

**Note: New meeting venue and time**

February 2018



## ***SUBARU 4WD NEWS***

Meetings of  
THE SUBARU 4WD CLUB of WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.  
are usually held

At 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month in the

**John McGrath Pavilion, South Perth**

**Enter off Hensman St, between Sandgate St and Allen St**

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 OF W.A. INC.

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### 2017/2018 COMMITTEE

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Travis Maskey	<b>0422 815 737</b>	Joanne Norton <b>0411 151 024</b>
Alex Tayler	<b>0439 929 373</b>	Jim Wilcox <b>0419 040 969</b> comm@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
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<b>PROPERTY OFFICERS:</b>	Tony Richards & Jim Wilcox	
<b>ENVIRONMENT OFFICER:</b>	Joy Unno	<b>0429 374 709</b> environment@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au
<b>SOCIAL MEDIA:</b>	Jason Moore	<b>0423 088 587</b>

***Club member of the Year 2017-2018:*** Adrian Longwood

***Life members:*** Fred Offer, Keith Anderson, Jonel Householder, Ray Stewart, Ian Johnson, Peter Andruskiw, Ron Counce and Jim Wilcox

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



### Hello Everyone!

It's all happening early this year! We've had a hurdle as a change of venue is required. The Rotary Hall we have been using the past few years has served us well but will be demolished. The replacement facility around the corner (literally) is the newly-built John McGrath Pavilion, see the cover, and further Page 3 for details. With the room change, and other groups' bookings already in place, we also had to change our night, to be the second Wednesday of every month. That lands on **Valentine's Day** this February, so please come along and spend a romantic evening with the club. Thanks to Tony and the committee for organizing the room change.



The recent beach run turned out to be a steaming hot day, with my car very unhappy with the 40 degree temps, but we all enjoyed the gentle easterly winds that left the water really flat and inviting all day long. Swimming was a delight. Some chose to fish, others were happy to relax and take pictures. Whatever it was, fun was had!

*Heat, and wind means soft sand, does that also mean people got stuck too?*



Australia Day long weekend pics have started appearing on the Facebook page, and looks like it was a great adventure! Come along to hear about all they got up to. Led by Travis, the rain whisperer, it's sure to have been a wet and wild excursion.

Looking ahead we have a night planned at **Ranger Outdoors Bentley, for the March meeting, Wednesday night on the 14<sup>th</sup>**. I repeat, discount night at Ranger Outdoors! This is not a drill. Discounts and product demo's on the night. Meeting will be moved forward to **7pm** on the premises (Albany Highway).

The long weekends and mid-year trips are being well planned, and I encourage you to see what's coming and plan early, as well as the great day trips and socials in the mix. Some places require numbers for booking so make it easy for our trip leaders and get your names down early or let them know if you need to cancel. Thanks to Travis for running the last meeting in my absence, as I was away in Busselton having a really good holiday. I'm back on board so I look forward to seeing you in the new premises at 7.30 on Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup>. **The Pres, Adrian Longwood.**

**TRIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT**



We had some problems on the beach run with overheating cars as we had a slight tailwind and the temperature was in the high 30's and the cars were under load with the soft sand. My normal fuel consumption is around 7.3 litres/100 km (2010 diesel) and on the 20km trip up the beach I averaged 19.6 litres/100 km. A group of us left early at Preston Beach and one of

the participants had problems with their clutch and limped home to Perth. Interestingly it was found that the dual range selector had been bumped and was not in either high or low which caused the problem.

With all the long weekends at this time of year this is prime camping time for the club. We have a good range of trips coming up, with some at the beach some in the bush and some just relaxing. As some of these require booking the campsites in advance it would be appreciated if people could put their names on the website early so we can make the booking. We may need to close the trips off due to the number of cars as for some trips it is hard to find camp sites for a large number of vehicles.

Cheers  
David



**New venue, new night for Club meetings**

The old Rotary Hall is being demolished and we have had to move our meeting place and change the night we meet.

We now meet in the **John McGrath Pavilion**, just behind Rotary Hall. Enter off Hensman Street between Sandgate and Allen streets.

**Meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.**

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TRIP PROMOTIONS/INFORMATION

## Julimar forest night drive.

February 10, 5pm onward

On this Saturday trip, we will be heading out for a night drive north of the Avon River in the Julimar state forest.

We have done this trip during the day previously but for a change we thought we would try it at night. For those who have not driven on dirt tracks in the dark, this is a good opportunity to learn how to do it safely.

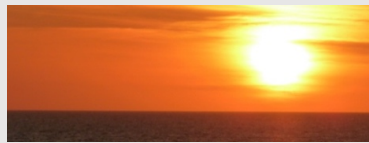
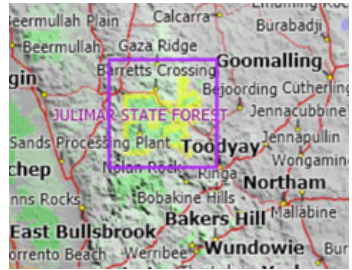
The plan is to meet at 5pm at Gingers Roadhouse, 1383 Great Northern Highway, Upper Swan then to travel in convoy to Blackboy Ridge, where we will stop for a picnic dinner. There are toilets and picnic tables available. Whether we can use gas stoves will depend on any fire restrictions in place at the time, so if you want to be sure of a hot dinner bring it along already heated. Otherwise just bring a cold picnic.

After dinner we will continue along forestry tracks through the lovely Wandoo forest – which take on a very special character when lit by headlights. There are options for people to leave earlier by taking one of several roads heading back to Great Northern Highway. Just check with the group leader before leaving. We will be finishing the trip in the Avon Valley national park where there is a campsite available for those who want to stay the night, but no campfires will be permitted.

**Meet at:** Gingers Roadhouse, Great Northern Highway, on 10<sup>th</sup> February at 5pm

**Bring:** a radio, a full tank of fuel, food and drink. Some basic recovery gear too, would be a good precaution.

**Contact:** David Peck on 0402 177 886



### Swim and Sunset

Sunday 18 February 20

Pack a picnic or grab something to eat at one of the cafés and join us from 4.30pm for dinner as we watch the sunset over the ocean at City Beach.

Meet on the grassed area to the north of the cafés at City Beach.

Have a splash in the waves if it's warm or just admire the view.

**Contact:** Jo Norton 0411 151 024

TRIP PROMOTIONS/INFORMATION

## Loafing at The Left Bank

Saturday 17 March, 8 am onwards

Join fellow Club members for a lazy Saturday morning brekky with views of the Swan River at The Left Bank. Club guests welcome.



The breakfast menu has something for everyone: carnivores (e.g. The Big Breakfast), gluten free (e.g. Smoked Salmon Stack), & vegetarian (e.g. Honey Roasted Muesli)

<https://www.leftbank.com.au/breakfast-menu/>

This is a very popular social so join up on the website or call **Joy on 0429 4737 09** to secure a place



**15 Riverside Road, East Fremantle**

## Beautiful Bremer Mark II

Good Friday 30  
March to Easter  
Monday 2 April  
2018

Let's go explore the Bremer Bay region again for Easter –

hopefully with less water than last time, when much of the beautiful Fitzgerald River National



Park nearby was closed to us. The consolation was some fun puddles on the roads we did get to drive down and a bit of fishing. **Location:** Tozer's Bush Camp. **What to Bring:** There is a full camp kitchen and ablution facilities. All sites are unpowered so all camping gear is required. Basic recovery gear would be handy. **Contact Jo Norton.**

TRIP PROMOTIONS/INFORMATION

## Finska World Championship returns April 14

It's on again!! Get your game face – or your game tail – back on for the annual Finska World Championship.

Yes, it's back! And yes, it's bigger! Last year Stephan took out both the championship trophy and the bung chuck. Will he be able to defend his titles this year, or will he buckle under the pressure of the long list of contenders? Will the likes of Ray, Adrian and Travis step up? Or will it be one of the many dark horses that are lurking on the side lines who will snatch it from out of no where? You'll have to come down and find out.



*Will the World Champion out-think the opposition again? Will he win the 'bung chuck' to confuse the contenders? The stakes are high, so give it a try.*

Stephan “Philosoraptor” Millett says: “Bring it on!”.

You will need to be a member to enter this event.

It all kicks off at 10. We'll draw out names for the knock out stage, then have a warm up game. First two to reach 50 in each game go through to the final. We should crown our winner about 1. Bring along your lunch, drinks, sun screen, hat and chair. And attach a fancy tail to your rear if you dare.

Where will it be? It has to be secret for now to protect those who plan to wear fancy dress tails [For dress code, see Travis or Katie Maskey or Jo Norton]

As more details come to hand they will be added.

Finska is an ancient game from Finland where players toss a stick at numbered skittles. If you can throw a stick and at least one of you can add up then you can play Finska.





TRIP PROMOTIONS/INFORMATION

**Back roads to Albany 21 – 25 April**

One of the WA 4WD Association delegates has plotted out the back roads and forestry tracks from Mundaring to Albany and the distance between the way points is 820 km!

The plan is to take 4 days to get to Albany with bush camping on the way. We want to be in an Albany caravan park



*Photo: <http://anzacalbany.com.au/anzac-day-2018/>*

Tuesday night so people can attend the Albany ANZAC Day dawn service on Wednesday if they wish.

Depart Saturday 21st April 9am. Bring: Radio, full tank of fuel, camping gear, food & drink.

Not suitable for camper trailers or caravans. No pets as we will be in some national parks **Contact: David Peck on 0402 177 886**

**Call for interest in Canning Stock Route work**

Track Care WA wants expressions of interest for two Canning Stock Route projects between May 19 and June 16 this year. The first project is to build a double dunny at Well 33 (May 19-June 2), and the second is a single dunny at Well 41 (June 3-June 16).

The expression of interest form is on Track Care's website

(<http://www.trackcare.com.au/projects/csr/>).

**Yeagarup weekend**

**Sat 3 – Mon 5 March**

We are heading back to Yeagarup for the **March long weekend.**

Yeagarup Hut is located around 45min drive from Pemberton township, on the south side of the Yeagarup Dune system; the

largest landlocked dune system of their type in the Southern Hemisphere.

From the hut it is an 8km 4WD drive to the Southern Ocean and the mouth of the Warren River. The hut has a large communal dining area, toilets and hot water.

Sign up on the Trips page

TRIP PROMOTIONS/INFORMATION

## Logue Brook Dam overnighter 5-6 May

We will travel to Logue Brook Dam via Dwellingup and Hoffmans Mill then camp overnight at the Parks and Wildlife Logue Brook Campground.

From our meeting point, we will head to Dwellingup for morning tea and then head south on either the Murray River Fireline if it is open or, if not, Nanga



Road through to Hoffmans Mill and Logue Brook.

We will be travelling through Lane Poole Reserve. Entry fees apply - \$13 per vehicle (\$7 per vehicle for concession card holders). It will cost nothing if you have a National Parks Pass.

It will be a leisurely drive, stopping to look at points of interest. We will be using established forest tracks and, provided the weather is reasonable and there is not a lot of water around, I expect the driving will be easy. The trip is therefore suitable for drivers of all skill levels.

Logue Brook campsite has (non-flush) toilets. There is a camp kitchen with a BBQ plate, picnic table and benches. Bring your own water. The campsite is adjacent to the Lake Brockman Tourist Park which has a café which serves breakfast and lunch, but not dinner.

Fees are: \$11 adult, \$3 for a child over 5 and free for under 5s. **You will need to book your own camp site. The number to ring is 9733 5402** and that gets you through to the Logue Brook Tourist Park who take the bookings. I have booked Site 10 in the Karrak area (ask Tony for a site map) and they are aware that I am part of a group – Subaru 4WD Club of WA.

There are only 12 tent sites available in Karrak and they are on split levels so the tent is set up below (on a sandy pad) and the car is parked above. If you want to bring a camper, you will need to book a site elsewhere in the campground. On Sunday, we will head out to South Western Highway and home.

**Contact: Tony Richards on mobile 0414 224 734**

### 4WD Gathering

The annual 4WD Association Gathering will be held in Kalgoorlie from June 2 to June 4. Check the Trips page for up to date information on where events will take place.

TRIP PROMOTIONS/INFORMATION

# Gander at Googs, frolic in Flinders, gawk at Gawler

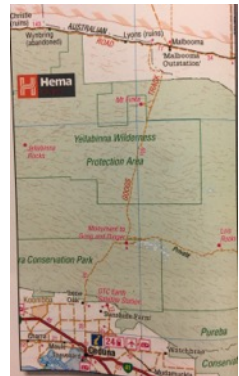
June 16- July 8

This three-week trip navigates the Nullarbor, gallivants on Googs Track from Ceduna to the Trans Australia rail line before frolicking in the Flinders Ranges and, on the way home, having a gawk at the Gawler Ranges.



*Part of the Flinders Ranges*

We depart from the Lakes Roadhouse east of Perth, heading for Norseman via Hyden and the Hyden-Norseman road. We camp just before Norseman before heading to the Nullarbor where we will camp near Mundrabilla. On the third day we will get to Ceduna where we will stay overnight. The next day we head north up Googs Track, a track across desert dunes that run largely east-west. A sand flag is required. We will camp two nights on the Track before heading for Port Augusta via Glendambo and the Stuart Highway.



*Googs Track*

## Co-drivers needed

This trip covers remote areas and, for safety, as many cars as possible should have co-drivers. If you are interested in co-driving on this trip, please contact **Stephan Millett** or **David Peck**.

We will overnight two nights in Port Augusta, to re-provision and clean up, then head up to Hawker, the Outback Highway and Copley and from there to Arkaroola in the north Flinders. We will stay in and explore Arkaroola four nights before moving south to the Wilpena Pound area for another three nights.

On leaving the Flinders Ranges we head again to Port Augusta via Hawker, fuel up and head across the Eyre Peninsula, spending two days in the Gawler Ranges before crossing the Eyre Highway at Poochera to head to Streaky Bay for a day on the coast before heading back across the Nullarbor, then to Perth via

Norseman and Kalgoorlie. We should be back in Perth on July 7, with a day up our sleeves for the trip back. The above can be changed by group agreement.

**Contact: Stephan Millett (text on 0405221845).**

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# SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWS

## CLUB CALENDAR

<b>February 2018</b>						
<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>S</b>
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

**Tue 6:** Committee Meeting  
**Sat 10:** Night Drive through Julimar Forest  
**Wed 14:** General Meeting at John McGrath Pavilion  
**Sun 18:** Swim and Sunset, Fish & Chips at City Beach

<b>March 2018</b>						
<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>S</b>
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Sat 3-Mon 5:** Yeagarup Hut  
**Tue 6:** Committee Meeting  
**Wed 14:** General Meeting at Ranger Outdoor, Bentley  
**Sat 17:** Breakfast at the Left Bank  
**Fri 30-Mon 2:** Easter at Tozer's near Bremer Bay -

<b>April 2018</b>						
<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>S</b>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**Tues 3.** Committee meeting  
**Wed 10.** Club meeting  
**Fri 30-Mon 2:** Easter at Tozer's near Bremer Bay  
**April 14.** Finska World Cup  
**April 21-April 25:** Albany run

SUBARU 4WD CLUB OF W.A. INC.

CLUB CALENDAR

May 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**Tues 1.** Committee meeting  
**Sunday 5-6.** Logue Brook overnighter  
**Wed 9.** Club meeting  
**Sat 20.** Soccer golf Wembley

June 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**June 2-4.** 4WD Assn. Kalgoorlie.  
**Tues 5.** Committee  
**Wed 13.** Club meeting  
**June 16-July 8.** Googs Track, Flinders and Gawler ranges.

**SCHOOL AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2018**

**School Holidays:** April 14 - April 29; June 30-July 15; September 22-October 7; December 14-February 3 (2019)

**Public holidays:** March 5 & 30, April 2 & 25, June 4, September 24, December 24, 25, 26

**UPCOMING TRIPS . Longer trips:** June 16 – July 8 Flinders Ranges and Goog’s Track; August Credo; August Purnululu.

## TRIP PROMOTIONS/INFORMATION



*Photo courtesy of TripAdvisor*

### **Purnululu peregrination**

**22 July – 18 August**

Purnululu National Park is one of the world's most spectacular places. This World Heritage site – home of the Bungle Bungle Range – is in the East Kimberley about 300km south of Kununurra.

We will be in the Purnululu NP for about five days and will take five (longish) days to get there (WA is a BIG state!). After the long drive, the focus is on the Kimberley and its many attraction of scenery and adventure. There will be as many 2-4 night camps as will fit. Bush camping where possible and caravan parks to freshen up.

You will have the option to join, depart or diverge from the trip. This may be attractive on the way back for those who cannot get the whole four weeks' leave. Out of the way places will be highlights. Let us know your available dates. It's a long trip, but not rated as an expedition so unmodified Subarus will be ok with a bit of preparation - some compulsory. No restrictions on numbers (yet), but 9 cars / 14 people have signed or expressed their interest. New members are welcome. There are already several solo cars who will welcome a passenger. As with all long-distance and remote trips, for safety's sake, two drivers per car is preferred.

**Please contact Ian Johnson, Nina McLaren or Trip Coordinator David Peck for a detailed overview and itinerary.**

## TRIPS AND SOCIAL REPORTS

### Israelite on Bight. Saturday 14 October, 2017

**Day 1** – I allowed plenty of time to get to the meeting spot. However, I didn't allow for the fact that I would drive straight past it, because I was looking for it on the wrong side of the road! And this was despite that fact that Dave called Ian on the radio to say that he thought he saw him going the wrong way – the problem was however that Dave did not know I had a new car so mistook me for Ian! Anyway, got there in the end, just a little late. The others were waiting for Ian as he checked out a potential battery problem, which turned out not to be a problem at all.

At the meeting spot were Ian, Nina, Dave, Daniel and Jason and Julia Moore with their young son, Nathan. Keith Wilcox was travelling with me but, because of his daughter Teleah's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party on Saturday night, which he did not want to miss, he would not be joining me until



*Julia and Nathan in Brookton.*

Sunday. I would pick him up off the Transwa bus in Esperance and we would join the group on Tuesday, after a night in Esperance and another night at Poison Creek looking for Western Ground Parrots.

The weather was good (mostly sunny) and we all left the meeting spot shortly after the appointed departure time, with me as tail. Our first stop was at Brookton for morning tea, by which time the weather had cleared up and produced a fabulous, bright, sunny day. From Brookton, we headed on past the Corrigin dog cemetery and then through Corrigin and Kondinin, with Nathan looking for (spotting) sheep, kangaroos and emus as we went.

Just out of Kondinin, we took a left turn onto Cemetery Road, hoping to be able to stop for lunch at Woorkakanin Rock. However, there was no access to the Rock, so we found a shady spot on the side of the road for the purpose.

**Continued p.16.**



**TRIPS AND SOCIAL REPORTS**

**From p.15.** After lunch there was more driving. Our destination for the night was Ravensthorpe, so we still had a way to go. Distance travelled so far was 330kms. Our next stop was at Hyden to take on fuel. After fuelling up, we pushed on towards Ravensthorpe. However, there was a very small hiccup, as Ian sailed past the Lake King turn-off we were meant to take. After a quick U-turn, we were back on track.



The driving conditions were good and the kilometres passed quickly. As always, the scenery was varied and interesting. However, what was very quickly noticeable was the amount of water around – lakes and dams were filled and there was even water pooled on the side of the road.

We stopped at Lake King for afternoon tea, around 2.30. The stop was shady and the temperature was quite warm. Very pleasant you might think, but you did need to watch out for the mossies, which were ferocious, taking blood from both Daniel and Dave. From Lake King our next/final stop would be Ravensthorpe, some 72kms further on.

We arrived at Ravensthorpe around 3.30, with plenty of time to set up camp in good weather. We stayed at the Green Haven Tourist Park, on green grass adjacent to a dam. The facilities were reasonable and the water in the showers was hot. There was an honour box for fees as the owners/managers were not in attendance.

For dinner, we all went to the Ravensthorpe Palace Hotel and large plates of food (including enormous lamb shanks chosen by Ian) were consumed by all. **Tony Richards**

**Mag contributions**

Please send magazine contributions to [editor@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au](mailto:editor@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au)

Contributions are welcome on any Club-related topic.

Send Word documents. Include pictures at the end of the document, or as a clearly labelled separate file.

Include your name and captions for photos.

Thank you. **Stephan Millett.**

## TRIPS AND SOCIAL REPORTS

### Israelite on Bight. Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October

**Day 2** - The car burn-outs close to our Ravensthorpe Caravan Park continued till 2:30am, keeping some people awake [apparently it's a monthly event approved by the town and Police]. It was a clear night and not too cold. All of us were up by 6am and packed up and ready to go by just after 7.

We stopped for morning tea under a gazebo full of Welcome Swallows at a roadside area overlooking Stokes Inlet, then continued into Esperance, where Nathan had a play in the sand whilst the rest of us refuelled. Ian ended up being overcharged and it took a while to get a refund - what a giant bungle at the cash register! We left Tony as he was picking Keith up tomorrow who was due by bus after Teleah's birthday.



We stopped at Condingup for a final fuel top-up before heading east on Fisheries Road.

Once we entered Cape Arid National Park the road changed dramatically and we stopped to let some air out of the tyres, as it was sandy, corrugated and had some deep gutters in places plus many 'chicken tracks'.



We stopped at the intersection of the track to 'Diamonds Hill' and met some locals travelling from Israelite Bay who gave us updated track conditions. The temperature was 32°.

Further down the track Ian saw a couple of emus standing in separate puddles. When we got to the crossroads at Gora Road there was a washaway that must have been a metre deep. Off we went on foot looking for a way around as there were a number of chicken tracks. In the bottom of the wash away there were large abalone shells - an illegal fishing feast?

We found the right track and as we started up we were met by a tag a-long convoy by <http://www.4wdingaustralia.com/> which must have had 10 vehicles in it. They gave us an encouraging update on the track to Balladonia which is the way we wanted to head out later. **Continued p.18.**

### TRIPS AND SOCIAL REPORTS

**From p.17.** A little way up the track the vegetation changed to a wooded area at Toogle-Jenna which looked a good spot to camp as it was a bit more



sheltered from the wind that had been increasing during the day, but fires are prohibited.

David found that half a carton of milk had leaked from a hole and puddled under the spare wheel - luckily we were stopped for camp early enough to pull everything

out and clean it up.

Ian and Nina did lamb chops (on the stove), mash and salad for dinner and we sat around admiring the stars and looking for satellites. **David Peck**

### Israelite on Bight. 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**Day 3.** It was a Lazy morning for most, but our toddler was up at 5am with the birds. After collecting firewood from the beautiful old woodlands around the campsite of Toogle Jenna we departed around 9am.

Travelling down Gora Road we first stopped at the site of the rare eucalypts Nina was recording. It was a botanist's heaven, with a beautiful fern like grevillea and many of my new favourite wildflower from the trip, 'Pixie mops' - one of many Petrophile species.

We headed on the western side of Lake Daringdella, hoping that the heavyweights from the day before had made the track easier not harder, and stopped for a leisurely and long morning tea at the telegraph station. The

grave sites were occupied by three head stones and one beautifully-dressed with tulips that had sprung to life. The telegraph station had been repaired at some point and was much larger than expected. Ian guided us to the jetty at Israelite Bay with a beach that was disguised with seaweed. Lunch at the



first Israelite campsite, but with the heat roaring and the less than desirable campsite the trip leaders **Continued p.19.**

## TRIPS AND SOCIAL REPORTS

**From p.18.** took the gamble and. decided to travel to Point Malcolm. We drove southwest, with the ocean on one side and the lake on our right. We came across our first lot of mud driving – about 150m – and crossed it without incident. We arrived at 3:30 at a much nicer campsite and only 20 metres away the beach. Our local campsite guide, stated that he “always came here, much better and not as busy with people from Kalgoorlie”. After sunset he popped in offering us fresh sea mullet – next morning’s breakfast! **Julia Moore**

### Israelite on Bight – Poison Creek Escapade.

Sunday 15 and Monday 16 October, 2017

When Ian announced his proposal to lead a trip to Israelite Bay, Keith and I quickly saw this as an opportunity to do some birding on the side and look for the endangered Western Ground Parrot (*Pezoporus flaviventris*), near Poison Creek in Cape Arid National Park. We did not expect to actually get a photo of one, but we did hope to hear them call. We therefore asked Ian if we could take time out of the trip to look for the bird and he was supportive.



After picking Keith up from the Esperance TransWA bus stop on Sunday, the plan was to stay in Esperance that night and then head out to Poison Creek on Monday, camp over at Poison Creek and then meet up with the rest of the group on Tuesday at Point Malcolm. On the way into and out of Poison Creek, we would be stopping to look for the parrot in low in dense heathlands, which is where they live. western ground parrot is an endangered species endemic to Western Australia and is a close relative of the eastern ground parrot and the somewhat more distantly related and mysterious night parrot. It is one of the world’s rarest birds.

On Monday morning, after looking for Cape Barren Geese at the Golf Club (I didn’t see any the whole time I was there) and then stopping at Woody Lake Nature Reserve on the way out of Esperance for a few photos of local birds, we continued on to Condingup where we topped up on fuel and had a very pleasant morning tea, complete with cakes, at the tavern. I must say that the

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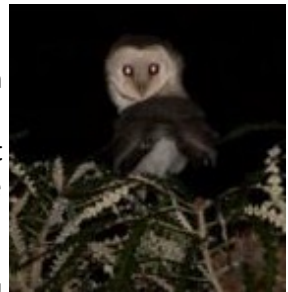
## TRIPS AND SOCIAL REPORTS

**From p. 19** tavern morning tea experience was very good and I would certainly visit again. We were served personally by the owner, who has 9 kids! From Condingup, we continued on down Fisheries Road, turning right at Baring Road and then on to Poison Creek Road. Once on Poison Creek Road, we began looking for the ground parrots. Despite stopping many times to wander into the heathlands either side of the road, looking for the parrot, we did not see a single example of the species. However, we do believe that we heard a number of the birds calling, which was certainly encouraging. We arrived at the Poison Creek campsite at the end of the road mid/late afternoon. While there was plenty of water in the creek, the creek mouth was not open. After setting up our tents back up the road a bit, as there were already a number of campers down by the water's edge, we wandered up and down the beach: there were few birds but the sunset was an incredible show of orange and yellow.



When it got dark we drove back along Poison Creek Road, stopping to listen for Ground Parrot calls. We didn't hear any parrots, but Keith got a good shot of a barn owl. The first shot in low light was poor, but a shot with flash worked – an excellent effort in the circumstances! “Meeting” the Barn Owl was most unexpected.

Long after we had retired and after some earlier rain we were hit by some very strong winds that had both our tents shaking violently; the centre pole on my tent collapsed and with it the tent. I had to wait for the wind to subside before fixing it. In the morning, somewhat short on sleep, we managed to get a photo



of a Tawny-crowned Honeyeater and Pied Butcherbird. Then we packed up camp and headed back to Fisheries Road. The trip east along Fisheries Road was a bit of an adventure, but more on that from another scribe in the group. The highlight for us was a good patch of birding with sightings of a White-fronted Chat, Rufous Fieldwren and Southern Emu Wren. **Tony Richards**

## Product Report – Battery pack

I was given a Battery pack which is capable of starting your car and powering phones and gadgets via a USB connection. It comes in a kit and is packaged in a zipped bag which is small enough to fit under the front seat. We got it from a motoring shop and it was about \$130.

It has a lithium ion battery which rated at 1200 mAh which can put out a peak jump start current of up to 400 amps yet it is only about 160mm x 75mm x 28mm and weighs 430g. It has a 12 volt outlet with 'jumper leads' to attach to the car battery. There is a warning that the battery pack should be



removed within 30 seconds of the car starting because it is not capable of taking the charge from the cars alternator. I have used it to start half a dozen vehicles and it has worked on most of them but if the cars battery is dead flat it was unable to provide enough power.

### UHF radios and club trips

New members should note that UHF radios are required for all club trips. They can be hired for a small fee from the club by indicating that you need a radio when you sign up for a trip, by contacting the trip leader for your trip, or by contacting the Trips Coordinator:

[trips@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au](mailto:trips@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au)

It also has a USB outlet and a variety of connectors to fit most phones and mini/micro USB plugs. I have made up an adaptor lead to run my 12 volt camp lights and it will keep them running all night.

It is recommended to recharge it every three months and this can be done via a cigarette power plug from your car or the 240 transformer, both of which are provided in the kit.

**David Peck**

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