

PATROLLING



*Volume 45 Number 4
August 2023*



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Webmaster **Rod Kitto**

Facebook **Helen Richards**



Contact us

Nissan Patrol Club of South Australia

PO Box 153

Kilkenny SA 5009

Membership

membership@nissanpatrolclubsa.org

Magazine

editor@nissanpatrolclubsa.org

Website

www.nissanpatrolclubsa.org

webmaster@nissanpatrolclubsa.org

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.

Keeping up with club's animals

John Day is heading home as the magazine goes to press, so was unable to provide President's Points this issue. Normal service will be resumed next time. It is a good opportunity, however, to provide an update on the two animals the Club sponsors at Adelaide Zoo.

The Nissan Patrol Club SA is proud to be sponsoring the Red Tailed Black Cockatoo and the Hosmer Skink. We recently renewed our sponsorship of the skink (below) for another year at \$100 and will support the cockatoo for another year as well.

Helen Richards recently visited the zoo and reported to the July general meeting that both animals are in fine form. The sponsorship money goes towards caring for the animals as well as the zoo's conservation work – breeding endangered species and protecting wild habitats.



From the Editor's Desk

An issue packed with trips

This issue is packed with the club's trips from the May working bee at Deep Creek (page 9), our annual excursion to Peake (page 11), a trip to see the soaring sequoias in the Otways in southwestern Victoria (page 15), the day trip following the Gold Escort Route, with some sandhill driving east of Meningie (page 18), plus the Mid-Year Lunch (page 20), hailed by many members as the best in recent memory. There are some extra pictures of the lunch on page 22.

With just over half the year gone, there are still some wonderful outings coming up both as day trips and longer. Check pages 6 and 7 for details but the list looks like this:

9th Sep Regional Profile Cutters – Tailern Bend

29th Sep-2nd Oct Gammon Ranges

29th Sep-2nd Oct Yorke Peninsula

27th October Theatre Night – 42nd Street

20th-23rd Oct Deep Creek Working Bee

3rd-5th Nov Morgan

17th December Breakfast in the Park.

Next issue we will feature some of the line-up for 2024 for those who want to make longer term plans.

Next issue we will also introduce a new feature where we ask our advertisers to tell us a little about their businesses. We will start with PatrolApart, which is going to update us on some of their proprietary products. Meanwhile, check out their new ad on page 16.

Finally, see page 8 for details of the Club Photo Competition (yes, it's that time of year again), which will be held at the October meeting. Thanks once again to Jeff Schapel for organising that.

Bill Condie NPC 423



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Regional Profile Cutters Day Trip

9 September 10:00am

27 Magpie Dr, Tailem 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

4WD driving, 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 19 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. **NOTE: ticket prices have increased from \$28 to \$32.**



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

Photos, video, details of upcoming trips and guest speakers

Time to get ready for this year's photo competition

It's still a few months away but as Jeff Schapel has kindly agreed to his usual presentation of the pictures for the Photo Competition in November it's time to start think about your entries and capturing some more memories from the tacks and campsites you visit.

The entries will be shown and judged at the 2 November general meeting.

The deadline for lodging your photos is the 5 October meeting, although if we ask nicely the organiser Jeff Schapel may once again hold it open for a few days after the publication of the next magazine so we can remind people of competition if they can't be at the meeting.

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 5 October 2022.

Photos can also be emailed to Jeff on 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!

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Diesel heater saves the day



A waterhole at Deep Creek National Park while, below, getting ready to tackle the weeds.

Deep Creek May 2023

We received confirmation on Thursday 26 May the trip to Deep Creek would go ahead despite the inclement weather forecast. Friday morning we packed the van and headed south meeting up with Wayne and Dallas at the Yankalilla bakery for lunch. Upon arrival at the bakery we discovered Jeffrey and Jeanene had some bad luck and burnt a clutch coming up Sellicks Hill on the way down.

Following lunch the four of us continued onto Trig campground where we set up in rather muddy conditions. Once settled we enjoyed the warmth of the diesel heater in Wayne and Dallas's van until Pauline and Jim arrived later in the afternoon.

It was a wet afternoon and not fit for sitting around a fire even though we had brought plenty of wood. We enjoyed a chat until 7:30pm before each of us went off to prepare our evening meal. It was then an early night listening to the rain on the van!

Saturday morning Mariki and her son Martin, and Don and his friend Rob, arrived from Adelaide for the day. It was wonderful that they could join us boosting our working party to 10. The ranger arrived at 10 am to brief us on what work the park would like done. She led us in convoy out to Goondooloo Ridge where she set us up with gloves and dabbers.

We had all taken our own secateurs and cutters. She pointed us in the direction of a gentle path that led to a fenced revegetation area where we were to cut and dab all "Cotton bush" and "Apple





Goondooloo Ridge where Club workers tackled the weeds

of Sodom” plants we saw. There was plenty of ”Apple of Sodom“ so we all got to work and cut and dabbed until lunch time.

After a short break we returned to the enclosed area where we wandered through the dense native replanting taking out the “Apple of Sodom” plants we saw as well as a significant blackberry bush! The “Cotton bush” were a little more difficult to find.

At about 2:30pm there were a couple of heavy rain showers so we decided to give the work away and head back to camp. Once back at camp the clouds cleared and it was quite a reasonable afternoon so we lit the fire and enjoyed chatting around it.

Mariki and Martin headed straight home from Goondooloo Ridge but Don and Rob enjoyed the fire at camp with the rest of us until about 4:30 pm when they too headed home. The rest of us enjoyed chatting by the fire until about 6:30pm before heading back to our vans to organise our tea. After tea we again chatted in the comfort of the diesel heater!

After some heavy showers overnight we woke Sunday to a beautiful sunny morning. I went for a walk before enjoying breakfast in the sun watching the kangaroos hop around looking for their feed as well.

We packed up and left Deep Creek Conservation Park around 10am, stopping at Yankalilla bakery for a coffee on the way home.

Many thanks Wayne for again coordinating another wonderful weekend at Deep Creek Conservation Park. It is a wonderful privilege and pleasure to offer our services as volunteers to help out these hard working Rangers!



**Rod & Aileen Kitto
NPC 388**

Camp cooking is king at Peake



The gang's all here for a return trip to Peake where campfire cooking and an over-fed dog took centre stage



Peake June 2023

Peter & Helen Smith, Phil Stanley & Lisa Patterson, Bill Smith, Colin & Carmen Riddle, Vic & Dianna Rejman, Thomas & Jai Ratcliffe, Mal & Josh Framp-ton, Dave & Helen Richards

A perfect sunny day had the Nissan Patrol Club and Mitsubishi 4x4 Club making their way up to Peake to enjoy a weekend of fun, food, and camaraderie on and off the sand tracks.

After setting up camp, a campfire was lit up and we spent the afternoon chatting, which led into happy hour. The club safety briefing sheet was read out to all members. All questions answered. A beautiful sunset appeared after a rather warm day of 19 degrees. Time for some dinner around the fire, a few drinks and then off to bed in preparation for tomorrow's adventures.

Waking up to a brisk sunny morning with a cuppa, breakfast was made, and the camp came to life. I stayed back at camp both days, enjoying my time around the fire, with the farm dog Burt.

In all there were 8 cars and 15 people in attendance for the Nissan Patrol Club and 11 cars and 14 members in the Mitsubishi Club. After airing down the groups headed out to the dunes.

The sand was wind-dried and drifting on top and wet underneath. Decisions were made to split the club to different side of



The Nissan Team get together for a photo op while below and opposite memebtrs take on the sandhills

the dunes. Channel 21 for Nissan and Channel 17 for Mitsubishi (channel 18 and 19 if needed)

There were various levels of experience within the groups, and everyone appeared to enjoy the challenge of conquering the sand hills. This weekend we had a few newcomers, A couple of hours later they all made their way back to camp for lunch.

After lunch both clubs hit the dunes again for some more education, familiarisation, fun & adventures.

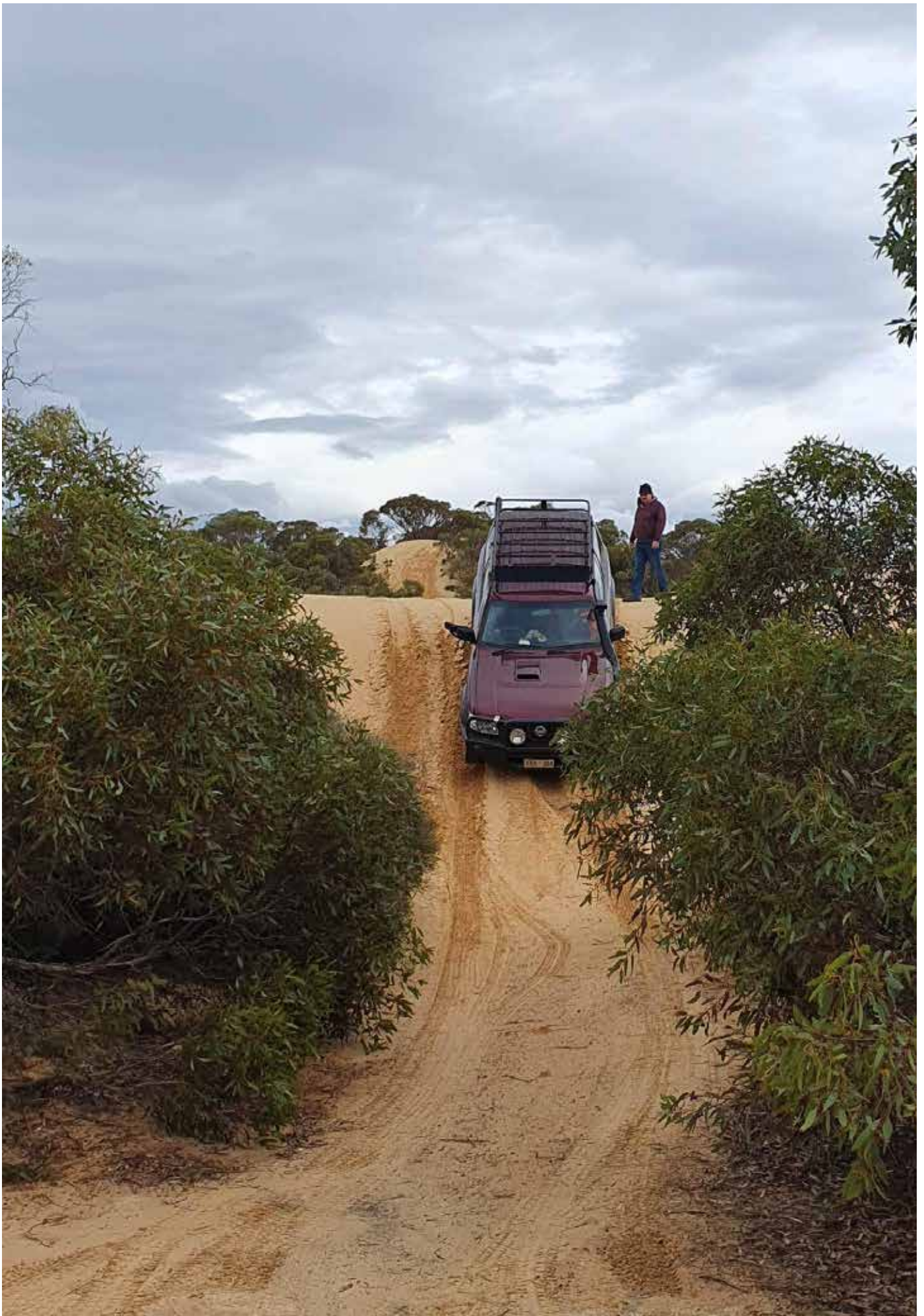
The weather late in the afternoon had turned cold, grey, and wet. However, it did not dampen the spirits of everyone involved. Preparations were made to dig a trench to place the 4 camp ovens in.

Happy hour had started sitting around the campfire & the donkey discussing the events of the day. It was camp oven night with Curried Sausages and Coca-Cola Chicken and savoury and sweet damper.

The donkey(barrel burner) was already lit and became a popular spot till the rain eased and a few people braved it to set up a great campfire outside after the camp ovens were removed. A great night of everyone chatting away and staying close to both sources of fire. Eventually we all retired to bed.

Sunday morning arrived with a breakfast of bacon and eggs & toast cooked over the fire. The groups were on their way back out to the dunes, swapping sides from the day before. All participants







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

enjoyed the challenges presented with some mastering the hills that had eluded them on Saturday. For the newbie's, it was a weekend of getting to know your vehicle, safety & learning new ways of navigating in the sand. They certainly had some fun.

Happy to say there was no bogs, no tyre issues.no car problems.

Everyone had a fantastic time with the newcomers eager to return.

Lunch time soon arrived and then the pack up began. The wind had arrived just as we were preparing to leave. It was a fantastic weekend. We had made new friends, lots of memories, and a carload of sand in our 4WDs. It was time to head home.

Helen Richards NPC 364



California corner Down Under

Otways Trip 9-12 June 2023

The idea of this Trip was to go and see the Californian Redwoods *Sequoia sempervirens* in the Otways. These trees were planted in 1936 by the Forests Commission Victoria, they were initially slow to establish but have thrived and now grown to a height of over 60 metres (200 ft), still a little short, as they are known to reach heights of 115.5 m (379 ft), with a trunk diameter of 9 m (30 ft).

Members of two clubs, the Nissan Patrol Club SA and Summit Trax 4WD Club made the journey to visit the giant trees.

Leaving Adelaide on the Friday night to reduce driving time the next day, saw us overnight at Horsham and then on the Saturday morning onto Dunkeld for lunch at Parker Street Project dining area of the Royal Mail Hotel via some four wheel drive tracks in the Grampians.

These tracks were quite interesting with some that we had intended to traverse being closed due to the inclement weather and wash outs. This made us backtrack and take alternative routes.

After an enjoyable lunch, we travelled south through part of the Volcanic Region of Victoria with its remnant extinct volcanic peaks and associated landscapes and basalt dry stone walls.

Out of sheep country into dairy country and then through parts of the Great Otway National Park to Lavers Hill and then down to the Johanna Beach Camping Ground beside the Southern Ocean, which became our base camp for the weekend.

After setting up camp, pre dinner drinks were enjoyed while discussing the next day's plans before cooking our evening meal and retiring for the night with the sound of waves crashing on the nearby beach.

Sunday morning after breakfast, we set off making our way towards Aire Crossing Campground beside the Aire River and then onto Halls Ridge Track which would take us to Binns Road and the Redwoods.

This part of the Otways receives nearly 2 metres of rain annually which makes things a little damp especially with all the rainfall in the preceding days. Once across the Aire River, we encountered



Mighty Redwoods tower over the Otways

a rather wet slippery track heading up the hill. Low range was engaged with the hope of getting to the top and a drier tack along the ridge.

With determination, we pushed onward and upwards till the lead vehicle was stopped by a huge Mountain Ash, *Eucalyptus regnans*; its trunk width taller than the roof rack of the vehicle

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The cantilevered walkway above Young Creek at the Otways Fly

blocking our way forward. This required a larger chainsaw and more time than we had available, so turning around was our next challenge on the very narrow track without getting bogged.

With some reversing and much shuffling backwards and forwards, we managed to turn around and head downhill slowly, without touching the brakes on the slippery track as use of the brakes would have put the vehicle into a slide and very difficult circumstances.

On arrival at the beginning of the track, we closed the gate in an effort to prevent anybody else from as having as much “fun” as we did. So now it was back the way we came to Wait A While Road and then along the black top through Beech Forest to our destination.

On arriving at the Redwood Picnic area, finding a parking spot was difficult as this is a popular destination with lots of vehicles and people present.

Once entering the Redwood Forest, one notices a sense of solemnity with the location as you walk about taking it all in, admir-

ing the grandeur of the trees, the sounds of motor vehicles from the nearby roadway seem to be muffled which adds to the mystic of the vicinity.

After our stroll in the forest, we returned to the vehicles and made our way to the next destination; the Otway Fly Visitor Centre where we had lunch in the carpark before entering and going on the 600 metre elevated walk through the Myrtle Beech and Mountain Ash forest which included a 47 metre tower into the tree canopy and a cantilevered walkway above Young Creek.

On return to solid ground and making our way back to the Visitor Centre, we encountered a wheelchair-bound man with his partner who was having a strenuous time getting him up the hill, as the track was supposedly too wet for vehicle assistance. With some extra help from us with the pushing and pulling on the steep sections, and much gratitude from them both, they made it back safely to the top.

On the way back to Base Camp, we went to Melbas Gully to check out the parking facilities for the evening’s Glow Worm trip, then down Blue Johanna Road with all of its winding bends and ocean views.

Back at camp, we still had enough time to take a walk to view the huge waves crashing onto the beach before drinks and the evening meal after which it was time to head out again.

This time it was to go and view the Glow Worms on the Madsen’s Track Nature Walk at Melba Gully, a short distance from Lavers Hill.

Australia has eight species of glow worms, which are not worms but are the bioluminescent larva stage of small flies known as fungus gnats. The larvae spin nests out of silk and then hang down as many as 70 threads of silk from around the nest, each of these snares are up to 40 cm long and have droplets of mucus on them to capture insects attracted by the glow.

Leaving the vehicles in the carpark, we made our way down into the gully and found our quarry *Arachnocampa otwayensis* in a number of places along the path.

We then headed back to camp for a warm beverage and a well-earned rest.

Monday morning saw us pack up and head for home with a lunch stop at Izzy’s Café in Dunkeld before heading into the Grampians to tackle some more of the four wheel drive tracks. Once again we were blocked by a few road closed signs due to weather conditions which had us to divert from our planed route. Finally exiting the Grampians further north and east than where we had intended, we made our way back across the Border and on to home after great weekend away.

**Paul Ware
NPC421**

Gold in them thar Hills



Twelve club members set off to follow in the footsteps of our prospecting forebears.

Gold Escort Route 16 July 2023

On a Sunday morning in July, twelve intrepid travellers in seven vehicles gathered at Stirling to embark on a journey to trace the first part of the Gold Escort Route which went from Adelaide to the Mount Alexander goldfields in Victoria.

The Mount Alexander goldfield was an extremely rich goldfield with about 4,000,000 ounces (110,000 kg) of gold being found within five metres of the surface in the first two years of mining. In the early 1850s, Alexander Tolmer established a gold escort route between Adelaide and the goldfields.

Between 1852 and 1853, eighteen trips were made bringing back 328,502 ounces (9,310 kg) of gold to the Assay Office in Adelaide. At the time, the value was £3.11 per ounce, or about £1,000,000 – \$100 million at today's value. This helped to secure South Australia's economy at the time.

After a discussion of the day's itinerary and protocols, the group made their way through the Adelaide Hills following the Gold Route being informed by our Trip Leader on some aspects of the history of the towns and villages we passed through.

We made our way to Strathalbyn and then Langhorne Creek to the Frank Potts Reserve where a halt in proceedings was called for, to partake in a morning tea of hot donuts and coffee and to use the facilities before continuing on to Wellington and its ferry crossing. A delay was incurred at the ferry as we could not all be

accommodated with one crossing of the Murray River, so the first vehicles across had to wait patiently for the ferry to return and collect our last vehicle.

From the ferry crossing, the Gold Route goes up to the Princes Highway then across private grazing land through Cooke Plains and comes out near the Malinong Hall.

We travelled the Princes Highway to Nine Mile Road and onto Hawkes Nest Road at the end of which the fun begins with 6.5 kms of deep sand and rocky outcrops. We then headed west along Yumali Road to a difficult-to-see turn off onto Riddell Road.

This is just a two-wheel track through some sandhills with some alternative tracks over the steeper sections. On one particular hill, only two vehicles made it up steepest track unassisted while a third needed the help of a recovery rope and pull, while the other four took the path of least resistance and chose one of the other tracks.

As lunch was calling, we made our way to Meningie and Freshies Café & Bar on the shores of Lake Albert where we had a booking. An interesting venue; it is housed in part of the restored former premises of the Lakeside Dairying Company, a cheese factory.

The other half of the building is used as the Meningie Cheese Factory Museum.

During lunch, a vote was taken as to what we would do on the way home, either back to the sandhills to tackle them in the



Recovery was needed on one challenging hill. Below, Australia's only inland lighthouse and, below left, the route

opposite direction, or to do a lap around Lake Albert, taking the Narrung Ferry and seeing Australia's only inland lighthouse at Malcolm Point.

A lap around the lake it was, this time getting all the vehicles across on one ferry ride, the last vehicle was looking a little anxious till the ferryman shuffled all the other vehicles forward to make enough room for it.

On to Tailem Bend with a stop for a debrief and farewells, and then everyone made their own way home.

Paul Ware NPC421



A hotel that's the real deal



A private room and well appointed table settings set the tone for a wonderful lunch and, for some, a weekend

Mid-Year Lunch held at the Waikerie Hotel 2 McCoy Street Waikerie on Sunday 25 June 2023 at 12.30pm.

NISSAN PATROL CLUB SA 44th ANNIVERSARY.

Making Memories and Moments on the Murray River.

On Sunday the 25th of June 35 Nissan Patrol Members celebrated the 44th Anniversary of the Club at the Waikerie Hotel.

We arrived to a hearty welcome from the staff as we entered the hotel. We were given a private room with the 2 tables decorated in club colours of red, white, and blue, with matching serviettes and menus. Presentation was perfect. Peniana and Chloe took our orders for our 3-course meal which consisted of

Entrée-Lemon Peppered Chicken Tenderloins with salad and aioli, or Homemade Pumpkin Soup.

Mains-Oven Baked Herb Crusted Barramundi with chips, salad & lemon aioli.

Black Angus 300g Porterhouse Steak cooked medium with sweet potato mash green beans and creamy peppercorn sauce.

Chicken Cordon Bleu served with chips, salad, and creamy mushroom sauce.

Dessert-Lemon Meringue Tartlet served with vanilla ice-cream or Homemade Sticky Date Pudding served with butterscotch sauce and vanilla ice cream.

Vegetarian options were vegetarian stir fry noodles with seasonal vegetables or vegetarian fried rice.

Club photos were taken to mark the occasion and we all chatted amongst ourselves and enjoyed a few drinks.

Meals soon arrived and were delivered by staff in a well organised manner and precision. Food was excellent quality and with exceptionally generous portions.



The Nissan Patrol Club of South Australia celebrates its birthday in style at the Waikerie Hotel.

There was lots of chatting within the club over the period of the afternoon. In between mains and dessert, the club raffle was drawn. Prizes were won by Alison Annells, Pauline Byfield, Dallas Dunn and Peter Smith.

This hotel is the real deal. They certainly know how to look after their customers. They deliver the “Whole Package” as quoted by Peniana. Great country hospitality. Nothing was too much for them.

Some of our members stayed overnight at the hotel, some in the caravan park. Others made the return journey back to Adelaide with full bellies and probably only eating a cheese and tomato toasted sandwich for dinner lol.

Today we celebrated. We created memories.

FOOD- FUN- FRIENDSHIP

(More pictures on the next page)

Helen Richards NPC 364



Mid-Year Lunch



**We Hold Ourselves to
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