



4wd Now Monthly Newsletter

February 2017 Issue #1



Secretary/Editor: Elias Wehbe

Welcome to NSW & ACT 4wd Association 2017 issue 1 newsletter. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a great start to the new year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Wagga 4wd Club for hoisting the February quarterly and to all the delegates that made the effort to attend. Remember if you club has anything there would like to put in the newsletter pleased email me editor@4wdnow.com.

Australia Biggest Morning Tea:

Date: Sunday 2nd April 2017

Event: Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Hosted by Sydney Districts 4x4 Club proudly supported by NSW & ACT 4wd Association is proud to support Cancer Research.

Where: EASTERN CREEK DRAGWAY/4WD TEST TRACK

Time: 9.30 am for 10.00am start

This will be a family day with a BBQ, fun events for the kids while the adults eat and mingle. Purchase a Day Pass for \$10 and received unlimited driving on 4WD Test Track for the day. Monster Guessing Competition with major prizes some of which include a set of tyres, Grande MK111 12,000lb Winch and Sydney District 4X4 is giving away a two-night family stay in a National Park Cabin. BBQ Sausage Sizzle, tea/coffee and cold drinks will be available

Face Painting for the kids plus Bob the Minion will make an appearance BYO Chairs and a cabana if you have one.

RSVP: Please run this event as your Club event/ trip. For catering purposes, please RSVP by Saturday 15th March 2017 including club name, trip leader, contact phone number and total number of adults and children attending from your club to Sue Walker.
secretary@sydneydistrict4x4.com.au



Association Quarterly meeting:

Date: Saturday 20th May 2017

Event: Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT Association Quarterly Meeting

Where: Bathurst more info to come

Time: 9.00am

Ten Pin Bowling Night:

Date: Saturday 27th 20167

Event: Inter Club Ten Pin Bowling Night

Hosted By: MacArthur 4wd Club and Black Diamond 4wd Club

Where: Campbelltown City Bowl, 11 Hollylea Road, Leumeah

Time: Meet at BBQ Galore and camping world for sausage sizzle at 4pm till 6pm all members will receive 20 - 25% off all prices store wide. Address 5C Hollylea Road Leumeah. Head down to Campbelltown City Bowl from 6pm till 10pm Cost \$20.00 per person unlimited bowling. Come along and join in the fun.

President: Craig Thomas

Hi all, first of all a big thankyou to the Wagga Wagga club for looking after us so well last weekend at the Feb quarterly meeting. We had a great time meeting the members and seeing some of their wonderful area. Dinner on Saturday was great with over fifty people attending and a lot of seat swapping going on, thanks guys and especially John Kent for all the work he put in.

Well it has been an unusual Christmas for most of us on the committee, normally very quiet after the AGM, but not this year. We have certainly come to the attention of some different government departments and to other groups that get funding.

It was great to see the suspension manual finally put to bed, but as one door closes another opens and now the group set with the task of sorting out the aftermarket lighting is now in full swing, this looks like it will be pretty good and workable.

A quick trip to Lithgow for a photo shoot with the local MP and Anthony Roberts for the local paper.

So, what is coming up, well get ready for a full-on push from some groups to close or restrict the Newnes Plateau, we have been waiting for this for a long time and have been doing lots to make sure we are ready to give the members the best chance of keeping this area accessible for everyone not just a few.

VP Lands: Shane McClymont

NPWS is having a restructure, just before Christmas 10 out of the 13 regional managers have gone. We are not sure if this is a good thing or not but I have found out that the 3 that are left all have forestry backgrounds. In March, they are looking at the area managers next.

It's great that we have our MOU with NPWS in place it's going to make our jobs a lot easier.

Also in March, we are organising meeting with the regional manager for Mudgee to discuss access for Mt Airlie. Regardless of plans, we are hoping to have access to the Tramway and the mountain.

Now that we have our MOU established with parks we are working on the MOU with forestry as well hopefully this can be done in a sensible time frame.

Communications: Dom Fitzgibbon

Over Christmas we finally got a renewed web site up which whilst effectively has the same content (minus the documents as we've discovered quite a serious issue with the update) it offers far more future proofing in providing better access, the ability for club reps to enter information about their club and other access privileges. Additionally it provides other members of the executive better access to adding content and e-mailing out.

As we said the documents are is proving to be a bit of an issue with the content present on the web server but not coming up under the Documents Section. Potentially it may mean a complete download of all documents and a re-upload via the new interface to make them all appear. We're currently working with the company that migrated our website to look into this issue, but out-sourcing has not been without its issues.

If people are having issues login into the site please just send an e-mail to communications@4wdnow.com and we'll reset their password. Hopefully there are not too many of you.

Furthermore some club data went 'backwards' from the previous updates as the developer has an older database so bear with us if your club info is incorrect. If you can fill out the Club Update form then that will really help. At this stage (as was the old site) the updates and managed manually so we'll get them all updated as soon as possible.

Adventure Show: Darren Calleia

With the 2016 Adventure Show now behind us, I am sure many of you will agree, that yet again, this was the best show ever which has also been confirmed with official numbers in people through the gate and in overall sales.

Premier Events - the show organizers, are also really happy with how it all went and thank the Association and its member clubs for this. We have a very unique show here in Sydney as it does rely on us, the volunteers, for it to run smoothly, but the passion showed from the volunteers is what really makes it remarkable.

Our Adventure Show Thank-You Day is happening this weekend 26-2-17 and we are hoping for some decent weather (although the forecast is a little unsettled!) but either way, our spirits will not be damped as we say thanks to you, the members, who are the heart of the show. We also have a big raffle draw happening on Sunday - your ticket in the raffle was the hours you worked. The more volunteer hours the better your chances...

The 2017 Adventure Show is already in the planning with the date for the show being October 13-15. Meetings between Premier Events and the Association have also been underway and many exhibitors have already signed up. We are looking at continuing to streamline everything and looking forward to another great year.

The "Show Meetings" are planned again on the second Monday of the month, starting in April. The meetings are planned for April, June, August, September, October and November (for the wrap-up). Why not come along to these meetings and have your say and give input to OUR show!

Southern Region Lee Dunstan:



I hope everyone had a wonderful break over the festive season and enjoyed your 4wd driving destinations; we spent several fantastic weeks with 7 other vehicles touring around Tasmania, what a sensational state it is and should be on everyone's bucket list at least twice.

Things have still been tick over during the holidays with planning activities for 2017; hopefully Parks will sink the hole for the toilet and install the tank at the Glen so we can look at fabricating and installing the cabinet and infrastructure, this will put the jewel on the crown at the Glen and make depositing so much more pleasurable. If time and people power permit we will start looking at doing a few renovations on the woolshed to make it a little more weather proof for the cooler and damper weekends. Also at the Glen this year in August we will be having another tree planting weekend and aim to plant around 1000 trees on the lower flat of the Glen so please mark it in your club calendar's and be part of the journey in regenerate this wonderful asset.

If clubs want to book the Glen for club trips please ask your committee to send the requested dates to 4wdnow@gmail.com or fill out the booking form on our Association web page, a two-month lead time would be appreciated.

Implementation of the MOU is ongoing, if any clubs are involved in Park projects or are interested in becoming involved lets us know so we can pass on the information to the relevant staff and may help cut through the red tape.

Member Articles :

Slippery Rock Rd used for Fire Suppression: By Brock Smith

Almost 1 month to the day since clubs in the Hunter Region completed clearing Slippery Rock Rd of fallen trees and encroaching scrub, thereby making the track traversable from Martinsville Rd to Watagan Rd for the first time in a number of years. With the first day of summer, and the track was required to be used for fire suppression.

The local Martinsville Rural Fire Brigade along with 5 other Brigades from surrounding areas responded to bush alight near Slippery Rock Rd on December 1, 2016. The Brigades were able to travel along the track in search for the fire with one vehicle able to travel to entire length of the track. Once the fire was located it was able to be extinguished before it threatened property. The cause of the fire has been identified as a lightning strike.

The Rural Fire Brigade Captain suggested that if the track was still in the state it was 6 months ago, this fire may have caused real problems, and thanked the Hunter Region Clubs for their efforts along with NPWS. Brigade Captain, Luke Masters, was most impressed with the volunteer work from groups such as these from the 4wd clubs of the surrounding districts. "I had no idea these 'offshoot' groups existed within a 4wd club, and it is impressive to see such hard work and dedication executed in a planned format" Luke reported. "On behalf of the RFS, and in particular Martinsville RFB, thank you to all the people involved, and I



encourage you to keep up the good work into the future. These efforts have opened my eyes to what 4wd clubs do, and it's not just about driving a vehicle off road. Well done"

The 4wd members that have taken part in the working bees to date should be proud of re-establishing this asset back to a serviceable state for the benefit of the broader community. Hopefully this demonstrates the value of such activities and fosters the participation of more members in similar activities in the future.



4WD Association Quarterly Meeting Report By: John Kent

Association Delegate and Training Officer, Wagga Wagga Four Wheel Drive Club Inc. *"Living the Adventure!"*

It had been about 15 – 20 years since the NSW 4WD Association last met in Wagga Wagga, so when we were approached last year to host this year's February quarterly meeting we readily agreed (despite some hesitations about possible very hot weather) and set about putting together a program which would hopefully make it worthwhile for those making the long trek.

I am pleased to say that we managed to organise some delightful weather for the weekend. I am also pleased that our members who attended the various events found it very interesting and beneficial, and by the feedback I have received, our visitors also enjoyed the activities.



The weekend kicked off officially at 9.30am on Sat 18th with the meeting of delegates at the Wagga Wagga RSL Club – the venue we use for all our Club meetings. About 25 delegates attended for a range of interesting discussions and the half dozen or so of our Wagga Club members found the information and experience enlightening.



After the meeting concluded we invited our visitors for a play in our nearby Quarry Training Area which is in a reserve that we lease and manage. We have a range of 4WD opportunities there ranging from very easy to very difficult with slopes, log obstacles, contour banks and a nice bush drive etc. We even have a bush camp area in the reserve. A few of the visitors were rueing the fact that they did not bring their 4WD (maybe they missed all the information that was sent to the Association for delegates).

On Saturday night, about 45 members of our Club, visitors and partners enjoyed an evening meal and social interaction at the RSL Club. It was good to be able to continue discussions and form new friendships.

On Sunday, we had arranged a 4WD trip (either a half day or a full day) to the Tumut and Blowering Dam area for those who wished to see some of what we have on our door step.

It was conveniently on the way home for those who were heading back east. We had a great day with 11 of our Club vehicles and 4 visitor vehicles. Travelling east from Wagga we turned off the Hume Highway onto the Snowy Mountains Highway to Adelong where we stopped to look at the old alluvial gold workings that have been very well restored.



A few km on towards Tumut we turned off into the bush, aired down, and proceeded to spend a couple of hours climbing up the fire trails to the top of Mt Wereboldra behind Tumut and then back down to Tumut for lunch. The nice low range climbs provided a good challenge for some of our members on their first trip and it prompted a good discussion on what classification the track should be. Opinions ranged from Medium /Blue square (us) to Very Difficult /Double black diamond (visitors). Interesting! We need to check out the classification scheme more.

After lunch in Tumut we bid farewell to our visitors who headed off to Sydney while the rest of us continued to Blowering Dam wall and explored some of the tracks and sights on the western side of the dam arriving back in Wagga Wagga at 7.15pm.

It had been a big and jam packed weekend for those involved. However, we very much enjoyed the interaction with delegates and partners from around the State.

We appreciate the effort by all to travel to our corner of the State, and the decision of the Association Executive to hold quarterly meetings in regional areas. It will go a long way towards building communication and understanding of what the Association does on our behalf. Thanks for coming!

