

“Responsible Four Wheel Driving And Family Touring”



JUNE 2020

Newsletter



TRACK TORQUE



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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

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 - 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:- 1st 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 – JUNE 2020.

Hopefully with the easing of the restrictions we can begin to look forward to some club meetings and activities in the coming months. The committee continues to be in touch with 4WD Vic and will relay anything of note to all members.

A couple of committee members have indicated that they will look at organising some day trips. As these may be organised with short notice an attempt will be made to communicate details to all members. It is anticipated that notice will be given via any of the following - Track Torque, Facebook and email.

Keep well and look forward to catching up .

President.

Neville Sonego.

Club Contact Details

Name and Position Held	Mobile Number	Email Address
Neville Sonego (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**

DUE TO COVID-19 CURRENT SITUATION THE WANGARATTA 4X4 CLUB WILL BE IN RECESS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

MEETING UPDATE-from President Neville

The Wang Club are not taking bookings at this stage. They will not open until 22/23 June and then are not sure of numbers allowed on the premises at one time.

Members will be kept informed and updated as changes occur.

The Bulletin will continue to be published each month.

If anyone has a report of an older trip or an article of interest, please send through to Editor

Thanks to everyone who has sent in trip reports (old & new), articles, stories, jokes etc.

Makes for good reading to reminisce on the good times we have all had, and have a good cackle.

Stay safe everyone



PRE - TRIP REPORTS

**NIL DUE TO COVID- 19
BUT- KEEP THINKING & PLANNING**



TRIP REPORTS

BUCKLAND SPUR TRACK

by Ron Grant

When the government eased the lock down two weeks ago, I decided to head for the local tracks via Whitfield. I followed the edge of the William Hovel Lake onto the Buckland Spur Track. It had rained heavily two days before and there were large pools of water all along the track. Evans Creek was up quite a long way.

I headed along the track and came to a section that was about 20 metres long and steep. I could see there had been several vehicles slipping over a wide section of track. It was all mud for 20 mts. I had a run at it and half -way up I slid back down to the bottom.

I had two more goes and managed to climb it on the third attempt by running the passenger side wheels up on the embankment which gave me some additional traction. The next few kilometres was along the ridge and fairly flat with large pools of water.

I got to where I was about two kilometres from the Evans Creek Track and I found a hunting dog with a radio collar on. He was lost and came up to me so I fed him. On the collar was a name and phone number so I tried calling the guy, but too far out for it to work. I drove slow for a while as the dog kept following and after about ten minutes stopped and tried to encourage him into the car. That was not what he wanted.

I caught up to two other vehicles that had stopped for coffee and asked about the dog. They had seen it but drove past it. I continued over to Mt No3 and at Stirling I had phone service but the number just kept cutting out I tried for two days to talk to the dogs owner. Never got on to him at all after about 15 calls. The phone number just kept going dead so I have no Idea if the dog did find his owner.

For me it was a pleasant sunny day with lots of snow on the higher peaks. I drove to the summit of Mt Stirling. I know all this area well as I skied Stirling and Buller for many years. I will drive those tracks again in next couple of weeks with my new vehicle before they close the gates for the winter ----- RG

SNOW TRIP- JUNE 2020

by Damian O'Connor

I had a chance to go up to Craig's Hut with Jason Davern recently as snow was dropping down to just under 1100mtrs. There was a good covering of snow on the way up No 3 track, past the No 3 Hut and also at the Razorback and Craigs Hut. It was a last minute trip before the snow went and before the gates closed.



We took Monument Track that goes to Clearhills Track that then drops out on the top of Craig's Hut. It was a good challenge in a bit deeper snow.



We found a couple with a newish ute with the front tyre rolled off the rim. They were happy when we rolled up as I had a hi-lift jack to help us as their stock jack wasn't lifting high enough. Instead of crawling under to get spare wheel, we used the old aerosol can and lighter trick to get the tyre back on the bead to then pump it up and it popped back on and worked with them on their way again.

MEMORIES-

BLOOMFIELD TRACK

by Ron Grant

I try to get away for 2 months or so in winter usually after Easter but this year the borders were closed about then, so that has put a stop to my travel for now.

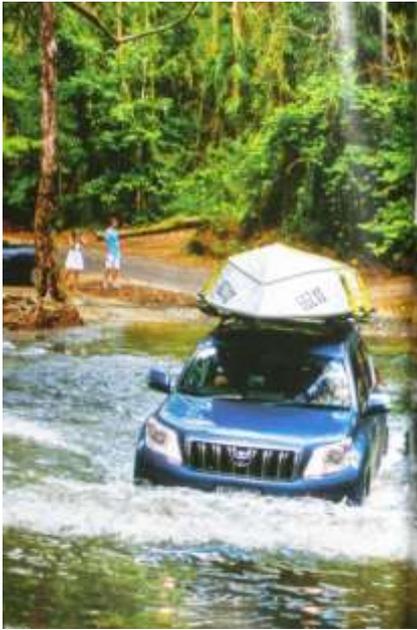
So I went and bought the magazines I buy each month and there was a very good photo of my Prado with the boat on the roof crossing on of the smaller rivers on the Bloomfield Track. I could see the cameraman standing on the side I was heading towards. He was actually there I thought to take photos of the teenagers that make a sport out of trying to get their small 4 cylinder cars across the river. One can be seen in the photo back ground. There was another with about 4 young guys off to the side trying to get it out of the water.

Back a couple of klm nearer to the Daintree River Ferry is a very large sign warning that this is strictly suited to 4WD track. What they do not mention on the sign is that it is also very well populated with quite large crocodiles and here are all these young people having the time of their lives pushing these cars around . They would be locals and know what's in the water. Any how I crossed the river the camera guy gave me a smile and a wave. You might ask why I did not stop and offer help to the small car owner.

I have a friend living in Cairns and he took me up the Track some years ago and as we crossed that same river there was a teenager also trying to remove their vehicles and I commented to my friend, "aren't you going to stop and help?" His reply was they can all read the sign. They are here every weekend. I come through and I don't want to be a meal for the crocs. I continued on that day until I got to Bloomfield River and on the other side of the river is the Aboriginal town of Wujal Wujal. The river was flowing very fast and very deep so that was as far as we could go.

I went back to Cairns and a few days latter, drove down the main Cooktown road and back up the Bloomfield Track to Wujal Wujal. I talked to some of the locals that were fishing the river about not crossing it the other day. They told me that a young guy in an early model Land Cruiser had tried to cross from the Cairns side a few days before and the vehicle got washed down stream.

They helped the guy out of the water and said there is a lot of vehicles down-stream it is deep and full of crocs. There is a picnic area just up from the crossing area. We walked up to have a look because another friend of mine who uses that track had told me that one day he went up to the picnic area and was going to have a swim until he saw a 4mtr croc on the other back sunning himself.



We continued back to Cooktown seeing more crocks along the way. When we got into Cooktown into the picnic area there was 3 crocks sunning themselves right near the tables that were by mud flats. So I now have a great respect for all those crocs, having seen them in their own territory.

It was a good trip and I thought I would share it with members of the club. I rang Caravan World editor and he has sent some good photos of my Prado – Ron.G.

CLUB NEWS-

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Following our Committee meeting in May the Wangaratta Four Wheel Drive Club Inc. Membership subscriptions for 2020/21 have been set at **\$50.00**

Following on from this the June Committee meeting has advised as below-

At the end of June each year the Club forwards to 4WDVic a list of current financial members. That list is used for 4WDVic's administrative purposes and as the basis for our Public Liability Insurance. If your name is not on that list, you are not covered by the Club's insurance and not eligible to participate in Club activities.

Our Club Rules state that a member who has not paid the annual subscription before 1 July in the year the subscription falls due will be deemed to have resigned from the Association.

The rules are clear – no subscription – no insurance – no membership.

After 1 July, former members who wish to join the Club will need to reapply for membership and will incur the usual \$20.00 joining fee.

Please pay your \$50.00 membership before 30th June 2020

WAW CREDIT UNION

BSB: 803 070

A/C: 29894

PLEASE, don't forget to enter your name in the Reference/Description Box so we know it is you.

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Dave's Tips for Using a Chainsaw

(and coming home in one piece)

The last few months have meant that Four Wheel Drive Victoria training courses have all been postponed. A number of people have spoken to me about chainsaw training in the past 6 – 12 months and although the cold weather is already here and many will have already been out using their chainsaw to collect their seasonal firewood I thought in the absence of a formal course a short list of the key things that will keep you safe might just come in handy!

1. Make sure your chainsaw is in good operating order. Have it serviced and your chains sharpened. A sharp chain is safer to use than a blunt one.
2. Wear protective equipment (PPE). Some items protect you from immediate harm, others from longer term harm but all are important:

- Safety Boots,
- Chaps,
- HiVis top,
- Gloves,
- Safety glasses,
- Helmet with ear muffs and a mesh face shield.



3. Put yourself in a safe position:

- Stand in a safe place to cut, somewhere you are unlikely to be hit by any falling timber and somewhere that you can easily run from,
- Keep a safe clear zone in front of you, watch for others walking around the work area and keep them clear,
- Never cut above shoulder height.

4. Start the saw in a controlled way. Holding the starter cord and dropping the saw is **NOT** a controlled method. Either start it with the saw on the ground and held with your left arm and right foot (Cold Start) or wedge the rear handle between your thighs, stabilise with your left arm on the front handle and use your right arm to pull the starter cord. (This works well once the saw is warm)



5. Use the saw correctly. Many who have used chainsaws have experienced kickback. If you are still in one piece it was either mild or you are very lucky. Do you know what actually causes kickback? There is one part on the saw which causes it. Touch the upper quadrant of the nose against something while the chain is running and the saw will rotate back, pivoting on your right hand. The rotation happens incredibly quickly, much more quickly than most people are able to react.



6. Always stand so that you are looking at the left side of the bar. If you can see the right hand side of the bar it means you are bent over the saw and what then if the saw does happen to kick? Your neck is exposed. You need your neck to keep your head in place so protect it!
7. Use the correct stance.
- Hold the body of the saw close to you, against your thigh is good where possible,
 - If cutting vertically (up and down) keep your left leg forward and your right leg back,
 - If cutting horizontally (saw tipped on it's side) keep your right leg forward and your left leg back,
 - Keep your left arm straight and lock that elbow in. Doing this will just about guarantee you can't see the right side of the bar thereby putting you into a safer position and with a locked in elbow it is the best defence you can have against any kickback that may happen,
 - Keep your back straight. Chainsawing is hard work, specially when you only do it from time to time. With a straight back your core muscles will share the load, bend your back and your back muscles do all the work. They will end up sore and you won't be a happy camper!



Hopefully these few tips will help people out. For those that have never undertaken chainsaw training there may be something there that makes you a safer operator, for those that have done training maybe something there jogs your memory and reminds you of something that may have been forgotten because if you are like me, you don't do something for a while you forget things.

There is much more that you will learn on a full chainsaw course, things such as correct starting techniques, how to maintain and sharpen your saw, how to select the right cuts and what order to do them in taking compression and tension into account, how to carry the saw correctly and much, much more. Lots of this may sound irrelevant but nearly everything we teach has a safety aspect to it and that safety aspect is aimed at keeping you and those around you in one piece as when things go wrong with a chainsaw it is usually not a good result.



JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE ALL STILL ABLE TO LAUGH

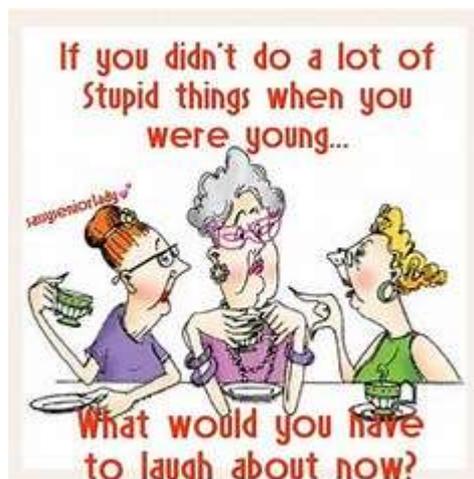
Ricky decides to go back home to Melbourne so he calls Qantas Airlines to book his flight. The operator asks him, 'How many people are flying with you?' Ricky replies, 'Strewth mate, how would I know. It's your plane.'

Do you ever wonder who loves you? Your wife? Your dog? You think they love you, but how do you know if they really do? How can you be sure?

There is a way to find out and have peace of mind and it only takes one hour.

Simply open the boot of your car, put your dog and your wife in there, close the boot, grab a couple of beers and watch the footy on the telly for an hour or so. Then go back to the car, and open the boot.

Now, who is happy to see you?



2020 – Trip & Event Calendar

JUNE 2020

TUESDAY June 2nd	Committee Meeting	ONLINE	N/A	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail.com	6.00pm
TUESDAY June 9th	General Meeting	CANCELLED		Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail.com	7.30pm for 8.00pm start

JULY 2020

TUESDAY July 7th	Committee Meeting	TO BE CONFIRMED	N/A	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail.com	6.00pm
TUESDAY July 14th	General Meeting	TO BE CONFIRMED		Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail.com	7.30pm for 8.00pm start

AUGUST 2020

TUESDAY August 4th	Committee Meeting	TO BE CONFIRMED	N/A	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail.com	6.00pm
TUESDAY August 11th	General Meeting	TO BE CONFIRMED		Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail.com	7.30pm for 8.00pm start

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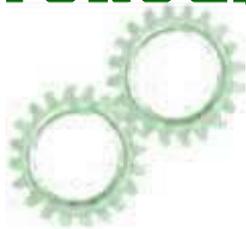
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JUNE 2020



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“Responsible Four Wheel Driving And Family Touring”
