

# ***PATROLLING***



***Volume 46 Number 5  
October 2024***





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# Nissan Patrol Club of South Australia Inc

Established 1979

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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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**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.

# Leap into some spring trips

Hello Patrollers, spring has sprung with Carmen and Colin Riddle running the first spring trip, and their first Nissan Club trip, to Cowell and surrounds on the Eyre Peninsula.

It was a nice relaxing tour of the area. Unfortunately, we had an unsuccessful beach fishing trip to Stinky Bay. The fishing trophy is still "up-for-grabs"!

Roll on the rest of the year with spring trips to Burra and Deep Creek in October, Morgan in November and the summer Breakfast in the Park in December.

2025 is also looking very positive with three trips planned already. Exciting times ahead.

A big thank you to Pat Trowbridge for her talk on Parkinsons at the September General Meeting. A very informative and in-depth talk.

Please get your photos to Jeff Schapel by the October General Meeting for the ever-popular photo competition at the November General Meeting.

A reminder that the AGM is looming on Thursday 5 December. You should have all received a Committee Nomination form via email. Please consider supporting your Club and nominate for a position within the Committee. At the 2024 AGM the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Fundraiser will become vacant. 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.

Would all who hold trophies please return them to Jeffrey Schapel as soon as possible to enable any engraving to be undertaken prior to the AGM.

Please keep reading the General and Committee Meeting min-



utes, and Patrolling Magazine, for details of up-coming trips, events, and what is happening within the Club.

It has been a great year for the Club so far. Let's continue to make the rest of 2024 a fun year. Enjoy life, make new friends, and travel as far and as often as possible.

Happy Travels and stay safe out there.

Your Club President

**John Day NPC 407**

## From the Editor's Desk

# Let's make it a bumper Christmas magazine

It's hard to believe it is now October and the second-last edition of the magazine for the year. This issue is a little slimmer than usual as there has only been one trip since the last deadline – but it was a good one.

Eight members and four four-legged companions headed to the Eyre Peninsula, basing themselves at Cowell for a week.

It was a varied and interesting holiday with plenty to do, see and eat – although no fish to trouble the scorer. You can read all about it from page 10 on.

As we go to press, club members are preparing to spend the first weekend in October in and around Burra and the following

weekend for a picturesque run from Yankalilla to Cape Jervis along the cliffs. You can read all about them next time. The next edition will also have the winners of the regular November meeting photo competition. I hope you have lodged your entries with Jeff Schapel.

As the next magazine will be the last of the year, let's make it a bumper issue. While we will publish the winners of the photo competition, it would also be good to highlight more images of our travels in 2024.

Please send anything you would like considered for the magazine – pictures or stories – to [editor@nissanpatrolclubsa.org](mailto:editor@nissanpatrolclubsa.org) by Friday 29 November.



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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







## 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

## Goodbye (for now) to some old friends

*The following is the text of an email received from Don and Kathy Grigg as they embark on their next adventure.*

Thank you for your kind words and best wishes.

We have enjoyed our 32 active years with the NPC; the people, the driver education and the many memorable trips and other activities; canoeing, square dances, dinners, FWDSA AGMs.

After travelling about 550,000 km in our three 4WD vehicles over those 32 years, you are aware that we no longer own a 4WD. However, I look forward to buying an EV AWD in the not-too-distant future.

Unfortunately, we won't be able to attend another meeting before

we go to say a personal good bye. On Thu 5th Sept 2024 the removalist will pack up our house contents into a transport container on that day.

Therefore, we tender an apology for that meeting and all meetings in the foreseeable future.

Would you also arrange to put my mobile number, 0427 869 766, on the membership list because the current home number will be disconnected once we go on the 6th September.

If any members are travelling near Palmwoods on the Sunshine Coast and would like to call in, just phone us in advance to make arrangements.

**Don and Kathy NPC 260**



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# A week on the Eyre Peninsula



**The highlight of Cleve was Bonny the Clydesdale Horse and wedge-tailed eagle metal sculptures created by local Peter Crosby. These realistic sculptures are made from old farm machinery and tools.**

Cowell 7-14 September

Participants:

**Carmen and Colin Riddle: Leaders**  
**Maddie and John Day**  
**Jeanene and Jeffrey Schapel**  
**Robyn Ransom and Paul Brophy**

Four-legged participants:

Nola, Myia, Polly, Tia

**B**y late Saturday afternoon on the 7th all members had arrived at the Harbour View caravan park and settled into their sites. The Park looks out toward Franklin Harbour.

The sites were amongst the trees and roomy. The first event of the holiday was to have dinner at the Commercial Hotel where we met Carman's older brother John, who liked to be known as JB, and his friend Kaye. We were to hear many sibling stories of their adventures when growing up in Coober Pedy.

Sunday was to be a slack day. First was a visit to the painted silos art which depict Lionel Deer and his camel Diamantina. The mural also features a Port Lincoln Parrot and a nearby farmhouse

ruin. Of course to get the feel of a town's history one should visit the local museum which we did. The small building was packed full of memorabilia and interesting artifacts. It was a little scary to realize that one had similar items in their home.

Next stop was the foreshore. The Council has invested a vast amount to create an appealing area for families. Water features are abundant plus a variety of play equipment. The mangrove board walk gave a good insight into tidal activities.

Another spot visited on Sunday was the May Gibbs tree ("Gumnut Babies" author) – apparently her family lived near the tree in her very early days.

One would not expect to find a road called Igloo Road at Cowell, but we did and were surprised to come upon four concrete igloo looking buildings. We learnt that these were erected during the Second World War to be used by the Royal Australian Air Force as Radio Direction Finding Stations.

Lastly we stopped for a quick look at the Cowell Agricultural Museum.

We certainly packed a lot in for a 'slack' day.

Monday John (JB) had volunteered to take the group fishing at Stinky Beach. He felt it was not necessary to deflate the tyres on the sandy track, but the corrugations became so intense that





The boardwalk at Cowell over the mangroves, also known as the Franklin Harbour Jetty, is a popular fishing spot. Below, dogs enjoy the freedom as they take advantage of an empty beach





Stinky Beach was a pretty spot but sadly the fish were not in a co-operative mood that day.

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several drivers decided deflation would make driving more comfortable. On arrival the anglers organized themselves for beach fishing. John provided blood worms for bait, but the worms enticed no fish, in fact no one had to re-bait. John caught one fish but it did not reach the legal length so it was returned back to grow.

The four-legged participants thoroughly enjoyed the freedom of scampering up and down the beach. The return route took us along a beach where piles of seaweed formed cliffs. These cliffs were very spongy and when jumping on the heap one would sink into the pile.

Arno Bay was one of the destinations on Tuesday. Whilst walking on the jetty a young angler confided that even though fishing for 1 hour he had not caught a fish – we understood the misery of that fact. Many of the roads were lined with prolific patches of multi coloured Gazanias. They looked splendid even though considered a noxious weed.

Lunch had been booked at the Cleve hotel but the highlight of Cleve was to find Bonny the Clydesdale Horse and wedge-tailed eagle metal sculptures created by local Peter Crosby. These realistic sculptures are made from old farm machinery and tools. Quite spectacular.

Kimba was the next stop to see the painted galah which apparently seems to have had a new decor. The sculpture of Edward John Eyre and his Aboriginal companion Wylie on Whites Hill certainly was worth the short drive as not only was a reminder of early history but provided a panoramic view of the Kimba area.

The leader suggested a trip out to Lucky Bay to view the ferry terminal. We were a little early to see the ferry arrive from its 2½

hour trip from Wallaroo even though several vehicles were in line ready to load.

Onward we headed to Ulbana Weir which was constructed in 1911 to supply water to Cowell and surrounding areas. The weir is nestled amongst the hills. The unsealed drive in was most picturesque with many Flinders Ranges pines and wattles lining the track. The brave ones in the group walked across the top of the weir wall to investigate what was on the other side. Of course one would find a wind farm on the top of an escarpment and this was appointed as the lunch spot.

Mount Millar provided us with a great opportunity to read all of the descriptive signs, appreciate the view and realize how much wind was necessary to turn the 35 turbines.

By the time we returned to Cowell it was time to meet John at the local Bowling Club where he endeavoured to teach everyone the art of lawn bowling. Initially there was much chatter and laughter, but before long everyone was very quiet as they concentrated on getting their bowl closest to the kitty or knocking their opponent's bowl away. After instruction everyone knew the theory of bowls but putting it into action was not so easy.

It had been noticed that on Wednesdays the Franklin Harbour Hotel's special was spit roasted pork – now who could resist this especially when it was cooked on the front verandah emitting a pleasant aroma. The alternative was the house special the Calamari Schnitzel. The pork was delicious as was the calamari and the dessert special, donuts, also proved popular.

So far the group had not explored the shops in the main street so Thursday was shopping day. The Op shops proved most interesting. The Cowell Collectables and Antiques shop received the prize for being the most captivating. There must have been at



**Jeff and Jeanene enjoy a quiet moment on the beach while the fishers try their luck.**



### Igloos used by the RAAF as Radio Direction Finding Stations

least six rooms crammed full of items, nothing priced and in no particular order. For the second time the group tried to visit the Jade display centre, again no luck.

John had invited the group to his home for dinner on Thursday evening. John is a superb host. His menu was bbq'd Dim Sims, oysters on horseback, crumbed calamari, yellow fin whiting and meat followed by a custard tart. We were invited to supply salads. John completed the meal with his special home-made butter-scotch liqueur. The four legged participants enjoyed the spread. Our grateful thanks go to John for the enjoyable evening.

Robyn and Paul returned home on Friday so after saying farewell we drove to Port Gibbon as it was known that seals often visit the point. A pleasant short walk along the white sandy beach was to take us to the area where the seals could be found. No seals were evident but what we saw were flocks of crested terns and pacific gulls. Port Neale was our next stop and as evident in all of these beach side towns every effort has been made to beautiful the foreshore. The lookout provided a splendid view of the coast and beaches.

Sadly Saturday came all too soon and we departed the camp area by 10.00am. One stop was made at Whyalla to walk on the only circular jetty In the Southern Hemisphere. The information

board noted we may see dolphins. No dolphins were visiting on Saturday.

12 kms short of Port Augusta John asked why the convoy was not keeping a constant speed. At times we were travelling at 60 kph then 90 kph. Carmen responded by saying Colin thought that their clutch was not functioning. So a call to the RAA was made.

Within 10 minutes an RAA truck arrived. Apparently he had been collecting a loan vehicle and returning to Port Augusta just behind us. This meant that within 30 minutes their vehicle was loaded onto the tray, caravan attached to the truck and Colin driving to Port Augusta in the loan car.

Colin and Carmen were to stay at the Discovery Caravan Park with the use of the loan car until Wednesday when the repairs would be completed. This was a sad ending for Carmen and Colin after a week of great adventures.

The eastern side of Eyre Peninsula has a lot to offer tourists; beautiful sandy beaches, interesting features and an abundance of free or low cost camping and caravan parks. Being on the peninsular at this time of the year meant that there were huge expanses of green cereal or lentil crops and golden canola fields.

During the week we experienced several no events. No fish, no seals, no dolphins, no Jade shop open, and no working clutch.

Thank you to Carmen and Colin for leading this trip and a big thank you to John (JB) for his suggestions, advice, bowls tutoring and super meal at his home. Between Carmen, Colin and John it was a great trip.

**NPC 31 Jeanene Schapel**



**Clutch problem brought the Riddles to a halt but luckily RAA help was only 10 minutes away**



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