



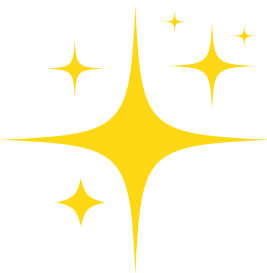
Camping & Cooking Demo Trip Report Page 16

COME SEE THE NEW SUBARU!

GENERAL MEETING TUES 11 JULY

Brendan Reed, the Subaru (Aust) Business Manager for WA, will be our Guest Speaker at the Club's July GM AND is bringing along the new Outback XT (turbo) for us to inspect.

Also, Brendan will talk about planned events in 2024 to celebrate Subaru's 50th year in Australia. Make sure you come along to be able to see the car, we may even try a walk around on Zoom to see if we can show it to people online.



JULY 2023

This issue:

QUOBBA ASTRONOMY
ADVENTURE FINAL

COOKING & CAMPING
WEEKEND

MARGS MEGA WEEKEND

AMBLING THROUGH
THE AVON

CHEEKY CHEELA
ESCAPE

LET'S KARRI ON IN
WINTER- AGAIN

UPCOMING TRIPS & MORE!

LANCELIN DUNES
23 JULY





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President's Report

David Peck

Presidents Report July 2023



The big news this month is that the new Outback XT (turbo) is planned to be at the July General Meeting. Brendan Reed, who is the WA business manager for Subaru (Aust), will be our guest speaker and he will be bringing the new Outback, along with all the news about Subaru's 50th Anniversary year in Australia (in 2024). Make sure you come along to be able to see the car, we may even try a walk around on Zoom to see if we can show it to you people online too.

We didn't achieve a quorum at last month's meeting and it would be great to get a good turn out to hear what Brendan has to say, and to see the Outback.

The Committee has put in a lot of work in planning trips and we have ideas for most of the long weekends next year.

Albany, Denmark or Augusta were suggested for the Australia Day long weekend in January. Do members have any preferences?

For the March Labour Day long weekend we are planning on going back to Barrabup Sanctuary, on the Blackwood River at Nannup.

Easter is early next year and we have planned for Walpole.

As most of these locations are in prime tourist locations it will be important to get your name down early so we can finalise the bookings.

**Cheers,
David**

DISCLAIMER

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Trips & Socials

Please refer to the club website for all dates & details
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

JULY 2023

 4WD VEHICLE TRAINING & RECOVERY
02 July Adrian Longwood

 FIDDLES n NIBBLES
09 July Jim Wilcox

 GNANGARA PINES PERAMBULATION & WALYUNGA NP PICNIC
16 July Joy Unno


STRAIGHT TO THE PENINSULA
23 July - 12 August Jo Norton

 LANCELIN SAND DUNES
23 July Adrian Longwood

 THERE BE GIANTS
Day Trip 30 July Graeme Sexton

AUGUST 2023

GOING THE GRANITE WAY
12 - 13 August Ross Mead

 LOOKOUTS, LAKE AND LUNCH
MIDWEEK DAY TRIP
17 August Stephan Millet

 BOLD PARK WILDFLOWER WALK
20 August Joy Unno

FLOWER FROLIC AT COALSEAM
25-28 August, Mary Roberts



SEPTEMBER 2023


YANCHEP INN LUNCH
10 September Joy Unno 

GATHERING OF THE CLANS AT KULIN
23 - 25 September Adrian Longwood

JAUDI & HELENA AURORA
23 - 28 September Ross Mead

OCTOBER 2023

WANDOO CLEANUP & O/N CAMP
7 - 8 October David Peck

LAKE LESCHENAULTIA LOAFING
15 October Joy Unno 

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

STRAIGHT TO THE PENINSULA 23 JULY - 12 AUGUST

Still a chance to join this trip to SA and visit the spectacular scenery of the Gawler Ranges, Flinders Ranges, and Eyre Peninsula!

Join on the website.



GNANGARA PINES PERAMBULATION & WALYUNGA NP PICNIC SUNDAY 16 JULY WITH JOY UNNO

DAY
TRIP

Sand driving, Pines, Woodland, Kangaroos and Black Cockatoos. Come for a drive through Gnangara Pine Plantation, from West to East, then, if you want to, over to Walyunga National Park for a picnic lunch and an easy walk along the spectacularly flowing Swan River bank.

Come and practice your 4WD driving skills that you learned on the Training Day. Or just come for the scenic drive through the Pines.



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 on the Club website for this unique & wonderful Day Trip experience.

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

TRIP PROMOS

LANCELIN SAND DUNES

SUNDAY 23 JULY

DAY
TRIP



Join one of the Club's most iconic trips for a Drive around the ever evolving Lancelin Sand Dunes. Open to Members and New Applicants/Guests.

We will split into groups depending on experience and start off easy, progressing to something more challenging. It is a fun day in a safe area, with experienced members who will give you advice on all facets of driving on sand, including **tyre pressures**, choosing the **right gear ratios** and how to **get out after getting stuck** in the sand. Join the trip on the Club website.

GOING THE GRANITE WAY 12-13 AUGUST

JOIN ROSS FOR AN EASY DRIVE EXPLORING ON A JOURNEY TO SOME OF THE MOST AMAZING AND ICONIC GRANITE ROCKS IN THE WHEAT-BELT AROUND THE TOWN OF QUAIRADING EAST OF YORK.

WE WILL CAMP OVERNIGHT AT THE KWOLYIN CAMP SITE SET UP AND MAINTAINED BY THE SHIRE OF QUAIRADING BEFORE COMPLETING OUR EXPLORATIONS AND RETURNING TO PERTH THE NEXT DAY.



KOKERBIN ROCK PHOTO:
BRONWYN WELLS

YANCHEP INN SOCIAL LUNCH SUNDAY 10 SEPT



Join us for a convivial Social Lunch at the historic Yanchep Inn located in Yanchep National Park.

There's a NP entry fee but it is worth it to enjoy the beautiful surrounds and visit the koalas.

TRIP PROMOS

LOOKOUT, LAKE & LUNCH DAY 17 AUGUST



This day trip is another one of Stephan and Hannah's very popular **Mid-week Day Trips** on the lovely Darling Scarp.

It combines a drive through scenic hills, farmland and bushland, a walk to the beautiful **Wooroloo Brook waterfalls**, a visit to surprising **Lake Leschenaultia** and ending up at the historic **Chidlow Tavern & museum** for a pub lunch.

Toilets and coffee stops are well documented as per usual.

BOLD PARK FLORA & GEOLOGY WALK 20 AUGUST



Bold Park is the **largest** remaining bushland remnant in the urban area of the Swan Coastal Plain (even bigger than Kings Park). The **Tuart-Banksia** woodlands and limestone heaths support a number of habitats for wildlife.

Joy will lead you on an pleasant one and a half hour morning walk through this **unique bush reserve**, pointing out features of interest including how the diverse geology of the area results in increased biodiversity and different plant communities. **Reabold Hill** is the highest point on the the Swan Coastal Plain offering scenic views of both the city and ocean.

People can bring morning tea or lunch to have in the nearby **Perry Lakes Playground Reserve** (where there are toilets)

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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QUOBBA ASTRONOMY ADVENTURE cont.

DAY 3 Tuesday 18-04-23 Brian & Leonie

A beautiful morning, a relaxed start, and a lovely sunrise for those up early enough to enjoy it. After sweeping out the Coquina from our tents and campers and packing up we hit the road with seven vehicles.

We had heard from other travellers that vehicles were being weight tested just south of Carnarvon. While that didn't eventuate for our group there was a healthy Police presence on the highway including a 6-cylinder Subaru Outback complete with lights and sirens. Traffic was not as bad as expected and drivers for the most part were pretty well behaved. Our first stop for the day was at Wooramel roadhouse for coffee, morning tea and refuelling.

Along the way there were a lot of goats grazing almost too close to the road for comfort. [Editor: Fun fact – a group of goats is called a tribe, trip, or herd of goats ☺] Thankfully we didn't see any dead goats on the side of the road but there were enough dead kangaroos to serve as a reminder not to be driving at sunrise and sunset. Will it be safe during the eclipse? ☺ We were all hoping that the flies will go away during the eclipse at Quobba.

We pulled over for a group photo just before entering Carnarvon. Everyone then had an hour to shop, look around and refuel before meeting at the Ampol on the way out of town for a 1pm departure.



CARNARVON



BLOW HOLES

We drove past the big "King waves kill" sign as we entered the Blowholes carpark. There was a coffee truck for those that needed refreshments and time to air down tyres. The track into Quobba Station was mildly corrugated in places.

Trying to select a site out of the wind was slightly challenging as was pitching tents in the windy conditions. The wind did drop and we had the opportunity to sit and watch a beautiful sunset adjacent to our campsite.

Dinner was good, showers were hot, a beautiful starry night and a few enjoyed a fun game of cards. Who knew Tony and Vanessa were so competitive ☺



QUOBBA ASTRONOMY ADVENTURE DAY 4 19-04-23

Trip Report for Day 4 – Wednesday 19 April 2023 Tony and Keith

Didn't sleep that well, as there was a stiff breeze blowing and my tent "flaps"! Still, I managed to get up around 6.00, as Keith and I were looking to spend the day birding in and around Carnarvon and we needed an early start.

Our first stop was at Bibbawarra Bore, although it did take a bit of finding. Before we got there however, we had stopped at another spot close by, thinking it was the artesian bore, but not so. How hard can it be to find a spot that is supposed to be a "sight to see" around Carnarvon? It would help enormously if the turn off was signposted! At the other spot, Keith had accidentally dropped a camera lens out of his pocket without knowing, but fortunately realised it before too long and we went back and he was lucky to find it "hiding" in a cow hoof hole (in wet soil).

At the actual bore site (somewhat later than expected), we had hoped to find a few birds (based on previous eBird reports), but again not so. While the bore was certainly flowing with hot water and there was a decent pool, there was a lot of bush and reeds surrounding it and it we couldn't access it. In any event, there were precious few birds to be seen; only finding Crested Pigeons and Torresian Crows.

While the birds were few and far between at the bore, we did come across a strange occurrence. Apart from my car and Keith and I, the only other evidence of humans was another car parked there (Hilux Ute or Twin Cab), with rooftop tent erected (no camping allowed), doors open and 2 large Rottweilers in the back tray, which we passed by on a track looking for birds. (Very) thankfully, the dogs were restrained in the tray. The thing was that there was no car/dog owner to be seen? I called, but no answer came. And we weren't game to look in the open doors, near the dogs. In the end, we left without further investigation, but had decided to report the matter to police, which we did later on. We gave our names, mobile phone numbers and details but have heard nothing further.



Bibbawarra Bore



Crested Pigeon

From the bore, we went to the Golf Course, as there had been a sighting of a Slender-billed Thornbill, which neither of us had seen before. When we got there, the wind was still blowing strongly and we didn't have any luck finding this bird. The thing about windy days is that birds do not like wind and will tend to stay tucked away in bushes and trees, making them very hard to see! From there we went to the Police Station to report what we had seen at Bibbawarra Bore and then on into town for a morning coffee and cake. In town, a large stage had been constructed for an event that night or possibly on Eclipse day. So, things certainly were happening for the Eclipse "event".

After finishing our coffees, we walked down to the beach to see what was there. Then back to the car and a quick drive across town, stopping at the wastewater treatment plant (sewage works). At last, our luck was in, the place (not unusually) was full of birds! In all, we found 18 different species, including a sighting of 3 Wandering Whistling-Ducks, which was rare for this location. Other sightings included some 100+ Little Black Cormorants, 4 Royal Spoonbill and a flyover of a number of small flocks of Budgerigars.

QUOBBA ASTRONOMY ADVENTURE DAY 4 cont....



Birds at Sewage Plant



Rufous Field Wren

From there, we had lunch at One Mile Jetty, then on to Pelican Point for our final birding in Carnarvon. After that (it was now about 1.20pm,) we thought we would head to Quobba Point for a swim and some snorkelling, to take in the fish in the “aquarium”. After arriving at the Point, and upon spotting a Rufous Fieldwren in the nearby bush, we had to grab our cameras a get a few photos, and good ones they were at that!

The swim and snorkelling were good – I have never seen so many fish of different sizes and colours so close to shore – truly amazing! The only downside was that I managed to lose my beloved Subi hat on the beach or in the carpark. Oh well, that’s life – can always get another one. Then to close what had been a very full day, we headed back to camp, showered and had some dinner. After dinner we ended up playing Uno with Gus and Barb – great, I love cards – it was great fun, with lots of laughter!

Our thanks to Joy for a well led trip and for supplying a great set up for us to watch the eclipse on the following day.

WHAT DID EVERYONE ELSE DO FOR DAY 4 – WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL, BY JOY



Went to Carnarvon for the day. Drove up to Pt Quobba Lighthouse or swam at the Aquarium. Took a track north of Quobba along the cliffs.

Had convivial drinks on Quobba Beach whilst viewing one of the most spectacular sunsets ever!



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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[®] or Android™ device required. 4. Nappa Leather seat trim only available on Subaru Outback AWD Touring XT only.



QUOBBA ASTRONOMY ADVENTURE

ECLIPSE DAAAAAY!

DAY 5 Thursday 20-04-23 by Joy Unno



Eclipse Day turned out to be fine with blue skies and, very windy. This did not discourage the flies, they must have evolved super strong wings to live near the coast. I drove up to the gazebo that the group had claimed and began the process of setting up my **SkyWatcher 6" Newtonian Reflector telescope** with an equatorial mount.

I was very grateful that the astronomy guru friend who had located this telescope for me to purchase had found one with a very sturdy tripod which defied the windy gusts. Gus was not so fortunate with his smaller telescope and had retired behind their camper van for shelter. Gus was photographing the eclipse with his filtered phone in front of the eyepiece.

As everyone **should** know, **you can't look at the Sun directly** even during an eclipse (except for the totality bit) without frying your retina, so I was using a frame attached to the eyepiece so that the Sun's image appears on a white piece of A4 paper. I soon had that set up and kept the Sun's image in the centre of the paper by mainly tweaking the Declination knob. I don't have a motorised telescope that does that automatically - yet. Everyone was sitting around the gazebo in their camp chairs with drinks (not alcoholic, that came later) and nibbles waiting for 10.30 am when the show would start. They had solar eclipse glasses at the ready, Jasmine had an astronomically themed music playlist going as well as being dressed for the occasion. Then the 2 hour eclipse began as the Moon's black shadow notched the Sun's bright image. People made weird alien shadows with their hands.



Eventually, the maximum 97% eclipse was reached with just a thin bright crescent left, the light grew dimmer, the temperature dropped, birds were agitated in the bushes, the planet Venus was visible in the sky, and the flies **DISAPPEARED!** Only for a minute though.

Guy had bought a bottle of champers and we all toasted the success of the Quobba Eclipse trip. It really was a great experience with a wonderful group of people.

Now people are making plans to go to the 2028 total solar eclipse which will pass over the Kimberleys, Central Australia and the Eastern States. They're aiming for the 100% totality experience where the Sun's disc is completely covered and everything goes black.

QUOBBA ECLIPSE DAY cont....



Although the Eclipse excitement was successfully concluded, the day held a further spectacle. After the incredible sunset seen the previous night, the suggestion was made to go to the HMAS Sydney II Memorial located on the cliffs just to the south of Quobba Station for sunset viewing over the ocean. So we assembled there at the appropriate time with our camp chair, nibbles and drinks. How lucky we were to be treated to another amazing, colour explosion of a sunset.



**This is the end of the Quobba Eclipse Story.
Everyone packed up and went their separate ways the next day,**

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



Royal blue and white ("Podium Bold") 100% polyester 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



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



Flat pack neoprene can coolers – \$5



COOKING AND CAMPING DEMO WEEKEND 15-16 MAY

Brian Overste:

The C & C Demo weekend was hosted by Barb and Gus at their bush block near Pingelly. The first to arrive at the meeting point for the trip could have had people thinking we were heading off for an outing of the white Subaru Outback club, with Brian, Leonie & Kyle in classic old H6s and Uta in her immaculate 2012 white Outback.

After a bit of a review by Adrian of our different vehicle set ups. Three Foresters and 2 XV's saw a total of 8 Subarus heading off for a very pleasant drive to Gus and Barb's lovely retreat.



Uta Baeur:

The overnight trip to Gus and Barb's property was great from a social and information perspective. Since the weekend was about learning, I'm going to tell you what I learnt.

Anything you need to know about camping and cars, Adrian and Kyle have you covered. No need to Google anything! Many of us were busy taking notes about gear to buy or mods to plan.

Thanks to Adrian for the jaffle - making demo. Campfire jaffles definitely taste better than the homemade ones. It also never ceases to amaze me that what you need for a weekend camping takes up almost as much space in the car as what you need for 2 weeks.

On the set-up show and tell, Rochelle showed us a nifty little gas stove on the market from Russian company Etamsag (you had to be there sorry). Also, I really liked her camping light. I need to find an amber one. It was good to see how others were set up to get an idea of what else is possible/useful. 3 of us were car campers, one roof top tent and then a combo of tents and a van.

The next morning, after another round of jaffles, this time, bacon and egg and cheese if you were lucky, Barb took us for a walk along the property boundary. Great view and an opportunity to get to know some of the other campers. As interesting as the landscape was, we all found more fascinating I think, the rubbish pile of vintage discarded bottles and metal objects.

Thanks to Adrian for leading and to Gus and Barb for opening up their property.



MARGS MEGA 4WD ADVENTURE 22-24 APRIL

Sunday 23-04-23 PM Adrian - We Had lunch in Dunsborough, I needed extra ropes preparing for the wet and windy night ahead. With ambitious plans of multiple 4wd tracks on the trip back to camp we got into Wilyabrup Rd 4wd Track. This led us to nice coastal views perched high up on hilly terrain. The track in was reasonable but not too much trouble. 1 down, 2 to go!

Back onto Caves road and we continued on and went down Cullen Rd, hoping it would link to Juniper Rd 4WD Track. Finding out there was private property blocking the 2 tracks we turned back to the highway and ended up skipping past Juniper Rd and towards the next on the list. I'd been there before so we skipped it. Kilcarnup Beach near Prevelly. This track was firm, and sandy and we managed it fine without dropping tyre pressures. There was some nice lookouts, sweeping long views of the coastline. It was a popular track with many other 4wds found on the tracks.

Trekking back through the forest we made it to the highway and continued on Caves rd back towards Conto's.

Getting closer to camp and recognise (or so I thought) a 4wd track name we turned off onto 'Bobs Hollow rd'. Immediately we could tell this track was serious and not like the rest. It was chunky rocks and narrow overgrown shrubs that even scratched the subi! We dropped tyre pressures quickly as the bumps were relentless. Only 2km long but a slow and troublesome crawl. Eventually finding our way to the end, we took some relieved snaps, and accepted fate that we had to turn around and do it all again. Light was fading as the day went on and we put faith in the GPS maps and took a track that cut us directly back to camp. We got lucky it was open all the way to camp. It was still as bumpy and maybe longer off road but worked out quicker in the end and we settled back into camp.



A camp fire was up and roaring in no time which meant the jaffle iron came out for dinner. A few rounds later and Mel's new dessert jaffle was released upon 3 willing mouths. Smores in a Jaffle - Biscuit, Marshmallow, Chocolate and coconut. A sweet end to a tough day out 4wding. We enjoyed a warm fire, yarn, friendly large spiders. Looking back on the map it turns out 'Bobs Track' was on the to do list, and not 'Bobs Hollow', so we accidentally found a much harder 4wd track than we were meant to. It was now time to get the shelters set up for the incoming rain. Gazebo, awning and side walls all went up to keep the swags dry. We were treated with bright stars until 10pm when cloud and rain quickly swept through and stayed pretty steady over the night.

Day 3 Monday AM Maria Deyoung

Luckily the rain had stopped in the morning so we were able to pack up with no dramas. Before heading home we wanted to explore more tracks to the south of Conto. With Adrian leading the way we headed toward Point Road campsite and then turned south down little tracks from there. We were looking for access to Boranup Beach. We took a couple turns to the coast but none of them opened down to the beach. At one point we came along two emus who decided to run in front of us on the road for a good few minutes before darting into the bush. Along the way we started to get hail and sporadic bouts of rain. We had one more track to try but given the impending rain storm we decided to head home. On the way back we went along Boranup drive. No matter how many times I do it I continue to be in awe. We made a few obligatory stops along Cave Road; the venison shop and Gabriels chocolate. After a coffee and my favorite warm, melty chocolate chip cookie we headed to Busselton foreshore for lunch. After a quick walk around and lunch we were back on the road and homeward bound.

AMBLING THROUGH THE AVON

27TH - 28TH MAY 2023 BY ALLISON AND TYLAR GILL

Gathering on a brisk but sunny Saturday morning at Gingers Road House on Great Northern Highway at 0900 we were a group of 7. Ross Mead, Stephan and Hannah, Allison & Tylar and David and Rhys. All were on time but unfortunately sickness had taken out 3 of our members. After the usual signing of attendance forms and last minute ablution stops we set off down the highway as advertised at 0930 am.

At Bullsbrook, we turned right off the highway down Chittering and Wilson Roads before taking a picturesque road winding up the hill heading in the direction of the Moondyne Country Convention Centre. On our way we happened upon some lovely old cars done up like the character "Matar" out of the "Cars" movie. This happens to be a childhood favourite of Tylar's and Allison's (Tylar's childhood, not mine) Seeing these sparked a lively chat on the CBs to see who could name the most characters out of the movie. Rhys was also a "Cars" buff!

After hitting the forest, we discussed an unusual species of Jarrah (Blue-Leafed Jarrah) and admired the beautiful Wandoo trees and plentiful Parrot Bush. Around 10.45 Hrs, after heading down a "no - named road to nowhere", (Ross's description when asked what the roads name was) we stopped for some morning tea and to admire the magnificent view of the Avon Valley. This is where Ross gave us a wonderful talk on the life and times of Joseph Bolitho Johns, AKA Moondyne Joe. Joe was a bushranger who frequented the Avon Valley stealing from the local people and travellers on the York road and then hiding in the bush in what is now the Avon Valley National Park. He took on the name "Moondyne" as it is the aboriginal name for the area Whilst Ross talked, David set to boiling water for a mug of tea on his "Ghillie Kettle". A very interesting contraption.



After morning tea, we set off again on our way about 11.30 hrs for the Julimar Conservation Area via Beach and Keating Roads and out onto Julimar Road. After a relatively short drive north along the Western Boundary Rd, a nice little spot was found for lunch at about 12.30 hrs. Ross again entertained the troops giving us a very interesting insight on how to light a fire when the bush might be a little damp or wet. Knowledge in hand, we made a cracking fire on which most of us toasted Jaffles. We had all sorts of combinations including Steak & Onion, Ham & Cheese, Sopressa & Cheese and even a Curry one. Some wraps and pizza were also reheated on the fire. After our relaxing lunch and more sharing of stories, it was off for another drive, all the time heading closer to the point of our eventual camp spot amongst the Wandoo trees in the Julimar Conservation Area.



Cooking Jaffles



Cousin It Tylar style



Lunch Group

AMBLING THROUGH THE AVON

Along the way, we came to a very steep descent. Allison tried out her X-Mode (successfully). The decline culminated in having to navigate our way around a very tricky spot where there was a large pool of water across the road and a mud hole in the bypass track. This was just one of quite a few driving challenges for the day. Just as we were coming to the end, Ross asked us if we would like to take a "Short Cut" which had some "tight spots, steep spots and sweet spots". Under the guidance of his expertise we all agreed to the challenge! It was a short and challenging track which had us passing some obstacles such as Balgas (Grass Trees), Zamia Palms and small trees and rocks with only centimetres to spare on either side of us. It was fun and a great exercise in spatial awareness of your vehicle.



A Gentle Slope



Farewell to non-campers



Between Water & Mud

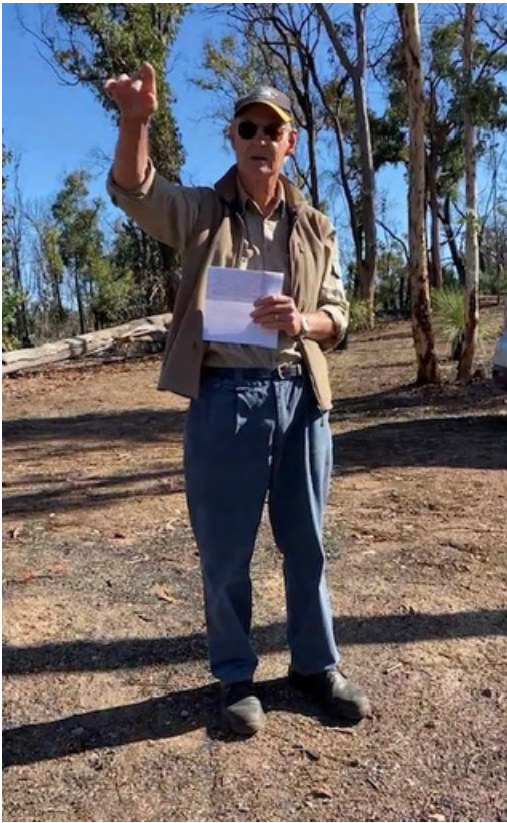


Morning Camp

At the end of the day, we farewelled Stephan and Hannah and David and Rhys at the bullet riddled sign to the entrance to the Julimar Conservation Area. Ross, Allison and Tylar then set off back down the track a short way before setting up our camp in a lovely bit of Wandoo forest. Allison tested out her new fast erection tent which turned out to live up to expectations. Yay! As the temperature was expected to be quite chilly overnight (approx. 1-2 degrees) another cracking fire was lit which Tylar and I dined at. After dinner, all enjoyed the fires warmth whilst some proceeded to sing and dance!!! and tell lots of past travel stories. It was a magnificent still night to be camped out in the forest under a clear, star filled sky.

Next morning we decided to take it easy and have a bit of a sleep in for the sake of the teenager in our company. It was difficult to get motivated to leave as the morning was beautiful and sunny but after a quick and easy pack up, the three of us set off to the Bindoon Bakery where delicious baked goods and coffee were partaken for brunch. We all parted ways by 11ish after another fun Subaru adventure enjoying Mother Nature and the peace and serenity of the beautiful Avon Valley. Special thanks to Ross for his thoughtful leadership and generosity of spirit. All in all it was a lovely trip.

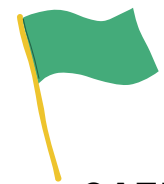
AMBLING THROUGH THE AVON



Ross reads from an old newspaper cutting about one of his ancestors who fell victim to cattle rustlers in the Walyunga area.



Ross teaches us bush camp fire building



A FEW MORE PROMOS

GATHERING OF THE CLANS 2023 23-25 SEPT LWE 2023

A long weekend in the Western Australian Wheatbelt near the town of Kulin at Camp Hart. Hosted by the 4WD Club of WA.

Gathering the Clans for a weekend of activities, talks and touring around Kulin, come for the company and enjoy the camping at Camp Hart. The weekend is just a big get together with different clubs and we will be having different activities over the weekend.



Ross telling the legend of Moondyne Joe

JAURDI AND HELENA AURORA RANGES 23-28 SEPT



Vist the Great Western Woodlands, the largest remaining area of temperate woodlands left on Earth.

he Helena and Aurora Range (Kalamaia name 'Bungalbin') is a magnificent banded ironstone formation (BIF) range in that is a significant biodiversity asset in WA.

Have a look at Jaurdi Station, a former pastoral lease now a DBCA camp site.

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Choosing The Correct Strap

- THERE ARE 2 TYPES OF STRAPS:
 - FLAT SINGLE LAYER (20% MAX STRETCH)
 - DUAL LAYER ROUND BRAIDED NYLON (30% MAX STRETCH)
- STRAPS SHOULD BE 2-3X THE 'GVM' OF LIGHTER VEHICLE IN THE RECOVERY
- YOU SHOULD ALWAYS CARRY A STRAP SUITED TO YOUR VEHICLE
- DUAL LAYER ROUND ROPE STRAPS HAVE A VERY LONG SERVICE LIFE AND HIGHER ELASTICITY THAT REDUCES SHOCK LOADS

Choosing The Right Bridle / Equaliser

- BRIDLES DISTRIBUTE THE LOAD ACROSS 2 POINTS
- RECOVERY POINTS LESS THAN 750mm APART CAN USE 2.5/3M LONG BRIDLES
- RECOVERY POINTS MORE THAN 750mm APART SHOULD USE 5m OR LONGER BRIDLES
- BRIDLES DONT NEED TO STRETCH AND JUST NEED ANY RATING OVER OVER 6000KG MBS
- BRIDLES AND TREE TRUNK PROTECTORS ARE SIMILAR
- TREE TRUNK PROTECTORS (WIDE STRAP) ARE BETTER AS A TREE TRUNK PROECTOR IF YOU'RE DOING A LOT OF WINCHING. YOU MAY NEED A BRIDLE AND A TREE TRUNK PROTECTOR



Choosing The Right Shackle

- METAL SHACKLES ARE RATED IN WLL WITH A MBS OF X6
- SOFT SHACKLES ARE RATED IN MBS
- NEVER USE 'D' SHACKLES IN 4WD RECOVERY SITUATIONS
- SOFT SHACKLES ARE SAFER, LESS DAMAGING TO PEOPLE AND VEHICLES. THEY FLOAT IN WATER AND THERE'S NO PIN TO LOSE
- SOFT SHACKLES ARE NOT SUITED FOR SHARP EDGES OR THIN FLAT STEEL CONNECTION POINTS. THEY NEED LARGE CURVED RADIUS EDGES TO BE SAFELY USED.
- YOU MAY NEED A COMBINATION OF METAL AND SOFT SHACKLES TO SUIT YOUR VEHICLE AND POSSIBLE RECOVERY SCENARIOS
- TAKING SPARE SHACKLES IN YOUR KIT IS HELPFUL IN CASE ANY ARE LOST OR DAMAGED

Day 4 Tuesday 02 May

After a sometimes disrupted night with the local cows using our campsite as a path to get to their waterhole and sending Chip into a frenzy, we woke to another cloudless and slightly chilly morning. After a leisurely breakfast we set off to explore Cheela Plains Station and the Beasley River Gorge Time trail. First stop was Mussel Pool and a short walk for some of us to Perentie Fall. Mussel Pool is a permanent waterhole in a creekbed bordered by high cliffs on one side and reasonably large trees on the other. It looked like a good place to cool off later in the day. About 600m upstream is Perentie Fall where the creek drops about 20m over the edge of the cliff. No water was flowing on our visit but it would be spectacular after heavy rain.

Back to the cars for another short drive to Peaimatha Soak which is another waterhole although dry when we were there. We then drove back past our campsite to The Wall which is another wet season waterfall with a couple of rock pools at the base. Some of us made the short climb up the lower cascade to check out the upper pool.

After The Wall, we'd pretty much covered all the attractions of Cheela Station so it was back to camp for lunch.

After lunch we headed back to Mussel Pool for a refreshing dip and a couple of swings into the pool from a rope swing. Once we'd had a couple of swims and a beer or two it was back to camp to light a campfire and solve all the world's problems.



Perentie Fall



The Wall Pool



. The Wall



Black Dingo



Mussel Pool Swim

Day 5 Wednesday 03 May

Wednesday once again dawned cloudless and cool until the sun rose above the nearby hill. After breakfast, Greg and Vanessa headed off to continue their extended Pilbara trip while the remaining 4 of us tried to sort out Steve's battery pack charging so his fridge could stay cold. With no activities planned for the day, we gathered in the shade of a large tree to read, chat and snooze. Whilst we were there a black dingo came down to the waterhole for a drink. He wasn't in a hurry, having a good long drink while wading through the shallows. He then trotted away towards Mussel pool and we lost sight of him.

Wednesday was also "Burger Night" at the homestead so we were looking forward to a hot shower and a meal we didn't have to cook. Mid afternoon we set off for the homestead. The showers were great as were the burgers and after chatting with some of the locals and fellow travelers we headed back to camp and a bit more problem solving before bed.

We had originally booked for 4 nights at Cheela Plains the group decided to leave a day early to allow a more leisurely drive home. This turned out to be a good move as Jo's fridge had stopped cooling overnight causing all her pre-made meals to thaw so she had to restock her supplies.

CHEEKY CHEELA ESCAPE DAYS 4 TO 6 by Neil Hird

Day 6 Thursday 04 May

Thursday morning we headed back to Cheela Plains Homestead for a coffee and to return the gate key then on the road towards Paraburdoo for a fuel stop. This time we stayed on the bitumen which is slightly longer but much easier to traverse. From Paraburdoo we headed to Tom Price to restock the fridges and have lunch.

Leaving Tom Price we made our way back to the Great Northern Highway and into the hills to Tognolini Rest Area for a great view of the surrounding countryside. As the time was getting on we decided to set up camp for the night in the camping area adjacent to the rest area. The ground resisted all attempts to drive tent pegs into it and the ants were quite abundant but the highway noise wasn't too obtrusive so we settled in for dinner and another night on the road.

Now it's over to Jo to continue the report for the last 3 days of the trip.



Great Northern Hwy Views



Camp at Tognolini rest Area

DID YOU KNOW? DINGOES COME IN DIFFERENT COLOURS!

According to a 2021 UNSW study published in the Journal of Zoology (Pelage variation in dingoes across southeastern Australia: implications for conservation and management. Cairns, et al), purebred dingoes have coats of many colours. They are not hybrids interbred with domestic dogs.

I confess that I did not know this until I read about the black dingo in Neil's Cheela trip report and then Googled it. Like many, I thought that genetically dingoes had to have yellowish fur, but no, they can have brindle, black and tan, patchy or sable (sand coloured), coat colour.

IMAGE: [HTTPS://NEWSROOM.UNSW.EDU.AU/](https://newsroom.unsw.edu.au/)

The study found that across south-eastern NSW where the study was carried out, with a sample of ~331 genetically pure animals, 53% of dingoes have a ginger coat colour, 9% were sable, 11% black and tan, 14% brindle, 5% black, 1% white and 6% were patchy (white with spots of ginger or black).

Authors of the study say that using just coat colour to cull wild dogs is not a good idea as many might actually be pure dingoes. Joy Unno



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LET'S KARRI ON IN WINTER AGAIN

Trip Report Day 1 3/6/2023 – Robert Marson

At 0800 hrs on a sunny Saturday morning, 6 club cars and crews gathered at the BP Southbound on Kwinana Freeway ready for our trip to Northcliffe. Barb and Gus King and Brian Overste had already headed down early so we would meet them there. Unfortunately, several trip participants were unable to come for various reasons so there would only be 8 cars on the trip.

Following our trip briefing from Ross, we joined the throng of other holiday makers heading south down the Freeway. The plan was to make our first stop at Donnybrook for morning tea. Along the way, Ross continued with his trips theme of taking the road less travelled. Some of these diversions he had planned but some not.

The first scenic detour occurred when we were unable to take the short cut from the Forrest Hwy to the South West Hwy via Dardanup and Boyanup. Unfortunately, one of the roads we had planned to travel on was closed because of roadworks associated with construction of the new Bunbury Bypass. This necessitated a scenic tour of backroads through farmland to eventually come out back on track at Dardanup. The next detour was to turn off onto Hurst Rd in Boyanup before reaching the South West Hwy and travelling to Donnybrook via a scenic route that follows along the east side of the Preston River. This road brought us out onto the Highway a few kilometres west of Donnybrook.



Camp set-up



Manjiup Lunch



Checking Allison's Camp

Donnybrook was very busy with lots of other travellers having the same plan as us so the Cafes were very busy. Heading south out of Donnybrook, we headed off on another scenic alternative route. This time we turn off onto the Boyup Brook Road and then took Sandhills road and Brookhampton road. This is a very pretty drive which follows the Thompson Brook and brought us back onto the highway at Kirup.

From here, Ross managed to stay on the main route till we reached our lunch and refuel stop at Manjimup. After lunch, we continued on down the Highway to the Wheatley Coast Rd where we turned off and headed to Northcliffe. This is another very pretty drive through Karri forest and farmland. Our convoy finally reached the Northcliffe Bush Camp about 1530 hrs.

Lisa, the camp ground host met us and directed us to our camp areas. Next we were into camp set-up mode. Gus and Barb had arrived earlier and were already set up in their salubrious camper trailer accommodation whilst Brian, who had also arrived earlier, was also already set up in his trusty A-Van.

After checking out everyone's camp set ups, we had dinner before cranking up the obligatory campfire. The night was clear and cold so warm clothes were needed as was plenty of wood on the fire. In keeping with campfire tradition, the group then worked on setting the world's problems to rights before heading off to our sleeping bags.

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LET'S KARRI ON IN WINTER AGAIN

Trip Report - Day 2 Sunday 4th June 2023 – Barb and Gus King

We woke up to a fine sunny morning, despite the forecast of up to 15mm rain supposedly starting at 8am. After leaving camp at about 9am – Ross in the lead and Brian tail-end-Charlie - our convoy of eight cars headed east through Boorara-Gardner National Park, then north to Jane National Park and northwest through farmland, some beside national park land, and then to the Greater Hawke and Brockman National Parks and onto the Vasse Highway into Pemberton.

The above trip involved travelling along some muddy tracks, overgrown tracks (fortunately only a couple of small branches needed clearing off the road), minor back roads and main bitumen roads through the farms and forests. One of these minor back roads took us past the Bannister Downs Dairy with its large herd of Friesian cows grazing on lush green paddocks. Coffee aficionados among you will be familiar with Bannister Downs milk as it is preferred by Baristas to produce top quality Cappuccinos, Flat Whites, Lattes etc. Along the highway we passed a paddock with a large number of emus grazing, making the most of the lush green paddocks.

Morning tea was at the Crossings Bakery in Pemberton, with the eight Subaru's reverse parked in a line looked pretty impressive. After morning tea it was back on the roads and tracks as we first headed northwest through the Pemberton Forest Park, and on into Treen Brook State Forest, then southeast along the Old Vasse Road into the Warren National Park. Here we took the narrow, winding and picturesque Heartbreak Trail (etymology unknown) along the Warren River to Drafty's Campsite.



This was our lunch stop. As the weather was still dry, some walked the trail along the Warren River to the river crossing about 1.2km to the west. Not all who started the trip made it to the crossing but those that did (us) found a man and a boy fishing there. We then headed back before lunch. It was wonderful walking through the Karri forest next to the Warren River. The forest was damp, and fungi and maiden hair fern lined the trail. After dining on our picnic lunch, the group continued along Heartbreak Trail back to the Old Vasse Road and off to the Bicentennial Tree. This tree had rungs stuck into it to form a "ladder" so people could climb up to the viewing platform some 60+ metres above the ground. We stood in awe watching the kids blithely climbing to the top and down again – no fear! The adults were a bit more cautious. No-one in our group went higher than the first few rungs.

LET'S KARRI ON IN WINTER AGAIN

Trip Report - Day 2 Sunday 4th June 2023 – Barb and Gus King



A quick luo/ice-cream break, and then a vote to decide whether to go back to camp or continue on to Windy Harbour. A unanimous decision to continue as it was still reasonable fine at that stage. However the heavens opened on the way out, and it pelted down! At some points it was difficult to see the tail lights of the car ahead. Fortunately we were now on sealed roads. Too wet to get out of our cars, we did a 'drive-through' Windy Harbour and Cathedral Rock beach, then out along D'Entrecasteaux Drive to the lighthouse and back, via Sunset Viewpoint and Gardner Lookout – all from the comfort and warmth of our cars. As we couldn't see the sun, we saved the sunset for another trip. The coastal shrub vegetation was a contrast to the majestic trees we had been going through. Back to camp in the rain.



On the way back to camp, there was discussion as to stopping and climbing Mt Chudalup. Given that it was raining heavily, wind blowing strongly and the top of the rock was covered in cloud, there were no takers.



Back at camp, as the fire in the enclosed gazebo was already roaring, we moved in – except for Allison and Jane, who went to the Northcliffe pub for dinner. It was so cosy that we cooked, ate and drank in there, and then worked on sorting out life, the world and the universe's problems until bedtime. We were all grateful that the rain had come later in the day – after 3pm – so that we could enjoy the drive on the various surfaces (sand, gravel, mud, a combination of these, and bitumen) – and enjoy the forests of stately trees, mainly Karri, Marri and Jarrah, and plantations of Bluegum. Communication by CB radio allowed us to benefit from Ross' knowledge and experience of the forest – and we asked lots of questions.

Trip Report Day 3 Monday 5/6/2023 – Ross Mead

Well, it was good to wake to a world where all the problems had been solved (according to 2 nights of camp fire discussions). In reality, it was good that the overnight rain had eased off so we could have breakfast and pack up without getting wet. Fortunately, the rain hadn't been too serious and everyone had remained warm and dry.

Speaking of warm and dry. It was difficult to work up some enthusiasm to leave my warm, dry and comfortable sleeping bag for the cold, damp, overcast, dull morning outside my tent. However, the trip leader needs to set a good example so out into the dawn I went. After morning ablutions and a breakfast of toast, poached eggs and a mug of tea, I was able to face the task of packing up ready to head home. By this time, everyone else was also well into their morning routine and pack up.

By 0930 hrs, everyone was ready to get on with the day's activities. Tom, Rochelle and Neil were planning to head straight home. Gus and Barb were heading off to visit people in Donnybrook whilst Brian intended to stay another night at the Bush Camp before taking a leisurely drive home over the following couple of days. Myself, Allison and Robert were planning to visit the Big Brook Dam west of Pemberton before heading into Manjimup to refuel and then home.



LET'S KARRI ON IN WINTER AGAIN

Trip Report Day 3 Monday 5/6/2023 – Ross Mead CONT.....

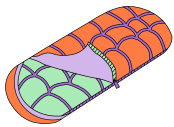
The rain set in as we were heading up the Wheatley Coast Rd out of Northcliffe. It continued virtually non-stop until I got home at about 1600 hrs. Pemberton was reached via Bannister and Burma Roads which brought us out at the Gloucester Tree. From here, we followed the bitumen to Big Brook Dam. As it was still raining, umbrellas and raincoats were required to walk down to the beach and picnic area. Even though it was raining, to breathe deeply of the wonderful crisp, cool air which had that that very particular Karri Forest smell was exhilarating and a wonderful way to rejuvenate the soul.



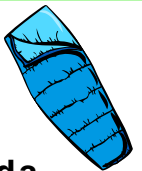
From Big Brook, we headed back to Manjimup to refuel before making our individual way home. Manjimup was pretty busy with travellers like us refuelling and having lunch before heading home. After a large bowl of hot Carrot and Fennel soup with toasted crusty Ciabatta from the Park Café at the Timber Park, it was back on the road home.

The trip home traffic wise was not too bad. Everyone was travelling along at a reasonable pace and not doing stupid things. This was just as well as the rain was pretty serious at times. After a stop for coffee at Pinjarra, I finally got home about 1600 hrs. It was going to take me a couple of days to dry out my gear, but worth it for a very enjoyable trip. It was great to get back into the Karri forest again.

It was just as well that we headed home on Monday morning. Brian stayed in camp Monday night. He told me later that a thunderstorm had passed over the camp that night with thunder and lightning and about 50mm of rain. Not the best situation to be in a tent. Fortunately, Brian was staying in his trusty A-Van.



SLEEPING BAG STORIES



Thanks, Jo Norton for this item.

From somebody who spend a lot of time camping in winter - in Canada. here's is a sleeping tip I found very transferable to WA.

Layered sleeping bags. If you can, put one inside the other. Is better than a heavy duty one. Thin summer bags make great outer layers. Or use a sleeping bag liner (can be a fleese blanket, safety pinned like an envelope.

The multiple layers help the same way multiple clothing layers do, the outer layer can become damp from the evaporation of moisture off your body - but the layer closest to your body remains dry and warm.

And best tip - never go to bed cold. If you do get in cold, here is a never fail trick from winter camping in Canada - get in your sleeping bag. Pull the draw string tight. Then - take off your PJs and put them back on again. You will be warm 😊

Seriously, it works really well. And it's hilarious.

Haha, I could go on and on and on about how to sleep in the cold - a bit too much first hand experience 😊

The other huge one is to make sure socks and PJs are fresh, nothing that was worn during the day. Especially against the skin. It's damp even if we can't feel it, from wearing all day. The stuff in your bags feels cold and there can be resistance to put it on. You can warm it (base layer) by putting it inside your jacket for a bit before bed.



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