



FEBRUARY 2023

SOUTHERN TRAILS

PROMISED LANDS

Adventure awaits in the VHC

IT'S ALL ON

2023 updates, trip reports and loads of new trips and events to book.

WIN! WIN! WIN!

Come to the 14 February meeting for the Summer raffle final draw.

.....PLUS AN EXTRA MEETING RAFFLE





DIRECTORY

COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:

Andy Squire
president@st4wdc.com.au

VICE PRESIDENT:

Paul Kerr
vpresident@st4wdc.com.au

SECRETARY:

Roland Pittar
secretary@st4wdc.com.au

TREASURER:

Jim Anderson
treasurer@st4wdc.com.au

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Lynne Donaldson
membership@st4wdc.com.au

EVENTS AND TRIPS COORDINATOR:

Michael Patrick
trips@st4wdc.com.au

PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR:

Ann Ronning
publications@st4wdc.com.au

EDUCATION COORDINATOR:

Bronwyn Squire
education@st4wdc.com.au

PROPERTY COORDINATOR:

Brad Wells
property@st4wdc.com.au

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR:

Shea Jost
public@st4wdc.com.au

INFORMATION COORDINATOR:

Matthew Maddigan
information@st4wdc.com.au

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Francoise Zaalén-Arbaut
clothing@st4wdc.com.au
Michael Kerr
general2@st4wdc.com.au
Ethan Taylor
general3@st4wdc.com.au
Vacant
general4@st4wdc.com.au

GENERAL MEETINGS

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.

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 2023", etc.

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 www.facebook.com/st4wdc/.

Southern Trails:

Contribute to 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.

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](#)

CONTENTS

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Thank you Jules and Rob,
and a promotion! | 13 | THE BIG TRIP
2022 Victorian High
Country Ramble Recap |
| 3 | MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Benefits and member
spotlight | 21 | HAVE YOU HEARD? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are you on the forum?• Insurance questions?• Don't get lost with Michael |
| 5 | SOCIAL CLUB UPDATE
TGIF is back and a year of
getting social | 22 | SAFE ONE DRIVER TRAINING |
| 7 | SWAP'N'SELL | 27 | TRIP REPORTS |
| 9 | GREEN GULLY PROJECT | 35 | TRIPS AND EVENTS |
| 10 | WHERE'S MATT
New tales, new travels | 38 | CLASSIFIEDS |
| | | 41 | SUMMER RAFFLE |
| | | 42 | CLOTHING STORE |

ST4WDC traveller Matt Warmington
visiting Larry, The Big Lobster in
Kingston, South Australia.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY ANDY SQUIRE

Well. It seemed like a good idea at the time. "Let's go camping this weekend". Damn rain. We haven't left yet, but by the time you read this, we will be back; I suspect the outcome will be a wet a@#e. Oh well, at least I'm not sitting in Canberra 'enjoying' the rain in the city... But welcome back. Hope you all had a great Christmas/New Year break, didn't eat and drink too much, and are revitalised for another year. I managed to put on several kilos and won the title of 'Fat Andrew' off my brother-in-law (who could hardly be called fat anyway...). Bugger.

Quite a lot on the cards at the moment. In December, Jules, our Public Relations Coordinator, resigned from the Committee due to personal reasons. She started a new job based in Goulburn and Crookwell and just couldn't get to Canberra as necessary to give the role the attention it needed. Shea has stepped into the role and is off and running. He has connected with our Sponsors and has got together with our NSW/ACT 4WD Association Delegates (and VP) to ensure a coordinated approach to Public Relations. Shea is taking every opportunity to promote the Club and foster good relationships with the broader community. The pressure's on to perform now?!?!



The Committee needs a General Member.
Contact Secretary@st4wdc.com.au for
more information

And then this month, Rob, our Property Coordinator for the last few years, has had to resign from the role, again due to personal reasons—one that I am sure we can all appreciate—is simply time. Rob is on the Driver Training Team and has been heavily involved in the Club for several years, including leading a range of trips (probably organised by Lynne, and Rob just went along for the ride). Add to that managing our property and arranging and attending the Property Musters meant no free time. It just goes to show how much a few do for the Club, but it can't last, and something has to give... Fortunately, Brad Wells has offered to take on the role of Property Coordinator and was appointed in accordance with the Constitution.

A HUGE thank you to Jules and Rob for their efforts and contributions; without people like them (and the other members on the Committee, members of the DTU and Trip Leaders) the Club just wouldn't function. This means there is a vacant general member position on the Committee, so..... don't be shy.

On a sad note, another of our long-term members recently passed away. Neville Simpson was an active trip leader back in the day, leading several desert crossings and numerous trips to the high country. There is more about Neville later in the newsletter. Our condolences to his family.

One of our members, Alex Noon, is in the initial stages of planning an attempt to run the length of the Canning Stock Route, something that has never been done by a female (scheduled for 2024). The plan is to raise money for the BraveHeart charity, but this is yet to be confirmed/formalised (as I understand it). Alex is seeking support from the club membership to assist with the project. If you have any information that might help or you can assist with support (vehicles, support crew, equipment), or planning, drop me a line, and I will pass on your details. Hopefully, Alex will have more information for the next newsletter.

The NSW/ACT 4WD Association is holding a Strengths Weakness Opportunity and Threat analysis at their next Quarterly meeting (Feb). If you have any thoughts, send them through to VPresident@st4wdc.com.au so that our delegates can feed back to the Association. Any ideas you can provide will also be used in our (now) annual review of the membership of the Association.

"I'VE LEARNED THAT YOU CAN TELL A LOT ABOUT A PERSON BY THE WAY THEY HANDLE THESE THREE THINGS: A RAINY DAY, LOST LUGGAGE, AND TANGLED CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS".

And finally, at the April meeting, one of our members who is an insurance expert (I hope I haven't over-sold him and put him on the spot) will give a short presentation on the types of insurance that might be relevant to our members. Rather than getting a standard politician's response of 'no-comment' or 'I will get back to you' if you have any questions regarding insurance that you would like to have answered (if possible) send them through to Public@st4wdc.com.au so that they can be answered at the meeting.

You're probably bored now (if you even made it this far), so I better sign off and finish packing for the weekend (note to self; don't forget the broly, wellies and a good book). And I have to agree with this: "I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights".

See you on the tracks.

Andy





MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

BY LYNNE DONALDSON
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Can you believe it's February already?? I cannot!!
The month of January flew by in a blink.

I hope you all had a great start to the New year and are cracking to run some trips, participate in some social activities or attend a Muster.

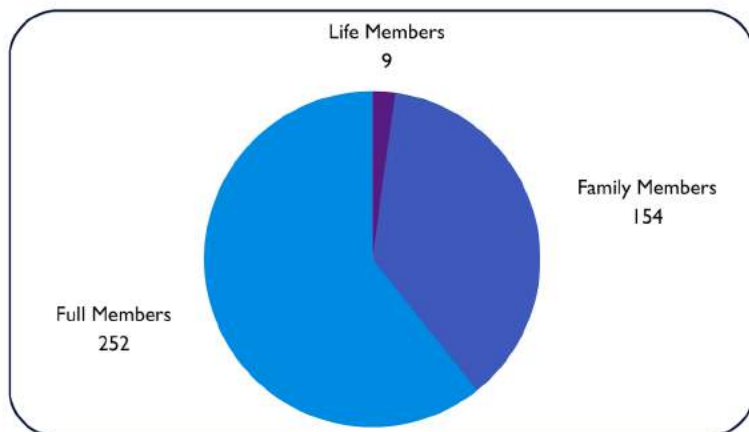
There were no new members that joined the Club in the Month of January (most people trying to catch up after Christmas to join a Club I would assume). We have 3 new members already this Month (February) but will report in the next newsletter.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Please remember that many businesses in Canberra are our Sponsors and will give you a discount or sound advice to ST4WDC members when you purchase your 4WD and camping gear. Make sure that you tell them you are a member.

Association Stickers – At this month's meeting, there will be 2023 Association stickers available to collect. (Dated vehicle sticker is proof of membership). State Forest Permits are paid annually to allow all affiliated clubs to access forests without charge.

Many thanks to Club members that have assisted at the visitors' table. Having other members at the table welcome and inform visitors about all we do in the Club is extremely helpful to me and is much appreciated by all visitors.



If you see a new face at a meeting or someone looking a little lost, say G'day and make them feel welcome. It takes only a few minutes to make someone feel welcome and connected.

If you have any Membership queries or want to chat, do not hesitate to contact me at membership@st4dc.com.au or 0412 251 528.

Till next month,

Lynne



Member Spotlight

Club member SHEA JOST hardly needs introduction. A familiar face to newly minted Safe One Basic Driving Graduates, Shea now heads up engaging sponsors and the local community.

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE ST4WDC CLUB?

To enjoy the social activities and trips that the Club provides. To meet like-minded people interested in 4WDing and camping.

WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND TO BE THE BEST PART OF JOINING ST4WDC?

Going on trips in the Club and having the opportunity to lead trips for the Club.

WHAT TRIP IS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

The Cape and OTT.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST ENJOYABLE TRIP?

The huts of the High-Country trip held in Mar 2021. We travelled from Mansfield in Victoria through to Tom Groggin on the Murray River over 7 days.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER?

I joined in Nov 2020

IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE CLUB?

I am a trip leader and the Public Relations Coordinator for the Club.

SOCIAL CLUB UPDATE

Welcome to a new
year of social club fun!

Each month you can join either a TGIF meet-up or a weekend picnic. And check out the planned seasonal activities, which are a little extra. All the events will be on the ST4WDC event calendar soon for booking.

So mark your calendars and make plans to have a good time. And if you don't have a calendar yet, download the [2023 ST4WDC calendar](#).

FEBRUARY SOCIAL EVENT

Reminiscent of a traditional pub with timber ceilings and nostalgic warmth, [The Alby Basement](#) is the ultimate sports bar. Try your hand at Australia's first duckpin bowling alley. Then shoot a few rounds of pool, or have a go at the pinball machines. When you get peckish, there's a range of popular bar snacks, pizzas and burgers on our menu.

THE ALBY (WODEN)

204 / 45 FURZER STREET,
PHILLIP, ACT, 2606

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023

START TIME: 6:00 PM

BOWLING BOOKED FOR 7:30
PM - 8:30 PM

ST4WDC SOCIAL CLUB PRESENTS

The



TGIF

Meet Up

BOOK YOUR SPOT ST4WDC.COM.AU

SOCIAL CLUB 2023 CALENDAR

Fri 24 Feb	TGIF	The Alby Basement
Sun 27 Mar	Picnic	Cascades
Fri 20 Apr	TGIF	The Dickson Taphouse
Fri 5 to Sun 7 May	Autumn activity	Narooma Oyster Festival
Sun 28 May	Picnic	Wee Jasper
Fri 24 Jun	TGIF	Rose Cottage Inn
Sun 30 Jul	Winter activity	Corin Forest
Fri 25 Aug	TGIF	The Duxton
Sun 17 Sep	Picnic	Tidbinbilla
Fri 13 to Sun 15 Oct TBC	Spring Activity	Camping at Wollondilly or Wombeyan Caves
Fri 17 Nov	TGIF	Capital Brewing Co
Sat 9 to Sun 10 Dec	Christmas Camp	Burrinjuck State Park

If you have any feedback on the events and activities, contact the Social Club at social@st4WDC.com.au, we would love to hear from our members.



SWAP'N'SELL

Polish up your treasures for the March Club meeting

Got some gear that needs a new home? Bring it to the ST4WDC Swap'n'Sell. ST4WDC members can bring small accessories and tools for display at the Swap'n'Sell table or bring a photo for larger items. Swap'n'Sell will run every other month with the first hosted at the March meeting. You can use the form or make your own to advertise your items on the night.



SWAP'N'SELL

Date :

Title: _____

Description: _____

Features

Notes

Price or swaps
<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Contact details

ARB Corporation Ltd —
Warn VR EVO Winch (All Models)
PRA Number 2023/19708

Published Date 3 Feb 2023

Product description:

All Warn VR EVO winches used by 4x4 vehicles to recover vehicles from situations they can't drive out of. The winch can be operated by a remote control supplied with the winch.

Recalled models:

- 8 – Part number W103250
- 8-S – Part number W103251
- 10 – Part number W103252
- 10-S – Part number W103253
- 12 – Part number W103254
- 12-S – Part number W103255

What are the defects?

The internal circuit board of the remote control can corrode if exposed to water. Corrosion of the remote control's circuit board may cause the winch's cable to stop, wind up or release unexpectedly.

What are the hazards?

If a winch stops or starts unexpectedly while being used, the cable or vehicle may move suddenly. The winch may also operate unintentionally while not being used, for example when parked or driving. If the winch operates unexpectedly, there is an increased risk of accident and serious injury to people inside the vehicle or nearby the winch.

What should consumers do?

Consumers should immediately stop using the remote control for affected winches and contact ARB to register their details.

Consumers can register their details by contacting ARB by:

- Phone: 1800 879 602
- Email: productrecall@arb.com.au
- ARB's website: www.arb.com.au/warn-winch-recall
- visiting any ARB store.

ARB will send the consumer a pre-paid satchel for the consumer to send their affected remote control to ARB for inspection and repair.

ARB will inspect each affected remote control for signs of corrosion to the circuit board.

If there is no corrosion, ARB will apply corrosion protection to the circuit board.

This will waterproof the circuit board to prevent any corrosion in the future and ARB will return the remote control to the consumer.

If the circuit board has corrosion, ARB will replace the remote control.

GREEN GULLY PROJECT

25TH-26TH FEBRUARY 2023

NPWS would like to invite the NSW 4WD Association members to participate in a working bee to plant trees, make tree guards and clean up ex-agricultural debris from Green Gully in the Blue Mountains National Park at Megalong Valley.

The Green Gully Rehabilitation Project will involve a weekend-long event on 25th-26th February 2023. Assuming this first event is successful, we anticipate organising a 2nd event later in the year. A location map is above.

The first day would be a work session planting trees making tree guards, dismantling and removing old fences and agricultural equipment. To express NPWS gratitude for the work of the 4WD members, the second day would be a guided tag-along tour of parts of the Warragamba Special Catchment Area, normally closed to the public. The maximum number of 4WD vehicles on the tour will be five.

Camping will be at a campsite set up exclusively for the event, separate from other campers. Participants will need to be self sufficient for camping and we will be catering for dinner on Saturday Night. NPWS will have 5 personnel assisting with the management of the program and the tag along tour.

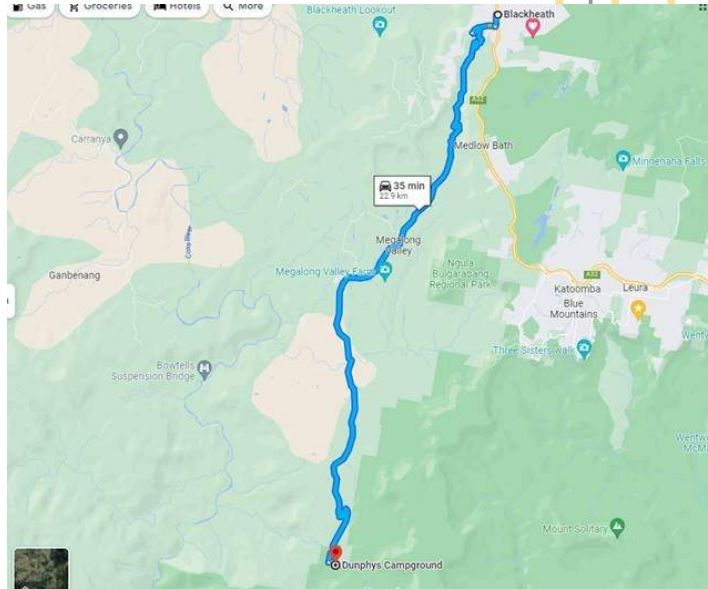
Warragamba Special Area, schedule 1 and 2 lands will be closed to all vehicle access if the catchment area has received substantial rain within 24-48hrs prior to the event.

For any questions or to book in for the event please contact Shane McClymont on the details below.

We looking forward to working with you on what we anticipate will be a satisfying and productive weekend.

Please contact:

Shane McClymont
Vice President - Clubs
0418 458 446
vpclubs@4wdnow.com



As former editor Matthew Warmington makes his way across Australia, we will share in the sights, laughs and travel advice. After Christmas, Matt made his way from the Capital region to South Australia.



From Wee Jasper to Wagga Wagga

After NYE with cousin Jen and Paul at Wee Jasper (definitely worth a visit, lovely campsites by the river), I spent a few days with Craig McMaster and Broni McMaster and their two beautiful girls at new digs in Wagga. Heading south I stopped at the legendary Ettamogah Pub for lunch and an obligatory beer.

ETTAMOGAH PUB BEER MATE, IT PLEASES TH' PALATE; IT TICKLES TH' TONSILS; IT KICKS OVER TH' STARTER MOTOR, IT CLEANS OUT TH' CARBY; IT ERADICATES FRUIT FLY... PATTERSON'S CURSE... AGAPANTHAS... CATTLE TICK... CODLIN MOTH... AND TASTES GOOD TOO MATE!!



We're going to Bonnie Doon!!

Spent a couple of days at Nug Nug near Myrtleford and headed up Mt Buffalo to explore the mountains and discovered an old Chalet <https://visitmountbuffalo.com.au/sightseeing/the-chalet/> at the top whilst managing to avoid the many cyclists slogging their way up. Took a walk from the Chalet 500m down to the Crystal Creek Waterfall though having only thongs on didn't go any further.

Then a few days in Wangaratta exploring on the bike. Managed to do all the bike trails around the town and also fixed a loose sway bar link on the truck. It seems I have donated yet another sway bar part (nut and washer) to the gods of articulation. Shortly after heading off to Bonnie Doon via Benalla I noticed the alternator was not charging and luckily picked up and fitted a new one in Benalla. No surprise though, it's been on the way out after a dunking in mud during a 4WD trip a while ago.

Bonnie Doon is lovely, "Dad loves to go fast" (another Castle quote) is borne out by the multitude of ski boats and wave runners zooming up and down in front of the campground. Ahhh, the serenity!

Finding gold

Spent the day at Sovereign Hill, what a great place recreating the goldfields of the mid 1800s. After leaving Bonnie Doon I stopped at Bendigo, found a little gem of a caravan park, and visited the Central Deborah Gold Mine. I knew about the gold rush in this area but had no idea how much gold was found or that they were still mining it today. Then moved on to Ballarat stopping a couple of nights and visiting the site of the Eureka Stockade. Peter Fitzsimmons's book kept me entertained during a previous holiday and it was great to refresh my understanding of that event and time which helped to form the democracy we enjoy today. Even bought the T Shirt! I'll never complain about work again after seeing what the early settlers went through daily.



Great Ocean Road.

Yesterday I took a look at the "most significant lighthouse on the Australian continent" at Cape Otway. A real eye opener that made me think about people who came out from England to Australia on tall ships. After around 100 days at sea they walked from Melbourne to their destination. Got my cardio and leg workout today checking out a couple of waterfalls in the Great Otway NP. It must be a NP regulation to make you walk from the car park a couple of kms down to the base of the waterfall and back again. Worth it just for the scenery though.

Found this cracker little spot on the Fitzroy river. I'd take the boat off if I was staying longer but I've booked a site in SA tomorrow night so I'll need to be moving on. Finished the Great Ocean Road yesterday. There sure are some iconic and beautiful places along our southern shoreline including the almost 12 apostles. I think I maxed out my cardio for the week though. Why is everything 1km from the car park!!





South Australia

Travelled the SA coast quite a bit between Portland and Adelaide over the past couple of weeks starting with a bush camp at Beachport then on to Wrights Bay, back and forth between Robe and Kingston, then back to Beachport to meet up with the Mt Lofty Rangers 4WDC for the Australia Day long weekend. The Club was very friendly and let me tag along on several beach and dune trips. It was great to catch up with friends from Southern Tablelands 4WDC who had moved to SA over the last couple of years and joined MLR4WDC. Beach fishing produced a small snapper and a King George whiting, the latter was yummy pan fried with lemon and thyme

After staying with Alex and Andrea for a night I free camped at the Narrung Ferry and explored the peninsula. I've now booked in to a lovely spot amongst the vines south of Adelaide while I wait for my ebike to be fixed. It stopped working a while back and I've had to actually pedal the thing to get anywhere, sheeesh! Think I might go on a winery tour.





VICTORIAN HIGH COUNTRY RAMBLE 2022

As I have always said you can expect the Victorian High Country will deliver this. The mountain environment can change at any time so be prepared for hot and possibly cold extreme conditions with potential for Rain, Snow, High Winds, Flooding, Extreme Creek Crossings, Deep Bog Holes, and Bush Fires. Possible early trip closures due to potentially dangerous conditions can occur.

Michael

After missing out on the High Country trip last year due to vehicle breakdown, we were very pleased to pull up at Dargo and set up ready for the week ahead. Unfortunately, rain set back the real start by a day, but this allowed me to do some investigation of likely fishing spots, and wet a line for a while. The high running river wasn't really fishable, but a fisherman is ever the optimist. Our first drive was the tour to the Mitchell River National Park and it was a nice introduction to the beauty of the area. We enjoy getting to know our convoy mates and the dad jokes and scenery commentary kept us amused. Unfortunately our son Eric, in his Patrol, had a reoccurrence of some vehicle issues that he thought were fixed and he choose to head home directly from the southernmost part of our drive near Bairnsdale. Whilst he left us that day, he didn't leave our convoy in spirit, as for the rest of the week we continued pointing out the sights that we knew would have interested him most (Not). Our convoy leader Scott found us a little fun track to finish the day, and couple of quick tree clearances later we were home again.

Our second day we headed 'higher' looking for some snow, which we found on the road to Dogs Grave, and then on top of Mt Phipps. A bit of random exploring later (and four blokes standing around with maps and mapping software), we found a nice little 'fun track' to round out the day. It had some rock steps that reminded of Talooge and lots of mud puddles that we all enjoyed playing in. We finished with Harrison Cut, and the Ewan Jeep track, which was a lot of fun going down, and worthy of another





visit if we could swing it during the week

Our third trip was to the Grant Historical area, and it reminded us of how fast gold towns would pop up, then disappear. The trip down the mine tunnel was well worth the price of entry, and we took off for a pastry at the Talbotville bakery. While the bakery was a bust, the river wasn't, and a couple of small trout proved that I wasn't just carrying fishing rods for show. A lazy drive out, and then Brad and Tony decided to join me for a little up and down again on

the Ewan Jeep track. After a reminder that the locker was a useful part of my vehicle, it was safely done, and a good thing too as the road was being graded across this week, and the fun bits might not be there any more (or at least until a few big trucks dig it up again).

On Thursday was the big one, Billy Goat. George decided she really wanted to drive it and did with aplomb. The highlight of the trip from me was when I was allowed to talk again (something about my mumbling 'left' and 'right' was distracting). It was a beautiful day with great visibility, and the views were as good as the drive up. George also took care of the 'down again' part of the day, and it was with great satisfaction we rolled back into Dargo for a few interesting drinks at the pub. The Barney Banana was a hit, and apparently it is not embarrassing if you lick out the tiny cup it comes in!

Friday morning was a toss up to do a long day of driving or do something else. We decided for the something else, and a day by the river cooking damper, playing camping games, and catching fish was called for. Three perfect



smoking size trout were in the fridge to come home, and we were relaxed and ready for a leisurely pack up and an early start home the next day.

Thanks go to our convoy mates, Scott and Jen, Tony and Julie, Brad, and Eric for sharing the time with us and being great companions. And of course, to Michael for putting this great trip together for us to enjoy.

Ciril and Georgina

I really enjoyed spending a few days at the Dargo River Inn doing (and redoing) some of the iconic High Country tracks while getting to know the other club members better. Thanks to MP for putting this on. The annual High Country Ramble will certainly be a regular fixture in my calendar from now on. *Bruce*



What a beautiful area. We are so thankful for everyone who attended and had fun playing pool, eating out, and of course driving the mountains! Day 1 was a bit of a let down - Damn rain!! And not being able to do the Crooked rRver track was a shame. I guess that means we must go back

- We had loads of fun, especially being shown how to use a winch, and how mud tyres don't always help in the mud.

Keith and Sarah Rogers

The desire to do the Vic high country has built up the excitement however the weather forecast built up the apprehension on whether it would get cancelled or restrict the tracks we could do. When Sunday was cancelled and made a lay day due to the rain, the disappointment was creeping in. However, when we were told we were doing Billy Goat up first, I could not help a little "wahoo". The following five days were jam packed with interesting tracks and spectacular sights. Of note were Billy Goat and the view at the Pinnacles in a blizzard; the engraving and story at the Dog's Grave; exploring the mine near Grants and the white forest and views from Blue Rag.

Apart from the driving and wonders of the high country, I really enjoyed the social aspects of getting to know the people and trip leaders as well as some locals. I am sure my Doc will have something to say about that next visit ;-). Also I cannot thank Michael for organising such an epic trip and the convoy leaders Bruce and Shea for their guidance and knowledge.

Jerry

I can't believe the lengths that the Man From Snowy River went to, to get free grass for a bunch of cows.

And why is it that none of the locals look like Sigrid Thornton?

Glynn and Rosemary

I drove up with the convoy led by Matthew Madigan. This made the trip up very relaxing and we even visited a fete.

During the first night it rained heavily and consequently the rest day was brought forward so I drove into Lakes Entrance which was nice. Our first day of off road driving was straight up Billy Goat so no time for easing our way into the trip.

This drive was far more challenging than anything else I'd ever attempted before. My vehicle handled it with no problems (front and rear lockers) and the snow fell heavily which made it very picturesque.

On the second day we drove some nice tracks and the weather improved with some sunshine. We started the third day driving up the Mt Ewan Jeep Track. This was fun but challenging. On the fourth day we drove to Talbotville and Grant. Great tracks and we even walked into an old abandoned gold mine.

On our last day we headed up to Mt Blue Rag. What a spectacular drive and a great way to end this trip.

Our leaders Bruce and Shea did a great job throughout the week and calmly helped resolve any crisis we encountered with a couple of difficult recoveries that had to be performed.



Great views, great company and great fun. Well organised. I will definitely be back next year. I've already booked.

Daniel Parsons

What a great week of 4WDing and socialising with other Club members. Adapt and overcome was the catchphrase of the week with the weather sort of behaving itself and high water levels due to recent rain making most of the river crossings unpassable. Roadworks also impeded access on the Dargo High Plains Road. If you've ever ventured into the VHC you will know that water crossings are a staple and removing them reduces your options as most tracks involve one or more



crossings. Great work by MP to firstly put together multiple trip routes avoiding the significant crossings and kudos to the trip leaders for introducing side tracks, bypasses, and interesting stops on the fly.

We managed to still accomplish Billy Goats Bluff; Blue Rag; Dogs Grave; Grant Historical Area; and the Mitchell River NP. A wide variety of weather conditions including snow, rain, sun, and wind made the experience even more enjoyable.

Looking forward to the next foray into the VHC, it's a great destination with so much to offer.

Matt W

While our ambitions had to be tempered somewhat by the wet weather and fast-flowing rivers, meaning that we couldn't drive some tracks, the 2022 Victorian High Country still brought unforgettable experiences.

To have blizzard-like conditions, with snow settling on the ground at Dog's Grave, brought out delight in everyone. Fellow travellers, common sense and Michael P, always say prepare for any weather in the High Country, and it was borne out in spades that day.

We were able to drive Billy Goats, with a challenging muddy climb on the return trip from The Pinnacles to the crest of Billy Goats. The track never disappoints, whether it's the view, tramp holes or picking the line through the rocks and spoon drains.

We could also drive Blue Rag on a beautifully clear day, allowing spectacular 360 degree views. While some of the tracks with river crossings, like Crooked River couldn't be done, they can just wait for next year!

Thanks to Michael P for organising yet another VHC Ramble, all the trip leaders, but particularly Matt Warmington who led our group and made it so much fun, as well as leading the small convoy from Canberra to Dargo. Thanks also to all the others in Matt's group – it was great getting to know you all better and sharing a few laughs!

Roland P



As usual, Vic High Country provided a range of weather (snow, rain and sunshine), breathtaking scenery and interesting 4WD'ing. Throw in some great company and we had the makings for a wonderful week away. Many thanks to Michael for making it a reality, and thanks to trip leaders for their essential roles, much appreciated.

Tony and Julie Warren

Let's hit the road and number off - Matt as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and then Charlie. Heading off each morning for another day in the Victorian high country in November was likely to include a mixture of sunshine, wind, rain and possibly snow.

All while driving with our small group on trails with names like Blue Rag, Billy Goat Bluff and The Pinnacles. Our group followed the 4wd trails winding up and down hills for up to 1,000m in altitude. The views when we reached the top of the tracks were spectacular while we stopped for a break or lunch.

We explored old mining and farming towns that ceased to exist up to 100 years ago - Grant, Talbotville, Dog's Grave and others that are just a dot on the map. The end of the day's gatherings with a beer in the Dargo River Inn or around a small fire gave us time to exchange stories and tips on things to do. Special congratulations to Jenny and Shawn who won 10 cartons of beer in the pub raffle. Thanks to Matt, Michael Patrick and all the trip leaders for a great week away with a chance to get away and meet up with other club members.



Cheers Cynthia and Tony

A Week at Dargo. I would like thank Michael and all those involved for organising another weeklong trip to Dargo. I enjoyed myself greatly and didn't need any repairs done this time. The trip was a well-planned and implemented. It was good to drive on some great trails, including those I had never visited previously and seeing the changes to the trails I had previously been on. The trip was able to present me with challenging driving conditions which allowed me to learn more about my personal driving limitation and vehicle limitations. I was also grateful I was a trip leader and was able to guide those who had not been to Dargo before. Staying at Dargo and able to have dinner at the Inn was another great idea. Catching up and having a chat with over either a drink or dinner was great. It was a great experience to be the trip leader at the end of the trip.

I enjoyed the week and was able to revise driving techniques that I had been previously taught and experienced. The different levels of driver experience and vehicles allowed me to witness how people would approach the driving of the tracks and obstacles. I enjoyed talking to the everyone about their different vehicles.

The week was great time and place to meet people and talk about driving. I look forward to more club activities and trips to the high country.

Shea

A big thank you to our excellent Trip Leader, Matt Warmington who delivered a great adventure in a spectacular and historically significant part of Australia previously unexplored by us. From the snowy (Christmas) wonderland at Dogs Grave to the magnificent heights of the Pinnacles via the classic Billy Goats Bluff track, Matt kept us entertained with a range of sights and 4X4 challenges, all within our groups' capabilities, in a fun and supportive team environment. Recent heavy rains meant that the trip leaders had to give a lot of consideration to the daily activities and thanks to their skill and local knowledge they were able to provide a smorgasbord of VIC high country staples every day. Thanks also to Michael Patrick, the team of trip leaders and all participants, the club camaraderie added to the beauty of the VIC high country to make this a memorable (must do) trip. The area has so much more to offer, we are eager to return and have more alpine adventures in the Dargo area.

Yana and Michael Steinbronn

This was my first trip to the Victorian High Country for over 25 years and it was so good to return. It was my first time driving through Bombala, Cann River and Dargo, so that was a very enjoyable experience too. Camping at the Dargo River Inn was great! We had a large grassy area from which to select campsites and the views were wonderful! It was also great having the Dargo River Inn right there where we could walk over for a meal, a drink (or more) and have a game of pool. The amount of recent rain coupled with the amount we have had in previous months meant that several tracks were closed, so there was some shuffling of plans, including making Sunday the lay-day instead of Wednesday. Monday we were snowed on when driving the higher peaks and after that it got gradually warmer through the week. On the clear days, the views were amazing and of course some of the drives were challenging in places. As someone



who only took up 4wding this year, it was a good experience to observe a couple of recoveries and provide a tiny bit of assistance on a muddy slope. Our group had low cloud the day we did Billy Goat Bluff and the Pinnacles, so we didn't get the full impact of the 360deg view....a shame I know, but then there is always next year! ☐

Sandy

It rained, it was sunny, it was fun and Michael stopped for morning tea. Miracles also can happen

Dim

Welcome to Victoria. The state where it seems to rain more than the sun shines but we got lucky as we only had the first day washed out and lots of creeks were up (and not crossable) but we did get lots of sunshine and able to drive the tracks for 5 days in a row. Our group led by myself with Jen, Brad, Tony and Julie, Ciril and George and Eric.

Day 1 Mon - driving on tracks through the Mitchell River NP. Nothing was too demanding but

some of the scenery was very nice. Eric's car gremlins returned so he sent himself home once we were within earshot of Bairnsdale but not before we had cleared 3 trees off the road at various stages of the day.

Day 2 Tues - we heard there was a possibility of snow at Dogs Grave so off we went only to find a very small amount of snow left on the ground. Out of my travel buddy came freshly baked Date Loaf for morning tea - yum. We then headed off to scout out some other tracks including Mt Phipps (snowfright - enough snow for "mosquito snow angels"); West Hill Tk (saw emu; Brad & his puddles!!); Spring Ck Tk (deers & kangaroos!); Dinner Plane Tk; Harrison's Cutt (Ciral's stick platypuses); Mt Ewen Jeep Tk (steep yikes!!!)

Day 3 Wed - was up to Grant Historic Site & Cemetery where Chocolate Brownies appeared out of the travel buddy - I love the travel buddy. Talbotville for lunch and Ciril caught 2 small trout; then home via some steep and scenic tracks.

Day 4 Thurs - Billy Goat Bluff Tk - cool!!! Alpine NP and Pinnacles Lookout then back to Dargo Pub for some Dargo Antifreeze, High Plains Tingles and Barney Bananas which were all yummy.

Day 5 Friday was a down day where we drove 15km to Italian Flats where we set up a fire to cook a damper made by George and played games whilst Ciral caught 3 Trout - got to love a down day. Ended back at the Dargo Pub for some Barney Bananas!!!! Yummy!!!!

Sat we said our goodbyes and wait till next year's High Country trip in the hope we can access a few more tracks.

Scott & Jen



Another great week away organised by Michael and his convoy leaders. We enjoyed the various tracks we explored which tried and tested our experience and training. The Dargo River Inn is a great base camp with everything you need regardless of your camping style. The format for the weekend is very flexible so if you need/want to sit out a day you can, which unfortunately we had to do due to a small medicinal issue. We look forward to being able to spend the whole week on the tracks next year.

Geoff & Mel.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Insurance questions for guest speaker

Not being insured is a major financial disaster for everyone, and particularly so for those of us with modified 4x4s. Aside from the huge cost of the vehicle, there's the value of all the accessories including their fitment, and often a lot of your own effort involved too, even if that's just time spent choosing the modifications, let alone actually getting on the tools and fitting them yourself as many of us do.

The Club will have a special guest speaker at the April meeting, Tony Melville to answer all your insurance questions. Tony has asked to find out what kind of insurance information member's are interested in. Send a quick email to public@st4wdc.com.au with your questions.

Don't get lost with Michael

Are you aware that ST4WDC runs OziExplorer Workshops and Hema 4x4 App Workshops? The workshops introduce members to using OziExplorer, Hema Navigator and Hema 4X4 Explorer mapping software. Participants learn how to plan and navigate routes, Off-Road and evaluate tracks already driven. Check the event calendar for worksops.

Member forum

Don't forget to check out the member forums. You will find it in your member information page. Swaps or ask about a new track to hit.

Vale Neville

Neville Simpson who was a long-time member of this Club, passed away on 25 January this year, aged 88. Although not being an office holder of the Club, Neville was a great contributor. He was by no means the first to lead trips to the Victorian High Country, but he introduced many of our members to the delights of the mountains on the many trips he took there between 2000 and 2015.

He also led about eight trips across what he called "My Desert", the Simpson. A meticulous trip leader who taught many of us a lot about life off the road.

Neville, tucking into a decent sized breakfast at Birdsville bakery, May 2006.



Hema Maps Cloud: While Trip planning the app changes my route to where it wants me to go

The Hema app tries to be intuitive so when selecting your destination and it is On-road and your next destination point is On-road the app will change your route to what it thinks you should go.

To bypass this, change the destination point to Off-road.

Got something to share? We love to hear from members. Email publications@st4wdc.com.au

SAFE ONE BASIC DRIVER TRAINING COURSE

2nd to 4th December 2022

Chief Instructor Peter Butterfield
Education Coordinator Bronwyn Squire

Student	Instructor	Trainee
Lee Hobson	Peter B	
Des Walker	Scott B	
Trevor Costa	Ciril	
Ulrick Wahl	Michael L	
Greg Curtin	Rod W	
Peter O'Donnell	Michael P	
Neil Pinkerton	Michael K	
Jasper Burfoot	Dim V	David H
Paul Chubb	Matt W	

The following are the comments and feelings of the students who participated in the December 2022 Safe One Basic Driver Training Course.

Peter told us "Newbies" on the pre-night that Talooge actually was an acronym. I cannot remember what he said it stood for, but my Safe One Weekend made me think that the weekend and the overall first impressions of ST4WDC could also be described using the same letters...

Thanks for running this course, and thanks for Michael for being my TALOOGE passenger.

Neil

The basic driver training course is excellent. If you want a relaxing laid back weekend, don't go. If you want to work hard to get significant off-road driving skills in two days and two nights, then this is the one to do. The hard work is mitigated throughout by the friendly can do attitude of the trainers and students. About half the time is in the cars developing practical driving skills. The other half is theory. Two areas that are not covered in the practical component are sand driving – covered by another course – and dealing with the corrugations usually experienced on the major outback tracks e.g., Gibbs river road. This is due – no doubt – to both time and a lack of land features on the training property.

Paul

T Teamwork through participative training.

A Assistance through one-on-one driving activities.

L Learning through immersive examples.

O Onerous practical exercises with sometimes gruelling tracks.

O Operation of a 4WD through essential topics.

G Gallivanting with gratuitous and willing volunteers.

E Enthusiastic specialised educators coaching multi-levels of skills.



I enjoyed the course immensely thanks to the professional instruction by Dim and Dave in the vehicle, and the other instructors providing specific instruction in a range of areas who were generous with their knowledge when questions were asked. Dim kept telling me not to take one hand off the wheel when I was talking. I thought that being of Italian origin he would have understood the need to talk with one's hands. I feel more confident now to tackle the type of tracks we drove. I was surprised how capable the Hilux was in the conditions. I thought the course overall was extremely well run. I was blown away by the fact that many of the tracks that we drove had been created by club members over many years. The training room, amenities and the tracks seem to have been the result of a sustained vision. Hats off to all those who have played a part in what for me was a fabulous training experience.

Jasper Burfoot

The weekend spent on the Basic Driver Training course was very good and exceeded my expectations. I found the level of instruction to be professional and proficient, the tracks on Talooge that we negotiated were perfect for training and perfect for demonstrating what my vehicle and I (after instruction) could do. I found the trainers to be welcoming, always helpful, knowledgeable, and always friendly. All in all, a terrific weekend.

Greg

What a fantastic weekend arranged and run by a fantastic and very professional group of volunteers. As a complete newbie to 4WD, I was somewhat apprehensive – particularly after the drive in on Friday night; thinking 'if this is what they expect us to do with no training, what do they have in store for us on the weekend?' The thorough and comprehensive classroom training by Peter B and Michael P followed by the calm and patient guidance of my trainer, Scottie, allayed my fears and got me to take on obstacles I would never have dreamed I could do. We really appreciate the friendliness shown by all trainers and the effort the Club does for new members. My wife and I look forward to many future trips.

Des Walker

Firstly, an expression of gratitude to the instructors running the training weekend and to the club members behind the scenes who organise the training, the entire weekend could not be faulted.

I was one of the students with some 4x4 experience and the course went way beyond my experience and capabilities resulting in me learning a lot from the weekend. My instructor Peter was fantastic and as the training is "one on one" he was quickly able to assess my personal ability and my vehicle to be able to instruct me accordingly. He did an excellent job in teaching me new skills and highlighting bad habits.

I'm very impressed with the Club and am very keen to get out on some adventures,

Lee

I can't think of better way to be welcomed into the fold than the training weekend. The time spent at Talooge highlights the amount of talent and commitment within the Club and the facilities club members have worked so hard to create and maintain. What really hit home for me was how nervous I was on the that first hill on the drive to Talooge while towing the camper trailer and what a relief it was to finally arrive at the campsite, then two days later what an enjoyable and stress-free drive back out I had using all the skills I had learnt over the weekend. Chalk and cheese.

Same for the Saturday looking at the obstacles we were to tackle the next day thinking that they were not achievable. Then the next day tackling them and succeeding. Great sense of achievement and psychological shift in ability and skills. Thanks to Cyril's measured tuition under duress and all the crew for a wonderful weekend.

Trevor

My wife and I recently attended the beginners training day with ST4WDC,. I was a fantastic weekend and really well organised. We learnt heaps and had our confidence in ourselves and our vehicles boosted enormously. The trainers were marvellous and really encouraged us to develop our skills. I spoke with quite a few other trainees and they appreciated the calmness and reassurance given by the trainers. The campsite at Talooge is brilliant for the purpose. I cannot recommend this event enough. Duck's Crossing, the Backdoor, Raven Craven and Hole in the Wall no longer I in-still fear!!!

Peter and Cate



TRIP REPORT FOR GRADUATES DAY OUT

11 Dec 2022.



This trip was the chance for the club members who had just recently completed their driver training to enhance their skills with an Off Road drive in the Cotter as the Brindabella tracks were close due to poor condition. This drive covered different tracks around the Cotter area Bullen Range Reserve with lunch at Paddy's River.

The group meet at the carpark at the Cotter Reserve. Once everyone had arrived a quick driver brief was given. The group commences to travel the forest tracks on the west side of Paddy's River Road. The tracks conditions changed as we found more tracks to drive through. These tracks had been shown to me on previous trip to the area by Darren Shakey Miller.

The group had lunch and a chat before heading to Paddy's river prior to heading up Bullen Range here we got to see the views of Canberra and the Cotter Dam. It was a great day with good weather for driving around the Cotter. The day over all was a nice day for the drivers to confirm their training.

The weather was perfect for a day trip to the Brindabellas... but alas it was not to be. Brindabella tracks were closed. Onward and upward via a ramble into the Cotter instead. Not having rambled in the Brindabellas for over 20 years, it did not matter, as there are some nice Cotter fire trails to entertain us "club newbies" anyway. Once we put our tyres down, we did what felt like a few "loops" around the pine forests. The views were great, and the tracks were not busy. Two river rambles and a quick walk into the Cotter Caves ended a great day. No winches, no snatching, and no flat tyres (although one side wall was a little worse off) but still lots of confidence building and fun. Thanks again to Shea for being our leader.

Neil Pinkerton



"Wow. Who would've known such amazing tracks exist on Canberra's doorstep - obviously only the experienced members of the Southern Tablelands 4WD club.

Many thanks for organising the follow-up trip for us newbies to practice the skills we were taught the previous weekend. It was a great opportunity to catch up and we really appreciated Shea's guidance and professional approach. Looking forward to our next trip."

Des Walker



I enjoyed my day out at the Cotter, ably lead by Shea, consolidating my skills following the beginner training weekend. Shea was a mine of information and over lunch facilitated a range of discussions relating to four wheel driving and camper trailers and our 4wd plans into the future. It was a fabulous opportunity to reconnect with fellow members of the basic training course. Thanks Shea for giving your time and the opportunity to attend this trip.

Jasper Burfoot

"A very pleasant day out wandering around the Cotter. Nothing too technical, but it was good to bed down some of the things learnt at the Basic Driver Training. Shea was friendly, helpful and added a bit of knowledge to what had been learnt previously. The Cotter was a nice place for a drive and it was good to catch up with some classmates from the earlier course."

Greg Curtin

Having just finished the basic training in the 4WD course at Talooge the week before the opportunity to get out and consolidate those basic 4WD skills was greatly appreciated. I was also good to catch up with those people we had done the course with and continue developing friendships. Shea took us on a great day trip and it was great to remind ourselves of those things that we had learnt the week before. Thanks Shea! I'd highly recommend this trip for all those who have completed their basic training. An enjoyable day.

Peter O'Donnell



TRIP REPORT FOR LUNCH AT LOWELL'S FLAT

This trip was the chance for the club members drive in the Brindabella National Park and have lunch at Lowell's Flat. This drive covered different tracks and and great sunny conditions with the aim to have lunch at Lowell's Flat.

The group meet at the homestead at the corner of Uriarra and Brindabella road. Once everyone had arrived a quick driver brief was given. The group then made it way to Curries Road and onto Mount Coree. From Mount Coree we made our way north along Two Sticks and headed up Dingi Dingi Range. From there we went down waterfall to McIntyres Trail and onto Lowell's Flat from Lunch and a chat.

The group had lunch and a chat before heading to Flea Creek. The group was able to experience how much a track can change within a short period of time as the track out of McIntyres up Waterfall became quite dusty. We travelled along Webbs Ridge and had a short stop at Flea Creek before heading up Gentle Annie to Brindabella Road.

The day ended with everyone in tow airing up at the main road before heading home.

The Lunch at Lowells Flat trip was a really good trip to get us started for 2023. It was a reasonably hot day with lots of dust along the tracks.

Mt Coree was a great first stop, and with clear blue skies it was a fantastic view in all directions. This theme carried on through the day, clear driving conditions, nothing too extreme, a good crew along the trip. The only real challenge faced was the trip leader's turbo pipes were a bit excitable and kept on breaking loose....

All in all it was a good trip to get into the new year. It brought most of my family out of the house to see something new.

Thanks for the trip Shea. I am looking forward to the next couple.

Dan Jackson

This was my wife's first club trip and her feedback to me was that it was a fun, lovely bunch of people The views and the roads were great. Even though it was a solid day of sitting or driving it did not feel a chore. Nine cars went along for lunch, and only one had slight issues. Shea's car was holding together well enough to make it. Overall it was a "majestical" day. Bart Koot

Neil Pinkerton



A hot and dusty day (at least outside the air con cabin) to reacquaint an old club member with the beauty, challenge and fun of tracks in the Brindabella's. It had been a couple of decades since I ventured into this area and, combined with driving a new truck, I would have been nervous to do so without the knowledge that I had support from eight other vehicles if something went awry - the beauty of club trips.

Thanks to all for making it a pleasant day and especially to Shea for planning the trip and navigating the trails.

Ross McKay

Saturday's trip to Lowell's Flat was a great opportunity to catch up with some friends from previous trips and to meet some new people from the Club. The weather was fantastic – beautiful blue skies with the sun shining. Lowell's Flat was a pleasant destination for lunch and a great opportunity to chat with fellow club members. On the way there our trip leader, Shae Jost, took us via Mount Coree. The view of the Brindabella's from there was fantastic – a 360 degree view. The route overall was great, with only a few slightly more challenging sections. A great day out!

Peter O'Donnell

"A really enjoyable day out in the Brindies led by Shea. Hot and dusty, but a good catch-up with the others and some enjoyable driving.

Greg Curtin

After meeting the group at 9am on Brindabella Road, we continued until we hit the dirt and stopped to air down. Turning onto Two Sticks Road saw us heading for Mt Coree to take in the sights. After a short break and a group photo, we headed back down the mountain via Two Sticks and turned onto Baldy Range Trail which led us onto Dingi Dingi Ridge Trail. Following this trail for about an hour led us onto Waterfall Trail, then McIntyre's Trail, and finally turning onto Lowell's flat trail which led us down to our destination of Lowells Flat Campground. The campground was great, nice and flat, with heaps of space, and close to the Goodradigbee river. After some lunch and getting to know the other members, some 'adjustments' were made to the car and we set off back up Lowell's Flat Trail (which isn't very flat) and back out towards Flea Creek. After a quick break at Flea Creek and some more friendly banter, we continued back towards Brindabella road where we stopped to air back up, chat and say our goodbyes. This was another great trip through the Brindies, taking in the sights and tackling the trails. It was mostly easy driving but had a few welcomed challenging bits thrown in to keep things interesting.

Nicole Heermansen

Photo from Matt's travels in Victoria



OUR CLUB SPONSORS

Platinum Sponsor



BULL BARS



SIDE RAILS & SIDE STEPS



REAR PROTECTION, TOWING & WHEEL CARRIERS



CANOPIES



UTE LIDS & TUB ACCESSORIES



ROOF RACKS, CROSS BARS & CARRIERS



OLD MAN EMU 4X4 SUSPENSION



LINX



DRIVING LIGHTS



AIR COMPRESSORS & TYRE ACCESSORIES



AIR LOCKERS



WINCHES



PORTABLE FRIDGE FREEZERS



TENTS, SWAGS & AWNINGS



CAMPING & TOURING ACCESSORIES



RECOVERY EQUIPMENT



RECOVERY POINTS



UNDER VEHICLE PROTECTION



UHF RADIOS, GPS & REVERSE CAMERAS



SAFARI SNORKELS



DUAL BATTERY AND SOLAR SYSTEMS



FUEL TANKS & FUEL STORAGE



DRAWERS & CARGO SOLUTIONS



SLIDE KITCHEN



GENERAL ACCESSORIES

What can we say about ARB that you don't already know?

ARB make and offer some of the most rugged and well designed accessories available for your four wheel drive and have become the benchmark for strength and reliability. We recommend that you talk to them about equipping your vehicle for all your adventures.

The team at ARB Fyshwick will look after all your 4WDing needs!

Find them at 188-190 Gladstone Street, Fyshwick, ACT

(02) 6280 7475 or www.arb.com.au

Many of our fantastic sponsors offer Club member discounts.

Please ask at time of purchase.

OUR CLUB SPONSORS

Gold Sponsor



Tracks are Canberra's locally owned & operated, specialist adventure gear store.

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 Drifta Stockton, ARB, Thule, Rhino Rack, Hayman Reese plus many more.

Drop in on Simmo, Glen, and the staff at:
72 Dundas Court, Phillip, ACT

P: (02) 6162 1929

E: sales@tracksadventuregear.com.au

Gold Sponsor



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.

They will come to you and test fit a new battery to get you on your way ASAP. Their off-site assistance is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and their team have all the equipment they need to check or fit a battery of complete a jump start.

Drop in on Mark and the staff at:

95 Grenville Court, Phillip ACT

(02) 6282 9884

Many of our fantastic sponsors offer Club member discounts.

Please ask at time of purchase.

OUR CLUB SPONSORS

Gold Sponsor



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.

11 Kembla Street, Fyshwick 6280 6222	68 Oatley Court Belconnen 6162 3808	72 Dundas Court Phillip 6162 1929	9 Kemble Court Mitchell 6241 5898
--	---	---	---

Many of our fantastic sponsors offer Club member discounts.

Please ask at time of purchase.

OUR CLUB SPONSORS

Gold Sponsor

TYRES & MORE

Tyres & More is a national network of family-friendly tyre stores, offering you and your family safety on the road through Quality, Service & Value. Safety and performance on the road encompasses everything from good tyres to mechanical repairs and services. Our aim is to offer Australians the most complete car care possible, from tyre needs to safety examinations and accessories such as child restraints.

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



Many of our fantastic sponsors offer Club member discounts.

Please ask at time of purchase.

Our Club Sponsors



Bronze Sponsor



Watts Communications is a family owned & operated business established in Canberra for over 25 years. They are your one stop shop for all of your two-way radio, UHF CB radio, GPS navigation & GPS vehicle tracking needs. They have an extensive showroom and a fully equipped workshop to undertake installations into all types of vehicles.



Bronze Sponsor

Sales & Service

Australian Campers & Accessories

(02) 4624 9911



**Many of our fantastic sponsors offer Club member discounts.
Please ask at time of purchase.**

TRIPS AND EVENTS BECOME A TRIP LEADER



WE NEED YOU FOR AN ADVENTURE!!

The backbone of any [Four-Wheel Drive Club](#) 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 **assist** members who want to become Trip Leaders.
- Members think that they must do the workshop to become TL's, this **is not correct**. 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

Trips & Events Coordinator

Ph: 0412 377 941,

E: trips@st4wdc.com.au

TRIPS AND EVENTS

Contact trips@st4wdc.com.au for more information.

Start	End	Activity	Type	Grade	Leader
17-Feb-23	19-Feb-23	Safe One Basic Driver Training Course	Training	Not Required	Bronwyn Squire
18-Feb-23	18-Feb-23	Welcome to the Cotter.	Trip	Grade 3	Shea Jost
19-Feb-23	19-Feb-23	Lunch at Lowells Flat.	Trip	Grade 3	Shea Jost
26-Feb-23	26-Feb-23	Graduates' day out in the Brindies	Trip	Grade 3	Shea Jost
04-Mar-23	05-Mar-23	A Weekend in Victoria.	Trip	Grade 4	Shea Jost
11-Mar-23	19-Mar-23	Canberra Balloon Spectacular	Trip	Not Required	Michael Patrick
17-Mar-23	19-Mar-23	Weekend Painted Silos Art Trail Adventure - North East Victoria	Trip	Grade 1	Ethan Taylor
18-Mar-23	19-Mar-23	Perkins Flat overnight camp	Trip	Grade 3	Bruce Ronning
18-Mar-23	19-Mar-23	Micalong Creek Reserve Wee Jasper	Trip	Grade 2	Michael Patrick
31-Mar-23	01-Apr-23	Exploring Bondo State Forest and surrounding areas	Trip	Grade 4	Daniel Donaldson
31-Mar-23	02-Apr-23	Mystery Bay	Trip	Grade 2	Michael Kerr
09-Apr-23	30-Apr-23	Cooper Pedy / Lake Eyre Adventure	Trip	Grade 2	Ethan Taylor
15-Apr-23	16-Apr-23	Expression of Interest Chainsaw Awareness Workshop	Training	Not Required	Michael Kerr
28-Apr-23	30-Apr-23	Basic Winching and Recovery Course	Training	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire
28-Apr-23	30-Apr-23	Talooge Muster	Trip	Not Required	Rob Donaldson
29-Apr-23	30-Apr-23	Abercrombie River National Park	Trip	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
29-Apr-23	29-Apr-23	Off the more beaten tracks in the Brindies	Trip	Grade 4	Robert Stevenson
03-May-23	05-May-23	Safe One Basic Driver Training Course	Training	Not Required	Bronwyn Squire
05-May-23	07-May-23	Safe One Basic Driver Training Course	Training	Not Required	Bronwyn Squire
14-May-23	14-May-23	Graduates' day out in the Brindies	Trip	Grade 3	Shea Jost
01-Jun-23	01-Sep-23	Brindabella Snow Seeking 2023	Trip	Grade 3	Matthew Maddigan
03-Jun-23	04-Jun-23	Postmans Campground	Trip	Grade 3	Matthew Maddigan
03-Jun-23	03-Jun-23	Yalwal Day Trip	Trip	Grade 4	Robert Stevenson

TRIPS AND EVENTS

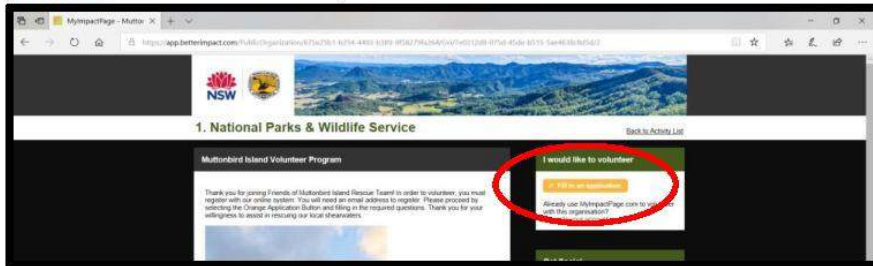
Contact trips@st4wdc.com.au for more information.

Start	End	Activity	Type	Grade	Leader
14-Jun-23	18-Jun-23	OziExplorer Navigation Workshop	Trip	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
15-Jul-23	16-Jul-23	Snow Camping 2023	Trip	Grade 4	Matthew Maddigan
19-Jul-23	23-Jul-23	Hema GPS Navigation Workshop	Trip	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
12-Aug-23	13-Aug-23	Gungarlin River	Trip	Grade 2	Matthew Maddigan
23-Aug-23	28-Aug-23	Simpson Desert Crossing	Trip	Grade 4	Matthew Maddigan
26-Aug-23	27-Aug-23	Abercrombie River National Park	Trip	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
08-Sep-23	10-Sep-23	Intermediate Driving Course (Difficult Terrain)	Training	Grade 4	Bronwyn Squire
08-Sep-23	10-Sep-23	Talooge Muster	Trip	Not Required	Rob Donaldson
22-Sep-23	24-Sep-23	Safe One Basic Driver Training Course	Training	Not Required	Bronwyn Squire
29-Sep-23	02-Oct-23	Talooge Bush Gala	Trip	Grade 2	Matthew Maddigan
29-Sep-23	02-Oct-23	Talooge Bush Gala	Trip	Grade 2	Matthew Maddigan
01-Oct-23	01-Oct-23	Graduates' day out in the Brindies	Trip	Grade 3	Shea Jost
20-Oct-23	22-Oct-23	Intermediate Winching and Recovery Course	Training	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire
20-Oct-23	22-Oct-23	Talooge Muster	Trip	Not Required	Rob Donaldson
25-Oct-23	27-Oct-23	Safe One Basic Driver Training Course	Training	Not Required	Bronwyn Squire
27-Oct-23	29-Oct-23	Safe One Basic Driver Training Course	Training	Not Required	Bronwyn Squire
05-Nov-23	05-Nov-23	Graduates' day out in the Brindies	Trip	Grade 3	Shea Jost
18-Nov-23	25-Nov-23	Vic High Country Ramble 2023	Trip	Grade 4	Michael Patrick
10-Mar-24	23-Mar-24	Tasmania Touring & Camp; Tracks	Trip	Grade 3	Ethan Taylor

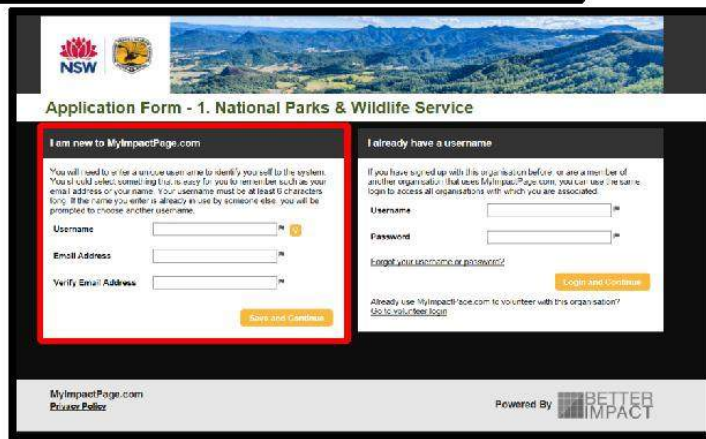
Volunteer Registration

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.

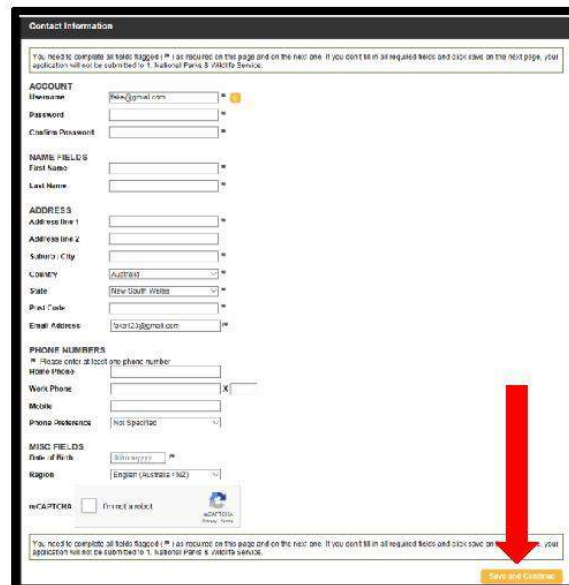
1. Go to this link: <https://4wdnow.com/pages/volunteer-sign-up-with-national-parks>
2. Hit the YELLOW "FILL IN APPLICATION" Button on the right of the screen. (red circle in screen shot below)



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.



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).



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.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS



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

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

IPF extreme sport LED driving lights



RRP\$400ea

Selling for \$400 for the pair

Great lights but sold the Ute so no longer need these

Call 0420963804

Michael Loberger



SUMMER RAFFLE

FIRST PRIZE - ARB ELEMENTS FRIDGE - FREEZER 12V & 240V 60LTR

The Southern Tablelands 4WD Club is running a summer raffle. Just \$5 per ticket, and you could win one of nine prizes with a total prize pool value of \$3,933. This is your last chance to win a great prize.

First prize is a ARB Elements Elements Fridge - Freezer 12v & 240v 60ltr with a RRP: of \$1,399.00.

The raffle closes at 7:00pm on the 14 February 2023 with the draw taking place at the ST4WD members meeting the same night at 8.30 pm. Full terms and conditions available online at <https://www.raffletix.com.au/?ref=4p77v>



**LAST CHANCE
DRAWN TUESDAY
14 FEBRUARY**

THE CLOTHING STORE

SALE!!!

Great specials on select clearance items.

Item	Notes		Sale
Jumper rugby top denim collar		\$55	\$27.50
Jumper rugby tops yellow collar	2XL	\$55	\$27.50
Hoodies	large sizes	\$50	\$25.00
Chambray shirts long sleeves Men	large sizes	\$50	\$25.00
Chambray shirts long sleeves Ladies	large sizes	\$50	\$25.00
Chambray short sleeves Men		\$50	\$25.00
Chambray short sleeves Ladies		\$50	\$25.00
Polo Cotton Navy Gold Ash trim Men	discontinued	\$40	\$20.00
Polo Ladies Gold and Ash trim Ladies	discontinued large sizes	\$40	\$20.00
Polo Cotton Navy and Gold Ash trim Ladies	discontinued	\$40	\$20.00
Bucket hats Navy Gold trim	M/L	\$20	\$10.00
Bucket hats Black	L /XL	\$20	\$10.00



Polo Shirts: \$40.00
Chambray Shirts: \$50.00
Jackets \$85.00
Wind/rain Jackets: \$130.00
Hoodies: \$50.00
Rugby Tops: \$55.00
Caps: \$20.00
Bucket Hats: \$20.00
Beanies: \$20.00

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