



JUNE 2023

SOUTHERN TRAILS

RAYNERS F/T

← HOME Paddock

THE WHITE STUFF

WINTER BLASTS OFF AT TALOOGEE

FRESHIES

**NEW MEMEBRS MAKE THE GRADE AT
SAFE ONE BASIC DRIVER TRAINING**

ST4WDC FOR LIFE

**CONGRATULATION TO OUR NEW LIFE
MEMBER LYNNE DONALDSON**

.....TRIP REPORT BUMPER EDITION !!



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GENERAL MEETINGS

Canberra Deakin Football Club, Grose St, Deakin
at 7:30pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

General meetings are where Club members and visitors can meet and get information on past and future Club activities in an informal atmosphere.

Meetings regularly feature talks from experts on topics of interest, and reports on past trips. Visitors can introduce themselves, there is a raffle with generous prizes and a coffee break for catching up with other members.

Ideas for guest speakers are welcome, please don't hesitate to contact the Committee if you know of someone who could make an interesting and topical presentation. Many members gather before the meeting to enjoy a meal or a drink at the club.

TRIPS AND EVENTS

An important element, some may say the lifeblood of the Club is our trips and events calendar. Any member can run a trip or event once approved by the Committee, it's a very rewarding experience.

If you've been thinking of booking a trip or event, head to the How to Book for a Trip section of the website where you will find step by step instructions. You can propose your trip or event using the Online Form and there is a wealth of material in the Information for Trip Leaders page and also from experienced trip leaders who are always keen to help you run your trip or event successfully.

CLUB BANK ACCOUNT

Membership fees are paid through the Club's website. For other financial transactions, the Club's bank account details are:

Bank:	Bank Australia
Account Name:	ST4WDC
BSB Number:	313 140
Account Number:	1213 0617

When transferring payments please include your name and the reason for the transfer, e.g. "J Smith clothing", "J Smith renew 2023", etc.

PUBLICATIONS

Website:

Information regarding the Club, our activities, sponsors, and membership is available on our website at www.st4wdc.com.au.

Facebook:

The ST4WDC page includes posts regarding Club activities and sponsors www.facebook.com/st4wdc/.

Southern Trails:

Contribute to ST4WDC monthly newsletter. Trip reports, member profiles, relevant articles, and classified advertisements are welcome, as are photographs and illustrations. Closing date for contributions is the first Tuesday of the month. Send contributions to publications@st4wdc.com.au.

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE AUSTRALIA

CODE OF ETHICS

ST4WDC is affiliated with Four Wheel Drive Australia and we promote responsible four wheel driving. We should all observe and support this Code of Ethics. Remember, image is difficult to change.

- Obey the laws and regulations for Recreational Vehicles that apply to public lands.
- Respect the cultural, heritage and environmental values of public/private land, by obeying restrictions that may apply.
- Respect our flora and fauna. Stop and look, but never disturb.
- Keep to formed vehicle tracks.
- Keep the environment clean. Carry your own, and any other, rubbish out.
- Keep your vehicle mechanically sound and clean to reduce the environmental impact.
- Adopt minimal impact camping and driving practices.
- Seek permission before driving on private land. Do not disturb livestock or watering points, leave gates as found.
- Take adequate water, food, fuel, basic spares and a first aid kit on trips. In remote areas travel with another vehicle and have Royal Flying Doctor Service, or equivalent emergency contact by radio or satellite.
- Plan ahead and lodge trip details with a responsible person.
- Enjoy your recreation and respect the rights of others.
- Support four-wheel drive touring as a legitimate family activity.
- Consider joining an affiliated four-wheel drive Club.



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

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Waterfalls at fern Pool in Karijini National Park, Western Australia

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY ANDY SQUIRE

Another month has rolled by, and here I am again. This month there are a couple of things of a more serious nature that I would like to write about, so bear with me.

Sadly, one of our long-term members, passed away recently. Jim Raleigh first joined the Club in 2003, coincidentally the year we purchased Talooge. Jim was a member of the Club for twenty years, leading or helping to plan several desert trips, joining the committee, and actively participating in the setting up Talooge. He had a variety of roles, including Membership Secretary, and our incumbent advised me that he was fundamental in digitising the records and determining what we needed to more accurately record and manage our membership.

He was heavily involved in determining the boundaries of our property, investigating a number of interesting features, establishment of the tracks, and undertaking research into the history of our land. When it became evident that there were issues with our access (in 2007), Jim worked tirelessly with the Committee, Council, and adjoining landowners to try and resolve access for all; a matter that is still ongoing today.

I met Jim when I joined the Club, although I confess I did not know him well, and for the last four years, he has not been an active member due to ill health. He did find the time and managed to meet with me on several occasions to discuss our access and the history around the existing Right of Carriageway, and he was able to point us in the right direction for many historical documents and background information.

It is only through the dedication of members like Jim that the Club is the success it is today. Thanks for all your efforts, Jim.

On a happier note, last month, I had the pleasure of awarding Life Membership to Lynne Donaldson, our current Membership Secretary; she is often the first contact new members have with the Club. Lynne has been a dedicated member for nearly 15 years and has participated in a number of roles; VP, Membership Secretary, General Committee Member, Driving Instructor, and Trip Leader. Not to mention all the social events she has been involved with. Good on ya, Lynne!



A couple of months ago, we posted a Grade 2 Trip on our Facebook page. Someone posted the following in the comments:

Oh wow! An event that doesn't need a course delivered by people stuck in a 1980s mentality. Thought the Club would be great, signed up and all. But unfortunately it's stuck in the past with training and membership requirements. No recognition of previous training or experience (apparently their training is better than everyone else's) yet it teaches old school methods and practices. Unfortunately this will always limit it to retirees and a small number of working people. Much like a lot of other clubs that then complain about only a few stepping up to positions. Relax, ST4WD club. Just be a basic club. If you do that, you'll survive the modern age.

What was interesting to me was that a couple of club members responded, arguing that training before going on trips is a good thing; knowing correct driving techniques, communications, recovery, and convoy procedures. So I thought perhaps we were doing something right. I hadn't planned to comment or respond, but I was thinking about this a bit. I'm not sure what 'old-school' methods and practices we teach; I don't know what fundamental things like vehicle control, tyre pressure, momentum, and line selection have changed since the 80s. And we're open to new vehicles with all sorts of smarts in them; traction control, hill start assist, descent control, lockers, constant 4WD, and other 'car-smarts'.



And we have looked at new recovery equipment. And I have to say, after completing a commercial training course, I still learnt lots on the Club's basic training and can see why RPL is a difficult thing. Maybe I'm missing something. Replace the steering wheel with a joystick? Hand throttles? (oh yeah... they are a really old thing.) Run flats? (but they don't work off-road). Let anyone join and go on trips and just 'suck it and see' (wow, that could result in some serious incidents and liabilities.) It's pretty easy to sit back and criticise without offering anything constructive; perhaps that's why 'only a few step up to positions'.

I guess by even bothering to respond to this, I have failed to 'relax ST4WDC club'. Damn, Got me.....

So I better go and have a beer. Help me relax.... Oh, and in case you were wondering, "A camel is a horse designed by a committee".

See you on the tracks.

Andy



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

BY LYNNE DONALDSON
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

This past month, I'm honoured to say that I was awarded a lifetime membership award. I'd like to start by saying a big thank you to Peter Butterfield for nominating me! To say the very least, I am beyond stoked and super proud of this achievement.

Welcome

We have had three members join the Club in May

JOACHIM BERGER - LANDROVER DEFENDER

SONIA STANTON - TOYOTA PRADO

STEVE SMITH - NISSAN PATROL (RETURNING MEMBER)

Since then, I have been reflecting on the last 15 years (give or take!) that I have been a member of the Club and how it has evolved over the years.

Every month like clockwork, I was filled with anticipation and excitement about the club magazine being delivered to our mailbox and trying to be the first one to read it! Back in those days, trips were not emailed out, but you had to wait for the magazine or a Club meeting to know what was happening within the Club.

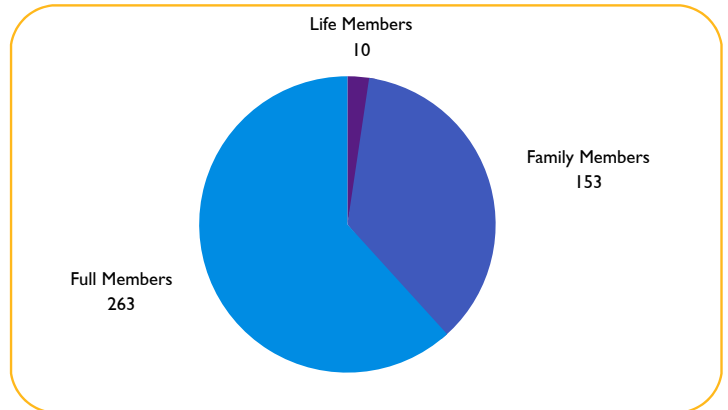
If you wanted to book on a trip, you had to phone the Trip leader and verbally express your interest. Unless you asked the question, you didn't know who else was on the trip or if it was full.

When you filled out an application, this was mailed or handed in at a Club meeting. Payments were mostly made by cheque or cash. A membership pack was posted out containing your welcome letter, membership card, receipt, club stickers, information on training and the Club and the Club magazine. Renewal season was so busy in the months of November, December and January as most members chose to pay at meetings. I would have to write out a receipt and membership card, take the cash/cheque and deposit that money in the bank. For all payments we received, a receipt was sent by post. Before 2019 all Memberships expired on 01/01 of each year. Approximately 60% of our membership still has an 01/01 expiry!

How lucky are we now that with a few clicks of the mouse, you receive all the information you need to log on and access trip details!

One sentiment that hasn't changed over all these years is that feeling of being part of a Club with like-minded people, making core memories, going on adventures and making friendships for life.

I look forward to being part of the Club for hopefully the next 15 years or more



MEMBER BENEFITS

- Shop with our Sponsors. Mention you are a member for discounts on 4WD and camping gear.
- Pick up a 2023 4WD NSW & ACT Association sticker at the Club member meetings.
- If you're waiting for driver training, you can still attend the grade 1 and 2 trips and any social activities.
- Say hello to any new faces at our meetings, and thanks to those who volunteer at the visitors' table.

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

Till next month,

Lynne



Member Spotlight

This month we get to know Club members Sandy Greener & Andrew Cohn

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE ST4WDC CLUB?

To meet other people interested in exploring our country, camping, and perhaps getting off the beaten track sometimes!

WHAT TRIP IS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

Oh, there are a few, but probably the Simpson Desert crossing

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

Learning more about 4wding and meeting people on trips while enjoying amazing scenery.

IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE CLUB?

We hope to plan and run a few trips in the future—we just need life to settle down a little first.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST ENJOYABLE TRIP?

Victorian High Country Muster

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER?

12 months

SOCIAL CLUB UPDATE

The sun came out long enough for the first ST4WDC Sunday picnic at Wee Jasper. New members Virginia and Joachim joined on the day and shared amazing stories about their 4-wheeled adventures. And we all shared tips and advice to help Keith and Sarah for their big trip to K'gari (Fraser Island) and Cape York. And as Wee Jasper is family and pet friendly, the kids and a couple of chihuahuas also had a good time, too. The Wee Jasper picnic was the perfect example of taking a lovely regional drive, checking out a good campground and getting members together to build friendships and welcome newcomers.

This year we have tried a few new activities and regular meet-ups from the feedback collected last year. You can look at the results in the September 2022 issue of Southern Trails.

The ST4WDC Social Club working group will meet on Thursday 22 June, at 6 pm at the Raiders Club Weston. If you are interested in getting involved or want to run a social event, please come along or share your feedback with social@st4wdc.com.au

Please show your interest and book the July snow trip ASAP.

JUNE

The next social club event is a TGIF on Friday 23 June, at Rose Cottage starting from 6 pm.

TGIF heads back to Rose Cottage for a pub meal with all your friends in the Club. This will be a winter warm up with a toasty fire for toasting friendships and great trips. See you there. Check out the menu.

Don't delay, and book today!

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](#).



Snitty and fireside chats

SNOW PLAY AND PICNIC AT CORIN FORREST - SUNDAY 30 JULY

When was the last time you played in the snow?

Book now to be a part of the winter activity at Corin Forrest. There is a cafe with a beautiful fireplace and plenty of outdoor picnic tables. So book in now.

Snowplay Ticket \$25 Toboggan \$5

TGIF ROSE COTTAGE

FRIDAY 23 JUNE @ 6 PM
ROSE COTTAGE
WEE JASPER

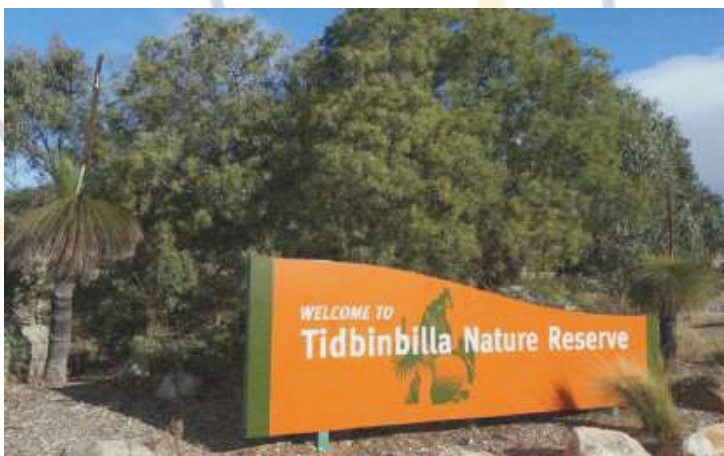
REGISTER NOW >



SOCIAL CLUB 2023 CALENDAR

Fri 23 Jun	TGIF	Rose Cottage Inn <u>Book Now</u>
Sun 30 Jul	Winter activity	Corin Forest <u>Book Now</u>
Fri 25 Aug	TGIF	The Duxton
Sun 17 Sep	Picnic	Tidbinbilla
Fri 13 to Mon 16	Spring Activity	Camping at Wombeyan Caves
Fri 17 Nov	TGIF	Capital Brewing Co
Sat 9 to Sun 10 Dec	Christmas Camp	<u>Burrinjuck State Park</u> <u>Book Now</u>

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





TALOOGEE BUSH GALA

October Long Weekend

FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER TO MONDAY 2 OCTOBER

CALLING ALL MEMBERS

Come check out our Talooge property.

In the spirit of a gala event, Saturday night will have music. Bring your dancing gear; ties, shirts, shorts and skirts—the louder and brighter, the better!

All members and families welcome. This is a grade 2 event.

For more information, visit the [ST4WD website](#)

TRACKS AND FUN

Joining ST4WDC are other local clubs and associations. There will be interclub games and activities for the kids. Don't miss out on a great event at Talooge.

TRIP REPORTS AND MEMBER ARTICLES

The Southern Trails newsletter captures the photos and experiences of members' and Club trips. It is only as good as the stories and images sent in for publication. If you have been on a trip, remember to share your observations, how your equipment and rig handled the track, the fun, the oh-nos and what you learned. Trip leaders, remind everyone to get back to you quickly and then send participant feedback with an overview of the tracks travelled in a trip report.

The Southern Tablelands 4 Wheel Drive Club has one of the best 4WD club newsletters. And that is thanks to the emphasis on sharing trip reports. There is room for your opinion pieces, questions to the Club on tracks, equipment advice, or advice about places that make great adventures.

You can send all articles and requests for advice to publications@st4wdc.com.au



- **MEMBER OP-EDS ON 4WD ISSUES**
- **QUESTIONS ON EQUIPMENT AND TRIPS**
- **DESTINATION REVIEWS**

TIPS FOR YOUR TRIP REPORT

Include these suggestions to create a great report



Expectations

Was this a new trip for you? What did you do to prepare? Why did you decide to join the trip?

Your vehicle and gear

What are you driving? How did it handle the tracks? What equipment did you bring, and what should you remember for next time?



Something memberable

What was special about the trip? Triumphs, fantastic sights, oopsies, lessons learned?



Tell a story

Take everyone on the adventure with you. Any local history to share?



Write it ASAP

The best time to capture the good stuff from a trip is as soon as you get home. It's fresh in your memory and sending it quickly helps your Trip Leader.





A WINTER'S BLIZZARD AT TALOOGEE

BY BRON SQUIRE

Talooge morphed into a winter wonderland on 7 May. It was a Basic Driver Training course weekend, and all was tracking along in the usual fashion until just before lunch on Sunday when the snow started to lightly fall when the convoy was down track 5 at the turnaround, just above Duck's Crossing. Students and instructors alike walked around in the snow taking photos and videos, enjoying the experience. Heading back up Trade 5 was fun as snow settled on the ground, trees and brush. According to PB, the Club has never before delivered training in the snow, and these students have now completed rocks, mud AND snow training, as no other cohort has done! There were several comments that tracks can change so much from dry conditions to wet and slippery tracks.

As we approached the home paddock, we realised it had been snowing for some time, and the place was almost completely white. Many of us had packed up in the morning; how grateful were we, but some poor people had to pack up in the snow with everything cold and wet. Some of us, led by Andy, grabbed some coreflute and 'tobogganed' down winch hill.

On the drive out of the property, it began to properly snow (not the gentle wispy stuff we get in Canberra), with driving snow, swirling flurries, and lots of vehicles making the tracks slippery and less than fun. It was particularly nasty when I was gate closer with driving snow beating me around the face and quickly becoming wet and cold getting in and out of the vehicle. Although for the first time in my 4wding life, I was glad that Andy was driving out with the camper trailer attached.

Airing up was cold and wet, with snow still falling, albeit lightly at the lower elevation. By the time we descended to Bredbo, there was only snow dusting the top of the hills. All in all, a fun and different experience at Talooge.



TALOOGEE

Jim Raleigh

Sadly, Our mate Jim passed away recently.

Over the past 20 years or so, many members have had the pleasure of sharing life, trips and the odd glass of wine or two with Gentleman Jim. Many of our travels took us to remote areas of Australia; 2006 Hay River track, Simpson Desert, 2007 Geo survey Hill, Centre of the Simpson Desert, 2012 Cape York, Old Telegraph Track, 2013 Madigan Line Simpson Desert, Chasing the Blue Streak Rockets, 2015 Lake Gregory WA.

On these long trips, Jim would position himself as number two in the convoy, "Wingman", for our trip leaders, David and Helen Sutton. David was always comforted that Jim's ability with a GPS and a map in the desert was equal to or better than his ability to navigate Australian naval ships across the oceans.

Jim had two other great assets, apart from his wife, Jane. Firstly, his ability to produce a pre-trip spreadsheet outlining fuel calculations, spares to be carried, camp spots and distances for each leg of the trip. Each vehicle on the trip was requested to complete its section and return to Jim to produce the "master copy".

Secondly was his ability to acquire permits for us all to enter Native land, Communities, National Parks and more. On one trip to Lake Gregory, WA, we started at Curtin Springs, NT, travelling west to Uluru, then onto the Great Central Rd to Warakurna, NT. We then turned north on the Sandy Blight Rd to Walungurra (Kintore NT), and from there west to Kiwirrikurra, WA, in the Tanami Desert; we then turned north through the Great Sandy Desert to Wirrimanu (Balgo WA). Westward then to Lake Gregory and the Canning Stock Route to Mindibunga (Billiluna WA), returning via the Tanami Track to Alice Springs and the end of the trip.

Jim obtained all the permits (approx. 6 per vehicle) for all 7 vehicles on the trip and made sure we all displayed the correct permit as we traversed each area.



Jim was also very heavily involved in trying to get access to Talooge in the early days; once the Club established it had legal problems with access, many hours were spent with stakeholder meetings and driving tracks trying to come to a resolution, the current right of way we have is down to the early works of Jim and others. Thanks, Jim. By the way, I still use your spreadsheet.

Peter Butterfield



Lynne Donaldson



LIFE MEMBER

After joining the Club in 2008, Lynne Donaldson joined the Committee in 2009 as a general member in charge of clothing and is still a current committee member some 14 years later.

Lynne has contributed significantly to the Club's endeavours by becoming a valued member of the Driver Training Unit for the past 6 years, initially as a trainee trainer for two years and then as a member of the senior trainer group. Lynne is a mentor for our upcoming trainee trainer members.

Lynne has proven to be an outstanding and loyal member of the Club through her many roles on the Committee and working groups within the Club since she joined:

- 2009 General member, managing Club clothing and merchandise;
- 2010 - 2017 Membership Secretary;
- 2019-2021 Vice President;
- 2021-2023 Membership Secretary;
- Lynne also took on a caretaker position as a Public Relations officer for two years;
- Active member and participant of the Social Club;

Many new members attribute joining the Club to the bubbly, cheerful welcome they first encounter with Lynne in her roles as Membership or Public Relation officer.

Lynne is an active trip leader within the Club.

Lynne was one of the major driving forces in promoting the Club and its values by organising Club tents or marquees at the 4x4 Spectaculars, Canberra Caravan and Leisure Shows and recently, the commercially operated 4x4 Show at Queanbeyan. Once again, these Club events have brought many new members to the Club because of energetic members like Lynne.



CONGRATULATIONS

ONE BASIC DRIVER TRAINING COURSE

3rd to 5th May 2023—Mid-Week

Chief Instructor Peter Butterfield

Education Coordinator Bronwyn Squire

STUDENT

Justin Gilmore
Nick Stranks
Kris Marris
Chris Dietzel
Jaid Dawson
Adre de Waal
Alwyn Dantis

INSTRUCTOR

Andy
Lindsay
Dim
Peter B
Scott B
Rob Davidson
Bron

TRAINEE

David L



The following are the comments and feelings of the students participating in the mid-week May Safe One Basic Driver Training Course.

I participated in the Basic Driver Training course held midweek. After nine years of self-taught off-road driving, I didn't know it all. The trainers were all very experienced, and each of them had their own experiences, which made their advice even better.

I really enjoyed the course, and I would definitely recommend bringing your partner to the event, as there is a lot of information to take in.

I have to also give a special mention to my mentor, Scottie!

His experience and knowledge were exceptional, as well as his singing!

The course is definite, as knowledge is gained over the experiences had.

This is car six signing off.

Jaid and Jenny Dawson

Doing the Basic 4WD Training was one of the best experiences of my life. It took me two years to get to it due to various reasons beyond my control, but it was well worth the wait, given the fantastic time we had. I was a complete newbie to 4-wheel driving and had never ever used any car in low range, including my own, before this course. I am so very impressed with the Canberra Southern Tablelands 4wd club because everything - right from my first club meeting, the vehicle inspections, recommendations for upgrades and Pre-Training theory to the training itself – was methodically and purposefully planned. The three days were fun-filled and challenging, with good exposure to what one may typically experience on many 4WD tracks. Personally, I found the training to be a bit more than basic, which is excellent. My Instructor, Bron, was super fantastic and did not miss any of my steering wheel hand crossovers, palming and other bad habits, which I carried over from highway driving. We had some excellent banter while driving, which made me very comfortable. Thanks to her expert guidance, I ended up not having any damage to my car and, most importantly, to my ego. My biggest nemesis during the entire course was the big rock we needed to go over outside the property gate after crossing the stream. I had a few challenges with it, but when the course was over and we had to go back home on our own, I could drive over it easily. Now I have great confidence in myself and my vehicle (Mitsubishi Triton), and I confirmed this during the graduates' day out in the Brindies. All the instructors and students were great company, and I look forward to my active association with the Club in the years ahead!

Alwyn Dantis



I arrived at Bredbo on Wednesday morning, unsure what to expect. I hadn't driven on many dirt roads since I was a teenager when I bent my Datsun 1200 around a pine tree on Deeks Drive while showing off. Once at the property, the concept of the 'four-wheel driving mind' had to click in far sooner than I expected, with a creek crossing and a steep (for me at the time) ascent only a stone's throw off the main road. From there, my confidence and enjoyment behind the wheel just climbed over the next three days. I was so excited and nervous to see what challenges lay around each corner and at the bottom of each valley. Going 'up the back door' has a whole new meaning now!

The whole ST4WD Club team of instructors were amazing. Not just for their knowledge and capability as teachers but for just being a group of genuine, great people! I never once felt out of place or judged, and that set the tone for everyone else, and I thoroughly enjoyed spending time with everyone there.

Finally, I want to make a special mention to Dim. I don't know how it happened, but I certainly got the best Instructor there. Dim, I can't thank you enough for your time and the amount of knowledge you shared with me. I had a fantastic time getting to know you and your unique sense of humour over the three days.

You cut through the crap and told it how it is. Thanks mate; I hope we cross paths again on the tracks somewhere.

Kris



I am still riding the cloud nine experience from the mid-week training. I was blown away by how much I learnt and then put into practice. I feel way more confident taking my family 4wd'ing and experiencing more of Australia.

The only feedback was when I got home; I was thinking about having the classroom training completed in Canberra a few days or a week before the trip and then a summary session when we come to camp straight into practical.

Justin



ONE BASIC DRIVER TRAINING COURSE

5th to 7th May 2023—Weekend

Chief Instructor Peter Butterfield

Education Coordinator Bronwyn Squire

STUDENT

Peter Vickery
Mac Clare
Don Hamer
Aimee Dirix
Nick Cox
Elle Dibb
Jacqui Murkins
Grant Cameron

INSTRUCTOR

Peter B
Andy
Rob P
Dim
Bron
Lynne
Rob D
Stu W

TRAINEE

Rob Davidson
Ciril

David L
Scott G



he following are the comments and feelings of the students who participated in the May Safe One Basic Driver Training Course.



I had a blast this weekend learning how to drive a 4WD like a pro-rookie and making some awesome new dirt loving buddies. You guys are the best instructors ever (David and No Bron, that wasn't a cross-over) and I can't wait to hit the trails with you again. Thanks for showing me the ropes and for all the laughs along the way. You rock!

Nick

From the start, especially, driving through the trails at night, it was going to be a fun weekend. Meeting the members was great and they were very helpful in teaching me how to drive correctly and safely. The snow was amazing, as was the location of the property and the trails were a challenge. It was also great to meet other newbies. Thanks to the club and its members.

Mackenzie Clare



The driver training weekend really exceeded my expectations and provided me with such a wonderful experience and start to my 4wd journey. I'm thrilled to be apart of the club, to have met so many wonderful people and am hugely grateful to all those that made the weekend possible.

Aimee

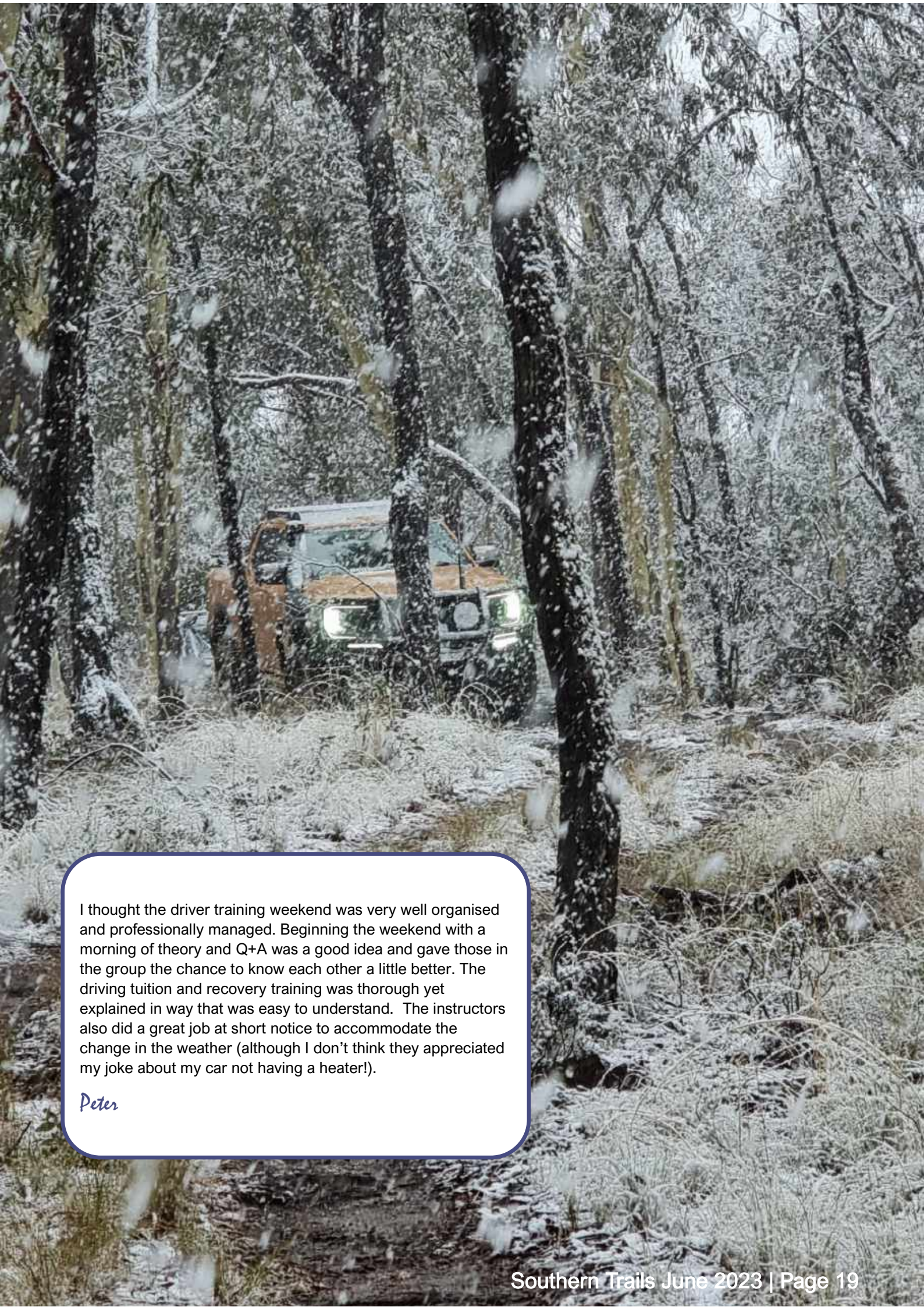
It was good to hear that the trainers expectation for the learners was no one **had any** experience therefore back to basics in terms of vehicle knowledge.

Grant

Holy heck! You couldn't recreate that if you tried. We have to talk about the snow, right? Absolutely one to remember! But, we can't forget the training. I didn't know what to expect, going in. As someone who has been around 4wdrives for some time, I was a bit worried the training might be 'here's how you drive on a smooth dirt road' like so many others are, but, I needn't have worried! A good refresher of skills with some cracking people. The trainers make it—you couldn't find better people. The type of people you can sit around spinning a yarn with as if you've known them for years, not hours. A weekend I won't forget quickly."

Elle



A photograph of a snow-covered forest. In the background, a vehicle, possibly a truck or SUV, is partially visible through the trees. The ground and branches are covered in a thick layer of snow. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an overcast day.

I thought the driver training weekend was very well organised and professionally managed. Beginning the weekend with a morning of theory and Q+A was a good idea and gave those in the group the chance to know each other a little better. The driving tuition and recovery training was thorough yet explained in way that was easy to understand. The instructors also did a great job at short notice to accommodate the change in the weather (although I don't think they appreciated my joke about my car not having a heater!).

Peter

TRIP REPORT: GRADUATES DAY OUT IN THE BRINDIES

14 May 2023.

This trip was the chance for the club members who had just recently completed their driver training to enhance their skills with an Off-Road drive in the Brindabella National Park. This drive covered different tracks and weather conditions to have lunch at McIntyre's hut.



The group meet at the homestead at the corner of Uriarra and Brindabella Road. Once everyone had arrived, a quick driver brief was given. The group travels down Gentle Annie to Flea Creek for a quick stop. We saw the changes to the Campground at Flea Creek. They made more room for camping.

We then headed up Webbs Ridge Trail and encountered some holes in the track. Once we had overcome the water obstacles, we continued up the track to find a car stopped in the middle of the track. The owner had left the car and headed back up the track to the road junction to call for help. The car had hit something to puncture the undercarriage, and oil had leaked from the engine. As a group, we help the owner move the car off to the side of the track. We then headed down Waterfall Trail to McIntyres Hut for lunch.

The group had lunch and a chat before heading to Mt Coree. Whilst we were having lunch, we spotted the Ranger and informed him of the car. From WaterFall, the group made its way to Mt Coree via Power Lines Trail.

At the base of Mt Coree, we stopped for a break. Due to timing, we were not able to head to the summit.

From Mount Coree carpark, we headed down Two Sticks and followed the trail down Blue Range. By the time we were travelling down Blue Range, the weather had started to become cooler, with the group able to see views of Canberra on the way down. Overall, the day was nice for the drivers to confirm their training.

Shea



This trip was an awesome follow-up to the "Safe One" Basic Driver Training Course, which I participated in a week earlier. Our spirits were high, and the perfect sunny weather made the event even more beautiful. I had never been to the Brindies before and was amazed at some of the views it had to offer. The tracks we covered seemed much easier than Talooge, which meant the basic training had prepared me more than adequately for this trip. Our trip leader, Shea, inspired a lot of confidence, and the entire convoy was simply amazing.

We were asked to keep an eye out for vehicles we thought should not be driven in such terrain. And not surprisingly, we came across this broken-down and abandoned Hyundai Santa Fe on a sloping section facing downhill which almost blocked our passage. Our trip leader displayed some amazing trip leadership skills by driving around the vehicle by himself while the rest of us parked on the slope and waited. Shea tracked down the driver and also towed his vehicle on a sloping terrain so that it was no longer an obstacle to other passing vehicles. We did feel very sorry for the driver of the car who had confidently ventured into the Brindies because it had '4wd' capability. This event turned out to be a great lesson and reinforced our convictions about vehicle selection and preparation based on the terrain. It also showed us how the unexpected is always to be expected on trips like these. Most importantly, it turned out to be a great practical lesson in what to do

and how to assist in such situations.

The skills we learned in our basic training, particularly tyre pressure, gear selection and momentum, ensured that, unlike other vehicles, our convoy hardly caused any damage to the track. I am so happy to be part of this Club, which is fun and a great way to learn and practice 4wd skills and do so in a safe, ethical and environmentally-friendly way!

Alwyn Dantis

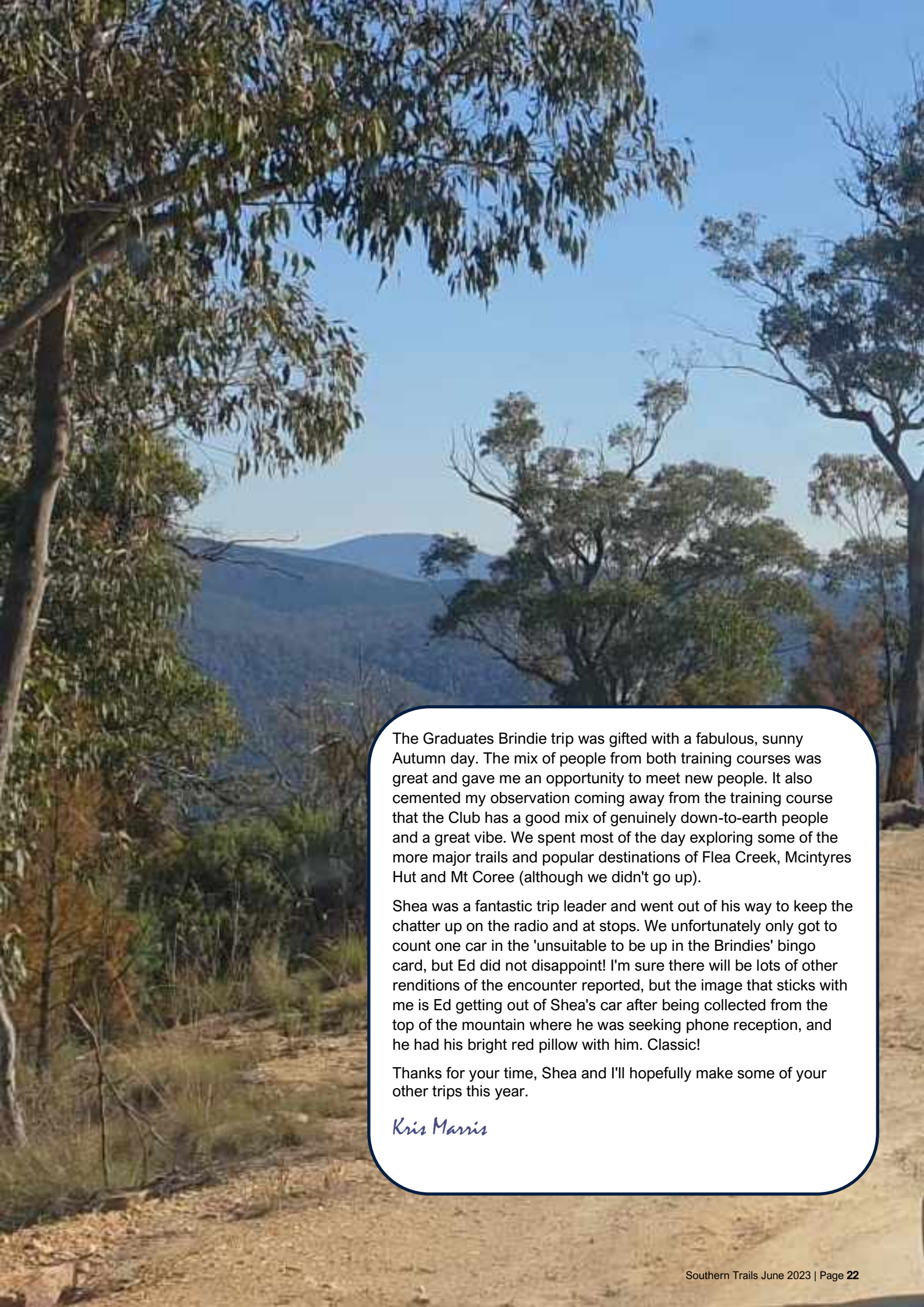
A great day out in the Brindies. I learned some steep hills and more learnings about driving the car I have.

I was going to buy an AWD, so glad I didn't after seeing the Hyundai broken on the track.

I am looking forward to more adventures with the Club.

Mackenzie Clare





The Graduates Brindie trip was gifted with a fabulous, sunny Autumn day. The mix of people from both training courses was great and gave me an opportunity to meet new people. It also cemented my observation coming away from the training course that the Club has a good mix of genuinely down-to-earth people and a great vibe. We spent most of the day exploring some of the more major trails and popular destinations of Flea Creek, McIntyres Hut and Mt Coree (although we didn't go up).

Shea was a fantastic trip leader and went out of his way to keep the chatter up on the radio and at stops. We unfortunately only got to count one car in the 'unsuitable to be up in the Brindies' bingo card, but Ed did not disappoint! I'm sure there will be lots of other renditions of the encounter reported, but the image that sticks with me is Ed getting out of Shea's car after being collected from the top of the mountain where he was seeking phone reception, and he had his bright red pillow with him. Classic!

Thanks for your time, Shea and I'll hopefully make some of your other trips this year.

Kris Marris

TRIP REPORT: A COUPLE OF WEEKENDS IN VICTORIA

With a weekend in Victoria planned, we met at Williamsdale at 8. From there, we drove to Cooma for a Macca's stop and then onto Jindabyne for a fuel stop. We then head to Geehi. Heading north of Geehi, we head off-road along Major Clews fire trail. We stooped for lunch at Major Clews Hut. After lunch, we headed south to Old Geehi Hut and then along to the trail to visit Keebles Hut and Geehi Hut.

The group could visit and see inside each hut and the surrounding camping areas. Our next destination was Tom Groggin, where we crossed the Murray and visited Dogman's hut. Here we were informed by a fellow traveller that he had attempted to drive up the East Pinnibar Trail and could not reach the top due to the bad road conditions. From there, we head south to our night location at Buena Flat Camping Area. We set up and started the fire. After dinner, we sat and talked while watching a storm to the south. It rained overnight.

The next morning we packed up and had breakfast before heading off at 8 to head up to Mt Pinnibar Via Mt Gibbo. The trial was in decent condition, with the weather changing as we drove. The view from Mt Gibbo was great. Upon heading up the track junction towards Mt Pinnibar, my tyre came off the rim. With a bit of teamwork, we made a quick and easy task of getting back on track. On Mt Pinnibar, the weather had closed in, and we caught up with others visiting Mt Pinnibar.

After a short stop, we then headed north of Pinnibar towards Corryong. We stopped there for lunch and a break.

After Lunch, we got back on the road and headed back over the Great Dividing Range and back to Canberra via Cabramurra and Adaminaby and through the Namadgi National Park. We arrived home all safe and sound.

Shea





Our weekend started at Williamsdale, and from there, we headed straight up to the mountains.

After crossing the Murray, we drove up to our campsite.

Sitting around the fire, we could see distant lightning, which was concerning.

We did get some rain overnight but nothing too serious, thankfully.

We headed up the Pinnibar Track in the morning to tackle the technical stuff.

We first climbed Mt Gibbo, which we managed with no dramas.

I was having some trouble with getting my speeds right, and learning to slow down when taking on difficult terrain is something I need to improve on.

Next, we got to the top of Mt Pinnibar. Great views

The drive down was very picturesque and perfect weather.

After lunch at Corryong, we headed back to Canberra through the mountains, which was a beautiful drive.

The trip was very well organised, and I felt very privileged to have been on it.

Daniel Parsons





Everyone laughed around the campfire, and I was the first to peel off for a nice kip. After being rained on, everyone packed up, and we got ready for the 'technical parts' of the trip. Once again, Shea had us all prepared with key information about upcoming tracks,

Our trip to Victoria with Shea packed a lot into one weekend, starting with the Geehi Valley and huts before crossing the Murray at Tom Groggin and then making camp at Buenba Flats for a relaxing wind down with a few fireside drinks. Showers overnight had a few of us up tightening guy ropes and draining pooled water from awnings, but the morning saw clear weather and a welcome reprieve from the dust of the previous day's driving.

On day two, we got into some more serious low-range 4WDing via the summits of Mt Gibbo and Mt Pinnibar. The run home via Corryong and Cabramurra took us past the spectacular mountain scenery of the Main Range and the highest lakes of the Snowy Scheme, which I had not seen before.

A shout-out to Shea, a great trip leader with a wealth of knowledge and experience, which he's always happy to share. The Club is very fortunate to have him.

Bruce Renning

With insufficient time to go to the High Country for a week, I decided to embark on a weekend adventure with Shea and a bunch of enthusiastic drivers. We started at Williamsdale packed and ready!! We transitioned through Cooma and Jindabyne with a fuel top-up, and off we went. Shea kept us entertained with an informative step-by-step guide to each location. We went through many huts with plenty of history and a few ankle (my ankles) deep river crossings. We camped at Buenba Campground with no one else in sight.

and we walked the ones we needed to. Views from Mount Gibbo and Pinnibar made it worth the trip. We started the trip back home via lunch at Corryong. We all made it back with a few battle scars. All in all a great trip.

Chris Collins



What an amazing weekend. Beautiful mountain views, some river crossings, 4WDing, camping, and great company. I want to go back for a longer trip, stay at some of the campgrounds we passed, and explore other tracks. Thank you to Shea for planning and leading this trip. Thank you for your driving guidance and your wealth of information about the area, making the trip interesting and enjoyable.

Sarah and Keith.

We started the weekend at the Geehi huts before heading to Tom Groggin to cross the mighty Murray. Thankfully it wasn't too deep, and we all came through unscathed before heading for camp at Buenba Flats. During post-dinner drinks by the campfire, a few of us observed lightning in the distance and wondered what kind of night we would be in for, but luckily, most of the storm bypassed us and only left behind a few showers that were worthy of adjusting awnings. Morning dawned bright and clear as we packed up, and after a quick briefing about the day's adventures, we set off for Mt Gibbo and Mt Pinnibar for some more serious off-roading. With the Hema maps

rated medium climb behind us, we took in the mountain ranges' spectacular sights. There were a couple of challenging tracks on the way down, but all in all, they were handled well. The run home past some of the dams of the snowy hydro system and through the Snowy high country was breathtaking; it's a beautiful part of the world. I thoroughly enjoyed this trip, and Shae is a great trip leader with a wealth of knowledge about the area.

Nicole Hermansen



BASIC WINCHING AND RECOVERY COURSE



he following are the comments and feelings of the students who participated in the Basic Winching and Recovery Course.



The basic winching course was great. There was a good turnout of members. The theory was run as a large group and then split into two groups for the practical part: morning group and afternoon group. I learnt so much, especially with the practical component. I now know what equipment is needed (oops, I left a couple of pieces at home) and how to use it. Group 1 was extremely lucky, as the predicted weekend downpour began after we finished our winching training. Thank you to my trainers, Scott and Michael. Thank you to my training partner, Bruce, for loaning me some equipment.

Sarah

I felt that the trip into Talooge on Friday night may have been an early start to our Winching course due to the rain, but luckily all was good, and we made it through without issue. In saying that, it was probably the roughest track we had dragged our camper along, so it was a great learning experience for us even before the training began. As mentioned, the weather was miserable, but spirits were high as we undertook our Winching course at Talooge on Saturday. Course content, like always, was on point with clear and easily understood instructions and extensive practical training.

Thank you to all our wonderful instructors.

Geoff (with Mel observing)

I attended the Basic Winching training on Saturday, 29th April and received great information from the team of instructors. Their knowledge was well received, and the practical exercises were well organised.

James

I attended the basic winch training on a wet and rainy weekend. Thankfully we got a break from the rain and did the practical training. I found the course was a very good introduction to winching, and I am keen to learn more in the intermediate course. In the meantime, I can practice single-line and double-line winching. And think a bit more about how a redirect works.

Daniel Parsons





Thanks to all the trainers for a great weekend of winching. I got a lot of information from the course. I highly recommend it to all members.

Rod Cahill

Thank you to all the trainers for another informative training session. My winch cable had an outing for the first time in three years, and I'm sure it was happy to unwind and relax. To be able to set up a couple of rigging arrangements and see various others was definitely useful and helped to give an appreciation of the issues to be considered.

Keith Thomas

If you're bogged and in a pickle, don't despair - it could always be worst... it may be wet and cold. On that note, the basic winching course didn't disappoint. A wet drive into Talooge and set up in the rain greeted our arrival. A reprieve from the rain was granted for the theory component, but that soon dissipated with the commencement of the practical component. Good instruction, practical demonstrations, and robust discourse around different approaches to extracting stuck vehicles provided a well-considered introduction to the technical challenges of winching. And to top it all off, once the instruction was finished, we were treated to continuous and steady rain for the remainder of the weekend. While the weather did provide a bit of a dampener, it was better than house chores and mowing the lawn. Thanks to the instructors, I look forward to doing it again at some time in the future, albeit it is a more challenging circumstance on the intermediate course.

Ken



Bruce

We then broke into two groups, and then smaller groups within this, for the more intensive practical component of the course. We set up rigs for single and double-line pulls. Groups also set up offset pulls and viewed how each group had set up their rigs. We were also shown how to use a winch extension strap to lower a vehicle down a slope by wrapping the strap a few times around a tree to create friction.

Roland P.



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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 :

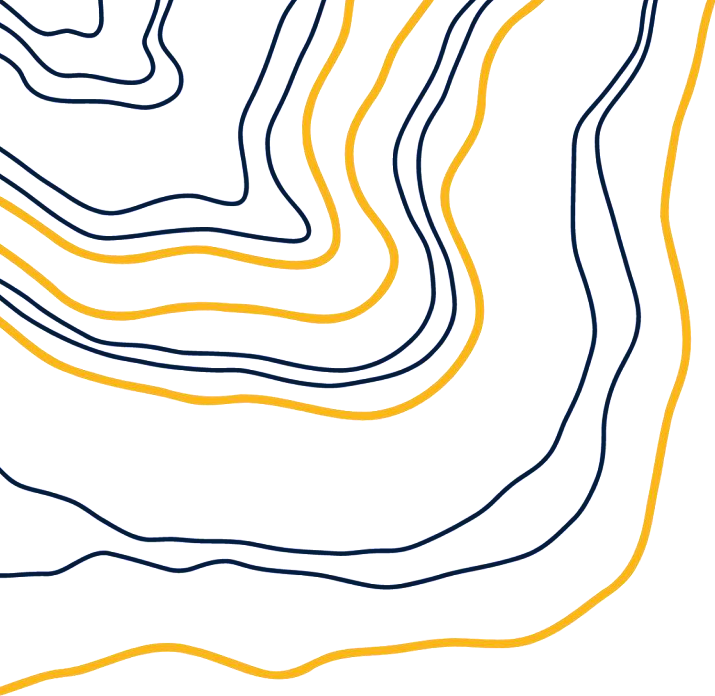
Michael Patrick
Trips & Events Coordinator
Ph: 0412 377 941
E: trips@st4wdc.com.au

TRIPS AND EVENTS

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

Start	End	Activity	Type	Grade	Leader
17-Jun-23	17-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 - EOI	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
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
15-Apr-24	26-Apr-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 to share updates in the newsletter.

MINIONS TAKE ON AUSTRALIA

Our [Minion travellers](#) have been on quite the trip. This month, they have adventured through Toowoomba, Dalby, the Bunya Mountains, Bell, Nanango, and Kingroy and stopped at Rainbow Beach to prepare for the big K'gari (Fraser Island) trip. Through Minion's travel diary, Rikki and David

capture unique points of interest. You should have a look for anyone planning to travel around Australia; it will help build your sightseeing list. It is also a fantastic example of how to share your next adventure with friends and family and preserve a record of your experience.



Since Exmouth, I quickly ran over to Karajini National Park and stayed at Tom Price Caravan Park. Stunning gorges and swimming holes abound in this place; favourites have to be Hamersley Gorge and Fern Gully. A little brisk but worth the walk down and up again. I managed to blow a turbo hose and tried to fix it with tape and glue - nope, that didn't work. Finally hit on the solution using an empty beer can

and some RTV silicone which is still working 🙌
Zipped up to an 80-mile beach from there and spent a couple of nights enjoying the amazing sunset. And then to Broome, where I put the fourby and van into storage and flew back to Canberra for a week of work. Fun and games on the flight back to Broome, followed by a week of exploring the area, including a sunset cruise and a trip to the horizontal falls. Absolutely amazing natural features, so much so that my hat decided to stay there. Bugger, time for a new hat. I picked up an Akubra from the local outdoor store, and now I must make it fit my head. I also took in Guardians 3 at the open-air Sun Theatre and had a mango beer, amongst others, at Matso's at my nephew's suggestion. I'm not a mango person, but it wasn't too bad with a Barra burger on a hot day. I've left Broome now and am in Cygnet Bay near Cape Leveque. I stopped at Beagle Bay to see the Sacred Heart Church with its amazing mother-of-pearl decorations. Going out to explore the local aboriginal culture and pearl farm over the next few days, I might even get the boat off and go fishing.



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.

 A screenshot of the 'Application Form - 1. National Parks & Wildlife Service'. The form is divided into two main sections: 'I am new to MyImpactPage.com' and 'I already have a username'. The 'I am new to MyImpactPage.com' section is highlighted with a red rectangle. It contains fields for 'Username', 'Email Address', and 'Verify Email Address', along with a 'SAVE AND CONTINUE' button. The 'I already have a username' section contains fields for 'Username' and 'Password', along with a 'LOG IN' button. At the bottom of the form, there is a 'Powered By' logo for 'BETTER IMPACT'.

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 contains several sections with various input fields: 'ACCOUNT' (Email, Password, Confirm Password), 'NAME FIELD' (First Name, Last Name), 'ADDRESS' (Address Line 1, Address Line 2, Suburb / City, Country, State, Post Code), 'PHONE NUMBER' (Home, Work, Mobile), and 'OTHER DETAILS' (Other Details, Other Details). There are also checkboxes for 'I agree to the terms and conditions' and 'I agree to the privacy policy'. At the bottom of the form, there is a yellow button labeled 'SAVE AND CONTINUE'. A red arrow points to this button.

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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