

## EASTER 2013 TRIP REPORT

### Good Friday

The day started early as we had to be at the Tarlee car park for 7.15 am where we were meeting John & Jane and the rest of the group. Hmm, got to Coles and remembered that we hadn't switched the burglar alarm on at home so we did a u-turn and headed back. Alarm switched on we left home for a second time. As we were running a bit late, Tarlee seemed quite a way off and the journey wasn't helped by some slow coaches on the road with rubber feet – one minute we're doing 100km/hour and the next 75 km/hour – very frustrating when trying to catch up on lost time!!! However, I think we made it at 7.17 am and thankfully weren't the last rig in the group to arrive. We stood around chatting in the cool morning air for a while waiting for the last few stragglers to arrive and eventually we finally set off at 7.45 am with Jane and John leading the trip and Wayne & Sandra as "tail end Charlies" ..... until Roy and Bronwyn caught up to us.

We had a reasonable trip north and drove through Clare and out onto the R M Williams Way heading for Jamestown where we were going to have morning tea. We continued on this route to Orroroo and met up with the last members of the group, Darryll and Joan.

After a hiccup or two playing "follow the leader," we ended up on the right road again and continued north towards Carrieton. As it was approaching lunchtime, the leaders asked if we'd like to stop in there for lunch as we were still about an hour away from our destination. The general opinion was to carry on to the campsite, set up our tents, campers and caravans, and then have lunch, which is exactly what we did!!

The campsite was very sheltered in a little hollow. We all chose where we were going to camp and set up our "little homes" for the weekend. Once done, we had lunch.

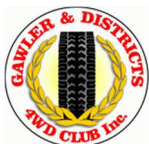
The weather was lovely, warm but not too hot. Jane told us that she hadn't planned any activities for the afternoon and thought we'd just like to relax and socialise, read, sleep, whatever took our fancy, which is what we all did. She also told us about the eco toilet and that there were hot eco showers about a km away at another campsite. It all seemed very civilised!! The owners of the property came along later and delivered 200 litres of rainwater for our use. That was a first for many of us and greatly appreciated.

This surely can't go without a mention!! The eco toilet would have to be one of the best "long drops" any of us had seen in a long time – it was well constructed with a wooden floor and lined sides and roof with a whirly-gig on top to help dispense any odours that wanted to hang around – if they dared!!!!. There was also a bucket of wood shavings with a cup to dispense them down the toilet – this would aid in the eco-working/friendliness of the toilet. (Even after a 4 day weekend, the toilet smelled as fresh as the day we arrived!!!)

We enjoyed "happy hour" later in the afternoon with nibbles and drinks and lit a small fire to sit around when the sun went down. There was much camaraderie and hilarity during the evening and as, we looked at the stars and gazed into the fire, I think we all realised that the die was cast, and we had the makings of a wonderful weekend ahead.

Thank you Jane & John for putting together another unforgettable weekend – I think we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and had many, many laughs along the way.

**[Sandra Harper]**



**Horseshoe Top End, Southern Flinders Ranges, (29<sup>th</sup> Mar-1<sup>st</sup> Apr 2013)**



*Easter Saturday*

Woke up to another day in a beautiful land of vibrant colours of greens, gold, purple, blues and browns. Magpies sing in the massive gum trees. Weather overcast but not really cold.

Couldn't believe that I slept until 8am though Wayne's watch was broken. We had organized the night before to leave at 9am for a drive around the property, no time to waste now!!!!!!!

Off on our way with the great trip leaders of Jane & John with Roy & Bronwyn as tail-

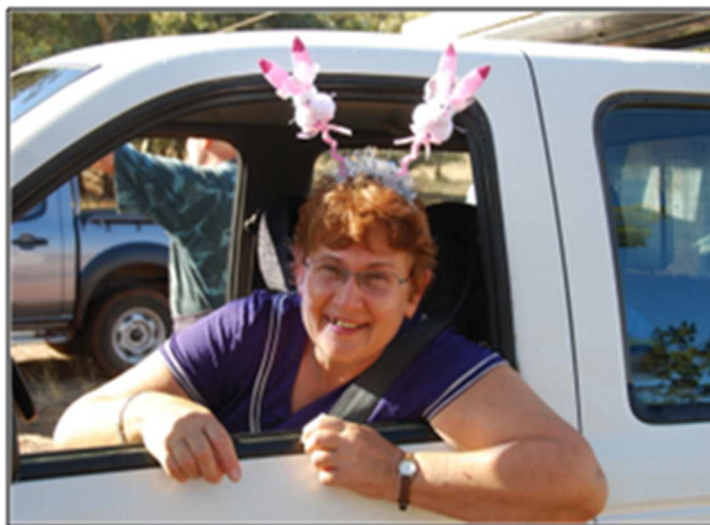
end Charlie. Through the gates at the homestead & off on our adventure for the day.

One of the gates at the beginning of the drive had a sharp turn to access it & not a lot of space to get through but with the experts (the males of the group) giving direction & advice, no one had a problem.

There was quite a bit of dust when driving and the land is a bit rocky in places. Going through low shrubs & smaller trees, then large gum tree & native pines. The vibrant brown colour of the earth while driving was stunning. Plenty of gates to shut or lock so the gate fairy was very generous to tail-end Charlie.

There were panoramic views while having morning tea. The wild life on the property was visible while driving - kangaroos, emu, galahs & a beautiful large eagle.

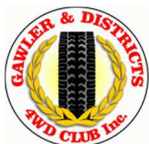
Heard on the chit chat of the radio that Lyn woke with sore muscle and had forgotten the massage oil. Max, being the good husband that he is, got out the cooking oil & gave Lyn a massage. Very ingenious of the Leskes!!! During the



course of the day we came up with a list of uses for cooking oil other than cooking. One of the tips was to put the oil on tent pole to stop mice climbing up them, does this mean that Lyn is now not going to be able to pole dance for Max while camping????????

Poor Lyn was the brunt of jokes for the rest of the trip about the cooking oil but, being the good sport she is, took it in her stride. Jessica & Brandon looked for coloured stone with some very lovely ones found & Brandon found some pretty impressive bugs in a hole. The lookout provided some of the most beautiful panoramic views – this is where the owner's daughter is getting married in a few weeks time. It will make for some stunning photos.

Jane had a map that was a bit of a challenge to her but with Peter's back up we got around the track alright. We did inform her that we had no problems with getting lost & that we would follow her within reason..... just not off a cliff!!!!



**Horseshoe Top End, Southern Flinders Ranges, (29<sup>th</sup> Mar-1<sup>st</sup> Apr 2013)**

By the time we found a place to have lunch amongst the trees in the gully, it had started to rain, not heavy but constant. Sandra & Peter were alright they stuck their umbrella up in a tree & stood under it, no problems eating lunch in the rain for them.

While going through the low saltbush area of the property there were thousands of flying bugs, we were informed that they were flying termites, which Dave told us tasted like nutmeg & dog urine! We were all then wondering how Dave knew this great enlighten piece of information. There was some talk of licking wheels but we won't go there, you will just have to ask Dave. (sorry Dave.)



By the time we got back to camp we had driven 38.4 km around the tracks of the property, the rain was steady & soaking which was really good for the property owners but not so good for some of the campers who had to dry out bedding. Lazy afternoon for some as they had a sleep while others just sat around talking under the shelter.

Happy hour was not to be missed even though it was raining, so under the shelter we all crammed. Joan informed Darryl that he was going to get wet – we all looked then she continued with “while you go & get me a drink”. That one was good & we all had a belly laugh. Was not a late night for most as it was cold when sitting around, others braved the cold & sat out around campers & talked. This was good as you got to know people a lot better especially the antics they got up to.



John & Jane, thank you for the great trip you organized & to everyone else, Wayne & I had a fantastic trip with you.

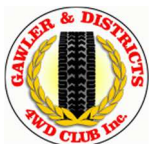
***[Sandra Heintze]***

**Easter Sunday**

The morning started with lots of Easter Bunny Visits and no gas going to our camper (oh the joys of camping). Thanks to the Harpers

for the use of their stove to make brekkie as we couldn't just have Chocolate could we???

After a delayed start we headed out at 10am with the sun out and with recaps from Sat nights “Happy Hour” and talks about the uses for cooking oil as the Leske's had lots of different ideas to share.



**Horseshoe Top End, Southern Flinders Ranges, (29<sup>th</sup> Mar-1<sup>st</sup> Apr 2013)**



Hammond was our Destination for a look around the Historic Town and morning tea. Sandra He went off exploring, of course, with 2 young ones in tow, Brandon and Jessica, who loved finding a fossil rock specimen and were excited to tell us all about it.

Back on the road we headed to Wilmington for refuelling only until someone mentioned the home made yummy food on offer in town so our bellies got refuelled too!! Back on board we headed to Alligator Gorge which was supposed to be our lunch stop but think some might not need their packed lunch

after the size of the pies which came from Wilmington. We had hot chips -yum - they went down a treat and what a luxury when camping.

Entry to visit Mount Remarkable National Park was duly paid and we wound and dipped our way into the park to the picnic area for lunch

After a full belly some adventurous people ventured down the steps and rocks for a browse around Alligator Gorge while some of us smarter (injured or not wanting to injure with steep steps) people stayed up top so others didn't have to carry us back up the hill ..... lol. Recovery mode was on for some more laughs.



Full of entertainment, Bunny Sandra He, forgot she had her tail on when sitting on the toilet and let out an almighty squeal as she wondered what the white fluffy thing was ... haha, oh to be a fly on that wall, hey!!



We headed up to the top of the hill to find the perfect sunset viewing spot and set up happy hour on a rocky but flat spot and settled in to watch the sun go down. What a fabulous way to end the day, drinks, nibbles, sunset and good company.



## *Gawler and Districts 4WD Club Incorporated*

### **Horseshoe Top End, Southern Flinders Ranges, (29<sup>th</sup> Mar-1<sup>st</sup> Apr 2013)**

On the way back to camp we travelled in the dark, which looked fabulous from afar, for the rest to have dinner over the fire that Helen, Paul, Brandon and Jordan had thankfully kept watch on and it was perfect for toasting marshmallows on too.

Thanks for a FABULOUS Easter Sunday John & Jane!

***[Michele Riddle]***

#### **Easter Monday**

It's Monday morning and time to start packing up after a great weekend. A few campers needed to dry out after the soaking they received on Saturday, therefore, we only left our campsite just before midday. Darryll and Joan left just ahead of us and Dave & Michele and Paul & Helen were leaving shortly after us. A short distance down the road, a caravan (belonging to another group) had broken down – it had probably become unhitched- with another vehicle and caravan helping them out and that held us up for a short time.

Once mobile again, we made our way slowly towards Orroroo where we stopped for lunch at the only cafe which appeared to be open – they were doing a roaring trade as the town was full of vehicles, campers and caravans!! After that, we all made our own way home.



Thanks again to Jane and John for a well organised and very enjoyable Easter weekend.

***[Bronwyn Schwarz]***

**Old disused pub in Hammond**