

4WD Club Newsletter

September 2016



Founded in 2002



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



Guess Where? (Easy) Guess When? (earns a prize)

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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 \$50 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
WEB: www.gawler4wd.com.au**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT/PUBLIC OFFICER Quenton Earl : 8523 2507 / 0407 604 601	VICE PRESIDENT Wayne Heintze : 8523 0407 / 0432 339 213
TREASURER Norma Rivett : 0438 120 342	SECRETARY Jane Jansen : 8523 0657 / 0409 091 851
EDITOR Sandra Harper : 8523 0889	PUBLISHER Peter Harper : 0410 526 317
MINUTES SECRETARY Deb Earl : 8523 2507 (General) (Committee - on rotation)	SOCIAL SECRETARIES Lyn Leske : 8524 9002 / 0403 332 432 Joann Wuttke : 0402 353 064
TRIPS/PROPERTY LIBRARIAN CO-ORDINATOR John Jansen : 8523 0657/ 0418 840 435	TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR DTU DELEGATE Peter Harper : 0410 526 317
COMMITTEE MEMBER Bronte Rivett : 0438 120 341	ASSOCIATION DELEGATE Peter Harper : 0410 526 317
WELCOMING OFFICERS	Darryl Grace, Dave Riddle

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

	2016				2017							
<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</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>
General	9	14	11	9		10	3	7	12	2	14	11
Committee		5	2			1	28		3		5	2
			30			22			31			30

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

PLEASE NOTE

We are hoping to hold the November meeting at Gawler Fishing and Outdoors, Murray St, Gawler commencing at 6:30pm. If this is successful, Pizza and soft drinks will be supplied

Adelaide Cup: 13 Mar 2017: Easter 14-17 April 2017:

Queen's Birthday 12 June 2017: Labour Day 2 October 2017

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

August 2016

See the attached Minutes (members only)

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

Presidents Report:

This month's meeting should see an increase in visitor numbers. We have invested heavily in two colour ads in the local newspaper the "Bunyip" advertising our September meeting and our Guest Speaker - Ron Kandelaars. We will need every member present to become "Welcome Officers" for the night; engage with our visitors and explain to them about the club. An invitation to the Barossa 4WD Club and the Northern 4WD Club has also been sent, so we may see some members attending from those clubs; again let's make them feel welcome. If you can bring photos or photo albums along that will be appreciated. It should be a good night; I hope to see you there. Remember to bring a plate of supper.

The club has purchased a Personal Location Beacon (PLB). This PLB also contains a GPS and is registered with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority Australian 406 MHz Distress Beacon Register. This can be taken away on any trips, the first trip being to Darwin and the Kimberley area in October.

This Sunday is our day in the Barossa; Putt Putt golf, Picnic lunch, Cheese tasting and finishing off the afternoon at the beautiful Pindarie winery. Please check that your name is on the Trip Sheet as I need to know numbers to confirm our booking with Pindarie.

[Quenton]

Editor's Report:

Welcome to the September Newsletter.

Our next meeting is going to be quite a busy one with our special guest speaker present and also, we hope, other members of the public and 4WD Clubs as mentioned in Quenton's report.. We will also draw the Fathers' Day Raffle so make sure that you have purchased tickets for this and if you do have anything to contribute please ensure that it's handed to Lyn or Joann upon arrival. Thank you.

As Quenton also mentioned, we would like everyone to bring a plate just as we do for the December meeting so that supper can be enjoyed and shared by all.

We have also added some more trips for 2017 to "coming events" - trips for Australia Day, Easter and a mystery trip for May. Don't forget to put your name down on the trip sheet or see Pete who is holding the fort in John and Jane's absence !

That's it from me.

[Sandra]



COMING EVENTS

Mr and Mrs Trips (aka J & J) are off on a great adventure and Pete and Wayne are standing in for them. Seems like J&J they were busy before they left as we have quite an eventful calendar between now and mid next year. Of course, there is always room for more weekend, or longer, trips.

Putt Putt Golf Sunday 11 September 2016 **Barossa Valley**

Trip Details:	Playing a round of Putt Putt Golf, picnic lunch, cheese tasting at The Barossa Valley Cheese Co, Angaston and wine tasting or coffee at the beautiful setting of Pindarie Winery.
Where:	Barossa Valley
Bring:	Picnic Lunch Chairs/Table
Cost:	Putt Putt Golf – Adults \$14.00: Child under 15 \$12.00 Pindarie Winery \$5.00
Meet:	Gawler Visitors Information Centre at 9.30 am
When:	Sunday 11 September 2016
Trip Leader:	Quenton Earl, 0407 604 601

NT and Kimberley October 2016

Trip Details:	Darwin, Gibb River Road and back down Tanami track
Where:	NT and Kimberley – Details TBA
Cost:	TBA
Meet:	Tarlee
When:	2nd to 30th Oct. 2016
Trip Leader:	Wayne & Sandra Heintze, Bronte & Norma Rivett
More Info	TBA

Octoberfest Whyalla 30 Sep – 2 Oct 2016

Trip Details:	After the success of the 2015 Octoberfest, we have decided to make this year's Octoberfest a club trip
Where:	Whyalla
Cost:	Early bird special fee \$90.00
Meet:	TBA
When:	30 Sep 2016 to 2 Oct 2016
Trip Leader:	Peter Harper
More Info	Silent Auction with great donated prizes Access to private properties Trips from easy to hard Camp oven cook-off Night Nav Further info visit: www.whyalla4wd.org.au

Australia Day 2017 Thursday 26 Jan to Sunday 29 Jan Loveday 4x4 Adventure Park (Riverland)

Trip Details:	Camping near the mighty Murray River, we will get to enjoy the hospitality of the Riverland folk. Of course, there will be some 4 wheel driving and, for that who are really keen, a chance to challenge themselves and their vehicles
Where:	Loveday 4x4 Adventure Park, Riverland SA
Cost:	\$90 per vehicle (\$60 for first night and \$10 for subsequent nights)
Meet:	Truro (in the park opposite the bakery)
When:	11am on 26 Jan. It's about 2 hours from Truro to Loveday so a later start gives us plenty of time to attend our local Australia Day celebrations before heading to the Riverland
Trip Leader:	John and Jane Jansen
More Info	QUARANTINE: Please remember that the Riverland is in the Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone. You cannot take fresh, unprocessed fruit and fruiting vegetables (including capsicum, chilli, tomato and eggplant) into the Riverland of South Australia without an itemised receipt from an SA retail outlet. See http://www.quarantinedomestic.gov.au/destination-south-australia.html for more details

Warooka Yorke Peninsula	March 2017 – Adelaide Cup Long Weekend
Trip Details:	Free stay at Warooka for the cost of purchasing a meal <i>**More info near the end of 2016 but please mark this in your diaries**</i> No power but flush toilets and showers. Up to 15 vehicles – caravans, campers and swags all welcome.
Where:	Yorke Peninsula (approx 2.5 hours drive)
Cost:	Purchase a meal
Meet:	***TBA***
When:	March 2017
Trip Leader:	Max Leske
More Info	TBA

Annual Ngarkat Working Bee	25/26 March 2017 Border Track
Trip Details:	Working Bee on the Ngarkat CP Border Track.- work starts at 9 am on Saturday morning but camp can be set up on the afternoon or evening of the preceding Friday. Camper trailers and caravans can be accommodated. The site has a very good long drop toilet but you need to bring everything else (water, food shelter.) Working bee will still be in fire danger season to the “camp fire” will need to be artificial (a gas stove will be okay.) Everyone welcome.
Where:	Ngarkat CP. Camp at Pine Hut Soak.
Tools:	Post hole digging tools, pruners, loppers,, bow saw, handsaw, shovel rake, hand tools, battery powered electric drill with a range of drill sizes and spade bits. UHF in car and handheld radios will be useful.
Meet:	Meet at Ngarkat CP Pine Hut Soak campsite
When:	Weekend of 25/26March 2017
Trip Leader	Peter Harper
More Info	If you can bring a trailer that could be used to transport materials from the campsite.

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



Easter 2017	Pink Lakes Murray-Sunset National Park
Trip Details:	We are still working out the details, but the plan is to camp in the vicinity of Pink Lakes - Lake Hardy and Lake Crosbie - in the Murray-Sunset NP. The park is in northern Victoria and is about a 4hour drive (280km) from Gawler
Where:	Murray-Sunset NP, Victoria
Cost:	TBA
Meet:	TBA (probably Nuriootpa) early on Thursday (want to beat the rush, if we can)
When:	Easter 2017. Thursday 13 April to Monday 17 April We might stay an extra day to avoid the Easter traffic
Trip Leader:	Wayne Heintze
More Info	See also http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/murray-sunset-national-park

Mystery History Day Trip	Sunday 7 May 2017
Trip Details:	If we told you the details, it would not be a Mystery!!
Where:	That's part of the mystery 😊
Cost:	TBA (scones don't usually cost a lot of money – and Q loves scones)
Meet:	Gawler Visitor's Information Centre
When:	TBA (early enough to get to the morning tea spot for scones, jam and cream)
Trip Leader:	Quenton Earl 0407 604 601
More Info	You will have to read the Trip Report

*If you are considering leading a trip, the following link from the 4WDSA internet site may be of interest. However, if you have other trip suggestions, then please let us know. Don't forget all the suggestions put forward during a brainstorming session of members last year and which have been listed in previous newsletters. Although daunting, it **is** fun and you will get a lot of satisfaction out of leading a trip and learn a lot along the way and there's usually an "old hand" willing to assist.*

<http://www.4wdsa.asn.au/?page=article&of=49>

GAWLER & DISTRICTS 4WD CHRISTMAS SHOW



*26/27
NOVEMBER
2016*

BERRI RIVERSIDE CARAVAN PARK

SITE COSTS \$35 POWERED SITE

\$30 UNPOWERED

10% DISCOUNT FOR TOP TOURIST MEMBERS

IT IS A BUSY TIME FOR THE RIVERLAND SO PLEASE BOOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
WHEN BOOKING SAY YOU ARE FROM CLUB SO OUR SITES WILL BE TOGETHER

**PLEASE BRING CHAIR, PLATES, BOWL, CUTLERY AND
A SALAD TO SHARE. CLUB WILL SUPPLY MEAT AND
DESSERT**



Berri Riverside Caravan Park

87 Riverview Drive

Berri

Ph: (08) 8582 3723

<http://www.berricaravanpark.com.au>

PROPOSED TRIPS & OUTINGS

- **TBA** **Puppy Springs/Dorado Downs**
Contact person Bill Small 8577 2228 (2 properties)
**** Leader required ****
- **2016** **Proposed 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.**
- **2016** **Proposed trip to follow in the footsteps of Charles Sturt.**

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*** - Gawler Railway Station carpark.

SATURDAY FARMERS MARKET - Every Saturday morning between 8 am and 12 noon at the carpark attached to the Information Centre on Lyndoch Road, Gawler

GAWLER AND DISTRICTS 4WD WEB SITE

Have you checked out our web site lately? 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 10th year anniversary versions.



Check our FACEBOOK link as well. www.facebook.com/GawlerandDistricts4WDClub

GUEST SPEAKERS

	<p><i>These guest speakers have kindly agreed to talk with us at the following general meetings:</i></p>	
	September	Ron Kandelaars – "Postcards" - South Australia
	October	4WDSA
	November	Gawler Fishing and Outdoors premises at 6:30pm
	February	Valmai Hankel – of 891 ABC Radio fame
	March	TBA

PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACONS (PLB_s)

As you will have read in Quenton's report, the club has purchased a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) for use on longer trips. But just what is a PLB?

A PLB, is a portable transmitter that, once activated, sends out a personalized emergency distress signal to your nearest rescue services via satellite. For Australia, the message is sent to the Rescue Coordination Centre at the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).

When your **life is in danger** and you can't get hold of emergency services by phone or radio, activate your distress beacon. Your beacon can be activated from anywhere on the Earth's surface, regardless of whether you were travelling by air, land or sea

How does a PLB work?

PLBs transmit signals on internationally recognized distress frequencies. The 406MHz signal is received by a global satellite tracking system known as COSPAS-SARSAT. Once the signal is received by the satellite network, the UIN (Unique Identifying Number) of the PLB and the GPS position of the PLB is then sent to AMSA. **(NOTE: Our PLB is fitted with a GPS receiver that enables position to be determined 'immediately'.)**

Using the UIN, AMSA can then locate personal details associated with the particular PLB. We have registered 5 club members (Quenton, Jane, Peter, Wayne and Max) who will be contacted in turn to ensure that the activation is not accidental.

Once AMSA is satisfied that a real emergency exists, the search and rescue authorities will be activated.

How quickly will I be found?

Good question, and the answer depends on a number of factors, including how remote you really are. The PLB contains a homing beacon that operates on 121.5 MHz that will help rescuers find you (especially useful from aircraft). You can help yourself by signalling using mirrors (day time), LEDs (night time), smoke or fire (**if safe**) if you suspect a rescuer is nearby. It probably took you a while to get to where you are and you can expect any rescue to take a similar time so: **be prepared to SURVIVE**; conserve energy, conserve water, and seek shelter. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE.**

How Long Will a PLB Transmit?

Our PLB (GME MT410G) is equipped with a Lithium battery that has a 7-year life span. Once activated, the PLB will transmit for a minimum of 24 hours.

More Info

Info from AMSA can be found at <http://beacons.amsa.gov.au/>

Detailed instructions on the use of the PLB are contained in the GME documentation (https://www.gme.net.au/media/457147/MT410G_IM_web.pdf). In the near future, we will compile a club document that sets out our rules for the use of the PLB (What trip? Who can use? Training required?)

[Peter H]

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. Without these regular contributions the raffle would be unable to go ahead each month. Please don't leave it to that elusive "someone else"

*******Donations for Father's Day Raffle are also welcome*******

These can be given to the Social Committee (Lyn Leske, or Joann Wuttke) any time.

<i>September 2016</i>	<i>October 2016</i>	<i>November 2016</i>
Darryl and Joan Grace	John and Jane Jansen	Lyn Lillecrapp
Peter and Sandra Harper	Martin and Corry Kisbee	Peter and Lynn O'Sullivan
Wayne and Sandra Heintze	Max and Lyn Leske	Dave and Michelle Riddle



***Got any 4WD related photos you would like to share?
THIS INCLUDES TRIP PHOTOS!***

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!

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

BIRTHDAY WISHES

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

◆◆ **September** ◆◆

Astrid Gardner



MEMBERS NOTICE BOARD

Reminder: Competitions closing soon

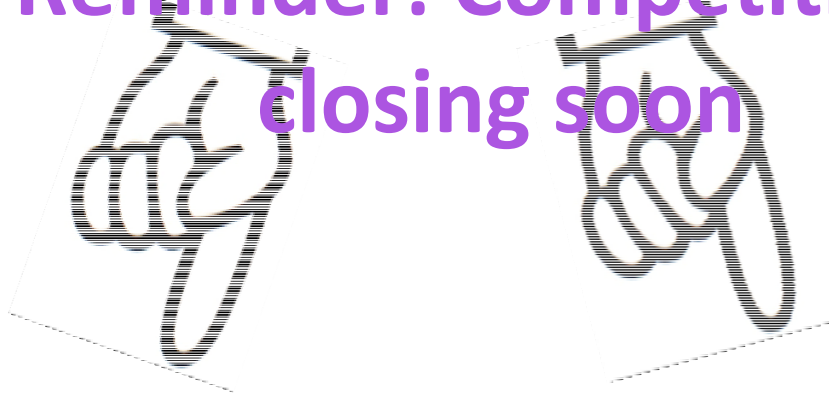


PHOTO COMPETITION

Yes, it's on again. You know the rules but just in case, here they are:

The PHOTO COMPETITION RULES:

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

Entries to be handed to John by close of NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Late entries will not be accepted.

So get your photos in !!!

DOUBLE CHANCE OF a PRIZE!!



TRIP REPORT COMPETITION

The committee has, once again, 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:

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

Please send full details to our editor 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...

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

SOCIAL CORNER

Suggestions for club social outings include:

- **Film Night**
- **Guided walk of Belair National Park**
- **Port Adelaide Grave Yard & Maritime Museum**
- **Walking tour West Terrace cemetery**

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

4WDSA – NRAU – BORDER TRACK COMMITTEE

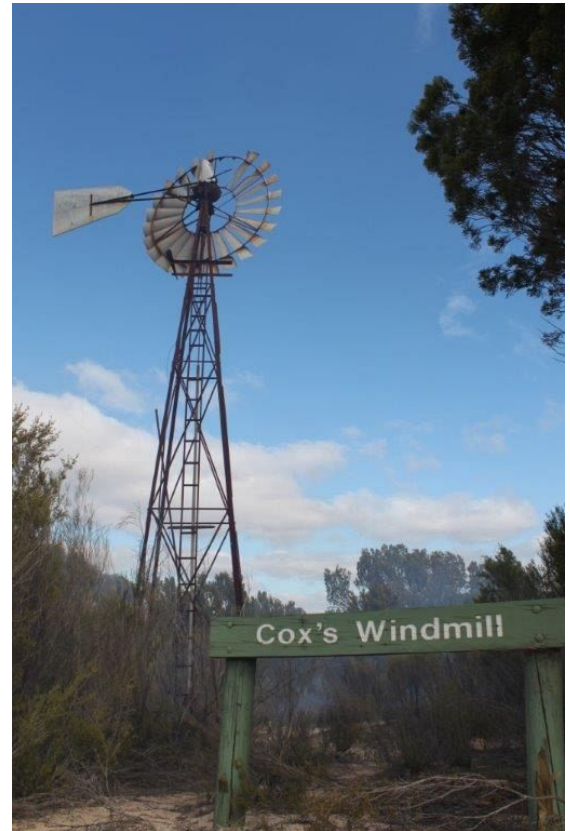
Cox's Mill (New) Campsite, Ngarkat Conservation Park

Those of you who have visited Ngarkat Conservation Park and driven from the Pine Hut Soak campsite along Scorpion Track towards the Border Track will know that about 4km from Pine Hut Soak is an old windmill known as Cox's Windmill.

Over the years, the area just behind the windmill has been used as an unofficial campsite, probably, as an overflow from Pine Hut Soak.

Rather than having the area completely closed, DEWNR, in conjunction with the Border Track Committee, developed a plan to formalise the area. Using funds from both DEWNR and a grant obtained by FWDSA, six brand new campsites, complete with fire pits have been established.

DEWNR and Green Army volunteers undertook some preparatory work and over the weekend of 13/14 August, 26 volunteers from 5 FWDSA affiliated clubs constructed the boundaries of the new campsites.



The boundary system currently in use is post and wire; gone are the days of CCA treated perm-a-pine and poly pipe. The posts are made from White Cypress Pine. This is a very durable timber and requires no treatment to prevent rot or to keep the white ants at bay. The timber is plantation grown in Queensland and, therefore, is sustainably grown and harvested

The full report of the Cox's Mill working can be found on the 4WDSA Website at http://www.4wdsa.asn.au/files/docs/Ngarkat_WB_201608_Coxs_Windmill_BTC_Report_v2.pdf



Most of the Cox's Mill Working Bee Team and One Very Happy Senior Ranger!

[Peter H]

The photos used in this report were provided by Rebecca Pudney.

DRIVER TRAINING UNIT

Well, the training year is coming towards the end with only one practical training course remaining for the year and that is at Peake (sand driving) on the first weekend in November. However, there are a couple of "classroom" courses available:

1. Trip planning and leading at Cavan on Sunday 16 October, and
2. Oziexplorer/GPS - Cavan 13 November. NOTE: You need to have a **full** version of OziExplorer and your own PC to be able to complete the class exercises.

If you are interested in any of these courses, please let me know

[Peter Harper, Training Coordinator]

GENERAL INFORMATION

On various trips we have encountered roadside camping areas which are full to capacity by about midday, especially the popular ones, and it seems you have to get there pretty early during the day to secure a spot for the night, so I thought this might be an interesting read.:

ROADSIDE CAMPING

Take an early morning look on the outskirts of any town, along quiet beaches, in the roadside stops and parking bays of the highways and in the parks and gardens of towns and you will find an amazing cross section of people who have pulled in and set-up camp for the night.

We're not talking about the homeless and destitute, these people are often well healed tourists who have embarked on a mini adventure to see and traverse one of the world's safer tourist destinations.

Truck and Road Train drivers have always pulled off the side of the road for a quick nap when the need arises and these days with the ever tightening restrictions on log books and driver fatigue, truckies are compelled to spend more of their lives asleep at the side of the road. Modern prime movers used for long distance transport are often accessorized with comfortable 'sleeper cabs' containing beds, fridges, perhaps a mini oven and even televisions and DVD players. Anything in an effort to make an arduous job more comfortable and tolerable.



- roadside rest areas can consist of a simple 44 gallon rubbish bin under a tree or elaborate mini cities resplendent with solar showers, chemical toilets, tables, shelters and barbecues. Many people choose to pull in to places like this for the night because they're tired or because they want to avoid the rabble of caravan parks and designated camping grounds. Some just don't want to pay fees.

WHO CAMPS ROADSIDE?

Who doesn't? Apart from the truckies there is a broad array of people who are perfectly happy to bed down beside the bitumen for a peaceful and relaxed meal and a nights rest.

They can be European professionals with big holiday budgets who still prefer the romance and adventure of camping under the stars alongside the Australian bush.

They could also be young foreign students who, for all intents and purposes, are essentially backpackers who happen to have a vehicle. They travel from job to job seeking seasonal work on special visas. It's not unusual (*especially in the warmer and more relaxed northern regions*) to find a group of young foreign tourists having a wash or doing the dishes under the tap in the local park.

Many are Australian kids who have pooled their resources and travel in two's, three's and four's driving from beach to beach, staying by the road, in hostels or backpackers lodges and who party, mostly harmlessly, from one stop to the next. They hire or buy small economical vans from companies like 'Wicked' or 'Jucy' and load up on a few easy meals and perhaps a few beers and head from sunset to sunset, camping wherever takes their fancy and generally leading a free and abandoned lifestyle before settling in for the rigours of conventional life.

Of course, there is also an abundance of 'grey nomads' (*retirees in caravans*), station workers on the ground in swags and the ever growing number of families towing a boat or camper trailer.

IS IT LEGAL?

What are the legalities of setting up camp wherever you feel like it? Who knows? It's a bit of a Catch-22 situation. Australia is comprised of eight states and territories who have all, at one stage or another, entertained various notions of seceding from the federation and forming their own nation. Consequently we are left with a hotchpotch of mismatched and differing laws relating to everything from speed limits to family law.

Regulations in State and National parks regarding camping are fairly clear and well defined and you are generally left in no doubt as to how the presiding ranger is entitled to deal with campers who bed down in the wrong place. The rules regarding parks are governed more vigilantly than along the

roads and highways, with park rangers given well defined areas and definitions to enforce.

Get out onto the highways and the rules regarding overnighting and camping get enforced far less rigorously. Although many areas still fall under police jurisdiction, by and large, enforcing camping rules is left to the hundreds of local councils whose rangers are kept occupied chasing stray dogs and issuing parking tickets.

Surfing Mecca's like Western Australia's Margaret River region and popular backpacker locations like Cairns in Queensland draw people like flies and the councils of these high profile tourist destinations often wage a serious battle against undesignated camping. Highly visible signs warning of fines for undesignated camping (*normally around \$100*) are placed at the most desirable and likely locations and generate a general feeling of not being welcome. These councils much prefer you stay at a luxurious hotel or at least a caravan park or hostel.

Not all councils are so intolerant and many will, especially in the northern regions, erect and maintain overnight bays on the highways, complete with advisory signs for the wandering tourist. It's a moot point because in such a vast country, with town rangers finishing work anywhere from 3 to 5pm and the police mildly disinterested in such a trifling offence, there isn't really anyone patrolling for non complying campers.

The Catch-22 comes with the fact that the Australian federal government has long had a policy of encouraging country drivers to rest and to not drive fatigued or tired. This is delivered via education, advertising and programs like 'Driver Revive' where free coffee is administered for tired drivers at roadhouses. Often temporary roadside vans dispense the same free brew along the highways.

Truck drivers already have to keep detailed and complex log books describing mileage, sleep and hours driven and this is heavily checked and regulated by a special division of the police force. If a means of measuring fatigue is ever developed then you can be sure Australian drivers will face penalties for driving tired similar to the penalties for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

This creates a situation where on one hand a local council may erect a sign prohibiting roadside camping right along a state or federal sign - *urging* you to pull over and rest if you become fatigued. It becomes a difficult situation to enforce with the declaration that you were "too tired to carry on".

WHERE TO PULL UP AND CAMP?

Deciding that the most pleasant place to park your trusty and exuberantly graffitied van is on the lawns of mansions in Sydney's north shore is just asking for trouble. So is entering private property or camping in the Botanical Gardens (*although we've seen it done successfully in Townsville*).

Designated and specially designed parking bays for trucks are to be avoided. Truck drivers need to plan their stops according to hours driven and often know exactly where they will pull up in order to comply with log book regulations. These bays are designed to accommodate Road Trains up to 54 metres long that don't fit anywhere else along the highway. It's a fair bet that you will be woken by the bellowing air horn of every passing truck, by the high beam of spotlights and a grumbling truck radiator at your back door and there's every chance a passing police car will move you on. An unpleasant night for everyone.

Use the roadside bays designed for cars or turn into a side road and find a peaceful bit of bush. If you have a four wheel drive then a dry river bed makes for a great camping spot

as do the millions of tracks that criss-cross the Australian landscape.

Station owners are pretty forgiving about you pulling into a station gate for a nights rest and you will just as likely go unnoticed anyway. If you are able to locate the homestead then asking permission is a good option and may see you directed to a great spot that you would otherwise never know about.

Discretion is often the better part of valour and setting up for the night and managing to go unnoticed is a pretty good policy. The highways can be pretty noisy affairs with a continual stream of trucks and getting further away from the bitumen is a quieter option.

The policing of improper camping is much tighter around larger urban centres and the last twenty kilometres entering or leaving the town may be a more relaxing proposition. Smaller towns (*especially northern towns*) seem much more forgiving.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE CONFRONTED?

Remember that you haven't actually spent a night by the side of the road until you've actually woken up in the morning. Parking and Rest Bay's are exactly what the signs announce. They exist for people to park and rest.

If you understand that the majority of council officers have finished work by 5pm and the police are too busy chasing real criminals to worry about a roadside van or two, then you have probably begun to understand that you're not likely to be bothering anybody.

Cap it off with the knowledge that the government actually encourages drivers to pull over and rest when necessary and you've used a bit of common sense about your location, you begin to realize you are pretty safe from any official harassment.

If you happen to encounter a particularly belligerent ranger or member of the police force who insists on pushing the point, then maintain an even temperament and politely explain that you were too tired to continue. Most officials are decent people and it would be an unreasonable person who got really upset about someone (*who wasn't creating a disturbance*) bedding down for the night. Four dozen empty beer cans and a pile of rubbish lying around your site will act like a giant magnet to anyone with any authority - just like taking a nap on the lawns of Government House or under a sign saying '**No Camping - \$100 Fine**'. You will probably get just that - a fine.

If you've set up camp with dinner simmering and happen to be enjoying a beer or glass of wine as the sun sets and consider that you have too much to drink to drive then never, ever be persuaded to get into your vehicle

and move on. even if it's by an extremely insistent member of the police force. You'll probably find yourself pulled up 50 metres down the road and booked for drink driving which is a far more severe and less tolerated offence than grabbing a nap by the road.

As time goes by, with ever increasing regulation, it gets more difficult, but never impossible, to travel the highways and enjoy the freedoms of the road and bush and set up camp wherever takes your fancy. If you're one of those campers who does no harm and refuses to be herded, sheeplike, into designated camping zones - then *we salute you*.

(Thanks to **Outback Crossing** - www.outbackcrossing.com.au for giving us permission to use this article)

MARALINGA – EMU ROAD CLOSED (SOUTH AUSTRALIA).

Some disappointing news; I can confirm that the road from Maralinga to Emu has been permanently closed by the Maralinga Lands council. I confirmed that information with the council today. Tony. (per Westprint Friday Five dated 2.9.2016)

RECOVERY SAFETY - SMEAC?

Situation:	Vehicle Stuck
Mission:	Recover Vehicle
Execution:	Grab snatch strap drop over tow ball of "Samaritan's" vehicle and "tug like crazy"
Admin:	Someone might know how to call the ambulance
Command and Control:	Not much of this going on, but we'll have fun!

We have all seen the videos, but do we really adhere to the "rules" of four wheel driving:

1. STOP, get out, have a look
2. THINK, assess decide

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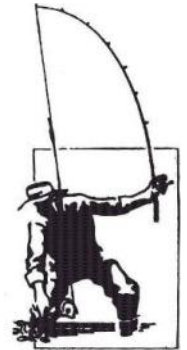
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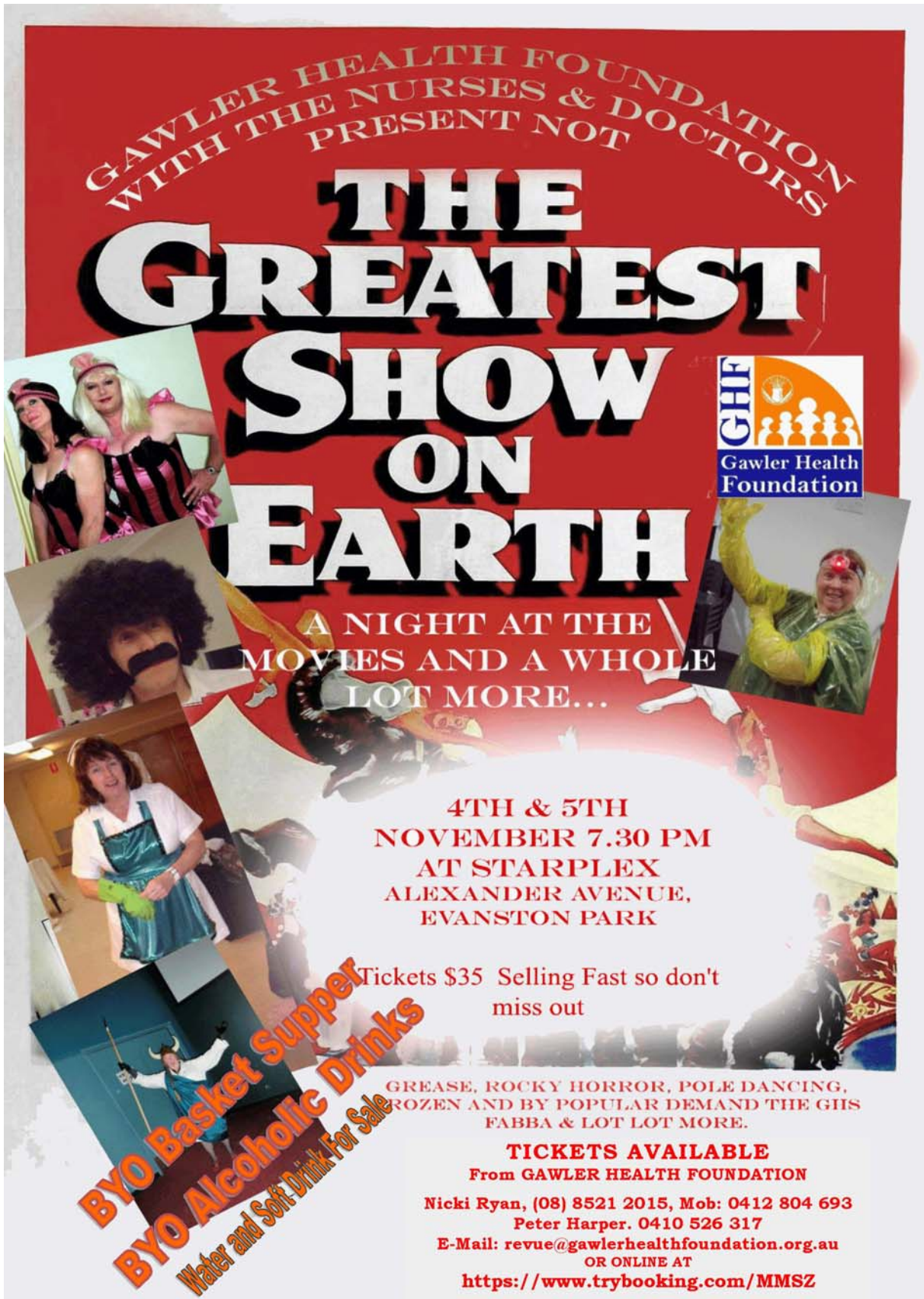
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THE LAST PAGE

BAGPIPES

I love this story. Lay down what's bothering you, breath in the fresh air and LISTEN to this story.

Time is like a river. You cannot touch the water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment of life. As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late.

I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man. And as I played "Amazing Grace", the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen anything like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years." Apparently, I'm still lost... it's a man thing. When you have stopped laughing be sure to forward this on to others who would enjoy a good story.

After a tiring day, a commuter settled down in his seat and closed his eyes. As the train rolled out of the station, the young woman sitting next to him pulled out her cell phone and started talking in a loud voice:

"Hi sweetheart. It's Sue. I'm on the train." "Yes, I know it's the six thirty and not the four thirty, but I had a long meeting." "No, honey, not with that Kevin from the accounting office. It was with the boss." "No sweetheart, you're the only one in my life." "Yes, I'm sure, cross my heart!"

Fifteen minutes later, she was still talking loudly.

When the man sitting next to her had enough, he leaned over and said into the phone "Sue, hang up the phone and come back to bed."

Sue doesn't use her cell phone in public any longer.