

“Responsible Four Wheel Driving And Family Touring”



JULY 2018

Newsletter

The background for the title features three interlocking grey gears of different sizes, set against a light, hazy background.

TRACK TORQUE



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- General Meeting Minutes
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www.wangaratta4x4club.org.au



WANGARATTA 4X4 CLUB

Wangaratta Four Wheel Drive Club Committee Members	
Executive-	
President	Neville Sonego
Vice President	Mick Maher
Secretary	Sue Abotomey
Treasurer	Irene Ham
Other Committee Members-	
4WD Victorian Representative	Noel Ham
Membership Officer	Irene Ham
Merchandise Officer	Chris Sonego
Newsletter editor	Bev Maher
Property Officer	Neville French
Publicity Officer	
Trip Coordinator	Damian O'Connor
Graham Abotomey Andrew Ammendola	
Non-Committee Positions-	
Training Coordinator	Dave van Zanten
Sergeant in Arms	-
First Aid Officer	-
Web Master	Andrew Brown
WEBSITE: www.wangaratta4x4club.org.au	

The Wangaratta 4WD Club has evolved from a few members in 1983, to our current membership of over 30 families. 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, Howlong 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 affiliated with Four Wheel Drive Victoria.

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.

Membership: Single or family \$100.00 p.a. **Temporary Membership:** \$15.00 (Three trips)

General Meetings are held on the 2nd 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: Bev Maher
 ☎ 0419 533 898 : editor@wangarata4x4club.org.au

Editorial Deadline:- 1st of the month
 This is your newsletter so be a part of it and send any articles of interest, comments, birthday etc to the editor.

Advertising: \$100/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

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Report July 2018

The month of July sees a group of members, taking many different tracks, heading north to meet in Halls Creek for a three-week trek down the Canning Stock Route. Much information has been shared regarding quantities of fuel, water, other fluids and of course different ways of preparing suitable food all the while keeping a close eye on vehicle weight (not too sure how I will go with reconstituted Chow Mein). Looking forward to some warmer weather.

For those of you planning other trips over winter it appears as if the snow season is looking promising.

Winter can also be a good time to bring out the maps and computers to begin researching and planning for the spring. The Little Desert, Big Desert and the Sunset country in the west of the state could be some great areas to explore that are different to the areas on our own doorstep.

Keep in mind the High Country and Beyond event to be held in the Dargo area next March. I am hoping there will be the opportunity to be involved in some of the recce trips as well as the actual event.

I wish to express my thanks to the members that have volunteered to fill the committee positions to keep the club active over the next couple of months.

I am looking forward to the trip reports and photos that I am sure will hit the Track Torque in the spring.

Neville Sonego

President.

Club Contact Details

Name and Position Held	Mobile Number	Email Address
Neville Sonego (President)	0427 251 576	chrisnevsonego@westnet.com.au
Sue Abotomey (Secretary)		susieabotomey@hotmail.com
Irene Ham (Treasurer)	0457 641 282	niam@bigpond.com
Damian O'Connor (Trip Coordinator)	0417 526 175	damnkez@people.net.au
Bev Maher (Editor Track Torque)	0419 533 898	editor@wangeratta4x4club.org.au

<u>Trip Reports</u>	Fiona & Dave's CSR Trip is now FULL CSR members met socially at camp on the Murray River, Yarrawonga to discuss what/not to take, etc. Swapping ideas. Great camping spot.
<u>4WDVic</u>	For consultation- Blue Pool and Cheynes Bridge Insurance has new underwriter.
<u>General Business</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Club congratulated Bev Maher for her work with Club publicity, especially Wang Chronicle articles. 2. High Country & Beyond – Neville and the rest of the committee are happy with clarification of direction of HC&B committee. Noel and Irene reported that High Country and Beyond is now an incorporated entity and is affiliated with Four Wheel Drive Victoria. 3. Chair / Secretary – July, August, September Meetings whilst Members away July – Mick Maher and Beryl Strang to take Minutes August – Chair and Minutes taker needed? September - Mick Maher. Need Minutes taker? 4. Apologies for Club members away for the winter: Jeanette & Allan Wallace – June, July, August, September & Oct Graham & Sue Abotomey – July, August, September Neville & Chris Sonego – July, August, September Glenn & Robyn Norton – July, August, September Dave & Fiona van Zanten – July, August, September Bev & Mick Maher – August 5. Sat Phones Plan Graham Abotomey reported that Pivotal Communications now has a Sat Phone plan: \$30 set up, \$30 per month (min 3 months), \$1 min charged on both outgoing and incoming calls. Texting is best. 6. Club Sat Phone Craig Cheetham asked to borrow Club Sat Phone for next 3 months for Kimberley Trip. Approval given. 7. Neville French asked members if they knew where you can get replacement parts for IPL lights. ARB Albury suggested. 8. Dave Robinson asked if anyone has an engine hoist? A fine in the making!!!

Meeting closed at: 8.45pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday 10th July at North East Car Club rooms, Tarrawingee

From 7.30 p.m.

Meeting begins at 8.00 p.m

For interested Members-

FWDV Minutes – June 16th 2018 - [MUD 180616 Minutes Doncaster.pdf](#)



TRIP REPORTS

CRAIG'S HUT TRIP

2/6/18 BEFORE SEASONAL GATES CLOSURE

By Damian O'Connor

On a frosty morning of Saturday 2nd of June, 6 vehicles meet at Avco/McDonalds car park in Wangaratta at 7:45am to leave just after 8am heading for Craig's Hut via Lake William Hovell.

Present were Damian, Kerry and Tom in the 80 series Landcruiser as Trip leaders, Jason Davern and kids in his Nissan Patrol, Andrew Ammendola in his Toyota Fortuner, Barry Burns in his Nissan Patrol, Barry's granddaughter Hannah and partner Alex in their Isuzu D-max as temporary members and David Jackson in his Nissan Patrol as Tail End Charlie.

We all headed off in convoy towards the King Valley, as we got closer to Lake William Hovell, we turned off the main road onto Long Spur track, which led us down to a nice little camp spot to air down the tyres ready to cross the King River. After the river crossing we had some nice little steep sections going up around the back of Lake William Hovell, then dropping down the nice descents of Sandy Flat Track before back to the King River again and onto Top Crossing Track which gave us the opportunity to get some photos of everyone doing the water crossing.

As we continued along Top Crossing Track, we came across Buckland Spur Track, which was another track that started to climb up on a rocky and slightly rutted steep incline at times. Temporary members, Hannah and Alex (driving), enjoyed the challenge till we got to the top. Even Bazza Burns liked this track and had a grin from ear to ear. We continued on till we got to Tomahawk Hut by which was time to have some morning tea and a cup of coffee to warm ourselves up.

After leaving Tomahawk Hut we took Carters Road until we found No3 Road, which was another track that continued to climb up with a lot more rocks to contend with. As we started on No3 Road, I had a call over the UHF radio from Andrew in his newish Toyota wagon saying he is having some problems engaging low range on his dash controls. Once in low range Andrew was able to climb up No3 track without any trouble until after passing No3 refuge hut, he noticed the vehicle was stuck in low range and wouldn't disengage. A little further on another call came over the UHF from Andrew this time saying that his "check engine" light on his dash had come on and wouldn't turn off. We all stopped on the side of the track, scratching our heads for a while when DJ (David Jackson) said he has had that light come on, on another vehicle he had previously owned a few years ago. The vehicle's electrics had got confused so we disconnected the battery for 5 mins then connected it up again. This caused the light on the dash to disappear, but his car was still stuck in low range. Andrew was happy enough to continue slowly again until we got close to Craig's Hut when another call came over the UHF radio from Andrew again, in which the light had reappeared. At Craig's Hut 2nd carpark we parked Andrew's car and we tried to ring R.A.C.V, but with bad reception we couldn't make any calls. Next, we left the vehicle there and Andrew jumped in with DJ to go further up the track up to Craig's Hut with the rest of us. Being a nice clear day and without seeing any snow at all on our journey so far, we thought we wouldn't be seeing any white stuff. However half way up the track we turned the corner, and suddenly, some white powdery stuff appeared on the side of the track with young Tom in the back seat spotting it straight

away. "There is snow up here Mum and Dad" yelled Tom with excitement. Even the carpark up top of Craig's Hut was covered in white with snow in patches, but all the snow was gone at the hut itself. Straight away Tom and Jason's kids picked up some snow to start snow fights amongst themselves with the joy and excitement of having found some snow on the trip after all.

While we all were checking out Craig's Hut, Andrew finally got enough phone reception to call the R.A.C.V and get hold of the local R.A.C.V mechanic. He described what was going on with his vehicle and requested if he could arrange a tow home. The mechanic said to try and reset the computer on the vehicle and gave Andrew some advice to do this and said if it doesn't work, to make your way back onto some bitumen and he would come and see what the problem was.

When we got back to Andrew's vehicle Andrew tried what the mechanic said to do, and the light disappeared but it was still stuck in low range. We then couldn't get hold of the mechanic again because of the poor reception, so we all made a cup of coffee while Andrew got going slowly along Circuit Road with the plan to catch up with him after we finished our coffees. We met up again at Telephone Box Junction where the light on the dash had reappeared again. This time we got enough reception to call the R.A.C.V mechanic again and there wasn't far to go till we hit the bitumen at Mirimbah on the Mt Buller road, so we arranged to meet the R.A.C.V guy to have a look at Andrew's vehicle.

While we only had a short wait for the R.A.C.V to turn up, we had just enough light left in the day to pump up the rest of our Vehicles tyres. The mechanic checked Andrews vehicle out and said he would need to be towed back to Mulwala because he wasn't able to fix problem. So, we all watched Andrew's vehicle get put on the back of the Tow Truck, knowing Andrew and his vehicle would get back home safely that night.

Once safely on the truck and after saying good bye to Andrew, the rest of us decided it was a long day and we all needed some tucker for dinner, so we all pulled in to the Hunt Club Hotel at Merrijig for a bar meal. We were lucky to get a big table for us all before their rush hour. Afterwards we continued on home back to Wangaratta with some banter and stories over the UHF most the way home to keep us alert and awake after along but fun day on the tracks. We all learnt that no matter what our vehicle was, new or old, it can have troubles at any time on the tracks. Importantly, if we all go in together, we all come out together.

Thank you to all that had come on the trip today, even if it was a long day with some troubles on the way, everyone still enjoyed the trip and we all got home safely. It was also good that a text from Andrew let me know he had arrived back to Mulwala safely with his vehicle just as the rest of us got back home to Wangaratta safely.





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2018/2019 – Trip & Event Calendar

Date	Trip/Event	Location	Rating	Contact	Notes
JUNE					
June to September	Kimberley's/CSR			Dave van Zanten	
? June	Cape York trip			Barry Burns	Contact for more information
JULY					
3 rd July	Committee Meeting	NE Hotel	N/A		7.00 PM start
10 th July	General Meeting	N.E Car Club Clubroom Nolan Rd Tarrawingee	NA	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail.com	7:30 PM for an 8:00PM start
AUGUST					
6 th August	Committee Meeting	NE Hotel	N/A		7.00 PM start
13 th August	General Meeting	N.E Car Club Clubroom Nolan Rd Tarrawingee	NA	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail.com	7:30 PM for an 8:00PM start
SEPTEMBER					
4 TH September	Committee Meeting	NE Hotel	N/A		7.00 PM start
11 th September	General Meeting	N.E Car Club Clubroom Nolan Rd Tarrawingee	NA	Sec: Sue Abotomey susieabotomey@hotmail.com	7:30 PM for an 8:00PM start
OCTOBER					
2 nd October	Committee Meeting	NE Hotel	N/A		7.00 PM start
9 th October	General Meeting	N.E Car Club Clubroom Nolan Rd Tarrawingee	NA	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail.com	7:30 PM for an 8:00PM start
5 th & 6 th October	Proficiency Driver Training			Dave van Zanten More Info to follow	
13 th & 14 th October	Proposed Track Clearing			Graham Abotomey Confirmation and more info to follow	
NOVEMBER					
6 th November	Committee Meeting	NE Hotel	N/A		7.00 PM start

13 th November	General Meeting	N.E Car Club Clubroom Nolan Rd Tarrawingee	NA	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail. com	7:30 PM for an 8:00PM start
Oct/Nov	Proposed track Clearing			Confirmation and more info to follow	

DECEMBER

4 th December	Committee Meeting	NE Hotel	N/A		7.00 PM start
11 th December	General Meeting Xmas B-B-Q	N.E Car Club Clubroom Nolan Rd Tarrawingee	NA	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail. com	6.30pm BBQ 8:00PM start Meeting

JANUARY- 2019

21 st January	Proposed Club Trip		NA	David Blore More Info to follow	

FEBRUARY

5 TH February	Committee Meeting	NE Hotel	N/A		7.00 PM start
12 th February	General Meeting	N.E Car Club Clubroom Nolan Rd Tarrawingee	NA	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail. com	7:30 PM for an 8:00PM start

MARCH

5 th March	Committee Meeting	NE Hotel	N/A		7.00 PM start
12 th March	AGM & General Meeting	N.E Car Club Clubroom Nolan Rd Tarrawingee	NA	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail. com	7:30 PM for an 8:00PM start
16 th March- 24 th March	HC&B – Dargo Event	Dargo		Website for bookings More details to come	

APRIL

2 nd April	Committee Meeting	NE Hotel	N/A		7.00 PM start
9 th April	General Meeting	N.E Car Club Clubroom Nolan Rd Tarrawingee	NA	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail. com	7:30 PM for an 8:00PM start
19 th April to 22 nd April	? Easter Trip tba				
22 nd April	Simpson Desert Trip			Contact: Graham & SueAbotomey	

MAY					
7 th May	Committee Meeting	NE Hotel	N/A		7.00 PM start
14 th May	General Meeting	N.E Car Club Clubroom Nolan Rd Tarrawingee	NA	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail.com	7:30 PM for an 8:00PM start
JUNE					
4 th June	Committee Meeting	NE Hotel	N/A		7.00 PM start
11 th June	General Meeting	N.E Car Club Clubroom Nolan Rd Tarrawingee	NA	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail.com	7:30 PM for an 8:00PM start
8 th June to 10 th June	Long Weekend ? Trip tba				

**** SOME HIGH-COUNTRY ROADS NOW CLOSED FOR SEASON - PLEASE CHECK PRIOR TO ANY TRIPS**

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