



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

ABN 61 772 482 212

July 2026

Next General Meetings:

Monday
27th July, 2026

Monday
24th August 2026

LandCruising Australia Wide

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Service Provider of Month
Guest Speaker Review
Farina Restoration
TLCCSA Trailer Purchase
Toyota MegaCruiser



A MEMBER OF FWDSA



The Secretary,
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from your President

Hello Members,

This month, thank you to James and Linley Edwards for leading the trip to the Bendleby Ranges. Reports indicate everyone had a great time, with the tracks in good condition and offering a mix of enjoyable driving and some challenging sections. Well done to both of you.

A big thank you to Michael Polacek and Ray Gedrits for organising the Moolooloo Station Cactus Cull. Over 1260 cacti were treated in the three days before the rains set in. Once the roads reopened and began to dry out, I understood the exiting on the dirt roads were quite eventful.

It is that time of the year for membership renewals. Please ensure your membership is renewed before 31 July to avoid incurring a late fee. A reminder to all members that in signing the membership form you agree to abide by the Club's Constitution, its By-laws and Rules, the Code of Conduct and other guidelines of the Club. These documents can be reviewed by logging into the members' section of the Club's website.

Your committee has been very busy examining the possibility of changing the Club membership and financial year to align with the ATO's financial year. This involves considering the impact on members, the AGM, financial management and committee elections. In due course, proposed changes to the Constitution will be presented to members for consideration and approval.

With warmer weather approaching, it is perfect time to venture out on more trips, whether they are day trips, weekend adventures, or week-long school holiday expeditions. If there's somewhere you'd like to explore but you're unsure about leading a trip, speak with a committee member and we'll do our best to help make it happen. Build your confidence by attending the Trip Planning Course on 26 October. and continue developing your four-wheel driving skills by revisiting Peake sand driving area, practising the Morgan ascent and descent, and, of course, participating in Club trips.

Looking forward to meeting you out in the four wheel wilderness.

Simon

Simon Critchley
TLCCSA President

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE

At the Club's recent AGM membership renewals were set at \$100 or \$80 if you live more than 70km from the GPO. They fall due from 1 June with 60 days to pay.

You can go to the Club Web page www.tlccsa.asn.au and effect your membership renewal. Click on the member's login at the very top that will then take you to the member's zone. If you have not activated your membership access you will need to do that first. See page 23 for more details on how to pay.



The **27th July 2026 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/DHIWR>



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Driver Training at Peake

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Next General Meeting & AGM:

27th July 2026, 7.30pm,
West Adelaide Football Club.

Trip Reports:

Andrew Vidale - Bendleby

Guest Speaker:

Mr. Grant Walden, General Manager, Operations & Business Development, Allin Towbars

Newsletter Articles Deadline:

Friday 1st August 2026

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

newsletter@tlccsa.asn.au

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

club contacts

2026-27

Committee		Email	A/H Phone
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	Craig Marchant		
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Assistant Treasurer	Geoff Thompson	treasurer@tlccsa@gmail.com	0414 253 575

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 July 2026.

- Erich Nienhaus from Tanunda
- Peter Ellis from Risdon Park
- Andrew Butterworth from Rostrevor
- Tasman Day from Tonsley

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

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

Daniel Munday

Dealer Principal

Contact: M 0421 139 545
D 8179 0034



46 Belair Road
HAWTHORN SA 5062
phone (08) 82721488

club yearly calendar - 2026

July 2026

Fri 10th - Sun 12th ~ Christmas in July - Wilmington
Sat 25th - Sun 26th ~ Sand Training Peake
Mon 27th ~ General Meeting, WAFC

August 2026

Sun 2nd ~ 4WD Theory
Sat 15th - Sat 22nd ~ VHC Snow Trip
Wed 19th ~ Tour of Adelaide Waste & Recycling Authority
Mon 24th ~ General Meeting, WAFC
Mon 24th - Mon 31st ~ Gum Creek Cactus Cull

September 2026

Sat 5th - Sun 6th ~ Sand Training Peake
Wed 23rd ~ Desalination Plant Tour
Mon 28th ~ General Meeting, WAFC

October 2026

Fri 2nd - Mon 5th ~ Argadells
Thurs 15th ~ Adelaide Oval Tour
Sat 17th - Sun 18th ~ Ascent / Descent Tng Morgan
Wed 21st - Sun 25th ~ 4WD & Adventure Show
Mon 26th ~ General Meeting, WAFC

November 2026

Sun 8th ~ Wheel Changing & Pre-Departure checks
Sat 14th ~ Wheel Bearing Maintenance
Sun 22nd ~ Historic Car Run
Mon 23rd ~ General Meeting & Dinner, WAFC
Fri 27th - Sun 29th ~ Christmas Party

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 - Monte Weeding (trips@tlccsa.asn.au)



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OH WHAT A FEELING

Cornes Toyota provide benefits for both members and the Club. The Spotters Card is for vehicle purchases by members or referred friends with the Club then receiving a payment direct from Cornes.

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Contact Advertising & Publicity officer for details.

Special Offer for TLCCSA Members



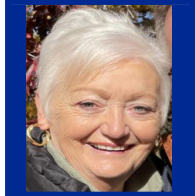
Monte Weeding

Trips Officer

Telephone: 0408 832 771

Email: trips@tlccsa.asn.au

trips



Pam Humeniuk

Social Officer

Telephone: 0418 825 137

Email: social@tlccsa.asn.au

social

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.

4WD & ADVENTURE SHOW

Wed 21st - Sun 25th October 2026

Wayville Showgrounds

Sign up now to volunteer to assist with the set up, manning and dismantling our display booth by clicking on the link <https://volunteersignup.org/3AYTB> or the



QR code using your phone:

Select the date / time group slot you want and check availability. Enter

your details and click the "Agree and sign up button". You will then be taken to a page that will say "Success".

WE NEED YOU !!

events calendar

Register now via
trybooking.com

1. Xmas in July - Wilmington

Date: Fri 10 - Sun 12 July 2026

Leader: Pam Humeniuk

Rating: Scenic / Easy

Convoy: Unlimited (39 booked)

Location: Stony Creek Bush Camp & Caravan Park Wilmington SA

Cost: \$10 per head

Comment: Powered and non powered sites available. Ensuite rooms and bunkhouse rooms (could take up to 4 people, bunks etc.) available.

Please ring & book your own site. Say that you are part of TLCCSA booking. Ph: 0488 156 850 – 1st in best dressed

Stony Creek Bush Camp is a private bush camp located 2.5kms outside the town of Wilmington in the Southern Flinders Ranges, about 3.5 hours drive north from Adelaide.

Friday - pizza night \$15 per head.

Saturday - The Big Cook Up. The Social committee organise the meat for our "Christmas dinner" and the trimmings, gravy, etc. plus sweets. You bring the veg.

Camp Cooking Competition to make your vegetables into a parcel to be cooked on the open fire. Think a swan, or a Toyota car! It's up to you. Mulled wine supplied, bring your own pot if that's your fancy.

BYO every thing else. Chairs, small tables, cutlery, crockery etc. There will be a fun Kris Kringle. Uni-sex gift, bring it along wrapped up.

Exploring opportunities on Saturday & Sunday

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

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2. Vic High Country Snow Trip

Date: Sat 15 Aug - Sat 22 Aug 2026

Leader: Craig Marchant:

Rating: Difficult - Alpine forest roads and valley tracks. Moderate to steep ascents and descents on unmaintained single lane tracks. May be driving on snow covered roads

Convoy: 5 vehicles (5 booked)

Comment: Meet at Porepunkah on the 15th before spending up to 6 days off grid, experiencing the harsh beauty of winter in the high country. If weather permits, we will camp at altitude (>1,000m) on several occasions, possibly in snow. The trip will traverse a wide area from Bright to Dargo, Licola, Woods Point and Mansfield. If weather permits, we will navigate the back roads and tracks and you may experience driving on roads and tracks with a layer of snow on them.

There will hopefully be quite a bit of snow above 1km, which we will experience across numerous mountain tops. See full itinerary details via the TryBooking link which covers health and personal safety aspects, due to the high likelihood of experiencing sub-zero temperatures, along with vehicle and equipment requirements and tracks.

2 X Snow Chains (legal requirement). Minimum 2 winches in convoy of 5 vehicles. 4 X traction boards if no winch or lockers. Recovery gear and compressor essential.

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

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3. Tour of Adelaide Waste & Recycling Authority

Date: Wed 19th August, 2026 10.00 a.m.

Location: 25 Mills Crt, Kilburn

Cost: Free

Leader: Trevor Duggan

Number: 20 people (20 booked)

Detail: A behind the scenes tour to shed light on the fascinating world of recycling and processes involved with managing recyclable material. Optional lunch after tour TBA.

Enclosed shoes, long sleeves and pants required for the tour.

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

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4. Gum Creek Cactus Cull

Date: Mon 24 – 31 August 2026

Leaders: Michael Polacek

Convoy: 24 people. (12 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 17 years. Join our expert team and have some fun. Some accommodation available in the shearers quarters or bring your van, camper trailer, tent, etc.

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

*** NEW ***

5. Old Car Day Run (EOI)

Leaders: Gawler Veteran/Vintage Car Club

Date: Tues 1st September 2026

Convoy: Unlimited

Fees: Nil, BYO lunch

Rating: Scenic, main roads run to Bethany Oval in the Barossa Valley.

Detail: Starting from Fremont Park in Elizabeth Park or Princess Park, Gawler Showgrounds from 9.00am for a 9.30am run to Bethany Oval, or make your own way to Bethany Oval, arriving around 10.30am. This activity is intended for members who have vehicles on Club Historic Registration and is an opportunity to dust off the wheels after winter and enjoy this run on the first day of spring with other car enthusiasts.

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

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6. Tour of the Desalination Plant

Date: 23rd Sept 2026. 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

Address: 16 Chrysler Road, Lonsdale

Leader: Chris Adams

Cost: Free

Convoy: 24 (16 booked)

Detail: Option of lunch after (at own expense) will be advised.

The tour begins at the Kauwi Learning Centre with a short video presentation about the desalination process. Following this, we board a bus for a guided tour around the plant, which spans 32 hectares. If the plant is not running, we may have access to the inside of the process area. Please note that as this is an operational work site, a reasonable level of mobility is required. Unfortunately, walking aids cannot be accommodated for safety reasons.

There is plenty of parking on site at the Kauwi Learning Centre for all members. All attendees to wear closed in shoes,

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

*** NEW ***

7. Ralph Abbot Argadells 2026

Dates: Fri 2 - Mon 5 Oct 2026

Leader: James & Linley Edwards

Convoy: Unlimited

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 on road 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 \$20 per 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/DNRVS>

*** NEW ***

8. Tour of Adelaide Oval.

Date: Thurs 15th October, 2026 10.00 am.

Leader: Sue Bradley

Convoy: 50 (min 10) (3 booked)

Cost: \$24 per head.

Information: Meeting at the Southern Gate Adelaide Oval Tours take you behind-the-scenes where you'll discover hidden secrets and relive celebrated moments. Expert ambassadors share captivating tales of the history of the venue, the sporting greats who have competed here, and the Oval's iconic status in SA.

You'll run onto Adelaide Oval to the roar of a 50,000-strong crowd, climb the stairs to the 100-year-old heritage-listed scoreboard and gain an insight into match-day preparations inside the players' change-rooms – all of these experiences and more are included on a Stadium Tour. After the tour there is an opportunity for an early lunch at the Koffee Ink Cafe, near the Southern Gate. Limited parking is available on War Memorial Drive at Council costs.

The train station is an easy walk across the footbridge and brings you straight to the Southern Gate entry

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

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9. Adelaide 4WD and Adventure Show

Date: Wed 21 - Sun 25 Oct 2026

Venue: Royal Adelaide Showgrounds

Organiser: Gordon Combeer

Personnel: 25 places to be filled (flexible)

Comment: An important event to make the public aware of the club; to inform them about what the club can do for its members and explain about our various activities, inclusive of training, 4wd experiences, short and long trips away and positive environmental efforts. This is one of the main events for the recruitment of

new members.

Wednesday and Thursday are allocated for setup of the stand and then Friday to Sunday are the actual event days. Pickup occurs towards the end of Sunday and usually takes no longer than 1 hour. We encourage volunteers to arrive before or stay after the shift to see the show. Tickets will be provided and paid parking against a receipt will be paid by the club.

*** NEW ***

10. Historic Vehicle Gathering & Run

Date: Sun 22 November, 2026

Where: Euchunga Memorial Institute, 23 Adelaide Rd, Euchunga

Leader: Darryl Royans & Michael Polacek

Convoy: Unlimited

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 Euchunga Memorial Institute, 10 am, have a chat over coffee, ready to depart at 11.00 am in convoy with other like minded TLCCSA members.

Return to the Hall 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/DNNAS>

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 for further details. She would love to hear from you.

events calendar

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

Blaze Aid + Habitat for Humanity ~ Volunteer List

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

Using TryBookings will give us an up-to-date list 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/DIYRN>

That's all for now folks!

Membership Service Recognition 2026



At the June general meeting President Simon had the pleasure in presenting a 10 year service certificate to Graham and Christine Adams (absent) and a 40 year certificate to Malcolm and Marie McDonald. Congratulations to you all.

(L - Graham Adams / R - Malcolm & Marie McDonald)



Guest Speaker Review

Mr David Jarman OAM

Burgo introduced historian David to talk about Sir Hubert Wilkins. "Unsung Hero Explorer of Australia". Hubert Wilkins was an Aviator, Explorer, Naturalist, Movie Maker, Photographer and News Cameraman who lived from 1888 to 1958. He grew up just north of Goyders Line during the Federation drought, learning skills from the local Aboriginal peoples, before moving to Adelaide after the family farm was sold.

Hubert began studying engineering and was very handy fixing things. After repairing a generator for a tent cinema, he was offered a job and travelled around the state. Better job opportunities appeared in Sydney, although he stowed away to get there. Next London beckoned and he also travelled through Europe making movies, sometimes on the back of a motor bike. He worked as a war correspondent during the Balkans War, filming the battlefield from a plane.

In 1913 he joined an Expedition to the Arctic that was full of disaster, where a hunting party he was in become separated from the ship. He then spent three years in the Arctic learning skills from the Eskimos and exploring.

On hearing of his Father's ill health and that war had begun, he returned to Adelaide, welcomed with a reception at Adelaide Town Hall, before joining the Air Force as a Photographer. He took huge risks in the field and in 1918 he was awarded two Military Crosses.

Hubert was asked to join the Great Race from London to Australia, which was held in 1919 and had 10,000 pounds for the first to complete it within a month on offer. However, the team crashed out, and the race was won by Ross and Keith Smith. 1921-22 he was invited to participant in the Shackleton-Rowett Expedition to Antarctica; the first of 4 Antarctic Expeditions he undertook.

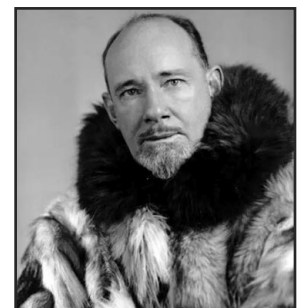
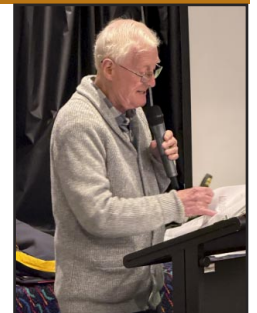
The Wilkins Expedition around the top of Australia was undertaken in 1923, discovering the Wilkins Lizard and Wilkins Rock Wallaby and writing a book criticising the Government's treatment of the habitat and it's effects on the food sources used by the Aboriginal people.

Lockheed aircraft company worked with him to build a plane suitable for his Arctic exploration after previous failed attempts.

He was recognised for his achievements at home and was knighted in London.

He signed a contract with a newspaper to write articles, and his first assignment was on the Graf Zeppelin airship in 1929. Hubert was ahead of his time predicting climate change, seeking weather station locations and thanking his supporters by naming explored locations after them.

President Simon thanked David and presented him with a token of appreciation.





Peter Harper
Education Officer
Telephone : 0410 526 317
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 11th Feb 2026		New Members Night	SCC			https://www.trybooking.com/DHYVJ
Sun 1st Mar 2026		Theory	SCC	\$20 per person	\$20 per person	https://www.trybooking.com/DHINY
Sat 7th Mar 2026	Sun 8th Mar 2026	Sand + Winching	Peake	\$40 per vehicle		Property access cost \$40 per car. No cost for basic training for enrolled members https://www.trybooking.com/DHINZ
Sun 19th April 2026		Tyre Repair	Ironbank	\$20 per person		Fee covers the cost of materials and refreshments https://www.trybooking.com/DHIOA
Sat 16th May 2026	Sun 17th May 2026	Ascent - Descent	Morgan	NIL	\$30 per vehicle	No cost for basic training for enrolled members. Deposit refunded on Saturday night https://www.trybooking.com/DHIOB
Sat 25th Jul 2026	Sun 26th Jul 2026	Sand + Winching	Peake	\$40 per vehicle		Property access cost \$40 per car. No cost for basic training for enrolled members. https://www.trybooking.com/DHIOC
Sun 2nd Aug 2026		Theory	SCC	\$20 per person		https://www.trybooking.com/DHIOD
Sat 5th Sep 2026	Sun 6th Sep 2026	Sand & Winching	Peake	\$40 per vehicle		Property access cost \$40 per car. No cost for basic training for enrolled members. https://www.trybooking.com/DHIOE
Sat 17th Oct 2026	Sun 18th Oct 2026	Ascent Descent	Morgan	NIL	\$30 per vehicle	No cost for basic training for enrolled members. Deposit refunded on Saturday night https://www.trybooking.com/DHIOF
Sun 25th Oct 2026		Trip Planning	TBA	\$20		https://www.trybooking.com/DHYVK
Sun 8th Nov 2026		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/DHIOH
Sat 14th Nov 2026		Wheel Bearing Maintenance	Melrose Park			https://www.trybooking.com/DMCJL

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

SPECIAL SERVICE OFFER

Open to all Landcruiser Club Members, family & friends

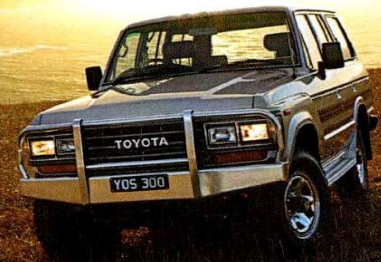
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Cornes Toyota

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Service opening hours:
Monday to Friday
7.30am - 5.00pm

OH WHAT A FEELING

SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH

Waikerie Toyota

I was recently driving my 200 Series Landcruiser and towing a caravan to the SA Riverland. When on the expressway, I had 3 dash warning lights start flashing – traction control, 4WD Lo and engine. I pulled over, turned the car off and restarted the engine however the three warning lights continued to flash. I then disconnected the battery then connected back up again then on starting, the warning lights were no longer flashing. I proceeded along the expressway then around 20km later, the same three warning lights began flashing again. I did notice reduced power when driving up hill. I pulled over again and this time I rang the Toyota Dealer in Waikerie (Waikerie Toyota) to discuss the issue. I spoke with the Service Manager who advised me to disconnect the battery again to reset the warning lights then to continue on to Waikerie where he would have a look. He also advised that since the engine warning light were flashing and not constant, it would be safe for me to drive the car the 100km further to Waikerie.

When I arrived at Waikerie Toyota, the Service Manager, Sales Manager and the Workshop Mechanic came out to inspect the car with the mechanic connecting up the diagnostic tool to read the error codes. The code showed a lack of turbo boost pressure as the fault. Both the mechanic and the Service Manager agreed that I would be ok to continue driving to the Riverland then home to Adelaide without causing damage. This was on the condition that the engine warning light did not illuminate as a solid light.

It was pleasing that I could continue my travels and didn't have to have the issue investigated and addressed whilst in Waikerie. I was pleased with my interaction with the team at Waikerie Toyota to look and diagnose the issue straight away and provide advice. This was all at no cost. 😊

We continued our Riverland trip then when we returned to Adelaide I had my mechanic look at the issue. Once he had removed the intercooler assembly to inspect the MAP sensor, he noticed a split in the rubber vacuum hose at the manifold end. This \$5 hose (plus labour) was replaced and the car is running perfectly.

Jeff Vincent



FARINA RESTORATION GROUP

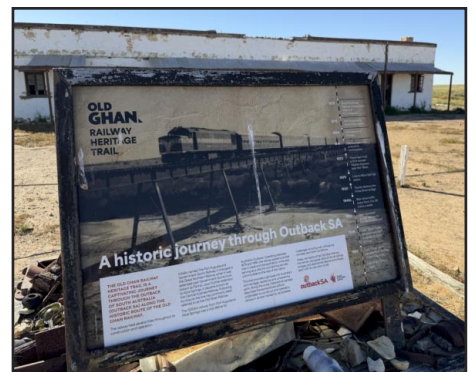
As many of you would be aware, the Farina Station pastoral property has recently been sold, and new owners Jason and Jayne-Marie asked the Farina Restoration Group to introduce them to their followers. Here's a message from them.

G'day to everyone. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves, Jason and Jayne-Marie Barns, as we are taking over from Kevin and Anne Dawes as the new owners of Farina Station. We will endeavour to continue the legacy of the Dawes family in the operation of the campgrounds and our full support to the Farina Restoration Group. We are aware we have big shoes to fill. We wish Kevin and Anne all the best in retirement and hopefully return visits. Quick note to confirm that the iconic Farina Bakery and historical township were not part of the sale & remain in the stewardship and care of the Farina Restoration Group (FRG). The campground will remain open as normal. Regards, Jason & Jayne-Marie Barns.

During June a contingent from TLCCSA met at Farina to catch up with fellow member and volunteer baker John Opie. Some of the contingent were transient between Friends of Ikara-Flinders Rangers working week and TLCCSA cactus culling at Moolooloo and others just happened to be in the area. The gathering comprised of Simon Critchley, Vlad & Pam Humeniuk, Brian & Sue Stone, Trevor Duggan, Helen Binney and Don & Sue Ransom. John gave us a personalised tour of the underground bakery and led a walking trail around the creek area alongside the old railway track. Needless to say we sampled many of the bakery delights during our few days visiting the site. (The dark fruit loaf is to die for as are the pies!!) We also inspected the restoration that was in progress on the Police Station. It was a delight to see school groups participating in the application of mortar to the building and baking their own rolls and bread shapes to eat. The volunteers certainly do a fantastic job.



A group of us travelled 150 km up the Oodnadatta track to Curdamurka railway siding on a recognisance mission to determine if a proposal by the Friends of Mound Springs for TLCCSA to assist in the restoration of the railway building was feasible by our members. We were also delighted to revisit many of the Old Ghan Railway signage that was erected by our members some eighteen months previously.



TLCCSA Training Opportunities - Expression of Interest

1. Wheel Bearing Maintenance (14th Nov 2026) - <https://www.trybooking.com/DMCJL>



2. GPS - Using OziExplorer and ExploreO - (10th or 24th Oct 2026) <https://www.trybooking.com/DMCJO>

Click on the link to express your interest in attending this course.



Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary Cactus Cull - March 2026

This is the third year the TLCCSA will be involved with cactus control of Jumping cholla (*Cylindropuntia prolifera*) work at the Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary. Following from 2025 field work, volunteers had a better understanding of the scale of infestation, characteristics and methods to prevent its further migration.

A reduction in the number of volunteers was evident this year due to several factors - heavy rainfall and flooding (closed roads), the availability of fuel (international events) and personal matters. Rather than cancelling, we decided to take the opportunity to scope further areas and attend to any further reports as best as possible. The participants were Michael Polacek (Trip & Team Leader), Ray Gedritis, Pam & Andrew McDonald



DAY 1 - Wednesday 25 March:

The track was opened on this day after being graded and washouts repaired, but it also rained. The trip up by Ray and Michael was interesting. At about Crystal Brook there were spectacular and massive storm clouds.



The track from Balcanoona to Arkaroola was OK at this stage but still quite soft and lots of water about. Almost every creek crossing had water flowing all the way from Copley past Nepabunna into Arkaroola. Ray had the misfortune of a flat tyre on the rear of his lovely Hilux just west of Nipapanha.

Ray and Michael arrived today and settled into lodgings at Greenwood Lodge with two more expected to arrive on Thursday afternoon. The offer of accommodation was greatly appreciated with thanks to Doug Sprigg and the Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary.

More heavy rain showers were received in the afternoon to which Doug Sprigg commented that it was overall, the best rainfall (496mm so far) since the "Seventies."

DAY 2 - Thursday 26 March:

A staff member was able to point to an area south-west of Dinnertime Hill where Jumping cholla had been sighted. Unfortunately, as the Wywhyana Creek was flowing quite strongly, it would be investigated later in the week if access improved.

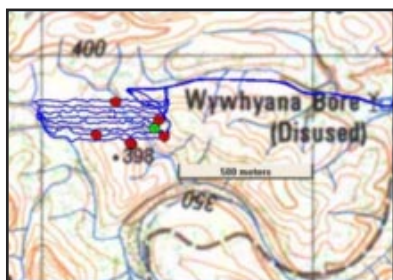
A field trip was undertaken in the morning with the hope to harvest cochineal from a site cochinealed in 2025 from the Station Backtrack. Of three original mature plants, all had cochineal, but it was likely that the recent heavy rains diminished the anticipated cochineal population. Some cochineal survivors appeared to be found on the underside of cladodes. There were signs of new growth and flower buds. A small amount of cochineal was harvested and plants re-fenced where needed.

Because the 2025 infestation was along a creek line and animal trail, it was suspected that more infestations may be found further downstream. The "green" waypoints indicate plants infected with cochineal whereas "red" waypoints are newly seeded plants. The "blue" trace our track log. Five small plants were dug up and placed with a larger plant to conserve cochineal and on another site, nine small plants around dead cacti were dug up and placed with a larger plant nearby and cochinealed. Heavy showers curtailed any further field work for the afternoon. [Tally for the day: 37 cacti over 9 waypoint locations with two plants cochinealed naturally.](#)

Andrew and Pam McDonald arrive in the late afternoon, but due to the increased rainfall during the day, found the track from Balcanoona a lot more treacherous, muddier, softer, slippery but they arrived without incident. They too set up lodgings in Greenwood Lodge.



DAY 3 - Friday 27 March:



The rain ceased overnight and the day was clear

With four TLCCSA members now on board, it was planned to extend a search conducted in 2025 from about 250 metres behind the Wywhyana Bore. The terrain is a mixture of easy going but mostly steep and shaley with a lesser cover of vegetation. The "green" waypoint on the eastern flank is one of the sites seeded and fenced in 2025. The "red" waypoints represent new plants of which all (apart from one) were non infected. A very small amount of cochineal was harvested from the 2025 plant which was showing signs of being under stress.

For the afternoon, the plan was to continue searching downstream from where the last large group of cacti (red waypoint) was found on Thursday away off the Station

Backtrack. Our starting point was at the rubbish dump following creek lines upstream and downstream right down to the

Wywhyanna Creek and back. No further signs of cacti infestation were found which was encouraging.
Tally for the day: 17 cacti with two plants found cochinealed (one from 2025) over 8 waypoint locations.

DAY 4 - Saturday 28 March:

Below is the plot of previous cacti findings that were used as a basis for our searches 17 Mar 2024. "red" waypoints right of the village were seeded with cochineal by Paul Hodges (Landscape SA – Arid Lands). Authors of the "green" and "blue" waypoints are not known but it's likely that some seeding took place.



The 2024/2025 culling exercises saw good work around Umberatana Road, the Observatory access track and Spriggina Ridge walking trail. What remained of interest are the sites marked with "yellow" arrows.

The first area investigated was around and above the Elva Dam. . The original plant sites were not found specifically due to vegetation but evidence of some dead Jumping cholla stumps were found which were waypointed. The hillside was quite vegetated and access difficult. The increase in the daily temperature also added to the physical challenge.

Tally for Elva Dam: Over the 15 waypoints 23 cacti were found. Of that total, 5 were infected naturally, 12 plants were seeded with cochineal and 6 dead plants the remainder.

The Mawson Valley Foot Track was the next to investigate the creek just north of the Sitting Bull rock feature. The plan was to head straight for Sitting Bull then work our way downstream as best as possible. The coordinates were reached but no evidence of the original cacti / site was found.

The 2024/2025 culling exercises saw good work around Umberatana Road, the Observatory access track and Spriggina Ridge walking trail.

Tally for Mawson Valley Foot Track: Over the 10 waypoints 18 cacti were found. Of that total, 11 were infected naturally, 5 plants were seeded with cochineal and 2 dead plants the remainder.

Tally for the day: Overall 25 waypoints for 41 cacti were found. Of that total, 16 were infected naturally, 17 plants were seeded with cochineal and 8 dead plants the remainder. At the end of the afternoon, we were quite exhausted with the rise in temperature and the challenging terrain.



DAY 5 - Sunday 29 March:



The crew decided to have a rest day and take a drive to visit the Ochre Wall, Livelys Find, Welcome Mine and return via the Mt. Jacob Backtrack. Andrew chose to take his Landcruiser with the 4 of us.

This day was as challenging as searching for cactus. We first visited the Wywhyanna creek track which heads out to the Arkaroola waterhole via the Echo Camp backtrack, but due to massive floods and damage the track was impassable.



The Mt Jacob Backtrack was interesting and in spots due to recent rains posed a few challenges. The most challenging was a very innocuous spot where there was no visible signs of risk or challenge. The vehicle just sank into very soft, wet sticky mud. After lots of effort to dig, use traction boards, we were just making the situation worse and the vehicle was resting on its chassis with no chance of self recovering. A call was made to Arkaroola and a Prado was sent out to rescue Andrew's Landcruiser.

(photos of bogged vehicle)

When we arrived back at camp we all decided to sample the fare at the restaurant, and chat with the host Doug Sprigg. Quite and interesting and entertaining man.



continued on page 18.



In late 2024, owing to an offer of grants by the SA Govt through the Community and Nature Partnerships, Ian Frost and Michael Polacek, applied for a grant to assist the TLCCSA with its program of environmental involvements, one of which is cactus culling in the Flinders Ranges.

Ian, using his vast experience with corporate interactions and documentation prepared the application and Michael provided some previous knowledge and historical information to support this application, submitted the application in January 2025. This application was accepted and an amount of \$14,910.50 was received by the TLCCSA.

This money was to be used for various applications, ie GPS devices, a laptop, some fuel expenses and a trailer to assist the club transfer equipment, product and harvested biocontrol measures like cochineal.

The trailer purchased is a BASIC Trailer (\$4,800 made from Australian steel in South Australia), 7' x 5' solid steel, caged trailer with heavy duty 4WD type suspension. The cage is removable. The trailer has a spare tyre, mechanical brakes, jockey wheel and both ends of the trailer open if required. The trailer is registered in the TLCCSA's name and currently stored at Peter Young's yard, Winston Court Melrose Park.

This trailer's use is not restricted to cactus events but can only be used for Club activities by club members. There is still a policy to be created for its use and maintenance by the Committee.



The Toyota Mega Cruiser

Whilst travelling in the Japanese ski fields, **Andrew Vidale** discovered the Toyota Megacruiser. It is a large, heavy-duty four-wheel-drive SUV introduced by Toyota in 1995. It is the largest 4WD vehicle ever built by Toyota, and its design resembles that of the Humvee and Hummer H1. Like the Humvee, the Mega Cruiser was originally designed primarily for military use with the vehicle seeing duty as a transport vehicle in the Japan Self Defense Forces.

Sold exclusively in Japan via Toyota Store locations, the Mega Cruiser was also used by prefectural police, the Japan Automobile Federation and fire/rescue departments. As of 2020, it was reported that Toyota had produced 3,000 units before production was halted. A total of 133 Mega Cruisers were sold to civilians.



History

A prototype of the Toyota Mega Cruiser was first presented to the public at the 30th Tokyo Motor Show in October 1993. Production began in late 1995 at Toyota's Gifu Auto Body subsidiary before sales began in 1996. All Mega Cruiser production was reported to have been halted in 2001 while sales officially ended in 2002. The reason being slow sales due to strict vehicle taxes and Japan having a lot of narrow streets. Some Mega Cruisers were sold overseas from Japan as grey imports.

Development

The Mega Cruiser was designed as a 4-door full-size SUV and features a 4.1 L turbo diesel in-line-4 engine. The engine was rated at 114 kW (153 hp) and 382 N·m (282 lb·ft) of torque at 1,800 rpm while also being very robust. A 4-speed Aisin-Warner automatic transmission with a two-speed transfer case transfers power to all four wheels. Its wheelbase is 3,395 mm (134 in) and it is 5,090 mm (200 in) in length. The vehicle is 2,075 mm (82 in) high and 2,170 mm (85 in) wide. It has a load capacity of 600 kg and has a curb weight of 2,850 kg (6,283 lb). The SUV featured front, center, and rear differential locks, as well as four wheel steering. It has a central tire pressure system installed as an optional feature and has a hardtop roof. The Mega Cruiser has seats for two people in front and four people at the back.

The vehicle was intended to test designs that would eventually make their way into mass-produced Toyota SUVs, such as the Land Cruiser, but was financially unsuccessful for Toyota. While the Mega Cruiser was produced by Toyota in RHD configuration, a few were reported to be made in LHD configuration. As of 2020, around 12 were known to have been produced in LHD.

Variants

Toyota Mega Cruiser (BXD10)

The BXD10 version was made for military purposes such as personnel and military equipment transportation. In JSDF service it was called High Mobility Vehicle, or HMV. It was also used as a Missile launcher.



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Historic Registration Log Book Signing



Members with vehicles on club registration would likely have a logbook that expires on the 31st of July 2026.

At the recent AGM the fees for the current year were set at \$100. Renewal is due by the 31st of July. To have your log book signed off, please pay your fees and then we can sign off your log book at the June or July meetings.

Alternatively, you can post your book along with a return and stamped envelope to either Darryl Royans, 45 Spruce Avenue, Warradale 5046 or Michael Polacek, 1 Allenby Ave, Millswood 5034. If a new book is required a \$5 fee applies.

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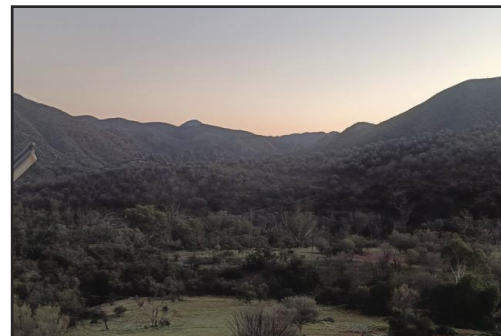
DAY 6 - Monday 30 March:

Looking at the plot of previous cacti findings in 2024 the crew only located cacti on the eastern bank of the Wywhyana Creek. We thought it would be good to know current status and it best to tackle the hill from the southern side, but we still encountered metre high vegetation, steepness, shale and loose rocks. Animal trails were almost overgrown from the recent rains. Choosing the main gully enroute was quite challenging and difficult so we split into pairs to find a better path. A few dead cacti stumps were observed on the way up.

Once on top of the hill three things were evident - (1) Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby territory, (2) evidence of dead / skeletonised cacti plants and, (3) a significant population of Jumping cholla. The newfound plants appeared they may have been cochinealed some time ago as a "white" residue could be seen on some cladodes. All plants found were seeded and fenced.

Rather than tackle the path we came up on, we decided the easier path may be straight down with care from the hillside saddle. Once back down, a search was conducted along the creek line down to the Wywhyana Creek. Ray decided at one stage to accidentally fall into a plant and get spines in his trousers and lower leg. After much suffering and skilful medical assistance the recovery helicopter was cancelled the spines were cleared and he managed to walk the rest of the afternoon. Today's effort was even more taxing than Saturday's and by the afternoon we were all feeling quite exhausted along with a bigger rise in temperature and challenging terrain.

Tally for the day: Overall 19 waypoints for 24 cacti were found. Of that total, 3 were infected naturally hence 21 plants were seeded with cochineal.



DAY 7 - Tuesday 31 March:

From an Arkaroola staff members' comment to an area south-west of Dinnertime Hill where Jumping cholla had been sighted, access had improved enough to be investigated. A car trip and visual taken on Monday afternoon confirmed access okay with caution specifically, to a large muddy area. Coordinates were set for a search with steepness and vegetation restricting the search in some areas. The search concluded with a look over the flood plain where access was possible but nothing found.

Several old plants were found typically alongside an animal trail and small gully water courses. One large cactus surrounded by ten small plants. The large plant appeared to be covered to some degree with insects crawling around, something not seen before but suspected to be cochineal. In the afternoon a visit was made to the 2025 site of a caged cacti set up the purpose of studying growth rates. Unfortunately, the study site was destroyed by recent flooding of the Wywhyana Creek. In searching for the wire cage, two more small cacti found nearby were duly waypointed, cochinealed and "roofed." The wire cage was found approximately 50m downstream.

Tally for the day: 6 waypoints for 17 cacti were found. Of that total, 1 was suspected to be actively infected with new cochineal.

DAY 8 - Wednesday 1 April:

Around 8am in the morning the four volunteers packed up and headed for home in Adelaide.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

To Doug Sprigg of Arkaroola for his support and generous offer of accommodation whilst on site. We encourage Arkaroola staff continue to ask tourists and staff to report and record as best as possible cactus sightings.

To the members of the TLCCSA who volunteered their time and energy in this challenging cactus cull.

Manhours expended in the field
126 Hrs

Kilometres travelled in the field

90 km

Kilometres travelled overall

4,230 km

Tally For the Week: 136 cacti over
67 waypoint locations

**Ray Gedritis and
Michael Polacek**



Kings Birthday Weekend 2026 Bendleby Trip (Part 1)

Thursday afternoon saw two couples arriving early to begin a weekend of relaxation and challenging tracks.

After a lazy morning Friday, the main activity became a game to see who could guess the car we could hear approaching and taking bets on where they'd set up camp.

By late evening our group of 13 vehicles had all arrived.

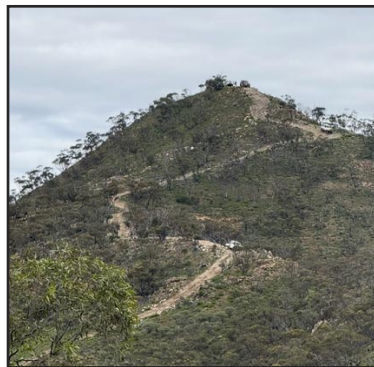


James & Lin having arrived late Friday (and prioritising a beer over setting up) found the campfire well alight and proceeded to give a bit of an impromptu briefing on the following weekends activities. To many people's horror it was mentioned that Saturday would be an 8am start to get us ahead of any potential long weekend crowd, especially on the more difficult sections of track. As it turned out, this was somewhat unnecessary as Charlie (the owner) had advised other groups to concentrate on the Bendleby side of the property Saturday morning so as to give us pretty much a free run of the Hungry Range.



Saturday: By James Edwards

Saturday dawned very overcast and cold. In fact it had been cold enough over night to have left ice on vehicle windscreens and necessitated the covering of ears with beanies. The pre departure briefing was held where everyone was informed of the tracks we'd be taking that day (Ridge Top, Billy Goat and Kings Highway), and that we'd be broken into 2 separate groups due to the number of vehicles. The two groups ended up merging not long after and ultimately made for a great day out meeting and mingling with everyone including some relatively new members.



As the briefing concluded and people were heading to their vehicles, one of our members had a medical event that necessitated delaying departure for about half an hour, so in the end we managed to depart at around 9am. The first group made it to the Ridge Top look out without incident and was quickly joined by the second about 10 minutes later, with everyone getting out to admire the view.

And just like that we were off. Unfortunately, not without incident as just prior to commencing the ascent Andrew and Kerri in their mighty fine-looking Hilux suffered a puncture. Luckily it was on a flat, firm and secure section of the track and before too long we were underway again.

The climb to the top of the track was uneventful, but the views are amazing. Especially when driving along a ridge that drops off either side and the track only really

wide enough for the vehicle, takes your breath away. After a few stops along the way for photos the descent brought us back down to earth from those dizzying heights and we then proceeded along the fenceline to the base of Billy Goat. Here we stopped for lunch and refreshment, plus another quick briefing on what to expect and the opportunity to turn back for those that didn't feel up to it. I'm happy to say that everyone accepted the challenge.



As it turned out, Billy Goat was pretty tame this year compared to others but it did still provide a few challenging sections where good wheel placement was required, particularly when pointing toward the sky and seeing nothing but blue and not knowing where the track was. A number of the lower slung vehicles did require a number of

attempts at some points along the way, but with a bit of track building (a bit of work on a chain gang sort of activity) we soon had everyone safely at the summit. At this point there was still plenty of time to do a bit more and get back to camp for happy hour, so we headed toward Kings Highway. Successfully completing this track without incident saw that we still had time, so yes, off we went on more adventures. This time along Front track, onto the North fence track to start the traverse through Quartz Gorge (one of Lin's favourite little drives on the property). This Gorge has numerous quartz seams easily visible along its length (looks a bit like Pidgeon poop running down the hillside), which makes you wonder about the possibility of "Gold in them thar hills".

continued on page 22





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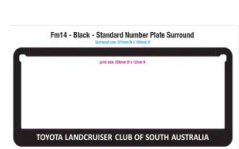
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I do not own a 4WD but will assist with expenses and chores on such a trip. If you are contemplating such a trip and can assist, please call me on 0417 869 653.

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The gorge itself is picturesque and an easy drive along the creek bed posing no problems what so ever, however the climb at the exit can sometimes catch drivers out who have become a little complacent. But not our group!

Right, back to camp for Happy Hour.

With Happy Hour out of the way, it was time for the main event. PAELLA. By this stage the fire had been well alight and coals were shovelled into the firepit James & Lin had brought along specifically for this purpose. The Paella pan was brought out and ingredients were lovingly added and mixed, with a dash of this and that, and of course lots & lots of love. AND lots of prawns, calamari, mussels and pork belly.

It was a fun evening, with the weather playing its part and not being too cold. A number of the group stayed up making the most of the time they had to sit in the warmth of the fire and sink a few bebies, before slinking off to bed to get a bit of shuteye before the next days activities.



Sunday & Monday: By Pam McDonald

On Sunday morning, our trip leaders Linley and James led the group to the Hungry Highway track. We had attempted this track in 2025, but had been thwarted by rain and then a group ahead of us who were having difficulty, so it was time to finally conquer this track.



We soon found ourselves ascending a steep rocky track to the peak, which offered amazing views. Less obvious was a view of the descending track, so it was time to hop out of the car and assess the approach to the bottom of the hill. James was a reassuring guide over the rocky descent.

Unfortunately, one vehicle came to rest at a precarious angle. Luckily Peter Harper was there to co-ordinate the recovery and eventually all vehicles made it safely to the bottom of the hill.

The group then enjoyed a scenic drive through the Quartz Gorge, with non-stop views and unusually green countryside before a stop back at camp for lunch.

In the afternoon we enjoyed the new Lucky's Way track

and the plan was to head Marchant Hill Lookout, but with our relatively large convoy and another group already occupying the limited space at the peak, this plan was abandoned and we continued on down to investigate some ruins. All agreed it was difficult to imagine having carved out a life in such a remote and rugged location.



We then made our way to Sunset Ridge Lookout, where we enjoyed happy hour and more sensational views.



Back at camp, it was time to enjoy the company of our fellow adventurers and debrief after the day's events around the campfire.



Monday some of the group departed to various destinations, while others relaxed at the campsite and a few decided on either a picturesque trip through the Bendleby Ranges side or on the challenge of Pat's Peak in the Hungry Ranges with Linley and James, for those who hadn't had their fill of excitement the previous day.

Andrew and Pam led a small convoy of 3 vehicles along Pine, Kokoda and Gum Creek Drives to round out Monday morning. This lovely route was a mixture of thick stands of pines and creek crossings with plenty of ups and downs thrown in.

Most people would be packing up today and leaving but before they did, one last quick trip was suggested for the morning for a couple of hours.

One trip, led by James and Lin, is heading up to Pat's Peak which hadn't been attempted before on this trip, the other would be led by Andrew and Pam to the Bendleby Ranges side and would just be a scenic trip for those who had done enough of the hard stuff for the weekend!!

To Be Continued

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