



March 2022

Southern Trails

Next Meeting:

The Next Club Meeting will be held at the Canberra Deakin Football Club at 7:30pm on Tuesday 8th March

Frosty Morning..

Ghost Gully Campground, Long Plain NSW



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General Meetings are held at the
Canberra Deakin Football Club, Grose St, Deakin
at 7:30pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

General meetings are where Club members and visitors can meet and get information on past and future Club activities in an informal atmosphere. Meetings regularly feature talks from experts on topics of interest, and reports on past trips. Visitors can introduce themselves, there is a raffle with generous prizes and a coffee break for catching up with other members.

Ideas for guest speakers are welcome, please don't hesitate to contact the Committee if you know of someone who could make an interesting and topical presentation.

Many members gather before the meeting to enjoy a meal or a drink at the club.

Publications

Website: Information regarding the Club, our activities, sponsors, and membership is available on our website at www.st4wdc.com.au.

Facebook: the ST4WDC page includes posts regarding Club activities and sponsors and can be found at www.facebook.com/st4wdc/.

Southern Trails: is the ST4WDC monthly newsletter. Trip reports, member profiles, relevant articles, and classified advertisements are welcome, as are photographs and illustrations. Closing date for contributions is the first Tuesday of the month. Send contributions to publications@st4wdc.com.au.

Trips and Events

An important element, some may say the lifeblood, of the Club is our trips and events calendar. Any member can run a trip or event once approved by the Committee, it's a very rewarding experience.

If you've been thinking of booking a trip or event, head to the [How to Book for a Trip](#) section of the website where you will find step by step instructions. You can propose your trip or event using the [Online Form](#) and there is a wealth of material in the [Information for Trip Leaders page](#) and also from experienced trip leaders who are always keen to help you run your trip or event successfully.

Club Bank Account

Membership fees are paid through the Club's website. For other financial transactions, the Club's bank account details are:

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

When transferring payments please include your name and the reason for the transfer, e.g. "J Smith clothing", "J Smith renew 2021", etc.



Code of Ethics



Four Wheel Drive Australia Code Of Ethics

ST4WDC is affiliated with Four Wheel Drive Australia and we promote responsible four wheel driving. We should all observe and support this Code of Ethics. Remember, image is difficult to change.

- Obey the laws and regulations for Recreational Vehicles that apply to public lands.
- Respect the cultural, heritage and environmental values of public/private land, by obeying restrictions that may apply.
- Respect our flora and fauna. Stop and look, but never disturb.
- Keep to formed vehicle tracks.
- Keep the environment clean. Carry your own, and any other, rubbish out.
- Keep your vehicle mechanically sound and clean to reduce the environmental impact.
- Adopt minimal impact camping and driving practices.
- Seek permission before driving on private land. Do not disturb livestock or watering points, leave gates as found.
- 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 emergency contact by radio or satellite.
- Plan ahead and lodge trip details with a responsible person.
- Enjoy your recreation and respect the rights of others.
- Support four-wheel drive touring as a legitimate family activity.
- Consider joining an affiliated four-wheel drive Club.

This Code supports the National Recreational Four Wheel Drive Vehicle Policy.

Produced by [Four Wheel Drive Australia](#) in the interest of promoting responsible vehicle use.

For advice and assistance in meeting the requirements of this Code of Conduct contact the [Secretary](#)

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President's Report

Andy Squire

Another month has rolled around, and it brings with it the end of the Term of this Committee with the AGM being held next Tuesday. It is possibly a time to reflect on the year gone and the efforts of those who manage your Club. At best it was a challenging year, at worst it could be described as a dumpster-fire. Covid lockdown saw numerous trips having to be cancelled, Club meetings having to be cancelled, two Basic Driver Training courses having to be cancelled, and generally a bugger of a time for a 4WD Club who's main occupation is getting out and travelling our vast country.

Hopefully everyone made it through Covid relatively unscathed, and has kept that good Aussie 'she'll be right mate' attitude. The Club has remained largely unscathed due to good planning and being responsive to advice, and the responsible actions of our trip leaders and members. Thanks to everyone for your patience and understanding over the last two years of the pandemic.

But a bigger thanks to the outgoing committee, and best wishes to the incoming. At the last committee meeting I thanked all the committee members for their support, efforts, good cheer, and hard work over the last 12 months, and someone in turn offered thanks to me for my leadership. That was their word, not mine. I have never thought of it as leadership, more as facilitating. And anyway, I always attempted to be at the back hiding and cowering in fear like all good military leaders. It just didn't work and I always seemed to be out front at the Club meetings.

There are still a few positions that remain vacant (no nominations received) so please think seriously about what you can offer and put yourself forward at the AGM. It is not all hard work, there is some fun, and you get a chance to have a say in how the Club is managed, and where it might go in the future. If you don't contribute, don't complain.

While it was disappointing that the 4WD Spectacular has been dissolved and is no longer run by the three local clubs, a commercial entity has taken on the operation and a replacement show is scheduled for the 2nd and 3rd of April which is only four weeks away. We have been invited to participate and, if all goes according to plan, will be having a Club tent and conducting a number of displays, and providing some volunteer services in return for exposure and a contribution to the Club.

I think this is a pretty good outcome all things considered and would encourage all members to volunteer to assist in fulfilling our obligations. The only real difference between what we did when it was our show and now is that the planning and responsibility for the overall show has moved to a different entity. Hopefully it will retain that relaxed feeling that made it something special. I get it that it is not 'ours' anymore, but we still get the same

President's Report

Andy Squire

opportunity to promote the Club and safe and responsible four wheel driving just as we did before. Let's not miss this opportunity.

A big shout-out to the DTU who have put in a big effort in the last month to get 20+ new members trained, and are scheduled to train another 20+ in May. A lot of effort went into planning and administration, and preparing Talooge due to the current access restrictions and recent rains.

I could go on, but I suppose I am obliged to give a full report at the AGM so don't want to repeat it all here; but I promise this year to try and keep it short. So I will see you there. And a thought for the incoming Committee: "A bend in the road is not the end of the road. Unless you fail to make the turn"

Andy.



Letter from the Editor

Hey everyone,

Hopefully you and yours have not been affected by the flooding occurring in the northern parts of the country. I saw a few videos on Facebook showing people either stuck where they are, or having to make adjustments to travel plans because of road closures.

What a great month it has been in February for Club activities! And of course last months newsletter was able to report on activities from the tail end of last year as well as early this year so it was a bumper issue.

In this edition, coverage of the two Basic Driver Training courses run back to back as a new initiative by the DTU to make sure members affected by last years Covid restrictions are able to access training and consequently more trip opportunities. There was more to report on but the content got lost in the mail. Watch this space in next months edition.



As mentioned in Andy's message, the [Queanbeyan 4WD, Camping & Outdoor Expo 2022](#) is on 2nd & 3rd of April (in under four weeks time). We intend to have a Club tent and provide demonstrations throughout the weekend. We have also been asked for volunteer assistance in return for which Altitude will be providing free tickets and making a donation to the Club. Please contact Lynne Donaldson at membership@st4wdc.com.au if you are able to be involved.

Volunteers are what make this Club. Without them we wouldn't exist, whether its running trips, on the committee, in the driver training unit, at musters, or helping out from time to time with activities we're involved with. The rewards from getting involved far outweigh the effort in my opinion, and you get to make new friends and have fun as well.

If you have ever thought you might want to become involved in organising social events, or even if you haven't, the social club is looking for new members and ideas. If you are interested get in contact with Lynne Donaldson at membership@st4wdc.com.au.

Welcome to new members:

- Sandra Greener & Andrew Cohn – Hilux
- David Bell & Erika Woltring – Isuzu
- Des Walker & Shauna – Pajero Sport
- James & Thereasa Carpenter – Hilux

Happy trails, Matt

Trip Report - Basic Driver Training 16th to 18th February 2022



Chief Instructor Peter Butterfield

Education Coordinator Bronwyn Squire

Student

Paul Kerr

Julian Robertson

Juliet Mullins

Peter Buchanan

Daniel parsons

Joshua Sinclair

Instructor

Peter Butterfield

Andy Squire

Michael Loberger

Matt Warmington

Michael Patrick

Bronny Squire

Due to Covid causing a cancellation of training courses in 2021, a mid-week training was run to enable the training team to catch up on a back log of students.

Following are comments and feelings of the students who attended.



Trip Report - Basic Driver Training 16th to 18th February 2022



Getting my car fully set up and assessed for the trip was time-consuming and costly but it was worth it. I was quite nervous about the basic training program despite reassurances that the instructors will keep things safe. The actual driving, which was most of the training, was way out of my comfort zone, but it was really good fun. I had to retrain my brain, (after 50 years of tarmac roads!) to 4WD low range driving off road. I had to learn to key brake, focus on momentum not speed, change gears very gently to minimise strain on the 4WD transmission, pick the best line up, down or across an obstacle, remembering that 'rocks are our friends' and so much more,

Talooge is a beautiful place, well set up for camping, with amazing track, but at the heart of the course's success were the instructors, Peter the course leader, Andy, Bron, Matt, and the two Michaels. They were such characters at the final debrief there was buckets of appreciation for their guidance, their patience, their rich knowledge of techniques and stories of past experiences and their humour are what made the course so great.

What a fabulous experience it was, and I thank you all.

Julian

I attended the midweek Southern Tablelands basic training and really had no idea what to expect, being relatively new to 4WDing. From the get-go, the team of trainers made me feel like I was in very capable hands. When going over the car's setup, I really felt that



Trip Report - Basic Driver Training 16th to 18th February 2022



this was a group who were here to have a lot of fun, with safety at the forefront. The information was relevant and relatable, and was not taxing in being too much that it would overload the synapses. The practical work was brilliant, having Peter B as my instructor, I always felt safe and in control of my vehicle. The practical is a good pace, building on what we've taken in within the classroom environment. It starts off with exercises that enable you to start understanding your car and getting a feel for how the car will perform as the terrain gets progressively harder. There were a lot of times I looked at what I was expected to do and without the training would have never even thought myself capable of taking this on, particularly as a novice. I have learnt so much through these couple of days and can't wait to put my newly learned skills into practice with some club trips. Not only did we learn a lot of driving skills, but the trainers gave us access to see the setups of their rigs, giving me many great ideas for my own set up into the future. Thanks so much to Peter, as my trainer, and also to all the trainers as you were all so giving of your time to help us all learn, make the couple of days so much fun and give us an insight into what the trips can be like. I felt I was able to get the most out of these couple of days. If anyone needs information on whether to take this on or not, I'm happy to chat to them.

Paul



Trip Report - Basic Driver Training 16th to 18th February 2022



It started with a meeting in Bredbo where I stocked up on pies at the excellent Bredbo Pie shop. We aired down our tyres about 10psi and then made our way over to the property for our training. Peter warned us all that the track into the property would be pretty radical and it was.

After getting into camp and setting up we then attended a theory section that afternoon. Peter promised that the practical aspect of the course would have much more challenging tracks than we had just encountered in the drive in. I was now very nervous, especially having just watched a video of a vehicle rolling down a steep hill climb.

The first day of practical training saw us paired up. My instructor was Michael P and we got off to a very unsteady start. I couldn't use my gears properly which must have caused some significant concern for Michael. I did explain that I was a newbie and next I thought my trip was over after the water-crossing out of the camp site. I had some sort of steam or smoke belching from the bonnet and the hint of a smell. Luckily it was only the water that had caused some steam. So on we went and I was totally frazzled by now. The first day threw up some serious obstacles and challenges and by the end of the day I was relieved to be back at camp and still on the course and not going home.

On the second day I drove much better and I mostly give credit to Michael for his excellent instruction. The entire training team made it so much fun and kept us calm although we were faced with some daunting hill climbs, rock obstacles, and crossings. I even did my first snatch recovery which was pleasing. I think our entire convoy enjoyed it and I really enjoyed the company of the other participants.

Trip Report - Basic Driver Training 16th to 18th February 2022



A great baptism into 4wding and I now look forward to going on future trips with the club.

Thanks

Daniel

The basic 4WD course was a jam-packed experience that was much more than what we first anticipated. The amount of drive time was excellent with a variety of trail conditions to practice on. My trainer, Bron was easy going yet informative which made the driving a dream! All in all, was a great couple of days and I would recommend it to anyone wanting to give 4WDing a go!

Cheers **Josh**

As a middle-aged woman with no off-road experience and limited mechanical knowledge, when I read the words “Basic Driver Training” I thought yep, that sounds like me, and I expected we would learn some basic stuff about 4WD... Boy! Was I wrong!!! Over the course of 3 days in the absolutely beautiful and well-equipped surrounds of our club property ‘Talooge’ my driving knowledge and ability advanced beyond my wildest expectations! I successfully managed to complete all tasks despite being scared (into tears at a few turns), without putting another scratch on my 75 series Landcruiser. This is 100% due to the extraordinary talents, knowledge and ability of the instructors. Led by the amazing Peter Butterfield, our team (including Andy, Bron, Michael, Pelican, & Matt) were all open, supportive, responsive, calm, funny and inclusive at all times – they made everything from cooking on a campfire to getting out of a ditch look so easy that despite my lack of confidence I was able to put my trust in them and their knowledge and come out keen for more! Thanks again guys – you’re are **SIMPLY, THE BEST!!!!!!!**

Happy trails

Jules and The Unicorn

Southern Trails March 2022

Trip Report - VHC Ramble 2021



I attended the mid-week basic driver training on the 16-18th February 2022. My first impressions of the whole experience was the thought that ST4WDC is a very professional club. Exactly what I wanted. We arrived at Talooge around lunch time, set up our camp sites and then into the shed for an afternoon of theory. The trainers all knew their stuff - it was informative. The next morning, we were straight into driving, learning all about our cars and how they work. Over this day and the next, there were a variety of differing skill tracks to play on and I learnt a lot along the way. Not only that I can do it, but mostly just how capable my 4WD is. Overall, it was a great experience and orientation to ST4WDC. I am looking forward to becoming more involved in the club.

Pete B



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They sell and fit all the gear to get you ready for your next adventure. Their friendly team will help you find the right auto accessories & products from a range of premium brands such as Driftn Stockton, ARB, Thule, Rhino Rack, Hayman Reese plus many more.

Drop in on Simmo, Glen, and the staff at:

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P: (02) 6162 1929

E: sales@tracksadventuregear.com.au

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Battery World South Canberra sell a huge range of batteries and specialise in auto electrical service, dual battery systems, solar installations, plus camper trailer, and van setups.

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(02) 6282 9884

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The folks at Monaro Off Road Centre have been long time supporters and members of our club, and look after the vehicles of many of our members. Michael and Rod can look after you with all vehicle servicing, repairs, pre-purchase inspections, trip preparation, new car warranty servicing, and a free courtesy car on request. They can supply and fit accessories from all the well known brands from leading manufacturers.

Gold Sponsor



Welcome to Canberra's specialist 4x4 & Auto accessories store. Whether it's towbars, roof racks, or bull bars, we can assist you with all your 4WD and car accessory needs. Visit one of our Canberra stores and talk to our staff who have a wealth of knowledge on all aspects of four wheel drive accessories to suit your driving or towing purpose.

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Our Club Sponsors

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Find them at: 79 Newcastle St, Fyshwick. (02) 6280 5906

I'M HERE TO HELP

ST4WD CLUB MEMBERS EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS



Please contact Dominic Darmody, Group Fleet Manager at Canberra Toyota Fyshwick for any sales enquiries on 02 6221 1916 or email dominic.darmody@janrule.com.au

ST4WD Club Members receive trade price on spare parts and accessories.*

For spare parts and accessory enquiries, please contact Canberra Toyota Fyshwick parts on 02 6221 3503 or email parts.fyshwick@janrule.com.au

OH WHAT A FEELING

*ST4WD Club Members must present their club membership to receive Canberra Toyota benefits. Additional T&Cs may apply. See in store for details.

Silver Sponsor

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Please ask at time of purchase.

Trips and Events

Michael Patrick

Note that COVID-19 and other circumstances may affect this list. Please check www.st4wdc.com.au and consult with the Trip Leader to confirm details before attending.

Start	End	Activity	Type	Grade	Leader
11-Mar-22	14-Mar-22	Narooma Fishing/Camping Weekend	Trip	Grade 2	Lisa Tatem
12-Mar-22	20-Mar-22	Canberra Balloon Spectacular	Trip	Not Required	Catherine Panich
12-Mar-22	12-Mar-22	Exploring Cotter tracks	Trip	Grade 3	Darren Miller
13-Mar-22	13-Mar-22	Brindabella Ramble	Trip	Grade 3	Ethan Taylor
19-Mar-22	26-Mar-22	Huts of the Victorian High Country	Trip	Grade 4	Michael Patrick
19-Mar-22	26-Mar-22	Country High Victorian the of Huts!	Trip	Grade 4	Matt Warmington
25-Mar-22	27-Mar-22	Stockton Beach 2022	Trip	Grade 3	Matthew Maddigan
02-Apr-22	02-Apr-22	Can you Survive!!	Trip	Grade 3	Glen Watts
06-Apr-22	06-Apr-22	Basic Driver Training 4WD Vehicle Evaluation	Training	Not Required	Bronwyn Squire
08-Apr-22	08-Apr-22	The golden axxe rnd 4	Social Event	Not Required	Darren
09-Apr-22	10-Apr-22	Off Road Camper Trailer Workshop	Training	Grade 3	Glen Watts
09-Apr-22	09-Apr-22	Trip Leader Workshop	Trip	Not Required	Michael Patrick
30-Apr-22	30-Apr-22	Brindabella's night drive	Trip	Grade 3	Darren Miller
04-May-22	06-May-22	Safe One Basic Driver Training Course	Training	Not Required	Bronwyn Squire
06-May-22	08-May-22	Safe One Basic Driver Training Course	Training	Not Required	Bronwyn Squire
06-May-22	08-May-22	Basic Winching and Recovery Course	Training	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire
06-May-22	06-May-22	cotter night drive 2	Trip	Grade 3	Darren Miller
07-May-22	07-May-22	cotter night drive	Trip	Grade 3	Darren Miller
15-May-22	15-May-22	Brindabella Ramble	Trip	Grade 3	Victoria Jewett
28-May-22	29-May-22	OziExplorer & Hema GPS Navigation Workshop	Trip	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
01-Jun-22	30-Jul-22	Old Andado Caretaking (Covid restrictions dependent)	Trip	Grade 1	David Sutton

Trips and Events

Michael Patrick

Start	End	Activity	Type	Grade	Leader
01-Jun-22	31-Aug-22	Brindabella Snow Seeking 2022	Trip	Grade 4	Matthew Maddigan
10-Jul-22	26-Jul-22	EOI The Cape Adventure	Trip	Grade 3	Daniel Jackson
30-Jul-22	31-Jul-22	Snow Camping Gungarlin River	Trip	Grade 4	Matthew Maddigan
06-Aug-22	07-Aug-22	Basic First Aid Training HLTAID003	Training	Not Required	Michael Patrick
13-Aug-22	14-Aug-22	Remote First Aid Training HLRAID005	Training	Not Required	Michael Patrick
17-Aug-22	17-Aug-22	Basic Driver Training 4WD Vehicle Evaluation	Training	Not Required	Bronwyn Squire
27-Aug-22	27-Aug-22	Intermediate Winching and Recovery Course	Training	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire
07-Sep-22	11-Sep-22	Safe One Basic Driver Training Course	Training	Not Required	Bronwyn Squire
07-Sep-22	11-Sep-22	Safe One Basic Driver Training Course	Training	Not Required	Bronwyn Squire
14-Sep-22	14-Sep-22	Information Night Sand Driving and River Crossing Course	Training	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire
18-Sep-22	18-Sep-22	Brindabella Ramble	Trip	Grade 3	Robert Stevenson
24-Sep-22	25-Sep-22	Abercrombie River National Park	Trip	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
05-Oct-22	05-Oct-22	Basic Driver Training 4WD Vehicle Evaluation	Training	Not Required	Bronwyn Squire
05-Oct-22	05-Oct-22	Basic Driver Training 4WD Vehicle Evaluation	Training	Not Required	Bronwyn Squire
08-Oct-22	09-Oct-22	Sand Driving and River Crossing Course	Training	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire
26-Oct-22	30-Oct-22	Safe One Basic Driver Training Course	Training	Not Required	Bronwyn Squire
06-Nov-22	06-Nov-22	Brindabella Ramble	Trip	Grade 3	Ethan Taylor
26-Nov-22	03-Dec-22	Vic High Country Ramble 2022	Trip	Grade 4	Michael Patrick

Trip Report - Basic Driver Training 18th to 20th February 2022



Chief Instructor Peter Butterfield

Education Coordinator Bronwyn Squire

Student	Trainer
Bradley Williams	Andy Squire
Hiran Herath	Rob Phillips
Ken Martin	Michael Patrick & David Hearne (trainee instructor)
Richard Celiz	Peter Butterfield & Ciril Karo (trainee instructor)
Anthea Johnston	Lynne Donaldson
Joe Coan	Lindsay Jones
Roz Thomson	Matt Warmington
Alistair Mceachern	Rob Donaldson
Clinton Cashen	Stuart Watts & Michael Kerr (trainee instructor)
Pete Dixon	Brony Squire & Rob Davidson (trainee instructor)
William Jones	Joe Briguglio & Scott Grogan (trainee instructor)
Mark McDonnell	Mark Wakelam
Luke Dowhy	Rod Williams & David Lundquist (trainee instructor)



Trip Report - Basic Driver Training 18th to 20th February 2022



As a new hobby for me the two things I enjoy most about four wheel driving trips is the adventure of challenging off-road driving and the comradery that surrounds them. This course had both in abundance. I learnt so much both in theory and practice and got to meet some incredible like minded people. As a basic course I thought it taught us a wide spectrum of skills and exposed us to a wide variety of challenging situations. I really appreciated the guidance and encouragement I received and am very grateful for the number of instructors who made themselves available so we could all gain a very worthwhile experience

Luke Dowhy

The team of instructors did a great job in helping out us newbies, giving us some good knowledge and driving experience over the weekend. Thoroughly enjoyed the time and feel like I improved a lot, know a lot more and had a great first experience with the club.

Mark McDonnell

What a blast!

Thank you to the trainers, committee, and Club for the fantastic Basic Training weekend I was recently part of. My trainers, Stuart and Michael, were very experienced, enthusiastic,



Trip Report - Basic Driver Training 18th to 20th February 2022



and encouraged me throughout the weekend. They clearly knew the syllabus and explained how components fitted together.

Having such a well honed training team is a clear sign of a Club that welcomes new members and values training.

Clint

A well planned and run activity. The structure of the course provided a good progression: starting from the initial inspection several weeks out and the pre-night the week prior; then the morning of theory at Talooe followed by actually driving the progressively difficult trails on the Saturday afternoon and Sunday. Sharing the cabin with Michael and David was a pleasure with both freely sharing their knowledge and experience. While not planned, a few challenging wheel changes further added to the experience and learning opportunities. Thank you to all the instructors who offered their time over the weekend and I look forward to catching up with you and the other students in future club trips.

Ken

Wow! what a weekend bless with good weather. Great experience of 4wheeldriving, getting to learn about my rig and how to drive a 4wheel brain

Very well organised and friendly community of 4wheeldrive members.

Trip Report - Basic Driver Training 18th to 20th February 2022



I need more practice 4wheeldriving and a couple of tweak on the rig. A BIG BIG THANK YOU too the organisers and instructors and instructors/trainees.

I had a BLAST of a weekend!!

Rico

'I thoroughly enjoyed the training weekend. It increased my baseline level of 4WD skills to enable me to be more confident out on the tracks. The club facilities at Talooge are fantastic, as are the tracks. A great weekend overall and I highly recommend it.'

Brad

It is obvious that it takes a dedicated team of people to put together a smooth and well-presented training course and in such a safe manner for a large group of people.

Fantastic weekend away, exceptionally professional training both theoretical and practical for beginners and experienced four-wheel drivers. Great friendly atmosphere with a high level of knowledge and experience. Approachable trainers that are very passionate about what they do. Facilities are clean, very well set up for an enjoyable time away and what a



Trip Report - Basic Driver Training 18th to 20th February 2022



great location.

Great crowd and recommended for anyone looking to brush up on skills, learn new techniques, or test out the vehicle's functionality and capabilities.

Well done all and thank you for a great weekend.

Looking forward to getting away again soon.

Joe Coan

I really enjoyed my time on the training course. Talooge itself was a magnificent property, with the right mix of beginner tracks and some more challenging rock steps and steep climbs. Many thanks to my instructor Lynne who was brilliant as an instructor, she provided guidance, advice, encouragement and patience all the way. Lynne also reinforced what I had learnt in the information sessions, by continually asking questions and was a wealth of knowledge and practical experience. Overall I had a great time and met a lot of wonderful new people. Thanks to all the organisers and instructors who put together a high standard beginner trainer course, enjoyed by all.

Thankyou

Anthea

The 2-day basic driver training and camping trip was great and learnt all the necessary driving and recovery techniques. From a program perspective, it is a well organised program with class room based theory followed up by 2-day practicals where it gives opportunities to practice what you learnt in a safe manner. Having a skilled instructor in your vehicle at all times is a great opportunity to receive real-time instructions and also an opportunity to ask questions and discuss both driving skills and vehicle capability. The debrief after each session was valuable where you get to share your driving experience and also at the same time hear from the instructors about your driving skills and also areas

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for improvement. The Talooge property is also a great place to learn and excel your driving using the purpose built 4x4 tracks. I personally learnt a lot and gained confidence in driving offroad. I would like to thank all the instructors in the Southern Tableland 4X4 club for organising the event.

Hiran

Friday evening saw a large gathering in Bredbo of new and established club members. A quick briefing and airing down to dirt road pressures saw us join the convoy and heading to the first of our challenges for the weekend. Another quick air down and a creek crossing was the start of our mission to get into Talooge. With many steep inclines and declines and lots of dust we arrived at the final obstacle for the night, the river crossing into Home paddock. With the crossing accomplished we were quickly directed to our camp spots for the weekend. A quick meal and briefing we were all soon settled in around the fire.

Waking refreshed the following morning we ventured down the training room and settled in for the morning for the theory part of the weekend. Many laughs later we all had a better appreciation of our vehicles and the various components that go into making them. Given the large number of trainees we were split into three groups for the rest of the weekend. After lunch it was time to catch up with our instructor. I was lucky enough to have Joe our most recent past chief instructor and Scott one of the trainee instructors on board. Home paddock served as the first lesson with practicing our wheel placement. Next driving out of Home paddock we then proceeded through various tracks to learn new



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techniques and unlearn those bad habits that had been picked up over time. “Hole in the wall” was especially memorable when we discovered a very large number of spiders in the grass that seemed to be migrating elsewhere, possible higher ground given the weather a few days later. After a busy afternoon we all headed back to Home paddock via the Backdoor track. A debrief of the afternoon followed with dinner and then some more relaxation around the fire.

Sunday started off with packing as much of camp before heading out to the tracks again. Many of the same tracks were driven again, some in the opposite direction with confidence growing in our techniques tracks that would have been intimidating just 48 hours earlier were managed without too many dramas. Lunch was out on the side of the track under some nice shady trees. Continuing on, we tackled some more difficult tracks before heading back for our last debrief and the final pack up and drive out back to Bredbo. All in all a very enjoyable weekend and now with the basic training under our belts I am sure we are all looking forward to getting out with the club and putting our new skills into practice. I would like to thank all the instructors for giving up their weekend to help training us new club members, especially in my case, Joe and Scott for their patience and knowledge that they both passed on.

Bill, Karen and Halina



Volunteer Registration

NPWS has a new online volunteer management system called VIP. Please follow the instruction below to register in the system. The process should take 5-10 minutes.

1. Go to this link: <https://4wdnow.com/pages/volunteer-sign-up-with-national-parks>
2. Hit the YELLOW "FILL IN APPLICATION" Button on the right of the screen.
(red circle in screen shot below)



3. Create an account by filling in the form "I am new to MyImpactPage.com" (See this area in red rectangle to right). Use your **EMAIL** as your username. Click yellow **SAVE AND CONTINUE** button when you are finished.

 A screenshot of the 'Application Form - 1. National Parks & Wildlife Service'. The form is divided into two sections: 'I am new to MyImpactPage.com' and 'I already have a username'. The 'I am new to MyImpactPage.com' section is highlighted with a red rectangle. It contains fields for Username, Email Address, and Verify Email Address, along with a 'Save and Continue' button. The 'I already have a username' section contains fields for Username and Password, along with a 'Log in' button.

4. Fill in the **CONTACT INFORMATION** form to the best of your abilities. The fields with **FLAGS** are required. Then Press the yellow **SAVE AND CONTINUE** button at the bottom of the page (red arrow in photo to right - you might need to scroll down to see it).

 A screenshot of the 'Contact Information' form. It contains various fields for personal and contact details, including Account Information, Name Fields, Address, Phone Numbers, and Misc Fields. At the bottom right, there is a yellow 'Save and Continue' button, which is pointed to by a large red arrow.

5. Another screen will pop up with multiple questions. Fill in the questions. Ones with **FLAGS** are required. Put N/A if it is required but you have no answer. Scroll down and continue to answer questions. After you have filled in the questions to the best of your ability, you will find the "SUBMIT APPLICATION" yellow button at the bottom of the page. Press this button and an **APPLICATION COMPLETE** confirmation screen will appear.

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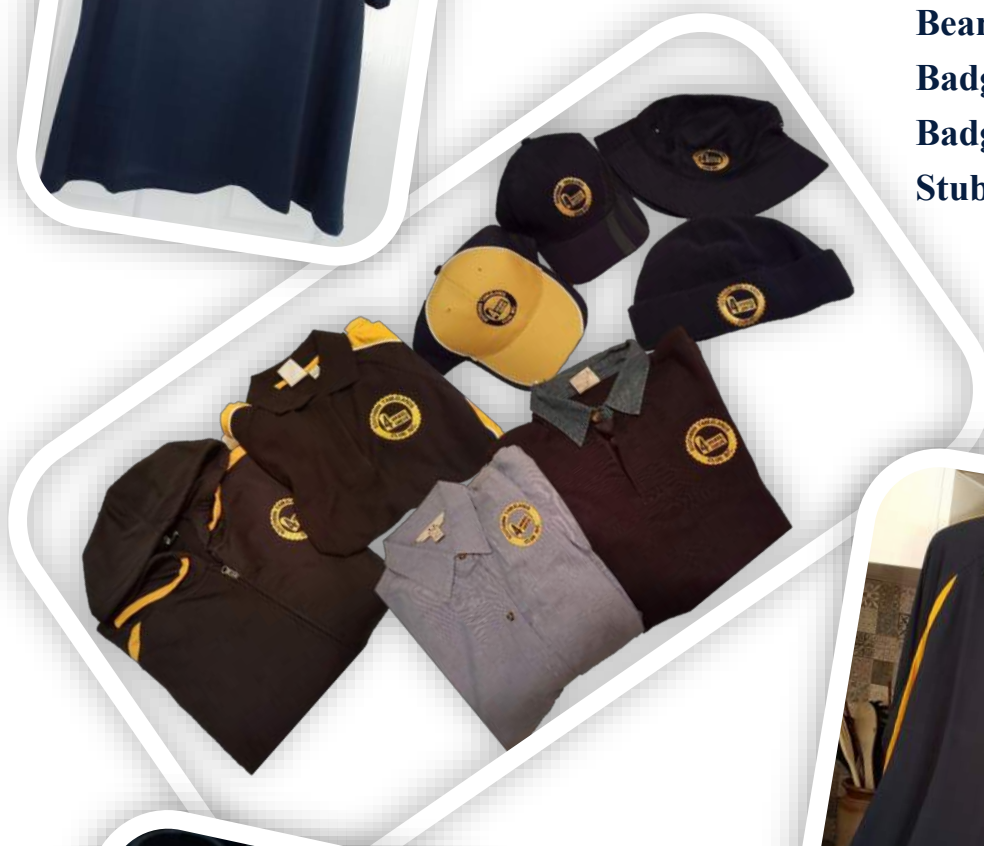
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**Club clothing is available at Club Meetings, or
contact Francoise Zaalen-Arbaut at
general1@st4wdc.com.au**