



**MAY 2023**

# SOUTHERN TRAILS



## MUD HUNTING

Bondo's Big Bogs

### WHO'S BUDDY?

Perkins Flat weekender

### MEMBER ADVENTURES

Where in Australia are you?

.....CAN AI REPLACE OUR CLUB PRESIDENT?





# 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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Denham, WA

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY ANDY SQUIRE

After writing an article every month for the last four and a half years I've run out of interesting things to say. Ok. I hear you; 'what makes you think you ever had anything interesting to say?' But be nice. I try. I spend at least 8 minutes writing each article, sometimes more (up to 11).

And then at the last 2 club meetings after running a 'quick quiz' to see if anyone actually reads it, I discovered NO!!! Although a lot of you claim to, it is obviously so interesting that you immediately forget.

So this month I thought I'd try something different (beware, there will be a test at the end). I got ChatGP to write one for me. Artificial Intelligence. Don't say it... oh you did; 'artificial intelligence wrote all the last ones', harsh and cruel, but probably true. I actually had to get Matt (our Information Coordinator) to generate it for me; I can't even manage that. Well, here it is:

Dear Members,

I hope this report finds you all in good spirits and enjoying some great adventures out on the tracks. As we move into the cooler months, it's important to remember to take extra precautions and be well prepared for the conditions.

We've had a busy start to the year with some fantastic trips and events. Our recent trip to the Brindabella Ranges was a great success, with stunning views and challenging tracks. I want to extend a big thank you to our trip leaders and all who participated for making it such a memorable experience.

We also had a successful driver training day in March, with many members improving their skills and knowledge. It's great to see so many of our members taking the initiative to improve their abilities and become better, safer drivers.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting trips planned, including a trip to the Blue Mountains and a camping weekend in Kosciuszko National Park. Keep an eye on the club calendar for further details and don't forget to register your interest early to avoid missing out.

Hello!  
my name is

[insert name]



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I would like to remind all members to uphold our code of conduct when participating in club events and trips. This includes following responsible driving practices, respecting the environment and other road users, and adhering to all relevant laws and regulations.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee and all members for their ongoing support and dedication to the club. It's your enthusiasm and commitment that makes our club such a great community to be a part of.

Stay safe and happy 4-wheeling.

Sincerely,

[Your Name] President, Southern Tablelands 4WD Club.



Better than usual? Probably more comprehensible and articulate. But that's what you get when something non-human takes over. I'm so lacking in intelligence I didn't even realise I am supposed to insert my name where it says '[Your Name]'. Maybe I'll go back and fix it. Nah... bugger it, you know who I am.

It's probably time to get to the actual import club related stuff and tell you things, so, I re-read what I wrote in the last two issues and decided that 'see previous editions' is all I really need to do. Nothing much has changed; we will have the Association Review done for the June meeting, we will have the Insurance checks done by the June meeting (hopefully!), we will have more trips done and on the calendar, we will continue to progress the website review, and the club will continue to chug along nicely. One new thing though; we had Basic Driver training last weekend and it snowed. Bloody cold, but awesome!!!!!! Hopefully a trip report and photos for the next newsletter as there just isn't time to get them into this one.

Ok. So I'm nearing the end (yay!). And the ChatGP report was more interesting. Maybe I'll try it again next month and see if you even notice. But remember; 'Artificial Intelligence is no match for Natural Stupidity'.

See you on the tracks.

*Andy*







# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

BY LYNNE DONALDSON  
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

It's the time of the year to start pulling out the scarves, gloves and thermal underwear as we slide into the colder months! Always a great time to get the fire lit and the camp ovens out, making damper, roasts, and stews on the fire.

## Welcome

We have had three new members join the Club in April

**NICHOLAS AND DEBORAH JONGERDEN - FORD RANGER**

**GLENN WILSON - TOYOTA LANDCRUISER 105 SERIES**

**ROBERT AND LEARNA TIELE - Y62 NISSAN PATROL**

Robert and Learnna are returning members

If you have the time and inclination, put your name down on some trips/events. Being busy with various roles in the Club, Rob and I have not had much time to participate in any club trips for a while. However, we went on a club trip recently and had a blast! This took us back to our grassroots and reminded us of why we joined the Club to begin with, to get to know like-minded people.

So many great people in the Club are ready to make lifelong friendships and connections. Go on, take a chance, get out there and put your name down on a trip. 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, see me at a meeting.

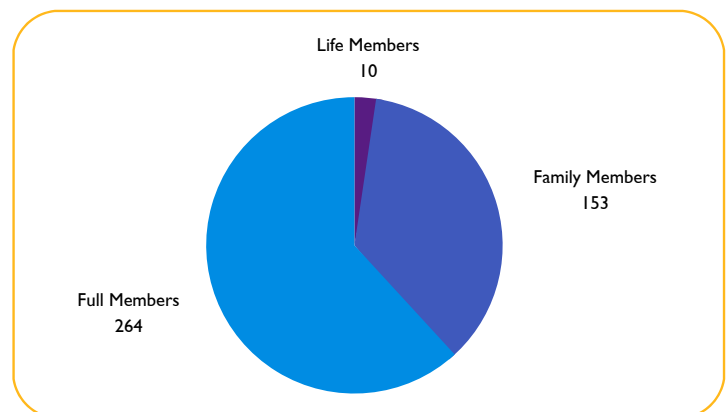
Trips, events and the social club working group have been busy organising many activities, and our calendar is full! Look up the list of upcoming events and put your name down to start making connections within the Club, and get out there and enjoy

## 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*



This month we get to know Club member Troy Larke

## Member Spotlight

**WHY DID YOU JOIN THE ST4WDC CLUB?**

To get some 4WD experience and find new camping spots

**WHAT TRIP IS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?**

Karijini and Cape York

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

Joining the Club has been a pleasant surprise. I've got far more out of it than I thought I would. My off-road confidence has increased massively. I am having a go at tracks far more challenging than I ever thought I would take on.

**IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE CLUB?**

Over time I would like to progress to Trip Leader and pass on my skills to other members.

**WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST ENJOYABLE TRIP?**

So far, the weekend in the Victorian High Country.

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER?**

Just over 12 months



# SOCIAL CLUB UPDATE

Thank you to members who have come to social events to share some off-trail time. We have gone bowling, tried out a few pub menus and had our first seasonal event.

A special thanks to Luke, Mike, Jerry and Mandy for joining hosts Ann and Bruce for a trip out to Dalmeny, NSW, to attend the Narooma Oyster Festival. Dalmeny Campground is a great getaway spot or hub for exploring the NSW coastal region. It's close to the beach, some sites have ocean views, a wide path for a scenic walk or cycle to Narooma, and you can bring your pups.

The Oyster Festival offered music, drinks, classics and different food stalls, but you couldn't beat the oysters on offer direct from the individual oyster farms that attended the festival.

It wasn't all oysters. On the trip, members took fishing charters, explored the area, had fireside chats and afternoon teas, and someone had lovely long sleep-ins (it was Ann). Please show your interest and book into the EOI for the July snow trip ASAP. Discounts and locations can be reserved if we have the numbers.

## MAY

Come to our social club family picnic at the Billy Grace Reserve in Wee Jasper. Camp over the weekend or visit for our picnic. Billy Grace Reserve is situated right on the Goodradigbee River

Day Visitor (all types) – \$3.00 per person, register at the office

### Camping fees

Adult Fee (over age of 16) – \$18.00 per person, per night.

Child Fee (between 5 & 15) – \$5.00 per person, per night.

Infant Fee (under 5 years) – Free, but must be registered

Dog Fee (any size or age) – Free, but must be registered

For more information, visit: <https://weejasperreserves.com.au/>

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](#).



### 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 26. So book in now.

Snowplay Ticket \$25 Toboggan \$5

## SUNDAY PICNIC

SUNDAY 28 MAY @ NOON  
BILLY GRACE RESERVE  
WEE JASPER

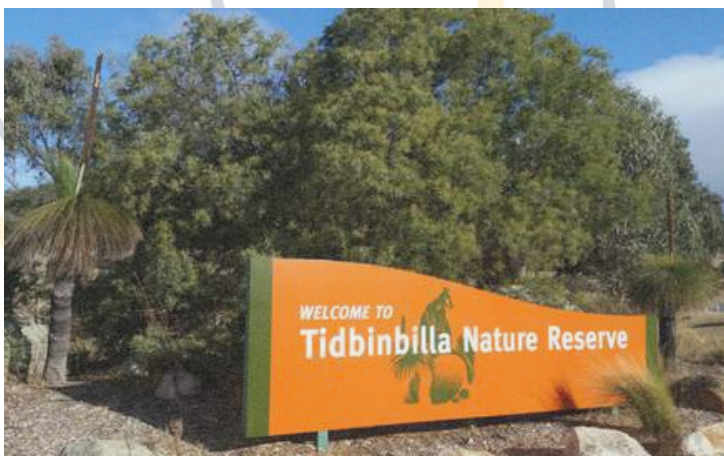
**REGISTER NOW >**



# SOCIAL CLUB 2023 CALENDAR

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.







**CAMP OVEN COOK OFF (COCO) -  
CROOKWELL MAY 20TH AND 21ST  
(INCORPORATING THE MAY QUARTERLY MEETING)**

The quarterly at Crookwell is shaping up to be a good one with the combination of having the Camp Oven Cook Off a social Saturday night with a great trivia planned with amazing prizes (big thanks to ARB) and the local Lions club cooking Sunday breakfast and then the meeting,

**TRIVIA PRIZES**

Teams are 6 - 8 people. Prizes are based on group teams, so everyone will take home a prize if your team places.

First Prize: 8 Camp chairs and 8 Pure view lights 800

Second Prize: 4 Camp chairs and 4 tables

Third prize: 4 chairs and 4 ARB golf umbrellas.

**REGISTER NOW >**



There is some interest in a First Aid Course in Sydney and Port Macquarie. Neither Club has the full numbers to run a course independently.

The association needs 20 participants, and we can get this happening together.

If you would like to attend the course, please get in touch with [office@4wdnow.com](mailto:office@4wdnow.com)

**Don't get lost with Michael**



Did you know you can stitch maps together to make one large map in OziExplorer?

# HAVE YOU HEARD?



ST4WDC gear looks great on everyone.  
Got something to share? We love to hear  
from members. Email  
[publications@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:publications@st4wdc.com.au)

# EXPLORING BONDO STATE FOREST

*Exploring Bondo state forest and surrounds 1 April 2023*

We had a convoy of six cars out on the trip:

Bron and Andy  
Anthea and Laurie  
Mel and Geoff

Troy and Peta  
Bart and Kath  
Rob and Lynn



We met up on Friday evening at the Micalong Creek Reserve and had some drinks around the fire.

The trip started on Saturday at 9:00 AM, which we like to call a 'respectable hour'. Our stand-in trip leaders offered a trip into the unknown, and that is how we started off. After several dead ends, we found our first track.

The question was, 'Does anybody object to pinstripes'? And after five cars followed the lead down the track, the answer was clear we were all in. We drove through several short tracks off Nottingham Rd in a bit of a Sunday drive kind of way.....

..... until we hit our first bog hole. Our fearless leaders bellied out, but we're straight into recovery mode. All the info in training about having your recovery gear ready and accessible fell into place, and it was a reasonably **quick** recovery. We started off with the Maxtrax but quickly moved into winch mode. In fact, it took longer to dig the last Maxtrax out than to get the vehicle out. The remainder of us, learning from the experience of others, picked a line and fanged it. You don't have to look graceful in these situations. You just need to get through, which we did. Several of the tracks were overgrown with blackberries which made for a nice snack on the way around. It was a shame the tracks were so tight; otherwise, we would have picked more.

A leisurely lunch was held at a three-way crossroad before moving on. We navigated another substantial bog hole successfully, then rounded a corner into a tree down. Bron and her trusty chainsaw had that sorted





in no time. We continued down some tight tracks until about 3:00 PM, when the group split up. Three cars return to Canberra via Brindabella Rd, the other three returning to Micalong Creek Reserve for another night by the fire. All in all, we travel approximately 80 km in six hours.

Thanks to Bron, Andy, Lynn and Rob for joining us on short notice and making the trip possible. The campgrounds at Wee Jasper are lovely and well worth the trip.





# TRIP REPORT: KOSCIUSZKO HUTS ASSOCIATION WOODSKILLS WEEKEND

Cocky Country Pillaga April 2023

By Mark Grundy

## INTRODUCTION

Formed in 1971, the [Kosciuszko Huts Association](#) helps with the conservation, management and reconstruction of huts, homesteads and surrounds within Kosciuszko National Park in Southern NSW, having expanded its activities into the ACT's Namadgi National Park in 1990. Readers of [Southern Trails April 2023](#) will have seen some examples, and there are some 90 or so huts remaining in these areas. They provide emergency shelter in bad weather and historical architecture from the post-settlement grazing history of the region but are vulnerable to bushfires, vandalism and neglect.



Woodskills is a weekend KHA camping event run once every two years, demonstrating colonial timber crafting and carpentry, and this year it ran over 22-23 April. Held at a private property in Wee Jasper, it's run by volunteers for members, interested staff from NSW Parks and Parks ACT and Wee Jasper locals. Like many social events, Covid had seen this event suspended, and this was its first chance to rerun it since conditions eased. For this year and for the first time, the KHA was able to offer both the event and a catered dinner free to members and volunteer contributors.

Having joined the KHA mid-last year, this was the first opportunity I'd had to meet anyone, and I offered to



contribute some music. The organisers warmly accepted and slotted me in for a lunchtime performance, with another muso Daniel already scheduled for the evening.

As members who know it can attest, the Wee Jasper area is amazing: an Irish shepherd's dream of what the northern tip of the Brindabellas should look like. Once grazing land, this property is now being turned to eco-tourism with plenty of new trees planted, but it is not yet open to the public.

With some eighty attendants expected, after setting up camp on Friday Ela and I helped out with marshalling early arrivals against skies that promised stunning weekend weather (I'm indebted to Ela for her help in my prep and also for most of the pics that follow.)

From the music technical side, I sing and play a range of instruments, but for this event I'd dusted off a couple of acoustic-electric guitars and filled the back of the

Everest with an amp and a looper (so you can play against your own music), two PAs, some stands, a mixing desk and a portable table, as I'd been told there was power available and that the music would be performed outside in fine weather.

Thoughtfully, property coordinator Nathan and Simon the KHA President had laid out booths under the shed. As you faced the shed, the music was off to the right, parked next to a pottery demonstration by a former ANU Professor of Ceramics, and past her were locals selling coffee, making waffles and offering samples of [locally-made gin](#). Meanwhile, the shed's verandah faced uphill, and under marquees were the demonstrations and hands-on stuff. After months of grey skies and damp camping, Saturday weather was bordering on gorgeous.







I thought the set-up worked brilliantly: sheltering the music while the amplification carried up the hill to the real action under the marquees. At lunch, people could stop and sit on the hill, eat lunch and listen to the music, or just wander around the demos with music in the background.

Having not been to this event before, I'd previously asked Nathan what music might work. He said that folk music was popular, so I tried to strike a balance between traditional and modern folk, with songs from Australian folk rock band [The Waifs](#), from Irish punk folk band [The Pogues](#), and from Australian folk band [Redgum](#) along with some traditional Irish and Scottish music and some convict songs, and tucked some country Australiana in my back pocket. Meanwhile, the other scheduled musician Daniel was from nearby Yass. He [writes his own modern folk music](#) (everything from humorous to historical and political) and does traditional stuff too. We coordinated to share my mixing desk and PAs.





## Wood Skills Demonstrations

But the main focus of this jamboree was of course colonial wood skill demos. These dying skills are needed to conserve and restore the regional huts, and you'd be surprised how many like-minded people this event brought out who loved camping, the bush, old bush huts and were willing to get their hands on an amazing array of 19th-century bush carpentry techniques.

Demonstrated were the use of the [froe](#), [adze](#), [shave horse](#), [broadaxe](#), [crosscut saw](#) and [treadle lathe](#). With such tools, guests were encouraged to make mallets and mauls, milkmaid stools and four-legged stools, benches and tables – or even parts of these things, to help furnish the huts. Also demonstrated were tool maintenance and knife sharpening.

Meanwhile, our neighbours across the Brindabellas, the [Wagga Wagga 4WD Club](#) performed 4WD safety demonstrations for KHA members on field trips, while two local authors (a historian and a geologist) sold books under marquees, and an artist sold paintings from within the shed. There was a demonstration of cord-making from local barks, and I saw someone pass with a whip at her belt – presumably doing a whip-cracking demonstration, though perhaps someone had left dishes in the communal sink.

Local tours were run to Oakey Creek Homestead and the nearby [Carey's Cave](#) and outside formal music sessions, an impromptu folk band played. There was plenty that I wanted to do, but I had to look after sound gear and cuts and bruises are no friend to guitar playing so I took time to enjoy the displays but kept







my hands off the tools this time around (so if you fall off a milking stool in some Kozzy mountain hut this year, it won't have been made by me.)

After dinner, Daniel and I played together for an hour or so. He's a true folkie as I am not, and he has vast quantities of material so I tried to be a good session musician and play along with his stuff. That seemed to work more often than it didn't, as some guests sitting around fire drums asked how long we'd been playing together (I had to be honest and answer, 'about ten minutes'.)

### Conclusions and Lessons Learned

Although Nathan had initially estimated 80 attendants, after registrations were tallied more than 150 had come. As a newcomer to KHA I personally found the range of skills and knowledge on display to be breathtaking. With every conversation you struck, you ended up talking to a bush historian, an artist, a geologist, a bushcrafter, a bush school teacher, or a Wee Jasper local with extensive local knowledge. It was

impossible to be bored and you'd had to have slept through the whole weekend not to have learned something. The generosity of Nathan and his mother (it's actually her property) in putting up with so many people over the weekend was a tribute to their care for both the region and the community, while the involvement of neighbours (Wee Jasper is a hamlet of 75 people) was delightful to see.

Despite being a volunteer event it was amazingly well-organised and preparing it must have exhausted a lot of people. Even in a peripheral role I found myself needing to rest for several days afterward, and it took all that time to begin to digest what had just occurred. In offering a musical contribution to an event that had previously been unknown to me, my thoughts were that after years of bushfires, Covid and *La Niña* rains, people might want to reconnect, to recommit, rekindle enthusiasms and start making constructive and forward-looking plans again. I wanted to meet the KHA and contribute, wanted the music to help



lubricate that, and according to passing comments it did. While the event has music every time it's run, this was the first time it had had 'official' music, with its own space, amplification and prepared material.

Consequently, through lunch, the sound had carried right to the back of the demos and punters told me that it helped them relax. Although people sat around on the hill to listen, there was no thought of a formal audience and I thought that worked well. At the catered dinner, people sat at a long table and I thought Daniel's quiet, intimate style worked well there: supporting convivial conversation but not clobbering it. After dinner, people huddled around fire drums chatting quietly and the music got a bit cheekier. When I played Slim Newton's *Redback on the Toilet Seat*, Daniel quietly got up to make a cup of tea, though I'm still not

sure whether that was in protest. (However, he'd already played his own song *Zombie Sheep of the Murrumbidgee*, so I don't think he can point any fingers.)

This event runs every two years. Nathan has indicated that he'd be glad to do it on his family's property again, and I'd love to be involved. It's hard to imagine a more fascinating, enjoyable, inspiring and heart-warming way to spend an Autumn weekend in the region. Despite joining last year, thanks mainly to La Niña rains I still haven't been out to help maintain a hut, but if KHA is as enthusiastic with its hut maintenance as it is with its Woodskills event, I'll be looking forward to it.



## TRIP REPORT: PERKINS FLAT

**P**erkins Flat is a hidden gem at the southern end of the Brindabella Valley that Ann and I discovered years ago when looking for that elusive destination that isn't overcrowded at Easter. Perkins Flat delivered and became our regular Easter camp for many years, so I decided to share it with the Club by leading a trip down there.

I'm told that in years gone by, Perkins was a popular destination for Canberrans, but the locals locked off the route via Crace Rd, leaving the only public access from the south up Long Plain Rd, adding about 2 hours to the trip.

Our route took us in via Boundary Rd, then onto a powerline trail to link up with Bramina Rd and via a few other tracks to get onto Long Plain Rd. Most of the tracks were grade 2 or 3, with only the powerline trail throwing us a few challenges by way of bog holes and ruts.

The campground did not disappoint, with beautiful riverside campsites and the whole place to ourselves for the entire weekend. The focus for this trip was camping and relaxing, which I think we 100% nailed

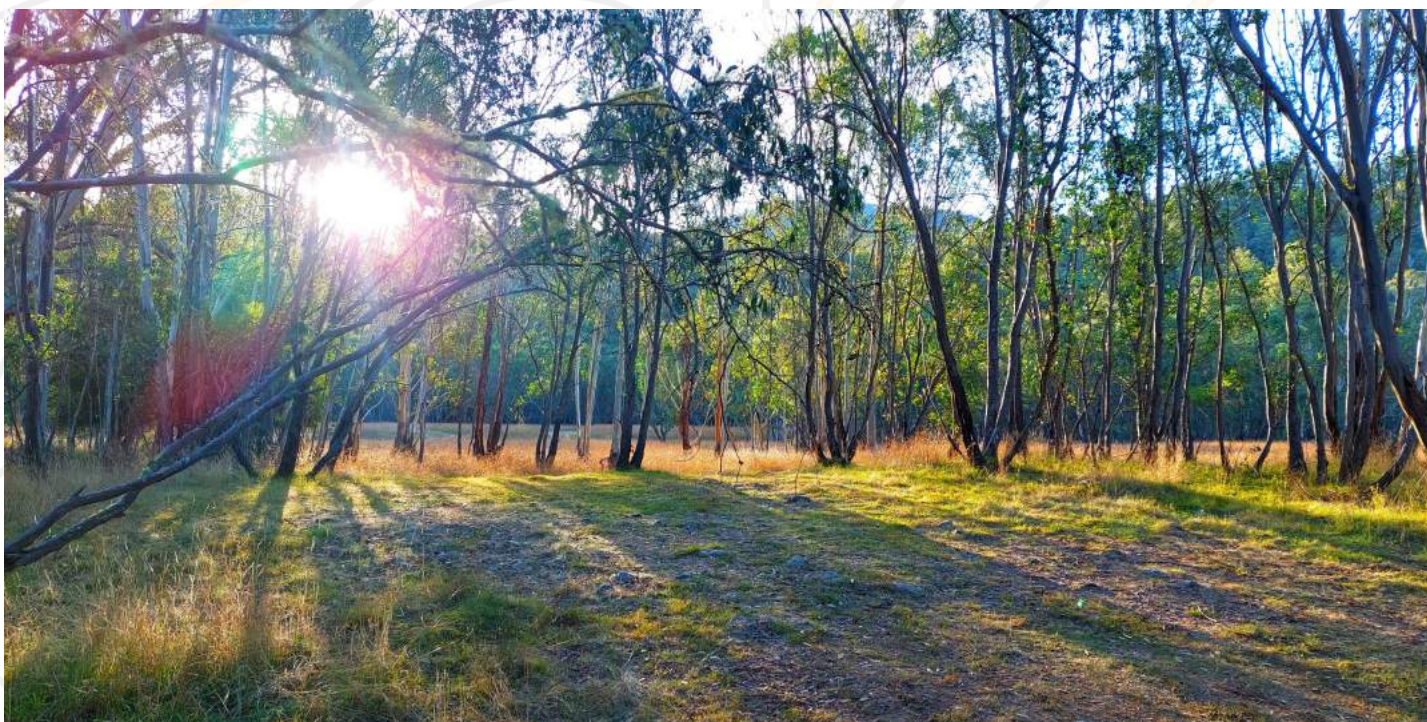
For variety, I chose to leave via the south all the way down Long Plain Rd to the Snowy Mountains Highway and it was here things went a bit pear-shaped for the lead vehicle. I'd noticed unusually hot front rims when airing down at the start of the trip and was keeping an eye on it, but now about to hit the highway I felt it was time to investigate further. The brake pistons had seized and attempts to fix it only made things worse so a tow truck was called and the mighty Y62 had to suffer the indignity of a tray-truck ride home.

Thanks to the crew for hanging around to help and especially to Luke and Mike for waiting with me for the tow truck and then giving me a lift home. At times like this one is really grateful for the support of club members! Still, as breakdowns go it was a fairly painless one and the weekend overall was a great success.

*Bruce Ranning*







The Weekend at Perkins Flat was a perfect getaway retreat with some fun four-wheel driving thrown in. We drove up the Powerlines track onto Broken Cart track and then Long Plain road into the Perkins Flat Campground. We kayaked and swam in the Goodradigbee River. The water wasn't warm but it was refreshing. Bruce organised a great trip that I think we all really enjoyed and appreciated. It was a pity that Bruce needed to get his vehicle towed back to Canberra as one of his brakes jammed. We were, however lucky with the weather and I definitely hope to get back to this area again soon as it's so peaceful and idyllic.

*Daniel Parsons*

It seems like I am writing this weeks after we returned however its only been five days... We started the adventure in the Uriarra picnic area after filling up with fuel. We were in the good hands of Bruce and I was testing out the new HEMA App I had just purchased and the iPad holder. There is always something to buy. I enjoyed the transit with no incidents and plenty of nice views

(including power lines). Arrived at the deserted Perkins Flat campground and we all found our spot. I may have tested out my new hammock between two trees and woke up 3 hours later..... We made a fire in the pit with some donated firewood. I enjoyed a forced dip in the river when my lure got stuck on a tree. I assumed Charlie was on the way out and made it to the Snowy Mountains Highway and then Bruce checked his wheel.... We all helped out and I am sure the story is covered in other reports. A nice trip back on Bobeyan road. A Successful weekend without any issues and still a few more things to buy....

*Chris Collins*

Thanks for the weekend camp at Perkins Flat. You took us on some good challenging tracks and lots of rocks to get to drive over. I had fun kayaking down the river and had a great camp site.

*Luke*



## BUDDY'S STORY

From George Patterson's *Chasing Rainbows: Happy Days Along the Trout Streams* (Halstead Press Sydney, 1959),

There is a park-like reserve on the left bank of the Goodrindigbee River on a stock route that lies deep in the mountains between Brindabella and Tumut. Amidst the trees on a smooth grassed clearing overlooking the river, there's a grave and it's a strange one. It is the burial place of a dog. Within a railing of logs painted white, there is a plinth of concrete on which is set a bronze plaque carrying the following words:

BUDDY

Good Hunting Old Pal

1920-1937

Many years ago the reserve was inhabited by an old Digger pensioner named Bob Reid. He was a strange character whose unpredictable nature was said to result from a wound from World War I. Bob had built himself a wattle and daub hut and also a garden surrounded by a strong picket fence to keep out the local fauna.



There he lived in solitude for some years with only his dog, "Buddy," for company. And doing odd jobs on properties in the valley as he felt inclined.

Then "Buddy," who was now 17 years of age, had to be destroyed, but Bob couldn't face the job himself, and a neighbour did it for him. It must have been a bitter blow to this strange man, who, in a sorrowing fury, burned his hut to the ground, destroyed his garden and, carrying a few personal belongings, he disappeared out west — "back o' beyond."

'While fishing the Goodradigbee I had often heard about Bob Reid and sometimes passed "Buddy's" grave as I wandered through the forest. Then one year, as we drove down the mountain into the valley, we were hailed by an elderly, bearded man who sat beside the road with a pushcart fitted with enormous rubber-tyred wire wheels. We stopped and he introduced himself. It was Bob Reid. He had returned to the valley and told us he was waiting for the mailman who was bringing his radio and other gear.

So once again Bob settled in the reserve where, deliberately remote from "Buddy's" grave, he built a hut and in a year or so had developed an amazing nursery of gladioli, the corms of which he sold to stores in Sydney. He had a magnificent Clydesdale stallion and a dray which he used for odd jobs. and, on one occasion, he transported us and our stores through three crossings of the swollen river to "Koorabri" and indignantly refused any payment.

I saw Bob Reid for the last time one morning while fishing upstream in a long stretch of the Goodradigbee beside the reserve near his garden. I was in waders and after a blank period, I was moving quickly to a spot where I had seen trout rising when Bob Reid suddenly appeared on the bank. I resented his intrusion at this stage, but was forced into a long yarn, which Bob ended abruptly by disappearing into the scrub. He returned



suddenly with a long pole to which was attached a length of stout cord at the end of which dangled an enormous brass spoon-flash. "Well, I've got to get me lunch," he shouted. and casting the spoon-flash into the river a few yards ahead of me. He dragged the bait quickly across and up the current and, to my amazement, hauled out a trout or at least 2 lbs. With a "Good day" and "See you again some time," he strode off through the timber, leaving me speechless.

I never saw him again, and upon returning to the valley some years later, I learned that the old chap had died alone in his hut the previous year.

Nothing remains today but the grave of "Buddy" and, further down river, Bob Reid's last hut of rough-hewn slabs and the garden, once a blaze of gladioli, is now a wilderness.

**For more on finding Buddy's grave, you might be interested to read [Grave Mission](#) by Tim the Yowie Man**

#### **Position**

DEG: -35.456493 148.714909

DMS: 35° 27' 23.38" S 148° 42' 53.66" E

UTM: 55 H 6074980mN 655622mE

Altitude: 683.42m

## TRIP REPORT: OFF THE MORE BEATEN TRACKS IN THE BRINDIES

It was looking to be a wet Saturday . So I kept an eye on the weather and finally made a decision with a forecast of 1-5mm of rain overnight and a dry morning to go ahead.

There was four of us headed in via East West Firetrail and our first stop was at a track that I have referred to in the past as the old training track . It was looking a bit on the wet and slippery side to attempt. We continued around the corner to the other entrance to the same track which proved to look and feel better underfoot so we decided to do the drive up it to Genges . We had one vehicle decide their tyres weren't up to the track so we decided they would take the bypass and meet us at the top. So three of us continued on the first challenge was to get over a track intersection where two of us made it over but our Charlie (Jake) proved to have issues, so we had to winch him over and realised he was having locker issues at this point. The decision was made to allow Jake to take the lead giving him best track conditions. It wasn't long until all forms of traction was gone on the track so we had a lot of winching to make the top of the hill. We then turned down Genges and had to recover our fourth vehicle that didn't make the top but ended up sliding onto a mound so we needed to recover them. The vehicle was secured to trees both front and rear to stop any sideways movement, two winches on the rear of the vehicle one being a double line straight pull and the other a sideways pull.

At this point I would like to acknowledge our training team for teaching how to do this sort of recovery and in a safe manner.

Thanks to everyone who attended.

*Rob Stevenson*



Only did one track between Radiata track and Genges Trail, west of Two Sticks Hill. It had been raining the night before and did not promise to rain on the day. Looked like a good day coming up. Four vehicles started and four finished. This turned out to be a serious winching exercise again. With Rob, it took us 4 hrs to get three vehicles up the track. (Luke had decided that he would bypass the uphill part and meet us on Genges).

It was very slippery, so no way there would be a turnaround to slide down to hell. Finally got to Genges and then back to the other track to rescue the stuck Patrol.

Another major exercise in stabilising vehicle and offset pulls.

By this time, my car's alternator or battery had suffered a major meltdown due to the hard work and left me with 11v in the battery. Fortunately I was able to get back home.

Thanks Tony and Rob for all the winch help, and Patrick my passenger for not jumping out when he had the chance. Would I do it again? Yes, in the dry!

Spare alternator now installed and all is good to go for the next Rob "winching" trip.

*Jake*



'Rob's trip was a chance to explore or revisit some of the less driven technically difficult tracks we are lucky to have so close to home. Throw in a good many millimeters of rain and the easy tracks get hard and the hard tracks become 'fun.' A challenging day saw the winches get a good work out as we passed the point of no return on a steep, stepped and rutted track which offered little or no traction. After more than four hours of hard work we reached the top, ready to drive back down the hill to recover one of our vehicles which had slipped sideways off a bypass track. Thanks to our training on the club's intermediate winching course we felt confident conducting a complex recovery, culminating in the use of two winches to safely drag the vehicle both backwards and sideways on to the track. A long day, a tiring day, a memorable day! Thanks Rob for making it happen.

*Tony Warren*





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SOLUTIONS



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ACCESSORIES

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

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

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

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# OUR CLUB SPONSORS

## Gold Sponsor



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

Find them at: 25 Stevens Road, Queanbeyan. (02) 6297 6006

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Please ask at time of purchase.**



## TRIPS AND EVENTS

### BECOME A TRIP LEADER



## WE NEED YOU FOR AN ADVENTURE!!

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

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

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

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

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

**Michael Patrick**

**Trips & Events Coordinator**

**Ph: 0412 377 941,**

## 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
14-May-23	14-May-23	Graduates' day out in the Brindies	Trip	Grade 3	Shea Jost
20-May-23	21-May-23	Association Camp oven Cook Off (COCO)	Trip	Grade 2	Andrew Squire
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
10-Jun-23	12-Jun-23	Deua National Park	Trip	Grade 3	Andy Wall
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 -	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	Training	Grade 4	Bronwyn Squire
9-Sep-23	10-Sep-23	Expression of Interest Chainsaw	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	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





More ST4WDC members are taking to the tracks and travelling to new and favourite places around Australia. Your travels and adventures can inspire and inform, so remember to keep us in the loop. If you are blogging or posting about a long trip, drop a line to [publications@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:publications@st4wdc.com.au) to share updates in the newsletter.

## MINIONS TAKE ON AUSTRALIA



Rikki and David are touring with a pack of Minions. Starting in Cowra, the little guys saw a giant prawn in Ballina, the Big Banana, celebrated the coronation of the new King and checked out Byron Bay. You can follow their adventures on Facebook on the [Minions Take On Australia](#) page.





Matt has made his way past the 26<sup>th</sup> parallel, enjoying the west coast and recently celebrated a birthday.

Since leaving the lovely Sandy Cape, I moved on to Geraldton for a week to catch up on washing and being civilised for a bit. Next on the agenda was a visit to the pink lake at Port Gregory, also known for its blown-over trees.

A couple of lovely nights were spent at a nearby farm stay called Linga Longa before moving on to Kalbarri. The Kalbarri National Park is beautiful and includes a sky bridge and the popular Natures Window through which you can gaze upon the Murchison River in its gorge nearly at the end of its 800km trip to the coast. I camped by the river at Murchison House Station though I'm afraid swimming was not on the agenda as it was flowing a bit too fast for me. The coastal cliffs around Kalbarri are also stunning. I also managed to land a couple of fish from the river mouth beach.

In Denham at Shark Bay I visited with the dolphins at Monkey Mia, checked out the Ocean Park Aquarium, and went out in the boat with a neighbour yesterday. I also made the long and bumpy pilgrimage to Steep Point, the westernmost point on the Australian mainland. I can now add this to my northernmost visit to Cape York, and my almost (missed by that much 99) southernmost visit to Wilson's Promontory.

I spent the last couple of days at Coral Bay after a week in Carnarvon.

The space centre at Carnarvon is well worth a visit with a Saturn rocket take-off simulator and a full-size model of the lunar lander amongst many other interesting displays. Even managed to set the high score on Galaga, now that took me back to my misspent youth!

Took a little drive one day to see the blowholes at Quobba, but no luck though I found a lovely snorkelling beach nearby aptly called the Aquarium. Even went to the Speedway one night which took me back to days spent in the pits at Tralee cleaning mud off a mate's car before he headed out for another round. Mud gets everywhere, even found a dollop on my radio antenna!

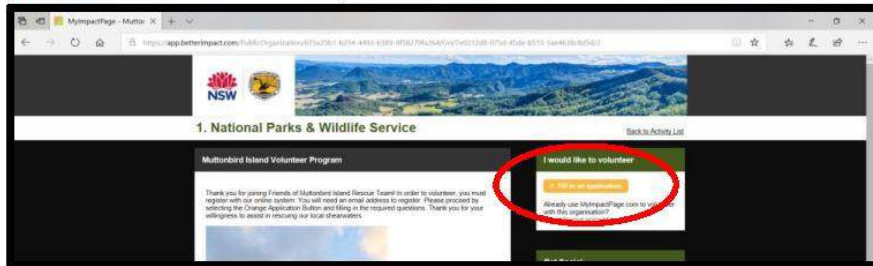







# Volunteer Registration

**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.

## Application Form - 1. National Parks & Wildlife Service

**I am new to MyImpactPage.com**

You will need to enter a unique name for yourself, you will be the system. You will need to enter something that is easy for you to remember such as your email address or your name. Your username must be at least 6 characters long. If the name you enter is already in use by someone else, you will be prompted to choose another username.

Username

Email Address

Verify Email Address

[Sign up and Continue](#)

**I already have a username**

If you have signed up with this page (recently or before), or are a member of another organisation that uses MyImpactPage.com, you can log in using the login to access all organisations with which you are associated.

Username


Password

[Forgot your username or password?](#)

[Login and Continue](#)

Already use MyImpactPage.com to volunteer with this organisation?  
[Go to volunteer login](#)

MyImpactPage.com  
[Privacy Policy](#)

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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).

**Contact Information**

You need to complete all fields flagged with \* 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 U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

**ACCOUNT**

Username:  \*

Password:  \*

Confirm Password:  \*

**NAME FIELDS**

First Name:  \*

Last Name:  \*

**ADDRESS**

Address line 1:  \*

Address line 2:  \*

Suburb / City:  \*

Country:  \*

State:  \*

Post Code:  \*

Email Address:  \*

**PHONE NUMBERS**

\* Please enter at least one phone number.  
Home Phone:  \*

Work Phone:  \*


Mobile:  \*

Phone Preference:  \*

**MISC FIELDS**

Date of Birth:  \*

Nation:  \*

**reCAPTCHA** ☐ I'm not a robot 

**Save and Continue**

You need to complete all fields flagged with \* 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 U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

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

# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

## Camel Trekker Plus Camp Trailer with 13ft Tent

The Trekker is an All-Road camp trailer.

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

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

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

The trailer includes full length Duragal chassis with extended 1800mm drawbar, electric brakes, handbrake, toolbox, pole carrier, stone guard, gas bottle holder, jerry can holder, 65 litre water tank, 12 volt on board power system, inbuilt gas kitchen, internal 12 volt led lights, drop down stabilisers and is fully dust sealed. The high tonneau cover accommodates the inner spring mattress and provides additional storage for soft items while travelling.

The tent is navy blue with beige roof.

**Price: \$11,000 ONO**

**Contact Melissa on 0421 026 067**





# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS



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

Includes:

- rear roller
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- shovel mount.

**\$550.00 o.n.o**



**LED Light Bars.**

**TJM brand, approx. 22".**

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**\$140.00 for both.**

**Contact: Matt Warmington**

**0407 562 656**

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

### IPF extreme sport LED driving lights



RRP\$400ea

Selling for \$400 for the pair

Great lights but sold the Ute so no longer need these

Call 0420963804

Michael Loberger







**Offers  
\$59,000**

Rob and Debbie Davidson  
0428 223379

**HYBRID  
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FOR SALE**

Our hybrid camper, affectionately known as Queen Mary in the Club, is for sale. She is a 2016 Lifestyle AT-12 15ft. A very capable off-road camper-van and with a bit more luxury and ease of set-up than most campers.

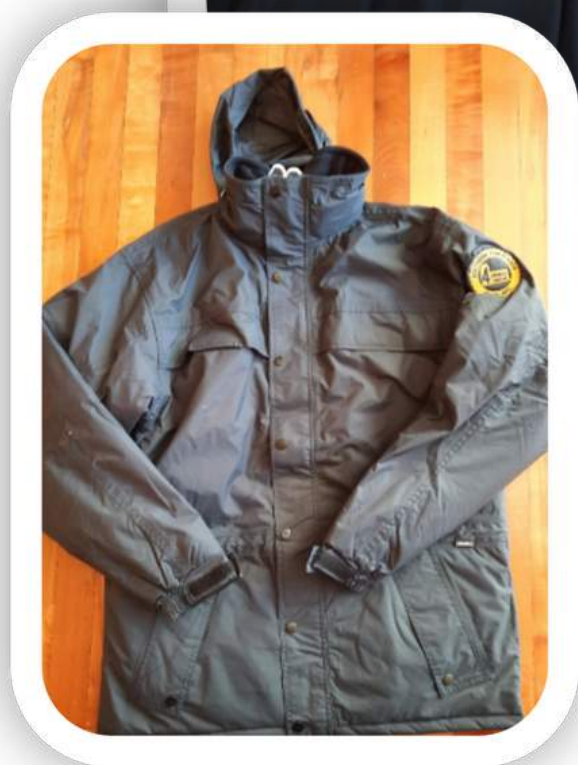


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Hoodies	\$50.00
Rugby Tops	\$55.00
Caps	\$20.00
Stubbie Holders	\$7.50
Bucket Hats	\$20.00

Many older styles and larger sizes available. Visit the clothing table at Club meetings and make a deal on out of circulation merchandise.



## ST4WDC SWAG



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