

Carrah Farms and Wildflower Walks

Our group turned up at Carrah farms, west of Calingiri, and were met by Sarah Mason, the dynamo behind Carrah Farms. She is so enthusiastic and full of energy she makes the Duracell bunny look like it's standing still; we christened her Cyclone Sarah. Sarah soon had us tucking into morning tea: cups of billy tea or plunger coffee; we also had a huge spread of scones, jam and cream, cakes, slices, and ricotta and salt bush pastry triangles all homemade. The ricotta and salt bush triangles are Sarah's own recipe using local salt bush she planted. Sarah also offers Wildflower Walks and High Teas

THE THINGS YOU SEE!

WITH (TRUTHFUL)
PHIL BIANCHI



Twitchers will have a ball in this bird paradise. Birds include Carnaby black cockatoos, they nest on the property. Other birds include parrots, thornbills, robins, wrens, honeyeaters, weebills, nesting wedge tail eagles, and other birds of prey. We had two



awesome walks (1.5 - 2 hours each) through nearby bushland, and saw numerous plants in flower, just spectacular, and the varieties and the colours were amazing. Plants at Carrah include: spider orchids (many double headers), dryandras, leschenaultias, cow slip orchids, blue china orchids, donkey orchids, bossiaeas, stylidium, dampieras and acacias.

for small groups, minimum of 6 and maximum of 12. Carrah is 2,500 acres of which 30% is fenced off remnant bushland to prevent sheep grazing. Over 150,000 plants have been planted to revegetate salt affected areas and provide corridors to link remnant patches of bushland for native animal movement. Before commencing the walks we sprayed the soles of our shoes to prevent the spread of disease, in particular dieback.

We saw evidence of echidna diggings and we startled a rabbit that made off at the speed of light. It's had lots of escaping practice because it usually has Sarah's kelpie on its tail. The walks were superb and are highly recommended. For further details the website is www.carrah.com.au or contact Sarah on 0459 212 780. Carrah will grow and develop and soon will be a highly regarded destination. Naturally the best season for visiting Carrah is spring so you can

enjoy the best of the flowering plants, birds and the weather. Overnight camping is available by arrangement. We had a great time around the campfire; we also had use of facilities in the old homestead nearby. Dogs are welcome. Plan your visit soon, at less than 150 kilometres from Perth you could drive up Friday night and have a two night weekend. To my mind where could you get such a venue with so much to offer so close to Perth? This would have to be one of the classiest camping trips available.

It's Broken

'What's this?' says my good mate Arnie, with only his legs poking out from under my beloved 100 Series cruiser. My immediate thought was he's spotted the front and rear shocks I bolted underneath as a way of carrying spares. 'In all my years in the suspension

side goes the result would not be good'. A few days later he rings and says because my cruiser was an IFS, parts weren't readily available although there was one stronger after-market version. It turned up overnight, Arnie attempts to fit it, wrong part. "We've got to go genuine, it's the only way out," he says. I agreed to pay what I thought was a king's ransom for the cost of genuine parts (grrr Toyota not Arnie). After all, and from my non-expert point of view, it was only a bit of tube with another shorter bit of tube welded at each end stuffed with a couple of bits of rubber. Since my rear upper tie rod end



game I've never see a snapped rear upper tie rod end.' Deflated and with a sinking heart and \$\$\$ signs buzzing through my head, I meekly asked 'What does it do?' Dragging himself out from under the cruiser he explained that it was part of the rear suspension and other technical stuff but I did hear it helped hold the rear axle in place so it didn't roll forward when accelerating. "Bugger", I thought. Then came the usual questions of were parts difficult to source and when could he fix it. "Let me see what's out there. Drive home very carefully and park up, if the other

problem, friends of mine were on a trip out in the back blocks when a 100 Series in the convoy had the same problem, they took the broken parts out welded them together using 12 volt batteries. A bit of bush ingenuity, skills and lot of patience later they were under way again. A short time later the other end went out in sympathy. Now with the experience of an F1 team they soon had it out and welded up ready for fitting again. My experience shows why you should regularly look under the vehicle or have it thoroughly checked by an expert, especially when about to take on a major trip. I didn't hear any noise; there wasn't a problem with driving the vehicle and because one end had swung away there wasn't any clunking.