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***Volume 46 Number 4  
August 2024***



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# Nissan Patrol Club of South Australia Inc

Established 1979

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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**

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Public Relations Officer **Bill Smith**

Fundraiser **Colin Riddle**

Webmaster **Rod Kitto**

Facebook **Helen Richards**



## Contact us

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## Website

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[webmaster@nissanpatrolclubsa.org](mailto:webmaster@nissanpatrolclubsa.org)

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**The Nissan Patrol Club of South Australia** was founded in 1979, to provide a meeting place for individuals and families with an interests in four wheel driving and associated activities. From the beginning we have promoted safe and environmentally responsible, four-wheel driving as a way to enjoy our great country.

The club welcomes all makes of vehicles, and has drivers with all skill levels. For the novice there is a wealth of experience to draw upon. Some members have had formal training, many more have had years of experience.

We run many trips each year, offering members a chance to learn new skills or practise old ones. We also have events that range from the extreme to the sedate, with a social program throughout the year

We participate in a volunteer program of environmental care work in one of our national parks, allowing us to give something back to the bush we enjoy so much.

**Club Meetings** are held at Challa Gardens Primary School, Humphries Terrace (off Torrens Road), Kilkenny, on the first Thursday of every month except January. They commence at 7:30pm

The Nissan Patrol Club is a member of Four Wheel Drive SA Inc, which is a member of Four Wheel Drive Australia Pty Ltd.

# Ready for exciting times ahead

Hello Patrollers. It has been quite a busy start to winter with the trip to Peake and a very well attended Mid-Year 45th Anniversary Dinner at Glenelg Golf Club.

Roll on the rest of the year with trips to Cowell in September, Burra and Deep Creek in October, Morgan in November and Breakfast in the Park in December. Exciting times.

2025 is also looking very positive with three trips planned already – Douglas Scrub games weekend 7 to 10 March, Helens' TBA trip 18 to 21 April, and Peake 13 to 15 June.

Also, please do not forget the ever-popular photo competition at the November General Meeting. Unfortunately we will miss this due to Johns' daughters' wedding in the UK.

A reminder that the AGM is looming on Thursday 5 December. Please consider supporting your Club and nominate for a position within the Committee.

At the 2024 AGM the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will become vacant if no new position holders come forward, all of which are Office Bearer positions. The position of Fundraiser will also become vacant if no new position holder comes forward.

For your information, per the Constitution a valid General Meeting requires three Office Bearers to be present and a valid Committee Meeting requires two Office Bearers present. Apart from this issue, at a minimum the Club requires a President or Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer to operate.

I would like all Members to seriously think about nominating for



these positions.

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

Your Club President,

**John Day NPC 407**

## From the Editor's Desk

# Anniversary edition

The big news for this issue is the fantastic 45th anniversary dinner held at the Glenelg Golf Club on 29 June. So good to see such a big turnout of members and I'm sure all agree it was a great evening. Thanks to Maddie and John and Carmen and Colin for all the hard work organising such a wonderful event.

You will find a pictorial coverage of the dinner starting at page 16. We have tried to fit in as many pictures as possible but it's only a fraction of those available. If you would like to see more please get in touch with one of the committee members.

The other event this time round is that old club favourite, Peake. Coverage of the trip including report and some great pictures starts on page 10.

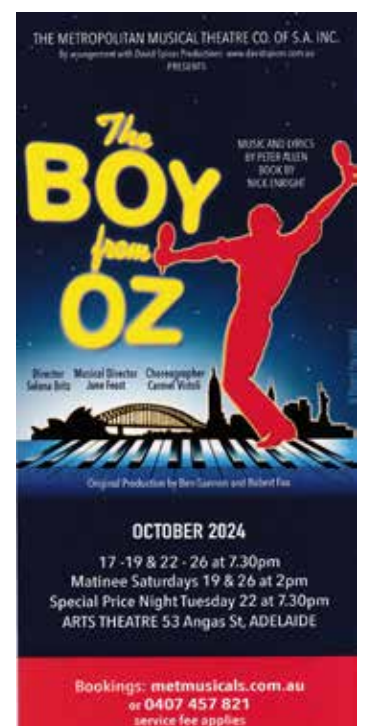
As usual, upcoming trips are listed in the Trip Planner pages starting on the next page. Not only still some good outings planned for this year but 2025 events are starting to emerge. So time to get planning!

## THEATRE NIGHT

The next theatre night will be on Friday 18 October 2024 at 7.30pm at the Arts Theatre Angas Street. \$33 per person if we order more than 30 tickets.

"The Boy from Oz is an Australian jukebox musical based on the life of singer and songwriter Peter Allen, featuring songs written by him. The book commissioned for the musical is by Nick Enright based on Stephen MacLean's 1996 biography of Allen."

Contact Jeff Schapel



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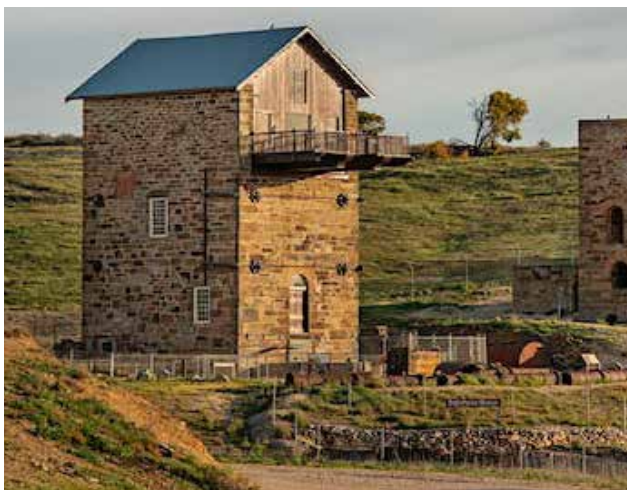




### **Cowell Weekend 7-14 September**

A weekend of fishing, sight-seeing, with the possibility of some possibly 4wd-ing in the mix

**Contact Carmen Riddle**



### **Burra Weekend 4-7 October**

The weekend begins Friday with camping at either the Burra Caravan Park or Burra Showground. There is an optional dinner at a local hotel that night.

Saturday is driving some of the lesser travelled roads of Goyder's Line to Historical sites and points of interest. We visit Caroon Conservation Park and travel the 4WD track to the highest point in the park with views over the surrounding plains. A packed lunch will be at a suitable place on the drive.

Sunday begins with a leisurely drive via some back roads to the Clare Valley with lunch at a local hotel then the afternoon is free to explore the local area. Happy hour that night ends the weekends formalities, Monday is pack up and depart.

**Contact Wayne Dunn**

### **Yankalilla to Cape Jervis 13 October**

Hosted by the Yankalilla Lions Club, they escort us through private properties between Yankalilla and Cape Jervis, enjoying some magnificent views along Backstairs passage. We stop for lunch along the way.

Departing from Yankalilla oval, we will be either on dirt roads or tracks on private property, This is a joint trip with the Mitsubishi 4wd Club and depending on numbers we may be split into 3 or 4 groups to help with managing Lunch. The trip will commence at 9.00am and conclude at Cape Jervis around 3.30pm.

**Contact John Day**



**Deep Creek Working Bee**

**25-27 October**

The second working bee weekend for the year at Deep Creek. Contact Helen to make sure enough campsites have been booked at the Trig campground.

**Contact Helen Richards**



**Morgan**

**1-3 November**

Now in its second decade!

Site bookings can be made at the Morgan Caravan Park – phone 8540 2207. Quote the reservation under Helen Richards (Nissan Patrol Club).

**Contact: Dave & Helen Richards**

**Breakfast in the Park, 15 December**

Our usual get-together in Rymill Park

**Contact: Rod Kitto**



**Douglas Scrub, Girl Guides complex, 7-10 March 2025**

This trip is all about socialising, having fun, no driving once at the campsite, and generally relaxing. The cost for 3 nights is \$66 per caravan.

Friday 7 March - Happy Hour and BYO dinner at the campsite. After dinner a random quiz.

Saturday 8 March - various games during the morning, followed by BYO lunch. There will be a cooking competition of entrees for dinner. Afternoon is a chance to visit local wineries, towns, etc. whilst we set up for dinner. .

Sunday 12 March - games during the morning, a visit to a local winery for lunch and wine tasting, followed by Happy Hour and BYO dinner at the campsite. After dinner we will hold another quiz.

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 Day**



**Five members were presented with Nissan Outstanding Achiever Awards (NOAs) at the 4 July general meeting.**

**Maddie and John Day and Carmen and Colin Riddle received a NOA for the effort put into organising the successful 45th annual dinner, which was held at the Glenelg Golf Club on 29 June. The awards were richly deserved as the evening brought the whole club together for a fabulous night which went off without a hitch thanks to the thorough and meticulous planning.**

**Brian Cooke was awarded his NOA for the hours he spent converting slides to digital media for his thoroughly enjoyable presentation at the June general meeting.**

**Congratulations and thanks to all the winners!**





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# Peake winter performance



**Plenty of sand challenges as well as cooking ones at the annual winter favourite weekend**

*Peake, 14-16 June*

***21 Members, Family of Members and friends, together with 4 dogs, in eight vehicles enjoyed a weekend away at Peake.***

The drive up the freeway on Friday morning was quite hazardous due to the thick fog in the hills, a real “pea souper” as us Poms say. Most stopped at Taillem Bend for refuelling, and some for lunch too.

It had rained somewhat prior to the weekend, so the sand on the way into the campsite was quite firm with a few puddles dotted around the track.

We all set up camp before the drizzly rain came in. This did not deter the usual campfire, drinks and chatter we have come to know and love. A few of the Mitsubishi Club members joined us for a bit of inter-club banter.

We woke up to a cold Saturday morning. The campfire was stoked for the cooking of a hearty breakfast by the Riddle group, whilst the rest of us enjoyed our usual porridge etc.



**Continued page 12**





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The Mitsubishi Club decided to head off to the Widowmaker side of the property and we headed out at 9.45am to the Slide-Show Alley side of the property. Thomas Ratcliffe led the convoy of six vehicles with Carmen and Colin Riddle as TC.

After a slight error of judgement, we found our way to the dunes. We all attempted a few and then it happened. Thomas attempted a sharp right turn in the middle of a dune ascent and managed to bog sideways across the track.

Dave Richards came to the rescue, pulling the front of the vehicle sideways so that Thomas could safely drive back down the dune. Needless to say Thomas was not driving a Nissan!

We then moved on to some other dunes where, unfortunately, smoke was seen coming from one vehicle.

After inspection of the vehicle it was noticed that a wire underneath had shorted out, causing issues with the fuel gauge and breaking system. The vehicle was limped back to camp, followed by Mal Frampton, who returned with the vehicles driver to continue the mornings fun.

The rest of the morning went without a hitch, and we all had fun sliding along Slide-Show Alley back to camp for lunch.

Five cars set off in the afternoon in the direction of the Widowmaker. Due to the rain the sand was not soft and all made it over





safely. However, Dave Richards did find that two-wheel drive was not suitable on his first attempt and after a prompt from Bill Smith to switch to four-wheel drive he made it safely over the dune.

We headed off along the track from the Widowmaker to a short but surprisingly steep rise, which all in the group succeeded in climbing, even if some did take a few attempts. On to more dunes and plenty of fun, with Mal Frampton getting bogged this time in a VW at the top of a dune. Again, Dave Richards to the rescue, pulling Mal straight and safely back down.

A few more dunes were ascended before heading back to camp for the camp oven dinner.

After some Happy Hour nibbles and drinks, Saturday dinner was provided by Mal and Thomas, who did an excellent camp oven dinner for all of the Nissan Patrol club group.

This consisted of a soup starter, three meats and veggies for mains with apple and mint sauces, and a fruit crumble for dessert. All perfect for the cold, crisp, dry evening. Well done to you both.

Sunday morning was very crisp indeed, but the sky was clear and



the sun soon took the cool edge off. Whilst we waited for some to cook their breakfast over the campfire, Dave decided to try to drive over the dune we were exiting from the camp. However, he bogged very close to the top of the dune. Maddie and I drove around the dune and up the other side to recover him to the other side of the dune. A Nissan finally got bogged! The remaining three vehicles in the convoy that morning came around the dune and we headed off for some fun in the sand.

We came to a set of dunes where two of the group decided to have fun over the set of dunes whilst the other three vehicles went for a bit of a tour of the area.

We returned to the set of dunes to find another bogged vehicle, and Mal performing a text-book recovery. After another drive toward the Subaru hut we headed back to camp for finalisation of the pack up.

Five vehicles left in convoy, including the damaged vehicle, which parked up in Peake to await the RAA. The remaining four vehicles headed home. The other three vehicles followed later and took the caravan from the damaged vehicle home.

A very good weekend of fun and camaraderie.

**John & Maddie Day**



# A night to remember

The 45th Anniversary Dinner of the Nissan Patrol Club of South Australia was held on Saturday evening, 29 June 2024. A big thank you to Maddie and John Day and Carmen and Colin Riddle for organising such a fun and memorable night of good food and fellowship – and some wickedly tricky quiz questions. The following are just some of the pictures of the evening. More are available on request







## How club memories were made

At the dinner, the Archivists opened the time capsule and revealed items placed in the capsule during the 40th Anniversary Dinner. Below are a variety of comments found under the “Most memorable club trip”.

- The Otways – lots of mud and steep tracks and deep creek crossings – lots of FUN!!!
- Pooncarie Races – Mungo man tour of Lake/Fashions/red back spider/trying to Kyak on the Darling.
- Simpson Desert with Pat and Des, Cape York, Otways, High Country. Reason: In a word ‘the people’.
- Eclipse of the sun in the Gawler Ranges.
- Whyalla Octoberfest 2014 when we were on the ridge of Dark Peak and my husband informed me there was a big drop on his side. My reply was keep straight as there is a big drop on my side.
- The first ever club trip to Salt Creek. Many trips with members on my bird surveys.
- Madigan Crossing. Great adventure 1985 and 1987.
- Crabbing at Ardrossan.
- Chowilla Station – my first trip with the Club, my first long drop, first sticky sand after rain, first dance in a woolshed, all with my new fiancé.
- Crossing the Simpson Desert down on the top of Lake Eyre and finding Bob Mossels camp at Warbuton Groove. Never felt so remote in my life, what an amazing feeling. Great memories.
- All High Country trips and the Canning, along with all the rest of the trips we went on.
- Corner Country. Journeying in the back of beyond and the curry camel pies in Birdsville.
- Easter trip around Lake Torrens. Our first club trip. 2 young children, 3 tents, no knives in cutlery. Last to be ready every day.
- Blinman, Moolooloo Station and Breakfast Creek. Wild Flinders Ranges and great company.
- Following the Madigan route across the Simpson Desert by dead reckoning (no GPS!)
- Border track – very wet. Maggots crawling out of toilet onto seat.
- Moxons Hut repairs – very rewarding weekend.
- Venus Bay – fishing trip was good fun.
- Peake 2017, 2018 and 2019.
- Peake 2017 – first camp oven dinner.
- Border Track – bucketed down with rain. Had a \$402.00 tyre loss.”
- Under the “General Comments” the consistent comment was – wonderful memories created, welcoming club members, friendships made
- A very special club where friendships blossom and last forever.
- One member wrote in readiness of the 45th opening – Hello! I hope I’m still here!

It is interesting to note the variety of places and activities Club members have participated in and enjoyed.

**Jeanene Schapel, Historian/Archivist, NCP 31**

# 45th Anniversary Dinner





# 45th Anniversary Dinner





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[www.facebook.com/nissanpatrolclubsa](http://www.facebook.com/nissanpatrolclubsa)

Photos, video, details of upcoming trips and guest speakers

## Club merchandise available to purchase

**Nissan Patrol Club sticker:** Large Circle \$2.20

**Nissan Patrol Club cloth badges:** \$6.00

**Nissan Patrol Club key rings:** \$5.00

**Water Bottles:** Light stainless steel, \$8.00 each or 2 for \$15.00



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