

PATROLLING



*Volume 43 Number 1
February 2021*



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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 interest 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

More trips, new destinations

Well a new year is upon us and here's hoping it will be a good one for us all and that things go little smoother than the last one.

The Club finished off 2020 with an enjoyable Breakfast in the Park for those who attended, with a shady spot on the grass where we set up our tables and chairs (Pictures and report on pages 12 and 13). In previous years, the event has included some shared food but this year we were restricted to individual breakfasts, however these were consumed in good company and with some Christmas cheer.

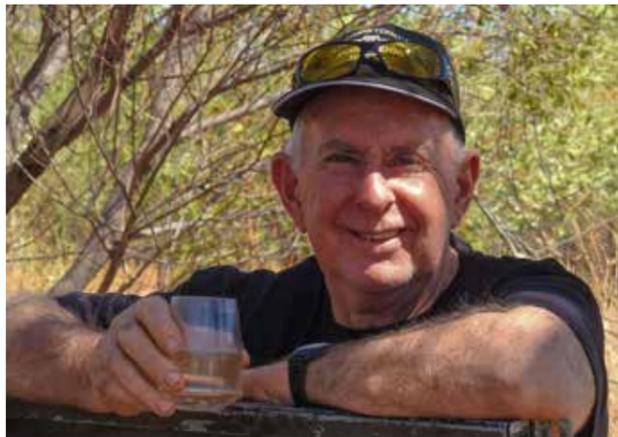
The first Committee meeting for 2021 was held at "the Warehouse" up in the Hills with a BBQ lunch of Gourmet Sausages and various salads followed by the meeting where we got down to business. The meeting was delegated to me as the Vice President to cover for the President who is attending to family matters.

Remember to tell all your friends about what a great bunch we are.

Some good news is that you are now reading a copy of "Patrolling", our Club's magazine, because we now have a new Editor in Chief, Bill Condie, who joined the Club at the end of last year. Welcome Bill.

Unfortunately the first trip planned for this year at Murbko was cancelled due to the expected high temperatures forecast which would have made it a little uncomfortable for those attending. Keep your eye out for updates as this trip may be rescheduled.

Looking ahead to the Easter Weekend trip to the Otways, a "Plan



B" destination is being looked into as an alternative should the Covid Virus cause travel restrictions to come back into play.

Other trips for this year include the old faithfuls: Dorado Downs, Peake and Morgan Quarry along with some new destinations such as the Ghost Mushrooms at Glencoe, Lincoln National Park and Lorella Springs in the Northern Territory.

It would be great to encourage in some new members this year so remember to tell all your friends about what a great bunch we are and about the fun we have on our trips and events.

To make things more interesting, we're hoping to have a few more day trips this year but we need your suggestions and your help to organise them. Committee members are always on hand to assist and offer their advice. Many hands make light work!

Looking forward to seeing you in the meetings, and out on the tracks, sometime soon.

Paul Ware, NPC 421, Vice President

Editor's Desk

It's your magazine. Let us know what you want from it

Not only am I the new editor of *Patrolling* but a very, very new member of the club, having only joined at the final meeting of last year. I had no intention of taking on such a role so soon after joining but, with Anne understandably ready to stand down after years of service, and no one else ready to take it on, it seemed sad to let the magazine just vanish. So here I am.

I have some ideas about new features – and the revival of some from the past – that may add to the *Patrolling* experience but, as the Newbie, I really want to hear from you guys about what you want from your magazine.

Hopefully this year will see a return to more trips, and consequently more trip reports. But with Covid-19 continuing to create uncertainty, who knows what will happen? Already the weather has taken its toll on the Murbko weekend (although there is a humorous take on that by the one hardy couple who made it on page 21).

I have been in touch with some of you already about contributing to the magazine. Peter Stewart, for example, has agreed to contribute technical articles again and we will start publishing them from next issue.

And Sara Ware has contributed a great report of her's and Paul's experience working with BlazeAid following last year's fires at Edithburgh. You can read that on pages 18 and 19

So if you have anything to share, something you would like to see covered, or features that you think would help us reach out to potential new members or promote the sport and pastime we all love, drop me a line, or tap me on the shoulder at a meeting.

I look forward to getting to know everyone better as time goes by.

Bill Condie, NPC 423.

At least someone won in 2020



Bogger of the Year

Three annual awards were presented at the Annual General Meeting in December, with Paul and Sara Ware taking the honours in two. The first, was Bogger of the Year for their performance at Peake, with Rod Kitto doing the presentation honours.

Burnt Valve Award

Paul and Sara also took home the award acknowledging mechanical problems during the year.



Trips Award

David and Helen Richards were acknowledged for running the most trips during the year.

The Nissan Outstanding Achiever (NOA) Award

The club acknowledged with thanks Anne Fritsch's four years as Editor of *Patrolling* with a NOA Award. It was richly deserved, especially for the past year, a particularly difficult one in which to fill the pages of the magazine with few trip reports and even fewer social occasions thanks to the Covid crisis. Many thanks, indeed, Anne!



A new face and a reminder for the old ones

We welcomed one new member to the club last year, Bill Condie, who received his membership pack from Aileen Kitto at the December AGM (right).

Our carry-over membership list from 2020 is 46 vehicles.

This membership list includes our honorary members of Jenny Thompson, our auditor Kevin Osborn and the Otways 4x4 Club.

At the time of going to press, 39 of our members and life members had renewed their memberships but there were still a few outstanding renewals.

In mid-February a reminder letter will be sent to members who have not paid the 2021 fees.

For those who have not paid their 2021 fees it would be appreciated if you could please advise the President, Secretary or Membership Officer if you are not intending to rejoin in 2021.



Fees can be paid by direct transfer into the Club bank account or at the General Meeting on Thursday 4 February.



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Goodbye to a difficult year

It has been an absolute pleasure to serve my first Presidential year, which has simply flown by.

Needless to say, the year has been very challenging.

I would like to thank all members for their support throughout this very difficult year, and for their patience with the committee in their endeavours to keep the club members as safe as possible.

I would also like to give a special thank-you to the committee for their efforts in keeping the club functioning during the year.

Communication was key and I applaud the Committee for their sterling efforts to keep the channels of communication open between the Committee and with the Members of the Club, and also for the COVID-19 measures at Meeting.

Committee-members have given their time freely to

make the club better for all. A special thanks to event organisers and trip leaders. Despite the lockdowns and safety issues, events and trips did happen during the year. They were varied and well supported.

It is unfortunate that some events were unable to proceed this year but the committee felt that with the current Covid-19 situation, it was just not possible to run certain events.

I am definitely looking forward to our Breakfast in the Park on Sunday 20 December. Roll on 2021. Let's hope that things improve and life can return to normality for all.

I wish all members and their families a safe and healthy festive season, with an equally good New Year.

John Day, NPC 407, President

Communications are key

As Secretary, for 2020, it has been a year to remember. Covid-19 placed us in a position like everyone else. Lockdowns, restrictions, social distancing. We had four months of no meetings – either general or committee and relied on communications by phone and email.

This year I have communicated all aspects of the club's activities for 2020 by

- Liaising with John our President, to plan for our General and Committee meetings
- Receiving agenda items from committee members and club members
- Circulating by email agendas, reports, magazines and correspondence
- Circulating approved minutes from Christine our Minute Secretary
- Checking that all agenda and agreed actions were carried out and followed up on any other correspondence that was required.

Because of the lockdowns and travel restrictions due to Covid-19, it was important that the club had open lines to communication.

John our President made sure that everyone received correspondence and information as it became available.

August saw us back at the Challa Gardens Multi-Function Hall to resume our general meetings.

This included, social distancing, sanitising and following Covid Protocols. Our Committee meetings resumed at the Elephant and Castle.

We are now back on track as a club.

I have enjoyed my position as Secretary and love the interaction of working within a Committee

On that note, I would like to say, that both Dave and I wish you and your families all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year and look forward to seeing you all in 2021

Helen Richards, NPC 364, Secretary

28 February Strathalbyn day trip

Social Picnic

Contact: Colin Goodrich



Meet at Colman Terrace Park at 10:30am. With a visit to the Gilberts Motor Museum of Collectible Classic cars.

2-5 April The Otways

4WDiving with the Otways 4x4 Club

Contact: Dave & Helen Richards

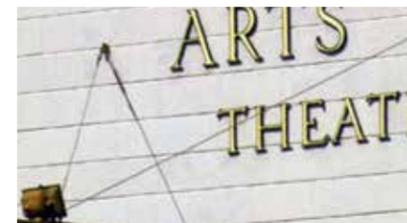


The Easter weekend in the exciting and scenic Otways in western Victoria. This weekend is provisional, of course, given the ongoing uncertainty of Covid conditions. The Club is organising a Plan B if conditions change. Fingers crossed.

7 May Theatre Night

Social

Contact: Jeff Schapel



Legally Blonde at the Arts Theatre, Angas Street. It will start at 8pm, God and Covid-willing.

21-23 May Deep Creek

Volunteer conservation working bee

Contact: Wayne Dunn



The first of two annual working bees ridding this beautiful park of noxious weeds.

8-30 May Lorella Springs

4WDiving, Camping, Touring

Contact: Paul Ware



A serious long trip to this glorious one-million-acre untouched remote Northern Territory coastal wilderness sanctuary. Visit the website <https://www.lorellasprings.com.au/>.

14-16 May Dorado Downs

4WDiving

Contact: Dave & Helen Richards



Tackle the sand and dunes closer to home.

Trip Planner

12-14 June Ghost Mushrooms Glencoe

Social, Touring, Travel

Contact: Paul Ware



See the amazing luminous mushrooms which grow in OneFortyOne pine forest during May and June each year..

18-20 June Peake

4WDDriving, Camping

Contact: Dave & Helen Richards



Back on the sand. Middle of winter – and you know that means camp fire cooking after the tracks have been conquered.

27 June Mid-Year Lunch

Social

Contact: Helen Richards



Venue to be determined.

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

19 December Breakfast in the Park

Social

Contact: Helen Richards



Where did that year go?



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A morning with friends helps to see off a tough year

WE had around 40 members of the Nissan Patrol Club SA attend the inaugural "Breakfast in the Park" for our 32nd Christmas break-up at the East end of Rymill Park by the rose bushes.

Perfect sunny morning sitting at about 24 degrees.

It was fantastic to see a good attendance at this event including members we had not seen for a while. as it is our last one for the year.

As more members arrived the circle of chairs & tables grew larger. With decorations of Santa Hats, Christmas Lights around, we knew Christmas is just around the corner.

Even Lucy the dog embraced the festivities with her costume. Members bought their McDonalds & Subway coffee and drinks.

Nibbles were popular, fresh fruit, Christmas cake, slices, Tim Tams and chocolates.

This year due to COVID-19 we were unable to share and social distancing and sanitising was adhered too.

Celebrating the Festive Season, we mingled and had a few photos taken. It was a lovely morning to be together after a challenging year.

Helen Richards



Our cockie is star of the show



Banks is a favourite at Adelaide Zoo

Photograph: Zoos SA

The Nissan Patrol Club of SA sponsors Banks, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, pictured above. He calls Adelaide Zoo home and when we contacted them they thanked the club for sponsoring Banks, "he's such a sweet bird". He's also a naughty one. This report is from when Banks was moved from his wetland aviary which he was busy destroying. He was trained to take part in the zoo's "Free Flight Flying Colours Bird Show" where he continues to be one of the star attractions. He now shares his aviary with a rescued red-tailed black cockatoo called Spence.

We're excited to let you know beloved Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Banks made his Free Flight debut after months of enriching training with the Nature Theatre team. The inquisitive cockatoo was moved from his previous home in the Australian Wetlands Aviary late last year after he was found to be regularly exercising his incredible natural chewing and shredding ability on the aviary roof. During the consequent aviary repairs, Banks spent some time with the Nature Theatre presentations team and it was decided he would make a great addition to the already-amazing bird cast.

Nature Theatre keeper Erin Turrell says Banks exceeded their expectations when it came to training.

"At first, we started with simple things like getting Banks used to the team and stepping up onto our hands," Erin said. "We were

surprised to watch Banks master these first actions with ease and we quickly progressed to getting him cooperatively flying between keepers!"

In this new, highly-stimulated environment, Banks was thriving. "Banks was doing so well that we soon decided to introduce him to different areas of the zoo to get him used to some of the things he might see as part of the Free Flight program," Erin said.

"This included taking him for walks to see different people, places and vegetation and to hear different noises from around the zoo.

"He did brilliantly. We were so pleased to see how engaged he was as we did this," Erin says Banks seems to be really enjoying his time with the team so far.

"Banks often makes this little chirping noise when he's engaged in something, especially when he eats his favourite nuts," Erin said.

"He actually makes the same sounds when he's in training or travelling around the zoo with us so this reinforces how much he's actually getting out of the new program in terms of engagement and enrichment."

All of Banks' and the team's hard work came to fruition when

the superstar cockie made his first public appearance during the school holidays.

"We were actually lucky enough for Banks to feel ready to come out and fly to me during a presentation!" Erin said. "He did a great job and didn't seem fussed with the crowd or the noise.

"He hung around with me for a bit on stage and then flew back into Free Flight HQ."

While it might seem like a small step, it's actually a huge achievement for both Banks and the Nature Theatre team.

"We're so proud of how far Banks has come and how well he's bonded with our team," Erin said. "We know that Banks is an iconic member of the Adelaide Zoo family who has delighted visitors for years.

"It's really exciting we can now show the public a different side to this special bird and they can witness how smart he really is."

This red-tailed superstar may still be learning the ropes of the Free Flight presentation but it's hoped he will eventually join the likes of Manu the Blue-and-gold Macaw and Kath the Galah as they soar over visitors' heads.

For now, you can catch a glimpse of Banks demonstrating his beginning skills in the Free Flight Flying Colours bird show every day at 1:15pm on our Central Lawns.

Enter Spence

Banks' new roommate, Spence was found by landholders inear Naracoorte, on the ground with a very severely injured wing.

The landholders contacted a member of Birdlife Australia, one of Zoos SA's conservation partners for the Cockies Helping Cockies project, who assessed her and helped deliver the special bird to Adelaide Zoo.

Conservation Manager Dr Liberty Olds collected Spence and drove her to Adelaide Zoo where vets took x-rays and determined she had both broken and dislocated her right wing which, while it could be treated, would have left her with life-long arthritis pain.

Knowing that Spence was very comfortable around people and that, as a young bird, she hadn't learned to fly yet, vets made the decision to amputate her wing.

After recovering in the Animal Health Centre under the watchful eye of our dedicated vet nurses and keepers, little Spence made the journey to our Free Flight area where she received plenty of love and attention from keepers as well as the companionship of fellow red-tailed black cockatoo Banks.

Keeper and presenter Erin Turrell says Spence settled in brilliantly, even lending a hand (or wing) in the design of her exhibit.

"Obviously having lost her wing, Spence had a slightly different way of getting around to other birds, which included using her beak and feet a lot more," says Erin.

Spence has quickly captured the hearts of keepers and visitors alike, with her tough start to life providing keepers with a teaching moment about the vital Cockies Helping Cockies project.

Sophie Hueppauff
Zoos SA's Communications Coordinator

(Reprinted with permission)

Willow Springs revisited



One for the diary...

Willow Springs in the Flinders Ranges is a great destination for camping and 4WDing and has a special connection to our Club.

Not once, but twice, Club members have renovated Moxon's Hut on the property, an old shed used by drovers in days gone by. The picture above shows the plaques commemorating the volunteer work carried out by the Nissan patrol Club of SA.

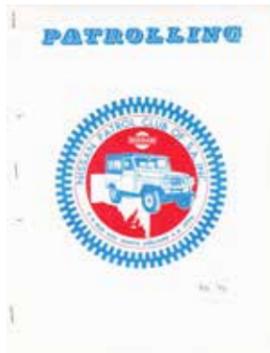
Pat and Des Trowbridge (NPC 219) pioneered the relationship back in the early 1990s when they first went to stay there when they were just strating out in 4WDing.

They were told not to mention they belonged to a club as the owner was opposed to 4WDs on his property.

How things have chnaged. The owner's daughter is now in charge and the Skytrek, which the Club helped promote, is one of the best-known private 4WD tracks in South Australia.

Don't miss March's meeting when Pat will give a talk telling the club about those early days.

Some things float on Fraser



PATROLLING February 1986

Halley's Comet made an appearance in 1986, as it does every 75 or 76 years, making it possible to see it twice in a lifetime for some. *Patrolling* encouraged members to organise a trip away from the city lights to get a better view.

The magazine also reported on a trip to Fraser Island that had taken place the year before. It was ably led by (the late) Garry and Jenny

Thompson. My own recollection of the trip was that it rained like b.....y (really hard) on the last night on Fraser.

Jenny and Garry with the best intentions invited my son Matthew and myself into the warm shelter of their tent for the night to keep dry. That was the idea, anyway.

I woke in the morning to find my air mattress floating on water. There was more rain inside the tent than out. Son James decided to sleep in the Patrol but even he got wet because the strong wind forced rain through the bonnet air vent.

It took two days to dry out the bedding!

“Wanted: Does anyone know where we can find a missing club typewriter?”, was the plaintive request from the Editor. How technology has changed in the last 35 years.

In March 1986 the Nissan Patrol Club of SA held a second Field Day at Keyneton Oval that featured an inter-club cricket match.

The NPC held a similar cricket match the year before at

Keyneton with a view to resurrecting the South Australian Association of 4WD Clubs (SAAFWD), now known as 4WDSA.

At that time Four Wheel Driving and Four Wheel Drivers were represented by the Recreational Vehicles Coordinating Council (RVCC).

The RVCC included caravans, dune buggies and motor bikes as well as Four Wheel Drives. It seemed appropriate to have an organisation representing solely Four Wheel Driving to Government and Government Departments.

The NPC was instrumental in making this happen.

In the years that followed, the NPC made numerous submissions on draft management plans for national and conservation parks and in particular fronted a joint parliamentary select committee on access to the Maralinga Tjarutja Lands (the Anne Beadell Highway).

The members of the select committee had some difficulty in believing that anyone (by which I guess they meant Whitefellas) would want to go to that “godforsaken place”.

We had to convince them otherwise.

The February magazine contained the President's Report for 1985 (it was Brian Cook that year).

The club held a mid-year dinner at the Glynde Hotel, a Peake sand driving weekend, a square dance at Keyneton and a mud weekend at Angaston.

The Christmas Picnic was held at the Clarendon oval.

By the way, club fees in 1986 were \$17 and the joining fee was raised to \$10.

Club Historian



The wreck of the Maheno in 1986 - there's a lot less left of it today

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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A worthwhile working holiday

Edithburgh - December 2019

Back in December 2019, we were trying to decide where to go for our Christmas break. We'd just bought a caravan, without intending to really, so we wanted to give it a test run. I'd heard on the news that 69 fires burned across South Australia on 20 November 2019, when the state sweltered through temperatures above 40° C alongside strong winds. One of these fires was on the Lower Yorke Peninsula just outside of Yorketown. That bushfire, caused by a "power network fault", damaged 11 properties with about 5,000 hectares burnt.

It seemed wrong to be planning a holiday break with so many people across South Australia dealing with the fallout from the fires.

As most of you will know, BlazeAid is a volunteer-based organisation that works with people in rural Australia after natural disasters such as fires and floods. Volunteers work alongside the rural families, helping to rebuild fences and other structures that have been damaged or destroyed.

I suggested to Paul that we join one of the BlazeAid teams for the Christmas-New Year period. Paul had worked with BlazeAid previously and knew what to expect. He's had plenty of fencing and manual labour experience....I had none, being an accountant and always stuck in an office.

The BlazeAid site was set up at Light Church in Edithburgh which had fantastic facilities. The operation ran smoothly with small groups of people sent out to various locations during the day, complete with "picnic" lunches that we made ourselves from the masses of food donated by locals.

We would regroup in the evening for a shared meal and a bit of conversation with like-minded people.

The small group Paul and I were in did a lot of fence removal (I was hoping to learn how to erect them but, alas, that was another team's job) and we also cleared away a kilometres of burnt poly pipe.

We worked in some fairly extreme heat which was a bit of a shock to me, having always worked inside in the air-conditioned office. Being on my feet all day and getting really grubby was also new! I went to sleep each night completely exhausted but never once regretted my suggestion to do our bit for some of our farmers.

We had the opportunity for a day or two off while we were based with BlazeAid so we also got to do some relaxing and sight-seeing – it wasn't all hard work. If you ever get the chance, I would highly recommend going and volunteering with BlazeAid. They only give you jobs that you are physically capable of doing, including the cooking for the volunteer team. It's a highly rewarding experience.

Sara Ware. NPC 421



Sara, out of her comfort zone.

BLazeAid camp, Lucindale

Unfortunately another fire season is upon us and BlazeAid are back in action. They have a camp in Lucindale, which opened on 29 January. You can get details from their website: <https://blazeaid.com.au/> or directly through the details below

Address: Yakka Park, West Terrace, Lucindale SA 5271

**Co-ordinator: Mary Howarth
Mobile: 0429 367 538**

Email: blazeaid.lucindale@gmail.com



Sara and Paul take a 'picnic' break from removing burnt fences near Edithburgh.



Sara and Paul's group also cleared away kilometres of burnt poly pipe.

Camp cook celebrity touch

I never thought I would get inspiration for camp cookery from British celebrity chef Heston Blumenthal. His scientific approach to cookery, so-called “molecular gastronomy”, has produced such unusual delights as bacon and egg ice cream and snail porridge, and landed Blumenthal a fellowship with the Royal Society of Chemistry, while he charges the equivalent of \$580 a head for the tasting menu at his restaurant, the Fat Duck, in Berkshire.

By now you might well be muttering something under your breath which rhymes with “banker” and you might well be right – but stick with me, it’s worth it I promise.

Blumenthal is also a devotee of “sous vide” cooking, which means “under vacuum” in French. Food is sealed in an airtight container — usually a vacuum sealed bag — and then immersed in temperature-controlled water for a fixed amount of time.



Vacuum sealing is useful for more than just meat

Photograph: Shutterstock

And that was how I came to get ideas for the camp from Blumenthal. Having invested in a vacuum sealing system, mainly to prepare meals in advance for off-road camping and fishing trips, I was looking for extending the vacuum sealer’s uses beyond extending the fridge life of steaks and other meat – wonderful though it is at that, as you will know.

That’s when Google delivered me to a page with Blumenthal’s recipe for sous vide scrambled eggs. It turned out to produce some of the best scrambled eggs I have ever eaten but also delivered one of the most practical ways to transport eggs – for weeks if necessary – across the roughest off-road conditions you can imagine.

The concept of the recipe is very simple. Take six eggs, whisk them together with two tablespoons of double cream, pour it all into a bag and vacuum seal it - or home cooks can just use a Ziploc bag.

When it comes to cooking, Blumenthal’s recipe calls for immersion in water at the precise temperature of 76° C for 15 minutes. Every 3 to 5 minutes, remove the bags from the water bath and “gently massage the eggs to mix. Return the bags to the water bath and continue to cook”.

That’s the official version. For our camping version we go a little more rustic.

The likes of Blumenthal use a commercial chamber vacuum sealer that has no difficulty removing the air from bags containing liquids. But with smaller home models, as the machine sucks out the air, the liquid follows, streams out from the bag and into the machine itself. But there is a trick to get around that.

Mix your eggs with a little cream and pour into a suitably-sized vacuum seal bag. At this point you can also add any other ingredients you might like – cooked bacon, ham, chopped chorizo sausage, or even a teaspoon or two of Malaysian chill sambal for a spicy version.

Put the bag containing the egg mixture - unsealed - propped up in the freezer until the mixture is almost solid. Remove from the freezer and vacuum seal in the usual way. Return to the freezer until you are ready to use it.

Eggs frozen and stored this way will last for up to a year and can be thrown into the camping fridge and dragged across the worst corrugations you can find without risk of breakage. When it comes to cooking them, it is best to start with a defrosted mix. You can do it from frozen but it takes a long time and uses a lot of camp stove fuel. Immerse in cold water and bring to near the boil, turn off before it boils and back on when it cools a little - use your common sense to keep the temperature around 75-80 degrees.

Keep an eye on consistency - pull out of the water and squeeze the bag a few times to make sure the contents at the middle cook evenly. It takes 20-30 minutes this way.

Snip off the top of the bag and spread over toast.

Six eggs will serve two, of course. Or you can follow the same procedure with three eggs and shorter cooking times for a single serve. Great to prepare in advance and have in the freezer ready to go as a quick, easy and tasty breakfast solution for an ad hoc overnight fishing trip, or the perfect solution to packing meals for a longer term tour.

Bill Condie, NPC 423.

The Australia Day at Murbko trip

Pat Trowbridge turns to verse to describe blistering summer weather on the Murray

It was not so unexpected, it’s summer after all,
But the day’s forecast of FORTY SIX made dreams of camping pall
But we’d already sold the van, had a motel room with a view
And so we went and, to a man, the others all shot through.

So there’s to be no yabbies? No competition carp?
Now Morgan’s not a big town, explored in half an hour.
Jet skis spoiled the ambience, heat must increase their power.

So throughout the day we stayed indoors where the furnace couldn’t reach us
Air-con on we snoozed and read, a pub tea (eked out) the day’s only feature.
But then my phone let out a ring, it was our son, imploring
Where again was our house key kept? Bushfires due

before morning.

His hills family needed safe haven, somewhere to spend the night,
And since our house was empty it only seemed all right.
Thank heavens the flames never came (a change of wind and rain),
But we drove home direct and fast. We won’t do that again.

As club trips go this was a dud, through no one’s fault at all,
And we hope the annual Murbko trip won’t begin to stall.
Bush camping has beauty of its own and the leader’s very kind.
So next year bring yourselves along. But we won’t, if you don’t mind.

Pat Trowbridge, NPC 219

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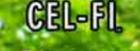
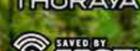



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