

# ***PATROLLING***



*Volume 45 Number 3  
June 2023*



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# Nissan Patrol Club of South Australia Inc

Established 1979

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Secretary **Helen Richards**

Treasurer **Maddie Day**

Minute Secretary **Christine Robinson**

Membership Officer **Aileen Kitto**

Property Officer **Brian Robinson**

Trips Officer **Rod Kitto**

Magazine Editor **Bill Condie**

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.

# The year's trips take off

Hello Patrollers! Well, the year has really taken off with trips to Mount Cole and the Argadells, both of which were well attended. It was great to catch up with Members of the Otway FWD Club, which is an Honorary Member of our club. It is also good to see the Deep Creek volunteering weekend happening over the last weekend of May.

It was pleasing to see a lot of Members and their families enjoy the show *Nunsense* in May at the Arts Theatre, Angus Street. It was an interactive musical, which was good fun to watch. Both Helen Richards and Carmen Riddle were involved from the audience and received small gifts. The show was followed by coffee and cake.

It is fantastic to see that so many Members will be attending the mid-year lunch at the Waikerie Hotel. It's good to support the Riverland area after the flooding. This is the club's 44th year, so next year will be another milestone for the club at 45 years.

As most of you are aware, we will be away for June and July, visiting relatives and friends in the UK. I would like to thank Carmen Riddle for standing up as your Vice President and "taking the reins" for the next two months.

I would also like to thank Carmen for taking over as chair of the last Committee Meeting at the last minute, which Maddie and I were unable to attend in person due to COVID. We've managed to avoid it for three years and two months, but it finally got us!!!

If possible, promote the Club whenever possible. Enjoy the forthcoming Club meetings, trips, events & camaraderie that the Club offers.

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

Your Club President

**John Day NPC 407**



## From the Editor's Desk

# Club heads in all directions

We catch up with the busy trips schedule of the past couple of months with reports on the Pyrennees/Mt Cole trip with the Otways 4WD club (see page 10) and the drier but equally exciting visit to Argadells in the Southern Flinders Ranges (page 17).

While there is little to report from the last general meeting, when members were hurrying to hit the road for the Easter break, there is an interesting note about the club's meeting history.

Jeff Schapel dug into the records and provides a thorough list of everytime the club has met and where we have done it for the

past 44 years since our inaugural meeting on 26 March 1979. See page 9 for details.

Also on page 9, a refresher course on what to do if you have the misfortune to tangle with a snake. It's less likely at this time of year, but still not impossible, and it's never a waste of time to be totally prepared for the ventuality. If the worst happens, time matters and being able to operate automatically is a big advantage.

Finally a report on the latest theatre night (page 21) and an account from the archives of a 2003 Coorong trip. Enjoy.



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## 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..

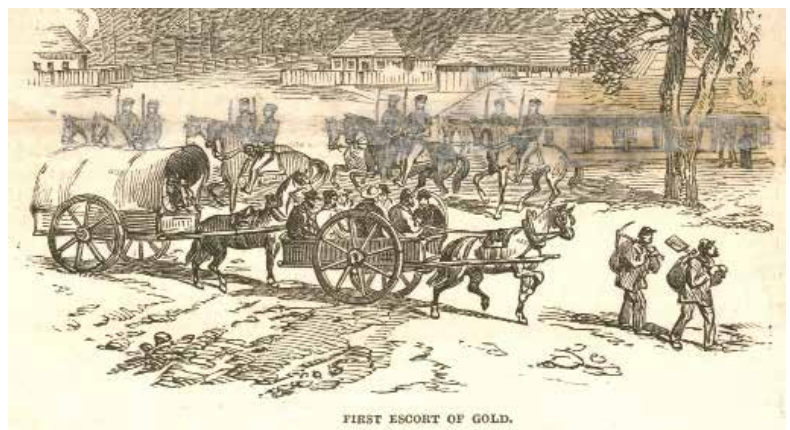
**Contact: Helen Richards**

## 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.**





**Regional Profile Cutters Day Trip**

**9 September 10:00am**

27 Magpie Dr, Taillem Bend SA 5260

0427 763 905

Tour Information.

Pricing Entry- Card or Cash

10 adults which is \$10 per person; 15-19 adults it is \$7.50 per person; 20 or more adults it is \$5 per person. Children are free.

Morning Tea available for \$4 per person( Tea, Coffee, and homemade biscuits)

They have ample parking for our 4WD club vehicles. Please allow 1.5-2 hours for the tour, which involves designing, machine working and cleaning items. A brief talk explaining the history and process, including questions and answers. \*Any purchases made on the day receive at 10% discount\*

Please visit their website <http://regionalprofilecutters.com.au/> for any more information.

After our visit to Regional Profile Cutters we will have lunch at the Wellington Hotel 27 Mason Street Wellington at 12.30pm.

**Contact: Rod Kitto**

**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, The Metropolitan Musical Theatre Company of SA**

**27 October 7:30pm**

The 1980 stage musical with a book by Michael Stewart and Mark Bramble, lyrics by Al Dubin and Johnny Mercer and music by Harry Warren. Based on the 1932 novel by Bradford Ropes and the subsequent 1933 Hollywood film adaptation, this backstage musical follows the rehearsal process of a Broadway show being put on during the height of the Great Depression.

**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**

4WDiving, 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**



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



# The club's meeting history

With the committee changing venues for its meetings, Jeff Schapel was asked to work out how many meetings they have had at the Challa Gardens Primary School. With the help of Christine Robinson he came up with the answer. Ever the thorough historian, he then went on to research how many meetings the club has had at other venues.

The results are as follows.

Meetings of the Nissan Patrol Club of SA have taken place in various venues as follows:

## 1. Datsun Distribution Dudley Park

26 March 1979 (inaugural meeting)

April, May, June, August and September.

Total of six meetings.

## 2. Prospect Town Hall

October, November and December 1979.

February, March, April and May 1980.

Total of seven meetings.

## 3. Nailsworth Primary School

June 1980 to December 1987.

Total of 84 meetings.

## 4. Challa Gardens Primary School

February 1988 to June 2023.

379 possible meeting dates.

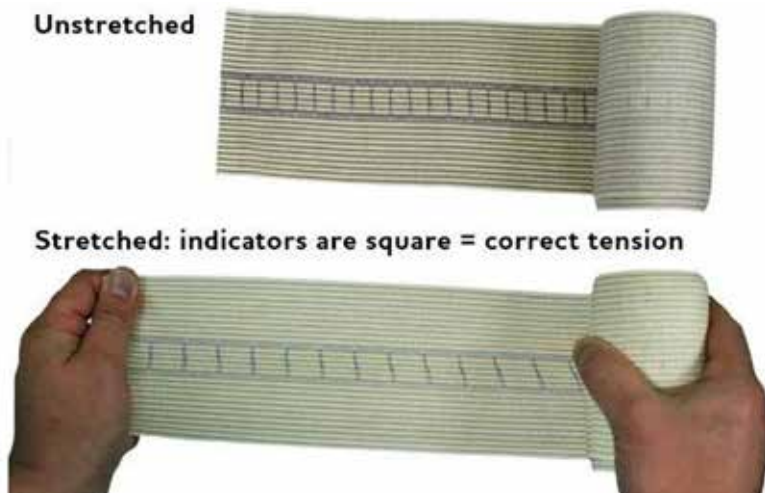
Four meetings cancelled in 2020 due to COVID (April, May, June and July 2020).

February 2020 was a virtual meeting because there was not a quorum of office bearers. However members did gather at the Challa Gardens Primary School for a Sausage Sizzle and a social meeting. So February 2020 is included in this meeting count.

There was a normal meeting in March 2020.

Total of 375 meetings.

# What to do if you tangle with a Joe Blake



## A handy visual guide to get the correct tension on your bandage

Winter sees a reduced level of snake activity in the Australian bush, but that doesn't mean you can't still come across them.

If you do, and the worst happens and you get bitten, it's important to you know the procedure so well it comes to you automatically. There's never a wrong time for a refresher, so here goes.

- Resuscitation takes precedence over the PIT application, however PIT should be applied as soon as possible to minimise further venom flow.
- Apply a broad elasticated pressure bandage (10-15cm wide)

over the bite site as soon as possible.

- Apply a snakebite bandage, commencing at the distal end of the affected limb (i.e. fingers or toes of the bitten limb) and extending upwards, covering as much of the limb as possible.
- Apply enough tension to the snakebite bandages so that the continuous indicator forms a 1.5cm x 1.5cm square, rather than a rectangle in its un-stretched state. This indicates that firm compression is achieved in the limb.

- If using elasticated bandages without the continuous compression indicator, the bandage should be firm and tight and you should be unable to easily slide a finger between the bandage and the skin.
- Splint the limb.
- Keep the patient and the limb completely at rest.
- Assess arterial blood flow distal to pressure dressings via cap refill.

# Rain can't dampen spirits

## The Easter Trip 7-10 March 2023.

We gathered on a wet Good Friday afternoon at Elmhurst Recreation Reserve after travelling from Geelong, Colac, Adelaide and various other places.

Rodney and I arrived mid afternoon with Wayne and Sheryl from the Otway 4x4 Club. John and Lorraine, Jeff, Lochie, Eric, Kellie, Hayden and Colin were already there and set up. Helen, Dave, John, Maddie, Colin, Carmen, Helen and Peter all arrived later in the afternoon.

There was a large covered shelter adjacent to the toilet block where we all met for Helen to give a rundown of activities planned for the weekend.

On Saturday morning Ed and his grandson from the Otway 4x4 club arrived as well as Colin and Carmen's daughter, son in law and grandson from Bendigo. We packed our picnic lunches and met in the shelter for a briefing by Jeff and Eric.

There were 10 vehicles wishing to tackle the tracks so we split into two groups of five. Our group consisted of Otway 4 x 4 club members Jeff and son Lochie as leaders and Jack as tail end. The other 3 vehicles in our group were Rod and I with passengers Hel-

en and Peter, Wayne and Dave and John Kerr. The other group consisted of Eric, Kylie and Hayden as leaders and Colin as their tail end. John and Maddie, Colin and Carmen with their family as passengers and Ed and his grandson made up the rest of this group.

We departed camp at about 9:30 am and turned left at Grazing Right Road where we were instantly climbing through magnificent tall gums. Jeff checked out the Victoria Hill Track and it was good so we all climbed to 650 m on a firm undulating track to the Mt Cole road.

While waiting for Jeff to check out this track we discovered one of our group was tuned to the wrong channel making conversation with them difficult! Since scouting for the trip the next track had been changed to Management only with a chain across to prevent access.

In drizzle and increasing fog we continued on until we stopped at Mugwamp Hut for a brief comfort stop. This was a nice secluded camping area with a hut and toilets with three patrols and 3 motor bikes stopped there besides us.

Following our stop here Peter travelled with John for the rest of

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**First of the onstaciles to be overcome in a damp Pyrenees where, below, there was no shortage of slippery slopes**



the day. Lots of granite boulders hugged the sides of the next track and also revealed several deep holes full of water requiring careful negotiation.

The next track had some very gnarly rock steps that our intrepid leader Jeff negotiated with skill and a lot of crashing and banging before deciding to turn around and not risk damage to the other vehicles. We returned to Mt Cole Road and took Mt Sapling Hill track and Reservoir track to the Mt Cole reservoir where we got out of the cars and walked to view the dam wall. There was no public access but good views of the wall and clear fresh water.

While at Chinamans Camp Ground for lunch, we had a brief rain shower that interrupted our relaxing lunch spot. There were lots of campers here for the Easter weekend. Following lunch we continued on Chinaman Road before turning up the very slippery Chinaman Link Track.

Here we encountered lots of sliding and drifting in and over the ruts. We all successfully reached the Mt Cole gravel road again and while heading out on the Ben Nevis Track we enjoyed a burst of beautiful sunshine. The cars were parked and we walked to the Red Rock hang gliding launch area for amazing views over the plains below and also of Sugarloaf, a newer hang gliding launch site.

We returned to the cars and continued to the top of Ben Nevis where the fire, TV and communication towers and picnic area



### **Getting our comrades back on the straight and narrow and, below, enjoying the views from a trip point**

were. Another short path again took us to incredible views over the surrounding peaks, bush land and fields.

From here we turned onto McGuiness track another very slippery red clay track that Jeff our leader managed to slide down and bottom out behind a hump. The winch was engaged to drag him over and out before the rest of us followed, successfully negotiating the track by engaging low range first and hugging the right hand side of the track.

Once we were all on terra firma again the showers reappeared.

To finish the day we stopped to chop and load some logs for the night's campfire. We arrived back at camp at around 4pm very satisfied with the drivers a little exhausted but happy.

The other group returned a few minutes after us and we gathered for happy hour to chatter about the day's activities before having tea. After tea we sat in the shelter shed by the warm comforting fire until around 9pm.

We woke on Sunday morning to find Easter Bunny had delivered eggs to all campers. Some of us enjoyed hot cross buns for break-



fast before meeting in the shed for a group photo. We left camp at 9:35am this morning and headed in the same direction as yesterday before turning into Pumpkin Point track.

This track was a little slippery due to the overnight rain but at the start the vegetation was scrubbier than yesterday. We skirted around cleared farming country before encountering the first steep slippery climb with some rocky sections but it was successfully negotiated by all. At the top we had lovely views over the adjoining country through the trees.

Climbing steadily to Philipson track at 565m we wound our way through the magnificent tall timber forests with a carpet of green bracken beneath. Unfortunately as we drove through here we did not see a low limb that broke our driver's side rear view mirror. The next track was an extremely steep slippery downhill run from 580m to 378m where it followed the river along the valley with its beautiful tree ferns!

It was then a change of scenery as we climbed through the pine plantations to the main Raglan to Elmhurst Road and Smiths Bridge camp ground for morning tea. A few stoic campers were still here but nowhere near the numbers who were here on Friday when we drove past.

After morning tea we crossed the highway and proceeded to skirt pine forests on one side of the track and farming land on the other. A distance along this track we needed to stop and clear away a fallen gum tree that was blocking the track.

For a moment we were blessed with glorious sunshine as we continued through these pine forests of varying heights. A second fallen tree was encountered, this time a pine, so the chain saw was put to work again! We drove along Ridge track at 650m before leaving the pine forest behind and heading back into tall gum forests. A sign saying "tree felling in progress" was noticed but we saw no sign of any activity.

We reached the Mount Lonarch fire tower at 770m but as it was raining and the cloud and fog had closed in we did not get out of the cars before descending to 455m to head into the Ben Major Nature Conservation Park. The sun re-emerged and the wet



leaves glistened as we drove through the scrub but by the time we reached Ben Major Trig Point it was misty rain again! The weather cleared and we spotted a wedge tail eagle soaring above as we ate our lunch.

In 2019 this area was wiped out by bushfires but the trees are now producing lots of regeneration. The Kelly track was quite wet and boggy in places so the cars were able to perform a few more crab like maneuvers. Jeff had to get his trusty chain saw out for a third time to clear another fallen tree from the track.

The misty rain and fog returned as we headed back through the extensive pine forest plantations to Smiths Bridge camp ground again for afternoon tea.

As we left Smiths Bridge Campground for the lookout a young man appeared and said he was stuck at the top of the mountain in a Nissan X-Trail.



**Gathering of the Nissan clans at Elmhurst Recreation Reserve and, below, the Otways' signature firepit**

Wayne and Dave gave the young man a lift in their car and we headed up a steep rutted dirt track. We went so far and then realized the track was impassible to the top so we all stopped to try and work out how best to provide assistance. The track was steep with very deep ruts so his car could not be brought down this side of the mountain.

Eventually Jeff, Wayne and Dave walked to the top to study the

predicament of the XTrail. It was decided Jack, Lochie, Rod and I would try and find another track up the other side of the mountain where the winches could help retrieve the car while Jeff would carry his chain saw to the top to try and remove trees from around and beneath the car.

Our search to find another track up the other side was in vain as the tracks we tried either came to dead ends or were impossible to





**Sweeping views of the surrounding country between the showers and, below, a couple of Easter bunnies.**

negotiate, however with the removal of branches, the deflating of back tyres and some physical effort Jeff, Wayne and Dave managed to push the XTrail off the log it was stuck on and get it to the top of the hill.

This intrepid Scottish traveller was then able to drive out the way he had come in and consider how very fortunate he was to find expert help at 3pm on Easter Sunday afternoon!

The rescue took over an hour so we did not make it to the lookout but headed straight back to Elmhurst via the bitumen. We all enjoyed a strong coffee or beer on our return to camp at around 5pm.

That night we gathered at the campfire and Helen thanked the Otway members Jeff, Eric, Kellie, Wayne, Colin, Jack, Hayden and Lochie and Ed for organizing another amazing weekend on the tracks of the Pyrenees. Their knowledge and support was very much appreciated.

A great night by the fire followed and on Monday morning we packed up, said our farewells and headed home very happy and contented.

**Rod and Aileen Kitto  
NPC 388**





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Going up! The view from the passenger seat on a climb to a trig point in the Southern Flinders Ranges

# Hello to the Southern Flinders

## *Argadells Trip 12- 4th May 2023*

Four vehicles, one on the Thursday and three on the Friday, headed north for the weekend to Argadells, a working sheep station of 32 square kilometres north of Quorn in the Southern Flinders Ranges.

As each vehicle arrived and checked in at the Homestead, they were directed to the Wints Campsite with the exception of one who chose to stay at the Caravan Park with a powered site and ensuite. After setting up our camps, we gathered around the campfire for some pre dinner drinks and a discussion of what was happening over the weekend.

Saturday saw us up early for an 8 o'clock start as we had intended to drive as many of the tracks as possible, so we headed off with a plan to do the three gorges, check out some of the other campsites that are available before heading up to the high ground and Mt Arden after lunch.

The first stop was South Gorge Camp which allowed us to view the South Gorge from the eastern side, and then back to and through Hannimans Gorge with its resident population of the Yellow-footed-rock-wallaby.

Once through the Gorge, we turned left and made our way to the western side of South Gorge where we encountered the first of the intermediate tracks which took us to the top of a hill and a view of Mt Arden then back to South Gorge and another intermediate track and the road to Emu Camp (unfortunately no Emus).

Now we headed north towards Buckaringa Gorge passing by the campsites of Springs, Noodles, Woody's Place and Grahams, all of which had their own individual charm.

Upon arrival at Buckaringa Gorge, we parked up and took in the view while having morning tea after which we headed back passed Grahams and Woody's Place to the next intermediate track leading us to the difficult tracks that allowed us to look down into





**Four vehicles tackled the tracks at Argadells, which included some scabbly climbs but the views at the end were worth the effort.**

Stevens Gorge. At the end of second leg of the second difficult track, a suitable spot was found for lunch which gave views into Buckaringa and Stevens Gorges and to the south west, Mt Arden our final destination to be achieved before heading back to camp.

On the completion of lunch, it was back in the vehicles with a little bit of downhill before heading onwards and upwards to the ridgeline that follows the western boundary of Argadells and also part of the Heysen Trail to Mt Arden.

The views along the ridgeline and from the top of Mt Arden (844 m) are very impressive, to the northeast the Elder Range, Wilpena Pound and the ABC Range, to the northwest Lake Torrens. Turning around to the southwest South Tent Hill past Port Augusta can be observed while to the southeast

The Dutchmans Stern, Devils Peak and Mt Remarkable can be seen. After getting out and looking at the various buildings, aerials and antennae on Mt Arden along with the trig point and points of interest direction marker, we then made our way down the Down Hill Only Track, keeping a bit of distance between the vehicles as it is quite steep and challenging.

At one point the track became a little indistinct, with some looking around the way down was located and downward we continued till the last vehicle in our convoy found a sharp stone which punctured the sidewall of the right front tyre. A halt in proceedings was conducted while the offending tyre was changed.

This track, with some interesting watercourse crossings and ridgelines, lead us back to where we were in the morning and once again past





**All set for the night as the sun sets and the gang gather by the fire at the end of a great weekend.**

Emu, Springs and Noodles Campsites to Hannimans Gorge and more of the Yellow-footed-rock-wallabies before heading back to Camp. On arrival at camp, we lit the campfire, gathered our chairs around, opened up a beverage to enjoy with a selection of cheese and biscuits and congratulated ourselves on a great day of four wheel driving. Then onto make our evening meals and sit around the campfire for a while before retiring for the night.

Sunday morning saw a more leisurely start with us packing up and heading in different directions; two vehicles heading home, one staying the day and an extra night at Argadells, while the other headed north for more adventures. A great weekend was had by all.

**Paul Ware  
NPC 421**



## Trip Report: Nunsense



The Nissan Patrol Club of South Australia members and friends attended a social evening at the Arts Theatre to enjoy the production of “Nunsense” performed by the Metropolitan Musical Theatre Company of SA.

Everyone who attended had a wonderful time and our evening concluded with 14 members enjoying coffee and cake at Da Vinci in O’Connell Street.



# Rubbish duty on the Coorong

**COORONG CLEANUP 28 Feb-2 March 2003**

**Leaders: Neill Watt, Ashley Farrow and Marg Edwards.**

**Participants: Doug & Heather, Jeff & Jeanene, Susan & Alistair, Pat & Des, Bob & Cion, John Gibbons, Lionel & Anne, Jim & Pauline, Frank & Roz plus Anne and Robyn, John & Diane.**

Seven vehicles set off from Crafers just after 4.00 pm on Friday afternoon. We were the newbies in the group and even though introductions were made at Crafers we spent some time working out who was who by listening to the radio traffic. By the time we reached Murray Bridge we could identify all the people in the convoy by name and vehicle. We were lucky that our group was a talkative lot.

Neill diverted into Murray Bridge to collect a trailer and rejoined the convoy at Taillem Bend. Bob and Cion met us there as well. The trip to 42 mile crossing was pleasant and uneventful. We set up camp at the campsite and even observed a friendly fox wandering through the camp. Not many people stayed up late because wind and rain arrived fairly early and persisted most of the night. We were all hoping for better weather for the remainder of the weekend.

The next morning was better but we did take the tent down in a hurry when a threatening cloud appeared. The park ranger, Eric de Smit, arrived and gave us an interesting pep talk and explained what he wanted done. He also carefully explained the do's and don'ts of sand driving and especially advised the convoy to stay high on the beach. He produced a number of forms that we were to complete as we conducted the cleanup.

The purpose of these forms was to identify the type of rubbish collected and also how much of each type. This information would be included in a summary report to the Government. Our brief was to clear rubbish from the shoreline to 50 meters into the fore dunes.

We collected our rubbish bags, deflated the tyres on the vehicles and proceeded to the beach. It was beautiful down there and we admit to spending a lot of time admiring the view and the vegetation. We found the best method was to stop the vehicles about 300 meters apart and each person to walk up or down the beach until we met the person from the next car and then head to the dunes and make our way back to the vehicles.

We hadn't been on the beach long before Alistair and Susan had the honour of being the first vehicle bogged. It was on quite a narrow section of beach and as we were just behind them we were getting quite nervous as the tide was coming in and the beach seemed to be getting narrower and narrower. In spite of his advice to stay high on the beach and follow in the tracks of the vehicle ahead the ranger was observed driving quite quickly past our group along the hard sand just above the waterline. He did not even bother to deflate his tyres!

We found mainly bottles, cans, plastic, timber, ropes and other unmentionables. Neil was luckily/unlucky enough to dig up

90 beer bottles in one spot during the first stop! Pat and Des, who were leading the convoy on the beach, then decided to play sandcastle and did a good job of getting bogged in a particularly soft bit of sand. Alistair was very clever and went down to follow the ranger's track on the hard sand to miss Des' sand pit. We all successfully followed except John and Di who tackled the soft stuff and ended up with Neil snatching them out. We exited the beach via Wreck Crossing, which was quite overgrown and rough. Obviously in need of a cleanup!

I am not sure how we went counting the rubbish. Did we count the stuff that fell of the back of Bob's trailer twice?

At 28 mile crossing we met up with 4 other vehicles. After setting up camp once again re repacked the two trailers and set off to clean up the track. The 28 mile track is officially sponsored by the Nissan Patrol Club - it is our track. Some people were planting posts whilst others trimmed vegetation along the track. A few of us found ourselves with a bottom of a drinks container filled with red paint in one hand and a paint brush in the other. We painted the tops of selected posts near the camp and then walked all the way down to the beach painting all the posts we could see. The entire track cleanup was completed on Saturday afternoon.

We returned to the camp for an extended happy hour where we learned that it is very easy to be volunteered to write the trip report and deliver the trip report at the next meeting. Saturday night was cold and the caravanners were in real danger of being caravan-jacked by the tent dwellers!

On Sunday morning Eric presented us with a certificate that effectively allows the club to maintain the 28 mile track for another 5 years. He also gave a very informative talk on bush tucker, complete with a hands-on demonstration.

The whole group went back to the beach for another cleanup. We found more exciting stuff like, umbrellas, timber and plastic drums. We even discovered a totally buried Holden ute. Only the steering wheel and part of the chassis were visible. We marked the remains more clearly as a safety measure. Another trip would be arranged to dig it up and remove it.

We returned to camp, pumped up the tyres, had lunch and repacked the trailers before setting off for the Meningie dump and the prospect of buying fresh fish. Our fearless convoy leader, Neill, omitted to use proper convoy procedure and promptly lost the convoy on the way to the dump and then proceeded to do it again in Meningie while looking for the fish merchant. A young lady in a battered old Magna managed to keep the convoy together when she guided us to another fisherman's house where we bought fish and photographed the pelicans on the lake.

A very interesting and worthwhile trip.

**Lionel Leddra NPC 351**

## **Best joke of the weekend:**

*Did you hear about the recent big wedding between 2 aerials?*

The wedding turned out to be quite ordinary, however the reception was fantastic!

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