



OUT AND ABOUT 4X4 CLUB

JAUARDI STATION EASTER TRIP

1ST TO 5TH APRIL 2021

Trip Report by Jan Eldridge with additional information provided by Hertha Mitchell.

Easter this year was a trip with a complete difference to the last time the club ventured to Jaurdi Station in 2006. Last time there were no flies and the weather was much more pleasant.



St Luke's Church

Meeting place Westonia for some at the small free camp site by St Luke's Church, Woody, Andrew, Hertha, Mike, Clare. Chris, Terry and myself, Les and Carol (visitors) also joined us and we introduced ourselves and made them welcome to our first night camping.

We set up camp then sat catching up on news. A general decision was made to venture to the Westonia Tavern for dinner, only a short walk along an avenue of well-kept older style houses with shrubs that were covered in beautiful orange and black butterflies. The Tavern was a hive of activity as the workers' shifts had finished for the evening, luckily, we had booked a table. Food was a little slow in coming but was well presented and plenty of it. Chris had ordered what we thought was the easiest of meals - a Steak Burger but his was the last to arrive, so we enjoyed watching him eat

as we had all finished ours. On leaving the Tavern, Mike and Clare went out the back door and we all waited at the front of the entrance for some time then turned to head for home only to find them returning by the main street. They had a tour in the dark of the back street of Westonia. ***This of course gave them a fine.***

Back at camp, members sat under the information gazabo by the church and Terry set a time of 8.00am for heading off in the morning to drive to the Edna Vale working Mine.

In the morning all were ready by 8.00am so ***a fine to all.*** the weather warmed up but flies were also enjoying the warm weather. The walk to the two lookouts over the mine area gave us all a good work out before getting on the road to Southern Cross.



Edna Vale Mine

Arrived at Southern Cross and as we were either refuelling the vehicles or the bodies, Frank arrived so we became a complete convoy, we stopped at the designated meeting point to get into convoy procedure only to discover that Chris and Mike were still waiting for their morning coffee. ***Another fine for them. Terry also got a fine for the not arranging cooler weather.***

Turned onto the gravel road to Jaurdi Station, it was dusty but in reasonably good condition. Passed the sign '4 by 4 drive only to Jaurdi' but did not go this way as our last trip many years ago the track was really rough. Slight hiccup – Frank's car stopped, however after several attempts to start it we were lucky, a mine mechanic stopped, and he was able to solve the problem and advised what to do if it happened again. So onwards we travelled, still on the



dusty gravel road. We arrived at the railway line and turned left to follow the train track service road till we found the crossing leading to the Station. This track was more of a bush track, narrow in some sections but we all arrived at the station complex safely, each finding their own sites to set up camp. **FLIES REALLY BAD.**

A new drop toilet was in good clean condition. The shower complex was still there but as Clare and I discovered only a slight trickle of cold water. The water tanks were empty. Happy Hour was around Chris's new camper trailer and he was given a lot of banter as he was still setting up whilst we were relaxing in his shade.

We woke to a warm breezy morning, but the flies had not gone away. The day's driving firstly took us on the 4x4 track out of Jaurdi to the main gravel track in. This track was not a problem, not so dusty, much pleasanter outlook through sections of trees with long hanging strips of bark blowing in the breeze. Lake Walton was our morning tea stop. Les went off walking and was halfway across the lake when Carol had his coffee ready. She was very patient and kept it warm for him. ***Fine for Carol for being so patient and Les for going walk about.***



Lake Walton

Terry ventured closer to the lake and got himself bogged, he managed to get out, but the tyres were covered in red mud.

Another fine for Terry.



Stopped at a disused mine complex where there were several shafts.

Fines here for Terry for creating the dust as he was trip leader and Frank for creating more dust as we travelled along the track.

Back over the railway crossing and we turned left towards Koolyanobbing, a track through different fauna, small shrubs, dry and scrubby and narrow, so lots of pin strips to vehicles. The banter over the CB was whose vehicle would not handle the rough, narrow track – each driver implied that their vehicle was superior. At one stage the Kalgoorlie train passed us. After a lunch break spread out beside the track in some shade it was decided that Koolyanobbing was too far as we had to get back to camp to prepare for our combined dinner. It took a while for Tail End Charlie and Trip Leader to finally find the track to Darrine, but we made it and came across Sardine Dam (or according to Andrew it was a Lake). The track back to camp was narrow and rutted in places but all arrived OK. All vehicles were covered in dust and pine stripes.



Sardine Dam



All relaxed and we prepared the goodies for our evening dinner.

Yet another great meal – Silverside and mustard sauce, Chicken Parmesan, baked and boiled potatoes, cauliflower and broccoli bake, peas and corn. Followed by cheesecake, apple pie and custard, fruit and cream.

After dinner, the fines master gave out more fines - ***cooks and supervisors fined for making such a good meal, Chris extra fine for rabbiting on about Hertha's custard and finally Carol and Clare for being too well-behaved.***

A good day's drive and evening, the flies settled down in the cool of the evening. People wore fly nets for most of the day.

Easter Sunday – the easter bunny found us. **Bunny got a fine for this.**



Egg and Bacon for breakfast for some, had to fight the flies but other members had a sleep in saying they needed their beauty sleep.

Once breakfast was over all got ready for another drive. **Fine for Andrew for distracting the fine master whilst trying to sort out her fine list.**

On the drive

found a small mining area with several shafts and sludge heaps, then a rock formation which looked like a small London Bridge from Sandstone.

On one track we came across a long grave of a Pioneer who had died in 1910.



Wallangie Soak

When we were looking for another Dam, Les went for a walk and found Wallangie Soak, lots of butterflies – a change from the flies, although they were still around. Les and Carol enjoyed the drive so much they did another track back to camp.

Back at camp the flies were still bad, and it got very hot. A dice game got under way to raise more funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. We introduced Les and Carol to the game and they were hooked.

We were sitting around after a good day, and apart from the flies and hot weather, it was generally decided to pack camp in the morning and for some to head home and others to extend their trip further.

Next morning all packed up early and headed out of Jaurdi Station by the 4x4 track, it was a much pleasanter drive out than the trip in. At the Great Eastern Highway, farewells were said, and everyone went their own way.

It was a good weekend, with some interesting 4x4 driving, historical sightings, but the heat and the flies made the weekend a little unpleasant. A big thanks to our fine master Hertha, a good amount was raised for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.



Convoy at Wallangie Soak