

# ***PATROLLING***



*Volume 43 Number 4  
August 2021*





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# Nissan Patrol Club of South Australia Inc

Established 1979

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**The Nissan Patrol Club of South Australia** was founded in 1979, to provide a meeting place for individuals and families with an interests in four wheel driving and associated activities. From the beginning we have promoted safe and environmentally responsible, four-wheel driving as a way to enjoy our great country.

The club welcomes all makes of vehicles, and has drivers with all skill levels. For the novice there is a wealth of experience to draw upon. Some members have had formal training, many more have had years of experience.

We run many trips each year, offering members a chance to learn new skills or practise old ones. We also have events that range from the extreme to the sedate, with a social program throughout the year

We participate in a volunteer program of environmental care work in one of our national parks, allowing us to give something back to the bush we enjoy so much.

**Club Meetings** are held at Challa Gardens Primary School, Humphries Terrace (off Torrens Road), Kilkenny, on the first Thursday of every month except January. They commence at 7:30pm

The Nissan Patrol Club is a member of Four Wheel Drive SA Inc, which is a member of Four Wheel Drive Australia Pty Ltd.

**UHF 21** is the official club radio channel

# Laughing off lockdown

Hello Patrollers, I am not sure where we will be when the magazine goes to press, but at the time of writing, with Victoria, NSW, and Southern Queensland in lockdown, and cases popping up in SA, it's looking a bit grim on the COVID-19 situation. If we do end up back in lockdown, rest assured, the committee will continue with on-line communications/meetings as before. We will not let this beat us as a Club.

It's great to see a very full and varied Club trip and event diary for the year. We were unable to attend the Ghost Mushroomrooms at Glencoe, but understand it was a very well attended trip and enjoyed by all who attended.

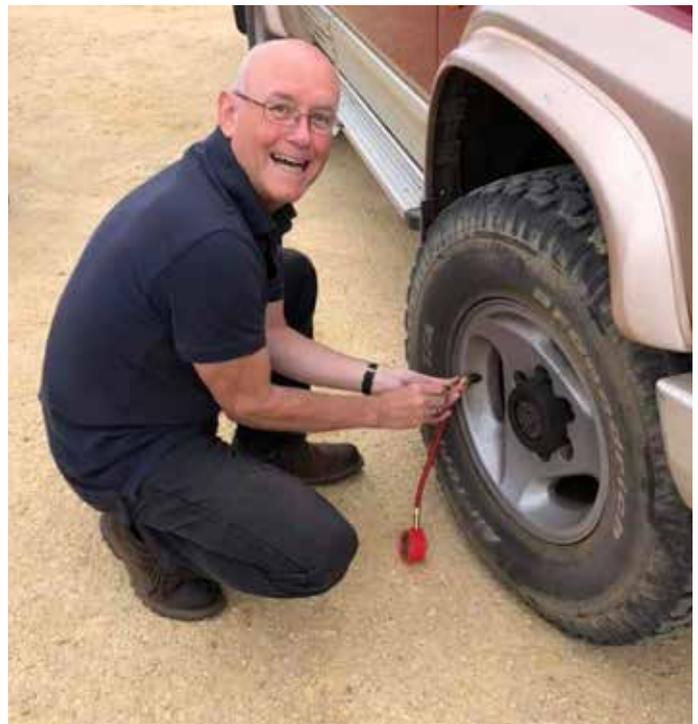
Peake was also well attended by both Club Members and Members of the Mitsubishi Club. All enjoyed frolicking in the sand again. It was good to see Alison, Karen and Stuart attending as potential members of the Club.

The Mid-Year Lunch at The Old Bakehouse, Williamstown was very well attended, and everyone appeared to enjoy the meal. The staff at the hotel did a very good job with true home cooking.

Thank you to Paul Ware for his tyre repair demonstration. Very informative, which reminds me, I must check my tyre repair kit!

On the matter of checking kits, we recently updated our First Aid kit at work. This is something that often gets forgotten and should be checked regularly. I have to admit that I am guilty of not checking ours too. They often get put somewhere in the car and are left for ever-and-a day without another thought. Have a think about when you last checked your kit?

Please keep reading the General and Committee Meeting minutes



for details of up-coming trips and events, as there is a lot more to enjoy in the second half of 2021.

Let's continue to make the rest of 2021 a fun year. Enjoy life, make new friends, travel far and wide, and make it a year to remember.

Happy Travels, and stay safe out there. Your Club President

**John Day NPC 407**

## From the Editor's Desk

# It's been a busy month for trip reports

This issue of *Patrolling* goes is packed full of trip reports from Glencoe in the Southeast of the state, to sand driving at Peake, the mid-year lunch and the epic journey led by Paul Ware to Lorella Springs in the Northern Territory.

That last trip took three weeks and Paul has written a comprehensive travel diary so we have saved some for next issue. Starting on page 9 you can read his account of travelling to Lorella Springs, and the stay there. You will have to wait until October to catch up on the trip back via Birdsville. Both episodes with some great illustrations.

Our prospective new member Alison Annells has contributed her first piece to the magazine with an account of the Peake weekend on pages 12 and 13.

Then Aileen and Rod Kitto have a great story of a packed weekend in that took in glowing mushroomrooms, agricultural heritage and a coastal tour starting on page 14.

The number of trips and events meant that we were squeezed for space and a couple of regular columns had to be dropped including Tech Talk and Cooking. But don't be alarmed they will return next issue along with other features.

The winter months, when lots of members take off for warmer climes of the North mean a downturn in the number of official trips organised through the club. This is, then, a good opportunity to visit some of the other issues facing 4WDDriving in South Australia – not least the new pastoral legislation that is still being debated but threatens to seriously curtail where we can travel off-road.

Expect a full report that next time of the progress of that legislation. If you would like to contribute - or have ideas of what you would like to read, get in touch.

**Bill Condie NPC 423**



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# Theatre night: Nice work if you can get it

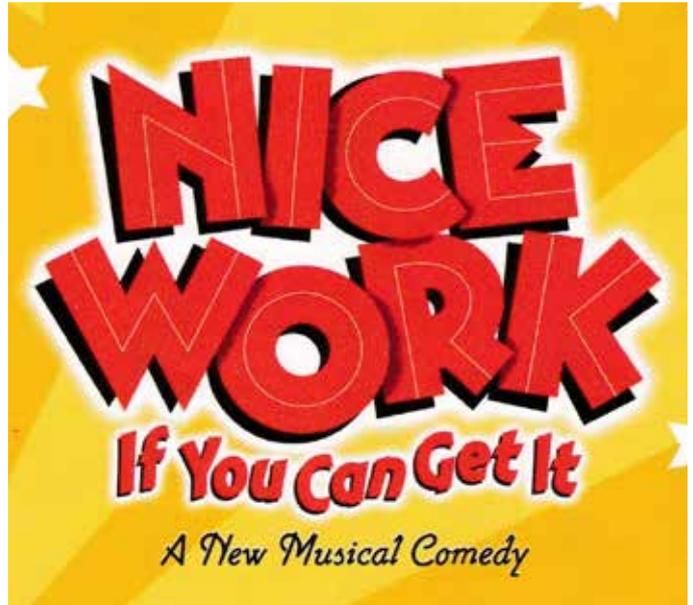
Friday 22 October 2021 7.30pm  
the Arts Theatre in Angas Street Adelaide.  
Nice Work if You Can Get It

**Contact Jeff Schapel**

Tickets: \$28 per person provided we get 30+ people. Otherwise \$30 per person.

It's the tale of Jimmy Winter, a wealthy and carefree playboy living the good life in the midst of Prohibition. Jimmy has an unfortunate habit of marrying chorus girls, until he's forced to marry a woman of substance - Eileen Evergreen, the finest interpreter of modern dance in the world. On the weekend of their nuptials, Jimmy meets Billie Bendix, a tough-as-nails bootlegger who has inadvertently stashed 400 cases of gin in Jimmy's basement. Knocked out by this one-of-a-kind woman, Jimmy must deal with his high strung fiancée and an assortment of bootleggers, prohibitionists, G-Men and chorus girls, as well as one very moralistic senator.

Music and Lyrics by George and Ira Gershwin.



## 15-17 October Deep Creek

Volunteer conservation working bee

**Contact: Wayne Dunn**

Back to Deep Creek for more eradication of weeds - and some convivial fireside get-togethers.



## 5-7 November Morgan

4WDDriving, social

**Contact: Dave & Helen Richards**



Test your skills, drive the tracks, catch up with your friends on the Murray.

Site bookings can be made now at the Morgan Caravan Park - phone 8540 2207. Quote the reservation under Helen Richards ( Nissan Patrol Club).

Helen is warning anyone who wants to attend to book th caravan park now. Some people missed out last year as sites fill up very fast!

## 19 December Breakfast in the Park

Social

**Contact: Helen Richards**



Where did that year go?

# NOAs and tyre repair



There were two NOA Awards presented at the July meeting. One for Paul Ware for putting his tyre repair skills to good use on the Port Lincoln trip (and he also gave a demonstration and practice session at the meeting). A second went to Bill Condie for taking a “fresh approach to the magazine”.

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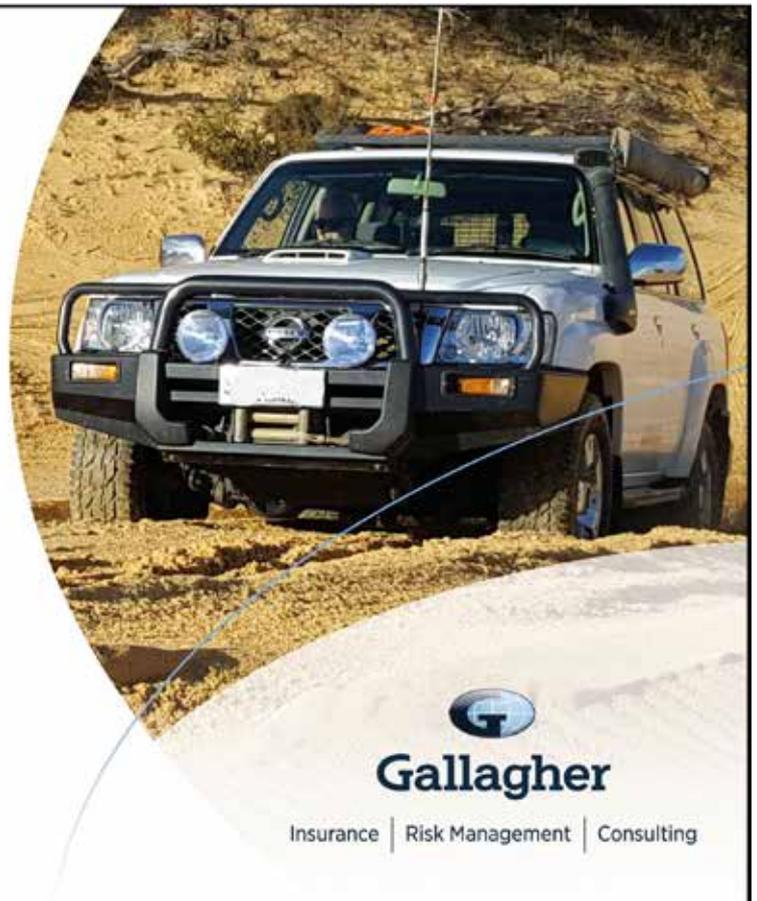
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# Epic travel to the Top End



**The track gets muddy on the way to Inkspot Pool and Yellow Waters Billabong**

## *Lorella Springs 7-30 May 2021*

**T**he long-awaited trip to Lorella Springs was a great adventure, especially to be in the tropics as winter began to descend on South Australia. Here is a diary of our three-week travels.

**Day 1 – Friday 7 May 2021:** Pack up the van and head out on the highway looking for adventure. Stop at Port Wakefield for dinner. As the rest of the crew had headed off early, no one would be waiting at Mambray Creek as per the itinerary, so we pulled up stumps at Lochiel for the night.

**Day 2 – Saturday 8 May:** Up bright and early heading north to Port Augusta for breakfast and to swap gas bottles. Then on to Glendambo for a beer and lunch. As the pub was not serving midday meals, we had to go to the roadhouse for a meal. At the end of the day, we arrived at Hutchison Monument and caught up with Mike, Alistair, and Susan.

**Day 3 – Sunday 9 May:** Now the crew gets bigger as we motored up to Coober Pedy for the mandatory photo at the truck sign, then on to the Shell servo for a refuel and a hunt for a can opener for Susan. Plenty of fuel, no can opener.

Drive through to Marla for a lunch break, then on to the NT/SA border for a photo stop.

Arrived at Kulgera Roadhouse mid-afternoon for a refreshing shower before going to the pub for dinner. The meals were huge and took a great effort to complete.

**Day 4 – Monday 10 May:** Up and breakfasted and on the road by 08.15. First stop Erldunda for a coffee and a visit to the emus. Fly protective head gear was available for purchase which some of us did not avail ourselves of – to be regretted later.

On to Stuart's Well for a look and rest stop. Two of the home-made pies were purchased; one a Kangaroo pie and the other a Camel pie. Both were consumed with relish.

Up the road to Alice Springs where we parked up for a look about town. Return to the vehicles and leave town after refuelling and automotive parts purchased.

Then a stop at the Tropic of Capricorn to celebrate arriving in the tropics.

After a photo or two, back into the vehicles and on to Ryans Well to catch up with Anne, Ian, and Tyler (Anne's grandson), which now completed our group of happy travellers.

Set up camp, had some nibbles and a few drinks before going and having a look at the restoration works on Ryans Well, then across the road for a look at the old Glen Maggie Homestead ruins.

**Day 5 – Tuesday 11 May:** Leaving nice and early before 08.00 saw us on our way to Aileron for a cup of coffee. We were informed by the host how bad the Covid experience has affected his business, so we helped out by sharing the love around, ie bought some stuff, so he had a few dollars more.

After taking photos of the super large aboriginal figures (man plus



### The Weber Baby Q put is some Sterling service

woman with child), we head up the road to Barrow Creek with a stop to make some phone calls while reception was available.

Then on to Wycliffe Well (Australia's home of UFO's) for an ice-cream.

With a little misunderstanding, we miss the opportunity of the best (or maybe second-best) cup of coffee on the Stuart Highway, the difference being lunch at Devils Marbles or the Devils Marbles Hotel. So, Devils Marbles (Karlukarlu) it was for lunch at picnic area in the carpark.

Then on to Tennant Creek to refuel and buy some extra supplies. Susan found a can opener at the supermarket!

A side trip to Mary Anne Dam where some of us took the opportunity for a cold shower or a cold swim in the dam. As no overnight stays are allowed at the dam, we move on to The Pebbles (Kungarra) for the night.

Day 6 – Wednesday 12 May: Leaving the Pebbles after breakfast, we made our way to the Three Ways Roadhouse for the usual morning coffee then headed north. We took a detour off the main road on the old highway just past Attack Creek to view Churchill's Head rock formation, complete with cigar.

When back on the highway, we proceed to Elliot for a bite to eat before going out to the old Newcastle Waters Township to brush up on some history.

After the history lesson concluded, we made our way to Daly Waters where things came a bit unstuck. Paul and Sara's caravan decided, while going

over a speed hump, to separate from the tow ball and be dragged along by the safety chains, leaving a mark in the asphalt for all time. Jacking up the van with a high lift jack and jockey wheel saw the van reattached with a lot of 'help' from all the people around. Talk about too many cooks!

After parking the vans, we went and had a well-deserved drink at the pub. With dinner booked for 7pm, we held on to our table as they were in short supply. While some held the 'fort', others made use of the pool to cool off and others had a shower.

Following an enjoyable meal, we listened to the entertainment for a while before heading back to our vans for the evening.

Day 7 – Thursday 13 May: A bit of a sleep-in today for some as Paul and Sara had to leave early to get set up for a 'Teams' meeting somewhere with internet service. Well, most slept in except for

Alastair and Susan whose neighbours got up at 5.30am for a 6am departure!

Assembling at the Hi-Way Inn Roadhouse, people left in dribs and drabs east toward Cape Crawford.

Oh, the joys of driving on a one-lane, two-way road – until you came to the new two-lane bits and then back to the one-lane again. The probability of meeting an oncoming vehicle or truck is increased by the narrowness of the road!

On arriving at Cape Crawford, we refuelled and had lunch. We then backtracked 2km to the Savannah Way road towards Roper



Feel the tranquility...

Bar. Lorella Springs was just 130 kms up the road and we felt every corrugation and bump along it! The good thing is we have to drive some of the same road again when leaving Lorella Springs.

On arriving later than hoped at Lorella Springs, they told us to set up camp then book in the next morning, so it was off to the hot “Magical Springs” for a dip before dinner.

Day 8 – Friday 14 May: Up early and ready for adventure. We all gathered at the office to book in and get some advice on the condition of the tracks. Crocodile Springs Loop and adjoining swimming holes on the track up to Tawallah Pool was our choice of destination. Once the procedure of opening and closing gates was established, we motored off.

After arriving at Fossil Fern, two vehicles drove up the extra 600m past the old dam to Tawallah Pool for a refreshing swim in the cool waters.

The two vehicles (both Patrols) joined the two Prados and returned to Fossil Fern Pool for another swim and to look for the “Fossil Ferns” imprinted on the rocks.

Then on to Emerald Pool for a swim before heading off to Tristan Pool and the short walk to Wildfire Gorge for another swim (a pattern was forming).

Return to the car for lunch before heading to Inkspot Pool and Yellow Waters Billabong.

When heading out on our way back to camp, we came across the first muddy section of track. Two vehicles got across without incident before it was Anne’s turn. She ‘failed to proceed’ and was extracted backward by Mike. With the front two vehicles re-crossing the muddy section, we returned to camp for a relax in the hot springs, then dinner and a good night’s sleep.

Day 9 – Saturday 15 May: Awakening early, we packed up the vehicles for a 3-day camping trip away from home base.



### **Canoes at the Flying Fox Wetland**

Once again to the office to fill in the Overnight Camping Form which informs management of our intended travels.

This time we headed up the Tawallah Track with the first stop at Waterslide, then Musterer’s Cave, and onto The Arches (3 of them), then across to Billy’s Camp which is the original Lorella Springs homestead.

Then on to the Yiyinti Track heading further north to find a spot to camp for the first night away. A reasonable location was found above the Le Spa Pool, setting up camp before going down for a “spa”. This pool was creek and spring fed. Everyone got down to the Le Spa Pool which was a good effort.

Happy Hour this night was after everyone had finished cooking and washing up. We had an enjoyable time chatting and looking at the stars.

**Continued on page 16**



**Sunset on another day in Paradise**

# Playing in nature's sandpit

Peake, 18-20 June 2021

*Talinga Sandhills.*

**14 members and visitors attended the Interclub Peake Weekend of the Nissan Patrol Club of SA & the Mitsubishi 4WD Club.**

I am a Newbie on my first Nissan Patrol Club weekender to Peake to play in the sand with my 1999 4.2lt GU named Goldilocks. To sum it up, was a great weekend meeting a great bunch of people.

I arrived at camp about 2.00pm to be greeted by Helen and Dave, John and Maddy, then as more people were introduced, I started to forget names, Sorry.... but as the weekend progressed, I put more names to faces. Pretty cruisy Friday afternoon and night just hanging by a 40-gallon pig heater.

Saturday morning all assembled at 9.00am for a brief on what to expect from the weekend and safety protocols, all standard stuff. Then the Patrol group got themselves sorted into a numbered radio call line and off we went lead by Dave and Helen in the morning to 'The widow maker' where those that could showed us how. Not me! I have not been on sand for a while so did not put any pressure on myself. Also, could not get up the next dune but knew there would be some I could manage, got a bit of down dune reversing practice in, while I was most impressed with Eddy in his Vitara uphill in reverse maneuver. So, while those that could did, I held back with Helen and Dave and was able to help Bill out with some spare parts as he did some vehicle field repairs.

Back to camp for lunch, then a change of lead car and back to a different area of sand to play in. With more success in getting over some of these. On our way back to camp Aiden took a bad line on some soft sand and out came the shovels and maxtracks, who does not like a simple recovery.

By late afternoon I was pretty keen to get back to camp to be the one to blaze up the bonfire for the evenings camp oven cooking, fresh air and adrenalin is hungry work. Plenty of coals were needed as the ovens came out for the evening meals. Personally, I love cooking on coals, is one of life's simple pleasures.

Everyone fed we all settled into conversations around the fire. I heard in the morning there was a damper, but I retired to bed before that!

Sunday morning, again cruisy till the horn blows to gather. At this point I realize I had a puncture, so let the group know that I would have to catch them up.... but to great delight, and a group, no one gets left behind attitude, I had help from Dave, Paul, and John to do a quick tyre change and get into the dunes.

A couple of more hours in the dunes, a bit of tomfoolery with a Vitara sinking into a man-made sand trap, and I gave Paul a new name... Old Len Beadell..... if you need to know why, it is because he likes to cut a new track! Haha.

Back to camp at midday for lunch, to air up and pack up, and I am calling on the assistance of Dave and Paul again; I have got a gash in a sidewall. First call is to fix the puncture. but there is no puncture, I have done the bead. I have to say a big thanks you to Dave and Paul who took care of my tyres while I packed down my camper, you are both awesome. In all my travels, I've never had so much tyre trouble. And to everyone in the group thank you for making me welcome, I had a really good time, and I am hoping to join you at Morgan in November.

Thanks again for a great weekend, see you July meeting

**Alison Annells, Visitor**



**Dave on tyre duty.**



**Camp oven cooking takes centre stage.**



The joint-club weekend saw a great turn-out.



Flying the flag for Nissan



Up and over...showing how it's done.



The combined vehicle fleet from Nissan and Mistubishi clubs take on the dunes.

# Mushrooms and history



The famous glowing fungi are cream rather than the green you see in advertisements.

## June Long Weekend in the South East

ON Friday 11 June nine vehicles and vans belonging to members of the Nissan Patrol Club met at Lake Leake near Glencoe in the South East for the Queen's Birthday long weekend. Lake Leake is situated 36km from Mt Gambier and is a lake within an extinct volcano, a quiet spot with boat ramp, covered pavilion with BBQ and flushing toilets. The camping area is maintained by volunteers and has a donation box.

On Saturday morning we gathered at the boat ramp at 8am to be briefed by Paul, our leader for this trip, on the activities planned

for the weekend. In beautiful sunshine nine vehicles left the camp area at 8:25am and headed towards Glencoe.

We passed vivid green paddocks dotted with lots of sheep and new born lambs and also in one place a number of fox pelts hanging on a fence! We also drove through pine forests before arriving at Glencoe where we headed to the National Trust operated Woolshed. Upon arrival at the Woolshed Doug and Heather were waiting for us creating a convoy of 10 vehicles for the day. Paul and Sara went to the local Glencoe Cafe to collect the key to open up the Woolshed while the rest of us walked around, took photos and chatted in the sunshine.

Paul and Sara returned without the key because unfortunately the Cafe did not open until 9am. Once the key was obtained Paul found the door had been left unlocked and we could have entered earlier!

We spent an amazing 40 minutes or so reading and inspecting this historical, heritage listed, 36 stand, sheep shearing shed built in 1863 by brothers Edward and Robert Leake. Paul has a National Trust publication "The Accidental Heiress - Journey of a Glencoe squatter's daughter" for those interested in learning more about the history of the Leake brothers and their settlement in South Australia.

The Woolshed was locked, the key was returned and the gate closed before we headed towards Mt Gambier passing the pine forest where we would see the ghost mushrooms tonight

We cruised through Mt Gambier passing the sunken



The Little Blue Lake on the way to Port MacDonnell



### **A convoy patrols the Limestone Coast**

garden and the blue lake before stopping at Badenoch's Shopping Centre. Here we purchased both savory and sweet scrolls from the "Scroll Queen" shop to be eaten later in the day. A few also indulged in icecream from the icecream shop next door!

We left Mt Gambier and headed towards Port MacDonnell, passing Mt Schank another extinct volcano to the left of the road. We called into the Little Blue Lake where we stopped for a quick look around and walk down to the pontoon. Our next stop was at Ewens Ponds where we watched some divers preparing to commence their dive at pond 1.

We walked along a narrow path to pond 3 where there is another jetty and this is where the divers will exit the Ponds. Along the path we noticed lots of interesting mounds that the dive tour guide informed us were yabbie holes.

We continued on to Port MacDonnell in drizzling rain but by the time we reached the old Cape Northumberland lighthouse the showers had passed and sun had come out. The wind was rather

brisk though but we walked to this southern most point of South Australia! We continued driving along the magnificent rugged coastline but unfortunately the tide was right in so it was impossible for us to use the beach to get to Cape Douglas.

We returned to Port MacDonnell and found an inland alternate route. The scrolls we had bought earlier were eaten at the end of a 4WD track overlooking stunning views of the sea. The waves were crashing onto the rocks in Douglas Point Conservation Park and seemed to be rolling the stones on the shoreline.

We left here at 2:15pm and returned along the same rocky 4WD track before heading into Mt Gambier to refuel. We arrived back at Lake Leake around 4pm where we joined for happy hour under the shelter until 5pm, when we all headed off to have tea.

At 7pm we set off in light fog to a pine forest located on Kangaroo Flat Road about 16 km from Mt Gambier to explore Ghost Mushroom Lane.

**Continued on page 21**



**The National Trust woolshed at Glencoe**



### **Waterslide, the first stop on Tawallah Track.**

Day 10 – Sunday 16 May: Up early and off to go “bear-hunting” in different locations so no-one was disturbed taking care of business. Have breakfast and pack up. We head up the track through the portals to the Helicopter Pool car park. As this was a difficult walking track, not everyone went up the hill and down to the pool. For those that did, the effort was well worth it.

Back to the cars and off to Nanny’s Retreat, an extended rocky and muddy walk that held some back to look after the cars. While the others passed on to the tall narrow gorge for a swim.

Upon arriving back, it was discovered that a set of keys had been left behind at the Retreat, so a quick run back to find them proved successful.

We then set off to Ship Creek for a nice lunch spot and a walk along the wet track to the creek for a swim. From there, we headed back along the Yiyinti track to the Carpentaria Track turn off and head east, not knowing what we were up for. The day before, we were told that the track needed some maintenance after the wet season. As yet, no guests had been along it. Evidence of extensive shovel work was seen at some crossings that we traversed with ease.

Then we came to a large rift across the track which would need more than shovel work (i.e. the type that is machine driven). A bypass was found to the left of the track and with a little bit of right foot hard down, we make it through and interesting wet spot corner and made it back onto the track.

No further issues were encountered along the track.

Turning left, we headed north up the River Camp Track. The day was running out, so a camp site was selected beside the Limmen River for the night. Fishing sticks were brought out and many casts were made but to no avail. The fish had different ideas on being caught.

We heard the ‘laughter’ of a group of Blue Wing Kookaburras that were settling down for the night, then we headed to bed too, after a busy but rewarding day.

Day 11 – Monday 17th May: We were woken up by the Kook-

aburras a bit earlier in the morning than required so some took the opportunity to do some fishing as others prepared breakfast. No bites again. Being close to the Gulf and river saw our campsite covered with a heavy misty fog that soaked all the tents and swags. So, we set off for the Gulf and left the gear out to dry.

When we arrived at the river mouth and Gulf of Carpentaria, the fishing sticks once again were brought out to no avail.

After spending some time at the Beach Camp site, we returned to pack up our gear, now dry.

Headed south looking for the track that links to the Rosie Track. We drove to Alaska Pool, a hot spring (bore) flowing out of a pipe into a pool, where we topped up some drinking water bottles. We finally arrived at Rosie Creek and went to Big Hole to see if it was a suitable camp site. It was very high up above the river and its resident 5m crocodile – no swimming here.

Back to Rosie Creek Boat Ramp, set up camp and went out to see Brolga, Whistling Duck and Yellow Chat Billabongs. On the way out, we all managed to navigate through a wet muddy section however on the way back, one vehicle chose a new line. That line was then followed by a second vehicle which became stuck. Not only stuck, but really close to a tree. With an equalising strap on two rated tow points and a straight pull, Paul managed to retrieve Anne from the quagmire, but not before she sat down in the mud, requiring a change of clothes.

Once we were moving again, it was back to camp and some fishing. We were unlucky again, but a couple of fellas just upstream managed to catch 2 large Queen fish. It just wasn’t our day.

Day 12 – Tuesday 18 May: Up for the sunrise, breakfast and pack up. We started to head back to the main campground, deciding to take an alternative route back that nobody had taken, except some staff earlier in the season. We soon found out why. By the looks of it, the first water and muddy section looked to be about 4 recovery strap lengths or a winch cable length long. With some trepidation, it was full steam ahead with the pedal to the metal. We all got through with sighs of relief, then on to the next section which was even more fun with Anne coming close to a tree half-

way along. Once again, we all got through. After more long, wet, soft, and boggy stretches were encountered, we completed the Conrod Straight track, to everyone's relief. Pity the next people through; they may not be as lucky as we were.

Back along the Chicken Run track to base camp and a relaxing afternoon of internet, washing and not very much else before Happy Hour. Nibbles included Oysters Kilpatrick – very gourmet!

Day 13 – Wednesday 19 May: Half our participants decided to have a rest day while the other half pushed on, kicking up dust and going out to the Flying Fox Wetland to see the wildlife and have a paddle in the canoes. After we returned to dry land safely, we moved along to Monarch Rock for a climb to the top to take in the view. We also saw some rock art.

Back in the vehicle and off to do some creek crossings, Rosie Creek Cascade and Rosie Rapids, then on to Nudie Hot Springs (what a disappointment; no nudies!). The water was very warm; it comes out of a fissure in the rocks upstream at 51 degrees Celsius and has cooled off to a pleasant 39 degrees by the time it gets to the pool.

From there, we headed back to the Jump Up Valley Track that goes out to Walker's Pools. We continued along the track to the Jump Up Valley Lookout for a lunch spot with extensive views over the property.

On return to camp, we joined up with the others for a dip in the Magical Pool before tea. The Weber Baby Q was set up and everyone brought along ingredients to the communal table for a Pizza Night. There were many variations including a seafood one with Prawns (and a couple of Oysters on Paul's bit). Everyone ate too much but agreed it was a good idea and should be done again on future trips.

Day 14 – Thursday 20 May: Our last day of adventuring at Lorella Springs started with us helping to rescue a young Heron that was caught up a tree with fishing line, hanging upside down above the Snapping Handbag Billabong. Another couple used their winch to pull down the branches the Heron was caught in, then jumped in a rowboat to retrieve the bird and remove the fishing line. On release, the bird hid under a ledge to recover.

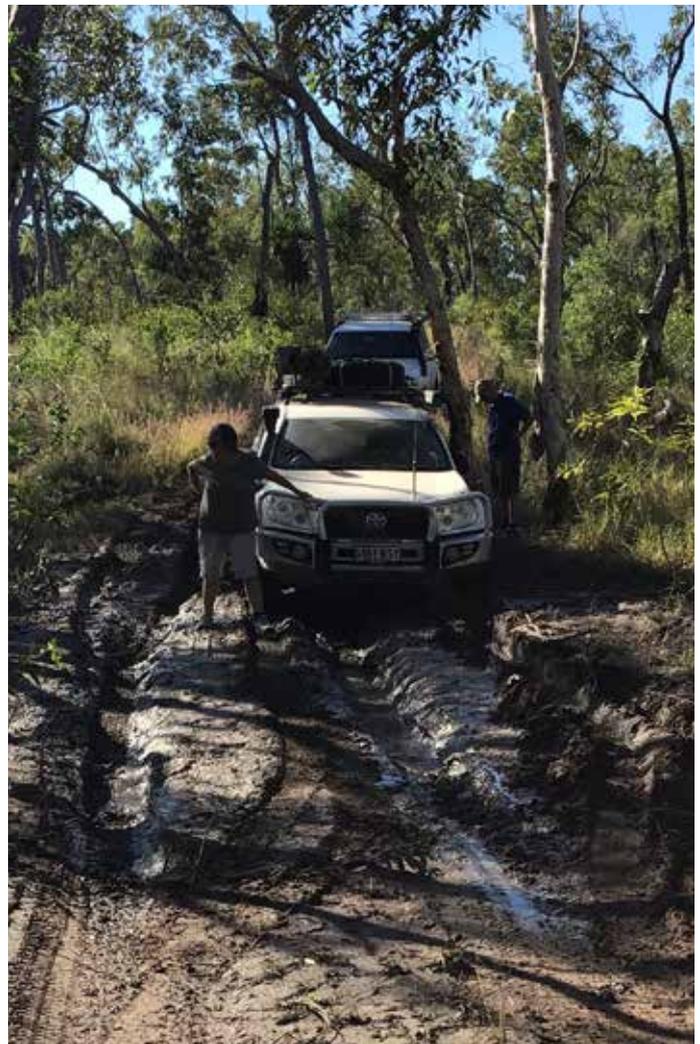
We then headed out along the Little Rosie Track through the Gateway Gorge then up to the Hanging Gardens. We had a nice walk up to a small waterfall whose walls were covered in ferns.

From there we headed up to Teardrop Falls with the infamous rock bar to tackle. The rock bar has held back lesser people, requiring them to walk a further 2km round trip. Paul went over the rock bar with ease, then guided the rest of the crew over with the aid of a handheld radio. There was some confusion for some trying to determine left from right! All got through and up to the falls and all returned safely over the obstacle. Next, we headed to Hidden Pool for a swim and lunch before returning to camp and getting everything ready for our departure the next morning.

To celebrate our last night at Lorella Springs, we dined at the homestead outdoor restaurant where all meals were \$39 regardless of whether you chose the Seafood Basket, Steak or Lamb.

After dinner, we paid up our accounts for our stay and went back to camp for one more sleep.

Day 15 – Friday 21 May: Up bright and early for our departure. A final stop at the office to give our Thanks to hosts Rhett and Marie for a wonderful stay.



### In the sticky stuff

On to Borroloola for some shopping and a refuel before heading off to King Ash Bay on the banks of the McArthur River. The road to Batten Point had been graded a couple of weeks earlier but due to the heavy traffic into the popular location, the road had already deteriorated into a nightmare of corrugations. We finally arrived, shaken not stirred. We set up camp down along the side of the river. There is no swimming as the resident 5m crocodile had been cruising the river bank each day and had recently taken someone's dog. NT National Parks arrived this afternoon and placed a croc trap opposite the boat ramp hoping to alleviate the croc problem. A spot of fishing was had by some, but talking to the locals, only catfish had been caught from the bank. One needed to go downstream in the hope of catching something better.

Up to the community Fishing Club for Happy Hour and dinner. The idea here is not to get injured in the rush when the shutter opens for orders at 6pm. Tyler stood his ground and was first to order (well done). Tyler later joined in with the locals for a Darts Competition. Holding his own, he won! (Well done again).

Back down to the campsite to get ready for our travels.

Day 16 – Saturday 22 May: The sad day has come as we head south and begin our journey home.

NOTE: the final chapter in Paul's trip diary – the return journey – will be published in the next issue of *Patrolling*.

**Paul Ware NPC 421**

# Club merchandise available to purchase

**Nissan Patrol Club sticker:** Large Circle \$2.20

**Nissan Patrol Club cloth badges:** \$6.00

**Nissan Patrol Club key rings:** \$5.00

**Water Bottles:** Light stainless steel, \$8.00 each or 2 for \$15.00

**Contact Aileen Kitto**



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# Hunting and gathering



Mid-year Lunch Sunday 27 June. Old Bakehouse Tavern, Williamstown.

Continued next page





The Nissan Patrol Club of SA celebrated its mid-year lunch at the Old Bakehouse Tavern at Williamstown. Thirty-eight members attended.

The menu consisted of a choice of mains and desserts.

The Food was delicious and service was excellent.

Thank you Dave and staff at Old Bakehouse Tavern.

Mains.

Fish and Chips with either vegetables or salad.

Chicken Schnitzel with either vegetables or salad (gravy)

Nanna's Homemade Meatballs with mashed potatoes and honey-eyed carrots.

Dessert.

Homemade Apple Crumble with Cream & Ice Cream

Nut Sundae.

**Helen Richards NPC 364**



**Continued from page 15**

We had prebooked our car passes and with the help of Sara we were guided to the Omphalotus car park where we met our guide for the night.

He was a work colleague of Sara's who told us all about this luminous fungi that can be found growing on decaying plant material, such as stumps left behind following pine tree harvest. We walked into the pine forest by torchlight and found an expansive area of mushrooms that glowed creamy white in the dark as a result of what is called bio-luminescence.

To the naked eye they do not glow green as shown in the advertising material but were still quite amazing to see! The weather was fine and not too cold, absolutely perfect for our walk. The moon was a waxing crescent so it was dark just what is needed for viewing the mushrooms.

On Sunday morning we woke to see swans on the lake but then the mist closed in. It was another early 8:15am start with us leaving camp in heavy fog. This morning only four cars were in the convoy and all were Nissan!

We travelled along Kangaroo Flat Road with foggy patches interspersed with blue sky and sunshine. A couple of potoroos were spotted enjoying their breakfast.

We reached the Princes Highway and travelled through wonderful pine plantations and open farmlands to Carpenter Rocks where we stopped briefly at the light house.

Following a couple of photos of the rugged coastline and light-

house we let the car tyres down and raised our sand flags at the entrance to the Canunda National Park 4WD track. It was a firm undulating track running through the sand hills between the ocean and Lake Bonney all the way to Millicent, a total of 36km.

We took a detour from the track to the beach at No 2 Rocks for morning tea. We did a small section of beach driving around No 2 Rocks before returning to the track.

There were a few motor bikes using the track as well today. We stopped at the lookout overlooking Lake Bonney Wind Farm and were amazed at the huge number of wind turbines. Paul said he counted 137!

Further along the track we stopped at a lovely, protected flat clearing behind the sand dunes for lunch. Following lunch we took a walk over the dune to the beach for a look at the sea but were disappointed there were no shells to be found.

We continued along the track until we exited at Canunda Road where we aired up the tyres. We skirted around Millicent and took a short cut back to Lake Leake. This was a great drive through more pine forests and then through "The Marshes" before we arrived back at camp at 3pm.

We enjoyed a leisurely afternoon before lighting the fire for happy hour and the evening.

Thank you to Sara and Paul for organising an enjoyable and wonderful weekend in the South East of our great state.

**Rod & Aileen Kitto NPC 388**

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# South Australia was buzzing in 1984

Remember what it was like pre-COVID19? Remember what it was like 37 years ago? South Australia was a hive of activity in October 1984.

There was the Hot Rod Show at the Wayville Showgrounds, the Marree Races, the Coober Pedy Picnic Races, the Bushing Festival at McLaren Vale, the Kimba Sleepy Lizard Race, the Carrieton Rodeo, the Crystal Brook Rodeo, the Marrabel Rodeo, Motor Cycle Scrambles at Morgan and a heap of country shows all over the state.

*Patrolling* in this month had instructions on how to keep your cast-iron Dutch Oven in good shape under the headings Care, Seasoning and Cleaning. Does anybody remember Dutch Ovens? Does anybody still have a Dutch Oven? Does anybody still use their Dutch Oven? Dutch ovens are usually made of cast iron but can be made of cast aluminium.

They have been around in one form or another for hundreds of years. For a while Bedourie Ovens were the rage in the Club. A Bedourie camp oven is a steel cook pot, shaped and used like a Dutch oven. Named after Bedourie in Queensland and used by local drovers, the Bedourie ovens were developed as a more robust, non-breakable and lighter alternative to the cast-iron Dutch ovens. Cast iron can break if dropped. The lid of a Bedourie can be used as a fry pan. It is generally necessary to use a trivet with a Bedourie to prevent bottom burning.

But enough of that. The magazine has a one-page article on “So you want to be a trip leader?” Has anything changed? The NPC committee is still encouraging members to run trips. The article says “What’s my hardest task?” The simple answer then as it still is “Saying ‘I’ll give it a go’”.

The October *Patrolling* has an interesting report on a school holiday trip to Lake Eyre and Cooper Creek. The trip leaders were (the late) Garry and Jenny Thompson. The trip had a 4.00am departure from the St Kilda turnoff! The group camped north of Marree on the first night. Not bad in the G60 era. I do remember some of these early trip starts. I can’t say they were my favourite but it did allow one to make the most of the two week school holidays.

The other thing noticeable in the report was that at that time there was little restriction in South Australia where a 4WD group could drive. The new SA Pastoral Leases Act introduced in 1989 changed this free access. Permission then had to be sought from the pastoralist to gain access.

This situation was brought about by people not having respect for



## Dutch ovens were a hot topic in *Patrolling* October 1984

the animals and property of the pastoralists. The new act did allow for the introduction of Public Access Routes (PARs). PARs gave 4WD drivers access to places without seeking permission. Garry Thompson, representing the South Australian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs (the SAAFWDC now known as 4WDSA), spent many hours with other SAAFWDC members negotiating the positions of the PARs as we know them today.

Thank you Garry et al. We must ensure that public access is retained when the current legislation is updated.

The magazine also contains a report of a Club trip to Innamincka and Coongie Lake. In that era the person sitting in the front passenger seat was called the “co-pilot”. This was not a place in the vehicle where you could nod off or gaze at the beautiful scenery. The co-pilot was responsible for navigation and keeping a log of the tracks and intersections navigated.

This was well before GPS. Maps and an odometer were the main instruments, and if you were lucky you had a car compass. The log allowed you to back track to the position where you made the last wrong turn.

The author of the article on the Innamincka trip reported that the long range tank in their vehicle was seeping fuel along a welded seam. With the help of Minties (“It’s moments like these...”) the leaks were temporarily stopped.

The Innamincka report also mentions “Dunnies” pub in Lydhurst. It should actually be called “Dunny’s Pub”. It was named after the publican Alan Dunn (Dunny to his mates). The original pub burnt down in early 1988 when a gas cylinder exploded. I reckon this trip went to the original pub.

Club Historian

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