

THE BLINMAN HERALD

MAY / JUNE
2023

Well done to the Blinman Cricket Club, it's not easy with a limited number of people to help out but they do a great job to keep cricket going. I am not going to name people because I will miss someone, but there are a few that do so much and it's great that local businesses support the team this helps to keep it going. Big things are happening with a new club house coming along which isn't an easy task in a small community, so well done to all those involved and let's hope its keeps going for many years to come. A great lunch and afternoon was had by all at the end of year wind up. 😊



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May & June

Emily McIntosh, Myah Cains, Glen Phelps,
Michelle Henery, Kate Scicluna, Ros
Harvie

Lisa Slade, Vanessa Reschke, Lachlan
Hilder, Sally Henery, Thea Norton

Michelle Reynolds, Rosie Luckraft, Chris
Cains, Pud Reschke, Bailey Marshall,
Isabella Clark, Di Fargher, Mus Reschke,
Kallee Faraguna, Greg Willcocks

Special mention to Thea Norton on her
90th Birthday

Happy Birthday to those I have missed

Sympathies to all who have lost love ones.

Slade Family
McKenzie Family
Ragless Family

Thinking of you all.

Don't forget we love to receive

Your news, history, recipe or fun
information that you might like to share.

e-mail Karen belmont4@bigpond.com

or post to Karen Cains

PO Blinman

SA 5730

CONTACTS LIST

BPA Executives:

Chair – Brendan Reynolds

reynoldswsp@activ8.net.au

Vice Chair – Amy Marshall

marshallamy57@gmail.com

Secretary - Sally Henery

blinman.secretary@gmail.com

Treasurer – Carmel Reynold

blinman.treasurer@gmail.com

BPA Sub Committees & Services:

Airstrip Information - Ian Fargher 86484863
oratunga@bigpond.com

Art Exhibition Karen Cains 86484874

belmont4@bigpond.com

Blinman Herald – Karen Cains 86484874

belmont4@bigpond.com

Gymkhana – Amy Marshall

marshallamy57@gmail.com

Mine Tours – Susan Pearl 86484782

info@heritageblinmanmine.com.au

RFDS Clinic – Karen Cains

belmont4@bigpond.com

Waste Management – Rory Reschke 86484892

EVAN'S PARK HISTORY ... a brief explanation

The block in the Blinman main street between the Hall and the Tennis Court/Park area is now being referred to as Evan's Park. Many will already know this portion of land has been recently gifted to the Blinman Progress Association by McIntosh family members, (by sisters Robyn Lemon and Mary Bartel and myself), for open space and recreational purposes. However, some readers may be wondering where the reference to the "Evans" surname comes from and what the connection is to the McIntosh family.

Photos taken in the early 1900's show a residence with a white picket fence on the block, which was the home of Samuel Evans. Samuel, one of the original Blinman residents, was to marry Anne (formally McKinlay, nee Tully) and then Jane (nee Martin) after Anne's untimely death in 1869.

The link to my sisters and myself is shown as follows:

Samuel Evans ... (m. Anne, nee Tully, then Jane, nee Martin) ... great great grandfather

Ellen Faith Evans ... (m. James Henry Gill) ... great grandparents

Leila Jane Bessie Gill ... (m. William Stewart McIntosh) ... grand parents

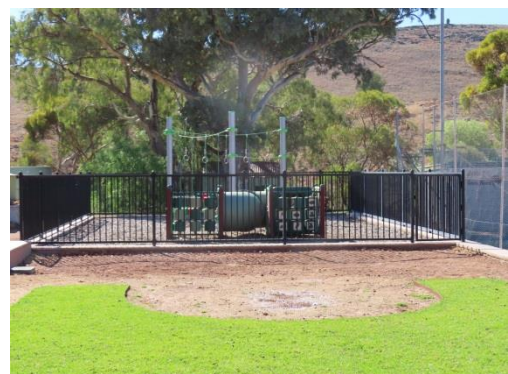
James Stewart Gordon McIntosh ... (m. Beryl Irene, nee Rivett) ... parents

We understand that Ellen Faith lived in the house on that block, which was her parent's home, well into the 1930's, after she sadly lost two husbands, James Henry Gill in 1899 and William Murray in 1905.

We know that Ellen faith was in the house in the late 1920's, as we were told that our father, Gordon, boarded with her (his grandmother) whilst attending school in Blinman. At that time his parents were living at Angorichina Station, where William (Bill) was manager. This would have been before Bill and Leila moved to Gum Creek Farm in 1931 with 10 year old son Gordon.

We look forward to working with the BPA to help record the history in some more detail, including that of other associated families.

Bill McIntosh April 2023



The Irrational SOUTH 200 & 100 Miler

The Irrational SOUTH headed North-West from Blinman first along Glass Gorge Road, before turning in a South-West direction and joining the trail head of the Heysen Trail at Parachilna Gorge. Follow the Heysen South from here through Wilpena Pound and to Quorn.

Blinman had the runners in town for tea at the Blinman Hotel and then breakfast at Wanda then leaving from there to begin their run.



From Blinman Heralds Past...

LAST YEAR MAY/JUNE 2022

- On the Cover: Cricket Grand final photos and story
- BPA Chair: Brendan Reynolds
- Photos of a good rain on May 26th, 24mm in an hour!
- Cricket presentations and bbq and lobster!
- Article about Dafydd Phillips from Valley Magazine
- Blinman Cottage sold
- Postcode 5730 poster

FIVE YEARS AGO MAY/JUNE 2018

- On the Cover: Blinman's Anzac Dawn Service photos
- BPA Chair: Sheree Turner
- Photos from the planning day held at Blinman Hotel and facilitated by Rebecca Lang
- Blinman Motokhana poster
- Adam Brand coming to Blinman
- RFDS First Aid training held in the town hall
- Old postcard sent in by Audrey Young
- Flinders & Beyond Camel Treks had a day of filming in Quorn with Michael Portillo for the BBC series Great British Rail Journeys

TEN YEARS AGO MAY/JUNE 2013

- On the Cover: Coming Events: author visit to pizza night Blinman Hotel, Bike SA in Blinman, FR ICPA meet at Holowiliena, Education Open Day Hawker Area School, FRTOA Forum plant ID, Art Exhibition and Opening, Blessing of the Fleece service, Camp Oven Cook Off, Blinman Gymkhana
- BPA Chair: Tony Cutri
- Congratulations to Prue Fargher and Ben Daley on their Engagement
- Congratulations to Angharad (nee Phillips) and Deane Klaer on the birth of their daughter Laura Audrey on 18th April
- Michelle Henery, Blinman, and Hannah Miklavic, Port Augusta, participated in an inspiring Road Trip to end Poverty bus trip to Canberra bringing 1000 like-minded young Australians together.
- Photo of a dingo taken in Parachilna Gorge, there have been many sightings recently
- Lannah Sawers-Diggins, originally from Pitcairn Station near Peterborough, visited Blinman to interview locals and visitors for her upcoming book Red Dust Dreaming about sheep and cattle stations in Australia
- Update from BPA Secretary Carmel Reynolds

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO MAY/JUNE 2008

- Missing from my collection

TWENTY YEARS AGO MAY/JUNE 2003 ~ The Blinman Herald was printed monthly in those days

- On the Covers: May- End of an era for HF Radio for School of the Air June- 10th Land Rover Jamboree in Blinman, photos and story
- BPA Chair: Bill McIntosh
- Congratulations to Naomi Reynolds of Willow Springs Station who is off to Hamilton Island Qld in her new role as Childcare Team Leader
- Will Fargher, grandson of Rex & Win Fargher Wirrealpa, is out of hospital and doing well after a serious accident at Skull Rock on Willow Springs/Wilpena
- Poems and reminiscences on the SOTA end of an era and the changeover from HF radio to Internet for student lessons
- Blinman Progress Assoc News: Bush care program well underway; cemetery project underway with a \$1500 grant from Heritage SA, including shade tree planting and a sign to list those interred in unmarked graves; waste station completed and working well with plans to work out a system of contributions from locals who use the local dump, with the dump to be tidied up soon
- A heavy downpour of rain in May overwhelmed the gutters and flooded the Blinman Hotel, the swimming pool, and the General Store
- Welcome to Robyn Holtham and Phil Matthews who have moved to Blinman, purchasing Dudley & Vanessa Reschke's place and leasing the Old Schoolhouse Tearooms
- Congratulations to Emma Fargher of Martins Well Station who has graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing Degree and is working at the Repat Hospital in Adelaide

The Explorer William Kekwick

William Kekwick was second in command of several John McDouall Stuart expeditions and is buried in the Blinman cemetery after dying at Nuccaleena Mine on Moolooloo Station.

The following is an extract from the March 2023 Newsletter No 168 of the John McDouall Stuart Society, used with permission from the Editor.

From "William Darton Kekwick - 'The Explorer in our family After the expeditions (cont.)' by Christine Woodcock and Ian Ide



In 1871 William Kekwick was appointed as third in command and collector of botanic and natural history specimens on the Central and Western Exploring Expedition, led by William Gosse. The aim of the expedition was to map a route from Alice Springs, across 'the great unknown land' to Perth. In 1872 Gosse's government-funded party headed north from Port Augusta for the long haul to Alice Springs. From there the expedition's goal was to find a route from Central Australia to Perth. The expedition team had only reached as far as Beltana, 1200 kilometres south of Alice Springs when, feeling very ill, Kekwick decided that he could not continue. Gosse arranged for him to return by cart to Blinman. Kekwick only managed to get as far as Nuccaleena when he realised that he could go no further. William Darton Kekwick died at Nuccaleena on 16th October 1872, aged 49 years. William Gosse sent a letter to Kekwick's brother, Daniel, describing the circumstances of his death:

The portrait of William Kekwick in the Old Colonists Banquet Group Mosaic 1872.

The 18th October 1872

To Daniel Kekwick.

My Dear Sir,

I will tell you as nearly as possible what I know of your brother's illness. While waiting at Beltana he seemed to get much stronger and said he was better than he had been for a long time. He was quite well the first day, but the second he got wet and caught cold which made his old complaint much worse. I spoke to him about his being fit to proceed but he said he was sure the hot winds would put him all right. He seemed getting worse every day and on Sunday he wrote a note to me saying he would be obliged to give up his place in my party and hasten to Blinman for advice. I hired a trap that happened to be at camp and started him off early on Monday morning. On Wednesday he arrived at Beltana and seemed slightly worse. I procured a trap and horses from Mr Baldock and after a rest he started for Blinman. He got as far as Nuccaleena when he got out and asked for a bed, which was given him immediately. He laid down and in less than an hour was dead.

The doctor said that from what I told him he was sure that his death was caused from the cold he caught and his being subject to asthma. He must have died without the slightest pain as he seemed as composed as tho he had gone off to sleep. I saw him buried at Blinman today and arranged everything. His clothes and other things are in the hands of the police. If you would speak to

Mr Hamilton, he will have them forwarded to town. I enclose accounts for £3.15.0. There were some few others which I was unable to get bills for, making £5.0.0. I am to send all travelling expenses into government. If you would like a railing put around the grave, Mr Porter of Blinman has kindly offered to see it done, if you will communicate with him.

I sympathise most sincerely with you in your sorrow. I know it is useless to try to offer you comfort.

Believe Me

Yours Very Sincerely

W.C. Gosse



Moolooloo Station, which has rock carving evidence of early aboriginal occupation, was originally discovered by John McKinley who, with his brother, stocked the property and built a stone cottage, the remains of which still survive. By John McDouall Stuart and William Kekwick's time, the station had been sold to the Chambers brothers. Moolooloo Station, originally called Oratunga, was a big run, ill-defined and then extended far beyond its present boundaries. In 1854 the Chambers brothers engaged Stuart to survey the station and subsequently, James Chambers and his partner, William Finke, established the Oratunga and Nuccaleena mines. Moolooloo is located some 20km NNW of Blinman and roughly at the midpoint between Lake Torrens and Lake Frome (500 km). Moolooloo station was used as a setting off point for several of Stuart's expeditions.

The Stuart Room, Moolooloo Station

The John McDouall Stuart Society would love new members. Membership is \$40 per year.

Contact Membership Officer Robyne Zielinski

Phone: 0409 907 522 **Email:** jmcdss.membership@outlook.com

Address: 10 Christine Avenue, BELAIR SA 5052

From the **Reflections** of John K Henery

Dust 1961 or 62 - Blinman.

One October, the roadworks people, not our local gang, decided to resurface the Blinman Street. A quick job, white or pale coloured material from somewhere close at hand, carted, graded it, rolled it and left it (no water). The October long weekend was a couple of days after they finished and that year there were hundreds of tourists, in fact cars were queued up as far as the church to get petrol. End results; bedlam. How there wasn't an accident or a kid run over, I don't know. The dust was so thick you could not see the Post Office from the Pub - everything inside and outside was white and dripping bull dust. It was fixed a couple of weeks later.



1 Blinman Hotel 1940 G Canning SLISA

The Two Holer at the Pub late 1940s.

I was only a kid but I remember people talking about it. The toilet for the Blinman Pub was a long drop out in the back yard; a deep pit with 2 cubicles within the building above, hence the name two holer. This was for staff & guests alike. Anyway, a little kid wandering around in the back yard was a bit curious and went in for a look and must have looked a bit far and fell in the pit, unhurt but screaming. It was a while

before he was found. He got fished out OK, covered in sh** and a bit of a smell about him.

Blinman School 1970s

Teachers changed fairly often then and lived at Oraparinna National Park, students from Willow Springs and the Barytes Mine were on the bus. Mid 1970s the school student number got to 35 and for a year they had two teachers. The second classroom, the old Methodist Church, (now sports club house), was on the block between the school and Rose Cottage.

School Sports

During this period, for quite a few years, Blinman would join in school sports at Leigh Creek, Marree and Blinman. Parents went along. The events were all field events; running, jumping, some ball games, sack races etc. Blinman didn't do that well except for the years when Parachilna joined in with a couple of good runners. The biggest kids usually were from Marree, gee they could run.

Tourists and freight 1950s and 60s

The tourists in those days, pioneer tourists, used to come through on the buses. This was the 1950s and 60s, and the mail was always brought in by the Blinman butcher from Parachilna to Blinman. The mail would come up by rail to Parachilna, and that was three times a week, which was pretty good. Now, I don't know which carrier was used, it's usually done by the shop keeper, but not necessarily because it was a contract, and occasionally someone else would get the contract. There was a guy that ran it, called Digger Mortimer, and he ran the mail for several years, and probably carted some goods for the shops and for everyone else at the same time. Everything that came up to the properties had to come by rail.

1960 - Uncle Bill's hungry sheep.

My Uncle Bill Kipling owned the Blinman General Store and it was a proper general store. There were perishable groceries, veg, hardware, clothing, boots, you name it, he had it. A dry season and his 100 odd sheep he had in Bill's Paddock, as we call it now, were doing it tough, and overstocked. Every week he would cart a load of veg leaves and left-overs from the shop to feed the sheep. They loved this, but there was one very wise old ewe and lamb that would sneak out through a hole in the fence and graze along the main road. She had the best of both worlds and got to know his white ute with the veg on board. She would see him coming and flat out run through the hole in the fence and would wait for the ute to arrive, hence she got the best pickings, cunning old bugger. The rest of the sheep would gather after much horn blowing.



POSTCODE

5730

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION | 28 MAY
- 12 JUNE 2023

Memorial Hall Blinman

Inquiries 08 8648 4782 and Postcode5730@gmail.com

Coming Events

Blinman Art Exhibition 9th of September till the 2nd of October

Blinman Gymkhana 21th of October

Mediterranean hasselback chicken

• Ingredients

- 4 **chicken breast** fillets
- 45g (1/4 cup) drained semi-dried tomato strips in oil, oil reserved
- 85g (1/3 cup) roasted or chargrilled red and yellow capsicums, cut into strips
- 1 small zucchini, thinly sliced
- 1/2 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 55g (1/2 cup) grated mozzarella

• Method

• Step 1

Preheat oven to 180C/160C fan-forced. Lightly grease a baking tray. Make deep cuts across the **chicken breast fillets**, about 1cm apart, without cutting all the way through and leaving the thinner end parts intact. Place chicken on prepare tray.

• Step 2

Insert **tomato**, **capsicum**, **zucchini** and **onion** into the cuts. Sprinkle with **mozzarella** and drizzle with 2 tbs of the reserved oil from the tomatoes.

• Step 3

Bake for 20 minutes or until the chicken is cooked through. Change to oven grill and cook for about 5 minutes or until browned on top. Serve.

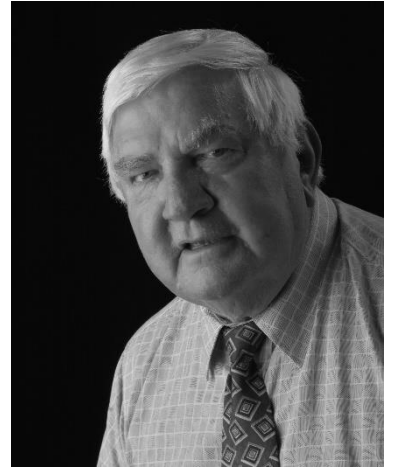


Keith William Reid Slade

25-8-1946 to 26-3-2023

Keith was born to Dudley and Mildred (or Millie, as she was better known) on Sunday 25th August 1946. Keith was their fifth child and was born at Hawker Hospital. This was the same hospital Lesley, his wife to be, was born in less than four years later in 1950.

Keith's father, Keith Dudley Frank Slade, only attended three years of schooling and then he left to help his father & older brother Monty working with the donkey teams, dam sinking & horse breaking. He worked on the stations and even did some droving into Queensland. He married Mildred Olive Reid 1st June 1939. Millie met Dudley when she was nursing at Maree with the district Nursing Society. Dudley & Millie



purchased the butchers shop in Copley and ran that for nine years. In 1946 they purchased Moorillah Station and so began Dudley's long association with the pastoral industry. At various times he and his family owned and ran the Nilpena, Wilpoorina, Moolooloo, & Leigh Creek station leases, and a farm near Jamestown named Yandowie.

Moorillah was the Slade family's home for the first few years of Dad's childhood. Millie moved to Adelaide to continue their schooling and the boys all attended Scotch College. During this time Dudley stayed home managing the family property. Keith was nicknamed Dooe by his siblings, apparently this was because he was always "doing or up to something". After finishing school Keith returned to his life in the outback and met Lesley Clarke.

On the 22nd May 1971, Keith and Lesley were married and went to live on one of the Slade family properties, Moolooloo/Moorillah Station near Blinman. In 1972 Alison was born, followed by Keith in 1974. For as long as we can remember Keith called Lesley "Mum".

Lesley and Keith saw many changes in the years from 1970 until 2000 as life was quite "primitive" and isolated when Lesley moved there as a young bride. Over the years Motor bikes took over from horses for the stock work. As time went on Bitumen roads and better vehicles meant more mobility for residents and more visitors. Lamps, kerosene fridges, gas irons, 32-volt power has moved on to large generators with 240-volt power and now a solar system that generates 24-hour power. Satellite connections meant a clear television reception and a broadband connection to the internet.

Keith was a very keen horseman and meeting Lesley they were very similar in their love of all things to do with horses, including attending local gymkhanas. Keith didn't continue to ride a great deal after motorbikes were introduced, but he continued to break horses in while there was still a herd of brood mares on Moolooloo. His favourite horse Naughty, a grey mare he broke in in the late 60s, became a mother to several beautiful grey offspring. One of these was a horse affectionately named Snorter due to a habit she retained all her life of snorting as she was approached. Dad broke her in for Mum and she was Mum's horse for many years.

They eventually took over the business in their own right in 1986 and concentrated on improving the sheep flock and growing good quality wool. With their two children, Alison and Keith, they became part of the Blinman community. Keith joined committees, including the Blinman Progress Association, but his role, especially in later years, was to ferry Mum around to all the Committees she supported. Keith was a keen sportsman within the community playing cricket and golf.

Keith was a starter at the Blinman Races for many years. Along with his side-kick Mick Schmidt and Pagey (both no longer with us), started all the races and novelty events at the yearly race event. A job akin to trying to herd cats, no starting gates, horses and ponies of all sizes, jockeys and riders of all ages and abilities, horses rearing at the start of events, and people complaining about poor starts. Nothing phased Dad, Mick and Pagey.

In the 1990s it became obvious that tourism was becoming a part of life in the Flinders Ranges. The shearers quarters were renovated to take advantage of the demand for accommodation. After a request from Pamela Murray-White, Keith and Lesley helped establish a program for disadvantaged youth known as Operation Flinders. This ran on Moolooloo for twelve years and many young people took part in the four exercises that were conducted every year. It is still running today but has moved on from Moolooloo. Upon the passing of both Lesley in 2021 and Keith tributes have been put onto the Facebook page for Operation Flinders to acknowledge the work Lesley and Keith contributed to the formative years of the foundation.

Keith loved his animals, horses and dogs and cats, over his lifetime. But dogs were his thing and they loved him! Even those dogs that weren't his were drawn to him.

In 1995 Alison married Jason and in 1997 Alison's first child Amelia arrived. Keith met Lisa and she and her daughter Isabella joined the family. Alison and Jason welcomed James in 1998. Lisa and Keith were married in 2000 and later that year Alison's third child Hayley was born. Millie was born in 2001 and Henry in 2003. Keith and Lesley loved being Grandpa and Granna and spending time with her 6 grandchildren and was very proud to see them all grow up and move into their adult lives and start the paths to their chosen careers. Keith was given the job of chief milkshake maker whenever the grandchildren visited and only recently Isabella mentioned that they only ever wanted him to make the milkshakes, Granna was too ikey with the topping but Grandpa used heaps and made them nice and strong – he loved sugar!

In 2000, Keith and Lisa moved into Moolooloo, and Lesley and Keith Snr moved to the smaller homestead at Moorillah. They continued to be involved in the pastoral business and the Blinman community until 2018 when they moved to Gowan Hills near Murray Town. Lesley was never one to sit and relax into retirement and Keith and she became quickly involved in helping with the running of farm, feeding sheep and learning about farming on much smaller acreage. Keith was kept tasked with trips and outings with Lesley keeping them busy and on the move.

In April 2019 we were all devastated when Lesley was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Lesley tackled her diagnosis with all of her usual determination and practicality, and she fought it with everything she had but as we were to learn this was not a battle that could be won. We were fortunate enough to be able to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary in May 2021 and both of them had a lovely day followed up by a few days break with their oldest friend, Jane and Bill McIntosh.

In August 2021 Lesley lost her battle with cancer. Keith weathered her illness and losing her with his usual stoic attitude, but this loss was one that was very difficult for him. Previous health issues were difficult for him to manage, and he moved into full time nursing care in late 2021. He briefly spent some time in the Orroroo Community Nursing Home but moved into the Orroroo Hospital aged care section for the majority of this time. We are so grateful for the care and compassion they have shown Dad over the final 12 months of his life.

Dearly loved husband of Lesley (dec). Father and Father-in-Law of Alison and Jason and Keith and Lisa. Grandpa to Amelia, James, Hayley, Isabella, Millie and Henry.

Keith loved the outback and life on his beloved Moolooloo Station.

Keith, Alison and families would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to all that have called, sent messages, and travelled down to Orroroo for Keith's funeral. It is a very sad time, but we are buoyed by your love and support.



Darren Frederick

25th September 1960—13th March 2023

Second child of the late Fred Jnr and Bessie (nee Wilton)

McKenzie

Loved Brother to Joe (deceased), Sandra (deceased) and Tanya

Stepson of the Late Arthur Coulthard

Beloved Uncle to Narelle, Jessica, Doogal and Barney

Adored Uncle to his nieces, nephews, cousins and friends

Celebration of the life of

DARREN FREDERICK McKENZIE

Hawker

5th April 2023

24th September 1960—13th March 2023

Darren Frederick McKenzie, affectionally known as Bazz, was born on Saturday 24th of September 1960 at the Hawker Memorial Hospital. He was the second son of the late Fred and Bessie McKenzie (nee Wilton).

Brother to Joe (dec), Sandra (dec) and Tanya.

Stepson to Arthur Coulthard (dec).

Bazz's early childhood was spent on Martins Well Station with his parents, older brother Joe, sister Sandra, cousins Ivan and Pauline and Uncle John and Aunt Pearl McKenzie.

Pauline fondly remembers Bazz fighting with his imaginary friend Binsey while his older brother Joe cheered him on saying "give it to him Bazz'.

The family then moved into Hawker in the late 60's so that the children could attend school.

In 1978 Bazz started a Fitter and Turner apprenticeship with the Australian National Railways in Port Augusta. This would see him here for 18 years.

His trade took him all over Australia. From Adelaide to Brisbane, Alice Springs to the Pilbara and back home to Hawker.

In 2011 Bazz started with the National Parks Wildlife service. Firstly at Vulkathunha-Gamman Ranges then to Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Parks.

Bazz enjoyed the work environment and being outdoors on country. He also loved working with his sister Tanya, cousins Arthur and Sian and the Flinders Crew.

Bazz made the move down to Wilpena/Oraparinna working with the Bounceback crew. He was involved in the inaugural release of the Idnya (western quoll) back to the Flinders.

Bazz was a quiet person who usually kept to himself. He loved the V8 supercars and watched them religiously. GO HOLDEN!!! He was an avid reader and you could often find him sitting on the veranda with a good book or newspaper and an iced coffee.....or depending on what time of the day, a XXXX.

Bazz sadly and suddenly passed on the 13th of March 2023 at his home in Oraparinna. He was 62 years of age.

He will be sadly missed by all that knew him.

'Your life was a blessing, Your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure'

