



# SOUTHERN TRAILS

## ISSUE 382 June 2011



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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.

Guest Topic Mickey Thompson Tyres

## Next Meeting 14 June 2011

The deadline for material to be included in the next issue of *Southern Trails* is the Friday following the General Meeting  
17 June 2011

This month's magazine has been compiled by Michael Patrick  
Cover photos by Rob Donaldson and Brenden Taylor

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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 INC.



## Directory



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**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](http://www.st4wdc.org). The site is used to provide timely information regarding Club activities and variations from previously announced plans. 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](mailto:publications@st4wdc.org)

### Talooge Park

Talooge is the Club's 600+ ha bush block in rugged country east of Bredbo. It is used for training and other club activities, and members are welcome there for private camping, recreation and the simple pleasure of enjoying the bush. Several areas have been set aside for basic bush camping. 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

# Taylor Torque

## Greg Taylor



Here we are in June and our new heating system is working very well! Looks like we are in for a longish winter so time to either hibernate or get out and enjoy it. Vickie and I are going for the latter, that is, get out there and make the most of the season. One of the great things about winter in this region – fashion doesn't matter warmth does. I picked up a lined flano shirt from Big W which my daughter calls a 'bogan' shirt but she would happily wear it if she had one. Nice and warm...

Our truck has still been going through engineering to increase its Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) so I can't really report on that yet other than it has passed all of the engineer's tests (including wheel bearing loads, axle housing loads, passenger loads, sway, brake and so on) so now it needs the report to be finalised and accepted by the relevant authorities - hopefully soon... It appears that the vehicle is originally engineered to have a much higher GVM capacity but somehow the fitted compliance plate does not reflect this. This is also apparently a similar situation for other 4WDs too (100 Series?) and not just the Patrol. Again, my problem is that when loaded up for a trip we run very close to going over the GVM limit of the vehicle per the compliance plate. This situation can lead to insurance and other issues if involved in a mishap. Yes, one answer is to lose weight too!!

In the meantime 'Tonka' has new tyres and rims. I have moved down from 17 inch rims to 16s as the tyres are cheaper and typically have more load capacity as well (I know this truck talk is boring ladies but some of the blokes like it).

I am giving the new Cooper ST Maxx a run this time. These are marketed as stronger with a higher cut and chip resistance and increased mileage to boot. I certainly hope this is the case. Peter Reynolds tells me he and I are the first in Canberra with them – now remember Pete they went on my truck before yours!

I will let you know how these get on. So far I am impressed with their handling on the black top and they certainly look to be a good off road tyre somewhere in between all terrain and mud terrain but closer to the muddy. This weekend might be a good excuse to get on a few tracks and in the dirt.

Vickie and I have just hosted the latest in the series of 'social evenings' put on by our sociable folks Kerry Lejsek and Wendy Holland (and I am sure Rob and Rick too!). These tend to happen on the third Tuesday of each month but won't be on in July as we have the Christmas in July at Tumberumba (have you enrolled yet?). I have been to all of these so far and I have noticed that largely, they are all the same faces I see at every social night (not that I mind those faces either!). These events are available for everyone to enrol so don't be bashful, whether you are a new member or not look out for these to be advertised and get in straight away. Numbers have to be limited as these are held in member's homes. Nothing elitist about it just be quick!

Marj Jones, Mark Pritchard and Jo Delaney are our ST4WDC representatives on the 4WD Spectacular Show Committee. Planning has progressed and you will get regular updates at our meetings. Many of you are aware that we will start asking people to indicate their commitment to volunteer activities for the show in the next few months. This is an important part of the show and one of the reasons for its success in the past – a 4WD show put on by 4WD clubs in the region. Whether it be greeting people in our Club Tent, managing the lines of people waiting to be driven around the test track or actually driving the latest new 4WD offerings on the test track, picking up rubbish, taking money at the gate or assisting parking all of these activities are important for the smooth running of the event. Yes, you get free entry and get to see all of the exhibitors and spend your money too – so start your wish list.

Then there is the social side of things. Members from the three 4WD clubs come together getting to know each other better. There are also the dinners that are well catered for the volunteer workers and exhibitors. Working members can camp overnight at the show-ground too if you want to stay.

If you are new to the club ask some of the other members about the show or Marj, Jo and Mark – it is our key fund raising event that we do every second year as well as a significant fundraising event for the chosen charities.

Do you have any photos of club activities that you think others would like to share at our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> November?

# Membership Matters & Social Stuff

Kerry Lejsek



## *Taylor Torque Continued:*

If so, please get them out and provide to Kerry Lejsek or Wendy Holland. Have you put these dates in your calendar yet???

For our members that have just completed the May basic driver training – well done! I hope you have enjoyed learning lots with our very talented driver trainers. I also hope you are getting onto as many trips as you can to help build these skills and your experience. Not to mention getting to know other members sharing in a ‘happy hour’ around a fire at a camping location. Peter Henderson, one of our Southern Trails editors, mentioned to me recently that he thought ‘around the campfire’ is the best place to get to know people. These shared experiences are unique as are the bonds formed with different travelling and camping companions. This is one of the many features of 4wdriving and our club provides opportunities to do this. Make the most of your membership.

Richard Arranz is running a Brindabella Classic day trip (5 June) that is perfect for those who have just completed driver training to practice driving skills. I hope you are available to go on this trip. Peter Reynolds is also running a Winching course on the same day – the Brindies will be busy!

Keep an eye out on Southern Trails and our Website for upcoming new trips and enroll early if you wish to go on any.

I hope to see you out and about.

Cheers.

Greg Taylor

## *Membership Matters and Social Stuff*

As at 20 May 2011 Southern Tablelands 4WD Club has 441 members comprising: of 3 Life Members; 219 Owner Members; 183 Partners; 29 Family Members; 5 Competition Members and 2 Associate Members.

I would like to say a special welcome to the new members who have joined the club over the past month:

Geoff and Judy Farrugia  
Nathan Lowe  
Ryka Moore  
Matt Lindsay  
Dan Harris-Pascal

The social evenings that we kicked off in late 2010 have all been well attended. These are generally held on the third Tuesday of every month and are hosted at the home of a club member. For just \$10 members get a home cooked dinner, great company and usually a short presentation of some of the best 4WD trips around Australia. I encourage everyone to watch out in Southern Trails and on the website for these events and as space is limited book via the website or contact me on 6161 7597 (ah).

Other big events to watch out for include Christmas in July, at Laurel Hill, Tumberumba and the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event at Yarralumla Woolshed on 5 November 2011.

Kerry Lejsek

# Who is your Committee??

## The Editor



This is an occasional series in which we will be letting everyone know who our committee members are, and something about them. Don't forget, if you have any comment, complaint or compliment about anything (preferably about Southern Tablelands, of course!!), the Committee would love to hear from you.

**Position:** Property Coordinator

**Name:** John Kjar

**4WD:** "Big Red", an automatic, petrol guzzling 100 Series Landcruiser

**Favourite trip:** Any trip into the great outdoors is a good trip. The space, quiet, colours, scenery, people and tall tales, campfires as well as the driving and terrain challenges are all part of the magic. I believe the Simpson Desert best combines all of these attributes.

**Joined:** April 2005

**What I would like to achieve for the Club:** For the past three years my main focus has been the continued development of our property, Talooge. Current priorities are to ensure we obtain guaranteed access to Talooge, improve toilets and shower facilities, land care activities (including removal of weeds and feral animals, planting trees, enhancing camp areas and facilities, bush fire management, develop walking/nature trails and new driving challenges) and enhancing relations with our neighbours. Any offers of assistance are always welcome.



**Position:** Publications Coordinator

**Name:** Michael Patrick

**4WD:** 2009 Prado and 1995 Suzuki Sierra Soft Top

**Favourite trip:** Victorian High Country Deep South. This has lots of adventure and awesome terrain.

**Joined:** Jan 2001

**What I would like to achieve for the Club:** Get some youth in the club. Obtain some more editors and see more people step up to become trip leaders



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16-18 September Orana Camping Show in Dubbo

20-22 September Henty Field Days

15-16 October Murrumbateman Field Days

21-23 October Canberra Home and Leisure Show, EPIC



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**Brindaree Hut**



**Plain Creek Track**



# 35th Anniversary Bash

## **This year the Southern Tablelands 4WD Club celebrates its 35th Birthday.**

To mark this special occasion, current and past club members are invited to join in the celebration at the Yarralumla Woolshed on the evening of 5 November 2011.

So save the date and watch this space, tickets will be on sale very soon!

Enquiries may be directed to Kerry Lejsek 6161 7597 (ah) or [membership@st4wdc.org](mailto:membership@st4wdc.org)

## 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



## 28 - 29 May **OziExplorer Nav X**

2011-033

Trip Leader: Michael Patrick  
Email: michael.patrick2@bigpond.com  
Phone: 0412 377 941 (m)  
Limit: 10 vehicles  
Grade: 2  
Start: 8:00 AM  
Meeting Place: Williamsdale  
Fuel: Full Tank  
Maps: Will be supplied where possible. If you have electronic maps of the general area bring them along  
Description: This is a hands on OziExplorer Navigation Exercise. We will depart Williamsdale at 0800 and proceed to Talooge. We will then devote Saturday morning understanding trip planning and using OziExplorer, plan a route to Cowarra Gold mine. After lunch each vehicle will drive to the gold mine using their GPS and return to Talooge. Saturday evening will be devoted on planning a route to Tallaganda National Park and driving the tracks. On Sunday each vehicle will follow their trip plan prepared on Saturday night and drive the National Park with the aim of being back in Canberra by 1700.  
Comments: You must have a GPS using OziExplorer and the ability to transfer information from a Laptop to a GPS unit. If you have a laptop please bring it along. This is an exercise to enhance users skills in using OziExplorer for trip planning. Please note this is not a basic introduction to OziExplorer but slightly more advanced. This is the first time this exercise this has been run so it will be a learning curve for me with lots of Lab Rats.

## 5 Jun **Winching and Recovery Exercise**

2011-018

Trip Leader: Peter Reynolds  
Phone: 02 6251 1258 (h); 0428 623 458 (m)  
Limit: 12 people  
Start: 8:30 AM  
Meeting Place: Casuarina Sands  
Requirements: Basic driver training, vehicle with electric winch or hand winch, full recovery kit  
Description: Winches are great if they are working and you know how to use them. This training day will help on both counts.  
Comments: You must phone Peter to book this event

# TRIPS AND EVENTS



## 5 Jun      **Brindabella Classic**

2011-049

Trip Leader: Richard Arranz  
Email: rarranz@grapevine.com.au  
Phone: 0402 333 747 (m)  
Limit: 8 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, binoculars and a chair are also a good idea. Bow saw / axe for track clearing if necessary.  
Description: This day trip is a great way for new members to explore Canberra's back yard or 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 past 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  
Comments: There is a pit toilet at Flea Creek

## 13 Jun      **Queens Birthday**

## 18 - 19 Jun      **Hang out at Talooge Park**

2011-055

Trip Leader: Michael Patrick  
Email: michael.patrick2@bigpond.com  
Phone: 0412 377 941 (m)  
Limit: unlimited  
Grade: 1  
Start: 9:00 AM  
Meeting Place: Williamsdale  
Description: This is just an excuse to hang out at Talooge Park. Plan is to cut some firewood, drive the tracks No limitations, new members are definitely welcome.

# TRIPS AND EVENTS



## 21 Jun      **Social Evening with a Lake Eyre Theme**

2011-056

- Trip Leader:      Ros and Jim Hannigan, Kerry Lejsek  
Email:            lejsek@grapevine.com.au  
Phone:            02 6161 7597 (h)  
Limit:             16 people  
Start:             7:00 PM  
Maps:             Navman to get to Ros and Jim's home in MacArthur  
Requirements:    \$10 as a contribution to towards Dinner, BYO Beverages  
Description:      This evening continues the series of Social Events aimed at getting together and catching up and talking about 4WD destinations.  
  
The evening will be hosted at Ros and Jim Hanigan's home in MacArthur and will include dinner consisting of appetisers, a variety of winter warming soups, breadrolls and home made sticky date pudding and apple pie for desert.  
  
Ros and Jim and Wendy and Rick will provide a short presentation on their recent trip and flight above Lake Eyre.  
  
Comments:        As space is limited to 16 people (including trip leaders) please book for each person by contacting Kerry Lejsek on: 0402 094 612 or use the website.

## 2 - 29 Jul      **Central Australia**

2011-050

- Trip Leader:      Graham Kitchener and Kirsten McKenzie  
Email:            Graham.Kitchener@hp.com  
Phone:            02 6292 2478 (h); 02 6275 4946 (w); 0412 944 037 (m)  
Limit:             6 vehicles  
Grade:            3  
Start:             12:00 AM  
Meeting Place:    Barton Highway Dinosaur Museum car park  
Fuel:             Full tank at start and jerry cans if necessary. There will be lots of places to refill on the trip.  
Maps:             Hema Great Desert Tracks – North Central, North East, South Central and South East maps 1:1 250 000.  
Requirements:    Basic driver training, basic recovery gear, UHF radio, personal locator beacon or equivalent, good tyres, well maintained and reliable vehicle which should have good ground clearance, camping gear including gas stove for cooking, food and water and happy hour supplies. There will be various places to stop for supplies including Innamincka, Birdsville, Alice Springs, Oodnadatta, Cooper Pedy, Maree and Broken Hill  
Description:      The first few days we will be traveling up to blacktop to Birdsville via Nyngan, Hungerford, Innamincka (we will stop overnight in or near these three towns). From Birdsville we visit big red on the way around to the East MacDonnell ranges via Boulia, Tobermorey and Gem Tree. Camp in the East MacDonnell area for 3 days visiting various sites. Next we will head down to Alice Springs where we can have some free days. From Alice we will head to the Finke Gorge national park, palm valley, boggy hole for a few days. Next Kings Canyon and Uluru, then on to Finke, Oodnadatta, Cooper Pedy, Maree, Tibooburra, Broken Hill and home to Canberra.  
  
This is the plan but we may deviate to camp at other locations depending on our progress each day and weather/road conditions. Many of the areas we are visiting have toilet facilities – but remember your shovel, toilet paper and good humour. Camper trailers welcome.

# TRIPS AND EVENTS



**2 - 3 Jul**

## **Christmas in July, Laurel Hill, Tumbarumba**

2011-045

- Trip Leader: Rob and Kerry Lejsek  
Email: lejsek@grapevine.com.au  
Phone: 02 6161 7597 (h)  
Limit: unlimited  
Grade: 1  
Start: 9:00 AM  
Meeting Place: Uriarra Homestead  
Fuel: full tank at start  
Requirements: Cost \$74 per person paid by 24 June, BYO sheets, blankets, pillows, towels and personal items, BYO alcohol / drinks (tea and coffee are provided)  
Description: This trip continues the tradition of Christmas in July at Laurel Hill Forest Lodge, Tumbarumba. After meeting at the very respectable time of 9am at Uriarra homestead we will travel via the back roads over the Brindabellas for lunch in Tumut and then on to Laurel Hill in time for afternoon tea.  
Accommodation is in the lodge style cabins that have been converted from the low-security gaol / forestry camp. Each lodge accommodates 8 to 12 people on a twin share basis in separate bunk-rooms. The lodges have a common area with a heater, fridge, chairs and tables and a sink.  
The weekend is well catered with afternoon tea of homemade biscuits and cakes on arrival, a three course Christmas dinner on Saturday night and full breakfast comprising bacon and eggs, cereal, fruit, toast and homemade Jams on Sunday morning. After breakfast we pack up and head off again via the back roads on a different route for the drive home.  
Comments: special dietary requirements and times for meals can be catered for – please notify the trip leader of these by 20th June 2011

**17 Jul**

## **Monga Meandering**

2011-051

- Trip Leader: Dan O'Hara  
Email: ohara5@homemail.com.au  
Phone: 02 6231 3872 (h); 0406 375 677 (m)  
Limit: 8 vehicles  
Grade: 2  
Start: 10:30 AM  
Meeting Place: Braidwood, corner Main Street and Coast Road  
Fuel: Full Tank from Canberra  
Maps: South Coast Forests or mainly - 8826 1N (Monga), 8826 1S (Araluen) and 8826 4N (Bendoura)  
Requirements: Basic Training, UHF radio  
Description: We start at 10:30am sharp in Braidwood. This will give you time to have morning tea before we head off. The trip is an open figure 8 through the Monga National Park. Return is through Tal-laganda to Captain's Flat.  
From Braidwood we head off down the Araluen Road onto Reidsdale Road. The trip gets more interesting as we turn off onto Granite Bluff Road and follow a circuit along Macquaries Rd, Milo Rd past Penance Grove to our lunch stop at the Mongarlowe River (yes there are toilets etc). After lunch we travel along River Forest Road then turn left to traverse the Old Araluen Road joining up with Monga Lane before travelling on our return home via Majors Creek Mountain Road and Wal-laces Gap.  
Most of the trip is easy but there will be steep bits and a little water to cross. The forests and views will be highlights.

# TRIPS AND EVENTS



## 30 - 31 Jul The Rockpecker Challenge

2011-054

Trip Leader: Chris Nash  
Email: c.c.nash@bigpond.com  
Phone: 0438 418 011 (m)  
Limit: unlimited  
Start: 8:30 AM  
Meeting Place: The Rock Farm  
Description: This is an Extreme competition event run by our sister organisation, the Brindabella Ranges Club.  
Comments: Spectators are welcome. Take Dromore Road on the right just past the Numeralla river bridge on the Monaro Highway about 20-kms north of Cooma, then follow the arrows. More details as they come to hand

## 13 - 14 Aug Cold at Bendethera Caves

2011-047

Trip Leader: Michael Patrick  
Email: michael.patrick2@bigpond.com  
Phone: 0412 377 941 (m)  
Grade: 3  
Start: 8:30 AM  
Meeting Place: McDonalds Car Park Queanbeyan  
Fuel: Full tank  
Requirements: reliable well maintained vehicle, good tyres, basic recovery gear, cooking gear, water  
Description: This will be a cold trip, temperatures will drop into the low minus so rug up warm and bring a good sleeping bag. Bendethera valley is great in winter, crisp and dry. The plan is to travel via Araluen 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 Tallanganda National Park and eventually reach Michelago  
Comments: Can possibly encounter snow in Tallanganda National Park

## 16 - 18 Sep "Safe One" Basic Driver Training at Talooqe Park

2011-014

Trip Leader: Peter Reynolds  
Phone: 02 6251 1258 (h); 0428 623 458 (m)  
Limit: 20 people  
Start: 7:00 PM  
Meeting Place: Bredbo Service Station  
Description: This is the Club's official and accredited basic driver education course.  
Comments: You must phone Peter to book this event

# TRIPS AND EVENTS



## 17 - 18 Sep **Explore The Tracks of Abercrombie River National Park**

2011-042

- Trip Leader: Michael Patrick  
Email: michael.patrick2@bigpond.com  
Phone: 0412 377 941 (m)  
Limit: 10 vehicles  
Grade: 2  
Start: 8:30 AM  
Meeting Place: Federal Highway, Eagle Hawk car park  
Fuel: Full Tank  
Maps: Taralga, Fullerton, Zone55 MGA OZF  
Requirements: UHF Radio, Good Tyres, Vehicle in good condition  
Description: Abercrombie River National Park is located 60km North of Goulburn. The park preserves the largest remaining intact patch of low open forest in the south-west central tablelands area. Casuarinas stand beside deep waterholes on the park's three main waterways. We will transit to the park via Goulburn/Abercrombie road and enter the park via Felled Timber road and Brass Walls fire trail.  
Once inside the park we will travel the various tracks Saturday afternoon and either camp at Silent Creek or at Bummaroo Ford. On Sunday we will re-drive the tracks and lunch at one of the river sites. After lunch we will have a leisurely drive back to Canberra.  
Comments: This is a easy trip with only a couple of sections that will require definitive picking of the line. This is an excellent bedding in for new members. Bring food, water and happy hour supplies.

## 25 Sep **"Safe One" Basic Driver Training Course Follow-up Day**

2011-015

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

# TRIPS AND EVENTS



## **8 - 9 Oct Remote First Aid Course**

2011-006

Trip Leader: Jo Delaney  
Email: ijdelaney@iinet.net.au  
Phone: 0423 223 045 (m)  
Limit: unlimited  
Grade: 1  
Start: 8:00 AM  
Meeting Place: Talooge Park

Description: This is a 2 day training course to achieve the Remote First Aid Certificate, which includes the Applied First Aid Certificate.

The certificate offered is HLTF301B "Apply First Aid", which is the nationally accredited qualification normally required for a workplace first aider. This is sometimes referred to as "Senior First Aid" by some organisations ... they are exactly the same.

We will also be offering a "Statement Of Participation" for the "remote" component. This is not nationally accredited.

Comments: The cost is \$195 per person for the 2 day course (fee to be paid prior to the start of the course)

## **22 - 23 Oct Blue Waterholes**

2011-052

Trip Leader: Dan O'Hara  
Email: ohara5@homemail.com.au  
Phone: 02 6231 3872 (h); 0406 375 677 (m)  
Limit: 8 vehicles  
Grade: 2  
Start: 8:30 AM  
Meeting Place: Point Hut Crossing Car Park  
Fuel: Full tank  
Maps: Zone55 MGA ozf

Requirements: Basic training, UHF radio, reliable vehicle, happy hour supplies, camping equipment.

Description: Blue Waterholes is located in the Kosciuszko National Park and has excellent camping facilities. The plan is to depart Point Hut crossing and head to the southern side of Namadgi National Park. We will travel the Boboyan Road then to Adaminaby for morning tea via either Yaouk Rd or Bobeyan Rd. From there we will head up the Snowy Mountain Highway and turn onto Tantangara Road. A stop at Currango might be worthwhile before crossing Tantangara Reservoir via the Port Phillip Fire Trail (if open - if submerged we will proceed back to the Snowy Mountains Hwy). We then go north along Long Plain Rd until we turn onto Blue Waterholes Trail. We will have another stop at the 1905 rebuilt Coolamine Homestead before setting up camp at Blue Waterholes.

There is a lot to see from Blue Waterholes and the caves that are abundant in this area. We will depart Sunday after lunch and proceed via Long Plain and Broken Cart back to Canberra. At the moment a part of Broken Cart and Barnetts Lane is closed (Dubbo Flats area) so this is a very easy trip and off road camper trailers are welcome.

Comments: This area is closed over winter until the long weekend in October. If we have a long winter the trip may need to be rescheduled.

# TRIPS AND EVENTS



## **29 - 30 Oct River Crossing and Sand Driving**

2011-020

Trip Leader: Peter Reynolds  
Email: [trips@st4wdc.org](mailto:trips@st4wdc.org)  
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. You must phone Peter to book this event.

## **5 - 6 Nov ST4WDC 35th Anniversary Event**

2011-031

Trip Leader: Kerry and Rob Lejsek, Rick and Wendy Holland  
Email: [lejsek@grapevine.com.au](mailto:lejsek@grapevine.com.au)  
Phone: 02 6161 7597 (h)  
Limit: unlimited  
Start: 7:00 PM  
Description: This event is still in the planning so mark this weekend in your Calendar to Celebrate the Club's 35th Anniversary!  
So far we have booked Yarralumla Woolshed for a big celebration on Saturday Night and are planning a spit roast dinner, deserts, decorations and a DJ - more information will be published as planning progresses so please mark your Calendar...

## **11 - 13 Nov "Safe One" Basic Driver Training at Talooqe Park**

2011-016

Trip Leader: Peter Reynolds  
Phone: 02 6251 1258 (h); 0428 623 458 (m)  
Limit: 20 people  
Start: 7:00 PM  
Meeting Place: Bredbo Service Station  
Description: This is the Club's official and accredited basic driver education course.  
Comments: You must phone Peter to book this event

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# “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 **7.00pm** 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 2011 WILL BE HELD ON**

<b>14-15 MAY</b>	<b>WITH FOLLOW-UP ON</b>	<b>22 MAY</b>
<b>17-18 SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>WITH FOLLOW-UP ON</b>	<b>25 SEPTEMBER</b>
<b>12-13 NOVEMBER</b>	<b>WITH FOLLOW-UP ON</b>	<b>20 NOVEMBER</b>

## **WHAT TO BRING**

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

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

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

Also coming - Sand and Water October 29-30 and Winching & Recovery June 5 and December 12

# TRIPS AND EVENTS



## **20 Nov "Safe One" Basic Driver Training Course Follow-up Day**

2011-017

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

## **11 Dec Winching and Recovery Exercise**

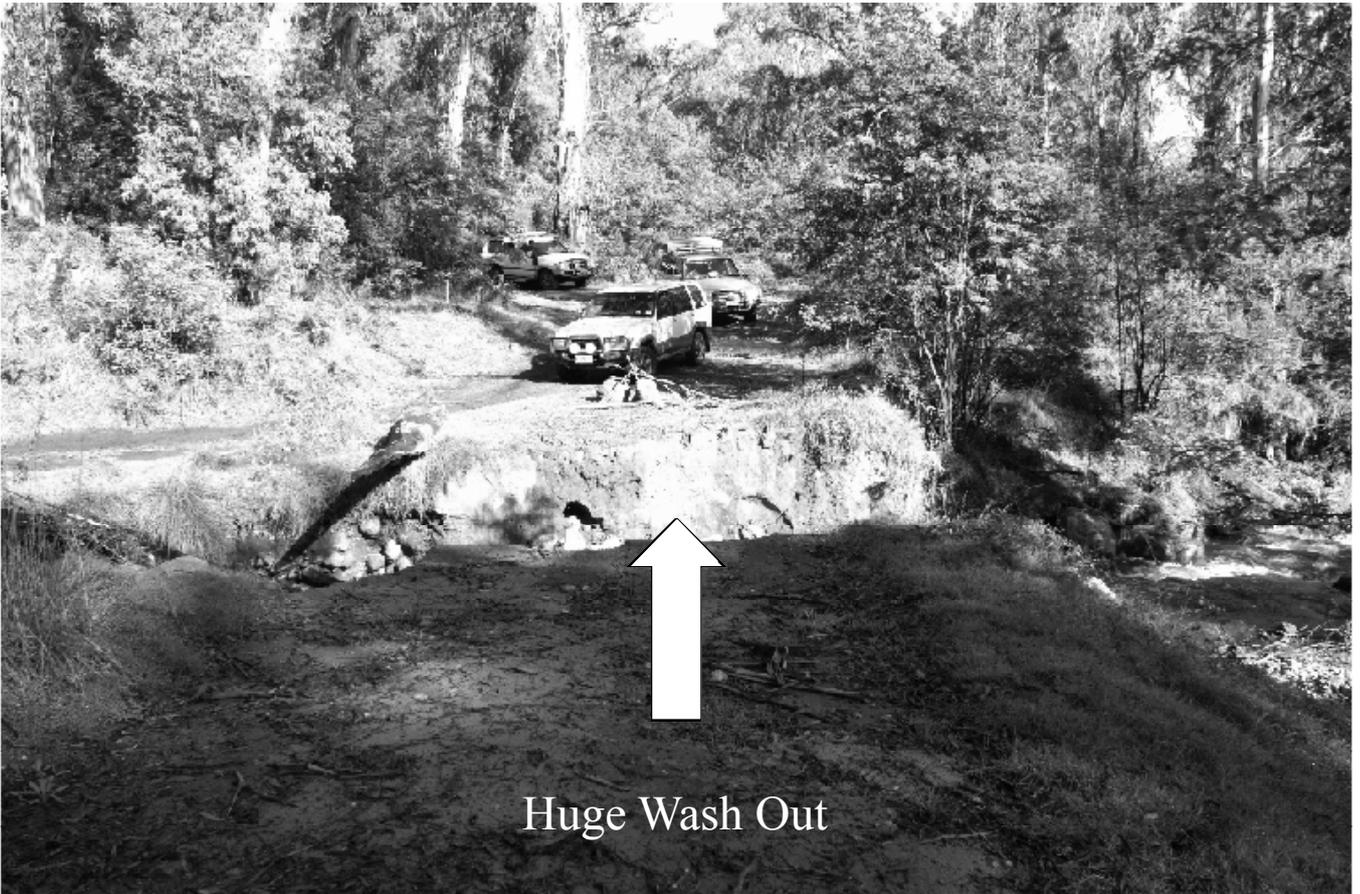
2011-019

Trip Leader: Peter Reynolds  
Email: [trips@st4wdc.org](mailto:trips@st4wdc.org)  
Phone: 02 6251 1258 (h); 0428 623 458 (m)  
Limit: 12 people  
Start: 8:30 AM  
Meeting Place: Casuarina Sands  
Requirements: Basic driver training, vehicle with electric winch or hand winch, full recovery kit  
Description: Winches are great if they are working and you know how to use them. This training day will help on both counts.  
Comments: You must phone Peter to book this event

## **10 - 17 May Vic High Mountain Country**

2012-001

Trip Leader: Michael Patrick  
Email: [michael.patrick2@bigpond.com](mailto:michael.patrick2@bigpond.com)  
Phone: 0412 377 941 (m)  
Grade: 3  
Start: 8:00 AM  
Meeting Place: National Dinosaur Museum, Barton Highway  
Fuel: Full tank at start  
Maps: NSW South, Hema Victoria East Gippsland, Hema High Country Victoria West  
Requirements: Basic driver training, basic recovery gear, UHF radio, good tyres, well maintained and reliable vehicle which should have good ground clearance (vehicles that have standard suspension will require approval by the trip leader), camping gear including gas stove for cooking (possible fire restriction could be enforce), food and water to last 4 days. Bow saw/axe for track clearing (chain saw if you have one), and a blind/tarp for water crossing. If you have tyre chains bring them along. Fuel to cover 400kms in low range.  
Description: Travel via Hume Highway to Bright and camp over night. From there will will make our way to Dargo and camp. We will then travel the numerous tracks around this area ie. Haunted Stream, Billy Goat and the Infamous Franks Track. We will also explore the Grant Historic Mining area. Return trip will be via Omeo and Tumut. This is a flexible trip due to the nature of the Victorian High Country so each day's proposed plans may change.  
Comments: This trip will encounter steep mountain trails and long deep descents into valleys. There will be quite a few water crossings at varying depths (blinds may be required). The mountain environment can change at any time so be prepared for hot and possibly cold extreme conditions. Camping will be at different sites. Long drops are available at all camp sites but not showers. Hot showers will be available at Dargo and Swifts Creek. There is a definite possibility that some vehicle recoveries may be required



Huge Wash Out



Tight Fit

# KICK OFF 2011 @ TALOOG

9-10 April

Rosemary Orr



## Participants

Rick and Wendy Holland	Landcruiser
Kerry Lejsek & Rosemary Orr	Toyota 80 Series
Marj Jones	Toyota Prado
Mark & Kim Pritchard	Toyota Prado
Peter & Gwen Henderson	Nissan Patrol
Don Wiltshire	Holden Jackaroo
Mick & Jayne Hines	Toyota Prado
Bill Crispin	Toyota 80 Series
Phil & Julie Henderson	Toyota Prado
Tommo and Julie Butriss & Granddaughter	Toyota 80 Series
Richard Brand & Trisha	Adventurer
Peter Reynolds and Nathan	Toyota 80 Series

Kerry decided that an 8.00am start from Williamsdale would be good. Foggy, cold and miserable looking when I started out but all of this ended up a wonderful bonus. Just three vehicles at Williamsdale, so off we went, knowing that everyone else would find their own way. Then the MAGIC – the morning sunlight on the hills as the mist lifted, made us glad to be there and as we came out of Bredbo and topped the hill – the low cloud lying in the valley was just spectacular.

So we all arrived really early – set up our tents, campers and then proceeded to just relax. One by one others started to arrive and set up. The day turned out to be a mild sunny spectacular day with Talooge looking a picture. Green grass, water in the creeks and everything just right.

What to do! Nothing! The wonderful warm air and sunshine had everyone just sitting around, chatting, reading books, looking at the different campers and basically just relaxing and enjoying. However, there came a time when we had to set up our saloon for the Wild West night we were planning. This was achieved in record time with everyone helping.

WANTED!!! Always knew there were some shady characters in our club but to see them on wanted posters – and at such a young age. Everyone had a wonderful time trying to work out just who these terrible characters were.

Then it was back to relaxing and an early start to happy hour. All sitting around the fire, eating, drinking and trying to play the games Kerry had organised.

But alas, we were all just too relaxed and enjoying each others company too much and the games were set aside and socialising was the order of the day.

And then to prepare our dinner – set up our tables and get into character for our Wild West night.

There were cowboys, the Sheriff, the lady rancher and a few outlaws. Hats, guns (imitation of course) were the order of the night. As always the pot luck dinner was a huge success and everyone eat their fill. Then around the wonderful fire with more socialising and drinking and drinking and socialising.

Just about dawn I heard the first drops of rain on my tent. And alas it then continued to rain and shower for most of the morning. This did not deter people from chatting, drinking cups of coffee and munching on hot cross buns.

We eventually packed up wet tents in between showers and headed for home. Early home, with plenty of time to go to the markets and stock up on fruit and veg for the coming week.

This was a magic weekend. So relaxed and de-stressing. A wonderful time to catch up with friends, and share lots of laughter. For those who did not come along – you missed out on something special.

I have been a member of this club for many years now and during that time there are some trips which stand out from all the rest. This was one of them. It will be remembers for a long time.

To Wendy and Kerry many thanks for organising such a top weekend.

Rosemary

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# Vic High Deep South

12-19 March

Lesley Holbeck



Michael Patrick (leader)	Hitch hiker
Mary Biddle	Prado
Rob & Daniel Donaldson	Cruiser 100 Series
Lindsay Jones	Cruiser 100 Series
David & Lesley Holbeck	Jackaroo
Rob Leaver	Pajero Shorty
Phil & Sue Rayner	Cruiser 100 Series
Greg & Brenden Taylor	Patrol GU 'Tonka'
Frank Wolf	Cruiser 80 Series

This was a trip to enjoy for the moment and to remember for years to come. There were 8 vehicles, only 3 women, very little rain, but lots of mud.

The first day was a quick trip down the Hume Highway to Mansfield. There we refueled and bought some replacement fruit and veg in lieu of that which we had donated to the fruit-fly bin at the border. We took the Timbertop route and found our first campsite, Sawmill Settlement. On this trip Happy Hour munchies just seemed to appear, the campfires were great, but unnecessary because the weather was quite warm.

**Day 2** So began our zigzag route for the next 6 days. Three days before, this area of the Victorian Highlands had 70mm of rain to add to the accumulation of a very wet summer. On Plain Creek Track we found our first bog. Others had been there before us and had churned up the mud. There were a few snatches on this bog, and after the event Michael offered to personally wash all cars before Happy Hour. Two bikers passed us here, with one falling in the mud – poor bloke could have drowned. A bit up the track we came across just one of the two original bikers. His mate had lost control and gone head first into a three metre ditch, bike following. We were able to attach a rope to the bike, and pull him out. He could walk and ride just! Ten minutes after departing our intrepid bikers somebody found a leech on their leg, so everyone stopped for a leech check and we found lots of the thirsty suckers!!.

We kept going along muddy, rutted tracks finally reaching Lake William Hovell. It was Sunday and picnic day for two-wheel drives and families.

On this trip Michael tended to suss out flushing toilets “for the girls”, as for men “the whole world is their urinal”. Back on tracks along Long Spur Track we crossed the fast flowing King River. Soon after, we met our second big mud bog. Several vehicles needed to be talked through the tough sections, but one belonging to a high-profile club member (who shall not be named) needed to be snatched twice - first backwards and then forwards after a second attempt at crossing. A late lunch-stop, and a vehicle check, the only obvious damage was a bent running board on Mary's Prado.

Our biggest challenge came next, on the Basin Track. By sheer grunt, Frank and Michael in the lead car made it up a steep and very rutted section. After several attempts by the second vehicle, we decided to build up an access along a higher embankment that had been cleared as part of the track. Hard work, but all the rest did manage the detour. Brenden Taylor was everywhere with his tripod and camera, making a pictorial record of the trip experiences. Later in this long day we eventually reached Pineapple Flat campsite. We set up camp as best we could just as a thunder storm began. Fellow campers shoveled burning coals into a new fireplace for our group. Victorians are certainly welcoming!



# Vic High Deep South

12-19 March

Lesley Holbeck



## *Continued from page 25*

It was a huge camping area with lots of people (unbeknown to us, it was also a long weekend in Victoria) and only one drop loo. One of our party (who will also remain nameless) spent 20 minutes trying to find the loo in the middle of the night - and then 40 minutes trying to relocate his/her tent. There's definitely a pool of untapped talent out there if ever the club needs more trip leaders!

**Day 3:** It took us four river crossings and a detour to get out of Pineapple Flats... still the King River, wide and fast flowing. On one of these we met the Yarrowman 4WD Club

. This group of good mates do a similar trip each year, a horse each and a few pack horses to carry the whisky, or so they say). At 1620 metres above sea level we missed the vista because of low cloud, but there was great phone coverage for Rob D organizing his plumbing business. Not far then to Lovick's hut for our camp along side the horse riders and horses. For Happy Hour this day we were joined by some of the riders, and some tall tales were told. But it wasn't a happy night for Frank, who among others was kept awake by the Yeti-like bell of a hobbled horse. He was not a happy camper the next day.



who had been doing some work for National Parks around Lake Cobbler. We eventually took the Bindari Road (a good dirt track with lots of day trippers walking to the falls and driving on to see Craig's hut of Man from Snowy River fame). Then proceeded along the 16 Mile Jeep Track. Dead trees were the constant reminder of Victoria's bush fires. It was up in the clouds and a steep climb to the Bluff hut for a late lunch. This hut, rebuilt since the 2006 bush fires, was a great backdrop for the pack-saddle riders on their annual Highlands ride.

*Page 26*

**Day 4:** We were heading to Licola for the night. The scenery was cliff faces and tree ferns, and the tracks were tough. Some of the creek crossings involved some pretty impressive wash-aways with steep banks, which were a challenge for the shorty Pajero and others. More snatch recoveries were required. With the closure of the King Billy Track our detour led us to a helipad for morning tea. Nearer Licola we even found choking dust a relief after MUD. Michael promised a slice of cheesecake to the winner of the guessing competition about our arrival time. We learnt not to believe in his cargo-cult prizes

# Vic High Deep South

12-19 March

Lesley Holbeck



*Continued from page 26*

But before Licola we came across a collector whose array of old Landys were parked along the narrow river flats, together with perhaps his home, moveable, on the tray of a hugely extended Landy, this was the ultimate campervan if you have a road as wide as an airport runway. That night was perfect: our first showers in four days, Rosella's in the huge eucalypts, drinks and nibbles under the pepper trees beside the river, and the beautiful CFA shelter and barbeques next door. Bliss for Rob Leaver if the trout had been rising, as well.



**Day 5:** Turn-around Michael! the day began with our convoy following Michael over the bridge and straight ahead. No! turn around and follow the river past the many numbered camp sites, which had been set up for the 4WD Variety Bash due to hit Licola that week. We now started a steady climb into the Snowy Range and encountered a lot of low cloud cover. By the time we reached the top of the saddle in the Snowy Range we were out of the clouds. But once we went lower than the 1550 metre mark, we were in the clouds. Even morning tea at Dymock's Lookout was misty, but that didn't stop Michael bracing against a tree as he suffered the "ikky" view down the escarpment. We paid a quick visit to the old 1890 Howitt's fishing and droving hut, before making our bone jarring way down the Zeka Spur track into the Wonnangatta valley - 100 minutes of intense concentration choosing a route down the rutted, but dry track. After setting up camp, some of us looked over the ruins of the old homestead and graveyard, while Frank, Brenden, Daniel and Rob D searched for more tracks to explore.

**Day 6:** Our turn to lead! One of the novel features of this trip was that the trip leader did not have a truck! Instead he alternated between the other vehicles, which was a great experience as it gave us all a chance to lead and learn more about the skills of leadership and a chance to use Michael's OziExplorer tool. What a great set-up! The whole rotating leadership thing really added to the trip.

This day had seven river crossings and our trickiest turn-around yet! It started with a steep climb on the Hartspur Track out of the valley. Our route to Dargo took us eventually on to the Eaglevale Track which continued to zigzag across the Crooked River - the Shorty Prado used a blind for some of these crossings. Some of our convoy were finding the tracks a bit boring after the excitement of previous days, and they watched with lustful eyes as we passed the famed Billy Goat Track, which was closed. To keep these boffins happy, we decided to try a side track - the Black Snake Creek Track. Big mistake! The convoy continued climbing higher above the river as the track narrowed, and eventually dead-ended at a tight turning circle 30 metres above the river. (*yep Michael managed to create a traffic jam in the bush*) Michael, Lindsay and Greg did manage to shuffle the trucks out of that one, but only just! The rest of the day's driving was uneventful, except for Frank's emergency stop to check his oil cap (as he had feared, it wasn't there, but his oil was - all over the OUTSIDE of his engine). The bush mechanics among us improvised with a juice lid and cable ties. Poor Frank really paid for that oversight. He was able to buy his oil at Dargo, 5 litres for \$105. We stayed overnight at the Wonnangatta Caravan Park, 10km out of Dargo, so no pub dinner that night, unfortunately.



# Vic High Deep South

12-19 March

Lesley Holbeck & Greg Taylor



*Continued from page 27*

**Day 7:** Today we had had four river crossings, four snatches and one Maxtrax recovery – but no turn-arounds! We took the Wild Horse Track out of Dargo, but it was on Dane's Track that we reunited with bogs. Dubbed by the party the Testosterone Track, it was a very ordinary 1.5km side trip just to see an old hut. Some of us found detours while others ploughed through. Eventually we were on to the Birragun Track, a good road that led to Dog's Grave for a late lunch. Our final Dinner Plains Track proved to be yet another boggy road that took us at least 90 minutes to reach the Dinner Plains ski resort. We inflated our tyres then enjoyed the glorious 70km of bitumen to Bright, via Mt Hotham. A caravan park for the night and a pub meal made us feel more civilized.

**Day 8:** Not everyone travelled in convoy on the home trip. Most of us chose the Kiewa Valley highway to Wodonga. We all agreed that it had certainly been a fantastic experience, and thanked Michael for his leadership and navigational skills with OziExplorer. The whole team worked well together, and the whole atmosphere was always pleasant and relaxed – even though some of the days were long and tough. As well as Michael, special thanks for their help and advice in helping us through some tricky situations should go to Lindsay Jones (always handy to have a trainer on board), and our new club president Greg Taylor (always good to have the top man).

We were expecting a Grade 3 trip – we ended up with a most memorable and enjoyable Grade 4.



*Addendum – Greg Taylor*

This was a great trip sharing many experiences with others including new friends who we had not travelled with previously. One of the many stories that have to be told is the Gum Leaf Money story.

As Lesley and David mentioned, Michael was the gypsy trip leader throwing himself into everyone's vehicle but ours! That's right Tonka was Michael's chuck wagon and Brenden and I were the 'kitchen-bitches'. Somewhere following the rhythmic clinking of Michael's wine cellar as we bumped along the track, we had stopped on a hillside waiting for the convoy to get moving again.

With this stop Michael's largish wallet was getting in the way on the console and when moving it an idea was born. His folding stuff was replaced with gum leaves that Brenden and I carefully picked for the purpose. At the morning tea stop following a wide river crossing, we were able to borrow a texta from Rob D and the Gum Leaf money was printed with denominations - \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and so on. So, onto Dargo where Brenden and I had visions of Michael at the bar buying a shout with his Gum Leaf Money.

At Dargo, several of us topped up with the expensive diesel and Brenden and I sent Michael into the store for a lunch of pies and sauce. Quietly gathering the group to follow him into the store time for payment to the lady store keeper was at hand. The look on Michael's face as stood in front of her at the till opened his wallet and picked out his Gum Leaf money and just stood and stared at it was absolutely priceless. The shopkeeper was amused and we quietly mentioned that Michael was special and she should humour him!

# CHRISTMAS IN JULY

**Laurel Hill Forest Lodge, Tumbarumba**

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2011**

*Departure 9am on Saturday from  
Uriarra Homestead*



Following in the fabulous tradition of Southern Tablelands Christmas in July at Laurel Hill Forest Lodge, Tumbarumba, we will follow the back roads over the Brindabellas via Tumut to Tumbarumba on Saturday and return via a great drive home on Sunday through the forest, with a visit to Paddys River Dam and including a visit to Cabramurra, the highest town in Australia.

Accommodation is in lodge style cabins that have been converted from the former low-security gaol/forestry camp.

Afternoon tea of homemade biscuits and cakes is served on arrival, followed by a three course Christmas dinner on Saturday night and a full breakfast on Sunday morning.

Cost \$74 per person, BYO sheets, blankets, pillows, towels and personal items  
BYO alcohol/drinks (tea and coffee is provided)

For a great weekend book via the website or contact Kerry Lejsek on  
0402 094 612 or email: [Membership@ST4WDC.Org](mailto:Membership@ST4WDC.Org)



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## Presentation to the May meeting by Rob Dobson on Tyre selection and safe operation.



Rob, a Club member, recounted his experience with tyres on a trip along the Canning Stock Route when he noticed his tyres were very hot, and during a sand driving course Peter Reynolds had advised him his tyres were 'bagging' excessively. Was this safe? This led Rob to wonder what tyres should he use and what are the safe operating conditions. After much research, including obtaining information from the US Tyre and Rim Association and advice from University and Defence experts he prepared a booklet that outlines, in simple layman's terms, some important considerations when selecting and operating your tyres. This information is also available from his website at [www.netspeed.com.au/Rob.Dobson/](http://www.netspeed.com.au/Rob.Dobson/)

It is recommended you read and understand the importance of this information. It is important for you and your passengers' safety as well as the costs of new tyres. The balance of this article summarises Rob's findings.

First, it is necessary to know the load (or weight) of your vehicle (when loaded with 'stuff' for your trip, you and your passengers, fuel etc) on the front wheels and the rear wheels. You can obtain this information by using the weighbridge at ??? (no charge). Typically this load is greater on the rear wheels than on the front wheels.

Second, look at the markings on the rims of your tyres – these provide information on its size, load rating, load range, age etc and hence how you should operate your tyres. Typically this information is contained in blocks. One block of information could look like this LT285/75R16 123Q. The LT indicates it is a tyre with a Light Truck (eg thicker) construction and hence requires higher tyre pressures than the passenger tyre construction (denoted by P rather than LT) which heats up less than a LT tyre during operation. 75 is the 'aspect ratio, R indicates it is a radial tyre construction, and the 16 indicates the wheel diameter measured in inches. The 123 is the 'load index' which is used to compare the maximum load carrying capacities of the tyre when operated at its maximum service speed (this speed is also shown as an index on the tyre, eg a "Q" indicates 160 kph) and at a specified tyre pressure (some tyres specify a pressure of 65 psi, some 80 psi etc). In this example, a new (undamaged) 123Q tyre can carry a maximum load of 1550 kg at 80 psi (tyre manufacturers/suppliers should be able to provide the load index and associated tyre pressure).

One additional piece of background information – the tyre rim (and beneath the LT285/75R16 etc info block) for LT tyres will also have an index showing the "load range" which defines the ply rating (formerly the number of ply's in a tyre) and is an indicator of the amount of 'side to side' load the tyre can handle. A 'D' indicates an 8 ply rating while an 'E' indicates a 10 ply rating.

Now most (hopefully all) of us do not operate our tyres at 80 psi, especially on sand or corrugations. A tyre flexes with each revolution of the wheel and the amount of flex depends on the load on that wheel. This flexing causes the tyre to heat up and if the temperature is excessive damages the tyre and, ultimately causes it to delaminate. So how much load can we carry when we reduce the tyre pressures (eg to 20 psi when driving in sand)?

Well Rob has prepared some charts for typical off-road tyre specifications that provide some guidance for you. In one example, Rob showed that a tyre with a load index of 1700 kg at 80 psi has a maximum (safe) load of only 600 kg at 20psi when driven at 100 kph. A 20 kph reduction only increases the load carrying capacity by about 12% (eg to 670 kg) and a 40 kph reduction by a further 10%. Other ways to increase your carrying capacity are to purchase a wider tyre and/or a tyre with a higher 'ply' rating. But as noted above, if you replace your P tyre with a LT construction, with all else equal (tyre sizes etc) you will need to increase the tyre pressures to safely meet the vehicle load requirement. And, as the objective is to get a similar footprint from your tyres front and rear (especially in sand/mud etc) you will need to use different pressures depending on the load on each wheel.

Finally, the tyre rim on all tyres manufactured since year 2000 must show when the tyre was manufactured using a 'tyre identification number'. Next to a DOT number is a block of numbers eg "LMLR5107". The 5107 indicates the tyre was manufactured in the 51<sup>st</sup> week of 2007. Now tyres degrade with age and six to 10 years is the safe lifetime of a tyre, regardless of whether it is used or not, and it degrades faster in hot climates. The result is that the tyre gradually delaminates – your old spare tyre may be a disaster waiting to happen! And check your good tyres also.

# Vic High Deep South Photos



Mary's Pet



Good Bed



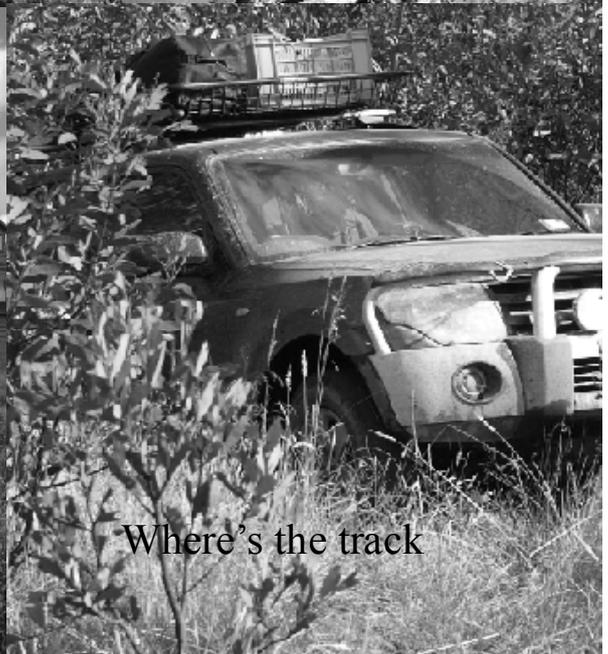
Franks Pet



Maxtrack in Action



Ghost Town



Where's the track

# 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.



**Springs**, rear to suit 95 series Prado, medium duty Old Man Emu OME890. Done easy 22K kms over 21 months. Excellent cond. \$75 pair.  
Richard 0402 333 747.

**Redback Explorer** heavy duty off-road camper trailer built mid 2007; galvanised body; large alloy storage box at front; 16 ins wheels; on-board battery; 16' x 8' 6" camper top plus 8' awning; 12v wiring with 4 outlets; electric brakes plus over-ride as back-up; 70 lit water tank; kitchen on tailgate with gas stove and grill; queen size mattress; storage frame in body of trailer; excellent condition and well below current replacement cost. \$15,900  
Call David Whight on 0438882696

Toyota Hiace Discoverer, pop top, auto, a/c, P/S, 1993, LWB, 136,000 kms, b/bar, stone shield, 2 new tyres, GME CB radio, weather shields, s/panel, Pioneer CD player, twin batt system, smart charger, insulated privacy solar screens, d/bed, 2 burn gas stove, sink, hot & cold water tanks, hand held shwr, 2 way 80L fridge, m/wave, Fiamma awning, ensuite tent, \$23,900 Neg.  
Ph 0424 129 432 or email [geoff.f5@optusnet.com.au](mailto:geoff.f5@optusnet.com.au)

1985 model "60" Series Toyota Landcruiser, Diesel, Station Wagon. Very good rubber. Mechanically good for its age, done many miles. Asking \$1,500. Call Wayne on 0407 85 1927.

## 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





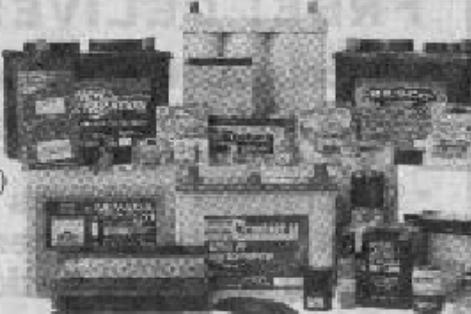
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# SOUTHERN TABLELANDS FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB Inc

GPO Box 2122, Canberra ACT 2601

## 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 entitled to a 50% reduction in the Owner Member Joining Fee provided they become Owner Members before their 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 Registered Family of Owner Members to attend the Club's training courses and to make use of the Clubs 700ha property (alodge 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	\$200 (New 1)	\$100 (New 2)
Associate Member	N/A	\$50
Competition Member	N/A	\$50

1. This Annual Membership. A Returning Member may be entitled to a reduced Joining Fee.
2. The Annual Membership Fee for new applications received after the July General Meeting is reduced to nil.

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: 112-506; Account No: 040 027 027 (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 of the month at the 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 by Email at [Membership@ST4WDC.Org](mailto:Membership@ST4WDC.Org).



# 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:				
<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>				
Accept Club SMS:	Yes / No		Yes / No	
Send Club Email to:	Both / Home / Work / Neither		Both / Home / Work / Neither	
<small>of the Email Addresses provided above.</small>				
Employer:				
Occupation:				
Vehicle (Make & Model):				
Reg'n State Colour:				
Camper Trailer (if applicable):				
Registration No   State:				
Please register these <b>'Family' Members?</b> <small>Must be under 21 years, reside with Principal Member or Partner, and be Licensed or Learning to Drive.</small> Please provide both <b>Names and Dates of Birth</b>	Name(s):		Dates of Birth:	
	.....		.....	
Are you a returning Member? Yes / No		If 'Yes', what was your last Membership Year?		
<b>How did you find out about the ST4WDC?</b>				
<b>Payment of fees (\$.....) made by</b> (Please indicate): Bank Transfer / Cheque (enclosed) / Money Order (enclosed) / Cash				
<b>Signature(s):</b> 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, mailed to the above address, or scanned and Emailed to [Membership@ST4WDC.Org](mailto:Membership@ST4WDC.Org).

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

Version 5 - Jan 2011