

September 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

2014 COMMITTEE

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

Club member of the year 2013: Jim Wilcox

LIFE MEMBERS

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT September 2014

Hi Everyone,

Thanks to John and Phil for organizing the recent survey that was sent out to everyone and thanks to those of you who took the time to complete it. We had hoped to see what we could do to make the club better by finding out what you, the members, wanted from the club. The results are presented with an average rating for each question which I have used below:

-81% of people drove a Forester

-Most liked driving on forest tracks, followed by sandy tracks then beach/dunes

-Most preferred bush camps with minimal facilities and then it was nearly even between caravan parks and remote sites with no facilities

-Most liked overnight weekend trips (which we don't do often) with an equal rating between trips from a single site and day trips.

-Most preferred to sleep in a tent followed by camper trailer then caravan. (a number of responses indicated they would like cabins at caravan parks).

-Most preferred day trips followed closely by overnight trips

-Most people only got long weekend for driving holidays except for the lucky ones who were not limited by time which was second. Surprisingly 1 to 7 days and 3 to 5 weeks both scored the same.

-Most liked to go 4WDing on their trips followed by hiking with visiting wineries and kayaking nearly the same (this has given us some ideas so thanks).

-Most people did not think the price of fuel was prohibitive.

Q10. It would appear that people like the idea of inviting some guest speakers to teach us a range of skills from cooking to survival. (a number of responses also liked the idea of seeing what other members have in the way of camping gear or vehicle modifications. We will organize a show and tell day)

Cheers David

TRIP CO-ORDINATORS REPORT September 2014

Hi All,

Thank you for all those who have completed the online survey that John C. has put together. As I said previously, this will influence the way we run the trips in the future. There have been a few surprises with a few of the answers that people have given. But from what we see so far, what we are doing is right on the money.

Adrian's Wilbinga Winter run, the Pub dinner and my Porongurup trip are up on the website, so put your names down for those.

The Annual Dinner is rapidly approaching so start thinking about voting both seriously and silly. This year it is in York, accommodation details and meal options are on the net as well.

See you all out there.

Trav

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TRIP PROMOTIONS/INFORMATION

DINNER AT PADDY MALONE'S

**SATURDAY 13TH SEPT
7PM**

2/200 Mirrabooka Ave, Alexander Heights



Come down to the pub and enjoy a hearty English/Irish style meal. check the menu on the website:

<http://www.paddymalones.com.au/alexanderheights/paddys-menu/>

They will do separate billing, all you have to do is remember what you had for dinner.

Join on the website or ring Jo on 6468-2774.

TRIP PROMOTIONS/INFORMATION

**ANNUAL CLUB DINNER AT
CASTLE HOTEL, YORK
25TH OCT**



The meal choices are:

Entree - Soup of the Day

Cajun Prawns

Main - T-bone steak with pepper sauce, chips and salad

Chicken Parmigiana with chips and salad

Grilled Barramundi with mash potato and veg

Dessert - Chocolate Mud Cake with ice cream or cream

Sticky date pudding with butterscotch sauce & ice cream

Please give an indication of your preference for dinner so that the hotel can have a rough idea of the number of each meal needed. If you have any special dietary requirements please let me know as soon as possible (contact Jo on 6468-2774).

The hotel has reserved 18 double rooms at a cost of \$140 per night. Please mention you are part of the club if you are booking a room or they may tell you they are booked.

Contact number for Castle Hotel is 9641 1007

Some alternate accommodation options are:

York Caravan Park (not walking distance) - [9641 1421](tel:96411421)

The York Hotel - [0455 253 374](tel:0455253374)

Settlers House - [9641 1884](tel:96411884)

The rooms at the hotel include a continental breakfast. They can upgrade to a buffet cooked breakfast for a cost of \$21.50 provided we have a minimum of 20 people. Please indicate if you will be wanting a cooked breakfast.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE FOR THE AWARDS !



PASSING THROUGH PORONGURUP

27th-29th Sept LWE

Fossils, Flora, Fauna and a whole lot more!

Over the September long weekend, I'll be taking those who are interested down to the Porongurup Ranges. This is the smaller range formation 30km south west of the Stirling Ranges. There should be a wide variety of wildflowers out at this time of year and the weather should be good (yep I jinxed that one, I know).

On the way down we'll hit the Gold Medal Wining Mt Barker bakery to "test" their pies, to make sure they meet our Subi club standards. There may be a need to "test" them again on the way home.

We'll be staying at the Porongurup Caravan Park. They have a wide range of accommodation that may take your fancy. If not, there are other places in the area that will cater to anyone's needs: <http://www.porongurup.com/> Please let me know if you are staying elsewhere to arrange a time and a place to meet up Saturday morning.

There are several places in the area that look good, including the Twin Creeks Nature Reserve. It's a Community Conservation Reserve that was purchased a few years ago to rehabilitate the area. There are wild flowers including a few rare orchids and fossils on some of the walks that the Friends of the Porongurups have created.

If there is enough time we'll head up to the Stirlings to have a look around there as well. Join the trip on the website or contact Trav on 0422 815 737.

TRIP PROMOTIONS/INFORMATION

LANCELIN DUNES SUNDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

The Subaru 4WD Club wants to invite all XV, Forester and Outback owners to our Annual Lancelin dunes trip.

This is a fun, safe day out to see what you and your car can do, in a controlled environment, with very experienced 4WD enthusiasts. We'll demonstrate techniques to drive on soft sand and over dunes. Show how tyre pressure can affect your car's performance in sand, and if the opportunity arises, how to safely recover a bogged vehicle.

Due to the way we run this trip, numbers will be limited.

For more information or to put your name down for the trip, either send an email to trips@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au or call Travis on 0422815737



Mundaring State Forest & Powerlines Sunday October 12th

Mundaring State Forest offers some great 4 Wheel Driving, in between the many gravel roads and tracks lays some awesome hill climbs and picturesque scenery through the valleys.

With the infamous Powerline Track nearby our aim will be to start along the powerline track to refresh our rock driving skills before embarking on a trek through the State forest. We will slowly wander our way back to the Mundaring Weir where this trip links up with the Mundaring Weir Social Dinner. (Members can leave from here or stay for the dinner).

This trip is aimed at experienced members but new members and beginners would benefit greatly from this sort of experience.

Please Contact Adrian, the trip leader for any queries on the area, your vehicles current set up, and your confidence in this terrain.
0424 723 558/ 9279 8993 adrian_longwood@hotmail.com

MUNDARING WEIR BBQ DINNER SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER

Head to the picturesque and historic Mundaring Weir for a family friendly BBQ picnic dinner to relax after exploring through the Mundaring Forest.

Time: ~ 4pm to 7 pm. Start time depends on when Mundaring State Forest trip finishes.

Gas BBQs, water & toilet facilities are available.

Bring your own BBQ food and drinks, we may share salads.

Check the website for more details or contact Adrian on 0424 723 558.







See the brochure & map of the Weir on the web trip page







SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

CLUB CALENDAR








September 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
	1		3	4	5	6	Tue 2nd: Committee Meeting Tue 9th: General Meeting Sat 13th: Social Dinner at Paddy Malone's Pub Sat 27th-Mon 29th: Porongurups LWE
7	8		10	11	12		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26		
		30					


October 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4	Tue 7th: Committee Meeting Sun 12th: Mundaring State Forest & Mundaring Weir BBQ Tue 14th: General Meeting Sat 25th: Annual Dinner- York, Page 8
5	6		8	9	10	11	
	13		15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24		
26	27	28	29	30	31		

November 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
30						1	Tue 4th: Committee Meeting 7th - 9th: 4WD Show Tue 11th: General Meeting 15th & 16th: Bush Dance Sun 16th: Lancelin Dunes
2	3		5	6			
	10		12	13	14		
	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	

SUBARU 4WD CLUB of W.A. INC





December 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1		3	4	5	
7	8		10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Tue 2nd: Committee Meeting

Sat 6th: Xmas Party -**MARK THE DATE**, details tba

Tue 9th: General Meeting

Bring a plate & trip photos/videos to show on the digital projector.

January 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12		14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	
		27	28	29	30	31

Tue 13th: General Meeting

24th-26th: Aust Day LWE tba

SCHOOL AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

School Holidays: Sept 27-Oct 12, Dec 19 - Feb 1 2015

Public holidays: Sep 29, Dec 25 & 26

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

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

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

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TRIP & SOCIAL REPORTS

XV ADVENTURES: Our first trip

"Christmas in July @ the Jennacubine Tavern"

It was with intrepidation that we set off in our week-old XV heading for the Gidgeganup Bakery to meet fellow Subaru owners. We arrived at the bakery with eyes peeled for Subarus, and were met by Katie and Travis with their Mitsubishi (???) before a few more Subarus arrived. After meeting our fellow driving buddies, stocking up on bakery items (flourless brownies were amazing) and fitting the CB radio, we were off in our convoy with David, Michelle, Joy, Janette and Tony.

The journey was interspersed with periods of rain followed by sunny patches followed by more rain. Luckily our stop in Goomalling corresponded with a break in the rain. For anyone heading to Goomalling there is a lovely little gift shop 'Whispers on the Terrace' on the main street. It was here that John joined the group and we headed to



Jennacubbine. While others set up their tents we headed back towards Goomalling on the backroads with David in search of Nick and Leanne. This was our excuse to drive on more gravel roads. With the rain there were some very muddy puddles.

We arrived back at the hall to find everyone set up and relaxing for the afternoon. The hall was very well equipped with showers, toilets and a fully functioning kitchen. We stayed in the accommodation at the Jennacubbine Tavern and were not disappointed. The heating in the room was greatly appreciated. In the early evening we all met at the tavern for drinks and game of pool before dinner. Wow what a dinner. The Jennacubbine



SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

really knows how to do steaks. After dinner we all retired to our respective accommodation for the night.

With morning upon us we said our farewells and headed off. Today was the day to give the GPS a work out. It located a tourist spot close by and blindly we followed the directions to find Marble Rocks Reserve.



The GPS was reset several times during the day taking us to Northam, Toodyay and finally back home. Our new blue XV was now looking very orange with mud. Out with the hose and Enjo and in no time at all it was back to its sparkly blue again, ready for its next adventure.


Joanne & John

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TRIP & SOCIAL REPORTS

AUGUSTA WHALE WATCHING REPORT 1 AUGUST 15TH

There were three of us on the whale watching trip to Augusta with Marian coming with me and Deborah travelling solo. We were expecting others but they had to pull out for various reasons.

We stopped at Settlers roadhouse for a break before carrying on to Dunsborough for lunch then we headed to Cape Leeuwin for our first attempt to spot the whales. The weather was just right as we walked out to the whale watching platform not far from the lighthouse with the promise of an ice cream for those who spotted a whale. It took a while before we got our eyes in and by the time we left maybe 45 minutes later we had spotted maybe half a dozen whales with the aid of binoculars.

We were supposed to stop at Canal Rocks but missed the turn off as I had to navigate the old fashion way so we decided to press on to get to the caravan park before dusk. As we drove south along Caves Road the sunlight streaming through the trees was a lovely sight. We checked in at the Molloy Island caravan park with both of us opting for cabins and there were kangaroos and ducks wandering around the grounds. We decided to go into Augusta for dinner and ended up at the pub where we enjoyed what we had.



The plan was to go to Hamelin Bay on Saturday morning but as we were driving there we came around a corner on Caves Road and there was a black 'lump' in the middle of the road. Slowing

TRIP & SOCIAL REPORTS

to investigate we found it was a Dachshund who wasn't disturbed at all by the cars. We stopped and took him off the road and found from his collar he lived nearby. After some unsuccessful phone calls we drove up the road and found his home and dropped him off. It appeared that "Marvin" had gone looking for his owners who had just gone on holiday and their son was glad to have him back.

By now it was getting a bit late so we headed into Augusta and took the scenic drive along the bay to the lighthouse. On the way we stopped at the old 'water wheel' which is slowly being calcified by the minerals in the water. There were lovely blue skies as we wandered around the lighthouse grounds and they had just made scones so we all had them for lunch.

We arrived early for the boat and were ferried out to it in a runabout and the crew made us welcome. We were soon off along the coast heading into Flinders Bay to where they had seen whales earlier. It wasn't long before they found one of the two white calf southern right whales in Australia. The 12 week old 'baby' weighed in at about 4 tonnes and it's estimated to drink 400 litres of milk a day. They stopped the boat and we drifted just next to the calf and its mother who was so relaxed she rolled over on her back and went to sleep. She was drifting there with her pectoral fins out of the water as the baby cavorted across her. We had about 25 minutes watch-





ing this before we headed off into deeper water to find some humpbacks.

About 30,000 of these migrate to the Kimberley each year which is twice what they get on the east coast. They proved a bit harder to

find but our skipper knew what to look for and I was lucky enough to snap a photo of one breaching (see below). We only saw a few more in the distance before it was time to head back.

We all thought the cruise was well worth doing as we never expected to be as close as what we were.

Back to the caravan park for a short while and we went to the Karri-dale tavern for dinner as it had been recommended and again the food was good and plentiful.

We had talked about going into Hamelin Bay on the way home on Sunday but it had started drizzling and everyone was keen to get home so we headed up Sues road and then joined an unusual amount of traffic for the drive home up the freeway.

David

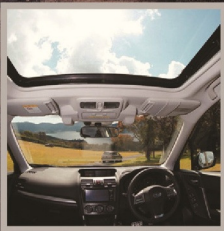




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TRIP & SOCIAL REPORTS

Breakaway Getaway Overview – Keith Wilcox July 2014

This was to be the third expedition to the Lake Rason area in the Western end of the Great Victoria Desert (GVT) led by Ian Johnson. The first used 'Heavyweights' to explore the area in 2012. The following year was the 'Forester Foray' with all participants driving Foresters and following the original track with a few variations. The 2014 trip was to be the same route but in the reverse direction. My particular interest in going to this area was to see the birds. I have recently become more interested in bird photography so was interested to see some of the species living in the GVT not seen in the Perth environs.

Nina had planned a mouth-watering menu, had bought all the ingredients, vacuum packed the meat and numbered all the items (including the vegetables) for each nights meal before distributing them between the four cars. Excellent job, thanks Nina.

Three vehicles crewed by Ian & Nina, Dave & Tony and Jim & myself met at the designated starting point. The weather was fine and sunny but cool as was to be for most of the trip. We left a little late and missed out on the Bakers Hill bakery (thanks Dave & Tony) as we were to meet the last crew Simon & Jon at Meckering. After an uneventful journey we arrived in plenty of time to set up camp at a nature reserve near Coolgardie.

Next morning Jim & I left a little earlier to catch up for coffee with Jim's daughter Judy in Kalgoorlie. Regrouping we made Leonora for lunch. I had wanted to get a photo of a Wedge-tailed Eagle on the side of the road with some road kill. Although a couple were spotted by the time



TRIP & SOCIAL REPORTS

we had slowed down to get close enough they had flown off and I did not get a decent shot. Sunday night was spent at the Laverton caravan park and a trip to the hotel was made for drinks and a roast dinner which quality was good but quantity was poor. As possible compensation the manager gave us two bottles of wine for free plus a soft drink for Dave which was appreciated. Tony chatted up the Irish bartender and managed to get a senior's discount for two more bottles of wine for the trip.

The real start of the adventure began on Monday. Following the gravel road South East we joined a mining road for quite a few km's before turning onto the Rason Lake road due east. A few kangaroos and our first camel were spotted along with an old near hairless dingo which looked to be on its last legs. The desert as like most Australian deserts is not just red sand but a profusion of trees, shrubs, flowers and spinifex. Ian and Nina gave a running commentary for the whole trip on the flora we were seeing and the Geology of the areas we were travelling through. The magnificent huge marble gum is found nowhere else on the planet than the GVT according to Ian. We visited a Gnamma which had water in it not a Gnamma Hole as I was told by Tony. (*Gnamma is a rock hole, capable of holding water, formed by weathering*). Nearby I saw some Zebra Finches. Camping in the bush the first night we were treated to a great desert vista and a fantastic sunset.

The crew soon got into a routine with Simon & Jon getting up at dawn, rekindling the fire and getting the billy on. Dave & Tony seem to get up next with Tony tasked to do the minimum and maximum temperatures. Dave tended to dig the hole for the fire and cover it over prior to our departure. Usually Jim got up before me as I lay in waiting for the sun to warm up a bit! Finally Ian & Nina made an appearance and the sound of coffee being ground was heard. We tended to leave around 8.45am as time was not an issue.

On the way again a Brown Falcon was spotted which was very cooperative and I got a good close-up shot with my zoom lens. The



Brown falcon



Mulga Parrot



Little Wood Swallows



Western Bower Bird

track was hardly recognisable with our fearless leader out of the car walking out a route roughly following the previous year's plot now partially overgrown. Large puff balls were seen which when opened were shown to be bright olive green with yellow seeds.

After a half days drive we arrived at Squid Lake just at the north eastern end of Lake Rason. The lake had been name by Ian after the first trip as it resembled the shape of a Squid when viewed on Google earth. I soon discovered the birds out here were not easy to photograph as probably due to the lack of people they flew off at the least bit of movement. I did however get a few shots around the campsite of Yellow-throated Miners and Striated Pardalotes which are common in this area. The lake itself was dry and covered with saltbush and after a short drive later in the afternoon Ian took us to an area overlooking Lake Rason which had some interesting patterns on the huge dry salt lake.

The following day we drove back to the Lake Rason road and continued on it east. Lake Rason shack was visited which was being used by some camel shooters we bumped into yesterday. I left a Subaru 4WD Club sticker on the corrugated iron interior to go with the dozens of other stickers that were affixed. Later in the morning we stopped at a small lake adjacent to the main lake which happened to have water in it. Although very saline it attracted some Hardhead ducks and one lonely Red-capped Plover. (to be continued next month)

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