

Subaru 4WD News



December 2021

The John Deere wasn't needed



21 November 2021

Day trip

The day threatened to be a challenge, not just the trip but the weather forecast was for rain so perhaps that swim might not happen. With blue skies and sun shining we

assembled at the meeting point, which was convenient as I was getting low on cinnamon doughnuts and coffee.

After a briefing from Adrian and the essential supplies replenished, a total of 13 cars went through the radio check

before hitting the road at 9.05. My radio worked the weekend before but apparently was not transmitting today. After some jibes from the other members I drew the short straw, hence my name on this report. We navigated to Guilderton

Cont. p4

SUBARU 4WD CLUB of WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.
P.O. BOX 434, SOUTH PERTH, W. A. 6951



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Subaru 4WD Club of WA Inc. 2021/22

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Club member of the Year 2020-2021

Deborah Thyne

Life members

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

President's Report



Thanks to the outgoing committee members who have kept the club running smoothly over the last year. I would like to welcome Deborah Stevens, who is our new Treasurer, and Mary and Greg who are new to the committee. I would also like to welcome back Joy, who is our new Secretary (and has held a variety of roles before) Vanessa, who is our new editor, and Adrian who is our new Trip Coordinator. Also welcome back to Jo, Deborah, Ross and Stu who are returning for another year on the committee. It's good to have new people on the committee who bring in fresh ideas.

Talking of fresh ideas if you have any ideas for trips or socials please let one of us on the committee know as we are always looking out for places to go.

If you have any interesting items that you would like to share with your fellow club members please forward them to Vanessa for inclusion in the magazine.

If you haven't already done so could you please renew your membership as they are now overdue.

I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Regards

David Peck

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From the Editor

Thankyou so much to Stephan for the fantastic work you have done with the magazine over the past four years! It is obvious that a lot of time and effort has been put into creating each month's edition.

I am very aware that I have comparatively limited experience with desktop publishing but am hoping that by including lots of great pictures you will gloss over any mistakes while I learn the ropes.

Writing a trip report

On each trip the leader will get one or more of the members to write a report for the magazine. If you can't write the report assigned to you, please let the trip leader know.

Otherwise, send your trip reports in as soon after the trip as you can.

Send photos with your report if you have them. The more the merrier.

Things to include with your report.

At the top of each report

- Put your name
- The trip name
- The date and the day of the trip

Thanks also to Henry for offering to help with editing!

Like every part of this great club, the magazine is what we make it, so please keep me updated with your trip reports and photos and any other information you would like to see included here.



Have a great Christmas and see you out

Inside your magazine

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From p1

through some light traffic, at one stage the trip leader was in a convoy of his own as the rest of us got stuck at some lights. Arriving in town around 10.25am we started to air down and Adrian gave everyone some sand driving tips while warning us that it was going to be soft so 10psi seemed to be what we'd start with.

As we slowly snaked through the car park onto the sand, Stu noticed the John Deere in the car park; hopefully it was not going to be

needed. Once on the beach I was surprised to see how close we were to the waves but after a short 10-minute trek we found a wide enough spot for morning tea, conveniently located near the exit we'd planned to use.

Everyone busied themselves with food, frolicking and fishing; even Precious the dog went in for a paddle. The weather was fine. After an hour we'd prepared to leave the beach but that was easier said than done. Adrian went up and over the dune, as did another three vehicles, some with multiple attempts. By now the track was a little churned up so Adrian decided to come back and lead the rest of the convoy back along the beach to another exit. A few other vehicles attempted the track and were successful but now we were split into two groups. The 'breakaway group' would sit tight until we



...frolicking, fishing and Precious the dog



found them again.

Now we'd only travelled for about 10minutes on the beach to start with but getting back off took a little longer with our alternative exit even softer and Maria and her passengers getting bogged on the beach. Adrian came back to assist but we'd managed to get her out with some tracks, shoveling and pushing. As you can appreciate we now had 5 cars facing the same way and Adrian the opposite way. Adrian led us back to the car park, in reverse. The John Deere sat idle.

We navigated some of the back tracks for 20 minutes to catch up with the breakawaygroup, which I



understand had to perform some bush-mechanics on one vehicle with a damaged sway bar and leaking fluid. Now that we were complete again, the convoy weaved through the dunes and scrub, which was not too scratchy. Some dunes required a heavy foot to negotiate the alternating rutted wheel tracks whereas other sections were delicately traversed due to the exposed limestone. No other serious damage ensued, apart from the plastic sump guard on Miriam's vehicle – it didn't fare too well when we arrived at the tavern car park and reversed park so we could air-up.

The estimated lunchtime was precise; airing up would have to wait. The sun was still shining and the day was good. John Deere not required.

Mark Smithers

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14 November 2021

Day trip

After getting the run down on what to expect on our trip to the beach from trip leader Ross we headed south along Kwinana Fwy. Experienced long time member Tony Richards was tail end Charlie making sure no one got left behind.

We parked at the end of White Hill Road and dropped tyre pressures to 12 PSI. Ross Mead provided a safety briefing and tips on beach driving on soft sand. It was all ears for most of the group who had never driven in these conditions.



Beautiful weather and the water temperature was fine



It wasn't long before the convoy encountered a tricky spot that required some modifications (shovelling sand) and laying down a few recovery tracks. Many hands made light of the work. A few members were a little apprehensive on tackling this challenging section but in the end we all got through. It's amazing what the mighty Subaru can do. It was smooth sailing once we were on the main beach.



The beach was busy with many other 4wd drivers enjoying a beautiful day out. The Subarus found an idyllic spot for a picnic lunch, somewhere between White Hills and Preston Beach. There were lots of chats about the great conditions on the beach today. The beach wasn't too soft and the weather was gorgeous. A few people went in for a dip, others just relaxed.

After packing up and drying off we mounted our trusty steeds and carried on. Smooth cruising in single file was not my scene so I decided to make my own trail along the beach with a couple of cars following, jazzing up the trip lol .

We pulled into the Preston Beach carpark for a pit stop and toilet break.

Cont. p7

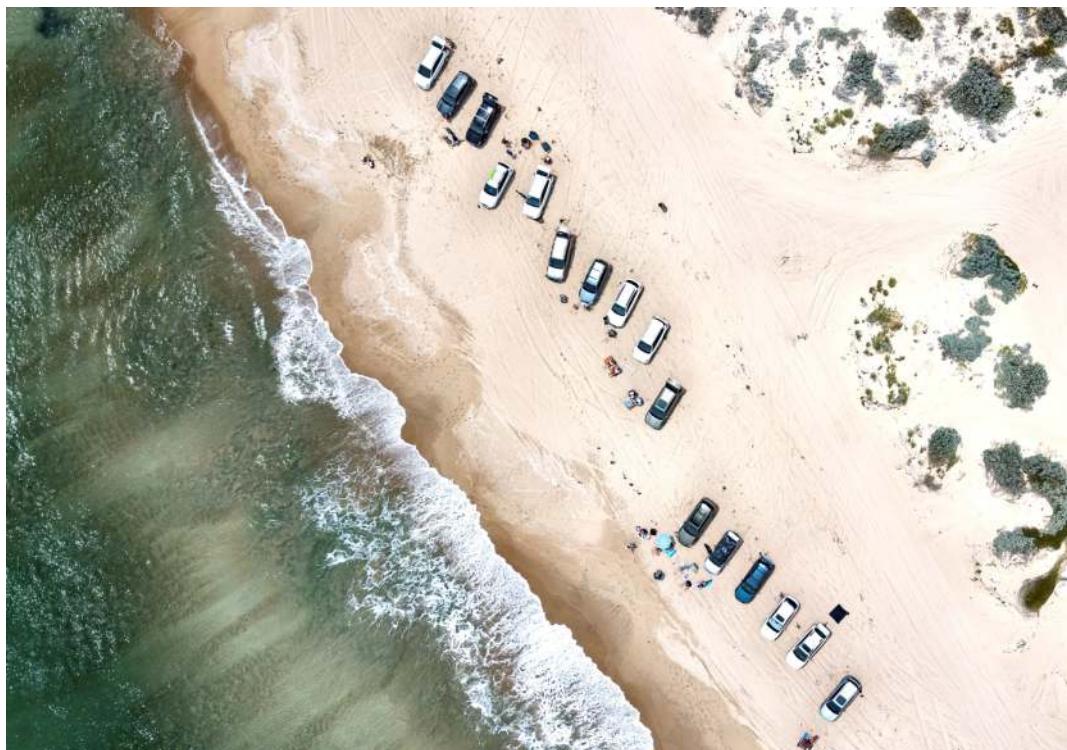
From p6

A lot of the newer cars were putting on a light show on their dashes, so some members decided to head back to Perth.

Then there were four cars left to carry on. After stopping a couple of times for photo opportunities we reached our destination, Myalup Beach carpark.

We aired up and thanked Ross for an adventurous trip, then it was back to civilisation

Stu Rosethorne



**Photograph by Henry Kujda
16 Subarus all in a line**

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Trip Report
Day Seven
Thursday 12 August

The group set off from the Yardie Creek Homestead Caravan Park headed for Yardie Creek and the gorge about 60km to the south. On the way we stopped into the Visitors Centre at the top end of the National Park so Leonie and Chris could have a look as they weren't with us on the first day when we dropped in.

After leaving the Visitors Centre we

stopped into Tulki Beach to have a look. As we had seen on previous days

there was the spectacular sight of the waves crashing onto the outer reef with the spray going backwards off the top of the waves. There was also a complex wooden structure on the beach that looked like some beachgoers had fun building but, while we were standing there an osprey landed on it! David crept up under the cover of shrubs and confirmed it was a nest and another osprey was in it feeding chicks, although these couldn't be seen as they were very low down.

We drove on further and stopped into the Oyster Stacks for a look. I had heard this is a popular snorkelling spot but you do have to clamber over sharp rocks to

Exmouth Expedition



The water was shallow and the gorge was rich in colour

access the water. Despite the wind a family was traversing the rocks to a sandy spot to settle in for the day.

It was a warm day and although rather windy at first, perfect for our visit to Yardie Creek Gorge. David, Jo and I unloaded our kayaks down by the creek before moving our vehicles back to the carpark. The launch area was close to the Yardie Creek crossing. We began our paddle up into the gorge into a strong headwind and it was quite an effort until we reached the shelter of the gorge. The water was shallow and the gorge walls were rich in colour and we saw a number of the black footed rock wallabies resting amongst the rocks along with birds. Further up the gorge the

exposed white/pink rock 'beaches' were in stark contrast to the red gorge walls. The gorge ended in a small circular pool where medium-sized fish were seen clearly in the water. From this spot you could see further up into the gorge. As this is a wildlife sanctuary it is not permitted to get out and walk in these areas. It was amazing to see the gorge from a kayak and also to shelter in the shade of the walls when it became quite warm. Jo returned to do the boat tour with Leonie, Chris and Tom. After returning to our launch site and having a rest David and I decided to paddle up the gorge again. This was not

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Christmas Dip and Drinks 4 December

It's time to sit down and relax and celebrate the start of the festive season at the end of another busy year in the club

Walpole Wanderings 22 - 26 January

It's summer time so how about a trip to the cooler climes of the south coast.

We can camp at the Valley of the Giants Eco Park east of Nornalup. From there, let's explore the mouth of the Broke Inlet (4x4), Mandalay Beach, Conspicuous Cliffs, Mt Frankland Fire Lookout and Mt Frankland National Park, Valley of the Giants and the Tree Top Walk, Boat Harbour and of course, the pretty town of Walpole and the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets.

Degree of difficulty: Easy – moderate. We will be travelling on bitumen highways and local roads, main gravel roads and some sand/beach driving. There may be the odd more challenging bit.

Accommodation. Unpowered camp sites have been booked at the Valley of the Giants Eco Park. This is a rustic caravan park with flush toilets and hot showers. Bring cooking gear and the usual camping stuff as well as CB radio, personal First Aid Kit, and a current personal medical form in your glovebox. Max: 8 Cars

Forthcoming Club trips

Gallivant the Goldfields

3 to 18 September

Join us for an explore of the Goldfields. A mix of bush camps and caravan parks, bitumen and gravel. Spending time looking at areas a lot of us just drive through or would not consider a place with many things to do.

The trip is going to take in sections of the Darlot Loop, Agnew Loop, Golden West Discovery trail and the Wheatbelt Way.

If you cant do the whole two weeks you can join us in the Wheatbelt for the final weekend.

Max of 10 cars for the main part of the trip

What's your news? Please send in info and photos.

If you have information or a great photo to share please send it to the Editor.



Have an idea for a trip?

Let us know where you would like to go, or invite other club members along if you have a trip planned

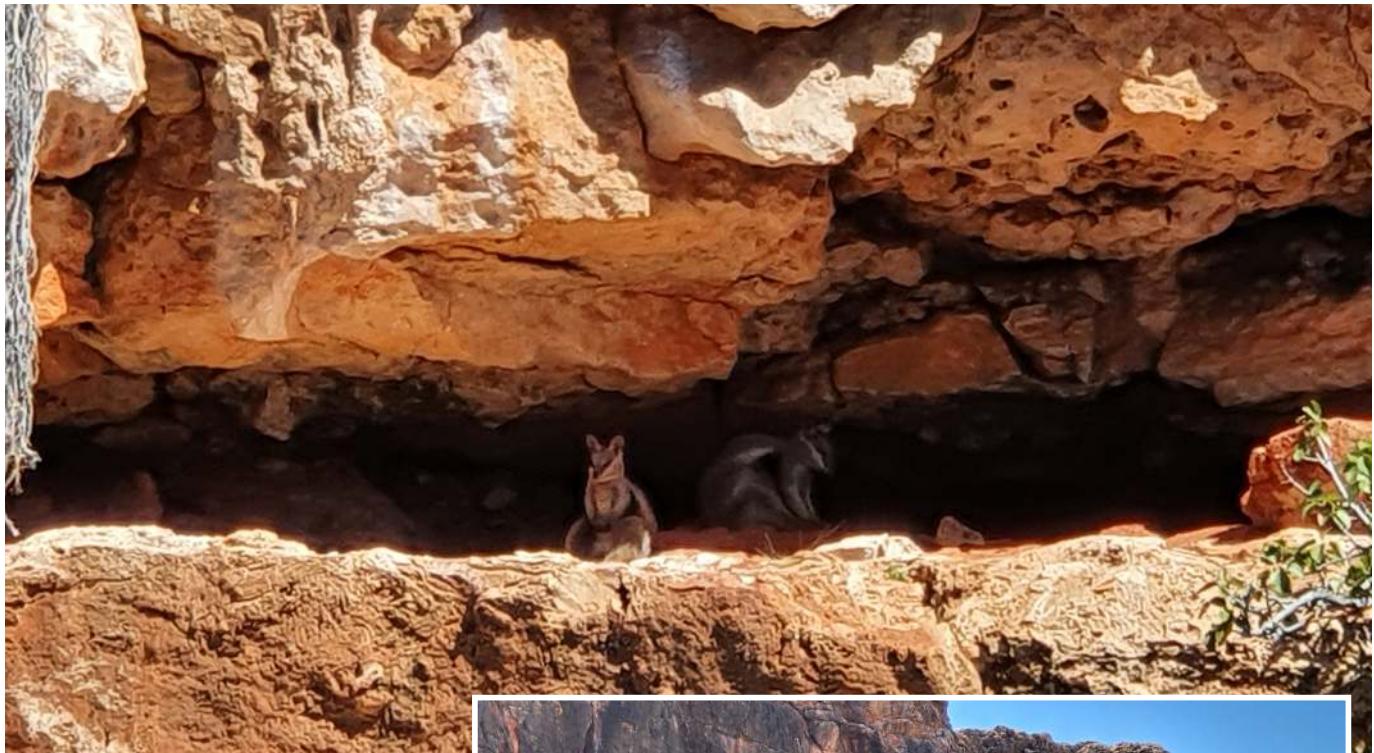
We've got a lot of gaps in our calendar for 2022 but some ideas brewing in the back ground.

If you've got some must see destinations for 2022 please suggest them to us ASAP and we'll try and include them in our planning.

With the current COVID border arrangements we've all seen camp sites fill up far more often so we need to book in early, and/or get further away from the crowds and facilities.

Trips: Day, full weekend, and extended visits to all parts of the State and Interstate.

The aims of these trips include viewing scenery and wildlife, Photography, visiting places of historical interest or just getting away from it all with a group of friends.



From p9

before I had to rescue Chris' bag and inner tube that were being encompassed by the rising tide rather underestimated by Chris as he was about to board the tour boat! By this time the wind had dropped and paddling was much easier. On the return trip David spotted an osprey having 'lunch' on the top of a rocky outcrop. Due to a breeze constantly pushing my kayak I was unable to get a good photograph.

On return to the launch site David and I did the Yardie Creek Crossing – in our kayaks! A couple of people were walking the crossing and making a note of where the likely holes were and trying to determine how soft the sand was! A little later I saw a 4WD and caravan pull up near the crossing – they proceeded to drive across without deflating tyres or 'testing the waters'! Reportedly, they did not have



any issues at all.

After loading the kayaks back onto our vehicles, we joined Tom and Leonie under the shade of the sheoak trees for a late lunch (or early afternoon tea?) of a rather nice cheese and crackers.

On the way back to Yardie Creek Homestead Caravan Park we decided to stop into

Sandy Bay for a look. It was absolutely beautiful and Chris and Jo went in for a swim.

Another amazing day was drawing to a close. Such a beautiful part of our state. It was also a great day for Leonie and Chris' final day as I was taking them to the airport early the following morning for their return flight to Perth.

Deborah Thyne



Meal time was a time for variety

Exmouth
Expedition



Exmouth Expedition

Trip Report

Day Eight

Friday 13 August

Chris and Leonie were flying back to Perth and we had a timetable to get them to the Learmonth Airport for their morning flight. This achieved, I stopped in Exmouth for a spot of grocery shopping to top up some fresh provisions for the journey home.

Arriving back at Yardie Creek Homestead Caravan Park we all headed out for Mandu Mandu Gorge. The day was getting warmer as we set off up the creek bed.

The walk has markers to guide the way. The creek bed was dry and made up of large white rocks that required a degree of concentration to navigate. It was good to finally reach the gorge wall that provided some shade and we stopped for a spell to enjoy a drink of water. We only saw one rock wallaby in the gorge. The creek bed winds its way through the gorge and about half an hour into the walk we saw the marker on the left-hand side for the very steep climb to the top. It looked daunting at first but once you started the climb it was a matter of taking it slowly and a section at a time. The golden rule was don't look down.

Once at the top we were afforded spectacular views along the creek bed we had

The golden rule was don't look down



just traversed and out across the ocean. I incorrectly assumed that once at the top it would be an easy walk back to the carpark – how wrong was I.

Tom, David and I had to negotiate two steep gully crossings on this section of the walk. One descent involved having to slide down on our derriere as there was about a 30cm deficit for a foot hold between the top and the bottom. I was pleased my



hiking pants were from the op shop should they give way on the slide. Despite their challenges these sections were great fun to clamber up and down.

The breeze on the top of the gorge was welcome to keep us cool as the temperature climbed and I began to look forward to our next stop at Sandy Bay. Soon we arrived back at the car park and it was great to jump in the car and crank up the air conditioner to cool down. A word of advice I was given when doing this walk – wear gloves. Hanging onto rocks on the climb can soon make your hands quite sore.

It was a short drive to Sandy Bay where we prepared our lunch and headed down to the beautiful beach with pristine blue water. David unloaded his kayak and with only a light breeze, made for fairly easy paddling. The rest of us headed into the water to

From p.14

cool off and enjoy a wallow in the water. When Jo spotted a 'shadow' moving a little further out from where we were standing, I decided to head out and have my lunch. Jo said it was probably a manta ray and would not be harmful – still, my lunch was calling me and wasn't going to hang around and find out what it was. Sandy Bay is currently listed as my most favourite beach in the Exmouth area.

Having a restful time at Sandy Bay was a lovely way to spend our last day on the Exmouth Expedition. We eventually had to tear ourselves away and head back to the caravan park and start packing for our trip home. I had a lovely time on this, my first visit to Exmouth and surrounds. I was enamoured by the diversity and beauty the North West Cape has to offer and I hope to make another trip in the future.

Deborah Thyne

Sandy Bay ... my most favourite beach in the Exmouth area



Cont. p.17

do more of the fun stuff



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Heading home from Exmouth

From p.15

Trip Report

Day Nine and Ten

We departed the Yardie Creek caravan park at around 7.30 am as planned. This was a long days drive punctuated by ice creams and fuel stops at Minilya, Carnarvon and Billabong. Somehow, many of the fuel stops on the entire trip seemed rather chaotic. In some cases pumps were out of fuel, driveways dug up and lots of sections taped off. Throw in large masses of people everywhere and it all became a bit stressful. We arrived at Galena Bridge around 5.15 pm which still gave us sufficient light to set up a basic overnight camp on the North side of the river. The facilities have been greatly improved with a modern 'Bush Loo' toilet block including disabled

access.

However, the flowers were more spiritually uplifting than the toilet block. This flower season is clearly an extraordinarily good one as a result of the extensive rains. Masses of flowers spread everywhere- were predominantly white although yellow, pink and pale purple blooms were also evident. Deb commented that it was like camping in a garden (we pitched our tents in clear areas rather than wiping out flowers

The next morning we all departed frpm Galena Bridge close to our 7.30 target. Jo had decided to separate off to see the Kalbarri skywalk. The rest of us considered the approx. 200kms extra to go on the skywalk as making too long a day of it. Also, the splendour of the 2021 wildflower season meant we could view some of nature's

efforts on our trip home.

After Jo took her turnoff, David led us on a range of backroads which were much more fun than sitting behind caravans. This led to several serendipitous discoveries.



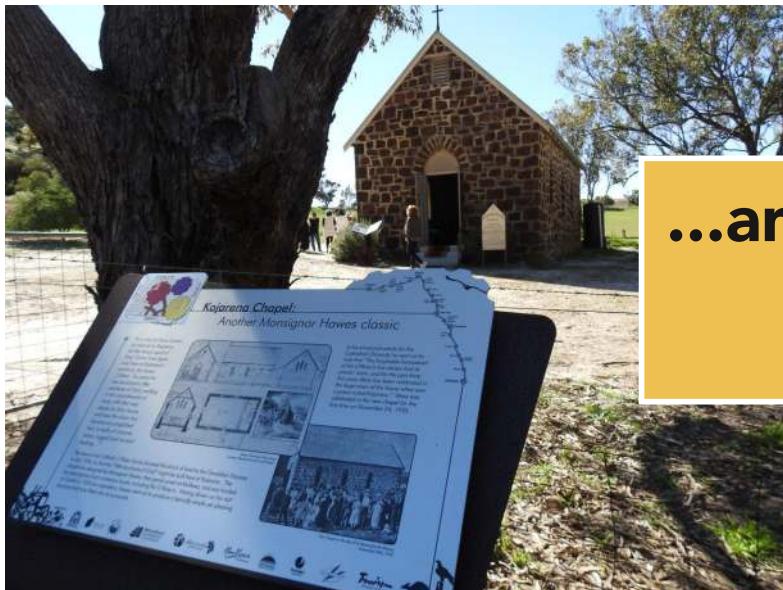
We came across a Defence Satellite Communication Station which none of us had heard of before. The side road to the station had a very serious looking set of security gates but happily the opportunity to divert to a public lookout area just before things got intense. There were plenty of signs about being under CCTV surveillance but it did seem anomalous to have a security establishment with a public lookout overviewing it. We briefly visited Ellendale pool (first time ever for me) on our way to Coalseam Nature reserve.

Another piece of luck was passing by Kojarena Chapel which was bustling with activity, people setting up outside tables etc and steady flow of cars arriving.

We were trying to work out what was happening beyond notion that it was a Sunday morning and maybe locals were going to church. We were greeted with a friendly



Galena Bridge campsite



**...an excellent trip
with splendid
company**



"Hello tourists" from a lady who explained this was a once a year event to celebrate the restoration of the chapel. The building was another of Monsignor Hawes creation which had fallen into disrepair. The local O'Brien family played a big part in fundraising for the restoration. The building is not routinely open to the public but we were offered the opportunity to look inside prior to events getting under way.

We got to Coalseam around lunchtime. I have never seen so many flowers in bloom there. The predominant colour was yellow with some variations. All three of us enjoyed the beauty of the scene as did a lot of other people to the extent that finding parking at the lookout proved difficult. However, this was absolutely worth the visit.

We left Coalseam using the road to Mingenew. After fuelling up there it was a case of pushing on homewards.
This was an excellent trip with splendid company. We mostly shared common events but some activities were undertaken by subsets. We took part in a range of activities -snorkelling, swimming,

kayaking, boat trips, gorge walking and viewing etc with even a little fairly intense offroad driving.

Tom Minto



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