



TORQUE

OCT
2025





IN T H I S I S S U E

Cover Image: Taken by Brett Hampson at the 50th celebrations.

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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<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.

WHAT a 50th celebration!! A very good attendance of old members and current members. The venue was excellent, the food was very nice and in abundance. The atmosphere was happy and friendly. People renewing friendships and meeting new like minded 4wd/camping people. A BIG thank you to Jo for coming up with the theme for and organising the celebrations. Thank you as well to the people who helped in the setting up for the event and cleaning up after. To the people who contributed photos and movies and set them up on a computer for slide shows and videos. A special mention and thank you to Stephen Eakin who supplied and delivered the fire wood for the unbelievable fires on Friday and Saturday nights. (the subject of the cover photo).

What more can I say, except, I think everyone left with a big smile on their face and very pleased that they had attended.

Be sure to have a look at the sum up of the 50th on page 14 of this edition.

I would like to suggest that you read the Association News in this edition on page 7. I found the articles interesting and informative.

Be sure to have a read of the Driver Awareness page, Trip Etiquette, in this edition.

Welcome back to Nathan Wellham (son of David Wellham) a former member who spent many of his younger years participating in club events.

A BIG get well soon to Bill Twyman who is recovering from major surgery and will require a long period of time recuperating.

The club calendar is very empty into the future. I am encouraging members to run some trips/day outs. If you have something in mind, but dont know where to start or how to do it. Contact a trip convenor/committee member who, I am sure, will help.

Thats it for me this month. I am hoping to see you at the General Meeting at the Crossroads Hotel on the 11th November 2025.

Stephen B

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB

GENERAL MEETING

Date: 14/10/25

Venue: Rosehill Bowlo

Meeting Open at 8pm

Attendees

Kevin M, Jo Q, Michael H, Steve P, Bill T, Nathan W, Dave W, Brett H
Iwan S, John & Jean H, Michael C, Andrew R, Catherine D

Apologies

Steve B, Alex G.

Minutes of previous meeting read

Accepted by

Michael H

Seconded

Dave C

President Report

Mentioned the idea of doing risk assessments for future trips
Jo Q mentioned that she does them for her extended trips
Seeking advice on risk assessments from the 4WD Assoc and other clubs.
Thanking Jo for the 50th anniversary celebrations.

Secretary Report

No fresh correspondence in / out.

Treasurer Report

\$7209.30

Still a few more out-goings to come.

Membership Secretary Report

132 registered people on the website.
71 members including 9 lifers.
28 visitors (to the site)
33 past members

Association Report

Received email from the Environment Minister's Office regarding the National Parks use. Reply was pretty-much rubbish and really said nothing.

Discussed the expense involved in using National Park areas.
The association's AGM is coming up in November.

Web Master Report

Have put in event manager upgrades
The trip rating function has been turned off on the site

Driver Awareness Report

Discussed about leaving a couple of spots available on "full" trips in the event that new people may want to join the activity
Driver Awareness trips will be March, May and July next year
Will try for 2 basic trips and 1 sand trip
"Professional" training days are available through the 4WD Association, but are NOT suitable for Subarus any longer

Trip Convener Report

Looking at getting more trips up 'n running
Going to try to get them into the magazine earlier so people can plan ahead
Trip coming up in the New Year to Putty Valley

P/R Report

Very happy with the way the 50th anniversary went off.
The club may well be able to use the same facility for some future activities.
The videos and images that were supplied for the 50th are gradually being loaded onto the club's YouTube channel.

Equipment & Merchandising Report

There was a clothing issue with some of the 50th anniversary gear with the vinyl on the back of the jumpers starting to crack. The manufacturer will be approached to try and find a solution.

Sgt at Arms Report

Nothing to report

General Business

Catherine gave a brief run-down of a trip she had done to the Longreach area

Meeting Closed at 8.40pm.

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC.

Treasurers Report

Sep-25

Cash Book Balance Brought Forward	\$9,168.20
Plus Income	\$2,685.01
Less Expenditure	\$4,643.90
Closing Balance	<u><u>\$7,209.31</u></u>

<u>Income</u> -		
	Memberships	\$150.00
	Bank interest	\$0.01
	Merchandise	\$10.00
	50th attendance fee	\$2,495.00
	Paypal testing	\$30.00

<u>Expenditure</u> -		
	Paypal fees	\$54.78
	Paypal testing	\$30.00
	Xenforo Website	\$117.87
	AGM BBQ costs - S Bennet	\$57.00
	50th weekend costs	\$1,176.45
	50th Catering	\$3,138.75
	Delegate costs - D Wellham	\$69.05

Bank Reconciliation

Bank Account Balance as at 30/9/2025	ANZ	\$6,914.56
<u>Plus</u>		
	Funds held in Pay Pal as at 30/9/2025	\$0.00
	Cash on Hand	\$294.75
Available Funds as at 30/9/2025		<u><u>\$7,209.31</u></u>



Association News & Updates: October 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@subaru4wdclub.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.

National Parks updates

Association looking at history with parks and management plans for examples of how National Parks have created a park. National Parks should only be created when there is an Environmental or Scientific reason for it. 30 x 30 (Australian Government has signed up for it with United Nations - i.e. 30% of the country should be a reserve by 2030). As a country, we are already there but states are competing with each other to reserve more than is required. There is also conjecture about what is officially included in the percentage.

It will certainly be interesting to see how the inquiry into the use of public lands will go, after the [ePetition](#) into camping hopefully they will realize just how out of touch they are with most Park users and the greater population. NSW Government has responded and basically not answered the question except that feedback will be looked at. National Parks do all the right things then just ignore the answers, a great example of this is the Gardens of Stone at Lithgow, it had so much potential to bring tourists to Lithgow and everyone embraced it except for a very small but vocal group who want total lockout for every park and that is who they listened to, unbelievable isn't it.

Questions have been raised and NP called out on “Extinction of Koalas by 2050”

There has been a lot of pressure of late for NP to do something about Appin road due to Koala deaths in this region (which is the most concentrated area of koala deaths due to motor vehicle injuries).

NP have come up with an excellent method to count and identify koalas using drones with infrared heat technology. They are sent up between 3am and 6am and can very easily spot to count Koalas using their heat signature as well as drones being sent to individuals to take very clear “white light” images and identify/count Koalas.

Great Koala Park in Coffs Harbour region –

The announcement for this came from nowhere and has caught everyone of guard, there is so much to unpack from this announcement. Association spoke with Shooters and Fishers Party, Industry leaders such as GME, Ironman, Toyo Tyres, ARB and others and Social Media influencers etc at the Adventure show, the outcome of those talks is that 4WD NSW and ACT will be hosting a closed forum of interested parties at Coffs Harbour in late October, this will include politicians, timber industry, four wheel drive related industries, influencers and local clubs. (Not open to non-member clubs at this stage). It will be held INSIDE a club and be an INVITATION ONLY event to keep it in check. Also trying and get Timber Industry involved. The main points we are trying to get clear are exactly what is driving the government to change its mind on creating such a large park, how it will affect us and our supporting industries and how will this affect future parks. Everyone wants to save Koalas and not see harm etc but also concerned about what this park would mean for the local community - it will have an effect on over 300 jobs with a diabolical “ripple effect” which would then harm the wider community.

Rewilding area Coffs Harbour Region: This is the first one in a mountainous area (complex terrain) with 36km of fence around it with a couple of major waterways included) is amazing to see it in operation. Has a “stock” of animals etc inside which are swapped out from time to time to prevent “inbreeding” and keep DNA moving. They have done well with removing/killing wild cats in the area (using ground breaking technologies)

We are also trying to get local councils to encourage the increased visitation of car clubs/4WD’s through regions such as Coffs Region, Alpine region etc. They are STARTING to realise that it is important to encourage vehicular groups into areas.

The new financial year is upon us, which inevitably means new rules.

Here’s a quick rundown of all the updated road rules, fines, and penalties that came into effect nationwide, from July 1.

Respective governments have justified the adjustments following the [worst road toll figures in 15 years](#), as well as changes to the Consumer Price Index, or CPI.

New South Wales

All penalties, fees and charges have increased by 3.2 per cent from July 1 to reflect the CPI.

It means if you’re caught illegally using your mobile phone while driving, the fine has just jumped from \$410 to \$423. As we’ve previously reported, NSW has begun enforcing fines and demerit points penalties for light cars and motorcycles along two stretches of road using [average speed cameras](#), following a trial period.

Ticketless parking fines removed

Toll increases – there are also toll increases on some of Sydney’s motorways from July 1.

Queensland

Queensland has reduced speed limits from 50km/h to 40km/h in some busy areas in a bid to address an alarming spike in vulnerable road user deaths.

The sunshine state has also increased fines and car registration by 3.4 per cent on July 1.

Although the increases are incremental, they compound what are some pretty hefty fines. For instance, if you’re caught illegally using your mobile phone behind the wheel, the fine has increased to \$1250 (from \$1209).

Victoria

Victorian drivers are now required to slow down to 40km/h while passing some roadside vehicles from July 1, or face fines up to \$961. These vehicles are listed as assistance vehicles, tow trucks, and emergency incident response vehicles that are flashing lights or sounding their alarm on any roads.

South Australia

South Australian has introduced rules requiring motorists to slow down when passing stationary roadside emergency, breakdown and assistance vehicles flashing their lights on multilane roads – but the speed limit is even more stringent. Motorists in SA are required to slow down to 25km/h while passing said stationary vehicles, and if they don’t the penalty now extends up to \$1895 and up to nine demerit points.

Western Australia

Hundreds of high pedestrian area roads across WA have had their speed limits reduced to 40km/h – down from 50km/h or 60km/h. The western state is also slogging motorists’ bigger fines for illegal phone use behind the wheel, with fines climbing to \$700. Extreme cases of speeding are also in the spotlight, with fines climbing up to \$1600.

Northern Territory

The NT has rolled out new speed limits on several stretches of road. On the Stuart Highway, the section of road which passes the Emerald Springs Roadhouse will increase from 80km/h to 100km/h, while a new speed limit of 80km/h will be implemented between Chung Wah Terrace and Wickham Point Road. Separately, the stretch of bitumen between Wickham Point Road and Channel Island Bridge has changed to 90km/h.

Tasmania

It is understood there are no changes to Tasmania's road rules or fines at the time of writing.

Australian Capital Territory

It is understood there are no changes to the ACT's road rules or fines at the time of writing.

Source credit NRMA

The right way to use headlights

When should your headlights be on?

The NSW Government says your headlights must be on when:

Driving between sunset and sunrise.

At any other time when there is not enough daylight to be able to see a person wearing dark clothing at a distance of 100 metres.

When should you use high beam?

To see further ahead, use your headlights on high beam on any road, even if there are street lights. You must dip your headlights to low beam:

When a vehicle coming toward you is within 200 metres.

When driving 200 metres or less behind another vehicle.

When you overtake another vehicle, you may briefly flash high beam immediately before starting the overtaking manoeuvre.

Some newer vehicles have a smart high beam function, which switches high beams off automatically when it detects other vehicles.

Do not use or allow any light fitted to your vehicle to dazzle another road user. Avoid looking at the headlights of oncoming vehicles.

If you are dazzled by glaring or high-beam lights, look to the left side of the road and drive to the left of your lane, slow down or pull over until your eyes recover.

When should fog lights be used?

Front and rear fog lights must only be used in fog or rain, or when conditions such as smoke and dust limit your vision. It is a legal requirement that once conditions improve and you can see more clearly, the front and rear fog lights are switched off.

If your vehicle is not fitted with fog lights, use your headlights during the day in these adverse conditions.

What are daytime running lights (DRL)?

Many new cars come standard with daytime running lights (DRLs). These are static lights that illuminate when the car is under operation, making it easier to see – especially in the early morning/late afternoon, and on overcast or rainy days.

Source credit NRMA

Key Changes for Australian CB Radio Operators - effective on October 1, 2025.

FM Legalization on HF: Operators can now use FM on the 27 MHz (HF) band, a major change that aligns Australia with other countries and provides more flexibility.

Removal of Channel-Specific Calls: Operators no longer need to start contacts on designated channels, allowing for more spontaneous and group-based communications on channels they prefer.

Internet Linking Allowed: New rules permit the linking of CB radios to internet-based systems.

Clarification of Emergency Communications: The definition of emergency communications now explicitly includes activities like emergency coordination and training.

Shift in Enforcement for On-Air Conduct: The ACMA will no longer be responsible for taking action against issues like harassment or threats on the air, with enforcement now falling to police and other authorities.

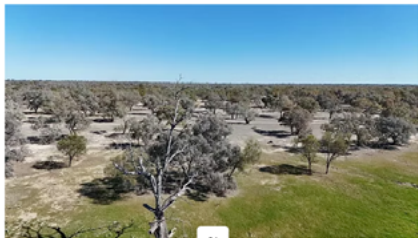
New Class Licence: The new Radiocommunications (Citizen Band Radio Stations) Class Licence 2025 replaces the previous 2015 version, becoming effective on October 1, 2025.

No Call Sign Required: While not mandatory, operators are still recommended to identify themselves during communication.

Why the Changes?

The changes were made to reflect advancements in technology and evolving user practices since 2015. The ACMA's consultation process received numerous submissions, leading to a modernized class licence.

Pushback on rapid national park expansion in far west



Councils, graziers and communities raise concerns over acquisition of farming properties for national parks. Bourke Shire Council has reaffirmed its commitment to regional pastoral communities as the NSW Government continues to expand the national parks estate in the far west.

The Council's concerns focus on both the loss of productive grazing land and the financial implications for local government. In the last 20 years, the Bourke region has lost nearly half a million acres of agricultural land to make way for a suite of National Parks, Nature Reserves and State Conservation Areas - now totalling approximately 860,000 acres managed by the NSW Government. Since November 2024 alone, the NSW Government has acquired an additional 34,773 hectares of land for national parks in the far west, including "Bellenbar" near Fords Bridge. Mayor Lachlan Ford said the acquisitions have placed a tangible burden on ratepayers, as properties added to the national parks network are exempt from paying rates. "These government-owned lands don't contribute to council revenue," Cr Ford said. "Over the past few years, tens of thousands of hectares have been declared non-rateable. For 2024-25 alone, Council had to write off more than \$13,000 in rates due to Conservation Agreements and non-rateable lands. That's funding that would otherwise support roads, services, and community projects across our Shire."

Gardens of Stone SCA update – September 2025

Gardens of Stone Pagoda Walk – Work is complete on the first section of the Gardens of Stone Pagoda Walk following an 18-month works program to transform an eroded informal trail into a world-class walking track. Starting from Broad Swamp, the new 17.5 km [Broad Swamp to Birds Rock walking track](#) is a Grade 3 track which showcases remote creeks, gorges and clifftop views, finishing at Birds Rock carpark. The new track marks a major transformation for the area, improving access to stunning scenery while enhancing protection of sensitive landscapes. Construction on the next stage of the Gardens of Stone Pagoda Walk has commenced, with work to continue over the next 18-24 months. Once completed, the 30-kilometre two-night, three-day walk will connect Broad Swamp to Glow Worm Tunnel.

Broad Swamp – [The Broad Swamp Loop walk](#) is now open following a major remediation program to repair damaged landscapes and enhance protection of the largest swamp in the SCA. The 6-kilometre family friendly track highlights the rich biodiversity of Broad Swamp and tells the unique story of the area with visitor interpretation of local flora and fauna.

Lost City walking track – [The Lost City walking track](#) has been positively received by visitors and the local community, with more than 1,500 visitors recorded at the site each month. The newly established walking track and lookout opened in December 2024, providing access to iconic pagoda landscapes and heritage sites which were previously difficult to access. A significant milestone has now been achieved with the completion of the Lost City car park and access road, improving safety and access for park visitors. The new car park provides 38 spaces, including accessible and long-vehicle parking, visitor signage, seating, and toilets. These upgrades replace temporary facilities which were in place to support the first 10 months of operation of the Lost City walking track. Further improvements, including a new accessible lookout and an alternative entry point via Lost City North Road are planned over the coming months.

Forest Campground upcoming works – The Forest Campground precinct is currently closed for improvement works to support construction of the visitor precinct. Commencing with upgrades to Camp Road,

improvements will be followed by the construction of Forest Campground, featuring 50 bookable sites, drive-in camping suitable for small caravans, a designated group camping area, and a picnic area. The closure is expected to remain in place for approximately 12 months. During this time, there will be no access to Western Boundary Road, Red Hill Road, or the former Afforestation Camp.



Forest Campground concept plan

Bungleboori picnic area – Over the past year, the Bungleboori picnic area has undergone significant improvements. Invasive pine trees have been removed and repurposed as mulch and logs to help close damaged tracks. The area has been replanted with native species propagated by the Lithgow Community Nursery, enhancing biodiversity outcomes and supporting the local ecosystem. Planning for further upgrades is well underway, with future amenities to include accessible toilets, ample parking, shelters, and visitor signage. Construction will commence in late 2025.

Glow Worm Tunnel – Visitation to the Glow Worm Tunnel Precinct has boomed following the completion of upgrades in mid 2024, with visitor numbers totalling more than 40,000 over the past 12 months. Major track repairs, tunnel improvements and visitor interpretations have created a safer and more enjoyable experience for visitors, while also protecting the delicate glow worm habitat. In late May 2025, a significant rockfall occurred on the Glow Worm Tunnel walking track beyond the tunnel. NPWS is currently working with geotechnical engineers to develop a remediation plan, with the goal of safely reopening the track in the future. In the meantime, the track is temporarily closed from the tunnel exit to the intersection known as “4-ways” (Old Coach Road).

Old Bells Line of Road sealing – Clarence Sands Quarry has submitted a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the proposed sealing of a 5 km section of Old Bells Line of Road within Gardens of Stone SCA to improve road safety, reduce erosion, dust and sediment runoff. The REF is currently under review.

Trail closures

NPWS has now finalised an [access strategy for Gardens of Stone SCA](#) to provide a framework for safe and sustainable vehicle access in accordance with the reserve’s plan of management and Vehicle Access Policy. As noted in the strategy, the extensive network of unauthorised trails which were developed in the state forest has had damaging impacts on the natural and cultural values of the area – resulting in soil compaction, erosion, sedimentation in creeks and vegetation removal. NPWS is in the process of finalising the implementation plan for vehicle track rationalisation and rehabilitation. High priority areas have been identified, and works are currently underway to close and rehabilitate eroded trails.



A little bit of

Trip Etiquette



It's great fun to go on trips and it's really rewarding being a trip leader, however, there are a few small things to remember as a trip participant...



Registration

- Please make sure you **register on the club website** if you are planning to go on a trip. While the FB page is great for reminders/promotion/discussion about trips it is not the place to register for a trip.
- Please register online **no later than 5 days before the trip**. If you decide to go at the last minute that's fine but please make sure you telephone the trip leader personally to let them know you are coming.
- Please ensure **your details are up to date** on website ie email, phone and emergency contacts.



Trip information

- Always check the website for any updated information regarding trip details like cancellations etc.
- **Please be flexible on trips** as plans can and often do change due to many and varied reasons eg bad weather, fires, road closures, changes to track conditions etc.
- Trip Leaders will usually email out trip information a few days before the trip, if you haven't heard from the trip leader it is your responsibility to get in touch with them to find out what is happening.
- It is your responsibility to **print out trip instructions**, make sure you have contact phone numbers etc.
- Trips are for all members and the trip leader is in charge but that doesn't make them a tag-a-long leader. **Things like fuel, water, recovery equipment, spares etc are your responsibility.**



If you can't make a trip

- Please let the trip leader know in advance, **just deleting your registration or not showing up at the meeting point is not enough.** Trip leaders worry if participants don't turn up as expected and it also delays departure time for everyone concerned.



Remember...

- **If (for any reason) you need to leave the convoy** or can not continue on the trip please let the trip leader know – saves doing a search & rescue.



Reminder: take out your rubbish

Please remember to take out all your own rubbish with you, don't leave it for someone else to take out.



It doesn't happen very often but when trips require a payment for catering or tours etc please remember that if you pull out at the last moment your money may still have to be paid, please check with the trip leader.

*It is not fair
for anyone to be
out of pocket.*

Webmaster Update October 2025.

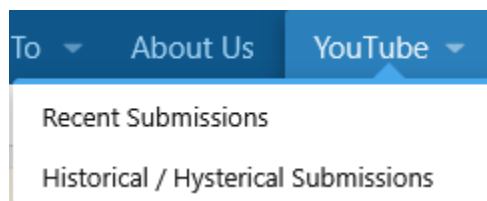
Website Activity.

Currently there are 132 valid registrations on the website consisting of 74 individual Members and 28 registered Visitors and 33 past members.

Not much change since the last report.

Changes made since September:

- Housekeeping updates to the Event Manager.
- Added another YouTube link to the Navigation Bar.



- Added another YouTube link in "YouTube Trip Videos"
<https://subaru4wdclub.com.au/threads/blasts-from-the-past.269/>

Issues Resolved:

- Had a network connection issue when performing backups.

Did you know?

There's a "News, Rumours and Media" section where you can submit articles related to anything that's "What's new in the world of touring, camping, off-roading etc." I suppose some juicy rumours about other club members wouldn't go astray (joking).

You can find it here: <https://subaru4wdclub.com.au/forums/news-rumours-and-media.52/>

Website Feedback & Support.

Feedback is welcome and assistance is readily available by contacting me: webmaster@subaru-4wdclub.com.au

Cheers

Kevin

50yrs of Club Presidents

1976	<i>Ian Hammond</i>	2001	<i>Ben Fullagar</i>
1977	<i>Bob Ronai</i>	2002	<i>Ben Fullagar</i>
1978	<i>Bob Ronai</i>	2003	<i>Jan Lewis</i>
1979	<i>Bob Ronai</i>	2004	<i>Jan Lewis</i>
1980	<i>Bob Ronai</i>	2005	<i>Jan Lewis</i>
1981	<i>Lorraine Purcell</i>	2006	<i>Jan Lewis</i>
1982	<i>Lorraine Purcell</i>	2007	<i>Sandi Strickland</i>
1983	<i>Lorraine Purcell</i>	2008	<i>Sandi Strickland</i>
1984	<i>Lorraine Purcell</i>	2009	<i>Sandi Strickland</i>
1985	<i>Bob Ronai</i>	2010	<i>Ben Fullagar/Troy Strickland</i>
1986	<i>Steve Pinnington</i>	2011	<i>Brian Flood</i>
1987	<i>Steve Pinnington</i>	2012	<i>Brian Flood</i>
1988	<i>Di Greenhaw</i>	2013	<i>Kevin McCormack</i>
1989	<i>Greg Mitchell</i>	2014	<i>Julie Rush</i>
1990	<i>Greg Mitchell</i>	2015	<i>Julie Rush</i>
1991	<i>Peter Coady</i>	2016	<i>Mark Honor</i>
1992	<i>Judy Neumann-Brown</i>	2017	<i>Mark Honor</i>
1993	<i>Greg Mitchell</i>	2018	<i>Mark Honor</i>
1994	<i>Nathan Blamire</i>	2019	<i>Mark Honor</i>
1995	<i>Judy Neumann-Brown</i>	2020	<i>Mark Honor</i>
1996	<i>Geoff Adcock</i>	2021	<i>Mark Honor</i>
1997	<i>Geoff Adcock</i>	2022	<i>Mark Honor</i>
1998	<i>Alan Bungard</i>	2023	<i>Mark Honor</i>
1999	<i>Tony McManus</i>	2024	<i>Stephen Bennett</i>
2000	<i>Ben Fullagar</i>	2025	<i>Stephen Bennett</i>



In 1975...

A Bottle of rum was \$10
 A kilo of snags was 98c
 A pound of butter was \$1
 A car toll on the Harbour Bridge was 20c
 Car rego fees were based on tare weight
 Average Sydney house was \$28,000
 The Vietnam War ended
 Microsoft was founded by Bill Gates
 The laser printer was invented
 A dozen eggs was 61c
 A schooner of beer was 20c
 Eastern Suburbs Roosters won NRL Grand Final

Countdown aired on Australian TV
 Average fulltime earning was \$72,00p/a
 A loaf of bread was 24c
 A newspaper was 12c
 Average cost of petrol was 57c/ltr
 Picnic at Hanging Rock was released
 Australian TV switched to full colour
 A litre of milk was 30c
 Denise Drsydale won the Gold Logie
 Australia's first FM radio station launched
 Darwin starts to rebuild after Cyclone Tracy
 Sir Roden Cutler was Governor of NSW

Cheers to 50 Years - Blasts From The Past



A large collage of 30 photographs celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Spring Hill Car Club. The photos show various members and families in costumes, at parties, and outdoors. Text overlays include "Cheers to 50 Years", "Drive for Drive", and "HAPPY 30 BIRTHDAY SPRING HILL CAR CLUB".

Cheers to 50 Years

1975-2025

Back in 1975 the toll on the Harbour Bridge was 20c, Australian TV switched to full colour, a bottle of rum was \$10, a newspaper 12c and what is now known as the Subaru & Recreational 4WD Club was born in NSW. 2025 marks our 50th anniversary as a Club, quite a significant milestone for any Club, with many changes over the years, we have survived the distance.

Our celebrations were held across 3 days on the 3-5th October at Cobbitty Scout hall in the Macarthur region of Sydney. I believe the Sydney location actually worked in our favour and allowed many people to come for just the Saturday or ample accommodation close by for those that couldn't camp. Catering and supplies were also easily organised being so close. The hall was perfect for our needs and the weather gods were finally on my side - sunny days and clear nights.

When I first volunteered to organise the event I had a lot of ideas and my target was to reach 100 people attend. I wanted it to be visual going back through the years, to be able to display older club memorabilia and to make it an event where people could catch up, reminisce and interact with members old and current. 50 years is a long time to go back through the years, long before digital cameras and even video cameras were new. Thank you to everyone that sent through their images and memories of the Club. We now have a great visual library for future events.

An event like this was easy to put together in my head, I knew what I wanted to achieve. To turn it into a reality was another story. To all those that helped behind the scenes from firewood collection, the hours put into video files to be shown, the visual displays, sourcing helium and logistical items such as marquees & star pickets, returning furniture, cleaning and packing up and all the hands on deck to set up prior to everyone's arrival, I thank you all. Everyone helped to turn what I had envisaged into reality. A fantastic team effort!

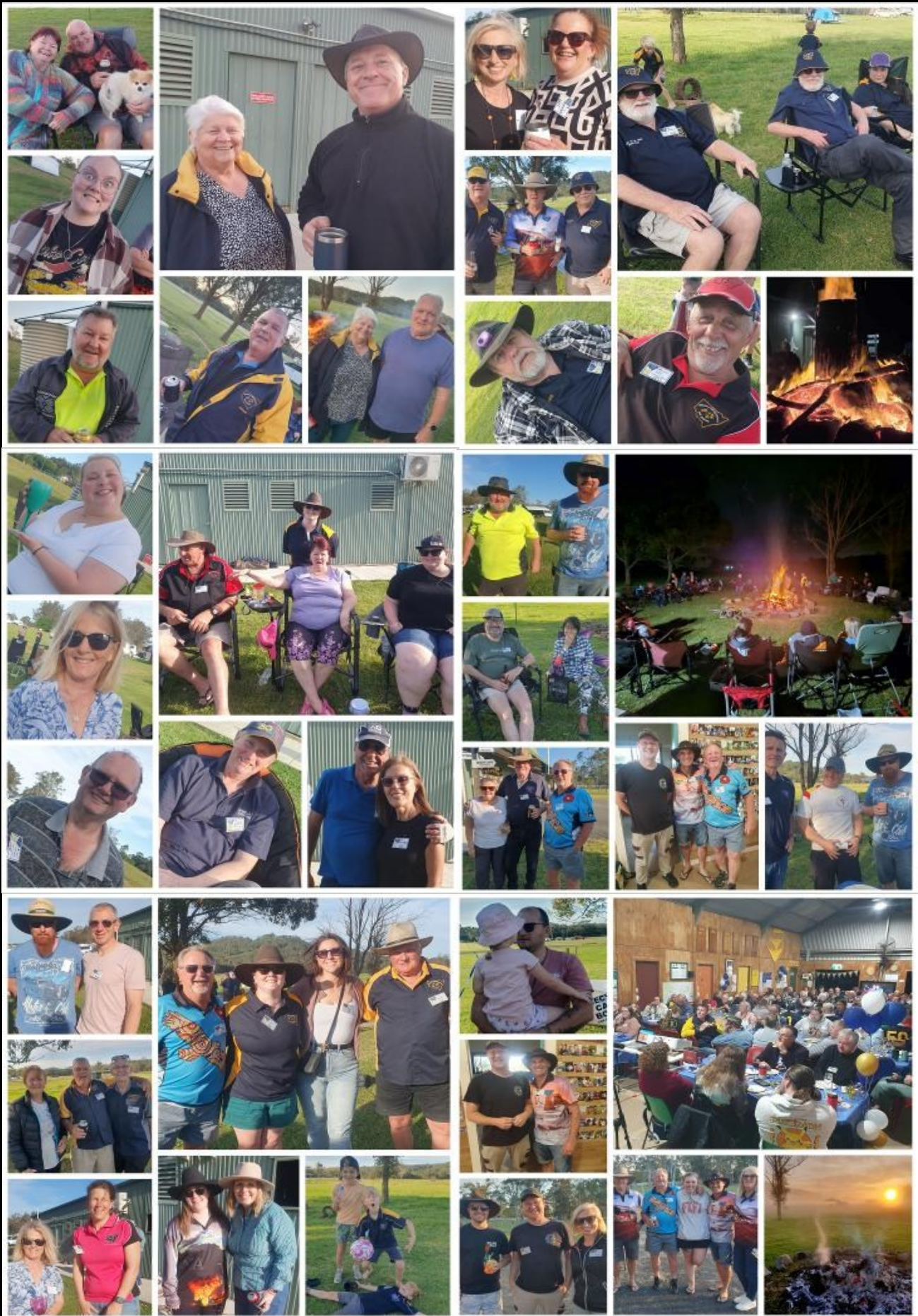
We had 35 vehicles camp out at the venue, 104 people attended the Saturday evening dinner and more ex-members than current attended the event. From all accounts everyone had a great weekend and we are now looking forward to hosting other events for members old & new.

Cheers to 50 Years!

Jo







Yerranderie and Beyond 4WD and Camping Weekend

22nd to 24th August 2025

The previous week was fairly wet up and down the coast, including Sydney. After reviewing the actual rain fall in the mountains together with local knowledge the trip leaders (Mark & Karolyn) knew the tracks and creeks would be passable and safe, so all systems were GO! Come Friday afternoon the trip numbers had dropped off, but Mark and Karolyn met Troy and Sandi Strickland and Brett Hampson at Historic Hartley. All was going to plan until just before 5pm Mark received a phone call from the wife of a good friend, informing Mark that his EPIRB had been activated. We knew there were two brothers, on motor bikes, travelling on the Oberon Coolong Stock Route, and it must have been an accident rather than just being "lost". A decision was made for Mark and Karolyn to leave immediately while Troy and Sandi waited for Brett to arrive at the meeting point. It is important to note all members on the trip had completed the night drive to Yerranderie multiple times and would catch up with Mark and Karolyn in due course.

Before arriving at Mount Werong M & K received another message informing them that one of the riders had a broken leg. There was no information about what brother but least it was not as bad as first feared. The emergency services (Ambulance and SES) were on scene at Mount Werong and heading east along the Stock Route towards the accident scene. Mark and Karolyn now had about six emergency vehicles in front of them, after 50 minutes they reached the accident location, which was Colong Creek, near a private property. Police and another Ambulance unit arrived after M & K and ahead of Troy, Sandi and Brett. Red and Blue lights everywhere on this Friday night.

Mark & Karolyn now know which brother was injured and after relocating to higher ground were able to make contact with one of the wives, passing some long-awaited details. At around 7.30pm our trip members were together on the Stock Route, staying clear of the track so the Ambulance could transport the injured rider. Yerranderie was the closest location for air transport but apparently the cloud was too low to make a safe approach. Long story short, Mark & Karolyn transported some equipment and stayed with the uninjured rider while Troy, Sandi and Brett pushed on to Yerranderie and beyond to our private property camp.

By the time Mark & Karolyn travelled the thirty one kilometres from Yerranderie they arrived at the camp at about 10pm the others already had lights on and fires going, ready to kick back and relax for the first time during the last five hours. On these trips we always have a drink or two to relax before getting some well needed sleep.

Notwithstanding the rain during the week leading up to this trip, the tracks and creeks were all unaffected. If the trip was using the Kowmung Trail, then plans would have changed because the Kowmung River crossing was impassable and closed.

While there is some mobile coverage at the property, we noted the three hours between Oberon where there are only a few areas where text messages can be sent and received. Please note Yerranderie now has a small Telstra mobile cell. When planning remote trips and trips without mobile coverage some thought should be given regarding the steps to be taken in the case of an emergency. Satellite phone, Starlink and other GPS based communication devices could be part of the solution.

Saturday morning saw clear skies with no risk of rain. Everyone did their thing... no points for guessing who went for a 15km run/walk, before we cooked a big breakfast and made plans to do just about nothing: other than relax, check out building repairs, water tanks, mower, solar panels and batteries, firewood supplies and discovered 195mm in the rain gauge during the last six weeks since the previous visitors to the property. When we visit this property with family, friends and club trips there is always plenty of maintenance and general fire reduction activities to be done.

The Kowmung River can be easily accessed by a 30-minute walk, always seems longer coming back.... uphill of course. Brett helped with some repairs on an old Hilux which we use for maintenance and collection of firewood. Before we realised, I am pleased to say it was getting close to "happy hour" and as always there was

plenty of that to go around. The main hut has a large deck area which is partly covered and has a great view over the properties camp area and north towards the Narrow Neck Plateau, towards Katoomba. Usually, we use the rainfall forecast for Katoomba and the temperature forecast from Springwood because our elevation is much lower than Katoomba. It is a great location to get the gas BBQ going and cook up a feast for dinner.

The evening was fairly mild, but it was fantastic to sit around the open fire in the hut and watch the flames lick the cast iron water boiler, which is our “hot water system”. Each of the huts have a bathroom with flush toilet and cold running water. The shower still needs hot water added to the bucket under the pump connected to a shower rose.

Breakfast on Sunday morning is mostly simple and quick because we are always keen to get on the track again by about 9am. With the packing of gear, loading cars, cleaning fireplaces, sweeping and mopping we were ready to say goodbye just thirty-six hours after we arrived. Originally, we were considering the return trip via the Kowmung Trail but as mentioned the river was flooded. After a quick stop in Yerranderie we headed for lunch at the Hampton Hotel. Camp to Yerranderie is about 40 minutes, Yerranderie to Mount Werong is about 80 minutes, Mount Werong to Hampton is just under 60 minutes and Hampton to Katoomba is about the same. Thank you everyone for a great weekend.

Safe travels.



Gunning Fireworks Trip 19th – 21st September 2025

Trip Leader: Kevin McCormack

Attendees: Chris & Bernadette, Dave & Lyn; Geoff, Nathan & Cherie

Well, what a blast! Even more spectacular than my last visit several years ago.

We camped at Country Journey / Boxgrove Farm, a new location for the club, except for Dave & Lyn who stayed at the Royal Hotel Dalton. The facilities at camp were great so when the weather turned nasty on Friday we were able to take shelter in a small building consisting of a reconstructed cabin frame and a lovely fireplace. To keep in mind for another visit there were also 3 different types of pizza oven (2 fired and 1 gas) and a large BBQ. Amenities at our camp included 2 loos and a shower. We did not get to take advantage of other activities and equipment on offer like tennis, push bikes and even golf. Next time maybe!



After a relaxed but extremely windy Saturday morning we headed to the hotel in Dalton for lunch where we also met up with Dave & Lyn. Fairly traditional pub food of good quality was had by all for lunch along with friendly service.



In such a basic country pub we were surprised to find this beautiful loungeroom.



Just before 3PM we all headed to Gunning which was about 15 minutes away. Upon arrival in the town the queues to enter the showground were huge! A main street was jammed in each direction waiting to turn onto the road leading to the showground. While I'd like to say "preplanned" we fluked it by arriving at a crossroad with queued traffic on our left and right so when a break in traffic occurred one by one we skipped across the intersection and were soon parked in the showground.

Testing the "Big Bang Theory"?



It was still quite windy and chilly when we arrived at the showground, so we managed to set up in front of an unopened bar as a wind break and unbeknown to us it turned out to be a perfect spot to view the fireworks as every demonstration firework was set off directly in front of us. We could feel the “thumps” in our chests.

As background, the event is where Fireworks Australia demonstrate their products to potential buyers so a very brief description is given before each firing. Though unlike the last time I visited there was a spectacular display at the start of the event as well as the usual “all hell breaks loose” at the end.

There were lots of different food stalls and those who ate early certainly had the right idea as the queues around dinner time were massive. Not so many at the sushi stand though! (sushi is a favourite of mine).

The show commenced at dusk with some new colourful smoke displays which were very pretty. Then once the sun had gone down the opening salvo commenced.



After the opening display the individual fireworks demonstrations began, there were approx 120 fired.

Then the finale of the show was absolutely amazing, I thought my head would explode. So did Geoff! The sound wave shocks were huge.



At the end of the show we arranged to meet back at the Dalton pub only to discover it had closed early so we farewelled Dave & Lyn and headed back to camp where we settled in around a cosy fire.

Sunday morning we headed home.

Cheers

Kevin

Trip Convener Report

Driver Awareness Day/Weekend Trip.
Abercrombie River NP

8th & 9th November 2025

November General Meeting. Crossroads Hotel

11th November 2025

Club Christmas Party Grady's Riverside Retreat

6th & 7th December 2025

Club Mid-Week Wanderers Christmas Party

10th December 2025

January General Meeting Rosehill Bowling Club

13th January 2026

Australia Day Picnic 2026

26th January 2026

February General Meeting Crossroads Hotel

10th February 2026

March General Meeting Rosehill Bowling Club

10 March 2026

Abercrombie River NP Camping at the Glenn

11th & 12th April 2026

Details for all trips and meetings can be found on the club website. Bill Twyman



NOVEMBER 2025

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

DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Subaru 4WD Club Christmas Party
7 Subaru 4WD Club Christmas Party	8	9	10 Subaru 4WD Club Mid-Week Wanderers Christmas Party	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Campfire Recipe: Fried Rice

You'll need: 1-1½ cups cooked rice - Eggs (one or more if you have them) or reconstituted dried eggs - ½ tin of corn - Tinned champignons, drained and diced - Dehydrated peas - Fresh tomato, roughly diced OR ½ tin of tomatoes (whole), drained and coarsely chopped - 1-2 tbsp soy sauce to taste - Onion and garlic - Dried chili powder or flakes, to taste

Optional extras: Some kind of extra protein, e.g. diced salami, dried shrimp, chicken, or beef - carrot or other veges, diced

Method:

1. Rehydrate peas in a bowl of hot water for a few minutes.
2. On the BBQ or camp oven lid, fry egg(s) in a little oil until scrambled and cooked. Set aside.
3. Fry onion and garlic in camp oven until soft. Add veges and stir well. Add meat if using.
4. Add rice and soy sauce and stir thoroughly.
5. Cook until there is no liquid in camp oven, then stir through egg.
6. Serve with chili if desired.

If you have a recipe that you feel others may like, don't be shy, send it to the editor for publication in the magazine.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PAGE

A big thank you to everyone involved in the 2025 Adventure show. What a fantastic achievement, this years show has been the best-organised show we have done. There are lots of factors why that is the case, but at the foundations of our show are our cornerstones, which are our club members, who every year go above and beyond to make this show the biggest and best show in NSW, and we can't thank you enough.

We have members who volunteer for two hours, as well as those who volunteered for all three days, and those who volunteered for the entire week and are still on-site today. It's simply incredible commitment and support of our association.

I want to make a very special thank you to the Camping With Families 4WD club, John, Robert, Shane and Zac, who pulled the show down last night and were still on-site at midnight. It's a mountain of work you guys have done, and we are indebted to you all and super proud.

I hope you all have a quieter week and get to recharge.

On behalf of all the Show Team, again, thank you.

Cheers

Lee

Above is a email that Lee Dunstan, Association Committee member, sent out to clubs thanking the volunteers who help with the Adventure Show. Three members represented our club, Dave Cook volunteered for 2 days, Deanna Blamire & Bill Twyman 1 day.

Dave ask me to add a big thank you to the Association Committee, for arranging for the people doing more than one day, were able to camp, So much easier than traveling home and back again.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Bernadette Tiller

Ray Bonello

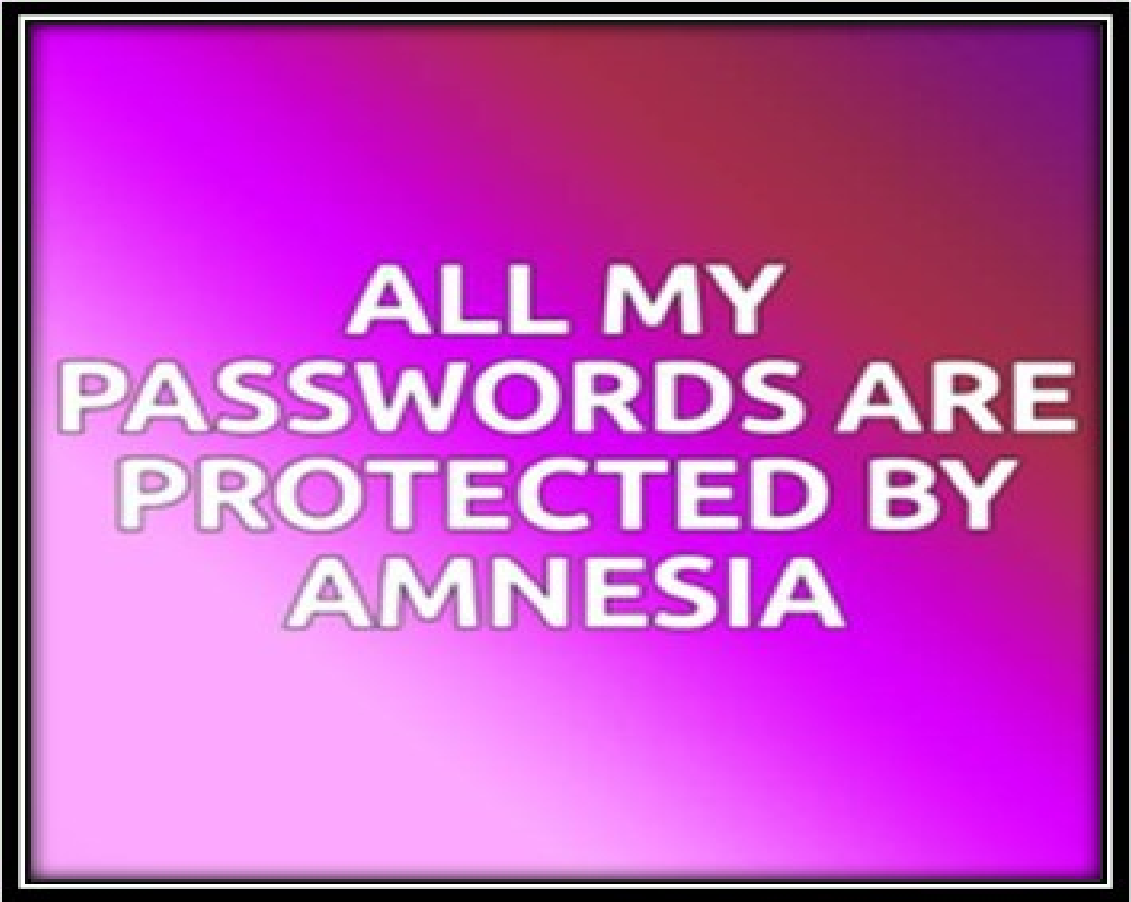
Michael Carney

Mark Honor

Dane Knight

Stephen Bennett

The Unknown



ALL MY
PASSWORDS ARE
PROTECTED BY
AMNESIA

Until Next Time

STAY SAFE