



**FEBRUARY 2023**

## This issue:

WEDGE ISLAND BEACH  
DAY TRIP

NOTICE OF VACANCY

THE LONG JOURNEY  
HOME FROM THE PILBARA  
& BEYOND

UPCOMING TRIPS  
& MORE!

## Just over the Wedge

**David Sarolea**

We gathered in the carpark at Drovers Wanneroo at 7.45 am on Sunday 15 January. We were heading to Wedge Island 165 km north of Perth for the day, with trip leader Adrian allowing two hours to get there.

The convey of 12 Subarus, ranging from 2004 to 2022, was separated due to traffic lights and road works until we met up with Tash at the Yanchep turn off.

13 vehicles then enjoyed the trip north up Indian Ocean Drive with its highest elevation of 32.3 metres overlooking over a wind generation farm to the east.

**See inside for more details**





## 2022/23 Committee

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**CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR 2021 - 2022**  
ADRIAN LONGWOOD

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DAVID PECK  
ROB GRIFFITHS

# President's Report

David Peck



We have had some good trips to start the year, and February has something happening each weekend.

The new meeting format was well received, and we need help from members with presentations that you would like to see. This could be a hobby of yours that others may be interested in like birdwatching, photography or bush walking, etc. Other topics could be giving a slideshow from one of your trips that others may enjoy, even if it was some time ago. Tips & tricks, new recipes, product reviews or 'show and tell' are also possibilities for presentations that we would like to see.

The Subaru club is a member of **Track Care WA**, and I am a member personally, and one of their projects has been some work in the Wandoo National Park. I had offered to lead a trip out there and was approached to do so and took the easy way out by inviting them along to the night drive we have on February 18. So, expect to see a number of 'heavies' joining us for the trip, but the people are a lot like us and enjoy getting out in the country. More information about Track Care WA and what they do can be found on their new website at <https://trackcare.com.au/>

See you out there!

David

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# NOTICE OF VACANCY FOR THE HONORARY OFFICE BEARER POSITION OF CLUB TREASURER

The Secretary is calling for nominations from members for Club Treasurer which is a Committee position.

The Duties of the Treasurer are as follows:

- The Treasurer shall be responsible for all the monies of the Club
- The Treasurer shall provide a statement of the financial position of the Club when called for by the Committee. Currently that is a Treasurer's Report presented at the monthly Committee Meeting, and a yearly financial report presented at the Annual General Meeting
- Together with the President and the Secretary, the Treasurer shall operate the Club's bank account.

No previous experience is necessary as former Treasurers will assist with training the successful nominee to carry out the duties of the Treasurer. Accounting or bookkeeping experience would be an advantage, however. The Club Accounts are kept using XERO accounting software which automates many financial functions such as monthly and yearly financial reports.

The time required for the Treasurer's duties would be approximately 1 to 2 days total over a month (depending on experience) plus attendance at the monthly Committee Meeting (currently held via Zoom), and the Annual General Meeting in November.

Nominations for the position can be made by contacting any Committee Member or by emailing the Secretary: [secretary@subaru4wdclubwa.au](mailto:secretary@subaru4wdclubwa.au)

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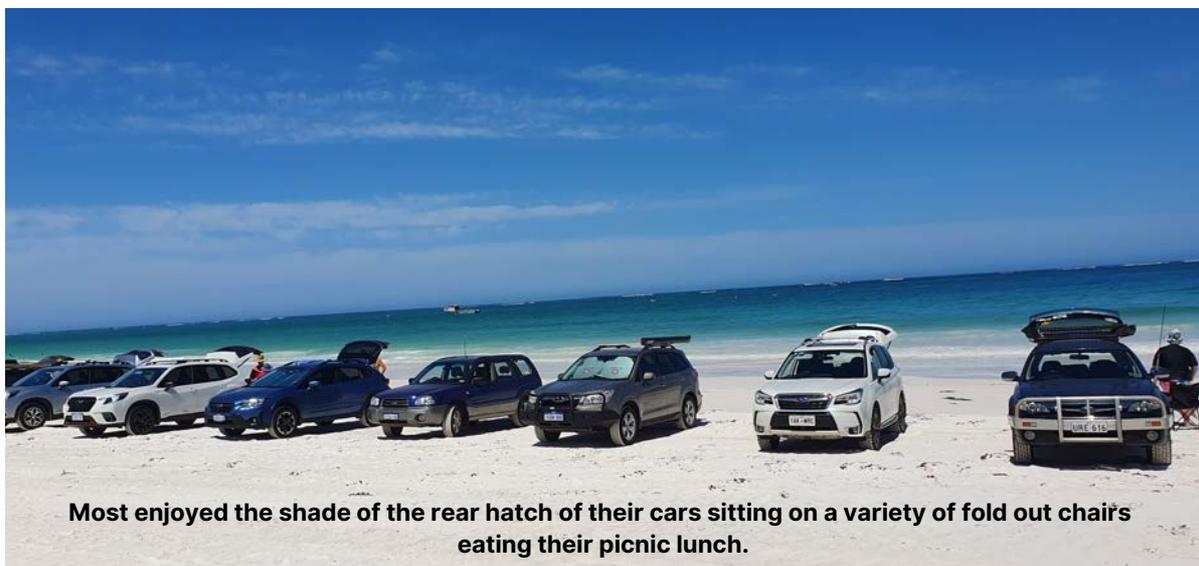
**Tyrepower**

# Cover Story

David Sarolea

We entered the Wedge Island shack community negotiating an oversized concrete speed hump onto a limestone track. After Adrian confirmed the dog friendly area for Jo's dog Chip we headed onto the beach. The beach was firm under tread and there was no need to deflate the tyres. All 13 Subaru looked impressive nosed up towards the shacks.

S.U.P 's out, the 'game' members of the group decided to swim in the calm turquoise waters – the water a welcome relief after an hour drive. The frisbees came out as the wind dropped, but it wasn't long until the sea breeze guided a few frisbees towards the cars and people, so they were safely stowed away again.



**Most enjoyed the shade of the rear hatch of their cars sitting on a variety of fold out chairs eating their picnic lunch.**

I counted 10 automatics and 3 manual cars in the group: the two 2004 models with low range plus Adrian's vehicle.

On command everyone deflated their tyres to 10 PSI ... The sand must be soft in those dunes to the south was murmured.

We were then led single file along the beach to see Wedge Island out to the west. The wind had made the sand collected around the seaweed on the beach quite bumpy. After a close encounter kissing the water's edge and with low range selected or traction control turned off, we aimed into an east heading track. Adrian explained how to read the sand, with dark patches likely to be firmer than the white powdery sand. Also, to remain on top of the dune rather than going down either side.

The first hill climb the idea of keeping momentum and giving enough room for the vehicle in front was practiced – This turned out to be a dead end, so we all drove down waving to the vehicles going up.

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## From page 5

On top of a 14-meter sand dune Adrian made his way down with the group shaking their heads with initial amazement ... before realising that the intent was that we would all follow. With survival instinct paused and the clear instructions of Adrian giving calming directions we ALL were proudly over and safely down the Wedge edge.

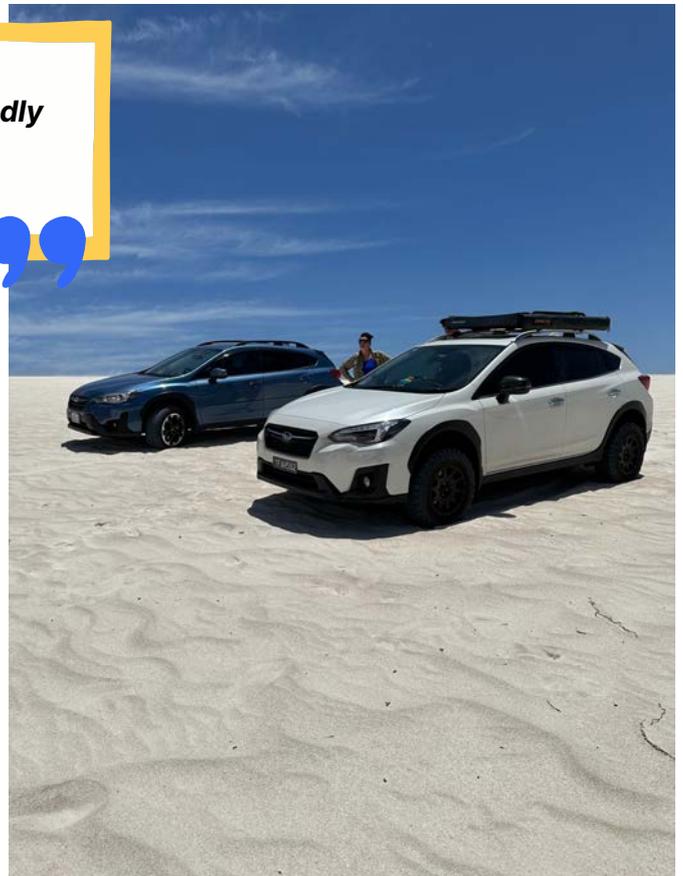
Then through a series of small dune departures and doing the same into the dune pass we eventually made our way out of the dunes to the black top. We inflated our tyres and made our own way back to the city.

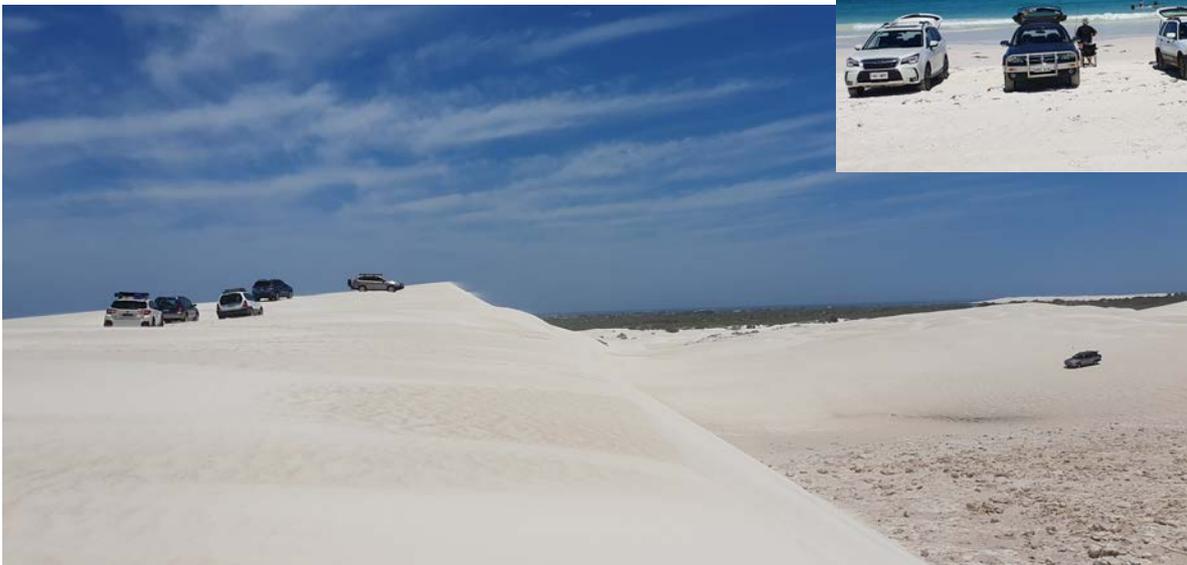


***A fantastic day out with friendly similar minded people***

Learnings for me from the day:

- Ensure the tyre pressures are prepared
- Gentle acceleration to keep momentum
- Avoid hard cornering
- Follow the car track in front of you in the dunes
- Get out of the car and check areas before attempting the unknown
- Purchase a good tyre gauge





Cover story images  
thanks to  
Chris Tierney  
& Stu Rosethorne



# THE LONG JOURNEY HOME

Returning from the Pilbara and Beyond - 26 August 2021

Vanessa Carn



Among the many benefits of travelling long distance with the Subaru 4WD Club is the knowledge and experience of the club members you get to share. Sometimes as well as making memories, you learn along with the trip leader, something Greg and I experienced on the long journey home from Exmouth via Carnarvon; the end of our first 'Big Trip' with the club.

Up with the birds and before the sun, our campsite at **Yardie Homestead Caravan Park** was not as moist as it had been previously thanks to the wind overnight. The wind was not as much of a blessing when it picked up again when it came time to pack the tent, so we gratefully accepted the help offered by Stu and Mike.



Greg enjoying a hot brew

## On the road again

After returning the snorkel set hired from the caravan park the previous day, we ended our three-night stay and departed just before 9 am. After a quick stop for tasty breakfast wraps from Ningaloo Bakery, we headed to the service station to meet the rest of the convoy to top up fuel supplies. All good to go, Trip Leader Ross led us on the Minilya - Exmouth road south by 9.45.

26 degrees when we passed the Tropic of Capricorn just before 11.30. Stopping for lunch at **Minilya Roadhouse** on the North West Coastal Highway just after midday it was nice to sit outside in the shade.



Minilya is 1033km north of Perth. Nearby Minilya Station may have been named after the ship S.S. Minilya that once plied the waters of the north west delivering supplies.



(Story continues over page)

## Cosy corner

Back on the road 40 minutes later, we drove straight through to our destination for the day, **Canarvon Outback Oasis Caravan Park**. Arriving just after 2.30 pm we found the location to be very 'cosy' compared to most places we had been on our journey to the Pilbara and beyond.

Trip Leader Ross had found it challenging to book a site able to accommodate our convoy of five cars and a camper trailer to break up the long journey home. It was evident that a large loyal group of Grey Nomads took as much pride in taking care of the park as they did their caravans and we found the facilities at the Outback Oasis to be modern, clean and well appointed. They include a large camp kitchen, games area, pool and laundry facilities, and sparkling clean showers and toilets.

It is just a pity that the space set aside for our convoy was so limited. Something to note for future trip planning.



Cosy corner

Doomsday scrollers



*Being back in mobile range was also a mixed blessing, we had enjoyed a nice break from Covid news while we had been off exploring.*



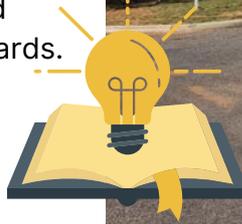
## Impressions of Carnarvon

After working out the best way to fit five cars, four tents, two swags and a camper-trailer across two sites, we all headed off to explore Carnarvon. The Moore family were on a mission to find a park for their planned fish and chips picnic, Stu was catching up with an old friend from school, Daniel and Ross took off to explore, and we left the caravan park with no plan.

Timing our arrival just in time to see the gates close, Greg was disappointed to miss a visit inside the **Carnarvon Space and Technology Museum**.

We later heard that the Moore's were also disappointed to not find anywhere to purchase fish and chips to share in a park.

My general impression of Carnarvon as we drove around was that it is not a place to linger, but a return visit to the Space and Technology Centre is definitely on the cards. Just need to remember to check their opening hours.



**Phase One of the museum was officially opened by retired NASA astronaut Buzz Aldrin in 2012, Phase Two by Australian born astronaut Andy Thomas in 2014 and Phase Three in 2016 by "The Last Man on the Moon" astronaut Gene Cernan. The museum is operated by a small dedicated group of volunteers and is mainly self funded. Discover Carnarvon and Coral Bay | Carnarvon Visitor Centre**



Back at the caravan park, Greg and I accepted the invitation to join the 4 pm 'drink circle' by the washing line and chatted with a regular visitor about camping v caravan travel.

'Master Chef' Greg then prepared a big meat feast for dinner that we shared with Stu before sunset, much to the amusement of Nathan and Adelaide.

Feeling a lifetime away from Karijini, we hit the hay before 9 pm.

SUBARU 4WD CLUB OF W.A. INC.

**CLUB MERCHANDISE – buy items at the meetings**



Bisley khaki 100% cotton long sleeve shirts (in Mens and Women's sizes) are available at a subsidised cost of \$40 with logo (but no name) and \$45. with logo and name. If you buy a shirt from Club stock with no name, you can have your name added later by taking the shirt to Hip Pocket in Balcatta and having it embroidered (on the spot if you ring first) at a cost of \$7.



Royal blue and white ("Contrast") polyester/cotton polo shirts (with pocket) are available at a subsidised cost of \$15

JBsWear Full Zip Polar Jackets (in Mens and Women's sizes) with logo (to be added) are available for \$36. Details: 100% polyester for durability; 290gsm low pill polar fleece; 2 front pockets; and adjustable elastic hem with toggles



Cap – royal blue and white. Logo to be added. Cost tba



History Books – reduced to \$10



Royal blue and white ("Podium Bold") 100% polyester polo shirts (with pocket) are available at a subsidised cost of \$15.



Embroidered Badges – \$5



Club stickers \$3



Navy blue beanies – \$9

The supplier of all Club clothing items is Hip Pocket Workwear & Safety, Balcatta.  
[www.hippocketworkwear.com.au](http://www.hippocketworkwear.com.au)



Flat pack neoprene can coolers – \$5



# Carnarvon to Galena Bridge - 27 August 2021

## Stu Rosethorne

Packing up the cosy corner was easy, especially for Greg and Vanessa thanks to two very willing helpers.



We fuelled up at Caltex at 9 am and joined the 'Carnarvon caravan conga line' heading south. After overtaking many of the caravans, we arrived at **Overlander Roadhouse** around 11 am to get supplies for lunch and stretch our legs before heading back on the road again - thank you Willy Nelson.



The Moore family sharing lunch at Overlander



Stu admiring the range of fresh tasty eats



(Story continues over page)

Arriving at **Galena Bridge** we discovered where all these caravaners go to hide! It became a bit of a mission to try and find the right spot to fit us all in; Ross our intrepid leader came through with the goods after scouting around for about 30 minutes.



**Greg Stu & Mike approving the camp**

We all easily found the perfect spot to setup for our last camp for the trip and the location was a fantastic spot in shade and by the river.



**Setting up loo with a view**



**Flower child**



After dinner, we sat around the campfire and reminisced about our travel adventures while staring into the flames. As a final treat Ross threw some 'magic stuff' into the campfire which put on an amazing colour flame light show – we were all spell bound by the colours of the flames.



# Home from Galena Bridge via Dongara - 28 August 2021

## Mike Kraus



We woke to a fresh morning start of 12 degrees and no clouds to have breakfast and do our final pack up for this trip.



We left just before 9 am and as we drove out of Galena Bridge, we noted there was no less than 30 caravans all camped around the river.

As we later passed through Northampton, we noted that there was still a lot of damaged roofs and tarps on builds damaged from cyclone Seroja in April 2021.

We stopped for more fuel and snacks at the 440 Roadhouse just outside of Geraldton at 10 am before once again carrying on our way back to Perth.

Daniel briefly appointed himself trip leader by failing to keep left and wanted to visit the Geraldton port harbour instead of heading to Perth providing a much-needed laugh for otherwise a very uninspiring landscape on the way back home.



Arrived at 11.20 am in **Dongara** where we visited the Dongara bakery for lunch and sat in a nearby park enjoying our pies before once again heading out back to Perth and the grey skies of home after enjoying the warmth and blue skies of the Pilbara.



“

***We all thank Ross for planning and organising a fantastic trip, we all appreciate his effort in making this a memorable trip for us all.***

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# Trips, Socials & Meetings

Please refer to the club website for all dates & details  
[www.subaru4wdclubwa.au](http://www.subaru4wdclubwa.au)

## FEBRUARY 2023

**Playing on a Ledge**  
 Adrian Longwood  
 5 February

**Fish & Chips by the Beach**  
 Jo Norton  
 12 February

**Forest Night Drive**  
 David Peck  
 18 February

**Milligans Island**  
 25 to 26 February  
 Deborah Thyne & Mary Roberts

## MARCH 2023

**Porongorup Wander, Walk & Wine**  
 Porongorup Range Tourist Park  
 Greg & Vanessa Carn  
 4 to 6 March

**Day Trip to Dwellingup**  
 26 March  
 Ross Mead

## APRIL 2023

**Kaarakin Clean-Up Day  
 &/or Cidery Lunch**  
 2 April  
 Joy Unno

**Let's Have a Peak at Charles**  
 7 to 10 April  
 Ross Mead

**Quobba Astronomy Adventures**  
 Joy Unno  
 16 to 23 April

**WA4WDA Gathering  
 @ Whiteman Park**  
 28 to 30 April

**Cheeky Cheela Escape**  
 Jo Norton  
 29 April to 7 May

## JULY 2023

**Fiddles & Nibbles**  
 Jim Wilcox  
 9 July

## CLUB MEETINGS

DATE	VENUE	TOPIC
14 February	Mopoke Room City of Sth Perth Library	GVM Vehicle Weight Talk
14 March	DRIFTA Stockton 2/180 Bannister Rd Canning Vale	DRIFTA Stockton range

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**WA4WDA Clubs**

# **WA4WDA Associate Gathering**

## **WhiteGum Farm Caravan & Adventure Park**

**This is a Family Friendly Event open to all  
Club Members & Family**



**When: 28th – 30th April 2023**

**Time: Friday from 2pm to Sunday 10am**

**Where: Whitegum Farm Caravan & Adventure Park**

680 Cameron Road, York

**BYO Everything you need for the weekend!**

Don't want to worry about food? There is a restaurant and bar on site.

Powered and Unpowered sites available

**BOOKINGS to be made via the website –[www.whitegumfarm.com.au/contact](http://www.whitegumfarm.com.au/contact)**

Please state the following on your booking:  
I am with the WA4WDA – Subaru 4WD Club of WA



**WA4WDA COMMITTEE POSITIONS** - we have two vacant Committee positions available and we would love to fill these to start off 2023 with a full committee. We are still needing a PR Officer and a General Committee person. Each Club under the Association can have two members on the WA4WDA Committee. So, if anyone in your Club is interested, please let us know, so we can add it to the Agenda for February 2023.

**KAARAKIN CLEAN UP FOR 2023** - we have three dates for the Clean-Up's in 2023. These have been placed up as Events on the WA Association of Clubs FB Group.

Pop these dates on your Club Calendars -

Sunday 2nd April 2023 - hosted by SouthSide 4WD Club

Sunday 11th June 2023 - hosted by Armadale 4WD Club

Sunday 22nd October 2023 - hosted by Foothills 4WD Club

**WA ASSOCIATION OF CLUBS FACEBOOK GROUP** - is for all members in your Club.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WA4WDA>

**AUTO ONE CANNINGTON** - closed as of 6 January 2023. The current Manager moved across to the Balcatta Store and will be honouring the Discounts on offer to the Clubs under the Association banner at the Balcatta Store. He is also in talks with the Armadale Store to see if they will honour the discounts as well. Stay tuned.

**ASSOCIATE GATHERING** - 28 - 30 APRIL 2023 - We need 50 people to book a site for WhiteGums to close to the public so we can have exclusive use of the grounds for the whole weekend. Let's get the WA4WDA Clubs to take over WhiteGums! We will have full use of the Restaurant and Bar areas for the weekend. There are Powered (limited) and Unpowered sites. Let your members know they need to book directly with WhiteGums and to make a note on the booking as follows - I am with the WA4WDA - (Club Name). Let your members know they can start booking sites immediately through the following ways -

Email - [info@whitegumfarm.com.au](mailto:info@whitegumfarm.com.au)

Website - <https://www.whitegumfarm.com.au/contact>

**ASSOCIATE GATHERING- WHAT CAN YOUR CLUB OFFER?** Do you have any members with skills they would like to share? We are looking for people to do presentations across the Saturday. Anything from CPR and First Aid to Recovery, Cooking and Photography (iPhone or DSLR), even Drones (there are restrictions for Drones as the park is next to an air field so please check with us first). If you have any talented Club members, please let the committee know so we can start putting together a list and organising the event.

Cheers

Deon Barber  
Secretary  
WA 4WD Association

**Facebook Page:**  
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1. Subaru Outback AWD Sport XT and Outback AWD Touring XT feature a 2.4-litre turbocharged Boxer engine. 2. Towing capacity is subject to regulatory requirements, tow bar and vehicle design and towing equipment limitations. If the towing mass is greater than 2,000kg, an Electric Brake Controller must be fitted and is only capable of towing a trailer with a maximum of 2 axles. Requires fitment of optional tow bar accessory. Refer to Owner's Manual for towing instructions. For further information, ask your local Subaru Retailer. 3. Compatible Apple<sup>®</sup> or Android™ device required. 4. Nappa Leather seat trim only available on Subaru Outback AWD Touring XT only.