

4WD Club Newsletter

September 2019



Founded in 2002



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



From the archive - who can remember where this was?

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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, 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 \$55 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)
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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
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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	Jane Jansen / Max Leske

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

	2019						2020					
<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	11	8	13		14	13	3	8	12
Committee			4	2		4		5	4			3
				30					25	29		

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

Dates for 2019

October Labour Day 7 October;

Dates for 2020

Public Holidays: Australia Day 26 January; Adelaide Cup 9 March; Easter 10-13 April; Anzac Day 25 April;
Queens Birthday 8 June; Labour Day 5 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

August 2018
See the attached Minutes (members only)

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

Presidents Report:

This month's meeting will be a trip planning meeting, so bring along your ideas of places you would like to travel to. We are after your ideas on day trips, week-ends, long week-ends and longer trips. I will print forms "Trip Suggestions" (as seen in this Newsletter) for use by teams of four (4) on the night.

The amounts raised have recently been totalled from the May "Celebration of 4WDing" event at Birdwood. Donations of \$3,676.89 will go to the RFDS and \$1,225.63 will go to Parkinson's Australia. This event will possibly be held again in 2021.

Our first "Trip Lotto" trips/events are now being planned with some dates in the Newsletter; so the best way for you to support this new club initiative is to put your name down on a Trip Sheet and attend as many of the trips/events you can. I'm sure it will be a lot of fun!

If you have the club's copy of Ross Vogt's book or the Bungaree Station book, please remember to return it at this meeting to hand on to another club member. If you have not yet borrowed them, they are worth having a quick read.

Remember the Photo Competition is on again this year, so start clicking those photos and go through your files - great prizes are again on offer.

[Quenton]

Editors Report:

Hello everyone and welcome to the September edition of the Newsletter.

Thanks go to Martin and Lyn Leske for their trip reports on the recent Maralinga trip. Wow, it sounds like a great trip and I'd have to say it's on the "Bucket list" of things to do. I hope you enjoy reading the reports as much as I did! Needless to say I didn't have to go too far to find articles for the Newsletter this month!!.

Don't forget to wrack your brains regarding possible trips you might like to participate in for our Trip Session on Friday evening and if you have any information, please bring it along.. You never know, this session could give you ideas for when your name comes up in the "Trip Lotto" draw sometime next year.

And that's about it from me for another month. Enjoy the lovely spring weather, it seemed a long time coming..

[Sandra]



COMING EVENTS

Dice Run	Sunday 15th September, 2019
Trip Details:	Travelling along the Murray river - 3 Ferry crossings. Bring morning tea to share, bring your own picnic lunch, afternoon tea provided at The Roundhouse, Murray Bridge
Where:	Murray River, ending at Murray Bridge
Cost:	\$11.00 per person
Meet:	Nuriootpa Train Park 8.45am for 9.00am leave
When:	Sunday 15th September, 2019
Trip Leader:	Quenton Earl 0407 604 601
More Info	Dice Run - Each driver will get to throw a dice at each stop. The highest total count wins a prize. Cost includes guided tour and Devonshire tea at the Roundhouse

Octoberfest 2019 4th – 7th October 2019

Trip Details:	Redarc 4WD Octoberfest hosted by Mount Lofty Ranges 4WD Club
Where:	Merna Mora Station (Flinders Ranges)
Cost:	\$80 per vehicle to attend the event. Range of trips available ranging from free to \$60 / trip
Meet:	Parking area on north side of Tarlee; go through Tarlee, over the bridge and the parking area is on the left
When:	7:45 am
Trip Leader:	John and Jane Jansen, 0409 091 851 (Jane)
More Info	Web site: http://mountlofyrangers.com.au/octoberfest/ Registration: http://mountlofyrangers.com.au/trip/octoberfest-2019/ See Quenton for raffle tickets

THE POWER OF REDARC® 4WD OCTOBERFEST 2019 RAFFLE

1ST PRIZE - 'SOLAR PACK' VALUED AT \$1864.87
REDARC SSFT150 Solar Blanket valued at \$1615.76
REDARC SRPA20-VP Solar Regulator & Cable Kit valued at \$249.11

2ND PRIZE - 'BCDC PACK' VALUED AT \$679.65
REDARC BCDC1225D In-Vehicle Battery Charger valued at \$609.10
REDARC FK40 Fuse Kit valued at \$70.55

3RD PRIZE - 'TOW-PRO PACK' VALUED AT \$415.60
REDARC EBRH-ACCV3 Tow-Pro Elite Electric Trailer
Brake Controller valued at \$350
CBK30-EB Circuit Breaker Kit valued at \$65.60

TICKETS \$5 EACH

Don't Miss Out... Buy your tickets now!

1000 tickets @ \$5 each. Raffle to be drawn at Mount Lofty Rangers 4WD Club general meeting to be held on Monday 12th August 2019 at 7:30pm at the Blackwood Football Club, Trevor Terrace, Blackwood, SA. Winners will be notified by phone call and results will be published on the Mount Lofty Rangers 4WD Club website (mountlofyrangers.com.au) as well as the 4WD South Australia facebook page.

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Trip Lotto Adelaide Jail 26th October 2019

Trip Details:	Day trip to Adelaide Jail and Vilis Café
Where:	Adelaide
Cost:	TBA
Meet:	TBA
When:	26 October 2019
Trip Leader:	Jo and Pete
More Info	

Trip Lotto South Coast

17th November 2019

Trip Details:	Details still be finalised, but expect a trip to the south coast encompassing the Goolwa wharf markets and lunch down by the river
Where:	South Coast
Cost:	TBA
Meet:	TBA
When:	17 November 2019
Trip Leader:	Tracey and Drew
More Info	

Christmas Trip

Weekend 22/23/24 November 2019

Trip Details:	Please see separate details in the Newsletter.
Where:	Jetty Caravan Park, Normanville.
Cost:	\$38/night (may be subject to change) \$9 pp extra (ditto above)
Meet:	Make your own way there.
When:	From Friday 22 to Sunday 24 November 2019 depending on how many nights you would like to stay
Trip Leader:	Joann and Julie (Social Committee)
More Info	<p>Details as per separate item in Newsletter. Please book early to avoid disappointment as other clubs are doing likewise for this weekend. for this weekend..</p> <p>More details on the caravan park's website.</p> <p>Don't forget to add your name to the trip sheet so that Joann & Julie know how many people to cater for – please include any guests, eg grandchildren.</p>

Trip Lotto	
Mintaro and Martindale	Early December
Trip Details:	Visiting Martindale Hall and the Mintaro Maze
Where:	Clare Valley
Cost:	TBA
Meet:	TBA
When:	Early December
Trip Leader:	Pete and Sandra
More Info	

TRIP LEADING AND PLANNING COURSE

Traditionally, the Driver Training Unit of FWDSA has conducted a Trip Planning and Leading Course each October. This year's course was scheduled for 20 October. However, seems like the promotion of this course was minimal and, consequently, no nominations have been received.

Fear Not!!

Historically, this course has been run by members of the TLCCSA and there were 10 nominations at the start of September. So, the course will go ahead as a TLCCSA event.

The TLCCSA has opened up the course to all clubs on a first come, first served basis. Details are:

When: Sunday 20 October, 9am to 4pm

Where: Sporting Car Club, Unley

Cost: \$10 per person

There are only a few places left, so please let me know if you would like to nominate.

[Peter, 04 1052 6317]



CHRISTMAS TRIP 2019

22/23/24 November 2019

**Venue: Jetty Caravan Park at Normanville
34 Jetty Road
Normanville 5204
Phone: 8558 2038**

Website: www.jettycaravanparknormanville.com.au

Powered site \$38 / night

10 sites have been provisionally booked under the Gawler 4WD Club for the Saturday night and a 5% discount will apply . If anyone wants the Friday as well, they will need to mention it when booking.

Suggestion is to book as soon as possible as other groups are booking for the same reason for Christmas so book early to avoid disappointment. If you wish to book a cabin, a 5% discount applies as well (basic cabins.)

When booking let them know that you are with the Gawler 4WD Club.

Please see website for further details



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BIRTHDAY WISHES

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



**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

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)

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

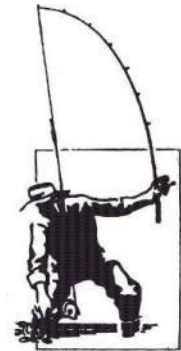
Gawler Fishing & Outdoors

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
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- Radiators
- Batteries
- Transmission service

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Work Shop: 08 85 224655

Sales Rep: 0497 924 666

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- Rooftop Tents & Awnings
- Recovery Equipment
- Camping Accessories
- Fridges

gawlermechanical@gmail.com



and much more.

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]

GUEST SPEAKERS

	These guest speakers have kindly agreed to talk with us at the following general meetings:	
	13 September 2019	Trip planning – we discuss ideas for future trips
	11 October 2019	RAA "Road Rules Quiz MkII" – Speaker Jan

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	September
Martin and Corry	Lyn Li	Bronte and Norma
Max and Lyn	Bob and Cindy	Roy and Bronwyn

MEMBERS NOTICE BOARD



PHOTO COMPETITIONS

This year we have two photo competitions running, the regular open Competition sponsored by Gawler Fishing and Outdoors and a Peoples' Choice sponsored by Annette who joined us at Horseshoe Top End over Easter

The PHOTO COMPETITION RULES:

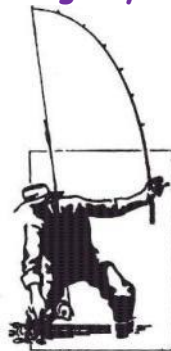
- (a) Each member may enter up to four (4) photos
- (b) Photos should be a copy (not originals) - Size 15cm x 10cm (6"x4")
- (c) Photos must have been taken on a club trip during the last 12 months (Nov 18 - Nov 19)
- (d) All photos must be labelled on the back with your name, where, and when, the photo was taken
- (e) Entries to be handed to John by close of November General meeting
- (f) 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!!!

The winning photo of the Open Competition will be selected by Gawler Fishing and Outdoors



The Peoples' Choice competition will have 3 categories:

- Landscape,
- People, and
- Animals / Open



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!!!

TRIP PLANNING

At this month's meeting, we will be breaking into small groups to discuss future trips.

To help get your thought bubbles flowing, the table below will be provided to capture your thoughts and ideas.

Trip suggestions



Social outings/Events -

Day Trips -

Week-end Trips -

Long week-end Trips -

Longer Trips -

Of course, there is no right or wrong answer, but this is an opportunity for members to provide guidance to the committee and prospective trip leaders.

TRIP REPORTS

Maralinga 2019 (No 1)



Sat 20/7/19 Max & Lyn met Annette & daughter Viviana from Wagga Wagga 4WD club and our Martin at Tarlee for an exciting many days ahead leaving at 7.25am. Annette and Viviana had already been bush camping the previous nights at Balmoral and Plush's Bend then stayed in the Tarlee Motel on Friday, all ready for an early start. As we planned the Maralinga trip, we were asked if we feared being contaminated with radiation poisoning, but this was explained not to be the case on our Tuesday tour.

We stopped at Wirrabara to look at the silo art of a lovely red robin bird and an older farming man. Morning tea stop was at Melrose parking bay. Fuelled up at Port Augusta and stopped for lunch at Iron Knob taking photos of the toilet art and electric power shovel. A brief stop at Kimba for a photo shoot of the galah and once again looking at the silo art, this time of a small child with colourful scenery over 8 silos.

Our next stop was at Wudinna viewing the large granite statue of a farmer. We

arrived at 5pm at the most wonderful place to ever bush camp, Pildappa Rock at Minippa. It didn't take long for Martin to get a camp fire going. We realized we had travelled over 600kms on our 1st day, which was right on schedule to Max's planned itinerary. While travelling the girls, Max and I listened to several talking books, a great way to enjoy any long travel.



Sun 21/7/19 Early birds took sunrise photos on, up and over the Pildappa Rock, not me, I was still in bed but I definitely needed to do the easy climb up the rock. It was like walking on the moon with craters filled with water and moss, one

being so deep that my walking stick couldn't even reach the bottom. We had seen Wave Rock in WA, but I think this untouched rock with camping and picnic grounds, certainly beats anything I've ever seen before. This was one of the highlights of our trip and we were only on our first and second day!

Tents were dry by 10.30am so we leisurely drove through the Mudamuckla area, which I had never heard of before. It was located 32 kms east of Ceduna. Spent 1½ hours for lunch at Ceduna and arrived at Penong Caravan Park, the "town of the windmills." The windmill museum was officially opened on 10th September 2016 with many windmills on loan, including the largest Comet windmill in Australia. We did cheat a bit this night by using the heater in the caravan for a while as the night before at the rock was rather cold.



Mon 22/7/19 Left Penong at 7.35am. Our last fuel stop was at Nundroo which is 212kms before Maralinga. We turned off the Eyre Highway heading along the Iluka Mine road. Our GPS maps didn't show any link road from the Eyre Highway to the Ooldea track, Martin tried 3 different GPS maps!! Lost from civilisation briefly, we reverted to using "the old mud map" till our track reappeared!!! Passed Lake Ifould which was dry and stopped near Red Lake Tank for morning tea. We needed to stop at Ooldea to phone our tour guide at the Maralinga Village to advise of our arrival time. Continued following the railway line

along the old original track from Ooldea to Watson where we saw the longest straight stretch (477.4kms) of railway line in the world which was officially opened in 1917 - the Trans Australian Railway line. Witnessed many concrete pads where the Fettleers - SA Railway men - had lived at Watson.

The tour guide met us with a huge welcome as he unlocked the barrier gates. On arrival at the campsite, firewood and a fire pit were supplied, now that was unexpected and a real treat. We parked our caravan on one of the old concrete pads, no levelling up required. This was our unpowered site for the next 2 nights.

We were shown the safe areas we could walk around which included the swimming pool (now filled in), tennis court and a museum still under construction. In a large room at the museum we could view many old videos taken during

the Maralinga busy days, but we didn't even get time to view them. We relaxed by the fire, cooked a chop and vegetable tea, while Martin cooked his Pizza, all in camp ovens. What better way to relax than to hear Martin sing with his guitar around the campfire - how I have missed the campfires that we used to do often in the winter months; didn't realize just how much until we started doing it again.

Tuesday 23/7/19 After breakfast, we assembled with the other camped groups staying on site and boarded a 25 seater Mitsubishi bus which was filled with people looking forward to a full day's tour. Robin,

our tour guide, showed us some of the bomb sites and machinery burial grounds. This tour guide was one of the best I've heard giving 4 un-biased view points as he stopped the bus at many spots. He spoke of the hidden past of Maralinga, of the officials (Boffins), the English, Australians and Aborigines. Our tour went from 9.00am until 5pm.

Robin also explained how he knew when camels had visited the area and drank water as they produced a sloppy dung that is otherwise small and firm. These camels do not cause a threat to the area. Robin is so very passionate about preserving the storey of Maralinga that he volunteered for 2 years before being employed in his paid position. He is trying to create a summertime group called "Friends of Maralinga" to help with the collection of items for the museum.

We were then taken to the airport runway which is the longest in the Southern Hemisphere and has never needed surface repairs. It was designed for 30 years of British use and, should the USA need it, for a Space Shuttle landing. Robin had his Giga counter to test how much radiation was in the items where we stood. There is more radiation in our homes with microwaves, old watches, mobile phones, granite vanities and chopping boards than was evident wherever we went.

The government paid Len Beadell and Sir William Penney to survey all the roads. Many trial tests in 1953 were done at Emu and then in 1956 the first bomb let off from Maralinga was called Taranaki which was the largest bomb let off in the world at 27 kiloton compared to the bomb dropped by the USA which devastated Hiroshima in Japan during WW2. That was 16 kiloton. At the Taranaki bomb site, the Australians trialled the de-contamination of items by putting electrodes into plutonium to melt the soil then cool it to form glass. This took months and although

it did work, was too expensive and time consuming.

They also made several digging pits for contaminated sites. In the years between 1994 & 2000 Australia removed 350,000 cubic metres of contaminated soil, dug a pit that was 15 metres deep and buried previous debris from the English clean-up which was done in 1967 and 1980. On top of this are dozers, scrapers, 70 land cruisers, water tankers, all crushed with a 5 metre thick top layer of clean soil. This area continues to be surveyed regularly for leakage into the ground water. The site is now considered secure.

The Breakaway bomb explosion vaporised the tower and 45cm of concrete base as well as everything in a 1km radius. It melted topsoil into large green glass sheets, but an attempt in 1967, which was done by Britain, failed a clean-up. The second bomb was called Marcoo which left a crater in the ground 30 metres deep and 60 metres wide. Eight months later a family from the Tjarutja tribe who had lived in the crater was found and were scrubbed repeatedly to remove radiation contamination and afterwards moved to Yalata. Unfortunately, the pregnant woman had a still born child and then later generations suffered serious medical conditions which were believed to be from the Marcoo incident.

The Defence Force - Air Force and Army - and 200 Commonwealth Police all lived in the areas surrounding the Maralinga village which was built using pre-fabricated aluminium panels from Britain. Only the officials lived in the village itself with high security boom gates monitoring movement.

After enjoying such a well-informed bus trip, it didn't take long to get the campfire going. Another enjoyable night was had by all with an extra 2 people coming over to join us around our fire pit. There was so much to talk about from the tour that we

are hoping our club will invite us to give a talk at a general meeting.

Wed 24/7/19 We had our last night of relaxation by the campfire singing with the guitar, and although we were not in any hurry to move, we had to as the next organised group were due to arrive shortly. We departed the campsite at 10.00am. Robin, who was so amazing and remembered everyone's name on the bus, escorted us back to the security gates.

On our way out, we saw a blowhole which was dry with no air coming through. It had a concrete surround with mesh over the top. Driving towards Watson, we saw willow type foliage trees that were wild apricots and would be ready to eat about September. All were keen to check out the quarry at Watson which was used to build the roads around Maralinga and we found many fossils from the inland sea.



From Watson we travelled to the Nullarbor road to find caves that Martin had heard were "out there somewhere." Went hunting and to our surprise found a real beauty. Max and Martin went further and further into this dark cave that I could no longer hear them talking, "what are they doing," I thought? They wanted to take photos of Aboriginal paintings and, shining a torch into a small opening, they decided not to crawl on their tummies to get out but take more photos. Amazing!! This was called Disappointment Cave but the guys were happy with their findings.

We continued on the long, dusty treeless road where Max's arm received sunburn from the winter desert sun but, at night, it was cold as we decided to bush camp just off the old Eyre Highway road. Martin was happy that we had no trucks passing by to keep us awake but the dingoes with their howling had other ideas.

Thursday 25/7/19 Left at 9.30am, went to The Head of the Bight whale watching, we weren't disappointed. Saw at least 8-10 different Southern Right whales, some with calves, shooting water into the air called "blowers", and doing tail flips called "tail lobs". What a display we witnessed for over 2 ½ hours. We laughed to hear a week later, on the news at home, that there are sightings of whales at The Head of the Bight!! This Whale Sanctuary was set up in 1995 and is one of the best in the world. Over 900 whales have been recorded at this site, with about 15,000 of this type of whale in the world. They come here to mate, give birth and raise their young during winter every year. WHOOPS, there goes Martin's Gawler 4wd hat, over the railings, his 10 year old hat was precious -it was secretly retrieved. Came out of the wind and enjoyed a cuppa in the warmth of the restaurant.



Back on the bitumen road, we blew a caravan tyre, the pieces of which Annette kept dodging in her vehicle. This is one of the reasons why 4wd drivers have learnt never to travel too close to each other. Poor Martin kept picking up all the shrapnel

off the road! Once the tyre was changed, it didn't take long before we were back on the road again.



We looked at the Big Wombat made out of concrete which is located 23km before Penong and where we also had a group photo taken. Then onto the Pink and Blue Lakes, Cactus Beach, Port LeHunte or Point Sinclair and found a wonderful sheltered area for a picnic with a jetty, shade shelter, toilets and netted safe swimming area. This area is maintained by the locals with solar lighting connected for community events, weddings, funerals, dancing etc, and every year they conduct Auswim lessons. There was great fishing and bush camping to be had up further but we all loved Penong Caravan Park on the trip coming over, so stayed another night there.



Friday 26/7/19 Martin parted company with our group and went on his own way to Victoria, now it was only Max looking after 3 girls! The trip would not have been the same if Martin had not joined us as we all

got on so well. Left the park at 7.45am and arrived at Ceduna by 9.30am. Vivianna decided to do research in the Library for the day to support her assignment. We purchased a new van tyre at Bridgestone and were so lucky as it was the only type left to fit our van! Enjoyed morning tea and lunch in Ceduna, collected Vivianna and checked out Smoky Bay. It was interesting to note how in the past, before the jetty was built in 1910, grain was loaded from horse and buggy onto smaller boats and then onto ships. The jetty was restored by volunteers and this was completed in 1912. It included the sponsoring of jetty planks as fund raisers. The jetty won the 'Community Event of the Year Award' as part of the Ceduna Council Australia Day awards. We stayed at Streaky Bay Caravan Park where Max and I visited a friend while the girls did some washing.

Saturday 27/7/19 Lazy morning, left park at 10.30am after a nice coffee in Streaky Bay. Saw such lush green paddocks down this way, then 40kms south of Streaky Bay, we visited Murphy's Haystack, a truly 'must see.' The Inselberg Formations are made up of wind-battered boulders and pillars created from the pink Hiltaba Granite. The mottled colours on these rocks are caused by lichen plant growth. We spent several hours in admiration, marvelling at the various formations.

At Point Labett Sanctuary, lives the world's rarest and smallest starfish called "Little Patty" which gives birth to live young from orange bumps that form on their backs. While we never saw any of those or squid, crayfish or great white sharks, we did watch one of the largest colony in the world of Australian fur seals at this site. This is their breeding colony. Pups weigh 7kg at birth and go into the ocean at 4 weeks and depend on their mother's milk for the first year. At 18 months they are totally independent. The pups played in the water pools while Mum and Dad basked in the sun. They hunt for

food on the sea floor and are becoming the most endangered marine mammal on earth by getting tangled up in fishing lines, nets and debris. The females breed every 18 months and can weigh up to 120kg, and are grey, yellow to cream in colour. Males are dark brown with a golden mane and can weigh up to 400kg.

We saw such beautiful coastal views just about everywhere we went. Found one called "The Tub" where the waves have carved out sandstone over time, causing the original entrance & ceiling to collapse forming a bowl shape 60-70 feet deep. Drove on to Woolshed Caves where everyone, except me, climbed up and down the many stairs. I was thankful for the photos so I could enjoy the view as well. Bush camped the night where the first mosquitoes of the trip joined us.

Sunday 28/7/19 Departed at 9.30am, went to Elliston Tourist Office which had a mural on every side of the building, including the toilets. Off to the cliff top scenic drive and sculptures, just so much beautiful coastal scenery to see. Went through the Sheringa area and arrived at Port Lincoln for the best tasting seafood pizza lunch. We also checked out the marina where we saw many large boats. We were amazed at the Tumby Bay silo art completed in April 2018 of 2 young lads jumping off the jetty. We decided stay at

the Tumby Bay Caravan Park which was just as well, as this was the first time we had any constant rain. We entertained ourselves on our last night together with a game of cards in the girls' cabin.

Monday 29/7/19 Left the park at 8.30am and decided that as our sightseeing had achieved looking at such a variety of things, more than expected, we would travel home. We completed approx. 3,100kms in 10 days and were well under budget by bush camping and also arrived home 2 days earlier than expected.

The girls still had several days left to get back home. It's a credit to these 2 girls who packed and strapped all their luggage and camping gear in their dual cab ute every day except at Maralinga where we stayed for 2 nights, otherwise we had one night stop overs. Martin slept in his ute, we took our caravan. Max had a special interest in doing a trip to Maralinga because in 1976, while working for Ahrens, he collected a semi load of uncontaminated steel from the Maralinga village, and later found out from the tour guide this steel was part of the unused bomb shelter walls which had been put into storage.

I must admit I hesitated living in the desert for a few nights and questioned why my husband wanted me to go there. In the end it was all well worth it, the best holiday yet!!

[Lyn Leske]



Maralinga 2019 (No 2)

Saturday 20th of July 2019 woke up late to find the phone I had set the alarm on had turned itself off, so panic stations. Had to shower load the fridge and get to Tarlee in under an hour, so a few things managed to be left in the kitchen, things can only get better! On arrival to the meeting spot, Max and Lyn introduced Annette and her daughter Viviana to me. They come from near Narrandera and are members of the Wagga Wagga 4X4 club. Time came to make our way to Wirrabara. We stopped and took photos of the painted silos in Wirrabara, before driving the windy road through Harrick's pass on to Port Augusta. There we fuelled up at city prices before driving on for a lap around Iron Knob where we stopped for lunch. Oh, the thermos is still supplied me with for my coffee. We photograph the silo the way to Pildappa Rock is a granite Minnipa which looks like a smaller Wave Rock.



We were able to shelter from the camp and find some campfire, get out

some dinner and settle down for a relaxing evening. After breakfast, a wander up to the top of Pildappa Rock was in order, as the top had a 360 degree view of the surrounding country side. Off to Ceduna for lunch and then to Penong caravan park for our next overnighter.

at home!! Lyn some hot water also stopped to art at Kimba on Rock our night. Pildappa rock north of like a smaller

find a bit of wind to set up wood to make a the chairs make

Across the road from the caravan park is a windmill museum. So many different types, mostly for pumping water and a few of the 32 volt electric wind generators used in remote houses. After dinner Annette invited Max, Lyn and me to help finish off a cask of wine, as alcohol is not allowed by the traditional owners at the Maralinga site.

Our group had to get to the Maralinga gate on Monday afternoon, but also planned to visit the memorial put up in 2017 for the 100 year Anniversary of the finishing of the railway from east to west where the last rails were laid joining the two sides. Heading along the Nullarbor we turned north along a new bitumen road that headed to a mine site. Just before the mine we headed left to Ooldea on the dirt road. Due to a lack of trees and parking bays, the lunch break was taken on the edge of the track. Max phoned our guide when we got to the railway crossing at Ooldea (mobile phone towers along the transcontinental railway) and organised to message over the CB when we got to the gate. Following the railway we reached the memorial. There are two monuments, one on each side of the track.

After our stop at the monument we continued along the railway to Watson. Watson was the railway station used by the British to bring everything in to build Maralinga Village and the airfield. A 60 year old bitumen road runs 40 km to Maralinga from the station and is in good nick. Travelling toward Maralinga we heard another tourist on the CB heading to the gate, so we ended catching up to a motor home and going through the gate together with the caretaker

waiting for us and locking the gate after us. After we set up camp, another group of about 16 people and another of 2 arrived so the bus was going to be full the next day!



Heaps of wood is provided which made it easy for having camp oven cooking. Facilities are modern for guests and there is a museum of memorabilia with a TV showing news reel videos and footage of the village when operating.

Tuesday the bus pulled up outside the camping area and took everyone toward the airport, stopping at a dam that supplied the complex when in operation (and still is). The water is collected from the airstrip and parking apron. After the water has settled it is pumped to tanks at the village. There were up to 3000 people living at Maralinga during testing years (53-57). The tour bus took us to the airfield apron where up to 30 planes would have been parked, coming and going daily with equipment and food supplies sent from England. We had a tour of the terminal and rode the bus to the end of the air strip. The Poms intended to be testing for 10 or more years until a testing treaty signed between Russia, the USA and England cut that short, so the air strip was made a lot bigger than necessary as the thought was that aircraft were getting bigger all the time. NASA also cleared the air strip as a possible landing strip for the space shuttle, being the biggest in the southern hemisphere.

After a tea break back at the terminal, the bus took us out to some of the ground Zero's and the areas where the clean up scrapings were buried. The guide brought out a giga counter and showed us that the radiation levels were normal, even where the sands were melted into glass. It was a busy day with plenty to look at, and many questions were answered by the guide, until the bus dropped us off back at the camp. Of course we had another roaring fire to enjoy, this time I cooked on the barby over coals, good stuff!



Not in a hurry in the morning as the idea was to get closer to the highway in order to go to the Head of the Bight the following morning for whale watching. After bacon and eggs we drove back down to Watson and checked out the quarry originally used to get rock gravel for the railway ballast and then for concrete and a bitumen road base. Then onto a narrow track which winds its way past some caves towards Nullarbor. A couple of the caves marked on the map were really only depressions but the last one was impressive. We spent a bit of time there, finding some Aboriginal art of hands. At the end of the track we reached the old Eyre Highway (gravel road that was bypassed by the new bitumen highway) and decided to camp out there instead of camping close to the highway at the Nullarbor Roadhouse. We managed to rustle up a bit of wood for a campfire to cook on, then all turned in early.

After an early night a few of us got up before the sun rose. It was quite spectacular. Next stop was the Whale Watch Centre. The whales were there with calves some close in to the cliffs we were standing on. After a couple of hours the coffee shop at the Bight was appealing especially with scones on offer for morning tea! Back on the road we headed east to a small community with a giant wombat. This is where we took lunch, then headed back east. Max transmitted on the radio that he had to pull over with a flat and large bits of rubber appeared on the road. Not much was left of the right hand tyre on Max's caravan. Out with hi-vis vests, to change the wheel and clear the road of debris. Nearing Penong we turned toward the sea to Point Sinclair, passing the pink and blue lakes, down to Port Lievre. The campground nearby wasn't very inviting and the consensus was to return to the Penong caravan park for the night. That night Viviana let us know that some uni work needed to be done at a library and Max needed to find a new tyre for a spare, so they decided to stay the next day in Ceduna. I decided to head over the Victorian Border to Murray Sunset National Park to camp with some motorcycling mates, and left in the morning. It was an enjoyable trip and I learned a lot about Maralinga.

[Martin]

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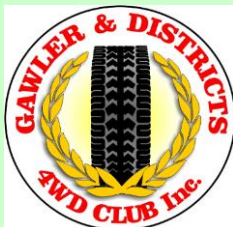
Details of when meetings are to be held, what trips and events are coming up along with useful links to lots of 4WD resources are included. Read about the latest trip report or view our photo library. Of course, you can download one of our newsletters (back to Aug 2009) including our special 10th year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



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See Quenton at the General Meeting