



# FOUR WHEEL DRIVE SOUTH AUSTRALIA NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY UNIT Access Guide and Newsletter



South Australian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Incorporated  
ABN 24 036 898 953 trading as Four Wheel Drive South Australia

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Spring Edition

## Gawler Ranges National Park

The 166kha Gawler Ranges National Park is located on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula approx 40km north of Wudinna or Minnipa on the Eyre Highway. Northern road access is from Kingoonya, Iron Knob, and Kimba. The park offers opportunities for site seeing, camping, bushwalking and passive nature study.

With an age of 130m-120m years it was in existence when dinosaurs roamed the land, and is among the most ancient landscapes yet recognised on earth. The dome-shaped hills and gully complexes, with rocky gorges and seasonal water flows, create a stunning landscape of natural beauty. Over the last 2m years alluvial material has filled the ancient river valleys to considerable depths - fields of desert dunes formed to the south from 130m-20k years ago. In geological terms though, the area remains relatively untouched.

A spectacular feature is the volcanic rhyolite "organ-pipes" - one of the largest exposures in the world. About 1592m years ago, during the volcanic creation of the Gawler Ranges hills, the columnar joint systems were formed as the rock cooled. Most are vertical though some have toppled and lean downslope. Excellent examples are exposed at Kolay Mirica Falls and the Organ Pipes.

This former Paney Pastoral property which dates from the 1850s, has historic sites including Policemans Point precinct, Stone Dam, Pondanna Outstation, and Old Paney Homestead - manager McKenzie lived here with wife Jessie and their eleven children 1877-1898



The best time to visit is between April and October, while the weather is cool. Most tracks are recommended for high clearance 4WD vehicles, however high ground clearance 2WD vehicles may access some areas. Avoid travel in wet conditions, as tracks and roads can become impassable - check the Road Conditions Hotline 1300 361 033 and/or the local District Council of Le Hunte.

**Disclaimer:** This publication was prepared by Four Wheel Drive South Australia. Every endeavour has been made to ensure the accuracy in compiling this publication however inaccuracies may still occur which could result in the user being misinformed. While regretting such occurrences Four Wheel Drive South Australia cannot accept responsibility for any consequences whatsoever which may result therefrom.

Day and camping passes are required to visit the Gawler Ranges National Park. These are available from self-registration bays within the park. There are no services and visitors must provide for their own needs including adequate water, fuel and firewood. Bush camping with minimal facilities is available in designated areas. Visitors should not collect firewood from within the park, and chainsaws are prohibited. Wood fires are prohibited during Fire Danger Season and when fire bans apply. Permission must be obtained prior to entering or camping on neighbouring pastoral leases.

You will need several days to take in *all* of the region's features. There are many granite outcrops, weathered granite formations, one of Australia's largest granite monoliths (Mt.Wudinna), and a wave-like formation (Pildappa Rock). Additional attractions, some of which include toilets and picnic areas are:

- Around Wudinna - Mt.Wudinna, Turtle Rock, Polda Rock, Ucontitchie Hill
- Around Minnipa - Tcharkulda Rock, Pildappa Rock, Yarwondutta Rock (at the Minnipa Agricultural Centre)
- To the east near Kyancutta and Koogawa - Corrobinnie Hill, Pinkawillinie Conservation Park, Polkdney Park, Goyder's and Darke's Monuments, and Waddikee Rock

The ubiquitous Eyre Peninsula stone channel water collection and reservoir infrastructure, which enabled closer settlement in this very dry environment, will also be encountered (example below).

Get information locally from the Gawler Ranges Visitor Information Centre in Wudinna or from web sites

[www.lehunte.sa.gov.au](http://www.lehunte.sa.gov.au),

[www.tep.com.au/nationalparks/](http://www.tep.com.au/nationalparks/)

[www.parks.sa.gov.au/gawler/index.htm](http://www.parks.sa.gov.au/gawler/index.htm)

Information for this article was gained from District Council of Le Hunte and SA Dept. for Environment and Heritage publications and websites



## The Old Editor Says Goodbye

Our sincere thanks go to Ian McDougall for his work in producing this newsletter since 2002.

He maintained a high standard of creativity and quality in promoting the values of the Natural Resources Advisory Unit of Four Wheel Drive South Australia through a range of features and information essential to our members and to a wider external audience. Producing this newsletter is a challenge in the detail it must go into to ensure that everything is as accurate as can be determined.

Challenging also is the need to be credible to a readership, which, within the membership of 4WD clubs and in the Association itself, lies an impressive depth of knowledge and positive action on natural resource and environmental issues.

While Ian's direct involvement will be sorely missed, he has offered his advice and assistance which is much appreciated - well done and thank you.

## South Australian unsealed Outback road network

**Warning:** most States now have large fines for driving on closed tracks. The South Australian unsealed Outback road network is one of the State's greatest assets. They can be dusty when dry, or prone to flood damage after rain. The roads are often closed after rain to prevent further damage and to ensure the safety of road users. Severe penalties apply for motorists travelling on closed roads. **Road Conditions Hotline** - 1300 361 033.

**NB** - Just because a track is shown on a map does NOT mean the public can access that track - tracks shown on the RAA Map No 13 "Outback" are open to the public (latest edition is March 2005).

## In Adelaide & SA - FREE

Most 4WD Clubs conduct family picnic days or barbecues, and it is always handy to know of good parks to hold them at - or just for your own activities. The publication "Free - In Adelaide & SA" covers a surprising number and variety of council parks in the City, Metropolitan, Beachside, Hillside, and Regional. It lists the activities advised or not advised in the parks, with a "traffic light" system giving three gradings:

- Green = Yes, this is good here;
- Yellow = Caution, this is just passable;
- Red = No, this can't be done here.

The activities categorised cover Playgrounds, Ball Play, Bike/Skate, Walking and Jogging, Peaceful Area, Wheelchair Access, Barbecues, Group Gatherings, Dogs, Photography, Swimming - there is a separate category, "Enclosed Areas", where categories are fenced off for children's safety.



Free - Inside activities cover the Central Market, Art Gallery, various museums etc. All-but-free activities include Cleland, Morialta, Para Wirra, and Belair parks, libraries, swimming centres, etc.

See the Website at [www.freeinyourtown.com.au](http://www.freeinyourtown.com.au) for detail or pick up a copy at: Hungry Jacks | Spotlight | Bank SA | Adelaide City Council | Your Local Council Office | Tourism SA | Harris Scarfe | Adelaide International Airport | Interstate Train & Bus Terminals. (Information courtesy of the Free In Your Town book and website)

## Ngarkat Conservation Park

Ngarkat Working Bee : 30<sup>th</sup> Sep - 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2006  
31 persons, 18 vehicles, and 5 clubs participated in another successful working bee.

Work was done on the big dunes on the Border Track, swales on the Centre to the Border track, table and seats at Comet Bore, repairs after fire at Buck's Camp, and rubbish removal from Piggery Track.



Ngarkat Working Bees : 2007

The Ngarkat Track Maintenance Committee has commenced planning for the first working bee of 2007 on 27-28<sup>th</sup> April

Your club will be sent full details - please support this very worthwhile activity, help keep some park tracks open



Border Track Closure : 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 2006 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007

DEH has notified that, the Ngarkat Border Track one way section was closed early on the 15<sup>th</sup> October due to the extended fire ban season - this is in line with the Management plan. They also advised that the track was very dry on the October long weekend.

## Clean Up Australia 2007

The Clean Up Australia weekend is 3-4<sup>th</sup> March 2007. Can clubs please get their planning going and register with **John Caldecott** at [johncald@chariot.net.au](mailto:johncald@chariot.net.au) or **83966817**. It is intended to do the formal registration with KESAB electronically in November. About ten clubs have so far indicated that they will be taking part.



## New Clean Up Australia Co-ordinator Wanted

A person or persons or a club is wanted to take over the FWDSA annual Clean Up Australia event as a documented going concern with assistance in the transition. For more information, contact **John Caldecott** at [johncald@chariot.net.au](mailto:johncald@chariot.net.au) or **83966817**

**Aerial Surveillance Helps Protect Park** - from DEH News Release 16 June 2006

Assisted by a helicopter for the first time, the DEH and SA Police were kept busy over the June long weekend tracking down reckless drivers in Canunda National Park - a coastal reserve in the state's South East. The park is a hot spot for hoon drivers over holiday weekends.

There were 24 expiations issued for unregistered motorbikes and driving off marked tracks. A further five park users were reported on traffic charges and were to face court at a later date. The offenders were mainly from Adelaide and Melbourne. One party of 3 motorcycles tried to outrun the helicopter but the offenders were intercepted and reported.

These irresponsible drivers damage the fragile coastal environment, including valuable habitat and important conservation areas, and jeopardize the safety of themselves and other park users by speeding around sand dunes. Under National Park regulations, vehicles entering Canunda must be registered, stay on marked tracks, adhere to the 40km/h speed limit and drive in a safe manner.



**Unless otherwise signed, 40km/h is the default speed limit in reserves and parks and on the beaches - but only if safe to do so - slow down and give way to wildlife and other users.**

**A Unique 4WD**

Just what you've always wanted - the ultimate in 4WD Off-Road vehicles, just returned from a trip to the top-end. No it's not an OKA, this is a serious one-off custom built 4 wheel drive, based on a diesel powered Mitsubishi Canter truck chassis. With full interior fit out, the roof area features fold-up satellite dish, solar panels, a davit for the "zodiac" (inflatable boat), at rear a motor cycle carrier, and an 'A-Frame' for towing a similarly painted Suzuki X90 wagon. Cost - not available ("..... but think quite a way up in the six figure range.....")



**End**