

November 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 |
| SOCIAL ORGANISER: | Keith Wilcox | 9344-6830 |
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| EDITOR: | Tom Minto | 9382-4678 editor@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au |
| COMMITTEE MEMBERS: | Tony Richards | 9386-7705 |
| | 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 2013: Jim Wilcox

LIFE MEMBERS

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT November 2013

The Annual General Meeting is coming up and I would like to encourage everyone to attend.

Thanks to Phil, Keith Wilcox and Tom for the great job they have done over the last two years. Their term of office is up and we are seeking nominations for the positions of secretary, social coordinator and editor and if you would like help in setting the clubs direction please nominate for a position on the committee.

I would also like to thank the other committee members for their contribution during the year.

We have had some good trips and socials and seen the membership numbers increase over the last few years.

The annual dinner at New Norcia was a great event, thanks Keith for organising it. We had a full house with about 40 members and the food and company was good.

Unfortunately we also booked out all the accommodation and soon found out there was not much available in the area, something to consider in future as most people want to make a weekend of it and spend the night. Still the weather was good and camping was available nearby.

It was good to see Jim Wilcox take out the "Club member of the year" and well deserved because of his ongoing contributions to the club in leading trips and offering his workshop and assistance with projects at the Fiddles & Nibbles.

Unusually this year we had a number of joint awards as there was no clear winner, so 'everyone gets a prize'.

The "Trip leader of the year" award went to both Ray Dobson for the Coalmine Collective and Ian Johnson.

The "Trip of the year" went to Ian Johnson for his Forester Foray trip.

There were also the various "silly" awards and thanks to those people nominated for providing some light relief from time to time.

I would also like to thank our advertising sponsors and Subaru Australia for the support they have given to the club over the last year and we can show our appreciation by directing our business their way.

Another reminder that it's time to renew your membership, this can be done in person by giving it the John Cahill or Keith Low or a direct deposit can be made into the clubs bank account. If you do it this way please let John or Keith know so they can reconcile who has paid.

From the 4WD Association

On 16th November at Kaarakin the Lions hearing bus will be providing hearing tests for a gold coin donation. There will also be tours of the Black Cockatoo Society and a sausage sizzle.

Thank you to all the members who volunteered to look after our stand at the 4WD show this year, Travis had to close it off as it was oversubscribed.

If you are still keen on going and would like to take advantage of the chance to get FREE ENTRY the 4WD Association are looking for volunteers to help out at a combined 4WD Association/ Track Care/ Dept Parks & Wildlife stand as well as drivers for the test track. I have put a trip up on the website so you can register.

TRIP CO-ORDINATORS REPORT November 2013

Hi All

I've just got back from a 2 week road trip that started at the State barrier fence. Thanks to Keith Low, Keith Wilcox, Jim David and Katie for Volunteering their time and equipment to clear the fence of the shrubs and trees growing near and through the fence line. We did 3 km of the 15 set out for us, and I know the people in my car were a bit worse for wear over the next few days.

The 4wd show is on again. Thanks to the people who are volunteering to man the stand. The roster will be emailed out soon.

The week after the show the annual Lancelin Beach run is on again. Peter A always puts on good weather for this one and is always a good day out. Just look out for sand walls!

See you all out there.

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TRIP PROMOTIONS/INFORMATION

LANCELIN SAND DUNES

SUN 17/11

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). Outbacks 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!

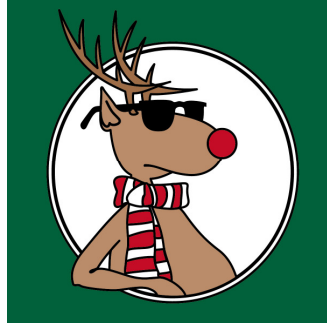
Licensed and BYO. Corkage (wine only) is **\$3.50 per person.**

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.

A black and white photograph of a cockatoo standing on a wooden surface, looking towards the left. The bird has dark feathers with prominent white horizontal stripes on its neck and chest. It has a white face and a large, white, hooked beak. The background is blurred, showing some foliage and a wooden structure.

David and Joy attended the WA 4WD Association Presidents & Environmental Officers Meeting held at Kaarakin (Black Cockatoo Conservation Society), on Monday 7th Oct. Several matters were discussed including: David gave a report on the Club's Sept long-weekend trip to the Rabbit-proof Fence, highlighting the unexpected 15 km

limit permit. The Association members were concerned about this restriction and whether it was worthwhile to continue if such limits apply to every trip.

DEC is now split into two: Dept of Parks & Wildlife (DPAW) & Dept of Environmental Regulation (DER). For campsite bookings, park or track closures, or bushfire alerts, check out the DPAW website: <http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

For environmental regulation, approvals and appeals processes, and pollution prevention go to the DER website: <http://www.der.wa.gov.au/>.

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opening guided tours to the Carnarvon Ranges, the Calverts, and the Kitson Track amongst others.

The Association will be sharing a marquee with DPAW and TrackCare at the 4WD Show in a display of inter-organisational unity. Clubs are invited to help with the roster.

Lions Free Hearing-test Bus is coming to Kaarakin on Sat 16th Nov 10am-3pm. A sausage sizzle and Black Cockatoo tours have been arranged by the Association.

TrackCare are organising a Clean-up Day at Wilbinga on 24th Nov. For those who are not going on the Club Lancelin trip.

The Association would like Clubs to record volunteer hours (e.g. time spent on clean-up days) accumulated during club activities. This is useful as evidence to show governments that 4WD clubs are actively contributing to the environment, the community, and track care. Inform your Club delegate of any hours incurred in any sort of volunteer work.

The Association asked members to support the SIDS and Kids fund-raising drive 29th June 2014. Hundreds of 4WDs will drive from the Joondalup Arena to the Perth Motorplex.

Association Committee members were concerned that clubs were unaware of the purpose and activities of the Association. In a bid to raise awareness amongst member Clubs of the importance of having a single united and powerful Association to negotiate with the Government or other groups and make policy, the Association is considering visits to club meetings to speak about what the Association is doing for its members.

Some other ideas to promote group unity and identity and public relations are to have WA 4WD Association car stickers, as well as the Association logo on wheel covers, and spare wheel rubbish bags. Also, it was suggested that an Annual event where all the clubs get together for a weekend camp would be a good idea to foster inter-club camaraderie.

The Association already has a Facebook page. Remember to “Like” the WA 4WD Association on Facebook. Go to the link on the Assoc. webpage: <http://www.wa4wda.com.au/>. Joy

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| TRIP & SOCIAL REPORTS |
|----------------------------------|

Gnangara/Wilbinga Dash

18/8/13

It was a fine sunny winter day, with recent rainfall during the week keeping the ground damp. It was only a small turn out so once everyone arrived we aired down and got on our merry way.

The intention was to have a quick play in the pines and then move on up through to the back of Wanneroo and out to Wilbinga. We headed to the first super soft sandy area, what I call the 'Skate Park' as it consist of a few good step ramps, and what resembles a 'half pipe' channel. I guided everyone through the first lap and it wasn't long before my sister Allisen's Brumby was into difficulty. While we were dropping her tyres some more Mark E struggled at the bottom of the channel and was soon letting his tyres down further. Mark E drove off and Ally reversed back down the hill she was stuck on. We then kept driving around only to find Matt W sitting on the side with 'overheating problems'. Matt drove back to solid ground and let his car cool down. While all this was going on Mark E managed to get bellied out in a chopped up area of soft sand. The only option was to do a quick light snatch recovery which was relatively simple. Mark thought he'd give his car a break for a moment and joined Matt while Ally and I kept on playing. I managed to reverse up one of the steepest hills in that area as well as comfortably getting over most of the other hills.









With 2 of the 4 cars overheating, we decided to drive slowly to the next spot and get some airflow over the radiators. Upon arriving the engine temps hadn't improved much so Matt and Mark (can now be known as M and M) sat aside as Ally and I had a quick play. I ended up getting carried away in the sand and dislodged the bead in a tyre. We got the shovel, jack and tools and switched tyres quickly. After the expelled energy we moved onto the last of the sand playgrounds, well known by the club as the large bowl. M & M were still running hot so they parked up in the middle while Ally and I tried all sorts of hills. Yes, I did reverse a lot of them again.

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SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

CLUB CALENDAR






November 2013

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

December 2013

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

January 2014





| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | |
|--|---|---|----|----|----|---|--------------------------------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Sun 12th: Beach run |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Tue 14th: General Meeting |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | Sat 25th-Mon 27th: Point Road |
|  | 13 |  | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |  | |
|  |  | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

SUBARU 4WD CLUB of W.A. INC

February 2014

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | Tue 4th: Committee Meeting Sun 9th: Seabird Soiree Tue 11th: General Meeting Sun 23rd: Fish and Chips at the Beach (Social) |
|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|--|
| | | | | | | 1 | |
| 2 | 3 |  | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | |
|  | 10 |  | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | |
|  | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | |
| | | | | | | | |

March 2014

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

SCHOOL AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

School Holidays: Dec 20– Feb 2, April 12-27

Public holidays: Dec 25-26, Jan 1, Jan 26, 18, 21, 25 April

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.



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Gnangara/Wilbinga Dash (continued from p. 13)

Some of the hills were more rutted out than usual and proved too difficult in some spots when trying to get up. Once ally and I finished playing and posing for the cameras we all gathered in the middle, where 2 car awnings were put up, and the brumby was backed up underneath. I must add I was temporarily disabled a couple of times while getting too adventurous. I drove out most of the time, but I a bit of shoveling was needed once.

We all enjoyed a relaxing lunch in the shade, a refreshing drink to cool us down and the amusement of a squirrel in the background. The squirrel being the voice on my Garmin GPS that seems to say random things every 5 mins or so. Given the delays with overheating and recoveries, and tyre changes it was decided that we cut the trip short and head on out and air up back at the start point which was close by. While we were airing up, Katie drove by and noticed 4 familiar Subarus with their bonnets up at midday, when we were supposed to be nearing Wilbinga... she called Trav to ring me and make sure everyone was okay. All was good and we soon rang Katie back to explain we were just pumping up and there were no breakdowns, just an impromptu change of plans....

Adrian – Master of reversing up hills and doing sand donuts @12psi and popping beads.

Cape York Trip Report

Thursday 1 August

Participants: Tony & Jeanette Richards in Tony's XT Forester;
David Peck & Keith Wilcox in Dave's diesel Forester;
Greg Wallace diesel Forester, camper trailer.

Day 1 of the trip! It had finally arrived. We were all excited and looking forward to the adventure ahead. There had been some pre-trip issues – both Dave and Greg had needed replacement windscreens and Dave's particulate filter had needed "re-generation", but we were now ready to go.

We were away at about 815. There was a lot of morning traffic going into Cairns and it took a while to get through the city and out the other side. And then on and up through the Kuranda Ranges, heading towards Mareeba. The road through the ranges was interesting, with lots of bends and a fairly steep climb. We stopped at a lookout on the way up and took in the views. Then it was on to view Barron Falls, overlooking the Barron Falls railway station on the Kuranda railway. The falls were spectacular, with plenty of water flowing over them.

Our next stop was at the Mareeba Wetlands. We arrived at the Wetlands just after 11.00 and paid for our booked eco-cruise. At the complex, we were surprised to find an aviary full of Gouldian Finches (*Erythrura gouldiae*). These colourful finches, so hard to see in the wild, are part of a Gouldian Finch Reintroduction Programme [from their website]:

Gouldian Finch Reintroduction: *This is an ongoing project, commenced in 1999 and is aimed at restoring globally threatened Gouldian Finches as breeding birds to the Reserve and the surrounding area. Tasks include daily feeding and maintenance of the captive population, monitoring of released birds and habitat restoration under a WWF funded initiative.*

The eco-cruise (in a boat with an electric motor) was around the lagoon with the complex sited on the banks. Bird life abounded and included pied cormorants, egrets, hard-head ducks, swans and green pygmy geese. Just a short distance from the main complex was a stainless steel sculpture of a lizard, donated by a Japanese sculptor. We headed back to the cars in the car park and had lunch. Keeping an eye on us in the car park was a friendly emu that was looking for whatever it could find around the back of our car.



After lunch, we headed north to Mount Carbine for fuel, then on to Bob's Lookout for views out over Mt. Desailly and Mt. Elephant. Then on to Whites Creek Road (gravel) west towards Maytown. The road was in relatively good nick and a very pleasant drive.



The surrounding country was mainly eucalypt forest. We stopped a high lookout point and got some nice panoramas from there. Subsequently, Greg got a tyre puncture and had to change the wheel.

We continued on to Dog Leg Crossing, which was our entry point into the Palmer River Goldfields Reserve. By then it was getting late (about 4.45) and it was time to find a camp for the night. We found a spot just off the road into the Queen Mill.

Friday 2 August

We were ready to go at 8.15. Our first stop was Queen Mill. We spent the rest of the morning visiting nearly all the other sites in the Reserve – Ida Mine ruins, Mabel Louise Battery, Comet Mill, King of the Ranges Complex, Louisa Mine and battery (morning tea), the Chinese Alluvial Workings and, finally, the Chinese Cemetery which were all well worth a visit.

From there we made our way to the Maytown township ruins for lunch, which we had in a replica mining hut, which was, again, quite interesting.

We had a good look around the old township. The main street had plaques where buildings and other establishments had stood. There was a monument (and time capsule) erected in memory of the pioneers and their families who founded the town.



We then commenced to follow the

original Maytown Road, which we thought was the road out through Palmerville Station to Laura (our next destination). Thankfully, I stopped to ask directions from a couple of other travellers, who were also visiting Maytown. On the correct road out of town, our first hurdle was the long, wet crossing of the Palmer River that had to be negotiated. There was a sandy section first and then three water sections. After I had walked the entire crossing to ensure that it was safe to do so, we all got across without mishap.

From the crossing, the road through to Palmerville Station and beyond was very scenic, with a few small water crossings to cross. Everything was really green, with lots of eucalypts. It wasn't rainforest and it wasn't particularly heavily wooded, but there were plenty of trees. There were also lots of steep dips to slow down for and many blind bends.



The road was better after Fairlight Station with widening work underway. The new work was also being watered, which made it muddy. We stopped for afternoon tea on the bank of a creek. It then took us another hour to get to Laura where we booked two nights unpowered camping in the campground behind the hotel.



Laura isn't a big place, with one hotel, a small general store, a couple of community buildings and a petrol station. There is also

a Cultural Centre a short distance south of town. We had dinner at the hotel.

Saturday 3 August

In the morning, we went to the Quinkan Cultural Centre to organise a guided tour through the Quinkan rock art galleries. These rock art

galleries are listed by UNESCO as being among the top 10 sites in the world. The Split Rock site, located 14 kms from Laura, is the most famous of the galleries.

The 3 hour tour of the galleries on (private) aboriginal land (not at Split Rock) cost \$145.00 each. Not cheap, but it was just the 5 of us with our own aboriginal guide (Brian). He took us to the galleries and explained the paintings to us. It took us just over an hour to get to the site of the 3 main galleries. We then spent an hour looking at the paintings in the galleries as he explained them to us. The paintings were very clear and detailed – close to the best I have seen. We got lots of photos!

It then it took us an hour to get back to the Cultural Centre. After lunch we drove south down the road to the Split Rock galleries, crossing the new bridge over the Laura River. We spent an hour and a half looking at these galleries. These weren't as impressive as the

galleries we saw earlier but were still very good.



On the way back to Laura, we had afternoon tea on the

south bank of the Laura River. We drove down the bank to the old bridge, almost at river level! Then it was back to Laura, stopping for an ice cream at the general store. Dave and Greg spent some time fixing Greg's windscreen washer hose, that had apparently come loose.

Sunday 4 August

We were ready to go at 8.30. Our first stop (just out of town) was the railway "Bridge to Nowhere"!

The large concrete pylons are all that remains of one of the great "white elephants" in Australia's railway history. They once supported an impressive bridge (built in 1891) that spanned the Laura River, as

part of a railway line that was to link Cooktown to the Palmer River gold-fields. Unfortunately, the gold ran out and the line was never finished!



From there we headed north up the Peninsula Development Road ("PDR") heading for Coen, stopping at Hann River Roadhouse and Musgrave Roadhouse. The road was pretty fair – good by our standards. We were able to make good time, averaging around 80kmh. Hann River Roadhouse was quite a pleasant little place, with green lawns. We stopped for morning tea. We went down to the river to see what was there. There wasn't a lot in the way of water, although we all did get to cross the old Hann River ford.

After that our next stop was at Musgrave Station, which looked pretty substantial, with a kiosk, dining area, camping ground and airstrip. The kiosk was quite good. We had lunch there. Interestingly, there were many more vehicles at Musgrave Station than there were at the



Hann River – probably the halfway point between places? We saw some old graves under a mango tree and a commemorative plaque. There were also some good storyboards reflecting some part of the history of Musgrave Station, when it had been a Telegraph Station and it had been fortified with a wooden fence and 2 gun turrets.

From there it was 106 km on to Coen. This was a fairly straightforward drive. It wasn't quite as big as I expected. According to the itinerary, Coen was supposed to be our stop for the night. However, given our arrival time and the fact there wasn't much to see, we decided to push on to Oyala Thumotang (formerly Mungkan Kandju)

National Park, which was to have been our next stop. Now we would have 2 nights in the Park, instead of one. I booked camping sites (got a permit) over the phone. Before we left Coen, we visited the historical centre, filled up with petrol (\$1.86 a litre) and bought some supplies. We got away from Coen about 3.30.

Thankfully, the road from Coen to the National Park turnoff (25kms) was sealed, so we were able to make good time. And then it was 60kms in from the turnoff, on gravel. Again, the road was reasonable. We were probably able to average about 60kmh. An hour and a half later, we had arrived at our booked site at Mango Lagoon.

There is plenty of birdlife and wildlife that we can see and/or hear. We've seen no end of eucalypts – understandably! We have also seen a lot of other tree species that we do not know the names of.

Honey mustard chicken for dinner – thanks Keith! After dinner, Keith and Greg went for a walk spotlighting and they saw wolf spiders with glowing eyes. And they also saw frogs and a snake hunting frogs! That was reasonably exciting. Thankfully, it was seen a fair distance from us. According to the guide books, the Park also has, apparently, a large population of crocodiles, which is a little bit daunting.

Monday 5 August

It was cold last night, no wind and all very calm, although there were some loud bird noises in the early morning on a couple of occasions. We had a leisurely start to the day. Just before 10.00, we set off to visit some other campsites, lagoons and wetlands, west from where we were. These included Chong Swamp and Pandanus Lagoon, both of which were beautiful, with lots of the lilies and birdlife. Pandanus Lagoon was fenced off.

We also visited Vardons Lagoon campground and Second Coen River campground. We were taking bird photos all day. the weather was also really quite good, with just a gentle breeze to take the heat out of the day. We didn't go any further west than Pandanus Lagoon, leaving the Archer Bend section of the Park for another day. In the afternoon, we headed back in the direction of our camp and stopped for lunch at Chong Swamp. It was very, very pleasant. We



were there for about 4 hours, just enjoying the view! I even had an afternoon snooze!

At the same time, Keith and Greg did a circumnavigation of the lagoon, taking lots of bird photos as they went. They also saw some baby piglets. You could tell when Keith and Greg were walking around the other side of the lagoon, as all the birds took off in fright! It was a very easy afternoon. There was even time for some reading! Later on, we continued on to camp, having a look at the adjacent First Coen Campground on the way. We also checked out the other Mango Lagoon sites.....Tony R.

Tony's Toodyay Trip Tracing Territory of Terrible Traumas **20th October 2013**

Moondyne Joe: An early colony's *Enfant Terrible*

Away, Away, Moondyne Joe's Away

The convicts smile, the screws they roar

Moondyne Joe's Away!

The words above were taken from an early Broadsheet folk song celebrating the antics of the bushranger Joseph Bolitho Johns or Moondyne Joe. His biggest claim to fame seemed to be getting sentence time 'added on' by generous magistrates, for escaping legal custody.

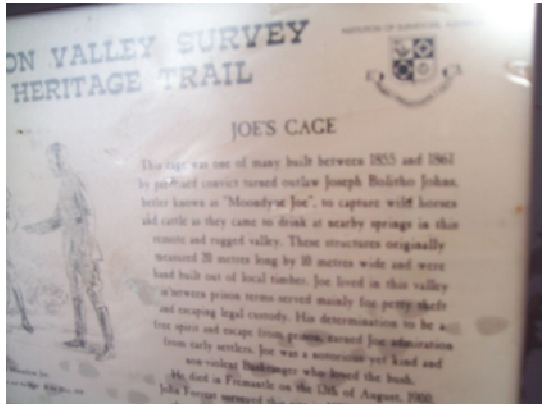
The Subaru Club celebrated some of Joe's exploits with a jaunt through his old stamping grounds, looking for his horse corral and dwelling house, or at least where he kept his water or grog!

We found a few reminders of his past.

Some five Foresters gathered at Ginger's Roadhouse in Upper Swan to have a day of cruising through the still green hills of Toodyay and surrounding forest areas. After a brief run-down on the day, we set off.

Bits of rain interspersed with sunlight made for a lovely day. Coffee and treats from Ginger's Roadhouse were as popular as *Moondyne Joe* himself.

After several close encounters with rampaging kangaroos we located an early sawmill which Tony had cleverly found hidden in deep bush. We also found the horse cage area and man-made water dams to feed animals.



Zeke, in a quieter moment, stands to attention
In Moondyne Joe's horse trough

I was reminded of the joys of youth by a young lad, Zeke, who accompanied Ray Rabbit and was jumping, running and full of the joys of life as he roamed the bush.

Various plants were examined, photographed and discussed and it soon became a session of '*Who can tell the biggest fibs without being exposed*' as a liar. I love these sessions!

After a coffee and cake stop, we found ourselves near the Julimar Conservation area. The usual collection of colourful plants made the day interesting. I was reminded that I had recently watched the petrol head's Bathurst weekend, a timely reminder as I tried to keep up with *Leadfoot turbos*

cunningly positioned at the head of the convoy!

We went down to Sappers campsite and saw the Avon River, running with lots of restless energy over a man-made ford. We had lunch and a discussion followed about the wisdom of crossing the ford, but the consensus was we did not have enough *gung-ho* types along to attempt it. Suppressing feelings of '*I must be a wimp*', we navigated back up the wash-away road that somehow was miraculously open for once, allowing us access to the river.

Amazingly, to me anyway, the climb back up the road was easier than the way down. Something to do with Sod's Law; if things can go wrong they will or may not!



The wimp crossing in question

We then explored the area coming to cobbles Pool from the other side of the railway line. The idea of crossing the ford again surfaced briefly, but was swiftly put down. A walk down to the river followed and good exercise it was back up to the campsite where we had left the vehicles. A number of people were camping at the site.

I found the day very relaxing and positive as I reveled in the freedom of piloting the work of art that is my *Forester* effortlessly over different types of terrain and countryside in the company of like-minded souls.

The trip leader had done his homework and things went very well. I returned home thinking about *Moondyne Joe* and his exploits ready to face another week of life in the 21st century where things move a

bit quicker.

In summary, another good day was enjoyed, in the company of good people. Once again, well done, Tony!

Richard le Serve



The Last Word

What many people aspire to. In my case I have reached it. My 2 year period as magazine editor is now finished. I did strive not to do much direct writing though occasionally the temptation was too great.

Thanks to my fellow committee members for their support and to all the contributors to the magazine . I also want to thank Jim Wilcox and Peter A. for work in printing the magazine. Best wishes to the new editor.

Tom Minto

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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.](#)

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