



SOUTHERN TRAILS

October 2017



Next ST4WD Club Meeting

Will be held on

Tuesday 10th October

at 7.30pm

Canberra Deakin

Football Club

3 Grose St, Deakin ACT

Guest Speaker

Matt Gawthorne

Pride Auto Accessories

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President's Post – Jim Anderson

Revised club budget

A revised club budget was approved at the September committee meeting. Details are on the website – logon, select Management and 2017 club budget.

Bush skills event at TALOOG

The bush skills event was held last weekend at the club property. Sixty one people in 36 vehicles attended, some for the whole weekend while others enjoyed a day visit. We had a mix of new and longer-term members from our club and 16 people from the South Coast and Wagga Wagga 4WD clubs. It was great to see late and older model vehicles including a 40 series LWB from the South Coast Club, which rumour has it was recovered by a Jeep on the uphill climb on the rock step on Lasseter's track – hopefully more to come on this in the trip report including photographic evidence!

The various information sessions and demonstrations held from Saturday afternoon through to Monday morning were informative and presented in a relaxed environment - the South Coast club provided the following feedback....“we took particular notice of the workshops put on and were very impressed with the knowledge and research the presenters put in to their particular topic as we found there were little hints that even the seasoned 4wder could pick up on.”

Happy hours around the campfires were of course popular and entertaining with the usual “factual” recounting of previous trips and 4WD experiences. I would like to thank the visitors from the other clubs, some who had been to the 2015 event, who were great guests.

Thanks also to the many club members who ran activities and lead convoys driving the tracks and those that attended the muster the previous weekend to gather fire wood and set up ensuring that the weekend was a success. Hopefully it will become a permanent fixture on the club's calendar.

2018 Spectacular

Rosters - Helen Montesin, the club's roster co-ordinator will be at the October general meeting with printed rosters for volunteers to nominate times for activities during the show weekend and for pre and post show activities. I strongly encourage members to volunteer wherever they can as this is a major fund raiser for various charities and the three host clubs delivering the 4WD spectacular.

Volunteer Carparking Manager for the Spectacular – last month I advised that our club is responsible for coordinating and managing carparking at the next show seeking a volunteer to take on the role. I would like to thank Mark Pritchard for volunteering. Mark did a fantastic job co-ordinating car parking at the 2012 show.

Hope to see you at the general meeting on Tuesday 10th October or on a track somewhere.

Jim

REMINDER
2018 Membership Fees are
due in December

Trips and Events – Michael Patrick

Start Date	End Date	Activity	Type	Leader
14/Oct/17	15/Oct/17	Merlya and Monkey Gum	Grade 3	Andrew Squire
19/Oct/17	22/Oct/17	Consolidated "Safe One" Basic Driver Training at Talooge Park	Training	Peter Butterfield
21/Oct/17	22/Oct/17	Talooge Park Muster	Muster	Scott Cumming
27/Oct/17	29/Oct/17	Canberra Home & Leisure Show	Event	Dim
11/Nov/17	19/Nov/17	Victorian High Country Ramble Vers 2	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
12/Nov/17	12/Nov/17	Brindabella Ramble	Grade 3	Andrew Squire
12/Nov/17	18/Nov/17	Keith's Turnaround Tour Revisited	Grade 3	Chris Nicolls
14/Nov/17	14/Nov/17	Dargo to Blue Range Trigg Point & Return	Grade 3	Dim Veteri
16/Nov/17	16/Nov/17	Dargo to Blue Range Trigg Point & Return	Grade 3	Dim Veteri
18/Nov/17	19/Nov/17	Talooge Park Muster	Muster	Scott Cumming
25/Nov/17	25/Nov/17	ST4WDC Christmas Party at Talooge	Event	ScottCumming
8/Dec/17	8/Dec/17	Driver Trainers Christmas Dinner	Event	Julie Buttriss
16/Dec/17	17/Dec/17	Talooge Park Muster	Muster	Scott Cumming
3/Feb/18	4/Feb/18	4 Wheel Drive Spectacular Outdoor Recreation Show	Event	Marj Jones
17/Mar/18	23/Mar/18	Wahalla Bound	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
11/Apr/18	13/Apr/18	Mid-Week at McKillops (Snowy River)	Grade 3	Dim Veteri
5/May/18	27/May/18	Big Red Bound	Grade 3	Alex & Andrea Szabo
Open	Open	Camper Trailer Workshop	Grade 3	Glenn Watts
Open	Open	First Aid Training (Expression of Interest)	Training	Michael Patrick
Open	Open	OziExplorerCE, Hema Navigator & Android Workshop	Workshop	Michael Patrick
16/Jun/18	17/Jun/18	OziExplorer Nav X	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
11/Aug/18	18/Aug/18	Flinders Ranges	Grade 3	Dim Veteri

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.

Membership Moments – Dim Veteri

Membership Type	Number
Ordinary	241
Life	9
Subtotal	250
Family	179
Total	429

NEW CLUB MEMEBERS:

- Kanu & Sandeepa Partha – Driving a Mitsubishi Pajero Sport
- Sam & Suzie Faraj – Driving a Mitsubishi Triton
- Scott Norman & Rebecca Clark - Driving a Mitsubishi Pajero
- John & Tracey Graves—Driving a Mitsubishi Triton

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:

- Michael Jackson-Rand

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



2017

Happy Hour Ideas while travelling that don't require the fridge

Everyone likes to have happy hour at the end of a days travel. Most happy hour sessions normally include a selection of biscuits and cheese. However most cheese takes up room in the fridge, when it should be reserved for the wine and beers. Here are some ideas for the cheese and bickie happy hour that does not mean having to store the cheese in the fridge.

Look for cheese that is shelf stable (does not need refrigeration). A number of options is presented in this article and some education as to purchasing the correct products.

Laughing cow is a soft cheese. It is individually wrapped in portions.

Some of this brand must be stored in the fridge and others are shelf stable with a best before of 12 months. The challenge is that some supermarkets store this in the fridge. This becomes confusing – available selected supermarkets and Costco.



If the product is labelled "FAMILY PANTRY PACK" then it is shelf stable. The storage details will also state "store in a cool dry place".



This is shelf stable,

This cheese has no "Pantry Pack" label and must be kept in the fridge



Happy Cow is a soft cheese. It is individually wrapped in portions. Happy Cow cheese must be marked "REGULAR" for it to be shelf stable. Can only be purchased from selected supermarkets, primarily Halal shops.



Picon is a soft cheese that is shelf stable and available from Woolworths. It



Extras

These are both hard cheddar cheese. These are available from selected boutique supermarkets. They can be purchased from the supermarkets at Southlands shopping centre.



There are various brands of fruit and quince paste available from Coles or Woolies that will accompany the cheese and biscuit platters.



Just let your imagination go wild...

Talooge Park – Scott Cumming

TALOOGE PARK MUSTER

Muster's during the past few months have seen small numbers of members assisting with the maintenance at Talooge with an average of between 1 and 5 members attending.

We have still been able to some track work, gather plenty of firewood, install some blinds in the clubhouse, do some weed spraying, clean out the ablution sheds and general maintenance tasks.



THANK YOU

A big thank you to one of our neighbours Tony Cryjac and his family for donating a 1986 Hilux for us to use doing maintenance at Talooge.

A bit of a tidy up and fixing the hand-brake and it will come in handy for use not only during the musters but for use with the driver training team ensuring the tracks are clear before the training weekends.

It has been put to work straight away and is perfect as a property utility vehicle.



SNAKES

Snakes are now active as it is breeding season so please watch out for them especially in the areas near the creek as I came across an Eastern Brown last weekend while watering the new grass area at ARB crossing. It looked as if it had just eaten something and was relaxing in the sun. All the visiting members were notified and it was left to relax there. Later that day it was still there and had died and although it was on the track, there was no sign as to why it had died but I was later told that Red Bellied Black Snakes could kill brown snakes so that may have happened or it remains a mystery. It is now on the Watch 4 Snakes sign as a reminder to visiting members to be aware.

If you do see a snake, please just calmly walk away and leave it be as most snake bites occur when people disturb the snake or accidentally step on it. Best to steer well clear of the second most venomous land based snake in the world.

Carry a compression bandage with you and if bitten, follow the correct procedure for a snake bite and seek medical assistance urgently.

THANKS

Thanks to Dave Sutton for using his chain-saw skills to shape and locate a very large piece of seasoned timber near the fire pit for use as a work bench to sharpen chain saws or to rest a beer on after a busy day. Dave & Thomas also sorted out another log which is a bit taller as a drinks bar which will be finished off with some resin to fill the cracks and possibly some marine varnish in due course.



WATER CONSERVATION

Water conservation is always top of mind at Talooge and we have seen very little rainfall during the Winter and early Spring. The top 3 tanks are at about half of their capacity and currently sitting at about 37,000 litres which is fine for now but we don't want to be in a position as the Summer starts where we have to truck in water so please continue to conserve our precious water supply and use water responsibly.

SOLAR LIGHTING INSTALLED

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. The materials for the next phase of the solar installation have been ordered and will be installed in the next few weeks. This will give solar lighting to the Machinery shed, toilets and shelter at the top of the property. To preserve the battery life as much as possible, it is essential to have some regular current draw on the system which is the reason for some of the lights including the toilet lights to be set to automatically turn on every night.

PBL at TALOOG

A PLB or Personal Locating Beacon has been installed in the clubhouse near the first aid kit and is for use in the event of an emergency only. Operating directions are located on the device but basically, it is turned on once the aerial has been extended and once placed in an outdoor clear area will allow for communication to the nearest satellites.

BE FIRE AWARE

The Firefighting pump and equipment were checked last weekend and were found to have the hoses disconnected with only about a quarter of a tank of water available. This has been rectified and a reminder to any member who uses this tank that it is to be left fully refilled and ready for use at a short notice. If you are at the property and there is a bushfire in the region, the first course of action is to leave the property if it

is safe to do so in plenty of time before it comes too close. Only if you are stranded at the property without a safe exit do you consider the second option which is to make your way to an open area on the front paddock away from trees and use the firefighting pump and equipment to protect yourself as the fire burns past your location. The tank and equipment at just 1000 litres isn't designed to fight a bush fire as you will run out of water after only 10 to 15 minutes and it does not have the water flow rate to make much difference except for use on a slow moving grass fire.

TALOOGE GATE SECURITY CODES:

In March 2017 the gate security codes were changed. 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
or Satellite text only +61 405 894 135

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"

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 – October 21/22, November 18/19, December 16/17.

SEE YOU AT TALOOGE PARK.
Scott Cumming - Property Coordinator property@st4wdc.com.au

**To Always Look Over
Our Great
Environment**



**There is only 4 months to go before the best 4WD Show is on..
OUR SHOW!**

Our sites are filling up quickly, but to ensure a great Show we need your assistance as members of our Club.

There are times during the day for a range of duties, Gate, Parking, Club Tent, Catering, ones which will suit everyone. Our Club, being the largest, should be able to spread the load.

Next week, at the Club meeting, and on the web, you will be able to place your name against time slots each day.

We also require people for the Saturday before and then during the week preceding to do a range of jobs to get the Show 'on the road'.

Again, if you are available, put your name on that list. If you are not at the meeting or having trouble with the web site, you can contact either

Marj Jones (marjjones@rocketmail.com) or

Helen Montesin (montesinTPG.com.au) to put your name on the rosters.

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**

WANTED

ST4WDC is creating a library of maps and Offroads books and Atlases and any relevant 4wd articles. We are looking for any members who no longer use these and want to donate them to the club. We are also looking for a unused book case to store these items. The Library will be located at Talooge and will be available to all members on a honesty system.

Club Clothing – Debbie Davidson



<i>Polo Shirts</i>	\$38.00
<i>Chamberly 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

Meet a ST4WD Club Committee member

- Name: Peter Butterfield - Life member
- Position held on the committee: Education coordinator
- Occupation: Practicing retirement
- Why I joined the ST4WD Club: I knew a few guys that were members
- The year I joined ST4WD Club was: 1995
- Why I took on a committee position: A committee member and driver trainer colleague was experiencing health issues and I offered to take on his role on the committee to relieve some pressure on him, 3 years later and still there
- What I drive around town: 2013 Landcruiser 79 series V8 ute
- What I drive when 4WDing: What else is there? A 79 series ute
- Favourite place I've visited: Remote parts of the Simpson desert
- Favourite saying or quote: *Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than the things you did*
- My dream vehicle: An Earthcruiser
- On my Bucket List: Travel on the Ghan from top to bottom
- The driving accomplishment I am most proud of: Achieving Instructor accreditation with the Club
- What I am passionate about: I love my 4 wheel driving, but I see so many people in the bush who will not let their tyres down ENOUGH, so probably the thing that I am most passionate about is preaching the value of low tyre pressure when 4 wheel driving, no matter where you are.



Training Course Certificates

If you have completed a course and would like your certificate, please come and see me at the meeting or if you can't make the meetings contact me at membership@st4wdc.com.au and we can discuss how best to get it to you.

Regards Dim

ST4WD Club Bush Skills Weekend Gallery



A wonderful weekend!
Thank you :)



TRIP REPORTS

BRINDABELLA RAMBLE 24 SEPTEMBER 2017

The latest Brindabella Ramble took place on Sunday 24th September with seven ramblers (Dim, Claire, Mark and son Daniel, Adrian, Ellen and Glenn) in five vehicles (four Toyotas and one Mitsubishi). As one of the most recent graduates of the basic driver trainer course the previous weekend (thanks training team – great course!), this was my first opportunity to go on a club run since joining earlier this year. It was almost like that feeling when you got your licence at 17 and were on your first solo run!

The assembly point was in front of the Uriarra Station at 0900 before a short run to Piccadilly Circus for the expulsion of surplus air and the 4WD start to what was to be a very pleasant day out. We headed along Brindabella Road to the first turn on Gentle Annie Trail which took us on a somewhat undulating downhill run to Flea Creak for a brief stop to take in the scenery and facilities. Over the creek and up the hill onto Webb's Ridge Trail for the climb back up the ridge and along the top for some quite lovely views in all directions. With such a small group and no delays to our schedule, we were able to divert off Waterfall Trail into Lowell's Flat to inspect the crystal waters of the Goodradigbee River and another pleasant campground before heading on to our lunch destination of McIntyre's Hut.

The solitude of McIntyre's was interrupted several times as more vehicles came down the hill and past us in search of their own special spot for lunch. After a slight delay for traffic as we started off again after lunch, including for one new Hyundai of doubtful 4WD credentials – must have been a rental – we climbed back up the hill on Waterfall Trail to Dingi Dingi Ridge Trail, Two Sticks Track and Blue Range Road. Another stop to take in the views back over Canberra and another social chat was in order before heading along several tracks in the old pine plantation unknown to the GPS and with turns too difficult to describe so correct convoy procedure was a must, before ending up back at the start point where it was compressors to the fore.

The run was beautifully organised and led by Dim, the scenery in our 'back yard' is a joy to be savoured and appreciated, and the sharing of an enjoyable and relaxing pastime in good company was just delightful.

Glenn Davidson



EXPLORE THE TRACKS OF ABERCROMBIE RIVER NATIONAL PARK

On the 9th of September 13 intrepid soles and their partners ventured out to explore the tracks of Abercrombie River National Park. The Plane was to meet at Eagle Hawk car park and transit to Abercrombie via Goulburn and pick up some club members on way. This is the first time ST4WDC has used the Glen as a main camping area inside the National Park and I do highly recommend it. The Glen currently has no toilets but there will be a working bee to assist National Parks in the construction and ST4WDC will be making our contribution to this work so stay tuned and when you see the working bee advertised please volunteer to assist.

I would also like to thank Scott Broadhead who volunteered his time to lead half the club members in a separate convoy. The following is a series of comments made by some members who attended.



Chris Nichols

The Abercrombie river is I understand a relatively new destination for weekend trips and a real bonus to have one where the meet point is within 10 minutes of my house - yes its good to live in Goulburn.

I have been on a number of trips this autumn and winter and the long spell of dry weather not only makes for a lot of dust (doh!), but also turns what might be challenging tracks, more reli

ant on a vehicles' ability to pull itself up a hill rather than any particular technique by the driver (present company excepted of course). All compounded by the devotion of the National Parks to iron the tracks as flat and smooth as possible.

The one really steep hill in the Abercrombie National Park being Little Bald Hill. As you approach this hill, it does indeed look steep, but as it is has also been ironed flat...well, I had a look at Youtube and saw some footage of this same hill when it is not graded. Quite a difference with small rock steps and washouts. Bring on the rain (or ban the graders) I say!

There were a few spots where the grader hadn't managed to do its work and at one point we came across a very nicely washed out section - I was sooo excited!

4WD weekends are much more than pitting your wits against the ups and downs of any particular destination of course. Its also about checking out your fellow travellers equip-

(Continued from page 16)

ment, that is, their vehicle and camping equipment. Realising and convincing yourself that on the next trip, you really would be more comfortable in a 4 man tent with stretcher bed, inflatable mattress, -20C sleeping bag stretcher bed and small side table adorned with a music player to send you into a dreamless sleep rather than that present rather small and cramped swag.



On this occasion, adorned with all the creature comforts, the gentle sound of the river, did away with any need for the music player to sooth me to sleep, I was off to sleep in an instant. It was when I had got to sleep that my semi dream state kept waking in panic as the sound of that water reminded me that I needed to get up once more. It was then that I tripped over the table, cracked my head on the lamp hanging from the ceiling and discovered my sleeping bag's remarkable ability to twist itself into a figure 8 while I wasn't watching.

The Glen, definitely a fantastic camping place that will only get better as the facilities expand and we meet again to tell application "tall tales" of other 4WD adventures.

Letitia and Ray

We met at Eagle Hawk for a leisurely country drive through Goulburn and Taralga. The dirt road leading into the 'Glen' was dry and dusty and provided a nice introduction into the area. The 'Glen' was a beautiful camp ground at the base of an old



residence and shearing shed and provided a lovely grassy spot to set up the swags and tents. We broke into our two allocated groups after lunch and headed out to explore the mountains. We enjoyed a number of stops through the western side of the park including the hut, the beach, the water wheel and the sink be-

(Continued on page 18)

fore heading back to the 'Glen' glimpsing amazing views of the mountains along the way. We all got stuck into the task of setting up for the night before enjoying a leisurely dinner around the campfire and talked well into the night getting to know each other a little better.



We woke to a 'freezing' morning with a crispness in the air and beautiful blue skies and prepared for a 9am departure to explore the eastern side of the park. We had less stopping along this route but enjoyed some 'real' 4WD tracks over and around Little Bald Hill. We had a couple of stops at some beautiful little river crossings before heading back at the 'Glen' at 1.00pm to have some lunch and pack up the gear.

Thanks to Michael and Scott for leading another great trip - we are already looking forward to the next one!



Garry Firth

The Abercrombie River National Park trip on the 9-10 September 2017 was a great weekend. Both groups lead by Michael and Scott all really enjoyed themselves. A few yarns and drinks around the camp fire on Saturday night was a laugh and a great way to meet other 4WD enthusiasts. I found the construc-

tion of the old hut to be very different, as I have not seen a hut manufactured with timber and clay previously. It must have been very time consuming to build it. We very fortunate to be able to access The Glen where we camped the night beside the river. Overall a great trip, great weather and great company.



The Abercrombie trip was only the second excursion we have done with the club, and the first including an overnight stay. We were looking forward to it, but keeping a close eye on the weather at the same time. I think the forecast got better as the week went on, and weather wise, we couldn't have asked for a better weekend, albeit a little chilly overnight.....actually it was freezing!

We had the car packed up the night before and we hit the road Sat morning right on time, and arrived at the RV point in just before 0900hrs, although we apparently got the actual place wrong - we had pulled up in the wrong car park....but we weren't the only ones! So while Janet grabbed coffee from the servo, I relocated the car. A quick brief from Mike outlining the scheme of manoeuvre for the day, and we split into our two groups and headed off up the highway to Goulburn. An uneventful part of the drive, before we knew we were stopping at the Big M to pick up the other members. "Don't you ever let a chance go by, oh Lord..." (someone should write a song about that!), knowing that toilet facilities in the park were basic at best, I took the opportunity to use the facilities. A quick chat, and we mounted up and hit the road again.

It wasn't long before we started to hear the radio chatter between Mike and Keith, whom we were picking up en-route to Taralga. But as we went on there was no sign



of Keith and we were a few kms short of Taralga when Mike turned around to go get Keith; the rest of us proceeded to Taralga where we had a leisurely half hour or so waiting for Mike and Keith to join us. Still can't figure out why Mike planned it that way - he would have planned it that way, right? He wouldn't have just, oh I don't know....made a mistake!! Anyway, once Mike and Keith joined us we were on our

way again. I noticed that the road deteriorated a bit north of Taralga, but it was OK and we soon entered the ARNP. It was about this time I started to worry just a little about my fuel. It had taken a little longer, and we had driven a little further than I expected, just getting into the NP, and I had used a little more fuel than I anticipated. A little regretful that I hadn't topped up at Goulburn. I kept telling myself that the fuel I had didn't have to get me back home, just back to Goulburn and while that made me feel a little better, I was conscious of my fuel consumption all weekend. We arrived at The Glen and had lunch; those that could started to set up their camps. I must admit I was a little surprised that we hadn't aired down as soon as we entered that NP.

After lunch we drove the Eastern side of the NP with Mike's group.

The tracks were in good condition for the most part but even so, as a novice 4WDer, I still found some of the tracks a little daunting. I am still coming to grips with my own capability as a driver, as well as my car's capability. I managed to bottom out on a number of the speed bumps, but didn't bottom out through any of the creek crossings. I was a little worried



about the tow ball - I had intended to take it, and the side steps, off but it just slipped my mind. After about 3-4 hours driving we found our way back to The Glen - in the dark....Yeh!!! Love setting up camp in the dark! So much more challenging than actually being able to see what we're doing. Mind you, our own lack of familiarity with our gear didn't help. We had dinner, cleaned up and joined a number of others at the fire for a bit of chit chat and a couple of drinks. And what a great fire! Don't think we had quite enough wood on it though! I think it was about 2300hrs when we hit the sack.

Unfortunately the sack deflated a little during the night and our sleeping bag didn't keep us quite as warm as we'd hoped....so, not much sleep. Got up Sun morning feeling tired already. The water we had left in the kettle over night had ice in it, and our camping stove rebelled against us and refused to work properly - Janet eventually took the kettle over to the fire to boil it for coffee. Ahh nice hot coffee!!!! We had some breakfast, cleaned up and packed up most of gear since it was attached to the car, and we were ready for another day.



So we set off for the Western side of the park and our first stop was The Hut. There was no indication as to when it was built but clearly it had been there for a while. It was amazing that it was still standing. From we headed back up Ledinghams Rd to Retreat Rd and on to the Water Wheel. No one home at the property, but we had a look around anyway. An ingenious device, the water wheel, with the crank on the top of the bank to lower and raise it. But you what they say about necessity, right? On to the The Sink - really? Yep, there it was in all it's glory and isolation - a bright green sink! Who would have thunk! From there we went to The Beach - a another lovely spot on the river, plenty of room for camping. We didn't get the vehicles wet however, since the access to the beach was not via formed tracks and we therefore had an obligation not drive there. Our loss. Back to The Glen for lunch. The driving seemed less tiring that Sat probably because of the stops we made, where we



took time to have a good look around the sites. From this perspective, it made Sunday somewhat more enjoyable than Sat (?) After a good lunch we were ready to head back to civilisation, and we followed Scott out of the park, back to the blacktop.

So, all in all, despite a few minor equipment failures, a great weekendwent somewhere we had not been before, drove tracks we had not driven before. A huge Bravo Zulu to Mike and Scott for their leadership, and friendship. Trips like this don't just happen - someone has to take the time and effort to make them happen. Thanks Mike....thanks Scott. And another big thanks to Keith (I think) for the communal "toilet". I'm sure that was much appreciated by all who used it, including me.

Julie Poole

You never quite know what is going to happen when you go bush on one of the club trips. Things happen: vehicles break down, tracks get closed or are impassable, and people get sick - all of which mean your trip doesn't go as planned. We have experienced all the usual events that upset plans, but never one that resulted in a leisurely stop at a swish coffee shop, with some added antique shop browsing. For my vote, it was a great start to what was a perfect trip away to the Glen at Abercrombie River National Park. The Glen is a good camp site for numbers, with the added advantage of historic ruins and some beautiful old fruit trees in bloom this time of year. Some other Abercrombie memorable moments included a visit to a wattle and daub hut (this has got to be a rarity) and 'hillbilly' homestead, complete with old water wheel, pet kangaroos and an inspiring vegie patch. Sitting round the campfire is always good and the Abercrombie trip was no exception, although some are still wondering if Michael is going to finish that story....

Leanne and Keith Williams.

As we approached Bald Hill, at 1049m it's one of the highest hills in the NP, Michael told us stories about past epics trying to climb up and stories of vehicles being bogged in the creek on the other side. Extensive road grooming by NPWS and very dry conditions provided very different circumstances compared to previous years. After having lunch at our campsite at The Glen (one of several old homesteads in the NP), 13 vehicles split into two groups to explore a really wild National Park. Michaels group explored the tracks,

campsites, waterways and hills in the eastern section of the park and on Sunday morning explored the western side of the NP. The other group led by Scott did the reverse. This idea worked very well as did the whole weekend. We had an excellent weekend exploring a NP we had not previously explored before and look forward to revisiting one of the many campsites available. Thanks Michael and Scott for your efforts in leading the trip.

John Pearsall

Freshly graded and well maintained tracks made for a great if not easy trip and dust, dust, and more dust. Just when you thought you had a good 'dust break' from the car in front there was another intersection and a truck waiting to shroud you in dust again.

Dust aside "The Glen" is a great camp site with plenty of room if a little short on facilities but the potential is there for an outstanding camp for club groups.

The park in general is a great place to explore with some interesting and quirky history and a lot really nice camp areas along the waterways all of which are well maintained by National Parks staff.

A big thanks to Michael and Scott for a very successful trip (again).





Hi Peter,

Just wanted to say thanks again for the weekend which I found extremely worthwhile and enjoyable. I certainly appreciate you sharing your experience and skills to bring me up to a reasonable standard of skill.

I also wanted to put on the record some of the comments I made on the weekend which I am happy for you to share as you see fit.

From my perspective, the course as it is currently constituted is an excellent introduction to 4WDing because it is pitched at the right level for beginners; it is paced and graduated very well; the tone and attitude of the trainers is excellent; the training environment is fabulous, and the 'showcasing' of the club and Talooge is very good.

Specifically:

1. The opportunity to have your vehicle inspected early and receive advice about what equipment is needed and the extent to which your vehicle is capable of doing the course is very valuable. I certainly had the time to get everything I needed and found the advice provided on the Wednesday night to be appropriate, well-targeted and very helpful.

2. The duration of the course is a big investment for everyone in what for most people are busy lives but is very much worth the investment. While it is at a basic level, the course allows you to practice the techniques, get to understand how the basic systems of your vehicle work and how that determines its capabilities, which for those of us without a good technical or mechanical knowledge, is very valuable. We had time to do that in a way that did not feel rushed or hurried or that tried to do too much. For

those who are already quite experienced - either in reality or in their own mind - it is easy to lose sight of the importance or what it takes to get a good grasp of the fundamentals for someone who is starting out. The tone of the course also demonstrated an attitude to 4wding that I found very mature, reassuring (in terms of whether this is something I would want to do and with these people) and underlines the importance of personal responsibility for your own preparedness and safety as well as the safety and enjoyment of others in a way that was meaningful. From my perspective, this course nailed that aspect.

3. I found the approach of the training team to be excellent. I found the collective competence of the training team to be considerable and willingly shared in a way that was not arrogant or self-promoting; it was respectful and good humoured; it was collegiate and very professional; and it built confidence. I thought the training team worked well together as a team and was also about building the capability of the newer trainers. It was a complete package.

4. I understand there is a divergence of views around whether the course should be shorter, etc. Although 4wding is 'relaxing', it has the potential to go very wrong very fast and have significant consequences. To take short-cuts or offer a 'quick and dirty' option would be ill-advised in my view. The length of this course allowed me time to practice and add depth to the experience in a way that was more complete than would have been the case if the course had been shorter. For me, the consolidation of the learning - which is both apparent and measurable - was critical to the effectiveness and the success of the course.

So I thank you, Joe and the others most sincerely. You have given me something that is priceless and will underpin my enjoyment of 4wding and involvement in club activities for years to come.

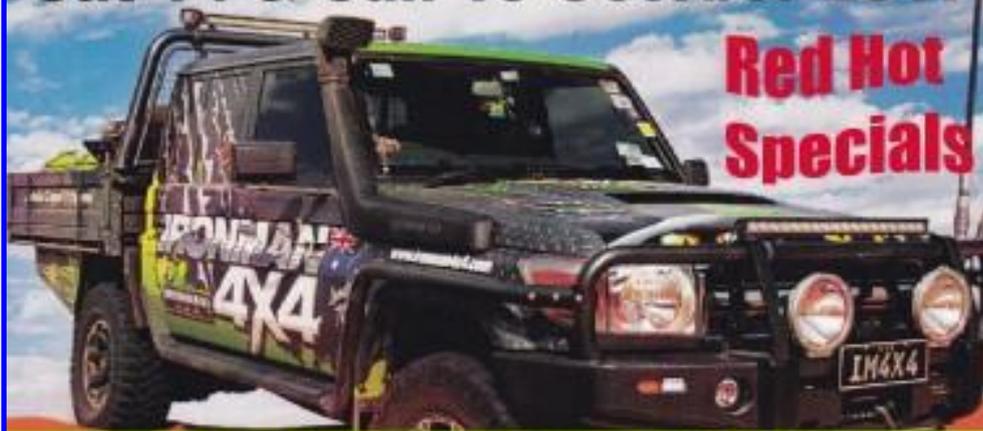
Relaxingly yours,
Glenn Davidson

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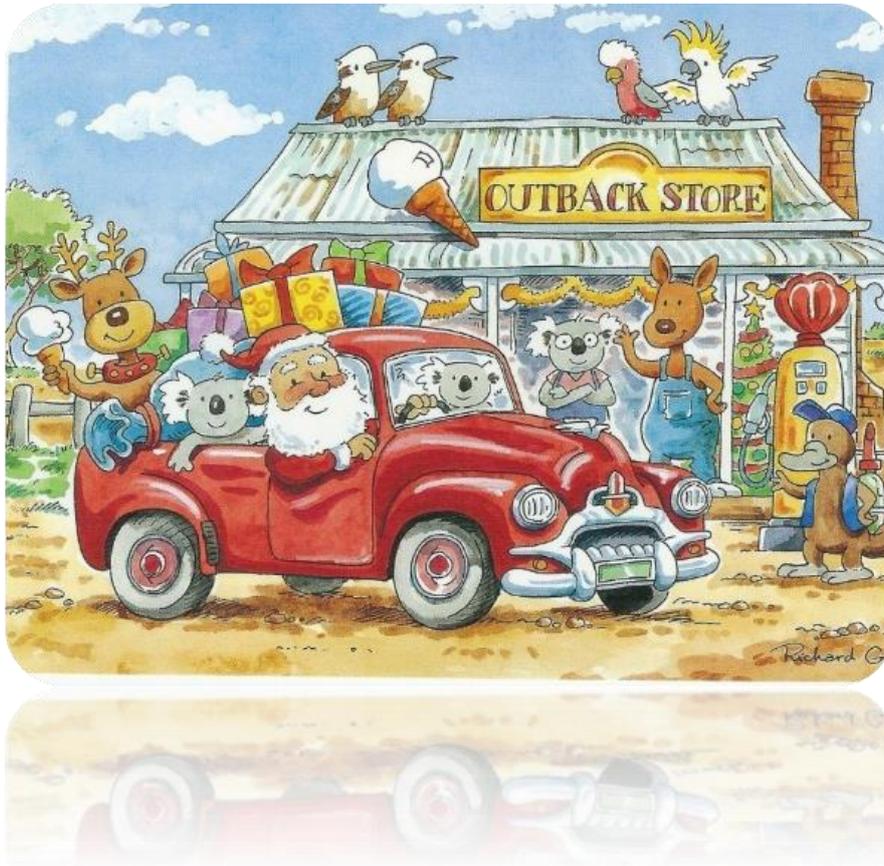
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End of Year and Christmas Celebration 25th November 2017 at Talooge PArk

Has now taken on a new look.

It will be run as a self catering event held at Talooge. (Similar to the Bush Skills Weekend)
Anyone interested in organising an event for this gathering please contact

Scott on property@st4wdc.com.au

Examples:

Movie night

Visit from Santa...

Bush Skills Weekend – Recipes

ONE POT + FIRE

Cooking philosophy

- Make the most of the campfire – it's the kitchen in a bush camp
- Good healthy food to keep you going
- Simple ingredients
- No mess preparation
- No leftovers

The challenge: getting coals when everyone wants to gather round a big campfire.

Recipes

CAMPFIRE BAKED BEAN BREAKFAST



- Tin of beans such as borlotti, canelli etc
- Tin of tomato (chopped or crushed)
- Tub of tomato paste
- Bacon chopped (optional)
- Sweet or hot paprika (optional)
- Molasses / maple syrup or sugar (optional)
- Eggs

If using bacon, fry gently in the pot until fat has rendered. Add drained beans, tomatoes, tomato paste and spice (if using).

Stirring regularly, cook over the flames or on hot coals without the lid, until reduced and noticeably thicker.

Crack and drop your eggs on top of the bean mixture and cover with the lid. Simmer on hot coals until eggs are done as you like.

Spoon beans with egg on top into bowls and eat.

HASH BROWN AND EGGS



- Oil or butter
- Potatoes peeled and grated
- Pepper and salt
- Eggs

Gently fry the grated potatoes in the pot with oil or butter (or both!) until brown.

Flip to brown on the other side. Crack eggs onto the giant hash brown, and cover with the lid.

Heap hot coals onto the lid, and cook until eggs are done to your liking. Cut into serving sizes and eat.

BIRD IN THE POT

- Quail, spatchcock or chicken pieces
- Pepper and salt
- A little oil or butter
- Root vegetables (potatoes, carrot etc)
- Greens (peas, broccoli, cabbage etc)

Oil or butter into the pot with the peppered and salted bird.

Cook gently over hot coals until a little brown.

Add root vegies and cook with coals top and bottom.

When cooked add greens and cook only until wilted.

Serve up and eat.

POT ROAST

- Rack of lamb or boned lamb roast, or piece of beef
- Pepper and salt

- A little oil or butter for meat without much fat
- Root vegetables (potatoes, carrot etc)
- Greens (peas, broccoli, cabbage etc)

As above for the bird in the pot! The main thing is slow steady cooking over many hours.

(Lots of time to enjoy happy hour around the campfire.)

Thomas and Juli Poole



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Email your best caption for this photo ...

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If you would like to share your favourite recipe, tips and tricks, items to sell, good ideas and hidden gems or places to visit for our club newsletter - please email it to me at publications@st4wdc.com.au or hand it to me at the monthly meeting.

The ST4WD Club monthly newsletter is produced using Microsoft Publisher - if you can forward your input in that format, I would appreciate it.

Thank you very much ... Glennis