



DRIVE TORQUE eNEWS JULY 2024



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ON THE 11th AUGUST 2024 ALL COMMITTEE POSITIONS WILL BE DECLARED VACANT.

President:

Vice President:

NOTICE - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Secretary:

Sunday, August 11, 2024

Treasurer: General Meeting and Annual General Meeting - 10am for 11am meeting

Membership:

Followed by BBQ lunch

Trip Convener:

The Dairy, Western Sydney Parklands

Trip Convener:

Enter via Cotswold Road from Cowpasture Road, Abbotsbury

Trip Convener:

Nominations will be called from members to fill the positions.

Driver Awareness: Nominations can be given at the meeting or emailed to the Secretary prior to

Driver Awareness: the meeting. Proxies in writing to be sent to the Secretary prior to the meeting

Driver Awareness: starting - email accepted. Only current financial members are eligible to vote.

Driver Awareness:

NSW 4WD Assn. Delegate:

NSW 4WD Assn. Delegate:

NSW 4WD Assn. Delegate:

Webmaster:

If our Club is to flourish, we will need some new people

Editor:

to take on some of these roles.

Social/Catering:

We would like to welcome new faces with fresh ideas.

Fundraising:

Public Relations Officer:

REMEMBER! THE CLUB IS ONLY AS GOOD

Serjeant-at-arms:

AS IT'S MEMBERS.

Equipment & Merchandise Officer:



We need your help.

At our AGM in August, all Committee positions will need to be filled. Many existing Committee members have been undertaking these roles for some time, some for many years, and several of them will be stepping down.

If our Club is to flourish, we will need new people to take on some of these roles.

In the words of ChatGTP ...

“We are reaching out to each and every one of you with an enthusiastic call to action! Our Club's success and growth depend on the active participation and engagement of dedicated individuals like yourselves. We invite you to step up and volunteer as Committee members, becoming the driving force behind our Club's initiatives. By taking on one of these roles, you will have the opportunity to shape the direction of our Club, contribute your unique ideas, and make a lasting impact on the experiences of our members. Volunteering as a Committee member not only allows you to develop invaluable leadership and organisational skills, but it also fosters a sense of camaraderie, and deepens your connection to our Club community. Together, let us create memorable experiences, build meaningful relationships, and propel our Club to even greater heights. We wholeheartedly encourage you to join us as Committee members and help us make a difference!”

Well that's convinced me to volunteer for a role - maybe two. 😊

Please remember that previous experience is not necessary. The roles to be filled are ...

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| President | Vice President | Secretary |
| Treasurer | Membership Secretary | Trip Convenor(s) |
| Webmaster | Social/Catering | Driver Awareness Officer(s) |
| Equipment Manager | Fundraising | Serjeant-at-Arms |
| Editor | Public Relations Officer | NSW 4WD Association Delegate(s) |

You'll see a brief description of each role elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please volunteer.

We really need your help.

Michael H. (VP)

SUBARU AND RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB COMMITTEE ROLES

All committee members are to be active and financial members of the Club. They should be able to attend (or provide reports to) most Committee and General meetings. They should be able to accept phone calls at a reasonable hour, monitor forums and Facebook and write reports for newsletters.

PRESIDENT

- Provide leadership for, and oversee the running of, the Club
- Chair General and Committee meetings

VICE PRESIDENT

- Assist the President in overseeing the running of the Club, and stand in for the President in their absence
- Engage with members to ensure the Club is benefiting them, encouraging feedback and responding to their enquiries

SECRETARY

- Take minutes of General and Committee meetings
- Manage Club correspondence, lodge compliance documents as required, and answer email, forum and Facebook enquiries from the public

TREASURER

- Monitor the finances of the Club and deliver updates as necessary
- Prepare monthly reports and assist the Public Officer to lodge Annual Statements

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

- Manage membership fee collection
- Keep an up-to-date record of all Club members, and approve access to Facebook and website in conjunction with the Webmaster

TRIP CONVENER(S)

- Assess and approve proposed trips and trip participants
- Encourage Club members to run trips, providing support as necessary

DRIVER AWARENESS OFFICER(S)

- Promote safe driving skills and practices within the Club
- Conduct driver awareness activities throughout each year

NSW 4WD ASSOCIATION DELEGATE(S)

- Attend Quarterly meetings of the 4WD Association of NSW and the ACT, and monthly Regional meetings
- Provide information to our Club members at meetings and in newsletters, and vote on their behalf at Association meetings

WEBMASTER

- Maintain the Club's website, adding new features as necessary
- Ensure all online information is up-to-date

SOCIAL/CATERING

- Arrange catering for special Club events such as the annual Christmas party
- Provide basic catering at General meetings and BBQs

FUNDRAISING

- Conduct raffles or other activities to both add interest to meetings and raise cash
- Co-ordinate any donations that the Club may choose to make to charitable organisations

EDITOR

- Prepare a regular e-Newsletter for Club members, highlighting Club activities
- Co-ordinate any other Club publications, such as Yearbooks

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

- Promote the Club within the 4WD community, designing information packages and advertising materials as required
- Organise guest speakers and/or activities at General meetings

EQUIPMENT AND MERCHANDISE OFFICER

- Control Club property
- Manage Club clothing shop

SERJEANT-AT-ARMS

- Ensure order is maintained during Club meetings
- Bring any indiscretions occurring on trips to everyone's notice (in a gentle, humorous way)

Can you see your name next to one of the above positions.

Please volunteer. We really need your help.

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC.

MINUTES OF JULY GENERAL MEETING

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Date - | Friday, July 12, 2024 |
| Venue - | Ermington |
| Meeting Commenced - | 8:10 pm |
| Attendance - | Michael H, Bill T, Stephen B, Andrew R, Dave C, Alex G, Stephen E, Iwan S, David W, Rohan S |
| Apologies - | Troy, Jo, Brett |
| Minutes of Previous Meeting - | June Meeting at Mount Wilson - 15/6/2024 Accepted - Bill Seconded - Dave |
| Business Arising - | Nil |
| New Members - | Rohan Steele |
| President's Report - | (Mark) |
| Vice President's Report - | Michael AGM next month - Committee positions (see Notice) Currently several members have more than one role Christmas Function - Hill End (Heidi to book) 50th Anniversary - Former members have been in contact Volunteers - Brett, Sue, Cath, Kevin, Chris "Save the Date" cards Photo display folders / Wall of photos / Digital presentation Comparison - 1975 vs 2025 Anniversary magazine Catering - Per person cost for lunch / Cake paid by Club / Hall paid by Club Budget in the vicinity of \$2000 Activities - Trivia / Karaoke / Drive to Dunns Swamp Commemorative items for sale - Jersey / Shirt / Port Big thanks to Jo for all the work she has already put in to this important project |
| Secretary's Report - | Michael Association fees have been paid |
| Treasurer's Report - | (Brett) Available funds as at 30/6/2024 = \$9168.77 Less Association fees of \$1694 = \$7474.77 (In June 2023 was \$9764) |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Membership Sec. Report - | Stephen | 3 new members + 4 interested 72 club members + 9 life members = 81 |
| Driver Awareness Report - | Michael | Stockton trip was a great success Turon (Again) July 27 and 28 (Recoveries) Michael recently completed Complex course |
| Trip Conveners' Report - | Bill | See website and Bill's report in Drive Torque |
| Association Delegate's Report - | David | See David's report in Drive Torque No 4WD Show stand by us |
| | Bill | Proposal that Lake Eyre will require a guide and a permit No DTU training as the grounds at Awaba are unavailable Reminder that Sydney Show are looking for volunteers |
| Webmaster's Report - | (Troy) | |
| Public Relations - | (Jo) | 50th Anniversary details as outlined in VP's Report |
| Equipment / Merchandising - | Alex | \$10 hats |
| GENERAL BUSINESS - | Bill | Spam emails targeting club email addresses Big thanks to Stephen E for firewood at Mount Wilson |
| | Stephen B | How do we attract more members to meetings? Guest speakers? Different day? Mix of Zoom meetings and dinner meetings at clubs? |
| Next Meeting - | Western Sydney Parklands, Sunday, August 11 | |
| Close - | 9:18 pm | |

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC.

Treasurers Report

Jun-24

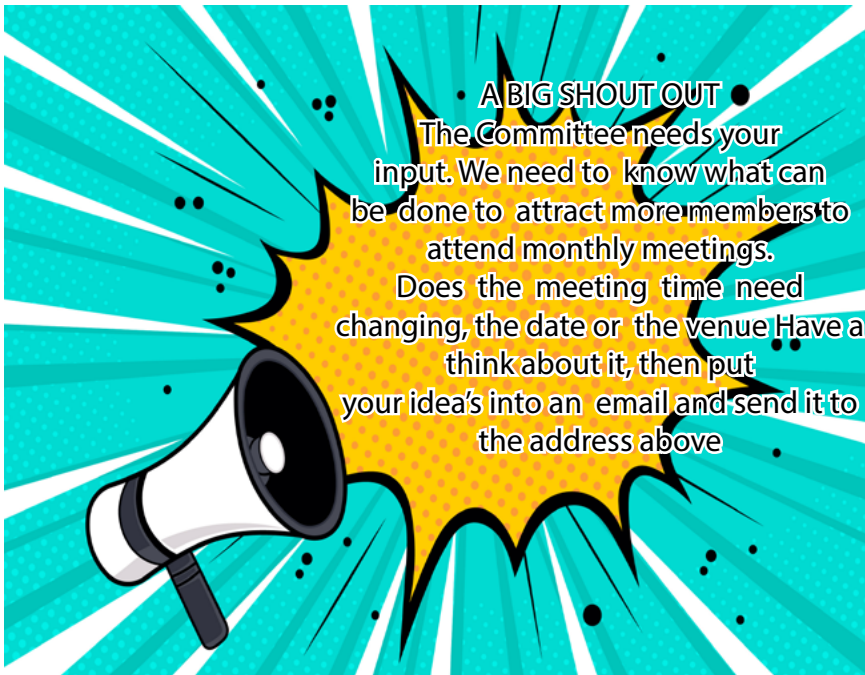
| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Cash Book Balance Brought Forward | | \$8,027.52 |
| Plus Income | | \$1,170.05 |
| Less Expenditure | | \$28.80 |
| Closing Balance | | <u><u>\$9,168.77</u></u> |

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------|------------|
| <u>Income</u> - | Memberships | \$1,170.00 |
| | Interest | \$0.05 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------|
| <u>Expenditure</u> - | Paypal Fees | \$28.80 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------|

Bank Reconciliation

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Bank Account Balance as at 30/06/2024 | ANZ | \$7,474.98 |
| <u>Plus</u> | Funds held in Pay Pal as at 30/06/2024 | \$1,399.04 |
| | Cash on Hand | \$294.75 |
| Available Funds as at 30/06/2024 | | <u><u>\$9,168.77</u></u> |



We asked you for some ideas in last months eNews.

RESPONSE.

Bring back raffles, lucky door prizes, a guest speaker, give away - sales table, meetings to be less formal (can be boring for some), an all in around the room "campfire" topical discussions, have someone talk about their recent or past trips.

Guest speaker could be the president of the Association give a talk, a National Parks Ranger, a Police officer, a company rep talk about his products, a DTU person talk about 4WD training & upskilling our people to become possible trainers, the President of another club give a talk about their club, a pizza night, have a combined meeting with another club (Macarthur 4x4 club, Blue Mountains 4WD club) etc.

Bill.

Thank you Bill for your input.

Would anyone else like to comment. Send us a email to have a say.



SAVE THE DATE: We're turning 50!


Celebrations to be held at Olinda Community Hall on the October long weekend, 2025.

Celebratory lunch at 1pm on Sunday 5th October.
Camping available.

*Cheers
to
50
Years*

More details to come. Please forward this to as many ex-members that you can think of.

Enquiries or old photos can be sent to publicity@subaruclub.com.au



Just a Reminder Membership Fees Are Overdue.

*It is easy to renew.
Just go to the Web Site
Hit the Renew Membership Button
and follow the directions.
\$50 for the next 12 months.*



Association News & Updates: July 2024

Hello from Daniel Sorrasson, Bill Twyman and David Wellham – your friendly Delegates to Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT (Association). Association documents are located on our website. Please contact via email at - delegates@subaruclub.com.au for information about these topics or in relation to the Association. Looking forward to seeing you all on the tracks or at a meeting soon.

4WD & Adventure Show 2024

The 2024 Show will be on Friday 6, Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 September at Eastern Creek.

Updates for this year's show – Marquee will be a bit smaller this year (due to exponentially greater cost), Demo Track has a sponsor - more money to spend here which is great, No RC track this year, Get-a-bout Training services will be outside the Main Marquee.

Our club will not have a stand this year. Volunteer for 2 hours with Association and receive free entry and lunch.

Volunteer bookings are now open at 4wdnow.com

Go to 'Members Only' then 'Adventure Show sign Up' then 'Show – Volunteer Sign Up Form'

This area is open, and you do not need a logon/password to register.

NSW National Parks & Wildlife updates

Ministers Advisory Committee for Parks and Heritage, this was held at Narooma on the South Coast and included an inspection of Montague Island. It is an amazing place with Parks doing a great job in rehabilitating the area for the nesting birdlife. The only down side is the way the new proposed plan of management wants to restrict the daily numbers visiting the island which will probably make it unviable for the operators to continue. The other disappointing part of the meeting was that the local director could not be present as he had to attend a hearing on the horse culling in Kosciuszko.

New proposed plan of management of Lake Eyre and the banning of visitors without guides. Like all proposed plans we can put in submissions, they are using safety as the main reason without any numbers to back it up. Here is a link with all the info on the proposal and how to have a say. <https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/kati-thanda-lake-eyre-national-park>

ACMC/AAAA/ Transport

Meeting with the Vehicle Standards Working Group that Transport for NSW. The main issue for us is the removal of the rear seats to install draws or just for extra room. There are really no rules around this, so it is considered the same as putting the seats down in a station wagon, it is fine to do it as long as the seat belts are not touched, and any bolts are put back to plug the holes. If the vehicle is sold, the seats should be supplied with the sale.

Club 4X4 Insurance

Platinum Partner Club 4X4 Insurance offer Association members a 5% discount on 4WD, camper trailer and caravan policies, which can be redeemed with the **discount code FOUWHE01** when quoting online at club4X4.com.au or by calling 1300 296 296. The Member Benefits portal will be updated with more information. Club 4X4 Insurance also offer a multi-vehicle discount and savings for completing recognised 4X4 or towing training that involves a theoretical or practical element, including Association training.

Dash Cam Member Discount

Keep safe on the roads with a Dash Cam. We have a special limited time discount for our members. \$30 off any Dash Cam over \$349 + free express postage with signature. Head over to the website and enter the code DC4WD at checkout. DASHCAMS AUSTRALIA

DRIVER AWARENESS NEWS

Our recent trip to Stockton Beach (which believe it or not focussed on sand driving) was a great success. Big thanks to David Wellham for organising and running it.

As this edition of Drive Torque goes to press, we are busily getting ready for our Turon trip, which will focus on recoveries.

Convoy Procedure is a very important part of any trip. In the past, we have had incidents where our convoys have become separated because someone has not followed Convoy Procedure.

**Always wait at any turn for the vehicle behind you
to indicate that they are aware of the turn.**

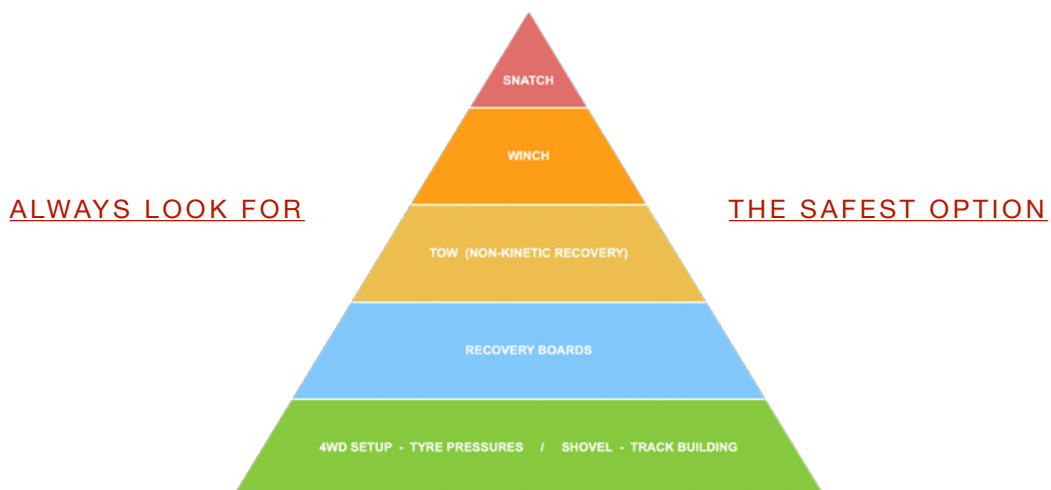
As a general reminder, please see the relevant article on Convoy Procedure in this edition.

Formal 4WD qualifications are something worth considering. It's quite possible that at some stage in the future, access to certain tracks may require formal 4WD qualifications (at least for the Trip Leader). Qualifications are available through commercial companies, such as Getabout Training Services, as well as courses run by the 4WD Association of NSW and the ACT.

Our Driver Awareness Team is able to provide you with knowledge, skills and experience, but formal 4WD qualifications can only be awarded by a Registered Training Organisation.

As an example, I completed my Basic course (Operate 4WD Vehicle on Unsealed Roads) run by the Association at Freemans Waterhole last October. I then completed a Winching course (Recover 4WD Vehicle) run by Getabout Training Services at Lithgow in January. Earlier this month I also completed the Advanced course (Perform Complex 4WD Operations) with Getabout.

Safety is the top priority in any recovery situation. The Hierarchy of Recovery (originally developed by Getabout Training Services) helps to minimise potential danger by encouraging you to look for the safest option when someone is stuck.



Michael Hamilton.
For the Driver Awareness team.

“As slow as possible ...
Only as fast as necessary.”

Convoy Procedure



When travelling with your Club, you will most commonly be travelling in convoy. It is very important that Convoy Procedure is followed at all times.

The Trip Leader will typically be at the front of the convoy. Your position within the convoy will be decided by the Trip Leader, taking factors such as communications, vehicle type and driver experience into account.

Communications during the trip will typically be on UHF channel 15 (or an alternative if busy), however convoy procedure can be followed regardless of the ability to communicate over the radio.

The Trip Leader will usually appoint a Tail-end Charlie, whose job is to repeat directions given over the radio, and let the Trip Leader know when the end of the convoy has reached significant points such as turns. This effectively lets the Trip Leader know how much the convoy is spread out.

Tail-end Charlie can also let the convoy know if faster vehicles (which may want to move through the convoy) are approaching from the rear.

All vehicles are to remain in the given position in the convoy and must inform the Trip Leader if they leave the convoy.

Each vehicle is responsible for the vehicle directly behind them in the convoy. As much as possible, you should be able to keep this vehicle in view. If you feel that you have not seen this vehicle for longer than average time, stop and wait for the vehicle to catch up, or check on them over the radio.

Stop and wait at every turn. Indicate the direction that you will be proceeding off in.

Do not move off from the intersection until the vehicle behind you acknowledges that they have seen you (usually by using indicators). They will then wait for the next vehicle. Again this is very important to ensure all vehicles proceed in the correct direction.

The Trip Leader will normally announce all track deviations as they proceed (on UHF), but again, convoy procedure still works without UHF communication.

When travelling in dusty conditions, all vehicles in the convoy should have their headlights on for better visibility, and the convoy will naturally want to spread out.

With very long convoys, it may not be possible for the Trip Leader and Tail-end Charlie to hear each other over the radio. In this case it will be necessary for messages to be relayed through the convoy.

If the vehicle ahead of you stops for any reason, you will need to stop and wait behind them until they are ready to proceed. In the event of a "call of nature", the car ahead of you may request that the convoy behind them stops some distance behind (to maintain some privacy), and will announce they are moving again for you to proceed.

All gates are to be left as found. The Trip Leader will announce any gates that are passed and whether they are open or closed, and instruct Tail-end Charlie to leave them accordingly.

It is the responsibility of each driver to ensure the vehicle ahead has cleared an obstacle before proceeding. (One vehicle at a time in a river crossing, mud hole or steep section).

By definition, the convoy as a whole will only travel as fast as the slowest vehicle.

TRIP CONVENER REPORT

JULY 2024

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---------------------------|---|---------|-----------|----------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | General Meeting | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 3 Day Getaway Racecourse Beach Wombeyan Camp POSTPONED | | | 25 | 26 | Driver Awareness Turon 27 |
| Driver Awareness Turon 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

AUGUST 2024

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|----------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| August AGM The Dairy 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

SEPTEMBER 2024

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--------|---------|---|----------|---|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 General Meeting. Silverwater Hotel | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Western Sydney Zoo. Social Outing. | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

A reminder of upcoming trips on the Calendar

- Club Christmas Function - location TBC Nov 30th - Dec 1st
- Christmas function - Towradgi (Wednesday) December 4th (midweek)
- Clubs 50th Anniversary 2025 Oct long weekend 2025

There are still vacancies available for the “Turon National Park - Driver Awareness 2 day weekend”. Saturday will be in the Turon NP and Sunday will have a secret expedition trip through the Zig Zag area of Lithgow (provided there are no road closures). Camping Saturday night will be at Mt York (bring firewood) or you can grab a room at Blackheath or Mt Victoria.

Sgt At Arms Report - Bill Twyman

- Nothing to report this month

The Tracks off Bells Line of Road day trip

Saturday 15 June 2024

It was a cold June morning with clouds and threatening rain and we were heading up Bells Line of Road to Bilpin to the meet point at The Grumpy Baker. There were six of us looking for adventure – well maybe not a big adventure but just some tracks to drive on.

I, David, was last to arrive in my old blue Forester and already there, having warm drinks and a feed, were Daniel in his turbo Outback, Jeffy in the D-Max with camper, Joanna in her near new Forester, Bill in the well set up Pajero and Michael in the what is it called again.

Off we started back towards the east and after a few minutes we were turning onto the dirt towards Buralow campground on Patterson Range Fire trail. The track was easy if a little wet with not too many rough sections. Soon we were down in the valley, across the metal bridge and in the campground. There have been a few upgrade works here recently, some of which IMHO, might



just have been a waste of money. But there was one upgrade in progress that was great and that was the walking track improvements



to Bulcamatta Falls. Buralow Creek now has a metal bridge across it replacing the old 10 x 6 plank with rope to hold onto. The works were still in progress and the track was water logged in some sections, but we finally made it to the falls. These falls were really pumping compared to normal and there were even other falls nearby that are usually dry. It was good to see the old photos of the falls from 6 years ago with only a trickle of water when I was looking at the much bigger flow now.

The rain held off and we were back in our cars, what is the make and model of that vehicle, wish I could remember. Driving out and going up the hill on Buralow Creek Fire trail, onto Tabaraga Ridge Fire trail and we were soon out of the Blue Mountains National Park onto the tar at Kurrajong Heights.

Further east we travelled and turned north onto Comleroy Road towards Wollemi National Park. The road turned to dirt and we headed down the hill towards Wheeny Creek which was again closed, that feels like the norm for us and maybe we will never get to camp there. There was a bit of water on the concrete causeway, even that other car made it across, and up the hill we were going to turn west onto Mountain Lagoon Trail.

This road is fairly easy but funny that the roughest section was just before the tar started as we entered the locality of Mountain Lagoon.

A nice section of tar road and we were turning right, back to where we started at The Grumpy Baker. It was decided to inspect the new facilities at the rest area in Bilpin before heading to Mt Wilson.



We travelled on Bells Line of Road to Mount Wilson and our June General meeting location and potential campsite for the night at Cathedral Reserve campground. Arriving in time for a late lunch, the rain decided to come and go but it wasn't too cold.



Oh, I remember the make and model – it is a mighty Ineos Grenadier in a mushroom colour that Michael is driving.

A few more members arrived for the meeting – read the minutes to find out who and what was discussed. Some members went home, some stayed the night and some just sat around the campfire. Special mention – the best wood for the campfire was again supplied by Stephen and it kept us very warm.

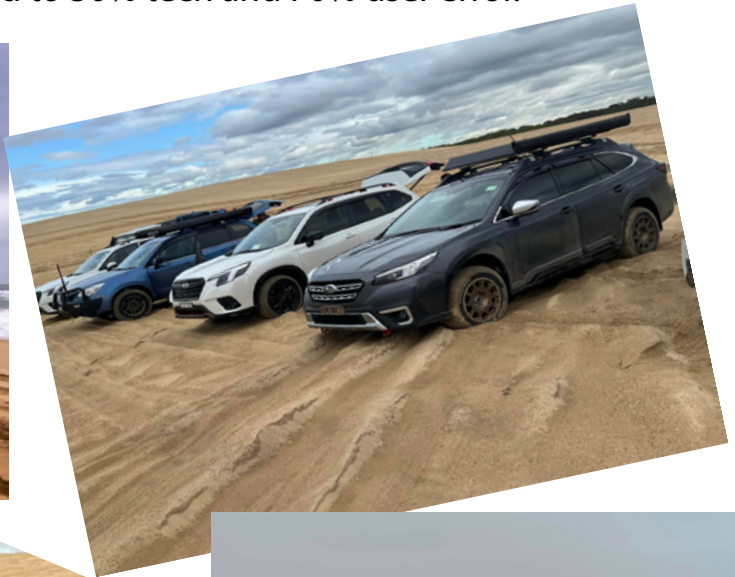
Cheers & beer cheers or whatever soft or hard beverage takes your fancy.

Till next time – enjoy your drives, keep it safe and see you soon.

STOCKTON BEACH

Driver Awareness Training Day

Thank you to David and Michael for your efforts in preparing and running today's driver awareness trip! You did such a great job looking after us newbies with our first run on the sand. Other experienced members helped too with a shout out to Alex. A few seamless recoveries had to be performed. New tech settings on the Subaru's was definitely a challenge with lots of learning there. Computers shutting down revs and drive at the wrong time. I still put me getting bogged to 30% tech and 70% user error.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PAGE

Ready To Run Trips

Did you know that in the past 2 years there have been over 30 Weekday Wanderer trips run by 7 different trip leaders? The majority of these trips are day trips but we have also had extended 3 or 4 night camping trips and some over nighters as well. For the most part all these trips have been well attended.

Whilst well attended, I often hear that a lot of people would like to come along but cannot go as they work during the week. The good news is that there is no reason why the exact same trip, or with a few changes if you like, couldn't be run on a weekend. So, for all of you that are keen to lead a trip but don't know where to start, here is the perfect opportunity for you. There are notes and details for all past Weekday Wanderer trips so if you see something that interests you, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will forward through all information that I have.

Trips include social outings, 4wd day trips, overnight camping trips, short walks, boat cruises and days exploring the outer suburbs of Sydney and beyond. We have visited many National Parks from the South Coast to the North Coast and out West that offer ample opportunities for some great day trips.

Without trips we do not have a Club so please consider taking the opportunity to run a trip for yourself – it's easy and at the end of the day everyone is happy for a get together no matter the nature of the trip.

Jo



WHERE WAS I

Last months co-ordinates were 35°56'56.36"S 149°44'49.56"E has my location at Bendethera Valley.

Inland from Moruya on NSW south coast, within the boundary of the Deua National Park lies the Bendethera Valley. Much of the surrounding park is wilderness area and, like other south coast park, few tracks. Once a pastoral lease and the site of Bendethera homestead, the valley is now contained within the park and is a popular destination for 4WD drivers. In fact, access to the valley is only possible by 4WD, motorcycle, horse or on foot.

The Bendethera caves are well known and popular, along with other caves in the region. It is possible to walk to Bendethera Caves from the old homestead

The Bendethera valley is a fabulous one day trip from Moruya, but a full weekend would be better.

ACCESS

Access to Bendethera Valley is best from Moruya or Bodalla in the east, but can be reached from the western side. (if towing a camper or van access only from the east). All roads leading to the the park are unsealed but generally maintained forestry roads.



CAMPING

Bendethera Valley has a large area to camp, stretching along the banks of the Deua River. The camping areas have pit toilets, fireplaces and picnic tables. There are no rubbish bins and all rubbish must be taken out, but 4WD's are good for that!

Nathan found/knew the secret location and submitted this report.

I have lots of stories from this place, but the most memorable was the trip that Nell Hoffman was on, she went off one night for a comfort break and fell down a wombat hole, and unfortunately broke her ankle.

Brett Hampson drove her into the hospital that night and on their way out of the valley they were stopped by a lone camper who had no idea where he was, but had rolled his car on the way in from the Cooma road on Minuma Range Fire trail and hiked in the rest of the way, as he thought he would find people near the water, but he arrived in the dark and stopped at the water crossing.

The next day we helped him right his vehicle and towed it out to a farm, then transported him to his destination, which coincidentally, was to the Moruya Hospital doctors house. The same doctor who had treated Nelli.



There is a lot more to this story, and its probably in an old edition of Drive Torque somewhere.

Regards,
Nathan

Unfortunately I was unable to find the old Drive Torque Magazine that carried this trip report.

WHERE AM I THIS TIME

29°21'19.0"S 153°21'04.8"E

Can you find me.

When you think you have found the secret destination, email me at s_bennett51@outlook.com with your location. If you have visited this location, send a photo and/or write a few paragraphs of your visit there, or a funny experience you may have had there and what you liked/disliked about the place. There is no prize.

OFF ROAD READY



Until Next Time

STAY SAFE