

Gawler & Districts

www.gawler4wd.com.au

4WD Club Newsletter

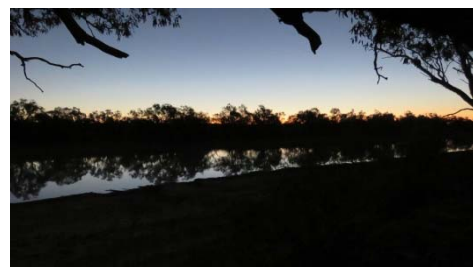
September 2017



Founded in 2002



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



Sunrise and Sunset, Simpson Desert

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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)
0409 091 851 (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 Joann Wuttke : 0402 353 064 Julie Sieben
TRIPS/PROPERTY John Jansen : 0418 840 435 LIBRARIAN CO-ORDINATOR	TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR DTU DELEGATE Peter Harper : 0410 526 317
COMMITTEE MEMBER Bob Tonkin : 0421 603 767	ASSOCIATION DELEGATE Quenton Earl : 8523 2507 / 0407 604 601
WELCOMING OFFICERS	Darryl Grace, Bronwyn Schwarz

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

	2017						2018					
<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</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>
General			8	13	10	8		9	2	13	11	1
Committee				4	1		31	21		4	23	
					29							

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

Labour Day 2 October 2017

Dates for 2018

Adelaide Cup 12 March: Easter 30 March to 2 April: Queen's Birthday 11 June: Labour Day 1 October

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 2017
See the attached Minutes (members only)

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

President's Report:

There will be no Guest Speaker at this September meeting, as we have a club trip starting Saturday to Orroroo.

New club vehicle stickers are now available. They include the club's website address and Facebook logo. One sticker per membership will be available free of charge from this meeting. Extra stickers are available for \$3 each. Please note the artwork set-up charge of \$49.95 was donated, so a big Thank You to Cheryl from Gawler Art and Signs. See their website at <http://www.gawlerartandsigns.com.au> for all your sign related requirements including logo design and banners etc. They even do photo restoring.

Just a reminder that the photo competition needs photos submitted by the November General meeting, so now is the time to start printing or taking some photos to enter. It is always interesting to see member's photos; so please consider entering.

Speaking of photos, Sandra Heintze won first prize for a photo she entered in the Gawler Show, so congratulations Sandra!

[Quenton]

Editor's Report:

Hello everyone and welcome to our September newsletter.

As you may have realised this newsletter has been sent out early as well as the previous one and that's because Pete and I are heading to New Zealand for three weeks on 2 September and I wanted to make sure it was finished and sent off before we left.

Okay, once the September and October trips have been completed, we really don't have a great number of trips listed for next year. Has anyone any suggestions for the Adelaide Cup weekend in March or even the Easter long weekend a couple of weeks later (Good Friday is 30 March?) If so, please speak to Quenton or John as we'd like to have a few things to look forward to in 2018.

Only 2 months to our Christmas party so please don't forget to book a caravan site in Coobowie for the occasion. All details are in the newsletter.

That's it from me for this month. Have a great month.

[Sandra]





COMING EVENTS

Proposed Trip	9/10 September 2017 Orroroo
Trip Details:	Week-end at Orroroo
Where:	Orroroo
Cost:	Powered site \$25 (2 Adults); Standard Cabin (no ensuite) \$65 (2 Adults); Ensuite Cabin \$110 (2 Adults) + cost of Pub meal & Cafe visit.
Meet	Tarlee 8.30am (In town with public toilets)
Trip Leader:	Quenton Earl 0407 604 601
More Info	Staying at Orroroo caravan Park. Visiting Magnetic Hill, Tank Hill Look-out, Pekina & district, Large Gum tree etc. Saturday morning tea at Jamestown (Bakery available), Saturday night at Orroroo Pub. Visiting "Orroroo Kangaroo" to buy kangaroo meat & associated products. (see separate article in this copy of the Newsletter) Call Kym at Caravan Park 8868 1444 to book your site.
Argadells Flinders Ranges	2017 October Long Weekend 30 September & 1/2 October 2017
Trip Details:	Camping at Noodies
Where:	Argadells, Flinders Ranges. Good 4WD tracks and great scenery from the top of Mt Arden.
Cost:	Camping: \$10 per person per night. Caravan: \$30 per night \$50 Track access (covers all track on the property)
Meet:	At Argadells
When:	Some of us will travel up on Thursday and return on Tuesday
Trip Leader:	Peter Harper 0410 526 317
More Info	Visit their Web site at http://www.argadells.com.au/argadells.com.au/index.html STOP PRESS... The Blinman Pub is open so Pete will lead a trip to Blinman on the Friday.

October Long Weekend	Octoberfest at Willangi Bush Escapes 29 September to 2 October 2017
Trip Details:	The upcoming fourth edition of Octoberfest is a fun, non-competitive event designed to bring 4WD clubs from all over South Australia to Peterborough in a similar scenario to the successful Biannual Whyalla Weekend. No catering is provided, it is a self-catering event apart from Monday breakfast.
Where:	Willangi Bush Escapes, Peterborough
Cost:	\$130 per vehicle for weekend (if registered and paid prior to 31st July 2017) \$155 per vehicle for weekend (if registered and paid from 1st August to the event)
Meet:	Tarlee (North side of town, near Gilbert River bridge). Depart at 0845
When:	Friday 29 Sep to Monday 2 Oct 2017
Trip Leader:	John and Jane Jansen
More Info	See http://mountloftyrangers.com.au/octoberfest/
Xmas 2017	Last Weekend in November 24/25/26 November 2017
Trip Details:	The annual Christmas function will be held at Coobowie Caravan Park. Come along and meet the "man in red" – see separate details.
Where:	Coobowie Caravan Park 23 Beach Rd, Coobowie SA 5583
Cost	Powered sites \$27 per night for 2 adults (special price for us)
Meet	At Coobowie
Trip Leader	Social Secretaries, Joann & Julie
More Info	Sites have been pre-booked by Jo in name of Gawler & Districts 4WD Club, confirm booking by calling (08) 8852 8132
Australia Day	Friday, 26 January 2018
Trip Details:	Picnic at Bethany, Barossa Valley BYO picnic lunch to share, BYO drinks, table & chairs, sunscreen, hat etc. Bocce championship, games and prizes
Where:	Bethany Reserve, 324 Bethany Road, Bethany
Theme:	Australia Day Hat – best hat wins a prize
Cost	Nil if wearing a themed hat
Meet	At Bethany Reserve from 11.00 am
Trip Leader	Quenton Earl 0407 604 601& Jane Jansen 0409 091 851



CHRISTMAS PARTY

25/26 November 2017

Coobowie Caravan Park

22 Beach Road

Coobowie

Yorke Peninsula

Bookings: 8852 8132

www.coobowiecaravanpark.com

Cost: \$27 powered site

10 sites near the camp kitchen area have been booked in the name of Gawler 4WD Club or Joann so please mention the names when booking

If you would prefer an unpowered site the cost is \$22

Other accommodation details available on the website

Meat and dessert will be supplied by the Club


Please bring a salad to share

BYO chairs, tables, drinks, etc.

To add to the festivities, please bring along a fun "Secret Santa" gift to the value of \$10 suitable for male or female.



GUEST SPEAKERS

	<p><i>These guest speakers have kindly agreed to talk with us at the following general meetings:</i></p>	
	October	Gawler Veteran, Vintage & Classic Vehicle Club
	November	Bocce ???

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. *To make it fair and equitable to everyone participating in the raffle, please use the \$15 as a guide.*

Donations can be given to the Social Committee (Joann Wuttke or Julie Sieben) any time.

<i>September 2017</i>	<i>October 2017</i>	<i>November</i>
Roy and Bronwyn Schwarz	Stephen & Genevieve Thompson	Brenton and Keryn Wilkins
Chris and Julie Sieben	Robert and Pauline Tonkin	Joann Wuttke and Peter Cusick

Want to advertise in our Newsletter?



<i>Advertising Rates (12 months)</i>	
<i>Quarter Page</i>	<i>\$50</i>
<i>Half Page</i>	<i>\$100</i>
<i>Full Page</i>	<i>\$200</i>
<i>One off Advert : \$10</i>	

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

BIRTHDAY WISHES

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

◆◆ September ◆◆

Stephen Claughton



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) Must supply contact details (either a phone or email)
- (d) 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)

FOR SALE

Mitsubishi Magna VRX, all wheel drive.
Auto Silver Sedan. Manufactured 2005. 185,600km.
Only one owner. Ideal young person 1st car
\$3,500.00



Contact Max or Lyn 0427 807 066 / 0403 332 432

CLUB INFORMATION

Visit to Ironman During Our August 2017 General Meeting



Thanks to Amy and Brett for the donation of a 30L Fridge/Freezer to the Club.

It seems they were running a competition during the promotion for the opening of their Ironman shop and the Gawler 4WD Club had most members attend and purchase something from them during that time.

How fortunate are we and what a great raffle prize it'll make for someone to win!!

SPONSOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



GAWLER

FOR ALL YOUR 4WD AND SUV TYRES
OR
PASSENGER TYRES AND WHEEL ALIGNMENTS

**CONTACT MICHAEL OR JASON
ON 08 85223000**

WE WILL BEAT ANY COMPETITORS
PRICE

COOPER, BFG, BRIDGESTONE, KUMHO, TOYO,
MAXXIS, GENERAL

Jun 2017

Gawler Fishing & Outdoors

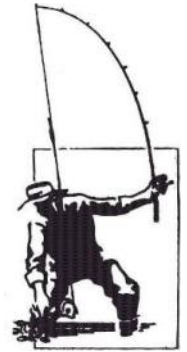
48 Murray St Gawler SA 5118

Phone 08 8522 6200

fishnout@bigpond.net.au

Club Discount with ****club card****
applies to all non-special items

- *Fishing Tackle
- *Fridge / Freezers
- *Guns & ammo
- *Binoculars
- *Knives
- *Camping gear
- *GPS systems
- *Swags
- *Marine
- *Repairs



- General Automotive maintenance
- Logbook Servicing
- Suspension & Brakes
- Performance
- Starter motors
- Alternators
- C.V Joints & Shafts
- Radiators
- Batteries
- Transmission service

The Home Of

Ironman 4x4 Gawler

7 First Street

Gawler South SA 5118

Work Shop: 08 85 224655

Sales Rep: 0497 924 666

- Bull Bars & Roof Racks
- Underbody Protection
- Canopies
- 4x4 Suspension
- Snorkels, Steps, Bars & Rails
- Drawer Systems
- Rooftop Tents & Awnings
- Recovery Equipment
- Camping Accessories
- Fridges

gawlermechanical@gmail.com



and much more.

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

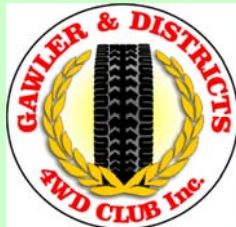


CHECK OUT OUR SPONSORS and ADVERTS

Maybe you have something at home you would like to sell.

Contact us for details

GAWLER & DISTRICTS 4WD CLUB



Stickers For Sale – Only \$2.00 each

New design stickers complete with Web address - \$3.50 each

Magnetic Name Badges - \$10 each

See Quenton at the General Meeting

BE PREPARED (I HATE TEK SCREWS!)

Actually, I don't really hate TEK crews, just the mongrels that leave them lying around for tyres to find. My current set of tyres has done well over 30km and still look like new (ish). Imagine my concern when I noticed one of my tyres was slowly losing pressure just after getting back on the bitumen after a week, and a bit, in the sand.

Quick inspection revealed a 20mm TEK screw had penetrated the thickest part of the tread. No problem, I have heaps of rope plugs on board so will plug and move on.



Bought my plugs many years ago and seems like they have a "short" lifespan and had all "dried out". Thankfully, the vehicle I was travelling with had new plugs (from a tyre repair training day). Plug still holding, but I must get it permanently fixed.

[Pete]

MEMBERS NOTICE BOARD



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

It's on again...

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!!!

Thank you

I want to first thank you all for the "Get Well" card I received in the post; it really did cheer me up after having several complications after my 2nd knee replacement on 19th July.

An excuse for a high tea at our place also did more than cheer me up. I was so grateful to those who brought lots of afternoon tea, their own special cups, plates and even their own coffee, tea and milk. It was such a lovely day to sit outside and just graze all afternoon, talk and relax without any fuss being made.

Prior to this I had felt grounded, not being able to drive or do what I normally do with Max, taking on board all his and my grumpy moods. "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." I thank everyone who took their time to come for the visit, putting a smile on both of our faces again. Surprising what a difference good company makes. One of the best things that day, Max vacuumed the house for me expecting everyone to sit indoors, that was one less chore I had to work around.

Thank you all again, my dear friends.

Lyn



GENERAL INFORMATION

VKS NEWS

Things are changing at VKS. They will no longer be producing their "Network News" newsletter due to lack of content being submitted to the editor for printing. The publication has reduced from three to two copies per year together with a reduction in the number of pages, so they have decided to switch to an online News/Blog page on the User Section of their new website. The page will be upgraded as articles are received from subscribers meaning that the information contained thereon will be more up-to-date than the existing situation which may see articles not included in the Network News for several months after submission.

The new website will use some of the content from the old website and will produce a professional, clean and modern website with a focus on striking photography.

It is hoped that the new website will be fully operational by December 2017. More information will be made available when to hand.

(information supplied by Steve Johnson OAM, VKS Radio Network)

DEWNR MANAGEMENT PLANS

DEWNR Public Consultation – Simpson Desert Management Plan

The Simpson Desert Conservation Park and Simpson Desert Regional Reserve Draft Management Plan has now been released for public consultation.

This plan has been developed by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources with advice from representatives of the Wangkangurru Yarluypandi Aboriginal Corporation.

A copy is attached, and the plan can also be downloaded at:

<https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/decisions/simpson-desert/about>

Submissions can be made via email, post, or online via YourSAy.

DEWNR: A new management plan for Innamincka Regional Reserve

The Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources together with The Yandruwandha and Yawarrawarrka Parks Advisory Committee are working towards the development of a new management plan for Innamincka Regional Reserve, in accordance with the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.

As an initial step towards the development of this plan, you are invited to register your interest in participating in the planning process.

For more information and to have your Say, please visit:

[http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Park management/Management plans/Plans in preparation/innamincka-rr/innamincka-management-plan-seeking-contributions](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Park%20management/Management%20plans/Plans%20in%20preparation/innamincka-rr/innamincka-management-plan-seeking-contributions)

TALKING ROAD SAFETY (thanks to SAPOL)

Bull Bars

Because of Adelaide's semi-rural nature, many vehicle owners choose to fit bull bars to their cars. All vehicles manufactured on or after 1 July 2013 with a gross vehicle mass (GVM) of up to 3.5 tonnes must only be fitted with a bull bar with a profile that follows the contour of the front of the vehicle.

The bull bar must be designed and fitted so that the safety of the vehicle or occupants, ie air bag deployment, is not adversely affected. The bar work and any fittings, hooks or attachments must be firmly and securely mounted and supported, and must not constitute a danger to other road users. The bull bar should not have any sharp edges, corners or protrusions and all exposed sections and fittings must be radiused* and de-burred.

As with all vehicles fitted with bull bars, pedestrian safety is a major concern. Additional fittings such as driving lamp brackets, fishing rod holders or aerial mounting brackets must not protrude above the top or forward of the bull bar. In addition, the bull bar, together with its mountings and any winch or other equipment and fittings, must be taken into account for vehicle dimensions and should not increase the overall width of the vehicle.

Always make sure that the installer writes on your receipt that the bull bar is compliant with the Vehicle Standards.

(* I cannot find this word in the dictionary but have typed it as supplied by SAPOL)

High Rolling

A common modification undertaken by business 4x4 owners is to raise the ride height of their vehicle to improve ground clearance or just for looks. This type of modification can legally be undertaken within allowable limits.

It is important to note that a total lift of more than 50mm requires approval via an application to Vehicle Standards prior to the commencement of the modifications. All suspension lifts should be carried out by a professional installer, as things like reducing rebound travel or the use of spacer blocks are illegal.

Fitting rims with a different diameter to those listed on the vehicle's tyre placard is acceptable, provided that the overall diameter of the alternative rim/tyre combination is not greater than 50mm over the largest combination specified on the vehicle's tyre placard (15mm for all other cars.) Any replacement tyre fitted to your vehicle must also have a load capacity equal or greater than the minimum specified on the manufacturer's tyre placard.

When the vehicle ride height is increased, the raising of the vehicle will also affect the height of the vehicle's lights and reflectors and these have to remain within specific boundaries. There is also a minimum height that the front and rear mudguards, or mudguards with mudflaps, can be above the road surface. For a 4x4 vehicle the distance from the mudguard/mud flap to the ground cannot be greater than 300mm (230mm for all other cars.)

Always make sure that the parts supplier or installer writes on your receipt that the use or installation of the items on your vehicle is compliant with Vehicle Standards.

Birdsville And Strzelecki Tracks

By James Vickery

Pastoral occupation and development of the Diamantina and Georgina flood plains during the 1870s motivated Percy 'Baldy' Burt to build a store at Diamantina Crossing. This settlement, initially called Burtsville, was later named Birdsville when Burt objected to the use of his name for the developing township. Burt however is credited with having journeyed from Birdsville to then Hergott Springs, now Marree, and pioneered the route which rapidly became famous in outback lore and heritage as the Birdsville Track.

The fact that Birdsville was only 330 miles (530 kilometres) from the railway at Marree, and overall only 700 miles (1130 kilometres) from Adelaide, compared to more than 1000 miles (1600 kilometres) from Brisbane clearly established Adelaide and Marree as supply sources for the Birdsville area, and also as a market centre for Channel Country cattle.

The South Australian authorities were quick to recognise the economic potential of these developments, and established a Police Camp at Andrewillah Waterhole on the Diamantina about 50 miles (80 kilometres) downstream from Birdsville in 1885. In the same year Alexander Scobie occupied the lands around Mulka, and by 1888 William Crombie had taken up a lease at Mungerannie. Thus, the Travelling Stock Route - which was to become famous as the Birdsville Track - was born.

As pastoral occupation rapidly spread into the sub-tropical grasslands of the Northern Territory and the Kimberley, the Birdsville Track became one of the final stages in a vast network of Stock Routes extending east and south from these remote cattle breeding areas to fattening pastures, railheads, markets and

meatworks in the eastern and southern cities.

By the turn of the century the Great Artesian Basin had been discovered and the South Australian Government financed the drilling of artesian flowing bores along the track to alleviate the long dry stages between water for the travelling mobs of cattle. About this time the Moslem community of Marree became the major carriers on the track with their camel caravans supplying the Channel Country stations.

The period from the 1870s to 1960 became the great droving era of our pastoral history. Cattle from remote northern runs were walked in annual stages via depot and fattening runs to their eventual destination to meat works in Melbourne and Adelaide.

This colourful era created a droving fraternity of men who walked these cattle overland for weeks on end with pack horse and four-in-hand thorough brace plants. They spent their lives under the sun and stars and carried their worldly possessions in that traditional outback invention called 'the swag'. Their rugged lifestyle developed in them a relish for adversity. At night, they watched cattle and hobbled their horses at every stock route-water from Derby in the Kimberley to Marree in South Australia, and Wodonga on the River Murray in Victoria.

Prominent amongst this droving fraternity were the Scobies, Crombies, and the Oldfields of the Birdsville Track. These pioneer families of the track occupied pastoral leases adjacent to the artesian stock route bores, which in good seasons supported them and their families. However, in years of low rainfall they were

invariably forced to muster their horses, roll their swags and take to the stock routes as contract drovers.

This neo-nomadic lifestyle, combined with a co-operative creed of 'one for all and all for one', has enabled the lands of the Birdsville track - which have the lowest rainfall in Australia - to be permanently occupied by these stalwart families - many of whose descendants still hold the Track leases today.

The Birdsville Track Stock Route follows the waterholes of the Diamantina on the western side from Birdsville, and across the Goyders Lagoon floodplain of the Diamantina to a point some 20 miles (32 kilometres) below Clifton Hills H.S. At this point it leaves the Diamantina and follows the present road past Mount Gason and other flowing artesian bores to Marree.

The present road crosses the Diamantina at Birdsville and follows what is commonly called the 'Outside Track' to join the old stock route near Mount Gason Bore. This route traverses the gibber strewn expanse of Sturts Stony Desert which forms the divide between the Diamantina and Cooper drainage systems. This area is intersected by a series of immense parallel sand dunes each several kilometres apart, and named, e.g. Pot Hole Dune, Dead Man Dune, Kunchera Dune. Of this inhospitable area Charles Sturt wrote in his diary: "Deserts there are on the face of this Earth, but they present not the iron-shod surface of this desolate region."

The Birdsville Track is a land of climatic extremes. Mulka boasts the lowest recorded annual average rainfall in Australia of 3.97 inches (or less than 100 millimetres). In the short 3-4 month winter, night temperatures commonly fall to below freezing whilst in the long summer season, from late August to April, day temperatures can reach over 50°C.

Many people have died of thirst in this harsh environment, hostile to Europeans. Many have also drowned in the waterholes and floods of the Diamantina and Cooper systems. Tragedies include five Innamincka stockmen who perished at the Dead Man Dune in 1912 as they returned from the Birdsville races, five members of the Page Family who perished at Moongarah when their car broke down in December 1963, and the drowning of a drover who attempted to swim the flooded Cooper in 1949. Also notable was the 1974 flood, which destroyed the Alton Downs Homestead at Andrewillah and inundated Kalamurina Homestead to the ridge capping.

Wildlife on the Birdsville Track is generally not conspicuous to the daytime traveller. There are reptiles - snakes and lizards - and raptors - birds of prey. Occasionally the major predator, the dingo, will be seen but like small marsupials and rodents the dingo usually hunts by night. The Diamantina and Cooper systems are the habitat of the Inland Taipan, identified and classified as the most dangerous terrestrial snake in the world.

For travellers on the Track the usual advice applies, —ensure mechanical reliability of your vehicle, carry expendable spares and adequate fuel, water and food in case of delays due to break down or adverse weather conditions.

Foot Note.

Few can match Jim Vickery's knowledge of Outback Australia. His years as a jackaroo, cattle drover, station book-keeper, and Aboriginal Reserve manager were valuable background to his appointment to the South Australian Pastoral Board. Prior to his retirement, he held the position of Director of Outback Management in the Department of Lands and is regarded as

the foremost authority on Innamincka and the Birdsville and Strzelecki Track area.

(Thanks to Westprint Friday Five for this article)

DRIVER TRAINING – A PRACTICAL LESSON

Picture this: We are travelling in the Simpson Desert along the Madigan Line, when the driver of the lead vehicle (a 200Series Landcruiser) notes a low pressure warning from one of the front tyre sensors. We stop, get out, and have a look. Yep, that 40cm long slit in the sidewall of a brand new "light truck" AT (doesn't matter what the brand was) was certainly letting the air out.

What to do? Change the wheel of course!!! Do we use the spare on the roof rack or the low slung spare under the back? Easy answer (the roof is far too high for the team to reach).

Question: What jack are you going to use?
Another easy answer: (and I quote) "The OEM jack can't lift this vehicle when fully loaded so I have a hydraulic after-market jack". True, this jack can lift more than 2T, more than sufficient for this task!

Jacking: The Correct jacking point for this vehicle is under the chassis rail. Will the jack extend far enough to lift the wheel off of the ground from here? Sure, if the jack extends for 450mm, or more. Not too many 2T bottle jacks can do this!! What next? Given the jacks available, there weren't too many options and after much discussion we agreed to use the outer part of the "wishbone". This is OK, but on the first attempt, the jack did slip reinforcing the fancy box below!!!!

DANGER (that is worse than CAUTION or WARNING)
NEVER GET UNDER A VEHICLE SUPPORTED BY ONLY A JACK

Lesson: Make sure your jack options allow you to change any wheel in conditions less suitable than your carport/garage floor.

Tools: More than one jack; shovel, jack plate.
Silly me, should also mention a wheel brace that **YOU** know will allow you to undo the wheel nuts after the last person used a 300lb gorilla to "torque" up your wheel nuts

[Pete]



This jack (the red thing) doesn't look very big!

However, it is more than OK to lift this vehicle about 4" (110mm max)

Flat tyre (80 mm) + chassis travel (say 300 mm) is **WAY** more than the jack extension; going to need a Plan "B"

Photography:
Christine Rounsewell



Digging in soft sand is easy. Try this on rock!!

Morals from this event:

- Make sure your equipment is up to the task
- Don't wait till you get "stuck" to test your options. Come along to training days and try this in the comfort of a "friendly" environment.

LAST PAGE – THE FUNNIES - ENJOY!

Wouldn't life be great if:

Stickers always peel off cleanly
The toilet paper roll is never empty at the wrong time.
The battery is always full at the right time.
Video pop up ads did not exist.
The other sock never goes missing.
The weather reader is always right.
Someone always has a pen.

Clever Signs. Good copywriting.

A sign in a shoe repair store: We will heel you, We will save your sole, We will even dye for you.
Sign over a Gynaecologist's Office: "Dr Jones, at your cervix.";
In a Podiatrist's office: "Time wounds all heels.";
At an Optometrist's Office: "If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place.";
On a Plumber's truck: "We repair what your husband fixed.";
On another Plumber's truck: "Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber.";
At a Tyre Shop: "Invite us to your next blowout.";
On an Electrician's truck: "Let us remove your shorts.";
In a Non-smoking Area: "If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and will take appropriate action.";
On a Maternity Room door : "Push. Push. Push.";
At a Car Dealership: "The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment.";
Outside a Muffler Shop: "No appointment necessary. We hear you coming.";
In a Veterinarian's waiting room: "Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!";
A sign outside a shop; "Push. If that doesn't work...Pull. If that doesn't work...We must be closed."
Outside a pub; "Today's offer: Buy any 2 Drinks and pay for them both."
Outside a Library; "Library is closed until opening time."
At the Electric Company: "We would be delighted if you send in your payment on time. However, if you don't, YOU will be de-lighted.";
In a Restaurant window: "Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up."
In the front yard of a Funeral Home: "Drive carefully. We'll wait.";
Beside a computer; "Every time you make a typo, the errorists win"
Outside an Ice cream shop; "I Scream, You Scream, The Police Come, It's Awkward."
In a Radiator Shop: "Best place in town to take a leak.";
Sign on the back of Septic Tank Truck: "Caution - This Truck is full of Political Promises"
On another Septic Tank Truck: "Yesterday's Meals on Wheels"
