



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

April 2025

Next General Meetings:

Monday
28th April, 2025

Monday
26th May 2025

LandCruising Australia Wide

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Vic High Country
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Service Provider of Month
Tribute - Ralph Abbott



A MEMBER OF FWDSA



The Secretary,
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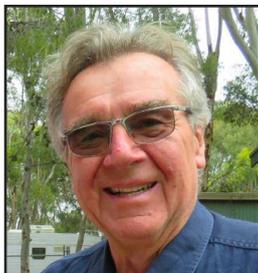


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8186 1011

Tyrepower Kensington Park
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416 Payenham Rd
Glynde SA 5074



from your President

Hello Members,

Greetings from the National Conference and Gathering at Mansfield. TLCCV have done a great job with the organisation of this event. The Conference gave our delegates (Paul Hoskin and John Birchall) and myself a good insight into the activities and organization of the other state TLCCs. We all appear to have similar issues to sort out and it's very reassuring that we appear to be coping as well as the other states.

The Gathering consists of multiple trips through the High Country, both escorted and self-drive. Wonderful to have a local showing us the best tracks and views. Social activities such as the Gathering dinner, afternoon happy hours (with give aways, raffles, barbecue's etc) gave us a good opportunity to network with all. The next Conference / Gathering will be in NSW in three years' time so look out for it.

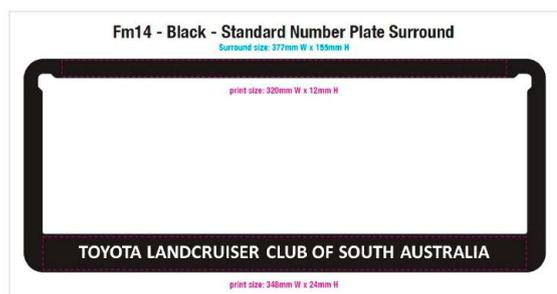
Had a great experience recently, with a visit to the RFDS Adelaide base. Fascinating and interesting organisation doing a great deal of good work throughout Australia. Members are reminded that TLCCSA regularly supports the RFDS with an annual donation of \$1500, as well as the money in the "Penalty no-name-badge" tins. These were recently handed in to (and replaced by) the RFDS. We now have a receipt for \$83 as well! Not wearing the name badge appears to be a good supporting initiative.

A reminder that the AGM will follow the May General Meeting. Our Annual Report for 2024 - 2025 is being prepared and will be circulated to all in early May together with the Notice of Meeting and Annual Report.

Pam and I are staying in the high country for a further ten days, exploring the eastern section of the ranges, before returning to Adelaide.

Safe travels,

Vlad Humeniuk
TLCCSA President



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Order from Carola Sanders



The **28th April 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/CWXDP>



Front Cover Photo:

Victorian High Country
Photo by Craig Marchant

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Next General Meeting:

28th April 2025, 7.30pm,
West Adelaide Football Club.

Trip Reports:

Guest Speaker:

Chris McDermott
The Little Heroes Foundation

Newsletter Articles Deadline:

Friday 2nd May 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
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	Michael Polacek		0413 003 038
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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 member for the month of April 2025.

- Chris Moutzouris from Kent Town

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

April 2025

Tue 8th - Coopers Brewery Tour

Mon 28th ~ General Meeting, WAFC

May 2025

Sun 4th ~ Historic Car Run

Sun 4th ~ Caravan Safety Awareness

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)

October 2025

Fri 3rd - Mon 6th ~ Ralph Abbott Argadells Trip

Sat 18th - Sun 19th ~ Ascent / Descent - Morgan

Sun 19th - Sat 1st Nov ~ Gawler Ranges & Eyre Peninsula

Sun 26th ~ Trip Planning

Mon 27th ~ General Meeting, WAFC

November 2025

Sun 9th ~ Wheel Change and Pre-Departure

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)



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trips

Pin Needham

Trips Officer

Telephone: 0437 420 099

Email: trips@tlccsa.asn.au



social

Pam Humeniuk

Social Officer

Telephone: 0418 825 137

Email: 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.



SAVE THE DATE TLCCSA

Christmas Party Port Elliot

Fri 28th - Sun 30th
November



events calendar

Register now via
trybooking.com

1. 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/CZDHI>

— # —

2. Historic Vehicle Gathering & Run

Date: Sunday 4 May, 2025

Where: Echunga Memorial Hall, 22 Adelaide Rd, Echunga

Leader: Darryl Royans & Michael Polacek

Convoy: Unlimited (10 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>

— # —

3. Arkaroola Cactus Cull

Date: 8 May - 16 May 2025

Leaders: Michael Polacek

Convoy: 25 people (14 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>

— # —

5. 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>

— # —

6. 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)
(11 booked)

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

— # —

7. Bendleby Ranges

Leaders: James & Lin Edwards

Date: Fri 6 - Mon 9 June 2025

Convoy: 20 vehicles **(22 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>

— # —

8. 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 Ngaanyatjarraku 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>

— # —

9. Gum Creek Cactus Cull

Date: 21 – 27 July 2025

Leaders: Michael Polacek

Convoy: 24 people. **(15 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>

— # —

10. 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>

— # —

11. 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>

— # —

12. Kudriemitchie Outstation Trip & Working Bee

Date: August 25 to 31, 2025

Leader: Steve Miller

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

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 (Montepirrie 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>

— # —

13. Fraser Island (K'gari) Scenic 2025 EOI

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>

— # —

14. Ralph Abbot 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 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>

— # —

15. Gawler Ranges and Eyre Peninsula 2023

Date: 19 Oct - 1 Nov 2025

Leader: Denise & Vladimir Malcik

Convoy: 6 vehicles (0 booked)

Rating: Moderate

Gawler Ranges NP with gravel tracks and sand driving on beaches on Eyre Peninsula.

Also time for walking, fishing and just relaxing.

Camping starts at Mambray Creek, then Gawler Ranges NP, Waganny Campground (2 nights), Coffin Bay Yangie Campground (4 nights) and Lincoln NPs. Summer Beach Campground.(4 nights)

Essential gear- Long handle shovel, basic recovery gear, compressor, Tyre deflater, UHF radio. Desirable - Traction Boards and second spare tyre

Permits required for Mambray, Gawler Ranges, Coffin Bay & Lincoln NP. Participants to make their own campsite bookings. A 2 month pass available on line (\$54 per couple)

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

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

cont'd page 11.



Peter Harper
 Education Officer
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 email : education@tlccsa.asn.au



Murray McClay
 Assistant Education Officer
 Telephone : 0419 031 046
 email : edusub@tlccsa.asn.au

FROM	TO	ACTIVITY	WHERE	FEES	DEPOSIT	INFORMATION
Wed 12th Feb 2025		New Members Night	SCC	Nil		https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJL
Sun 23rd Feb 2025		Tyre Repair	Ironbank	\$10 per person	\$10 per person	Fee covers the cost of materials and refreshments https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJM
Sat 1st Mar 2025	Sun 2nd Mar 2025	Theory	TBA	\$20 per person	\$20 per person	https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJN
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 https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJO
Sun 4th May 2025		Caravan Safety Awareness	Barossa Valley	\$120 per couple		https://www.trybooking.com/CXPUF
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 https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJP
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. https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJQ
Sat 30th Aug 2025	Sun 31st Aug 2025	Theory	SCC	\$20 per person	\$20 per person	https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJR
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. https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJS
Sun 28th Sep 2025		GPS (Theory & Practical)	SCC	\$20 per person	\$20 per person	Fee covers cost of refreshments. https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJT
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 https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJU
Sun 26th Oct 2025		Trip Planning	TBA	\$20 per person	\$20 per person	Fee covers cost of refreshments. https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJW
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. https://www.trybooking.com/CXKJX

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
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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



Special service offer for Landcruiser Club Members

Service includes:

- Engine oil & filter
- Lube, driveshafts, universal joints and steering stops
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OH WHAT A FEELING

SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH

Battery World - Marion

I would like to nominate Zac from Battery World Marion as Service Provider of the Month. The franchise is owned by Andrew and Kimberley Milne. I have purchased batteries from them on several occasions with complete satisfaction and received a club member discount.

On this recent occasion the two AGM batteries in our Ultimate Camper were getting up to around 5 years old and starting to run down quickly under load. We decided it was time to change them over and upgrade to Lithium Phosphate batteries in the process. I discussed the options with Battery World Marion, verified that the Battery Management System was compatible, and booked in for two Ecoflow 12V 100 Amp Lithium Batteries to be installed prior to attending the TLCCSA Christmas Party. On the day of installation, a large carpark space was made available to us and technician Zac came to us with tools and batteries onboard. What looked to be a straightforward changeover turned into a minefield as the old AGM batteries were so well cemented into their compartment that they defied every effort to remove them. The bracket holding them was held down by superglue and silicon it seemed and there was precious little space to maneuver. Undaunted, and with assistance from a fellow staff member, the old batteries were eventually freed. Once the new batteries were in it was now obvious that the connecting cables were not going to be flexible enough to reach the recessed terminals. This required a new cable to be manufactured and installed. An adjustment to the bracket was also required and the smaller batteries required packing out with foam to ensure that they remained firmly in place. To top things off the BMS failed to register the capacity of the new batteries despite being fully charged. Thankfully, this resolved itself a few minutes later much to everyone's relief. Throughout the job Zac remained unfazed and provided workarounds as each issue presented. We could only be impressed by his patience, perseverance, and attention to detail. There was no charge for the extra time taken to complete the installation nor for the new parts provided.

We would recommend Battery World Marion to any club members who may be considering new batteries, and because of our recent experience we have no hesitation in nominating them as Service Provider of the Month.

Graeme and Helen Brettig

events calendar

Register now via
trybooking.com

knowledge. Send an email to Pam Humeniuk 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>

That's all for now folks!

MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR Sunday 25th May 2025

A family fun day organised by your Social Club

A fun tour along country backroads, in search of answers to the questions on your tour sheet. Put your detective hat on and be alert!

Meet at Crafers Park n Ride South, at 9.30 am, for your instruction sheet. You will travel a maximum of 100 kms, taking about 3 hours, in a loop which finishes at Bythorne Park, Nairne. What surprises are there along the way? A sausage sizzle lunch provided by the club, games, prizes. Come along and have a fun day. Even more fun if you have extras in the car, so friends welcome.

You must register with Trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/CZPOS>



NARACOORTE SWAP MEET

Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th May 2025

One of the largest country Swap Meets in SA.
Outdoor and indoor sites of car parts, antiques,
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Trading: Saturday 7am – 5pm
Sunday 7am – noon

Showgrounds, Smith Street Naracoorte
Public entry \$5

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DOGS ALLOWED

Gates open for site holders Friday 2nd May noon – 9 pm
Saturday from 6.30 am. No booking for outdoor sites \$30

SHOW 'n' SHINE

Cars and Motorcycles
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Registration 8 – 10:30 am Saturday, \$5 per vehicle. Judging 11am

Catering at venue
BBQ breakfast Saturday and Sunday

Enquiries: Ph. 0408 854 658 (4-8 pm)
Email: naracoortehvc@gmail.com



Naracoorte Historic Vehicle Club Inc.

Old Ghan Railway Photographic Exhibition

Members will be aware that last October the Club ran a project to replace outdated signage along the Old Ghan Railway Heritage Trail, commissioned by the Outback Communities Authority. Very ably led by Pin Needham, two 'teams' grappled with rusted bolts, broken frames and hot conditions to install new interpretative signage at South Australian locations along the Trail, from Port Augusta to Pedirka in the state's north.

As a follow up to this project the Outback Communities Authority is mounting a photographic exhibition of the historic images that appear on the signs as an event within South Australia's History Festival in May this year. The exhibition will be held at the newly restored 'Old Victoria Hotel' at Beltana, which is a state heritage township. Beltana was originally the 'end' of the railway line, and former Beltana resident David Tarr was the instigator of the trail signage project more than 20 years ago.

The History Festival exhibition will open on Saturday May 3, and be open for public viewing on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10am to 4pm until May 31. It will also be open for the remainder of Outback SA's 'tourist season' for the rest of the year - usually the October long weekend - in line with the pub's opening hours. Camping is available at Beltana via HipCamps, (I've stayed there... good amenities but no powered sites.) Parachilna is down the road. The hotel has a range of accommodation options at different prices and there is a caravan park there as well. The Nilpena Ediacara National Park is part way between Beltana and Parachilna. and of course the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park is nearby. So if you can't fit in a trip along the actual Old Ghan Railway Heritage Trail it is worth a visit.

The Outback Communities



Summer Brunch - February 2025



First and foremost, a big thankyou to Sue and Brian Stone who once again opened up their home in Kenton Valley to host the 67 registered guests for the summer breakfast.

The event kicked off the day before, when a few social committee members gathered on Saturday afternoon to help with the setting up of the gazebos, barbeques, toasters, bay marines, frypans etc, the list goes on. This was followed by a little happy hour then a lovely meal at the Charleston Hotel.

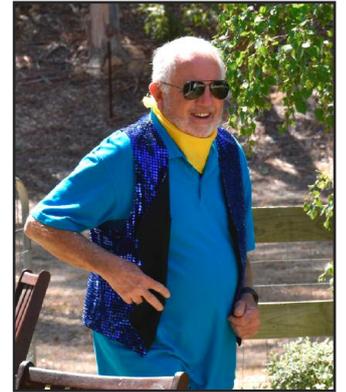
Sunday morning the remainder of the committee members and their partners arrived to help with prep and cooking of the food. In the kitchen we had hash browns in the oven, tomatoes being chopped, strawberries hulled, cream whipped, pancake batter beaten and baked beans heating on the stove.



Outside snags and bacon were sizzling on the barbeques. It was a chilly start just 10 degrees and overcast, when the guests started arriving some were in beanies and coats. On arrival they were greeted by Carolla and Helen for the sign in and Sue B and Susan V for a welcome drink of Bubbles and OJ.

Everyone then proceeded to set up and decorate their tables in hope of winning the best set tables. There was some stiff competition but the first prize went to Dave Burgess (Burgo) who was the living decoration, he dressed to impress with lots of bling.

A full cooked breakfast was enjoyed by all with eggs made to order by President Vlad This was followed by delicious pancakes with fresh strawberries and whipped cream.



At the conclusion of breakfast we had the Finska Challenge, by now the sun was shining and the weather was perfect for some fun. James and Linley organised some teams, we had three games running simultaneously, the winner of each, playing off for the ultimate prize; getting your name engraved on the perpetual trophy as the Finska Champions 2025, and the winners were David & Wendy Spackman. The trophy will be presented at a General Meeting in the future. Runner up went to Graham Adams and Trevor Coleman.

The lucky door prize was won by yours truly, hence I get to write this report.

Thanks again to Sue, Brian and the social committee for another successful day.

Author Susan Vordermaier





A Eulogy for Ralph Abbot OAM

Hearing the name "Ralph Abbot", always brings a smile to my face. Such was the impact of this happy man with his genuine welcoming smile.

Ralph and Rosemary, Helen and I, joined the Landcruiser Club around the same time. Ralph discovered that he and I had both attended Adelaide Technical High School 45 years earlier and to him this made us kindred spirits. It made no difference that I was two years ahead of him and knew his brother but didn't know him. The facts were we had worn the same school cap and blazer, toiled in the same classrooms, and grumbled about the same Deputy Head. Nothing more was needed. From this grew a enjoyable friendship.



Ralph made his mark on the TLCC within weeks of joining. He noticed a vacancy for Minute Secretary on the Management Committee so put his had up and was duly appointed. From that humble beginning the name Ralph Abbot remained on the Management Committee books for a quarter of a century, covering a variety of positions. In addition to serving as President a couple of times, and Secretary, Ralph applied his skills to Driver Training, as trainer in IT Mapping, GPS and Radio use, and as Trip Leader on 25 occasions, one of which was the Club's first overseas trip when he led a team through the wilds of southern Africa. Who else would have done that? When the 40th Anniversary book was to be written it was Ralph who led the editing team. More recently he was repeating that task in compiling the yet to be completed 50th Anniversary book. Such was Ralph's impact on the TLCC that every one of our 300+ members benefitted from his outstanding contributions. It was a popular and unanimous decision of members in 2016 that Ralph be awarded the coveted Life Membership of the Club.

The first time Ralph was elected President, I was elected Environment Officer. Building on the tremendous environment credentials earned by Don Ransom, Peter Trezise and others, I discussed with Ralph ideas for raising the environment profile within the Club by introducing trips involving activities to benefit the environment. Ralph strongly supported this concept and he also became an enthusiastic participant in the trips, culling cactus being one of them. To help focus on the Club's environment port folio I sought the help of a mascot. On the first night I stood to present an environment report to the Club, I seated Kermit on the lectern. Ralph's reaction was wonderful as he seized the moment, pretended great displeasure, and mixed his glee with feigned abhorrence at this stuffed rodent (his words not mine) that was displayed before him.



The banter that lasted between the two of us over the years as he attacked Kermit at every opportunity, worked wonders to lift the status of the Club's environment program. Would it surprise you to learn that over those years I was shown photos of Kermit having been run over by a steam roller, having been drowned in a dam, fed through a mincing machine, locked in a gaol cell, and numerous other horrendous acts of torture, all perpetrated by his Uncle Ralph? Club members readily joined in, even encouraged, the fun with Ralph and me, and poor little Kermit.

The first new environmental project to which I introduced Club members was cactus culling on Gum Creek Station in the Flinders Ranges. With just one exception Club members were content to spend a week on a sheep station or national park finding and culling cactus. Ralph went above and beyond. He researched cactus biology, searched for biological controls to replace chemicals, maintained dialogue with experts around Australia, attended seminars, joined the State Opuntia Taskforce, Rangelands NRM Alliance, and Weed Management Society of SA. I genuinely believed that Ralph was

among the most knowledgeable people in Australia regarding methods for removing a variety of invasive cactus plants from grazing lands.

Having introduced Ralph to cactus I felt nervous when his attention turned to suburbia. A large plant had been noticed beside the railway line near Oaklands Crossing. He and mate Ray donned hi-vis vests to provide an image of authenticity, hopped the fence and despatched the offending cactus. I suspect there may have been some scientific purpose in the exercise but never did I discover it. Nor did I receive the expected call from authorities seeking names of those cactus bandits.

Ralph had become well know around South Australia for his sustained commitment to removal of this noxious feral plant so it was no surprise when he received the Premier's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service in 2014. His commitment showed no sign of easing.



continued on page 14.

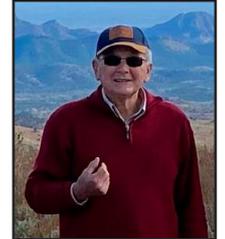
Ralph continued to find new places and even different types of cactus in need of his attention, so off he went each time with his band of merry men.

In reviewing his commitment to cactus eradication over almost two decades I believed it appropriate to nominate Ralph for an Australian Honour in recognition of his leadership and outstanding voluntary commitment to defeating a major environmental problem facing South Australia. He was named in the Australia Day Honours list four years ago as a recipient of the Order of Australia Medal, the OAM, for services to the environment. He was justly proud and rightly thrilled to receive that award.

In past months Ralph and I have been exchanging phone calls and emails sharing details of our health problems and the specifics of our treatment. It was just two weeks before his passing that I received an email from him telling me of his plans to lead a number of cactus excursions up north during this year, and explaining how he was intending to ask his medical team to rearrange the dates of his treatment and have them double his dose rates so the medication would keep working while he was away chasing cactus. Total commitment to the end.

Ralph Abbot was a remarkable man, Willing to share his time and talents for the common good. A high achiever in all that he did. A dependable friend. A great Club man and true team player. A man who made me smile without even trying.

Every member of the Toyota Landcruiser Club joins me and Kermit to say a sincere thankyou Ralph. Rest in peace old friend.



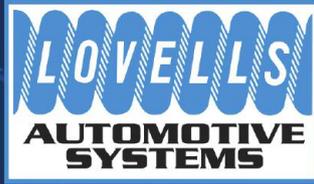
**A eulogy to the memory of TLCC Past President Ralph Abbot OAM
Delivered at a Memorial Service held on Tuesday 4 March 2025
By TLCC Member Vincent Monterola AM, AFSM**



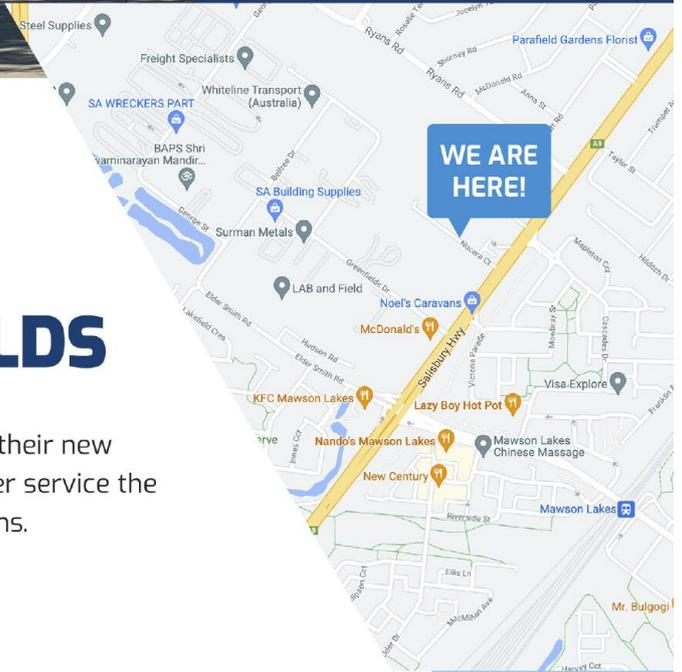
DRIVER TRAINING - PEAKE MARCH 25

A great time was had by many members at the driver training weekend at Peake. The hot dry conditions made the sand soft and fluffy and presented many challenges and added to the learning experience. We are indeed grateful to the trainers who demonstrated driving and recovery techniques with the utmost patience. The weekend was made even better with great company and loads of fun.





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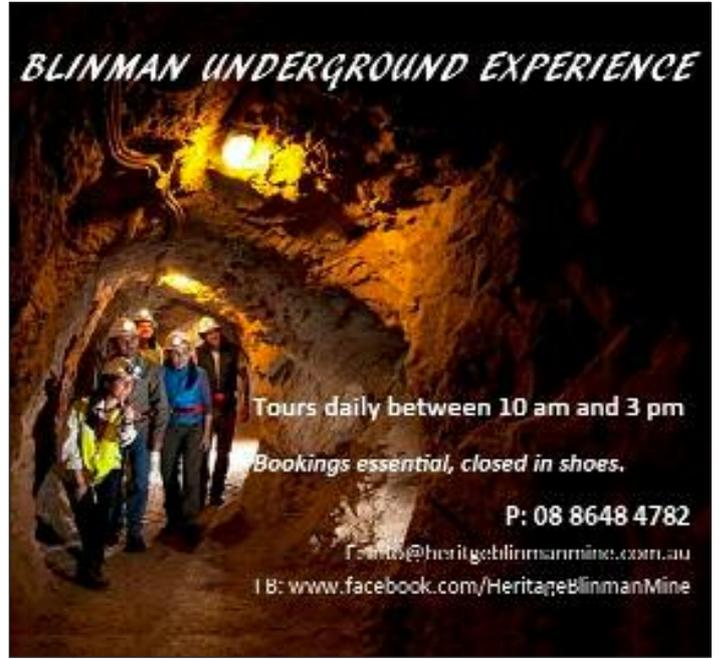
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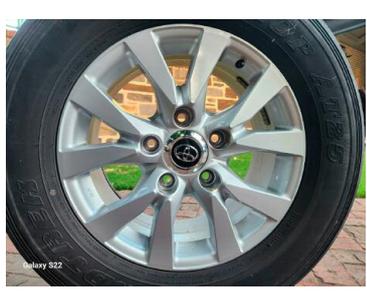
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For Sale Rosemary Abbot wishes to sell:

Set of 4 Bridgestone Dueller A/T tyres
 LT 285/70 R1 20% tread left, no damages
\$50 each or set of 4 for \$150

Contact **Vlad Humeniuk 0408825144**
 if interested.

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 4 - Continued from March Newsletter

Just up the road from Dimmicks lookout is Howitt Hut. Another well restored and maintained hut that is worth a visit and is rich in history. It is linked to the famous Wonnangatta murders of 1917/18 and is where the body of John Bamford was discovered in May 1918. He was shot in the back of the head. This and the murder of Jim Barclay have never been solved.



With a warm morning and the sun drying the ground, it was decided to continue with the planned itinerary and head up the Butcher Country Track. This track is about 20kms long, with a large part of it a ridge line drive. You generally stay above 1km in altitude, giving you more great views of the surrounding countryside. With storm clouds on the horizon, we had to press on as at the end of Butcher Country track, the descent to the McAlister River is steep, and with a clay top, not a track you want to be doing if it is wet. Thankfully, our

luck was in, the clouds cleared away, the sun stayed out and it was a perfect summers day.

Arriving at the McAlister River, there was a big camping area that was too good to leave. With a great swimming spot, it was an easy decision to have an early day, set up camp, and jump in the water. With our soft feet feeling every inch of the round river rocks, you couldn't say we entered the water gracefully, but we all made it in the end!



Invigorated by our swim, we had nothing else to do but put the fire on, and call an early beer o'clock :) We all enjoyed having a lazy afternoon, with the subtle sounds of the bush and the river flowing in the background. It was a great way to take in the summer feeling of being in the Vic high country.

Most of the crew cooked dinner on the fire, with Andy and Rob even heating up puddings with cream on top. Talk about posh city folk! With dinner over, we stoked up the fire up, enjoyed some Port and chocolates before doing a bit of star gazing. Once your eyes adjust, it is amazing how many satellites you now see, you literally see them constantly passing over head.

Day 5 – Wednesday 12th Feb – Steep Tracks and Camping at Upper Jamieson Hut. 62km. 3.5hrs drive time.

We woke to another perfect morning, warm and no wind. With no dew, pack up was a simple affair, and we were all ready to go by 9am. McAlister River track is another very enjoyable drive, criss crossing the river with great views through the valley and onwards to the mountain tops.



The river levels were very low, so all the crossings were easy. It would not be a track you would want to drive if the river levels were up though, and it was flowing strongly. Some of the crossings are quite wide, and there are big river rocks that you would not want to hit. Even at low levels, you needed to be careful where you placed our wheels.





With all the river crossings safely negotiated, it was then onto Black Soil Gully Track. Another exciting drive as it climbs steeply out of the valley, from 350 metres up to 1,300 metres. It was heavily rutted in sections, and we all had to be extra careful to straddle the ruts and not fall in.

Making good time, we were back on Bull Plain Road by 10:30am. A perfect time for morning tea and Andy pulled out a large Lions Christmas cake. Desperate to get rid of it, he insisted we all had a piece, so we got stuck in and got our sugar hit for the day.



With our tummies full of cake we continued on, north along Bull Plain Road as it ascended Mountain Ash. An easy drive with great forest views. That was until we got to a section of the road that had been washed away! Big boulders had been exposed, that required precise wheel placement to negotiate. Michael did the honours, successfully spotting and guiding us all through without any vehicle damage. Phew.



It took a while to get us through this technical section, so by then it was getting onto lunchtime. We also needed to collect firewood for tonight, so with lots lying around, we decided to pull up, collect what we needed, and have lunch in the shade of the valley. It was once again starting to feel like the tropics with the heat and thick forest around us. No wind and bright sunshine meant the temperature was rising as quickly as the humidity. We hopped back in the Cruisers and to the comfort of our air conditioners, and continued onto Nobbs track which ascends towards Mt McDonald at 1,600 metres. Slow and rocky, it becomes a ridge line track that veers east towards a Helipad. We stopped at the Helipad for a break and to let the cars cool down.

Keen to get to our camp spot for the night, we pushed on, down Clear Track towards Brocks Road. Hema rate this track Difficult and it would have been if not recently graded. It is very steep, dropping from 1,300 metres to 800 metres over a couple of kilometres. With everyone safely down, we arrived at Upper Jamieson Hut around 3:30pm. And this time, we had the hut all to ourselves!



We contemplated setting up inside the hut and putting the fire on, but it was too warm and nice outside. Once camp was setup, a few of us went for a swim in the river to freshen up. It was then the crew had their 1st drama for

the trip. While Andy was doing his vehicle checks, he noticed oil dripping from his diff. Oh No! So, it was all hands to the pump as we recreated a typical council work scene, to ensure Andy had all the help he needed to fix the problem :)



Once the crew had successfully managed Andy's issue, and continuing the council theme we delayed any important decisions to a later date, it was back to the important business of getting the fire on, cleaning the hotplate and having some drinks and nibbles while enjoying the serenity of our surroundings. Warm and humid, no wind and with the sounds of the bush in the background, it was the perfect way to spend the late afternoon.



We took turns cooking dinner on the fire before settling back for another night around the fire, chatting the evening away.

Day 6 – Thursday 13th Feb – Howqua Hills and Jamieson River. 80km, 3 hrs driving.

We were greeted with another perfect morning, cool and calm so we made the most of it and had a slow start to the day. The fire was brought back to life and we enjoyed eggs and bacon on the hotplate. It was Phil this time who went all posh on the crew, cooking up a fancy serve of scrambled eggs!



Regarding Andy's leaking diff, it was decided the best option would be for Andy and Rob to leave the trip at this point :(From our overnight stop, it was an easy and safe drive back to Mansfield on maintained forest roads. At Mansfield a mechanic could do a proper assessment of the diff, to hopefully give Andy and Rob the ok to continue their travels back to Adelaide. The itinerary had the crew going on steep, isolated and potentially challenging tracks today, so if there was a mechanical failure, it had the potential to be a difficult and costly recovery. As we had already had a great few days, and with a safe exit point available, this was the best option available.



At 10am we headed off, back on Brocks Road towards Mansfield and the Howqua Hills. We stopped at Tunnel Bend, a spot where many years ago miners dug a tunnel looking for gold. If you are game, you can walk all the way through and come out on the other side of the road. Once we were back at the cars, a couple of horse riders came along. After chatting for a while, they both mentioned how they'd come past here many times, but had never walked through the tunnel.

The lady was keen but her companion was content to stay on his horse, having a smoke. So Michael being the gentleman he is, stepped up and offered to lead her through the tunnel. After 10 minutes the lady came back up the road alone, with Michael nowhere in sight. We asked where Michael was, as she said "I've left him down there for later on!!!" Someone quipped that we'd been trying to lose him all week.....but thankfully Michael returned a few minutes later, and saved Craig the hassle of filling out an Incident Report.



With the crew back together, we continued on to Howqua Hills Track. This track climbs steeply from 400 metres to over 1km, before skirting the western side of Mt Darling. With a clay base we got a reminder of how quickly track conditions can change, when we got held up by a track maintenance crew. Having bulldozed and graded the track, the water truck then sprayed the road. That little bit of water changed everything. It has us slipping and sliding as we made our way down to Tobacco Flat. Thankfully, it was a relatively short section and a great reminder of just how quickly track conditions change, if you get some rain.



We continued on Mitchells Track where you pass an old Slate mine at the top of the mountain. It's a great spot to stop and have a break, and being at 1,000 metres elevation, you get more fantastic views of the countryside. An added bonus was good phone reception, so we all took the opportunity to call and text family members to let them know all was ok.

club merchandise

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Bisley L/S shirt \$49.45



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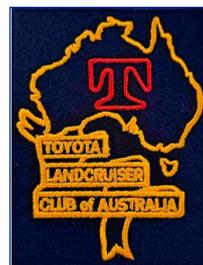
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Cloth Badge
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rawprawn2020@outlook.com phone
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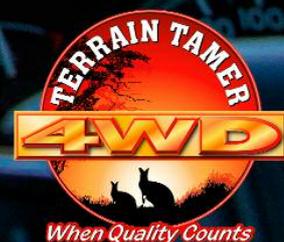
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The track maintenance crew had been on the other side of the mountain recently, grading Mitchells Track all the way to the bottom at Mitchells Creek campground. Being a very steep descent on a mostly clay base, it is another track you would not want to be on after rain. Being on the south westerly side of the mountain it is noticeable how much more like rainforest the bush is, verse what it is like at elevation or on the more exposed northerly facing aspects. Large ferns, mosses and thick growth dominate in the cooler shade of the southern side.

After lunch at Mitchells Creek campground, we continued on to the well-maintained Mt Sunday Road and our destination for the night, the Jamieson River at the end of Ferguson Track. Not a very well-known spot, there are a couple of large campsites with tables and firepits. Another warm afternoon, so a few of us delayed our camp setup, and went for a swim. The river level was very low, so we had to crawl over the rocks in search of a spot deeper enough to submerge. It was worth it though, as you feel nice and clean and invigorated by the cool mountain water.



We repeated last night's routine of putting the fire on and cleaning the hotplate. With all the hard work done, it was then time to sit back to watch the Bush TV. With some rain passing over at dinner time, it was a bit of a rushed affair, getting dinner cooked and having it out of the rain. It continued drizzle into the evening, so we had an early night after another very enjoyable day.

Day 7 – Friday 14th Feb – Jamieson and Kooyoora State Park

Today was planned to be a rest day, just relaxing by the river and taking it easy. Therefore, we had a bit of sleep in, listening to the morning chorus and the sound of the gently flowing river. Once we stirred, as a collective we decided to head back a day early. It was going to be around 10 hrs of driving to get back to Adelaide from where we were, so too much to make the journey an overly enjoyable one. Much better to break it up over 2 days, and be able to take your time and see some sights along the way.



We headed off at 10:30am to Jamieson. A nice easy drive, and along the way we got more great views of the mountains that you never get tired of looking at. Jamieson is a small picturesque town rich in history. It is definitely worth spending time walking around the town, following the heritage trail, and admiring all the old homes and street scape. There is also a café and coffee outlet where you can get freshly brewed coffee, that from all accounts was excellent!

It was getting onto lunchtime so we headed to Mansfield to fill out, and get some pastries from the local bakery. With our bellies and tanks full, it was time to start heading back to Adelaide. It is a much more relaxed way to travel, knowing you don't need to crank out 850 odd kilometres to get home. Our destination was Kooyoora State Park, 3 hours west of Mansfield. It is an ideal spot to stay on the way to and from the northern side of the high country. It appears not that well known, and you literally drive straight past it, so it adds no extra time to your journey. Dog friendly, good toilets, a large shelter with tables, firepits and accessible for caravans. On the way we stopped at Colbinabbin for a snack and to visit the silo art. Well worth a stop as the murals are amazing.



We arrived at camp at 4:30pm. There were only 2 other campers in the entire area, so we pretty much had the place to ourselves. So, we set up camp and then you guessed it, put the fire on, cleaned the hotplate and sat back to watch more Bush TV. Another great day of travel and feeling pleased with ourselves that we had decided to do the trip home over 2 days, we stayed up later tonight, chatting away and finishing the chocolates, Port and red wine so it wouldn't go to waste.

Written by Craig Marchant

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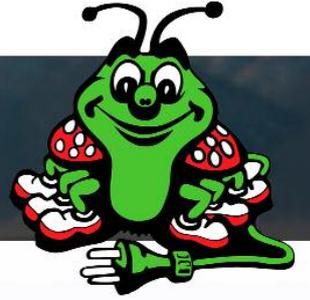
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