

Gawler & Districts

www.gawler4wd.com.au

4WD Club Newsletter

September
2018



Founded in 2002



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



Goog's Track

INDEX

Committee Members	3
Schedule of Meetings	3
Notes from Your Committee	4
Guest Speakers	7
Public Access Routes	8
What is a PAR?	8
Where are PARs Located?	9
Camping rules	10
Report on the condition of a PAR	10
Raffle Roster	12
Birthday Wishes.....	12
For Sale	12
DTU Training Events	13
Sponsor Acknowledgements	14
Members Notice Board	15
Gawler and Districts 4WD Web Site.....	15
Trip Report.....	16
Googs Track August 4th - August 13th	16
Friday Funnies.....	20

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, weekend, long weekend and extended trips. We are a member of the Four Wheel Drive South Australia that 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
WEB: www.gawler4wd.com.au

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT/PUBLIC OFFICER Quenton Earl : 8523 2507 / 0407 604 601	VICE PRESIDENT Peter Cusick : 0421 330 104
TREASURER Wayne Heintze : 8523 0407 / 0432 339 213	SECRETARY Jane Jansen : 8523 0657 / 0409 091 851
EDITOR Sandra Harper : 8523 0889	PUBLISHER Peter Harper : 0410 526 317
MINUTES SECRETARY Deb Earl (<i>temporary for 2018</i>): (General) (Committee - on rotation)	SOCIAL SECRETARIES Joann Wuttke : 0402 353 064 Julie Sieben : 0407 820 480
TRIPS/PROPERTY LIBRARIAN CO-ORDINATOR John Jansen : 0418 840 435	TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR DTU DELEGATE Peter Harper : 0410 526 317
COMMITTEE MEMBER Bob Tonkin : 0421 603 767	ASSOCIATION DELEGATE Quenton Earl : 8523 2507 / 0407 604 601
WELCOMING OFFICERS	Norma Rivett

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

	2018						2019					
<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>
General	13	10	14	12	9	14		8	1	12	10	14
Committee	4	1	5	3		5	30	20		3	1	5
				31								

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

Dates for 2018/2019

Labour Day 1 October:

2019: Australia Day 28 Jan; Adelaide Cup 11 March; Easter 19-22 April; Anzac Day 25 April; Queens Birthday 10 June

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

August 2018
See the attached Minutes (members only)

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

Presidents Report:

At this month's meeting we will be joined by Lisa Brock. Lisa will be talking all things regarding 4WD vehicle and camping insurance - so bring along your insurance questions.

Our November meeting will be a social meeting at Barossa Bowland, 89 Menge Road, Tanunda. Arrival time is set for 6.45pm so we get a 7.00pm start when we will enjoy Pizza and a quick meeting. This will be followed by your choice of one or two games of Ten Pin bowling. More details are in this newsletter and a trip sheet will be at the September and October meeting as I will need numbers to confirm with Deb at Barossa Bowland. So put the date in your diary - it will be a fun night out.

Waikerie are following other towns with a Silo Art Project themed "Healthy River, Healthy Community." It is due to be finished at the end of the year, so we may see the progress of painting while at our Christmas week-end in Waikerie. Have you booked your site and paid your deposit yet?

Remember the Photo Competition is on again this year, so start clicking and sort through your photos to enter.

[Quenton]

Editors Report:

Welcome to the September edition of the newsletter.

It would seem that the Googs Track trip was a great success despite the weather not being the best, and there's a very interesting trip report from Keryn in the Newsletter which I'm sure you'll enjoy reading.

The committee is working on a few trips for next year and details will be announced in future Newsletters. If anyone is interested in attending the "Celebration of 4 Wheel Driving" at Birdwood next year, the dates are 18/19 May 2019 and all other preliminary details are in the August edition of the Newsletter.

November is not that far away so don't forget to dig out those photos for the competition. Details are in the Newsletter.

Have a great month.

[Sandra]



Coming Events


Upalinna Station	October Long Weekend Friday 28 September to Monday 1 October 2018
Trip Details:	Bush camping at Upalinna Station for the October Long weekend
Where:	Upalinna Station, Flinders Ranges, 387km north of Gawler near Wilpena Pound
Cost:	\$15 per vehicle per night
Meet:	Tarlee: Parking bay on northern side of town We depart at 09:00am Tarlee to Upalinna is about 350 km, say 4 hours. So , we will plan on a stop in Hawker for a leisurely lunch around 12:30
When:	Long weekend is Friday 28 Sep to Monday 1 Oct (3 nights). Pete and Sandra will probably leave on Tuesday. However, if you want to get to the site early, that is also OK. Just let Pete Know
Trip Leader:	Peter Harper (04 1052 6317)
More Info	There are 8 camp sites available so plenty of room for all. There is a pit toilet on site, but you will need to be fully self-sufficient in every other respect. There are no showers, power or running water. Activities for the weekend are still in the planning stage but you can be assured that visits to the surrounding gorges will be on the list. Of course, we'll definitely visit the Blinman Pub for lunch over the weekend. Campsites have fire rings and, so long as there is no fire danger, we'll be right for cooking and comfort. Some wood is available, but bring-your-own-wood is always a good plan

Ngaut Ngaut	October Day Out, Sunday, 21st October, 2018
Trip Details:	Ngaut Ngaut is one of Australia's very special places near Swan Reach on the Murray River. A culturally and historically significant conservation park. Guided tour with traditional owners to get a glimpse of the rich culture of the Nganguraku people.
Where:	Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park
Cost:	Ngaut Ngaut - \$25.00 Adult \$10.00 Child under 15 Minimum of 10 people Swan Reach Car Museum - \$2.00 per person
Meet:	Nuriootpa Train Park
When:	8.30am
Trip Leader:	Quenton Earl 0407 604 601
More Info	Take morning tea for a quick morning tea at Swan Reach. Meet Guide at Nildottie at 11.00am. Pack a picnic lunch for lunch by the Swan Reach riverfront. View the Mid Murray Classic Car Gallery at Swan Reach at 2.00pm. Sturdy shoes, hat, sunscreen, camera, picnic rug, chairs, table

9 November	November General Meeting
Trip Details:	November General Meeting at Barossa Bowland for Pizza and Ten Pin bowling
Where:	Barossa Bowland. 89 Menge Rd, Tanunda
Cost:	\$12.00 for one game \$19.00 for two games Wood Oven Pizza 12 inch range from \$18.50 to \$23.50
Meet:	Barossa Bowland
When:	6.45pm for 7.00pm
Trip Leader:	Quenton Earl 0407 604 601
More Info	Social night of Pizza and Bowling. Short meeting at 7.00pm. Pizza followed by Bowling at 7.45pm. Please advise on trip sheet if you want to play one or two games.

Easter 2019		Horseshoe Top End	
Trip Details:	Proposed Trip	Spend Easter 2019 at one of the iconic properties in the southern Flinders Ranges	
Where:		Horseshoe Top End, Mookra	
Cost:		\$15 per head per night, \$7.50 for under 17s 4WD Track \$50 per vehicle	
Meet:		TBA	
When:		Thursday 18 April to Tuesday 23 April 2019	
Trip Leader:		Peter Harper, 04 1052 6317	
More Info		We'll add some detail in the next couple of month, but you can visit www.horseshoetopend.com.au for info on the property	

GUEST SPEAKERS

	<i>These guest speakers have kindly agreed to talk with us at the following general meetings:</i>	
	14 September 2018	Lisa Brock from Arthur J. Gallagher & Co will speak about 4WD and camping insurance. (Bring along any questions and Lisa will try and address them)
	12 October 2018	Judy Abbott talking about a "healthy gut supporting a healthier you for uninterrupted 4wdriving"
	9 November 2018	Social Night at Barossa Bowland (see November General Meeting in Coming Events)
	8 February 2019	Trip Leader Training
	1 March 2019	Ethan White - presenter of "Off the couch with Ethan" Travel TV show on channel 44

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

On our travels around the country, we often come across a solitary grave miles from anywhere and wonder at the story behind it or wander through old cemeteries trying to get a glimpse of the lives and hardships people faced on the land. Here is one such story:

Strangways Cemetery

Lonely graves are a part of the history of Australia. Many are unmarked, and names and details are lost forever but every grave is the final resting place of someone's child, spouse, parent or friend. There are five graves as Strangways. Details of only two are known.

Mary and Albert Hewish lived at Strangways. Albert was a linesman on the Overland Telegraph Line and Mary was his pretty blue-eyed wife. Mary was a picture of health but showing the early signs of pregnancy. Mary and Albert had recently spoken to Dr Kennedy as he passed through on the way to Marree.

The following day Albert returned home the early morning after chasing a fault on the telegraph line for most of the night. He was surprised to find Mary still asleep in bed then realised she was unconscious. He threw back the rugs and a huge snake flashed out of the bed and through the door.

Albert instantly realised the seriousness of the situation and rushed across to the Repeater Station to send a message to Marree. "Mary dying. Send Dr Kennedy. Will pay for train. " It was Bill Ferguson's day off but when he heard of Mary's plight he dashed to the station and started lighting the fire in the train's boiler. Almost two hours later the train was underway, the quickest cold start ever. Dr Kennedy kept asking for more speed, but Bill was already travelling at 30 miles an hour on tracks built for a maximum of 20 miles an hour.

As the train neared Coward Springs, it was flagged down by the publican who told them the sad news that Mary had died.

It will never be known just how many men, women and children have died and lie buried in the bush. We know of them only through stories reported at the time. The story above is one found in the archives of an old newspaper. Similar stories can be found in [Tales From Bush Graves](#).

(Thanks to Westprint Friday Five)

PUBLIC ACCESS ROUTES

There has recently been some discussion on PAR's so the following is by way of explanation. A similar article was printed in the March 2017 edition of the Newsletter.

WHAT IS A PAR?

Public Access Routes (PARs) provide for public access over pastoral land without the need for travellers to ask permission from the pastoral lessee. There are currently 24 Public Access Routes, spanning more than 650 kilometres, established on pastoral leases in South Australia. The consent of the lessee is required before entering a pastoral lease, unless you remain on a public road or a PAR.

In general, PARs are public routes that cross private property to an area of public interest (eg historical sites). Due to the nature of PARs, do not assume they are always accessible

either by 2WD or 4WD. Permission to travel on a PAR is not required per se, but note that PARs can be closed for a variety of reasons (eg stock movement or weather). Assume that pets are not allowed. Allow roads to dry out after rain before traversing them.

Formal details of the PARs, and their status, is available on the Natural Resources, Arid Lands web site:

- www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/aridlands/pastoral-board/pastoral-unit.

A full information sheet showing the details of each PAR can be downloaded from here:

- www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/files/sharedassets/sa_arid_lands/land/rangelands-public-access-routes-fact.pdf.

A while back, there was a fold out map titled "4WD Tracks and Repeater Towers" that provided excellent detail of all PARs. Sadly, this document is no longer available. However, a multi-page A4 sized version is available from:

- www.rawnsleypark.com.au/assets/PDFs/5178-4wd-A4-web-FINAL.pdf

Below is an extract of some of the information from the links above.

WHERE ARE PARS LOCATED?

The table below provides a list of the PARs, their location and length:

PAR	Name	Length	Region
22	Goog's Track	230kms Ceduna-Tarcoola 350km Ceduna-Glendambo	Ceduna to Glendambo
6	Tallaringa	62km	Coober Pedy
18	Lake Cadibarrawirracanna	6.5km	Coober Pedy
10	Lake Gairdner National Park	2.5km	Eyre Peninsula
11	Gawler Ranges National Park	20km (Park Boundary) 27km (Paney Homestead)	Eyre Peninsula
23	Nonning	55km	Eyre Peninsula
24	Secret Rocks		Eyre Peninsula
1	Copper King Mine	5km	Flinders Ranges
3	Nuccaleena Mine	14km	Flinders Ranges
4	Artimore	26km	Flinders Ranges
5	Patawarta Gap	6km	Flinders Ranges
9	Warraweena	22km	Flinders Ranges
12	Old Peake Telegraph Station	16km	Flinders Ranges
16	Walkers Crossing	226km	Innamincka Regional Reserve
2	Lake Eyre (Level Post Bay via Muloorina)	51km	Lake Eyre
13	Lake Eyre (Halligan Point)	62km	Lake Eyre
7	Curdimurka	1km	Oodnadatta Track
14	Strangways Springs	2.5km	Oodnadatta Track
17	Arckaringa Hills	2km	Oodnadatta

PAR	Name	Length	Region
			Track
19	Algebuckina Bridge and Waterhole	500m to the bridge and 1.5km to waterhole & campsite	Oodnadatta Track
15	K1 (Warburton Crossing)	80km	Simpson Desert Regional Reserve
8	Pedirka	43km	Witjira National Park

CAMPING RULES

The following is a general guide. Please refer to the [pdf](#) for conditions of use and requirements.

Also www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/aridlands/news/publications-archive/exploring-the-outback has some brochures on the Oodnadatta, Birdsville and Strzelecki tracks (also available as Apple and Android apps).

Camping is permitted anywhere within 50 metres of the track along all routes except the Copper King Mine route and the Tallaringa Route. On the Copper King route camping is only allowed along the gum creek. No camping is allowed on the Tallaringa PAR while traversing Mabel Creek Station.

On other routes, camping is not permitted within one kilometre of any house or occupied dwelling, or within 500 metres of a constructed stock watering point. Please ensure that only dead wood is used for campfires, and do not use fires during the fire-ban season. ***All rubbish is to be taken out, not buried.***

If the PAR terminates at an historic or natural feature of interest, camp only where indicated.

Do not pollute waterways with soap etc. Do not bathe in troughs or tanks. Do not interfere with stock. Carry out your rubbish.

REPORT ON THE CONDITION OF A PAR

PARs are primarily unmaintained 4wd tracks. FWDSA in conjunction with DEW are running an on-going project to assess the condition of all of the PARs. If you are planning on visiting a PAR, please take the time to download the [PAR Report Form](#) (MS Word document) from the FWDSA Web Site. Don't worry if others may already have reported; in fact multiple reports on the track condition, signage, etc can only improve the quality of the data. The form provides submission details, but I am happy to pass any information along.

[Pete]

The information provided in this report has been derived from the links above and FWDSA Web site.



2018 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday 24th November 2018

Waikerie Holiday Park
44 Peake Terrace
Waikerie

Bookings: 8541 2651

www.waikerieholidaypark.com.au



New Facilities, a lush Village Green, outdoor BBQs and a camp kitchen

Cost: \$34 powered site
Extra person \$12 per adult, \$8 per child

Sites should be booked in the name of
Gawler 4WD Club so please mention this when booking.
You can also book extra nights – Friday 23rd and/or Sunday 25th.

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.

***As in the past, if you are bringing children, please remember to supply
a gift for each child to the value of \$15
which will be handed to them by Santa***.

To add to the festivities, can each person please bring along a fun
“Secret Santa” gift to the value of \$10 suitable for either male or female.
If you do not wish to participate in the fun that is fine also.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE and HAVE A GREAT TIME!



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. **To make it fair and equitable to everyone participating in the raffle, please use the \$15 as a guide.**

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

September	October	November
Stephen and Lisa Cloughton	Darryl Grace	Peter and Sandra Harper
Quenton and Deb Earl	Andrew and Tracey Granger	Wayne and Sandra Heintze

BIRTHDAY WISHES

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

◆◆ September ◆◆

Stephen Cloughton



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
- 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)

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 for details
[Fees apply and payment has to be made prior to printing]

DTU TRAINING EVENTS

The DTU Training Calendar has been confirmed and repeated below.

Dates:	Event Name	Venue	Description
Sun 28 Oct	Trip Planning (DTU)	SCC*	Course Fee: \$10, Access Cost: NIL
Sat 03 Nov - Sun 04 Nov	DTU Professional Development	Peake	Open to Club Training: Training Fee: \$45, Property Access Cost \$40
Sun 18 Nov	GPS and Ozi Explorer	SCC*	Please note that a FULL version of Ozi Explorer running on a PC is required
Sat 1 Dec	Hema HN6/HN7	SCC*	If you use a Hema HN6/HN7 then this course will help you get more out of your device
Sat 2 Feb 2019	Hema HX-1/HEMA Explorer	SCC*	If you use a Hema HX-1/HEMA Explorer then this session would be for you

*SCC. Now that FWDSA has vacated the Cavan headquarters, all FWDSA meetings and similar activity will be held at the Sporting Car Club, 51 King William Rd, Unley

If you want to get on any of these courses, please let me know.

[Pete 04 1052 6317]



**Don't forget to
CHECK OUT OUR SPONSORS and ADVERTS**
 Maybe you have something at home you would like to sell.
Contact us for details

SPONSOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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

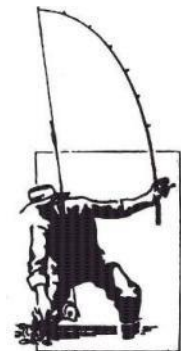
Gawler Fishing & Outdoors

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*



- General Automotive maintenance
- Logbook Servicing
- Suspension & Brakes
- Performance
- Starter motors
- Alternators
- C.V Joints & Shafts
- Radiators
- Batteries
- Transmission service

The Home Of

Ironman 4x4 Gawler

7 First Street

Gawler South SA 5118

Work Shop: 08 85 224655

Sales Rep: 0497 924 666

- Bull Bars & Roof Racks
- Underbody Protection
- Canopies
- 4x4 Suspension
- Snorkels, Steps, Bars & Rails
- Drawer Systems
- Rooftop Tents & Awnings
- Recovery Equipment
- Camping Accessories
- Fridges

gawlermechanical@gmail.com



and much more.

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 with the Trip Report competition this year to reward those who submit a Trip Report throughout the year!

It does not 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!!!

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 FAC

EBOOK link as well. www.facebook.com/GawlerandDistricts4WDClub

TRIP REPORT

Googs Track August 4th - August 13th

Despite dreadful weather predicted for the next two weeks, seven brave people met at Tarlee on 4 August. Loaded up with tents, swags and sand flags, we left on time and headed to Port Augusta in sunshine but windy weather, then west towards Wudinna, stopping to observe the art work on the Kimba silos and the giant galah. Our first camp was at Pildappa Rock. We climbed this fantastic rock formation and watched a beautiful sunset.

My task each day was to check that all members of our party had taken their meds! At Ceduna, we purchased our permits to camp at Googs and the Gawler Ranges National Park. At the entrance to Googs Track we let our tyres down and two other parties approached us from the park....my thoughts were, 'Well we aren't the only crazy people out camping in this terrible weather.'



The track was pleasant, sandy but not difficult. We came to the memorial of Googs and his son and the money tree where people have decorated the tree with coins inserted into the bark.

Soon we were setting up camp overlooking Googs Lake, hoping that we could watch a beautiful sunrise the following morning.



Well, we all got it very wrong, because there were showers overnight and cloudy in the morning and the sun didn't get up where we thought it would!!! But everyone was warm and dry. Brent, Colin and I went for a long walk over several sand ridges then back along the lake shore line. We saw a lot of 'roo and emu tracks, dead harvest beetles on the dry lake but nothing else alive. Even the ants were inside their ant mounds with the holes blocked. Bob and Pauline walked to the

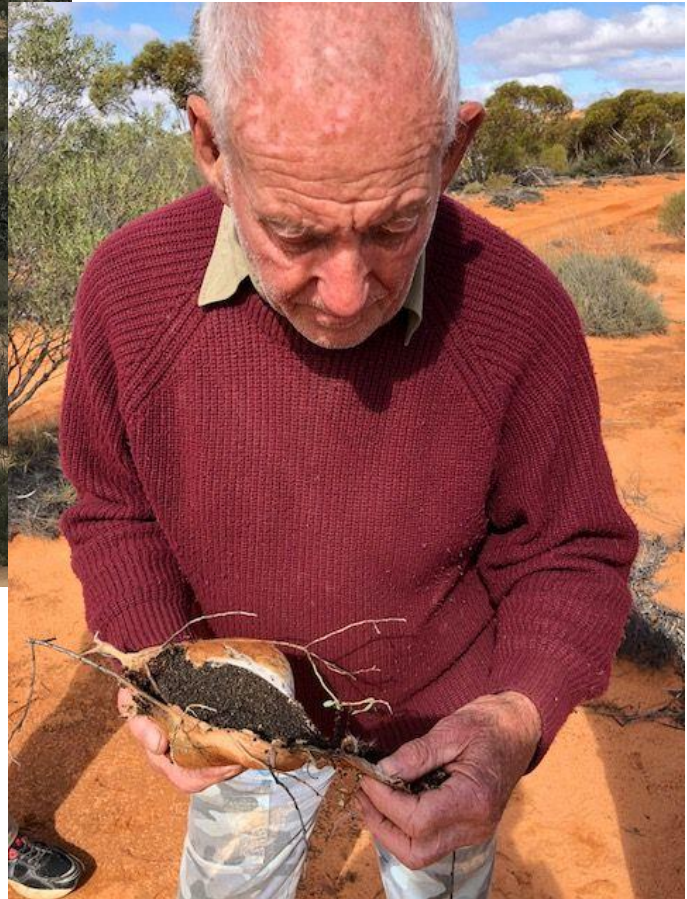
island on the lake. Later we all went for a drive around the lake edge, returning to find there had been a very heavy shower of rain that had wet everything under our shelters and we were very surprised to see that the lake had a sheet of water across it.

The following day a group in front of us were having trouble getting over the sand ridges. "It could be a very loooong day" It turns out they had 40 psi in one of their trailer tyres!!!! I took the opportunity to walk the track until the rest of the group came by to pick me up.

Colin found a bag moth casing, and opened it to reveal shedded caterpillar skins and faeces. Soon after this Colin became 'a little bit complacent' and needed a help to get over the sand ridge!!!! He had been looking at wild flowers! The 2nd snatch by Brent did the trick!!!!



The track into the Mt Finke camp was very twisty and turny. Darryll who was leading, thought he was travelling in a circle, thinking he might meet up with the rest of us soon and the top of the ridge was as rough as hessian bag underpants!!



In the morning, Pauline and I climbed Mt Finke. It was like climbing an irregular staircase. The rock formations are intriguing. We were very fortunate to see the spider flower, *Grevillea Treueriana*, endemic to the area, in flower on the mountain. The guys collected us from the base and I was very hot and sweaty! I had worn a beanie every day of the trip and some really cold nights, and spilt a cup of coffee over myself. It was really time I had a shower.....I stunk! I think I could join the Skunk Brother gang!!!!

Day 5 was a beautiful sunny day. There were lots of wild flowers and challenging sand ridges. Stopped for lunch and put air back into tyres, but unfortunately discovered it was too soon as we encountered lots of corrugations.

We came to the end of Googs track and had a group photo, watched the goods train roar past with a toot and headed towards Kingoonya. Here we enjoyed a well needed hot shower and scrubbed up before heading to dinner at the pub.

A few trains and road trains roared through the town overnight but Darryll slept with his deaf ear up and never heard a thing.....his advantage!!!

Ice on the tent, but warm inside, we had brekky and fuelled up, then stopped just out of town to get permits online. This was a great opportunity to do treasure hunting along the roadside! Then we were on our way again leaving this interesting, friendly outback town - Pro Hart's

Ferrari, lawn planted near the toilet block, a couple of horses standing around, car mounted on top of a building and a yard decorated with car fan flowers.



Next we headed towards Gawler Ranges NP. A bit greener now, Lake Everard, Koley Hut and dozens of emus, wildflowers, caterpillars, and lunch at Skull tanks. We camped at Lake Gairdner. The following morning Colin, the jokes man, was in good spirits. Darryll ventured out in shorts, thongs and 'T' shirt. We climbed the rocky hill, spotting lots of 'roos and returned via the base of the hill. On our way again, we stopped at Pondanna

ruins built in 1880, where Colin found a cache. Beautiful stone work and 2 deep water tanks.

65 kms yet to Gawler Ranges, we turned right at a wagon, Thurlga HS to Yardea HS. On Stringer Highway, it is very green. We saw sleepy lizards, goats, eagles, wombat holes, a few dead wombats and pillar rock formations. Hundreds of 'roos and emus. Stopped for a look at Pondanna HS and then camped at Mattera. Pauline and I made a stew from everyone's left overs, and we ended the evening with port and a few jokes from Colin.

Pauline lost her hat this morning, Darryll lost his belt and I lost a fork! A good start! Next day Pauline's hat was found, Roy's claw hammer was found, although he didn't know it was lost!

We stopped to look at Old Paney HS and found a cache. Looked at a fibreglass lined tank and trough and stone dam. It was a beautiful spot with 3 creeks feeding into one and clear running water.

Then on to see the organ pipes. It was a good walk, with running water, flowers, and tadpoles. Next we stopped at Yandinga Falls, more interesting rock formations and native flowers. On the move again, we came to Kolay Mirica Falls. This was a very special place with interesting rock formations and running water. Kolay Hut and campground is also very appealing set amongst trees near a creek with a nearby walking trail that looked like it may have a rock pool.



After lunch at Old Paney Shearing Shed we travelled to Kimber, Buckleboo and our last night at Iron Knob Caravan Park. At this stage we were a little sad but enjoyed our stay and our cosy group of 5 vehicles, 7 people, our leader Roy, Bob and Pauline, Darryll, Colin, Brent and Keryn.

All discussions were about how well the trip went, despite not a lot of plans (and that was how it was meant to be,) with the threat of bad weather, we were very lucky. Thanks to Colingreat humour and never ending jokes!!!! He was great and just bounces off people!

Windy most days, showers most days, mud, sand, dust, corrugations, lakes, ruins, running water, wildflowers, roos, emus and rock formations.

Our last day! Well what a morning! I woke early, happy that we had made it through.... No incidentsI was extremely smelly but happy and relieved. Roy was already packing. He was never going to be the last ready today. Then Darryll locked his keys in his vehicle. Roy sorted this problem....Darryll was in panic mode when the angle grinder came out! Was Roy seriously going to take the door off!! Cheaper than smashing a window! Keys quickly retrieved, Brent still wanted to smash the window!!



Then where are Bob and Pauline's keys? After unpacking the whole contents of the car they were found on the back floor near the water bottle. Must be time to go home. Colin is out of whisky and chocolate! We are out of Bread and meat and I smell bad!!! We enjoyed the last nights camp. Good fire, wood supplied, pay by donation.

On our way, we were diverted from the main highway after Port Augusta to Spear Creek. Just another adventure. We

may need 2 showers to come clean and clothes washed twice too!!! We certainly had a lot of fun. We all said our goodbyes at Melrose and made our way home.

Thank you everyone for a fantastic trip, great company and lots of laughs in the great outdoors!! Thank you Roy for a great job as trip leader.

Keryn

I've still yet to hear anything positive about this new system of digital permits.

The staff at the information centre and the rangers are not at all happy. They mentioned that a lot less people are entering the parks due to this system, because it is too hard, or they don't have internet access. The money that is made goes straight to headquarters leaving the locals without funds for maintenance and upgrades as needed and it is still a pain to fill out and receive permits. Our assistant was very helpful, but had to put each individual through after we left because the system was too slow!

Keryn

FRIDAY FUNNIES

Some great advice from kids (thanks to Westprint)

How do you decide who to marry?

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. - Kirsten, age 10

What is the right age to get married?

Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. Camille, age 10

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. - Freddie, age 6

How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. - Derrick, age 8

What do you think your mom and dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids. - Lori, age 8

What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. - Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies, and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. - Martin, age 10

What would you do on a first date that was turning sour?

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. - Craig, age 9

When is it okay to kiss someone?

When they're rich. - Pam, age 7

The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. - Curt, age 7

The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. - Howard, age 8

Is it better to be single or married?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. - Anita, age