



**APRIL 2024**

# **SOUTHERN TRAILS**

## **TRIPS AND MORE TRIPS!**

**What a great time  
of the year for trips**

**It finally back after a long wet!**

**SAND AND WATER COURSE**

**LOOKING BACK - OCT 2005**

**NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS**



# 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](http://www.st4wdc.com.au).

### Facebook:

The ST4WDC page includes posts regarding Club activities and sponsors [www.facebook.com/st4wdc/](https://www.facebook.com/st4wdc/)

### Southern Trails

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

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### Southern Trails

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# FOUR WHEEL DRIVE AUSTRALIA

## CODE OF ETHICS



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



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

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

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**BY ANDY SQUIRE**

(our statuesque leader or  
one of the Lachlan sculptures?)

I recently went on a club trip; 'Sculpture down the Lachlan' from Forbes to Condoblin. It was great even if it was a bit hot. Easy driving, great company, good campsites, pub dinner (we took the caravan so.... luxury). And the sculptures? Some were way cool (Bird in the Hand, Heart of Country, Road Kill). Some I was lucky there was an explanation because I just didn't get it (Within – Without, Wandering, Tower). But once they were explained I felt something. Not sure what, but I thought maybe I'd found my soul. Or indigestion. I was so moved felt I had to join in and be part of it, so I did. Have a look at my new pic at the top of this piece. Impressive eh? I told everyone at the last club meeting about the trip, my experience, and how I'm now refined and have culture. And They Laughed. Heathens.

Then during the break someone had the audacity to critique on my piece from last month. Too long they said. Rambled. Hah! So this is all you get this month; a lovely piece of culture from Johnny Hart of BC fame. And that's it. I'm having a big sook.

Many little Ants are black, and Polar Bears are white.

The Polar Bears they hide by day, the Ants they hide by night.

In winter time the Ants will play, the Bears will hibernate.

And that's why Ants and Polar Bears can never integrate.

See you on the tracks.....



# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

BY LYNNE DONALDSON



## Welcome

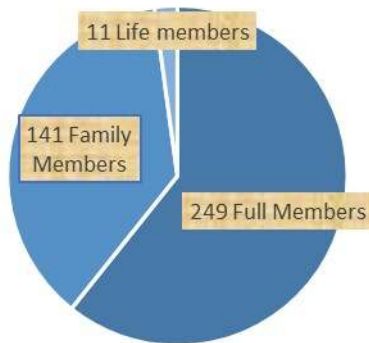
### to the following new members:

- Stephen McIntyre – Toyota Fortuna
- Ryan Mitchelmore – Toyota Fortuna
- Glenn Weymouth – Toyota Prado
- Eugine O’Neill – Isuzu Mux

### and to the returning members:

- Paul Tolley - Landcruiser Sahara
- Felix and Melissa Pantaleo – Mitsubishi Triton

Membership - Total 401 Members



I hope you all had a great Easter break and indulged in too much chocolate.

This month Rob and I led a trip down the Lachlan Valley way looking at the Sculptures. There was a great bunch of members on the trip, and it was really well worth the drive. If you have some spare time and are anywhere near Forbes and Condobolin, check it out 😊.

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.

We have had 4 new owner members join the Club and 2 returning members in the Month of February.

## 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](mailto:membership@st4dc.com.au) or 0412 251 528.*

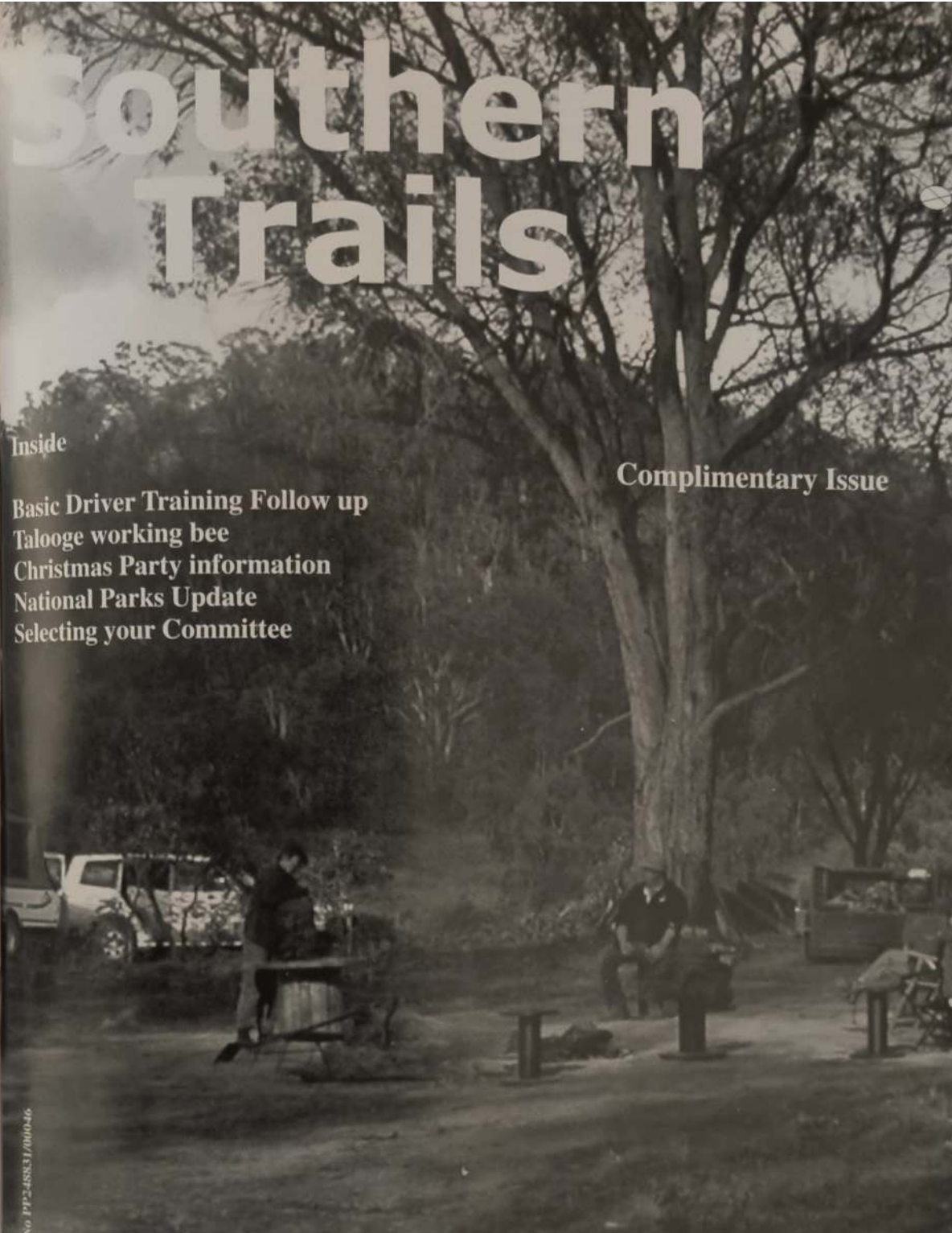
Till next month,

*Lynne*

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# LOOKING BACK

October 2005



# Southern Trails

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Talooge working bee  
Christmas Party information  
National Parks Update  
Selecting your Committee

**Complimentary Issue**

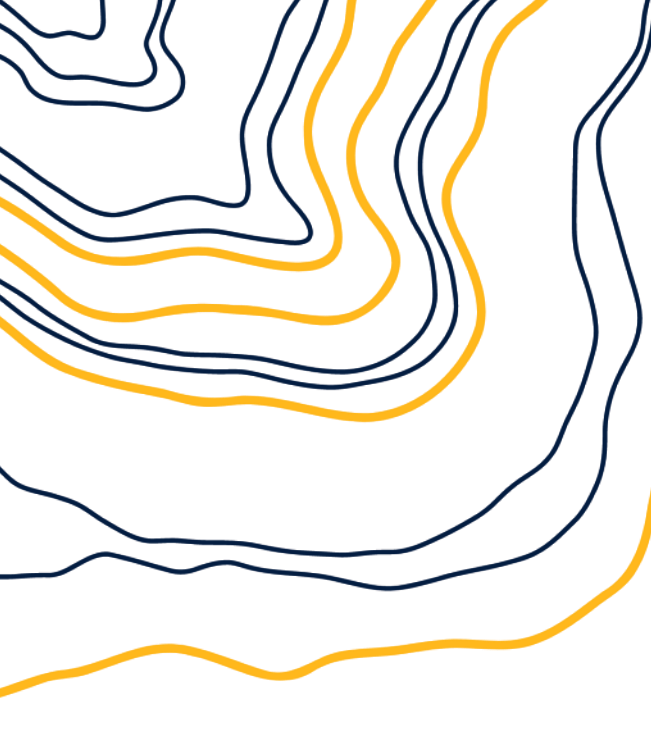
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WHEEL DRIVE CLUB INCORPORATED

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## Membership Murmurs

Jim Hanigan

We now have 231 active memberships and there have been some more enquiries this month. If your friends, neighbours or workmates have a 4WD why not bring them along to a meeting so that they can have a look at what we do and what is available for them. You could lend them your copy of the club magazine to read about some of our events. If you don't want to lend your copy, come and see me at the general meeting - I should have some spare copies

available. You could also direct interested parties to the club website at [www.st4wdc.org](http://www.st4wdc.org) so that they can check out the electronic media.

The organization of the Club's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2006 is well under way with the compilation of mailing lists for a mail out to former members. The selection of a venue is expected in the next few weeks. The date for this function will be Saturday 18 November 2006 - mark this date

in your diaries NOW. If you know of any former club members who may be interested in attending, will you please let me know or get them to drop me a line via the club's email address at [memberships@st4wdc.org](mailto:memberships@st4wdc.org) or give me a call at home on (02) 6291 6392. The next meeting of the sub-Committee will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 25 October 2005.

Until next month - safe travelling

Cover Photo  
Talooge 12 months ago, check out the changes.

## Trip Coordinators Corner

Rosemary Orr

Its been raining and everything is looking great. The gardens, the countryside and the bush. It is just beckoning for us to get out there and enjoy.

Some great trips in the magazine - Wee Jasper, Victorian High Country and for those looking for something a bit softer the Hunter Wine trip. Everyone should be out there having a great time.

Don't forget Talooge. As well as our working bees we have a great day for the identification of plants, grasses and trees and hopefully some birds. This should be a great day and our thanks to Graeme for organising his mates to get us started on identifying the plant life on Talooge. It's worth taking a day off work just to be part of the day.

Our 4WD Spectacular is coming up quickly now. At the last meeting I had rosters for those who

would like to help out on the gates, on parking, to feed the hordes and collect the garbage. Those rosters will be at the next meeting so put your name down and come along and help. As a working member of the club you will get free admission to the Spectacular and will enjoy meeting and working with the members of the club. This is a great "bonding" weekend and great fun. For those who cannot get to the meeting give me a ring and I will be happy to put your name on the roster at a time to suit you.

As always we are looking for more trips. We are a 4WD Club and we should be out in the bush enjoying our wonderful environment and our wonderful vehicles. Here are some suggestions for trips that anyone can lead:

- Tianjara & Morton NP
- Yerranderie Silver Mine
- Wombeyan Caves
- Cascades & Turros Falls
- Bournda NP
- South Coast Escarpment Parks
- Hill End/Sofala
- Victorian Alps

There are just a few of the many places you can go and have a great weekend or even longer. A weekend in the bush is good for your stress levels and general well being. Try it - it really works.

So come and see me in the break - ring me - e-mail me - shout at me - plan your trip now for the next magazine.

Enough!! - See you in the bush somewhere.



# Pictorial

## Working Bee at Talooge



THANKS TO TOYOTA INDUSTRIAL LIFTERS  
FOR THE USE OF THEIR FORKLIFT  
TO MOVE PAVERS RECENTLY FOR THE CLUB  
YOUR TIME AND EFFORT WAS MUCH APPRECIATED  
THANKS!!!!!!!

### Apologies

Some magazine's photos do not scan well



11 October 2005

**Monthly Meeting**

Raiders Club at Weston at 7.30 pm



16 October 2005

**Trip Leaders Seminar**

Trip Leaders: Rosemary Orr Ph: 6241 0464 [h] Peter Reynolds Ph: 6251 1258 [h]  
Participants: Unlimited  
Grade: N/a  
Where: Italian Club - Forrest  
Time: 10.00 am - lunch

Requirements: Pen, paper, lots of questions and good ideas and a good sense of humour.  
Comments: This get together is designed to bring club members up-to-date with the art of leading a trip. It is open to everyone not just those who might like to lead trips. This could also be a forum to discuss the types of trips club members want.  
Topics: Maps, GPS, requirements for long trips, requirements for short trips and we will be handing out our updated Trip Leaders Handbook.

15-16 October 2005

**Wander to Wee Jasper**

Trip Leader: Michael & Jillian Hayes Ph: 6292 2071 [h]  
Vehicles: 6  
Grade: 3  
Departure: 0800 from Uriarra Homestead  
Maps: TBA  
Fuel: Full tank at start

Requirements: Basic driver training, basic recovery gear, UHF CB. Well maintained and reliable vehicle, good tyres, and camping equipment. Food supplies, water and, of course, happy hour goodies.  
Description: This trip will take us down and up a great many tracks in the Bindabella's, then we will make our way to Wee Jasper where we will camp by the river. There are caves, bush walking and just relaxing. Then home through different tracks and another look at what we have around Canberra that is so great.  
Comments: A great weekend with some fun driving and maybe a little bush walking to some falls or caves if you like. Or to sit back and relax and read a good book. A great place to really just unwind and do as you like.

22-23 October

**Working Bee at Talooge**

Co-ordinator: Jim Hanigan Ph: 6291 6392 [h]  
Vehicles: Unlimited  
Grade: 1  
Departure: 1  
Fuel: N/a  
Maps: Find your own way or depart Williamsdale 8.30am Saturday morning  
Requirements: Full tank from start.

Description: Well maintained and reliable vehicle and camping equipment. R  
Comments: any other tools you might think appropriate.  
Whatever needs to be done - Specifics to be advised.  
Its not all hard work. Come and enjoy the community and sharing happy hour etc. This will be an enjoyable weekend as well as a

**11 - 30 June 2006 Hay River Run**

Trip Leader: David Sutton. Tel: 6281 1484 [h] 0427 811 484 [m]  
Vehicles: 8 - a couple of trailers is fine  
Grade: 3 - if wet and maybe some sand dunes  
Departure: Sunday 11 June and finish in Alice Springs approx 30 June.  
Fuel: 200 litres for medium petrol  
Maps: Hema Desert Maps; 1:250,000 Simpson Desert North, Simpson Desert South, Hay River

**Description:**

The Hay River runs on the eastern side of the Simpson Desert, flowing north through Aboriginal country and crosses the Plenty Hwy. I don't plan desert trips to a set itinerary as there are too many variables. Where ever we get by 1600hrs, well that's where we camp. The rough plan is to leave Canberra early and head toward Hungerford and then toward the Dig Tree. Continue on to Haddons Corner and then to Birdsville. From there along the QAA line and then head north up the K1 extension toward Beachcombers oil well. Follow shot lines for a while and then pick up the Hay River, cross the Madigans line and then into Aboriginal Country. Head to the west to Lake Caroline, retrace and continue to wander north arriving at Batton Hill Camp Ground, where we will meet the traditional owner of this land. Will head to the Plenty Hwy and over to the Alice.

**Comments:**

Permits are \$100 per vehicle. Camping is \$8 per head at Batton Hill and as an optional treat, the owner will take you on a bush tucker trip for \$80 each. You get to eat the catch that night.

"NEW CLUB TRAINERS"  
I am very happy to announce that as of September 2005 the club has its very first husband & wife Trainer Team being Michael & Shelley Rath.  
Michael & Shelley along with Darryl Webb have just completed their two year Trainers Course. They join fellow trainers Duck & Graham Lister who completed their training earlier in the year.  
Congratulations to you all and thank you for dedication to the Education Team.  
Peter Reynolds

plus 3 page in-between !

# BRINDABELLA RAMBLE

## SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2024

Attended: Jay, Rochelle and Daryl, Sen and Waruni,  
Norm and Jenny, Petah and Troy (leader)

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

We did our radio checks enroute to our first stop at Picadilly Circus to air down our tyres and then headed off again towards Flea Creek Campground via Brindabella Road and Gentle Annie Trail.

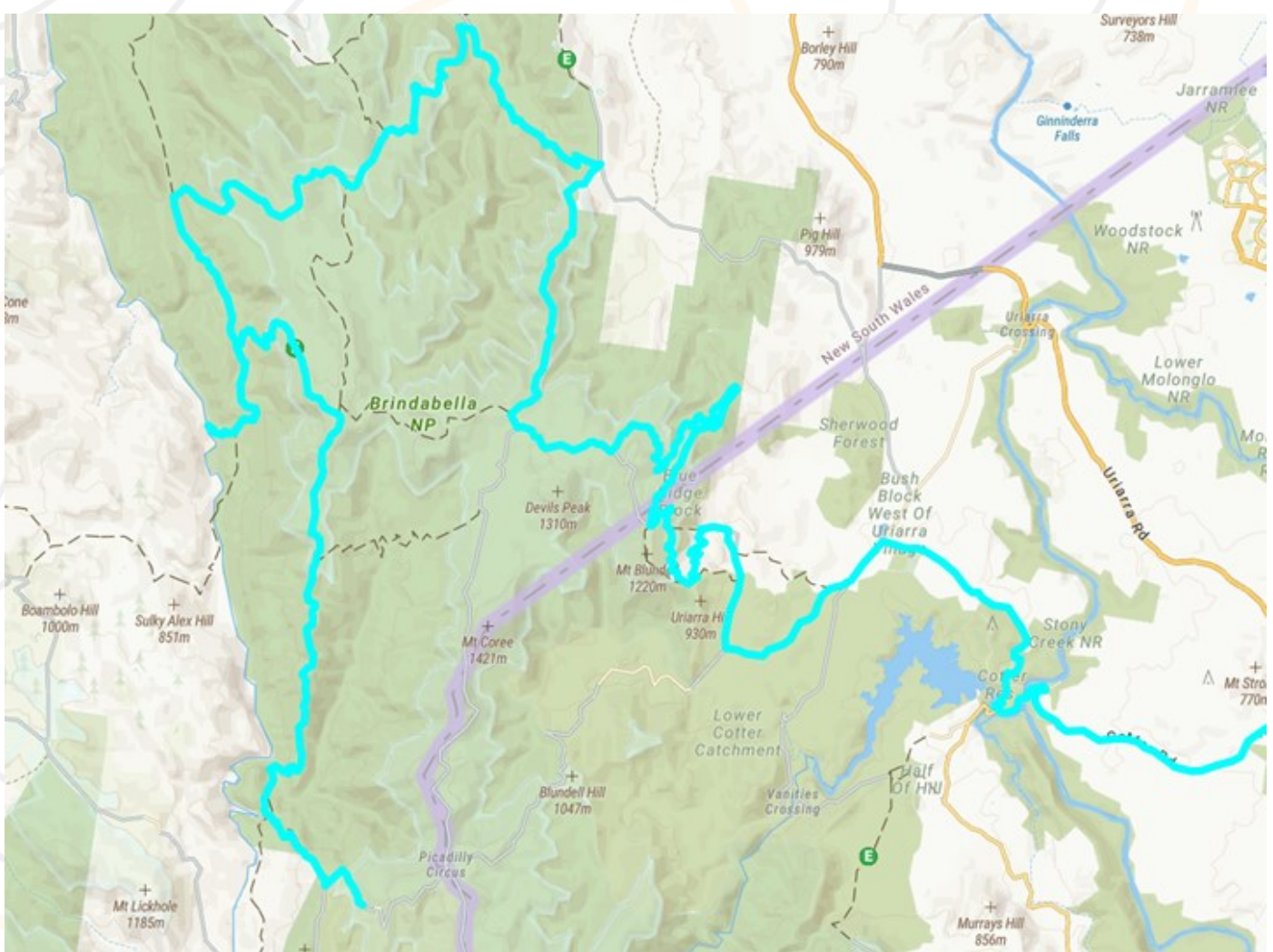


*Airing down at Picadilly Circus*

*Morning tea at Flea Creek – thanks to Waruni for bringing food to share – yum!*



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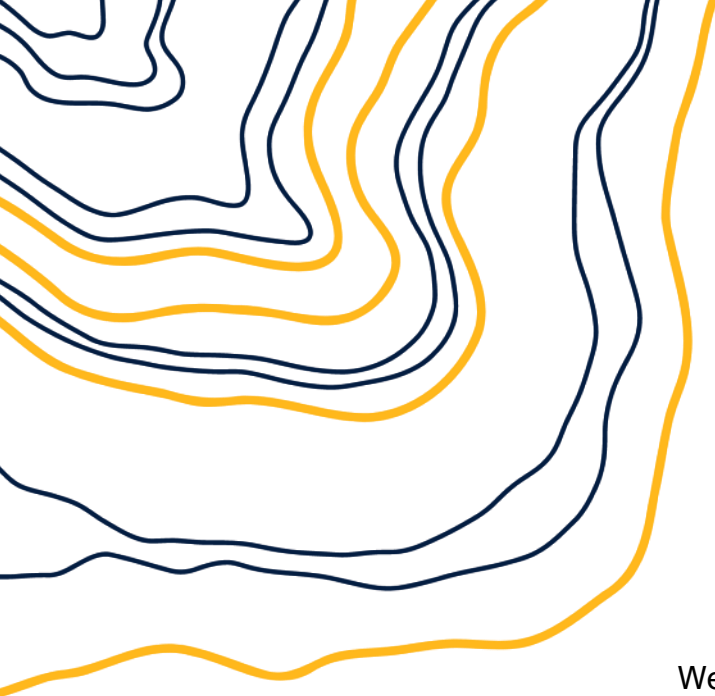
*Our backyard!*

We stopped at the campground for morning tea before heading off again towards McIntyres Hut, zig zagging our way along Webbs Ridge Trail, Waterfall Trail and McIntyres Trail. We stopped along the way to take photos, re-group and commented how dusty the roads were due to the traffic we were encountering.

We made McIntyres Hut about midday and stopped here for about an hour to have lunch. We reflected on the trip thus far, the rock steps, ruts, ascents and declines. We shared stories about our previous 4wd trips reflecting on both the good, the bad and the ugly. We also chatted about how we overcome challenges such as carrying water on remote trips, talked about what meals we plan and how our vehicles were handling the trails.



*Left – Petah and Troy (trip leader), Middle – Rochelle and Daryl, Right – Sen and Waruni.*



After leaving McIntyres Hut we followed McIntyres Trail till it connected with Waterfall Trail again but this time we went straight through till we turned into Folly Trail. We followed Folly Trail till it intersected with the other end of Webbs Ridge Trail and continued through till we turned onto Doctors Flat Road. We then turned onto Baldy Range Trail, into Two Sticks Road, right into Genges Trail, left into Blue Range Road and lastly onto Brindabella Road. See map below, noting we only started our tracking just after we left Picadilly Circus.

We noticed that these trails were far less travelled and quite picturesque in places. One memorable trail would most definitely be Genges Trail for the steep ascent, ruts and rock steps. The convoy was up to the challenge, and everyone navigated it with ease

The convoy stopped for a group photo while taking in the view back to Canberra. We then travelled down Brindabella Road, re-inflated our tyres and said our goodbyes, concluding our ramble of the Brindabella National Park.

Many thanks to Troy, our trip leader, for leading this trip and providing the opportunity for new and old members to make new friendships and explore Canberra's backyard.



*L-R: Jay, Daryl, Petah, Rochelle, Sen, Waruni, Norm, Jenny and Troy*



I thoroughly enjoyed my first trip with the Southern Tablelands 4WD Club, fresh out of training. It was awesome to meet new people such as Troy & Petah, Sen & Waruni, Daryl & Rochelle, as well as reconnect with Norm & Jenny whom I met on the training weekend. The trails were quite interesting and majority of the trails we went on were very new to me, my favourite trail was Genges, which I'd say was the most challenging part of

the trip, with a shaley, rocky climb, which was quite a fun challenge. For Troy's first take on leading a trip, I thought he did exceptionally well. He was easy to follow with radio calls, making sure everyone knew where they were going and in general, just made it an overall fun experience.

## Jay

It was a great day for our first ramble with other club members, all were new to us except for Jay who was part of our driver training the week before. It wasn't our first trip to McIntyres Hut but we did approach the tracks with a different perspective since completing the club driver training. There were a couple of challenging tracks, the most challenging was Genges, a good test of the DMax abilities with the TrayOn on the back. Lots of fun, thanks Troy for leading the trip.

## Norm and Jenny



# SOCIAL CLUB ACTIVITIES

Hi All

Hoping everyone had a wonderful Easter and were lucky enough to get out and about.

The second Socialites meeting is going to be held on Tuesday 30 April at the Raiders Club Belconnen, 6 pm if you want to join us for dinner, otherwise the meeting starts at 7pm.

Sue's trip to Tallaganda was enjoyed by all who attended, so keep an eye out for more upcoming day trips.

Thanks to Nicole for organising a Paint and Pino trip to the Thomas Boyd Trackhead camp area in October. This is an overnight camp where you can let your creativity shine or just come along to relax. Please see website to nominate.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any ideas for events you would like to see.

Cheers

Sarah

# TRIP REPORTS AND MEMBER ARTICLES

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

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

You can send all articles and requests for advice to [publications@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:publications@st4wdc.com.au)



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

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## 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.





# LONG PLAIN HUTS TOUR

## 2-3 MARCH 2024

**Attending:** Bruce (leader), Ann and Josie Ronning, Sonia Stanton and Dave Croxford, Peter Dunlop, Warren Shardlow, Allan Menzies.

This trip was originally going to be a repeat of the Perkins Flat camp I ran about the same time last year, but then I thought it might be nice to incorporate a tour of some of the historic huts and homesteads in the area along with Tantangara Dam, many of which I had never seen.

Not long after our departure from Tharwa, our first stop was at Brayshaw's Hut, just off Bobeyan Rd. Most have probably already seen this one but I included it since our route took us right past it, and after all it was a "hut tour". That done, we continued on to Adaminaby for a brief stop and a bit further down the Snowy Mountains Highway made the right turn north onto Tantangara Rd. This is very well maintained thanks to the Snowy 2.0 works which we observed on the opposite shoreline as we approached Tantangara Dam. Following a photo stop our convoy continued over the Murrumbidgee River crossing below the dam wall, then climbing back up the other side to about 1300m to head north along the ridge line, which provided some fantastic views across the lake.

Our next stop was Curango Homestead. This is a substantial site of several buildings set among pine trees, mown grass and gardens and yet remotely situated in the alpine bush. NPWS normally offers guest accommodation here during the summer months but apparently not this year due to renovation works. We had a good look around but weren't able to enter any of the buildings. Here my route plan had us heading north via the Mosquito Ck Trail but that was only accessible via the Curango gate and since we were a bit behind schedule I decided instead to continue west along Port Phillip Trail.



Unfortunately the road disappeared straight into Lake Tantangara. I had expected this but with the lake being kept low for the Snowy 2.0 works had assumed the crossing would be high and dry. There were campers on the other side but they had obviously come in from the west as I could not see a way around and the crossing did not look inviting. We tried a side track to the right to see if this led to an easier crossing but it just looped back to the road we came in on.

Warren decided to ask a nearby group on horseback about the crossing. They reported that they had come across it and it was only "about thigh deep", so I decided to walk it and assess. On seeing me do this, a camper from the other side approached and reported that "the Snowy Hydro guys cross it pretty frequently, but it's a six foot drop if you deviate off the causeway so be careful".

The surface ripple made it impossible to see the bottom and there was nothing more than a few blades of grass on the sides at either end to indicate the line, which was not straight across but seemed to turn left about a quarter of the way in. This was going to be tricky. I've crossed lots of rivers and creeks before but never driven into a lake.

So, using Warren as a human guide post placed at roughly the point we judged the turn to be, I went first. It got pretty deep but I got the line close enough to right and made it to the other side. Then one by one the rest of the convoy followed and we all got across without incident. With much relief we resumed our journey westward to our next stop and lunch at Long Plain Hut. I've been past here many times but this was the first time I've stopped to have a look. The huts around here are quite substantial. Long Plain Hut has four internal rooms joined by a hallway and 2 more rooms externally accessible. Nothing like the Victorian High Country huts which tend to be very rough and basic single room shacks.

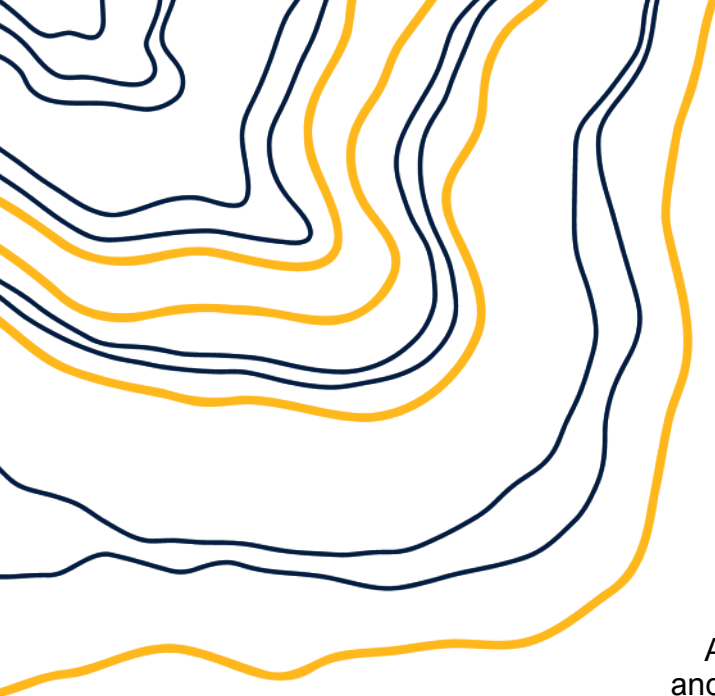
Continuing up Long Plain Road we came to our next hut, Cooinbil. The surrounding campground, as with a lot of the campgrounds in this area is very popular with the horse crowd and there was a large group of them here, so we kept our visit brief and moved on to our next destination, Coolamine Homestead.

As the name suggests, Coolamine is more than just a hut but a complex of several buildings; main residence, kitchen, cheeseroom (yes, you read that right) and a secondary residence, all restored and well maintained. The internal walls of the main residence are covered with old newspapers as a form of wallpapering apparently common in the day, and dating as far back as 1931 these made interesting reading as much for the ads as for the news. If you come to this area and only visit one historic building, this is the one not to miss.

A little further down the road from Coolamine is Blue Waterholes on the Goodradigbee River. Having not been down here for a few years, two things surprised me; 1. the road has been very substantially upgraded, making the place accessible to any type of vehicle, and 2. the number of people down there. It was like Pitt St on Monday morning! (I suspect 1 and 2 are somehow connected). Still, for the unique cave scenery Blue Waterholes is well worth a visit, especially if you've never been there just to tick it off your list. However, unless you like crowds I would not recommend camping there.

With all our "tourist stops" completed it was time to leave the crowds behind and head to our camp for the night and around 4:30pm we rolled into Perkins Flat campground,





just in time to get setup and enjoy a refreshing swim and happy hour by the fire. Perkins Flat is a real gem and highly recommended. It's not unusual to have this place totally to yourself as we did, since despite being only about 30km from Canberra (as the crow flies) it's a good 3 or 4 hours to get there. The forecast "20% chance of rain" never eventuated and we enjoyed a perfect clear starlit night.

Getting home involved retracing the last 17km of track back up to the junction of Long Plain Rd and Broken Cat Fire Trail, at which point we turned NW onto Broken Cart FT to continue our round trip home via Boundary Rd and Brindabella Rd. Here we took advantage of a shortcut along a powerline track which can become extremely difficult after a bit of rain, but in dry conditions with a bit of care and a few "B lines" we got through without any trouble.

Airing up at Urriara Crossing we bade each other farewell and with that, the trip was at an end. As usual, my thanks go to the trip participants; Peter, Sonia, Dave, Warren and Allan for helping to make it a success and not getting stuck. It was an awesome trip and I'll probably run it again (maybe without the lake crossing next time).  
**Bruce (leader)**



This was Sonia and David's first club trip. We joined Allan, Warren, Peter and were enthusiastically led by Bruce and Ann (and J). We had a fabulous time exploring tracks and huts close to home. Thanks Warren for spotting our first water crossing. Sitting around the camp fire chatting, eating, drinking and listening to the river and bush noises was very relaxing. The stars and moon rise were bright and beautiful from the swag. Perkins Flat Camp Ground is quite spectacular. Thanks to Bruce for leading a well organised trip. We look forward to our next outing with the club.

**Sonia and David**

Thank you for leading the Long Plains trip. The mountain huts were not only interesting but also a reminder of the hardship endured by the pioneers, especially in winter.

The scenery along the way was beautiful.

The campsite was bigger than I anticipated and a great bush campsite - fire, creek sounds in the



background and conversations with friends.  
All round a great weekend.

**Allan**

Another perfect weekend run by the club. The group of 5 cars met at Tharwa on Saturday morning before making our way along Boboyan Rd towards Adaminaby. After a small stint on Snowy Mnts Highway we headed north towards Tantangara Dam. It wasn't long before we stopped at the dam, and began exploring a number of huts in the area. Bar one interesting water crossing, the roads are the best I have seen in the area for some time, no thanks to the work on Snowy 2.0. After lunch we explored Blue Waterholes and the homestead, and several more huts along the trip before making it into Perkins Flat just in time for happy hour and a swim in the river. A great spot and we were lucky to have the whole campground to ourselves. Sunday morning saw a slightly later exit from camp than usual camp trips, partially due to me not reading the wind direction and showering Bruce's car with Ash as I put out the campfire. Not great given the windows were down. Sorry Bruce, I owe you a beer. Thanks to the members who joined the trip for making it fun, to Warren and for volunteering to stand in the river to help us all navigate through the water crossing and to Bruce for leading another well organised trip.

**Peter**



I would just like to commend everyone of their convoy procedures. When the TL & Charlie were either too far apart or hindered by terrain, those in the middle picked up on it and relayed the messages, and everyone stopped at turns and waited for the vehicle behind them.

Lastly, my Patrol has asked that everyone remember it now identifies as a Tesla. 😊

**Warren**

# OUTDOOR RECIPES



## Watch this Space

Watch this Space

This is (meant to be!) an ongoing segment on outdoor / barbeque / 12V oven cooking .

### **Your Help is Needed**

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

# SCULPTURES DOWN THE LACHLAN

9-11 MARCH 2024

**Trip leaders:** Rob and Lynne Donaldson

**Participants:** Rob and Deb Davidson, Sue and Rob Phillips, Andy and Bron Squire, David Tate, Michael Loberger and Emma Kerr, Sonia Stanton and David Croxford, Sarah and Stu Wallace



Rob and I had the pleasure of being on the trip from Forbes to Condobinin. You would think the middle of March would be starting to cool down but no – it was about mid-thirties!

We started early with a two day drive to Forbes meandering through some old villages on route to find their hidden charms. Seems a common theme is outback towns is more and more empty shops. We stayed at a great free camp outside Young, “Tout’s Lookout”. Fabulous views and definitely worth a visit.

We met up with the group in Forbes and had a thoroughly enjoyable few days. The weather was hot, the drinks were cold and the company was great. The sculptures weren’t bad either.

Thanks Lynne and Rob for a relaxing, fun and beautiful weekend with a splash of culture thrown in.

**Rob and Sue Phillips**

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Andy and I have had the fortune to go on some absolutely fabulous and relaxing Grade 1 and 2 trips lately. The Sculptures down the Lachlan was the latest trip. Soooo relaxing, great camps spots, fantastic company, and while the temperature was too scorching for my liking, we found some lovely cool pubs to wet the whistle and we got some cooling (well compared to the still-air temps) breezes camping next to water. I was expecting there to be a combination of great sculptures, and some truly awful ones, and while there was some that I thought surely the artist wasn't paid to build this one?!?!? there were some stunning ones. It is hard to guess which one was my favourite, but there were some evocative sculptures, Heart of Country and Between the Silence and the Heartbeat, and some enchanting sculptures Bird in the Hand and Road Kill (which wasn't road kill as we think) which I loved. It's a wonderful initiative of small country towns to revive their economies and make something 'tourist worthy' to bring in the travellers. Thanks to Lynne for devising a trip that was so enjoyable and an opportunity to explore our "wide brown land" while supporting our rural communities.

## Bron



What an AMAZING weekend. First, thanks to Lynne and Rob for organising and leading the trip. It was a very relaxed and easy trip without having to think about wheel placement, tyre pressure, etc that is needed on most club trips. Forbes, the Lachlan sculptures, the wet lands, utes at Condo and most important, the company of club members made it a very amazing trip.

## Debbie and Rob

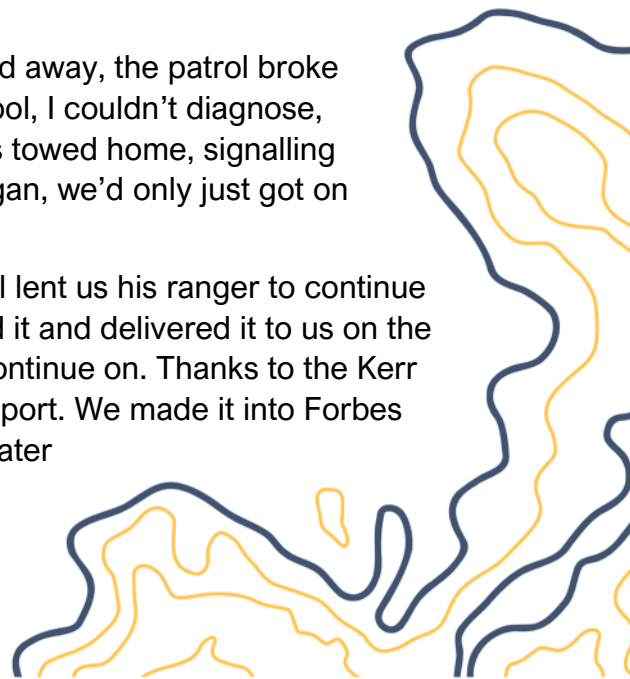
Well. A rollercoaster for you.

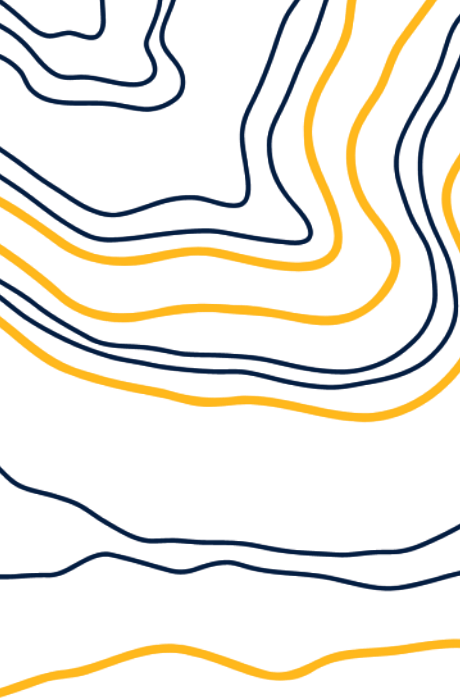
A bad start to the long weekend away, the patrol broke down, and not having a scan tool, I couldn't diagnose, NRMA to the rescue and it was towed home, signalling the end of the trip before it began, we'd only just got on the GDE.

Emma made a call and Michael lent us his ranger to continue the trip and Alex Kerr collected it and delivered it to us on the side of the road so we could continue on. Thanks to the Kerr family for their unwavering support. We made it into Forbes at 11pm Friday night. 4 hours later than planned, straight to bed.

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Saturday we woke up on the river to carp jumping. We lounged around until we were all corralled to walk into town and start the sculpture tour. Lynne Donaldson reading the stories behind and many laughs at the size comparisons of a few things. Then into the pub for a quick wetting of the whistle as it was 35 degrees.

We continued on but Emma grew very pink in the face, so I raced back and grabbed the car and ferried her round in the aircon and forcing water into her every 10 minutes to rehydrate her. We finished at a pub again. Walked back to camp and then back later for dinner at the pub where we both had possibly the best Chinese meals we've ever had.

Sunday saw us pack up and head off down Lachlan river stopping at various sculptures. We reached our intended camp spot about 12:30 but the consensus was head for somewhere to swim and finish the sculpture tour that afternoon. So we pushed on and reached Condobolin and the utes in the paddock display, we all checked in to the local caravan park and had cold showers and washed the sweat off and those with AC in the caravans had a cool off.

We all went separate ways this morning and Emma and I stopped off at the Temora aviation museum for a guided tour by the lovely volunteer John. We arrived home to receive the news that the ever-faithful patrol belonging to mum and dad will be being fixed and listed for sale.



So, this leaves us with a van and nothing to tow it with and not sure what the next steps will be from here. Watch this space

**Michael and Emma**

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What a wonderful way to spend a weekend The sculptures were amazing, there are some talented people in Australia. If you were unaware of these you would easily drive straight by, so if ever in the area give it a look.

The free camp in Forbes was fantastic down on the river and the Chinese at the bowls club was great.

Thanks to Lynne for organising an amazing weekend.

**Sarah and Stu**



# SAND AND WATER COURSE

## 2-3 MARCH 2024

Keith, Troy, Roland, Peter, Michael D,  
Bart, Nicole, Laurie, Ken, Rod, Rob P,  
Ciril, Michael K, Rob W, Josh, Chris,  
Jim and Geoff & thanks the DTU!!

The sand and water course is one of those courses where the conditions need to be just right. Several conditions plague this course and prevent it from going ahead: rainfall, hot and cold weather - river conditions. Rainfall is a significant factor as it changes the flow of the river, the level of water, and even the course of the river, which can ultimately change the course itself.

Therefore, a great deal of gratitude and appreciation is given to all those who put the time into the countless hours, recon trips, and planning that went into making this course happen.

The course is of great value even to someone with lots of experience. The course format is excellent, and the content is relevant. It provides a great couple of days out, using the truck-4x4 and the gear we have purchased. To be able to use it in a safe and well-supported environment to prepare us for when the (\*&^%\*&^%) does hit the fan.

We were instructed to drive on the sand in two-wheel drive, with the tires inflated to road pressure, which goes against all my previous training, but the intent was to get stuck intentionally so that we could be shown the steps and ways to get out should we need to.

Getting some vehicles stuck takes a bit of effort; however, you soon learn it does not have to take a lot of effort to get them out. One soon learns that the hierarchy of recovery is one of the most valuable tools you can have. You can get unstuck with little effort by following the structured teaching of previous training events and the hierarchy of recovery.

It was a great couple of days. Thank you, team.

**Michael K**

My thanks to both instructors and assistants for the mammoth effort required to bring off this course. I found it quite relaxed being spread over the two days with the opportunity to camp overnight prior to the first day.

**Rod**





## Water:

We arrived at the training site on the Murrumbidgee at an ideal location to run the days training, the instructors gave us directions as to what we needed to do before starting the course and kept an eagle eye on us during the day with helpful directions and adjustments to our equipment and participation. This is one of the best courses I have done with the club, the only drawback for me was that I use my vehicle for day to day use and was rather upset about being chastised for having my hitch in and having a locking pin. If I had know it was such an issue I would have removed it prior to the course.

### Peter

For me, the briefing night before the course was just as important as the practical training day itself. I really didn't want to get water inside my cabin – with airbags in my seats and electric controls for the driver's seat adjustment with connections for both into the floor, as well as stereo components under the driver's seat. So the briefing night, providing advice on vehicle preparation and driving technique, was gold. And I will admit, a bit nerve-wracking.

The day itself at the river was great – preparing the vehicles, further discussion about approach, walking the route first to work out where to go and not go, and then a graduated approach to driving. The instructors provided both human bollards, to keep student out of the “too deep” water, and mostly polite advice along the way.

There was plenty of time to drive the course a few times to practice and build confidence. A really excellent course – thanks to the DTU for another first-class training opportunity.

### Roland

Setting off on Saturday morning for the water crossing course was a tad disconcerting. The briefing had been pretty convincing at making it clear there would be "consequences" and I'm a tad scarred from my last foray into a puddle of significance.

Despite all that we arrived early and waited dutifully as instructed by the pub then proceeded down at 10. First sight was a car from the previous session drying out ...one of those consequences. Hmmm.

Anyhow; the briefing and wander down the river was fairly straightforward and the water was warm and clean...at least if a disaster was about to occur it wouldnt be stinking horrible mud.

First lap around was a cautious and slow affair. The car never felt like it had any problems but my passenger's tolerance for being in/under water lasted about 10 seconds before she was ready to climb out the window. The subsequent lap I increased the pace so far less stress was occurring in the passenger seat.

The DTU folk were really great, quite literally putting their lives and underwear on the line as we trundled by, all the time guiding and inspiring. Thanks so much.

### Laurie

Thanks to the DTU for putting on this course. Water crossings have long been a concern for me and I'm very aware of what could go wrong. While still respectfully concerned the Course has given me much more confidence to tackle crossings going forward. Thank you so much to the DTU for giving up your time to help educate club members to keep us safe.

### **Troy**

I wasn't sure what to expect from the river crossing training, but I was very impressed with the training and the organisation of it. A couple of short gentle crossings to get used to the idea of getting wet and then a longer and deeper crossing. It was a good experience and gave me some idea of what my vehicle is capable of. It was also beneficial in that it showed up a couple of leaks that need to be fixed. Many thanks to the members of the training unit, offering useful advice while standing in water over their waists for the duration of the deep water training.

### **Keith**

Water crossing was an enjoyable experience, with depth appreciation, speed, and the prior prep. The instructors and their instructions was spot on.

Thanks team for an enjoyable weekend.

### **Bart**

I had previously tried to attend the training and missed out due to work and weather conditions. I was in the last group on both days. The group met at the car park near the pub prior to driving down to the river. When arriving we were met with the many instructors who had volunteered to assist and they had clearly dialled in their process due to the other two groups earlier in the day.

There were five cars in our group and after a quick brief, we were into setting up the vehicles to go for a swim. Each had one or two instructors assisting and the set up was done quickly. We then walked the course. It was interesting to see how deep the river was in sections. Car swallowing deep in sections and a great learning experience to see how a metre matters. We all know to walk the river however this drove it home to why, even if it looks safe. You can't see the depth and holes.

We then set out to drive the course. Starting with an easier section, then the deeper section going against the current. Although I had followed the instructions to water proof the car, I found that a small section of the compression seal on my rear back door was no longer attached. On the last run, I hear water and felt the wet underfoot. The car had a lovely river smell for a week!

All in all the training was as expected - well run, professional and fun. Thanks to all the instructors for their time and help.

### **Mick**





## **Sand:**

As a keen beach fisherman, the idea of getting to an untouched gutter that no-one else could get to (except other 4WD'ers of course), had been burning for a while. The missing link was a suitable vehicle (check!), and some core skills (now check!). Across all the training and experience gained in my five years in the club, this might be the most useful. It will get me to where I truly want to go. Thank you to all of the driver training unit for again freely giving of your time and experience. I have now undertaken all of the training that the club offers, and in conjunction with trips that build up experience in so many practical ways, I'm ready for the next steps in my 4WD journey. Roll on retirement!

## **Ciril**

It was nice of the course organisers to arrange some demonstrations. The clown (not a club member) driving the 80 series tearing up and down the beach was demonstrating everything we shouldn't do when driving on sand. Similarly the bogans watching from the hill were demonstrating why we shouldn't rely on UHF radios in a recovery situation.

On a serious note the course was a great opportunity to practice different techniques in a controlled and safe environment. Thanks everyone who assisted on the day.

## **Rob P**

After having some fun in the water on the Saturday and starting the dry out process (little water came in!!), we had a crack at the sand course on Sunday. The two sessions were fantastic and fitted perfectly into a busy weekend of family and volunteering activities. The DTU have done it again... lots of instructors and plenty of experience. The sand course was fun between using the new shovel, unloading and using the recovery boards and trying to get bogged!! I learnt plenty about technique and what the truck can and can't do. A lesson on the way back – probably ask for directions before you leave – I was fine by following my nose but you know ... PPPPPP.

## **Chris**



*Sand and sweat.* Was it fun? YES, Was it cruel? YES,  
Was it worth it? ABSOLUTELY

Job 1 - Drive onto the sand at Stuarts Crossing (beautiful spot) Highway  
tyre pressures mandatory of face the wrath of she who cannot be  
named.

Job 2 – Get yourself bogged like a true lead foot.

Job 3 – Shovel yourself in further to get ruelly ruelly bogged (mean instructors)

Job 4 – Drive out easily, ooops no go

Job 5 – Lower tyre pressures. Out with those orange plastic thingies dig more.

Job 6 – Drive out easily. HmMMMMM maybe not.

Job 7 – Cry

Job 8 – Try again. Failure is not an option

Job 9 – Success Happy days, well maybe for 20 seconds.

Suffer 10 – Victim of cruel instructors. Do it again. Cry again

Suffer 11 – More sweat dig dig bury bury

Job 12 – Enlist help from a mate with one of those long stretchy things and  
a tow bar.

Job 13 – Drive about. Happy days and a celebratedly cuppa.

Job 14 – Debrief & lunch

Job 15 – Saunter home having learnt heaps and having had lots of fun.

## **Rob W**

The sand component of the sand and water course took place where there is a sandy beach next to the Shoalhaven River. The beach offers the opportunity to get some initial experience of sand driving. The course began with driving onto the beach with tyres at road pressure. The sand was actually quite forgiving and allowed a bit more progress than might have been expected with tyres at road pressure. With a bit of effort it was possible to get the vehicle bogged. This formed the basis for a number of exercises as we explored the various options for extricating a bogged vehicle. We began with lower risk methods such as digging the vehicle out and using recovery boards before moving onto higher energy and higher risk methods involving the use of a snatch strap. All in all a good introduction to driving on sand.

## **Jim**

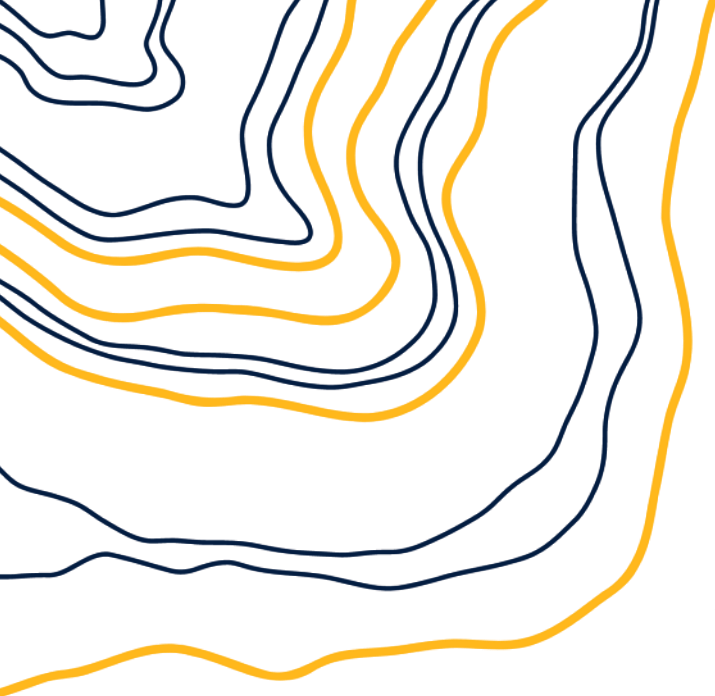
Another great course, how to get yourself bogged ... lot harder that they make it out on YouTube when you do the right things! listening / ask the right questions to the DTU ! Great wealth of knowledge in that group of misfits! That may have been my last hurrah off road in my trusty Navara, and what a great way to do so playing in the sand an swimming with the fish. I may not have taken any photo to add to the memories on FB or Insta but the wealth of knowledge taken is more important, exited to use this on my adventures! When I get a non one wheel drive vehicle.... although that nav loves that sand once she aired down !

Great course DTU! Many smiles, laugh's an a couple skids from drive down a river! I'll see you out on the tracks soon in a ??...

Cheers

## **Josh. S**





After meeting at Mick Sherd Oval Bungendore bright and early on a Sunday morning we were off to SC to try and get our vehicles bogged in sand as part of the ST4WDC's Sand and Water course for 2024. And when I say "try" to get bogged I mean it, funny that we will be getting ourselves into this predicament in the future without any trying BUT when you need to bog yourself it's easier said than done. However once bogged (multiple times) our instructors were on hand to guide us out of our situation with their useful calm and helpful hints. So thank you so much to all our trainers on the day for taking the time and effort to get us bogged and then showing us how to get out.

**Geoff C**



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## Convoy Procedure The Basic Principles

Bron Squire, the ST4WDC Education Coordinator, has provided a refresher / information on the basic principles of convoy procedures.

### Convoy Procedure – the basic principles

- Relies on a convoy leader (trip leader) and a tail end Charlie (called 'Charlie')
- Look after the vehicle travelling behind, you not the one in front
- The vehicle in front waits for the one following at every turn, fork or gate and does not leave until they are sighted and acknowledged using radio, indicator, or flashing headlights. Always wait in the middle of an open gate to discourage livestock from crossing.
- Charlie always acknowledges an instruction from the convoy leader, and, Charlie is the only one who acknowledges a general call from the convoy leader. If Charlie does not respond (generally hasn't heard the call), then a member in the middle of the convoy should "relay" the message.
- The convoy members should call an oncoming vehicle as it passes each vehicle if the oncoming vehicle has been called by the convoy leader. Usually only when on the dirt and spread out.
- Always leave gates as you found them, unless directed otherwise by the trip leader.
- When in convoy travel with your headlights on.



# 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.

See Roland, our Club Secretary, at a meeting for details

## PHOTO THEME

If you have a series of photos that feature an Australian 4x4 location or anything Aussie and would like them published, please email them to

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

**Next month's theme - Australian Birds**



# HAVE YOU HEARD



## **NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service**

### **Group bookings**

Bookings for up to 5 sites and 20 people can be made online.

---

NPWS has now implemented an online group booking (max of 5 sites).

The site is at <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/camping-and-accommodation>.

It's not the most intuitive process. Use Search availability and enter the number of people and dates for the first person. Then click book. It will tell you the number of sites available.

Then click book and add another. It will tell you the number of sites available. Then click book and add another. It will tell you the number of sites available. Then click book and add another. Then enter site two details (number of people and dates). Click update



**HAVE YOU  
HEARD**

# SWAP MEET

**Saturday 4 May 2024**

Co-ordinated by the Toyota Land Cruiser Club of Australia

**Cabramatta High School grounds**

**Access ONLY from Sussex Street, Cabramatta**

**8am to 2pm**

**Welcoming SELLERS and BUYERS of items of general 4WD'ing and camping.**

Sellers \$20 ----- Buyers \$5 ----- Children under 15 free

Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity to make or save money on second hand 4WD parts and camping gear. Trade your unwanted parts and accessories for cash, or just come along to pick up a bargain. Perhaps there might even be a 4WD for sale. Cheaper than newspaper or internet advertising for both buyer and seller.

Items available may include 4WD Vehicles, Camper Trailers, Camping Gear 4WD parts, Bullbars, Wheels, Tyres, Fuel Tanks, Engines, Winches, Auto Electrical, Recovery Gear and much, much more.

Large display areas both hard stand and grassed

No booked sites

Under cover areas for pedestrian display only

BBQ and Barista coffee available

Toilets available

*Co-ordinator: Elke Cooper – Toyota Land Cruiser Club*

*Mobile: 0438 068 788*

*Email: bushman14@bigpond.com*

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E: [sales@tracksadventuregear.com.au](mailto: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 *Bron Squire*

(Bron is the one on the left in the photo below!)

How long have you been a member ?

10 years

Why did you join the ST4WD Club?

Andy made me !!

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

Driver Trainer and Education Coordinator and a trip leader

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

Friends and a sense of community that we have found

Madigans Line Simpson Desert

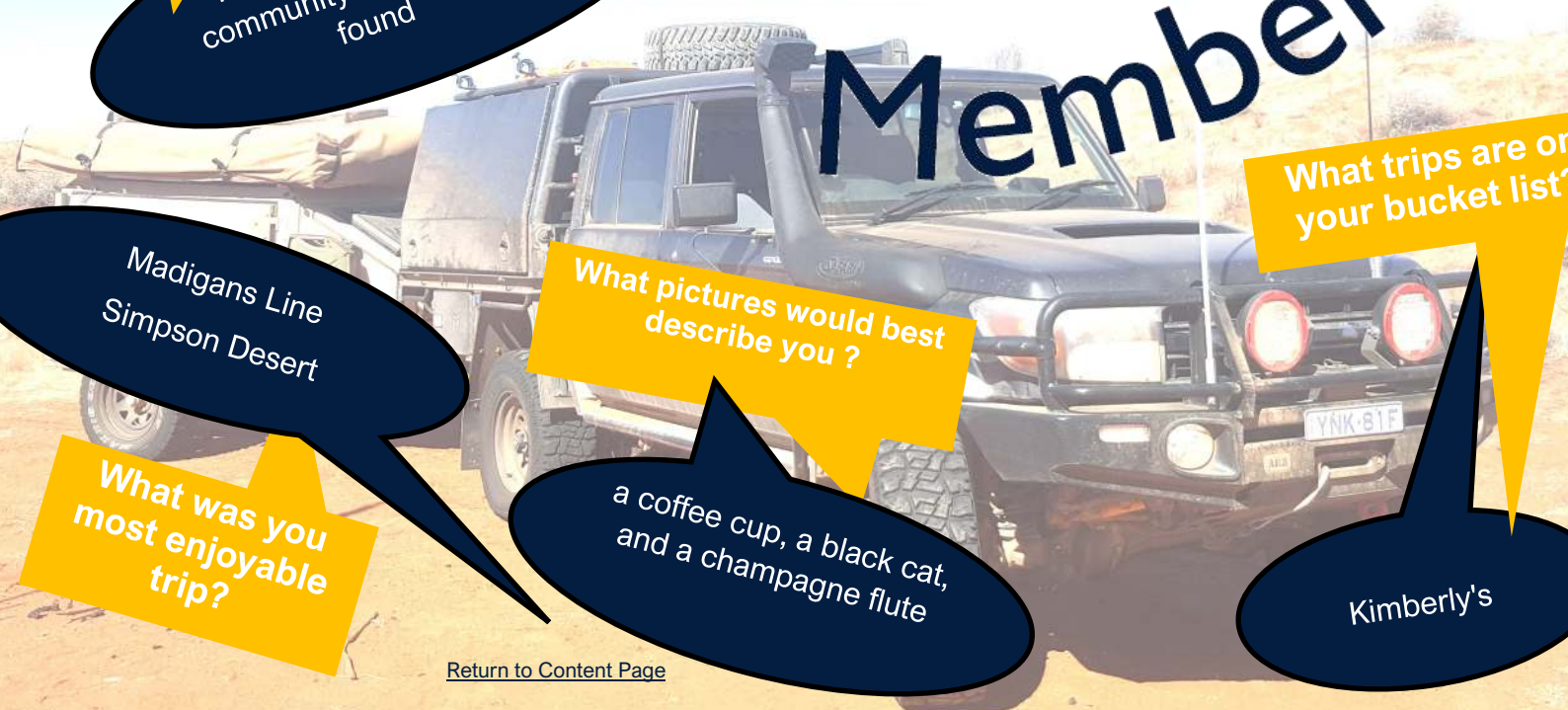
What was your most enjoyable trip?

What pictures would best describe you ?

a coffee cup, a black cat, and a champagne flute

What trips are on your bucket list?

Kimberly's



# CLUB MEETINGS

7-30pm, 2nd Tuesday of each month

Canberra Deakin Football Club, Grose St, Deakin, ACT

## April Meeting - usual room

There will be a guest “President” to preside over the meeting, Andy will be away.

## March meeting

Josh and Julian of ACTION 4x4 gave a brief overview of their product range and were available for a chat with members.

It was great to be able to chat with one our sponsors.

The Sand and Water course graduates were given their certificates, well done everyone.



# TRIPS AND EVENTS

Please check [www.st4wdc.com.au](http://www.st4wdc.com.au) and consult with the Trip Leader to confirm details before attending.  
Contact [trips@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:trips@st4wdc.com.au) for more information.

Title	Type	Grade	Trip Leader	From	To
Vehicle and Recovery Equipment Evaluation	Training	NR	Bronwyn Squire	9-Apr-24	9-Apr-24
Mystery Bay	Trip	Grade 2	Danny Trudgett	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
HEMA Maps Cloud Workshop	Training	NR	Michael Patrick	28-Apr-24	28-Apr-24
Socialites Meeting	Trip	NR	Sarah Wallace	30-Apr-24	30-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	Michael Patrick	12-May-24	12-May-24
Vehicle and Recovery Equipment Evaluation	Training	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	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	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	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	TMuster	NR	Brad Wells	7-Sep-24	8-Sep-24
Off the beaten tracks in mid-South Australia	Trip	Grade 3	Alex Szabo	9-Sep-24	20-Sep-24
Vehicle and Recovery Equipment Evaluation	Training	NR	Bronwyn Squire	10-Sep-24	10-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
Watagans	Trip	Grade 4	Robert Stevenson	4-Oct-24	7-Oct-24
Vehicle and Recovery Equipment Evaluation	Training	NR	Bronwyn Squire	8-Oct-24	8-Oct-24
Paint and Pino	Trip	Grade 2	Nicole Hermansen	12-Oct-24	13-Oct-24
Intermediate Winching and Recovery Course	Training	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire	18-Oct-24	20-Oct-24
Basic Winching and Recovery Course	Training	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire	18-Oct-24	20-Oct-24



# TRIPS AND EVENTS

Title	Type	Grade	Trip Leader	From	To
Talooge Muster	Muster	NR	Michael Patrick	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
Vehicle and Recovery Equipment Evaluation	Training	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	Training	NR	Bronwyn Squire	10-Dec-24	10-Dec-24
Exploring Outback NSW	Trip	Grade 3	Debbie Davidson	29-Mar-25	12-Apr-25



# TRIPS AND EVENTS

## BECOME A TRIP LEADER



# WE NEED YOU FOR AN ADVENTURE!!

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

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

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

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

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

**Michael Patrick**  
Trips & Events Coordinator  
Ph: 0412 377 941  
E: [trips@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:trips@st4wdc.com.au)

Gold Sponsor

# ACTION 4X4

64 Kembla St,  
Fyshwick ACT 2609  
02 6103 0500  
[info@action4x4.net.au](mailto: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**

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(02) 4624 9911

[info@camperact.com.au](mailto:info@camperact.com.au)

## Trade Sponsors

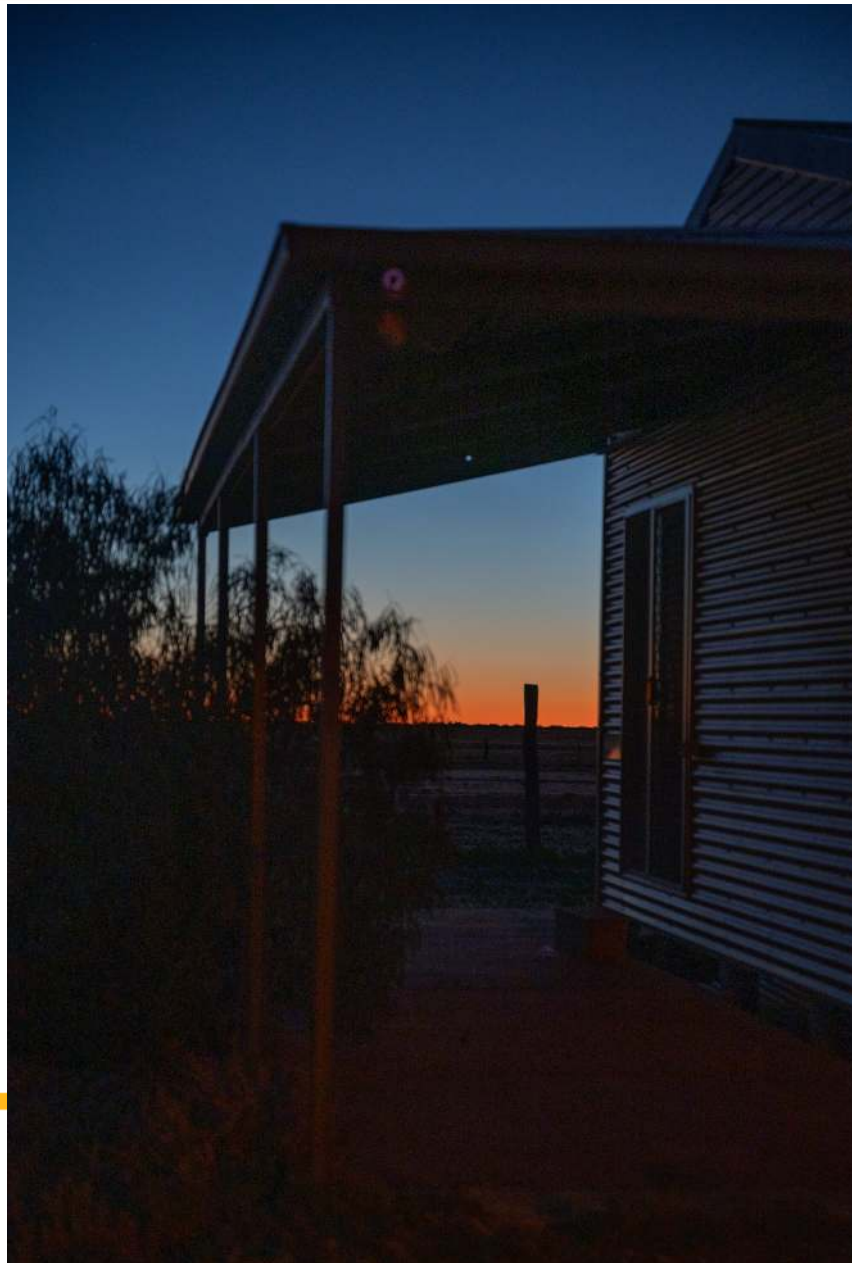
**The Traditional Furniture Restorer**

Contact Garry at 0409 443 254

**Around Town Plumbing Service**

Contact Lynne at 0412 251 528

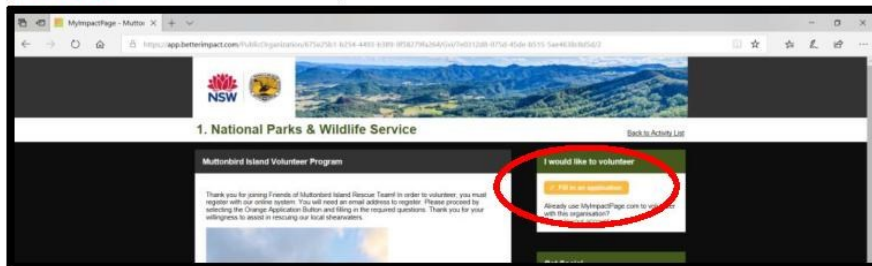
**Please support our Bronze and Trade Sponsors who support the ST4WDC**



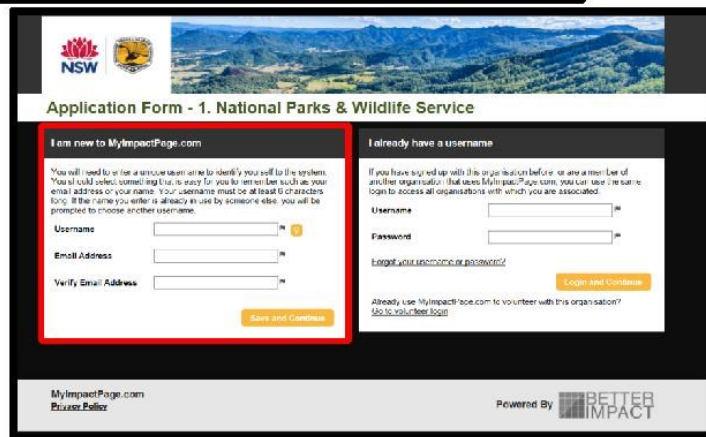
# Volunteer Registration

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.

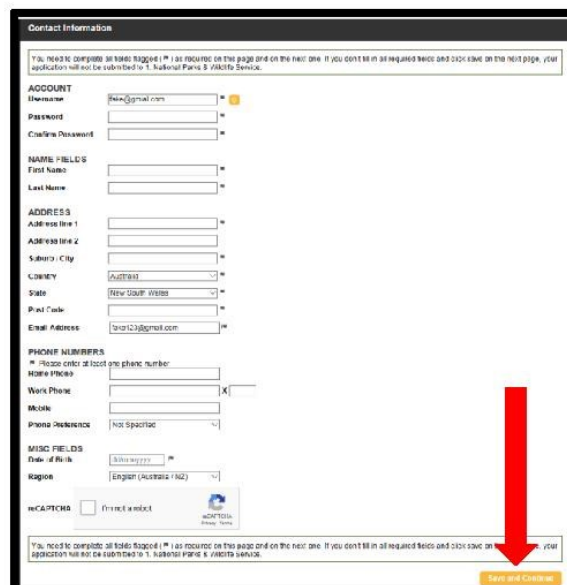
1. Go to this link: <https://4wdnow.com/pages/volunteer-sign-up-with-national-parks>
2. Hit the YELLOW "FILL IN APPLICATION" Button on the right of the screen. (red circle in screen shot below)



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.



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



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

# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

## Pole Adapter for Starlink Satellite Dish

Fits existing poles 30-50mm in diameter

Inc. 6 x grub screws

Made from aluminium

**\$50**

Rob at 0428 223379 or [publications@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:publications@st4wdc.com.au)



**Suitable  
for the rectangular  
2nd Generation  
Starlink  
Dish**



## 2 x Mean Mother Remote Controls

plus spare filter for the compressor

Remotes for MEAN MOTHER ADVENTURER 4 Air Compressor

Free - contact Rob 0428 223379



to place a FREE advertisement,  
send details to  
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# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

## Collapsible Shovel

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## ARB Deflator

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For All Items

contact Michael Patrick

0412 377 941

## Tuff Terrain Quick Connect Tyre Deflators - 4pk

\$80



# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

**Roof Top bag**  
\$50



**Roof Top bag**  
\$50

**Both Items**  
contact Michael Patrick  
0412 377 941



## Outback / Bush Astrophotography - Few Basic Tips

### For all Night Photography

- a tripod, or something to rest your camera or phone on - so you can take longer exposures
- a delayed shutter release to stop the initial shake of pressing the exposure button - most cameras and phones will have this option

### Dusk and Dawn shots

- the “Golden Hour” - take shots 15 to 30 minutes before the sun sets or after the sun rises - light is soft and warm and the sky is a strong blue. Set exposure setting for the foreground objects of interest
- the “Blue Hour” - just after sunset and just before sunrise. Tripod best but handheld possible with high ISO and / or wide aperture. Some examples, [p38](#), [p40](#), [p41](#), and [top p45](#). This is the best time for sunset / sunrise shots, esp. with some clouds.

### Foreground in the Star Shot

- Take the shot just after the Blue Hour, and exposure time should be set as to how you want the stars to appear, see below (some examples, [front cover](#) and [bottom, p.48](#).)

### Stars as Points

- use the 500 Rule (or similar) to find the maximum exposure time to keep stars sharp or as points. The rule is  $500 / \text{lens focal length}$ , e.g. using a 20mm lens, then  $500 / 20 = 25$  sec max. Also need a high ISO and wide aperture, e.g.  $f$  4.0 or wider (examples, [p36](#) & [bottom, p.48](#)).

### Star Trails

- a single long exposure, minimum of 10 minutes or longer times for longer trails, e.g. above was 20 minutes. To get the circular effect, include the southern (or northern if travelling overseas) celestial pole
- multiple 20 second exposures for the same length of times as above, e.g. for 20 minutes, means 60 exposures and then stitch together in something like Lightroom or some free software e.g. StarStaX.

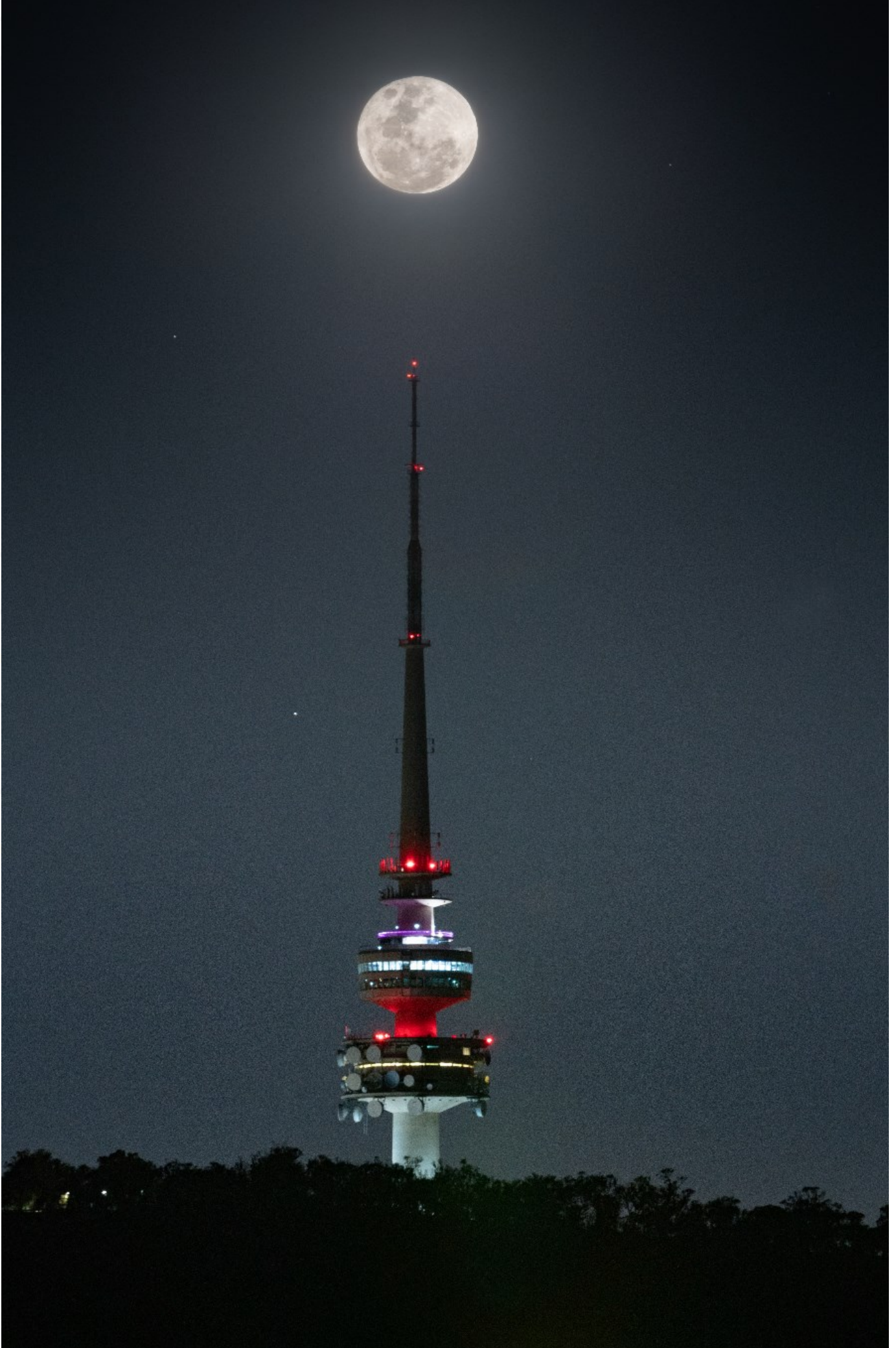
### Moon

- A full or nearly full moon is bright, so short exposure times for the moon itself are needed. If you want some foreground, e.g. [p46](#). then 2 exposures for both, close together, are needed and then stitch the photos together.

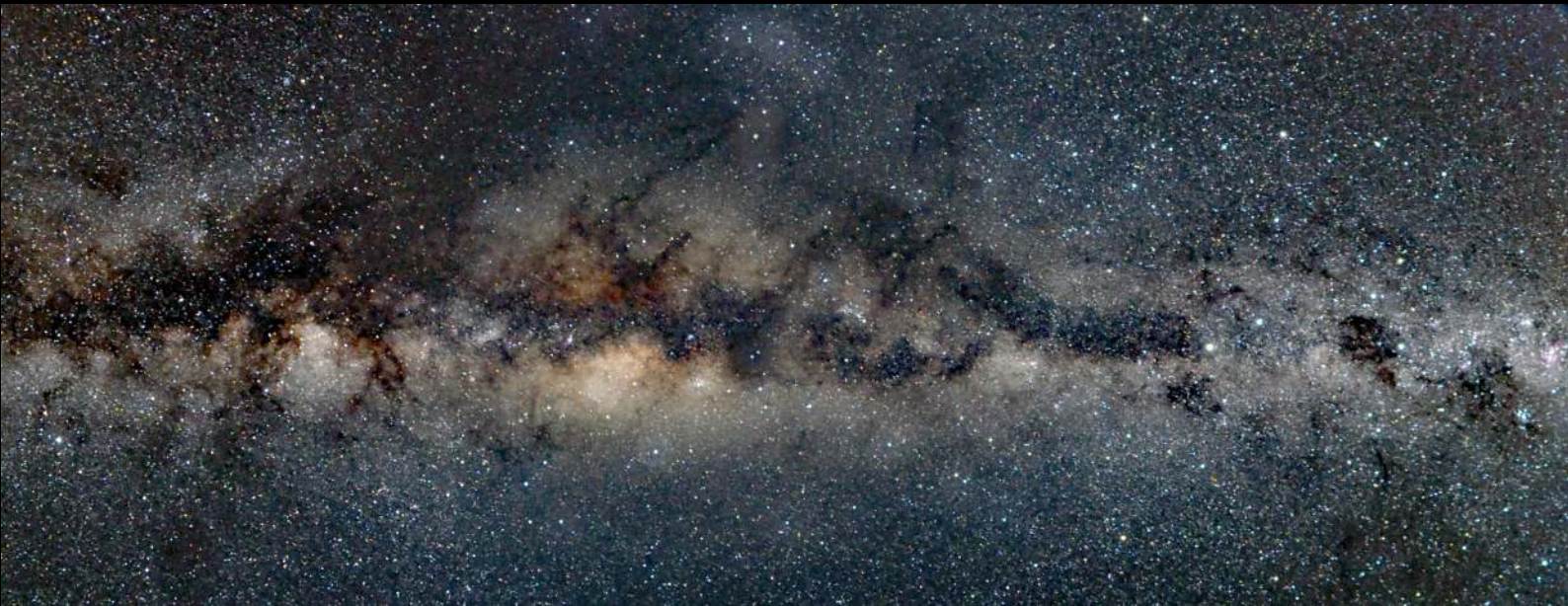
photos and tips by *Rob Davidson*

Also. See some photos from a [very experienced astro-photographer, p50](#).





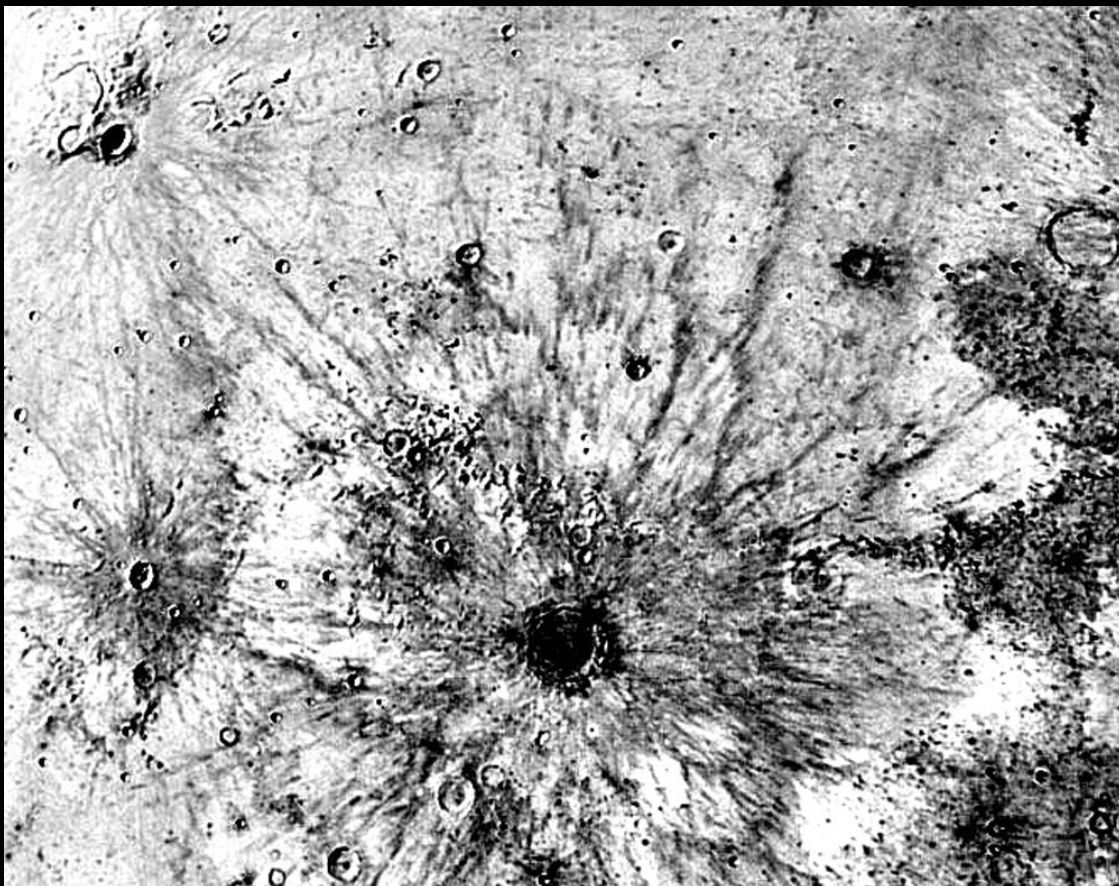
well, maybe its not a “bush” photo, but it is the Bush Capital !!



**A few photos, from a very experienced astro-photographer,  
Dr Graeme White.**

Above: The Milky Way, approximately 180° across the sky (taken in the bush to escape light pollution)

Below: Copernicus, a crater on the moon, showing its ray systems





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Stubbie Holders	\$7.50
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Many older styles and larger sizes available. Visit the clothing table at Club meetings and make a deal on out of circulation merchandise.

## ST4WDC SWAG



Club clothing is available at Club Meetings, or contact

[clothing@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:clothing@st4wdc.com.au)