



SOUTHERN TRAILS

ISSUE 340 August 2007



C O N T E N T S

**August Meeting Tuesday 14th August 2007 at 7:30pm
Deakin Sports Club
Bruce Evans will discuss items stocked by Bartondale Marine**

New trips added this month

Closing date for inclusion of articles in the next issue of SOUTHERN TRAILS is August 17th

**General meetings are held at the Deakin Sports Club at 7.30 pm
on the second Tuesday of each month.**

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The opinions expressed in the articles and letters in this magazine are not necessarily those of the The Southern Tablelands Four Wheel Drive Club.

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All magazine correspondence should be directed to the Publications Coordinator.

Trip reports & articles of interest are very welcome. Contributions may be edited.

**We gratefully acknowledge the support given to this magazine by our advertisers and
recommend that our readers patronise them whenever possible.**

SOUTHERN TABLELANDS FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB INC.



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General Meetings are held at the **Deakin Sports Club**

at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

General Meetings are a focal point of the club where members can meet and get information about past and future club activities. Meetings are structured with a minimum of formality. Meetings regularly feature talks from experts on topics of interest ranging from vehicle mechanics to bush lore. Reports on past trips are presented and new trips are announced. Visitors introduce themselves, there is a raffle with generous prizes and a coffee break for catching up with other members. Don't forget to wear your name badge.

Ideas for guest speakers are welcome. Contact Marj Jones if you know of someone who could make an interesting and topical presentation.

Many members gather before and after the meeting to enjoy a meal or drink at the club.

Publications

Website

Web Address www.st4wdc.org. The site is being revitalized so as to provide timely information regarding Club activities and variations from previously announced plans. When visiting the site, always check the "What's New" page for recent announcements and current news. Especially, check for any last minute variations to trips you are undertaking.

Southern Trails is the ST4WD Club monthly Magazine.

Trip reports, member profiles and articles that are relevant to Club members are welcome, as are photographs and illustrations.

Closing date for trip reports and general articles is the Friday following the monthly meeting. Send contributions to publications@st4wdc.org

Talooge Park

Talooge is the Club's 600+ ha bush block in rugged country east of Bredbo. It is used for training and other club activities, and members are welcome there for private camping, recreation and the simple pleasure of enjoying the bush. Several areas have been set aside for basic bush camping. These have firewood and long drop toilets, but no other services – no water, no electricity, no phone, very limited mobile phone coverage. Pets and the discharging of firearms are not permitted on the property. Visitors should assume that they are solely responsible for their own wellbeing and be conscious of the risks of fire, snakebite, etc. In an emergency, neighbours Mr Richie Southwell and his sons, can usually be contacted using UHF channel 18.

Many details are on the Club's website, and intending visitors should check there for current access details including how to obtain gate keys and other information.

Code of Ethics

These are the rules of conduct that we should all observe when using our vehicles in the bush. We should all take them to heart. Image is a difficult thing to change!!

1. Obey the laws and regulations for Recreational Vehicles that apply to public lands.
2. Respect the cultural, heritage and environmental values of public/private land, by obeying restrictions that may apply.
3. Respect our flora and fauna. Stop and look, but never disturb.
4. Keep to formed vehicle tracks.
5. Keep the environment clean. Carry your own, and any other, rubbish, out.
6. Keep your vehicle mechanically sound and clean to reduce the environmental impact.
7. Adopt minimal impact camping and driving practices.
8. Seek permission before driving on private land. Do not disturb livestock or watering points, leave gates as found.
9. Take adequate water, food, fuel, basic spares and a first aid kit on trips. In remote areas travel with another vehicle and have Royal Flying Doctor Service, or equivalent, in radio contact.
10. Enjoy your recreation and respect the rights of others.
11. Plan ahead and lodge trip details with a responsible person.
12. Support four wheel driving as a responsible and legitimate family recreational activity. Consider joining an affiliated four wheel drive Club.

Training

The Southern Tablelands Four Wheel Drive Club is devoted to providing the best driver training possible. The Driver Training Team provides a range of courses throughout the year. The current courses include:

Basic Driver Training – A two day course with a follow-up day a week later. Students are assigned an instructor over the practical period of the course. The 1:1 instructor/student ratio ensures maximum transfer of skills and experience. On completion of this course members are eligible to participate in all but the most demanding club trips

Very Difficult Terrain and Advanced Recovery – completion of this course is required for participation in the most demanding (grade 4 and 5) trips.

Supplementary Courses

Water Crossing,
Sand Driving,
Mud and Snow,
Practical Map Reading,
Navigation,
Route Planning,
GPS, and

Other specific training relating to Club activities such as camper trailers etc.

Training for Driver Training Instructors

Trainee Instructor,
Assistant Instructor,
Instructor, and
Chief Instructor

Visit the ST4CWC web page for full details which are expanded on in detail in the Driver Training Policy document located under the Training menu tab.

Partners are encouraged to undertake the Basic Driver Education course, and any of the other courses offered from time to time. Unfortunately couples cannot undertake the course at the same time as only one driver per vehicle will be instructed during a training course. Training of a member's child is subject to approval by Club management and only when spare places are available. Couples may attend the Navigation, Map Reading & GPS courses.



PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

Peter Fenwick



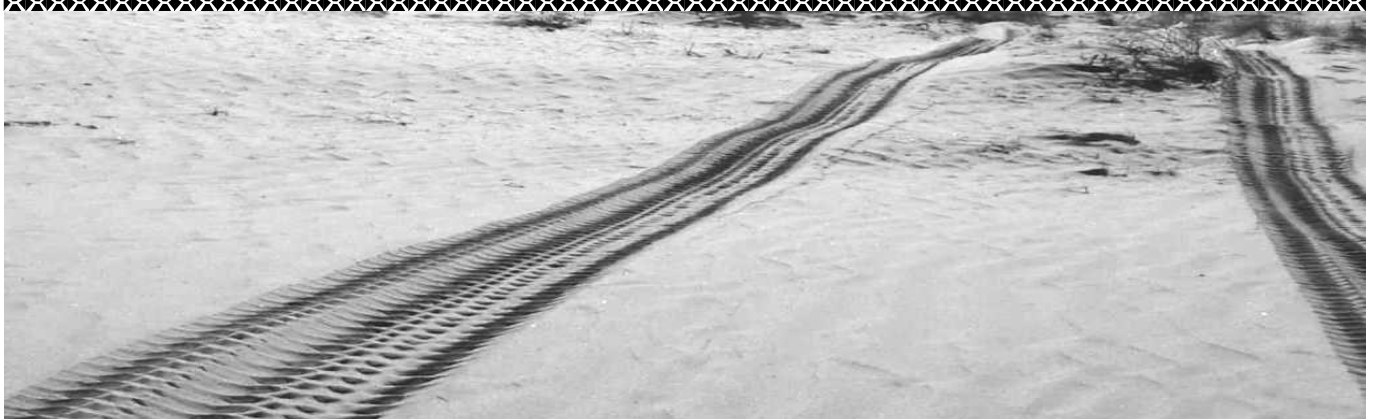
"4WD Spectacular"

DO YOU HAVE A WHEEL COVER ADVERTISEMENT FROM THE LAST SHOW?

The Dates on it can be changed so that it can be re-used.

If you have one, please return it to Rosemary Orr or a member of the committee.

Contact Rosemary on: 0414 568 358 or 6241 0464



Did you know – and can you help?

The National Library retains copies of almost all publications released in Australia, including our very own Southern Trails, including the first edition published in January 1977. As members of the public, we have access to these publications.

However, they are missing Issue numbers 3, 9, 12, 13, 15, 105, 185, 187, 219, and 326. They would really appreciate receiving any of these missing issues. If you are prepared to donate any of your back copies, or know of someone who may, please contact John Kjar on ph 6287 7574 or E-mail kjar@optusnet.com.au. Thank you in anticipation.

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EVENTS AND TRIPS

Richard Brand



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Advertisement

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"SAFE ONE" BASIC 4WD VEHICLE OPERATION COURSE

*The Southern Tablelands Four Wheel Drive Club will conduct **two-day Driver Training** exercises on 28th - 29th April, 30th June—1st July, and 8th—9th September 2007*

Follow-up Days** will be held on **Sundays, 1 week later.

Purpose:

To introduce new & old club members to vehicle equipment, daily maintenance, recovery techniques & equipment, and in particular teach them the skills necessary to safely operate their 4WD in a variety of terrains.

Meeting Time/Place:

Service Station in Bredbo (right hand side of highway) no later than 8.00 am on Saturday.

The Club's Education Coordinator is Peter Reynolds,
Tel (h) 6251-1258 or (m) 0428 623-458.

**PLEASE BOOK A PLACE ON ONE OF THESE COURSES WELL IN ADVANCE AND ALSO
RING PETER ONE WEEK BEFORE COURSE TO CONFIRM ATTENDANCE!
IF YOU DON'T, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR PLACE ON THE COURSE**

ONLY ONE DRIVER PER VEHICLE PER COURSE ALLOWED

WHAT TO BRING

- * Yourself & family and a 4WD in good mechanical condition
- * Camping gear for overnight stay
- * Food and Cooking gear for 2 days
- * Chairs to sit on in lessons and around the fire
- * Recovery gear, if you have it, but not essential
- * Garbage bags for all your rubbish to take home
- * Notebook & pen
- * Camera
- * A full tank of fuel
- * Torch
- * Drinking water.

- ♦ UHF Radio (optional – talk to Peter)
- ♦ Front and Rear Recovery Points preferred.

There is a large First Aid Kit at Talooage. Also a large gas BBQ

PLEASE DO NOT BRING PETS OR FIREARMS.

TALOOGE Topics

Jim Raleigh







**Places to go with
ST4WDC**

ABOUT TRIPS

TRIP GRADING

For trips in the club's calendar a grading system of levels 1 to 5 is used to assist members in deciding which trips they would most enjoy and which grade suits the driver's level of skill and experience. This system of grading is a guide only. The grade assigned to a trip may change due to weather conditions, and the trip leader should be consulted in such circumstances. The trip leader has the right to deny a request from a member/driver who is considered not to have the necessary level of skill in 4WD driving.

- *GRADE 1:** very easy with little, if any 4wd driving involved; will usually consist of a scenic tour or a trip to camp. No 4WD skills are needed.
- *GRADE 2:** a relatively moderate 4WD trip with winching and/or towing unlikely. Moderate level of 4WD skills needed, as well as completion of Basic Driver Education Course.
- *GRADE 3:** a medium 4WD trip which requires cautious driving; winching should not be required. Good level of 4WD skills needed, as well as completion of Basic Driver Education Course.
- *GRADE 4:** a moderately difficult 4WD trip with some winching and/or towing almost a certainty. High level of 4WD skills needed, as well as completion of both the Basic and Advanced Driver Education Courses.
- *GRADE 5:** an extremely difficult 4WD trip. Participants must be experienced at travelling over difficult terrain. Winching and/or towing will definitely be required and participants must have all their own recovery equipment. Skill levels the same as Grade 4.

DRIVER EXPERIENCE

Conditions on some trips at Grade 3 and above may prove too difficult for inexperienced drivers. You should advise the trip leader of your level of skill, and vehicle equipment when signing up for such a trip. New members must have attended the 'Safe-One' Basic Vehicle Operation Course before attending a Club trip above the Grade 1 level, unless you have satisfied the club's Education Coordinator that you have the necessary experience.

TRIP PLANNING

If you are planning a Trip or Social Event for the Club contact the Club Trips Co-ordinator at least two months in advance of your chosen dates. This will allow time to give your event a 'good plug' in the Southern Trails, and it helps to avoid clashes with other people's plans. Club policy requires that a Club event shall be publicised in at least one copy of the Club magazine, and at least one General Meeting of the Club, in order for it to be considered a formal Club event and so be covered for the purposes of insurance, subsidies and so forth.

For a trip using tracks that are not public roads it is Club policy that you must confirm with the appropriate authorities, in advance, that access is permitted on the dates you choose. This includes National Parks, State Forests as well as private property.

CB RADIOS

Most club members have a UHF radio fitted to their vehicle, which allows convoy procedure to be carried out. The Club standard is UHF radio. The Club uses Channel 14 as the standard channel for trips.

FIREARMS & PETS

Firearms are not permitted on club trips. Pets not allowed in National Parks, otherwise refer to Trip leader.

MEMBERSHIP PROCESSING

Membership applications are processed at the monthly committee meeting held on the third Tuesday of each month. Until applicants are formally accepted as a member and have met the skill requirements as set out above, they are not eligible to attend club trips involving 4WD driving.

TRIPS AND EVENTS



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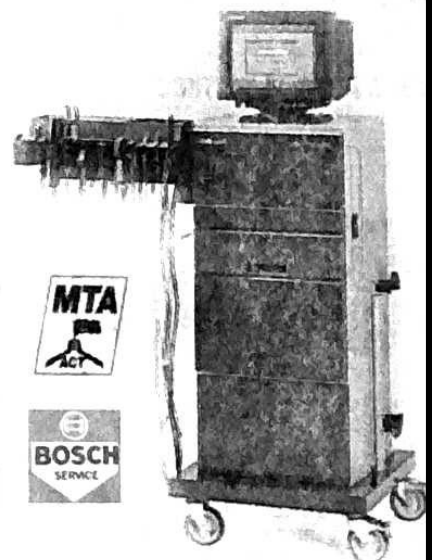
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Trip Report

Trip Report

Trip Report

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Profile

where members have a chance to explain how they came to be as they are

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If you have one, please return it to Rosemary Orr or a member of the committee.

Contact Rosemary on: 0414 568 358 or 6241 0464"

LOST AND FOUND

I have found a multi-tool kit at Talooge Park – please contact me if you think its yours.

Ph 6287 7574, Email Kjar@optusnet.com.au . John Kjar

Club Clothing

The Club clothing or a name badge can be ordered from Kathy Solomos at the monthly Meetings.
Payment for any item is expected when ordering.

Jackets	\$70.00
Shirts:	\$35.00
Vests:	\$45.00
Caps:	\$15.00
Hat:	\$15.00
Beanies:	\$15.00
Name Badges	\$10.00

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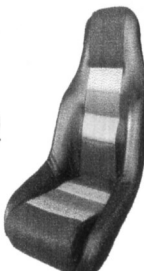


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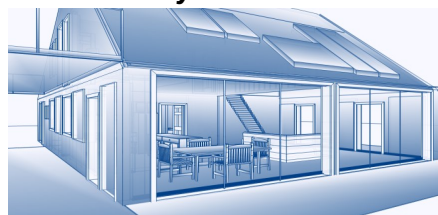
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NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

SOUTHERN TABLELANDS 4WD CLUB INC.

PO BOX 661 FYSHWICK ACT 2609



First year membership \$330. Ongoing Years \$100

The Club membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December. (Rates effective 1st January 2004.)

Please forward this form and your cheque/money order to ST4WDC at the above address.

Membership entitles the member and partner to attend the Club's training courses, including Basic 4WD Vehicle Operation Course, Very Difficult Terrain & Advanced Recovery, River Crossings, Sand Driving, Mud & Snow Driving, and Navigation, Map Reading & GPS courses.

Full membership of the Club (and participation as a driver on Grade 2-5 trips) requires successful completion of the Club's Basic Driver Education course, or recognised equivalent prior learning/qualification approved by the Club's Education Coordinator.

Following the Club's acceptance of your membership application, you should contact the Club's Education Coordinator (Mr Peter Reynolds, 6251 1258 ah or 0428-623-458 w.) to be allocated the next-available position on a scheduled Basic course. If you are unable to attend the allocated course, you will be allocated the next-available position on a later course.

Member 1: (Preferred first name, last name)

Member 2: (Preferred first name, last name)

.....

Address:

Suburb: State: Postcode:

E-mail:

Preferred contact phone (h) (w) (m)

Vehicle Make: Model: Registration No.

(Optional) Personal Details: Member 1

Member 2

(Occupation)

.....

(Relevant skills/additional info.)

.....

Upon acceptance of this application, then for the duration of my membership, I agree to abide by the Constitution of the Southern Tablelands Four Wheel Drive Club Inc, together with any Club By-laws as they apply from time to time.

Signed: (Member 1)..... Date:

Signed: (Member 2)..... Date:

Form & fees received: Fees forwarded to Treasurer:

Membership database updated: Membership package despatched:

Membership Card: Receipt Number:

Training Surcharge (\$200) paid Total received: \$.....

Other comments: