

# ***PATROLLING***



***Volume 44 Number 5  
October 2022***



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# Nissan Patrol Club of South Australia Inc

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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.

# Ready for warmer weather

**W**inter is over and we are into spring, but we are still looking forward to some warmer weather to get out and enjoy ourselves more.

There have been a few organised club trips giving those who were able to attend a look at some interesting country, participate in good 4WD'ing and the opportunity to socialise and getting to know each other better.

The club meetings have all gone ahead with fairly good attendance and we have had some entertainment with talk from our trips officer on map reading and an interesting presentation by Rob Davis from the Royal Flying Doctor Service, giving us their history and an update on their current services.

Following a request to the club for volunteers to assist BLAZE AID who help transport gear during bushfires, we have had four members to date put their names on the list to help if they are available.

I thank all of the committee members for their continued effort supporting the operation of this club and the general membership for the effort you put in by attending our meetings and events.

If any member has ideas that would contribute to the activities of our club, please pass them on to any of the committee members.

It is coming up to that time of the year when we will all need to seriously consider who they would like to nominate for next years committee, I am sure some new blood would be a welcome addition by all.

**Brian Cook NPC 19**



## From the Editor's Desk

# It's photo comp time again!

Well that year flew by! Now it's time for entries to the annual photo competition.

The entries will be shown and judged at the 3 November general meeting. Although technically the deadline is the October meeting, the organiser Jeff Schapel has said he will hold it open for a few days after the publication of the magazine so we can remind people of it.

But don't delay! The rules as usual are as follows

All Photo Competition entries must be in digital form and handed into Jeff Schapel by the General Meeting Thursday 6th October 2022.

Photos can be emailed to Jeff on [elmoenter@adam.com.au](mailto:elmoenter@adam.com.au) or handed to him on a USB stick.

Photos in each category must be taken on a club event and taken in the last 12 months. One entry per person in each category.

The categories are:

- People
- Vehicles
- Nature
- Sunset/sunrise, and
- Where is it?

Good luck!

The magazine is a slimmed down issue this time round with only one trip report from the Border Track/ Border Track & Ngarkat Conservation Park weekend. It sounded a lot of fun – if a bit boggy for the trip leader Paul.

There are lots of trips lined up and next year starting to look busy already so plenty to look forward to.

**Bill Condie NPC 423**



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# One year winds down, another ready to go

**21-23 October**

## **Deep Creek Bushcare**

*Volunteering, social*

A regular weekends helping out at Deep Creek. Accommodation in the usual Trig sites booked for three nights with checkout Monday.

We have a new worksite at the Goondooloo revegetation area, doing similar work but without the steep climb.

**Contact: Wayne Dunn**



**4-6 November**

## **Morgan**

*4WDiving, 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).

This is one of the regular staples in the NPCSA diary and deservedly so. The quarry is always fun and the pub dinner at the Terminus on the Saturday night renowned for good food and value

Plenty to see in Morgan, too, with its historic wharf, museum and a number of heritage-listed buildings, including Railway Terrace: Morgan railway station and Station Master's House, Post Office Row and Landseer's Store.

**Contact: Dave and Helen Richards**

**19 December**

## **Breakfast in the Park**

*Social*

As usual we end the year with a gathering in the park. With COVID restrictions finally lifted this is a chance to return to normal after two years that were anything but!

**Contact: Helen Richards**





**Douglas Scrub  
(McLaren Vale)  
11-14 March 2023 August**

*Versatile campsite in the McLaren Vale region*

This trip is all about socialising, having fun, no driving once at the campsite, and generally relaxing.

Saturday 11 March - arrival day and set-up, with Happy Hour and BYO dinner at the campsite. After dinner we will hold a random quiz for those who wish to partake, with a prize for first place. Get those thinking caps on.

Sunday 12 March - there will be various games during the morning, followed by BYO lunch. Whoever wishes to partake can make a dessert for dinner, with all judging the desserts. There will be a prize! Lunch time may be a good time to do some preparation work for desserts.

The afternoon will be a bit of orienteering around the camp whilst we, and one other chosen couple, will set up a dinner surprise for later. We will require your table and chairs for the set up, and it will be bring your own plates and cutlery. You may wish to dress for dinner as there will be a prize for the best dressed as voted by all.

Monday 13 March - leisurely pack up and head for home by no later than 11am.

We will be staying on powered sites at the Girl Guides complex. There is a toilet and shower block available for our use. We have been advised by the venue that no pets are permitted. If you are intending to come please complete your details on the trip sheet and we will organise the sites with the Girl Guides Association on behalf of all.

**Contact: John & Maddie Day**



**Walhalla and Surrounds  
Easter 6-11 April**

*4WDDriving, social - No Caravans*

A return to the Victorian High Country after last year's successful - if long - outing to some of the most beautiful and toughest tracks in the country. This time more focused on one area around picturesque Walhalla.

**No Caravans**

**Contact: Paul Ware**

**Mt Cole,  
East Pyenees,  
Victoria**

**April/May TBD**



The Indigenous Australians, the Beeripmo balug people, called Mt Cole Bereep-ber-eep, which means wild. We're hoping the tracks will be too.

**.No Caravans**

**Contact: Paul Ware**

**Peake**

Sand. driving at Peake needs no introduction as it is such a firm Club favourite.

**16-18 June**

As usual, we will share this weekend with the Mitsubishi Club for a longstanding and popular winter outing where campfire cooking takes pride of place alongside driving.

**Contact: Dave and Helen Richards**

**Contact: Dave and Helen Richards**

# In like Flynn: the story of the RFDS

**R**obert Davis was a Guest Speaker from Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS). Gave an interesting presentation about the history and present day work of the organisation. Everyone enjoyed his talk.

You might well wonder why he is posing to the right with an oversized \$20 note. But the side he is holding up depicts John Flynn OBE the Australian Presbyterian minister who founded what became the Royal Flying Doctor Service, the world's first air ambulance.

Born on 25 November 1880 – 5 May 1951) was a remarkable man. Although born in Melbourne, he always loved the Outback and, after becoming ordained in Adelaide began mission work at Beltana, the tiny settlement 500 kilometres north of Adelaide.

In 1912, was made the first superintendent of the Australian Inland Mission. Flynn's vision was to establish a 'Mantle of Safety' for the people of Outback Australia and realised the need for medical care. He established bush hospitals but was quick to see the potential of new aviation technology and the first flight of the Aerial Medical Service – which was to become the RFDS took off in 1928 from Cloncurry, Queensland.



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# Celebrating the telegraph



**The repeater station at Alice Springs, pictured around 1880**

On Monday 22 August 2020 at 1:00pm, a near capacity audience of about one hundred people gathered in the State Library of SA to witness the IET/IEEE Retired Engineers celebration of the joining of the Adelaide to Darwin telegraph line exactly 150 years ago.

The first presenter, Richard Venus set the scene by giving an historical overview of the events leading up to the installation of the first poles on the line at Stirling and Port Darwin.

As the second speaker I concentrated on three aspects of the build which are not normally emphasised.

1 William Warwick who subcontracted to supply wooden poles along the southern section.

2 The Meidinger cell - approximately 2400 required for the batteries which powered the line and

3 The forces (tension) in the 8 gauge galvanised iron wire when strung between poles and an explanation as to why Robert Patterson had so much difficulty in making the ceremonial last joint at 3:15pm.

Bernie Challen described the telegraph circuit of the 1870s and supplied telegraph equipment for a Morse demonstration.

Morsecodian Denis Hughes (PMG Morse telegraphist 1951-65) transmitted an extract of Todd's famous Central Mt Stuart message, addressed to the Chief Secretary, across the room which was received and written down by Barrie Barnes (PMG Morse telegraphist 1956-57).

"We have this day completed a line of communication two thousand miles long through the centre of Australia until a few years ago believed to be a desert."

Barrie, as the Adelaide Chief Telegraph Office operator responded to "Todd" with the formality of the day. "Message received at CTO. Will now be despatched urgently under cover to Parliament House."

The actual portable telegraph set used by Todd to send his message in 1872 was on display courtesy of Stefan Nowak Operations Manager National Communications Museum who brought it across from Melbourne for the event (see picture)

Two videos were also shown

The first covered the remnants of the original OTL South of Alice Springs courtesy of Andrew Crouch, Overland Telegraph historian

The second video was entitled "A Momentous Occasion" - a 1972 PMG film converted to MP4 courtesy of Stefan Nowak.

After the close at 3:00pm the audience were invited to view the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia Todd collection in the Mortlock Wing of the Library."

If you would know the whole story visit [www.ot150.net](http://www.ot150.net)



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In the thick of it...Paul isn't going anywhere fast in that mud

## Border force heads east

### *Border Track & Ngarkat Conservation Park September 2022*

**O**n Friday afternoon 9 September 2022 we headed up the freeway encountering heavy showers along the way. We stopped briefly in Tailem Bend before continuing on through Peake and Lameroo to Pinnaroo. The canola crops provided a stunning sight against the dark clouds!

We arrived in Pinnaroo just on dusk and headed to Demi's Kitchen for tea. This small outdoor food van was featured on the ABC program "Back Roads" a few weeks ago. Demi is from Taiwan and married Adam a Pinnaroo farmer.

Her dream was to set up an icecream van but she has now settled on providing main course favourites of dumplings, fried rice, fish& chips and her specialty Taiwan Salt & Pepper Chicken instead. This is a take-away kitchen with a couple of chairs at the front but as it was wet we ate our meal in the car.

We met Paul and Sara there but decided as it was dark and raining we would opt for a hotel room instead of setting up camp out of town (we must be getting old and soft!). Paul and Sara and Alison

and Trent headed out to the arranged camp spot 17km from Pinnaroo but Michael and Brenda also opted for a hotel room while Kobus and Mariki set up camp in the Pinnaroo caravan park.

Following a good night's sleep we woke to a beautiful sunny Saturday morning. We all met at the start of the Border Track after driving along a dirt road that was very muddy and extremely slippery in places, to the point where at one stage we were driving down the road sideways!

On arrival Paul went through the safety brief and the trip expectations for the day. The track commenced in Victoria then moved into South Australia and was a firm sandy track with a few puddles to negotiate, bordered by very healthy grain crops until we entered the mallee scrub.

We took a short 2 km detour off the Border Track on Nanam Weir Track to a beautiful area of flowering wattle trees where we lined up the cars for a photo!

The differing wires on the border fence along the Track were originally constructed to protect against rabbits at the bottom and



**Popping a bead after being snatched from the thick stuff ended in a change of tyre**

dogs at the top.

We approached the first hill and all eventually negotiated the deep holes. Trent, Alison's nephew joined us on this trip to gain sand driving knowledge and also to get his driving hours up to gain his "P's". He needed a little tuition and encouragement from Alison and Paul to succeed on this first hill but after that he had no problems.

We stopped at Hensleys Trig point where we took time to walk to the lookout to enjoy the views of Ngarkat Conservation Park. When we reached another difficult sand hill we met up with another group of 5 cars so we took ourselves out along the trailer track to have lunch.

After lunch the track levelled out and we were even able to reach 30km per hour in some places.

After travelling 60km today

we pulled into Red Bluff campground at around 3pm and set up our tents/shelters in lovely sunny conditions. We enjoyed a chat around the campfire while waiting for the coals to form. Once we had the coals we put the camp ovens on to cook our evening



**Circling the wagons and telling yarns**



An all Nissan line-up to tackle the sandy tracks

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Photos, video, details of upcoming trips and guest speakers



A comfortable Camp in a clearing in the bush, above, while below wet weather had turned the sand to mud



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