

Gawler & Districts

www.gawler4wd.com.au

# 4WD Club Newsletter

May 2017



Founded in 2002



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



Misty Start to day in Murray Bridge



On the Border Track

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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 \$50 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)**

**0409 091 851 (Jane – Secretary)**

**EMAIL: [info@gawler4wd.com.au](mailto:info@gawler4wd.com.au)**

**WEB: [www.gawler4wd.com.au](http://www.gawler4wd.com.au)**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

<b>PRESIDENT/PUBLIC OFFICER</b> Quenton Earl : 8523 2507 / 0407 604 601	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> Wayne Heintze : 8523 0407 / 0432 339 213
<b>TREASURER</b> Norma Rivett : 0438 120 342	<b>SECRETARY</b> Jane Jansen : 8523 0657 / 0409 091 851
<b>EDITOR</b> Sandra Harper : 8523 0889	<b>PUBLISHER</b> Peter Harper : 0410 526 317
<b>MINUTES SECRETARY</b> Deb Earl : 8523 2507 (General) (Committee - on rotation)	<b>SOCIAL SECRETARIES</b> Joann Wuttke : 0402 353 064 Julie Sieben
<b>TRIPS/PROPERTY</b> John Jansen : 0418 840 435  <b>LIBRARIAN CO-ORDINATOR</b>	<b>TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR</b> <b>DTU DELEGATE</b> Peter Harper : 0410 526 317
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b> Bob Tonkin : 0421 603 767	<b>ASSOCIATION DELEGATE</b> Quenton Earl : 8523 2507 / 0407 604 601
<b>WELCOMING OFFICERS</b>	Darryl Grace, Bronwyn Schwarz

**SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

	<b>2017</b>											
<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>
<b>General</b>		10	3	7	12	2	14	11	8	13	10	8
<b>Committee</b>		1	29		3		5	2		4	1	
		22			24			30			29	

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

**Queen's Birthday 12 June 2017: Labour Day 2 October 2017**

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 2017**  
*See the attached Minutes (members only)*

## NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of one of our members – Dr Astrid Lettberg-Gardner. I know all our members will have John and their family in our thoughts at this sad time. John and Astrid have been longstanding members of the club and have travelled many back roads and tracks of Australia. Astrid will be sadly missed.

[Quenton]

### President's Report:

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At this meeting, a special showing of the film "Northern Safari" will, I am sure, entertain you. Keith Adams, his wife and his sister set off in 1955 in a modified 1948 Buick from Perth to the Gulf of Carpentaria. It truly is an Australian outback adventure, long before the "Leyland Brothers" or Paul Hogan's "Crocodyle Dundee".

The Sunday of the June long week-end is now a day trip to "Southern Burra". It will be a drive of the scenic back roads ending at the Mt Bryan Hotel, which was a very popular stop off last year! More details will be provided at the June meeting.

[Quenton]

### Editor's Report:

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Welcome to the May edition of the Newsletter.

Sandra & Wayne led a trip to the Pink Lakes over Easter and their trip report is included in the Newsletter. We had a great time on the trip, the weather was perfect and I'd like to extend my thanks to them both for a wonderful time filled with lots of fun and laughter especially around the campfire.

We have trips listed for almost every month of the year however July, August (Peake is cancelled) and September are free if anyone would like to nominate themselves to lead a trip. It doesn't necessarily have to be for a weekend so if you have any suggestions for a day trip which you think would appeal to our members, please feel free to put your ideas forward to a committee member.

The next trip is due on the weekend of 20/21 May and is the Ladies Day trip to Bri Glen. It's not too late to add your name to the trip sheet if you would like to go (see details under Coming Events.)

Have a great month.

[Sandra]



## COMING EVENTS

### Ladies Drive

**Saturday 20 May / Sunday 21 May 2017**

<b>Trip Details:</b>	Camping at Bri-Glen, this is a chance for the ladies to get behind the wheel and tackle some of the drives at Bri-Glen
<b>Where:</b>	Bri-Glen, Near Burra
<b>Cost:</b>	\$20 per person per day
<b>Meet:</b>	Saturday - Tarlee 8.00am Main street parking bay (Has Public toilets)
<b>When:</b>	20/21 May
<b>Trip Leader:</b>	Quenton Earl 0407 604 601
<b>More Info</b>	Full tank fuel, Caravan, Camper Trailers, Tents, Swags. No showers or toilets or power, so please be self-sufficient with all food, water, bush toilet, etc. Camp ovens & Bedouries. Campfire is OK & can collect wood on property, so chainsaw is OK. Please bring normal recovery gear & UHF radio is a must. Bring sturdy walking shoes, hat, sunscreen. Camera.

### June Long Weekend

**Sunday, 11 June 2017  
Southern Burra Day Drive**

<b>Trip Details:</b>	Day trip to Southern Burra
<b>Where:</b>	**TBA**
<b>Cost:</b>	**TBA**
<b>Meet</b>	Gawler Visitors Information Centre
<b>Trip Leader:</b>	Quenton Earl 0407 604 601

### Peake 2017

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

<b>Trip Details:</b>	A weekend of 4WD driving skills refresh (mostly sand) and socialising.
<b>Where:</b>	Peake (50km past Taillem Bend)
<b>Cost:</b>	\$40
<b>Meet:</b>	Most will meet at Peake Post Office (a site to be provided nearer the time). We can arrive before or after Peake Post Office
<b>When:</b>	Either Friday afternoon or Saturday morning
<b>Trip Leader:</b>	TBA
<b>Trip Co-Ordinator</b>	Quenton Earl
<b>More Info</b>	•

<b>Argadells Flinders Ranges</b>	<b>2017 October Long Weekend 30 September &amp; 1/2 October 2017</b>
<b>Trip Details:</b>	Camping at Cockroach Valley
<b>Where:</b>	Argadells, Flinders Ranges. Good 4WD tracks and great scenery from the top of Mt Arden.
<b>Cost:</b>	Camping: \$10 per person per night. Caravan: \$30 per night
<b>Meet:</b>	TBA
<b>When:</b>	TBA
<b>Trip Leader:</b>	Peter Harper 0410 526 317
<b>More Info</b>	Visit their Web site at <a href="http://www.argadells.com.au/argadells.com.au/index.html">http://www.argadells.com.au/argadells.com.au/index.html</a>

<b>Xmas 2017</b>	<b>Last Weekend in November 24/25/26 November 2017</b>
<b>Trip Details:</b>	<b><i>**Please keep this weekend free for our Christmas get-together**</i></b>
<b>Where:</b>	More details to follow from the Social Club Secretary when to hand

The trip sheets are on John Jansen's table at the back of the hall. Don't forget to add your name to any trips you would like to go on. The "more the merrier" helps to make the trip a success and to reward the trip leader for the effort he/she puts in to organising and leading the trip. If you find you cannot go, please let the trip leader know as soon as possible. Thank you.

## GAWLER AND DISTRICTS 4WD WEB SITE

Have you checked out our web site lately? [www.gawler4wd.com.au](http://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 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary versions.



Check our FACEBOOK link as well. [www.facebook.com/GawlerandDistricts4WDClub](https://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\* - Gawler Railway Station carpark.

**SATURDAY FARMERS MARKET** - Every Saturday morning between 8 am and 12 noon at the carpark attached to the Information Centre on Lyndoch Road, Gawler

**4WD Octoberfest**

**FRIDAY 29TH SEPT TO MONDAY 2ND OCT 2017**

BASED AT WILLANGI BUSH ESCAPES - PETERBOROUGH

WHAT'S NEW THIS TIME YOU ASK?

MULTIPLE 4WD CLUB LEADERSHIP

NEW PROPERTIES

NEW TRACK'S

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

**COME AND JOIN THE FUN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**KEEP AN EYE ON OUR WEBSITE**

[mountloftyrangers.com.au](http://mountloftyrangers.com.au)

**GUEST SPEAKERS**



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

<b>May</b>	Film Night: "Northern Safari" See comments in Quenton's president's words
<b>June</b>	Kimberly / Darwin Trip Report
<b>July</b>	TBA
<b>August</b>	Visit to Gawler Mechanical

**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. Without these regular contributions the raffle would be unable to go ahead each month. Please don't leave it to that elusive "someone else"*

*Donations can be given to the Social Committee (Joann Wuttke or Julie Sieben) any time.*

May 2017	June 2017	July 2017
Wayne and Sandra Heintze	Martin and Corry Kisbee	Lyn Lillicrapp
John and Jane Jansen	Max and Lyn Leske	Peter & Lynn O'Sullivan

**Want to advertise in our Newsletter?**



Advertising Rates (12 months)	
Quarter Page	\$50
Half Page	\$100
Full Page	\$200
One off Advert : \$10	

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

**BIRTHDAY WISHES**

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

◆◆ May ◆◆
Roy Schwarz
Bronwyn Schwarz







## CHECK OUT OUR SPONSORS and ADVERTS

Maybe you have something at home you would like to sell.

Contact us for details

### MEMBERS NOTICE BOARD



#### PHOTO COMPETITION

*Yes, it's on again. You know the rules but just in case, here they are:*

##### The PHOTO COMPETITION RULES:

- (a) No specific categories apply
- (b) Each member may enter up to four (4) photos
- (c) Photos should be copy (not originals) - Size 15cm x 10cm (6"x4")
- (d) Photos should 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 by close of November General meeting
- (g) Late entries will not be accepted

**Entries to be handed to John by close of NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING**

**Late entries will not be accepted.**

**So get your photos in !!!**

**DOUBLE CHANCE OF a PRIZE!!**



#### TRIP REPORT COMPETITION

*It's on again....*

*The committee has, once again, 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!!!



***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.)*

## TRIP REPORTS

### Murray Mallee trip 14 -17th April 2017

#### Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Meeting at the visitor's centre for a 7am start were Sandra & Pete, Martin & Brian, Bronte & Norma, Keryn, Brenton & Wil, Mick & Kylie, Sandra & Wayne. Roy & Bronwyn met us at Coonalpyn. All raring to go for a fantastic weekend of 4WD, fun and laughter.

The fog was so thick in places that we were wondering who was in front of us. But, boy oh boy, fantastic photos.



Made our way to Coonalpyn and where we were in for a surprise!!!!!! Cars and people everywhere what a busy town now! Not bad for a town that most people just drove through.

The silos are just magnificent; when we were there a month ago the artist Guido van Helden was just using a spray can of paint standing on a cherry picker. He would just toss the empty can to the ground, look at a piece of paper/ photo then carry on spraying again, such talent. I wonder if he was a graffiti artist as a teenager?????? The paintings look realistic and they are of local children from the school, as he says that the children represent the future of the town.



They also have other art work throughout the town, a great eagle's face as you head out of town on a fence, small metal tabs of different colours. They had a small market as well. After having a fantastic waffle and hot choc for me, with everyone fuelling up on coffees and food on offer, we headed off on the back roads to come back out on the highway at Lameroo. Short trip down the highway to Pinnaroo for fuel then off over the border to Murrayville.



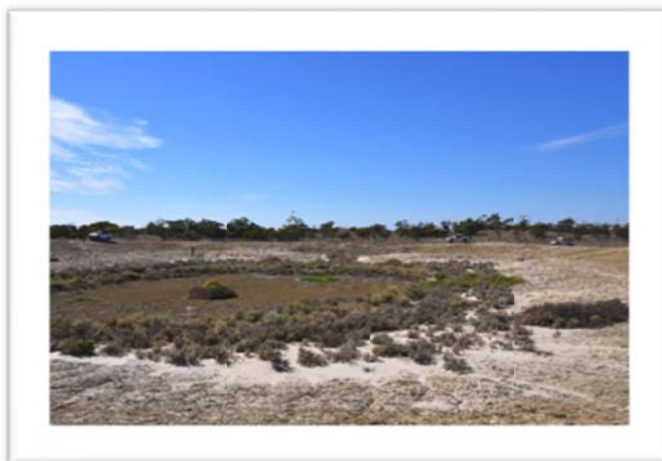
At the caravan park we all set about setting up camp and into happy hour for a few drinks, nibbles, lots of laughs and mega amounts of relaxation. We were very lucky with Pete bringing wood and Bronte the half 44-gallon drum, so we could have some great fires at night to sit around, and it was cold the first night.

Everyone had a task to build an Easter nest for Sunday morning so the Easter bunny doesn't miss us!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

### Saturday 15th April 2017

Woke from a very cold night, everyone up and raring to go on an adventure around the Pink Lakes, Sunset National Park. Sun shining, sky blue, birds singing and the frigging rooster had been crowing since sunrise. It's a beautiful day.

Headed out along the Mallee Highway and then turning onto Sunset Road, 1st stop Linga trig point which gave us a great view over the country side. What a beautiful country we live in. Turning left onto the Underbool track, next stop was the Green Opal Mine with a 800 metres walk which I am sure was at least 2kms of walking through soft sand. At the end was the slag heap and the mine shaft had been filled in. Morning tea was on the cards when we got



back to refresh the bodies for the next stage. Had a look at Sunset tank (a dam,) pretty big.

Headed down the Grub track to check out a camping spot, and the pine-log cattle yards. Native pine posts and rails are naturally resistant to termites. To Birthday Plains and again another cattle yard and we tried to find Don Perry's butchering tree but think it went years ago. Don Perry was a local who was nick named "Blowfly" as he used to have a green ute that was known as "the

grasshopper." He would load up the carcasses, cover them with broken Mallee branches and hopefully the leaves shaking up and down over the meat would keep the blowflies from settling!!!!!! You can see at different areas the regeneration of the scrub after bushfires as we drove through the park.

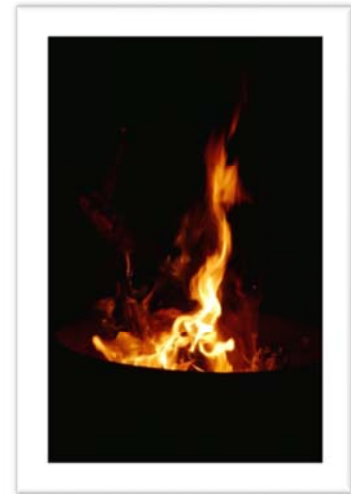
Lunch was at Mt Crozier and a lesson on how to light a fire without matches or lighters. Peter and Wil were interesting to watch. No fire started but it was continued back at camp.



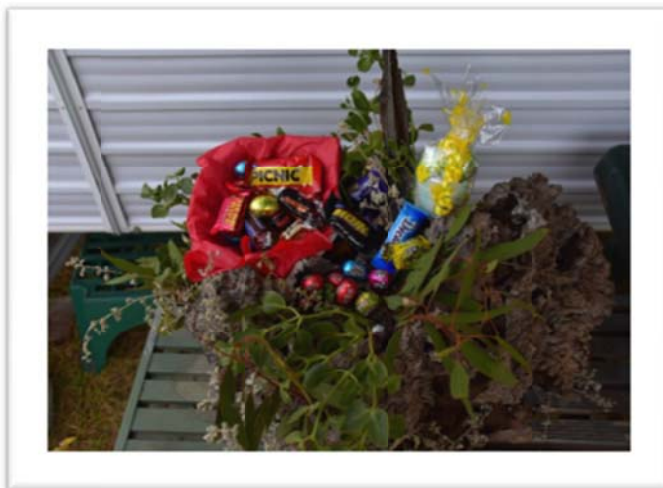
After lunch we took off and decided to take a short cut which, it turned out, was not that good of a short cut. We still got to see the beautiful country side.

Stopped at Lake Crosbie for a look and out on to the Salt Lake for some photos. The camping area was quite full, looks like you have to get in early for a spot. Lucky we stopped as Kylie and Mick lost a bolt from their bull bar, so it was a bit of "bush mechanics" to fix. Called into Cowangie homestead for a look around, still an interesting place. Another building has been restored which is good to see.

Back to camp for tea at the hotel which was so disappointing, poor Kylie was eating her meal after everyone had finished and was not even able to get the meal she ordered!! Headed back to the caravan park for drinks and the fire to cheer ourselves up. and make sure our nest were ready for the Easter bunny in the morning.



### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2017



Unzipping the camper and staring out bleary eyed to be greeted by Easter eggs everywhere. Tasted good for breakfast. Having to get an independent judge, I picked a caravan and knocked. A lovely lady agreed to judge, she was a little stunned at first, but didn't take long to get into the swing of it. Keryn and Wil were very good and made two. Wil needed them he had eggs everywhere and Clarentyne even helped himself. Norma & Bronte made one out of a massive Mallee stump. Kylie had a nest in her hair. Peter

and Sandra nest was a paddy melon even Martin and Brian made a nest!! Bronwyn had a beautiful arrangement with yellow flowers. What good fun and Norma & Bronte won the best nest. Well done!!

Kylie and Mick had a rest day at camp while we headed off towards Pinnaroo then turned on to the Border track heading north. This is a beautiful track with parts like a roller coaster, not a wide track and cars got quite scratched. The things we do for fun! Along this track is the old Border Fence made from wire netting and iron droppers, it began in the 1887 to try and keep vermin out of the farming lands. Lots of potatoes are grown in this area with the centre pivot irrigators. They can get two crops a year. Turned off the track to look at areas where the returned soldiers were given land to begin a new life after the war. Pretty harsh in the middle of the desert. Would have been such a hard life. Next on the track was an old eucalyptus plant for making oil, which was



started in the 40's. Stayed here for a while looking around as an interesting place with lots of rusty artefacts lying around. Wil and Keryn had a small metal detector which kept them busy where ever we stopped. Found a few really great camping spots for future reference, one that we stopped for lunch. Wil found a black cricket which was quite large, black and different. Headed to the Rock Holes which was really stinky, something had been dead in there for a while.

Back to camp for happy hour and again a fire. Lot of laughing as we played "celebrity heads." Just trying to see each other in the dark was hard enough let alone being able to see what people were.



### Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Up and a slow start to the morning as we all had to go home which is a pain. Back to the real world and wishing I could win x-lotto and retire.

Thank you everyone for a fantastic long weekend. See you next time.

[Sandra Heintze]

## May Mystery History Day, Sunday May 7 2017

A nippy day as, led by Q, 20 members set out to explore.... Beginning at the Gawler visitors' centre we headed out through Williamstown, Mount Pleasant and Eden coming to rest at our first stop (morning tea) at the Herbig family tree just outside of Springton. Marvelling at our ancestors' tenacity we dug into a marvellous spread that would have pleased the 16 Herbig children, all of whom made it to adulthood, though one wonders had not Dad expired just after number 16 was born, just how much further the family may have expanded.

Stop two was the Friedensberg school just outside of Springton. A little gem discovered by Q on a bike ride (the kind requiring leather not lycra). We got to sing (not well) and then the inkwells and pens came out. Does anyone else find it disturbing when something you are familiar with becomes a museum piece. Touch screens

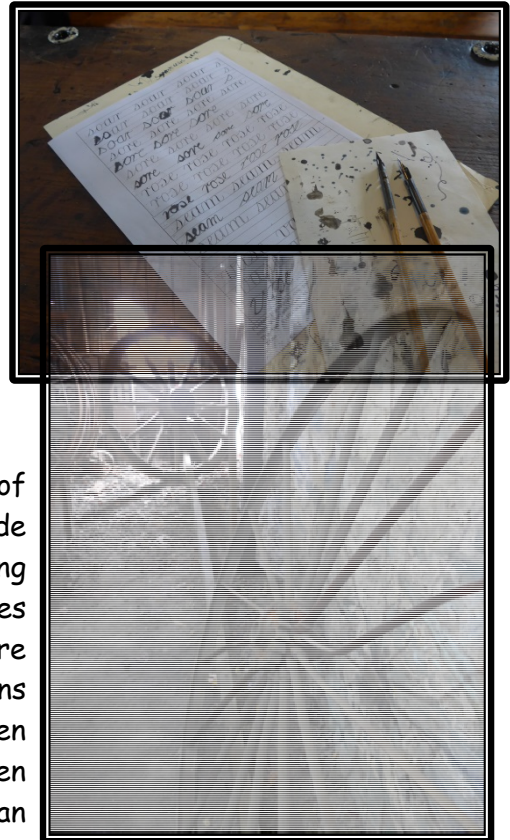
were not even imaginable when I was using an inkwell.

Lunch in the

park at Angaston had us chasing the sun around to keep warm. Just around the corner for the next stop at the Blacksmiths, a real live working forge and museum. Lots of dust and a wealth of history. Our guide was able to give us lots of information to bring the piles to life. Now we know the difference between an Australian wheel hub and any ordinary wheel hub.

Apparently not our usual state of affairs, we have a half hour to spare so we have time for a wander round the streets of Angaston. A busy little place, obviously popular with bikers (again the leather variety)

The highlight next, a spot of Kegeling. Some of our number had no idea what that was but quickly got the hang of the German bowling game. Q wins by a mile. Of course if we want him to do this again perhaps that was a strategy on our part. A closing coffee at Maggie Beers finished off the day nicely.



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## History of the Blinman Mine

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With apologies to Deb Earl, herewith, is the full text of the article Deb sent to us part of which was omitted in last month's Newsletter. Enjoy!

### History of Blinman Copper Mine - Guest Speaker Geoff Randall

At our March meeting we were fortunate to have Geoffrey Randall speak at the club meeting on the History of the Blinman Copper mine 1859-1916.

The book Geoff wrote on the Blinman Copper Mine was part of his work as an Honors student at Adelaide University and he has a Bachelor Degree in Environmental Studies, History and Social Sciences which is quite an achievement. The story below is taken in part from his talk and the rest from his book and is only a select history of the mine. Geoff's book is still available to buy so if you are interested please contact the committee for details.

In 1859 the area east of the area now known as the Blinman copper mine was used for sheep grazing and it was a one legged shepherd named Robert Blinman who noticed the green stained rock on a nearby hill. From this discovery he set about filing for a mineral claim of the area at a cost of 5 pounds and convinced three others to join him in this venture. This syndicate of Robert Blinman, Alfred Frost, Joe Mole and Henry Alford worked a small section of the claim which they sold to the Yudanamutana Copper Mining Company for 6000 pounds. Robert Blinman or "Peg leg Bob" used his profit to begin a wood carting business and later a hotel licensee in the Flinders Ranges and he is buried at the Quorn Cemetery.

The mine was officially opened on September 5th 1862 with Captain Thomas Anthony as the manager, a Cornish Mine Captain, who brought experienced Cornish miners with him from Kapunda, Burra and Moonta.

Water, or lack of it, was an issue for the Blinman mine and water was eventually sourced from a bore 8 kms south of the town and piped to the mine where it was stored in tanks and dams. This water source was also used for the town. However the costs involved with transport, infrastructure and wages meant that although the mine was most productive between 1862 and 1880, it was not a profitable venture for the company and the Yudanamutana company changed its name in 1872 to the Blinman Consolidated Copper Mining Company and in 1880 employed a new manager Captain W J Paul. However by 1881 Blinman mine was in need of further capital investment and was taken over by the Corporation of South Australian Copper Mines Limited.

The mines Managing Director Mr T A Massey modernised the mine and boilers were brought from the recently defunct Prince Alfred Mine near Belton (NE of Carrieton) via the newly laid northern railway to Parachilna and then by road haulage to Blinman. The official re-opening of the mine in May 1882 was celebrated with an official dinner and the announcement that Captain William Bryant was to supersede Captain Paul as mine manager.

The drought of 1883/84 significantly reduced the stock feed that teamsters relied on whilst carting ore from Blinman mine to Parachilna this, with a downturn in ore prices, meant the mine was in danger of closing. However the drought broke in late 1884 and a considerable input of money through the sale of debentures occurred, thus the mine was to be upgraded with the purchase of a water-jacket furnace which produced a higher purity of copper for a lower price.

In 1885 this purchase was agreed to by the Board however given the low price of copper and the fact that the Directors had not drawn a salary from the mine for two years meant the company was forced to close.

However, later the same Director renamed the company the South Australian Mining and Smelting Company, settled the previous debt with the creditors, employed a new mine manager Mr James and purchased the new Furnace. Transportation costs were still a considerable burden and in the 1888 Mining Journal it was written that until a more secure water source could be found the water-jacket furnace could not be erected.

It was during this period that Captain Doble from Cornwall took over the mines management but the ongoing drought and lack of work force (wages were higher in the Broken Hill Mines) the Board reported that production ceased in June 1888.

The ever optimistic Board however petitioned the SA Government to build a narrow gauge railway from Parachilna to Blinman with the government receiving 5% of the cost of all transported goods. During this time, Mr Massey the company's Managing Director was using the local press to seek support for a local School of Mines and Industry to be established in Blinman. The rail route was surveyed but like Mr Massey's school, never built.

In June 1889 optimistic reports of rich oxide ore and a permanent water supply touted the Blinman area as being as good as Broken Hill, this buoyed the company and a new crusher and two new furnaces to be built by Gawler's May Brothers were ordered.

However following an ongoing legal dispute over wages with the miners, a near fatal accident and the death of Captain Doble in September 1892, the mine was sold in the October of that year to the Blinman Mining Company.

This company worked the mine on tribute and sold off the machinery to the Clara St Dora Company who mined in the Davenport Ranges. Tribute meant that the ore body in the mine was divided into "pitches." The group would then work that pitch for nine weeks. They would usually receive subsistence payments at the end of each month, how much they earned depended not just on how hard they worked but on how well they had judged the value of the pitch - and on luck. They could even end up in debt if their share of the proceeds was less than expenses and subsistence.

By the end of 1903 there were about 50 men and boys employed at the mine and the company was looking for a buyer. Later that year it was sold to the Tasmanian Copper Company. This company had large resources and was experienced in areas where there were difficulties processing ore. The intention was to re equip the mine, build a smelter and encourage other mines in the area by buying their ore as well. Over 30,000 pounds was spent on this upgrade with the new smelter ordered from the James Martin Foundry in Gawler.

The mine continued under the management of Captain Henrie and its success was due more to the high price of copper and exaggerated accounts of the mines production in the local press. At its peak the company owned 36 mining properties which included Blinman, Sliding Rock, Yudanamutana, Cutaway, Lady Falmer, Mount Lyndhurst & Warra Warra (near Maree) and employed over 400 men and had spent over 500,000 pounds in South Australia.

On the sudden death of Captain Henrie in May 1907, the company was thrown into disarray and in the November of that year the mining of ore and the furnace ceased and parts from the dismantled mine were taken to be used in the new Port Pirie smelter. Tributary mines continued to mine Blinman intermittently but this ceased about 1918 and the chimneys were demolished in the 1930's



## GENERAL INFORMATION

*The following has been listed on Westprint Friday Five and may be of interest to railway enthusiasts.*

### Trans Australian Railway Centenary

#### 17 October 2017

The centenary celebration will be held at 1.45pm on Tuesday 17th October 2017, 4kms west of Ooldea. At this stage 100 people and about 45 vehicles have registered to attend.

#### Travel to Ooldea

Ooldea is approximately 320kms from Ceduna. The turn off from the Eyre Highway to Ooldea is 177kms west of Ceduna. Ooldea is 140kms north of the turn off. The first 78kms from the Eyre Highway to the Iluka mine is bitumen. The remaining 62kms to Ooldea is dirt with some limestone ridges, and is best travelled in a 4WD drive vehicle.

Access to the rail link site is only available on the southern side of the railway line. The land to the north of the Ooldea rail crossing is Aboriginal land owned by Maralinga Tjarutja, and access permits are required.

The 4km stretch south of the railway line and west from Ooldea to the site is very rough and only accessible via 4WD. People travelling in 4WD vehicles – with or without trailers – will be directed to designated parking areas adjacent to the link site. It would be appreciated if you could follow the instructions provided by the event volunteers.

People travelling to Ooldea in conventional vehicles are asked to park their cars in designated areas provided at Ooldea, and then use the shuttle 4WD service provided by volunteers to get to and from the link site.

Some people may prefer to stay overnight near Ooldea, rather than complete the return journey from Ceduna on the same day.

An opportunity exists for people to link the 100th anniversary of the railway line event with a visit to the historic Maralinga Village. Maralinga Village is 50km north of Ooldea and has camping areas for people with caravans and camping trailers. There are no powered sites available, however the village provides ablution facilities with hot showers, laundry, 240 volt power outlets and clothes lines.

For people who are not equipped for camping, there is a limited number of self-contained donga style units available. Accommodation at Maralinga Village must be pre-booked. Don't just turn up on the day and hope to get accommodation. To book camping or donga accommodation, please contact the Maralinga Village Manager on 8670 4089. Tours of the atomic test sites are available at Maralinga, but you will need to book.

#### What is Happening at the Centenary Event?

The event will be held at 1.45pm on the 17th October, the exact time and place that the rails were linked in October 1917. The event will be relatively short and simple. A few short speeches will be made by special guests, invitees and key proponents of the event celebration.

The main activity will comprise the unveiling of monuments (replicas of the originals installed in 1967) which have been constructed in steel by the Australian Rail Track Corporation from the original plans. Photo opportunities with the monuments will be available after the speeches.

### Visitor Amenity

Due to the remote location and complex logistics to supply the site, the infrastructure provision will be kept to a minimum. Portable chemical toilets will be provided.

Attendees should bring their own chairs. The terrain is uneven and the weather can be fickle even in October. Bring sturdy shoes, sun hats, wet weather gear and a wind proof jacket.

### Refreshments

A user-pays sausage sizzle will also be provided by the Fowler's Bay Progress Association to raise funds for the township development.

### Sponsorship

The National Railway Museum and RDAWEP is pleased to announce that Dick Smith Foods is a major sponsor and has provided funding to ensure that event will proceed. This is a generous gesture to make sure that important events and landmarks in Australia's cultural development are appropriately recognised and celebrated.

Dick Smith is planning to attend the event, and has been invited to be a guest speaker.

### Registration to Attend

The logistics of holding the event near Ooldea are complex. An indication of the number of people attending is essential to ensure that sufficient infrastructure – such as chemical toilets – is provided to cater for guest amenity.

RDAWEP is aware of numerous people who intend to come to the celebration, but have yet to register.

If any of your friends or associates are planning to come to the event, could you please remind them to register their details via email to [bob.ramsay@rdawep.org.au](mailto:bob.ramsay@rdawep.org.au).

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## 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](mailto:editor@gawler4wd.com.au) for inclusion in our next newsletter providing it arrives BEFORE the newsletter deadline! (See page 3)

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**SPONSOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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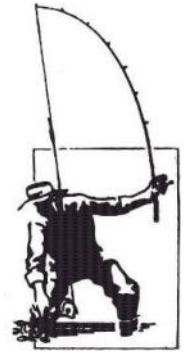
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## LAST PAGE

This should have gone into April's edition but do we only remember our fallen on Anzac Day? I don't think so. Any one of our young men and women currently serving overseas in a theatre of war could become the fallen of tomorrow.

### LEST WE FORGET

#### A SOLDIER DIED TODAY, By Larry Vaincourt

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,  
And he sat around the RSL telling stories of the past,  
Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done  
In his exploits with his cobbles; they were heroes everyone.

And tho' sometimes to his neighbours, his tales became a joke,  
All his Digger mates, they listened, for they knew where of he spoke.  
But we'll hear his tales no longer, for old Bill has passed away...  
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today.

He will not be mourned by many, just his children and his wife,  
For he lived an ordinary and quietly uneventful life.  
Held a job and raised a family, quietly going his own way,  
And the world won't note his passing, 'though a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,  
While thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great.  
Papers tell their whole life stories from the time that they were young.  
But the passing of a soldier goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land?  
A guy who breaks his promises and cons his fellow man?  
Or the ordinary fellow who in times of war and strife,  
Goes off to serve his Country and offers up his life?

A politician's stipend and the style in which he lives,  
Are sometimes disproportionate to the service that he gives.  
While the ordinary soldier, who offers up his all,  
Is paid off with a medal and perhaps, a pension small.

It is so easy to forget them, for it was so long ago.  
That the old "Bills" of our Country went to battle but we know,  
It wasn't the politicians, with their compromise and ploys,  
Who won for us the freedom that our Country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger with your enemies at hand,  
Would you want a politician with his ever-shifting stand?  
Or would you prefer a soldier who has sworn to defend...  
His home, His Kin and Country and would fight until the end?

He was just a common soldier and his ranks are growing thin  
But his presence should remind us we may need his like again.  
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part,  
Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot grant him honour while he's here to hear the praise,  
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.  
Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper it could say,  
Our country is in mourning, for a soldier died today.

(The above thanks to Wesprint Friday Five)