

Gawler & Districts

www.gawler4wd.com.au

4WD Club Newsletter

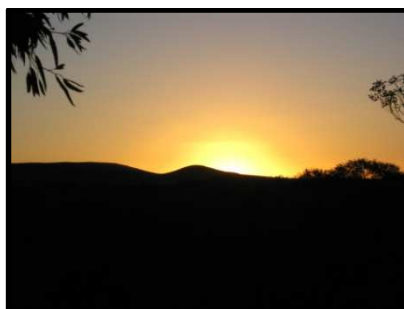
May 2014



Founded in 2002



Gawler and Districts 4WD Club Incorporated is an active and supporting member of Four Wheel Drive South Australia



Bri-Glen Park - June 2010

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WELCOME

to the Gawler & Districts 4WD Club

Previously known as "The Light Four Wheel Drive Club of SA Inc." this active 4WD club was founded in 2002. Members voted at the March 2008 meeting to change the club's name and meet at Gawler to give the club a more recognizable name and a more central meeting place.

It has become a very social club and has run many a successful day, week-end, long week-end and extended trips. We are a member of the Four Wheel Drive South Australia which incorporates the Driver Training Unit. Most meetings include a Guest Speaker and a monthly club newsletter.

If you are a visitor to tonight's meeting, we welcome you and your family to our club. Please ask as many questions as you want. You can join us on up to 3 club outings before becoming a member. Trip Leaders run each outing and will be glad to help you with tips on four wheel driving and how to get the best from your vehicle. If you would like to join us on any trips and enjoy what 4WD can really bring, please fill out your details on our Trip Sheets.

The Club meets every second Friday in the month at 7.30 pm at the Gawler Elderly Centre Hall in Fourteenth Street, Gawler.

The meeting dates are shown on page 3 of this newsletter.

Annual membership fees are \$60 per vehicle/family, plus \$10 joining fee.



**Gawler & Districts 4WD Club
Inc.
P.O. Box 486
Freeling SA 5372**

**Enquiries Contacts: President or Secretary
0410 526 317 (Peter - President)
08 8523 2507 (Deb – Secretary)
EMAIL: info@gawler4wd.com.au
WEB: www.gawler4wd.com.au**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

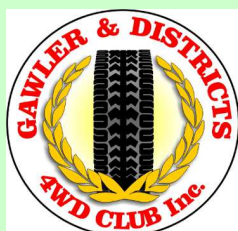
PRESIDENT/PUBLIC OFFICER Peter Harper : 8523 0889 / 0410 526 317	VICE PRESIDENT Wayne Heintze : 8523 0407 / 0432 339 213
TREASURER Norma Rivett : 0438 120 342	SECRETARY Deb Earl : 8523 2507
EDITOR Sandra Harper : 8523 0889	PUBLISHER Chris Sieben : 8280 7414 / 0438 223 724
MINUTES SECRETARY Lyn Lillecrapp : 0418 826 156 (<i>General</i>) Norma Rivett : 0438 120 342 (<i>Committee</i>)	SOCIAL SECRETARIES Lyn Leske : 8524 9002 / 0403 332 432 Mandy Greatwich : 8284 0002
TRIPS/PROPERTY LIBRARIAN CO-ORDINATOR Quenton Earl : 8523 2507 / 0407 604 601	TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR DTU DELEGATE Peter Harper : 0410 526 317
COMMITTEE (GENERAL) Jane Jansen : 8523 0657 / 0409 091 851	ASSOCIATION DELEGATE John Mewett : 8522 5664 / 0408 824 654
WELCOMING OFFICERS	Dave Riddle / Paul Mitchell

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**2014**

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
General		14	14	11	9	13	11	8	12	10	14	12
Committee		5	5	2		4	2		3	1	5	3
				30			30					

NOTE: DEADLINE TIME - All newsletter articles to the Editor before Committee Meeting date

Club committee meetings commence at 7:30pm on the scheduled Wednesday, on a rotating basis, held at various committee members' homes. All club members welcome.

Last General Meeting***April 2014******See the attached Minutes (members only)*****GAWLER & DISTRICTS 4WD CLUB**

Stickers For Sale – Only \$2.00 each

New Sticker with Web address - \$3.00 each

Magnetic Name Badges - \$10 each

See Quenton at the General Meeting

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

President's Report:

Welcome to the May Newsletter. There are a number of interesting topics this month including a couple of trip reports from the fantastic weekend that 11 vehicles enjoyed over Easter. Don't forget that each trip report is entered into the annual competition so remember to collect those snippets and photos when out and about on Club trips.

Speaking of trips, I have had to pull out of the Bendleby Ranges trip due to a broken ankle so there is now a vacancy for Trip Leader. While on "trips and training", it is with sadness that I advise that Dave and Karen Hall have had to resign due to pressure of work. That leaves the club without a qualified assessor and means that we have had to convert the next Peake trip to a "Social" weekend. We still have access to DTU assessors and I expect to have their support for the August Peake weekend which is now the training weekend. More about this next month.

In this Newsletter, you will also find a summary of a recent survey on activities the Club wants to undertake. Your committee will be working hard over the next couple of months to implement as many of the suggestions as practical.

My thanks to the Club for their card and get well wishes. Hope it won't be too long before we can get back out to enjoy the Great Outdoors.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to members and visitors and especially to our guest speaker for the evening, Brian Thom from Gawler Now and Then. As you know Gawler is celebrating its 175th anniversary and we are sure that Brian will prove to be an interesting and entertaining speaker.

[Pete]

Editor's Report:

Another great Easter trip hits the dust. A great time was had by all!

Whenever I travel to the Flinders Ranges I am in awe of the pioneers who opened up this great country, the hardships they endured and the loss of life to both human and animal. I always try to imagine what life was like for them and just what it was they were searching for as they pushed farther and farther inland. I imagine rivers were flowing and the countryside was green as they set up their farms and built their houses. Little did they know how harsh this country can become!

Just for something different, and carrying on with the Gawler 175th Anniversary theme, I thought it might be interesting to include a "history" page in the newsletter each month. If you have any articles, especially those written by grandparents or parents about their early lives in this country, I'd love to hear from you with a view to printing them in the Newsletter. Any other articles which would be of interest to the club along similar lines would also be welcome. Thank you.

[Sandra]



COMING EVENTS

Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th May 2014 Peake Social Weekend

Limit:	10
Details:	Social weekend
Requirements:	Sand flag, recovery gear, BYO food, water and wood
Costs:	TBD
Meet:	Tailem Bend Shell Roadhouse at 9.00 am
Leaders:	TBA

June Long Weekend - Sat 7th to Mon 9th June 2014 Bendleby Ranges

Limit:	12 vehicles
Details:	Re-fuel at Jamestown, Morning tea at Orroroo Big Red Gum. Camp at Bendleby Ranges Base Campground. Shelter, Shower, Toilets, Camp kitchen. Test track and large network of 4WD tracks to explore including Billy Goat Ridge. High clearance Low range vehicles required. Bushwalking, Bike riding, Campfire cooking. Movie night. Johnburgh ruins.
Requirements:	Caravans, Camper Trailers, Tents, Swags. FULL tank at meeting point, UHF radio, experienced 4WDers, usual recovery equip including air compressor, jack plate, shovel, camera, binoculars, all food and water
Costs	Camping - \$20 per Adult, \$5 School age child per night. Tracks - \$70 per vehicle. (5 or more vehicles) (\$100 booking deposit paid by club)
Meet	Tarlee Sat 8.00am
Leaders:	Trip Leader now required, please let Quenton know if you can assist. Tail-end Charlie/Assistant Trip Leader required
Trip Co-ordinator	Quenton Earl 0407 604 601

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th August 2014 Sand and Rock Training

Limit:	10
Details:	Sand and rock training and socialising
Requirements:	Sand flag, recovery gear, BYO food, water and wood
Costs:	TBD
Meet:	Tailem Bend Shell Roadhouse at 9.00 am
Leaders:	Peter Harper

****Please note that due to trainers and assessors being unavailable, the Peake weekends have been changed around and the social weekend will now be in May and the training weekend will now be held in August****

BLINMAN TOWNSHIP

Just as a follow on from Easter and our visit to Blinman, this is a short history of the township. It is also interesting to note that as at 2014 Blinman has a permanent resident population of only 15, quite a change from its heyday! Blinman also has a very active Progress Association and they were instrumental in preparing and opening up the Blinman mine for tourists – it took a few dedicated people 10 years to complete the work.

Blinman is the only survivor of numerous mining townships surveyed throughout the Flinders Ranges in the 19th century. In 1864, the township of Blinman was surveyed three kilometres south of the mine because mineral leases covered land around the original discovery. However, most settlement took place on mineral leases closer to the workings and, in 1867, the township of North Blinman was laid out near the mine. The names were changed to Blinman South and Blinman, respectively, in 1986.

Blinman's population has reflected the prosperity of the mine. At the peak of mining activity in 1869 the town had 1500 inhabitants. A drought and low copper prices closed the mine between 1874 and 1882, and the number of residents fell below 200 but, by 1888, renewed mining saw the population rise to 500. During the 1880s, a police station and school were erected, and remained in use until the 1970s. The last period of mining between 1903 and 1907 again caused a dramatic rise in population, with up to 200 employed at the mine.

Most of the prominent buildings are constructed of buff-coloured sandstone from a quarry north of the town. These include the Post Office (1876), school (1883), police station and cells (1885) and Memorial Hall (1896). Also of interest are several original pine and pug miners' cottages.



Original pine and pug miners cottage, Blinman

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Gawler and Districts 4WD Club wishes to extend a Happy Birthday greeting to the following members and family:

 MAY 
Kerrie Wolf
John Gardner
Martin Kisbee
Nick Rowe
Roy & Bronwyn Schwarz



RAFFLE ROSTER

We ask if all members could kindly donate an item for a raffle prize each month to approx value of \$15. These can be given to the Social Committee (Lyn Leske or Mandy Greatwich) any time.

APRIL 2014	MAY 2014	JUNE 2014
Roger & Sue Brennand	John & Astrid Gardner	Sandra & Peter Harper
Marie Carter	Darryll & Joan Grace	Wayne & Sandra Heintze
Quenton & Deb Earl	Peter & Mandy Greatwich	Alan & Barbara Hoffman

GUEST SPEAKERS



These guest speakers have kindly agreed to talk with us (at the following general meetings):

- May: Brian Thom – Gawler Now and Then
see <http://www.gawler.nowandthen.net.au>
- June: RAA – Education for Older Drivers
- July: **Suggestions required for rest of year**
- August:

SOCIAL CORNER

It was decided at the last committee meeting that, until further notice, there will no longer be a charge for supper at the monthly general meetings, however, canned drinks remains at \$1.50 each.



Mothers' Day

Mother's Day Raffle this month! If you are able to help out with a suitable donation it would be gratefully appreciated and the Raffle will be drawn at the May meeting.

[Lyn & Mandy]



INFORMATION ON OTHER EVENTS

Bri Glen

If anyone is interested in camping at **Bri Glen** please contact Brian Sambell direct to make arrangements. If you would like to organise a group trip to **Bri-Glen**, discuss with Brian first and then we can promote the trip within the club.

Contact Brian directly on 8522 2871

PROPOSED TRIPS

- **TBA** **July – BBQ at Woolies**
- **TBA** **2 August 2014 -Trip to the Observatory at Stockport, more details to follow, Jane to advise**
- **TBA** **October long weekend – Border Track, more details to follow, Quenton to advise**
- **TBA** **Puppy Spings/Dorado Downs contact person Bill Small 8577 2228 (2 properties) – Leader required**

CLUB SURVEY RESULTS

Below are the results of the club survey which may inspire you to a possible trip or event. If you have any contacts in any of the mentioned suggestions, or would like to lead a day trip or send in an article for the newsletter; please let a member of the committee know.

Guest Speakers

Gawler's History, Flora and Fauna native to our area, 4WD Modifications, Auto Electrics, ARB, National Parks, Tyres, Trip Preparation, Resource Management Board, Outback Survival, Land Owners & Tourism Operators, Vehicle Road Accident and Rescue, Members Trips and Experiences, Members Hobbies apart from 4 wheel driving, St Johns, Gawler Fishing, VKS Radio Network, Photography and the CFS.

Day Trips

Close drivable beaches, Tours through factories etc, 1st Rocks Trip, Stock Port Observatory, Mystery Trips, Local places with History, Fishing, Mt Mary, Yukamurra Sanctuary, Picnic along the River Murray, Crabbing, Winter time camp oven cook out, Carrick Hill and Salisbury Wetlands.

Newsletter Articles

Personal Trips members have done, Dual Battery Set Ups and trailer wiring, info and stories from online forums, Equipment Use, Members Vehicle Set Ups, RAA and Ambulance Cover note, Bush cooking, First Aid page, 4WD articles from other clubs and magazines and Road Rule changes

WE NEED YOUR INPUT FOR SUGGESTIONS – IF WE DONT GET ANY THEN NO-ONE WILL PLAN ANY!

SA CARAVAN, CAMPING & OFF ROAD SALE

Adelaide Showgrounds

31 July to 3 August 2014

If you are in the market for more “stuff” then
please make a note in your diaries.
More details when available.



FOR SALE

FREE MEMBER'S "FOR SALE" ADVERTISING



Members can submit requests for a "FOR SALE" ad, free of charge, but there are some guidelines:

- (a) Maximum of 6 lines per ad (similar to a typical local newspaper ad)
- (b) Adverts can only appear for a maximum of 3 consecutive months
- (c) No pictures, text only (you can run a pictures ad for \$10 a month)
- (d) Must supply contact details (either a phone or email)
- (e) Editor reserves rights to reject and/or tailor any submitted adverts.

Please send full details to our editor editor@gawler4wd.com.au for inclusion in our next newsletter providing it arrives BEFORE the newsletter deadline! (See page 3)

COROMAL POP-UP CAMPER TRAILER

Silhouette 421 (with Electric Lift) with H/D stone guard and bike racks + much more ...

Ring Chris 0438 223 724 or check it out on

www.gumtree.com.au/s-ad/1038577443 or

www.caravancampingsales.com.au/buy/details.aspx?R=16204097



What's wrong with this picture?



No prizes, but Pete reckons we should be able to find a list of 5 major "do nots" – taken Easter 2014 in the Flinders Ranges

SPONSOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

IM-PRESS Promotions Gawler

All embroidered with club logo

Gawler Park Retail
Centre
485 Main Nth Road
Evanston SA 5116

(behind Woolies service station)

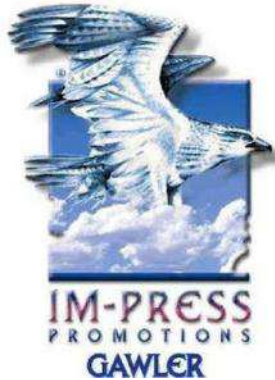
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Fax: 8523 2117

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Gawler Fishing & Outdoors

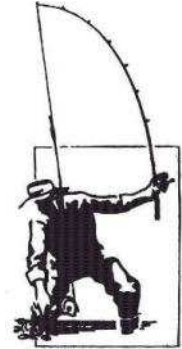
48 Murray St Gawler SA 5118

Phone 08 8522 6200

fishnout@bigpond.net.au

Club Discount with **club card****
applies to all non-special items**

- *Fishing Tackle
- *Fridge / Freezers
- *Guns & ammo
- *Binoculars
- *Knives
- *Camping gear
- *GPS systems
- *Swags
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1 Julian Terrace, Gawler S.A.
Ph: 08 85221009

Be our friend on FACEBOOK
ladolcevitasa@gmail.com

Fun, Food & Friendship



The **Gawler and Districts 4WD Club** would like thank the **Wurth** Group and their representative, Neil Burton for kindly donating **Wurth** products to the club for use as raffle prizes.

Anyone interested in any products from the **Wurth** product range should check out their website: www.wurth.com.au

Contact **Neil Burton** Ph 0400 075 227 to order any of their products.

GAWLER 4WD WEB SITE

Have you checked out our web site lately?

www.gawler4wd.com.au

Details of when meetings are to be held, what trips and events are coming up along with useful links to lots of 4WD resources are included. Read about the latest trip report or view our photo library. Of course, you can download one of our newsletters (back to Aug 2009) including our special 10th year anniversary versions.



Check our FACEBOOK link as well. www.facebook.com/GawlerandDistricts4WDClub

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May 2015



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Quarter Page	\$50
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Full Page	\$200
One off Advert : \$10	

Contact our editor editor@gawler4wd.com.au for details
[Fees apply and payment has to be made prior to printing]



MEMBERS NOTICE BOARD



It's back again!!!

***** 2014 PHOTO COMPETITION *****

The committee has decided that the photo competition this year will again be run by John J and the same rules apply to make it fair for all

The PHOTO COMPETITION RULES:

- (a) Two categories OPEN and FUNNY;
- (b) Each member may enter up to four (4) photos per category
- (c) Photos should be copy (not originals) - Size 15cm x 10cm (6"x4")
- (d) OPEN photos must have been taken on a club trip during the last 12 months
- (e) All photos must be labelled on the back with your name and where the photo was taken
- (f) Entries to be handed to John or Jane by close of November General meeting (14 Nov)
- (g) Late entries will not be accepted
- (h) All judging is carried out by our sponsors (and their decisions are final!):



So get clicking and get those photos in ... really GREAT PRIZES!!

DON'T FORGET

They must be in by November General Meeting!!

GREAT PRIZES!!!

***** 2014 TRIP REPORT COMPETITION *****

Due to the overwhelming response last year (we had 25 entries,) we have decided to continue on with the Trip Report competition this year to reward those who submit a Trip Report throughout the year!



It doesn't matter whether the report is long or short, serious or amusing, whether you have written one or more, your name will go in the "hat" for each report that is written and a winner will be drawn out of the hat at the end of the year at the Christmas Show BBQ.

So the more reports you write the better your chances of winning!

**There will be another
great prize so, please, keep-on writing!!!**

DTU TRAINING

Events the DTU are running are:

17th – 18th May Basic Practical

Two days of training and assessing at Morgan. It will cover all available competencies. During this weekend we will also be running an advisor course. See further details below.

Costs	Training	\$25
	Advisor	\$50

14th September OH&S, Risk and emergency response course

An internal course covering aspects of OH&S, risk management and emergency response relating to 4WD activities and training

Cost is \$20

18/19 October Trip Leader Course

An internal course covering aspects of Trip Planning and Leadership. Conducted at Cavan

Cost TBA

15/16 November GPS / Ozi Explorer Course

An internal course covering aspects of GPS technology and the practical use of Ozi Explorer. Conducted at Cavan

Cost is TBA



IDEAS AND INFORMATION

The following may be of interest to club members. Contact details are at the end of the article.

ODNADATTA PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

The Oodnadatta Progress Association is seeking the help of interested people to create and build the first dedicated four wheel drive museum in the remote outback of Australia. The remoteness of Oodnadatta and the famous Oodnadatta Track makes Oodnadatta a mecca for four wheel drive enthusiasts who come up the track before setting off to traverse the iconic Simpson Desert.

As an association, we want to celebrate the unique role that four wheel drives have had in opening the country to travellers. The four wheel drive is a mainstay of all industries and communities in the region.

We want to create a museum that recognises this history and celebrate the uniqueness of different vehicles that have played a part and been used in the outback for work and play.

We see this museum as an ongoing partnership with interested groups/individuals that are passionate about four wheel drives and the bush and we are seeking volunteers and assistance with:

- Builders, electricians, plumbers (tradies) who can help restore buildings for displays of four wheel drive histories and memorabilia
- Cleaning up and preparing the ground for the showing and storage of vehicles
- Donations of vehicles of interest
- Fundraising
- Creation of an extreme four wheel drive track



The Progress Association can provide camping facilities and some accommodation. This project provides the opportunity to create relationships between a diverse range of people and a unique and interesting museum that celebrates four wheel drives and will be visited by enthusiasts into the future.

If interested, please contact Ned Loades, Chairperson, OPA
ned.loades@bigpond.com Ph: 86707823 (w) or 86706180 (h)

WHAT IS A PAR?

Recently Pete was asked twice "what is a PAR?" For the record the following information gleaned from the FWDSA website should answer that query.



These are **Public Access Routes** that traverse private property, leasehold property or Crown lands to an area of public interest (eg historical sites.) PAR's are administered by the Dept for Environment & Natural Resources Pastoral Program.

The Pastoral Board identifies and formally delineates public access to points of interest on and through land held under pastoral lease (as needs and resources permit.) The process of identification involves consultation with lessees, conservation interests, tourism, operators, 4WD vehicle clubs and other interested groups. Tracks are signposted before being formally gazetted. There are currently 24 PAR's in South Australia.

The following rules apply:

- Do not assume they are accessible either by 2WD or 4WD. Allow roads to dry out after rain before traversing them.
- Permission is not required but PAR's can be closed for a variety of reasons (eg stock movement or weather.)
- Assume that pets are not allowed.
- Different camping rules apply on different tracks. If the PAR terminates at an historic or natural feature of interest, camp only where indicated. Camping is not permitted within one kilometre of any house or occupied dwelling or within 500 metres of a constructed stock watering point. Please ensure that only dead wood is used for campfires and do not use fires during the fire-ban season.
- All rubbish is to be taken out, not buried .
- Do not pollute waterways with soap etc. Do not bath in troughs or tanks.
- Do not interfere with stock.

PAR tracks are signposted as such. Unless otherwise specified, a PAR is a corridor 100m in width and with the track as a centre line, camping is allowed only within this corridor.



Got any 4WD related photos you would like to share?

Please bring them along to one of our meetings either on CD or memory stick and the publisher will prepare them for display upon our website for all to share!

(Don't worry about compressing the photos. Most picture formats supported including JPG, BMP, GIF, TIFF etc.)

TRIP REPORTS

Easter 2014: Angorichina Station : Report #1

Thursday 17 April 2014

Darryll & Joan, Nick & Sarah and Sandra & Pete met at the Willaston Hotel at 7.30 am and headed off at 7.45 am bound for the Angorichina Station for the start of the Gawler 4WD Easter Trip.

It was a lovely morning, weather sunny with a slight haze and blue skies. Traffic was light as we headed north with the land showing a mantle of green after recent rains. Windmills on the distant hills were almost stationery in the light airs.

We headed up via Burra to Jamestown where we stopped at the local bakery for morning tea as Darryll was beginning to feel the effects of "Mr Nasty" coming on due to the need for a caffeine fix.

At 12.10 we stopped in Hawker for lunch and a fuel top up and were contacted by Nick, Kerrie and the children to say that they were only an hour behind us and asked if we would wait for their arrival before proceeding to Angorichina. Kerrie also told us that they wouldn't need to stop for lunch as they had had lunch in the car - only a quick fuel & comfort stop was necessary.

Our now 4-car group entered the Flinders Ranges National Park where signage informed us that park fees were necessary!!! We hadn't come across this before, so all the drivers got out of their cars only to discover that the fees applied to those people who were going to stop and sight-see along the way - driving straight through to Blinman didn't require a fee!!

We arrived at Angorichina Station around 3 pm and were met by Alice who directed us to the campsite. We set up camp, collected wood for the campfire and enjoyed an evening meal when the sun went down around 6 pm. Afterwards the campfire was lit and the camaraderie began complete with marshmallows provided by Sarah and Nick. Bliss!! We all decided to get an early night in readiness for the proposed trip on Friday.

Good Friday

Pete and I forgot the hot cross buns for breakfast - unbelievable!!!

Left camp at 9 am and headed out to Carey Hill via the Oratunga Track. The track was variable, mainly easy with some interesting sections to stretch the capability of the drivers & vehicles, especially some of the creek crossings, of which there were many.

We stopped in a pretty creek bed to enjoy morning tea and then headed to Carey Hill some 716m above sea level. We enjoyed 360 degree views from the top of the hill and added a few more rocks to the cairn which was already quite large.



After completing the track, Nick, Kerrie and the children and Darryll and Joan headed back to the campsite while Sarah, Nick, Pete and Sandra elected to have a pub lunch at the Blinman Pub - time for Pete to enjoy one of his favourites - another big Blinman Burger!!

On arriving back at the campsite, we were greeted by the rest of the group led by Quenton and Deb who were in the process of setting up camp.

Easter Monday

All except Pete & Sandra and Sarah and Nick were packing up to return home. We didn't really want to watch everyone leave so, after saying our "goodbyes," decided to go out for a drive and headed for the other end of the Oratunga track only to find a locked gate!!! Hmm, okay, time for plan number 2 which was to drive a PAR instead to the Moolooloo homestead. Whilst driving this track we came across 5 other vehicles coming in the opposite direction and had to pull off the track to let them go by. After going through a locked gate, we eventually got to the Artimore ruins and spent some time looking around them. From there we headed to Blinman for lunch (via the homestead) before driving back to a deserted campsite. We enjoyed a last campfire and some star gazing with no sign of the feral cats this time - our campsites obviously didn't appeal to them - before turning in for the night as it was our turn to pack up the next day and head home.

We eventually left camp at 9.45am and had a bite to eat in Hawker before driving straight through to Gawler. We did have to slow down around one bend in the road to let an echidna amble to safety.

A great weekend with great company. Thank you to everyone and especially the generous Easter Bunnies who kept the chocolate fix coming.



Artimore ruins

[Sandra & Pete]

Easter 2014: Angorichina Station : Report #2

Friday 18th April-Day 1

Waking to the childhood memories of Hot Cross Buns, copious amounts of Easter Eggs & morally being allowed to run around outside in your pyjamas without copping a clip behind the ears from your Mother, it was time to leave Adelaide and meet at the RV point at Tarlee @ 07:30. 7 vehicles comprised the group ready to depart (Marie, Peter & Mandy, Stephen with Guests Chris & Eliza, Ian & Clair, Martin & Martin) all ably lead by Quenton & Deb with Max & Lynne acting as "Tail End Charlie" in their "all new Ford Ranger" making its debut.

Sadly we learnt that John & Jane would be unable to attend and all of our thoughts and best wishes were with them as we set off.

Surprisingly the morning traffic was quite light; it appears most people going away had obviously left the previous evening. Making good progress we took the Tarcowie Road for our morning tea break at a beautiful little spot called Appila Springs. Nestled among the hills was a creek system that certainly provided a picturesque setting for a "cuppa & bikkie."



Appila Springs

Back to the road we went with the kilometres racking up, whilst enjoying the view of the countryside as we made good progress. With two majestic wedge tail eagles circling above we turned off the R M Williams Way onto the Hawker-Stirling North Road. The Flinders Ranges rose in the distance as we entered Hawker taking the opportunity to fill our tanks and stop for Lunch.



Lunch stop at Hawker

Excitement built as we left on the final leg of our journey passing through Flinders Ranges National Park observing large numbers of emus & kangaroos and arriving at Angorchina Station at around 14:30. Waiting for us were Peter & Sandra, Nick, Kerrie, Caleb & Ally, Darryll & Joan and Nick & Sarah who had travelled up the day before.

Camp sites chosen, it was time to set up & sit back and enjoy the rest of the afternoon. After dinner & time around the campfire, it was off to bed for an early night in preparation for the next day.

Saturday 19th April –Day 2

Saturday morning had the makings of a picture perfect day with a sunny sky & warm conditions as we set off on what was to be our longest activity for the trip. With an early start @ 08:00 we journeyed to the "Caernarvon Track" to be met at the gate by the guide to arrange access.



Start of the Caernarvon Track

The Caernarvon 4 Wheel Drive Track was established by the "Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby Preservation Association" in August 2013. The track winds through the "Bunkers Conservation Reserve" which is approximately 140 square kilometres in area and takes in some of the most rugged country of the Flinders Ranges.

Comprehensive & quite detailed trip notes were handed out by the guide & off we set! Not far into the journey & it was time to engage the 4WD. Hopefully we were up to the challenge ahead!



Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby

Taking in the points of interest along the way we stopped at Murray's Gully for morning tea. The continual upgrading of facilities was noted with the part construction of a drop toilet at that point still awaiting its official christening!

Back on the track with some challenging sections we arrived at the peak of Mount Caernarvon at 11:30. At a height of 920 metres we admired the 360 degree views afforded with a cloudless sky providing perfect conditions. Pictures taken in front of the stone cairn erected last century & details left in the Visitor's Book. It was time to continue our journey.



View from Mount Caernarvon

After stopping for lunch at 12:45 we set off again arriving at the Southern Lookout. This was the most challenging part of the track with the summit only big enough for 5 vehicles at a time. The view at the top was magnificent & the short downhill section back to the track being a definite white knuckle ride!

From there the track became easier in nature, however, there were large sections of bulldust that required concentration & certainly ensured that there was a comfortable gap between vehicles. Arriving back at the start at 15:30 the consensus was that it was well worth the journey and certainly a privilege to take in the grandeur of the mountain ranges.

Another treat was in store as we set off for Brachina Gorge to arrive at the perfect time at dusk to watch the Yellow footed Rock Wallabies cavorting at play. The location was the perfect place for drinks & nibbles & with photos taken it was time to head back to camp for dinner and another drink around the campfire.

Sunday 20th April-Day 3

Awaking Sunday morning it was evident that the Easter Bunny had been busy!! No sooner was your back turned when the pile of Easter eggs appeared to be growing at an alarming rate.

After a leisurely breakfast we were free to explore at our own pace. Some took the opportunity to drive out & explore more tracks while others chose to stay at camp & relax.

In the afternoon we made the short trip into Blinman to complete the guided tour of the Blinman Mine.

The mine was the largest producer of copper and longest operating mine in the Flinders Ranges.



Blinman Mine

There were four main periods of mining activity between 1862 and 1907, which resulted in a total production of 10,000 tonnes of copper metal from 200,000 tonnes of ore.



With a well-informed Guide it was hard to believe the conditions that they toiled under and the will and intestinal fortitude of these miners & pioneers cannot be ignored. After hanging up the hard safety hat it was back to camp for the evening activities.



As daylight turned to dusk the local wildlife lined the hills, seeking the best vantage spot, in eager anticipation of the main event of the weekend, the "Great Eastern Steeplechase" ...oops, sorry the "Great Easter Lamb Campfire Cook-off".

A full field greeted the starter and with the cry of "hot coals away" the race was on! The early runners jostling for the prime cooking positions with the usual suspects making a concerted effort to generate as much heat as possible to gain any advantage.

Blinman Cemetery

As with any marathon event the pace ebbed & flowed with a 2/8 unknown long shot filly Mandy taking the lead temporarily with a precooked special.



Something smells good!!

However it was the seasoned favourites Quenton, Peter, Stephen & Marie who rounded the corner & headed for the line at break neck pace. Hang on..... who is this? It's Max coming around the outside of the pack with a frantic sprint who gets up to salute the Judge by a short half bread loaf!!!!

***Ladies & Gentleman
What a finish!***



Prominent Bookmaker Tom Waterhouse was later quoted as saying:

“I could see an upset in the making. I kept lowering my odds as fast as Max’s bread was rising in the oven. The Punters were the winners on the day however with the Daily Double of Max’s Bread & Peter’s Full Course Gourmet Table Served Silver Service with all the trimmings paying a respectable \$56-25.”

In the true spirit of John Singleton shouting the bar after another Group 1 Winner the cooking pots were thrown open & all & sundry settled down to enjoy the communal feast that followed.

No sooner had this finished when the Easter Bunny made yet another appearance & the chocolate egg marathon continued with Turkish delight being the main choice of the fillies.

As the campfire coals slowly lost their glow & the Milky Way appeared to shine even brighter, the sense of camaraderie & friendship was evident. A truly fitting end to a wonderful day.

P.S. A big thank you to both Martins for going out of their way to collect the firewood to make it all happen.

Monday April 21-Day 4

We awoke again Monday to another picture perfect day. Mother Nature had certainly come to the party over Easter with the most ideal conditions available. After a leisurely breakfast it was time to pack up (apart from the lucky ones staying on an extra day) & rejoin the rat race heading back to the big smoke. We set off individually from the camp site to make the most of the travelling conditions.

A big thank you to EVERYONE for such an enjoyable Easter break & to Quenton & Deb for another well organised trip!!

In closing it was very pleasing to see very little rubbish on the sides of the road but the lack of bird life certainly confirmed the feral cat problem in this area.

[Peter Greatwich]