



# SOUTHERN TRAILS

## ISSUE 338 June 2007



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**Closing date for inclusion of articles in the next issue of SOUTHERN TRAILS is June 15th.**

**June Meeting Tuesday 12th June 2007 at  
7:30pm  
Deakin Sports Club**

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

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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.



## Directory



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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](http://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](mailto: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. Students are assigned an instructor over the period of the course. The 1:1 instructor/student ratio ensures maximum transfer of skills and experience.

The current courses are:

### **Mandatory Courses**

Basic Driver Training,  
Very Difficult Terrain, and  
Advanced Recovery (for Grade 4 and 5)

### **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



## The May meeting

It was great to have four presidents at the May meeting. Greg Redfern, President of 4 Wheel Drive NSW & ACT, drove down from Sydney to address us and the presidents of the ACT Landrover Club and the ACT 4Wheel Drive Club, Kevin Phillips and Greg Findlay also attended. Prior to our club meeting, we four discussed the association aims and operation along with the possibility of working more closely together to achieve our common aims. Their presence indicates the strength of our club and its standing in the four wheel drive community. All were impressed by the attendance of 101 members and visitors, the quality of our presentations and magazine as well as the enthusiasm of members.

Greg spoke about the state association and its attempts to improve communication between affiliated clubs and to better represent the wishes and interests of members of all clubs to politicians, the general public, road safety commentators, NSW Parks and Wildlife Service and State Forestry. To achieve this a number of initiatives have been developed. These include;

- a Memorandum of Understanding with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to further develop the relationship and introduce new projects acceptable to both parties
- a public relations team to actively and consistently promote a positive image of responsible off road driving for the association and affiliated clubs in NSW and the ACT
- the need form partnerships with other regional clubs to achieve common goals
- a regular update newsletter for inclusion in the magazines of affiliated clubs

- the benefits of affiliation: insurance, organizational and financial support for activities
- the development of a standardized driver training programme

- the improvements to the association website (<http://www.4wdnsw-act.asn.au>) state and national priorities and the need to form partnerships with other groups such as State Forestry and NPWS.

After the meeting Greg drove back to Sydney to prepare for some public relations activities for the association. That is dedication and enthusiasm.

## TALOOGEE

For those of you who remember the purchase of our own property; the first celebration held there was the christening of the then "block" renamed Talooge Park in a competition. The winner was named in the June 2004 magazine, if you care to look it up. I can't as my copy was sent to the ACT Heritage Library by my resident librarian.

The Committee considers it most important that the members themselves have an oppor-

tunity to contribute to the formulation of the Development Plan. TALOOGE belongs to all of us and we each have an equal right and responsibility to make suggestions which could contribute towards greater enjoyment by all users.

The original plan was to develop the lower paddock in the bend of the creek as the main function area. This was where we held our first official function. We named the area Thurbin Flat after a respected member who had contributed significantly to the club. The upper area was originally designated as exclusively for training and a work area. The latter has now been fairly well achieved and we must now decide if we develop Thurbin Flat as originally intended or concentrate on the upper area? Both have advantages. Developing the upper area concentrates us into a smaller area that limits numbers in some respects and can get pretty crowded but is established. Developing Thurbin Flat will require labour and dollars as we will need to duplicate facilities but it is a great camp and function site. Read the section on Talooge elsewhere in this edition and let a committee member



know your thoughts.

### **New Meeting Procedure**

At the last committee meeting Gary Caitcheon suggested that we rotate the responsibility of chairing the general meetings on a volunteer basis. This will give you the chance to see more of the committee in action and hopefully liven up the meeting a little. Some of you will doubtless appreciate not having to listen to me and I will appreciate the break. I think this is a great idea and wholeheartedly supported it to the committee which approved the change. Peter Reynolds has agreed to chair the June meeting so come along and enjoy the variation.

### **Talk to the Committee**

Remember to let your committee know your thoughts on any matter concerning the club. This will help us steer the club in the direction you wish. Phone, email or website are all welcome methods of communication as is the personal face-to face approach.

I look forward to talking with you or seeing you at the next meeting, at Talooge Park or on the track as *we are going places.*

*Peter Fenwick*

President

# MEMBERSHIP MURMURS

Jim Hanigan



There are no new members to introduce to you this month but there have been one or two nibbles from prospective new or rejoining members.

All members from 2006 who had not renewed their subscription by the beginning of May have received a letter by email or post as a reminder and to date there have been five renewals. Regretfully, five members have advised that they will not be renewing their membership for a variety of reasons. We wish Stan and Daphne Hillier well now that they have settled in to the mid coast and to the local club. Our thanks also go to Max and Jill Huntington, John and Patricia Robertson and Denis and Elaine Wignell who have also decided to withdraw from the club and have urged us to keep up the good work and reputation that we have achieved.

I will be away for the July and August General Meetings. If there is anyone who is interested in looking after the Membership Secretary duties at either or both meetings, please let me know at the June meeting, send me an email ( [membership@st4wdc.org](mailto:membership@st4wdc.org) ) or give me a call at home.

Also, if you have some ideas for attracting more members to the club please contact either myself or another committee member so that we can explore new ways of extending and improving your club. We have some ideas that are being considered at the moment but fresh minds may produce a new approach to the decline or plateauing in membership that most 4WD clubs seem to be experiencing at the moment.

See you at "Meet the Committee" in Belowra Park on 2-3 June or at the next General Meeting on 12 June in the Deakin Sports Club – until then safe traveling.

Jim Hanigan, Membership Secretary, Phone / Fax 02 6291 6392



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# PUBLICATIONS

John Wiseman



With the team approach we've introduced this year, the lead-time has been increased so that the load may be shared and the work spread over at least 10 days. A number of members of the Publishing Team are now able to use the publishing software and the results of their efforts are before you now. Sharing the workload has required increased lead time but provided more flexibility. Different people are now developing different articles and the compilation into the final format is also being shared. Next month, the final assembly of Southern Trails will rest with Peter Henderson, and the following month with Michael Patrick. Please make their task easier by getting articles in early.

Changes are also happening on our website, and further changes are planned to enable more members to upload and manage material there. Considerable effort is involved and sharing the load will lighten it.

Thank you to all who have provided the words and pictures that make up this issue. Not only have the contributions been generally of high quality, but material has arrived early, which is so essential if the workload is to be shared. Please keep them coming, using the [publications@st4wdc.org](mailto:publications@st4wdc.org) address. Particularly welcome are pictures of places to be visited in forthcoming (ok, "upcoming" if you must!) trips, or even "places to go" that aren't yet in the calendar.

To assist writers of trip reports, we have developed some notes to hopefully help you produce an informative article. The notes are included in the "Guidelines for

Contributors" section and they will also be sent to all trip leaders. If you volunteer to write a report, remember to ask the trip leader for the notes.

We're keen to see a diversity of articles on matters of interest to us 4WD people. Tyres (just what do all those numbers mean?), batteries (why are some rated in CCA's and others in Ah?), radios (what's special about HF rather than UHF?), installing secondary batteries (how much capacity is needed, what size wiring, what's an AGM?), camping gear, vehicle setups for camping, why fit a GPS?, which one?... the list goes on... and on. There's lots of experience and expertise in this Club. Please pound your keyboard (or sharpen your pencil) and produce a few hundred words that help to enlighten and may save others many hours of research. (A page with a photo or 2 contains about 450 words.)

Another good source of information is of course the internet. Do you have favourite sites you visit to source information? Email the URLs with a brief description and we'll assemble and publish a list of useful sites.

A final point that must be made: we have a good magazine. For a club with only 200 members, producing a quality 40+ page magazine each month is a major achievement. With rare exceptions, everything is written, photographed, produced and assembled by our members. And the point is? We are all amateur, human and prone to making mistakes. Please be patient when the inevitable happens, a fact turns out to be less than factual, or some unintended meaning creeps in.

Until next time, enjoy your driving – and keep your notebook and camera handy.



# EVENTS AND TRIPS

Richard Brand





# ACT Off Road Advert

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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 Talooge. Also a large gas BBQ

**PLEASE DO NOT BRING PETS OR FIREARMS.**



# Christmas in July

*14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> July*

*Laurel Hill Forest Lodge  
Tumbarumba*

*Join us for a fun - filled weekend.*

*A leisurely drive through our beautiful countryside,*

*Enjoying a lunchbreak in a scenic spot*

*And arrive just in time for a delectable Afternoon Tea.*

*Time to choose and settle in to your accommodation then participate in some fun activity until Happy Hour and preparation for a mouth - watering Three Course Dinner.*

*To complete the evening, join everyone in some great activities.*

*The next day, after an appetising breakfast, there will be two options to return home, either quickly, or at a more meandering pace.*

**What you need to bring**

*A great attitude and sense of humour*

*Red and green theme clothing for Saturday Dinner,*

*Morning Tea /Lunch for Saturday*

*and Sunday - (if you can fit it in)*

*Please contact Marj Jones on 62843456 /0427284236  
and book your place*

*Cost will be \$ 65 per head.*

# ARB

# Advertisement

Arb 5939 ALocker\_FP\_SthTrails.pdf

# TALOOGE Topics

Jim Raleigh



## Calendar of Events

Please advise additions or corrections by E-Mail to 'Talooge@st4wdc.org.au'

From	To	Activity	Contact	On
26-Apr-07	27-Apr-07	AFP Training Course	Jim Raleigh	0413 612 305
28-Apr-07	29-Apr-07	"Safe One" Basic Driver Training	Peter Reynolds	6251 1258 (H)
1-May-07	3-May-07	AFP Training Course	Jim Raleigh	0413 612 305
5-May-07	6-May-07	Envirofund Working Bee No:3	Graeme Kruse	6292 3073 (H)
29-May-07	31-May-07	AFP Training Course	Jim Raleigh	0413 612 305
8-Sep-07	9-Sep-07	"Safe One" Basic Driver Training	Peter Reynolds	6251 1258 (H)
1-Dec-07	2-Dec-07	Christmas Party	TBA	TBA

### Latest News

Thanks to all those who helped with the installation of an additional 22,500 litre water tank at TALOOGE on 1 May (see separate report). This gives us a total storage capacity of around 45,000 litres and although some plumbing still remains to be completed it is hoped that will have been

5/6 May. Although the turnout for this working bee (see separate report) was a little disappointing, the main objectives were achieved and we are now in a position to proceed with the planned direct seeding later this year.

As of 1 May, both gates into the 'Home' paddock at TALOOGE are fitted with combination padlocks. If you are not aware of the combination or experience difficulty with the locks, call Jim Raleigh (0413 612 305). Keys are still required for access through both of the 'Horse' paddock gates and to the buildings.

### TALOOGE Development

While much has been accomplished in the development of TALOOGE to date, most members would recognise there is a pressing need for the development of your property to be more closely coordinated so that activities are not undertaken

at crossed purposes, so that available effort and funds are concentrated on the higher priority requirements, and so that all initiatives are consistent with agreed longer term objectives.

To achieve this, your Committee is supporting the preparation of a TALOOGE Development Plan which will eventually be used by the TALOOGE Management Group to guide and prioritise development effort and the expenditure of allocated funds. It will also serve as a guide to Members, both new and existing, as to what the long term objectives are and what priority the Committee is giving to the necessary steps involved in meeting them.

The Committee considers it most important that the Members themselves have an opportunity to contribute to the formulation of the Development Plan. TALOOGE belongs to all of us and we each have an equal right and responsibility to make suggestions which could contribute towards greater enjoyment by all users.

Issues such as the following and many more need to be addressed:

✦ Are there any particular strat-



completed by the time you read this.

On the same day action was taken to restore the Fire Truck to full serviceability for the Envirofund Working Bee on the weekend of

egies we should be following in our development?

- ✦ What additional facilities such as showers are most urgently and/or eventually required?
- ✦ Should our development continue to be concentrated in the vicinity of the Driver Training Shed or should we have additional facilities such as down on Thurbon Flat (the lower river bend camping area)?
- ✦ Do we need to develop even more driver training facilities, such as those which would permit more advanced training?
- ✦ Is there a need to develop walking trails?
- ✦ What can we do to ensure the safety and security of our property?

you occupied. Activities (mainly working bees) described as 'Envirofund' related, as well as getting essential work complete, also serve to satisfy the club's commitment to contribute labour as our component to the project funded by the government grant.

### Use of TALOOG

Please remember that there are no restrictions on the use of TALOOG during the conduct of AFP Training Courses. You are welcome, and indeed are encouraged, to make use of your club facilities at any time.

Just a reminder - the Strike-a-Light Fire trail is normally locked and is not available for

It was proposed by the daughter of a member and her name has unfortunately passed into history without being recorded. Anyone who can recall the young lady's name is requested to let Jim Raleigh know so that it can be appropriately and properly recorded.



What would be ideal if we could ever afford it?

Contributions, can be made by e-mail to [TALOOG@st4wdc.org](mailto:TALOOG@st4wdc.org), or can be passed to Jim Raleigh (Property Coordinator) at any time.

Any time you have a spare day and would like to indulge in some outdoor activity, and perhaps make a small contribution to TALOOG development, let the TALOOG Management Group know (e-mail above) and they can make some suggestions to keep

unscheduled access to TALOOG. Access via Strike-a-Light will normally be available for club activities (Training Courses, Working Bees etc) and can be made available on request with a minimum of 24 hours notice (Contact Jim Raleigh on 0413 612 305 or Peter Fenwick on 0412 866 375).

### Do you happen to know?

The name TALOOG, an acronym for To Always Look Over Our Great Environment, was selected as the result of a competition among club members and their families soon after the property was purchased in 2003.



# Getting TALOOGE Tanked

**Jim Raleigh**

## Participants

Adrian Gallman  
Don Wiltshire  
'Duck' Tonge  
Graeme Kruse  
Jim Raleigh  
John Kjar  
Neville Simpson  
Peter and Sue Watson  
Theo Cassidy

A second 22,500 litre water tank was successfully installed at TALOOGE on Tuesday 1 May.

Jim, towing a car trailer kindly loaned by his neighbour collected the tank from 'Get Tanked' in Fyshwick at 0900, having first loaded two large rolls of plastic pipe and the club's pump from

Deves Field (Peter Butterfield). With Adrian following behind to keep an eye on things, they headed down the highway for a relatively slow, heavily wind resisted, but otherwise uneventful trip to TALOOGE. The rest of the team rendezvoused by radio and accompanied the tank for at least part of the trip. A very uneventful passage ensued through Southwell's and the Calabash Fire Trail that was still clear from the efforts of the previous tank installation.

On arrival, a trailer load of sand was promptly delivered to the prepared site (up the slope in the trees behind the buildings) and carefully leveled while Adrian set about clearing a small number of obstacles from the track in to the site between the many trees. Having squeezed the tank between two larger trees right by

the site it was an 'all hands' job to carefully roll it off the trailer and lay it flat on the prepared site. The most difficult part was rotating it 80 degrees to get the outlet in the correct position however this was accomplished with a rotary tug of war using long ropes.

One roll of pipe was laid along the previously prepared trench and with some temporary plumbing changes to the existing tank, now overflowing with the recent rain; the pump was connected to transfer some water to the new tank. Pumping for around 90 minutes resulted in the transfer of approximately 5,000 litres of water leaving space in the existing tank to collect the next lot of rain!

All that remains now is to install the remainder of the plumbing (hopefully by the end of May) and we will have a supply of good



# Talooge Working Bee 14/15 April

Ian Swindley, John Kjar

**Participants** a cast of thousands!!!

A great turnout for the working bee at Talooge. There was a track building gang, rock pickers, burr cutters and renovation specialists. In the driver training room some work was required to fit the wood heater, erect a notice board and fit a window to the south wall of the room.



Peter B took on the task of fitting the chimney to the stove once its position had been finalized.

Harry and I started on cutting and fastening the notice board. Mark arrived and joined in and made things faster and easier. It did not take long and the panels were fixed to the dividing wall in the training room and the trim fitted.

The next project was to fit a window; a filthy window was retrieved from one of the storage sheds and the appropriate measurements taken by Harry. The type of window frame did not lend itself to easy fitting to that type of wall so a bit a debate was

held until a solution was arrived at and a final position for it was decided on.

After careful measurements were applied a hole was cut through the lining of the shed and the outer metal covering and the window securely fastened in place. Extra support was fitted to the wall to give it more stiffness and strength and the outer covering was replaced around the frame.

It took several attempts to clean the window so we could see through it. When we were finally successful there was a view that would add thousands to the value of any house in any developed area. As a result of the strong work ethic of our team the project was completed by mid afternoon. Mark had to

go so Harry and I decided to go and see how the track building was progressing.

It was my first working bee at Talooge and I found it most enjoyable, there was a great sense of achievement felt by everyone there. A great deal was accomplished but there is a lot more to do yet.

These weekends are a great opportunity to get to know more people in our club and to make a contribution to its expansion and ideals. From my observations working bees like this are how the club has achieved a complex like it has at Talooge, for the benefit of all club members both current and for those who will join us in the future.

Support your club, come along next time and have an enjoyable day or weekend.

What is public liability insurance? All insurance is a way of dealing with risk; in this case the risk that the club or a member of club will become liable to compensate another person for damage or loss





Meanwhile, the rock pickers had been hard at work. The results of their labour was clearly visible.

From the toilet block, you can now gaze down the paddock to the creek and hardly see a rock or serrated tussock or the dreaded lambs tongue (Verbascum) thanks to the work of a tireless group of workers. This area could become a great camping ground as well as a play area for kids.

From this small area, our working group picked up six trailer loads of rocks which were deposited into strategic sections of the tracks over two creek crossings, as well as a large depression in the paddock which will now become a rock garden! We also placed some larger and mossy covered stones around the garden in front of the firepit.

While discussing our achievements during lunch and agreeing that rocks seem to grow in these areas and rock-removal is a never-ending task, our worst fears were confirmed. Ian Swindley said he had experienced 30 years of collecting rocks on his parents farm and the task was never completed. No wonder he was not a volunteer for our group but had quickly found alternative productive employment with Harry Millers team! Those not put off by the task included Owen and Bronwen Jensen, Kerry Blakston, Marj Jones, Catherine Panich, Peter Fenwick, Theo Cassidy and John Kjar.

Later on, after a good cup of tea and club-supplied BBQ sausages, Catherine wielded her magic wand over lots of Verbascum plants and sure enough, within a day or two, they were looking very sad. So successful was the wand that we plan to purchase several more so that many more people can experience the pleasure of easily removing a problem and invasive weed from TALOOGIE. Marj used more traditional means – a mattock and lots of energy – to remove many more Verbasiums. While this death and destruction was occurring, Theo and John relocated approximately 150 concrete slabs to the area adjacent to the offset mounds. These slabs will be used in places where additional traction is required.

## **"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"**

## 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



## **5 - 6 May      Envirofund Working Bee 3 – Burning Off and Weed Spraying      (2007-021)**

- Trip Leader: Graeme Kruse
- Trip Leader: Don Wiltshire
- Phone: 6161 1880
- Vehicles: Unlimited
- Grade: 1
- Start: 9:00 AM
- Departure: Bredbo – 9.00am, on the road to Jerangle 100m off the Monaro Hwy
- Water: The burning off will be a dirty task. Consequently, it will be to your advantage and comfort to have an adequate supply of water for washing purposes
- Requirements: Overalls (cotton) or similar, eye protection (goggles), leather work boots (synthetic shoes are highly susceptible to fire and ember damage), stout garden gloves (leather), hat and water bottle.
- Enthusiasm, good cheer, food, water, camping equipment and the very important stuff for 'happy hour'
- Description: This is the third of the working bees that contributes towards the Club's component of the Federal Government Envirofund grant. The burning off is a necessary step to remove the dead over burden of weeds prior to direct seeding in early spring. The burning off will be conducted in four separate areas – one area of about 3ha and three of about 1ha. Spraying of weeds will be done by members who have training and experience in herbicide application

## **6 May      "Safe One" Basic Driver Training Course Follow-Up Day      (2007-022)**

Description: This is day three of the basic driver education course starting on the 28th -29th April 2007 and MUST be attended before participating on any Club trips where the proposed route is expected to be at Grade 2 or above.

## **12 May      Badja Fire Trail Day Trip      (2007-024)**

- Trip Leader: Rosemary Orr
- Phone: 6241 0454; 0414 568 358 (m)
- Vehicles: 8
- Grade: 2
- Start: 8:15 AM
- Departure: Williamsdale
- Fuel: Full tank
- Requirements: Basic driver training well maintained vehicle, good tyres, water for the day, morning tea and lunch.

## **19 - 20 May      Paddy's River Dam      (2007-025)**

# TRIPS AND EVENTS



**Trip Leader:** Dennis and Margaret Collins  
**Email:** margden1@actewagl.net.au  
**Phone:** 6292 7423  
**Vehicles:** 8  
**Grade:** 2  
**Start:** 8:00 AM  
**Departure:** Uriarra Homestead  
**Fuel:** Full tank, refuel at Tumut if required  
**Maps:** Batlow 1:25000  
 Wondalga 1:25000  
 Courabyra 1:25000  
 Tumut State Forest Map  
**Requirements:** Basic recovery gear, UHF radio, good tyres, well maintained vehicle. Drinking water and communal happy hour nibbles. A canoe if you have one. Camping trailers with 4WD tyres are welcome.  
**Description:** This is a great location above Batlow in the State Forest area situated on the Hume and Hovell walking track, where the dam looks like a natural lake set in a clearing in the forest. Camping is amongst the trees on the foreshore, and you can even catch trout in the dam. We will drive through to Tumut via the Goodradigbee, then to the Blowering Dam wall, Batlow then through various tracks to Paddys River dam site. It is not a hard drive but is interesting and scenic. For those that are interested you can go Sapphire fossicking, walk the Hume and Hovel, sit and read a book or just take in the lake scenery. On Sunday we will return to Canberra via Tumbarumba, Kiandra, Aaminaby then through Shannons Flat to Tharwa. It may be cool so come prepared for all types of weather and expect some wonderful scenery, this may be your last chance to put the tent up before winter

## **26 - 27 May Postman's Knock**

**(2007-026)**

**Trip Leader:** John Kjar  
**Email:** Kjar@optusnet.com.au  
**Phone:** 6287 7574  
**Vehicles:** 6  
**Grade:** 2  
**Start:** 8:00 AM  
**Departure:** Williamsdale  
**Fuel:** Full tank on departure from Canberra, refill opportunity at Candelo  
**Maps:** Badja 1:25000  
 Belowra 1:25000  
**Requirements:** Basic recovery gear, UHF radio, good tyres, well maintained vehicle, drinking water and community happy hour nibbles  
**Description:** This trip will take in a wide range of driving environments – from rocky fire trails, scenic views of the Wadbilliga and Deua National Parks, Tuross River crossing, the historic alter-

# TRIPS AND EVENTS



native route from Cooma to the Coast (Postman's Track) and the rolling blue-grass plains of Belowra. Side-trips to Tuross Falls and Peak Alone are possible.

## **2 - 3 Jun Belowra – Meet The Committee**

**(2007-027)**

- Trip Leader: Richard Brand  
 Email: richard.brand@webone.com.au  
 Phone: 0418 568 358 (m)  
 Vehicles: unlimited  
 Grade: 2  
 Start: 8:00 AM  
 Departure: Williamsdale Several convoys tba  
 Fuel: Full tank  
 Maps: tba  
 Requirements: Basic recovery gear including Berocca (use Google but turn down the volume). UHF radio. Happy hour snacks. Pot luck main course for dinner. Table decorations. Black tie. Lunch for two days plus breakfast.  
 Description: Off-Road Trailers welcome if tyres match towing vehicle. Canoe if you have one  
 This is a major Club Event and this year combines a social evening with a great 4WD trip through the mountains nearly to the sea. The Club has booked a delightful sheltered campsite on private land at Belowra, close to the coast near Bodalla and right alongside the beautiful Tuross river. There will be a formal black tie dinner, restaurant-style with maitre'd, candelabra, plus sumptuous desserts provided by the Club. Only your top half needs to be black tie – shorts and thongs are fine down-under. A number of the Committee will likely be cross-dressing ... and will then be inducted as only your maitre'd knows how. Please book as soon as possible so we can confirm the campsite booking, dessert catering, convoys and convoy routes. Off-road camping trailers will be catered for, and expect some entertaining competitions en-route and great prizes on the night  
 Comments: Camping fees \$10 per adult, \$6 for under 15 and \$4 for under 5 years old

## **16 Jun Micalong Ramble Day Trip**

**(2007-029)**

- Trip Leader: Catherine Panich  
 Email: capan@homemail.com.au  
 Phone: 6281 5175 (h)  
 Vehicles: 8  
 Grade: 3  
 Start: 8:15 AM  
 Departure: Uriarra Homestead  
 Fuel: Full tank  
 Requirements: Basic driver training, well maintained vehicle, good tyres, water for the day, morning and afternoon tea, lunch  
 Description: We will travel a number of fire trails such as Pabral Road, Powerline fire trail, Folly fire trail, Woolshed fire trail before dropping down into the Goodradigbee Valley to reach Wee Jasper. After exploring Michalong Reserve we'll come home by a more direct route. Expect

# TRIPS AND EVENTS



steep climbs and descents, outstanding scenery and congenial company. Of course participants of all ages are welcome

## **17 Jun**      **New Trip Leader's Seminar**      **(2007-053)**

Trip Leader: John Kjar  
Email: Kjar@optusnet.com.au  
Phone: 6287 7574  
Start: 10:00 AM  
Departure: Weston Club  
Description: You asked for it and here it is. An information packed day to help you lead successful trips, presented by highly experienced club members. Lots of opportunities to interact, share experiences and gain confidence

## **30 Jun - 1 Jul**      **"Safe One" Basic Driver Training at Talooge Park**      **(2007-030)**

Trip Leader: Peter Reynolds  
Phone: 6251 1258 (h); 0428 623 458 (m)  
Description: This is the Club's official and accredited basic driver education course

## **1 - 19 Jul**      **Corner Country, Birdsville and Flinders Ranges**      **(2007-031)**

Trip Leader: Ian Brown  
Phone: 6241 9468 (h); 0412 148 096 (m)  
Vehicles: 6  
Grade: 2  
Start: 12:00 AM  
Departure: tba  
Fuel: Full tank  
Requirements: Basic driver training, well maintained vehicle, basic recovery gear, UHF radio, good tyres, food, water and happy hour supplies  
600-km fuel range  
Description: Travel from Canberra to Cameron Corner via White Cliffs then on to the Dig Tree, Haddon Corner and Birdsville. Possible day trip to Big Red. Down the Birdsville Track to Maree with the possibility of a couple of days in the Flinders Ranges. Through Peterborough to Broken Hill, on to Menindee, down to Wentworth then home via the Sturt Highway.

## **8 Jul**      **"Safe One" Basic Driver Training Course Follow-up Day**      **(2007-032)**

Description: This is day three of the basic driver education course on the 30 June, 1 July 2007 and MUST be attended before participating on any Club trips where the proposed route is expected to be at Grade 2 or above

## **14 Jul - 12 Aug**      **Centre of the Simpson & Geo Survey Hill**      **(2007-035)**

# TRIPS AND EVENTS



- Trip Leader:** Dave Sutton
- Phone:** 6281 1484 (h); 0427 811 484 (m)
- Vehicles:** 8, sorry no trailers on this one; too difficult to tow
- Grade:** 3
- Departure:** ACT-NSW border rest area, near Hall on the Barton Hwy
- Fuel:** 250 litres for medium petrol, 400 litres large petrol, 300 litres large diesel
- Maps:** Hema Desert Maps
- Requirements:** Simpson Desert: 1:250,000 Simpson Desert South, Hale River and McDills  
Basic Driver Training, basic recovery gear, UHF CB. You need a well maintained vehicle, with recent drive train and wheel bearing service.
- Vehicles will need compressors and fitted, rated recovery hooks, basic tools and spares, fire extinguishers, Spinifex hooks and a 2 litre pressure sprayer. You also need big, high sand flags
- Participants will need to carry enough water and food for 10 days, not including weather delays and breakdowns. For those vehicles prone to Spinifex fires, it would be a good idea to remove the bash plates.
- This is a group trip and the whole group needs each other to get through; participants will be chosen by what they can offer to the group in the way of various life experience and expertise.
- Description:** The plan is to start from Finke go to Old Andado and then head east on the start of Madigans Line. Continue east across country to Geo-Survey Hill and then head south down the dune corridors to the Centre of the Simpson. From there, try and follow the seismic shot lines to the east until we make it to the QAA line and then onto Birdsville. How we get to Finke is optional at this stage. This should be the mother of all trips. It is a trip that few people attempt. Not a lot of info is available, but have been researching for 3 years now. This is all cross country, to areas not visited much by people. Many of the shot lines have disappeared and the sand dunes are big with a lot of shifting sand that can play havoc on hard tyres along with torturous Spinifex hummocks. Fifty kilometre a day will be a normal, long and enjoyable day, but great campfires at night and the stars are fantastic
- Comments:** Low tyre pressure will be the way to travel, and low means very low!!! Fuel usage could be as high as 26 lts per 100 kms. 10 days of low range driving & diff locks are an advantage

## **14 - 15 Jul      Christmas in July at Tumbarumba**

**(2007-034)**

- Trip Leader:** Marg Jones
- Phone:** 6284 3456
- Vehicles:** unlimited
- Grade:** 1
- Start:** 8:15 AM
- Departure:** Uriarra Homestead
- Fuel:** Full tank

# TRIPS AND EVENTS



- Requirements:** Well maintained vehicle, good tyres, water for the day, morning tea plus lunch for both days, and byog and happy hour nibbles for the evening
- Bring your own bedding for the supplied bunks
- Description:** A three-year old 'tradition' in the making! Great drives there and back, in 'easier' and 'harder' convoys. We stay overnight in bunkhouses in a converted low-security gaol "Laurel Hill Forest Lodge" set in picturesque alpine grounds - see <http://www.laurelhillforestlodge.com.au/index.htm>. Our hosts provide warm scones and cream on arrival, a great 3-course Christmas dinner and a memorable breakfast to set us up for the trip home. Unspeakable games have been played into the early hours. A great social weekend with a choice of easy or harder drives there and back
- Comments:** Cost to be confirmed but unbelievably reasonable for accomodation, tea, dinner and breakfast. Please book as soon as possible so numbers can be locked down at the gaol!

## **19 Aug      Tallaganda State Forest Day trip      (2007-037)**

- Trip Leader:** Peter Fenwick
- Phone:** 0412 866 375 (m)
- Vehicles:** 8
- Grade:** 2
- Start:** 8:15 AM
- Departure:** MacDonalds, Queanbeyan
- Fuel:** Full tank
- Requirements:** Basic driver training well maintained vehicle, good tyres, water for the day, morning tea and lunch for the day

## **8 - 9 Sep      "Safe One" Basic Driver Training at Talooge Park      (2007-038)**

- Trip Leader:** Peter Reynolds
- Phone:** 6251 1258 (h); 0428 623 458 (m)
- Description:** This is the Club's official and accredited basic driver education course

## **8 - 23 Sep      History,Wine & Animals      (2007-041)**

- Trip Leader:** Kerry Blakston and Barry Woodyatt
- Email:** [blakston@westnet.com.au](mailto:blakston@westnet.com.au)
- Phone:** 6254 6695
- Vehicles:** 6
- Grade:** 2
- Start:** 8:15 AM
- Departure:** National Dinosaur Museum, Barton Highway
- Fuel:** Full tank
- Requirements:** Basic Recovery gear, UHF radio, good tyres, plenty of water



# TRIPS AND EVENTS



Gas stove for meal cooking as some camp sites in the National Parks do not allow open/ fireplace cooking. No pets

- Description:** Destinations – Hay – Mungo NP – Little Desert NP – Grampians NP – Ballarat – Rutherglen – Weddin Mountains NP – Dubbo – Hill End Historic Site. We will be meeting up with the Milton-Ulladulla NP walking group at Mungo NP. There will be a 3 night stay to see the ancient history of this magic place. Some 4WD driving through the other National Parks. Australian history at Sovereign Hill – Ballarat. Wine tours in Rutherglen. Animals at the Dubbo Zoo. Big 4 camping at Hay, Ballarat & Dubbo. Campsite camping in the National Parks. This trip will be 2 weeks at a fairly leisurely pace, enjoying Australia's beautiful landscape and some of Australia's best wine
- Comments:** Vehicle Fees will apply in the National Parks

## **15 Sep MacIntyre's Hut and Flea Creek Day trip** (2007-042)

- Trip Leader:** Peter Fenwick
- Phone:** 0412 866 375 (m)
- Vehicles:** 8
- Grade:** 2
- Start:** 8:15 AM
- Departure:** Uriarra Homestead
- Fuel:** Full tank
- Requirements:** Basic driver training well maintained vehicle, good tyres, water for the day, morning tea and lunch

## **16 Sep "Safe One" Basic Driver Training Course Follow-up Day** (2007-040)

- Description:** This is day three of the basic driver education course starting on the 8th and 9th September 2007 and MUST be attended before participating on any Club trips where the proposed route is expected to be at Grade 2 or above.

## **22 Sep - 14 Oct Outback NSW and Coongie Lake** (2007-043)

- Trip Leader:** Dennis and Margaret Collins
- Email:** margden1@actewagl.net.au
- Phone:** 6292 7423
- Vehicles:** 6
- Grade:** 2
- Start:** 8:00 AM
- Departure:** Barton Highway at Hall near the NSW border
- Fuel:** Along the way as required
- Maps:** HEMA Central Australia  
HEMA Outback New South Wales
- Requirements:** Basic Driver Training, basic recovery gear, UHF radio, good tyres, well maintained vehicle,

# TRIPS AND EVENTS



drinking water, Desert Parks Pass for access into the Innamincka Regional Reserve and be set up for remote area camping.

**Description:** We are planning this trip to be casual and visit as many national parks as we can. It is proposed to go via Mungo National Park, Kinchega National Park, Broken Hill, Mutawintji National Park, Tibbooburra and the Stuart National Park, Innamincka and then to Innamincka Regional Reserve and Coongie Lake, from here we plan to drive down the Strzelcki Track to Arkaroola then to the Flinders Ranges. Coongie Lakes are famous for their spectacular scenery and bird life and should be worth a visit after the floods in Queensland earlier this year. Mutawintji Historic Site has some of the best aboriginal paintings, stencils and engravings in the area, which require a separate tour to be booked, and Mungo is a must for all visitors. In addition we will stop over at Broken Hill to explore the sights and restock before heading north to Coongie Lakes.

## **29 - 30 Sep Willow Glen 4x4 Challenge (2007-044)**

**Trip Leader:** Peter Reynolds  
**Phone:** 6251 1258 (h); 0428 623 458 (m)  
**Vehicles:** 6: 4 competitors, 1 reserve, 1 team leader. Unlimited supporters  
**Grade:** 2  
**Start:** 8:15 AM  
**Fuel:** Full tank  
**Requirements:** Good truck, excellent tyres, twin lockers and suspension lift an advantage  
**Description:** This is the best inter-Club competition weekend in the calendar. What's more, Southern Tablelands has won outright for the last two years! Anybody can enter and have a real ball. Drive to your limit. It is not a time trial style competition. All spectators are welcome, plenty of camping space for everyone. More details in due course. We need your support

## **13 - 14 Oct Mount Dowling and Cowra Creek (2007-046)**

**Trip Leader:** Alan and Marj Jones  
**Phone:** 6284 3456  
**Vehicles:** 8  
**Grade:** 2  
**Start:** 8:15 AM  
**Departure:** Williamsdale  
**Fuel:** Full tank  
**Requirements:** Basic driver training well maintained vehicle, good tyres, water for the day, morning tea and lunch  
**Description:** Mount Dowling is the biggest mountain visible from Strike-A-Light Fire Trail as you come out of Talooge Park. Cowra Creek is a huge gold mining area about an hour away from Talooge Park. It has massive tailings dams, workings and even abandoned rail skips. The local hobby seems to be looping telephone handsets over overhead wires.

# TRIPS AND EVENTS



## **27 - 28 Oct**      **Water Crossing and Sand Driving Course**

**(2007-047)**

Trip Leader: Peter Reynolds

Phone: 6251 1258 (h); 0428 623 458 (m)

Description: This is the Club's official water crossing and sand driving course. For more information contact Peter Reynolds

## **3 - 9 Nov**      **Snowy Mountains Trout Festival**

**(2007-048)**

Trip Leader: Peter Reynolds

Phone: 6251 1258 (h); 0428 623 458 (m)

Vehicles: 8

Grade: 2

Departure: tba

Fuel: Full tank

Requirements: Basic driver training well maintained vehicle, good tyres, water for the day, morning tea and lunch

## **17 Nov**      **Postman's Track Ramble Day Trip**

**(2007-050)**

Trip Leader: Rick and Wendy Holland

Phone: 6292 6537; 0412 335 962 (m)

Vehicles: 8

Grade: 2

Start: 8:15 AM

Departure: Williamsdale

Fuel: Full tank

Requirements: Basic driver training well maintained vehicle, good tyres, water for the day, morning tea and lunch

## **1 - 2 Dec**      **Christmas Party at Talooge**

**(2007-052)**

Trip Leader: Richard Brand

Email: [trips@st4wdc.org](mailto:trips@st4wdc.org)

Phone: 0418 568 358 (m)

Vehicles: unlimited

Grade: 1

Start: 8:30 AM

Departure: Williamsdale

Fuel: Full tank

Requirements: UHF radio, happy hour provisions, pot luck main course, lunches and breakfast. Also a se-

# TRIPS AND EVENTS



cret wrapped present for each child you are bringing, plus an inventive wrapped grown-up present valued under \$15. Table decorations

**Description:** Two packed days of fun for children and adults alike. Kids games will be followed by games for kids-at-heart. Santa will visit, there will be the Gift Grab, kid's movies then the communal dinner following happy hour. Guess the wine, best table decoration, club-provided desserts and camp-fire camaraderie take us through to the "Morning-after Funkana". Bigger and better than ever, this will test your driving skills, patience, trust and communication abilities as never before. Not to be missed.

## **9 - 10 Feb      4WD Spectacular and Camping Show      (2008-001)**

**Vehicles:** Unlimited

**Grade:** 1

**Departure:** Queanbeyan Showground

**Description:** This is the major bi-annual event for our Club. Put these dates in your diary now! We expect well over 10,000 paying visitors. Please find time in the days before to help build the test track, put up the Club marquee & Exhibition display areas. The Club needs lots of helpers on the Friday to help set up the Club Tent and during the weekend itself to staff the Club tent, talk to visitors, help with parking control, and take part in demonstrations and competitions. There will be at least 120 commercial Stands exhibiting camping, 4WD gear, fishing gear, off-road trailers etc. Many exhibitors will offer significant discounts on their products. There really is no better way in Australia to try out 30 new 4WDs on the same track on the same day! Be there to help YOUR club and enjoy the benefits & bargains, and help contribute to charities.

# TRIPS AND EVENTS



4WD Big Weekend 2006



Get ready for the  
2008  
4WD Spectacular  
and  
Camping Show

## LEE & THOMAS

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# Trip Report

# Trip Report

## Monga Fire Trail—15th April

**Brian Hartfield**

### Trip Leaders:

Bruce & Jenny Collins

Nissan Patrol

### Participants:

Ian Goodacre and Ben

Toyota Hilux

Chris Harris

Toyota 100 series

Jarrold & Karen Coleman

Toyota 80 series

Alex, Jack & Amy

Brian Hartfield

Toyota 100 series

Jessica & Halie

Lunch completed we all headed back to the Coast Road heading south for about 15 kms before we turned right off the bitumen and onto Misty Mountain Road, however, on this day it was more like Dusty Mountain Road making it necessary for the vehicles to spread well out to avoid the clouds of dust. We continued along No Name Mountain Fire Trail where we came across some good 4WD trails that required low range.

Ten water crossings (would have been good to cross had there been more recent rain in the area) and four hairpin uphill bends made some of the driving a little more challenging.

After leaving the 4WD trails we continued onto the Araluen/Moruya Road to the Araluen Pub where we stopped briefly and said our farewells before heading on to Braidwood and Canberra.

Our thanks to Jenny and Bruce for a great day out and a chance to see some areas that a lot of people don't get to see.

Meeting point was the Caltex garage in Bungendore at 0815 where Jenny produced several maps and explained where we would attempt to go.

Some of the trails had only recently been reopened so it would be part reccy to see where we could go.

We left Bungendore around 0845 and headed for Braidwood where we stopped briefly for Jenny to pick up some extra maps of the Monga National Park. After leaving Braidwood we travelled south on the blacktop for approximately 20 kms until we turned right onto the River Forest Road and onto the dirt. Some easy driving through forest trails and areas of tree ferns brought us to our first destination – Mongarlowe River Picnic Area where we stopped for morning tea.

This is a jewel in the National Park with all the facilities you

would like for a picnic/bar b q. (an ideal place to stop and eat on your way to the coast). A short 500 metre stroll brings you to the river.

Having left the picnic area behind we continued along River Forest Road and Milo Road where we left the 2WD tourist loop and started on some 4WD tracks. The next 3-4 hours was spent travelling along some very interesting tracks where the scenery changed frequently from tall forest trees to large sections of Tree Ferns. From Milo Road we continued along Cutters Track, Saddleback Road, Granite Bluff Road, Reidsdale Road and back onto River Forest Road where we stopped for lunch at the Dasyurus Picnic Area. The only casualty along the way was a staked tyre belonging to Chris Harris.



# Trip Report: Mystery Bay Trailer Trip

17-19 February 2007 continued

Report by Catherine Panich of the second convoy

## Participants

Rob and Yvonne Dobson with an Ultimate and a Patrol – leaders of first group  
Baz Woodyatt and Kerry Blakston with a tent and Bundy  
Bronwyn and Owen Jenson with a Cub and Patrol  
Carl Cameron and son with a tent and Pajero  
David and Sue Whiteside with a tent and Escape  
Dick and Jan Johnstone with a Cub and 100 series  
Greg and Vickie Taylor and 3 children with a Tvan and Patrol  
Lynn and Ann McDonald with an Ultimate and 100 series  
Peter and Dell Clayton tent and Prado  
Catherine Panich with a Tvan and Pajero  
Richard Brand tent and LC  
Rob and Penny Azzato and children with a trailer and LC  
Val Holbrook and Gordon Stone with a tent and Prado – leaders of second group

As usual I was late. I was supposed to join the first convoy and arrived at Williamsdale 5 minutes after they had left. I guess this is why I'm writing this report; the penalty for being late and I didn't even sleep in! Everyone in the second group was already there but we followed instructions and waited for the designated departure time. We still caught up with the first group at morning tea! Actually they were about to leave but it was good to say hello. We stayed on the first group's tail most of the day. Their excuse was that they had to clear the track. We didn't see any evidence of chopped up branches but we were assured that gloves, saws and muscle power came out on several occasions.

Once on fire trails proper everyone decreased tyre pressure further. Our route took us along the Badja Fire Trail, Woila Creek Trail, Belowra Road, across the mighty Tuross River to Peak Alone Fire Trail and onto Wandella Road. I was by myself as Peter F had to attend a Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT meet-

ing. It seemed a little over-kill to have a trailer all to myself but it was already packed and yes, I wanted to challenge myself but I was praying that I wouldn't have to do any backing. Ladies, can you relate to this desire? Well just before reaching the Tumut River Gordon called over the radio that he had missed the turn off and would have to do a U turn. My heart sank. I quickly reminded him that I had a TRAILER and needed space. I didn't tell him that my anxiety levels had rocketed. Luckily up ahead was a driveway but it still required a back and fill even for cars without a trailer. Baz was my saviour. He offered to direct me. With his expert directions and my newly learnt trailer backing skills (CIT Trailer Backing Course, but at that point unpractised) I managed it with room to spare. Thank you Baz. The next challenge was the river crossing, but I had been here before and Peter F had assured me I could do it. With his words of encouragement bouncing around in my brain I did do it and it proved that the Tvan

was indeed water proof. With rain during the week water levels were up and both kitchen and storage hatches were half submerged.

Of course by the time we arrived at the camp site the first group had taken all the best sites, I mean the easiest ones to drive FORWARD into. I spied a great spot, the perfect size; just far enough away from the others for privacy, but it required more backing! As I was baulking Richard came to my rescue. No he didn't offer to drive, he offered to direct me. He assumed I was perfectly capable so I had to live up to expectation. Ladies you would be proud of me, I backed 25 metres between trees with literally a foot to spare on each side. When I got there Yvonne warned me that Rob's ZZZ coming from her trailer might keep me awake so I moved even further back AND straightened up.

That evening I discovered that it is perfectly OK to have happy hour without a campfire. We sat in a huge circle, introduced ourselves and swapped stories over nibbles and that kept going around and round the circle. I'd forgotten to pack wine (Peter where are you?) but I needn't have worried as the group generously shared with me. As two singles Richard and I shared our dinners and another bottle of wine to be joined after dinner by Baz and Kerry with yet more wine.

Sunday morning was time for a sleep in. The ZZZ from the neighbour hadn't disturbed me at all. My sister, who lives near Mogo, joined me in time for breakfast. We spent a perfect day wandering around, talking, walking, exploring, ice cream at Narooma, a candle lit dinner and more wine



(her's this time).

The convoy home was much smaller, only 6 vehicles. My sister waved us off. She looked a little lonely in the suddenly empty camp. We headed south to Cobargo and took the Yowrie Road to Yowrie of course then up the Wadbilliga Trail. A fallen tree and boulders on the road provided small challenges, (just a matter of lining up the car and the trailer) otherwise the track was perfect, the scenery stunning. We stopped for lunch at a water crossing on the Wadbilliga River. The trip was nearly over and we were all a bit subdued.

Once back on the black top we aired up and said our goodbyes. Some of the convoy went into Cooma for ice creams. I drove straight home to share my triumphs with Peter. Thank you Rob and Yvonne for a perfectly wonderful 3 days.

## Deddick Fire Trail revisited

**Tony Kisbey**

I was up in the Deddick Fire Trail in late April and there is a spot which I think is referred to as the 'staircase'. At the top of this staircase there is a vehicle that has recently rolled off the track. A salutary reminder that just because it's dry doesn't mean it's not slippery or difficult. The track at this point was very powdery and had washouts just below the top edge.



**Selling your vehicle?  
Don't forget to remove  
your ST4WDC  
membership sticker.**

# **Trip Report**

## **“SAFE ONE” BASIC 4WD VEHICLE OPERATION COURSE**

# Some Suggestions for Preparing Trip Reports.

**For trip leaders to give to report volunteers at the start of the trip.**

## **Written report**

### ***Preparing your report- during the trip***

Make notes or use a diary – don't rely on memory

List the participants, their vehicles and camping rigs. Identify Trip Leaders.

What is the route that you are going to take, and where is the destination. Can you provide a map or a track file?

What is the aim of the trip – eg testing driving skills and vehicle, sightseeing, social etc.

### ***Writing your report***

Please do not use formatting other than left justified and new paragraphs.

Aim for about 500 to 1000 words (1 to 2 pages with photos) for a short trip. More for longer trips.

Include authors name, name of trip and list of participants.

Try to avoid a running commentary, or blow-by-blow description.

References to time and weather should be used sparingly.

Pick out the trip highlights eg

- ◆ fabulous views
- ◆ driving challenges,
- ◆ incidents eg where members learn about their vehicles or their capabilities,
- ◆ interesting stops, camp sites,
- ◆ variations to plan eg because of weather or track conditions,
- ◆ humorous or scary bits.

Avoid “in” jokes or overly personal references that in hindsight may offend.

## ***Photos***

Preferred size and resolution – at least 800x600 pixels, the higher the better.

Choose 3 or 4 good quality photos for a short trip, 6 to 8 for a long trip.

For interesting photos try to place the vehicles, the action or people in a wider scene.

Avoid photos that could be anywhere eg a group of people sitting around a fire, or a vehicle on a track.

If photography is not your strong point ask others in the group to contribute photos.

Keep photos as separate JPG files – please do not embed in the text.

Provide captions in the text where the photos are required, with eg “insert Pic2.JPG here”

## ***Finalising your Report***

Before submitting you may wish to send it to the trip leader for their comment.

Collect any photos that others are contributing. Select the best ones to send.

## ***Sending your Report***

Articles may be emailed to [publications@st4wdc.org](mailto:publications@st4wdc.org) or to a member of the publications team who will liaise with you.

Title your email “XXX Trip Report for Southern Trails” so that it can be identified easily.

Attach the text file and separate JPG files if sending photos.

Closing date for trip reports is the Friday following the general meeting.

# CLUB LIABILITY INSURANCE

Chris Nicholls

What is public liability insurance? All insurance is a way of dealing with risk; in this case the risk that the club or a member of club will become liable to compensate another person for damage or loss that results from an incident or accident during a club activity.

Our public liability insurance is not concerned with potential damage to motor vehicles or losses caused by motor vehicles in any way – that is an issue for motor vehicle insurance and the owners of the vehicles involved.

The club's public liability insurance has two components – General Liability, and Directors and Officers Liability.

## **General Liability**

General liability insurance covers:

- liability to compensate third parties for losses arising from negligence as determined in a court of law;
- \$20m cover;
- all legal costs; and provides protection for “recreational four wheel driving and other associated activities” - deliberately a very broad definition.

Who is covered?

- Both the club and the members of the club; and also property-owners on whose property the club is traveling.

What claims are covered?

- Claims against the club or a member (where the claim arises in relation to a club activity);
- claims by a member against the club, and
- claims by a member against another member.

What claims are not covered?

- Does not cover self-injury – for example if you slip over and

hurt yourself, and it wasn't anyone's fault (see above – negligence must be proved);

- does not cover paid driver training, which is why we cannot charge for driver training courses; and
- does not cover events where an admission fee is charged, or timed motor events, or motor vehicle accidents (you need to maintain your own motor vehicle insurance).

A key thing to notice here is that our cover allows for claims between members – for example if you knock over a billy of boiling water at the campfire and injure another member, the injured member can claim against the offending member and the insurance will cover the claim (if the claim is proven in a court of law).

## **Directors and Officers Liability (D&O)**

Directors and Officers liability insurance protects members of the committee and other officers of the club against claims that might arise for financial or other mismanagement. This policy provides protection against actions for financial compensation other than arising from physical injury or damage to property. Our insurers tell us that most claims arise from mismanagement of money i.e. shareholders and banks seeking recovery from directors who failed to declare financial situations of business operations etc. Club officers might for example face claims for allowing on-going sexual harassment within a club, failing to manage club members' funds etc. Due to the small amounts of funds handled by clubs, and the cost of D&O cover, the cover is limited to a sum insured of \$ 2,000,000.

## **Issues – visitors or non-members on club trips**

Occasionally a question comes up about non-members on club trips. From an insurance viewpoint, this is a non-issue. A non-member on a club trip has the same status as any other member of the public out there – if they suffer loss or damage because of the negligence of the club or a club member, they can claim against the club's insurance. If the non-member on a club trip causes loss or damage to another person, for the club's insurance to respond to a claim it would have to be proven that the non-member was acting under the control of the club. If the non-member was acting independently of the club, the club's insurance would not be involved. Any visitors (and indeed all members attending) must be recorded on the club's records of the trip – the responsibility of the trip leader.

## **Do you have personal public liability insurance?**

If you have house and contents insurance, you probably also have, as part of that policy, general public liability insurance. It would be worthwhile checking your policy to see what is covered, and what you must do or not do to protect that cover.

More information: the club's insurance broker: TCIS.

<http://www.tcis.com.au>

# Event Report: Balloon Fiesta

Wendy Holland

5am starts, cool crisp mornings, baskets and envelopes, crowds of people. The Canberra Balloon Fiesta has happened again, this time with a new sponsor – Novotel.

This year the Fiesta was condensed into 4 days, and fortunately the weather was kind to us allowing 3 out of 4 flying days.

Approximately 35 balloons and pilots, both local and international, as well as many crew members descended on the lawns in front of Old Parliament House to transform the area into a spectacular site over the weekend 13-16<sup>th</sup> April.

Once the briefing for pilots was over, the team would get to work unpacking and laying out the envelope for inflation, positioning the basket, and getting all the vital pieces assembled for take off.

Then once the balloon was launched the fun would begin – the chase – where to wait? where would they land? Would we get there before they touched down? For those in the basket – a beautiful view over the city and beyond from a whole new vantage point.

Once on the ground again, everyone would pitch in to get everything packed away. Lots of fun and laughter as teams worked to get the air out of the envelope so it would fit back into that tiny little bag.

Then it was a trip back to the launch field for a delicious breakfast of bacon and eggs or pancakes, washed down with champagne, and lots of chatter backwards and forwards on how the morning unfolded.

What a great start to the day!!!!

This year we also had a lot of fun participating in a “balloon glow” at Manuka Oval. To achieve this most of the balloons were inflated

on the oval and then were lit up in time (mostly!!!) to a musical sound track. It was a spectacular sight, was well attended and will be a feature of the Fiesta for the next few years.

For anyone from ST4WDC who hasn't been involved before, and would like to, I would highly recommend it.

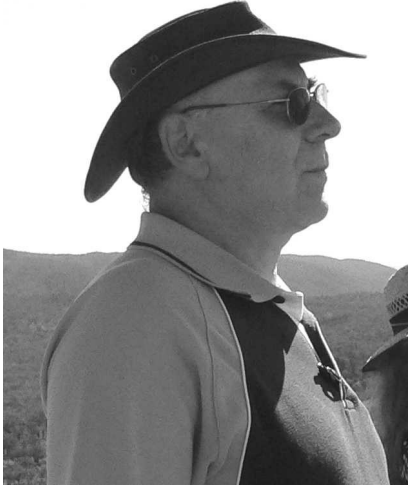
Ros Hanigan has for many years done a fabulous job of organising the involvement of our club members, which we all appreciate, and which makes it easy for the pilots who are not able to bring regular crew with them. Well done Ros yet again.

It is a terrific event, and a great way for our club to show its involvement in community activities.



# Profile: Peter Fenwick

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



**Position(s) held in club ( if any):** Past committee member, Public

Relations Officer, now President

**Age** 44-54

**Occupation:** Educator/IT/Business

**Year joined ST4WDC:** 1989

**Reasons for joining:** To learn to 4WD so we could take the kids around Australia for 3 months.

**First 4WD:** 1993 NH Pajero 3.0L manual petrol - a really good all-rounder and great first 4WD.

**Current Vehicle:** 2003 NP Pajero DiD

Exceed auto— luxury on steroids!

**Tyres:** 2 sets Michelin AT for mostly road and BFG Muddies for the serious stuff.

**Modifications:** Suspension lift, bash plates, winch & bar, drawers, cage, snorkel, Safarichip, air bags, dual battery, under-bonnet compressor, radios, GPS, overhead console Tvan camper trailer.

**Wish list:** More time to play

**Best trip:** Hay River led by Dave Sutton & with a great bunch of people. See May mag for article.

**Worst 4WD experience:** Idiot coming through a give way sign and clobbering car & trailer on our first big trip. Repairs took 7 weeks so we bought (thanks bank) an old 60Series Tojo, tent etc & travelled on..

**Favourite one-day trip around ACT:** Mt Coree, Power line, Webb's Ridge, Flea Creek, Piccadilly, the quarry & home over the hills.

**Next major trip:** Cape York, Bungle Bungles and Canning I hope. **Best campsite:** On the Warburton River

70km west of Mungerannie. **Worst campsite:** Noisy caravan parks, rest areas too close to the railway tracks that are not visible at night when you pull in. The freight train lets you know the track is there at 2.00am.

## Club Involvement

**Have you visited TALOOG Park?** Yes, often. It's great. **Have you lead a club trip?** Yes, a few.

**Have you participated in the club Funkhana?** Yes, and Catherine won. **Club Driver training courses completed:** Basic One, Sand & River, Very Difficult Terrain & Advanced Recovery, GPS, Trip Leader.

**What do you think the club will be like in 10 years?**

Great clubs like this only get better; so I expect running more trips and activities and probably with a second property closer to or on the coast. It really is up to the membership.

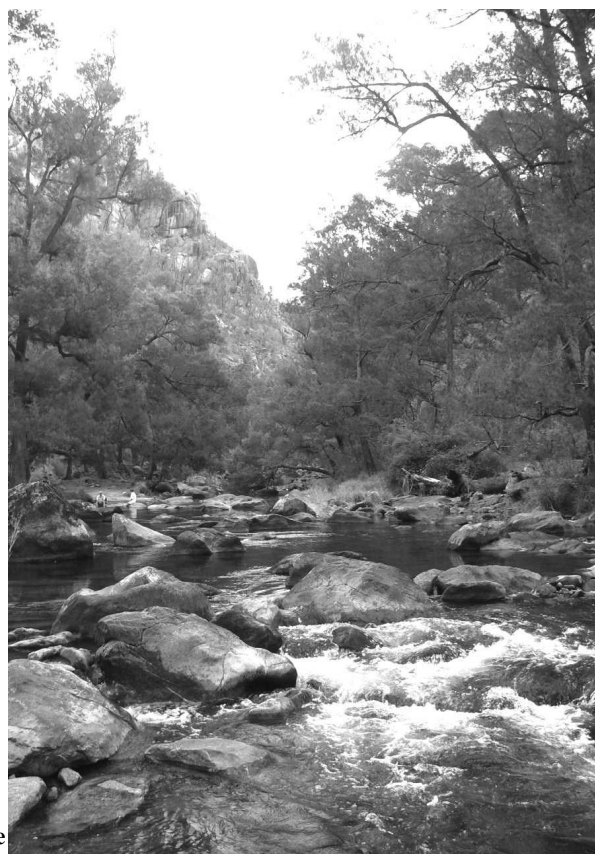
# PLACES TO GO.....

## Did you know – and how you can 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, their records indicate they did not receive 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](mailto:kjar@optusnet.com.au). Thank you in anticipation.



### Have you been here?

*One of the Corners; an abandoned pub in western Qld, and a river closer to home. Visit these places on one of the local or extended trips...see calendar.*

Answers Page



## PLACES TO GO WHERE ARE THEY?



## **Taylors' Walkabout**

# FOR SALE/WANTED/LOST/FOUND



Advertising on this page is **free to members** but is restricted to **Two Months**. Non-members will be charged \$20 per advertisement for 5 lines for the same period.



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### **DO YOU HAVE A WHEEL COVER FROM 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"**

## **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](mailto: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

Look for the sign on a table at Meetings



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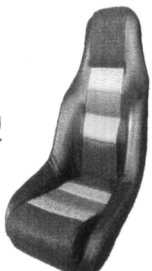


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**Daniel Swindley**

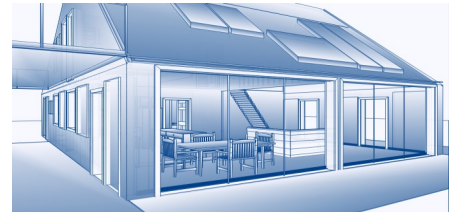
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# NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

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**  
**(Occupation)**

**Member 2**

.....  
**(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: .....