

October 2013



SUBARU 4WD NEWS

Meetings of
THE SUBARU 4WD CLUB of WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.
are **normally** held at
7.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month at the
Rotary Hall, 55 Sandgate St., South Perth

Subaru 4WD Web Site: <http://www.subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au>
SUBARU 4WD CLUB of WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC
P.O. BOX 434, SOUTH PERTH, W.A. 6951

SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

2012 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	David Peck	0402177886 president@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
SECRETARY:	Phillip Read	0438926274 secretary@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
TREASURER:	John Cahill	9368-4513 treasurer@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
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TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR:	Travis Maskey	0422815737
EDITOR:	Tom Minto	9382-4678 editor@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
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	Keith Low	9459-3358
	Ian Johnson	9448-5419
	Jim Wilcox	0419040969
	Adrian Longwood	9279-8993
MERCHANDISE:	Tony Richards	9386-7705
WEB MASTER:	Rob Griffiths/ Jim Wilcox	0411249933 0419040969 webmaster@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
4WD ASSOC DELEGATE:	David Peck/ Tony Richards	0402177886 9386-7705
M'SHIP CO-ORDINATOR:	Keith Low	9459-3358 membership@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
PROPERTY OFFICER:	Keith Wilcox/Simon Newton	

Club member of the year 2012: Travis Maskey

LIFE MEMBERS

Fred Offer, Keith Anderson, Jonel Householder, Ray Stewart,
Ian Johnson, Peter Andruszkiw and Ron Counce.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT October 2013

Firstly thanks to Allan and the guys down at ARB Welshpool for hosting our September meeting, they spoiled us with pizza and soft drink to start with then told us about the range of accessories that they have that is suitable for our vehicles. Everything from roof top tents to valve caps that won't get lost when you adjust your tyre pressures, and from driving lights to a recovery point that fits into the towbar hitch receiver. They also offered us a discount on purchases whilst we were there and extended an offer to assist anyone who needs help fitting their vehicle out. One item that generated a lot of interest was the 'Bush Winch' whereby the cars wheel nuts are replaced by longer ones which have a special fitting on the end onto which is a drum attached when needed. Special winch rope is then attached to the drum and a suitable anchor point. As the car is driven, the rope is wound onto the drums winching the car out.

Don't forget the October meeting is at our normal venue and time. The annual general meeting is next month, which means that membership fees are now due. To be able to vote you need to be financial.

If you are interested in helping out on the driver track at the 4WD show, email your details to Jan at secretary@wa4wda.com.au as she is organising the roster for drivers.

One of the Department of Parks and Wildlife projects for the current financial year is a general clean up of the Boida Hill campsite at Lochada which the club helped set up. They are also hoping to do some general maintenance of the sleeping quarters and ablutions.

This may be worth volunteering for as a club event as we haven't been back for a couple of years. The other project we volunteered for is assisting the Eastern Suburbs 4WD club with signage installation at the Avon Valley National Park and we are just waiting for the area to dry out a bit before we go.

Cheers

David

TRIP CO-ORDINATORS REPORT October 2013

Hi all,

My recce trip out to the State fence was eventful. I got stuck a lot. The road in and out is very slippery when it's just a bit wet. However, I did get out there and found a nice place to camp out at.

There is a trip out to the Avon Valley national park slated for the middle of next month. The details should be on the website soon.

The annual dinner is on at the end of next month. This year it's at New Norcia. The accommodation is booked out but there are camping and caravanning options available. Also, a reminder for the awards both serious (as we can get) and funny awards, get your nominations in. You can nominate trips or individuals for awards via the website.

See you all out there.

Travis

CHALLENGE



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*Club membership must be mentioned at first contact with the dealership/time of service booking.

TRIP PROMOTIONS/INFORMATION

ANNUAL DINNER Saturday 26 October



Our annual dinner this year is to be at the New Norcia hotel. New Norcia is 132km north of Perth so it should be reached comfortably in less than 2 hours. The menu choice is to be decided but you will need to book your accommodation if required in advance.

The New Norcia hotel has 15 rooms which can accommodate 39 people in total. They are holding all the rooms for the club until 28 September when they will be available to the general public. The tariff on these is \$75 for a single, \$95 for a double and \$22 each for any extra persons in the room, this includes continental breakfast. A cooked buffet breakfast can be arranged for an extra charge of \$15 per head for a minimum of 15 people.

To book your room contact 9654 8034 or email hotel@newnorcia.wa.edu.au Please mention the club when you book or you might be told they are unavailable. There is alternative accommodation in New Norcia including using your own caravan or tent. Visit www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au and click on 'accommodation-for-individuals-or-groups' for all the options available.

Get your name down on the trip website as we are limited to 40 people for the meal.

Where: New Norcia Hotel

Date: Saturday 26 October

Time: 6.30 for 7.00pm.

Contact: Keith Wilcox 0413 266 245

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*4WD Club members must show this ad to redeem offer. Offer valid for the purchase of 2013 Foresters only.

121-218001

PERTH 4 WD AND ADVENTURE SHOW

NOVEMBER 8-10

This is an annual event. We need members to "man the stand" for the 3 days. Come along and enjoy the company, the people, the 4WDs and what's on offer

There are 6 "shifts" and I am looking for 2-3 members per shift (up to a maximum of 4 members per shift):

- Shift 1 is Friday 9.00 to 1.30;
- Shift 2 is Friday 1.30 to 6.00;
- Shift 3 is Saturday 9.00 to 1.30;
- Shift 4 is Saturday 1.30 to 6.00;
- Shift 5 is Sunday 9.00 to 1.00; and
- Shift 6 is Sunday 1.00 to 5.00.

If you can help man the stand, please nominate on the web-site.

I expect that entry will be free for those helping on the stand.

Phil

043 38926274

LANCELIN SAND DUNES

SUN 17TH NOVEMBER

Peter A. will again be leading our annual, excellent day out at the Lancelin Dunes.

This is a trip for all members in all model 4WD Subarus (except unlifted Libertys or Imprezas). Out-backs have had a few front clearance problems in the past, so if these owners have any concerns please contact the trip leader. Also it pays to remove the plastic splash tray under the engine if it has not already been replaced with a sump guard. Prospective, new and existing members are all invited to learn the capabilities of their vehicle and their driving ability.



We split into groups depending on experience and start off easy, progressing to something more challenging. It is a fun day in a safe area with experienced members who will give you advice on all facets of driving on sand including tyre pressures, choosing the right gear ratios and how to get out after getting stuck in the sand.

Bring: Full tank of fuel, lunch, drinks, snacks, tyre pump, tyre pressure gauge, hat, sunscreen and camera.

Contact Peter on 0419854671

or put your name down on the website.



CAFFE AMARETTO

Saturday 23rd November

Feel like some Italian cuisine, well come along and enjoy your fill!

Licensed and BYO. Corkage (wine only) is **\$3.50 per person.**

Address: Shop 1, 221 Main Street, Osborne Park.
The Booking is for 7.00.
I will make a group booking. See you there!

Tony R. 9386 7705



Christmas Party



Saturday 7 December

Venue: Anne & Simon's place.
9 Bruning Road, Manning

Parking on drive, verge or by the school at the end of the street

We will continue the annual collection for the Royal Flying Doctors Service – so bring some gold coins.

Time: From 5pm

2 BBQs available and have plenty of room undercover should the weather not be as I ordered.

Bring: BBQ meats, drinks & desserts.

Limited seating so a chair would be handy.

We will provide Salads & nibbles.

PH 9450 5953 or register on the club website.



TIME TO RENEW YOUR CLUB MEMBERSHIP

TRIP & SOCIAL REPORTS

FORESTER FORAY July 2013 (Final 6 days)

Thurs 18 July

The weather continued cool, around 11C mid morning with dark clouds threatening rain. We stopped at one of the rocky hills featured in our maps. All made the 400m climb, except the Js – Jenni, Joy and Jim.

Shortly afterwards as we resumed our drive we had to reconcile ourselves to an extended viewing of a camel's rear end. This particular beast displayed the species' reluctance to leave the track to allow our vehicles to pass.

Prior to the trip, Ian had spotted an unusual looking clay pan on Google Earth so we took the chance to check this out. A whole range of wildflowers was evident including yellow, pink, white and mauve everlastings, turpentine bush (*Eremophylla* sp.). Beautiful savannah country.






The temperature dropped early afternoon and the prevailing wind built up. We made camp on the northern shore of a large salt lake. We used the same spot that Ian, Nina and others had used 11 months before. They had clearly done an excellent job of leaving no trace of their time there for it looked as if we were the first to camp there.

(continued p 16)









SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

CLUB CALENDAR

October 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Tue 1st: Committee Meeting Tue 8th: General Meeting Sun 20th: Avon Valley (T B C) Sat 26th: Annual Dinner Mon 28th: magazine articles deadline
			2	3	4	5	
6	7		9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
	21	22	23	24	25		
27		29	30	31			



November 2013




S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Tue 5th: Committee Meeting Fri 8th-Sun 10th: 4 WD Show Tue 12th: A. G. M. and General meeting Sun 17th: Lancelin Sat 23rd: Restaurant Meal Fri 25th: magazine articles deadline
					1	2	
3	4		6	7			
	11		13	14	15	16	
	18	19	20	21	22		
24		26	27	28	29	30	

December 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Tue 3rd: Committee Meeting Sat 7th: Christmas Party Tue 10th: General Meeting Mon-23rd: magazine articles deadline
1	2		4	5	6		
8	9		11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22		24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31					

SUBARU 4WD CLUB of W.A. INC

January 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6		8	9	10	11
12	13		15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Tue 7th: Committee Meeting Tue 14th: General Meeting						

February 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3		5	6	7	8
9	10		12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24		26	27	28	
Tue 4th: Committee Meeting Tue 11th: General Meeting						

SCHOOL AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

School Holidays: Sept 28– Oct. 13, Dec 20–

Public holidays: Dec 25-26

Potential members are most welcome to come along on any Club activities before joining. Please phone the Trip Leader for further information.

Register with the trip leader if you are wanting to join a trip or social. Also contact the trip leader if you have to cancel, as we don't want to wait for someone who does not turn up!

Some trips are ideas only and may be subject to change. Some of the later trips need trip leaders – volunteers please.

Fri 19 July

At early wakeup we watched the beginnings of sunrise on the horizon as the beginnings of an orange glow on the horizon worked its way upwards, silhouetting the trees. Few stars early this morning. Some made a big breakfast with two extra servings delivered to Ian and Nina's tent. They don't emerge till much later. We took an early walk along the ridge of the dune beside the lake. It was covered with such a wide variety of wildflowers, purple eremophylla, yellow, white and pink everlastings, purple vetch, tiny geraniums. We tracked down to the shiny wet surface of the lake. Wonderful reflection brought the inner photographer out in all of us. Much windier on the lake showing us how much the dune had shielded our campsite. Some of the water on the lake is a mirage, as Ian and Nina discovered. Seen from Google Earth, some sections of the lake edges are scalloped. Meanwhile on site we can see how these formed, as small rivulets drain rainwater at regular intervals down the dunes into the lake.



Photo by Nina

Tracks detected here included many camels, some dingoes, and quad bikes with huge tyres, probably from the roo shooters camp we'd heard about.

By noon Joy has returned to camp bearing many treasures. The sky is building up. Our second night at this spot.

Sat 20 July

Scallop camp was shrouded in an Irish mist with the temperature at 9C. We continued travelling around the northern shore of the lake, noting small islets on the unusually wet surface, after recent rains. The route was decorated with yellow and white everlastings. A number of emus dropped in to check us out.

A collection of sand-bleached camel bones brought urgent cries to stop and investigate another camel graveyard. Jenni was at last able to satisfy her wish to gather some bones for her grandsons. Clearly she spoils them and doubtless the children's parents will be delighted. We managed to find space for 3 large heavy leg bones. Earlier in the trip there would have been no room, what with all the food and water supplies on board.

We maintained a relatively brisk pace through the morning as rain was again threatening. Ian was concerned about the prospect of the clay-based track beside the lake becoming impassable. However, nothing too difficult eventuated and we managed 15-25kph. Some extensive patches of water on the road, with a firm base. Some rocky sections. Too cold to stop long at morning tea. Gum trees, mulga, salt bush and spinifex most of the morning as we continue to skirt the southern section of this large salt lake. Drove a fair bit of the day due to persistent fine misty rain. By noon the temperature was still hovering at 13C. We all privately think how dry our own beds will be back in Perth. The road widens and the central line of vegetation disappears, so we can raise the speed to 45kph! Lunch break featured the now popular pursuit of scat inspection – though we're all not as keen at handling the poo as Ian is. We can now recognise roo, camel, dingo and lizard poop, - and we're pretty good at reading the weather, and animal, vehicle and human tracks as well.

Some burnt out areas - but we find these can be chock full of wild-flowers. The bright green foliage of the mulla-mulla is often first to emerge. Others spotted included the wonderful blue pincushion flower, *Brunonia australis*, *Davenportia*, straw flowetrs, *Ptilotis*, *Nicotiniana* (yes, it's related to tobacco). By 2pm we complete the lake circuit that has taken the past 13 days. Almost no traffic in that time and no human company apart from our convoy members.

Three more emus rush by, their drooping grey and black feathers dip up and down like ballet tutus.

The pace was speeding up - 127km today. Breakaway camp with rocky outcrops. Light grey clouds but no rain as we put up our tents. Pancakes for afters.

Sun 21 July

Heavily overcast, still morning. Only 10C as we started off. Not cold at all. We're becoming seasoned. No flies. Many small birds in this thickly shrubbed area beside breakaways with some interesting unusual gums. A single pittosporum with elegant weeping branches. Some more burnt out areas and thickets of *E. youngiana*, and more wildflowers – peeping tom, *Lachnostachys*, upside down peas, *kenedia*. We emerge into dune country.

We have about 200km today to reach Laverton which is starting to seem like a 5 star resort by now. We can see the gradual signs that we are re-entering the developed world. The track is clearer and wider, Hertz rental 4WDs pass on their way to mine sites nearby. We are speeding along at 45-50kph.

Still couldn't be called warm though. Only 12C at 11am when we stop for morning tea. The trip has been rather colder than anyone expected. We are wearing layers of most of the clothes we have, dirty or not (it's camping!). Beanies worn all day when outside the vehicles. Rutted road an indication of the traffic that uses it. Some chicken tracks but all doable. Blue sky opening up gradually. The lunch spot featured intriguing rocks we name Key Hole and Screaming Man. Jim retrieves another Barney Rubble bone for the collection. We finally emerge onto a wide graded road and take the chance to spread out our convoy to avoid the dust. We pass through remnants of an old mining ghost town. Just faded corrugated iron shed now. Beside the road we now see signs to various mine sites, rubbish and some black stones that shine in the sun as if they are oily. We've hit the big smoke of mining communities.

Despite arriving slightly before the Laverton Caravan Park reception opens for the afternoon "rush" we've set up our tents and jumped into the hot showers for the works. By 4pm I'm sitting in the late afternoon sun drying my hair. A repeat of our earlier visit – Laverton Tavern for drinks and camaraderie, dinner at the mining mess. The only customers beside us were one mine worker in his fluoros, four young women (probably nurses, we figure) and three local coppers. The mine is in a care and maintenance phase so staffing is minimal.

Oh the joy! Hot showers, the fresh fruit and vegetables at the mining mess. Bliss.

Mon 22 July

We all feel so good despite the chilly windy day, 12C. Big breakfast at the Laverton Caravan Park, pump up the tyres to road pressure and we're off on the tar for the first time since 8 July. Near Leonora we see fences for the first time in weeks. The forecast is -1C for Southern Cross near where we'll camp in the areas.

Wedge tailed eagles feasting on road kill have to be passed with care. They are so large that they cannot take off at speed to avoid traffic which interferes with their meal. One almost because road kill himself as he took off right in front of Jim's car requiring a rapid response. The old mining town of Malcolm is again used as a depot for the modern mines in the area. Refuel and morning coffee in Leonora at the pop-up coffee shop. Bit by bit we are getting closer to the urban world we came from,. Now on the Goldfields Highway there's a lot more traffic. Gimlets start to be seen along the roadside, a sure sign we're coming towards Kalgoorlie. A mine processor outside Kal expels its polluting fumes across the skies.

By early afternoon it really warms up – 18C and we roll up our sleeves.

Passing through the beautiful Goldfields Woodland National Park as the shadows lengthen among the olive leaves and the bronze trunks of the gimlet gums and the yellow tipped mulga. Beside the highway the Mundaring Kalgoorlie pipeline reminds us where we are heading. A number of potential campsites are checked out and discarded until at last we agree on our final campsite, near the Ghooli No. 6 Pumping Station on the Great Eastern Highway. There was a bit of spinifex dotted among the wonderful Goldfields gums. We've made 580km today.

Tues 23 July Ghooli Pipe camp to Perth

Our last day on the road began as we slipped into autopilot to pack up for the last time.

Shortly before Southern Cross Ian and Nina's vehicle ground to a halt. They had run out of petrol, despite the fuel gauge showing half full! Fortunately Jim had a handy 10L jerry can to help them into Southern Cross.

Jim pointed out, “Even if your fuel gauge says half, it doesn’t mean you can drive 600km without refuelling”. His logic was inescapable. Given Ian’s extensive use of spreadsheets and fuel reporting during the trip, this caused much amusement - though we thought it best not to express it too overtly – until now.

We arrived in Perth after a truly wonderful trip of just over 2,600km, marked by fantastic scenery, great company and a whole lot of fun.

We’d come to appreciate starting off each day without a definite itinerary or destination, not usual for club trips. We learned to just go with the flow and see where we ended up and when- taking our cues from the landscape and the weather. We enjoyed being in a remote areas - almost off the maps – at places we could name ourselves. Each campsite acquired a name depending on what it looked like, what we found there or what we did there. Some sites had been named by Ian and Nina the previous year but that did not deter us from adding a new 2013 moniker.

Many official place names have been omitted from these trip accounts because the area is just so special. As our club magazine is available on the web, we all want to help preserve this virtually untouched area for enthusiasts to appreciate long into the future. If you are interested in visiting this area ask Ian and Nina for more details

Jenni _____

The final piece relating to the “Forester Foray” was provided by Rajni.Ed..



Forester Foray My Experience of the desert trip in pictures

Four little Foresters which went on the desert trip. All four came back safe and sound.



We found some water holes, a rare sight in the desert. Sign that the place has had some good rainfall.

We even managed to replenish our supplies with rain water at a stream, just in case!

We heard dingoes howling most nights but actually saw very few. The scenery varied considerably. This is the image of a desert most people would have. But we found there are large parts which were lush green.

It's very easy to get lost in this place because there are no easy landmarks. I asked Ian how he managed to find his way around without a GPS or even a compass. He said he couldn't explain it but he instinctively just knew!



Every night we had a roaring fire over which we cooked our meals and baked our bread. Well Ian and Nina cooked and Jim and Ian baked! The fires were very much appreciated. It was very cold.

My little tent and my very dirty and quite badly scratched Forester.

The pop up tent survived the trip quite well. It withstood storms and even heavy rain, although one night I slept in a puddle of water because I did not tuck the tarpaulin properly under the tent.



Yes, , we did encounter some decent tracks.

Most of our driving was on “no tracks” or very overgrown tracks created by Ian/Jim and party the previous year in their heavy vehicles.



Our Foresters did extremely well.

This is Ian, critically examining something very interesting!

Ian examined poo, dried out insects, bones, plants, you name it!



Beautiful sunset was followed by a very stormy night.



This is just a sample of the hundreds and hundreds of photographs we took between us. Photographs taken by Nina are absolutely amazing.

This was a wonderful trip with some wonderful people.

Many thanks to Ian and Nina for organising the trip and taking us to experience some of their favourite places in this word.

Rajni Bhinda

23 September 2013

SubaRogain II Trip Report

Ray, Joanne and Reba met Phil and Liz at the Lakes Road house at 8:15 on Sat (Aug 24th). Travis and Katie drove to York on the previous day. The obligatory morning tea and coffee preceded a 45 minute trip to York. It amused both cars to follow strict convoy procedures. Ray and Joanne kindly offered to be "tail end charlie" behind the caravan.

We caught up with Katie and Travis at about 9:30 and duly proceeded to set up camp. We waited for another Joanne to join us but due to circumstances beyond her control she had to withdraw at the last moment. It bewildered most of us that Park's owners made Phil drive his caravan through empty bays and set up on a relatively narrow stretch of grass more suited to tents. The other bewildering thing was that another caravanning couple had a pram set up for their dog. Ray and Joanne took Reba for a walk around the Heritage listed York racecourse. The racecourse was closed in 2010 after a wild storm destroyed the tracks facilities. The state government has committed \$900k through the royalties for regions initiative to upgrade the facilities, the work is expected to be completed early 2014 and will provide a major economic boost for York.

Since there were only three cars, we decided to do a self guided driving tour visiting "ghost towns" in the area so we set off at about 11am. Our first stop was a preserved bakery and in a nearby field, a run down house with Aboriginal spear holes could be seen. Ray thought it was a little disappointing that the preserved bakery had no pies. The self guided tour mentioned a cafe in Kauring about half way between York and Quairading which sounded a great place to stop and have lunch. It turned out that it had been closed for two years and the York Tourist Bureau had not updated their information. Still no pies. So we drove to Quairading and had lunch at the pub where Liz met one of her cousins and a family friend. After a leisurely lunch, the guide book took us to Toapin Weir for a nice stop and walk around. The plaque mentioned that at one point the weir had a roof to mini-

mize evaporation . The support poles were placed by local council workers who had to dive underwater without any breathing apparatus (back in the 1940's) to fix them in place.

By now it was about 3:30 and we had only driven half way. In keeping with fine club tradition, there was an overwhelming majority vote to cut the tour short and head straight to the York winery which was a great decision. The winery is totally organic, no sprays, preservatives or even irrigation. Since the grape varieties between successive years vary, so too do the wines, eg the 2009 shiraz was very different from the 2010. Pre dinner nibbles were a selection of cheeses, biscuits and various small goods at Katie and Travis's followed by hanging out in a heated caravan after dinner. Even if one corner of the Jayco Pop Up had collapsed and became supported by a tent pole. In keeping with the "ghost town tour" theme, some ghost stories were told among various topics. Sunday was a leisurely departure, Phil and Liz stayed until 2pm and had a lazy day while the others called into a cafe in York before meandering home. It was great weekend, very relaxing and well organized by Phil and Travis.

Trip Report – Captain Fawcett Track 8/9/2013

Eleven Subarus (two Outbacks & nine Foresters) with 18 people and two dogs met up at Safety Bay Road in Baldvis on what may have been the only sunny Sunday among the 2013 September deluges. After welcoming new members and visitors then checking radios we headed south along the Freeway at the GPS verified speed limit, exited at Pinjarra Rd then we turned off towards Dwellingup at Pinjarra.

The original plan was to take the official historic route following the footsteps of Captain Theo Fawcett who travelled east from Pinjarra over the Darling Range in the 1860s to search for heavier soil. The venture was successful and his descendents still work properties in the area east of Dwellingup. However, the original Fawcett trail along the river valley had been virtually impassable on the "recky" 3 weeks

earlier, so we were prepared for Plan B.

As the convoy twisted and turned towards the cuppa stop at Dwellingup we keenly listed to Keith's experiences as a forester in the Dwellingup area in the late 1980s and early 1990. We debated the pronunciation of "phytophthora cinnamomi" or dieback, its causes and remedies and were reminded of the awful Dwellingup fires that devastated the town and surrounding countryside in the summer of 1961.

After tea break we checked past the kiosk at Lane Poole (just in case) and heard that the Captain Fawcett Track was indeed "officially closed" as a result of even more heavy rain and so we proceeded happily on our alternate route through the Lane Pool reserve. The off road sections we took were ideal for the new and less experienced drivers among us, with one challenging option for the risk takers on a piece of rutted track divided by a large tree with extensive surface roots. Everyone got through – eventually, but we weren't too sure about the tree & its roots.

The lunch stop near the Bibbulmun track at Long Gully Rail Bridge provided a chance to leave the vehicles, walk the multi-patched bridge, sample some homemade chocolate cake and swap travel stories. The old timber trestle bridge across the Murray River is now closed to vehicles but remains a part of the walk track.

Energised, we set off again in convoy for a varied driving experience over paved, then gravel road with some corrugations, then along forest tracks and fire breaks and around a few fallen trees. Interestingly, the Alcoa conveyor belt transporting alumina from Worsley to Wagerup & Pinjarra refineries passed under and over the paved road. Just before dipping again under the conveyor our leader spotted a nice muddy "playground" but no-one offered to show off their "mudder" skills.

The afternoon tea stop at the popular Quindannning Inne was fun, too, and gave us the opportunity to join locals, tourists, Sunday city drivers, bikers and some local football (super) heroes from Harvey for a beer or the free cuppa for the driver.

On the way back another forestry highlight was a tall, very straight Jarrah tree, not far off the paved road in a small patch of bush that had survived between two fronts of the 1961 fires. This stand of trees is not “old growth”, but re-growth of about 80 years. Because this area has been protected for study it has not been burnt or logged since and we noticed that although the timber was tall and straight the number and variety of wildflowers and undergrowth seemed limited.

As the sun dipped lower we found ourselves back in Dwellingup for a last stop for icecream, then back across to the Southwest Highway at North Dandalup and our separate ways home - a very interesting, informative and enjoyable Subi outing - thanks, Keith & Jo.

LATE NEWS:

The Subaru Forester of Herridge/Hill which was competing in the 2013 Australasian Safari scored 4th outright and 1st in class. This was against expensive prototype 4wd racers including 2 from last years Dakar race. Club members Jim and David were helping as officials so got to see something of this first hand.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS MAGAZINE ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE HELD BY THE SUBARU 4WD CLUB OF W.A. INC.

Please send articles and photos to the Editor by the Thursday before the end of the month (earlier is better). [PHOTO'S SHOULD BE 400KB MIN.](#)

Email: editor@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au in Word format or plain text

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