

OCTOBERFEST 2015 – Willangi (3rd – 5th October 2015)

Carinya Escapes & Magnetic Hill drive, Saturday 3rd October

9:30 start from the camp site, with Paul McGregor from the Mount Lofty Rangers 4WD Club as trip leader, followed by Peter & Simone (Whyalla Club), Marianne Whiting (Mt Lofty Rangers), then the Gawler Club mob: Bob & Pauline, John & Jane, Brenton & Keryn, Max & Lyn with Sue & Roger as tail end Charlie.

Short drive back into Peterborough, through the main street with a fleeting glance of a number of FJ Holdens on display (how different things must have been 60 years ago when those cars were new), then off towards Magnetic Hill.



Off the black top onto some well-maintained dirt roads, with plenty of green, healthy looking crops on either side, over Magnetic Hill, until we reached a snag... the road was closed for maintenance!

Paul zipped into the closest farmhouse, and the farmer provided us with an escort around the road block, right into the Carinya Escapes property.

Easy travelling on the property, through the sheoak trees and yacka forest, all selected 4L for the climb up Rabbit Hill. Didn't see any rabbits, but lots of kangaroo tail plants

alongside of the track. The driving then became more "challenging" (Sue didn't swear once, at least while the mic was open!) with the climb to the top of Mt Maurice, a part of the Pekina Ranges, approx 770 metres above sea level. Here we stopped for a morning coffee, enjoying the 360 degree panoramic views available. Brenton managed to find a local, a snake, trying to hide from the goings on.

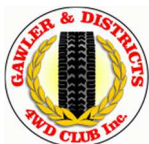
With photos done, we headed back down the mount, past the ancient yacka (some believed to be over 600 years old). The trunk of the yacka grows at only one centimetre per year, and the blackened signs of a bushfire can be seen at the base of these. This must have happened a long time ago, as apparently there have been no bushfires in these hills since white settlement. From here it was into Hidden Valley, where we stopped for lunch, enjoying the shade of the trees or the hut if preferred, with a long drop a short walk away.



Some more easy driving until we left the property, then it was on to Magnetic Hill, where several did the impossible and travelled backwards up the hill towards Magnetic Hill. John had to do it twice, just to make sure! From here more good dirt roads back into Peterborough where the Gawler mob stopped for the mandatory ice cream at the local servo.

Thanks to Paul for a pleasant and informative drive, with special mention to the fact that he took over the trip leader role at short notice.

[Roger & Sue Brennand]



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Millers Property – Saturday, 10 October 2015



About 9 vehicles left our camp site at 8.45am led by J&J Jansen.

We travelled through tracks called Dave's Pass, Scrubber Track, Emu Track, Blitz Track, Chip Hut Road, Euro Loop, Paddy's Track, Lofty Loop, Petals Track, Ridge Top and Paradise Road.

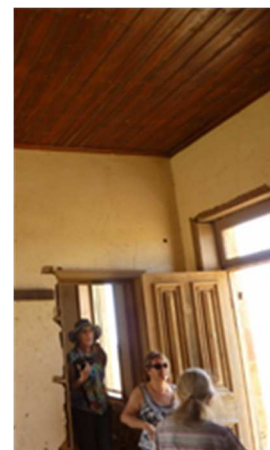
Wildlife showed us stumpy lizards, kangaroos, sheep and a few eagles which flew way too high when we took a photo, only a dot in the sky proved we saw them.

Roger gained new experiences going through river creeks, learning how to straighten the vehicle (with a little help from Max & Dave) and managing extremely well the 2nd time. Well done Roger!

Being tail end, we found a lot of stones others had loosened for us making it a little more challenging. So many scenic views, can only share a few with you from the lookouts. The guys had to check out this old truck of course!



Finished our scenic drive by checking out the settlers hut/ruins that has a lovely timber ceiling still in tack. Owners of the property Phil & Antoinette have plans to very slowly renovate a lot of the ruins on their large property that they opened for everyone to enjoy in October 2009.

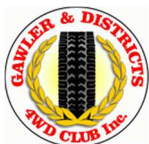


It was October 2010 our club visited Willangi but how it has developed since then, it's amazing.



I must say the organisers from the Mt Lofty Ranges 4WD Club could hardly improve on the fabulous weekend they offered for the Octoberfest. The 7 piece band topped off Saturday night playing music that made every member having to either toe-tap or dance the night away and was heard many, many hills away.

[Lyn Leske]



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Martin and Martin (M&M) and us (Dave, Michele, Jessica Riddle) joined a group of vehicle's from various clubs to do Black Rock Challenge Drive first thing Saturday Morning, Flag no 4 we met at for a 9:30am departure.

Glenn from Mount Lofty Rangers 4WD Club was our trip leader with 9 vehicles total and Ron from MLR taking up the rear to fill his ute with lollies for being tale end Charlie and closing the gates. After a bit of a blacktop drive we turned onto the property and let our tyres down ready to 4WD.

Yesterday's track took us up a hill for a view but had to watch the tall grass underneath with unusually warm weather it had started to dry out quite quickly. Nice drive down a shaly hill made for an even better drive back up it with a step up half way.

Lunch stop on the hill with the grasshoppers was a nice breeze that was a bit too breezy for hats to stay on heads and dried out sandwiches quite nicely if you liked them that way ;).



After lunch we were back out on the tracks going up and down and making lunch shake down a bit.

Repeater Station switch back track hill had lovely 360 degree views. This Survey Marker was interesting with it saying there was a 20 pound fine if found to interfere with it. Like to see them get 20 pounds out of anyone these days.

Time for a dog leg before heading to the back of the property. In a cloud or bubble of dust we made it up the hill that wasn't as loose as

last time. Windows up and Air Con on was needed for that and looking for the track through the dust was challenging at times.

No blacktop needed to get back to camp by 2:30 so a dry creek bed play was on the cards before happy hour.

Happy Hour was HUGE so much food for everyone including metre long Mettwursts wow what a feed. We struggled to eat dinner that night before setting up our chairs to have a great night listening to the band.

After a fabulous Saturday Night listening to and watching the entertaining Strickland Road Band we had a wonderful Big Brekky cooked by Mount Lofty Rangers 4WD Club with proceeds to RFDS. What a feed with Bacon, Snags, Eggs, Baked Beans and a Bread Roll each.



John and Jane Jansen were in charge of leading our Gawler & District 4WD Club Members astray this afternoon around the various properties around Willangi. 8 vehicles set off from camp to explore.



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Along the way we found a prospective new vehicle the boys had to check out in great detail.

We rocked and rolled and bumped our way around and up and down the various tracks we found.

Jodie's Track was a bit more challenging than Jane would have liked but everyone did ok taking it nice and slow and steady and some wanted more of the same but Jane's stress levels couldn't handle more of that, haha.

Eldortrilla Track we came across 3 vehicles on top going the other way which was a good spot to pass on by thankfully.

We all had a lovely drive along the top of the hill with views all around including we could see camp in the distance. We then headed back down part of Jodie's Track with Jane holding her breath all the way.



A nice challenging afternoon was had by all thanks to Jane for leading us astray!

[Dave, Michele and Jessica Riddle]