

# ***PATROLLING***



***Volume 44 Number 1  
February 2022***



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# Nissan Patrol Club of South Australia Inc

Established 1979

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Property Officer **Brian Robinson**

Trips Officer **Paul Ware**

Magazine Editor **Bill Condie**

Historian/Archivist **Jeff & Jeanene Schapel**

CSU Delegate **David Richards**

Public Relations Officer **Bill Smith**

Fundraiser **Carmen Riddle**

Webmaster **Rod Kitto**

Facebook **Helen Richards**

Auditor **Kevin Osborn**



## Contact us

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### Magazine

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### Website

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[webmaster@nissanpatrolclubsa.org](mailto:webmaster@nissanpatrolclubsa.org)

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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

# Mapping our way into 2022

Happy New year to all Club members and welcome to the first issue of *Patrolling* for the year. It's a slight truncated issue this time around as the year is just getting underway. We are also short on President's Points column on this page as, well, we are short one President. And for that matter Secretary. These positions, along with Treasurer, are essential for our Club to continue, so we hope this vacancies can be filled soon.

Despite that, you will still find plenty to read. There is a great report starting on page 13 of last October's trip on the PARs in the Flinders Ranges, led by Paul and Sara Ware. There are some good pictures, too. Paul always gives a thorough and enteratining account of time spent on the road.

And speaking of trips, there is an expanded list of upcoming outings for Members and their guests starting on page 6. I'm sure you will agree that Paul has done a great job as trips officer to come up with something for every month of the year which, added to the old favouotes and regulars, gives us an action packed year indeed.

There are day trips, weekend trips and longer tours. Please note, however, that some trips are camping only, with no way to accommodate caravans. These are marked so make sure to take note. There are only four with this provision.

Whiel I am sure we all appreciate Paul's efforst in filling out our calendar for us – plus the abundance of trips being led by Dave

and Helen Richards (they keep winning that Golden Spike award for a reason) please do remember that trips can be proposed by any member and it is strongly encouraged. Just see Paul with a plan.

Same goes for the magazine. I would love more contributions from everyone or simply to hear what you would like to see in the magazine. This year, at the suggestion of Jeanene Schapel, I will write a profile of the new members who joined last year so we can all get to know them and welcome them properly to the club.

I am always keen to get cover pictures too. If you have a picture of your rig on the road, on the tracks, on the beach, or in action anywhere at all, please let me have it for consideration. Make sure that the image is high resolution and landscape format so I can wrap it around the cover.

Speaking of which, this issues cover is of my own Patrol, trapped on a beach in Yalata, west of Ceduna. A bit of an embarrassing one, I took off for a few days fishing just me and the dog but got stuck in the soft sand the first day. While I got unbogged pretty easily, I couldn't get off the beach until 30 hours later when the first passers by turned up to show me the (pretty easy) track through the dunes that had missed out on being signposted. Being in extreme remote areas is good fun but it does mean help can be slow to come by.

**Bill Condie NPC 423**

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Photos, video, details of upcoming trips and guest speakers



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# A traditional start to the New Year

## 26-30 January 2022 Australia Day at Murbko

As usual Club members headed to the cooling waters of the Murray at Murbko after the disruptions of 2021.

Canoes and cruising on the extended Australia Day weekend.

The trip was just daring to a close when the magazine went to press to there will be a full report of the trip in the next issue of *Patrolling*.



## 27 February Murray Mouth Run

It's a few years since the Club made this run so time to check it out once again.

Paul has checked the tides and they are perfect for a whole day out at the mouth of the Murray with no concerns about running out of beach on the way back.

A spot of fishing, a BBQ, chill in the sun by the sea. It's up to you.

**Contact: Paul Ware**



## 11-14 March Douglas Scrub & Bluett Springs

A casual weekend of touring the wetlands, mystery drive(s) around the dirt roads in the area and general camaraderie.

Unfortunately this trip is now fully booked, but do contact John and Maddie to get on the wait list if something becomes available.

**Contact John & Maddie Day**



## 15-18 April Little Desert National Park

Sand driving and fun with the

This is a new destination for us, after years of travelling to the Otways at Easter, we are meeting the Otways 4X4 Club halfway! They know how to deal with mud but let's see how good they are on the sand.

Staying at the Gorake Caravan Park. Numbers are limited so get in quickly.

**Contact: Helen Richards**

**15-18 April  
Victorian High Country**

Proposed alternative Easter trip, which would be camping only – **No caravans.**

The trip will take in Blue Rag Trig, Basalt Knob South Track, Crooked River & Billy Goat Tracks

**Contact: Paul Ware**



Song and Dance winner  
of 10 Tony Awards



**6 May  
Theatre Night - Hello, Dolly!**

The next theatre night will be this new production by the Metropolitan Musical Theatre Co of SA, directed by Barry Hill at the Arts Theatre, 53 Angas Street Adelaide. We have not yet been given ticket prices but the 2021 prices were \$28 per person.

**Contact Jeff Schapel**

**13-16 May  
Dorado Downs**

Sand driving, bonfires and camp cooking

A return to Dorado Downs after last year's outing. Time to pit yourself against the biggest sandhill on the property and maybe this year redeem some of our pride lost to the Mitsubishi Club.

**Contact: Helen Richards**



**27-28 May  
Deep Creek Bushcare**

The first of two weekends helping out at Deep Creek

**Contact: Wayne Dunn**



**11-13 June  
Melba Gully & Lake Elizabeth**

Melba Gully State Park near Apollo Bay. It is now part of the Great Otway National Park.

The gully has a dense rainforest of myrtle beech, blackwood and tree-ferns. Glow worms can be seen at night. Proposed trip. **No caravans.**

**Contact Paul Ware**

## 18-19 June Peake

4WD driving, Sand driving, social

**Contact: Dave & Helen Richards**



Back on the sand. We are sharing this weekend with the Mitsubishi Club for this long-standing and popular mid-winter outing.



## 26 June 2022 Goolwa Hotel - Mid-Year Lunch

Our annual mid-year lunch is now locked in at the Goolwa Hotel.

**Contact: Helen Richards**



## 24 July Eagle View 4WD Track & Saunders Gorge

A proposed day-trip to this self-drive 4WD track through a Private Conservation Area. The track is about a three-hour drive with many scenic spots to stop and enjoy. Entry permit cost \$60 per vehicle for a one way loop of the property.

**Contact: Paul Ware**

## 20-21 August Peechara Hills

Bush camp with 4wd tracks

**Contact: Paul Ware**



A late winter run to Peechara Hills bush camp and 4WD park out on the Barrier Highway on the way to Broken Hill.

The property includes some challenging 4WD tracks including the pipe tunnel pictured left. There's a bit of everything from creeks, hills, and mud at the right time of year.

All campsites have long drops and the main camp has a shower, flushing toilet and kitchen.

There's also gold and rock fossicking and bush walking..



**10-11 September  
Border Track Ngarkat Conservation Park  
/ Snowdrift Wyperfeld National Park**

Further details to follow on this border run. **No caravans** on this one.

**Contact: Paul Ware**

**1-3 October  
Gammon Ranges  
Grindell's Hut  
Arkaroola**

4WDiving, social

**Contact: Paul Ware**



The Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park is a protected area in the Flinders Ranges of South Australia, immediately south-west of and adjacent to the Arkaroola Protection Area.

An opportunity to explore some of the best sights in the Northern Flinders before it gets too hot. **No Caravans**

**21-23 October  
Deep Creek Bushcare**

The second of our weekends helping out at Deep Creek

**Contact: Wayne Dunn**



**4-6 November  
Morgan**

4WDiving, 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).

**19 December  
Breakfast in the Park**

Social

**Contact: Helen Richards**



Our usual get-together in Rymill Park as we say farewell to yet another year.

## AGM Highlights

# The AGM leaves the Club with some unfinished business

With work commitments stopping John Day taking the reins as President for a third year, and Helen Richards looking to take a well-deserved break from the duties of Secretary, there were two very important positions looking for nominations. Unfortunately there were no takers. This leaves the club in a bit of a spot.

These two positions need to be filled if we are to meet the conditions of our charter. We will revisit the issue at the February meeting. Until then, Paul Ware will fill the role as Acting President. Other officeholders were appointed unopposed as follows:

Vice President: Paul Ware; Treasurer: Maddie Day; Minutes Secretary: Christine Robinson; Membership Officer: Aileen Kitto; Property Officer: Brian Robinson; Trips: Paul Ware; Historian Archivist: Jeff and Jeanene Schapel; Magazine Editor: Bill Condie; Public Relations: Bill Smith; Fund Raising: Carmen Riddle; Webmaster: Rod Kitto; Auditors: Honorary member Kevin Osborn.

The FWDSA Delegate position remains vacant.



Dave Richards and Rod Kitto shred the spoils in the guessing competition - a shame neither drinks wine!

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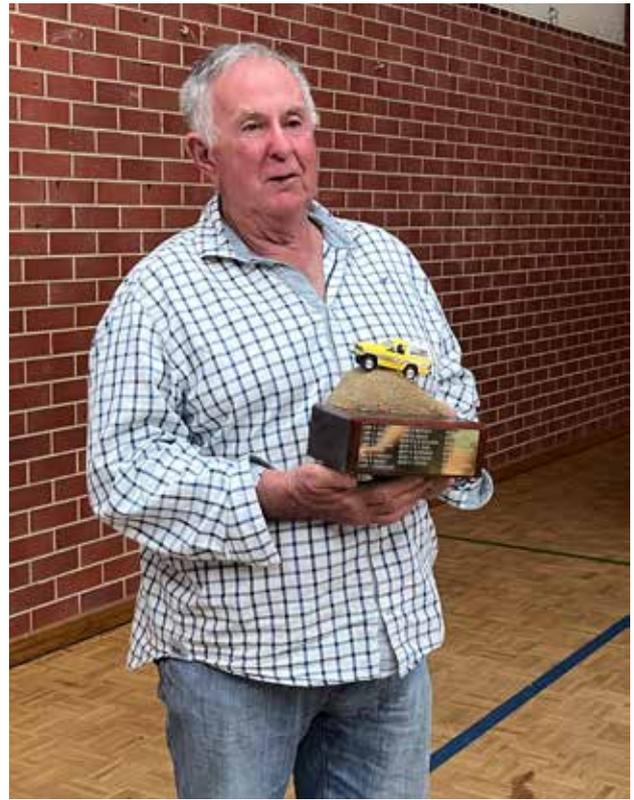
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# Award winners gather the spoils for 2021



It fell to Vice President Paul Ware to present the four category awards for 2021. Mike Garrett took home the Rubber Goods award for the year's most persistent or spectacular tyre trouble (above left) while Anne Fritsch won the Bogger award for certain incidents in the Top End during the Lorella Springs trip (she wasn't at the AGM so Paul is holding it for her). Colin Riddle was the winner of the Burnt Valve award, usually for mechanical trouble but in this case to mark an encounter with a Morgan tree while Helen and Dave Richards once again took home the Golden Spike for leading the the most number of trips.





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Nuccaleena Mine on PAR 3 began operation in 1860 but by 1866, it had only produced £13,000 worth of copper ore, at a cost of the mine and infrastructure costing £57,000

## PAR for the Flinders course

**FLINDERS RANGERS PARs TRIPS 1-4 October 2021**

**Participants:**

**Paul and Sara Ware as Trip Leaders, Geoff & Marie Dalitz, John & Lorraine Kerr, Brian & Christine Robinson and visitors Maurice & Bev (friends of Geoff and Marie) and Shane (Sara's son) & Jess Rees and their children Chelsea & Josh.**

**W**ITH the possible closure of Public Access Routes (PAR) on the cards if changes were made to the Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989, it was decided that a trip to The Flinders was in order to have a look at the routes while access was still available.

So a trip was planned for the October long weekend.

Some of the group headed up on the Thursday while others made the full journey on the Friday arriving at Blinman and staying at the Caravan Park behind the Blinman Hotel which was used for the base of operation over the weekend.

Saturday saw an early start as a lot was planned for the day. A trip briefing was held before setting off on the day's adventure. We set off out of town heading to PAR 4 which would take us to the Artimore Homestead ruins. These ruins comprise the homestead, outhouses, a storage shed, large stone shearing shed, a windmill and water tank of a property that was established in the late 1850s and at its peak had 40,000 sheep but was undermined by rabbits, dingos, overstocking and poor rainfall and was abandoned in 1903.

On the way out to Artimore, we stopped to admire a hill climb that had been established by previous travellers at Nildottie Gap but none of our group chose to tackle it. Something about "Don't do anything stupid as you may need to drive the vehicle home".

On arrival at Artimore, everyone got out and had a good look around the ruins, admiring the workmanship of the stone work and the effort of gathering all the stones to build the structures.

After leaving the ruins we continued along the PAR 4 towards Moolooloo homestead looking for the Patawarta Gap PAR 5 turnoff on our right. Having found it we proceeded uphill following the track as it dropped down to travel along a creek bed which



Abandoned equipment at the Copper King Mine (above) and Aroona Dam, built between 1952 and 1957 (below)





The Artimore Homestead ruins. The property was established in the late 1850s but abandoned in 1903.

allowed access through a row of hills. On the other side of the hills the track rose up out of the creek bed and continued to rise till it reached the top of a domed hill which gave us views of Patawarta Gap on the other side of Home Rule Flat to the northeast and Patawarta Hill to the east. The time and location proved to be an idea spot for morning tea which we had as we looked around from our vantage point.

Heading back the way we came, we turned right onto the original track and proceeded towards Hannigan Gap where an abandoned utility vehicle required a closer look, and was a hit with Chelsea and Josh.

It was time well spent looking at the old ute as it allowed a group of motorcyclists to move on ahead of us. After passing Moolooloo Station on the right with its associated buildings and yards we made our way to the Nuccaleena Mine road PAR 3 and turned right looking for somewhere to have lunch. A nice spot was found in the dry Nuccaleena Creek watercourse with plenty of shade and enough of room

for us to park and set up the picnic tables or find a comfortable rock to sit on while we enjoyed our lunch.

After lunch we drove up out of the creek bed only to cross it two more times before reaching our destination of the mine.

The copper ore was found by William Finke in the mid 1850's. The mineral leases for the site were sold a number of times before funding was raised in England to start operations in early 1960. One hundred tons of ore was mined in five weeks by sixteen men



Making it up as we go along: changed routes of the PAR



**A track off Parachilna Gorge led to a lookout with views to Mt Mary in the east and Heysen Range in the south**

as the ore body was close to the surface. There was great hope for the mine due to the high quality of the ore.

The Great Northern Mining Company built a small town across the creek from the mine site which included a residence and office for the Mine Manager (Captain), blacksmith shop, stables, workshop, goods store, a general store also a doctors house and about twenty good huts for the miners. The town had Mechanics/ Mine Institute and nearby the Bushman's Hotel.

However by 1866, the Nuccaleena Mine had only produced £13,000 worth of copper ore, and with cost of the mine and infrastructure costing £57,000, it was unviable to continue operations and the mine was abandoned due to its financial failure.

After having a good explore around the ruins, looking down old mine shafts and finding some small samples of copper ore in the mullock heaps, we returned to the vehicles and made our way back towards Moolooloo. On reaching the PAR 4 we turned right and continued on to Glass Gorge Road and Blinman. On our return to Blinman we had sufficient time to go to the Blinman Memorial Hall and have a look at the "Flinders Ranges: A Brush with Art" exhibition displaying the works of various artists who had used an emphasis on the Outback and Flinders Ranges for their works. We then retired back to our caravans for a clean-up before heading to the Hotel Dining Room for an evening meal.

Sunday morning saw us up and eager for another day of fun and exploring this time PAR1 which would take us to the Copper King copper and ochre mine. So heading out of Blinman on the Glass Gorge Road, we retraced the previous day's journey for the first 15kms, and then continued on to Parachilna Gorge with a

side trip to a lookout perched on top of a knoll at the end of a steep 4wd track with enough room to park. This gave us views to Mt Mary in the east and Heysen Range and Parachilna Gorge to the south.

Back on the road, and after crossing Parachilna Gorge Creek, we turned left and headed west leaving the hills behind and travelled across the flat plains to Parachilna. After a brief road side stop where we were enlightened to the need to travel with sufficient fuel from a fellow traveller who was running low, we turned north up The Outback Way till we reached the Old Beltana Road which took us to the old historic township of Beltana for a morning tea stop.

### **Beltana**

The Adnyamathanha people lived in the region for centuries before the coming of the explorers with Edward John Eyre in 1840 and Charles Sturt in 1845, and then came the pastoralists with Thomas Elder and Robert Barr Smith acquiring the Beltana lease in 1862.

Beltana Station was the starting point for many central Australian expeditions including those of Ernest Giles in 1872 and Perer Warburton in 1873. The Overland Telegaraph Line reached Beltana in 1871 followed by the Great Northern Railway later called the Ghan in 1881.

After having a wander around the town following the interpretive trail with signs detailing the history of many of the old buildings in the town, we were once more on the road heading north up the Old Beltana Road alongside the old Ghan Railway Line through

Puttapa Gap and along till we crossed over the new railway line and arrived at Zinc Mine Road also the PAR 1. Turning right, we travelled east till our way was impeded by a mining site and its workings. The mining activities has ceased some years before our arrival, with our way blocked by "Do Not Enter" signs and an extremely large tailings heap. We endeavoured to find a way around the obstacles in the direction of the Copper King Mine. After making our way past the obstructions, we came to a point where we could see our objective, but not reach it, due to the terrain being impassable, so back tracking to the mining camp buildings. There, we found a notice with details of the location of a new route for the PAR 1. Following these instructions, we finally arrived at the destination.

After exploring the Copper King Mine site and the abandoned equipment, we retraced our way back past the new Beltana Zinc Mine from which 316,400 tonnes of zinc silicate ore was extracted from the open cut pit before operations were concluded in 2008, then on to the Copley Bakery for lunch. Now that our journey north had come to an end, it was time to turn around and head back to Blinman and our caravans. On the way back some of us made a detour out to Aoon Dam which was built between 1952 and 1957 to supply water to the original town of Leigh Creek and the Leigh Creek Coalmine. In 1995, the dam and the adjoining 43 square kilometres of land was declared to be Aroona Sanctuary.

On our return to Blinman, we found it was time for Happy Hour with a few drinks and nibbles before making our way to the Hotel Dining Room for our Room for our evening meal.



A rusty ol ute on the way to Hannigan Gap was a hit with Chelsea and Josh.

Monday morning saw us hitch up our wagons and bid a fond farewell to Blinman and head south back home. On the way back some of us pulled into Wilpena Pound Resort for a coffee before heading over to the Old Wilpena Woolshed to look at the art, exhibition part of the "Flinders Ranges: A Brush with Art" exhibition, then on to Hawker for refuelling before the long drive home.

Paul Ware NPC 421



Beltana was once the starting point for many central Australian expeditions

# That time of year once again



Well the year is coming towards its end and Christmas is getting closer so it means only one thing, it's time for the Nissan Patrol Club SA's annual Christmas in the Park.

A once-a-year gathering of Club members under the shady

trees near the Rymiil Park Rose Gardens to enjoy a picnic brunch and wish each other a merry Christmas and all the very best for the following year.

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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