



SOUTHERN TRAILS

MARCH 2024

LIMESTONE CREEK CAMPING REPORT



Canberra Balloon

Festival Information

POWER eh!
TIPS AND TRICKS



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GENERAL MEETINGS

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

General meetings are where Club members and visitors can meet and get information on past and future Club activities in an informal atmosphere. Meetings regularly feature talks from experts on topics of interest, and reports on past trips. Visitors can introduce themselves, there is a raffle with generous prizes and a coffee break for catching up with other members.

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

TRIPS AND EVENTS

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

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

CLUB BANK ACCOUNT

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

Bank: Bank Australia

Account Name: ST4WDC

BSB Number: 313 140

Account Number: 1213 0617

When transferring payments please include your name and the reason for the transfer,

e.g. "J Smith clothing"

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

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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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Well. This month might be a bit of a ramble from me. I have a few things I'd like to touch on, so bear with me and hopefully we'll get through. So what's first? Well, last month I left you wondering (or not) what the name of the swagman in Waltzing Matilda might be. I recon old Banjo might have been a bit of a joker and named him after himself; Andrew. Why do I think this? Well, the song goes 'Andy sat, Andy watched, Andy waited...' What could be more obvious?

That got me thinking too. How hard was it for the old swaggies, waltzing their matildas, and how soft have we got today? I remember when I first started camping as a young fella (way back in days long past). All I took was a blanket, some beer and a tarp. I sometimes even remembered food. Bedtime was a wrap in the blanket to keep warm and the tarp to keep dry. Bit of a cocoon.

Then I met Bron and things became more sophisticated. We had a tent. An old A-frame thing full of holes, but still a tent. We'd set it up, put the esky and clothes bag in it, then sleep in the back of the old Vallo I had which was more comfortable. Bron quickly realised that I couldn't be trusted with catering; first attempt for the weekend involved a bottle of rum, coke, 2 bottles of champagne, a kilo of sausages, a loaf of bread and 1 onion (between 4 of us), a wok to cook in over the fire and not even any sauce. We survived, but I was never left in charge again.

As we got older and kids came along we got a real tent and a gas fridge, airbed, camping chairs and even a folding table. Kids grew up and we moved on to a camper trailer with a full kitchen, gas heater,

PRESIDENT'S REPORT BY ANDY SQUIRE

12 volt electric blanket, lights, 12 volt fridge, proper chairs blah blah. And now where are we at? A stupid big caravan with all the gadgets; big fridge, full double bed, gas heater, oven, shower, toilet, microwave, tv, aircon, sofa bench and big table, coffee maker (someone needs their morning coffee as many of you will know.....). Soft. I'd almost be ashamed but the body just doesn't cope with sleeping on the ground any more. We still have the tent and camper, and along with an airbed take whatever is appropriate for that trip; nice to have options. Bank manager loves me even more now. Don't pretend you aren't thinking about it, or aren't there too.... I see all the new rigs appearing, the changes made by members as they 'mature'. I'd say it's more financially sustainable once the kids go, but I still seem to be paying for something. Not that I mind. They give me joy (as well as ulcers and hair loss).

So, what else did I want to talk about? Well, you might see this one as me getting on a soap box, high horse, or pontificating, but definitely not getting on a pedestal (no room up there for two of us). We had a Trip Leader's Symposium a couple of weeks back, followed by a Trip Leader Workshop. A few things came out of them. I'll get to the Trip Leader Myths in a moment, but first my rant. One common piece of feedback we got was members putting their name down for a trip and then failing to show, or withdrawing at the last minute. I've had a rant about this before, but here's a couple of examples. On a recent trip there were 6 places including the Trip Leader; 14 nominations were received and on the trip day there were only 4 plus the Trip Leader; so, one vacancy. Of the original approvals, the Trip Leader was the only remaining one...... There were 10 late withdrawals, most of which the Trip Leader only found out about when they started confirming, and then shuffling about to find the members who still could and wanted to attend. Half of those on the waitlist who could no longer attend, or simply had

other plans (and I get there may be valid reasons as it gets closer) were still on the waitlist but knew they wouldn't be going and hadn't bothered to withdraw. On another recent trip, there was space for 10 vehicles. The trip was initially oversubscribed, and then ran with 4 vehicles. Late withdrawals and no-shows.

I get that we are busy. I get that things change. I get that people book onto the trips early and then don't get approved because it's full. But if you put your name down it is up to you to withdraw if you can't or don't want to go. I constantly hear from members that trips are full, there aren't enough trips, people take their friends.... But here are perfect examples of this not being the case and the Trip Leader being cocked about. If you can't go, get off the list! Early!!!! Let someone else take your spot. (Dismounting from soapbox now).

And the Trip Leader Myths? Well here are few that were dispelled:

You have to be in the club a while and 'prove yourself' before you can lead a trip; nope, if you are happy to be at the front (and out of the dust, deciding where you want to go, and when) then anyone can lead a trip, the only caveat being 'to your level of experience' (a brand new club member might need to convince the Committee that they are capable of leading a grade 5 trip.....)

You have to have done the Trip Leader Training (Workshop); nope, if you can take yourself away for the day/weekend/week and make it home alive then you can lead a trip. If you travel with your friends, then you already know how to plan and run a trip; just do it for the club and make some new friends..... If you are concerned about how to run a trip, then talk to the Trips and Events coordinator and they might be able to tee you up with a coleader or mentor who can help plan or help lead (run Charlie) to build confidence (and take the blame if it all heads south (a)).

You have to have done the various Navigation Workshops; nope, if you can find your way home, don't get lost between here and Goulburn, or can follow street signs, then you are good to go. Having a map or some form of navigation/mapping tool obviously helps, but isn't mandatory. Turn-arounds are part of the adventure and par for the course, go with it.

The Trip Leader is responsible for everything; nope,



recoveries are lead by whoever has the skills and experience, the trip leader probably doesn't know their elbow from their gudgeon pin, why would you expect them to do repairs?, participants should help collect firewood/make camp/write reports, and potentially even plan routes, locations and points of interest. These are not Tag-Along Tours, participants should be self-reliant (etiquette might dictate that you don't abandon a stuck or disabled vehicle, but it is not the Trips Leader's responsibility to perform the mechanical repairs or recovery; and just because someone from the DTU is on the trip, it doesn't mean you are going to get extra training on the trip; they are just participants at this point too). Propose a Trip; who does this? Well, the Committee doesn't propose the trip, members propose a trip. And if you are proposing a trip, then you are leading; it is not an idea for someone else to plan and run. If you want that, contact the Tag-Along mobs and pay the big bucks. Proposing a trip is not hard, and normally is a 'tick-and-flick' approval process unless there is something really untoward or impossible to achieve (eg; proposals for trips to the high country in winter might get a closer look because of road closures, but that is just help with planning). The trip has to be well organised; nope. When Bron and I run trips most of the time we know when we are leaving, when and where we are hoping to camp, and when we plan to be back in Canberra. The rest is a lot of 'suck it and see'



and making it up as we go. If participants don't like it, don't come. If you like to organise a trip in detail, then that works too; it is however you want to run them. Again, the Committee might ask a few questions just to make sure that you will bring back as many cars as you took, and everyone is still alive, but that's about it. You just need to manage expectations.

You have to approve everyone in order; nope, as far as possible you should stick to the order of nominations, however we all recognise that friends want to travel with friends, and we accept that not all members will have the vehicle, experience or temperament for some trips. Or you have had previous experience with that person and are reluctant to take them again. As long as it is a valid reason ('sorry, I don't like Toyotas' might not cut the mustard) then the Committee will back you; just be a bit diplomatic. If you don't know someone, or are uncertain of their level of competency, contact the Trips and Events Coordinator, or Education Coordinator; they will be able to put you in contact with someone who might know more about the person and provide some advice. There are probably more, but I can't remember them at the moment.

The other big thing that came from the workshop was there are willing leaders out

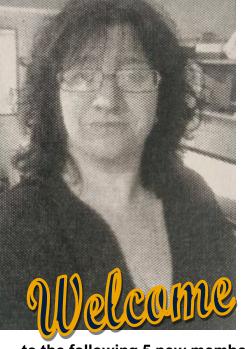
there, but they just don't know where to go. So, during a club meeting ask other club members where some of their favourite spots are, ask our Trips and Events Coordinator for some ideas (they have access to ALL the trips that have been led in the last 10 years or so), or just get on Google... We are looking at a couple of ideas on how to provide a 'library' of trip ideas for all members (but ideally for Potential Trip leaders) to get over this 'but where will I go?' problem. More on that as we progress..... With a club of 250+ memberships, and 400+ members there is a wealth of knowledge, make the most of it.

Now the more mundane stuff. Nah. Got nothing this month; training happened, trips happened, reviews happen, planning happens... But if you've got some specific questions, comments, or observations, come see me at the Club Meeting, or fill in the feedback form either on-line (see the QR code later in the newsletter) or at the meeting. We have had some good ideas from the feedback, so keep it coming (just make sure it is physically possible and won't get me arrested).

And here we are o faithful reader. At the end. Thanks for hanging in there. Hopefully there's something more to your liking later on. So I will leave you with this; 'I know where I want to be, but I can't possibly be sure if I'm anywhere near it'.

Stay safe and see you on the tracks (when I'm following along on your trip!).....

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

BY LYNNE DONALDSON
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Apologies Lynne, found this photo of you as Membership Secretary in a 2015 ST magazine! You are still working hard for the club. Rob



Membership - Total 396 Members

to the following 5 new members:

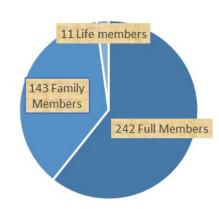
Gregory and Sarah Fink - Toyota Landcruiser

Geoffrey and Debbie Martens - Isuzu Dmax

Peter Kocielnik and Monique Adamczak – Land Rover Discovery 2

Chris Farmer - Land Rover Discovery 2

Benjamin Walshaw - Toyota Landcruiser



Here we are at the beginning of March, looking down the barrel to Easter!

I hope your month of February was a good one. Rob and I went on the "Day Loop on your doorstep" during February and had a great relaxing day. These one-day trips are great to get to know other Club members and an easy day out.

Wishing you all a Fun filled Easter with lots of chocolate and Easter goodies. Hopefully you will spend some time with family/ friends or even just get some downtime from your busy lives.

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.

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 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 69 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.

Till next month,





LIMESTONE CREEK CAMPING

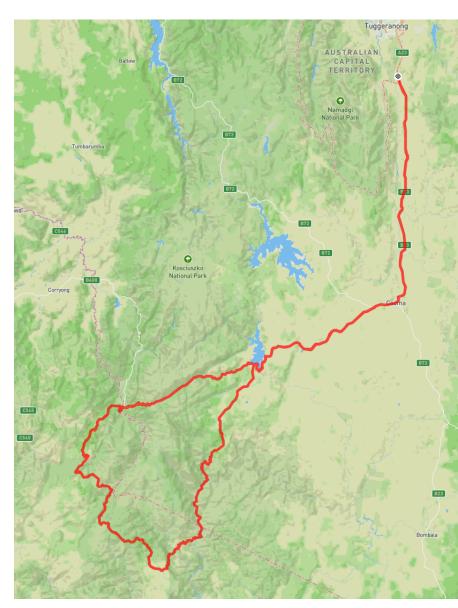
10 AND 11 FEBRUARY 2024

Attended: Rob Wilson, Chris Leahey, Elle Dibb, Daniel Parsons, Bruce Ronning (leader)

The inspiration for this trip came from some of my favourite YouTube channels, "A Guy and His Troopy" and "Bush TV", and based on previous trip experience I knew this area was within range for a one nighter. My original plan was to start down Barry Way first out of Jindabyne and return via Tom Groggin, but in the days before

leaving I decided to reverse it, putting 90% of the 4WDing into the Saturday and, leaving Sunday as a scenic drive home over grade 2 tracks. This turned out the right decision simply due to timing.

The Murray Crossing at Tom Groggin was as low as I've ever seen it and all vehicles crossed without any problem. Tom Groggin track itself was a bit rougher than usual but overall it's an easy track eventually morphing into Mt Hope Rd which is practically a highway. From there we turned east onto Buckwong Track down to our lunch stop at Buckwong Hut. Continuing east, the track runs level through lots of bogholes, some of which required careful negotiation and then the track climbs steeply to the top of the ridge, topping out at about 1500m. At this point is a four way intersection, left is Davies Plain Track heading back to Tom Groggin (the track we would have come in on had it not been closed to through traffic). Right is Misery Trail.. sounds lovely doesn't it. We proceeded straight ahead onto McCarthy's Track, which runs along the ridge line for a while before winding down through the lush greenery of the eastern side into the Murray River Valley. Here there is a short spur track out to Poplars Campground. As this is the highest point you can drive to on the Murray River we decided it was worth checking out, however near the end of the track I



encountered a rather long and deep boghole which took a fair bit of right foot to battle through. I warned the others but they followed undeterred, all except one. Capable vehicle that it is, Rob's Grenadier was a bit on the low side and soon had its undercarriage sitting on the centre ridge leaving all four wheels nothing to grab. Elle's car was right in front so she backed it into position for a recovery.

A snatch recovery was probably the better approach here but Rob's recovery points were somewhere under the mud and I didn't feel much like groping around under there trying to attach a shackle when the winch was sitting there invitingly high and dry. I remembered my training... snatch recovery should not be your first option, so I reached for the winch instead. Although there were plenty of trees, Rob's winch rope was only about 12m long and the trees that weren't too far away were too close to move him very far, so I decided Elle's vehicle would be a better anchor point. The next issue was that Rob hadn't used his winch before and couldn't get it to go, but eventually he found the right combination of switches to satisfy the various safety interlocks and away she went. Here the limitations of this setup were soon obvious. Elle's Ranger was nowhere near heavy enough, and with poor traction her car was dragged back while Rob's didn't budge. We persisted with this for a while but it was futile, so the best tree was chosen and finally the Grenadier was lifted free of the mud.

It wasn't the end of our troubles because that same mudhole was the only way out, and now all 5 cars were on the wrong side of it. Dan's Jeep was the highest with good muddies so we sent it through first. He struggled a little but got through, then it was Elle's turn. She went straight through followed by me then Chris, all without any issues. With lockers on and instructions to "give it some", Rob plunged in and got about half a meter before he was again totally stuck. By now I was over it and mindful of the time with the afternoon getting on and camp still at least an hour away, I went straight for the snatch strap, Y62 one end, Grenadier the other and a burst of V8 noise later the Grenny was out and clear of the hole.

Returning up the Poplars track we made the turn south onto Limestone Creek Track. This is a great little track with a good mix of steep sections and a few easy water crossings through beautiful woodland alongside Limestone Creek. About 5pm we finally rolled into Limestone Creek Campground. The main campground has plenty of flat grassy space right beside the creek, and a drop toilet on the other side of the road. The creek is not large but still we all found enough water to have a pleasant afternoon dip before settling into happy hour by the fire, with some lovely charcuterie provided by Rob. Camping conditions were perfect. Temperature just right, no flies or mosquitos, no rain. Brumbies grazing nearby. This is what we came for and each one of us felt lucky to be there.

Sunrise brought with it a beautiful morning, coffee, breakfast and another swim for those inclined, followed by a leisurely packup. We were back on the road by about 9:15am and heading south on the remainder of Limestone Ck Track. Turning left onto Limestone Rd we were able to pick up the pace through some stunning country, over the Mt Wombargo peak before descending again as the road exits the National Park into farmland, ending at the intersection with Snowy River Rd. The convoy turns north and before long we are through the Hamilton Gap and marveling at the breathtaking views across the valley as the road winds its way along and down the mountainside to Suggan Buggan, where we stopped for a short break and some photos by the historic schoolhouse. Continuing on, the road joins and runs alongside the spectacular Snowy River for some 25km, crossing back into NSW about half way along. There are several picnic stops and campgrounds along the way providing access to the river. We stopped at one called "Running Waters" for a swim, and this proved to be a highlight.

Fully refreshed, we resumed our journey home. Snowy River Rd becomes Barry Way and climbs up as it turns north away from the river, finally leaving the National park as it levels out and dirt becomes bitumen. We finished the trip with a fantastic lunch at Jindabyne. This was an awesome trip that provided a good blend of 4WDing, scenic country driving and great camping. I'll certainly be doing this one again.

Bruce Ronning



At the arrival at The Poplars on the upper Murray River I learnt a valuable lesson.

There is no substitute for an extra inch or two.

It really helps when one faces a deep wet hole and your undercarriage just can't penetrate deep enough, even with extra momentum as you keep trying.

Such was my dilemma resulting in the need for a tug to get through.

Of course, this was made considerably worse when the assembled entourage's mirth kicked in before assisting me with their experienced tools of trade.

Thanks team.

It took cables fixings and me learning how my extraction tool works followed by success.

Ahhah but it was not over, as I had to return to the scene of the crime as it was the only way out.

Our fearless leader Bruce solved the problem with a quick tug and all was well again.

The beautiful Brumby paddock of Limestone Creek with a lovely campfire and swim, soon lifted my spirits.

Rob Wilson

I enjoyed a terrific weekend trip to Limestone Creek. Perfect weather and good company. The tracks are fun to drive and worth checking out. One of our group got properly stuck in a mud puddle at the entrance to the Poplars campgrounds. While we successfully recovered it was disappointing that we didn't follow the correct procedures. I definitely didn't follow some of the basic rules and hopefully I will learn from it in the future by sticking to the rules in a similar situation. The highlight was swimming in the Snowy River and taking a dip in Limestone Creek. A really great drive in perfect conditions and thanks has to be given to Bruce for putting together a really nice trip.

Daniel Parsons





LOOKING BACK

September 1997

Southern Trails









Shaws Safari to Eden State Forests

Safe One Basic Follow Up Day

Feature Reports

Become a Tread Lightly Volunteer

Nissan Cross Country Trials

Behold The Niss-Hold-Ota

Swap Meet Day Sth Coast 4WD Club

Kathleen Dobbinson A Member's Letter



SEP 1997

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Post No PP248831/0004

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Trip Report

Shaws Safari to Eden State Forests June 7-9

Grant & Leanne Shaw with Tristan and Dawn Trip Leader:

Participants:

Bev Blackstone with Zoie Doug Lilley with Joy Paul & Irene Elford with Amanda & Ben David & Lisa Hovak

Tony & Pat Quinn

Cole Fulligans on the Wog Wog River is a wonderful Patrol

Hilux Shortie Cruiser Mazda Dual Cab 80 series FerozaGeoff Patrol

plenty! One remedy - up first, stir up the fire, and thaw out.

After breakfast, quite a few of us headed up to the homestead (no one actually lives there anymore), and met Leo 'the bushy' Fulligan and his partner, Cathy. Four of us - Grant, Amanda, Zoie, and myself fronted up for a two hour horse ride around the property and through the edge of the Coolangubra forest with Leo and Cathy.

One word for the views this presented - wow! That afternoon the convoy went into the fire trails in the state forest, then through some private property before ending up somewhere near the village of Rocky Hall (northeast of Fulligans).

We headed southeast to Burragate, then headed back to our camp at Leo's place. The views at various points along the way matched or exmorning.In ceeded what was seen in the the evening we enjoyed a fantastic bonfire and fireworks. Leo and Cathy had a huge pile of brush they wanted burnt-off, and that became our bonfire.

Once the bonfire was well and truly ablaze, and with everybody gathered round, the first of about

sink in.

After Doug rolled up at Williamsdale, we headed off through Cooma, and Nimmitabel to our first look at the region from Pipers Lookout on Brown Mountain. It was here that several comments about the chill gave an indication of what would be experienced during the nights at the camp. Once we left Bemboka behind, we turned onto the dirt at Tantawanglo.

spot to get away from it all for a couple of days.

Bordered on three sides by the Coolangubra State

Forest, and on the fourth by the river, this is a place to sit back and let the feel of the country

Tantawanglo Mountain Road passes through the national park on its way to Cathcart and Bombala. Leaving Tantawanglo Mountain Road we turned into some state forest plantations which took us to the Coolangubra State Forest, and into Fulligans between midday and mid-afternoon.

After setting up camp, some of us were surprised to find the light almost gone by about 4:30pm - so we decided to start happy hour and the rest of the evenings entertainment a little early.

Brrr... Its COLD! Yours truly made the mistake of thinking that his normal winter gear would be

"...the NRMA bloke was on another call...."

a hundred crackers were set off. In a lot of instances, it was like multi-gun salutes echoing around the valley.

Day 3

After thawing out and breakfast, everybody started packing away the camp aiming for a mid-morning

On leaving Fulligans, we hit the fire-trails through the state forests heading for home - however, two kilometres outside of Cathcart my Patrol suddenly decided not to go any further. While the problem was traced to the fuel pump, the rest of the party decided to have a lunch break. Thanks to Paul for his efforts to find the problem.

Since it was not field repairable, Dave and Lisa towed the patient first to Cathcart, and then to the

NRMA centre in Bombala (since the NRMA bloke was out on another call).

Thanks to Dave and Lisa for the tow, and then the lift back to Canberra. Grant and Leanne planned and executed a wonderful trip for all who booked

Count me in for your next one!

Geoff Cole

Afterword: four days after leaving the Patrol to its little holiday in Bombala, I was able to retrieve it on the day the new pump arrived and was fitted



From the President WHAT!! you mean to tell me you didn't attend the

Meet the Committee function on the 8-9th August. Well did you miss on an event or what! Serves you right....and next time I hope you will have the common sense to get along to this event.

The weather was not kind to us on this day but the members that turned up certainly provided the warmth in their welcome. This was the first time that we have had other 4WD clubs participating in this event and I hope it will not be the last. It was good to see all our faithful members out there (or nearly all ... had you turned up as well!) Oh well... maybe next time you will plan your weekend better ay!

Well folks the club is directing its attention this month to the report from Peter Henderson last month regarding the condition of MacIntyres Hut. This is a popular spot for our members and it's a shame to see that the hut has met with foul play. The Committee has delegated the reparations to Peter to organise. He will be negotiating with the owners (john MacIntyres & his father), plus other organisations to assist in this exercise. Hopefully the MacIntyres Hut that we're all familiar with will be back to normal in the next few months.

You may also have heard that Margaret Geaghan (Magazine Distribution Manager) is finding her time for this position is running short these days. This is a good position to become involved in as it allows you to meet with some of the businesses that support our illustrious club. Even though it only requires a few hours each month it is one of the our key sub committee positions and therefore integral to the club. So catch up with Paul Tolley (our Publications Coordinator) and get more information from him. He will be glad to hear from you.

Now to something of great import to this club. You will notice a form letter in this month's magazine regarding the wilderness declaration in Wollemi Park and identified Wollemi Wildemess. The Committee is urging its members to submit this form letter in their own hand (be this typed or hand written), and send it to the club's Secretary for submission.

This is in your best interests and that of the club. So take some time out and get your letter into the Secretary Neil Telfer

SPECIAL FEATURE

The Niss-Hold-Ota BEHOLD!

(or "Should I modify my vehicle?"....."How far should I go?"...... Or....."Just leave it alone - Please!!")

remember seeing the FJ45 Series Troop Carrier for the first time. It sat beneath a gum tree on a nature strip outside a Lyon's suburban house. It had been there 18 month's of its 4 year lifespan.

Good 1983 Troopies were selling for around \$14000, this appeared not to be a good one!

It was totally covered in black gum from the tree, and the set of old and rusty split rims shod with cracking and bald tyres didn't look out of place. But the brown carpeted interior was the definite

The 2F motor had the chronic burnt exhaust valve problem, and it had no registration or battery.

The good points were straight panels, a fairy overdrive and an overhead console arrangement. For a mere \$8000 it was mine!

ignition advance curve modified and the carburettor re-jetted.



Toyota body supported on pipes across 44 gallon drums prior to removing original leaf sprung chassis.

The performance was good but not startling. Next to be added was a set of 'Mud Terrains' on 8" rims, a set of Lovell Springs and Koni Shock Absorbers. I included on the front an ARB Bull Bar, stereo system, dual batteries, spot lights and CB radio. The car now owed me \$14000 but looked and went like a new one!

Bill's Project continues Next Page



Front view of raised body.



Side view of completed project

SPECIAL FEATURE

still a valued business trait especially in today's economy!

Fitting a 1983 Toyota Troop Carrier body onto the 1991 Nissan GQ Patrol proved to be several hours labour coupled with extensive engineering problems. Included in this engineering manouevre was the time spent on re-fitting a 383 cubic inch Holden V8 engine, connecting up the steering box and tail shaft assemblies.

Further complications arose when fitting the front and rear bars to a chassis that was now wider than where they previously resided, re-fitting the LPG tanks, petrol tank and the dozens of little items that quite literally took over 200 hours to complete.

In late February 1997 the vehicle was finished. Since this time the vehicle has been tested extensively in the bush. The following comments sum up my assessment of this testing:

- ♦ The four wheel disk brakes are superb!
- ♦ The modified front and rear coil springs give the Troopy "1997 handling".

- ♦ In difficult terrain, it handles like a dream and my spine remains intact at the end of a hard day's driving in the bush.
- ♠ And last of all despite several Grade 4 trips, not one axle or CV joint has dared to break!

Bill Graham

Editor's Note!

Hey Bill! We'll have to append an extra title to your current "Bush Mechanics" title - this been "4WD Vehicle Makeover Expert". Puts a whole new slant on cosmetic touch-ups!

And members - if you haven't yet seen Bill's beastie - check it out! It's an engineering feat of the highest magnitude.

Paul Tolley



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Thanks to all that attended or contributed suggestions for the first Socialites meeting on 27 February. We had such a great meeting and have already a few ideas for the diary such as day trips, Christmas in July and trivia. Keep an eye on the webpage, Facebook and the Southern Trails for further details.

Save the date, mark your diaries for our major event of the year, the End of Year Party to be held 7-8 December. Further details of location and activities for the day will be coming out over the next few months.

To kick of the year, join Sue on the first day trip to Tallaganda which will be held on 16 March. Take along a picnic lunch to enjoy after a leisurely drive through the forest before going home via Tinderry.





OUTDOOR RECIPES

Camp Oven Sultana Dumplings

thanks to Bron Squire (taken from Southern Trails, October 2020)

INGREDIENTS

<u>Dumplings:</u> 1 cup self-raising flour, 2 tbsp sultanas, 1 egg, ½ cup milk, 1 tbsp butter

Syrup: 2 cups hot water, 2 tbsp butter, 2 tbsp golden syrup, 1 cup sugar

METHOD

Mix together the syrup ingredients in a small camp oven and bring to boil on stove or over fire.

Dumplings – rub butter into the flour and add in sultanas. Beat egg in with the milk, add to dry ingredients. Make resultant batter into balls and drop into the syrup. Put camp oven on coals with coals on top (aiming for around 180 deg Celsius). Bake for 20-30 minutes. Dumplings should be brown on top.

Serve with ice-cream if you're lucky enough to have a freezer with ice-cream!



Your Help is Needed

If you have a recipe, send the recipe and photos to publications@st4wdc.com.au

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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.

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Student	Instructor	Trainee
Sid	Stu Wal	Michael K
Rod	Rob Dav	
Norm	Rob P	
Danny	Ciril / Lynne	
David	Michael L	Jim
Matt	Michael P	Steve
Jay	Stuart Wat	Rob W
Roger	Scott / Rob Don	
Joachim	Matt	

SAFE ONE BASIC DRIVER TRAINING COURSE

16TH TO 18TH FEBRUARY 2024

CHIEF INSTRUCTOR: PETER BUTTERFIELD

EDUCATION COORDINATOR: BRONWYN SQUIRE

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

I really enjoyed the course and got a lot out of it. The course was well structured, and my instructors were patient and thoughtful and I really appreciate their time and help. I had to unlearn some old habits, as well as learn some new ways of thinking, and it will take a good bit of practice for it all to really sink in and become the way I drive.

I found the snatching lesson the most challenging as I had no experience in this high risk activity and had to absorb information from several instructors and try to focus on what needed to be done in what sequence and how - as well as think about why things should be done a certain way and not in another way. I was a bit fatigued at the time and I made a few mistakes and got some of the answers wrong. If I had a pen and paper I would have created a checklist cheat sheet to aid my feeble memory and make sure I didn't miss anything. Overall it is a very good and useful course and I gained some important new knowledge and skills and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend it. In fact, I suggested my 17yo son do the course and he agreed so I'll sign him up as a new member and he can put a few new pin stripes on my Paj.

Danny

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**



I'd like to thank Stu and Michael for their support, encouragement and guidance throughout the course. They taught me a lot and about the car and my capabilities.

I had a blast and am looking forward to the next time out with the club.

Sid

Simply, this is a first rate course. The course structure and delivery together with the individual knowledge and experience of each instructor is exceptional. And it's fun- the instructor personalities, friendliness, laid back approach and calming influence make being a part of this club a no brainer. Congratulations to everyone, particularly my instructor Michael L whose confidence rubbed off on me over two great days.

David



In the sweet spot and through the back door

First a huge thank-you to the club, to all the trainers and to all who worked behind the scenes to make such a great course happen. I was so impressed with the quality of the tracks at Talooge. What a huge investment of time and energy from the club to create what surely must be the best 4WD training facility in Australia. Each track we drove and each obstacle we encountered seemed designed to incrementally build our skills and our confidence.

The attention to detail was exemplified by the convoy order in our group. It was clearly thought through, not just a random how you rolled up. Matt was the leader (or 'sacrificial lamb' as I think Michael P called him), Jay was car 2, I was car 3 (the sweet spot) and Joachim was Charlie.

The final obstacle on Saturday was the back door into the camp which appeared as somewhat of a 'rite of passage'. As with many situations we tackled, my first thought was, "a car can't drive up that!" A big shoutout to Jay who showed me all day that his car could do it, so I knew that my car could. Scott's calm confidence assured me that I could do it too; I just had to pick the right line and drive the car through. There was even a small group of club members to give us a cheer as we all got to the top.

Sunday built on the confidence created on Saturday and gave us a chance to use some of the 'tech' in the car. Going over some of the ground we had already driven with a chance to do it better was just another element of great course design. Comfort stops, when provided, were appreciated.

I feel privileged to be a member of such a great club. The wealth of skills, knowledge and experience within the club and the dedication, generosity, and good humour of all the members I have met has been remarkable. Thank you.

Roger (Ford Everest)



Big thanks to the club and the trainers for this excellent basic driver training. It was well delivered and showed people new to four wheel driving what they and their vehicles are capable of in a safe environment. This is one of the best basic 4wd courses out there, I've participated in or watched.

Thanks to all the club volunteers for facilitating this, I really enjoyed it.

Joachim







From my first contact with Lynne through the membership process, I have been extremely impressed with the Southern Tablelands Four wheel drive Club. Last weekend my son and I attended our first training to complete the Basic Driving training. The entire structure, content and delivery of the training was first class. The communication from the club was fantastic, the property was excellent and combination of theory, but predominantly practical driver training was very informative and valuable. I gained so much knowledge and confidence from the training and I can't wait to the next event.

Matt H



Not having had any formal training before on any four-wheel-drive skills, this was a great introduction to a new type of travel over the next 15 to 30 years around this very large and varied country.

The way the training was delivered both theory and practical was engaging and presented in a way that someone with no or little experience could comprehend and understand. The instructors are very knowledgeable and clearly experienced and were able to explain the techniques to me in a way that was easily understood. Robert, my instructor, was able to answer all my questions during the two days and I particularly thank him for his guidance.

The property is well suited to what the club has to offer and is a great place to relax at the end of the day. I particularly enjoyed the communal fire pit and the facilities, especially considering we were in the middle of nowhere. Overall, a great experience that I'd recommend to anyone. We're looking forward to joining several of the trips that are on offer over the next 12 months and to put my new skills to the test.

Norm



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HAVE YOU HEARD

Want to Help Out

at the Canberra Balloon Festival

Contact Catherine at cathapanich@yahoo.com





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HAVE YOU HEARD

FREE MEAL

If you present a trip report at a Club meeting, either talking or just a PowerPoint presentation, you will get a \$25 meal voucher for use at the next Club meeting.

PHOTO THEME

Each month the Southern Trials will have a photo theme, this month it is the Canberra Balloon Festival.

If you would like your photos featured in Southern Trails andhave 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



EDUCATION COORDINATOR'S TIPS AND TRICKS

Under Bonnet Check

Bron Squire, the ST4WDC Education Coordinator, has provided information on the DTU's acronym for pre-trip under bonnet checks

POWERA

= Fuel (Petrol/Diesel)

O = Oils

= Water

= Electrics

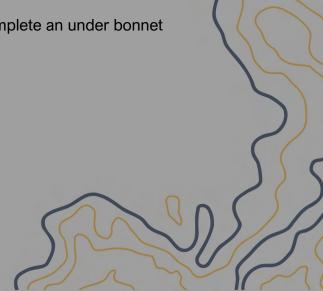
Rubber (hoses/belts)

A = Air (filter)

Alternatives: POWERAS = As above plus Spares (NSW/ACT Association)

FLOWER = Fuel, Lights, Oil, Water, Electrics, Rubber

Whatever you choose to use to remind you, ensure you complete an under bonnet check prior and during every trip





CLUB MEETINGS

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

March Meeting - usual room

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

Following on from last month, another mystery item to get you intrigued!

February meeting

Craig Thomas, President of the **4WD NSW & ACT Association**, gave an overview of what the Association has achieved and how they help ACT & NSW member clubs.

Mat Gawthorne and staff of **Pride Auto** had a table to showcase their latest and greatest products.

Michael Patrick had a mystery item and asked people to guess what it was. There was lots of debate with 2 people "guessing" correctly that it was a hard drive voice coil magnet that moves the read/write heads.

TRIPS AND EVENTS

Please check <u>www.st4wdc.com.au</u> and consult with the Trip Leader to confirm details before attending.

Contact <u>trips@st4wdc.com.au</u> for more information.

Contact tripswst+wdc.com.au for more inform	nation.				
Title	Туре	Grade	Trip Leader	From	То
Sculpture down the Lachlan	Trip	Grade 1	Lynne Donaldson	9-Mar-24	11-Mar-24
Canberra Balloon Spectacular	Trip	NR	Michael Patrick	9-Mar-24	17-Jan-70
Mt Airly and Gardens of Stone NP	Trip	Grade 5	Steve Smith	9-Mar-24	11-Mar-24
HEMA Maps Cloud Workshop	Training	g NR	Michael Patrick	10-Mar-24	10-Mar-24
Vehicle and Recovery Equipment Evaluation	Training	g NR	Bronwyn Squire	12-Mar-24	12-Mar-24
Day trip to Tallaganda	Trip	Grade 2	Sue Phillips	16-Mar-24	16-Mar-24
Chill Out with the Goats	Trip	Grade 2	Sue Phillips	29-Mar-24	1-Apr-24
Intermediate Driving Course (Difficult Terrain)	Trip	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire	5-Apr-24	7-Apr-24
Basic Winching and Recovery Course	Training	g Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire	5-Apr-24	7-Apr-24
Talooge Muster	Talooge Muster		Michael Patrick	5-Apr-24	7-Apr-24
Vehicle and Recovery Equipment Evaluation	Training	g NR	Bronwyn Squire	9-Apr-24	9-Apr-24
Mystery Bay	Trip	Grade 2	Jay Danny	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
Wyangala Dam	Trip	Grade 4	Troy Larke	20-Apr-24	21-Apr-24
"Safe One" Basic Driver Training Course	Training	g NR	Bronwyn Squire	1-May-24	3-May-24
"Safe One" Basic Driver Training Course	Training	g NR	Bronwyn Squire	3-May-24	5-May-24
Brindabella Ramble	Trip	Grade 3	Michael Patrick	12-May-24	12-May-24
Vehicle and Recovery Equipment Evaluation	Training	g NR	Bronwyn Squire	14-May-24	14-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 Workshop	Trip	NR	Michael Patrick	2-Jun-24	2-Jun-24
Vehicle and Recovery Equipment Evaluation	Training	g NR	Bronwyn Squire	11-Jun-24	11-Jun-24
Canning Stock Route	Trip	Grade 4	Lindsay Jones	2-Jul-24	24-Jul-24
Vehicle and Recovery Equipment Evaluation	Training	g NR	Bronwyn Squire	9-Jul-24	9-Jul-24
Expression of Interest Mt Skene Snow Trip	Trip	Grade 5	Matthew Maddigan	26-Jul-24	28-Jul-24
Bendethra Camping	Trip	Grade 3	Stuart Wallace	3-Aug-24	4-Aug-24
Vehicle and Recovery Equipment Evaluation	Training	g NR	Bronwyn Squire	13-Aug-24	13-Aug-24
Abercrombie River National Park	Trip	Grade 3	Michael Patrick	17-Aug-24	18-Aug-24
Talooge Muster	Talooge Muster		Brad Wells	7-Sep-24	8-Sep-24
Vehicle and Recovery Equipment Evaluation	Training	g NR	Bronwyn Squire	10-Sep-24	10-Sep-24

TRIPS AND EVENTS

Continued from Previous Page

				_	_
Title	Type	Grade	Trip Leader	From	То
"Safe One" Basic Driver Training Course	Training	g NR	Bronwyn Squire	20-Sep-24	22-Sep-24
Paint and Pino	Trip	Grade 2	Nicole Hermansen	21-Sep-24	22-Sep-24
Brindabella Ramble	Trip	Grade 3	Troy Larke	29-Sep-24	29-Sep-24
Watagans	Trip	Grade 4	Robert Stevenson	4-Oct-24	7-Oct-24
Vehicle and Recovery Equipment Evaluation	Trainin	g NR	Bronwyn Squire	8-Oct-24	8-Oct-24
Intermediate Winching and Recovery Course	Trainin	g Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire	18-Oct-24	20-Oct-24
Basic Winching and Recovery Course	Trainin	g Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire	18-Oct-24	20-Oct-24
Talooge Muster	Talooge Muster	INL	Michael Patrick	18-Oct-24	20-Oct-24
"Safe One" Basic Driver Training Course	Trainin	g NR	Bronwyn Squire	30-Oct-24	1-Nov-24
"Safe One" Basic Driver Training Course	Trainin	g NR	Bronwyn Squire	1-Nov-24	3-Nov-24
Brindabella Ramble	Trip	Grade 3	Troy Larke	10-Nov-24	10-Nov-24
Vehicle and Recovery Equipment Evaluation	Training	g NR	Bronwyn Squire	12-Nov-24	12-Nov-24
Vic High Country Ramble 2024	Trip	Grade 4	Michael Patrick	16-Nov-24	23-Nov-24
Vehicle and Recovery Equipment Evaluation	Trainin	g NR	Bronwyn Squire	10-Dec-24	10-Dec-24



TRIPS AND EVENTS BECOME A TRIP LEADER



WE NEED YOU FOR AN ADVENTURE!!

The backbone of any <u>Four-Wheel Drive Club</u> 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 <u>assist</u> 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

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

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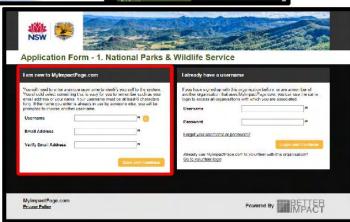
Volunteer Registration

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.

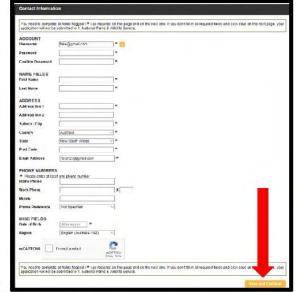
- 1. Go to this link: https://4wdnow.com/pages/volunteer-sign-up-with-national-parks
- 2. Hit the YELLOW "FILL IN APPLICATION" Button on the right of the screen. (red circle in screen shot below)



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).
- 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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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Roof Top bag







All Items
contact Michael Patrick
0412 377 941

Roof Top bag

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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

2 x Mean Mother Remote Controls

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ST4WDC SWAG



Who needs eggs when you can get someone a Club subble holder or hoodie!



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

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

Anon.

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

Polo Shirts	\$40
Chambray Shirts	\$50

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

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



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