



FEBRUARY 2024

SOUTHERN TRAILS



SOME GREAT TRIP REPORTS

***Vic High Country Ramble and
Wadbilliga Wandella Loop***

NEXT CLUB MEETING GUEST SPEAKER

The President of 4WD NSW/ACT Association

GIVE YOUR FEEDBACK TO THE CLUB

LOOKING BACK

10 Years Ago



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.

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"

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

President:

Andy Squire
president@st4wdc.com.au

Vice President:

Ethan Taylor
vpresident@st4wdc.com.au

Secretary:

Roland Pittar
secretary@st4wdc.com.au

Treasurer:

Jim Anderson
treasurer@st4wdc.com.au

Membership Secretary:

Lynne Donaldson
membership@st4wdc.com.au

Events and Trips Coordinator:

Michael Patrick
trips@st4wdc.com.au

Publications Coordinator:

Rob Davidson
publications@st4wdc.com.au

Education Coordinator:

Bronwyn Squire
education@st4wdc.com.au

Property Coordinator:

Brad Wells
property@st4wdc.com.au

Public Relations Coordinator:

Matt Warmington
public@st4wdc.com.au

Information Coordinator:

Matthew Maddigan
information@st4wdc.com.au

General Committee Members:

Adre DeWaal
general1@st4wdc.com.au

Steve Smith
general2@st4wdc.com.au

Nicole Hermansen
general3@st4wdc.com.au

Leanne Cowan
general4@st4wdc.com.au

Southern Trails

National Library Catalogue No.
ISSN 0314-0814

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](#)

CONTENT

The hyper-links below will take you directly to that page



[PRESIDENT'S REPORT](#) 1.

[MEMBERSHIP MATTERS](#) 2.

[LOOKING BACK](#)
[10 Years Ago](#) 3.

[WADBILLIGA WANDELLA](#)
[LOOP TRIP - Report](#) 6.

[SOCIAL CLUB ACTIVITIES](#) 10.

[OUTDOOR / CAMPING RECIPES](#)
[The Hotdog's Rap !](#) 11.

[VIC HIGH COUNTRY](#)
[RAMBLE 2023 - Report](#) 13.

[CLUB SPONSOR - Platinum](#) 21.

[HAVE YOU HEARD?](#) 22.

[EDUCATION COORDINATOR'S](#)
[TIPS AND TRICKS](#)
[Joining Snatch Straps](#) 23.

[CLUB SPONSOR - Gold](#) 24.

[MEMBER'S SPOTLIGHT](#)
[Ricky Woltring](#) 25.

[CLUB MEETINGS](#) 26.

[GIVE FEEDBACK TO](#)
[THE CLUB](#) 27

[TRIPS AND EVENTS](#) 28.

[ACTIVE TRIP LEADERS](#)
[IN 2023](#) 29

[TRIP LEADERS WANTED](#) 30.

[CLUB SPONSORS -](#)
[Gold](#) 31 - 33.

[CLUB SPONSORS -](#)
[Bronze & Trade](#) 34.

[CLASSIFIED](#)
[ADVERTISEMENTS](#) 36.

[CLOTHING](#) 38.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY ANDY SQUIRE

February already. Still waiting for the sunny summer days.... Think I must be living in the tropics. But here we are, back again. I hope you all had a pleasant Christmas season and new year, and are fit, hale and hearty. Me? I'm just fat and wobbly. Why does Christmas have that affect? We did get the opportunity to get out a bit. Not much, but we tend to stay home over the summer school holidays and avoid the madding crowds. What we did find were a couple of great little campsites out in the Tallaganda forests less than 2 hours away. Little known, no-one else there, perfect. And no.... I'm not telling you where coz then you might go and it wouldn't be quiet and peaceful and I would lose the solitude. You'll just have to go exploring yourself.....

So what have we been up to? Well. A couple of things to start:

First, a big apology to Tracks Adventure Gear, one of our Gold Sponsors. For some reason their advert didn't appear in the newsletter for part of last year. While we try and promote our Sponsors/Advertisers above and beyond the obligations of our agreements, an ad in the newsletter is one of the key components. Glen and the gang at Tracks have been great supporters of our club for a number of years, and Glen especially through his previous roles with other companies. If you need something for your vehicle, talk to our Advertisers and get along and see what they've got and can do for you.

Secondly, a big thanks to all those club members who ran trips last year or organised events. Without you the member's just wouldn't have the opportunity to get out and about and experience what this great country has to offer. On that note, for the rest of you, don't be scared to lead a trip. It's not hard and it is a chance to go where you want with a group of like-minded people. If you want ideas, come and talk to Michael or other members at the club meeting. Lots of experience, lots of knowledge; make use of it. A 7 day tag-along-tour in the Vic high Country goes for about

\$1300 per vehicle plus \$350 per passenger; makes our membership fees look good.

The Club Christmas Party was held out at Burrinjuck last December. A big thanks to the organisers, and a pretty good turn-out. It was a great day and evening. A little bit of rain but nothing much. Meanwhile Canberra was getting smashed, with mini tornadoes in Tuggeranong, trees down, big clean-ups required, and as usual, my carport flooding. And that was followed up in Jan with another downpour; flooding, 10 thousand mm of rain in 7 minutes, winds. And again my carport flooding. But we missed it. We were camping out at Lowells Flat (great spot) and had just enough rain to make sitting around the campfire a bit less fun (no matter how much rain camping is always fun isn't it?) Apparently 20km as the crow flies can make all the difference.....

The new training calendar has gone up. We now have 16 Instructors with a new cohort starting up so things are looking good. We can all improve our skills and knowledge, and share what we know; again, make the most of what the club has to offer, but put something back in, don't just be a leech. (This seems to be a theme I go on about; you only get out what you put in. Maybe I should give it a rest, but it's true....)

For the upcoming club meeting we are planning to have the President of the 4WD NSW & ACT Association come along and tell us what they have been up to and what they do, and can do, for us, and what we need to do to make it happen. Are they value for money? Should we continue to be members? How do we get what we want out of them? How can we contribute? Could be an interesting (and possibly lively) discussion. We also have a planned talk on Starlink. It seems to be all the buzz at the moment so will be interesting to see what people who have been using it think. It won't replace things like PLBs or EPIRBs, but may well have benefits over other kinds of devices (and probable cons as well).

I started playing a few games at the meetings to try and liven them up a bit; only so many times you can listen to me tell you about what the club's been up to, how the Committee is progressing, what trips are on etc. So in November we had a short Trivia round, and in December we had an Australian Towns and Cities game (congratulations to the winners). Come along and see what we have in store next time.

And that's probably enough from me. So thanks for hanging in there. I'll leave you with my favourite question from the Trivia: "What's the name of the Swagman in Waltzing Matilda?" Answer next month (gotta get you back somehow).

And my final thought? "A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawnmower is broken."



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

BY LYNNE DONALDSON

Welcome

to the following new members:

Sid and Tracey Rankin – Ford Ranger
Rod Jackson and Leoni Marshall – Mazda BT50
Lindsay Higgins – Mazda BT50
Roger Hovey – Ford Everest
Matt and Jay Harmon – Ford Ranger
Robert Masters and Sofia Nikolaou – Isuzu Mux
Norm and Jenny Dunn – Isuzu Dmax

**Membership numbers
as of 31/01/2024**

Total 393 Members



With a blink of an eye January is over, and we are well into February!!

I hope you had a relaxing Christmas and start to the New Year with family and friends.

In recognition of your dedication to the Club, we now have stickers that celebrate the number of years you have been in the club. These years are 2, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and life membership stickers. Come and see me at a Club meeting to get yours.

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.

Till next month,

Lynne

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 2024 association stickers available to collect. State forest 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 or 0412 251 528.

LOOKING BACK

10 Years Ago



Committee

committee@st4wdc.org

President

Greg Taylor

6241 3547

Email: president@st4wdc.org

Vice President

Chris Nicholls

0490 038 235

Email: vpresident@st4wdc.org

Secretary

David Whight

0438 882 696

Email: secretary@st4wdc.org

Treasurer

Phil Henderson

Email: treasurer@st4wdc.org

Past President,

Rosemary Orr

0414 568 358

Email: ppresident@st4wdc.org

Publications Coordinator

Brenden Taylor

0434 083 351

Email: publications@st4wdc.org

Education Coordinator

Peter Reynolds

0428 623 458

Email: education@st4wdc.org

Membership Secretary

Lynne Donaldson

0418 631 669

Email: membership@st4wdc.org

Events and Trips Coordinator

Michael Patrick

0412 377 941

Email: trips@st4wdc.org

Property Coordinator

Marj Jones

0427 284 236

Email: property@st4wdc.org

Public Relations Coordinator

Glen Loberger

0403 799 099

Email: public@st4wdc.org

Information Coordinator

David Read

0431 980 487

Email: information@st4wdc.org

General Members

Kiera Taylor

0419 260 925

Alan Jones

0428 236 284

Glen Watts

0407 934 942

Michael Briguglio

0402 173 647



Southern Trails

BUMPER SHOW ISSUE! Complimentary Issue

Official Publication for Southern Tablelands Four Wheel Drive Club Inc.

Basic Driver Training

Registered as Print Post
100004366



Inside this Months Issue:

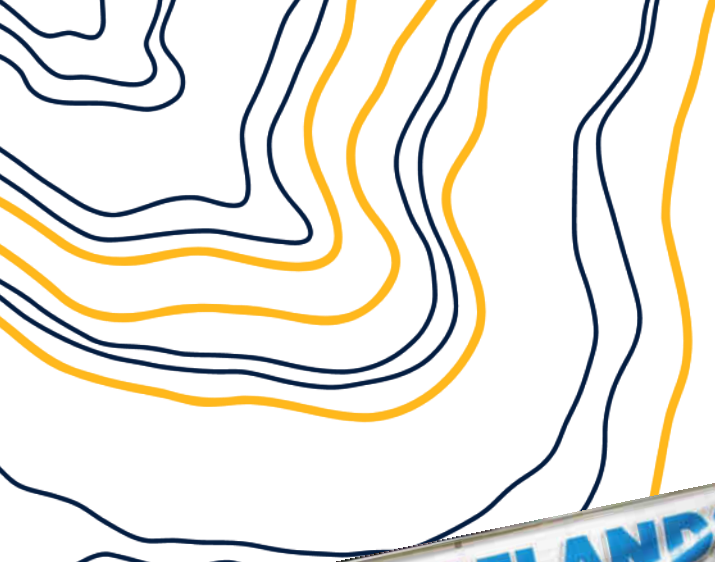
⇒ 2014 AGM Notice

⇒ Pre-Trip Inspection Guide

February 2014, Issue 411

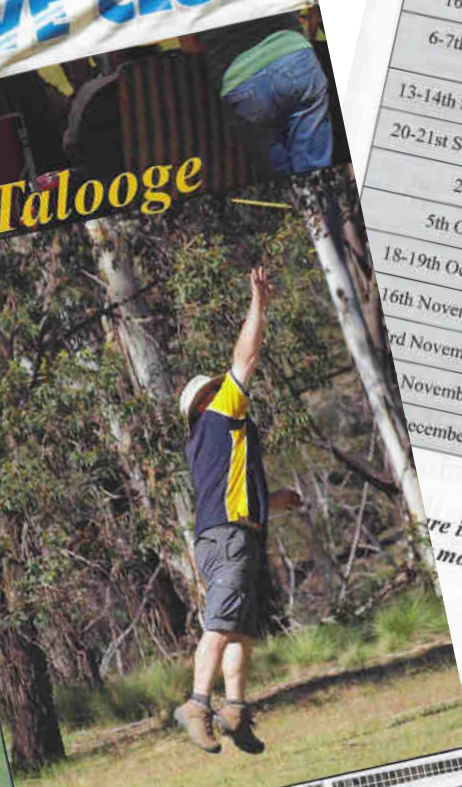
www.st4wdc.org





SOUTHERN TABLELANDS DRIVE CLUB

Christmas Party at Talooge



Trips and Events

Later in the Year

Date	Trip Name	
18th May	Winching and Recovery Course	
17-18th May	Talooge Monthly	
14-15th June	OziExplorer Nav X	NEW! Marj
21-22th June	Talooge Monthly	NEW! Mi
12-13th July	Christmas in July	NEW! Marj &
19-20th July	Talooge Monthly	NEW! Helen & Charli
9-10th August	Cold at Bendethera Caves	NEW! Marj & A
16-17th August	Talooge Monthly	NEW! Michael
6-7th September	Explore The Tracks of Abercrombie River National Park	NEW! Marj & Alan
13-14th September	"Safe One" Basic Driver Training	NEW! Michael P
20-21st September	Talooge Monthly	Peter Reyn
21st Sept	"Safe One" Follow Up Day	NEW! Marj & Alan Jo
5th October	Brindabella Classic	Peter Reynol
18-19th October	Talooge Monthly	NEW! David Rea
16th November	"Safe One" Basic Driver Training	NEW! Marj & Alan Jones
17th November	"Safe One" Follow-up Day	Peter Reynolds,
November	Talooge Monthly	NEW! Peter Reynolds, O
December	Brindabella Classic	NEW! Marj & Alan Jones, O4
		David Read 043

are interested in any of these upcoming events please contact the Trip
more information. (Please note that bookings are currently not being
accepted on the website)

February 2014

Page 19

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)



President's Report

February is the month of our promotional (promo) show the 4WD Spectacular Outdoor Recreational Show where our club, The Land Rover Club ACT and The ACT 4 Wheel Drive Club come together to showcase ourselves and our recreation/sport to the wider public. Our show is also our major fundraising event for our clubs as well as other community organisations. It will be on the 1st and 2nd of February at the Queanbeyan Showgrounds. Key charitable beneficiaries of this show are The Royal Flying Doctor Service, Australian 4WD Radio Network - VKS 737, The Snowy-hydro Southcare Helicopter Service and Frontier Services.

Our show is a unique show on the camping and outdoor show circuit. It is run wholly by volunteers from the three clubs. A committee was formed over twelve months ago with representatives from each of the clubs. Our club representatives on the committee are Marj Jones, Rosemary Orr and Garry Lymbery. A very big thank you to these people and the representatives from the other clubs for their hard work on our behalf to get this fantastic show up and running again. Thanks also to our many members who volunteer for the rosters. I know lots of you enjoy undertaking the activities each show and there will be many of our new members who will be involved for the first time.

At previous shows I often hear exhibitors remark how much they like our show because it is special to them. Again, I see the difference is that the show is run by 4WDDrivers for 4WDDrivers - helping to educate the wider public to the benefits of 4WDDriving and particularly, joining a 4WD club.

There are still the many opportunities to get a great bargain at the show from the exhibitors. I hope you have saved up for this. I will have my eyes peeled for a few items that I have been thinking of adding to our gear.

The committee wishes to thank the many members who attended the Special General Meeting on 19 December, considered the issues and expressed their thoughts and opinions. The motions passed at the meeting supported the committee's approach to review the website and investigate options. At the conclusion of the review, a report with recommendations will be made to members at a general meet-

ing.

The committee thanks members for their strong show of support at the meeting.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is next month (March). Following reports by the outgoing committee, all committee positions are declared vacant and an election held to vote in a new committee. Our AGM is a key part of the democratic management of our club. It is an opportunity for those wishing to be more involved in their club to be directly engaged including setting future directions for the club.

I urge you all to look at the members around you and where you think another member has good skills to help manage the club's affairs then approach them and discuss it with them. Your encouragement may just be what is needed for them to accept your nomination.

In this issue I have included a letter of thanks from Trish Malone, SES Queanbeyan. We have a great relationship with SES generally and many club members are also SES volunteers. I am proud that our club can help contribute to their training and skills maintenance to better the community in times of need.

A reminder to all new Basic Training is contact Peter Reynolds or spot.

Cheers,

Greg



Trip Report Talooge - le trek

November Talooge Monthly
One man's decision to attend the November Talooge Monthly raised some surprising thoughts and reflections about work, life and worth.

John Dodd



Wendie and I had decided some time ago that we wanted to go to a Talooge Monthly and November was the first time we did not have commitments. On the drive down I started to feel uncomfortable as I started to think about the tasks that I could undertake or more to the point, things I couldn't do. Wendie had had some reservations earlier on too but she was good at so many things and I just knew she could be involved in many projects - but I? Perhaps it was because I was retiring in 4 weeks I started to reflect on the work I had done over the last 51 years. This was a shock, employers had been paying me all those years and really none of what I had done seemed that useful and certainly none of it seemed transferable to a working bee at Talooge. A slight panic started to set in. You see, for years I have had this recurrent dream of a Mad Max world where all technology and society at large collapses after the holocaust. In this feudal world there was a lack of food and resources and as I could not contribute in a meaningful way I was driven out to the wilderness.

On Saturday morning we congregated at the club house where Marj and Alan Jones were organising the team. I felt comfortable for a while, tea cup in hand positioned next to the sweet biscuits. Then it was my turn, Alan looked at me and said thoughtfully 'what can we get you to do?' I those 4 seconds I imagined Alan had scanned my mind and had examined my

strengths and weaknesses, experience and lack of. H snapped into action 'we'll give you a small job to get you started'. So armed with a electric drill, two bits and some screws I had to attach some reflective tape to a fence, a wonderfully strong, robust wooden fence built in the last couple of days by Ian and Plod. I then made my way to the large shed where Wendie and Jane were clearing, cleaning, sorting and organising a million items. Feeling good that at this point that my credibility was intact I approached the shed with somewhat of a swagger holding the large electric drill as though it were a multiple grenade launcher and I had just saved the world. Wendie looked up on my approach and said 'are you OK?' and then added 'the toilets are over there if you need them'.

The remaining time on Saturday was spent being involved in several small projects, helping Glen fix the water tank supporting structure etc. and getting instruction on how to pump water from the stream in the event of bush fires. Friday and Saturday nights were spent socialising around the fire talking about important, significant things none of which I can remember now nor did I expect to.

Summary. There is something for everyone to do at Talooge. Many hands make light work and it was great that so many people arrived as the events for the Christmas party Funkhane had to be laid out for the following weekend. Talooge could probably have not looked better and we got to know other members better and met some more for the first time. A very enjoyable weekend.

Club Clothing

The Club clothing or a name badge can be ordered from Kiera Taylor at the monthly Meetings.
Payment for any item is expected when ordering.

Jackets:	
Polo Shirts:	\$95.00
Hoodies:	\$38.00
Rugby Tops:	\$48.00
Caps:	\$50.00
Bucket Hats:	\$20.00
Beanies:	\$20.00
Name Badges:	\$20.00
	\$15.00

If there is any clothing item you would like to see here please call or email Kiera.
Kiera Taylor 0419 260 925
Southern Trails Issue 411, February 2014



WADBILLIGA WANDELLA LOOP TRIP 11-12 NOVEMBER 2023



Attended: Chris Collins, Luke and Michael Guilot, Peter Dunlop, Bruce Ronning (leader)

This trip started out like a replay of the Bendethera trip two weeks earlier... breakfast at Michelago Cafe then heading east over the Tinderry's, but this time we came out a bit further south to pick up the start of Badja Fire Trail. This is a great little track, nothing too serious but a very picturesque drive including some great views east out to the rugged Tabletop peak. Onto Woila Ck FT then Falcon Rd to take us east and down to the Tuross River at Belowra. The winding descent treats our convoy to stunning views of Jillicambra's exposed pink rock across the valley. Belowra Rd takes us through rolling hills and farmland to bring us to the Tuross River crossing point where we decided to park up on the beach and roll out our awnings for lunch and a swim. The temperature up on Badja FT had been a lovely mid-twenties but down here it was high thirties, and a dip was most welcome with only Luke and Michael holding out.

The next leg of the trip took us south along Wandella Rd then turning onto Peak Alone FT up to the Peak Alone fire tower. I had planned a different route via Brassknocker Ck but a recce several weeks prior found that track to be massively overgrown to the point we were bushbashing through quite a bit of it, so that option was ruled out. It turned out that Peak Alone FT was also overgrown in places, through nowhere near as bad. Still, it was a much rougher track than I remembered from when I'd last been through there 5 or 6 years ago. Approaching the fire tower, a couple of things were noticeable.. there was a Forestry Corporation vehicle, meaning the fire tower was actually manned! Never in all my visits to various fire towers have I seen one being used, so this was a first. Secondly the air was thick with little black and orange flying beetles (might have been harlequin bugs) that were swarming around some bushes and oddly enough, the concerte trig marker. Fortunately they were not of the biting or stinging variety so at the invitation of the fire watch we made our way up into the tower to take in the views out to the ocean (and I think the guy was pleased for the company).

Coming down from Peak Alone we turned west onto Yowrie Rd and into Wadbilliga National Park towards our camp for the night, and with the temperature hitting 41 deg C hopefully also a swim! Lake Creek campground was deserted as expected so we chose the best spot right up the end directly overlooking Wadbilliga River. It's not a very big river, mostly just a shallow stream flowing over pink boulders, but this particular spot has a little waterfall and a few rock pools large enough and deep enough to swim in. I think most of us were in there before even setting up. Even Michael and Luke finally gave in to the heat and eventually joined the rest of us in the river.

In my past camping trips (before joining ST4WD Club) our group would always cook and eat together and this trip being a small group, I decided to offer a camp oven cooked beef cheek curry to share with everyone. This was accepted, and being a 2 hour cook plus prep I needed to get it started, so peeling and chopping jobs were duly assigned; Peter on onions, Chris on ginger and myself on the garlic and chilli. This made short work of the prep

[Next Page](#)

and in no time the meat was in the pot and bubbling happily along. Sadly due to a park fire ban the camp oven had to go on the gas rather than coals from the fire, but we weren't going to let that ruin a perfectly good camp. We went back into the water and stayed there while dinner was cooking.

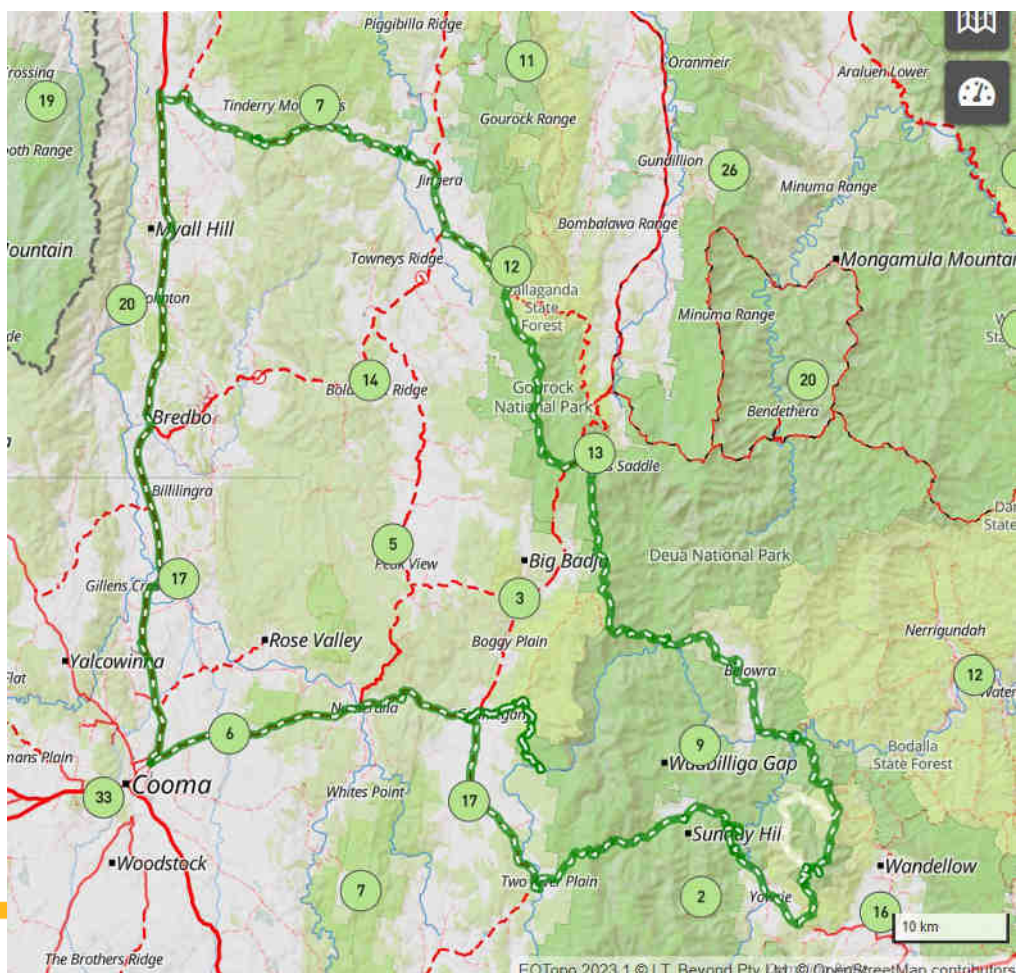
Finally, it was ready and the beef cheek (served with naan bread, rice and papadums) didn't disappoint. Forgive me for blowing my own trumpet here but I am the curry masta, learned from an Indian chef (chef not chief, haha) and various Indian friends, and fine-tuned over almost 40 years of making hundreds of curries. It's hard to miss with camp cooking but eating exotic food like this out in the bush is on another level. After a big day with full tummies and no fire, our swags were calling so after a few chocolates shared around we all turned in for an early night.

Sunday, we woke to another perfect day and after a relaxed breakfast got straight into packing up. I did not set any departure time, preferring to just "leave when we're all ready", which turned out to be earlier than usual, about 8:30am so with no reason to hang around any longer we headed west up Wadbilliga Rd. Shortly after crossing the Wadbilliga River causeway (and stopping the cars on it for a photo) the track starts ascending. The views of Wadbilliga Mountain off to the left were spectacular but unfortunately a little difficult to see from the driver's side going up. Once through Conway's Gap at the top, the scenery changes several times from tall timber to heathland and then eucalypt woodland. There are a few gates where the road passes through private property and again crosses to Tuross River, this time on the high side of the escarpment, just before exiting the Park into Tuross Rd.

Next was our last stop for the day and probably the highlight of the trip. The Cascades are a series of waterfalls on the Tuross River, the feature of which is a deep pool between large slabs of rock. The upper slab forms a sloping water slide where the water falls. You sit yourself in a small depression at the top, push off and down you go sliding into the pool with a splash. As you can imagine, this is a popular place in the warmer months but as we'd gotten there early, we had the whole place to ourselves and we spent the next hour enjoying it. The last thing to do was check out the campground which is upriver a little from the swimming area. We all agreed it was a very nice camping area, especially the spots overlooking the river (sites are numbered but according to the website, not assigned so it's first in best dressed to get a good one). The campground fronts a long lagoon with steps providing easy access to sandy areas. Good for swimming and canoeing. Sites are accessible directly by vehicle and connected to the falls by a walking track, and for the keen hikers there is a longer track to Tuross Falls further down.

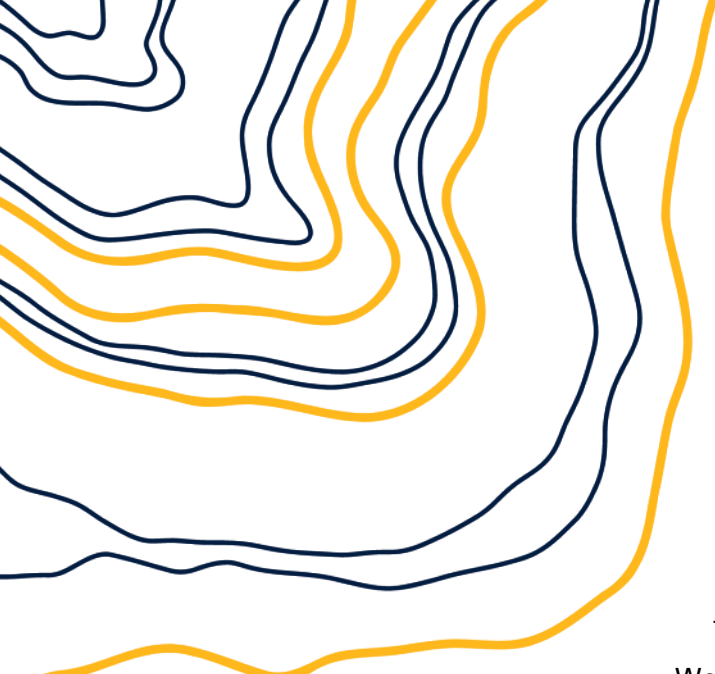
Overall this was a great trip and one I will definitely run again. Thanks to Chris, Peter, Michael and Luke.

Bruce Ronning



[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)



I often explore places in the Deau National Park and feel like there are only a few places I have not explored within the park but somehow I have managed to completely avoid its closest neighbour Wadbiliga all together. So when I saw the trip posted by Bruce on the ST4WDC trips page and it was going to places I hadn't been it was an easy decision to nominate for the trip.

On the day of the trip, we assembled promptly for a 9am departure from Michelago and after everyone had topped up caffeine levels we were ready for departure. Day 1 was a scorcher reaching 41 degrees at some points so the lunch stop by the river for a quick dip was a welcome addition to the trip and well planned by Bruce, our trip leader for this trip.

We arrived to a completely empty Lake Creek camp ground around 3pm which gave us ample opportunity to laze around in the river for a while and set up in a relaxed way. It also enabled Bruce to demonstrate his superior culinary skills and cooked up a storm for trip members with a sensational beef cheeks curry which was nothing short of restaurant worthy.

After dinner, another quick swim and we called it an early night as a welcoming cold front came through dropping temps and allowing for a peaceful nights rest.

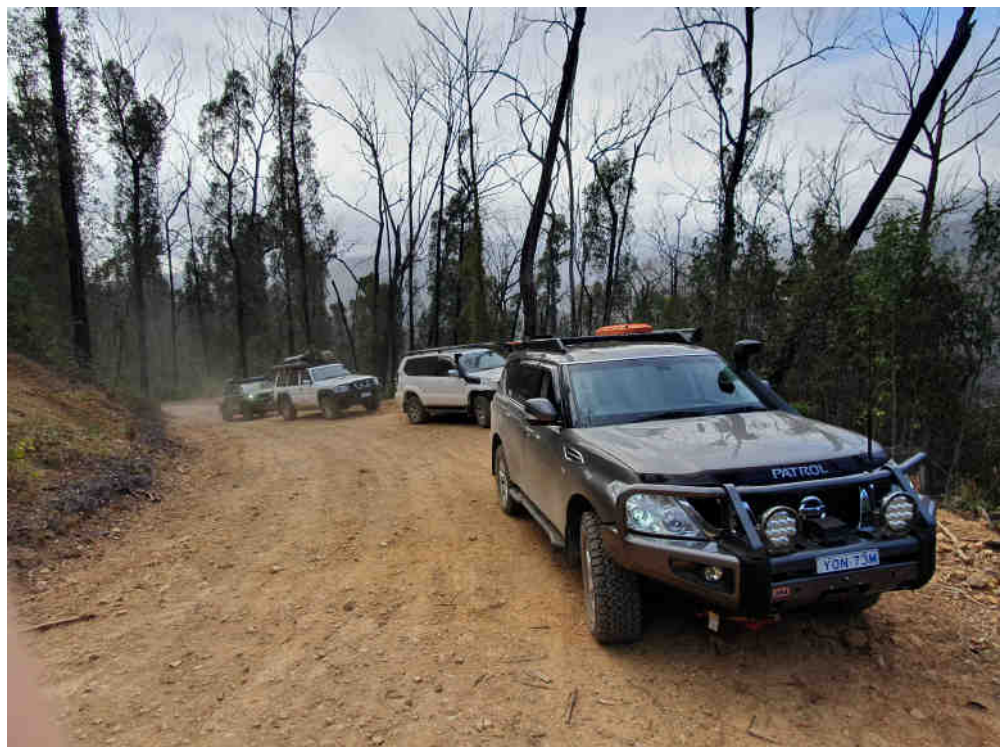
Day 2 was just as good if not better than day 1. Another swim, and a quick feed and we were on the road nice and early. Day 2 offered us some magical scenery with sharp rock faces and views for days. We arrived at the Cascades campground mid morning and thankfully due our early start, had the swimming area all to ourselves which was very special. A site I will certainly be bringing the family back to in future.

Overall, the trip provided the perfect balance of relaxing, sightseeing, and some scenery that was postcard worthy. The company and food was great, and the 4WDing good fun. Especially for those who like discovering new places and the sightseeing as much as the drive itself.

Thanks to Bruce for leading the trip and a huge thanks for revealing your inner chef to club members. I also want thank everyone else who attended for making the trip a fun and relaxing weekend.

Peter Dunlop

[Next Page](#) [Previous Page](#)





Under the leadership of Bruce, we started with a hearty breakfast at the Michelago General Store. After enjoying the newly added Big Breakfast, we all set off and went down Burra Road. After we enjoyed our recce a few weeks back, we were hoping for less stress and less pin stripes. The roads were in good nick and encountered a few other vehicles with nothing too technical. We stopped at the lovely spot on the river for lunch with everyone going for a

dip! We got to the Peak alone fire tower and enjoyed conversation with the watchman and also learning about the surroundings. We reached camp and everyone with their different set ups got busy with establishing their sleeping quarters. Shortly after the swim, we all chipped in to help with dinner that Bruce was leading. After a few hours and a few swims, we enjoyed an amazing curry assembled by Bruce – he can do everything. We all retired early and enjoyed the serenity of the pitter-patter of a small rain shower. After packing up in the morning, we loved a short trip to Cascades and all got our inner child on and went a slide in the rock pool. We explored the upstream pools and took some happy snaps of Bruce enjoying the water. We had some lunch at the nearby camp sites and got on our way home. All in all – a great weekend – still perplexed why the National Parks has limited the site to 4, where as at least 20 vehicles could fit. Thanks Bruce.

Chris Collins



[Previous Page](#)

[Return to Content Page](#)

SOCIAL CLUB ACTIVITIES

Welcome to the new year everyone,

I am organising the first get together for the year to sort out the social events for the ST4WDC Social Group

A bit of background, the social group was set up as an informal group that is open to all members to arrange social outings and bring club members together, other than on trips. Please note the social group is not part of the committee.

Some of the past events have included,

- Thank God it's Friday
- The Christmas barn / pub lunch at Bredbo
- Araluan trip
- Weekends of golf
- Axe throwing competitions
- Paint and sip
- Camp oven cook offs
- Trivia

with the main event being the end of year party, which is always a fun weekend.

To help lighten the load and gain a diverse range of events, I am looking for people to help with event ideas and a bit of organisation. Meetings of the social group will be held every second month and alternate between North and South side venues so as to accommodate all members.

The first meeting will be held at the Weston Creek Raiders Club on 27 February. Dinner is from 6 pm and the meeting will commence at 7 pm. Please nominate on the website under events to attend.

If you can't make the meeting but have some ideas. Please email me at social@st4wdc.com.au

Sarah Wallace

OUTDOOR RECIPES

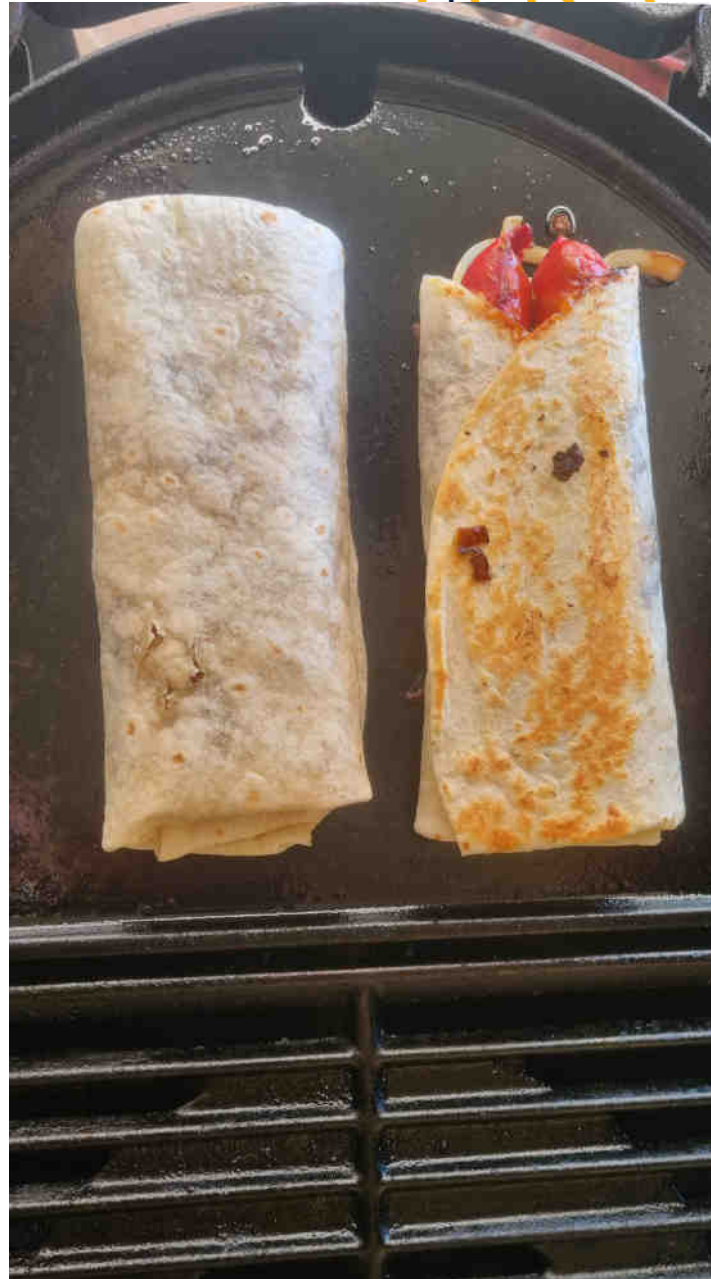
The Hotdog's Rap

An easy, 1-handed meal with lower carbs by not using buns. A bonus is that wraps last longer and are easier on space in the truck / van than hotdog buns / rolls.

- Hotdog(s) (1 or 2 / person - I'm usually hungry so 2!)
- Large soft wrap (plain or multi-grain)
- Onions, olive (or other) oil
- Cheese - your favourite type
- Mustard, tomato and / or BBQ sauce

Cook onions on a BBQ plate with oil. Heat up hotdogs - grill marks look good - not that you can see them inside the wrap! (can substitute snags for the hotdogs but takes longer to cook!). Once done place hotdogs and onions in the soft wrap with cheese, mustard and sauces. Fold into the top 2/3rds of the wrap. Place folded side down on BBQ plate in the left over oil for a few minute (seals the wrap), then turn over until the cheese is melted.

Rob Davidson (not a chef but Editor of ST)



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

Your Help is Needed *(don't leave all recipes to me and a few others!)*
If you have something better than the above recipe, send the recipe and photos to 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



- **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.



VIC HIGH COUNTRY

RAMBLE 2023

3-7 DECEMBER 2023

Trip Leaders: Michael Patrick,
Matt Warmington, Rob Phillips



As I have always said you can expect the Victorian High Country will deliver this.

The mountain environment can change at any time so be prepared for hot and possibly cold extreme conditions with potential for Rain, Snow, High Winds, Flooding, Extreme Creek Crossings, Deep Bog Holes, and Bush Fires. Possible early trip closures due to potentially dangerous conditions can occur.

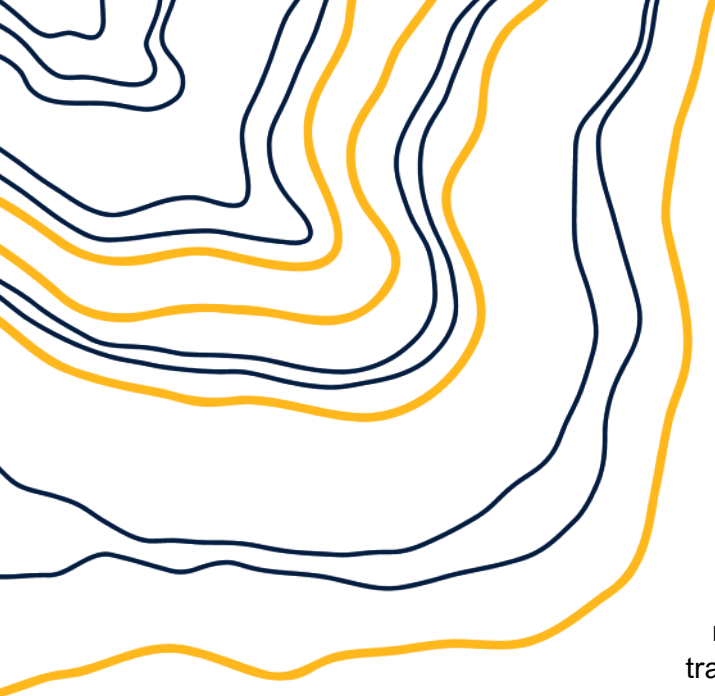
Well 200mm of Rain the day we arrived

As per usual replanning was carried out

The greatest statement ever made was if you don't have a plan nothing will go wrong.

Michael P





The Trip that Wasn't (Dargo)

Laura and myself were looking forward to the Dargo trip for some months and the weather forecast was supposed to be improving as the week progressed.

Because we live at Yass we decided to make our own way down the Hume highway, with our Coromal camper in tow, cutting about 90 minutes off the trip. All good so far. The day started clear and sunny. Once we turned towards Mt Hotham from Wangaratta the heavens opened and didn't let up all day. After Bright our GPS and mobile coverage started to wane. The day was cold, raining and bleak. As we progressed towards Mt Hotham the Ranger didn't feel right. I hadn't put it into manual mode early enough and as you would expect the transmission over heated. Mmm. The smell of burnt oil! For the rest of the trip, I had to nurse the car, not knowing if the transmission was stuffed or not.

We didn't see any right turn at Mt Hotham. We were looking intently but missed it. Next stop was for fuel at Omeo. Still raining. The fuel attendant advised that we had missed the Dargo turn off and that it was another two hour drive. Down Castilles road we drove, over the bridge and turn right. Dirt road. That's normally no problem but all the rain had caused a few quite deep fords. We didn't want to get stranded between two and have to wait for the rain to subside so chickened out and reverse tracked to Omeo.

By this time I was pretty pissed and decided that the planets definitely weren't in alignment and that after about eight hours driving I was going to call it all off. Laura called the Dargo River Inn and apologised for the cancellation and asked that Michael Patrick be advised of our cancellation also.

The decision was made that we would go home via Bairnsdale and Orbost, then Bombala, Cooma and home. At one bridge the car aqua planed through water on the road losing traction for a few seconds. Not long after a couple of dash warning lights illuminated. A few kilometres on and I lost all power and coasted to a stand still on the side of the road. Shit! A reset of the ignition got us on our way but I was dubious whether we were to make it home.

Cooma, after 12.5 hours drive was enough for one day. A motel, Chinese takeaway, a hot shower and a few amber bottles were needed. A fresh start on Sunday morning saw us home at about 1000.

Despite early weather indications that the trip and tracks could be a wash out, the Vic High Country trip turned out to be a good balance of time together getting to know each other while waiting for rain to subside and getting out onto some of the familiar and some new tracks.

Rod & Laura



As usual, Michael's organising skills and impromptu decision-making abilities were obvious from Day one. His preparation of the overall trip and coordination while on the ground were great.

The tracks were sometimes challenging but always well led by the four group leaders who all led the groups to some fun driving and adventurous exploring.

Thanks again for bringing us back to familiar tracks and to the VHC which never seems to disappoint.

Ethan

I thoroughly enjoyed the high country retreat. Going to Dargo for the first time. Climbing iconic peaks such as Billy Goats and Blue Rag.

I especially enjoyed socialising with other members on the track, in the campground and in the pub.

Jasper



Another great trip, thanks Michael. Thanks also to Matt W and Rob P for trip leading.

After plenty of rain in the Vic High Country before we arrived and on Saturday, the tracks on Monday and after had dried out and were great, though we avoided river crossings. I only did 2 days then headed out Wednesday. Day 1 up Billy Goats and home via McDonalds Gap track and then the next day to Blue Rag via Ritchie Road and Basalt Knob North track. Both days were great with excellent driving and scenery. Lots of great comments and insights from our leader, thanks Matt.

Really enjoyed the stay at Dargo getting to know more club members and catching up with friends.

Overall, this was Debbie and my second time to the Vic High Country, and it's still one of my favourite club trips.

Rob D

Great to spend a mostly dry week with the club members in the Victorian high country again. Thanks to Michael Patrick for the organisation and Kelly at the Dargo River Inn for hospitality. Dargo was known for a few decades during the Gold rush days though it would have been a tough climate with very few making any fortune. It almost faded away in mid 20th century but is now regularly visited by campers, walkers, 4wd people, bike riders and road maintenance crews who support and maintain two pubs in town.

After the rain stopped and the creeks were able to be crossed, we drove to different areas including the former township of Grant, Talbotville and Dog's Grave. Inevitably there were ups and downs each day to test the vehicles, drivers and passengers. The hill top views and lunch spots were spectacular.

Tony and Cynthia

The sky opened up. The trailer brakes locked. There was no room at the Inn. The wise men slept on straw at the motel with only Netflix. A bit of a clearing and the mud turned back to clay. We went down the hill and up the hill.

Michael regaled that the Challenger was so fast up the hill, it was always in his bum and he didn't have time to stop for a pee.

At days end we watched Pat Cullinan staring at a map, to find a way around all those raging torrents.

We, however, were sipping weak de-café lattes at the Dargo store. All the while sitting on ancient Sunshine harvester seats.

The crowds around the petrol pump cleared.

It was time for that iconic Dargo pub shot.

Glynn and Rosemary

Thanks Michael, Matt and Rob for leading the teams out of Dargo. Although some restrictions were in place in relation to river crossings, each day trip was an awesome experience non the less.

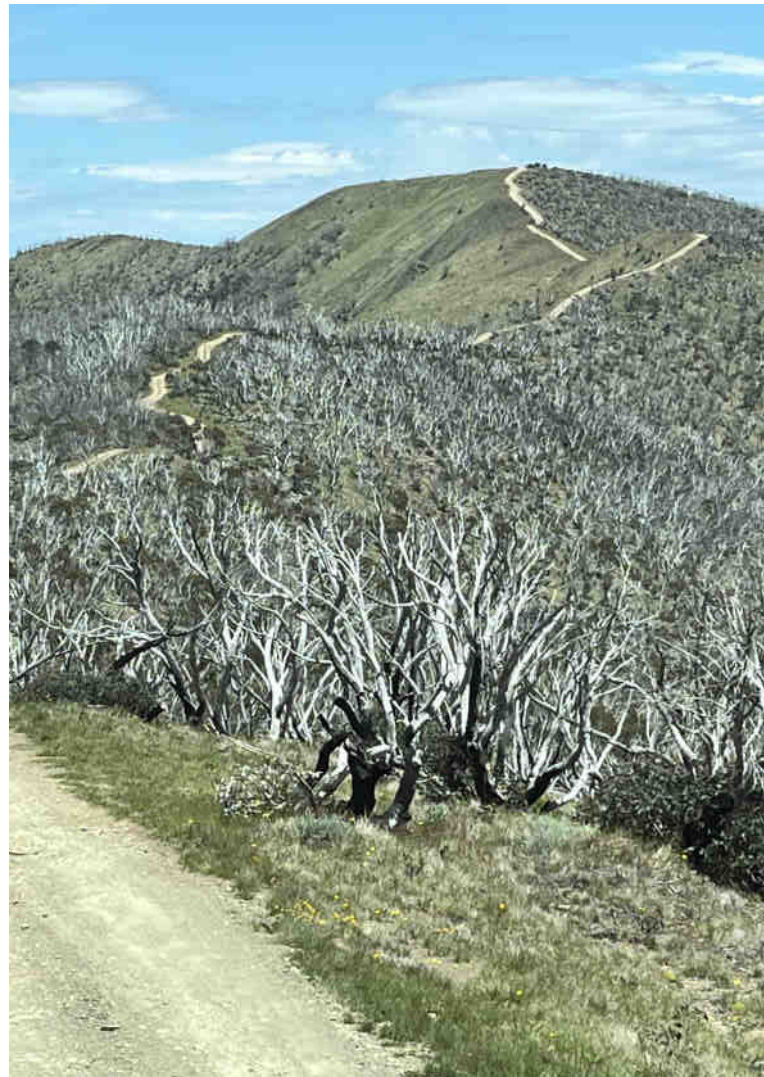
Highlights for me were:

- Talbotville,
- descending & ascending Conway
- descending Billy Goat,
- Links Tk, and
- the company of fellow club members.

Come on 2024 for more fun around the Vic High Country.

Bart Koot

As we live on a farm 3½ hours from Canberra we rarely get to participate in club trips, but one we always try to do is Vic Highlands. This year was our fifth club trip into the Vic Highlands and for us our trek began on Sunday and we dragged the caravan over the Great Alpine Road, an 8 hour trip of endless curves and hills. We arrived to a very warm welcome from many friends that we don't see anywhere near enough. By the time we arrived Michael Patrick had sussed out the damage done by 250mm of rain and re-jigged all the trips and



condensed the groups from five to three due to the rain impact on the tracks and rivers plus the attendees.

Our fearless leader was Matt W and we had a convoy of 8. We did Billy Goat on Monday and I was trepidacious because of the volume of rain but we were surprised how dry the tracks were. Back at the pub by 3 ish and then onto happy hour at 5 then sit by the fire until bedtime. This is what ST4WDC Vic High Country 4WDing is all about. We were in our new Ford Ranger cab chassis and spent the day learning what it liked and didn't like. Had a few problems early on at Billy Goat and eventually I got the rear tyres down to 18 and everything was fine. I totally forgot it had a diff locker. Ooops. Had an issue with transmission running hotter than I liked so spent the time being very gentle with the car. I didn't realise the tranny gets just as hot going down hill as uphill. Tuesday we did Blue Rag which we had never done before and that was a more scenic run which we used high range for most of the time.

After being tossed around for two days we welcomed a lay day on Wednesday. We went to Soda Fish at Lakes Entrance for a very nice seafood lunch.

Thursday we only had six cars and it was a very different way of getting to Dogs Grave. A very steep descent down to the river. Rather than do another tough track back home we decided we'd had enough so returned to base while some of the others went to play in the mud. As Friday was expected to rain again we decided to pull the pin and head home, this time via Melbourne and the freeways.

The best part of the trip was the camaraderie that happens with these types of trips. Met a great bunch of new people and so happy to catch up again with old friends we don't see often enough. It wouldn't be a ST4WDC trip if we didn't pay out on Michael P but even though he isn't necessarily on the trip, we always

feel safe knowing that he has planned the trip and wouldn't send us where we might be unsafe. And Matt W was such a laid back leader – nothing was a problem and we think he always knew where he was going as he never had to turn around. Thanks to all who shared our trip with us – we really enjoyed it. Unfortunately we won't make next years trip but we'll certainly be on another trip.

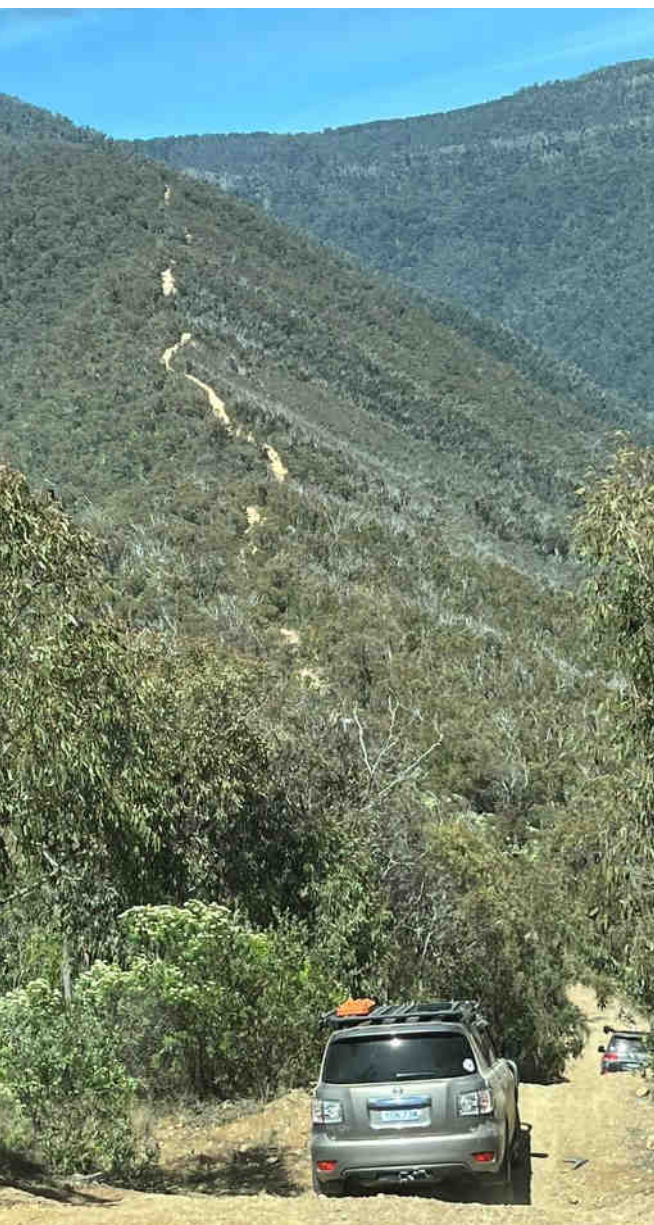
Bruce and Carol McKenzie

The weather forecast had us a bit nervous with 250mm of rain falling in Dargo. We imagined some very slippery and muddy conditions were waiting for us. As it turned out the slippery and muddy conditions were confined to the Dargo River Inn Caravan Park.

Monday's drive to Dogs Grave and Harrison's Cut was deliberately easy as we didn't know what conditions we were going to face. The tracks were surprisingly in excellent condition. Thanks Ken for leading the Harrison's Cut part of the trip and taking us to an interesting hunters camp just near the Cut.

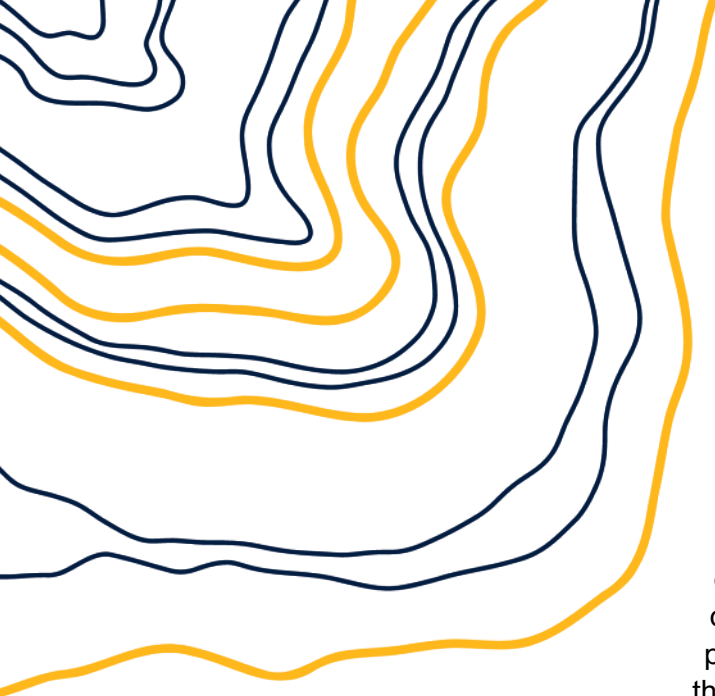
Tuesday's drive was a bit more adventurous. We headed to the historic town of Grant then onto Talbotville. Unable to cross the Crooked River we ventured back up the hill and followed the Conway Track back to the river. The views as we descended Conway were spectacular.

Wednesday was a rest day and Thursday our group joined with Michael's to tackle Billy Goats Bluff Track. This track is



[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)



an iconic track that everyone wants to experience, and it didn't disappoint. The views were impressive.

Even though the driving was great, the highlight of the trip was connecting with other members around a fire or on Michael's verandah.

Thanks Michael for a great trip.

Sue and Rob

After a wet start to the trip Dargo turned on some great weather and allowed us to get out to some fun tracks such as Conway, Matheson and of course Billy Goat. I wrapped up the week with a trip up through Blue Rag on the way home. It was great to catch up with some old friends and meet some new ones. I look forward to the "perfect" weather we have been promised for next year but as always, you never know what the High Country will deliver.

Rob J

Ann and Josie joined me this year, their first time to VHC so I was keen to show them some of the famous places. Unfortunately weather intervened for the second year running, severely limiting track access. Still, we were able to do Billy Goats Bluff Track and take in the magnificent views from The Pinnacles. Hoping for better luck next year.

BR.

The Victorian High Country ramble out of Dargo in early December was our first club trip (aside from the Brindabellas). A big shout-out to Michael for planning this event, and his team leaders (especially Matt, who was team lead for the group we were allocated to). Some good rains over East Gippsland during the week before the event made sure that Michael and his trip leaders had to re-plan some of the tracks (and this was done on the Sunday, which was to be our first day on the tracks), as there was too much water still flowing. The Wonnangatta and Dargo rivers were close to lapping the underside of the bridges. The planned 5 groups were blended into 3, and Michael proudly announced that Matt's team will be the guinea pigs for the run up Billy Goats. What didn't help that first night (Sunday) was that while having dinner at the Dargo River Inn, a pair of very lovely senior local ladies, when asked by Maream if this track is dangerous, said "Oh yes, every year many people fall off this track, and the helicopter rescuers are very busy". LOL.

We went into the first day (Monday 4/12) a bit apprehensive, and with Maream asking why this is seen by me as "fun" while gripping the arm rest of the car and meditating, as we ascended Billy Goat Bluff Track. But this soon dissolved into enthusiasm-the track had dried a lot and the scenery was breathtaking from the helipad halfway up, the bluff, and of course from the fire watch tower at the Pinnacles lookout. Amazing 360 views far and wide. We arrived back at the Dargo pub elated, and happily no battle damage to the (until now) quite new '200. No new bush stripes, a great day!.

Day 2 (Tuesday): We went up & down some steep tracks, as far as a trig point at Blue Rag that again has 360 views around Selwyn, Buffalo River and Hotham Heights. Another great day, led by Matt. Day 3 was a rest day. Day 4 (Thursday 7/12): Our destination for today was "Harrisons Cut" and "Dogs Grave" along the Birregun Road. While less steep and lacking in high 360 views, there were other challenges. On the way home Matt offered an early return route home, or "explore further". 2 went home, and Matt and 3 other vehicles including us "explored further", at the turnoff from Birregun Road onto "Murdering Spur Track". Soon after the track narrowed substantially, and with no turning points and steep downhill toward Danes Creek and the Wentworth River, there was no turning around now. The 'cruiser got its battle scars from the ever-encroaching shrubs, but no panel damage. On the way one of the vehicles needed to be pulled out of a bog-hole, and we only got as far as the



creek. After stripping down to my jocks and wading into depth-check, it was decided that the base is too muddy and still too free-flowing, and we will return up the track we had just come down. It was also one of those "4 o'clock tracks" that perhaps shouldn't be done in the afternoon. More scratches were inevitable. By this time I had come to expect that it's a 4WD and this is what is meant to happen, although begrudgingly. We got back to camp, where Michael advised that beyond the river the track gets worse. Edit: At the Dargo General Store I bought the "Rooftop Adventure Series Map" map for the area, which advises "From ford south on Dane Track there is 500m of possibly very boggy track to negotiate". So, Michael's advice is vindicated. Seeing as though by now it's almost 4PM, a great decision by Matt to turn around. We arrived back at camp just in time for the organised dinner at the Inn. On the Friday, most people including us bugged out, with some making the quick return to be at the Club's Christmas do at Burrinjuck, we returned west to Sale for an early Christmas gathering with family, before a further week's slow return back up the coast to the ACT. Thanks again Michael & Matt.

Chris and Maream

After a good two hundred mm of rain we were all a bit dubious of what the tracks would be like . So we were all pleasantly surprised when we firstly drove Billy Goats Bluff through to the Pinnacles and home via the back way.

Day two was Blue Rag Trig Point. Finally this one has been on my bucket list for a while.

Next was nice relaxing lay day.

Third days driving was to Dogs Grave with after a trip down to the river via Mt Ewan Jeep Track and Matheson Track only to be turned around at the river crossing. After lunch we decided we were up for an adventure so we headed towards the Murdering Spur Track (This is where I lost my driver seat to my co driver Fiona) we headed in via Dane Creek with our leader for the day Matt managing to get his Patrol to the top of his wheels. After a little thinking we decided to winch the Patrol out forwards from the front of another vehicle we managed to get around. After being turned around by yet another high river crossing we headed back home the way we went in.

The last day of driving was spent in via the Grant Cemetery with a morning spent exploring the area before heading home.

Thanks to Matt Warmington for leading our group and to Michael Patrick for putting together another Vic High Country Ramble

Rob and Fiona Stevenson

Another wonderful trip into the high country, a bit wet to start but the weather cleared up and stayed sunny whilst we were exploring the tracks. Billy Goats was fun though the steps appeared to be getting harder, always a good workout going up that one. Blue Rag was spectacular as usual, we met one of a group of motorbikes on the top, the others didn't make it up. Not sure how it would feel on a bike but the Patrol just climbed to the top easily. Dogs Grave was a nice trip though the river was up and so we didn't get to do Stockyard Spur. Also no snow this year! To make up for it we went exploring down Dane Track towards Murdering Spur Track. Unfortunately I managed to get stuck in the mud and had to be recovered. One of

the pitfalls of being trip leader is you don't benefit from someone else tackling obstacles first. Plenty of cleaning to do once I got home. Didn't make it to Murdering Spur though as there was a river crossing at the bottom of Dane Track which was a bit difficult. We invoked the 4 o'clock rule and turned around, making it back to camp in time for a lovely lamb roast.

A great trip once again, many thanks to MP for organising it.

Matt Warmington

A very enjoyable week—thank you Michael for organising and the trip leaders for your guiding. The format of base camping and then daily trips is relaxing and provides flexibility to adjust plans according to weather and trail conditions—as was required due to the preceding rain the week prior. I enjoyed the opportunity to meet other members of the club. As this was my first trip to the VHC, driving many trails that I had previously heard of was exciting. The highlight was the last day, driving Blue Rag while a storm was threatening from the West.

Ken



OUR CLUB SPONSORS

Platinum Sponsor



4X4 ACCESSORIES



NOW OPEN

We have moved to our brand new location.

**CNR Albany Street & Gladstone Street
Fyshwick**



BULL BARS
& PROTECTION



ROOF
RACKS



CANOPIES
& UTE LIDS



SUSPENSION
UPGRADES



CAMPING
GEAR



DRIVING
LIGHTS



TOWING



DRAWERS
& STORAGE



4X4 ACCESSORIES

arb.com.au 1300 272 484 (02) 6280 7475

HAVE YOU HEARD?

FREE MEAL

If you present a trip report at a Club meeting, at the next Club meeting you will get your meal paid for by the ST4WDC.

(you will also gain confidence in developing presentations *or* even in public speaking!)

Details of how the meal will be paid for are being finalised.

PHOTO THEME

Each month the Southern Trials will have a photo theme, this month it is K'gari (previously known as Fraser Island). If you have a series of photos that feature an Australian 4x4 location and would like them published, please email publications@st4wdc.com.au

**Next month's theme -
outback / bush astrophotography or
night photography**

Joining 2 Snatch Straps

EDUCATION COORDINATOR'S TIPS AND TRICKS

Bron Squire, the ST4WDC Education Coordinator, has provided information on joining 2 or more snatch straps (or snatch straps & winch extension straps) when you can't get close enough to the stuck vehicle with a single strap.

1. **Hold**
or
"Grab the Rabbit"



2. **Over**
or
"Choke the Rabbit"



3. **Under**
or
"Stuff the Rabbit"



**Straps
Joined**



OUR CLUB SPONSORS

Gold Sponsor



Tracks Adventure Gear are Canberra's locally owned & operated, specialist adventure gear store.

Specialist 4x4 upgrades & custom automotive fitters specialising in bullbars, suspension, towbars, roof top tents, roof racks & platforms, long range fuel tanks, lift kits, mirrors, side & rear steps, towing equipment, winches, snorkels, LED driving lights, auto electrical, lithium batteries, 12v dual battery & solar systems...plus heaps of other camping & off-road lifestyle equipment.

Tracks Adventure Gear sell and fit all the gear to get you ready for your next adventure. Their friendly team will help you find the right auto accessories & products from a range of premium brands such as Driftn Stockton, ARB, Thule, Rhino Rack, Hayman Reese plus many more.

Drop in on Simmo, Glen, and the staff at:

72 Dundas Court, Phillip, ACT

P: (02) 6162 1929

E: sales@tracksadventuregear.com.au

Our sincere apology to Simmo, Glen, and the team for missing publishing their advertisement in previous issues of the Southern Trails.

Member Spotlight
on

Ricky Woltring
(and Jeffrey the MU-X)

Why did you join the ST4WD Club?

So we didn't destroy our expensive new car (Jeffrey the MU-X)

How long have you been a member?

Just over 12 months

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

I'm not sure I could

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

The information & advice upon asking and the welcoming attitudes of members

My beginning driver training & the follow up drive in the Brindabellas

What was your most enjoyable trip?

What trips are on your bucket list?

Around Australia, started in April '23 (currently on the trip and in WA)



Member Spotlight

CLUB MEETINGS

7-30pm, 2nd Tuesday of each month

Canberra Deakin Football Club, Grose St, Deakin, ACT

Next Meeting

February - usual meeting room

The Club bistro will be open. Why not eat your meal with other members around a table in the meeting room prior to the start of the meeting.

Craig Thomas, President of the 4WD NSW & ACT Association, will talk about

- what the Association has been up to and achieved
- what they could potentially do for us
- give the key benefits of being in the Association *and*
- have a question / answer session.

Last Meeting

January

Matt Maddigan provided an overview of his approach from taking a trip idea to a planned and published trip.

Thanks Matt, it was well received with many questions and comments.

Do you have questions, feedback or suggestions for the club?

Good. We want to hear them...



Questions, feedback and suggestions

What would you like to know?
What do you want the club to know?

Scan the QR code to send us your questions, feedback or suggestions.

You can put your name to it or make it anonymous.

It's up to you.



***Don't
hold
back.***

***Let
'em
rip
and
we'll
see
what
we
can
do!***

Scan the QR code or use the link to go straight to the feedback form:
<https://forms.office.com/r/jFR6LNUWTq>

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.

Title	Type	Grade	Trip Leader	From	To
Talooge Muster	Trip	NR	Brad Wells	9-Feb-24	11-Feb-24
Limestone Creek Camping VHC	Trip	Grade 4	Bruce Ronning	10-Feb-24	11-Feb-24
Vehicle and Recovery Equipment Evaluation	Training	NR	Bronwyn Squire	13-Feb-24	13-Feb-24
"Safe One" Basic Driver Training Course	Training	NR	Bronwyn Squire	16-Feb-24	18-Feb-24
Wee Jasper	Trip	Grade 2	Ethan Taylor	17-Feb-24	18-Feb-24
Trips and Activities Symposium	Trip	NR	Michael Patrick	20-Feb-24	20-Feb-24
Brindabella Ramble	Trip	Grade 3	Troy Larke	25-Feb-24	25-Feb-24
Day Loop on Your Doorstep	Trip	Grade 2	Roland Pittar	25-Feb-24	25-Feb-24
Social Group Meeting	Trip	NR	Sarah Wallace	27-Feb-24	27-Feb-24
Trip Leader Workshop	Training	NR	Michael Patrick	27-Feb-24	27-Feb-24
Expression of Interest Chainsaw Awareness Workshop	Training	NR	Michael Kerr	1-Mar-24	1-Mar-23
Long Plain Huts Tour	Trip	Grade 3	Bruce Ronning	2-Mar-24	3-Mar-24
Sand Driving and River Crossing Course	Training	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire	2-Mar-24	3-Mar-24
Canberra Balloon Spectacular	Trip	NR	Michael Patrick	9-Mar-24	17-Jan-70
Sculpture down the Lachlan	Trip	Grade 1	Lynne Donaldson	9-Mar-24	11-Mar-24
HEMA Maps Cloud Workshop	Training	NR	Michael Patrick	10-Mar-24	10-Mar-24
Chill Out with the Goats	Trip	Grade 2	Bruce McKenzie	29-Mar-24	1-Apr-24
Basic Winching and Recovery Course	Training	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire	5-Apr-24	7-Apr-24
Intermediate Driving Course (Difficult Terrain)	Trip	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire	5-Apr-24	7-Apr-24
Talooge Muster	Trip	NR	Brad Wells	5-Apr-24	7-Apr-24
Mystery Bay	Trip	Grade 2	Michael Patrick	13-Apr-24	14-Apr-24
From The Mountains To The Ocean	Trip	Grade 3	Matthew Maddigan	15-Apr-24	19-Apr-24
Tasmania Touring & Camp; Tracks	Trip	Grade 3	Ethan Taylor	15-Apr-24	26-Apr-24
Wyangala Dam	Trip	Grade 4	Troy Larke	20-Apr-24	21-Apr-24
"Safe One" Basic Driver Training Course	Training	NR	Bronwyn Squire	1-May-24	3-May-24
"Safe One" Basic Driver Training Course	Training	NR	Bronwyn Squire	3-May-24	5-May-24
Brindabella Ramble	Trip	Grade 3	Troy Larke	12-May-24	12-May-24
Kowen Forest	Trip	Grade 3	Matthew Maddigan	18-May-24	19-May-24
Expression of interest in HEMA GPS Navigation Workshop	Trip	NR	Michael Patrick	27-May-24	27-May-24
Expression of interest in OziExplorer GPS Navigation Work-	Trip	NR	Michael Patrick	2-Jun-24	2-Jun-24
Canning Stock Route	Trip	Grade 4	Lindsay Jones	2-Jul-24	24-Jul-24
Abercrombie River National Park	Trip	Grade 3	Michael Patrick	17-Aug-24	18-Aug-24
Talooge Muster	Trip	NR	Brad Wells	7-Sep-24	8-Sep-24
"Safe One" Basic Driver Training Course	Training	NR	Bronwyn Squire	20-Sep-24	22-Sep-24
Brindabella Ramble	Trip	Grade 3	Troy Larke	29-Sep-24	29-Sep-24
Basic Winching and Recovery Course	Training	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire	18-Oct-24	20-Oct-24
Intermediate Winching and Recovery Course	Training	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire	18-Oct-24	20-Oct-24
Talooge Muster	Trip	NR	Brad Wells	18-Oct-24	20-Oct-24
"Safe One" Basic Driver Training Course	Training	NR	Bronwyn Squire	30-Oct-24	1-Nov-24
"Safe One" Basic Driver Training Course	Training	NR	Bronwyn Squire	1-Nov-24	3-Nov-24
Brindabella Ramble	Trip	Grade 3	Troy Larke	10-Nov-24	10-Nov-24
Vic High Country Ramble 2024	Trip	Grade 4	Michael Patrick	16-Nov-24	23-Nov-24

ACTIVE TRIP LEADERS IN 2023

*A big **THANKYOU** to all those
who lead trips in 2023*

Andrew Squire
Andy Wall
Ann Ronning
Brad Wells
Bronwyn Squire
Bruce Ronning
Ethan Taylor
Lynne Donaldson
Matthew Maddigan
Michael Patrick
Rob Donaldson
Robert Stevenson
Shea Jost

with a couple of their photos



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

Gold Sponsor



64 Kembla St,
Fyshwick ACT 2609
02 6103 0500
info@action4x4.net.au



**MANY OF OUR FANTASTIC SPONSORS OFFER CLUB MEMBER DISCOUNTS.
PLEASE ASK AT TIME OF PURCHASE.**



OUR CLUB SPONSORS

Gold Sponsors

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.



Fyshwick
02 6280 6222

Mitchell
02 6241 5898

Belconnen
02 6162 3808

**Canberra Caravan
and 4X4 Centre**
02 6280 0655



YOUR LOCAL BATTERY EXPERTS



OPEN 6 DAYS

(02) 6282 9884

95 GRENVILLE COURT PHILLIP ACT



MANY OF OUR FANTASTIC SPONSORS OFFER CLUB MEMBER DISCOUNTS. PLEASE ASK AT TIME OF PURCHASE.



Bronze Sponsor



Watts Communications is a family owned & operated business established in Canberra for over 25 years. They are your one stop shop for all of your two-way radio, UHF CB radio, GPS navigation & GPS vehicle tracking needs. They have an extensive showroom and a fully equipped workshop to undertake installations into all types of vehicles.

Bronze Sponsor

Sales & Service

Australian Campers & Accessories

(02) 4624 9911

info@camperact.com.au



Trade Sponsors

The Traditional Furniture Restorer

Contact Garry at 0409 443 254

Around Town Plumbing Service

Contact Lynne at 0412 251 528

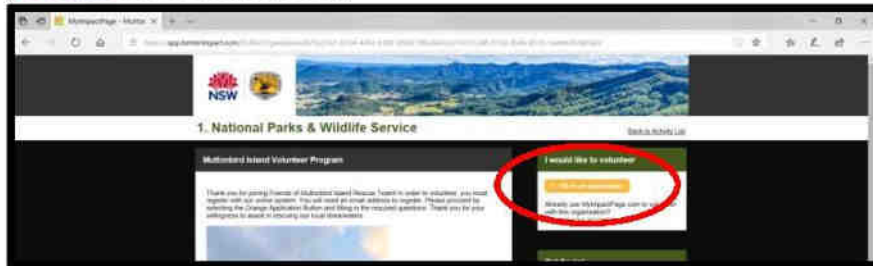
**Please support our Bronze and Trade Sponsors
who
support the ST4WDC**



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". Below these fields is a yellow button labeled "Save and Continue". The "I already have a username" section contains fields for "Username" and "Password", with a yellow button labeled "Login and Continue" below them.

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. It contains several sections: "ACCOUNT" with fields for Username, Password, and Confirm Password; "NAME FIELDS" with fields for First Name and Last Name; "ADDRESS" with fields for Address Line 1, Address Line 2, Suburb / City, Country, State, and Post Code; "PHONE NUMBERS" with fields for Home Phone, Work Phone, and Mobile; and "MORE FIELDS" with a dropdown for "Type of Role" and a dropdown for "Organ (Number 1-10)". At the bottom of the form, there is a yellow button labeled "Save and Continue" which is pointed to by a red arrow.

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

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

**UNSEE THIS
BLANK PAGE**

to place a FREE advertisement,
send details to
publications@st4wdc.com.au





ST4WDC SWAG

Valentines Day



Get all your Valentines Day gifts here!

Who needs roses when you can get your special someone a Club stubbie holder or a hoodie!

Grab a new Polo Shirt today...

Time to throw out that old faded one and slip into something a bit less holey...

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

"...I feel 10-years younger wearing this thing..."

Anon.

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

Think of the cooler weather coming!

Be a trend setter this Autumn and step out in style.

Tackle a rugby top. Fill a bucket Hat.

...I'm running out of thoughts...

**Share the limelight and tag
the next selfie of you wearing
club gear with:**

#ST4WDCmerch

Polo Shirts	\$40
Chambray Shirts	\$50

I'm thinking of doing a run of Club golf umbrella's

Let know if you're interested at the email below, and I'll send you the details once they're available

¹ Of course you could always present the rose in the stubbie holder!! Just sayin'

No responsibility taken for the truth or otherwise of any quotes stated above!



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