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Trips Officer Rod Kitto

Magazine Editor Bill Condie

Historian/Archivist Jeff & Jeanene Schapel

FWDSA Delegate Dave Richards

Public Relations Officer Bill Smith

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Webmaster Rod Kitto

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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.

Plenty of action as year ends

ello Patrollers, It was pleasing to see so many entries for the photo completion in November. Thank you to Jeff Schapel for organising this, and Aileen and Rod Kitto for hosting the mystery location and getting the gift cards and chocolates. Well done to all winners.

The Theatre Night, 42nd Street, in October was very well attended. Thank you again to Jeff Schapel for organising this and to Carmen Riddle for organising the coffee/cake after. It was just a shame that Carmen and Colin Riddle missed out, but I am sure they enjoyed their cruise.

It was good to see two trips over the long weekend – Yorke Peninsula organised by Maddie and myself, and Gammon Ranges organised by Paul Ware. Both trips were well attended and went off without any major incidents.

Deep Creek was well supported. A big shout out to Wayne Dunn for organising this with the ranger. It was unfortunate we could not support Wayne for this, but someone has to keep the Hunter Valley wineries in business!!

Thank you to Helen Richards for organising Morgan, which was well attended by both Club Members and Members of the Mitsubishi Club. Some enjoyed frolicking in the quarry whilst others toured the area. The meal at the Terminus Hotel was delicious as always.

I am looking forward to catching up with Members at the AGM on Thursday 7 December at 7.30pm at Challa Gardens School and at our final event of the year, Breakfast in the Park, on Sunday 17 December.

A gentle reminder that subscriptions are due. Subscriptions have been kept at \$75.00 this year and if paid before the end of the AGM a \$5.00 discount does apply, reducing the subscription to \$70.00. It is pleasing to note that many have already paid for the 2024 membership year.

2024 is looking very positive with a some trips/events already



being organised, including the first Theatre night, Peak, the 45th anniversary mid-year dinner and Morgan Quarry. Exciting times ahead.

Happy Travels in 2024 and beyond and stay safe out there.

Signing off as Your Club President.

John Day NPC 407

From the Editor's Desk

And so we wrap up another year

So we have reached the last magazine for the 2023, a year that has been action-packed.

This issue see President John Day give us his annual report (page 7) as well as the growing line-up of events and trips for 2024 (opposite page). We Deep Creek reports, where we celebrate not just a great weekend away but a chance to do some good (page 8).

Wayne Dunn notes that this will be his last working bee after his dedication to the task over many year. We applaud his hard work and thank him for organisinm this impoprtant public service

and fun trip for so long. If anyone wants to take the mantle from Wayne, please let a Committee member know.

There is also a report from the York Peninsula trip featuring some amazing and clever silo art (page 13), while on page 18-19 we report from Morgan and Theatre night. Absent this issue is the Gammon Ranges trip report or the winning photos from the competition but they will appear in the first issue next year.

Until then, we wish all members a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Breakfast in the Park, 17 December End the year at our get-together in Rymill Park Contact: John Day



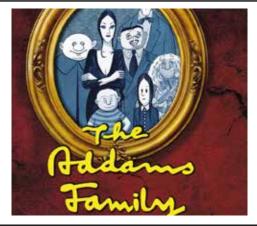
Bendelby Ranges

7-12 March 2024

A joint trip with the Mitsubishi Club. "Bendleby is an Adventure and Eco Tourism destination, offering incredible 4WDing, and the ability for people to get away from it all."

Contact: Trips Officer Rod Kitto.





Theatre Night The Addams Family

17 May 2024

In the kooky, upside-down world of the Addams Family, to be sad is to be happy, to feel pain is to feel joy, and death and suffering are the stuff of their dreams. Nonetheless, this quirky family still has to deal with many of the same challenges faced by any other family.

Cost per person is \$32 provided we get at least 30 tickets.

Contact: Jeff Schapel.

Peake

16-18 June

4WDriving, 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



Meeting Report

Jeff Schapel received a NOA award at the November meeting for stepping in to help as leader on the Yorke Peninsula trip when John Day was indisposed





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That was the year that was

t has been my honour to serve the Nissan Patrol Club of SA Inc as President for the 2023 year. I cannot believe how quickly the year has passed, which is, I believe, a sign of getting old!!

I would like to thank all members for their support throughout the year to myself, the Committee Members, and other Club Members. The strength of the Club comes from its' Membership and a willingness of the Members to partake in helping to run the Club however they can.

A special thank you goes to all the Committee Members for their efforts in keeping the Club functioning during the year. The Committee have given their time freely to make the club better for all Members.

Also special thanks to event organisers and trip leaders. It was pleasing to see that so many events and trips happened during the year, which were varied and well supported.

It was good to hear from Andrew from Onsite Weighbridge at our September meeting, but it has resulted in unexpected costs for some Members after having their vehicles and caravans weighed.

This was a true eye-opener as to how heavy some of our vehicles and caravans were.

Unfortunately, there were a few resignations from the Club this year for various reasons, but it was good to see Thomas Ratcliffe join the Membership of the club during the year. Hopefully we can get the Membership of the Club growing again in the coming

On a sadder note, we said goodbye to a Frank and Roz Foster this year, who will all be fondly remembered by the Members both past and present. Our prayers are with the families.

Roll on 2024. It is good to see a varied and exciting list of Trips/ Events developing for the upcoming year. Keep those Trips/Events coming.

I wish all members and their families a safe and healthy Festive Season, and a Happy New Year.

Signing off as your President.

John Day NPC 407, President

Become a campground host

The following message arrived from Parks and Wildlife in the Northern Territory for members who may be interested.

Greetings from the NT!

I'm writing to let you know that NT Parks and Wildlife have recently commenced a Campground Host program. It's similar to other campground host programs in other states around the country. I have attached our most recent poster and brochure for your information. It would be fantastic if you could share the opportunity either on your Facebook pages and/or newsletters.

Our campground host program is a great opportunity for people to have a more in-depth experience in our amazing parks, get to know the rangers and become part of the team who manage these incredible landscapes. In exchange for free camping, campground hosts spend a few hours each day completing tasks such as:

- greeting guests and helping them find their campsite
- providing information about the park and the local
- doing routine maintenance and making sure campsite is clean and tidy

liaising with park rangers regarding site conditions, facilities and any issues

Outside of that, there's plenty of time to explore the park and get to know it like a local!

There are campground host sites located in 7 of our incredible national parks:

- Trephina Gorge Nature Park
- Finke Gorge National Park
- Karlu Karlu/Devils Marbles Conservation
- **Elsey National Park**
- Litchfield National Park (3 sites)
- Judburra/Gregory National Park
- **Keep River National Park**

If you need any further information contact Bronwyn Hall, Volunteer Program Manager, Parks and Wildlife Division, Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security, NT. Phone 08 8999 3821, Mobile: 0477 834 716, Email bronwyn.hall@nt.gov.au

Working bee makes a difference



Thw working crew assemble before getting down to business

Saturday 21st October 2023

Deep Creek Conservation Park

he Nissan Patrol Club of SA held its second working bee for this year on 20th to the 22nd of October. The Schapels, Cooks, Kittos and Dunns were camping for the weekend, they arrived Friday afternoon. The day trippers Richards, Bill Smith, Don Grigg and his visitor Rob Anderson arrived on the Saturday morning.

At 10am we made our way over to the Blowhole Beach 4WD track. Our task was to remove a fence surrounding a revegetation area, the plants had grown to the extent that the numerous kangaroos living around the site presented no threat. Bolt cutters, pliers, claw hammers and PPE [gloves, safety glasses] were supplied by the rangers, members also had brought along their own tools as well.

We began the task of removing barb wire, and flat wire, rolling it up and placing it a pile by the trees, also placing the staples and insulators into the buckets for the rangers to pick up later.

Lunch time coincided with us finishing the work so we moved to the newly established Goondnooloo Ridge Picnic Area where we enjoyed a picnic lunch and met up with Coral the Senior Park

Ranger.

After lunch we made our way over to Pages Lookout Carpark at Tapanappa where the fence surrounding a smaller area was removed. This was done in double quick time; the wind was at times fierce and happy hour was looming on the horizon

A drive the followed down to Boat Harbour Beach Lookout where spectacular views of the coastline and islands were visible. Photo opportunities were made available.

We then headed back to Trig Campground where Happy Hour commenced as well as a campfire being lit. Coral returned to the campsite and mingled amongst the group, we had all enjoyed the day and what we had accomplished. It was getting cold when the day trippers left the group and headed home.

Coral was as usual very pleased with our efforts and is very grateful for the work we are doing. We are making a difference.

Looking forward to our next venture, working together to looking after our National Parks of South Australia.

Helen Richards NPC 364

(Continued on page 11)



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A Note from the Trip Leader

This is my final year of leading these working weekends at Deep Creek, somewhat regretfully I have decided not to continue for a number of reasons

Over the eight years we have removed Sea Spurge from an area at Blowhole Beach allowing it to be revegetated with native flora, removed fencing from three locations and removed weeds from Goondooloo Ridge.

The weather gods have not always been with us, this weekend the wind was at times gale force, apart from the Covid break and a couple of wet weekends we have been consistently there for two weekends a year, for a total of 12 weekends

I would like to thank all that have participated, hoping they enjoyed it as much as Dallas and I.

The committee is reviewing our commitment to this activity, my hope is it will continue. Our efforts to date have been worthwhile and we have made a difference

Wayne Dunn NPC 389



History goes up in smoke

On Friday 20th of October a lot of histories went up in smoke at Deep Creek. 8 NPC members who had travelled to Deep Creek and on two nights assembled around the fire ring and witnessed the following:

Firstly, a fire was prepared using small branches from a neighbor's huge spotted gum tree (eucalyptus maculata) which drops everything on the Schapel's shed roof. This was followed by neatly cut mission brown balustrades pieces used to decorated Dallas and Wayne's home many years ago.

To add to the strength of the fire, logs from Aileen and Rod's much loved old almond tree topped the pile. Wood from an almond tree is hard and highly resistant to fire, however, the Kitto's wood soon succumbed to producing warmth. The chief fire prodder, Rod, commandeered one of the maculata branches for generally poking the burning embers.

Saturday afternoon saw the introduction of more history. Don Grigg explained that his contribution of wood came from his neighbour's home when they decided to extend about 30 years ago.

Ever on the alert for useful items Don housed this wood over the years. Several times the neighbor called upon Don for the return of certain pieces but most stayed with Don, hence several pieces were used to warm us at Deep Creek.

Cookie could not recall specifically from where his wood eminated but considered it was saved from various projects over the years, including a large old tree from their front yard.

Another box of wood was emptied onto the pile which contained logs from the Schapel's old lemon tree planted about 45 years ago. Some time ago it suddenly decided after producing heaps of lemons several branches were



no longer useful and died.

The final act of the last evening was when the chief fire prodder ceremonially handed his maculata branch to the Leader to perform the last prodding of the embers.

So there you have it – a lot of memories were shared and then history went up in smoke at Deep Creek.

Jeanene Schapel NPC 31



Silo art takes an ominous turn on the Yorke Peninsula

The art of travelling the York

York Peninsula Discovery Tour Sept 29th - Oct 2nd

FRI: Nice warm weather saw most of us arriving at The Minlaton Caravan Park in good time to set up ready for our weekend's adventures. With strict parking instructions from the manager of the park, we managed to have our vans nicely spaced out albeit with a group of swagged teenagers in the midst of us. (well behaved!) Don and Cathy had hired a cabin for the weekend.

Too busy catching up with each other to have a Happy Hour and before we knew it, the time had come to do the drive to Curramulka for our evening meal. Nice full moon rise on the way. Found the towns good old country pub and we had the back room all to ourselves. Very rustic décor complete with stuffed deer's head and a couple of wooden log reindeers. Plenty of used corrugated iron on show.

Lamb Shanks, schnitzels, Steak and fish etc to be had all of which were very tasty and generous serves (Carmen discovered she was friends with the cook!) Mud cake and ice-cream sundaes put on specially for those with room for more. Drive back to Minlaton and bedtime.

SAT: Warm day today. Hot showers for some! Sorry menfolk. (problem rectified later). Leisurely walk around town for a few and a meeting with the local fauna in the park across the road. 10 emu chicks in residence being looked after well by their dads. A couple of Kangaroos having a boxing match as well.

Lined up to the right at 0900 as requested by trip lead-



Trip Report: York Peninsula cont'd



ers, John & Maddie. Onto dirt roads to make us feel like we were getting off the beaten track. Passed Hickman's hut but no info to see. Criss crossed the bitumen roads and came to the lookout over Port Vincent marina. Still a few empty blocks. Silo art near town then onto Stansbury to check theirs out. Morning tea at Wool Bay after seeing the Lime Kiln and a climb up all those steps for some. Getting windy now. Jeff and Janene caught up with us here as had other commitments last night. Some yummy rock cakes enjoyed courtesy of Cathy.

Off to Coobowie to see their water tank then to Edithburgh for their water themed tower that we could circumnavigate. Lunch at Troubridge hotel in town with poor Don and Pauline having to wait till last to get their meals while most of us had already finished! Rounded up the ice-cream mob and we set off for an educational stop at Wattle Point Wind Farm then to the Port Moorowrie water tank. A crop had grown around it since Johns last visit so couldn't get close and we were wary of snakes. Boot-Hill Station Rd had a water tank with murals of Salt lakes, emus and an owl. A snake was disturbed and it slivered over the road between two of our parked cars.

Passed by many lakes in the interior of York Peninsula, some being pink and some not. Didn't realise there were so many lakes! Photo stop at one of the larger pink lakes then viewed our final water tank mural for the day. Headed back to Camp for showers and happy Hour. Delicious cheese platter from Carmen was among the tasty offerings. Luckily missed the AFL grand final although some members were listening on the radio. Light tea after our filling nibbles.

SUN: Clocks forward an hour for daylight saving with at least 1 person forgetting about it! The convoy headed off to the Bublacowie Military Museum while Mike and I went to a small farmers' market in Curramulka. Yummy cakes and biscuits on offer.

Sunday morning, we headed across the road from the caravan park to view the Harry Butler Red Devil Memorial. Harry Butler was born in Yorketown in 1889 and spent his youth on a property a few kilometres from Minlaton.

This memorial contains a scale model of a Bristol MC1 fighter aircraft similar to the plane flown by Captain Harry Butler on missions during WW1. Following the war Harry returned to

the Yorke Peninsula with an AVRO Bi-Plane and his beloved plane, the "Red Devil".

We then headed to the Bublacowie Military Museum where we were met by Chris Soar the owner and his assistant volunteer David. Chris is a retired military serviceman having served in Malay, Indonesia and Vietnam. The museum is set in 2 acres surrounding the disused Bublacowie School which is now Chris's home. Chris commenced collecting military memorabilia when he discovered it being thrown away following the closure of RSL Clubs. His objective is to preserve the history of most wars and conflicts Australians have been involved in. The collection is enormous and we spent several hours going through his collection of photos, medals, newspaper cuttings and many other interesting memorabilia. We were also treated to tea, coffee and Anzac biscuits! The museum is interesting and well worth a visit if you are over on Yorke Peninsula.

SUN Cont'd: We met the others at the museum and it seemed that it was too interesting for them to leave. Finally on the road again and off to Point Turton for lunch at a nice new picnic spot. Some of us checked out the beach a short walk away. Lovely weather today and a fair bit cooler as well.

Off through Hardwick Bay then a stop at Port Minlacowie to learn about the jetty that use to be there and was important in years gone by. John handed around info and pictures showing what the area had looked like then. Only one small bit of wooden pylon left now.

Bluff beach next on our itinerary and what a lovely little bay it was. We were told the history of the place with the rare Davits still in situ. These were wooden structures in the water to support the boats out of the sea. Now a landing place for birds to rest on. A bit of a gathering and a read of the memorial wall and then back on Bluff Road to Minlaton.

Happy hour for some while others trundled off to the local brewery for some tasting and music. I think they had to be kicked out at 6pm closing! The rest of us nibbled away on various tasty treats and caught up on chit chat. Return of the brewery lot and time for a birthday cake and a sing song for John. He sure did have a long birthday celebration! Anyone would think it was a special birthday! Off for a late tea.

MON: time to pack up, say our goodbyes and make our way

Many thanks to john and Maddie for all their work preparing then running this trip. A bit hard at times for them but they soldiered on !!We all enjoyed discovering new sights of the York Peninsula that we have may have missed over the years or are new attractions. We managed to get our cars nice and dusty so it looked like we have been offroad.

We had 22 club members and 2 visitors (neighbours of John & Maddie). Good company, scenery, food and wine etc all round. Well done and cheers to another successful Nissan club trip.

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Trip Report: York Peninsula cont'd

n Sunday Renee and Michael headed off to Curramulka to search out the Sunday market and the remainder firstly visited the Harry Butler memorial in Minlaton followed by a short trip to the Bublacowie Museum, a private Military Museum on the Yorke Peninsula.

Firstly we were greeted by volunteer Dave and then Chris Soar arrived with his constant companion Montgomery. What followed was a hosted tour of this fascinating museum.

Christopher, an Australian Army veteran of Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam conflicts has made this museum his life passion. He was motivated by the need to preserve artifacts previously held by a Yorke Peninsula RSL club, then discarded when the club was disbanded. To this end, Soar purchased the old Bublacowie one-room schoolhouse (closed 1943), with Soar and his wife living in the attached residence.

Chris was kind enough to show us through his restored school house home. That in itself is a museum! An unbelievable collection of all types of goods is stored in his home – even a fake gun used by John Wayne in one of his movies. Chris gave a running commentary of all items on show in the house, so by the time we had completed our time there



he suggested a cup of tea and Anzac biscuits might be appreciated.

Then on to the museum itself. The museum contains an extensive range of military memorabilia from WW1, WW11, Vietnam, Korea and Gulf wars as well as other heritage items including medals, uniforms, American pistols, German lugers, machine guns, armament shells of all shapes and sizes, and a ghostly World War 1 gas mask.

The museum also contains the photographic and personal memorabilia of a large number of local servicemen and women who have served their country in all major conflicts. Larger items on display included field cannon, military vehicles and a German Storch aircraft.

The museum attracts around 1,200 visitors per year and some 1,500 children on school excursions and hosts remembrance ceremonies on Anzac Day and Armistice Day. Chris Soar's passion and devotion to ensuring military history is retained is obvious and his dream is that the museum will continue.

As our visit to the museum was far longer than anticipated John took us directly to our lunch spot at Point Turton. This proved to be a very popular spot, however a very appropriate park with facilities was found away from the crowds.

Jeanene Schapel NPC 31







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Morgan after the flood



3-5 November 2023

On Friday afternoon all the club members attending the weekend had arrived, there were a total of 16 members 8 vehicles for the weekend. After setting up we gathered together at Dave and Helens van for happy hour, Helen also conducted the safety brief for the weekend.

On Saturday at 9 AM 3 vehicles and members went out to the quarry to test their driving skills in rough terrain while the rest of

us took it easy by going site seeing and relaxing, weather-wise the temperature remained fine in the mid- twenties, after everyone had returned from the quarry it was time to get ready for dinner at the pub, the meals were once again superb, once the meals were served and devoured it was time to walk down the hill back to the caravan park to sleep it off.

Sunday came to end a great weekend it was time to pack up and make tracks for home.

Bill Smith NPC 419









Theatre Night 42nd Street

Thirty members of the Nissan **Patrol Club SA and friends** enjoyed a night at the Arts Theatre to see the production of 42nd Street which was a foot tapping delight.

The stunning outfits, fabulous music and superb singing made for a fantastic couple of hours. From when the curtain was drawn left you wanting for more. After the show about half of the group made good with a coffee and cake at Café Vacini. I am sure we all would have gone home smiling, with a spring in our step.

Helen Richards NPC 364



