

Gawler & Districts

www.gawler4wd.com.au

4WD Club Newsletter

April 2015



Founded in 2002



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



Willows Springs - June 2011

INDEX

Committee Members	3
Schedule of Meetings.....	3
Notes from Your Committee	4
Coming Events.....	5
Proposed Trips & Outings	6
Information on Other Events	7
Ideas and Information	7
Social Corner	8
Raffle Roster	8
Guest Speakers.....	8
Birthday Wishes	8
Sponsor Acknowledgements.....	10
Members Notice Board	12
For Sale.....	12
DTU Training.....	13
Friday Funnies	13
4WDSA.....	14
Trip Reports.....	15

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
0407 604 601 (Quenton - President)
08 8523 0657 (Jane – Secretary)
EMAIL: info@gawler4wd.com.au
WEB: www.gawler4wd.com.au

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT/PUBLIC OFFICER Quenton Earl : 8523 2507 / 0407 604 601	VICE PRESIDENT Wayne Heintze : 8523 0407 / 0432 339 213
TREASURER Norma Rivett : 0438 120 342	SECRETARY Jane Jansen : 8523 0657 / 0409 091 851
EDITOR Sandra Harper : 8523 0889	PUBLISHER Chris Sieben : 8280 7414 / 0438 223 724
MINUTES SECRETARY Julie Sieben : 0407 820 480 (General) (Committee - on rotation)	SOCIAL SECRETARIES Lyn Leske : 8524 9002 / 0403 332 432 Sarah Rowe : 8522 3297 / 0414 423 197
TRIPS/PROPERTY LIBRARIAN CO-ORDINATOR John Jansen : 8523 0657/ 0418 840 435	TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR DTU DELEGATE Peter Harper : 0410 526 317
WELCOMING OFFICERS Lyn Lillecrapp : 0418 826 156 Nick Bottroff : 0421 077 891	ASSOCIATION DELEGATE ** POSITION VACANT **

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

2015

Meeting	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
General		13	13	10	8	12	10	14	11	9	13	11
Committee		4	4	1		3	1	5	2		4	2
				29					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

March 2015

See the attached Minutes (members only)

GAWLER & DISTRICTS 4WD CLUB



Stickers For Sale – Only \$2.00 each

New design stickers complete with Web address - \$3.00 each

Magnetic Name Badges - \$10 each

See Quenton at the General Meeting

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

Presidents Report:

Welcome to the April newsletter.

Members have just returned from the Victorian High Country and Gawler Ranges trips and by all accounts was enjoyed by all. Thank you Martin and Max for doing the research and leading these successful trips. Planning and research is underway for the June and October long weekends, so keep an eye on the newsletter and the website for more details.

Guest speakers always make our meetings more interesting, but it is not an easy job by the committee to always come up with a suitable guest speaker. If you have any ideas or contacts that you think would make a suitable guest speaker, please let the committee know.

Details for the May Mystery History day trip are now published, so please ensure your name goes on the trip sheet tonight, or if you are not at the meeting and wish to go, ring me ASAP as bookings are essential.

[Quenton]

Editor's Report:

A big thank you to Deb for preparing the last newsletter in my absence. Deb was ably assisted by Chris. Maybe you would like to help (see below) be part of this wonderful team!

I have included the Easter Trip report in this edition and look forward to reading about the trip to the Victorian high country when the report is to hand.

We do not have a speaker for the April meeting so this will be a DVD night.

I would draw your attention to the 4WDSA KIT (Keeping in Touch) where volunteers are needed to help with the bushfire recovery. If you are interested, please contact Geoff Phillips on the number provided.

[Sandra]

Treasurer's Report:



SUBS ARE NOW OVERDUE for 2015

Please pay the Treasurer with a copy of your Insurance Policy

LATE FEE NOW APPLIES

PLEASE NOTE: Both the EDITOR and PUBLISHER have indicated that they are looking to step down from these roles in the next 12 months. If you are maybe interested to take on these roles or, part of, then please let us know and we can look at making the transition easy and you can practise!

Wanted Skills/Sub roles including:

- **NEWSLETTER JOURNALISTS** (collect and prepare articles for newsletter)
- **EDITOR** (collate newsletter, update internal reports, prepare for publishing)
- **NEWSLETTER FORMATTER** (We use WORD templates but being a WORD guru helps ☺)
- **WEB SITE MAINTAINER** (Update events, newsletters, articles etc. Web site contact)
- **NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTOR** (Maintain distribution membership list, Print Newsletters (PDF) and minutes etc and distribute each month)

If you are keen on any of these activities please enquire to either the EDITOR or the PUBLISHER. We will happily work with you to help you understand these simple but very important roles.



COMING EVENTS

May 3rd 2015

History Mystery Day

Trip Details:	Full Sunday Day Trip to History Events in SA. Visiting 3 interesting and historic attractions including one not normally open to the public. 4WD vehicle not required, but UHF radio essential. (club has 2 to lend out if needed) Definite numbers required at April meeting as booking is required.
Bring:	Morning tea to share, Picnic lunch for yourself, Chairs, Table, Picnic rug, Camera, UHF radio.
Cost:	Adult \$20.50 Child \$6.00
Meet:	Gawler Visitors Information Centre 9.00am
Trip Leader:	Deb/Quenton Earl 0407 604 601 or 85 232 507

**Planetarium
Mawson Lakes**

**Saturday 16th May 2015 @ 7.30pm
Mawson Lakes**

Trip Limit:	45 people
Where:	UniSA Planetarium Mawson Lakes
Cost:	\$9 per person, \$7 for all children/ Concession
Meet:	TBA
Trip Leader:	Jane & John Jansen 0409 091 851

**Iconic Wineries of
the Barossa**

**Sunday 16th July 10am
Barossa Valley**

Trip Limit:	
Where:	Barossa Valley
Cost:	TBA
Meet:	TBA
Trip Leader:	Deb Earl 85232507

October 2015	10th or 11th Oct – To Be Advised Fleurieu Peninsula
Trip Details:	Day Trip from Yankalilla to Cape Jervis on the back tracks-4WD needed 9am to 3.30 pm. Lunch is provided
Where:	Fleurieu Peninsula
Cost:	\$50 dollars per vehicle 2 people plus \$10 extra adults /\$5 extra children
Meet:	TBA (need to be at Yankalilla at 9am)
Trip Leader:	Deb/Quenton Earl 0407 604 601 or 85 232 507

PROPOSED TRIPS & OUTINGS

- **Sept/Oct 2015** *Monarto Zoo - More details April Meeting*
- **TBA** *Puppy Springs/Dorado Downs contact person Bill Small 8577 2228 (2 properties) – Leader required*
- **June 2015?** *Ladies Day weekend for guys and gals with ladies driving easy tracks on one of the days. This will help build 4WD confidence for those ladies who feel they need it.*
- **TBA** *Possible Border Track trip depending on access. Quenton to advise.*

WANNA ORGANISE A TRIP?

It's Simple

1. Decide on a destination
2. Consult the club's Trips' Coordinator
3. Set a, date, time to start and duration
4. What is the purpose -training, towing, walking, touring?
5. Consider the accommodation needs: camping, cabins, caravan park, bush camping
6. Degree of difficulty -do participants need some minimum level of training?
7. Determine what equipment is needed.
8. Check which maps are needed, and the route to be followed.
9. Check accessibility of the roads and organise access where necessary.
10. Put in a trip sheet.
11. Consider communications and safety for more remote trips.
12. Have personal contact information for all participants on remote trips.

GAWLER Districts 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

INFORMATION ON OTHER EVENTS



GAWLER MARKETS - Hayles Rd, Evanston South **** Every WEDNESDAY ****

- Good 4WD second hand items are often available
- Farmers Market
- Fruit and Vegetables

SUNDAY MARKETS **-**every SUNDAY**** at the Gawler Railway Station carpark.

IDEAS AND INFORMATION

A Few Hints for camping

Make aluminium foil your best friend. This product is so adaptable, helping to save time and reduce stress in so many ways: wrap various foods in foil to cook over the campfire; use a sheet of foil as a strainer by poking holes into it; or mould foil to fit inside pots or pans to reduce clean up time. These are just a few benefits of foil – put it at the top of your shopping list as it's sure to come in handy time and again.

COVER UP:

It's a simple yet effective trick – place a lid over pots when cooking at the campsite. This will not only speed up the cooking process but is a sure way to keep dirt, bugs, and other unwelcome nasties from crashing the (dinner) party.

FASTER PASTA:

Pre-soaking pasta in a sealed bag full of water will dramatically reduce its cooking time, ensuring easier preparation. It might sound like an old wives' tale but it actually works. While it is best to soak the pasta overnight, simply allowing water and pasta to be acquainted for a couple of hours will have an impact.

We hope these simple tips and tricks will allow you to have a better camping and caravanning experience. Happy cooking!

(From Big 4 Recipe Book 2015)

SOCIAL CORNER

Suggestions for club social outings include:

- *Film Night*
- *Port Adelaide GraveYard & Maritime Museum*
- *Putt Putt Golf, Tanunda*
- *Walking tour West Terrace cemetery*

Please pass on any social suggestions or comments to our Social Committee!

RAFFLE ROSTER

We ask if all members could kindly donate an item for a raffle prize each month to approx value of \$15. Please check below to see if your name is on the roster.

These can be given to the Social Committee (Lyn Leske or Sarah Rowe) any time.

<i>APRIL 2015</i>	<i>MAY 2015</i>	<i>JUNE 2015</i>
Stephen Kelly	Lyn Lillecrapp	Nick & Sarah Rowe
Max & Lyn Leske	Dave & Michele Riddle	Roy & Bronwyn Schwarz
Alan & Barbara Hoffman	Bronte & Norma Rivett	Chris & Julie Sieben

GUEST SPEAKERS



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

April:	4WD Videos
May:	Cooper Tires
June:	TBA
July:	ARB

**** 2015 **** If you have any more suggestions for speakers, please advise one of the Committee members.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

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

◆◆◆ April ◆◆◆
Peter Harper
Wayne Heintze
Joseph Mitchell
Anmaree Tichborne



"Slow Down And Enjoy Life"

About ten years ago, a young and very successful executive named Josh was travelling down a Chicago neighbourhood street. He was going a bit too fast in his sleek, black, 12 cylinder Jaguar XKE, which was only two months old. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something.

As his car passed, no child darted out, but a brick sailed out and-WHUMP! — it smashed into the Jag's shiny black side door! SCREECH...!!!! Brakes slammed! Gears ground into reverse, and tyres madly spun the Jag back to the spot from where the brick had been thrown.

Josh jumped out of the car, grabbed the kid and pushed him up against a parked car. He shouted at the kid, "What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing?" Building up a head of steam, he went on. "That's my new Jag, that brick you threw is going to cost you a lot of money. Why did you throw it?"

"Please, mister, please...I'm sorry! I didn't know what else to do!" pleaded the youngster. "I threw the brick because no one else would stop!"

Tears were dripping down the boy's chin as he pointed around the parked car. "It's my brother, mister," he said. "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up." Sobbing, the boy asked the executive, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the young executive tried desperately to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. Straining, he lifted the young man back into the wheelchair and took out his handkerchief and wiped the scrapes and cuts, checking to see that everything was going to be OK. He then watched the younger brother push him down the sidewalk toward their home.

It was a long walk back to the sleek, black, shining, 12 cylinder Jaguar XKE - a long and slow walk. Josh never did fix the side door of his Jag. He kept the dent to remind him not to go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at him to get his attention.

Some bricks are softer than others. Feel for the bricks of life coming at you. In the hustle bustle and the speed of life, are you missing out the joys of the present moments?

Slow down and enjoy life!

***It is not only the scenery you miss by going too fast...
You also miss the sense of where you are going and why!***

SPONSOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

IM-PRESS Promotions Gawler

All embroidered with club logo

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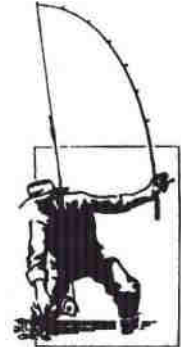
48 Murray St Gawler SA 5118

Phone 08 8522 6200

fishnout@bigpond.net.au

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

- *Fishing Tackle
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- *Swags
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- *Repairs



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you would like to use this
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The **Gawler and Districts 4WD Club** would like to thank the **Wurth Group** and their representatives 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.



**Got any 4WD related photos you would like to share?
THIS INCLUDES TRIP PHOTOS!**

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.)

Total

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May 2015



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Advertising Rates (12 months)	
Quarter Page	\$50
Half Page	\$100
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

They're back again!!!



PHOTO COMPETITION

The committee has decided that the photo competition will continue to be run by John Jansen and the following rules will apply:

The PHOTO COMPETITION RULES:

- No specific categories apply
- Each member may enter up to four (4) photos
- Photos should be copy (not originals) - Size 15cm x 10cm (6"x4")
- Photos should have been taken on a club trip during the last 12 months
- All photos must be labelled on the back with your name and where the photo was taken
- Entries to be handed to John by close of November General meeting
- Late entries will not be accepted

**So get clicking and
get those photos in -
DOUBLE CHANCE OF a PRIZE!!**



TRIP REPORT COMPETITION

The committee has 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 funny, whether you have written one or more, your name will go in the "hat" for each report that is written.

Winner will be drawn out of the collection of names at the end of the year either at the Christmas Show BBQ or at the AGM.

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

**There will be another
Amazing Prize
so please keep-on writing!!!**

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:

- Maximum of 6 lines per ad (similar to a typical local newspaper ad)
- Adverts can only appear for a maximum of 3 consecutive months
- No pictures, text only (you can run a pictures ad for \$10 a month)
- Must supply contact details (either a phone or email)
- 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)

Time to clear out the shed and get rid of those unwanted items ...

**FOR SALE ITEM WANTED
PLEASE FORWARD DETAILS TO EDITOR OR PUBLISHER**

DTU TRAINING

Student Identifier

As part of the formality of the training provided by the club and managed through 4WDSA, the federal government requires students to have a student identifier. The simple process to follow is at www.usi.gov.au. Once obtained, please advise your club's training coordinator with the id so their training records can be updated



Peter Harper

For those that are interested, here is a summary of the 2015 4WDSA Training Calendar. If you would like to attend any of the training sessions:

Contact Peter Harper (allambee6@bigpond.com)

MAY Sat 16th 09:00AM	Basic Theory Course 16th - 17th May	Cavan HQ	Basic Theory course run by DTU for clubs. Cost \$20.
MAY Sat 23rd 09:00AM	DTU run club training - 23rd - 24th May	Morgan	Club practical training run by DTU. 23rd - 24th May. Training costs \$40. Also running advisors course, cost \$60.00. Need to be nominated by your club training officer for advisors course.
AUG Sat 22nd	DTU run club training - Mud and water crossing	Callington	22nd - 23 rd - Mud and water crossing at Callington. Cost is \$35. Property access is \$30 per day
SEP Sun 13th 09:00AM	OH&S, Risk and Emergency response	Cavan HQ	DTU run training for club members. One day theory course run at Cavan. Cost is \$20. Internal course with no
OCT Sun 18th	Trip planning and leading	Cavan HQ	DTU run training for club members. One day theory course run at Cavan. Cost is 20.00 dollars. Internal course with no assessment. Will get certificate of attendance. One day on Sunday 18th.
OCT Sat 31st	DTU run club training at Peake	Peake	31st Oct - 1st Nov - Sand and general basic training at Peake. Cost is 40.00 dollars. Property access is 30 dollars per day

FRIDAY FUNNIES

Three old guys are out walking.
First one says, 'Windy, isn't it?'
Second one says, 'No, it's Thursday!'
Third one says, 'So am I. Let's go get a beer.'

A man was telling his neighbour, 'I just bought a new hearing aid.
It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect.'
'Really,' answered the neighbour.
'What kind is it?'
'Twelve thirty.'

Morris, an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical.
A few days later, the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm. A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to Morris and said, 'You're really doing great, aren't you?'
Morris replied, 'Just doing what you said, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.'

The doctor said, 'I didn't say that. I said, 'You've got a heart murmur; be careful.'

FWDSA KIT

NUMBER 35
20/02/2015**K. I. T.****"KEEPING IN TOUCH"**

A PRODUCTION FROM THE FWDSA EXECUTIVE

FWDSA VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

You will all be aware that the Sampson Flat bushfires to the north east of Adelaide in early January devastated a large area and an enormous firefighting effort was required to get the fires under control. There was a significant impact on individuals, families, businesses, livestock and vegetation. There were 28 houses lost, including the homes of two Country Fire Service (CFS) volunteers.

The Toyota Landcruiser Club (TLCC) has been supporting residents in the fire ground areas for the past six weeks.

The work initially involved helping the residents with property clean up, tree removal and fencing etc but with the encouragement of Karlene Maywald the State Governments Bushfire Recovery Coordinator, our contribution has now turned to Logistics Support.

Over the past 4 weeks Club members have

- **transported family support kits from Wayville to affected families**
- **transported donated fence posts (permapine logs) from Lenswood to affected property owners**
- **transported donated fodder from adjacent areas to affected property owners**

To date each task assignment has been accommodated with four wheel drives with standard box trailers and is being completed on a "one scheduled day per week".

Toyota Club members have committed 450 hours to date but with the prospect that the support may be required for several more months and that demand may or could increase an invitation is extended to ALL other 4 wheel drive club members to join with TLCC members.

If you would like to clock up some Volunteer Hours for your Club by assisting in this very worthwhile cause, (or you would like some more information) please contact the

TLCC Project Coordinator Geoff Phillips

via enquiry@tlccsa.asn.au or phone Geoff on **0427 790 379**.

FURTHER DETAILS AVAILABLE ON THE FWDSA WEBSITE
www.4wdsa.asn.au

TRIP REPORTS

EASTER 2015 TRIP TO MT IVE IN THE GAWLER RANGES

GOOD FRIDAY, 3 April

By the light of a beautiful full moon, 5 vehicles gathered at Mallala at 6 am on Good Friday for the trip to Mt Ive. The group was led by Max and Lyn (trip leaders) accompanied by Sandra & Pete, Quenton & Deb, Rob & Pauline (visitors & possible new members) and Tim, Riannah and children Jody, Liam and Peyton (visitors.) (John & Jane, Nick, Kerrie, Kaleb & Alli and Chris and Gail (visitors) made the trip on Thursday with Martin and Martin arriving on Friday morning.)

The weather was clear but cool as we set off at 6 am with very little traffic on the roads which was surprising as we expected it to be busier. We headed for Pt Wakefield Road and continued through Port Wakefield noticing a number of large wind farms on the hills as we passed through, Redhill & Port Pirie to Port Augusta where we stopped at 9.20 am to re-fuel and have morning tea.

The Ghan passed on its way to Adelaide and a helicopter kept us bemused at its antics - the pilot making an attempt to land in the petrol station car park rather than the helipad adjacent to it. This threw up an enormous amount of dust which wasn't appreciated with our morning tea!! Eventually he decided to land in the appropriate place.

At approx 10.10 am we left the petrol station and turned west for Mt Ive. Leaving the bitumen just passed Iron Knob we took a right turn onto a dirt road. We all stopped to reduce tyre pressure then headed off for the last 130 kms to Mt Ive passing through 22 cattle grids on the way & crossing the boundaries of 5 other properties.

On the side of the road at the Siam station stood, to our amazement, a phone box all on its own with no other buildings nearby!!! As it turns out the phone box was a donation box for the Royal Flying Doctors service.

Further along the road we came upon the recent wreck of a Toyota Rav4 vehicle which had come

to grief and ended up hitting a tree. It would need the help of a tow truck to get it out of there!! Finally, we reached Mt Ive at 1.25 pm.

We were met by the "welcoming committee" - John & Jane and Nick, Kerrie & children before proceeding to the campsite where we all set up camp either before or after lunch depending on how we felt. No other activities were planned for the day so we took the opportunity to relax but did all meet up later in the large well built gazebo for happy hour before dispersing to cook our evening meals.

[Sandra]

EASTER SATURDAY, 4th April

The group awoke on Easter Saturday to sunshine and a light breeze, our trip leader had decided we needed a sleep in after the 4am start most of us had the day before and we were grateful. It was going to be a beautiful day so after breakfast the group of eight vehicles headed for the Mt Ive tracks.

The first to be conquered by the 4WD club was the mustering track called Billy Can track which was to encompass sand, rock and a lookout. Unfortunately that first left hand turn proved to be a bit elusive until the keen eyes of the trip leader spotted it and as long as we kept seeing Billy Cans we knew we were on the right track.



The first stop was near a gorge where smaller versions of the rhyolites could be seen. A better spot for morning tea we could not have found. Rhyolites are a geological feature found throughout the Gawler Ranges and we were to see many more during our day's adventure.

For the rest of the morning we made our way through creek beds and up rocky banks spotting the odd kangaroo and goat or two. While the track was dusty the surrounding gums and grasses were glorious against the red hills.

Our last stop before lunch was to be the lookout however that did prove hard to find but whilst looking we did see other interesting parts of the property like the shearing shed and the "Dirty Green" golf course that looked like it would trouble the most hardened golfer.

After lunch the group armed with an assortment of food for nibbles by the lake set off for Lake Gairdner stopping off on the way at the 'Organ Pipes' a large example of exposed rhyolites. A short walk took us to them where Peter showed us his musical skills by playing a tune of sorts by hitting a small rock against the upright stone formations.



After leaving the rhyolites we shook our way over the corrugations to the embankment a true example of bush ingenuity and skill. This historic stone wall was built in the late 19th century to catch water as it flowed down the creek and while there was no water there at present the fact that rather new yabby nets were left suggested it had had water in it recently.



Our first look at Lake Gairdner was amazing, a shimmering white flat surface as far as the eye could see set against the brilliant red sand hills. Lake Gairdner, Australia's fourth largest salt lake and is the site of numerous land-speed record attempts when the lake is dry and, as this had occurred a week earlier, you could see where the track had been.

It was an amazing feeling to walk on the lake and the group took some incredible photos as we settled in to wait for the sunset. We watched many young foreign tourist groups arrive and set up their cameras also for the sunset and did wonder at why these groups were attracted to such an out of the way spot as beautiful as it was.

We were told later that a Korean Television star had shot a film commercial at the lake recently advertising energy drinks. The sunset was as spectacular as we had hoped and after we set off back to camp over the corrugations with the biggest moon following us all the way.

The photo opportunities were of course not over as the Lunar eclipse was also occurring tonight and without the cities light pollution the moon against the backdrop of all those stars was spectacular.

The day had been a great one with most of us seeing this part of the Gawler Ranges for the first time.

(A rhyolite is a kind of acid volcanic rock containing at least 66 percent of silica similar to granite but having solidified rapidly from a lava flow)



[Deb]

EASTER SUNDAY, 5 April

The clocks had to go back an hour during the night which gave everyone an extra hours sleep but our departure from the camp site was set at 10 am anyway, so a very lazy start to the day.

The Easter Bunny had been very generous in the early hours of the morning and Kaleb and Alli, accompanied by Gail, went around to each campsite with Easter eggs for everyone. So cute.

Today we were going to explore the summit and lookout on Mt Ive itself and the plan was to return to camp for lunch. The morning turned out to be quite cool which felt even worse thanks to a strengthening lazy wind.

The ascent to Mt Ive was via a very slow rocky track but once at the top we enjoyed 360 degree views of the property and surrounding area. We were amazed to discover an old fridge on the summit and there was some conjecture as to what it contained, however, we will never know as the door was rusted shut.



A stone cairn had been erected which most people added to. The summit overlooked the campsite and Lake Gairdner was spotted in the distance. Some people were lucky to get mobile reception and were able contact loved ones.

Many photos were taken before the slow descent took place. We were back at camp by 11.30 am. The plan was to head out again after lunch to finish the Billy Can track which wasn't completed the day before, and find the Mt Scott track. Quenton and Deb decided they were going to explore on foot and climbed a nearby hill and Jane, Kerrie & Sandra decided to stay back at camp.

So, a much depleted group of 6 vehicles headed back out of camp, essentially, backtracking on the return trip from Saturday evening. After a couple of false starts, the elusive "Lookout" was eventually located. The spot at the top provided good views of the station homestead and surrounding out buildings.

We eventually got back into camp around 4pm and did complete Billy Can track. Knowing that Mt Scott would take 2+ hours and with daylight saving finished, we decided on an early happy hour rather than the potential of driving home in the dark.

MONDAY, 6 April

After a very windy night, we were awakened by the sound of rain on our tent. Bummer, that meant that there was a likelihood of it being packed away wet!! Not good news. A strong rather cold wind was blowing when we got up which did help to dry some of the tent but, unfortunately, there was no sun and the heavens were threatening rain again.

5 vehicles were departing today – Martin & Martin, Lyn & Max, Rob & Pauline, Quenton & Deb and Pete & Sandra. The two Martins were well on the road by the time the rest of us departed at 8.45 am – quarter of an hour ahead of time. (Jane & John, Nick, Kerry, Kaleb & Allie and Chris and Gail were staying on until Tuesday.)

The rain had help to settle the dust ... initially ... but we soon found out that not everywhere had benefitted. Deb & Quenton wanted to have a look at Iron Knob so we made that a "morning

tea” and “dunny” stop and also took the opportunity to pump up the tyres before driving on the bitumen.



We drove on into Pt Augusta which is where some of us parted company and headed home

on our own. The drive wasn't a particularly pleasant one with very strong winds and heavy rain along the way, however, considering it was the last day of the long weekend, the traffic wasn't as bad as anticipated and kept moving at a reasonable speed.

Thank you to Max & Lyn for leading & planning the trip. It was a great weekend with great company so thanks to everyone for making it a relaxing and social weekend.

[Sandra & Pete]

