

Gawler & Districts

www.gawler4wd.com.au

4WD Club Newsletter

May 2012



Gawler and Districts 4WD Club Incorporated
is an active and supporting member of
Four Wheel Drive South Australia



Australia Day Goolwa 2011

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Acknowledgement: Special thanks to front page artist - Dwayne Ruf (2010)

WELCOME

to the Gawler & Districts Four Wheel Drive Club

Previously known as "The Light Four Wheel Drive Club of SA Inc." this active 4WD club was founded in 2002. Members voted at the March 2008 meeting to change the club's name and meet at Gawler to give the club a more recognizable name and a more central meeting place.

It has become a very social club and has run many a successful day, week-end, long week-end and extended trips. We are a member of the Four Wheel Drive South Australia which incorporates the Driver Training Unit. Most meetings include a Guest Speaker and a club newsletter is published monthly.

If you are a visitor to tonight's meeting, we welcome you and your family to our club. Please ask as many questions as you want. You can join us on up to 3 club outings before becoming a member. Trip Leaders run each outing and will be glad to help you with tips on four wheel driving and how to get the best from your vehicle. If you would like to join us on any trips and enjoy what Four Wheel driving can really bring, please fill out your details on our Trip Sheet/s.

The Club meets every second Friday in the month at 7.30 pm at the Gawler Elderly Centre Hall in Fourteenth Street, Gawler.

The meeting dates are shown on page 3 of this newsletter.

Annual membership fees are \$60 per vehicle/family, plus \$10 joining fee.



**Gawler & Districts 4WD Club
Inc.
P.O. Box 486
Freeling SA 5372**

**Enquiries Contacts: Max or Peter
8524 9002 / 0427 807 066 (Max)
8523 0889 / 0410 526 317 (Peter)**

EMAIL: info@gawler4wd.com.au

WEB: www.gawler4wd.com.au

Committee Members

| | |
|--|---|
| PRESIDENT/PUBLIC OFFICER Max : 8524 9002 or 0427 807 066 | VICE PRESIDENT Peter : 8523 0889 or 0410 526 317 |
| TREASURER Quenton : 8523 2507 or 0407 604 601 | SECRETARY Deb : 8523 2507 |
| EDITOR Sandra : 8523 0889 | MINUTES SECRETARY Lyn Le : 8524 9002 or 0403 332 432 Lyn Li : 0418 826 156 |
| PUBLISHER Chris : 8280 7414 or 0438 223 724 | TRIPS/PROPERTY LIBRARIAN CO-ORDINATOR Dave R : 8525 2765 or 0419 992 881 |
| SOCIAL SECRETARIES Michele : 8525 2765 or 0419 813 805 Jane : 8523 0657 or 0409 091 851 | TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR DTU DELEGATE Dave H : 0411 772 226 |
| WELCOMING OFFICERS Keryn / Norma / Stephen SUPPORTING COMMITTEE Keryn | ASSOCIATION DELEGATE John : 8522 5664 or 0408 824 654 |

Schedule of Meetings

2012

| Meeting | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------|-----|---------|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| General | | 10 | 2 | 13 | 11 | 1 | 13 | 10 | 14 | 12 | 9 | 14 |
| Committee | | 1 22 | | 4 | 2 23 | | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 31 | | 5 |

NOTE: DEADLINE TIME - All newsletter articles to the Editor before Committee Meeting date

Club committee meetings commence at 7:30pm on the scheduled Wednesday, on a rotating basis, held at various committee members' homes. All club members welcome.

Last General Meeting

April 2012

See the attached Minutes (members only)

Notes from Your Committee

Editor's report:

Hello everyone & a very warm welcome especially to those new members and visitors.

We wish all mums a very happy Mothers' Day for Sunday 13th May 2012 and hope that you have a wonderful day with your families.

Our special 10th Anniversary June meeting is not very far away now and we hope everyone will participate in some way. Some ideas have been given on page 8 of the newsletter.

Please don't forget to bring a small plate of supper to share.

Thank you. [Sandra]

PS: Don't forget the "vehicle inspection - pre-departure check and changing a wheel training/assessment" which will be held in the Elderly Centre car park between 6.00 and 6.30 pm on 1 June prior to the meeting.

Vice-President's report:

Nothing to add, at this stage

[Pete]

Treasurer:



SUBS ARE NOW OVERDUE FOR 2012

Please fill out renewal form

Members pay annual fee \$60

(+ \$10 joining fee for new members)

Please pay Quenton before or at March meeting together with a copy of your Insurance Policy



Got any Club photos you would like to share for our 10th Anniversary?

Please bring them along to one of our meetings either on CD or memory stick and the publisher will prepare them for display upon our website for all to share!

THANKS

(Don't worry about compressing the photos. Most picture formats supported including JPG, BMP, GIF, TIFF etc.)



Coming Events

Peake Training Weekend

Saturday 19th – Sunday 20th May

| | |
|---|---|
| Trip Limit: | No Limit |
| Trip Details & Requirements: | Sand driving. Caravans, campers, tents, be self-sufficient. Sand flag, compressor, shovel and rated recovery points. Bring warm clothing & wood. |
| Cost | \$20.00 per vehicle per night, \$10.00 deposit required (refundable up to 1 meeting beforehand) |
| Meeting Place: | Back of Shell Roadhouse at Taillem Bend on Saturday 23 rd , ready to leave at 9.00 am sharp. |
| Trip Leader: | Dave & Karen – Phone 8524 3508 or 0411 772 226 |

Basic Training

Friday 1st June 2012

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Details & Requirements: | Vehicle inspection – pre departure checks and changing a wheel. |
| Cost | No cost. |
| Meeting Place: | Gawler Elderly Centre prior to the General meeting |
| Start time: | 6.00 – 6.30 pm |
| Trip Leaders: | Dave & Karen – Phone 8524 3508 or 0411 772 226 |

Day Trip

10th Anniversary get-together Sunday 3rd June 2012

| | |
|---|--|
| Trip Limit: | No limit. |
| Trip Details & Requirements: | Family Fun Day to a pleasant picturesque bush park/gorge at The Rocks near Balaklava, including a creek with toilet facility. Depending on season the creek could have water. Club BBQ. All members to bring own meats & salads and a sweet to share. Also bring chairs, tables, plates, cutlery etc & hats, shade, sunscreen & drinks. <i>There may be flies!!!</i> |
| Cost | No cost. |
| Meeting Place: | Tarlee – Car park through town |
| Start time: | 9.45 am for 10.00 departure |
| Trip Leaders: | Keryn - 0429699671 or 85226478 (Needs backup if unable to attend) |

| | |
|---|--|
| Peake Social Weekend | Saturday 11th – Sunday 12th August 2012 |
| Trip Limit: | No Limit |
| Trip Details & Requirements: | Sand driving. Caravans, campers, tents, be self-sufficient. Sand flag, compressor, shovel and rated recovery points. Bring warm clothing & wood. |
| Cost | \$15.00 per vehicle per night, \$10.00 deposit required. |
| Meeting Place: | Back of Shell Roadhouse at Taillem Bend on Saturday 23 rd , ready to leave at 9.00 am sharp. |
| Trip Leader: | Peter – Phone 0410 526 317 |
| Burra Creek Gorge | 10th Anniversary trip - Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th September 2012 |
| Trip Limit: | No limit to vehicle numbers... |
| Trip Details & requirements: | Overnight camping on private property along the Burra Creek between Robertstown & Morgan. 4WD tracks, creek beds & steep banks. Open fire okay for cooking & warmth. No shortage of wood. Long drop toilet. Self sufficient bush camping. Bring warm clothing. Need all 4WD safety gear & 2-way radios. Camper trailers & tents. Query re caravans. |
| Cost: | \$10 per night per vehicle. |
| Meeting place: | TBA Keryn – Phone 8522 6478 or 0429 699 671 |
| Argadells | Saturday 29th September– Monday 1st October Long Weekend 2012 |
| Trip Limit: | No Limit |
| Trip Details & Requirements: | Bush camping on old working station of 8,000 acres. Rocky terrain, steep inclines & declines on network of tracks. Caravans, campers, tents etc. Be self-sufficient. High clearance, low range vehicles only. |
| Cost | \$10.00 a day per person – children under 14 free - & \$45.00 track fee applies. Take wood or purchase from owners at \$50 per trailer load (may split cost between group.) |
| Meeting Place: | TBA |
| Trip Leader: | Dave & Karen – Phone 8524 3508 or 0411 772 226 |

Fundraiser – Sunday 21st October 2012
Sausage Sizzle
at Woolworths

Activities: Fundraiser. Sub Committee – volunteers needed please
Requirements Wear 4WD name badges
Time: 8.30am – 4.00pm
Contact: Deb – Phone 8523 2507 or 0407 604 601

If you would like to organise a trip, these tips should help you:

ORGANISING A TRIP

It's Simple

1. Decide on a destination
2. Consult the trips' coordinator
3. Set a date, time to start and duration
4. What is the purpose -training, towing, walking, touring?
5. Consider the accommodation needs: camping, cabins, caravan park, bush camping
6. Degree of difficulty -do participants need some minimum level of training?
7. Determine what equipment is needed.
8. Check which maps are needed, and the route to be followed.
9. Check accessibility of the roads and organise access where necessary.
10. Put in a trip sheet.
11. Consider communications and safety for more remote trips.
12. Have personal contact information for all participants on remote trips.

Want to advertise in our Newsletter?



Contact our editor editor@gawler4wd.com.au for details
[Fees apply and payment has to be made prior to printing]



Information on Other Events



28th, 29th , 30th September, 1st October 2012
at Mt. Ive Station

9th Australian 4WD Gathering 2012

where:

**Mt Ive Station
Gawler Ranges
South Australia**

If you have any queries please email gathering4wd9th@hotmail.com



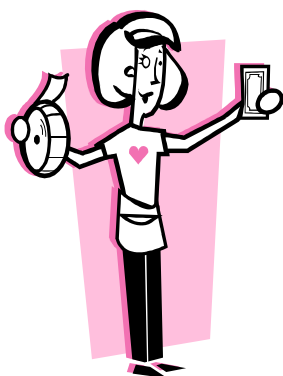
10th Anniversary Celebrations

Please see trip details under "Coming Events."

Reminder: Please don't forget to bring "walk down memory lane" memorabilia for the June meeting along with a plate of supper to share at the meeting ***

This could take the form of photos, diaries, notes or perhaps a written story about your first 4 wheel drive experience within the Club especially if it occurred during the inaugural 4WD Club trip. Alternatively, if you were a passenger on that outing, an account of your first experience of four wheel driving!! It could be something exhilarating, scary or funny!!! We've all had a "first experience" so please share yours with us. You can remain anonymous if you wish.

There will be also 10th Anniversary Mugs available at a cost of \$6 each to club members.



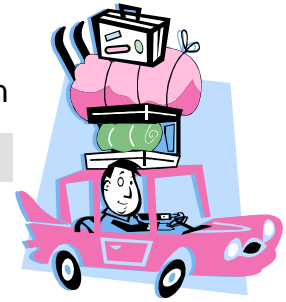
COMMUNITY LOTTERY

Have you got your book of tickets yet? All proceeds from sales are returned to the Club and this is an ideal fund raiser.

Contact Chris at the GENERAL MEETINGS to secure your book of tickets or just buy some yourself!!

Proposed Trips

- Punyelroo in lower Riverland
- Morgan Training
- Kersbrook Training
- Mystery trail. Details TBA at a later date. Trip Leader: Keryn



Guest Speakers



These guest speakers have kindly agreed to talk with us (at the following general meetings):

November Johnno's Campers

Raffle Roster

We ask if all members could kindly donate an item for a raffle prize each month to approx value of \$15. These can be given to the Social Committee (Michele or Jane) any time. ***Mothers' Day is fast approaching and we are also seeking donations for the Mothers' Day raffle to be drawn during the 11 May meeting*** Thank you.

Your donated raffle prizes are urgently needed – as the cupboard is becoming bare!!

MAY 2012

Max & Lyn Le
Lyn Li
David & Carol M

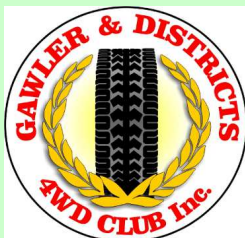
JUNE 2012

John & Karyn M
Dave & Michelle R
Bronte & Norma R

JULY 2012

John & Robyn R
Roy & Bronwyn S
Chris & Julie S

GAWLER & DISTRICTS 4WD CLUB



Stickers For Sale - Only \$2.00 each

Magnetic Name Badges - \$10 each

See **Quenton** at the General Meeting

Sponsor Acknowledgements

IM-PRESS Promotions Gawler

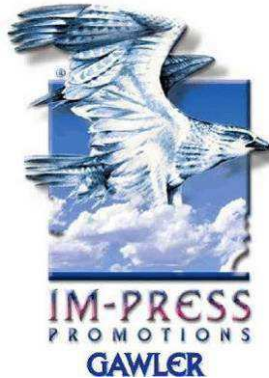
All embroidered with club logo

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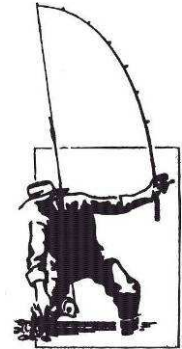
48 Murray St Gawler SA 5118

Phone 08 8522 6200

fishnout@bigpond.net.au

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The **Gawler and Districts 4WD Club** would like thank the **Wurth Group** and their representative, Neil Burton for kindly donating **Wurth** products to the club for use as prizes.

Anyone interested in any products from the **Wurth** product range should check out their website: www.wurth.com.au

Contact **Neil Burton Ph 0400 075 227** to order any of their products.



The **Gawler and Districts 4WD Club** would like thank **Johnno's Camper Trailers** for kindly donating some **CGear Matting** to the club for use as prizes. Anyone interested in any camper trailers, camping gear or camping products should contact **Johnno's Camper Trailers**.

Check out their website www.campertrailer.com.au or contact **Brian or Susan** on 08-8562 8370.



Photography by Barbara
Hoffman - Ph: 0411 413 497

Email: pleasantmemories@mail.com

[Facebook.com/pleasant.memories.photography](https://www.facebook.com/pleasant.memories.photography)

Pleasant Memories Photography photo package prices - current until June 30, 2012

Family portrait - \$80.00

This package includes a CD with all photographs taken on the day with no copy rights. A non refundable deposit of \$40 required at time of booking with final payment on delivery of CD.

Family portraits can be taken in the comfort of your own home, at a local park or another location you choose - the choice is up to you as these are your special memories to keep.

Special occasion photography - \$150.00

This package includes a CD with all photographs taken on the day with no copy rights. A non refundable deposit of \$80 required at time of booking with final payment on delivery of CD. A small fee may apply for travel if distance exceeds 75 km's - negotiable at time of booking.

Wedding photography - \$500.00

This package includes a CD with all photographs taken on the day with no copy rights. A non refundable deposit of \$200 at time of booking, a further \$200 due 4 weeks prior to the wedding date when we meet to go over the final details for your special day and the final payment of \$100 on delivery of CD (no later than 1 month after the wedding date)

I will stay with you all day from when you are getting ready until your reception.

Feb 2013



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Tips of the Month

LOO FRESHENER (Ideal for a long drop toilet)

1 tablespoons Bi Carbonate Soda
8 Tablespoons Vinegar
8 Tablespoons Tea Tree Oil
4 Tablespoons Eucalyptus
Dash of straight Fabric Softener
Approx 2 lts Warm Water

Once mixed, can put in a sprayer or a big salt shaker and sprinkle after ash has been added to the toilet. Can put any oil onto surrounding wood posts eg Lemon Grass oil

These 2 above methods were used by 20 people over a long weekend and remained smelling lovely.

Planning a Getaway?

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March 2013

We hire Fridges as well!

EASTER 2012 MERNA MORA TRIP REPORT

Easter Friday

It was a fine morning as Deb, Quenton and David departed Willaston for Merna Mora station just north of Hawker in the Flinders Ranges. Our first stop was the parking area just outside Tarlee and we joined the rest of the group which included Trip Leaders Jane & John as well as Dave, Michele & Jessica, Marie, Max & Lyn, Roy & Bronwyn and Martin & Martin. This was where we first got a glimpse of our trip leaders' shiny new travelling accommodation which I am sure they appreciated later that night when the gale was flapping at our camper trailer.



The next stop was Auburn to pick up Paul & James who slotted in nicely to our convoy and we then meandered through the Clare Valley and up towards the mid north. The journey was pleasant with the occasional banter over the radio and the impatient motorist weaving their way through our group. Our morning tea stop was at Jamestown where we rested, ate, drank and generally chatted with the other members until our trip leader gently reminded us we still have a while to travel thus we departed with our next stop to be Hawker for lunch and fuel. Hawker of course was getting busy as always on Good Friday and the Roadhouse was doing a great trade, however we all were a little surprised at diesel being \$1.75ltr.



The local kindly had a stall nearby and were selling fresh produce, cakes and biscuits.

At the lunch spot we caught up with Nick, Kerrie, Kaleb & Ally and we began the last 40km stretch to Merna Mora. While the station is by no means isolated once you turn off the main road you certainly felt like you were truly in the middle of the Flinders Ranges. The station was originally called Mern Merna but they got sick of constantly receiving

the wrong mail and goods bound for the Mern Merna railway siding that they changed part of the name after the nearby Moralana creek.

We were greeted on arrival with enthusiasm by both the property owners and the flies, how they stayed airborne in what was quite strong wind we will never know. However as the sun disappeared so did the flies and we were privileged to be able to sit at our campsite and watch the full moon rise out in the east without light pollution. The wind was unfortunately a bit of a party killer as a camp fire was impossible as was sitting around as a group so we all retired early ready for Saturdays 4WD adventure.



[Deb]

Easter Saturday

Bunbinyunna Track

We left camp approx 9 am for a short drive along good gravel roads. Most of the day was spent in low range with many creek crossings and excellent climbs to lookout points. We had a couple of "not so experienced" members on the trip and the driving seemed more difficult for them than the driving I experienced when the Club first started up. However, they managed to keep up and did just fine.





Around a quarter of the way through the track, we came to the Bullock Cueing Yards which the Fels family and the Holden 4WD Club had recently rebuilt. The bullocks were used to haul timber for the overland telegraph line and the cueing yards were used to re-shoe the bullocks. (I had not realised that bullocks were shod but once explained it seemed obvious in the rocky terrain.)

Shortly after this we locked our hubs and were doing some interesting climbs. From memory, we went up and down some good rocky climbs and levelled out onto a

section of multiple creek crossings. We went past a goat trap to the remains of a Shepherd's hut which was perched high on the side of a rocky creek. Immediately after this there was a deeply cut out creek bed to the side of the track and John pointed out the track we were climbing. Then we climbed through native pines to a very steep ascent which allowed only one vehicle at a time to climb. There should be plenty of good photos from the day.



After this was Elsie's lookout. I was walking with some others and carrying Jessica and we missed a sign so instead of the short drive and 150m walk to Elsie's lookout, we took the shortcut of a kilometre or two!!!

Next up was Court's Cut – named after the bulldozer operator Spencer McCourt who pushed this cutting through to enable access to maintain the infrastructure necessary to run the station. At the end of the cutting was a very steep descent.

Lunch wasn't quite as planned but the best of plans go astray, don't they? We aimed for Middle Camp and ended up towards Black's Gap instead and found a nice shaded clearing on the edge of the track to stop for our picnic. In hindsight this was much better than the "picnic table" stop we had originally planned on. The table would have suited a giant but not us that's for sure. Some were thankful of the toilet nearby though for a quick "pit stop."



Leo's lookout was next and with views of Mt Bourne and Lake Torrens in the distance was a great viewing spot.

More good driving and steep descents occurred as we following the East Torrens vermin proof fence (erected in the early 1900's.) This was carefully propped up with star droppers on an angle and looked like it would fall down with just one knock! This was erected before the current dog fence and was designed to keep dingoes and rabbits out of the hill country.

We were now nearing the end of our trip for today and travelling on reasonable dirt roads back to the start. Tyres were used in lots of places in "washout" sections to try and save some of the roads.

Happy hour and nibbles along with showers before dinner were warranted after a great days driving by everyone especially our newest member, Paul, and his passengers Sue & James.



[Dave R]

Easter Sunday

Sunday morning I was up nice and early to enjoy the Easter surprises and before everyone was out of bed, but somebody was up earlier or came around before they hit the pillow the night before. There were Easter eggs by our back wall all in a nice little circle.

The order for the day was to be ready for a 9.00 am departure to do the historic trail outlining points of interest



around Merna Mora Station. With additions of Chris & Gayle - John and Jane's friends & Sharon (a lonely lost woman walking the desert path, but alas Quenton & Deb knew her), joined us for the Sunday drive. Our first stop was the site of Gleeson's Mansion and the Chinese gardeners' residence, from here we moved on to the old Ghan railway culverts that were constructed in the early 1880's.

Away we go again to the old Merna Mora's fettlers' cottages that used to consist of a house and, on the northern end, a

school, where as many as 20 students attended until 1957. This was one area that has a lot of history attached to it, far too much for this report. As we travelled on, we found the old lime burning kilns where they fired the dolomite rock used to make the cement for the railway culverts.



We crawled along another 5km or so

over some very rough and steep terrain to Bullocky's Pass. This is the track through the ranges where you get some stunning views of the Wilpena Range when climbing towards the lookout. What a view!!

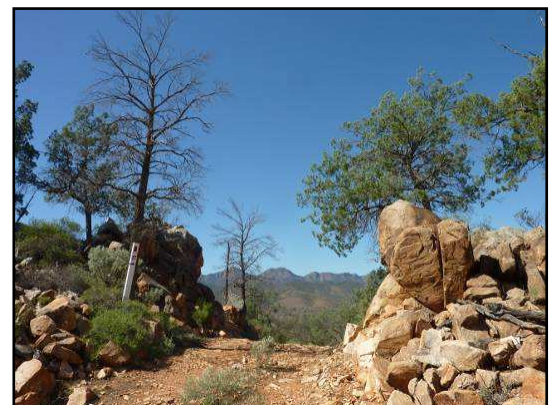
To the west was Lake Torrens, to the north & east Wilpena Pound's western wall & St Marys Peak just visible behind Bunbinyunna Range.

Moving along, we approached Wagon Gap using extreme caution and low gear for the steep decent. The next slow haul

was an 800 metre steep climb to Hearn's Cairn lookout car park. This was followed by a 400 metre steep walk to the cairn which the Hearn family erected. Frank Hearn's ashes are located at this spot.

At Slip's Lookout a group photo was taken and instead of saying smile, we all said FLIES (not for long though, in case another was swallowed). From here we travelled to a few

more lookouts with the last being Cooee Crest over-, looking the Bullock Cueing yard and, as we looked at this on Saturday, we continued on to the Bunbinyunna Track. It was now time for all the "Nomads" to return to their camp, have tea and settle by the fire for a while to unwind after another 6 hour day.



[Max]



Easter Monday

The early risers were out chatting. The aroma of bacon and toast wafted across the campsites. No Easter Bunny today as we get on with our last wash-up and begin to pack the camping gear before the trip back to reality. A few left early. Sue set off with caravan in tow; M & M went to look for dirt tracks around Hawker; Lyn and Max were heading off to Iga-Warta, west of the Gammon Ranges. Jane and John stayed to relax with friends Gayle and

Chris. Others were going to investigate Magnetic Hill.

At 10.20 we headed for Quorn - Quenton, Deb and David, Marie along with David, Michele and Jessica. The weather was great for travelling, mild with a breeze. We drove through Hawker and made lunch at the Quorn Park. The hot chips eaten by the Dave & Michele were a bit tempting and Jessica tested out the playground.

Back on the road again, the traffic was quite light. A comfort stop, and later a stop to swap drivers, and before long we were in Clare at the "driver reviver" stop for tea, coffee, scones, and a Fishermans Friend.

Through the Clare Valley we negotiated the holiday traffic to Tarlee where I said farewell to my fellow travellers at the end of a busy and enjoyable 4WD Easter week end.

Thanks to trip leaders, Jane & John for their research and planning of the trip to Merna Mora.

[Marie]



Useful Links

Four Wheel Drive South Australia

www.4wdsa.asn.au

Department of Environment and Heritage

www.environment.sa.gov.au

National Four Wheel Drive Council

www.anfwdc.asn.au

National Parks and Wildlife Service

www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks

Road Conditions Index

www.exploroz.com

Forestry SA

www.forestry.sa.gov.au

CFS Country Fire Service

www.cfs.org.au

Royal Flying Doctor Service

www.flyingdoctor.net

SA Central

www.sacentral.sa.gov.au

Place Names

www.placenames.sa.gov.au/pno

Environmental Waste Disposal

www.environment.gov.au/settlements

Friends of Parks

www.communitywebs.org/FriendsofParks

4x4Earth Campsites

www.4x4earth.com.au

Useful Other 4WD Newsletters or Articles

Westprint Friday (and join up for free newsletter)

www.westprint.com.au

Explore Oz (and just "REGISTER for FREE" if you just want their monthly newsletter or join up (pay) to become a member)

www.exploroz.com

Home of 12 volt (and register under LOGIN)

www.homeof12volt.com

THE WAVE

The following “tongue in cheek” article is re-printed from the “**Westprint Friday Five dated May 5th 2012**” **website**. If you wish, you can subscribe to this website yourself on:

http://www.westprint.com.au/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi/list/Friday_Five

Outback Waving Protocol

If you’ve travelled in the Outback – or even in some out-of-the-way non-Outback areas – you’ll be familiar with the wave, that subtle but significant fragment of communication between passing vehicles. It’s normally achieved by the raising of one or two fingers from the hand resting on the top of the steering wheel when approaching a vehicle travelling in the opposite direction. What follows is an attempt to flesh out the details of the OWP.

WHEN: Mandatory on unsealed Outback roads, although not recommended if the other vehicle is a motorcycle and there are severe corrugations. (A motor cycle rider sometimes has to take his/her hand off the handlebar for the wave to be clearly visible, and in certain situations, this is not a good idea.) If you are the initial waver, do it early enough for the other driver’s response to be seen. (It’s rather embarrassing to receive a wave, but not have time to respond.) Having time to respond to a wave, but declining to do so is just plain rude, and shows poor upbringing – unless you’re a local who’s a bit cheesed off with blow-ins, in which case you have the right to ignore all waving.

The wave is optional on sealed roads which are definitely in the Outback, and well clear of any significant town, e.g. Stuart Highway (south of Katherine), Eyre Highway (west of Ceduna), etc. However, research shows that on a sealed road, you’re less likely to get a response, especially from truckies and 2WD vehicles. Note that campervan/motor home drivers tend to respond almost anywhere, because it reinforces their belief that they’re in an exciting and slightly dangerous area and “having fun”.

WHY: Because you’re in an exciting and slightly dangerous area, and it’s re-assuring to have other drivers affirm your signal that you’re mutually ready to render any assistance that may be needed. Of course, the wave literally means “I’m your mate.” Naturally, the fact you have just driven past each other suggests that neither of you need any assistance at the moment – which is good. It’s poor form to just wave and drive past someone standing beside their vehicle and looking desperate – you should stop.

HOW: As mentioned earlier, the standard wave involves the raising of two fingers – the index finger and the middle finger – but considerable variation is permitted. Using one finger only is acceptable, so long as the hand remains on the wheel. In fact, the one finger wave, if done in a nonchalant and off-hand manner, can be very effective, giving the impression that “I drive this track every couple of weeks, I’ve given this wave a thousand times, and if you have any problems, I’m your man” (or woman as the case may be). Taking both hands off the wheel and waving them overhead is not recommended, although passengers can use this style to good effect.

I trust these notes will assist in your use of the Outback Wave in a more consistent and meaningful way. Don’t forget to discontinue the wave as you enter the city – trying to still use the wave on Parramatta Road or Collins Street can cause real problems.

(I have copied this from the latest Bobby Dazzler newsletter. You can subscribe to the newsletter by contacting Rob at brennan@bba.com.au Alternatively you can check out Rob’s Blog at <http://dazzlerplus.wordpress.com>.

(Last time we mentioned the Dazzler blog hits jumped from 200 to 1100!) The blog contains a variety of pieces, some which further explore topics mentioned in the Bobby Dazzler newsletter, others about matters with some connection to the Outback)

April 2012 FWDSA News ***Please note those points in italics***

4WD Matters (Email) Info Brief Reports of Monthly Executive Business

Thursday April 19th saw the first of the Executive Meetings under the new FWDSA meeting arrangements discussed at the March AGM. Following each meeting a 4WD Matters Info Brief will be issued to inform Delegates and other Club officials of the latest information from FWDSA and major issues under discussion in the Executive.

Club Presentations to the Executive Meeting

No clubs took up the opportunity of the time allocated at the commencement of every Executive Meeting to raise any issues they want brought to Executive attention. It is also open to the Clubs to send a "confidential" email to the President, stating the problem? The President will bring it to the Executive Meeting where it will be discussed "IN CONFIDENCE" and a resolution made.

Scope of Executive Meeting Business

To reconstruct FWDSA's operations. While there will be no change to the Executive, Unit or Committee makeup of FWDSA, the focus of planning and discussion will be on our overall strategies and innovative approaches to how we operate.

To implement plans and satisfy Club expectations, the Executive will identify areas requiring attention and design achievable modules suitable for contributors to perform "bite-size" specific tasks. These tasks may be "one-off" or able to be done over a period of time, and can involve a degree of ownership of the area under specified guidelines.

Website Redevelopment

Mal Watt (Toyota Club) our FWDSA Webmaster, demonstrated new features of the FWDSA Website which includes facilities to allow authorised officials (rather than the Webmaster),

- to add articles, reports, minutes, newsletters etc

- to provide a more practical and efficient Club Listing database with user friendly data entry screens and flexible reporting abilities.

Out of this Website Redevelopment there is a requirement for Club members to volunteer for the following "bite-sized" activities,

- "Content Manager" to make sure that the Website Homepage and other areas are kept up to date and old material is removed in a timely manner.

- "Database Officer" to maintain the club contact listings. This area will be populated

with data from the current database and will be updated from data supplied by the clubs.

Caravan & Camping Show (CCIASA) Re-organisation

Work is underway to define the various roles setting up and pulling down the FWDSA Displays at the February and July/August CCIASA shows. These will be arranged into "bite-size" tasks and Club volunteers will be sought to perform the roles. A couple of major tasks have been allocated where some have volunteered to do both shows and others can only manage to do individual show.

The October CCIASA "Leisurefest" will remain as a Club organised show.

The FWDSA Promotions area will maintain a background co-ordination role and arrange necessary support for all shows.

Certificates of Appreciation

To express the sincere appreciation of the FWDSA Executive for the business sponsors, and the volunteer efforts of the many club members at the February 2012 Caravan & Camping Show and at the AGM, Certificates of Appreciation have been sent out to the clubs of all of those who were involved.

Farewell to the FWDSA Treasurer

The Executive extends its thanks to John Newman (Central Hills) who has retired from the FWDSA Treasurer role after 4 years. He will be spending some well deserved time travelling with his wife Di. Before leaving, John graciously tidied up the Business and Financial aspects arising from the formal name change from SAAFWDC to FWDSA and the de-registration of our ABN number (instead we now have an association type Registration Number of A5422).

Fortunately, however, until we find a suitable person to act as Treasurer, John will continue to provide material for Financial Reports which will be physically displayed at Delegates Meetings.

DENR-FWDSA MoU Signing

Friday April 20th saw the signing of the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-FWDSA Memorandum of Understanding. As FWDSA President Lee Smith had been called away interstate, the NRAU Chairman Don Ransom OAM signed on behalf of FWDSA. John Schutz (DENR Executive Director Regional Services) signed for DENR.