





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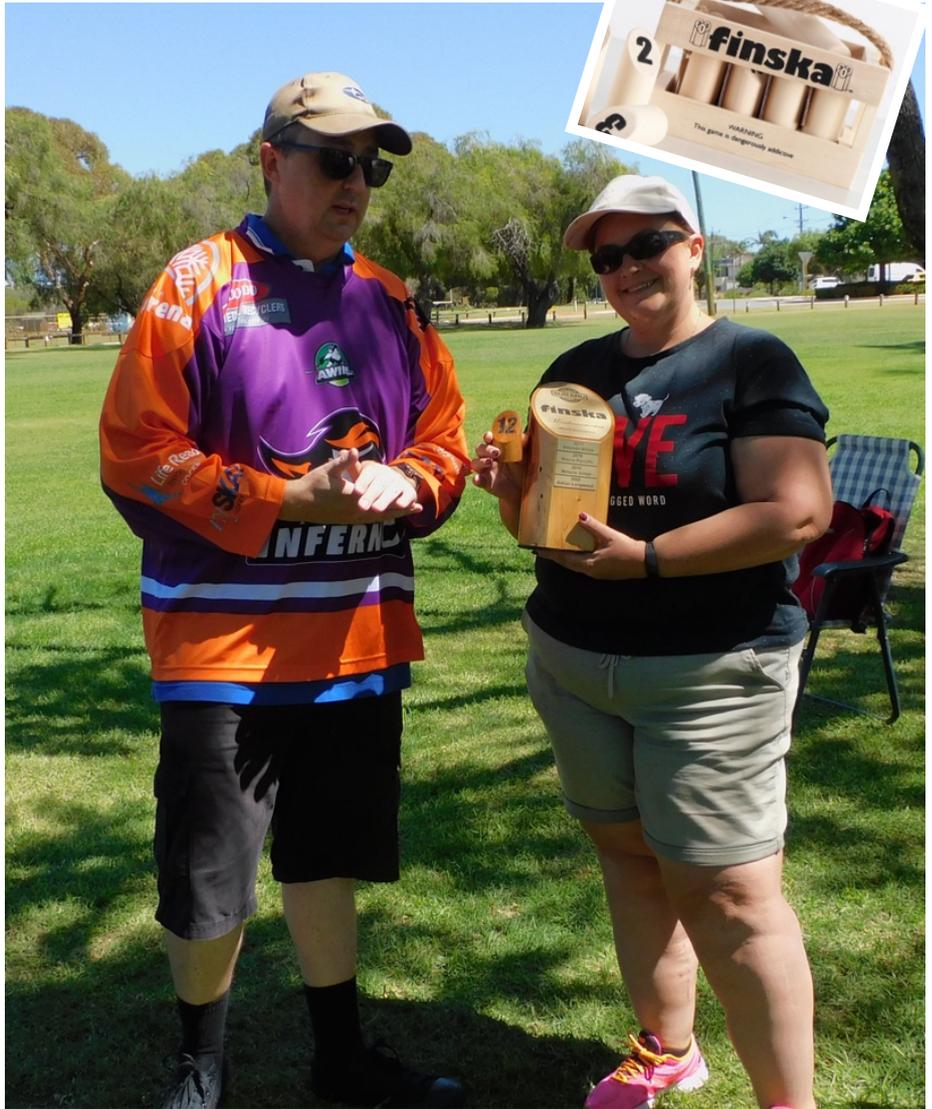
**From p. 8**

places took a long time to get the results. Another 1st timer, Greg, was next to get to 50. Travis for the 3rd year in a row came from behind to totally fleece the rest of the field to take out the 3rd finalist place, taking 15 tries to get over the line. Don't peak too soon. Time to take the tension down a notch.

The lunch break was pleasant enough. The finalists eyeing each other off. Trying to get into the heads of the other players. Travis had a uniform change. Donning his Perth Inferno WIHL jersey, hoping that their mojo would rub off. Sneaky hint, it didn't, 5 years into the final with no win, 3rd GF strike out in a row. Now to ramp up the adrenaline to 11! Everyone got off to a start.

Some better than others. How Greg got 1 is a bit of a mystery.

Cornelia was the first to fall to the pressure cooker that is the Finska World Championship grand final game, with a poor 4 throw run. Travis was not far behind - 6 throws and 22 points. Greg didn't last too much longer - 9 throws and 19. Oh the tension, the suspense, the goose pimple feels.....time to get to the good stuff So the results. If you skipped to this part, shame on you, but I understand. John in his



## And the winner is ...

first showing got on the podium, in third place. Didn't have to get to 50. A steady 14 to get to 41. But staying in the game is best way to win in Finska. Tom was in with the second place position. A solid 14 to 50 effort. Now to announce the latest Subaru 4WD Club Finska World Champion. The Latest and newest name to be added to the previous champions. Each of which have been added to the long list of losers. Cue

Queen's "We are the champions", if you haven't already. With a miserly 8 throws to get over the line.

**JO JO!!!!!!!!!!**

Congratulations! The second woman to hoist the silverware (though it's not silver, but wood). 5 years in a row a new name with be added to our glorious trophy. Pending the drug tests of course. We like to adhere to ASADA standards here.

**Travis Maskey**

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## 18 April Julimar Jaunt

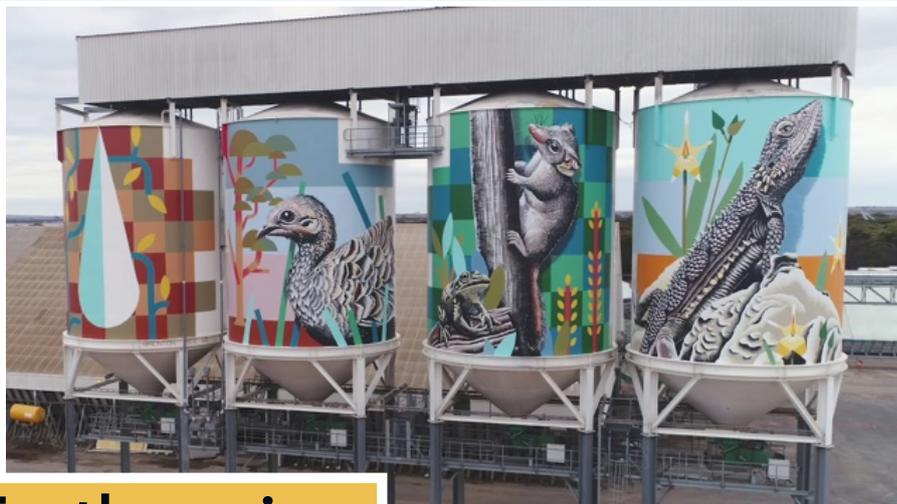
This is a picturesque day trip that starts in Sawyers Valley then travels via back roads to the Avon River and Toodyay then on to Julimar State Forest through to Bindoon and home

We'll check out a pool or two on the Avon River, sample the food shops in Toodyay and follow tracks through the forest and come home through the scenic Chittering Valley.

## 24-26 April Silo Art Trail

We'll explore the Wheatbelt following a large part of this new trail which has brought world class murals by local and international artists to transform grain silos, public walls and transformer boxes artworks in a number of country towns.

This is a social event suitable for caravans and camper trailers. We will be driving along main roads and some maintained local gravel roads to view the new public art in Northam, Katanning, Pingrup, Newdegate, and Ravensthorpe. Because of limited time, we will leave out the part of the trail that passes through Merredin – but if you are travelling toward Coolgardie on any of our trips, make a point of



## Forthcoming Club trips

asking the leader to stop at the Merredin silos.

Each overnight stop will be in a town with a choice of camping or B&B or hotel/motel rooms. Eating out each night and on the final day in Katanning is also on the cards.

## Bush cooking 15-16 May

We've planned a full weekend of camping and cooking demonstrations for May. During this weekend you'll learn from experienced cooks and campers among the Club's members, get to know people better and learn from them how they camp, how they set up their vehicles, and what equipment to buy – or avoid.

This is a family-friendly event that will cover types of camping equipment that best suit our cars and preferences. We have organised to camp

at Moore River Ranch, a new bush camp with the river running through. It will be completely self-sufficient camping including bringing our own portaloos. If you don't think you have what you need to be self-sufficient, please talk to one of the committee as there is plenty of good equipment that can be lent.

We'll arrive early on Saturday to get a fire going for some lunch time cooking and to build a great set of coals for an array of cooking skills that night. Make sure to taste everything you can at this wonderful bush 'pot luck' dinner.

We'll also show how to build, light and maintain a cooking fire, how to care for cast iron camp cookware, and how to set up and pack up various sorts of tents and trailers. There will be lots of equipment on show, so do come along for a fun, tasty weekend.

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



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## Forthcoming trips

### First aid training

May 1

Put your name down on the trip list (if you are interested in updating your first aid skills. We need a minimum number of members to attend.

If you plan to go on trips of more than a day, it is important to be up to date with first aid.

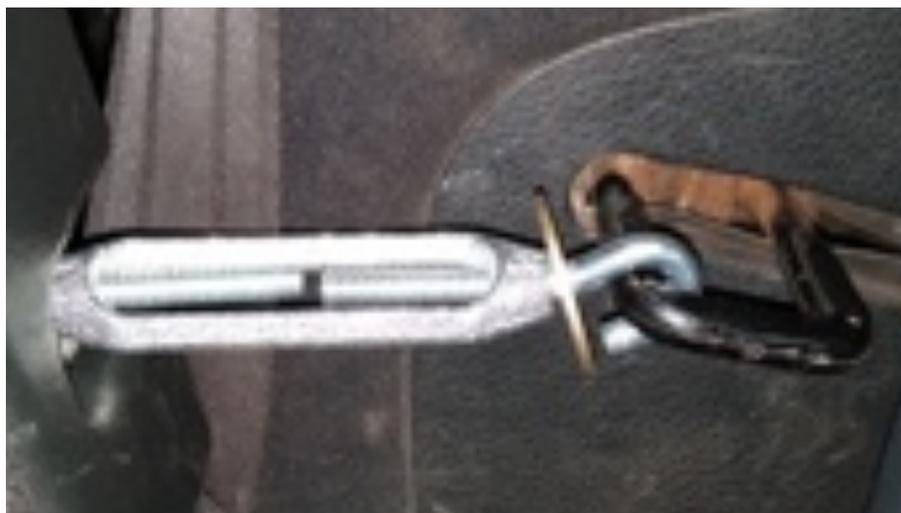
### Karijini, Millstream and Exmouth 14-28 August

This trip takes in some of the most beautiful sites in the Murchison. It will involve self-sufficient camping, including in National Parks campsites. It is worth buying an annual Parks Pass before you go as it covers all park entry fees. Camping fees are extra. The passes are available online. If you are an RAC WA member you can get a good discount on the pass.

#### From the Editor

Please get your trip reports in on time.

Send photos separately if possible. Image sizes up to 4Mb are OK. If you include photos in the report document keep the images large. Quality suffers a lot if files are too small.



## Rear seat back support

In an effort to maximise the load space in the back of the car I decided that it would be useful to have the rear seat back vertical instead of semi-reclined. I had made metal 'J-shaped' brackets but wanted something easier that anybody could make and use. Doing this means that there are no awkward shapes to fill in the rear area behind the back seats. Fridges and cupboards, for example, can sit up against a vertical surface, making them more secure and also not creating gaps behind them. The downside is that it makes it uncomfortable for rear passengers, but if you have only one person in the back then only make one part of the split seatback into a vertical.

I found that two Zenith 6mm Galvanised Hook and Eye Turnbuckles available from Bunnings for \$3.11 each does

the trick. With the addition of a couple of Zenith 1/4" Zinc Plated Mudguard Washers available in a pack of 12 from Bunnings for \$3.98 to stop the hook falling off.

Here's how to fit them:

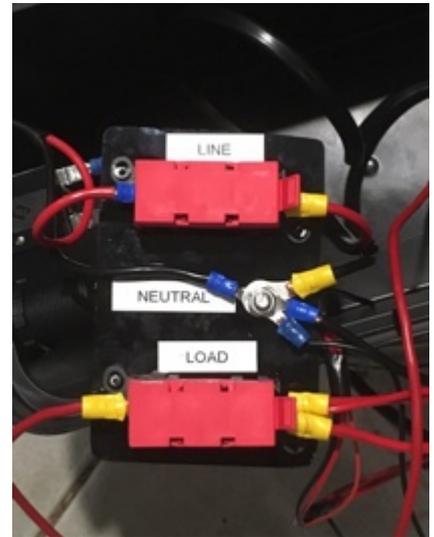
- Unwind the hook from the turnbuckle and fit the washer on the threads and screw it back in a bit.
- Unwind the eye from the turnbuckle to match the length of thread on the hook.
- Unlatch the rear seat back.
- Push the eye end of the turnbuckle in the seat back latch (in the support on the side wall) and relatch it.
- Put the hook end of the turnbuckle over the U shaped bracket that would normally click into the seat-back latch.
- Wind the turnbuckle in as far as it will go so that the hook end doesn't slip off the U shaped bracket.

**David Peck**

I was going to use my existing battery box and run a cable from it to my camper trailer but then decided to make my own, lockable battery box instead. Most boxes you find available are made from flimsy plastic that is difficult to carry (my first one is like that) or they're fairly expensive. I had seen people convert ammunition boxes into small portable power packs for photography, hunting (yes in the States) so decided to give it a go. I purchased the largest plastic ammo box I could find then looked at what size battery could fit, deciding on a

55Ah battery which would snugly slide into the tapered box. I purchased a second DC/DC charger and wired in a flexible lead to an Anderson plug that would connect to the one at the back of the vehicle. I had intended to originally use the vehicle outlet as a solar inlet for my other charger but since I used Anderson plugs to connect it all together this was just a quick unplug & re-plug using a 'double adapter' lead I made up, so now both chargers are connected in parallel. The original vehicle cables were

## DIY battery box



oversized to mitigate voltage drop and with both chargers connected (25A+20A) the cable is only 50% loaded when fully operational.

Back to the box, there's a 30A MIDI fuse on both the Line side and Load side of the charger, a 10A circuit breaker protecting a standard 12v marine grade outlet, and a 5A wedge fuse protecting the battery monitoring system. I've installed the C/B & outlet to the front of the box, where the C/B is actually located under the box latch so it's out of view. There's a sturdy carry

handle and an independent storage area built into the lid. A small combination padlock prevents the contents from being stolen and the whole assembly will be secured to the A-frame of the trailer, which I can remove when needed.

Now I just need to go somewhere to use it.

**Mark Smithers**

## Nornalup Navigations

### 27 February, Day One

After picking up my great Nephew Sam in Gosnells, we headed down the Kwinana Freeway and Forrest Highway to the meeting point at the service station in West Pinjarra. There was some confusion for one vehicle as the service station advertised as being Caltex had in fact changed to an Ampol!!

It was very windy at the meeting point. We were only waiting for Mark, Jason, Vanessa and Greg as the remainder of the group had either travelled earlier in the week or earlier in the day.

Well, suddenly the convoy became three with Vanessa slipping up in the navigators' seat and went flying past the meeting point! Vanessa suggested we catch up in Donnybrook.

In moderately heavy traffic due to the long weekend, we headed out of the carpark and south. After an initial radio check on leaving the service station I realised neither Mark nor Jason had responded to a radio call and noticed my handset had gone blank. I pulled over into a parking bay to let them know and fortunately Mark had a hand held for me to use.

With the amount of traffic on the road we discussed and agreed to driving through to



# To the forests, the inlet and the sea

Manjimup for lunch that would take us about two hours. Despite the amount of traffic, we were able to travel at 100 – 110km an hour.

Joy, who had conducted the planning for the trip but could not make it at the last minute, had plotted the route to take us onto the Bunbury Outer Ring Road to join into the South West Highway. Sam proved to be a very good

navigator and along with the 'lady in the phone' got us successfully through the back of Bunbury.

The traffic seemed to thin out quite a bit once we left Bunbury behind but both Balingup and Bridgetown were busy with lunchtime crowds. Vanessa and Greg did not respond to a radio call on the approach to Donnybrook as arranged but we did see



**From p 16**

their car. I asked Sam to give them a call on the phone and we decided to meet in Manjimup instead.

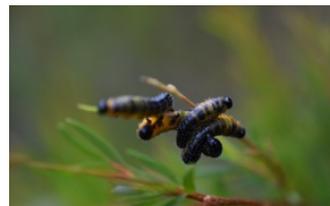
We could hear Jo and Alex on the two way when we got to Manjimup as we headed to Heritage Park for our lunch stop.

Heading out of Manjimup the road took us through beautiful forest with marri trees in flower, karri trees with toffee-coloured trunks and jarrah trees. The eucalyptus blossoms were stunning. The highway was winding with road works slowing us in places.

After passing through Walpole and Nornalup, we headed down Station Road to Emma's Campground where there were rolling paddocks with gorgeous calves and their mothers. Keith called over the two way when he heard us and we soon arrived at the campground.

The campground was a large paddock behind the owner's house and finding a suitable spot was done with care as there were a few large ant nests around! Sam and I chose a spot at the lower end of the paddock. Before long we were settling in for the evening and enjoying drinks and nibbles and catching up with everyone.

**Deborah Thyne**



## An early start, Mount Frankland and back roads

### Nornalup – Day 2

After not getting much sleep I was up early and ready to go exploring but it was only 6:30am. I decided to head into town (Walpole) before going to Denmark for a look. On my way into town I saw the turn-off to the Tingle Tree so decided to take a look. I had the place to myself, which was to be a general theme for most of the morning. The sun shining off the brown tree branches while a few kangaroos bounded about. I made my way to Circular Pool and then the Swarbrick Art trail. On my way across to Mt Frankland I took a minor detour to Fernhook Falls. It looks like a great place to camp with steps down into Rowell's Pool for anyone

wanting to swim.

After a pleasant drive back through the forest (still no-one about) I arrived at Mt Frankland and decided to trek up to the summit. There's plenty of concrete steps and the summit does have a telecommunication tower on it but it was a cool, windy expansive vantage point. On my way back down I finally encountered other people. Navigating some of the back roads (Collis Rd was a bit of a track but well signposted) I then headed over to Denmark for a look around at the crowds of people, a late morning snack, refuel then back to meet the rest of the convoy in Walpole for lunch.

**Mark Smithers**



## Treetop walks, beaches, cliffs, giant trees and a quiet drink at sunset

### Nornalup Day 2

The dawn rooster chorus put paid to any plans to sleep-in, so Mark took advantage of the early start to head off on his own to explore and agreed to meet for lunch and join in on the the second leg of the car convoy.

Keith also had an early start trying to capture an image of the Western Spinebill while Alex and Henry opted to visit the Treetop Walk and Jo stayed behind with Sam due to the plan to visit National Parks.

With no sign of the overnight rain a four-car convoy led by Keith and co headed off from the campsite just after 9am to visit the sites mapped out by Joy. The CBs came in handy on the dusty forest drive to and through Walpole-Nornalup National Park with stops at the Hilltop lookout to

capture the view to Coalmine Beach then on to see and step inside the Giant Tingle Tree. Then it was on to Circular Pool for morning tea before we headed off to explore the Swarbrick Art Trail where Michael and his wife met and joined the convoy.

There was no time to climb Mt Frankland so the convoy of five explored the view from Wilderness Lookout instead, before heading into Walpole to reconvene for lunch at 1pm.

Lunch in Walpole meant the eight club cars filled the carpark, then all apart from Michael headed off on the second leg 'Beach tour' convoy led by Keith and co just before 2.

It was a busy day at the boat ramp thanks to the Mandalay Beach boat regatta, but the congestion was not helped

when Keith led the convoy the wrong way into the boat ramp carpark, so it was a quick stop before heading along The Knoll to Channels where the car convoy also filled every available parking space.

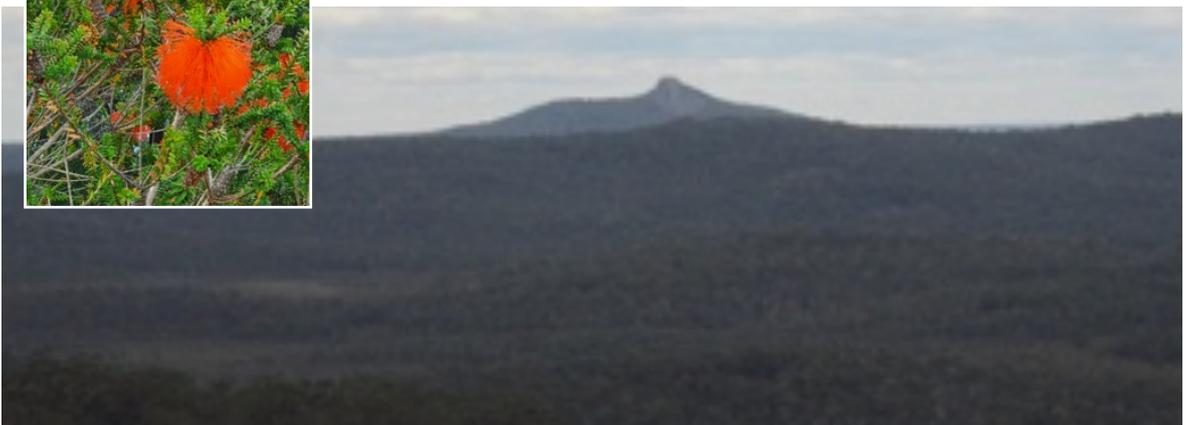
Just after 2.30 we headed back onto Southwest Highway through Nornalup and headed for Peaceful Bay where Michael met up with the convoy. Cars lined up in two rows on the beach where some aired down their tyres for a drive along the bay led by Jo while Keith led the rest to Conspicuous Cliff.

The beach crew and the rest were all at Conspicuous Cliff by 4.30 and returned to Emma's camp by 5 where Michael and his wife set up and joined the rest sharing stories of the day and a drink or two at Jo and Alex's campsite patch

**Vanessa Carn**



Images in these reports by: Deborah Thyne, Neil Hird, Mark Smithers, Vanessa Carn and Alex Phillips



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