

October
2010



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Gurra Campout with Andrew and Tracey Gatehouse

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Gurra campout was well attended with 6 couples camping out Friday and Saturday night and approximately 40 people altogether attending on Saturday night. We all thoroughly enjoyed another magnificently prepared webber style roast, chicken, lamb and pork with vegies, compliments to the cooks Terry and Anton Cook. This was followed by a pooled dessert, which always goes down well, - thanks to everyone who made or bought something to share.

Earlier in the day a couple of fun competitions were held with hilarious results

.One of them was 'The Balancing Act', where the driver of a 4WD must negotiate a set course, pre set with hazards of various sorts and intensity, and safely convey their passenger who is carrying a wok filled with a set amount of water in it, and not spilling any of its contents. The contents were then measured at the end of the course to see how much was spilled. Carol Dyer, passenger and Malcolm Weisman, driver, were the winners with no measurable loss or spillage. Given that Linda and Nick, the first to compete, returned with wet crutch and much water on the floor mat of their 4WD it was decided that a reduction of the water level may be appropriate. (Sorry Linda that you had to be the first to discover the consequences of such Tom Foolery). Various methods were used to avoid wet crutches; some used towels, some held the wok out the window, some thought they could get away with glad wrapping the wok, and some thought if they held it up against the roof that that would work, but the judges were watching.

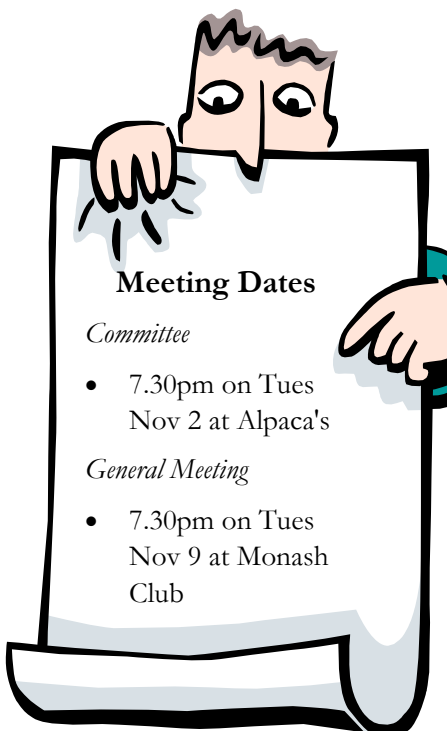
The other task was 'The Plumb-Bob'. This involved the hanging of a "D" shackle from the



Tracey Gatehouse tries **not** to spill water in "The Balancing Act"



Andrew Gatehouse negotiating "The Plumb-Bob"



Meeting Dates

Committee

- 7.30pm on Tues
Nov 2 at Alpaca's

General Meeting

- 7.30pm on Tues
Nov 9 at 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 – hope the recent cold spell hasn't caught too many out, but we won't complain about the rain.

Great to see 66 members at the Cobby Club for the October meeting with 40 attending for tea and a good social evening.

The Committee is progressing the idea of running a display day in 2011 – probably in March – we are looking at a couple of sites – Sedunary Park in Barmera, where we have held it before, and the Berri No 2 oval next to the caravan park. If anyone has any other suggestions, please let us know. We will be looking for a number of members to display their set ups and may even conduct a boot sale – more details will be advised as this progresses.

The photo competition is drawing to an end – final judging will take place in November with awards to be presented at the Christ-

mas Show. If you have any photos you would like to enter, either get hard copies to me or email them so they can be judged.

Peter Speight's memorial service will be held at the Renmark Hotel on Tuesday the 23rd of November at 5.00 p.m. All members are welcome to attend – if anyone wants to stay for tea after, please indicate your intention to attend on the trip sheet so we can advise of numbers.

Don't forget the Christmas Show on Sunday 28th of November at the Berri Senior Citizen's Club - bring your own everything, drinks, crockery, cutlery, glasses – except lunch (supplied by Club). This year's theme is an Aussie Bush Christmas with prizes for best dressed and best decorated table. As usual, we will running a raffle with donations to be made to charity – please bring along a wrapped gift as a raffle prize.

The November general meeting will be held at the Monash Club commencing at 7.30 p.m. Guest speakers will be representatives from DTEI (Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure) to speak on towing requirements, hitches, weights, trailer brakes etc. Hope you can all make it – see you there.



Steve Scholefield, President

Steve Scholefield
President



Terry Page shows how he negotiates sand hills in his Jeep at the Gurra Campout

Gurra (cont.)

rear of the 4WD and the driver then reversing to a set target , the winner being the person who suspends the shackle closest to the target, (reversing cameras -not allowed).

The third task was to drive blind-folded in a circle with your passenger as a guide and who also is holding on to one end of a snatch strap, the other end of which is attached to a vertical rotating pole in the center of the circle. The snatch strap must neither touch the ground nor pull the pole over, and two rotations around the circle must be completed.

The weather was good to us with no rain ,just a little cool ,but with three camp fires, no one was left in the cold. It was great to see Kevin Maggaard again ,a previous recent member; he stayed as a guest of Malcolm and Sandra

Thanks to Malcolm Weisman for the continued use of his property. Much appreciated by all the club

Andrew Gatehouse



EVENTS CALENDAR



DATE 2009	EVENT	TRIP LEADER
October		
30 th -31 st	Calperum/Winack	Phil and Alison
November		
2 nd	Committee meeting	Al Packer
6 th – 7 th	Black Cockatoo camp ground	Al and Elaine Packer
9 th	General Meeting	Monash Club
14 th	Training / Scrap booking	Eerden / Howies
28 th	Christmas party	Berri senior citizens club
December		
7 th	Committee Meeting	TBA
January 2011		
11 th	General Meeting	TBA
February		
1 st	Committee Meeting	TBA
8 th	General Meeting	TBA
19 th – 20 th	Mallee tracks	Glenn and Sadie Pascoe
March		
1 st	Committee Meeting	TBA
6 th	Clean up Australia Day	Steve and Anita Scholefield
8 th	General Meeting	TBA
12 th – 14 th	Gurra Lakes	Glenn and Sadie Pascoe
27 th	Display Day	
April		
3 rd	Morgan pumping station	Rod and Sue Bradtke
5 th	Committee Meeting	TBA
12 th	General Meeting	TBA
15 th – 30 th	Victorian High Country	Rob and Judith Howie

Clarence Ranges

with Grant and Judy Westley

25th-26th September 2010

15 vehicles (33 people) enjoyed a wonderful weekend camped at Big Billy Bore in the Big Desert State Forest south of Murrayville

Report from Charlotte Elliott (12) daughter of new members Mark & Nicki Elliott (this was the first time the family had been 4wdriving or even camping)

On Saturday, 25th of September, the Four-Wheel Drive Club went out on a trip to Victoria to go camping for one night. The drive took an hour and a bit to get to our camping destination. That Saturday morning was an extremely nice one. The sun was out, and so were all 15 Four-Wheel Drives.

During the drive voices blared through the radio signals that everyone was using. Everyone was talking and laughing and pointing things out. Grant and Judy especially, talking happily about everything from Golden Wattles to tubby sheep. After seeing snakes, sleeping blue-tongued lizards, green scrub, tea-trees and a snake that got severely squashed, we all stopped for at the Bakery in Pinnaroo. Everyone ate and chatted about stuff.

After finally getting on the road again we entered an unsealed track called Nicholls Road. Dust flew up everywhere and it was immensely difficult to see. We all arrived at camp at approximately midday. Tents were set up all over the campsite. After only a small amount of rest everyone was already inside their trucks, eager to go out and enjoy some proper off-road adventures. So to everyone's delight, that's what happened. We went along a particularly bumpy place called White Springs Track. Heaps of Broom bushes were around among the dead and dried-up vegetation.

Fortunately someone spotted a flock of Plover near the grassed area after quite a while of driving. All vehicles screeched to a halt as everybody went over to admire the baby chicks. All three squatted nervously as everyone came over. The rest of the drive was equally eventful. We crossed a river, saw some emus and kangaroos, and all the adults took photos of some desert orchids. When the sun was sinking low in the clouds everyone came back to the campsite for a rest and relax. We all ate dinner and then huddled round the campfire for some heat. The adults went very silly and started to laugh at random things.

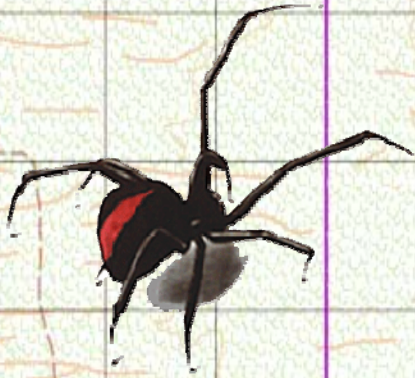
Next morning was chilly. We got packed up and went out four-wheel driving down the Brush Cutters Track. There was one less in the convoy on Sunday. All around were pretty purple-yellow-red wild flowers and Daisy trees. It wasn't long until we discovered a humongous sandy hill. Various people went up in various vehicles but no one made it up the steep slope.

At the end of the trip everyone went back home and rested after a great Four-Wheel Driving weekend!

Report from Mark & Nicki's no.2 daughter Georgia (10)

It was a beautiful spring morning and 15 trucks drove for an hour and half to get to a campsite. They were the Riverland 4wd Club. When they got to the campsite everyone found a spot to pitch their tents, (most people raked their area before pitching their tent. After about an hour or so they went out for a 3 hour drive in their trucks. Grant & Judy led the way using radio's to keep in contact with the group. Two sleepy lizards lay on the track, one moved and waddled away from the excitement. A couple of snakes lay on the track with no time to slither out of the way of the trucks. Someone thought they ran over a black snake. Next came a bunch of quick roo's zooming in front of Grant and Judy and hopping away into the dry scrub. After awhile of 4wdriving the group spotted a small lake blocking their path. Some men zoomed across using their snorkels so the engine wouldn't get wet. It was safe for the group to go across. When everyone had gone through it they saw a GINORMOUS hill with a track leading up it's sandy peak. It did not look safe, but a man called Pete took up the challenge to have a go, but he got stuck and had to back down again, so they drove back to camp. Later on it started to get dark. Grant & Judy cooked burgers for tea "YUM".

The adults had beer and wine while the kids sipped on juice. Soon it was very dark. All the adults sat around the campfire telling jokes until bedtime. In the night it was bitterly cold and carried on until the early morning. The campfire was burning and kept lots of people warm as they stood by it, although the hazy smoke was not nice to stand by. Grant & Judy cooked bacon and eggs for breakfast and whacked on a few burgers from the night before. After breakfast they set off for another drive, stopping a lot to see the wild flowers. On the way they stopped at a big hill and a couple of people dared to go up – but no one got to the top. They then went back to camp, packed up and went home.



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Nor'West Bend Station *with Alpaca*

After the last general meeting at Cobdogla, an impromptu trip was called to visit the Nor'West Bend Homestead as it was going to be open for inspection during Rose Week in the Riverland. Anybody interested in attending in attending were to meet at Barmera West roads intersection at 9.30am.

Kev & Bev, Nick & Linda, Lester & Helen, Bill & Charlene, Ian & Jenny, Elaine & Al and a surprise visitor, Viv Speight met at the meeting place and later Warren & Judith caught up with us at the station. We were greeted by Kevin Pedder the owner who pointed out the main landmarks. We all wandered off looking at the old buildings, gardens and equipment, strolled down to the river to see the Gypsy Ellen rear paddle wheel boat and more gardens.



We had morning tea in the old woolshed hosted by Sue Pedder, (Kevin's wife) and it was very scrumptious. More wandering around was done with Kevin being on hand to answer many questions.



The station was originally 2,000 square miles stretching from Morgan to over the border. The property was first established around 1860 and was predominantly a sheep station. The wool was bought to the wool store from an outlying shearing shed. The wool bales were taken down to the river on a Flying Fox and washed in the river. It was taken back up above the wool store where it was laid out on the lime mortar/cement covered ground to dry before being returned to the wool store and baled ready for transport to Adelaide and ultimately to England. The reason for the washing was to remove dirt and grease from the fleece to lighten the weight of the bales as there was no profit in transporting dirt back to England.

Approximately 80 Chinese workers were employed on the station during its heyday. An extensive fruit and vegetable garden was established to provide fresh food for the workers. Nor 'West Bend Station was also one of the first places in the colony to utilize barbed wire fencing.

Some were even lucky enough to have a sneak peek inside the homestead. It is not normally open to the public as it is a private residence. When the Pedder's bought the property of 250 acres, the house was in poor disrepair and over the last eight years, thousands of hours of work have been completed in its restoration. It has been a huge task and full credit is due to both of them for the excellent work that has been done.

Thank you very much for having us on your magnificent property.

Nor'West Bend Station (cont.)

Our next stop was planned for Lunch at Mallyon's Restaurant. We had warned them on our way down that they could expect a group in for lunch about 1.00pm. Mallyon's is a totally organic food restaurant where most food is grown and prepared on the property. We all agreed that the service was great, the food was tasty and fresh and portions were generous. There were a couple of people who surprised us by the volume that they consumed. The warm chicken salad and pancake was really nice, wasn't it Jenny? I was very impressed with the venue for lunch.

Mallyon's was established approximately the same time as the Overland Corner Hotel with both building's using the same quarry during construction. 100 timber cutters were employed to cut timber for the passing paddle steamers at its peak. It also had a liquor license up into the early 20th Century.

Leaving Mallyon's, we headed back towards home with a quick stop at a roadside grave adjacent the 128km marker. The resident is thought to be a chap who was walking from Morgan to Renmark and passed away on the track. His body was discovered and buried at the spot. The grave has a small stone cairn and stone surround. He must have met a very lonely death.

We all had a very enjoyable day and both places are well worth a visit again. Although the station is not open to the general public, it does allow groups to visit if previously arranged.

Alpaca



Trip Information



Black Cockatoo Bush Camp 5th – 7th November

Leader: Al Packer 0427 100016 * **LIMIT 8 vehicles***

Start at 8.30am opposite Loxton Club. nil restrictions on camp setups. BYO recovery gear if doing 4WD track on site (cost of \$30/vehicle)

General Cost of \$7.50 pp/night. Power available. Approx kms: 800. All weather permitting.

Activities may include Naracoorte Caves, wineries etc.

Home by 5.00pm Sunday evening



Scrapbooking / Training

Leaders: Eerdens / Howies

Meet at 10 o'clock at the Eerdens house Loxton North.

Scrapbookers BYO equipment if you have it, or beginners can tackle a project with materials and equipment supplied, (consumables charged at cost).

Training "in the shed" to include Battery welding, tyre repairs and High Lift Jack use.

BYO lunch and chairs, BBQ available.



Christmas Party 28th November

Meet at the senior citizens hall for lunch. The theme this year is "AN AUSSIE BUSH CHRISTMAS" please bring a salad or a sweet to share as well as a wrapped gift to be donated as a prize for the continuous raffle.



Nor'West Bend Station

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: shamon648@bigpond.com

We're on the Web

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

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