



HOLDEN
4WD Club
South Australia

NO HOLDEN BACK

The HOLDEN 4WD CLUB of South Australia

October 2010

Presidents Report

Greetings One and All.

My first thoughts as I prepare this, are what to write? Do I look back at previous issues and follow themes, or just start typing and see where it goes. Firstly though, a warm welcome to the new Committee, and to the members that have also made themselves available to non-committee positions within the club. Welcome also to the membership, there are quite a lot that have been with the club for a considerably long time, some since inception, and also to the newer members. Without membership, a club doesn't exist.

On membership, our club's operating budget is based on a membership of 60, at the moment, we are about 75% of the way there. We did fall a little short last year of the target of 60, however it is participation in the meeting raffles that helps us across the line. The committee are looking at various different ways of working towards a club membership of 60.

Another task the committee with some additional assistance, is tackling is an overhaul of our clubs constitution, it was determined the current one is somewhat lacking, in some places has a few holes in it. So what we are doing about it is to identify changes to prepare recommendations to you. The committee will continue to work on this, with the proposed changes to be put to the membership in 2011.

Our members have been on some very good trips in recent times. A few have been up through the NT, and then across to WA through the Kimberley before heading back towards SA. And when almost home, met up with another club trip for a detour up the Goog's Track, perhaps Highway One between Ceduna and Port Augusta is boring?

The exceptionally long winter rains not only in the North of SA, but also in NT and QLD have had some interesting effects on SA. A trip to Cape York Peninsular required amending on the run. Even now at the start of October, there are still several of our northern roads that are shut to all traffic. The Birdsville Track was effectively cut with the Cooper Creek crossing the track, however this brought about the use of the Punt across the Cooper Creek, after two decades of inactivity.

A trip into the Flinders to Argadells got curtailed due to rain. In the days leading up to the weekend in September, I took the trip over as leader, although that was to be limited to Friday and Saturday due to me being double booked for Sunday. Determining what the weather was going to do was rather interesting, on-line, there is the BOM, then there was discussions direct with the owners of Argadells and lastly, listening to the ABC from Port Pirie. It turned out the ABC was the most correct in weather predictions. On Friday, it rained heavily from Adelaide to about Lochiel, then only showers to about Nector Brook and then some heavy rain again. Whilst topping up with diesel and gas in Port Augusta and looking to the North, the ranges in which Argadells lies in was consumed by heavy black clouds. All the way from Port Augusta to Quorn required the windscreen wipers on high, not a good sign. Arrival at Quorn saw a quick meeting where it was determined that not a lot of driving would get achieved, if our vehicles could get out to Argadells. To make the best of a bad situation, some of the group ventured further north on Saturday, but were fairly well restricted to the main roads as the rains further continued to force the shutting of many of the scenic drives north of Hawker.

Well this is all from me at the moment, looking forward to seeing you at meetings and on the road.

Cheers.

Dion.

Upcoming Trips

Subaru Family Fun Day

17 October 2010
Bonython Park 10:00am to 4:00pm
BYO everything

Dolphin Cruise and Dinner

5 November 2010 **\$40.00 pp**
Trip Leader, Mike Parsons

***** Mike needs to know who is going by October meeting *****

Irish Affair

7 November 2010 **\$25.00 pp**
Blackwood Football Club
Trevor Tce.

Victorian High Country

11 – 23 December 2010
Trip Leaders, Nat & Michelle Hardy

Victorian High Country

11 – 23 December 2010
More suitable for caravans
Trip Leader, Bill Kingston

Beachport

26 – 30 January 2011
Trip Leaders, Theo & Jo Van Derventer
Note: this is from Australia Day to the following weekend.

Committee Positions

Club Directors

President	Dion Chandler
Vice-President	Moir Hill
Secretary	Rob Williams
Treasurer	Mike Parsons
4WD SA Delegate	Simon Smith
Committee Members	Colin Simpson Adam Sawtell Martin Pearson Denise Richardson

Club Officers (appointed by Directors)

Trips Coordinator	Colin Simpson
Membership Officer	Ian Delaine
Property Officer	Ian McColl
Newsletter Editor	Martin Pearson
Web site Manager	Helen Sosnowski
Raffles Officer	Adam Sawtell
Merchandise Officer	David & Jill Chenery

Kimberley Trip

We met Barb & Tom, Simon, Peter & Chris and Helen & Alan at Coober Pedy on the 3rd July. After a clear and cold night (for us – the others enjoyed 22 degrees underground) we were looking forward to some warmth in Alice Springs but it turned out to be very wet and cold. Unfortunately, our plans to travel north-west across the Tanami went by the wayside as the road was closed due to all the rain. Instead, we travelled through rain to Tennant Creek and decided to get a motel room for the night as we had packed up the campers & tents very wet and didn't fancy sleeping in already wet campers & tents in the rain! The next day as we travelled north we saw blue sky for the first time since Coober Pedy. By the time we got to Mataranka all the clouds had gone and it was 27 degrees! Fortunately, the campers and tents dried out very quickly. The next day was spent relaxing in the sun and swimming in the thermal pool.



Mataranka Thermal Pool

The following day we broke camp and travelled to Kununurra, stopping at Katherine to restock. We arrived later in the day and had a quick dip in the pool before the sun set. It took us all quite some time to get used to the sun setting at

5pm and rising the next morning at 5am! The next day we headed to the Bungle Bungles. We spent 3 nights camping there and did a number of walks including the Mini Palms, Echidna Chasm and Cathedral Gorge. Simon, Peter & Chris also enjoyed a scenic helicopter flight over the Bungle Bungles. The scenery was absolutely spectacular and Nat & Tom took over 250 photos each just in the Bungle Bungles! We then headed back to Kununurra for a further 4 nights in the caravan park. We all did a walk in Hidden Valley and did a day trip to Wyndham (visiting the crocodile farm and bird sanctuary whilst there), except for Tom & Barb who enjoyed a scenic flight for the day to the Argyle Diamond Mines and Bungle Bungles. One particular highlight was driving across the Ivanhoe Crossing - a lot longer than we had thought it would be. We also went down to Lake Argyle to the dam wall and took a sunset cruise aboard the BBQ Boat on Lake Kununurra; there was plenty to eat and no one went hungry.



Bungle Bungles

After leaving Kununurra, we began our trip along the Gibb River Road. We had planned to stay at El Questro Station, but after viewing the information bay at the start of the Gibb River Road promoting Home Valley Station (30km past El Questro), we decided to set up camp there instead – the pictures of lush green camping areas, swimming pool, playground and bar was too good to resist! Fortunately, we weren't disappointed and enjoyed 4 nights camped at Home Valley. During our stay, we drove back to El Questro and enjoyed a dip in Zebedee Springs and a walk through El Questro Gorge – one of the most spectacular gorges we came across (beautiful trickling streams with lush rainforest vegetation). Some of us also did the walk into Emma Gorge and enjoyed a swim at the end in the big pool of spring water with a small trickle of water cascading from 100m above.



El Questro Gorge

After leaving Home Valley Station, we headed further down the Gibb River Road to Drysdale River Station. Along the way, we called into Ellenbrae Station and enjoyed a delicious morning tea of freshly baked scones with jam and cream in their lush gardens surrounded by lots of small finches flying between the trees. We camped by a small river at Drysdale and did a 2 hour scenic flight early in the morning which flew over some spectacular scenery including the Prince Regent River National Park, King Cascades, Mt Trafalgar, King George Basin, Mitchell Plateau & Mitchell Falls. We could see so many beautiful islands surrounded by sandy beaches – what a pity they are all surrounded by croc infested water!!



River near our campsite at
Drysdale River

Our travels then took us up to Kalumbaru. The road was the roughest we came across on the whole trip, and needless to say, we got sick of the corrugations very quickly. Thankfully the Gibb River Road was in much better condition and seemed like a highway by comparison!! We camped at the mission campground at Kalumbaru on some grassy sites under palm trees as we had heard that there were two crocs patrolling the beach at McGowan Island which is where we had planned to stay. We did however, go and have a look at the campground at McGowans and were very impressed. Kalumbaru was probably the hottest place we went to, around 36 degrees with high humidity during the day and only dropping to the mid twenties at night!!



Our campsite at Kalumbaru

After leaving Kalumbaru, we joined back onto the Gibb River Road and went to Manning Gorge. We enjoyed a swim in the waters of the gorge (croc free!) after the walk in. Tegan & Rebecca really enjoyed the swim and liked the ride in the tinny to cross the first river at the beginning of the walk.

Our next stop was at Charnley River Station. The campground was quite unique with lots of peacocks and chickens roaming around the campground. The station was in the middle of a muster and as such, was using part of the campground to land their helicopters. We were woken up early each morning as the helicopters flew closely overhead. We enjoyed our time at Dillie Gorge with some of the party taking a canoe ride down the Gorge. On our walk back to the car we came across a large monitor walking across the rocks. After Charnley River, we headed to Bell Gorge. The campground before the gorge was quite a surprise – flushing toilets in the middle of nowhere (water is no problem in the Kimberley!). We did the walk down to the bottom pool of Bell Gorge and went for a swim in the water including right up to the bottom of the waterfall – it was really refreshing!



Bell Gorge

The next day we headed to Windjana Gorge. The walk through the gorge was spectacular and to make the walk even more memorable there were dozens of freshwater crocodiles to be seen. They are normally timid but the ones at Windjana are so used to people that we could get within a few meters of them!



Freshwater Croc at Windjana Gorge

Our next stop was at Tunnel Creek on our way to Fitzroy Crossing. The walk saw us climbing over boulders before entering the cave and wading through waist deep water in the dark! Fortunately, not all of the walk was like this and it was a really different walk to what we had been used to. We did find a colony of flying foxes in the cave, but didn't see any freshwater crocodiles.

At Fitzroy Crossing, we went on a boat cruise through Geike Gorge and marvelled at the spectacular colours in the gorge walls. The colour has a distinct line where it changes from white to dark grey, with the top of the white marking the height of the water in the wet season – approx 12 metres above where our boat was! We also saw freshwater crocodiles and even a python stealing eggs from a swallows nest!

We then headed to Derby where Tom and Barb took a scenic flight and tour of Horizontal Falls before heading to Broome for three nights. In Broome we largely did our own thing, but included sunset at Cable Beach (500+ photos between Tom and Nat!), Guantheme Point, Matso's Brewery & the Broome Markets.



Sunset at Cable Beach

After leaving Broome, we travelled north to Middle Lagoon where we camped for three nights. On the way we stopped at Beagle Bay to take a look at the church where the altar is decorated with pearl shells. Whilst at Middle Lagoon we did a day trip to Cape Leveque and One Arm Point. We also had a delicious morning tea at Whale Song and even managed to see some whales breaching in the distance. Helen and Alan left us at Middle Lagoon to explore the Dampier Peninsula further before heading back along the Gibb River Road.

The rest of us headed south and camped at Quondong Point, then Barn Hill Station before arriving at Port Hedland where some did a tour of the wharf. We then headed to Karijini National Park via Marble Bar and the Jasper deposits. We spent five nights camped at Karijini and enjoyed the views from the lookouts and walks into the gorges. One of the days, we drove to Tom Price and took a bus tour of the Tom Price Mine, followed by a drive up to the Mt Nameless lookout. We also drove out to Mt Meharry, the tallest mountain in WA. It was at the end of this trip that we said goodbye to the remainder of the group as they headed back to SA.



Fern Pool at Karijini

After the remainder of the group had left us, we continued on our tour of WA with highlights being snorkelling at Turquoise & Coral Bay, feeding the dolphins at Monkey Mia and the beautiful coastline of Francois Peron National Park, the coastal cliffs around Kalbarri and the sights of Perth.

On our way back home we met up with Gavin, Naomi & Hannah, Laz & Jane, and John & Brian at Ceduna and travelled with them along Goog's Track and through to Mt Ive Station before heading back home. After eighty five days that covered around 18500km, it was good to be home safe and sound.

Michelle

FOR SALE

ECB Alloy Bull Bar to suit Holden Jackaroo 1998 – 2003 or 1992 – 1997

Brand New, Charcoal Hammertone finish
New Price \$1,680.00
Sell \$1,200.00 o.n.o.

Also;
Headlight protectors (pair) \$40.00
Bonnet protector \$40.00
To suit Holden Jackaroo 1998 onwards

Phone Russell 82787487 or 0410461787

FOR SALE

1 x RA 2003-06 LT Alloy 16x7" Rim, \$250.

Contact Dion Chandler 0428 255 276.

SOME INTERESTING WEBSITES

WEBSITE

www.flindersoutback.com

www.police.wa.gov.au/recruitingandtheacademy/pdf/aids22.pdf

www.parks.sa.gov.au

www.volunteering.sa.org.au

www.exploroz.com

www.cartographics.com.au

www.westprint.com.au

www.4wdonline.com

www.holden.com.au

www.raysoutdoors.com.au

www.gme.net.au

www.dotars.gov.au/roads/safety/bulletin/index.aspx

TOPIC

follow links for free tracks & UHF repeater tower downloads.

desert survival

D.E.H. website – follow the links to download Recreational Vehicles Handbook (Visitor Information)

information for volunteers

Too many to highlight – just take a look

Maps, Mapping Software, GPS Units etc.

Maps, general information, link to newsletter subscription page.

Everything 4WD – lots of links

Follow link thru ABOUT US at top of page to environment & community

Camping & clothing catalogue

GME Electrophone site – communications equipment & Garmin GPS

Look at VSB 1,(PDF) section 10, Electrical plug wiring for trailers.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR BIRTHDAY IN THE NEXT MONTHS

October		November	
Des Brown	Gavin Chant	David Chenery	Graham Henley
Michelle Hardy	Kevin McIntyre	David Keelan	Beth Liddy
Jane Meszaros	Martin Pearson	Mike Parsons	Sheila Parsons
Carlie Delaine	Greg Stevens	Wendy Simpson	Rhonda Wright
Christine Wood			

Apologises for any inaccuracies or omissions, the above information was extracted from the membership list



Remember
 You might be **OLDER** than you've ever been **BEFORE**
 But you're also **YOUNGER** than you'll ever be **AGAIN**