



Freedom
All Wheel Drive Club
of Western Australia



President's Report

G'day Members

My thoughts are with everyone who has been dealing with the fires both here in WA and those over east. Winter is coming!

Just a reminder that our January meeting is a week earlier this month and will be on the 20th.

Also a reminder that one very important duty needs to be performed at the meeting and that is the swearing in of our new President.

As this will be my last President's Report for the Club, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for all the support you have shown to me while at the helm of such a great club. I know that I am leaving some big shoes to fill but I am sure that they will eventually be filled over time.

Until the 20th January please stay safe and I will see you all then.

Luke Rowe
President

Freedom All Wheel Drive Club is a family oriented 4WD Club for drivers of Compact and Standard 4WDs.

Monthly Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at the Manning Senior Citizen's Centre, 3 Downey Drive Manning. **Contact** us via email at info@fawdcwa.com

Dates for your Diary:

Next Meeting: Monday 20 January 2020
Monday 24 February 2010

Upcoming Trips: 2 February (Sunday)
Dune and Beach Run
Trip Leaders: John & Debi

16 February (Sunday)
White Hills Preston
Trip Leaders: TBA

29 Feb - 2 March Long Weekend
Trip Leaders: TBA

Extended Trip 9-21 May (13 days)
Murchison House,
Carnarvon, Quobba,
Wooramel River Retreat
Trip Leader: Diane Court

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Snippets from the Editor

Hello Everyone. I hope you've all had a good break during December and January. All the news of the bushfire destruction to people and landscapes and wildlife has been almost overwhelming. I hope you stayed safe during that time.

This month we will bid a sad to farewell to Luke and Craig as they head off to Brisbane for new jobs, place to live and of course new places to explore! They will be missed, and I'm sure we all wish nothing but the best for them as they head to a new future in Queensland.

This newsletter is not as full as usual. My own issues and the shorter timeline this month (our meeting a week early due to Australia Day) caught me on the hop a bit, so there's not as many articles as I would like. In an effort to give you something to read I am including a report on our South Australian trip last year.

This year's trips should be exciting and interesting, and I'm looking forward to many of them. As we prepare to head out again there will still be Total Fire Bans (TFB) in place in many areas for some time to come, so if in doubt you can check here for what we [can and can't do in TFB](#).
Happy reading!

Diane Court
Newsletter Editor
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Sheriff's Report

Written by Michael Tai

The Sherriff (Michael Tai), armed with his shiny new red money box handed out a number of fines at the November meeting to members for their recent misdemeanours.

- Ted: Aluminium cans don't burn in the fire. Leaving coke can at Mt Observation.
- John M: Headlights not on, Gnomesville trip.
- Luke: Wrong turns, MundAl track.
- John M: No headlights, Gnomesville trip.
- Rowan: Losing number plate, Moore River.
- John M: No headlights, Gnomesville trip.

- Barry: Trying to drive his awning pegs into solid rock, visitor's day.
- Phil: No indication, visitor's day.
- John M: No headlights, Gnomesville trip. You would think he might remember by now!!
- Kay: Late to trip meeting spot, visitor's day.....out buying cutlery.
- John M: Requiring post it notes on his steering wheel as a reminder to turn headlights on, visitor's day.
- Jason: Taking too long to set up chair, visitor's day.
- Michael: Not remembering his rego, phone ringing at meeting.
- Chrispy had already paid his fines from the Wildflower Wander trip.



Answers: Photos from Newsletter Headers

No-one has suggested answers about the photo locations of newsletters might be, but here are the answers anyway:

September 2019: Wilbinga Beach
Jan 2016

October 2019: Donnelly River Area
Bridgetown Trip
Sep 2018

November 2019: Lake Ballard
April 2017



Image courtesy Snowy's Outdoors newsletter 1 Jan 2020



Above: Creek bed along the Geology Trail, Flinders Ranges SA



Kanyaka Station Ruins, Flinders Ranges SA

Trip Report - Retrospective South Australia

Written by Diane Court

Trip Leader - Diane Court

Attendees: Diane and Sue Slack

On 25 May 2019 Diane in her Zook and towing Matilda the Teardrop and Sue in her Pajero and towing her brand new Avan Cruiselinor headed across the Eyre Highway bound for South Australia. It was winter and we were travelling east but we were still a bit surprised with how quickly it became dark. On the first night we free camped just out of Norseman at what we thought was Lake Cowan, but it turned out we were a little north of that. It was quite cold and the dew was heavy the next morning and in the morning we both felt that the place had been a little bit creepy! Somewhere on the Eyre Hwy Sue got a stone thrown up at her by a passing truck and she got a crack in the top right hand corner of her windscreen which grew and grew and grew. We made it into Nullarbor Road House with an hour and a half of daylight left and a very strong wind blowing, so we decided not to camp up there but to press on to Nundroo. It got dark. Then it started to rain. And the crack in the windscreen grew and grew. During that long trip in the gathering dusk and rain we saw a large overturned caravan in APY lands (they didn't want our help so we pressed on). We got in to Nundroo about 7 pm to find there was one place left in the camp ground. Sue took that and I hired a room. The next day we called in to Ceduna and the man at Windscreens O'Brien said Sue was good to go, so we pressed on to Streaky Bay! We spent 3 nights and 2 days there. It was very windy but that didn't stop us from exploring on foot and by car. We went to the Point Labatt Sea Lion Colony and to Sceale Bay. It was a fun drive and we explored some sand dunes.



At Point Labatt it was so windy the observation deck built in to the cliff was shaking! The marine life was awesome though.



During the trip we two tea drinkers cottoned on to the idea of coffee for elevenses and we found a very funky café in Streaky Bay so we could keep that new tradition going. Some local history was of a young man who reeled in a large white pointer shark by hand. A replica is on display at one of the service stations. We enjoyed our time at Streaky Bay and can see why it is so popular. From there we headed to Port Lincoln.



We visited Murphy's Haystacks which were really interesting. It was a good place to stop and walk around. The views over the land were great too.

Then continued on to Port Lincoln. It's an amazing landscape with farmland, winding roads, coastal views, bays and so many rocks in the paddocks. I started to think that was what was being farmed. We learned about dry wall construction on that trip. We called in to Coffin Bay but were mostly underwhelmed. Maybe because it was off-season.

We stayed at the Port Lincoln caravan park located on Boston Bay and really liked it. The views were great and you could watch the fishing fleet coming

and going. The camp kitchen was well appointed and had great views (as you can see in the picture below). The fish and chips and seafood in Port Lincoln were also Pretty Darn Good!



One day we went for a trip to Tumby Bay and saw the silo art there. It's very impressive.



Tumby Bay was mostly shut. It was windy and rainy but we managed to go for a walk along the jetty and get a coffee. After the disappointment of Tumby Bay we did a bit of off-road exploring along dirt tracks and coast then went to Arno Bay. Now that made up for Tumby Bay. It has an old but nice looking caravan park right on the beach and a long jetty to walk

on but best of all is the little café with The Best Home Made Vanilla Slices ever! Yum.



After Arno Bay we headed inland to Cummins which is a famous grain handling rail hub for the Eyre Peninsular. It was an interesting place and we spent a bit of time exploring the local sculptures and art work describing the town's history. If you're there check out the facilities in the local park. They are unique. The news which had all the locals incensed was that the rail freight line was shut down on 1 June 2019. The SA government said it was too expensive to run and the local councils couldn't afford it so it was closed. All the grain from the Eyre Peninsular is now freighted by double-B trucks. All those beautiful, narrow secondary roads will now be truck routes and the local folk are very upset. It was front page news in Port Lincoln.



Arno Bay jetty

From Port Lincoln we went to Port Augusta via Whyalla where we found another cool coffee shop set up on a lovely wetland which was created from a former rubbish tip. A rest stop, nice views, birds and good coffee. Very nice. Our trip together was going to end at Port Augusta as Sue was going on to visit her Mum and I was going north to visit the Flinders Ranges. As there was still a bit of driving time left we said a quick goodbye and Sue headed south while I found a caravan park.



The next day the solo trip to the Flinders began. I was missing Sue but also very excited to see the Flinders which had been on my bucket list for a while. The drive to Quorn was amazing. The landforms there are unique and the road is windy and pretty. The Pichi Richi

railway line followed the road for quite a while and I had a ball. I stopped at Quorn for coffee at an interesting old place called 'The Emporium'. The railway doesn't run on weekdays so I missed out on seeing that but I really liked Quorn anyway. It was cold though. Then fortified by coffee it was off to Hawker (underwhelming) then on to the Flinders Way and my destination Rawnsley Park Station.

The short version of that whole trip is:

Totally Awesome, you have to go, I want to go again. The landscape is amazing. I visited Wilpena Pound (busy but you can get coffee), drove the Geology Trail, the Bunyerroo Gorge trail the Moraleña Scenic Drive (oh my goodness), up to Huck's Lookout and up to Spencer's Lookout (360° views at the top and a bas relief of the Wilpena Pound). As I was driving up that (listening to the crackle of the shale and looking at the sky) I was thinking, "this is all very well but I have to come down it again later!". I have to admit there was a bit of white knuckle on that one. The views were beyond expectation. Again, it was very windy, but oh my!

I also went to Blinman which is one of the older towns in the area. It is small but enjoyable and I got a very nice gluten free steak sandwich there. Who'd have thought it. One interesting story from Blinman were these two cattle dogs which were hanging around a café. The owner kept shooing them off. He said they were lazy working dogs who had realised they could cadge food off tourists so most days they did the 7km each way walk from their station to Blinman to hassle tourists!



The picture above is The Boot Tree.

Rawnsley Park is very nice. It's a working sheep station with eco-tourism, camping and a caravan park. There are walks you can do, scenic flights and some driving on the property. They have a store and sell petrol. I recommend it. On the way back I called in the Kanyaka Station ruins. They are definitely worth a look and I spent an enjoyable hour wandering around. The shearing pens are built from local rock and are remarkable. If you

would like to see more pictures of the area and Kanyaka please see my Flickr album [here](#).

The trip home was pretty much a race against the bad weather. At one stage I was trying to outrun two storm fronts. It was an interesting trip back with low visibility and driving rain, but I made it back in one soggy piece.

Creature Report:

Numbat (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*)

Written by Diane Court

By request, this month's Creature is the Numbat.

The Numbat is Western Australia's mammal state emblem and is both high on the cuteness factor and the endangered species list. They are not very big, being about 35 cm long and the tail makes up half that length. If you have ever tried to spot one you will note that they move quickly and are camouflaged for their woodland environment.



Numbats used to be found across much of Australia but now they are confined to Dryandra Woodland and Perup Nature Reserve, but Australian Wildlife Conservancy is establishing protected populations in NSW and SA. The numbat populations have plummeted due to heavy predation by introduced predators (especially foxes and cats) and competition for land use. Because Numbats are diurnal they are also preyed upon by raptors, goannas and snakes.

Numbats are diurnal which means they are active during the day and sleep at night, however, if it is hot they will retreat to shade or a burrow in the heat of the day and emerge later. They exclusively eat termites, and need approximately 20,000 a day. This can be hard for them to source, and their

presence in a landscape is dependent on the existence and movement of termites. They are not strong enough to demolish a mound so they have to wait around for the termites to come out. They have a long sticky tongue (just like the echidna) and use this to capture termites.

Numbats build a nest in a log or build a burrow. Breeding season is December-January and after 14 days the female gives birth to four underdeveloped young which must travel up to the mother's nipples and attach there in order to survive. The young suckle the mother for nine months then learn to forage for termites themselves. The babies' snouts are short and snubby while suckling but after nine months their snout grows into the long pointy adult snout so they can forage for termites.

Since 1987 Perth Zoo has run a Numbat breeding for release program (mostly into Dryandra Woodland) which is very successful. Population monitoring has shown an increase of a few hundred animals. Perth Zoo has been at the forefront of Numbat care and breeding and one of the problems they face is sourcing sufficient termites for their Numbats. If you attend the Zoo and speak to a Keeper or Docent you will learn they have developed a Numbat custard which contains the necessary nutrients and which they mix with termites to feed the animals. Apparently they love it. If you want to visit Numbat habitat Dryandra Woodland is a good place to start and I can recommend the Gnaala Mia campground (beautiful, peaceful, fantastic night skies, and birds). The Barna Mia tours are also informative and fun.



Images: Perth Zoo website
[Video](#) on Numbat Breeding Program (cuteness alert)
[ABC News article](#) on numbat recovery
Facts sourced from Perth Zoo, Australian Wildlife Conservancy.



We wish happy birthdays to:

Rowan Anderson
10 Jan
Andy Lawson
10 Jan
Patricia Potts
11 Jan
Luke Rowe
20 Jan
Chis Potts
22 Feb
Debi Marten
13 Feb
Paul Hemmings
17 Feb

Editor: And as we have room I would like to post this in honour of our West Australian bushfires. Vast tracts of our beautiful Great Western Woodlands have burned - Dundas, Charles Peak, Jilbadji and more. This is a reminder of their beauty.

