

*“Responsible Four Wheel Driving And Family Touring”*



FEBRUARY 2020

Newsletter



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



## WANGARATTA 4X4 CLUB

### Wangaratta Four Wheel Drive Club Committee Members

#### Executive-

President	Neville Sonogo
Vice President	Mick Maher
Secretary	Sue Abotomey
Treasurer	Bruce Gooday

#### Other Committee Members-

Newsletter editor	Bev Maher
Property Officer	Neville French
Publicity Officer	Bev Maher
Trip Coordinator	Damian O'Connor

Graham Abotomey  
Neville French  
Manfred Wagner

#### Non-Committee Positions-

Training Coordinator	Dave van Zanten
FWDV Representative	Dave Van Zanten
Web Master	Andrew Ammendola

#### WEBSITE:

[www.wangaratta4x4club.org.au](http://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 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:** Bev Maher - [editor@wangaratta4x4club.org.au](mailto:editor@wangaratta4x4club.org.au)

This is your newsletter so be part of it and send in any articles of interest, comments, trips, birthdays etc.

**Editorial Deadline:** - 1<sup>st</sup> of the month

**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'S REPORT- FEBRUARY 2020**

Welcome back for another year of activities and fellowship. It was great to see so many members attending the social evening at the Milawa hotel in January. An informal gathering like this allows members to catch up, get to know members who have joined recently and throw around ideas for the coming year.

I suspect that many areas in the high country will be off limits for a considerable time due to ramifications of the fires. This will present an opportunity to explore other areas in our vicinity. It will also be a time for those who have the time and are able to help with reconstruction to do so again through various organisations.

Neville Sonogo.

President.

### Club Contact Details

<b>Name and Position Held</b>	<b>Mobile Number</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Neville Sonogo (President)	0427 251 576	nsonego1@yahoo.com
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



**WANGARATTA FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB Inc.  
GENERAL MEETING –**

**8.30pm Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
at Nth East Car Club Rooms, Tarrawingee**

Members enjoyed a pre-meeting BBQ and fellowship  
to celebrate the 2019 Festive Season.

President Neville Sonogo welcomed all members and visitors and asked Mick Maher to introduce Brad Healy from Iron Man Wangaratta, tonight's guest speaker. Brad gave an informative run down on his background and the many facets to his business which include Iron Man, and a range of caravans. You can follow Brad's two-wheeler exploits on Trek to Track.

Meeting followed at 8.30pm

**Present:** President Neville Sonogo, Chris Sonogo, Bev & Mick Maher, Manfred Wagner & Narelle, Sue & Graham Abotomey, Gill Sydes, Glenn & Robyn Norton, Jeanette & Allan Wallace, Irene Jones, Neville & Monica French, Ron Grant, David & Kay Blore, Craig & Kristen Cheetham, Dave & Fiona Van Zanten and Barry Richardson

**Visitors:** Graham & Noelene,

**Apologies:** Damo O'Connor, Bruce Gooday, Korey Suppa and Sean Strudwick.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** as per Track Torque

Motion:

"That the Minutes of the November Meeting, as presented, be accepted"

Moved: Monica French      Seconded: David Blore      Carried

**Business Arising:** - NIL

**Correspondence**

- WAW – October and November 2019 Statements
- 4WDVic – emailed request for assistance from club members who have detailed knowledge of one or more of our iconic drives to become part of a workshop group. Secretary forwarded email to all members.
- North East Media, \$335 for Wang 4x4 Club Inc. to continue to be advertised in the Wangaratta Community Directory. The Committee decided that we wouldn't participate.

Motion:

"That the Club no longer be included in the Wangaratta Community Directory."

Moved: Bev Maher      Seconded: Neville French      Carried

Motion: "That Correspondence be accepted"

Moved: Sue Abotomey      Seconded: Narelle Cula      Carried

**Merchandise** - Available as per Track Torque

## **Treasurer's Report**

Neville Sonogo gave a verbal report to the meeting in the absence of our Treasurer.

Motion:

“Treasurer's Report was accepted and accounts passed for payment.”

Moved: Fiona van Zanten    Seconded: Chris Sonogo    Carried

**President's Report** - As published in December 2019 Track Torque

- **Membership** - Manfred has been following up internet enquiries with emails to Justin Wylie and Ben Matheson. Damo has had an enquiry from Darryl Beatty which he is following up.

### **2020 CALENDAR**

JANUARY Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>

Pineapple Flat – Damo & Kerry [damnkez@people.net.au](mailto:damnkez@people.net.au)

**CANCELLED DUE TO FIRES**

FEBRUARY – Driver Training tbc

Dave van Zanten [4wd@dcabs.com.au](mailto:4wd@dcabs.com.au)

APRIL – Corryong Man From Snowy River Festival

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Camp Site C or D

Bookings online @ [www.bushfestival.com.au](http://www.bushfestival.com.au)

MAY – Chainsaw Course, Friday (pm) 15<sup>th</sup>

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>

@ North East Car Club Rooms, Tarrawingee

Please register with Dave [4wd@dcabs.com.au](mailto:4wd@dcabs.com.au)

AUGUST – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Hann's Track & The Western Deserts,  
Western Australia. Meet at Laverton or Lenora for 4 week  
round trip

David Blore 0407 885 410 or [david.blore@gmail.com](mailto:david.blore@gmail.com)

As per November track Torque Pre-Trip report

David Blore raised the possibility of a Club trip to **Caledonia River** on 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> January or sometime in February. Due to short notice will be advertised on Club Facebook page and email sent to all members. **CANCELLED DUE TO FIRES**

- **Trip reports-**

David Blore and Neville Sonego gave verbal reports on Tom Groggin and Stringy Bark Creek trips (see Trip reports printed in December 2019 Track Torque).

- **Training** – refer Club Calendar above.

- **Editor Newsletter** - Trip reports or articles to Bev for the Newsletter please. Sincere thanks to all who have submitted reports in recent times. Makes good reading and promotes our Club and its ideals of family friendly 4WD and touring.

**General Business:**

- Membership Drive – Damo suggested a day or afternoon where we invite the public to visit a display of photos, vehicles and members. The use of Batchelor's Green to be investigated as it is more accessible to the general public.
- Cobbler Hut Gate – Graham advised that the hinge had been broken yet again and he had discussions with Chris Clarke – Ranger In-Charge who suggested that the gate be removed. Graham has done this.
- February 2020 guest speaker – Wangaratta Ambulance
- A pub meal / social get together was suggested for Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at the Milawa Hotel – 6.00pm. Please email or text/phone Neville and Monica French to book: [frenchfamily3677@gmail.com](mailto:frenchfamily3677@gmail.com) or 0448 277 851
- High Country & Beyond – Not going ahead in 2020

Meeting Closed 8.50pm



## PRE - TRIP REPORTS

### 1. HANNS TRACK & THE WESTERN DESERTS – AUGUST 2020

Trip leader: David Blore

Emergency Contact: (outside of trip):TBA

Tail end Charlie: TBA

Trip leader contact details: ☎ David: 0407 885 410, email david.blore@gmail.com

Start Date: Saturday 1 August 2020

Meeting place and time: Laverton or Leonora, WA – yet to be determined

Trip duration: Four weeks Laverton to Laverton.

Trip rating: Medium-Hard

Type of tyre tread required: All-Terrain at a minimum, with better than 75% tread, less than 4 years old, in LT construction.

Fuel requirements: Fuel for in excess of 800 km will be required, at desert consumption rates.

Minimum recovery gear required: Snatch straps, shovel etc

Winch required If you have one

Wheel chains required No

Fire restrictions: Unknown – plan for all possibilities.

Type of Accommodation/camping: \_\_\_\_\_

Tent-based, locations not confirmed. No camper-trailers will be permitted on the trip: these and caravans (we will be towing our off-road caravan to the start of the trip) will be stored at Leonora or Laverton if you choose to bring them for other travel before or after the trip. I'm making enquiries about storage options at the moment.

Maximum number of vehicles *(first in gets a placing):* 7

Personal equipment requirements:

Gear for warm as well as possible cold and wet conditions.

Trip Details:

The trip will follow Hanns Track (so-called) east from Laverton, to Warburton on the Great Central Road. After Warburton a number of possibilities arise including the Old Gunbarrel to Carnegie and Wiluna, or thence to Granite Downs and back to Wiluna and Laverton via the bottom of the Canning Stock Route. A decision will be made at the time of reaching Warburton; it may be that some proceed straight along the GCR to Laverton, whilst some will follow the full route suggested above.

Permits to access Aboriginal Lands will be necessary: I expect to start seeking these early in the New Year once I have enough interested members wanting to do the trip.

Other Requirements:

Drivers must be experienced in 4wd driving in remote desert terrain; vehicles must be mechanically excellent, have low range and excellent tyres as noted above.

There is much planning to be done: this is simply a heads-up so that interested members can book a place. The trip limit will be strictly enforced.

Expressions of Interest:

Contact David to advise of your interest.

## 2. Top Crossing Hut Run Sunday 23rd February

We are doing a day run to check on the condition of the Top Crossing Hut.

We will do a little bit of a clean-up around the hut and surrounds, so if you have room please bring a rake, shovel and any light maintenance gear with you.

(I don't expect a lot to be done this trip )

9 am meet Oxley School Wangaratta Whitfield Road Oxley.

Smoko will be somewhere along the way. Lunch will be at the Hut, boil the billy, BBQ if safe, or sandwiches.

If time permits a run up Sandy Creek Track and down Long Spur Track will be the way home with the obligatory stop at the Cheshunt store for an ice cream.

**Trip Leader Graham Abotomey**

**Book by Friday 21st Feb on**

**0357273427 or 0427273427**



**3. LITTLE DESERT NATIONAL PARK TRIP**

# Pre Trip Report

## Wangaratta 4WD Club

Name of Trip:	LITTLE DESERT NATIONAL PARK	
Date/s:	12/03/2020	16/03/2020

<b>Timings:</b> Include where to meet, departure time and return time	Meet at KIATA CAMPGROUND which is 26 kms west of Dimboola on Nhill Road 404 kms from Wangaratta		
<b>Trip Details:</b> List things such as Destination, Plan, Expected weather, Sights, Places, Key track names, etc	Explore the Little Desert National Park in Western Victoria. Use the Kiata Campground as Base Drives within National Park will be mostly sand driving Several historic sites to view Walking Tracks available from Campground Visit to Mt Arapiles Local Hotel meal tba		
<b>Trip Leader:</b>	Neville	Sonego	<a href="mailto:nsonegol@yahoo.com">nsonegol@yahoo.com</a> 0427 251 576

<b>Trip Rating:</b> A brief description of likely conditions to be encountered	Easy	All bitumen roads until you get to the Campground turnoff. Then 12 kms of unsealed dirt road. Tracks within the Park will mostly involve sand driving
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<b>Number of Vehicles:</b>	No limit
<b>Suitable for:</b> List type of vehicle, whether campers or caravans can be taken, etc.	Suitable for Tents, Campers and Caravans

<b>Vehicle Requirements:</b>	<b>Tyres</b>	All Terrain	<b>Winch</b>	No
All vehicles on club trips are required to have recovery points and carry their own recovery equipment, a snatch strap, shackles and dampener as a minimum. All vehicles require a UHF radio, the trip leader will advise radio channel prior to departure. Trip leader to list other items that may be required for this trip. Things such as snow chains, water blinds, chainsaw, etc.	<b>Lift</b>	No	<b>Snorkel</b>	No
	Basic Recovery gear recommended First Aid Kit for personal use Sand-flag if possible			
<b>Fuel and Supplies:</b> Brief description of where fuel and other supplies can be obtained if at all.	Fuel available at Dimboola to the east and Nhill to the west Both approximately 20 kms from Kiata Campground			

<b>Trip Specific Info:</b> Food, clothing, prohibited items, fire restrictions, other items to bring, etc	Please be self-contained- food, water and necessities for duration of trip Nights can get cool so some warm clothing Fire pits available- please bring own wood Toilets at Campground Solid shelter also available Telstra mobile phone reception
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<b>Permits, Camp fees, etc</b>	Not required No camping fees applicable
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If you wish to go on this trip, ensure you register with the trip leader. Do not turn up without registering. Remember to let the trip leader know if you need to cancel.



## TRIP REPORTS

No official Club reports.

After a horrendous start to the 2020 year, bushfires have created havoc and devastation to much of many parts of Australia, particularly around our region of NE Victoria and Southern NSW. Fires are still active in our area and as a result our Club activity has been very limited.

2 proposed Club trips were cancelled due to bushfires and until recently almost all High-Country tracks have been closed. Some have just re-opened, but some fires remain active, and members need to be vigilant when looking at any proposed drives. Keep up to date on the 4WDrive Victoria Website.

I have however added a little piece of information regarding a fabulous project. Many of us have had the opportunity to visit this amazing town, which continues to have a very active Restoration program

## The Farina Restoration Group... Building a window to the past...

Farina is located within the Lake Eyre Basin, on the old alignment of the Great Northern Railway later known as the Ghan Railway, 26Kms North of Lyndhurst and 55Kms South of Marree, near the junctions of the Birdsville, Innaminka and Oodnadatta Tracks in South Australia.

Increase your Farina experience, walk the many historical tracks whilst staying a while in great camping grounds.

The Town is no longer inhabited but a small group of volunteers are restoring buildings in Farina to reflect its past and to ensure that it retains the social History of an Iconic Historical Inland Town.

### 2020 Season – The Bakery

#### Friends of Farina please note for 2020

The now famous wood fired bakery will be making fabulous bread, pies and cakes from the 23rd May to the 19th July 2020.

[Volunteer registrations](#) are now open online.





Well worth a visit if you are in the region or to consider volunteering if you are able. The Bakery- breads, pies and pasties etc are to die for!!!!



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## CLUB NEWS-

**Guest Speaker- February 11<sup>th</sup> will be Bert Orr from Ambulance Victoria**

## **MAN from SNOWY RIVER FESTIVAL**



[www.bushfestival.com.au](http://www.bushfestival.com.au)

**A number of Members from the Club are going to the Festival and have already booked. If you are interested in going there are various Packages available and you can check their web site on the above web address.**

**The festival runs from Thursday 2nd April 2020 till Sunday 5th.**

**If you require further information you can contact Graham Abotomey 57273427 or 0427273427.**

## **MARCH IS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING month.**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March  
NE Car Clubrooms, Tarrawingee  
8.00pm start

Please consider taking on a position in your Club.  
There are roles in the Executive and on the Committee  
Sue has announced she will not be standing as Secretary again, so we will certainly need a SECRETARY



## 2019 – Trip & Event Calendar

### FEBRUARY - 2020

TUESDAY February 4th	Committee Meeting		N/A	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: <a href="mailto:susieabotomey@hotmail.com">susieabotomey@hotmail.com</a>	6.00pm
TUESDAY February 11th	General Meeting	NE Car Club Rooms, Tarrawingee		Sec: Sue Abotomey E: <a href="mailto:susieabotomey@hotmail.com">susieabotomey@hotmail.com</a>	7.30pm for 8.00pm start
SUNDAY 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Top Crossing Hut Trip	As per Report		Graham Abotomey Book by Friday 21st Feb on 0357273427 or 0427273427	

### MARCH 2020

TUESDAY March 3rd	Committee Meeting		N/A	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: <a href="mailto:susieabotomey@hotmail.com">susieabotomey@hotmail.com</a>	6.00pm
TUESDAY March 10th	General Meeting	NE Car Club Rooms, Tarrawingee		Sec: Sue Abotomey E: <a href="mailto:susieabotomey@hotmail.com">susieabotomey@hotmail.com</a>	7.30pm for 8.00pm start
THURSDAY March 12th	Little Desert National Park Trip	KIATA Camp-grounds As per Report		<a href="mailto:nsonego1@yahoo.com">nsonego1@yahoo.com</a> 0427 251 576	

### APRIL 2020

TUESDAY April 7th	Committee Meeting		N/A	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: <a href="mailto:susieabotomey@hotmail.com">susieabotomey@hotmail.com</a>	6.00pm
TUESDAY April 14th	General Meeting	NE Car Club Rooms, Tarrawingee		Sec: Sue Abotomey E: <a href="mailto:susieabotomey@hotmail.com">susieabotomey@hotmail.com</a>	7.30pm for 8.00pm start
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April- Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Man from Snowy River Festival	Cooryong	N/A	Graham Abotomey 57273427 or 0427273427 <a href="http://www.bushfestival.com.au">www.bushfestival.com.au</a>	



## MAY 2020

TUESDAY May 5th	Committee Meeting		N/A	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: <a href="mailto:susieabotomey@hotmail.com">susieabotomey@hotmail.com</a>	6.00pm
TUESDAY May 12th	General Meeting	NE Car Club Rooms, Tarrawingee		Sec: Sue Abotomey E: <a href="mailto:susieabotomey@hotmail.com">susieabotomey@hotmail.com</a>	7.30pm for 8.00pm start

## JUNE 2020

TUESDAY June 2nd	Committee Meeting		N/A	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: <a href="mailto:susieabotomey@hotmail.com">susieabotomey@hotmail.com</a>	6.00pm
TUESDAY June 9th	General Meeting	NE Car Club Rooms, Tarrawingee		Sec: Sue Abotomey E: <a href="mailto:susieabotomey@hotmail.com">susieabotomey@hotmail.com</a>	7.30pm for 8.00pm start

AUGUST 2020- HANNS TRACK & THE WESTERN DESERTS –  
More details as per Calendar





## CLUB APPAREL



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# TRACK TORQUE



FEBRUARY 2020



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*Wangaratta Four Wheel Drive Club*

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

*“Responsible Four Wheel Driving And Family Touring”*

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