CONTENTS

General Club Information 2
President’s Report 3
Meeting Minutes 4
Training Calendar 6
Trip Calendar 7
Destinations Look for a Leader 11
Convoy Procedure 12
Trip Reports
Christmas Party Wrap-up 14
Brindabella Night Run 17
Weetangera Cemetery Clean Up 18
For Sale 19

Cover image by Simon Bryzenski

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GENERAL CLUB INFORMATION

YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President  
Steve Sponberg

Vice President  
David Johnson

Secretary  
Brian McGlynn

Treasurer  
Richard Wdowik

Trip Coordinator  
Greg Tanner

Newsletter Editor  
Emily Tanner

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

Public Officer  
Janette McGlynn

Property Officer  
Ansis Rieksts

Training Coordinator  
John Southwell

Web Master  
Mark Woodward

CLUB BANK ACCOUNT

BSB  805 022
ACCT  0337 0382

EDITORIAL POLICY

This newsletter has a wide circulation and is easily shared. The Editor reserves the right to edit any material submitted for inclusion in the newsletter to ensure that the club and its members and families are seen to be promoting safe and responsible enjoyment of the environment and the pastime of four wheel driving, or for clarity and readability.

The views and opinions in this newsletter are that of the individual, and do not represent the views and opinions of the club as a whole.

GENRAL MEETING

The next General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3 at the Kambah Woolshed, 61 Springbett Street, Kambah. Sausage sandwich and soft drinks will be provided. Visitors considering joining the club are welcome to attend Club meetings. Please contact the Secretary before the meeting to confirm your attendance.

Photo by Maxine Milera

LIFE MEMBERS

Jeff and Jenny Shepherd
Norm and Lesley Syme

HONOUR ROLL

Peter and Sally Edwards
Greg and Wendy Murray
Steve and Debbie Hourigan

Cover image by Simon Bryzenski

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hello again everyone and may I wish you all a hale and hearty New Year and hope everyone is looking forward to a productive and positive 2015.

I had a great break and towed the trusty camper trailer as far as Cooktown in far tropical North QLD via mid-western QLD. I considered going further up the Cape but as the wet season was looming decided it was a bit too risky. We then returned back to Canberra via the picturesque Great Barrier Reef coast stopping at many of the best spots for camping, fishing and relaxing. All in all a beaut trip and we covered over 7,000 kilometres without a hitch.

I don't have a lot to convey for this the first newsletter of 2015 specially following on from the long Xmas and New Year holiday break apart from some administrative matters and club business.

Our Facebook page continues to grow in popularity with regular photos and stories that most of us find amusing and interesting however: I remind all club Facebook users again that while the Facebook page is closed to ACT 4WD Club members only and doesn't get to be viewed in the broader public arena, it is still a public page and general comments are viewed by all members who join the page. Please do not engage in vehicle 'sledging' regardless what you think of any other make or model vehicle that may differ to your own.

Please show common sense and sensitivity when commenting on any real or web based vehicle misfortune whether it be bogged, broken down or stranded by mechanical failure. While you may think it amusing to comment on the make or model of a broken down vehicle, the affected member/owner may be faced with a multi-thousand $$ repair bill so won't really see the humorous side of any off-the-cuff comment about their predicament!

The Committee is drafting up some guidelines that will be published in the near future for our Facebook page use so I hope we can all read and adhere to the guidelines – thank you.

The next meeting will be held at the Kambah Woolshed complex on Tuesday 3 February and will be the first meeting after 2 months and for 2015. A sausage sizzle will be held prior to the meeting and we'll also take the opportunity to use some of the left over drinks from the December Club Xmas party so bring an appetite and a thirst.

I would also like to clarify some incorrect perceptions of our use of the Woden Tradies and dispel some rumours that are circulating among some Club members. The ACT 4WD Club does not have a formal written agreement in place to utilise the meeting rooms at the Tradies. What we do have is a standing agreement that the Tradies will provide a meeting room each month for 12 calendar months, free of charge for our use that would normally incur a charge of over $3,000 per annum. The Woden Tradies fully understand that from time to time, we also hold our meetings on an irregular basis at various businesses or venues throughout ACT – Kambah Woolshed in February for example.

While we don't have a financial obligation to the Woden Tradies, we do have a good working relationship that we want to continue without 'burning any bridges' by not utilising the Tradies meeting rooms for months on end. It is obvious that if we didn't use a room that was reserved and booked for our use for 3-4 months, then an invitation from the Tradies to come back again for a following 12 months may not be as forth coming as we might hope for!

We didn't have many trips organised over the Xmas period but a few in January so please keep in contact with the Club Trip Coordinator if you wish to be a Trip Leader or would like instigate a trip for yourself and other members.

Look forward to seeing many of you including our new members throughout the 2015 year at various venues and the Woden Tradies.

Best regards and keep safe

El Presidente

PO BOX 867 FYSHWICK ACT 2609       www.act4wdclub.org.au       UHF Channel 20
ACT 4WD MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 2014

TITLE: Minutes of the Monthly Meeting for the ACT 4WD Club

VENUE: Woden Tradies Club

EVENT DATE: 2 December 2014
OPEN: 7:30pm
CLOSE: 8:05pm

PRESIDENT: Stephen Sponberg
SECRETARY (AND MINUTES): Brian McGlynn

Previous meeting minutes approved.
Moved: Richard Wdowik
Seconded: Nick Kous
Members apologies were noted and will be included later in these Minutes.

President Report

Steve paid further tribute to Cheryl and John Southwell in relation to the amount of work they undertake for the club. John and Cheryl kindly donated the value ($300) of their award to the Crookwell Community Mens Shed. This was gratefully accepted on behalf of the Crookwell Community Mens Shed by Chris Fenton.

Earlier today, three club members attended the ‘Friends of Motoring’ event at Parliament House. Whilst there was not a lot of interest in the 4WD’s in attendance, it did provide a good opportunity for the club’s exposure in ACT Motoring.

Secretary Report

Brian advised of the usual incoming correspondence, this month included an offer for packages on Dirk Hartog Island in WA.

Treasurer Report

The Clubs financial are in good order.

Trip Coordinator

Greg reported that trips recently undertaken were:

- Cocktails and Jaffle Irons – Honeysuckle
- Rocks and Rough Terrain – Dalgety

Upcoming trips:

Greg advised that there are still plenty of vacancies for members to arrange trips in December and/or January. Please register via the webpage.

The Training Calendar for 2015 will be available soon.

Club Christmas Party – 6 December Majors Creek

There is a huge turnout of 135 members that will be attending this years event at Majors Creek. Many will also be staying on the Friday night. The organising Committee should be congratulated on a fantastic job.

There are over 50 raffle prizes arranged, and there will be games and activities, such as the photo booth (watch out for pictures in the next newsletter!).

Golden Shackle Award

This month’s Golden Shackle award went to Brian McGlynn for being Johnny in the wrong spot at the Rocks and Rough Terrain training course.

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UHF Channel 20
**General Business**

The next chainsaw training is coming soon – keep an eye out for information and expressions of interest.

John Southwell advised that the historic Cemetery on William Hovel Drive needs a working bee. The club has been invited to assist, and John sought expressions of interest. There was unanimous support for the proposal, with the weekend of 17/18 January being suggested. Members that donate their time are asked to bring along tools, trailers etc to assist. Note that there’s no power available on site.

Meeting closed: 20:05.

**Attendance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gavin Neilson</th>
<th>Scott and Marta Crisp</th>
<th>Jan and Chris Fenton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesley and Clem Tozer</td>
<td>Bob and Kym Rutten</td>
<td>Warren Monsma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Prentice</td>
<td>Mark Woodward</td>
<td>Linda and Graeme Pigrim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter and Rosemary Armstrong</td>
<td>Nick Kous</td>
<td>Sarah Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerrad Coomer</td>
<td>Rod Morris</td>
<td>Paul, Maxine, Sian Milera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tegan Coombes and Jason Taylor</td>
<td>Graeme Wong</td>
<td>Helen Lavery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg Tanner</td>
<td>Ian Jones</td>
<td>Elaine and Richard Wdowik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl and John Southwell</td>
<td>Caryl Hill and Klaus Matthaei</td>
<td>Andrew Rudder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Matthews</td>
<td>Steve Sponberg</td>
<td>Janette and Brian McGlynn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Apologies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liz and Gordon Fyfe</th>
<th>Tony and Linda Barthelson</th>
<th>Geoff and Dianne Wood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wendy and Greg Murray</td>
<td>Meg, Vivienne, Charlotte Rudder</td>
<td>John and Nadia O'Toole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jody and Denis Coombes</td>
<td>Brad O'Dowd</td>
<td>Alan and Litz Cooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan and Sandra Doolan</td>
<td>Jeff and Sandra Lambert</td>
<td>Diane, Emily, Courtney Tanner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Visitors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Darren Nichols</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Club Supporters**

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TRAINING CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>Type of Training</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7-8 February 2015</td>
<td>Accreditation Weekend Training</td>
<td>&quot;Ulmurra&quot; Brindabella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-29 March 2015</td>
<td>2014 – 4WD Recovery and Winching Training</td>
<td>Beachcomber Holiday Park, Potato Point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 April 2015</td>
<td>Basic 4WD Training</td>
<td>Uriarra Crossing/Brindabella’s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7-8 FEBRUARY 2015 – ACCREDITATION WEEKEND TRAINING

Training Coordinators: John and Cheryl Southwell
Location: "Ulmurra" Brindabella
Starting time: 9.00am Saturday

Comments: This training is for those members who have completed all the competencies of Training. This weekend will be an opportunity to finalise Accreditation, with testing and revision.

28-29 MARCH 2015 – 4WD RECOVERY AND WINCHING TRAINING

Training Coordinators: John and Cheryl Southwell
Location: Beachcomber Holiday Park, Potato Point
Starting time: 9.00am Saturday
Maximum No. Vehicles: 10

Comments: We will be running a 4WD Recovery and Winching Training on Saturday at Beachcomber Holiday Park, Potato Point. Members can drive down on Friday evening, set up camp etc. Saturday will be training, theory in the “Gunya” and practical in the afternoon with a possible drive around the area. For more information on Beachcomber Holiday Park and accommodation/camping bookings please see www.beachcomberpark.com.au. We will also be having a Pizza night on Saturday night if any members are interested.

If you wish to participate please advise Cheryl at this email address: cheryl.southwell@act.gov.au

11 APRIL 2015 – BASIC 4WD TRAINING

Training Coordinators: John and Cheryl Southwell
Location: Uriarra Crossing/Brindabella’s
Starting time: 9.00am
Maximum No. Vehicles/People: 10

Comments: We will be running a Basic 4WD Training course at Uriarra Crossing covering basic vehicle maintenance and how your vehicle works, wheel placement and snatch snap recovery. After the theory side we will be taking a drive in the Brindabella’s. You will need to bring your lunch and morning/afternoon tea/refreshments.

If you wish to participate please advise Cheryl at the following email address: cheryl.southwell@act.gov.au

PO BOX 867 FYSHWICK ACT 2609
www.act4wdclub.org.au
UHF Channel 20
# Trip Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Trip Leader</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-8 February</td>
<td>Bathurst 12 Hour Endurance Race Mt Panorama, Bathurst</td>
<td>Les Briggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-22 February</td>
<td>Monkey Gum in reverse (Grade 4)</td>
<td>Greg Tanner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-9 March 2015</td>
<td>Newnes</td>
<td>Warren Monsma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March- April 2015</td>
<td>SA &amp; WA South Coasts Inc Esperance to Eyre</td>
<td>Geoff Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-6 April</td>
<td>Victorian High country (Talbotville base camp)</td>
<td>Warren Monsma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June - August 2015</td>
<td>Barra fishing in the top end</td>
<td>Jan and Chris Fenton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-15 July</td>
<td>Fraser Island</td>
<td>Warren Monsma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-12 July</td>
<td>Paddy’s River (snow trip)</td>
<td>Greg Tanner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 August</td>
<td>15th Annual Brindabella run</td>
<td>Greg Tanner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Route 66</td>
<td>Chris &amp; Jan Fenton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-Sept 2016</td>
<td>Gulf, Top End &amp; Kimberleys</td>
<td>Geoff Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May or June 2017</td>
<td>4wd self-drive safari – Namibia &amp; Botswana</td>
<td>Geoff Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July –August 2017</td>
<td>Whitsundays – boat cruise – Eol sought</td>
<td>Geoff Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2018</td>
<td>Remote Central Australia Anne Beadell Hwy, returning Gunbarrel Hwy</td>
<td>Geoff Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Iceland (Eol) – Big Wheeled Trucks</td>
<td>Geoff Wood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Photo by Maxine Milera

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**BATHURST 12 HOUR ENDURANCE RACE**

Date: 6 – 8 February 2015  
Trip Leaders: Les and Sue Briggs  
Departure: tbc  
Trip Grading: 1

Les is planning a weekend at Bathurst for the 12 hour endurance race 6-8 February 2015  
Camping is available on site (8m x 8m site), or local accommodation.

Contact Les for details lb@absolutefilters.com.au

**MONKEY GUM IN REVERSE**

Date: 21 – 22 February 2015  
Trip Leaders: Greg Tanner  
Departure: QBN Maccas  8am  
Trip Grading: 4

Greg is running the Yalwal trip in the opposite direction, climbing Monkey Gum on Sunday.

The trip reached the maximum number of vehicles very quickly, please contact Greg to be placed on a waiting list dtanner@tpg.com.au

**TUNNELS & CAVES BLUE MOUNTAINS (NEWNES)**

Date: 6 – 9 March 2015  
Trip Leader: Warren Monsma  
Trip Grading: 2-3 for off-road sections

Another attempt on the Blue Mountains!!

Departing from Eaglehawk on Friday, camping at Abercrombie then onto Newnes to establish base camp on Saturday. Exploring the Lithgow area over the weekend, including the glow worm tunnel. Approx 700 km + 4wdriing, fuel at Lithgow. Grade 2-3 for off-road parts, base camp camper trailer friendly.

This long weekend doesn’t clash with NSW, so the campground should not be crowded.

Contact Warren via Facebook or email monsma@iinet.net.au - 0427 072 352

**VICTORIAN HIGH COUNTRY - EASTER**

Date: 2 – 6 April 2015  
Trip Leaders: Warren Monsma  
Departure: Meet at 3 Dams (Mt Selwyn) on Thursday night  
Trip Grading: 2, 3 for day trips

Warren is heading to Talbotville in the Victorian high country, establishing a base camp for day trips around the numerous tracks in the area. Camper trailer friendly, no vehicle limit.

The plan is to meet up and camp overnight then head in convoy to Omeo for a Pub lunch, last supplies and fuel. Then onto Talbotville to set up base camp.

From here the plan will be to do day trips exploring the region. This will be a perfect opportunity for some of the newer members to lead a day trip. However this will be discussed around the fire at base camp.

Heading home on Monday. Last year it was quite cold overnight, so bring your hot water bottles!

Contact Warren via Facebook or email monsma@iinet.net.au - 0427 072 352

**BARRA FISHING IN THE TOP END**

Date: June – August 2015  
Trip Leader Jan and Chris Fenton  
Trip Grading: Mostly 1, some 2 – 3 for creek and river crossings.

A trip that can be done completely or join us along the way to suit individual timeframes and holidays.

We are leaving on 13/6 to travel to Daly River in NT. Camping and fishing for three weeks at Woolianna from 20/6 – 11/7. Preferable to have your own boat although they can be hired there.

Up to Darwin for a few days then down to Mataranka to meet anyone who wants to join the trip at that time. Off to Roper Bar and the Limmen National Park – more Barra fishing.
Savannah Way to Borroloola is not a major road and many creek crossings so depending on the conditions could be pretty slow going.

Across the gulf to Burketown and on to Normanton and Karumba for a bit more fishing.

Then head toward Townsville where the trip will end as we are catching up with family or you can spend a few days seeing the sights before we head back home via Bundaberg and Brisbane or Chinchilla, aiming to be home about 9 August.

SA & WA SOUTH COASTS – INCLUDING ESPERANCE TO EYRE

Date: March/April 2015
Trip Leader: Geoff/Dianne Wood
Trip Grading: 1, 2, 3 and 4 (mostly sand)

SA Eyre Peninsula, Fowlers Bay for some fishing/sand driving. Across the Nullarbor, Cocklebiddy, up to the Railway line, across to Kalgoorlie. Then to Esperance, Cape Le Grand and Cape Arid NP, east along the coast, then up to Cocklebiddy. Along the Old Coach road to Nullarbor Strn, up to Maralinga (2 day tour), down to Ceduna. Up the Googs track to the train line, back down through Gawler Range NP.

This is an adventure rarely experienced. Remote areas, fish and swim where few will ever go. Unique Maralinga tour, both ends of the TransContiental train line and Gawler Range.

If interested – contact Geoff Wood on gqwood@bigpond.com.au

FRASER ISLAND

Date: 8-15 July
Trip Leader: Warren Monsma
Trip Grading: 2 – 4 (Sand)

Warren is going to Fraser Island in July if other Club members would like to join him, they are their welcome. It is during the July school holidays so the plan will be to spend a lot of time up the top of the island where there are less people.

Warren will be going north on Friday 3rd July for the Gold coast coast marathon which is on the 5 July, then spending a few days with family in Hervey bay.

Warren will lead the trip on the island, club members are to make their own way to the meeting point at Inskip Point. Fuel is available at Inskip Point.

Campers are to be self-sufficient during their time on the island.

Contact Warren via Facebook or email monsma@iinet.net.au - 0427 072 352

PADDY’S RIVER DAM

Date: 11-12 July
Trip Leader: Greg Tanner
Trip Grading: 3 – 4 Mud and snow

Following last year’s failure to actually make it to Paddy’s River Dam, another foray will be made, hopefully without large holes in the road blocking progress.

Travel through the Brindabellas to Tumut and then via Buddong Falls to the dam. On Sunday, look for some snow to play in and then back home via the Elliot Way to Kiandra.

Limit of 6 vehicles as camping at the dam is a bit tight

15TH ANNUAL BRINDY MUD RUN

Date: 23 August
Trip Leader: Greg Tanner
Trip Grading: 3 – 4 Mud

It’s back again, a run through the mud along the powerline and around Micalong swamp, heading for Wee Jasper and a pub that may or may not be open.
THE ULTIMATE TRIP - UP THROUGH THE CENTRE, SAVANNAH WAY, GULF, ARNHEM LAND AND TOP END AND BACK!

Date: 2016 May to Sept
Trip Leader: Geoff and Dianne Wood
Trip Grading: 1, 2 and 3

Cameron Cnr, Innamincka, Haddon Cnr, Birdsville, Mt Isa, Lawn Hill, Burketown, Savannah Way, The Gulf, Borroloola, Lorella Springs, Lost City, Roper Bay to Nhulunbuy through Arnhem Land (if we can get local guide). Across to Galiwinku, Maningrida, Cobourg Beach. Down to Jabiru (Kakadu), Jim Jim, Cooinda, then Darwin, for a week's rest.

Side trip - Kimberley, Gibb River Rd, Mitchell Falls, Bungles, etc

Return: Timber Crk, Gregory NP, Limestone Gorge, Wave Hill, Lajamanu, Tenant Creek, down the Binns Track, MacDonnell Range, Uluru, Olgas, Alice Springs, down the Old Ghan line, Finke, Oodnadatta, William Creek, Maree, Leigh Creek, Broken Hill

If you are interested – contact Geoff Wood on email ggwood@bigpond.com.au

ROUTE 66

Date: 2016
Trip Leaders: Chris & Jan Fenton
Trip Grading: 1-2

Details to be provided.

WHITSUNDAYS - BOAT CRUISE

Date: July/August 2017
Trip Leaders: Geoff & Dianne Wood
Departure: tbc
Trip Grading: 1

Hire of a self-drive (bare) motor boat (probably a 40' catamaran), up to 6 weeks on board wandering around the Whitsundays, in your own double cabin/stateroom to explore the islands, swim, fish, hike, access resorts, relax. Also included: fuel, food (cook ourselves, shared), bedding, linen, fridge, cooking utensils, stove, water, radio & recovery gear (floaties). Approximately $6K/person, plus flights. The plan is to hire 2 boats, with up to 4 couples per boat. Blocks of 3 (or 2) weeks, will be considered.

Contact: ggwood@bigpond.com.au

AFRICA - 4WD SELF DRIVE SAFARI NAMIBIA & BOTSWANA

Date: 2017 – May/June
Trip Leader: Geoff and Dianne Wood
Trip Grading: 1, 2 and 3

About 30 days, Self drive, 4WD and camping. Includes 4WD hire, recovery equipment, tent, fuel, food (cook yourself), a local guide/leader. Also includes: bedding, linen, towels, fridge, water, radio, 12v lighting, paper maps and most camping fees. ~ $10K per person, plus flights. The plan is to make up 2 groups of 6 cars, with similar dates, so there may be some overlap.

If you are interested – contact Geoff Wood on email ggwood@bigpond.com.au

PO BOX 867 FYSHWICK ACT 2609  www.act4wdclub.org.au  UHF Channel 20
ESSENTIAL TRIP EQUIPMENT

The following items are the minimum items of safety and recovery equipment required for club trips

| Item                  | Grade
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UHF Radio</td>
<td>Grade 1 Easy trip. Little or no 4WD required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Aid Kit</td>
<td>Grade 2 Easy 4WD trip. Some 4WD, no recovery expected. Suitable for beginners with limited 4WD experience. Basic 4WD skills required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Rated Shackles</td>
<td>Grade 3 Moderate 4WD trip. Possibly some recovery/winching/water crossings. Good level of 4WD skills and experience required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather Gloves</td>
<td>Grade 4 Difficult 4WD trip. Expect hard recovery/winching/water crossings. Drivers must be experienced at travelling over difficult terrain and have a high level of 4WD skill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snatch Strap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tool Kit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Extinguisher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery Points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A sense of humour!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damper (two, to put over winch cable/ snatch strap)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery Pack (straps, shackles, chain, etc)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More information can be found in the Member’s Handbook</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TRIP GRADING

DESTINATIONS LOOKING FOR A LEADER!

- **Bendethra Valley** – a good weekender into a lovely spot, some steep access tracks into a lush valley with heaps of open camping.

- **Alexander’s Hut/Postman’s Track** - Follow the old mail route from Merimbula to Bombala and explore the South-east Forest National Park. A good alternate route for heading down the coast or camp along the track.

- **Blue Waterholes** – another good weekender around the back of the Brindabellas to Blue Waterholes, good camping and some interesting walks around the gorges.

- **Wombeyan Caves** – a good destination north of Goulburn, campground with a camp kitchen, take a cave tour or do the ‘self-guided’ walk through the caves. Plenty of tracks in the area to explore.

- **Lob’s Hole/Ravine** – a loop off the Snowy Mtns Highway, a good (historic) campsite nestled down in a valley in the Australian Alps. This track is open in the winter and there is often snow at the Kiandra end. The Goobragandra Powerline track is a good return option, although this is closed for winter.

If anyone has questions about running a trip or these destinations, feel free to contact me on 0417 826 530 or email dtanner@tpg.com.au.

*Greg Tanner – Trip Co-ordinator*
CONVOY PROCEDURE

A convoy comprises of a group of vehicles including the trip leader, a ‘tail-end-Charlie’ at the end of the group and any number of vehicles between the two. The Club utilises the following convoy procedures on all club trips for safety and group cohesion:

- The trip leader will appoint a ‘tail-end-Charlie’ for each day of the trip.
- The convoy will utilise the normal club channel, which is channel 20, unless decided otherwise.
- At the start of a trip, the trip leader shall check that radio communication is working effectively for all vehicles in the convoy. This will generally be a simple on-air radio check.
- The trip leader will call directions at each intersection. These are to be acknowledged by the vehicle at the tail of the convoy (‘tail-end-Charlie’) vehicles in mid convoy need not acknowledge.
- Where the intended route may not be obvious, each driver is to wait at the intersection until satisfied that the following driver had identified the proper route. The trip leader will determine which intersections to wait at. Tail-end-Charlie is to radio the trip leader once he/she has cleared the intersection.
- When negotiating hazards such as steep grades, maintain sufficient convoy spacing so as not to endanger yourself or the vehicle in front. In particularly hazardous terrain, wait until the vehicle in front has negotiated the hazard before proceeding.
- The trip leader will generally reply on the regular radio acknowledgements from “Charlie” to ensure that the convoy retain radio contact. In larger convoys and particularly in dusty conditions, when vehicle separation distances are likely to increase, radio relay through the convoy may be necessary to maintain contact.
- After negotiating a hazard, wait at a safe distance to ensure that the following vehicle has also negotiated the hazard and if necessary, provide assistance.
- At the start of the journey, or at any time after stopping, tail-end-Charlie is to identify himself/herself to the trip leader and advise once underway.
- The trip leader will advise by radio of any hazards.
- The trip leader will advise by radio of any oncoming vehicles, when travelling on single lane roads and tracks.
- Leave gates as you find them. The lead driver (generally the trip leader) is to report gates as either open or closed as they are encountered, if gates were identified as being closed a member of the convoy should remain at the gate to prevent the movement of stock through the open gate. Unless directed otherwise, tail-end-Charlie has responsibility for any necessary gates closures.
- Any driver leaving the convoy must notify the trip leader.

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CHRISTMAS PARTY WRAP-UP

Well, it was memorable if for nothing else than the weather!! It rained. A lot. Captains Flat and Araluen recorded in excess of 180mm for the 24 hour period – we were caught between the two, and fortunately experienced nowhere near as much.

A large group headed out to Major’s Creek on Friday night in anticipation of getting the set-up underway the next morning. We supported the local hotel well into the night as the rain came down, and much merriment was had.

More people drifted in during the morning and many hands meant the set-up was well in hand, and the hall looked fantastic. The heavy rain had eased (apart from the occasional burst), but the fog rolled in and made the kids’ game of cricket somewhat challenging, as the other end of the pitch was obscured by the low cloud. Did the kids care? Not in the least!

Games were played, Santa arrived and kids of all ages had fun. By 5pm the spit still hadn’t arrived and I was getting a bit worried, particularly as the news came through that the Captains Flat road was now closed and there’d been flooding on the King’s Highway! A few frantic phone calls and they were tracked down and guided to the venue (although they ended up a bit short on the salad for which they were most apologetic and provided a refund).

The raffle prizes were drawn and the partying continued. The Photobooth was a big hit, with the owner/operator commenting on how many groups had been through – far more than he normally experienced. I eventually chased the last of the revellers out around midnight, so that we didn’t annoy the neighbours.

Thanks to the breakfast crew for the bacon and egg rolls and to everyone for pitching in and helping with the clean-up on Sunday. I spoke to the caretaker after the event and he was impressed with how quickly and thoroughly we cleaned up, and we are more than welcome to return.

I would like to thank the committee for the big effort put into the organisation of the event, with frantic activity
happening furiously as the day approached. We had around 130 adults and kids schlepping around in the rain and mud, but I think we all had a good time and dried out eventually. We have a quantity of items purchased for the party – bins, lights, power cords etc, which will be passed on to the new committee.

I would also like to thank our supporters who were exceptionally generous with donations for the raffle.

Finally, thanks needs to go to the committee members who put so much work into organising the party:

- Lauren Bennett
- Tiali Combridge
- Tegan Coombes
- Catherine Matthews
- Janette McGlynn
- Aaron Prentice
- Graeme Wong

Thanks again, Greg T.

Photos by Cheryl Southwell and Diane Tanner
BRINDABELLA NIGHT RUN

1 January 2015

Well, Andrew Rudder was keen to start the year with a trip, so we gathered at Uriarra Homestead around 7.30pm to head off into the bush. A bit of miscommunication (sorry!) had Simon ahead of us down at Brindabella Station. Contact was re-established and we headed into the old arboretum then up Pabral road on the way to Coree. There seems to be a new gate installed near the bottom of this track, but I didn’t notice one at the other end of the track.

The climb up Coree is fairly straightforward, with a few loose switchbacks. The breeze was a bit cool at the top, but the sunset and the view back across Canberra was worth the effort. After a quick cuppa, we headed back down to Two Sticks road and then on to the Powerline track to cross the valley. Again straightforward but in the dark, we could see the ‘hard’ tracks disappearing over the edge of the track and heading straight down.

We reached Webbs Ridge and headed south to Flea Creek. This track has been upgraded in recent years for firefighting and is pretty good shape, much better than the rutted and rocky track I remember from many years ago. After a brief stop at Flea Creek, we headed up Gentle Annie to the Brindy road, where we aired up and said our goodbyes, to be home before midnight (when the Prado turns into a pumpkin!).

Thanks to Andrew for organising the first trip of the year

Trip report by Greg Tanner, photos by Andrew Rudder.
WEETANGERA CEMETERY CLEAN UP
Saturday 17 January 2015

The Weetangera Cemetery clean-up was a great success. We anticipated about 38 members but we actually had 49 members attend, which was a terrific turnout. The clean up priorities were mowing all the long grass, cleaning up the timber from the fallen trees and reinstating a boundary fence. The task ahead looked very daunting and we were not expecting to get everything done in one morning. After the safety talk from John and the scope of work was explained, members enthusiastically took to work.

Members were busy whipper snippering the long grass, so that members could pick up all the sticks and rake up all the long grass, so that areas could be mowed. We had about four members using chainsaws (and yes some had their chaps on) as there were four areas of trees, logs and stumps to clear. We were fortunate enough to have the use of 2 ACTEW Water tipper trucks (donated for our cause by ACTEW Water). There were four or five loads of green waste taken to Belconnen and four loads of large pieces of timber taken off site. The old boundary fence was reinstated with about 25 star pickets and the existing materials that were buried beneath the soil and grass. With this many hands, it was clear very early on that we would probably be finished before lunch.

Once everything was finished members enjoyed a well-earned break with a sausage sizzle, thanks to Melissa Bryzenski and Rosemary Everett who cooked up the snags. We were ready to leave at about 12:30 and it was very satisfying to look around the cemetery and survey just how great the cemetery looked and what a great transformation had taken place. Members commented on how much they had enjoyed participating in such a great community activity and were interested in the history behind the cemetery and its heritage value to Canberra.

We would like to thank all the members who supported the Weetangera Cemetery clean-up day, Eric Martin, Rosemary Everett and John Knox from ACTEW Water for making this all possible.

John, Cheryl & Leesa Southwell

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**Participating Members**


We were also joined by Eric Martin, Rosemary Everett & Kingsley Southwell, who are all involved with taking care of the Weetangera Cemetery.
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60 x 3W LED – 20 Flood, 20 Pencil and 12 flood reflectors
Australian Design - Bright Light Auto Parts - BL-LB60
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