

Gawler & Districts

www.gawler4wd.com.au

# 4WD Club Newsletter

## May 2015



Founded in 2002



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



Mt. Ives - April 2015

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# WELCOME

## to the Gawler & Districts 4WD 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 monthly club newsletter.

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 4WD can really bring, please fill out your details on our Trip Sheets.

**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: President or Secretary  
0407 604 601 (Quenton - President)  
08 8523 0657 (Jane – Secretary)  
EMAIL: [info@gawler4wd.com.au](mailto:info@gawler4wd.com.au)  
WEB: [www.gawler4wd.com.au](http://www.gawler4wd.com.au)**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

<b>PRESIDENT/PUBLIC OFFICER</b> Quenton Earl : 8523 2507 / 0407 604 601	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> Wayne Heintze : 8523 0407 / 0432 339 213
<b>TREASURER</b> Norma Rivett : 0438 120 342	<b>SECRETARY</b> Jane Jansen : 8523 0657 / 0409 091 851
<b>EDITOR</b> Sandra Harper : 8523 0889	<b>PUBLISHER</b> Chris Sieben : 8280 7414 / 0438 223 724
<b>MINUTES SECRETARY</b> Julie Sieben : 0407 820 480 (General) (Committee - on rotation)	<b>SOCIAL SECRETARIES</b> Lyn Leske : 8524 9002 / 0403 332 432 Sarah Rowe : 8522 3297 / 0414 423 197
<b>TRIPS/PROPERTY LIBRARIAN CO-ORDINATOR</b> John Jansen : 8523 0657/ 0418 840 435	<b>TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR DTU DELEGATE</b> Peter Harper : 0410 526 317
<b>WELCOMING OFFICERS</b> Lyn Lillecrapp : 0418 826 156 Nick Bottroff : 0421 077 891	<b>ASSOCIATION DELEGATE</b> Peter Harper : 0410 526 317 Nick Bottroff : 0421 077 891

**SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS****2015**

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
<b>General</b>		13	13	10	8	12	10	14	11	9	13	11
<b>Committee</b>		4	4	1		3	1	5	2		4	2
				29					30			

***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 2015******See the attached Minutes (members only)***

**GAWLER & DISTRICTS 4WD CLUB**



Stickers For Sale – Only \$2.00 each

New design stickers complete with Web address – \$3.00 each

Magnetic Name Badges – \$10 each

See Quenton at the General Meeting

## NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

### Presidents Report:

Welcome to the May newsletter.

A few dates have been added to the events calendar, so keep an eye on the Newsletter, Website and Trip Sheets at the General meetings. A good mix of social and 4WDing trips, so should be something of interest to everyone.

The Club subsidising Senior First Aid course has been extended to the end of 2015, so if you had your name down and have not booked, you now have extra time to do so. Bookings can be made on the St. John website and the correct course recommended is the 1 day course "Provide First Aid".

The Photo competition is on again this year, so start getting your photos organised, don't leave it to the last minute!

[Quenton]

### Editor's Report:

As you may know, Chris is currently on a trip with Julie so we hope that by getting the Newsletter finished early then sending it onto Chris in plenty of time for him to work his magic, that you will all get the May newsletter as per usual. Fingers crossed because I will also be away in Sydney visiting our little grandson for a week during the time the Newsletter generally gets published.

You will see that we have two more trips listed to be led by Dave Riddle. Please put your names on the trip sheets if you are interested. Dave will provide a few more details at the general meeting. Also, note the meeting time at the Elderly Centre for the visit to the Planetarium.

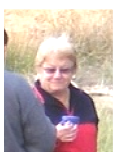
We'd like to wish all the mums a Happy Mothers' Day for Sunday. Hope you have a very enjoyable & heart warming day with your loved ones.

That's it for another month!

[Sandra]

### Special Notice for Marie Carter:

It is with deepest regrets that news that one of earliest club members has recently passed away. Marie has been an active and supportive member of the Gawler & Districts 4WD club from its earliest years (2002) until recently.



**Marie Yvonne Carter**  
**17.08.1938 - 23.04.2015**  
**Aged 76 years.**

Fond and lasting memories  
of our dearly loved friend.



***You will be sadly missed.***

***Now in God's care.***



## COMING EVENTS

<b>May 3rd 2015</b>	<b>History Mystery Day</b>
<b>Trip Details:</b>	Full Sunday Day Trip to History Events in SA. Visiting 3 interesting and historic attractions including one not normally open to the public. 4WD vehicle not required, but UHF radio essential. (club has 2 to lend out) Definite numbers required at April meeting as booking is required.
<b>Bring:</b>	Morning tea to share, Picnic lunch for yourself, Chairs, Table, Picnic rug, Camera, UHF radio.
<b>Cost:</b>	Adult \$20.50 Child \$6.00
<b>Meet:</b>	Gawler Visitors Information Centre 9.00am
<b>Trip Leader:</b>	Deb/Quenton Earl 0407 604 601 or 85 232 507
<b>Planetarium Mawson Lakes</b>	<b>Saturday 16th May 2015 @ 7.30pm Mawson Lakes</b>
<b>Trip Limit:</b>	45 people
<b>Where:</b>	UniSA Planetarium Mawson Lakes
<b>Cost:</b>	\$9 per person, \$7 for all children/ Concession
<b>Meet:</b>	<b><i>At the Elderly Centre at 6.15 pm, leaving at 6.30 pm at the latest.</i></b>
<b>Trip Leader:</b>	Jane & John Jansen 0409 091 851
<b>Peake Sand Training</b>	<b>Saturday/Sunday, 16/17 May 2015</b>
<b>Trip Details:</b>	No limit. Peake sand training, Peake
<b>Bring:</b>	Camper trailers/Caravans/Tents – be totally self sufficient Please bring a supply of wood to share for campfires & cooking
<b>Cost:</b>	Adult \$30.00 per vehicle per day
<b>Meet:</b>	Shell Service Station, Taillem Bend at 8.00 am
<b>Trip Leader:</b>	Peter Harper 0410 526 317
<b>Border Track</b>	<b>June Long Weekend 6-8 June 2015</b>
<b>Trip Details:</b>	****To be advised****
<b>Trip Leader:</b>	Wayne Heintze 0432 339 213

<b>Big Bend by Night Nocturnal Tours</b>	<b>Saturday/Sunday 20/21 June 2015 Punyelroo Van Park</b>
<b>Trip Limit:</b>	No limit, however, there is no wheelchair access to trailers as entry is by steps with handrails.
<b>Where:</b>	Punyelroo Van Park, phone: 8570 2021 <a href="http://www.bigbendbynight.com.au">www.bigbendbynight.com.au</a> Nocturnal wild life tours on custom made trailer, approx. 1 hour on Saturday night at the <b>cost of \$15.00 per person</b> . A group booking will be confirmed closer to the date.
<b>Cost:</b>	Powered sites: \$28.00 per night, extra people \$8.00 per night Disabled facilities available. A group area with shared power for approx 6 sites has been booked. Limited other sites are available. Please ring and make your own booking and tell them that you are with the 4WD Club. Van park owners have said that late check out at that time of the year is fine.
<b>Meet:</b>	<i>Swan Reach camping area at 11.30 am Saturday morning (this side of the river next to the ferry.) Leaving the camp area for the short drive to the van park, set up and lunch at 12.00 noon.</i>
<b>Trip Leader:</b>	Dave Riddle 0419 992 881

<b>Iconic Wineries of the Barossa</b>	<b>Sunday 16th July @10am Barossa Valley</b>
<b>Trip Limit:</b>	TBA
<b>Where:</b>	Barossa Valley
<b>Cost:</b>	TBA
<b>Meet:</b>	TBA
<b>Trip Leader:</b>	Deb Earl 85232507

## GAWLER Districts 4WD Web Site

Have you checked out our web site lately? [www.gawler4wd.com.au](http://www.gawler4wd.com.au)

Details of when meetings are to be held, what trips and events are coming up along with useful links to lots of 4WD resources are included. Read about the latest trip report or view our photo library. Of course, you can download one of our newsletters (back to Aug 2009) including our special 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary versions.



Check our FACEBOOK link as well. [www.facebook.com/GawlerandDistricts4WDClub](http://www.facebook.com/GawlerandDistricts4WDClub)

**Terowie 4WD Park Saturday/Sunday, 1/2 August 2015**

<b>Trip Limit:</b>	No limit.
<b>Where:</b>	Terowie 4WD Park, see <a href="http://www.terowie4wdpark.com">www.terowie4wdpark.com</a> Mallee driving creek and climbs
<b>Cost:</b>	\$20.00 per vehicle per day, passengers \$5.00 per day, this price includes camping. Friday night cost is \$10.00 and no driving of tracks is allowed. Long drop toilets, shower sheds where you bring your own solar shower are currently being built. <b><u>Please note that you will need to be totally self sufficient for this weekend. Please take a supply of wood to share for campfires.</u></b>
<b>Meet:</b>	<i>Meeting at the parking area on the left just past Tarlee at 8.00 am Saturday morning, leaving at 8.15 am.</i> <i>If you wish to go up on Friday night, access to the property is available after 5.00 pm. You have to camp in the main camping area which will mean moving on Saturday morning if we are camped elsewhere.</i>
<b>Trip Leader:</b>	Dave Riddell 0419 992 881

**Peake Sand Training & Social Weekend Saturday/Sunday, 8/9 August 2015**

<b>Trip Details:</b>	No limit. Peake sand training, Peake
<b>Bring:</b>	Camper trailers/Caravans/Tents – be totally self sufficient Please bring a supply of wood to share for campfires & cooking
<b>Cost:</b>	Adult \$30.00 per vehicle per day
<b>Meet:</b>	Shell Service Station, Tailem Bend at 8.00 am
<b>Trip Leader:</b>	****To be advised****

**October 2015 10th or 11th Oct – To Be Advised Fleurieu Peninsula**

<b>Trip Details:</b>	Day Trip from Yankalilla to Cape Jervis on the back tracks-4WD needed 9am to 3.30 pm. Lunch is provided
<b>Where:</b>	Fleurieu Peninsula
<b>Cost:</b>	\$50 dollars per vehicle 2 people plus \$10 extra adults /\$5 extra children
<b>Meet:</b>	TBA (need to be at Yankalilla at 9am)
<b>Trip Leader:</b>	Deb/Quenton Earl 0407 604 601 or 85 232 507

## PROPOSED TRIPS & OUTINGS

- **Sept/Oct 2015**      **Monarto Zoo - More details April Meeting**
- **TBA**                      **Puppy Springs/Dorado Downs contact person Bill Small 8577 2228 (2 properties) – Leader required**
- **June 2015?**              **Ladies Day weekend for guys and gals with ladies driving easy tracks on one of the days. This will help build 4WD confidence for those ladies who feel they need it.**

## SOCIAL CORNER

*Suggestions for club social outings include:*

- **Film Night**
- **Port Adelaide GraveYard & Maritime Museum**
- **Putt Putt Golf, Tanunda**
- **Walking tour West Terrace cemetery**

*Please pass on any social suggestions or comments to our Social Committee!*

## INFORMATION ON OTHER EVENTS



**GAWLER MARKETS** - Hayles Rd, Evanston South **\*\* Every WEDNESDAY \*\***

- Good 4WD second hand items are often available
- Farmers Market
- Fruit and Vegetables

**SUNDAY MARKETS** - **\*\*every SUNDAY\*\*** at the Gawler Railway Station carpark.

## RAFFLE ROSTER

*We ask if all members could kindly donate an item for a raffle prize each month to approx value of \$15. Please check below to see if your name is on the roster.*

*These can be given to the Social Committee (Lyn Leske or Sarah Rowe) any time.*

<b>MAY 2015</b>	<b>JUNE 2015</b>	<b>JULY 2015</b>
Lyn Lillecrapp	Nick & Sarah Rowe	Brenton & Keryn Wilkins
Dave & Michele Riddle	Roy & Bronwyn Schwarz	Joann & Peter Wuttke
Bronte & Norma Rivett	Chris & Julie Sieben	Nick & Kerrie Bottroff

## GUEST SPEAKERS



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

<b>May:</b>	Cooper Tires
<b>June:</b>	TBA
<b>July:</b>	ARB
<b>August:</b>	Bike SA - "Be Safe Be Seen"

**\*\* 2015 \*\*** If you have any more suggestions for speakers, please advise one of the Committee members.





## MEMBERS NOTICE BOARD

***They're back again!!!***



### PHOTO COMPETITION

*The committee has decided that the photo competition will continue to be run by*

*John Jansen and the following rules will apply:*

#### The PHOTO COMPETITION RULES:

- No specific categories apply
- Each member may enter up to four (4) photos
- Photos should be copy (not originals) - Size 15cm x 10cm (6"x4")
- Photos should have been taken on a club trip during the last 12 months
- All photos must be labelled on the back with your name and where the photo was taken
- Entries to be handed to John by close of November General meeting
- Late entries will not be accepted

**So get clicking and  
get those photos in -  
DOUBLE CHANCE OF a PRIZE!!**



### TRIP REPORT COMPETITION

*The committee has decided to continue on with the Trip Report competition this year to reward those who submit a Trip Report throughout the year!*

*It doesn't matter whether the report is long or short, serious or funny, whether you have written one or more, your name will go in the "hat" for each report that is written.*

*Winner will be drawn out of the collection of names at the end of the year either at the Christmas Show BBQ or at the AGM.*

**So the more reports you write  
the better your chances of winning!**

**There will be another  
Amazing Prize  
so please keep-on writing!!!**

## FOR SALE

### **FREE MEMBER'S "FOR SALE" ADVERTISING**



Members can submit requests for a "FOR SALE" ad, free of charge, but there are some guidelines:

- Maximum of 6 lines per ad (similar to a typical local newspaper ad)
- Adverts can only appear for a maximum of 3 consecutive months
- No pictures, text only (you can run a pictures ad for \$10 a month)
- Must supply contact details (either a phone or email)
- Editor reserves rights to reject and/or tailor any submitted adverts.

Please send full details to our editor [editor@gawler4wd.com.au](mailto:editor@gawler4wd.com.au) for inclusion in our next newsletter providing it arrives BEFORE the newsletter deadline! (See page 3)

*Time to clear out the shed and get rid of those unwanted items ...*

**FOR SALE ITEM WANTED  
PLEASE FORWARD DETAILS TO EDITOR OR PUBLISHER**

## IDEAS AND INFORMATION

### Desert Parks South Australia Update

#### General conditions

Check road and weather bulletins and local conditions before travelling into the Outback. Speed limits of 40km per hour apply within all Parks. For up to date public road information outside of National Parks, please call the Transport SA Road Condition Hotline on 1300 361 033 or visit the Transport SA web site on <http://www.dpti.sa.gov.au/OutbackRoads>

For further information regarding South Australia's national parks visit our website [www.parks.sa.gov.au](http://www.parks.sa.gov.au). For information regarding air tours phone the Wadlata Outback Centre on 1800 633 060. Check local conditions before travelling into the Outback area.

Be aware that entry to Desert Parks requires a permit or a Desert Parks Pass that must be displayed on the vehicle windscreen.

#### Tallaringa Conservation Park

The Department of Defence has announced future closures of the Anne Beadell Highway on 20 July – 2 August 2015, 2 – 29 November 2015, 29 February – 13 March 2016, and 16 – 29 May 2016.

When the park is open, in addition to a DEWNR entry/camping permit or a Desert Parks Pass, a tourist access permit is also required to access this area from the Department of Defence. Details can be found at <http://www.defence.gov.au/woomera/permit-tourist.htm>

#### Innaminka Regional Reserve and Malkumba-Coongie Lakes National Park

All tracks are open to 4WD except Bore Track South. There is no visitor access across Bollards Lagoon station.

## BIRTHDAY WISHES

Gawler and Districts 4WD Club wishes to extend a Happy Birthday greeting to the following members and family:

◆◆◆ May ◆◆◆
Kerrie Wolf
John Gardner
Sandra Harper
Martin Kisbee
Nick Rowe
Roy Schwarz
Bronwyn Schwarz





## Are you a frequent visitor to South Australia's National Parks?

### New online booking system

Planning to visit Innes National Park or Mount Remarkable National Park?

From Friday 1 August you are required to book and pay for your visit online - including park entry fees, camping and accommodation.

You can book and pay up to 12 months in advance. The following link explains the online booking system, select the Park you wish to book into.

[http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/Home/Media\\_Centre/News\\_Events\\_Listing/140718-online-bookings](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/Home/Media_Centre/News_Events_Listing/140718-online-bookings)

### Camping and accommodation at Mount Remarkable National Park

[http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/Find\\_a\\_Park/Browse\\_by\\_region/Flinders\\_Ranges\\_and\\_Outback/Mount\\_Remarkable\\_National\\_Park/Camping](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/Find_a_Park/Browse_by_region/Flinders_Ranges_and_Outback/Mount_Remarkable_National_Park/Camping)

## POSITIONS WANTED

**PLEASE NOTE:** Both the EDITOR and PUBLISHER have indicated that they are looking to step down from these roles in the next 12 months. If you are maybe interested to take on these roles or, part of, then please let us know and we can look at making the transition easy and you can practise!

**Wanted Skills/Sub roles** including:

- **NEWSLETTER JOURNALISTS** (collect and prepare articles for newsletter)
- **EDITOR** (collate newsletter, update internal reports, prepare for publishing)
- **NEWSLETTER FORMATTER** (We use WORD templates but being a WORD guru helps ☺)
- **WEB SITE MAINTAINER** (Update events, newsletters, articles etc. Web site contact)
- **NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTOR** (Maintain distribution membership list, Print Newsletters (PDF) and minutes etc and distribute each month)

If you are keen on any of these activities please enquire to either the EDITOR or the PUBLISHER. We will happily work with you to help you understand these simple but very important roles.

## CORRUGATIONS



***We all know how irritating and bone shattering corrugations can be but did you know how they were formed? Perhaps the following will shed some light on the subject:***

***Written by Karl S Kruszelnicki and available on the web.***

If you have ever driven the length of the Gibb River Road in the Kimberley, you would have had many hours to think about corrugations. Way back in 1994, I wrote a column in a 4WD magazine about road corrugations. I described the 1962 experiments of Keith B. Mather from the University of Melbourne, who did some clever experiments and came up with a theory about how corrugations formed.

Since then, many people have contacted me about their experiences and theories about corrugations. Some of them have spent several decades driving on corrugations every day. A few have spent years doing experiments on corrugations, and have even published booklets about them.

Over the years, one thing I have discovered in trying to understand natural phenomena is that there are usually a few explanations - not just one single explanation. When I wrote my story about corrugations, I thought that Mather had solved the problem of how they form. But now that so many people have corresponded with me, and I have also read more widely, I think that his explanation is a small part of the answer. In fact, I strongly suspect that we (ie, road engineers) don't fully understand corrugations!

Now the first thing to realise is that Outback dirt roads are not the only surfaces that get corrugations.

You can see corrugations on bitumen and even concrete roads - usually after some kind of break in the road surface.

You can also see corrugations on steel railroad lines. The train can make so much noise going over these corrugations, that railroad people call these sections of track "roaring rails".

There are corrugations on the overhead metal rails that feed power to electric trains and trams. These vehicles have a "pantograph" on top - to carry the electricity between the overhead rails and the train. These overhead rails have tiny corrugations with tiny valleys and hills. The little valleys are where the pantograph broke contact from the overhead rail, and set up an electric arc that vaporised away some of the metal.

Skiers in the snow country often find rough corrugated washboard patterns on a well-travelled ski trail. And if you ever have replaced noisy wheel bearings, you'll see regular wear patterns (= corrugations) on the rollers, balls or track.

Keith B. Mather did an experiment to try to understand why roads get corrugations. He put a small wheel on a metre-long arm, and then drove it with a variable-speed electric motor around a circular concrete track. He covered the track with different materials - fine-sifted sand, different coarse sands, and various dry products like gravel, rice grains, and even split peas

and sugar! He found that provided that these materials were dry and not stuck together, he could always generate corrugations.

He found that corrugations formed rapidly with hard tyres, but slowly with soft tyres. The corrugations were produced very easily in dry materials, but very slowly, if at all, in wet sand. It made no difference to the corrugations if the wheel was a driving wheel, or a driven (or rolling or idling) wheel. In his experiments, the major factor in making corrugations was the road speed of the vehicle.

So here is Mather's theory of corrugations.

It's based on the fact that you can never make a road perfectly smooth. There will always be tiny little bumps. Once his wheel got up to about 6-7 kph, it would bounce up when it hit a tiny bump. As the wheel came down and hit the sand, it would spray sand both forwards and sideways off the track, leaving behind a little crater. This crater would then be the valley of a corrugation. As the wheel came up out of the valley, it would jump into the air again, and so the pattern of valley-and-mountain would repeat itself.

Making corrugations is a two-stage process - first the corrugations establish a stable pattern, and then they spread along the road.

Mather saw that the first few corrugations to appear on the "smooth" road were quite shallow, and very close to each other. But as the corrugations got deeper, they gradually moved away from each other,

until their height and their distance apart had settled into a stable pattern. Once this stable pattern of corrugations was set up, then the entire pattern of corrugation would migrate down the road in the direction of travel of the wheel. In the Australian Outback, engineers have seen corrugations heading in opposite directions on each side of the road from (say) a cattle grid, with each set heading in the direction of travel of the cars.

How come all the corrugations look the same, if the cars are all different? Most of the vehicles travel around the same speed. So, a bump on the road that makes one car's wheels bounce, will also make any other cars' wheels bounce. These bouncing wheels will all tend to land at the same point. And that's how the corrugations form.

Of course, the faster the road traffic, the further apart are the corrugations. French engineers working in the fast and flat desert roads of North Africa found corrugations that were about one metre apart. Mather found that Australian corrugations in Australia were about 0.75 metres apart.

And that seemed to be the perfect explanation - until the mail/phone calls/emails started flooding in!

The other explanations for corrugations involve engine resonance, wind (either natural or created by the moving vehicle), wheel hop, braking, acceleration, the road itself shrinking as it dries out, the wave of dirt pushed in front of the tyre, and the influence of shock absorbers.

... © Karl S. Kruszelnicki Pty Ltd 2003.

[More Karl Treks](#) . [Home](#)

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The following thanks to Westprint Five dated 17 April 2015. I hope you find it as interesting as I did!

## **Bogged plane at Lake Eyre to stay. – South Australia**

The following story is from ABC Rural, full story and photos at the link below.

Reporter: Cherie von Hörchner

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-04-10/lake-eyre-plane-crash-rescue-fails>

A light plane that bogged in Lake Eyre will remain as an outback relic after a rescue attempt went spectacularly wrong. The seaplane sunk in the mud after a forced landing three weeks ago, but attempts to rescue the passengers and crew and retrieve the seaplane itself, unfolded in such a comedy of misfortunes that the survivors are counting their blessings.

"We could have survived out there with some food and water," said David Geers, pilot of the doomed aircraft, who was travelling with two passengers "But it was the water that was the concern, as we'd run out.

We had decided to track up to the top end of Lake Eyre, and then follow the lake down to William Creek. On the previous leg to Innamincka we had quite a strong head wind, unfortunately. We probably had enough fuel on board, but one of the other aircraft travelling with us had some fuel in containers, so we elected to do a precautionary landing in the lake.

I touched down, and we probably rolled for about 70 to 80 metres on the surface without incident. But it was just when I pulled the power from the engine that it started to sink into the mud. We were very close to the middle of the lake. The top of the water had a beautiful crystallised surface, which was about 10 millimetres thick. Underneath that was this clay; wet, sticky mud, which trapped the plane."

The lake had appeared deceptively welcoming, the glittering surface disguising the thick bog immediately below. Realising he was in danger of sinking, Mr Geers

contacted his friend Doug who was flying an accompanying aircraft.

The other aircraft continued flying to William Creek to raise the alarm, while Mr Geers set off the EPIRB (Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon) and using his Spot tracking device, sent a pre-programmed message to his wife saying that they had landed safely but needed assistance."

A rescue helicopter soon arrived, but hopes for a speedy rescue were dashed when the chopper itself fell victim to the harsh outback conditions. The helicopter landed but as it was shutting down there was an overtemp situation. For safety reasons, they didn't want to take back off without engineers taking a look at it. So they radioed for another helicopter to fly out from Moomba. Now there were five people stranded on the lake. Afternoon turned to night, during which time they ran out of water and became concerned.

With no moonlight, the only illumination coming from the stars, the five castaways were effectively stranded in the middle of a hazardous inland lake (in 2010, an ABC helicopter crashed in Lake Eyre during a night flight, claiming three lives).

It was almost 10pm when the survivors were relieved to hear the sound of the approaching chopper which soon landed providing much needed fluids.

But the debacle was far from over.

While the passengers and crew were airlifted to safety, the attempted retrieval of the seaplane four days later almost ended in disaster. A helicopter flew from Kununurra in Western Australia and the plan was to sling the plane out.

Mr Geers takes up the story:  
 "The helicopter, took off, and everything looked perfect, my aircraft being towed in a straight and level position underneath the helicopter. But, five nautical miles from where we were, my aircraft started to fly. The aerodynamic pressure on the towed fixed-wing aircraft began to exert itself, causing the plane to 'fly' of its own volition, its unpredictable yawing and rolling posing a serious danger for the pilot of the chopper.

Howard, the pilot, said one minute it was underneath where it was supposed to be, the next minute it was out near his left window, and then it was out to his right. The outcome probably would have continued to get worse and would have taken his helicopter down as well, so he

decided to release the cord and let my plane go free."

Mr Geers said there was a brief moment of hope as the seaplane appeared to be preparing for a perfect landing. "My aircraft continued flying. It was quite surprising, as there was still a chance for maybe a recovery if the plane landed reasonably OK. But it only flew for a while, before dipping its left hand wing and doing a spiral back into the lake surface."

While Mr Geers is relieved that nobody was injured in the entire affair, he is devastated at the loss of his beloved Searey seaplane, which will now remain as a monument to the capricious nature of flight in the Australian outback.

## FRIDAY FUNNIES

Thanks to Westprint Friday Five dated 27.3.2015

I've been charged with murder for killing a man with sandpaper. To be honest I only intended to rough him up a bit.

An Aussie and a Kiwi go to a bakery. The Aussie whisks three biscuits into his pocket with lightning speed. The baker doesn't notice. The Aussie says to the Kiwi: 'You see how clever we Aussies are? You'll never beat that!'

The Kiwi says to the Aussie: 'Watch this, a Kiwi is always much smarter than an Aussie.' He says to the baker, give me a biscuit, I will show you a magic trick! The baker gives him one which the Kiwi promptly eats. Then he says to the baker: 'Give me another for my magic trick'. The baker is getting suspicious but he gives it to him. The Kiwi eats this one too. Then he says again: 'Give me one more cookie...' The baker is getting real angry now but gives the Kiwi another one anyway. The Kiwi eats this too.

Now the baker is really mad, and he yells: 'And where is your famous magic trick?' The Kiwi says: 'Look in the Aussie's pocket!'

Q: What do you call artificial spaghetti? A: Mockaroni!

Q: What did the hamburger name his daughter? A: Patty!

Q: What did the blonde name her pet zebra? A: Spot.

My husband is a service technician for an exterminating company. And one of the rules is that he must confirm his appointments by phone the night before a service call. One evening he called a customer and said to the man who answered "Hi. This is Garry from the pest-control company. Your wife phoned us."

There was silence for a moment and then my husband heard the man say "Honey someone wants to speak to you about your relatives."

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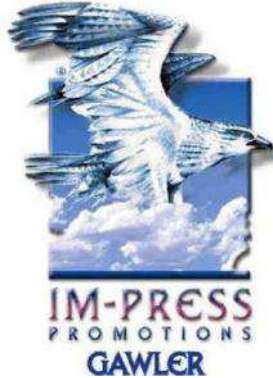
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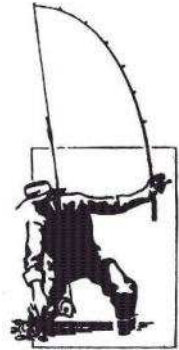
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## DTU TRAINING

### Student Identifier

As part of the formality of the training provided by the club and managed through 4WDSA, the federal government requires students to have a student identifier. The simple process to follow is at [www.usi.gov.au](http://www.usi.gov.au). Once obtained, please advise your club's training coordinator with the id so their training records can be updated



Peter Harper

**For those that are interested, here is a summary of the 2015 4WDSA Training Calendar. If you would like to attend any of the training sessions:**

**Contact Peter Harper ([allambee6@bigpond.com](mailto:allambee6@bigpond.com))**

MAY Sat 16th 09:00AM	Basic Theory Course 16th - 17th May	Cavan HQ	Basic Theory course run by DTU for clubs. Cost \$20.
MAY Sat 23rd 09:00AM	DTU run club training - 23rd - 24th May	Morgan	Club practical training run by DTU. 23rd - 24th May. Training costs \$40. Also running advisors course, cost \$60.00. Need to be nominated by your club training officer for advisors course.
AUG Sat 22nd	DTU run club training - Mud and water crossing	Callington	22nd - 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Mud and water crossing at Callington. Cost is \$35. Property access is \$30 per day
SEP Sun 13th 09:00AM	OH&S, Risk and Emergency response	Cavan HQ	DTU run training for club members. One day theory course run at Cavan. Cost is \$20. Internal course with no
OCT Sun 18th	Trip planning and leading	Cavan HQ	DTU run training for club members. One day theory course run at Cavan. Cost is 20.00 dollars. Internal course with no assessment. Will get certificate of attendance. One day on Sunday 18th.
OCT Sat 31st	DTU run club training at Peake	Peake	31st Oct - 1st Nov - Sand and general basic training at Peake. Cost is 40.00 dollars. Property access is 30 dollars per day

## 4WDSA DRIVER TRAINING UNIT NEWS

### Upcoming courses

#### 1. Basic Driving and Recovery course

This course is made up of Theory training weekend on 16-17 May followed by a practical driving weekend at Morgan on 23-24 May

**NOTE 1: If you are unable to attend the practical event you can attend the theory session and catch up with practical training at a later event.**

**NOTE 2: If you already have a set of training manuals you may also nominate for either or both weekends**

**Note 3: Nominations close on 10 May**

## **2. Practical Driving – mud and water at Callington on 22-23 August**

Further details provided closer to the event

## **3. Trip planning and leading at Cavan on 18 October**

Further details provided closer to the event

## **4. Practical Driving – sand at Peake on Oct 31 and Nov 1**

Further details provided closer to the event

### **HOW to NOMINATE for a course**

1. Send an expression of interest for the course by email to <mailto:dtuttraining@4wdsa.asn.au> providing your contact details and which club you are a member of.
2. For the Basic Driving and Recovery course, purchase a set of training manuals.
3. Pay the fees for the events you have nominated for plus the purchase cost of manuals if required (payment is required before the course commences).

### **DTU account details for electronic transfers**

Account Name: Four Wheel Drive SA, BSB: 805 050, Account No: 4265362

**NOTE : Use the account name exactly as listed above.**

**Please put in your initial, surname and brief reference so we can identify who has paid.**

### **Want to travel in confidence in your 4WD**

4WDSA through their driver training unit offer a comprehensive training program to safely improve your skills in driving and recovery.

Starting with basic operation and maintenance of your vehicle through to driving in all types of terrain and in the event of the getting stuck how to safely recover the vehicle.

Throughout the course the emphasis is on learning safe and effective skills to enable you to enjoy your hobby to the full.

The training is conducted on a one on one basis with a nationally accredited instructor who is a member of a 4WD club and volunteers their time for the training. Therefore our fees are very low and include only your reference material, a reimbursement for trainers travel costs and property access fees if applicable.

### **Cost details**

Training material consisting of

- a comprehensive reference manual and a training checklist: \$60
- Theory weekend at Cavan: \$20
- Practical training weekend at Morgan: \$40

Last day for enrolments is Sunday 10 May

**NOTE: 4WDSA driver training is conducted in association with a registered training organisation which means that upon completion of the requirements in the assessment checklist you will receive a nationally accredited training certificate. However attainment of the certificate will require several weekends of training and assessment depending upon aptitude and previous experience.**