



FREE WHEELING

AUGUST 2025



Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

Photo by Sally Higgs

Registration No
A0002184F

Meeting Details



VFWDC General Meeting Details & Venue

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30PM with the following exceptions:

No meeting at Club Noble in January.

Club Noble Address

Blue and Gold Room
Club Noble
46-56 Moodemere Street
Noble Park
Melways ref: 89 D4



This month's meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th August at 7.30pm.

Club Committee

2024 - 2025

President	Neville Van Leeuwen	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	Ken Kilby	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Steve Miller	secretary@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Ly Ho	treasurer@vfwdc.com

General Committee

Trip Coordinator	Andy McCarthy	trips@vfwdc.com
Magazine Editor	Sushant Aggarwal	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	Dennis Alphonsus	delegate@vfwdc.com

Support Positions to Committee

Web Manager	Ben Whitworth	web@vfwdc.com
Training officer	Phillip Griffith	
Merchandise	Suzy Whitford	merchandise@vfwdc.com

Club Details

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
Registration Number	A002184F
Correspondence Address	PO Box 778 Dandenong VIC 3175
Email	secretary@vfwdc.com
Website	www.vfwdc.com

The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of [Four Wheel Drive Victoria](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au) - www.fwdvictoria.org.au

President's Report

Hi All,

As the AGM rolls around once again it gives us a chance to look back at the last year and start planning for next year.

It has been a wonderful year at the VFWDC, in 2024 we celebrated our 50th birthday in style. It was a privilege to lead a talented team of people who helped organize this. Another big thanks to all those on the 50th Committee and Sally who helped put this together. We had a great weekend camping at Merington's Campground (about as close to our original grounds as we could get, considering it is now under Thomson Dam). We then had our big 50th dinner at the Waltzing Matilda Hotel, we were joined by many past members as well as most current members. It was great to hear from some original members and the contribution and adventures they had with the club.

The club remains active with members enjoying a range of trips from day trips to longer touring adventures, as well as some big adventures to iconic locations like Cape York.

The social aspect of the club also continues to remain strong. We usually fill a long table for dinner before our meetings with plenty of talk and friendship. The meetings are well attended by our members, and we continue to have a few guest speakers attend these. In the last year we had Saber Offroad join us with their recovery gear and Trevor from Autophix Australia with his range of ODB scanners.

Our social outings like Christmas in July continue to be strongly supported, with plenty of food and friendly banter enjoyed around a roaring campfire.

We also continue to have our training courses each year. Members can benefit from the driver training course as well as our new Trip Leader training. We also run a map reading course at one of our meetings.

I have been encouraged that we continue to have people that put there hand up to assist where they can. The club can only remain strong when we have many different people volunteering, on the committee, running trips or in many other ways. I continue to encourage more people to plan and run a trip in the next year. With the Trip leader training and reaching out to a committee member I am confident that everyone has the tools to run a successful trip.

We are looking forward to the upcoming year with the Trip calendar already filling up with a range of exciting trips, kicking off with our Mt Skene snow trips.

Hope to see you all on the tracks throughout the year.

Neville Van Leeuwen

VFWDC President

president@vfwdc.com

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 2 July 2025

Time: 7:30pm – 8:32pm

Location: Club Noble

Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 6th August 2025

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Open Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to the June club meeting Apologies: Sushant, Dennis, Andy, Dave B, Phil, Mark K, Jason, Bill 	Neville
Minutes from previous months club meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from previous meeting accepted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted: Bruce Seconded: Alec Matters arising from previous minutes for meeting on the 02/06/2025: Nil 	Neville
Guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris, 05 Prado, new to 4WD, 2 boys 	Neville
Correspondence	<p>Correspondence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Australia Post Track watch arrived via post, x2 copies at the back for anyone to read. Bank Statements 	Neville Steven M
Treasurer's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per written report from Ly Ho – Written report will be in next issue of the club's magazine. Report for June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing cash position \$3,216.86 Closing consolidated position \$11,800.71 No matters arising from Financial Report. Motion to accept June 2025 Treasurer 's Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted: Andre Seconded: Anne \$2,000.00 moved to investment account (Term Deposit) 	Ly
Association News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New chainsaw causes to be held in Pakenham Mt Skene permits are now available. Toolangi training grounds operational, though little infrastructure Neville attended meeting via zoom FWDV has driver training courses FWDV primary focus going forward is to keep tracks open. 	Dennis

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 2 July 2025
Time: 7:30pm – 8:32pm
Location: Club Noble

Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 6th August 2025

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Upcoming Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25-27/07/2025. German Christmas in July @ St Annes 	Ken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ken and Andre 09/08/2025 Mt Skene Snow Trip #1 – Trip Leader: Nero 16/08/2025 Mt Skene Snow Trip #2 – Trip Leader: Andre – May go up and over to Licola if no snow. Trip data form yet to be submitted. Mt Skene Trip #3 – Nothing organised to date Club needs people to lead trips and lock in dates. Please note: When booking on VFWD add 10 random names. Names can be changed but cannot be added after initial booking. FYI ... participants must be paid up members 	Ken and Andre
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31/12/2025 x3 New Years Eaves at Camerons corner – Trip Leader Bruce Dunlop 2026 Cape York leaving King's birthday 2026, returning August 2025 	Bruce
Intermission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermission 7:55pm to 8:15pm 	Intermission
Merchandise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usual items – No updates other than looking for photos for 2026 calendar. 	Suzy
Magazine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invitation to everyone to submit anything of interest relating to camping/four wheel driving/vehicles ... Send through Sushant 	Neville
Trip Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 07/06/2025 - Kings Birthday weekend - 3 weeklong trip – Leaving from Mildura, Googs track returning Oodnadatta Track – Trip Leader Bruce Dunlop 	No report as yet
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20-22/06/2025 - Christmas in July (Main event Saturday Night), Stayed Friday night at Upper Yarra Reservoir near Warburton. Water mains failure resulted in park being closed and everyone evicted. Everyone relocated to Frenchman's Creek. Weather was great but cold. -2 degrees overnight. Left Sunday lunchtime. 	Ken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27-29/06/2025 - Winch truck 4wd event – Wilddog winch event. Sally is now the head Marshall. Started Friday lunch time, to 4 pm Sunday - 29 stages, 3rd event of 6. Sally showed some videos of some of the stages. 3 separate car fires, many vehicle rollovers. Sally requested volunteers for future events 	Sally and Tristan

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 2 July 2025

Time: 7:30pm – 8:32pm

Location: Club Noble

Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 6th August 2025

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">23,24/08/2025 - 4x4 Show at Melbourne Show Grounds - Sunday	Neville
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">AGM to be held at August Club Meeting	Neville
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Telstra advertising satellite to phone via Starlink at no additional charge. Requires latest Samsung phone and that you be a Telstra customer.	Ken
Raffle	Prizes Wine and stubbie holder <ol style="list-style-type: none">Kings Jump StarterDrink ContainerSoft Shackle	Neville
Next General Meeting (Including AGM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wednesday 06/08/2025, 7:30pm at Club Noble (Upper floor meeting room)	Neville
Meeting Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none">8:32 pm	Neville
Minutes taken by:		Steven Miller

2024 VFWDC Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes

Date: 7 August 2024

Time: 8:45pm – 9:00pm

Location: Club Noble

Next AGM: 7:30pm Wednesday 6th August 2025

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Open Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Announced programme for the night Apologies: Daisy, Sally and Tristan, Phil, Ken, Steve Deshan, Matt Marino, Dennis Absent: Ian and Audrey, Steve and Nicky, Bruce Dunlop 	Neville
Annual General Meeting Commenced	8:45pm	
Welcome to the 2024 AGM	<p>Welcome to the 2024 AGM</p> <p>Nominees must be financial</p> <p>No multiple nominations observed. (A vote would be required if there were multiple nominations)</p> <p>Thanked Neville for his leadership for the past year.</p>	Steve Pitcher
Presidents Report (1 st order of business):	<p>Presidents Report (1st order of business):</p> <p>Transcript in club magazine.</p> <p>Look forward to 50th anniversary celebrations</p> <p>15 trips this year including several extended trips</p> <p>Offsite meeting</p> <p>Driver training Phil Ashley and John</p> <p>Christmas in July</p> <p>End of year party at Ian and Audry's place.</p> <p>Trip Leader Training</p> <p>Snow Trips</p> <p>Dion from Weigh Station</p> <p>Looking forward to the next year and exploring new places.</p>	Neville
Treasurers Report (2 nd item of business):	<p>Treasurers Report (2nd item of business):</p> <p>Financial report for year ending June 30th 2024:</p> <p>Copy in club magazine</p> <p>Membership numbers stable</p> <p>Net profit of \$804.00</p> <p>Club equity is at \$19,213.00</p> <p>Investment of \$339.00</p> <p>FWDV has increased affiliation fees. This will possibly be passed onto members next year.</p> <p>50th Anniversary costs will adversely affect club finances in the short term.</p> <p>Please note the club is a not-for-profit organisation.</p> <p>Thankyou everyone for their support</p>	Ly

2024 VFWDC Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes

Date: 7 August 2024

Time: 8:45pm – 9:00pm

Location: Club Noble

Next AGM: 7:30pm Wednesday 6th August 2025

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Annual Trip Report (3 rd order of business):	<p>Annual Trip Report (3rd order of business):</p> <p>Bruce Dunlop not available to deliver Trip Report</p> <p>Copy in the club magazine</p> <p>Summary of trips as follows:</p> <p>15 trips for the year</p> <p>10 individual trip leaders</p> <p>90 participants</p> <p>44 participants in trips</p> <p>End of year party at Ian and Audrey's</p> <p>St Annes</p> <p>2 training events – Driver training, Trip Leader training</p> <p>Trip numbers down a little bit on last year</p> <p>2 day trips</p> <p>3 snow trips</p> <p>8 weekend trips</p> <p>2 extended trips</p> <p>A great result for the past year.</p> <p>Look forward to the upcoming year. Particularly more day trips.</p>	Neville
	That concludes the key presentations	Steve Pitcher
	<p>Minutes from 2023.</p> <p>No matters arising from the 2023 AGM minutes.</p> <p>Note from Andre – Steve Pitcher has hosted every AGM for many years now.</p> <p>Accepted by Andre</p> <p>Seconded by Andy</p>	Steve Pitcher
	All committee positions are now declared vacant.	Steve Pitcher
	<p>Nominations are:</p> <p>Neville for Club President</p> <p>Ken Kilby for Vice President</p> <p>Ly Ho for Treasurer</p> <p>Steven Miller for Secretary</p> <p>Andy McCarty for Trips Coordinator</p> <p>All positions filled as nominated.</p>	Steve Pitcher
	<p>Support roles:</p> <p>Suzy for Merchandise</p> <p>Dennis for Club Delegate</p> <p>Luke for Magazine Editor</p> <p>Ben for IT administrator</p>	Steve Pitcher

2024 VFWDC Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes

Date: 7 August 2024

Time: 8:45pm – 9:00pm

Location: Club Noble

Next AGM: 7:30pm Wednesday 6th August 2025

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
	It is 1 st time in a while that all positions have been filled	Steve Pitcher
	FYI ... 50 th Anniversary Sub Committee is comprised of Stuart, Maree, Daisy, Dave, Andre, Neville, Sally	Neville
	Thankyou to Anne for providing supper each month.	Neville
	No other items raised.	Steve Pitcher
Annual General Meeting Concluded	Annual General Meeting closed at 9pm	Steve Pitcher

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com

Treasurer's Report June 2025

<u>Cheque A/C`</u> Opening Balance as at 01/06/2025	\$4,593.00	
Add: Raffle	\$52.00	
Membership Fees	\$801.00	
Less: Catering Costs	-\$155.25	
Office Expenses	-\$29.89	
Incorporation Fees	-\$44.00	
Transfer to Term Deposit	-\$2000.00	
Closing Balance as at 30/06/2025		\$3,216.86
<u>Term Deposit</u> Opening Balance as at 01/06/2025	\$6,465.52	
Add: Interest	\$85.03	
Transfer from Cheque A/C	\$2000.00	
Closing Balance as at 30/06/2025		\$8,550.55
<u>Petty Cash</u> Opening Balance as at 01/06/2025	\$33.30	
Closing Balance as at 30/06/2025		\$33.30
Consolidated Closing Cash Position		<u>\$11,800.71</u>

NEW GENERAL MEETING START TIME

Starting 2025, the general meeting's start time will commence at **7:30PM** at Club Noble.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Club membership renewals are due for the upcoming financial year. Membership prices:

Single - \$87

Family/Couple - \$97

Silver - \$57

Payment details are in the membership form below:

[https://www.vfwdc.com/pdf/Membership%20Form%20\[2025\].pdf](https://www.vfwdc.com/pdf/Membership%20Form%20[2025].pdf)

NOTE: You must be a paid member to participate in the snow trips

Discount Offer: The club is offering a **discount of \$5 off your membership for each trip you have organized** and run since March 1st, 2024, **up to a maximum of \$20 per couple.**

Please mention any trips you have led when you reply.

MERCHANDISE

See the Merchandise section for available merchandise. Please contact Suzy or a committee member for available sizes and price.

We currently have a range of merchandise in stock, and the list of available items can be found on the pages below. If you are interested, please feel free to speak to one of the committee members during the general meeting or email us at committee@vfwdc.com.

Club Membership

Please visit our website at VFWDC.com to view all our current membership forms and club policies.

For all new and renewal of memberships, please complete [the online form here](#)

If you are looking for a Temporary Membership, please complete the online form, [which can be found here.](#)

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us via the Club Secretary on secretary@vfwdc.com

Payments:

Payment can be made via Bank Transfer. The details are as follows:

Account Name:	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
BSB:	633108
Account No:	111761979

Please ensure your transfer includes your name as provided on the membership application and renewal form in the reference.

Once you have made your payment/transfer, please send your completed membership application and renewal form to treasurer@vfwdc.com or you can present it to the Treasurer at any general meeting.

Thank you for choosing the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

If you are interested in joining [Club Noble](#) where we hold our monthly meetings, their application form can be found [here](#).

Club Calendar

August

Wednesday 6 th	General meeting & AGM	7:30pm Club Noble
Saturday 9 th	1 st Snow Trip (Mt Skene)	Niro Liyanage
Saturday 16 th	2 nd Snow Trip	Andre
Wednesday 20 th	Committee Meeting	
Sunday 24 th	National 4X4 Outdoors Show	Andy

September

Wednesday 3 rd	General meeting	7:30pm Club Noble
Saturday 6 th	Woods Point Hotel Day Trip	Neville
Wednesday 17 th	Committee Meeting	

October

Friday 3 rd	Star Gazing Night @8PM	Neville
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November

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December

Friday 12 th	Trip to Blue Rag and surrounds (12 – 15 Dec)	Neville
Wednesday 31 st	Triple New Years at Camerons corner	Bruce Dunlop

More upcoming trips:

1. Cape York leaving King's birthday, via Birdsville, Weipa (Next Year – 2026), returning August 2026 (Bruce Dunlop)
2. June - August 2026: Cape York Trip (Bruce)

ARB DANDENONG

Address: Unit 4 A/6 Lonsdale St, Dandenong VIC 3175

Phone: (03) 9793 0002

ARB Dandenong has generously donated an awesome **ARB camp table** for our raffles:



President

The President's role is a voted committee position and it is the President's responsibility to be fully versed with the Club Rules.

- Lead General Meetings making sure they are held in accordance with the requirements as specified in the Constitution.
- Prepare Agenda and lead the meeting, keeping discussion relevant, decision making clear and encouraging member participation when required.
- Appoint General Committee roles and Delegate duties to the Committee Members.
- Prepare agenda and lead Committee Meetings are held in accordance with the requirements as specified in the Club Rules.
- Write monthly President's Report for the newsletter to report relevant information to members.
- Attend relevant Four Wheel Drive Victoria meetings when required.
- Welcoming new members or visitors at General Meetings.
- Before the election of new committee members at an annual general meeting, the President must present to the meeting the annual report of the Committee on the activities of the club during the last financial year.

Vice President

The Vice President's role is a voted committee position and it is the Vice President's responsibility to be fully versed with the Club Rules.

- To provide support and backup to the President in their relevant duties
- To convene and run orderly meetings in accordance to the Clubs Constitution in the event the President is absent.
- To organise guest speakers or external club visits for selected meetings and be responsible coordinating the attendance of the guest.

Secretary

The Secretary's role is a voted committee position and it is the Secretary's responsibility to be fully versed with the Club Rules.

- Collect the club mail from the club PO Box (778) at Dandenong Plaza Shopping Centre prior to the General Meeting
- Attend the General Meeting ensuring that the Attendance, Apologies and Visitors books are available for members / visitors to sign in
- Take the minutes of the General Meeting
- Present the incoming and outgoing correspondence at the General Meeting
- Type up the minutes noting number of attendees, apologies and visitors
- Attend the committee meeting
- File correspondence in and minutes of the general meeting
- Attend to any outgoing correspondence as determined by the committee
- Coordinate with treasurer to ensure a register of members is maintained in accordance with the rules.
- Upload magazine to State Library of Victoria
- Liaise with Consumer Affairs Victoria to meet club obligations

Treasurer

The Treasurer's role is a voted committee position and it is the Treasurer's responsibility to be fully versed with the Club Rules.

- To receive all new member application, and member renewal forms and monies and issue receipts
- Deposit all monies received into the club bank account (from membership fees, club raffles, sales of merchandise etc.
- Keep a record of the accounts—which can be made available by request of any club member
- Prepare a monthly financial status report for the General Meetings
- Prepare the AGM report with full annual financials, which will also include president and trip coordinators reports
- Update 4WD Victoria for membership lists to ensure insurance compliance
- Maintain the membership list

Trip Coordinator

The Trip Coordinator's role is a voted committee position and it is the Trip Coordinator's responsibility to be fully versed with the Club Rules.

- Ensure attendance to each Club General Meeting fully prepared to present with relevant information of past and upcoming trips.
- If unable to attend it is the Trip Coordinator's duty to ensure another committee member has the up to date trip information for the Club Meeting
- Ensure all trip information is correctly recorded and stored
- Ensure the Trip Information Forms are up to date for each meeting
- Ensure copies of other relevant forms are available if or when needed (Track survey reports, Accident Survey Form, Trip Incident form, Personal Information forms, Trip rating information)
- Ensure all TDF (Trip Data Forms) are filled in correctly and a copy is passed onto the Newsletter Editor
- Liaise with the Newsletter Editor and follow up any trip reports that haven't been submitted.

Association Representative

The Association Representative's role is a voted committee position and it is the Association Representative's responsibility to be fully versed with the Club Rules.

- To attend all Association meetings, and to report back to committee and also the General meetings with all items pertaining to the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Association.
- Pass on all email correspondence from FWDV and other relevant parties
- External liaison with other affiliated groups.

General Committee Member

- Attend and contribute to Committee Meetings
- Assist committee in running of club..
- Other Non Voted Roles include
- **Web Manager** - Maintaining the Club web site, email hosting and other relevant IT requirements of the club.
- **Merchandise** - Maintaining accurate records of Inventory purchased & sold. Researching different options when new Merchandise is required. Storing and promoting club Inventory at club meetings.
- **Club Editor** – In charge of creating the monthly magazine, including the Presidents Report, Treasurer's report, Upcoming Trips and Trip Reports.
- **Social Liaison Officer** – Assisting in the organisation & running of club social activities



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc.

ARBN A002184F PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3175

www.vfwdc.com

Nomination for Election to the Committee of Management 2025/2026

I Signed•

Nominate for the position of

☐ President

☐ Vice President

☐ Secretary

☐ Treasurer

☐ Trip Coordinator

☐ Association Representative

I Signed•

Second the nomination for election to the Committee of Management.

I Signed•

Of.....

Hereby accept the nomination for election to the Committee of Management of
the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc. position of

X.....

Merchandise

For available sizes and price, please contact Suzy or feel free to speak to one of the committee members during the general meeting or email us at committee@vfwdc.com

50th Anniversary Jacket



Reversible Vest



Drivers Jacket



Zip up Hoodie







Scarf / Beanie / Cap / Stubbie



Track Classification

[Four Wheel Drive Victoria](#) have a track grading classification scale which has been developed to assist in advising Trip Leaders and participants on 4WD trips of the type of tracks that they can expect to encounter. On most trips participants can expect that a variety of tracks will be traversed each with an appropriate rating. Trip Leaders should advise participants of the range of track ratings expected to be encountered on the planned route. The following classifications will assist in determining an overall Trip Rating:

Considerations	Easy	Medium	Difficult	Very Difficult
Overall Description	All Wheel Drive and High Range 4WD. Novice Drivers	Mainly High range 4WD but Low range required. Some 4WD experience recommended.	Significant Low range 4WD with standard 4WD ground clearance. Should have 4WD driver training.	Low range 4WD with High ground clearance. Experienced Drivers
Advisory Sign				
Expected terrain and track conditions	Mostly unsealed roads with no obstacles and minor gradients.	Tracks with some steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. May have shallow water crossings.	Tracks with frequent steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. Possible water crossings.	Tracks with frequent very steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. May have difficult river crossings.
Vehicle suitability	All wheel Drive and High Range 4WD. Can be low clearance with single range and road tyres.	Suitable for medium clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain or road tyres.	Suitable for medium to high clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain tyres.	Suitable for high clearance vehicles with dual range and tyres suitable for the terrain. (Mud Terrain tyres).
Recovery equipment			Recovery equipment required.	Winch / Recovery equipment required.
Driver Training / Experience	Suitable for novice drivers.	Recommended that drivers have experience or 4WD training. Recommended to be done in groups of vehicles.	Recommended for drivers with reasonable experience or 4WD training. To be done in groups of vehicles.	Drivers with extensive experience and advanced training should only attempt as there are several technical challenges. Recommended to be done in groups of four or more vehicles.
Weather	May be difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.

Trip Report – Exploring the Eyre Peninsula - Lynton's Farewell Tour (Full Report)

Report By – Sally Higgs

1. Sally and Tristan - Patrol
2. Lynton - TJ
3. Steve - Pajero
4. Daisy - Prado
5. Vernon - Lexus
6. Jacqui and Dan - 80 Series
7. Adam - Patrol



The Thursday before Easter we met at Calder Park Service Centre all ready for our big adventure for the next 11 days for Exploring the Eyre Peninsula. The first 2 days of the trip were really transit days, so we were all about making up the km's. Our first stop when heading this direction is to stop at the Wycheproof Bakery. Once we had fueled up there, we headed through to Red Cliffs to see Big Lizzie the giant tractor. We then headed for camp which was going to be on the banks of the Murray River. A voice then piped up going ah are we going to a supermarket in Mildura.. Oops I had completely forgotten that I had said we are going to do a supplies stop before heading to camp. Day 1 and our first U-turn!

Trip Report



We got all stocked up and then it was off to Lock 9 and to find a spot on the river. We found a nice spot with a great view for the night. We got the fire going and a line was thrown in the river. No fish were biting which may have been a theme for the trip



The goal for today was to get to Kimba or close to it. We awoke to a beautiful day and first had to make sure that we did not have any fruit or vegetables that we were not allowed to take across the border. Once we got that sorted, we headed to Lock 9 to check that out before getting on the road. There were so many pelicans around it was a beautiful sight to see in the morning light.

Trip Report

We got to the border crossing and as we had our camper trailer on we were directed into one line for checking and everyone else was queued into a separate line for vehicles only. We got checked for fruit and vegetables from our glove box to our fridges, draw sets, center console, camper trailer. We got the all clear so headed over to get some fuel while the rest of the group finished. As is typical with our trips we do like to check out any silo art that we can find. We found one as we were heading into Renmark. This silo art is all about different local people and their favourite activities.



Our next stop was the Midnight Oil House. This house appeared on the Diesel and Dust Album that Midnight Oil released in 1987. It is one of the most photographed ruins in the country. We stopped in Burra to use the facilities, and the timing was perfect for a bite to eat so we had lunch in the park and then continued our trip north to find the house. It was amazing and the photos just don't do it justice



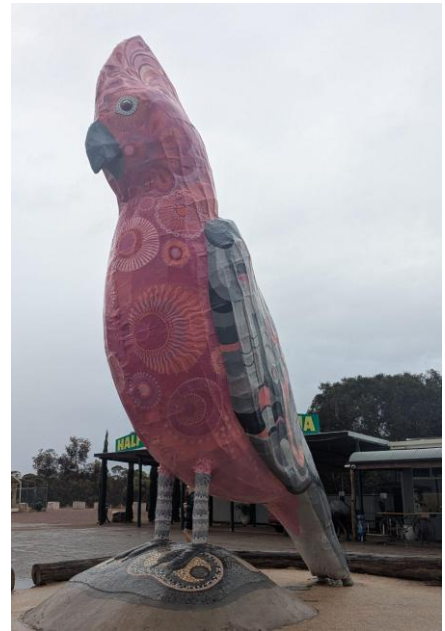
Trip Report

Once we captured the sights at this ruin it was back on the road to eat up the KM's. The wind turbines started popping up and got thicker as we got closer to Port Augusta. We did another rest stop here and then it was onto camp. The massive road trains started appearing on the road and were very cool to see. I spotted another town that I thought looked interesting, Iron Knob. It was an old mining town, unfortunately we were too late in the day to do the mine tour so we will have to wait until the next visit. We had a look at the town's donation camp and its facilities. An oasis in a sad town that has been left since the mine closed. It is sad to see.

I had found a free camp at Lake Gillies so we turned off the main highway just before Kimba and crossed fingers that it was not full being a long weekend. And good news it wasn't! We got set up for the night and got a fire going. It was the most stunning sunset, so it was wonderful to be part of it. I went to the bush facilities just after sunset and came back to sit down and enjoy the fire. I scratched myself on a bush or so I thought and when I got back to the fire, I was itchy by my knee and said damn the mozzies are out tonight... I was wrong.



Day 3 was our first day of starting to explore the Eyre Peninsula. I woke up this morning to a very swollen leg that was quite sore. I don't think it was a mozzie! I had some antihistamines from Daisy's wonderful pharmacy in her car to see if that would help. Then we got on the road. First on the list was Kimba, half way across Australia. We found the obligatory sign and all lined up for the photos. As the rain started to come down. We also found the Big Galah nearby looking out over all the travelers.



We topped up with fuel, coffee and snacks to prepare us for the day of exploring and adventure. We found another silo art that was beautiful in its detail and so large. We could even see it from the town lookout. The town lookout at Whites Knob had two large sculptures celebrating the relationship that Edward Eyre had with local Aboriginal men in the exploration of the peninsula



As we left the lookout we noticed the local golf club had black sand for the green's. We had to stop and have a look at them as we had seen a few of them as we travelled around.

The next stop was Darke Peak. This is the second highest peak on the Eyre Peninsula and the fun part is that it has a 4 Wheel Drive track across the top of it. I learned about it from an episode of 4WD247 Off Grid. There is not a lot of information on the track so we were flying blind on it. I had managed to find what I thought was the entry point to the track so I popped the coordinates into google and off we went to see what we could find.



We arrived at a gate to a farmer's field. It definitely did not look like the entry to a four-wheel drive track. The good news was there was already a group of 4-wheel drives at the gate, and they were going through as we arrived. There was a lady about to close the gate, so I went up to her and explained who we were and what we wanted to do. She was ok, that's cool, follow the guys and when you get to the water tank, she gave me the name of the person leading their group to ask them.

She let us through the gate and off we went. It looked like a work team, so we still did not know what was going to happen. We got to a huge water tank and a group of vehicles. I hopped out and found the guy I had been directed to and told him our story. He was a bit unsure of us at first and said the drive is really scratchy looking at the Patrol and we said, its all scratched already and then he asked about our camper trailer, and we said, that's ok it will follow us. He took us up the track to show us what it was like and to make sure we knew what we were doing.

They were a group of local farmers out for a fun day driving so we said we will head along after them. They left and showed us the way to go and then we started airing down and admiring the amazing view to give them a bit of time and space on the track.



We started the climb which followed the ridgeline all the way along the peak. It had a few scrambles and some decent climbs. We would catch up with the farmers and we got to the highest point where we spoke to them. Between them they owned most of the land around Darke Peak. It was interesting chatting. There was a rain storm and a dust storm heading towards us so it was very windy and to see such a large dust storm was incredible to watch. After the top there is an even bigger climb and descent that was quite tricky that required some spotting for everyone to get down. Tristan got the camper trailer on some angles that it had not been on before and had to concentrate on the climbs so was in his element.

The final descent to the completion of the track was steep and tricky in spots so everyone was having to concentrate on getting down without any issues.

Vernon was on his first tricky track so was focusing hard on what he was doing.



We got to the bottom of the track and were looking for a spot to have some lunch. Daisy got to the bottom of the track and the next thing we hear is that she had a flat tyre. We got to the tyre and it was a Vernon flat, it was full of holes. So the crew got going and pulled off her spare, she got her new jack out of the box, it was primed and next thing the car was in the air and the tyres were switched over.

Trip Report

It was a fantastic adventure and a track well worth doing. As a typical trip for me I had packed a lot into a day so next stop was Pildappa Rock. This is South Australia's answer to wave rock. We made our way across the very flat land and the next thing this rock appeared out of the ground. We did a drive all the way around it and then found a spot where we could climb up, so out of the cars we went and scrambled our way to the top to have a look around.



Now we had scaled 2 peaks of the Eyre Peninsula it was time to get moving to Streaky Bay and our camp for the night at Tractor beach. Another top up of supplies in Streaky Bay and then out to our camp.

Arriving at camp I had booked 7 sites and it was a late arrival so I was hoping not to have other people in any of our sites. Well sadly it was the case. They had a full caravan set up, swags, gazebos, everything all out and I had to say I am really sorry but this site is booked and it was right in the middle of our whole group and I had booked it months ago. He knew he did not have a booking as he said he tried but it did not work. The booking of these sites is challenging and quite uncomfortable to deal with late in the day when we are tired. Another one of our sites also had a boat, tent and fire going on the site. We managed to make it work for them and us and settled in for a night around the fire.

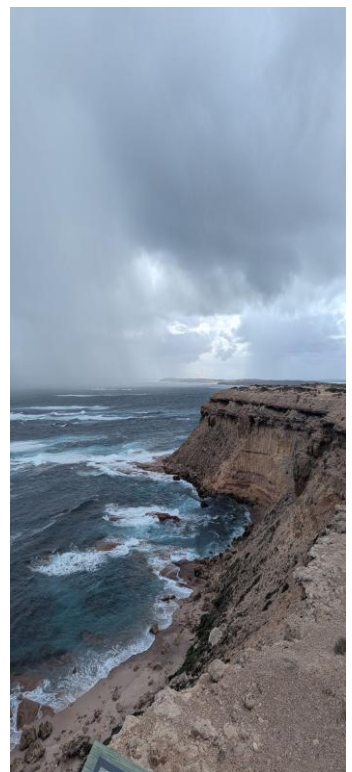
The beach was beautiful but there was too much weed for the fisho's in the group so just having a look was all we did at this beach.



Tractor Beach to Coodlie Park

We got up and headed back into Streaky Day to begin our day of exploring the area. First we topped up with supplies, fuel and coffee along with checking out the local jetty. The Eyre Peninsula is renowned for its seafood and I had found a self-serve seafood place around the coast a bit so we thought we would go and have a look. It was a small container on a property with a couple of dogs. The idea is that you go into the container and he has a freezer full of all sorts of fish and then you take what you want, pay by eftpos or cash and head on your way. There was a guy who talked to us about fishing in the area and helped us out. We were hoping for oysters but he had sold out. They had sold 80 Dozen Oysters in 2 days! In saying that they had prawns and other fish so a few of us bought some prawns and fish for a meal later on.

The plan was now to explore as much of the coast as we could along with dropping in on a couple of points of interest on our short travel day through to Coodlie Park Eco Resort. First stop was Scele Bay. We did a drive through and then headed onto Point Labatt. I saw a sign that talked about Sea Lions so that is where we headed to see if we could see any.



Trip Report

Murphy's Haystacks are not piles of hay but inselberg rock formations. They are made of granite and quartz and are similar to Pildappa Rock. They are spread out over a paddock and are in all sorts of shapes. Just amazing how they tower out of the ground. The rain came in again so we went back to the car. At the entry they were selling honey so Jacqui and Dan bought some honey to take with them.

We were starting to get hungry so Venus Bay was to be our lunch spot. They had a great general store that sold burgers, chips and other food so we had lunch there and enjoyed a break from driving. 2 Police 4 wheel drives pulled in and one looked like it had seen some distance. Tristan asked the Police Officer how many km's the car had travelled and she said it was 10 months old and had done 80,000km! Now that is a lot of roads to drive! Once lunch was done we went down to the jetty to have a look at the local fishing boats and the view.



Our next stop for 2 nights was Coodlie Park Eco Resort. Once we checked in we were directed via mud map out to their camping area. There were still quite a few people staying as it was Easter. They were all spread out so we drove around looking for a good spot and settled on being quite close to the centre of the camp ground.



The showers here were quirky to say the least. We had to go to the camp kitchen to fill a bucket with hot water and then carry it to the shower where you filled a bucket and then pulled a rope to lift it up high enough to stand over. Everyone was a bit cautious of it to start with. I really wanted a shower so I gave it a go. One thing I did was go and get a second bucket of water as I did not want to run out of water. I managed to wash my hair and also relax under the water for a bit with 2 buckets. We scrounged a bit of firewood to have a fire for the first night. The next day was a day of rest and relaxation so not too much driving was in the plan. But there was plenty of exploring to do close by. The famous Talia Caves was on the back boundary of Coodlie Park. So most of us headed to Talia Caves to look at Woolshed Cave, The Tub, and Monument beach. Dan was keen for a fish so Jacqui and Dan headed into Venus Bay to get bait and were going to head to Mt Camel Beach. We will meet them later on in the day



We explored the beautiful area and played “Where’s Tristan” who managed to climb down into the Tub and have a look at the caves. We had lunch and then headed out to meet Jacqui and Dan at Mt Camel Beach where the guys got their rods out and started to see what they could catch.

Trip Report

Tristan and I explored the coastline while they were fishing. Lynton managed to get on the board with a herring. He ended up catching 4 of them so it was a nice snack for dinner.

Tristan and I headed back to camp and went to get some firewood for the campfire tonight.

After a relaxing evening and a final bucket shower in the morning we left for our next stop in Coffin Bay. As we were driving a long I spotted some signs for hot bread signs and as it was only 8:30am we decided to stop. It was Coulton Bakery which is a tiny little shed filled with the yummiest bread and fruit rolls. We all stocked up with hot fresh bread and headed on our way. Just before Elliston there is a drive around the cliffs with lots of sculptures to look at so we pottered away stopping to have a look at them.





Once we had looked at all the great sculptures we went into town and we stopped to stock up on things we needed at the grocery store. My leg was still quite sore and I had 2 little marks on the side of my knee that was weeping. It seems it was not a mozzie that bit me. I have no idea what it was but it turned my leg into a trunk with no definition. I felt ok in myself so it was not too much of an issue.



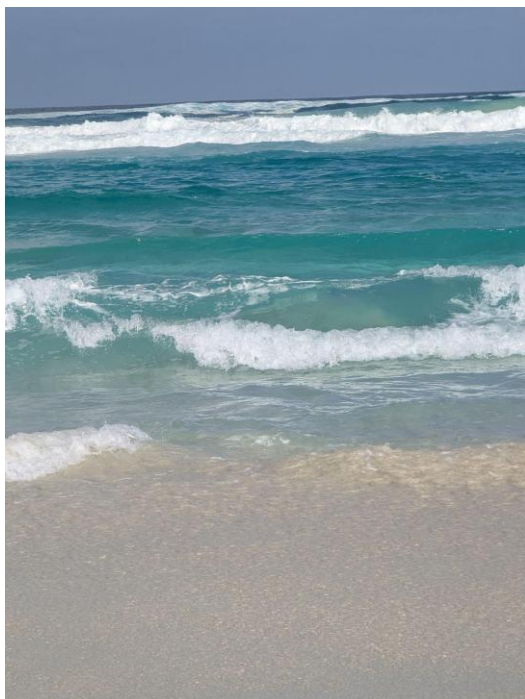
Daisy had found out about a place called Greenly Beach rock pools so we went and checked them out. More rock climbing to have a look at the famous rock pool. I can imagine with the clear blue sky's it would be stunning. It was clear and green. We had a look around. I had said to Daisy it is easy to get down and have a look but getting back to the car was interesting. It involved teamwork to get back up the rocks as we went to a different part of the beach to get up.

We then took the back roads into Coffin Bay and as it was lunch time in the home of Oysters we stopped in at Restaurant 1802 and ordered oysters and seafood for lunch. Another stocking up of food and drink at the local supermarket. Although the local bottle store was almost empty. It must have been a great Easter.

We then headed into the Coffin Bay National Park. I was a bit worried about this campsite as I just knew nothing about it and it was not the one I had planned on staying at. We headed into the park and got to the four wheel drive track that headed into camp. We pulled out into the first part of Big Yangie Bay campground and it was windy and not great. There were campsites in the treeline. Tristan spotted a track and a beach a bit further around. I was not sure about it and we had a robust discussion on it and Tristan headed into the track, he was like worst case we back out. Nothing like exploring with a trailer in tow! We carried on through this tight windy rocky track and then popped out into a stunning beach that was protected from the wind. We found our spots and set up the fire and settled in for a relaxing evening. Not long after settling in, a 4 wheel drive with camper trailer arrived and we gave them the stare to encourage another choice but they must have liked that and chose to camp with us. They came over and introduced themselves and then we had them join us around the fire for the night. They had some great meat from the Port Lincoln butchers so we had to put that on the list to visit when we got there.

Coffin Bay

Today was a planned sleep in and explore day. Half the group had decided they were going to go fishing so they were up relatively early to go and find a good spot. We decided to take it a bit slower and then meet up with them later on. We headed to where the boys were going to be fishing and went to see Golden Island lookout and looked around all the cliff tops. We spotted the biggest pod of dolphins so watched them for a while playing in the waves.



We then went down onto the beach to get a closer look so drove around to Almonta Beach. It was just stunning with the islands, the waves and the dolphins and white sand. Once we had walked the beach we started to head into town as Daisy had organised to get a spare tyre for her car after damaging one on Darke Peak.



As we were driving along we heard the rest of the group on the radio talking about airing down and driving this track. We thought that sounded fun and found out that they were heading to Gunyah Beach which was on the way to where we were heading so after checking out a lookout we followed them into the track. Daisy left her car on the main road as she did not have a spare tyre if anything went wrong. She caught a lift with us. The sand dunes in here were crazy white, it was just stunning and at times we were just following poles in the sand to get to the beach



Steve and Lynton had decided to drive down onto the beach to get to the best fishing spot. Jacqui and Dan and Adam decided to leave their cars off the beach. We weren't taking the patrol on the beach yet so we parked up as well. We walked down to where they were fishing and had a play around. Jacqui and Dan went for a swim and we just mucked around on the beach



Daisy had to head into town to get her new spare tyre so we left with Vernon to go into town. Jacqui and Dan were also going to come as well so we all headed back to our cars. Tristan. Daisy and I took off up the sand dune with Adam filming us. We did not make it the first time so had to back up and give it a bit more right foot.

Dan then took off but took a different line and Vernon was right behind him. The next thing both were stuck in the sand.

Tristan went to help them and we blocked the track so no one else would get in the way while we got them going again. We had one vehicle that did try to go past but I managed to stop them otherwise it would have got tricky. We got them sorted and then were on our way again. I was having lots of fun driving through the sand dunes. Daisy got her car and Vernon and us went into town with her and Jacqui and Dan headed back to camp to dry off after their swim.

We got Daisy's tyre, got some lunch and then headed back to camp. Where we relaxed by the fire for the night. Krissy and Taylor joined us again for a night around the fire to swap stories of our days. They had done the oyster farm tour and ended up at the bow of the boat which they said was awesome, so that was on our list for our tour.



Coffin Bay to Fishery Bay

Today we had booked a tour to go out and visit an Oyster Farm so we packed up early and headed into town so we could be at our booking just after 9am. We found our parking spots and made our way down to the jetty where the boat was meeting us. We had tables reserved inside but we headed through to the bow of the boat.

The skipper got everyone on board and gave us a briefing about the trip and then started to make our way out to the farm. We spotted some dolphins so the boat was slowed up so we could watch them for a bit. They swam away and so the skipper picked up speed. The dolphins then appeared a bit off into the distance and then disappeared under the water to pop up just by the bow of the boat. We had the prime spot and this was the first time I had seen dolphins so close playing in the water. It was so cool!!

It was the sunniest day we had had and it was just beautiful out on the water. As we came around a headland the waves picked up and the bow landed on a wave and I got a face full of salt water. The fun of being out the front!

We got to the oyster farm and the skipper pulled the boat up and anchored up. We then had a choice to put waders on or go in our bathers. Most people chose to go with waders except Steve! We put our waders on and had to make sure that they were a few sizes bigger than what we would normally wear as they suction on. We climbed off the boat and into the water which was around waist deep.



They took photos of each group holding up a basket of oysters. There are up to 60 oysters in each basket and they then attach them at different heights depending on age and size. My waders suctioned on so tight so I am glad I did not go smaller with them. We got to walk around the farm near the boat to have a look at how they are grown. We had been told there were potentially stingrays around but we did not see any.

Once we got on the boat we got out of our waders and then the skipper gave us a really interesting talk about oyster farming in the coffin bay area from all its history and how they grow oysters to be the freshest they can be when they reach their destination. It takes 53 hours to get them to Germany and up to 5-6 days to get them to Cairns.

While the skipper was talking about the history his able assistant was shucking oysters for each person that had bought the tickets with oysters. I worked out that she shucked over 300 oysters. They then served up fresh oysters with lemons and tabasco and wasabi. I tried 2 of mine but while I thought they were ok they did not blow my mind, so I gave the rest of mine to Tristan. A couple of other people did not like them either so Tristan and Lynton shared them and he ended up eating 26 of them and enjoyed every single one!

Once everyone finished eating them the boat turned for home with a detour to look at some seals and birds on an island and then were back at the dock at lunch time.

This was where we farewelled Jacqui and Dan who were heading back to camp to pack up and then they were going to start the trip back home to make it a few shorter travel days.

As we left town we had to wait for Emu's to cross the road. They were roaming all over town and had been getting in the way of the local road work team. The challenges of the country!

We got on the road to go to our next stop which was Fishery Beach. As we were travelling along I spotted a smokehouse on the map so we pulled in to see what it was all about. It was a couple who had retired from catering and he was smoking fish and meats for fun that then ended up as a bit more than that! We got some smoked kingfish and chicken to snack on.

We then went into Port Lincoln to go to the butcher we had been told about as it was ANZAC day the next day and they were going to be closed. Everyone topped up groceries, fruit and meat and then it was out to fishery bay for the night. The beach was absolutely stunning but the campground was not the greatest. It was busy with people driving through to the beach and it was not a great layout for a group.



Fishery Bay to Port Lincoln

We decided to have a relatively early start to do some more exploring. We drove around the side of Fishery bay and then back out to the main road. I had seen a note for Mary Ellis Wreck Beach. We drove into the beach and went through some sand dunes. As we got to the beach we spotted a Ford Ranger that was very very very stuck. We went over to see if they needed help and they were ok just digging. We offered to pull them out if they wanted and while we let them think Steve went for a walk to check out a track he had seen.

They decided that they wanted some help so we pulled out the recovery gear and strapped them onto the back of the camper trailer which has recovery points. We tried to pull them out but the patrol started to dig into the sand so we needed to pull a bit further away by about 2 meters. We improvised with what we had and used a tree protector to give us the extra distance. We used soft shackles for everything and then we pulled them out. It was incredible to watch the kinetic strap do its thing. It did not take long and they were very grateful.

Steve came back and said the track looked fun but we all decided that it was not the day for doing these tracks.



We cruised around to Lincoln National Park and explored all the bays and went all the way out to Cape Donnington where we saw the lighthouse and lots of fishing boats heading out.



We checked out lots of beaches and it was getting close to lunch time and we were done with seeing beaches and cliffs and beautiful waves. I said who wants a shower? And with lots of yes's we went into our second to last stop for the trip to Port Lincoln tourist park. We had allocated sites as close to the beach as we could. Everyone pulled into their allotted site and I have not seen people move so fast in setting up and heading for the shower.

I was one and it was the best shower I had had in over a week! It was so good. The rest of the afternoon was just relaxing at the park. Which meant getting the fishing rods out and trying to catch the all elusive fish! Adam managed to get on the board with a leather jacket fish. Not really big enough for dinner though. The good news was that I had managed to get a booking at a restaurant where we could get some fish.



We found out that the kids were all catching squid but not much else. They were entrepreneurs though, they were prepping them into squid bait and selling them.

Once the fishing was done we sat around on the grass having a few drinks and resting and when it started to get dark we went to the restaurant to get dinner. It was pretty yummy food but they were struggling due to not having enough staff. We did not mind and just spent the evening reminiscing about the trip, having some laughs and just relaxing.

It was then a pretty early night to bed before our first big transit day home.

Port Lincoln to Mt Barker

Today was a big day of driving as it was the first leg of travelling home and for Lynton to continue on his journey to Perth. We managed to find a cafe that had good coffee reviews so we had breakfast and coffee at 7am in Port Lincoln.

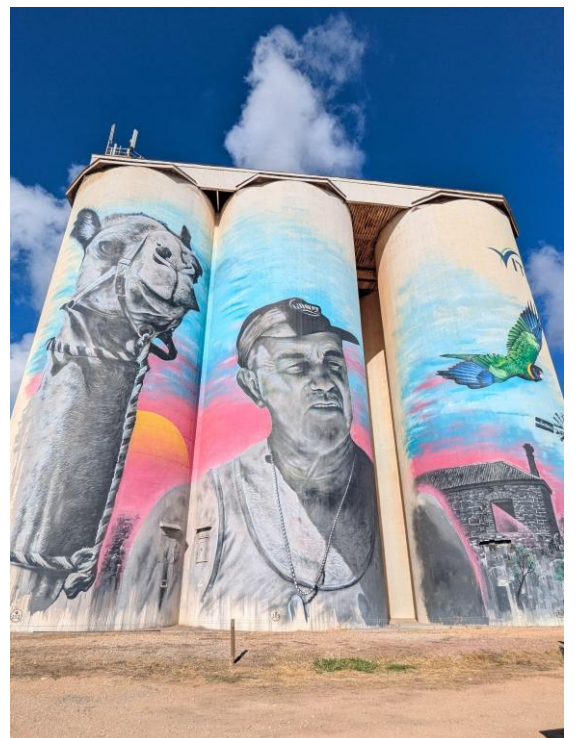


We finished our brekkie and then it was on the road. We farewelled Lynton who was heading to the Nullabor Roadhouse today on his trip through to Perth. We then topped up with fuel ready for a day of driving. Our convoy was now down to 5 cars and our goal was a hipcamp in Mt Barker just on the other side of Adelaide.

On the road and heading up the East Coast of the Eyre Peninsula. We were just stopping for breaks today and not much sightseeing but we did manage to still take in some silo art!

Cowell was going to be our first stop for a break and I managed to find some silo art which was another great picture of a local. A toilet stop also discovered the local art gallery where there were paintings in the toilets that you could buy. A unique way of dressing up a space and enabling people to sell their art.

Continuing up the coast we spotted a steel factory that you can visit in Whyalla but we just did not have time to stop and have a look so we put it on the list for a visit for the next time we go to the area.



Trip Report

We had spotted the signs on our way at the start of the trip so our lunch stop was Harry's Homemade fine foods and Tristan was looking forward to trying a crocodile burger.

Harry's Homemade Fine Foods was sold out of Crocodile Burgers but had Camel Burgers in stock so Tristan and Adam tried one for lunch. The rest of us took more mainstream lunch choices. The camel burgers were actually not too bad. We did not try camel milk. That is on the list for another time. Once we had lunch we went another few k's down the road for a fuel top up.

As we were going to be in Adelaide the home of Snowy's Outdoors we just had to stop in. As most of us had bought from them online it was cool to be able to visit the store. We pulled in around 4pm and we spent nearly an hour just looking at all the camping things. Some of us bought some items and others just checked out some options. It was getting late in the day and we still had an hour to go to camp so we reluctantly left Snowy's for camp.

We started climbing out of Adelaide up the Adelaide Hills. There are some long steep climbs so Adam had a bit of fun with his car managing the gears and pace. We topped up with fuel so the group that would be heading back to Melbourne in the morning could leave early and get on the road.

I had found a campsite on HipCamp so I followed the host's directions and we found camp in a small valley and we managed to arrive as the rain started. It was raining very lightly but enough to be annoying. No campfire tonight as there is a total fire ban in this part of South Australia until the end of April and with a bit of rain it was a bit of a damper on the night. However the host had built a shed so we had an area to sit under the roof for the evening which was great.



The next morning Adam, Steve, Daisy and Vernon were all up early and started leaving camp not long after 4am as they were all heading back to Melbourne. We had a bit more of a sleep in as we were heading back into Adelaide for a couple of days for work. We packed up between showers of rain and left around 9am. A quiet end to an epic 11 days of touring.

It was definitely a sampler tour of the Eyre Peninsula and whilst we did not have the best weather we got to experience all that the Peninsula has to offer

Trip Report – Christmas in July 2025 - Upper Yarra Reservoir (20 -22 June 2025)

Report By – Ken Kilby

1. Ken & Lucy
2. Neville, Aalia, Lily, Ramos
3. Sally & Tristan
4. Steven & Sophie
5. Steve & Amanda
6. Steven Dishon
7. Alec & Alistair
8. Anne & Allan
9. Vernon
10. Mellissa & Harsha
11. Owen & Wendy



Neville's prediction of good weather for the weekend was stacking up to be correct. Friday was a glorious day with a High of 18 with a similar forecast for the next two days.

Heading off at 4:30 on Friday afternoon and upon arriving in the park we were greeted with the ominous sign of water pouring out of what seemed to be a pump house, which was creating a river running down the road, but more on that later.

Moving on to the huge camp area, which had plenty of room for all to really spread out, the camp was set up before joining the early arrivals relaxing by the fire. The clear skies foretold of a cold night ahead and we weren't disappointed. Not sure what the temperature got down to, but 2-3 degrees would be my guess.

The next morning after a nice sleep-in (in reality, waiting for things to warm up a bit before venturing out), the news around camp was that there was no running water in the Toilets. That river emanating from the pump house now explained everything.



About 11:00 am the Park rangers appeared and advised that if the pumps could not be fixed the Camp would have to be closed. Tristan tried explaining that we were self-sufficient, but it was to no avail and there would be no exceptions.

About an hour later they returned and apologetically explained we would have to pack up and leave. In the meantime, we had decided to move camp to either Stockman's reward or Frenchman's Creek Camping areas, about an hour away, both on the Big River Road in the Big River State Forest

Time was now of the essence as we needed to get the Spit set up so as not to be eating our "Christmas Dinner" at midnight.

Another priority was informing the members who had not yet arrived, that the situation had changed and tell them of the new location.

Suzy was still at home and in the middle of cooking a dish to bring. With the change of location, she decided it would be a more reasonable decision to stay home. Thanks for making the effort, Suzy, I'm sure it was delicious.

Sally and Tristan, having a Camper Trailer, were able to pack up very quickly, so they offered to go ahead and find a new campsite and get the Spit going, along with Steve and Amanda.

Trip Report

Meanwhile everyone else had a quick bite to eat and packed up. The last thing to do was throw all the firewood back into the trailer that had only been taken out and stacked an hour beforehand. Earlier in the morning Neville, Sally and Tristan left the park to get some more firewood and came back with a nice load of logs. Thereafter Tristan cut them into smaller sizes ready for splitting.

A few of the group wanted to try their hand with the log splitter. Ramos (boyfriend of Neville's daughter Aalia) was giving it a good go, followed by Wendy and then Vernon, with the finer points of correct technique being explained by Sally. They may have realised it isn't as easy as it looks.



Wendy doing her bit to keep us all warm.



Ramos, and girlfriend Aalia admiring his prowess with the Splitter

Sally and Tristan did a great job finding a new Campsite, bypassing Stockman's Reward, as it was deemed too wet, and setting up at Frenchman's Creek, having plenty of room.



Ramos, Wendy, Owen, Sophie.

Trip Report

After pulling up camp earlier, I was somewhat disinclined to set up the tent again just for the one night and figured I might just stay for dinner. After imbibing a glass (or two) of red sitting by the lovely warm fire and looking at that spit roast which smelled so delicious, those thoughts evaporated quicker than an ice cube in the Simpson. Before I knew it the Tent was up and relaxing for the night by the fire the only concern.



Steve, Lucy and Archie.



Amanda and Steven- Happy Days.

Trip Report

Before long the evening's feast was being prepared, Trestle tables were set up with all the requirements for the "Christmas Celebrations" ahead.

By 6:30 everything was ready, and everyone had their fill of Roast Chicken and Roast Lamb, baked potatoes with sour cream, bacon and cheese and Broccoli (which hadn't cooked properly by the fire and wasn't hot enough unfortunately).



Partners in crime, Tristan and Sally



Steven, Aalia and Neville



Lily, Neville, Alan, Sally and Anne



Sophie Miller topped off the evening with Sticky date pudding and ice cream.

After dinner the usual campfire stories were told as the night gradually became colder.

Trip Report

Sunday morning felt definitely colder than Saturday, the car was showing minus1 and the Dog's water had frozen over.

Everyone was up early and had congregated around the fire to thaw out.

After a quick pack up, Lucy and I had to leave due to prior commitments and left for home.

On the way, as we were driving through Reefton at 10 am, there was still a heavy frost on the ground in the shaded areas, and the temperature was only 3 Degrees.

Steve and Amanda shared their experience of their trip home at the July club meeting..... it went something like this.

They weren't sure of the way, so they programmed their route into Google maps. Along the way they came to an intersection.... google said turn right.....Amanda said no, we should turn left..... I'm sure!

Steve, having the wisdom that comes with being married, said, "Sure honey, you must be right". So, after turning left and travelling for quite a distance, Steve finally plucked up the courage to ask if she was sure they were going in the right direction. Steve mentioned that the blue line on the map that they were supposed to be following had disappeared a long time back.

The decision was made to turn around and backtrack. Only problem was Steve and Amanda's new Caravan was on the back. After a 20-point turn, they headed back the way they came and what should have been an hour and a half trip, turned into 3 hours. I believe Amanda has already signed up for Sally's next map reading course.

So, all in all, everyone had a great time and made the most of the circumstances. The weather gods (or Neville, not sure which) smiled upon us to give us another memorable club trip.

Many thanks to all who participated and lent a hand preparing dinner, collecting / bringing/splitting firewood and whose contributions made this weekend a great success.

Ken.



PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	WOODS POINT HOTEL DAY TRIP
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Neville Van Leeuwen TEL: MOB: 0472 680 482
DATE	Saturday 06/09/25
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Ampol Longwarry 8AM
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Hard/Med DRY: Med/Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Head up to Mount Matlock – depending on conditions head around cornhill road & spur track to woods point. Otherwise via Warburton Woods point road Have a meal at Woods Point then home via Thomson dam
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	350
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Longwarry DIESEL: Longwarry
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	350
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery Gear
MAPS REQUIRED	TBA
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12
DOG FRIENDLY?	Yes – You will need to make provisions while we have a pub meal

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED:

1. Plan your trip. In particular: meeting point destination, trip grading, trip details, fuel information, camping arrangements. If a trip is classified as Dog Friendly, it is the responsibility of the Trip Leader to ensure the trip does not enter areas that do not allow dogs.
2. Complete a “PROPOSED CLUB TRIP” form.
3. Pass the form on to the President or Events Coordinator, either in hard copy format or electronically, for approval at the next Committee Meeting. When approved, the Trip Leader will be notified, and the trip included in the Club Calendar. Also ensure copy passed to Newsletter Editor for inclusion in calendar and Forthcoming Trip Section.



PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	STAR GAZING NIGHT
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Neville van Leeuwen TEL: MOB: 0472 680 482
DATE	Friday 03/10/2025 8PM
MEETING PLACE / TIME	The Briars Historic Park 450 Nepean Highway MT Martha
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: NA DRY: NA
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>The club has decided to attend a night which is also open to the public, and bookings are now open for the Mornington Peninsula Astronomical society (MPAS) star gazing session on Friday 3rd October at 8pm.</p> <p>As this event is open to the public, it does book out. Please book in yourselves if you wish to attend.</p> <p>Please use the link below/MPAS website which leads you to the Try Booking details....</p> <p>mpas.asn.au</p> <p>Prices are : Adults \$15, Child (up to age 15) \$ 5, and family 2A,2C \$35.</p> <p>All details are on the MPAS website or you can ask Neville for any further information:</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 1 MAXIMUM: While tickets available
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	A ticket
DOG FRIENDLY?	NO

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED:

1. Plan your trip. In particular: meeting point destination, trip grading, trip details, fuel information, camping arrangements. If a trip is classified as Dog Friendly, it is the responsibility of the Trip Leader to ensure the trip does not enter areas that do not allow dogs.
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PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	BLUE RAG TO CROOKED RIVER
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Neville Van Leeuwen TEL: MOB: 0472 680 482
DATE	12 th – 15 th of Dec 25
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Hard DRY: Med
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Plan is take Friday & Monday off work Leave Fri and head to Dargo – refuel, look around and have a meal at the pub. Potentially camp behind the pub or at one of the nearby campsites like Italian Flat Saturday: Pack up and do Blue Rag Range track heading to crooked river via Basalt N Track Camp at Crooked River. Sunday: Most likely do crooked river to Billy Goat Bluff Track Camp at Horseyard flat track (Or closer to Licola) Monday: Pack up and head home via Licola
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	~250 KM between Dargo and Licola
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: DARGO then Licola DIESEL: DARGO then Licola
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	250KM Full trip approx. 800km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery gear & be fully self sufficient to camp at a different location each night
MAPS REQUIRED	Dargo – Wonnangatta Adventure Map or similar
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	250KM Full trip approx. 800km
DOG FRIENDLY? YES/NO	Yes – there will be some long days in the car. We plan on having a meal at Dargo Pub. (People can go direct to campsite)

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED:

1. Plan your trip. In particular: meeting point destination, trip grading, trip details, fuel information, camping arrangements. If a trip is classified as Dog Friendly, it is the responsibility of the Trip Leader to ensure the trip does not enter areas that do not allow dogs.
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We need your help on and off the tracks



**If you have some spare time
please consider joining the committee.
Your club needs you— do it for your club!**

Contact your Committee...

