

# SOUTHERN TRAILS



**SEPTEMBER 2024**

## ABERCROMBIE RIVER NATIONAL PARK

Trip Report



**MEET CLUB MEMBERS  
STUART & SARAH WALLACE**



# 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)

### President:

Andy Squire  
[president@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:president@st4wdc.com.au)

### Vice President:

Ethan Taylor  
[vpresident@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:vpresident@st4wdc.com.au)

### Secretary:

Roland Pittar  
[secretary@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:secretary@st4wdc.com.au)

### Treasurer:

Jim Anderson  
[treasurer@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:treasurer@st4wdc.com.au)

### Membership Secretary:

Lynne Donaldson  
[membership@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:membership@st4wdc.com.au)

### Events and Trips Coordinator:

Michael Patrick  
[trips@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:trips@st4wdc.com.au)

### Publications Coordinator:

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

### Education Coordinator:

Bronwyn Squire  
[education@st4wd.com.au](mailto:education@st4wd.com.au)

### Property Coordinator:

Brad Wells  
[property@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:property@st4wdc.com.au)

### Public Relations Coordinator:

Matt Warmington  
[public@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:public@st4wdc.com.au)

### Information Coordinator:

Matthew Maddigan  
[information@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:information@st4wdc.com.au)

### General Committee Members:

Troy Larke  
[general1@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:general1@st4wdc.com.au)

Steve Smith  
[general2@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:general2@st4wdc.com.au)

Nicole Hermansen  
[general3@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:general3@st4wdc.com.au)

Leanne Cowan  
[general4@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:general4@st4wdc.com.au)

### Southern Trails

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# FOUR WHEEL DRIVE AUSTRALIA

## CODE OF ETHICS



ST4WDC agrees with the Four Wheel Drive Australia Code of Ethics as 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

*No Report From  
Andy*

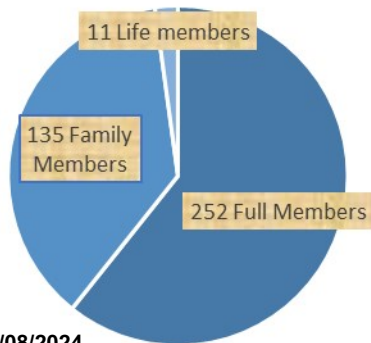


# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

BY LYNNE DONALDSON

# Welcome

Membership - Total 398 Members



numbers as of 31/08/2024

**to the following new members who joined in August:**

- Andy Kemp – Toyota Hilux
- Matthew Diamond – Land Rover Defender
- Michael Manley – Holden Colorado
- John Wilson – GWM Tank 300
- Neal Sulway – Land Rover Discovery 2

G'day everyone, I hope that you are starting to pack your winter woollies away and starting to enjoy Spring!

Rob and I have been away for a night recently and enjoyed the warmer weather, not quite swimming weather yet but looking forward to the next few months.

It might be a good time to get your thinking cap on and plan some trips and get to know some other Club members that might become life-long friends.

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

When your membership renewal is due, please hop onto the website and renew through the renewal form. You can also update your profile this way too.

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

could you please contact me to discuss.

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

### **Membership benefits**

Please remember that several businesses in Canberra advertise with us 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 at participating stores! Check out a full list of Advertisers on our web site and within the newsletter.

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*

# LOOKING BACK

May 2002

# Southern Trails

\$3.00 RRP



## OFFICE BEARERS

### President

Tony Stuart-Smith

(h) 6236 8032

Email: [tony.stuart-smith@oracle.com](mailto:tony.stuart-smith@oracle.com)

### Vice President

Peter Henderson

(h) 6231-3005 (m) 0419 690 190

Email: [phenders@austarmetro.com.au](mailto:phenders@austarmetro.com.au)

### Secretary

Jim Leedman

(h) 6295 2362

Email: [leedman@eisa.net.au](mailto:leedman@eisa.net.au)

### Treasurer

Denis Dobie

(h) 6231-0560 (m) 0418 202 508

Email: [ddobie@leeden.com.au](mailto:ddobie@leeden.com.au)

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Publications Coordinator

Paul Tolley

(h) 6294-2775 (m) 0407-296-425

Email: [ptolley@webone.com.au](mailto:ptolley@webone.com.au)

### Education Coordinator

Peter Reynolds

(h) 6251-1258 (w) 0428-623-458

### Membership Secretary

Chris Nicholls

(h) 6291-0849

Email: [cgn@cyberone.com.au](mailto:cgn@cyberone.com.au)

### Trips Coordinator

Nigel Moth

(h) 6251-4723 (w) same

Email: [najpmoth@ozemail.com.au](mailto:najpmoth@ozemail.com.au)

### Property Coordinator

Graeme Lister

(h) 6292-6183 (w) 6282-4299

Email: [g-n.lister@bigpond.com](mailto:g-n.lister@bigpond.com)

### Public Relations Coordinator

Diane Mainey

(h) 6231-6298 (w) same

Email: [dmainey@optusnet.com.au](mailto:dmainey@optusnet.com.au)

## General Members

Kathy Solomos

(h) 6297-2250 (m) 0402-051-623

Heather Jack

(h) 6241-6346

Email: [heather.jack@canberra.edu.au](mailto:heather.jack@canberra.edu.au)

Graeme Tonge ("Duck")

(h) TBA

Email: [graeme.tonge@yahoo.com.au](mailto:graeme.tonge@yahoo.com.au)

## TRIP REPORTS

New Member's Picnic  
Victorian High Country  
Gibbo River  
River Crossing

## SPECIAL ITEMS

Bullbars - The Real Story!

MAY 2002  
ISSUE 282

### Front Cover Picture:

Powerline Track that connects to the Boundary Fire Trail in the Brindabella Ranges

# Editor's Comment!



Hello to all our members, new and old!

My time is somewhat less as I have finally landed a job, though I must admit, it was a welcome lessening when considering the alternatives. It is also good because I can finally begin to map out some plans I have had in the pipeline for normal trips. As much as I love instructing, I do so enjoy getting away in to the bush as well, especially when surrounded by such great people from the club.

You may have observed that the amount of river crossings courses I had in the magazine for the year have been removed. This was a committee decision due to me recently having to defer two courses due to circumstances beyond my control and apparently with members complaining of this occurrence. Unfortunately, as a result of this the amount of courses will now be reduced as further restrictions have been placed upon me for contingencies, and the Little Big Boss has requested a definitive reduction in the time and efforts I've been expending. Henceforth, I will not be taking reserves in the future, because I will end up worse than DE, with an extensive backlog that will blow out all my courses before I even begin.

I'll sign off here as time is of a premium at the moment. Keep an eye on the club committee minutes as maybe some bright spark may come up with a way to resolve this dilemma without further impact to members.

Safe and Adventurous Trails  
Paul

## The ST4WDC Inc Web Site!!!

Our website can be found by pointing your browser to: <http://www.st4wdc.org>. It is updated per month, after the magazine is delivered to members. As the site becomes more acknowledged other 4WD related organisations you will find more links been added.

Make sure you check them out! Any feedback on the site, or suggestions, are most welcomed.

Please contact the Editor for more information.

**Editor's Note:** Brett (the club's Webmaster), is always on the look out for new pictures and more. If you have anything please either let him or me know.

### A good Pun is its own reward!

Energizer Bunny arrested - charged with battery.

A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

A pessimist's blood type is always b-negative.

My wife really likes to make pottery, but to me it's just kiln time.

Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.

Practice safe eating - always use condiments.

I fired my masseuse today. She just rubbed me the wrong way.

A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother.

Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.

I used to work in a blanket factory, but it folded.

I used to be a lumberjack, but I just couldn't hack it, so they gave me the axe.

If electricity comes from electrons... does that mean that morality comes from morons?

A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.

Marriage is the mourning after the knot before.

Is a book on voyeurism a peeping tome?

Banning the bra was a big flop.

Sea captains don't like crew cuts.

A successful diet is the triumph of mind over platter.

Without geometry, life is pointless.

## Trip Year at a Glance!



### May

- 11 Basic Driver Skills Follow Up Day
- 11-12 The Cascades & Big Badja
- 12 Pigeon House
- 18-19 McKillops Bridge on the Snowy River
- 4-30/6 East-West Crossing

### June

- 6-25/7 Year of the Outback History Trip
- 8-10 Wallaga Lake with Trailers
- 8-10 Bendethra Re-Visited
- 15 Monga NP
- 15-16 Bendethra for New Members
- 20/22 River Crossings Course
- 23 Tallaganda Forest

### July

- 6-7 "Safe One" Basic Driver Ed
- 8-27 Year of the Outback - Flinders
- 13 Xmas Inter Club Bush Dance
- 14 Basic Driver Skills Follow Up Day

### August

- 10-11 Seahorse Inn, Boyd Town

### September

- 14-15 "Safe One" Very Difficult Terrain & Advanced Recovery Course
- 28-29 Micalong Creek

### October

- 12-13 "Safe One" Basic Driver Ed
- 20 Basic Driver Skills Follow Up Day

### November

TBA

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## New Members Picnic - 14 April

### Trip Leaders

Peter and Gwen Henderson (Patrol)

### Fellow Travellers

Peter and Fran Ellis (Landcruiser)

Wayne and Heather MacMillan (Landcruiser)

Doug, Sue and James Rann (Landcruiser)

Gustavo and Julianna Marconi (Sierra)

David Buckleyey and Carol Croxford with  
Joshua and Rebecca (Bravo)

Lin Clayton and Helen Swan (Prado)

Garry Lymbery and Natalie (Patrol)

Mats Eriksson and Katarina Jonson  
(Pathfinder)

Gary, Sue, Ella, Clare, and Patrick Caitcheon  
(Landcruiser)

Nigel ('Charlie') Moth (Landcruiser)

### The Route

Uriarra Homestead, Piccadilly Circus,  
Brindabella Valley, Micalong Swamp,  
Nottingham Road to Micalong Creek, Billy  
Grace Reserve (Goodradigbee R), Wee Jasper,  
Doctors Flat Road, Big Hill, Uriarra Crossing.

### The Day

We have been club members for three years,  
but this was the first 'new members' picnic  
that we have been on. However, 12 new  
members did make this, their first club trip.  
Peter insisted that radio silence was not an  
option, so got an ice-breaking conversation  
going early into the trip.



*Lunch stop....*



*Photo - The Flat Tyre...*

Although the weather wasn't promising when we left - overcast with showers, there was a plus side, which was that most of the dirt roads had been dampened and there was virtually no dust. Thanks for organizing that Peter.

Our morning tea stop was at Micalong Swamp off the Brindabella to Tumut road. Along the way we inspected campsites along the Goodradigbee River opposite Brindabella Station where Miles Franklin, the author of 'My Brilliant Career' spent her early childhood. It certainly would have been an inspiring setting to grow up in.

The blackberries at Micalong Swamp were in full fruit and very tasty. Improvised blackberry collection buckets appeared from most trucks. This activity was good entertainment for the smaller crewmembers, especially while Peter Ellis attended to his first flat tire on a club trip. Later inspection of the offending flat indicated that a stress fracture was the most likely cause, and lower tire pressure could have helped avoid it.

On the way to our lunch stop at Billy Grace Reserve (refueling is important on any club trip), we checked out the Micalong Creek camping area which is just upstream of where the creek joins the Goodradigbee River. The campsite is a very pleasant setting with flush loos and firewood provided for a fee of \$6 per adult per night. Nigel was checking the location for a possible 'meet the Committee' trip in early spring.



Morning tea....

provides a great view of the Canberra valley. Had the weather been better on this side of the Brindabella Range we could have lingered longer to enjoy the uninterrupted panorama, but a cool breeze and the threat of shower drove us down to debriefing point at Uriarra Crossing.

The route we followed is ideal for a day trip, with some great scenery and very good 'refuelling' spots to stop at along the way. Thanks to organizers Peter and Gwen, and the rest of the crew for making our 'new members' picnic a pleasure.

Gary Caitcheon

Billy Grace Reserve just south of Wee Jasper is a similar camping area fronting the Goodradigbee River. An additional attraction here is hot showers (coin operated). Riverbank campsites among the tall Casuarinas are keenly sought after during weekends and holidays. There is also a covered BBQ area called Sarah's Playground with flush loos and play equipment for the small crewmembers.

This is where we settled in for the lunchtime refueling. Food consumption was combined with an ample helping of conversation. The social side of club trips is often as good as the attraction of getting out in the bush and soaking up the scenery. Swapping yarns around a campfire after an interesting days travel is an experience that must have its beginnings with our distant ancestors. It has certainly lost none of its attraction.

After lunch we cruised through the metropolis of Wee Jasper, permanent population less than 50. This is where the Goodradigbee River runs into Burrinjuck Reservoir, except the tide us usually always out because the reservoir is rarely full.

A few kilometres along the Yass road we turned off onto Doctors Flat Road. This is a very scenic way to return to Canberra, especially where the road passes through Brindabella National Park. We stopped to inspect the site of the Hume Sawmill that operated in the 1940s.

A sidetrack took us to Pig Hill, which



### GO FIGURE

1. A murderer is condemned to death. He has to choose between three rooms. The first is full of raging fires, the second is full of assassins with loaded guns, and the third is full of lions that haven't eaten in 3 years. Which room is safest for him?
2. A woman shoots her husband. Then she holds him under water for over 5 minutes. Finally, she hangs him. But 5 minutes later they both go out together and enjoy a wonderful dinner. How can this be?
3. There are two plastic jugs filled with water. How could you put all of this water into a barrel, without using the jugs or any dividers, and still tell which water came from which jug?
4. What is black when you buy it, red when you use it, and gray when you throw it away?
5. Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday?

(Answers on next page)

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Go Figure Answers  
on the  
Social Club Page

# ABERCROMBIE RIVER NATIONAL PARK 2024

*Trip Leader: Michael Patrick*

*The Abercrombie River National Park is a protected national park that is located in the Central Tablelands region of New South Wales, in eastern Australia. The 19,000-hectare national park is situated approximately 120 kilometres west of Sydney and 40 kilometres south of Oberon.*



Once again, thanks to M & M for a great trip. Apart from the rain there was just enough of everything to keep it interesting. A few recoveries, water crossings, mud baths, things to see, and a few beers around the camp fire at night, until the rain scared everybody off.

## **Rod**

With overcast skies and some wet weather forecast, the two convoys met at Eagle Hawk. Convoy A (a great bunch of folk) under the professional leadership of Michael Patrick set off towards Goulburn. The skies decided to threaten, however as we made Taralga, Michael checked with his weather prediction cows ( yes, some Sharman stuff about cows laying down is rain, standing up is fine) and most if not all were standing up, therefore we would have sunny days. A quick morning tea stop and a prostate relief manoeuvre (you older blokes know the pain) and toward the Glen we headed. Light rain continued to fall, and creeks had a flow. I learnt that Discoveries really could disco as one slid on the muddy track into the Glen like a speedway car can slide. The Glen is a fabulous place, beautiful campsites on the creek makes for a peaceful time.

We did the historical western loop on the Saturday (not to be mixed up with the hysterical tour the following day). A night of rain did prevent too much socialising and I found myself in the swag at 8.30 listening to the rain, the creek and some chainsaw snoring from nearby camps. As Michael said, it might have rained, but there was no dust either.

The next day proved a little more interesting with some steep and badly rutted tracks, some front wheel lifting by some of the convoy, an un beaded tyre and a little more of slippery action as the rain overnight, coupled with some unimaginable, made the tracks wet, slippery in parts and rutted.

Can I say what a joy it was to be lead by Michael Patrick. He ran the tour with a 9am to 4pm attitude which was fantastic. He held appreciated briefings, so we knew what to expect, was a fantastic tour guild or fiction teller, I am not quite sure which, was quick out his vehicle to assist with a tricky section where picking your line was pretty important, and only had 1 turnaround! To be fair, the green sign saying retreat track was green and so were the trees.

Again, my Prado made the going easy and does a much better job than I can ever do at the steering wheel.

Thanks to the other people in the convoy for a nice, friendly and fun weekend.

### Steve


The Abercrombie weekend got off to a drizzly start as Convoy B left Eaglehawk, but nothing too drastic. Maria & I had previously visited Abercrombie Caves on the western side of the park & had had torrential rain there. Must be something to do with the topography. Morning tea was at Bummaroo Campground on the Abercrombie River with a nice chat with a Ranger who'd done a double-take as we rolled in just after Convoy A had left.

We moved on & eventually turned off onto the dirt, or rather mud & then the fun started. Progress was slow & the steeper clay sections were quite slippery, giving a Campervan-tower or two a few problems. Our Convoy Leader Matt had to do a couple of rescues & the deteriorating conditions slowed us a bit more but we eventually made "The Glen" to find Convoy A already gone on their loop.

While we had a quick lunch "the Army" arrived with a collection of ex-Army Unimog's (with camouflaged A-Vans mounted on the trays), a Pinzgauer 6-wheel-drive, a vintage Landrover & an extremely rare Austin Champ 4WD, which promptly stalled in the last river crossing.

Our scenic loop-drive proved to be very challenging with intermittent rain, steep, rutted sections, lots of slippery clay, some loose rocky climbs, drops & numerous creek crossings. Everyone got through though some sections re-





quired a few attempts. We had Chris in his mighty Jimny behind us & having owned 4 Suzuki's myself in the past, I expected him to keep up to our old diff-locked Prado, but he did better than that & kept close behind us without trying too hard. Only later I found out that his Jimny also sported a rear diff-lock. Due to our later start we came past Bald Hill just as dark fell (& quite thick mist) so passed on that track & continued on, eventually making camp well after dark at 6:30pm. Along the way we'd dodged some supersonic Wallabies, a couple of errant suicidal Hereford Cows, some Goats & even a wild Pig.

After dinner the rain continued on & off with constant heavy showers, so the camp-fire socialising was truncated & bed called early. After a very rainy night listening to the river rushing close at hand, a hot breakfast & several coffees were very

welcome. The extended driving of the previous day had aggravated Maria's back problems, so we elected to relax in camp with a few others, build up the fires, chat & explore the old buildings with Clint & his little boy, Bill. We did a leisurely packup & when Michael led a first convoy out just as the second made it's way back to camp, we went with it.

After airing-up nearer Abercrombie Rd, it was "proceed independently" time & the only navigating drama of the weekend occurred, when the "turn right, then turn right again" verbal instructions managed to miss mentioning a right turn in between, which we & one of the Camper-towing Patrols took. That road then degenerated into a fire-trail back into the NP near Bald Hill again. Fortunately, there was enough room for the Patrol to turn it's Camper around & we both back-tracked to where we'd turned off, just in time for others of our convoy to see us & avoid the same diversion.

Many thanks to Michael for his organising & Matt as our Convoy Leader. It was a trip well-worth doing, even in the weather we had. The only (constructive) criticism that I'd offer is that maybe meeting & starting at Goulburn rather than Eaglehawk might be more practical, as listening to radio chatter a few vehicles seemed to be running a bit short on fuel by Sunday & it was a good 100km back to Goulburn once you hit the bitumen at Abercrombie Rd. While that wasn't a problem for us, it seemed like a factor for some others.

### ***Steve & Maria***

Well it absolutely bucketed down rain all weekend, I considered pulling the pin but decided to put on my big boy pants and suck it up. Mud, rain, breakdowns, recoveries, cold rations, warm beer, freezing night, and no toilet paper, what more could you ask for. You probably might have guessed that I'm making this up as I go along 😊 Actually we had a great time trundling around Abercrombie NP with only the odd light shower and telling stories around the campfire over a few scotches. Then Felix brought out the pistachios which topped the evening off nicely. A lovely warm bed and back out doing it again on the Sunday.. Great group, fun tracks, new places, and only a couple of hours from home. Thanks again MP for organising the trip.

PS you are redeemed!

### ***Matt Warmington***



The trip to the Glen was great, thanks very much for leading it. After hearing about this spot for several years it was good to finally get there and experience it in person. The trip to get there was pleasant with morning tea stop at Bummaroo Ford camp ground on the Abercrombie River - a very nice looking spot.

After dropping the campers off at The Glen and having lunch we headed off for a great afternoon drive then returning to The Glen to settle in and get the fire started. The fire was not cooperating to start with but with the help of a blow torch and a small leaf blower we got it started and turned it into the place to be even with light drizzle. Later on each parted ways when the drizzle turned to rain.

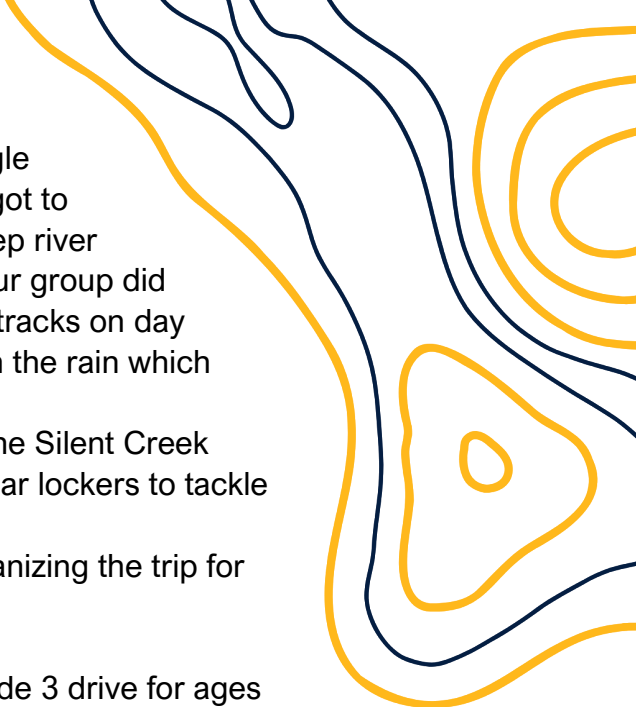
For me the first 20 min of the day two drive was great but a rattle got louder fairly quickly. After adjusting my high lift jack I realised that it was in fact, a rattle caused by the body of my rear shock knocking on the chassis as it had departed company from the mounting bolt. :( As the type of shock I have can be re-built, re-calibrated and re-gassed it has a gas valve at the top of the shock, under the central (screw-in) shock retaining bolt. This is definitely not the first time this retaining bolt has come undone.

After bidding farewell & safe travels to the troops, I pulled onto a level spot off the track to rectify the issue. After spending 20 minutes removing the shock & drilling through the shock body into the retaining bolt, inserting a pin to stop the retraining bolt from unscrewing again I finished my McGivering and proceeded to re-install the shock into the vehicle.

Half way through re-installation I though.... I'll have to take this out again when I get home to fix it properly, then I remember I actually have a spare rear shock behind the back seat of the vehicle (because I haven't had time to empty the vehicle of spare parts and fluids after my Simpson Desert Trip). Hey Presto, spare part on hand, installed it, then back to the Glen for lunch and relaxation.

Like many other vehicles, the Prado has almost no room to access the top retaining nut on the rear shocks. Many a nut has become a loose part of the vehicle (on top of the chassis rail where it can't be retrieved). To avoid this, I wrapped some good sticky tape around the nut and back to itself to form a handle. This allows the nut to be held in the right location without it slipping to oblivion and the shock can be spun to screw into the nut. This is all done while holding the Rubber mount and steel washer in place as well :-). Hope this tip is helpful for someone else.

**Brad Wells**



The Abercrombie trip was one, I was particularly looking forward to and it did not disappoint. We left an overcast Eagle Hawk, and the weather started to get rainier the closer we got to Abercrombie National Park. We had to go through fairly deep river crossings to reach the campsite at the Glen. On day one, our group did the easier western loop which was a good warm up for the tracks on day two. The tracks in Abercrombie seem to get very slippery in the rain which created some interesting sections.

The real challenges were the tracks on day two at around the Silent Creek area where it helped to have crawler gears and front and rear lockers to tackle the steep uphill sections.

All in all, it was a great event and big thanks to Michael organizing the trip for leading our group.

Joachim

'I have wanted to do the Abercrombie trip and my third Grade 3 drive for ages but life commitments and other travel plans have consistently conspired against me. On the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August, the planets aligned and nothing was going to get in the way. With Michael P as our convoy leader, what could possibly go wrong? Well nothing much really. Me, my friend Miche, my trusty Ranger and Intrepid slide-on set off with our convoy comrades to the Abercrombie River National Park and the exclusive, fabulous, no-public-allowed, 'The Glen' campground where we ditched the trailers, admired the sparkling new loos, grabbed a bite to eat, and eyed off our preferred campsite. Then it was back across the river avoiding the sneaky black log, through the back sludge on onto the western loop with its pretty campsites, history, old homesteads, and gold mining relics. The on again, off again drizzle made for some slipping' and a sliding' but nothing to cause too much stress. On returning to 'The Glen' we were joined by a clutch of Uni-mog's on their annual pilgrimage to the Abercrombie River National Park. The fast-moving river and more rain lulled us to sleep early so it was bright eyes and bushy tails that greeted Day 2 and the 'it-will-be-so-much-fun' eastern loop. And it delivered. The sand at "The Beach" had me reversing and hitting the diff lock. Further on some steep gnarly, diff-locking sections demanded a deft touch and careful line picking. More gorgeous campsites to check out, a pig tearing across the road, wallabies, kangas, birds and stunning views made for a very memorable drive. Huge thanks to Michael for his patience, support and steady manner, and my fellow drivers for a fabulous weekend that had it all – history, beautiful views, river crossings, challenging sections, lovely campground and of course, the company of my lovely convoy colleagues. So when's the next Grade 4?'

Thanks Michael – you are a great trip leader and I enjoyed our trip immensely.

**Belinda**

Great weekend thanks Michael Patrick and Matt... had a fat time. Notable observations included the trickiness involved in towing a camper up and down sloshy tracks, in properly estimating fuel consumption and in the mob takeover of Rob Wilsons awning space when it rained. Convoy B trip leader Matt hauled folk out of bogs and slides on no less than three occasions and provided me with his spare 20L to get me back to Goulburn.

**Felix**



We were glad to finally get a look at Abercrombie after a couple of aborted attempts. The rain largely stayed away although there were some showers. At the Glen, it was great to see the 'military' group especially the modified Unimog's. The rain did increase the mud which made pulling the camper trailer interesting but certainly not insurmountable. I'd like to thank Michael for organising the trip and running a great convoy. Thanks also to my fellow drivers for their good humour.

**David S**

The drive out was a fun one.

Matt, the convoy B leader kept things interesting by promoting his yet to be formed band and conducting a few tryouts for would-be members over the UHF. Before long we were stopping for morning tea. Like clockwork, Convoy A filed out as we rolled in to stretch our legs by the river.

I was accompanied on the trip by Bill, my 5 year old who got the exploration bug when we hunted for snow in the Brindabellas during the most recent school holidays. He asked to do more bumpy driving trips. This was the window of opportunity I had been waiting for. As soon as I came back into coverage I searched the club website and booked the Abercrombie trip. I remembered it being promoted as a good chance to hone skills covered in basic training. It certainly did this and more, for sure. One key difference was that I did basic training in dry conditions, something Abercrombie was not on this particular visit.

The drive into The Glen was quite challenging in parts for me. I was reflecting on my decision to bring the camper trailer when I got stuck on a long clay covered incline. As Rod kindly helped deflate my tyres, Matt reassured me that all would be fine, reminded me what I needed to do, and the benefits of travelling in a convoy. Then he gave me a tow to the top. We repeated this process once more before we reached the camp. Bill stayed calm throughout the unsticky process but was keen to know why others weren't getting stuck. A fair question I thought, and one we chatted about as we made our way to camp.

There was plenty to explore both on the tracks and at camp. The tracks were abundant. Many offered great views and a variety of terrain. The itinerary meant we were able to stay in camp on Sun-





day and explore the river and some of the farm relics. After a long Saturday in the saddle this allowed my copilot to have some time to stretch his legs, for us to chat with others in the group in the dry, and check out the rocks in the riverbed - no gold unfortunately. It also gave us plenty of time to do a slow pack up.

The trip lived up to expectations and certainly gave me exposure to new conditions. Given how infrequently I get a chance to drive tracks, I have made notes and plan to reference them before future trips. I have a personal goal of doing the Vic High Country trip one day. I feel the Abercrombie experience will help me get closer to achieving this goal. Bill and I both had a great time. Thank you all for a great trip. Special thanks to Michael the trip leader and to Matt, for leading convoy B.

### **Clinton**

Mike and I had a great weekend and enjoyed some nighttime driving slipping around in the mud. We found it interesting how a cave was dug underneath the hill and that the river would be diverted into the cave so it could be prospected for gold. There were photos at the campground from the 1970s of how the miners had lived back then which were interesting.

### Thanks **Luke**

It started with a pleasant drive down the highway and back roads until we hit the Abercrombie NP. From then the roads were a little muddy that necessitated a couple of recoveries and letting a couple of pounds out of the tyres sorted that issue.

We eventually got to The Glen after some interesting ruts, boggy bits and a couple of water crossings. The afternoon saw us do a track with some magnificent views but had us getting back after dark. The tracks look totally different at night.

The evening started with a drink and a batter around the fire, but tummy grumbles beckoned and it was time to cook up some grub. Around this time it started raining and when I looked out after dinner the party around the fire had evaporated so it was early to bed.

The next morning started at a gentlemanly hour so had time to chat with a couple of the guys with the old army vehicles that were also camping there. We then started another loop. We saw the place where a miner dug through rock to divert the river so he could mine the bend of the river. An old hut proved an interesting stop. It is amazing how people do with what they got.





The last stop was at the beach where the opportunity to do a bit of sand driving and bogging the cruiser to give the winch a run.

Returning to The Glen to pack up see if the road was still passable after the Unimogs had gone through. There were a couple of hairy moments when gravity and mud overrode the brakes and tyres ability to slow me down so we just had to hang on.

Back on tar we stopped in Goulburn for a coffee and to thank Matt for leading our group in such a calm and patient manner. It was another great weekend and extend my appreciation to Michael for his planning of the weekend.

***Jerry***

With closures forever increasing for 4WD driving, Abercrombie offers a great area for us. There are numerous tracks, of a great variety of challenges, many camping area options and it is not too far away from Canberra. I will be going again, with and without club trips.

***Warren***



# SOCIAL CLUB ACTIVITIES

Hi All

The socialites held a night of Ten pin bowling in August. It was a great opportunity to meet new people and fun was had by all, thanks to Tracey for organising this.

Plans are underway for the Christmas party 6-8 December, with festivities happening on the Saturday night, including dinner and games.

Nominations will go up on the website once I get back to Canberra and near my computer. There will be three options for attendance and the opportunity to explore Kowen Forest if you wish.

Nominations are still open for the Paint and Pino 12 October at the Thomas Boyd Trackhead campground, this sounds like it will be a great weekend.

Until next month  
Sarah

# OUTDOOR RECIPES

# HELP!

Send in some delicious recipes to share with  
Club Members

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

**Your Help is Needed** *(don't leave all recipes to a few people!)*

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

# TRIP REPORTS AND MEMBER ARTICLES

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

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

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



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

[Return to Content Page](#)

## 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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# HAVE YOU HEARD

## HEMA UPDATE

Hema have released a new update to the HEMA Premium Maps, The new update is HEMA Premium Version 5 Quarter 2.

Any questions contact Michael at [Trips@st4wdc.com](mailto:Trips@st4wdc.com)

## 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, the Club Secretary, for details.

## 2024-25 CLUB BUDGET

The Committee has approved the 2024-25 Budget. The Budget is available from the website for logged in members: Committee and Policy Documents > Club Budget



# Cabin Drill

## EDUCATION COORDINATOR'S TIPS AND TRICKS

Bron Squire, the ST4WDC Education Coordinator, has provided information on cabin drill.

### Cabin Drill

- Windscreen and mirrors clean and set appropriately
- Head rest and seat position correct
- Seatbelts on
- UHF Radio on right channel
- Internal loads secured
- Windows fully up or down
- Headlights on
- 4WD brain engaged





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# Member Spotlight

on

## Stuart & Sarah Wallace

How long have you been a member?

7 years (joined around August 2017)

Why did you join the ST4WDC?

To meet like minded people and travel further afield (safety in numbers 😊)

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

Sarah is currently the Social Club coordinator.

Stuart enjoys assisting with the Driver Training. Watching new members learn how capable both they and their cars are is very rewarding. Not to mention another excuse to go camping with friends, not that we need an excuse.

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

Making new friendships and enjoying trips all over Australia

What was your most enjoyable trip?

One of our very first trips was to the Flinders Ranges lead by Dim. The travel throughout outback South Australia with the club was amazing. The Flinders Ranges are spectacular, if you have not been we highly recommend it.

Other notable mentions: Vic High Country, McKillop's Bridge, Madigan Line, Yerranderie Township – they were all fantastic.

What trips are on your bucket list?

Oombulgurri Track  
Canning Stock Route  
Anne Beadell Hwy  
The Bridle Track  
Border Track  
Kidman Way  
and everywhere else in between.



Members Spotlight

# CLUB MEETINGS

*7-30pm, 2nd Tuesday of each month*

*Canberra Deakin Football Club, Grose St, Deakin, ACT*

## **September Meeting** - usual room

Please consider having your meal in the meeting room and sharing your table with other members who you may not as well. It is then a great opportunity to get to know more club members.

## **October Meeting** - Annual General Meeting

Please consider contributing to the Club by being a Committee member - contact Roland at [secretary@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:secretary@st4wdc.com.au) for a nomination form.

## **November meeting**

Mathew Linnane, from Hema, will be attending the meeting and talking about

- 1) The new HX-2+ Navigator & Accessories
- 2) The HEMA Alpha Program
- 3) Map Patrol

# ST4WDC Trip of The Month (TOTM)

by Michael Patrick

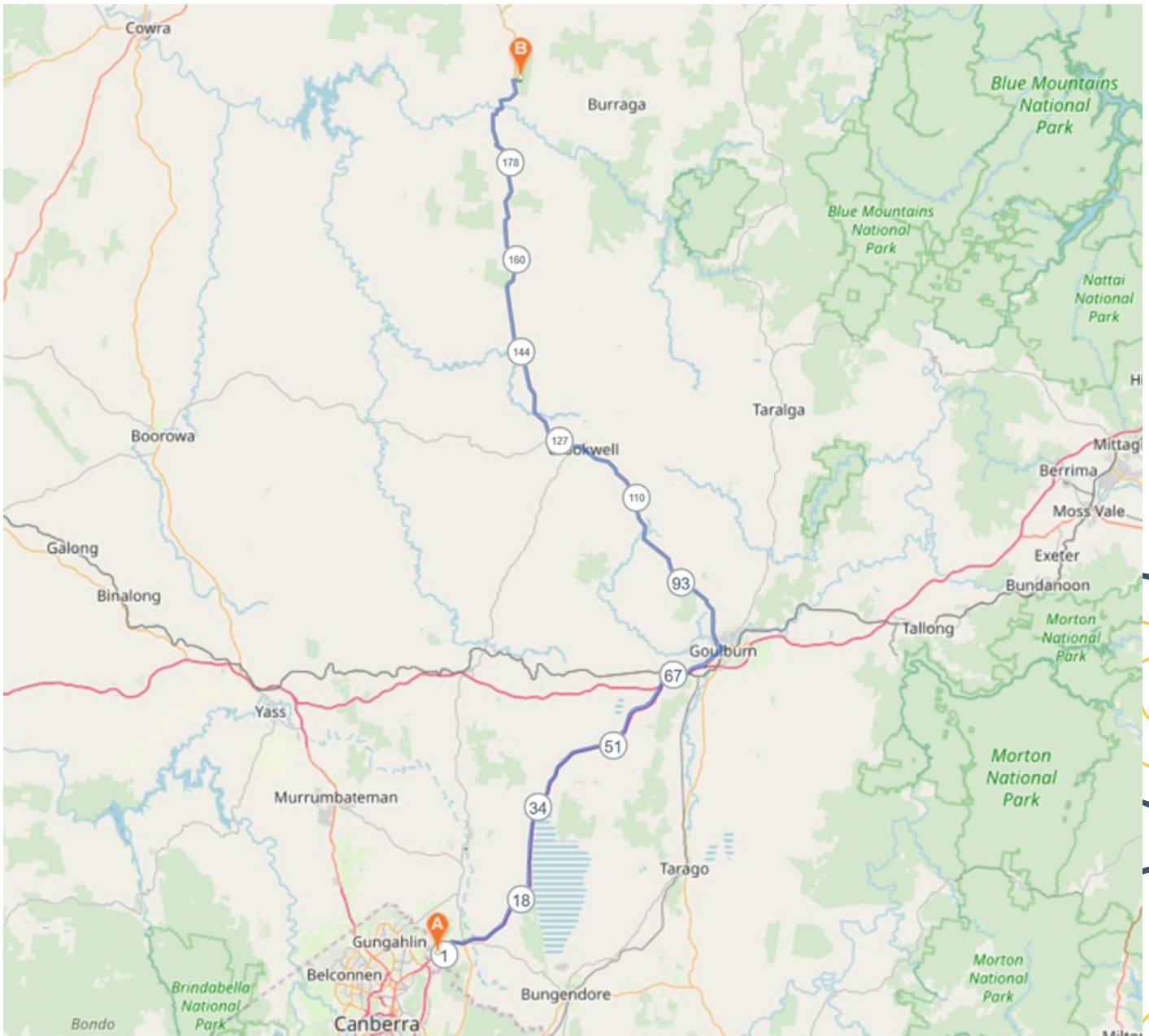
[trips@st4wdc.com.au](mailto:trips@st4wdc.com.au)

Welcome to the TOTM. Each month in the newsletter I will list an easy trip for club members who want to lead a day trip. If you are interested in leading this trip, please contact the Trips and Events Coordinator for the trip details. This month's trip is:-

## Abercrombie Caves

This is a nice easy grade 2 day drive to Abercrombie Caves Jasper. Have a picnic or stay the night at Abercrombie camp grounds. Abercrombie Caves, off the Bathurst-Goulburn Road, Trunkey Creek, are spectacular limestone caves located in a nature reserve. The Abercrombie Caves are one of the most spectacular limestone cave systems in Australia. They consist of a large arch claimed to be the largest natural limestone tunnel in the Southern Hemisphere and a number of smaller passages leading from it. The camping area is enhanced with well-established trees. Hot showers and a laundry are provided. A kiosk offers a variety of snacks and drinks.

Note this a grade 2 trip but weather conditions and track conditions can change this grading.



# 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
Talooge Muster	Talooge Muster	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	Event	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
MLR4WDC Loftyfest 2024 - Peterborough SA	Trip	Grade 3	Alex Szabo	5-Oct-24	7-Oct-24
Vehicle and Recovery Equipment Evaluation	Event	NR	Bronwyn Squire	8-Oct-24	8-Oct-24
Paint and Pino	Trip	Grade 2	Nicole Hermansen	12-Oct-24	13-Oct-24
Basic Winching and Recovery Course	Training	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire	18-Oct-24	20-Oct-24
Intermediate Winching and Recovery Course	Training	Grade 3	Bronwyn Squire	18-Oct-24	20-Oct-24
Talooge Muster	Talooge 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
McKillops Bridge and Delegate River Tunnel	Trip	Grade 2	Bruce Ronning	9-Nov-24	10-Nov-24
Brindabella Ramble	Trip	Grade 3	Troy Larke	10-Nov-24	10-Nov-24
Vehicle and Recovery Equipment Evaluation	Event	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
Limestone Creek Camping	Trip	Grade 4	Bruce Ronning	7-Dec-24	8-Dec-24
Vehicle and Recovery Equipment Evaluation	Event	NR	Bronwyn Squire	10-Dec-24	10-Dec-24
Murder Mystery in The Wonnangatta Valley	Trip	Grade 4	Michael Patrick	16-Mar-25	23-Mar-25
Exploring Outback NSW	Trip	Grade 3	Debbie Davidson	29-Mar-25	12-Apr-25

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# TRIPS AND EVENTS

## BECOME A TRIP LEADER



## WE NEED YOU FOR AN ADVENTURE!!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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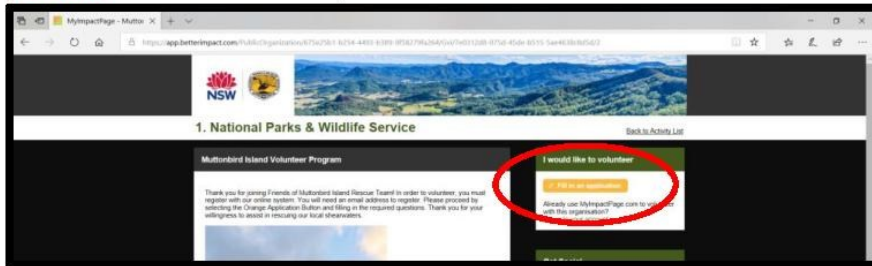
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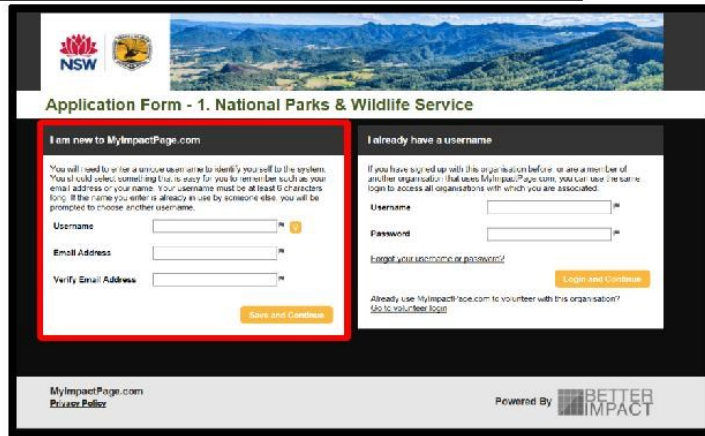
# Volunteer Registration

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

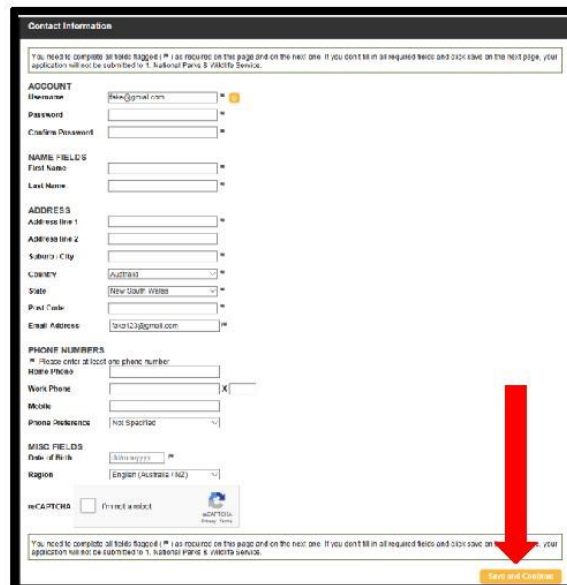
1. Go to this link: <https://4wdnow.com/pages/volunteer-sign-up-with-national-parks>
2. Hit the YELLOW "FILL IN APPLICATION" Button on the right of the screen. (red circle in screen shot below)



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



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



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

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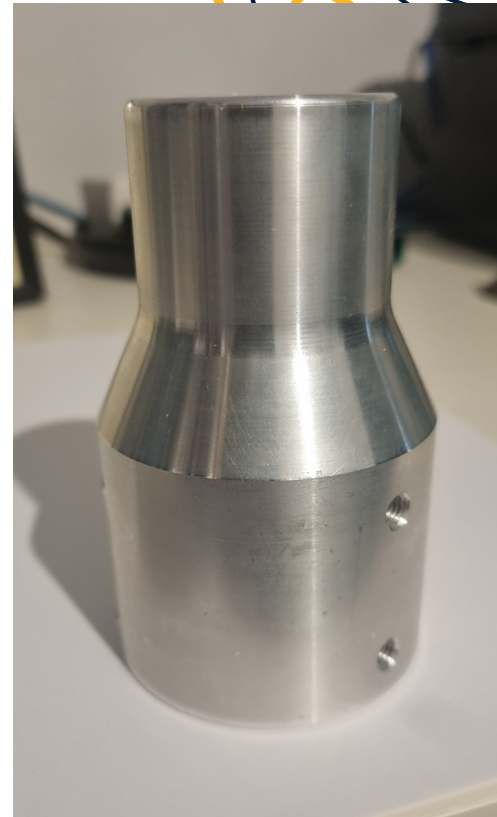
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**\$700**

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Rob Davidson**

**0428 223379**

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**contact**

**Michael Patrick**

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Our patented design allows you to detach the frame from the swag meaning you have two smaller bags to carry rather than one large one. The separate swag and frame both also come with FREE heavy duty carry bags.

With our unique pole system you don't need to put pegs into the ground, all of your pole and rope points go into the stretcher frame for quick and easy set up.

The new fly system keeps your Homestead swag cooler in summer and dryer in winter making our swag much more comfortable than any other swag.

The single homestead swag is 225 x 100 cms meaning you have heaps of room to stretch out and its also suitable for really tall people.

The Homestead single swag is accessible on both sides.

As with all our swags there is massive airflow through our extra large midgee proof flyscreens.

The Homestead single swag is accessible from both sides.

The Homestead swag also sets up without the stretcher frame if required.

This swag is made from high quality materials including 13oz canvas.

# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

For Sale

## DUNE 2 X 2 M CAR AWNING

Mounts to a roof rack (brackets not included)



\$50

contact  
Rob Davidson

0428 223379





Polo Shirts	\$40.00
Chambery Shirts	\$50.00
Jackets	\$85.00
Wind/rain Jackets	\$130.00
Hoodies	\$50.00
Rugby Tops	\$55.00
Caps	\$20.00
Stubbie Holders	\$7.50
Bucket Hats	\$20.00

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)