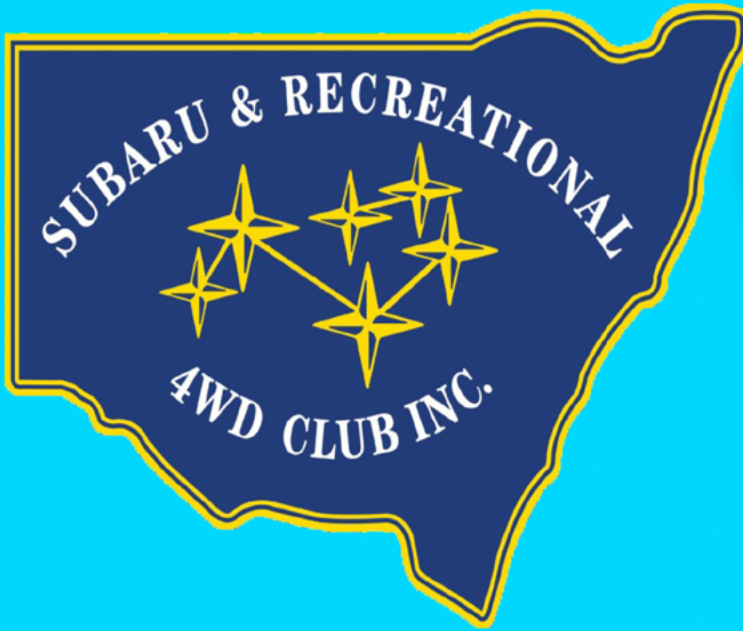




DRIVE TORQUE eNEWS FEBRUARY 2024



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Mark Honor Email president@subaruclub.com.au 0418 406 118

Vice President: Michael R Hamilton Email vicepresident@subaruclub.com.au 0407 223 843

Secretary: Michael R Hamilton Email secretary@subaruclub.com.au 0407 223 843

Treasurer: Brett Hampson Email treasurer@subaruclub.com.au 0408 409 634

Membership: Stephen Bennett Email membership@subaruclub.com.au 0413 368 007

Trip Convener: Jo Quinn Email trip_convener@subaruclub.com.au 0409 771 019

Trip Convener: Bill Twyman Email trip_convener@subaruclub.com.au 0418 681 237

Trip Convener: Dave Cook Email trip_convener@subaruclub.com.au 0417 258 272

Driver Awareness: Brian Flood Email 4wdtraining@subaruclub.com.au 0425 270 385

Driver Awareness: Mark Honor Email 4wdtraining@subaruclub.com.au 0418 406 118

Driver Awareness: David Wellham Email 4wdtraining@subaruclub.com.au 0407 089 071

Driver Awareness: Michael R Hamilton Email 4wdtraining@subaruclub.com.au 0407 223 843

NSW 4WD Assn. Delegate: David Wellham Email delegates@subaruclub.com.au 0407 089 071

NSW 4WD Assn. Delegate: Daniel Sorrasson Email delegates@subaruclub.com.au 0433 304 200

NSW 4WD Assn. Delegate: Bill Twyman Email delegates@subaruclub.com.au 0418 681 237

Webmaster: Troy Strickland Email webmaster@subaruclub.com.au 0409 908 977

Editor: Stephen Bennett Email editor@subaruclub.com.au 0413 368 007

Social/Catering: Alex Gatward Email catering@subaruclub.com.au 0402 734 110

Fundraising: Fiona Hampson Email fund_raising@subaruclub.com.au 0418 677 990

Public Relations Officer: Jo Quinn publicity@subaruclub.com.au 0409 771 019

Serjeant-at-arms: Bill Twyman 0418 681 237

Equipment & Merchandise Officer: Alex Gatward 0402 734 110

**The Club Committee is always here to help
you. If you want to email us, please use this
address ...**

secretary@subaruclub.com.au

CLUB MERCHANDISE



\$70:00



\$72:00



\$42:00



\$87:00



\$10:00 each

Prices may change at a later date.

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Date -	Friday, February 9, 2024
Venue -	Ermington Community Centre
Meeting Commenced -	8:08pm
Attendance -	M.R. Hamilton, Iwan Sujono, Alex Gatward, Andrew Rowlatt, Troy Strickland, Brett Hampson, Bill Twyman, Stephen Eakin, Dave Cook, Ray and Cheryl Bonello, Stephen Bennett, David Wellham, Brian and Heidi Flood
Apologies -	Mark Honor
Minutes of Previous Meeting -	November Meeting at George Kendall Reserve 9/11/2023 Accepted - Bill Seconded - Brian
Business Arising -	Nil
New Members -	Nil
President's Report -	(Mark)
Vice President's Report -	Michael Committee met at the Bennett residence on Tuesday

Upcoming meetings ...

March -	BBQ at George Kendall Reserve Alex will be away
April and May -	Ermington
June -	Camping at Mount Wilson
December -	30/11-1/12 (location TBA)
January -	BBQ ??



Coming up in
2025 ... our Club's
50th Anniversary

Check with Mark re idea of having Barefoot Bowls on a Saturday in February or March

Our clothing sub-committee (Alex, Bill and Stephen) will be presenting their plans tonight

Compliance with Legislation - We've been looking into whether or not our Club's Constitution is compliant with current legislation

We would like to form a sub-committee to investigate this properly

Anyone interested is asked to contact me by March 7

Thank you to Heidi and David W. for volunteering

50th Anniversary next year - October long weekend

Secretary's Report -	Michael	Correspondence - Nothing of note
Treasurer's Report -	Brett	Available funds as at 31/01/2024 = \$8,945.31
Membership Sec. Report -	Stephen	List has been updated A couple of Life Members missing in action
Editor's Report -	Stephen	Contributions due by the 22nd
Driver Awareness Report -	David	Turon March 16 and 17 Basic Watagans May 11 and 12 Recoveries Stockton June 22 and 23 Sand

David was planning to present a session on "How to run a Trip", but time and technology issues meant that this had to be postponed

Trip Conveners' Report -	Bill	33 trips last year Weekday Wanders have been very popular Jo, Bill and Kevin contributed the most trip reports Upcoming trips - See website
Association Delegate's Report -	David	See report in newsletter
Social -	Alex	Thanks to Alex for the supper
Fundraising -	(Fiona)	
Webmaster -	Troy	Clarification was sought as to who should receive email notifications when potential new members register on the website
Public Relations -	(Jo)	Jo will be looking for ideas and assistance re celebrations for our 50th Anniversary next year
Equipment / Merchandising	Alex	Clothing sub-committee shared their plans ... Navy long and short-sleeved Outdoor shirts Navy and gold Motor shirts Navy and gold Winner polo shirts Navy and gold Arena jackets All with Club logo Also looking at hats, hoodies and t-shirts Deadline for first orders will be March 31
Serjeant-at-Arms -	Bill	Golden shackle awarded to - Brett Atkins, for his ruthless shot at Barefoot Bowls bowling 🟢🟡



GENERAL BUSINESS -	Bill	National Parks fees have risen Answer to winching puzzle (See February eNews)
Next Meeting -	BBQ at George Kendall Reserve, March 8	

Close - 9:19pm

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC.

Treasurers Report

Dec-23

Cash Book Balance Brought Forward	\$9,606.32
Plus Income	\$0.00
Less Expenditure	\$651.01
Closing Balance	<u><u>\$8,955.31</u></u>

<u>Income</u> -	Memberships	\$0.00
------------------------	-------------	--------

<u>Expenditure</u> -	Webfrog - website hosting	\$229.00
	Delegate re-imbursment	\$76.76
	ANZ account service fee	\$10.00
	Hall Hire - Ermington	\$335.25

Bank Reconciliation

Bank Account Balance as at 31/12/2023	ANZ	\$8,660.56
<u>Plus</u>	Funds held in Pay Pal as at 31/12/2023	\$0.00
	Cash on Hand	\$294.75
	Available Funds as at 31/12/2023	<u><u>\$8,955.31</u></u>

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC.

Treasurers Report

Jan-24

Cash Book Balance Brought Forward	\$8,955.31
Plus Income	\$0.00
Less Expenditure	\$10.00
Closing Balance	<u><u>\$8,945.31</u></u>

<u>Income</u> -	Memberships	\$0.00
------------------------	-------------	--------

<u>Expenditure</u> -	ANZ account service fee	\$10.00
-----------------------------	-------------------------	---------

Bank Reconciliation

Bank Account Balance as at 31/01/2024	ANZ	\$8,650.56
<u>Plus</u>	Funds held in Pay Pal as at 31/01/2024	\$0.00
	Cash on Hand	\$294.75
	Available Funds as at 31/01/2024	<u><u>\$8,945.31</u></u>

Association News & Updates: February 2024

Hello from Daniel Sorrasson, Bill Twyman and David Wellham – your friendly Delegates to Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT (Association). 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.

COCO 2024

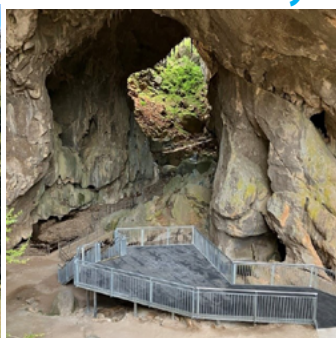
COCO will be held on 18 & 19 May 2024 at the Mudgee Showground with the May Quarterly. Cook-off will be held on Saturday with nibbles at 5.30pm and Trivia on Saturday night. The Quarterly meeting will be on Sunday with beverages and lunch provided.

Tickets on sale NOW! at <https://benefits.4wdnow.com/>

Come along and show off your cooking skills or trivia knowledge. There are trophies and prizes and lots of fun for everyone. Mudgee is a beautiful area and is worth spending a few days looking around. Lots to see and do. Caravans and camper trailers are welcome and powered sites are plentiful. Hot showers and plenty of indoor spaces to stay warm.

Camping Tickets are \$32 each adult with children under 15 free. (up to 3 nights). Camping available Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights.

National Parks and Wildlife Service - Wombeyan Caves Tourism Project



The project - NSW NPWS were awarded \$9.6 million to deliver the Wombeyan Caves tourism project. NPWS published the [Wombeyan Cave Visitor Precinct Plan](#) in December 2021, which identified a scope of works to improve day visitor and overnight guest experiences. A detailed [Wombeyan Karst Conservation Reserve- Review of Environmental Factors](#) and Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit were prepared which informed the detailed project design and assessment process involving specialist Landscape Architects, Building Architects, Ecologists, Engineers and the Aboriginal Community. Protection of site values underpinned the design of the work and the way the project has been delivered.

Improvements to visitor arrival and safety - On-park roads and parking have been improved, accessible parking has been installed, with way finding and building identification signage upgraded. Interpretations and information signage are being designed for the site, in consultation with the relevant stakeholders and interested parties.

New visitor facilities - In the day-use area NPWS have replaced the old office building and Kiosk to build a visitor hub, office, amenities, and café space all together, and new picnic facilities have been provided including shelter and barbecue facilities. New building to accommodate office space and day visitor services, new picnic and barbecue facilities, improved entry road and parking.

Improved access to Victoria Arch - A new accessible path from the parking area has been constructed providing a major improvement in access for visitors to experience the spectacular Victoria Arch.

The design of the raised viewing platform within the arch was finalised following consultation with the Karst Management Advisory Committee and addressed the protection of subaerial stromatolites (craybacks), which are a significant feature within the Arch. The new facilities provide improved accessibility, and protection of cave features and the Karst environment.

Improved accommodation precincts - Facilities in the camping area have now been upgraded and include the provision of eighteen powered sites, group camping areas, and bookable campsites with improved road access and parking. The final touches to the precinct, including campsite signage and wayfinding will be complete before opening.

When will the precinct and caves re-open?

NPWS currently anticipates welcoming back visitors to Wombeyan Caves in March 2024 pending Council road re-opening. Flood events after the precinct was closed to visitors in July 2022, caused damage to walking tracks, roads and other visitor infrastructure in and around the caves, and delayed project delivery. Local Shire Councils have started work to improve Wombeyan Caves Road on either side of Wombeyan Caves. While Wombeyan Caves remains closed for the duration of Council road works, NPWS will continue to prepare for the return of visitors by repairing damaged walking tracks and establishing new landscaping such as grass in the camping area. Accommodation bookings will reopen once Council road works are completed. Wombeyan Caves Road access from Taralga Road will remain the recommended route into Wombeyan Caves for camper trailer and caravan access.

Club 4X4 Insurance

Platinum Partner Club 4X4 Insurance offer Association members a 5% discount on 4WD, camper trailer and caravan policies, which can be redeemed with the **discount code FOUWHE01** when quoting online at club4X4.com.au or by calling 1300 296 296. The Member Benefits portal will be updated with more information. Club 4X4 Insurance also offer a multi-vehicle discount and savings for completing recognised 4X4 or towing training that involves a theoretical or practical element, including Association training.

Temporary park closures for major feral animal control

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is conducting several major feral animal control programs in Kosciuszko National Park during 2024. Aerial and ground shooting programs will target horses, deer, pigs and other feral animals. These important conservation programs are essential to protect the park's threatened native species and ecosystems. For the safety of visitors and staff, some sections of the park will be closed temporarily while aerial shooting is conducted. This is common practice for all feral animal aerial shooting operations across NSW. Extended closures will be required in some areas.

Closure areas and dates The following areas will be temporarily closed to the public:

Southern block (see attached map) temporarily closed 4 - 28 March 2024

Northern block (see attached map) temporarily closed 4 April - 4 October 2024 (this includes the usual winter closure period from June long weekend).

All tracks, trails, campgrounds, huts, picnic areas and accommodation nodes within the closure areas are closed to the public during the specified period, other than:

all campgrounds along the Barry Way remain open in the southern block

Kiandra courthouse and Delaneys Hut remain open in the northern block.

Other short-term closures may occur during the year for additional control programs. For all park closure details and updates go to www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/alerts

Visiting the park during control operations NPWS recognises that these closures will affect visitation to some areas of the park and aims to minimise impacts to popular visitor areas. The majority of the park will be open for visitors to enjoy. Access to key visitor areas including Mt Kosciuszko, alpine resorts, Yarrangobilly Caves and sections of the recently completed Snowies Alpine Walk are not affected. Resort precincts are not impacted by closures. Visitors with impacted campground bookings will be notified and full refunds made.

For the latest information about things to see and do in Kosciuszko National Park go to www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/kosciuszko-national-park

Protecting park visitors and the environment NPWS has robust plans to protect the environment and park visitors during and after aerial shooting including: temporary park closures; notifications to neighbours and park visitors; removal of carcasses, where practicable, when close to sensitive locations such as waterways and popular visitor locations; targeted, additional monitoring and control of feral pigs, foxes and wild dogs.

Taking urgent action to reduce the wild horse population There is an urgent need to reduce the wild horse population in Kosciuszko National Park. Horses are having a severe impact on the natural, cultural, and recreational values of the park. There is clear scientific evidence that threatened species and park values are at risk from wild horses, and extinction is a genuine and clear prospect for some species. Aerial shooting will enable NPWS to meet the legal population target of 3,000 wild horses in the park by July 2027. Delaying control is not an option as it will mean continued unacceptable damage to the park and its threatened species, and more horses will ultimately need to be controlled.

Ensuring the best animal welfare outcomes Aerial shooting is carried out by NPWS to the highest animal welfare standards consistent with all legislative requirements and informed by independent advice from expert, published scientists with veterinary qualifications. A short preliminary aerial shooting program in November 2023 validated the standard operating procedures used by NPWS for aerial shooting of wild horses, ensuring these procedures lead to the best possible animal welfare outcomes. The program was observed and monitored by independent veterinarians. A report on the outcomes of this observation, along with outcomes of the is available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wildhorses. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation while we conduct this vital work to protect the park. Please email the wild horse team with any inquiries at npws.wildhorses@environment.nsw.gov.au

Bongil Bongil National Park Plan of Management is on public exhibition

The draft amendment may be viewed at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/have-your-say. You are invited to provide feedback on the draft amendment. Submissions on the draft amendment must be lodged before 5pm on 4 March 2024. Submissions must be in written form and lodged via: the online form at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/have-your-say, email to npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au, mail to Manager, NPWS Planning and Assessment, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124. If you have any questions, npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Dash Cam Member Discount

Keep safe on the roads with a Dash Cam. We have a special limited time discount for our members. \$30 off any Dash Cam over \$349 + free express postage with signature. Head over to the website and enter the code DC4WD at checkout. DASHCAMS AUSTRALIA



Trip Convener Report - Bill Twyman

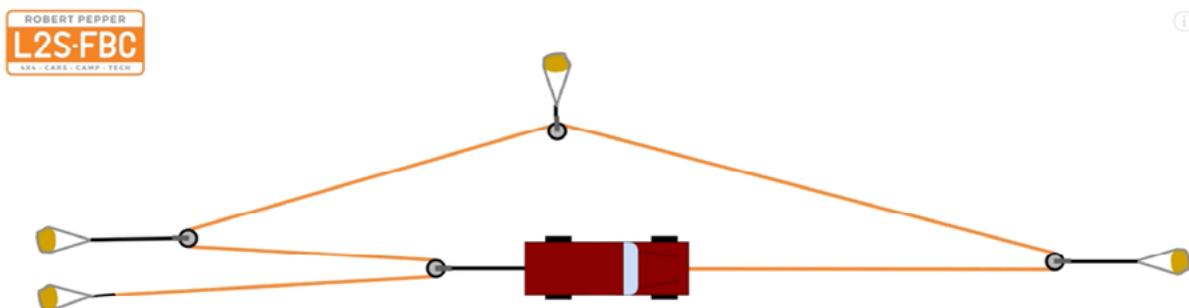
Since the December 2023 Drive Torque eNews the club has had 4 outings:

- 12th January Barefoot Bowls - Camden Bowling Club
- 26th January Australia Day Picnic - Bonnie Vale - Royal National Park
- 10th Feb Sheepskin Hut - Wollomi National Park
- 14th Feb Howes Trail & Finchley Aboriginal Rock Art, Yengo NP

A reminder of 2024 Upcoming Trips Calendar

Rainforest & Waterfalls - Southern Highlands	Feb 21st
March General Meeting + BBQ	Mar 8th
Driver awareness - Back to Turon	March 16 - 17th
Joadga Old Town + distillery	(Wed) Mar 20th
April General Meeting	April 11th
Murramarang NP/ Pretty Beach 5 day camp	April 29th
May General Meeting	May 10th
Driver awareness - Watagans	May 11th - 12th
Camp Oven Cook Off	May 18th - 19th (Mudgee)
June General Meeting + camping option	June 15th (Mt Wilson)
Driver Awareness - Stockton Sand Dunes	June 22nd - 23rd
Club Christmas Function - location TBC	Nov 30th - Dec 1st

Any ideas of the possible outcomes of Michael's "winching" puzzle using a front mounted winch?



Double line rear pull - single line front pull

The puzzle will be solved in this issue of the DRIVER AWARENESS NEWS.

DRIVER AWARENESS NEWS

The Driver Awareness team plans to run at least 4 trips each year, 2 Basic and 2 Advanced. For 2024, we have already set the dates for our first three trips ...

March 16 and 17 - Back to the Turon

Theory and practical tasks on the Saturday / Optional overnight camping at Mount York, with a drive around Zig Zag or Kings Tableland on the Sunday

May 11 and 12 - The Watagans

The weekend will focus on what to do when a vehicle gets stuck, highlighting the importance of safe practices using the Hierarchy of Recovery

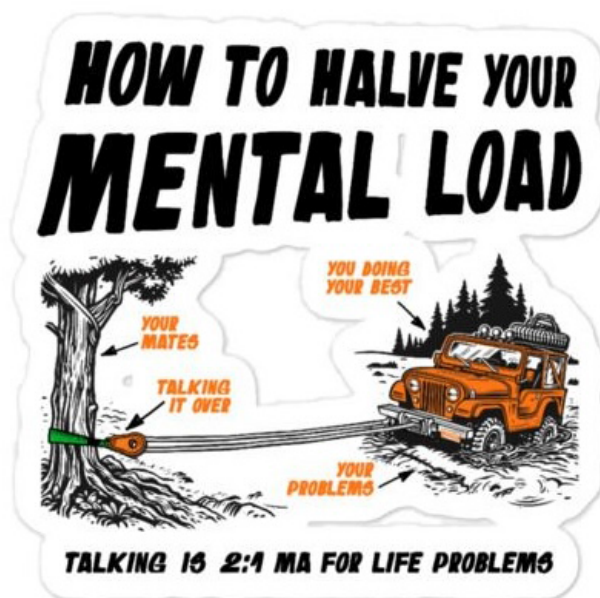
June 22 and 23 - Stockton Beach

Sand driving and sand recoveries will be on offer during this fun-filled weekend, with a camping option at a local caravan park

Whilst basic driver awareness trips are especially relevant to new members, remember that experienced members are also welcome to attend, both to help out the newer members and to refresh their knowledge and skills.

I have booked in to complete the “Perform Complex 4WD Operations” (advanced) course with Getabout Training services later in the year. I understand that the Association is not running an advanced course this year.

One of my favourite motoring journalists is Robert Pepper. He recently published this image ...



Just as a correctly-rigged snatch block (pulley) can give you a 2:1 mechanical advantage when winching, talking things over with family and friends can give you a 2:1 mental advantage in dealing with life's problems.

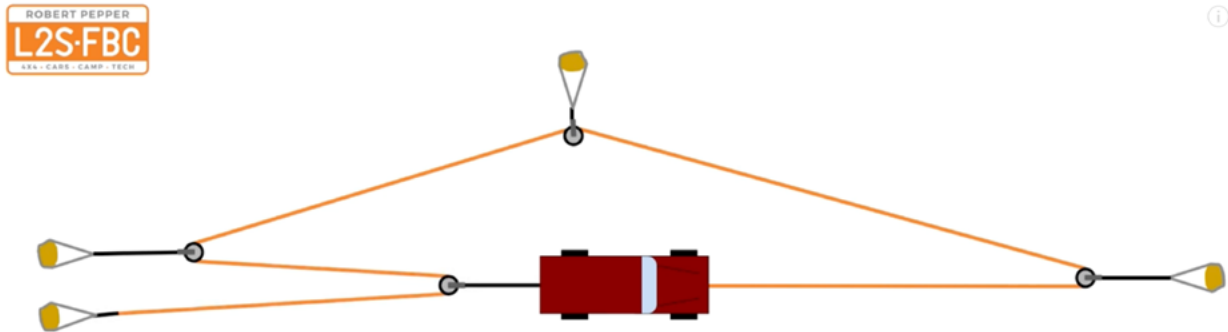
Michael Hamilton.
For the Driver Awareness Team.

“As slow as possible ...
Only as fast as necessary.”

WINCHING PUZZLE ANSWER

Recently I shared this little puzzle with you ...

Have a look at the unusual winching operation below, which has a single line pull from the winch at the front of the vehicle, going through a series of pulleys back to the rear of the vehicle. What would happen if you started winching in the rope ??



I had a couple of suggestions, but the puzzle remained unsolved.

ANSWER - THE VEHICLE TRAVELS BACKWARDS

To get the car to travel backward using the front mounted-winch, you have to create enough mechanical advantage so that the force of the winch cable pulling from behind overcomes the force of the winch cable pulling on the front.

It's tricky to explain how it works, but a chap named Richard Carroll put it this way ...

You need to carefully route the rope around the vehicle and create a sort of block and tackle situation behind it. That way you're getting more pulling force at the back of the truck than at the front, which pulls you backwards and out of whatever trouble you find yourself in.

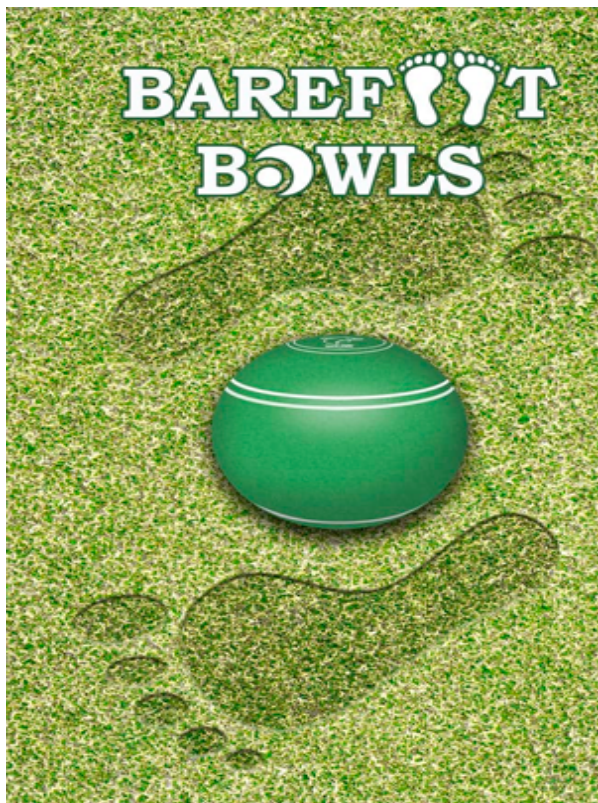
If it's still not clear, just imagine the vehicle in the diagram above moving rearward one metre under its own power. The distance between the two anchor points and the pulley at the back of the vehicle has gotten one metre smaller, feeding more winch cable to the front pulley. How much more cable? Well, there's now one metre more slack between anchor one and the vehicle, and there's another metre of slack between anchor two and the vehicle. That's two metres of slack. Yes, the front of the vehicle has also moved rearward, but if the vehicle moved a metre rearward, only one of those two metres of slack have been taken up. The remaining metre has been rolled into the winch. In other words, if the winch takes in a metre of cable, the vehicle moves back a metre.

Clear as mud ?? ... I'd suggest letting Robert Pepper demonstrate how it works ...

For a full explanation of reverse winching, head over to YouTube and watch **Using a forward-mount winch to go backwards** on the **L2SFBC - Robert Pepper - auto journo** channel.

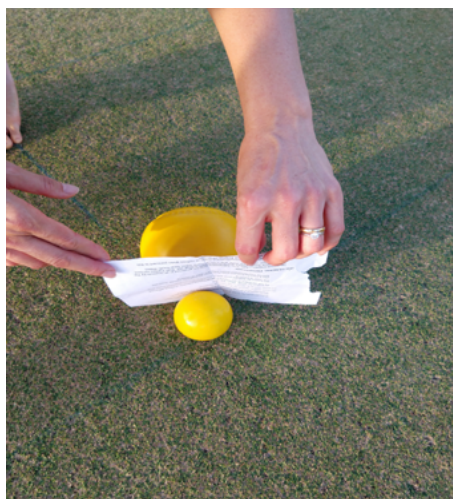
Michael Hamilton.
For the Driver Awareness Team.

"As slow as possible ...
Only as fast as necessary."

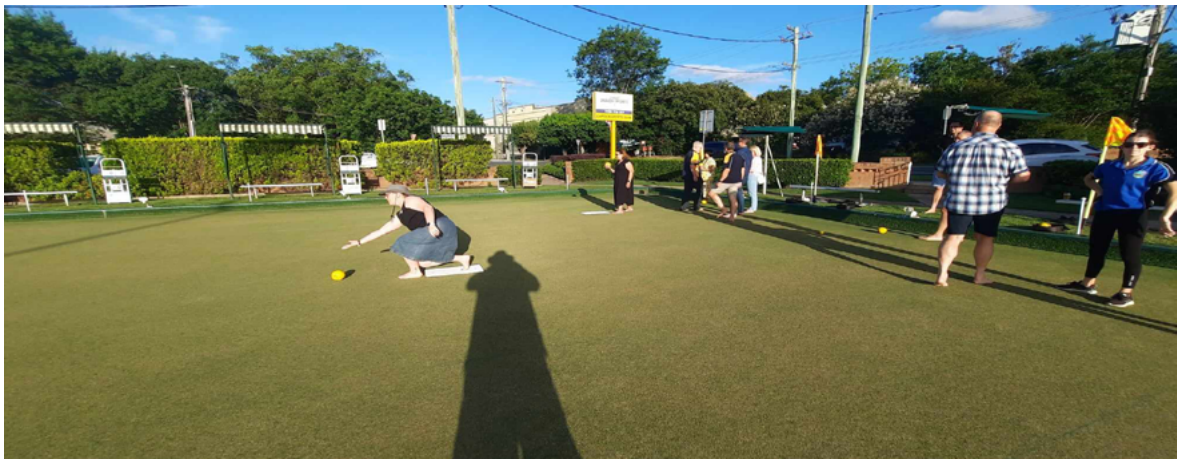


ATTENDEE'S: Janet & Patrick, Leanne & Michael, Carolyn & Mark, Bill, Cheryl & Brett, Suzanne & Paul, Michael, Daniel, Troy, Jean & John & Stephen.

The evening was perfect for a game of Barefoot Bowls, the sun was shining, no sign of rain and quite mild. The first end had just started when, the air was full of the sounds of a siren. All eyes gazed to the street, to see a police car in full flight, negotiating the corner precariously, down through the car park, where they were unable to control the vehicle in the loose gravel. The vehicle spinning out of control, destroying two bench seats and reversing through the showground fence. Both officers exiting the car and hot footing off, either in shame of their actions or to proceed to the call out site on foot. Didn't that add some excitement to the evening!!



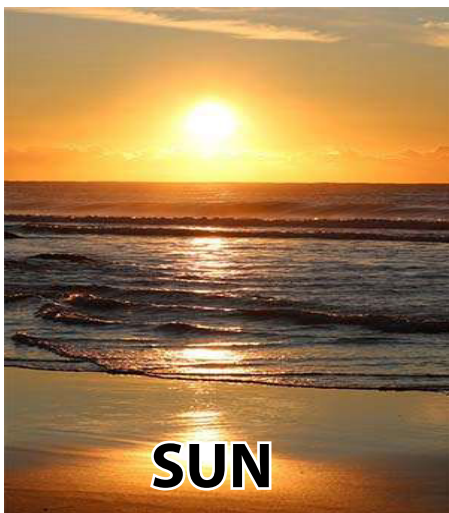
The roll of the evening went to Janet . It was the winning shot for the evening, you could barely fit a tissue between her bias ball and the jack, until the opposition fired off a missile style shot knocking her ball and the jack into the gutter. The opposition employed this tactic on another occasion, but it backfired on them, because when the jack was returned to the starting point of the game, the other teams ball was the closest, to the jack winning the game.



There were a number of players that showed that they may have the skills to do well in this sport. Then there were those whose talents may be better used in another field/sport. After a number of ends were played, the players retired to the bar for a well earned drink, and a recap of the games played. There were also discussions on some peoples tatics that were used. We enjoyed a nice meal and more conversation before heading off to our beds.

I believe a nice evening/night was had by all.

Photo's: Michael, Bill and Camden Sports Club Facebook Page



SAND &

SNAGS

Australia Day 2024

Trip Leader: Jo Quinn

Location: Bonnie Vale, Royal National Park

The full moon reflection was still shimmering over the Port Hacking River when the first of us arrived at Bonnie Vale to secure a spot by the water for our Australia Day picnic. With expected tops of 36 degrees, the morning was beautiful with a cool breeze blowing across the water. At 5:30am, unbelievably, there was already quiet a few groups setting up as well. The early morning arrival was not so much to get a great spot but a good car parking spot.

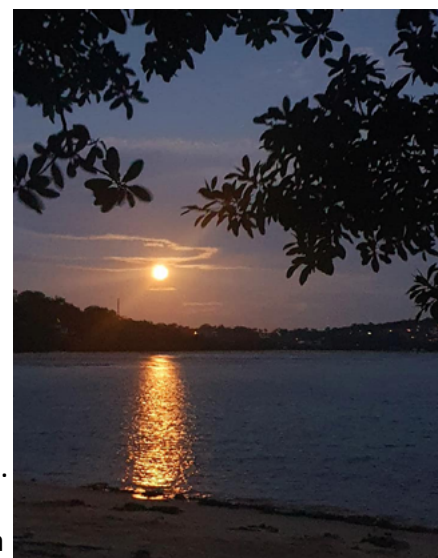


The Royal National Park is a popular spot for public holidays and warm weekends in general. With Garie Beach still closed due to road access from flood damage, it was one less area for people to flock to. The park was closed I believe by mid-morning having reached capacity. There was a strong police and National Parks staff presence at Bonnie Vale which was good to see. The area filled quickly, but we tended to all agree that it was not as busy last year.

We set up the Club marquees festooned with Australian flags which combined with one of few trees, provided adequate shade for us all. The day warmed up, but the breeze continued to keep the heat at a bearable level. The ocean was very refreshing and most of us were in & out of the water all day. We had a "fivsies" style spread incorporating Aussie lamingtons, cornflake crisps, "little boys" & koalas in blue jelly pools. Lunch was snags on the barbie. The wind

started to pick up just as we started cooking lunch which played havoc with the gas BBQ's. Enticing aromas filled the picnic area as all different Nationalities cooked up feasts of every food imaginable.

A great day with lots of laughs and good company, some of which we hadn't seen for a while. No matter what Australia Day represented or meant to each individual, it was a very relaxed and fun atmosphere with people enjoying a fantastic Summers Day by the water. "We are one, but we are many, and from all the lands on earth we come. I am, you are, we are Australian" summed up the day perfectly for me.





More photo's of this trip can be found on the Facebook Page.



With clear skies overhead 7 vehicles left the meeting point at the Colo Riverside Cafe. We headed further up the Putty Rd and after a quick stop at Grey Gums Cafe, & a brief chat with the owner, we all headed for the Commission Rd turnoff a little further along. After airing down Steve led us into the Wollombi National Park, the Commission track and Hunter Main Trails were a little more washed out than last time offering a few more rough & challenging sections but it added to the adventure. Two & a half hrs later we arrived at the Sheepskin Hut for our lunch stop and chewed-the-fat about the trip so far. On our way heading further north along the Commission Trail we encountered a Koala just sitting on the edge of the road, happy to pose for a few photos, not something you see everyday. Further up to the Golden Highway we then headed across to the Milbrodale Truckies Memorial & the Baiaame Cave site for a short stop & Steve's spiel on the story of the mythical Baiaame. Our next stop was the Wilberforce Hotel for a driving break, dinner & a glass of water. I had a great day, the group were all well behaved, no incidents, no accidents, thank you Sue & Steve B for putting on this trip. Bill Twyman.



Top Shelf Tour's from Steve n Bill n Sue with lovely cakes. The Views n History about the Tour First Class Aboriginal Cave paintings the tribute to the fallen Truckies Bra Tree about breast cancer The list goes on A Big Thank You To All who turned up N left with Smiles No vehicle damage Big Day Big Everything Just Top Shelf Tours Thanks for the Top Day Cheers. Dave Cook.

Thank you, Bill & Stephen, for organising, and leading the February 10th Sheepskin Hut trip. It was very well organised and meticulously executed - right down to the complete information of the Sheepskin Hut itself as well as the Baiaame Caves. Well done, Steve, it was quite impressive to be able to get everyone listening that attentively.

The Bras Tree stop-over went on-schedule as unlike last time, there was no need for a 'fuel stop' this time around. The track condition was perfect as there was just enough moisture content on the ground to let the convoy went through with little to no dust. Our drive was enjoyable and team spirit was high, even two fallen trees were cleared within minutes - thanks to Sue for those yummy energy-filled cookies! I reckon the Koala must have crossed the road just to check us out that day! With such enjoyable drive behind us, dinner at the Wilberforce Hotel completes the day very well. Iwan Sujono.



A great day began at the meeting point with chit chat and banter, before Stephen and Bill got us underway. We stopped at the bra tree again so Stephen could show us the environmental damage caused by his fuel leak on a previous trip. The day had a bit of everything, we aired down, engaged 4wd and began our trek through, dirt, dust, rocks, mud, felled trees, and lunch at the hut. Bill led us out from the hut, I think his Pajero was very thirsty and in a hurry to get to the pub, stopped at the truckie memorial, the cave painting and then to the pub. A fantastic day trip, great people and of course a fun, safe and enjoyable day made possible by Stephen and Bill. David Fuser



We departed from Coledale at 5.25am to be early to arrive at the muster point in Colo and I didn't arrive back home until 10pm having covered 620km on the day. An unexpected epic, but all good. I was accompanied by mate Colin who will soon take delivery of a new Troopy that he has had on order for a very long time. He was pleased with how my Troopy performed on the day and enjoyed meeting the trip attendees so much that I think we have a new club member. It was fantastic to be guided through some new forest trails and bush tracks that I had not been into any time before. Sheep Skin Hut is an amazing glimpse into pastoral and droving history and Baiame Cave Aboriginal Rock Art inspires a glimpse of much more ancient history. Good humour and comradery were shared and enjoyed by all on the day as is always the case on club trips. Well done and thanks to Bill and Stephen. Patrick Carmody.



More Photo's can be found on the Facebook Page

An early start at the Colo Holiday Park, had Iwan, Evie, Dave C, David F, Damien F, Serg F (V), Patrick, Colin (V), Bill, Susan and Stephen B attending the pre trip briefing before heading north along the Putty Rd, stopping at Grey Gum Cafe for a comfort stop. After turning onto Commission Rd we stopped and aired down. The beginning of the trek along Commission Rd to the Hunter trail at Kings Cross. The track was quite rough in places. We stopped along the way at a look out and



had morning tea. After our stop, we continued on until we came to Kings Cross, turning left onto the Hunter Trail. While negotiating the track we came upon three fallen small trees/broken branches across the track. After a team effort, all blockages were pushed to one side for the convoy to continue. We proceeded on, reaching the Sheepskin Hut, where we had a lunch. After our break, Bill lead the convoy back to Kings Cross onto Commision Rd, which took us to Apple Tree Flats, where we aired up . After a bit of chatter about the trip so far, Bill headed off to

Bulga via Jerry's Plain and the Golden Highway for a quick fuel stop and then onto the Truckies Memorial. We then took a short drive to Baiame Caves to view the Aboriginal Art, after which we traveled back down the Putty Rd to Wilberforce for a meal and drink break. A great day was had by all I believe. Stephen B.



Howes Trail

14th Feb 2024

We all left our meeting point at the Colo Riverside and headed for the Howes Trail turnoff 90km further up the Putty Rd. Once inside that red gate and on the trail, we aired down for the slow trip into the Yengo National Park. The area had had a huge hail storm go through the night before so we had to do a bit of track clearing of fallen branches and where most of us managed to have stick jamb up underneath our vehicles. We stopped for lunch at the newly renovated Finchley Campground where Michael gave a demonstration on his soon to be installed fit out in the back of his Ineos. A quick stop at the Aboriginal Rock Carving site and the Finchley Trig Point lookout we headed for the exit onto The Great North Rd, right next to the Wollombi Hotel. We all had a refreshing glass of water and a chat about the trip before making our way towards home. Michael, Stephen & I headed across to Wisemans Ferry and along the way we encountered a bad storm and again fallen branches along with powerlines on the road. After a trip across the Hawkesbury River on the ferry we had dinner at the Wisemans Bowling Club to break the drive home. My 1st time leading a trip from start to finish,



apart from having to get out and open gates it was a good drive and a great trip, another good midweek club trip. Bill Twyman

After the usual briefing at the Colo Holiday Park Cafe (not open for a coffee), Bill lead Michael, David, Johnny & myself off to the Howes Trail entrance. After a safe entrance through the gate, we aired down for the beginning of a fairly rough section of the track. The track appeared to be a lot more rougher than the last time we travelled it. When we entered the Yengo National Park section of the trail, we stopped for a morning tea break. We then continued onto the locked gates of Yengo Camp Ground, where the track changes to the Finchley Trail. We proceeded to the Finchley Camp grounds approximately 12klms further on, where we had lunch. After the break we went and viewed the Aboriginal Rock Carvings, then proceeded onto the Finchley look out. Leaving the look out and back onto the Finchley Trail, where a few klms further on it changes to the Yango Trail. Following the track to Cagneys Crossing where we turned into Yango Creek Rd that led us up to Wollimbi for a well earned Pink Lemonade. A great day was had by all. Stephen B.



21st February 2024

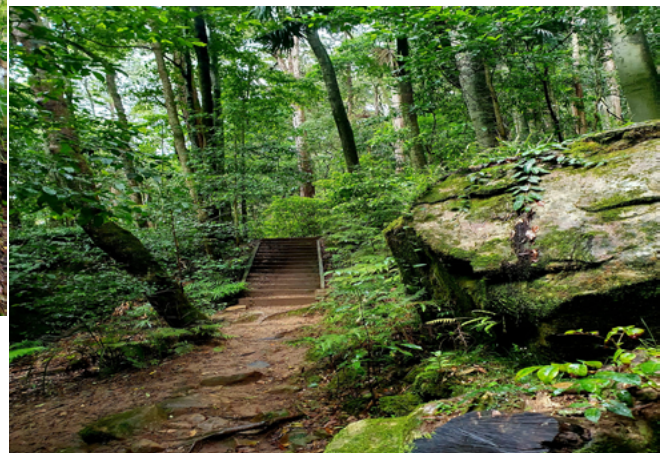
Attendees : Jo Quinn, Nathan and Cherie Blamire, Kevin McCormack, Cath and Tom DeSantis, Bill and Jan Twyman, Patrick Carmody.



We all met at Nungarry rest area at 9.00 the “lovely” Bill was last to arrive but somehow, I am writing the trip report, thanks Bill. After working out our travelling order for the day we were on our way.



At the Minnamurra rainforest Jo, Nathan and myself walked up to the falls which was quite a steep climb but well worth the effort. The rest did the short Lyre Bird loop track and ended up enjoying a coffee and chat back at the cafe whilst waiting for us to return.





We then drove up the Jamberoo Mountain Rd taking in the scenic drive, up to Robertson pie shop (no pies were consumed) and then proceeded along the Illawarra Hwy down the Macquarie pass.

Lunch was at the Cascade falls car park/ picnic area, where we experienced a light sprinkling of rain but that didn't stop the adventures Jo, Nathan and myself walking the 2km return walk to Cascade Falls it was a very pretty walk.



After driving the coast road to Bald Hill for a quick stop where ice cream and coffees were consumed and we watched a hang glider having some fun in the breeze, we proceeded to the Kelly falls which was a short walk that everyone participated in.



Darkes forest, Glenbernie apple orchard was our next stop where many laughs were had, with apples, honey, and drinks purchased, we were then all treated to tasting of their ciders, lager and mead, which in turn made many go back to the shop for more beverages to take home.

Upon leaving the cider house we bid farewell to "the Lovely" Bill, Jan, Cath and Tom.



A very quick move of the cars across the road and it was our final walk of the day to Maddens falls this was an easy walk and a great waterfall to see. I guess we have to be grateful for the rain as the waterfalls were definitely putting on a show for us today.

I know I had a great day and I'm sure everyone else did as well, thanks Jo.

Trip report written by Cherie



More photos can be found on the Facebook Page

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PAGE

The Club Committee has recognised that the Club constitution may need to be revised.

We are putting out a request for interested members to volunteer to join a committee to help bring the constitution up to date. Interested members can contact the secretary for further information.

The SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB CELEBRATES 50 YEARS NEXT YEAR

The committee is seeking member volunteers to join a committee to put together plans to celebrate the 50th anniversary in 2025.

Interested members can contact the secretary for further information.

WHERE WAS I

Last Months co-ordinates were 30°32'02.6"S 145°06'52.8"E and 30°56'08.3"S 144°25'01.9"E which placed me at Tilpa hotel (30°56'08.3"S 144°25'01.9"E) and Shindy's Inn (30°32'02.6"S 145°06'52.8"E) at Louth. Nathan Blanimire responded with the right places and also included a trip report (see attached) sharing he and his families time in the area.

Sounds to me like you are travelling the Darling river run and stopping for cold beers at every opportunity such as the Tilpa hotel (30°56'08.3"S 144°25'01.9"E) and Shindy's Inn (30°32'02.6"S 145°06'52.8"E) at Louth, both great spots to drink if I do say so myself.



Back in 2016 the four of us travelled from Wentworth up along the Darling, taking time to explore Mungo National Park, then

crossing to the western side of the Darling at Pooncarie and staying at Bindara Station then heading in to the back of Kinchega National Park to Menindee, all this with one damper missing in the rear of the old cruiser till we could get it fixed at Broken hill. We then continued on by heading back out to Menindee and travelling the Wilcannia road to Wilcannia, then to Tilpa and on to Louth, then Bourke, Brewarrina, Walgett and to last months favourite Lightning Ridge, and we made our way home from there via Collarenebri, Rowena, Burren Junction for a dip, and then camped at Pilliga Bore before heading down through Coonabarabran and we stayed at Mendooran before heading home through Dunedoo

Gulgong, Mudgee and the usual way

We stayed at a lot of station stays on the Darling run, and I can't remember them all.

I do know at Bindara Station at the time the Darling was basically dry and I walked from the West bank to the East bank on the dry river bed

I paddle boarded on the Darling at Menindee. I also paddle boarded the Murra y Darling at Wentworth and lake Talbot at Narrandera on the way over.



The girls got to sit at the Bar at Shindy's Inn with their soft drinks.

Hope this brightens your day, So much happened on that trip, and this is a trip we keep talking about doing again when the river has water in it as it was so dry that year.



WHERE AM I THIS TIME

31°06'52.5"S 138°41'14.2"E

Can you find me.

When you think you have found the secret destination, email me at s_bennett51@outlook.com with your location. If you have visited this location, send a photo and/or write a few paragraphs of your visit there, or a funny experience you may have had there and what you liked/disliked about the place. There is no prize.



**I TOOK THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED...
NOW, I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE HELL I AM.**

**Until Next Time
STAY SAFE.**