



Tumby Bay Silo Art Eyre Peninsula

# STRAIGHT TO THE PENINSULA

23RD JULY TO 12TH AUGUST 2023

**This is your chance to join the longest (and most exciting!) trip that the Club is running this year. A three week trip across the Nullabor (play the golf links), into South Australia.**

**We'll view the whales at the Head of the Bight, see the amazing columnar rhyolite Organ Pipes in the Gawler Ranges, and swim with the Giant Cuttlefish in Spencer Gulf.**

**We'll travel down the East side of Eyre Peninsula to the spectacular southern coast at Port Lincoln (where you can swim, safely, with the sharks or seals), then up the West side of the Peninsula to Ceduna with stops to eat oysters at Coffin Bay, view the sea lion colony and visit Murphy's Haystack.**

**On the way back to Perth we'll visit the spots we didn't see on the way over.**

**This trip is best for experienced long-distance drivers.**

JUNE 2023

## This issue:

QUOBBA ASTRONOMY  
ADVENTURE

WHITEGUM FARM ASSOC  
GATHERING

CHEEKY CHEELA TRIP

WINNEMIA PROJECT

GASTRONOMIC  
GOOSEBERRY HILL

UPCOMING TRIPS & MORE!

TRACK CARE WA  
PRESENTATION





## 2021/22 Committee

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**CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR 2022 - 2023**  
ADRIAN LONGWOOD

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KEITH WILCOX  
DAVID PECK  
ROB GRIFFITHS

# President's Report

## David Peck



### Presidents Report June 2023

It was good to see the attendance we had at last month's meeting for the presentation about Track Care and Winnemia.

You may have seen articles about the possibility of getting the Wilderness models for the Outback, Forester and Crosstrek (new name for XV) in Australia. As these models would be of interest to us, we have offered our support to Subaru Australia with the launch, but have been informed that "there are no confirmed plans regarding Wilderness editions however, we have expressed interest in them."

Another Subaru item of interest is that the next generation of Forester, due out mid-2024, could adopt the Toyota hybrid electric/fuel technology being rolled out in the mid 2020s. Toyota has 20% share in the Subaru company.

Work has been done to get the trip calendar updated with new trips. Thanks, Adrian. We are always after ideas of where YOU would like to go and we would love to get a few more people leading trips.

If you are planning on going somewhere why not invite your fellow club members along for some company? This could be as simple as saying we are going to ..... and would anyone like to join us.

If you let the [trips@subaru4wdclubwa.au](mailto:trips@subaru4wdclubwa.au) or [president@subaru4wdclubwa.au](mailto:president@subaru4wdclubwa.au) know, we can put it on the website for you.

Cheers  
David

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## Trips & Socials

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

New members are advised that UHF radio's are required for all club trips.

They can be hired from the club by indicating on the website when you put your name down for a trip or by contacting trips co-ordinator Adrian on 0424 723 558 or email [trips@subaru4wdclubwa.au](mailto:trips@subaru4wdclubwa.au)


### JUNE 2023

 KAARAKIN CLEAN UP  
11 June

 DRIFTA STOCKTON CLUB NIGHT  
14 June


LOGUE BROOK DAM  
24-25 June  
Tony Richards

### JULY 2023

 FIDDLES n NIBBLES  
09 July  
Jim Wilcox

STRAIGHT TO THE PENINSULA  
23 July - 12 August  
Jo Norton

LANCELIN SAND DUNES  
23 July Adrian

 THERE BE GIANTS  
30 July - 12 August  
Graeme Sexton

### AUGUST 2023

GRANITE WAY  
12 - 13 August Ross Mead

BOLD PARK WALK  
20 August Deb Thyne

FLOWER FROLIC AT COALSEAM  
25-28 August, Mary Roberts

### SEPTEMBER 2023

 YANCHEP INN LUNCH  
TBC

GATHERING OF THE CLANS AT KULIN  
23 - 25 September

### OCTOBER 2023

 KAARAKIN CLEANUP DAY  
22 October

ANNUAL DINNER  
TBC

### NOVEMBER 2023

PERTH 4WD SHOW  
10 - 12 November



The Club is running trips for members in accordance with the latest advice issued by the WA State Government COVID-19 Guidelines.

# TRIP PROMOS

## DRIFTA STOCKTON, CLUB NIGHT CANNING VALE - 14th JUNE 2023

An invitation has been extended to all members of the WA 4WD Assoc Clubs, from Glen Halford at Adventure 4WD Club, to come along to an **Exclusive After Hours** night at Drifta in Canning Vale. Club members only.

On the night, Drifta have extended a 10% off all products (excluding kitchen, RTT, drawers) purchased on the night. Bundle deals available on the night as well. In store demos and all members will go into a draw to win a **\$100 gift voucher** with every purchase made.

Capacity is max 30 pax so if you are interested in attending, please let Glen Halford know ASAP via the email below. **First in best dressed!**

Contact - Glen - [jeanette.glen@gmail.com](mailto:jeanette.glen@gmail.com)

Meeting date - Wednesday 14th June 2023 Meeting time - 6.00pm

Meeting place - Drifta Stockton, Unit 2/180 Bannister Rd Canning Vale

## Sunday 11 June KAARAKIN CLEAN UP MORNING

Help clean up the Assoc meeting rooms & gardens and have a nice morning tea with other Assoc Club members. Join the trip on the Club website.

## LOGUE BROOK DAM SAT/SUN 24-25 JUNE

Here's a chance to enjoy an overnight camp at the DBCA/Parks & Wildlife Logue Brook Campground. First we will head to Dwellingup for morning tea and then head south on either the Murray River Fireline if it is open or, if not, Nanga Road through to Hoffmans Mill and Logue Brook.

Easy driving, so the trip is therefore suitable for drivers of all skill levels.

Join up on the Club website





Photo: Deb Thyne



Photo: Keith Wilcox

## FLOWER FROLIC AT COALSEAM 25th - 28th August

Join Mary on a 4 day trip to see the wildflowers of the Midwest. The flowers at Coalseam Conservation Park are astounding with fields of **golden pompom everlastings**. See the impressive landscape of the Irwin River and spot the **tiny marine fossils** in the cliff-face. So, bring your walking shoes and your camera and join the adventure.

We will be staying at Mellenbye Station near Yalgoo where they have their own beautiful wildflower displays and more importantly, there are **hot showers and toilets**. They have unpowered campsites for \$10 per person per night, plus a number of room options if you would rather not camp. **However, it's peak season so if you want a room you need to book soon and book directly with Mellenbye via their website <https://www.mellenbye.com.au/>.**

**Registration on the website for this trip closes Monday 26th June! I need to know numbers before the end of June to finalise my camp site bookings with the station.**



DAY  
TRIP



## THERE BE GIANTS THERE 30 JULY

Lets go find "Little Lui" and friends on a "GIANT ADVENTURE" in Mandurah.

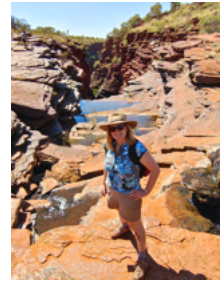
The Giants are hidden away on the edge of Mandurah's stunning waterways and within its unique natural environment ready for curious minds to uncover and explore! More details on the Club website.

Join up for this wonderful Day Trip experience.

<https://www.giantsofmandurah.com.au/>

# Writing a Trip Report

Vanessa Carn



On each trip the leader will ask one or more of the members to write a report. If you can't write the report assigned to you, please let the trip leader know. Otherwise, send your trip report(s) in to the trip leader to review and collate as soon after the trip as you can.

Trip leaders please **include photos** with collated reports if you can. Send photos as **separate files**, or send a link to your cloud image storage (eg Dropbox) to share them. Do not embed them in the trip report document(s) as the image quality is reduced if you do.



## Things to include with your report(s):

- Your name
- The trip name
- The date and day of the trip
- Photos - Please name & date all images

Thank you all for your help  
to capture and share our story!



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# June General Meeting Guest Speaker: Graham Weber

## ALL ABOUT TRACK CARE WA INC.

Graham Weber, President of Track Care WA Inc was introduced by David Peck who thanked Graham for mentioning the Subaru 4WD club on a recent ABC interview and recognising the Subaru 4WD club as a supporter of Track Care.

Track Care WA is a volunteer organisation which establishes collaborative and positive partnerships with land managers, native title holders, government departments and other stakeholders to sustainably manage locations of environmental, cultural and historical significance, with the aim of ensuring access for all future generations ... while having a little fun along the way.

Track Care started when a group of like-minded individuals came together and formed the Canning Stock Route Working Group in Nov 1996 with the purpose of preserving our state's pioneering history along the Canning Stock Route. The group then changed name to Track Care WA in May 1997. Track Care has evolved into a champion of bush heritage and environmental conservation.



Graham gave a very informative presentation supported by photos from trips. He explained the role of Track Care and the regions they cover which are mainly the mid-west/Gascoyne and the Canning Stock route. Graham shared information on Track Care's involvement in the restoration of infrastructure that has fallen into decay due to neglect. Examples of this are wells on the Canning Stock route that have been cleaned and strengthened so they can still be used. Track Care have also restored and/or built toilets and shower blocks.



Graham explained access to some areas was now subject to payment for permits to Aboriginal land. Other Aboriginal groups invited TrackCare to restore infrastructure on their country such as wells on the Canning Stock Route. Graham advised that INEOS Grenadier 4x4 have partnered with Track Care and announced as a major sponsor. It was a very interesting presentation by Graham.

**Deb Thyne**





# QUOBBA ASTRONOMY ADVENTURE

## DAY 1 Sunday 16-04-23 Joy Unno

Three cars assembled at the United Petrol Station on Gnagara Road near the Tonkin Highway. Trip Leader Joy in an XV, the Kings in their Forester towing their camper van, and the Carns in their Forester with the Drifta roof-top tent. All well packed for a 1000 km 7-day trip up North to Quobba Station. We were meeting the other members of our party along the way. Our Mission - to observe the hybrid total solar eclipse that would be occurring down the West coast of WA on the morning of the 20 April. We headed off up the Tonkin and then onto the Brand Highway making for Geraldton.

Around Gin Gin, we encountered the inevitable road works which this time involved a section of dirt in the bitumen and because there had been rain, our cars acquired a coating of red mud. It looked like we had been off-roading for days when we'd hardly gotten out of Perth! After stopping at Badgingarra for a cuppa at morning tea (and admiring the Carn's car fridge set-up) we continued on. Greg got himself nominated for a Silly Award by folding up the spare tyre with the boot still open.

We were passed later by a work ute towing a road-work electronic message board which we speculated might be heading up to Exmouth for traffic control. The Powers That Be were obviously expecting a lot of traffic for the Total Solar Eclipse Event.



# QUOBBA ASTRONOMY ADVENTURE DAY 1 cont...

Luckily for us, there wasn't a lot of vehicles on the highway yet, although the one-way lanes that were set-up to control traffic at a Dongara service station were so confusing and had such a long queue that we decided to carry on and get fuel in Geraldton. Arriving at the Geraldton Caravan Park in the early afternoon we found it to be a pleasantly rustic sort of place in the northern back blocks of Geraldton, with friendly staff. The dirt camp sites were quite large, with no shade to speak of unless you were lucky enough to be near one of the big gum trees. Rabbits were seen hopping about in the paddock next door. The camp kitchen was good and the ablution blocks very clean plus there was a small swimming pool although the water was said to be freezing. We put up our tents, etc., and caught up with Leonie and Brian who had arrived with their A-van before us. Later, Guy and his daughters Eliza and Emma turned up with their nifty, stream-lined looking caravan.

After a long day's drive it was good to go out to The Broady Hotel for dinner. Allison Gill and her family also happened to be visiting Geraldton so they came along to eat with us as well. it was quite the lively party we had at a long table in the tavern and the food was very tasty as well. We did have to wait a long time for the desserts though.



## TRIP PROMO: FIDDLES & NIBBLES 09 JULY

Come to the Wilcoxes to install a few small things on your car and prepare for any long remote touring trips and give the car a checkover. Or just come for a social morning tea (bring nibbles) and bbq lunch (bring own food, bbq supplied).

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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<sup>™</sup> device required. 4. Nappa Leather seat trim only available on Subaru Outback AWD Touring XT only.



# QUOBBA ASTRONOMY ADVENTURE

## DAY 2 Tuesday 17-04-23 by Barb & Gus

### Geraldton to Hamelin Outback Station Stay

Today our travelling number has increased with the addition of Brian and Leonie, and Guy and his two daughters. We are now 5 cars in convoy, and 10 people.

After a comfortable night, breakfast and packing up we left about 0900H for our trip to Hamelin Outback Station Stay (H.O.S.S.), a Bush Heritage property near Hamelin Pool. By mutual agreement we had decided not to do the Kalbarri Skywalk and go straight to H.O.S.S. We set off up the North West Coastal Highway, passing through Northampton, which still shows damage from Cyclone Seroja two years ago. (Interestingly, when we passed through again on the 25th April, the Pub's new roof was finished.)

We stopped for morning tea at Galena Bridge. Here the river was up, several campsites were under water and the road over the old bridge was closed. The flies were out in vast hordes – a taste of things to come, in some cases literally! The entertainment was supplied by the Council rubbish collectors, and the Main Roads vans. This made us a bit nervous about rumours of a 'weigh-in' on portable weighbridges, and brake checks, south of Carnarvon. Those GVM talks by Adrian at club meetings ringing in our ears.

We were impressed with Main Roads' preparations: near entrances and exits along the highway, including roadhouses, were portable flashing signs 'MAJOR EVENT IN PROGRESS/DRIVE SAFELY', speed limits dropped to 80kph, and lots of red witches hats.



## QUOBBA ASTRONOMY ADVENTURE DAY 2 cont....

Next stop was Billabong Roadhouse – where some refuelled, and we all had lunch under a tree, with our friends the flies. These would be our constant companions for the days to come. Look what was under the witch's hat. A goat was drinking the windscreen water.

The roads were busy, but not as busy as we had anticipated. Joy reckoned it was busier during Covid. We did notice lots of big caravans, towed by big cars, and a lot of campervans. By the time we left at about 1300H, the traffic was notably busier in both directions. Mostly drivers were well behaved, although there were a few idiots, e.g. overtaking on double white lines .... Perhaps the Subaru Outback police car we saw several times made a difference?

We arrived at H.O.S.S. about 14.30H, were checked in by hosts Tracey and Andrew, given the orientation talk, and then off to select a campsite. It was noticeably warmer at around 35C, and LOTS of flies. The ground was crunchy white shells and limestone. After making camp most of us migrated to the much cooler and well set-up camp kitchen for afternoon tea away from the flies.



# QUOBBA ASTRONOMY ADVENTURE DAY 2 cont....

At H.O.S.S. we were joined by Mary and Jasmine, and Tony and Keith – our number now complete at fourteen people in seven cars. Facilities here included hot showers, flushing toilets, bore water, and one tap in the kitchen with drinking water.

Dinner was eaten in the cool (and crowded) camp kitchen with other travellers, swapping stories. A few of us attended a talk by Richard (unknown surname): ‘Will There Be Any York Gums in the Charles Darwin Reserve in 100 Years?’ It was very interesting. (answer ‘Yes, probably’, according to research.)

While others retired early, Barb, Gus, Tony and Keith played Uno and UnoFlip until bed-time, walking back to our camp under a canopy of stars. Off to Quobba Station the next day ....

p.s. The ABC was at H.O.S.S. recording an item for Landline, which you can view on Landline or ABC iview:  
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-05-01/sacrificing-the-stars-for-satellites-better-phone-coverage/102208436>

**The Quobba Eclipse Story continues in the July mag.**



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



# ASSOC GATHERING AT WHITEGUM FARM 28-30 April

by Naomi & Graeme Sexton

We left home Friday afternoon travelling on Brookton Highway and turning off at the Beverley turnoff heading towards York. Taking mostly back roads, some gravel to White Gum Farm in York.

We arrived at 4-45pm and went to The Lake Kimberley Bar and Grill Restaurant to check into our Cabin accommodation for the next two days.

There were already a lot of Caravans and Camper vans and tents already there from other 4WD Clubs.

As the sun was setting, we went to the lookout platform and took some nice sunset pictures and the magnificent view overlooking the valley. We spoke to other fellow campers and met Robert a fellow Subaru member.



On Saturday morning all the clubs met for a briefing and given an itinerary for the day. We set off in a group for a morning 3Km bushwalk along with Robert and Jaana a guest of our Club. We reached the top of another lookout. On the edge of the lookout was a straight down 90-degree face. It was a good idea not to get too close to the edge with loose rock on the edges. Facing west overlooking extensive farmland you could see Mt Bakewell and Mt Brown in the distance near York.

We then attended Adrian's talk and display regarding 4WD recovery gear and demonstration.

In the afternoon, our group of 6, Adrian, Robert, Maria, Jaana and ourselves got to drive on the 4WD track. To see what challenges the track had. Graeme managed to get "bellied" twice over 2 different sand hills. It was a good training exercise on how to use our snatch straps.

Report continued on next page.....





## ASSOC GATHERING WHITE GUM FARM cont....

Saturday evening all the groups got together for a quiz night and dinner at The Lake Kimberley Bar and Grill. There were 3 sets of questions, one about country flags, WA Country number plates, and Car badges from all over the world. We weren't lucky enough to win prizes but was very entertaining and fun evening had by all.

Sunday morning, we were very fortunate to go on a tour over the other side of the airfield inside a hangar and we were able to have a close-up view of a spitfire and a Mig training aircraft that needs a lot of maintenance. Outside there was a Rescue Sea Helicopter that had done numerous sea rescues that is going to be turned into an AIRBNB. There are also 3 large aircraft that are also going to be turned into AIRBNB accommodation.

That's how our weekend ended. We all made our separate ways home.



**4WD Track Adventures**



**Rescue Helicopter Air Bnb**

### **Whitegum Park Comment by Maria DeYoung**

I was impressed with the organization that went into this weekend. Although not all the talks were relevant to my experience I.e. towing, it was all useful information. The 4wd park was good fun. I regret not giving this big slingshot type hill a try. It did however require reversing uphill to line up the track, and given that I backed into a wall on a curved track that day (not the first time I've not reversed the right way) perhaps it is best I gave it a pass. My partner had to hammer out my bumper on return home. My favorite part was a drive along their property to a look out. It was fun getting out with vehicles of all sorts and having a chat along the way. Kudos to the team that put this together.

# GASTRONOMIC GOOSEBERRY HILL AND MEANDERING TO MUNDARING 6TH MAY BY DEB THYNE

The weather turned quite autumnal for our trip up into the Perth Hills with the temperature hovering around nine degrees on the way up! Light rain fell for the first couple of hours but some of this was spent in the relative comfort of a bakery! Pere Bakery in Gooseberry Hill offers a scrumptious range of sweet and savoury delights with gluten free options! A selection of beautiful bread products is also available!

Six of us were on the trip in four vehicles. One was noted to be a Toyota Corolla due to their Forester being on loan to family who were visiting from up north.

We were lucky enough to be sitting relatively close to a wood fire while the light rain continued outside. It was a convivial group catching up with members we hadn't seen in a while and trading tales of what we had been up to.



Smiling Stephan steps out



Can you spot the interloper!  
Subaru people are always inclusive 🍷



Beautiful bushland

As trip leader I had not scoped out nor done a recce as intended for the next section of the trip because no-one had signed up for the trip until a few days beforehand! Departing the bakery at 10.30am as planned Stephan and Hanna, familiar with the area, led the group to South Ledge and Golden View Lookout.

Mary and I agreed it was so refreshing to walk through the bush after the rain with the moisture enhancing the colours of tree trunks and leaves. It was clear enough for us to have a lovely view across to the weir that looked quite full for the time of year.

Report continued on next page.....

# GASTRONOMIC GOOSEBERRY HILL MUNDARING CONT.....

We then travelled on to the North Ledge lookout on the other side of the weir. This was a longer trip in on an unmade road but it was in a good condition – even for a Corolla! Another short walk along a track gave views further up the weir and the showers had eased off. We came across three young ladies who were preparing to set off along a section of the Bibbulmun Track.

It was perfect timing that we arrived at the Mundaring Hotel for lunch at 12.30pm as planned and booked! I had booked us into the Atrium and we were seated next to a log burning stove that kept us cosy and warm. The food was lovely with our table ordering everything from vegan burger and chips, arancini, sausages and mash, lasagne and beef cheeks in Guinness! No-one was disappointed in their meal and with generous portions they were all very filling!!

It was a good catch up with everyone and at around 2pm we all headed off home. An enjoyable trip!

**Mundaring Weir**



**'Twas a blustery ol day but we are smiling!**



**South Ledge Look out, Mundaring Weir, Beelu NP**

**Cosy fire, Mundaring Hotel**

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What Do You Need To Complete Your Snatch & Winch Kit?



### SNATCH STRAP

- BUDGET: SINGLE LAYER FLAT NYLON
- PERFORMANCE: DOUBLE LAYER ROPE
- THERE'S LITTLE WEIGHT SAVING BETWEEN THE 2 TYPES
- ROUND ROPE WILL BE A LARGER PACKED SIZE



### SHACKLES

- MINIMUM OF 4 SHACKLES PER KIT
- 2x 4.7T & 2x 3.2T IDEALLY
- SWAP OUT 2 METAL SHACKLES FOR 2x SOFT SHACKLES IF COMPATIBLE



### BRIDLE/EQUALISER

- BUDGET: FLAT NYLON
- WEIGHT SAVING: BRAIDED DYNEEMA
- PERFORMANCE & WEIGHT SAVING: EXTRA LONG 5M BRAIDED DYNEEMA WITH FULL SHEATH
- A SECOND EQUALISER IS BENEFICIAL



### DAMPENER BLANKET

- USED TO INCREASE SAFETY AND BRING PROJECTILES DOWN TO THE GROUND
- 2 SHOULD BE USED (1 NEAR EACH END) FOR A SAFER RECOVERY
- THE SECOND EQUALISER CAN BE USED TO KEEP THE DAMPENER IN PLACE



### TOW HITCH BLOCK

- CONVERTS YOUR 50mm TOW HITCH INTO A RECOVERY POINT
- BUDGET: ALLOY / FLAT EDGES
- LIGHTWEIGHT: ALLOY / CURVED EDGES
- PERFORMANCE: ALLOY / LARGE CURVED HOLE



### RECOVERY KIT BAG

- SMALL KIT BAG TO STORE ENOUGH ITEMS FOR YOUR BASIC KIT
- LARGE KIT BAG TO STORE EXTENSIVE KIT AND ANY WINCH EXTENSION STRAPS



### WINCH RING & SOFT SHACKLE

- CHOOSE FROM 2 SIZES & COLOURS
- BIG WEIGHT SAVING
- FOR USE WITH SOFT SHACKLES & DYNEEMA WINCH ROPE
- NOT FOR USE WITH STEEL SHACKLES OR WIRE CABLE



### WINCH HOOK

- REPLACE YOUR WINCH HOOK WITH THIS ULTRA LIGHT HOOK
- SOFT SHACKLE AND 4.7T BOW SHACKLE COMPATIBLE
- SMOOTH EDGES SO YOU DONT CUT YOUR HANDS WHEN RETRIEVING



### EXTEND YOUR WINCHES RANGE

- USE A COMBINATION OF EXTRA BRIDLES, TREE TRUNK PROTECTORS AND WINCH EXTENTION STRAPS TO COVER TRICKY WINCHING SCENARIOS.
- ADD EXTRA SHACKLES TO YOUR KIT FOR LINKING IT ALL TOGETHER.

# TRACK CARE WINNEMIA PROJECT 10-21 APRIL

## & SOLAR ECLIPSE

by David Peck

The end of the Kennedy Range Loop track had been relocated to be at Winnemia where there is a crossing over the Gascoyne River. This was the location of one of the original 'depot' shearing sheds, built in the 1890's, and used by a number of stations in the area.

It is on Jimba Jimba station, about 35km west of Gascoyne Junction. The station goes for 60 km along the Gascoyne River and 40 km from the south of the Kennedy Ranges. As there are now a number of tourists passing through the station, the station owner's son, Will, had a vision to create a camping area for them.

The Gascoyne River flooded in 2010 and damaged a lot of buildings in the area. The old shearer's kitchen and dining room at Winnemia remained standing, even with the flood level reaching the top of its walls.

Track Care had been invited to Jimba Jimba Station in October 2022 when a group of volunteers completed the restoration of the old shearer's kitchen and added new verandas. A new project was planned to build new (flushing) toilets and a shower and timed to coincide with the solar eclipse on April 20th. Five of us joined the convoy to Winnemia, which is just over 1000km from Perth. When we arrived the river had lots of water in it causing the crossing there to be closed. During the time we were there about a couple of dozen cars drove past to check it out.

There was a variety of camping set ups with a few swags, tents and roof top tents. About half the people had caravans or camper trailers.

Wednesday morning we were greeted by Will, who is the station owner's son, and his partner Maggie. They told us some of the history of Winnemia and Jimba Jimba. They had three young station hands helping them out and had done a lot of the preparation work like mixing and pouring the concrete slabs. Other's had arrived earlier and had made a start and the new arrivals split into various work groups. I made the comment that I had built a brick letterbox 20 years ago so I was asked to give a hand with the brick laying. Others worked on the metal frames for the toilet and shower, and some started to hunt around for timber to make a new table for inside the restored building.

We typically started around 8:30am with breaks for morning and afternoon tea. People tended to drift back to their campsites for lunch and most gathered around for drinks and nibbles about 5:00 and had a general chat. After dinner we split up into small groups of people nearby. One night Chris was shining his UV torch around and it made some little scorpions 'glow' which was pretty cool.



Old Shearer's Shed & Dining Room before restoration



Gascoyne River crossing at Winnemia



Toilet Framework started



Glowing scorpion

# TRACK CARE WINNEMIA PROJECT cont.....



Toilet brickwork started

On Thursday we were watching Severe Tropical Cyclone Ilsa off the coast of Broome as if it heads our way we will have to evacuate. However it is in the low 30's and mainly sunny here.

The bricklaying and metal framework was progressing and doors were made and hung, with a neat modification to the latch. The roofing was started, as was the metal frame for the shower.

On Friday the cyclone made the coast at Pardoo and will not affect us apart from some strong winds blowing the dust around.



Rocket launch

Just before 9pm we were sitting around Frank's Ute and Kevin spotted something puzzling in the sky. It was like a short fat comet with no bright apex and it was visible for about 20 minutes. We later found out it was 'ESA's Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer' on an Ariane 5 rocket launched from Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana and we probably saw the second stage booster. It will arrive in about 8 years.



Toilet doors on & shower frame up

On Saturday the brick wall for the toilets was completed and the table was starting to take shape from some Oregon beams that had been found. Some people were doing a general clean-up and had found the remains of an old Metters kitchen stove that was carefully pieced back together and placed in the kitchen.

We had the afternoon off and Maggie took us for a drive around the station taking us to a freshwater spring, a few windmills and watering points. The highlight was the Jimba Jimba shearing shed and associated buildings which were built in 1958, and replaced the ones at Winnemia. She gave us an insight to what the station was like in the sheep days and what is needed today now they are running cattle. It was great to have so many knowledgeable people who were able to explain how the woolshed worked and the roles of the various people on the shearing team. As the station tour had taken us towards Gascoyne Junction we all went into the pub for dinner. On Sunday the shower was finally finished at 6:00 and it was used (cold) that evening.



Jimba Jimba shearing shed

Report continued on Page 24.....

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# TRACK CARE WINNEMIA PROJECT cont.....



24 foot Windmill

On Monday the toilet cisterns were installed and the toilets were usable. The walls in the shower were tiled, which made it look good. There is plumbed water, from a tank on the hill, septic tanks and leach drains which should please the campers. Mary and Jas from the Subaru 4WD club arrived in time for morning tea and lent a hand cleaning up the corrugated iron around the old shearing shed, which was taken away by the station hands.

Tuesday was the last day to get all our jobs done, but we were going well. With the number of people now available the general clean-up of removing things like sheets of corrugated iron and fencing wire made a big difference to how the place looked and made it much safer. The hut interior was cleaned out and the new table finished. Various items of interest, which were found during the clean-up, were placed in hut.

We had Wednesday off, so 11 cars headed into Gascoyne Junction for fuel and an ice cream before going to the Kennedy Ranges National Park. We walked into Drapers gorge and a few people even had a swim there as it was a warm day. Onto Temple Gorge campground for a long lunch and then a walk into Honeycomb Gorge before heading back to camp. A stack of other people had arrived whilst we were gone.

Thursday 20 April was the big day as it was the solar eclipse and the official opening of the camp ground. Justin from Ineos was there with a pre-production prototype of the Grenadier and most of us had a test drive. It was announced that Ineos would partner with Track Care.

The eclipse was not as dark as we anticipated but the Gascoyne shire had provided some special glasses to allow us to view it. But the best image was from nail holes in the recycled corrugated iron roofing and the subsequent dot of sun on the veranda floor. We found that if you stood in front of the sunbeam it made a good photo. Most of the visitors left soon after the eclipse whilst we packed up the Track Care gazebo. Our people started heading off in ones and twos, to try and beat the traffic heading from Exmouth. Did you spot the Eclipse image on the Track Care shirt badge on front cover?



Completed toilets & shower



Eclipse images on veranda floor



# CHEEKY CHEELA ESCAPE DAYS 1 - 3 by Tom Minto

## 29-30 April to 01 May

### Day 1 Saturday 29/04/23

The select group of 4 drivers and 4 vehicles gathered at Bindoon. Jo (with her dog Chip) was towing her A van. The rest of us were tenting/swagging. We were aiming at an 8 am departure but were a little late getting away on our 9 days of adventures.

First stop was at Wubin for morning tea and refuelling for some of us. A recurrent theme throughout the trip was the wide divergence in fuel consumption. Jo always returned the worst fuel consumption which was understandable given she was towing. I was next worst with Neil and Steve much more economical. I had a second spare, 2X 20 litre Jerry cans and an awning on my roof. Steve consistently used least fuel despite having tents etc on his roof. This seemed to be partly a function of his car being the most modern. However, location within the convoy was also a factor as was apparent from our experiments over the next few days.

Lunch stop was at Paynes Find followed by refuelling and afternoon tea at Mt Magnet. We discussed overnight options and decided to stay at the Garden Granite camping area 16 km East of Cue. I led the way from Mt Magnet at Jo's request as I had actually previously camped at Garden Granites. This sort of worked as I overshot the turnoff in Cue townsite then led the group through various streets in Cue which seemed to keep changing names. We eventually arrived at the Granites about 4.15. The track around the rock had deteriorated significantly since my last visit approx 3 years ago. We stopped when conditions were getting too challenging for Jo's caravan. Our camp was sited on the side of the rock furthest from the road.



Granite Gardens Sunset - Image Steve

We only saw one other driver on the track round the rock whilst we were there. However, the road seemed to be busier by night than by day with evident sounds of mining vehicles all night. I found this pretty disruptive but the others didn't seem to be effected. We agreed to aim for departure by 8am the next day.



Granite Gardens Camp -Image Steve

### Day 2- Sunday 30/4/23

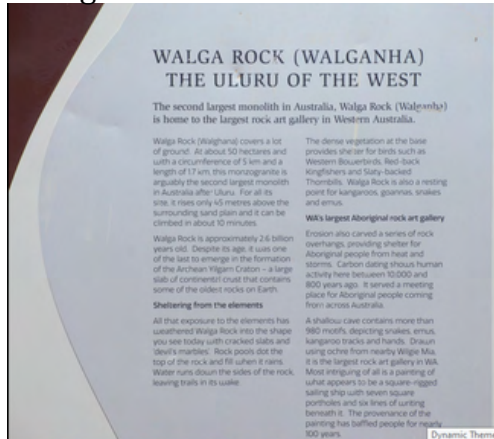
Everyone woke at first light. We established a pattern of having packed up camp and taking to the road by 7.30. We passed back through Cue where Neil, Steve and I diverted to visit Walga Rock. Jo had visited the Rock several times whereas the rest of us had not seen it. The rock is located approx 40 km West of Cue. We managed to locate it without too much difficulty. Apart from anything else it is extremely large and has a significant amount of indigenous cave art. We then linked up with Jo again and continued to Meekathara where Jo and I took on fuel. We saw a limited number of everlastings, presumably as a response to recent rains in the area.

# CHEEKY CHEELA ESCAPE cont.....

Day 2- Sunday 30/4/23 continued....

Jo asked Neil to lead the convoy as she was using as much as 18 litres/100km. Neil's role included reducing the primary wind resistance experienced by Jo at the head of the convoy. Jo's fuel consumption immediately improved when she was in position 2 in the convoy.

I had been "Tail End" to this point and continued in this position for most of the trip. I habitually left a significant space ahead of me. I found that if I closed up on the car ahead I could lower my fuel consumption by as much as 25%. We all became citizen scientists for a time, experimenting with following distances between our vehicles.



Walga Rock Info Sign - Image Neil

Walga Rock Walkway - Image Neil

One of the pleasures of long distance club trips is the opportunities for extended discussions on the UHF radio. Once we established that following more closely could save fuel, we then considered whether or not the car in front used more or less fuel if it was being closely followed by another. The mad scientist in the group (oh alright, me) then raised the question as to whether any possible effect on the lead vehicle varied depending on the number of vehicles following close behind. Logically, there seemed a good case to get every vehicle in the club closely slipstreaming in a line of 80 or so vehicles to see what effects resulted (if any). Now if we could just get hold of an abandoned airfield, that would provide the makings of a completely different club trip.

Back in the world of reality, we stopped at Kumarina road house for lunch and more fuel. The road house obviously had contracts to cater for various workers. Depending on who you were employed by, breakfast was either 4am or 5.30am. This rather put our efforts at getting on the road by 7.30 in perspective. We did not have a pre-existing plan as to our overnight stop. We had intended to discuss options with the Newman Visitor Centre but this was closed. After fuelling up again we decided to aim for a 24 hr stopping point at Mt Robinson, approx 110 kms past Newman. We started to see flocks of budgerigars which was nice. We also encountered a number of very oversize loads as well as lots of road trains which was less nice. We arrived with about half an hour of light remaining. Two dingoes that looked to be adolescents took off when we arrived though Jo was extra cautious with Chip as a result.



Mt Robinson Campsite - Image Steve

The ground was so hard and rocky I was unable to hammer in any pegs. Neil kindly let me try his power drill with masonry bit. The rock came out a clear winner so Steve and I weighted our tents down with water bottles etc. Neil was using a swag on a stretcher so did not have to contend with the rocks.

We were about 300 metres from Gt Northern Hwy. Our camp site had some interesting rock faces but was extremely noisy due to all the road trains running through the night.

# CHEEKY CHEELA ESCAPE cont.....

## Day 3- Monday 1/5/23

Another 7.30 am start. Our destination was Tom Price. Jo managed to make phone contact with Greg and Vanessa who are roaming round the Murchison and Pilbara after having been at the Quobba station eclipse event. We organised to meet them in the centre of town after we had fuelled up and had a coffee at the coffee van on the outskirts of town. This was operated by an extremely loquacious gentleman whose accent indicated he was from England. He advised he had been interviewed by the ABC as part of some rural programme. It seemed he qualified on the basis of being a notable local personality. Fortunately, he did make good coffee. Some of our group did some food shopping in town then we met up with Greg and Vanessa.

Cheela Plains wanted us to arrive by 2 pm as our campsite was far away from the station homestead. There were 2 alternative routes to the station from Tom Price. The longer option went via Paraburdoo but was on bitumen throughout. We took the shorter option which was mainly on dirt roads. These had plenty of corrugations so we resolved to try the alternative when we were leaving the station. We arrived at Cheela about 12.30 and were briefed by the crew and issued with maps and a key to access the gate to our camping area. Our camping area was around 35km from the homestead.



Lower of 2 Cheela Plains campsites-Image Steve



Afternoon light Cheela Plains campsite - Image Steve

Cheela is open to tourists on a seasonal basis, theoretically from the day of our arrival. Our two allocated campsites were uphill from the shaded and soft soil nearer to the river bed. Steve and I took the lower of our sites to pitch our tents as there was just enough soil to hammer in some pegs. Everyone else took the rockier site as their van/rooftop tent/swag did not need to be pegged.

The usual drinks and nibbles followed though these were slightly disrupted by a herd of cows wandering close by on their way to water. Chip did lots of barking in response.

Tom Minto

Cheela reports continue in July mag.....

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## Saturday 22 April - Adrian Longwood

With Maria unwell and the trip almost cancelled, we waited until she was well enough to go. Her partner Davide now also well enough to join, I got the call at 11am on Saturday that we were good to go,

I packed the car by 12pm, hit the road for the food shop and went down to the meet point on the Fwy South. We filled the petrol tanks and headed down to Conto's Camp Ground. Weather was clear and sunny for the drive down, but the forecast had a storm coming later in the weekend so we were nervous with what was to come. Knowing Sunday's weather was going to be reasonable until the storm hit that night we planned for a busy day.

Getting into Conto's shortly after 6pm meant setting up in the dark and cooking dinner under lights. I ended up Chef for the evening, whipping up a round of smashed patty cheeseburgers before we called it a night.



Arrived at camp after dark. No dramas though, Adrian has all the lights

## Day 2 AM - Maria cont.....

There was one spot I got stuck heading uphill around a bend, and of course Adrian just barreled through no problem. I meanwhile, literally ended up reversing up a wall instead of out of the bend and unfortunately, Adrian has the proof in his dashcam footage. Simply changing the approach angle and giving a little more gas and I was back on the track in no time. Next, we headed to Shelley Cove to find a swim spot. A beautiful spot I hadn't visited before and popular for people who like to fish. It was a little windy though, and after a quick walk around the rocks we went to find another spot. We drove to Eagle Bay Beach and the calm water was too tempting. After a quick swim we enjoyed lunch from our cars with views of the beach. A stunning section of beach I will be sure to return to. After lunch, we headed into Dunsborough for icecream while Adrian went to buy some rope.

Margs Mega report continues next month....

## Day 2 Sunday 23 April AM - Maria Deyoung

We started the day heading towards Yallingup to do the Three Bears track. A popular track for surfers so the main carpark was busy but we only passed a few cars enroute. The track itself is one car width with small spots to pullover but I imagine on a long weekend driving it would be a struggle. Along the way were a couple spots to pull off and enjoy the coastal views. Luckily the track wasn't too difficult but did look like it was getting pretty torn up, especially a section where rubber mats were laid down to prevent people from getting bogged.



3 Bears Track Views

Photos: Maria



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