

Long Weekend Wildflower Trip

September 2014

Trip Leaders – Don and Val

Three cars left Bakers Junction on Saturday afternoon for an extended drive up Chester Pass Road and down past the Stirling Ranges. The country side looked beautiful with all sorts of wild flowers and plenty of lovely crops to be admired. We went through to Rams Head Corner over the Pallinup River.

On meeting the Borden Bremer Bay Road we carried on further past a property owned by the Aboriginal people. They have an entrance of sheer rock of all colours which we all admired. We then travelled through to Gairdner and to our spot on a farm and settled in for the night.

Next morning we were met by another car and we all set off to the Fitzgerald National Park. First stop was at Mt Maxwell for a view of the farm land to the ocean and mountains in between. Upon arriving at Point Anne we were treated with a pod of dolphins thrashing in the water and a few minutes later a Southern Right whale and her calf appeared. Morning tea was the order of the day. There was a Ranger there and upon talking to him he directed us via an unofficial track to access Trigelow Beach. The official track was closed due to erosion, so we took advantage and did 26 Km. The beach was quite soft at the Point Anne end but got harder as we went along. We also managed to get passed the Gordon Inlet which is the mouth of the Gardner River. We moved as far as we could and came off at Bentleys Beach onto a track and had lunch.

The next stop was Drage Beach, which is only about 50 metres wide. We found two shacks that were burnt out about two years ago, travelling into Doubtful Island lookout. On returning the next stop was the blow holes, then travelling back through tracks to Bremer Bay for tyre blow-ups and the customary icecream. Back to the farm for a well earned rest and a BBQ tea with a lot of frivolity.

Tony and Jan stayed for tea and then left for home.

Monday came too quickly and we packed up and took everything through the farm to the main homestead and left out trailers etc and proceeded to Reef Beach. We planned on driving in from the west and coming out on the eastern end but the winds and the ever changing sand dunes stopped us and we had to turn back to base – had lunch and returned to Albany. In general and without repeating myself, the wildflowers were beautiful and we had many stops. The bush had really grown back after the recent fires and all looked a picture. In all we had a little bit of bog, sand, rocks, water, gravel and bitumen. No-one got bogged.