



SOUTHERN TRAILS

ISSUE 399 December 2012



C
O
N
T
E
N
T
S

Directory	1
Taylor Torque	4
Trips & Events	7
River Crossing & Sand Driving	14
How can you not want children	16
Have you checked your connectors lately	17
Bush skills weekend	18
4WD NSW & ACT INC	21
How waterproof is your camping gear	23
Interesting information	24
For Sale	28



The Editor

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

Next Meetings 8 Jan 2013 & 12 Feb 2013

The deadline for material to be included in the next issue of *Southern Trails* is the Friday following the General Meeting 11 Jan 2013

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.



Directory



President

Greg Taylor
6241 3547
Email: president@st4wdc.org

Vice President

Marj Jones
6284 3456
Email: vpresident@st4wdc.org

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Phil Henderson
Email: treasurer@st4wdc.org

Past President,

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

Publications Coordinator

Michael Patrick
0412 377 941
Email: publications@st4wdc.org

Education Coordinator

Peter Reynolds
6251 1258 0428 623 458
Email: education@st4wdc.org

Membership Secretary

Kim Pritchard
0416 003 722
Email: membership@st4wdc.org

Events and Trips Coordinator

Richard Brand
0418 568 358
Email: trips@st4wdc.org

Property Coordinator

Rob Tiele
0406 377 527
Email: property@st4wdc.org

Public Relations Coordinator

Rob Dobson
0414 736 892
Email: public@st4wdc.org

General Members

Ian Goodacre
0457 168 402
Email: ian@st4wdc.org
Mark Pritchard
0438 202 588
Email: mpkc@tpg.com.au
Lynne Donaldson
0418 631 669
David Whight
0438 882 693

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 Greg Taylor 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. 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 700+ ha bush block in rugged country east of Bredbo. It is used for club activities and members are welcome there for camping and enjoying the bush. Areas are 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 well-being and be conscious of the risks of fire, snakebite, etc. In an emergency, neighbours Mr. Richie Southwell and his sons, can usually be contacted using UHF Ch. 18.

Members are urged to inform the Property Coordinator or President of their plans to visit Talooge as from time to time the club allows use by other organisations. Your visit may also coincide with maintenance activities that may pose health hazards (for example, aerial weed spraying). You can then be informed if there are any issues to be aware or confirm combinations for locks to the property including our clubhouse.

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,
Winching
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



Season's Greetings!

Welcome to the final Southern Trails for 2012. We do not publish in January so the next edition will be February 2013. We still have our general meeting on Tuesday 8 January.

Thanks to Rob Dobson for doing such a great talk at short notice at our last meeting on snakes and the treatment of snake bite. A topic we should all take seriously as it is relevant for our 4wd driving and camping more so in the hotter months. Particularly, with a sighting of a brown snake near the fire pit at Talooge. Do you have your pressure immobilisation bandages in your 4wd or backpack? Do you know what to do? From my St John Australian First Aid book the key steps are:

- Follow DRABC (check for Danger, check Response, check Airway, check for Breathing and check for signs of Circulation)
- Rest and calm the casualty
- Apply pressure immobilisation bandage
- Splint the bandaged limb
- Ensure casualty does not move
- Seek medical aid urgently

Venom from snake bite moves through our lymphatic system so applying pressure, bandaging and splinting bitten limbs helps to ensure little movement which is critical for survival. Don't wash the bite. Cutting the bite and trying to suck the venom out is no longer a recommended practise and has not been for many years. Similarly, tourniquets are also not recommended to treat snake bites.

I can only touch on this serious subject here. Please seek more information about the do's and don'ts of snakes and snake bites for yourself. Make sure you get the appropriate bandages, carry them with you and know how to use them. Study the recommended first aid approaches or keep a list handy in the 4wd. I hope to have more in depth articles published in future editions.

Kim Pritchard (Membership) has asked me to remind all members that it is renewal time for memberships. Please pay your membership renewal by 1 January. The preferred method for payment is bank transfer to the club account: BSB 112-908 Account 040 037 027.

Please include your name as reference so that we can clearly identify your payment. Alternatively, you can pay by cheque or cash at our club meetings or post (not cash please) to ST4WDC, GPO Box 2122, Canberra 2601.

New club car stickers have been printed and will be available at the December meeting – please see Kim.

For anyone who has been wondering what the heck happened to Camping World at Belconnen they have now relocated to Mitchell on Flemington Rd.

It has been a hectic few weeks with several trips to Talooge. We were out at Talooge for the November training weekend as daughter Caity was participating in her Suzuki. Between us, either I or Marj Jones try to get to most of these activities to welcome our new members.

Vickie, Peter Reynolds and I were back at Talooge the following weekend to set up the funkhana track. Joining us were Rosemary Orr, David Whight, Ed Killen and his two sons (George and Sam). This was a long but enjoyable day and we hope you get to enjoy the track at the Christmas Party. Pete was getting that competitive look again as he ran around it in his 80 series...

I also had the opportunity to help out on the follow up day training as the team was short a few trainers due to other commitments. It is always great to see our trainers in action and knowing that our members are getting the very best of 4wd driving training at a level that many other clubs just cannot provide. I think Caity cheated because she took my truck on the follow up day! Why does everyone look at me when a lift kit is suggested for Caity's Zuke? It is a tad low.

Good to see Michael Loberger also helping out our trainers. On a sad note, Brad and Suzanne Burnett will be moving north after Christmas and leaving the training team. Best wishes from us all.

Graeme Kruse, Don Wiltshire and John Kjar also have made a special trip to the block to tidy up and mow the grass in the week prior to the party. Lynne Donaldson and David Whight have made a great effort to organise and make the arrangements for the Christmas Party weekend with the help of all committee members.

Taylor Torque

Greg Taylor



Thank you everyone. We are a fortunate club to have so many dedicated and willing members to get involved and make a difference. If you get a chance shout them a sherbet or two!

On behalf of the committee, I wish everyone a very merry and safe Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year.

Talking of the New Year...how is your trip planning going?

Greg

PS. Well, what a fantastic weekend we had at the Christmas Party. The weather was great, the location just right and the company wonderful - almost eighty members attended the weekend.

Christmas dinner out in the open on a warm night with so many happy campers was also a treat. I haven't had so much fun in a long time! There will be more on the party in our next Southern Trails edition (Feb 13).

Winners of the Christmas raffle were:

1. Anne O'Hara
2. David and Pauline Bennison
3. Ian Goodacre

The results and prizes for the Funkhana will be announced at our December meeting.



Are you selling or disposing of your vehicle? If so, please remember to remove your ST4WDC sticker if the buyer is not a member of our club.

Pride UTO **ACCESSORIES**

Roof Rack
CITY

“Think Outside The Car”



10% discount for all Southern Tablelands 4 Wheel Drive Club members

<p>Belconnen</p> <p>68 Oatley Court Ph: 02 6162 3808 Fax: 02 6162 3818</p>	<p>Fyshwick</p> <p>11 Kembia St Ph: 02 6280 6222 Fax: 02 6280 5314</p>	<p>Mitchell</p> <p>9 Kembie Court Ph: 02 6241 5898 Fax: 02 6241 7394</p>	<p>Phillip</p> <p>72 Dundas Crt Ph: 02 6162 1929 Fax: 02 6162 3929</p>	<p>Phillip - Roof Rack City</p> <p>30 Dundas Court Ph: 02 6281 7410 Fax: 02 6281 7861</p>
---	---	---	---	--

Camper trailer sales and hire

ABN: 34 102 155 962

Peter and Catherine

0412 866 375

www.independenttrailers.com.au

Call us:

To hire a Tvan off road camper trailer

For a demonstration of the Tvan

To talk about buying a camper trailer

Local dealers for:

Track Trailer

Auspit (camping rotisserie perfect for the campfire)

Tanami pumps (transfer fuel from your jerry can to vehicle without effort)

Visit us at home in Chifley or see us at the shows listed on our website



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.

Trips and Events



8 - 9 Dec

Scenic Weekend to Eden

2012-097

- Trip Leader: Alex and Andrea Szabo
Email: alexszabo@grapevine.com.au
Phone: 0434 411 457 (m)
Limit: vehicle limit
Grade: 1
Start: 8:30 AM
Meeting Place: Williamsdale
Fuel: Full at start. Trip distance is over 700km, so a refuel in Eden is probably the best option.
Maps: Rooftop's Merimbula-Bermagui and Mallacoota-Merimbula Adventure Maps or 8724 Bombala NSW Topo 1:100,000 and 8824 National Topo Series Bega 1:100,000
Requirements: UHF radio and well-maintained vehicle and the usual food, water and Happy Hour provisions.
Description: This trip is intended as a scenic, social and relaxing weekend drive with an overnight at an Eden caravan park (to be decided - fee involved). Your choice of accommodation - once you have booked on the event, please let us know your intentions. We will aim to book a group area for car-based camping, but if you would like a van or cabin, you may need to book that yourselves. We will also try to secure some discount. Stand by for updates.

On Saturday, we'll head off the black top at Nimmitabel, by the disused Goulburn-Bombala railway line, and then travel through South East Forrest National Park, checking out Nunnock Camping Area and Nunnock Swamp, Alexander's Hut, lovely Candelo and on through Wolumla to Wolumla Peak (excellent 360 degree views including to the sea), arriving at Eden in time for Happy Hour and a Pot Luck dinner.

On Sunday, we'll head down to Ben Boyd National Park (\$7 day use fee) and check out Boyd's Tower and Green Cape Lighthouse (the end points for the Light-to-Light Walk) plus Disaster Bay. Then from Kiah, we'll take The Snake Track through wonderfully picturesque scenery along the Towamba River, through Towamba, Burragate, and Rocky Hall to Cathcart and then farming paddocks with lots of stock to Bibbenluke and the leisurely drive back home.

Off-road sections are Grade 1 and therefore suitable for members who have not yet completed the Basic course. Even so, some of the roads will be rough, narrow, winding and dusty enough that you wouldn't take the family sedan!
- Comments: If all trip participants have completed the Basic course, there are some interesting Grade 2 add-ons we could do.

9 Dec

Winching and Recovery Exercise

2012-021

- Trip Leader: Peter Reynolds
Phone: 02 6251 1258 (h); 0428 623 458 (m)
Limit: person limit
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

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 4W driving, or whose vehicle is deemed inadequate.

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

UHF 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



16 Dec

Clyde Mountain Reccy - Part 2

2012-098

Trip Leader: Warren Shardlow
Email: wshardlow@spin.net.au
Phone: 0409 321 213 (m)
Limit: vehicle limit
Grade: 3
Start: 9:00 AM
Meeting Place: McDonalds Car Park Queanbeyan
Fuel: Full tank
Maps: Currowan 8926-4N, Brooman 8927-3-S, Corang 8927-3-N (1:25,000)
Requirements: Minimum of basic training, well prepared vehicle with good tyres and recovery gear
Description: We have unfinished business in this area!!! If you are interested in looking for something new and some challenging 4WD tracks, then this is what I will be looking for. We will also be looking for campsites, lookouts and just anything to make a trip interesting.
Comments: It will probably be a long day. So come well prepared. Departure will be at 9:00am sharp. This means get to the golden arches earlier if you want to have a cuppa and brecky. There is a vehicle limit of 10

16 Dec

Brindabella Semi-Classic

2012-100

Trip Leader: David Read
Email: twisty@live.com.au
Phone: 0431 980 487 (m)
Limit: vehicle limit
Grade: 2
Start: 9:00 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. GPS
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.
Description: This day trip is a great way for new members to explore Canberra's back yard.
We meet at Uriarra Homestead for a 9.00am departure and head to Picadilly Circus following Brindabella/Tumut Road. Quick stop to air down and a "photo op" at Picadilly Circus. Then on to Gentle Annie fire trail to Flea Creek (toilets) 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 Trail and down to Lowells Flat (toilets) for a long lunch.
We'll then head out via McIntyres Hut (a quick stop), Waterfall Trail, Dingi Dingi fire trail and exit via Blue Range to East West Rd, air up and head for home.
Comments: Preference will be given to members who have just completed Driver Training

Trips and Events



6 Jan

Kowen Forest

2013-015

Trip Leader: Warren Shardlow & Jim Anderson

Email: wshardlow@spin.net.au

Phone: 0409 321 213 (m)

Limit: vehicle limit

Grade: 3

Start: 10:00 AM

Meeting Place: Kowen Forest gate

Fuel: Half to full tank

Maps: Any with Kowen Forest

Requirements: Basic Driver Training, Recovery gear, sustenance.

Description: An opportunity to enjoy a location very close to home, exploring the labyrinth of tracks/trails in Kowen Forest. Due to the popularity of the last trip, we have planned 2 trips in January and 1 in February.

You should also know that I like to find challenging, low range, tracks. So, if that is what you are after, you will get it. If you want to take it easy, there are always easier options. It is not compulsory to do difficult tracks, and there will most definitely be some easy driving.

Comments: Access is through a locked gate. Thus, promptness is important. I advise that you arrive at the parking area by the gate by 9:45 am. The gate will be shut and locked by 10:05am. Access is dependent on favourable weather conditions. An update will be provided a week prior and 2 days prior to the event.

20 Jan

Kowen Forest

2013-016

Trip Leader: Jim Anderson / Warren Shardlow

Email: jander55@bigpond.com

Phone: 0408 283 496 (m)

Limit: vehicle limit

Grade: 3

Start: 10:00 AM

Meeting Place: Kowen Forest gate

Fuel: Half to full tank

Maps: Any with Kowen Forest

Requirements: Basic Driver Training, recovery gear, lunch and afternoon tea.

Description: Kowen Forest is very close to home and provides a number of interesting and challenging tracks, all with alternative drive arounds. This trip has proved popular in the past and we are organising three Kowen outings during January and February 2013.

Comments: Access is through a locked gate therefore promptness is important. Please arrive at the parking area by 9:45 - the access gate will be shut and locked by 10:05am.

Trips and Events



8 - 10 Mar

Australian East Coast Land Rover Festival

2013-017

Trip Leader: www.aeclrf.com.au
Email: webmaster@st4wdc.org
Phone: 0418 568 358 (m)
Limit: unlimited
Start: 12:00 AM
Description: This 3 day event in the NSW Grabine State Park is open to all. Scenic drives, exhibits, parades and Motorkhana events.
Comments: Camping and catering available. Book at

9 - 16 Mar

Vic High Mountain Country

2013-013

Trip Leader: Michael Patrick
Email: michael.patrick2@bigpond.com
Phone: 0412 377 941 (m)
Limit: unlimited
Grade: 3
Start: 8:00 AM
Meeting Place: Uriarra Homestead
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, and a blind/tarp for water crossing. If you have tyre chains bring them along. Fuel to cover 400kms in low range. No camper trailers
Description: Day 1 travel via Tumut to Glen Dart old town and camp. Day 2 proceed to Bentley Plain hut and then on to Ensay and camp. Day 3 travel the Haunted Stream and numerous tracks to Italian Flat camp area. Day 4 proceed to Licola via Dargo, Billy Goat, Pinnacles and numerous tracks. Day 5 proceed to Gardeners Hut (Howqua area) via McAllister River track and assorted tracks. Day 6 proceed to Cobblers Hut via Mount Beauty covering Razorback hut, Howqua Gap hut, Stirling hut, Craig's hut & King River hut. Day 7 proceed to Mansfield via Wild Horse gap, Pineapple flats, Refugee hut, Bluff Spur track and Mount Buller road. Day 8 head home to Canberra via highway. Due to the nature of the Victorian High trip scheduling could 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 Ensay, Licola and Mansfield. There is a possibility that some vehicle recoveries may be required

Trips and Events



12 - 14 Apr

4WD Muster

2013-014

Email: webmaster@st4wdc.org

Phone: 0418 568 358 (m)

Limit: unlimited

Start: 12:00 AM

Description: The 4WD Muster is a family-friendly event for the broad 4WD community. The primary objective is raising funds for Variety, the children's charity, and creating a World Record parade of 4WD Vehicles.

The event is fully endorsed by Variety and will be held at Lardner Park in Warragul Victoria, which is ideally located about an hour's drive from Melbourne. Participants will have the option of camping on site over the weekend or attending as a day visitor. Food, entertainment, exhibits and lots more will be provided.

Comments: Follow the website link for unfolding details

A decorative border consisting of a repeating pattern of small stick figures holding hands, forming a rectangular frame around the central text.

Wanted

High quality Photos of Club Trips

The editor created a picture library of club trips. Can any club member please burn their high quality photos onto disk and either mail them to the club PO box or drop them off at the club meeting.

Happy to supply the disks
This is not just for the past but any club trips in future

Michael Patrick Editor

CLIMBING GEAR FOR YOUR 4X4

ARB AIR LOCKERS ARE TOOLS OF THE TRADE FOR SERIOUS 4 WHEELERS. IF YOU NEED TOTAL TRACTION ON DEMAND, YOU NEED AIR LOCKERS – THEY'VE BEEN HELPING 4 WHEELERS CLIMB MOUNTAINS FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS.

- 100% traction at the flick of a dash mounted switch
- Super strong locking mechanism activated via compressed air
- Ultra durable design using aerospace grade materials
- Easy installation and maintenance
- Over 100 part numbers covering most vehicle models
- Used by the best in the toughest events, from the Outback Challenge to the Xtreme Winch Series

Dana 60 shown with optional diff cover

OUR RANGE INCLUDES:

- ARB BULL BARS & REAR BARS
- ARB SIDE RAILS & STEPS
- WARN & MAGNUM WINCHES
- OLD MAN EMU SUSPENSION SYSTEMS
- IPF LIGHTS
- ARB AIR LOCKERS & AIR COMPRESSORS
- SAFARI SNORKELS & PERFORMANCE COMPUTERS
- ARB, THULE & RHINO ROOF RACKS
- ARB ROOFTOP TENTS
- ARB RECOVERY EQUIPMENT
- ARB CANOPIES, UTE LINERS & SPORT LIDS
- ARB TOWMASTER TOW BARS
- ARB FRIDGES & DUAL BATTERIES
- FUEL & WATER TANKS
- TYRE ACCESSORIES
- GME RADIOS, SEATS, CARGO BARRIERS, WHEEL CARRIERS & MORE

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.



River Crossing and Sand Driving

27-28 October 2012

David O'Connor



Participants

Charles Jenkins
Senerath Wijeratne
Brad Wells
Kelvin Berry
David O'Connor
Dennis Hartley
Brad Burnett (Sand component)
Alex Szarbo (Water component)
Pat Farrelley
James Presneill
Steven Deans
Richard Stevenson
Ian Brown
Roger O'Sullivan

Trainers

Michael Darman
Michael Briguglio
Dave Buckley
Graeme Tonge
Peter Butterfield
Doreen McEncroe
David Buckley
Joe Briguglio
Rod Williams

Pre-trip briefing

Training started at the compulsory pre-trip briefing on 12 September, by which time the 25 enrolled had already dropped to 19. The briefing covered some critical advice – you will get wet, you need to get under the car and check and plug holes to avoid wet carpets, bring a spinifex hook (perhaps this was in case the river was really dry?), check your snorkel actually snorkels and your door seals seal, etc. Plus some really good advice on the interaction between water depth, flow and the side of your 4WD.

River crossing

The early birds led by Peter Watson met in Braidwood at 07.30 while those of us who preferred more of a sleep in met Duck in Queanbeyan at 08.30. From the 19 at the compulsory briefing night, we had lost another five in the interim and were down to 14.

A quick pit-stop in Braidwood and then on to Baker's Camp for a briefing by Duck, which concluded with tales of cars turned submarines and water discos. Some very salient anecdotes to accompany the advice 'No one is forcing you to do anything. If you don't want to go as deep or go at all, it's your decision'. Then on to Dry Creek for the main event (the presence of a trainer in a dry suit doing nothing to allay nerves). A wander up and down the river to judge depth and pick lines, time to spray oil on critical electricals and affix tarps, and then, in we went. When one thinks about river crossings, the 'crossing' part tends to be assumed. It is then somewhat of a surprise to find yourself driving up the river itself before exiting about 200m upstream with your 'line' marked by a series of drunken water nymphs. I say drunken because they obviously had difficulty standing still and appeared to wander all over the place ('nymphs' is probably a bit of a far cry). Either the tide was coming in, they were getting shorter or we were going deeper with each pass. Three passes in one direction and two in reverse and success! Of course, it wasn't all good news - while relatively picturesque, I wasn't convinced the small fountains from the floor of the Prado were a good thing - someone else had a much more impressive water fountain coming out the rear doors. We also unfortunately lost Alex on the way back who decided discretion was the better part of valour and his Hilux traveled back from Araleun courtesy of NRMA.

The training was fantastic, however, rather than convince me to do more water crossings, it has convinced me to do less (but with more preparation and care). While a 4WD can, at various times, plough through deep water, float and create a bow wave, I have concluded that if this is what you really want to do – buy a boat.

Sand Driving

After camping overnight at Stuarts Crossing and a quick theory lesson, we headed off onto the sand with tyres at road pressures. This really showed up the difference in the capability of the vehicles with some bogging within 10m and others only getting stuck when they hit the really soft stuff.

This was followed by a second lap with lowered pressures to demonstrate the difference tyre pressure makes (substantial). It was then time to bog the vehicles so we could practice getting them out.

River Crossing and Sand Driving

27-28 October 2012

David O'Connor



Cue, lots of digging, rocking, MaxTraxs and the occasional snatch strap.

Once again vehicle capabilities came to the fore with the Prado drivers being told to 'go and see if you can bog it'. After all the Prado's failed this relatively simple test, the trainer's were more than happy to provide a solution. No matter what vehicle you drive, if you reverse into a soft sand river you *will* get well and truly bogged. Not quite what one expects to deliberately do with an expensive bit of motor vehicle. It then becomes rather difficult to 'dig' the vehicle out as quicksand doesn't tend to sit nicely on a shovel. It was also just as well we had earlier talked about attaching straps to MaxTraxs as all that was left after one successful vehicle extraction were the tips of two straps poking out of the river.

Once all the vehicles had been bogged and de-bogged, we had a quick demo of what to do (or should that have been, what not to do?) when changing a tyre.

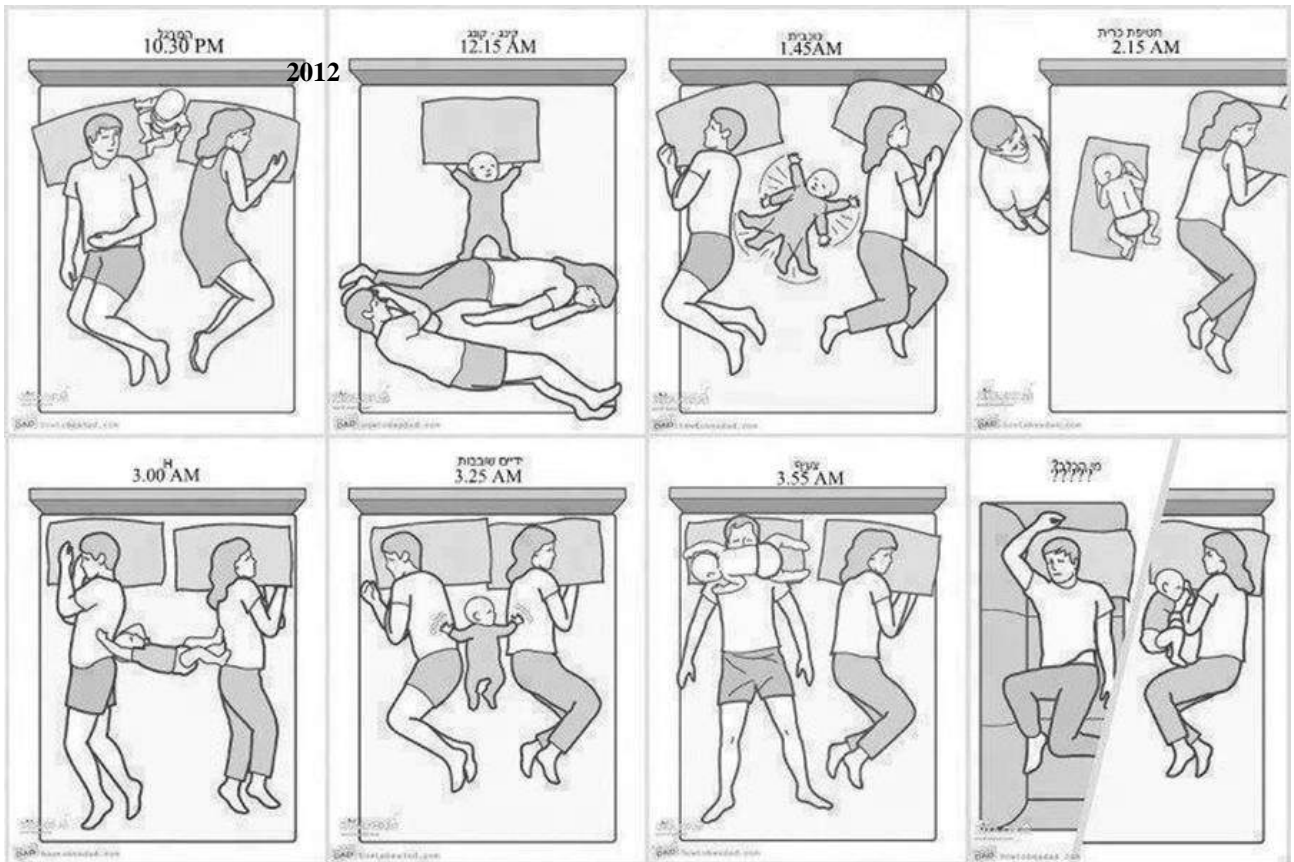
Points to note

- When crossing a river in a 4WD, floating is actually a really bad thing
- Duck by name but not by nature
- A little bit of water can get in your air filter housing and you can survive (not something that should be tested too often – or at all)
- Small bubbling fountains in the floor are not a good thing – water fountains out the doors are much more impressive but probably not a good thing either
- Dry Creek isn't dry
- Don't forget to plug the duck's bum (important note: does not refer to Duck's bum)
- It's really hard to run away from a Tiger snake when wearing waders and standing waist deep in a river (and if you happen to be driving your 4WD through the river at the time, you probably shouldn't stop to watch).

The course definitely deserves its reputation as one of the most sought after the club runs.



How can you not want children



Have You Checked Your Trailer Connectors Lately?

Rob Dobson



The picture below illustrates the dust and mud accumulated in my trailer connector after a 15,000 km trip; the connector had been cleaned out immediately before the trip.

I had cleaned this connector out several times in the past and found that if the dust turns to wet mud then the exposed electrical terminals will form a circuit through the mud. Although in most cases the current flowing is only small, it does create a degree of corrosion on the terminals, they turn green, and may cause the wires not to make adequate contact with the terminals.

A few years ago one of our club members was on a trip through dusty iron-ore country in Western Australia. The iron-ore dust that had accumulated in his trailer connector turned out to be highly conductive and he ended up blowing a fuse that in turn caused his engine to stop immediately.

This resulted in him being stuck in the middle of nowhere, with no idea as to what the problem was. He was fortunate in that some time later mining staff from a nearby mine drove by, stopped and were able to help him get going again.

To reduce the possibility of a similar problem happening to me I have now cleaned the connector out thoroughly, checked the tightness of all wire connections and then put a layer of Selly's Marine Silicone over all of the exposed terminals and conductors. That way there will be no unexpected circuits formed through the dust and mud. I can cut the silicone away if I need to get to the terminals. Be careful to use a good quality silicone as some products will remain sticky, attract dust and even run in very hot weather.



Bush Skills Weekend

20-21 October 2012

Ros Hanigan



Rosemary Orr

Trip Leader

Demonstrators

Peter Reynolds
Chris Nicholls
Michael Patrick
Plod McEncroe
Tommo Buttriss
Joe Brigulio

Participants:

Simon and Jane Moyle	Isuzu Dmax
Don Wiltshire	Holden Jackaroo
Peter & Cath Blunt	Toyota Prado
Graeme & Georgina Booth	Jeep Wrangler
Norman & Michelle Goldsborough	80 Series
Dan & Rosina Mansson	Nissan GU Patrol
Damien Magee	Toyota 80 Series
Michael Patrick	Suzuki Sierra
Simon & Irma Briggs	Toyota 80 Series
Dave & Suzanne Foulds	Jeep Wrangler
Steve & Laura Robinson	Toyota 80 Series
Bill & Karen Dykhoff	Mitsubishi Triton
Chris Nicholls	Nissan GQ
Charlie & Helen Montesin	Isuzu Dmax
Jake Vanderstok	Toyota Hilux
Joe Brigulio	Nissan GQ
Ian & Marion McNaught	Toyota Prado
Jeff Wesney	Nissan Navarra
Roger & Jenny O'Sullivan	Toyota 100 Series
Rob & Jane Dunlop	Toyota 200 Series
Andy & Cathy Anderson	Land Rover Disco
Ian Tarlinton	Nissan Patrol
Doc & Sally Baldwin	Nissan Patrol
Plod & Doreen McEncroe	Toyota 100 Series
Tommo & Julie Buttriss	Toyota
Peter Reynolds	Quad Bike
Rosemary Orr	Suzuki Grand Vitara
Jim & Ros Hanigan	Holden Jackaroo

I have drawn the participants from those indicating attendance on the trip website. Therefore there may be errors but what the heck. For the same reason I unable to provide all details of the various camping rigs. There were also some children, but they were so quiet we hardly noticed.

On the subject of photography, I am greatly indebted to Doc and Sally Baldwin for providing photographs of the weekend, even if some people felt they were unfairly targeted or not looking their loveliest.

On a beautiful spring morning we made our way early to Talooe Park, so we could have first pick of the campsites, set up and have a good look around before our weekend companions arrived. As we have not been to Talooe for a couple of years and recall it as full of lambs tongues, serrated tussock, goat damaged vegetation and not fond memories of sore hands and backs, we suspected we were in for a surprise. However, nothing could have prepared us for the lush gardens cape with which we were confronted. Still the goats, but they disappeared rapidly after a bit of a stand-off.

Graham, Don and their team have done an extraordinary job with the development of many lovely campsites, fire rings, trees and surrounds, wood-piles etc.: truly amazing - a real proper camping area.

Having wandered around for a while, we heard others on the radio, announcing their arrival. Gradually, the peace of the bush was broken as trailers and tents jockeyed for positions; Mr Reynolds took to the tracks with his quad bike; the generator was kicked into life and groups formed around fire rings. Apparently it was thirsty work.

Happy hour was declared and a few who were already well set up gathered at our trailer before dispersing to prepare dinner and await an interesting weekend.

Saturday dawned clear: a perfect day and after sleepers had fed and Saturday morning stragglers arrived, Ro whipped all into action for a walk round various camping options - a very important aspect to begin development of bush skills. For a couple of hours, the relative merits of camper trailers, tents, even roof-top campers were demonstrated and various fit outs, additions and modifications were discussed, before we were mustered to the undercover area for Peter Reynolds' advice on how to set up your vehicle, what spares to take on a trip and things that can go wrong; a demonstration on packing and correctly adjusting a trailer bearing, along with a spirited discussion on dealer servicing versus 4WD specialist attention.

Bush Skills Weekend

20-21 October 2012

Ros Hanigan



Lunch followed, then it was over to Tommo for his instruction on how chain saws should be responsibly utilized and maintained, before he switched hats and joined chef extraordinaire Plod, ably assisted by Doreen and Julie to demonstrate how quick and simple it is to "throw together a damper" whether it be plain or fancy, simple or savory. Flour, beer and other bits, such as ham, cheese, herbs and so on, cooked in the camp-oven over a glowing fire.

While these were cooking, several of our number took the opportunity to discuss Peter Blunt's new GoPro camera, photography also being an enjoyable skill to be pursued in the bush. Others used remaining daylight hours to "fang" around the tracks – thanks Jeff – before all settled down for a relaxing social evening at various campfires.

Yet another perfect day on Sunday and having woken to birdsong and clear skies, some members opted for an early departure, while others remained for a talk by Chris Nicholls and Michael Patrick on the respective merits of sat. phones and HF radio; a touch on VKS 737 and its services, before switching to trip navigation and Ozi-Explorer.

Gradually, everyone dispersed, some to the hills for a bit of winching practice with Joe, others to slowly head back to reality in town.

This was truly a great weekend spent in stunning surroundings. Thank you to everyone who made it possible, not the least our stalwart Rosemary, who has coordinated this event for several years and I understand is now looking to someone else to give it fresh flavor.

Great work all.



Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT, INC

Peter Fenwick



I ask all clubs and their delegates to consider the role of the Association as the peak representative body of 4WDers across the state and territory. We are not a social organisation as that is one of the very important roles of individual clubs. It is the clubs that are and should be the fun, family friendly 4WD organisations in NSW and the ACT, indeed in all states.

The Association is the authoritative voice of 4WD in this State and territory and the “go to people” for comment on 4WD issues. We are your “champions” on technical and access issues and act as an advisory and coordinating body established to represent the common goals and concerns of 4WD clubs to others. **We do this by;**

- Promoting awareness of who 4WDers are and what we do in our communities and how we interact with public resources in NSW and the ACT
- Building a greater sense of community between clubs and at State and national levels
- Encouraging people to enjoy 4WDing responsibly and sustainably by joining clubs
- Being the “go to” people when lawmakers, regulators and the media need information on 4WD issues
- Coordinating the response of clubs and their members to matters concerning us (access & technical)
- Informing our member clubs about the value we add to their 4WD experience and encouraging them to pass this message onto their members
- Correcting false statements and defending against attacks in the media by providing balanced and substantial arguments
- Conducting the Four Wheel Drive Adventure Show annually
- Maintaining our status as a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) under the Australian Qualifications Framework
- Meeting with land managers and their agencies regularly throughout the year
- Conducting Track Classification and joint projects to help communities and land rehabilitation
- Supporting community organisations like Clean Up Australia, RFDS, Kids with Cancer and many more

- Seeking recognition that 4WD Clubs inject millions of dollars into businesses and communities across the state and Australia
- Our major role in both the Australian Council of Motor Clubs (ACMC) and Four Wheel Drive Australia
- Our role in the Roads and Maritime Services consultative committees.

The Association’s management committee or executive acts on your decisions about state and territory matters and makes representation on your behalf at state and national levels. We provide our best advice to your clubs but your clubs make the decisions in a democratic process by which you the delegates represent the clubs’ wishes to all assembled delegates and this executive in quarterly meetings where decisions are made and or ratified. Without active club participation and quality representation of club views in this forum there is no Association.

2012 has been a very positive year of growth and consolidation.

Growth has been demonstrated by the number of enquiries about how to form a new club and join the Association and that many of our 94 clubs have seen significant membership increases. This is very positive and indicates that our efforts in the media and generally in promoting our organization as the peak 4WD body in NSW & ACT are producing excellent results.

Consolidation is demonstrated by our very strong and improving relationships with politicians, industry, other organisations with similar or overlapping ideals and the press. This has been achieved through some very consistent and time consuming efforts by your executive to build closer cooperation and increased understanding of our organisation and its strengths, abilities and beliefs.

The highlights are:

- Track classification and volunteer work with land managers has been well received and demonstrated that we really do know and care about our environment. We now have many rangers asking us to assist them (Abercrombie River, indigenous cultural officers)

Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT, INC

Peter Fenwick



- The signing of the agreement with Forests NSW is a major success that crowns the work done by Roger and Craig over many months. This benefits all our members through not having to pay access fees. It also ensures that our member clubs are acknowledged by Forests staff
- The 4WD Adventure show at Eastern Creek is now the largest 4WD show in Australia with 205 exhibitors and over 16,000 paying visitors through the gates in just 2 days
- We have also increased the use of our Training Centre for driver training and assessment
- Overlander Magazine wants to use our Training Centre as its standard test track for all new vehicles
- Association net assets now amount to about \$114,000 with a current account balance of \$38,000
- Your committee also approved funding to strengthen our DTU through upgrading our trainers' qualifications. This is a major effort that will directly benefit all members of all clubs. We must ensure that all clubs make training available to their members and complete full skills evaluations so that the DTU can issue certificates of competency. New trainers are always welcome
- Our role in modifying GMH's new Holden Rodeo ad to demonstrate safe recovery practices strengthened our credibility as the peak 4WD representative body. GMH were so impressed with our contribution that they asked to make a training video with us. The DTU were heavily involved in filming this at our Eastern Creek Training Centre. (see YouTube or 4wdTV)
- Our major role in the inaugural Motor Enthusiasts Conference (Eastern Creek February 2012)
- Positive meetings with state politicians at regular intervals (evidenced by changes to RMS)
- Launch of the new improved website www.4wdnow.com to overcome the issues with the old website and give a fresh and modern look to the Association. This has resulted in greater public awareness of our organisation and has driven some of the new club formation enquiries
- Establishing a series of discount offers (20-30% off) for members; accessible through our website
- Improved insurance rates for members with a small commission returned to clubs.

How we fund these achievements has been a question concerning your committee for some time. The Association has three income streams;

- Affiliation fees from clubs
- Training activities income
- The 4WD Adventure Show

Your committee seeks new ways to meet our operating costs of about \$80,000pa. We intend to add associate membership for commercial organisations relevant to 4WDing and business sponsorship or advertising in the future. However we must be careful to maintain our independence and objectivity that is so respected by industry and politicians as this is what makes us strong as a representative body.

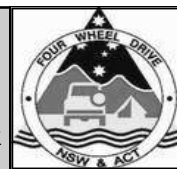
The only negatives in the Association in the 2011-12 year are the inability, not for lack of effort on our part, to finalise the lease arrangements for the training centre with Sydney Dragway and the slowness of communication between clubs and executive.

Many clubs are involved in supporting community service activities; Central Coast 4WD Club and Port Macquarie 4WD Club have both featured in press releases recently. This is great work that we need to track and promote widely. To assist clubs in this the Association adopted a media policy in 2011 that is available in the document section of our website. I urge you to use it to enable us all to support your efforts.

Active participation in your clubs involves two precious items that are often in short supply; time and commitment. I can assure you that your gift of these precious items to your fellow 4WDers to ensure that clubs work effectively and together to achieve our objectives brings great personal rewards in appreciation and satisfaction. It also provides some great friends to go 4WDing with. So I urge you to consider when you are next able to offer that gift to ensure your own lifestyle and that of your fellow 4WDers. It is through cooperation and unity that we will achieve our aims and be taken seriously by politicians, industry and the general public.

Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT, INC

Peter Fenwick



Finally I would like to thank all of you for affording me the privilege of being your President for the past two and a half years and to acknowledge the excellent work and the pleasure it has been to work with the current executive and ex-officio position holders, delegates and club Presidents of this Association and the behind the scenes efforts of a former committee member Roger Sheath.

I sincerely thank all of you for your patience and support in restructuring this amazing community organisation and know the new executive and committee members will continue to achieve great things on your behalf.

Warm regards

Peter Fenwick

President

November 2012

Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT, INC

AGM



New Executive for Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT

At the very well-attended November AGM the outgoing President, Peter Fenwick, thanked the outgoing committee for their dedication, enthusiasm and support over the last twelve months. He stated that it is their efforts and that of many volunteers and ex-officio position holders along with Regional Committee Chair persons, club Presidents and delegates that has made the Association as strong as it is today. Those efforts have resulted in the Association being recognised as the authoritative voice of four wheel drivers across NSW and the ACT. Peter indicated that member clubs should expect great progress from the new management committee over the next year and that he has every confidence in the new team. Peter will take up the position of President of Four Wheel Drive Australia (formerly the Australian National Four Wheel Drive Council) on 17 November 2012.

Results of the Election of Officers conducted by the Association's Public Officer, Roger Quarterman, who retired after seven years of dedicated service.

Management Committee

President: Craig Thomas

Vice President – Lands: Chris Keys

Vice President – Regions & Membership: Ron Owen

Secretary: - Grant Pickman

Treasurer: - Tony Ellery

General Member: Dom Fitzgibbon – Communications Manager

General Member: Geoff Northcott – Technical Liaison

General Member: - Dawn Antal

General Member: *no nomination received*. This position can now be filled at the discretion of the committee.

Sub-Committees & ex-officio

DTU: Tony Vaughan, George Cottee

Lands & Track Classification: George Cottee, Michael Van Balkom

Training Centre: Ken Timmins, Anthony Timmins, Ryan Kenny, Rory Mcardle, Jim Skinner and Matt Jande

Auditor: Christine Reid and Associates

Public Officer- Peter Fenwick (Roger Quarterman stepped down after 7 years)

Next AGM is scheduled for 16th November 2013 Please put this date in your club calendars.

How Waterproof is Your Camping Gear?

Rob Dobson



Water resistance of fabrics is usually expressed as the height of a column of water that the fabric can support before the fabric starts to leak. You may see this as '1000 mm PU coating' which means that the fabric will support a column of water of one metre or 1000 mm in height. (PU stands for Poly Urethane.) In British publications you may see HH2000mm in which case the HH stands for Hydrostatic Head. This may be converted to pounds per square inch in US documents.

Hydrostatic pressure testing of fabrics is usually conducted by sealing the fabric over the bottom end of a vertical one-inch diameter tube and then gradually filling the tube with water until the fabric starts to leak. The height of water at which the leakage began is the water resistance figure for that fabric.

Those who attended the October 2012 ST4WDC meeting saw demonstrations of two different '3 second' tents; the first tent was an EPE Speedy two person tent which had a water resistance rating of 1000mm for the fly and 2000mm for the floor. The second tent was a Malamoo three person tent which had a water resistance rating of 1500mm for the fly and 3000mm for the floor. Top of the line two and three person tents have fly water resistance ratings of 3,500mm and floor water resistance ratings of 10,000mm or even greater, however these tents are 3 to 4 times more expensive than the tents shown in the October meeting.



How water resistant does your tent need to be? The trouble is that not all rain is equal in the pressure it exerts on the tent fabrics; drizzle exerts very little pressure whereas tropical rain drops can be large and have a high velocity, exerting a much larger pressures on the fabric. Another factor is the amount of flex in the fabric when a rain drop hit it. There seems to be little agreement on any fixed number but it appears that anything around 1-2000mm is considered rainproof. I would be going for the higher number if all other things were equal.

No matter how water resistant a tent fabric is, in cold climates condensation will form inside the top of the tent unless care is taken. Hot air rises and on a cold night your moisture laded breath will rise to the top of the tent and condense into water.

The way to reduce or stop condensation is to have a tent with openings at the highest point and to leave these open through the night so that the moist hot air will keep rising right out of the opening. The trick is to have enough warmth in your sleeping systems so that you do not need to zip the tent and all of the windows up just to keep warm. This practice can save you a few hours in the mornings waiting for you tent to dry.

I also found that putting the fly on my Oz Tent RV4 considerably reduced the internal condensation. My guess is that the trapped layer of air between the top of the tent and the fly provided a degree of insulation that caused the ceiling of the tent to be warmer than it would have been without the fly and hence reduced the level of condensation.

There are tents made with a 'breathable' water resistant fabric, however these are very expensive. The subject of water resistant, breathable and windproof jackets will be covered in a future article.



Interesting Information



- If you are right handed, you will tend to chew your food on the rightside of your mouth.
- If you are left handed, you will tend to chew your food on the left side of your mouth.
- To make half a kilo of honey, bees must collect nectar from over 2 million individual flowers.
- Heroin is the brand name of morphine once marketed by 'Bayer'.
- Tourists visiting Iceland should know that tipping at a restaurant is considered an insult!
- People in nudist colonies play volleyball more than any other sport.
- Albert Einstein was offered the presidency of Israel in 1952, but he declined.
- Astronauts can't belch - there is no gravity to separate liquid from gas in their stomachs.
- Ancient Roman, Chinese and German societies often used urine as mouthwash.
- The Mona Lisa has no eyebrows. In the Renaissance era, it was fashion to shave them off!
- Because of the speed at which Earth moves around the Sun, it is impossible for a solar eclipse to last more than 7 minutes and 58seconds.
- The night of January 20 is "Saint Agnes's Eve", which is regarded as a time when a young woman dreams of her future husband.
- Google is actually the common name for a number with a million zeros.
- It takes glass one million years to decompose, which means it never wears out and can be recycled an infinite amount of times!
- Gold is the only metal that doesn't rust, even if it's buried in the ground for thousands of years.
- Your tongue is the only muscle in your body that is attached at only one end.
- If you stop getting thirsty, you need to drink more water. When a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off.
- Each year 2,000,000 smokers either quit smoking or die of tobacco-related diseases.
- Zero is the only number that cannot be represented by Roman numerals.
- Kites were used in the American Civil War to deliver letters and newspapers.
- The song, Auld Lang Syne, is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year.
- Drinking water after eating reduces the acid in your mouth by 61 percent.
- Peanut oil is used for cooking in submarines because it doesn't smoke unless it's heated above 450 F.
- The roar that we hear when we place a seashell next to our ear is not the ocean, but rather the sound of blood surging through the veins in the ear.
- Nine out of every 10 living things live in the ocean.
- The banana cannot reproduce itself. It can be propagated only by the hand of man.
- Airports at higher altitudes require a longer airstrip due to lower air density.
- The University of Alaska spans four time zones.
- The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself.
- In ancient Greece, tossing an apple to a girl was a traditional proposal of marriage. Catching it meant she accepted.
- Warner Communications paid \$28 million for the copyright to the song Happy Birthday.
- Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.
- A comet's tail always points away from the sun.
- The Swine Flu vaccine in 1976 caused more death and illness than the disease it was intended to prevent.
- Caffeine increases the power of aspirin and other painkillers, that is why it is found in some medicines.
- The military salute is a motion that evolved from medieval times, when knights in armor raised their visors to reveal their identity.
- If you get into the bottom of a well or a tall chimney and look up, you can see stars, even in the middle of the day.

4WD TRAINING SERVICES P/L

ABN 008 545 980

Over 30 years 4WD Experience passed on to you

ONE ON ONE TRAINING

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

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

Fax 6285 2737

OPEN MON - FRI

8.00am - 5.00pm

SATURDAY

8.00am - 12.00



“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.

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.

Interesting Information



- When a person dies, hearing is the last sense to go. The first sense lost is sight.
- In ancient times strangers shook hands to show that they were unarmed.
- Strawberries are the only fruits whose seeds grow on the outside.
- Avocados have the highest calories of any fruit at 167 calories per hundred grams.
- The moon moves about two inches away from the Earth each year.
- The Earth gets 100 tons heavier every day due to falling space dust.
- Due to earth's gravity it is impossible for mountains to be higher than 15,000 meters.
- Mickey Mouse is known as "Topolino" in Italy.
- Soldiers do not march in step when going across bridges because they could set up a vibration which could be sufficient to knock the bridge down.
- Everything weighs one percent less at the equator.
- For every extra kilogram carried on a space flight, 530 kg of excess fuel are needed at lift-off.
- The letter J does not appear anywhere on the periodic table of the elements.
- And last but not least:
- In 2012, December has 5 Saturdays, 5 Sundays and 5 Mondays. This apparently happens once every 823 years!
- This is called 'money bags'. So send this on to 5 and money will arrive in 5 days.



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.



For Sale

Good Year Wrangler HP Tyre and Rim
245x70R16
\$50.00 Jeff 0405 448 298

For Sale

Complete shelving system for 100 series Landcruiser.
Fridge slide, drawers, shelves, 60ltr water tank/pump with matching half cage barrier.
Second row seat false floor. All in good nick.
Located in Kambah. \$2000.
Mark 0404 847 899

For Sale

Winch 12000lb (5440kg) Supercheap: with 10mm Dyneema rope, new in box (purchased Apr 2012) unused, \$450.
Recovery kit, Black Rat: full kit in carry bag, plus drag chain, most components unused, \$200.
These items are perfect but surplus to requirements.
Peter 0414 606 537

For Sale

BARRETT 950 HF SSB TRANSCEIVER WITH 910 AUTOMATIC TUNING MOBILE ANTENNA, AND ACCESSORIES. THIS IS A SECONDHAND UNIT IN PERFECT WORKING CONDITION.
\$ 1200 NEG Contact ARTHUR 0438448584

For Sale

Hugh Oztrail tourer 9 centre pole tent with extension for sale. We have downsized and need to sell our tent. Good general condition with no rips or damage. \$150 ono
Joe 0417 220 919

Wanted

Looking for two 16" Rims to suit Toyota 80 series Frank Wolf 02-62806488

For Sale

Full length (roof top tent) Roo Systems steel roof rack to suit gutter mound 4WD.
Fully adjustable, brand new (2 weeks old, never used, straight out of the box, already assembled).
\$700 - Contact Debbie on 0411243655.

For Sale

Codan 8528 HF (High Frequency) two-way radio

Kit includes everything needed for a vehicle installation in a typical 4wd:

- Codan 8528 HF radio with mounting bracket, programmed with all RFDS and VKS737 frequencies
- Codan 9350 auto-tune antenna
- Mounting bracket for the aerial to suit rear door of Nissan GQ (if required)
- Antenna coax cable and control cable for 9350 antenna
- Terlin Survivor tapped whip with spring base and coax (backup aerial)
- Manuals and operating instructions

The radio is in full working condition, tested and used on a recent outback trip.

It is currently installed in a Nissan GQ and can be inspected and tested by the purchaser.

Price \$2000. I can assist with advice on fitting.

Contact Chris Nicholls on 0409 329 080(m) or calypso1@gmail.com

For Sale

Roof rack, ARB 1.8m steel with mesh floor, from 80 series Landcruiser, excellent condition, offers Driver's seat from 80 series, used, free to good home

Can be viewed at Cook, phone Phil on 0419 122572

For Sale

Ultimate Camper Trailer \$37,000

Ultimate Odyssey 2005

With additional awning kit

Tyres have 75% tread with new spare wheel

5 stud land cruiser hubs

12 months registration

Canvas re-proofed

Many factory upgrades including:

Dual battery system

15 amp CTEK charger

110 litre water tank

upgraded suspension including hubs, bearings, brakes and shock absorbers

Greg Taylor 6241 3547

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.



For Sale

Toyota Troopcarrier 1994 - 295,000 kms
HZ 4.2 diesel fitted with aftermarket Turbo
Turbo fitted by TurboGlide Wollongong - all diesel and turbo service by TurboGlide Wollongong.
Diesel service completed 260,000 kms
ARB Diff Lock Rear Axle & 8,000 lb Hi-mount Winch
Dual Batteries & Snorkel & ARB Roof Rack
Extra ARB fuel tanks will carry 350 litres fuel for the long desert trip
Inboard water tank storage 100 litres plumbing to back of vehicle
Upgraded Suspension - ARB - 600kg rear springs
Fitted out as a camper -can sleep inside vehicle.
Draw system & Dual rear wheel carrier
Full Service for vehicle since new - Motor, Gearbox, Diffs and Bearings
Rebuilt - Transfer Case, Alternator, Starter Motor, Radiator.
Overhead console and UHF radio
Awnings with enclosed walls and insect proof room
Well built for touring
\$15,000
0427811484

For Sale

Wheels and Tyres
Three six stud 16 inch alloy wheels with Kumho Venture tyres 255/70 R16. Lots of tread one is a new tyre. \$350.00

Standard Nissan factory springs and shock absorbers front and rear for Series IV GU Y61 Patrol.
Free to a good home.

Greg Taylor
6241 3547

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





Canberra: 95 Grenville Court Phillip

(behind Discount Tyres)

email: southcanberra@batteryworld.com.au

24 Hour Roadside Service

Phone 13 17 60
and speak to your locally owned and operated store.

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



Call Rob or Lynne on 0418 631 669

www.aroundtownplumbing.com.au





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 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 Registered Family of Owner 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. Plus Annual Membership. A re-joining 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 \$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 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.



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.

<i>Essential entries</i>	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	
of the Email Addresses provided above.				
Employer:				
Occupation:				
Vehicle (Make & Model):				
Reg'n State Colour:				
Camper Trailer (If applicable)				
Registration No State:				
Please register these 'Family' Members ? Must be under 21 years, reside with Principal Member or Partner, and be Licensed or Learning 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, mailed to the above address, or scanned and Emailed to 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:.....

Revision 5 – Jan 2011