



APRIL 2023

# SOUTHERN TRAILS



## PATH FINDERS

Taking trails and sharing tales

### HUT HOLIDAY

A Namadgi weekender

### WHO IS ON THE YOUTUBE

A review of channels worth a like and subscribe

.....**MORE THAN 30 TRIPS AND EVENTS TO JOIN**



# DIRECTORY

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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](http://www.st4wdc.com.au).

Facebook:

The ST4WDC page includes posts regarding Club activities and sponsors [www.facebook.com/st4wdc/](https://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](mailto: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.

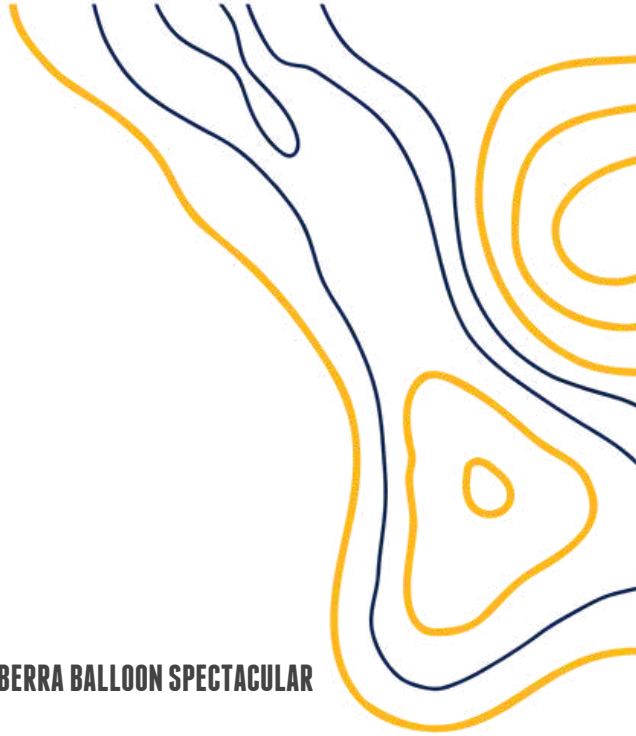


This Code supports the National Recreational Four Wheel Drive Vehicle Policy. Produced by [Four Wheel Drive Australia](#) in the interest of promoting responsible vehicle use. For advice and assistance in meeting the requirements of this Code of Conduct contact the [Secretary](#)

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY ANDY SQUIRE

I hope you all had a good Easter break, didn't eat too much chocolate, approached the holiday in the manner appropriate to your beliefs, and if you took the chance to get away, didn't get too wet or freeze your butts off. (Although a bunch of club members with no butts might be pretty funny).

Me? I have been doing fencing (the keep the neighbours on their side type, not the swashbuckling kind) and getting a year older. I wish I could get a year wiser, and Bron always says she wishes I could get a year more grown up, but nah....

At last month's club meeting, I had a quick quiz about my article. It could have been really upsetting; no-one knew the answer to the question, so it looked like no one reads it. If I didn't agree that I jibber for 7 paragraphs and then put one almost important fact in I might have been offended. But one thing I always say about this Club is if you don't have a thick skin you don't belong. Probably would be more appropriate to a leather working club, but I'll go with it....

So, what's been happening that is worthy of mention this month? I kind of feel like that episode from the Vicar of Dibley where Owen describes the conversation between his cows;



The Committee needs a General Member.  
Contact [Secretary@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:Secretary@st4wdc.com.au) for more information

"What have you been up to? Oh, nothing much, just standing around in the field eating some grass. What about you? Oh nothing much, just standing around in the field eating some grass". And that's probably because the Club is plodding along doing OK; lots of trips, lots of social activities, lots of new members, and the usual administration things; Association, Governance, planning and training.

We are doing a couple of reviews at the moment. One is our insurance needs and cover; we want to make sure we are getting it right. I always thought that our Property and Professional indemnity was all good, and that the insurance we get through the Association covered the rest. Seems I might be wrong and there might be some overlap and some holes.

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. Luckily we now have an insurance expert looking into it for us. It is something that the Committee has investigated every year, and reviewed every few years, but laws change, situations change, policies change, caterpillars change, tadpoles change, and winds change. Just hard to keep up.

Another is our annual 'do we stay in the Association' review. We hope to be able to present to the membership at the May meeting with a decision to be made at the June meeting; again, there will be a range of tangible and non-tangible pros and cons, but as always, we only get out what we put in. We seem to have active Delegates at the moment and more interaction with the Association again, so perhaps things are looking up. I was once told don't look up in an aviary. Wasn't sure why, but then it hit me.....

And the other big one is the website; we have been struggling to find an organisation who will support our existing site; most want to do a rebuild. Having worked in IT and run our own company for 30 years I kind of get that; I don't want to take on someone else's code when I don't really know how it was built and what it does. One advantage of our website is that it uses 'off-the-shelf' and common components (WordPress and associated plug-ins). The disadvantage is that we have a fairly unique trip management system. One of the things being looked at is how we manage members and trips, and whether we can modify our processes rather than having a bespoke system. But the current trip management component works pretty well and alleviates a lot of the manual management that we used to have.... More to come.....



OK. So four paragraphs of jibber (now five) and a couple of almost relevant bits of information. Must be slipping. And according to Word I have filled a page. Woohoo. Job done, so in the interest of good customer service I think I should go now. And my thought for the month? Pretending I am a pleasant person all day is exhausting. I need a nap.

See you on the tracks.

*Andy*





# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

BY LYNNE DONALDSON  
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Another month gone way too quickly! I hope you all had an excellent Easter break, whether you took advantage of the loong weekend and done some stuff at home or hit the tracks for some downtime out in the bush.

We have had an extremely busy month of March, with 10 new members joining the Club.

## Welcome

**PAUL BOYLE - TOYOTA HILUX**

**CHRIS AND MAREAM DIETZEL - 200 SERIES LANDCRUISER**

**JAID AND JENNY DAWSON - ISUZU MUX**

**NICK COX AND KATE REED - COX - 200 SERIES LANDCRUISER**

**LACHLAN AND GINA TAYLOR - NISSAN NAVARA**

**JUSTIN GILMORE - LAND CRUISER 200 SERIES**

When your membership renewal is due, please hop onto the website and renew through the renewal form. You can also update your profile this way too. Also, if you need a new club sticker, come and see me at a meeting.

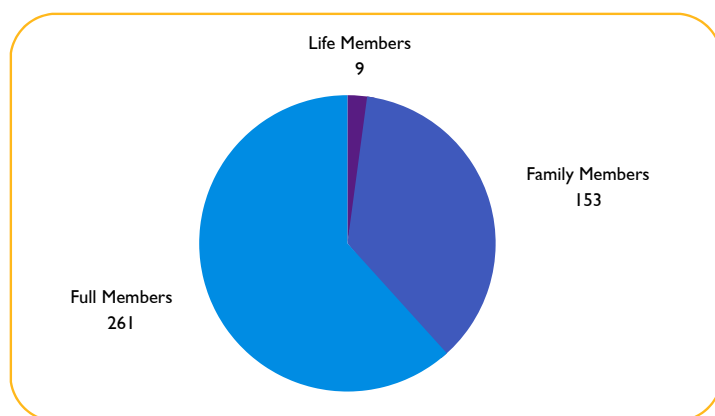
Trips, events and the social committee have been busy organising many activities, and our calendar looks full! Look up the list of upcoming events and put your name down to start making connections within the Club and get out there and enjoy our country! If you're waiting for driver training, you can 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](mailto:membership@st4wdc.com.au) or 0412 251 528.

Till next month,

*Lynne*

# SOCIAL CLUB

## UPDATE a bonanza of social events to join

Unfortunately, tragedy struck, and our first Sunday picnic at the Cascades in Wadbilliga National Park was postponed. Our lead vehicle ended up in the shop after a trip the weekend before. The weather has turned chilly, so we will leave the popular swimming and picnicking spot for a summer date.

### NAROOMA OYSTER FESTIVAL - FRIDAY 5 MAY TO SUNDAY 7 MAY

Our first special event social club trip. Each year Narooma puts on its famous Oyster Festival. Join growers, chefs and shuckers to celebrate the marvellous oyster on the shores of Wagonga Inlet on Yuin Country – a land of clear, blue water.

Friday – \$15 pp Saturday – \$30pp

Kids under 16 free

Shuttle services from Bateman's Bay, Bermagui, Central Tilba, and Moruya, See the [transport page](#) for timetables.

### SNOW PLAY AND PICNIC AT CORIN FORREST - SUNDAY 30 JULY

When was the last time you played in the snow? We are looking for expressions of interest in a family snow play/toboggan winter activity at Corin Forrest. There is a cafe with a beautiful fireplace and plenty of outdoor picnic tables. We need numbers by May. So book in now.

Snowplay Ticket \$25 Toboggan \$5

More information: <http://www.corin.com.au/>

**CHRISTMAS AT BURRINJUCK** This is your early warning to book your accommodation for the Burrinjuck ST4WDC Members' Christmas celebration. Visit the [Burrinjuck Waters Holiday Park](#) to reserve a campsite or book a cabin. Fishing, tennis, frisbee golf, swimming and more will be part of the event activities

**SATURDAY 9 AND**

**SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER**

## APRIL SOCIAL EVENT

TGIF is just around the corner, and we are meeting at the Dickson Tap House this month. The pub grub menu features burgers, snitty and several kinds of pasta. And with over 100 beers to choose from and rotating local craft beers on tap, you will not be short of exciting options to suit all tastes. [Menu](#)

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](#).

## DICKSON TAPHOUSE

FRIDAY 21 APRIL @ 6 PM  
30 WOOLLEY ST, DICKSON

[REGISTER NOW >](#)





# SOCIAL CLUB 2023 CALENDAR

Fri 21 Apr	TGIF	The Dickson Taphouse <a href="#">Book Now</a>
Fri 5 to Sun 7 May	Autumn activity	<a href="#">Narooma Oyster Festival</a> <a href="#">Book Now</a>
Sun 28 May	Picnic	Wee Jasper <a href="#">Book Now</a>
Fri 23 Jun	TGIF	Rose Cottage Inn <a href="#">Book Now</a>
Sun 30 Jul	Winter activity	Corin Forest <a href="#">Book Now</a>
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	<a href="#">Burrinjuck State Park</a> <a href="#">Book Now</a>

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



TGIF April - Dickson Taphouse



## News from ACT Parks and Conservation Service

### PARK CLOSURES DURING THE ANIMAL CONTROL PROGRAM

Please be aware that the ACT Parks and Conservation Service will undertake a pest animal control program across several parks and reserves from 15 May until 9 June 2023.

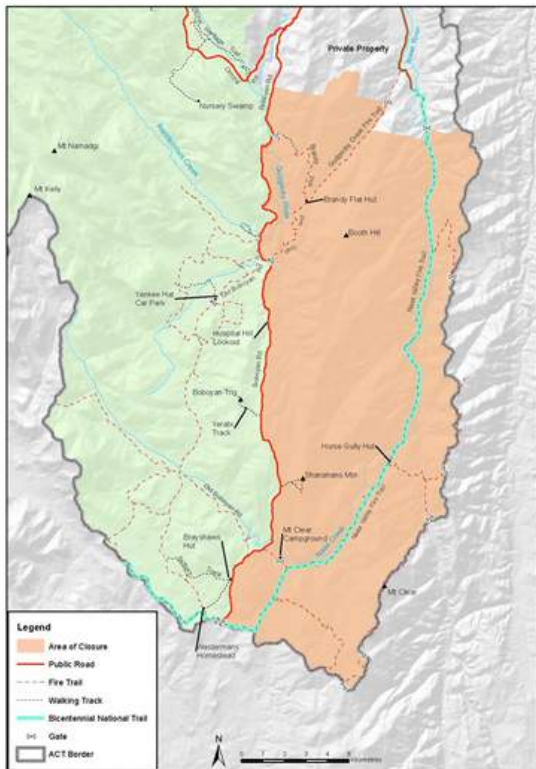
For the safety of visitors, some areas of Namadgi National Park, Murrumbidgee River Corridor, Molonglo River Reserve, Googong Foreshores and Lower Cotter Catchment will be closed. This includes National Park campgrounds and sections of the Australian Alps Walking Track, the Bicentennial National Trail and the Centenary Trail.

# HAVE YOU HEARD?

Closures will be staged, and areas of Namadgi and the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee River reserves will remain open during this time.

All closed areas will be well-signposted, with access gates remaining locked for the duration of the program. Additional safety precautions, such as buffer zones and sweeps, will occur before all operations.

Animal welfare is a priority. All activities will be undertaken in accordance with best practice and humane control of feral animals. [Read about it here](#)



## Don't get lost with Michael



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

Got something to share? We love to hear from members. Email [publications@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:publications@st4wdc.com.au)

# ACCESSING NSW STATE FORESTS

Using your our 4WD NSW and ACT Association member benefit



our 4WD NSW and ACT Association car sticker is proof of membership. It allows you access to NSW Forests without paying for a permit. The Association has a state-wide permit with the Forestry Corporation of NSW to benefit all member clubs.

You still need to email the local office and let them know you will be in the forest but most activities are free.

Affiliated Clubs must notify their local Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW) representative of any proposed four-wheel drive (4WD) visits, events or activities in NSW State Forest which involve:

- a) 10 or more vehicles, **OR**
- b) 50 or more participants, **OR**
- c) May considered site-intensive by nature (including training activities, inter-club events, regional events), **OR**
- d) Involve overnight stays in NSW State Forest

For a one-off activity for a non-affiliated club with less than 20 participants, you would be looking at an application fee of \$207 or \$413 depending on the intensity of the activity/impact on the environment/safety risk.

Usage fees (per vehicle) would be between \$7.50 to \$15.00 but could vary depending on the intensity of activity/impact on environment/safety risk. If the Club is involved with an approved improvement/environmental project, this may reduce fees.

As driver training may be more intensive/damaging than camping and driving through the forest it would be charged at a higher rate.

## Scenario #1

A group visits a State Forest for overnight camping.

No Four Wheel Driving, just drive in to camp and out again the next day.

### 9 vehicles (\$207 plus \$7.50 x 9)

Affiliated with 4WD NSW ACT - NO CHARGE

Not Affiliated with 4WD NSW ACT - \$274.50

### 18 vehicles (\$207 plus \$7.50 x 18)

Affiliated with 4WD NSW ACT - NO CHARGE

Not Affiliated with 4WD NSW ACT - \$342.00

## Scenario #2

A group visits a State Forest for Driver Training.

### 9 vehicles (\$413 plus \$15.00 x 9)

Affiliated with 4WD NSW ACT - NO CHARGE

Not Affiliated with 4WD NSW ACT - \$548.00

### 18 vehicles (\$413 plus \$15.00 x 18)

Affiliated with 4WD NSW ACT - NO CHARGE

Not Affiliated with 4WD NSW ACT - \$683.00

## Scenario #3

A group visits a State Forest for driver training and doesn't apply for a permit.

They think it's ok because they get on well with the Ranger and he doesn't fine them when he sees them in the Forest without a permit.

Everything is fine until someone gets hurt or a car gets damaged. The insurance Company asks for the permit and the Club doesn't have one.

If you do not have the legal permit to a State Forest, you are trespassing. You can contact your insurance company for vehicle cover to confirm this.

## On this subject from AON INSURANCE:

"I note that your risk management clearly states that each member is required to do the right thing and apply for permits, and if this is deliberately ignored and not adhered to, then the insurance policy will not respond. They do so at their own risk, and this should be clearly communicated to each member".

The Association pays an annual fee that covers all its members. This was why we started with the vehicle stickers and why keeping them up to date is essential.

Your Club still needs to go to the Forestry Corporation website and scroll to the bottom of the page to the "find a" list, fill in a permit, and submit it, but no cost will be involved. This helps them manage the area and ensure your event doesn't clash with other groups.

It is also a good idea for your Club to contact the office of the forests you visit as it is a great opportunity to get to know them, we have found this to be very beneficial for everybody. Some rangers prefer that you just send an email which is a lot quicker for you, but it depends on the Ranger.

This helps Forestry know numbers and identify any issues, usually before they become a problem.

4WD NSW & ACT Association Inc - Annual state-wide permit 2023

PDF [HERE](#) Special Activity Conditions

PDF [HERE](#) Standard Conditions

Please contact your closest [Forestry Corporation office](#) to discuss your proposed activity or event before applying for a Forest Permit. [For more information, visit the FCNSW website.](#)



# 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.





## CANBERRA BALLOON SPECTACULAR 11-19 March 2023



I want to thank all of you for helping out this year. Without volunteers, we would not see international and interstate pilots at this event. We also have local pilots who appreciate the extra help. Buster was our special shape this year; it was then prepared for entry to NZ. It was a real shame there were not more flying days (4 in all), but the mornings we could launch were glorious. Hundreds of watercraft were waiting for us to share the moment. Nothing like this happens in any other capital city, and I've seen many outstanding photos.

31 pilots attended the 9-day event, with 15 requiring volunteers. 35 official volunteers helped the pilots launch and retrieve their hot air balloons during Event ACT's Enlighten festival, of which the Canberra Balloon

Spectacular is a major part. As usual, many bystanders offered to help, especially at pack-up time.

Hot air balloons fly over Canberra for most of the year, but it is only over these nine days that locals and visitors see so many in the air at once and so low over the lake. People had booked kayaks weeks ahead just so they could be on the water sharing the space with the balloons. Many pilots delight in getting their passengers' feet wet by taking a dip and sometimes throwing out a line to tow a lucky paddler a few meters.



Volunteers are made up of members from Southern Tablelands 4 Wheel Drive Club, friends, family and enthusiastic bystanders who can't wait to put their names down for the next year's event. Everyone is welcome and lasting friendships are made. Our Club members lead a trip to



Tidbinbilla Tracking Station, Gibraltar Falls and the Cotter Dam. Unfortunately, the Tidbinbilla visitor centre and both ends of Gibraltar Falls were closed. To cap it all, a footbridge at the Cotter was also closed, so we couldn't do the loop walk. However, none of it stopped us from having a grand day and enjoying the picnic



provided by Balloon Aloft.

Flight Direction is provided by Balloon Aloft, and without this professional team, the event could not take place. The Lyons Club provided hot breakfasts, and I heard the pop of champagne corks. Many volunteers had a flight; alas, others did not; there is always another year. I will be inviting you all to participate again next year.

Please feel free to give me feedback on the event. I especially need to know if something could have been done better or if you had any problems. Ring or email.

Thank you again

*Catherine Panich*

Volunteer Co-Ordinator



# TRIP REPORT: FIVE HUTS AND A SHED, NAMADGI

February 2023 By Mark Grundy

In a recent chance meeting, a fellow fourby driver from Bathurst cheerfully told me he thought the ACT a waste of good sheep pasture. That may be true, but I suspect the appreciation of locals today might go a bit deeper than the sheep's.

Most members will know that Namadgi National Park in our own ACT takes up nearly half the ACT: it protects around 1,061 square kilometres of alpine, sub-alpine and mountain bushland. As four-wheel drivers, we'd probably know it best by all the locked boom gates keeping us from alluring fire trails in the southwest, but the main reason they're locked is the Cotter River, whose headwaters begin in the attractively-named Scabby Range, and run all along the ACT's west to the Cotter Dam. This is a river entirely owned by the ACT, which was built around it for its water supply. It has not one but three dams (the Cotter, the Corin and Bendora), and you can walk through the area or mountain bike on formed trails, but fishing is limited, camping is controlled, and they don't want motor vehicles there, as is also true around the water catchments of Sydney.







If you need to go out the south of the ACT but want to stay off the bitumen, a good way is via [Boboyan Road](#), which spits you out across the border at Shannon's Flat. Around 10km before the border, you'll pass [Mt Clear Campground](#) on the left: a campsite of half a dozen firepits and a drop toilet run by the ACT and about 1h20m from the CBD.

If you like your camping simple, quiet and local, then Mt Clear is a well-kept secret. 4WD drivers preferring a tent, hammock, or swag will find themselves in good company: the gravel deters most of the 2WDers, while you can't bring in a trailer or van. So for overnight therapy, a low-stress weekender, or as a base of operations to try some local Namadgi walks it's worth a look. But the elevation is around 1,100m and it's a frost hollow, which means that evening fog freezes your tent by morning. Even in summer, overnight temperatures can reach low single digits, so bring your warmies! (Also BYO cooking fuel and water, as with most ACT campsites.)

Our adventure took place in February this year as soon as La Niña became less 'La Noying'. The weather was fining up and the mud firming up so Ela and I kitted up for a weekender at Mt Clear inspired by an entry in outdoor adventure site Alltrails.com cryptically entitled '[Five Huts and a Shed](#)'. (If a full *five* huts won't get you out, there's a shed too so why wait?) The route itself is a walkable 22km loop, or 25km from the

campground: a push for many to do in a day, so we elected to bring mountain bikes or as Ela calls them, 'hiking bikes'. If you'd like to do a smaller walk, the [Settler's Track](#) walks offer shorter loops of either 6km or 9km, promising fewer huts and depriving you of the shed.

Our preferred way to camp is to sling hammocks between trees and throw a tarp over the top, which we did for this trip. With down quilts you can make it very comfortable even in subzero temperatures, and with overnight lows at around 5C there, Ela and I had no need for sleeping bags. (If there was any complaint at night it's that the possums own the trees and you're the interlopers: get used to it!) For cooking we used charcoal in a folding firebox: it's light, packs easily, leaves little mess, cooks as well as it does on a BBQ and was plentiful on-site. (Our buttermilk pancakes with apple rum were campground favourites.)

Our 'hike bikes' aren't designed to win races or do summersaults at bike parks: they're bombproof steel with 3-inch tyres, and will carry all the camping gear you can carry (though they won't tow your trailer.) They sometimes think they're mountain ponies, and sometimes think they're baby 4WDs. Their names are 'Potty' (stylish in a porta-potty blue frame with fuchsia horns) and 'Viz' (modelling here in high-viz black). They keep pestering me for a bull bar and a winch each, but so far I've put them off.

They haven't had water-crossing training either so on other trips I've had to carry them across deeper creeks, but with those balloony, plus-sized tyres they almost want to float.

We did this loop counter-clockwise starting from Old Boboyan Rd, and the total climb is around 513m, which is modest by alpine walk standards and the Settler's Track loops will be even less. But if you don't want the longer ride *or* the shorter walks, the only hut you can get to from an accessible road is [David Brayshaw's Homestead](#) (Site 1 on the map) which is visible from the road and worth a look in its own right.

If you want to do a Settler's Track walk, Brayshaw's is good place to start as it has helpful information boards. But if you wanted to mountain-bike the longer route counter-clockwise you can start further along on Old Boboyan Road as Ela and I did. That's closer to the campground and leaves Mr Brayshaw's Better Homes and Huts entry until last.

Davey Brayshaw's cozy, two-room fixer-upper was built in 1903 by his brother Edward, a respected bush carpenter. At the time there were many more men in the region than women and it looks like Davey never married. He lived in this hut until 1931 when, at the ripe age of 79, he was returning on horseback from Edward's place near Adaminaby, fell from his mount and sadly died from exposure. It's impressive to think that a 79-



year-old would have been self-sufficient here, essentially raising his own food and fetching his own water. Not stated on the info board, but Ela and I also wondered just how much his brother might have plied him with warming beverages for the road (we hoped he had plenty and felt nothing.)

So what's the terrain like?

Well, if it were a golf course, the front nine would be a fairway groomed by kangaroos while the back nine would be a tangle of trees and water-hazards with wombat groundskeepers. The first half is all flat fire trail, and the kangaroos had lost most fear of humans and spent their time people-watching over a mouthful of grass when we passed.





This was a joy to ride, *except* that we couldn't find a wretched hut or homestead anywhere until Luton's Crutching Shed (Site 3) some 11km in. Boboyan Homestead (Site 4) was supposed to be there but perhaps it was now in ruins and we missed it. Perhaps some other member can tell me if they've seen it but anyway, here is Luton's.

It was amazing to see this shed out in the middle of nowhere. Like all the sites here, it's lovingly maintained by the Kosciuszko Huts Association, who have thoughtfully put a rain tank at each site.



You technically can camp in this area if you carry your own gear in. You can also use the huts during the day, but have to camp at least 100m from them at night. Else I imagine this shed might have been the site of a bush dance or two: it almost demands a mirror-ball!

Next along should have been Lone Pine Homestead (Site 5), but by then we were climbing steep terrain directly exposed to winds off the Alps and again, we missed it. It's easy to see that this bushland is young and under rehabilitation, but Alpine sou'westerlies have no regard for reforestation. Winds have smashed these young trees in a merciless lottery: those that survive will eventually grow to shelter others. But unlucky trees have had whole branches stripped, or simply toppled in sodden soil. The trails are cut and cleared regularly by ACT Parks, but Ela and I spent a lot of time lifting bikes over treefalls or picking our way around so perhaps the damage had been recent and frequent. Climbing the terrain as it got rougher and pointier meant some kilometres of hike-a-bike but that's still easier than humping a backpack. (Just smile and imagine you're pushing a two-wheeled shopping trolley up Mt Stromlo.)

After we turned onto the 'back nine', the land fell away again and after recent rains, offered rivulets to cross and bogs to skirt. A 4x4 would have

gotten through fine, but would also have churned the sodden tracks to fudge. Our bikes left a lot less imprint but our 4WD education with ST4WDC played a role here that deserves credit: we rode on the grass to protect the trail just as if we *were* in the 4x4. (I wonder how many other mountain bikers think like that?)

In any case, slowed by bog and with the weather closing in we were glad to find ourselves at Waterhole Hut (Site 2), which you can also walk or ride to from Brayshaw's in the clockwise

direction.

From there it wasn't hard to find Westerman's Homestead (site 6). Luxuriously sporting two fireplaces, it was at one stage home to some eight family-members. The KHA has kept the exterior painted and added perspex to help preserve traces of interior insulation (which looks like it was once plaster, newspaper and wallpaper.)

Also just outside Westerman's is a little footbridge crossing Grassy Creek, which earns its name in ways best left to the reader's imagination. (If you were only allowed one use of the word 'quaint' on any historical trip, here's where you'd spend it.)

At this point, the trail from Westerman's back to Brayshaw's is mostly single-track and easy to lose. After a couple of tries we were at Brayshaw's and then back onto Boboyan Rd returning to our campground. Thanks to shrinkflation, our promised Five Huts had been downsized to a mere three. So in the end our extra 15km of riding and bike-pushing had earned us just one shed, but it was a good shed and I'll hear no word against it.



## REFLECTIONS & LESSONS LEARNED

Strange to say, but a lot of Canberrans don't seem to know that they're living in the Alps. Our rivers are alpine and if you fall in during Winter, you'll have ten minutes to get out before your muscles lock with hypothermia. Our hikes are alpine hikes, and alpine weather is notoriously volatile, able to go from sun to sleet in an hour. If you're trapped in a 4x4 with mechanical trouble then at least you have the vehicle for shelter. But if you get a broken chain on a mountain bike a mere 12km into rough terrain then you're several hours from help. We took water, emergency shelter, waterproofs, warm clothes, flashlights and a Garmin Inreach Mini 2 for emergencies. With exploration, photography, reading and detours we ended up with a five-hour trip, much as planned. But with grey clouds piling up to the South and temperatures under 12C the whole way, there were a couple of times when I wondered if we'd need our extra gear, though fortunately we didn't.

Back at camp we met a solo mountain biker called 'Tilly' who was fairly new to off-road exploring by bike. She had no map, hadn't researched the trails and wanted to go out and explore but had no emergency communication and nobody waiting for her, so when she saw our bikes she asked us for advice. I gave her a printed, marked-up map and suggested some shorter routes that offered plenty to see with little chance of getting lost or stuck too far from help. She was out exploring the day we headed back and had the last tent at the campsite, but we left energy bars and an encouraging note at her tent door for her return.





# WHAT TO WATCH ON YOUTUBE

by Bruce Ronning

# H

ere are a few of my favourite YouTube channels.

## **TYLER THOMPSON** <https://www.youtube.com/@TYLERTHOMPSON90>

Tyler Thompson started out about 5 years back focussing on family camping and 4WDing, but in recent times since going full-time YouTuber, he's added more variety with a couple of build series for



his different rigs, and some hardcore off-roading. His latest trip series is doing Tassie's toughest tracks in his newly built GQ Patrol. I really enjoy Tyler's presentation style and you can see the effort that's gone into the filming and editing. Watching his latest video every Sunday morning has become part of my weekend routine.

## **OUTDOORS CBR** <https://www.youtube.com/@OUTDOORSGBR>



Outdoors CBR is unique in that Lewy and the boys film most of the content in places within easy reach of Canberra such as the Brindies and South Coast. Sometimes they'll venture further afield to VHC, Yalwal and most recently even as far as Tassie. The videos are very nicely produced and the trips look like so much fun, just a bunch of blokes out enjoying each other's company and making the most of what our region has to offer. Look out for some unique camp oven desserts.

## **AUSSIE ARVOS** [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@AUSSIEARVOS](https://www.youtube.com/@AUSSIEARVOS)



These are a couple of young guys doing 4WDing on a budget; older trucks, Kings gear, you get the idea. The channel is more focused on equipment reviews, builds and setups but they do throw in the odd trip video. Their passion and attitude to 4WDing is admirable.

## **4XADVENTURES** [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@4XADVENTURES](https://www.youtube.com/@4XADVENTURES)



A solo traveller in his Toyota FJ Cruiser, Attila produces a very polished video that would not look out of place on prime-time television. His style is a lot like Pat Callinan's but without the sponsors. I particularly enjoyed the recent VHC trip series. The 4WDing is on the less extreme end of the spectrum (although somewhat over-dramatised in the narration) but very entertaining and watchable.

## **RED DIRT DIARY** [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@REDDIRT4X4](https://www.youtube.com/@REDDIRT4X4)



I included this one for some gender balance. Red Dirt Diary is the adventures of two young ladies getting out there on the tracks and showing that 4WDing is not just for blokes. Bridget and Brianna have made quite a name for themselves, regularly making celebrity appearances at 4WD shows and blazing a trail that I'm sure we all hope is followed by many others like them.





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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](http://www.st4wdc.com.au) and consult with the Trip Leader to confirm details before attending. Contact [trips@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:trips@st4wdc.com.au) for more information.

Start	End	Activity	Type	Grade	Leader
21-Apr-23	21-Apr-23	TGIF Dickson Taphouse	Trip	Not Required	Ann Ronning
28-Apr-23	30-Apr-23	Talooge Muster	Trip	Not Required	Brad Wells
28-Apr-23	30-Apr-23	Basic Winching and Recovery Course	Training	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire
29-Apr-23	29-Apr-23	Off the more beaten tracks in the Brindies	Trip	Grade 4	Robert Stevenson
3-May-23	5-May-23	Safe One Basic Driver Training Course	Training	Not Required	Bronwyn Squire
5-May-23	7-May-23	Narooma Oyster Festival - EO!	Trip	Not Required	Ann Ronning
5-May-23	7-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
28-May-23	28-May-23	Wee Jasper - Sunday picnic	Trip	Not Required	Ann Ronning
1-Jun-23	1-Sep-23	Brindabella Snow Seeking 2023	Trip	Grade 3	Matthew Maddigan
3-Jun-23	4-Jun-23	Postmans Campground	Trip	Grade 3	Matthew Maddigan
3-Jun-23	3-Jun-23	Yalwal Day Trip	Trip	Grade 4	Robert Stevenson
23-Jun-23	23-Jun-23	TGIF - Rose Cottage	Trip	Not Required	Ann Ronning
15-Jul-23	16-Jul-23	Snow Camping 2023	Trip	Grade 4	Matthew Maddigan
30-Jul-23	30-Jul-23	Snow play and picnic at Corin Forrest - EO!	Trip	Not Required	Ann Ronning
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
31-Aug-23	8-Sep-23	Flinders Ranges	Trip	Grade 3	Michael Marsalek
8-Sep-23	10-Sep-23	Talooge Muster	Trip	Not Required	Brad Wells
8-Sep-23	10-Sep-23	Intermediate Driving Course (Difficult Terrain)	Training	Grade 4	Bronwyn Squire
9-Sep-23	10-Sep-23	Expression of Interest Chainsaw Awareness Workshop	Training	Not Required	Michael Kerr
22-Sep-23	24-Sep-23	Safe One Basic Driver Training Course	Training	Not Required	Bronwyn Squire
29-Sep-23	2-Oct-23	Talooge Bush Gala	Trip	Grade 2	Matthew Maddigan
1-Oct-23	1-Oct-23	Graduates' day out in the Brindies	Trip	Grade 3	Shea Jost
20-Oct-23	22-Oct-23	Talooge Muster	Trip	Not Required	Brad Wells
20-Oct-23	22-Oct-23	Intermediate Winching and Recovery Course	Training	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire
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
5-Nov-23	5-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
9-Dec-23	10-Dec-23	Christmas at Burrinjuck	Trip	Not Required	Ann Ronning
10-Mar-24	23-Mar-24	Tasmania Touring & Camp; Tracks	Trip	Grade 3	Ethan Taylor



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

Our travelling friends took a nice long break in Esperance, WA. Matt enjoyed fishing on Woody Lake, golfing and visiting the beach before heading to Denmark...Western Australia.

#### Denmark, Western Australia

Moved from Esperance after a two-week stay, and now I have to get used to travelling again. Made it to Denmark in one hit, as I'd already visited Albany and Bremer Bay. What a lovely place, full of incredible coastal and inland scenery. The Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk in the Walpole-Nornalup National Park is a must-see, suspended 40m above the forest floor, swaying back and forth as you take in the sights of the canopy below and above you. Red Tingle tree roots are fragile hence the suspended



walkway to avoid damaging their root systems. Some trees grow to 70m in height and have huge bases. Unfortunately, the Ancients Walk was closed for upgrade and maintenance work, so I didn't get to see the huge one that forms an archway at the start. Had a swim at Greens Pool (beach) and checked out Elephant Rocks. Stunning coastline. The WA southern coast is easily the best I've seen. Crystal clear water just sparkles, and the fine white sandy beaches make it a joy to go for a walk. Also, I



checked out the various lookouts around Ocean Beach after topping up on groceries. My site at the caravan park is on Wallaby Way. I wondered if Dory and Marlin will come looking for Nemo sometime?

Since leaving Denmark, I stayed a night in Pemberton and explored the surrounding forest areas and through the dunes to Callcup Beach after a tip. Climbed the 53m Gloucester Tree (old fire watch platform), which my bum muscles reminded me about for a couple of days afterwards. Luckily I only learned about and visited but didn't climb the Bicentennial Tree (much taller) the next day.

After visiting Augusta and Cape Leeuwin, where the Southern and Indian Oceans meet, I stopped at Gracetown near Margaret River for a week. Lovely coast, and as you would expect, the wine region was great too. Made a day trip to Dunsborough and also visited Main Break at Prevelly Beach, apparently well known amongst surfing circles. The kite surfers were out in force and spectacular to watch, getting airborne, surfing out to sea behind the breakers, and then coming over them. I complimented one on his way out, who said the waves could be bigger!!

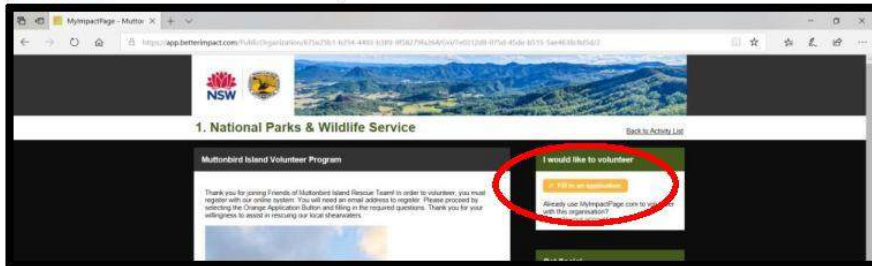
Moved to Bunbury for a few days and visited the dolphin centre, which was interesting. No dolphins showed up at the beach in front of the centre whilst I was there. Bypassing Perth, I headed to Bindoon, where I stayed the night with friends. Easter break is apparently code in WA for Evacuate! It seemed that the entire population left the city for the north or south coast. I've managed to get a camp at Jurien Bay overflow (Showgrounds) for a couple of nights. I have since moved on to Sandy Cape for four nights now that a fair proportion of Perthites have returned home.



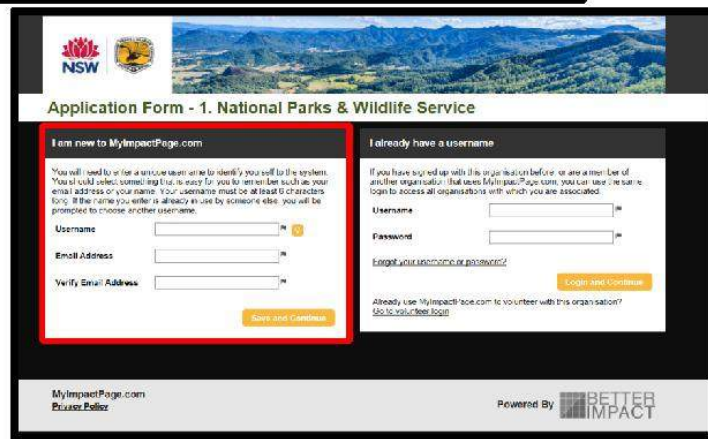
# Volunteer Registration

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).

A screenshot of the "Contact Information" form. The form is divided into several sections: ACCOUNT (Username, Password, Confirm Password), NAME FIELDS (First Name, Last Name), ADDRESS (Address line 1, Address line 2, Suburb - City, Locality, State, Post Code, Email Address), PHONE NUMBERS (Home Phone, Work Phone, Mobile, Phone Preference), and MISC FIELDS (Date of Birth, Region). At the bottom of the form, there is a yellow button labeled "Save and Continue" with a red arrow pointing to it. A small text box at the bottom of the form reads: "You need to complete all fields flagged (\*) as required on this page and on the next one. If you don't fill in all required fields and click save on the next page, your application will not be submitted to National Parks & Wildlife Service."

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 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.

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**0407 562 656**

# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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## ST4WDC SWAG



Club clothing is available at Club Meetings, or contact Francoise Zaalen-Arbaut at [clothing@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:clothing@st4wdc.com.au)