



OUT AND ABOUT 4X4 CLUB

TRIP: Westway's Wildflower Farm

Date: Weekend trip 10th-12th September 2021

Trip Leader: Paul Hemmings

Report: Stephen Dickens

Attendees: (not all attended every day)

Paul Hemmings

Alex Cokic & Maria

Terry Eldridge & Jan

Andrew Mitchell & Hertha

Garry Wood

Bob Dorizzi & Lucy

Julien Van Rooyen & Deidre

Reece Van Rooyen & Lisa

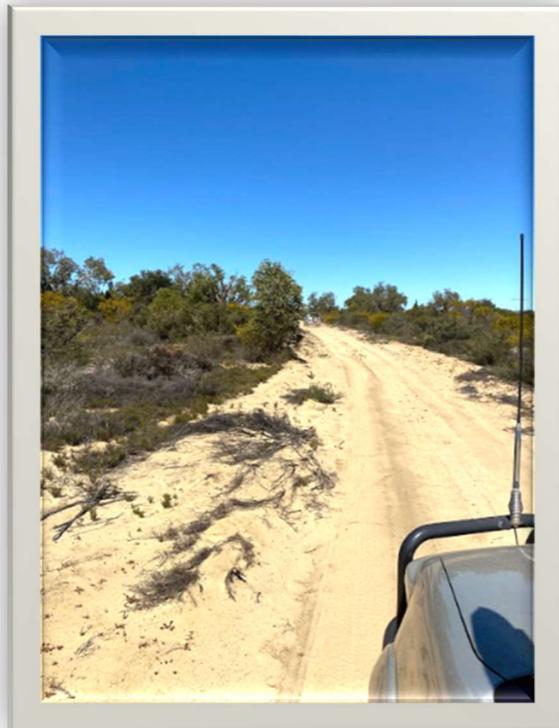
Frank Marzoli

Sue Mortin & Margret

Doug Brown

Steve Dickens & Kerry

With Hendrik Greyling & Marcia as visitors

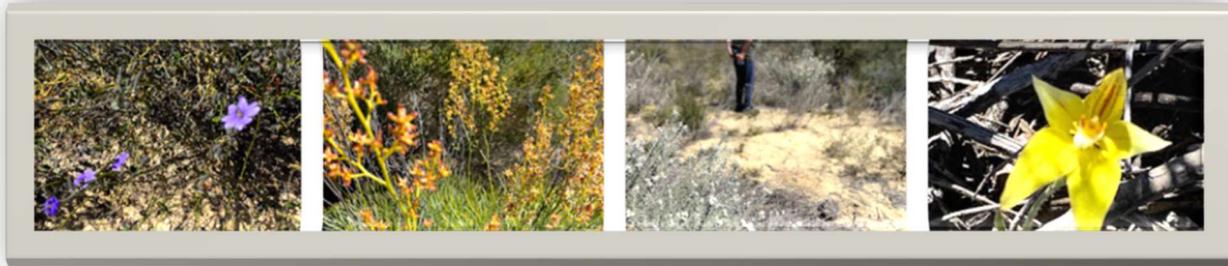


The weekend started with a few of us arriving to camp on the Friday, more arrived Saturday and on Sunday the remainder completed the list of attendees.

Paul met most of us at the farm entrance and introduced us to the owners who gave us an insight into the wildflower business that they run, we were also given a guide to a track and its wildflower treasures that was to form the weekend enjoyment. Friday was an early night with Saturday looking busy. As we retired Paul made his first reference to wildlife by telling us to look out for cows, but totally no evidence of cows could be seen at this point.

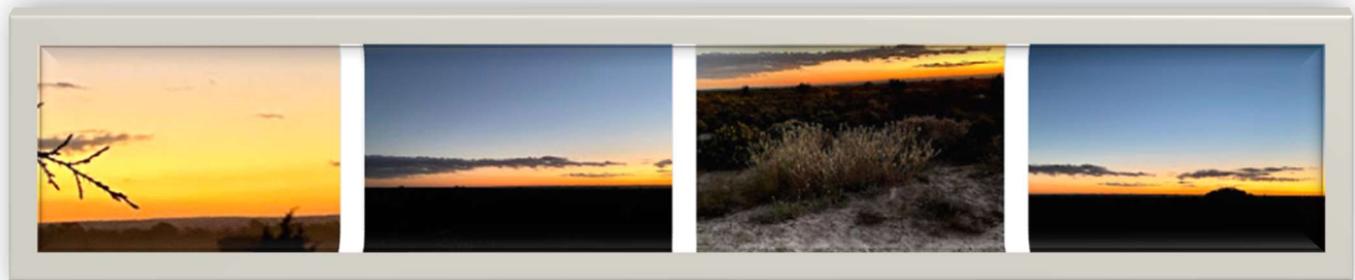
Saturday saw more of us arrive and after lunch Paul lead us on a preview of the loop which had over 200 species of wildflowers.





We sped our way through some sandy bits, some of which required 4wd, before venturing off-site to inspect a land area of interest, returning to site later in the afternoon. As Paul pointed out the brochure from the owners was well produced, with mileage indicators of wildflower areas spot on, still no cows but did I detect some bull, the search for bovines continued...

It was heading towards sunset and Paul suggested we might like to do the track again and stop at the lookout to view the sunset. It was a rather romantic idea, and off we raced. It was a race that the sun was winning but with just seconds to spare we arrived as the sun set and it was a wonderful view to see the sun slip away, ping ping, ping went the phones as we had also found the only place with mobile signal.





The night sky put on a fine show and with the help of Doug we were able to tell us some names of some stars. It was a very interesting, awesome time spent at the lookout. With a chill in the air, it was time to return to camp, stoke up the fire and continue to view the night sky. As we left, Paul mentioned more wildlife, this time rabbits. Some time was spent around the fire before retiring for the night in preparation for Sunday and the day trippers joining us for the main event of the weekend.

Paul met the day trippers and brought them to camp, and we all went to the starting gate to form a convoy ready for the wildflower delights ahead. 12 vehicles lined up but car 13 was Woody, who was hitched up ready to leave. Having already seen the track twice, he decided to make his getaway. He got a deserved fanfare of hoots and best wishes as he left for his journey to South Australia.

We set off for our stop start ride through the wildflowers.



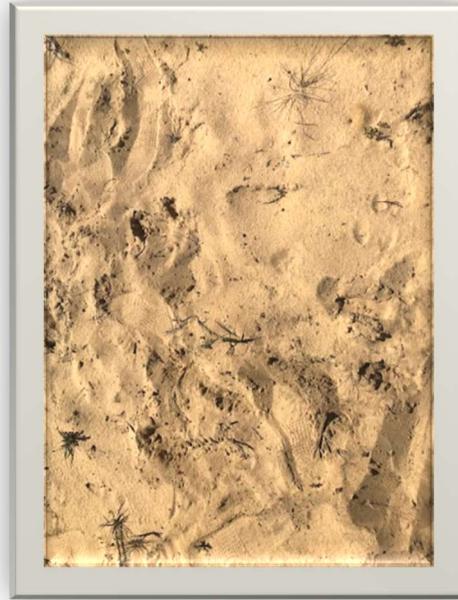
As we stopped at markers, we jumped out looking at wildflowers and taking snaps.



It was about now that Paul warned us to look out for wild bears! "Surely not!" I thought, but Paul was adamant they were out there, and how true his comments would turn out to be... The journey continued with many of the 200 species of wildflower on view.



The convoy stopped and started as it moved slowly along the track. It was at one of these stops that I called Paul over...



“Look!” I exclaimed and pointed to a patch of sand with indentations of animal footprints, not any old footprints but wild bear prints, and Paul agreed that they sure looked like the prints of a wild black bear. The trip continued, we stopped for lunch at the lookout and Paul pointed out what he thought was a black bear but alas it was not. While at the lookout we plotted out the Yallalie Meteorite Crater before making our way back to camp. Club members added commentary on the names of wildflowers.



We made our exit from the Wildflower track and the day trippers drove straight on to the farm gate for their return to the big smoke. The rest of us returned to camp and those of us departing set about hitching up and getting ready to leave. Everyone had fun and a very informative trip, no bull.

Thanks Paul, for a great weekend.