



Dates for the diary:

Next Meetings:

24 March 2021

28 April 2021



Upcoming Trips:

17-21 March Caravan/Camping Expo

28 March Capt Fawcett/Dwellingup

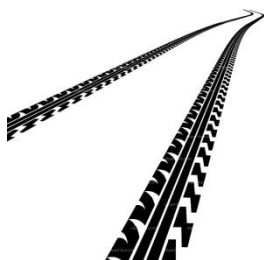
18 Apr Wellington Dam/Gnomesville

24-24 April Camping—Wheatbelt

** Leader required

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 Wednesday of each month** at the Manning Senior Citizen's Centre, 3 Downey Drive Manning. Contact us via email at info@fawdcwa.com.au



President's Report

Hi Everybody.

Well it looks as though we might be on the way out of COVID. Let's hope the immunisation plan works and we can gather and travel with no or minimal restrictions. Unfortunately the restrictions on overseas and interstate travel have resulted in many more "local" travellers and off roaders touring our state. This in itself has some negative impact on us. Camping venues are becoming fully booked months in advance, there is an increase of unskilled drivers both off and on road towing all manner of camping trailers and increasing the traffic on roads and shires and camp owners are becoming more reluctant to spend funds on repairs to infrastructure which is seeing much more use, choosing to temporarily or permanently close access. We as a club need to promote a safe caring attitude towards off-roading and camping/travelling. So with that in mind let's get out there and show what we are all about.

We have got off to a great start for the calendar year. In January the day trip around Yarloop and Harvey dam was a great success with a bit of road travel then off road on bush tracks. The weather forecast threatened an extremely hot day, but in the end it was warm but not too hot at all in the bush. February saw us on the move again in the Dale Mundaring area. This started as a trip through bushland and became quite interesting when we headed off on the powerlines. Our third trip for the year was the Shannon National Park weekend camp last weekend. Again a fantastic time was had by all.

It's time now to plan for the rest of the year, and I would like to consider a training day where we would share our knowledge of subjects with other members of our club. Perhaps a recovery

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Snippets from the Editor

Hello everybody. The Newsletter is back and you have all been busy in the last two months so there are lots of trip reports to read.

Enjoy!

Diane Court
Newsletter Editor
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President's Message cont...

With the bushfire risk deteriorating and bans to be lifted in the coming months, we could also consider a camp oven cookout probably at an overnight camp.

Finally, my thanks to those who have lead trips or assisted in organising functions so far this year. You have given our club a head start post COVID and made it easier to keep up the momentum. Thanks to Diane for once again taking on the task of producing this newsletter. Perhaps a "how to" presentation at the above training day would be in order so that someone else could relieve Diane in the future.

See you at the next meeting.

Tony Allender.



Wow, I think you went too far with the plastic surgery!





Trip Report : Yarloop to Harvey Dam – 17 Jan 2021

Leaders Jill & Tony Van der Sanden

Jointly written by Jill van der Sanden & Tony Allender. Photos by Jill & Tony

Ten cars met at the Waroona Information Carpark between 9:00 & 9:30am and after a quick morning tea and a Loo visit Carole & Tony, Debi & John, Peter, Jeannette & Michael, Ted, Colleen, Kaiyer, Guray & friends and Graeme all set off for a tour around the fire stricken Town of Yarloop.

We stopped to take a Mosaic Group Photo at the entrance to Yarloop on Johnston Road. The Mosaic design depicts the town's rich timber and rail history with a steam train as it's feature winding through Jarrah Forests. We then proceeded on a quick tour around the Town looking at where the houses and Hospital were destroyed and how the town has recovered, including a stop to look at the new Fire Station and the remains of the Museum.

Back to the Highway and turned off on Hoffman Rd for a scenic drive past Dog





Rock (three dogs apparently) and the Horse that appears to have not moved from when the recce was done.

Driving through some lovely countryside and coming in at the north-east side of Lake Brockman where we had our first challenge of the day. Some large rocky dips put Ted through some difficult manoeuvres. Perseverance paid off and paved the way for the rest of the convoy. We took a slow drive around Logues Brook Dam, with one quick loo stop and then across the Dam Wall to head out along Logues Brook Dam Road (of course!) to continue the trip. Heading east towards Hoffman Mill Camp/Picnic spot which was closed due to earlier fires and then continued on through a fairly easy bush track until

we reached the Harvey Dam lunch venue, where Tony V had a dip in the cool refreshing water while the rest of the convoy parked up and found a shady spot to eat. The

afternoon challenges began at approx. 1:30pm. Hill climbs, rutted tracks and steep descents put the



convoy through their paces. We were pleased to say the X-Trails did very well in all situations and Colleen, in her RAV4, came out in front as the best driver over the big rock in the rut. The end of trip was called at a small bush clearing on Honeymoon Rd just north of Harvey at approx 2:45pm and concluded with another group photo. Every trip has new experiences and lessons to learn. This trip highlighted the need to check our communication devices e.g. microphone cables and any other areas of weakness. Thanks to all trip members for their patience and help on our first time being Trip Leaders particularly to Jeannette for being mid-pack radio relay and Peter for being Tail End Charlie.

Trip leaders: Tony and Jill Van der Sanden. Tail end Charlie Peter Vince

Participants: Tony and Jill, Peter, Tony and Carole, John and Debi, Jeannette and Michael, Ted, Colleen, Kaiyer, Guray and friends, Graeme Hyland.

Mundaring Meander - 14 February 2021

Leaders:

Jeanette & Michael Tai

Report and photography

by Jeanette Tai

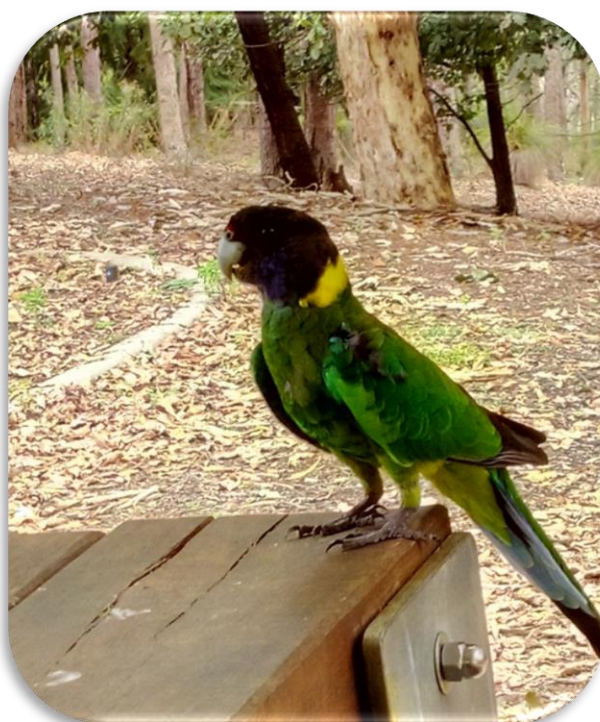


We were excited to get out and about for our first trip in months. Due to the COVID lockdown this trip was not open to visitors. The lockdown and bushfires played havoc with our initial

trip plans and on the day of our recce, we were turned around at the checkpoint on Brookton Highway and not permitted to leave the Metro area. We then had to put our thinking caps on and come up with a Plan B.

Six member vehicles, 13 people in total met up in the carpark outside the Dome Café in Gosnells, very happy to no longer be wearing the mandatory face masks, ready to hit the tracks. After fuelling up on coffee we left the carpark and headed up the Darling Scarp past the 4WD Association headquarters and via the scenic backroads, made our way to the Barton's Mill area.

Some lovely forest tracks were followed, without incident, until we reached our morning tea stop at Mount Dale. The weather and views were magnificent, and the kids had a ball collecting bottles and cans that had been thrown (unscrupulously)



over the lookout railings, bolstering their post COVID family holiday fund to Canada.

After morning tea, we retraced our steps back to Dale Rd and carried along until we reached the overhead power lines where we turned left. This track was very bumpy and threw up a rutted challenge that most of us negotiated on the first or second attempt. Barry, after finally getting so wedged, had to resort to accepting a helping hand to get him through. At this point, or just prior, he realised he was in 2-wheel drive and unable to engage 4wd. Talk about getting through the hard way!! After finally being towed through by Caz and Domenic, we hit the tracks again. Although quite bumpy, the convoy made it through without further incident, finally ending up in the carpark at Mundaring Weir for a latish lunch BBQ.



The carpark, and whole area was pretty much deserted apart from a few kangaroos, so finding a free shelter with BBQs was easy. While the gents attended to the cooking, the rest of us kicked back and had a catch up. The Maggies and 28s were very friendly and kept us entertained.

The end of the trip was called after lunch and everyone made their own way home.



We hope everyone enjoyed the day as much as we did.



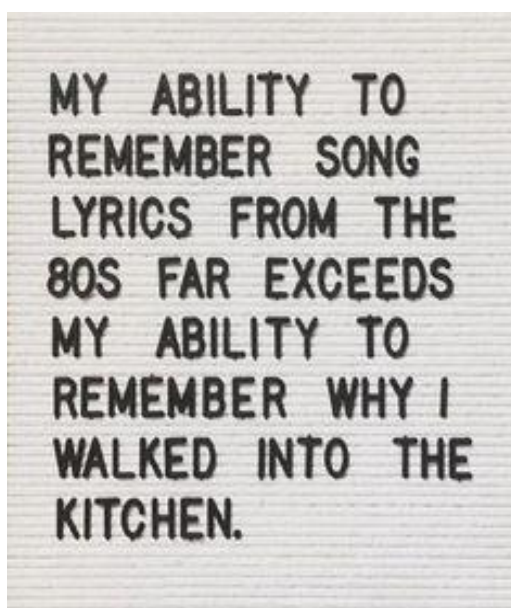
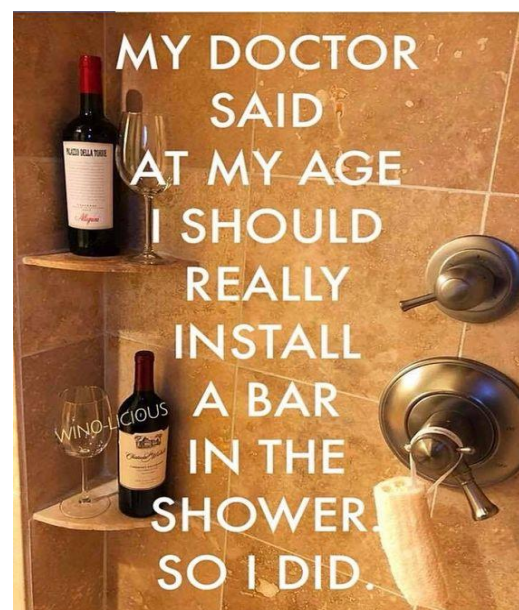


Anyone would think this Club ran on it's stomach!



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Debi Marten 13 February
Will Horstmann 19 February
Chris Potts 22 February
Linda Barrett 6 March
Rod Court 20 March
Linda Lawson 4 Apr



Shannon national Park Campout Trip Report

Trip leaders: Convoy/Tony and Carole. Fisherman's Track/Tony Van

Report and Photography by Tony Allender

Saturday 27 Feb 2021

The trip was scheduled to start at 0900 for 0930 at Caltex (now Ampol) Midway, so as trip leader we arrived at 0830 hrs, only to find Peter already fuelling up and Sue parked in the car park. Talk about eager. We were quickly joined by Barry and Francesca and lastly Ted. Tony V, John and Debi, Guray and Laval and Nathalie had arranged to meet us at the camp, having travelled down the day before. With all ready to go and a radio check done we began to move off, only to see Ted pass us and head up the road. He had not seen us in the car park and assumed we were assembling the convoy on the road. This was quickly sorted out and Ted waited at a rest stop and resumed his correct place in the convoy. In planning I had assumed that there would be a lot of



traffic as it was after all a long weekend. This proved to be wrong and we made good time in medium traffic bypassing the Bunbury roundabout and heading straight to Boyanup. The only incidents were cars entering the highway in front of me and not accelerating away. When you have something between 2 and 3 tonnes, leading a convoy of similar vehicles, cruising at 90 kph, it is a bit frustrating when someone pulls out in front and proceeds at 60 to 70 kph. Everybody is on the brakes and the whole convoy concertinas as we all build up to speed again. Anyway no foul no penalty. We continued through some beautiful country towns stopping at Donnybrook for morning tea and pit stop, then continued on until we reached Manjimup which was our last opportunity for fuel. In splitting up for fuel and vitals we managed to loose each other for a short time, but radio contact allowed us to reassemble and gather in a small park on the outskirts of town for lunch. After lunch we proceeded to the campsite arriving at 1430hrs. The members who had arrived the day before had gone out and done a run around Yeagorup, probably just to avoid the march flies which were everywhere and very annoying. By dark the march flies had gone, members who had

come down the day before had returned and all been fed and watered and we settled down to plan the next day.

Sunday 28 Feb 2021



Lead by Tony V, we all headed down to Crystal Springs turnoff onto the Mandalay Beach road to Mandalay beach where we aired down and had morning tea. Following the Banksia track down to Banksia camp, we stopped and walked down to the beach. Then the fun began in earnest. We headed out along the Fisherman's track. This is 22km of twisty and hilly track to Broke inlet.

Ted and Guray took turns at getting stuck. Despite the digging and towing, we progressed through the sand, passing other users. A series of issues caused some concern about two thirds of the way to Broke inlet. First Ted's car started making a rather concerning knocking from the engine. Ted advised by radio that he was stopping, but unfortunately the leader's radio had been bumped off channel and he continued on. The vehicles behind him followed on and by the time they realised there was no one behind them, the terrain was making communication very difficult. I was about to back up to Ted when he advised he was now mobile again and proceeding towards me. When he arrived the knocking noise had disappeared, but there appeared to be some possible belt debris on the belt guard. Something probably got stuck between the belt cover and the belt making the banging noise, then dropped off. As it appeared to be ok we continued towards Barry who had stopped when he heard the radio call.

We had just caught up with him when the trip leader discovered the radio had been knocked off channel and there was nobody beyond the vehicle behind him. We were able to now communicate what had happened and soon all caught up on the beach at Broke inlet. It proved too soft to actually drive across the sandbank to the beach, but we had a bit more digging practise then lunch.

After lunch we returned to Banksia camp via the same track. As we were now familiar with this route, there was no more getting bogged and we completed the drive at lightening pace.



“Let’s go to Clifly Head” he said, “It will only take a few minutes ” he said. So off we went. Unfortunately the track had been well chewed up by high powered 4x4s with fully inflated tyres. So after digging Guray out, we turned him around and towed him to the top of a nearby hill. The vehicles behind us either turned or backed out of the track. Tony V, Trip Leader was now Tail End Charlie. After about an hour, sans Clifly Head, we aired down at the highway and headed back to the camp. We spent eight and a half hours driving that day, arriving back at camp at 1830hrs. An excellent trip with plenty of challenges (and wildflowers). This report which is quite lengthy, still only covers the basics of the weekend. Laval and Nathalie cooked enough for everybody each evening and brought around extras after dinner. Tony V had several other routes plotted in case there was a problem with the ones we had. Carole and I had a quiz worked out for the evening but the conversation was so good we didn’t do it. We did however eat the box of chocolates which was going to be the prize.

The following morning all members gradually departed for home or a free day in the area. Fantastic weekend with great company. Thanks to all.

Tail end Charlie: Convoy/Sue. Fisherman’s Track/Peter V

Participants: Tony and Carole, Tony Van, Sue, Peter, John and Debi, Laval and Nat, Barry and Francesca, Ted, Guray.