



Voice of the Toyota LandCruiser Club of Australia (SA) Inc

March 2025

**Next General Meetings:**

Monday  
24th March, 2025

Monday  
28th April 2025

# LandCruising Australia Wide

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# Cornes Toyota



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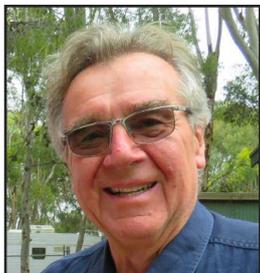


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**Tyrepower Kensington Park**  
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416 Payenham Rd  
Glynde SA 5074



## from your President

Hello Members,

Vale: Ralph Abbot OAM

Vale Roger Henwood

A sad time with the passing of two of our senior members. Roger joined the club in July 1972 and received a Life Membership at his 50th year. He was unwell recently and could not attend meetings but enjoyed reading the monthly newsletter. Ralph joined in March 2001 and immediately became heavily involved in club affairs.

On a happier note, I would like to let members know that good progress has been made with our new website. This will go live after the March General Meeting at which our web masters, Craig Marchant, Peter Harper and Monte Weeding will present an introduction of the pages to members. There will also be an article in the April Newsletter with details.

The website is a work in progress so there will be many issues that will have to be sorted in phase 2 of its development. We expect that members will help identify these and let us know. That way the site can be improved even further.

Congratulations and thanks to our experts.

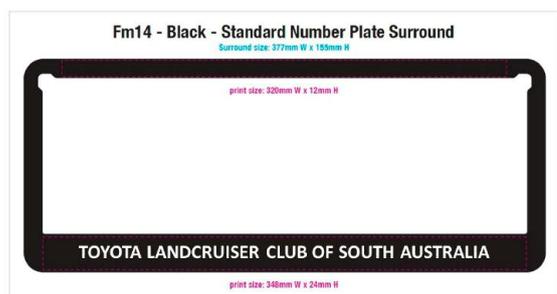
Similarly, the 50th book "LandCruising Australia Wide Celebrating the Years 40-50 of the Toyota LandCruiser Club of SA" is rapidly nearing completion. Look out for a TryBooking url: which will be in the Newsletter soon, that will allow members to order a copy in advance of the anticipated printing in June this year. The book will be dedicated to its Editor – Ralph Abbot.

Finally, a reminder that the AGM approaches rapidly (May 26th ) and that all Committee positions are re-elected. A Nomination form is also attached to this months Newsletter, so if you have an inkling to join the committee, please nominate and pass the form to our Secretary, Helen before the AGM.

Safe Travels,

V.lad

**Vlad Humeniuk**  
**TLCCSA President**



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The **24th March 2025 General Meeting** will be held at ~ **West Adelaide Football Club**  
**57 Milner Rd, Richmond.**

Open at 6.45pm. It is important that you book your spot - use booking code. <https://www.trybooking.com/CWXDN>



### Front Cover Photo:

On Tour - Parra Wirra National Park  
by Louisa Sellek

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### Next General Meeting:

24th March 2025, 7.30pm,  
**West Adelaide Football Club.**

### Trip Reports:

Pin Needham  
Old Ghan Railway Heritage  
Signs Project

### Guest Speaker:

Jeremy Brown  
Old Ghan Railway

### Newsletter Articles Deadline: Friday 4th April 2025

Please ensure submissions are lodged prior to the deadline to support the newsletter timelines. Please send articles and separate original photos to:

***newsletter@tlccsa.asn.au***

and remember to **include the names** of members when submitting photos.

# club contacts

## 2024-25

Committee		Email	A/H Phone
President	Vlad Humeniuk	pres@tlccsa.asn.au	0408 825 144
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Advertising/Publicity	John Potts	advertise@tlccsa.asn.au	0437 327 259
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Committee	Andy Davis	ajdavis7@outlook.com	0417 805 405
Committee	Larry Coaker	larrco119@gmail.com	0419 230 036
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	Darryl Royans		0414 307 280
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	Michael Polacek		0413 003 038
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Technical	Peter Young	technical@tlccsa.asn.au	0418 846 544
Merchandising Officer	Carola Sanders	merchandise@tlccsa.asn.au	0412 632 658
Webmaster(s)	Monte Weeding	webmaster@tlccsa.asn.au	0408 832 771
Property Officer	Larry Coaker		0419 230 036
Hon. Auditor	Steve Miller		0419 808 798
Conservation SA Delegate	Ricard Trevena	rhtrevena@gmail.com	0417 864 577
	Edmund Morries		

### DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

As part of the disclosure requirements for our Public/Directors & Officer Liability insurance, please contact a committee member with relevant information if you are or become aware that:

- There has been or there is now pending any claim against any Director or Officer in their capacity as either Director or Officer of this club or any other organization.
- Any Director or Officer has ever been subject to disciplinary action, been fined or penalised or been subject to an enquiry in their capacity as a Director or Officer of the club or any other association.
- You have any knowledge or information of any incident, act, error or omission that may give rise to a claim of the type as would be covered by the policy,

## Welcome!

The club would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members for the month of March 2025.

- Ernie & Karen Ahrens from Murray Bridge
- Ashley & Sarah Jarad from Naracoorte
- Teresa & Alan Steele from Aldgate

May your membership to the club be a long and memorable one.

# Cornes Toyota



If you are in the market for a new or used car please contact:



**Ben Coleman**  
General Manager

Contact: 0411 426 008

**46 Belair Road**  
**HAWTHORN SA 5062**  
**phone (08) 82721488**

# club yearly calendar - 2025

## March 2025

**Sat 1st - Sun 2nd** ~ 4WD Theory  
**Sat 8th - Sun 9th** ~ Peake Sand Driving  
**Tue 11th** ~ Royal Flying Doctor Tour  
**Fri 14th - Mon 17th** ~ Clean Up Australia - Coorong  
**Sat 22nd - Sun 23rd** ~ Caravan Safety Awareness  
**Sun 23rd** ~ Goolwa Beach Run  
**Mon 24th** ~ General Meeting, WAFC  
**Sun 30th - Sat 5th Apr** ~ National Gathering 2025

## April 2025

**Tue 8th** - Coopers Brewery Tour  
**Mon 28th** ~ General Meeting, WAFC

## May 2025

**Sun 4th** ~ Historic Car Run  
**Thur 8th - Fri 16th** ~ Arkaroola Cactus Cull  
**Sun 11th - Sun 18th** ~Blinman Golf Course Restoration  
**Fri 16th - Sun 18th** ~ Advisor Course - Morgan  
**Sat 17th - Sun 18th** ~ Ascent / Descent - Morgan  
**Sun 25th** ~ Magical Mystery Tour  
**Mon 26th** ~ General Meeting & AGM, WAFC

## June 2025

**Fri 6th - Mon 9th** ~ Bendleby Ranges  
**Thurs 12th - Tue 8th July** ~ Canning Stock Route  
**Mon 23rd** ~ General Meeting, WAFC  
**Sat 28th - Sun 29th** ~ Peake Sand Driving

## July 2025

**Fri 11th - Sun 13th** ~ Christmas in July - Wilmington  
**Mon 21st - Sun 27th** ~ Gum Creek Cactus Culling  
**Sun 27th - Sat 2nd Aug** ~Moolooloo Cactus Culling  
**Mon 28th** ~ General Meeting, WAFC

## August 2025

**Sun 10th - Sun 24th** ~ 4WD Tinnie Trip - Warburton River  
**Mon 25th** ~ General Meeting, WAFC  
**Mon 25th - Sun 31st** ~ Kudriemitchie  
**Sat 30th - Sun 31st** ~ 4WD Theory

## September 2025

**Sat 6th - Sun 7th** ~ Peake Sand Driving  
**Mon 22nd** ~ General Meeting, WAFC  
**Sun 28th** ~ GPS (Theory & Practical)

**More Trips ? - "You can help"** Know of a place you'd like to visit & would like to share it with us? Think about it and let us know. If you're not able to be the trip leader for your suggestion, then the Committee will seek some one who may be willing to do so. So have a think about it and let us know about a weekend or long weekend trip.

**Talk to our Trips Officer - Pin Needham ([trips@tlccsa.asn.au](mailto:trips@tlccsa.asn.au))**



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## trips

### Pin Needham

Trips Officer

Telephone: 0437 420 099

Email: [trips@tlccsa.asn.au](mailto:trips@tlccsa.asn.au)



## social

### Pam Humeniuk

Social Officer

Telephone: 0418 825 137

Email: [social@tlccsa.asn.au](mailto:social@tlccsa.asn.au)

## trip ratings

**SCENIC:** Bitumen & dirt roads, limited 4wding, lookouts, flora and fauna of the local area, other points of interest.

**EASY:** Mainly off bitumen on formed tracks, some 4wding, no steep inclines or declines.

**MODERATE:** Bush terrain, beach terrain, some inclines or side slopes, soft sand or mud areas, easy creek crossings.

**HARD:** Rough terrain, steep inclines, steep side slopes, rough creek crossings, possible towing and/or snatching.

**DIFFICULT:** Very rough terrain, very steep inclines, steep side slopes, slippery conditions, difficult creek crossings, some towing, snatching and or winching.

## OUR CLUB TRIPS RECORDS - HELP NEEDED

The club has some wonderful trips records for the period 1971 through to 1987. It also has extensive records from 2001 through to today. However we do have a gap in the period from 1987 to 2001. Now there are a few member still in the Club today who held the Trip Committee position in that period. What might you have for us hidden in a bottom drawer?

**Contact Darryl Royans if you can assist**

# events calendar

Register now via [trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com)

## 1. Royal Flying Doctor Facility

**Where:** 1 Tower Rd, Adelaide Airport.

**Date:** 11th March, 2025 11.00 am.

**Leader** Pam Humeniuk

**Maximum number** 30 (20 booked)

**Detail:** No parking at the RFDS base. Must park in Harbour Town parking lot and walk in. \$10 donation (cash) to the RFDS to be collected on the day. You can donate more if you wish.

A very rare opportunity to view this facility, which is in fact a working hospital.

Our group will be divided up into smaller groups as not to disrupt the workings of this base. Closed in shes are required.

Lunch afterwards at a venue still to be organised.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CYZMQ>

— # —

## 2. Clean Up Australia Coorong NP & beaches

**Date:** Fri 14 - Mon 17 March 2025

**Leaders:** Michael Polacek

**Rating:** Moderate - sand driving.

**Convoy:** Unlimited (21 booked)

**Comment:** The Coorong is about 200km from Adelaide. Based at the Cantara Homestead there's plenty of camping area, or limited accomodation in the homestead, all with access to toilets and showers on site. CUA activity involves cleaning up the Coorong beaches and campsites. A well supported activity. Members usually arrive on the Friday beforehand (14th) to set up camp. Work is then carried out on the following day followed by a Club provided BBQ tea on the Saturday night. Possible clean up on the Sunday or a day of relaxation. Leave on Monday. Bring recovery gear, shovels, good gloves - footwear and sun protection. Required - 2 trailers, markers, bags, good gloves for collecting rubbish. Recovery equipment and compressor essential.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CXKIG>

## 3. Goolwa Beach Run

**Date:** Sun 23rd March 2025

**Venue:** Goolwa Beach

**Leader:** Darryl Royans

**Rating:** Moderate

**Convoy:** 20 (17 booked)

**Comment:** Meet at the Goolwa Surf Life Saving Club at 11:00 am. Drive the Goolwa Beach to the Murray River mouth and return. This event is for new and prospective members to see the benifits the club has to offer and for the enjoyment of all members.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CYZFN>

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## 4. Toyota LandCruiser Clubs National Gathering 2025

**Date:** 30 March to 5 April 2025

**Location:** Mansfield Showgrounds Victoria

**Leader:** Vlad Humeniuk

**Convoy:** 26 (26 booked)

**Comment:** The Toyota LandCruiser Club of Victoria is planning an epic event to welcome you to discover the best of the Victorian Alps. Days filled with adventure and evenings around a campfire; an opportunity to share stories.

- Victorian High Country
- Discover Mansfield
- Drive the tracks
- Discover their unique property at Yarck
- Discover Bush Huts & Wineries

<https://www.trybooking.com/CMHBR>

\*\*\* NEW \*\*\*

## 5. Coopers Brewery Tour

**Date:** Tue 8th April 2025

**Location:** 230 Regency Rd Regency Park

**Detail:** A tour of the famous Coopers Brewery with a guide to inform us of the workings of their wonderful products. Starting at 9.30am the tour will take us through the inner workings of a brewery.

A tasting of the various products is also included and lasts about 1 ½ hours so the tour would end about midday.

A restaurant is also on site and will be available for lunch. Numbers would be needed so a formal booking can be made for that.

**Tour Cost:** \$45 per person payable on trybookings at least 1 week prior to tour date

**Numbers:** Maximum 20 people

<https://www.trybooking.com/CZDHJ>

\*\*\* NEW \*\*\*

## 6. Historic Vehicle Gathering & Run

**Date:** Sunday 4 May, 2025

**Where:** Echunga Memorial Hall, 22 Adelaide Rd, Echunga

**Leader:** Darryl Royans & Michael Polacek

**Convoy:** Unlimited **(1 booked)**

**Rating:** Scenic/Easy

**Comment:**

Here's the opportunity to take your pride and joy on a nice run in the Adelaide Hills. Meet at the Echunga Oval, 10.00 am, have a chat over coffee, ready to depart at 11.00 am in convoy with other like minded TLCCSA members.

Return to the Oval about 12.30 for a BBQ lunch provided by the Club and an opportunity to view cars and socialise with fellow members.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CZGTE>

— # —

## 7. Arkaroola Cactus Cull

**Date:** 8 May - 16 May 2025

**Leaders:** Michael Polacek

**Convoy:** 25 people **(21 booked)**

**Rating:** Scenic and moderate. Tracks accessing cactus areas and the trip on the rest day will be moderate.

Arkaroola Station is 140 km east of Copley. This working bee is for 1 week of culling, identifying and recording jumping cholla cactus eradication efforts.

There are some quarters with toilets and showers. Caravan, camper vans and tents can be easily accommodated as there is plenty of room.

The station has some fantastic drives and a history to be explored.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CXPAV>

\*\*\* NEW \*\*\*

## 8. Blinman Golf Course Restoration Project

**Dates:** Sun 11- Sun 18 May, 2025

**Leader:** John Potts

**Convoy:** 10 vehicles, OK for up to 10 caravans or trailers

**Comment:** Trip to assist the Blinman Progress Association with the reinstatement of tee boxes at the local golf course. Meet at the Gum Creek Shearer's Quarters. Contact Trip Leader if needing accommodation in the Shearer's Quarters

<https://www.trybooking.com/CZFWS>

\*\*\* NEW \*\*\*

## 9. Magical Mystery Tour

**Date:** Sun 25th May 2025 9:30am

**Detail:** .Can you puzzle out the route, and find the clues along the way? The day will start at Crafers Park n Ride South, each car will head off on a leisurely tour along country roads, in search of answers to the questions on your tour sheet. You will travel a maximum of 100 kms, taking about 2 ½ hours, in a loop which finishes at Byethorne Park, Nairne.

There we will have a sausage sizzle lunch provided by the club, and then the fun will begin as we hear of your travels, and score your answer sheet. Come along and have a fun day, friends welcome.

**Info needed** Name, contact details  
Number of people in car (minimum of 2 required, pair up with other members, or bring a friend)  
**(2 booked)**

<https://www.trybooking.com/CZPOS>

— # —

## 10. Bendleby Ranges

**Leaders:** James & Lin Edwards

**Date:** Fri 6 - Mon 9 June 2025

**Convoy:** 20 vehicles **(19 booked)**

**Rating:** There are 200 km of tracks on the property with varying degrees of difficulty from easy to difficult in rough hilly country with some steep ascents & descents and great views of the surrounding area.

**Detail:** Camp will be at one of the

remote bush sites, suitable for vans, trailers & tents. Camp sites have toilets and please bring your own firewood. You will need to be self sufficient for food & water. Fees are \$90 for the weekend plus \$27.50/night per person, (\$82.50 pp for 3 nights). Please bring evidence of Basic 4WD experience especially ascent & descent training at either Morgan or equivalent. Rated recovery points & equipment are required.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CXKKP>

— # —

## 11. Canning Stock Route, North to South, 2025

**Date:** Thur 12 June - Tue 8 July 2025

**Location:** Canning Stock Route, Billiluna WA 6770

**Leaders:** Steve Miller / Phil Custance

**Convoy:** 6 vehicles **(Booked Out)**

**Comment:** The Canning Stock Route is a track that runs from Halls Creek in the Kimberley region of Western Australia to Wiluna in the mid-west region. With a total distance of around 1,850 km, it is claimed to be the longest historic stock route in the world. We will start at Billiluna (WA), heading south on CSR finishing at Wiluna (WA).

**Terrain:** rocky dirt roads, corrugations, sandhills. Fuel for 1100 km plus contingency, self sufficient food & water for 21 days. No Towing, tents only. Permits needed: 1. CSR \$295, wells 5 to 51, 2. Parku IPA permits, Lake Gregory, Lake Stretch, Sturt Creek, camping at \$30/night. 3. Gunbarrel-Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku Website \$nil - 3 Day transit to get to NT Border, (4) Permit to travel through Aboriginal Land \$ nil - WA Gov, (5) all above to be confirmed.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CYPVU>

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## 12. Gum Creek Cactus Cull

**Date:** 21 – 27 July 2025

**Leaders:** Michael Polacek

**Convoy:** 24 people **(13 booked)**

**Rating:** Scenic and moderate. Moderate tracks accessing cactus areas and rest day trip is usually moderate. This working bee is for one week of culling, identifying and recording wheel cactus eradication efforts.

Come and join us on Gum Creek

Station in the Flinders Ranges. We have been doing this for 16 years. Join our expert team and have some fun. Some accommodation available in the shearers quarters or bring your van, camper trailer, tent, etc.

Persons attending Gum Creek Station are most welcome to then continue down the track to Moolooloo after completion on 27 July.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CXKIP>

— # —

## 13. Moolooloo Cactus Cull

**Date:** 27 July - 2 August 2025

**Leaders:** Michael Polacek

**Convoy:** 22 people. **(22 booked)**

**Rating:** Scenic and moderate. Tracks accessing cactus areas and the trip on the rest day will be moderate.

Moolooloo Station is 25 km north of Blinman. This working bee is for 1 week of culling, identifying and recording wheel cactus eradication efforts.

There are fabulous shearers quarters with toilets and showers. Vans and camper vans can be accommodated as there is plenty of room.

The station has some fantastic drives and a history to be explored.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CXKKC>

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## 14. Tinnie Trip to the Warburton 2025

**Date:** Sun 10 - Sun 24th August 2025

**Location:** Kalamurina Station SA 5734

**Leaders:** Michael Polacek / Peter Young

**Convoy:** min of 3 tinnies plus Support crew. **(4 booked)**

**Comment:** Warburton Creek forms downstream from the confluence of the Diamantina and Georgina rivers in Goyder Lagoon, and flows in a south-westerly direction for about 150 km before discharging into Lake Eyre. Starting at Stoney Crossing on

Kalamurina Station, we launch the Tinnies & travel 60km to Wetlands camp to refuel before continuing to the Warburton Groove (140km) then retrace our track (about 400km round trip). Each participant must be completely self resourced, Tinnie(11-12 foot),. 15 hp motopr ability to take 220 litres of fuel, camping equipment, radios, food & water for at least 7 days on water. Zodiac to be towed on water with fuel for part of the journey. Starting with a 2 day drive from Adelaide. Support vehicles, towing fuel trailers will be needed as well to act as backup for the Tinnie troupe.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CYPIJ>

**\*\*\* NEW \*\*\***

## 15. Kudriemitchie Outstation Trip & Working Bee

**Date:** August 25 to 31, 2025

**Leader:** Steve Miller

**Convoy:** Unlimited,

**Terrain:** Gravel roads with rocks shale & bulldust. Long distances, 1150 km. Suitable for caravan, Off Road Van, Camper Trailer, Tents

**Comment:** Situated about 1140 km north from Adelaide, and 85 km northwest of Innamincka on the Coongie Lakes Track (Montepirie Track) is Kudriemitchie Outstation, once a pastoral outstation used to accommodate the mustering parties away from the main homestead at Innamincka. TLCCSA members have been involved since 1995, renovating & restoring the Outstation mostly under the influence and enthusiasm of the late Steve Golley, DEW and Innamincka Station (Santos). This site is now heritage listed.

In August 2025 Innamincka will be the NPWS Park of the Month. NPWS will be shining a spotlight on Innamincka and no doubt travellers will visit Kudriemitchie. This trip is part tidying up and presentation and part relaxation (trying to catch elusive Yellow Belly fish). There is likely to be an earlier trip at short notice to assist and plan the tasks.

**Equipment:** Normal recovery gear UHF Radio

<https://www.trybooking.com/CZJXT>

## 16. Fraser Island (K'gari) Scenic 2025 EOJ

**Date:** Saturday 30 August 2025 5:00 PM - Sunday 7 September 2025 10:00 AM

**Leaders:** Craig Marchant

**Convoy:** 22 people. **(6 booked)**

**Rating:** Scenic and moderate

**Comment:** Your opportunity to visit the world's largest sand island. The main way around the island is via the beach, which is generally easy to drive on, with a 80kph speed limit. The inland tracks can be rough due to the volume of traffic. More remote tracks have the potential to be softer and rutted out, again simply due to traffic and not being maintained.

Start at Rainbow Beach at 5:00pm on August 30, staying overnight at Rainbow Beach Caravan Park, 308 Carlo Road, Rainbow Beach Qld 4581 before taking the ferry at Inskip Point to K'Gari on the 31st. Bush camping with facilities except for 1 night. Be aware of the Dingos. Contact Trip Leader for detailed itinerary and more information. No Caravans or Trailers.

Essential gear- Long handle shovel, basic recovery gear, compressor, Tyre deflater. Desirable - Traction Boards. Permits are required for vehicles driving on K'gari as well as separate camping permits at designated sites and dates. There is a Ferry charge of \$140 return. Contact the Trip Leader for more details.

Also remember that Rainbow Beach is approximately 2200 Km from Adelaide, allow 2-3 days each way for this journey.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CXKLA>

— # —

## 17. Ralph Abbott Argadells 2025

**Dates:** Fri 3 - Mon 6 Oct 2025

**Leader:** James & Linley Edwards

**Convoy:** Unlimited **(4 booked)**

**Rating:** Moderate to Hard

**Comment:** Rocky ascents and

*cont'd page 11.*



**Peter Harper**  
 Education Officer  
 Telephone : 0410 526 317  
 email : [education@tlccsa.asn.au](mailto:education@tlccsa.asn.au)



**Murray McClay**  
 Assistant Education Officer  
 Telephone : 0419 031 046  
 email : [edusub@tlccsa.asn.au](mailto:edusub@tlccsa.asn.au)

FROM	TO	ACTIVITY	WHERE	FEES	DEPOSIT	INFORMATION
Wed 12th Feb 2025		New Members Night	SCC	Nil		<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJL">https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJL</a>
Sun 23rd Feb 2025		Tyre Repair	Ironbank	\$10 per person	\$10 per person	Fee covers the cost of materials and refreshments <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJM">https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJM</a>
Sat 1st Mar 2025	Sun 2nd Mar 2025	Theory	TBA	\$20 per person	\$20 per person	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJN">https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJN</a>
Sat 8th Mar 2025	Sun 9th Mar 2025	Sand + Winching	Peake	\$40 per vehicle	\$40 per vehicle	Property access cost \$40 per car. No cost for basic training for enrolled members <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJO">https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJO</a>
Sat 22nd Mar 2025	Sun 23rd Mar 2025	Caravan Safety Awareness	Barossa Valley	\$120 per couple		<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CXPUF">https://www.trybooking.com/CXPUF</a>
Sat 17th May 2025	Sun 18th May 2025	Ascent - Descent	Morgan	NIL	\$30 per vehicle	No cost for basic training for enrolled members. Deposit refunded on Saturday night <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJP">https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJP</a>
Sat 28th Jun 2025	Sun 29th Jun 2025	Sand + Winching	Peake	\$40 per vehicle	\$40 per vehicle	Property access cost \$40 per car. No cost for basic training for enrolled members. <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJQ">https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJQ</a>
Sat 30th Aug 2025	Sun 31st Aug 2025	Theory	SCC	\$20 per person	\$20 per person	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJR">https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJR</a>
Sat 6th Sep 2025	Sun 7th Sep 2025	Sand & Winching	Peake	\$40 per vehicle	\$40 per vehicle	Property access cost \$40 per car. No cost for basic training for enrolled members. <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJS">https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJS</a>
Sun 28th Sep 2025		GPS (Theory & Practical)	SCC	\$20 per person	\$20 per person	Fee covers cost of refreshments. <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJT">https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJT</a>
Sat 18th Oct 2025	Sun 19th Oct 2025	Ascent Descent	Morgan	NIL	\$30 per vehicle	No cost for basic training for enrolled members. Deposit refunded on Saturday night <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJU">https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJU</a>
Sun 26th Oct 2025		Trip Planning	TBA	\$20 per person	\$20 per person	Fee covers cost of refreshments. <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJW">https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJW</a>
Sun 9th Nov 2025		Basic Wheel Change and Pre-departure	Ironbank	\$10 per person	\$10 per person	Anyone enrolled in the training program who has not completed these two elements. <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJX">https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJX</a>

## TLCCSA training team

**TRAINERS:**  
 STEVE MILLER

**ASSESSORS:**  
 ALLAN McINTYRE  
 DAVID ELLIS

GARY CHRISTIAN  
 GEOFF GREEN  
 GEOFF THOMPSON

JASON SABEENEY  
 MURRAY McCLAY  
 PETER HARPER

SHANE SAXBY  
 TONY VAN WYK  
 EDMUND MORRIES

**TRAINERS:** Conduct driver training

**ASSESSORS:** Conduct driver training & assessment

**NOTE:** All training sessions are subject to the availability of Trainers, Assessors and the number of member nominations. Small cost for advanced training and non enrolled members.

# Cornes Toyota



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**OH WHAT A FEELING**

## SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH

### Miegel Engineering - Murray Bridge

We were travelling along the SE Freeway towing our Caravan which had Toyota alloy wheels fitted. (They look 'flasher' than the standard wheels). Approximately 15Km short of Murray Bridge, the left hand side caravan wheel headed into the scrub, with no wheel studs remaining on the caravan. After a call to RAA, a contractor for the Murrumbidgee RAA loaded the caravan on to his trailer & stated that the caravan would have to remain on the trailer overnight as the RAA garage was full of current work and that they would not be able to repair it. He suggested that we be at the garage at 8am to be informed about what could be done with the caravan as the trailer would be unloaded ready for the next 'call out'.

At 7.30 we were at the local Caravan Dealership & Repair Centre to ascertain if we could have the wheel studs replaced there. The owner stated that he was overwhelmed with work, but if we wished we could have the caravan delivered to his vacant paddock (no cover) & he would fix the caravan in about 6 weeks time. No, but no thanks!

At 8am, RAA instructed the contractor to deliver the caravan to the owner of Miegel Engineering who always gives priority to passing travellers. We followed the truck/trailer to 3 Howard Rd where the business owner immediately ordered his forklift driver to remove the caravan from the trailer for assessment, a very tricky unloading with great skill to get the balance right.

He also went out of his way to calm us and told us not to worry, "she'll be alright". He told us that a lot of his breakdown work was due to the wheel studs breaking. We came to pay our dues thinking that the cost could be \$1000 and were told the cost was only about \$300. No doubt we looked surprised and the pay clerk whispered that "the boss always charges less to travellers who have wheel or suspension problems". We were so delighted that Robyn made a donation to the Worker's Christmas-breakup Lunch Fund and we left much less stressed than when we arrived at

**Miegel Engineering, 3 Howard Rd Murray Bridge.**

**Robyn & Peter Trezise.**

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Australian Made matter!*

descents with some steep sections. Beautiful views across the surrounding landscape to Port Augusta, Lake Torrens.

Argadells Station 2641 Ardenvale Rd, 28km North of Quorn. A working sheep property of 32 square Km's approx 360km North of Adelaide.

Various tracks ranging from Moderate to Hard. Must have low ratio and good clearance with 4x4 experience in ascent/descent.

**Trip Details:** Travel to Argadells on Friday 4 Oct. BYO everything. Camping will be at one of the property's bush sites (Wint's) so will necessitate being completely self sufficient. Suitable for semi offroad/offroad caravans, camper trailers & tents.

For those who wish to bring an onroad van, there is a Caravan park available at \$35/night (2 people) approx 5km from the bush camp.

Property access is \$50 per vehicle plus camping fee of \$15/adult/night.

We will order some firewood from the property (\$100 to be shared between the attendees once we have final numbers) but please bring a bag along to supplement this.

For more information see their

website.

<https://www.argadells.com.au/>

<https://www.trybooking.com/CXKLJ>

## GENERAL

### LET'S DO LUNCH CLUB

An ad hoc group who occasionally lunch (or it could be dinner) together to keep in touch and make new friends.

REGISTER VIA TRY BOOKING to indicate your interest. When an event is organised the organiser contacts all those registered and if you are free and the restaurant/venue appeals, you book in. No pre-paying – no permanent commitment.

Restaurant organisation is to be shared amongst those registered, with an emphasis on trying new and varied menus.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CHTKR>

### SHOW & TELL

Tell us about your favourite gadget or

item that is very useful in the home or whilst on safari.

Each month, a member can demonstrate the item in order to share innovation and knowledge. Send an email to Pam Humeniuk [social@tlccsa.asn.au](mailto:social@tlccsa.asn.au) for further details. She would love to hear from you.

### Blaze Aid + Habitat for Humanity ~ Volunteer List

Requests from these organisations can occur at short notice so it's great to have an updated members list that we can call on.

Using TryBookings will give us an up-to-date list to of members to call on at short notice.

Putting your name on this list does not mean you are committed every time to go, it depends on your availability at the time.

Volunteers are often required to assist with towing trailers & materials, clearing rubbish and debris, etc. Fuel costs are generally re-imbursed.

If you would like to help as requests arise, please register via the link below.

<https://www.trybooking.com/BOEYF>

## Vale - Ralph Abbot OAM

Ralph and Rosemary joined the Club in March 2001 when Ralph admitted to owning a Morris Mini Minor. A 100 series LandCruiser and caravan arrived shortly thereafter.

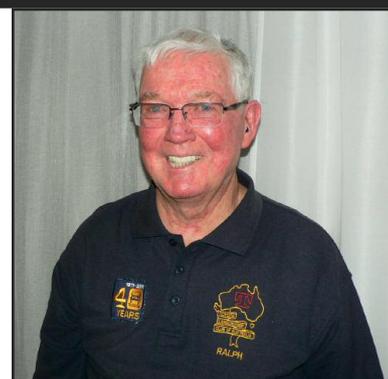
Noting the Club was short a Minute Secretary, Ralph put his name forward at the next AGM. So, within 2 months of joining TLCC, Ralph was on committee and he has remained in a committee position of one sort or another ever since. This included 3 years as our President, Past President, Secretary, Logs and Maps, Radio, and GPS, and 4WDSA Association Delegate. Ralph was also involved with driver training spending numerous weekends at Peake and he ran our OziExplorer Training.

Ralph has led some 25 trips and not surprisingly one favourite, the Argadells featured regularly. Members on their first trip to the Argadells will remember being introduced to Ralph's favourite descent 'Oh shit hill'. The Flinders also were a passion for Ralph where he was able to take on a favourite activity of 'Killing Cactus' with the TLCC as well as the Overland Club where he was an active club member as well. Ralph enjoyed a good laugh and would take pleasure while cactus killing in sullyng the reputation of Kermit the Environmental mascot who he simply referred to as "The Rodent"

Ralph's countless attendances and record keeping of Cactus Killing at Gum Creek since 2009 and at Oratunga and Wirrealpa Station saw Ralph awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 2021, for services to the environment. Ralph was also rewarded with TLCCSA Life Membership in 2016.

Ralph was a tireless worker and passionate about our Club. He made a significant contribution to our 40th Book and has been working tirelessly on our next ten year book. He will be sadly missed both here and in the Flinders Ranges.

Rest in Peace Ralph, you have certainly earnt it.



Darryl Royans

# Para Wirra Conservation Park Day Trip 2024

**Trip Leader** – Andy Davis

On Saturday 26th October 2024, our club joined with volunteers from the Friends of Para Wirra (FOPW) group to conduct a guided tour for 8 vehicles, incorporating a BBQ lunch and a weeding exercise, in the Para Wirra Conservation Park.

Retired Park Ranger and committed conservationist, Steve Taylor, kindly organised the event with Trip Leader Andy Davis, guiding us through the park on a 4-hour drive and providing a fascinating commentary over the UHF radio about the geography, local plants, birds, native animals and the areas local history of farming, gold mining, and the evolution of the park itself.

We began the event at 9:00am at the Park's Resource Centre and drove in convoy around the entirety of Para Wirra Conservation Park, including traversing many tracks that are not accessible for the general public to drive on. The drive itself was scenic and fun, with one or two slightly challenging steep sections, but all managed to get through unscathed.



Our first stop was at a tunnel burrowed under the road which had been dug in the gold mining era associated with nearby gold mining operations. There was also an old steam driven winch, typical of those used in various mining operations that occurred in the area from the 1860's to the 1890's, producing a total of 778 kg of gold.



We drove onwards past the interestingly named Devils Nose Track, through some stunning valleys, and across and beside the South Para River. The drive traversed a hilltop where there were no existing tracks, providing stunning views across the Yattalunga Valley towards Gawler.

After a few hours we arrived at our lunch destination, a beautiful dead-end gully next to the South Para River. It was tight space for parking all 8 vehicles, plus an extra one belonging to the Park Ranger who joined us for lunch. While the BBQ lunch was being



prepared, our participants spent an hour under the guidance of the FOPW volunteers, pulling out patches of feral weeds that have started to proliferate in the area. This was a great learning exercise and made a small contribution to the park's native environment.



Then after a hearty BBQ lunch for 22 people, cooked by Trip Leader Andy Davis, we made our way out of the gully and back towards the bitumen on the park boundary, where we said our goodbyes at around 3:00pm and headed back to civilisation.

This day trip was immensely enjoyed by all, it was fun, educational, scenic and made a useful contribution to the local environment. Highly recommended if we can arrange a repeat event in future years. Our sincere thanks go to Steve Taylor and his colleagues from the Friends of Para Wirra volunteer group for making this event possible and also to Louisa Sellek for her lovely photos featured in this article.



If you would like to know more about the Friends of Para Wirra volunteer group, the link to their website is:

[Friends of Para Wirra Conservation Park - Friends of Parks and Nature South Australia](#)

# Beachport - Australia Day Weekend 2025



We arrived early at Beachport Caravan Park eagerly awaiting for more of the TLCCSA Members to arrive only to find a meager six cars had turned up for the weekend, apparently the smallest attendance ever at Beachport. Not even the Datsun Rev Heads from last year showed and it is kinda worrying as country towns like this rely on a good tourism influx. The upend was that traffic was light on the dunes and it was nice to have a smaller convoy.

Happy hour started at 5 pm where Pin gave us a rundown of the weekends program, which consisted of the usual Beachport to Robe and Woakwine Cutting outing, then on the Sunday, breakfast at the yearly

Australia Day Lions Club fund raiser, then the convoy heads out for a day through Canunda National Park (CNP) finishing with a dinner out.

A good turnout or not, our weekend was still jam packed with fun, good chats and drama. The Robe excursion had enough adrenaline pumping moments. The boys get such a high when vehicles get stuck. This year there were three such moments at three different locations. The first two were on the Robe excursion, and the boys were in their element shoveling and digging, and playing in the sand to rescue one another from drowning in the sand.

The Rob incident was when he had to stop behind said leader, who shall remain nameless but called Pin. The stop broke his momentum and when Rob tried to take off, he only needed two wheel spins to dig himself into the sand and the rest was history (see Rob's story below about his adventure).



The second was Malen who got bogged. Beforehand, at the happy hour, we heard lofty words about others getting bogged so it was then surprising to hear on the radio that he was the one that got stuck. Our car in the convoy was Tail end Charlie thus we were still on the dunes and out of the picture so we did not see how the bogging shenanigans started. But as the story goes, when they came down the sand dune onto the beach there was something about wrong turns, something about stops and something about other things, perhaps an attempted turn around. In any case, whatever they were up to, things did not go to plan and Malen got stuck. Now there was a lot of laughter and finger pointing going on afterwards about who was at fault, and in the end I was not sure if it was Rob, Pin, Malen or us waiting around the corner's fault, but the

upend of it all was, more muscle and brawn was brought in with the digging and shoveling and all went well.

In the mean time we were waiting out of sight for the go ahead when a young over confident P plater with his giant wheels squeezed past the already tight waiting area. We did not even get a chance to warn him that there were cars stuck on the beach when he, with a cheery thumbs up, took off like a bat out of hell and promptly ploughed himself deep into the bog of never ending sand and duly got stuck.



Boy, what a carry on. The smart alec was determined to show us how he could wheelie and spin himself out of his conundrum, as he churned and burned his poor vehicle to such an extent that black smoke gurgled and poured from the poor cars back side. I started to think he was about to burn his car on fire but in the end he was eventually rescued.





With all the drama that was going on Edmund, Anne, Grant and I decided to chicken out and we headed for the dunes with a radio message to trip leader saying cest la vie, see you at the end of the beach run and we promptly got lost. We finally reached the convoy, with a zig and a zag over this dune and that dune and back-turning because of do-not-enter-our-private-property signs, only to find the rescue was over and our convoy had already finished morning tea.

It was a fun morning with a convoy split near Robe, ours ending at Mahalia Coffee where we had our lunch and I believe the others headed for the fish and chippy shop. Afterwards we went our separate ways and I believe Woakwine Cutting remained on the agenda.



Grant and I then went bird hunting with cameras. First in Robe with little success then at Lake George where we had in previous years seen an abundance of wild life, sea birds and oodles of water. To our shock Lake George was dry. This is a big lake and not a single drop of water could be seen. So that was the end of our bird hunting but we had fun driving on the dried up lake bed. Finally, we headed back to our caravan where the group already gathered for another happy hour and story telling.

The next day, the Lions Club fundraiser was good fun. A lot of sizzling and cooking of bacon, sausages, eggs, onion and baked beans wafted through the air. It's a festive morning with music playing and the crowd even got to sing the National Anthem, seriously testing your ability to remember all the words, before awards are handed out. The Lions Club helpers really create a welcoming and festive morning for visitors and locals, all for \$5 per head. It was pleasing to see they still had a great turn out.



Around 10 am, we left for CNP via the ice cream shop at Carpenter Rocks, then checked out the light house and wind farm before we hit our first track. What a change and different experience from last year. I am sure, that someone has sprinkled some growth hormone over the scrubs and bushes which grew plump, lush and tall in the one year. So we wound for a big part of the day through narrow treks feeling like riding a bucking bull over a scalloped terrain. Another bog happened and it was clear why when it was our turn as it was a steep upwards track that snaked around corners, thus giving it berries, dodging sand pits and momentum, momentum was not that simplistic. But like a pro we all made it. It was a great, tiring but most enjoyable day and CNP sure has great beauty to it.

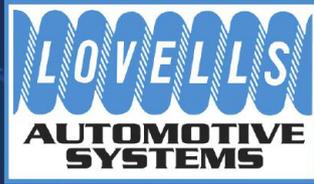


The weekend came to an end with a dinner at the Beachport Hotel. Good food and good company and a weekend like this cannot be done without the input of volunteers. We say thank you to all that helped. And so another Beachport year came to an end. Hopefully, we will be back and see more faces next year.

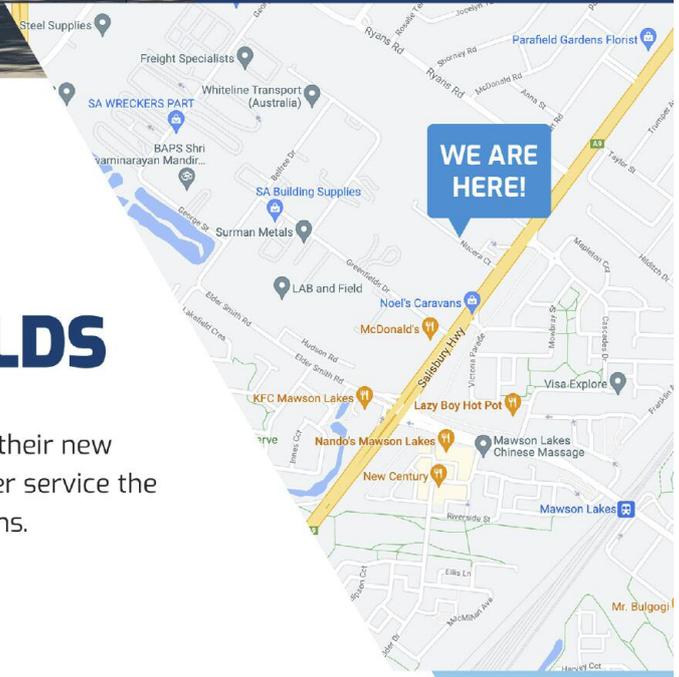
PS - Grant and I had a leisurely return to home via a Meningie stay, then at Langhorne Creek, mainly for further bird hunting sessions. It was sure worth it. If there is any other bird photographers out there, let us know and maybe further outings can be arranged.



**Written by Louisa Sellek**  
**Photos by Louisa Sellek and Kim Needham**



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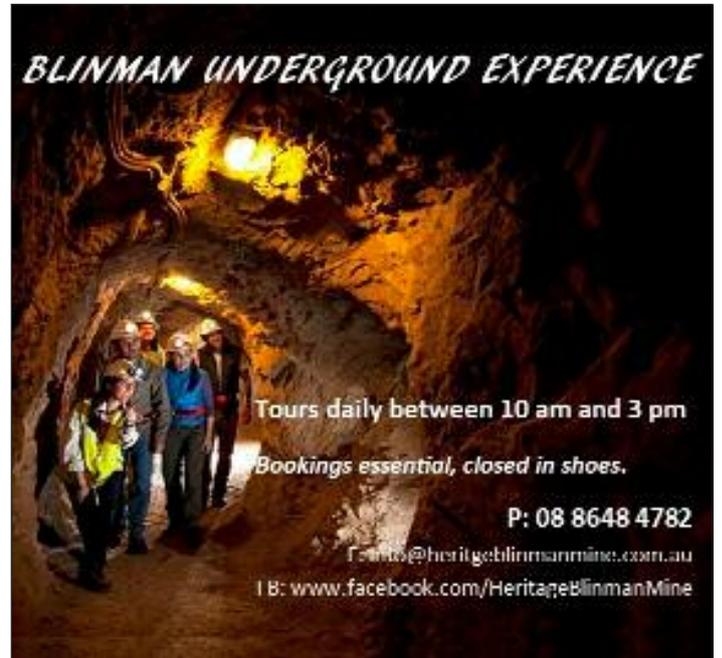
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**Vale - Roger Henwood**

Members are advised of the passing of Roger who would be known to those long-time club members. Roger joined TLCCSA in 1972, one year after our formation which made him our longest serving member. Roger lived for quite some time in Woomera where he worked in 'the industry' and when it shut he became the local Woomera base Ranger. Older members recall a trip with Roger to areas on the range that just could not be visited today. He was unable to attend our meetings, but he still enjoyed reading the newsletter and keeping track of our activities. Roger was involved in the early VHF network communication used by Club members when travelling, before mobile phones, Zoleo, and EPIRB became more fashionable.

**For Sale**

**2016 Kimberley Kamper Classic - \$25,000**

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Reluctantly selling due to the arrival of a new caravan. Registered until November 2025. Available mid April

- Solid Jockey Wheel
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- Anderson Plug
- Coil Spring Suspension

Contact Steve Clift  
rawprawn2020@outlook.com  
phone 0412199266  
for details & viewing



# Beachport - Australia Day Weekend - A Rookies View

This was my first Toyota Club trip. I was surrounded by a very experienced crew.

A detailed trip report has been written by Louise, but my first day's important thoughts were;

- Went from Beachport driving in numerous sand dunes and on the beaches - so much fun - arriving at Robe and then returning to the Beachport Caravan Park.
- There was Louise "Kodak" snapping everything but the shower block (thank goodness)! ...The Needham duo were prominent snappers too. I will need to be aware of all the snappers next time or not get bogged so much.
- Our leaders, the very wise P Needham Esquire and his offsideer Kim were extremely capable and realised immediately that I was to be number two in the convoy where they could keep a microscopic eye on me. Together with Malen and Jan behind me I was going nowhere but straight. They were so close to me I gave them my bogging disease.

Bogging is a term to describe when you stop moving because you've either tromped it excessively or conversely, lose the accelerator, depending on who one listened to. The disease seemed to be quite common with many other cars, particularly on the beach exits, so I understood it was not a serious disease, easily fixed with a shovel and maxtracks and the comforting support from all members of the convoy.

I thoroughly enjoyed driving the numerous sand dunes and beaches, but it was the proactive vibes and support both technical and manual labour that was prominent. The thing is it was volunteered - I did not need to ask for help or be embarrassed-even when I broke Malen's shovel digging out his maxtracks!



I respected Tim who was caring for Steve while having three kids of his own at home. Tim clearly loved driving and was way above my paygrade on matters Toyota and four-wheel-drive. The evening gatherings are extremely important to attend. I listened to Edmund and Anne and Grant on their experiences with great reverence.

I wondered how the hell, Jan, like the other non-drivers tolerate the antics of their partners driving and then realised I need to encourage my wife to come to Beachport next year with the Toyota family. She's already got it in her diary!

## BOGZY ROB ZADOW

Wanted

**2 rims to suit my 2020 LandCruiser**  
285x18 to be used as spares.  
Contact Graham Murray 0468956492.



## Friends of Belair National Park Posters

Many of you will have seen the magnificent photography of Marianne Broug, either in exhibitions, on our cards, or very regularly on social media. You may have also seen the artistry in the posters at the Friends of Parks and Nature Forum that Marianne created - full of colour and knowledge. Marianne has very generously donated these files to Friends of Belair NP, to print, sell and raise funds.

All photos were taken in our Park and all profits will go back into protecting and enhancing the habitat of these organisms.

Posters are

- **Bugs**
- **Fungi**
- **Birds**
- **Native Wildflowers**

These are high quality A2 prints on card and the colour and detail is magnificent. These are for sale for \$15 each and preferred payment is via bank transfer to our account:

- BSB: 105-078
- Account no: 306250940
- Account name: Friends of Belair Park
- Account reference: Your name

Please email your order with how many of each poster to: [friendsofbnp@outlook.com](mailto:friendsofbnp@outlook.com)

The only drawback is they are not good to post. At the moment these will be available for pickup from the Belair NP office



# Victoria High Country - Licola to Kooyoora State Park

**Trip Leader** Craig Marchant

**Date** 8th to 15th February 2025

**TLCCSA Members** Michelle and Leon Stiglingh, Peter Bradley, Michael Polacek, Phil Arhens, Rob, Andy Davis

## Day 1 – Saturday 8th Feb – Licola Caravan Park

With everyone having arrived by 5pm, we met in the undercover BBQ area. Phil had already done the domestic duties, cleaning out the fire drum and getting the fire going with the complimentary wood that had been chopped up for us, after a big branch had come down. With everyone settled in front of the fire, we did the usual trip admin that is necessary at the start of a trip, and then went through some of the finer details for the coming week. We cooked dinner on the complimentary BBQ. A nice touch the caravan park provides, as it was a bit dizzily, so having a 4-burner hotplate to cook on was much appreciated. After dinner, we stoked up the fire, had a few more drinks and sat around chatting and looking forward to the week ahead.



## Day 2 – Sunday 9th Feb – Walhalla Town and Gold Mine Tour. 175km, 6hrs driving.



We woke to a drizzling cool morning and it felt a lot like we were in the Adelaide Hills in the middle of winter!

As we departed for Walhalla at 9am, we took the opportunity to get a photo in front of the picturesque Licola General Store.

The drizzle continued as we headed south, twisting and turning our way along the alpine road. With big mountain tops, long green valleys and flowing rivers, it felt like we could have been in a different country.

After 50 minutes, we were off the bitumen, heading west on the Cowwarr – Walhalla Road. With a lot of rain overnight and with parts of the road having a clay surface, sections had become very muddy and slippery. After a few sideways slides it becoming a little too treacherous to continue on highway pressures, so we stopped to air down to 25psi to get a bit more traction.



We continued on without any issues, arriving at Bruntons Bridge. This would be a nice spot to stay for a few days with its flat camping areas, fire pits and toilets. The Thompson River also provides a great place to swim and fish, just be careful of the river crossing. It is wide and can become impassable if water is released from the Thompson Dam.



Continuing on to Walhalla, we had enough time for stroll around, admiring the period buildings and rich history of the town and general area. A few of the crew had lunch at the Wicked Café, enjoying toasted sandwiches and freshly brewed coffee.



We were booked on The Long Tunnel Extended Gold Mine tour at 1:30pm. It was great and our guide Ben was very knowledgeable and passionate about the mine and the area's history. He demonstrated how they bored into the rock using the Hammer and Tap method, before blasting away the rock. Working 24hrs a day, they progressed the tunnels at a rate of about 30 metres a week.





Physically demanding and working by candle light with poor ventilation, it is amazing how the men endured such gruelling conditions. The Long Tunnel Extended Gold Mine tunnels and shafts eventually reached 8.5kms in length, and to a depth of 923 metres. Impressive!

They extracted approximately 440, 312 troy ounces of gold or over 13.6 tonnes, which is worth over \$2 billion Aussie dollars in today's money.

The intention was to take the scenic route north bound back to Licola, going cross country on Cheynes Bridge Track. Craig's Garmin Overlander had other ideas though, deciding to take the crew towards Aberfeldy, rather than continuing on Binns Road, towards the stipulated Waypoint, grrrrr.

After a while it became obvious the Garmin was geographically disorientated, so we reverted to paper maps. With the rain continuing, it was unwise to try and go cross country, so we planned our route by staying on maintained forestry roads. This enabled us to go over Mt Selma, and at over 1,400m would provide great views on a clear day.

We were back at Licola by 6pm, and once again made ourselves at home at the undercover BBQ area. Phil got the fire going, and it wasn't long before we had drinks in hand, and folks were cooking up a feast on the BBQ. Afterwards, we sat in front of the fire, and Phil pulled out his fire fork and roasted marsh mellows for us all, Yum!

**Day 3 – Monday 10th Feb – Caledonia River and Camping at Altitude on the Howitt High Plains. 120km, 5hrs**

Heavy rain started around 4am and by 8am, it was not looking good. Quite a lot of rain had fallen over the prior 48 hrs and it was starting to look like the planned itinerary was going to have to change. Because of the rain, and the crew needing to fill up before our 5 days off grid, we didn't need to meet at the general store until 10am.



Amazingly at 9:30am the rain stopped, the clouds disappeared and we were basked in bright sunshine. Steam started to rise off the ground, and all of a sudden it felt like we were in the tropics, with sky high humidity and a sun quickly warming the morning air. We headed along the Tamboritha Road, a great drive as it twists its way up from the valley, following the Wellington River. The road turns to dirt and gets more twisty, as it continues to climb up to 1,500 metres. Stopping at Bennisson Lookout, we got stunning views of the high country.

With the ground dry, it appeared all the rain that had fallen on Licola for the last 2 days, none of it had passed this way. It was with a little trepidation that it was decided to stick with the planned itinerary for the time being, and continue a further 10km's before turning onto Dingo Hill Track.



The call went out to engage Low Range, as things were about to get a bit more interesting. Dingo Hill Track drops from 1,250 metres to 600 metres very quickly. There are a series of switch backs you have to do 3 point turns on to get around, before a very rough and rocky section takes you down into the valley.



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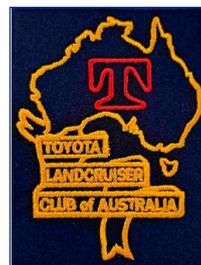
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Making our way down to the Caledonia River, you then follow the valley, criss crossing the river numerous times. It was amazing how many fallen trees laid across the track, with park rangers and 4 wheelers cutting gaps just wide enough to get your car through. It felt a bit like an obstacle course, with the smug Prado's having a laugh at the fat 200's trying to squeeze their way through. At one point, a huge tree having recently fallen and blocking the track, forced you to drive down into the river to make your way around it. With the river surprising low, most of the river entries and exits were quite easy. One though had some decent rock steps and river boulders to negotiate, requiring a second set of eyes to help you get across safely. After an enjoyable morning of scenic driving, an exciting descent and lots of river crossings, it was time to stop and catch our breaths, before having lunch and enjoying the serenity of the Caledonia River.



With some grey clouds appearing overhead, it was time to get going as the northern end of the Caledonia River track is quite long and very steep in sections, climbing from 600m to 1,500m.



Parts of the northern end of the track are certainly difficult. Loose shaley sections and others with sharp exposed rock, mean to need to pick your lines and be careful with wheel placement and momentum. We all made it up safely, and just in the nick of time, as the heavens opened up, and it started pouring down.

The plan was to camp at Howitt Hut, but at an altitude 1,500m and the wind blowing hard, we decided to make a beeline to a restored hut, 20km's south along the Howitt Road. McMichaels Hut would have made a great stop for us,

but we were literally 2 minutes too late. Another vehicle arrived just before us, and claimed the hut for the night. Dam! Hema was showing several other huts in the area, but after driving around in the pouring rain for 30 minutes they were all ruins, so we gave up, and headed back to Kellys Hut which is near McMichaels hut. You cannot drive right up to Kellys Hut, but at least we could use it to put the fire on, and have a cosy night under shelter playing cards and chit chatting.

Well tonight was simply not going to be our night, as when we got there, 2 other LandCruiser Troop Carriers full of hikers had arrived, and were making their way over to the hut! Oh well, and with that we made the most of the flat ground around us, and setup camp as best we could. Rob and Andy called beer o'clock at 6pm, putting out chips, biscuits, and Humus. So, a few of us huddled under the awning with drinks and nibbles in hand, as the rain continued to come down. Dinner was a simple affair for everyone, as it was cold (8 degrees), wet and getting dark. We all had an early night, bedding down around 8:30pm after a big day.

#### **Day 4 – Tuesday 11th Feb – Howitt High Plains, Butcher Country and the McAlister River. 50kms, 2.5 hrs**

What a difference a few hours make in the Vic High Country. We started to rise around 7am and it was a perfectly clear and still morning. The birds were chirping and everyone was in good spirits. At around 1,500m, the air was fresh and cool, with a morning temperature around 4 degrees. The scenery was stunning, with mist settling on the large peat bog / wetlands. As the sun rose and settled on our camp, steam started to rise off the ground and our awnings, helping to dry everything out and warm the cool morning air.



By 0930, we were back on Howitt Road, heading north to Dimmicks Lookout. It is well worth the short detour off the main road, as the views are amazing looking eastwards, towards the Wonnangatta Valley.

**Written by Craig Marchant**

**To Be Continued**



# TLCCSA - Paying by Direct Debit

## 1. Instructions for those paying **MEMBERSHIP or TRAINING FEES** by direct crediting (excluding credit cards)

- Please ensure when inputting your deposit transfer that your surname plus initials are included in the detail / reference field.
- Once receipt number is issued for the deposit please email this receipt to the TLCCSA Treasurer, [treasurer@tlccsa.asn.au](mailto:treasurer@tlccsa.asn.au)

Bank	Beyond Bank, Modbury
Account Name	Toyota Landcruiser Club of Australia (SA) Inc
BSB	325 - 185
Account number	0403 8506 <b>(Note - New Account Number)</b>

## 2. Instructions for those paying for **TLCCSA SOCIAL CLUB ACTIVITES** by direct crediting (excluding credit cards)

Bank	Beyond Bank
Account Name	Toyota Landcruiser Club of Australia (SA) Inc Social Club
BSB	325 - 185
Account number	0403 9446 <b>(Note - New Account Number)</b>



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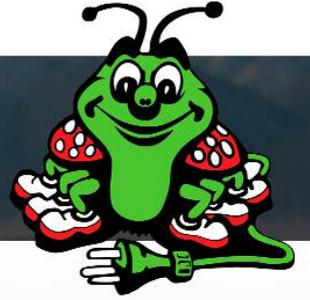
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