

March
2010



Riverland 4WD Club

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Beachport with Andrew and Tracy Gatehouse

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Friday March 5th.

Our trip leaders were Andrew and Tracy Gatehouse. Andrew and Tracy, Pat and Pete Jones and Ken and Maude Jachmann met in Loxton on Friday morning and proceeded to travel to Pinnaroo where they stopped for a break and also the compulsory latte and munchies, then headed off next to Bordertown, where Andrew was keeping in touch via CB radio with Terry, Michelle, Zac and Oscar Page, as they were to join the convoy at Bordertown.

To keep the trip moving we didn't hang around and all headed for Naracoorte. When we arrived some of us decided to go and have a look at the Naracoorte Caves (stunning), and the Fossil Museum. Others decided to head for the Wood Shop across the road.

Leaving Naracoorte we headed for Beachport, and arrived at the caravan park around 4pm, where we



met John and Joy Sweet who had arrived the day before. We set up camp and proceeded with a well earned happy hour.

Later that evening around 7pm An-

draws brother Tim, his partner Jenny and Tim's son Austin arrived, and commenced to set up their camper. After having tea we all went to bed, ready for a busy day on Saturday.

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Meeting Dates

Committee

- 7.30pm on Tues
Apr 6 @ Eerden's

General Meeting

- 7.30pm on Tues
Apr 13 @ the
Monash Club

Committee

	<u>Office Bearers</u>		<u>Committee Members</u>	
President	Steve Scholefield	0421 648 957	Jenny Schober	8583 7315
Vice President	Paul Pfennig	8584 1280	Bill Wilksch	8583 2230
Secretary	Helen Hall	8595 1288	Rob Howie	8595 3070
Treasurer	Judy Westley	8582 5280	Andrew Gatehouse	0428 370 633
Events Officer	Andrew Eerden	8584 1365	Pauline Hunt	8595 5452
Newsletter Editor	Trish Eerden	8584 1365		

From the President

Greetings – the year seems to have hurried along a little.

There are a few trips starting to happen which is great for the Club and members.

The recent Beachport trip led by Andrew and Tracy Gatehouse was very successful I hear, with 6 vehicles, 10 members and 3 juniors making the journey.

Clean Up Australia Day held by our Club on Sunday the 14th of March was successful again. 28 members attended with almost all the Sturt Highway cleaned from just east of Paringa to the Border. Some areas were not covered in the 3 hours, but we plan on a different approach next year. All that attended agreed at the bbq lunch that it was a worthwhile day with 105 bags of rubbish and another trailer load of hard trash collected. A very nice social lunch was held in Bert Dix Park after the cleanup. Thanks to all those that participated – bit of a special feeling to know that

our Club has contributed to the community in a very positive manner.

The Annual General Meeting is fast approaching – we will have 4 vacancies on the Committee including the position of Newsletter Editor. This is a very important position as the Newsletter is a great means by which our members know what is going on in the Club. This position really needs a volunteer prior to the AGM so that Trish Eerden can offer some training. If you are interested, please contact me as soon as possible.

The other positions on the Committee are also important – can you offer something to your Club? If so, again, please contact me or another Committee member if you want some details or wish to nominate. Nomination forms will be available from the April general meeting.

The Committee meeting to be held at the Eerden’s house on Tuesday the 6th of April is also an event planning meeting.

We need suggestions and ideas for events and trips for the next calendar – don’t be shy – we will consider all ideas submitted.

The April general meeting will be held at the Monash Club at 7.30 p.m. Guest speaker will be Mike Johnson from the Monash CFS – he has a very interesting presentation and DVD in relation to the Port Lincoln and Victorian fires.

That is all for this month – hope to see you all at Monash – cheers.

Steve Scholefield

Steve Scholefield, President



Beachport (cont) with Andrew and Tracy Gatehouse

Saturday March 6th.

We all rose and went our different ways in the morning, and met back at the camp at 11am. Heading off we went 4wding around the sands and beaches, where we saw many shacks dotted amongst the bushes, near a

small town called Southend. We also went driving on sand from Beachport to Nora Creina, which is between Robe and Beachport.

On the way back we had a look at the Woakwine Cutting just out of Beachport. This is a drainage scheme cut out by Murray McCourt and Dick

Clean Up Australia Day

Andrew and I made it to Bert Dix Park at about 8 a.m. to find that almost everyone was there already, proving just how keen they all were. Steve quickly had everyone organised into groups and heading out the highway.

Just a few observations from the day ...

You know the socks that 'disappear' from the washing machine? I know where they go ... on the side of the highway!!

Statistically speaking (based on rubbish picked up) it would appear that McDonalds and KFC are equally popular spots for take-away food.

If we were to collect all the rubbish generated by McDonalds and KFC, recycle it and turn it into paper, we could generate enough paper to save a small rainforest!

Despite the fact that ring-pull cans haven't

been produced in some 10 years, we still found them on the side of the road.

Pauline Hunt actually made money on the day ... she found 5C!

Joy Stoeckel found a new way to get Graeme's attention ... a plastic whistle. She gave a demonstration at the BBQ and when a few people expressed concern about blowing on a whistle that had been picked up off the side of the road she assured us that she'd "sterilised" it.

Bill Wilksch found half a dozen used syringes and Bill Santos found a box of used ones.

Bill Wilksch is all set for car parking in Mildura now ... he found a parking permit for a private college there.

Helen found a lost 'soul' (sole), if anyone is looking for one.

Andrew found a work boot ... just the one,

one wonders where the other is?

Fezz has made a start on his shopping for his next trip ... he found a can of tinned corn which was only a 'little' damaged.

Roger found a mobile phone and Bev found a mobile phone charger; we don't know if they belonged together, because Bev managed to lose hers again.

Barry Clark found a Geocach: for those that don't know Geocaching is considered a sport by those that participate and involves downloading GPS coordinates from a website, and then finding the 'cache' based on those coordinates. It's kind of a high-tech treasure hunt, with the 'treasure' usually being **very** well hidden.

Bill Santos found himself using a 'bottomless' rubbish bag. He thought that it was taking lots and lots of rubbish, but it turns

out that each time he pushed the rubbish down, he was actually pushing it out the bottom of the bag!

Fezz had a similar experience; he wondered why a chip packet he'd put in his bag could have just blown past him in the wind. He looked behind and saw a 10 metre trail of rubbish that had escaped **his** 'bottomless' bag.

The shared BBQ lunch afterwards was a really pleasant way to finish off the morning. Scoey asked what was the most annoying thing of the morning to which one 'wit' exclaimed "you driving up and down the highway in your Landcruiser". A few laughs later we all agreed that the inordinate number of 'holiday makers' in caravans and camper trailers whilst we were out working, was **VERY** annoying!!

Thanks Scoey for organising it all.

Trish Eerden



Scoey and Mick Logan

Mick Logan putting another bag on the pile



EVENTS CALENDAR



Note: new trips are highlighted in **bold**

DATE 2009	EVENT	TRIP LEADER
April		
2 nd – 11 th	Broken Hill & Surrounds	Glenn & Sadie Pascoe/ Rob & Judith
6th	EVENTS MEETING	Andrew & Trish Eerden
6 th	Committee meeting	Andrew & Trish Eerden
13 th	General meeting	Monash
16 th – 18 th	Melrose “Rock the Mount”	Grant & Judy Westley
24 th – 26 th	Keith and surrounds	Nick Wilson & Linda Stopp
May		
4 th	Committee meeting	Andrew Gatehouse
11 th	General meeting	Loxton
16 th	Meringur Museum	Paul & Rosie Pfennig
28th - 6th June	Horseshoe Range (re-scheduled from April)	Grant & Judy Westley
June		
1 st	Committee meeting	Steve Scholefield
8th	AGM	Berri Club
12 th —14 th	Lake Mungo	Steve and Anita Scholefield

Beachport (cont) with Andrew and Tracy Gatehouse

MacIntyre in the early 1960's to empty the Woakwine Swamp to Lake George so that they could let cattle in.

We headed back to our camp ready for happy hour, then tea and later a few stories were told.

Sunday March 7th.

We rose and were on the road around 10am. John and Joy were to head off to Mount Gambier so we said our goodbyes. Our destination for the day was to drive to Robe and then

come back to Beachport via the beach, Nora Ceina.

At Robe we stopped for our morning tea, then headed for the start of the dune and beach driving. We all let our tyres down before heading on the sand tracks. Andrew and Tracy led, whilst Pat and Pete took up tail end Charlie. We stopped for lunch at Little Dip Beach at around 1pm.

Around the corner not far from where we had lunch a couple from Murray Bridge were well

and truly bogged in VERY soft sand. Tim proceeded to pull him out with his Holden Jackaroo, trying all sorts of angles. Eventually after quite some time he succeeded, by this time there was quite an audience from other drivers.

We continued till the end of the track, then headed back to camp for happy hour and then tea. Later that evening we celebrated Maude's birthday with some yummy cake, we then retired for the night.

Monday March 8th.

We all started to pack up as soon as we rose and headed off except for

Tim, Jenny and Austin who were to head back to Adelaide. We continued along Southern Ports Hwy to Robe, then the Riddochs Hwy to Keith where we all stopped for lunch.

Saying goodbye to Pat and Pete, and Ken and Maude at Keith after lunch, Andrew and Tracy and the Page Family headed back to Waikerie via Tintinara, Geranium, Karoonda and Maggea then back to Waikerie. After saying our goodbyes there we headed home.

A good trip was had by all.

Michelle Page.

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Community Award for Joy Stoeckel

Riverland 4WD Club member and Monash resident, Joy Stoeckel was one of four Riverland women recognised recently by the Riverland Zonta Club for their community service. This year is the 100th year of the Girl Guides in Australia and it was in this area that Zonta wished to recognise their contributions to the development of women through young girls.

Joy has lived at Monash all her life and is an active member of that community. She joined the Monash Girl Guide Company in 1950 and became a very active member. In 1976, when daughter Ngarie became a Brownie at Barmera, Joy served on the local association and became the treasurer. Following the retirement of the Guide leader, Joy was asked to become Barmera

Guide Leader and this position Joy held until 1997 when she took over the role as junior guide leader at Barmera until 2001. Joy was instrumental in assisting the guides and parents working together to raise funds for a trip to Norfolk Island in 1991.

From 1982 until today Joy has been the Riverland region Outdoor Activities Advisor and Co-ordinator. For three years during the 1980s Joy was Assistant Venturer leader at Barmera Scouts and on the Barmera Scout Committee. She has also seen the amalgamation of the Barmera Scout and Guide Hall into one complex.

Joy has also been an active member of the Monash Primary School Welfare Club, St. Oswald's Anglican Church, Lone Gum and Monash Trust,

the Berri Barmera Anglican Church council, the Monash CFS, as well as supporting her husband Graeme in his many community projects.

The Riverland 4WD Club has also been a beneficiary of Joy's services. Joy, together with husband Graeme, has been an active club member since the early 1990s. She has served on the committee for four years, and been secretary for two years. While 4WD Club participation has always included Graeme, Joy was regularly involved in the Yubalia Hut project from 1996-2000, took part in native seed collecting and tree planting projects at Banrock and Wonuarra, annual Clean up Australia days, Police Remembrance Day celebrations, Ngarkat Conservation Park working bees, has led several club



trips, and worked tirelessly for the Riverland 4WD Club's hosting of the SA Association of 4WD Clubs' annual general meetings held at Chowilla Station and Blanchetown.

Joy is humble when referring to her contributions to the community, but has obviously enjoyed every minute of the time spent working for others. She is a very worthy recipient of the special award by Zonta and we can feel privileged that she is such an active member of our club. Well done Joy!

Dean Line's Photo Corner

This time let's talk about digital cameras. The traditional film camera is fast disappearing as digital technology has advanced to the extent that one can now obtain images of excellent quality, that will enlarge to A3 size and larger, from a reasonably priced digital camera. Many families now own such a camera and some even

print their own photos on their home computer. This is easy to do so provided you have a user – friendly software program with which to do it. Unfortunately, not all cameras come with such a program. Some manufacturer's image editing programs are not all that easy to use.

However, I have found the program sup-

plied with the Olympus digital cameras to be one of the easiest to use. The Picasa program that can be downloaded free from the internet is an easy program to use, too.

For those who may be contemplating buying a digital camera, most will want to know what features they should look for in a camera in order to



obtain best value for money.

Digital cameras come with a huge range of features. However, many of

Dean Line's Photo Corner (cont)

these features will rarely be used by the average photographer, if at all.

Although some may disagree with the opinions expressed below, here are some of the features that I would personally look for when buying a digital camera.

Firstly, one should be aware that there are **two main types of digital camera**: namely the **Digital Single Lens Reflex (SLR) camera** and the **Digital Compact camera**. The former is the most expensive but offers the greatest versatility in that it enables the user to change lenses from wide angle to telephoto as well as add a range of other attachments such as computerised flash units, bellows close-up attachments and a range of filters and other special effects attachments. However, it comes with some drawbacks, the biggest being that it leaves the camera vulnerable, when interchanging lenses, to allowing dust particles to enter the camera chamber and settle on the digital sensor. This is the part of the camera that converts the image transmitted by the camera's lens to a digital signal. Dust particles settling here prevent light from reaching the sensor and create spots in your image that will necessitate editing each image you expose, in your computer, in order to get rid of them. This is time consuming and annoying. Nor is it easy to clean the dust spots from your camera's

sensor, once detected. One can easily damage the sensor in trying to do so.

Nevertheless, these SLR cameras provide the best option for the serious photographer and are the choice of professional photographers. Most of the later models now have an inbuilt sensor cleaning feature that takes care of this problem.

However, many photographers will opt for the compact digital camera and will be very happy with the resultant images they obtain since these cameras are now extremely versatile and easy to use, thanks to digital technology.

Here are some features to look for.

Megapixels.

Despite the importance given to the megapixel rating in camera advertising, one would be hard pressed to see the added improvement in the ordinary snapshot image once you exceed a 4 megapixel capability. This capability will enable one to obtain a good quality image up to A3 size when printed. 4 megapixels is usually all you should require.

Viewing screen.

It is also useful to have a large viewing screen. This will enable you to observe, most easily, the quality of the images you take. However, these screens are very hard to see in bright sunlight and picture taking

under these conditions can be quite difficult. Therefore, a separate viewfinder to enable you to observe the scene you are taking under such conditions, is almost essential. In addition, using your viewfinder instead of the larger viewing screen, saves on battery usage. Some of the slightly more expensive cameras show a small LCD screen in the viewfinder. This allows one to see the image as one composes it. They also have the added advantage, once you have pressed the shutter release, of showing the image, as it will ultimately appear, for a few seconds following the exposure. This enables the user to see whether or not it is properly exposed and whether it is properly in focus so that one can alter the camera settings and correct the exposure or focus before one leaves the scene.

The lens.

While most cameras will have a 3 times **optical** zoom range, I would consider this to be the **minimum** acceptable zoom range. You will find numerous occasions when you will need to zoom in much closer to get a good photo of your subject whether it be a person, a scene or, perhaps, a flower.

A **digital** zoom will enable you to do this but since it merely magnifies the pixels that make up the image, the image quality will suffer. Therefore, I recommend an **optical**



zoom range of at least 6 times, and preferably 10.

While most compact cameras will offer a **digital** zoom feature, I maintain that a **digital** zoom range exceeding 3 or 4 offers little added benefit.

Image stabilisation.

Another valuable feature found in some cameras with a large optical zoom range is an **image stabiliser**. While not absolutely essential, it will, nevertheless, prove to be a valuable asset when shooting at full zoom range and will definitely result in sharper, crisper images..

Shooting modes and automatic operations.

Most cameras will offer a **fully automatic** feature and it will deliver very acceptable images on the whole. However, there will be quite a few instances when the results are disappointing. Too many of them use a slow shutter speed of around 1/30th of a second and this often leads to slightly blurred images.

Therefore I suggest that one should also look for a camera with a **“program”** option as well and preferably a **“manual”** option, too. Both of these

Dean Line's Photo Corner (cont)

options will allow one to override the camera's settings if the ambient light is tricky and not well handled by the camera's automatic mode, as happens at times.

Image quality settings.

These enable one to choose the file size and therefore the quality of the image. It also determines the number of images one can take and store on one's storage card. It can be useful to have a range of choices here so that one can choose a lower image quality if one can see that they might run out of card

space on a trip before they can download their images. It will allow you to take more photos even if the quality might be lower. A lower quality image of a memorable scene is often preferable to no image at all.

Close up setting.

This can be useful when taking photos of flowers and small objects. It is a good feature to have on your camera's menu if possible.

Self timer.

While most cam-

eras have such a setting, you should determine that it is present. There will always come a time when you will wish to be in the picture yourself. This feature will permit it.

"Flash off" setting.

Again, most cameras will have this feature but some do not. It will enable you to rest your camera on a solid object or a tripod and capture that nice sunset or that family group that is so large that you sometimes have to move back out of flash range in order to include

everyone in the photo. In low light situations this will trigger the Auto flash to fire and the image will be mostly underexposed. By turning you flash "off" the camera will take a "time exposure" and the resultant exposure will be much more pleasing.

Of the many more features found on some cameras that we could discuss I believe that the above are the ones that I would particularly look for, myself, when choosing a camera.

Official Information Release from Four Wheel Drive SA
4WD Matters
 March 2010 - 10/03/2010
 South Australian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Incorporated ABN 24 036 898 953 - www.saatfwdc.asn.au



FWDSA Clubs at the 2010 Caravan & Camping Show

So how does the Caravan Show affect your Club? Well all Clubs were promoted at the FWDSA display stand and Club brochures were handed out too. The DTU provided a daily seminar and thrice-daily "Live Recovery Demonstrations".



4WD SAFE VEHICLE RECOVERY DEMONSTRATIONS
 11.30am 1.30pm 3.00pm

At this show the FWDSA stand had an integrated display with an exclusive club focus. It was staffed by 40 Club Members from 10 Clubs. The creation of display material and stand construction was co-ordinated with an ongoing show committee of 12 Clubs under the auspices of the Association Executive

FWDSA was among the exhibitors in the Stirling Angus Pavilion which formed the SA Outdoor Adventure Show segment of the Caravan Show. The official blurb described this area as "...an added dimension.....to appeal to the more active self-drive travellers".

The potential exposure to upwards of 40,000 show patrons over 5 days makes this a significant promotional opportunity.

The new FWDSA Brochure had its first outing at the Show and proved an attention grabber on our stand. The brochure has Club location labels positioned on maps of SA Country and Adelaide Metro areas.




Thank You List:
 The following organisations contributed in various ways to our presence at the Caravan & Camping Show:

- Tourism SA
- Keep SA Beautiful (KESAB)
- ARB 4X4 Accessories - Regency Pk.
- Terry Howe Printing - Blair Athol
- Opposite Lock - Mile End
- Fourplay 4x4 - Holden Hill
- Caravan & Camping Industry Assoc SA (CCIASA)

come and try us out
New FWDSA Brochure
4WD Clubs of SA



Edited: by 4WD Adventurers Club of SA Inc. Direct all correspondence to Editor FWDSA email:- saatfwdc@saatfwdc.asn.au
 4WD Matters March 2010 - 10/03/2010 : Disclaimer: Whilst every endeavour is made to ensure the accuracy of the material in this publication, Four Wheel Drive South Australia shall not be held responsible for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies.



Trip Information

Broken Hill and Surrounds April 2nd – 11th

Leaders: Glenn and Sadie Pascoe / Rob and Judith Howie

Meet at Stone Henge at 8am. Travel to Denian Station (below Menindee), Viewmont via station tracks, visit Menindee Lakes, Burke and Wills campsite, Broken Hill, Silverton, Poomlamacca and gold mines. All difficult tracks have alternate routes. Bring sand flags and compressors, low range needed, camper trailers and **lightweight off road** caravans OK. BYO everything.

Travel approx 1550kms.

Events Meeting 6th April

7.30pm at the Eerdens House. Please pass on your trip Ideas, or come along to the meeting everyone is welcome. Call 0429841365 for directions.

Melrose Rock the Mount April 16th – 18th

Leaders: Grant and Judy Westley

Meet at Glossop steel yard at 8am and travel to Melrose, Cost \$80 includes camping and entry to concert, portable showers and toilets provided. Bring your own everything. Approx 320kms one way.

Keith and surrounds 24th April – 26th April

Leaders: Nick Wilson and Linda Stopp

Meet at car park opposite the Loxton Club at 8am. Travel to Keith via Pinnaroo then back roads and private property. Visit historic sites around Keith, sand driving on Linda's family farm. May visit Messent Conservation Park if time permits. Staying on family farm, no facilities, shearing shed available for shelter if raining. BYO everything, off road caravans OK. Return via Tailem Bend and Karoonda. Approx 650kms.



Meringur Museum 16th May

Leaders: Paul and Rosie Pfennig

Meet at Paringa silos at 9.00am, Travel to the Meringur Museum via Sturt Highway, arrive at Museum for morning tea, Gold coin donation to enter museum. BYO BBQ lunch, coin operated BBQ on site. After lunch visit the things that everyone but you found. Head home via different route. Approx 200kms

Moockra (Horseshoe Range) 28th May – 6th June

Leaders: Grant and Judy Westley

Meet at the Glossop Steel yard at 8.00am. Travel to the Horseshoe Ranges for some fun 4WD driving in the southern Flinders. Bush camping \$10/ person / night. \$30 per Vehicle to explore the horseshoe range. Reasonable ground clearance and low range required. Caravans OK, bring your own everything. Approx 1200kms.

Mungo National Park 12th June – 14th June

Leaders: Steve & Anita Scholefield, 8 vehicle limit

We will travel via the highway to Mildura to the Park. Drive tour of park, nature walks. Happy hour etc. \$5 per Adult / night. \$3 / child / night. Firewood \$5 for 25 litre bin. Travel home will be via the Top Hut Road, Wentworth to Pooncarie Road, Lake Victoria area and Calperum. Camper trailers, Caravans OK. Approx 700kms



Riverland 4WD Club

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, Trish.

Email: peerden3@bigpond.com

We're on the Web

www.riverland-4wd-club.org.au

OZTRAIL - King sized, self-inflating mattress

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