



MARCH 2023

SOUTHERN TRAILS

HIDDEN VALLEY

Discovering Bendethera

VOLUNTEERING TREASURE

Tree Planting in Foggy Knob

READY FOR SWAP'N'SELL?

Find new homes for unwanted gear

.....**ENTER THE CAMP OVEN COOK OFF**



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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](#)

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY ANDY SQUIRE

This month my piece might be better called "Andy's Rant". But it won't all be a whinge. I might actually have something interesting and informative to say at the end (but I doubt it). So hang in there....

START RANT

Drones

Why is it that drone owners think it is perfectly acceptable to get the drone out and start flying either as soon as the convoy stops or at some random time over the campsite without ever checking with everyone that it is all good or just letting them know? I have been on trips where the drone has come buzzing down the length of the convoy shortly after stopping while all those checking their bladder pressure are in a state of compromise (even in the desert over the dune trying to hide). On another trip, after setting up way away from the other campers, we decided to have a shower and feeling safe, we simply got the gear off behind the camper. Next moment.... drone buzz and a mad scramble for clothes. And on a recent trip, the drone came flying over the camp early in the morning while one member was busy getting dressed behind their car after climbing out of their swag.



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

If you want to fly a drone, I get it; you can get some really cool shots. But do the decent thing and check with other trip members first. If I just randomly walked through your campsite taking photos, I'm sure you would be pretty peeved, so what's the difference?

Drop-Outs

If aunty Massie is celebrating her 85th birthday, or your brother is getting married for the third time, surely you know long beforehand. So either don't put your name down for a trip or training or withdraw early. Trip Leaders put a lot of effort into planning the trip, and our trainers give up their time/weekends to provide the training.

If your leg falls off 2 days before, I guess that is one thing, but "mum invited me over for dinner, so I can't come" is a pretty poor excuse for a last-minute withdrawal. And it happens more than you think (not your leg falling off, but members either withdrawing from trips/training at the last minute or simply not showing).

If you can't make it and have a genuine reason, withdraw and let the trip leader know as soon as possible. There are usually others on the waitlist who could make it with a little bit of notice, or the Instructors could be notified, and they may have other things they could be doing rather than sitting around twiddling their thumbs all weekend because you didn't show.

Chatterers

I get it. I am pretty boring, and you have had to suffer 4 years of my dribbling inane information at you. But I am not the only one who gets up to talk at the meetings, and people have spent some time and effort preparing. OK, some can just wing it, but they are still passing on information or experiences that might interest someone else at the meeting.

Listen quietly and respectfully; if you want to chat, leave the room (a better option is to sit quietly and respectfully; would you jibber in church?). Simple.

So... what's the common theme here? Probably lack of consideration or common courtesy.

And what's the solution? Before you act, think about it; don't just go off willy-nilly being inconsiderate or rude. Not too hard.

END RANT

Now... on with the important things. Yep.... I've got nothing (much):

- Remember we are starting the Buy Swap and Sell at the odd monthly meetings this month (aren't all meetings a bit odd?). Bring your gear (or some photos) to put on the table, and remove your unwanted 4wd and camping bits.
- Don't forget if you have any insurance-related questions to send them in so that our April guest speaker can do their best to answer them for you.
- The NSW ACT Association is continuing their SWOT at the May meeting, and we have commenced our review of membership; if you have any thoughts, drop us a line.....
- The trip list is looking really healthy at the moment, so get on a trip and/or join in the Social events (they are pretty good and a chance to meet some like-minded people and get to know other members better).
- The NSW ACT Association is holding the annual Camp Oven Cook-Off (COCO) at Crookwell in May this year. It's in our backyard and a great opportunity for us to attend an Association run event. Get along to it. There is something about it later in the newsletter.

If you made it this far, I suppose I better give you some sort of reward. How about this (I found it on the interwebs so it must be true); you have a congregation of alligators, a business of ferrets, a bloat of hippopotamuses (hippopotami?) and a surfeit of skunks. I would have thought they would be a stink.

See you on the tracks.

Andy





MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

BY LYNNE DONALDSON
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Have we had a summer season this year? It doesn't feel like it when I look at the calendar, and it's autumn already! Not that I am complaining, as autumn is one of my favourite times of the year, not too hot and not too cold (as Goldilocks would say!).

Welcome

Across February, we have had five new members join! A big welcome to -

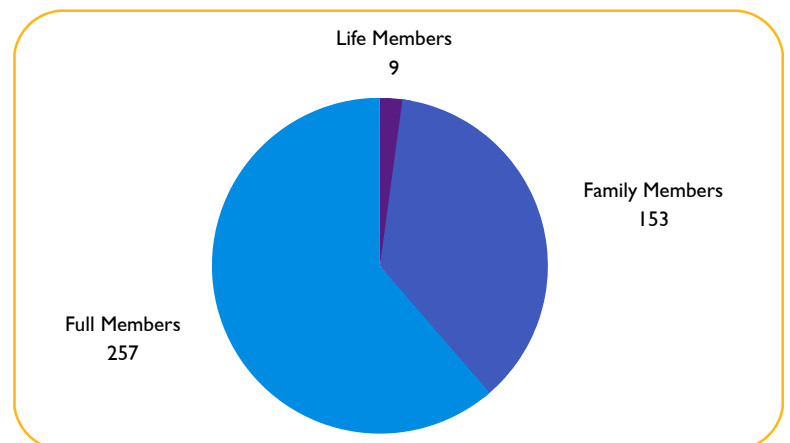
STEVE GROGAN - ISUZU DMAX

DAVE PINKERTON - TOYOTA LANDCRUISER

TODD FIELD - TOYOTA PRADO

SIMON & FELICITY LOFTUS - FORD EVEREST

Trips and events and the social committee have been busy organising a lot of activities and our calendar is looking full! Look up the list of upcoming events and put your name down to start making connections within the Club and get out there and enjoy our country. If you're waiting for driver training, you can still attend the grade 1 and 2 trips and any social activities listed.



MEMBER BENEFITS

Please remember that several businesses in Canberra are our sponsors and will give you sound advice as an ST4WDC member when you purchase your 4wd and camping gear. Make sure you mention you are a member for special discounts at participating stores! Check out a full list of sponsors on our website.

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 each year to allow all affiliated clubs to access forests without charge.

Many thanks to the club members who assisted at the visitors' table. Having other members at the table welcome and inform visitors about what 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, it takes only a few minutes to possibly make someone feel welcome and connected.

If you have any Membership queries or want to chat, do not hesitate to contact me at membership@st4wdc.com.au or 0412 251 528.

Till next month,

Lynne



Member Spotlight

This month we get to know Club members Kerrin and Steve Pullen

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE ST4WDC CLUB?

We love camping and 4wd driving, so wanted to join a group who we could do this with.

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

We love going to the meetings and planning to go on trips.

WHAT TRIP IS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

Many trips – Cape York, Gibb river road, Simpson Desert and the Victoria High Country

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER?

We joined in 2018, so 4 years.

IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE CLUB?

We would love to plan some trips and do some trip leading when we get more experience and time!

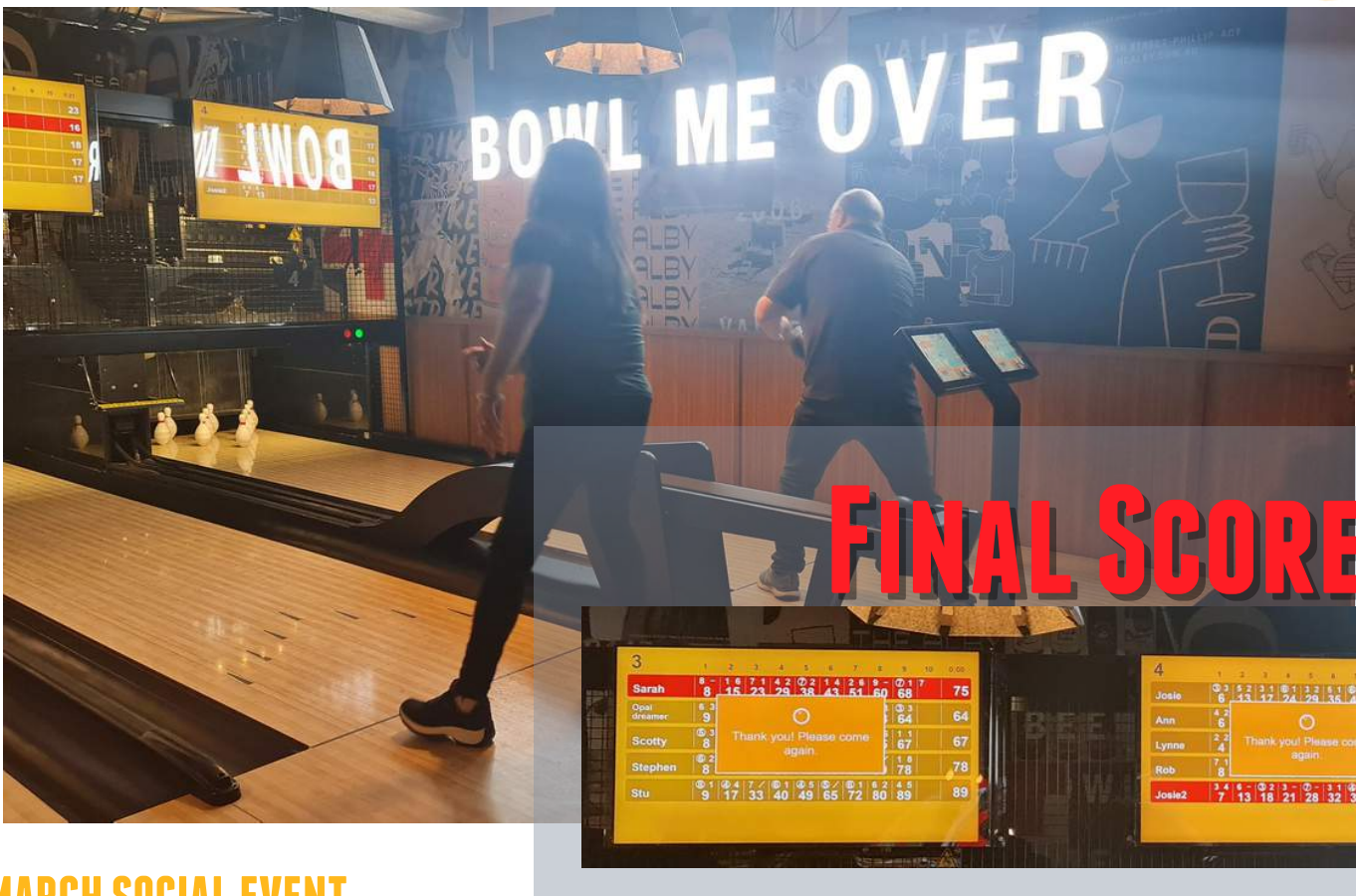
WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST ENJOYABLE TRIP?

We haven't done a lot of trips because of covid but really enjoyed Michael's trip to Yerranderie last year.

SOCIAL CLUB UPDATE

Bowled over with good times.....

Thanks to all the members who joined us for the first TGIF of the year at The Alby Basement. The Alby Basement is located in the old Albemarle building built in the 1960s for the Department of Health. It brought back memories for some who had worked there before the renovations. The pub grub was tasty, the company a hoot, and duckpin bowling surprisingly challenging. No one cracked a 100 score or bowled a strike. First place went to Stu on lane 3, while Ann and Rob D were neck and neck on lane 4, with Ann taking second in the 10th frame.



FINAL SCORE

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 00 | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|---|----|
| Sarah | 8 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 75 |
| Opal dreamer | 6 | 3 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 64 |
| Scotty | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 67 |
| Stephen | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 78 |
| Stu | 1 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 5 | | | | 89 |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 00 | | | | | |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|---|----|
| Josie | 0 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 66 |
| Ann | 4 | 2 | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 81 |
| Lynna | 2 | 2 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 73 |
| Rob | 7 | 1 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 85 |
| Josie2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 55 |

MARCH SOCIAL EVENT

This month is our first Sunday picnic at the Cascades in Wadbilliga National Park. A short easy walk takes you to a viewing platform. From there, you can watch the spectacular Tuross River tumble over boulders into a beautiful pool that makes for a gorgeous spot to swim, splash and cool down on a hot day. And don't forget to bring a picnic.

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](#).

**PICNIC AT THE CASCADES -
WADBILLIGA NATIONAL PARK**
SUNDAY 26 MARCH @ 12NOON
MEET AT THE TUROSS FALLS
CARPARK

REGISTER NOW >



SOCIAL CLUB 2023 CALENDAR

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Sun 26 Mar | Picnic | Cascades Book now |
| Fri 20 Apr | TGIF | The Dickson Taphouse Book now |
| Fri 5 to Sun 7 May | Autumn activity | Narooma Oyster Festival Book now |
| 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 Book Now |

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.



March picnic at the cascades



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 |
|----------|
| _____ |
| _____ |
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| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |

| Notes |
|-------|
| |

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

| Contact details |
|-----------------|
| |

Big news from ACT Parks and Conservation Service

The department is working towards opening the Orroral Valley in mid-May for camping and bushwalking!

Repairs to Rocky Crossing (Orroral Road) are progressing well and should be completed by late April. Once they're done, they will bring in heavy machinery to bring facilities back up to standards. This includes fixing internal roads, removing fallen timber and replacing the toilet facilities at Orroral Campground.

Over 80% of Namadgi National Park was burnt during Black Summer, including the Orroral Valley, but recovery is underway. ACT Parks says that most species appear to have recolonised, and they are seeing strong growth of most fire-affected tree species and saplings.

Don't get lost with Michael

Upcoming Hema GPS Navigation Workshop on 2 April 2023

The object of this workshop is to introduce members to using Hema HX2, Hema 4X4 Explorer App and AMHXD3 mapping software. We will be demonstrating how to plan and navigate routes, Off Road and evaluate tracks already driven.



Did you know that in OziExplorer you can use Track Control and edit a track and create a new route from existing waypoints

Insurance questions for guest speaker

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.

HAVE YOU HEARD?



ACT Parks is rebuilding and improving roads and walking tracks. Thanks to a \$6 million grant from the Australian Government's Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Fund, a new range of projects are underway, including:

- Road repairs and upgrades to improve accessibility for land and fire management operations
- An accessible loop trail around the Namadgi Visitor Information Centre
- Upgrades to the Granite Tors walking track
- Upgrades to Booroomba Rocks carpark, Honeysuckle Campground and Woods Reserve visitor precincts.
- Upgrades to the Yankee Hat walk, including working with the Ngunnawal community to ensure culturally appropriate and respectful access and interpretation.

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

CAMP OVEN COOK OFF

Camp Oven Cook Off (COCO) -
Crookwell May 20th and 21st
(incorporating the May Quarterly Meeting)



Tickets on sale now!

REGISTER NOW >



- Cook-off on Saturday
- 5.30pm nibbles
- Trivia Saturday night
- Quarterly meeting on Sunday morning.
- Hot showers
- Plenty of powered sites, caravans and camper trailers welcome.

Come along and show off your cooking skills or trivia knowledge. There are trophies and prizes and lots of fun for everyone. Crookwell is a beautiful area worth a few days looking around. Lots to see and do. Quarterly meeting on Sunday morning, and everyone is welcome. See how it all works, and have a nice lunch before you leave for home. Caravans and camper trailers are welcome, and powered sites are plentiful. Hot showers and plenty of indoor spaces to stay warm.

Tickets are \$30 for each adult, with children under 15 free. (up to 3 nights)
Camping is available Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights.



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.

TREE PLANTING IN FOGGY KNOB, GREEN GULLY

Volunteering in the Megalong, March 2023

By Mark Grundy

As most will know, the [Blue Mountains](#) are an iconic sandstone mountain range marking the western outskirts of the Greater Sydney region. They're named for a blue haze seen when viewed from a distance, and form part of the [Great Dividing Range](#) that also incorporates Canberra. Listed as a World Heritage area, the Blue Mountains are popular with rock climbers, hikers and mountain bikers.



Within the Megalong Valley of the [Blue Mountains National Park](#) is former cattle and wheat-growing farmland called 'Foggy Knob', now bought by New South Wales Parks and Wildlife Service for rehabilitation to parkland. Parks has held this property for around 20 years and is starting to remove fences and plant native trees as part of planned park rehabilitation with a view to creating a new and bigger campground, around 300 metres from the popular [Dunphys Campground](#). Access to this area is via steep gravel and roughly-patched bitumen, so the call went out through the 4WD Association of NSW and ACT for volunteers with 4WDs to come

and help. Members from some ten regional 4WD clubs joined local regulars to make up some forty volunteers, but the work had to be postponed twice due to Covid and La Niña rains and could only be run in March this year after a seven month delay.

Already volunteers with Parks, Ela and I came along because it was a part of the world we hadn't seen. Crossing through private farmland, we found the site along a track intriguingly called the [Ironpot Trail](#), in an area called 'Green Gully' because... well, it's a gully in a rainforest.

Welcome to Country

The Blue Mountains are the traditional home of six indigenous groups including the Darug and Gundungurra peoples, and the place we were rehabilitating was a traditional meeting-place: you could easily see why.

As we assembled for briefing on the Saturday, a local indigenous man welcomed us, shared this region's indigenous history and thanked us for contributing to its rehabilitation. From his story, indigenous people and settlers traded here, and relations were relatively amiable, however he also talked about his grandparents having been relocated to Bowral, 175km away, and only being able to return later. I tried to imagine what it must have been like to be relocated from an ancestral home – your peoples' only place of safety and belonging in the world for thousands of years – and to come back a generation later and find it all changed. Though such a story was unthinkable sad I was grateful to hear it, and hoped we might find more ways to share such stories frankly and without fear.

Tree-Planting

With the choice to pull fencing or plant trees, Ela and I chose trees. To plant a tree in this place I learned that you need:

A baby tree;

A hole to put it in;

A teaspoon of soil conditioner to go under it, which adds nutrient, growth stimulation and water absorption;

Soil to go on top;

A mat to protect it against plant competition and frost;

Pins to hold the mat down against wind and pressure from other plants;

A metal cage to protect the young tree from native and feral animals;

Two stakes to hold the cage in place; and

A few litres of water to get it started.

It's a careful process, and happily, many of the holes had been pre-dug by machine auger. We could see that soil had been well cared-for by previous owners and was soft and friable. The tree-planting party might have numbered a dozen volunteers plus half a dozen NPWS field staff working shoulder-to-shoulder. Some planted trees; some made up cages; I used a manual post-driver to put stakes in, promptly jammed it on a stake too thick for the driver, and dinged myself on the head. When that didn't earn me even an ice-cream in compensation, I sighed and went back to work.

The local volunteers were friendly, helpful and all knew what they were doing, as clearly I did not. A long-term volunteer told me that in this area, the 'strike rate' was around 95%. I learned that's a transplant survival rate rather than a cricket metric, so all the care was clearly worth it.

In such a manner we got through over a hundred plantings by lunch, but then after lunch the holes ran out and I asked whether another trailer-load of holes would be delivered that day.





However, I quickly found myself in possession of a mattock, a shovel and pointed direction to a steep, grassy hill as apparently, the Auger Fairy had only drilled the flat parts, which in the Blue Mountains, are limited.

So I was digging with two long-term volunteers that I'll call 'Peter' and 'Paul' because that's what they called themselves. Between them, Peter and Paul might have had 35 years volunteering for Parks in this region and some time in their unpaid careers had lost any excitement discovering fist-sized sandstone rocks with a mattock, as they left all that joy to me. Yet they'd lost none of the satisfaction in dressing a roughly-broken hole with a spade, and critiquing the work of the bloke who'd made it: a joy they alternated in sharing, as the mattocked holes were all mine. And when that toil overcame them, they sat in the shade of a tree and talked (as I imagined) about other holes they'd dug while I kept digging, and then, when a ranger came by to check on us, told the ranger they had exhausted themselves on the hard holes, while I had only been doing the easy ones.

In short, they were hazing me a bit while actually pacing themselves sensibly in hot afternoon sun, and I greatly enjoyed working with them. As long-term volunteers, they worked there monthly so for them it was a marathon while I had foolishly thought it a weekend sprint.

In all, Parks had brought some 240 seedlings to plant, but 30 were thought too young to put in the ground. So far as I know, the remaining 210 all got planted, caged and watered by Sunday lunch. According to Ela's records, we planted eucalypts including yellow box, stringybark and redgum, along with river lomatia and gossamer wattle. From the labels these were all from the Blue Mountains Conservation Society, so they're all native to the region. Meanwhile, up at Dunphy's Campground new volunteers could enjoy a vision of what volunteer tree-planting would look like 15 years later, while talking to the very people (like Peter and Paul) who'd planted these as seedlings 15 years ago.

Fence Pulling

As I was planting trees I didn't get to see how the fence removal had fared, however I have done similar work before on fire-stricken properties and know the work can be hard. From what I heard, the fences were overgrown by grass, making the wire difficult to pull. I understand that inroads had been made, but there's a lot more left to do.

Didgeridoo Performance and Indigenous Crafts

One of the Parks field staff, Lester, has clearly spent a lot of time with indigenous people and collects indigenous crafts and methods. We enjoyed a very interesting evening lecture about crafts and methods, 'bush tucka', along with a didgeridoo performance, accompanied by clapping sticks. Anyone can see artefacts in a museum, but Lester knew how to engage audiences with hands-on. In one demonstration he got a female volunteer to model carrying a dilly-bag on her forehead, balancing a coolamon or carrying-bowl on a fibre crown atop her head, and carrying a digging-stick. Instantly, you could see that these were working tools as well as symbols of skill, capability, dignity and status in community. To use them effortlessly

to collect food for a whole family in half a day is a cultural and individual accomplishment. I wondered how long it took settlers to recognise this, and whether we have recognised it enough even today.

Lester also demonstrated playing didgeridoos (which go by many other names, including *yidaki*.) He was able to show the amazing range of rhythmic, tonal and textural expression in this ancient instrument and handed out clapping sticks to join in with which everyone enjoyed.



Astrophotography

In the evenings, Ela tried for some night shots. Even after a clear day, night cloud rolled in quickly at Foggy Knob and camp lights limited the astrophotography, but the opportunities for dusk shots were amazing.

Lessons Learned

After three years of constantly altered travel plans due to Covid and La Niña floods, it's easy to feel like you're treading water (sometimes literally.) This weekend was a welcome chance to think about the future and to look beyond our own individual horizons. Parks made new volunteers welcome in the preparation, catering, support, guidance and the encouragement and we instantly felt right at home.

As a member of a 4WD club, I know it bothers many of us that recreational 4WD vehicles are too often reported as a cause of problems in parks. Many of the volunteers who responded to this Parks invitation likely shared my concerns. With 7,500 square kilometres of Parks to manage, NSW's environmental heritage has more total area than Brunei or Palestine. I can see how engaging regular visitors to work better with Parks makes sense – in problems avoided through better education, problems that can sometimes be resolved on the spot using trained volunteer help, and in investing in a long-term future for National Parks.

My personal challenge to other members is to consider this: we know how capable a platform for touring and discovery a 4WD vehicle can be. But when we're not driving it, who are we? Aside from driving

sensitively, what *else* can we do to help out in the places we love? What additional training or opportunities would help us do that better? I think that's a topic for ongoing conversation.

Along with thanking Parks for hosting, Ela and I want to thank the 4WD Association of NSW and ACT for helping to coordinate this event, to ST4WDC for the training and encouragement they've given me, and to members of fellow clubs for participating. At Parks' invitation, Ela and I are headed back again in March to help out for a morning in their regular monthly volunteer event, and to look around, try some walks and get a better appreciation of the area.



Safe One Basic Driver Training Course

18 to 19 February 2023

Chief Instructor Peter Butterfield

Education Coordinator Bronwyn Squire

| Student | Instructor | Trainee |
|--------------------|----------------|---------|
| Stephen Grogan | Michael L | David L |
| Natasha Middlemiss | Andy s & Rob D | Rod D |
| Craig Dalzell | Lindsay | |
| Erik Boddeus | Brony S | Ciril |
| Leanne Cowan | Lynne D | |
| Cameron Edwards | Rob P | |



The following are the comments and feelings of the students participating in the February Safe One Basic Driver Training Course.

I thought the training that was put on was really good and informative.

After buying my first 4x4 2 years and having no four-wheel driving experience, I feel that I can now tackle 4wd tracks more confidently within the local area and improve my current knowledge.

The instructors on the course provided a wealth of knowledge, and the advice they provided ensured that you got as much as you could out of the course, and constantly improve over a couple of days of driving.

Cameron

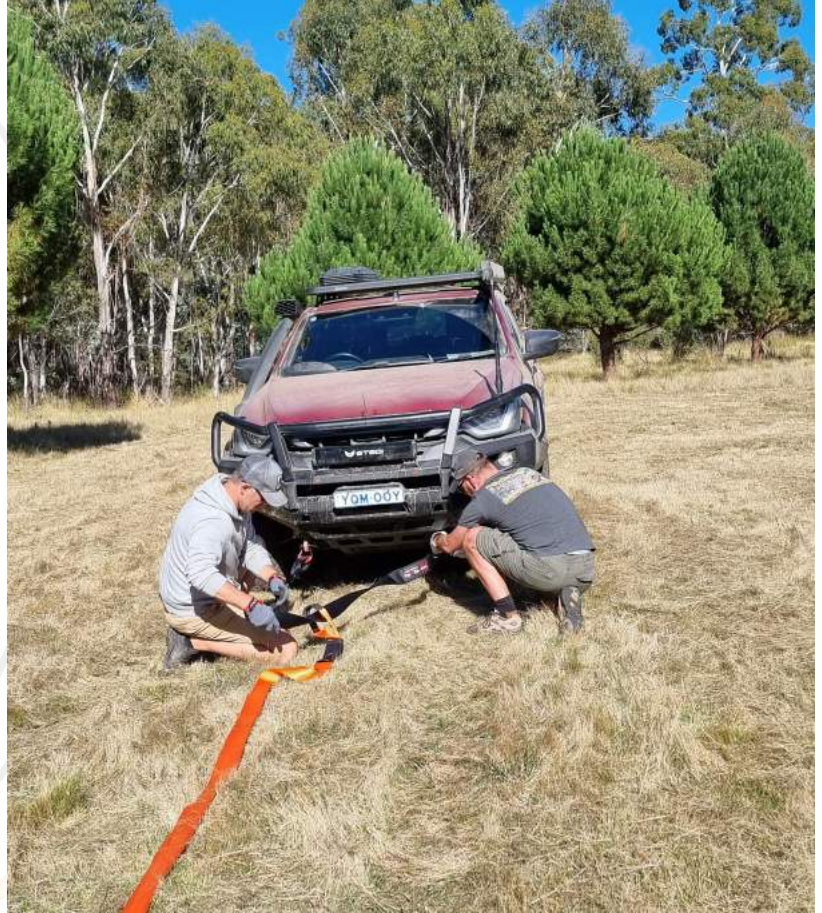
I have little experience in 4x4ing, so I signed up to do the course: Learnt a huge amount and had to un-learn some things too!

The instructors were fantastic: very friendly, skilled and patient (even when mixing up names)!

I had a great weekend and look forward to hitting the tracks again.

Strongly recommended to anyone who is planning to do some off-roading training!

Erik



The Safe One Basic course was a great experience and introduction to the Club. The theory was good, making me think about my car, and how to drive it, followed by lots of driving. 'Camp fires' were a highlight, meeting the new and old members of the Club was for me the highlight of the weekend.

Craig

The safe one basic driver training was a great weekend overall. There was so much to learn from the theory to the practical driving. The instructors were patient and welcoming. Over the weekend, you could see everyone's confidence grow and it was such a fun time. Great weekend. Thank you to everyone.

Thanks, Tash



What an awesome way to spend a weekend!

Who knew braking in a manual without using the clutch was a thing?

And I wish I'd known about dropping air in the tires a long time ago, it might've made the trek around our 'great for goats' 90ac block a little bit easier...

Of course, the weird vibration under the old girl (the 2000 gu patrol Ute not Lynne, the instructor - though it did end up directly under her seat) made for an interesting weekend. Despite all good suggestions, it turned out to be a muffler bracket installed by 'professionals' under too much tension and gave way with a few reasonable bumps on the way into Talooge.

Don't think I stopped grinning all weekend.

Not only reinforced what a capable unit the Patrol is, but that as the driver, the best thing I can do is to not hold her back and assist by knowing my limits... and wheel placement.

Have left my cable ties in place. They're to scare off the magpies if anyone asks! :)

Leanne



BENDEThERA BENDER

Long awaited treasure- December 2022
Trip Leader : Bruce Ronning

This trip was postponed several times while waiting for the western access to be reopened, but it eventually became clear that was unlikely to occur anytime soon. As of writing this (7/3/23) Middle Mtn Rd is still closed since November 2021 and one wonders if despite their assurances, NWPS have any intention of reopening it.



The only remaining access via Moruya made it a much longer and somewhat less interesting drive than had been planned, but Bendethera is a very special place and certainly worth the effort especially for those who have never been there. The upside of limited access meant there were very few people in what is normally a popular campground, not that Bendethera is lacking for space

but we were able to take our pick of spots.

Great weather and great company made for a perfect camping weekend. Thanks to all who attended for making my first trip as leader a success.

Bruce



Remains of the homestead
bread oven

After much delays because of this year's weather we finally had a date to travel into Bendethera. So as the plan was to travel in via Moruya we all met in the car park opposite the bowling club. We formed up and started to travel in finding a suitable place on the way to air down.

The trip in was basic driving as track was in really good condition with a few steep sections and once we were into the valley there were a couple of water crossings.

We found a suitable campground made sure we had enough firewood ,started the important job of relaxing and enjoying each other's company.

Sunday morning was pretty relaxed we enjoyed some breakfast , packed up . On the way out we went for a detour checked out the remains of the homestead including an old brick oven then we checked out the view from Hanging Mountain Lookout.

I'd like to thank Bruce again for running the trip.

Rob Stevenson

With the usual annoying date changes prompted by the wet weather, the Bendethera trip finally went ahead with 10 trucks with a variety of keen participants attending. These trips are always a combination of new members joining in with older members making new friends and renewing previous acquaintances.

The plan was for a relaxing camping weekend sharing stories and experiences around the fire even before it was lit!

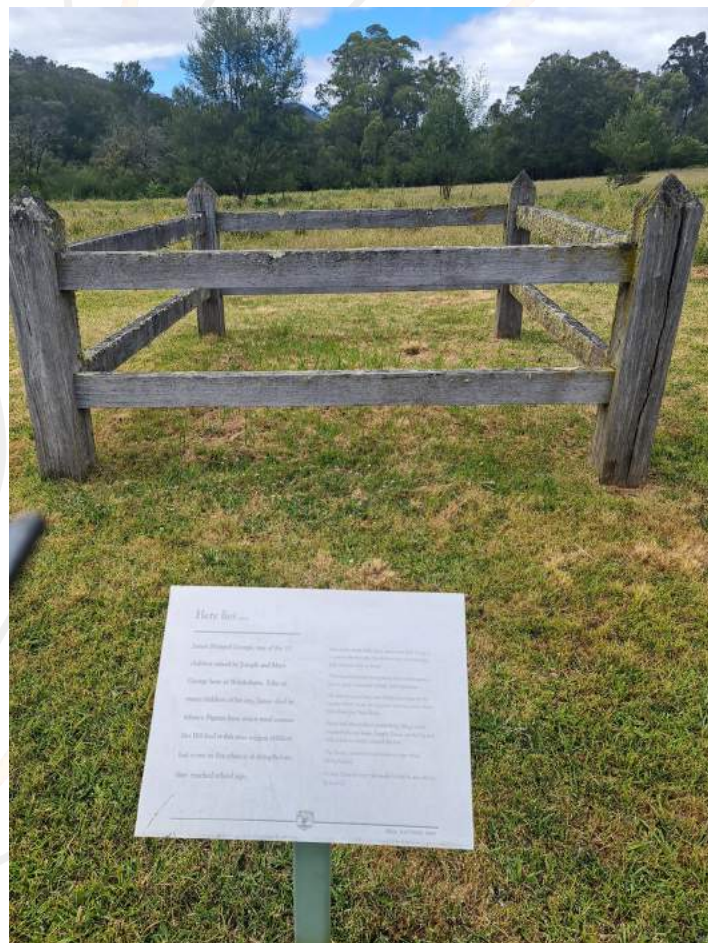
Our final destination proved no less adventurous with all the members spread around the green grassy campsite. With a couple of steep descents we made it to the homestead area and after getting our lunches together we all settled down to the difficult task of making new friends. Sharing stories and previous adventures.

Bruce shared stories about how he had come to know about the Bendethera homestead and took us in an adventure tour around the old homestead site. Giving us valuable history lessons of the area. Dan marvelled at the apparent tracks across the mountain only to be informed they were probably too steep even for his Rubicon Wrangler however exciting they looked.

On a brief walk across the other campsites (there were many and most empty) I stumbled on several groups of kangaroos calmly satisfying their voracious appetites for . . . Grass. The garden variety of course!

A restful weekend of quite camping was satisfied and we all returned to the meeting point (the car park adjoining the caravan dump point at Moruya) and after airing up each set off for our respective drives home.

A few kms down the road I stumbled across Nicole who'd stopped for lunch break at a peaceful reserve. We shared some peaceful moments together both



ready to extend the new friendship further at another event in the ST4x4 event calendar. Thanks to all the attendees, to the two lively children finding simple fun in their surroundings at the camp and especially to Bruce and Ann for their continued dedication to this club activity. This should be a regular event in the club calendar and so close to Canberra as well.

Ethan Taylor



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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,

TRIPS AND EVENTS

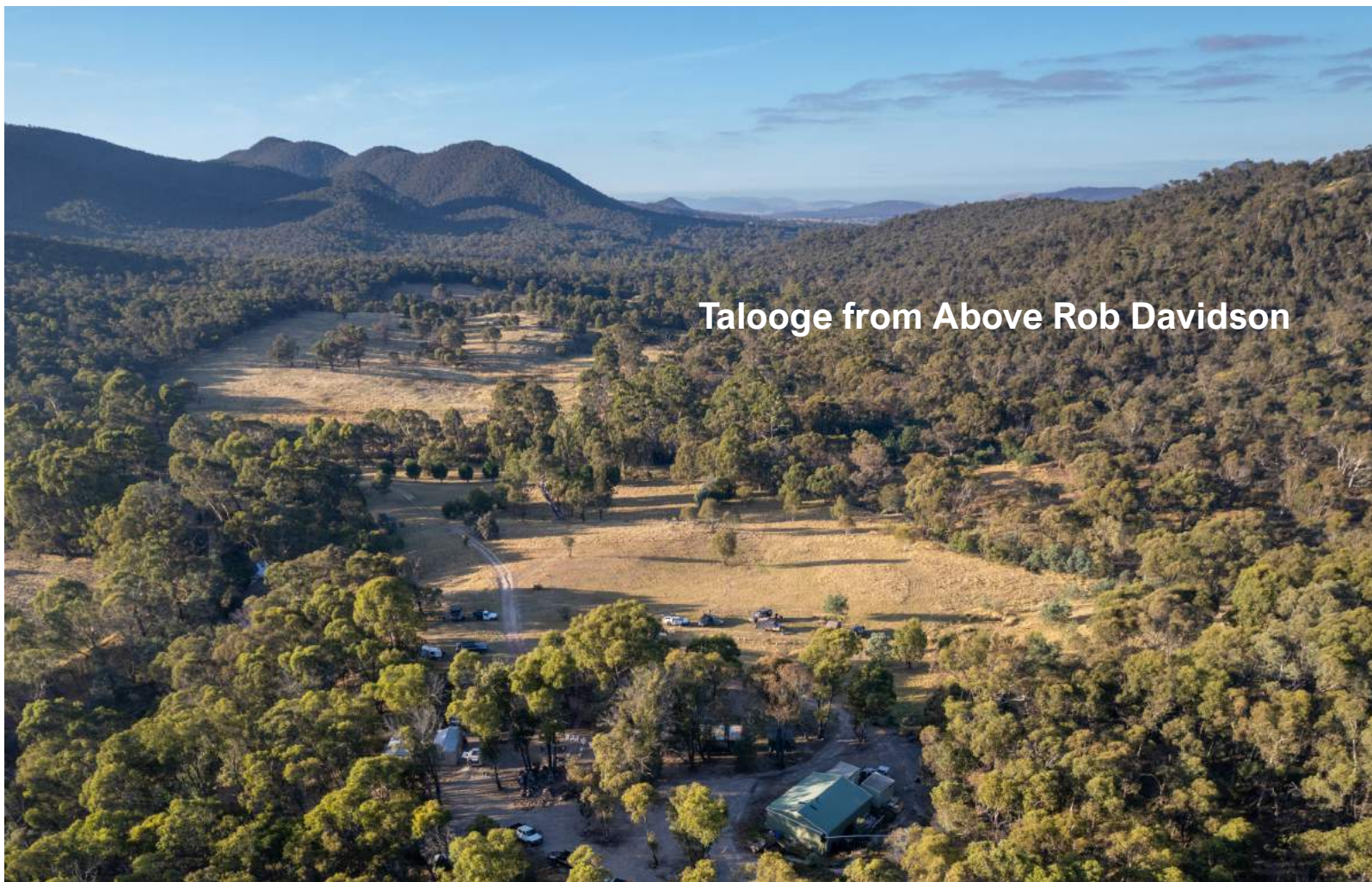
Please check www.st4wdc.com.au and consult with the Trip Leader to confirm details before attending. Contact trips@st4wdc.com.au for more information.

| Start | End | Activity | Type | Grade | Leader |
|-----------|-----------|--|----------|---------|------------------|
| 17-Mar-23 | 19-Mar-23 | Weekend Painted Silos Art Trail | Trip | Grade 1 | Ethan Taylor |
| 18-Mar-23 | 19-Mar-23 | Perkins Flat overnight camp | Trip | Grade 3 | Bruce Ronning |
| 26-Mar-23 | 26-Mar-23 | Picnic at the Cascades - Wadbilliga | Trip | Grade 2 | Ann Ronning |
| 31-Mar-23 | 01-Apr-23 | Exploring Bondo State Forest and | Trip | Grade 4 | Matt Maddigan |
| 31-Mar-23 | 02-Apr-23 | Mystery Bay | Trip | Grade 2 | Michael Kerr |
| 02-Apr-23 | 02-Apr-23 | Hema GPS Navigation Workshop | Trip | Grade 3 | Michael Patrick |
| 15-Apr-23 | 16-Apr-23 | Expression of Interest Chainsaw | Training | NA | Michael Kerr |
| 21-Apr-23 | 21-Apr-23 | TGIF Dickson Taphouse | Trip | NA | Ann Ronning |
| 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 | NA | Rob Donaldson |
| 29-Apr-23 | 30-Apr-23 | Abercrombie River National Park | Trip | Grade 3 | Andy Wall |
| 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 | NA | Bronwyn Squire |
| 05-May-23 | 07-May-23 | Safe One Basic Driver Training Course | Training | NA | Bronwyn Squire |
| 05-May-23 | 07-May-23 | Narooma Oyster Festival - EO! | Trip | NA | Ann Ronning |
| 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 |
| 03-Jun-23 | 03-Jun-23 | Yalwal Day Trip | Trip | Grade 4 | Robert Stevenson |
| 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 |
| 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 | Training | Grade 4 | Bronwyn Squire |
| 08-Sep-23 | 10-Sep-23 | Talooge Muster | Trip | NA | Rob Donaldson |
| 22-Sep-23 | 24-Sep-23 | Safe One Basic Driver Training Course | Training | NA | Bronwyn Squire |
| 29-Sep-23 | 02-Oct-23 | Talooge Bush Gala | Trip | Grade 2 | Matthew Maddigan |

TRIPS AND EVENTS

Please check www.st4wdc.com.au and consult with the Trip Leader to confirm details before attending. Contact trips@st4wdc.com.au for more information.

| Start | End | Activity | Type | Grade | Leader |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------------|----------|---------|------------------|
| 22-Sep-23 | 24-Sep-23 | Safe One Basic Driver Training Course | Training | NA | Bronwyn Squire |
| 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 | Training | Grade 3 | Bronwyn Squire |
| 20-Oct-23 | 22-Oct-23 | Talooge Muster | Trip | NA | Rob Donaldson |
| 25-Oct-23 | 27-Oct-23 | Safe One Basic Driver Training Course | Training | NA | Bronwyn Squire |
| 27-Oct-23 | 29-Oct-23 | Safe One Basic Driver Training Course | Training | NA | 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 |
| 09-Dec-23 | 10-Dec-23 | Christmas at Burrinjuck | Trip | NA | Ann Ronning |
| 10-Mar-24 | 23-Mar-24 | Tasmania Touring & Camp; Tracks | Trip | Grade 3 | Ethan Taylor |



Talooge from Above Rob Davidson



As former editor Matthew Warmington makes his way across Australia, we will share in the sights, laughs and travel advice.

Coorong to Ceduna

The Coorong (mouth of the Murray River) and McLaren Vale were spectacular. had to limit the amount of wineries I visited or become too sozzled to drive!! Not that I know anything about wine but I was convinced to buy some nice ones from Paxton. I though I'd give the bike shop a few more days so moved on to Port Augusta purely to remain within driving distance of Adelaide. Picked up the bike (not fixed) on the Thursday and went to hook up to move on on Friday morning when I stupidly got my finger caught in the hitch and cut off the tip of my finger. Ouch!! I won't post the gory shots but it was not going to be fixed with a couple of Band-Aid's. The staff at Port Augusta Discovery park were wonderful. Terry took me down

to the hospital and sorted out the van and car for me. He also found and brought down the tip (which turned out not to be viable). The lovely staff at Pt Augusta hospital didn't



have the plastic surgery resources necessary so I spent the next three days in Royal Adelaide Hospital waiting for a theatre and surgeon to become available. So now I have a shorter middle digit on my right hand and a greater respect for D035 hitches. As a consequence I had to skip the fishing at Venus Bay and am now at Ceduna for the week so I can have a doctor change the dressing next Monday before heading off westwards across the Nullarbor.

Go West young man

I though I heard someone say, so I did! Left Ceduna on Wednesday and completed holes 3 & 4 on the Nullarbor Links golf course, the former at Penong was behind a windmill museum, and the latter was a par 5 that almost killed me in the 47 degree heat. Johnny (Diesel, the Patrol) made a sterling effort towing the caravan into a headwind in the heat of day, so I helped out and opted for an open window rather than running the AC. I free camped at Whitewell at the Head of Bite sharing the spot with a guy I met there. He was touring also in his 78 series cruiser and we had a good chat while waiting out the heat of the day in the shade of an old building. I ran the genny and AC in the van but the poor thing was struggling so I turned it off

around 9pm and just opened all the windows and let the breeze blow through. Didn't bother going to the Head of Bite, they wanted \$9 for it which might have been worthwhile in whale watching season (from May). Instead I headed to Nullarbor roadhouse, completed hole 6 (what a disaster, 10 strokes and a lost ball on a par 5). Had brekky in the roadhouse and headed off mid morning for the border, stopping along the way to take in the sights of our southern coastline, cool. So now I'm in a different time zone I'll have to readjust the old body clock and sleep in tomorrow

On to Esperance

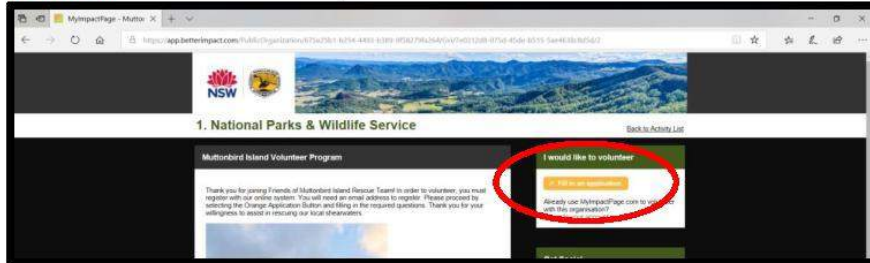
After a few days in Kalgoorlie I spent some time meandering around southern central WA before heading to the south coast as Labour Day long weekend had made camp bookings scarce. Coolgardie, Southern Cross, Hyden, Kulin, Katanning, then down via Mt Barker (yummy pies!) to Albany, then Bremer Bay and Esperance. Some highlights included Wave Rock near Hyden, the Tin Horse Highway at Kulin - people had made and displayed along the highway various horse sculptures from tin, some corrugated iron but most from 44 gallon drums. The imagination was endless and there were some truly funny ones. Castle Rock and the Granite Skywalk in the Porongurup NP gave me a good early morning walk 2km up a mountainside, unfortunately it was a white out at the top but still worth it. The whaling station museum at Frenchman's Bay near Albany generated mixed feelings recognising that whilst brutal, whaling was a legitimate industry at the time. Just glad it isn't anymore. The station was the last in Australia closing in 1978. The Gap and natural bridge on the other side of the peninsula were spectacular. Apart from the stunning scenery, the engineering and investment to construct the viewing platform were truly impressive. Now I'm at Esperance for a couple of weeks. Going to explore the area while I wait for a couple of packages to show up at the post office. Plan to explore Cape Le Grand and Cape Arid NPs while I'm here. I understand there's a beach boat ramp at Lucky Bay so might try this out in the next few days.



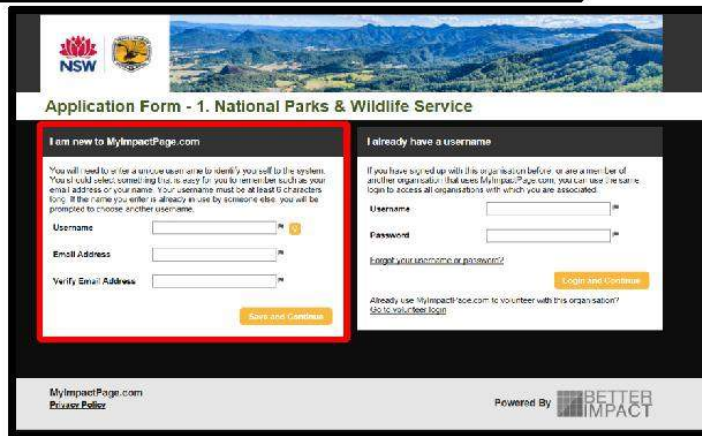
Volunteer Registration

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.

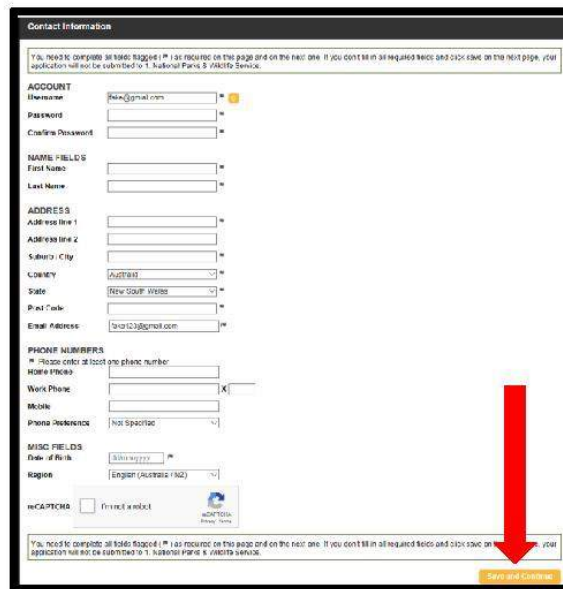
1. Go to this link: <https://4wdnow.com/pages/volunteer-sign-up-with-national-parks>
2. Hit the YELLOW “FILL IN APPLICATION” Button on the right of the screen. (red circle in screen shot below)



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.

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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.

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0407 562 656

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| Chambray short sleeves Ladies | | \$50 | \$25.00 |
| Polo Cotton Navy Gold Ash trim Men | discontinued | \$40 | \$20.00 |
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| Polo Cotton Navy and Gold Ash trim | discontinued | \$40 | \$20.00 |
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