



SOUTHERN TRAILS

ISSUE 373 August 2010



C O N T E N T S

Directory	2	A-Filming-We-Went	32
Ro's Ramblings	4	Unclassified Advertisements	38
Richard's Input	5	Membership Details	39
Membership Matters	7	New Member Application Form	40
Talooge Topics	9		
4WD NSW & ACT Report	11		
Trips & Events	14		
Brindabella Classic	26		
Croajalong & Pt Hicks	28		
Talooge Weekender	31		

General meetings are usually held at the Canberra Deakin Football Club, Grose St, Deakin at 7.30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

Next General Meeting — 10th August

Guest Speaker

Lyn Randall of Watts Communications

The deadline for material to be included in the next issue of *Southern Trails* is the Friday following the General Meeting 13th August 2010

This month's magazine has been compiled by Michael Patrick

Cover photos this month by Vivien Johnson and Peter Fenwick

SOUTHERN TRAILS - is the magazine of the ST4WDC Incorporated,
GPO Box 2122, Canberra ACT 2601
ABN: 49 507 780 060
Registered by Australia Post
Print Post No. PP248831/00046
National Library Catalogue No. ISSN 0314-0814
Web Address <http://www.st4wdc.org>

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

Southern Trails is printed by INSTANT COLOUR PRESS, 21 RAE ST, BELCONNEN, ACT 2617.

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 encourage our readers to support and patronise them whenever possible.

SOUTHERN TABLELANDS FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB



Directory



President

Rosemary Orr
6241 0464 0414 568 358
Email: president@st4wdc.org

Vice President

Marj Jones
6284 3456
Email: vpresident@st4wdc.org

Secretary

Jo Delaney
0423 223 045
Email: secretary@st4wdc.org

Treasurer

Rick Holland
6292 6537 0412 335 962
Email: treasurer@st4wdc.org

Past President,

Peter Fenwick
0406 379 913
Email: ppresident@st4wdc.org

Publications Coordinator

Vacant

Email: publications@st4wdc.org

Education Coordinator

Peter Reynolds
6251 1258 0428 623 458

Membership Secretary

Jim Raleigh
6281 3102 0413 612 305
Email: membership@st4wdc.org

Events and Trips Coordinator

Richard Brand

0418 568 358
Email: trips@st4wdc.org

Property Coordinator

John Kjar
6287 7574 0432 737 440
Email: property@st4wdc.org

Public Relations Coordinator

Vacant

Email: public@st4wdc.org

General Members

Mary Biddle
6288 7882 0410 539 514
Email: Mary@st4wdc.org
Janet Neale
6297 2252

Email: Janet@st4wdc.org

Ian Goodacre

0403 304 505
Email: ian@st4wdc.org

Doug Brown

6297 2252 0419 467 701
Email: Doug@st4wdc.org

General Meetings are held at the

Canberra Deakin Sports Club, Grose St, Deakin

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 Mary Biddle 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 Canberra Deakin Sports Club.

Publications

Website www.st4wdc.org. The site is used 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, and articles that are relevant to Club members are welcome, as are photographs and illustrations.

Closing date for all material 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. Some have firewood, 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. Mobile phone coverage is poor. In an emergency, neighbours Mr Richie Southwell and his sons, can usually be contacted using UHF channel 18.

Intending visitors should check with the Property Coordinator or a committee member regarding access procedures and the combination locks securing the gates.

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.

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:

Main Courses

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

Supplementary Courses

Water Crossing,
Sand Driving,
Practical Map Reading,
Navigation,
Route Planning,
GPS, and
Other specific training relating to Club activities such as camper trailers etc may also be introduced..

Training for Driver Training Instructors

Trainee Instructor,
Assistant Instructor,
Instructor, and
Chief Instructor

Visit the ST4WDC 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 can 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.

A special offer to travelers - Sewing Machine - medium/heavy duty - available for short term loan.

I have custody of a medium duty Singer sewing machine that is ideal for all those small canvas repair jobs or to create new tent peg bags, tool rolls, billy can bags, camp oven bags, etc. How far does your creative imagination go? The machine will handle up to three layers of medium weight canvas and uses very strong upholstery weight nylon thread that is great for reasonably heavy jobs.

Don 02 6161 1880 or 0408 649 732

Rosemary's Ramblings



The wettest, coldest winter for many years - what are we doing here in this cold climate. Hopefully, having lots of lovely hot drinks including mulled spiced wine.

Great news - in the Queen's Birthday Honours list announced on 1 July 2010 our wonderful education co-ordinator, Peter Reynolds, was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for services to the community particularly as a driving instructor and assessor. Peter is the first and only person in Australia to be awarded this honour in the field of driver training and 4WD endeavours. WELL DONE PETER!! Our warmest congratulations and best wishes go to you and to Deb who has been your wonderful support in the background.

Peter is the third recipient of an OAM in our club. Both Doreen and Peter McEncroe have been awarded an OAM for their services to the community through the SES.

We have many high achievers in our club - some recognised and many who just keep working for the club and for their community. To all well done and it is a wonderful thing to be part of a club which attracts such wonderful members.

At our meeting on Tuesday night, Richard Brand demonstrated our new website which has now gone live. I would encourage everyone to go onto the site and have a look and then use it. If you find a problem please let Richard know so that he can fix it. Also if you have any suggestions, please also send these to Richard so that we can develop and provide a website which suits all members and offers members as many services as possible.

Also at our meeting on Tuesday night, Peter Fenwick, the president of the NSW/ACT 4WD Association spoke to us about what the Association is hoping to achieve into the future. Peter reminded us of the Sydney 4WD show which is the last weekend in August in Sydney. Any members of our club who would like to help at the show will assist our club and will be assisting the Association to assist all member clubs. There is a link on the Association website which will take you to the show website where you can offer your services as volunteers.

Peter also outlined what was happening with the new legislation the NSW Government is trying to introduce both in relation to suspension lifts on vehicles and the latest move to again ban bull bars. Our association is lobbying and meeting with Government officials and others in an effort to put the case of all recreational vehicle users. This is just one of the many things that the Association does to support its members.

While many members of our club may not have a great understanding of the association and it aims - we as a club are an affiliated member and we should use as many of the advantages that the association offers. Again, the Association has a great website which contains lots of information - so use it! Get to know just what is going on with everything 4WD.

Well that about it for me for this month. Enjoy and stay warm!!

Rosemary

A black and white advertisement for Battery World. At the top, it says "Battery World" in a large, bold font, with the tagline "Power for anything... anytime!" below it. Underneath, it asks "Need a Battery for your..." and shows icons for a car, boat, motorcycle, lawnmower, and truck. The text "FREE in-store auto Battery Testing and Sales at:" is prominently displayed. Below this, it lists the address: "CANNBERRA 95 Grenville Court Phillip (Behind Discount Tyres)". The bottom of the ad features "24hr Roadside Service" and the phone number "13 17 60" in large, bold digits, with the website "www.batteryworld.com.au" at the very bottom. The background of the ad shows various types of batteries.

Richard's Input

Living Dangerously



I guess 4WDing and computing have a fair bit in common – especially problem solving, and going where few have gone before.

In the early planning stages of our new website I wanted to change the site Universal Resource Locator (URL) from www.st4wdc.org to anything ending in .au since we have no current ambition to have overseas branches. To the world, we must look like an American organisation, since only Americans do not have to add a country code. I was overruled and the immediate consequence was that we could not have the old and new websites running in parallel for reasons that should be obvious.

This meant that cutover had to be a 'big-bang' no-going-back event, and there was no chance to practice. This is not something IT professionals relish and is tantamount to driving a river crossing without doing a recce first, and not even knowing somebody who had done it before.

Climbing obstacles

The cutover should have been made easier because the old site and the new one are hosted by the same service provider, ApexHost in Melbourne. We moved to them seven years ago because they supported Microsoft's SQL Server database system, but that was years before DotNetNuke was on our radar. After selecting DotNetNuke, ApexHost said they did not support it and we started to look for another hosting service. Then a few months later, their website announced support for DotNetNuke and it all looked like smooth sailing.

The next issue was the database version. I had been using 2008 and they would only support 2005. Then they agreed to support 2008 but not the Express Edition we used for the test site. Next was the version of DotNetNuke – they only supported two versions before the latest, which has some key features for us. Finally, I wanted direct access to our database so I could make bulk changes and run stored procedures, for example to extract the magazine calendar data. Certainly not, everybody just has to use our web interface, so that could not be done. To me this was an absolute show-stopper.

After some consideration, yes maybe they could open up the database if I used a static IP address. The net result is that we are running the latest version of DotNetNuke, and I can now remotely access the latest database as easily as I could access

the one on my laptop. The calendar for this magazine was produced by a simple Word document which automatically opens up the remote database to get the data for a mail merge.

The remote website file system appears to me like another directory in Windows Explorer. This is a massive breakthrough in modern computing – something we have not been able to do easily since the early 1970s when the Internet replaced well designed proprietary networks like DECnet.

With that infrastructure in place, the move should have been pretty straightforward but the magazine announcing the new site details came out a week early. Also ApexHost changed the server which meant days of internet propagation delays before some of us could see the new site.

Declining feature

I already knew that many links in the site would be broken by the move, and wrote a small routine to substitute new URLs for old ones, which worked very well on link modules. Then problems showed up in the blogs module where the magazine articles are. These all got fixed, table by table, until I realised that the HTML module also had loads of links which needed changing. I applied the same routine but the database refused to cooperate. It turns out that HTML in DotNetNuke is stored in a datatype called NTEXT which unfortunately is a declining feature. This is computer speak for we don't want you to use this anymore, so we won't let you do anything with it except convert it to something else.

I should explain that computer speak is nerdy and usually misleading. TEXT is unusually meaningful and stands for any string of characters. The N in front means it uses Unicode to represent a single character. In the old days, we pretty well standardised on 8-bits (a Byte) and ASCII to represent 256 different characters which is OK for English but not so good for Chinglish. Digital Equipment Corporation or DEC for short popularised the Byte as the basic storage unit, with two Bytes to a word in their early minicomputers. Note that a word could only be two characters long, but they did not mean word as any ordinary human being would understand the term! Unicode uses two Bytes per character, which is massively wasteful but Bytes are too entrenched now.

Richard's Input

Richard Brand



One alternative to NTEXT is NVARCHAR (n) where n is the maximum length of a Unicode VARIABLE CHARACTER string, and the maximum length cannot be much more than 4000. In my haste I forgot a new datatype, catchily and unforgettably called NVARCHAR (MAX), which can hold quite long texts. To be honest, I don't like using things which have dreadful names. It just encourages the nerds.

The net result was that in my haste I accidentally truncated over 100 pages of HTML to 4000 characters each, which is why some pages on the new website seem to stop suddenly. This may encourage people to have smaller pages. It will be fixed.

The first computer virus

I have struggled for years with internet remote access and things like ftp (file transfer protocol). I was brought up on DECnet which was designed, not evolved. If you wanted to access a file on a remote computer, you just put the computer name in front of the file name and the rest happened automagically. Mind you, the biggest network first envisaged for DECnet was just 32 machines. It was not long before that limit got lifted, and the DECnet designer thought he would find out how big his network had become.

He wrote a little program that counted all the connections from his computer, and copied itself down each connection to the attached computers, where it did the same. Unfortunately he forgot to exclude the originating link, so it also copied itself whence it came, initiating a chain reaction. There then ensued a frantic race as he tried to block it from spreading on a network that was grinding to a halt. Eventually he got it under control. But every so often, some computer administrator in a remote part of the world would spot a strange program and wonder what it did and the race would be on again.

User Experience

The new website has been going long enough to spot some common issues.

Be aware that your logon details are quite different from the old site. Until Jim Raleigh used a true database approach to the membership system, one membership record held everything about a membership. This meant there was no easy way to distinguish individuals so I decided to use the vehicle registration number as the logon for a membership. How nerdy was that!

The new site fully understands individuals, so your logon name is your 'natural' first and last name. Your old password won't work either – it is for a totally different site – just email me for a new one. These are generated automagically and you only get to use one once. Copy and paste it if you can't type the characters. If all else fails, email me again and I will manually craft you a personalised password.

The new site can generate scores of different email messages, some about past events as we back-capture data on previous trips.

Enhancement Requests

If you think the website should provide some useful bit of functionality, please use Website > Enhancement Requests to write a user story describing what you would like. These are very easy and follow a simple pattern: As a ... I would like ... so that ... An example might be: As a trip leader, I would like to see who on my trip owns a Personal Locator Beacon so that I could initiate a rescue in an emergency.

Looking at the existing user stories, and the responses, is a good way of finding out some of the things the site can do. You can also safely practice using the HTML editor, which pops up throughout the site. If it is just practice, please delete your user story afterwards!

Trips Sub-committee

This is well and truly functional! Just look at the new events in the calendar, and congratulations to Rob and Lynne Donaldson for stepping up as trip leaders. Expect to see lots more happening around trip planning packages.

See you on a track somewhere

Richard

Membership Matters

Jim Raleigh



Our Membership has remained at 243 Memberships comprising 3 Life Members, 226 Owner Members, 4 Associate Members and 10 Competition Members. The inclusion of 192 Partners and 7 Family Members brings the grand total for our club 'community' up to 440. For the first time this year we have no new Members to welcome, the membership increase of one has been due to one former member rejoining.

Club History

Did you know that the ST4WDC was formed on 16 November 1976; the Club Logo has not changed since then; that the Club was 'Incorporated' on 15 August 1985 and that the membership doubled (reaching over 150) between mid 1984 and mid 1985? In the beginning, membership could be applied for with no payment required until the applicant had actually participated in a Club Trip. Only then were they required to pay their membership fee (of \$8.50) and, subject to Committee approval, become 'Financial Members'.

These are just some of the interesting gems of information that can be obtained from researching old copies of Southern Trails. Efforts to compile a more detailed history of the club, primarily based upon such research, has revealed that we do not actually have a complete set of Southern Trails in our club 'Archives'.

Not only is it interesting, but it can also be quite educational to undertake such research which often provides an insight into why things are the way they are. What began as an effort to more fully complete the Membership, and particularly Training records for the period prior to 1999 (when we first began keeping them on a computer) has developed into a research project looking into many interesting aspects of the Clubs history.

To do this effectively requires a full set of Southern Trails and although we have a lot, we do not have them all. While every effort is being made to compile at least one complete set, we are also attempting to compile a second set as a backup. Storage becomes a major consideration (Just ask Jane). In recent years, the primary set has been kept at Talooge where many would argue it is vulnerable to loss in a bushfire. To reduce this vulnerability, we are endeavouring to compile a second set with the aim that it be retained in Canberra and made readily available to loan to any Member who may be interested.

ACT Heritage Library

The ACT Heritage Library (Level 1 at Woden Library) exists for the very purpose of collecting and maintaining 'local' ACT records such as our monthly magazine. As such it is the logical place at which a full set could be located, particularly as they would remain readily accessible to members. The Heritage Library has been on our distribution list for several years, so have most recent issues, but are seriously lacking older ones dating back prior to their existence. We are working with the Library to ensure that their holdings of Southern Trails are as complete as we can make them, and to this end have already donated 63 Issues of which we had 'spares'. We are also vainly hoping that we may jointly be able to develop a strategy to scan all Issues and possibly have them available on the Web. Should this be achieved, we may no longer have a need to retain paper copies and could probably donate enough copies to the Heritage Library to complete their set.

National Library

Prior to the existence of the ACT Heritage Library, the National Library of Australia (NLA) performed a similar task as that described above for the ACT Heritage Library. They remain on our distribution list since those days and as a result have built up a very extensive collection of Southern Trails which goes all the way back to Issue 1 and with only eight missing issues. While these are also officially accessible to Members, this is not as simple a process as that available at the ACT Heritage Library. Again we will work with the NLA to endeavour to close the eight gaps in their collection when we can get our hands on the necessary copies.

WANTED: APPEAL FOR HELP

The good news is that between the four existing collections (two of ours, the ACT Heritage Library and the NLA) we are actually able to access every copy of Southern Trails ever Issued. On the other hand, such access is somewhat limited in that the most complete collection (NLA) is not available for loan, and the next most complete (our own Primary Collection) is normally located at Talooge. The remaining collections (our Secondary set and the ACT Heritage Library) currently contain a large number of gaps.

Membership Matters

Jim Raleigh



To rectify the problem, I am appealing to all members, but particularly those who have been with the Club for many years, to check out the boxes in your garage, or anywhere else they may be stashed, and let us have any old copies of Southern Trails that you are willing to contribute to the collections. We already have enough copies of all Issues since April 2004 (although if someone has one, a clean copy of Sep 05 would be appreciated). Thanks in particular to the generous contribution from Peter Reynolds personal collection, our main set is almost complete (only 5 gaps), but only if we include 59 issues currently on 'loan' pending a decision as to whether they will be permanently donated. The second set still contains around 120 gaps from the 372 Issues already distributed.

The most pressing need is for the five Issues missing from our Primary Set. These are: Jul 84, Nov 92, Oct 94, and Feb & Aug 95, all of which are held at the NLA only, but we would like to have at least one copy of our own.

For our second set, we have over 120 gaps - virtually no copies from 1991 to 2003, and we need Issues 1 through 6 (1977), as well as a few other from before 1991.

The Heritage Library collection contains all copies since Issue 233 onwards, except for: Dec 97, Mar 99, May & Jun 2000, Sep 03, and Feb 04. We have contributed a further 63 earlier copies from the 'spares' we have but this still leaves them with over 170 gaps.

SO PLEASE - have a look through your cupboards and garage and anywhere else you might have stashed some old *Southern Trails* and let me have whatever pre 2004 copies you may have spare. Those not ultimately required will be returned if desired.

4WD TRAINING SERVICES P/L

ABN 008 545 980

Over 30 years 4WD Experience passed on to you

THE BEST TRAINING YOU'LL GET

This training course covers two competency units

- SRO DRV001B - Drive & Recover a 4WD Vehicle
- SRO DRV002B - Drive a 4WD Vehicle in Difficult Terrain

**In your house 4hr theory component including training DVD
8hr practical component including 4WD recovery techniques**

- Member Australian Driver Trainers Association Inc.
- Certificate IV in Driver Instruction
- Accredited Driving Instructor A.C.T. Government
- Certified 4WD Trainer Assessor
- Licensed 4WD Mechanic 30 years

*Private & Government Departments Catered For
One on One or with a partner (max 2)
Fully insured & first aid certified*

Call Peter anytime for information & bookings (training weekdays only)

0428 623 458

Talooge Topics

John Kjar



This month I would like to briefly address a range of issues relating to Talooge. Your understanding and cooperation on these matters will enhance your Talooge experience.

First, there are excellent camping opportunities at Talooge, especially on Thurbon Flat. It is grassy, relatively flat and reasonably sheltered. But you need to avoid camping in areas adjacent to large trees – they do drop limbs, sometimes large ones. This was reinforced recently when we noticed a large section of the crown of one of the eucalypts, located on the riverbank between the toilets and the shelter, had broken away from the tree. It was a large branch probably weighing between one half and one tonne – enough to cause considerable damage to any tent, camper trailer etc. See the photograph.

Second, please ensure you contact either the Property Coordinator or the President before you visit Talooge. There are often matters that you need to be aware of prior to your visit. And, if you plan to use Strike-a-Light fire trail, the preferred route for access into Talooge, you must contact Steve Collins (ph 6454 3063), the owner of land over which part of the fire trail passes, and request him to open the padlock on the gate at Cherry Tree Creek. The best time to contact him is between 8am and 9am two days prior to your intended visit.

And talking about visits to Talooge, we have developed a set of Opening and Closing procedures that outline important matters you need to be aware of when using Talooge and especially the sheds. A copy is on the wall in the kitchen area of the main DTU shed and we will also put these up on the Club web site.

I have indicated our frustration on several occasions with the damage to trees at Talooge caused by goats. We have tried trapping but it was unsuccessful. We are also fencing some trees but that is time consuming. So we have reluctantly decided to complement this with culling of the goats. We have signed an agreement with the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia Hunting and Conservation Branch to carry out the cull. One of the reasons for choosing this group was their code of ethics on culling and their professionalism/skill in culling. These operations will be carried out in close cooperation with the Committee and members will be alerted to the timing of these operations. Some other landowners adjacent to Talooge are also carrying out culling operations and over time we hope we can coordinate these efforts.

Rob Tiele, Mike Rodd, Graham Kruse and I have spent considerable time planning for an upgrade to the toilets at Talooge and installation of showers (what luxury!). Our current thinking, yet to be approved by the Committee or Council, is to replace the existing toilets in the DTU area with flush toilets, septic tank and drainage trenches in the same area. The toilets on Thurbon Flat would be similar but instead of drainage trenches we would have a pump-out facility. We could also install a shower near the toilet with a dedicated drainage trench. Hopefully we could use the existing toilet blocks with minimal disturbance. But we are still considering other options and design improvements. And Rob Tiele's untimely departure to warmer climates was unfortunate. Hence any suggestions/ideas/comments from Club members would be most appreciated.

WANTED

OLD Copies of *Southern Trails*, the older the better, but please, only those older than April 2004.

Please See *Membership Matters* on Page 7

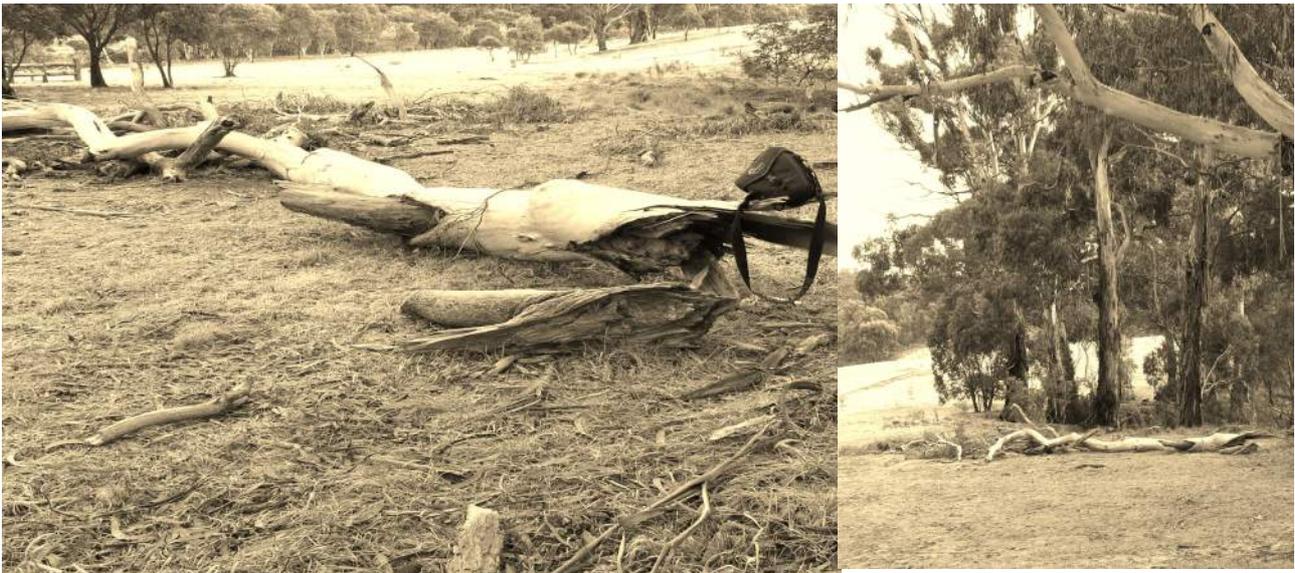
Talooge Topics

John Kjar



In the July edition of Talooge Topics I incorrectly advised you the name of our neighbour on Horse Paddock – their correct names are Tim and Karen Fraser.

Hope to see you at Talooge – it's a great place to visit and smell the roses – and with your help it is getting much better. And put 6/7 November in your diary as the next Club working bee – its great fun and much work gets done. And 16/17 October to learn about and try some great bush skills.



Telephone: (02) 6280 6416 Unit 1/68 –70 Kembla Street
Facsimile: (02) 6239 1606 PO Box 1113
Email: sales@wattscom.com.au Fyshwick ACT 2609
Web Address: <http://www.wattscom.com.au> ABN 62 008 641 923

We are a one stop communications shop providing GARMIN GPS and Navigational equipment, Vehicle Tracking, UHF and AM CB radios, Marine VHF & UHF radios, HF Radios, Commercial Two-Way radios, Hands Free Kits for mobile phones, sales and rentals of Mobile and Satellite phones, HF, UHF and Commercial radios.

Our installation bay is fully equipped to undertake installations into all types of vehicles.

Our workshop has qualified technicians who undertake the repair of HF Radios, AM/UHF CB's and UHF/VHF Marine radios, commercial radios – mobile and hand held.

We are the sales and service agents for the following brands:

GARMIN, GME-ELETROPHONE, ICOM, KENWOOD, UNIDEN, MOTOROLA, SIMOCO, AND TAIT. We can also provide satellite phones on the Iridium and Globalstar satellite networks.

President's Report

4WD NSW & ACT



Hello All

Your Association has been extremely busy in the last several weeks and I am a little behind in getting this June comment out.

The Show committee is really working hard to achieve our aims and to improve the public face of 4WDing while offering more to 4WDers than the usual caravan and camping show does. The speed with which things happen in this final stage is really exciting. We have over 100 exhibitors from a wide range of 4WD related fields. The venue is excellent and the test track has already been test driven and a number of changes implemented for the better in terms of safety and visibility. I think the public will really have a great experience. There are still a number of jobs that you can volunteer for and remember a share of the proceeds goes back to the clubs supplying volunteers. If you want to know more look at the website both show and Association for details.

Legislation around VSI50 is closer to being announced in its final form. I believe the team making representation to this have done as much as humanly possible to minimise any adverse effect from this on our enjoyment of 4WDing. Only time will tell if they were successful. Check out the Association website and the forum discussion so you know where it is up to.

European animal strike design regulations are being considered for introduction by the Transport Minister as part of the international community agreements Australia is signatory too.

This could impact on Australian vehicle design rules to effectively ban bull bars as we know them. The Australian Automotive Aftermarket Association (AAAA) and the Australian National Four Wheel drive Council (ANFWDC) have combined to lobby government to ensure any new standard is relevant to Australian conditions and help ensure our safety in the outback or rural areas. Europe does not have kangaroos nor the vast distances and conditions of most of Australia so some practical adjustments must be made. Statistical research has been initiated to gather evidence and a national online survey is ready to launch if we require greater statistical and anecdotal evidence to support our case. However the Transport Minister has agreed to discussions so we may be making progress.

The Australian National Four Wheel drive Council (ANFWDC) is rebranding itself as Four Wheel drive Australia (4WDA) in an effort to simplify understanding and improve message penetration with 4WDers and the general public and politicians. More information is on the website.

The national planning group meets again in July in Adelaide to prepare for the national conference and coming year. Discussions are advancing steadily towards establishing a national office with an executive officer/lobbyist. I will provide more details next month.

Regional committees across NSW are functioning well and improving localised input on 4WD issues including access and land management.

Planning a trip?

The following experienced trip leaders have offered to assist new trip leaders in planning their trips.

Budding trip leaders are encouraged to seek their advice.

Name	Phone	Mobile	Email
Peter Watson	6254 7118	0418 649 823	pwatson1@tpg.com.au
Neville Simpson	6295 9021		bl.ng@bigpond.net.au
Dennis Collins	6292 7423	0418 969 452	margden1@actewagl.net.au
Chris Nicholls			calypos1@gmail.com
Doreen & Plod McEncroe	6241 8188	0429 008 436	doreen.mcenroe@act.gov.au
Neil Telfer	62919683	0427 263 805	ntelfer@tpg.com.au
David Whight		0438 882 696	tdavidwhight@hotmail.com

President's Report 4WD NSW & ACT



The special access conditions to Stockton Beach during the rectification work are an excellent example of this. The only disappointment here is my own area the Canberra region. For information on the regional committees log onto the association website.

A series of Track Classification training sessions is being considered for the regions once the weather improves and the excitement of the 4WD Adventure Show subsides. This is designed to support the introduction of a National Track Classification Scheme as our MOUs with land managers adapt to the need. Victoria already has the classification system in place and operating successfully so it makes sense to develop this as a national strategy.

The Association website is designed to be the main communication channel of the 4WD NSW & ACT. There is the facility for each club to host its own website or forum within the association website. This is a service to affiliated clubs and incurs no cost. If you have need of this service please contact the Association Webmaster through the website link provided. I encourage you to all register to use the forum and see what information and resources are available to you. The more you contribute the better it is for all.

Warm Regards

Peter Fenwick

President
4WD NSW & ACT

Delegate, Southern Tablelands 4WD Club, Canberra

<http://www.ST4WDC.org>



Cooper Creek at Birdsville Track

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 driver who is considered not to have the necessary level of skill in 4Wdriving, or whose vehicle is deemed inadequate.

- *GRADE 1:** very easy with little, if any 4wdriving 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 traveling 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. Please advise the trip leader of the level of skill, and vehicle equipment when signing up for such a trip. Members must have attended the 'Safe-One' Basic Vehicle Operation Course before driving on a Club trip above the Grade 1 level, unless they have satisfied the Club's Education Coordinator that they have the necessary experience.

TRIP PLANNING

If you are planning a Trip or Social Event for the Club contact the Club Trips Co-ordinator, preferably 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. However, if a good event opportunity comes up at short notice our rules are sufficiently flexible to enable a quick approval. Club policy requires that a Club event shall be publicised in the Club magazine, or at a General Meeting of the Club, or on the Club's website 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 to confirm with the appropriate authorities that access is permitted on the chosen dates. This includes National Parks, State Forests as well as private property.

CB RADIOS

The Club strongly recommends that a UHF radio be carried to facilitate convoy procedures. UHF channel 14 is used as the standard channel for trips.

FIREARMS & PETS

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

TRIPS AND EVENTS



8 Aug **New Member's Picnic**

2010-061

Trip Leader: Richard Brand
Email: richard.brand@webone.com.au
Phone: 0418 568 358 (m)
Limit: 20 vehicles
Grade: 1
Start: 9:00 AM
Meeting Place: McDonalds Car Park Queanbeyan
Fuel: at least half full at start
Requirements: UHF radios if possible - a few handhelds will be available for those without
Description: A leisurely day visiting the Tallaganda area, including the historic Lowden Park logging camp with its working water wheel, steam-age relics and short forest walks. The Club will provide some barbeque fare for lunch.
Comments: Bring you own morning and afternoon tea, and salads for lunch. Old members are welcome too!

10 Aug **General Meeting**

Start: 7:30 PM
Meeting Place: Deakin Soccer Club
Description: Our regular monthly general meetings attract around 100 members and guests, and usually feature a guest speaker. Trip Leaders are asked to describe forthcoming trips, and after a refreshment break we have presentations on past adventures. These are often hilarious, and can be supported by photographs, slide shows, videos and multi-media presentations. Visitors are always welcome

14 Aug - 4 Sep **The Rock and Big Red**

2010-058

Trip Leader: Lindsay Jones
Email: lejones@bigpond.com
Phone: 02 6204 6360 (h); 0407 490 530 (m)
Limit: 5 vehicles
Grade: 3
Start: 8:00 AM
Meeting Place: Barton Highway rest area near ACT-NSW border
Fuel: Full tank at start
Maps: Hema Outback NSW, Flinders Ranges, Central Australia, The Red Centre

TRIPS AND EVENTS



- Requirements: Basic driver training, recovery gear, UHF radio, good off road tyres, well maintained and reliable vehicle, drinking water, and plenty of other gear discussed at trip meeting
- Description: Canberra to Uluru via Wilpena Pound and the Oodnadatta Track. Along the way visit Lake Eyre, Dalhousie Springs, Lambert Centre, Fink, Chambers Pillar, Uluru, Kings Canyon, West Macdonald Ranges and East Macdonald ranges via Alice Springs. Return home via Birdsville, Innamincka and Cameron's Corner
- Comments: Well maintained off-road camper trailers welcome

20 - 22 Aug "Safe One" Basic Driver Training at Talooge Park 2010-029

- Trip Leader: Peter Reynolds
- Phone: 02 6251 1258 (h); 0428 623 458 (m)
- Limit: 20 vehicles
- Start: 7:30 PM
- Meeting Place: Bredbo Service Station
- Description: This is the Club's official and accredited basic driver education course

27 - 29 Aug 4WD Adventure Show 2010-055

- Meeting Place: Sydney Dragway, Eastern Creek
- Description: This is a new annual show run by the Association of NSW and ACT 4WD Clubs, and based on our Queanbeyan 4WD Spectacular! A permanent test track and driver training facility is being set up at the Sydney Dragway. See <http://www.4wdadventureshow.com.au> for more details or phone 1300 908 669. The Club has a limited allocation of tickets, which will be raffled. Otherwise you can buy your own.
- Comments: Entry Tickets \$10 per adults, accompanied children under 16 free, and Pension and Senior Card Holders \$8

28 - 29 Aug Freezing at Bendethra Caves 2010-043

- Trip Leader: Michael Patrick
- Email: michael.patrick2@bigpond.com
- Phone: 0412 377 941 (m)
- Limit: 10 vehicles
- Grade: 3
- Start: 8:30 AM
- Meeting Place: McDonalds Car Park Queanbeyan
- Fuel: Full tank
- Description: This will be a cold trip, temperatures will drop into the low minus so rug up warm and bring a good sleeping bag. Bendethra valley is great in winter, crisp and dry. The plan is to travel via Araluen

TRIPS AND EVENTS



and have morning tea at Dry Creek. From here will travel via Merricumbene fire trail. This track can be quite rutted and tricky in certain sections. We will depart Sunday midday and head out via Dampier fire trail and other tracks leading to Krawarree road. Parties may split up here to head to North Canberra. The rest will travel Snowball road into Tallaganda National Park and eventually reach Michelago

29 Aug **“Safe One” Basic Driver Training Course Follow-up Day** 2010-030

Trip Leader: Peter Reynolds
Phone: 02 6251 1258 (h); 0428 623 458 (m)
Limit: 20 vehicles
Start: 8:00 AM
Description: This is day three of the basic driver education course on the 21st and 22nd August and MUST be attended before participating on any Club trips where the proposed route is expected to be at Grade 2 or above

19 Sep **Brindabella Classic** 2010-068

Trip Leader: Rob and Lynne Donaldson
Email: aroundtownplumbing@grapevine.com.au
Phone: 0407 072 575 (m)
Limit: 8 vehicles
Grade: 2
Start: 8:15 AM
Meeting Place: Uriarra Homestead
Fuel: Full tank
Maps: ACT Region (1/100 000) and 1/25 000 maps of Bobbys Plains, Couragago, Umburra and Cotter Dam
Requirements: Basic driver training, basic recovery gear, UHF radio, good tyres, well maintained and reliable vehicle, morning tea and lunch. Camera and binoculars are also a good idea
Description: This day trip is a great way for new members to explore Canberra's back yard or for more experienced members to also enjoy a day in the Brindabella mountains. We meet at Uriarra Homestead and then head to Picadilly Circus following Brindabella/Tumut Road. Take Gentle Annie fire trail to Flea Creek on the Goodradigbee River for morning tea. We will climb up Webbs Ridge to approximately 1200 metres and then on passed the power lines to Waterfall fire trail. Dropping to the river again lunch will be at Lowells Flat or McIntyres Hut. Backtrack to Waterfall fire trail then Foley FT and Doctors Flat Rd and an afternoon stop at Pig Hill summit and finally air up and head for home

TRIPS AND EVENTS



25 - 27 Sep Hill End Historic Village

2010-047

- Trip Leader: Michael Patrick
Email: michael.patrick2@bigpond.com
Phone: 0412 377 941 (m)
Limit: 16 vehicles
Grade: 2
Start: 8:30 AM
Meeting Place: Federal Highway, Eagle Hawk car park
Fuel: Full tank at start. Round trip approx 750kms.
Maps: NSW South, NSW North, Hill End
Requirements: Basic recovery kit. UHF radio. Standard camping gear, happy hour supplies
Description: Hill End is a small country town, 360 km north of Canberra. The township is the remains of the gold rush era with a touch of the modern way of life but with the feel of the late 1800s. There is a lot to see so we will take a leisurely drive via Goulburn, Crookwell, Abercrombie, and Bathurst then to Hill End. There is heaps to do at Hill End so Sunday has been allocated as tourist day. Return trip will be via the same route but do a tour of the Abercrombie caves.

This is a basic trip. The most challenging part will be the Bridle Track heading into Hill End. There are numerous camp sites along the Macquarie river so we will pick the closest available site to Hill End. Sorry, no camper trailers.

10 Oct Brindabella Range Ramble

2010-067

- Trip Leader: Peter Fenwick
Email: pfenwick@homemail.com.au
Phone: 02 6281 5175 (h); 02 6205 0463 (w); 0406 379 913 (m)
Limit: 8 vehicles
Grade: 2
Start: 8:30 AM
Meeting Place: Uriarra Homestead
Fuel: Full tank
Maps: Cotter Dam 1:25000 (optional)
Requirements: Basic Driver Training, Basic Recovery Gear, UHF radio, good tyres, well maintained vehicle, drinking water, morning tea and lunch self catered
Description: A great trip through some of the main trails of the Brindabellas, taking in breath taking scenery. Depending upon access and weather we will travel along Brindabella Rd, Webbs Ridge Road and the Powerline Trail stopping at Flea Creek and Mt Coree for some spectacular views across Canberra. There are a couple of options for the home trip and time will determine the choice

TRIPS AND EVENTS



16 - 17 Oct Bush Skills Weekend at Talooge

2010-062

Trip Leader: Rosemary Orr
Email: ROrr@moray.com.au
Phone: 0414 568 358 (m)
Limit: unlimited
Grade: 1
Start: 8:30 AM
Meeting Place: Williamsdale
Fuel: Full tank
Description: Our Club members have an amazing range of skills they can impart! These range from bush welding using car batteries, through preserving food for long trips, damper cooking using camp ovens, to extracting survival water from vegetation, plus fixing tyres and navigating with and without GPS and lots more. We need attendees and especially contributors.
Comments: Help wanted!

23 - 24 Oct Exploring South Eastern Forests National Park

2010-071

Trip Leader: Greg and Vickie Taylor
Email: vickie.taylor@bigpond.com
Phone: 02 6241 3547 (h)
Limit: 8 vehicles
Grade: 2
Start: 8:00 AM
Meeting Place: Williamsdale
Fuel: Full Tank at start - opportunity for fuel at Candelo, Wyndham and Bombala.
Maps: 1:385,000 South East New South Wales Hema, 1:250,000 Cooma, Bombala, Bega, Craigie 1:25,000 Nimmitabel, Glen Allen, Bemboka, Candelo, Wyndham, Coolumbooka and Cathcart.
Requirements: Basic driver training, basic recovery gear, UHF radio, good tyres, well maintained and reliable vehicle, camping gear including gas stove for cooking, food, water and happy hour supplies. Bow saw or axe for track clearing, and a blind or tarp for water crossings.
Description: Travel via Cooma to Nimmitabel, Nunnock and a side trip to Alexanders Hut. Cattlemans Trail, Postmans Track and Tantawangalo Mountain Rd to Candelo. Includes Devils Crossing of Tantawangalo River. From Candelo we will travel Myrtle Mountain Road with a side visit to Wolumla Peak. Then Wyndham, Big Jack Mountain Road and the Cow Bail Trail working our way back to Monaro Highway, Bombala, Cooma and Canberra. We will have side visits to Myanba Gorge, Waratah Gully and Nalbaugh Falls.
Comments: This is the plan but we may deviate. There are many camping sites along this route and we will pick one that best suits us. Many of the areas we are visiting have toilet facilities - but remember your shovel, toilet paper and good humour. The views should be spectacular so remember your camera and binoculars.

30 - 31 Oct River Crossing and Sand Driving

2010-056

TRIPS AND EVENTS



Trip Leader: Peter Reynolds
Email: richard.brand@webone.com.au
Phone: 0418 568 358 (m)
Limit: 20 vehicles
Start: 8:00 AM
Description: This is the Club's annual training course covering river crossings and sand driving

6 - 7 Nov Working Bee at Talooge

2010-064

Trip Leader: John Kjar
Email: john.kjar01@gmail.com
Phone: 02 6287 7574 (h); 0432 737 440 (m)
Limit: 60 people
Start: 9:00 AM
Meeting Place: Bredbo, Jerangle Road, 100-m off the Monaro Hwy
Requirements: Plenty of enthusiasm and good humour. BYO food and drinks and the usual Happy Hour rituals will be observed.
Description: Participants are welcome to give us a helping hand on either Saturday and/or Sunday. You are also welcome to test your driving skills on the driving tracks and, subject to interest, we can also arrange guided tours to exotic locations within Talooge including the Bottle Shop, Honeymoon Bay, Devils Waterfall and Hole-in-the-Wall. The need is great - paving, building shelves and tree enclosures, cleaning up the site, land care (pruning, spraying, weeding, planting etc) and constructing a new firepit are all on my "Must do list" and it is sure to grow! Please contact me prior to the event and I will allocate a task or two to you prior to the event and advise on any special requirements.

12 - 14 Nov "Safe One" Basic Driver Training at Talooge Park

2010-031

Trip Leader: Peter Reynolds
Phone: 02 6251 1258 (h); 0428 623 458 (m)
Limit: 20 vehicles
Start: 7:30 PM
Meeting Place: Bredbo Service Station
Description: This is the Club's official and accredited basic driver education course

TRIPS AND EVENTS



21 Nov "Safe One" Basic Driver Training Course Follow-up Day

2010-032

Trip Leader: Peter Reynolds
Phone: 02 6251 1258 (h); 0428 623 458 (m)
Limit: 20 vehicles
Start: 8:00 AM
Description: This is day three of the basic driver education course on the 13th and 14th November and MUST be attended before participating on any Club trips where the proposed route is expected to be at Grade 2 or above

27 Nov Driver Trainer's Christmas Party

2010-033

Trip Leader: Peter Reynolds
Phone: 02 6251 1258 (h); 0428 623 458 (m)
Limit: unlimited
Start: 7:00 PM

28 Nov New Members Picnic - Wee Jasper

2010-070

Trip Leader: Rick Holland
Email: rholland@actewagl.net.au
Phone: 02 6292 6537 (h); 02 6268 4588 (w); 0412 335 962 (m)
Limit: 10 vehicles
Grade: 1
Start: 8:30 AM
Meeting Place: Uriarra Homestead
Fuel: full tank
Maps: 8627 Brindabella 1:100,000
Requirements: UHF radio, well maintained vehicle, recovery gear if you have it. Plus table and chairs, morning and afternoon tea and salads for lunch
Description: A great day for new and old members alike. We are planning an easy trip out through Picadilly Circus to Micalong Swamp for morning tea. Then down Nottingham Road to Micalong Creek and on to Billy Grace Reserve for a sausage sizzle lunch. Return via Doctor's Flat Road with superb sightseeing at Pig Hill before heading home via Uriarra Crossing

TRIPS AND EVENTS



28 Nov

New Members Picnic - Wee Jasper

2010-070

Trip Leader: Rick Holland
Email: rholland@actewagl.net.au
Phone: 02 6292 6537 (h); 02 6268 4588 (w); 0412 335 962 (m)
Limit: 10 vehicles
Grade: 1
Start: 8:30 AM
Meeting Place: Uriarra Homestead
Fuel: full tank
Maps: 8627 Brindabella 1:100,000
Requirements: UHF radio, well maintained vehicle, recovery gear if you have it. Plus table and chairs, morning and afternoon tea and salads for lunch
Description: A great day for new and old members alike. We are planning an easy trip out through Picadilly Circus to Micalong Swamp for morning tea. Then down Nottingham Road to Micalong Creek and on to Billy Grace Reserve for a sausage sizzle lunch. Return via Doctor's Flat Road with superb sightseeing at Pig Hill before heading home via Uriarra Crossing

5 Dec

Brindabella Classic

2010-069

Trip Leader: Michael Patrick
Email: michael.patrick2@bigpond.com
Phone: 0412 377 941 (m)
Limit: 12 vehicles
Grade: 2
Start: 8:30 AM
Meeting Place: Uriarra Homestead
Fuel: Full tank
Maps: ACT Region (1/100 000) and 1/25 000 maps of Bobbys Plains, Couragago, Umburra and Cotter Dam
Requirements: Basic driver training, basic recovery gear, UHF radio, good tyres, well maintained and reliable vehicle, morning tea and lunch. Camera and binoculars are also a good idea
Description: This day trip is a great way for new members to explore Canberra's back yard or for more experienced members to also enjoy a day in the Brindabella mountains. We meet at Uriarra Homestead and then head to Picadilly Circus following Brindabella/Tumut Road. Take Gentle Annie fire trail to Flea Creek on the Goodradigbee River for morning tea. We will climb up Webbs Ridge to approximately 1200 metres and then on passed the power lines to Waterfall fire trail. Dropping to the river again lunch will be at Lowells Flat or McIntyres Hut. Backtrack to Waterfall fire trail then Foley FT and Doctors Flat Rd and an afternoon stop at Pig Hill summit and finally air up and head for home

“SAFE ONE” BASIC 4WD VEHICLE OPERATION COURSE

The Southern Tablelands Four Wheel Drive Club conducts **two-day weekend Driver Training** exercises, with **Follow-up Days** on the **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 7.30pm on the Friday evening preceding the course.

**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 THE COURSE TO CONFIRM ATTENDANCE!
IF YOU DON'T, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR PLACE ON THE COURSE**

ONLY ONE DRIVER PER VEHICLE PER COURSE, THOUGH A SUPPORT CREW IS WELCOME.

COURSES FOR 2010 WILL BE HELD ON

20-21 MARCH	WITH FOLLOW-UP ON	28 MARCH
15-16 MAY	WITH FOLLOW-UP ON	23 MAY
21-22 AUGUST	WITH FOLLOW-UP ON	29 AUGUST
13-14 NOVEMBER	WITH FOLLOW-UP ON	21 NOVEMBER

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.



KNEE DEEP IN MUD...



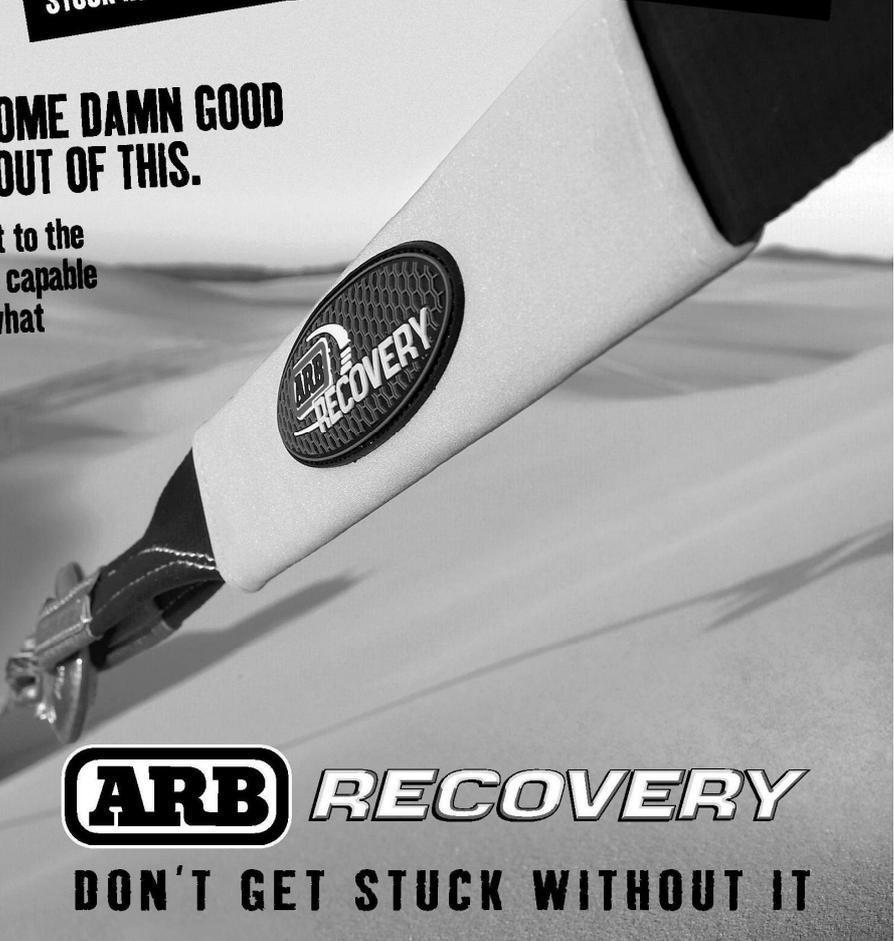
STUCK IN SOFT SAND...



TRACTION LOST ON ROCKS...

YOU'RE GOING TO NEED SOME DAMN GOOD RECOVERY GEAR TO GET OUT OF THIS.

ARB's comprehensive range is built to the highest standards and will ensure capable and reliable recovery, no matter what predicament you find yourself in.



ARB RECOVERY

DON'T GET STUCK WITHOUT IT

ARB'S EXTENSIVE RANGE OF RECOVERY GEAR INCLUDES:

- Snatch straps
- Tree trunk protectors
- Winch extension straps
- Warn & Magnum winches
- Tirfor hand winches
- Snatch blocks
- Winch dampers
- Hi-Lift jacks & mounting accessories
- Recovery kits
- Recovery bags
- Winching gloves
- Drag chains
- Rated shackles
- Exhaust jacks
- Ground anchors
- Tow hooks



4X4 ACCESSORIES

ACT: 188-190 Gladstone St, Fyshwick 2609 Tel: (02) 6280 7475
Fax: (02) 6239 1124 Email: sales@arb.com.au Web: www.arb.com.au

ARB accessories are available from stores in every state and stockists in most larger regional centres.

TRIPS AND EVENTS



22 - 24 Jan **Victorian Mountain Magic**

2011-001

- Trip Leader: Greg and Vickie Taylor
Email: vickie.taylor@bigpond.com
Phone: 02 6241 3547 (h)
Limit: 15 vehicles
Grade: 3
Start: 8:30 PM
Meeting Place: Williamsdale
Fuel: Full tank - top up at Jindabyne (for alpine mix diesel)
Maps: Hema 1/200,000 High Country Victoria, Hema 1/385,000 South East NSW, 1/25,000 maps of Thredbo, Suggan Buggan, Vic 1/25,000 Mt Cobberas, Tom Groggin and Biggara.
Requirements: Basic driver training, basic recovery gear, UHF radio, good tyres, well maintained and reliable vehicle which should have good ground clearance, camping gear including gas stove for cooking, food and water, happy hour and pot luck supplies. Bow saw/axe for track clearing, and a blind/tarp for water crossing. Tyre chains for steep mountain fire trails.
Description: Travel to Jindabyne and top up fuel. Head down Barry Way for morning tea at Wallace Craigie lookout and magnificent views of the Snowy River, Willis and then turn up the Ingeegoodbee FT to McFarlane Flat and the Cobberas, Playgrounds and our first night camp at Limestone Creek or Native Dog Flat. Limestone Rd/trail to the Poplars (McCarthy's), Buckwong Hut and on to Mt Hope, Mt Anderson, Mt Gibbo with second camp at Wheelers Creek Hut. Mt Pinnibar via Mt Anderson, Tom Groggin for a dip (water crossing) in the Murray River and head for Canberra via Thredbo and Jindabyne.

This is the plan but we may deviate to camp at other locations depending on our progress each day. Many of the areas we are visiting have toilet facilities - but remember your shovel, toilet paper and good humour. Happy hour on Saturday and Pot Luck dinner on Sunday night.

13 Feb **New Members Picnic**

2011-004

- Trip Leader: Ian Goodacre and Rosemary Orr
Email: newtricks@bigpond.com
Phone: 02 6291 0455 (h); 0403 304 505 (m)
Limit: 10 vehicles
Grade: 1
Start: 8:30 AM
Meeting Place: Uriarra Homestead
Fuel: Full tank
Maps: tba
Requirements: UHF radio
Description: A great day for new members, and of course older members. Put the date in your diary - more details later

TRIPS AND EVENTS



12 - 19 Mar **Vic High Deep South**

2011-003

Trip Leader: Michael Patrick
Email: michael.patrick2@bigpond.com
Phone: 0412 377 941 (m)
Limit: 8 vehicles
Grade: 3
Start: 8:30 AM
Meeting Place: Barton Highway Dinosaur Museum car park
Fuel: Full tank at start
Maps: NSW South, Hema Victoria East Gippsland, Hema High Country Victoria West
Requirements: Basic recovery kit. UHF radio. Well maintained vehicle with good tyres. Sorry, no soft-roaders or camping trailers. Standard camping gear, food supplies and water to last a minimum of four days. Extra supplies available at Dargo and Omeo
Description: Travel via Hume Highway to Benalla then to Mansfield, first night camp will be at Sawmill Settlement. For the next six days we will travel Cambatong Spur, Buckland, Tomahawk gap, Pineapple flat, Cobblers, Bindaree, Up Billy Goat, Crooked river, Wonnangatta station, Dogs grave and may more areas
Comments: This is a fairly flexible trip as no strict itinerary will be followed, just the general route as planned. Camping is available at numerous sites. Fuel can be obtained at Dargo and Omeo. The final leg which is day eight Saturday 19 March will be a dash up the Hume highway to home

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: \$75:00
Shirts: \$37:50
Vests: \$47:50
Caps: \$15:00
Hats: \$15:00
Beanies: \$15:00
Name Badges: \$12.00
Rugby Tops: \$48:00

Kathy Solomos 0402 051 623



BRINDABELLA CLASSIC



13 June 2010

Joe Briguglio

What do you do when the trip you organised for 8 vehicles suddenly grows to 14? Well if you are Greg and Vicky you invite them all. The Brindabella Classic is a trip Greg and Vicky leads from time to time giving recently graduated Basic Driver participants a chance to do a one day trip to practice skills learnt at their training. The added benefit is a chance to meet others in the club and experience the fun and friendship guaranteed when you participate on any trip that Greg and Vicky (or any other trip leader) run. Of course some of us older members joined in on the fun also.

The day started under a beautiful clear sky with all participants gathering at the agreed meeting point at Uriarra Homestead. All except one who, in their enthusiasm to start the day, missed the gathering point and started into the Brindabellas without us (your secret is safe with me Sen).



A quick radio conversation sorted the situation and the whole group were reunited at the air down point on the Brindabella Road.

The morning was cool and clear with traces of ice on the road to Piccadilly Circus. While the icy conditions made the road slightly slippery it kept the dust down keeping the convoy tight all the way to Gentle Annie trail. On the higher altitude a light dusting of snow was still evident from the falls earlier in the week.

The run down to Flea Creek down Gentle Annie went without a hitch as the track has recently been graded. Greg had warned us in an email that the loo at Flea Creek campground was probably the only one on the trip. The race was on to reach the loos first with most of the ladies winning the race. Greg thought it was amusing that this toilet was

designed to accommodate a wheelchair with no physical means of getting one up there. Some suggested a winch with a couple of redirections could do the trick.

Anyone who has experienced participating in a trip with Greg and Vicky leading and Michael Patrick and Tina running Charlie will know that the sledging goes on all day. On this trip we were not disappointed with both Greg and Michael in good form keeping the entire convoy amused. Michael decided to give up his comfy Prado up to James

bravely bringing up the rear in his ever faithful Suzuki. Tina braved part of the trip in the Suzi but bailed to the Prado (can you blame her) when the going got rough.

After morning tea part of the group ventured see the Goodradigbee River. The car park has been changed in recent times and is a tight squeeze for a convoy. The group reformed shortly after for the run up Webbs Ridge Trail. On the way though we noticed the remnants of a burnt out aluminium box formally attached to the back of a four wheel drive ute - never one to pass up an opportunity Adrian scooped up the remains and strapped them to his roof rack.

Ian Goodacre and Ben joined us for this trip in the newly repaired Hilux. This trip was a shakedown to ensure that all systems worked correctly and

BRINDABELLA CLASSIC



give the new motor a run. Of course poor Ian was fair game every time we reached a puddle or water crossing. At one point Ben was asked if he packed his goggles and snorkel – all taken in good humour. Ian tells us he is investing in a new underwater camera as his old one wasn't up to the job.

After traversing Webbs Ridge trail we soon had turned off onto the Waterfall Trail to our lunch appointment at Lowell's Flat Camp ground. This part of the trip was punctuated by a skilfully executed recovery after one vehicle got stuck; giving the newer members a chance to see our club in action (your secret is safe with me Ian G).

Lowell's Flat Campground is a beautiful place – one that deserves a longer stay (I feel see a trip coming on) and the perfect spot for lunch. A quick detour through McIntyre's Hut and a photo opportunity then we were on our way back to the Waterfall Trail. For those who have not driven the length of Waterfall Trail I can thoroughly recommend it.

Our trip was drawing to an end when we turned onto Folly Trail but proved to have one last surprise. With the setting sun in our eyes and an interesting but rocky climb one of our convoy became stuck part way up the hill. (like the others before you your secret is safe with me Adrian).

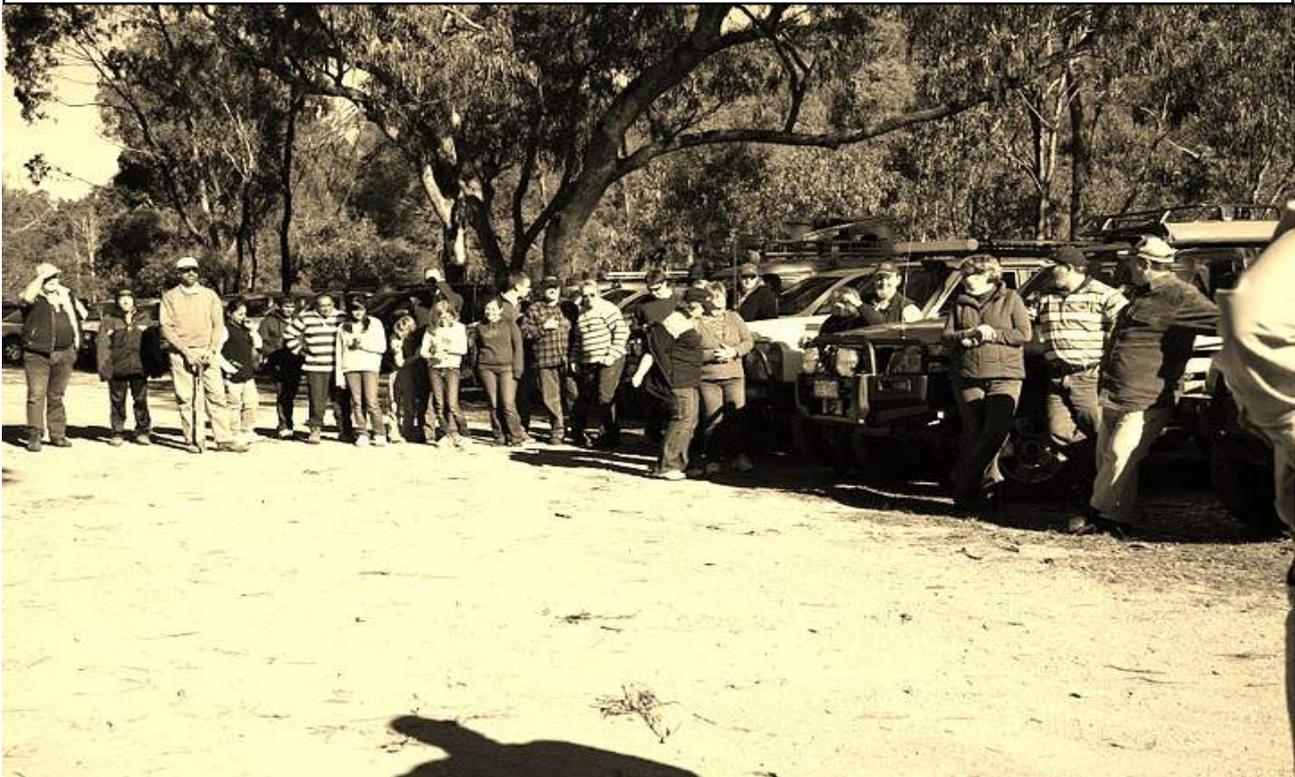
After a straight forward but interesting recovery using three snatch straps the convoy was once again mobile heading for an afternoon tea date at Pig Hill summit. Pig Hill summit offers a fantastic view of Canberra from the west and rounded off a wonderful and memorable day.

Special thanks to Greg and Vicky Taylor for organising the trip, to Michael Patrick for providing the entertainment, to Ian and Adrian for providing the recovery challenges, to Sen for finding an alternative agreed place to start the trip, to Greg and Vicky's son Brendan for providing the sausages and to the whole group for getting into the fun of

Participants:

Greg Taylor & Vickie Trip Leader

Paul Conn & Shirley : Jim Anderson & Jane : Ian Delaney Jo & Mitchell : Ian Goodacre & Ben
Sen Wijeratne & Doonie : Tom Layton & Becky + 3: Michael Patrick & Tina : Joe Briguglio & Sue
Lindsay Jones & Janet: Warren Shardlow: Adrian Gallman: John Lord



A Merry Excursion to Croajingalong and Pt Hicks Lighthouse



24-28 May 2010

Bob Calder

Bob and Sylvia Allen (Trip Leaders) and friends	100 Series Landcruiser
Chris and Julie Nicholls	GQ Patrol
Bob and Maureen Calder	Pajero
David and Vivien Johnson	Landcruiser
Richard Brand and Judi	Adventurer

“The time has come” the Walrus said,
“to talk of many things:
Of shoes -- and ships -- and sealing-wax --
Of cabbages -- and kings—
And why the sea is boiling hot—
And whether pigs have wings.”
Lewis Carroll had a way with nonsense in his whimsical writings. The challenge for you, dear reader, is to determine the facts from the nonsense in this report.

This was the third club excursion to the beautiful Croajingalong/Pt Hicks area in the past few years. A short trip report would say, “We came, we relaxed, we went”. However, that would not do The Pt Hicks Lighthouse Cottages and the Croajingalong National park justice. It is a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve complete with remote beaches, tall forests, granite peaks, some of the highest sand dunes in the world, tranquil estuarine lakes, ghosts and big black cats . It also has Australia’s highest lighthouse and cottages on a wind-swept headland at which we were to stay four nights. Unlike many ST4WD trips, Pt Hicks is a destination, not a journey.

The 4WD Experience

The convoy of five vehicles, after gathering at Williamsdale, guided its way with the aid of the DL (Dear Leader) and his GPS to the legendary bakery at Nimmitabel for refreshments, before heading off to Cann River for lunch. Real 4wd challenges on the way to Pt Hicks were pretty scarce, except for the big puddle (DL rated it as a grade 3 puddle) which had to be navigated after the River crossing at the Mueller River. The mud thrown up from this puddle did its job in putting some dirt on the vehicles, thus establishing our credentials as genuine four wheel drivers. Unfortunately, the Mueller River crossing was no challenge, as some misguided engineer had over sighted the construction of a modern concrete and steel bridge. It could

have been a real challenge if two vehicles had tried to cross the single lane solid concrete bridge, side by side, but this was a sensible expedition – for the most part. So those members who had recently finished the Sand and Water crossing training had no scope to demonstrate their skills at the Mueller River. And the massive sand dunes, the second highest in the Southern Hemisphere, could not be challenged, as they are reachable only by a hiking track, so no scope to show off any newly learned sand driving techniques there either.

Of Seals and Whales and Ghostly Tales

On arrival, two whales greeted us by serenely swimming past the headland. This sight of whales beginning their migration to warmer waters was repeated a few other times during our visit. The front verandahs of the cottages, with refreshments on hand, make for ideal viewing of passing whales and also, the wide variety of birdlife that live on, and pass by the headland. It was also the perfect spot for Vivien to indulge her passion for painting.

While walruses, predictably, were in short supply, seals were readily apparent in the waters and off-shore rocks. During a stiff blow on the second day, one large seal appeared to have suffered in the storm and was motionless on some rocks close by to the lighthouse cottages. The seal was in a sheltered area away from the surging sea and blasting winds. We pronounced it dead. However, after exhorting one of our esteemed members to give it mouth to mouth resuscitation, it growled and moved away to an adjacent rock where it spent the next few days. Was it a genuine Lazarus style miracle? Or did fear of mouth to mouth contact from a bearded club member prove too awful for our marine friend to contemplate? Either way, all were happy to see the seal show some signs of life.

Sightings of the ghost of Robert Cristofferson were not reported by any of the club members, even though numerous Spirits, mostly from Scotland,

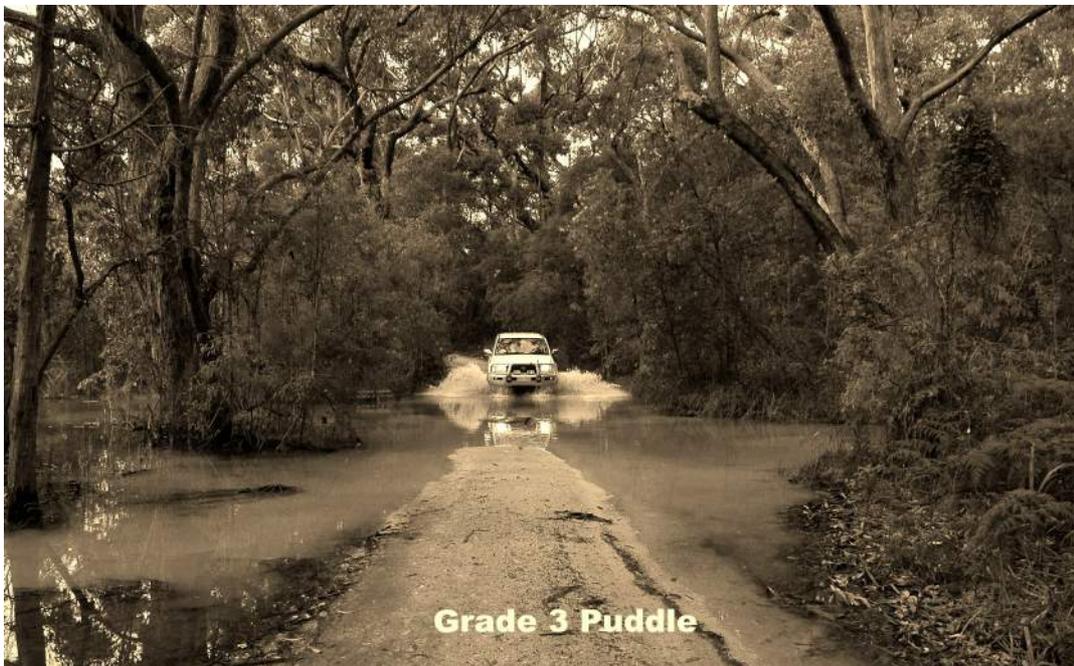
A Merry Excursion to Croajingalong and Pt Hicks Lighthouse



did make their predicted appearance. However, the ghostly report is not complete without the unexplained and random ringing of the old wind up telephone in each cottage. According to the lighthouse caretakers, these phones were dead as the dodo. However, some mischievous club members were able to get the phones, from time to time, to emit an old style ring. But on at least two occasions, completely sober witnesses, who were quite rare late at night, were able to testify that the phones did ring by themselves. So a mystery still remains. Was Robert Christofferson trying to make contact? Had we failed him by not organizing a séance so

A Fishy Tale

Those who went on the trip last year will recall that the lighthouse caretakers showed us which part of the beach to fish for salmon, and everybody who took a rod down to the beach caught some salmon. Having learn't nothing from this experience, this time we went to a different part of the beach and caught nothing! The tide was right, there was a good deep gutter to toss a lure or bait in, but no fish. That the rip in the gutter was too fast, that the heavy weather and crashing waves had caused too much sand to be swirling around the gutter, should have caused us to find another spot. But



hey, we are fishermen and stubbornness often gets in the way of commonsense. So two sessions on consecutive days at the same dead spot lead to no fish.

But there is a fishy tale to be told. Showing a highly developed sense of perseverance, when all other had given fishing away, our

that he could really tell us of the treachery that ended his life at such a beautiful and desolate place?

The Mad Hatters Tea Party

Well, not really a tea party, but evenings were characterized by lavish spreads of gourmet foods for all to enjoy at the communal dinner table. While mostly, superficial, but occasionally deep, discussions would be held covering topics as diverse as the best walks in the park, the quality of wines, politics and the most likely cross dressers in the ST4WD club. It was almost unanimous, that the most likely/best ST4WD club cross dresser was ??????????

erstwhile DL came grinning back to the cottages with a nice 4lb salmon on the fourth day. It had two fresh slash marks down each side. DL explained these away with an improbable saga that a sea eagle had tried to pinch it from the sand after DL had caught it. The evidence was circumstantial, as DL admitted he had not actually seen the sea eagle with it in its claws. DL explained, with appropriate animation, that after a monstrous battle with the salmon which left him mentally and physically drained, he had half buried the salmon in the sand (tail up) to bleed the fish. Some time later DL noticed a sea eagle circling above, and his fish laying flat on the sand with the slash marks down its side.

A Merry Excursion to Croajingalong and Pt Hicks Lighthouse



A Merry Excursion to Croajingalong and Pt Hicks Lighthouse :Continued

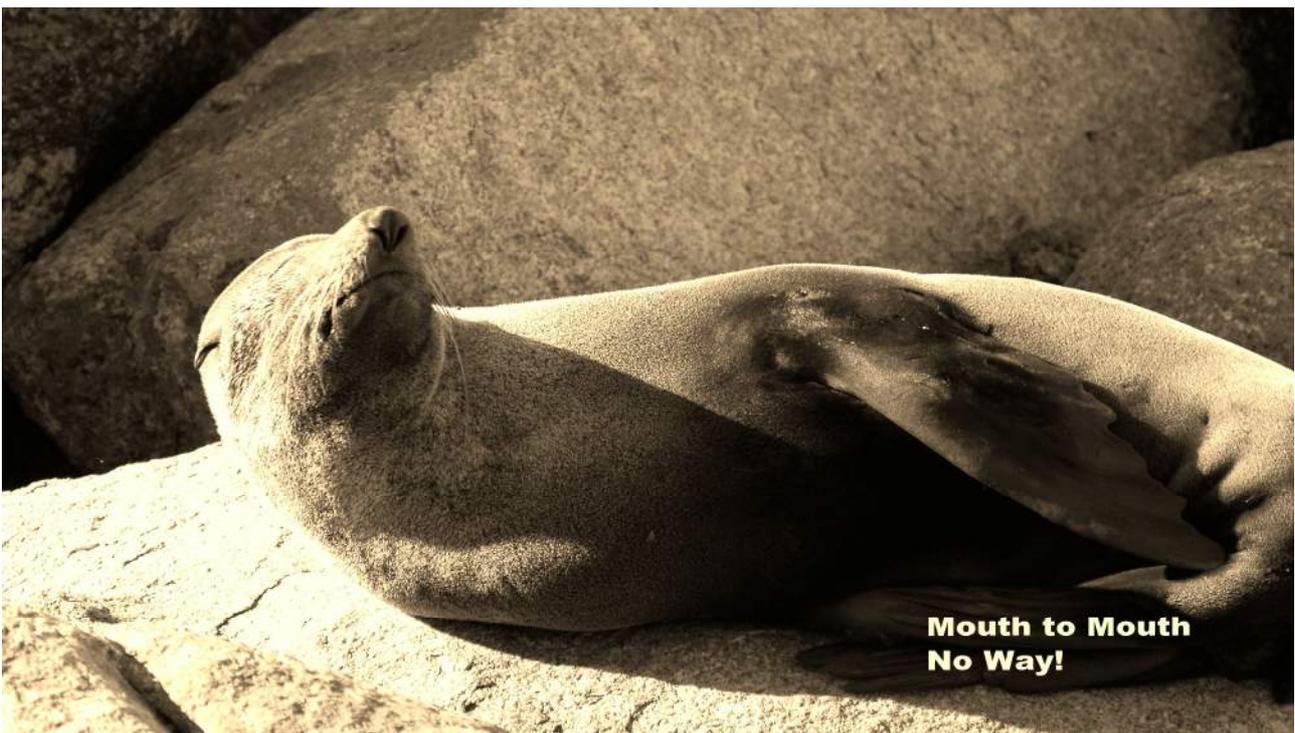
Others of course believe a different story. We believe the sea eagle, after witnessing our pathetic fishing efforts of the past few days, took pity on poor DL. It went and caught a salmon at the spot where the salmon were, and where we fished last year, flew back and dropped it close to DL to show him how it's done. So dear reader, you have two versions. Which do you believe?

Highlights and Low Lights

The last night ended in a sing- a-long around a fire in the lounge room of cottage one. Vivien provided the guitar accompaniment, and led the singing in her usual accomplished way. David and Vivien had generously provided songbooks for all, so no excuse was countenanced for not knowing the words to any old time classics from music hall days. Unfortunately, many of us failed miserably in our abilities to hold a tune, and even sing the right words, despite the accomplished musical accompaniment and songbooks. Nevertheless, the songs did seem to sound better as the evening progressed. Probably due in equal parts to the singing practice and the declining stocks of wine.

Ticks are one of those things in life that can be good or bad. At primary school, a big tick was always welcome from the teacher. In the Australian bush, a tick is not so welcome. In this trip the low light was one of the latter. There are certain parts of the body, unique to one gender only, and at a place guaranteed to sort out your real friends, that one does not really want to find a tick. All one can say is that anonymity will be respected, but a "Tick on the !!!!!" certainly sorts out your real friends. And it is sobering to realize that there are indeed limits to some friendships!

So perhaps next year, there will be further opportunities to enjoy congenial company, great food, and magnificent scenery, interesting walks, and fishing at one of the more interesting places of our rugged and wild coast. And next year, you may not even have to get mud on your 4WD to get there!



Talooge Weekender



3-4 July 2010

Greg Taylor

Greg and Vickie Taylor
Michael Patrick
Rob and Lynne Donaldson with Gemma and Daniel
Lindsay and Craig Jones
Joe and James Briguglio
Ian and Jo Delaney with Mitchell
Sen and Waruni Wijeratne with Doonie
Chris Rauch

It all started when Vickie and I finally picked up our rooftop tent that had been coming since the weekend before the 4WD Spectacular (start of Feb) – that is a long story...but it (the tent) now needed a maiden voyage.

So, I sent an email to members and asked people to pass it on to others. We ended up with a pretty good response, many who could not make it but wanted to be on the list for the next time. Some of the reasons were pretty good too. From David, Sue and family in Cable Beach WA (including photos to rub it in), Rob and Yvonne just heading to WA or Jeanette and Ian who are back from the Cape but were at Burleigh Heads. Shows just how well travelled our members are. With the exception for those of us still in Canberra in winter that is!

Saturday morning at Williamsdale was a tad wet but, as predicted, the rain was clearing. One of the emails I had received during the week said the Donaldsons would be there 'with bells on'. I wrote back saying I looked forward to seeing that and they did not let me down. Rob, Lynne, Gemma and Daniel had bells on (never seen that before). This was a good start to the weekend that left us discussing the origin of the saying on the way to Bredbo. Michael was giving the Suzie a run so he went Charlie.

On arrival, it was out with the magic tea bags (soaked in kero) to light the fire. Ian and a few others kept it well stoked all weekend – it was cold. A major branch had fallen from a gum next to the 'praying mantis' gum (the one leaning at 45 degrees on the bank near the awning at Thurbon Flat and it has two branches touching the ground like mantis legs).

Most had set up so several headed for a drive around the property. Some had not seen the Bottle Shop so it was off to track 5 for a visit to the shop and Michael's chilling retelling of its history. We headed down to Duck's crossing and the climb up to Strike a Light trail and back to camp.

The branch that had fallen would have been a good ton or more of timber and anyone unlucky to be camping under it when it fell would not likely be alive to talk about it. Beware camping under branches of gum trees at the club property or elsewhere for that matter! Rob and I dug out the chainsaws and started cutting up the branches. With everyone's help, we moved the wood to the firewood stack. Chris pulled three trailer loads so there was a lot there.

Later in the day, we headed to the slope beside Hayes Park to practise winching. This was an opportunity for some to rewind winch cable under tension and for others to tension cables that were new. Also, two had not had the opportunity to use their winches which were on the vehicles when bought second hand. Chris provided the basic gear being tree trunk protector, shackles, damper and snatch block. This would be the minimum to carry if you have a winch. I carry more in the way of multiple tree trunk protectors, extension straps, shackles, snatch blocks and importantly dampers. Very important for double or triple line pulls.

We discussed hand signals and safety measures and ensured everyone was at a safe distance during winching. Four vehicles with winches lined up for practise and in the end, only one functioned properly.

One of the winches had synthetic rope which was not attached properly to the drum of the winch. There was evidence of overheating and the last metre or so of the cable had melted and flattened. This was considered to be repairable but not the thing to find on a steep mountain fire trail when you are stuck and need your winch to operate.

The next would not winch at all with the winch dying under load. At first we thought the clutch handle was not working properly to engage the

A-Filming-We-Went

Peter Fenwick



Talooge Weekender Cont

gears but, it turned out that the battery was in need of maintenance and not supplying sufficient power for the winch. Another stuck vehicle potentially on the side of the mountain or on a beach with the tide coming in!

The next winch was working and pulling the vehicle but had a problem where the winch cable was overrunning the drum as it was feeding in too quickly. This leads to kinks and folded loops in the cable on the drum and potentially the cable slipping when placed under increased loads.

Another lesson learned – practising using your gear in a controlled situation is far better than getting a nasty surprise when you need to count on it. This situation could have proved to be a long recovery session if three of these vehicles were together in a recovery situation on a mountain. I usually run my winch cable out and practise/re-tension at least once or twice a year. So, generally, I am reasonably confident in it working and functioning well. I would suggest if you have a winch and participate in four wheel drive trips then you should do the same. If you are unsure of what you are doing then ask the Driver Trainers. Remember, like most recovery aids, if used incorrectly there can be significant danger to the people involved.

Similarly, if you have a bead breaker, tyre pliers, high lift jack, x jack, hand winch and so on, you should ensure you are familiar with its use and practising will help you gain experience and confidence.

So, we retired to a great fire, good company and an entertaining evening that went on until late. Lindsay had his Kimberley Kamper trailer that seems complete with everything – even a diesel powered hot water system and heater. Talk about roughing it when camping. The next day was a slow start and for those camped around the awning, a long wait for the ice and dew to disappear because of the shadows.

A great weekend at the club property we will have to do it again soon.

Oh, and the rooftop tent? It was fine and very comfortable.

A-Filming-We-Went

As you know Catherine and I are the dealers for Track Trailer (Tvan) in the ACT and southern NSW and represent the factory at a number of shows each year. We had an interesting opportunity in May. Ron Moon was not available to assist so we were asked to step in as 4WDing "advisors". At least we had more experience than the film crew thanks to our club driver trainers. The plan was to spend two weeks retracing the footsteps of John McDouall Stuart from Adelaide to Tennant Creek and film 4 episodes of "What's Up Down Under". That time frame is a fairly tall ask. The sponsors Nissan Australia, Big4 Caravan Parks, SA and NT Tourism and Track Trailer all expected their interests to be effectively represented and products showcased. The audience need an interesting, informative and entertaining program. The opportunity to accompany the crew as an off-road advisor, in this possible epic was not to be missed. The finished result can be seen on Channel 7 on Saturdays at 4:30pm in July so you can be the judge for yourself. Here are a few thoughts on how it all went.

The biggest surprise was that we had to leave our beloved and fully equipped Pajero in Adelaide and take a Nissan from there. We found this out three days before departure so had to plan to move the recovery gear, tools, fridge and other paraphernalia into the Nissan. It was a quick trip to Adelaide.

The route mapped by Stuart in his journeys between 1857 and 1862 became part of the Overland Telegraph Line route. We covered only some 2,100km of Stuart's trail in the luxury of modern vehicles but the landscapes provoke contemplation of the hardships faced by Stuart and his teams. That said, the areas we travelled through were the greenest I have seen the outback in 20 years.

The Cars

Nissan provided 3 turbo diesel Pathfinders an STL 6 speed manual, an STL and an STI both 5 speed autos.

For medium size 7 seaters they use space very effectively to provide a variety of configurations depending on load and seating requirements. This flexibility of operation is a boon for families or campers and provides a long clear and flat load space that can double as a bed if you provide an air

A-Filming-We-Went



Peter Fenwick

mattress. Performance is good even when towing a 1500Kg caravan or trailer. The tow rating is 3000Kg but ball weight can reduce the overall load capacity.

The ride is comfortable, coping with most surfaces well by isolating the passengers from all but the harshest bumps. The cabin is surprisingly spacious and airy and seats offer good support and comfort for longer trips but the rear pair is not for long legged passengers except for shorter distances. The interiors of both models are well equipped and offer split (left/right) AC. The STI also has rear AC, sat nav, memory driver seat and overhead rear entertainment system that provides iPod and USB input.

The 2.5L TD, also fitted to the Navara, works well in either format but is more relaxed in the auto.

The 4WD system does away with the traditional transfer case shift lever by providing an on-dash rotary dial. This makes choices easier and frees up space in the centre console. The 4WD capability of the Pathfinder is significant for this type of SUV and limited only by the driver's ability, tyre choice and lack of ground clearance. As delivered the Pathfinders are biased towards sealed or dirt road use with the occasional foray onto forest trails. The Oodnadatta Track and road from Marree to Coober Pedy were in excellent condition when we travelled and presented no challenge to the Pathfinders, even towing a trailer. Had the roads been wet this may have been very different as the surface is very soft in places and requires appropriate tyres and clearance along with driving skill.

To gain the relevant driving skills and vehicle knowledge, I recommend joining a 4WD club affiliated with 4WD Australia, the peak body of the state 4WD associations. Membership brings a range of benefits to and opportunities to form some great friendships and travel with drivers experienced in bush camping.

The Trailers

Track Trailer, manufacturer of serious off-road camper trailers, provided a Tvan Canning, a Topaz caravan and the just released Mk III Tvan Murrarji off-road camper trailer which is being given away on the show. These units are far more capable than most new road camper trailers straight off the showroom floor and are named after some of Australia's most iconic and difficult 4WD tracks. They are designed to go wherever you can get your

4WD. They were not challenged on this trip but proved very flexible in terms of use and comfortable accommodation for the crew. The fact that they can be set up or packed up in about 3 minutes in any terrain was a real boon to a busy film crew who needed a good night's sleep. They also served as a lunch time canteen providing easy access kitchen facilities and fresh water. The ensuite and shower on the Topaz came in very handy as did the generator it carried for this trip when night shoots required high power lighting of the campsite. The portable loo won't be mentioned again but I stress that the ladies found it convenient.

The innovative new Mk III Tvan is full of clever design ideas and makes excellent use of space. It has a huge front box, multiple storage lockers, jerry can holders and gas bottles. The full queen size bed, stainless steel kitchen and solar panel to provide power to lights, water pump, fridge and accessories all help provide a very comfortable bush camping experience. A 3 year warranty even when used seriously off-road inspires confidence that Track products are amongst the best off-road campers available. Watch the show for a chance to win it.

The Crew

We met Frankie J Holden and the crew in Adelaide an immediately started filming our "chance" meeting (watch the episode). Frank is the star and face of the program. He is a very personable young at heart older rocker who has a clear idea of what viewers want and makes every effort to provide an entertaining and informative show. At times this desire can lead to additional takes and impromptu interviews and shoots with either colourful locals or great venues. The very professional three person production crew; producer, Liz, cameraman, Phil and sound man, John, generally take it all in their stride and make it happen. The level of good humour, patience and expertise came through in so many ways; including arranging happy snaps for FJH's many fans who approached the crew when filming. One keen fan in a wheel chair followed the team from Port Augusta to Alice Springs and was rewarded with a private chat and photo with Frank at the old overland telegraph station near the original Alice Springs. Another example is the charm and humour used to coax two British backpackers out of the relaxing hot water, they had just entered, at Coward Springs to enable Frank and I to get in

A-Filming-We-Went



so the shooting schedule could be almost kept. The young ladies were rather surprised but appreciated the courtesy and humour shown them by Frank and the crew while finishing the shoot in rapid time. They were looking forward to a good night at William Creek.

Swapping cars and trailers every other day for filming purposes and driver impressions can be a bit tiresome but the crew are used to it so took it in their stride. Catherine and I took longer to adjust, especially remembering which fridge/car/trailer contained what food and drink for meals. Catherine did a great job catering for the crew. They had not expected such support.

The arrival of Frank's wife Michelle Pettigrove and daughter Georgia, her friend Matisse and father Greg at Alice Springs meant more mouths to feed, more supplies and the need to choose bush camping sites more carefully to accommodate the larger party for the rest of the trip. The flexibility of the Nissan Pathfinder's seating and load carrying ability along with the water capacity, storage space and fridges in the Tvan campers and Topaz caravan made this easily possible and most importantly comfortable and enjoyable. The sound systems in the trailers were excellent and set the mood as we relaxed in camp with cuppas (or something stronger) and enjoyed the sunsets only available in the Australian outback as dinner simmered.

The Places

The Big 4 Caravan parks were all very well equipped and laid out with friendly, knowledgeable staff eager to assist tourists and even a tired film crew. The facilities varied with location but there were a few highlights. Adelaide Shores has a pretty good cafe with great lamb shanks. They also have a heated pool. Wycliffe Well offers the possibility of seeing a UFO, catching red claw Yabbies or riding the train. There are also emus and donkeys, just ask Ark the owner. Hawker and Coober Pedy are both small as befits the location but the staff made us all welcome. Alice Springs has activities ranging from astronomy through poetry to free pancakes on Sunday mornings. Can you eat as many as Frankie? Kids are well catered for.

Port Augusta is a mixture of the old port and the new town, well worth a walk around before departing north, east or west. Don't miss the lookout tower providing stunning 360 degree views.

Quorn home of the Pitchi-Richi railway and

Hawker, gateway to the Flinders Ranges, are worth visiting for many reasons including arts and crafts, history, good food and coffee and friendly people. The last Ghan train passed through in 1956 marking the towns decline as important railway towns. The restoration rail workshop at Quorn is a must visit. You can use either town as a base for some excellent 4WDing.

Marree is 685km North of Adelaide at the junction of the Oodnadatta and Birdsville Tracks and home to the Lake Eyre Yacht Club. You have to be very lucky to see a regatta. It was a main centre for the Afghan camel drivers who used the town as a base from which to deliver supplies as far away as Alice Springs. After 1883 it was a major railhead for the cattle industry. The Ghan passenger train ran from Marree to Alice Springs.

The Break-Aways north of Coober Pedy is a fascinating geological area. Check out the two dogs, old man and camel formations and read the aboriginal tales of their origins. Visit the petrified forest, the Dog Fence and the locations of over 20 film shoots, many in the Science Fiction genre. Look carefully in Coober Pedy for the Star Wars relic. Coober Pedy itself is famous for its opals and underground homes and businesses. The folk of *Crocodile Harry's Underground Nest* put on a BBQ for the crew that was most welcome after a long day; a visit to the *nest* is a must. The only adverse comment came from a local who thought we were freeloaders but was put straight by Franks who informed him "yes but we are the freeloaders this shindig is welcoming to town" or was that Phil the cameraman?

The real **Alice Springs** isn't a spring but a soak in the Todd River near the old town that was originally named Stuart Town after its discoverer. The main overland telegraph station was located here and all messages from Australia to the world passed through it. The telegraph operator was also the magistrate, keeper of aborigines and mayor. The town was later renamed after the then Telegraph Master General's wife Alice Todd who never actually visited the town. It seems Stuart had not done enough to deserve permanent recognition. The telegraph station was preserved when the town was moved to the new site and is well worth a visit. Heavy Tree Gap is a sacred site for Arrente men as are areas in the east and west MacDonnell ranges. Check with NT Tourism for the many festivals,

A-Filming-We-Went



cultural and art centres and events.

Tennant Creek is 500 kilometres north of Alice Springs, 1000 kilometres south of Darwin and 100Km north of the Devil's Marbles a popular tourist stop and basic campsite. The town was founded to support the Overland Telegraph Station and is the centre of cattle country on the Barkley Tablelands to the east. It was a gold rush town in the 1930s. The Warumungu people showcase their culture and stories at the Nyinkka Nyunyu centres.

The Roads

The road north from Hawker is sealed as far as Leigh Creek and generally good dirt to Marree the start of the Oodnadatta Track. Depending on the weather and when the grader went through the road can be a fast dirt highway, impassable bog hole or anything in between. Be prepared and listen to the radio and especially the locals and other travellers for advice on conditions. The full recovery set, with assorted tools and equipment, including puncture repair kit carried for emergencies was not needed on this trip but provided peace of mind. A long handled shovel is always handy even when only used for camp fires.

A week before we travelled the Oodnadatta a barge was ferrying cars across so I had a couple of contingency routes planned and had warned the crew that travel times could be extended if the road was really wet. The waters from up north had not broken through to Lake Eye south by the time we passed it.

There are many remnants of the Old Ghan to see and the stations at Curdimurka and Coward Springs are especially well preserved. Coward Springs is a natural spring with tepid water when we visited in mid winter but I am told it is warmer at times. Regardless of water temperature it is a pleasant and refreshing stop for travellers. You never know who you will meet; backpackers or a film crew. You could be enticed to camp.

From Marree you continue north up the Oodnadatta Track to William Creek and then north to Marla where it rejoins the sealed Stuart Highway. Before it does so the road can get pretty rough in places. The Pink Roadhouse is a welcome respite if going this way. Alternatively at William Creek you can turn west to Coober Pedy as we did. This road was a little rougher and still suffering from some recent flooding so driving into the setting sun required extra care to miss wash-aways. From Coober Pedy

we were back on the blacktop apart from a couple of off-road excursions to test the equipment again.

There are many ways to follow in John McDouall Stuart's footsteps as he made five trips through central Australia. Our trip was far too fast due to the needs of TV show filming deadlines but we did have a great time, saw some amazing places, met friendly and knowledgeable locals and would love to bring you other tales of the area in the future. Meanwhile as travellers for your own pleasure you have far more time to plan your exploration to maximise your enjoyment of the vastness that is the Australian outback. I hope this article has whetted your appetite for the wonders of central Australia and the explorer who was John McDouall Stuart.

After filming the team returned to the Alice where all but Catherine and I flew home. We cleaned up the cars and trailers, set two up in storage ready to be driven back later and then headed to Adelaide with the third trailer. We collected our Paj and headed for home across the Hay Plain. The only incident was the suicidal roo and companion in northern Victoria that decided to play chicken and lost. Thank goodness for the solid ECB winch bar and the bash plates underneath. Both Paj and trailer kicked and bucked as we hit and rolled over it at 100kph (speed limit 110). Camping that night was definitely a little whiffy. It took some pruning with shears and tongs and 50minutes with the pressure spray to remove the mess. The ECB bar has a new 3cm dent and a broken vent surround to show for it. But hey this is Australia and one roo in 20 years is not bad. I am very glad we were not in a car without a bull bar. We would not have made it home the next day.

Peter Fenwick

Past President, ST4WDC and President 4WD NSW&ACT

All your filter, hose and recovery equipment under the one roof...

C
H
L
E

- Rigging
- Recovery gear - including rope hand winches and electric winches (super winch)
- Chain and lifting equipment
- Synthetic slings

Phone: (02) 6280 7298

THE FILTER FACTORY

Automotive oil and air filters
Specialising in Uni Filters

Phone: (02) 6239 1526



Phone:
(02) 6239 1058

- Power steering hoses
- Hydraulic hose repairs
- Speedflow fittings and hoses

Come and see Mark with your ST4WD club membership card for a discount

8/3 BARRIER ST FYSHWICK ACT 2609

Around Town Plumbing Services

ABN: 11 227 406 122

For all your plumbing needs !

We have been in business for 13 years, specialising in plumbing maintenance in and around the Canberra area.

Call us for:

- General plumbing maintenance
- Commercial plumbing
- Installation of dishwashers
- Backflow prevention and testing
- Gas fitting
- Toilet and tap repairs
- CCTV inspection of blocked drains
- Installation of hot water units
- In-wall cisterns
- Ejector pumps and grease traps
- Burst pipe repairs and replacement
- Drain cleaning - electric eel, mini-eel & high pressure cleaning



We offer a 10% discount on Labour to club members

Call Rob or Lynne on 0418 631 669

www.aroundtownplumbing.com.au



LEE & THOMAS

Auto Electrics

EST.1960

- General Auto Electrical Repairs
- Batteries & Accessories
- Airconditioning Servicing
- Exchange Alternators & Starter Motors



- Car Immobilisers

SHOWROOM & WORKSHOP

@ 95 Grenville Crt

Phillip

6281 1455

OPEN MON - FRI

8.00am - 5.00pm

SATURDAY

8.00am - 12.00



Hire a Tvan

the most versatile, dependable, robust and comfortable hard top camper trailer available

This serious off road camper trailer, built by Track Trailer in Melbourne, was awarded "Campertrailer of the Millennium" and has recently won the Caravan and Recreational Vehicle Manufacturers Association of Australia award for hard top camper trailers.



Track Trailer has just released a CARAVAN for the serious off-road traveller. The Topaz provides exceptional levels of comfort, equipment and off road performance.

Hire rates for the Tvan: \$600 per week; \$330 long weekend; \$250 weekend

NB. We have a try for free policy if you buy a Tvan from us.

Download an application from www.independenttrailers.com.au or ring Catherine on 0412 866 375 or email catherine@independenttrailers.com.au

**ACT agent for
Tanami Pumps, Auspitt & Camperback Tray-top campers.**

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.



Mitsubishi Pajero 2004 NP GLX 3.8lt, Auto, Petrol, 142,500km, Rego 03/11, towbar, tinted windows. alloy wheels. Bullbar, dual battery, UHF, aux fuel tank, new HD shocks & springs, cargo barrier, rear drawers, fridge slide, roof rack, BFG AT's.

\$22,500.

Ph Rick 0412 335 962

2001 Land Cruiser RV Diesel Constant 4WD with live front axle 225,000kms, 5 speed manual, Berrima Turbo, 8 Seater, Old Man Emu suspension, side steps, GXL rims with 2 new Cooper ST tyres and 2 50%, overhead console with UHF, Piranha dual battery system with Anderson plug, bull bar, tow bar, tinted windows, rear shelf system and cargo barrier. Registered until March 2011. Maintained by ACT Off Road. Contact Peter 042 7766 154 or 02 6242 0102.

Tyres – x 5 Dunlop AT22 Grand treks – 275 /65/ R17 – 40% tread **\$300.00 the lot.**

1 x Continental tyre – Contitrac – 255/70/R16 – also a tie down point for a Nissan Navara **\$100.00 for both.**

Trundle draw to go under a ute tray 1800 x 750 x

1 **BF Goodrich Tyre, 245/70R16, never used \$100**
Warren Shardlow 0409321213

SupaRax Roof Rack Bars. Fully adjustable tradesman quality heavy duty, 1500mm long, in very good condition. Will suit any large or medium sized 4x4 or SUV with gutters. Ideal for mounting ladders, roof basket, a bike or canoe rack or luggage basket/bin. **\$90**



Red tubular bunk beds (2)

Wooden slats, Ladder and top rail

Can be used as separate beds or together

Includes mattresses Fair condition \$80

Greg and Vickie Taylor 6241 3547

WANTED - Metal/Gold Detector Knowledgeable Members

I would like to make contact with any members that have dabbled in or are experienced in using metal/gold detectors. We would like to explore purchasing & using a metal/gold detector as part of our travels in remote areas of Oz.

Any advice (what to buy, what not to buy, where to buy, etc) would be most appreciated.

Jed Bartlett— di48@tpg.com.au or 0416 061 150

Konig diamond pattern mud chains (Ice Breaker Type) to suit 31/265's tyres with 15" rims, only used 3 times.

\$200 or consider straight swap for similar diamond pattern mud chains to fit 16" rims

Snatch Hook set brand new, still in packaging

\$15.

Paul Tolley - 0407 296 425

Magellan GPS eXplorist XL

Unlimited memory via SD card, USB High speed data port, built in Geocaching application, area calculation and Australian maps. Zooms to 5m topo contour lines.

Includes eXplorist XL Traveller Value Pack:

DiscoverAus Streets and Tracks Top Maps on 512mb preloaded SD card, universal vehicle mount bracket, 12v power adaptor, USB power/data cable and user manual.

This is also usable as a hand held GPS and it has a colour screen. Compatible with OziExplorer downloads and uploads from desktop computing. Complete with original packing.

\$480 (which is less than 50% of new price for GPS and Traveller Pack).

Greg Taylor 6241 3547



SOUTHERN TABLELANDS FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB Inc

GPO Box 2122, Canberra ACT 2801

MEMBERSHIP

Categories of Membership

Full details of the categories of Membership of the Southern Tablelands Four Wheel Drive Club Inc. (ST4WDC) can be found in the Constitution of the club. The following is a summary of the key differences:

'Owner Member'

Owner membership of the Club may be open to any person interested in the furtherance of the objects of the Club, who is an owner or part owner (at least 10%) of a four wheel drive vehicle registered in Australia. The partner of an owner-member has all the privileges of an owner-member.

'Associate Member'

Any person interested in the furtherance of the objects of the Club may be eligible for associate membership and entitled to vote at any general meeting but shall not be entitled to a vote at the annual general meeting or at any special general meeting. An associate member is not able to be a committee member of the club.

'Competition Member'

Any person interested in the furtherance of the objects of the Club but wishing to join the club for the principal purpose of participating in 4WD competition events may join as a 'Competition Member'. A competition member is not entitled to a vote at the annual general meeting or at any special general meeting, and is not able to be a committee member.

'Family Member'

Family membership is extended free of charge to those persons who are the immediate family of an Owner Member or an Associate Member provided that they are under the age of 21 and are domiciled under the same roof. Family Members who have already completed the Basic Driver Training course are not required to pay the Joining Fee if they become Owner Members before their 22nd birthday.

'Life Member'

Life membership of the Club may be extended to any owner member who has been a member of the Club continuously for at least 10 years and has in the opinion of the Club Committee, contributed significantly to the endeavours of the club. Life members pay no annual membership fee.

Approval of Membership

Applications for membership of the ST4WDC are subject to approval by the club committee. The Club reserves the right to refuse a person membership. Reasons may be given at a meeting of the committee and the applicant.

Membership Entitlements

Membership of the ST4WDC entitles Owner Members (including Partners), and licensed Family Members to attend the Club's training courses and to make use of the Clubs 700ha property Talooge Park. Participation as a driver on other than Grade 1 trips requires successful completion of the Basic Driver Training course, or recognised equivalent prior learning / qualification approved by the Club's Education Coordinator. Grades 4 and 5 trips also require advanced training. Details of Trip Grading can be found in *Southern Trails*, the Club magazine issued monthly (except January) to all Owner Members, Associate Members and Life Members.

Membership Fees

An initial joining fee and an annual membership fee are payable as follows:

Membership Category	Joining Fee	Annual Membership
Owner Member	\$230 (Note 1)	\$100 (Note 2)
Associate Member	Nil	\$50
Competition Member	Nil	\$50

1. A re-joining Member may be entitled to a reduced fee
2. The Annual Membership Fee for new applications received after the July General Meeting is reduced to \$50

The Club membership year extends from 1 January to 31 December.

To Join the ST4WDC

Please complete the New Member Application form on the reverse and forward together with your payment to:

**Membership Secretary, ST4WDC,
GPO Box 2122,
Canberra ACT 2601**

Payment can be made by Bank Transfer to: **Account Name:** 'Southern Tablelands 4WD Club Inc'; **BSB:** 112-908; **Account No:** 040 037 027 (please include your name as a reference to identify the payment), or by Cheque or Money Order payable to the Account Name above.

You may also attend a monthly meeting (held on the second Tuesday at Canberra Deakin Football Club, Grose St, Deakin at 7:30PM) and hand the form with payment (cash acceptable) to the Membership Secretary. For additional information, contact the Membership Secretary at Membership@ST4WDC.Org.au.



SOUTHERN TABLELANDS FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB Inc

GPO Box 2122, Canberra ACT 2601

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Membership requested (Tick): - Owner Member - Associate Member - Competition Member

Please complete the following. Completion of shaded boxes is essential, others are optional.

Essential entries	Member 1	Member 2 (Partner)
Preferred first name, last name:		
Address:		
City/Suburb:	State:	Postcode:
Home Phone:		
Mobile Phones:		
Home Email:		
Work Phones:		
Work Email:		
<p><i>As a means of rapidly disseminating priority information, the Club occasionally makes use of Email to all members who have provided an Email address (which is hidden from other recipients), or SMS to all those who have provided a Mobile Phone number. You will receive these automatically unless you indicate otherwise. Default is shown in Bold Print.</i></p>		
Accept Club SMS:	Yes / No	Yes / No
Send Club Email to:	Both / Home / Work / Neither	Both / Home / Work / Neither
	of the Email Addresses provided above.	
Employer:		
Occupation:		
Vehicle (Make & Model):		
Registration (Please include State if not ACT):	Registration details are requested as they are used for log-on to the 'Members Only' portion of the web site.	
Please register these 'Family' Members? Must be under 21 years, reside with Principal Member or Partner, and be Licensed to Drive. Please provide both Names and Dates of Birth.	Name(s):	Dates of Birth:
	_____
Are you a returning Member? Yes / No	If 'Yes', what was your last Membership Year?	
How did you find out about the ST4WDC?		
Payment of fees (\$) made by (Please indicate): Bank Transfer / Cheque (enclosed) / Money Order (enclosed) / Cash		
Signature(s)*: Upon acceptance of this application, then for the duration of my membership, I agree to abide by the Constitution and By-laws of the Southern Tablelands Four Wheel Drive Club Inc, as they apply from time to time.		
Signed:		Date:

Completed Form and payment should be submitted to the Membership Secretary at a monthly meeting or mailed to the above address.

Membership Secretary use only.		
Form & fees received:	Fees banked:	Application Accepted:
Joining Fee paid: \$.....	Total received: \$.....	Receipt Number:
Database updated:	Membership package despatched:	Membership Card Issued:
Other comments:WEB access arranged:.....		

Revision SA - Jan 10