

“Responsible Four Wheel Driving And Family Touring”



TRACK TORQUE

AUGUST 2020

Newsletter



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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 – AUGUST 2020.

It is important to have something to look forward to, so I appreciate the efforts of those members that have posted trips over the coming months. The ever- changing advice/restrictions posted by the Health authorities and Government may mean that these activities may have to be curtailed or cancelled. All members need to keep abreast of these changes and act accordingly for the safety and wellbeing of club members and the general community. This could mean notification of changes or cancellations may be issued at short notice.

It is pleasing to see that membership has remained strong during these times and hopefully as the weather improves so will the chances of more activities. The committee continues to meet using Zoom and general meetings are on hold until further notice. Any matters that need to be brought to our notice should be sent to Secretary Sue.

As happened earlier this year a club member has received an email supposedly from me that is spam. All communications are through the secretary so please delete/ignore these emails.

President.

Neville Sonego.

NB. President Neville issued this President's Report prior to the latest COVID-19 Stage 3 restrictions for our region.

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 NOT BE HOLDING GENERAL MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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

We are however encouraging members to think about planning some trips- particularly day trips for when we can get back on the road again. These will need to be under the strict COVID-19 guidelines as per Government regulations for our region at that particular time.



PRE - TRIP REPORTS

1. ELDORADO DAY TRIP - POSTPONED AS OF AUGUST 2nd

TRIP LEADER: Damian O'Connor

CONTACT DETAILS: 0417 526 175 or email damnkez@people.net.au if interested in this trip

START DATE: Saturday 22nd AUGUST 2020

MEETING PLACE AND TIME: APEX PARK SHELTER Wangaratta at 10am
Return roughly mid to late afternoon

TRIP RATING: Easy/medium

TYPE OF TREADS: Good all- terrains or Mud terrains, NO ROAD TREADS as they won't be suitable for the terrain

FUEL REQUIREMENTS: Full tank ex Wangaratta
Wangaratta Four Wheel Drive Club Inc -AUGUST 2020

RECOVERY GEAR: Your usual recovery gear, both front and rear recovery points on your vehicle

PERSONAL REQUIREMENTS: bring your lunch, snacks, drinks for the day

MAXIMUM VEHICLES: No more than 10 people to attend.

IT IS IMPERITIVE THAT IF YOU INTEND TO GO ON THE TRIP YOU ADVISE DAMO, SO HE CAN ARRANGE NUMBERS. IF MORE THAN 10 INTERESTED 2 TRIPS WILL BE ORGANISED WITH 2 TRIP LEADERS.

Current Trip Regulations due to COVID 19-

All COVID 19 rules still apply so when leaving our vehicles, stay at least stay the 1 ½ to 2 meters distance between each other please.

No more than 10 people to attend

Masks to be worn at all times WHEN OUT OF YOUR CAR, as per current regulations.

You can only take off mask whilst in car if travelling with someone from own household.

Anyone who is unwell or has been in contact with anyone who is unwell, or who is awaiting COVID 19 test results please do not attend.

Anyone who is visiting from or has visited any of the current lockdown areas in Melbourne, the Mitchell Municipality, Colac Otway, Greater Geelong, Surf Coast, Moorabool, Golden Plains and the Borough of Queenscliffe, or has been in contact with anyone from these areas, please do not attend.

Please keep in mind these regulations are constantly changing and you are wise to keep abreast of these guidelines to ensure both your own safety and the safety of those around you and to ensure you are acting within current Government rulings.

2. GAPSTEAD MURMUNGEE TRIP

Forward notice of an up and coming Trip. Put in your Calendar.
More details to come.

Date: Sunday 20th September

Trip leader: Neville French 0448277851



TRIP REPORTS

SHARED STORIES-

PAINTED DESERT – South Australia

by Bev & Michael Maher

This was part of a trip we did in 2015 when we travelled up the Oodnadatta Track.

We travelled from Wangaratta through the Flinders Ranges, staying at the wonderful Merna Mora Station and the Mulroona Station from where we visited parts of Lake Eyre and Lake Torrens.

Then onto Maree and were we headed onto the Oodnadatta Track.

Visited numerous sidings and old ruins and some unusual spring formations in the otherwise dry and barren landscape.

On through Coward Springs and Strangeways Bore Siding and Historic ruins, William Creek, Algebuckina Bridge following the old Ghan Train line. Lots of history in the area.

Stayed at the famous Oodnadatta Roadhouse overnight before heading west to Arkaringa Homestead where we camped for several days enjoying the amazing Arkaringa Ranges or Painted Desert.

A great place that certainly warrants a visit if up that way. The colours of the mountains are spectacular, forever changing with the light of day. Photos do not do the area justice.





SURVIVAL GUIDE WHEN STRANDED IN BUSH / OUTBACK

What to Do

Regardless of the amount of water you have, the outside world's knowledge of your whereabouts or your perceived abilities as a bush craftsman there is 1 attitude and 5 basic rules to maximise your chance of survival in a dire situation.

In most cases the body dies through dehydration, exhaustion and exposure - exposure from either heat or cold.

Medical experts will tell you that the body eventually kills the brain and life expires. In reality the brain kills the body. The body expires through poor decision making processes. The mind's natural tendency is to react rather than think things through in a calm and realistic manner.

The very first thing to do when things turn sour is to recognise the problem for what it is and then plan accordingly.

Remain calm and don't underestimate the seriousness of your situation. From the outset understand that any stranding in a remote area of Australia has the potential to be lethal. Assume that you may be in a very serious situation and plan accordingly.

Stay With the Vehicle

People's cars break down and they get lost in the bush all the time. In most cases they stay with the car and get rescued. Their story makes one paragraph on page eight of the newspapers.

People who get stranded and abandon their vehicles often die. They end up with a coronial enquiry and a front-page story. These are just facts.

Other people travel on roads and tracks and search parties begin a sweep of the roads. This is where people travel, and this is where search parties first expect to find people. Cars are bigger than people - they are easier to see from an aeroplane or helicopter. Push the vehicle into the open, pull the hood, open the doors - make it visibly large. Aim the mirrors upwards to catch the sun's reflection. Get noticed.

If you absolutely must abandon the vehicle leave a note with the car, indicating your direction of travel.

Priorities

There are certain things the human body simply must have to survive and getting these priorities right ensures the best chance of survival and consequent rescue if you become destitute in a remote outback location.

1. Water

Without water the human body expires in 2 - 3 days. It can last 2 weeks without food.

When the body becomes dehydrated the brain starts to make poor decisions. Decisions like abandoning the vehicle.

Ration your water, stay out of the sun and don't exert any more than absolutely necessary.

2. Warmth

The deserts of the world can be extremely hot by day and mind-numbingly cold by night. People who get lost in places like Victoria's 'Grampians' usually die from exposure to the cold. Get warm and everything, especially the brain, works better.

3. Shelter

Shelter, like warmth protects the body. Whether it is shelter from blistering sun or biting cold a roof or covering protects and reassures. Bodies exposed to the elements lose moisture fast. By avoiding direct exposure to the sun, moisture is better retained. Similarly, covering naked skin helps keep everything cool.

4. Signals

Carrying relevant Emergency communication equipment is vital before commencing any trip. After everything has been done to protect the mind and body, signals can be used to attract attention. Whether it is noise, reflections or fire, anything that gets noticed may work in your favour.

A regular camp fire will burn a rubber tire and create a massive black cloud of smoke. Car mirrors will reflect light and a pile of rocks saying S.O.S. will attract the attention of an aeroplane pilot looking for other signs.

5. Food

Last and least is Food. There is an abundance of bush food in the outback. Any recognisable insect or creature has the potential of providing sustenance and keeping you alive. You don't need Mars Bars. Providing it's not a spider, snake or brightly coloured insect it can probably keep you going long after your water supply is depleted. An ant colony can keep you alive for weeks.

2020 – Trip & Event Calendar

AUGUST 2020

TUESDAY August 4th	Committee Meeting	CANCELLED	N/A	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail.com	6.00pm
TUESDAY August 11th	General Meeting	CANCELLED	N/A	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail.com	7.30pm for 8.00pm start
SATURDAY August 22nd	ELDORADO DAY TRIP	POSTPONED	Easy/ Med	Damian O'Connor 0417 526 175 or damnkez@people.net.au	APEX PARK 10.00am

SEPTEMBER 2020

TUESDAY September 1st	Committee Meeting	TO BE CONFIRMED	N/A	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail.com	6.00pm
TUESDAY September 8th	General Meeting	TO BE CONFIRMED	N/A	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail.com	7.30pm for 8.00pm start
SUNDAY September 20th	GAPSTEAD/ MURMINGEE TRIP	Details to be confirmed		Neville French 0448277851	

OCTOBER 2020

TUESDAY October 6th	Committee Meeting	TO BE CONFIRMED	N/A	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail.com	6.00pm
TUESDAY October 13th	General Meeting	TO BE CONFIRMED	N/A	Sec: Sue Abotomey E: susieabotomey@hotmail.com	7.30pm for 8.00pm start
SATURDAY October 17 TH - SUNDAY October 18th	TRACK CLEARING	Details to be confirmed		Graham Abotomey	

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