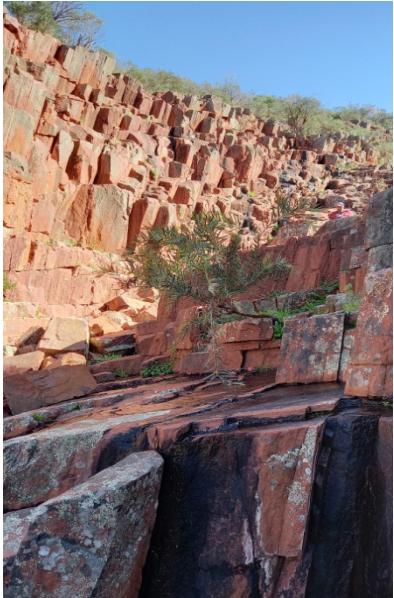


**Southern Explorers Four Wheel Drive Club Summary Trip Report**  
**SA Gawler Ranges – 24 August to 28 August 2020**  
**Trip Leader: Jim B**

The trip continued from Poochera with Jim and Margaret (Toyota Prado), Justin (Toyota Prado), Paul and Linda (D-Max), Jeanette (Rav-4), Ian and myself (Toyota Hilux). Greeted by a beautiful sunny day, we packed up trailers and tents and headed east out of Poochera shortly after 09:00. We took some more of the roads less travelled and ended up driving on the Yardea road to the Gawler Ranges National Park. Not far into the



Park itself we turned left to the Organ Pipes, about a 10km dirt track. We walked about 10-15 minutes to get to the Organ Pipes rock formations – all before midday so that the sun was on them. There was running water from the recent rains and quite a few wild flowers out. The rock formations were impressive and very photogenic! Back to the vehicles and time to say goodbye to Jeanette who was heading back to Adelaide.

The remainder of us headed north east on the Yardea Road through the National Park, stopping at one of the campgrounds for lunch. Once lunch was over, we continued heading for Mt Ive Station, arriving there around 15:30. We had collected some wood along the way. Some went out to Wombat City (no wombats visible) and we all cooked tea, sitting around the campfire. I rustled up a batch of ginger and date scones served with cream.

We awoke to another nice sunny day. After breakfast, the four vehicles headed off on the track to Lake Gairdner the latter which is most impressive, very large and for the second time we have visited in 15 months, it had water in it! From Lake Gairdner, we headed to the Embankment, a structure made around 1892 to hold back water from a



creek in times of rain. The next stop was Mt Ive Station's Organ Pipes. These Organ Pipes are not quite as extensive as those in the Gawler Ranges National Park but still an interesting sight to see. Back on the road again, we headed back to the campsite for a comfort stop and a short rest.



The afternoon was spent negotiating the steep and rocky track up to the Mt Ive Summit. This is quite a difficult track, but all four vehicles made steady progress reaching the summit in around 30 minutes, after a brief stop to view a Sturt's Desert Pea along the way. We spent some time at the summit taking photos and admiring the 360 degree view before starting our descent.

We broke camp again and around 10:00 headed off on the dirt road towards Iron Knob passing through Mt Ive, Kolendo, Nonning, Siam, Uno and Corunna Stations on the way. It was 112km and took us the best part of 2 hours managing to travel around 60-70 kph. We had a snack, a comfort stop and pumped up the tyres at the Iron Knob campground. Next stop was Port Augusta to refuel, restock and get some lunch. Jim then lead the way to the Spear Creek Caravan Park, where we were made to feel welcome. We enjoyed a final campfire for the trip that evening.



We all seemed to be up and active fairly early with camper trailers and tents packed up and ready to head by 09:30. We made a short trip to Port Germein, and then headed to the hills and found the Bridle Track start by the electricity sub-station. More gates and then we were heading up the saddle of the hill, manoeuvring around ruts and wash-aways until we came to the summit. Magnificent views in 360 degrees on such a clear and sunny day. We could see Whyalla on the far side of the gulf.



Back at Port Germein, Ian and I bid the group farewell as we were going to spend a night at Port Pirie before

heading back home. As we headed into Port Pirie we heard the other three cars practicing good convoy skills, advising of vehicles about to overtake.

According to our Hilux's computer, we were on the road for 68.5 hours and we travelled approx. 3600km on this and the prior Coffin Bay trip! We saw some beautiful scenery and quite a lot of animals and birds. Those on the trip had a great time in good company.

Vanessa R