

Southern Trails

Complimentary Issue

Official Publication for Southern Tablelands Four Wheel Drive Club Inc.



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Inside this Months Issue:

- ⇒ *Are We There Yet?*
- ⇒ *Trip Grading Update*

October 2014, Issue 419
www.st4wdc.org

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SOUTHERN TRAILS

ISSUE 419, October 2014



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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 Meeting is the 14th of October 2014

The deadline for material to be included in the next issue of *Southern Trails* is Friday the 17th of October 2014

This month's magazine has been compiled by Brenden Taylor

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

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All magazine correspondence should be directed to the Publications Coordinator.

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

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



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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 Jim Anderson 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 of 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..

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.

Training for Driver Training Instructors

A special offer to travellers - 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

David's Jottings



President's Report

David Whight

The website review is complete with the sub-committee in unanimous agreement with the recommendations. These were put to the full committee which unanimously endorsed the recommendations.

A report was published on the website on the 10th September with the requirements determined by the sub-committee and endorsed by the full committee.

I presented a report to the general meeting outlining the process of the review, options considered and a recommendation for our preferred supplier. This fulfilled the intent of the motion passed by the Special General Meeting (SGM) in December 2013. The report was met with general approval.

I have now formally accepted the recommended quote and the club has paid the necessary deposit for work to commence. The target date for implementation of our new website is the 1st December 2014. The review is finished and development has now begun. It's an exciting time with plenty of work in ensuring that everything works well and that all our information is transferred accurately to the new website.

ContACT Internet Solutions Pty Ltd will be developing our new website. The company is Canberra based and has built and is managing a large number of websites for a range of businesses and clubs.

Last meeting Joe Briguglio presented an interesting and informative talk about his experiences working in Antarctica. Why does he like going there – ad-

venture and he reckons the pay is OK also.

Please look at the activities and trips calendar and get out and enjoy the bush - there are many events to choose from.

Don't forget the club Xmas party and Funkana at the end of November. Please add your name to the list at the next club meetings or let one of the committee members know that you are coming along. We'll need volunteers to assist in setting up and running these events.

It's good to see some new members joining – please make them welcome.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting,

David Whight, President



Club Clothing

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

Jackets:	\$95.00
Polo Shirts:	\$38.00
Hoodies:	\$48.00
Rugby Tops:	\$50.00
Caps:	\$20.00
Bucket Hats:	\$20.00
Beanies:	\$20.00
Name Badges:	\$10.00

If there is any clothing item you would like to see here please call Dennis.
Dennis Hartley - 0406 375 283



Lynne's Latest

Membership Secretary

Lynne Donaldson



G'day everyone ,

I am pleased to say we have had a few people enquire about membership this month which is great. This time of the year is awesome, the blossoms are out, the sky is blue and the days are starting to get longer. My feet are itching to get out to the bush and enjoy these warmer days with the wind in my face and the dust in my hair ;-)

We are well into the organising of this year's Christmas Party at Talooge, we want to make this one the biggest and best Christmas Party by far. We are looking for volunteers on the day to set up and help out with other various tasks. But the thing we are really looking forward to is for anybody that has any talent (or not) to entertain us. We want to have a talent show, it might be poetry, singing, joke telling etc anything at all we will be happy with. Give Dennis or myself a call and put your name down.

At the following meetings until the Christmas Party we will have a sheet at the meeting so that you can put your name down if you are coming along, we would love to see as many members as we can out at Talooge to celebrate the year.

Below is a chart of our current membership.

Membership Type	Qty
Owner	245
Partner	208
Family	42
Life	9
Associate	3

Please welcome our newest members this month:

Rob Calvert - Toyota Prado 120 Series

Please say hello to our visitors if you are at the Club meeting - if you see a new face, make them welcome and say G'day.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the next meeting,

Please feel free to contact me regarding any membership matters you may have.

Safe travels ,
Lynne



Got an awesome photo of your rig in action on a trip?

Want to see it in this magazine?

Email the full size photo to publications@st4wdc.org

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Kids corner

Jokes

Q: When do people start using their trampoline?
A: Spring-Time

Q: What do you call a girl with a frog on her head?
A: Lilly!

Q: What do you call a rabbit with fleas?
A: Bugs Bunny

Q: Why is the letter A like a flower?
A: A bee (B) comes after it!

Q: When do monkeys fall from the sky?
A: During Ape-ril showers!

Q: Can February March?
A: No, but April May!

Q: What do you get when you pour hot water down a rabbit hole?
A: A hot cross bunny

Colouring

Spring Time



Spring Time Ideas

Plant something green.

See the Cherry blossoms.

Have a picnic in the bush.

Draw pictures on a path with chalk.

Look for four leaf clovers.

Wade in a creek.

Skim rocks on a river.

Fly a kite.

SPRING VOCABULARY WORD SEARCH



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Interested in joining our Club? Visit our website at www.st4wdc.org and Register. Then go to the MEMBERSHIP menu and select Applications Forms.

Returning member? Just pay the annual fee - full details at www.st4wdc.org under MEMBERSHIP > Renewals.

No internet access? Contact our Membership Secretary, Lynne, for assistance - 0418 631 669



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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

To book on trips please contact the Trip Leader. DO NOT BOOK ONLINE!



3-5 Oct	<u>Barellan Good Old Days Weekend</u>
Trip Leader	Jim & Jane Raleigh
Category	Grade 1
Start	TBA Meeting Point: Contact Jim Raleigh for details
Description	Barellan, is a rail orientated town of around 390 people, located 50km east of Griffith (about 305km from Canberra) on the Burley Griffin Way. Their main attraction is the 'Good Old days Weekend' which is held on the October Long Weekend every year and organised by the Barellan Working Clydesdales Association Inc. This year it will be taking place on Sat 4th & Sun 5th October. More details can be found at: http://barellanclaydesdalesfestival.webs.com/ . The only accommodation available in Barellan is the Commercial Hotel, however Camping (including tents and swags) is permitted at the Show site (Barellan Show Grounds) Costs Are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Camping \$10.00 per vehicle per night, payable in advance with booking (essential).• Gate Entry (per day): Adults \$10.00, Children (5 – 16) - \$6.50, Family (2 adults plus children under 16) \$25.00, payable at the gate.• Optional Dinner and Entertainment (Fanny Lumsden and the Thrillseekers) on Saturday Night: Adult \$TBA, Children (under 12) \$TBA. MUST BE BOOKED - Bookings and payment can be made in advance or on the day subject to space available. NOTE: Last year's prices were \$15.00 and \$8.00 respectively but may be subject to change at an organising committee meeting on 8 July – will advise when known. Customised Booking & Payment form will be supplied when attendees are known.. Other Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NO BYO – a bar will be operating.• Meals (breakfast and lunch) will be available from on-site vendors if desired.• Daylight saving begins on Sat night.• Barellan is inside the Fruit Fly exclusion zone.
Comments	As the camping is available on a 'first come first served' basis, it is envisaged that those who are able would depart Canberra (in convoy if desired) AM Friday 3 Oct, with those who are unable making their own way as they wish. The return trip will be individual choice as the Trip Leaders are going on to other areas. For further details contact Jim Raleigh on 0413 612 305 or Jim@Raleigh.id.au.
4-5 Oct	<u>Kanangra Walls, Sofala/Hill End Tour</u>
Trip Leader	Ian Goodacre
Category	Grade 2
Start	08:30 Meeting Point: Eaglehawk Car Park
Description	Day One will take us to our intended overnight camp at Boyd River Campground near Kanangra Walls around lunch time. The afternoon can be spent taking any of the short walks to the Lookout, Waterfalls and/or Plateau. Day Two will be transiting to Hill End via Sofala arriving Hill End around lunchtime to allow plenty of time for sightseeing. We will be staying at the Glendora Campground about 1km from town centre Day Three will be more sightseeing then home via Oberon.
Requirements	Contact Ian for requirements
Comments	There is an access fee of \$7 per vehicle (free with an annual NPWS permit) to Boyd River Campground, and \$7 per person (\$10 for powered site) at Glendora, Hill End. Bring own firewood as collection in National Parks prohibited. The grading on this trip is determined by our intended route through Dingo Dell and another creek crossing close to the Boyd River Campground.

Trips and Events

To book on trips please contact the Trip Leader. DO NOT BOOK ONLINE!



To book on this trip please Email Ian on iggoodacre@gmail.com

5 Oct Brindabella Classic

Trip Leader Victoria Connell

Category Grade 3

Start 09:00 **Meeting Point:** Uriarra Homestead

Description This day trip is a great way for new members to explore Canberra's backyard. We head to McIntyres Hut a quick stop, toilets) via Blue Range, Dingi Dingi fire trail and Waterfall Trail. Then a short trip to Lowells Flat (toilets) for a long lunch. Then back track Waterfall Trail and climb up Webbs Ridge to approximately 1200 meters, past the power lines to Flea Creek (toilets) on the Goodradigbee River for afternoon tea. We'll then head home via Gentle Annie fire trail, Brindabella/Tumut Road and Picadilly Circus to air up and a "photo op"

Comments Preference will be given to members who have just completed Driver Training. **To book on this trip contact Victoria Connell vfconnell@gmail.com**

12 Oct Kowen Forest Day Drive

Trip Leader Jim Anderson

Category Grade 3

Start 09:30 **Meeting Point:** Kowen Forest Gate – Kowen Road

Description Kowen Forest is very close to Canberra and has some interesting and challenging tracks, all with alternative drive arounds. Electric BBQ's, shade and toilets are available at the old Kowen homestead site where we stop for lunch. This day trip has proved popular in the past and is also a good outing for new members to practice their recent training.

Comments Access is through a locked gate therefore promptness is important. Please arrive at the parking area by 9:15am - the access gate will be shut and locked by 09:35am. Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) charge a \$10 usage fee per vehicle and this will be collected on the day. As access is dependent upon favourable weather conditions, updates will be provided prior to the event. **To book this trip please e-mail Jim Anderson jander55@bigpond.com.**

12-25 Oct Explore 4WDriving in Tasmania Expression of Interest

Trip Leader Warren Shardlow

Category Grade 3

Start TBA **Meeting Point:** TBA

Description Please note this is not a club approved trip, ST4WDC insurance does not have any cover for this trip. I will be attending a seminar in Hobart on the 17th – 19th and have decided to use this opportunity to explore some 4WDriving in Tasmania. The rough details at the moment are catch the ferry on the 12th and the next day travel down the west coast on the night of the 13th. The return trip will be up the eastern side of Tassie, catching the ferry back on the night of the 24th. I am comfortable doing this on my own but thought I would see if anyone else would like to come and join me. Whilst I attend the seminar you will have to do your own thing. Accommodation will mostly be camping but need to be flexible for occasional motel/hotel overnighing. You will need to book your car and accommodation on the spirit of Tasmania for the 12th & 24th October

Comments **Please contact Warren Shardlow Email omadwaz@gmail.com or phone 0409 321 213 if you are interested in accompanying Warren**

18-19 Oct Talooge Musters

Trip Leader David Read

Trips and Events

To book on trips please contact the Trip Leader. DO NOT BOOK ONLINE!



Category	Working Bee
Meeting Point:	Make your own way or contact David Read to make arrangements
Description	These weekends are organized to not only fulfill our obligation as property owners, but to encourage and nurture the camaraderie between members. Tasks are usually complete by 3.30 on Saturday to allow members to take in the surrounds, drive tracks, explore or just interact with others. Sunday is usually relaxed, no pressure. Members can relax, do their own thing, or if they wish, assist in any job completion or undertake small tasks that always need attending to. Lunch usually signals "It's time to leave!" We intend to go out on Friday, so will not be organising an official "convoy". Come in your own time from Friday onwards, or if you need to make special arrangements please contact us.
Comments	It is not intended to be an "All Work, No Play" weekend. The fact that these working bees are each month keeps the numbers of tasks to a minimum, unless there is a project that needs doing. Come for the weekend, a day, half a day. The traditional Happy Hour and camaraderie goes without saying. To book for the working bees please contact David Read on 431 980 487 Email twisty@live.com.au

26 Oct Tallaganda North / Lowden Forest Park

Trip Leader	Peter Ogilvie
Category	Grade 2
Start	08:45 Meeting Point: McDonalds Car Park Queanbeyan
Description	This is a tour through the northern part of Tallaganda National Park east of Canberra. Entering Tallaganda from Hoskinstown and Forbes Creek, we will tour the park with a leisurely scenic drive along various tracks till we reach Lowden Forest park – an old Logging camp dating from the 1930s. There we'll have an extended picnic lunch beside the waterwheel and steam tractor, and for those wishing to stretch their legs there are a couple of short walking tracks of about 700-800m in length. After lunch we'll drive some more tracks to the Lowden trig tower before heading home through Rossi and Hoskinstown.
Comments	This is an easy drive with only a few low-range sections. The trip is aimed primarily at newer members, but of course anyone is welcome. To book on this trip please contact Peter Ogilvie (h) 6290 2551, (mob) 0414 606 537, or mail: ogilvie@grapevine.com.au.

1-2 Nov River Crossing & Sand Driving Course

Trip Leader	Peter Reynolds
Category	Training
Description	This is the Club's annual training course covering river crossings and sand driving. You must phone Peter Reynolds to book this event. 0262511258 0428623458 (m)

5 Nov Diesel Vehicle Owners Information and Training Nght

Category	Notice
Description	Cooma Diesel will present/demonstrate & Outline the operation of Common Rail Systems, Demonstration – Common Rail Repair, Water Damage and System Requirements of Common Rail, Demonstrate flow rates and effects of different filters on the fuel system, Show and explain water damage to Common Rail Systems. Numbers are limited so, please contact Cooma Diesel to reserve your place. Phone 02 6280 0178

8-9 Nov Towards Batemans Bay

Trip Leader	Alex Szabo
Category	Grade 2
Start	08:00 Meeting Point: McDonalds Queanbeyan
Description	This is a scenic 2 day outing towards Batemans Bay (but not quite). We'll head off

Trips and Events

To book on trips please contact the Trip Leader. **DO NOT BOOK ONLINE!**



from Queanbeyan to Captains Flat and then to have a look at the Canberra Weather Radar. From there, we'll stay off the highways and head into Monga National Park to enjoy the gum and fern forests. Exiting the NP, at Nelligen we head north towards Shallow Crossing then further north to our camp site of Yadboro Flat. Pot luck dinner tonight. The following morning, we'll pack up and the group will have a choice: climb up Pigeon House Mountain (3-4 hours, Class 4 walk), or head to No Name Fire Trail for an interesting drive south of Nelligen, or we'll split up to do both. If splitting, we will rejoin in Nelligen and head back to Canberra in the afternoon. If time allows, we'll also explore the Misty Mountain Road which is also in Monga NP.

Comments This trip has a variety of scenery, tracks and activities. Trailers ok, children welcome. **To book on this trip please contact Alex on 0417 579 066 or alexszabo@grapevine.com.au**

15-16 Nov "Safe One" Basic Driver Training at Talooge Park

Trip Leader Peter Reynolds

Category Training

Start Please note meeting point is at Bredbo Pub at 07:00 PM Friday evening

Description This is the Club's official Basic Driver Training Course. For specific details about the course including participant instructions please refer to the club magazine "Southern Trails" or speak to Peter Reynolds at the club meetings.

Comments You must phone Peter to book this event or see him at the meeting. Peter takes bookings manually for driver training and will give you additional information when he takes your booking. **Peter's phone numbers are (h) 0262511258 (m) 0428623458 (m)**

15-16 Nov Late Spring in Bendethera

Trip Leader Greg & Vickie Taylor

Category Grade 3

Start 09:00

Meeting Point: Braidwood

Description Morning tea as we assemble at Braidwood. We plan to travel via Araluen and cross the Deua River at Dry Creek. A tarp or blind may be necessary depending on the depth of the river (this is usually low but can rise with recent rain). We will then head up the Mericumbene Fire Trail to Bendethera Mountain, collect firewood, lunch and descend to the valley and camp. Chance to swim or laze around before happy hour on Saturday night. Slow pack up Sunday with mid to late morning departure through Dampier Fire Trail, Minuma Fire Trail then Middle Mountain Road and Krawarree Rd. There is a large camp ground in the valley with pit toilets.

Comments Our route may change due to NPWS track closures. Some of these tracks have been closed but we anticipate their reopening prior to the trip. **Please email or ring to let us know if you are coming. Phone 6241 3547 Email taylor.greg@bigpond.com**

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

Trip Leader Peter Reynolds

Category Training

Meeting Point: Contact Peter Reynolds for arrangements

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.

Comments **You must phone Peter Reynolds to book this event. 02 6251 1258 (h); 0428 623 458 (m)**

22-23 Nov Talooge Musters

Meeting Point: Make your own way or contact David Read to make arrangements

Description These weekends are organized to not only fulfill our obligation as property owners, but to encourage and nurture the camaraderie between members. Tasks are usually complete by 3.30 on Saturday to allow members to take in the surrounds, drive tracks, explore or just interact with others. Sunday is usually relaxed, no pressure. Members can relax, do their own thing, or if they wish, assist in any job completion or undertake

Trips and Events

To book on trips please contact the Trip Leader. **DO NOT BOOK ONLINE!**



small tasks that always need attending to. Lunch usually signals "It's time to leave!" We intend to go out on Friday, so will not be organising an official "convoy". Come in your own time from Friday onwards, or if you need to make special arrangements please contact us.

Comments

It is not intended to be an "All Work, No Play" weekend. The fact that these working bees are each month keeps the numbers of tasks to a minimum, unless there is a project that needs doing. Come for the weekend, a day, half a day. The traditional Happy Hour and camaraderie goes without saying. **To book for the working bees please contact David Read on 0431 980 487 Email twisty@live.com.au**

23 Nov

Kowen Forest Day Drive

Trip Leader

Jim Anderson

Category

Grade 3

Start

09:30AM

Meeting Point: Kowen Forest Gate – Kowen Road

Description

Kowen Forest is very close to Canberra and has some interesting and challenging tracks, all with alternative drive arounds. Electric BBQ's, shade and toilets are available at the old Kowen homestead site where we stop for lunch. This day trip has proved popular in the past and is also a good outing for new members to practice their recent training.

Comments

Access is through a locked gate therefore promptness is important. Please arrive at the parking area by 9:15am - the access gate will be shut and locked by 09:35am. Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) charge a \$10 usage fee per vehicle and this will be collected on the day. As access is dependent upon favourable weather conditions, updates will be provided prior to the event. **To book this trip please e-mail Jim Anderson jander55@bigpond.com.**

29-30 Nov

ST4WDC Christmas's party

Description

This is our club's 2013 Christmas party at our property Talooge Park. Put it in your calendar now! There will be lots of activities and fun for kids and the bigger kids too. We will have the riotous Adult gift giving / stealing game- the Gift Grab. We are planning another famous Funkhana on Sunday to test driving skills, patience, trust and communication. Further details will be in Southern Trails - but get it in or on your calendar!

9 Aug-6 Sept 2015

Desert Travel – Cross country Tanami Desert

Trip Leader

David & Helen Sutton

Category

Grade 3

Description

This trip is still in the planning stage and we are requesting expressions of interest from those interested in attending, with no guarantee of inclusion. This trip will be run over 4 weeks. Travel to Curtin Springs and then collectively move to Western Australia via the Great Central Road. Travel north via the Sandy Blight Track to the Gary Highway. Travel further north; cross country through the Tanami Desert roughly following the route taken by the explorer David Carnegie in 1897. The exit point will be Balgo. Following an excursion to Lake Gregory, returning via the Tanami Track to The Alice. There is little information that can be gleaned from external sources in regard to this area. This should be an interesting trip for those participants who are well prepared psychologically and this includes the vehicle. Vehicles require the usual well proven aftermarket modifications for outback travel and will be required to carry 250 litres of fuel and an exhaustive amount of spares including the capability two spare tyres/wheels. Food and water requirements will be at least 7 days between substantial resupply. Water conservation is also at a premium, however there may be an opportunity to have a bush shower from a well halfway through the Tanami.

Comments

Please send your expression of interest via email, including all contact details. Outline past experience, potential passenger list, vehicle type and the list of extras and spares that would be included on the trip. It is envisaged that finalization of numbers and participants will occur before completion 2014. **Expressions of interest to David Sutton dgsutton@netspeed.com.au or phone 0427811484 if you require any further details of clarification**

Trips and Events

To book on trips please contact the Trip Leader. DO NOT BOOK ONLINE!



Later in the Year

<u>Date</u>	<u>Trip Name</u>	<u>Trip Leader</u>
13-14th December	High Country Weekender	Greg and Vickie Taylor, 02 6241 3547
14th December	Brindabella Classic	David Read, 0431 980 487
31st December	New Years Eve at Talooge	Rob (0407 072 573) & Lynne (0418 631 669)

If you are interested in any of these upcoming events please contact the Trip Leader for more information. (Please note that bookings are currently not being accepted on the website)

Do you have a destination you would like to see in this calendar?

Do you want to go where you want to go?

Do you want to be up the front of the convoy out of all the dust?

***If you answered yes to any of these questions then perhaps you should become a Trip Leader!
Any Club Member can be a Trip Leader.***

If this sounds like you then get in touch with Michael Patrick, our Trips and Events Coordinator, and he will be able to assist you in planning your first trip. It could be the big trip out in the desert, the one dayer to McIntyres Hut or anything in between.

There are many experienced Trip Leaders in the club that are willing to offer their knowledge and advise for new Trip Leaders.

You can find Michael Patrick's contact details in the front of this magazine.

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FREE CLUB MERCHANDISE!

Psssst! Want to lead a trip?

To help you decide, the club will provide all trip leaders with their choice of a club polo shirt, a cap or a beanie. Conditions are that the trip must be a Grade 2 level or above 4WD trip run between 4 March 2014 and 31 December 2014. There is one reward only per trip for the Trip Leader.

Any member can lead a club trip by submitting a trip proposal for committee approval. For help in planning or proposing a trip please contact Michael Patrick (trips@st4wdc.org).

What are you waiting for? *Let's go 4wdriving!*



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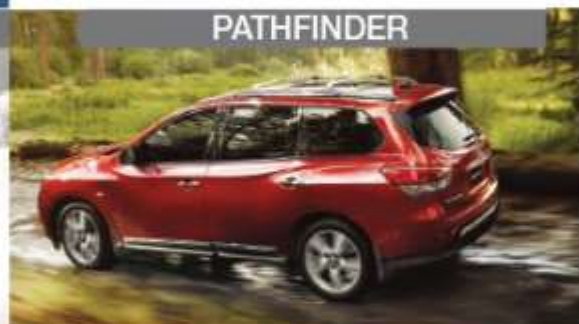
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**Come along and join us for
ST4WDC's
Christmas Party
at Talooge.**

When: Sat 29th November - 30th November

Time: Festivities start 12pm 29th Nov

Where: Talooge

**This is ST4WDC'S annual big get together to celebrate
Christmas.**

**Put these details in your calendar and join us for a fun
filled weekend of games, Santa, Pot luck dinner and
lucky gate prizes & the Funkana on Sunday.**



Are We There Yet?

Tales of (Mis)Adventure in 4wd Land

Alex Szabo



Now that I have your attention with what looks like a trip report, I'd like to take you on another journey that Andrea and I have been on: fitting out of our recently new Mazda BT-50 ute.

The journey begins with our legendary (but not unbreakable Hilux), purchased in 2009 complete with a slide-on camper pod. This was a proof of concept in a number of ways: would we both like this new venture of 4WDing and, if we do, is a ute the way to go? After a couple of years, driver training and trips with ST4WDC, the answer was: YES.

So we had a vision: to go boldly where ordinary vehicles and drivers fear to tread. Well, not too boldly because we don't have to conquer every track. Nor did the vision include towing a caravan or trailer, if we could avoid it.

For a number of reasons, in late-2012 we decided to replace the Hilux with a brand-new BT-50. We loved the slide-on camper concept and if we were getting a new truck, a new slide-on was also the go. So, the ute had to be flat-tray (and a long one at that).

Having picked up the truck and started fitting it out with those nice to have's like bull-bar, tow-bar, and recovery gear, we decided to put the rig over the weighbridge. Without even trying, with two of us on board with clothing, food, drink, tent etc we were over 2.6 tonnes. This caused a re-evaluation of the slide-on camper idea. Many of them are 300-400kg dry, some even heavier. Then add some other nice to have's like 80 litres of water, an extra 80 litres of fuel, spare parts etc you can see where this is going, can't you? Without too much imagination, we were going to quickly exceed GVM.

A trip (and fee) to an engineer followed to see if a GVM upgrade is possible or sensible (not the same thing). My view was that if we can't upgrade GVM by 400-500kg, it's probably not worth doing. The answer: the chassis and the welds aren't design for the additional load, so to reinforce it would cost over \$10,000. Certainly possible, but not sensible. A commercial slide-on camper was no longer part of the vision.

So the fall-back strategy became to project manage our own tray-back solution. The new vision became a mission-configurable vehicle (much like Thunderbird 2). So the new concept was to have a permanent storage locker mounted behind the headboard, left-hand side as travelling kitchen and larder, right hand side for tools and recovery gear. Behind the locker, the tray would be covered with a tonneau for everyday and short trip use. We would also have a separate and removable pod that carried all that extra stuff needed for long range trips. Another great plan, if I do say so myself.

Reality check. We recently packed the rig for a short trip away. Having recently purchased a water bladder, we had 70 litres on the floor behind the seats. Not onboard were minor details like clothing, daypacks, overnight gear, food – we figured that could be up to another 100kg. Off to the weighbridge: 3.08 tonnes. I didn't mention above that the BT-50 (and Ford Ranger) GVM is 3.2 tonnes. So just in short trip configuration and load we are just under GVM! Now, unless we have at least 300+kg available, no point having a long trip pod, is there?

So why do we have a weight problem? The obvious answer is we're carrying too much. But even with judicious and even savage rationalisation,



can we realistically expect to save 300+kg? I don't think so, but let's do another sanity check. Strip everything that is discretionary from the truck and go over the weighbridge again. With full fuel, driver, a couple of fire extinguishers and jacks (non-discretionary), the verdict was: 2.62 tonnes. OK, adjust for the presence of a driver, those non-discretionary items and extra fuel to full, from a TARE weight of 2.06 tonnes we can calculate that those aforementioned permanent mods weigh a whopping: 375kg! And we haven't yet upgraded the suspension (or fitted a winch)!

Pause, rethink. Firstly, no long trip pod. Does this bother us? Not at the moment

Are We There Yet?

Tales of (Mis)Adventure in 4wd Land

Alex Szabo



because we don't have any long trips planned, or on the foreseeable horizon, eg Simpson, CSR, the Cape. We figure the likely longest trip in the near future is a club Victorian High Country week away, and the current configuration is fine for that.

Second, what to do when we finally do want to go on those long trips? Simply, we're going to have to tow a camper trailer. With the BT-50 able to legally tow over 3 tonnes, that's a lot that we can offload from the vehicle! But initially at least, we might as well just hire a trailer for the few occasions we expect to need one (Peter and Catherine can expect a visit J).

Now to answer that vexed question: are we there yet? Given that our rig now only needs a suspension upgrade and lift, the answer is: almost.

And that is a load off my mind, and a good feeling. Another good feeling is that we are about \$20,000 under original budget – that's a lot of cash to use for trips both here and overseas (perhaps even that 4WD expedition in Africa we're quite keen on?). So there is always an upside. As for the challenges of long trips – they've been deferred to another day.

Key lessons:

- **Have a vision, but be flexible.** In our case, that also meant that the vision has to be what you want to be able to do (the need), not the vehicle configuration that you want (the solution).
- **Beware of GVM.** We can't emphasise this enough, because the consequences are potentially unacceptable.
- As much as possible, **pre-planning is best.** But in my defence, who would have thought that a published payload in excess of a tonne wouldn't be enough? That's double (or more) the payload of most 4WD sedans. Hopefully, this tale and the spreadsheet I am happy to make available for your own calculations (just ask), will help pre-plan or post-analyse.
- **Everything weighs more than you thought.** All the more reason to subscribe to the philosophy that, everything you carry must have two or more uses.
- **Always look for the upside.**

Any regrets? No. We love the BT-50 and its flexibility. It's a great base vehicle to turn into a Thunderbird 2. Sure, we could have bought a Land Cruiser ute with more GVM, but the starting price conflicted with our budget priorities. The BT-50 is a good fit for our touring ambitions.

Well, that's the saga. It's been an interesting year and a half journey configuring the rig, and I have enjoyed the various challenges, but I am relieved it's nearly over and we can concentrate on other things like going on and leading trips. For you, dear reader, I hope the story was interesting and that there are some useful takeaways from our experiences.



Recently spotted at Pheasants Nest: 'now that's a slide-on camper!' Have a vision, but be flexible!



Trip Grading Update

Glen Watts



The club has a trip grading system from 1 to 5 assisting trip leaders and members in deciding which trips they would most enjoy both in leading and driving. The grades are based on the driver's level of skills and the terrain that they will be driven during the duration of the trip.

The grading system is a guide only as the assigned trip grade may change due to both weather and or current track conditions.

On a recent trip with the family we were traversing a track we had taken on numerous times before with the camper only to find the track had been washed out with a large rock step being formed (It just shows how things can change). We were lucky on the day to get through but now this track unfortunately is off the list with trailers and went from an easy grade 3 to being extremely difficult with winching involved.

Due to this trip and a more recent trip into the Capertee area I started to think about our grading system. I consulted with some of the clubs experienced Trip Leaders, Club Members and Trainers as I felt that we were missing an area within our grading system. On consultation all agreed with my proposition, our current grading system needed some minor changes and enhancements to assist trip leaders and the members when signing up for club trips.

There were two main changes in the grading system that we felt would enhance our clubs grading, these were to both the grades of 2 and 4. The changes were put to the committee for approval, a motion was put forward and the changes were approved.

I will give a quick over view on the two changes also attached is an easy reference guide showing both the current clubs grading and the new approved grading.

Changes:

Grade 2:

The change for Grade 2 trips now allows club members to participate on a Grade 2 trip without completing the Basic Training Course. This will allow new members to go on some more of our club trips prior to their basic training.

Grade 4:

The change for Grade 4 trips is quiet significant as the new Grade 4 now allows trip leaders and members to take on a more challenging and technical trip without completing the Advanced Driver Training Course. This new Grade will allow trip leaders to run more challenging trips into new areas that we previously may have not travelled. The likes of Monkey Gum in Yalwal, and some of the more difficult tracks within the Lithgow area and the Victorian High Country are to name a few. I also see some reccie type trips that may fall in this area as quiet often you don't know quite what you are going to expect.

Grade 4 trips however require more than the current Basic Training.

Basic Training, Winching and Recovery and Sand and Water are all compulsory training requirements prior to going on a Grade 4 trip. As well as the training, three grade three club trips must have been completed prior to signing up for a Grade 4 trip. This will ensure both recovery skills, and trip team participation skills are enhanced.

With all club trips we need to remember that when a trip is put forward to the Club Trip Coordinator, the trip must be signed off by the Committee members. This is where all trips are scrutinised as to the grading and the trip leader's ability to lead the proposed trip.

Once the trip has been approved, the trip leader than has the right to scrutinise the members that sign on for the trip this may include both driver experience and or the vehicles setup. This would be the hardest job of the trip leader though is an essential part of the overall trip.

Leading on from the new trip grading sheet attached we will be working on a more in depth check list for trip leaders and participants including recommended spares, vehicle set up, types of terrain in grades etc.

I will give a presentation at the next general meeting and will assist in answering any questions in regards

Trip Grading Update

Glen Watts



to the new grading. Otherwise Peter Reynolds, Michael Patrick, Chris Nichols, Jim Anderson, or I can assist with any questions.



ST4WDC trip grading - suggested criteria and guidance.

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Current Grading	GRADE 1: Very easy with little, if any 4WD driving involved, will usually consist of a scenic tour or a trip to camp. No 4WD skills are needed.	GRADE 2: A relatively moderate 4WD trip with winching and/or towing unlikely. Moderate level of 4WD skills needed, as well as completion of Basic Driver Education Course.	GRADE 3: A medium 4WD trip which requires cautious driving; winching should not be required. Good level of 4WD skills needed, as well as completion of Basic Driver Education Course.	GRADE 4: A moderately difficult 4WD trip with some winching and/or towing almost a certainty. High level of 4WD skills needed, as well as completion of both the Basic and Advanced Driver Education Courses.	GRADE 5: An extremely difficult 4WD trip. Participants must be experienced at travelling over difficult terrain. Winching and/or towing will definitely be required and participants must have all their own recovery equipment. Skill levels the same as Grade 4.
ST4WDC Training	Nil	Mandatory: Basic Driver Training Course. Recommended:	Mandatory: Basic Driver Training Course. Recommended: Water Crossing Course	Mandatory: Basic Driver Training Course. Recommended: Winching and Recovery Course. Water Crossing Course - for some trips as advised.	Mandatory: Basic Driver Training Course. Winching and Recovery Course. Advanced Driver Education Course
New Grading	GRADE 1: Very easy with little, if any 4WD driving involved; will usually consist of a scenic tour or a trip to camp. No 4WD skills are needed.	GRADE 2: A relatively easy 4WD trip with high range driving, minimal low range. Winching and/or towing unlikely. Moderate level of 4WD skills needed. (Trip leaders discretion in regards to drivers competency and vehicle set up).	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 Training Course. (Trip leaders discretion in regards to drivers competency and vehicle set up).	GRADE 4: A challenging 4WD trip with the expectation that track building, winching and recovery are likely. A high level of 4WD skills required. Recommended: Winching & Recovery courses, and a minimum of three Grade 3 club trips completed. (Trip leaders discretion in regards to drivers competency and vehicle set up).	GRADE 5: An extremely difficult 4WD trip. Participants must be experienced at travelling over difficult terrain. Winching and/or towing will definitely be required and participants must have all their own recovery equipment. A high level of 4WD skills needed including completion of the Advanced Driver Education Course. (Trip leaders discretion in regards to drivers competency and vehicle set up).
ST4WDC Training	Nil	Mandatory: Basic level of 4WD experience. Recommended: Basic Driver Training Course.	Mandatory: Basic Driver Training Course. Recommended: Water Crossing Course	Mandatory: Basic Driver Training Course. Winching and Recovery Course. Sand and Water Crossing Course. Recommended: Advanced Driver Education Course.	Mandatory: Basic Driver Training Course. Sand and water crossing course. Winching and recovery course. Advanced Driver Education Course.
Trip Grading Destinations	Winery Trips/ Laurel Hill Xmas in July	Wadbilliga/Tailangandra	Bendethra/Brindies/ Abercrombie	Monkey Gum FT /Spanish Steps (Lithgow)	Three stage/Dusty's (Yalwal)

Trip Grading Update

Glen Watts



Grade 2: Tantangra



Grade 4: Ruts at Monkey Gum



Grade 3: Crossing Dry Creek, Bendethera



Grade 5: Winching in the Rock Garden, Yalwal



Grade 3: Track at Lithgow



Open Invitation

Diesel Vehicle Owners Information and Training night Wednesday 5th November 2014

- 1 Outline the operation of Common Rail Systems
 - a. Pressure
 - b. Temperature, cooler systems
 - c. Dirt tolerance
 - d. Maintenance guidelines
- 2 Demonstration – Common Rail Repair
 - a. Supply Pump Repair
 - b. Testing supply pumps
 - c. Injector operation and testing
- 3 Water Damage and System Requirements of Common Rail
- 4 Demonstrate flow rates and effects of different filters on the fuel system.
 - a. Use testing unit to show
 - i. Filter effects on flow rates
 - ii. Filters inability to stop water
 - iii. How water will rapidly go through the fuel system
 - iv. Different types of filters' operation
 - v. Particle control with different filter configuration
- 5 Show and explain water damage to Common Rail Systems
 - a. Provide examples which show the rapidity of water damage to supply pumps, rails and injectors
 - b. What water does to common rail systems
 - c. Common rail and corrosion, condensation, etc.
- 6 Questions and open discussion.

**Numbers are limited so, please contact Cooma Diesel to
Reserve your place.**



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Tech Talk

How to be a Good Travelling Companion

Chris Nicholls



When I joined the club in 1995 many of the active members had considerable experience travelling in the bush, by 4WD, motorbike or even on foot, and considerable camping experience even if new to 4WD'ing. I've noticed over recent years that many members do not have that background, and this can lead to problems on trips with members not understanding what is expected of them and inadvertently breaking the unwritten rules.

For some folks the transition from driver training where they receive intensive guidance, to real-world 4WD trips where they receive little if any guidance, can be a bit of a shock. Do not imagine that as a newcomer you are not welcome! The old hands fondly remember our early years and the terrors of tracks that now seem easy. On most trips newcomers will be made very welcome and find advice is readily available if asked for and acted upon. Please remember that a Grade 3 trip is not necessarily a trip for novices.

To help to fill in some of the gaps I now provide to all applicants for my trips a set of guidelines that lays out my expectations of the participants and some of what they should expect, and not expect, from me as a trip leader.

The following represents my own opinions and practices and is not a statement of club policy. I offer it here as guidance for members who are just starting to do trips with the club, and also for trip leaders (and potential trip leaders). Trips run more smoothly when all the people involved share an understanding of practices and expectations. Please feel free to adapt this for your own use. And if you feel the following is a bit too proscriptive, please remember that your club trip leaders are not paid to run trips; they do it for pleasure and for the good of the club, and they are the rarest and most valuable club resource.

The Unwritten Rules, or, Guidance for Travelers.

Could you please advise me of the names of the other people travelling with you.

- All vehicles must be registered and with at least 3rd-party insurance.
- All vehicles must be in sound mechanical condition with up-to-date servicing. Please attend to known issues before the trip.
- No trailers. (or) Trailers OK. (Depending on the trip.)
- For grade three trips, basic driver training must have been completed.
- For grade three trips ALL-TERRAIN tyres with good tread are essential on all four wheel and spare. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. Mud-Terrain tyres are also acceptable.
- Rated front and rear recovery points are essential.
- Snatch strap and 2 rated shackles is essential. Other recovery gear is good if you have it.
- Fire extinguisher and first-aid kit are essential.
- Air compressor (for inflating tyres) and UHF radio are essential.
- Snow/mud tyre chains are worth carrying if you have them.
- A small tarp may be needed for river crossings and gathering firewood.
- A small bush-saw with a hardwood blade is very handy for firewood.
- A small shovel is essential for toilet duties.
- A mattock is the best tool if any road-building is needed.
- Extended diff and gearbox breather tubes are recommended.
- A cargo barrier is strongly recommended. Please ensure your gear is secured in case the ride gets rough!
- Road Service (eg NRMA) cover with premium options is strongly recommended.

Departure point and time: Meet at (place) for a (time) departure on (day and date). On the morning ring please me on nnn nnn nnnn if you are going to be late.

Tech Talk

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Chris Nicholls



The planned route:

XXX.

Fuel: The longest leg between refueling stops is about XXX km including about XX% low range work. Remember to carry a reserve in case one of the expected stops is dry (this happened recently with no diesel available in Omeo!).

Vehicle preparation. This is important. If you are not a pretty handy mechanic yourself you should have your vehicle checked by a specialist 4WD mechanic annually, and preferably not too long before a serious trip. Batteries have caused problems for some members on recent trips. If your battery is more than 2 years old (or if you don't know how old it is), please go to a battery specialist and ask them to load test the battery. It's a quick, free test and will tell you if your battery is about to let you down. You should carry at least the following basic spares – do not expect others to be able to help you if you do not have spares! Radiator hoses and hose clamps. Heater hose (one metre) of the correct diameter and hose clamps. Auto-transmission cooler hose (one metre) and hose clamps. Fan belts – for water pump, power steering and air conditioning. Engine oil (one litre), power steering fluid (500ml), auto-transmission fluid or manual gearbox oil (one litre). Spare fuel filter. Spare engine oil filter. Basic tool-kit with spanner set and sockets. Tyre repair kit with plugs, spare valve stems, valves and caps. Workshop manual. Fire extinguisher. Electrical fuses. Jumper cables. Spare solenoid for your winch. Even if you have no mechanical skills yourself, these items will enable other members to help you.

Check how your battery earth terminal is attached, and keep the necessary tool handy in your door pocket. On two occasions we have had to disconnect batteries to prevent or stop a vehicle fire, and scrambling for the right tool might take too long. Consider having a quick-disconnect isolating terminal fitted for your battery earth terminal.

Daily Vehicle Check: Either morning or evening – check for tyre damage, tyre pressure, wheel nuts tight, oils and coolant levels, washer bottle, radio, battery secure and terminals tight, roof rack fittings.

Maps and Navigation: We use OziExplorer to help navigating, and I can share my waypoint and route files on request. Even if you are not an OziExplorer user I encourage you to keep track of our progress to build your skills. You'll need the following maps: xxx.

Start times: Our standard daily start time aims for a 9:00am departure from the campsite. For most of us that means rising at 7:00am. Please allow yourself enough time for breakfast and packing. If an earlier departure will be required I'll advise you the night before.

Toilets: There are pit toilets at each of the campsites excepting xxx where we will need to dig our own. If anyone has a toilet-tent and/or thunder-box could they please bring it and let me know? At casual stops all toilet waste must be buried with your small shovel.

Expectations: Your trip leader has a particular route planned that takes into account available campsites, daily distance, track difficulty and points of interest, and if possible will have conducted a reconnaissance trip. Unforeseen difficulties can cause delays and the need to re-route. When the going gets tough, please be patient and help others.

Please be flexible with your expectations about the trip. Conditions can change, or the trip leader may find that some members of the party do not have the skills, experience or vehicle capability to tackle some tracks, and the planned route may need to be changed. Your trip leader is doing their best to keep everyone safe and happy. If the trip doesn't meet your expectations please consider leading a trip yourself.

Your trip leader is not a 4WD instructor, and will not provide instruction or advice unless requested. If you need advice at any point please ask. Your trip leader will otherwise assume that you are confident driving your vehicle.

Unless specifically listed as such, this trip is not designed specifically for novices. If you are a novice please discuss your participation with the trip leader before booking.

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Problems on the road can cause delays, and a late return to home. I normally like to arrive home by about 6:00pm, but can never guarantee that. Please don't make commitments to arrive home at a particular time on the last day.

Bad weather especially rain can make it necessary to change plans and stay off steep tracks in the high country and elsewhere.

Chainsaws: Depending on the trip your trip leader will probably carry a chainsaw for clearing tracks of fallen timber. In many areas the use of chainsaws for cutting firewood is discouraged or banned.

Camp fires: I'm not sure if anyone is bringing their children along, but we welcome kids and usually enjoy their company. However I must insist that parents do not allow their children to play with the campfire especially by poking sticks into the fire and waving burning sticks around. The safety of all members is paramount. With our bushfire record in this area we must never encourage kids to think of fire as a play-thing.

We will usually need to collect some firewood along the way for the evening campfire. Please bring your small tarp (can also serve for a radiator blind for river crossings) with some rope or straps to secure it, to carry a bit of wood to the campsite. A small bush-saw with a hardwood blade will be needed for cutting firewood. Especially in the mountains the best firewood is dry (standing) timber no more than 100mm in diameter. In Victoria all firewood must be cut into lengths no longer than one metre. If you are planning an elaborate meal that requires a lot of space at the fire you should make special provision for that. When we get to the campsite, don't dump the firewood right beside the fireplace – put it about 5 metres away to leave room for our chairs.

The common camp fire is a place for socializing and warming up as well as preparing food. The fire is not a place to dispose of your rubbish, especially plastics, and never glass! Please bag your rubbish and dispose of it when we pass through a town.

If we are camping in Victoria the following rules apply:

- Fires not to be lit on days of Total Fire Ban;
- The fire is lit in a properly constructed fireplace or in a trench at least 30cms deep;
- The area within a distance of three metres from the outer perimeter of the fire is clear of all flammable material;
- The fire does not occupy an area in excess of one square metre and the size and dimensions of solid fuel used are the minimum necessary for the purpose;
- A person is in attendance at all times while the fire is alight and has the capacity and the means to extinguish the fire; and
- The fire is completely extinguished before the person leaves. This should be done with water, not soil, as fires can still smolder under soil. If a fire is cool to touch, it is safe to leave.

(From <http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/about-us/media-centre/media-releases/compliance-operation-reiterates-campfire-safety>)

If we are camping at one of the mountain huts please remember that it is traditional to leave dry wood and kindling in the hut for the next party in case they arrive in wet conditions.

The person who lights the fire is responsible for extinguishing the fire before retiring to bed. If that's not you, please don't stoke the fire up with quantities of wood late in the evening.

If there is a total fire ban we will not be able to light a cooking fire, so bring an enclosed gas stove or some cold food!

Convoy procedure is to be followed at all times on the road. My usual version of this is to stop for the following vehicle wherever there is a deviation from the obvious main track. It isn't necessary to stop at every intersection if we are continuing on the good main track.

Pace and keeping up: Your trip leader will travel at a moderate pace for the conditions, based on

Tech Talk

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Chris Nicholls



long experience. In general terms it is expected that all trip participants should be able to maintain a similar pace, which will allow the convoy to progress at a satisfactory rate. Don't drive so close to the vehicle in front that you are in their dust cloud, or not leaving a safe distance between you another vehicle on climbs and descents. On steep climbs and descents wait for the vehicle in front to call you through, and remember to call through the following vehicle. Do try to travel at a similar pace, and expect to catch up with their dust occasionally or get a glimpse of them in open terrain. If you find you are consistently falling well behind the vehicle in front of you please talk to the trip leader about the best position for you in the convoy.

Radio procedure: We normally use UHF channel 14, but may need to use another channel if we have interference from other groups. If anyone is using a hand-held UHF as their main radio please let me know. On the track, don't panic if you can't hear every transmission from the trip leader clearly. If it's important the trip leader will ask the members to relay the message back through the convoy. Your trip leader will **not** provide a running commentary on track conditions, and I ask that participants also observe that practice. An exception to this rule is made for dangerous or potentially damaging conditions or situations.

River Crossings: A small tarp about 2m x 2m is needed to cover the front of the vehicle if the water is deep. Straps or ropes are also needed to tie it in place. It's purpose is to stop water rushing in through the radiator, possibly bending the fan into the radiator or drowning the motor. Practice before the trip! A snorkel is good if the tubing is actually well sealed. Differential, gearbox and transfer case breathers should be extended with tubing to raise the intake to a high point, to keep the water out. Please advise the trip leader if you have no experience with river crossings.

Tail-end Charlie: the trip leader will normally appoint an experienced member with a good radio as tail-end Charlie. Charlie's job is to acknowledge and echo every radio transmission from the trip leader, and to advise their progress past key points such as intersections. This helps the trip leader to learn if the convoy is getting too spread out.

Health issues: To help with our contingency planning, please advise your trip leader if you or any member of your party has health issues that could be a particular problem in remote areas.

Photos and Videos: I love photography and take a lot of photos, and I encourage you to also make photos as we visit some wonderful places. However we should also remember that many people don't like to be photographed and don't like to have their image posted on social media websites. Please check with the person before doing so. The same applies to videos, with the added issue of recorded sound. If you are running a GoPro or similar video camera inside your vehicle, please inform other members when you are recording, as a courtesy, so we can be careful with our language! (This is not about rights – it's about courtesy.)

Trip Reports: Club tradition requires a written trip report for the magazine and a brief verbal report for the next monthly club meeting. Please acknowledge your trip leader's effort in organizing the trip by being willing to assist with trip reports. Written reports can be shared amongst several people.

I think that's about it. If you have any questions please ask. We're looking forward to sharing an enjoyable trip with you. Cheers!



CLASSIFIEDS

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 ARB Touring Roof Top Tent. Brand New. Never been used, unneeded, taking up space in garage \$1,000. Please call Peter R. 0428623458.

For Sale Toyota Prado 4.0 Petrol 120 Series 2003. If you are wanting to go Touring then this is the Vehicle for you. Add your fridge and off you go, low kms well maintained and fully off road optioned in very good condition. ARB roof rack, ARB steel front bar with 9,000lb winch, fog and driving lights, Front and Rear air lockers, Dual batteries with DC to DC charging, Cupboards and drawers throughout & LED lighting. Upgraded springs and shocks with Poly air bags, armour plating under. To see more info and pictures go to CARSALES.com and search Rego number CA98EU. Price \$25,500

For Sale 5 Nissan GU Patrol Rims (6 stud) with road tyres. Tyres have little life left in them but the rims are still in great condition. \$200 ono. Contact Brenden on 0434 083 351.

Contact Brenden on 0434 083 351.

For Sale Suzuki Sierra 1995 Soft Top Winch, Snorkel, Lift Kit, New water pump, New Timing belt, Front and rear bearings replaced, Transfer case rebuilt, Gear box rebuilt, rear drawer system (handmade & looks it), 40 litre Engel fridge + fridge slide, Off road navigation system, Egg mural down drivers side, seats have seat covers to hide the holes, rear recovery point, Roof rack system, long range tanks (Jerry cans), 2nd battery, Fuel transfer system, 10lt water holder, UHF 40ch radio, Simex Centipede tyres, 3 months rego Price \$6,000.00 not negotiable Contact Michael Patrick 0412377941.

For Sale Brand new snorkel to suit MQ Patrol (SD33T). \$80 ono.
Taillight lenses to suit MQ Patrol. \$40 ono.

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.

YOUR ARTICLE **HERE!**

If you have anything of interest to write about for the benefit of club members please forward you article onto publications@st4wdc.org.

There is a handy guide on st4wdc.org that details the requirements for writing articles for *Southern Trails*. Please check it out before you write your article.

“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.



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, which 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 to those persons who are the spouse or partner or a dependent under the age of 21 years of an Owner Member and are domiciled under the

same roof. Dependent Family members who have already completed the Basic Driver Training course are not required to pay the Joining fee if they become Owner Members before their 22nd birthday.

'Life Member'

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

Approval of Membership

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

Membership Entitlements

Membership of the ST4WDC entitles Owner Members (including partners), and licensed Family Members to attend the Club's training courses and to make use of the Clubs 700ha property Talooge Park. Participation as a driver on other grade 1 trips require 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.

Returning Members

Lapsed Owner Members can re-join just by paying the annual fee. You are entitled to a pro-rata reduction in fees for the following year if paid at the same time as renewing.

Payment Month	Fee to 31Dec 2014	Fee 31 Dec 2015
January	\$100	\$200
February	\$100	\$192
March	\$100	\$184
April	\$100	\$175
May	\$100	\$167
June	\$100	\$159
July	\$100	\$150
August	\$100	\$142
September	\$100	\$134
October	\$100	\$125
November	\$100	\$117
December	\$100	\$109

First Renewal for New Members

For new owner members, joining from 2013, your first annual renewal fee is due by the 31st December 2013. The amount depends on the month you joined. Please refer to the table on the right.

Joining Month	First renewal fee due December
January	\$100.00
February	\$92.00
March	\$84.00
April	\$75.00
May	\$67.00
June	\$59.00
July	\$50.00
August	\$42.00
September	\$34.00
October	\$25.00
November	\$17.00
December	\$9.00



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

	Applicant	Partner (if applicable)		
First and last Name:				
Address:				
City/Suburb:		State:	Postcode:	
Contact Phone:				
Mobile Phone:				
Contact Email:				
Vehicle (Make & Model):				
Reg'n State Colour:				
Please register dependent Family Members Must be under 21 years, and reside with the Owner Member. 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 may be scanned and Emailed to membership@st4wdc.org. The Club membership year extends from the 1st Jan to the 31st Dec.

Membership fees

An Initial joining fee and an annual Membership fee are payable as follows:

Membership category	Joining Fee	Annual Membership
Owner Member	\$230.00	\$100.00
Associate Member	Nil	\$50.00
Competition Member	Nil	\$50.00

Payment

Our preferred payment method is by Bank Transfer to:

Account Name: Southern Tablelands 4WD Club Inc

BSB: 112-908 - Account No: 040 037 027

Important: Please include your name as reference

Alternatively, you can pay by Cheque or Money order payable to the Account name above. You may also attend a monthly meeting (held on the second Tuesday of each month at Canberra Deakin Football Club, Grose St, Deakin at 7.30 pm) and hand the form with payment to the Membership Secretary.

Membership Secretary use only.

Application Accepted:	Fees banked:	Form & fees received:
Total received: \$.....	Receipt Number:	
Database updated:	Date entered:	Membership pack sent:
Other comments:	WEB access arranged:	

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"We recently travelled over 18,000km to Western Australia and back again from the ACT on a magnificent photography journey on some of the roughest roads I have ever seen. Through sand, mud, sharp rocks and deeply rutted Pilbara trails."

Tyres that you and your family can trust

"Our Cooper S/TMAXX tyres stood up to every last test we through at them. We need tyres that we can trust, not only to carry our family safely but also get us to the best landscape photography locations in Australia and not to mention, get us home safely."

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Phone: 6297 6006



Fax: 6297 0896

www.monarooroffroad.com.au

[email: 4wd@monarooroffroad.com.au](mailto:4wd@monarooroffroad.com.au)

