



SOUTHERN TRAILS

February 2018



ST4WD Club 2018 AGM

Tuesday 13th March 2018 @ 7pm

Nominations are now being sought for all committee positions.

CLUB PRESIDENTS SIGNING OF THE 2020 TO 2024 SPECTACULAR MOU

Andrew Lockley Land Rover Club ACT, Joy McGahey ACT 4WD Club and
Jim Anderson ST4WDC

Next ST4WD Club Meeting

Will be held on

Tuesday 13th February

at 7.30pm

Canberra Deakin Football Club

3 Grose St, Deakin ACT

Guest Speaker

It's a surprise!!

Inside this Issue

President's Post	2
2018 AGM Notice	4
Trips and Events	5
Membership Moments	6
Club information	7
Something New or Interesting	8
2018 SPECTACULAR report	10
Talooge Park	12
Social Events Sub Committee	15
Donations	16
Membership Information	17
Club clothing	19
Meet a Committee Member	20
For Sale	21
Trip Reports	22
I have a Weight Problem	26
Watt's Happening?	28
Our Sponsors	31

President's Post – Jim Anderson

President's Post - Jim Anderson

At the January general meeting, I announced that I will not be re-nominating for the position of club president. I have enjoyed the last two years coordinating the club's business activities supported by a great bunch of committee members. However, I consider that two years is a reasonable period in the role and change is good for an organisation. Please contact me if you are interested in nominating for the position.

2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) 14 March

This year's AGM will be held on Tuesday 13th March at 7:30 pm at the Canberra Deakin Football Club prior to the general meeting - details are provided in this newsletter.

An important part of the AGM is to elect a new committee. Unless there is a casual vacancy, members hold office for a 12 month term until the next AGM. The committee manages the various business activities of the club on behalf of its members. There are 15 positions i.e. four office bearers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer), the membership secretary and six coordinators responsible for managing specific business / activity areas such as, education, events and trips, information, property,

publications and public relations.

Up to four general committee members undertake various tasks including arranging guest speakers, club apparel, organising meeting rooms, club raffles etc., and assisting the coordinators with various tasks. Sub-committees or working groups are also established from time to time to assist with one-off tasks e.g., website and governance reviews, social activities etc and can also include general club members.

Occupants of the following positions have indicated that they are not re-nominating for the 2018 committee.

Treasurer;

Secretary;

Education Coordinator;

Information Coordinator;

Membership Secretary;

Property Coordinator;

Publications Coordinator;

Three general member positions.

With only four current members indicating that they will renominate for positions in 2018 we really do need members to join the committee to manage the club's core business functions and, equally as important, to progress the club. If you are interested any of the above positions, please contact the current members or myself to discuss. Please also be

aware that all committee positions are New MoU for 2020 to 2024 Spectacular Events available for nomination.

Please consider contributing to the management and future of the club through serving on the committee. It is always good to get new people willing to get involved, bring new ideas and of course share the load.

2018 4WD Spectacular

The 2018 Spectacular held on the 3rd and 4th of February was a tremendous success with initial figures indicating that we had a total of around 11,100 paying attendees come through the gates (6,000 Saturday and 5,100 Sunday, an increase of 2,000 on the last show. The total figure is estimated to be 13,000 accounting for family members under 16, exhibitors and volunteers from the three clubs. All exhibitor spaces were also sold which was a significant achievement by the event's exhibition manager, Greg Ebling.

The Spectacular committee did an outstanding job organising and managing the many activities required to deliver the show as did the volunteers from the three host clubs who undertook various duties before, during and after the show. On behalf of the committee, a huge thank you to all involved. It is fantastic to see the members of the three clubs work so well together to deliver the event, and also to see many of our club's new members get involved.

Southern Tablelands has made the club property available to Spectacular committee members and their families in mid-March for the "wash-up" meeting and a bit of much needed R&R after the event - we hope you enjoy!

The current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) expires upon finalisation of administrative / governance requirements for the 2018 show. On 31 January, following negotiation between the host clubs, the presidents signed off on a new MOU, and associated Articles of Operation, for the 2020 to 2024 events. Details of the main changes will be provided in the March newsletter.

That's it for this month. I hope to see you at the February club meeting or on a track somewhere. Don't forget to nominate for a committee position if possible.

Jim Anderson



*Crossing the Simpson Desert
West to East and heading to Birdsville
August 2017*

2018 Annual General Meeting



In accordance with our Constitution, notice is hereby given that the 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Southern Tablelands Four Wheel Drive Club Inc will take place at 7:30pm on Tuesday 13th March at the Canberra Deakin Football Club, 3 Grose St. Deakin ACT.

An important business item of our AGM is to elect our committee. In accordance with the club By-Laws, Full Members, Family Members (Spouses/Partners) and Life Members over the age of 18 are eligible to join the committee and to vote at the AGM.

An office-bearer of the club and the spouse/partner or dependent of that member may not occupy a position as office-bearers of the club at the same time

Nominations for positions on the committee shall be made in writing signed by two members of the Club and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (endorsed on the form of nomination and must be lodged with the Secretary (Secretary@st4wdc.com.au) Secretary by 3rd March 2018 (i.e. 10 days before the meeting).

The committee positions to be filled at the Annual General Meeting are:

President *

Vice President *

Secretary *

Treasurer *

Membership Secretary

Education Coordinator

Events & Trips Coordinator

Publications Coordinator

Property Coordinator

Public Relations Coordinator

Information Coordinator

General Committee Members (four positions)

(* Office-bearer)

If there is only one nomination received for a committee position the person nominated shall be

deemed to be elected.

If there is more than one nomination received for a committee position then a ballot shall be held. The ballot for the election of a committee member shall be conducted at the Annual General Meeting in such usual and proper manner as the committee may direct.

If insufficient nominations are received to fill all the vacancies on the committee then further nominations, made on the committee nomination form, shall be received at the Annual General Meeting.

The committee is established under the Club's Constitution. The By-Laws describe the committee structure including the responsibilities of committee members. Both documents are available on the Club's website or from the Secretary.

The following documents are available on the website (<http://www.st4wdc.com.au/>). Login, go to Members / 2018 AGM.

- Committee Nomination Form
- Committee Structure and Position Responsibilities
- AGM Agenda
- 2017 AGM Minutes – Draft
- Constitution
- By-laws

The 2017 Financial Reports will be made available by 20 February 2018.

Club membership renewals for 2018 were due on 31st December 2017. If you have not renewed your membership by 3rd March 2018 you are ineligible to nominate for a Committee Position and you will be ineligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting on 13th March 2018.

Trips and Events – Michael Patrick

Page 5

February to April 2018

For more trips please visit the [ST4WD club web page](#)

31/Jan/18	31/Jan/18	Basic Training 4WD Vehicle	Training	Peter Butterfield
3/Feb/18	4/Feb/18	4 Wheel Drive Spectacular	Event	Marj Jones
15/Feb/18	18/Feb/18	Fishing and Prawning week-	Grade 2	Glenn Watts
17/Feb/18	18/Feb/18	Huts and History in nearby NSW	Grade 1	Alex & Andrea Szabo
17/Feb/18	18/Feb/18	Talooge Park Muster	Muster	Scott Cumming
22/Feb/18	25/Feb/18	"Safe One" Basic Driver	Training	Peter Butterfield
4/Mar/18	4/Mar/18	Brindabella Ramble	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
7/Mar/18	7/Mar/18	Information Night River Crossing & Sand Driving Course	Training	Peter Butterfield
10/Mar/18	18/Mar/18	Balloon Spectacular	Event	Catherine Panich
17/Mar/18	23/Mar/18	Walhalla Bound	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
23/Mar/18	4/Apr/18	Around Mini Australia in 24	Grade 3	Scott Broadhead
24/Mar/18	25/Mar/18	Talooge Park Muster	Muster	Scott Cumming
1/Apr/18	15/Apr/18	Around Mini Australia in 24	grade 3	Scott Broadhead
7/Apr/18	7/Apr/18	River Crossing & Sand Driv-	Training	Peter Butterfield
11/Apr/18	13/Apr/18	Mid-Week at McKillops	Grade 3	Dim Veteri



Membership Moments – Dim Veteri

Hi Everyone, below is information on current membership and membership matters. Thanks Dim

New members:

There have been thirteen new memberships for the months of December & January. The new memberships were:

- **Dean McPherson** – Driving a Toyota 76 series
- **James & Katrina Messervy** - Driving a Toyota Landcruiser
- **Kurt Briggs & Rikki Shawyer** – Driving a Mitsubishi Triton
- **Max Cornwall & Gabby Defries** – Driving a Toyota Prado 150
- **Shardee Roe & Sarah Chinney** – Driving a Toyota Hilux
- **Dean McPherson** – Driving a Toyota Prado 120 (joined in Dec 17)
- **Michael Marsalek** - Driving a Toyota Landcruiser
- **Stephen & Myriam Davies** – Driving a Ford Ranger
- **Stephen Marriage** – Driving a Isuzu Dmax
- **Alexandria Noon** – Driving a Kia Sorento
- **Dereck Cook & Derryth Nash** – Driving Nissan Patrol
- **Gay & Tom Samal** – Driving a Toyota Hilux

- **Peter & Amanda Zygadlo** – Driving a Toyota Prado

Welcome to the Club all.

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

Membership Numbers:

As at 30 November we have the following membership:

Ordinary Members	- 251
Life Members	- 9
Sub-Total	- 260
Family Members	- 190
Total	- 450

Please feel free to contact me regarding any membership matters you may have either by email, phone or grab me at the meeting.

If you would like a replacement ST4WD Sticker or a 2017 to place on your current sticker please see Dim at the meeting.



2017

Membership Renewal

Many thanks to all those members who have already paid their membership fees for 2018.

If you are yet to pay your fee for 2018 please remember that for members who joined in 2016 or before the membership renewal fee is \$100 (for an individual or family). For members who joined in 2017 you may be eligible for a pro-rate membership fee for 2018. If you are not sure please email me and I can confirm your fees for 2018.

Also please check the Club account details (see below) and please add your **Name** and the words “**Membership Fees**” as the comment or reference, when doing an electronic payment.



CLUB BANK DETAILS

PLEASE NOTE: The Club has recently changed its Bank provider to “Bank Australia” and has new account details. The new details are:

Bank:	Bank Australia
Account Name:	ST4WDC
BSB Number:	313 140
Account Number:	1213 0617

Members should use these account details in all transactions with the club, including for membership fees and clothing purchases when using direct deposit.

Members who use Internet Banking and Mobile Banking please update your “PAYEE Listing” for ST4WDC with the new details.

Something New or Unusual – Dim Veteri

Hi folks well this month I've gone with a mixed bag of newish and unusual gear.

Glow in Dark Tent Ropes

Yep I'm not joking you can buy glow in the dark tent ropes. These are a great idea if you, like me, are starting to loose that once superb night vision, or you happen to partake in campfire activities that blur the vision. They stand out, don't require any power source and come in all your favourite Hi-Vis colours (green and orange)



Oh and you can also get these little numbers – glow in the dark tent rope tensioners

Or go overboard and get both!

Cost – the ropes are between \$6.50 and \$12.50 on ebay and the tensioners are around \$2.00



Winch Rope Retainer Loop

I recently watched with interest as one of our members spent considerable time reconnecting their winch rope which had unspooled off the drum. There has to be a better way I thought and yes there is.

The Tough Winch Rope Retainer Loop from **Tough Toys**, is a simple device which makes the use of a winch much safer. As the winch rope is unspooled off the drum it is possible for the winch rope to be torn free. In most cases, a winch rope is generally held with a small bolt or grub screw.

The winch rope retainer prevents the winch rope from unspooling past 3 rounds of rope at the end of the drum. It does this by causing the rope to pull friction around the drum.



Tough Toys reckon that after testing and using the winch rope retainer they strongly recommend it for use with both synthetic winch rope and steel winch cable. Instead

If you would like a replacement ST4WD Sticker or a 2017 to place on your current sticker please see Dim at the meeting.



of attaching your winch rope directly to the drum, install the winch rope retainer on the first layer close to the winch rope terminal end.

Check it out at <http://www.tough toys.com.au/products/tough-toys-tough-winch-rope-retainer-loop/>

A GPS Unit that won't kill the Bank Account

If you are in the market for a GPS unit, but don't want to pay \$600 plus for a famous brand name unit, there is an alternative that has been tested on many a Club trip with success.

The XGody 7" GPS Navigation unit from our good friends in China can be purchased from ebay for around \$70. You will then need to purchase an OziExplorer CE License for \$40. Load the OziExplorer software on the XGody Unit and add your own maps or purchase them from various suppliers. You are now right to go. Not too sure if you can handle doing this on your own? No problems, there are a number of members in the Club that can help you set it up and give you the basics. Contact Michael at trips@ST4WDC.com.au and he will help out.

For a "ready to go" brand name unit go to www.hema.com.au and check out their new HX-1 unit or the older HN7 unit. The older version is compatible with current Map formats used by most club members and is currently reduced in price as they run out. HX-1 costs around \$699 but you can pick them up for \$599 if you shop around and the HN7 units are selling for \$499.



2018 Spectacular Report – Marj Jones

This will only be a brief update of where we are up to and recognition of our members who did the work before, during and after the Show. Without them there would be no Show!

Final figures and payments will not occur until all accounts are paid and the books have been audited.

However I can say that the Show was the best we have had, people through the gate, number of Exhibitors, volunteers, weather, all contributing to making the Show a resounding success.



We have had many accolades from numerous Exhibitors as to how well the Show is run, the friendliness and the way they were made welcome.

Just a few statistics, there were 295 individual volunteers from the three Clubs. A wonderful effort

from our Club with 116 volunteers. This makes our life much easier and less workload – a benefit from a large membership.

ACT and LRC Clubs, with probably the same percentage of membership that we had, had to work much harder as they had to fill the same number of shifts as we did.

A GREAT BIG THANKS!

The success of the Show always relies on the work of our Club members.

First, a heartfelt thanks to Helen Montesen who took on the enormous task of filling the Club Rosters. She succeeded infilling all spots on the Friday after lots of push and shove in the weeks leading up to the show.

The Show grounds just doesn't "happen".

What everyone saw on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th, was the result of a lot of hard work the week prior.

A GREAT big thanks to the following members who found the time and enthusiasm to put in the hard yards the week prior. From the Saturday Working Bee to the Friday when the Exhibitors came in, we had Club members there each day. (Hope I didn't leave anyone out, my apologies if I did, please let me know if I did)

Saturday Working Bee

Our three committee members:
Brad Wells, Rob Calvert and Marj Jones

Plus Joe & Sue Briguglio, Helen and

Charlie Montesen, Mark Pritchard, Jim Anderson, Alex Szabo, Pelican, Garry and Pauline Lymbery, Rob and Jane Dunlop, Ian Brown, Winston Bucknall, Jenny Collins

Week Prior

Every day:

Our three committee members: Brad Wells, Rob Calvert and Marj Jones

Plus Robert/Jane Dunlop, Charlie Montesen Jenny Collins, Ian Brown

Most Days:

Garry and Pauline Lymbery, Graham McDonald, Andrew Dean, Duck,

Steve and Sue Angelo, Ian Sakhara, Wendy Holland, Julie Buttress, Shawn Faraday

A big special mention and thanks for a huge contribution goes to:

Andrew Dean.

Andrew came and 'Test Tagged' all the electrical cords, in the club tents, kitchen, catering tents, admin building and any other cord which the Exhibitors had which needed to be tagged. An all day affair on Friday.

Mark Pritchard

Mark took on the coordinator of the Parking which was our Club's task for this show. Mark was in attendance at the Working Bee to set up the area and then was "On Duty" through the entire Show. Even pulled down all the bunting, star pickets etc.

Duck, Steve Angelo

This team, throughout the entire show, continuously did rubbish runs throughout the grounds to ensure a clean environment was maintained.

Monday Clean Up

These people turned up once again

Our three committee members: Brad Wells, Rob Calvert and Marj Jones

Plus: Charlie Montesen, Ian and Suzanne Brown, Jenny Collins, Alan Jones, Duck, Steve Angelo, Thommo and Julie Buttress, Ken Sullivan

Ian, Rob, Brad and Ken had the unenviable task of filling in the trenches.

Duck, Steve, Thommo and Julie covered the entire ground on Monday and cleared it of all rubbish.

A big thanks to all these members, the grounds look fantastic!!!!

Last but not least, a huge thanks to all who volunteered in whatever capacity they could do.

The show is only as successful as the amount of effort and enthusiasm that is put in by all volunteers, it was huge!!

Thanks to everyone who played a part.



Talooge Park – Scott Cumming

February 2018

Two years as Property Coordinator has been great. Many tasks have been completed with thanks to all of the members who assisted in maintaining our club property over the time has continued to improve Talooge for the benefit of all member's families and friends. Unfortunately, I will have to hand over to a new Property Coordinator for 2018 to continue maintaining and improving Talooge and to nominate before our AGM in March. Helping to look after my elderly parents and becoming engaged last week to my girlfriend Saytan who is visiting from Thailand on the top of Mt Kosciusko under the "once in 150 years" Red Blue Supermoon will give me a fair job to do this year. Saytan passed the "Muster" at Talooge camping with a thumbs up so all was good to go!!



Link to "The Proposal Video" - <https://youtu.be/p4k33UyRCW0>



JANUARY MUSTER:

The January Muster was Hot at about 34 degrees so we had an early start and planned to finish with a late sausage sizzle with a Thai flavour of Spicy bbq Chicken Wings. A very large tree blocking The Chicken Run track was our first job which was cleared after about 30 mins thanks to our willing helpers, Firewood Collection was next on the list, Gutter Cleaning to the

toilets, chemical shed and love shack. Weed spraying the Absorption area and cleaning the toilets and sweeping the clubhouse after topping up all the wood boxes.

The Solar lighting installation to the clubhouse done by Peter Butterfield and David Sutton a few months ago has proved very successful and reduced our generator operation and fuel use considerably. We now have Solar lighting to the Shelter, Machinery Shed and Toilets. Lighting to the toilets will automatically turn on every night at dusk and will run throughout the night until dawn. This works very well as there is no need for switches and it keeps our battery bank in top condition by drawing some current each night, to be topped up via solar the next day.

Thanks to Brad Wells and his helpers for delivering another 355 pavers to Talooge ready to add to our existing 335 pavers to pave the area under the shelter when it is a bit cooler. Michael, Jim and Chris have done a great job tidying up the Clubhouse and fixing out our donated Hilux so that it can now be safely used for jobs at Talooge with a reasonable handbrake!!



Talooge Park – continued...

Talooge Gate Security Codes: A reminder that before travelling to Talooge you should always contact one of the relevant officers for the updated gate codes.

Scott Cumming property@st4wdc.com.au 0490 000913

Jim Anderson president@st4wdc.com.au 0408 283496

Peter Butterfield education@st4wdc.com.au 0417 480856

Talooge Security: If you are visiting Talooge and notice any suspicious behaviour or a vehicle you don't recognise, it's your property and you have the right to politely ask who they are and what they are doing. Report any suspicious behaviour to either myself or Jim Anderson. Surveillance cameras installed on the property to assist in identifying any unauthorised traffic. The combination lock on the gate from the main paddock to the Horse paddock has been replaced but it is slightly different to the old one and you need to push the button on the bottom once putting in the code for it to open.

Talooge Park "it's your property" and we do have some fun at the musters so if you haven't been out there for a while or are a new member and are happy to help support our club or even if you are amongst a number of regular helpers I encourage you all to join us at Talooge Park for a little bit of work and a lot of fun. The weather is perfect at this time of the year and the camaraderie is always good and a free sausage sizzle on Saturday courtesy of the club is always welcome.

Talooge Park Musters – 17/18 Feb, 24/25 March, 21/22 April.

See you at Talooge Park. Scott Cumming - Property Coordinator
property@st4wdc.com.au

To Always Look Over Our Great Environment



The ST4WD Club Committee is looking for members who would like to form a **Social Events Sub Committee as part of the 2018 Club Plan. This is an opportunity for you to do something for your club and get to know more of our fellow club members.**

Please contact: president@st4wdc.com.au





Do you have a 12 volt fridge that you would be prepared to donate to the Talooge Club House?

If so please contact:

Jim president@st4wdc.com.au

Or

Scott: property@st4wdc.com.au



Membership Gift Certificates

Southern Tablelands 4WD Club now has available Membership Gift Certificates.



**Southern Tablelands
4 Wheel Drive Club
Inc**

GIFT CERTIFICATE

This Certificate entitles: _____

To: _____

From: _____

Authorised by: _____

Date: | _____

These certificates are a great way to give the gift of membership to friends and family and are available for both current member's Annual Membership Fee (Cost/Value \$100) or for new members for their Joining fee and Annual Membership Fee (Cost/Value \$330).

If you would like to give a gift of ST4WDC Membership please contact the Membership Secretary at membership@st4wdc.com.au.

2018 4WD Spectacular

Membership Prize Draw

Southern Tablelands 4WD Club held a Membership Prize Draw as part of the Club tent promotion during the 2018 4WD Spectacular.

The prize was a refund of the Joining and Membership fees (total value \$330)

for any member of the public who joined the Club on the Saturday or Sunday of the 4WD Spectacular

The Prize was drawn at the 6 February Club Committee Meeting.

And the winner is:

Neil & Jane Coffee

2018 4WD EASTER JAMBOREE



Black Diamond Recreational 4WD Club in conjunction with NSW & ACT Four Wheel Drive Association would like to invite all affiliated club members to attend our Jamboree being held at Easter 2018.

All affiliated clubs are welcome. Come along and join in the Jamboree fun! Enjoy the adventurous 4WD trips and outdoor activities to be experienced by you and your family.

Located on 160 acres of private land adjoining Buckenbowra State Forest and Monga National Park. 45 minutes west of Batemans Bay.



MORE...
information

jamboree2018@gmail.com

Lee: 0409 668 175

NIGHT DRAGS

TEAM BOG HOLE

MONSTER HILL CLIMB

GUIDED DRIVES

FUN-KHANA

FUN FOR KIDS

EASTER EGG HUNT

BMX TRACK

R/C TRACK

**Buckenbowra - Batemans Bay
29th March – 2nd April 2018**



Here are examples of the ST4WD Club new polo shirts designs. Please see Debbie at the meeting if you would like to order one.

Club Clothing – Debbie Davidson



<i>Polo Shirts</i>	\$35.00
<i>Chambery Shirts</i>	\$45.00
<i>Jackets</i>	\$110.00
<i>Hoodies</i>	\$45.00
<i>Rugby Tops</i>	\$50.00
<i>Caps</i>	\$15.00
<i>Bucket Hats</i>	\$15.00
<i>Beanies</i>	\$20.00
<i>Name Badges</i>	\$10.00

Mobile 0414680708

Email r.d.davidson56@gmail.com

Meet a ST4WD Club Committee member

Name:	Jim Anderson
Position held on the committee:	President
Occupation:	Retired
Why I joined the ST4WD Club:	I was looking for 4WD training and after doing the web search etc the basic driver training program offered by the club looked be very comprehensive and good value for money – I wasn't disappointed! The club having its own property for members' use and the variety trips were also deciding factors.
The year I joined ST4WD Club was:	2010
Why I took on a committee position:	At the time I joined the committee in 2014 there was discussion about developing some additional and more challenging tracks on the club property, updating the property map and so on. This sounded interesting so I got involved.
What I drive around town:	Toyota Prado 150
What I drive when 4WDing:	Toyota Prado 150 – manual diesel, fully locked, lifted and bush pin striped.
Favourite place I've visited:	Ketchikan Alaska – salmon fishing capital of the world.
Favourite saying or quote:	My Hat!
My dream vehicle:	Ferrari F40 (dreams are free)
On my Bucket List:	Extended trip 4WD'ing and fishing in Alaska and Canada.
The driving accomplishment I am most proud of:	Surviving some of the more challenging tracks at Yalwal.
What I am passionate about:	Four-wheel driving.



For Sale



79 Series RV Landcruiser + Trayon

Price: \$75,000

- 2005 model
- 4.2L straight 6 turbo diesel engine 1HD-FTE
- 158,000 km
- Full service history
- Trayon Seeker 1830
- Available as complete unit only

Many extras included - contact for full list

Contact: Wendy Holland: 0412 064 034 or

Tim Holland: 0417 083 897



TRIP REPORT

The Brindabella Ramble

This was my first club trip since completing the Basic Training course at Talooge Park and I was quietly excited about testing the Triton and my skills without the guidance of an instructor in the passenger seat. My two eldest sons demanded to come with me (aged 7 and 4) and so had to pack more food and drink than expected! When I arrived it was good to see some of the same new members who attended the basic training course as well as some new faces who were more experienced drivers.

The day commenced as planned, following standard convoy procedures but it didn't take us long before some of the leading trucks got stuck in some slippery and damp parts of the track. Although this part was a little slow for some of the rear drivers in a 12 truck convoy, it was a good opportunity to chat in more depth with some newly acquainted members, checking out each other vehicles and the various modifications conducted to each. I must say, that although we were having a good yarn, there were some members and instructors performing some basic pruning activities to make the track more easier to drive. Thanks guys!!

The drive throughout the day was great, stopping for various breaks and lunch at some good camping spots that I never knew existed. Due to the substantial rain the day before, there were a few mud puddles I drove through, to the excitement and cheering of my two sons. Although very small puddles (nothing major), to them it was like a river crossing (haha, if only they knew). Unfortunately the rains opened up again with some supporting storms which luckily was towards the end of the day, so didn't have much of an impact. Though, again my sons thought it was gold driving on the dirt in the rain.....not sure if they were overly impressed when I made them help me pump up the tyres in the rain!!

Overall very happy with the drive, especially being in Canberra's backyard. It is hard to say whether these tracks were easier than the training tracks at the Basic training course or whether it was my being more confident, knowledgeable and knowing what to expect. Maybe a little of both. Nevertheless it was a fun day and its very likely I will make another visit (with my sons again) perhaps for an overnight camping trip.

Cheers ST4WDC!!!

Adrian D'Ambrosio

More Brindabella Ramblings...

So, at 0900 precisely, the vehicles formed up and headed off to get ahead of the bike race about to begin. As I sat there, I counted the vehicles. All the other vehicles had already lined up except two, one of which was me. What do I do, drag race the other vehicle so as to NOT be Charlie. I faced my first, and thankfully, last dilemma for the day. So, respectfully, I waved the other vehicle on and Charlie it was for the day. I also didn't tell anyone that this was my first time, although, I think they realised fairly quickly.

After a pretty short time, the trips first obstacle was encountered. Andy's calm voice over the radio soon had the situation under control and the recovery team swung into gear. The first lesson I learnt of being Charlie in a convoy of 12, is it is a fair walk to the front of the convoy.

I also had to remind myself that not only did I have to drive and enjoy the scenery, but I had to listen. Multi tasking does not come easily to us blokes, and thank god for convoy procedures!

The storm clouds were brewing, and the rain started to fall whilst we were still down at McIntyres Hut. I learnt my next lesson of being Charlie, 12 cars and a bit of rain can make things a tad slippery. Oh, how good it would be to be up front. However, there was no need for panic, again the trip leader had methodically timed the run out to ensure that the track remained driveable.

This was a great trip, which was both enjoyable and an opportunity to expand my knowledge and skills. Thanks to everyone

for a great day out, and my particular thanks to Andy for a well organised drive.

Steve



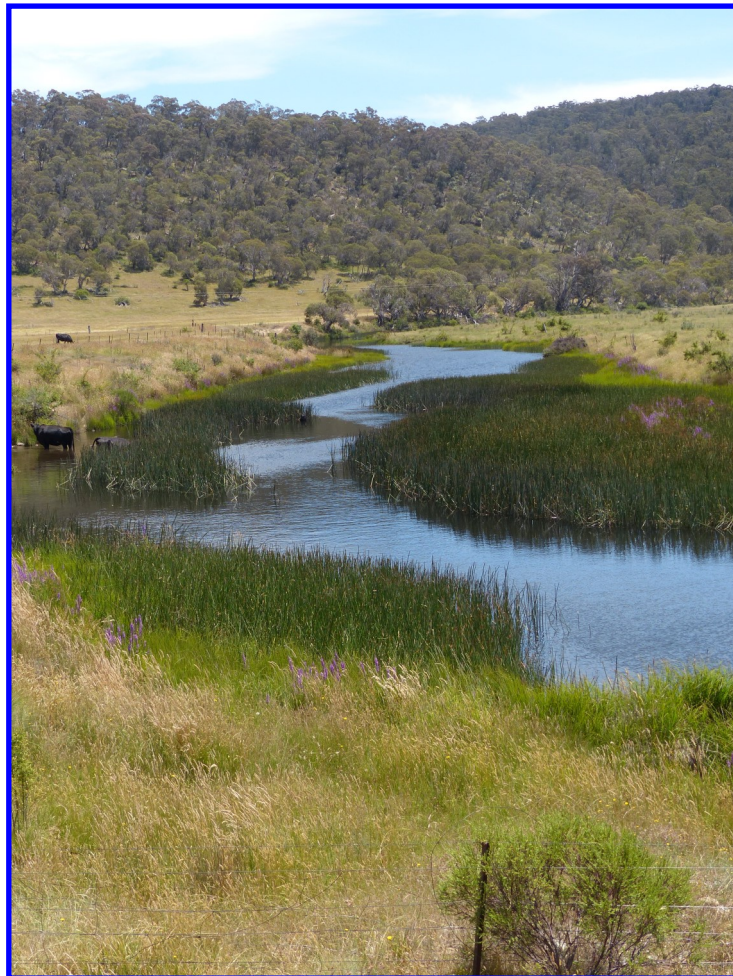
TRIP REPORT

The Settlers Track and Yaouk Explorer and More historic ACT Huts and Sites trips planned for 20 & 21 January had to be rethought due to the hi temperatures forecast for (and then experienced) that week-end. We decided to defer the walking parts of the trips, and go for the Yaouk Explorer drive on Sunday morning.

Four cars driven by Alex and Andrea, Tony Warren, Rob Calvert and Glynis Whitfield headed off from Tharwa at 9am and we found our way home by 5pm - somewhat longer than expected. While it was very hot that day, the cars kept us cool and we had a lovely easy drive, with gorgeous scenery and good company. Glynis also used the trip to get her new Hilux dirty for the first time! Look out for the re-programmed trip for a time that should be cooler (but not cold!).

Alex Szabo





I have a weight problem...

Well, not personally (although I could lose a few kilos!). Many of you will know that we purchased a Mazda BT50 some 5 years ago (GVM 3200kg). The original intention was to put a slide-on camper on the back, after we had fitted the vehicle out for off-roading. With over 1 tonne in payload, what could possibly go wrong? Read on for a potted history and how the project has finally come to an end.



Fitting out the truck was heavily influenced by off-roading. Had to start with an alloy tray and under-tray drawer. Better have a steel bulbar, and steel underbody protection, and steel side steps and brush bars; must have lots of storage, a second battery, LT tyres with aggressive tread, and towbar. Other contributors to weight: lights (and lots of them), copper wire ('cos the second battery powers everything), upgraded suspension (weighs more than OEM), canopy and canvas – everything adds weight, and it adds up. How much? With the canopy on and full fuel (80ltr), I went over the weighbridge at Mugga Lane tip; reading 3.00t – 3000kg! And that was without Andrea, and any travelling kit and caboodle. I have a weight problem.

Everything that wasn't bolted down came out (except jacks and fire extinguishers). Weigh everything – 200kg. Rationalise everything (really don't need 4 of the same spanner, etc). About 120kg is still necessary stuff, although not for every trip. I still have a weight problem.

I know other club members have upgraded their GVM through suspension mods alone, so I made some inquiries. The truck's upgraded suspension is ARB's Old Man Emu, which comes in 300kg and 600kg constant load variants. We have the 300kg version, which is ADR compliant for GVM of 3330kg (the 600kg version uprates to 3500kg). We have often heard that unless you upgrade the suspension before first registration, an engineer's certificate is required (expensive). But in the ACT, so long as the suspension upgrade is installed by the OEM (ARB in this case), or accredited installer (Monaro Offroad in this case), no engineer certificate required.

So here is the process that I went through and costs:

- went to Access Canberra shopfront in Woden to understand what needs to be done and talked with the Hume Inspection Station (nil cost).
- gather info from ARB and Monaro Offroad regarding suspension components, ratings and ADR compliance, and installation (this is best done at time of fitting, not years later like I did)
- book and attend Hume Inspection Station for full roadworthy (they tested everything, not just suspension) (\$67.70) – don't be late, they are often fully booked. If all ok, they give you

a numbered blank compliance plate with instructions on what to have engraved and how to attach to vehicle (engraving \$56.95, industrial strength double-sided tape from Bunnings <\$10). Attach new compliance plate.

- attend Hume Inspection Station (no booking required, they just want to see that the compliance plate is correctly engraved and attached. Receive Inspection Certificate (nil cost)
- back to Access Canberra to have records updated and receive new Registration Certificate (nil cost).

Result: 130kg GVM upgrade approved by ACT Government, new GVM 3330kg. This may not seem like a lot, but it's either 130 kg of fuel or water or other payload, or a significant margin of error if I aim for 3200kg each trip.

Investment: upgraded suspension (obviously); then to go through the process, <\$150 plus a bit over a day of my time total.

For anyone contemplating a similar approach, you will need to make your own inquiries because the process may well vary based on suspension upgrade details, whether it is ADR compliant for a GVM upgrade, who fitted it, whether the vehicle is registered in ACT or other state, etc.

So there, dear reader, is the potted history. Recall, I also said that the project has now come to an end? Well, there is no slide on camper. There is however a reconfigurable truck that is variously a second car, a ute, a very good offroad 4x4, and an excellent tourer. It can have the canopy on or off, and it can tow a camper trailer – yes we bought one.

But, if I want to do some serious long range touring like the Canning Stock Route, carry extra fuel and water – I still have a weight problem. It's a cruel world.

My sincere thanks for the help received from Monaro Offroad, ARB Fyshwick, Access Canberra Woden and Inspection Station at Hume.

Alex Szabo

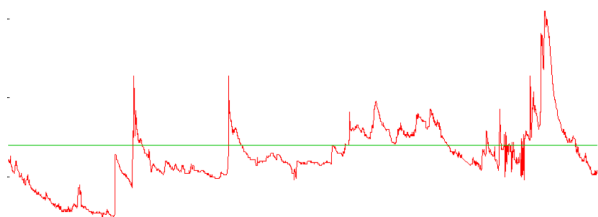
PS Soon after writing this, I received the latest Pat Callinan 4x4 Adventures (issue 031) magazine which at pp129-134 has an excellent article called "Overloaded, Uninsured and Dangerous". The article includes a list of typical modifications and indicative weights, thus providing additional detail on my list of contributors to extra weight.

Watts Happening? Fishing Report

December 2017 - January 2018



Unfortunately Decembers report missed the newsletter as at the last minute I was trying to get a fish for the monthly report. If you remember December 2017 was one of the wettest months in years making the rivers and inhabitants very difficult to access. (As per the graph below of the Murrumbidgee river below Urriara Crossing the green line is the medium)



I'll leave the excuses there and concentrate on what a great month January was to be. The local areas even though the days were hot, there was plenty of flow in the rivers to keep the water temperature down and our finny creatures active.

The trout streams and hour from Canberra produced plenty of flighty 30 to 40cm trout with more rainbows than

browns being hooked with sessions of upto 20 fish caught and released all on dry fly. It's amazing the waters we have so close to home all you need is a bit of adventure in the system and head off the beaten track, 4wd required in some cases making the day even better. Hopper patterns and stimulators are working well on the top with brown or black nymphs working as a tandem below.



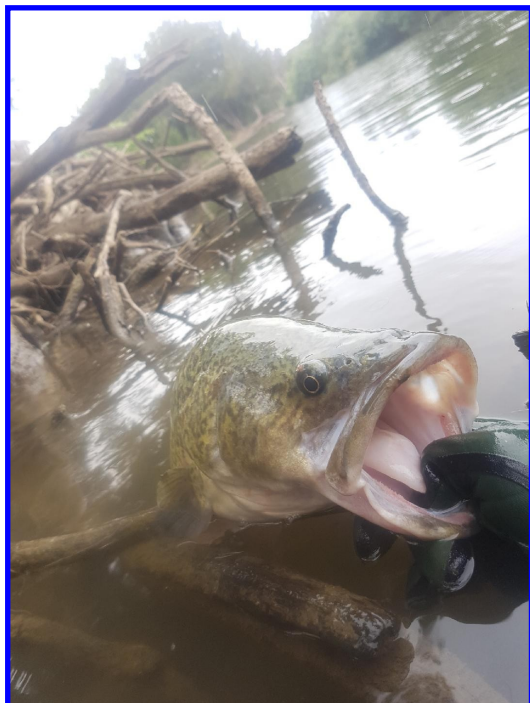
The Murrumbidgee locally still had a lot of flow but with persistence and targeting the back snags some good cod were still around. The next two months should really see some good surface action happening especially around the large moons and warmer nights, lures up to 30cm in snake, rat, and lizard imitations should do the trick.



During the month the local lakes really shone with some large yellowbelly getting in on the action, I spent a lazy morning in the canoe trolling Googong for 3 large yellas over 45cm as well as over a dozen reddies. Unfortunately the day was cut short due to the strong winds that often come up on the lake, surfing these waves with more water in the canoe than out is not how you want to finish the day. Lure of the day black 65g vibe.



Note: Googong dam is an electric motor or paddle only waterway due to it being Canberra's main water supply also the dam is classed as Alpine waters so a life jacket must be worn at all-times whilst in a boat. If you're prepared for a walk the bank fishing can be superb.



The coast has also been on fire with the warmer water temperatures with all well know summer species on the chew. Jane and I tried one of the Youcamp sites on the Australia Day weekend at the south coast to find we had 150 acres and over a kilometer of Lake Frontage all to ourselves not bad for January school holidays. The first afternoon was a quick flick with some plastics around the banks but only a few small flathead came to the party. The next day I had the canoe out and succeeded to hook land and release over a dozen flathead with the largest going just on 60cm two were saved for the pan. That night I had the torch out to still find some decent size prawns hanging around even though it was close to a full moon. We were told by the property owner that there are a number of good

mud crabs currently showing up in Turross so if you're heading that way don't forget the crab pots.

Well I only got out a few times in the month though each time proved to be productive

Watt's Happening? Fishing report continued...



whether or not it was good luck, good timing or I was on task with my fishing skills, and however we won't know until the next report.

In the meantime tight lines and dirty wheels

PS: There are still some places on the South Coast Prawning and Fishing weekend 15th - 18th February if you're interested come and see me at the next meeting or give me a call.

Recipe for the Month - Cajun spiced Flathead Tails

2 x freshly caught Flathead 45 to 55cm (best eating)

Clean and fillet - getting four good size fillets from each fish

Dust in flour, Cajun spice, salt and pepper mix

Dip in egg - fresh chook eggs are the best

Dust in panko crumbs and shallow fry until golden

Serve with crunchy
roast potatoes and
crunchy apple slaw.

Yum



Our Sponsors

Please email items for the ST4WD Club monthly newsletter to me at publications@st4wdc.com.au or hand it to me at the monthly meeting.

Cut off for Items for the Newsletter is now the last Friday in each month. Anything received after that date will be placed in the following months newsletter.

Regards Glennis

