



MARCH 2024

This issue:

NORTHCLIFFE NATURE PLAY

FROM PERTH TO ESPERANCE

UPCOMING TRIPS & MORE!

## Drakesbrook Weir Picnic n Paddle

Joy Unno

After Perth's heat wave of 40° days, we were fortunate to have cooler and overcast weather on the day, Sunday 25 February. We were meeting Steve Green in Pinjarra so five cars (one with a kayak on the roof), and eight people assembled at the Baldyvis BP Service Centre. It was great to see shiny new members Raun Sutton and Ray Creswell attending their second club trip.

It only took 30 minutes to get to Pinjarra where we sampled the delicious sweets and savoury pies on offer at the Pinjarra Bakery for morning tea. Their Apple Strudel was scrumptious and their Garlic Beef and Red Wine pie, which I had for lunch, was fantastically yummy!

A quick run down the South Western Highway brought us to Waroona where we turned off towards the Waroona Dam for a look-see.

See inside for more details





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**CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR 2022 - 2023**  
JOY UNNO

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KEITH WILCOX  
DAVID PECK  
ROB GRIFFITHS

# President's Report

Deborah Thyne



The hot weather persists and I hope you are managing to stay cool. Hopefully by the time you are reading this we will have had a drop of rain.

It has been great to see potential new members signing up on some recent and upcoming trips. Adrian Longwood's Wedge Island Day trip was thoroughly enjoyed by an acquaintance who had been considering buying a Subaru. It seems I finally I talked her into it! She had a great time and learnt a lot as I am sure all participants on the day did. Thanks Adrian for running these trips.

A first aid training day is scheduled for members on 13 April through the Royal Life Saving Society. See the club website for more information. It is common to be nervous about providing first aid and what might be expected in the event of a medical incident. Training provides you with knowledge and skills to do the best you can until trained personnel arrive whether it be in the home, workplace or on a trip. Whilst a serious subject, it is usually a fun day too.

We thank Rob Griffiths for working with David Peck and Adrian to update and make more user friendly an existing trip spreadsheet that provides a historical record of the majority of trips undertaken by the club. It contains information such as where the club has run trips as well as the facilities and attractions at each location. This information is useful when considering and planning future trips.

On this subject be sure to get along to the March General Meeting when Adrian will be discussing with members how to go about planning a trip to support and encourage you plan and lead your own trip to that destination you have always wanted to go to.

Mark the April General Meeting in your diary as well with an exciting presentation by Jason Peck on what happens behind the scenes when you press the button on your Emergency Locator Beacon (ELB) and how you will be found and by who!

Check out the website for details of the wide variety of upcoming trips. There are one day social trips or longer trips over Easter or Anzac Day. Thanks to Jim and Chris Wilcox for hosting Fiddles and Nibbles in May. A great day to come along and ask more experienced members questions about your Subaru or do some simple jobs with support. Contact trip leaders if you require any further information. Or, if you have trip ideas contact Adrian.

See you out there in your Subaru!

## DISCLAIMER

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**WA4WDA Clubs are taking over  
WhiteGum Farm Caravan & Adventure  
Park...again!**

**WA4WDA Associate Gathering**

Join us for the weekend

This is a **Family Friendly Event** and open to all Club Members, Family and guests.



**Quiz Night**

**Raffles**

**Happy Hour (Sat night)**

**4WD Track fun**

**Guest Speakers**

**Presentations**



When: **19th – 21st April 2024**

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

Where: **Whitegum Farm Caravan & Adventure Park**  
**680 Cameron Road, York**

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

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

Unpowered sites & Chalets still available.

**BOOKINGS NEED to be made via EMAIL –  
info@whitegumfarm.com.au**

Please state the following on your booking– I am with the WA4WDA – (Club Name)



Department of  
**Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries**

# 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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# 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. \$15



Broad Brimmed Khaki Hat \$20



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



Club stickers \$3



Embroidered Badges \$5



Navy blue beanies – \$12

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



Flat pack neoprene can coolers – \$5

# Drakesbrook Weir Picnic n Paddle

Sunday 25 February 2024

Joy Unno



**Waroona Dam** also goes by the name of Lake Navarino and there is a caravan park by that name located there. After driving along very windy, narrow roads through some lovely forest we arrived at the car park overlooking the dam. There was a large stone block with a plaque commemorating the building of the dam. Unfortunately, the view was blocked by a growth of trees so we walked gingerly along a gravelly track to a spot where we could see the water and the dam wall. It was very picturesque despite the dull day and there were motorboats zipping along. It's a very popular spot for water-skiing and fishing but isn't suitable for swimming. Back in the cars, we drove over the dam wall (very scenic views), and down to the bottom of the wall where there was a turn-around spot.



Waroona Dam commemorative plaque

Waroona Dam



Subaru line-up at Drakesbrook Weir

Drakesbrook Weir

For swimming and kayaking, **Drakesbrook Weir**, south of Waroona, is the place so we drove the few kilometres over there. The windy roads must have shaken things up a bit as a bracket fell off of the frame holding Wendy's kayak. Fortunately, David Peck spotted it and retrieved it safely.

Drakesbrook Weir, otherwise known as Lake Moyanup, was used as an irrigation dam for crops and livestock using water from Waroona Dam. Now the Waroona Shire have done it up as a recreational fishing and water park with grassed areas, gazebos, picnic tables and BBQs. They are in the process of building a natural adventure playground there as well.

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

When we arrived, there was hardly a soul there and the strong, blustery easterly wind blowing up the water into choppy waves was the obvious reason. It was a bit of a surprise as I had checked the wind forecast and it was OK. Sitting at the picnic tables or cooking on the BBQ was just not feasible due to the chilling gale.

Drakesbrook Weir is also known as the spot where the **Noisy Scrub Bird** was first seen by European explorers John Gilbert and James Drummond in 1842. We did the 500 metre return walk through the bush to the memorial with Wendy Griffiths keeping a sharp eye out for the rare bird. Alas, it was not sighted, not surprising really since most birds would be tucked away out of the gale.



**Looking for the Noisy Scrub Bird**

Since the weir was a bust for lunch, we went back to look at a park in Waroona but that was too breezy, so we ended up under the gigantic Morten Bay Figs across the road from the Waroona Pub. The vast bulk of the trees, which were metres across, handily blocked out most of the wind and there were cement picnic tables and benches. I was very impressed with Wendy's set up since the table and benches were a bit spotty with detritus from the trees. She had a long rug with elastic bands to pop over the benches and a big towel as a tablecloth.

After a convivial lunch, Ray and Raun got the tour of all the set-ups in the Subaru as having just joined the Club, their 2011 Forester is "naked" 😊 It was a steep learning curve for them as there is so much to consider such as a car fridge, second battery, drawers, tyres, tyre pump, tyre pressure monitors, recovery gear, sump guard, tents, camping gear, etc. Our advice was to borrow stuff to try it out before buying and come to Adrian's Camping and Cooking Training Days.

People then made their own way home from Waroona. Ray (Rabbit) Stewart, Glenda Rayment and I stopped off at the loo in the Waroona Information Centre and then had to look at all the nick-nacks. The centre had a wonderful display of ornaments, arts and crafts, and many other items. I came away with some home-made Rhubarb Chutney.

Although the trip didn't turn out exactly as planned, we all had a good time together out in Nature, and it was an enjoyable day.



**Lunch in Waroona**



# Northcliffe Nature Play

Day One - Friday 26 January 2024

Bernie Gee and Ian Downe

Arrived 8:20 am at the designated meeting point, BP south-bound, Kwinana Freeway, Baldivis for the start of our adventure. Parking was at a premium as it appeared most of Perth Metro must have organised the same meeting point. Met up in southern carpark with Trip leader Ross Mead, Deb Thyne, Vanessa and Greg Carn. After short briefing, we hit the bitumen at 9am heading south along the Forrest Highway towards our first stop at Donnybrook on South Western Highway.



Forrest Highway to Bunbury was quite busy traffic wise. Fortunately, it eased up a bit after roadworks associated with Bunbury Bypass / Ring Road (which are extensive).



At 11 am we pulled into Donnybrook for morning tea.

All managed to park up in Town Centre despite activity in town due to Australia Day celebrations which were in full swing. We spent the next 30 minutes exploring different parts/activities of Donnybrook - local vintage car show, Op Shop etc. Departed Donnybrook at 11:25 am for a pleasant scenic drive, through rolling hills, farmlands, and forest, via Balingup and Bridgetown to Manjimup.

In Manjimup we lunched, stocked up on food, drink, fuel etc. Unleaded Fuel was \$1.88/litre. After lunch, we continued our trip south towards Northcliffe and campsite via the South West Highway and Wheatley Coast Rd. These roads are of reasonable quality and fortunately only had minimal Traffic.

Now we travelled through some farmlands and heavy forest, (mainly Karri, Jarrah and Marri - which was in abundant flower). We arrived at our campsite (Northcliffe Nature Park) on Boorara Rd 4.5 km south-east of Northcliffe at about 2:30 pm.

It was a nice location with Ian and myself setting up our large tent on the edge of the paddock whilst the others set up amongst the trees nearby. We had a lovely view across the paddock, dams and creek to the Karri forest. The friendly March Flies provided some distraction whilst setting up our campsites and outhouse facilities.

All campsite set ups were completed by 4 pm, with Happy Hour in full swing for all six of us shortly thereafter. Shane Rudd, the owner of Northcliffe Nature Park, caught up with us then to collect our camping fees and have a chat.



(Story continues over page)



***After dinner, we all gathered to sit and chat over a beverage or two whilst watching the spectacular full moon rising slowly through trees. This topped off a great day.***



**Ross and Northcliffe Nature Park host Shane Rudd**

# Northcliffe Nature Play

Day Two - Saturday 27 January 2024  
Deborah Thyne



How lovely it was to wake to the sound of a gentle breeze in the treetops and bird calls. Oh, and the buzz of March flies! A leisurely start to the day allowed time for the indulgence of a cooked breakfast.



Ross' home away from home



Deb enjoying a morning cuppa

The convoy set off in a south easterly direction for the D'Entrecasteaux National Park passing the turn off for Mt Chudalup on the way. Windy Harbour Road took us to the entry of the **Lower Gardner Road**. This is a sand track which heads east to the mouth of the Gardner River. Here Ross gave directions to lower tyre pressures to 12 psi in preparation for the track – definitely not a road.



Parked up to air down on Lower Gardner 'Road'

(Story continues over page)

Once aired down we set off in convoy for our first stop at the Gardner River campground. On the way some of the sand was fairly firm but we then encountered patches of loose soft sand that required concentration, disengaging traction control and a few revs to get through. Lack of rainfall over the summer months and a lot of 4x4 traffic certainly contributed to the softer track conditions. In some places there were chicken tracks above and around very soft patches. Ross gave helpful and specific directions over the two-way radio to assist our journey.



**Morning tea under the peppermint trees**

We arrived at the Gardner Beach Campground run by DBCA. It is a lovely campground under shady peppermint trees with picnic tables, a long drop toilet and a simple, one bedroom hut if you prefer more 'salubrious' accommodation. There were a couple of people camping here but plenty of spaces were available. We enjoyed a morning tea before driving the final leg to Gardner Beach.

A sandy climb was required out of the campground. It was pretty rough with large holes and dips. Ross checked it out and decided it needed some work to fill in several 'holes' on the first hill before we set off. Again, a bit of effort was required to get up this hill. I got up on the second attempt having used incorrect gears the first time. This part of the track was quite challenging having been chewed up by bigger 4WD's. The final section just before the beach was also very dug out. Our vehicles 'rocked and rolled' through before arriving on a beautiful beach.



White sand and the typical Southern Ocean blue waters were stunning. In comparison, the river water flowing out the mouth of the Gardner River was stained brown from the tannin in the trees. There were some small fish in the river mouth.

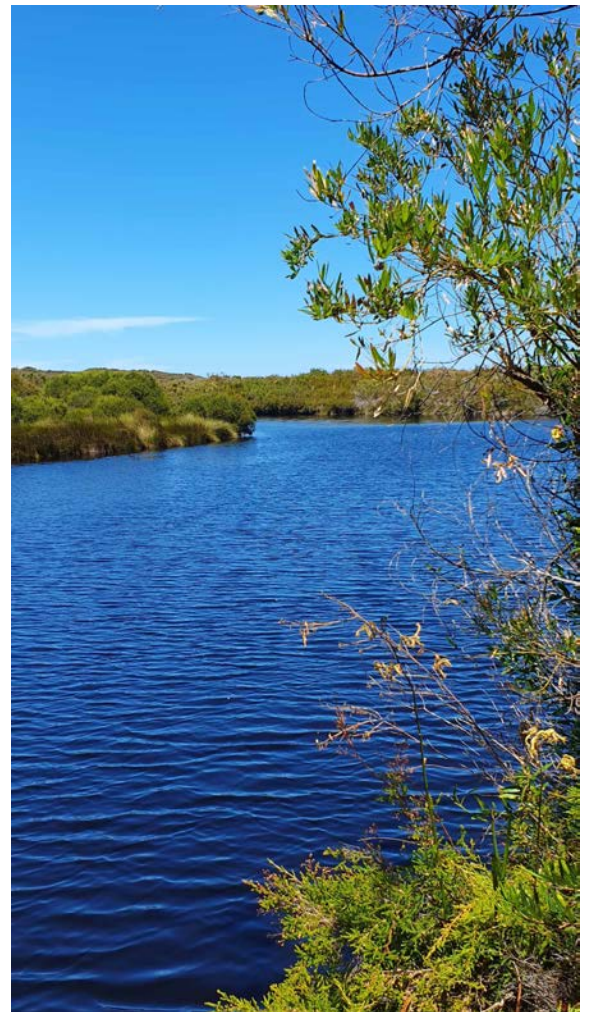


Some rather lovely 'beach shacks' could be seen from here which we were advised are privately owned with access restricted by a locked gate.

After exploring around the river mouth, we headed off on a drive west along the beach for a few kilometres. The beach was very popular with clusters of vehicles in places and their occupants enjoying swimming or fishing. Apparently, you can in fact drive right along the beach and exit at Windy Harbour which could be seen in the distance.

After returning back along the beach to the entrance to the track, Ross headed up to do some track work at the start as it was felt we would not be able to get through easily. We thank him for his shovel work that took a little while, but we were all then able to exit the beach and start back along the track. Again, Ross gave specific, easily understood directions for the track conditions allowing us to get through more easily. Those of us waiting on the beach were concerned some of the 'heavies' would head off before us and undo Ross' work.

While waiting to exit the beach a scuba diver appeared from the water with a huge fish that we guessed to be a groper. So big, two people struggled to carry it out of the water and up the beach.



**Gardner River**

Some more soft sand conditions saw Ross directing us through as we continued the short distance to the campground to enjoy a well-earned lunch. As Vanessa suggested, the campground would be a great location for a future trip.

Exploring the Gardner River on a kayak or stand-up paddle board sounded good in theory until we explored what appears to be main entrance to the water.

Following the track back out to the Windy Harbour Road, we knew from the drive in what the conditions would be like and adjusted our driving accordingly. One spot, on a 'blind corner,' had deep sand that required a right hand turn to get up on a chicken track. It was difficult being unsighted on entry and then lining up for the chicken track. Greg didn't quite make it and was having difficulty getting out with using just recovery tracks. His difficulties were compounded by the CVT transmission not being able to handle the load. Ross came back and proceeded to "snatch" Greg out with relative ease. Having now seen the approach, Greg drove through without too much trouble. Being last in convoy I had the advantage of seeing what the approach looked like and, determined not to become bogged as well, kept the revs going through the deep sand and made it up onto the chicken track. Phew!

We all made it back to the end of the road without further ado and aired up our tyres and reflected on our amazing morning adventures.

We then headed for **Windy Harbour**. It was very popular there with a number of fishing boats out, people swimming and enjoying the water. The weather was perfect. Greg's grandparents used to own a beach hut here, so he and Vanessa set off to see it. They were surprised to find the current owner has it up for sale! He took them inside for a look. Greg and Vanessa now need to win lotto to buy it.

Next, we drove up to the lighthouse car park on **Point D'Entrecasteaux**. The short walk around the cliff top provided spectacular views over the ocean and cliff faces. From here we could also see over the Windy Harbour settlement and a long way back up the beach to the east. From this vantage point, we could also see the smoke from the Broke Inlet bushfire way to the east.



**Windy Harbour**



**D'Entrecasteaux Lookout**



**View from Point D'Entrecasteaux**

After our busy morning, it was unanimously decided to skip the climb to the top of Mt Chudalup and instead return to Northcliffe where some of us enjoyed an ice-cream before heading back to camp. It had been an amazing day.

Whilst enjoying some pre-dinner drinks and nibbles, Shane, whose property the Northcliffe Nature Stay is on, came past on his quad bike to see how our day had been so we shared tales of our adventures with him.

We prepared our respective dinners before gathering back around together afterwards to chat and reflect on the day. Retiring to our tents some of us had the best night's sleep we'd had for some time.

# Northcliffe Nature Play

Day Three - Sunday 28 January 2024

Ross Mead

"Hark, is that the patter of rain on canvas that I hear?" Not quite, but there was evidence of a light mist having been received earlier in the morning. Drat! That meant a damp camp to pack up. Not to worry. This was the first evidence of rain I had seen in months. It was a pleasantly cool morning with overcast skies and a gentle breeze. Given the hint of rain, it was quickly into breakfast and packing up before the heavens changed its mind about rain. Fortunately, said heavens were kind and waited till we had all just finished packing up before sending down a decent shower. This was well received as it was enough to settle the dust on any gravel roads.

Being ready to hit the road home, we had a quick discussion on what people wanted to do. The unanimous decision was to go via Pemberton for coffee and cake. The next question was which route should we take? The direct scenic route, the medium scenic route or the long scenic route. This decision was in favour of the medium scenic route so off we headed.

The medium scenic route involved some travel along the Wheatley Coast Rd before turning off onto gravel roads. These included Orchid Rd, River Rd, McAlpine Rd, Moons Crossing Rd (including the rocky Moons Crossing over the Warren River) and Spring Gully Rd coming into Pemberton past the Gloucester Tree. Unfortunately, Gloucester Tree has been closed to climbing but there is now a high ropes course next door for the adventurous.

Next stop was the Crossing Bakery where we sat down to coffee and cake. Whilst sipping my coffee, I was startled to have a large hand placed on my shoulder. Looking up, I saw a big, hairy biker standing next to me. Fortunately, I was not in trouble as it was my older brother. He was also at the bakery with some of his mates doing their normal Sunday morning coffee ride. I had planned to stop in and see him on my way home but as they were off elsewhere for lunch that was no longer an option.

After our coffees were finished, everyone headed for home. Bernie and Ian were going home via a friend's place in Busselton, Greg and Vanessa weren't sure which way they were going so Deb and I left them to it and headed off together. Our first stop was at Manjimup to empty the chemical toilets and then refuel our cars before joining the stream of traffic heading north up the highway.

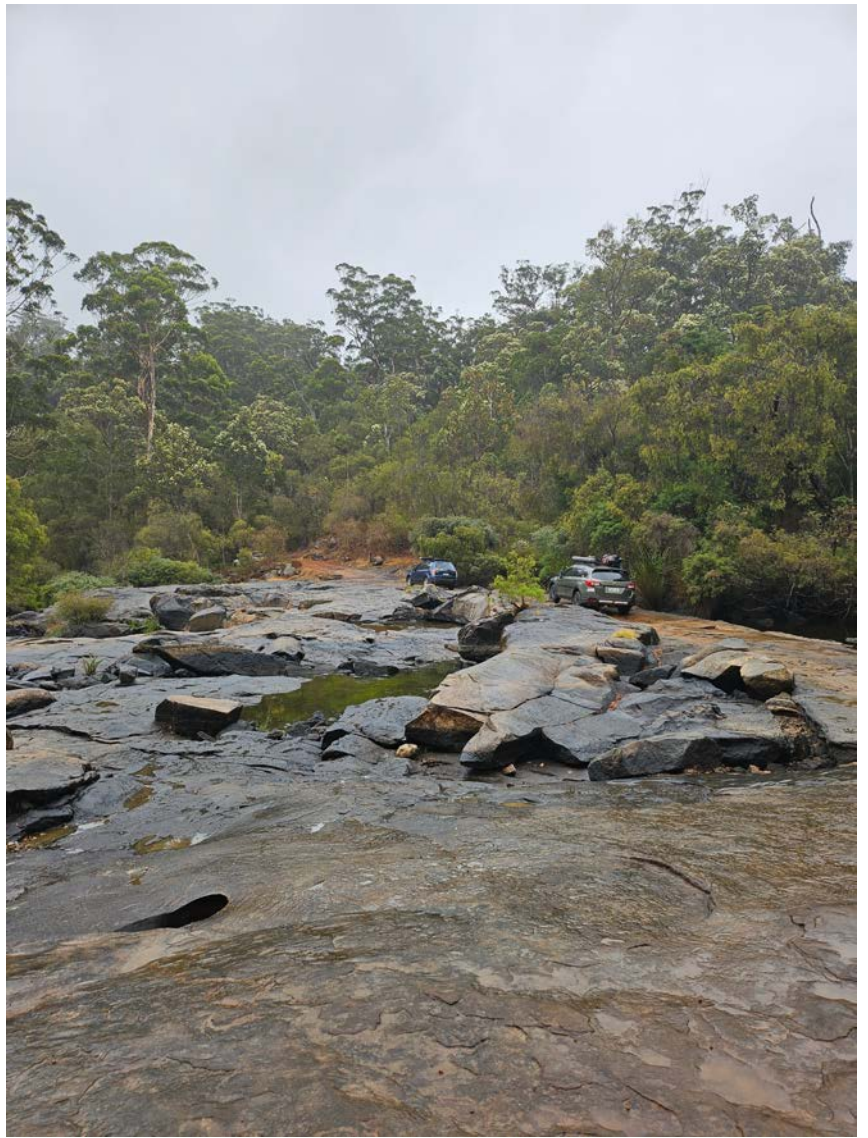
By the time we got to Kirup, we had both had enough of the traffic so decided to take the back roads. Not necessarily any quicker but nicer scenery and less traffic hassles. Came back out onto the highway through Donnybrook before again heading off onto back roads for the next bit into Boyanup. From here, it was on to Dardanup where we stopped for lunch. Just as we started lunch, Vanessa and Greg arrived.

With lunch over, we all continued heading more or less north along the backroads with the aim of minimising any travel along a highway. At Pinjarra, Greg and Vanessa headed across to join the Forrest Highway to travel home whilst Deb and I continued our meanderings. We arrived in Byford at about 16:30 hrs. Deb decided to continue to her home via the South West and Albany Highways. Another enjoyable trip to Northcliffe and the south coast. All I had to do now was unpack the car and dry out and pack away my gear.

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



**Medium scenic route view**



**Moons Crossing over the Warren River**



**Mead brothers**



**But first - Coffee!**



# Sun, Surf & Squeaky Sand in Esperance

Day One - Perth to Hyden - Friday 26 January 2024

Tony Richards

It was Friday 26 January (Australia Day), the first day of the Esperance trip and, as Mary Roberts was unable to attend (because of urgent family issues), I had agreed to step in and help Graeme and Naomi Sexton lead the trip. At their request, I was leading day one and we were going to alternate leadership after that.

Keith Wilcox was travelling with me. I picked him up at 7:00 am and we arrived at the meeting point at 7:45. We didn't think we would be the last to arrive but, to my surprise, all other trip participants were already there. After Graeme and Naomi had finished filling up with petrol, I conducted a very quick briefing and we were away just before 8:00, which was the designated departure time. The weather was good.

Our first stop was at the **Corrigin Dog Cemetery**. It was a while since I had been there. Others in the group had not visited previously. After the cemetery, we headed into Corrigin for morning tea at the Rotary Park. It was about 10.00. Keith had brought muffins, which went down well with our coffee. We were there for about 20 minutes.



Morning tea in Hyden



Corrigin Dog Cemetery  
Image Stephen Green

# SNATCH KIT GUIDE

Follow This Guide To Build YOUR Perfect Snatch Kit



## 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

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Recovery Gear

Our next stop was Hyden, which we reached at about 11:45. We stopped at the roadhouse to fill up with petrol at \$1.99 a litre. As the Wave Rock Caravan Park was just up the road, Lachlan and Maurie decided to have lunch at the roadhouse and so did Graeme and Naomi. They were both in fixed accommodation and check-in was not until 3:00. The remainder of the group went on to the caravan park. Check-in for camping was 12:00, so that's what we did.

Once inside the park, our first stop was at the camp kitchen where we had a leisurely lunch and a cup of tea. After lunch we went to our site and set up our pop-up tents. I had bought a new pop-up tent and was trying it for the first time. Thankfully, it popped-up just as it was supposed to and, after pegging it down with 4 pegs, all done! Brilliant. Our site was small, and our two tents just fitted. There was no need for a ground sheet, as we were on artificial turf.

After setting up, we went to the camp kitchen and chilled for a bit watching cricket (test match) on the large screen television. After a while, we decided to go to the local sewerage ponds (just across the road) to look for birds. You might think this is a bit odd, but the birds love the water, and wading birds especially usually manage to find enough food in the water to meet their needs. We didn't have a lot of luck – not many birds found.



White-eared Honeyeater - Image Tony Richards



Tony and Keith bobbing like corks in Lake Magic

Also, just across the road from the caravan park is Wave Rock Resort, with **Lake Magic**, a salt lake, which the receptionist at the caravan park said is saltier than the Dead Sea! We couldn't resist. Keith and I had a great time in the lake. The buoyancy provided by the salt in the water is incredible. We were bobbing about like corks – a very strange feeling! It's a great place to visit. Thankfully, we were able to rinse off in the showers provided.

After Lake Magic, we returned to the camp kitchen to watch a bit more cricket on the TV. Then, at about 4:00, we went birding and got a few birds, including the bird I was looking for – a White-eared Honeyeater. We got back at about 5:10 and had a chat to some other campers. At 5:30, it was back to the camp kitchen again to watch some more TV. I also wanted to complete an eBird (electronic) checklist for the birding we had done. Dinner that night was at the Hyden Hotel – seven of us went. It was very quiet. The food was OK, except that, if you wanted a meat dish, you needed to cook it yourself on the BBQ in the dining room! It was a good first day.

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# Sun, Surf & Squeaky Sand in Esperance

Day One - Hyden to Esperance - Saturday 27 January 2024

Graeme and Naomi Sexton

Today we were leaving Hyden to travel to Esperance, via Lake King and Ravensthorpe.

The morning started off with Tony having problems with the second battery that wasn't charging his car fridge. I believe that the Anderson Plug was playing up. He said that we should continue in convoy, and he would catch us up along the way. Tom Minto also had a minor setback as well. He had reversed into a caravan power pole this morning and a corner of the box went through the back window, shattered his rear window. It was still in place, just, so he taped half of the back window with cardboard and gaffer tape, plus put a hole in the back of the tail gate where the window meets the tailgate.



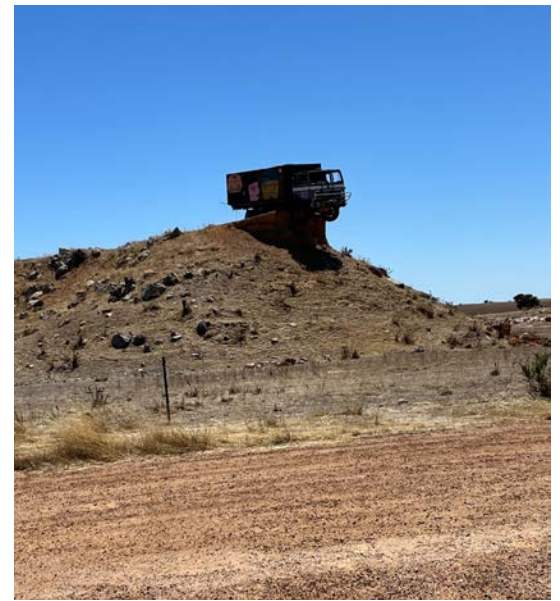
There were five Foresters at that stage, and we took off in convoy at 8:45 am leaving Tony and Keith to fix their issue. Tom was designated Tail End Charlie, and so he could also keep an eye on his rear window. We were driving roughly between 90 – 100 km so that Tom's window would not hopefully shatter any further. Poor Tom, his thoughts were elsewhere today.

We were headed for Ravensthorpe Via Lake King. The land is mostly flat with salt plains and very little trees around the area. Further down the line, Tom asked if we could stop at **Varley**, 40km south of Hyden to check on his rear window. As it turned out Tom's window was still intact so that was fine. We took a 15-minute break and checked out the local store. Varley turned out to be a lovely little town with a lot of history. There was a small **Rabbit Cemetery** near the Rabbit Proof Fence, (a small section still remains today) where all the bunnies that met their demise in the fence's barbed wire are memorialized with beautiful mosaic tiles. The fence was built in early 1900's to stop rabbits getting into agricultural land as there was a plague at that time. A **Chicken Ranch** and a free campsite with basic amenities is located next to it.



(Story continues over page)

Continuing on as we drove around a bend, we came across a 'Stuck Truck'. A truck stuck on a small hill on a Lake King farm. Apparently, a farmer Dirk Hardy is responsible for putting it there as a way of getting people's attention. If the Dockers do win the premiership one day, men or women he will paint it purple.



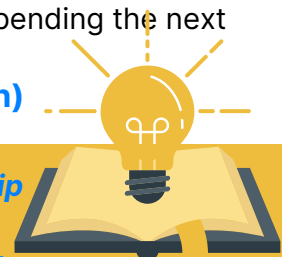
We arrived at **Ravensthorpe** at 11.15 am. We phoned Tony to see how far he was behind us. He wasn't far behind, so we decided to have lunch there in **Jubilee Park** in the main street with lots of shade and a few benches. Tony and Keith had caught up by then. We left at 12.20 pm on the road. Now our convoy was complete with 'Six Foresters' all in tow. Passing through Munglinup petrol was \$2.37/litre. It was quite expensive.



We arrived at Esperance at 2.20 pm to refuel and get extra supplies, and a short break then continued to **Duke of Orleans Caravan Park**, a further one-hour drive east of Esperance. The drive there was quite scenic with pine trees on both sides of the road and mostly farmland. When we arrived at The Duke, we all checked into our accommodation. Graeme and I and Lochie and Maurie's accommodation was in cabins and the other club members were camping. Afterwards we walked around the park to see where everyone was situated.

It is an extremely large caravan park. There are permanent residents in their caravans with neat gardens and people on holiday. It is well treed for shade with a very friendly atmosphere throughout the park. The local shop in the park is well stocked with supplies and food items. You could even pour your own soft serve icecream! It was where everyone converged in the afternoon to use the internet. We were all happy that we had arrived at the Duke of Orleans where we would be spending the next five days exploring.

(Story continues next month)




*The planning for and leading of the Sun, Surf & Squeaky Sand Trip was a team effort.  
The team included Mary Roberts, Tony Richards and Graeme Sexton*

*Unfortunately, Mary, who did a lot of research and organised the majority of the trip was not able to participate due to a family emergency.*

## Trips & Socials

Please refer to the club website for all dates & details



<https://www.subaru4wdclubwa.au/>

**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](mailto:trips@subaru4wdclubwa.au)**

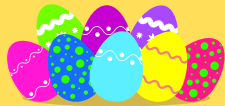
### MARCH 2024

**BARRABUP SANCTUARY LWE**  
2 - 4 MARCH

**WANDOO NIGHT DRIVE**  
9 MARCH

**LET'S GO FOR BROKE**  
29 MARCH - 01 APRIL EASTER LWE

### APRIL 2024



**EASTER MON 4WD & LUNCH**  
01 APRIL



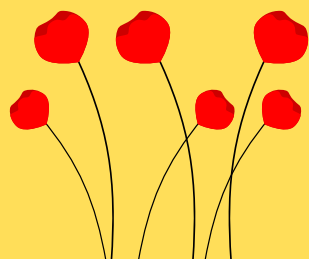
**KAARAKIN CLEAN UP**  
07 APRIL

**FIRST AID TRAINING**  
13 APRIL

**WA4WDA GATHERING**  
19 - 21 APRIL

**MILLIGAN'S ISLAND MOSEY**  
25 -28 APRIL ANZAC LWE

**OTHER HALF OF HUNT**  
25 - 28 APRIL ANZAC LWE



### MAY 2024

**FIDDLES & NIBBLES**  
11 MAY



**MOORE RIVER ESTUARY PADDLE**  
05 MAY

**CAMPING, COOKING & DEMO WEEKEND**  
18 -19 MAY

### JUNE 2024

**GIBB RIVER ROAD & BEYOND**  
16 JUNE ONWARDS



**KAARAKIN CLEAN UP**  
16 JUNE

### JULY 2024

**TRIP TO THE TOP**  
06 JULY ONWARDS



**SEPTEMBER 2024**  
**QUAALUP QUEST II**  
20 -23 SEPTEMBER LWE



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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 2,000kgs, 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.





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