



SOUTHERN TRAILS

April 2017

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*The next club meeting will be held on the 11th April at the
Canberra Deakin Football Club*

Guest speaker – Watts Communications

Dale Papworth

Visitors are welcome

Come along for dinner at the club or a Hot Cross bun during the meeting break.

President's Post - Jim Anderson

2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

At the 2017 AGM held on Tuesday 14 March the following club members were elected to the committee:

Bronwyn Squire – Secretary;

Dim Veteri – Membership Secretary

Glennis Weatherstone – Publications Coordinator;

Debbie Davidson – General Member;

Rob Phillips – General Member; and

David Sutton – General Member

It's great to see new people get involved in the management of the club and bring new ideas and energy to the table. I look forward to working with the new members during 2017. Also, welcome back returning committee members Brad Wells, (Vice President), Victoria Jewett (Treasurer), Peter Butterfield (Education Coordinator), Andy Squire (Information Coordinator), Michael Patrick (Events and Trips Coordinator), Glen Watts (Public Relations Coordinator), Scott Cumming (Property Coordinator) and Garry McLaughlin (general member).

I also thank former committee members Lynne Donaldson, Rob Donaldson, Marj Jones, Peter Reynolds and Brenden Taylor for their contribution to the club while serving on the committee.

As mentioned in the President's Report at the AGM, the priorities for this year will be developing the club plan, finalising the policy and procedures manual, ongoing website enhancement, and improved information management for committee and club members. This is in addition to getting Certificate 4 Accreditation for a number of senior driver trainers (enabling the club to bring driver training certification in-house), and also working with NSW NPWS to open up volunteering opportunities for club members in various locations.

With the AGM done and dusted, on Saturday 18th of March, I headed off on the *Missing Huts of the Victorian High Country* trip lead by Michael Patrick. It was great to get onto the tracks and enjoy one of the major benefits of being a club member; a trip! Details are in the trip report later in this issue of the newsletter. However, I will say that conditions in the high country can change very quickly. A week before the trip the weather was looking fantastic! Then shortly after, bushfires claimed the iconic

Billy Goat Bluff track and also closed other tracks around the Licola area, including access to the Pinnacles. This required the trip leader to quickly replan to ensure that he could still take the 12 vehicles to interesting areas, with some good low range driving. We certainly weren't disappointed!

TALOOGEE

Property Coordinator Scott Cumming is off overseas for a well-deserved break from 6 April to around the end of May (and rumour has it to celebrate a milestone birthday, so hope you have a great time Scott). The property is looking great and hopefully with no more damaging rains this winter. During Scott's absence Michael Patrick and myself will be looking after the musters. I hope you can make it to one of the musters, or visit the property at this wonderful time of the year.

Please remember that if you are planning on visiting the property you must let one of the following contacts know:

President:

- Mob: 0408 283 496
- Email: president@st4wdc.com.au

Events and Trips Coordinator (during Property Coordinators absence 6 April to end May):

- Mob: 0412 377 941
- Email: trips@st4wdc.com.au

Education Coordinator

- Mob: 0417 480 856
- Email: education@st4wdc.com.au

Please note that some of the combinations on the access gates were changed recently.

2018 Spectacular - Donations to Charities/ Organisations

As well as generating income for the club, an amount of the proceeds from the 4WD spectacular is donated to various charities or organisations that may provide services for off road travelers e.g. VKS737. To assist in planning the distribution of these funds from the amount that will be available from the 2018 Spectacular, members of the three host clubs have been asked to make suggestions of organisations that could be worthy recipients. This item will be raised at the general meeting of 11 April. However, you may wish to email your suggestion to feedback@st4wdc.com.au

Review of Combined Clubs 4WD Spectacular MOU

The current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ACT 4WD Club, the Land Rover Club of the ACT and the ST4WDC is due for renewal in the next few months. If you have any feedback or comments that you would like to provide for consideration in the renewal process please e-mail president@st4wdc.com.au. The current MOU and associated Articles documents are available to members on the website at Members > 4WD Spectacular MOU after logging in.

Hope to see you at the April general meeting or on a track somewhere.

Jim



President's preferred office

Membership Moments

Hi Everyone

Well, this is my first report in my new role and there's not a lot to report, sorry.

I would, however, like to begin by saying a huge thank you to Lynne Donaldson for the fantastic work she has put in over the years looking after new members. I would also like to acknowledge the incredibly detailed handover I received from her, very comprehensive! This of course means that if I make mistakes they are my fault.

Please let me know if you have ideas on how to improve things to both attract new members and to make new members feel welcome.

New members:

For the month of March, we have the following new members:

Keith and Leanne Williams	Mazda BT-50
Mark Clayton	Triton MY15
Scott Broadhead	Mazda BT-50

In addition, we have had enquiries from 3 others who may attend the April club meeting to consider membership.

Please say hello to our visitors if you are at the Club meeting - if you see a new face, make them welcome and say G'day.

Membership Numbers:

Ordinary Members	-	225
Life Members	-	9
Sub-Total	-	234
Family Members	-	165
Total	-	399

Looking forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

Please feel free to contact me regarding any membership matters you may have either by email, phone or grab me at the meeting.

Thanks Dim

Talooge Park - April 2017

Author: Scott Cumming

The March Muster was light on with just 6 members assisting in maintaining the property. Thanks to John Pearsall, Matt Maddigan, Dave & Helen Sutton and Brad & Chez Wells.

Our first task was to finish the piers to the two ablution sheds which was done using 225mm PVC pipe cut to the required length and filled with concrete. These sheds have since been lowered onto the piers and are ready for the conversion into chemical storage and general storage. Some paving is to be completed between the sheds. Hopefully we can have a second bunkhouse available soon for use during the cold Winter months.





Seeding the area at ARB crossing and the level camping area was next on the list now that the hot dry weather has eased and is getting quite well established and looking great after a couple of weeks' growth.



The erosion gully at the top of ARB crossing was finally completed and thanks to the tipper trailer provided by John, we dropped a load of shale into the gully and create a rubble drain to slow down the water flow and reduce erosion.



Due to the very low water in Strike a Light creek, we used part of the 5000 litre water tank at Thurbon Flat to fill up the firefighting tank and water in the new seed.

Using the 60 litre weed spray tank connected to a battery on the wheel barrow Brad and Matt were able to access the absorption fenced area to spray a few of the weeds.



Talooge Gate Security Codes

In March 2017 the gate security codes were changed. 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
- 0490 000913 or
- Satellite text only +61 405 894 135

Jim Anderson

- president@st4wdc.com.au
- 0408 283496

Peter Butterfield

- education@st4wdc.com.au
- 0417 480856

Talooge Security

If you are visiting Talooge and notice any suspicious behaviour or a vehicle you don't recognise, it's your property and you have the right to politely ask who they are and what they are doing. Report any suspicious behaviour to either myself or Jim Anderson. Surveillance cameras are installed on the property to assist in identifying any unauthorised traffic. The combination lock on the gate from the main paddock to the Horse paddock has been replaced but it is slightly different to the old one; after putting in the code you need to push the button on the bottom once for it to open.

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 weather is perfect at this time of the year, the camaraderie is always good, and a free sausage sizzle on Saturday courtesy of the club is always welcome.

Jim Anderson and Michael Patrick will be caretaking Talooge while I am away overseas in April/May so please contact either person if you are planning a trip out there.

Talooge Park Musters – April 8th / 9th, May 13th / 14th, June 10th / 11th

See you at Talooge Park.

Scott Cumming - Property Coordinator

property@st4wdc.com.au

Trips Register

Start Date	End Date	Activity	Type	Leader
14/Apr/17	16/Apr/17	Concept of Joint 2018 Jamboree	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
15/Apr/17	15/Apr/17	Easter Night Drive in the Brindies	Grade 3	Lynne Donaldson
19/Apr/17	19/Apr/17	Basic Training 4WD Vehicle Evaluation	Training	Peter Butterfield
21/Apr/17	4/May/17	Tasmania Bound	Grade 3	Alan & Marj Jones
22/Apr/17	25/Apr/17	Geehi	Grade 2	Alex & Andrea Szabo
29/Apr/17	29/Apr/17	River Crossing & Sand Driving Course	Training	Peter Butterfield
7/May/17	26/May/17	Exploring the back yard of South Australia	Grade 3	Glynis Whitfield
13/May/17	14/May/17	Talooge Park Muster	Muster	Michael Patrick
18/May/17	21/May/17	Consolidated "Safe One" Basic Driver Training at Talooge Park	Training	Peter Butterfield
28/May/17	28/May/17	Brindabella Ramble	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
3/Jun/17	4/Jun/17	Chain Saw Awareness Training (Expression of Interest)	Training	Michael Patrick
3/Jun/17	4/Jun/17	Trainee Instructor Skills Assessment	Training	Peter Butterfield
10/Jun/17	11/Jun/17	Talooge Park Muster	Muster	Scott Cumming
17/Jun/17	18/Jun/17	OziExplorer Nav X	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
3/Jul/17	28/Jul/17	Working Bee/Care Taker Old Andado Station NT	Grade 1	Dave Sutton
15/Jul/17	16/Jul/17	Advanced Trip Leader Training	Training	Michael Patrick
16/Aug/17	16/Aug/17	Basic Training 4WD Vehicle Evaluation	Training	Peter Butterfield
12/Aug/17	13/Aug/17	It could be cold at Bendethera Caves	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
1/Sep/17	1/Nov/17	First Aid Training (Expression of Interest)	Training	Michael Patrick
9/Sep/17	10/Sep/17	Explore The Tracks of Abercrombie River National Park	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
14/Sep/17	17/Sep/17	Consolidated "Safe One" Basic Driver Training at Talooge Park	Training	Peter Butterfield
20/Sep/17	20/Sep/17	Basic Training 4WD Vehicle Evaluation	Training	Peter Butterfield
30/Sep/17	2/Oct/17	Bush Skills Weekend	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
6/Oct/17	8/Oct/17	Queanbeyan SES Landsearch Exercise	NR	Alan & Marj Jones
19/Oct/17	22/Oct/17	Consolidated "Safe One" Basic Driver Training at Talooge Park	Training	Peter Butterfield
11/Nov/17	19/Nov/17	Victorian High Country Ramble Vers 2	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
12/Nov/17	12/Nov/17	Brindabella Ramble	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
25/Nov/17	25/Nov/17	ST4WDC Christmas Party at Talooge	Event	TBA
8/Dec/17	8/Dec/17	Driver Trainers Christmas Dinner	Event	Julie Buttriss



Victorian High Country



March 2017

Saturday 18 March saw twelve vehicles depart from the Dinosaur Museum at 8am after a short briefing to discuss important matters such as the time and location of morning tea. Stops at Gundagai and roadside rest areas had us arrive in Mansfield around 3pm, a chance to top up fuel and buy last minute supplies before a quick run out to our campsite. Or so we thought. The Mansfield Mt Buller Cycling Club had other ideas. Three hundred or so of their slowest cyclists provided an effective road block, delaying our arrival somewhat. After another brief interruption near Kevington, where every driver in the convoy was breath tested, we arrived at Tunnel Bend camp site and had a pleasant evening getting to know each other.



Bush fires in the area saw Michael having to redo his trip plans, many of the roads we had planned to cover were closed and we headed off on Sunday not quite sure where we would end up. Snake Edwards Divide Track and Jamison Road were straight forward and our morning tea stop saw

us picking blackberries from the side of the road which would become a delicious blackberry damper a couple of days later (thanks Gary and Leanne).

From there we headed to Barkley River Jeep Track, which turned out to be far too tough, so instead we headed for Mount Sunday Track.

This track had some very tricky sections and was quite overgrown. All the vehicles picked up some additional “Bush Pinstripes” along this section. One particularly difficult section saw nine of the twelve vehicles being winched and some of the passengers decided that walking up the very steep rocky track was safer than going up in the car. It took two hours to cover just 100 metres. Chris and Michael did a great job in assisting us all to negotiate this section. Chris was Charlie, and as such the last car to attempt the climb, after eleven other vehicles had scrambled their way up and made the track even harder than before. He then proceeded to give us all a lesson in how to drive and prepare your vehicle properly, and made it look easy getting up the hill on his first attempt with no trouble at all. We eventually reached the end of Mount Sunday Track having travelled about 12km in 6 hours. The end of the track saw Rob and Sue quite concerned at the growing puddle of fluid under the car which fortunately turned out to be nothing more serious than a leaking water container in the back of the ute. Dim was happy he had could pick up a radio station for long enough to catch the



Brumbies score, and Michael was grumpy as the tread was lifting off one of his tyres. By this time it was quite late in the day and Michael (or more correctly James and Jim), stopped to change the offending tyre while the rest of us continued under the direction of Chris. Unable to make our planned camp site for the evening, Chris found us a safe place to camp overnight during which the heavens opened.



Monday saw the convoy split up, with Michael and James accompanied by Jim heading back to Mansfield to arrange a replacement tyre, and Chris taking over as trip leader. An easier day today saw us travelling to Lovicks Hut for morning tea and a few photos before we left for Bluff Hut for more photos and history. We chose Bindaree Hut on The Upper Howqua Road for our overnight campsite. The hut appears to have

been built to suit Hobbits, being only about 1.2 metres tall, but we figured if you were caught in a storm with no shelter you wouldn't be complaining. Raining again this afternoon but the weather cleared and we had a roaring fire to keep warm in the evening thanks to Rob and Scott, and bellies full of delicious blackberry damper. Elton and Chris decided to try their hand at fishing but very thoughtfully left all the fish in the stream. We were all thinking about Michael, James and Jim roughing it at the Delatite Hotel in Mansfield, enjoying juicy steaks and cold beer and wondering if they actually got around to ordering the replacement tyre.

Tuesday: Late start today after packing up in the rain and leaving camp at 10am, led once again by Chris. We headed out along 16 Mile Jeep Track with the usual jokes about Jeeps. The track is apparently named because 16 miles is all a Jeep can do without breaking down. JEEP apparently stands for Just Empty Every Pocket.



Barkley River Jeep Track

Visited Bindaree Falls for photos and a look around and went to Craig's Hut for morning tea. We then proceeded to Mt Buller Village for Lunch. Toasted sandwiches at the local café were just what was needed on a cold and foggy day. Six degrees in



Mt Buller had everyone looking for their coats. A short run to Razorback camp ground where we met up with a well-rested and fed Michael, James and Jim. They insisted they stayed in a ditch the previous night and didn't go anywhere near the pub, but this was greeted with skepticism all round. Razorback is probably a nice camping area when the sun is shining, but unfortunately the heavens opened and it poured all night leaving everyone wet and soggy with no campfire to warm us. Added to this, the area was overrun with school kids and the septic was not able to cope with all the visitors. This left a less than favourable impression.

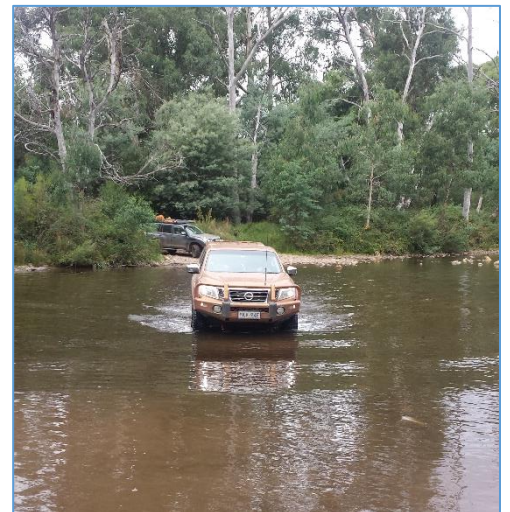


Day 5 saw Michael back at the front of our convoy, now down to eleven vehicles, Dim has been battling a cold and the wet and miserable conditions last night didn't help, and he left us to head back home to recuperate. We continued to Cobbler Lake for morning tea via Speculation Road and "The Staircase", a particularly steep and loose section of road that required careful line picking.

Cobbler Lake is another particularly beautiful area of the high country; there is something to see around every corner. Left on a long run down to the Wonnangatta Valley arriving around 3pm. Plenty of time to set up camp and prepare for our communal dinner. Just because we are camping doesn't mean roughing it, dinner was roast beef, risotto, pasta, butter chicken, casserole and more, followed by Elton and friends' Golden Syrup Dumplings. Yummo.

On day 6 we explored the area around the Wonnangatta Homestead, visited the orchard, and the cemetery, before travelling through Wonnangatta Valley to Italian Flats via Herne Spur. Lots of creek crossings and a long very steep climb up Hernes. It was quite gravelly and slippery and everyone's concentration was put to the test.

We passed quite a few fire brigade vehicles and personnel cutting containment lines for the bushfires around Dargo, hard to believe they are still burning after all the rain we have had. We also noticed that the mullet is making a comeback.



Billy Goats Bluff Track, closed due to the fires, was one track we had planned to cover; this gives us an excuse to come back here.

Adam in the petrol-powered Patrol was getting a bit nervous coming into town as his gauge had been reading empty for some time. Fortunately, he made it and was able to fill up at the (very expensive) general store. Hamburgers for lunch before driving to Italian Flats camp ground and another wet evening. Our group was getting smaller as Phil decided he would head back to Canberra to dry out. Elton, Colby, Lyle and Ben decided the Dargo Hotel was their campsite for the night, and they took advantage of the warm beds and hot showers.





Into Dargo the next morning for bacon and egg rolls before farewelling Scott and Maryanne, Gary and Leanne, Adam, and Chris and Julie. The continuing rain resulted in some of the tracks becoming dangerous and Michael

changed the route for safety reasons. We headed for Omeo via Dogs Grave, where we stopped to have morning tea and learn a bit more about the history of the region. Six vehicles set off for Omeo on some very slippery roads in foggy conditions, before arriving in Omeo mid-afternoon where we farewelled Rob and Tony. Choosing to dry out and warm up a bit, we checked into the local caravan park for the night and had very long hot showers, a BBQ dinner and a few quiet ales or in Sue's case, Johnny Walkers.

Canberra on Saturday via the Omeo and Hume Highways. No one is a fan of the Omeo Highway; 114 km of hairpin bends and barely getting out of third gear, two hours to travel to Wodonga. Michael lost the tread of another tyre on the way back, but apart from that we had an uneventful trip and were happy to get home in the late afternoon. Planning now starts for November.



The trip was full of history, wonderful scenery and magnificent beauty. We came across quite a lot of native and not so native fauna during our trip, including rabbits, dogs, feral cats, deer, wallabies, trout, frogs, kookaburras and numerous other birds, horses, platypus, snakes and lizards. Jim was lucky enough to come across a very rare 'stick' snake and even managed a photo. Michael claimed he heard the pelicans each morning giving him the weather report, however the rest of us only heard kookaburras.

Thanks so much to Michael and Chris for their leadership and ensuring we were able to have fun, learn about our vehicles and still stay safe.

A special thanks to James who drove Michael's car, set up Michael's camp, cooked Michael's dinner, washed Michael's dishes, changed Michael's tyres, packed up Michael's camp each morning, and kept smiling throughout even though he paid Michael for the privilege.



Trip Leaders T Shirt inspiring confidence

Trip leader: Michael Patrick and James Carpenter - Prado

Jim Anderson - Prado

Adam Bokeyar- Patrol

Dim Veteri - Hilux

Phil Rayner - Landcruiser

Elton, Kolby & Lyle Willis and Ben Hudson - Landcruiser (AKA *The Beast*)

Gary and Leanne McLaughlin - Prado

Tony Warren - BT50

Scott and Maryanne Grogan - BT50

Chris and Julie Nicholls - Patrol

Rob Calvert - Prado

Rob and Sue Phillips - Navara

WHEELS AIN'T WHEELS: WHEN A SPARE IS NOT A SPARE

Rob Calvert

On arrival at Dargo on our recent Victorian High Trip, I was confronted with a nearly flat rear left tyre as I refueled at the General Store. It explained the near loss, I had had on one of the tighter hairpin corners towards the end of the Crooked River Road just before Dargo. I was running about 18 psi in the tyres, but this was a pancake!!!

I had dismissed the slide as a little too much right foot in the muddy conditions, and had admonished myself for the indiscretion. With a top up of air I headed the short distance to camp to change tyres, and find out why!!!!

We'd travelled from Wonnangatta Station that day, all dirt except the final couple of kms into Dargo, and I had checked tyre pressures that morning, so I was rerunning the day's events in my head to try to work out how I had managed to damage the tyre. Thanks to Chris Nicholls; whose spray bottle of soapy water helped find the culprit; a three inch (75mm) framing nail had entered a tread block, speared out at the base and penetrated the carcass right up to the head. It was at a really weird angle.

How the hell do you pick up a nail like that on a dirt road!!!!!! At least I hadn't done something stupid and bashed the tyre like I initially had thought.

Anyway, Chris talked me through my first puncture repair and, despite it being on a crazy angle, the plug held. We still had a couple of days to go so I thought it best to change the tyre and run the spare, that's when the "fun" began.

My tyres were about 10,000 kms old and I had thought about rotating them before this trip. In retrospect, I wish I had, it would have saved a possible disaster.

I found to my amazement, annoyance, and frustration, that I could not fully tension the wheel nuts. The flat locking washers on the nuts were binding on the inner flange of the wheel, and were sitting about 5mm proud, so I consulted a fellow Prado owner. No! that didn't look right at all, and on removing the spare it was obvious; the wheel needed "countersunk" wheel nuts, my other wheels had flat inner flanges !!!!! How come?????. Worse still, the realization that I had been driving this vehicle since I bought it second hand with a spare that didn't fit!!!!!! Now I was really peed off!!!, Lucky for me, it happened on a club trip and not in the middle of Woop Woop on my own, and the tyre was only punctured and not shredded. Lucky too that I didn't have to change, and re-change, the tyre out on the track and in the mud.

It looked like I would have to disengage from the trip, but reassuringly; I was offered the loan of enough of the right wheel nuts to get out of trouble if I needed to fit the spare. I figured that the random rim would have been the spare from the Tvan that

the previous owner had, and was mixed-up with the car's spare at some stage prior to me buying the Prado.

And how did it all end??? The plug held for the rest of the trip. It didn't lose a pound of pressure. Back in Canberra I called the previous owner (who shall remain nameless but is my brother!!!!) and arranged to swap his rim for the correct one and change the tyres over. Track Trailers had fitted Speedie Wheels that looked like the OEM wheels but did not match!!!! The spare on the Tvan had never been used just like my "spare" that wasn't a spare.

This experience has reminded me well and truly the value of joining the club, traveling with a group of experienced 4WDivers and learning how to fix a puncture.

HOW MUCH?

My experience for this trip revolved around the guessing game of how much fuel (petrol) I had left in the tank on the drive from Wonangatta Valley to Dargo.

Turned out there was about 17 litres left of a 147 litre tank and two 20 litre Jerry can refills along the way from Mansfield to Dargo.

Other highlights were the winching on the second day and learning a bit more about my own driving experience and the capability of my GQ patrol ute.

And finally, I enjoyed the spirit and company of everyone in the trip, making even a wet couple of days still a worthwhile camping and driving experience.

Adam Bokeyar

Thank you to all

Club Clothing

<i>Polo Shirts</i>	<i>\$38.00</i>
<i>Chamberly Shirts</i>	<i>\$45.00</i>
<i>Jackets</i>	<i>\$95.00</i>
<i>Hoodies</i>	<i>\$45.00</i>
<i>Rugby Tops</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>Caps</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>
<i>Bucket Hats</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>
<i>Beanies</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>
<i>Name Badges</i>	<i>\$10.00</i>

For Sale

FOUND: after the Feb 2017 Muster down
at Thurbon Flat.

Contact Scott if you know who this belongs
to...



4 Goose Necks

To suit a five stud tyre pattern - \$5.00 each

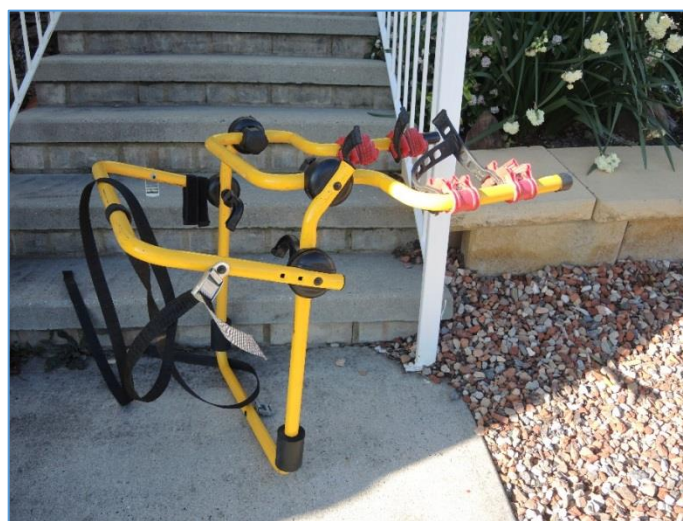
Contact Michael Patrick
0412 377 941
m-patrick@bigpond.com



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Contact Michael Patrick

0412 377 941

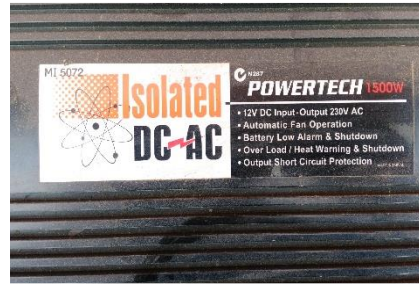
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- 2 x concealed jerry can holders,
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Heaps of luxury inclusions:

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- 3 burner SMEV stove,
- 120 AH battery,
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- innerspring mattress.

Lots of pictures at

<https://www.flickr.com/gp/mhines/k90JC1>

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