

“Responsible Four Wheel Driving And Family Touring”



AUGUST 2021
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	Irene Jones
Secretary	Beryl Strang
Treasurer	Mick Maher

Other Committee Members-

Newsletter editor	Bev Maher
Publicity Officer	Bev Maher
Trip Coordinator	Damian O'Connor
Membership	Manfred Wagner
Graham Abotomey	
Sue Abotomey	

Non-Committee Positions-

Training Coordinator	Dave van Zanten
FWDV Representative	Dave Van Zanten
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, 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 \$80.00 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 2021.

Travel restrictions and social gatherings have been in place that have prevented us from being involved in activities this last month which leaves me very little to report on. We can only look forward to better times in the coming months. I am looking forward to hearing from the members who have managed to escape. There are sure to be many great places visited along with a few trials along the way.

Nothing left to say really.

Neville Sonogo.

President.

Club Contact Details

Name and Position Held	Mobile Number	Email Address
Neville Sonogo (President)	0427 251 576	nsonogo1@yahoo.com
Beryl Strang (Secretary)	03 5728 1825	jbandbj.strang@bigpond.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 4x4 Club Meeting Minutes

No Club minutes to relay as last month, the Club enjoyed a social evening at the Town & Country, in Wangaratta.

Wangaratta 4x4 Club Inc.



August Meeting Cancellation

Due to the Victorian Lockdown announced yesterday (LokkyD6) the Club Meeting planned for Tuesday August 10th has been cancelled.

Keep safe everyone.

Best wishes especially to those dealing with border openings, closings and barricading, as you attempt to trip around the country.

The Committee will keep you informed of Club news, as we all tiptoe our way around the pandemic.

CLUB NEWS-

COVID PROTOCOLS REMAIN IN PLACE FOR ALL CLUB ACTIVITIES



***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.:

- 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 and wear a face mask when unable to maintain adequate social distancing.
- Wash/Sanitise your hands regularly
- Don't share cutlery, plates or glasses
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.

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 MEMBERSHIP FEES

Thank you to everyone who has paid their Club fees and renewed their registration with our Club.

The Club subscriptions have now been sent off to relevant Organisations.

Treasurer- Mick Maher

CLUB SATELLITE PHONE-

Club currently has Satellite phone which is available to be used for Club events or other Trips.

Usage and Data costs to be borne by user

Currently Craig kindly pays for a monthly plan, to avoid each user needing to set up a new plan & SIM card for any use. Anyone who uses the phone pays for that monthly cost and for the cost of any calls (currently \$2 per minute/50c texts)

Club trips have first priority for use, then individual Club members.

Booking Contact is: Craig Cheetham crackles101@gmail.com / 0428 538 478

4WD Victoria – First Aid Course

We have a one day first aid course scheduled for **Saturday 28th August, 2021.**

Location: St Simons School Hall, Rowville or Wellness on Wellington, Rowville.

Time: 9:00am for 9:30am start

Cost: Level 2 = \$95.00 CPR only = \$55.00

Please ask members to call the office directly if they would like to attend. Places are limited.

Alison McLaughlin 03 98747222

CLUB APPAREL – AVAILABLE FROM**PRE - TRIP REPORTS****1. Tasmania Trip – March 2022**

by Dave & Fiona Van Zanten

Trip Title:	2022 Joint Club Tassie Tour		
Trip Dates:	6/03/2022 <small>From</small>	25/03/2022 <small>To</small>	
Trip Leader:	Fiona and Dave <small>First Name</small>	van Zanten <small>Surname</small>	0400 936 113 <small>Contact Info</small>
Trip Rating:	Easy Final trip	planning to be confirmed. Planning base camps with our camper and day trips from those locations.	
<small>Select rating then add notes if needbe</small>			
Number of Vehicles:	No limit		
Suitable for vans/trailers:	Yes. If you wish to tow a camper or caravan I suggest you book the ferry ASAP. On our last trip to Tassie bookings for the return trip were booked out quite quickly.		

Trip Proforma

We expect that by March next year Covid will be under control and hope that it won't play a part but be aware that some bookings can't be cancelled and don't include Covid refunds so you may wish to consider travel insurance to cover such situations.

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 mainly a touring / social trip, nothing other than a UHF for convoy chat is required. We hope to do a bit of 4WDing, nothing extreme. Anyone wishing to join us in that will need basic recovery gear.			

Fuel and Supplies:	There is generally fuel available as required
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Fuel required, fuel availability, cater for how many meals, spare parts required, etc

Permits, Camp fees, etc	At this stage the ferry booking is the main thing to get sorted. The trip dates above are the dates of our ferry booking. Much of our camping will be at free sites or locations where charges are minimal.
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Trip Notes:	We have a rough itinerary planned at this stage. Anyone wishing to join us is welcome to do the whole trip or portions of it with us. We've been to Tassie a couple of times and there are things we've seen and wish to re-visit, some we don't wish to re-visit, and lots still on the 'to do' list, etc but together we can all plan a trip that suits and hopefully keep it a bit flexible so we can work in with whatever the weather throws at us.
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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

Day	Date	From	To	Staying at	Cost	
1	Sunday	6-Mar-22	Home	Dewarport	Overnight on boat	\$77
2	Monday	7-Mar-22	Davenport	Liffey Falls		
3	Tuesday	8-Mar-22	Liffey Falls	Launceston		
4	Wednesday	9-Mar-22	Launceston	Launceston		
5	Thursday	10-Mar-22	Launceston	St Helens		
6	Friday	11-Mar-22	St Helens	St Helens		
7	Saturday	12-Mar-22	St Helens	Freychnet		
8	Sunday	13-Mar-22	Freychnet	Freychnet		
9	Monday	14-Mar-22	Freychnet	Near Hobart		
10	Tuesday	15-Mar-22	Near Hobart	Tahune	Tahune	\$51
11	Wednesday	16-Mar-22	Tahune	Tahune	Tahune	\$71
12	Thursday	17-Mar-22	Tahune	Southport / Recherche Bay		
13	Friday	18-Mar-22	Southport / Recherche Bay	Miena		
14	Saturday	19-Mar-22	Miena	Lake St Clair		
15	Sunday	20-Mar-22	Lake St Clair	Queenstown		
16	Monday	21-Mar-22	Queenstown	Queenstown		
17	Tuesday	22-Mar-22	Queenstown	Tullah		
18	Wednesday	23-Mar-22	Tullah	Cradle Mountain		
19	Thursday	24-Mar-22	Cradle Mountain	Cradle Mountain		
20	Friday	25-Mar-22	Cradle Mountain	Home	Overnight on boat	\$77

2. WIMMERA WANDER- HARROW TRIP

by Chris Sonego



Pre-Trip Report Wangaratta 4WD Club

Name of Trip:	Harrow Sound and Light Show	
Date/s:	2/11/2021	8/11/2021

From

To

Timings: Include where to meet, departure time and return time	Melville Caves — Kooreh State Forest camping ground. Leaving Thurs 4 th for the Murtoa Stick Shed. Camping at/near Horsham.		
Trip Details: List things such as Destination, Plan, Expected weather, Sights, Places, Key track names, etc	Arrive Harrow Fri 5 th . Sound and Light Show Sat 6 th . Bluestone woolshed tour Sun 7 th . General activities around Harrow for rest of the time		
Trip Leader:	Chris	Sonego	0427251576

First Name

Surname

Contact Info

Trip Rating: A brief description of likely conditions to be encountered	Easy	Road tour
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Select rating then add notes if needbe

Number of Vehicles:	Whoever wants to come			
Suitable for: List type of vehicle, whether campers or caravans can be taken, etc.	caravans/campers			
Vehicle Requirements: 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.	Tyres	Highway	Winch	No
	Lift	No	Snorkel	No
Click here to enter texts				

Fuel and Supplies: Brief description of where fuel and other supplies can be obtained if at all.	Readily available
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Trip Specific Info: Food, clothing, prohibited items, fire restrictions, other items to bring, etc	Self catering except for meal Sat night
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Permits, Camp fees, etc	To be arranged
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Send this completed form to the trip co-ordinator, web site administrator and the newsletter editor.

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.

Chris has the following itinerary in mind, subject to adjustment (except for Friday 5th & Saturday 6th Nov at Harrow):

Wed 2nd Nov.(or Tuesday 1st see Note) - camp at Melville Caves. On the map it is the Koreh State forest, near Inglewood.

Note: We liked the look of this so much we decided on 2 nights there, so we will probably go Tuesday-contingent on weather.

Thurs 4th - visit to the Stick Shed at Murtoa. Worth a Google to see about it. Camp at/near Horsham.

Fri 5th - Travel to Harrow to get good camping spot. Look around Harrow and Johnny Mullagh Cricket Centre.

Sat 6th - Drive to Bailey's Rocks. Picnic lunch.
Sound and Light Show and pub tea.

Sun 7th - Morning tea and tour of historic bluestone woodshed. This depends numbers but we should be able to muster enough.
There is a historic settlement at Warrock nearby which might open for us.
Numbers issue again.

Some of these details may change but this is a rough outline. This is a touring trip rather than a 4wd one and is suitable for all vans.

Chris- sonego48@yahoo.com

HARROW TRIP UPDATE:

Chris has sent the following information for those who are joining the trip to Harrow this November:

"I have 19 takers for the trip.

They don't take unpaid reservations but there are plenty of spaces available for Nov 6th.

Each person needs to book on Try Booking - site will come up on Google.

You fill in Harrow, 3317, Nov 6th and the payment option comes up.

This web address

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=755648&>

Anyone who has a problem can just let me know.

I will book 10 unpowered sites for the Friday, Saturday and Sunday- pay when you get there.

I have booked the morning tea at the woodshed for Sunday - again, pay on the day.

Here's to a good trip,

Chris."



TRIP REPORTS

In the light of no Trip Reports from other members due to COVID restrictions within our State and others, Mike and I will bore you all with a little about our Lockdown experience at Roxby Downs.

ROXBY DOWNS, SA - LOCKDOWN JULY 2021

Our experience started when we were at Port Augusta, literally on way home, after having had our plans for WA cancelled and subsequently spending some weeks in South Australia.

We were made aware of the new travel restrictions in Victoria and on a spur of the minute decision, we decided rather than continue on to Victoria as planned, we would head up to Roxby Downs for a couple of days to wait until Victoria restrictions were eased.

We arrived at the Roxby Downs and were immediately impressed with the clean and tidy town we were in. We booked into the Roxby Downs Caravan Park for 2 days. We had a look around the area, and although they were not currently doing Mine tours, we saw a very good Video presentation of the Mine at the Information Centre. There is also a wonderful Program going on at present called Arid Recovery. It is conservation, research initiative sponsored by BHP and Adelaide University. The program is centred around a fenced reserve which has eradicated feral cats, rabbits and foxes and provides an area of protection to facilitate the restoration of an entire arid eco-system and has aided

the reintroduction of 6 locally extinct, threatened species of small mammals. We were to do night tour of the Program but alas COVID struck and South Australia was in complete lockdown.

This came as a great surprise to us as SA had only 3 cases all around Adelaide and major areas, and we were literally in the Outback. So, on our second day, we were advised we could not travel anywhere from 6pm that night and had to stay at the Park for the next 7 days. We managed a quick drive out to Andamooka, to see what can only be described as a very different town- certainly steeped in great opal mining history but effectively almost a ghost town now, plus some grocery shopping to top up supplies.

So, we were now isolated to our caravan. Thankfully because the park is classified as a “work park”, as it provides an enormous amount of cabin accommodation for transient Miners, we were able to use facilities, and walk around what is a huge area. We were not allowed to travel more than 2.5 kms but we were allowed to walk into the main town area for a total of 90 min daily for some exercise and a coffee fix. The Park was almost empty with only 8 other Caravanners and a few others in cabin accommodation.

About Roxby Downs- Roxby Downs was originally a cattle station. With the discovery of a large ore base on the property, the Olympic Dam Mining Company was formed. The town of Roxby Downs is the town built to support that Mine, now owned and operated by BHP Billiton.

The town has a transient population of around 4,500 people and was opened officially only in 1988. It has all the modern amenities, needed to serve both the Mine and the Community. A large portion of the population work for the Olympic Mine Company in some capacity.

The Mine is a huge underground mine and integrated metallurgical processing plant, processing raw materials onto production of a final product. Main products are Uranium with by-products of Copper, Gold and Silver. The site comprises ore zones spread over several square kilometres and ranging in depth up to 1 kilometre. It employs around 4000 people. Many are FIFO (fly in fly out) workers and most of these live in the specially constructed private Mining Village at the Mine site.

The average temperature of the area is 35.8 degrees in summer and 19.3 degrees in winter. Average rainfall is 148 mm per annum. So, it is dry and hot, although from our stay, we called it warm and pleasant.

Water supply is sourced from the Great Artesian Basin near the SE of Lake Eyre. It is pumped some 200kms to a desalination plant on the BHP Mining lease where it is cooled, de-salinated and stored ready for use or distribution. The town of Roxby Downs purchases it's water supplies from BHP and it is pumped 10 kms to a covered storage facility on the outskirts of town. From our experience the water was good- clear and good to use.

Power is via BHP owned 256kV and 132kV power lines which transmit electricity from the national grid in Port Augusta to Olympic Dam. A 33kV line then serves the Roxby Downs Township and is managed by Roxby Power.

Overall, it is a very nice, interesting town. Much more to see and do within driving range but unfortunately, not on this visit. We could have been locked down in many worse places for sure.



Our Campsite



Sturt Desert Pea in local garden



Roxby Downs- main centre



FIFO Village



Large Airstrip



Power Supply to Roxby Downs from Port Augusta

2021 – Trip & Event Calendar

AUGUST 2021

TUESDAY August 3rd	Committee Meeting	Wangaratta Club		CANCELLED	6.00pm start
TUESDAY August 10th	General Meeting	Tarrawingee Car Club Rooms		CANCELLED	8.00pm start

SEPTEMBER

TUESDAY September 7th	Committee Meeting	Wangaratta Club			6.00pm start
TUESDAY September 14th	General Meeting	Tarrawingee Car Club Rooms			8.00pm start

OCTOBER

TUESDAY October 5th	Committee Meeting	Wangaratta Club			6.00pm start
TUESDAY October 12th	General Meeting	Tarrawingee Car Club Rooms			8.00pm start

NOVEMBER

TUESDAY November 2nd	Committee Meeting	Wangaratta Club			6.00pm start
TUESDAY November 9th	General Meeting	Tarrawingee Car Club Rooms			8.00pm start
TUESDAY November 2 nd – November 8th	WIMMERRA WANDERER “HARROW TRIP”	As per Pre-Trip Report		Chris Sonego sonego48@yahoo.com	
Last week in November	HIGH COUNTRY COBBERAS TRACK	Details to be confirmed		David Blore david.blore@gmail.com	

DECEMBER

TUESDAY December 6th	Committee Meeting	Wangaratta Club			6.00pm start
TUESDAY December 13th	General Meeting XMAS MEETING	Tarrawingee Car Club Rooms			8.00pm start

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