

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



- Victorian High Country, 9-17 December 2023 Bec & Penny Hunter
- Capertee-Sofala-Hill End-Bridle Track, 2-3 December 2023 Colin Melrose

FFATURES

- EOI Botswana & Namibia trip
- Member's Profile from Jane Williams
- Member's Profile from Bruce Wilson
- For Sale: Ford Ranger XLT PK 2011
- Food for the Track: Corn Cobs Japanese Style
- Safety Corner Tips on spotting

REGULAR UPDATES

- Committee Reports from Katy, Dave, Stuart, Paul, Joc, Jacky, Steve, Ricky and Kathy.
- Club Shop clothes and items with links to purchase them online.
- Trip Leading, Verbal Presentation and Written Report Guides.

Front Cover photo:

Fiona Wilson, Stockton Beach, 2-3 December 2023

Back Cover photo:

Joseph Cilia, Driver Training, June 2021



Please support our Club sponsors. Give them a chance to quote the best price. Where a discount is available it will be offered on production of your Membership card.











The All Wheel Drive Club of Sydney acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.





ALL WHEEL DRIVE CLUB OF SYDNEY INC.

P.O. BOX 82 ROSEVILLE NSW 2069 | COMMITTEE@AWDC.COM.AU | WWW.AWDC.COM.AU ABN 45 4585 086 298

CLUB MEETINGS

Are normally held at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month at Club Belrose, 146 Forest Way, Belrose NSW 2085 Bistro meals are available prior to the meeting. VISITORS ARE WELCOME.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Are normally held at 7:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Members who wish to attend should contact the President or Secretary to confirm the date and venue.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Is normally held in conjunction with the October Club Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP FINANCIAL YEAR

Runs from 1 July to 30 June.

CHARITIES FOR YEAR 2022/2023

Raffle ticket sales and fines levied by the Sergeant-at-Arms for misdemeanours (real or imagined) will be divided between the following charities this year: Royal Flying **Doctor Service**

LIFE MEMBERS

- Kevin Couter
- Katy Cox
- Steve Cox
- Steve Dalli
- Jenny de Zwart
- Michael de Zwart
- Sue Dutfield
- Neil Follett
- Steve Hedges
- Brian Mitchell
- Brian Sommerville
- Harold Zev

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President - president@awdc.com.au

Katy Cox | 0421 921 553

Vice President - vicepresident@awdc.com.au

Dave Knight | 0418 744 200

Secretary - secretary@awdc.com.au Stuart Millburn | 0411 439 637

Treasurer - treasurer@awdc.com.au Paul Brennan | 0416 036 226

Trip Co-ordinator - trips@awdc.com.au Joc Mannes | 0420 560 104

Editor - editor@awdc.com.au Rebecca Rinaldo | 0427 164 162

Membership Registrar - membership@awdc.com.au Jacky Bayliss | 0428 630 175

Training Officer - drivertraining@awdc.com.au Steve Cox | 0416 769 634

Webmaster - webmaster@awdc.com.au Ricky Morales | 0418 425 187

Social Committee Rep - social@awdc.com.au Kathy Sewell | 0414 637 421

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Assistant Trip Co-ordinator - trips@awdc.com.au Mike Burcher | 0424 212 276

Assistant Editor - editor@awdc.com.au Ian Cotterill | 0451 823 592

Assistant Training Officer - drivertraining@awdc.com.au David Knight | 0418 744 200

Purchasing Officer - shop@awdc.com.au James Bayliss | 0429 630 175

Quartermaster - quartermaster@awdc.com.au Joc Mannes | 0420 560 104

Raffle Officer - raffle@awdc.com.au Chris Walker | 0407 314 543

Sergeant-at-Arms - sergeant@awdc.com.au Brad Paull | 0418 251 553

Social Sub-committee rep - social@awdc.com.au Sandra Parkin | 0416 245 928

Social Sub-committee rep - social@awdc.com.au Jenny DeZwart | 0417 442 393

ARMA Assoc Rep - association@awdc.com.au Harold Zev | 0425 322 072

BATHERY 15% DISCOUNT FOR AWDC MEMBERS For ALL your battery needs

low, low prices with old fashioned service

- Advice, system design, installation
- Troubleshooting, problem solving
- Vehicle batteries cranking and deep cycle
- Dual battery systems serious installations for serious duty
- Chargers and inverters
- Jump packs and jump leads
- Solar and wind energy
- Marine, recreational, batteries for <u>ALL</u> applications
- All the top brands, including:



02 9970 6999 **1300 766 699**



We accept your old car, boat and motorcycle lead acid batteries for recycling

www.batterybusiness.com.au

Battery House, 3 Vuko Place, Warriewood NSW 2102 (adjacent to McDonald's & Warriewood Cinemas)

















PRESIDENT REPORT

Katy Cox



Welcome to AWDC '24 - our 40th anniversary year! It looks as if we're going to enjoy a decent range of trips over the next 12 months. We're only a few days in and we already have 17 events in the calendar, ranging from local day drives, to weekenders, through to extended touring trips to places the club has never before ventured, such as the Colson Track in the Simpson Desert and the Oombulgurri Track in the Kimberley. We also have 8 Driver Awareness courses scheduled including the Non-dominant Driver weekend in February. All of these lead up to our mega 40th Anniversary Party in November. Tickets are limited and will go on sale soon, so make sure you pencil the weekend of 23-24 November into your brand new diaries in readiness.

But a lot of these events are planned later on during the year and, as you will all no doubt be aware, bookings often fill up very quickly. We have well over 300 members and only a dozen or so active, regular trip leaders. If you could possibly coordinate an activity - whether it's a 4wd camping weekend (check out https://awdc.com.au/gpx for inspiration), a short social gathering closer to home (or pass on ideas to Kathy for a larger social event), or even just getting out bush and sitting around a campfire for a few days - please, please contact Joc and get it in the calendar. He is already on the search for extra trips in the lead-up to Easter.

In terms of housekeeping, you'll see in Stuart's report that we need another show of hands at the January meeting with regard to a few official items that slipped through the net during Covid times. I will be away so Dave / Stuart / Joc will be handling this. Also, don't forget to try on the new club shirts to find a good fit (sizes run very small) but please remember, the ones we have at club meetings are **samples only** and **ARE NOT FOR SALE!** James has worked hard at trying to find a style

/ material / fit that satisfies the majority of members' requests. You can order your size via the online shop.

See you in February!



VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Dave Knight

Happy New Year to all and hope it was.

Hope too that everyone has had safe travels for those trekking around (and that Santa brought you some nice 4wd goodies).

I am currently writing this as we tootle around Victoria, reminded that it is good to get off the beaten track on a discovery tour – in this case an exploration west of this Southern state, where we haven't been before.

If anyone would like to share their own recent travelling experiences, we are keen to hear from you at the January meeting next Tuesday as we won't be having an official speaker. An opportunity to be inspired by interesting trekking tales over the break – give me buzz before Tuesday.



Excellent work on the charity front – we are off to a flying start raising funds with the Royal Flying Doctor. Thanks to those who contributed so far. Currently organising a Bunnings sausage sizzle and will share the details shortly – we will be looking for volunteers to assist. (If someone can guess what I ate at this Bakery I'll throw in an extra \$10 clue - not vanilla slice!).

As always, if you have any ideas for the club, suggestions for guest speakers or trips, sponsorship etc. or would just like to have a yarn, please email me or catch me at the January meeting next Tuesday - I look forward to seeing you then and there.

Cheers, David Knight, Club Vice President



4WD Dyno, Turbocharging, Injector & Pump Repair and Servicing, Pre-trip Inspection. Problem diesels our speciality! Same day service. Only 1 hr from Sydney Only 2 hrs from Canberra

The Diesel Experts Berrima Diesel Service

Working exclusively on diesels since 1956



Excessive smoking? Surging or lack of power? Poor fuel economy? We Have The Answers!

Trouble shooting for all diesel vehicles.

When you think diesel...Think Berrima Diesel!

By Appointment Only!

Call to book in: 02 4877 1256

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Stuart Millburn



Welcome to 2024 which is the Year of the Dragon — reported to be one of the most powerful and luckiest animals.

I hope you all had a great Xmas and Santa brought what you wanted.

At the January meeting we will be voting on some Rule changes which will be firming up some current practices and if you have any queries please don't hesitate to discuss with me. We will ensure Office of Fair Trading is updated within time frames if the matter is passed.

All the best for 2024 Stuart

Notice is hereby given of the following resolutions to be proposed at the General Meeting of the All Wheel Drive Club of Sydney to be held on 9th January 2024. This has been supported by the Management Committee. You will be asked to vote that:

Clause 14.2.j to be added to the Rules of Association of the All Wheel Drive Club of Sydney Inc.

"The role of Social Director be added as an office bearer of the association."

Proposed by: Katy Cox (President)

Seconded by: Stuart Millburn (Secretary)

Clause 15.7 to be added to the Rules of Association of the All Wheel Drive Club of Sydney Inc.

"The maximum number of years of tenure of any one management committee role is limited to 3 years. The maximum continuous tenure on the management committee is limited to 10 years.

Eligibility may be extended by a majority request of the incumbent committee."

Proposed by: Katy Cox (President)

Seconded by: Stuart Millburn (Secretary)

Clause 20.5 to be amended in the Rules of Association of the All Wheel Drive Club of Sydney Inc.

"At least fifty percent of the voting members of the committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of a meeting of the committee."*

Proposed by: Katy Cox (President)

Seconded by: Stuart Millburn (Secretary)

*(Previous wording, "Any 4 members of the committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of a meeting of the committee.")



All Wheel Drive Club of Sydney Inc.

ABN 45 485 086 298

Correspondence to: PO Box 82, Roseville NSW 2069 or secretary@awdc.com.au

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS Held on Tuesday 12th December 2023 at Club Belrose, Belrose

MEETING OPENED at 7.37pm

CHAIR: Katy Cox

SECRETARY/MINUTES: Stuart Millburn

ATTENDANCE: As per attendance register and visitors' names were recorded. Attendance included, Katy Cox, Dave Knight, Stuart Millburn, Paul Brennan, Rebecca Rinaldo, Steve Cox, Joc Mannes, Ricky Morales and Kathy Sewell

APOLOGIES: James and Jacky Bayliss

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING held on 14th November 2023

MOVED BY: Brad Paull SECONDED BY: Sally Shaw

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Katy Cox

- Katy discussed the charity voting procedure and on voting for Rules changes.
- Is on the National Parks committee and asked if you have any questions, email them to her.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Dave Knight

- Dave presented the cheque of \$6578 to Mat from Ronald McDonald House.
- Get involved with National Parks

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Stuart Millburn

- Received a letter that thought we had something to do with Big Red Bash.
- Spoke on the Rules changes

TREASURER'S REPORT: Paul Brennan (absent)

- Income \$1300 in shop sales, Expenditure \$2400 Wild Apricot fees
- Prizes (Kings bags) were given to each of the people who attended the AGM, but didn't receive a
 prize.

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRAR'S REPORT: Jacky Bayliss (absent)

- Report from Ricky 335 members
- 10 Year membership stickers to Emilio Pannaci, John and Barb Dengate, Joc Mannes

EDITOR'S REPORT: Rebecca Rinaldo

 Spoke on recent articles in the magazine - Doug Stewart for his excellent report on the Canning Stock Route,

Putty Valley and Driver Awareness.

4WD DRIVER TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT: Steve Cox

- December Driver Training had 9 participants.
- Non-dominant driver training to be held in February, register on the website.



TRIP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT: Joc Mannes

- Thanks to recent Trip Leaders.
- There were trip reports by Phil Williams and John

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Kathy Sewell

- Thanked everyone that attended the Christmas Party.
- There was also a leftover wine glass.
- Thanks Joc for the Rydal weekend.

WEBMASTER: Ricky Morales

- 80% of the jobs are now complete.
- 332 emails sent out for the magazine, 228 were opened, 122 downloaded copies of the magazine.
- The most popular page that people looked at on the website was the Calendar.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Harold spoke on recent Association news.
- There are samples of the new 40th Anniversary shirts for people to try on before ordering.
- A silent vote was held for the next charity. The Royal Flying Doctor Service was successful.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Brad Paull

Collected monies for club charity, RFDS and said that we should try and beat last years target.

RAFFLE: Prizes drawn:

- Brad Paull, recovery boards
- Lorraine Woolf, Kings
- Graeme Hills, Car care kit
- Helge Sangkuhl, Car care kit

DRIVER OF THE MONTH AWARD: Joc Mannes

MEETING CLOSED at 8.45pm

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting to be held Tuesday 9th January 2024 at Club Belrose.

TREASURER REPORT

Paul Brennan



The Club continues to be in a strong financial position and the following is an update as of the end of last month.

- Cash at bank \$3.758
- Term deposit \$45,218 (matures February 2024)

During the month, there were \$654 in receipts, new memberships \$580 and shop sales of \$74.

Outgoings of \$2,980 included meeting Xmas Party costs \$1,751, Driver Training expenses \$1,159 and other minor expenses of \$70.

The payment of \$6,652 to our charity - Ronald McDonald House - was made in December (receipt attached).

The Year-to-Date Income Statement and Balance Sheet are attached for your review.

You may notice that the Income Statement shows a Year-to-Date loss of \$5,192. This is partly due to timing (outgoings for AGM Monster Raffle and Xmas Party) and partly due to the Committee's concerted effort to sell some of our older shop stock at a significant discount.

As we move into 2024, we will continue to reduce our shop-stock holding and move to an order-based system where practical (as we did with the winter hoodies last year).

I hope you all had a great break and I look forward to seeing you at the January meeting.

Stay safe and until next month ...



TREASURER 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 (still living the dream) **TLOTY 2019** SWAGMAN 2015



Fundraising Receipt

All Wheel Drive Club c/o Joc Mannes

Date: 18-12-2023 Receipt No: RMHC-920931

Received From: All Wheel Drive Club Amount: \$6,651,70

For: Donation to Ronald McDonald House Charities Greater Western Sydney Ltd

Thank you for your support!

AWDC Sydney Inc.		
Income Statement	YTD	Full Yr
ABN: 45485086298	Dec-23	Jun-23
Income		,
Membership - New Members	3,760	11,145
Membership - Renewals	17,911	18,074
Advertising	2,600	1,800
Shop sales	1,660	4,349
Interest	1	96
Total Income	25,932	35,463
Cost of Sales	4,046	3,284
Gross profit	21,885	32,179
GIOSS PIONE	21,003	32,173
Expenses		
Expenses		
<u>Club activities</u>		
AGM Raffle	9,896	7,377
GM Raffle	848	1,797
AGM Awards	250	750
Christmas Party	2,016	3,564
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	13,010	13,487
<u>Training expenses</u>	8	
Driver awareness	4,697	8,054
First aid training	1,486	2,168
Other	77	740
	6,260	10,962
Other expenses	St. Francisco	50 000 P 000 000 000
Association Fees	2,480	1,196
Computer Software	330	633
Credit Card Fees	511	958
Depreciation	1,088	1,627
4WD Show	58	
Filing Fees	-	50
General Expenses	76	1,535
Insurance	12	1,070
Printing	22	229
Meeting Costs	754	679
Website	2,488	1,913
	7,808	9,891
Total Expenses	27,078	34,340
and the second s		NEWS AND STREET
Operating Profit/(Loss)	(5,192)	(2,161)
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		ence i i i i i



AWD C Sydney Inc.		
Balance Sheet		
ABN: 45485086298	Dec-23	Jun-23
Assets		
Westpac Bank Account	2,962	15,858
Westpac Debit Card	796	1,373
Westpac Short Term Deposit	45,218	45,218
Raffle Float	100	100
Stock on Hand	4,410	7,111
Prepayments	1,200	2,752
Defibrillator x 2	4,650	4,650
Satellite Phone x 3	950	950
Vehicle Scales	485	485
Accumulated Depreciation	(5,009)	(3,921)
Total Assets	55,762	74,576
Liabilities		
Advance Membership Fees	-	10,763
Advance Deposits	-	110
Club Charity - Royal Flying Doctor Service (2023/24)	455	3,204
Sundry Creditors - Sat Phone hire	-	-
Total Liabilities	455	14,077
Net Assets	55,307	60,499
	20 0000001/0	
Equity		
Current year earnings	(5,192)	(2,161)
Retained earnings	56,163	58,325
Members Funds - Pre Incorporation	4,336	4,336

Total Equity



55,307

60,499

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Kathy Sewell



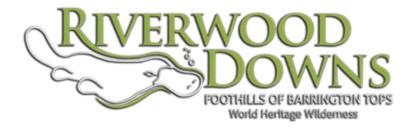
AWDC 40th Anniversary Celebration Weekend

The sub-committee are working in the background to make the 40th Anniversary truly special. Please pencil 23 & 24 November in your diaries, more details to follow.

AWDC 40th ANNIVERSARY Celebration (Seekend

23 - 24 November 2024

at





Interesting weather forecasts with flood warnings in the area caused some concern in the week leading up to the trip however by Thursday it had cleared, and we were on. Paul's influence and experience with leading trips had us meeting at the very friendly time of 11-00 am at the Capertee Rest Area. Even the gentleman's hours did not stop yours truly arriving just a few minutes before the meeting time and so landing the job of writing this report.

After a short discussion at the meeting point, saying hello to familiar faces and meeting new ones, the formalities of where we were going were sorted and it was time to get underway. After a 1.5 km drive, we turned off the blacktop onto Turon Gates Road where we all aired down our tyres. With Paul in the lead and Frank taking care of the tail we were on the move through some of the prettiest country you could imagine. I know many club members are very familiar with this area but for the newbies like Sam and I it was great first-time experience. Easy driving, good company, checking out the herds of goats, some very large bulls, plenty of river crossings, beautiful scenery and lots of mental notes being made of future campsites.

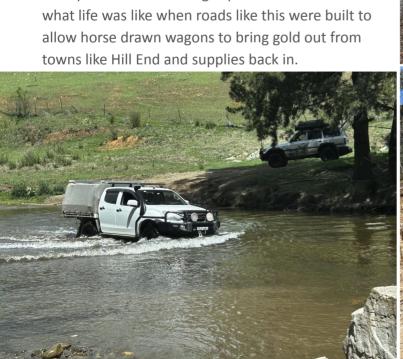
Around 1-00 as promised Paul had us in Sofala where the Royal Hotel was the chosen spot for lunch. The bikers had gotten there ahead of us so the range of pies was limited but that was only a minor setback. With lunch and a cold drink, we settled in under the veranda of the pub and swapped stories and got to know one another a bit more. Sam and I were surprised when some friends from Sydney came strolling up the street. They joined us for a yarn and were welcomed into our group.



Capertee - Sofala - Hill End - Bridle Track

After lunch and a brief look around the town it was back in the convoy and heading west, following the river, numerous crossings, so many in fact we stopped counting after 20. Mid-afternoon had us at an excellent campsite on the banks of the river just a km or so short of where we were to exit the next day. The site was excellent, flat, close to the river and surrounded by the same spectacular scenery. A forage along the riverbank soon had a pile of firewood ready for the essential campfire and it was time for a swim in the river before settling in around the fire to swap stories with Paul and Joe and Di leading the way with many tales of their extensive travels all over the country. As the sun set a couple of wallabies crossed the river about 70 metres down from where we were camped. Unfortunately, no-one was quick enough to get a photo. Dinner, a few drinks, and it was soon time to get the head down.

A hint of overnight rain came to nothing, and the following morning dawned every bit as glorious as the day before. After breakfast and packing up our gear we continued further along the river before getting back on the sealed road and headed to Hill End Estate for breakfast, coffee, and other necessities of life. From Hill End it is a short drive to the Bridle Track and more spectacular scenery. It never ceases to amaze me when I see the notable examples of road building expertise and a taste of what life was like when roads like this were built to allow horse drawn wagons to bring gold out from towns like Hill End and supplies back in.

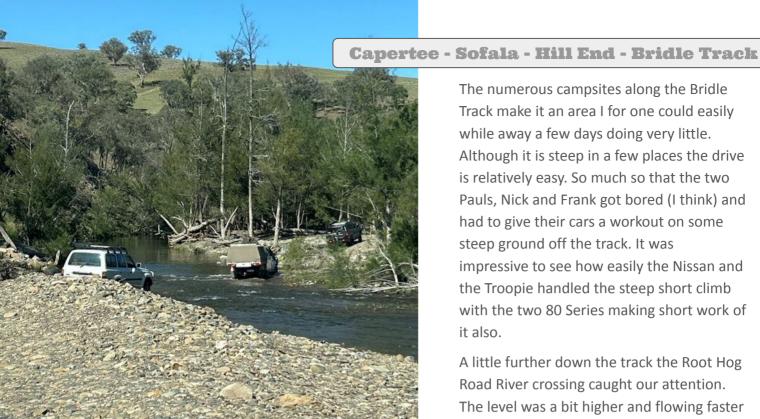














The numerous campsites along the Bridle Track make it an area I for one could easily while away a few days doing very little. Although it is steep in a few places the drive is relatively easy. So much so that the two Pauls, Nick and Frank got bored (I think) and had to give their cars a workout on some steep ground off the track. It was impressive to see how easily the Nissan and the Troopie handled the steep short climb with the two 80 Series making short work of it also.

A little further down the track the Root Hog Road River crossing caught our attention. The level was a bit higher and flowing faster than at any other crossings done on the trip so far. However, after a chat with a couple of locals a few of us walked the river which was just as well because the line that appeared to the best route when looking from the bank was close to waist deep when walked. Nevertheless, a shallower section was found, and Paul led a few of us across.

From there it was a short drive to the end of the Bridle Track, air up, swap photos, shake hands and head home with good memories, new friendships, and a greater appreciation of how fortunate we are to be able to explore places such as the Turon River, Sofala, Hill End, and the Bridle Track.







A big thanks to Paul for organising and leading the trip and to everyone on it for the camaraderie and fellowship and to also to Joc and AWDC for coordinating everything.

Colin Melrose



Victorian High Country

9-17 December 2023



- James Bayliss aka Kevin
- Joe & Diane Ramisch
- Keely Wennink
- John O'Keefe
- Ray & Sandra Entwistle

Toyota Fortuna

Toyota Prado 120 Series Toyota Landcruiser 200 Series Isuzu DMax Range Rover Toyota Landcruiser 200 Series Jeep Rubicon



This trip had it all! Up and down mountains, across rivers, blue skies, epic thunderstorms, views from peaks, campfires, grassy campsites, plenty of rivers to swim in, a few mechanical issues, helping a vehicle in distress, and wonderful company the whole way!

Saturday 9th December – Greeting Day. After a long drive from Sydney, we convened at Bright Brewery to meet each other and enjoy the lovely ambience, food and beverages. We stayed in various places, with John needing to travel down later.

Sunday 10th December – Cliff Day. We took the very interesting route from Bright to above Harrietville, with Gunns Track giving us breathtaking views of the valleys and mountains and plenty of very steep low range driving. Clear and dry conditions meant we seized the opportunity to do Blue Rag Track – wow! Exciting driving along narrow ridges above the tree line and good wheel placement saw us all having lunch with the flies at the trig point on the track, in line for a photo. Dargo High Plains Road showed us delightful alpine meadows before we camped on Kings Spur Track at the top of a cliff with great views across the valley to Mount Hotham. As regular skiers

at that resort, it was very special to be staying in the great beyond that we normally look longingly to from the lifts and ski runs! It was a windy night, but all the tents stood the test.

Monday 11th December – Cloud Day. James's Dad Jokes began, which entertained us throughout the trip. Basalt North Track – like many in this area – had lots of sharp stones everywhere and the first slashed tyre casualty was Joe and Diane, changed with some help from James's funky jack. We were driving through the area that was very badly burnt in 2003, and much of it has not regrown fully even after 20 years. While the "skeleton forest" is sad, it allowed wonderful views of the surrounding areas, including low-lying clouds that sat like lakes below us. Eventually, we descended (very steeply) into it, and had lunch beside Wongungarra River. Chief Swimmer Penny had fun walking the river (a good chance to freshen up) and chasing crocs – the shoe type. After a slightly tricky exit from the river, we found our way to camp at Mt Sarah. It was a strange evening with waves of fog and clouds rolling constantly through the campsite, which gave us a good excuse to find the beanies and put another log on the fire!

Tuesday 12th December – Rescue Day. After several beautiful crossings of the Humffray River, we encountered a single car in trouble. Some interesting choices found them with an undrivable car and no means of getting help and they had spent the night down in the valley with no mobile reception. They needed a flatbed (or as it turned out a Unimog) and we were on a track that made that very tricky. So, the two 200 Series (one in front, one behind) towed the dead-weight car up, down and through some interesting river crossings to a more accessible location for a tow. Difficult and dangerous work was done with the utmost of professionalism and courtesy – well-done fellas. Despite using our SPOT, it was unclear whether their request for help would be met so we drove one of the men up the mountain until we got reception. Once everything was sorted, 2 cars returned the gentleman to his companion to await a tow and another night beside their car. The rest of the group took Tea Tree Spur Track, and we eventually arrived at Talbotville to be greeted by cows, delicious plums from the old orchard, and a very welcome swim after a long, hot

Wednesday 13th December - River Day. A stretch of the legs was in order, and a steep 200m ascent to the old New Good Hope Mine was rewarded with an inspection of a well-preserved steam engine and 5 head battery. Next, we had a whole lot of fun with the 24 river crossings on Crooked River Track. Very pretty, with the final crossing having a particularly sharp entry that needed some track building and got the heart racing. Lunch was at Grant historic township, one of the many goldrush boom and bust towns - such interesting history in this region! The only petrol car in the group needed a refill, so we touched bitumen and progressed to Dargo. Joe and Dianne had been having troubles with their rooftop tent causing the canopy on the Isuzu to shift around on the very steep tracks that we were enjoying, and with no spare tyre now, they decided to leave the group to seek repairs while things were still safe. We bade them a sad farewell, and then popped in for photos of the very interesting Dargo Hotel.

day. The team was reunited and the nibbles

selection was exceptional that night.









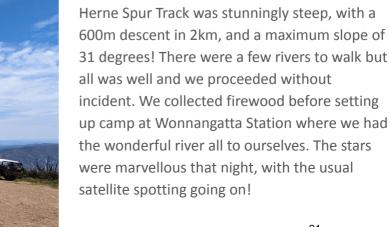


Blue Rag Track line-up

more wonderful steep tracks on Stock Route Spur Track. After a trip to admire the very interesting mining river divert Harrisons Cut, we were

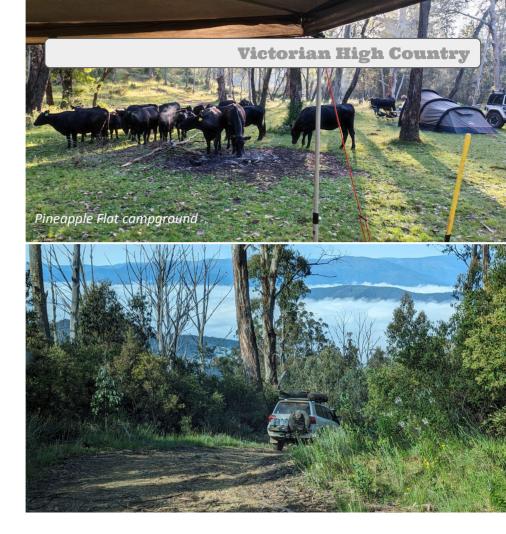
all ready for a swim and relief from the high 30s temperatures of the lower valleys. Camp was the lovely grassy spacious Collins Flat with a cracker of a river – deep swimming holes and some rapids to splash around in. Just in case we were getting tired of the glorious blue skies and dry tracks, there were several waves of massive thunderstorms that rolled through that night – timed perfectly to not interfere with swimming, set up, nibbles or dinner!! It's amazing just how bright lightening is when it's otherwise pitch black, and how loud thunder is with nothing but canvas around you (the ground trembles too). Despite the accompanying torrential rain, all survived unharmed except Bec who lost a knitting needle in the grass and got wet searching for it!

Thursday 14th December – Ups and Downs Day. Cars were a little glitchy today, with several breaks to attend to bits and pieces that needed to reset. Plus a stop while we had a flicker of reception for Bec to receive her HSC results!! Cynthia Range Track gave great ups and downs, with very clear mountain views after the storms last night. Keely had some issues with the automatic suspension system, so the men paused to wave spanners around knowingly, while the women admired the scenery and talked about the weather. Tail-end Charlie (Kevin) turned into a pirate and started using nautical terms.



Friday 15th December – Range Day.

After checking out the Wonnangatta cemetery and homestead, we tackled the mighty Zeka Spur Track with its steep winding traverse across the valley. Keely fell victim to a flat tyre, and the suspension continued to glitch with the airbags deflating on a regular basis. We rolled past rugged bluffs, green slopes of ferns, truly wild country. Not a good place for the Rover to end up with the body resting on the wheels, so valiant efforts were made to solve the problem. Once we reached Howitt Road, James and John escorted Keely to the safety of the nearest township and proceeded to camp by a different route. The remnant of the group had a real treat for the afternoon as we linked up a series of tracks (including the cool



name of 16 Mile Jeep Track to the delight of Ray and Sandra) seeing the extensive rocks screes, fern glades, views across to Mount Bulla ski resort, 50m high trees (speculation abounded, I settled on the average guess), and many huts throughout the day. The pinnacle (pun intended) was when the rutted tracks through snow gum fields emerged above the snow line to reveal range after range of stunning views as we drove along the spines and ridges. Mount Stirling was magnificent and we were grateful for the long daylight hours. Another bonus of our delayed itinerary was that when we arrived at Craig's Hut we had the place to ourselves, with perfect afternoon lighting for our photos! What goes up must come down, and clay ruts made the steep descent interesting – great to have gravity on our side! Pineapple Flat was our camp, along with lots of black cows and a pretty river for a twilight swim. Simon used a drag chain to steal a dead tree from the cows at camp, but they



Victorian High Country

want it back and followed after it. A log badly offended John, so the men took turns decapitating it with an axe.

Saturday 16th December - Tree Day. The cows wished us a loud good moooorning and we were off soon climbing more mountains with sharp eucalyptus scent at our stops. Deep alternating wombat holes combined with a steep upward slope led to a quick snatch for the Prado (by a Jeep to his shame) and Penny contemplating giving Simon a diff locker for Christmas. Apparently 2 diff lockers would show twice as much love...Simon a diff locker for Christmas. Apparently 2 diff lockers would show twice as much love...The trees thought that the short track we had planned was too boring, so around 6 of them decided to block our path. But never fear – the men were delighted to retrieve their toys of choice to remedy the situation, and between a pruning saw, reciprocating saw, chain saw and drag chain we eventually emerged. Lake Cobbler was a surprising lunch stop (turns out it was a dam), and the road towards Abbeyard had great views on both sides. Reality had to return at some point, and after a long-rutted descent, we returned to high range and turned north as farms, other cars and fenced campsites unfolded. We settled on the least busy one, Manna Gum Campsite with one last river swim – another great spot! With a long drive ahead, we enjoyed one last campfire and said our farewells and thank yous.

Sunday 17th December – Home Day. Most people left quite early for the trek back home through Myrtleford, but we had the UHF on and kept passing each other on the road and at rest stops! Eventually





we all took different turns for our homes and reality, after a week of bliss exploring a truly wonderful part of our great nation. Thank you so much to Richard for his impeccable leadership throughout the trip and to each member of the team for such great times together!

Botswana & Namibia Guided Self Drive Adventure - 28 Days

Expression of Interest 2025

This is a call for Expressions of Interest in a club trip to NAMIBIA and BOTSWANA in May/June 2025 - ie in about 18 months time.

At this stage there is no obligation and no deposit required. If there is sufficient interest, deposits would be required around Easter 2024 to lock in your spot.

As some of you may be aware, there were several club trips in 2014 & 2015 run by Self Drive Adventures (SDA). We also attempted to run another trip in 2021. Sadly this did not happen because of COVID.

The trip will be run by SDA. There have been past discussions about making this a wholly club organised trip as opposed to using SDA, with a view to making it less expensive, but on balance the feeling was that it's a complex logistical exercise, and requires quite a bit of local knowledge to make it a seamless and fun experience for all participants. The value-add that SDA provides is worthwhile for peace of mind and ensures that all club participants can enjoy the trip without the considerable additional responsibility and admin of being a trip leader on a long trip through different countries in Africa.

At this stage the dates are approximate, mid-May to mid-June 2025, total duration 28 days, starting and finishing in Windhoek, Namibia, which is a short flight from Johannesburg, South Africa. This is a slightly shorter trip than those run in 2014/2015 as we have trimmed a couple of waypoints off the itinerary while maintaining the big attractions of the Okavango Delta, Moremi, Chobe and Etosha National Parks and some interesting 4Wd-ing through truly spectacular scenery with abundant wildlife.

We need a minimum of five vehicles (excluding guide/support vehicle) and a maximum of seven.

The cars can accommodate two, three or four participants with respective price savings. The minimum age of participants is 14 years of age. Solo travellers have three options: they can pay a premium for sole occupancy of the vehicle, or they can make arrangements with other solo club members to share a vehicle (separate tents are available), or finally there may be one spot available in the guide/support vehicle, which does not include driving.

Financials: Indicative 2024 pricing is in the attached SDA trip itinerary, however final pricing for 2025 will not be available until approx. April 2024. Note carefully the inclusions, exclusions and optional upgrades.

I have attached the trip itinerary prepared for AWDC for SDA, which provides more detail.

Any questions, please see me at the November meeting or get in touch.

Rob Cammell

BOTSWANA & NAMIBIA GUIDED SELF DRIVE ADVENTURE | 28 Days











Guided 4x4 Self Drive Adventure Botswana & Namibia - 28 Days

Experience Botswana and Namibia, countries that are home to some of the smallest populations in the world, with their incredible scenery, abundant wildlife, friendly people and political stability.

The adventure starts and ends in Windhoek, Namibia's Capital, a modern and clean city with fantastic grocery shopping to provision our 4x4s. The route explores through Botswana's world-famous Okavango Delta, includes a cruise on the mighty Chobe River before we cross back into Namibia along the Caprivi Strip and into the stunning deserts of Namibia visiting the San Bushmen in the Kalahari and Etosha National Park along the way.

This adventure is a self-catered, camping style tour. We classify this as "fun" 4-wheel driving with sand, bull dust, rocky conditions and some water crossings. This is not a 4x4 challenge but some 4x4 experience is recommended. The only accommodation included in this tour is a self catering luxury tent for 2 nights at the beginning and 1 night at the end of the adventure in Windhoek. However, there will be accommodation upgrades available allowing you to have up to 11 of the 27 nights in accommodation of varying types.

Highlights of this adventure include:

Botswana: Unforgettable wildlife experiences in Botswana's Okavango Delta (Moremi & Chobe National Parks & Khwai Conservancy) with a highly experienced wildlife guide; and sunset game viewing cruise on the Chobe River.

Namibia: Visit the San Bushmen of the Kalahari; Etosha National Park with its massive salt pan lined with waterholes attracting abundant game; remote river beds through canyons and where game roams without fences; visit a remote small village pre-school we support; journey through parts of Koakoland (the least sparsely populated region of Namibia); vast open plains; the amazing prehistoric Welwitschia plants up to 2,000 years old; incredible geological landscapes; painted deserts; the Skeleton coast; and the highest free standing sand dunes in the world.

Self Drive Adventures | E: info@selfdriveadventures.com | W: www.selfdriveadventures.com



BOTSWANA & NAMIBIA GUIDED SELF DRIVE ADVENTURE | 28 Days

Map Overview of Route - Approx. 4,500km



About Self Drive Adventures

Self Drive Adventures is an Australian-based company who run guided self-drive adventures around the world. Our convoys are quite small, with a maximum of seven vehicles, depending on the destination. We originally started with trips to the African continent, from where one of our co-founders hails, and have since expanded to offer adventures in Asia, Europe and the Americas.

Self Drive Adventures is a trail blazer in guided self drive 4x4 tours. We are proud to boast a 5-star rating on TripAdvisor.

To request a copy of the complete itinerary and booking form, email info@selfdriveadventures.com

Visit www.selfdriveadventures.com to view all our adventures

Self Drive Adventures | E: info@selfdriveadventures.com | W: www.selfdriveadventures.com



This is just an overview, more information can be found in the Trip Calendar and https://selfdriveadventures.com/southern- africa











MEMBER'S PROFILE

Jane Williams

Our club often awards prizes for various raffles, competitions and events. There are many winners each year and part of the tradition of our club is that the winners, in return, share a short profile for our magazine.



The winner of the raffle at the November meeting was Jane Williams who provided this profile.

My Current Vehicle	Mitsubishi Pajero Sport 2021 QF 2.4 Turbo Diesel.
I have owned it since	New
We have travelled together	40,000 kms
My current tyres are	My current tyres are the original tyres that came with the car. Toyo Open country A32
My favourite external modification or accessory is	Roof top tent and removable side awning. (Racksbrax) I can remove both when not travelling.
My favourite internal modification or accessory is	My false floor and XTM camp kitchen which includes a fridge slide, cooking tray and bench for easy access cooking and prep area.
What I would change if I could	I would like to get a suspension lift, (rear only) but otherwise the car has done everything I have challenged it with.
My previously owned vehicles	I previously had a Nissan Xtrail 2012 4 x 4 and prior to that a Nissan Pathfinder 2009 4x4 but hadn't used them as 4wd cars.
My dream 4WD would be	I think that my Pajero Sport suits my need and I am happy with its capabilities. So don't have another "dream car" in mind.
The club trip I have most enjoyed and why	The only trip I have done since being a member of the club is Cape York 2023. It was my first big Solo trip and I ticked many bucket list boxes on this trip. I thoroughly enjoyed the challenges it presented me and I was truly blessed to have such an amazing support team to travel from Cairns to the Tip and back to Cairns. Their encouragement and guidance will be forever treasured. Thank you
What do you do to fill in your days	I am retired and spend my time helping and supporting family with young children and enjoy gardening and outdoor activities.



MEMBER'S PROFILE

Bruce Wilson



Not a raffle prize winner, but a winner after waiting a long time for my current vehicle. Ordered Sept 2022, delivered December 2023.

1	<u> </u>
My Current Vehicle	Isuzu D-Max LS-M 2023 Dual Cab/Chassis, Neptune Blue Mica
I have owned it since	Dec 5th, 2023
We have travelled together	1,175 km
My current tyres are	Bridgestone Duellers AT 697 (255/65/R17)
My favourite external modification or accessory is	Lovells GVM/CGM upgrade to 3600kg/6900kg Mits Alloy tray and canopy package Offroad Animal Predator bulbar Hayman Reece X-Bar and Rhinorack Platform
What I would change if I could	Campboss Shadow 180 degree Awning Fatz 4" Powder Coated Snorkel Nothing in the canopy at the moment except some thermal insulation but lots of things to add like electrics, drawers and fridge.
My previously owned vehicles	Ford Ranger PK 2011 (Currently for sale, listing in this magazine)
My dream 4WD would be	This one is my dream
The club trip I have most enjoyed and why	There are two actually. Last year's trip to Arnhem Land (got to see the launch of the rocket from the new Australian Spaceport, and Lachlan River Meanders this year with Michael De Zwart leading and all the fantastic people who were on those trips.
The 4WD trip I'd like to do in the next year is	Eyre Peninsula, SA - Southern WA and Gibb River Road in the Kimberleys
What do you do to fill in your days	I retired at the end of Jan 2022 so whatever takes my fancy. Play golf, surf the internet, jobs around the house, travel, etc. Since Sept 2022 though, after I ordered my D-Max I have spent many hours planning modifications, accessories and all the bits and pieces you dream about putting on the vehicle. Now I am about to start fitting everything to the vehicle and the canopy.



My favourite internal modification or accessory is:- GME XRS 370 UHF Radio Tracelectronics D-MAX DUAL Camera Integration System AT-2 Quadlock phone mount interchangeable with HEMA mount Rear view camera (can't see through the canopy, LOL)





FOR SALE BY MEMBERS

Ford Ranger XLT PK 2011 \$24,990 ono contact Bruce Mb 0421 715 259

3.0L Turbo Diesel – 5 Speed Auto

Build Date: Dec 2010

First Registered: Jan 2011

Registered Till: 9th June 2024

Odo Reading: 202,870 Kms

All Terrain Tyres

Massive List of Inclusions

Log of Services

Invoices for Repairs









FOR SALE BY MEMBERS

Ford Ranger XLT PK 2011



















FOR SALE BY MEMBERS

Inclusions in Ford Ranger XLT PK

- · All Terrain Tyres on alloy wheels
- "Aussie Ryder" 50mm Lift Kit from Ultimate Suspension
- TJM Outback Bull Bar, factory fitted Ford tow bar
- Domin8r Xtreme 12,000lb Winch | 7.2hp Motor with wired & wireless remote control
- Domin8r 7" LED Spotlights
- Stedi ST3K 11.5 inch 10 LED Slim LED Light Bars Side/Ditch Lights
- Roadsafe Recovery Tow Points and Rear hitch recovery
- ARB Bash Plates 4 Piece Set 3 mm Stainless Steel
- OCAM Steel Side Steps for Ford Ranger PK
- TJM Airtec Snorkel
- Upgraded Transmission Oil Cooler
- Kings 2.5m x 2.5m Awning with 2.5m x 2.5m Awning
- Ironman Quick Release Awning Brackets
- Shoreline 4x4 Diff Breather Kit for Ranger
- Clearview Next Gen Towing Mirrors
- 84Ah Auxiliary Battery + Wiring
- KickAss DCDC MPPT Solar Battery Charger
 12V-24V 25Amp with Pre-wired Anderson Quick Connect
- · Fuel Manager Post Filter
- HPD Oil Catch Can
- 8 Gang Electronic Relay Switch Control System
- · Grunt Bonnet Assist Gas Struts
- Steinbauer Diesel Power Wodule
- Redarc TowPro Electronic Brake Controller
- HIKEIT X9 Throttle Control System
- Overhead Roof Console (Contains GME UHF Radio, LED map and cabin lights, drop drawer)





FOR SALE BY MEMBERS



Continue - Inclusions in Ford Ranger XLT PK

- GME UHF CB Radio with GME AW4704B Antenna + GME MC553B Rugged Microphone
- GME AEM3 AM/FM Antenna on bonnet bracket
- Adventure Kings GPS Speed Heads Up Display
- VMS In dash x500 Series 2 Entertainment Unit with GPS On Road and Off-Road Maps
- 7" Rear/Reversing Monitor with 3 Video Inputs
- 8 Switch Illuminated Panel (connects to Electronic Relay Control System)
- 30° Rear View Camera mounted on canopy
- 150° Number Plate Backup Camera mounted on number plate
- Stedi 25W SLIM LED Rear Work/Reverse Lights
- Relay/Cabling and Deutsch Plugs for Side Work Lights (Lights not included)
- Front and Rear Ford Ranger Rubber Floor Mats
- Wet Seat Neoprene Seat Covers Ford Ranger PK Front & Back
- Brown Davis Long Range Fuel Tank 126L
- Razorback Steel Canopy
- Rhino Rack Pioneer Platform (over canopy) with Side Bars
- Rhino Rack Vortex Roof Bars (over cabin)
- Drifta Twin Ute Drawers with custom Orange & Black Drawer Handles
- MSA DS40 Fridge Drop Slide
- MSA Fridge Cage
- Hardcorr Tri Colour Dimmable LED Strip Light in canopy
- Elinz Heavy Duty Reverse Camera Trailer Cable Coil with 5PIN to 4PIN Female Connector
- Elinz Heavy Duty Reverse Camera Trailer Cable Coil with 5PIN to 4PIN Male Connector
- Elinz Trailer Cable Suzy Coil Cast Alloy Connector Curly for Caravan Reversing Camera
- Spare Air, Fuel, Oil Filters, and Spare Engine Belts
- Owners Manual, Service Log Book and Invoices available.



FOOD FOR THE TRACK

Kirsten Sommerville

Smokey and Charred Corn Cobs Japanese Style Sauce You could do this recipe on an open fire.





Ingredients

- 3 Corn on the cob with husks
- 30 grams butter, melted
- 3 teaspoon Japanese soy sauce
- 2 teaspoon mirin
- 1 teaspoon caster sugar

Directions

- With husk: Put directly on the grill as is or you can soak the corn in water for about 15 min.
 Peel down the husk (without removing it completely), pull off the silk threads, cover the ear with the husk again
- Put husked corn directly on the grill or campfire coals
- Cook for about 15 min, rotating every few minutes
- To make it fancy bast the corn with the Japanese Style Sauce and grill a little to char.

Acknowledging Grilled Corn

Sharing Great Food Ideas for Travelling

We are keen to publish your favourite food for camping and travelling. You might cook something before you leave, or cook it at camp. You might pre-prepare some items. Maybe some clever tips for making food easier and more nutritious on the road. Send in your ideas to Kirsten Sommerville: kirsten@gpsoz.com.au



SAFETY CORNER

Spotting - Rebecca Rinaldo

The most important thing to remember when spotting for a driver is that both the spotter and driver understand and follow the rules and hand signals that they have established.

- The passenger aka "shotgun" should assist the driver in keeping an eye out for hazards, particularly on their side of the vehicle.
- Hopefully the driver can choose the spotter who is experienced, remember the spotter is worthless if the driver doesn't follow instructions.
- Spectators can help by building the track but it is important to let the spotter and driver do their work without disrupting the process.
- Spotting can be both verbal and non-verbal. Hand signals are best, this avoids words being misunderstood (eg left no your left), hand signals are preferred as it avoids words being drowned out by engine noises.
- Face to face communication with spotter and driver with the vehicle stopped and secured is best practice.
- You can disagree with your spotter, but communicate this with them. Remember the spotter has a different perspective than driver.
- Last tip spotter don't stand too close to the vehicle and driver don't run your spotter over.



TRIP CO-ORDINATOR REPORT

Joc Mannes



Hi there folks,

Club trips over the festive season have been very sparse.

January too is very empty with only Frank and Paul's trip starting at Glenroy Cottages on the 19th Jan. Likewise February only has a B grade weekender.

There are still lots of gaps to fill and I am looking forward to more trips from other trip leaders. If you need ideas for where to go and/or track advice come have a chat.



Hopefully I will have a truck again soon so that I can see you on the tracks!

Happy New Year!

Joc

Might be an option instead of the Patrol?

TRIP CALENDAR

See website for full details of each trip





January 2024	February 2024	March 2024
Jan 09 Club Meeting January Jan 19 Rydal / ZigZag / Turon C Grade - on waitlist Jan 30 Driver Awareness Theory	Feb 03 Driver Awareness Practical Feb 13 Club Meeting February Feb 20 Driver Awareness Theory - Second Driver Special Feb 24 Driver Awareness Practical - Second Driver Special Feb 24 Killingworth Loop B Grade weekend. Opens 13 Jan	Mar 12 Club Meeting March Mar 19 Driver Awareness Theory Mar 23 Driver Awareness Practical Mar 26 Mgmt Meeting March Mar 29 Deddick VIC High C Grade opens 16 Feb
April 2024	May 2024	June 2024
Apr 09 Club Meeting April Apr 14 Colson Track, Simpson C Grade Desert Apr 20 Stockton Beach C Grade weekend Apr 27 Mount Eba Simpson Birdsville X exploratory	May 03 Barrington Tops C Grade opens March 16 May 14 Oombulgurri / Carson River Track - FULL May 14 Club Meeting May May 25 Turon NP C Grade weekend. Opens 13 April	Jun 11 Club Meeting June Jun 15 Simpson Desert Crossing East to West, Big Red Bash Jun 18 Driver Awareness Theory Jun 22 Driver Induction Practical Jun 22 Putty Valley C Grade weekend Opens 11 May
July 2024	August 2024	September 2024
July 2024	August 2024	September 2024
Jul 09 Club Meeting July Jul 20 Yengo NP C Grade weekend Jul Opens 8 Jun Jul 24 Simpson Desert East to West OPEN Jul 30 Driver Induction Theory	Aug 03 Driver Induction Practical Aug 13 Club Meeting August Aug 24 Stockton Beach & Camp C Grade weekend Opens 13 Jul	Sep 10 Club Meeting September Sep 17 Driver Induction Theory Sep 21 Driver Induction Practical Sep 21 Abercrombie NP C Grade weekend Open 10 Aug
Jul 09 Club Meeting July Jul 20 Yengo NP C Grade weekend Jul Opens 8 Jun Jul 24 Simpson Desert East to West OPEN	Aug 03 Driver Induction Practical Aug 13 Club Meeting August Aug 24 Stockton Beach & Camp C Grade	Sep 10 Club Meeting September Sep 17 Driver Induction Theory Sep 21 Driver Induction Practical Sep 21 Abercrombie NP C Grade weekend
Jul 09 Club Meeting July Jul 20 Yengo NP C Grade weekend Jul Opens 8 Jun Jul 24 Simpson Desert East to West OPEN Jul 30 Driver Induction Theory	Aug 03 Driver Induction Practical Aug 13 Club Meeting August Aug 24 Stockton Beach & Camp C Grade weekend Opens 13 Jul	Sep 10 Club Meeting September Sep 17 Driver Induction Theory Sep 21 Driver Induction Practical Sep 21 Abercrombie NP C Grade weekend Open 10 Aug
Jul 09 Club Meeting July Jul 20 Yengo NP C Grade weekend Jul Opens 8 Jun Jul 24 Simpson Desert East to West OPEN Jul 30 Driver Induction Theory October 2024 Oct 15 Club Meeting October Oct 19 Turon, Sofala, Hill End opens 7 Sep Oct 22 Driver Induction Theory	Aug 03 Driver Induction Practical Aug 13 Club Meeting August Aug 24 Stockton Beach & Camp C Grade weekend Opens 13 Jul November 2024 Nov 09 Jenolan Area C Grade Opens 28 Sep Nov 12 Club Meeting November	Sep 10 Club Meeting September Sep 17 Driver Induction Theory Sep 21 Driver Induction Practical Sep 21 Abercrombie NP C Grade weekend Open 10 Aug December 2024 Dec 03 Driver Induction Theory Dec 07 Driver Induction Practical
Jul 09 Club Meeting July Jul 20 Yengo NP C Grade weekend Jul Opens 8 Jun Jul 24 Simpson Desert East to West OPEN Jul 30 Driver Induction Theory October 2024 Oct 15 Club Meeting October Oct 19 Turon, Sofala, Hill End opens 7 Sep Oct 22 Driver Induction Theory	Aug 03 Driver Induction Practical Aug 13 Club Meeting August Aug 24 Stockton Beach & Camp C Grade weekend Opens 13 Jul November 2024 Nov 09 Jenolan Area C Grade Opens 28 Sep Nov 12 Club Meeting November	Sep 10 Club Meeting September Sep 17 Driver Induction Theory Sep 21 Driver Induction Practical Sep 21 Abercrombie NP C Grade weekend Open 10 Aug December 2024 Dec 03 Driver Induction Theory Dec 07 Driver Induction Practical

Watch this space: Expressions of Interest in a club trip to NAMIBIA and BOTSWANA in May/June 2025

As approved by the AWDC Committee 27th August 2009

Grade A - Extremely Difficult

Suitable for very experienced drivers who want a challenging trip with extreme track conditions. Vehicles must be equipped with suitable modifications such as snorkel, high ground clearance, significant wheel articulation, oversized tyres and at least one diff locker. Both driver and vehicle must be prepared to handle situations that test their ability. Specialised recovery equipment may be required.

Grade B - Moderate to Difficult

Suitable for experienced drivers only. Vehicles to have increased ground clearance and wheel articulation. May involve very steep hills, large washaways, mud, rock steps, deep ruts, soft sand, difficult creek crossings, deep bog holes and deep snow which may involve winching and other specialised recoveries. Both driver and vehicle must have the ability to handle situations.

Grade C - Moderate

Suitable for experienced drivers with unmodified vehicles, may involve soft sand, steep hills, washaways, bog holes, ruts, mud, snow, slippery tracks and deeper creek crossings.

Grade D - Relatively Easy

Suitable for all Club vehicles. May involve sand, mud, forest tracks, moderate hills and shallow creeks.

Grade E - Very Easy / Social

Little or no four wheel driving involved, driving on unsealed roads. Trips usually designed for touring, camping and social events. May involve easy to get to base camp then optional four wheel driving from there.

Grade X – Exploratory

Exploratory, generally suitable for experienced drivers as the degree of difficulty is often unknown. Enquire with the Trip Leader.



MEMBERSHIP REGISTRAR REPORT

Jacky Bayliss



Hi there,

Happy New Year to you all, I hope your new year's resolutions included plans for lots of 4wdriving, camping and enjoying the great outdoors.

We currently have 338 members!

I would like to welcome our newest members **Chris Dedman** who has a **2023 Amarok** (yes , our very first! Can't wait to see what your vehicle can do!), and **Karen Hennessy** who has a **76 Series Toyota.**

Welcome to the recently added Dual member Lorraine Woolf.

If your a dual member please add your dual member (there's lots of fun to have out there with 2 drivers) please let me know if you need some help to add a member.

I'm out camping with grandchildren so look forward to seeing you in February.

Jacky Membership Registrar



THE CLUB SHOP

www.awdc.com.au/shop

Managed by James Bayliss

Order online or contact the purchasing officer - shop@awdc.com.au We will bring your item to the next meeting if it's in stock.



We can help with sizing and place orders for individuals as required on approved AWDC garments

4WD DRIVING SKILLS by Vic Widman

This book is used for our current Driver Training Course. <u>Buy your own copy at a discount.</u>

WOODSLANE PUBLICATIONS

Follow links to see our prices.

The Club holds a sample copy of each title and a few of the "Trek" books but we will order them in as soon as you need them, and they deliver quickly. Click each title to see more information from the Woodslane web site. Email our shop if you want to know more shop@awdc.com.au

- 4WD Glovebox Guide by Robert Pepper, Essential driving skills and recovery techniques.
- 4WD Treks Close to Sydney. by Lewis & Savage. 25 Best Tours Around the Sydney Region.
- 4WD Treks of the High Country. by Lewis & Savage. 26 Best Tours across the Australian Alps.
- Caravan & Camper Cookbook. by Proctor. Over 100 delicious recipes. Simple and good eating.
- Australia Free 4. by Koch. UPDATED. Thousands of free things to do, to see, rest areas and camps.



THE CLUB SHOP

www.awdc.com.au/shop

Managed by James Bayliss

Order online or contact the purchasing officer - shop@awdc.com.au We will bring your item to the next meeting.







- 1 AWDC Polo Shirt. Men's XS-5XL or Women's 8-18.
- 2 AWDC Polar Fleece Jumper. Half/Full Zip. Long sleeve. Unisex. 2XS-5XL.
- 3 AWDC Polar Fleece Vest Men's. 2XS-5XL.
- 4 Women's fitted bonded fleece. 8-16.
- 5 AWDC Waterproof Rain Jacket with Hood. S 3XL.
- 6 AWDC Chambray Shirts. Men's Long or Short Sleeve. XS-6XL.
- **7** AWDC Chambray Shirts. Women's Short Sleeve. 6-24.
- 8 AWDC Bucket Hat, Cap or Beanie.
- 9 AWDC Logo Car Sticker.
- **10** RFI UHF Antenna pack, black, 5dBi + tiny whip. Click here
- 11 RFI CEL-Fi GO Mobile Smart Signal Repeater. Limited Stock!
- 12 AWDC Hoodie. Unisex.



BUY

NOW

THE CLUB SHOP

www.awdc.com.au/shop

Managed by James Bayliss

Order online or contact the purchasing officer - shop@awdc.com.au
We will bring your item to the next meeting.

CLOTHING, RFI and MISCELLANEOUS



12



The NEW Club Cotton Polo Shirts will be on display at the next Club Meeting!



Anybody wanting to order. Please order on the website before 20th of each month. Any issues, email the shop@awdc.com.au or ring me mb 0429 630 175

Cheers James





DRIVER TRAINER REPORT

Steve Cox

Happy new year everybody!,

Well, 12 months ago we were sitting on the shores of Bruny Island writing our January reports, this year we are on the South Coast of NSW, about to head into the Victorian High Country for a bit of solitude away from the masses.

You will see in the calendar that there is still plenty of room in the ladies' training weekend coming up at the end of February as well as spaces in the general awareness weekend at the start of February. In fact there are spaces available for the rest of the year.

If you have been a member for a while and can't book into a training course yourself, it may not be your fault. We have set a restriction in the back end of the calendar. Please send me an email and we can add you in manually. This goes for anyone who has done the training already and has a new car, or wants a refresher.

Anyhow, the water is looking inviting and I'm trying to stay off the screens while I can. Have a great break, stay safe, and we will see you when we get back.

Take care.

Steve

03/04 Feb

NEXT (SCHEDULED) DRIVER TRAINING WEEKEND

BOOKINGS:

Please log onto the website, go the calendar and and book yourself in. There is a minimum of 4 vehicles to run driver training and a maximum of 8. A theory night is held on the Tuesday prior to the weekend at 7.30pm.

Steve Cox 0416 769 634



WEBMASTER REPORT

Ricky Morales



Dear all,

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas surrounded by loved ones and friends. Wishing everyone a fantastic 2024!

My first Christmas in years spent with all my kids was incredible. It was also my first holiday season at home, indulging in woodworking rather than being away. This time last year, I was crafting my report from Bruny Island (Tasmania) and sending out the magazine for Bec from the Bay of Fires.

There isn't much to update regarding the website itself, but I kindly request members to take a moment to review their profiles and update their photos, vehicle type, and any other new details.

See you at the next meeting

Ricky







CAN YOU LEAD A TRIP FOR THE AWDC?

We have over 300 members in our club who own widely different vehicles and are interested in different types of trips. As our club grows, so too we need to grow the number of trips and number of trip leaders.

Trips can be easy short tours to visit interesting landscapes, cultural or historical areas. They can be longer, rougher, remote trips right across Australia that require higher levels of preparation and commitment. Some members are interested in trips which challenge their four wheel drive ability, and others just like the camaraderie built up in the bush. No matter your interest, the club aims to run enough trips of different types so that **YOU** can easily find and book into trips that suit **YOU**.

The **BEST** way to ensure that you have a trip that suits you: location, timing, distance, difficulty and interest is to **lead it yourself**, and then invite other members along. All Members are encouraged to lead AWDC trips. If you haven't lead a trip before then don't be daunted by the challenges, as we will support you to do it. Please contact Katy our friendly <u>Trip Co-ordinator</u> for suggestions and advice as to how you might get started to lead a trip. Check our <u>web page</u>.

If you are willing to lead a trip

Decide on the type of trip that interests you and the area you wish to visit. Choose the dates you are available mindful of season, holiday schedules, booking delays, road closures and so on. If you can, try to choose dates that don't clash with similar trips on the AWDC Trip Calendar.

Knowledge of the area you intend to visit is important either through direct experience (preferable) or through your best research.



If there is an opportunity (not a remote location) then we suggest you do a "recce" trip with a friend or join another leader on a similar trip to ensure you know about the area and its conditions.

If you lead a trip to an area that you are not fully familiar with, then note it as an Exploratory Trip (X) so all the participants are aware of this.

Obtain appropriate detailed mapping and plan the roads and tracks you will follow. Ask others or look up trips in various places on the internet. Be aware of road surfaces, conditions, distances, speed, and travel times. Learn of any restrictions on trailers/towing, firewood, chainsaws, road closures, track fees or locked gates.

Take into account the location and size of campsites and whether pre-bookings are required. Also research alternate routes and camps in case you need to change plans as you travel.

Before departing on the trip check again for any changes in road conditions, camps and road closures from the local authorities, such as local National Parks or the local shire.

Procedure for leading a trip

After planning is done each trip leader sends a completed Trip Notice form (download from here (pdf) or here (word) to the Trip Co-ordinator (trips@awdc.com.au), with proposed trip details: dates, locations, meeting place and time, trip grading (see web), number of vehicles allowed and any other special requirements such as, mud tyres, winch, extra fuel, no trailers, no pets etc.

For further information we suggest you download our more detailed <u>Trip Leader Guidelines</u>

PRESENTING A VERBAL TRIP REPORT

There is a **VERBAL TRIP REPORT** from every trip - presented to a Club meeting soon after each trip. You get a chance to share the great time you had AND the lessons that were learnt! Consider presenting as a way to contribute back to the Club.



Being selected

- the Trip Leader will nominate the Verbal Report Presenter at the first briefing session of the trip. This allows them to start recording trip details. If no-one volunteers, then the last member to turn up at the start point may be nominated.
- o if the Trip Leader forgets to nominate someone, don't hesitate to prompt them.

As you travel

- take notes as you go with your phone, tablet or even use a pencil.
- pictures make the story! Snap lots of photos along the way ... capture all the delightful and interesting scenes. Try to capture any events, dramas or mishaps as well.

Make up your slide presentation

- Ask other members to share their photos with you. Note the photo subjects, locations and name of the photographer.
- Use pictures rather than words, but not too many. Cull out the poor ones. Crop out irrelevant detail. Your presentation should be timed for about 5 minutes.
- If you have a movie, then edit the highlights down to 2 or 3 minutes in total.
- Include trip dates, list all participants including passengers and children. List the vehicles present and show a photo of each vehicle if possible.
- If you present text information in a slide make sure it is in large print, high contrast and legible from a distance away from the screen.
- Make up speakers notes to remind you of the points you wish to make on each slide.
- Save your completed presentation as a Powerpoint File/Show, a PDF, a movie image or a folder of photos onto an empty USB stick. (Check it doesn't have any viruses on it!)
- Test your presentation, on different device if you can, and be careful about picture orientation and the order that pictures play.

Presenting

- Present to a meeting as soon a practicable after returning from the trip, but presentations may not be programmed at every meeting. Contact the Trips Coordinator or the Secretary if you are ready to present.
- Before the start of the meeting give your USB stick to the Secretary or President who will arrange for it to be plugged into the Club Belrose computer server (in the back room).
- The presentation will appear on all the TV screens around the meeting room and will be controlled by the Club Belrose touchscreen Android Tablet remotely via their network.
- If you have any questions contact the Secretary.

SUBMITTING A WRITTEN TRIP REPORT

There is a WRITTEN TRIP REPORT from every trip – published in this magazine. This gives a permanent record of the trips, for reading now and future reference. Writing a report is an important part of club membership.



- How do you become an author?
 - The author should be nominated by the Trip Leader at the first briefing session of the trip. This allows them to start recording trip details. Often the last member to turn up at the start point is nominated! Prompt the leader if they forget to choose someone at the start.
- What do I do during the trip?
 - As you travel take notes as you go. What roads/tracks did you take. Track or weather conditions. Note any incidents or stories.
 - Pictures make the story! Snap lots of photos along the way ... capture all the delightful and 0 interesting scenes. Try to capture any events or mishaps as well.
 - Take at least one photo of all the vehicles together, and another showing all the participants. 0
 - Good close-up front and rear 4WD photos are needed for front and back magazine covers. 0
- What should be in the report?
 - The report should tell the story of the trip, but also give enough route information to allow a 0 future leader to know where to go and what they will find.
 - Your report could be a diary, a narrative or even a poem. Maybe a photo essay with captions? \bigcirc
 - Include trip dates, all participants names, including passengers and list the vehicles present. 0
 - 0 Include LOTS of photos. Ask others to share photos. Note photo locations and photographer.
 - Don't worry about format or layout, as that will all be done later. 0
- How do I submit the report? In two parts.
 - Part 1. Email the words in the email body, a text file or a Word document or anything that we can 0 copy and paste from.
 - Part 2. Email the photos as separate images. Direct from your camera is best to keep the quality high. Due to file size you may only be able to attach 2 or 3 photos to each email. If you wish, you can put a caption against each photo. Please note who the photographer is.
- How do I transfer photos without using email?
 - To share photos without using email, upload them to a cloud service and share a link to the editor. e.g. Google Drive, Google Photos, Microsoft OneDrive, DropBox or similar services.
 - If you don't have access to your own cloud service try https://wetransfer.com/. You can upload a folder containing document and images and the tool will email a retrieval link to us.
- How do we publish?
 - We use the Google Slides to compile the magazine. You can create your report using Google Slides & share it with us. Or use Microsoft PowerPoint and send us those slides.
 - We are happy to receive and publish in the magazine any articles of interest, poems, essays, photos or Letters to the Editor, as well as trip reports.

Send to editor@awdc.com.au by the end of each month. See also https://awdc.com.au/writetriprpt

