

DRIVE

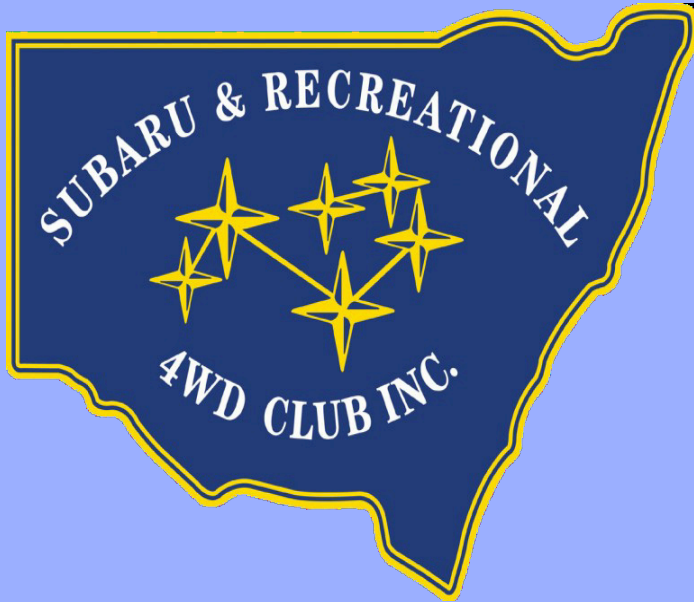
eNEWS



TORQUE

JUN
2026





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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>	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 Convenor:</u>	Jo Quinn, Bill Twyman trip_convenor@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
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<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.

There were no new members this month. I would like to remind the 35 members that are unfinancial, that membership fees were due at the end of June and if they could attend to this matter A S A P please. This may be an oversight by the member or it maybe that you do not wish to remain a member of this club, if this is true, could you send an email to let us know so we can adjust the records, and if we could be informed of the reason behind the decision so if it was something the club/committee has done or didn't do, we can rectify it for the future.

The AGM is on Sunday 26th July 2026, so the Notice of the Annual General Meeting and The Committee Roles print out, have been republished in this eNews issue, to entice members to volunteer to take up a committee role and bring some new ideas into the club. REMEMBER the club will only be as good as it's members.

I would love to see each and every member at the AGM at "The Dairy" Western Sydney Parklands, entry via Cotswold Road off Cowpasture Road, Abbotsbury.

Please Register on the Website to allow us to cater for this event .

For three days in June I had the pleasure of assisting in the running of day trips in the Putty Valley. The people who attended these trips enjoyed them immensely. When I discussed with members on the day, it was agreed the tracks that we drove would have suited new members that had none to little experience driving off road dirt tracks. I strongly suggest that if trips like this are put up, newer members should register and participate to gain experience.

The poll that I mentioned last month about monthly meetings will be posted until next month. Emails will be sent to everyone when it is posted with instructions on how to access it. I would encourage everyone to participate.

Regarding the club stand at the upcoming 4WD show. As we had very little response to volunteering to man the stand, it has been decided that the club not have a stand this year.

July's General Meeting will be held prior to the AGM on the 26th.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the AGM. don't forget to register on the website for catering purposes.

Stephen B

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB

GENERAL MEETING

Date: 9 June 2026

Venue: Rosehill Bowlo

Meeting open at 7.30pm

Attendees: Steve P, Michael R H, Jo Q, Jean & John H, Bill T, Dave C,
Stephen E, Rocky R, Michael C, Alexandra G, Cath D, Iwan S, David W, Brett H, Robert L

Apologies: Steve B, Kevin McC, Daniel S, Tom D

Minutes of previous meeting read

Accepted by Jo Q

Seconded Iwan S

Vice Presidents Report

Michael thanked Iwan for the great job he had done on the front end of the club's website.

More was going to be discussed at a Committee Level

Mention made of the National 4X4 Outdoor Show on this month at Sydney Showground. This is different to the Sydney 4WD and Adventure Show at Eastern creek in September.

Treasurer's Report

Cash Book Balance Brought Forward \$6,168.20

Plus Income \$50.00

Less Expenditure \$1.75

Closing Balance \$6,216.45

Income - Memberships \$50.00

PayPal fees \$1.75

Bank Account Balance as at 31/5/2026 ANZ \$4,977.40

Plus Funds held in Pay Pal as at 31/5/2026 \$944.30

Cash on Hand \$294.75

Available Funds as at 31/5/2026 \$6,216.45

Expenditure –

Bank Reconciliation

Bank Account Balance as at 31/5/2026

ANZ

\$4,977.40

PLUS Funds held in PayPal as at 31/5/26

\$944.30

Cash on Hand

\$294.75

Available Funds as at 31/5/2026 - **\$6216.45**

Editor's Report

Michael thanked Stephen for putting Drive Torque together so well

Membership Secretary Report

67 paid-up members + 9 Lifers = 76

57 of those 67 are yet to pay for their 26-27 membership.

Reminders will go out soon

In order to vote at the AGM you must be financial

Association Report

Delegates have been given a list of responsibilities

More EVs in Clubs these days

Now legal to remove rear seats provided seatbelts and bolts retained

Association fees must be paid on time, otherwise CVS registrations will be invalid

July 17 is the last day to nominate for a stand at the 4WD Show

Mt Vincent Campground - Karen from Macarthur 4WD Club thanked Hunter District 4WD Club for showing her around, and she thoroughly recommended the campground

Web Report

The latest on the website will be in the Drive Torque magazine

Driver Awareness Report

Report on the Driver Awareness trip to Stockton beach.

Seven (7) vehicles attended.

Bill reminded people that you must buy access tickets on-line now

You have a choice of 3-day passes or annual passes

Member Michael Carney has created a YouTube clip of the day

It can be access via Carney's Adventures on the YouTube channel

Next outing will be Kanangra-Boyd National Park

Already 8 vehicles booked in with spaces being made available for new members

Trip Convener Report

Putty Valley – fallen tree

Bulga to California Track will be a Saturday trip and a separate Sunday trip to see which is more popular

The same trip is to be run mid-week as well

Burralow Creek on 27 June will be a relaxing weekend trip

You must book through the NPWS

July 11 is a 4WD & Camping weekend at Belanglo Forest

Book in via the website

General Business

The AGM is to be held on 26 July at the Dairy (Western Suburbs Parklands)

Next meeting will be the AGM on Sunday 26 July

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC.

Treasurers Report

May-26

Cash Book Balance Brought Forward	\$6,168.20
Plus Income	\$50.00
Less Expenditure	\$1.75
Closing Balance	<u><u>\$6,216.45</u></u>

<u>Income</u> -	Memberships	\$50.00
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<u>Expenditure</u> -	Paypal fees	\$1.75
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Bank Reconciliation

Bank Account Balance as at 31/5/2026	ANZ	\$4,977.40
<u>Plus</u>	Funds held in Pay Pal as at 31/5/2026	\$944.30
	Cash on Hand	\$294.75
Available Funds as at 31/5/2026		<u><u>\$6,216.45</u></u>

Webmaster Update June 2026.

Currently there are 156 valid registrations on the website consisting of 81 individual Club Members, 42 registered Visitors and 33 past members. We've had 17 new registrations on the website since January 1st, of those, five have become club members.

Working Towards a New Home Page.

Iwan and I have been busily testing and determining methodologies surrounding the implementation and integration of the new website homepage. Progress has been slow as we need to make sure we get it right. A part of the process means that along with extensive research I am in consultation with our service providers so that we remain aligned with their software and hardware platforms.

Over the next little while as we perform website testing you may sometimes notice that the website is not available or somehow looks "funny". We will do our best to keep any disruption to a minimum and will give plenty of notice if the site will be unavailable for an extended period.

XenForo.

A minor update was applied bringing XenForo & Media Gallery up to Version 2.3.11

Events Manager.

Events Manager was upgraded to version 2.3.11.3 26th May.

Website Feedback & Support.

Feedback is welcome and assistance is readily available by contacting:

webmaster@subaru4wdclub.com.au

Cheers

Kevin

NOTICE - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, July 26th, 2026

General Meeting and Annual General Meeting - 10am for 11am meeting

Followed by BBQ lunch

The Dairy, Western Sydney Parklands

Enter via Cotswold Road from Cowpasture Road, Abbotsbury

Committee positions will be declared vacant and nominations will be called from members to fill the positions. Nominations can be given at the meeting or emailed to the Secretary prior to the meeting. Proxies in writing to be sent to the Secretary prior to the meeting starting - email accepted. Only current financial members are eligible to vote.

Membership fees are due July 25, 2026.

If our Club is to flourish, we will need some new people to take on some of these roles. We would like to welcome new faces with fresh ideas.

Trip Convenor Report

4WD & Camping Weekend Belanglo S/F

11th-12th July 2026

General Meeting & AGM

26th July 2026

Driver awareness Day/Weekend

Trip Kanangra Boyd NP

1st August 2026

Murray Meanderer

3rd to 21st August 2026

4WD & Adventure Show

11th September 2026

OKTOBERFEST 2026 at Olinda

2nd-6th October 2026

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	Committee Meeting Rosehill Bowling Club	8	9	10	11 4wd & Camping Weekend Belanglo S/F
12 4wd & Camping Weekend Belanglo S/F	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 GENERAL Meeting & AGM The Dairy	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31					1 Driver Awareness Day/Weekend Trip Kanangra-Boyd NP
2 Driver Awareness Day/Weekend Trip Kanangra-Boyd NP	3 M M	4 Committee Meeting	5 Murray Meanderer 3RD to 21ST	6	7	8
9 M M	10 M M	11 General Meeting Rosehill Bowling Club	12 Murray Meanderer 3RD to 21ST	13	14	15
16	17 Murray Meanderer 3RD to 21ST	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Driver Awareness at Stockton Beach – Saturday 30 May 2026

We had 7 cars on the beach on the day. I sat with Zied in his outstanding Outback XT. There was also Bert in the extraordinary blue XV, Mick in his near new fantastic Forester, Teagan & Matika in the joyful white Jimny, James in his perfect late model Prado. Also present was 2 of our driver awareness team – Bill in the passionate Pajero and Michael in the incredible INEOS Grenadier.

Lavis Lane was our beach entry point and Maccas was our meeting point and first driver briefing of the day. I left my old Forester at the entry point so that I was able to assist members if needed and besides after an early start in the dark it was good not to drive.

Beach driving information was discussed and handouts supplied and as usual tyres were aired down to a low level but not so low that we could not go lower if required. Amazing how every car has their own ideal tyre pressure.



Onto the beach and instead of driving almost to high tide mark before we headed south, I decided to try a medium size dune. The XT didn't struggle at all. 2 of the cars needed to have second and third attempts at the dune – but this was part of the learning experience to know just how much right foot slipper to use and not use too much.



At the southern end of the beach, we stopped for a chat and then off we went into some dunes to play and more learning experiences. Soon it was time for lunch and some down time. It was here that we demonstrated a gentle tow recovery – no one was bogged but why let the truth get in the way of a good story, so. It was the perfect Prado that towed the incredible INEOS Grenadier – but only just because the Prado almost needed assistance. As I said why let the truth get in the way.



North we travelled past Lavis Lane to Silver City for another break and discussion. Then we continued north to Gan Gan exit and once out of the sand we had our final stop for the day – more discussion, Q&A and everyone aired up.

Some of the crew were staying close by overnight and arranged a dinner date and a short trip for Sunday. Bill drove me back to my car and off I went with a little sleep on the way home.

It was a great day, everyone learnt and increased their knowledge, they gained experience and improved their skill. It was fantastic that there were no actual recoveries on the day. You could not wipe the smile off the faces of our members driving up and down the beach. I look forward to next one and I might even drive on the beach next time.

PS – if you are going to Stockton, please note that permits are now online, no increase in cost and valid from the minute you purchase for the time period either 3 days or 1 year. That means if you purchase at 11.55pm you only have 2 days and 5 minutes, so best to purchase as late as possible.

David Wellham

Bulga via the Putty Valley Loop, Sheepskin and California Huts.

Date of Trip: Saturday 13th June 2026

Trip Leader : Bill Twyman

Trip Participants: Stephen Bennett, Bill Twyman + 1 visitor, John Hocking, John Dziewa, Jeffie Cairns, MJ Hamilton,

Trip report: Bill Twyman

This was the 1st of 3 trips up to the "100km offroad" Putty Valley Loop and beyond to Bulga. We all departed the meeting place well ahead of time only to be held up for about 15min at roadworks on the Putty Rd. 50km up the road our 1st stop was for coffee at the Grey Gums Cafe (cafe only opens Fri, Sat & Sun) back on the road again and into the Wollemi National Park and the Wollemi State Conservation Area. Recent rain meant we had no dust to contend with but many water holes - some shallow and some not so shallow. There was the usual track clearing of fallen branches but one location we had to guide each other under a branch "hanging" across the road plus there were a few clearing of sticks dragging under the vehicles. Passing by the Baxters Junction, 3 Ways Junction, Raspberry Junction we arrived at the iconic Sheepskin Hut for lunch.



Then it was off to the California Hut via Kings Cross Junction where for 20km the road had just been graded and covered with "uncompacted" crushed sandstone, I think I bought most of it home with me. After a quick look around the California Hut we headed off to Bulga over the relentless amount of contour humps along the California Trail, airing up then starting to head home. A lovely dinner stop at the Wilberforce Hotel to wash the "dust down" and talk about our day - we all said we must do that again one day.



Putty Valley & More Day Trip

Trip Two Sunday 21st June 2026

Participants: Michael R Hamilton, Michael Carney, Jack Joyce, Susan & Stephen Bennett

Putty Valley Road Loop Review by Jack Joyce.

We rendezvoused at the Colo River Holiday park on Sunday morning on a clear yet brisk early morning. The four vehicles (two Subaru Foresters, not sure of the other imposter brands) with occupants set off at 8am and made our first stop at the famous Colo Bra Tree for a photo opportunity....no one took off their bras to leave them at the tree.

Stephen took the lead and we began our journey through wonderful roads, dodging the occasional roadkill wombats, sheep and kangaroos. It was soon time to deflate tyres and then off on the fun bits of the Loop. Some of the memorable moments were Sue's Cornflake Cookies at every stop and many mud holes (some deeper than others) along with fascinating places like Sheepskin Hut (lunch stop), Mick flying his drone, California Hut and then onto some of the steepest 'conservation contours' I have ever seen particularly towards the backend of the Loop as we were descending alongside a river. I think I lost half my plastic sump cover, and will now get it replaced with the real deal! The day was well paced due to our experienced team leader and work done by Michael 'Back-Up Charlie'. The scenery was wonderful, the weather was cold but clear and the track was entertaining and exciting from start to finish, overall a great day out. After emerging from the Loop we then made our way to the grand finale which was the roast lamb at the Wilberforce Hotel, a great way to end a wonderful day with wonderfully kind and helpful club members. It was my first trip as part of the Club and I thoroughly enjoyed myself and hence I would highly recommend it to other members who have not been on it yet. I look forward to completing the Driver Awareness Course on 1 August.

Jack



Putty Valley Loop Day Trip Report by Michael Carney (Big Mick)

Today, a group of members enjoyed a fantastic day trip exploring the Putty Valley Loop with the Club.

Our Trip Leader for the day was Stephen Bennett, with Michael Hamilton taking on the role of Tail-End Charlie. We had a convoy of four vehicles, including two Subaru Foresters, making for a friendly and enjoyable group outing.

The day was filled with opportunities to learn and develop driving skills and techniques, while also gaining valuable knowledge about the local area, its history, and points of interest. The trip provided a great balance of education, adventure, and social interaction.

A special thank you goes to Stephen for planning and leading a well-organised and enjoyable day. The route was carefully selected, and the trip was conducted safely and professionally throughout, ensuring all participants felt comfortable and supported.

For newer members who may be considering getting more involved, I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities our Club offers. Whether it's attending a Driver Awareness, joining a Day Trip, or participating in one of our camping weekends, each event provides a great chance to build confidence, learn new skills, meet fellow members, and enjoy the outdoors in a safe and welcoming environment.

We look forward to seeing more members on future trips and adventures.

Big Mick



Putty Valley Loop Day Trip Report by Michael R Hamilton

Our meeting point for the day was Colo River Holiday Park on Putty Road. As members arrived and preparations were made, anticipation was high for a day exploring some of the excellent tracks in the area. As we travelled along Putty Road, we made a welcome comfort and coffee stop at the Grey Gum Cafe.

After reaching our turnoff onto the dirt, tyres were aired down and the adventure properly began. We enjoyed a very scenic drive along a variety of tracks, including Hunter Range Trail, taking in the bush scenery along the way. Lunch was enjoyed at Sheepskin Hut which, despite the name, was discovered not to be constructed of sheep skin after all.

Following lunch, we continued via Commission Road and onto the California Track, making a stop at California Hut before pressing on. From there we travelled through to Bulga (driving over approximately one million conservation mounds) and eventually exited back onto Putty Road, wrapping up the dirt section of a thoroughly enjoyable day behind the wheel.

A big part of the day's success came down to Stephen's leadership. He did an excellent job keeping the group safe, informed and moving at a pace that somehow felt relaxed and efficient at the same time. It was also Jack's first outing with the Club and, from all appearances, he picked a good one to start with. Big Mick was on hand with plenty of Subaru-specific wisdom for Jack, and seemed to be enjoying himself just as much, documenting the day and gathering footage for what will no doubt be a very watchable YouTube video.



As for highlights of the day, there was strong competition, but Susan's Weekender Biscuits may have stolen the show. They disappeared with remarkable efficiency and probably generated more discussion than tyre pressures, track conditions and vehicle setups combined. Susan's driving was also much better than Stephen's, but there's no use writing that because, as editor, Stephen would probably delete it.

To finish off the day, we gathered for dinner at the Wilberforce Hotel. In a display of teamwork and independent decision-making that deserves special recognition, every single person ordered the same thing: the Sunday Roast Lamb. Whether this was coincidence, excellent menu design, or some new form of convoy procedure remains unknown, but it successfully capped off a very enjoyable day.

Michael R
Hamilton



Putty Valley & More Day Trip

Trip Three Wednesday 24th June 2026

Participants: Cath DeSantis, Rocky Rozari, Cherie & Nathan Blamire, Jan & Bill Twyman, Stephen Bennett

The day started when we drove out of our driveway at 05:30am thinking that would allow plenty of time to arrive at the meeting point by the recommended 07:30 am for an 08:00 start.

Sadly we arrived at 07:45, believing we are the last, but to our surprise we were not the last.

Once the driver briefing was over we set off up the putty road and turned off at the Putty valley, here we aired down before hitting the trails, the trails were in fairly good condition. Morning tea was at Three Ways junction, then we headed to the Sheepskin Hut for our lunch break. Then we trundled along further to the California Hut.

From here it was a short but slow and bumpy drive thanks to the 1000 drainage humps in the trail.

Once aired up we headed to the Truckers Memorial before the long windy drive back to Wilberforce Hotel for a well earned feed and chat. Then back home by 08:30pm after a 500km day trip.

It was a really nice trip and well run, thanks Steve and Bill.



We had a delayed start due to vehicle accidents on both Windsor Road and Richmond Road.

The trip was pretty much the same as the previous two trips, except we did not stop at the ColoBra tree.

After doing all three trips I have come to the conclusion that this trip would be a perfect day out for new members as a beginner trip to hone their skills on bush track driving.

I thought for this trip report, that I would do a pictorial of some of the obstacles that were encountered on these trips.

Stephen B

eNews





Happy Birthday

To those celebrating their Birthdays in June

Lyn Saddler

Michael J Hamilton

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PAGE

SUBARU AND RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB

COMMITTEE ROLES

All committee members are to be active and financial members of the Club. They should be able to attend (or provide reports to) most Committee and General meetings. They should be able to accept phone calls at a reasonable hour, monitor forums and Facebook and write reports for newsletters.

PRESIDENT

- Provide leadership for, and oversee the running of, the Club
- Chair General and Committee meetings

VICE PRESIDENT

- Assist the President in overseeing the running of the Club, and stand in for the President in their absence
- Engage with members to ensure the Club is benefiting them, encouraging feedback and responding to their enquiries

SECRETARY

- Take minutes of General and Committee meetings
- Manage Club correspondence, lodge compliance documents as required, and answer email, forum and Facebook enquiries from the public

TREASURER

- Monitor the finances of the Club and deliver updates as necessary
- Prepare monthly reports and assist the Public Officer to lodge Annual Statements

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

- Manage membership fee collection
- Keep an up-to-date record of all Club members, and approve access to Facebook and website in conjunction with the Web Administrator

TRIP CONVENER(S)

- Assess and approve proposed trips and trip participants
- Encourage Club members to run trips, providing support as necessary

DRIVER AWARENESS OFFICER(S)

- Promote safe driving skills and practices within the Club
- Conduct driver awareness activities throughout each year

NSW 4WD ASSOCIATION DELEGATE(S)

- Attend Quarterly meetings of the 4WD Association of NSW and the ACT, and monthly regional meetings
- Provide information to our Club members at meetings and in newsletters, and vote on their behalf at Association meetings

WEB ADMINISTRATOR

- Maintain the Club's website, adding new features as necessary
- Ensure all online information is up-to-date

EDITOR

- Prepare a regular e-Newsletter for Club members, highlighting Club activities
- Co-ordinate any other Club publications, such as Yearbooks

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

- Promote the Club within the 4WD community, designing information packages and advertising materials as required
- Organise guest speakers and/or activities at General meetings

SERJEANT-AT-ARMS

- Ensure order is maintained during Club meetings
- Bring any indiscretions occurring on trips to everyone's notice (in a gentle, humorous way)

Michael H. (VP)



Word of the Day: **Exhaustipated**

(Adj.)
- Too tired
to give a shit.



Until Next Time

STAY SAFE