

“Responsible Four Wheel Driving And Family Touring”



APRIL 2019
Newsletter



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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 – APRIL 2019.

The committee begins a new year in office looking to build on proven strengths and continue to add new ideas. There are new members to the club so how do we involve these people in a variety of informative and interesting activities? How do we extend our training so that it fits the needs of our experienced members as well as the new ones? How do we expand our base of trip leaders so that new members become competent and enthusiastic organisers? If you have any ideas or comments the committee members would welcome your input.

It has been a challenge working around the bushfires this season with some events having to be changed, postponed or cancelled and one would suspect some road closures will impact next season outings as well. Hopefully the next couple of months will be the usual stable autumn days combined with a good break to freshen things up.

Neville Sonogo
President.

Club Contact Details

Name and Position Held	Mobile Number	Email Address
Neville Sonogo (President)	0427 251 576	chrisnevsonego@westnet.com.au
Sue Abotomey (Secretary)	0424914200	susieabotomey@hotmail.com
Bruce Gooday (Treasurer)	0409 071 330	bgooday@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



Minutes of the Wangaratta 4x4 Club Meeting- DECEMBER 2018

WANGARATTA FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB Inc. GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES

9.00pm Tuesday 12th March 2019

at Nth East Car Club Rooms, Tarrawingee

Neville welcomed Judy Charlton and Natasha from DELWP who gave a 30-minute discussion and feedback session.

“The Victorian Government in partnership with Traditional Owners is embarking on a significant project to reform our forest management & guide the modernisation of the Victorian Regional Forest Agreements”.

This is a four-year program. Our greatest fear is that access to our tracks and free dispersed camping will be lost to all.

Please have your say – visit <https://engage.vic.gov.au/future-of-our-forests> and complete the survey before 31st March 2019.

Present: Neville & Chris Sonogo, Sue & Graham Abotomey, Bev & Michael Maher, Barry Richardson, Andrew Ammendola, Fiona & Dave van Zanten, Noel & Irene Ham, Sean Strudwick, Damo & Tom O’Connor, Allan & Jeanette Wallace, Glenn & Robyn Norton, Craig Cheetham, Manfred Wagner & Narelle Cula, Les McLean, Bruce Gooday, Paul Kelly, David Blore, Neville & Monica French and new members Irene Jones and Ron Grant.

Visitors: Joan McDonnell, Corey Suppa

Apologies: John & Beryl Strang, Andrew Brown and Gil Sydes

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Moved: Dave van Zanten Seconded: Chris Sonogo
Carried

Business Arising: Nil

Correspondence

- FWDV: 4WDAustralia fees for 2017/18 to be refunded
Rural response group – will be calling for Clubs to volunteer to help fire affected communities. TBA
- Parks Victoria: - Chris Clarke will be joining us for the Cobbler Hut working bee on Saturday 16th March. Chris will be the Guest Speaker at our April meeting.
- High Country Huts - Nil
- WAW Bank Statements.

- HC&B – Dargo 2019 - This event has been cancelled due to bush fires.
- Jeanette & Allan Wallace gifted a book ‘The Howqua Hills Story’ to our Club.

Secretary emailed a thank you to Jeanette & Allan.

Motion:

“Correspondence be accepted.”

Moved: Sue Abotomey Seconded: Fiona van Zanten Carried

Treasurer’s Report: as circulated and presented

Motion:

“Treasurer’s Report be accepted, and accounts be passed for payment.”

Moved: Irene Ham Seconded: Chris Sonogo Carried

President’s Report: - as published in March 2019 Track Torque

The past 12 months seemed to have passed very quickly and it is time to reflect on the year and look forward to the next one. I would like to thank all members for their input during the year. I cannot think of an occasion when help has been requested and refused. The committee members have all contributed throughout the year and for that I thank you. It is pleasing to see new members about the Club, and we look forward to seeing them being involved in the club activities. Weather conditions are now more favourable for trips so keep your eye on the trips calendar for upcoming events. The AGM will be conducted immediately before the next general meeting and for any committee members who will not be nominating for their position thanks for your support over the past year.

Neville Sonogo -President

2019 TRIPS CALENDAR

MARCH:

- **Tuesday 12th AGM & General Meeting** 8pm Nth East Car Club Rooms
- **Saturday 16th to Sunday 24th HC&B Dargo**
EVENT CANCELLED due to Bushfires
- **Saturday 16th Cobbler Hut Repairs**
Graham Abotomey: 0357 273 427 or 0427 273 427
See March Track Torque for details.
- **Friday 22nd March to Friday 12th April** (3 weeks)
Simpson Desert Details on Facebook. TL: Graham Abotomey: 0427 273 427

APRIL:**- Gastronomical Tour 6th & 7th April**

TL: Dave & Fiona van Zanten 0400 936 113

High Country & Beyond Report:

H&B – Dargo 2019 – Event cancelled due to bushfires. Plan to run recce trips in the Dargo area for the 2020 event.

Member News:

Ron Grant has joined and Irene Jones, re-joined. Korey Suppa and Joan McDonnell are visitors and eager to join. Have had an enquiry from Jack Gibson and call from past member Corey Van Beek who is also eager to re-join.

Training: - to be advised

Merchandise: - Available as per Track Torque

Editor Newsletter:

The Wangaratta Chronicle ‘Join a Club’ feature which went to publication on Friday 1st March. A great way to let the broader community know more about us! Thanks to Bev Maher for making it happen.

Sergeant of Arms:

This position is to be shared. That is, a ‘Trip’ member will be nominated on said trip by the Trip Leader. Fines together with stories will be shared at our monthly meetings. Note, there must be a story!

Trip Reports:

Dave and Fiona recently came across an injured motorcyclist in the high country. Luckily one of his co-riders was a paramedic as the rider had suffered a head injury and broken collarbone. Dave and Fiona aborted their trip to drive the injured person out to a waiting ambulance.

Robbo blew a tyre and called the RACV who used a small trolley jack.

David Blore and friends had to divert a recent trip to Craig’s Hut after a bushfire in the Howqua Hills/Bluff Hut area.

General Business:

1. David Blore is planning to do ‘Hanns Track’, WA in 2020. Details to come.
2. Club Plates – Damo asked if the Club would consider being authorised to administer the issue of Club Plates to approved vehicles. This has not previously been done and will be discussed by the committee.

Meeting closed- 9.40



PRE - TRIP REPORTS

1.

1. Wonnangatta Trip Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th May 2019

The Wonnangatta used to be an annual Club trip. It's time to do it again!

Trip Leader	Graham Abotomey 0357273427 - 0427273427
Meet	Whitfield Ring Graham for the start time
Emergency contact	Sue Abotomey 0424914200
Standard	Easy- Medium, Changeable in wet conditions
Tyres	AT's or better
Recovery Gear	Basic at least. Chainsaw if you want as we will need some wood for a camp fire
Fuel	Full tank from Whitfield plus a 20lt can for smaller tanks.
UHF Radio	All vehicles should have a UHF Radio fitted for Club Trips
Camper Trailers	Yes

We plan for an easy run in weather permitting, arrive for lunch and set up camp by the river. There will be time for a look around the old Homestead and surrounding area.

Sunday after an easy pack up we will head back to Whitfield via different tracks

Plan for all weather conditions as the weather can be very changeable in the High Country.

2. Cobbler Hut Repair Day Trip Saturday 27th April

Due to fires in the area and road closures, our last trip planned for March 16th was postponed

Trip Leader Graham Abotomey 0357273427: 0427273427.

Meet and start: Whitfield 9am

Return Oxley: Approx 4pm

Fuel: A full tank from Wangaratta

Recovery gear: Basic

Chain saw: I will have one but bring one if you want

Personal equipment food and clothing: Plan for all weather events.

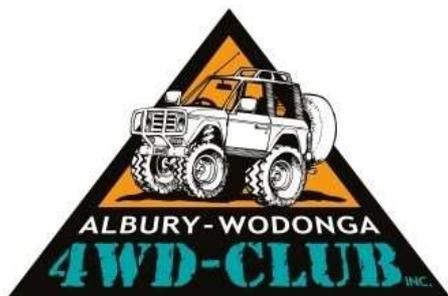
Complete medical form(s) to be carried in your glove box.

The purpose for this trip is to fix a metal band around the rusted outer of the chimney and re attach the gate to the hut. This should only take around an hour.

We will then head towards Abbeyards via Williams Logging Road then wind our way back to Oxley via the Carboor Fire Trails if time permits.

All welcome.





Albury Wodonga 4WD Club Club Trip Proforma

Trip Title:	2019 Gastronomical Tour			
Trip Dates:	06/04/2019 <small>From</small>	07/04/2019 <small>To</small>		
Trip Leader:	Dave and Fiona <small>First Name</small>	van Zanten <small>Surname</small>	dave@dcabs.com.au <small>Contact Info</small>	
Trip Rating:	Scenic	A social drive enjoying good food and company		
<small>Select rating then add notes if needbe</small>				
Number of Vehicles:	No limit			
Suitable for vans/trailers:	Bring whatever you wish, no restrictions this year			
Vehicles Must Have:	Tyres	Highway	Winch	No
For any off-road event each vehicle must have UHF Radio, approved recovery points front and rear and a snatch strap with dampener as a minimum. If you are not self-sufficient with recovery equipment check to see if you can borrow club property or ask the trip leader if there is someone with whom you can buddy up.	Lift	No	Snorkel	No
	You can even bring a 2wd highway type car if you wish but please have a UHF to communicate with the rest of the convoy			
Fuel and Supplies:	Plenty of fuel available, plenty of food at each stop!			
<small>Fuel required, fuel availability, cater for how many meals, spare parts required, etc</small>				
Permits, Camp fees, etc	Nil required			

Trip Notes:

A combined trip with members of both Wangaratta and Albury Wodonga clubs. Allow for a round trip of up to 500Km but probably less than that. We are still finalising the actual route but the idea is to enjoy a number of eateries and each other's company, not to spend heaps of time behind the wheel.

A rough itinerary would be having coffee, depart on trip, stop for morning tea at a cake / coffee shop, drive a bit, lunch at a pub, drive a bit, set up camp, dinner at a pub. Next day a short drive, brunch at a café, bit of a drive, icecreams and farewells and head our own separate ways home.

Meet on Saturday morning at 8:30am at the Howlong Bakery for an 8:45am departure. We will be back home mid-afternoon on the Sunday.

Send this completed form to the trip co-ordinator and the magazine editor. Ensure you enter the trip into the Proposed Trips and Events area on the web site forum or ask the trip co-ordinator to do so for you.

If you wish to go on this trip, ensure you register with the trip leader.

Am I going? Yes / No

Have I registered? Yes / No

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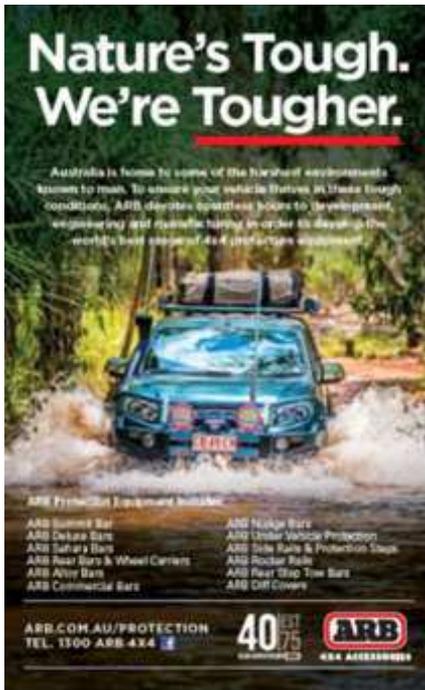
- *ACUTE and CHRONIC PAIN
- *JOINT and MUSCLE PAIN
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TRIP REPORTS

COBBLER HUT MAINTENANCE TRIP

MARCH 2019

Words & photography by Damo

Saturday 16th March saw 7 vehicles in total, 4 members vehicles and 3 potential new member vehicles, join us for the first time on a trip. A couple of other members vehicles pulled out at the last minute for medical reasons.

We meet at Whitfield cafe just before 9am to prepare to go up to Lake Cobbler to perform some maintenance on the hut, with Graham and Sue Abotomey leading the trip, and our local Parks Vic Ranger Chris Clarke meeting us for the drive to give us the ok and some guidance on what we needed to fix at the hut.

Unfortunately, on our arrival, Chris had some bad news for us. We wouldn't be able to go anywhere near Cobbler today due to a fire breaking out on Friday afternoon on M'Creadys Track near Cobbler and Dandongadale with it heading towards Rose River Road which was the main road we would use, and with a lot of other tracks in the area already closed by the CFA.

After Chris gave us this news and all the info on what tracks we wouldn't be able to take, Graham being our Trip Leader, made the decision we will still go for a

drive around Lake William Hovell and make a day of it as it was far away enough from the fires.

With a change of plan, the new plan for the day was to head up to Lake William Hovell and do some local tracks around there taking the Long-Range Track just before getting to the Lake itself. This took us down to the first river crossing for the day where we all parked at a camp site to let our tyre pressures down. From here we continued along Long Spur Track until we got to Sandy Flat Track, which was a nice track with some steep declines until we got down to Sandy Flat Camp Ground. This was just in time for us to have some morning tea. While we all had some refreshments, Graham decided that since we couldn't get to Cobbler we might as well check the other Hut the club looks after- being Top Crossing Hut, which wasn't very far from away.

After morning tea, we all jumped back into our vehicles and headed towards Top Crossing Hut, crossing the King river 3 times to get up to it. Once we got there, we had a look at the hut itself which was in reasonably good condition. We did have to do some maintenance on the door of the hut to strengthen it. By the time we had finished that task it was lunch time.

We had lunch at the camp and spoke with a couple of campers nearby to let them know that there was a fire up near Cobbler and inform them to be aware of the situation.

After lunch it was time to head back home taking on a couple more tracks along the way, being up

Buckland Spur Track then down Evans Creek Track. Buckland Spur Track gave the potential new members a taste of what the tracks around here are like with some more steep inclines that were challenging but not too hard for them. Once we got past the challenging bits of Buckland Spur, we came across a lady by herself, in a Nissan Patrol who was lost. Apparently she was wanting to get from Mansfield to Porepunkah so she typed that into her Navman and the Navman had directed her on the quickest route being a 4wd route. She hadn't had much 4wding experience, so we put her behind the Tail End Charlie, being me, and said to follow us down Evans Creek Track which was an easier track to get her out and on the right way back to where she was heading.

Half way down Evans Creek Track, we decided to have a look at the Evans Creek Hut, which is looked after by the Deer stalkers group and we noticed a window that was made from perspex had been kicked out. We had some sealant, so we used that to put it back up again and fix it, while we had got some afternoon tea ready. Graham gave the lady that was lost, clear instructions how to get to William Hovell and out onto bitumen from here as we planned to be a little while attending to the Hut.

After spending about half an hour for afternoon tea, it was time to venture off back down towards Lake William Hovell from Evans Creek Hut. 10 minutes later along the track, we found the same lost lady again heading back towards us. We again we put her at the back and said to follow us out. When we got back to the toilet block at the boat ramp of Lake William Hovell, we sent the lost lady on her

way with instructions not to go Rose River Road as it is blocked off by fire, advising her to go back to Oxley and the Snow Road. She left us saying thank you again, while we all were inflating our tyres.

From here we all decided to proceed onto the Cheshunt Store to get an ice cream and end our trip from there saying good bye to each other and giving our thanks to the trip leaders for the day. As we arrived at the Cheshunt Store, again we saw the lost lady coming from the direction of Rose River Road, which she was advised not to take. She would have been turned around up further. We all shook our heads in disbelief as she passed us.

A good day was had by all. Thank you to Graham and Sue Abotomey for organising and leading the trip and thank you to everyone that came on the trip making it another good Club event.

The lost lady was lucky to find us and for us to try and help out several times on her way, otherwise who knows what would have happened to her. It's another reminder never to venture by yourself if you don't know the area well.

Looking forward to the next trip.
Damo





CLUB NEWS



Another interesting evening was held at the March meeting. Our Guest Speakers for the evening were Judy Charlton and Natasha from DELWP, pictured here with Club President, Neville Sonogo.

Month of April- our Guest speaker will be -

Chris Clarke Parks Victoria Ranger in charge Whitfield
Chris will give us a talk on what's happening in our area

SIMPSON DESERT TRIP-

Graham Abotomey and friends have headed off on the Simpson Desert Trip. So far all going well.

AGM MEETING held March 12th.

New positions for 2019 year as follows-

- **President- Neville Sonogo 0427 251 576**
- **Secretary- Sue Abotomey 0427 273 427**
- **Treasurer- Bruce Gooday 0409 071 330**
- **Vice- President- Michael Maher 0419 533 813**
- **Editor/ Publicity – Bev Maher 0419533898**
- **Webmaster – Andrew Ammendola 0414 567 598**
- **Trip Coordinator- Damian O'Connor 0417 526 175**
- **Driver Training/4WDV Rep – David Van Zanten 0400 936 113**

General Committee-

- **Manfred Wagner 0468 386 031**
- **Neville French 0448 277 851**
- **Graham Abotomey 0427 273 427**

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PS62 \$19.00
(code PS61K) Kids
\$18**

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2018/2019 – Trip & Event Calendar

APRIL- 2019					
8th April	Committee Meeting	NE Hotel	N/A		6.00 PM for Dinner 6.30PM for Meeting
6 th & 7 th April	Gastronomical Tour			Dave van Zanten: 0400 936 113	
9 th April	General Meeting Guest Speaker- Chris Clarke Parks Victoria	N.E Car Club Clubroom Nolan Rd Tarrawingee	N/A	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				
27 th April	Cobbler Hut Repair trip	Meet at Whitfield 9.00am	Easy- Medium	Graham Abotomey 0427 273 427	
MAY- 2019					
7 th May	Committee Meeting	NE Hotel	N/A		6.00 PM for Dinner 6.30PM for Meeting
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
18 th & 19 th May	Wonnangatta Trip	Meet at Whitfield- confirm time with T/L	Easy - Medium	Graham Abotomey 0427 273 427	
JUNE- 2019					
4 th June	Committee Meeting	NE Hotel	N/A		6.00 PM for Dinner 6.30PM for Meeting
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				

****Damo is also considering a Trip visiting Silos in NSW & VIC. It would be an overnight, weekend Trip.

Day 1 would head north to Wagga Wagga, Lockhart and Urana before camp at Bundalong South.

Day 2 would be Bundalong to Tungamah, St James (currently being painted), Devenish, Goorambat (including church) then onto Rochester (possibly Winton wetlands if time allowed) and home to Wangaratta.

Estimated kms

Day 1 = 430 kms

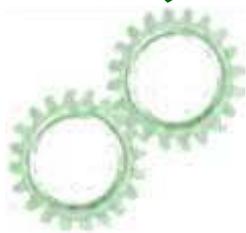
Day 2 = 366 kms

Total = 795 kms

Looking at JUNE 2019

Please let Damo know if interested. If enough people express interest, he will publish it as a Club Trip.

TRACK TORQUE



APRIL 2019



Wangaratta Four Wheel Drive Club

A0001052D
PO Box 494 Wangaratta 3676
www.wangaratta4x4club.org.au

“Responsible Four Wheel Driving And Family Touring”
