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NOVEMBER 2025



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ON THE HORIZON

NOVEMBER

12

GENERAL MEETING

Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

BBQ from 6:30pm

8

POSTPONED AVALON SPEEDWAY NIGHT

15

SHOPPING TRIP

22

CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

26

COMMITTEE MEETING

Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

DECEMBER

10

GENERAL MEETING

Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

BBQ from 6:30pm

JANUARY

23 - 26

GRAMPIANS AUSTRALIA DAY TRIP

28

COMMITTEE MEETING

Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS are held at the clubrooms on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm.

Abe Wood Reserve, Edgerton Rd, Lovely Banks

Visitors and new members welcome. During daylight savings a BBQ precedes the meeting at 6.30 pm.

For more information email: info@geelong4wdclub.org.au

Postal Address: Geelong Four Wheel Drive Club
PO Box 976
Geelong Vic 3220

If you have any trips or events you want to include please send an email to the Trip Co-Ordinator two weeks before the next General Meeting.

If you have any trip reports (past or present) please send them through to the Editor for inclusion in the magazine.

For further info about upcoming Club Trips check the website: www.geelong4wdclub.org.au

The opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Geelong Four Wheel Drive Club and/or the Editor and any article tendered for publication will be at the discretion of the Committee.



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CAMPFIRE SAVOURY
S'MORES



2025-26 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Graeme Jeffrey
president@geelong4wdclub.org.au

VICE PRESIDENT

Geoff Davey
vice.president@geelong4wdclub.org.au

SECRETARY

Nathan Mudge
secretary@geelong4wdclub.org.au

TREASURER

Sophie Brocks
treasurer@geelong4wdclub.org.au

TRIP COORDINATOR

Juanita Mountjoy
trips@geelong4wdclub.org.au

EDITOR

Danny Sparks-Cousins
editor@geelong4wdclub.org.au

WEBMASTER

Danny Sparks-Cousins
webmaster@geelong4wdclub.org.au

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Geoff Davey
region.rep@geelong4wdclub.org.au

ORDINARY MEMBERS

Keith Murdoch
Kelvin Rogers
Jemma Brocks
Alanna Stratford

Cover Photo: Nathan Mudge



THE PRES SAYS

Hi Members,

As we rapidly approach the end of another year, we have two more general meetings with pre meeting BBQ's commencing 6.30PM each evening.

These are a great opportunity to catch up with other members chat about trips in / out and discuss options that can be suggested to committee to further enhance your club experience.

Congrats to the Mountjoy's for what I hear was another great longer distance trip to SA. If Juanita or Matthew are at the meeting you will be able to hear about and even get inspiration for similar trip options in the future.

This month's edition of Driveline will again be another great one with reports for the various trips included.

Don't forget the Christmas Function Saturday November 22nd 12.30PM onwards at the Queen of the West, Pakington Street Geelong West - **and please get kids names, age and gender to Alanna ASAP - we do have a cutoff date for presents.**

Also please don't forget to look at upcoming events on Facebook and support where you can as a lot of effort goes into arranging these.

Once again, the club supported track clearing in the Otways over the 25th / 26th November. As usual it wasn't the hottest weekend however thanks to Danny for the spit roast & Nathan for the apple strudel dessert we were kept warm and well fed.

Earlier this year the club supported chainsaw certification for those who could attend. This came in very handy with more operators being available to assist with cutting / clearing.

Keep safe and see you on the tracks,
Graeme



Graeme

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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	General Meeting
Location	Clubrooms - 80 Edgerton Road, Lovelybanks
Date	Wednesday 8th October 2025
Chair	Graeme Jeffrey
Minutes taken by	Nathan Mudge

Agenda	
Meeting opened at	7.35 pm
Welcome to everyone present	Welcome all
New members	Nil
Visitors	Kerry Thompson.
Present	Dirk Agenbag, Michael Barry, Mark & Tania Bodger, Geoffrey Connors, Josh Eades, Graeme Jeffrey, Ken Mellross, Mark Mensch, Nathan Mudge, Daniel Murdoch, Keith Murdoch, John Prowse, Kelvin Rogers, David Dixon, Danny Sparks-Cousins.
Apologies	Jamie Agenbag, Tania Bodger, Sophie & Justin Brocks, Jemma & Levi Brocks, Geoff Davey, Juanita & Matthew Mountjoy, PJ & Samantha, Jimmy Halikias, Jenny Carpentier, Jack & Alanna Stratford, Ron Bastin, Beth Rodgers, Sally Jeffrey, Christine Mellross.

Acceptance of the previous General Meeting Minutes	
Moved	Josh Eades
Seconded	Danny Sparks-Cousins
Business arising from the previous General Meeting Minutes	Tax Refund Finalised - Accountants paid, ATO not yet pending receipt of Taxation Notice. Need a Santa for Xmas Function - now Saturday 22nd Nov – 12.30PM Queen of The West. Need to update Club C.A.V contacts - to new secretary, unable be done till Jenny returns - action N Mudge, G Jeffrey, J Carpentier. BBQs - reminder prior to each meeting during daylight savings period. Clubroom Keys - Any member not on Committee holding club keys please return them to the President. Incorrectly paid funds - to the wrong account for City of Geelong. Graeme pursuing City of Greater Geelong for status of funds getting applied to correct account.
New Business	Clubroom Keys - Request of all Members ensure any Club key given back to President – due to committee member position changes.

Correspondence	
In	- RFDS receipt for donation & thank you. - Western Liaison Group Meeting reminder 6.30PM – 23/10/25 @ Bacchus Marsh. - Email from Dance School – confirming status of payments & acknowledging payments to be made – response to Presidents email out for agreement on payments due. - National Parks protests @ Parliament House Melbourne 15th Oct 10.30am (possible impact to Moonambel Muster if policy passes). - Lease has been made void by City of Greater Geelong as we've not signed the sent Docusign – President following through.

Correspondence (continued)	
Out	a. Driveline Magazine October 2025. b. Email Western Liaison Group – confirming attendance by club - Graeme Jeffrey. c. Dance School email for clarification of payments in. d. Amended AGM Minutes acknowledging receipt of extra proxy forms. e. Graeme Jeffrey responded to City of Greater Geelong regarding the lease with a view to have a meeting on where it's at.

Regular Reports	
Treasurer	Presented by Graeme Jeffrey on behalf of Treasurer. Moved: Michael Barry Seconded: Mark Mensch
Association Rep	Western Liaison Group Meeting 6.30PM – 23/10/25 – Graeme Jeffrey attending.
Regional Rep	Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) will be the new authority of Great Ocean Road and National Park south of the Great Ocean Road and some of the paid campgrounds through the Otways. Dandos has had some damage recently and is mostly closed currently, Beauchamp Falls also partly closed. As reported by Danny Sparks-Cousins.
Trip Co-Ordinator	Trips Out • Grand Final Weekend @ Moonambel. • SA Drop In / Out Trip – Report next meeting as trip leaders still away. Upcoming Trips • FWDV 50th Anniversary - 17th - 19th October. Weekend at Merrijig. • FWDV 50th Afterparty - 19th - 21st October @ Jamieson. Nathan Mudge. • Track Clearing - 25th - 26th October. Danny Sparks-Cousins. • Melbourne Cup Weekend - 31st October - 4th November. Daniel Murdoch. • Grampians Australia Day Weekend - Graeme Jeffrey – details to follow. • Adventure Park Social Day - Detail to follow – Alanna Stratford. • 2026 Easter Beachport Trip - Caravan Park deposit paid – Mountjoy's - more detail to follow. • Anyone interesting in leading trips please speak with Juanita. Reminder club funds available @ \$10 per car to cover eats & drinks.
Editor	Driveline out next issue should be quite large with the Drop in Drop out trip.
Webmaster	Updates to website photos and trip reports.
Club Permit Scheme	1 renewal.
Social	• Sprintcar Night - 8th November @ 4:30pm - Keith Murdoch • Barefoot Bowls - possibly in early December - Keith Murdoch. • Night at the Races - Social night in 2026 - Keith Murdoch.
Fines	Michael Barry x 1, Daniel Murdoch x 1.
Pist 'n' Broke	Daniel Murdoch
Members Draw	Keith Murdoch

Meeting closed at	8.16 pm
Next General Meeting	Wednesday 12th November 2025 - 7.30pm @ Clubrooms - BBQ from 6.30pm.

AGENDA

Agenda Items for next meeting—Wednesday 12th November 2025	
	1.

PIST'N BROKE OCTOBER 2025



DANIEL MURDOCH



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AVALON SPEEDWAY SOCIAL NIGHT

Date: Saturday 8th November

Trip Leader: Keith Murdoch

Trip Classification: Social

Departing: TBA

Note: Come along to the Streetcar, Fireball Derby on Saturday 8th November at 4:00pm for a fun and fiery action packed night of racing.

Adults \$30, kids 12-16 \$10, kids under 12 FREE. Bring your own snacks and a blanket and relax for a great nights entertainment. We will meet Melbourne Race entrance at 4:30 and go in as a group at 4:45. Need more info - give Keith a call on 0470 509551.



SHOPPING TRIP

Date: Saturday 15th November

Trip Leader: Belinda Murdoch

Trip Classification: Social

Departing: TBA

Note: A full day shopping tour in Melbourne. Tickets will cost around \$55 per person. This will cover the cost of the bus. We will attend a number of different factory outlet stores across the day for some pre Christmas bargains. Check Facebook for more information.



CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

Date: Saturday 22nd November - from 12:30pm

Come along and spend an afternoon celebrating the amazing year the club has had with a fantastic Christmas Party - this year to be held again at the Queen of the West hotel in West Geelong

There is an outside marquee for us, right next to the kids playground. The club will be providing finger food for members and for the children under 12 a kids meal and ice cream. Meals are available to purchase and drinks will be at bar prices.

We will also be having a special visit from Santa. Please RSVP via the Facebook event with how many attending adults/ children and if you have children their name, age and gender.



Make sure you keep an eye on the website and our Facebook page for more information on upcoming trips and social events.

UPCOMING TRIPS

GRAMPIANS AUSTRALIA DAY TRIP

Date: Friday 23rd - Monday 26th January

Trip Leader: Graeme Jeffrey

Trip Classification: Medium

Departing: TBA

Note: This will be a traveller trip, starting at either Halls Gap or Dunkeld and finishing at the other. Still awaiting a track closure update so we can plan stops and finalise the trip rating and requirements. If you are interested in coming along please get in touch with Graeme on 0456 846 857.



ADVENTURE PARK DAY OUT

Date: Saturday 21st February - from 10:030am

There is something for ALL ages at Adventure Park, and if you haven't been recently so much has changed and this is a great opportunity to enjoy it all.

The best part is we get discounted entry at \$49 per person, and if you are under 90cm you are FREE!



It's going to be a great social day for the club! If you would like to come along please jump on our Facebook page and click attending so we can work out numbers.



PARK MAP
2024/2025

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SPRINT CAR NIGHT

AVALON RACEWAY

POSTPONED

FINER ALL DERBY

8 NOVEMBER 2025

**AVALON
RACEWAY**

MEET AT MELBOURNE SIDE ENTRANCE 4:30PM
BRING A BLANKET, CHAIR & SNACKS
ADULTS \$30, KIDS 12-16 \$10, UNDER 12 FREE

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CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY 22ND NOVEMBER - FROM 12:30PM



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SANTA WILL BE
VISITING

COME AND CELEBRATE THE AMAZING YEAR THE CLUB HAS HAD.
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CHILDREN SO SANTA CAN SUPPLY A SMALL GIFT.

ADVENTURE PARK FAMILY DAY OUT

An aerial photograph of a water park. Several large, colorful slides (pink, yellow, blue, green, orange) are visible, winding through the park. There are also large, circular, multi-colored structures that look like giant water balloons or slides. A large blue pool is in the upper right. The park is surrounded by green grass and some trees. The sky is blue with some clouds.

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DISCOUNT ENTRY \$49PP

UNDER 90CM TALL ARE FREE!

**PLEASE RSVP VIA THE FACEBOOK EVENT
SO WE CAN CONFIRM NUMBERS**

SATURDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2026

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10TH SEPTEMBER 2025

WORDS: DANNY SPARKS-COUSINS - PHOTO: SALLY SPARKS-COUSINS

Our club annual general meeting was recently held on the 10th September. This is an important annual event in the running of our club.

A few less attendees than expected meant everyone had plenty of tasty pizza to fill up on prior to the meeting. Plenty of chats and a few liquid refreshments were also on hand.

The meeting went quickly and smoothly, with the standard reports, reviews and changes discussed and agreed. The new committee was nominated, seconded and approved - with no positions requiring a vote it was all smooth sailing. Our new committee consists of;

President - Graeme Jeffrey. This is Graeme's first term as club president, but he has been a valued committee member for a number of years, including positions as secretary and treasurer.

Vice President - Geoff Davey. After 5 years as president, Geoff steps into the Vice President role, providing support and advice to Graeme and all committee members.

Secretary - Nathan Mudge. This is Nathan's first year on committee, after joining the club about a year ago. It's great to have a passionate new member step up and into such an important role.

Treasurer - Sophie Brocks. Sophie has spent a couple of years on the committee as Ordinary Member, and has decided to take on the treasurer role this year.

Trip Co-ordinator - Juanita Mountjoy. Juanita is a long serving member of the committee, including social co-ordinator, treasurer and ordinary member roles. It's great to see Juanita continuing to support the club and committee.

Editor / Webmaster - Danny Sparks-Cousins. Danny has served over 15 years on the committee, and is currently taking on both the editor and webmaster roles plus the club permit scheme.

Ordinary Members - Kelvin Rogers, Keith Murdoch, Alanna Stratford & Jemma Brocks. All four of our ordinary members are returning to committee, helping plan our important social events, supporting the entire committee, and of course the all important role of making sure the bar is well stocked and ready to serve.

Thanks to everyone who volunteers their time to serve on committee, as well as those who help and give their time in other ways throughout the year. Let's make 2025/26 bigger and better than ever!

Danny



TRACK CLEARING

25TH & 26TH OCTOBER 2025

WORDS: DANNY SPARKS-COUSINS - PHOTOS: DANNY & GEOFF



Saturday saw two teams of three head off into the Otways to get underway with this years track clearing and opening.

Our first team, with Graeme, Geoff and Menschy, headed to Gellibrand to help the Otways club open tracks around Carlisle River, while the other team with Danny, Nathan and Josh set out to Barwon Downs to clear tracks working towards Lorne.

Graeme, Geoff and Menschy had a

good day helping clear tracks, with no major problems other than a damaged brake line after a snatch recovery. They were able to clear and open quite a few tracks, before finishing the day and heading to camp at Big Hill.

Danny's team cleared and opened Hayden, Kings 1/2/3, Thompson and Newcombe Spur tracks before a quick lunch on the tracks. We found a few smaller trees and many branches down requiring clearing,

but no major obstacles this year - a little unexpected. We did see that some seasonal closure gates had been cut and opened, and signs that the tracks had been used recently.

After lunch the team moved on to some of the tracks we usually do Sunday - putting us in a great position for the next day.

We were able to finish the day before any heavy rain set in, stop in Lorne for some supplies then head to



camp to meet with the rest from our club and the Bellarine group.

We were all blessed at camp to see that Tim had come down to camp for the night - we were all very lucky to hear him give such honest reviews about Menschys tyres. Maybe that's why Menschy went home that night?

As we set up at camp, the rain started coming down. Luckily it was fairly intermittent and didn't stop us enjoying the night around the campfire. Danny popped a spit on, and before long we were all munching on chicken gyros for dinner. Nathan topped it off with a camp oven cooked apple strudel and ice cream for dessert. With the fire cranking and the usual banter over a few refreshments it was a great way to end the day.

Sunday morning saw everyone up and ready fairly early. Mark Bodger came down to help for the day so we were able to run two teams again. This proved beneficial, as the day started off very misty and foggy, which turned into heavier and heavier rain. Rain plus Otways tracks always means fun, and today was no exception with some big holes, massive ruts and lots of off camber giving everyone a fun day.

Both teams were able to finish their allocated tracks, however we opted to skip the MVOs for now due to how wet it was and the deteriorating conditions. We might look at checking these in a separate trip later in summer.

With all our tracks cleared and opened, we regrouped and aired up. Many of the group stopped in at the Anglesea pub for a quick bite and a refreshment before heading home.

Thanks to everyone who helped - it was great to get everything cleared and opened, and a top weekend away.

Danny



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DROP-IN DROP-OUT SA ADVENTURE

19TH SEPTEMBER - 10TH OCTOBER 2025

WORDS & PHOTOS: VARIOUS

The trip was scheduled to leave on Saturday 20th of September with an approximate 8 hour drive to the first camp site at Kapunda, however we decided to leave Friday night to get a bit of a head start. Our first camp was at Bordertown at a free campsite that we always stay at when we travel that way. It's a great little spot by a lake that is stocked with trout.

Saturday 20th September

First thing in the morning we made our way to another free camp spot just outside of Kapunda at Greenock, where the Mountjoys and Nathan met us in the afternoon. It had toilets, dedicated communal fire pit and a nice big footy oval for the kids to play and kick the footy.

Greenock is a great little town with wineries in abundance and even a

brewery, which I highly recommend visiting. After setting up camp, we all walked to explore the town before ending up at the brewery chatting with the locals over a drink.

The owner is a bit of a character and had us highly entertained with his jokes and tales about his "special" brews of heavy beer (a metal beer bottle), light beer (beer with fairy lights inside), grate beer (a bottle with a grater on the side), spring water (a tap welded onto a spring) and his Coke cane addiction (a cane made of Coke cans). Of course, the dads all appreciated the jokes and proceeded to tell their own while the rest of us rolled our eyes. Finishing our drinks we ended the night off with dinner at the local pub and getting a good night's rest for the next leg to Bendleby Ranges.

written by Richard 'Woody' Brown

Sunday 21st September

Leaving Greenock behind, our convoy made its way to Bendleby Ranges but not before stopping at the mind-bending Magnetic Hill outside Orroroo. Magnetic Hill is named so because if you leave your car in neutral on what appears to be a road with a slight incline you will begin to roll in the opposite direction. The direction of which your car rolls (up or down hill) tells you if your car is made of plastic or metal. Apparently all our 4wd's were made of plastic as we rolled backwards instead of forwards.

Magnetic Hills are a trick of the eye based on the how we perceive the landscape against the horizon. So, where you think that you're on flat ground or a slight incline/decline it is in fact the opposite and you will roll in a direction differently to how you



eyes perceive the landscape. A mind boggling conundrum worth dropping into for a bit of fun for the kids and big kids alike. Leaving Magnetic Hill, we continued onto Bendleby Ranges where we met with the Fitzpatrick's as they were setting up camp.

Bendleby Ranges provides both serviced and bush camp options for their guests with complimentary firewood on arrival. We were also welcomed by the local birds that were friendly enough to come right up to us and squawk loudly demanding we feed them. The campgrounds provide open views of the area with a few trees to provide privacy between the campsites and communal facilities similar to a caravan park. After setting up camp, we all settled into the evening with good food and drinks, eager to start the next day for some driving.

Monday 22nd September

A new morning and challenge awaited us at Bendleby Ranges with the convoy having a good feed before starting the trip. We all made our way to start the more difficult tracks from Gum Creek Drive where the track presented some dry rock creeks that required some careful low range navigation to get us to Link Track.

Link Track provides a steep ascent with a small rock step for us as our first challenge of the day. With careful wheel placement and a little bit of right foot as a bump, every vehicle made it up without any trouble. We continued to move on to find more difficult sections on the way to Marchant Hill. One of the unmarked tracks that was suggested to us by the staff provided a great challenge even prompting another traveller to ask us for a spot to navigate down a particularly tricky decent. Happy to oblige we assisted the Patrol and Defender with their wheel placements to give them a smooth and controlled path down.

Reaching the summit of Marchant





Hill provided us with a stunning panoramic view (albeit a bit windy) while we parked up for lunch and had a chat. Packing up our food and rubbish we started to make our way back to camp finishing off the drive back along Gum Creek drive. Arriving at camp we were quick to make use of the shower facilities to refresh ourselves and settle into the evening around the fire with dinner and some drinks.

Tuesday 23rd September

The next day we set off to tackle the Hungry Ranges, a much more formidable challenge than Bendleby. Starting in the northern end of the ranges we followed the North Fence Track to complete a loop via Quartz Gorge and the Hungry Highway. A nice taste for what was to come. Quartz Gorge provided a nice easy/medium challenge through dry riverbeds and short but steep climbs where even our learner drivers in the convoy got to have a wheel. Eager to hit the hardest of tracks available we quickly made our way through Ridge Top and down the East Fence Track to tackle the famous Billy Goat Ridge.



Billy Goat Ridge provided a steep narrow climb with near vertical drops on either side of the track. Plenty of rock steps were in the way to make us think twice about taking the wrong line but with careful spotting and precision wheel placement we all managed to white knuckle our way to the top and then again back down the precarious rocky descents with wheel lifts aplenty.



Finishing Billy Goats, we continued to the next famous track Pat's Peak. The following tracks providing a bit of reprieve from the difficulty of Billy Goats, but not so much that you didn't have to worry about denting your underbody. Reaching the start of Pat's Peak, we readied ourselves for the difficulty that lay before us but not knowing what awaited us at the summit. The convoy forged on picking lines

carefully to reach our destination and once we reached the peak, we became awestruck of the panoramic view that the ranges provided. With the sun going low, the flat expanse that fed into the ranges and the low grumble of our four-wheel drives, we had conquered the hardest tracks that Bendleby Ranges, and Hungry Ranges had to offer. The only thing left was to descend from Pat's Peak and make our way to camp. No small feat but with slow controlled driving and a couple of wheel lifts we made it back to the main tracks and returned to camp. Our final night at camp we sat around the fire discussing the experiences of days prior and preparing for the trip ahead of us.

The following morning, we left Bendleby Ranges behind us, carrying new scratches holding the adventures memories on our four-wheel drives panels. We had conquered Bendleby Ranges and Hungry Ranges ticking off the first major leg of our journey. All of us eager for what lay ahead as we looked forward to tackling Googs Track.

written by Nathan Mudge

Wednesday 24 September

We left Bendleby Ranges this morning, a day earlier than originally planned, after having completed most of the more challenging tracks within the ranges. Our first stop was Quorn for a coffee and a slice of quondong pie for morning tea, enroute to Port Augusta for a late lunch, fuel refill, and stock up on any other supplies. From here we travelled 3.5 hours to Lake Gairdner staying at Waltumba Campground. A lovely place to camp for the night.

Lake Gairdner is Australia's third largest salt lake. In some parts of the lake, the salt layer can be up to one meter thick! Unlike Lake Eyre, Lake Gairdner isn't fed from a river system, it's purely surface water only.



Thursday 25 September

Leaving Lake Gairdner, we travelled 180km on a well graded road to Kingoonya, arriving around 1pm. We refuelled and checked into the caravan park before enjoying a relaxing afternoon around camp, then a few cold beverages at the Kingoonya Hotel. The Smith family arrived today, and we all enjoyed a delicious meal at the Kingoonya Hotel for dinner.

Friday 26 September

Today was the start of Googs Track. Googs Track is a remote 4WD track in South Australia that runs approximately 200km through Yumbarra Conservation Park and Yellabinna Regional Reserve. The track is said to have over 300 sand dunes.

We travelled from Kingoonya to Tarcoola. Now a ghost town with no population at the last census date, although the town and remaining buildings didn't look all that run down. After a look around Tarcoola we made our way to the northern end of Googs Track arriving late morning. Within 5 minutes on the track, Andy left half of his sand flag in a tree, which led to the beginning of quite a collection of sand flags along the way. We had lunch along the track before arriving at Mount Finke. A 34 degree day had no takers for the 13.4km hike to the summit. Andy, towing a camper trailer, got in a little trouble on one of the sand dunes and the rescue vehicle driven by James ended up in a worse predicament. We set up camp along the track early afternoon, with Andy redeeming himself by opening up the 'bar in the bush' for a few cocktails. The kids had fun making s'mores in the campfire for sweets. Great day.

Saturday 27 September

Day 2 on Googs Track. A few sand dunes challenged Matthew and Andrew who were both towing camper trailers. We turned off Googs Track and headed toward Yellabinna Rocks. No more than





10kms in, we made the decision not to go any further. The track was terribly overgrown and 4 hours of that to get to our destination didn't sound fun for anyone. We had lunch on the track and turned around and made our way back to Googs Track. After a few hours driving we made our way to Googs Lake where we set up camp and settled in with a selection of cheese, biscuits, and sides to listen to the AFL grand final on the radio. Not the result the Geelong 4WD Club members were hoping for. Most of us went for a walk out onto the lake at some stage. A great day was had.

Sunday 28 September

Day 3 on Googs Track. We had a relaxed start to the day, not needing to pack up the camps as we were spending two nights camped at Googs Lake. A few went for a morning walk out to the island on the lake. We headed off late morning for a day drive when we picked up PJ on the UHF radio, who was heading north on Googs Track not too far from our location. Most of us headed back to camp for lunch while Nathan & Matthew headed out to the main track to find PJ. After lunch, we drove out to Nalara Rockhole and Lois Rockhole. Approx 53km from camp.

written by Rebecca Fitzpatrick



Monday 29th September

We started the day with Nathan, Xavier, Hollie and Andrew watching the sunrise looking out on Googs Lake before packing up and leaving camp at 8.30am, headed towards Ceduna.

We stopped off at Googs Memorial to have a look at the money tree and memorial site. At 10.45am we reached the end of Googs Track and headed toward Ceduna. Once we arrived at Ceduna we had some time to fuel up and get food before heading to Fowlers Bay to camp at Scott's Beach campground.

In Ceduna we met up with PJ and he joined the convoy. On the way out





of Ceduna on the highway some things went flying off of James's roof. We got to camp and played around in the sand dunes and collected firewood for a good fire to keep us warm for the night.

Tuesday 30th September

We started the morning entering the beach next to camp as a convoy of 5 and headed east towards Point Fowler. We drove along the beach and exited, and headed inland then across the coast to the point. At the point we stopped and had a look around and found a small hut made out of rocks. We added our own rocks and headed around the other side of the coast towards the dunes and back towards camp. We stopped and had more fun in the dunes for a bit then headed back to camp for lunch.



A couple of cars headed into town for a coffee and we met the Smiths and headed back to camp stopping to get some firewood on the way back. For a bit of an afternoon adventure we headed down towards the Mexican Hat campground and enjoyed a beautiful view of the coastline. On our way we jumped onto a beach and it was a lot softer than expected. Andrew got stuck trying to turn around and James got stuck as well. Once everyone was out and off the beach we headed back to camp and had some nibbles then a nice fire where we cooked s'mores.



Wednesday 1st October

Today we started by heading west towards the Mexican Hat campground and dropped back onto the beach and had a drive. Then we headed further west before the last drive along the coast with some beautiful views of the cliffs and ocean. Further down the track we found some big dunes so we had a play around in them and had some fun before moving off further down the track. Later in the afternoon we stopped in a spot for lunch which was a BBQ with snags and onions. We then headed a bit further west

before heading inland and back towards town. In town we walked the jetty and then went and got some coffee and ice cream and headed back to camp. More afternoon nibbles, while dinner was nachos cooked in the barbecue and more s'mores cooked over the fire.

written by Hollie Smith

Thursday 2nd October

The group packed up camp at Scott's Bay Campground where the Browns left early to begin their journey home. The rest of the group headed towards Baird Bay on the Eyre Peninsula. Along the way, we stopped at Ceduna for lunch and a quick top-up of supplies. Other highlights on the road included Point Sinclair Pink Lake, the Penong Windmill Museum, and Purlubie Beach. As day turned into night, we camped at the Streaky Bay RV Park and enjoyed dinner at the local pub.

Friday 3rd October

The Smiths and Nathan departed this morning to make their way home. The Mountjoys, Fitzpatricks, and Jayathilakes packed up camp, completed the scenic Westall Way Loop around Streaky Bay, and then continued south. After a stop at the impressive Murphy's Haystacks rock formations, the convoy made its way to Baird Bay for lunch. Baird Bay turned out to be quieter than expected, aside from seal diving tours, a few holiday houses, and one campground; there wasn't much there (not even a fuel stop!). After lunch, we continued south, stopping at a few beaches along the way before setting up base camp for the night at Port Lincoln Tourist Park.

Saturday 4th October

Today was a free day to relax and explore around Port Lincoln. Theo and I enjoyed a father-son day.

Sunday 5th October

Coffin Bay National Park meant tide timing was critical today, as several off-beach access tracks can be cut off at high tide. We spent the day doing some beach and dune driving,



stopping for lunch at Black Springs Campground — a great spot accessible by off-road camper trailers. The convoy returned to base camp around 5:30pm after a full day of adventure.

Monday 6th October

We explored Lincoln National Park today, which offers easy access via gravel roads, no 4WD required (the Subaru can do it) and is suitable for caravans along the park's north coast. We wrapped up the day after completing the Sleaford–Wanna 4WD Track. The Jayathilakes broke away from the group to begin their journey back along the east coast of the peninsula, while the Mountjoys and Fitzpatricks returned to base camp.

written by PJ Jayathilakes

Tuesday 7th October

After packing up camp, we moved on from Port Lincoln and headed towards the small township of Darke Peak. Our plan was to enjoy lunch at the historic Darke Peak Hotel, before taking a drive along the ridge of the Darke Peak Ranges. However, when we arrived in town, not a soul was in sight. Not one of the 90 residents appeared to be home, and the pub was shut up tight with no sign of when, or if, it would reopen.

We made our way up to the lookout, only to find the ridge drive had been blocked off with bollards. The view from the top however, was absolutely spectacular, so we decided to stay and enjoy lunch, in the company of the thousands of flies that clearly called this area home!

When we passed back through town after lunch, we discovered that the pub had since opened and the locals had emerged from hiding. Unfortunately, by then it was too late, so we continued on our journey.

Our next stop was Mount Wudinna, Australia's second largest monolith





(after Uluru). The climb to the top was well worth the effort, rewarding us with breathtaking views stretching for miles in every direction.

From there, we made our way to Gawler Ranges National Park, where we set up camp for the next two nights amongst some of the most spectacular scenery Australia has to offer.

Wednesday 8th October

Wednesday was spent exploring the park and its surrounds. We completed several walks throughout the day, visiting waterfalls, striking rock formations, rock holes and of course, the famous Organ Pipes. Each walk offered incredible scenery and photo opportunities. We also explored a number of old homesteads, pieces of machinery and shearing sheds, each with its own fascinating story, before making a short visit to the nearby town of Minnipa.

Thursday 9th October

The following day we packed up and travelled to Whyalla. We stopped at the rural town of Kimba, which marks the halfway point between the east and west coasts of Australia, and took our photo with the iconic giant galah.

Once we arrived in Whyalla and set up camp, we spent the afternoon exploring. Highlights included the HMAS Whyalla, the scenic lookout and the circular jetty, where we were lucky enough to watch dolphins playing in the water below.

Friday 10th October

On Friday morning, we joined a tour of the Whyalla Steelworks, a site with over 100 years of iron and steelmaking history in Australia. The facility is a fully integrated operation, from mining raw materials to distributing finished products. Each year, the steelworks produces around 1.2 million tonnes of raw steel, with approximately 65% sent by rail to Market Mills for





further processing, and the remaining 35% converted into finished products at the Whyalla Rolling Mill. These products primarily serve the construction and rail transport industries.

During the tour, we saw the blast furnace, coke ovens, reed beds, steelmaking and casting plant, and the rolling mills where structural steel, rail line, and railway sleepers are produced; a fascinating and impressive operation.

This was the official final stop on our trip. From Whyalla, we travelled to Port Augusta, where we enjoyed lunch on the waterfront, before saying goodbye to the Fitzpatrick family (our last remaining participants), and beginning the long journey home.

As always, Matthew and I would like to thank everyone who joined us on this adventure. It's the participants who make or break a trip, and we were lucky to share this wonderful experience with some of the very best.

A big thank you to:

- Nathan Mudge
- Richard (Woody), Kerry Anne and Jaxson Brown
- Rebecca, James, Logan, and Xavier Fitzpatrick
- Rachel, Andrew, and Hollie Smith
- Pula (PJ) and Theo Jayathilake

Another memorable journey in great company, filled with laughter, adventure and a few unexpected surprises along the way. Here's to the next one!

Juanita



Campfire Savoury S'mores

by Hollie Smith

Ingredients:

- Babybel cheese (or any other cheese)
- Chutney
- Meat (like salami or prosciutto)
- Crackers

Instructions:

- First, lay your biscuits out and give a good smothering with the chutney.
- Cook your cheese and meat on a stick or marshmallow fork stick over the fire. Put the cheese and meat on the fork and cook it over the campfire till the cheese is soft and the meat is warm.
- Place your cheese and meat between the biscuits and make it like a sandwich.
- Enjoy



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