



NOVEMBER 2023

This issue:

ANNUAL DINNER & AWARDS

GRANITE SYMPOSIUM

FLOWER FROLIC

UPCOMING TRIPS & MORE!

Club Member Awards 2023

DAVID PECK

Congratulations to **Joy Unno** who has been awarded **Club Member of the Year for 2023**. Joy is an all-rounder. She is always positive and enthusiastic and willing to help with everything from trip planning and presentations, to stepping into other Committee roles when necessary. This year she has been very dedicated to the Club, leading assorted short and long trips, and socials, as well as moving the General Meeting Agenda into a more entertaining social format.



See inside for more details





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CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR 2023 - 2024
JOY UNNO

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NINA JOHNSON
PETER ANDRUSZKIW
JIM WILCOX
TONY RICHARDS
KEITH WILCOX
DAVID PECK
ROB GRIFFITHS

President's Report

David Peck



The **Annual General Meeting** is coming up and I would like to encourage everyone to attend. Thanks to the present committee for the great job they have done over the last year. I will be standing down and all of the positions will become vacant. If you would like help in setting the clubs direction, please consider nominating for a position.

We changed the location of the **Annual Dinner** to the city this year to try and get more members to attend. The numbers were up a bit on last year, but it would have been nice to see more people. Thanks to Jo for organising it, who unfortunately couldn't make it for the dinner.

It was good to see **Joy Unno** take out the **Club Member of the Year** and well deserved because of her ongoing contributions to the club and assistance with various committee roles. Joy also took out **Trip of the Year** for the Quobba Astronomy Adventures trip.

Other award winners were:

Trip Leader of the Year - Ross Mead

Social Trip Leader of the Year - Joanne Norton

Social Trip of the Year - There be Giants There - Graeme & Naomi Sexton

There were 13 **Silly Awards** and a new category we recently started was **Honourable Mention Awards**, which had 21 awards!

See you out there!

David

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Oktoberfest 2023

Vanessa Carn

A Member of the Rhein-Donau Club Reveals the Secret to an Unforgettable Oktoberfest

Uta, a loyal member of the Rhein-Donau Club, shared with us an insider's guide to the perfect Oktoberfest celebration. Picture a sea of people dressed in traditional German clothing, steins brimming with chilled Hofbräu beer, and scrumptious German cuisine. We even joined in the shooting games and battled it out for the coveted Mr. and Miss Oktoberfest titles. Cheers to a truly unforgettable evening!



Cheers to you
Greg,
Mr. Oktoberfest!

Hold onto your hats, folks! Uta's got a thrilling scheme brewing! Our beloved Subaru 4WD club members are in for a wild ride with a group booking planned for the 2024 festivities. Stay tuned and keep those eyes glued to our website for all the insider deets!



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Annual Award Winners 2023

SUBARU 4WD CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



The annual dinner was held at the Belmont Tavern, marking the first occasion the event has been hosted at a city venue since the clubs 40th anniversary celebrations in 2019. The venue staff extended a warm welcome and did an excellent job catering to all dietary needs.

A Total (nearly) Solar Eclipse! No other trip can beat that, it doesn't happen every day. Eclipse Day was memorable with an exciting atmosphere and the telescope working perfectly giving everyone a great view of the event. Besides the eclipse, there was a convivial social meal in Geraldton, a very interesting overnigher at the Hamelin Outback Station Stay, a visit to Carnarvon, as well as the Quobba Station and surrounds experience. It was a great trip, organised and lead by **Joy Unno**, recognised at the annual awards for **Trip of the Year**.

Trip Leader of the Year Ross Mead has a huge knowledge of the outback and is passionate about the environment and his dedication is outstanding. His vast experience of the forests and the landscape always make his well-planned trips interesting and enjoyable. He generously shares his bushman skills, wisdom, and interesting stories around the campfire, enriching many trips.

Social Trip of the Year winners **Graeme and Naomi Sexton** have out done themselves in planning and carrying out a wonderful day trip to the Giants of Mandurah. Everyone who was on the trip said it was a unique and fascinating experience. A Great Day Out and an excellent achievement for the first trip they lead!

Jo Norton received **Social Trip Leader of the Year** award, in recognition of coordinating some great venues for socials this year, as she has done every year in her role as Social Organiser. It's lovely to catch up with fellow Club members in places with a nice view, friendly atmosphere, and good food. Many thanks to Jo for coordinating this year's night at Belmont Tavern.



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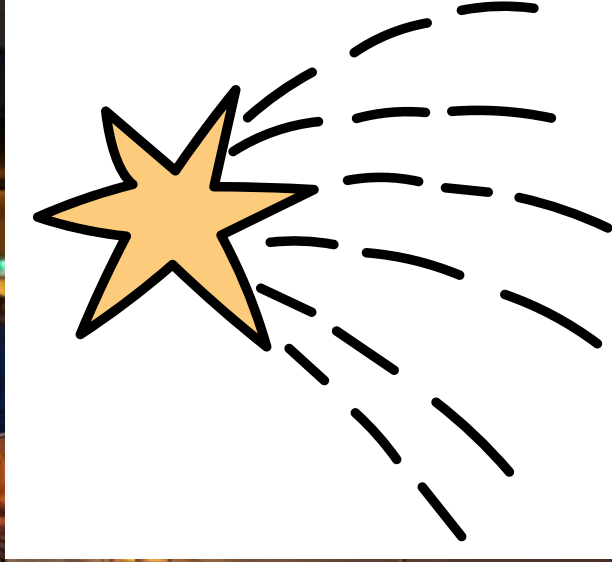


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On the Rocks Granite Symposium Field Trip

20 September 2023

Joy Unno - Environmental Officer



This article should be of interest to Club Members as many of our Club trips involve visiting granite rocks, or monadnocks as they are also called. We all need to be aware of the fragility of the rocks themselves and the value of the unique ecosystems living on the rocks which can be severely impacted by vehicle use and rough foot traffic.

The **On the Rocks Granite Symposium** was held in York to celebrate the unique heritage of Western Australia's granite outcrops. It combined cultural and natural heritage, with environmental practitioners, Indigenous knowledge holders, and land managers, coming together to share and learn about the flora, fauna, and geology of granite outcrops, as well as ancient and recent human histories.

The Symposium aims are:

- To recognise and promote the cultural and natural heritage of granite outcrops.
- To manage granite outcrops in the face of changing legislation and multiple stakeholder expectations.
- To create a network of stakeholders to progress the holistic management of granite outcrops.

Sponsors of the event were Perth Natural Resources Management (Perth NRM), the University of WA (UWA) and the Shire of York. David and I were invited to attend the Symposium Field Trip to Wandoo National Park (NP) by John Collins, former President of Track Care WA, and a long-time proponent of educating off-roaders about the damage that indiscriminate vehicle use can cause to granite outcrops and the ecosystems that they support (see his article in Western 4WDriver magazine #125).



On Field Trip Day, a very diverse group of people met around the campfire at the **Mt Observation** picnic area, including members from the Ballardong Noongar Community, DBCA Park Rangers, Track Care, Friends of Wandoo NP, Perth NRM, UWA anthropology staff and PhD students, and others including the Eucalyptus people.

A special attendee was renown botanist Professor Stephen Hopper who has written books on the unique ecosystems of granite outcrops. DBCA Area Manager Doug Giles, spoke about the key features of the Mt Observation undamaged granite outcrop, noting the excellent design to minimise illegal damage to surrounding vegetation and granites (e.g. use of bollards, stone work).

After the Welcome to Country smoking ceremony conducted by Ballardong Elder Kevin Fitzgerald, we got into our cars and followed Doug to our first stop in Wandoo National Park – Pony Rock.

[\(Story continues over page\)](#)

The key feature here was the badly damaged granite outcrop. Persistent vehicle use (4wd and motorcycles) had formed a wide visible track scored into the granite surface up and across the rock. The granite on the illegal track had been crushed into dust, grit, and pebbles. Other evidences of human inflicted damage were the eroded soil on the rock, damaged vegetation, broken stone slabs, fire pits, and rubbish such as broken glass. Doug told a story of how illegal campers had dragged an old caravan to the top of the rock and left it there. Efforts to remove it without damaging the rock further initially involved a helicopter but the old van collapsed and had to be removed piecemeal.



Doug told us that rare orchids previously grew on Pony Rock but haven't been seen since the increased degradation. He has used hidden cameras to capture images of illegal vehicles but again it is a battle with miscreants destroying the cameras if they find them. In an effort to block access to the rock, the original track was blocked off and filled in. Vandals promptly formed other tracks, so the policy adopted was to leave one track open and fill all the others as otherwise too much damage to the surrounding vegetation would occur.



The Field Trip group then moved on to the next stop which was Deefor Wetland.

The key feature of Deefor Wetland was as an example of a 4x4 community-led conservation initiative to protect ecologically sensitive claypan wetlands in Wandoo NP. DBCA Ranger Bob Huston explained that a collaboration between DBCA (who supplied the materials for signs and bollards) and the community (4WD organisations such as Track Care, 4WD Clubs e.g., the Subaru 4WD Club WA & other 4WD Clubs, and local community volunteers), who supplied the labour, resulted in a decrease in the destruction of wetlands in Wandoo NP.



He said that most 4WD drivers are responsible people so when they see signs and bollards, they know that this area is special and cared for, so they go somewhere else. Bob said that it is a compromise as DBCA don't police some boggy areas outside the wetlands that cars can have muddy fun with, so long as vehicles don't drive through and damage the claypan. We had lunch here with a nice view of the wetland.



We had lunch here with a nice view of the wetland.

Our third and last stop for the day was a granite outcrop at **Mt Talbot**. The key feature was the example of dirt bike impacts to a granite outcrop. The trails damaging the granite surface were smaller than at Pony Rock but were multiple, forming deep ruts and crushing granite on the edge of the outcrop. Botanist and granite outcrop ecology expert, Professor Stephan Hopper, said that it could take 100 years before the vehicle scars on the granite surface would be worn away.

An interesting diversion was provided by a UWA PhD student who pointed out a lizard trap on the top of the outcrop. This comprised a flat, thin slab of granite held up by small prop rocks forming a shaded area underneath. It was explained that Aboriginal people made these structures to attract lizards that used the flat top for sunning and hid underneath if predators came near. The lizards could then be caught and eaten, similar to the Aboriginal fish traps.



This was our last site so the party broke up after that. Before we left, Doug showed us a DBCA publication “How to Manage Your Granite Outcrops” by BMJ Hussey, that has some good management advice for landowners and park managers on how prevent or minimise impacts on granite outcrops and the unique ecology they support.

The main message of the day, however, is encapsulated by John Collin’s catch phrase:

***DRIVE TO THE ROCK
WALK (CAREFULLY) TO THE TOP***

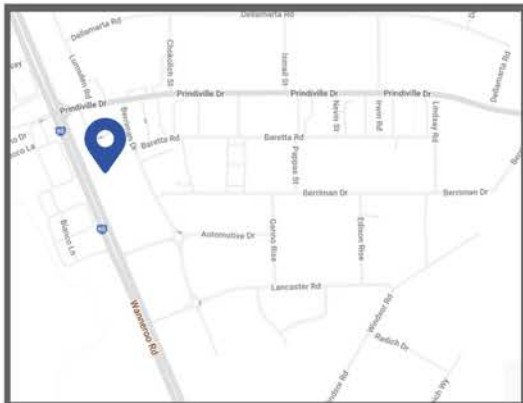


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Flower Frolic

Day One - Friday 25 August 2023

Sue Byrne



We all met at 8:30am at BP Muchea, a great place for fuelling up as well as good coffee and food. Once Mary had given out the radios and instructions for the day, we headed off on our adventure to find the wildflowers.

Mary had planned the drive perfectly, travelling through avenues of wattle all varying shades of yellow and carpets of green and gold in the fields. We continued north to our first destination - **Coorow** and a Community Farm where we saw fields of white and yellow everlastings.



(Story continues over page)

We then continued on through to Three Springs where we had lunch at the Information Bay. After lunch, we headed off to Morawa to refuel. Back on the road we left the Wheatbelt behind and entered the Outback on our way to **Mellenbye Station** our camping spot for the next three days.

Mellenbye is an active station with 500 head of cattle. The Station offers a range of accommodation from camping and caravan sites to the Shearers Quarters, Dongas, cabins and cottages. Most of us camped with a couple in the Shearers Quarters and the two ladies chose the Donga.

Once we had all set up, we gathered at Mary's camp for Sundowners and then went our separate ways to have dinner and enjoy the silence of the Outback which was only broken by the occasional lowing of a cow around the Shearing Shed. Unfortunately, we found out that the Station is closing soon as the owner has sold the property, so we were very lucky to have enjoyed this beautiful place.



The station is a great base for exploring the districts of Morawa and Yalgoo as well as experiencing the ambience of the station. The many accommodation options and the historic shearing shed make Mellenbye a great venue to host a special occasion.

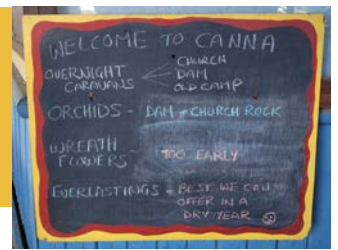
Flower Frolic

Day Two - Saturday 26 August 2023

Cath Millar

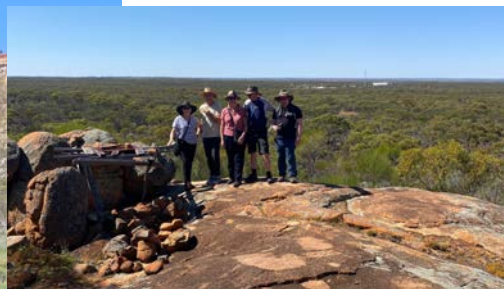
We left in convoy from Melllenbye around 9.15am heading towards Morowa. Three kilometres out we found the pink flags marking a few good wreath flowers and an unusual infinity-shaped specimen.

Heading on to **Canna** in the hope of coffee we sighted a Mallee Fowl sign. I was lucky enough to glimpse a mound as we passed. Alas, no coffee at Canna but we stopped at the small town's good facilities for a break and left our Subaru mark on the visitor's board.



A local told us where some good flowers were and with a map in hand, we went to explore. Some of us made the walk to the Rock Lookout with amazing views and a very strange rock hut at the top, while the rest of us relaxed by the Dam where we saw some lovely yellow pom-pom everlastings.

Travelling on to **Coalseam Conservation Park** for lunch there was great excitement for some with a Kite on the side of the road lifting off with a snake in its claws. Almost hitting our roof rack, you could hear the screams without the benefit of the radios!!



(Story continues over page)

After lunch by the Irwin River in Coalseam, we visited the Lookout for magnificent views of the river bed. There was a slight holdup with the case of the missing reading glasses. After back-tracking by Steve and Allison to the lunch spot the glasses were found safe and sound and they met up with the gang at Miners Camp with big smiles. Allison was verry happy.

Mary, Steve and Lachlin hit the trail loop on the plateau where they did indeed frolic in the wildflowers. Meanwhile, the rest of us explored the creek bed and coal seams or broke out the afternoon tea. Although the flower showings were not great this year due to the dry weather, the conservation area is a stunning place to visit. Heading home we got back about 5.30 to showers/dinner and a good fire.



Flower Frolic

Day Three - Sunday 27 August 2023

Allison Gill



After a leisurely start to the morning, we gathered for our briefing of the day after which we set off at approximately 9.30 am for a day of exploring the land for more wildflowers. We said goodbye to Shita and Marta at the station gates, who were going home a day early due to other commitments.



We left Mullenbye Station to head to Mullewa. On the way one of our crew, Peter, shared stories of what it was like growing up in a boarding school in the region.

Stopping in Mullewa at about 10.30 we had our long-awaited store-bought coffee in the Information Centre then we all peeled off to either look at the wildflower exhibition, fuel and clean up (windscreens) or take a little look around Mullewa town.

Mary our illustrious leader headed over to a beautiful church that was built by Monsignor John Hawes who is well known for some of his buildings in the area. One of his buildings was in fact the residence that Peter had talked to us about earlier.



Heading out of Mullewa at about 11.45 Mary had a very close call with a rogue Emu who tried to cross the road at the wrong time, luckily all ended well. The next leg was out to **Pindar** to see the abundant Wreath Flowers. Whilst stopping here we had a picnic lunch.



(Story continues over page)

The next stop was **Yalgoo** about a 1.30 hr drive. Shortly after stopping at Yalgoo Brian commandeered the local council officer who tried to scout out a shop where we could all grab a much desired and talked about ice cream. Unfortunately, being Sunday we were out of luck. Instead, we stopped at a lovely park where we had some afternoon tea and some even had a little paddle in the children's water playground.

Yalgoo was quite an interesting town and has the reputation of being the place of Australia's first-ever letter bomb, a fact we were all surprised and blown away by.

Driving back to Mullenbye from Yalgoo we saw, in my opinion, some of the prettiest displays of carpets of flowers. The stretches of white flowers looked like snow. We later found out they were actually called Murchison Snow. On this same road was an interesting and "Insta" worthy stop at an old homestead in ruins.

After arriving back at the "Ranch" we had a fun and slightly competitive game of Finska with Brian taking home Gold, Steve second and Lachlan third. This was followed by another beautiful evening chatting and laughing around the fire.



Flower Frolic

Day Four - Monday 2023

Lachlan Schneider



Day four started just as the three before with a beautiful sunrise, only there was a sad feeling in the air of having to leave such a beautiful place, especially after having a cracking time around the fire, eating jaffles and swapping stories. We all started packing up and gave each other a hand exuding the team spirit of the days before, Brian and his Avan were obviously the quickest to pack up.



Peter and Sue loved the station so much they organised to stay an extra night. Brian and Leonie also decided to stay at the station, but for just the morning to explore a bit more before heading to their next stop on their extended holiday.

After saying goodbye to our friends our convoy of now four cars left the station and headed for our first stop of the day, Morawa, for fuel and to get "real coffee" to quote Mary.



The second stop of the day was the lookout at the talc mine outside Three Springs. This is the largest talc mine in the southern hemisphere and has amazing views of the mine the farmland and a string of beautiful lakes.

After a quick toilet stop at Three Springs, we pushed on south to Moora for a spot of lunch. Then it was back on the road past amazing canola fields all in flower that we just had to stop at for a photo shoot.



With one final push and some great banter over the radios, we finally made it back to where the trip started all those days ago, ok only three, but it did seem like a long time.

We all said our goodbyes and headed home. What a wonderful trip.

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Straight to the Peninsula Part II - From Spear Creek to Coffin Bay

2 to 6 August - Jo Norton

We left Joy from Spear Creek when Stu and I headed up to **Coober Pedy**. He hadn't been there before and I think it is one of those places you can never understand what it's like until you see it. Crocodile Harry's was an eye opener. Fayer's Underground House has such an amazing story behind it.

But the surprise of the trip, which I hadn't been too before, was the Serbian Orthodox Church.



Our second night we headed out to the Breakaways for the sunset. Always beautiful watching the sun set over red dirt.



[\(Story continues over page\)](#)

We then had a 1000 km trip to get to Port Lincoln at the bottom of Eyre Peninsula, to meet up with Joy again. It was a 7am departure from Coober Pedy and a dash, within speed limits of course, down the highway. We did decide however, to do a detour into **Woomera Rocket Range**. A whirlwind tour of the outdoor rocket and space memorabilia and the museum and then out to see **Len Beadell's memorial**. Finally, about 6pm we arrived at my friend's house in Poonindie (17 km north of Port Lincoln), ready to call it home for 3 nights. It had a bathroom, carpet, a wood heater and dogs, what more could we want after over a week of camping.



The drive down to Lincoln on the East side of Eyre Peninsula was stunning. Canola fields always look stunning but they look even better when their backdrop is the ocean.



Joy's family is from **Port Lincoln** so Joy and her sister Julie gave us the grand tour on the Saturday, followed by dinner at the Marina pub. Then Joy's brother Tim took us exploring Sunday in the Coffin Bay area and later we went to his house for a bbq dinner. We could not have been made to feel more welcome by my friend we were staying with and Joy's family.



(Story continues over page)

The Whalers Way, Port Lincoln National Park, Axel Stenross Maritime Museum and Coffin Bay and surrounds were all beautiful. Tim even got special permission from a farmer out of Coffin Bay to access his property to drive up Mount Dutton to see a stunning panoramic view. Oscar the Outback made it $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up but then we had to admit defeat and Stu and I jumped into Tim's Isuzu for the last bit.




We bid our farewells to Joy and her family Sunday night.



Trips & Socials

Please refer to the club website for all dates & details

UHF radios 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

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NOVEMBER 2023

 **KARL BOENINGS BEACH FAREWELL**
5 NOVEMBER

PERTH 4WD SHOW
10 - 12 NOVEMBER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
14 November

PRESTON BEACH
26 NOVEMBER

DECEMBER 2023

CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY
02 DECEMBER



JANUARY 2024

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14 JANUARY

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EOI

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EOI

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03 JULY TO 31 AUGUST 2024

SEPTEMBER 2024

QUAALUP QUEST - THE SEQUEL
21 - 23 SEPTEMBER



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

SUBARU 4WD CLUB OF W.A. INC.

CLUB MERCHANDISE – buy items at meetings



Bisley khaki 100% cotton long sleeve shirts (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 \$9.



Royal blue & 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



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



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\$5



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The supplier of all Club clothing items is Hip Pocket Workwear & Safety, Balcatta.



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Celebrate the new towing capability, and go anywhere Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive, while curating your drive via the 11.6" touchscreen with wireless Apple CarPlay[®] and Android Auto[™] smartphone connectivity³ standard across the range. The Subaru Outback AWD Touring XT redefines comfort and luxury with Nappa leather⁴ accented seat trim. Pre-order Subaru's flagship SUV now and discover more power to explore.

Visit your local Subaru Retailer.

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.





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