

A dark-colored SUV is driving away from the viewer on a dirt road that winds through a dense forest. The trees are tall and thin, with a thick canopy of green leaves. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating dappled light on the ground. The overall scene is a natural, outdoor setting.

ACT 4WD CLUB

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2017 – ISSUE 339

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GENERAL CLUB INFORMATION

YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| President | <i>Greg Tanner</i> |
| Vice President | <i>Warren Monsma</i> |
| Secretary | <i>Joy McGahey</i> |
| Treasurer | <i>Richard Wdowik</i> |
| Trip Coordinator | <i>Catherine Combridge</i> |
| Newsletter Editor | <i>Scott & Kim Townsend</i> |

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Public Officer | <i>Noel 'Foss' Walters</i> |
| Property Officer | <i>Ansis Rieksts</i> |
| Training Coordinator | <i>John Southwell</i> |
| Web Master | <i>Mark Woodward</i> |

CLUB BANK ACCOUNT

BSB 805 022
ACCT 0337 0382

GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 6th June 2017 at Woden Tradies Club, Woden.

Come along from 6:30 pm to enjoy a schnitzel, the meeting will commence at 7:30 pm.

Visitors considering joining the Club are welcome to attend Club meetings. Please contact the Club Secretary before the meeting to confirm your attendance.

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.

Cover image by Simon Reinecker

LIFE MEMBERS

HONOUR ROLL

Norm and Lesley Syme

Jeff and Jenny Shepherd

John and Cheryl Southwell

Peter & Sally Edwards

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

No presidents report this month as he is overseas.

CLUB CLOTHING

The club has a number of shirts, caps and beanies in stock. If you are interested please email me – janfenton@activ8.net.au - your requirements including sizes. I will bring them along to the next meeting for you. Monies will be payable to the club account or direct to the treasurer (not me)

Shirts – all \$43 – all long sleeve – all full button

- Pink – size 12
- Pink – size 14
- Pink – size 16
- Blue – Med
- Blue- L
- Blue – XL
- Blue – 2XL – 5 available

Caps and beanies \$15 each

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Under the ACT4WD Constitution (18 – Election of Committee Members), any financial member of the club may nominate for any position of the committee. Nominations may be made in writing or orally to the Secretary of the club leading up to or at the June general meeting.

If you are interested in nominating for any of the following roles can you please let me know in writing or advise either Greg (President) or Warren (Vice President) at the next general meeting:

- President
- Vice president
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Trip Coordinator
- Newsletter editor.

If you are nominated and will not be at the next meeting, you will need to confirm your nomination in writing and send a signed copy of nomination to me (Joy) at the email address below.

Secretary ACT 4WD Club

Email: secretary@act4wdclub.org.au



NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE FORM

CLOSING COB Tuesday, 25th July 2017

The completed Nomination Form are to be sent to the Secretary. You can do this at the next official club meeting or by sending a scanned copy to secretary@act4wdclub.org.au. Nominations should be received by COB **Tuesday, 25th July 2017**

Proponent

I nominate.....

for election of.....

Proponent's names.....

(Printed name).....

(Signature).....

Secunder

(Printed name).....

(Signature).....

Candidate:

I consent to this nomination for the position of of the ACT 4 Wheel Drive Club.

Candidate's Signature.....date: / /2016



MEETING MINUTES - MAY

Will be sent via a separate email to members.

TRAINING CALENDER

| When | Course & Where | Trip Leader |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 12-13 August 2017 | Snow & Mud Training - Tumbarumba | John & Cheryl Southwell |
| 14 October 2017 | Rocks & Rough Terrain – Lara - Dalgety | John & Cheryl Southwell |

12-13 August 2017 - Snow/Mud Driving – Tumbarumba

Training Coordinators: John and Cheryl Southwell

Location: Cabramurra - Tumbarumba

Trip Grading: 2-3 depending on weather

Fuel: Full Tank, fuel available at Adaminaby

Departure time: 8.00am sharp

Maximum No. Vehicles: 10

Comments: We will depart from Lanyon McDonalds at 8.00am, head towards Adaminaby then on to Cabramurra. Theory training in the Snow Hut, hopefully find some snow/mud to drive in. Drive through to Tumbarumba, stay Saturday night and then drive through the Brindabella's home to Canberra. Accommodation available at the Tumbarumba Caravan Park or the Tumbarumba Hotel. You will need to bring your lunch and morning/afternoon tea/refreshments, the location for dinner will be advised closer to the time. If you wish to participate please advise Cheryl at this email address: cheryl.southwell@act.gov.au

14 October 2017 – Rock & Rough Terrain at “Lara” Dalgety

Training Coordinators: John and Cheryl Southwell

Location: “Lara” Dalgety – Our Hosts Jason & Leonie's Property

Trip Grading: 2-3 – dependant on weather

Fuel: Fuel available at Berridale

Departure time: 5.00pm Sharp Cooma Macca's

Maximum No. Vehicles: 10

Comments: We will depart from Cooma Macca's and travel to "Lara" set up camp relax around the fire. 9am Saturday morning start the training, theory first and then practical. It gets pretty cold up there so make sure that you cater for extra bedding and clothes.

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

Please be aware that these dates are not set in concrete and may have to be changed for various reasons, we will endeavour to advise members of any changes as soon as we do and if you have any queries please don't hesitate to email me or phone me on

0419 288 964.

Thanks Chezzzz

TRIP CALENDAR

| <i>When</i> | <i>Where</i> | <i>Trip Leader</i> |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 15-16 July 2017 | Christmas in July, Gundillion Hall via Braidwood | Catherine Combridge & Kim Townsend |
| July – August 2017 | Kimberleys, WA | David Johnson |
| 1-8 August 2017 | Fraser Island | Warren Monsma |
| 1-31 May 2018 | Madigan Line, Simpson Desert | Geoff Wood |
| Jun-Jul 2018 | Central Australia Part 2(Alice Springs/Hay River Track/Simpson/Birdsville/Strezlecki) | Chris & Jan Fenton |
| Aug 2018 | Remote Central Aust. – Anne Beadell Hwy returning Gunbarrel Hwy | Geoff Wood |
| Jun/Jul 2019 | Cape York – via Mitchell River | Geoff Wood |

ESSENTIAL TRIP EQUIPMENT

The following items are the minimum items of safety and recovery equipment required for club trips. More information can be found in the Member's Handbook

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|---|
| UHF Radio | First Aid Kit | Shovel |
| 2 Rated Shackles | Tool Kit | Damper (two, to put over winch cable/ snatch strap) |
| Leather Gloves | Fire Extinguisher | |
| | Recovery | Recovery Pack |

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA PART 1

Cooper Pedy/Anne Beadell/Great Victoria Desert/Canning/Wolfe Ck/Tanamai/Alice Springs Date: mid-May to Mid-June 2018

Date: mid-May – mid-June 2018

Trip Leader: Chris & Jan Fenton

Trip Rating: Difficult

Part 1 - Mid-May to mid-June 2018 (expect about 30 Days from Canberra to Alice Springs plus the make and mend days in Alice Springs). This trip is rated as difficult. Most of the tracks are remote and will be challenging. Off-road trailer suitable but definitely not suitable for standard campers.

Canberra to Cooper Pedy then head west for some remote and challenging driving. Plan is to go west on Anne Beadell Hwy to Neale Junction then north onto Connie Sue Hwy to Warburton.

Continue north up Gary Hwy to Gary Junction then slightly west to meet up with the Canning Stock Route at Well 33 (Kunawarritji).

We will then go up the end of the Canning and onto Halls Creek Via Wolfe Creek.

From Halls Creek take the Tanamai Rd to Alice Springs where we will spend almost a week before undertaking part 2 of the trip.

Contacts are Chris & Jan Fenton on one or both email addresses –
i.e. janfenton@activ8.net.au or lonepines@activ8.net.au

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA PART 2

Alice Springs/Hay River Track/Simpson/Birdsville/Strezlecki

Date: June/July 2018

Trip Leader: Chris & Jan Fenton

Trip Rating: Difficult

From Alice Springs north to the Plenty Hwy, East to Hay River. We will then follow the Hay River track to Poepel Corner and onto Birdsville via the Simpson. Preference will then be Birdsville to Innamincka via Walkers Crossing then Old Strezlecki and Strezlecki to Lyndhurst. Travel home via Broken Hill and Menindee. Parts of this trip would also be rated as difficult.

Contacts are Chris & Jan Fenton on one or both email addresses janfenton@activ8.net.au or lonepines@activ8.net.au

ANNE BEADELL HWY**Date:** 2018 – July and August**Trip Leader:** Geoff and Dianne Wood**Trip Grading:** Blue to Black

Meet at Pt Augusta, Cooper Pedy, then 7 days across the Anne Beadell Hwy to Laverton – corrugations expected.

Return trip still being discussed, but atm planned Wiluna, Carnegie Stn, Gunbarrel Hwy, Gt Central Rd, Olgas, Uluru.

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

CAPE YORK**Date:** 2018 – July and August**Trip Leader:** Geoff and Dianne Wood**Trip Grading:** Blue to Black

Meet at Wilcannia, go north on dirt through Thargomindah, Windorah, Winton to Normanton. Around the western side of the gulf as far as we can go, then up to the Cape. Plan to visit Wiepa, Chili Beach, Elim Beach, Cooktown.

Return trip at your leisure from Cairns.

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



CONVOY PROCEDURE

A convoy comprises of a group of vehicles including a trip leader, a 'tail-end Charlie' at the end of the group, and any number of vehicles between the two. The club utilise the following convoy procedure on all club trips to help ensure 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 radio channel (channel 20), unless decided otherwise
- At the start of the trip, the trip shall check that radio communication is working effectively for all 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 end of 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 retains 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 themselves to the trip leader, and advise the leader 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.
- The lead driver (generally the trip leader) is to report gates as either open or closed as they are encountered. Gates should be left as they are found. 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 the responsibility for any necessary gate closures.
- Any driver leaving the convoy must notify the trip leader.



Photo by Tim Elliot



4WD Recreational Track Classification

Why is the System Being Developed?

Four Wheel Driving is a popular recreational activity on roads and tracks across Victoria's National Parks and Reserves and State Forests. The classifications will enable visitors to understand the nature of a track before beginning their journey. It will allow them to plan their trip for enjoyment, safety and comfort.

| | Easy | Medium | Difficult | Very Difficult |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| Overview Description | All Wheel Drive and High Range 4WD. Novice Drivers. | Mainly High range 4WD but Low Range required. Some 4WD experience or training required. | Significant Low range 4WD with standard 4WD ground clearance. Should have 4WD driver training. | Low range 4WD with High ground clearance. Experienced Drivers. |
| Advisory Sign | Green Circle | Blue Square | Black Diamond | Double Black Diamond |
| | | | | |
| Expected terrain and track conditions | Mostly unsealed roads with no obstacles and minor gradients. | Tracks with some steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. May have shallow water crossings. | Tracks with frequent steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy track sections. Possible water crossings. | Tracks with frequent very steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. May have difficult river crossings. |
| Vehicle suitability | All Wheel Drive and High Range 4WD. Can be low clearance with single range and road tyres. | Suitable for medium clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain or road tyres. | Suitable for medium to high clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain tyres. | Suitable for high clearance vehicles with dual range and tyres suitable for the terrain. (Mud Terrain tyres). |
| Recovery Equipment | | | | Winch/ Recovery equipment required. |
| Driver Training / Experience | Suitable for novice drivers. | Recommended that drivers have experience or 4WD training. Recommended to be done in groups of vehicles. | Recommended for drivers with reasonable experience or 4WD training. To be done in groups of vehicles. | Drivers with extensive experience and advanced training should only attempt as there are several technical challenges. Recommended to be done in groups of four or more vehicles. |
| Weather | May be more difficult in wet conditions. | Will be more difficult in wet conditions. | Will be more difficult in wet conditions. | Will be more difficult in wet conditions. |



4WD Recreational Track Classification



What is the 4WD Recreational Track Classification?

It is a new classification system for Four Wheel Drive tracks on Public Land across Victoria.

Who is Developing the System?

The Four Wheel Drive Advisory Group and representatives from Parks Victoria, Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and Four Wheel Drive Victoria are working together to develop and implement the system.

How Will it Work?

A standard four level color coded system will indicate the degree of difficulty of 4WD tracks and routes. Pre-visit and targeted information will be made available for four wheel drive visitors via brochures, web-sites and four wheel drive clubs and associations.

What Should Visitors Consider When Using the System?

There will be six criteria used

1. Standard symbols/signage
2. Terrain and track conditions
3. Vehicle suitability
4. Recovery Equipment
5. Driver training and experience
6. Weather variations

Can You Explain the Criteria Further?

1. Standard symbols and signage will be used depicting easy to very difficult tracks
2. The terrain and track conditions will aim to provide a general description of the likely terrain and have limited subjective comments such as boggy or rutted as these can be interpreted differently by individuals
3. The suitability of a vehicle relates to high/low range capability, ground clearance and tyres.
4. The recovery equipment is advisory only and in line with Tourism Adventure Activity Standards and is not mandatory.
5. This is to guide the inexperienced driver that it may be in their best interest to have driver training or further experience before attempting more difficult terrain.
6. Drivers need to be aware of changing weather conditions and how this may affect tracks they are using or planning to use. The tracks will be classified in dry conditions and most medium, difficult and very difficult tracks will become more difficult in wet weather.

When Will Tracks be Classified?

Assessment will be done by accredited assessors on identified touring routes and tracks during the coming months.

Where Can I Get Further Information?

Further information on the project can be obtained by visiting the Parks Victoria website on www.parkweb.vic.gov.au