



**DECEMBER 2023**

# **SOUTHERN TRAILS**

## **GET TO KNOW OUR SPONSORS**

**ARB, our Platinum Sponsor, answers some questions**

**UHF CHANNEL GUIDE**

**CURRIED SAUSAGES ANYONE?**

**LOOKING BACK**

**Last Edition of the  
last Millennium**





# DIRECTORY

## 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. More meeting information on [Page 24](#)

## 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. More trip and event information on [Page 25](#)

## 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"

## 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)

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### Southern Trails

National Library Catalogue No.  
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# FOUR WHEEL DRIVE AUSTRALIA

## CODE OF ETHICS



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

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

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



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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY ANDY SQUIRE

December already. Next thing you know, Christmas. Might be time to start the shopping. Or I could leave it till the last minute like every other year. Normally about now I am thinking about the garden, holidays, trips, summer. But looking out the window all week has me thinking “umbrella, wellies, floods”. Hopefully it stops soon. Although the farmers are probably loving it and long term predictions are for a hot dry summer. I usually wait for school holidays to be over before heading away at this time of year; bit quieter.

So, what's been happening? Hmmm. Stuff. What stuff? Well, a few of us went up to the Association Driver Awareness Facilitators Meeting last month. Few interesting things were raised. Might need some validation, but a couple of things were worth a thought.

Vehicles are now being released that are full ‘drive by wire’. No longer just throttle, but brakes and steering. And with a lot more smarts in them to over-ride user input. Almost to the point of making 4w driving difficult. I recently saw a video of one car (yep, sold as a ‘proper 4wd’) that wouldn’t climb a slippery hill because all the traction control reduced power to the drive when the wheels started slipping, so couldn’t pull up the hill.

A few of the modern cars with all the smart sensors in the engine now test for air-flow through the engine bay and if insufficient flow is measured they go into ‘limp-mode’ until the air flow improves. Putting a water blind on these cars has triggered the sensor. Not a great thing during a water crossing. The debate was that most cars with the

front-mount intercooler, air-conditioning unit, and radiator all at the front now had sufficient ‘barrier’ so did not need a water blind. Not sure what I think about that one.

Maybe that's why I stick with old technology; a Navara D40 and a 79 Series. I'd say idiot proof, but I still managed to break them. Maybe I need a Hilux?

Nothing much else is happening that I need to report on (and if you are my regular reader you would know I never have much interesting to say anyway), so I am going to keep this one short and simply say; Website progressing, Association happening, planning for Training Dates underway, lots of Trips up, and the Club Christmas Party out at Burrinjuck on 9 December.

And I will wrap up by simply thanking everyone for another great year in the club, and wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year (or alternatively if you are like me, platitudes of the season and bah humbug).

And on Christmas day, remember; You haven't seen them for 364 days, so for just one day at least pretend to like them. Or drink. Either will get you through.

*Andy*

# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

BY LYNNE DONALDSON

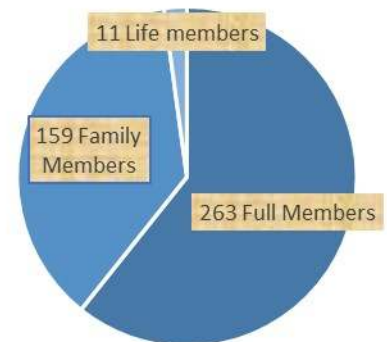


Membership - Total 433 Members

## Welcome

**to the following new member:**

Jacob Nowland – Pajero Sport



## MEMBER BENEFITS

*Please remember that several businesses in Canberra are our sponsors and will give you sound advice as a 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 web site and within the newsletter.*

*Association Stickers – At this month's meeting, there will be 2023 association stickers available to collect. State for-*

*est permits are paid each year to allow all affiliated clubs to access forests without charge. (Dated vehicle sticker is proof of membership).*

*Many thanks to the club members that have assisted at the visitor's table. Having other members on the table welcoming and informing 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 have a chat, do not hesitate to contact me [membership@st4dc.com.au](mailto:membership@st4dc.com.au) or 0412 251 528.*

Till next month,

*Lynne*

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The end of the year is closing in fast, faster than I would like!!

The Club is busy with trips and end of year celebrations. The annual Christmas Party is being held at Burrinjuck this year and looks like it will be a terrific event. If you haven't put your name down and are available – it is not too late! just make sure that if you are staying that you need to book in at the Reflections Holiday Park.

There are a lot of trips popping up on the calendar for next year. Be proactive and get onto the website at regular intervals to check the trips out. If you wait for the newsletter or trips email you may miss out.

I wish you all a safe and Festive Christmas and New Year. Enjoy your time with your family and friends.

This is a busy time of the year for Membership as around 60% of the Membership has a renewal of 01/01 of each year.

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.

If you have family members and have children that have reached 21 years of age, they now need to upgrade to a full member or else be removed from your profile. If this is the case, could you please contact me to discuss.

If you need a new club sticker, come and see me at a meeting.



# ***GETTING TO KNOW OUR SPONSORS***

## **ARB - OUR PLATINUM SPONSOR**

### **ANSWERS FROM MARK DUTTON, CANBERRA BRANCH MANAGER**



*Tell us a bit about your company.*

**Mark.** ARB Fyshwick has just moved into a brand new Flagship Store. We have brought our store-front, workshop, and warehouse in under one roof.

We supply and install all of our accessories and distribute these to surrounding areas including the Snowy Monaro region, Southern Tablelands, and South Coast, and as far west as Wagga and Griffith.

Our new store has a workshop with 6 hoists and room to increase this moving forwards, We place strong emphasis on training and encourage staff development and progression. We have just had 4 new technicians complete a new training schedule we are developing. These staff members are now successfully displaying skills we would expect from further advanced longer term members.

*What is your company's focus for 4 wheel driving enthusiasts in the Southern Tablelands club and the ACT?*

**Mark.** ARB Fyshwick are proud to be premium sponsors of the ST4WDC, and offer its members exceptional products and service.

We value the opportunity to assist the new and long term members alike, and provide information and products to you all.

It is nice to know we are able to help a local club to continue growth in a passion for 4wding around Canberra and surrounds.

*What item(s) / service(s) do you think is important for the ST4WDC members to know more about?*

**Mark.** New products from ARB. Events and Shows.

*Is there an item / service that is coming in the near future that you would like to mention?*

**Mark.** Our Grand opening Event on December 2nd. I have shared all information with Matt Madigan. (Ed:- see [Trips and Event page \(page 25\)](#) and the Events page on the web site to help out at the ARB Grand Opening)



*About you or your team members.*

*- What are you or your staff's favourite off-road activities?*

**Mark.** 4wding, Camping, Sitting around a campfire sharing stories.

*- How often do you or a staff member get off-road?*

**Mark.** We all try to get away from civilisation and the working week as often as possible.

Myself, I'll head beyond Jindabyne every few weekends to go fishing, and 4wding, be it in the Snowy's of NSW or the Vic high country (picture attached). Other staff enjoy places like Tallaganda, Bendethera, South Coast, and the Blue Mountains and Lithgow regions.

*- Can you or a staff member share some details about a great 4x4 trip or location?*

**Mark.** A memorable trip of mine was to Coorong NP in SA a couple of years ago. Without too much 4wding on the way there, it gave my partner and I a nice escape travelling along the Great Ocean Road to our destination to watch the sunset from the SA coast line.

We returned via the Grampians, and little desert in Vic, (with the camper in tow in the soft sand I could almost hear the fuel being pumped through the lines!)

Cheers mate.

# WE HAVE MOVED

ARB Fyshwick's new location is:

**CNR Albany Street & Gladstone Street, Fyshwick**



**4X4 ACCESSORIES**



# LOOKING BACK

The last edition of the Southern Trails  
in the last millennium - December 1999

## Southern Trails

Renewals Issue



Registered as Print Post No PP248831/00046

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December 1999  
ISSUE 256



*The Journal of the Southern Tablelands Four Wheel Drive Club Inc*



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Kevin Philipse  
Joan Cordeaux  
Garry McLaughlin



# Minutes of the Southern Tablelands Four Wheel Drive Club Committee Meeting held at Royals Rugby Union Club, 16 November 1999

**Present** - Neil Telfer, Peter Henderson, Rosemary Orr,  
Lew Loudon, Kevin Philpse, Joan Cordeaux, Chris  
Nicholls, Mike Pennington, Geoffrey Hore, Peter  
Reynolds.  
**Visitors** - Paul Tolley  
**Apologies** - Garry McLaughlin

**Minutes** - Minutes of previous meeting accepted  
**Business Arising** was passed to general business for  
discussion

**Promo Day 2000** - Paul Tolley briefed the committee  
on planning progress and all appears to be progressing  
smoothly including updating the Clubs information  
brochure which would be available from the club tent.  
Peter reported that a first this year would be the  
inclusion of camper trailers on the test track. This was  
due to the growing number of members owning and  
wanting to own camper trailers.

A proposal to provide encouragement rewards for  
promo day volunteers who registered and assisted the  
management committee was discussed. It was agreed  
these would be in the form of 2 gift vouchers (\$200.00  
and \$100.00) only redeemable with a fully subscribed  
advertiser in the club magazine

**Track Closures** - With the imminent closures of  
portions of the Brindabella's, Lew Loudon suggested  
we provide information to Sydney Clubs on  
Brindabella trips planned in February /March 2000.  
This was agreed. The committee was also updated  
possible closure of Stockton Beach. Lew also reported  
on Tread Lightly and advised on information and  
logo's available for interested members.

**Membership** - the following were submitted for  
approval: Terry and Denise Allen driving a Hilux,  
Martin and Anita Wicks driving a Landcruiser, and  
Rod and Nikki Williams driving a Jackaroo are the  
lucky first members of the new millennium.  
The committee approved and welcomed all new  
members.

**Publications** - Peter recommended that we register  
ST4WDC as a domain name for our club web site. The  
committee agreed to the costs of registration and asked  
Peter to proceed.

**Finance** - no report was given as the treasurer was on  
leave.

**Correspondence** - the main letters of interest received  
this month by the Secretary were from:



Toyota Landcruiser Club of NSW informed the  
ST4WDC of difficulties it was experiencing with  
the RFWDC and as a consequence had decided to  
temporarily withdraw its membership.

Leslee Roberts has written asking whether club  
members would be interested in volunteering their  
services to transport disabled persons sailboats on  
a regular basis. The committee agreed to assist.  
Chris Nicholls volunteered to liaise with Leslee.

A questionnaire regarding Namadgi National  
Park, from Heather Nelson, was forwarded to Lew  
Loudon for the club response.

**Trips** - Geoff Hore updated the trip calendar with the  
following trips:

- Brindabella day trip 27<sup>th</sup> February, Cathay Brewer
- Sunday in the forest 18/19 February Dough Lilley
- Brindabella, March, Chris Nicholls senior
- Winery trip local and south coasts, February /  
March, Richard and Rosemary.
- Braidwood historic tour, January, Geoffrey Hore
- Victorian Alps, see in the New Year from the top  
of Australia, Paul Tolley
- Meet the Committee 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> April Chris  
Nicholls senior location TBA
- Abercrombie caves, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, Neil and Sandra  
Telfer

**Public Relations** - Chris requested funding to  
purchase library material, as there had been a poor  
response of donations from club members. The  
committee requested Chris to prepare a list of  
desirable material and to determine it's cost for the  
committee's consideration.

**Christmas Festivities** - Joan updated members on  
plans for the Christmas party at the club lease.  
Meeting closed 10:30

**FEBRUARY 2000**  
5-6 Cavalcade of four  
day working bee  
showground  
12-13 4WD Promo  
26 Winery W  
TBA Sunday ir  
27 A day ir

**MARCH 2000**  
4-5 Ba  
4-5 M  
12  
18-19  
18-20

**APR**  
1-2  
2

## FOR THE DIARY

**DECEMBER**  
4 Club Xmas Party

**JANUARY 2000**  
11 General Meeting  
16 Day trip to Braidwood region  
23 Abercrombie Caves  
29-30 Working bee at Queanbeyan showground

### ...from the president's desk

Well summer has come with its usual vengeance and  
with it the Christmas season. At this time many of us  
take time to reflect on what we have achieved over  
the year and look forward to spending time with  
loved ones and friends. Of course this being the end  
of a Millennium it is a special time in all our lives,  
probably one never to be repeated in our lifetime. For  
those computer nerds amongst us I'm sure you wait  
with baited breath to see if there was any truth in the  
hype that computer failures could bring civilisation to  
an end. Gee, I hope not, your committee is planning  
an even better year in 2000. We get off to a flying  
start with the interclub sponsored 4WD Show at  
Queanbeyan Showground, 12 /13 February 2000.

Some of you missed our Monster Club Christmas  
party at the lease last weekend. I'm truly sorry. At  
the time of writing we expected some 140 members  
and their children to be attending. Of course the most  
important event of the weekend being the arrival of  
Santa on his Fire Engine. I understand the  
weatherman will be putting on a special treat for us.

On behalf of your Club committee Sandra and I  
would like to wish all members of the Southern  
Tablelands 4WD Club a happy Christmas and a great  
New Year as you see in a new Millennium.

## Edu-

Best wishes of the season to you all, and  
Santa fills your stocking with all those things  
on your list - diflocks, Engel Fridges, a second s-  
muddies for those special trips - what, don't wake me  
up from my dreams - mm, thanks dear, those socks  
and undies are just lovely!! And, you say you made  
that specially at school just for me? It's a what??

Well, seriously folks, another successful year is  
drawing to a close for the club, and the Year 2000  
should bring even bigger and better things. You'll  
see many mentions of the Promo day elsewhere in the  
magazine, and you should know that it is widely  
regarded as being one of the best 4WD shows of its  
kind, and that is feed back received from the  
businesses who choose to display at the show.

So, get behind the your club promo day committee,  
and give a few hours of time in February.

On a different note, it is great to see some new trip  
leaders putting their hands up to help you, the  
members, get away on memorable weekends. It can  
be a daunting task, and not always plain sailing, so a  
special thank you to the McLaughlins, the Leedmans  
and the Burgins, who each took on the challenge.

Well, have a great New Year, and a Merry Christmas,  
and see you next century!!

... Peter Henderson



# T TRIP REPORT

## Policeman's Gap and the Razorback Firetrail

### Participants

Chris Nash with Jennete & Antoinette	60 Series (Trip Leader)
Bruce & Jenny Collins	HiLux
Peter Thurbon and Tony Garing	GU Patrol
Peter & Gwen Henderson & family	GQ Patrol
Bob Henderson and daughter	80 Series
Steve Burgin and family	80 Series
Neil Craven and family	80 Series
Garry & Pauline Lymbery with	GQ Patrol
Christine, Michael, Todd & Natalie	
Charles Crawford	Ford Maverick
Billy Graham with Cathy	Nissholdota

Firstly my apologies for the late report but work and family commitments prevented an earlier report.

We arrived at Braidwood at 8.20 on an overcast Saturday morning at 8.20 am for an 8.30 start. We were surprised that we were the first to arrive so we went and topped up the tank and arrived back at the meeting spot at 8.30 still nobody there. After waiting 10 minutes I decided to ring Nash Offroad to see if the trip had been cancelled. I was told that the trip was still on and the meeting time was **8.00 am** not 8.30! So we headed off towards Araluen and Dry Creek to see if we could catch up or raise the group on the radio.

We finally made contact about 4 kilometers from Dry Creek. The group had just finished morning tea and letting their tires down. Chris told us not to worry about deflating tires and to drive straight across the river and head up Merricumbene and they would wait at the top of the first hill. When we arrived at the top Jenny informed me that I had just rescued her from doing the report (she was the last person to join the group before they gave up waiting for us, and set off). At the first opportunity I deflated my tires which greatly improved the ride

and traction.

After about an hour's travel along Merricumbene it started to snow lightly, as we travelled the snow got heavier. We had a quick stop for lunch as it was still snowing and then continued on via Little Sugarloaf Rd, German Creek Rd, Comerang Rd and various firetrails. We stopped for afternoon tea at a transmission tower on mountain not far from Belowra.

After we had our break Chris lead us down a series of switchbacks to show us where we would normally have gone to Belowra, if it wasn't for a farmer who refused permission to cross a couple of hundred meters of his farm. He was worried about possible litigation if someone got hurt. It was an interesting descent down the switch backs which were covered in loose rock and it was even more interesting going back to the top.

Chris then informed us that we now had to find our way out as he had not reced the last stretch and it had been some years since he was last in the area, and the loggers had made new trails and closed others. After a few false starts down trails we finally for

our way out and arrived at Belowra just after dark. There was a fire going in the fireplace as Fergus was expecting us and had lit it earlier. We set up camp and prepared meals and then relaxed around the fire.

Next morning we left Belowra and crossed the Tuross river and climbed to the top of Peak Alone using the Peak Alone Trail for morning tea at the Wandella Mountain Fire Tower. Billy Graham and I didn't stop for morning tea as we went down to Cobargo to refuel our vehicles and then meet the group as they entered the fire trail which leads to the Wadbilliga National Park and the Razorback fire trail. The trail is very overgrown and an interesting drive through the Brogo Wildness Area. A part of the trail climbs the escarpment in a series of about seven switchbacks, which like the day before were covered in loose rock. We stopp

dens  
Afr  
out  
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c

## T TRIP REPORT

### The people

Steve & Jane Burgin (the sorcerers' apprentices) with Cassie  
Peter & Gwen Henderson (the sorcerers) with Alex and Olivia  
Richard Brad and Rosemary Orr

Gary and Sue Caitcheon with Patrick and Clare

Peter and Kathleen (Kathie) Collins with Nicholas, Liam, Patrick and baby Rosemary

Geoff & Narelle Hore

Lew and Helen Loudon

Bruce and Joan Cruikshank

Mike Vale and Trish Carroll

Jim and Roz Hannigan

Steve Hillier with Danielle and Ellie

Peter Fenwick and Catherine

Panich with Harlan and Calli

### their trucks

80 Series Land Cruiser

GQ Patrol

80 Series Land Cruiser (Tess the terrific truck - with a clutch this time)

80 Series Land Cruiser

Landcruiser Prado

80 Series Landcruiser

100 Series Landcruise

Toyota Hilux

Pajero

Jackaroo

Mazda

Pajero

### and their trailers

Trak Shak Standard Camper

Complete Campsite

A 'big' Trak Shak (The Deluxe Version)

Cavalier: the 14 foot tent section version.

Trak Shak Standard Camper.

No camper...yet - researcher

Also no camper...yet - researching

Kanga Campa

Campa Pak

Campa Pak

Tent

Cub

MP-THEY DIDN'T KNOW  
EITHER!!

On the weekend of 27 and 28 November, Steve and Jane Burgin led their first trip into the magnificent Aussie bush under the watchful eyes of Peter and Gwen Henderson. Well done you guys, there were many satisfied souls at the end of what was a pleasant weekend.

### The convoy

A large convoy, in numbers and length, gathered at Williamstown for an 8.30 AM departure. By many trip standards, just the number of vehicles was large, at 12. Add 9 camper trailers and it was an impressive sight. The trucks carried

so as well. Two or three went past, each giving a long blast on their big horns.

### Mystery Bay: where is it?

Where is Mystery Bay? If you do not know, you are probably not alone because up until a couple of weeks ago, I had never heard of the place. Unknowingly, however, I had seen it from the Big Badja trig point on a Nigel Moth trip to the Cascades. On that particular day, Montague Island was clearly visible from the trig. Arriving at Mystery Bay

great view of the rising sun on Sunday morning, and Montague Island. It was a pleasant little place and one could listen to the waves gently lapping the beach as one lay in bed on Saturday night, going to sleep. The beach was a short walk away and the kids got a blast from playing in the sand and water. The water was cold though, even for those hardy souls.

There was a health





# SOCIAL CLUB ACTIVITIES



9 - 10 Dec	Christmas at Burrinjuck	ST4WDC's 2023 Christmas Party
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# CHRISTMAS

*At  
Burrinjuck*

SATURDAY 9 AND  
SUNDAY 10  
DECEMBER

**Don't FORGET**  
or Santa might forget  
a few weeks later!





# BRINDABELLA RAMBLE

## 5 NOVEMBER 2023

The Brindabella Ramble is a great way for new and old members to explore Canberra's back yard and get to know your vehicle. The drive will cover different tracks with the aim to have lunch at McIntyres hut. This a great opportunity for members who have just completed driver training to participate in their first Grade 3 club trip with the friends they met during their training weekend, and to meet other club members. This is not part of training, but an opportunity for you to reconfirm and make new friendships in a relaxed environment and consolidate your skills with an off-Road drive in the Brindabella National Park.

***The following are the comments and feelings of the participants.***

Thanks to trip leader Michael P and the rest of the members for a great day. Fair bit of dust considering it rained two nights before the trip. This was the first time I was able to join the club trip since completing the initial driver training in January 2021, but well worth the wait. Good to see the bush re-generated after the devastating fires.

**Peter U**

Sunday 5 November 'day out in the Brindies' was a hoot. As a recently minted basic trainee graduate (September 2023) I was delighted to test and reinforce my learning on the ST4WD course in such beautiful surrounds with mountainous views and sweeping scapes of Canberra, flowing rivers and plenty of dust! Though lots of the time I was





concentrating on the road, dodging rocks, potholes and seeing through the inevitable clouds of dust. I enjoyed getting practice as 'Charlie' and Michael's leadership of the trip, including his keeping us updated on potential hazards on the road and plenty of quips.

The 'scary highlight' would have to be the steep incline down to McIntyres Hut and the extremely fine dust which saw the Hilux I was driving start to slide sideways down the hill without my consent! I realized that taking my foot off the brake while steering out of it would be a good idea. On the trip back up the hill the third attempt to get over the dust was successful. A thrilling moment.

**Jude**

Sunday 5 November. Michael led us (8 vehicles) out into the Brindies, leading us pretty much in the reverse direction to that which Shea took us in June, with the destination being McIntyres Hut for lunch along Gentle Annie. The tracks were predictably much drier than in early June, and with tyres let down to 24 on the '200, in places I felt I could have taken even more out. The descent and climb out of McIntyres suggested it's a bit like talcum powder underfoot now. As a result, there were a couple of tricky little moments that suggested maybe one gear lower would have been a better choice right then. We only found one or two small wet areas that needed to be traversed, and it was an easy day. Don't ask me to recite the names of the tracks yet (just my 2nd foray into the Brindies - I really must get the offroad maps). Now looking forward to Vic High Country Ramble in December. Thanks Michael!

**Chris & Maream**

Recently I got to take part in the graduates day in the Brindabellas. I actually did my driver training in February 2022 but have been unable to do the trip until now due to covid and a few other competing priorities.

I am pleased to say the things covered at the basic training weekend were well filed in my brain and much needed. At one point when I was picking my line, an image of CDI Peter Butterfield holding his aerial-come-pointer appeared like a hologram in front of me. Keep it level!

A few rocky bits early in the day as well as a few soft sections going in to McIntyres hut were particularly good to apply my knowledge.

Having lived in Canberra for a while I have wanted to venture into the Brindies but lacked the skills and confidence to do so. After this visit I am keen for a visit with the family to flea Creek - such a pretty place so close to home.

Thank you to Michael for leading and organising the trip. It was another step for me towards reaching my goal of going on the High Country trip in '24.

**Clint**

Oh what fun, starting with our motley lot turning up at Uriarra for a day's pottering in the Brindabellas. We were soon on gravel roads climbing up the range on the eastern slopes of Mt Blundell & Mt Coree (Blue Range).

Then a maze of well-maintained tracks as we made our way to McIntyre's Hut on the banks of the Goodradigbee river.



Lots of expert opinions expressed around an (unlit) campfire.  
Spoiler alert!! We had time for a morning tea cuppa AND we didn't run over time.

The only challenging bit was just out from exiting McIntyre's Hut on a steep (280 dusty slope) which everyone negotiated with aplomb.

Flea Creek on the way out is always lovely, followed by a climb up Gentle

Annie which is nowadays actually gentle.

At the top of Gentle Annie was a compatriot broken down with a 3 year old in tow. At this point I relinquished my place in the convoy.

A tilt tray truck eventually turned up and I transported father and daughter out to safety.

Many thanks to Michael for his excellent leadership, and the whole team for their camaraderie on this fun day out.

**Rob Wilson**

I thought the Brindabella Ramble was a great chance to ease my family into seeing what some 4wd driving looks like here in the Canberra area. The routes were well put together and straightforward. It was also a great chance to experience what we have just 60 minutes from Canberra. My family and I had a great time and the tracks really helped put the lessons we learned the week prior into action.

We made it through with no damage and saw some great sights along the way. Thanks again Michael!

**Jason**

Thank you for leading the Brindabella Ramble day trip.

The day was very diverse with impressive scenery, a variety of tracks and challenges, adding to the experiences gained from the previous driver training course - a good opportunity for consolidation.

McIntyres Hut was a step back in time. Great group of people and a reminder of the benefit of being in a 4wd club.

**Allan**

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# OUTDOOR / CAMPING RECIPES

## *Curried Sausages*

*recipe by*

*Maryann Grogan*

### INGREDIENTS

- 6 x thick sausages
- 1 x large onion
- 1 x packet chicken noodle
- 2 x tablespoons curry
- 1 x cup of peas
- 1 x tablespoons oil
- 3 x cups of water
- Pinch of salt & pepper
- Rice (to your serving)

### METHOD

Boil sausages in water for 10 minutes to take the fat out of them. Drain the sausage water, let them cool so you can peel the skin off the sausages, once peeled cut into small circles. Saute onions in a pan until brown, add sausages until brown, add chicken noodle, water, salt, pepper, curry and peas for about 20 minutes. Whilst waiting for everything to cook, put your rice in the pot for it to be ready at the time of your curried sausages



This is an ongoing segment on outdoor / barbeque / 12V oven cooking .

### **Your Help is Needed**

If you have a recipe, send the recipe and photos to [publications@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:publications@st4wdc.com.au)



# 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](mailto:publications@st4wdc.com.au)

**WANTED**

- **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 memorable

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.



# SAFE ONE BASIC DRIVER TRAINING COURSE

**MID-WEEK 25TH TO 27TH OCTOBER 2023**

**CHIEF INSTRUCTOR: PETER BUTTERFIELD**  
**EDUCATION COORDINATOR: BRONWYN SQUIRE**

Student	Instructor
Allan	Andy
Dave	Peter B
Lachie	Michael P
Nick	Rob Dav

**The following are the comments and feelings of the students who participated in the October Mid-Week Safe One Basic Driver Training Course.**

Firstly, the mid-week course in my opinion is by far the best as you get a little more time and everything just feels relaxed and not rushed.

So, to jump in. The training itself was comprehensive and detailed. Unfortunately, I am one of those people that hate classrooms and lectures, but the lessons that we learnt on the first day were useful and appropriate for what we were about to undertake. When it was time to start the driving portion of the training we were greeted with relaxed, calm instructors. I, myself, was nervous as this was my first foray into 4X4 driving and having a relatively new 4WD. I was overly cautious about any potential damage that could have been caused. My instructor saw this and immediately put my mind at rest with reassuring little pep talks throughout the first morning. By the afternoon you could not wipe the smile off my face with a shotgun. I grew in confidence as my instructor kept praising my abilities even though I doubted myself and that of my 4WD. By the second day I was chomping at the bit to get going. My confidence was sky high, and I thought there was nothing I couldn't conquer. The instructor kept me grounded and we drove on. Again, I had a smile that you couldn't wipe off. By the time the last day finished I was exhausted but ecstatic as to what we achieved. I would highly recommend this to any one of various abilities to attend.

I must say it was the best 2 1/2 days I have had in a long time and can't wait to get at it again.

**Nick**







The mid-week Basic Driver Training course at Talooge ST4WDC was fantastic. I was the novice in the group, but was made to feel welcome from the moment we met in convoy and aired down our tyres. My instructor was Peter and he was absolutely amazing. I couldn't have asked for a more experienced 4WD course instructor. The training was hands-on and really opened my eyes to my 4WD's capability as well as my own capability. Through-out the two and bit days of training and instruction, I learnt so much. I look forward to coming to future ST4WDC events and have started preparation for my young son's basic driver training in Feb next year. Really found the course and people on the course as like-minded individuals all there for the right reason – to learn how to drive their vehicles properly and treat the environment with respect as we traversed some challenging and difficult (for a beginner) tracks and terrains. And from this course I have rekindled some old ties with colleagues and made some new friends. A hard thing to do when you're in your 50's.

Looking forward to escaping work/suburbia again to return to Talooge or other convoy track adventures with ST4WDC mates.

**Dave P**

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Basic Driver Training Course held at Talooge. I was on the mid-week course, which had a smaller number of participants and trainers. This was a great learning experience right from the outset with a welcoming approach to teaching and instruction. Andy was my instructor, who was very patient and supportive, which made the whole experience not only fun but very developmental. He and all the instructors are a credit to the club. Overall, a great training program covering a whole range of necessary practical skills – to be built upon. What also impacted on me was the commitment and energy given by all the instructors and Bron, inclusive of a considerable amount of their personal time, to allow this to happen – the course was a demonstration of what it means to be in a successful and supportive 4WD Club.

**Allan**





# SAFE ONE BASIC DRIVER TRAINING COURSE

27TH TO 29TH OCTOBER 2023

CHIEF INSTRUCTOR: PETER BUTTERFIELD

EDUCATION COORDINATOR: BRONWYN SQUIRE

Student	Instructor
Joe	Rob Dav
Sonia	Ciril (trainee) & Michael P
Jason	Rob P
Darren	Michael L
Kate	Scott (trainee) & Peter B

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

I would like to share my appreciation of the basic driving course that I attended. I learnt where/how to put your wheels, how to hold the steering wheel, how much acceleration is needed for certain activities and most importantly the capability of my car and myself. I began the weekend as a anxious and nervous person and turned into a 4wder. So, a huge thanks to everyone involved in the club.

**Darren**

I attended the October Basic Driver training course, and it was a fantastic experience. The practical nature of the course was incredibly beneficial, allowing plenty of time for hands-on driving experiences. My instructor Scott had a calm demeanour, providing guidance and reassurance throughout the weekend. Most of the course was dedicated to driving, enabling us to practice and refine our skills. The clubs property is beautiful and has everything you need for an enjoyable weekend away.

**Kate**

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What a fantastic weekend !

5 new members supported by 7 instructors (2 completing their training) and several partners. We were warmly reminded by many that this was our club and our property.

Peter's theory class Saturday morning set us up to understand the basics we needed for the weekend. The group feedback sessions at the end of driving times meant we got to know each other better and laugh at our own "arms crossed" common errors. So well organised!

During the drive to Talooge from Bredbo all on the radio were either politely quiet or in stunned silence when I couldn't manage to count off and confidently announced I was car 6 (after car 4....). By Sunday the camaraderie was such that instructors had no problem teasing students (thanks Cyril and Michael ...) but there was also plenty of cheek in the opposite direction.

I would do the course again in a heart beat.

Thank you, Peter, Michael, Michael, Rob, Rob, Scott and especially Ciril. Also Thanks to MaryAnne Karen Tarik and David. Darren, Jason, Kate and Joe and I felt really well supported and had a fantastic time.

**Sonia**

I want to convey my thanks and appreciation for the instructors that volunteered their time and energy to support our class last weekend (25-27 Oct). The experience I had was well beyond my expectations and has built a solid foundation for safe and responsible off-road driving going forward. The facilities and tracks built on the property are fantastic and support an excellent environment for learning. As a relative "flatlander" from the US, getting the exposure to the wide variety of terrain and driving techniques taught over the two days has really given me the confidence to travel with the club. Driving sports cars, the mantra is slow is smooth and smooth is fast. This weekend I really learned more about the importance of momentum and ensuring that you're always thinking ahead. Smoothing out the driving and driving with more momentum was the theme I took away this weekend and I appreciate the effort the instructors put in to individualizing the training for all of us.

**Jason**

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Can I say how pleasantly surprised I was to see how welcome my wife and I were made to feel. The culture of the club and the driving instructors is exceptional, as are the facilities at Talooge and the visionary layout of the many trails around the property. The knowledge and experience of the instructors is immediately apparent and consistent, applied in a calm and nurturing fashion throughout the whole course. It is remarkable to see the shift in confidence amongst all of us trainee drivers in such a short time going from tracks you could barely walk up to driving the same with confidence.

My sincere thanks and admiration to the whole ST4WDC family who do the hard yakka to maintain such a vibrant community.

**Joe**





The training weekend was superb, and I learned a lot. It was great fun exploring the tracks around Talooge and I got to see what my Hilux is capable of.

### **Rob**

Thanks for a great weekend at the Basic Driver training. Big thanks of course to Peter, Bron and Andy who obviously do a lot of heavy lifting in providing the education and keeping the club running smoothly.

As for the course itself, it is very informative. I wasn't particularly looking forward to the theory side of the course, but I found it taught me a number of things that I did not understand about my vehicle, safety and communication out in the wilderness. Peter taught it well and kept me engaged after a poor first night's sleep in the cool conditions!

Big thanks to Ciril who was my instructor and once we got into the cars, he did a fabulous job at staying calm and reinforcing the theory that had been learned earlier in the course. There was little time for relaxation once driving around the course. I found I had to be always attentive whether swerving between tight trees, picking rocks/stumps to deliberately drive over and generally picking good lines. Again, Ciril kept me on point providing appropriate reminders when required. Some of the tracks appeared daunting at first, but once better understanding the limits of my vehicle I was surprised with the confidence that I had developed by the end of the course.

I also really enjoyed the campgrounds. Great to meet the other trainees and I particularly enjoyed the discussions with both trainees and instructors around the campfire in the evenings.

Really well run overall, big thanks to all the instructors and other trainees for getting along.

Look forward to the next drive.

### **Scott**

Thanks very much to the ST4WDC team. Heading to Bredbo to meet up for the "Safe One" Basic Driver Training Course I wasn't sure what to expect. But after meeting the friendly instructors and fellow trainee's, grabbing a pie from the pub, and starting the long drive to Talooge my nerves quickly calmed.

The whole weekend was most enjoyable, the trails were challenging and fun, the instructors were super experienced and easy to get on with, and the other trainees were super friendly and with a broad range of similar interests. A word of warning for beginner campers, take some warm kit. I broke mentally on the Friday night from the cold. Even when covered head to toe in super warm camping kit I just couldn't get myself warm and spent a long night pondering the life choices that got me to that that exact moment in life. But come the morning we joked about the experience (I was the butt of those jokes) and the second night was spent warm and happy in front of the slow combustion fire in the club house. So nice.

The funniest part was bouncing my super capable Jimny over every obstacle thrown at it and seeing everyone watch and laugh. The saddest part was seeing a 5 Door Defender 110 bust a diff on the very first obstacle. Thanks again ST4WDC, looking forwards to the next event.

### **Chris**



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# Do you know what UHF channels can be used?

## EDUCATION COORDINATOR'S TIPS AND TRICKS

Bron Squire, the ST4WDC Education Coordinator, has provided the table of information below.

UHF Channel Guide		
Channel	Type	General Use
1 to 4	Duplex	Repeater Output
5	Duplex	EMERGENCY USE ONLY - Repeater Output
6 to 8	Duplex	Repeater Output
9	Simplex	General Use
10	Simplex	National Parks & 4WD Convoys
11	Simplex	Call Channel
12 to 17	Simplex	General Use
18	Simplex	Caravan & Camper Convoy Channel
19 to 21	Simplex	General Use
22 & 23	Data	DATA ONLY
24 to 28	Simplex	General Use
29	Simplex	Highway Channel (Road Safety Syd - Bris)
30	Simplex	General Use
31 to 34	Duplex	Repeater Input
35	Duplex	EMERGENCY USE ONLY - Repeater Input
36 to 38	Duplex	Repeater Input
39	Simplex	General Use
40	Simplex	Highway Channel (truckies)
41 to 48	Duplex	Repeater Output
49 to 60	Simplex	General Use
61 to 63		Reserved for Future Expansion
64 to 70	Simplex	General Use
71 to 78	Duplex	Repeater Input
79 & 80	Simplex	General Use

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# Member Spotlight on *Sue Philips*



## Member Spotlight

Why did you join the ST4WD Club?

To meet like-minded people and get out and about

In what way have you or do you contribute to the club?

Run trips and social activities  
Support members

How long have you been a member?

7 years

What have you found to be the best part of joining the ST4WDC?

The social activities, meeting new people, camping and confident travel

What trips are on your bucket list?

Top End, Simpsons Desert, anywhere in WA

Fraser Island

What was your most enjoyable trip?

# CLUB MEETINGS

7-30pm, 2nd Tuesday of each month  
Canberra Deakin Football Club, Grose St,  
Deakin, ACT

**December Meeting** - in the up-stairs  
room

## November meeting information

Guest Speaker:  
Mark Dutton  
ARB Canberra Manager

Intermediate Winching Course  
graduates with the  
Chief Instructor  
- Oct 2023 course



Safe One Basic Driver  
Training Course  
graduates with the  
Chief Instructor  
- Oct 2023 courses x 2



# 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.

Title	Type	Grade	Trip Leader	From	To
ARB Grand Opening Day -Saturday 2 December	Event	NR	Lynne Donaldson	2-Dec-23	2-Dec-23
Vic High Country Ramble 2023	Trip	Grade 4	Michael Patrick	2-Dec-23	9-Dec-23
Christmas at Burrinjuck	Trip	NR	Ann Ronning	9-Dec-23	10-Dec-23
Bringyadogalong	Trip	Grade 1	Rod Cahill	12-Dec-23	14-Dec-23
Let's cool down and relax at Lowells Flat in the Brindies	Trip	Grade 3	Lynne Donaldson	13-Jan-24	14-Jan-24
Limestone Creek Camping VHC	Trip	Grade 4	Bruce Ronning	10-Feb-24	11-Feb-24
Wee Jasper	Trip	Grade 2	Michael Patrick	17-Feb-24	18-Feb-24
HEMA Maps Cloud Workshop	Training	NR	Michael Patrick	18-Feb-24	18-Feb-24
Trips and Activities Symposium	Event	NR	Michael Patrick	20-Feb-24	20-Feb-24
Day Loop on Your Doorstep	Trip	Grade 2	Roland Pittar	25-Feb-24	25-Feb-24
Trip Leader Workshop	Training	NR	Michael Patrick	27-Feb-24	27-Feb-24
Long Plain Huts Tour	Trip	Grade 3	Bruce Ronning	2-Mar-24	3-Mar-24
Sculpture down the Lachlan	Trip	Grade 1	Lynne Donaldson	9-Mar-24	11-Mar-24
Mystery Bay	Trip	Grade 2	Michael Patrick	13-Apr-24	14-Apr-24
Tasmania Touring & Camp; Tracks	Trip	Grade 3	Ethan Taylor	15-Apr-24	26-Apr-24
From The Mountains To The Ocean	Trip	Grade 3	Matthew Maddigan	15-Apr-24	19-Apr-24
Canning Stock Route	Trip	Grade 4	Lindsay Jones	2-Jul-24	24-Jul-24
Hema 4x4 App GPS Navigation Workshop	Training	NR	Michael Patrick	13-Aug-24	13-Aug-24
Vic High Country Ramble 2024	Trip	Grade 4	Michael Patrick	16-Nov-24	23-Nov-24





# 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](mailto:trips@st4wdc.com.au)**

# OUR CLUB SPONSORS

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### **MONARO** **OFF ROAD CENTRE** *The Four Wheel Drive Specialists*

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.



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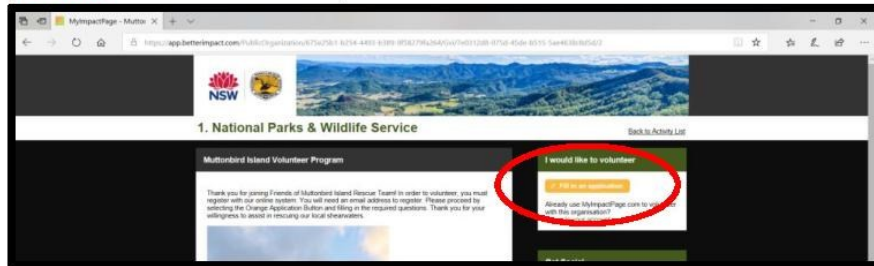
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# Volunteer Registration

NPWS has a new online volunteer management system called VIP. Please follow the instruction below to register in the system. The process should take 5-10 minutes.

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



3. Create an account by filling in the form "I am new to MyImpactPage.com" (See this area in red rectangle to right). Use your **EMAIL** as your username. Click yellow **SAVE AND CONTINUE** button when you are finished.

4. Fill in the **CONTACT INFORMATION** form to the best of your abilities. The fields with **FLAGS** are required. Then Press the yellow **SAVE AND CONTINUE** button at the bottom of the page (red arrow in photo to right - you might need to scroll down to see it).

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



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Full details at

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- ⇒ UEC Altech Vast decoder / set top box, 12V power supply, remote and cables to connect to a TV set
- ⇒ cables to connect to a Foxtel box
- ⇒ instruction manuals and Optus C1 satellite location in each city / town throughout Australia

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# ST4WDC SWAG

## *Christmas Gift ideas...*

**Tick off your Christmas list today and order some club gear for that special ST4WDC member in your life!**



### **Great stocking fillers!!!**

You know your mum/sister/brother/dad/aunty/bloke-over-the-back-fence has been asking to get a new club bucket hat for ages ...

And get yourself a little something too - you know you can never have too many stubbie holders!

Caps	\$20
Bucket Hats	\$20
Stubbie Holders	\$7.50

Jackets	\$85
Wind/rain Jackets	\$130
Hoodies	\$50
Rugby Tops	\$55

You could be the favourite in your household on Christmas morning when he/she/they open the perfectly wrapped heavy duty Huski Jacket for the next time it snows at Talooge... you know you'll thank me when it happens!

Or, maybe just quietly replace that old polo that 'shrunk' in the wardrobe or, the dark blue one that's a bit sun bleached from, well, the sun!

Polo Shirts	\$40
Chambray Shirts	\$50

Stock on hand is limited for some things, order by end of November club meeting to receive in time<sup>2</sup> for Christmas!

<sup>1</sup>You will need your own elves for the wrapping side of things

<sup>2</sup>Probably - we should be good to get anything on order by second week of December. Hopefully this won't be the *only* gift under the tree? Just sayin'



A few older styles remain...

**Come up to the Clothing & Merch table next club meeting and let's make a deal!!**

Available at Club Meetings, or contact Leanne at  
**clothing@st4wdc.com.au**