

DRIVE

eNEWS



TORQUE

SEP
2025



SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB

Established
1975

Family Friendly Atmosphere

subaru4wdclub.com.au



[/SR4WDclub](https://www.facebook.com/SR4WDclub)



Family Friendly Atmosphere



AWD

TO

4WD

subaru4wdclub.com.au



[/SR4WDclub](https://www.facebook.com/SR4WDclub)





IN THIS ISSUE

Cover Image: The clubs new Banners.

Presidents Message	Page 3
Minutes of General Meeting	Page 5
Treasurers Report	Page 7
Driver Awareness Report	Page 8
Webmasters Report	Page 9
D.A. Abercrombie River N/P Trip Report	Page 10
Putty Valley Recce Trip Report	Page 14
Camp Cooking Recipe	Page 15
Club Calendar	Page 16
FYI Page Photos of early club trips	Page 17

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>	Stephen Pinnington secretary@subaru4wdclub.com.au
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Brett Hampson treasurer@subaru4wdclub.com.au
<u>Membership:</u>	Stephen Bennett membership@subaru4wdclub.com.au
<u>Trip Convener:</u>	Jo Quinn, Bill Twyman, Dave Cook, Daniel Sorrasson trip_convener@subaru4wdclub.com.au
<u>Driver Awareness:</u>	David Wellham, Michael R Hamilton, Bill Twyman, Alex Gatward 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>Equipment & 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, I hope everyone is keeping well.

The front cover photos are of the clubs new banners, which will debut at the 50th Anniversary celebrations in October. A big thank you to Iwan, Alex, Michael for their efforts in designing and the procurement of the banners.

In the last eNews I advertised for someone to take up the position on the committee as secretary. Stephen Pinnington said he would volunteer for the position if somebody would take on Membership. I would like to thank Stephen for taking this task on.

I would like to welcome three new members to the club, Dane Knight, Michael Carney, Greg Ward. I am sure everyone will introduce themselves and make them feel welcome at their first meeting or trip.

A reminder of the Christmas get together on the 6th and 7th December 2025 at Grady's Retreat at Burrier (near Nowra). More information on the web site.

Have you a trip in mind, but do not know where to start. Ask a trip convener, I am sure they will help.

Thats it for me this month. I will see those who are attending the 50th on the 6th October.

Stephen B

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB

GENERAL MEETING

Date: 9 September 2025

Venue: Crossroads Hotel

Attendees

Kevin, Steve P, Steve B, Steve E, Chris & Kellie, Dane K (new member), Michael H, Troy S, Iwan & Eve, Bill T, Jo, Michael C (new member),

Nathan, Cherie, Deanne, Daniel S.

Meeting opened at 8pm

Apologies

Dave W, Dave C, Alex, Lisa S, Kath & Tom, Susan B, Craig

Minutes of previous meeting read & accepted

Accepted by

Michael H

Seconded

Bill T

President Report

Three (3) new members this month

Reminder of the Christmas Get-Together at Grady's near Nowra

Invitation received from the 4WD Association to join in a series of recovery technique seminars / demonstrations at the 4WD show at Eastern Creek this weekend

Vice President Report

Card advertising the clubs existence were handed out to any member who wanted to take them to give out to prospective new members.

Secretary Report

Only one piece of correspondence received this month. The aforementioned Recovery Workshops

Treasurer Report

\$9168.20 (See eNews for a detailed summary)

Membership Secretary Report

We had 22 “old” members not renew this year

We now have 60 members and 9 lifers

Association Report

No change to previous report which can be found in the club magazine

Submissions were received for the National Park closure paper. The various submissions can be read on the NPWS website

Reminder that parts of the Mt Airley track / area are still closed off.

Webmaster Report

We have 130 registered on the website and 40 visitors

The PayPal issue has been resolved. It was a hosting problem

A reminder that if you have to delete yourself from a trip, you will need to notify the trip leader

Trips can be organized without trip convener approval

Driver Awareness Report

The final driver awareness activity is on 8/9 November, but is full

New members who cannot get on these trips in time can nominate to do a ride-along with participating members if they desire, especially on “harder” trips

Further mention was made of the 4WD show recovery workshops

Trip Convener Report

The trips are “on the website”, but to summarise ...

4WD show at Eastern Creek

Gunning Fireworks weekend

Recce trip of the Putty Valley Loop for a future trip

Burralow camp

Christmas party at Grady’s

The Glen

Troy S gave a report on the Yerranderie weekend

P/R Report

The 50th celebration has 60 paid up attendees thus far

A “time to pay up” reminder will be sent out.

Final pay date will be 21 September

All participants will be given final details closer to the time

Equipment & Merchandising Report

Final design for the club’s new banners have been done

Sgt at Arms Report

NO reports of any mischievous behavior have been forth-coming, so no fines at this stage

General Business

Just a reminder to encourage members to run trips

In the New Year we will be looking at the possibility of starting the meetings at 7.30pm rather 8pm. This will be discussed by the committee at a later date.

Meeting Closed at 9pm.

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC.

Treasurers Report

Aug-25

Cash Book Balance Brought Forward	\$9,327.74
Plus Income	\$776.04
Less Expenditure	\$935.58
Closing Balance	<u><u>\$9,168.20</u></u>

<u>Income</u> -		
	Memberships	\$200.00
	Bank interest	\$0.04
	50th Merchandise	\$215.00
	50th attendance fee	\$360.00
	Misc - paypal testing	\$1.00
<u>Expenditure</u> -		
	Paypal fees	\$19.58
	Clothing 50th	\$916.00

Bank Reconciliation

Bank Account Balance as at 31/8/2025	ANZ	\$4,388.99
<u>Plus</u>		
	Funds held in Pay Pal as at 31/8/2025	\$4,484.46
	Cash on Hand	\$294.75
Available Funds as at 31/8/2025		<u><u>\$9,168.20</u></u>

Booking a motel room? Don't pay more than you need to

This advice is prompted by a Club member's recent experience ...

Online booking sites might look handy, but they're rarely the best option. Motels have to pay those agencies big commissions, and that usually means the guest ends up covering the cost. By going direct, you're more likely to get a sharper rate.

It's also worth remembering that booking agencies can tie you up with strict cancellation rules. If your trip changes, it's far easier to sort things out when you're dealing with the motel staff themselves.

One trap to watch out for is search results. Agencies regularly buy ads that make their sites appear above the motel's real website, sometimes even with web addresses that look almost identical. It's easy to click the wrong link and wind up paying more.

Next time you're planning a road trip, pick up the phone or head to the motel's own website. You'll usually save money and get a warmer welcome when you roll in.



Webmaster Update September 2025.

Website Activity.

Currently there are 130 valid registrations on the website consisting of 70 individual Members and 60 registered Visitors (including members who did not renew).

Changes made since August:

- Contact edits made following the AGM
- Replaced "RSVP" with the more familiar "Register" and its variants.
- Added a "Contact trip Leader" reminder when a member deletes their trip registration (as there is no automatic message sent for a "Delete").
- Added a wait-list contact message when a trip is full.
- Added a stand-alone "Members Only" trip category so that Trip Leaders can define any trip under that status.

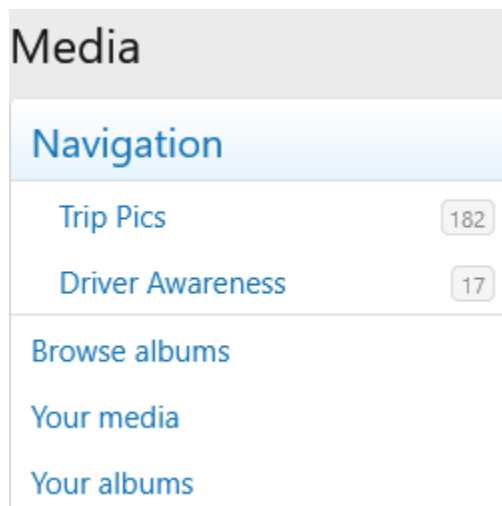
Issues Resolved:

- Cloudflare no longer needs to know if you are human ;-)
- PayPal is working fine again after modifications were made to our host server i.e. there were no issues with PayPal itself or our website.

Did you know?

There is a media section on the website in which you can post your trip pics (yes, I did say "trip")

You can find it here: <https://subaru4wdclub.com.au/media/>



Website Feedback & Support.

Feedback is welcome and assistance is readily available by contacting me: webmaster@subaru4wdclub.com.au

Cheers

Kevin

eNews

Driver Awareness Day & Weekend Trip – 26/27 July 2025

Abercrombie River National Park

Our usual driver awareness trips are rated easy/medium. They are designed for new members starting to learn how to drive on 4WD tracks and existing members wishing to brush up on good habits. This trip on the Saturday was for members that had attended a recent basic driver awareness trip and was rated –

4WD Medium for vehicles with low range and high clearance

4WD Hard for Subaru and similar AWD vehicles and preferred to be with modifications

The driver awareness trips cover theory and practical tasks that are designed around the type of vehicles and experience of attendees - the trip should push members to improve and gain more confidence. Any and all Vehicle recovery are done as per the 'Hierarchy Of Recovery' with their own recovery gear. We challenge members to attend with a sense of adventure to learn and understand your vehicle.

The aim is to – Attend to Increase Your Knowledge, Improve Your Skill, Gain Experience.

This trip the tag line was – 'look, assess, plan and do'.

Some of us arrived in Oberon on Friday and had our Chinese dinner with the amazing Rainbow Steak dish.

The drive on Saturday in Abercrombie River National Park (NP) was planned for the more challenging 4WD tracks in the NP. The day was very cold, windy and it was raining and the drive out of Oberon was very nice and scenic. We entered the park on Brass Walls Fire Trail and the sign stated, 'Dry weather only', so we decided to turn around after assessing the wet clay track. We then entered via Felled Timber Road, it was a little confusing as I hadn't entered that way before and dare I



say I was a little lost. John was in a near new standard Forester with highway tyres, so it was parked up before we tried another path into the park and I found a familiar intersection and I knew exactly where we all were. Our convey was 7 vehicles – David in the blue Forester, Bill in his Pajero, Michael in the INEOS Grenadier, Johnny in an Outback, Iwan in his MUX, Dave in a Triton and Jeffy in the DMAX. John and Alex had passenger seats on the day to enjoy the drive. We drove along Felled Timber Fire Trail and turned onto what is a favourite track in the park – Black Hill Fire Trail for the rough descent down to Licking Hole.



The creeks at Licking Hole hut had water flowing after the recent rain, here we had a break and then drove out and up Licking Hole Fire Trail. We turned left onto Retreat Fire Trail and found the turn that would take us down to the locked campground called The Glen. The track was a little muddy and there were 2 crossings of the Retreat River. The campground has a big flat grassed area and a nice new amenities block. Back across the river twice, over the muddy track, up the hill and we headed towards Ledinghams Hut for a lunch break. It was very steep down to another Retreat River crossing and we had a short stop at The Sink campground

where there really is an old kitchen sink. For every down there has to be an up – so up the hill and then down again on Abercrombie Fire Trail to the final crossing of Retreat River for the day – 6 in total. The next stop was down at The Beach campground after another steep descent and an interesting drive up

out of the campground. The Beach is the only place in the park that we can view Abercrombie River. The final stop of the day was on the big mound overlooking the views of the valleys. It was getting late, so we decided to take Middle Fire Trail back to exit the park and look for John's Forester – which luckily was safe and sound. Back at Oberon and dinner at the local club finished off a wonderful day. Hopefully next time the tracks will be dry, and we can tackle the harder and steeper tracks.

Sunday was a surprise drive back to Sydney via Hume Highway. Iwan had left on Saturday and Alex was now driving her Prado in the convoy. We drove south out of Oberon, down the hill to cross Abercrombie River at Bummaroo Ford and drove into Taralga, onto Bannaby and turned onto Shallow Tail Crossing track down to the causeway over Tarlo River. Back up the hill, along some lovely tracks, a few gates and out onto the Hume Highway near Sutton Forest. This really is a great little detour back to Sydney instead of going up over the Blue Mountain towns.



Below are some comments from members on the trip.

Bill Twyman

The July Driver Awareness weekend in Abercrombie National Park was a wet & very cold one. We had a good roll up of 9 vehicles/ 10 people.

The drives were incident free apart from the fact we decided to park up John's Forrester as it would not do some of the steep hills. Licking Hole Hut is being taken back over by mother nature as it falls into disrepair, only a few pieces of the old cattle yards still remain. We had access to the locked gate into "The Glen" campground - it's a great unspoilt camping spot. We had about 6 or 7 river crossings on the Saturday, nothing too scary. Not that I ever wondered why but I found out how they named The Sink campground - there was a 4 legged sink on the river bank. The drive down to The Beach was as rough as ever & the track seems to be getting looser & steeper.

We had a real life tyre changing exercise (at the motel) as Alex picked up a screw in the RF tyre. Alex also demonstrated the tyre plugging technique.

The Sunday drive home was down through Taralga and across to Canyonleigh via the Swallow Tail Pass. The advisory sign said it was a substandard road, it was anything but. Actually it was a great drive with some magnificent scenery.

Iwan Sojan

Hello David, Michael, Bill and Alex,

Thank you so much for taking us through the Abercrombie River National Park on Saturday. The cold, wet and windy start of the day was a little disheartening for us, but the trip gave us plenty of reasons to smile. Between the (apparently not so) steep ascent and descent, the water crossings and the muddy track, my knowledge of how my car behaves in those various conditions and how I would approach them again in the future has definitely improved. Thank you again for a great day!

Dave Cook

Here's a story about Abercrombie National Park N Oberon Area July 26th 27th A rather educational weekend Lots of history A house lefted unused n falling apart Driver Training n Tip's A Top Motel Worth a visit Mega Kms A bit wet Some rain n wind The Eastern side of National Park closed due to weather Western side is all open n all go n happening There's even a beach Yep a beach Say's so on the map A place called the Sink N yep it even got a real sink The Glen campground the biggest with drop toilet n fire pits Worth a visit n stay overnight Good roads n tracks a bit of mud Big Hills A few river crossing Lovely views n country That's Saturday On Sunday from Oberon to Goulburn Then home Heaps of Kms More rain More lovely country n views Just better of everything More Mud More river crossing Bigger Hills Another Top Mega Effort From David Wellham For putting on this Top Weekend Just Top Shelf Well done to those 3 Subaru's John's with stock tyres stock car Nothing Stopped Subaru that weekend Another big Thanks to Alex n Bill n Michael The Training Team Overall a Big Thanks to Everyone Who Came along on that weekend Big Cheers

Johnny Lauder

Meeting in the rain Saturday morning wasn't the best start but our trip leader came up with plan B and off we went , we drove all day - creek crossings , up and down as usual , checking out old huts and campsites , weather turned out good as the rain abated very early in the drive then it was time to head back into town for dinner . A group dinner at the RSL arranged .

Sunday began with a demonstration of tyre repair and replacement in the driving rain just undercover and only 3.5 degrees after which the days drive began in the rain . Dave selected some good tracks considering the conditions with more creek crossings etc and ending up out at the Hume highway to finish the day off .

Considering the conditions over the weekend it was still a good drive and worth the effort of attending - thanks Dave .

How's that Dave - a short trip report for you

Cheers Johnny

John Hocking

There were a couple of stop offs. In addition to The Glen we called in to the old homestead at Ledinghams. This was located on the north western corner of the Park near the Retreat River. It was a pleasant enough spot but not suitable for camping as there was no level ground.

The building was typical of mountain cattle huts. Vertical wooden posts hold the iron roof up. Closely spaced horizontal bearers are attached to the posts and support the walls which were of wattle and daub nature.

Wattle and daub is a construction method used in remote areas in the early 1900's. It consists essentially of clay or mud held in place and reinforced by wattle branches and twigs intertwined in the mud and anchored to the horizontal bearers.

This building method has a number of advantages. There is no shortage of timber nearby for posts and bearers. Clay, mud and wattle is readily available and provides excellent insulation from the heat and the cold.

The building is not in the best condition. A number of walls are now supported by props. A Huts Association is needed in the Abercrombie National Park.

Click below for a Michael Hamilton video of the trip.

https://youtu.be/pt0rM4OI1Js?si=dugHlb-q9uk_dVhN



The Putty Valley Loop Reconnaissance Trip.

18th September 2025

Trip Leader: Bill Twyman

Attendees: Michael Hamilton, John Hocking, Johnny Lauder, David & Stephen Bennett

Purpose: To check condition of and rate the track for future club day trips

The day started at the Buns & Beans Café Wilberforce, for a coffee and something for breakfast for those who needed it.

When everyone had arrived, we headed off up the Putty Road, Stephen riding with Bill, David traveling with Michael and John & Johnny driving their Subies.

Turning onto The Putty Valley Road for a 104km drive of The Putty Valley Loop.

We continued on and turned into Bakers Road traveling to Baxter's Junction, stopping for a leg stretch and morning tea. After the break we travelled to Three Ways, turning right onto the Hunter Main Trail to Raspberry Junction, then onto the Sheepskin Hut for lunch, recording the Subie Club's name in the visitor's book (again).

After lunch we continued on the Hunter Main Trail to Kings Cross, then turning right onto Commission Road traveling to Putty Road.

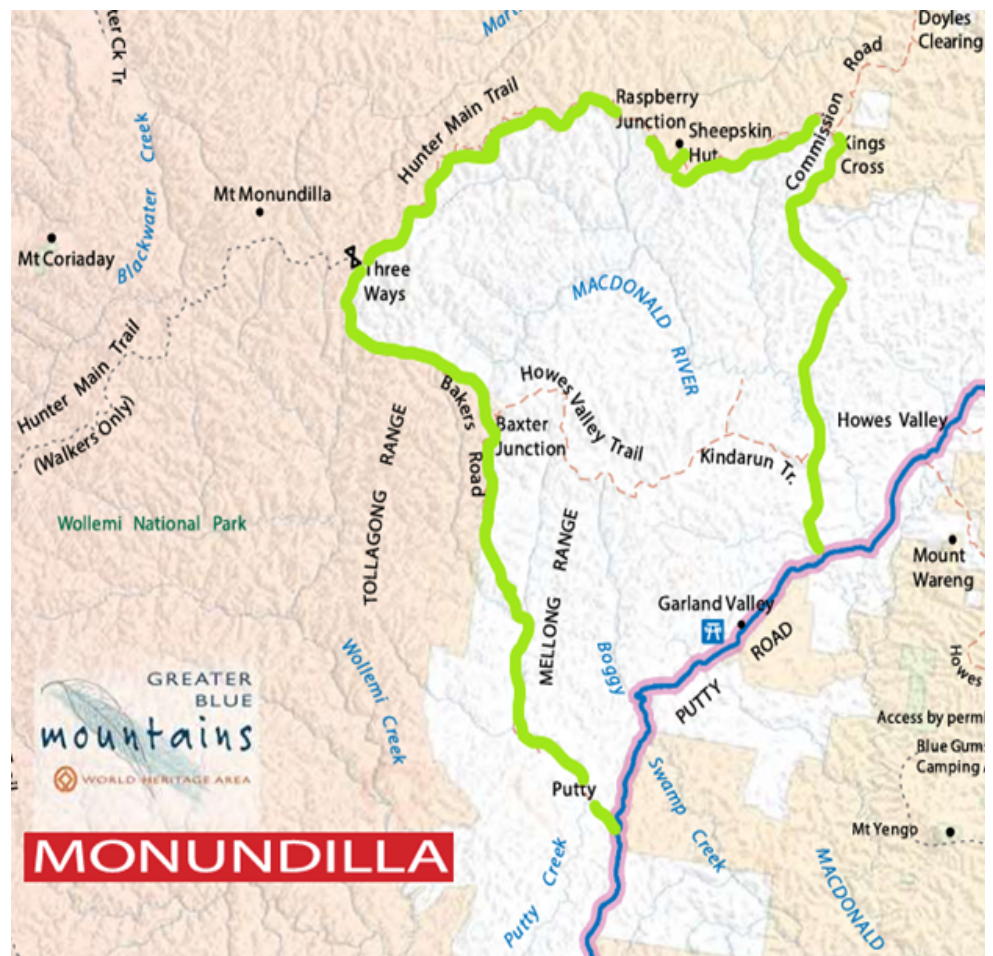
The Putty Valley Loop had some steep, rocky and some technical driving but our biggest issue was track clearing due to fallen trees and branches. John's stock standard Subaru Forester handled the track faultlessly.

We finished off the day at The Tropicana Hotel in Wilberforce for dinner, a drink and a debriefing.

Thank you to Stephen Bennett
David Bennett Michael
Hamilton Johnny Lauder and
John Hocking for being my
support on this recce - soon to
become a club trip.

Bill

Photos of the trip can be seen
on the Facebook Page.



Camp Recipe: One Pot Sweet Potato Pasta

You'll Need:

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 stick celery, finely chopped
- 1 carrot, finely chopped
- 1 brown onion, finely chopped
- 1 tin (400g) diced tomatoes
- 5L hot water
- 1 sweet potato, peeled and diced into 1cm cubes (may switch to pumpkin if preferred)
- 1&1/2 cups small pasta shapes
- parmesan and parsley, to serve

Method:

1. Heat the oil in the camp oven over heat (such as open fire or BBQ).
2. Add the garlic, celery, carrot and onion and cook, stirring regularly until the onion is soft and translucent.
3. Add the tomatoes, water and sweet potatoes to the pot, cover and cook until the sweet potatoes are almost tender, about 30 minutes.
4. Add the pasta and cook for another 10 minutes or until the pasta is al dente.
5. Remove from heat, season to taste and serve in big bowls with the parmesan and parsley.



OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	Club 50th 3 Anniversary Cobbitty Scout Hall	Club 50th 4 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	

NOVEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30						1
2	3	Committee 4 Meeting Crossroad Hotel	5	6	7	Driver 8 Awareness Trip. Abercrombie River NP
Driver 9 Awareness Trip. Abercrombie River NP	10	General 11 Meeting Crossroads Hotel	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PAGES

Belanglo 4wd Weekend

06 June 2020

Old Photo Memories Courtesy Michael Minny







HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Julie Bennett

Cath De Santis

Johnny Lauder

Harley Sadler

Daniel Sorrasson

The Unknown

**Do y'all remember,
before the internet,
that people thought
the cause of stupidity
was the lack of access
to information? Yeah.
It wasn't that.**

Until Next Time
STAY SAFE