

DRIVE

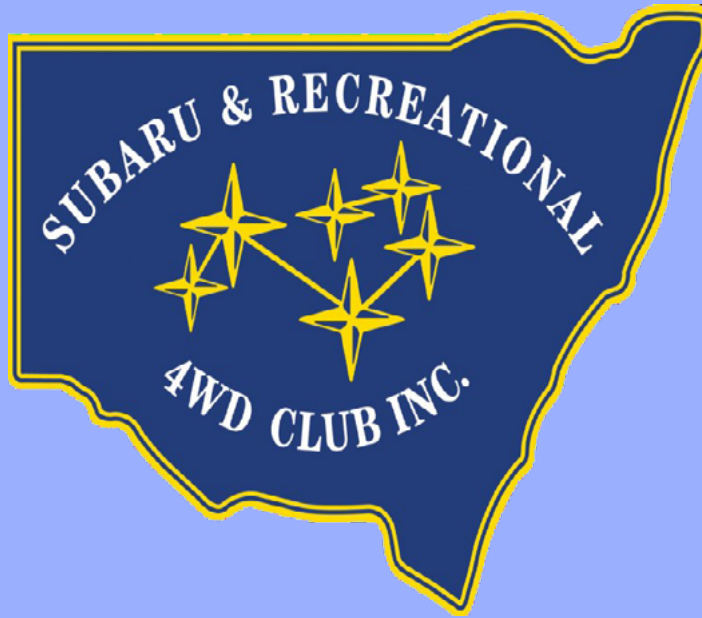
eNEWS



TORQUE

AUG
2025





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Cover Image: Iwan Sujono on the driver awareness Abercrombie River N/P trip

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<u>President:</u>	Stephen Bennett president@subaru4wdclub.com.au
<u>Vice President:</u>	Michael R Hamilton vice_president@subaru4wdclub.com.au
<u>Secretary:</u>	Vacant secretary@subaru4wdclub.com.au
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Brett Hampson treasurer@subaru4wdclub.com.au
<u>Membership:</u>	Stephen Pinnington membership@subaru4wdclub.com.au
<u>Trip Convener:</u>	Jo Quinn, Bill Twyman. trip_convener@subaru4wdclub.com.au
<u>Driver Awareness:</u>	David Wellham, Michael R Hamilton, Bill Twyman. driver_awareness@subaru4wdclub.com.au
<u>NSW 4WD Assn Delegates:</u>	David Wellham, Bill Twyman delegates@subaru4wdclub.com.au
<u>Webmaster:</u>	Kevin McCormack webmaster@subaru4wdclub.com.au
<u>Social & Public Relations Officer:</u>	Jo Quinn publicity@subaru4wdclub.com.au
<u>Editor:</u>	Stephen Bennett editor@subaru4wdclub.com.au
<u>Merchandise Officer:</u>	Alex Gatward merchandise@subaru4wdclub.com.au
<u>Serjeant-at-arms:</u>	Bill Twyman
<u>General Members:</u>	Dave Cook, Daniel Sorrasson, Iwan Sujono

Presidents Message

Hello to all members. I hope everybody is keeping well.

Well another AGM meeting over. I would like to welcome Stephen Pinnington to the committee. Stephen volunteered to take on the Membership Secretary position. Sadly Stephen was the only addition and the rest of the positions remained occupied by the same dependable members. There was one position not filled, that of the Secretary, which Michael had filled extremely well over the last number of years. If anyone feels that they could fill the vacancy dont hesitate to let me know.

The club calendar is sparse on trips at the moment. I know that it is hard to put a trip together not knowing what the weather is going to be like or do. Still if it changes on the day there may be an alternative that may suit. If you have something that you would like to do but are unsure of how to do it, the trip conveners would be happy to help.

I would like to remind everyone of the 50th Anniversary, that is on Saturday 4th October. Come for the day or stay and camp from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th. Get in early and register on the website.

A reminder of the Christmas get together on the 6th and 7th December 2025 at Grady's Retreat at Burrier (near Nowra). More information in this edition of eNews. Come for the weekend or come early and stay late and beat the traffic.

Thats it for me this month. If you have any questions, advice, criticisms or you just want to have a chin wag, do not hesitate to contact me.

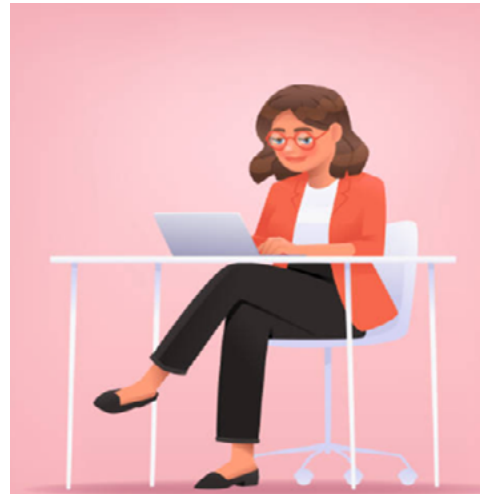
Bye for now

Stephen B

POSITION VACANT



We are looking for someone to join and be part of the Committee team.



The available position is Secretary.
The task would be to take notes at Committee and General Meetings then prepare minutes of the meetings for distribution to Committee members and the Drive Torque eNews on a monthly Basis.

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC.

MINUTES OF AUGUST GENERAL MEETING

Date -	Sunday, August 10, 2025	
Venue -	Western Sydney Parklands	
Meeting Commenced -	11:03 am	
Attendance -	David W, Jo Q, Michael H, Cheryl & Ray B, Steve P, Jeffy C, Billy T, Daniel S, Chris & Kelly M, Johnny L, Kevin Mc, Cath & Tom D, Dave C, Brett H, Geoff A, Craig F, David W, Steven & Susan B	
Apologies -	Iwan S, David B, Michael & Leanne M, Stephen E, Joanna H, Alex G, Nathan & Cherie B, Lisa S	
Minutes of Previous Meeting -	July General Meeting at the Crossroad Hotel - 8/7/2025 Accepted - Kevin Seconded - Stephen B	
Business Arising -	Nil	
New Members -	Nil attending	
President's Report -	Stephen	Hoping that some new faces join our Committee We would like to move next year's AGM from August back to July There were no objections to this
Vice President's Report -	Michael	Thanks to all for attending today Thanks to those helping with BBQ I would like to give a big thank you to Stephen for leading our Club over the past year. I think he's done a great job, and I'm sure you all do too. And of course, not only did Stephen fulfil the role of Club President, he also looked after Membership and the Magazine, both of which are roles that involve a lot of time and effort At our AGM, we will be looking for some new people to join or Committee ...
Secretary's Report -	Michael	I won't be standing for Secretary at AGM Also looking for someone to take on Equipment Officer And hopefully some other new faces to step up so that Committee members don't have to perform multiple roles
Treasurer's Report -	Brett	Available funds as at 31/7/2025 = \$9327.74 See attached report for July

Membership Sec. Report -	Stephen	Several members are still unfinancial Letters will go out to unfinancial members Daniel raised the possibility of having 2-year memberships
Trip Conveners' Report -	Bill	See attached report
Driver Awareness Report -	Michael	See attached report
Association Delegates' Report -	David	See David's report in the magazine
Webmaster's Report -	Kevin	Recent attack on website was resolved No data was lost More additions coming, including ability for Trip Convenors to approve trips before they are published
Public Relations -	(Jo)	Orders for 50th clothing closing today Helpers required for the Friday Details are on the website BIG THANKS TO JO FOR ALL HER HARD WORK
Equipment / Merchandising -	(Alex)	Banners to be made for 50th
Serjeant-at-Arms -	Bill	Michael was fined for leaving his car window down overnight during a storm, even though he believes he was already punished enough And in breaking news, for the first time in Club history, someone got bogged at an AGM Details sure to come next meeting
GENERAL BUSINESS -	Craig	James Wall is very ill in St Vincent's Hospital Allowed to have visitors Jill is staying in Sydney
Next Meeting -	Tuesday September 9	
Close -	11:30	

Trip Convener - trips comments at AGM 2025

With the warmer weather just around the corner now and now the days are getting longer it's a time to go camping and get out on a trip.

The same few people are doing a majority of the trips and that's OK - but we need more people to put their hand up to run or help run a trip.

It's not difficult and if you're not sure of how to plan and lead a trip or what's involved - just ask a Trip Convener for help.

If you have an idea of a place you'd like to go, why not turn it into a club trip and take some club friends with you. It does not matter how many people go, because you were going anyway.

Our all important 50th Anniversary is on the October long weekend at the Cobbitty Scout's Hall so don't forget to jump onto the website to register.

Clothing and memorabilia orders have now closed off.

Trips on the calendar currently

Aug 19-21st	<u>Burralow</u>	3day camp
Aug 22nd	<u>Yerranderie</u>	2 day camping plus a rare & unique drive
Sept 12th	4WD Show	Volunteer a couple of hours gain free entry
Oct 4th	50th Anniversary	2 day camp
Nov 8-9th	Driver Awareness	Abercrombie
Dec 6th	Christmas function	Grady's Resort
Mar 28th	The Glen	2 day camping

Club trips since our AGM August last year					
			midweek	weekend	camping
2024	Aug				
	Sept	Sydney Zoo	X		1
	Oct	Watagans		X	2
		5 Lighthouses		X	3
		Dees Corner - 5day camp	X		4
	Nov	Driver Awareness - Stockton Beach		X	5
		BBQ meeting	X		6
		Female Factory	X		7
	Dec	Xmas at Bendeela Kangaroo Valley	X		8
		Xmas at Towradgi Beach	X		9
2025	Jan	Clifton Gardens		X	10
		Aust Day at Yadbrow - 3day camp		X	11
	Feb	Royal National Park	X		12
	Mar	Jurassic Park		X	13
		10 pin Bowling - postponed			14
		Patonga Ferry lunch	X		15
		Dees Cnr - 5day camp	X		16
		Driver Awareness - Kanangra Boyd NP		X	17
	April	Animals & Apples	X		18
		Touring the Turon - 2day camp		X	19
		Jurassic Park		X	20
	May	Pubs n Pies - 21day extended trip		X	21
		Fraser Island - 7 day extended trip		X	22
		Jurassic Park - postponed			23
	June	Mt Vincent - postponed			24
		Blue Mnts lookouts	X		25
		Driver Awareness - Gardens of Stone		X	26
	July	Driver Awareness - Abercrombie		X	27
	Aug	Yerranderie - 2day camp		X	28
			11	14	13
	15	single day trips			
	3	postponed			
	2	extended trips			
	4	Driver awareness/ training days			

DRIVER AWARENESS REPORT 2025

Our Driver Awareness team, consisting of David Wellham, Bill Twyman, Alex Gatward and myself, have had a great year. We always aim to complete 4 Driver Awareness sessions per year (2 x Basic, 1 x Sand, and 1 x Medium/Hard), and we well and truly achieved this with trips to Stockton Beach last November, Kanangra-Boyd National Park in March, Gardens of Stone National Park in June and Abercrombie River National Park in July.

Most months we have also written articles for the Drive Torque with tips and information to keep you safe.

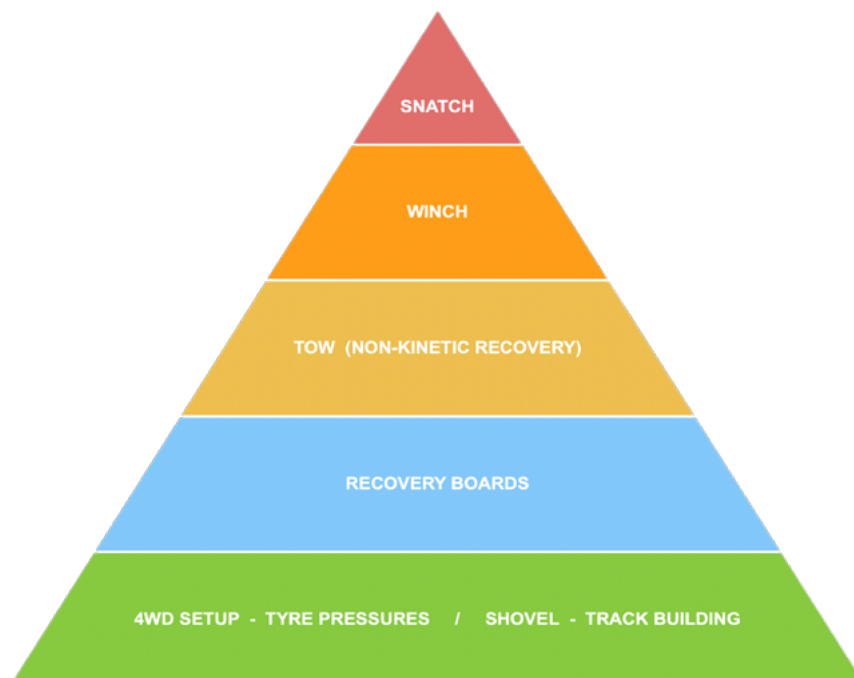
... because safety is our number one priority.

A good example of this is the Hierarchy of Recovery. Recoveries have the potential to be very dangerous, but we can minimise the danger by starting with the safest options first, like getting out a shovel or some recovery boards.

We are very proud to say that on no occasion this year have we needed to perform a recovery involving more than a gentle tow. No snatching at all, because snatching is about as dangerous as you can get.

You don't have to be a beginner to attend Driver Awareness activities, and indeed sometimes we plan them as Medium to Hard trips. Everyone, no matter what their level of experience, can continue learning, and we hope we can help you improve your knowledge and your skills.

We've already got a trip planned for November, so make sure you check it out on the website.



SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC.

MINUTES OF 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date -	Sunday, August 10, 2025	
Venue -	Western Sydney Parklands	
Meeting Commenced -	11:43 am	
Attendance -	As per preceding General Meeting	
Apologies -	As per preceding General Meeting	
Minutes of Previous Meeting -	AGM held at Western Sydney Parklands - 11/8/2024	
	Accepted -	Kevin
	Seconded -	Cath
Business Arising -	Nil	
President's Report -	Stephen	We need more people to join our Committee Fresh people with fresh ideas
Treasurer's Report -	Brett	See attached report
	Moved -	Brett
	Seconded -	David
Election of Officers -	See attached record	
Close -	12:10 pm	

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB - 2025 AGM - COMMITTEE MEMBERS ELECTED

POSITION	NOMINEE	NOMINATOR	SECONDER	ACCEPT?
President	Stephen Bennett	Cath	Kevin	Yes
Vice President	Michael Hamilton	Stephen B	Daniel	Yes
Secretary	<i>Position not filled</i>			
Treasurer	Brett Hampson	Kevin	Craig	Yes
Membership Sec.	Stephen Pinnington	Stephen B	Michael	Yes
Trip Convener(s)	Bill Twyman	Michael	Steve P	Yes
	Jo Quinn	Michael	Cath	Yes
Driver Awareness Officer(s)	David Wellham	Michael	Steve P	Yes
	Michael Hamilton	Stephen B	Daniel	Yes
	Bill Twyman	Michael	Steve P	Yes
4WD Association Delegate(s)	David Wellham	Stephen B	Steve P	Yes
	Bill Twyman	Stephen B	Craig	Yes
Webmaster	Kevin McCormack	Michael	Cath	Yes
Editor	Stephen Bennett	David	Susan	Yes
Public Relations / Social	Jo Quinn	Stephen B	Michael	Yes
Merchandise	Alex Gatward	Craig	Kevin	Yes
Equipment	<i>Position not filled</i>			
General Member	Iwan Sujono	Michael	Craig	Yes
	Daniel Sorrason	Stephen B	Michael	Yes
	Dave Cook	Michael	Steve P	Yes
Serjeant-at-arms	Bill Twyman	Michael	Stephen B	Yes

There were no multiple accepted nominations for any single position,
so no elections were necessary.

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC.

Treasurers Report

Jul-25

Cash Book Balance Brought Forward	\$7,579.68
Plus Income	\$1,793.01
Less Expenditure	\$44.95
Closing Balance	<u><u>\$9,327.74</u></u>

<u>Income</u> -		
	Memberships	\$950.00
	Bank interest	\$0.01
	50th Merchandise	\$123.00
	50th attendance fee	\$720.00
<u>Expenditure</u> -	Paypal fees	\$44.95

Bank Reconciliation

Bank Account Balance as at 31/7/2025	ANZ	\$5,089.95
<u>Plus</u>	Funds held in Pay Pal as at 31/7/2025	\$3,943.04
	Cash on Hand	\$294.75
Available Funds as at 31/7/2025		<u><u>\$9,327.74</u></u>

Accounts 2022/2023
FY'25

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC

AUD

	Actual JUL	Actual AUG	Actual SEPT	Actual OCT	Actual NOV	Actual DEC	Actual JAN	Actual FEB	Actual MAR	Actual APR	Actual MAY	Actual JUN	Total FY'25	Last Year FY'24	Variance
Cash Book Balance Brought Forward	9,168.77	8,194.38	8,847.78	8,965.08	8,239.64	8,277.51	7,562.07	7,678.08	7,788.75	8,113.98	8,490.37	8,659.98			
Available Funds at 1st of Month	9,168.77	8,194.38	8,847.78	8,965.08	8,239.64	8,277.51	7,562.07	7,678.08	7,788.75	8,113.98	8,490.37	8,659.98	9,168.77	\$9,764.68	-\$595.91
INCOME															
Advertising													0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bank Interest	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.02			0.03	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.04	0.48	\$0.27	\$0.21
Club Clothing			150.00					42.00	236.00	242.00			670.00	\$608.00	\$62.00
Donations													0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fund Raising / Fines													0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Incidentals				1.00									1.00	\$0.00	\$1.00
Insurance Rebates													0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Membership Fees	800.00	950.00	350.00	150.00			100.00	50.00	100.00	250.00	100.00	1,250.00	4,100.00	\$3,120.00	\$980.00
Classic Registration fee						20.00	20.00	20.00				20.00	80.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
Olinda Hall													0.00	\$1,170.00	-\$1,170.00
Functions / Trip fees				30.00	100.00								130.00	\$0.00	\$130.00
50th Merchandise										648.00	75.00	70.00	793.00	\$0.00	\$793.00
50th Event fee												200.00	200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Re-imbursments													0.00	\$152.34	-\$152.34
Training Manuals													0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	800.06	950.04	500.05	181.02	100.00	20.00	120.03	112.06	336.06	1,140.06	175.06	1,540.04	5,974.48	\$5,090.61	\$883.87
YTD - Actual	800.06	1,750.10	2,250.15	2,431.17	2,531.17	2,551.17	2,671.20	2,783.26	3,119.32	4,259.38	4,434.44	5,974.48			
COST OF GOODS SUPPLIED															
Clothing										663.00			663.00	\$490.00	\$173.00
Stickers													0.00	\$120.00	-\$120.00
Other COGS													0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
50th Expenses												779.45	779.45	\$0.00	\$779.45
PayPal Fees	22.40	19.20	6.40	6.18	4.10		4.02	1.39	10.83	30.02	5.45	41.12	151.11	\$98.56	\$52.55
Total COGS	22.40	19.20	6.40	6.18	4.10	0.00	4.02	1.39	10.83	693.02	5.45	820.57	1,593.56	\$708.56	\$885.00
BALANCE - GROSS	777.66	930.84	493.65	174.84	95.90	20.00	116.01	110.67	325.23	447.04	169.61	719.47	4,380.92	4,382.05	
DIRECT COSTS															
4WD Association Fees	1,694.00											1,738.00	3,432.00	\$0.00	\$3,432.00
Delegate Expenses			51.64									59.27	110.91	\$346.77	-\$235.86
Driver Training													0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Functions						415.66							415.66	\$2,476.83	-\$2,061.17
Gifts						217.35							217.35	\$176.00	\$41.35
Hall Hire		234.60											234.60	\$670.50	-\$435.90
Meeting Catering	58.05		316.61			102.43							477.09	\$331.00	\$146.09
Bank Charges												2.50	2.50	\$31.61	-\$29.11
NSW Fair Trading													0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment													0.00	\$59.78	-\$59.78
Membership Refund													0.00	\$70.00	-\$70.00
Postage			8.10										8.10	\$120.00	-\$111.90
Promotion		42.84											42.84	\$466.47	-\$423.63
Website				900.28	58.03					70.65			1,028.96	\$229.00	\$799.96
Total Direct Costs	1,752.05	277.44	376.35	900.28	58.03	735.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	70.65	0.00	1,799.77	5,970.01	\$4,977.96	\$992.05
Total COG + Direct Costs	1,774.45	296.64	382.75	906.46	62.13	735.44	4.02	1.39	10.83	763.67	5.45	2,620.34	7,563.57	5,686.52	\$1,877.05
Cash Book Balance Carried Forward	8,194.38	8,847.78	8,965.08	8,239.64	8,277.51	7,562.07	7,678.08	7,788.75	8,113.98	8,490.37	8,659.98	7,579.68	7,579.68	\$9,168.77	-\$1,589.09
YTD Costs - Actual	1,774.45	2,071.09	2,453.84	3,360.30	3,422.43	4,157.87	4,161.89	4,163.28	4,174.11	4,937.78	4,943.23	7,563.57			
	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	FY'25	FY'24	

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC.

FY'25

ANNUAL STATEMENT 2023-2024

	2025	2024	2023
INCOME			
Advertising/Sponsorship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bank Interest	\$0.48	\$0.27	\$0.00
Club Merchandise	\$670.00	\$608.00	\$0.00
Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fundraising/Fines	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$335.75
Membership Fees	\$4,050.00	\$3,120.00	\$3,550.00
Classic Registration fee	\$80.00	\$40.00	\$0.00
Functions	\$130.00	\$1,170.00	\$195.00
Re-imbursments	\$0.00	\$152.34	\$0.00
50th Merchandise	\$793.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
50th Event fee	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Incidentals	\$51.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Income	\$5,974.48	\$5,090.61	\$4,080.75
COST OF GOODS SUPPLIED			
Clothing	\$663.00	\$490.00	\$0.00
Stickers	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$0.00
Other COGS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
50th Expenses	\$779.45	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pay Pal Fees	\$151.11	\$98.56	\$89.60
Total COGS	\$1,593.56	\$708.56	\$89.60
BALANCE GROSS	\$4,380.92	\$4,382.05	\$3,991.15
DIRECT COSTS			
AGM Venue Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4WD Association Fees/Insurance	\$3,432.00	\$0.00	\$3,539.70
Delegate Expenses	\$110.91	\$346.77	\$173.79
Driver Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,135.82
Functions	\$415.66	\$2,476.83	\$473.00
Gifts/Donations	\$217.35	\$176.00	\$0.00
Hall Hire	\$234.60	\$670.50	\$0.00
Meeting Catering	\$477.09	\$331.00	\$0.00
Bank Charges	\$2.50	\$31.61	\$0.00
Membership refund	\$0.00	\$70.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$59.78	\$0.00
Postage	\$8.10	\$120.00	\$0.00
Promotions/Materials	\$42.84	\$466.47	\$0.00
Website	\$1,028.96	\$229.00	\$229.00
Total Direct Costs	\$5,970.01	\$4,977.96	\$5,551.31
Total Costs	\$7,563.57	\$5,686.52	\$5,640.91
Income or Loss 2023-2025	-\$1,589.09	-\$595.91	-\$1,560.16

Webmaster Update August 2025.

Thank you for electing me to the webmaster role for another year.

The past year web-wise has certainly been “interesting” and became somewhat panicky when we lost, through no fault of our own, the old website late last year.

The Committee then took the decision to adopt my suggestion that I create a new website by selecting and combining off-the-shelf systems to fulfill our needs rather than a tailored site involving the creation and on-going maintenance of bespoke code. Not having tailored code provides ease of maintenance, because the product supplier is doing that work, and provides us with ease of website management.

The website is still a work-in-progress, and further improvements will be added over the next year, thanks for your ongoing support.

Website Activity.

Currently there are 127 valid registrations on the website consisting of 90 individual Members (incl 9 Life members) and 37 registered Visitors.

Website Feedback & Support.

Feedback is welcome and assistance is readily available by contacting me:

webmaster@subaru4wdclub.com.au

Cheers

Kevin

WHO GOT BOGED AT THE AGM?



**A good reason to have your recovery gear handy.
This could happen anywhere at any time.**



*Cheers
to
50
Years*

Cheers to 50 Years - Book Now!

The NSW Subaru & Recreational 4WD Club is reaching the fantastic milestone of 50 years.

Celebrations will be held at Cobbitty Scout Hall on the October long weekend with a celebratory dinner at 7pm on Saturday 4th October. Further details & payment on our website.

subaru4wdclub.com.au Enquiries: Jo 0409 771 019



Association News & Updates: August 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@subaru4wd-club.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.

This month we start with an article from Association President.

4WD NSW& ACT Presidents Report – Craig Thomas

Hi everyone, this newsletter is one of the most important ones I have been part of in the last fifteen years. All these years fighting to be heard and just trying to get a fair go are starting to look like the effort has not been wasted. For so long now National Parks have abused the system and have adopted a don't-care attitude that has been supported by governments on all sides. I am sure that they all mean well but they only look at their patch and not the big picture, unfortunately they are either ignorant or just don't care how their actions are impacting the community.

We finally have an inquiry into public lands and their use.

This isn't just about one forest or one fishing spot. This inquiry will investigate every category of public land and water - from national parks and state forests to marine parks, crown lands, travelling stock routes, and more. It will also cover every form of recreation and cultural activity such as bushwalking, camping, four-wheel-driving, horse riding, spearfishing, fossicking, scientific research, traditional medicine gathering and conservation hunting. For too long, governments have chipped away at public access, locking gates, closing trails, and restricting everyday Aussies from enjoying our own backyard. Since this government came to power, we've seen a disturbing drop in land available for recreational use, especially for hunting in state forests. That ends now.

The terms of reference are extensive and powerful. We'll investigate:

- Why public access is being restricted and whether it's justified
- The social, economic and cultural impacts of those restrictions
- Whether current laws are consistent, fair, and well-managed
- Better models that balance access and conservation

We need to thank Mark Banasiak from the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party for his tireless efforts in getting this enquiry over the line.

Mark Banasiak will Chair the committee, ensuring this inquiry stays focused and fearless.

This is a major milestone in our long campaign to protect and restore public access rights across NSW.

Crown Lands need to be reviewed as so many parcels of crown land are held in perpetuity for reasons that cannot be justified today, many of these land parcels are over a hundred years old and just don't make any sense in today's world, this does not mean we just get rid of them, we need a better process to categorize them.

State Forests are probably the best managed pieces of land in the state, but we need to make sure that they are managed at "Worlds Best Practice" levels, bottom line we need timber and if we continue to close these forests off from logging then we will then be relying on overseas supplies from countries that have no regard for the environment. Looking after the environment isn't just looking over your patch, it must be a global approach. Also, there is a belief that all State Forest are National Parks in waiting, this attitude must change.

National Parks, firstly we need to be able to have a classifying system that means something. If we have a classification system that rated areas in parks according to their value it would be a big step forward, not every square millimetre of land should be treated as irreplaceable. They need to get back to the basics and understand what is expected of our National Parks, more people go camping in one weekend than go on their multiple day walks in a year, they acknowledge that the number of people camping has increased but in real terms they have decreased the number of spots available for families. National parks should only be created for an environmental or scientific reason. They have a fixation on the thirty-by-thirty program which is thirty percent of the country must be reserved for environmental reasons but are ignoring anything that is not National Parks, and it should be looked at from a national perspective not by state. Currently 11% of NSW is National Park and there are many other areas that should be included like State Forest, Crown Lands, Council areas and private land mainly held by Organisations – Nationally we already have over 30%. They need to be open, transparent and answerable for their decisions, which should always be based on facts that can be independently reviewed and not on emotional, political or pure ego driven decisions.

NSW National Parks & Wildlife updates

The petition on Recreational user access to National Parks The ePetition, with 27230 signatures, has received a response from NSW Government. The Government did not support an enquiry. This was debated in NSW Parliament on 8th May, club members from other clubs were present in the gallery. Above is an article from Association President informing us the enquiry is proceeding – please think about writing and lodging a submission. <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lc/petitions/Pages/tailed-paper-details.aspx?pk=190624>.

Improving camping in NSW national parks: public consultation.

Submissions have closed, there was a LOT of response and NP had 28 days to provide a response and we await the outcome.

More than 200,000 campers and national park visitors were consulted on proposed changes.

Proposed improvements/changes include:

- the introduction of consistent state-wide camping fees
- simplified bookings to deliver fairer camping experiences for national park visitors
- improved management of persistent campground issues, such as people booking space and not cancelling or turning up.

A meeting was held between 4WD NSW and ACT Inc and National Parks (NPWS) to discuss this issue. NPWS were surprised with the concerns raised regarding the fee proposal. There was a lot more interest than they ever would have expected. NP have realized that they really don't know what the public want/don't want in campsites etc such as tables, shade structures etc. The days of "dictatorship" appears to be over and NP now need to have supportive evidence for anything that they want to introduce.

Keep camping affordable for all Australians in NSW National Parks

The petition closed on 21 August 2025, with over 13,500 signatures.

Keep camping affordable for all Australians in NSW National Parks

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council, the petitioners of New South Wales state that all Australians should be able to camp in New South Wales national parks, regardless of their financial situation. The petitioners request that the House calls on the NSW Government to fund national parks adequately rather than relying on new end-user fees, to remove the booking system for campgrounds that did not have one before COVID, and to increase the number of campsites commensurate with park visitation.

Here is the link – <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lc/pages/epetitions-list.aspx>

Always worth being involved with National Parks – don't always get everything our way but without involvement we have NO communication. Incorporate other "activities" that we do in NP such as walking, bird watching, fishing, floral appreciation etc which shows our love for bush and being there. Submissions to Land Managers on Plans do assist with decisions – eg, options of usage at Gardens of Stone were modified due to large number of submissions from 4WD users. Consider completing submissions for areas that you visit and are interested in.

One way to put Parks on notice and maybe get action is to ask questions on their [FaceBook](#) page – why has an area been closed for years and years since the bushfire or weather event that closed it in the first place – why has work NOT been completed to restore access to areas after years of closure. We really want to access these areas for our recreation.

NPWS fact check the Association website, Facebook etc but do not fact check other organisations like National Parks Association.

[Great Koala Park in Coffs Harbour region](#) – Now it seems that this will just be extension of National Parks by including State Forests, area and borders not agreed, maybe 12 months before a plan of management is available to review. NP have come up with excellent method to count and identify koalas using drones with infrared heat technology. They are sent up between 1.30am and 3.30am and can very easily spot Koalas using their heat signature and take very clear “white light” images and identify/count Koalas. Every time they do this they find more Koalas. NPWS say there are 50K, but CSIRO claim there are 450-500K Koalas. Koalas travel 100s of kms each year and we need corridors to allow this to occur with less risk. It will be an interesting 12 months ahead with NP. When it does come together (whatever happens in the GKP area), we need to be able to have a statement of “what we do” in these areas so we know what we want to fight for. For example, we don’t want to push for camping areas where we don’t camp, but more so push for tracks where we do a lot of driving. So far, everything is looking good from a tracks perspective.

[2025 Sydney 4WD and Adventure Show – Eastern Creek – 6,7,8 September 2025](#)

The club is not planning to have a stand – maybe in 2026. As a club member you can gain free entry for the day, all you need to do is volunteer to work at the show for 2 hours. Tasks include - car parking, front gate scanning tickets, assisting at test track. Did you know the show is wholly owned by the members of 4WD NSW & ACT? Showcasing our clubs and promoting 4WD driving as a legitimate recreation. Supporting the 4wd industry, worth in excess of \$2 Billion to the NSW economy. All the latest products for 4wd driving, caravanning and camping, boating, fishing and more – all in the one place. Plus HEAPS to see and do! Engel Bush Camp stage, Content creator’s area, special guests, Travel stage, 4WD recovery demos, fishing stage, rock crawling action on Tough Dog mountain, and more. Register to volunteer at <https://4wdnow.com/pages/4wd-adventure-show-1>

[ACMC/AAAA/ Transport](#)

Government are proposing to rewrite all ADRs (Australian Design Rules for vehicles - starting with GCM and GVM. Still waiting on clarification on seat removal – should be fine as long as seat belts remain. Updates to follow on rules around service access and usage by independent service providers.

[Association updates](#)

Association is 40 years old on 14 August 2025 – there are 64 clubs with 3,199 members, Association has \$140,800 in funds. The Association is changing web domains to .com.au. The Association is in the process of planning a new trailer as the old unit is starting to show its age and not fit for purpose.

Monthly Camp Site Review #8

Name: Billabourie Tourist Park

Location: Just north of Hillston, NSW

Distance From Sydney: 681km's, 7.25hrs

Date Stayed: May, 2025

Cost: \$25 per/site (unpowered)

No. Sites: 30 +

Access: Good dirt road access (we visited in dry weather)

Caravan/Trailer Friendly: Yes

Amenities: Toilets, showers, laundry, shaded sites, powered sites, BBQ, water taps & fire pits

To Bring: firewood, fishing gear

Phone Service: Telstra

Closest Town: Hillston

General Overview: A great bush style campground right on the banks of the Lachlan River. Beautiful shady, flat sites with free hot showers and laundry facilities available. Suitable for large groups, sites also along the riverbank. Not far off the Kidman and easy access, suitable for vans and trailers.

Nearby: Closest largest town is Hillston with all facilities including Doctor's, supermarkets, banks, service stations, mechanics, pubs etc Not far from Lake Cargelligo & Lachlan Valley National Park.



SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	Committee 2 Meeting Crossroad Hotel	3	4	5	6
7	8	General 9 Meeting Crossroads Hotel	10	11	12 4WD & Adventure Show	13 4WD & Adventure Show
14 4WD & Adventure Show	15	16	17	18	19	20 Gunning Fireworks
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	Club 50th 3 Anniversary Cobbitty Scout Hall	Club 50th4 Anniversary Cobbitty Scout Hall
Club 50th 5 Anniversary Cobbitty Scout Hall	6	Committee 7 Meeting Rosehill Bowling Club	8	9	10	11
12	13	General 14 Meeting Rosehill Bowling Club	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Driver Awareness Trip

21 & 22 June 2025

Gardens of Stone

The lucky number is 16, which equals 12 members and the driver Awareness team of 4 with only 3 of us driving their vehicle – so 15 cars in the convey.

The morning was so cold, the ice on the windscreen was thick and hard – it just would not give up and melt, well it took at least 10 minutes before you could see where the road was and safely drive. Luckily the day was bright and sunny if a little chilly. First lesson of the day was to purchase a plastic tool to scrap the ice in future.

Second lesson of the day was to not meet at Hungry Jacks for breakfast in the future.

It was a nice drive up State Mine Gully Road out of town after the usual drivers briefing. The trip rating was 4WD easy for all vehicles. All of our basic driver awareness trips are based on the accredited course and cover the theory by showing the course presentation to new members and anyone else that is interested in a refresher. The practical tasks are designed around the type of vehicles and experience of attendees. The ultimate aim of the weekend is for all of us in attendance – whether you are a new member on your first trip, recent member, member with many years' experience or even in the driver awareness team – is to attend with a sense of adventure to learn and understand your vehicle and to – Increase Your Knowledge, Improve Your Skill, Gain Experience.

Third lesson of the day was on tyre pressures. Just after we hit the dirt we found a safe place to park – that was the fourth lesson of the day to always park as far off the road as possible – and discussed reducing tyre pressures when driving on different road surfaces. Tar, dirt, 4WD roads and sand. Members lowered tyre pressures to a suitable level for the roads we were driving today.

Fifth lesson of the day was after we parked all the cars in a row near the picnic area and inspected them in relation to 4WD driving. We ask members to look at their cars – clearances under the vehicle, low points, hard points, recovery points, angles – approach, departure and break-over, tyres.

Speaking of recovery points the sixth lesson of the day was on the Hierarchy of Recovery and the equipment we can use to recover our vehicle if we are stuck.





Now it was time for the seventh lesson – driving on the tracks.

There is currently a lot of work in this area – the picnic area is closed for redevelopment, the track to Lost City is closed so we went off onto Sunnyside Ridge track. After a short drive this road also had a track closed sign – the website said it was open but website must have been wrong – eighth lesson of the day is always follow signage and not drive on tracks that might be closed. So, we took another track and after a few kms this was closed as well. This was a narrow track which made for the ninth lesson of the day – turning 15 cars around on a narrow track.

Back along Blackfellows Hand track and we found the turnoff to Kangaroo Creek track. Finally, some 4WDing of the day

This track is very, very narrow in parts and has some interesting sections especially for the Subaru's on the trip. After more lessons – numbers 10, 11 & 12, guidance and assistance we made it over the rough sections and looking for a lunch spot. Unfortunately, the other tracks on the day had been graded and were very easy but it is still a wonderful drive. The last stop of the day was at the cave – some went for the walk up the hill to look at the hand paintings while other members looked at the course PowerPoint presentation.



The final lesson of the day was number 13 – unlucky for some – the mighty 2024 Forester assisted the Ineos Grenadier with a gentle tow.

This was a great day and I'm sure that we all learnt a lot. It doesn't matter how old you are, how experienced you are, how much knowledge you have or your skill level – we are lifelong learners and can always learn something new and change bad habits. We can Increase Our Knowledge, Improve Our Skill, Gain Experience. Some of the members travelled home from the cave and some of us went to our rooms, and then met in the evening for dinner together, to debrief on the trip so far.



On the day we had 15 vehicles – one of our driver awareness team travelled in with a new member in their near new Forester. The vehicles driven by our members were trio of Prados including a very new one, a 300 series Landcruiser, a pair of Foresters, an Isuzu MUX, a GWM Tank 300 in orange, a Ranger, a Holden Colorado, a Triton and a Jimny – what a great mix of 4WD horseless carriages.

Sunday dawned cold again with a big frost and we were off up into the hills again after meeting at Maccas. Who said that we didn't learn anything on the Saturday. Today was just a tour around the sites with a much smaller convey – Lost City and Glow Worm Tunnel. I had to go back to Sydney for work but I'm told that everyone had a good day driving.

[A few words from a new member of his experience on his first Driver Awareness trip with the club.](#)

[Had an amazing time exploring the tracks around Zig Zag as a new club member during my first driver awareness weekend. Despite the cold and early start, it was truly worth it! Huge thanks to David and the Driver Awareness Team for an awesome day trip and for covering the fundamentals of vehicle recovery.](#)

Cheers,
Glen Davidson

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PAGES

Southern Highlands Trip

14th September 2008

Old Photo Memories courtesy Michael Minny







2025 Subaru & Recreational 4WD Club Christmas Function 6th & 7th December 2025

Venue this year is Grady's Riverside Retreat 674 Burrier Rd Burrier (Approx. 18 klm West of Nowra) with Camping & Cabin accommodation on the Shoalhaven River. (Approx. 180klm from Parramatta)

Un Powered site costs (Minimum of 2 nights) Friday & Saturday \$24. per night for each adult, \$12 per child. Early arrival & late leaving (Thursday & Monday) \$18 per night for each adult, \$10 per child.

Areas 43 & 44 will be allocated to the club with an overflow area, 19 to 25 if needed. (Refer to the park map below, marked in red) Hot showers & toilets within walking distance. Disable bathroom available.

There are cabins available with varying prices and accommodation numbers. I suggest those wanting a cabin, check out the website to choose and make a booking. (You may want to combine with other members to save costs)

Grady's has offered a 10% discount for 20 or more people attending or 15% discount for 40 or more. When you are making a booking, notify them that you are with the Subaru & Recreational 4WD Club. There will be a 30% deposit required when booking and the remainder paid on arrival. (with discount if eligible)

To book you can phone Alma on 4421-3282 on Saturdays or email info@gradys.com.au stating that you wish to book on these dates, you should include a contact number and they will ring you back to confirm & take a deposit.

Site Map





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sandra Moss

John Coombs

Troy Strickland

The Unknown

Whenever I have to fill out a form that asks "who to call in case of emergency"...

I always put "ambulance" because no one in my family is going to answer a call from an unknown number.

Until Next Time
STAY SAFE