



DRIVE TORQUE eNEWS

JULY 2023



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A Message from the President



Dear members

Not all of you knew Kim Nolan but it is with great sadness and a very heavy heart, that I send this notification to you all regarding a phone call received today from Ann-Marie, Kim Nolan's daughter.

Kim passed away suddenly late last week at his home. Ann-Marie had a letter from Kim asking her to contact me and let the club members know. It was a very brave call from Ann-Marie at this extremely difficult time. I assured her that Kim's friends from the club stand by ready to support her and the family in the coming weeks. I will speak to her again later this week, in the meantime we will send a sympathy card and offer our sincere condolences. At this time Ann-Marie did not have any timing or details for a memorial service. She did however say Kim would have wanted something simple and low key. I will convey more information when it is available.

As you may also know, another member of our club family, Karen Campbell, passed away on Tuesday last week. Karen Campbell bravely fought a long battle with cancer. The club has sent flowers and a card to Paul and the family, but I am sure you will all join me in offering our deepest sympathies and condolences during this difficult time. You may have already seen Karen's funeral details but please also see here. Forest Lawn Cemetery, Leppington 26th July at 10am, followed her wake at Gregory Hills Hotel at 11am. The family has asked people attending to wear colour to celebrate her life.

I know many of you are already reaching out, offering support and love and I am sure this will continue by those in our small club family. Please feel free to call me if you need any information or support.

"At the time of publication, we do not have any further details regarding time or location of a service or gathering for Kim. I am staying in touch with the family and will advise when more details come to hand."

Kind regards
Mark Honor
Club President
0418 406 118

VALE

In Memory Of Karen Campbell

Paul and Karen Campbell have been active members of our Club for close to 20 years, with Karen holding a few different committee positions throughout the years.

Karen was an outgoing, vibrant and cheerful friend to us all. She always had time to listen, had a great sense of humour and would go out of her way to help anyone. Karen enjoyed camping and travelling in the outback and had a strong desire to return to Birdsville for the Big Red Bash.

Karen had a love of cooking and held the Committee position of Catering Officer for many years. The basic tea, coffee & bickies at our meetings at Ermington went out the window and we were treated to homemade cakes, slices & hot foods, more often than not paid for by Karen. Fivies on trips consisted of gourmet cheeses and meats that I had never heard of, but tasted divine! I was also lucky enough to enjoy a few meals & dampers that Karen concocted in the camp oven. It never ceased to amaze that after 2 weeks on the road Karen would announce that she was doing fivies and out would come an array of delicious nibblies. Those car & camper fridges seemed to be bottomless! Karen also organised and catered a few of our Club Christmas parties that were enjoyed by all those that attended.

Karen's vibrant personality was punctuated with colourful, quirky hairstyles and long, bright, artistic painted nails that all came together in a fun loving, generous, fantastic friend. Behind the bright exterior, Karen was compassionate and had a heart of gold.

Karen's admirable determination trait was seen over the past 18 months as she bravely fought cancer. Karen, may you now Rest In Peace & be pain free. You will be sadly missed, but we will cherish the memories, the laughs and the fun times.

Jo



SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

Date -	Friday, July 14, 2023	
Venue -	Ermington Community Centre	
Meeting Commenced -	8:04pm	
Attendance -	Michael Hamilton (Mt Annan), David Wellham, Kevin McCormack, Robert Leung, Bill Twyman, Dave Cook, Chris & Kelly Mifsud, Ray & Cheryl Bonello, Stephen Bennett, Alex Gatward, Stephen Eakin, Iwan & Evie Sujono, Geoff Adcock, Andrew Rowlatt, Brett Hampson	
Apologies -	Mark & Karolyn Honor, Paul Sistrom, Jo Quinn, David Bennett, Sue Bennett, Fiona Hampson	
Minutes of Previous Meeting -	June Meeting at Mt York on Saturday June 17	
Business Arising from Minutes -	Nil	
New Members -	Nil	
Vice President's Report -	See Attached	
Secretary's Report -	(Paul)	
Treasurer's Report -	Brett	Available funds as at 30/6/2023 = \$9,764.68
Membership Sec. Report -	(Karolyn)	REMEMBER TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP Fees again reduced to \$50
Editor's Report -	Stephen	Reminder 22nd of the month cutoff for content
Driver Awareness Report -	(Brian)	Theory at meetings in September and October Association training days are available
Trip Conveners' Report -	Brett / Bill	VERBAL REPORTS ON RECENT TRIPS Book now for Christmas trip
Association Delegate's Report -	David	See report in newsletter
Social -	Alex	Nil
Fundraising -	(Fiona)	Considering lucky door prize at meetings
Webmaster -	(Troy)	Catered meetings listed as trips - register \$10 hats special on Club Shop
Public Relations -	(Jo)	Brochures and Business Cards to hand out
Serjeant-at-Arms -	Bill	Geoff was a little rowdy at the back of the meeting

GENERAL BUSINESS - Nil
Next Meeting - AGM Sunday August 13
Close - 9:20pm

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thanks for attending meetings, and big thanks to David for organising our booking here

Sad news re one of our long-standing members Karen Campbell
Invite Chris to tell us a bit about Karen
Karolyn has sent flowers to Paul on behalf of the Club

Events - Thanks to Jo / Chris / David W for running recent trips
Like to hear from some of these who've attended these trips later
Trip next weekend (Details later in the meeting + details of other trips)

AGM Western Sydney Parklands SUNDAY August 13 with BBQ lunch
September Meeting at Ermington Hall
Oktoberfest at Olinda + Christmas Party Saturday December 12

RE AGM - We will need people to start thinking about Committee Roles
Several people stepping down after many years of service
Stephen has published role statements in last newsletter
Consider each role as being vacant
GO THROUGH EACH ROLE
INFO ON PROXY VOTING AND PROXY NOMINATIONS
Proxies to be emailed to Club Committee

Karen's Funeral Service will be held on July 26 at Forest Lawn

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC.

Treasurers Report

Jun-23

Cash Book Balance Brought Forward	\$10,671.23
Plus Income	\$1,000.00
Less Expenditure	\$1,906.55
Closing Balance	<u><u>\$9,764.68</u></u>

Income - Memberships \$1,000.00

Expenditure -
Paypal Fees \$24.00
D. Wellham reimbursement \$100.55
Association fee \$1,782.00

Bank Reconciliation

Bank Account Balance as at 30/6/2023 ANZ \$8,170.53

Less Unpresented Cheques \$0.00

Plus Funds held in Pay Pal as at 30/6/2023 \$1,258.40
Cash on Hand \$335.75

Available Funds as at 30/6/2023 \$9,764.68



Association News & Updates: July 2023

Hello from David Wellham – your friendly Delegate to Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT (Association). If you would like to join me to represent our club to the Association, please contact. Association documents are located on our website. Please contact via email at - delegates@subaruclub.com.au for information about these topics or in relation to the Association. Looking forward to seeing you all on the tracks or at a meeting soon.

Hello, there is not much to report this month. I received an Association newsletter detailing some important information regarding our insurance. There is a lot to read, so please let me know if you have any questions and I will take them to Association for reply. Also there are details of 4WD & Adventure Show Volunteer programme. Till next month, keep it safe out there on the tracks.

4WD & Adventure Show – Eastern Creek – 8, 9 10 September 2023

As a club we have decided not to have a club stand this year. There will be a lot of changes at the show, there are space issues due to the many exhibitors booked and there might be a small demo track created. Our club members are able to volunteer to assist Association with various tasks for up to 2 hours, this allows free entry and lunch on the day.

You can register with this link – <https://4wdnow.com/pages/4wd-adventure-show-1>



2023/24 Insurance Q & A

Explanation 1. What does the Public Liability policy cover me for?

A. Public Liability covers the organisation, its members and volunteers third party personal injury and/or property damage should they be deemed negligent at any point in time.

Explanation 2. What does Volunteer Personal Accident cover me for?

A. Covers all club volunteers, members and their registered visitors; along with all associated office bearers and officials of the Policyholder for accidental injury or death whilst carrying out club sanctioned activities as per policy terms and conditions. Volunteers Personal Accident acts like Workers Compensation but for volunteers should they sustain injury unto themselves whilst volunteering for the organisation.

Explanation 3. What does Protector/Association Liability cover me for?

A. Protector/Association Liability covers the financial loss arising from alleged wrongdoing in providing advice, management, any breach of a legislative act, Employee or Volunteer.

NOTE: This cover has never been extended to the Clubs under the NSW and ACT Policy. Please see Q13 and Q14 to find out why.

Explanation 4. How does our Member-to-Member insurance extension to our Public Liability Insurance cover members.

A. Our public liability policy insures the group as a whole, and our member-to-member liability extension insures all members as individuals when they injure other members or damage their property. The insurer considers individual members to be insured with the addition of Member to Member.

Possible Scenario #1

On a club trip, Adam is happily sitting by the fire when Bob walks past with a pot of boiling water. Bob trips on a rock and as he falls, the boiling water is splashed over Adam's legs resulting in serious burns. Adam will require medical attention and time off work. Adam feels that he needs to recover some costs from Bob.

When Adam sues Bob, the insurance company will be there to defend Bob.

Possible Scenario #2

Members have a golf day and whilst on the golf course, Bob does not wait for the appropriate time to tee off (even after being inducted to the activity) and hit Adam in the head. Adam then suffers bodily injury and engages lawyers to demand compensation. Bob was negligent and therefore the policy will respond. There will be a formal process where the insurer will review extensively and look to defend Bob.

Without Member to Member When Adam sues Bob the insurance company will not defend Bob as Adam and Bob are one under the policy.

The purchase of insurance for our members under our umbrella is necessary to gain the advantage of lower prices. We only cover clubs that are affiliated with us and do not advertise or promote the insurance. We set our membership fee at a price and the insurance price is listed separately for our members. We list it separately because the membership price can't change without voting at our AGM the previous year. However, the insurance price floats up or down depending upon the final quote from AON.

Q 1. As the insurance cost is listed separately on the invoice to members, is it possible that this would be considered to be "selling Insurance" without a licence?

A. AON organises a group policy for 4WD NSW and ACT for all declared members and activities. One invoice is issued to 4WD NSW and ACT for payment based on declared individual numbers, club members and activities. If these numbers are exceeded, then they are referred to AON for quoting and possible extra premium.

AON has an Australian licence to provide the insurance and 4WD NSW and ACT are acting as mere referers to AON. AON provides terms and the invoice to 4WD NSW and ACT and you are simply recouping the premium paid with no profit from members benefiting from the insurance, and showing the insurance component versus the member component for complete transparency.

State Forests allow access by any user group to hold events etc within their borders. However, they must obtain and pay for a permit to enter.

4WD NSW and ACT Inc have an MOU with State Forests. That allows us to pay an annual invoice to cover all of our members within a forest. They still have to apply for the permit to gain permission for their event, (training, day trip, camping etc.) but do not need to pay.

The permit must be shown to a ranger and our membership sticker on vehicles proves they are a member and therefore have prepaid.

Q2. If a club did not apply for the permit and was therefore trespassing in a State Forest. Would they be covered under the insurance?

A. Each member (club) is required to do the right thing and apply for permits and if this is deliberately ignored and not adhered to then the insurance policy will not respond. They do so at their own risk and this should be clearly communicated to each member.

Q3. Are our Club and Committee members covered by insurance while conducting official Club business which is not advertised as a Club event?

Examples include, but are not limited to:

a) Our Publicity Officer collecting Club newsletters from the printer and delivering them to our sponsors, or liaising with sponsors.

Answer. - At the AGM when the person is elected record this in the minutes as duties.

b) Committee members attending meetings with community organisation etc

Answer. - At the AGM when the person is elected record this in the minutes as duties.

c) Club members towing our Club trailer to events etc

Answer - This should be minuted or recorded, not just for insurance.

d) Club members checking on the condition of our driver training area

Answer - Should be recorded again for lots of reasons (just so you know who is there)

e) Trip leaders undertaking a recce of tracks before a Club trip.

Answer - Recces are a club trip.

f) Is there an excess payable when someone makes a claim on the policy?

Answer - Yes there is an excess payable. Contact office@4wdnow.com

Q4. Are club members covered by the insurance if they go bushwalking as part of the 4wdriving trip?

A. Yes, provided that all club members are adhering to the peak body's club procedures and risk management.

Q5. Are club members covered by the insurance if they are camping on privately owned land (with permission) as part of their 4wd driving trip?

A. Club members are covered for any third-party personal injury and/or property damage at their negligence. However, if there was a claim arising out of the land owner's negligence – this is excluded.

Q6. Are club members covered by the insurance if they 4wd and camp on a beach and kayak in a river or ocean?

A. Yes, provided that all club members are adhering to the peak body's club procedures and risk management.

Q7. How do I cover additional club events?

A. These can be an extension to the existing 4WD NSW/ACT Public Liability policy if it is a sanctioned event by 4WD NSW/ACT. If you are holding an event which involves members of the public and not just 4WD NSW/ACT members and their guests, you will need to take out additional one-off event Public Liability coverage. A one-off event declaration form is required to be completed. There may be additional costs. Contact office@4wdnow.com

Q8. When driving in the bush it is possible that there will be a need to cross a creek or river. Our Driver Awareness Facilitators (DAFs) will teach our members how to do this safely and without damage to vehicles, however sometimes things go wrong. In this scenario is there any cover for the DAF that has directed the person into the water?

A. If the trainer is a volunteer, providing assistance and their expertise, for no fee and they sustain injury during any voluntary activity then they are covered for personal injury. Damage to vehicles may be covered under the vehicle policy and is the responsibility of the Licenced driver/owner of the vehicle.

Q9. We have a few clubs that own property, if they were to be sued for some reason what covers are in place for them to protect their assets?

A. There is no cover for physical assets. This would be covered under Property insurance which is the responsibility of the property owner.

Q10. Would legal costs be covered if a member falsely claimed discrimination and pursued it legally.

A. Generally, legal costs are covered under the Protector/Association Liability for Employment Practices Liability which these claims of this nature would fall under.

Q11. Is molestation now included in our policy?

A. Yes Molestation is included in the policy.

Q12. When do I receive my Certificate of Currency?

A. You will receive your Certificate of Currency automatically in July once issued by AON.

Q13. What cover do we have to protect the committees of our clubs?

A. Club committees are not covered under Protector/Association Liability.

Q14. If NSW and ACT Inc did obtain cover for the clubs would there need to be some rules in place on how the clubs operate or precautions, they should take to protect themselves?

A. In terms of rules and precautions, you as the peak body (4WD NSW and ACT Inc) will need to ensure that all clubs are adhering to the constitution and procedures as they will essentially be covered under the current Protector/Association Liability policy.

Comment from Maggie (State Insurance Officer).

This can be discussed at the next quarterly meeting in August. Obtaining this cover is not just a matter of paying the extra premium.

We would need to gather accurate financial information from each club on an annual basis. As all clubs would be paying a share of the extra premium all clubs would need to submit their data.

In addition to gathering this data, 4WD NSW and ACT Inc would have to ensure that all clubs are adhering to safe procedures, constitutions etc. As we do not have control over your club committees and you are self-governing it would not be possible for us to do so, which in the event of a claim by a club would render the policy potentially useless.

However, if this is something that you wish me to pursue, I am happy to start the process for 24/25.

Risk Assessments.

Each trip should be assessed by the trip leader as part of their role and any risks should be evaluated. Ensure variations and worse case scenarios are considered.

The Risk Assessment should be written and provided as part of the trip information for attendees. It should be kept in a safe place for future use. In the event of a claim it will need to be provided and considered by the insurer as part of the claim process.

Don't panic

This is not as hard as it sounds, most clubs already do this. All you need to do is think about the problem (risk) and find an answer for it.

Examples:

Remote Location

Risk - no phone reception

Remedy - Personal Locator Beacon (one on the trip is sufficient) if you don't have one then let someone at home know where the club will be in case they are delayed returning.

Winery tour social day

Risk - drinking alcohol

Remedy - appoint a designated driver or hire a bus with a driver for everyone

Camping trip in the snow

Risk - Extreme cold weather

Remedy - tell attendees it going to be cold and to bring extra warm sleeping bags or diesel heaters.

This information should be included on the Trip information sheet and members should have access to it so they can decide if they want to sign up for the trip.

BASIC TEMPLATES For the most common forms you will need, if you want the word files, please email office@4wdnow.com

Trip Sign On Sheet template

Incident Report template

Medical Information template

Trip / Activity Info template

Some things that need to be considered as part of the Risk Assessment are:

Safety Equipment

- Snake bite kit
- First Aid kit
- Defibrillator
- Personal locator beacon
- Life jackets
- Medical information sheets

Accessibility

- Remoteness of location
- Accessibility for emergency services
- Mobile phone reception

Weather

- Day and overnight temperature
- Rain, snow, flood, fire

Members Abilities

- Level of 4wd training
- Level of fitness
- Physical disabilities or age
- Vehicle suitability

Track Classification & Equipment

- Track grade in wet conditions
- Equipment required

Permits & Permissions

- Permit for a fire
- Permit for access
- Permission obtained from the land owner
- Private property gates - leave as found or closed.
- 4wd NSW and ACT Inc membership sticker for State Forests

New Member Checklist

- Share equipment
- Provide basic information
- Offer assistance
- Ensure preparedness

Always remember to tell someone where you are going and when to expect your return.

This list is not exhaustive, please consider all aspects of your trip and how it could be impacted if things outside of your control were to change. These are your worst-case scenarios which can be managed more easily if you plan for them in advance.

Trip Convener July report - Bill Twyman

Since the June "Drive Torque" magazine the club has had 4 outings:

- June 24th & 25th - Yadbro Flats Camping Trip (Ulladulla)
- June 27th - 28th - WW #17: Belanglo Damper Challenge overnight camp, showing off their superior "camp oven" cooking skills.
- July 14th - July General Meeting at Ermington Community Centre, 6 River Road Ermington.
- July 22nd - Howes Valley Trail from the Putty Rd to Great North Wollombi.

Upcoming trips

Additional trip information is listed on the Club's upcoming trips page.

- Aug 5th - Up Up & Away - Visit the new Western Sydney International Aerotropolis Experience Centre, Albion Park aviation Museum then watch the hang gliders at Stanwell Tops.

- August 13th - (Sunday) August General Meeting and **Annual General Meeting** (AGM).

10am for 11am meeting, followed by BBQ lunch.

Committee positions will be declared vacant and nominations will be called from members to fill positions.

Will be held at "The Dairy" Western Sydney Parklands, enter Cotswold Road off Cowpasture Road, Abbotsbury

- August 19th - A 2-day camping mystery trip is being planned for this weekend by Alex.
- August 26th - 27th - An Advanced 2-day 4wd driver training weekend at Wallaroo National Park (which is conducted by the NSW & ACT 4WD Association). The cost is \$90, if interested in attending please contact our association delegate David Wellham for further booking details. Limited spots available.
- August 31st - 23rd WW#? - midweek escape campout at Termeil Point in the Merroo National Park, just sth of Ulladulla, camping between the lake & the ocean. You will need to book through NSW National Parks website. Camping is free, but does incur a \$6 booking fee. 8 spots were available - but now only 1 spot remaining.
- Midweek day trip to the "Sheepskin Hut Campground" in the Putty Valley - watch this space.

Date to be confirmed.

- September 8th - General Meeting at the Ermington Community Centre, 6 River Road Ermington, starting at 8pm.

- September 20th - WW #18 - River Boat Postman, Hawkesbury River Cruise
- September 29th - Oct 3rd - Olinda October Fest 4 night camp
- October 14th - A Basic 4wd driver training day at Freemans Waterhole (which is conducted by the NSW & ACT 4WD Association). The cost is \$90, if interested in attending please contact our association delegate David Wellham for further booking details. Limited spots available.
- October 13th - General Meeting at the Ermington Community Centre, 6 River Road Ermington, starting at 8pm.
- November 4th - Tasmania 3-week on road/offroad trip.
- November 10th - BBQ and General Meeting at Ermington, George Kendall Reserve, Trumble Avenue, Ermington. Starting at 6.30 and finishing around 9pm. *Food will be basic sausage sizzle with soft drinks - bring any special food and beverages. Please register so that we know how many sausages etc we need to cook. The Ermington Community Hall at 12 River Road has been booked as a backup venue in case of bad weather.*
- December 2nd - This years' Club Christmas Party is at Coolendel, just west of Nowra. *Please call Coolendel and pay individually for your booking. Mention that you are with the Subaru 4wd club at time of booking. Exact camping area will be confirmed closer to the date. Coolendel: PH1800 001 080*

Sgt at Arms July Report - Bill Twyman

- Jan & I will be holidaying in Darwin 1st Aug to 13th Aug, so I will unfortunately not be at this years AGM & general meeting. The airline changed our returning date.
- Geoff Adcock came close to getting put in the "naughty corner" for his incessant talking during the June General meeting.

Michael's Driving Tips

Part 5 - 4WD Myth Busting

It's always a good idea to think critically about what you hear or read (especially from me). 😊

Advice is passed along over the years, but it may not be fully correct.

Here are a few things I've heard which I'm pretty sure are incorrect. Some have a nugget of truth behind them, but I'm calling them out as Myths. Feel free to disagree.

1. "Leaf springs are tougher than coils."

Leaf springs are often used in commercial vehicles, but that has more to do with cost than performance. You'll find coils used in many military vehicles supporting very high weights.

2. "Wide tyres have a greater contact patch than narrow tyres."

A wide tyre has a contact patch which is wide and short, whereas a narrow tyre has a contact patch which is narrow and long, so the contact patches are really just different shapes.

3. "You don't need to air down the tyres on your trailer."

Your trailer tyres obviously aren't being driven, but if you air them down they will do less damage to the track and your trailer won't be shaken around as much.

4. "Steel winch cable is better."

Steel winch cable stands up better to abrasion, but it's heavier, and more dangerous if it fails. Modern synthetic winch ropes have ratings as high as steel cables.

5. "Manual gear boxes give you more control."

This one is really a matter of personal choice, but modern autos are smoother and allow you to focus more on the track. Auto vehicles aren't prone to stalling, and they make maintaining momentum easier.

Here is a vehicle with coil suspension, not particularly wide tyres, synthetic winch cable, and automatic transmission.

My hope is that it serves me well both on and off road.

I still don't believe it's mine, and I hope that its claimed ruggedness and ability is not a myth. 😊



Weekday Wander #17: Belanglo Damper Challenge Overnighter

27-28th June 2023

Trip Leader: Jo Quinn

Trip Report: Kevin McCormack

Attendees: Chris and Kelly; Geoff; Jo; Kevin and the fox.

I arrived at the camp site about 8am to a balmy 6C and sunny skies so the outlook for the day was good. The spot where we usually camp was taken up by a huge 5th wheeler so I began setting up further down the slope while waiting for others to arrive. This site turned out to be advantageous as there were two huge logs obviously left by the Forestry people for us to burn – challenge accepted!

It wasn't long before Chris, Kelly and Jo arrived, selected their spot for the night and set up camp. Geoff arrived later that morning. Once our camp was established it was time to get the fire going early as we wanted plenty of hot coals for our camp ovens and we certainly had plenty of wood for that thanks to Jo who had loaded up her ute.



Although the temperature was mild we were warmed by the intense sun as it shone though the clear blue sky which made it very easy for us to settle in to a relaxing afternoon by the camp fire. During the afternoon a couple of caravans arrived and a carload of young blokes with minimal camping gear but none too close to us. Some cars came in just for a look around and left again so I can only guess the infamy of Belanglo had attracted them; in fact this was the busiest we had seen the area.

When all the appropriate spreads and toppings had been gathered and sufficient coals had built up Jo's camp oven with a spinach & feta damper was first to cook and it was a great success.



final result unfortunately)

Then it was my turn with a beer damper variation which was a bit of an experiment as I had made the damper dough several days earlier then vacuum packed & froze it; I was very happy with the result. (no pics of the

The scones cooked by Chris & Kelly were certainly a hit along with jam and we had plenty of toppings including Cocky's Joy, honey, jams, cream and butter etc with which to smother the offerings from the camp ovens, so it was all very yummy.

After indulging ourselves with camp oven delights for most of the afternoon and with evening now upon us we arranged our nighttime meals and again settled in around the fire which by now was certainly gaining in intensity as the evening chill descended upon us. Just on dusk a guy by himself parked his ute with a rooftop camper quite near us, maybe for safety, so we invited him to join us but he declined; Geoff must've scared him off.



Monkeys and Foxes

As the campfire intensity increased it was noticed that we had the face of a monkey appearing on the end of one of the large logs being burnt – quite unusual.



After the better-looking members of our group had retired, the blokes stayed up for a while longer enjoying the fire and to our great surprise, literally, a fox appeared out of nowhere right next to Chris – I think it wanted to share the fire as well. Like us, it was startled and ran off to explore the rest of the campground for any tasty snacks (I guess). But a little later it turned up next to Chris again! I feel had we not reacted it would've just stayed there but it was soon off again into the bush.

Just like last year the weather gods were not so good to us the next morning as despite the BOM prediction of rain late in the morning it began raining about 5am. The rain was light, on and off, so it gave us the opportunity to stand around the still-burning campfire for a while and didn't interfere too much with our pack up. It was a nice relaxing event.



(As an aside I was telling a past work colleague about the trip to Belanglo and he said he met Milat on one of his insect collecting trips in Belanglo – fortunately for him he feigned being accompanied by another person!)

Jo's Spinach & Feta Damper

1 cup chopped fresh spinach
1 cup diced feta cheese
2 cups self raising flour

1 onion finely chopped
2 long stalks spring onion finely chopped

Handful grated cheese

Salt & pepper

Enough milk to make a dough

Sesame seeds for on top

Mix all dry ingredients together
Add enough milk to form a dough
Knead lightly & form into a round damper shape
Sprinkle sesame seeds & some spring onions on top
Place in cold camp oven with coals on top and underneath
Replace coals every 10-15 mins
Cook until an inserted knife comes out cleanly & is crusty brown on top, roughly 45 mins
Eat while hot with butter

Chris & Kelly's Scones

As this was sourced from Viv Moon's Outdoor Cookbook the recipe cannot be reproduced due to copyright restrictions. The combined OUTDOOR & TRAVELLERS' COOKBOOK in ebook form can be purchased for about \$16.

Kevin's Beer Damper

3 cups of plain flour (shifted)
3 teaspoons of baking powder (not baking soda)
1 teaspoon of salt
2 tablespoons of fresh rosemary (finely chopped)
1/3 cup grated parmesan (optional)
1 tablespoon of caster sugar
A bottle of beer (I used Corona)

Mix all the dry ingredients in a large bowl then make a well in the centre of the mix and pour in the beer. Use a butter knife (or the back of an ordinary knife) and mix to a soft sticky dough.

Turn the mix onto a lightly floured surface and form into a round. Prepare the camp oven with a foil covered trivet, lightly floured, and place the damper in the centre then score the top into segments. Lightly spread some coals beside the fire and after placing the camp oven on them add lots of coals on top – the main heat is to be from the top. Cook for 30-45 minutes or until the damper sounds hollow when tapped.

Howes Valley Trail - The Putty Rd to The Great North Rd via Howes Valley Trail, Yango Track, Finchley Track & Upper Yango Creek Rd.

Date: 22nd July 2023

Trip Leader: Stephen Bennett/ Bill Twyman

Attendees: Stephen & Sue Bennett Bill & Jan Twyman Chris & Kelly Mifsud
 Michael Hamilton Iwan & Evie Sujono David Fuser & Aaron
 Alex Gatward Paul & Suzi Burns Daniel Sorrasson

Report by: Bill Twyman

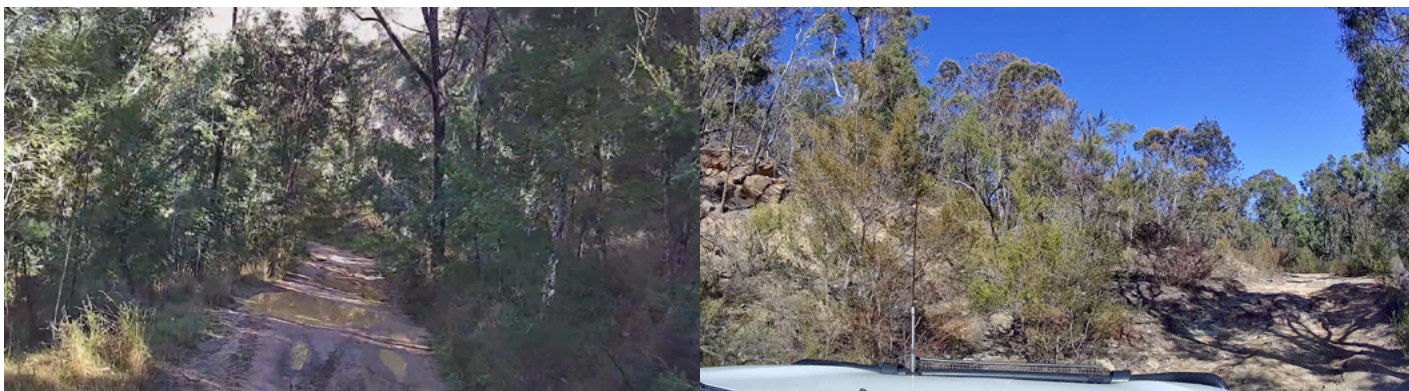
Weather conditions: a very cold start, turned into a beautiful fine sunny day.

The club's 1st genuine offroad trip for the year was not without hiccup. We had a fuel filter leak to repair & I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed by getting themselves covered in diesel fuel to help Stephen, thank you David Fuser, Daniel Sorrasson, Paul Burns & Alex Gatward. For the rest of the group who kept the conversation light hearted & humorous thanks to you as well. We had lost a bit over an hour but finally pressed on without any further problems.



We had met at the Colo River Holiday Park at 8.00am as planned, some grabbing coffees, bacon & egg rolls etc, we hadn't counted on it being 1 degree. Our 1st stop was to be the "Colo Bra Tree" where we did the repairs (but there was a slight access misjudgment when we went down a private property access Rd). 90 odd kms further up the road we entered the Howes Trail through the Putty Rd gate, airing down while having a quick bite to eat & crawled over Michael Hamilton's brand new Ineos Grenadier. We were joined by another group who came in the gate just behind us, but as the track was so narrow & rugged it was too difficult to get them to pass around us, their support vehicle for the motor bikes was happy to just travel with us, our trip leader Steve didn't miss the chance to hand them some Subie club business cards.

The track was slow going with some rough section, technical sections, water crossings, mud/ bog holes sections, steep climbs & descents. We encountered a large tree branch blocking the road & the young blokes with the group travelling behind us were absolutely brilliant at helping us clear the road & make it safe. We arrived at our lunch spot at the Big Yango Campground turn off where Michael had trouble keeping Alex out of the Ineos driver's seat (secretly I think Alex now wants one). Next stop was the Finchley Aboriginal Cultural Area, where we saw thousand-year-old rock carvings with fantastic narration by Steve Bennett, after having the obligatory group photo session it was off to the surveyors trig point on top of the Finchley Lookout.



From Finchleys Lookout it was a much faster drive as we knew we were heading for the Wollombi Pub, via the Upper Yango Creek Rd enjoying some magnificent farm land & horse stud scenery. We stopped in Wollombi, aired up for the trip home & had a quick “pink lemonade” at the pub to discuss the experiences of the trip. I believe someone tried the Dr Jurds Jungle Juice.

Welcome to Suzi & Paul Burns new members to the club & their 1st trip with us, driving their Subaru Forester, which unfortunately suffered some minor bullbar damage.

Bill

Howes Trail trip report by Daniel

You could say that the trip started off with a crisis (with a mechanical breakdown. Noting it was an after market part that failed). But as they say, the Chinese word for crisis is the same word for opportunity. It was great to see the team work together and see what tools and spares people carry in their vehicle.



Steve offered to stay but the group made sure he was not left behind. My car is brand new but it reminded me that I have aftermarket parts fitted and need to carry spare bolts and tools as a minimum. I will also stock various types of tapes and various hand tools. The fact it happened at a spot with a pole covered in bras made it more interesting.

The Howes trail itself was amazing. It was more technical than expected at the start which was a great surprise. I got to test out my car for the first time and see its limits. I had the car rocking on 2 wheels and had a few big bangs on the underbody only to find it was the aftermarket recovery points that were collecting big rocks. Great group and some funny banter on the 2way which is new for me. Good mix of vehicles and cannot leave out the Grenadier. The Grenadier is French made and wasn't the car that



broke down which I found impressive. I am only joking... It's a very impressive vehicle and got many compliments from members of the group and people outside of the group that saw it. The Grenadier would have a few scratches after the trip but I am sure they would buff out. My car got its first scratches on the trip but they can be buffed out. Also, some great lookouts along the way and the Aboriginal art were a stand out.

No negative feedback from me. Only issue I had was that it was compulsory that your vehicle had low range to sign up for the trip. New Subarus don't have low range but saying that I would recommend a Subaru with all terrain tyres as a minimum for that track. Maybe you can advise 4WD with low range recommended, or a Subaru with basic off-road improvements.

Thank you so much for the trip! Daniel

Howes Trail trip report by Michael

For me, this trip was my first opportunity to take my one-week-old INEOS Grenadier off road, so I was very much looking forward to it. I arrived early, enjoying a delicious breakfast at the Riverside Cafe at Colo, and watched as the other cars arrived. We were soon headed along the Putty Road, towards our turnoff to Howes Trail. The track through the Yengo National Park took us through some beautiful country, with a few nice rocky sections and one muddy patch. Most of the track was sandy, so it was a very pleasant drive. Our visits to the Finchley Aboriginal Area and the Finchley Lookout were highlights.



All the various vehicles coped very well along the way, and I had the opportunity to practise locking my centre diff and engaging "off-road mode". The only problem I had during the day was that someone kept trying to steal my new 'truck'. I won't say who it was, but next time I'm visiting MORE 4X4 I'll be having words with her boss.

The best aspect of the day was spending time with a lovely group of people. There was a mixture of long-term members and new members, which was good to see. When a mechanical issue arose with one of the vehicles, it was great to watch everyone rallying around to solve the problem, either by sharing knowledge, providing tools, or in my case, staying out of the way and chatting with others. We finished up at the famous Wollombi Pub, which was a fitting end to an awesome day.

Michael

Howes Trail trip report by Iwan

Who knew that our Saturday would be so interesting? Although the single digit temperature during the 8am morning briefing made a few put on an extra layer of jacket, the foggy condition gave a 'promise' of a beautiful day ahead. Broken by the news that David Wellham had to turn back due to car issue, the group braved on to what would be a memorable day ahead.

We soon arrived to our first stop - the Colo River Bra Tree. I never read what was plastered on the tree trunk that morning but apparently it says 'leave your bra here and donate to Breast Cancer Awareness'. Could it be that none of the attendees did so, that Steve & Sue found their secondary fuel filter gave up the ghost? The leak sent diesel going into the crevices of car body and very quickly the smell of diesel overwhelmed their cabin. The gorgeous look-out next to the parking area gave the rest of the group a great set-up to catch up with one another. It was also the perfect spot for Paul Burns, Dave Fuser and Alex Gatward to hone their skills to get that secondary fuel filter fixed. Thanks to Chris who (only after some 40minutes had past) suddenly remembered that he had a piece of small hose that has been sitting in his car for years - it was fixed. Amazing! It was just the perfect size for our bush mechanics to by-pass the fuel filter.

The mighty BT50 with only a single fuel filter led us through the windy road and it was not long until we arrived at the entrance of Howes Trail. As the entrance was positioned just over the crest of a hill on a bend, Sue teamed up with Bill through the radio to kindly assist each car to enter safely. It was a tight spot

for 9 cars to fit in but we all squeezed in and soon everyone aired-down. At this time, we were joined by 2 motor cycle riders and their friend in a 4wd Toyota.

I wonder if Bill managed to give them our business card. :)

It was quite a technical track in the beginning, with some rocky area followed by quite deep ruts, then some muddy parts. Of course, Dan Sorranon had to test his newly installed underbody protection on his Outback. I think the deep muddy rut made him smile!

Well, everyone made it through and soon enough it was Steve's turn to flex his muscles. A fallen big branch laid across the track. Not to worry, he came well-prepared. While the rest of group helped out with what they could clear by hand, Steve got his chain-saw out. A few minutes past... hmmm Steve, did you install a secondary fuel filter in it too?? Not to worry! What are friends for right? It turned out that our new friends in the Toyota also had one - albeit a non-diesel (18V) version that did not need fixing.



Very soon the track was cleared and we were able to continue. Although the rest of the track did not offer any other serious challenges, the group found themselves having to spread out quite a bit due to dust. Quite a lot of dust actually!!

Lunch was at the entry to Big Yango camp ground. I almost can't remember what we had for lunch as I was too busy inspecting Michael's new Ineos Grenadier. Amazing to see it creating its first memories. That's right - I was also trying to convince my other half if we should get one too. I don't think she was interested though, as for the remainder of our lunch stop, I found her sitting by herself in our MUX. I think she is trying to state her opinion!



After lunch, Bill led us on our search for the Finchley Aboriginal Art area. It was quite spectacular - one of the best I've seen! It had more than 100 figures and Steve had it all prepared with a downloaded reference from the net referencing each carving. Awesome! We could simply ask him exactly what each carving represents.

We could not join the remaining time at the pub, but I have no doubt it would be just as interesting as the rest of the day. Thank

you, Steve & Bill, for organising such a fun day! Iwan







We need your help.

At our AGM in August, all Committee positions will need to be filled. Many existing Committee members have been undertaking these roles for some time, some for many years, and several of them will be stepping down.

If our Club is to flourish, we will need new people to take on some of these roles.

In the words of ChatGTP ...

“We are reaching out to each and every one of you with an enthusiastic call to action! Our Club's success and growth depend on the active participation and engagement of dedicated individuals like yourselves. We invite you to step up and volunteer as Committee members, becoming the driving force behind our Club's initiatives. By taking on one of these roles, you will have the opportunity to shape the direction of our Club, contribute your unique ideas, and make a lasting impact on the experiences of our members. Volunteering as a Committee member not only allows you to develop invaluable leadership and organisational skills, but it also fosters a sense of camaraderie, and deepens your connection to our Club community. Together, let us create memorable experiences, build meaningful relationships, and propel our Club to even greater heights. We wholeheartedly encourage you to join us as Committee members and help us make a difference!”

Well that's convinced me to volunteer for a role - maybe two. 😊

Please remember that previous experience is not necessary. The roles to be filled are ...

President	Vice President	Secretary
Treasurer	Membership Secretary	Trip Convenor(s)
Webmaster	Social/Catering	Driver Awareness Officer(s)
Equipment Manager	Fundraising	Serjeant-at-Arms
Editor	Public Relations Officer	NSW 4WD Association Delegate(s)

You'll see a brief description of each role elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please volunteer.

We really need your help.

Michael H. (VP)

SUBARU AND RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB

COMMITTEE ROLES

All committee members are to be active and financial members of the Club. They should be able to attend (or provide reports to) most Committee and General meetings. They should be able to accept phone calls at a reasonable hour, monitor forums and Facebook and write reports for newsletters.

PRESIDENT

- Provide leadership for, and oversee the running of, the Club
- Chair General and Committee meetings

VICE PRESIDENT

- Assist the President in overseeing the running of the Club, and stand in for the President in their absence
- Engage with members to ensure the Club is benefiting them, encouraging feedback and responding to their enquiries

SECRETARY

- Take minutes of General and Committee meetings
- Manage Club correspondence, lodge compliance documents as required, and answer email, forum and Facebook enquiries from the public

TREASURER

- Monitor the finances of the Club and deliver updates as necessary
- Prepare monthly reports and assist the Public Officer to lodge Annual Statements

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

- Manage membership fee collection
- Keep an up-to-date record of all Club members, and approve access to Facebook and website in conjunction with the Webmaster

TRIP CONVENER(S)

- Assess and approve proposed trips and trip participants
- Encourage Club members to run trips, providing support as necessary

DRIVER AWARENESS OFFICER(S)

- Promote safe driving skills and practices within the Club
- Conduct driver awareness activities throughout each year

NSW 4WD ASSOCIATION DELEGATE(S)

- Attend Quarterly meetings of the 4WD Association of NSW and the ACT, and monthly Regional meetings
- Provide information to our Club members at meetings and in newsletters, and vote on their behalf at Association meetings

WEBMASTER

- Maintain the Club's website, adding new features as necessary
- Ensure all online information is up-to-date

SOCIAL/CATERING

- Arrange catering for special Club events such as the annual Christmas party
- Provide basic catering at General meetings and BBQs

FUNDRAISING

- Conduct raffles or other activities to both add interest to meetings and raise cash
- Co-ordinate any donations that the Club may choose to make to charitable organisations

EDITOR

- Prepare a regular e-Newsletter for Club members, highlighting Club activities
- Co-ordinate any other Club publications, such as Yearbooks

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

- Promote the Club within the 4WD community, designing information packages and advertising materials as required
- Organise guest speakers and/or activities at General meetings

EQUIPMENT MANAGER (may be combined with another role)

- Control Club property
- Manage Club clothing shop

SERJEANT-AT-ARMS

- Ensure order is maintained during Club meetings
- Bring any indiscretions occurring on trips to everyone's notice (in a gentle, humorous way)

Membership Fees

The Annual Membership fees are now overdue for the year to 30 June 2024. The Committee has decided to keep the annual fee at \$50 for the next year. Please logon to Club website, go to 'Renew Membership Fees' tab and complete payment.

Any new members since 1 April 2023, please remember your membership is already valid till end June 2024.

Until Next Time

STAY SAFE