www.gawler4wd.com.au

Gawler & Districts 4WD Club Newsletter

Founded in 2002

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





Burra June 2017

INDEX

Committee Members	3
Schedule of Meetings	
Notes from Your Committee	
Coming Events	
General Information:	
Guest Speakers	9
Raffle Roster	
Birthday Wishes	10
For Sale	
Gawler and Districts 4WD Web Site	11
Members Notice Board	
Trip Reports	13
Sponsor Acknowledgements	
General Information – Orroroo Meats	
Last Page	

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: <u>info@gawler4wd.com.au</u> **WEB:** <u>www.gawler4wd.com.au</u>

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

2017					20	18						
Meeting	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
General	14	11	8	13	10	8		9	2	13	11	1
Committee	5	2		4	1		31	21		4	23	
Committee		30			29							

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

Labour Day 2 October 2017

Dates for 2018

Adelaide Cup 12 March: Easter 30 March to 2 April: Queen's Birthday 11 June: Labour Day 1 October

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

June 2017

See the attached Minutes (members only)

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

President's Report:

Our Guest Speaker at the July meeting will be Wayne Enright. Wayne runs "Free Spirit Adventures" and leads treks around the world including Kokoda, Uluru, Tassie, New Zealand, Patagonia, Peru & Brazil etc. He has just written a book called "The Spirit of Adventure Calls: A Compass for Life, Learning & Leadership" about mate Mark Auricht's Mt Makalu Expedition. Proceeds of the book will go to Operation Flinders Foundation. This will be a great talk; not to be missed.

Our idea of a day trip on the Sunday of the June long week-end proved popular again this year. We had beautiful sunny weather and our hosts Simon & Kymm of the Mt Bryan Hotel excelled themselves with a great selection of cakes and good coffee.

We have been invited by Orroroo Kangaroo to visit their shop at Orroroo. As a Committee we decided this could be a week-end trip to take in the sights around Orroroo including the Big Gum tree, Magnetic Hill and Pekina. We have set a date in September and more details are now in this Newsletter. Also see their website: www.orrorookangaroo.com.au.

[Quenton]

Editor's Report:

Welcome to another Newsletter. It is hard to believe that we are now into the second half of 2017. It hardly seems like yesterday when we were celebrating the start of another new year!!

We have trips listed to Australia Day 2018 so if you have ideas for trips for the rest of 2018 please let us know.

Long weekends for next year are as follows:

Adelaide Cup 10/11/12 March: Easter: 30/31 March & 1/2 April: Queen's Birthday 9/10/11 June: Labour Day 20/30 Sept & 1 Oct

If there is anywhere you would specifically like to go, please let a committee member know, it's certainly not too early to start planning our calendar for 2018. Social day trips are also a consideration so please put your thinking caps on. If you would like to lead a trip, all the better, we would be delighted to assist you if necessary.

Similarly, if you know of someone who would be prepared to come along to one of our meetings as a speaker, please let a committee member know as we are also trying to get a list of speakers together for next year.

Okay, that's it from me for this month.

[Sandra]



COMING EVENTS

Proposed 9/10 September 2017

Trip Orroroo

Trip Details: Week-end at Orroroo

Where: Orroroo

Cost: Powered site \$25 (2 Adults); Standard Cabin (no ensuite) \$65 (2 Adults);

Ensuite Cabin \$110 (2 Adults) + cost of Pub meal & Cafe visit.

Meet Tarlee 8.30am (In town with public toilets)

Trip Leader: Quenton Earl 0407 604 601

More Info Staying at Orroroo caravan Park. Visiting Magnetic Hill, Tank Hill Look-

out, Pekina & district, Large Gum tree etc.

Saturday morning tea at Jamestown (Bakery available), Saturday night at

Orroroo Pub.

Visiting "Orroroo Kangaroo" to buy kangaroo meat & associated

products.

(see separate article in this copy of the Newsletter)

Call Kym at Caravan Park 8868 1444 to book your site.

Argadells 2017 October Long Weekend

Flinders Ranges 30 September & 1/2 October 2017

Trip Details: Camping at Cockroach Valley

Where: Argadells, Flinders Ranges. Good 4WD tracks and great scenery from the

top of Mt Arden.

Cost: Camping: \$10 per person per night. Caravan: \$30 per night

Meet: TBA
When: TBA

Trip Leader: Peter Harper 0410 526 317

More Info Visit their Web site at

http://www.argadells.com.au/argadells.com.au/index.html

October Long	Octoberfest at Willangi Bush Escapes
Weekend	29 September to 2 October 2017
Trip Details:	The upcoming fourth edition of Octoberfest is a fun, non-competitive event designed to bring 4WD clubs from all over South Australia to Peterborough in a similar scenario to the successful Biannual Whyalla Weekend. No catering is provided, it is a self-catering event apart from Monday breakfast.
Where:	Willangi Bush Escapes, Peterborough
Cost:	\$130 per vehicle for weekend (if registered and paid prior to 31st July 2017)
	\$155 per vehicle for weekend (if registered and paid from 1st August to the event)
Meet:	Tarlee (North side of town, near Gilbert River bridge). Depart at 0845
When:	Friday 29 Sep to Monday 2 Oct 2017
Trip Leader:	John and Jane Jansen
More Info	See http://mountloftyrangers.com.au/octoberfest/

Xmas 2017	Last Weekend in November 24/25/26 November 2017
Trip Details:	The annual Christmas function will be held at Coobowie Caravan Park. Come along and meet the "man in red" – see separate details.
Where:	Coobowie Caravan Park
	23 Beach Rd, Coobowie SA 5583
Cost	Powered sites \$27 per night for 2 adults (special price for us)
Meet	At Coobowie
Trip Leader	Social Secretaries, Joann & Julie
More Info	Sites have been pre-booked by Jo in name of Gawler & Districts 4WD Club, confirm booking by calling (08) 8852 8132

Australia Day	Friday, 26 January 2018
Trip Details:	Picnic at Bethany, Barossa Valley BYO picnic lunch to share, BYO drinks, table & chairs, sunscreen, hat etc.
	Bocce championship, games and prizes
Where:	Bethany Reserve, 324 Bethany Road, Bethany
Theme:	Australia Day Hat – best hat wins a prize
Cost	Nil if wearing a themed hat
Meet	At Bethany Reserve from 11.00 am
Trip Leader	Quenton Earl 0407 604 601& Jane Jansen 0409 091 851



CHRISTMAS PARTY

25/26 November 2017

Coobowie Caravan Park

22 Beach Road

Coobowie

Yorke Peninsula

Bookings: 8852 8132

www.coobowiecaravanpark.com

Cost: \$27 powered site

10 sites near the camp kitchen area have been booked in the name of
Gawler 4WD Club or Joann so please mention the names when booking

If you would prefer an unpowered site the cost is \$22

Other accommodation details available on the website

Meat and dessert will be supplied by the Club Please bring a salad to share BYO chairs, tables, drinks, etc.





GENERAL INFORMATION:

More information about the Trans Australian Railway Centenary for anyone interested in going.

Trans Australian Railway Centenary -17 October 2017

The Trans Australian Railway Centenary celebration is being held at 1.45pm on Tuesday 17th October 2017. The event site is on the south of the Trans Australian Railway Line, approximately 4kms west of Ooldea. Ooldea is about 314kms by road from Ceduna. Some people may not wish to travel Ceduna-Ooldea-Ceduna in the one day. A previous press release contained information about accommodation at Maralinga Village. This update provides information about alternative accommodation options on the route from Ceduna to Ooldea.

Coorabie Farm Accommodation

Coorabie is south of the Eyre Highway near Nundroo, approximately 155kms west of Ceduna and about 170kms south of Ooldea. The farm is strategically located near to Fowlers Bay, and the Scott's Bay and Mexican Hat beaches. Coorabie Farm offer three types of accommodation – donga style air conditioned rooms for up to 30 people; 16 powered sites, and unlimited un-powered sites. The farm provides a fully equipped kitchen and an ablution block with laundry, all of which have rainwater supply. A gas BBQ and camp fire area is available, along with a fish cleaning area and access to a cool room. The farm has a dirt airstrip – 900m x 25m (GPS S31 53'17, E132 17'05). Aircraft need to ring for permission to land prior to arrival. Meals can be prepared for guests by prior arrangement with management.

The Coorabie Farm Accommodation Managers – Deb and Poggy Kloock - can be contacted on: Phone/Fax: (08) 8625 6126 Mobile: 0428 256 126 Email: debkloock@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: Accommodation needs to be pre-booked.

Scotdesco Aboriginal Community

Scotdesco (Tjilkaba) is a small Aboriginal community situated both sides of the Eyre Highway about 25kms west of Penong and 95kms west of Ceduna. Scotdesco presents a good opportunity for visitors to chat with members of a Wirangu family group and gain knowledge of the local area from an Aboriginal perspective. Scotdesco was incorporated in 1992 and the land was acquired in 1994 through the ATSIC Land Acquisition Fund program. Approximately 55 people reside in the community, which has approximately 17 houses. The property name Tjilkaba means prickle. Scotdesco provides dormitory style accommodation in two new buildings. The facility has 16 rooms and can sleep up to 40 people. Accommodation bookings can be made by contacting Scotdesco on (08) 8625 6222, or scotdescoricp@outlook.com PLEASE NOTE: Accommodation needs to be pre-booked.

Further information about Scotdesco Aboriginal Community is also available on the website at www.scotdesco.com

At 26 May, 210 people and 99 vehicles have registered to attend the centenary. This includes people from South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, Queensland and the ACT. Five 4WD groups are attending from Perth (2), Melbourne, Horsham and Gosford. Many of the attendees are self-equipped travellers who will be bringing caravans and camper trailers for their accommodation.

(Thanks to Westprint Friday Five)

GUEST SPEAKERS



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

July	Wayne Enright – "The Spirit of Adventure Calls"
August	Visit to Gawler Mechanical so no meeting at the Elderly Centre for this month.
October	Gawler Veteran, Vintage & Classic Vehicle Club

RAFFLE ROSTER

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

July 2017	August 2017	September 2017
Lyn Lillicrapp	Dave & Michele Riddle	Roy and Bronwyn Schwarz
Peter & Lynn O'Sullivan	Bronte & Norma Rivett	Chris and Julie Sieben

Want to advertise in our Newsletter?





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

Contact our editor <u>editor@gawler4wd.com.au</u> 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:

♦♦	Mar	y ⊗ ⊗
•	••••	, • •

Roger Brennand

Lyn Lilecrapp

Pauline Tonkin



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) Must supply contact details (either a phone or email)
- (d) 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)

FOR SALE

Mitsubishi Magna VRX, all wheel drive.

Auto Silver Sedan. Manufactured 2005. 185,600km.

Only one owner. Ideal young person 1st car

\$3,500.00





Contact Max or Lyn 0427 807 066 / 0403 332 432

GAWLER AND 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



CHECK OUT OUR SPONSORS and ADVERTS

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

Contact us for details

GAWLER & DISTRICTS 4WD CLUB



Stickers For Sale – Only \$2.00 each
New design stickers complete with Web
address - \$3.50 each
Magnetic Name Badges - \$10 each

See Quenton at the General Meeting

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:

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

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.)

July 2017 12

TRIP REPORTS

TRIP REPORT FOR DAY TRIP TO BURRA ON SUNDAY, 11 JUNE 2017 (THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LONG WEEKEND)

Our group of day trippers included:

John & Jane, Max & Lyn, Bronte & Norma, Wayne, Keryn, Brent & Wil, Kylie & Mick, Sandra & Pete and our welcome surprise visitors Nick, Kaleb & Allie together with their friends Tracy, Bjorn & Carly and last, but not least, our trip leaders Quenton & Deb.

We gathered at the Gawler Visitors Centre at 9am on a chilly 8C morning and set out to make our way onto the highway to Nuriootpa (well, some of us did, not quite sure where John & Jane got to, they made their own way there) travelling via Sheaoak Log where Max and Lyn joined us. Mist was rising from the valleys in the Barossa as we made our way towards our first stop, Eudunda.

Passing through Dutton, Wayne said a cheery "good morning" to Roy and Bronwyn as we came close to their property. We continued on through farming country and passed quite a number of derelict buildings scattered throughout the countryside.

At approx 10 am we reached the author Colin Theile's birthplace, Eudunda, where we stopped at Centennial Gardens. The gardens are complete with a magnificent sculpture of Colin Theile alongside Mr Percival (from "Storm Boy.") Here we enjoyed a shared morning tea - once again we had some fun with John & Jane as they decided to make a right turn rather than a left one but eventually joined us at the park. Perhaps a bit of



sustenance was needed to keep them on the straight and narrow and to help them know their right from their left!!!!!



The shared morning tea was quite a scrumptious spread and I don't think anyone had ever seen a Boston bun quite as big as the one that Mick and Kylie turned up with! Max and Lyn produced some muffins which were still warm from the oven having utilised their Dreampot for that purpose and, of course, there were other goodies too. During morning tea, the children made good use of the play equipment but certainly not to the detriment of

participating in the selection of goodies on offer. The temperature was still a cool 11C.

(For future information the public toilets at this park were very clean and well appointed AND there is a guilt shop located nearby for those who are interested!!)

At approx 10.40 am we left the park and headed along the Theile Highway making a right turn for Marrabel, including John and Jane this time so the morning tea stop obviously had the right effect!!!! The sun had burnt off the morning cloud and the temperature was finally starting to rise as we turned right onto a dirt road which seemed quite dry as there appeared to be a lot of dust present.

We passed through farmland and one particular farm had geese in abundance along with many goats, otherwise the farming generally consisted of crops, sheep and lambs. We passed through the tiny town of Hampden with the only shop premises visible looking like it had closed some considerable time ago. Some cattle were also visible along this stretch of road.

We took the Scenic Road which, at an altitude of approx. 500m, gave us very good views of the surrounding district. On the way to Inspiration Point, where we stopped for a photo shoot, we came across motorbikes competing in a rally together with their support vehicles. As the track was only one vehicle wide, we stopped to let the bikes proceed first and then followed. Fortunately, there was no "coming together" of bikes and 4 wheel drives on this steep descent.



We turned left onto a section of

blacktop at Black Springs Road then onto more dirt tracks heading towards Burra. Looking around the countryside, which was denude of trees, it was hard to imagine what it must have



looked like many years ago before the trees were cut down presumably to be used in the Burra mines. housing for the miners or to clear land for farming.

Lunch time was in Burra and at approx 12.25 pm we stopped for a leisurely lunch near Burra Creek where we were entertained by many ducks trying to scrounge food together with other waterbirds. By this time, the temperature had risen to 15C with the sun shining but the air was still cool. Warming soup seemed to be the order of the day for many people but Lyn and Max, again thanks to their Dreampot, enjoyed some warm sausage rolls.

Mt Bryan beckoned for afternoon tea so we left Burra after lunch travelling down more back tracks towards Morgan passing through farmland and scrub. Halfway up Whitehill Road we stopped for another photo shoot of the surrounding district as the views were spectacular and travelled through Mokota Conservation park where mobs of kangaroos were visible in abundance.

Arriving at Mt Bryan we stopped for a group photo at the big windmill blade then proceeded to the Mt Bryan hotel for afternoon refreshments with welcome cups of





coffee/tea & cake or beers/soft drinks & cake all round in front of a couple of roaring open fires. What a great way to round off the day prior to heading home.

4pm we took our leave of Mt

Bryan and headed towards home. Not sure where Nick, Kaleb, Allie & Tracy, Bjorn & Carly left us, but those heading towards Gawler passed through Manoora, Saddleworth, Riverton and Tarlee before saying our "goodbyes" as we got closer to Gawler.

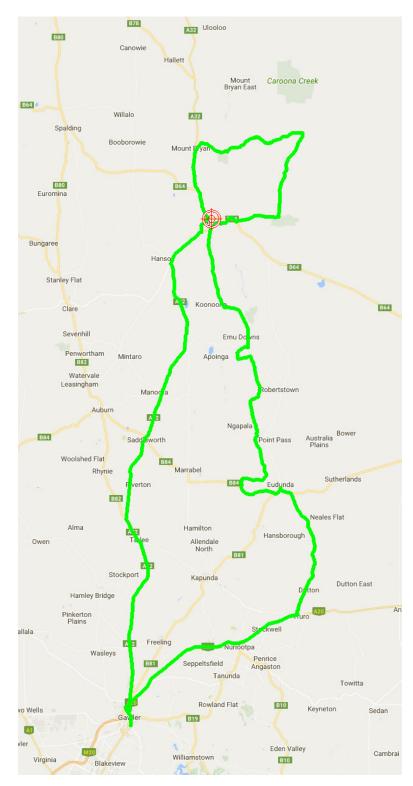


What a great day we had with good company, great food and lovely weather to top it off. Thank you again to Quenton and Deb for a well organised day which we can safely say was enjoyed by all.

[Sandra & Pete]

(trip map on next page)





South Burra Drive - Trip Map

Some more photos from the Southern Burra Trip



Snakes and Ladders at Colin Thiele Park



Waiting for the bikes to get going



Where did the bikes go?



A bit dusty down the back!!



Lunch guests



Looking for the best light

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)

www.impress.net.au

Phone 8522 2156 Fax: 8523 2117

Open Mon – Fri 9.00am – 5.00pm POLO SHIRTS WINDCHEATERS CAPS and BEANIES



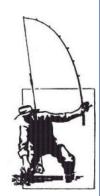
Gawler Fishing & Outdoors

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
*Marine
*Repairs





GAWLER

FOR ALL YOUR 4WD AND SUV TYRES

OR

PASSENGER TYRES AND WHEEL ALIGNMENTS

CONTACT MICHAEL OR JASON ON 08 85223000

WE WILL BEAT ANY COMPETITORS
PRICE

COOPER, BFG, BRIDGESTONE, KUMHO, TOYO, MAXXIS, GENERAL

Jun 2017



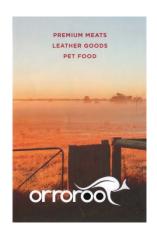
Log book servicing • Brakes • Transmission
Servicing • Radiators • Suspension
Starter Motors • Alternators • Brakes
CV Joints • Engine Building • Head Repairs

Jun 2017

GENERAL INFORMATION – ORROROO MEATS

In September, we will be visiting Orroroo and one of the trip highlights will be a visit to Orroroo Meats. Below is some information about the company and products on offer

From the Orroroo Meats Brochure







"My passion for kangaroo products started at an early age."

As a young girl I watched my parents Syd and Rhonda Dew start their kangaroo meat processing business in response to the growing demand for Kangaroo meat products from health conscious people seeking an alternative to other traditional meat varieties.

Dew's meats works with award winning butchers and food industry professionals to develop a range of high quality kangaroo meats processed to stringent government requirements, Today our brand Orroroo Kangaroo is the first choice for many leading chefs and restaurateurs seeking to create authentic full flavoured lean dishes.

We produce products that would normally be made using lamb, beef, pork and chicken with outstanding results. With the Flinders Ranges on our doorstep and the ability to produce products that win gold, silver, and bronze medals we pride ourselves on being a cut above the rest when it comes to premium Kangaroo meat products.

Taryn Ackland carries on the family business and has expanded the meat range to include quality fashionable leather goods and giftware. In the Our Pets brand you'll find nutritious treats for your valued pet.

Taryn is always busy with plenty of new products in the pipeline.

Visit our family store in Orroroo and experience the beauty of the outback.

CONTACT

Taryn Ackland

Dews Meats Pty. Ltd.

0886581063

sales@orrorookangaroo.com.au

www.orrorookangaroo.com.au

LAST PAGE

The folk who put together Westprint Friday Five have suffered two burglaries this year which resulted in the loss of computers and all their data so they've been asking contributors for stories, articles, etc. This is one of them.

Buchanan Highway - N.T.

Hi Jo, you mentioned you need stories for the Friday Five following your burglaries. The following is 100% true, but I hope I would not make the same mistakes today.

We moved to live and work in Alice Springs in July 1983 and, due to the usual family pressures, decided to spend Christmas 1983 back in Adelaide. The family Sigma station wagon was thus packed and self, wife, near 5-year-old son and near 2-year-old daughter drove down the Stuart Highway, which at that time was dirt from the NT border to around Glendambo - about 700kms of corrugations. It was decided by the powers that be (me) that a return along the same road would be boring, so we decided on the Oodnadatta Track.

We arrived at the William Creek Pub in time to spend New Year's Eve at that fine corrugated iron establishment, party a little noisy and sleep minimal for all concerned. The next day, naturally January 1, we headed off in moderate spirits aiming for Alice by that night. A while up the track, we came across a typically wide river bed around mid-morning, with the usual sandy bed and numerous wheel tracks. The main track looked a bit dicey for the mighty Sigma, so the Chief Pilot elected to use a diversion a few yards to one side. No surprises, about half way across, bogged, stuck, kaput and no digging equipment beyond bare hands. Fortunately, it was not a stinking hot day, about 30 degrees, but cloudy, so we settled down to await help.

As you may guess, not much moves on the Oodnadatta Track on New Year's Day and, after about an hour, light rain began to fall. This, of course, was thought to be both good and bad by various members of the party, but after about 2 hours, the Chief Pilot was becoming a little concerned. Mercifully, about that time a bloke in a Toyota traytop happened along. With very few words, not wishing to allow too many flies inside his mouth, but a knowing glint in his eyes, he collected a length of chain from the tray, hooked it up and pulled slowly. We were easily de-bogged, kids thought it was great fun, the Navigator torn between laughing, crying and divorce.

Heading for Oodnadatta, we saw a long-handled shovel in the middle of the track, thought it looked a bit good to leave there and picked it up. We finally got to Oodnadatta, heading to the Pink Roadhouse, to be greeted with the news that our predicament was the talk of the town and most of the Track. Knowing looks all round. However, our rescuer had also been complaining he had lost a good shovel!! I went back out to the car and solved his problem.

Moral of the story: even idiots should be helped in the outback, you never know what they may be able to do for you...Paul