

AUGUST 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 August 11

Mopoke Room, South Perth Library
or by *Zoom* online

SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

PRESIDENT:	Adrian Longwood	0424 723 558
	president@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au	
SECRETARY:	Deborah Thyne	0420 791 762
	secretary@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au	
TREASURER:	Joy Unno	0429 374 709
	treasurer@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au	
SOCIAL ORGANISER:	Joanne Norton	0411 151 024
	social@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au	
TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR:	Travis Maskey	0422 815 737
	trips@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au	
EDITOR:	Stephan Millett	0405 221 845
	editor@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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

MERCHANDISE:	David Peck	0402 177 886
WEBMASTER:	Rob Griffiths	0411 249 933
	Jim Wilcox	0419 040 969
4WD ASSOC DELEGATES:	Adrian Longwood	0424 723 558
	Keith Low	0407 477 980
MEMBERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR:	Ross Mead	0417 920 848
	membership@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au	
PROPERTY OFFICER:	Tony Richards	
ENVIRONMENT OFFICER:	tbc	
	environment@subaru4wdclubwa.asn.au	
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 Caunce, Jim Wilcox and Tony Richards

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WA – the place to be and the State envied by others. Our inadvertent isolation has been a blessing in disguise and allowed us to venture out sooner than most. And that's exactly what we've been doing. Trips have been a regular thing again, although we still have a few restrictions to comply with so thanks to those attending trips and for keeping within guidelines.

July finally had us back in the South Perth Library Mopoke meeting room, in restricted numbers. Some of you joined in person and it was great to see people in the flesh again while others joined in via Zoom video conferencing. We will run the same format for our August GM and a link will be sent out like last time for you to join in. If you plan to come in person, please register by joining the Meeting 'Trip' on the club website so we can ensure numbers are within our 25-person capacity.

COVID restrictions aren't going away anytime soon in Australia, however in coming weeks WA may be able to ease things a little (thanks Mark). If all things go well, and we keep doing our part, then we should be able to resume normal capacity in our meeting rooms. It seems the online option is popular for those for whom distance, time and health reasons makes attending in person difficult, so we may look to keep it around a while longer. Please voice your opinion to the committee if you wish for it to remain past COVID.

The Club's calendar year is quickly coming to an end and that means the AGM is approaching which means our Gala event, the "Annual Dinner & Awards Night" is also rapidly approaching. ➡



ANNUAL DINNER IN NANNUP. The Annual Dinner will be at the Nannup Bowling Club on 24 October. We get to play lawn bowls in the afternoon and can make a short walk to our camp after dinner. The caravan park is next door. Put your name down soon so we can confirm numbers.

Pic from bowling club Facebook page

Get your names down now! The venue is locked in at Nannup, so come down south for what is always a fantastic night for the club.

This first weekend of August I'd have just been away at the Tending the Tracks Alliance dune rehabilitation project near Wedge Island, and then at the Yanchep Inn for a social lunch.

Read on to Trav's section on the rest of the upcoming trips and get your name down. You'll only regret the trips you missed.

Don't forget our Club Sponsors during this time. It's just as hard for them as it is us and we need to make sure we're all in this together. Safe Subaruing! **The Pres. – Adrian Longwood**

Be smart and watch your road etiquette

Thanks to the pandemic, Australians can't go anywhere other than Australia. And thanks in part to the latest Covid events in Victoria, and for Melbourne in particular, Australian destinations are limited. And it looks like it will remain that way until the Victorian government can figure out how to stop people from being

TRIPS COORDINATOR

stupid. As a result of this, regional WA is jam packed with tourists. Now Victoria isn't the only place that has stupid people, there are plenty here. Problem is they look like normal people, so it's hard to figure out who they are. That is you can't figure them out, until they leave Perth and drive on country roads. I was out near Beacon a few weekends ago, and found a few on the way home. They were driving overloaded vehicles, 20km under the speed limit, and not using their mirrors to see what traffic is like behind their own little world. And they look at you angrily, as you pass them doing the speed limit, when there is an overtaking lane, or two kays of straight road in front of you.

My point this month is don't be that guy. Drive to the speed limits, use your mirrors, and if there is traffic behind you, because you're towing a trailer, and doing 100km/hr, don't be stupid. Pull over and let the traffic pass, then go back to your merry way. That's the smart thing to do. **Travis Maskey**

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FORTHCOMING TRIPS



Mount Augustus (pic: parks.DPAW.wa.gov.au - Roxanne Pendreigh)

Mt Augustus and Kennedy Ranges

August 15 – 23

The first day of this trip ends with us camping near Cue, then on to Mount Augustus caravan park before heading to the Kennedy Ranges for two nights under the stars. Then there are two nights at Wooleen Station before heading to Coalseam national park and then heading home.

Mount Augustus National Park covers more than 600,000 hectares and its centrepiece is a sandstone inselberg. The rock, which the local Wajarri people call Burringurrah has some notable areas of rock art, and a majestic view for those who make the climb to the top. Like many large outcrops, rainwater run-off from Mount August supports plant life that cannot survive in the surrounding plains.

The groves of river gums in places around its base support vibrant birdlife, lizards and kangaroos. Permanent water at Cattle Pool is a great site for waterbirds. ➡



➤ There are similarities between Mount Augustus and Uluru: both are sandstone and both stand out from their surrounding planes, but Mount Augustus is geologically older and larger.

The Kennedy Ranges are around 75km long and between 12 and 25km wide. There is an ancient dune and vegetation system on the top of the range and on the western side there are freshwater springs that are of cultural importance to the local Inggarda people.

Camping at Mount Augustus will be at the official camping and caravan ground. In the Kennedy Ranges, camping is in a bush campsite within the National Park. There is no water available here, and National Park fees apply. **Trip leaders,**

Ross Mead and David Peck

Porongurup posing

September 26 – 28

Take a trip down Albany Highway to the Porongurup Tourist Park. From there we will explore the area. Some wildflowers should be around and a walk up to Castle Rock Granite Skywalk makes for great viewing for those who dare.



Granite Skywalk. Image: Wikipedia

We'll also be running a competition for the photo of the best (safe!) pose in a location on this trip.

Non-powered sites for 8 vehicles have been booked at Porongurup Range Tourist Park. If you are wanting to have a powered site you will need to book directly with them. Get in fast as their spots will fill fast. <https://poronguruprangetouristpark.com.au/>.

We will spend the weekend moseying around the area. If anyone has a specific request for places to go please let me know. If anyone is good with wildflowers and has some suggestions to see them, again please let me know. Bring all your camping gear and food for the weekend. We will stop at a bakery or two on the way through.

Cost for an unpowered site is \$30 per site per night for up to 2 people. Any additional adults are \$10 per person and children up to 16 are \$6 per person. There is other non-camping accommodation in the area if you want to join us but don't want to camp. **Trip leader, Jo Norton**

FORTHCOMING TRIPS

Wariin Spring Wander: 22-23 August

This is primarily a wildflower day trip through Jarrahdale and Mundaring State forests – areas sprinkled with historically interesting places. It's a beautiful area, and in spring it's a blaze of colourful wildflowers so there will be much popping in and out of the car to admire the flora.



We start at 8.15 and travel down Brookton Highway, then head north through forestry areas to Wariin Spring (East of the Lakes roadhouse), then on to the historic Saint Ronans Well. From here you can return home, or head to York for an optional overnighter. You'll need a full tank of fuel, snacks, lunch and drinks. This trip is suitable for all Subarus. **Trip leaders, Ian Johnson and Nina McLaren**

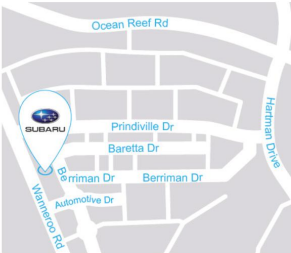
FORTHCOMING TRIPS

Wandoo and Wildflowers: 12-13 September

This aims to be fun weekend chasing wildflowers at Dryandra conservation reserve. This reserve between Wandering and Narrogin is the largest conservation reserve in the western Wheatbelt and home to an array of birds, reptiles and mammals, including the WA animal emblem, the numbat. The wandoo woodlands and breakaway country is picturesque at anytime but, in spring, it explodes with wildflowers. We will spend a night at one of the campgrounds and a couple of half days exploring the area to enjoy the wildflowers and a bit of the history of the area as well. If we are particularly lucky we may even see a numbat. The tracks around Dryandra are generally formed gravel or sand and the most challenging terrain may be an occasional 'wash-out'. No particular vehicle modifications or recovery equipment is required. Bring food, water and camping and cooking gear. It can be cold at Dryandra so bring some warm clothes. As campfires are likely to be allowed it would be good if each vehicle could bring a little firewood too. No pets please. A full tank of fuel on departure should be sufficient for the return trip. Departure is 8.30. **Trip leader, Keith Low**

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New drivers: don't miss the amazing LEOB

29 August - 5 September

This is a seven-day trip involving three bush camps of two nights each in country around the Lakes East of Boulder (LEOB). We'll come home for the 7th night. 'Newbies' are especially welcome. There are new tracks to explore, the very best bush camping, starry nights, and a lot of changing terrain – from woodlands through the 'Transitional Flora Zone', into the fringes of the Great Victoria Desert (GVD), across the 'Mulga/Eucalypt Line', and then back through all of the above. In every sense, this is a trip of great variety.

Trip leaders Ian and Nina specialise in cooking on an open fires and coals, so feel free to watch, learn, copy, or BYO gas stove. Be brave and try something new in camp cooking. Bring a cake mix and a camp oven and get some advice from experts, or bring a hot plate for a barbecue. Even if it is marshmallows on a stick over the glowing coals, make the most of a campfire built for cooking. The trip leaves promptly at 8am. Bring food for seven days, enough water and camping gear. Talk to the trip leaders about what recovery gear is needed as it can be shared by the group. You will also need 20 litres of extra fuel on top of a full tank. Make sure your fuel can is the correct type – check if in doubt.

There is a limit of 6 cars, but if the trip is full contact Ian if you want to go on a waiting list (people sometimes have to drop out).

The first campsite is around 30km East of Boulder. From there we explore that country before heading north-east – leaving the woodlands and heading into the southern area of the 'paleo' Lakes Rebecca and Raeside and approach the western edge of the Great Victoria Desert (GVD). Despite the name, there will be plenty of trees, especially the huge and graceful Marble Gums – the "Signature Tree of the GVD". We head north to arrive at Laverton for fuel (or to camp). The home run is through picturesque goldfields ghost towns. **Trip leaders Ian Johnson and Nina McLaren.**



Photo: Nina McLaren

The gloves are on for Finska championship

19 September - Day trip

YES sports fans it's on again! For real this time. Corona virus has not stopped the sticks, so let the wooden pegs fly!

Mel was super dominant last year – taking out the trophy in 5 throws (the drug tests are still to come back). Wayne, like Stephan the year before, got taken



out in the first round. Stephan made it to the final, but didn't get any where near Mel. Adrian and Travis made it to the finals again, but didn't come up with

Will Dave get smaller shoes? Will Mel's sample show performance enhancing drugs?

the goods. Dave had a bit of controversy, with a foot fault that had to go to the

video replay for him to admit it. The bung chuck was taken out by Wayne, with a majority vote. This time, will Adrian and Trav remain bridesmaids? Will Dave get smaller shoes? Will Mel's urine sample show some Chinese performance enhancing drugs? Find out on the 19th.

Not sure how to play, don't worry. The rules are easy – and if you can throw a stick under arm, you know enough to play. There are practice rounds before the sheep-stations are on the line.

Just want to point and laugh? That's OK too. Bring lunch and drinks. Chairs and sunscreen are a good idea too. There are BBQ facilities there so you can cook up steaks and snags. The competition is for club members only. But non members can come and have a look, and take part in the warm-up games. Like last year I'll be videoing the games, to keep people honest and to work out who will get the prestigious bung chuck. If you have a camera and maybe a tripod that can be used on the day we would appreciate it.

The venue is Tranby Reserve – at the corner of Hardey and Clarkson roads Maylands. Be there for 10.30am for the warm up matches. To help make this COVID-19 compliant there will be gloves to wear. If you have sensitivities to nitrile golves please let me know. **Leader: Travis MASKEY**

SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWSLETTER

CLUB CALENDAR

AUGUST 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31					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


Sun 1. Wanagarren Track (TTTa)
Tues 4. Committee
Tues 11. General meeting
Sun 2. Yanchep NP. Social.
Sat 15-Sun 23. Mt Augustus and Kennedy Ranges
Sat 22 - Sun 23. Wariin Spring Wander
Sat 29 - Sept 5. Lakes East of Boulder.

SEPTEMBER 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			

Tues 1. Committee
Tues 8. General meeting
Aug 29-Sept 05 Lakes East of Boulder.
Sat 12-Sun 13. Dryandra overnight.
Sat 19. Finska championships
Sat 26-Mon 28. Porongurup Posing

OCTOBER 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

Tues 6. Committee
Tues 13. General meeting
Sat 24-Sun 25.
Annual Dinner. Nannup.



SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWSLETTER

CLUB CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 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					

Tues 3. Committee
Tues 10. General meeting and **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
Sun 15. Beach run

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Lancelin Beach and Dunes, July 27

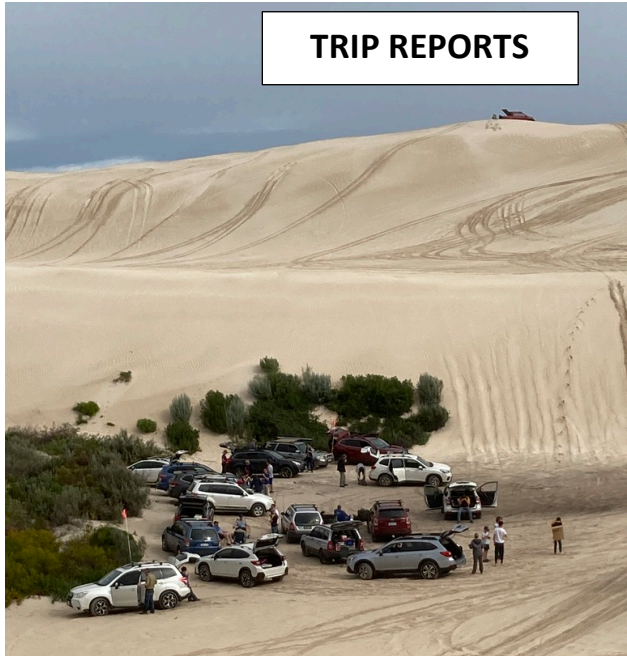
We assembled at the designated meeting spot in Wanneroo and after a round of introductions from the many guests and a briefing from Adrian we were on the road around 8:45am – so not too late. There were a total of 17 vehicles, plenty of Foresters, a few Outbacks and two XVs.

The trip up to Ledge saw the convoy spread out as there were a few

extra vehicles on the road but we arrived about an hour later and started to air down.

As we navigated the short way to the beach, Adrian advised that the tide was in and there was limited space up the beach to be able to make the trek to Lancelin. Those lucky enough to be at the back of the convoy (including me) only had a short reversal out, but after regrouping where we aired down we headed through some small dunes and back to the bitumen for a slow trip into town to visit the facilities and the bakery.

Since we had aired down early we arrived at the ‘main-event’ around 11:20 and with some running commentary from Adrian went straight into the dunes. Nothing too serious to start with (didn’t need to scare the guests just yet),



➤ there were some ups and downs, but nothing as exciting as leaving the crest of a dune and not being able to see what is below you. It was impressive to see ‘seventeen spectacular Subarus sand snaking surreptitiously’. A few brave souls attempted one particularly steep dune with Stu needing a ‘practice-run’ first.

We found our lunch spot at the back of the dunes below a short descent and after about an hour of kids playing in the sand, collected them for a short 10 minute trip back towards the entrance where the group split. Adrian escorted the five



Photos: Mark Smithers

departing vehicles to air up which now left us in Stu’s capable hands. We did a bit more up and down, round and round then found a few sand bowls to play in. The recovery gear stayed in the boot and apart from some minor plastic bumper damage as well as some missing rubber (thongs – which Adrian collected) it was an enjoyable and hassle-free outing. We aired up about 3.15 and headed back home. **Mark Smithers**

SUBARU 4WD CLUB NEWSLETTER

A planning tool from 40 years of Club trips

David Peck has built a trip planner spreadsheet for club members. He says it was inspired by and built on the great work that Ian Johnson has done compiling a list of all the club's trips – going back 40 years! David says all he did was add a bit of detail to Ian's work, but anyone who looks at the trip planner will see that for a very modest statement. Ian's work has been tremendous, but so too has the way David has made it into a tool.

Ian's and Nina McLaren's famous attention to detail in planning his trips has been a gift to many members who have learnt so much from how they plan, organise and lead trips. David runs great, friendly, organised, meticulously planned and adventurous trips. We can't yet put David's planner on the website (because of software technical issues) but ask David for a copy. It is really good. Thank you to both Ian and David. **Stephan Millett**

do more of the
fun stuff



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The woodlands: a historic site and a cosy cooking fire

Hyden Hideouts, Day 1:
Sunday June 7

The main convoy started out from its meeting point at the Caltex service station in Midvale. I joined as the tail end driver in Sawyers Valley as it is near where I live and on the way.

We headed off on Great Eastern Highway (94) and stopped at Cunderdin for morning tea and a toilet break. I had received a message from home saying my groundsheet was in our driveway, having dropped off the roofrack where it had been waiting to be tied down. With the embarrassing photo on my phone I headed to the Cunderdin hardware store where I found a heavy tarp which turned out to be exactly the right size and much better for its purpose than what dropped off the car. That tarp has now become my regular groundsheet and a continuing reminder of my forgetfulness and my good fortune.

We stopped for lunch at a great little clearing off the highway about 20km out of Southern Cross before



Top: Ian makes sure he gets the history right. Above: Fiona at Cockatoo Tank

➤ heading there to refuel and grab an icecream before heading down the road to Marvel Loch and our eventual campsite in gimlet forest near the Cockatoo Tank. This tank was built in 1899 as a cistern blasted out of the rock to collect runoff from a granite outcrop and used to provide water for mines nearby.

We made camp mid afternoon, in time to get firewood, dig a shallow pit for the cooking fire and to set up the thunderbox. Digging in the hard-packed clay was difficult and meant that we needed to do it again the next day as the hole was a bit too shallow for the number of people. Then we sat down to enjoy how the sun setting brought out the magnificent deep bronze in the bark of the surrounding gimlet trees.

We cooked our meals on the open fire with a barbecue plate and camp ovens. I had prepared a meal at home in case we were late finding a campsite, so I reheated this and sat back with the others to gaze into the coals and feel lucky to be out in the Great Western Woodlands: the largest remaining temperate woodland in the world. Bliss!

Stephan Millett



Above: Ian explores the Cockatoo Tank blasted out of the local rock. Below: with a billy and a camp oven the kitchen is open. Photos: Stephan Millett



Salmon gums, gimlets and morrels glowing in glorious morning sun

Hyden Hideouts, Day 2:
Monday 8 June

Well, here we are in the Great Western Woodlands at the Sunday night campsite north of Cockatoo Tank. After a cosy night in the tent and breakfast in the brisk morning air, I located the GPS coordinates of the campsite on my Garmin eTrex handheld GPS and ventured off for a walk down the track in the



Gimlet in the morning sun

opposite direction from which we'd entered the campsite. Ian had mentioned that on an earlier trip the track had gone through to a gravel road but it soon became obvious that this was no longer the case as the track faded into an area of fallen trees. Past this area I picked up a trace of the track, however, it was seriously overgrown and eventually petered out in an old fire scar heathland which was slowly regenerating. The Salmon Gums, Morrels and Gimlets of the woodland glowed gloriously in the morning sunlight – what a magnificent sight!

By the time I returned to camp, other people were up and about. Stephan and Ross were installing the Subaloo thunderbox – not an easy task digging ➡

➡ into a clay hardpan. Well done, guys! Then it was in the cars and back to Cockatoo Tank with the mission to find the main catchment area of Tamarin Rock. Walking past the Tank



it wasn't long before Ian's eagle eye spotted a flowering eucalypt which occasioned a Vogue magazine-like photoshoot opportunity. The obligingly stationary tree-model was later identified using the Library back at camp, as *Eucalyptus eremophila*. Continuing on, we came to the open, low-relief granite outcrop of Tamarin Rock decorated with the red or green-needle leaved, pincushion-lily, resurrection plant *Borya* sp. Spotted about the rock were broad, shallow, pan-gnammas, some currently water-filled and, as Fiona excitedly discovered, inhabited by hordes of tiny tadpoles (probably *Crinia* sp.).

We all hoped that they would grow quickly into frogs before the water dried out, or that there would be more rain to keep them alive. Further exploration revealed interesting circular patterns in patches of moss and lichen, a deep pit-gnamma complete with cover rock, two different types of emu poo (seeds & fibre), and tiny, spider-webby



turrets of sand most likely occupied by burrowing wolf spiders (*Geolycosa* sp.). After a late lunch in the Cockatoo Tank's carpark, Ian & Nina had a surprise for us. On the corner of the main gravel road and the track into camp there was a treasure trove of old stuff, most likely discards from a grader's camp, scattered amongst the trees. There were rusty old tins of all shapes and sizes, some obviously sardine tins with the top rolled back, along with various bottles and sundry bits n pieces. Quandong trees (*Santalum acuminatum*), were ➡

➤ growing through rusty coils of barbed wire and nearby Ian made an amazing discovery. Under an old sheet of corrugated iron was the nest of a Quandong nut-eating rodent (perhaps the Desert Bush Rat, *Rattus fuscipes*), as evidenced by the stash of gnawed seeds.

Back at camp we spent the afternoon on individual pursuits. I tried out my new solar panels and was gratified that they worked. Stephan had been scouring the bush for the right shaped branches and employed his mad whittling skills to fashion lovely (and strong), gimlet wood walking sticks. One of these I was lucky enough to be gifted with by Stephan, many, many thanks!



Gnamma

While I can get along on the flat fairly well, I learned on the Flinders Range trip in 2018 that hoisting my body weight up steep inclines at my age now requires some assistance. Nina was busy food-prepping as she was going for broke and having two large camp ovens on the go tonight. One was for the curry and one for the dessert which was Mrs Royce's Apple Cake/Pie – Nina's friend's neighbour's traditional recipe.

As darkness fell, and the fire burned all those woodland eucalypt logs into great glowing coals, the cooking utensils accumulated around the campfire. We had four camp ovens, two camp saucepans, one BBQ plate and a billy can – definitely qualifying as an impromptu Camp Oven Cookout! Keith cooked sausages on the BBQ plate and after losing one over the edge, it was suggested to use cans to contain the snags, which worked a treat. I had a 2 quart (~2L) Pioneer camp oven, just big enough to hold a meal for two, in which I cooked an emu fillet and veg casserole. Monday and Tuesday dinner done. Nina and Ian are expert camp oven tutors and the whole process was a fun and rewarding experience. Especially rewarding was the Apple Cake/Pie - delicious! Thanks, Ian & Nina for a great day in the Bush, and thanks to everyone else on the trip for being wonderful company. **Joy Unno** Photos by Joy

Video gift prompts a discussion and brings out our best

A professionally shot and edited video of a recent Club trip to the wandoo forest off the York Road prompted some vigorous discussion within the Club committee.

We had been invited by Chris Morton from

Australian 4WDer magazine to visit private property within the wandoo forest to try out our cars in some of the terrain and videographer Bobby from Lens Nation Studio was there to film the activities. A member of Chris' extended family recently bought the land and hopes to set up nature-based



Western 4WDer has become Australian 4WDer and is aiming at an Australia-wide audience – in print and on the web. Sincere thanks for the video Chris.

camping there and may include some tracks for 4WDs.

The video was shot, and we were sent a link to Youtube. Some of the committee were enthusiastic, while others urged caution about how to use this video gift. Many of the scenes showed our cars traversing muddy ruts – and doing it well. Some of us clearly enjoy a bit of mud work, but it was not clear from the video that this was being done with permission and on private land. Some of the committee wondered if this could show the Club in a bad light. Others were keen to promote it as a way to reach potential members, but then some asked if hooning in the mud was the right message. This after all is a club that welcomes families, and members comment that it is considered a safe place for single women.

The discussion was principled, considered and polite. The issues were real. But there was no ill feeling. For me, this is one of the reasons I love this Club. We talk and listen to each other with respect. We respect the natural environment and have many thoughtful and knowledgeable people. But we also love a bit of fun in the mud! Gotta love ya folks. **Stephan Millett**

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