

January 2020



SUBARU 4WD NEWS

Subaru 4WD Web Site: <http://www.subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au/>

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SUBARU 4WD CLUB of WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.



P.O. BOX 434, SOUTH PERTH, W.A. 6951

Next meeting

South Perth Library 'Mopoke Room'

Corner South Terrace and Sandgate Street, South Perth

Tuesday 14 January, 7.30pm

SUBARU 4WD CLUB OF WA Inc. 2019/2020 COMMITTEE

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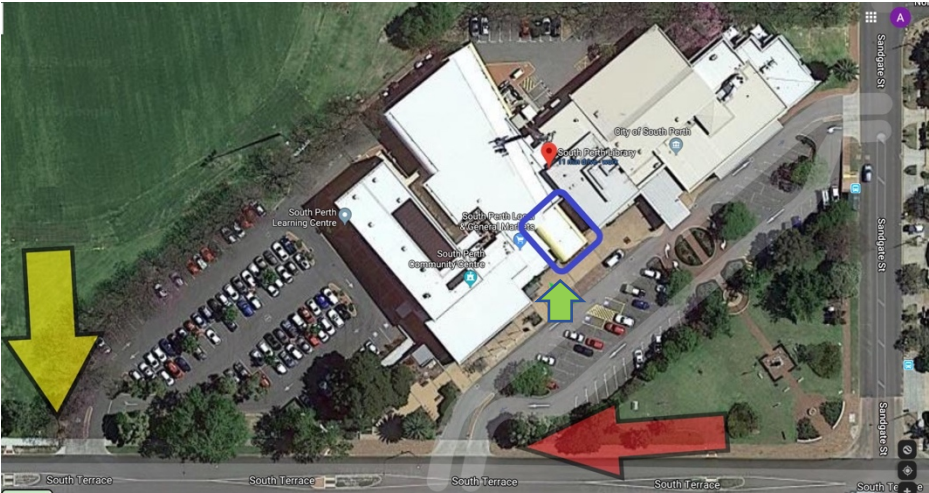
David Peck **0402 177 886**, Jim Wilcox **0419 040 969**, Ross Mead **0417 920 848**, Mark Smithers **0415 954 898**, Karen Eldridge **0412 133 629**

Contact 'all committee' on comm@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au

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	Jim Wilcox	0419 040 969
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SOCIAL MEDIA:	tbc	socialmedia@subaru4wdclub.asn.au

Club member of the Year 2018-2019: Stephan Millett

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



New meeting venue: South Perth Library

We are now meeting each month in the **Mopoke Room** at the City of South Perth Library, at the corner of South Terrace and Sandgate Street . We tried it in December and found it a better room than those of the past year, so we are staying with it. Enter from South Terrace. The blue box in the picture above is where to find the room. The red arrow is to the top carpark, but this may fill up quickly. If it is full, go to the carpark indicated by the yellow arrow. The small green arrow is where to walk in. It is a keycard controlled entry, so we will have someone at the door until the meeting starts. If you are late, knock!

Next meeting
South Perth Library 'Mopoke Room'
Tuesday 14 January, 7.30pm

Hybrids are coming. Subaru Australia has announced release of the Hybrid Forester & XV! If you want more details and to see what they've done, head to **Subaru Osborne Park** or **Subaru Wangara** for details. Both of those club sponsors will happily pass on what they know so far. From press info it's a self-sufficient Hybrid (not plug-in Electric Vehicle 'PHEV') with an electronic motor adding 10% KW~ to the main motor. There is a battery bank in the boot and the spare tyre is replaced with a repair kit.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy New Year and welcome to 2020!

To all members of the Subaru 4WD Club and readers, I hope you've had a wonderful festive season. We were last at Jo's for a Club Christmas party and now we are straight back out and about off road with three trips this month. Please get your names down ASAP if you wish to get on the Wedge Beach day trip or 'the Tending the Tracks alliance' meeting day and launch of the recently-completed Wanagarren Track, between Wedge and Grey. Details are on the website to register.

For our December meeting we tried the 'Mopoke' Meeting room at the South Perth Library. From early reports it was a welcome change and we are now booked to stay there for the year. It's much nicer and has good aircon, a projector – and good acoustics. Parking was okay, but the main carpark does get a little busy, so I strongly suggest using the extra carpark on the South Terrace entrance down the hill from the main entrance. Start time remains at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

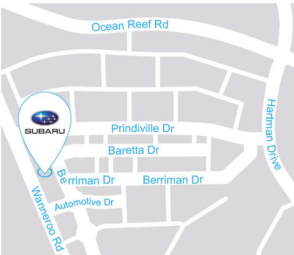
This January meeting we will be holding a **'Members trip-planning meeting'** to discuss and plan most of the trips for the year. We need your suggestions for trip locations and when it's a good time to go. We need also to fit the trips into a timeline, so we can be sure of filling our calendar without clashes and going at the best times. It will be an open discussion for all as **it's your club**. If you have any firm plans or ideas you've already got in mind please send them to Travis Maskey (Trips Coordinator) so he can check how they fit in with other plans and add them to his list. As we move forward through 2020 we have more informative and interactive meetings planned I and hope to see you along to as many meetings as possible. **Cont. p.6**

Ranger Outdoors for Feb meeting

We will be at Ranger Outdoors for the February meeting for a members' night. Don't miss this one, as there are Club-only specials available on the night.

Receive **\$350** worth of **Genuine Subaru Accessories**

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To receive offers members must mention they are Westcycle members at time of bookings or prior to negotiations. Offer excludes Impreza.

TRIPS COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Hi All. Welcome to the new year. I hope that the festive season hasn't taken it out of all of you. This year is already looking jam-packed full of trips, going in all directions. Most of them are on the website, and more are going up all the time. Check it out to see what looks good. Some are remote camp trips and a lot will require a fair bit of prep before you head out, so keep that in mind.

This month we have a run along the coast at Wedge Island on 12 January, then on the Australia Day long weekend we have a site booked at Sid's Camp near Northcliffe. This camp is basic, but has toilets and showers available. Ross will run a day trip from here, including bits of the forest known to few others. There is also likely to be trips to the coast and maybe the chance to do a bit of fishing and swimming. Check out all the info on the website and get your name down. These are great trips to kick off the new year.

Check your cooling system!

At this time of year, extra pressure is put on the car's cooling system. It would be wise to check the coolant levels and hoses. Don't just check the overflow bottle: open the radiator cap and make sure the radiator is full of coolant as well. To check your hoses squeeze them and listen. The hoses are made up of a rubber tube reinforced with nylon threads (usually you can see the threads at the ends). When the threads decay they will snap when the hose is squeezed. This will make a crackling sound. Also, for those with automatic transmissions make sure the automatic transmission fluid lines don't do the same. They should give some resistance, not make the crackling sound like the radiator hoses, and they should not be stiff. A 5-minute check will save a lot of money in the long run. See you all out there. **Travis**



President's report, from p. 4. The Tending the Tracks alliance is evolving and we will be looking at taking on some projects with them to continue the strong partnership we've developed in 2019. We will keep members up to date on what's happening and will discuss what trip options will be available soon. Safe Subaruing! **The Pres. – Adrian Longwood**

do more of the
fun stuff



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FORTHCOMING TRIPS

12 January. Wedge Island Beach Run

18-19 January Jurien. This two-day trip includes driving the Wanagarren Track and a gathering to plan rehabilitation work along the coast.

25 – 27 January. Northcliffe – Sid’s Camp, site booked. This camp is basic, but has toilets and showers available. Ross will run a day trip from here, including bits of the forest known to few others.

9 February. Fish and Chips at City Beach.

28 Feb to 2 March, Tending the Tracks trip to Chingarrup Nature Reserve. This is an especially good trip for families with smaller kids as there are lots of hands-on experiences.

29 Feb to 2 March, Nambung Station Stay. This station has natural sand monuments similar to the Pinnacles. Come along for the snorkelling trail out of Jurien and your own tour of the Nambung ‘pinnacles’.

14 – 15 March, Belvidere Camping – Leschenault National Park. This trip to the ocean side of the Leschenault inlet near Australind has bushland, dunes and a secluded beach.

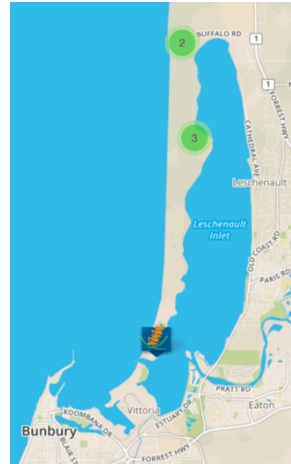
28 March. Finska Cup. If you haven’t played Finska yet, now is your chance. It is a fun game and a great picnic day.

10 – 13 April Murchison House Station, Easter. This is the second time in recent years we will have gone to Murchison House, outside Kalbarri. We will have a camp area to ourselves and access to some great coastal scenery.

9 – 17 May Wheatbelt Wander. This trip, led by Jo Norton, will have us visiting museums and local attractions – the ones we’ve noticed over the years but not taken the opportunity to have a good close look at. A great, relaxing run through nearby country with some good stories to hear and sights to see.

29 May – 1 June 4WD Association Gathering near Bunbury. Lots of people, lots of great trips led by locals who know the good tracks, and a chance to defend the Club’s honour at the Quiz night (we blitzed the quiz at the Karratha Gathering this year).

18 July – 31 July Kimberley Trip, with details to be finalised once those interested put in their requests to trip leader David Peck.



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- \$250 - Intermediate Bush and Sand Course
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Subaru 4WD Club Members receive \$20 discount on all courses. enter "SUB4WDWA" when booking



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- \$13.00 - Shackles 4.75T
- \$29.95 - Digital Tire Gauge
- \$32.00 - Dial Gauge & Deflator
- \$38.95 - Tire Repair Kit
- \$60.00 - Hitch Receiver w/shackle
- \$70.00 - SUV Snatch Strap (6T)
- \$88.00 - Digga 3pc H/D Shovel
- \$239.00 - Shade Awning - 2x2.5m
- \$126.50 - 3pc 2/3m Sand Flag
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- \$350.00 - Max Air III Compressor

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Basic Kit: \$96 \$85

1x 6Ton Snatch Strap. 2x 4.75T Shackles

Regular Kit: \$249 \$199

1x 6Ton Snatch Strap. 2x Dampener Blankets.
2x 4.75T Shackles. 2x 3.25T Shackles. 1x Bridle

Complete Kit \$292 \$230

1x 6Ton Snatch Strap. 2x Dampener Blanket.
2x 4.75T Shackles. 2x 3.25T Shackles. 1x Bridle. 1x Hitch Receiver

Add a bag to any kit for ~\$30

Available Now!



\$70

WAS \$88

*Subaru 4WD Club Members receive 10% discount on RRP. Does not apply to monthly specials.

Turbo hose failures: and how I fixed them

I have had failures of two turbo hoses on my 2010 Forester Diesel. I know of two other club members who have had similar problems.

The first failure was at 124,000 km in January 2016. Driving along at 80/90 in 5th gear the car



would start shuddering going up a slight incline and the fuel consumption had also started to get worse. Backing off the throttle seemed to ease it and it was repeatable in similar circumstances. I found a split in the hose from the intercooler to the throttle body. As it was just before a trip and I didn't have time to get to a Subaru dealer I replaced it with a \$35 aftermarket silicone hose that is 70mm diameter with a 45 degree bend. The intercooler had to be removed to get at the hose but it was a straight forward replacement and all I had to do was trim the silicone hose to the same length as the original. I consider the replacement to be a better part than the original and I would encourage people to do the same.

The second failure was at 139,600 km in September 2016. As I accelerated whilst overtaking on a hill I heard a *pfft* noise and the engine lost power but the car was still driveable. I limped back to the nearest town and had to get the car transported 200km back to Perth. The symptoms



were obviously turbo-related and the fault was found to be the hose from the turbo to the intercooler. The end that is clamped onto the turbo outlet had separated completely.

It appears to be a very poor design as there are 'fingers' on the end of the hose that are clamped to the body of the turbo. The



problem is the fingers are much thinner than the wall thickness of the turbo hose. The end of the hose had broken off the fingers completely, which remained clamped to the body of the turbo along with a cylindrical spacer.

I didn't want to replace the turbo hose with something that appeared bound to fail again so I got a 51mm diameter straight silicone hose and ground down

the outside diameter of the end of the rigid plastic turbo hose until the silicone hose fitted over it and provided a flange for the hose clamp. The spacer was placed back onto the turbo outlet and hose clamps used to secure both ends of the silicone hose.



The third failure was in May 2019 at

202,500 km soon after I had the clutch replaced and the intercooler had been removed, but I don't think that was a contributing factor. I noticed an unusual noise when accelerating.

I pulled the rigid pipe from the turbo to intercooler off and found that the concertina section that is near the intercooler had a split in the bottom of one of the grooves.

I cut the concertina off, leaving the first bulge which I ground down to fit a straight silicone



57mm to 51mm reducer. The reducer was trimmed to length and the 51 mm end was cut at a slight angle to get the clamp to fit nicely. **David Peck**

SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWSLETTER

CLUB CALENDAR

JANUARY 2020						
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	
<p>Tues 14. General meeting</p> <p>Sun 12. Wedge Island beach run.</p> <p>Sat 18-Sun 19. Jurien meeting and coastal track driving</p> <p>Sat 25-Mon 27. Australia Day long weekend, Sid's camp Northcliffe</p>						

FEBRUARY 2020						
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
<p>Tues 4. Committee</p> <p>Sun 9. Fish and Chips at City Beach</p> <p>Tues 11. General meeting: Ranger Outdoor</p> <p>Fri 28-Mon 2 March. Chingarrup family nature experience</p> <p>Sat Feb 29- Mon 2 March. Nambung station stay</p>						

MARCH 2020						
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				
<p>Tues 3. Committee meeting</p> <p>Tues 10. General meeting</p> <p>Sat Feb 29- Mon 2 March. Nambung station stay</p> <p>Fri 28-Mon 2 March. Chingarrup family nature experience</p> <p>Sat 14 - Sun 15. Belvidere Camping: Leschenault NP.</p> <p>Sun 28. Finska Cup</p>						

CLUB CALENDAR

APRIL 2019						
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		

Tues 7. Committee meeting
Easter Fri 10-Mon 13. Murchison House Station
Tues 14. General meeting
Sat 25-Mon 27. Lake Towerrinning.

Quiz: Name the newly-renovated and newly-named track between Wedge and Grey. We can drive it on 18-19 January.

For all your 4WD Subaru tyre and wheel needs, see our friendly sales teams at the following locations:

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Tyrepower



The deserts trip

From 20km east of Kunawarritji to Jupiter Well

19 July, Friday

Today was a fairly short drive towards Jupiter Well which we got to by lunch time. The road was in relatively good condition with some corrugations here and there. We stopped at Gary Junction where four tracks converge, namely Jenkins Track, Gary Highway, Callowa Track and Gary Junction Road. It was marked with a replica of Len Beadell's original plaque.

Another stop was made at a lookout found by Ron on the Gary Junction Road as he was leading at the time. The short track led to a great vista from the top of a breakaway. Gnomey and Deb surveyed the scene together.

As we approached Jupiter Well there were two graders grading the road. This made the surface quite sandy but smooth, but created a lot of dust the next day. A group discussion was held regarding the amount of time required to reach Kiwirrkurra the following morning as it was Saturday and we needed to get to the community before it closed at lunch time so we could get fuel. It was decided to camp at Jupiter Well as planned but leave early in the morning to allow sufficient time to get to Kiwirrkurra and refuel.

Jupiter Well is a lovely spot with stands of desert oak and a hand pump with fresh clear water. After pitching my tent Jason pumped water into a bowl for



Daniel, Jason, David, Keith L, Keith W, Stephan, Ron and Deb at Jenkins Corner

me so I could do some washing. I was the recipient of the wooden spoon that evening for accidentally putting my bowl under the end of the well handle instead of the spout! With the weather warm at about 28 degrees and with a gentle breeze blowing, the washing dried that afternoon.

I had a relaxing afternoon sitting in the shade of the trees reading a book while Keith was off birding in search of the elusive Princess Parrot that can frequent areas of desert oak. Unfortunately, they continued to be elusive.

It was our turn to cook and as I had moved my watch forward to NT time I nearly missed the cue to start. Spaghetti bolognese was served on time, followed by Christmas cake and custard for dessert! Ron had another fun campfire activity in store for us! One of the Queensland members had written words about Subarus to the tune of My Ding-a-Ling! It took us a while to get a hang of the tune but we got there in the end! **Deb Thyne**

My Subaru

When I was a little bitty boy
My Granddaddy bought me a
cute little toy
4WD all shiny and new,
He told me it was my own
Subaru.

Chorus:

My Subaru,
My Subaru,
I want you to play with my
Subaru.
My Subaru,
My Subaru,
I want you to play with my
Subaru.

*There are another six verses!
Ron made it to the Annual
dinner so many of you heard
how the rest of it went.*

Deserts trip

Jupiter Well to Kiwirrkurra

20 July, Saturday

We broke camp at Jupiter Well at 6.45 NT time after a cool night (7 Celsius), as we had to get to Kiwirrkurra for fuel (at \$2.50/litre) before 11am as they close early on Saturday.

It was a very slow and dusty drive, with really poor visibility as there was no wind to blow the dust away and we were driving east into the rising sun, which blinded us. We were spread over 15 km at one stage.

We made it to Kiwirrkurra where we enjoyed a well-stocked store (yes, ice creams!) and had morning tea at the burnt-out Len Beadell ration truck, where Ron showed us a bush coconut complete with the larvae inside. We each tasted the flesh, which looked like coconut but did not taste like coconut – but no-one tasted the larvae.

During today's drive we saw a dingo and a few camels, the latter being around our lunch stop at a well with a working hand pump. We stopped and photographed a number of Len Beadell plaques along the road. We also saw a number of abandoned outstations.



Jason and David get fresh drinking water at Jupiter Well. The end of the handle is where Deb put her jerrycan to be filled, earning her a wooden spoon



Jason and Daniel at Len Beadell's burnt-out ration truck at Kiwirrkurra



Ron and Stephan get into the bush coconut – minus the larvae that creates this eucalyptus gall.

We had an early camp on a clay pan on the WA side of the NT border, where Ron had to take a detour to dodge a low hanging branch over the access track on the way into the campsite and Keith's Subaru started to make a loud grinding noise in the left rear wheel area. It turned out to be a stone that had somehow managed to get between the brake disc and the backing plate.

We had chocolate mud cake for dessert, which Dave had purchased earlier in the day at Kiwirrkurra and toasted marshmallows from Ron.

Ron had made a marshmallow toasting fork, but the handle was a bit short and the heat from the coals meant Ron could not get close enough to toast the marshmallows without using welding gloves. A couple of days earlier while at Punmu, the store manager found part of a hacksaw on the road, and gave it to us thinking either we lost it or the vehicles in front of us had. It was not ours and we did not find the vehicles in front of us to ask. **Cont. p. 18**

A note about Ron

We are (Ron and Glenys Penfold) founding life members of the Subaru 4WD Club of Queensland.

I saw in your club magazine that you were running a 40th anniversary trip across Australia in July/August 2019. I emailed David and asked if I could join you on the trip.

After some discussion I was invited to join the club trip. I don't currently drive a Subaru, as we have a Toyota Hilux with a slide on camper on the back which we use to travel about in a fair bit these days. My wife and I left Brisbane in late June and took three weeks to travel to Karratha via Mt Isa, 3 ways, Top Springs, Halls Creek, part of the Gibb River Road, Wolf Creek meteorite crater, Broome and Tom Price, just on 7500kms. Glenys flew home the Monday morning of the trip leaving Karratha as she has a frail mother and could not be away for more than 3 weeks.

From p. 17 Ron made use of it by extending his marshmallow fork handle and did not need to use gloves anymore.

That night it started to cloud over and the moon rise was behind cloud. The wooden spoon was given to Stephan for losing a spoon in the washing up water. **Ron Penfold**

21 July, Sunday

We broke camp (after 13C overnight) at a reasonable hour of 8am and crossed the border into the NT.

Morning tea was at Sandy Blight Junction and another Len Beadell plaque, lunch was at Lizard bore. We then

drove through the neat and friendly Papunya community, viewed Haast's Bluff, and stopped at the junction with Namatjira Drive and blew our

tyres up. We camped at Redbank Gorge NP campground that night. It was really a nothing sort of a day – unlike the day before – there were a few “dip” jokes about the road conditions, like dip stick, dip shit, skinny dip and avocado dip. During the day Keith Low was having trouble charging a power pack for his laptop and mobile. We later found out the fuse in the cig lighter plug was blown, so Ron lent him a suitable charging plug until a replacement was found in Alice Springs. The wooden spoon went to Keith Low for putting his foot on a paper bag in the fire that morning – the bag contained human waste! **Ron Penfold**



Ron reads the plaque for Frederick Blakely who had an adventurous life, including cycling from White Hills to Darwin, taking part in the first motor car crossing of Australia, pioneering the Coober Pedy opal fields and searching for gold with Lasseter. He worked for many years with the Luritja and Pintupi people, and the Ikuntji community near Haast's Bluff, who erected the plaque. Ngankirritja (Haast's Bluff) is in the background

Deserts trip

Redbank Gorge to Kings Canyon

Deserts trip

22 July, Monday

I had started off in Jason's sleeping bag but I ended changing into my winter sleeping bag in the middle of the night. It was reported to be 2 degrees overnight and luckily there was no wind to make it cooler. The kids in the campground didn't make much noise and I slept in till 7.15 and as I had my beanie pulled down I didn't realise it was bright.

We were all ready by 8.30 and went to Redbank Gorge lookout as it was only a couple of kilometres away. It was a short walk and the sunlight on the gorge walls was good.

It was then onto the bitumen to Glen Helen, with great views of the West MacDonald Ranges, especially on the right which had the sun shining on it. A couple of kilometres short of Glen Helen Daniel ran out of fuel so we stopped to be with him whilst the others carried on. On getting to Glen Helen we refuelled and walked to the gorge, which had water in it that enhanced the photos.

We had morning tea there before heading back the way we came and eventually passed the road we came in on. **Cont. p. 20.**



It was a cold start and not everyone was happy



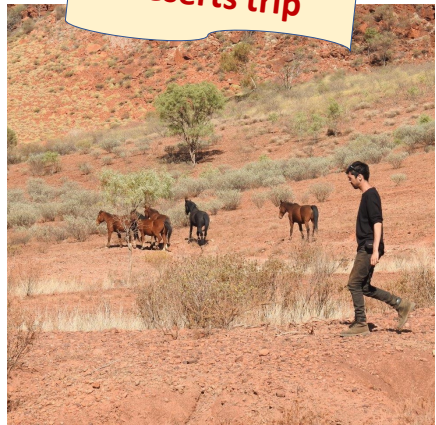
Glen Helen Gorge. A rare stretch of permanent water in the MacDonnell ranges.



Deserts trip

Redbank Gorge to Kings Canyon

From p. 19. The bitumen finished and we were back onto the gravel roads, which were a bit rougher than the ones we had travelled on from the NT border. We stopped at Tyler's lookout which gave us a good view of Gosse Bluff in the distance rising up out of the flat plains. The Bluff is actually the remnants of a meteor crater created millions of years ago.



*Above: Jason gets close to the brumbies.
Top: Gosse Bluff, a meteorite crater, viewed from Tyler's Lookout*

We continued and went into Gosse Bluff for lunch and there were a couple of birds at the picnic area with one coming to Deb's feet when she dropped a crumb. The crew climbed to lookouts within the crater walls before having lunch and at 1pm leaving via the Mereenie Loop road. We continued slowly towards Kings Canyon stopping briefly at the 'Jump-Up' lookout before heading down a zig-zag to get down the hills. There was a lot more traffic here, with vehicles going in both directions and we noted that there were a lot of animal droppings along the edge of the road and speculated what it may be from. I thought it was donkeys as I had seen them here before but we finally found some mobs of horses. Jason wanted a photo, but we missed the first mob so when we saw a second mob we stopped and spent some time trying to get a good photo. **Cont. p. 21**

From p. 20. Farther down the road we stopped at the side of the road for afternoon tea and then made the final dash into Kings Canyon. We checked into the resort and decided to stay for two nights. It was busy and \$80 for an unpowered site. We drove around trying to find the tent camping sites and finally went into a sandy area that had a couple of shelters and set up our tents. We all enjoyed a hot shower and decided to get our own dinners that night. We also congregated on a platform on a slight rise where campground guests went to watch the sunset change the colours on the cliff faces.



Daniel finds a photo opportunity at Gosse's Bluff

Jason wasn't feeling too well and went to bed early, so I only had a tuna wrap for dinner. We sat around doing our trip notes in the shelter and there was a dingo roaming around that walked through a couple of times. Daniel was awarded the wooden spoon for running out of fuel and I was a runner up because if we hadn't gone to the lookout at Redbank Gorge he would have made it to Glen Helen. We did 264km averaging 8.2L per 100km. **David and Jason Peck**

Deserts trip

Kings Canyon: July 23, Tuesday

I got up late this morning as had I read the WA time on my phone and forgot to compensate for NT time. This got me a bit of stick from the others and the wooden spoon. The plan was to do the walk around Kings Canyon, but with my sleep-in and others slow in getting going the sun was higher than we planned by the time we finally got to the Canyon. Most of us opted for the Gorge rim walk. This was the second time in a few years that I had done the walk, but it was still special. There were quite a few people, with some large groups and school kids with their parents. This made each viewing point a bit crowded. There was also not much water in the gorge itself and the 'Garden of Eden' pool was very low. **Cont. p. 22**



Deb takes a break in the 'Garden of Eden' at Kings Canyon

From p. 21 This pool is a sacred pool associated with men's business and although the water was low there was still a feeling that it was a special place. All the visitors seemed respectful there. On getting the crew back to the car park – and bypassing the crowded free wi-fi zone at the entrance – we headed back to the campsite.

I had a welcome shower and Keith and I did some much-needed clothes washing. Then it was time for a bit of lunch and reading in the shade of the sheltered area. We did some running checks and identified a blown fuse inside the power lead of the power

bank. It was soldered in and not fixable with what we had. I would not be able to fix it until I got back to Perth and replaced the cig plug. It was a slow and restful afternoon chilling with a book. We then brought our washing in, packed it away and got ready to go **out** to dinner!



Kings Canyon

We had booked at the resort restaurant as the menu looked good and suited the various dietary needs, but the meal – and the occasion itself – left us a little flat. It was

overpriced and the quality was disappointing. It was, however, still a celebration of a major leg of the trip before we were joined by Jo, Chris, Wayne and Julie in Alice Springs. **Stephan Millett**



Kings Canyon to Alice Springs: July 24, Wednesday.

Today the group split into two for the trip into Alice Springs as some of us had been in the area before and were looking for new sights to see. David, Jason, Keith and I went back up the Mereenie loop to visit Hermannsburg. This mission settlement is an interesting place and has been well preserved as a museum. Perhaps the best known of its residents was the artist Albert Namatjira, whose landscapes of the MacDonnell ranges and the Hermannsburg area earned him privileges denied nearly all other Aboriginal people until after the 1967 Referendum that allowed Aboriginal people to be counted in the census. After a good look around the mission and various art exhibition spaces (including one honouring the work of the extended Namatjira family) we had lunch at the cafe where the family of one of the pastors from 1950s was having a reunion.

I had 4G cover so I found and rang an electronic repair man in Alice Springs who could look at my Hema GPS Navigator which had failed earlier that day. After a fast return on bitumen to Alice we dropped off the Hema with Chris at ElectroFix then did some parts shopping – getting fuses etc and got fresh fish and salad for supper before going to the Heritage caravan park where we had booked shared rooms. Deb had a donga. We ate, talked and went to bed fairly early. The next day the two cars coming direct from Perth would be in Alice and we would head for the Simpson Desert the day after. **Stephan Millett**

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