



DRIVE TORQUE eNEWS JANUARY 2025



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- Serjeant-at-arms:** Bill Twyman 0418 681 237
- Equipment & Merchandise Officer:** Alex Gatward 0402 734 110

Presidents Message

Another year older and a new year begun.

I would like to encourage all members to be more active within the club in 2025. I believe the old saying rings true, this club will only be as good as it's members. Unless we have more involvement, I am scared that the club will fade away, drop out of existence. That is why I suggest, if a member has a trip or some where they think would be good to go, talk to a trip convener or myself and we will put it out there, and someone might put their hand up to organise it. At the very least it will give the regulars who do arrange trips, some where to think about going. Please GET INVOLVED.

The next General Meeting is on the 11th February 2025. The venue is the Prospect Hotel 3 Great Westwrn Hwy Prospect. Meeting will commence at 8:00PM and finish approx. 10:00PM. You could also arrive at 6:00 to 6:30PM and join other members to have dinner from the bistro. From experience, a very nice meal. See you there, GET INVOLVED.

The survey that you were ask to participate in prior to Christmas, the results have been republished in this copy of Drive Torque eNews. This is to give those who completed the survey, a chance to check the results and decided if they agree to share the results with 4WD NSW & ACT. It explains that if anyone has concerns to email our secretary, he will then notify the committee you have concerns. If there are no problems, the results will be forwarded on to the association.

The Committee would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

Stephen B

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC.

MINUTES OF JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Date -	Tuesday, January 14, 2025	
Venue -	via Zoom	
Meeting Commenced -	8:04 pm	
Attendance -	Michael Hamilton, Bill Twyman, Brett Hampson, Alex Gatward, Kevin McCormack, David Wellham, Craig Fitzpatrick, Nathan Blamire, Andrew Rowlatt, Jo Quinn, John Coombs (Life Member)	
Apologies -	Stephen B, Cath & Tom	
Minutes of Previous Meeting -	December Meeting via Zoom - 13/12/2024 Accepted - Craig Seconded - Bill	
Business Arising -	Nil	
New Members -	Nil	
President's Report -	(Stephen)	Nil
Vice President's Report -	Michael	Warm welcome to John Coombs (Life Member) Welcome to our first Tuesday General Meeting Social outing this Sunday to Clifton Gardens Stephen, Bill, Iwan and myself had a great Sunday in the Gardens of Stone National Park / Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area Baal Bone Gap / Bullen Climb
Secretary's Report -	Michael	Rev It Up and Join The Great Outback Treasure Hunt Fundraiser for the RFDS
Treasurer's Report -	Brett	See attached Available funds as at 31/12/2024 = \$7562.07
Membership Sec. Report -	(Stephen)	Unchanged since last month
Driver Awareness Report -	Michael	First activity this year is Kanangra-Boyd National Park MOVED TO MARCH 29 / 30
Trip Conveners' Report -	Bill	See upcoming trips in the magazine / website Upcoming midweek reccie to the Valley of the Dinosaurs in the Capertee area

Delegates' Report -	David	Petition to Parliament re National Parks See newsletter and website
Webmaster's Report -	Kevin	WATCH items you wish to be updated on Push Notifications now available in Settings
Public Relations -	Jo	Committee has agreed not to participate in June 4WD Show 50th Anniversary - Hall has been double booked We are now looking at our options Date change or venue change ? Commemorative clothing being organised
Equipment / Merchandising -	Alex	Reminder to order merchandise
Serjeant-at-Arms -	Bill	Nil
GENERAL BUSINESS -	David	Thanks to Kevin for adding Classic Rego to website
	John Coombs	Good to see Brett H
Next Meeting -	Tuesday, February 11	Venue TBA
Close -	8:55 pm	

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC.

Treasurers Report

Dec-24

Cash Book Balance Brought Forward	\$8,277.51
Plus Income	\$20.00
Less Expenditure	\$735.44
Closing Balance	<u><u>\$7,562.07</u></u>

Income - Classic Rego \$20.00

Expenditure - Thankyou card & gift - Paul Sstrom \$217.35
Christmas party expenses \$285.66
Female Factory Tour reimbursement \$130.00
November Meeting BBQ \$102.43

Bank Reconciliation


Bank Account Balance as at 31/12/2024	ANZ	\$4,203.59
<u>Plus</u> Funds held in Pay Pal as at 31/12/2024		\$3,063.73
Cash on Hand		\$294.75
Available Funds as at 31/12/2024		<u><u>\$7,562.07</u></u>

DRIVER AWARENESS NEWS

For this month's article, I planned to write an explanation of the similarities and differences between AWD (All Wheel Drive) and 4WD (Four Wheel Drive), but I decided to let AI (Artificial Intelligence) do it for me. Here's the result, which is OK, but not AOK ...

◆ AI Overview

All-wheel drive (AWD) and four-wheel drive (4WD) are both systems that help improve a vehicle's traction and control, but they differ in several ways:



When to engage
AWD systems are always active, while 4WD systems are part-time and need to be engaged by the driver. ⌘

How they work
AWD systems automatically share torque between the axles when low traction is detected, while 4WD systems typically split torque 50/50 between the front and rear axles. ⌘

Best for
AWD is better for slippery roads and bad weather, while 4WD is better for extreme conditions and off-roading. ⌘

Cost
AWD is usually more expensive than 4WD due to its more complex systems. ⌘

Fuel efficiency
AWD vehicles are often less fuel efficient than two-wheel drive vehicles due to the added weight and mechanical components. ⌘

Off-road capability
4WD systems are usually better for off-roading because they have low-range gearing and locking differentials. ⌘

Where they're found
AWD is common in modern SUVs and passenger cars, while 4WD is more common in larger SUVs and pickup trucks. ⌘

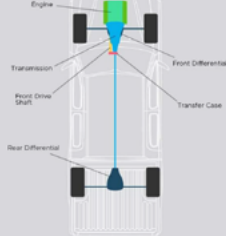
Generative AI is experimental.

4WD VS AWD

IN 2013, 1/3 of all passenger cars and trucks sold in the U.S. were either AWD or 4WD.

4WD

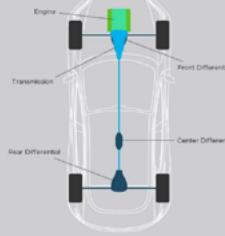
Vehicles that have **two differentials and a transfer case** to provide power to all four wheels of a vehicle.



- ① Usually found on off-road vehicles, like trucks, that are used on all terrain
- ② Most 4WD systems are only on when they are activated
- ③ Power is split between the front and rear axles so torque is evenly applied to each wheel

AWD

Vehicles that have a **front, rear and center differential** to provide power to all four wheels of a vehicle.



- ④ Typically found on cars and crossovers
- ⑤ The AWD system is on almost all of the time
- ⑥ Torque is split between the front and rear axles on the center differential
- ⑦ Not as robust as 4WD

PROS

- ⚡ Can make it 2WD to **improve fuel economy** when 4WD isn't needed, like on the highway
- ⚡ Provides **more pulling power** since it grips using all four tires

- ⚡ Allows normal cars to travel over **tough terrain**
- ⚡ **On all the time** and you don't have to manually engage it like a 4WD vehicle

CONS

- 👁️ Must pay close attention to road conditions and activate the system accordingly in order to keep your vehicle in good shape

- 🧪 A full diagnostic test may be needed to determine any part failures since AWD uses many integrated systems

REMEMBER
AWD and 4WD help only with acceleration and traction. Braking distances and handling will be the same as with a 2WD vehicle.

The diagram (which comes from CJ Pony Parts) was included with the AI answer.

While much of this information (in the answer and the diagram) is correct, there are a few factual errors / omissions.

How many can you find ?

Our first Driver Awareness activity for 2025 will be to the Kanangra-Boyd National Park on the NEW DATE of March 29 and 30. See website for details.

Michael Hamilton.
For the Driver Awareness team.

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



Association News & Updates: January 2025

Hello from 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.

NSW National Parks & Wildlife updates

You will see on Association Facebook site a shared link for a petition on National Parks we are supporting this and are working with others to make it happen, so please sign and add your name to the list. More details in this newsletter. LINK TO PETITION [HERE](#)

Last year there was an area of State Forest that was due to be converted to National Parks and Parks dumped it. Parks are stretched for resources but spending a lot on infrastructure in other areas like Gardens of Stone – would be good to see some more remote places maintained, mainly down south of state.

Animal encounters

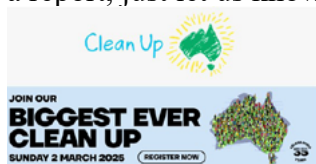
Snake bites are on the rise in the greater Sydney area - be snake aware - even at home in your own back yard. Always carry a first aid kit and do a course – having first aid skills might save a life. Would members like a guest speaker to attend a meeting and discuss first aid?

Clean up Australia Day – 2 March 2025

Sunday 2nd March 2025 – Clubs in Hunter Region are hosting the day at Ourimbah State Forest which is only a short drive up the M1.

Register here <https://register.cleanup.org.au/fundraisers/noelskimmingsskimmings/ourimbah--wyong-state-forest>

We will be having a sausage sizzle for lunch, provided by Forest Corporation. Want to help but not physical able to participate in the clean-up? Come along and lend a hand on the BBQ or help us with some photos and a report, just let us know. Let us know if you are bring a trailer or a Ute.



Camp Oven Cook Off – Mudgee 17 & 18 May 2025

Do you have some cooking skills or just want to have some fun? It's a relaxing weekend to set up camp, spend your days touring in this beautiful part of NSW, and your nights around a fire or having fun at trivia. Exclusive lush grass camping area, Hot showers, Powered and unpowered sites. You could also stay in town in a bit more comfort if that's your thing.

Welcome pack with event sticker, Touring Trips of the local area, Winery Tour, Observation Rally with prizes, Treasure Hunt with prizes, 5pm nibbles, Trivia Night with great prizes, Cook Off with medals and trophies. Sunday morning breakfast, Quarterly Meeting with door prize. Camping available from Friday(16th) night to Monday (19th) morning.

Tickets available soon, tickets cover 3 nights from Friday to Sunday - watch the newsletters for more details. See you at COCO 2025. If you intend to attend, please register on our website and we will ensure that you are sent all of the event information.

Driver Training Unit

Calendar for 2025 is being planned for courses including assessment and DAF days – dates will be in future newsletters. The content of our Driver Awareness trips is based on these courses, but we do not conduct the assessment.

Kia Tasman advertisement

Just before Christmas a concerned member contacted Association with details of the new Kia Tasman advertisement that had a drag chain being connected to a tow ball to pull down trees. It's alarming that in 2025 this is still happening and that vehicle manufacturers have no understanding of safety in the vehicles that they sell. Immediately Association contacted Kia and within 24 hours the advertisement had been edited with the offending part removed. It was a good response from Kia, but it should never have gone to air in the first place.













Social media, magazines and club promotion

Some members of the public are always looking to complain and attempt to restrict our recreational activities. They will try to use our words and photos against us if it looks like we are doing the wrong thing, are not where we should be or damaging the environment. We need to think about what we post in open pages on social media and in our newsletter and promotional material. It is good that we usually postpone trips when tracks are wet and that we do not drive 'off road' or bush bash and stay on only authorised open tracks and roads.

Local emergency info at your fingertips

This summer, be ready to deal with the unexpected by downloading the **Hazards Near Me NSW app** – your official source of emergency information on bushfires, floods and other severe weather events. Use the app to set a **local Watch Zone** so you receive notifications about emergency situations happening near your premises, staff and clients. Watch out for track closures – one site is NPWS site. Remember to make sure any fires that you have are completely extinguished.

Apps to download

	Hazards Near Me NSW Set up a watch zone to receive notifications on changing conditions.	iOS 	Android 
	Emergency Plus The 'what 3 words' feature shares your precise location with Emergency Services.	iOS 	Android 
	BOM Weather Check for weather forecasts and warnings.	iOS 	Android 
	Live Traffic NSW Plan ahead and see what hazards are impacting your route on NSW roads.	iOS 	Android 

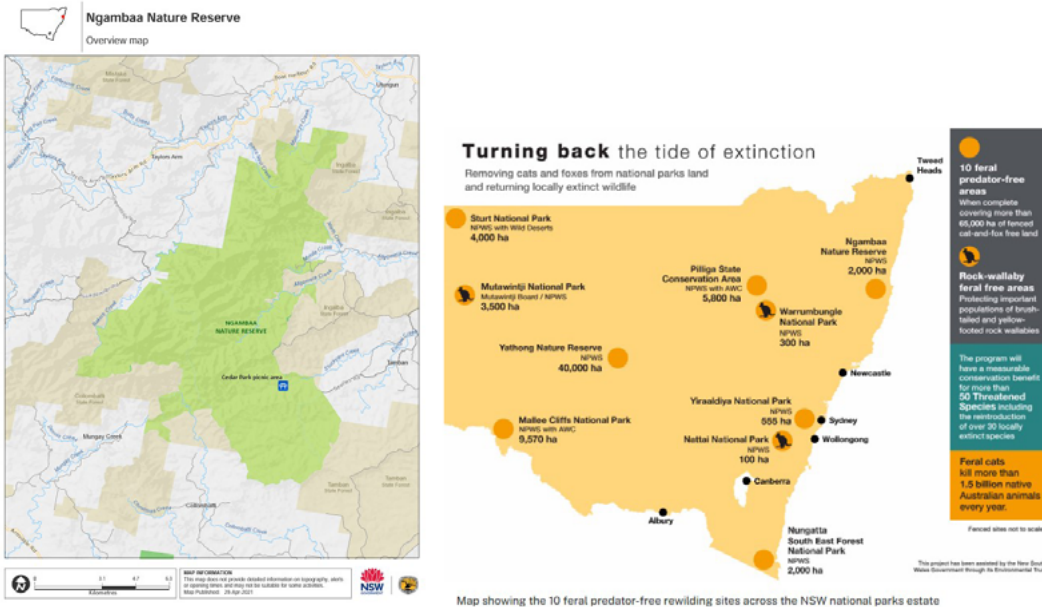
[Download Hazards Near Me app](#)

Ngambaa Nature Reserve

Are one of the 10 sites comprising the feral predator-free network, one of the most significant threatened-fauna and ecological restoration projects in New South Wales's history. Of the 10 feral predator-free areas, 7 are being established by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, while the other 3 areas are already operational and managed through partnerships between the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Australian Wildlife Conservancy and the University of NSW (operating as Wild Deserts). Ngambaa feral predator-free area is approximately 2,000 ha in size and is surrounded by 23 km of conservation fencing. The project will have a measurable benefit for at least 12 threatened animal species, including the re-establishment of up to 8 native mammal species which are now locally extinct in the area.

Cedar Park picnic area – Ngambaa Nature Reserve: North Coast: Access – Easy. It offers an ideal base for exploring Ngambaa Nature Reserve, with picnic facilities and a walking track close to Kempsey.

What to bring: Hat, sunscreen, drinking water, take your binoculars if you want to go bird watching. Cedar Park picnic area sits on the banks of Stockyard Creek, and takes its name from a stand of red cedars which provide plentiful shade and the tranquil setting for a long picnic or lunch. Particularly in summer, when temperatures soar, this quiet picnic area serves as an ideal respite in the heart of the reserve, with cool running water to bathe the feet in and an orchestra of native birds providing the soundtrack. Rainforest pigeons call from the trees, whilst noisy pittas and lyrebirds forage in the undergrowth, making it great for birdwatching. Bring a packed lunch to take advantage of wood barbecues and picnic tables in two open areas, then put on some sturdy shoes for an easy walk. An information display explains the history and significance of Ngambaa, and a trailhead leads onto an easy walking track through surrounding forest, with plenty of places to settle down and enjoy a picnic. Cedar Park picnic area is mostly visited by people from the local area, so you're likely to have a great deal of privacy and space. It also acts as a great base to get your bearings before delving deeper into Ngambaa Nature Reserve. For directions, safety and practical information, see [visitor info](#)



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Update from NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service



Majestic Pigeon House Mountain Didthul reopens

Experience spectacular views from the top of Pigeon House Mountain Didthul in Morton National Park, near Ulladulla, with the recent reopening of the much-loved walking track after a 4-month closure. Restoration of the track was undertaken following extensive damage caused by rainfall. Enjoy the 5km-return walk to the summit and its panoramic views of the Budawang Wilderness, before relaxing at the picnic area at the track head for a well-deserved lunch.

[Plan visit >](#)



New Glow Worm Tunnel audio tour

Head to the magical Glow Worm Tunnel in Wollemi National Park, near Lithgow, and learn about the thousands of glow worms who inhabit the tunnel as well as the engineering marvel of the Wolgan Valley Railway with our new, free audio tour. The self-guided tour is delivered at 10 stops together with new signage along the track. Download the audio tour on the NSW National Parks mobile app before leaving home.

[More info >](#)



Iconic infrastructure upgrades across the state

We're creating new, world-class visitor facilities, walking tracks, lookouts, campgrounds, picnic areas and more. With record levels of investment, these recent improvements make our parks more accessible than ever. Take in incredible mountain views, explore magical caves or set up camp out west. With so much to explore and enjoy, there's never been a better time to visit NSW national parks.

[Watch video >](#)



Point Plomer campground welcomes visitors again

Beautiful Point Plomer campground in Limeburners Creek National Park, near Port Macquarie, has recently reopened following important revitalisation work. New upgrades to this popular spot include increased shade, creation of larger and defined campsites, improved access roads and increased day-use parking. The campground is ideal for a family holiday or a relaxing weekend getaway – kid-friendly golden beaches, lush rainforest, surfing, swimming and fishing all await.

[Book now >](#)



Popular Sydney Harbour National Park beach reopens

Picturesque Shark Beach, located in Nielsen Park near Vaucluse, recently reopened in time for summer fun following a landmark project to replace the nearly century-old Nielsen Park seawall. Experience this beautiful harbour spot by enjoying a swim at Shark Beach and a picnic on one of Nielsen Park’s large, sheltered lawns. Enjoy upgrade features including a new wheelchair-accessible pedestrian ramp and additional seating along the promenade.

[More info >](#)



How to tackle the new Snowies Alpine Walk

Calling all hiking enthusiasts: by now, you have probably heard of our new Snowies Alpine Walk in Kosciuszko National Park. But how do you prepare for a 56km, 4-day trek across the Australian Alps? We’ve got you covered with a handy itinerary that will help you plan your adventure. Check it out for hiking tips, essentials for your day pack and unmissable sights along our newest multi-day walk.

[Learn more >](#)



Seven coastal rock platform safety tips

If you're planning to visit a coastal national park this summer or set out on a coastal hike, check out our essential tips for staying safe by the sea. Learn about how you can explore these stunning yet ever-changing areas safely with tips on weather, tides, swimming, what to pack and more.

[Watch now >](#)

[Victoria Falls walking track](#)
Blue Mountains National Park
Scone Mountain bike trails
Scone Mountain National Park



Skywalk lookout
Dorrigo National Park
Bay Cliff walking track
Nadgee Nature Reserve



Monthly Camp Site Review #3

Name: Yadbora Private Camp

Location: Out past Milton NSW

Distance From Sydney: approx.270kms 3.5hrs

Date Stayed: Jan. 2025

Cost: \$15 p/p per night

No. Sites: lots

Access: Approx 35km's of dirt road. Condition is weather dependant. Can have lots of corrugations & pot holes

Caravan/Trailer Friendly: Yes

Amenities: Pit toilets & camp fires allowed (dependant on current fire bans)

To Bring: Drinking water, firewood, solar power, toilet paper, shower options

Phone Service: No service at camp at all, on any provider

Closest Town: Milton/Ulladulla

General Overview: Right on the banks of the Clyde River, Yadbora Private Camp is the perfect spot to get away from it all. Very simple campground, basically just a paddock with pit toilets, the location and serenity more than make up for the lack of amenities. All camp sites are very group friendly and are on the banks of the river with great views. Most have easy access to the river, which is perfect for kayaking, swimming, fishing for bass or just relaxing on a floatie. There is ample firewood available for collection on the property.

There is no drinking water on the property. All rubbish has to be taken out with you.

Nearby:

Milton: A small quaint country town just out of Ulladulla with a great pie shop.

Pigeon House Mountain: Completing the iconic Pigeon House Mountain Didthul walking track near Ulladulla in Morton National Park rewards hikers with amazing panoramic views of the area including captivating sights of cliffs and gorges within the Budawang Wilderness, all carved by the Clyde River. On clear days, you may be able to see as far as Jervis Bay and Bermagui. The walk is not for the faint hearted, is a grade 4 track & will take 2.5-3.5hrs. (adapted from NSW National Parks website)

Ulladulla: 45min from camp, Ulladulla is a thriving, popular village on the NSW south Coast. It is a fairly large town and has all services and many speciality shops. Great fish & chips also available from the wharf.



Clifton Gardens - Social day outing.



Attendees: Michael Hamilton, Jan & Bill Twyman, Jean & John Hocking.

Some of us arrived around 10.30 & others a little later, we chose a picnic table out of the wind (right next to the coffee truck actually). There were quite a few other groups of people enjoying the park, the sun was shining, kids were kicking a ball & laughing. The harbour was a buzz with ferries running back & forth, seaplanes were taking off & landing all day.

Jan & Michael went for a walk around the point towards Balmoral Beach & found a cafe, they decided to place our lunch order so we had a slightly early lunch. After lunch I took a short walk down to the water's edge to check out the Yachts racing on Sydney Harbour, it was very spectacular in the heavy winds. We all took advantage of the coffee truck selling ice creams.

We didn't stay much longer as the wind was picking up & John wanted to go for a walk out along the pier to watch the kids fishing.

Jan & I took Michael for a drive over the Spit Bridge & up to Brookvale, places he had not been to in a long time. We had a leisurely drive across to The Cumberland State Forest in West Pennant Hill showing Michael our wonderful plant nursery. We all had a great day out.

More photos can be found on the Facebook page.



Trip Convener January 2025 Report

A reminder of upcoming trips - further details available on the website.

- Aust Day - Camping at Yadboro January 25th to 27th
- Committee Meeting February 4th
- February General Meeting February 11th
Prospect Hotel 3Great Western Hwy Prospect 8:00pm meeting &/or 6:00pm for dinner.
- Audley Boatshed picnic lunch Royal NP February 19th *mid week*
- Lunch at Patonga - ferry ride on the Hawkesbury River March 19th *mid week*
- Dees Corner 4day Camp March 24th - 28th *mid week*
- Driver Awareness weekend (Kanangra Boyd NP) March 29th - 30th
- COCO 2025 - Association weekend event (Mudgee Showground) May 17th - 18th
- Gunning Fireworks display September 13th
- Clubs 50th Anniversary 2025 Oct long weekend 2025

Sgt At Arms Report

Nothing to report.

CLUB CALENDAR

JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Aust. Day Weekend Camp
26 Aust. Day Weekend Camp	27 Aust. Day Weekend Camp	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 Committee Meeting	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 General Meeting Prospect Hotel	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Weekday Wanderer Royal Day Trip	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Driver 30 Awareness Day &/or Weekend Trip Kanangra Boyd NP	31					1
2	3	4 Committee Meeting	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 <u>General Meeting Via Zoom</u>	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 <u>Weekday Wanderer Lunch At Patonga</u>	20	21	22
23	24 Weekday	25 Wanderer	26 Dees	27 Corner	28 Again	29 Driver Awareness Day &/or Weekend Trip Kanangra Boyd NP



\$70:00



\$72:00



\$87:00



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To the members who celebrated their Birthdays in January.

Karolyn Honor

Leanne Minny

David Laurie

The Unknown's

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PAGE

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL - ePetitions open for signature

Recreational user access to NSW National Parks

Hello,

In a recent newsletter from 4WD NSW & ACT INC (our State Association) there was a link to an ePetition on National Parks to Legislative Council of the New South Wales Parliament.

You may have seen this on social media - the Association supports this petition.

The petition is below for you to read and if you want to support this please use the link and sign the petition.

The petition has over 20,000 signatures, the more the better, and is open till 21 March 2025.

Our recreation is going out into our beautiful country and this is becoming harder each year with closures of tracks and even whole areas.

Communities that rely on tourism also see a decline in the local economy when areas close.

Your Delegates to our Association support this petition and recommend that you review it and sign it if you agree.

Hope to see you at a meeting or on the tracks soon.

Cheers,

Bill Twyman & David Wellham

LINK TO PETITION [HERE](#)

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL - Signing ePetition - Recreational user access to NSW National Parks

To sign the ePetition, confirm you are a resident of New South Wales and enter your title, first name and last name. Once you click 'submit' you will have signed the ePetition and will be re-directed to the Legislative Council's 'ePetitions open for signature' page.

Recreational user access to NSW National Parks

Petitioner: Mr Anthony Crooke | Member: Ruddick, John | No. of Signatories: 20,646 | Date closes: 21/03/2025 | Status: Open

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council, the petitioners of New South Wales state that the NSW Government must identify its position and strategy on the management of NSW National Parks, specifically regarding the provision of ongoing and unrestricted public access to national parks for public recreational use, including but not limited to recreational four-wheel driving, motorcycle riding, mountain biking, camping, hiking, fishing and hunting. The petitioners request that the House conduct a parliamentary inquiry into all track and area closures in all NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service managed land over the last 10 years, including detailed justification for the restriction of public access in each area, and the ensuing economic impacts on local communities and associated industries.

I am a resident of New South Wales

Name

Title

First name*

Last Name *

Contact

Email*

I do not want to receive email updates on the progress of the petition.

I understand that my details will not be made public but my name and email address will be kept by the Legislative Council. The Legislative Council will only use your information to keep you informed of the progress of the ePetition, unless you choose not to be contacted.

Accept privacy statement and terms and conditions.

The Great Outback Treasure Hunt

This may be of interest to some of our members ...



MEDIA RELEASE

20th January 2025

Paroo Shire Council Launches "The Great Outback Treasure Hunt".

It is with great excitement that Council announces the upcoming Great Outback Treasure Hunt, an exhilarating two-day event set to take place on the 5th and 6th of April 2025. This adventure promises to bring participants from all walks of life to the heart of South West Queensland, showcasing the unmatched beauty, resilience, and spirit of the Paroo Shire.

Designed to support local businesses, boost tourism, and foster community inclusion, this annual event is more than a fun-filled escapade. It's an opportunity to make a lasting economic and social impact in our region, which has faced significant challenges in recent years, including the effects of drought. The Great Outback Treasure Hunt is proudly supporting the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) (Queensland Section), an organisation integral to the health and wellbeing of remote communities like ours. Proceeds from this event will directly benefit the RFDS, ensuring they can continue their vital work across the outback.

Over two days, teams will navigate outback-inspired challenges, explore iconic local landmarks, and experience the hospitality of our Shire. From the Cunnamulla Fella Statue to Yowah's opal fossicking fields, the event will highlight the natural and cultural treasures that make our region unique. Along the way, participants will camp under the stars, strengthening connections with both the land and each other. The event also serves as a platform for community inclusion, inviting people of all abilities and backgrounds to join in the adventure. We are committed to ensuring that everyone feels welcome, whether they're locals or visitors from afar.

Economically, the Great Outback Treasure Hunt will inject much-needed revenue into our local businesses, from accommodation providers and fuel stations to cafes and artisans. It is also expected to extend our tourism season, attracting visitors who will not only compete but stay, explore, and fall in love with our region. This initiative underscores our commitment to improving liveability and creating new opportunities for our residents. By bringing the community together in a celebration of resilience, mateship, and adventure, we're creating a legacy that will benefit Paroo Shire for years to come.

Council extends a heartfelt thanks to our sponsors, including Lowes Petroleum, Sunwater, RACQ and Ergon Energy Network, whose support has made this event possible. Your contributions are helping us achieve something truly special for our region.

Registrations are now open, and I encourage everyone to get involved. Whether you're competing, volunteering, or cheering from the sidelines, your participation will make a difference.

Join us for an unforgettable adventure and help us showcase the Paroo Shire at its finest.

Flyer attached:

<https://www.facebook.com/OutbackTreasureHunt>

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/great-outback-treasure-hunt-tickets-1075425770429>

Registrations close 1st March 2025.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Shelly Holland
0437 478 288



Thank you to those who were able to complete our recent survey.

44% of those emailed responded, and I'm told that this is a high response rate.

Here is a summary of the results ...

1. People joined our club for a very wide range of reasons, the most common being 4WDing, Company (meet new people and make new friends), and Security on trips (vehicle recovery, disaster management, not getting lost).

Also high on the list were Education (driver training, personal and skills development), and "I want to belong to a group where I feel comfortable".

2. 20% of our members belong to more than one club.
3. All grades of trips other than Hard were popular.
4. All durations of trips were popular.
5. Members found out about our club via a range of means, the most common being Word of mouth.

We also received many positive comments about how our Club has benefited Members over the years.

The same survey is being conducted in other clubs, and the Committee is seeking your advice as to whether we can share these results (exactly as presented above with no names attached and no individual comments) with 4WD NSW & ACT (our Association).

Please email secretary@subaru4wdclub.com.au if you have any concerns with this, before the Committee makes its decision at our next meeting on January 7, 2025.

Michael Hamilton
Vice President



"You'll have to get behind me and push."

Until Next Time
STAY SAFE