



*"Responsible Four Wheel Driving And Family Touring"*

# TRACK TORQUE

August 2016  
Newsletter



[www.wangaratta4x4club.org.au](http://www.wangaratta4x4club.org.au)

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# WANGARATTA 4X4 CLUB

## Wangaratta Four Wheel Drive Club Committee Members

President	Sue Abotomey
Shared President	Dave van Zanten
Secretary	Beryl Strang
Treasurer	Irene Ham

4WD Victorian Representative	Vacant
Membership Officer	Irene Ham
Merchandise Officer	Fiona van Zanten
Newsletter Editor	Andrew Brown
Property Officer	TBC
Publicity Officer	TBC
Trip Coordinator	Damian O'Connor
Committee Member	Glenn Norton
Committee Member	Neville French
Committee Member	Graham Abotomey
Committee Member	John Strang

### Non Committee Positions

Training Coordinator	TBC
Sergeant at Arms	Neville French
First Aid Officer	Richard Rhodes
Social Co-ordinator	Damian O'Connor
Web Master	Andrew Brown

**WEBSITE:** [www.wangaratta4x4club.org.au](http://www.wangaratta4x4club.org.au)

**The Wangaratta 4WD Club** has evolved from a few members in 1983, to a membership of over 80. The Club is made up of individuals and families who are interested in responsible Four Wheel Driving. There is no restriction on the make or type of four wheel drive vehicle, and there is always plenty of variety and camaraderie amongst members.

**Where we live:** Members live all over the North East and beyond, including from Benalla, Beechworth, Corowa, Glenrowan, Milawa, Albury, Wodonga, Wangaratta, Goorambat, Tatong, Langwarrin, Molyullah, Myrtleford, Mount Beauty, Mulwala, Yarrawonga, Stanhope, Violet Town, Melbourne, Rosebud and Overseas (England).



Wangaratta Four Wheel Drive Club is a member of the Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs.

**Affiliations:** Members of our club are proud to be part of the Adopt a Hut Program and work with Parks Victoria to look after Top Crossing and Lake Cobbler huts.

We are also affiliated with the South Coast Four Wheel Drive Club based at Wollongong, and the Four Wheel Drive Club of WA. Current members of the respective clubs are entitled to Reciprocal Membership.

**Membership:** Single or family \$100.00 p.a.

**General Meetings** are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, generally at the North East Car Club Rooms, Tarrawingee Recreation Reserve, commencing 8.00pm. There is no meeting in January. Please refer to the club calendar. **Visitors are always most welcome.**

**Track Torque:** Newsletter Contributions may be forwarded to ...

**Editor : Andrew Brown**

☎ 0414 397 802 ✉ [editor@wangaratta4x4club.org.au](mailto:editor@wangaratta4x4club.org.au)

**Editorial Deadline – Usually 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. This is your newsletter so be a part of it and send any articles of interest, comments, birthdays, etc, to the editor.**

**Advertising:** \$100.00/yr. Please contact the editor for further details.

*Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in the articles in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or of Wangaratta Four Wheel Drive Club Inc. The editor reserves the right to delete any section of any article, or reject any article, which has been sent in for publication in the Newsletter.*

**Front Cover: The Snow Trip...Ten vehicles, kids of all ages and snow equals 'Fun'...a great day!**

# The President's Page

Hi to all Club members,

With the cooler winter months underway there isn't a lot of action as far as trips go within the Club at present but we have other things being organised.

There are a number of members who have asked about training courses and we have some in the pipeline. For anyone who is interested keep an eye out for dates because as soon as we are able to lock in dates we will do so.

We plan on having a Chainsaw Course, Club Driver Training and a First Aid Course.

The Driver Training is usually run in house by Club members and while you do not receive any formal certificates is great for those who wish to learn about 4wding or refresh some skills.

The Chainsaw Course will be run through a registered RTO and a competency issued so that you are able to use a chainsaw when doing track clearing with Parks.

The First Aid Course is also one in which you will receive the correct accreditation for administering first aid.

On behalf of the committee and all members of the Club we would like to wish Richard Rhodes [First Aid Officer] a speedy recovery from his recent ill health and we hope he is back to full strength very soon.

There have been quite a number of 2015/16 members who have not renewed their membership this year.

Memberships are now well overdue and once membership has lapsed, an application to join along with the joining fee needs to be paid so please keep in your diary that fees are due yearly and get them paid up so that you don't end up in the same boat next year.

Many of you would have heard about the "Buckland and Beyond" event that happened in March this year. Next year's event is in the planning stages and will be organized by a sub-committee of our Club. If any members are interested in helping out with the organizing or the running of the event, please let us know as many hands make light work!

I hope to catch up with some of you on a Club trip soon!

Dave van Zanten

(Co-President with Sue Abotomey)





## WANGARATTA 4x4 Club Meeting

- **Date** - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2016
- **Location** — North East Car Club rooms, Nolan Road, Tarrawingee Recreation Reserve.
- **Time** — 7:30 pm for an 8:00 pm meeting start.

<b><u>Present</u></b> (from Attendance Book)	Dave & Fiona Van Zanten, John Haring, John & Beryl Strang, Andrew Brown, Monica & Neville French, Barry Richardson, Bruce Gooday, David Robinson, John Dore-Smith, Sue & Graham Abotomey
<b><u>Apologies</u></b>	Damian O'Connor, Val Hill, Jeanette & Allan Wallace, Glenn & Robyn Norton, Barry Burns, Tom Barnard, Richard Rhodes.
<b><u>Guests</u></b>	Betty Torney, Marcel & Brenda Gomperts (Werribee 4WD Club) Jamie Boatwood, Mick Maher and Mark Withers, Erwin Bejsta (Albury Wodonga Amateur Radio Club), Tim McCurdy, MP, MLA for Ovens Valley.
<b><u>Approval of Minutes of 2016 Meeting</u></b>	Minutes of the June Meeting to be amended to include an Apology from Graham & Sue Abotomey. Acceptance of Minutes as Amended: Moved Irene Ham; Seconded Noel Ham. Carried.
<b><u>Business Arising from Meeting</u></b>	Nil
<b><u>Correspondence In</u></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Flyer, National \$x\$ etc Show &amp; Expo.</li> <li>2. WAW Statements, x 2.</li> <li>3. FBT Questionnaire , RJ Sanderson.</li> <li>4. Echo From the Mountains, Vic High Country Huts Assoc'n.</li> </ol>
<b><u>Correspondence Out</u></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Email request to RJ Sanderson re FBT questionnaire.</li> </ol>
<b><u>President's Report</u></b>	Dave referred to his President's Report, in the July Track Torque. <a href="http://www.wangaratta4x4club.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016_07.pdf">http://www.wangaratta4x4club.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016_07.pdf</a> Dave made a special plea for members to look at how we provide and promote Club trips and whether we need to change the process. The Club Committee can act as facilitators but needs all members to be involved to make the Club function positively for everyone.
<b><u>Treasurer's Report</u></b>	Current Balance of \$10, 414.24, with a fee of \$50 per (family) Membership to 4WDV to be sent immediately. The \$50 fee to 4WDV, which includes insurance cover for Club activities, requires each current Club member's name to be registered. <b><i>Irene again reminded members that membership fees for 2015/2016 are now overdue. Please make payments asap.</i></b> Acceptance of treasurer's Report: Moved Irene, Seconded Sue. Carried.
<b><u>Events Co-ordinator</u></b>	The planned Waterfall Trip has been cancelled. Neville & Monica discovered on their recce that walking/climbing access to the falls was difficult and parking limited. Noel is Leading a Snow Trip to the Buckland Valley & Mt Sarah, on Sunday August 7 <sup>th</sup> , departing Wang at 08.00. Information will be published asap on the Club Website as well as the Facebook page.



<u>Trip Reports</u>	<p>1. Sue spoke about the 4 week trip she and Graham took, finding open roads or places to stay where the rain had caused roads to be closed. A brief outline includes: Broken Hill, Tibooburra, Cameron's Corner, Innaminka, Dalby, Forest Hill, Toowoomba, Brisbane then South! Thargomindah, the small town of Bollon outside Cunnamulla Sue's report, with photos, is in the July Track Torque (see address above).</p>
<u>Sergeant At Arms</u>	<p>Nev went back to the Birthday Bash to extract retribution from various members: DJ &amp; Barry for skiving off without inviting everyone; Steve for letting an axle fall off his vehicle; Nev for missing a turn when leading the Sunday trip; Robbo for driving around in Thailand and accidentally almost driving into Cambodia; John H for coming to the June meeting on the wrong Tuesday.</p>
<u>4WD Victoria</u>	<p>Marcel from Werribee 4WD Club, is his Club's 4WDV rep. He spoke about the importance of the umbrella body in representing recreational 4WD use at a State level. 4WDV has 3 years funding, partly in recognition of their work. They have lobbied to maintain regulated access to Mt Skene and supported Clean Up the Bush events, which help keep National Parks open and increase the perceived value of 4Wd Clubs to those who make decisions about Par access.</p> <p>Noel spoke about the way small towns such as Dargo, Licola and Bright are financially supported by the numbers of 4WD vehicles which access the bush through those places.</p> <p>David referred to the practice of Club members to carry rubbish bags and to clear up rubbish left by vandals in the Parks and bush.</p> <p>Marcel spoke of the problem of fly tipping and of how it needs a holistic solution, involving local councils, waste collectors, Parks Vic etc.</p>
<u>General Business</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. John Dore-Smith is researching the area around Robe, S.A. as a possible destination for a Club Trip, with sand driving included. John has received information from Robe T.I.C. and is looking at access to an experience local as a possible guide. Robe is an 8 hour drive, so would require at least a long weekend to be viable. e.g. March long weekend or around Anzac Day. John will do a recce trip. Nissan Club leads trip in this area every Australia Day weekend. Brenda, Werribee Club, said their Club stays at Beachport and drives from there to Robe.</li> <li>2. Bruce said the Club needs to send in the names of current Club members &amp; relevant fees to 4WDV immediately, as our cover lapsed on 30<sup>th</sup> June. Temporary 4WDV members have insurance cover for 12 months but Wangaratta Club allows a maximum of 3 trips in a year as a temporary member.</li> <li>3. Get well card to Allan (&amp; Jeanette) Wallace.</li> <li>4. Tim McCurdy, MLA for Ovens Valley, spoke to the Club about his passion for 4WDriving. He receives Track Torque and asked that if issues arise, such as access problems, he would like to be informed. He can't help if he doesn't know!</li> <li>5. Marcel, from Werribee, <b>extended an invitation</b> to a trip his Club runs every Cup Day weekend. They hire an 18 room lodge at Mt</li> </ol>

	<p>Hotham; \$15 per person per night; self-catering; day trips from the base. There will be a flyer in the next Track Torque.</p> <p>6. Andrew asked if anyone was interested in being 4WDV representative this year. There are about 4 meetings per year, Saturday morning/early afternoon in Melbourne.</p>
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## **GUEST SPEAKERS**

### **Irene introduced:-**

Erwin Bejsta & Mark Withers, from Albury to tell us about Radio. They explained HF, VHF & UHF frequencies, the regulations which cover all radio transmitters in Australia and the need for a licence for those who wish to transmit. (UHF CB radios, such as we use on Club trips, are covered by a class licence – as long as they are purchased in Australia & not online!)

The Albury Wodonga Amateur Radio Club will be running a Foundation (base level) course in August, and are offering this to interested 4WD Club members.

Details will be on the Club website, as the closing date is before August 6<sup>th</sup>.

Irene thanked Mark & Erwin for their presentation, on behalf of the Club.

Meeting closed at: 10 p.m.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August, 7.30 p.m.** for an 8 p.m. meeting start.

## **July Committee Meeting Notes**

- A snow trip is being organised by Noel & Irene, for Aug 7<sup>th</sup>. A trip planned for September by Graham & sue will depend on dates for the chainsaw course.
- A TRIP LEADER volunteer is required for a proposed Wonnangatta trip, on the weekend preceding the Melb Cup. (11,12/13 Nov.)
- A chainsaw course has been sourced by Sue. The Centre will choose a weekend to run the Course, from a choice of : 20/21 Aug, 3/4 Sept, 10/11 Sept. Current members to be informed by email then Track Torque as only max of 5 & minimum of 6 places available. First in, first served.
- We have been asked to consider hosting the Buckland & Beyond March 2017 weekend. More information is being sought from 4WDV.
- Some trailer equipment has been returned; the defibrillator needs a Club decision re its future use; the EPIRB is to be checked re registration currency.
- Annual subscription renewals have been received from 24 members. Subscriptions for those members to be sent asap to 4WDV. Copies of membership forms to be available in paper form at Club meetings.
- A Membership List is to be presented at the next Club meeting.

## CLUB APPAREL

Club Tee Shirts, badges, jumpers, windcheaters, etc. are available from STEER Clothing.  
Shop Address is: 52 Norton Street, Wangaratta. Contact person is Bruce Steer. Phone: (03) 5721 7773.  
(The club shirt should be a dark green with gold embroidery.)

## Victorian High Country Huts Association VHCHA

For information about huts please visit the VHCHA website : <http://www.vhcha.org.au>  
This site has further information on the Victorian High country huts and activities associated with each area.  
Our club is a member of this organisation, with (TBA) our representative.

## FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VICTORIA



*Driving In A Sustainable Environment*

For more information visit the website: [www.fwdvictoria.org.au](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au)

*FWDV Delegates Brief Sheet to be read out at Club Meetings, and printed in Club Magazines.*

**Editor's Note:** There has not been a Briefing sheet sent this month as yet, so one Snow Trip related point from last month's Brief Sheet has been republished.

### MT SKENE ACCESS PERMITS

Get your winter woollies out, because Mt Skene trips are now well under way. Many people are enjoying a great drive through a good covering of snow with friends.

If you would like to access Mt Skene, please find a copy of the permit application here:

[http://www.4wdvictoria.org.au/images/documents/permits/2016\\_Mt\\_Skene\\_Application\\_Form.pdf](http://www.4wdvictoria.org.au/images/documents/permits/2016_Mt_Skene_Application_Form.pdf)

FWDV have experienced high demand for permits this year and some weekends in August are already fully booked.

Members should not assume they will be able to get onto the mountain on their preferred weekend. If planning a trip, speak to FWDV for the latest information and get your permit applications in quickly.

The Association and authorities are aware that in previous years some permits may have been used illegally on multiple occasions - on the basis verification of permits is rarely, if ever, undertaken.

Be warned – spot checks of permits are planned for this year

Some important points to note:

- \*\*\* Applications must be made at least 14 days in advance
- \*\*\* No changes can be made to permits within 3 days of the trip
- \*\*\* Only vehicles listed on the permit are permitted in your convoy.
- \*\*\* Vehicles on the road without a permit face severe penalties.
- \*\*\* Driving off the formed road is prohibited for any reason at any time. Drivers doing so face severe penalties.

Note: It is prohibited to drive off the tracks. A recent convoy found tyre marks leading off the tracks. Please be mindful that FWDV are allowed access to Mt. Skene, due to our commitment to the philosophy 'tread lightly'. It's up to all of us to ensure this access continues due to our respectful driving.

Four Wheel Drive Victoria  
6/27 Thornton Crescent,  
Mitcham,  
VIC 3132 Australia



PO Box 292. Mitcham,  
VIC 3132 Australia

Tel: 03 9874 7222 Fax: 03 9874 7233

Email: [office@fwdvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@fwdvictoria.org.au) Web: [www.fwdvictoria.org](http://www.fwdvictoria.org)

**Editor's Note:** On the next page there is an article from **Four Wheel Drive Australia**.  
It is the first article from this organization...

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## Four Wheel Drive Australia

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AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FOUR WHEEL DRIVE COUNCIL INC.

ABN 40 672 552 892

***Representing drivers in all states and territories***

To: All State 4WD Association club members  
From: The President, Four Wheel Drive Australia

Dear members,

Four Wheel Drive Australia is pleased to announce the Member Rewards Program. This program will offer all affiliated club members discounts and exclusive offers at a range of businesses Australia-wide. It is funded by Four Wheel Drive Australia and is being managed by Infinite Rewards, a Melbourne based company that provides similar programs to many member-based clubs, organisations and businesses. Some of these include Collingwood Football Club, Melbourne United Basketball, Melbourne IVF, AIM (state chapters), Parramatta Eels, Diabetes Australia, Dodo and many others.

The benefits of the program will be fully explained at its commencement however the following page will provide some examples of the benefits and offers that are available from organisations such as Woolworths, Coles, Kmart, Target, Hoyts, Village Cinemas, JB HiFi, Supercheap Auto and many others. These include discounted movie tickets and gift cards, discounts on fuel purchases, online purchases and in-store vouchers. Additional businesses of interest to our members will also be added to the program in the future.

In order to enrol in this program we are asking members to supply some basic contact details, including an email address, which will be added to the national council rewards program database.

***This data will strictly be used for this program only and not be disclosed to any other organisations.***

In order to collect the required details in a simple, secure and timely manner we have created a member details web page at <http://4wda.org.au/rewards/>. (Username **rewards** password **please!** Password must include the exclamation mark.) We are asking all members who are interested in this program to enter their details on this web page as soon as possible. When the program commences, expected to be by July 1<sup>st</sup>, a welcome letter will be sent to the supplied email address inviting the member to complete their registration into the program.

Members who require further details about this program can simply email the national council web administrator, Damian Stock, at "[webadmin@4wda.org.au](mailto:webadmin@4wda.org.au)". Damian will be able to provide further details on the program and can assist with registration.

We are hopeful that this program will be taken up by most members as we believe that it will deliver immediate benefits and, over time, even greater value as the program develops around the specific needs of our members. We would hope that clubs will also promote it as being another great reason for joining an affiliated four wheel drive club.

Thanks in advance for your support of this program, brought to you by Four Wheel Drive Australia.

Regards,

Brian Hevey  
President



# Club Trips

**Note:** The just completed Snow Trip (Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> August) will be fully reported next month. Here are a few photos though to whet your appetite...



Photo 1: "It's just over there..."



Photo 2: Craig, the gourmet chef...

Photo 3: The boys first ever snow...

Photo 4: "Trees across the track..."



Photo 5: The Stealth Games...



Ed: Thanks Noel and Irene...a great day out.

# Trip Reports:

Track Torque

No trips were reported this month...

## CLUB CALENDAR 2012



### 2016 – Trip & Event Calendar

Date	Trip/Event	Location	Rating	Contact	Notes
<b>August</b>					
7 <sup>th</sup> August	Snow Trip	Buckland Valley – Mt. Selwyn area	<b>X</b>	Noel and Irene Ham Mob: 0457 641 282	All welcome...day trip, AT tyres, usual recovery gear, early start.
9 <sup>th</sup> August	General Meeting	NE Car Club Clubroom Nolan Rd. Tarrawingee	<b>X</b>	Beryl Strang (Sec) E: <a href="mailto:bjstrang@live.com.au">bjstrang@live.com.au</a>	7:30pm for an 8:00 start. Visitors welcome.
19-21 August	National 4x4 Outdoor Show & Fishing & Boating Expo.	Melbourne Showgrounds	-----	<b>Website:</b> < <a href="http://4x4show.com.au/MEL/">http://4x4show.com.au/MEL/</a> >	
20-21 <sup>st</sup> . August	Chainsaw Training	TBA	-----	Sue Abotomey (Pres) E: <a href="mailto:susieabotomey@hotmail.com">susieabotomey@hotmail.com</a> or Beryl Strang (Sec) E: <a href="mailto:bjstrang@live.com.au">bjstrang@live.com.au</a>	6 places left... \$175.00 Bring own chainsaw and Fuel (see ad in newsletter)
<b>September</b>					
13 <sup>th</sup> September	General Meeting	NE Car Club Clubroom Nolan Rd. Tarrawingee	<b>X</b>	Beryl Strang (Sec) E: <a href="mailto:bjstrang@live.com.au">bjstrang@live.com.au</a>	7:30pm for an 8:00 start. Visitors welcome.
TBA (Possibly October...)	Club Training	NE Car Club Clubroom Nolan Rd. Tarrawingee and Eldorado area	<b>X</b>	Beryl Strang (Sec) E: <a href="mailto:bjstrang@live.com.au">bjstrang@live.com.au</a> Or Damo O'Connor E: <a href="mailto:damnkez@people.net.au">damnkez@people.net.au</a>	All welcome as a refresher course or there to learn and gain skills for safe 4WDing
<b>October</b>					
11 <sup>th</sup> October	General Meeting	NE Car Club Clubroom Nolan Rd. Tarrawingee	<b>X</b>	Beryl Strang (Sec) E: <a href="mailto:bjstrang@live.com.au">bjstrang@live.com.au</a>	7:30pm for an 8:00 start. Visitors welcome.
TBA (29 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> )	Track Clearing	TBA	<b>X</b>	Damo O'Connor E: <a href="mailto:damnkez@people.net.au">damnkez@people.net.au</a>	Chainsaws (Ticket) Safety gear etc. Great weekend...
<b>November</b>					
8 <sup>th</sup> November	General Meeting	NE Car Club Clubroom Nolan Rd. Tarrawingee	<b>X</b>	Beryl Strang (Sec) E: <a href="mailto:bjstrang@live.com.au">bjstrang@live.com.au</a>	7:30pm for an 8:00 start. Visitors welcome.
<b>December</b>					
2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat-Sun	Christmas gathering	Edi Cutting Wang/Whitfield Rd	<b>X</b>	Damo O'Connor E: <a href="mailto:damnkez@people.net.au">damnkez@people.net.au</a>	Camping beside the King River with day trips
13 <sup>th</sup> December	General Meeting Christmas break up	NE Car Club Clubroom Nolan Rd. Tarrawingee	<b>X</b>	Beryl Strang (Sec) E: <a href="mailto:bjstrang@live.com.au">bjstrang@live.com.au</a>	6:00pm – BBQ 8:00 start. Visitors welcome.

\*TBA = To Be Announced

Last update: 9/082016

### Trip Grading

**GREEN (X)** — *Easy* — Sealed roads or good unsealed tracks with limited 4WD driving expected.

**BLUE (X)** — *Medium* — Low range may be needed with a snatch recovery possible. Obstacles and hazards should be negotiated by vehicles without assistance, although some assistance may be required.

**BLACK (X)** — *Difficult* — Steep or rutted terrain. Considerable low range driving. Snatch or winch recoveries may be required. Minimum tyre requirement – All Terrain or better but more aggressive tyres may be specified at the discretion of the trip leader.

**Double BLACK (XX)** — *Extreme* — Steep, rutted terrain or rock hopping will be encountered. Winch and aggressive tyres are mandatory on all vehicles.

### Club Contact Details

Name and Position Held	Mobile Number	Email Address
Sue Abotomey (Pres-Joint)		susieabotomey@hotmail.com
Dave Van Zanten (Pres-Joint)	0411 936 113	4wd@dcabs.com.au
Beryl Strang (Secretary)		bjstrang@live.com.au
Irene Ham (Treasurer)	0457 641282	niham@bigpond.com
Damien (Damo) O'Connor (Trip co-ordinator)	0417 526 175 (After 3:00pm)	damnkez@people.net.au
Andrew Brown (Editor Track Torque)	0414 397 802	editor@wangeratta4x4club.org.au

### Member's Advertisements



#### **Off road trailer – 2000 x 1500**

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**Roof rack**... Gutter mount. To suit GU patrol or 80 series Landcruiser. With Bushranger roof bag  
**Recovery Kit** .. Tree guard, block, chain, D shackle, winch strap and snatch strap. All in carry bag  
**Waco 45l fridge**. 12/230v. In good condition  
**IPF** driving lights..  
**ARB** compressor.

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Available from the 13<sup>th</sup> August... Please contact Matthew: 0408 529 105



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# TRACK TORQUE



August 2016



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*Wangaratta Four Wheel Drive Club*

A0001052D

PO Box 494 Wangaratta 3676

[www.wangaratta4x4club.org.au](http://www.wangaratta4x4club.org.au)

*“Responsible Four Wheel Driving And Family Touring”*

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