

Committee

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From the President

Steve Scholefield, President

Greetings all.

Bit of a culture shock coming back to the colder weather after 6 weeks in the Centre and Kimberley regions. We had a great time, but good to be home.

Thanks to Paul Pfennig for standing in during my absence.

The meeting held at the Loxton Club on Tuesday the 13th of September was well attended with a good turnout for tea beforehand. Our guest speaker, Jill Nicholls, gave a very good insight into the research and writing of her Mallee Tracks book.

An events calendar discussion was also held as part of the meeting – we had a few ideas and suggestions from the floor but we could do with more in order to fill the calendar for the next 6 months. All ideas will be considered.

The Christmas Show is fast approaching – last Sunday in November. I have not heard of much interest in assisting Helen and Al re the organising of this event – if interested or have any ideas for the show, please let us know.

The next General meeting will be October 11th at the Monash Club –

guest speaker is still to be negotiated – hope to see you all there.

CHEERS.

Steve Scholefield



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Burra Creek Gorge contd.

decided to head towards the falls but the track was on an angle and being wet was a bit slippery in places.

We decided to have lunch then head off into Burra to do the Heritage Trail which takes approximately four to five hours. Being a group we received the Heritage Trail at a reduced price because there were more than 10 adults.

The Burra Heritage Trail consists of a key which takes you into different attractions around this historical town. Geoff and Cheryl supplied us with information which were not in the book because they were married at Burra and Cheryl's parents managed a property in the area. We all travelled in our vehicles to the Burra Heritage Passport Trial where a key gave us access to a number of historic sites along the trail. With maps given out to all members we headed off on the trail. Enclosed are a few photos of the buildings on the trail like the Burra Mine Historic Site and Powder magazine, Police Lockup and stables, Redruth Gaol, Hampton, Unicorn Brewery Cellars and Miners' Dugouts. The afternoon went quickly with many places to see and photos taken by everyone.

We then all headed back to the gorge for happy hour and to make a fire and cook our tea together. The night was quite mild for Burra for this time of the year and it was pleasant sitting around the camp fire cooking our tea and talking about the day and what were highlights.

On Sunday morning after a good night sleep we set off on a four wheel drive called the Northern Drive. With the amount of rain there were a few wash away so we had to shorten the drive. Just before Burra we turned right onto Bruce Road and headed towards Red Banks Conservation Park and then turned and headed towards Carroona Homestead which was managed by Cheryl's parents the road was low four wheel driving and the morning was very pleasant.



Everyone had a map and points of interests were relayed to everyone in the group. There were many gates to be opened along the way with old ruins and old mine shafts in the side of the hills. The track took us to Mongolata Mine Battery which is now mining gold on this site. The view of Mount Bryan which is the highest point of the North Mount Lofty Ranges. Markers to the right and left are used by bushwalkers on the Heysen Trail which passes through this area. We then all arrived at Mount Bryan. The track took about three hours and we stopped at a wash away for morning tea. And travelled through the Mokota Conservation Park.

We joined up with the highway at Mount Bryan and travelled back to the Gorge for lunch. At the gorge a few members went and looked at an old swing bridge which was used by children when the water was flowing through the gorge to get the school bus to travel to Burra. Also the Heysen Trail passes through the gorge only a hundred metres from where we were camped. After lunch we all packed up and headed home after an enjoyable weekend.

*Paul and Rosie Pfennig
Trip Leaders*

Gluepot Reserve with Rod Bradtke and Bill Santos



On a chilly Sunday morning 5 vehicles met at the Berri Estates Winery for an 8.30am start. Occupants included Bradkes, Ron Wingate, Santos's, Davis's and Lester & Helen. We were joined at the back of the lake by four Packers, Al & Elaine and Jim (Al's brother) & Doreen. It was there that Alpaca took on the task of Tail End Charlie. Lastly, three Pages met up with us at Taylorville.

Meanwhile, not far from Taylorville, we made a brief stop at the roadside grave of an "Aussie battler" There was quite a bit of talk about the exact whereabouts of its location. For future reference, it is after the power lines cross the road and near a kangaroo warning sign. This is true in both directions as the power line crosses over twice.

Driving through Taylorville Station, we could see the regeneration of the mallee scrub after the bushfire in late 2006. Despite the drought, the regrowth was nearly half the height of the burnt out trees. The road here and in Gluepot had been recently graded and with recent rain keeping down the dust it was comfortable driving all day.

Bill filled us in with some information about Gluepot as we drove along. The station was purchased by Birds Australia in 2007 for \$350,000. Amazingly the money was raised from donations in just ten weeks. It is home to 90 species of birds, 18 of them threatened. These include Black-eared Minors, Regent Parrots and Mallee Fowl.

Of the original 19 dams on the property, all have been filled in or blocked off. This is to discourage goats and keep native animal populations down to more natural levels. Foxes are baited regularly and SA Sporting Shooters take care of goats!!! Absence of stock for 14 years and the good rains last year have left the bush looking the best since Gluepot started.

Gluepot is run entirely by volunteers. The rangers get a food allowance but no pay. There is a waiting list of people wanting to fill this role.

80,000 gallons of rain water can be stored for domestic needs and solar panels and batteries supply power.

We stopped at the ruins of Old Gluepot Station homestead, built in 1934. Only the cellar remains, restored by 4WD Club members some years ago.

We then travelled, via Sitella Campsite, to the present homestead for lunch. We checked out the Visitor Centre and paid our dues. We inspected the newly named Murray Harris Environmental Education Centre, named for our late club member. Murray worked tirelessly for Gluepot. Five bird hides are just some of the lasting evidence of his passion for the Reserve.



After we drove out to the Airfield (no longer operational) and went on a short bird watching walk. However, a long Indian file of people (some chatting??) and a breezy afternoon were not conducive to the viewing many birds!!

We set off towards home at about 3pm, past Babbler Campsite and through the area of Gluepot that was affected by the '06 fire. Once again we were surprised by the regrowth. We then travelled along a newly graded two wheel track along the southern fence line to the gate.



Group in front of Murray Harris Centre

Goodbyes and thankyou's were exchanged at Taylorville with the Pages, and again, as we peeled off one by one to go home.

A big thank you to Rod and Bill for an enjoyable and informative day with plenty of laughs (and possible fines) and good ole 4WD Club fellowship.

Helen Hall

Ngaut Ngaut Trip Report

With Helen and Lester

The day began with a very chilly breeze before 8.30 in Loxton. Even with Phill and Alison ducking back home for warmer jackets we still headed off on time. With us on the trip were Helen & Lester (our fearless leaders), Johnsons, Dents, Ron Wingate, Jachmanns, Gows with Rob McLean & Shirley Lord as passengers and Phill & Alison. The Jones of Strathalbyn joined us at Nildottie.

After heading left towards Wunkar we took the dirt road straight ahead instead of veering right towards Swan Reach, something I've never done before. I was amused to note the name of a property on our right as we headed down the road which was a great anagram of Goondawindi ... "Good'an'Windi"!! Seemed rather appropriate today as it was quite windy.

We managed to stay on dirt all the way to Nildottie, driving on roads we'd certainly never been on before and what a lovely drive it was. Lots of green and plenty of wildflowers to be seen too. Not to mention the odd (OK – way more than 'odd') onion weed, which despite being a noxious weed, is really quite pretty at the moment.

We traveled past Eastern Well, which in 1911 was quite a thriving little community with two boarding houses, a church (which substituted as a school), a store, a post office, a blacksmith shop, a sports oval and the well amongst other things. The "Keeper of the Well" supplemented his income with the proceeds of trapping and selling dingo pelts, for which he earned the princely sum of 3 & 6 (actually, I don't know if that's princely or not ... I really don't know what "3 & 6 is!!). There were big hopes amongst the community that Eastern Well would become the centre of the mallee, but the railway line bypassed it in 1914. In 1970 the area was declared a historic site ... a fact of which the local flora seems to be blissfully unaware of, as it is slowly being 'reclaimed'.



A little further down the track we passed Bakara Well which was a pastoral lease in 1861. In the 1870s ownership of the lease passed 5 times thanks to the inundation of rabbits and the dingo's that followed them. This well was a smaller community and included a store, a boarding house and a residence. Travelers were charged for use of the water from the well, with differing prices for camels (I wonder how many of them there were), cows etc. Water for miscellaneous use was charged at 1 penny per 10 gallons of water! An interesting smoke stack in remarkable good condition can be seen on the left side (ummm, the other left, Helen) of the road, which may possibly have been a lime kiln.



Just before reaching Nildottie you drive through some old and out of condition almonds which Helen explained were planted by growers from Willunga who wanted to try out sunnier climes. From Nildottie they leap-frogged to Lindsay Point.

At Nildottie we stopped for a bit of light refreshment (and a refreshing breeze, brrr) before we met one of our tour guides Issy at 10.30. We followed Issy just out of town to her house and from there proceeded on the tour with another guide Ivy, and their little dog, a toy poodle. The tour was absolutely fabulous and Issy and Ivy were great guides, interjecting plenty of humour and drawing some interesting parallels between the way their people traditionally lived and the way we live today; we even got to see the "Men's Shed".

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Ngaut Ngaut contd



It was interesting to hear the ladies talk at the end of the tour about how their family is the only one along the river that can trace their ancestry back many generations to this same spot, and yet it's the only place along the river without a native title claim. They believe that they don't own the land, that the land owns them and that their sole purpose is to protect the land and this wonderful site for all people to be able to appreciate. If you ever have the opportunity, you should do yourself a favor and take the tour. It's even worth all the steps up and down the cliff-face to reach it!

After brief farewells to Issy, Ivy and the dog we headed for the Swan Reach Hotel and a well-earned lunch. It's a lovely spot with great views and we were really impressed with

how quickly we were served our meals; which naturally, were quite delicious and not a bit skimpy. We enjoyed each other's company and then following Phill and Alison's example, we each headed our own way back home. Andrew, Daniel and I decided to detour past Eastern Well for a closer look and managed to take as long as possible to get home – always a difficult thing after such a lovely day with great company.

Many thanks Helen and Lester for a great trip; we're really thrilled we got to see Ngaut Ngaut (actually pronounced Nowt Nowt) and hear about the Ngaranku people.

Trish Eerden



The Starfish

While walking along a beach, a man saw someone in the distance leaning down, picking up something and throwing it into the ocean.

As he came closer, he saw thousands of starfish the tide had washed onto the beach. Unable to return to the ocean during a low tide, the star fish were dying.

He observed a young man picking up the starfish one by one and throwing them back into the water.

After watching the seemingly futile effort, the observer said, "There must be thousands of starfish on this beach. It would be impossible for you to get all of them. There are simply too many, you can't possibly save enough to make a difference".

The young man smiled as he continued to pick up another starfish and tossed it back into the ocean.

"It made a difference to that one", he replied



Events Calendar



September		
29 th	Police remembrance day	
October		
30 th Sept -3 rd Oct	Bendlbey Ranges	Phil Haines & Alison Smith
1 st – 3 rd	South East wetlands	CANCELLED
4 th	Committee Meeting	Rob Howie
11 th	General Meeting	Monash
28 th – 30 th October	Port Vincent fishing trip	CANCELLED
November		
1 st	Committee Meeting	Charlene Santos
5 th – 26 th	Gippsland extended trip	Trevor and Carmel Wuttke
8 th	General Meeting	Cobby
27 th	Christmas Party	Steve and Anita Scholefield
December		
6 th	Committee Meeting	Alpaca



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Trip Information

Bendleby Ranges Fri 30th September - Mon 3rd October

Leaders Phil Haines and Alison Smith 85845484



Meet at the Pitstop Roadhouse on the Sturt Highway in Barmera at 8.00am

For those who prefer to travel on the Sat, directions can be supplied.

Sat - serious 4WDing on Billie Goat Ridge track - experience needed. Sun - more driving throughout the property, not as difficult as previous day. There is bush-walking tracks, bikes for hire or just relaxing in beautiful scenery. There is usually an 'around the campfire' sing-along one night at the shearing shed (a great night!).

Costs: Camping - \$17 p.night p Adult and \$5p.night for school age children

For those who want to do the driving (not compulsory) there is a charge of \$60 per vehicle.

Suitable for caravans, campers, tents, swags - anything really.

BYO everything, happy hour nibbles will be shared between the group over the 3 nights



South East wetlands drainage scheme. 1st - 3rd October

CANCELLED

Port Broughton fishing trip 28th-30th October

CANCELLED

Gippsland 5th November - 26th November

Leaders Trevor & Carmel Wuttke

The route will go East via. the Pink Lakes, Swan Hill , Shepparton, Wodonga, Thredbo, Jindabyne, Bega and Merimbula. Then South to East Gippsland following the coast as much as possible taking in the Ben Boyd NP, the Nadgee Nature Reserve and Croajingolong NP. Then back to two wheel driving we'll head for Orbost, Lakes Entrance, Sale, the Wilsons Promontory NP, and Phillip Island. Come home via The Great Ocean Road, Portland and Mt. Gambier..



For anyone interested in joining the trip, the final arrangements will be decided at a trip meeting in October. For more information phone Trevor on 0418 839 571

For Sale

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.

Email: shamom648@bigpond.com

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