

April 2007

# Bulldust

Newsletter of the River City 4WD Club Inc.



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Club Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed of every month at 7:30pm, in the QAFWDC Hall, 90 Muriel Ave. Moorooka

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## Editor's Comments

So who took up the offer of 15% off at Anaconda on the 20<sup>th</sup> March? Considering there is talk of trying to get them on board as supporters of the club, I hope Helen and I weren't the only ones who put in a show. Anyway, we walked away very happy with our purchase and was given a very good deal, as promised.

*I hope you all have had time to consider the options Kermie brought in to show us at the last meeting, relating to new club shirts. The blue, red and white option seemed to be popular. He says they come in all sizes from small people to extra extra big people.*

*Looks like the intention is to get a number of sponsors to subsidise the majority of the cost of the shirts and in turn we will get their business insignia embroidered on them. Kermie has already approached a few businesses, who have showed interest. I for one certainly am looking forward to seeing the finished product and sooner rather than later. Well done Kermie for taking the lead with this.*

*The best news is that they are made from a very cool and breathable fabric. No more sweating while recovering the fourby.*

So who went to the Annual 4x4 show? I was intending on going on the Friday, but Helen shocked me when she said "I might like to go this time". I picked my jaw up off the floor and we went on the Saturday.

OK so it was 3 shows in one, but the 4x4 component faded into insignificance, compared with the Tinnie and Tackle Show. Boats, boats and heaps more boats. If you were in

the market for a new boat, then this was the show for you.

Ever since the 4x4 Show that was held at Victoria Park moved to the RNA, it just seems to have got less and less interesting. Unless of course, I'm just losing interest.

There was a few interesting camper trailer designs and the rock crawling demonstration sounded interesting (Helen wouldn't let me watch it), but the rest was pretty disappointing.

The stands were spacious, which some might say was good, but I say were a waste of space. There was no outstanding specials to speak of. The new vehicle dealers made stuff all effort. There was only a sprinkling of vehicles and Holden chose to have soft roaders on display, rather than Hummers. That says it all to me.



Without question the highlight for me, was at the ARB stand. The stand itself was a big yawn, but there was an imported Toyota FJ Cruiser there. Don't really know what it had to do with ARB, but I want one. Looking at the Toyota website, it appears that it is intended to actually go 4WD driving. I just hope they decide to produce a right hand drive version.

*As you'll see in the What's Happening pages, we need some trip leader volunteers. No volunteer to lead the trip and it won't happen.*

*Which doesn't seem to bother too many, as attendance on trips is still pretty abysmal. What do you want to do, if the trips we've organised doesn't appeal? The start of year trips meeting was an open invitation, so everyone has had plenty of opportunity to put their ideas forward.*

*I'm sure I'll get dragged over the coals from our President for saying this, but why are people paying for membership to a club that they don't seem to have any involvement in.*

*I only say this out of my own pure frustration. Our membership numbers have dwindled somewhat, so we want to see as many of the members that we DO STILL HAVE enjoying themselves and coming on the different trips we are organising. Some of you we haven't seen or heard from for well over a year and others we only see once in a blue moon. Come on, what are we doing wrong, or what do we need to do to get people to WANT to join in and tell their friends and colleagues about the club, so our membership of ACTIVE members can start to grow again.*

*It's pretty rough trying to get new members to join the club, when we have so many inactive existing members and such poorly attended trips. I know a simple weekend away is not a cheap thing anymore and with high fuel prices and the general cost of living, people find it hard to make ends meet. WE UNDERSTAND! If this is a big part of the problem, let us know. We can try and tailor our activities and outings to something more in people's budgets. Provided that's the problem. With no feedback, how are we to know what the real issues are.*

John

## Club Contacts

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## What's Happening this Month



### 25<sup>th</sup> April : Anzac Day - Border Ranges Day Drive

**Trip Leader :** Looking for a volunteer

**Meeting :** Wednesday at 9:00am

**Where:** BP, corner Mount Lindesay Hwy & Wearing Rd, North Maclean

I don't believe anyone was forthcoming with volunteering to lead this social day trip. If you are willing to lead it, get onto Adam and let him know. Otherwise make sure you are at the April meeting.

#### Trip Participation Mandatory Requirements :

**Working UHF radio (Ch 28)      Snatch Strap with no fraying      2 x 3.25t rated shackles**  
**Front & rear recovery points      Club sticker (members only)**

- Visitors are welcome to attend trips, for the small fee of \$5/vehicle. The above requirements must still be met.
- The member who introduces the visitor will be responsible for that visitor throughout the trip.
- The trips book must be signed by all adults, whether they are members or visitors.
- The Trip Leader has the right to refuse participation in the trip to anybody not complying with the above.
- The club strongly suggests you have your own first aid kit and fire extinguisher on all trips.



## Labour Day Weekend

**5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> May: Manar 4WD Park – near Proston**

**Trip Organiser :** Volunteer Required

**Meeting Time :** 7:30am

**Meeting Place :** BP Morayfield / Caboolture, the usual one on the highway

I don't believe we have a volunteer for this trip. It's a fair drive to get there, but the club hasn't been there for ages and I'm sure a lot of the current members have never been there before. The driving is pretty good, the camping area is huge (but a bit on the dusty side), there are showers and toilets and unfortunately noisy motorbikes.

## Christmas in June (it gets earlier and earlier every year)

**When :** Queens Birthday Weekend 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> June

**Where :** Stanthorpe – Top Of Town caravan park



As has been done in the past, we're heading down to Stanthorpe for a weekend of wine tasting, olives, chocolates and snuggling up by the fire (yeah right). Guaranteed to be another great weekend away. Probably no 4WD driving though, unless Prado Pete convinces us to go for a day drive into Sundown National Park or maybe the drive out the back of Girraween to Wallangarra.

**Due to deposits being required, you must phone up and make your own bookings**

For details on the Top Of Town, have a look at their website. [www.topoftown.com.au](http://www.topoftown.com.au)

## Trip report – Orme & Sandra's

The day started fairly relaxed, as there was only 2 cars heading out Saturday morning. We got up on time, but ended up leaving home a bit late. The Gesch's even phoned to see where we were.

We were finally on our way in convoy, but not for long. We got from Park Ridge to Beaudesert, before realising we had to stop to pick up supplies for the dessert we were cooking that night. Feeling very guilty about the Gesch's waiting for us in the first place, we told them to continue on and we'll meet them down there.

By about 10:30, or was that 11:30, we had arrived. Don't you hate crossing the border in daylight savings.

We knew where we were going, but the balloons on the letter box were a nice touch. We parked the van and joined the Gesch's and Malt's on the veranda. Coffee and cake was enjoyed as was the friendly and welcoming conversations.

A brief wander around, had us choosing our van site for the weekend. The views were good, the grass was mowed and power was even an option. Orme said we could camp anywhere on their 138 acre property, so we chose to camp on one side of their house and the Gesch's camped on the other. Besides, it was a lot closer to the "veranda café". You just had to look where the sun was, so you knew whether coffee and cake was being served on the front or back veranda.

As the Murray's hadn't arrived yet, we decided to have lunch. We were having a very relaxed time indeed. Orme told us all about looking after Alpacas and pointed out the mobile phone and SES towers

in the distance. He was going to take us for a trip out there to admire the views.

The Murray's arrived and set up their van. Adam got straight into getting the fire going, so that we had lots of coals for our communal camp ovens. Orme had collected a trailer load of old timber. We weren't going to run out, that's for sure.

With the fire well and truly alit, we decided to head into the nearby forestry and take a drive to one of the fire towers. We were treated to a very beautiful stretch of darkened rainforest, before the mountain top clearing where the fire tower was located.

Roger and I made the climb up the ladder to the first platform, but couldn't get any further due to a locked hatch. We then all had turns at climbing the stairs to the rickety joistless redundant timber tower, but only 2 at a time.

The sun was going down, so we headed back to camp to get dinner started. Preparation commenced almost immediately. There was lamb, chicken, steak, corn, carrots, beans, potatoes, sweet potato and best of all dumplings. For those of you who came to Sandy Creek, I dropped the hint that I'd love to have dumplings in my next camp oven. Both Debbie and Jenny had the same idea.

With the camp ovens in the coals, we sat around eating nibbly, chatting and watching the bush fire across the road. It was a controlled burn, that started earlier in the day, but was starting to look a little uncontrolled.

Orme and Sandra's son Paul, had joined us around the fire, with his wife Michelle. Paul and Michelle own a property just down the road from Orme and Sandra's. He

was somewhat concerned about the cattle grazing over the road. He went for a quick drive, but returned with good news that they'd be ok. The rural fire brigade had also arrived, just to make our hilltop viewing more exciting.

Dinner was divine. We were all dumpling'd out. Apple pie and ice-cream was enjoyed, while dessert was prepared and put in the fire. We were having bread and butter pudding in the camp oven.

We didn't stay up too late, which was a bit disappointing. The fire was very pleasant, but the conversation had put Adam to sleep. Between Roger and Adam, I don't know who is the most unsociable.

Jenny, Sandra and Orme adjourned to the back veranda, overlooking our van and I'm sure hoping for some entertainment while we had our camp showers. No such luck.

A good nights sleep was had until 5am, or was that 6am. Orme did warn us that the farmer who owned the cows in the front yard, would be popping in to move them to the yard directly behind our van. Moving the cows wasn't the problem, but the conversation he was having with his colleague was. Sandra assured us she tried to gently persuade him to move down the fence line away from the van, but he just didn't get the hint that we all don't need to get up at that time on a Sunday morning.

Eventually we arose at a more respectable 8am, or was that 9am. We had boring wheat-bix, but everyone else enjoyed leftovers from the night before. Coffee and cake followed and then we decided to head off for a drive to the Telstra mobile tower at Bald Mountain and the SES tower.

We headed into the State Forest again and drove some distance, until we turned off onto a heavily overgrown track. Orme assured us it would get clearer and sure enough, just after crossing the steel and concrete bridge that Telstra had built specifically for maintenance access to the tower (probably cost \$1 million) the track widened. Again we drove through some glorious rainforest and ended up on the side of the mountain where the tower was located.

After enjoying the view, being irritated by the blady grass and having some more morning tea, we headed back into the bush towards the SES tower.

We drove through even more rainforest and came out in an opening where the rather

unexciting SES tower was. There was no views from this spot. We decided to continue on the main track until the end of it, where we were promised views over the Clarence River.

The end of the forestry road became a 4wd track that took us to the edge of a fairly high cliff. Luckily Adam and Debbie had come prepared, as by now we were all rather hungry. We snacked on brie, crackers and dip. All satisfied, we made the journey back to camp.

We packed up our vans, had a coffee and cake and the Gesch's and Murray's said their farewells to Orme and Sandra.

Orme and Michelle took Helen down to the Alpacas, for an animal husbandry lesson and some

photos. We then said our goodbyes and headed for home.

Rolling into Beaudesert, we heard some familiar voices on the radio. Somehow we had managed to catch up with the others. I guess Will had to stop for a drink or two on the way. Due to the late hour, we all agreed to stop at the Jimboomba Tavern for a bite to eat for dinner. It was a good way to end another really good weekend.

John

At least some of us are enjoying the trips being organised by the club. ED

## \$\$\$\$\$ FOR SALE \$\$\$\$\$

**Chescold 3-way fridge** (metal case, not plastic) Works perfectly. Very little use. \$300

**Porta Potti** (Elegance 165) \$40

**4 man Cabin Tent**- Jackaroo brand, canvas \$60

**Gasmate 2 burner gas stove** and stand. Cooker in perfect condition \$30

**Truck-Air air compressor** \$10

**4x 235/75/15 Dunlop Road Grippers** (near new) and 15x7 -6 stud rims \$400

**Rhino Roofrack legs** only, for gutter mount roof, 3 sets, 150mm high \$50

**Fold-up camping table**, all metal hammertone finish, used about twice \$35.

Talk to John Dibble if you're interested in any of these. 0429 428 467

**EvaKool Fridge/Freezer 70L**, replacement value over \$1800. Sell for \$1100. Ph Scott Crawford

**Porta Potti** with chemicals, hardly used \$50 Ph Keira Johnstone 0412 309 683

**Chair Covers**, custom made in polar fleece. Makes your folding camp chair heaps more comfy, especially in winter.

Ph Jenny Gesch 3802 1355

**Honey**, fresh from our own local producers, better GI than processed honey. \$12 for 2 litres.

Ph Wayne or Andrew 3287 3771

## *The Johnny Navara Comedy Corner*

If your pet pussy cat is a funny breakfast eater  
You can try giving him MICEBUBBLES

*The doorbell rings and the lady of the house answers it and discovers a frog sitting there So he asks her for a drink and she returns with a "glass of croak-a-cola".*



## River City Driver Training

Well, we are now up and running, with many thanks to Debbie for her commitment to the Driver Training and acting as the Course Administrator.

### **So who is who in the chook house:**

*Scott Crawford* - qualified Course Coordinator and Assessor (so you need to suck up to him, as he is the one that signs off on the qualifications).

*Debbie Murray* – Course Administrator (the next most important person).

*Adam Murray & Peter Driver* – Trainers (the people that will get you ready for each competency).

### **So how long does the course go for ?**

The course will run over 3 nights and 1 x 2 day weekend.

The 3 nights are made up of the following: 2 nights of theory with OHP data displays and 1 night is hands on under the vehicle at a workshop.

### **So what's the costs:-**

You will be up for \$80 per driver. This covers the cost of the course to the Club. YOU will need to pay on the first night or prior. There will be NO IOU's

You will also be required to pay for the camping fees relating to the weekend away part of the course and of course your petrol/food etc.

### **So what do I get for this price:-**

A comprehensive guide – Drive & Recover a 4 Wheel Drive. This is the Basic Course, so please do not try to take the trainers off in other directions.

The full course that is delivered by us, is the same in principle that is offered by private companies. They usually charge about \$300.00 PLUS for the same course.

### **So what do I need for the course:-**

A good sense of humour

A roadworthy 4 Wheel Drive Vehicle

The required recovery equipment, including first aid kit and vehicle fire extinguisher.

One driver ONLY per vehicle per course is permitted (yes you can bring passengers along, but only one driver per vehicle per course). No passengers are permitted in the vehicles, when you are undertaking each competency for evaluation.

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### **Minutes of the RIVER CITY 4WD CLUB General Meeting – 14/3/2007**

Meeting Opened: 7.30pm  
Visitors: None to speak of  
Apologies: Bob & Jenny, Peter Richens, Shane & Elle  
Minutes Previous Meeting: Moved: Scott Seconded: Andrew  
Correspondence: Moved: Jenny G Seconded: John  
Treasurers Report: Balance as at 31/1/07: \$2,687.07

Raffle: A mystery Toyota pack  
QAWFDC: Nothing to report.  
Trips Completed: Sandy Creek: Adam will never go back there. He doesn't like the attitude of the owner. "Shouldn't own a 4WD Park if you don't want people driving on the tracks". Despite this, it was a wet weekend, with good company.  
Trips Coming Up: Orme & Sandra's Place near the Richmond Range – BYO all your own supplies and toilet/shower facilities.  
Alice on the Clarence River (Easter) – Free camping on Crown land. John expressed his disappointment at the very few names that were in the book.  
DAU: Require names in the book for who is participating. Looking for 10 names for starters.  
TECHNICAL: Nothing to report.  
GENERAL: Jenny G discussed difficulty with finding location for car boot sale. Looks like the club hall at Moorooka will be the go. Needs to confirm how many vehicles can be accommodated for in grounds.  
MEETING CLOSED: 8.10pm

## **DAU Training Weekend (Trial Run) – Levuka**

Well, Deb was crook, so Mum was up here to look after her. The decision was made it was going to be a boys weekend. I decided to take the tent, the Mav, the fridge and not much else. It was funny how when I was packing the car, I kept thinking "hang on, there should be more going in here."

I headed off bright and early Saturday morning and got to Woodenbong around 7.30. I found Kermie there, waiting for the service station to open up so he could have bacon and eggs. It didn't open, so a very disappointed Kermie and myself, headed to Levuka to meet Scott.

Upon arriving at the office, we discovered Robert was away, so he had a caretaker there. We paid our fees, headed down to see Scott and got straight into the paperwork and registering ourselves for the course. After about 3 hours of signing stuff, Scott proceeded to put us through our paces.

We did vehicle inspection and maintenance and after lunch headed off for a drive. Scott rotated between Kermie's and my vehicle, accessing everything we did. A few hours later, we headed back to camp, only to be confronted by the caretaker of the place, requesting help recovering someone from Rosemary's Track.

When we got to Rosemary's, we found a brand spanking new Toyota Hilux, nose down in a creek, with no rear tow point. It was decided the safest thing to do would be to put a tree trunk protector through both spring hangers and winch him out slowly with the Mav. After extracting him and his family, we headed back to camp for dinner.

We had dinner around the fire and planned to get stuck into the grog, as this was a boys weekend. I had brought ½ a carton of beer, a bottle of bourbon and a bottle of white port. I had two beers and promptly went to bed (remind me to thank Kermie for disposing of some of the black label bourbon that I didn't have).

We were up early the next morning, had a bit of brekky and packed up camp, before off again to be put through our paces once more as with this course, you have to do everything twice. We had a bit of a tour around, completed the necessary paperwork, checked with the caretaker (whose name I cannot remember for the life of me) that no one else needed rescuing and then headed off home a bit after lunch.

It's still a mystery to me, why is it when one more adult and two children come along, we take ten times as much gear. All in all, a good weekend. We found the sites we will do the testing on and we should have things down pat for the first training weekend with the club, sometime after Easter, hopefully before the Corroboree.

Adam (DAU Trainer)

Due to available space in this months newsletter, here's the QAFWDC Reps report (boy, they sure do discuss a lot. ED) :

### **QAFWDC THURSDAY 22-MARCH 2007**

**Chairman** – David Pirie

#### **Public Relations**

A petition is being sent around the closure of the beach around Hook Point on Fraser

**General Business**

The universal shackle has been referred to the Office of Fair Trading  
The River City Club is holding a "car boot sale/out of trailer sale" here at the club night hall grounds  
on Sunday 03 June 2007 at \$10 per site

## 5 Month Fridge Calender

	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	
<b>A P R I L</b>							1	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Clarence River / Alice
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	Border Ranges drive
30								
<b>M A Y</b>		1	2	3	4	5	6	Manar near Proston or
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Corroboree / Mackay
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	Kilkivan / Goomeri
	28	29	30	31				
<b>J U N E</b>					1	2	3	
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Xmas in Stanthorpe
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
	25	26	27	28	29	30		
<b>J U L Y</b>							1	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Neurum Ck/ Mt Mee
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31							
<b>A U G U S T</b>			1	2	3	4	5	
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Levuka
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
	27	28	29	30	31			