

“Responsible Four Wheel Driving And Family Touring”



NOVEMBER 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, Yarrowonga, 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 – November 2020.

Let's hope that things continue to improve and that we will be able to move around reasonably freely and be able to enjoy some trips and social outings. Keep your eye on the calendar in Track Torque and for messages passed on by the Secretary of any upcoming events, FWD Vic notices and other relevant material.

For the first time in many months the committee has plans to meet in person. We will wait for further announcements before we attempt general meetings. I look forward to be able to catch up with members in the near future.

President.

Neville Sonogo.

Club Contact Details

Name and Position Held	Mobile Number	Email Address
Neville Sonogo (President)	0427 251 576	nsonego1@yahoo.com
Sue Abotomey (Secretary)	0424914200	susieabotomey@hotmail.com
Mick Maher (Treasurer)	0419 533 898	mick@maher.net.au
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.



COVID PROTOCOLS

***Everyone has a role to play
in slowing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19)***

Before you attend any Trips or Attendance Meetings:

- If you are feeling unwell you should stay at home. If you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, you should get tested.*

While you are out with the Wangaratta Four Wheel Drive Club Inc.:

- NO Mask NO Participation!*
- Provide your contact details to the Club and Venue to assist should contact tracing be required.*
- In shared spaces and when moving about be aware of maintaining your physical distance.*
- Wash/Sanitise your hands regularly*
- Don't share cutlery, plates or glasses*
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.*

When you get home:

- *Dispose of Masks correctly and Wash your hands*

Please Note:

Activities with the Wangaratta Four Wheel Drive Club Inc. will only go ahead in strict accordance with the Victorian Government's COVID regulations at that time and as such may be cancelled or changed at short notice.

CLUB NEWS-



**Congratulations to Robyn and Glenn Norton.
10 year Membership with the Wangaratta 4x4
Club**

Well done Robyn & Glenn

Annual Track Clearing Weekend

Saturday/Sunday 17th and 18th October 2020

CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS

As you may of heard the annual Track Clearing Weekend was unfortunately cancelled at the last minute due to the wet weather and the issues with maintaining safety for members under these conditions.

2020 CLUB XMAS CAMP

SRINGBARK CREEK CAMP

Weekend of **Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th December 2020**

Suitable for Caravans, Campers and Tents
BYO Everything

We will still have some COVID-19 restrictions in place such as social distancing restrictions, masks, hand washing etc.

However we are all chaffing at the bit for trips into our bush and can safely do so using current COVID-19 guidelines.

PEASE NOTE-

The Wangaratta 4x4 Club will be providing a Bacon & Egg breakfast for all in attendance on the Sunday morning.

Friday 4th December-

Those who are able to arrive on the Friday, members will be going to the Tolmie Pub for dinner.



Please inform Secretary Sue Abotomey of numbers for these 2 events by 27th November.
susieabotomey@hotmail.com / 0424 914 200

DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING/ XMAS GET TOGETHER

It has been decided we will have our normal General meeting at the Tarrawingee Clubrooms on TUESDAY December 8th 2020

It has been some time since we have all been able to catch up.

The Club will provide meat for a shared BBQ.

Members please bring along a Salad to share.

For catering, please notify Secretary Sue Abotomey before December 4th if you intend to be present - susieabotomey@hotmail.com

JANAURY GET TOGETHER

January 12th 6.30pm for 7.00pm start

No meeting as such but will be a social gathering at either the Tarrawingee Pub or the Milawa Hotel for those interested in attending.

Confirmation of the venue will occur closer to date depending on availability in relation to numbers allowed in venue and any current restrictions.

Numbers are therefore important so please contact Secretary Sue Abotomey on susieabotomey@hotmail.com no later than January 5th 2021

Members are welcome to camp at the Tarrawingee Clubroom grounds. Toilet facilities will be open for use.



Don't forget the Snowy River Bush Festival which was cancelled in 2020, will be held again in 2021

Dates are April 8th to 11th

To those who booked for the 2020 Festival which was cancelled due to the Bushfires, your bookings will be honoured.

Anyone else interested please see Website.

HUTS VICTORIA

A 2021 Calendar by Huts Victoria is now available

Cost is \$14 each.

Anyone who is interested please contact Secretary Sue Abotomey on susieabotomey@hotmail.com

CLUB DRIVER TRAINING

Expressions of Interest are called for-

Dave Van Zanten will hold a Driver training Course in 2021 for those interested. Whether you are new to the 4x4 Club or need an update now is the time to register that interest.

At this stage the dates are yet to be confirmed but hopefully February 13th 2021

Failing that other dates proposed are February 6th or March 13th 2021.

Please contact Dave at dave@dcabs.com.au or Sue on susieabotomey@hotmail.com if you are interested, want to register or want further information.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 9th 2021

Please consider if you are able to put your hand up to take on a Club role.

Remember it is your Club and its made all the better if we all contribute to it.

There will be nomination forms in Track Torque next month, and a list of positions which will be vacant. At this stage we are aware we will need a Secretary.



PRE - TRIP REPORTS

1. CORRYONG – BUSHFIRE RECOVERY AID- NOVEMBER 16TH-20TH

by David Blore

Some might be aware that Kay and I have spent some time over the past four or five months working with the small Uniting Church/Rotary Emergency Fencing Team based in the Corryong region, working to reinstate fencing burnt by the 2019-2020 fires. This has been immensely rewarding but there is still a lot to be done (in fact estimates range from 5 to 10 years of work remain to get back to the pre-fires situation).

I am proposing that the Wangaratta Four Wheel Drive Club could offer some assistance, as has been done in years past, by volunteering to work with the team on a property or two in Corryong. The Pajero Cub has already been up and once the Melbourne restrictions are lifted are planning on coming again. Details of a proposed Club trip are therefore as follows:-

Trip Dates:

Start: Monday 16th November - arrive at Cudgewa Football Club in time to set up and enjoy an evening meal with the Coordinators.

Return Home: Friday afternoon 20th Nov (or earlier if your circumstance or bad weather dictates).

Accommodation:

Own caravan, tent or swag, or stretcher in the clubrooms of Cudgewa Football Club.

The clubrooms have good facilities with numerous showers etc (only completed in 2014). Covid distancing is not an issue: the clubrooms could accommodate 36 people under the current rules.

Meals:

Breakfast, morning tea and lunch are provided. You are asked to bring one evening meal (main and dessert) to share with the group (hopefully of around 10-12 people).

What to Bring:

Normal camping equipment dependent on whether you are caravanning or whatever. Personal protective gear e.g. gloves, hats, good boots (although gloves are available in the equipment trailer),

sunscreen, hats (again), and sturdy clothes (a lot of barb wire is in use in the locality). The Team is fully equipped with tractor, Polaris, trailers and all fencing necessities: strainers, wire cutters, pliers etc.

Other Info or Queries:

I would like to have a handle on numbers a fortnight before the proposed dates (i.e. 6th November) so I can plan with the Coordinators for getting maximum value to the community from our visit. Please respond or address any questions directly to me by email david.blore@gmail.com or phone **0407 885 410**. We would love to have your company!

Regards,
David

1. HIGH COUNTRY TRIP 23rd to 26th NOVEMBER 2020

I am running a trip into the High-Country commencing Monday 23rd through to Thursday 26th.

Our route of travel will be the Great Alpine way to the Dargo turn off, just south of Mt. Hotham, south along the Dargo Road taking in the sights of Blue Rag Range to the Trig Point.

About turn and head towards Talbotville.

From Talbotville our journey will take us to the Pinnacles Lookout via Billy Goats Bluff. From the Lookout we will travel along the Howitt Road to the Howitt Hut. From here we will head down King Billy to Lovicks Hut, Bluff Hut and along the Howqua River to Sheep Yard Flats which should be our last camp night.

Thursday will see a leisurely departure to travel back home.

Exactly where we will camp each night is unknown at this stage.

This trip will be run under current Covid rules at the time of the trip.

The route of our Trip will also be subject to the Seasonal Opening of the Tracks and Roads we intend to travel.

I am putting a limit of 10 people, myself and Sue in the 10 count.

I will also run an emergency list if numbers change in the meantime.

Contact me if you are interested.

Graham Abotomey: 0357 273 427 gsabotomey@hotmail.com

More Info to follow to those who book in.

3.GASTRONOMICAL TOUR 2021

Trip Title:	2021 Joint Club Gastronomical Tour Albury Wodonga and Wangaratta 4WD Clubs			
Trip Dates:	27/02/2021	28/02/2021		
	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>		
Trip Leader:	Fiona and Dave	van Zanten	0400 936 113	
	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Contact Info</i>	
Trip Rating:	Easy	Final route to be determined closer to the date but not planning anything that will require low range.		
Number of Vehicles:	No limit			
Suitable for vans/trailers:	I'd prefer we have no vehicles towing because I won't have time to recce the trip prior and although I'm not planning any 4wd tracks there are some back roads, the condition of which I'm not sure about in regards to towing.			
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
	This is a touring / social trip, no special equipment for your vehicle is required other than UHF for staying in touch whilst we travel.			
Fuel and Supplies:	There is fuel available along the way if needed			
Permits, Camp fees, etc	We are intending to stay at Talbingo. There is a campground nearby called Jounama Campground which is listed as free camping, alternatively there is the caravan park with cabins or powered sites and amenities if you prefer.			

Trip Notes:	This will be our 20201 Gastronomical Tour, a joint trip for both Albury Wodonga and Wangaratta 4WD clubs. Come along, have a relaxing and enjoyable weekend, meet new people and enjoy the various foods on offer along the way.
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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



TRIP REPORTS

GOING WITH THE FLOW.... Irene Jones

Well, it's now October and sadly, we are still dealing with Covid-19 and all that goes with it. I last updated you all on my 'around Australia 2020' trip from 'lockdown' on my uncle's farm in Tamworth. A bit has happened since then. I write this from Port Lincoln (SA) - which is where I was headed back in March when state borders started closing.

I want to say up front - that I am VERY grateful that I have been able to travel / holiday in some extraordinarily beautiful parts of the country, while friends, family and no doubt, some if not most, Wangaratta 4WD Club members have been unable to get away.

So, an update. One of the bigger challenges for me this year has been that I contracted a virus... no, not coronavirus - but the Ross River Virus, from when I got bitten by mozzies at a free camp just west of Cobar on my way to Tamworth. What a weird and cruel virus it is in how it impacts the body... but hey, it's not coronavirus - so it's manageable.

I stayed 'locked down' in Tamworth for 8 weeks, until travel within NSW was permitted. I then went visiting other family and friends, ensuring I stayed in the north of the state so I could make a bee-line for the Queensland border once it opened. I spent time in Tenterfield, Mullumbimby, Wauchope and Forster/Seal Rocks - all beautiful places (despite some crazy weather). My visit to Wauchope and Forster hadn't really been part of my NSW plan, but a dear friend from Seal Rocks, who I met on my 'half way around Australia 2008' trip, died unexpectedly, so I went to stay with his wife (also my friend of course). It was very sad and such a shock.



Also, whilst I was in Forster, I learned that my beautiful gentle old dog Ella, had a benign mouth tumour. It was surgically removed, but quickly grew back bigger. She is almost 14 years old, so no more surgeries for her. She's still doing okay at the moment, but when she stops enjoying life (and food).... well, I won't let her suffer.



So after those hiccups - I did finally make it into Queensland - hooray!!!! I pretty much started to make my way toward the NT border from the get-go, so only travelled as far north as Yeppoon to visit friends, and then headed west.



My very brave friend (whose husband died in June), joined me while I was at Lake Dunn, just north-east of Barcaldine, and has been travelling with me on and off since. She's in the 4WD and camper trailer that her and her husband travelled around in for the last 13 years. I think she is very brave to be doing this on her own at this time.

So into the NT we went on August 16th, crossed the Barkly Tablelands, then headed north - spending a good deal of time at magical Mataranka, remote Douglas-Daley, exotic Darwin, and the picturesque Litchfield National Park. And it was very hot - so much swimming was done!!

After Litchfield we started south toward 'the Centre' with several stops along the way - some overnights - others for a few days - until we reached beautiful Alice, where we stayed for 2 weeks. In Alice we had a few hot dusty days around 38 degrees, then a change brought maximum day time temperatures of 12 - with rain. Unbelievable!!! Every time I go to 'the red Centre' - I swear - it gets more and more beautiful.



After Alice, I made my way south with overnight stops at Marla, Coober Pedy and Woomera. The countryside was absolutely stunning due to recent rains - so much green, and wild-flowers just beginning to burst into colour. And many of the usually dry salt lakes were also full of water. It was a wonderful sight to see.

So now I'm finally on the Eyre Peninsular - and finally visiting places I've wanted to visit for a very long time. After the 'loop' from Whyalla, Port Lincoln, Coffin Bay, Streaky Bay, Ceduna - it'll be an eastward journey back around to Adelaide, visiting sights along the way. I'll go over to Kangaroo Island for 10 days - which is another place I had intended to visit earlier in the year (haven't been there before) - but the catastrophic bushfires changed that plan. I'm sure regeneration and recovery is well underway there, so I'm very much looking forward to going.



I'll head further east and back into Victoria late December or early January - still visiting places and people along the way, and all being well, I will arrive home in Beechworth after the Australia Day long weekend.

It's been a wonderful, interesting and challenging year - but it will well and truly be time to go home by then. I'm getting very tired. And with a bit of luck, my beautiful Ella will make it back too, and get to live out her final days in the comfort of her own home / back yard. Whilst she's loved the camps (and the camper), and loved the attention she's received from other people along the way, she's hated the transit part of the trip. I'm sure she'll be very happy to never have to go anywhere in the car again. So that's the year that was, with opportunities to 'go with the flow' provided very nicely by the universe - mostly in the form of a global pandemic.

2020 – Trip & Event Calendar

NOVEMBER 2020

TUESDAY November 2nd	Committee Meeting	Thursday 5 th November		Wangaratta Club	6.00pm meal 6.30pm meeting
TUESDAY November 9th	General Meeting	CANCELLED			

DECEMBER 2020

TUESDAY December 1st	Committee Meeting	To be held at Stringbark Camp			
SATURDAY DECEMBER 5TH TO SUNDAY DECEMBER 6TH	XMAS CAMP WEEKEND	Stringbark Creek Camp		Bring you own everything AS PER TRIP PLAN above	
TUESDAY November 8th	General Meeting/ Xmas Break Up	Tarrawingee Clubrooms		BBQ Dinner Club will provide meat. Members please a Salad to share	6.00pm start

JANUARY 2021

TUESDAY January 5th	Committee Meeting	No meeting			
TUESDAY January 12th	Social Gathering			Tarrawingee Pub or Milawa Hotel for dinner (Venue to be confirmed) Members are invited to camp at the Tarrawingee Clubrooms overnight if desired. Toilet facilities will be open	6.30pm for 7.00pm start

FEBRUARY 2021

TUESDAY February 2nd	Committee Meeting	Wangaratta Club			6.00pm start
TUESDAY February 9th	General Meeting	Tarrawingee Clubrooms			8.00pm start
February 13 th (February 6 th or March 13 th as possible alternate dates)	Driver Training Course	Venue to be confirmed		Details to be confirmed Expressions of Interest called For Contact – Dave Van Zanten at dave@dcabs.com.au or Sue Abotomey on susieabotomey@hotmail.com	

MARCH 2021

TUESDAY March 2nd	Committee Meeting	Wangaratta Club			6.00pm start
TUESDAY March 9th	Annual General Meeting	Tarrawingee Clubrooms			8.00pm start

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TRACK TORQUE



NOVEMBER 2020

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