

# ***PATROLLING***



***Volume 44 Number 4  
August 2022***



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# Nissan Patrol Club of South Australia Inc

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## Contact us

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## Membership

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## Magazine

[editor@nissanpatrolclubsau.org](mailto:editor@nissanpatrolclubsau.org)

## Website

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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.

# Time to get out on a Club trip

The second half of the year is now under way with quite a few interesting trips and events in the program. I hope members can make the time to get out there and enjoy them along with other members especially our new members who we are pleased to have welcomed into our group.

The first half of the year has offered some great trips and events, but due to our current family situation Judy and I have unfortunately not been able to join in.

Many thanks to those who have put these events together and managed them so well. As all reports from the trips and events have been great.

Our monthly meetings have all gone ahead with minimal problems and we are now back to being able to have a light supper and socialise following the meeting.

Thanks to those who have donated the nibbles on the table and the members who put the effort into the preparation.

Due to difficulty in arranging we have missed out on some speakers at our meetings, but we will work to offer some during this second half of the year.

I wish all Nissan Club members a good safe future and hope you can use your 4WD'S to the best of your ability and enjoy our great country while you explore it.

Thanks must go to all of our committee members for the support



they have given this club and for their effort to fill their positions.

**Brian Cook NPC 19**

## From the Editor's Desk

# LandscapeSA calls for help

First up, wearing my hat a delegate to Four Wheel Drive SA, there is a request from LandscapeSA to see if any clubs would like to do volunteer work in the outback. They have proposed two projects and I will make sure details are mentioned at the next meeting and circulated by email. I will give an outline here.

At this stage there are no specific dates as FWDSA seeks an initial expression of interest.

The first is a proposed building preservation project on an important historical building on the pastoral station about four hours north of Port Augusta up the Stuart Highway.

The landholders were keen to get some assistance from volunteers with the necessary skills to assist with this process. They do not want it to be restored to its former glory, they are just keen to stop any further degradation of the building.

In exchange, the landowners will tour around any volunteers that are kind enough to assist and provide some insight in to the history of the station. The building to be resored is about 90 minutes from the Homestead so any visitors would need to be self-sufficient.

The second project is the management of Pepper Tree on a station about 30 minutes north of Port Augusta.

The landowners have undertaken herbicide control in the past but they are getting some regrowth which they want to combat before it again got out of control and there are some large trees which were missed as part of the original control program.

The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board have a Drill and Fill machine (some cool new technology) which drills in to the plant and inserts a herbicide capsule and then plugs behind it with a wooden plug. It has proven to be very effective in killing Pepper Trees when they are drilled in to the trunk every 100mm.

Volunteers are welcome to stay on the station but as with the first proposal they would need to be self-sustainable. It is very pretty country along the Depot Creek system.

Let me know if there is any interest and I will pass on information to FWDSA.

**Bill Condie NPC 423**



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# Plenty planned for the second half

**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**

Enjoy the peaceful surroundings of the Ngarkat Conservation Park and take in the views over the park's 270,000 hectares of vegetated sand dunes, mallee and heath. The park abounds in wildlife. Look out for western grey kangaroos, emus and more than 120 species of birds. You may spot a rare malleefowl walking slowly amongst the trees.

A number of walking trails give you the opportunity to see the wildlife and gain a better appreciation of the vast mallee landscape. Enjoy the magnificent views from Tyms Lookout along a 2-3 hour hike. Early attempts to farm this country failed as seen by the ruins of early European pioneering settlements at Box Flat.

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**

4WDDriving, social



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**

4WDDriving, social

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

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



# Welcome to new members



Brian Cook welcomes new members Korbus and Mariki Mostert above, and Peter and Helen Smith below





Colin Riddle receives his NOA for conquering the dunes at Dorado Downs, while Mariki reports on Peake

## Get to know our very own Hosmer's Skink

Yes the Nissan Club continues to support the Hosmer's Skink (*Egernia hosmeri*). So just in case you do not know of this handsome creature here's an introduction.

These skinks are stocky skinks that grow to 23 centimetres long, nearly half of which is the tail. The scales on their body have 3-4 sharp points (or keels) and the scales on the tail each have a long spine.

Their colouring is light yellow-brown to brown with creamy to dark brown blotches that are more prominent around the head. Their normal habitat is found in northern Queensland and the Northern Territory near the Gulf of Carpentaria. They live in small colonies in rocky outcrops, hiding under crevices and the gaps between boulders.



**This handsome fellow is Hosmer's Skink (not actually ours in this picture but a close relation bearing a striking resemblance)**

When alarmed, they wedge themselves against the rocks, puffing their bodies out so that their spines grip the rock. This makes them very hard to remove. They have an omnivorous diet of insects, leaves, shoots and berries.

Now that you know all about the Skink why not visit the Reptile house at the Zoo and seek it out.

**Jeanene Schapel  
NPC 31**

# Vale Doug Smith

Douglas Smith member number 287 passed away on 5 May following complications after contraction of covid. Doug joined the NPC in 1993/94 and was in a short time a big contributor to the development of the club's 4WD driver training program.

With three other members he developed and put together an instruction program and the paperwork to record our members progress. They then began our 4WD training which involved theory presentations at meetings and practical instruction on trips. This group were defined as the DAGs (Driver awareness group).

Then in 1995 Doug along with two others of that group moved into the SOUTH AUSTRALIAN 4WD ASSOC. to represent the NPC club and continue the training program which became a more complex and demanding exercise, the unit was known as the DTU (Driver Training Unit).

Doug has for the past 28 years supported the NPC along with his partner Heather, (member No 132 for 36 years), they have been part of many outback trips and club organised events accompanied with many club friends.

We offer our condolences to Heather and all of their Family in this time of need.



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# When we joined the world



The Overland Telegraph Line was completed on 22 August 1872, exactly 150 years ago. Completion of this line allowed Australia to have a complete telegraphic connection back to England and to cut short the lengthy double sea voyage for communication.

The drawing above shows the planting the first pole on the Overland Telegraph line to Carpentaria

The flyer (right) gives details of a meeting commemorating this event. It will be held on Monday 22 August 2022 in the State Library of SA Institution Building, Hetzel lecture theatre, corner of North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide at 1.00pm.

Attendance is free but registration is required. Registration can be completed using the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-overland-telegraph-line-a-150-year-celebration-tickets-380084481917>

Please select "IET" as your affiliation. Eventbrite will send tickets to your email address.

The wearing of face masks is suggested.

The event is organised by the IET Retired Engineers Group. You may recognise one of the guest speakers – club member Don Grigg.

**Jeff Schapel**  
NPC 31  
Club Historian

## IET/IEEE RETIRED ENGINEERS GROUP

Founded in 1980 by IEE SA&NT. Since 2007, a joint initiative with the IEEE SA Section Life Members Affinity Group.

**IET** The Institution of  
Engineering and Technology

**IEEE**  
Life Members Affinity Group

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## The Overland Telegraph Line 150 Year Celebration

**Place:** State Library of SA Institution Building, Hetzel lecture theatre, corner of North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide  
**Date:** Monday 22 August 2022 **Time:** 1:00pm **Duration:** Approx. 2 hours.

### The program

- (1) Introduction – Don Grigg Retired Engineer 10 minutes
- (2) Brief history leading to the signing of a contract between the SA Government and The British – Australian Telegraph Company – Richard Venus, Engineering historian -20 minutes
- (3) The construction logistics – Don Grigg, Retired Telstra Engineer - 15 minutes
- (4) A description of a telegraph circuit of the day – Bernie Challen Retired Telstra Technical Officer 15minutes
- (5) Health break interval – 10 minutes (2:00pm)
- (6) Morse code demonstration by "Morsecodians" (Telegraphists) of the message sent by Todd to announce the completion of the line. Morse code operators: – Denis Hughes and Barrie Barnes 15 minutes.
- (7) Video of today's remnants of the original OTL South of Alice Springs. MP4 recording produced by Andrew Crouch, Overland Telegraph historian - 10 minutes
- (8) PMG film (digitised copy) 1972 "A Momentous Occasion" - 16 minutes
- (9) Close
- (10) Invitation to the audience to view the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia Todd collection in the Mortlock Wing of the Library – From 3:00pm to 4:00pm

Registration is required and is free.



Members and visitors are all welcome. For further details contact Don Grigg 8266 3664

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First-timers and old hands assemble to tackle the dunes at Peake. More pictures next page

# Back to Peake for a first time

*Hayley Braun, Carmen's granddaughter, gives her impressions of her first trip to Peake,*

The first day we arrived, we set up our places to sleep it was my first time sleeping in a swag and I was nervous. We started up the fire and put on dinner, which was pea and ham soup. It was a lovely start to the first day.

We sat around the fire for happy hour and had some conversations and of course, we had some marshmallows. While my brother Jai was playing around with the fire. It hit about 9:00 and everyone was getting tired, so we headed off to bed.

The next morning, we had an early morning and started cooking some breakfast, it was delicious some bacon, eggs, and pancakes.

We had a chat about our next move, as we head out on our first little adventure. We were going well until Dave thought it would be good to go up a steep hill and got stuck in between a tree and a hill. But we all put in enough effort and support to help and finally got him out, after that we decided to head back to camp for lunch.

After lunch, we headed back out and it was such a pleasant view in most areas.

I even got to drive which was a wonderful experience. We headed back after going up and down many hills and getting bogged many times.

We head to camp for our final time today It was getting late and had to start up the fire, we had chicken in coke, it was delicious. Maddison { My sister }, Jaxon, and I went for a little walk to find a fox that we had seen the day before.

We all sat around the fire while eating marshmallows and chatting, Maddison and Jaxon, and I started making a tent out of sticks and wood bags and made our little fire. As we all thought everything was going well Dave thought he had lost his phone so everyone helped to look for it but could not find it, so we left it and went to bed.

On the last day, we all got up early and headed straight out to look for Dave's phone and we found it after about 5 minutes. We all went back to start packing up.

Overall, it was so much fun, and I would go back up there. I hope everyone had a ball.

**Hayley Braun**





The boys get to grips with an exhaust jack, above, while some turn to lighter vehicles to take on the dunes



# Highs and lows of the Hills



**From the heights of Mt Barker through the back routes to the Murray provides an unexpected getaway.**

## *Summit to Stream – from Mt Barker to the Murray on Sunday 10 July*

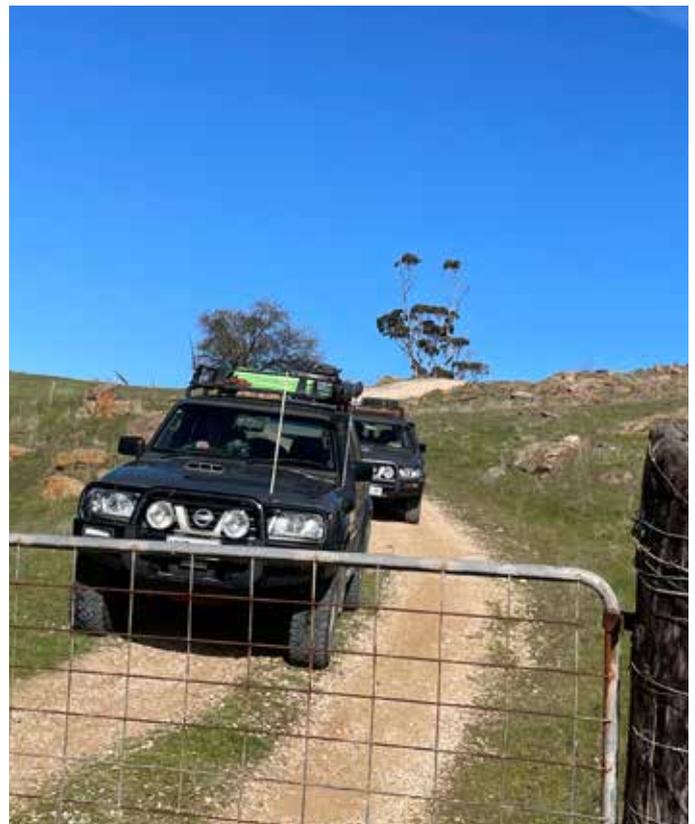
The idea of the trip was to have social gathering of Club Members and enjoy a lunch at the Pretoria Hotel, Mannum by travelling the roads less used to obtain the destination.

The meet up location was in the parking area of the Homemakers Centre outside the BCF store at Mt Barker. Everyone was there at the appropriate time, some with their “Fur Babies”.

Upon receiving the pre-trip safety briefing from the Trip Leader, we returned to our vehicles and proceeded in convoy to the SUMMIT, the summit of Mt Barker.

A short stroll took us to the Trig Point at the top which gave us extensive views of the surrounding districts, then back to the vehicles and on our way to the STREAM, which was the Murray River at Mannum.

Leaving the black top, we travelled along Cattle Route Road to Back Callington Road, then under the South East Freeway past the Kanmantoo Copper Mine, across the railway line and turning left into Mine Road which took us past the Neutrog composting plant where biological fertilisers are produced. If one chose to open the windows, the full aroma of the composting process could be experienced.



Back onto an asphalt road through Kanmantoo to the Old Princes Highway for a short way before turning left into Plantation Road.

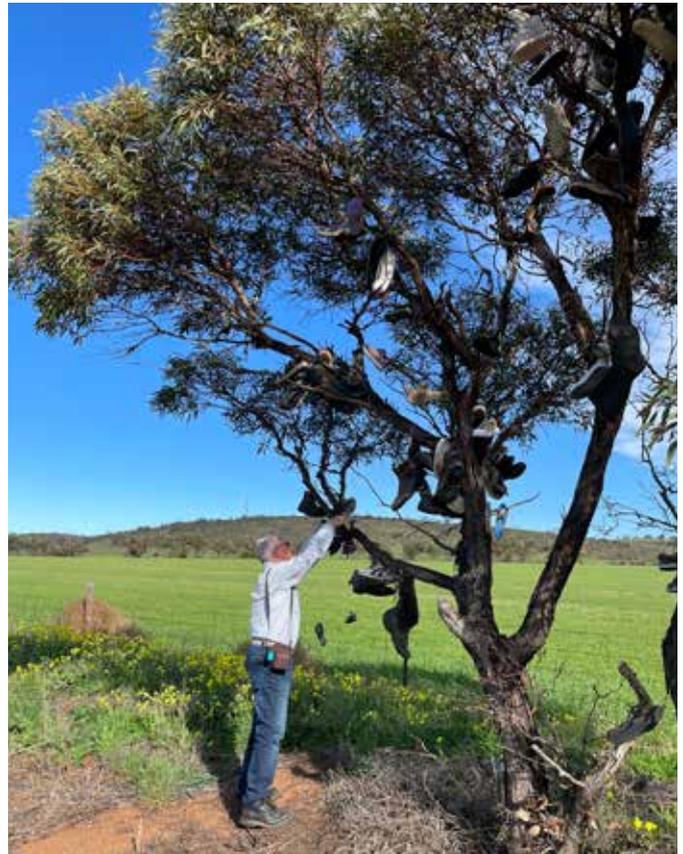
At this point of our travels you could ask the question. Which came first? Was the road named so because of a plantation of Eucalypts trees on the corner or were the trees planted there because of the road being called Plantation Road, something to think about.

Following this road, we crossed the Bremer River and onto a Dry Weather Road Only, Woolpack Lane on the right, which took us to the Bremer Valley Road and its smooth tarred surface. Heading north up the valley we crossed over the Murray Bridge - Onkaparinga Water Pipeline and then onto Blondleigh Road and up the hill to Ridge Road and back onto unsealed roads.

This is an interesting road as it follows the ridge along it, becomes narrower and down to a single lane. As we drove past a house close to the road, a sign was observed that stated "NO TRESPASSING, We are tired of burying the bodies".

Continuing on through the gate which blocked our way, making sure to close it as we found it, we carried onto a second gate with a sign on the other side that you saw only when you opened it that stated "NO THROUGH ROAD FIRE ACCESS ONLY" which is interesting as Ridge Road is a Gazetted Road.

So closing the gate and leaving as we found it, we continued on to Pym Road, and then over an intersection onto Roland Road, a narrow one lane tack to a right turn onto Kubenk Road with a lovely "renovator's delight" cottage on our left which took us to Black Heath Road and on to Tepko with a side detour to the Tepko Shoe Tree which has gained notoriety from the circumstances



**Strange fruit on the Tepko shoe tree**

of people throwing old shoes, and any type of footwear into its branches.

With a return from the side detour we went along Tepko and

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Keep up to date with the club on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/nissanpatrolclubsa](http://www.facebook.com/nissanpatrolclubsa)

Photos, video, details of upcoming trips and guest speakers



**Sandy Creek, upstream from Reedy Creek Swamp on our way to lunch at the Pretoria Hotel, Mannum, right.**

Maczkowiack Roads to Needles Road to Caloote Road at this point one of our group had to break convoy and head off to do some family business. We turned into Gerogles Road, which is another No Though Road.

This road crosses Sandy Creek which is at the upstream end of Reedy Creek Swamp. Passing around a bit of a fence across the track we headed onwards with the vegetation closing in on us.

By the looks of the wheel marks on the track, the only vehicles through here recently was some bicycles, in wetter conditions this section of our tip may have proved a little difficult. Having completed the challenge, we arrived at Belvedere Road which took us to Adelaide Road and Mannum.

Parking opposite the Pretoria Hotel, we walked across and entered to find our reserved table for lunch. After an enjoyable meal and drinks, we made our back to the vehicles to begin the return journey.

Leaving the carpark with a left hand turn into Adelaide Road, we headed past the ferry crossing onto Purnong Road and turned left into Long Gully Road, a unsealed road which took us to Milendella. With a left turn onto Milendella Road and a right turn at Gap Road which took us through to Raetjen Gap, where the Milendella Creek had carved its way through a granite hillside a long time ago.

Upon reaching Davenport Road, we turned left and headed off towards Palmer till we reached another gated and fenced off ga-



zatted road on the right near the Palmer Biennial Sculpture Park. Opening and closing the gate after us, we made our way through two more gates to the other end of Brothwick Brae Road.

Then we took a short run along Randell Road, the main tarred road between Tungkillo and Palmer to Ayers Road and back on the dirt. At the other end of Ayers Road with the junction of Hentschke Road is a property with its paddocks filled with all types of old broken down equipment, tyres and all sorts of bits and pieces of just about everything.

Then onto Brinkworth Road which turned into Brinkworth Range Road. Turning left at Collins Road, we moved along to the crossing over Dairy Creek, where we stopped to look at the remains of the original bridge over the creek with its use of tree trunks for the main spans.

At the end of Collins Road, we turned left onto the other end of Black Heath Road which we had travelled on earlier that day.

Turning into Harrogate Road, we were on the lookout for some fluffy horned beasts, Scottish Highland Cattle which were glimpsed through the trees at the far end of a paddock.

Along this road, the burnt scars of the Jupiter Creek Bushfire of 2019 were still evident as well as the new fences that had been erected, some with the help of BlazeAid.

With a right turn at Watts Road saw us come to Brukunga and cross over Pyrites Road to Peggy Buxton Road and past the end of the old Brukunga Pyrite Mine.

The ore from the mine was transported to Port Adelaide and converted to sulphuric acid and then mixed with imported phosphate ores to produce superphosphate fertiliser.

At the next intersection, a left turn onto Piney Ridge Road saw us back at Narine where we stopped at the Byethorne Park on Woodside Road to return the ICE forms and say goodbyes before setting off for home, once again a great day with good company.



**Paul Ware  
NPC 421**

'Trust me, this is a gazetted road'

## 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



# Where eagles wouldn't dare



The hills are alive with four-wheel drives above while, below, a timely warning for the over-ambitious

## *Eagleview - a day in the 4WD park 24 July 2022.*

**W**E arrived at the Eagle View 4WD Track prior to 10.00 am, paid our fees with a Club discount, and began airing down while we waited for the Trip Leader to arrive.

Just after 10.00 am, with the Trip Leader's arrival and fees paid and the Safety Briefing completed, we set off. Some of us had been here before and knew what to expect while others had no idea what lay ahead with our journey around the property.

Equipped with maps of the track and explanations of each point of interest, we headed off to the Old Gold Diggings, bypassing the first obstacle of the exit of Floodway Creek, with each of us choosing to follow the Trip Leader on the Alternative Track of least resistance.

Upon arriving at the diggings site, we got out of the vehicles to have a look around at the various tunnels and excavations that



were dug in the hope of finding gold which was first mined here in 1872, records for the site appear to end in 1894.

Then onto the Old Miners Track and a stop at the old copper mine site. This mine was opened in 1870 on a quartz-iron oxide lode, in micaceous schist of the Car-rackalinga Head Formation and was worked numerous times until 1972.

Then onwards and upwards through Spinifex Gully and over the top across a creek to a side turn off to the Winding Way along a creek bed which lead to a more challenging route for three of our vehicles while the other two chose to take a more suitable route.

All went well along the Winding Way until the descent where the drivers disembarked from the vehicles to have a look at the situation which had changed from previous trips. With the need to stay to the left to avoid panel damage to the vehicles, a cautious descent was taken and achieved with no damage; however rock replacement was necessary as the second vehicle on it way had displaced some of the rocks filling a deep hole which made it a little unsafe for the last one down.

Re-joining the main track, we all caught up at the Mud Hole where, upon testing the depth, it was decided that going through was not an option. One vehicle attempted a dry option, but after bottoming out on the front diff housing, chose to reverse out instead proceeding in a "full steam ahead" approach, which may have resulted in the need for a recovery.

After leaving the Mud Hole, three vehicles chose to take the Rocky Point Climb while the other two chose to take the main route and to meet at the old dam site for lunch. Upon arriving at the lookout at the top, we stopped to take in the extensive views of the Murraylands to the south.

Looking back over the hill towards the Mud Hole, we observed that one vehicle in the group that was following us around the track had attempted the Mud Hole and had "failed to proceed" and needed a recovery. We later found out that they had half torn off the sump guard plate which was left hanging down and scraping on raised sections of the track. This only reinforced the "Don't do anything stupid, as you have to it drive home" saying.

When the two groups re-joined at the old dam site, we enjoyed various options of a picnic lunch. The offer of homemade apple pie and whipped cream was extended by our Trip Leader to those who wished to partake.

After lunch, our Suzuki Jimny driver was delighted to see another Jimny coming along the track towards us. They told us this was their first trip with the vehicle being purchased only 4 days earlier.

We continued along the track which ran beside a dry stone wall to the top of the hill and the remains of dry stone wall sheep yards, both an example of the hard work of a bygone era. However strong these walls were to prevent movement of livestock and wildlife, there was ample evidence that the resident wombats took no notice and just burrowed under as they could.

The sheep yards were as far as we drove from the Office, so now



#### Some steep descents give pause for thought

we were on the return journey which took us across the highest section of the property to White Hill Trig Point at 421 metres then along a ridge towards the south east before descending into the valley below.

After rounding a spur, we dropped into the valley of Spring Gully Creek and then travelled north-west to the dry stone wall of the property boundary. Turning back to the south east, we drove along the ridge, passing the Shepherds Lookout and Collar Rock before heading downhill to Dobinsons Descent. This descent had a less demanding bypass for those who preferred not to take one of three possible lines down through the difficult terrain.

Three vehicles took the steep descent with some wheel slippage and, at times, having only three wheels on the ground as made their way to the parking area at the bottom where the group photos were taken. As the afternoon was slipping away, the decision not to tackle Newmans Climb, another rough option, was taken.

We then headed down along the valley floor, only to once again climb up another hill and follow the track along the ridge line with views of the surrounding area. At the bottom of the final descent, we were greeted by a group of Alpacas busily have a feed and looking extremely cute. We finally got back at the Office at 3.00pm after being out on the track for five hours. So it was now time to reinflate the tyres and say our farewells before heading home after an enjoyable day.

**Paul Ware**  
**NPC 421**

# Lunch marks club's 43 years

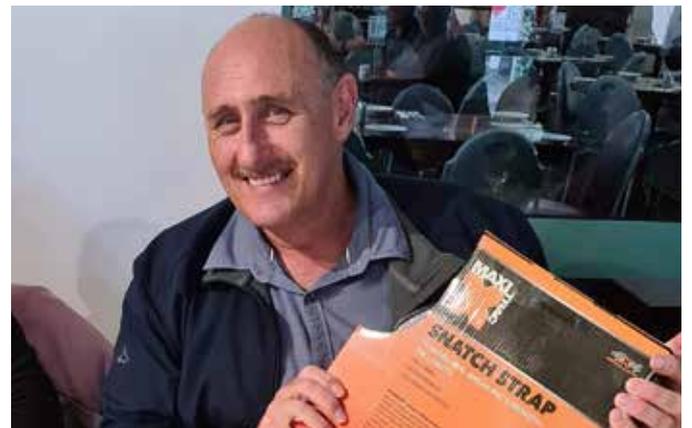
On 26 June, 38 members celebrated our 43rd Anniversary of the Nissan Patrol Club of SA with a three-course lunch at the Goolwa Hotel.

First course- Minestrone Soup; Second course, a choice of Fish, Pork or Pie; Third course a choice of Apple Crumble, Berry Cheesecake or Fruit Salad.

A great catch-up for members.

Raffle winners were 1st Korbus. 2nd Helen and 3rd Brenda.

Good food, lots of laughs, and plenty of memories were made today.



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