

# ***PATROLLING***



***Volume 45 Number 1  
February 2023***



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# Nissan Patrol Club of South Australia Inc

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Historian/Archivist **Jeff & Jeanene Schapel**

FWDSA Delegate **Dave Richards**

Public Relations Officer **Bill Smith**

Fundraiser **Carmen Riddle**

Webmaster **Rod Kitto**

Facebook **Helen Richards**



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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.

# A new Day is dawning

Hello Patrollers, I'm back, or to quote a famous movie, "Here's Johnny!" Maddie and I are "firing on all cylinders" again and looking forward to the Club year ahead. Crossed fingers this year is relatively COVID free and we can have a "normal" year, whatever one of those is?

I would like to thank all those who have volunteered to be Committee Members this year, and thank the 2022 Committee for their sterling work. Hopefully the new Committee will be able to "steer" the club steadily and safely through to 2024.

I would especially like to thank Carmen for taking on the role of Vice President. As discussed before she stepped up, due to existing plans, we have a few absences this year, including a two month trip back to the UK for Mum's 93rd birthday, and Carmen still said yes!!

Unfortunately the first trip of the year to Murbko was cancelled due to the flooding. Let's hope future years go ahead as planned as the trip is so relaxing.

The club has a good and varied trip agenda this year, with off-roading, touring, and social trips included. It would be good to see some of the Members putting forward some day trips, of which I believe there are two already. There is a wealth of travelling experience within the club. If any Members have been to a place of interest near Adelaide, please consider putting it up as a day trip, whether at the weekend or even during the week (now we are retired).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have renewed their Membership of the Club, and wish all those who have not renewed well for the future.

Contributing and actively participating in the club is a great way of getting to know your fellow members. Remember that the Nisan Patrol Club is your club. Please always feel free to contribute any ideas you have about the club, trips, meetings, etc. By actively



participating you are helping to shape the club you want.

Let's make the rest of 2023 a fun year. Enjoy life, make new friends, travel far and wide, and make 2023 a year to remember.

Happy Travels, as far as you can, and stay safe out there.

Your Club President

**John Day NPC 407**

## From the Editor's Desk

# Welcome to 2023's first issue

Welcome to the first issue for 2023. I hope all the members had a great break over Christmas, New Year and the traditional summer getaways. Finally we had some good weather to enjoy.

We kick off the New Year with a final report from the Old Year with a picture spread from Christmas in the Park, our annual gathering in Rymill Park just before Christmas (pages 14 and 15).

Helen Richards has written an account of a trip she and Dave made with their UK relatives and John and Maddie to the Riverlands (page 12). Check out the pictures from Morgan where the car park is a lake just six weeks after we were there for our annual quarry trip. Our heart goes out to those affected by the floods.

Our hearts also go out to Anne Fritsch and all the Foster family as they adjust to life without their much-loved Frank. There is a moving tribute to him from son Mark (pages 10 & 11).

You can also relive the past with a report from 2003 supplied by archivists Jeff and Jeanene (page 18) of a raft racing weekend at Clayton Bay.

Finally be sure to check out the action-packed line-up of trips and events for 2023 (pages 6-9) where you will find something for all tastes.

**Bill Condie NPC 423**



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### Murray Mouth Run

**19 February 2023**

It's back to the Murray Mouth after last year's successful run - this year with reduced speed limits!

The tides are favourable and the agenda open - a spot of fishing, a BBQ, chill in the sun by the sea. It's up to you.

**Contact: Paul Ware**



### Douglas Scrub (McLaren Vale) 11-13 March

*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**

### Mt Cole, East Pyrenees, Victoria

**7-10 April**



This is the first of two trips during Easter so a bit of a dilemma over which to join.

The Indigenous Australians, the Beeripmo balug people, called Mt Cole Bereep-ber-eeep, which means wild.

We're hoping the tracks will be too.

**Contact: Helen Richards**



**Walhalla and Surrounds**

**Easter 6-11 April**

*4WD Driving, 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**

**Argadells**

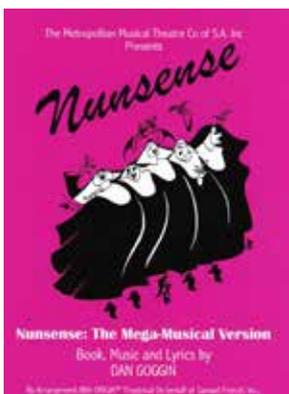
**12-14 May**

An historic working sheep property set amongst 32 square kilometres of spectacular scenery, just 28 kilometres north of Quorn. A network of 4WD tracks criss cross the property, from the deep winding gorges to the heights of Mount Arden. .

They range in difficulty from straight forward to challenging.

Cost is \$70 per vehicle to do tracks, \$15 per person per night, \$5 per child, camping, \$5 for a shower.

**Contact: Paul Ware**



**Theatre Night - Nunsense**

**19 May**

Five nuns from the convent of the Little Sisters of Hoboken try to raise money to bury four of their colleagues who are being stored in the school cafeteria's freezer. The unholy issues all began one night when 19 of the sisters went to play bingo. On their return, they found the other 52 nuns lying face-down in their soup. The cook, Sister Julia, had mistakenly served a double dose of botulism.

After a greeting-card sale, there was only enough money to bury 48 of the sisters, which is why four bodies are in the freezer and a group of nuns are on the stage singing, dancing and contributing Roman Catholic comedy routines to the show.

**Contact: Jeff Schapel**

**Deep Creek Working Bee**

**26-30 May**

The first of two of our regular working bee weekends at Deep Creek. Five campsites have been booked at Trig campground for both the May and October working bee weekends but more can be arranged.

**Contact: Wayne Dunn**



## Sequoias in the Otways

**10-12 June**

The Californian Redwoods, or sequoias, of the Otway Ranges is a small sheltered grove about 5 kilometres south of Beech Forest in the Otway Ranges in southwestern Victoria.

The trees were planted in 1936 by the Forests Commission Victoria. They were initially slow to establish but have thrived and grown to a height of more than 60 metres. Measurements in 2004 showed the trees have the potential to be as tall as their Californian counterparts.

The Otways is also rich in challenging 4WD tracks and magnificent views.

**Contact: Paul Ware**



## Peake

**16-18 June**

4WD driving, Sand driving, social

Back on the sand. Peake doesn't need much introduction. As usual we are sharing this weekend with the Mitsubishi Club for this longstanding and popular mid-winter outing with a chance to get the Dutch ovens fired up.

**Contact: Dave & Helen Richards**



## Mid-year Lunch

**25 June**

Save the date for our annual mid-year lunch. The destination is yet to be set but a great day out..

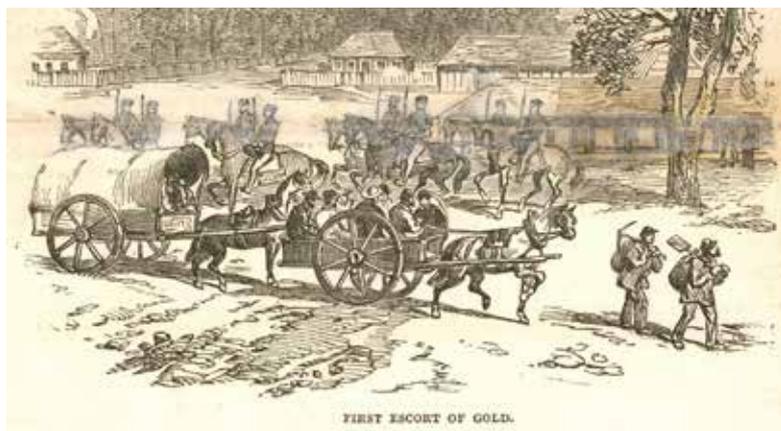
**Contact: Helen Richards**

## Gold Escort Route

**16 July**

The Gold Escort Route was the first direct route between Adelaide and Melbourne. It followed tracks used by pioneer settlers in the mid-1840s and was used to transport miners' gold back to Adelaide. While it only served that purpose for two years the route continued as the Adelaide-Melbourne Road for another 70 years. This day trip explores a small part of it.

**Contact: Paul Ware.**



**Gammon Ranges**

**29 September - 2 October**

4WDDriving, social

**Contact: Paul Ware**



A return after this year's successful trip.. Explore the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park before it gets too hot.

**No Caravans**

**Yorke Peninsula**

**29 September - 2 October**

This is a social weekend of driving around the Yorke Peninsula to see Water Tower Art and other interesting things in the area. As usual, dinner will be organised for the Friday night.

**Contact: John & Maddie Day**



**Theatre Night - 42nd Street, 27 October**

7:30pm

**Contact: Jeff Schapel**

**Deep Creek Working Bee**

**20-23 October**

The second working bee weekend for the year at Deep Creek. Five campsites have been booked at Trig campground but more can be arranged if people are keen.

**Contact: Wayne Dunn**



**Morgan**

**3-5 November**

4WDDriving, social

**Contact: Dave & Helen**

Now in its second decade!

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).

**Breakfast in the Park, December**

Our usual get-together in Rymill Park

**Contact: Helen Richards**



# Vale Frank Foster

**Frank passed away on 28 November 2022, aged 93. This is an abridged version of his son Mark's eulogy**

The story about Dad is the story about Mum as well as the two have been inseparable. I'm proud of the way I was brought up by parents who led by example

Born 8/11/29 at Nanna and Poppas at Cedar Avenue Royal Park. He attended Lefevre High School or Lefevre tech as it was called then where he was head prefect.

Dad had always wanted to be a teacher, but due to family finances started as a fitter and Turner trade at Holdens.

It was around these times that he met Mum, had motorbikes as the main form of transport and no doubt started his sailing in Cadet dinghies, and Gwen 12 boats. One of his big, sailing claims to fame was that he had beaten Thomas Hardy in a state title.

In the post war years Mum and Dad spent most of their early courting life, collecting rations from auntie's, uncles cousins, etc and using it to make the concrete bricks and then build their house

Once he finished his trade Dad moved on to different forms of employment to support his family. He worked at Dix Dry Cleaners, ran a milk round, drove trucks and worked for a chemical company. He finished off his work life as an Electrolux salesman, or Mr Jolly as many of you would remember.

He had particular success in this last enterprise as he worked out how to get the vacuum cleaners into the state government supply catalogue list that allowed any government organisation to order his vacuum cleaners.

I remember his time as a truckie very fondly. Every Saturday morning, when he was working the concrete truck, I would of course be on board and it would be the most wonderful wonderful thing, that as Dad moved away from the job to clean the chute, to wash it down, I was allowed to swing on the chute as it waded around behind the truck. I'm not sure about the bit where I had to get inside the drum and chip off any dried cement which was a horrid job.

He did find himself on TV during this time, as he went down a new street only to have the back of the truck sink into a poorly made road that poured concrete all over the road. It was around this time that Mum and Dad were putting in the pool and the 12 foot wall. Any time that Dad had excess cement, he would call ahead and a frenzy would occur on preprepared path foundations as Mum and Dad completed the cement around the pool and the backyard.

Waste not, want not!

He then went on to interstate, long haul truck driving and I remember one trip where I took a few weeks off school and joined Dad in the old international truck. I slept between the gear sticks. I can proudly say that my father caused a black-out in Sydney as a load of farm machinery had shifted slightly on the trailer. The machinery clipped a wooden power pole that had been eaten out by ants and blacked out the entire suburb. Sparks everywhere!



**Frank Foster: Champion sailor, champion bloke**

Dad was always a very community-minded man and became, according to Mum, the only grandmaster in the Freemasons Lodge with a crew cut. He was not a man to let wrong things continue without stuff being said. After watching and complaining about the amount of time the family was putting into calisthenics for many years, he finally gave up and became president of the Seaton Calisthenics Club for many more years.

I was always helping Dad with his jobs. He taught me how to use tools, how to weld, how to build things, how to use my hands. Once I started surfing and worked out the only way to get new surfboards was to make them myself, Dad supported me in learning how.

Of course any discussion of Mum and Dad, without the mention of the travel and the memories from those travels is out of place. There was rarely a long weekend or a school holiday that we were not travelling somewhere around Australia and before I was 16 years old I had seen large parts of every State, except for Northern Territory, and Tasmania.

The adventures from those times I could go on about at length but mention our trips to Tumbly and Streaky Bay for copious amounts of fish. Mum and Dad of course did not just travel with us is kids and you have probably noticed a map of Australia where Dad has used a Texta to show every road that they travelled down as they spent something like 30 years travelling around Australia in all forms of tents, campers, vans, caravans, and off-road vehicles. In later years they joined this Nissan Patrol club of SA and had many memorable trips and made several wonderful friends

In closing, I'd like to talk about the values that both Mum and Dad, but Dad passed on to me.

I believe he was a frustrated academic who had a very deep interest in the workings of the world and his understanding of the political systems and the way people work together, or not, was profound. There was a period of my life where, finishing high school and starting my studies as a teacher, that Dad and I would talk for long hours about all things societal. I asked Mum recently if he was an actual Communist but she said no he was just a very deep think-

er who was able to embrace more than just one doctrine in his thinking?

His deep thinking extended to the environment. One of the early adopters of solar power, he spent a lot of his later years understanding the climate change problem. At his 90th birthday celebration, as many of you he would remember, his speech was about it's time for all of us to stand up and do something about the damage that is being done to the planet as his generation had done a pretty poor thing

Dad taught me heaps about the way the world works, the way propaganda works, how politicians get into the job to make a difference but get caught up in the party political point scoring. He taught me the importance of questioning what you hear. He taught me that in the scheme of human relationships that it was important to never think you were more important than other people, but more importantly that no one was more important than you. Don't ever talk down to others and don't allow them to talk down to you. Lessons that a father gives a son, how to stay out of fights, how never to discuss your sex life with mates, how never to swear in front of women, how to treat others with respect.

Finally, a story about my father's sailing prowess. His sailing in small boats when us kids were small was probably about him, but as we entered our teenage years sailing was put aside. It was all about the jet boat and teaching us to ski and fish.

After we had mostly left home, Dad bought himself an RL24, a fast trailer sailer. Just after putting the kit of the boat together and

rigging the boat himself, he entered us in the Tripolis, a three day race between Port Augusta, Whyalla, Port Pirie and back to Port Augusta. If you can imagine the setting on the first morning day, a very glassy, still, beautiful morning. Jockeying for position on the start line and being the first boat across the line is the status symbol of good sailors. True to form, Dad is one of the first boats across the line and we are clipping along doing really quite well, even beating many of the large maxi sail boats.

This is all going along famously until Dad looks up and suddenly I hear more swear words than I had ever heard from my Dad. There were no women on board. Dad had noticed there were no battens in the main sail, battens keep the sail stiff and efficient. This meant the mainsail would underperform all day, of course we had to go around, lower the mainsail, put in the battens and re-rig the boat.

All seemed disastrous at this time as the fleet was now way ahead of us. Dad looks to the north-east and notices a wind pattern coming from off of the shoreline. Dad sails away from the fleet in seemingly the wrong direction to pick up this wind. We pick this wind up and sail completely around the side of the fleet, and have now left the entire fleet, a long way behind. Of course we were slowly pegged back by the big boats during that day, but our performance over the next three days meant that we won the handicap for the entire event.

A champion sailer, a champion bloke, a champion Dad!

I will miss our chats. Luv Ya!

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# The Murray flexes its muscles



**A view of the flooded river where the waters are as high as the 1974 flood.**

***Kapunda Eudunda, Morgan, Waikerie, Nuriootpa.***

***Drink stops, Lunch and a changed view of the River Murray.***

We knew the flood waters from Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria has been flowing down to the state for weeks, merging into the Murray River, with the peak predicted to hit at Christmas.

While most people have known for weeks it was coming, there is still anxiety as the waters closed in, particularly because it was not clear how the peak would act.

Our 4WD club had been at Morgan six weeks ago on a club trip, staying at the caravan park and curiosity of how much impact the floods had left the town we decided to do a day trip a few days after Christmas.

Dave and I had our niece and nephew (Karl & Joanne) over from England for a holiday. This would be an experience for them as well. A day trip was organised with John and Maddie Day and Polly the dog for Tuesday 27 December 2022. It was one of the hottest days as we made our way through Kapunda with a stop at the local café for a well-deserved milkshake. Heading on to Eudunda a photo shoot of the silo art painted by Sam Brooks. We then made our way to Morgan, parked outside the Terminus

Hotel, had a couple of drinks and made our way down to the river. The road to the caravan park had been closed off except for local traffic. What a revelation. The waters were as high as the 1974 floods. The levy protecting the caravan park seemed to be doing the job.

You could not see the ferry, the boat jetty, the morgue was two thirds under. The beautifully grassed reserves under water with the tops of the benches just in view. It's quite a hard thing to decipher every day, we are witnessing a thing of beauty but it's also watching it as it maps its path of destruction,

The town was overwhelmed with the support from tourists who were coming up to see this once in a 50 year deluge. We then made our way to Waikerie, stopping at lookouts overlooking the Murray River. We pulled over to take photos of where we could see a new road had been built to enable vehicles to reach the ferry. People standing in the flooded waters of where there use to be a road.

It is incredible how many man hours and hard work has gone into keeping these people and their towns safe. We made our way across the ferry and headed to the Waikerie Hotel and enjoyed lunch with a few bevies. It was time to head home, so we made our way through Nuriootpa before parting ways.

*Continued page 16*



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# Farewelling another year



**A perfect sunny morning for our traditional end-of-year gathering**

## *Breakfast in the Park 2022.*

**W**e had just on over 25 members of the Nissan Patrol Club SA to celebrate our 34th Christmas “Breakfast in the Park” at the East end of Rymill Park by the rose bushes. Perfect sunny morning sitting at about 24 degrees.. A few sprinklers which had been installed recently gave some of us a fresh shower.

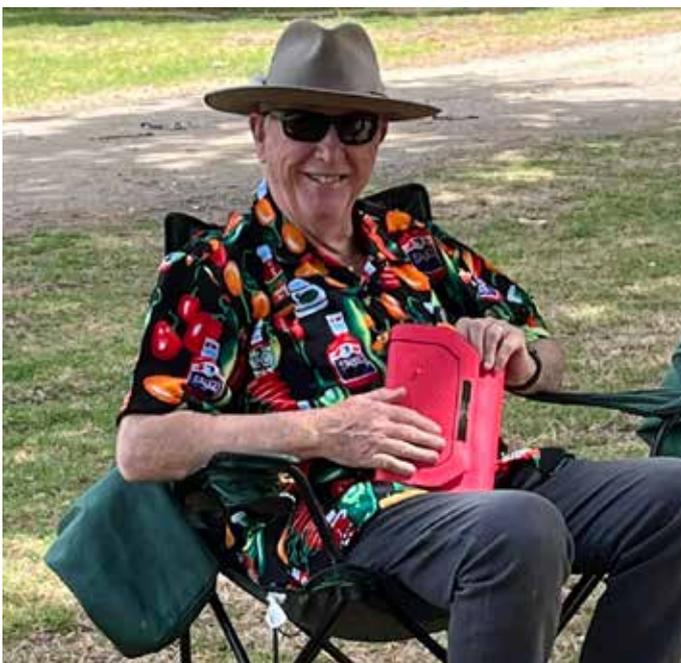
Rearranging our chairs & tables, we all enjoyed out inaugural get together.

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 Some members bought their Subway coffee and drinks. Nibbles were popular, fresh fruit, Christmas cake, slices, and Chocolates, Christmas biscuits and rum balls, all those nice goodies we love to eat .Celebrating the Festive Season, we mingled and had a few photos taken. It was a lovely morning to be together and memories were made.

We hope all our club Members, Families and Friends had a Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year for 2023.

**Helen Richards NPC 364**





With Covid restrictions on hold we were able to share some festive fare once again





**What a difference six weeks makes: the car park at Morgan ferry has become part of the river**

We had a wonderful day together, However, on the flip -side, as I write this report up I realise there are people without homes, no electricity.

The immediate impacts of flooding has included loss of human life, damage to property, destruction of crops and loss of live-stock and water-borne diseases. The ongoing emotional impact is substantial with increased emotional stress, anxiety, fear, anger,

frustration, sadness, and grief and physical illnesses.

What is happening now. The peak water level has flowed through the River Murray, but floodwater will remain high for several weeks. Just as the water level slowly increased in the river, it is expected to decrease slowly too. Heed all warnings if you are travelling in the flooded areas.

**Helen Richards NPC 364**





With flooding putting our regular Australia Day trip to Murbko out of the running, regulars gathered to celebrate anyway at John and Maddie Day's home.

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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

# Clayton Bay raft race weekend



## 15-16 February 2003

Clayton Bay Wetlands caravan park has seven kilometres of foreshore walking trails and a board walk where plants, birds and animals may be seen.

Four couples had arrived at the caravan park by five thirty to find the temperature was pleasantly cool. Caravans/tents were set up and "happy" hour commenced.

After tea some members walked to the Restaurant and listened to the 'jam' session being held by the locals for a short time. Another couple arrived with the raft, and once they had set up camp we put on jackets and warm clothing and we 'put the world to rights'.

Saturday morning was leisurely with more folk arriving and by lunch time there were eight vehicles. As the Nissan Club was hosting the afternoon's entertainment, member's volunteers to assist as needed. Two people were required as a team and three teams could participate from each of the seven clubs. Nissan entered one team.

The following tasks were to be achieved:-

Erect a sun shelter, (the specifications were clearly spelt out), then take two tyre tubes (joined in the middle) walking/running in the water round a buoy. On returning to shore, dismantle the shelter placing the contents in exactly the same way as at the start.

Various points could be lost from a score of ten.

There was great enthusiasm, variable tent skills (most stayed up!!!) and a lot of heckling and laughter. The finals were between Subaru and Wanderers, each had a score of 10.

Happy hour followed then a feast of Coorong Mullet from the restaurant, which was delicious.

Red faces commenced at 7pm with a clown act by Jumbo. He entertained the children (and adults) with balloon animals and then magic tricks followed - a great show.

Three children's RedFaces acts were fun and Holden kids won. Five adult teams braved the wrath of judges, and each was enjoyed by the audience but Toyota Club won with "Lets get physical".

Hot drinks and showers followed and bed.

Sunday morning commenced with egg/bacon muffins hosted by Mt Lofty Ranges, and then each Club nominated teams for the raft races hosted by the Suzuki Club.

Nissan Club rafting teams were:

1. Women's Team: Judy Cook, Jane Jansen, Christine Robinson and Tricia Goodrich - they won their heat and came fourth overall.
2. Men's team: Jeff Schapel, Brian Cook, Don Grigg and Brian Robinson - they won their heat and came second overall.
3. Mixed Team: Cathy Grigg, Des Trowbridge, Jeanene Schapel and Susan Boyle - they came second in their heat and came fourth overall.

Overall Winners: 1st Wanderers Club, 2nd Nissan Club 3rd Suzuki Club

There were High Tech rafts, children's race and a tug of war between various clubs. The time passed very pleasantly and quickly.

Trophies were presented, raffle prized collected and then it was time to pack up and head for home.

A good time was had by all.

**Susan Boyle Feb 2003**

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