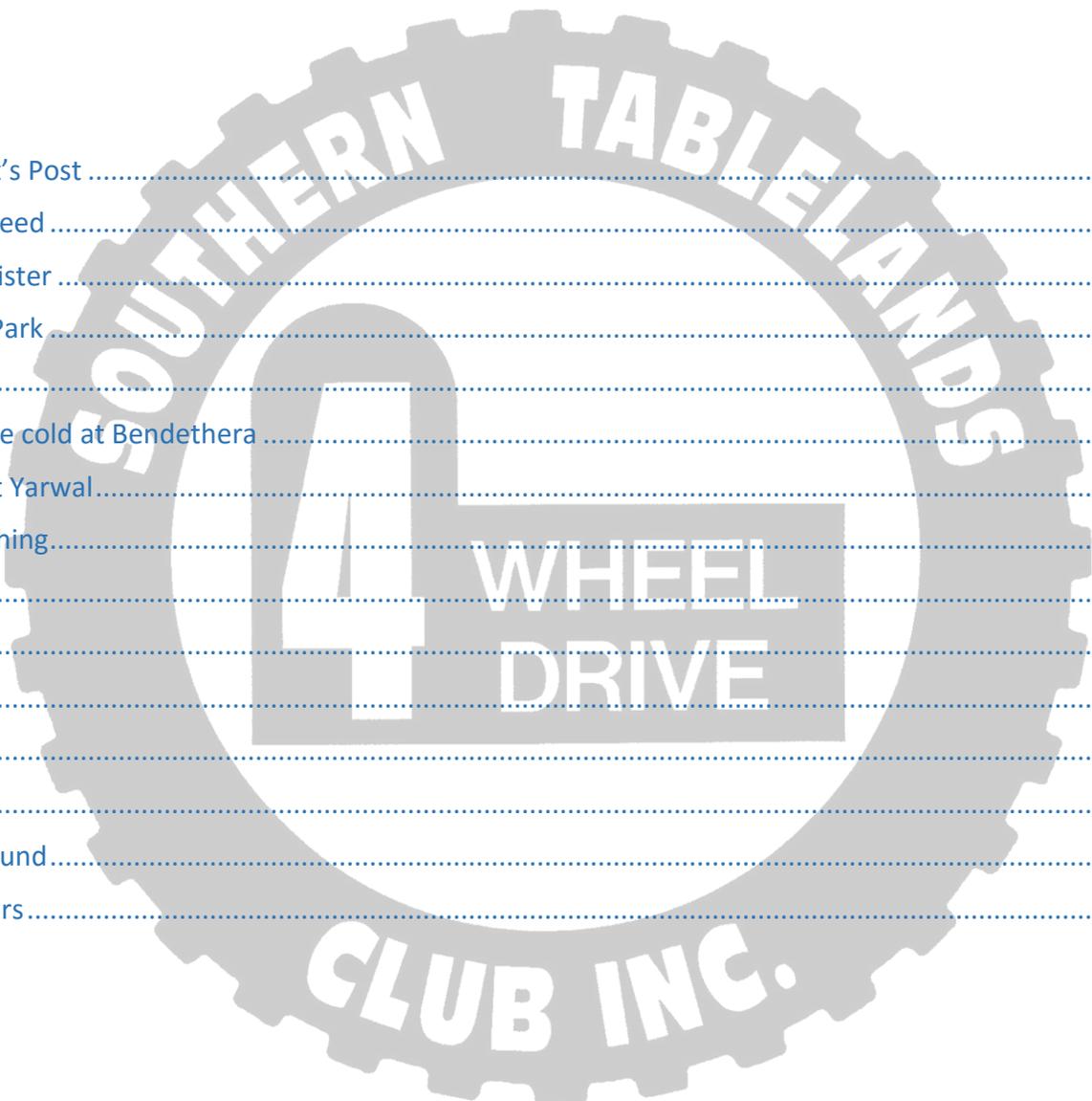




# SOUTHERN TRAILS

September 2016

President's Post .....	1
Editor's Feed .....	2
Trips Register .....	3
Talooge Park .....	4
Notices .....	9
It could be cold at Bendethera .....	10
Driving at Yarwal .....	14
Club Clothing .....	18
For Sale .....	21
.....	23
.....	23
.....	24
Wanted .....	24
Lost & Found .....	24
Advertisers .....	25



# President's Post

Special General Meeting (SGM) – a public notice in the Canberra Times on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> August and an email to club members on 22<sup>nd</sup> August advised that a SGM will be held prior to the general meeting next Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> September. At the SGM, members will be asked to vote on a proposed new constitution (rules) and club by-laws. As advised in the email, the draft constitution and by-laws documents (including commentary of changes in 'comment balloons') and explanatory notes are available in the Members section of the website (at <http://st4wdc.com.au>) and navigating to Members > Governance Document Review:

Draft Constitution V9.1

Draft By-Laws V9.1

Explanatory notes (ST4WDC Governance Documents review 2015-16)

If you are unable to access the website please e-mail [information@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:information@st4wdc.com.au) – any queries, comments or feedback that members may have can be forwarded to [Feedback@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:Feedback@st4wdc.com.au)

I encourage all members to review the documents before voting. Please note that only members who are financial as at 2 September 2016 are eligible to vote and voting by proxy is not allowed.

Talooge – with all the recent rain the property is looking fantastic, but of course work will be needed to control the weeds with the (hopefully) warmer spring temperatures. As our property coordinator, Scott Cumming, will be away for the next six weeks myself and Michael Patrick will be coordinating the next muster on the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September. Planned activities include levelling of the demountable sheds near the machinery shed so that these can be used as chemical and storage sheds. The current chemical shed can then be cleaned up and used as an additional bunkhouse. Wood gathering and general maintenance tasks will also be on the agenda.

A sausage sizzle will be put on for lunch on Saturday and of course we will also get the opportunity to drive some tracks as well as socialising. So if interested please nominate on the website. Arrangements will be made for new members to get to the property if required – please contact myself or Michael. Remember to use channel 14 when approaching and while on the property.

Visiting Talooge – if you are intending to visit the property at any time please contact one of the following members:

Scott Cumming [property@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:property@st4wdc.com.au) 0490 000913

or Satellite text only +61 405 894 135 (on leave until 19<sup>th</sup> October)

Jim Anderson [president@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:president@st4wdc.com.au) 0408 283496

Peter Butterfield [education@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:education@st4wdc.com.au) 0417 480856

This is necessary so that the club has a record of who is at the property and importantly members can be advised of any particular activity that may be happening and also get the current access codes. If using the club house facilities, please leave them clean and tidy. Remember it is your property so enjoy it!

Hope to see you at the next club meeting, the muster and a club trip.

Jim Anderson.



*Talooge in spring, courtesy of Jim Anderson*

## Editor's Feed

This month's Southern Trails is lean compared to last month's monster edition. The August edition was downloaded 700 times, which is a fantastic result and greatly appreciated by all those who put the effort into writing trip reports and articles.

As Publications Coordinator, I will draw from my experience in publishing and communications to make the newsletter as entertaining, informative and relevant as I can. But to do this, I need members' feedback and input. If you have photographs, suggestions for articles, or ideas to improve the newsletter, please send them to [publications@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:publications@st4wdc.com.au).

Regards,

Terri Giuretis

# Trips Register

Start Date	End Date	Activity	Type	Leader
8/Sep/16	11/Sep/16	Safe One Basic Driver Training at Talooge Park	Training	Peter Butterfield
17/Sep/16	18/Sep/16	Talooge Park Muster	Muster	Scott Cumming
18/Sep/16	18/Sep/16	Brindabella Ramble	Grade 3	Gary McLaughlin
24/Sep/16	26/Sep/16	Towards Batemans Bay	Grade 2	Alex & Andrea Szabo
24/Sep/16	25/Sep/16	Explore The Tracks of Abercrombie River National Park	Grade 2	Michael Patrick
1/Oct/16	3/Oct/16	Bush Skills Weekend	Event	Michael Patrick
5/Oct/16	5/Oct/16	Basic Training 4WD Vehicle Evaluation	Training	Peter Butterfield
14/Oct/16	16/Oct/16	SES Landsearch Exercise	Trip	Marj Jones
20/Oct/16	23/Oct/16	Safe One Basic Driver Training at Talooge Park	Training	Peter Butterfield
29/Oct/16	30/Oct/16	Talooge Park Muster	Muster	Scott Cumming
30/Oct/16	30/Oct/16	Brindabella Ramble	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
5/Nov/16	5/Nov/16	40th Anniversary Celebration	Event	Lynne Donaldson
11/Nov/16	13/Nov/16	Safe One Basic Driver Training at Talooge Park	Training	Peter Butterfield
12/Nov/16	20/Nov/16	Victorian High Country Ramble	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
19/Nov/16	19/Nov/16	Safe One Basic Driver Training Course Follow-up Day	Training	Peter Butterfield
26/Nov/16	27/Nov/16	ST4WDC Christmas Party at Talooge	Event	Rob Donaldson
4/Dec/16	4/Dec/16	Brindabella Ramble	Grade 3	Gary McLaughlin
10/Dec/16	11/Dec/16	Talooge Park Muster	Muster	Scott Cumming
29/Jan/17	29/Jan/17	Backyard Explorer and Blue Waterholes	Grade 2	Alex & Andrea Szabo
11/Mar/17	13/Mar/17	Stockton Beach	Grade 2	Robert Azzito
18/Mar/17	26/Mar/17	Search for the missing huts of the Vic High Country	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
1/May/17	27/Aug/17	Chain Saw Awareness Training (Expression of Interest)	Training	Michael Patrick
6/May/17	26/Aug/17	First Aid Training (Expression of Interest)	Training	Michael Patrick



*Photo: It Could Be Cold at Bendethera, courtesy of Michael Patrick*

# Talooge Park

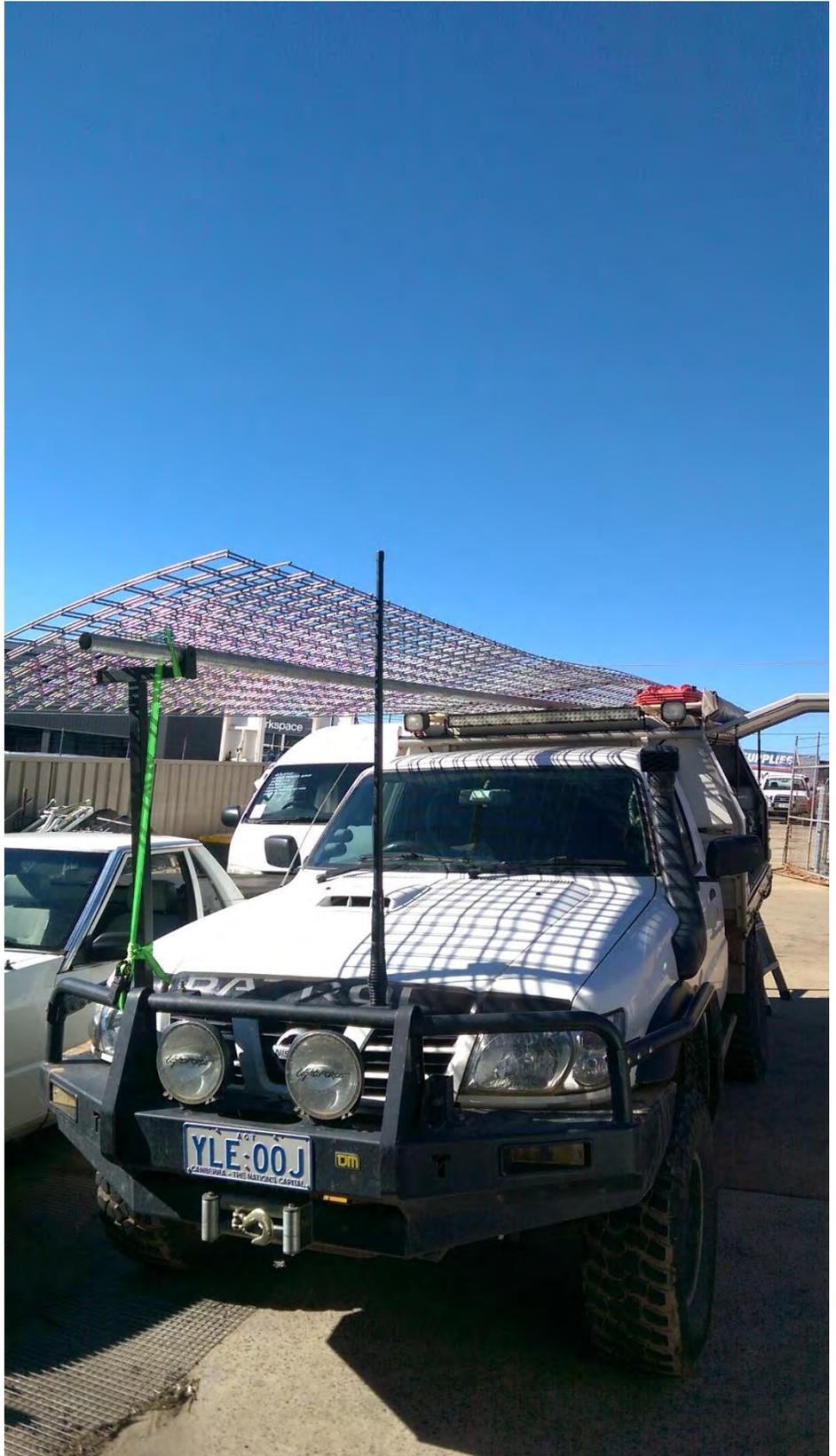
## Scott Cumming

The July and August Musters were about repairing and re-opening tracks after recent storms, installing a new water tank, building two wild pig traps, gathering firewood and re-doing the offset mounds and of course the usual camaraderie and having some laughs.

I will be on leave until the 18<sup>th</sup> October so Jim Anderson will be looking after Talooge related issues during that time. Please contact Jim Anderson [president@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:president@st4wdc.com.au) for current gate codes for Talooge and to notify of your intended visit. Jim can also advise you on recent track conditions, which have needed some unexpected recoveries due to the wet weather – so for your own safety, please advise where you plan to visit on the property especially if you are unfamiliar with some of the tracks.

It has been great to see good numbers of willing and able members coming out to the last couple of musters, especially considering how cold it can be out there during winter. We have averaged about 15 or more members each time which was very good. With a number of events coming up over the next few weeks, I encourage members to assist in any way they are able to come out to Talooge and enjoy our property with a little work thrown in to work up a thirst.

A number of fallen trees blocking tracks due to the recent rain and wind have been cleared to allow access to all of the property. This clearing is an



ongoing part of the work at Talooge Park and with more wet weather predicted during spring we are sure to see plenty of trees coming down. We have a responsibility to ensure these tracks are as clear as possible, not only for our members to use but in case there is a fire and bushfire crews can access our property. The club has two chainsaws that have been recently fully serviced for operation only by approved and trained club members for safety reasons.



A 5000-litre water tank has been installed at the Thurbon Flat shelter – thanks to Rob and Lynne at Around Town Plumbing for their assistance in installing this. It will come in very handy for campers enjoying the area around the shelter and it was already half full after just a week.

Thanks to Paul from MasterWeld in Fyshwick for donating the materials for me to make a new cover for the flat plate barbecue to help keep it clean. It is a tight fit so the wind doesn't blow it off and as we know there is plenty of hot air at Talooge (mostly from me and M. Patrick of course).

Thanks to Duck for donating his old box trailer to the club, which Jim and I managed to deliver on top of my trailer and once we removed Michael Patrick from the discussions, we picked up the correct one this time.



## Tracks Update –

**Lasseter's** is showing signs of erosion at the rock step area and without some further track work, it is now unsuitable for vehicles without good clearance and traction aids such as traction control, rear lsd or a rear locker as a minimum.

**Hole in the Wall** is now only just driveable with high clearance vehicles and twin lockers and not recommended if wet but will be looked at during the next driver training in September to plan on some repairs. A bypass is possible for standard vehicles and a walk and assess is required to plan the route.

**Honeymoon Bay** track has had some work trimming some of the close branches so less pin striping now when visiting this area which is a great spot for a spring barbecue lunch or picnic.

Some great work by Andy, Bron and team re-doing the offset mounds which will now really test out your wheel travel and are good fun. The Boghole near the offset mounds has stopped a couple of vehicles recently so enjoy but make sure you have some recovery gear with you. Track grading signs will be installed in the next few months to help some of our

newer members navigate their way safely throughout to property. Crossing to the Orchard area off our property has been repaired with plenty of rocks thanks to Andy, Bron and a team of helpers.

Always have your radio on UHF 14 and let someone know where you plan to go and what time you are expecting to return. 770 Hectares is a large area and if you do get stuck, it can be a decent walk back for assistance should you require help.



A reminder that before travelling to Talooge you should always contact one of the relevant officers for the updated gate codes.

Scott Cumming [property@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:property@st4wdc.com.au) 0490 000 913 or Satellite text only +61 405 894 135

Jim Anderson [president@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:president@st4wdc.com.au) 0408 283 496

Peter Butterfield [education@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:education@st4wdc.com.au) 0417 480 856

Talooge Park 'it's your property' and we do have some fun at the musters, so if you haven't been out there for a while or are a new member and are happy to help support our club or even if you are amongst a number of regular helpers, I encourage you all to join us at Talooge Park for a little bit of work and a lot of fun. The nights are getting cooler now, but the days are picture perfect at this time of the year and the camaraderie is always good.

Talooge Park Musters – 17<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> September, 29<sup>th</sup>–30<sup>th</sup> October

See you at Talooge Park. Scott Cumming – Property Coordinator [property@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:property@st4wdc.com.au)



To Always Look Over Our Great Environment

# Notices

The new Club Website has been running for a couple of years and has been working well, but the Committee has agreed it is time for a content refresh and to find out how well the Members think it is working. We know that there are a few issues with use on Android, and sometimes key information is not exactly where you might want it to be, so the Committee has agreed to formation of a Working Group to review the website and provide some recommendations to the Committee on possible changes to functionality, content, and layout to make the website as user friendly and informative for our members as we can. If you are interested in being on the Working Group please let me know by email at [Information@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:Information@st4wdc.com.au).

All members will be provided the opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions during the review process.

Thanks

Andy

Information Coordinator

The NSW & ACT 4WD Association is liaising with the SES to demonstrate that 4WDers are part of the solution to reducing flood-related rescues, not part of the problem. What I need/want from you guys is:

First, what are two most important reasons that would stop you crossing a flooded road? (please leave water height/level out of your decisions)

Second, do you or know of real life stories of people being caught in flood water and the circumstances around why they decided to cross?

Third, if you were to make a TV ad, what would you use as the focus point, for example fines, responsibility of others in the vehicle, comedy approach or real people's recollections of events?

I want to gather points so we can run a poll on our association member's facebook page and gauge results. and feedback to the SES.

Lee Dunstan, representing the NSW & ACT 4WD Association

The Club is still looking for volunteers to assist in helping run the Bush Skills weekend. We are looking for people who want to demonstrate their skills or assist in organising different activities:

- Bush cooking
- Tyre repairs
- Communications & GPS
- Vehicle recoveries
- Vehicle/Trailers/Tents/Swags

Contact Michael Patrick [trips@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:trips@st4wdc.com.au)

# It could be cold at Bendethera

Eric Adams

13-14 August 2016

Trip Leader:

Michael Patrick

Participants

Michael and James	– Prado 120
Chris and Sue	– Troopy
John	– GU Tray back
Eric and Brinley	– Prado 90
Thomas and Julie	– GU Patrol

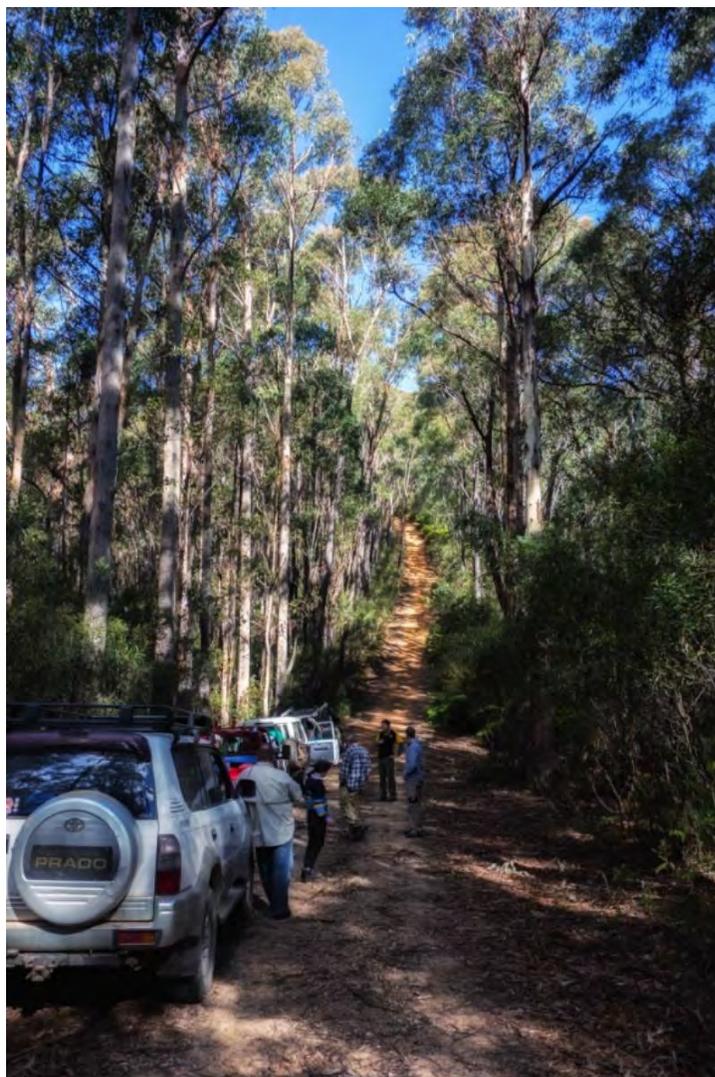


Day 1:

The day started with a beautiful sunny morning and it wasn't long before the briefing was done and the convoy was heading out bush. The first mechanical issue was handled prior to the obligatory stop at a typical country bakery. We were then on our way and traversing into the Araluen Valley, with the road meandering peacefully toward our real starting point at Dry Creek.

This meandering was too much for some though, as an acute case of travel sickness developed amongst us. We continued, however, and made the first river crossing of the day at Dry Creek on the edge of the Deua National Park.

Low range was required immediately as we began a series of long, steep hills up and down various mountains and ridges. With the travel sickness persisting, a decision was made for one of our vehicles to turn around and head home early in the piece. We were then down to a very manageable convoy of four and pressed on at a leisurely pace through some beautiful scenery.





The pace allowed for an appreciation of the diverse range of flora within the park, and of particular note were the large seas of yellow wattle in bloom. A quick stop was made after lunch to collect some firewood for our camp fire, and not long after that, came a long hill with a bit more character than some had bargained for. Waiting at the bottom was a group of families keen to get to the Bendethera Camp Site, however they informed us that after three attempts, they just couldn't seem to get up this loose and badly cut up section. We think it may have had something to do with the highway tire pressures they were running; amongst other various rookie errors on their part!



With Michael and James already at the top providing some expert guidance, our convoy all made it successfully to the top, where we all gave ourselves a pat on the back, before turning our mind to helping the others up. Then along came another group of 'cowboys' who decided to leave our families at the bottom and go first. Most made it, but were quite happy to leave one of their inexperienced mates at the bottom to go last and work it out for themselves. After the 5<sup>th</sup> failed attempt, we were

glad to have been videoing the carnage for future training purposes of course; but the somewhat stubborn guy in the Hilux was still not happy to take our help to pull him over. His mate didn't seem to know the basics (like did he have recovery points and a strap, or was he even on our channel and listening to Michael's suggestions?) After digging a few more holes for the next poor sod, he finally let us pull him over, and we could then go about getting the first lot up. They were a lot more appreciative and they're now also open to and aware of the benefits of joining a 4WD Club and getting some good quality training and advice prior to partaking in such trips.

We got going again and did the final river crossing into the Bendethera Camp Area, with just enough light left to set up camp and get a good fire going. The next few hours were spent enjoying the company and discussing the drive in. We had some noisy neighbours in a camp not far away (who helped them in again?) but they died down fairly early and we all got a good night's sleep.



## Day 2:

We woke to another fantastic day of relatively mild weather, with Thomas and Brinley taking the initiative to re-activate the camp fire. As predicted, this now lively fire brought the rest of us out of our swags and after all warming up a little, breakfast was prepared. The bacon and eggs over the camp fire looked delicious, but it was the home cooked 'beans' in the camp oven over the fire that really got us talking, and it



was at that point decided that whoever was eating those beans were going to be 'Charlie' for the day so that they could leave their 'bean fumes' behind them. As we were packing up camp, we had a visit from one of the local Wombats, who didn't seem to be shy at all. Some discussion was held over their ability to run (and bite!) so we left it be after a few photos and broke camp shortly afterwards. After a quick tour of the whole camp area, we began our climb back up out of the valley, following the Dampier Mountain Fire Trail. We broke for lunch at Bald Mountain, which is about 1470 Metres above sea level. There was no snow on this occasion due to a rather warm preceding week and absolute cracking weather for the weekend, but the vegetation indicated that we were quite high up. After lunch we drove back out toward Michelago and parted ways, bringing the trip to an end. Overall, this was a great weekend drive. The sunny days and good company, combined with Michael's leadership made for a low stress weekend and I'd recommend this type of weekend getaway to anyone who's looking for something that offers the above benefits without having to spend a whole week away from home.

# Driving at Yarwal

Bronwyn Squire

28-29 May 2016

Last year, Andy drove Yarwal and – being in the passenger seat – I just wanted to have a go. So this year I signed up for the Yarwal trip, held on the last weekend in May. Last year, we took the camper trailer and missed out on driving out of the valley along Monkey Gum, which is quite unsuitable for towing a trailer, even one so light and compact as ours. So, tenting it was, *but* I also took our new bush 'dunny' and ensuite tent because last year I had trapped a biting ant or insect inside my thermals and was bitten extensively. Being highly allergic to insect and ant bites, I was in itchy agony for weeks. I was very impressed with our new kit and had to guard it vigorously against a certain Tony. I did allow Andy to use it, but he was so gracious in letting me drive *all* weekend. Anyway, I digress.





I did my usual, as soon as we hit the dirt after the black top, and after Andy had aired-down, I jumped in the driver's seat. We diverted a short way to a rocky outcrop which looked out over the valley, which was just stunning with the sun in a perfect position to highlight the greens and greys in the valley and clear blue skies. Less stunning was the biting wind (Yarwal is obviously full of bitey stuff). We gathered fire wood, with the obligatory discussions about how much we needed for two nights (never enough), and headed off to the camp ground. Even driving down to the camp ground was challenging and I almost regretted my decision to drive – almost but not quite. We then went for a quick tour around and found a lovely eroded track to drive. Waiting in turn and watching the previous two vehicles, I began, again, to dread driving, especially with Jake cross axleing and using his diff lockers to move on, and I was positive that Michael was going to end up with his truck on its side. Thanks to Andy, I have a trainee trainer in the car, and he talked me through and encouraged me to pick a line that kept the ruts under the truck and as level as possible. Even if I say so myself, it was a text book drive (pity I couldn't say that the third time I drove that bit of track – that was probably a demonstration of how *not* to drive). Camp set up, fire roaring, happy hour, dinner, more drinks, bed.

The day dawned (well I'm assuming it did, I'm not known for rising early) damp but not raining, so we set off. Drove around near the camp ground and let Steve have a bit of a play down a steep, muddy, and slippery slope, and then we all 'played' at the playground. While the playground itself was pretty similar to last year, the track around to the bottom of it had significantly deteriorated to the point that it was now a

more serious challenge. I should qualify that we had the baby truck on the trip (a Navara) and one of – well *the* – only truck without diff lockers. We are also lower to the ground than most, even with a lift. While I may have gone a bit hard on some parts, and a bit not-hard-enough on others, I managed everything that my driving companions did, some a little better, some not so. From the playground we went forth!



that does not just have a couple of challenging pinches or areas of tracks that require close attention; it generally entails complete concentration 100% of the time (again I can only speak from my limited experience and I'm sure others think it's a piece of cake). I was struggling in our manual baby truck to avoid stalling all the time, until I perfected the art of 'feathering' the clutch, which stopped the stalling and made the rock ledge drop-offs much easier to manage.

At around lunch time it began to drizzle, which, as everyone knows, can make tracks just that little bit more interesting. While Steve elected to go ahead up Tree Root Loop (and I believe needed to winch), the rest of us turned around and headed back up the hill. The black mud had now become slippery and without diff lockers, and not wanting to be out in the rain using MAXTRAX™ and building the track, Michael towed me up a couple of metres until mud became rock again. Tony slung some more firewood on his roof rack (he agreed we didn't have enough, and judging by the previous night's fire we weren't going to enjoy such a bountiful fire as the previous night) and we headed back to camp where we met up with Steve again.

Following lunch some of us went driving again – nothing too difficult – while Tony and Scott stayed at camp to keep the fire going (and resisted the temptation to use my 'toileting facilities').

Another evening of fun, laughter, good food, liquid refreshments, continually well stoked fire, and sleep. We woke the next morning and quickly packed up and headed out along Monkey Gum. Monkey Gum ... oh-dear, Monkey Gum ... I found it stressful and fun in equal measure. According to some who went out that way last year, it too had deteriorated significantly; it was terrifying in parts, with drop offs not just on one side but occasionally both, deeply rutted a lot of the time, narrow in others, and – quite frankly – occasionally terrifying. Anyway we made it through, albeit with a few stalls, and after four hours of constant stress and intense concentration I relinquished the driver's seat; I was just too exhausted to continue and the fun had gone out of it. We were at a spot where there was no way I was not going to cross axle and so I let Andy drive as far as he could and get towed out. Unbeknownst to me, we were within 150 metres or so of the top, but hindsight is a wonderful thing.

Overall, I learned heaps, had an enormous amount of fun, and I now know that I can drive more technical tracks. I wouldn't recommend it for those faint at heart, but I do recommend the trip to anyone who isn't precious about their vehicle, and who wants to improve their skills and experience for those 'in case' scenarios. I would just like to add that I was the only driver who did not damage their truck or tyre in some way or another, and who had the only vehicle without diff lockers. I reckon dun great mate!



# Club Clothing

## Shirts

Polo (cotton/polyester, lightweight)	\$38
Chambery (long-sleeve)	\$45

## Outerwear

Jacket	\$95
Hoodie	\$45
Rugby Jumper	\$50

## Headwear

Baseball Cap	\$15
Bucket Hat	\$15
Beanie	\$20

## Other

Name Badge	\$10
Polo – small size *ideal for older children	\$20



**Come along and join us  
for ST4WDC's  
Christmas Party  
at Talooge.**

**When: Sat 26th November - 27th November**

**Time: Festivities start 12pm 26th Nov**

**Where: Talooge**

**This is ST4WDC'S annual big get together to  
celebrate Christmas.**

**Put these details in your calendar and join  
us for a fun filled weekend of games, Santa,  
Pot luck dinner and lucky gate prizes**



# 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

1976 - 2016

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

**When – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**\$50.00 per head**

**Tickets are on sale at each meeting.**

If you have any queries, please call

Lynne 0418 631 669.

# For Sale

1996 Nissan Patrol GQ Manual – \$8000

392,000km

6-cylinder Turbo Diesel

Long-range 145L fuel tank

CODAN X2 SSB Transceiver pre-set with VKS737 & RFDS frequencies

Storage unit in rear

Cargo barrier

Fridge slide (suit 47L WAECO)

Accessory outlets in dash and rear

Full-length roof rack

One extra spare wheel

Spare belts & hoses

Contact Jim Hanigan

0427 483 911

[jim.hanigan@bigpond.com](mailto:jim.hanigan@bigpond.com)

Two recovery hitches without shackles – \$15.00 each



Contact Michael Patrick

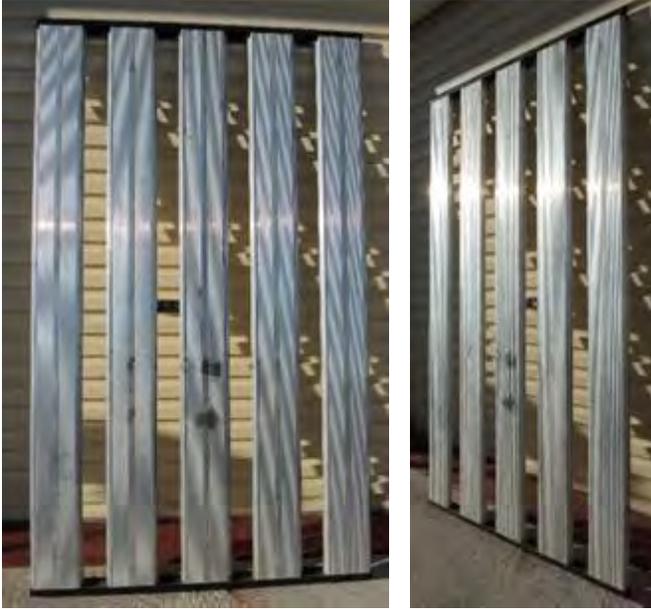
0412 377 941

[m-patrick@bigpond.com](mailto:m-patrick@bigpond.com)

## Roof Rack Tray – \$80

110x186mm

Designed to go on Rhino roof racks



Contact Michael Patrick

0412 377 941

[m-patrick@bigpond.com](mailto:m-patrick@bigpond.com)

Uniden UH720SX 2 watt 40 channel UHF handheld radio – \$10.00

Uniden UH720NB 2 watt 80 channel UHF handheld radio – \$20.00

Both units come:

- Desktop charger
- In car charger
- Speaker microphone
- Ear microphone
- 3 X AA Ni-MH 1800mAh Batteries

Contact Michael Patrick

0412 377 941

[m-patrick@bigpond.com](mailto:m-patrick@bigpond.com)



4 Goose necks to suit five stud tyre pattern – \$5.00 each



Contact Michael Patrick  
0412 377 941  
[m-patrick@bigpond.com](mailto:m-patrick@bigpond.com)

Two bike carrier that attaches to rear spare wheel – \$50.00



Contact Michael Patrick  
0412 377 941  
[m-patrick@bigpond.com](mailto:m-patrick@bigpond.com)

Cobb cooker used with a box of six self-igniting fuel blocks – \$100.00



Contact Michael Patrick  
0412 377 941  
[m-patrick@bigpond.com](mailto:m-patrick@bigpond.com)

## Wanted

Talooge has a DVD player but no DVD's, for bored children to watch on a miserable rainy day. If you want to donate suitable DVD's to the club please bring them along to the club meeting and give them to Michael Patrick.

## Lost & Found

### Found!

License Plate: ACT YKL69F

Found on Rayners Fire Trail

Contact Michael Patrick 0412377941

# Advertisers

Thank you to the following companies for your ongoing support:

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**TOYOTA**

