

September 2022

Southern Trails

Next Meeting:

The Next Club Meeting will be held at the Canberra Deakin Football Club at 7:30pm on Tuesday 13th September

How's the Serenity?

Lake Keepit, Gunnedah 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

313 140

Account Name: ST4WDC **BSB Number:**

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 <u>Four Wheel Drive Australia</u> in the interest of promoting responsible vehicle use.

For advice and assistance in meeting the requirements of this Code of Conduct contact the <u>Secretary</u>

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President's Report

Welcome to Spring. Arctic conditions, driving rain, miserable. And that's inside. Hopefully it dries out a bit and we can all get back to doing what we love. Mowing lawns, weeding garden beds, cleaning gutters. Oh, whoops.... that's not right; should have said bushwalking, camping, four wheel driving....

But I better get on with the important things first. Since the update to the Constitution in June our financial year now runs from 1 July to 30 June, and this means we get to have 2 Annual General Meetings this year (since we have to have one within 5 months of the end of the Club Year). Oh the joy! I can hear you all dancing with excitement. Because it means you get to nominate a new Committee, and to listen to me and the Treasurer give our annual reports again. Twice in one year! How good is that!

But seriously. The Annual General Meeting will be held before the normally monthly meeting on 11 October at the Deakin Club. There should be a formal notice a bit later in the newsletter, and an email out next week with links to the relevant documents which are up on the web. The financials are still with the Auditor (reviewer) so will be uploaded as soon as they have finished.

If you think that the Committee is doing a good job then support them by showing it; nominate them for another term. And if you think they are doing a rubbish job, nominate someone else. And if you think you can do a good job or a better job, then get someone to nominate you! Take an interest; it's your Club..... and all positions are declared vacant... doesn't mean the incumbent will re-nominate or continue. Be prepared people!

Thanks to the 55 or so people who responded to the survey. There was some interesting feedback, which confirmed a few things that we sort of already new, and provided some insight into how we can improve. The Social Club (Social Committee? Socialites?) are on it and looking at a range of activities to enable members to engage more. Keep an eye on the calendar.

And on that one, at the last Club meeting members raised the issue of trips, how quickly they fill, and the sometimes limited opportunity for members to get on those trips. I am not sure how we can address that without more Trip Leaders to put more trips up. Going back through the archives, this has been a constant battle.... Getting enough trips up to give everyone the opportunity. All I can say is; members need to be more proactive in checking the website and monitoring for new trips, get on early, but only if you really intend to go.

We are looking at an email notification as soon as a trip is approved, but it will still be up to members to log on and nominate. The alternative would be to implement some kind of ballot system and I can see all sorts of problems with that as well... Or you could just put your hand up to lead a trip. If you are worried about being out in front, there are plenty of

President's Report

experienced members who are willing to assist (honestly, it's not that hard).

The NSW ACT Four Wheel Dive Association AGM is in November, and nominations have been called for their Committee. If you are interested, drop me an email and I can point you in the right direction (don't rush me!!!). There should be more later in the newsletter about what the Association has been up to, and the new Delegates are getting right into it. Thanks guys.... Hopefully a bit more engagement will give us better rewards.

Ok. And now to the interesting stuff. What have I been up to? Well, bugger all actually. For someone who is supposed to be semi-retired (or as I like to say after 30 years of self-employment, I am now self-unemployed) I have actually been working. How rude!! At least it pays for some of the increased fuel costs. Just wish I had the time to get out and about. But it's raining. So I guess it doesn't really matter.

Hopefully I will see you out on the tracks, or at the next Club meeting.

And my thought for the month? "Without stupid people we would have no one to laugh at. Take time to thank a stupid person for their contribution".

Andy...



Letter from the Editor

Howdy gang. Things have really changed pace for me recently, in fact I've completely departed from the main track and have departed on the first leg of my trip around this great country. After visiting family and friends on the coast I'm now heading inland towards the red centre to meet up with some friends from the Nissan Patrol Club.

My first inland camp was at Lake Keepit in the Gunnedah area. The lake is fed by the Namoi River and has a dam at the southern end. In the warmer months it is a popular recreation reserve with kayaking, water sports, fishing, and camping, though at the moment its probably a bit cool and the place was almost deserted.

I opted for the bush camping option on the eastern shore over the caravan park on the western side. With plenty of relatively flat space and some basic facilities, it was a relaxing and comfortable experience. I even managed to scrounge some firewood and had a campfire.

In this edition of Southern Trails there's a trip report from the adventurous group led by Brett Smith who recently tackled Monkey Gum Fire Trail in the wet!! It looks like plenty of slipping, sliding, and winching went on over the 14 hours it took to get to the top. Well done guys!.

Also featured are reports from Old Andado Station and the Birdsville to Dalhousie Springs trip which followed the Maddigan Line trip reported in last months edition.

Some summary notes from the last NSW and ACT 4WD Association meeting have been provided by our Club delegates who attended the meeting via Zoom. They provide an insight into the workings of the Association. Also theres a link to the Association newsletters which are interesting to read.

Due to our Club now aligning with the financial year rather than the calendar year, the AGM is on next month. This is the time to have your voice heard. If you would like to have a say in how the Club is run please consider nominating for the Committee. Nomination forms are available on the Club website.

A warm welcome to new members:

- Leanne Cowan Nissan Patrol (Partner: Karen Keith)
- Aimee Dirix Suzuki Jimny
- Phil Smith Ford Everest (Partner: Helena Squires-Smith)

Happy Trails, Matt..

Social Club

Club members are hungry for catch-ups, meeting new people and spicing things up!

Our many thanks go to ST4WDC members who took the time to answer the social club survey. The survey said you were interested in a regular social night out, attending picnics—and hurry with putting on another axe-throwing event. The new social events will be for friendships, old and new, giving things a try and getting everyone out experiencing the capital region.

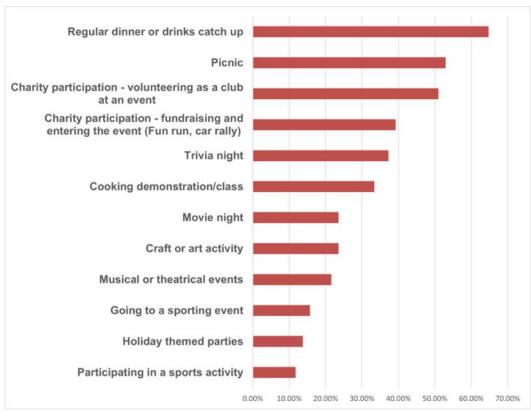


The social club working group are taking your responses and ideas to spin up some great events, including online competitions and virtual demonstrations.

We are starting with a meet-up at Rose Cottage on Friday, 30 September, at 6pm. See the ST4WD website for more details and book your reservation.

Psssttttt – Shakey is hosting on the Golden Axxe RND 4 on 4 November – sign up today!

Survey says...





Association News

The quarterly meeting of the NSW and ACT 4WD Association was held on the 20th of August at Argenton, NSW and on Zoom. ST4WDC delegates Andy Squire, Jim Anderson, Tony Melville and Bill Jones attended via Zoom.

The next meeting is scheduled for 19th of November at the Liverpool Catholic Club. This will also be the AGM where all positions for the association will be declared open.

Below are some highlights of the August meeting. This report is based on the notes and understanding of the delegates and may not reflect the opinions or actions of the Association.

NPWS

- 437 submissions received for the Draft Plan of Management for the 'Gardens of Stone'
 Conservation Area. Craig Thomas is on the NPWS working party and noted significant
 number of submissions from 4WD and affiliated clubs as well as other recreational
 user groups.
- The Volunteer system is not working as well as hoped with a lot of people getting frustrated with the on-line volunteer portal and simply abandoning it. Important to note:
 - You only need to register once.
 - It is no longer a mandate that volunteers be vaccinated.
- The current camp site booking system is being reviewed and the current standard rate will be revised based on location and facilities, so costs may vary.
 - looking to improve enforcement/compliance
 - looking to improve booking for remote areas (limited mobile/internet coverage and last-minute booking/payment)
 - looking to revise to enable group booking
- We (i.e. Clubs in the southern region) are encouraged to re-establish contacts in our region and improve communication and the relationship. For ST4WDC this could mean contacting both ACT Forestry and NPWS Queanbeyan to discuss volunteering for clean-up days, access to locked areas etc.

National Council

 Still some issues with QLD clubs and previous National Council committee members (not many details or specifics provided)



Association News

• Vic looks like it will be re-joining the National Council

Back-Office Function

- Documents are effectively finalised (just waiting for final review by Legal Team) to employ "Very Clever Solutions" to manage the back-office work.
 - strong duty statement has been developed
 - strong KPI Reporting process has been developed
- The contract to be funded from current operating budget; advice from President, Treasurer and Review, Compliance and Governance Panel is that there should be sufficient income each year to cover expected costs
- Motions passed to enter into a formal contact for period to 30 June 2024 with an option for 2-year extension
- One key task under the contract is for existing activities performed by the 'Back-Office'
 to be clearly and accurately documented to facilitate a transition to a new provider
 should that be required
- A form on the 4WD Now website (member-only area) provides opportunity to provide feedback on service

Southern Ranges (Region)

• It would appear that John Kent from Wagga is still keen to establish relationships, but there hasn't been a particularly strong response from the remainder of Clubs in our region.

General

- the Camp Oven Cook Off (COCO) was cancelled due to inclement weather and is rescheduled for May next year to coincide with the Quarterly Meeting (Collector)
- 4WD Adventure show going ahead on 9, 10 11 September
- RFS may be an option to do a Club presentation (someone from our region); presentations on general management, trails etc. not just firefighting (there have been a number of Clubs that have had them as guest speakers, and they have been quite informative)
- A new Fire Danger Rating scale is to be implemented.
- A new app for mobile home that might be worth further investigation; 'Emergency Plus' which can quickly dial relevant emergency authority, provide your details, and



Association News

your current location (obviously relies on mobile service)

- Association working with Emergency services to come up with an 'alert' sticker that you place on your vehicle that informs first responders to look in the glovebox. there would be an envelope with your personal medical details using a standard form (privacy/security issues need to be further considered)
- Noted also that Craig Thomas is the main (only) representative on a number of peak bodies such as RMS, NPWS etc. Which is great, but a potential risk factor if something happens to him or Maggie.
- The Treasurer advised that 58 clubs with a total of 3,335 members have renewed their association membership while 12 clubs having not renewed as of the August meeting. It was reported at the May meeting that there were a total 68 clubs with 3,567 members. Razor Back and Raymond's Terrace clubs did not renew, and two Queensland clubs were seeking approval to join.

If anyone would like further details or has suggestions or ideas for the Association please contact one of the ST4WDC delegates (Andy Squire, Jim Anderson, Tony Melville and Bill Jones) or one of the ST4WDC Committee members.

NSW and ACT 4WD Association Newsletters can be found at:

https://4wdnow.com/pages/2022-newsletters

Trip Report - Monkey Gum



An adventurous couple of Jeeps (Gladiator and Wrangler) carrying Matt, Rob, Brett, Shakey and Trent, gathered in the drizzly Canberra darkness before 6am on Friday 12 August...and headed off to collect the sole Hilux in Bungendore piloted by Jake and Matt.

Shortly after 8am, we left the black top full of excitement and enthusiasm as we aired down on Dean's Gap Road before heading to start Mint Bush around 8:30am. The first left turn through the markers to the start of the "track" immediately set the scene for what lay ahead for the day. An extremely rocky descent through black mud and slimy clay had the wheels spinning and lifting within minutes.

Making our way down the treacherous trail left us in little doubt as to the only way out being forward, as a climb out the way we'd just come in seemed more impossible the deeper we went.

We slipped and slid along Mint Bush before a quick detour to drive the Flex Track and test the suspension setups... they needed little more test than what they had already been through. A quick refresh, coffee and chat to reaffirm our inevitable commitment and we

were off again.

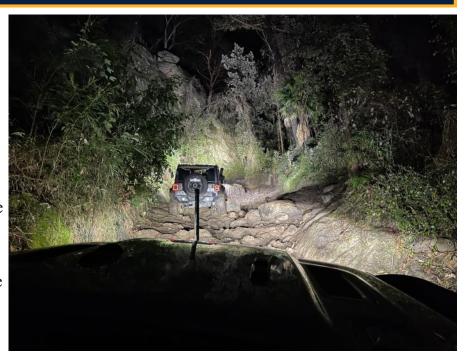
The clouds hovered, but we hoped the skies would hold as the track could not afford or carry any more water! We crossed a few sloppy washouts before coming up against the first of the major washout crossings at the end of Wombat Flat. All through safely and without winching... we knew by the state of what we'd already crossed that the



Trip Report - Monkey Gum

next washout a few hundred metres ahead was not likely to be as simple.

We were right! Inspecting and trying a few different lines, the group pondered the best way out, which, although almost driven by Jake, saw the winches out to pull us all through and up. A quick stop for a bite and a breather on the other side before we crossed the next creek line onto Monkey Gum.



Across the rocky creek and we were instantly confronted with a steep and high set of rock steps to welcome us to Monkey Gum! Softening up the sliders and under armor with the sounds of crunching metal saw a couple of winches out within the first 50m of the track.

Making our way slowly and carefully up the hilly ascent we encountered pretty much all the track could throw at us...or at least we thought! There was MUCH worse to come. The ruts were deep and off-camber (as we knew and expected), but the amount of water and slop resting in each made them so slimy we were, for much of those ruts just passengers. The off camber climbs out of head-high ruts was challenging, conquered by some and

winched by others.



We grew in confidence and anticipation of a successful ascent, but alas, we hit one rutted climb followed by a sharp right that was so greasy, you couldn't walk it let alone stop a rig from sliding backwards into the abys.

Some creative winching with multi-direction pulls was required to safely pull all three trucks to safer and more

Tríp Report - Monkey Gum



walkable grounds a hundred metres further up.

But as we put that craziness behind us, the rocks seemed to grow bigger by the minute as the sloppy clay ran as coffee coloured rivers beneath us. As the rocks grew, our progress slowed and we were confronted

with even more mind-boggling line choices. Inching our way along the sloppy rocky terrain, we were forced to climb in and out of ruts. Jake's ingenuity had us winching forward out of ruts after lowering the rear of our vehicles under braked straps to keep from rolling over.

The weather was kind and the sun streamed through the canopy that made the picturesque environment very enjoyable until you looked down. A couple of sketchy ruts (call them valleys), flanked by hip-high rocks and we wondered if it could get any harder. That answer soon became apparent – yes it could!

As the sun began to fade, the scene was set for the toughest part of the track. As darkness set in, the heavens opened and the next few hundred metres took us over 3 hours to winch our way through boulder country that was near impossible to walk in the wet conditions.

We were extremely thankful by this time that we had only three vehicles to recover (constantly) with the extra hands we had on deck. That part of the track - we renamed - Kokoda as it resembled the hellish conditions we have all seen so often with our diggers battling near impossible conditions throughout WWII.

About 8pm, nearly 12 hours since we started the tough stuff, the sky stopped crying and exhausted, we made it



Trip Report - Monkey Gum

to the tranquility of comparably flatter, firmer and less rocky ground. But a few hundred more metres of water crossings and threading the rigs through overgrown tracks and through 2m gaps between trees, we came to the infamous Tree. With three treacherous line options over enormous rocks. Some more diff re-shaping and slider beating, a couple more winches and we were all on the final run to the top.



Another few hundred metres of extreme rock climbing and crawling, a couple more winches, and three beaten rigs and seven broken bodies made it to the top! Super excited and relieved, there was little to be enjoyed from the lookout nearing 9pm.

A few more kilometers of mud holes to navigate before we could air up, but the day would not have been complete unless we lost another truck in a sloppy bog hole. One more winch that must have put us near 50 recoveries collectively for the day and we finally saw sanctuary in the black top ahead.



Airing up and surveying the damage (mostly minor and largely cosmetic), we marveled at how capable our cars really are, and how exhausting 14 hours on a track in this condition was. Thrilled we had completed it, but no one seemed to be asking when the next trip to Monkey Gum might be!

Thanks to a great bunch of adventurous, hardy and good-

Tríp Report - Monkey Gum



humored souls that came along for one heck of an unforgettable ride. Would do it all again with you, but maybe when it dries out a bit!

Brett

Well what an EPIC trip, been able to experience an iconic track MONKEY GUM FT.

It's amazing to see how mother nature has tried to reclaim that area with the power of rain and massive amounts of it.

Being a passenger and watching the boys pull winch after winch, 16 times, and that was just the lead Jeep. So with all 3 4WDs they would have pulled around 48 winch lines, unbound 6 or more winch drums, and setup 4 or more Maxtrax and track building locations.

There were 4WDs and men sliding on the Kokoda part of Monkey Gum while I was safely tucked away in the cab. I was in control of the footage roughly 145gig and well over 12 hours to go through, as well as winch control.

I am very lucky to have been able to experience Monkey Gum at its worst and keen to do it in the dry. Thanks Brett for putting a big tick on my bucket list, Monkey Gum wet done.

Until the next one

Shakey

Early in June, my son and passenger on this Monkey Gum trip attempted to visit Wombat Flats via Mint Bush trail.

Very wet and it took us (three vehicles) about three hours return for half the track, so I had some trepidations for this Club trip led by Brett. Did not help that it rained more since my Mint Bush trip.

However three vehicles attempted and three returned, not too bloodied.

I was glad that we all had capable co-pilots as they had to do a lot of work.

Trip Report - Monkey Gum

This was my third time on Monkey Gum. The track was horrendous, as bad as it had ever been. At times the track was so slippery that the vehicles would slide back down the hills.

Left Bungendore at 6am and got home at midnight. We lost count of the number of times the winches were used, however without them we would still be there. Normally a very technical track, with the mud and washouts it was just brutal. We finished the last two hours of the climb in the dark, a new experience navigating huge boulders and mud.

However, pleased that the Hilux matched it with the Jeeps and came out relatively unscathed. Lucky the rock sliders, bull bar, and rear bars were in place. Spent the next day cleaning heaps of mud from the vehicle, inside and out. Thoroughly worn out for the next two days.

Would I recommend it? yes if there has been no rain for six months.

Jake

Whilst Monkey Gum is not to be tackled lightly, you don't need an extreme 4WD to enjoy the challenges it has to offer. With both the Gladiator and Hilux running modest 2" lifts and 32" tyres. Rock sliders and a reliable winch are a must and twin lockers definitely help. The trip was a heap of fun and will definitely be on the cards to do again, perhaps not in the middle of winter after record setting rain though.

Matt M





Wow. What a trip. With late withdrawals we ended up with only 3 vehicles and 5 people crossing the Simpsons Desert from Birdsville to Dalhousie Springs on the SA side of the border. We changed the intended route to include the K1, Erabena Track and more of the Rig Road as well as the planned QAA, Knolls Track, and French Line, doing big loops to maximise the variety of

tracks and the time we spent in the desert. GREAT choice. The K1 and the eastern Rig Road was WAY less travelled and the tops of dunes had fresh blow offs that were definitely different to drive (and fun!). We saw dingoes lounging on the track, a camel trotting in front of us, a bustard sauntering disdainfully away, emus running frantically from the noisy humans, budgie flocks swirling across deep blue skies, and endless glistening salt lakes and fields of wild flowers. We visited the Knolls, the Lone Gun, slept in gidgee groves (phewee those trees can stink) and interdunals, watching the sun set spectacularly every evening. (I do believe that there were stunning sunrises to be seen but getting up too early is just so over-rated.)

Purni Bore was unexpected in its beauty and masses of birdlife. At the end of six days in the desert, a lovely soak in Dalhousie springs to top the trip off was welcome by all, thankfully not too many mozzies. Thanks to all trip participants for your company,





laughs, and happy hours around the campfire. To those with a hankering to cross the Simpson Desert – GO DO IT (and we'll come too).

Bron and Andy

We only had a convoy of 3 cars as unfortunately some Club's members had to pull out at the last minute for personal reasons.

After a hearty breakfast at the Birdsville bakery we travelled to Poeppel corner via the very busy, bumpy QAA line.

I was astonishing to see how some drivers using pieces of wood and t-shirt as sand flags,



others driving without deflating theirs tyres while some were not even aware of radio procedures, how to be courteous or uncertain of the number of cars in their convoy!

Luckily we did find a quiet sleeping spot on that track.

After our 'obligatory' stop at Poeppel Corner we went down the K1 Line. Wow! not a soul and superb landscapes



along salt lakes. A feast for the eyes and a great track to drive which reaches the Rig Road. That one is even easier to drive (when dry) with a clay cover having been built for mining trucks in the Sixties. The dunes are lower and of pale sandy colour.

We then turned to the Knolls track which ran along a swale. Lots of grasses after the recent rainfall. The track joins Approdinna Attora Knolls and that particular bit was rocky but pretty. It is a double hill of important indigenous significance and gorgeous views not far from the French line. The following day we drove 30kms on it before going back down South on the Erabena track which is not much used. There is a famous Lone Gum, a very old coolabah. These trees usually are found in swamps or water courses so it is a mystery why it survives there.

We then turned to the Rig Road again and shared it with a really grumpy camel for a few sandhills. To reach Dalhousie Springs we had to connect to the French line unfortunately so busy with 4wds and bikes riders. Stopping at Purni Bore was a nice surprise though, hot water in an oasis full of birds. We finally reached Dalhousie. After so many peaceful days in the





desert it was a very noisy camping, full of students and families as school holidays were starting but we were fortunate to have the hot spring for ourselves for a short while.

Overall it was a fantastic journey in great company discovering contrasting tracks and landscape. Thank you to Bronwyn to have posted this trip on the Club webpage. Great itinerary and joie de vivre.

Francoise and Alan

After a couple of days R&R in Birdsville we gathered on Saturday morning at the Bakery for the return. Unfortunately Roland wouldn't be joining us, he was quite ill and the nurse opened the local medical centre to attend to him. So we left town more than a little concerned for him.

The trip out to Poeppel Corner was uneventful with the distance markers making it easy enough to negotiate the more frequent traffic on the QAA line. Bron was determined to sight a camel and like all of us keen to explore some different tracks and scenery. We were





rewarded along the K1 with a couple of dingoes that seemed to think they owned the track.

Immediately we started on the Rig Road the track conditions and topography changed. To the left of the track as we turned was a small strangely rectangular pool of water surrounded by vegetation. The Rig Road was fantastic, big open skies and huge salt lakes. It was epic driving north on great roads through beautiful country, one of the best days driving I've ever had. As the lakes receded we got into more dunes as we approached the Knolls, two gypsum outcrops that allowed extensive views over the desert. We camped a little way off from the knolls in a pocket surrounded by Gidgee Trees.

Traversing a short section of French Line meant a bit more traffic and rougher tracks so it was good to turn off on the Erabena Track and head south for the Lone Gum. The Lone Gum is a bit of an anomaly, a Coolabah tree growing in the southern Simpson Desert well away from its usual habitat, near water. None the less it is very healthy and has several younger versions around it so hopefully it will continue to flourish.

Back onto the Rig Road meant more dunes, but it was easy going, the road was built to carry heavy machinery for the oil companies so the run ups to the dunes have been filled in with clay dug from the swales and the road itself capped with clay. Lots of other desert





roads were simple access roads or for shot lines with little need for them to be passable by large vehicles. Only the tops of the dunes were sandy and the lack of tyre tracks showed how little traffic had recently passed.

We came across several abandoned oil well sites on our way up to Lynnies Junction. Not much is left of these, a few standpipes and the odd sign. I don't know if they were decommissioned by the oil companies or whether it was deliberate Parks policy to remove the infrastructure but it's a shame there's little evidence of the massive efforts made in the sixties and seventies to find oil and gas in these regions. The other side of the argument is that it's good that the desert has been allowed to return to its more natural state without the clutter of industrial junk to scar the country. At least we have all these fantastic tracks to follow as a result of this exploration. We passed by Walkandi 2, Macumba 1, Glen Joyce 1 and Mokari 1 on the way up to rejoin the French Line.

Purni Bore was our next stop, lots of little Zebra finches enjoying the water and quite a sight in the middle of the desert. Again, only there due to oil exploration. After Alka



Seltzer bore the country flattened out, the dunes melted away in the distance, the roads got wider and smoother and we made good time into Dalhousie Springs.

A swim in the Springs is an excellent way to wash off the desert dust and the warm water eased a few aching muscles.

There were a few other travellers in the campground



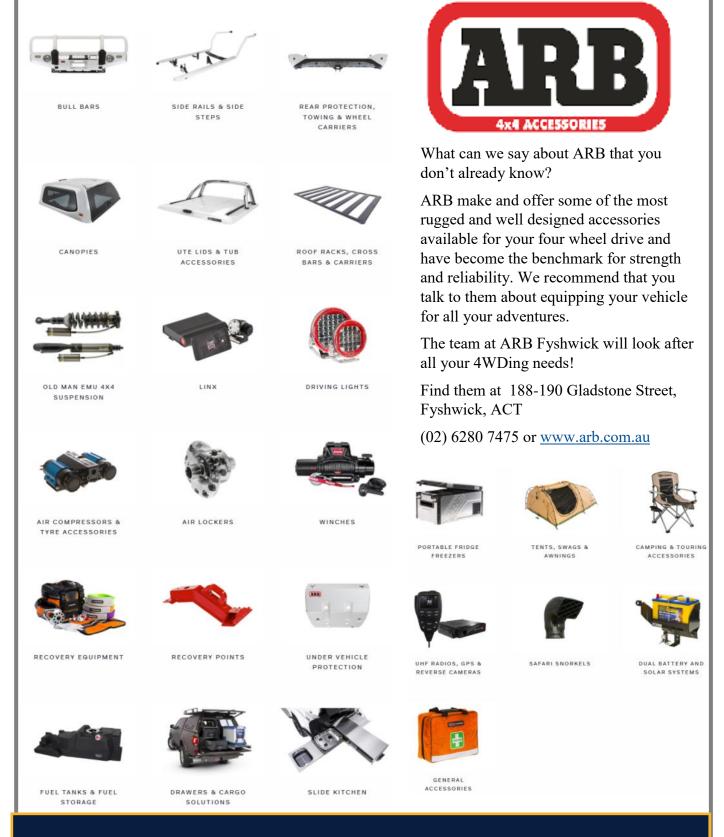
but it wasn't too crowded. Before I headed off the next day I went back to check out the Umbutchera Lookout we passed on the way in. In flat desert country it is hard to find lookouts so I was intrigued as to what I would find. A quick revisit to the ruins at Dalhousie and I headed to Oodnadatta to begin the trek home, the others were returning to Old Andado.

Travelling in a small group was excellent, we had plenty of time for stops, photo ops. We took it in turns to be last ready in the morning and Bron set a leisurely pace. Our zigzag route meant we got to travel different tracks and see lots of unique scenery. All in all a really enjoyable trip, well led by Bron. And we did get to see a camel finally.....just the one but still good to see.

Rob C



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P: (02) 6162 1929

E: sales@tracksadventuregear.com.au

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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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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

Trips and Events WE NEED YOU!! - New Trip Leaders

The backbone of any <u>Four-Wheel Drive</u> <u>Club</u> is the Trip Leaders (TL's) because if you have no Trip Leaders you have no trips and with no trips you have no Four-Wheel Drive Club. Some Facts:

- The Trip Leader workshop, Trip Leader manual and the Trip Leader checklist, are available tools to <u>assist</u> members who want to become Trip Leaders.
- Members think that they must do the workshop to become TL's, this <u>is not correct</u>. Any member can propose and lead a trip (however, the trip is subject to Committee approval).
- The Manual may appear lengthy and complicated, but it's not it's just a tool.

The workshop, manual, and checklist are tools to assist TL's better manage a trip. The workshop is run by experienced TL's and covers the following:

- Role of the Trip Leader
- Expectations of trip participants
- Planning a trip
- Trip Proposal
- Running a trip
- Managing member expectations
- Incident management
- Trip reporting

We also have mentors available who can advise and assist new TL's in planning and running the trip. If any members are interested in running a trip please contact Michael Patrick.

Michael Patrick - Trips & Events Coordinator

Ph: 0412 377 941, E: trips@st4wdc.com.au



WE NEED YOU FOR AN ADVENTURE!!

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	Туре	Grade	Leader
14-Sep-22	14-Sep-22	Information Night Sand Driving and River Crossing	Training	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire
18-Sep-22	23-Sep-22	Fraser Island	Trip	Grade 4	Scott Grogan
18-Sep-22	18-Sep-22	Driver Training Student Follow Up In Brindabella	Trip	Grade 3	Shea Jost
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
29-Sep-22	29-Sep-22	Trips and Activities Symposium	Trip	Not Required	Michael Patrick
05-Oct-22	05-Oct-22	Basic Driver Training 4WD Vehicle Evaluation	Training	Not Required	Bronwyn Squire
08-Oct-22	08-Oct-22	Tallaganda Day Trip	Trip	Grade 3	Matthew Maddigan
08-Oct-22	09-Oct-22	Sand Driving and River Crossing Course	Training	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire
15-Oct-22	16-Oct-22	Bendethera Bender	Trip	Grade 3	Bruce Ronning
21-Oct-22	23-Oct-22	Talooge Muster	Trip	Not Required	Lynne Donaldson
21-Oct-22	23-Oct-22	Basic Winching and Recovery Course	Trip	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire
22-Oct-22	22-Oct-22	Kids cotter run	Trip	Grade 3	Darren Miller
26-Oct-22	30-Oct-22	Safe One Basic Driver Training Course	Training	Not Required	Bronwyn Squire
27-Oct-22	27-Oct-22	Hema 4x4 App Workshop	Trip	Not Required	Michael Patrick
29-Oct-22	29-Oct-22	kowen day trip SAT	Trip	Grade 4	Darren Miller
30-Oct-22	30-Oct-22	kowen day trip SUN	Trip	Grade 4	Darren Miller
04-Nov-22	04-Nov-22	the golden axxe rnd 4	Trip	Not Required	Darren Miller
06-Nov-22	06-Nov-22	Driver Training Student Follow Up In Brindabella	Trip	Grade 3	Shea Jost
06-Nov-22	06-Nov-22	Brindabella Ramble	Trip	Grade 3	Ethan Taylor
11-Nov-22	14-Nov-22	Bush Skills Weekend 2022	Trip	Grade 2	Matthew Maddigan
19-Nov-22	26-Nov-22	Vic High Country Ramble 2022	Trip	Grade 4	Michael Patrick
19-Nov-22	20-Nov-22	Off Road Camper Trailer Workshop	Training	Grade 3	Glen Watts
26-Nov-22	26-Nov-22	Brindabella's Day drive	Trip	Grade 3	Daniel Donaldson
18-Dec-22	18-Dec-22	Chainsaw Awareness Workshop	Training	Not required	Michael Kerr
15-Jul-23	16-Jul-23	Snow Camping 2023	Trip	Grade 4	Matthew Maddigan

Tríp Report - Old Andado Tríp Leaders - Dave and Helen Sutton





Pre and post trips in the Simpson Desert, Alain and I spent a few days at Old Andado (OA) doing minor chores to help our host David & Helen Sutton and Peter Butterfield who are temporary caretakers for these two busy winter months. We had fallen in love with Old Andado in 2019, a station situated between two beautiful red sand dunes. It is a property of historical significance in the Outback. A step back in time inspiring great respect for our pioneers and cattle farmers who had to live in such harsh condition. Pre trip many people in our group cleared the airstrip of sapling which had grown rapidly after the recent rains making the landing strip unusable in case of emergency. others collected wood while others gardened or tidied the place.

After our trip in the lower part of the Simpson Desert Alain and I returned to OA to collect our trailer and spend a few days helping our hosts. The trio keep smiling and have great yarns while managing large groups, campers, juggling with the donkey for hot water, generators, deliver wood, cook yummy scones or fix various rattles helping some drivers to name a few tasks. We also spent time at sunset on an outstanding remote escarpment to enjoy the sunset. We felt indeed very privileged to have shared a few days in such awesome place with lots of nice people and great host. Happy to go back!

Francoise and Alain

Tríp Report - Old Andado Tríp Leaders - Dave and Helen Sutton



What a fabulous opportunity Dave and Helen Sutton gave us when they were camp hosts at Old Andado for June and July. Andy and I love Old Andado, and, in addition to the prospect of returning to help maintain this fabulous 'museum' and spend some time on the edge of the Simpson Desert, with the beautiful red sand dunes, we also had the potential to leave caravans and camper trailers in the 'care' of Dave and Helen and lead club trips across the Simpson. With heaps of interest, that's exactly what we did. Three of us left our mobile homes at Old Andado and, with other Club members, completed the Madigan Line to Birdsville, and then returned on the South Australian side of the Simpson on various tracks (see separate trip reports). At Old Andado at the start and end of these trips, we enjoyed the company of Dave, Helen and Peter Butterfield, and saw beautiful sunsets (no sunrises for me!). Dave, Helen, and PB had already done so much work before we got



Tríp Report - Old Andado Tríp Leaders - Dave and Helen Sutton

there that there were no onerous jobs for us to do when we, and other club members, arrived, however we still had some tasks that we could do, including gardening, cleaning inside Molly's house, fire wood collection, clearing the air strip, re-covering some windows with shade cloth, and helping Helen make the daily scones or pikelets for the 'guest' travellers (not me, I was never up in time). Every morning when the scones/pikelets were ready, the gong rang out and the guests and club members partook of Helen's delicious morning tea (with funds gathered going to the Old Andado Trust to keep the place going). Toppings included jam and cream, maple syrup, or cinnamon sugar, and accompanied by tea or coffee in Molly's wonderful kitchen. One night we also had the company of Megan, one of the trustees of Old Andado (Molly was her grandmother) and she was suitably impressed by what Dave, Helen and PB had accomplished. Sadly I became ill with Influenza A and so we cut short our visit (thankfully I hadn't shared my illness with anyone) and we headed off to seek medical attention. We hope that Old Andado keeps going as a wonderful memorial for Molly and visitors continue to benefit from the opportunity to visit and camp at such a wonderful spot. Thanks so much to Dave, Helen and PB for spending so much time there as camp hosts and looking after the place so brilliantly.



Bron and Andy.



Tríp Report - Basic and Remote First Aid 2022 Australian Red Cross



On the weekends of 6-7th and 13-14th of August, ST4WDC members attended the Basic First Aid and the Remote First Aid run by the Red Cross. Our very capable and knowledgeable instructor was Anna.

I last did my first aid training 50 years ago and this was an eye opener for me. The theory was thorough and easily understood. The practical exercises were fun, and the played-out scenarios gave us a great insight on how to handle a medical crisis.

What made the training more interesting was that we all knew each other and having been in remote areas, know that first aid will be very critical, and we could relate to injuries we could encounter. The one thought that kept on passing through my mind is how can we maintain our knowledge in the future. Do we have some follow up inter club exercises in the future?

I encourage members to seriously consider attending this training in the future. I will be putting up a proposal for an expression of interest for 2023.

The following are the comments and feelings of the members who attended

Michael



Tríp Report - Basic and Remote First Aid 2022 Australian Red Cross

I really enjoyed these two courses and learned lots of useful information. It was fun to put our "skills" into action and learn from each other's good decisions, successful actions, and mistakes. The written and online assessments showed we had all acquired more knowledge than we had realised. The scenarios and acting skills displayed were spectacular. Our trainer decided to use a chainsaw in shorts and thongs. Michael Patrick spectacularly fell from a great height. The shocking vocabulary of the Club president had to be heard to be believed. Be careful though before embarking on this training: I've never met a bunch of more accident-prone people in my life!!

Hayley

With trepidation I was thinking 2 weekends in a row with training!! why did I put my name down for this.

Arrived on time the first weekend and Anna our instructor was welcoming and made you feel at ease.

It had been a few years since I had done my first aid training and wondered whether I would remember anything from that.

I had remembered a few things but the repeated consolidation was fantastic and the role playing was great and practicing the CPR and the use of the defibrillator gave me the confidence in case of an emergency if I needed to do it (hopefully not).

Second weekend completed doing Remote First Aid. What an enjoyable weekend. More consolidation from last weekend.

This weekend we were put into groups of four to carry out different scenarios. We were put



Tríp Report - Basic and Remote First Aid 2022 Australian Red Cross



into real life situations to carry out first aid. When a situation arises and unexpectedly will you remember? Will you do the right thing? Can you save the patient?

Injuries and illness happen so quick, I am pleased to say all groups passed and learned some valuable lessons.

A big thanks to Anna for being a great instructor and Michael for coordinating the weekend.

Lynne

I signed up for both first aid courses to obviously get a good grounding in first aid, and to ensure I had some idea of what to do

should something happen in a remote situation.

Anna was a very patient, knowledgeable instructor who took us through multiple scenarios and answered our often-curly questions. The 'surprise' scenarios that we were thrown into in the basic first aid course gave a us a good grounding in the concept that these situations happen at the drop of a hat and often when you're the least prepared. The remote first aid

scenarios gave us a taste of the necessity of teamwork in an outdoor emergency setting and use whatever we could to improvise makeshift splints, stretchers, pillows etc. A good time with great people and we even learned a thing or two.

Brendan

Having completed the Basic First Aid course in 2019 with the Club, I was a little annoyed that because my certification had expired (Covid didn't help refreshing my course) I had to do another Basic course before I could do the Remote First Aid course. Turns out



that was a great outcome. The presenter, Anna, had a much more engaging style and taught us in a logical and readily understandable manner, with demonstrations to suit on "volunteers".

Both courses were 1 1/2 days of learning, so although two weekends were consumed by the training, so much more information went into my brain and should be remembered (fingers crossed). The Remote First Aid course was fabulous. With, again, the Saturday dedicated to theory and demonstrations, the Sunday was putting all that into practice with four very convincing scenarios - domestic violence (although I wish Tom and Andy were not so realistic - boy was their anger believable), hypothermia, fall from height, and serious bleeding





(chainsaw injuries). I believe we all did well. Not only did we put our learning into practice, but we also learnt the impact of emotions, desire to "do something" all the time, forgetting steps and the order to take action, and the need to remain calm and to take our time (well except for getting patients warm and stopping blood spurting out of the body!).

We also took notes on items that we really need to put into our first aid kits, especially for those remote trips (ironic that we just came back from two Simpson Desert crossings and nine weeks away in remote NT and QLD). All in all, fantastic courses and I hope to NEVER have to put any of it into practice or to use those extras we put into our kits. Thanks to Michael for organising and to the Red Cross.

Bron



Two excellent training weekends - I thought I had a reasonable knowledge of first aid but this really brought my rather out of date and out of practice information up to functional level - and great to do with the Club rather than a group of strangers not to mention the reassurance that your co-travellers on trips have had this level of training - as the old saying goes - the better prepared you are the less that can go wrong. Highly recommended.

Louise

I started the Basic first aid course not sure I'd be able to finish it, or the Remote First Aid course which followed. Four days later, I have more confidence and a lot more practical

experience, and, thanks to a great trainer and the 4WD team, it was a lot of fun! If you're not sure first aid is for you, or your past experiences with first aid training have been less than inspiring, do your next one with the Club.

Juli

The first aid course on the first weekend was great and refreshed existing skills learnt last time. The remote first aid course was very interesting and was delivered with a continual flow to it, with all being involved in various scenarios throughout the day. Would highly recommend Club members attend these courses.

Rob



The Basic and Remote first aid courses were a great opportunity to gain very useful up to date first aid skills for trips with the Club and on our other travels.

The courses were a mix of theory and practical skills culminating in four medical emergency scenarios on the last day in which a group at a time would treat the casualty or casualties. These scenarios were a great insight into what medical emergencies you could come across and how you may react.

Initially we were overwhelmed with the amount of information and knowledge required but by the end of the courses we realised we had gained a lot of knowledge and very useful practical first aid skills.



Thanks go to Michael for organising these fabulous courses and to everyone who attended and supported each other throughout the two weekends.

Rosemary and Glynn

To say the highlight of the two weekends was throwing Andy Squire around and calling him a grub and a mongrel (amongst other things) might be a little glib but the opportunity for a bit of acting during the final day was enjoyable alongside four days of serious study.

Two much anticipated courses, originally delayed due to COVID19 were well attended and as a group everybody got stuck in





volunteering for demonstrations, asking questions and generally joining in - adding to the learning experience.

I was a first aid novice but came away from the two weekends feeling that not only could I render aid if needed, but more importantly (if I require it) those who I may be travelling with could do so too.

Tom

On the weekend of the 6th and the weekend of the 13th of August I did the Basic First Aid, and the Remote First Aid training. So did a bunch of other people from the Club, so I wasn't alone, and you won't have to rely on me to save you. Which is probably pretty good. I don't like blood, and my first

response of "Oh My God, that doesn't look good" probably wouldn't fill you with a great deal of confidence either. Luckily some others on the course seemed to know what they were doing (one was a doctor, so I would hope so!)

I had done the Basic First Aid about four years ago and thought this was just going to be a refresher. But again, it proved the old adage 'use it or lose it'. Seems I had lost it. Which in one sense is good, because I haven't had to use it; everyone has been safe, healthy and uninjured on the trips I go on. But in another sense, it probably means that I would have tried something stupid like mouth-to-mouth for a snake bite; I do know, and did remember, you don't suck the poison out, but that was about it. Oh, and don't wee



on a jelly-fish sting. Unless you don't like the stung person, and this is just a sneaky way to give some weird kind of critique. Oh no. My secret's out. Now I can't wee on anyone.

But what really happened. Well, despite our best endeavours, the instructor did manage to teach us something. Well done Anna, it was hard work! And the treatment and technology has changed in four years. I was sure we did some things very differently to last time, but since I can't find my old notes perhaps it is just my memory. Now I know a whole bunch of really cool First Aid acronyms, like DRSABCD, IMIST, AVPU, FAST, PTRA, COWS, and RICER. Plus, the 5 Rights. I have no idea what they mean or when to use them. But I do know how to stop a major bleed. Yep. Call for help from



someone who knows how and get them to do it. I'll just hand them the band aids. Even though it was four days of intense information over-load, it was fun too. We got to dress up and role play; I got to be a bogan and get into a fight (yeah... come on Tom, I'll have ya!). OK, so being a bogan wasn't too out-of-character, but because it involves blood and pain I



don't normally like fighting.
And seriously, Tom would probably tear me apart. Since the training was held at Red Cross House in Garran, there were a bunch of people coming in to donate blood that weren't aware of the role playing. The looks on their faces was amusing, as was the really concerned lady who asked if she should call an ambulance for us.

How's your first aid kit? Mine now has about \$470 worth of new equipment that probably should have been in there all along. Most of it comes with instructions, so hopefully I grab the right thing at the right time and save a life with it (actually, I hope I never need to). I also realised that I probably should have 3 or 4 first aid kits; one at home, one in the car, one in the 4WD and one in the caravan or camper, because time is critical, and not having quick access to the necessary stuff is a problem. But where does it stop?

Thanks to Anna (the Course Presenter), my fellow thespians, victims, course-mates and future life-savers. And to MP too for organising (it was postponed about 3 times due to Covid). And pray I never have to try and save you. Not only because it means that you didn't get injured, but because there is a high probability you might end up hearing some bad jokes while I try. Don't they say that laughter is the best medicine?

Andy

It was good to undertake first aid and remote first aid training. I was able to revise training I had been previously taught. The scenarios were well thought out and required us to think about what we need to do to enable a casualty to survive.

The theory covered expected injuries that we might encounter whilst on trip or whilst out at the Club property. I enjoyed it greatly and would recommend other to undertake the same training.

Shea



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
- Hit the YELLOW "FILL IN APPLICATION" Button on the right of the screen. (red circle in screen shot below)



 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.



- 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).
- 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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Contact Rob Davidson 0428 223 379 rob.davidson56@gmail.com

Camel Trekker Plus Camp Trailer with 13ft Tent

The Trekker is an All-Road camp trailer.

The camp trailer includes a 13ft tent that easily accommodates two sets of bunk beds. For the parents there is a queen size bed with walk in step for ease of access. For privacy there is a detachable dividing wall. For cool summer camping or to keep the warmth in during winter there is a thermal roof. The tent has large windows for lots of natural light and cross ventilation.



The camp trailer also comes complete with an annex/gazebo with full zip on fly screens, zip on solid canvas walls and two floor choices, a nylon mesh or a solid PVC flooring.

The tent opens to the side, while the kitchen pulls out from the back of the trailer. The kitchen includes a 3 burner gas stove, small PVC bowl which drops into the stainless steel bench, hand pump for water, cutlery draw and storage.

The trailer includes full length Duragal chassis with extended 1800mm drawbar, electric

brakes, handbrake, toolbox, pole carrier, stone guard, gas bottle holder, jerry can holder, 65 litre water tank, 12 volt on board power system, inbuilt gas kitchen, internal 12 volt led lights, drop down stabilisers and is fully dust sealed. The high tonneau cover accommodates the inner spring mattress and provides additional storage for soft items while travelling.

The tent is navy blue with beige roof.

Price: \$11,000 ONO

Contact Melissa on 0421 026 067





Rhino Rack tradies rack with gutter mounts. Was on a GU Patrol.

Includes:

- rear roller,
- high lift jack mount,
- shovel mount.

\$550.00 o.n.o



LED Light Bars.

TJM brand, approx. 22".

\$280.00 for both



IPF Driving Lights
HID globes and ballasts.
Also takes Halogen bulbs.
Extremely bright spots.
\$140.00 for both.

Contact: Matt Warmington 0407 562 656 mattwarmo@gmail.com

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Extras on vehicle include:

Bull bar, winch and side rails.

Weather shields left & right.

ARB compressor in toolbox.

80 Channel Icom CB roof mounted

NOW ARB roof rack.

Full width tyre box, 2 tyres & tools.

Daytime LED running lights.

5 Mag Rim Highway tyres (continental)

6 Steel Rim 4WD Cooper Discovery ST

Bespoke steel tray, rubber tray mat.

Air conditioning & dual battery system.

Full length shelf under tray & ladder rack.

CODAN HF Radio mounted behind seat.

4 toolboxes under the tray.

Air bag assist suspension.

Tow bar 50 mm SQ, lock, pin and bolt.

Switched LED reverse / work light.

TRAYON extras:

Extra power points & 12-volt outlets.

Corner bolsters & 2 ARB LED lights.

Canvas skirt, fly & awning (not in picture).

High density foam double mattress.

Extra new house batteries.

TRAYON Number 541.

Contact: David Campbell • 0431 574 303 • dcam77@netspeed.com.au

One owner since new. Cost over \$125,000 to assemble. Low Km (under 125,000Km). NSW rego to 12/4/22.

Price Reduced!! - complete: \$70,000 ONO (will consider selling the TRAYON separately)

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