

February 2014



## ***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

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## 2014 COMMITTEE

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	David Peck	<b>0402177886</b> <a href="mailto:president@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au">president@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au</a>
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Tom Minto	<b>9382-4678</b> <a href="mailto:secretary@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au">secretary@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au</a>
<b>TREASURER:</b>	John Cahill	<b>9368-4513</b> <a href="mailto:treasurer@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au">treasurer@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au</a>
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<b>TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR:</b>	Travis Maskey	<b>0422 815 737</b>
<b>EDITOR:</b>	Joy Unno	<b>0429473709</b> <a href="mailto:editor@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au">editor@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au</a>
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS:</b>	Ian Johnson	<b>9448-5419</b>
	Jim Wilcox	<b>0419040969</b>
	Adrian Longwood	<b>9279-8993</b>
	Alex Tayler	<b>0439929373</b>
	Joanne Norton	<b>6468-2774</b>
<b>MERCHANDISE:</b>	Tony Richards	<b>9386-7705</b>
<b>WEB MASTER:</b>	Rob Griffiths/ Jim Wilcox	<b>0411249933</b> <b>0419040969</b> <a href="mailto:webmaster@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au">webmaster@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au</a>
<b>4WD ASSOC DELEGATE:</b>	David Peck/ Tony Richards	<b>0402177886</b> <b>9386-7705</b>
<b>M'SHIP CO-ORDINATOR:</b>	TBA	<a href="mailto:membership@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au">membership@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au</a>
<b>PROPERTY OFFICER:</b>	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 February 2014

Hi All,

We have had a bit of an influx of new members recently and I would like to welcome them to the Club. We try to cater for a variety of different interests (although a lot of them tend to involve food) and if anyone has a particular place they would like to visit please let one of the Committee members know as we are always after ideas.

January got off to a good start with 17 cars on the Annual Beach Run and thanks to Peter who always does such a good job of running it.

We are trying something a bit different this year by running two trips at Easter. One is an extended trip to Shark Bay and the other is just for the 4 day Easter break down south.

Special thanks to Subaru Australia who has donated a stack of workshop manuals for the various models that Club members may have up until 2002. We are making an inventory of them with the intention of adding them to the Club's library.

I am pleased to announce we will be having a guest speaker at February's meeting: Rob Herridge from Maximum Motorsport will be bring the Forester that he has entered in the last three Australian Safaris with outstanding success. He was first in his class in 2011 and 2012 when he was also second outright and last year he was fourth outright only to be beaten by purpose built Dakar Rally type vehicles.



It will be a very entertaining evening as he is an excellent story teller with possible hints of embellishment of some of his rally exploits.

Cheers

David

**TRIP CO-ORDINATORS REPORT February 2014**

Hi All,

We've got a couple of good Socials coming up: Fish & Chips at City Beach in Feb and Burns Beach Cafe breakfast in March.

Then there is the March LWE down to Lake Jasper and Black Point. Only 1 place left for that trip, then it is onto the standby list.

It's time to think about booking at the Nannup Caravan Park if you are coming on the Subi Grub Crawl over Easter- it ought to be a great trip!

Talking of great trips, Ian has posted two fantastic desert trips onto the web, one in July and one in August. Take in the Great Victoria Desert and the Gibson Desert. Limited places and best for members who have been on a few long camping trips with the Club and have an acceptable vehicle.

Our friend Adrian is busy again with a turn around the Gngangara bog holes in March and then the Greenough Fishing Challenge Round III on the June LWE. See you out there. Trav.

**CHALLENGE**



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

**TRIP PROMOTIONS/INFORMATION**

**SEABIRD SOIREE**

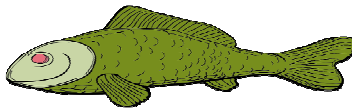
**DAY TRIP SUNDAY 9TH FEBRUARY**

We will be embarking on a short but interesting beach cruise, starting at Seabird and heading south to Moore River, where will we finish up. People can stay around in Moore River for an afternoon BBQ and swim. Bring the Kayak or Fishing Rod and stay later into the afternoon. Trip is suited for intermediate sand drivers but beginners can be accommodated.

Join the trip on the website or contact Trip Leaders Adrian (0424723558) or Travis (0422 815 737).



**FISH AND CHIPS BY THE SEA**



**SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 5.30 ish**

The concept is to meet at City Beach, North of Clancy's Fish Cafe, share the company of Club Members and generally relax with a meal plus a drink or two. Bring a picnic, do a BBQ or there are a number of local options if you wish to purchase food: More details about this on the Club website

**Contact:** Tom on 9382 4678

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

010818-121



**MALLOY ISLAND MOSEY 1ST - 3RD MARCH LWE**

**Augusta, Black Point and Lake Jasper**

Camping at Malloy Caravan Park on the beautiful Blackwood River, a short drive from Augusta and Margaret River (7 powered sites booked at \$30/night). This trip is limited to **7 cars** only, so first in best dressed.

I will put names on a standby list if the trip becomes full. If you want more details or to be put on the standby list please

call or text Travis on

0422 815 737.

Join the trip on the website.

**HURRY!**

**ONLY 1 PLACE LEFT**



**BURNS BEACH CAFE BREAKFAST**

**SUNDAY MARCH 16TH**

Early morning snorkel or walk along the beach. There is an excellent walk/cycle path through native coastal heath with panoramic ocean views. Or just enjoy a

delicious 9.30 am breakfast at the Cafe. You need to book on 9304 8080. Details are on the webpage or call Travis on 0422 815 737.



**Tyres for Sale Feb 2014**

1. One x Bridgestone Dueler A/T 215x80xR16. Very good tread \$100  
One x Bridgestone Desert Dueler 9Rx15LT. NEW still with blue stuff on lettering \$150

One x Dunlop SP782 7.50R16 8 ply. Good. 7mm tread \$50

You, or someone you know might be interested in these – All ONO and all are on Gumtree.

**Please contact Ian J. on 94485419 or 0419 936 566**

**2. Rim and tyre for a 2002 XS Forester \$75**

**Contact Isabel on 0416058010**

TRIP PROMOTIONS/INFORMATION

**GNANGARA PINES LOOP DE LOOP  
SUNDAY 30TH MARCH**

Join us for a lap of the **Gnangara Pine Plantation** where we will be targeting 3 of the main super soft sandy areas, including **'Skate Park'** and **'The Bowl'**.

This is an excellent opportunity to gain sand driving skills with the support of experienced drivers.

It may be hot, bring plenty of **drinking water**, hat, sun-screen, etc., plus morning tea & lunch. Wear appropriate clothing and enclosed shoes.

**Equipment:** bring a **spade** or **shovel**, air compressor & tyre gauge, recovery gear, maxtrax (if you have them, otherwise Club members do).

**Bogometer:** chance of bog in sand with light recovery needed; maybe some digging with a push or snatch

**Scratchometer:** minimal chance of scratches

**Punctuometer:** moderate, lot of debris from rubbish dumping & sharp sticks; check spare tyre pressure

More information is available on the club website.

Contact **Adrian** (0424723558) or join the trip on the website.

**GFC-III: Greenough Fishing Challenge - Round III  
Sat 31st May-Mon 2nd Jun**

Using the June long weekend to head a few hours north, somewhere between Greenhead and Geraldton., There will be boating, kayaking, and beach fishing (weather dependant). Come along for a great way to relax and escape the city, get the lines wet and share a fun weekend of telling each other how big the one that got away was!

Contact **Adrian** (0424723558) or join the trip on the website.

## **SUBI GRUB CRAWL: 18TH-21ST APRIL (EASTER)**

Donnybrook, Manjimup, Nannup and Margaret River.

Staying at the the Nannup Caravan Park.

A totally self-indulgent long weekend. Chocolate, cheese, wine and more! The Wine & Truffle Co., the Berry Farm, Yahava Coffee, Vasse Virgin, the Venison Farm, the Chocolate Factory plus much, much more!!!

Contact Travis (0422 815 737) or join the trip on the website

***as soon as possible*** as the caravan park reservations cannot be held for long.



## **WESTERN WANDERS 18-26 April 2014**

A trip to the stunning scenery and coastline of the World Heritage Area of Shark Bay, particularly Steep Point and Francois Peron National Park. Over Easter and extending to Anzac Day, camping at Tamala Station. The trip is limited to 16 vehicles (2 convoys of 8 vehicles). No dogs are permitted in National Parks. See the website for further details.

**Hurry- only 6 places left**, then names will go on a standby list.

Join the trip on the website or contact trip leaders Adrian (0424723558), or David (0402177886).










# SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

## CLUB CALENDAR














### February 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	<b>Tue 4th:</b> Committee Meeting <b>Sun 9th:</b> Seabird Soiree p7 <b>Tue 11th:</b> General Meeting <b>Sun 23rd:</b> Fish and Chips at the Beach (Social) p7
						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	<b>Sat 1st-Mon 3rd:</b> Molloy Island Mosey LWE p10 <b>Tue 4th:</b> Committee Meeting <b>Tue 11th:</b> General Meeting <b>Sun 16th:</b> Burns Beach Cafe Breakfast p9 <b>Sun 30th:</b> Gngangara Pines Loop p10
	31						
			5	6	7	8	
9	10		12	13	14	15	
	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	





### April 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	<b>Tue 1st:</b> Committee Meeting <b>Sun 6th:</b> Lo Quay Cafe <b>Tue 8th:</b> General Meeting <b>Fri 18th-Sun 27th:</b> Western Wanders- Steep Point p11 <b>Fri 18th-Mon 21st:</b> Subi Grub Crawl p11
			2	3	4	5	
	7		9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17			
							
	28	29	30				

## SUBARU 4WD CLUB of W.A. INC

May 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5		7	8	9	10
11	12		14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

**Tue 6th:** Committee Meeting  
**Tue 13th:** General Meeting  
**Sat 31st-Mon 2nd Jun:** GFC-III  
 LWE p 10

June 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			4	5	6	7
8	9		11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**Sun 1st-Mon 2nd:** GFC-III LWE  
**Tue 3rd:** Committee Meeting  
**Tue 10th:** General Meeting

### SCHOOL AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

**School Holidays:** Dec 20-Feb 2, April 12-27, July 5-20

**Public holidays:** Mar 3, Apr 18 & 21 (Easter), Apr 25, Jun 2, Sep 30

**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.**

**TRIP & SOCIAL REPORTS**

**Lazy Leewuin-Naturaliste Day 1 Sat 25th January LWE**

Led by Tony, four cars left the meeting point on schedule at 8:30 am with the aim of reaching the Point Road campsite around noon in order to secure good campsites for the weekend. Josan had driven down the day before to establish a presence at the campground which is supposed to be limited to 10 cars. The trip down was largely uneventful except for brief stops to tape down the wind-screen seal which had come loose on Jason and Jack's car and re-fuel and morning tea at Busselton.

Point Road presented some nice boulders to negotiate right at the start with occasional rocky patches all the way to the camp site. The camp site was almost empty on our arrival with Josan reporting she had spent a pleasant night accompanied by various bird choruses and nocturnal possums. It seemed promising as we chose comfortable well spaced sites to pitch our tents and have lunch before setting off to explore for the afternoon.

After lunch, with Tony navigating, four cars set off towards Boranup Beach along narrow rocky tracks. Josan did not take her car as it was not currently equipped with a sump guard, desirable equipment in this terrain. The tracks were narrow and scratchy with some challenging sections of rough dissected limestone near the coast. We reached the coast at Boranup North Point where a calm, shallow lagoon provided a great swimming pool. We relaxed in the mild temperature and cooling breeze swimming and exploring the rocks and numerous cairns people had built around the point. All the swimmers appreciated Tony's portable shower to wash off the salt before we made our way to Caves Road and south towards Augusta having decided against going to Hamelin Bay.

Most had a pizza dinner at the Augusta Hotel enjoying the view over the river from the back verandah. Daniel meanwhile



set off to look at the Cape Leeuwin light house only to find the grounds had closed much earlier at 4:45. The nearby heavily encrusted water wheel provided a short diversion. After dinner and watching the sunset, we returned to Point Road arriving at the camp to find it crowded with over 25



tents jammed around and between ours and people everywhere! Clearly there was no control over numbers on one of the most popular holiday weekends. The possums were bold in their search for food showing little fear of people. Fortunately things quietened down later for a good rest after an enjoyable day. **Daniel B.**

### Lazy Leeuwin-Naturaliste Day 2 Sun 26th January LWE

#### **Trip Report – Australia Day**

Woke up to a quieter dawn chorus compared to yesterday, may be partly due to the increase in humans around. Heard the possums skulking around the tent in the night though and it was a beautiful sunny day and perfect temperature.

Our plan today was to explore the many beach tracks along the Cape to Cape coastline north from our camp. So we set off around 9 am and first stop was Slopey's which is at the beach end of the track into Point Road camp. It has a foot path leading down to some lovely rock pools. As we rock hopped around for a while we had a chat to some fisherman who pointed to a rock which had a python curled up underneath in the shade! Never would have seen that one. Daniel, who is a keen fisherman was interested in the safety rings bolted in to the rock which is designed to strap the fisherman in case the waves wash over them. Good idea.

Next stop was Round Rock and Merchant Rock where we enjoyed spectacular ocean views as the sun was well up and the ocean was a beautiful mix of shimmering deep blue and turquoise. We then went in to our next beach track which took us down to Conto Springs for morning tea. The tracks have had some



rocky and challenging bits but otherwise fairly easy.

After morning tea we went in to Redgate beach which was busy with the Margaret River surf club holding surfing lessons. Jason and I had binoculars which was handy so we could scan the rocks and look around for seabirds or anything else for that matter. I did see a large bird sitting on the rock but it was so far out could not identify it.

One of Tony's suggestions was to go and view the Margaret river mouth as he had never seen it, so we drove down to Prevelly Park



and had a pleasant walk around the board walk and enjoyed another spectacular view of the ocean on our left and the river to our right. The river was closed off from the beach, which meant it was nice and calm for the many families down there enjoying their Australia day.

Lunch was planned in Margaret River town, and as it was nearing midday off we drove in to Margaret River, perfect timing. We parked at the top of the main street where there was a park so we sat on the grass in the shade and had a relaxing lunch with me deliberating whether the parrot in the tree above us was a Purple-Crowned Lorikeet.

Next on our tour was Ellensbrook Homestead and Meekadarabee Falls. Alfred Bussell arrived in Western Australia in 1830, and later pioneered the Margaret River area. In 1857 he built Ellensbrook



as a home for his wife, Ellen, out of crushed shell and limestone. They lived here until 1865, when they moved to Wallcliffe House at the mouth of the Margaret River. Although we didn't go into the Homestead, we did walk to the Falls – a 1,600 metre round trip. It was a very pleasant walk along Ellen Brook to a small falls the water



from which that went into a limestone cave and came out the other side.

We then stopped at Gracetown. The wind had picked up by this time, and we watched a helicopter go across the bay wondering what it was doing. We said goodbye to Daniel here, as he was heading back to Busselton to stay with a friend that night.

Anyway, our last stop on the tour was Kilcarnup beach where we had to let our tyres down to get to the beach. Before we actually got to the beach, we went up to a viewing point to take in the views. From there we were able to walk along the Cape to Cape track past Cape Mentelle, which brought back memories of when I did the whole walk with Nina, Rosie and Leanne many years ago. I remember it well as it looked fantastic snorkelling and my fly net blew away!



At the beach, it was fairly sheltered and a couple of us had a refreshing swim. And then Tony got chatting to a couple of very cute young guys who happened to have a dinghy with a 50 hp engine. So next minute we see Tony out on the ocean being thrown about going a million miles, very funny! Obviously the driver of the dinghy got a huge adrenalin rush from the speed. As they came back towards the beach the boat was going so fast it looked like it wasn't going to stop in time, but it suddenly came to an abrupt halt inches from the sand, Tony hanging on for dear life with legs and arms everywhere!! Pity none of us caught the scene on camera!! They offered me a turn, but I wimped out and then spent the rest of the day regretting it!

Driving out of the track we heard familiar voices on the radio – Phil and Liz! They were in Margaret River and we thought we may catch up with them but didn't. How often does that happen, when we are away as a group and suddenly hear other members' voices pipe up out of nowhere on the radio!

It was late afternoon by then, so we pumped tyres back up and headed back to camp for dinner. We shared Dave's sausage casserole, which was good.

This is my third trip to Point Road camp ground and it never disappoints. Love it. Thanks Tony for a busy but relaxing day out and to Daniel, David, Jack and Jason for great company.

**Jo M. with photos donated by Tony R.**

### TRIP & SOCIAL REPORTS

#### **Cape York 2013 continued: Monday 12 August**

Up at about 6.30 after a windy night and away by about 8:00. We went back out the way we came (there is only one way in and out!), with a quick stop at the lookout on the way. The weather was over-cast – the sky had been clear to start with and then the clouds had rolled in. At the lookout, we had a look for fire damage from the fires the day before, but we didn't see any. So far on the trip, we have seen quite a few spot fires and (apparently) controlled burns. There is no shortage of them!

Back at the Bamaga Road, we turned left and headed south to the Gunshot Bypass. Then onto the Bypass which, thankfully, was now open. Dave had rung the Ranger Station on his Sat Phone to check that it would be open. We went past the Ranger Station and, at the point where the track splits into two (north and south), we took the south fork. Got to the Overland Telegraph Track (OTT) without any problems. Then we went south on the OTT, as we wanted to do (experience) the Bertie Creek and Dulhunty River crossings, before turning around and then heading north through to Gunshot Creek and on to Eliot/Twin/Indian Falls, where we had booked a campsite for 2 nights.



At Bertie Creek, we saw a palm cockatoo. We also had morning tea. Bertie Creek was an easy crossing – you went straight across and then travelled about 20 metres down the southern bank to the exit track. And then we travelled on further south to the Dulhunty River, just a few kms down the track. We made the crossing

without any issues and had a bit of a look around. You could camp at the river. Originally, if we had been able to travel north from Bramwell Junction on the OTT (make the Palm Creek crossing), we were going to camp at the Dulhunty.

At the campsite, someone had left a (very hot) fire still going and it



took lots and lots of water to put it out. It was interesting to see how quickly the water, initially, just evaporated as steam vapour – the fire was so hot! The crossing itself was pretty, with a nice cascade and plenty of trees.

Then it was time to retrace our steps and commence our journey north along the OTT. Our next

stop was Gunshot Creek. There was one additional creek crossing before Gunshot, Cholmondeley Creek, but it was clear and shallow and was crossed easily. We arrived at Gunshot Creek about 12.00. On the way there, we saw large palls of smoke in the distance ahead of us and were a little bit concerned that we might be heading towards a large fire – after all, the Bypass had been closed yesterday because of fires! In the end however, we didn't actually see any fires near us.

At Gunshot, we found the easy crossing and the hard (vertical) crossings. I called the hard crossings Vertical 1 (V1) and Vertical 2 (V2). V2 wasn't as vertical as V1, which looked almost straight down! While we were checking out the crossing, some young guys there took their vehicles down V2. It all



looked rather speccky! We took the chicken track, happy simply to be able to get across the creek. From there we continued on towards Cockatoo Creek, stopping to have a look at the grave of W J Brown, who was an Overland Telegraph Line linesman who died in 1945.

Cockatoo Creek was a little bit more challenging. We had to pick a line that avoided the deep water – a little bit to the right and then swing across to the left. Both Dave and I got through OK, although Dave had his car bra on to try it out. Emboldened by our success so far, we continued on. We got to Sailor Creek and had lunch. There is a small wooden bridge across this creek. We didn't spend too much time on lunch, as we still weren't sure about the fire. Just a bit

## SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

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further north of Sailor Creek, we came across Sheldon Lagoon, which had a large population of turtles. No birds, but plenty of turtles and little fish. We fed them with bread. They all seemed pretty hungry! Shortly after, we had reached the end of the southern section of the OTT and were back on the Bamaga Road. It was 9kms to the next section of the

OTT. On the way, we saw some bustards on the road.

We arrived at the entrance to the next section of the OTT but, as we had been warned that we wouldn't get through, as the major water crossing was too deep, we decided to take the long way round to the Falls. After a little bit of misdirection, we finally found our way back onto the OTT, then turned south. We crossed Sam Creek which was easy enough – there was a deep crossing and a shallower crossing. We took the shallow crossing. We continued south down the track reaching the next crossing, Canal Creek. Again, there was a deep crossing and a shallower crossing. We took the shallower crossing. No problems. And then a left through to the Elliott/Twin/Indian Head Falls camping ground.



All the sites at the camping ground were numbered. Our camping tag said that we had numbers 25 and 26, but somebody else already had number 25. So we all ended up on 26 which, thankfully, was a big site. I cooked steak for dinner, with onions and there was some alfresco salad that came in a packet that you bought from Woolworths. Dessert was peaches and cream. Good tucker, thank you!

At camp, Dave got a text message from Greg to say that he wouldn't make it top with us as the new clutch kit would be put in next week!

### **Tuesday 13 August**

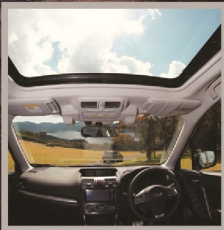
Warm again last night. Relaxing morning. Got up a little later than usual, followed by a leisurely breakfast. At about 9.00, we went for a look at the Falls. First we went to the Saucepan. Then we walked



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## SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

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around the edge of Elliot Creek to Elliot Falls. Then we cut back up to the boardwalk leading to Twin Falls. Twin Falls was a great little swimming spot. There was a nice pool with a sandy bottom, cascading water (the falls) and “hydro” pools under the cascade. So we grabbed our bathers and towels and spent some time at the pool enjoying ourselves in the water. Very pleasant indeed. And the water temperature was perfect.



We were back at camp some time after 10.00. Had morning tea. Then, about 10.30, or a little later, we set off for Fruit Bat Falls, 5km south down the Telegraph track. We found the ford that had been referred to as deep. But, again, there were two approaches – one was an easy approach with a long deep water crossing and the other had a very steep descending approach with a shallow crossing. We



chose the steep descent and shallow crossing. It was quite easy in the end, as it's not hard going downhill (you have gravity on your side!) but, even so, it was a little bit hairy, with lots of clearance under various wheels during the descent.

We continued on to Fruit Bat Falls. The falls are on Elliot Creek, the same Elliot Creek as in Elliot Falls. We walked in for a look. The falls were just like the pictures we had seen in the guides books and on the web etc. We came back, had some lunch and then went back in for a swim, which was really good – sandy bottom again and good water temperature.. We were there for half to three-quarters of an hour. While there, we ran into Paul and Coral Messenger, who were members of the Club some years ago. They now live in Newcastle and drive a Prado. It is a small world! After concluding our visit to the falls, we decided to head back to camp. It was 1.15.

We went north back up the track to see if we could make the crossing in reverse. When we got to the crossing, the water was the easy part

but, after three failed attempts to get back up the steep approach, I gave up, as I didn't want to risk damaging my car. We did think seriously about trying the other crossing, but it really was deeper than we would have liked and therefore, we went back to camp the long way.

Re-crossing Sam Creek and Canal Creek, we arrived back at camp at about 3.00, 1½ hours later.



**Fruit Bat Falls**

After afternoon tea, Jeanette and Keith decided that they would go down to the Saucepan for a swim. I went off trying to find somebody in the campground who had just come south down the OTT (from the top), as I wanted current information on the condition of the water crossings, to be able to judge whether we might get through. Unfortunately, I didn't have any success. However, the general consensus seemed to be that Bridge Creek (Nolan's Brook) would be too deep for us. Dinner was eagerly anticipated, as Dave was serving up another culinary delight – Spaghetti à la Bolognese. Tomorrow morning, we head off to tackle a few more creek crossings, before proceeding to Seisia.

**Tony R.**

**To be continued.....**

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