



DRIVE TORQUE eNEWS

JUNE 2023



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PRESIDENTS REPORT



Presidents Update – June 2023

Hello all, welcome to another Drive Torque.

You will find some additional information here about our AGM in August and a short summary of the committee roles. After many years of service to the club there will be some existing committee members not accepting nominations this year. This is a great opportunity for new members to become involved.

Over the last few months David Wellham has emailed some club updates and re-booked our meeting room at the Ermington Community Centre. Parramatta Council has finished the renovation work, it will be good to see how it looks. Included in this issue you will see the upcoming list of meetings together with the proposed venues.

Please see below some of the recent club information, compiled by David Wellham and members of the committee.

Future Meetings

The renovations at Ermington Hall are complete.

We have booked to return to the Hall from July 2023 for 8 months over the next year.

Details of meetings to follow in future newsletters.

Membership fees

The Annual Membership fees are due by 30 June 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.

Future Fun, also known as trips, events, meetings etc.

Our calendar always has space for trips - be it an afternoon, a day, a weekend, a long weekend or even an extended trip.

Is there a location you would like to go and a date you have in mind - let us know and we will do our best to assist you to make it happen.

There are some great trips in the calendar and two special events coming up are -

Olinda October fest

September 29, 2023 - October 3, 2023

2023 Club Christmas Party

December 2, 2023 - December 3, 2023

Details are on website, in newsletters - go onto website to register.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of Drive Torque. Thank you to those who have supplied reports and information. Thank you to Stephen, our Editor, for putting this all together.

Safe travels.

Mark



Association News & Updates: June 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.

Association Quarterly meeting – May 2023

The meeting was held on 21st at Crookwell. It was a very nice drive on the morning and I was home in time for dinner. As I went further out of the city and closer to site the temperature dropped and dropped – it was 6D at Crookwell, raining and very windy – wind chill was below zero. There is a big wind farm on the way into town and I could see why with such strong and constant wind around. But the meeting room was warm and thankfully friendly while I chaired the section when Insurance was discussed, and motions moved and debated.

COCO weekend

The meeting was held on the Sunday of this weekend COCO was held. By all accounts it was a great event, even if it was cold, and wonderful food was cooked on the fire and in camp ovens. There was also a trivia night and breakfast and lunch on Sunday at the meeting cooked by the local Lions Club. There will be future events and it is a weekend that we should consider attending in the future – lets show them how good we can cook around the fire and how smart we are and how much useless information we have in our brains. Maybe Olinda would be a suitable location for this event and Quarterly meeting in the future?

4WD Australia – National Council

There have been some changes on the committee and we are still having ongoing issues with having our voice heard at meetings. But all in all, the NSW Association will continue to remain a member for now. They have been working on Insurance, National recovery scheme and looking at TV shows and poorly advertised products.

Insurance

At the quarterly there was discussion and a motion put to the delegates regarding insurance. The meeting voted overwhelmingly to continue with the NSW Insurance and not move to the insurance provided by National.

Association Affiliation fees

The annual fees are due on 30 June and they are \$22 per member including amount for Public Liability Insurance. We will pay for 81 members as that was our membership at 30 June 2022.

Driver Training Unit (DTU)

Most courses are full – two of our members recently attended and passed the course. There are some minor updates to future courses including course codes – a wheel change to be done and nothing on snow chains. More DAF days for club trainers and awareness officers will be planned.

Tow Training

DTU and Getabout are looking at a Tow Training Day and asking if people are interested. The day would be for a small number of vehicles and a suitable flat area of approx. 100m x 40m is required.

National Parks booking system

There are many issues with current booking system and NPWS are working on improvements to reduce problems. If your booking experience is not satisfactory please use the 'Report Feedback' form so that they are aware of ongoing system problems. NPWS are compiling a list of 100 parks and campgrounds where they will setup a 'Group' booking option that we can use; a draft list should be available soon to review.

Office Function Contractor

I have been attending the monthly meetings of RCGP that oversight the contractor. There will be minor changes to 3 of the process documents. Also, been working on rating the tasks and skills of the contractor and now we will start on writing procedures and a transition plan should we need to move to another contractor in the future.

Gardens of Stone

Many roads in this area are closed for maintenance and upgrades and the Glow Worm tunnel walkway is under construction. Due to change of Government there is no update on the proposed tourism plans and the Association is in discussion with NPWS regarding tracks to close and tracks that will remain open.

SWOT update

At the February Quarterly, the delegates worked on a SWOP workshop – this was detailed in my March report. The focus areas were – Clubs (our club), Regions (Greater Sydney Region), Association (4WD NSW & ACT) and National (4WD Australia aka National Council).

The questions were – for each focus area what are – **SWOT** – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats. We rated our comments from 1 (for information) to 5 (very important or critical). A summary of the results was presented at the May meeting, more information will follow at future meetings.

Club Membership

One topic that came up in the SWOT discussion was membership. Many clubs are having reduced membership, mainly smaller clubs. Some clubs, mainly larger clubs are increasing membership. If this continues it means that while the number of members might not change the number of clubs will reduce. At the next meeting there will be a discussion on ideas for a membership program and membership retention.

June newsletter message from Association President – Craig Thomas

The Monday after COCO I was on a plane to Broken Hill and three days of meetings with National Parks. This trip included a site visit to Mutawintji National Park on Tuesday, this was a remarkable day where we spent time with the traditional owners as well as the area manager. It is impossible to describe my feelings from this visit, I will never get over how lucky I am to have the opportunity to experience my time with these people. I learnt a lot over the three days that will help me on the stake holders committee for the joint ownership of Parks. We had a lot of discussion on fire management, both modern and traditional methods and how everything has changed since the 2019/2020 fires. Also, a lot of new information on the habits of Koalas. Also, we were in Broken Hill, so pubs were visited.

I came back to a message from Roger Pollett that we have a meeting with Paul Toole and two directors from Parks the following week at Parliament house. After this meeting which was mainly about Gardens of Stone and the attitude of parks to the general public, we felt encouraged, but I guess time will tell. Finally last Friday, I attended the National Light Vehicles Modifications Summit in Brisbane that was being run by the AAAA. I was there to represent our Association, but it was great to meet up with Baydon, the delegate for the National Council. Baydon spoke to the meeting and answered questions from a consumer's point of view on aftermarket accessories and modifications, and how they are affected by different laws in different states. He did a great job representing Australian four-wheel drivers.

It was a fantastic meeting that highlighted that changing technologies will not be the end of our ability to create a vehicle that is safe and better suited to how we use them. The changes coming will certainly

eNews

be presenting challenges but as we get used to them and the systems become more robust with time, we will still be able to have fun. It is mind boggling what is coming, but we know that these changes will save lives and no matter what, that is good news.

Is it legal for passengers to drink alcohol in a car?

Is it illegal for passengers to be in your car while drinking alcohol? Can you get in trouble for it? It depends on where you live and where you are in the car. Anyone who has played the role of the designated driver will know the feeling – you're driving a friend somewhere because they're in no state to, but they insist on bringing a drink with them for the drive.

In some states it's perfectly fine to have a drink while someone else drives

Other states take it seriously – no alcoholic drinks allowed in the car at all

Yes, that means "tradie roadies" after work may be allowed... depending where you live

Is it illegal for passengers to be in your car while drinking alcohol? And can you get in trouble for it, as the driver? It depends on where you live and where you are in the car, because it may be okay in some situations and locations, while in other jurisdictions the penalties may be severe.

In Victoria, the law states that "you must not drink alcohol, even if your blood alcohol concentration stays below your legal limit while driving a motor vehicle or sitting beside a person who is learning to drive".

"Passengers are not prohibited from drinking alcohol in a vehicle. However, it is advised that passengers do not engage in drinking, as drunk passengers could distract a driver."

In New South Wales there is no law that states that passengers must not drink while in a car, and nor is there any apparent rules for drivers when it comes to carrying passengers who have been drinking, are drunk, or are still drinking. The NSW Courts website states that alcohol in cars legislation "only refers to drivers, so there is currently no restriction on passengers drinking alcohol while in a car". But, if you're planning on taking public transport (train, bus, ferry or even taxi) you are not allowed to consume alcohol while riding – and you're not allowed to be in possession of an open container of alcohol. It's worth abiding by that rule – you could be fined up to \$1100.

South Australia doesn't have a specific note in its state legislature about passengers drinking in a car.

In Queensland, Police Media has stated on public sites that drivers can "receive a fine for consuming liquor while driving, and passengers can also be fined for consuming liquor in a vehicle as it is deemed a public place".

In Western Australia, passengers and the driver can be fined up to \$2000 for drinking. This applies to vehicles, including party buses! WA Police posted a warning of such on Facebook in 2021: "Don't make your trip on a party bus more expensive than you planned. You cannot drink alcohol in any vehicle on a road, unless it's licensed or exempted. If you do, both you and the driver can be fined \$2000."

The Northern Territory does not appear to have specific rules around drinking in a car as a passenger, but it does suggest that, if you're planning to drink, "you should plan how you will get home, stay overnight or arrange a Sober Bob". If you've never heard of a Sober Bob, you might have heard of a designated driver (dezzzy driver) or Sober Sally – someone who is willing to get you home safely.

Both WA and NT have rules for where alcohol is allowed to be consumed, and where it can be transported to, too. There are multiple "dry communities" in the remote areas that are alcohol-free zones – and that includes alcohol you might have in your car or caravan, and big penalties may apply.

Tasmania and the ACT also have laws around alcohol in cars – it's not allowed to be consumed by the driver or passengers, and you're not supposed to have open alcohol containers (so, no long-necks or tinnies in the cup holders) in the car at all.

Not intended as legal advice. Check with the relevant roads authority in your state or territory.

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Are you planning on fishing?

Download the FishSmart app for all the latest info you need to fish in NSW!

This free app provides recreational fishers with 24/7 access to essential info they need to know to fish in NSW, such as a picture guide of common recreational species, bag & size limits, closed seasons and fishing gear rules! You can also use the real-time maps to locate your nearest FADs (Fish Aggregation Devices), artificial reefs, spearfishing info, recreational fishing havens and Marine Park Zones.

You can also quickly find your local weather, tide, moon phase and barometric pressure to help choose best time to fish and record your fish, your very own catch log plus more.



Trip Convener June report - Bill Twyman

Since the May Drive Torque magazine, the club has had 5 outings:

- May 20th & 21st - COCO weekend at Crookwell
- May 24th - WW #14 - Pittwater Basin, Barrenjoey Lighthouse
- June 11th - Kanangra Boyd NP, Komung River, Yerranderie & Mittagong
- June 14th - WW # 16 Dally In The Dilly. Explore more of the Wollondilly Shire visit a Dingo Sanctuary, picnic lunch at Thirlmere Lakes.
- June 17th - explore the lookouts from Blackheath to Mt Victoria.
- June 17th & 18th - June General Meeting at Mt York in the Blue Mountains (with or without overnight camping)

Upcoming trips

All the additional trip information is listed on the Club's website

- June 24th & 25th - Yadbro Flats Camping Trip (Ulladulla)
- June 27th - 28th - WW #17: Belanglo Damper Challenge Overnighter, dig out those damper recipes & show off your camp oven cooking prowess as we camp in Belanglo State Forest ...
- July 14th - July General Meeting at Ermington Community Centre, 6 River Road Ermington, starting at 8pm. We are back at the hall after only a very few meetings thereover the past 3 years due to COVID and renovations. Please join us for information, friendship and fun.
- July 22nd - Howes Trail from Putty Rd to Wollombi (Medium offroad trip)
- 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.

Will be held at The Dairy Western Sydney Parklands. Enter Cotswold Road from Cowpasture Road Abbotsbury NSW 2176

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

Nominations can be given at the meeting or emailed to the secretary prior to the meeting.

Proxies in writing to be sent to the secretary prior to the meeting starting - email accepted

Only current financial members are eligible to vote.

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 13th - General Meeting at the Ermington Community Centre, 6 River Road Ermington, starting at 8pm.
- November 4th - Tasmania 3-week onroad/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: Ph 1800 001 080*

Sgt At Arms May Report - Bill Twyman

- No issues to report this month.

Michael's Driving Tips

Part 4 - Tyre Pressure

We all know to reduce our tyre pressure when driving off road. But why do we do it ? ...

Reducing tyre pressure increases the footprint (contact patch) of the tyres.

When we reduce tyre pressure, we have more rubber in contact with the ground.



It's interesting to note that the contact patch increase is not linear. A reduction in pressure from 25psi to 15psi has a greater contact patch increase than a reduction from 45psi to 35psi does. This means that a reduction of even 2 or 3psi (such as from 20psi to 17psi) can make a significant increase in footprint.

Tyre pressures are lowered to reduce rolling resistance in soft conditions, and to reduce bounciness which leads to loss of traction. An increase in contact patch helps the tyre wrap around small obstacles such as stones, and provides more grip in low traction conditions.

Other advantages of lower tyre pressures when driving off road include ...

1. Less damage caused to tracks
2. Reduced likelihood of tyre damage and punctures
3. Greater comfort for the driver and passengers

There's no point making general tyre pressure recommendations, because there are so many variables, such as vehicle size, tyre type, track conditions etc, but here is what I use ...

Highway - 36psi / Gravel Roads - 28psi / Rocks - 22psi / Heavy Mud - 18psi / Sand - 16 psi (or less)

When driving with very low tyre pressures, special care needs to be taken because of the greater chance of a tyre coming off a rim.

Don't forget to re-inflate your tyres when you get back on the blacktop. Otherwise your tyres will overheat.

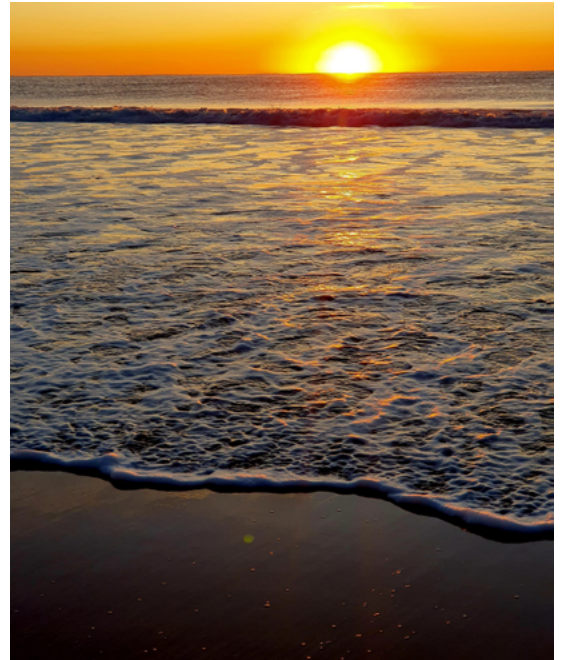
Finally, always remember to carry a tyre pressure gauge, and preferably a compressor too. 😊

Week Day Wander #14 Day On Pittwater Basin

Trip Leaders Jean & John

Attendees Jo, Kelly, Chris, Kevin, Susan & Stephen

It was an early morning start for those who live on the south side of Sydney. Chris, Kelly and Jo were known to be on the beach at Palm Beach by 6.00 am, along with the very first light of the day.



It was noted that Steve and Sue were spotted near the ferry wharf early on. John and Jean arrived around 7.10am at the prearranged breakfast at the Coast eatery, Barrenjoey Road where Kevin was able to helpfully assist our parking. Breakfast was great, most of us had their bacon and egg roll. It was then a half kilometre walk for us all to the ferry wharf.



The NRMA big ferry FantaSea arrived but it was not for us. By 9.00 am our much smaller ferry came in and we were soon on our way across to the Basin. The colours of the sun shining on the western shores were spectacular. There was an intermediate stop at Coasters Retreat where a few people got on and some got off.

The Basin is an interesting spot. It is very popular as a camping area and for swimming. It is part of the Kuring-gai National Park. The camping sites are all spacious, grassed and clean.



We spent some time on the eastern end with our own little beach and great views across Pittwater to Palm Beach, Barrenjoey and Lion Island. There was no wind and the warm sunlight was welcome. Finally breaking away from there we explored the rest of the Basin. There were numerous darker skinned wallabies also enjoying the sunshine. They were obviously used to people.





By 10.30 we were back on the ferry heading towards Great Mackerel Beach. This area is a beautiful and obviously a close-knit community, isolated except by ferry. We had a tourist type wonder around. There were some lovely houses and gardens there. We were back on the ferry by 11.30 am and arrived at the Palm Beach wharf in time for lunch.



Across the road was the Barrenjoey House where we chose some outside shaded seats. For lunch fish and chips were popular with a side order of salad and refreshing drinks.



After lunch we said our farewells and departed for home. It had been a full-on but pleasant and rewarding day. Thanks for your company. Well done everyone.

Trip Report : John

Additional Photos can be viewed on the Facebook Page

Day Trip in the Kanangra-Boyd National Park

Sunday 11th July 2023

Trip Leader: - Karolyn Honor

Attendee:- Mark Honor (Mark was the last to arrive at the meeting point, hence doing this report)

Late on Saturday afternoon we decided to go for a drive the following day, Sunday. Our *modus operandi* for the last twelve years as member of the club: - we lead trips to places we wish to explore. Sometimes there are over twenty cars, other times there is one car. We knew this was short notice and due to the changing nature of the club and members we did not expect many or any registrations. This is okay because we were going for a day in the mountains regardless.

We headed towards Oberon and then made our way to the Kanangra Walls Road which is on the southern side of Jenolan Caves. Before you reach Boyd River camping area, the Kowmung Track starts on the right hand side. (See photo).



The track was in good condition and after about twenty minutes we arrived at the descent into the Kowmung River. While this descent is very steep the track conditions were as good as they have ever been. Suitable for AWD vehicles.



The Kowmung River is unique for several reasons, one of which it "rises and falls in wilderness areas, it does not flow through any farming or grazing land. If not in flood the waters are crystal clear and always very cold because much of the river runs through canyons before joining the Cocks River, just several kilometres upstream from the back waters of Lake Burragorang (Warragamba Dam).

The Kowmung River crossing was in good condition, with only 200-300mm deep water. When the water reaches 500mm deep the flow is usually too deep for vehicles to cross. At the time of this trip the crossing was safe and suitable for AWD vehicles. The exit on the southern side of the river always needs good wheel placement, especially when wet.

Camping is not really permitted at the river. The next camping ground is at Dingo Dell, another fifteen minutes along the track. Dingo Dell has room for about ten cars, not sure how many National Parks allow for online....do some research when you want to lead a trip in this area.

An unplanned meeting with my brother and his son happened when we arrived at Dingo Dell. They were getting some last-minute fishing done before the season finished at midnight the following day.

After a morning tea break, we did a few more steep climbs to the south which brings you out through the state forest pine plantation area near Jaunter and Gurnang. The track then joins the Mount Werong Road, near the entry to the Blue Mountains NP. Turning left onto Mount Werong Road and travelling southeast will have you arriving at Mount Werong (we call it the old stone hut).

During our lunch break we decided not to visit Yerranderie but instead head directly to the Range Fire Trail Road. This trail is on the right-hand side, about one or two kilometres east of the old stone hut. The Range Trail heads south towards Wombeyan Caves.



Along this section of the track we came upon a lone motor bike with no rider with two helmets sitting on the side of the track. We stopped and looked over the edge to see one bike and two men looking at the steep incline back up to the track. The rider that went over the edge was fortunate to be alive and with very little injury. I suggested he should buy a lotto ticket.... They had been there for about an hour, and we were the first passing vehicle. After forty minutes of winching and clearing of timber we had the bike within reach of the track.

Fortunately, two other vehicles arrived and assisted with the last winch to the track. One of the two extra men knew about bikes and did some bending and bashing to get the brake and gear shift lever working. The two bikers rode away towards Oberon to buy that Lotto ticket. Very lucky man.....and about the sixth time my winch has been used, never used for me thus far.



The remaining trip was uneventful: - Wombeyan Caves Road heading towards Goodmans Ford was open with many new causeways at the creek crossing but the road itself was in poor condition. From Goodmans Ford, on the Wollondilly River, the road improved.

Coffee and Diesel at Mittagong, before the last leg up the Hume Highway arriving at Camden about 5.30pm.

A good day was had by all, with very few problems or complaints from the attendees. Thank you to our fabulous trip leader 🙏

Safe travels

Weekday Wanderer # 16 Dally In The Dilly

14th June, 2023

Trip Leader: Jo Quinn

Attendees: Jo, Stephen P, Kevin, John, Kelly, Chris, Cath & Tom, Julie & David, Susan & Stephen B.

We didn't get off to a good start with the meeting point at Pheasants Nest Servo being an absolute nightmare for traffic and construction. After a week of cold, but mild days, we certainly got all the wind and the freezing temps. It was definitely snowing somewhere!



Our first stop was at Bargo Dingo Sanctuary. A small sanctuary run entirely by volunteers housed 29 dingoes from all over Australia (except Tasmania – no dingoes in Tassie!) Our guide was extremely informative and patiently answered the many questions that we had. The dingoes ranged in colour from the typical beige to white and black and tan. The sanctuary was extremely well set out and had a small souvenir section at the end. Most of us also participated in the “Dingo Encounter” where we got up close and personal with one of the dogs. A great experience! Only \$10 entry, I would definitely recommend a visit!



The “Chosen One”, The Legend of the Reverse Dingo Whisperer

The members had gathered from across all areas, as they are akin to do on a regular basis. It was a sharing & gaining of knowledge gathering. A time to give & a time to learn.

Dingoes hold a significant place in the cultural practices of many aboriginal tribes & feature in dreamtime stories, ceremonies and rock carvings & paintings. Being pack animals, many dingoes had also come together, about 29 in total from all over Australia.

As the members meandered amongst the dogs much was learnt. The varying colours and coats of the dogs identified how far they had travelled from their original habitat whether it be alpine areas or far north Queensland. Depending on the size of the prey, they hunt alone or in cooperative packs. They mainly hunt at dawn, dusk and during the night, and communicate with wolf-like howls, rarely barking. The members saw how the dingoes survived bushfires, heatwaves & also how they coped with the colder weather.

The interest was twofold. As the members wandered the dogs kept an interested eye out, some up close, others from afar, but always with a somewhat wary glance. Legend has it, this was the process of seeking the “chosen one.” The chosen one was the member to be wary of, the one to warn away from and the one that the dogs would communicate to all others in the pack to steer clear of.

The close up interaction between members and the dogs was a sight and an experience to behold. The dogs warmed to a many of the members, showing interest by sitting at their feet, accepting rubs on the back and the chest and also dingo kisses to a lucky few. The members all watched each other’s interactions with keen interest, photos and videos being recorded to later show of the special bond with the native dogs.

Then from nowhere, with nothing seemingly done different, one member was seen clearly and immediately as the “chosen one”. The dingo backed away. Hackles started to raise. The head turned and a short, sharp, loud, definitive bark emanated from the dog. The chosen one backed away, the dogs’ message clear; enough was enough.

It is never quite clear how the dogs determine their chosen one; the clothing, the scent, the statue or the presence of the member? Also known as the reverse dingo whisperer, once the chosen one is picked it sees the end to all interaction with the wild dogs. It is however known, never ignore the Dingoes warning to the “chosen one”.

True Story

Jo Quinn



Next up we had a brief stop at Bargo River Reserve. The heritage listed Bargo Railway Viaduct was originally built back in 1919 and still stands tall today positioned over the Bargo River in Tahmoor. Perfect timing for a photo opportunity saw a freight train cross over the bridge whilst we were there. A great spot for a picnic in warmer weather.



Couridjah railway station was up next & we stopped at the heritage-listed disused railway station located on the Picton – Mittagong loop railway line. The station has been restored by volunteers from the NSW Rail Museum in Thirlmere. Occasionally, the museum operates steam heritage trains on the line through the station, between Thirlmere, Picton and Buxton.



We drove on to Thirlmere Lakes National Park and stopped at the old Heritage Pump Station. In the not too distant past, Heritage Pump Station delivered water to Couridjah to replenish the steam locomotives on the old southern railway after their long haul up the steep grade from Picton. The restored sandstone heritage pumphouse is the only remaining example of a building of its kind.



We managed to find a sheltered spot out of the wind in the sun beside the lake in the National Park for lunch. Well set out, there were drop loos, picnic tables & chairs & free BBQ's. Easy access to the waters' edge would make it a great spot for kayaking when the weather warms up. A few of us did some of the Thirlmere Lakes walking track which is a 6km walk around three of the park's lakes and picnic areas.

After lunch we stopped at Cedar Creek Orchard, a local family run business that had a great array of jams, chutneys & ciders for sale. The fruit in season was persimmons, a bit of a dubious looking fruit, but we had a try of what turned out to be a rather bland tasting fruit. Bundled up with goodies we drove to our last stop, King George IV Tavern in Picton. A glass of ale or wine whilst sitting outside in the sun was the perfect way to end the day.



Trip Report Jo

Additional Photos can be viewed on the Facebook Page



LOOKOUTS FROM BLACKHEATH TO MOUNT VICTORIA

Trip Leader: David Wellham

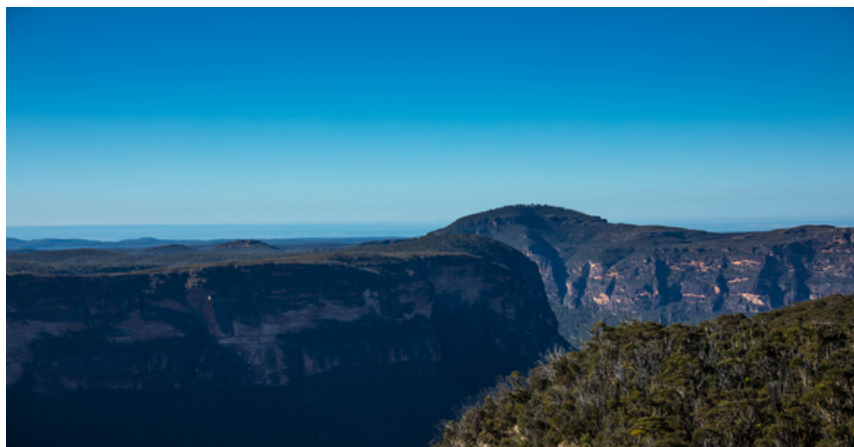
Attendees: Iwan & Evie, Jean & John, Kaitlin, Michael, Dave, Bill & Stephen B.

The day started at **EVANS LOOKOUT** at 08:00. The weather was sunny and pleasant. The lookout had undergone major upgrades since the last time I was there.

Evans Lookout was named after George Evans, a local solicitor and pioneer of the Blackheath area who owned property there. A memorial was placed at the lookout in memory of George Evans. He was supposedly the first European settler to discover this beautiful viewpoint and entrance to Grose Valley in 1882.

After we had our fill of the vista, we headed for **GOVETTS LEAP**. It also has had a recent upgrade. Govetts Leap was named after William Govett, who was the first settler from Europe who set foot in the area. He was a painter and surveyor, and first discovered the spectacular spot in 1831. The Bridal Veil Falls can be seen from the Govetts Leap lookout if you position yourself in a south-westerly direction.





ANVIL ROCK was our next point of call. Blackheath Council had named this rock formation, Anvil Rock in 1938 - the same year that an access road was constructed to this picnic area. In 1948 an anvil was donated by Stan Miller, Company Secretary, Bradford Kendall Industries Pty Ltd. Stan was an ardent bushwalker and used to take his holidays at Blackheath.

The next on the list was **MOUNT BOYCE**, it is situated close to the point where the Great Western Highway passes by the location of a heavy vehicle checking station. Approximately 300 metres (980 ft) west of Mount Boyce, the land drops sharply in cliffs and steep slopes to the Kanimbla Valley.

Mount Boyce was named on 26 April 1923 in honour of Venerable Archdeacon Francis Bertie Boyce FRGS, FRHS, an Australian clergyman and social reformer, who was born in England in 1844 and died in Blackheath in 1931.



Mt Boyce is the home to a **SCAR TREE**. Aboriginal people used the bark from scar trees for shields and coolamons. Using a stone or steel axe, the shape of the object was outlined in the bark, then the bark was pulled off the tree. This created scar trees. Care was taken to ensure that the tree was not killed by ringbarking.

It was located there as part of the Environmental Assessment for the Soldiers Pinch road widening, this would impact on the tree. It was decided that the best way to preserve and protect the scar tree would be to cut the tree and remove it this location, approximately 1 kilometre east of its original location, and display it in a protective shelter.

We then visited **MOUNT PIDDINGTON**. Mount Piddington is named after William Richman Piddington, former colonial treasurer under Henry Parkes, who owned land on the site and “felled many trees on its summit in order that visitors might enjoy the view” some time before April 1871.

We travelled a short distance further to **PULPIT ROCK**. The famous, well-visited natural attraction has an interesting history. Pulpit Rock was first discovered in 1896 by Thomas Peter Randulf, a bank manager and amateur hiker. The story goes that Randulf was a passenger cruising the fjords on the steam boat Oscar II when he looked up and spotted the monolith above him.



It was then onto **SUNSET ROCK**. One of the most visited lookouts on the western escarpment of Mount Victoria. A variety of rocky outcrops give a lot of variation looking down onto a cul de sac of the Kanimbla Valley and Victoria Pass on the right. It provides a great foreground when the sky is interesting throughout the day, but best in Golden hours. There are a few spots apart from the first rock platforms, a couple lower down and

below the main rocks is a nice ledge and overhang.

MITCHELL RIDGE LOOKOUT was next on the list. Mitchells Ridge Lookout is a historic lookout and rest area, named after Sir Thomas Livingston Mitchell who supervised the building of the Pass by convict



labour in 1832. An obelisk at the lookout commemorates the opening of Victoria Pass in 1832.

It was then off to our final destination **MT YORK** for the club meeting.

Trip Report Stephen B.
Photos Iwan & Stephen B

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PAGE

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC

Membership Fees

The Annual Membership fees are due by 30 June 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.

REMEMBER Only current financial members are eligible to vote at the AGM.



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)

Until Next Time

STAY SAFE