



DRIVE TORQUE eNEWS MARCH 2024



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The Club Committee is always here to help you. If you want to email us, please use this address ...

secretary@subaruclub.com.au

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC.

MINUTES OF MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Date -	Friday, March 8, 2024	
Venue -	BBQ at George Kendall Reserve	
Meeting Commenced -	7:39 pm	
Attendance -	M.R. Hamilton, Bill Twyman, Dave Cook, Stephen Eakin, Troy Strickland, Sandi Strickland, Andrew Rowlatt	
Apologies -	Alex (although she popped in), Daniel, David W, Brian, Jo, Stephen B	
Minutes of Previous Meeting -	February Meeting at Ermington Community Centre 9/2/2024	
	Accepted - Bill	
	Seconded - Stephen	
Business Arising -	Nil	
New Members -	Nil	
President's Report -	(Mark)	
Vice President's Report -	Michael	Thanks were extended to Bill for bringing a range of items to assist the running of the BBQ, including his new Ozito PXWLS-2000 18V Cordless LED Worklight Thanks were also extended to Dave C for doing an excellent job as head BBQ chef Volunteers for 4WD Show Thanks to David W for Welcome to 2024 letters # Troy and Sandi's may have gone to their old address # Upcoming meetings ... April and May - Ermington June - Camping at Mount Wilson Clothing - Bill will go through the details Compliance with Legislation - Volunteers for sub-committee are David W, Heidi and Kevin
Secretary's Report -	Michael	Offer from Toyo Tyres to present at a Club meeting Will try for our July 12 or September 13 meetings
Treasurer's Report -	(Brett)	Available funds as at 29/02/2024 = \$8,495.93
Membership Sec. Report -	(Stephen)	
eNews		

Editor's Report - (Stephen)

Driver Awareness Report - Michael Turon March 16 and 17 Basic
Watagans May 11 and 12 Recoveries
Stockton June 22 and 23 Sand

The "How to run a Trip" presentation that was postponed last meeting will be done at the April General Meeting.

Trip Conveners' Report - Bill

2024 Upcoming Trips	
Driver awareness - Back to Turon NP	March 16 - 17th
Joadga Old Town + distillery	Mar 20th (Wed)
Dungog for Easter	29th Mar - 1st April
April GM	April 12th - Ermington
Murramarang/ Pretty Beach 5 day camp	April 29th - 3rd May
Extended camping trip Eden & Kozioko	May 3rd - 27th
Coledale midweek 1 night camp	1st May (Wed)
May General meeting	May 10th - Ermington
Driver awareness - Watagans	May 11th - 12th
Mudgee Camp Oven Cook off	May 18th - 19th
June meeting - overnight camping & BBQ	June 15th - 16th - Mt Wilson
Driver awareness - Stockton Beach	June 22nd - 23rd
Christmas party	30 Nov - 1st Dec
Clubs 50th Anniversary 2025	Oct long weekend 2025

Association Delegate's Report - Bill

See David W's report in newsletter
Registered volunteers to get discounts on National Parks bookings
No dates set as yet for Association 4WD courses
DTU looking for DAFs to become trainers

Public Relations - (Jo)

Jo will be looking for ideas and assistance re celebrations for our 50th Anniversary next year

Brett has volunteered to assist on the sub-committee

Equipment / Merchandising Bill

Thanks to Sub-committee for organising our new range of Club clothing

Navy short-sleeved shirt with logo -	\$70
Navy long-sleeved shirt with logo -	\$72
Navy/gold polo shirt with logo -	\$42
Navy/gold jacket with logo -	\$87
Embroidered name for extra cost -	\$13
Existing supplies of caps -	\$10

Orders can now be made on our website

Hopefully the 4-week turnaround will mean that orders placed at a meeting will be delivered at the next meeting

Next Meeting - Ermington Community Centre, April 12

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC.

Treasurers Report

Feb-24

Cash Book Balance Brought Forward		\$8,945.31
Plus Income		\$0.03
Less Expenditure		\$449.41
Closing Balance		<u><u>\$8,495.93</u></u>

<u>Income</u> -	Interest	\$0.03
<u>Expenditure</u> -	Club card purchase	\$437.80
	Account fee	\$11.61

Bank Reconciliation

Bank Account Balance as at 29/02/2024	ANZ	\$8,201.18
<u>Plus</u>	Funds held in Pay Pal as at 29/02/2024	\$0.00
	Cash on Hand	\$294.75
Available Funds as at 29/02/2024		<u><u>\$8,495.93</u></u>



Association News & Updates: March 2024

Hello from Daniel Sorrasson, Bill Twyman and David Wellham – your friendly Delegates to Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT (Association). Association documents are located on our website. Please contact via email at - delegates@subaruclub.com.au for information about these topics or in relation to the Association. Looking forward to seeing you all on the tracks or at a meeting soon.

2024 Members letter & promotional materials

All members should have received a letter with promotional material. If you have not had this in your letter box, please email Delegates with your postal address and we will send another. Extra promotional materials are available at meetings or by post if requested.

COCO 2024

COCO will be held on 18 & 19 May 2024 at the Mudgee Showground with the May Quarterly. Cook-off will be held on Saturday with nibbles from 5.30pm and Trivia on Saturday night – total prizes of \$2,440. The Quarterly meeting will be in the pavilion with chairs provided at 9am on Sunday, beverages and lunch provided and should conclude before 2pm. Tickets on sale NOW! at <https://benefits.4wdnow.com/> [COCO 24 Flyer A4 Full Page](#)

Come along and show off your cooking skills or trivia knowledge. There are trophies and prizes and lots of fun for everyone. Mudgee is a beautiful area and is worth spending a few days looking around. Lots to see and do. Caravans and camper trailers are welcome and powered sites are plentiful. Hot showers and plenty of indoor spaces to stay warm.

Camping Tickets are \$32 each adult with children under 15 free. (up to 3 nights). Camping available Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights.

When you arrive at the show ground don't forget to check in with our onsite welcoming committee and get your welcome pack! It contains maps and all sorts of useful stuff for the weekend. Especially if you are going to spend the weekend exploring the local area. There is so much to do in and around Mudgee.

The Quarterly meeting on Sunday morning and everyone is welcome. See how it all works and have a nice lunch before you leave for home. This a great chance for you to attend a meeting and see how things happen, you can ask questions and see just how things get done.

Green Gully 27-28 July 2024

The Megalong Valley clean-up is on again this year, assisting National Parks. Tools will be provided for demolition work (fences etc), no tree planting. Attendees will need to be "self-catered" (everyone brings own food/drink etc). On Sunday there will be a guided tagalong tour, 5 vehicles (4x people per car), of the restricted Warragamba Special catchment area. Must register to volunteer for the event, camping on the Saturday night in the valley.

4WD & Adventure Show 2024

The 2024 Show will be on Friday 6, Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 September at Eastern Creek. Volunteer for 2 hours with Association and receive free entry and lunch. Our club to discuss the pros/cons of having a stand in the Association area and decide if we attend this year.

NSW National Parks & Wildlife updates

- Minister Penny Sharp is shaking up the National Parks re care of the environment.
- Parks land hold has increased from 9.7% to 10.5% of NSW, 30% of NSW is reserve land.
- National Parks are presently undergoing a staffing restructure & we should expect some positive outcomes however there maybe negatives as well.
- Maintenance issues - trying to get on top of some of the back-log, funding is avail. but are having some issues with trades etc.
- VIP scheme for volunteer registering, issued with a volunteer serial number & the association is hoping to finalise that volunteers will be exempt camping fees with NP.
- Camp site bookings – 1 person can now book up to 9 camp sites at any campground, that has 9 or more campsites, \$6.00 booking fee applies for each campsite.
- Plan/ scheme to have clubs photo any rubbish they collect on their trips to show NP we (the 4wd industry) are proactive in environmental maintenance issues. Would we support such an idea?
- Aboriginal leaders are currently locking everyone out of Mt Warning.
- Duns Swamp - Price increase recently of approx. 300% - NP have recently reconfigured their pricing policies due to various reasons but no sound reasoning has yet been offered for these changes.
- Recent National Parks Meeting forum - subject of "Climate Change" - Chief Climate Scientist for NSW addressed the meeting - he was very frank, refreshing and open and not all doom and gloom that we have become to expect from these types of discussions and even dare I say, it was positive. There will be changes to things and as long as we accept this way of thinking and embrace the changes we will not only survive but even prosper. He was looking for feedback from National Parks users as to what they want to see /researched etc. One topic come up - Diesel vehicles in Australia. Other countries will have different targets etc, Africa/South America are very similar to Australia in that they are not likely to go ALL ELECTRIC with vehicles. Craig has voiced this point of concern. There are infrastructure issues with providing power to charge a fleet of electric vehicles, and the OPEN nature of the country will make a 100% target impossible.

ACMC/AAAA/ Transport

- Vehicle Standards Group is meeting again shortly to finalise definitions of vehicle alterations standards such as: removal of seat(s) in 4WD's, front light mountings, etc.
- Police to be advised of approved acceptable modifications.
- A push from the industry to have all EV mechanics licensed as electrician to be able to work EV's
- There was a recent Transport Meeting - questioning seat removal in 4WD for drawer systems etc. There is a lot of mixed opinion amongst everyone INCLUDING Engineers. Craig is looking for clarification on these points - will announce results/outcome in newsletter

Carry your compliance certificate with you!

Drivers of modified vehicles - including classic vehicles – should carry their certificates for any vehicle modifications as there is a risk of receiving a defect notice if this is not produced.

If a modified vehicle is pulled over by NSW Police, the driver is not legally required to carry or produce a vehicle safety compliance certificate to show a Police officer, or an authorised officer. It's a good idea though to have proof of your vehicles safety compliance certificate when using your vehicle. This ensures that a Police officer can confirm all modifications identified are addressed on the certificate immediately, and the vehicle owner can be on their way without an unnecessary defect being issued. A vehicle registered under the Classic Vehicle Scheme (CVS) that has undergone a significant modification will require certification. If that vehicle was certified prior to the introduction of the VSCCS (i.e., in Dec 2011) then an Engineering Certificate issued by participant of the NSW Engineering Certification Scheme is acceptable, provided it addresses the modifications made to the vehicle and can be produced if requested by a Club Official, Authorised Officer or an Authorised Person.

More about vehicle defect notices:

A vehicle defect notice isn't a fine, however you may be issued a fine for other reasons. A defect notice means you are not able to drive the vehicle until it has been inspected by an AUVIS (Authorised Unregistered Vehicle Inspection Scheme) inspector and repaired so it is roadworthy again.

If you receive a minor defect (yellow label) notice you can drive the vehicle for a certain amount of time and to a certain destination to allow you to get it fixed.

A major defect (red label) typically means the vehicle is unsafe to drive and will be grounded, these vehicles must be towed to an AUVIS inspection rather than driven.

The vehicle must then attend an AUVIS inspection and have its certificate confirmed.

Club 4X4 Insurance

Platinum Partner Club 4X4 Insurance offer Association members a 5% discount on 4WD, camper trailer and caravan policies, which can be redeemed with the discount code FOUWHE01 when quoting online at club4x4.com.au or by calling 1300 296 296. The Member Benefits portal will be updated with more information. Club 4X4 Insurance also offer a multi-vehicle discount and savings for completing recognised 4X4 or towing training that involves a theoretical or practical element, including Association training.

Dash Cam Member Discount

Keep safe on the roads with a Dash Cam. We have a special limited time discount for our members. \$30 off any Dash Cam over \$349 + free express postage with signature. Head over to the website and enter the code DC4WD at checkout. DASHCAMS AUSTRALIA



Toyota Landcruiser Swap Meet

Date: Saturday 4th May 2024 Time: 8am to 2pm Entry Cost: TBA

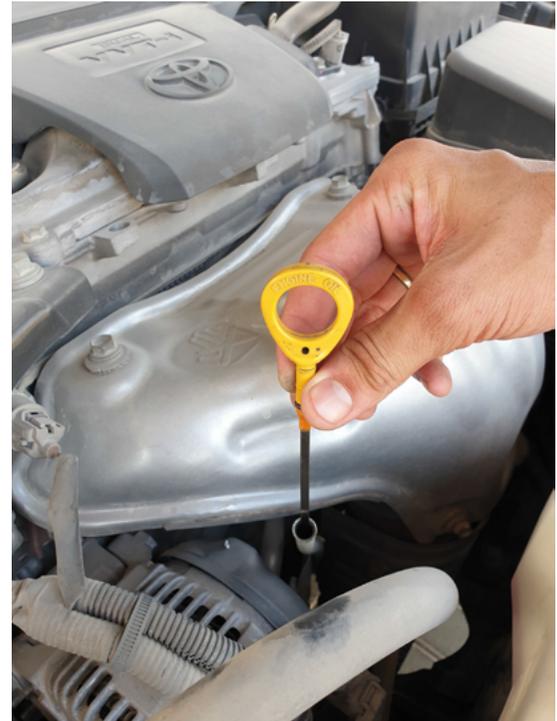
Location: Cabramatta High School - access from Sussex Street
Camping and 4wd driving gear. The event is open to the public so take advantage of this and make time to have a look and see what interests you.

DRIVER AWARENESS NEWS

The Driver Awareness team ran their first trip for 2024 on March 16. You can read all about in the trip report, but I would just like to say a big thank you to David W. for his planning and organisation of the day. I was also impressed with the number of questions that were asked by those attending.

One of the things we discussed was the importance of regularly checking over your vehicle. When doing an under-bonnet check, for example, you can use the POWERAS guide to help you remember what to look for ...

- **Petrol/Diesel** – Always be sure to start the trip with a full tank of fuel. This is also time to consider when you last had a full service and when the fuel filter was last changed. Was it recently enough if you are contemplating an extended trip?
- **Oils** – there are several fluid reservoirs under the bonnet and several things to check. All fluid levels should be at their maximum to allow for off road angulations. Check fluids such as engine oil, transmission fluid, brake/clutch fluid, power steering fluid.
- **Water** – check radiator fluid (in both radiator and reservoir bottle – check colour and texture as well as level). Check the windscreen washer bottles (front and rear). Check battery fluid levels (if it is a serviceable battery)
- **Electrical** – check under bonnet wiring that all cables are secure including battery terminals, battery clamp and other potential wiring/electrical systems.
- **Rubber** – check hoses and fan belts – is there any detectable deterioration of these items? Do all rubbers look OK and feel pliable? Are fan belts tensioned correctly? Try and “understand” or remember how your belt winds over each component. If it comes loose, it is useful to remember where it was. Consider drawing a diagram or taking a photo of the belt/pulley configuration.
- **Air** – Air filter – is it new/clean? Has it been recently serviced? Is the air conditioning system working as it should? How is your air compressor and its hose? Will it be of service when needed?
- **Supplies/Spares** – Are you carrying adequate spares as needed? These may include belts, hoses, oils fuses etc as needed to top up/repair above items as required on the track?



How well do you know the Hierarchy of Recovery ? Put these in order from safest to most risky -

- Winching
- Snatch recovery
- Using recovery boards
- Reducing tyre pressures
- Carrying out a gentle tow

ALWAYS LOOK FOR THE SAFEST OPTION

Coming up ...

May 11 and 12 - The Watagans

The weekend will focus on what to do when a vehicle gets stuck, highlighting the importance of safe practices using the Hierarchy of Recovery

June 22 and 23 - Stockton Beach

Sand driving and sand recoveries will be on offer during this fun-filled weekend, with a camping option at a local caravan park

Michael Hamilton.
For the Driver Awareness team.

“As slow as possible ...
Only as fast as necessary.”

Trip Convener March Report

Since the February 2024 Drive Torque magazine the club has had 4 outings:

- Rainforest & Waterfalls - Southern Highlands Feb 21st (midweek)
- March General Meeting + BBQ Mar 8th
- Driver awareness - Back to Turon NP March 16 - 17th
- Joadga Old Town + distillery Mar 20th (midweek)

A reminder of upcoming trips on the Calendar

- Dungog for Easter March 29 - Apr 1st
- Are there only 2 things west of Blackheath + camping option March 31st
- April General Meeting April 11th
- Murramarang NP/ Pretty Beach 5 day camp April 29th
- NSW Extended Trip Apr 29th - May 17th (fully booked)
- Coledale Beach May 1st - 2nd (midweek camp)
- May General Meeting May 10th (Ermington)
- Driver awareness - Watagans May 11th - 12th
- Camp Oven Cook Off May 18th - 19th (Mudgee)
- June General Meeting + camping option June 15th (Mt Wilson)
- Lookout - Southern Highlands June 19th (midweek)
- Driver Awareness - Stockton Sand Dunes June 22nd - 23rd
- Winter Camp - Wombeyan Caves July 23rd - 24th (midweek)
- Club Christmas Function - location TBC Nov 30th - Dec 1st
- Clubs 50th Anniversary 2025 Oct long weekend 2025

Sgt At Arms Report - Bill Twyman

I think this month that both Jo Quinn and David Wellham should get a mention in my report as it would appear that they have upset the weather Gods in regards to rain on their trips.

Jo's trip to Joadja started out damp & finished a very nice day - however, on David's "training day" in the Turon NP the weather was the other way around, a very nice start with a terrible finish. So much so the camping at Mt York was cancelled because of the rain.

CLUB MERCHANDISE



Prices may change at a later date.

Driver Awareness Day Trip & Weekend Trip - Back to Turon

Hi Stephen about the trip on upper Turon from David Wellham top effort mega driving across river crossings heaps of info about vehicle recovery n history of area n big thanks to Brian Flood with his knowledge anything mechanical n just anything 4x4 a big thanks to club with all the recovery gear rather helpful that stuff n Michael Hamilton for bringing the stuff n his help n knowledge as well Due to wet weather the camp was cancelled n so was Sunday To everyone who came n there's a lot of people n car's nice mixes of vehicles there as well Big Thanks oh rather busy place that upper Turon anyway thanks again everyone n Cheers

Dave Cook



Back to Turon - Driver Awareness Day Trip

with an overnight camping option at Mt York plus a Sunday trip.

Date: 16th March 2024

Trip Leader - David Wellham

Assisting DAF's: Michael Hamilton, Brian Flood

Attendees: Paul & Suzi Burns, Iwan & Evie Sojono, Phillip Hamilton & Shelly, Daniel Sorrasson, David Fuser, Robert Leung, Patrick Carmody, MJ Hamilton, Jeffy Cairns, Dave Cook, Bill Twyman (as Tail End Charlie)

Report by: Bill Twyman

Weather conditions: a fairly cool start, turned into a nice day, until it rained later in the afternoon.

We had all arrived "on-time" at the Capertee carpark meeting place (where Michael was proudly showing off his Ineos's new rear cupboard fit out) so after our self introductions and David's pre-trip talk we headed for the Turon National Park. We all parked up at the bottom of the steep Lochaber Link Rd for a vehicle check discussion using the "POWERAS" acronym (more about that in this months "Driver Awareness News"). After a test drive back up the Lochaber Link track we then drove down the oneway "Steep Hill" Rd, trying to not lock up a brake or slip off the edge. We performed several dry creek crossings on our way to the morning tea stop where we somehow fitted all 14 vehicles into a 10 vehicle carpark, the exit maneuvers were brilliant (it was an overgrown narrow deadend track), from there we made our way to the Diggings Campground for a quick toilet stop.

After performing several more river crossings we headed down to The Woolshed Flat Campground for our lunch stop where Michael's new microwave oven proved very useful for some.

During lunch David, Brian & Michael gave an excellent talk on all things 4 wheel driving in conjunction with the training module from David's laptop. Daniels Subaru Outback XT was used as a demonstrator on how to attach recovery straps with a lot of conversation on the do's & don'ts of recovering a vehicle.

After lunch we continued on and attempted to tackle the Pinnacles Fire Trail for our exit from the park but the track was not suitable for our escape, I didn't see it myself (being TEC) but they tell me the ruts were very deep, deep enough to swallow a Subaru, so we headed back the way we came in, crossing the Turon River a few more times.

We all got back into Capertee around 4:00pm where some headed to Mt York for camping and some were heading home. I spent some time in Wallerawang & in Lithgow shopping, by the time I left Aldi it was starting to rain and the closer I got to the Mt Victoria Pass the heavier the rain got, I did spare a thought for my "brave camping colleagues" camped at Mt York. However, I believe that due to the heavy rain there was a change of plans and the happy campers decided to head home rather than spend the night camped out in that rain.

Bill

Weekday Wanderer: Old Joadja Town & Distillery & Historic Berrima

Date: 20th March, 2024

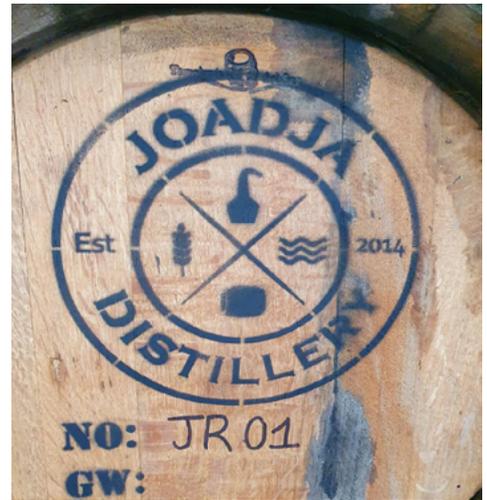
Trip Leader: Jo Quinn

Attendees: Jo, Chris, Kelly, Nathan, Cherie, Bill, John, Jean, Cath, Tom, Roger, Amanda

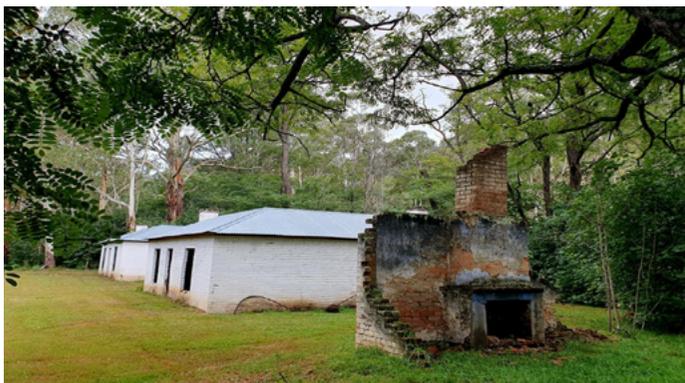
A "True Story" from our trip leader;

The name Joadja came about from 3 bushrangers operating in the Southern Highlands in the early 1800's. Joe, Adam & James used "Joadja", the first 2 letters of their 3 names, as a code word for communication to avoid capture from the mounted police.

The day started with what seems to be a common trait of my trips; rain. Luckily by the time we got down to Joadja it had stopped. Joadja is a very unique property steeped in history that has played a significant part in the development and settlement of the Southern Highlands.



The town of Joadja was established in the late 1870's by the Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Co. Hundreds of Scottish oil shale miners who brought with them their skills in the mining and retorting technique... and the stilling and brewing of "sly grog". We were taken around the property on people movers where Val gave us a very detailed and informative 2hr tour. At various stages we were able to wander among the historic buildings, some in quiet an advanced state of disrepair, others surprisingly intact. He explained the restoration work involved in some of the structures and the lack of funding available to preserve some of the unique features.



After the tour of the property, it was back to the distillery for another tour and ample tastings. The Distillery is one of a few single malt distilleries in the world to grow their own barley and have access to natural pristine spring water on-site. The Scottish heritage in the valley and the history of "sly grog" inspired Val to establish Joadja Distillery in 2014. He was very passionate about the distilling process and as an engineer, had never had any experience in the business prior to Joadja. The distillery has won numerous awards and was even requested to make a bottle of Scotch for the late Queen Elizabeth of England. The distillery side of things has certainly come a long way from the sly grog operations from the early Scottish settlers on the property.



We had a BBQ lunch on the property before driving out to Berrima for a tour of the old Courthouse. Again, steeped in history, the Courthouse was used to convict criminals through to 1900 and saw crimes from cattle stealing through to notorious bushrangers and murderers. We did the “Sound & Lightshow” experience, which was very eloquently titled for what was a rather tacky, if not entertaining, experience in the original courtroom.



After the courthouse, we had a quick look in some of Berrima’s quaint shops before finishing off the day with a beverage at the Surveyor General Inn – Australia’s oldest continually licensed Inn which was built in 1834 & licensed a year later. A great way to end an enjoyable and informative day with good people.

Jo



More photos of this trip can be found on the club Facebook Page.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PAGE

Future Meetings

April – Friday 12th Meeting at Ermington Hall at 8pm

Information session on entering new trips onto website

May – Friday 10th Meeting at Ermington Hall at 8pm

Information session on leading trips – new & experienced Trips Leaders

June – Saturday 15th Meeting at Mount Wilson at 3pm

Option to camp or drive home after meeting

July – Friday 12th Meeting at Ermington Hall at 8pm

December ‘Placeholder’ – Saturday 30th November, combined with Club Christmas Party

More details in Upcoming Trips section on website.

Please register for trips with catering so that we have food for everyone.

The SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB

CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

NEXT YEAR

The committee is seeking member volunteers to join a committee to put together plans to celebrate the 50TH ANNIVERSARY in 2025.

Interested members can contact the Secretary for further information.

WHERE WAS I

Last months co-ordinates were 31°06'52.5"S 138°41'14.2"E which placed me at Blinman. Well done Nathan.

Blinman is a locality incorporating two towns in the Australian state of South Australia within the Flinders Ranges about 425 kilometres north of Adelaide, with a population in the 2021, census of 43. It serves as a base for large-acre pastoralists and tourism. Blinman is just north of the Flinders Ranges National Park, 60 kilometres north of Wilpena Pound. It is named after Robert Blinman, the shepherd who discovered its mineral resource in the area in 1859, it could have been named Peg Leg, which was the nickname of the one-legged shepherd, Robert Blinman.

The two towns were Blinman South and Blinman North until 1986, when they were re-named Blinman.

Blinman is situated on the traditional lands of the Adnyamathanha tribe of Indigenous Australians.



The first European settlement around what is now Blinman was Angorichina Station, taken up for sheep farming in the 1850s. A shepherd employed by the station, Robert Blinman, discovered a copper outcrop on a hot December day in 1859. Blinman gambled some of his money on the presence of more underground copper and received a mineral licence in 1860. In 1861, Blinman and three friends, Alfred Frost, Joe Mole and Henry Alfred, received the surface lease for the land that became Blinman.



Mining was successful in the first year, when the mine became known as *Wheal Blinman*. The original four leaseholders sold their mine in 1862 for about 150 times their purchase price. The new owners were the *Yudnamutana Copper Mining Company of South Australia*, which also owned a rich deposit north of Blinman. The mine was very successful during the 1860s and the site became permanent, with buildings being constructed and more miners moving to the area, some from the Burra mine. The biggest challenges at the time were the transport of ore and the finding of water. Over the next 20 years, wells were sunk at regular intervals, making settlement easier. In 1881, construction of the Central Australia

Railway reached Parachilna, 25 kilometres to the west of the mine, overcoming the tyranny of the 200 kilometres journey over rough dirt tracks to Port Augusta.

Family life was hard in the early days. Locally, water and firewood had to be brought long distances. This job was left to the women and their elder children while the men were working. Many pregnancies failed in the early years and several deaths were reported from "inflammation of the lungs". With the original tent settlement being very close to the mine, it was impossible to escape the fine dust generated.



A hotel and post office were first opened in Blinman in 1863. In 1864, a government surveyor laid out 162 allotments about 3 kilometres from the mine, following which it was named *Blinman*. The population was about 1500 by 1868 and the first school opened that year. Substantial shops were built in the main street in 1869. The striking of regular water in the mine the same year secured a regular water supply for the town.

Mining continued until 1918, when the ore ran out. The busiest time for the mine was 1913–1918; the town population was 2000. The total ore removed from the mines was about 10,000 tonnes.

Today the settlement verges on being a ghost town although there has been a commitment to tourism with the advent of the Blinman Underground Experience in 2011. Still, beyond the mine tour there is little more than a pub and a few houses with the main interest lying in the remnants of the old mines which exist in all their rusted glory.



Things to See and Do

Blinman Mines

To the west of Blinman (about 1 km) is the sign out to Blinman Mines. On the hill above the town there are old smelters and bits and pieces of machinery which are remnants of the late 19th century when the town was alive with miners. To get to the top of the Blinman Mine area it is possible to drive in a 4WD or walk.

Blinman Mine Tour - Blinman Underground Experience

In an impressive attempt to encourage tourism the Blinman Heritage Tourist Mine was opened in April 2011. The mine office is located in the centre of town on Mine Road next door to the Blinman General Store. It has historic photos and information and it is also the local visitor information centre. The Blinman underground experience offers an opportunity to go into an historic copper mine. It is a combination of a sound and light system which includes storytelling, light boxes, music, a mix of theatre and mining history all enhanced by experienced tour guides.

Historic Buildings

Blinman is a very tiny little settlement with a hotel, a post office, a general store and very little else. The Police Station dates from 1874 and the North Blinman Hotel has parts which date from the 1860s. Blinman Dome Diapir - a geological formation which has been written about extensively.

Blinman Mine and Manager's Cottage
Mine Road Dwelling and Dugout

Blinman Cemetery

The Blinman Cemetery lies at the southern end of the town. It is old and dilapidated but it tells a remarkable story of survival with sad graves of women who died in childbirth, of men killed working with explosives near the mine, of little-known explorers like William Kekwick (1872) who was the second-in-charge to John McDouall Stuart when he crossed Central Australia.

Miner's Cottage

This miner's cottage, made from weatherboards and a limestone fireplace, dates from 1862. It is an old wattle and daub cottage which is located at the Arkaroola end of Blinman's main street. It is as old as the town.

Other Attractions in the Area

Great Wall of China

Located 10 km south of Blinman on the road from Wilpena is a fine example of what is known as a Great Wall of China. These unusual formations appear infrequently in outback areas. They are lines of rocks topped with ironstone which rise up from the surrounding countryside and look a little like the Great Wall of China.

Chambers Gorge

Chambers Gorge features a pretty waterhole in the middle of the desert ranges between Blinman and Arkaroola. Located about 80 km from Blinman it is truly a desert oasis which not only includes a pool but is suitable for camping and has some excellent Aboriginal rock art. The art exists in one of the gorges off to one side from the main gorge and can be accessed by driving about 8 km up the gorge. At that point you will notice a small gorge to your left. The rock art, which is mostly rock carving, is up that gorge. Check out <https://www.southaustralianhistory.com.au/chambersgorge.htm> for more information.

Scenic Route from Parachilna

The road between Blinman and Parachilna is particularly beautiful cutting through dramatic desert gorges which are characterised by the harsh, spectacular colours of this part of the outback.



WHERE AM I THIS TIME

39°01'43.05"S 146°19'53.0"E

Can you find me.

When you think you have found the secret destination, email me at s_bennett51@outlook.com with your location. If you have visited this location, send a photo and/or write a few paragraphs of your visit there, or a funny experience you may have had there and what you liked/disliked about the place. There is no prize.



Wishing Everyone A Happy Easter

Until Next Time

STAY SAFE