



SOUTHERN TRAILS

MARCH 2016

Table of Contents

<i>President's Post</i> -----	2
<i>4Wheel Drive Spectacular Outdoor Recreation Show</i> -----	5
<i>Demo Track Coming to Life</i> -----	10
<i>President's Award Jim Raleigh</i> -----	12
<i>President's Award Chris Nicholls</i> -----	13
<i>Two Years On</i> -----	14
<i>Lynne's Latest</i> -----	17
<i>40th Anniversary</i> -----	18
<i>Talooge Park Muster</i> -----	19
<i>Talooge Park Planning 2016 to 2021</i> -----	21
<i>The Bliss of Solitude after Muster</i> -----	23
<i>Driver Training</i> -----	26



ST4WDC New drivers have just completed driver training

President's Post

Author Jim Anderson

At the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 8 March the 2016 Committee was elected.

<i>President</i>	Jim Anderson
<i>Vice President</i>	Peter Reynolds
<i>Treasurer</i>	Victoria Jewett
<i>Secretary</i>	Brenden Taylor
<i>Past President</i>	Alan Jones
<i>Education Coordinator</i>	Peter Butterfield
<i>Events and Trips Coordinator</i>	Michael Patrick
<i>Information Coordinator</i>	Andy Squire
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Lynne Donaldson
<i>Property Coordinator</i>	Scott Cumming
<i>Publications Coordinator</i>	Graeme Booth
<i>Public Relations Coordinator</i>	Glen Watts
<i>General Member</i>	Marj Jones
<i>General Member</i>	Garry McLaughlin
<i>General Member</i>	Brad Wells
<i>General Member</i>	Rob Donaldson

Thank you to the members who have joined the committee this year, Scott Cumming, Rob Donaldson, Gary McLachlan, Glen Watts and Brad Wells. Talking to these people I know that they are passionate about the club and are keen to contribute to its progress - it is always good to have new ideas and views. I would also like to thank the 2015 committee members who are not returning this year for their contribution to the club.

For me it is a real honor to be President in the club's 40th year of continuous operation. The forty year milestone is a significant achievement for a club and reflects the effort and commitment of its founding and subsequent members. 40th anniversary celebration will be held in November –details are on the website and updates will be provided through the Southern Trails electronic newsletter.

I think the club's greatest asset is its members. There are so many people with varied backgrounds and skills with a willingness to pitch

in and help undertake the numerous tasks required to run the club. We are all volunteers and do the best we can within the time we have available.

The club is in great shape thanks to the significant efforts of people on the previous committees and the many club members who volunteer their time on the various activities and projects. We have a great training team currently working to put on additional courses to help meet the demand from new members joining the club. These people back up time after time providing quality training to ensure our members develop the skills needed to drive their vehicles safely in various off road situations.

We also own a fantastic club property where members can enjoy the great outdoors, socialise and drive its many tracks. Of course ownership of any property includes responsibility for upkeep so we encourage our members to assist with maintaining the property. This is also an opportunity to socialise, make new friends and share information about our four wheel driving and touring experiences. So it is definitely not a case of all work and no play. The next muster weekend is on 16 April and hopefully we will see you out there.

The club has a very good website which is easy to use, informative and of course used for booking club trips. We are currently looking at options for businesses that support the club to advertise on our website as well as at the club property and I will provide updates of progress in future posts.

There is a variety of club trips and social activities and of course we always welcome new trip leaders and are keen to explore different destinations. So if you are interested in leading a trip or hosting an event please contact Michael Patrick, the Events and Trips Coordinator. Trip leader training is currently being developed and details will be advised shortly.

On the club membership side, it appears that we have no shortage of members to keep the club viable. Our Membership Secretary, Lynne Donaldson, is very proactive in this area and we thank you for your efforts.

The club has no major or pressing issues at present – what a good position to be in for a new president! From time to time however issues will arise requiring us to work together to get the best outcomes

for the club. I'm confident that this will be the case with the new committee as it was with the previous committee.

As President My focus will be

a) Getting some planning into our activities and requirements linked to finances, particularly for TALOGE. We certainly don't need to go overboard with this but we do need to be planning out to five years at least.

b) Finalising the revision of the club's governance documents (constitution and by-laws). The hard work has been done by Jim Raleigh and Chris Nicholls and the proposed changes have been provided to the committee for review / consideration before putting to the club membership for approval.

c) Undertaking a review of the advantages / disadvantages of being part of the 4WD Association to determine if the club continues membership. This will be completed and put to the committee before renewal of membership is due in May.

d) Working with other 4WD clubs in the region, the NSW NPWS and other agencies to maintain access to existing 4WD locations and also gain access to certain closed areas where possible.

e) Providing timely information to members through the club's new electronic newsletter which of course is in its initial stages.

I look forward to working on the team during the next 12 months and hope to catch up with you at the April GM.

PS – If you can help out with support crew activities at the balloon spectacular during 12 to 20 March please contact Catherine Panich – details are on the website.

4Wheel Drive Spectacular Outdoor Recreation Show

Author Marj Jones

On behalf of the Show Committee I would like to congratulate and thank you all for the effort all of you put in to the Show to ensure it ran smoothly.

The 2016 show WAS a huge success.

Counting paying public, volunteers from Clubs and catering charities, the Exhibitors and all their staff, we had over 11,000 through the gate. We have had many accolades from Exhibitors commenting on the friendliness and smooth running of the show. Everyone they said had a smile on their faces. We have a great show because it is organised for and by 4WDDrivers.

Although we had the storm on Saturday afternoon and rain during the night where the SES were at their best, tying down tents, letting water off annexes etc. I think the Gods were smiling on us, as the very bad weather continually seemed to part and go on either side. Try to imagine the mini tornado going through the grounds!

Hopefully in the next few months we will be able to give you a more detailed financial report. Accounts of course are still coming in. Some a little tardier than others.

THANK YOU!!!!!!

To all those who worked a shift on the rosters, be it gates, parking or catering, even those who had to suffer the air conditioned van to count the money, your contribution is so necessary for the success of our Show which relies on volunteers like yourselves.

A big thanks to those who came during the Working Bee and some or all of the days prior to the Show, also on the following Monday, to do any task that was asked.

Jane and Rob Dunlop, line markers extraordinaire, as well as masters of other newly learned skills. Particularly sign erections and taking down.

Planning

To your great team, Keira who organised the refreshments. Plod, Rick Holland, Ian Brown, Alan Jones, Phil Guerny, Rob Calvert who learnt to be, not only apprentice electricians, landscapers, but anything that was there to be done. Driving the golf carts was a side benefit.

Wendy, who came in to ably assist when the Exhibitors came in during the Thursday and Friday.

Andrew Deans, THANK for the Test and Tagging done.

Derrick Skinner who provided the great music for the Saturday night function.

Test Track

A huge congratulations to Glen and Rob who were ably assisted by Scott for the magnificent track they created and ran. I have only had accolades for the track, which by the way is still standing in all its glory.

To those 10-12 members who ably assisted them on the building of the track the week before, a big thanks.

Club Tent

Lots of organisation went into this to put our Club out there.

Lynne, you should be well satisfied and maybe a little smug that it was such a result which was worthy of your efforts and and Thommo for their damper, for those members who manned the tent. Well done to all!

To PB and his team for the 4 winching demonstrations, to Michael and Chris for their contribution in the seminar tent, with trip planning and communication.

Catering

What can I say?

Doreen in her usual efficient way, ran a fantastic team, Julia there as you're "legs", Julie Buttress just there to do anything which was needed to be done.

Exhibitor only had praise for the Saturday dinner, as did the Club members for Friday. No one would have gone hungry! Thanks!!

Garbage

Duck, and Steve Angelo, what a twosome! An inevitable task which was done efficiently as we have come to expect. Had a comment from an exhibitor stating that they were impressed with the cleanliness of the whole Show. Having the rubbish removed consistently through out the Show was a new experience. Thanks Guys!!

Sadies

Helen and Jane!!!

Not sure that everyone saw you doing the task you so willingly took on as your contribution.

I don't think it was just a golf cart at your disposal that clinched it, could have been an enticement??

These two ladies took on the task of ensuring that all the toilets including the Porta Loos, were clean, fresh handtowel, hand cleanser topped up. Throughout the Show. Rubbish removed. Don't think that it goes unnoticed, the same exhibitor added the clean Loos to their commendation as well. Little things like this make our Show special, from the bottom, of the heart that is, we all thank you.

Wendy and Rick who were stationed in the Admin most of the Show, answering questions, Rick assisting Richard with the money bag distribution and collection, allowing the committee member's time to get out and see the Show. Just assisting in the smooth running of the event.

Rosters

Jane Watts

Jenny Collins?????

You were never sure where this little dynamite would pop up. Even leaving poor old Bruce to continue painting while she shopped and feed the volunteers throughout the week prior, raced around during the Show to buy, in and out of the Kitchen, just checking and thinking of things which need doing.

During the months prior, I'd get a phone call, at any time of the day or night, how's it all going? Have you remembered this, or that, have you asked about?

Who needs a timeline/diary when you have a Jenny? I do think I was able to say "Yes" to the majority. But boy it is good with someone with that knowledge.

Jenny, a huge thanks, I think we did you proud this time!

None of the mentioned tasks and areas would need to be done if it wasn't all organised well before hand. Brad Wells, Garry Lymbery, Jim Anderson

These men have worked tirelessly since the beginning of 2015, monthly meetings turned into every two weeks to one a week, to ensure the Show got up and running. All the little details and things you saw on the ground had to be organised, booked, re checked etc.

Brad who took on the Show Ground Manager, checking everything was booked, garbage, fencing, Porta Loos, line marking paint, golf carts etc, when they were coming to the ground. He even continued throughout the show to ensure that everything was running correctly, PA working, mud puddles filled, loss of electricity. Think he slept well on Sunday.

Garry who took on the Glebe Gate organisation, no easy task, especially when you always have a few who don't want to conform?

Jim Anderson, who did the promotions and Advertising for the Show. I am sure that no one could have said they didn't know about the Show. Jim did a tremendous job and the numbers through the gate were a testimony to that. We will thank him personally when he gets back.

I don't think they suffered from working under a female Chairperson. To you guys, a sincere massive thanks. You took on board efficiently any task which was given, you gave positive advice and comment throughout our meetings. I couldn't have asked for better supportive members of the Show Committee, as was all the other committee members.

Can you all show your appreciation for these three guys.

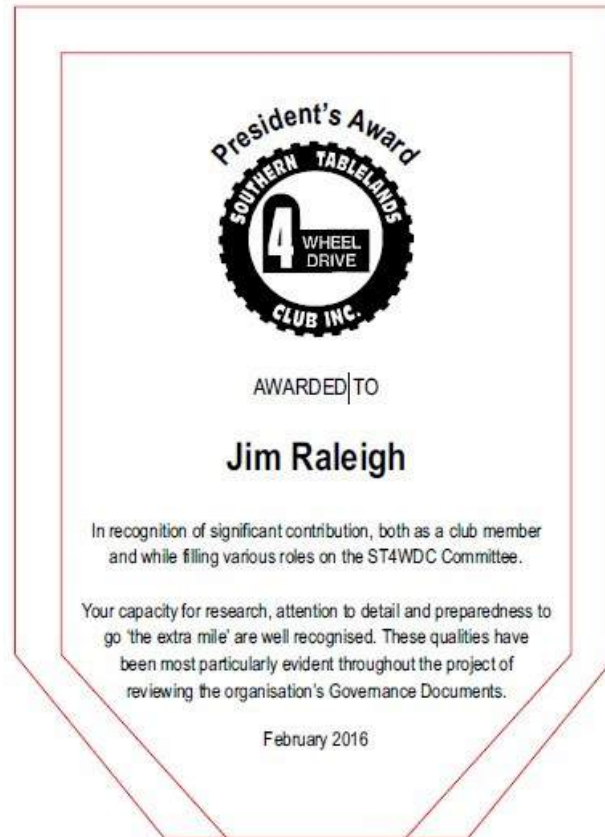


Demo Track Coming to Life





President's Award



President's Award



AWARDED TO

Chris Nicholls

In recognition of dedicated service as a club member and while performing roles on the Club's Committee. Your contribution, in the areas of Insurance as well as with the Governance Documents Review, has been outstanding. The smooth transition to our current website is largely due to your liaison skills and many hours of detailed work.

February 2016



Two Years On

Three years ago I bought a Nissan Navara. Possibly my first mistake, but my experience with 4 Wheel Driving was as a teenager. My brother had an old Land Rover that he replaced the engine in (with a Holden 186 red motor) and I had a VW beetle with the Baja kit (fat wheels, extractors, lumpy cam). He did the 4 wheel drive bit, and I used the go fast and bash up technique. If I didn't make it, he could always tow me out. We did have to hit the wheels on the beetle with a sledge hammer a few times to make them look almost round, and they would never take a balance, but I was 18 and it was fun.

So; the Navara. I believed the adverts, possibly my second mistake, and thought I now had a bonafide 4WD. I even did a formal 4wd course and thought I knew it all – I even have the certificate to prove it. Training out at Kowen on the 'main roads' with one instructor to 6 students made this 4WD caper look easy. But we wanted more. After going to the Spectacular in 2014, we joined the ST4WDC. It was a close run thing between this club and the ACT 4WD club, but what sold us was the property and the 1 on 1 training. And to be honest, it was the right decision – we have never had any regrets.

After joining, I managed to get on the March training course and came along thinking it was going to be a formality. Think again Andy. This was way more intense, way more difficult, and way better than the paid training we had done. It also made me realise that a showroom Navara was not a true 4WD. I left one sidestep on track 3, part of the bumper at Duck's Crossing, and most of my sump on track 2. Maybe if I had listened to my instructor and 'slowed down' the bits would still have been attached. But we survived.

Before the follow up day I made a few phone calls and with the help

of Richie at Hume Off Road, and a minor bank overdraft, I was better prepared. Bullbar, 2 inch lift, steel rims with Cooper STMaxx tyres, under-body protection, a snorkel, the CB wired properly, and a new sump. Follow up day was a breeze. I couldn't believe how much of a difference it made to the capability of the truck, and the confidence it gave me driving. Even my instructor had less to say (and yes, I did slow down a bit).

Being lucky with the training schedule and the places available, my kids got to do the training a few months later, and my daughter, still on her P's at the time, borrowed the Navara. She finished the course and asked me when we were going to get to the hard stuff. Seems like the additions to the truck were worth it. I also convinced Bron to do the training, and once again we were lucky with the schedule and the places available. But this was my third mistake. After saying she had no interest and resisting doing the training for 8 months, she had a ball. Now when we go on club trips I only get to drive on the black-top. When it comes time to air-down I get out, do the business, and when I come back there she is in the driver's seat. Can I have a turn now, soon. Is it my turn yet, soon. When can I have a turn, soon. Time to air up, oh, it must be your turn now. Bugger.

I also joined the Committee. As a family we got so much out of the club in the first year with all the training and the fantastic trips and camaraderie, I thought I would like to put something back in. This was an eye opener too. I have been involved in other clubs over the years, and it is amazing how much effort is actually put in by a few members for the benefit of the whole club. It is easy to sit back and criticise or complain, but a lot harder to manage and plan and try and keep everyone happy. There is so much behind the scenes work that keeps the club running, and I am not sure that all the members really appreciate what it takes.

But then I made my fourth and fifth mistakes. I nominated for the Committee again for 2016, and I also asked if I could join the Driver Trainers as a Trainee Instructor. Let's see how 2016 pans out. I might report back in another 12 months. Or I might be in an asylum. Oh well, either way I might have something interesting to say. Or not.



Lynne's Latest

Wow – can you believe it is March already!!

We have had a busy start to the year and the Spectacular was a huge success with so far 15 new members from the Show alone.

There are a lot of trips up on the calendar, make sure you put your name on some of them and get out there and enjoy the company of other members. Many a friendship has been made around a camp fire.

I had a fantastic time at the Show, the Club tent was a busy place and we had the privilege to meet many new members and people that were interested in 4wd driving.

This will be my 5th year on the committee and I am looking forward to the coming year and new committee.

It will be a busy year with the 40th Anniversary of the Club. If you know of any old members that you are still in touch with, please tell them to email or give me a call so that I can put them on the mailing list to invite.

We are also after any old photos, memorabilia etc. to display on the night.

Looking forward to catching up with you either at a meeting or on a trip.

If you have any membership queries at all, please contact me.

Safe travels.

Lynne.

40Th Anniversary

1976 - 2016

**Where – Deakin Sports Club ,2 Grose street
Deakin**

When – Saturday 5th November 2016

Come along and celebrate the last 40 years of the Club.

There will be Entertainment, games and fun.

Please put your name down on the website to show your
interest.

More details to follow.

If you have any queries, please call

Lynne 0418 631 669.



Talooge Park Musters

Author Scott Cumming



Talooge Park is the beautiful and peaceful 770 Hectare property near Bredbo available for use by all ST4WDC members and their accompanied friends. Many hands make light work and all members are encouraged to become involved to help a little or a lot to look after, maintain and develop this amazing property for the benefit of everyone. Usually Friday evening is when people start to arrive with the balance arriving Saturday morning as Saturday is our main day to work on our fun tasks until about mid afternoon. Sunday is more relaxed where we may complete a few easy tasks in the morning and finish at lunchtime.

Some Tasks to be completed -

1. Fence off Septic Tank and Absorption area.
2. Complete generator shed shelter.
3. Move ablution shed from Thurbon Flat to beside Machinery shed with the other ablution shed and relocate all chemicals from the chemical shed to here.
4. Convert chemical shed into more bunkhouse accommodation.
5. Complete a tidy up and bring the asset register up to date.
6. Install guttering to left side of kitchen/training shed.
7. Gather firewood.

Comments - Don't worry if you don't think that you have the skills for these tasks as there are many different things to do from Building, Plumbing and Electrical work to Fence maintenance, Track building and maintenance, Firewood gathering, Weed control, Tree planting and General tidying. We ensure that the workload isn't too high and is definitely fun or you may not come back again!!



Talooge Park Planning 2016 to 2021



In developing a one, three and five year plan for the maintenance and development of Talooge Park we need to ensure that the interests of all our members are taken into consideration.

During the April general meeting we will conduct an activity to start getting some ideas from the members and further suggestions can be emailed to me at property@st4wdc.com.au. These ideas will be collated and put to the committee for discussion and prioritising based on firstly completing our obligations as a property owner then to start working through the wish list as per the member's suggestions keeping within our available budget or look at ways to raise more funds for a specific project. The list of what people don't want to see at Talooge will also be discussed.

As briefly mentioned at the meeting tonight I ask members to start thinking about what they would like to see at Talooge Park and how they would like to see their property develop for the benefit of everyone.

Listed below is what will be put forward at the April general meeting for member's feedback-

- A list of 5 Must do Projects.
- A list of 5 Projects for the wish list.
- A list of 5 Things you don't want to see at Talooge Park.

It's your property so I encourage you to have your say about what you would like to see included in the plan. Be creative as you just never know what we can achieve as in the past many members have spent huge amounts of their time to bring Talooge to where it is today. I am sure that a number of these people wouldn't have dreamt many of the improvements we have today after just 10 short years. Regular progress updates will be listed in future newsletters and at the monthly general meetings.

In addition to the lists, I also ask members to note their specific skills which may be called on if only for advice. Just because you are a Plumber, Electrician, Builder, Dozer Driver, Landscaper or Fencer doesn't mean we expect you to donate your time to assist with our projects, it allows for professional advice relating to a project which in turn allows the club to make smarter decisions.

For further info or to send through your suggestions contact Scott Cumming at property@st4wdc.com.au

The Bliss of Solitude after Muster

Author Victoria Jewett

Two days of spraying serrated tussock though tiring was not arduous, especially now I have the sweet mountain air and starry nights to myself in camping on after the muster. The winter nights are so clear I can walk by starlight. Writing in the sun by the creek, a fresh breeze carries the distant call of Kookaburras. Jenny wrens and yellow breasted robins twitter about their business. The longer I remain still, the closer they venture. Honey eaters and Rosellas call in the trees above adding to a chorus of birdsong accompanied by the melodic undulations of happy frogs.

The nearest human is well beyond Cooee yet I feel neither alone nor lonely. Far from it in fact, for this is my bliss. Ah! A red breasted robin alights on the log right in front of me, bold as brass singing his tune. The simple enjoyment of the moment is why I love camping at Talooge.

Recalling a conversation with Marj, I decide to record my observations over the August muster in the hope of engaging others. How do you make weed control sound appealing? Driving from the front gate to home paddock the rank, scrubby bushland may seem unappealing at first. And then you spend two days spraying and something happens as you walk the land. The subtle beauty emerges as you take in the details. A seasonal creek bed with an interesting rock ledge. Wild flowers that pop out of nowhere, lichen gardens on decaying logs, a lizard sunning on a rock.

It is late Sunday morning and I wander over a small rise leaving the now pink carpeted clearing to follow wind-blown colonizers to another large patch of serrated tussock. I set to, methodically spraying pink

cordial at the roots while small birds chatter above. Like a running commentary, they follow me about and make cheerful company.

The bushes in the understory are carrying a lot of dead wood. In fact the fuel load in this spot is considerable and conditions are perfect for a controlled burn, an opportunity gone begging as this forest is in desperate of a cool, renewing fire.

I find myself wondering what the first custodians would think of this. They walked the land, observing which animals came by when, noting the yellow box flowering early this season. Control burned serrated tussock and black wattle on the river flats to preserve pasture and daisy yams and managed fuel loads in the forests... Another swathe of wall to wall serrated tussock over the rise. Pog's bittem, the back pack needs refilling so must pick a path through scrub to the spray truck where Marj is busy with the jet. Now that's fun, it's like paint ball, only different, as I discovered the day before. I survey my handiwork before turning back for another refill. I want to get that third big patch down by the creek bed and I'm done. It feels satisfying knowing I've made a difference.

Back to the present. The frog chorus comes to a sudden halt. Laying narrative to one side, creep down the bank to investigate. Finding a vantage point I stand still and silent as stone. Minutes pass, finally movement on the far side of the bank. Tell-tale rings of water ripple the surface. Is that what I think it is? One glimpse is not enough. Hardly daring to breathe I watch the rustling water reeds hoping for another look. A small head emerges, sleek body, dark brown fur, a pale underbelly... Or is it a water dragon? No, it has fur and is far too big for a water rat. Several feet downstream the unmistakable bill and paddle glide over a half submerged log in the shallows then disappears with a plop. How marvellous! I follow a trail along the bank in

the hope of spotting this elusive icon once more. A lone frog calls, quickly followed by another. Not this time, though I've been luckier than most, having spotted almost twenty in the wild.

Giving time to get into the landscape and simply 'be' has given many wonderful encounters of awe and wonder; and Talooge is no exception. Yes it's fun to drive the tracks but this 770 hectare property has more to offer. For example the swimming hole with rock overhang. Every afternoon water ripples dance on the rock face in the sunlight. There is a dry creek bed with mossy rocks that comes to life after rain. A veritable fairy garden for children to discover. There are rock outcrops and vantage points that beckon. Talooge Park offers all the elements; the campfire at night, running water, sweet air and stunning country. Time spent at Talooge is rewarding in so many ways. Come spraying, get into the landscape and you'll see what I mean.

Victoria Jewett

Driver Training

