

*June
2011*



Editor: Glenn Pascoe

On behalf of Geoff Davis

Murray Hotel Lunch trip (28th May) with Andrew & Trish Eerden

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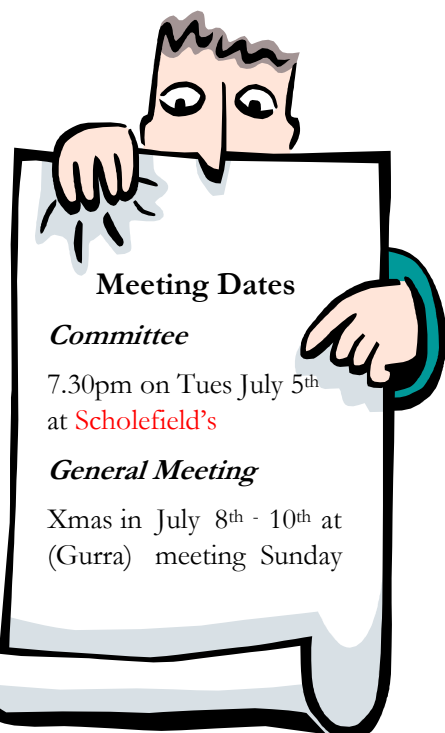
Saturday morning, meeting in the carpark opposite the Loxton Club for our trip to Murrayville for lunch at the pub, was Andrew, Trish and Daniel Eerden (trip leaders), Brenton and Robyn Schrapel, Tim Adler, Jim Finn and Carol Dyer, Ron Wingate, Vicki and Ken Johnson, Peter and Ronnie Goodhand, Bill Dent, Charlene Santos and her friend Margaret, Bob and Jess Speight with Marilyn (who it was lovely to catch up with again) and Us (Nick and Linda). We left pretty much on time, which as it turns out was lucky as we had a big day ahead.

Andrew took us out towards the Taplan Gate, the long way around, so we could see some of the interesting features of the farming area on the way there. There was some discussion as to the name of one driveway, "Ebay Drive". We drove past the big concrete water tank on Jachmann Rd which is a vital piece of infrastructure for local farms, saw many farmers working their paddocks, and plenty of very healthy sheep and cattle grazing, then onto the old township of Nangari, with stories of the Railway Line (now non existent) and Taplan before entering Murray Sunset.

After stopping briefly to drop tyre pressures, we travelled south along the border Track. Andrew had opted for a new sandflag mounting position on his racks. After only a short distance, and a few low slung trees later, this proved to be not the best decision, with the flag being ripped off and Ron having to collect it for him. Lucky no real damage. With some nice sand driving (albeit damp) and plenty of "Roller Coaster" sections we had a good drive, stopping at the rockholes for morning tea then on to Murrayville arriving just after 12. The pub did an excellent job with our meals, certainly no one was complaining about the food.

On leaving, we crossed the Highway to view the mosaic on the toilet block, which was made for their centenary, last year. We then had a brief drive around town, and saw the windmill that is depicted on the mosaic. We had a couple of vehicles leave us here, before we headed off a short distance along the highway before turning and finding our way back into the park. We did a small section in reverse then turned onto the South Bore Track, which is quite different to the border Track, with Rocky patches and corrugations as well as sand. We stopped at the site of the old bore and windmill (not much remains) for a brief refreshment stop before heading to the Shearers quarters and campground, where we all said our goodbyes before heading home. As it was pretty much 5pm by now, we were driving home into the setting sun, which is always fun.

Once again to the Eerdens, a very well organised trip, with some great information and History as we drove along. We had a great time. Thankyou.



Committee

	<u>Office Bearers</u>		<u>Committee Members</u>	
President	Steve Scholefield	0421 648 957	Rod Jones	8582 3306
Vice President	Paul Pfennig	8584 1280	Trevor Loxton	8595 3286
Secretary	Helen Hall	8595 1288	Rob Howie	8595 3070
Treasurer	Judy Westley	8582 5280	Al Packer	0427 100 016
Events Officer	Andrew Eerden	8584 1365	Charlene Santos	0407 374 172
Newsletter Editor	Geoff Davis	8583 5500	Peter Jones	8584 1221

From the President

FROM THE PRESIDENT

June 2011

Greetings all.

Another A.G.M. has passed with 3 new members joining the Committee. Welcome and thank you to Trevor Loxton, Rod Jones and Peter Jones – new faces and lots of new ideas I am sure. Welcome back and thank you as well to those members who are continuing. As I stated in my report at the meeting, there are some challenges ahead, but I am confident that we can achieve our aims and have another great year.

Your Committee is always available and open to suggestions and ideas – trips, events, guest speakers, meetings – please feel free to let us know your thoughts and we will look at them all.

The next Club event will be the Christmas in July weekend at Gurra – arrive anytime from Friday on and enjoy the social interaction, yabbing, sand driving, Christmas dinner on Saturday and the general meeting Sunday morning at 11.00 a.m. fol-

lowed by BBQ lunch supplied by the Club. If you can't stay the weekend, please come along to the meeting. Bring your own everything Christmas (is that a word?) and enjoy.

I look forward to this year with anticipation of many enjoyable trips, events and fun.

Cheers.
Steve Scholefield

Steve Scholefield, President



**Don't Forget
Christmas in July!**

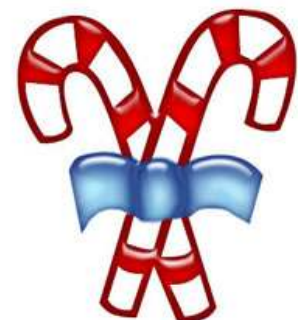


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Gurra, 8th-10th July

See Inside!

**For the full:
2011 AGM Presidents
Report**



Victorian and NSW High Country

16 - 30 April 2011 (Rob & Judith Howie)

Saturday 16 April (Judith Howie)

Packers, Howies, Loxtons, Webbs, Bradtkes and Pfennigs left the Paringa Silos at 8.30am. We met Eerdens at Yamba and were soon joined by Hennigs. We travelled via Werrimul to Red Cliffs for morning tea and were joined by our last vehicle, the Pages. We travelled via Hattah to Boundary Bend where we stopped for lunch. On to Swan Hill where we picked up some shopping (mainly fruit and vegetables due to the fruit fly zone). It was great to see Lake Boga full of water. On our last trip 2 years ago, the waterfront Caravan Park and homes were a sorry sight. There were many homes which are still for sale at bargain prices but we had to keep heading for Kerang. Checked into the Ibis Caravan Park. This had been a favourite spot on our last trip and once again it was great. The park had been underwater in the January floods and there is still plenty of water around the area. The park was back to normal and we enjoyed a great first night around the camp fire.

Sunday 17 April (Al Packer)

After a cool start, we left our campsite at Kerang and having to detour around roads that were washed away in the February floods, we were finally heading for Bright. Passed through Shepparton, Bannala, Myrtleford and onto Bright where the trees were in their splendor changing into their Autumn garb. Many a photo was taken in our walks around the town. Little wonder that so many people flock to the area during this time of year.

We reluctantly had to meet up with our trip leader we headed back to our camp site on the Buckland Valley Road past many worthwhile campsites although with our group, a larger site was required. About 15k's up the road we arrived in a lush green area adjacent the river where we set up camp and prepared for another cool night. The fires were very welcome that night. Travelled 407 k's today

The Convoy getting a look at the Autumn Trees



Monday 18 April (Paul and Rosie Pfennig)

Left Maguire Point camping area in the Buckland Valley at 8.50 am and headed south along Buckland Valley Road.

The wide gravel road slowly deteriorated until we were travelling along a rough two wheeled track. There were lots of cattle grazing on the road side. The road joined into Selwyn Creek Road then into Twins Jeep track. Arrive at Saint Bernard's Hospice Hut where we had lunch.

Andrew had a tyre that was slowly leaking so decided to change it. After hurting his finger he put on a show by fainting and he received a great deal sympathy from his fellow travelers.

After travelling 10 ft along the nice bitumen Great Alpine Road we headed down the Dargo High Plains Road. Turned off, disconnected trailers then went real 4WD up and down the Blue Rag Range track – Trish did a great job with Andrew as passenger.

A team photo was taken for history. We all made our way through some magnificent country and joined back onto bitumen and arrived at Jimmy Iversons Camping area after several members suffered a lack of brakes.

Mountain track with the burnt trees standing out.



Victorian and NSW High Country (cont)

Tuesday 19 April (Anton Webb and Elly Johnson)

After a hearty breakfast and a meeting in a circular shape, Rob addressed “we eager followers” from the 12:00 o’clock position. Following a comprehensive detail of the day’s anticipated routes & highlights all the vehicles (less trailers/campers) left the Jimmy Iverson’s camping area on the Upper Dargo Road north of Dargo for possibly the most adventurous outing of the trip.

Al Packer was appointed Trip Leader because of his previous experience in the area.

We proceeded to a cemetery occupied by the founding families.....

From there we travelled down the road to the Old Town Site of Grant. We all enjoyed ‘Smoko’ and then did self guided walking tours of the site.

There is a story about a Government bureaucrat who visited the town for about 10 minutes and then the town’s name was changed to Grant in his honour. (He probably bribed the Mayor). It used to be named Mount Pleasant, perhaps when Grant arrived it wasn’t so pleasant, hence the name change.

We continued to Talbotville which is really a camping area, regrouped and proceeded to a successful creek crossing. I think this was the creek that I opportunistically stopped to wash the Hilux in. (At that stage I was still feeling very confident about its submarine abilities).

After negotiating the Brewery Creek Road easily we noticed a very steep track leading off (or should I say down) to the left. Some felt it was necessary to ‘warm up’ on this track, either in case we saw little action for the rest of the day or maybe we needed the practice.

It turned out that the next track was a long version of that one. The South Ballast Knob Track is not to be missed. It was very interesting and most enjoyable.

The rest of the trip was along more established roads, but very enjoyable all the same.

In Dargo, some of us visited the local (Store that is) and got fuel, supplies, souvenirs and a map or two. Then we joined the others in the other Local to wash down a little dust and discuss the day’s events.

PS: Nobody mentioned that the Hilux made thro’ the creek crossings that day, not even I. (We didn’t know what was to come).

PPS: It must be noted that the scenery all along every route was excellent.

Wednesday 20 April (Rod & Sue Bradtke)

Beautiful morning,- 6 cars drove a scenic 2.5 hour circuit through the ranges around Dargo, while some stayed for a leisurely day relaxing at the lovely camping area. We finished the day with a magnificent shared tea. A roast lamb and vegetables were cooked in the camp oven

Up the Creek without a Paddle.



Victorian and NSW High Country (cont)

Thursday 21 April (Judith Hennig)

We stacked firewood on Eerdens vehicle for tonight's bush camp at Omeo and left camp at 8.50am.

More beautiful views of the deep valleys where wisps of mist stretched long fingers in and around the ridges and drifted down to the valleys. The sun shining brightly this morning and warming us up. The trees are close to the road which is reassuring as they will stop us from plunging down the steep drops. We were at 825m above sea level. Turned onto Birregun Road.

Very little wildlife although Judith Howie saw a wallaby. There was a huge stuffed deer head in one of the B&B's in Dargo which was shot not far from Dargo. At 1000m we could actually get service on our phones and on my iPad. Some Jokes about the mile high club.

Heading to the Mt Birragun.

Passed 'Twiggy' Track, turned onto Carney Track, passed the Dinner Plains Track turnoff and just made 1400m. (Susie said we got to 1600m the other day.)

Travelling onto Upper Livingstone Creek road we inspected a picturesque, well kept hut with vivid golden poplar trees nearby. We were excited to see a good sized flock of sulphur crested cockatoos.

The mountains are opening out to farm-

land and we waited for a fine flock of sheep being driven up the road. Only pasture grows in these flat lands due to the extreme cold.

We turned right onto bitumen road then to dirt where we needed to change our UHF channel so we didn't interfere with the logging trucks that were on Channel 10. We left the ragged mountains completely behind, (well for today) and snaked our way through wide open valleys and undulating hills.

We pulled into brewery in the Cassilis Historic area. A few fellows had a turn with the hand press and some stocked up for a campfire tipple. Rod and Anton spied a red breasted robin in a fruit tree. We got some great photos.

We passed an Indian Hahajindah Ute that they were testing on one of the tracks a few days ago.

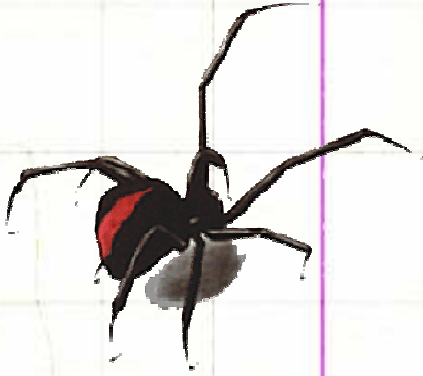
Leaving Omeo behind we turned right to Benamble (?) & Corryong. Very shortly we turned left up to McMillan's Look-out. Wonderful 360 deg view. We took the right fork to Black Mountain Limestone dirt road. We saw 2 dead dingoes hanging off a sign post. From here we entered the Alpine National Park and found a great campsite at Native Dog Flat camping ground near the Buchan River. Not far from here is the spring where the Murray comes out of the ground. It is a 5-7 km walk to reach the ultimate source.



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Notice the vehicle to the left has all wheels in contact with the ground and plenty of ground clearance.

Of Course there are conditions that make this Impossible!

On some occasions extra momentum is needed. In the picture to the right, you can see some extra right foot was needed to get the front and centre of the vehicle to clear the sharp edge across the track, be assured this amount of acceleration was needed.



Many common 4X4 vehicles owned have the problem. If they lift a front wheel and then the opposite side rear wheel, or the tyres loose traction the vehicle basically becomes only a 2 wheel drive.

We're not at the moment!

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Events Calendar



DATE	EVENT	TRIP LEADER
July		
5 th	Committee meeting	
9 th – 10 th	Christmas in July (Gurra)	Steve and Anita Scholefield
23 rd -24 th	Menindie Lakes	Phil Haines / Brenton Beal
August		
2 nd	Committee meeting	
9 th	General meeting	
20 th -21 st	Burra Gorge	Paul & Rosie Pfennig
September		
6 th	Committee meeting	
13 th	General meeting	
11 th	Ngaut Ngaut	Helen and Lester
29 th	Police remembrance day	
October		
1 st -3 rd	Bendby Ranges	Phil Haines & Alison Smith
4 th	Committee Meeting	
11 th	General Meeting	
November		
1 st	Committee Meeting	
8 th	General Meeting	
27 th	Christmas Party	

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Trip Information

Gurra, Christmas in July and General meeting. 8th-10th July

Leaders: Steve and Anita Scholefield

Arrive at Gurra whenever you like, Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Social weekend Christmas in July theme. BYO everything.

General Meeting 11am Sunday



Menindie Lakes, 23rd-24th July

Leaders: Phil Haines and Brenton Beal.

Meet at Stonehenge at 7.30am on Saturday.

Head up the Springwood Road and visiting the Menindee Lake system and Kinchega Nat Park. Camping fee will apply in the Nat Park.

Trip suitable for camper trailers but not caravans. BYO everything.

Return via Pooncarie, Wentworth and Mildura. Approx. 550kms round trip.



BURRA GORGE 20th and 21st August 2011

Leaders: Paul and Rosie Pfennig 85841280

Maximum of 10 vehicles Suitable for all vehicles including caravans. Meet at Morgan Road near Barmera Turnoff (Monash End) at 8.00 am

Bush camping with drop-hole toilets, no showers. Donation box for camping site. UHF Channel 10. Bring your own everything for weekend including drinking water and wood. Approximately - 400 kilometres round trip with maybe some 4WD driving. Returning home approximately 4.00 pm Sunday afternoon.

Ngaut Ngaut (near Nildotte) Sunday 11th September

Leaders: Lester Creed and Helen Hall 8595 1288 or 0428 155 715

Meet at Loxton near the Club at 8.30am

Travel to Nildottie via some unsealed mallee roads. After smoko guide Isobel Campbell will take us to Ngaut Ngaut where there is 300 meters of the oldest known rock art, and where the Nganguraku people have lived for 8000 years. The guided tour will take about one and a half hours. Some steps. Cost \$10pp

Lunch will be at the Swan Reach Hotel, the pub with a view. Two course roast meals start from \$14.00pp

Need at least 10 people for the tour. Approx 250kms



If you would like to list any "Buy or sell" notices please email to me by the 19th of each month or pass any written notices to me at any general meetings. They will be included as space permits. Thanks, Geoff.

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