

July 2007

Bulldust



Newsletter of the River City 4WD Club Inc.

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

Club Contacts

President	Adam Murray	3821 7063	0419 015 534	wada.haulage@bigpond.com
Vice President	Peter Driver	3200 7907	0438 641 030	pbdriver@bigpond.com
Secretary	Kerin Stinear	3879 0161	0419 176 018	dbatkin@bigpond.net.au
Treasurer	Tony Appleton	3341 1893	0406 181 810	hitower@internode.on.net
Trips Co-ordinator	Roger Gesch	3802 1355	0419 644 088	ezzi@bigpond.com.au
Trips Assistant	Bob Cosgrove	5428 2492	0428 580 118	bobjencossie@bigpond.com
QAFWDC Rep	John Osbaldiston	3351 1885	0438 798 226	glendajos@telstra.com
DAU	Scott Crawford	3206 6497	0409 141 737	crawfords@missionaustralia.com.au
Tea Lady	Keira Johnstone		0412 309 683	
Editor	John Dibble	3289 5402	0429 428 467	johnmdibble@bigpond.com

Editorial

Yes it's only July, but let's not leave it to the last minute to get everyone thinking about the AGM next month. That's right, Wednesday 8th of August is the River City 4WD Club Annual General Meeting. The time when you volunteer to help steer the club in the right direction over the next 12 months. The time you feel guilty about being the 80% (the norm. in a club environment), who don't volunteer to organise anything, as they expect someone else will. It's time to stand up and be one of the 20% who take responsibility, get involved and reap the personal benefits and satisfaction of seeing the club grow into the great club it has been in the past.

There was some hints a few months ago, that some of the committee are interested in staying on for another term. And good for them I say.

Others unfortunately, for one reason or another, are unable to or choose not to remain on the committee. It's all voluntary, so whatever effort people have put in, we all should be appreciative of.

Can I just say (of course I can, I'm The Editor), please don't accept a nomination for a position on the committee, unless you are prepared to put in the effort to fulfil the expectations of the role. If you don't know what the expectations are, have a read of the "Committee Positions" printed later in this newsletter. DO NOT get roped into being on the committee in the heat of the AGM, if your heart is not in it. It is not fair on yourself, your family, the committee, or the rest of the membership.

As I've said numerous times over the years, it can be very rewarding. In the current climate of an apparent lack of motivation,

limitations due to financial constraints and slowly dwindling membership numbers, it's going to be a challenge. With the right people on the committee and a committee that works together, there's no reason why the table can't be turned and the club prospers again.

Don't forget, membership renewals were due on 1st July. If you haven't paid by the 1st August, you will be unfinancial. This will mean you are not entitled to vote at the AGM and will likely be removed from the newsletter mailing list.

Also something rather important that's worth mentioning, the club turns 20 on 13th July 2008. Quite a milestone if we make it.

Anyway, enough for this month. I've still got one last editorial to write next month, so I better save something for then.

John

Stanthorpe Trip - Part 1 - Saturday



What a cold, cold day to start our trip down to Stanthorpe. Not terribly unusual though, it is always cold when we go to Stanthorpe. We unbelievably these days, were on time. But still had to get some yummy Macca's breakfast. We were waiting for Roger and Jenny anyway cos they had to put their pussies into the cattery. We left our mongrels at home to guard the house, and hoped to hell that they would be there when we got back cos we have a few holes in our fences. Not to worry though, they were still there. Anyway, back to the story.

Roger and Jenny turned up, so along with the Osbaldiston's we headed off to the best destination in all of Queensland, for some very much anticipated wine tasting. It was a fairly run of the mill trip down, stopping at Warwick for a quick cuppa and pit stop. Couldn't go past the big frog without saying hello. Good to say too, that they have upgraded their facilities there also. We arrived at Stanthorpe, Top of the Town Caravan Park around midday, and found our site and set up. Adam got a bee in his bonnet and had to go into town to find some more of those square mats for the outside area in the annexe for the kiddies. It was raining, so we put it up so the kids would have somewhere to play. Boy was it cold. Jenny *aka* Mrs Bucket was



anxious to hit the frog and toad and go wine tasting, so as soon as Adam got back, we hopped in our cars and went to the first Winery on the itinerary. At this point I should like to say a very big thank you to Kerin for organising the trip, we had a great time and it was very well plotted out. It was unfortunate that your car was in for servicing and that you weren't well. So off we went and started at Old Caves, had a few little drinkies there, and made a few purchases, and off we went to Suttons Juice

Factory. This place has the best apple juice around, and it is very difficult *not* to spend a lot of money here. We bought a miscellaneous box of six juices, and a bottle of apple jelly. This mixed with some balsamic vinegar, brown sugar, and a dribble of olive oil, makes a fantastic marinade for pork... Yummy!!! Over to the other side of the road and to Vincenzo's was the next stop on the agenda. Abbey and I had lots of fun tasting the cheeses they have in there, and bought one called Ambrosia. Very unusual flavour, will be nice with one of my counter, popping in and out saying hello word she can say. Not that anyone thought she was cute anyway. Next we liqueurs galore. I would like to mention the tasting of wines, liqueurs, ports etc as I have been popping out and feeding babies.



wines. Abbey helped the lady behind the and running down her rendition of every understood most of what she said, but they went to Castle Glen, where there are that the last few years I have missed out on

Well, no longer!!! So I made the most of this weekend and had lots of drinkies. Sad to say too, that I don't think that Mrs Bucket really lived up to her name or reputation. Must be getting old Mrs Bucket!!! Castle Glen is a fabulous looking old Castle, where they actually used to serve lunches and dinners, but due to the lack of patronage, have had to close down that side of things. They have a lovely area where you can sit and ponder in front of the roaring log fire.



Anyway, we made a few purchases here, and headed off to more wineries, Robert Channon Wines and Boireann Winery, both of which I hadn't been to before, but both of which I made purchases at. We headed off back to camp after this, only to be interrupted on the UHF by another frog. Yep you got it, Kermie with Lauren and Megan in tow had made it. The night before their wheel had fallen off the car after having just left, so it was to be that they missed Saturday's events, but the best was still to come (Rumbulara of course!!). We cleaned ourselves up a bit and headed up to the bistro for a dinner of



Pumpkin soup, Roast Pork and veggies and salads, and home made Apple Pie, custard and Ice cream. All for \$20. I thought it was great value, the roast was succulent, the apple pie delicious, and the soup, well I didn't have any but it looked nice anyway. It was a little hot in the bistro, and a little crowded, but hey, it was good anyway (except for those screaming bloody kids! Who brought them anyway?) Adam and I headed off

to put the grubs to bed, we'd had enough, and actually hit the sack ourselves. It was a great first day of our Stanthorpe trip, as it always is, but bloody cold. Maybe we could do the wineries in spring next year?



Debbie Murray

Stanthorpe Trip – Part 2 – Sunday

Day 2 started after a really cold night, but thanks to electric heaters and blankets, we all survived. All bar Kermie's car, it needed a tow as it is quite obviously a warm weather vehicle.

We had a fairly big day ahead of us, so we got going around 9 'ish to our first port of call, The Markets in the Mountains. Even at that hour of the day, it was no problem to sample some of their most delicious cream and fruit liqueurs, just one of the many reasons for going there! They are really good markets with plenty of quality items. Before leaving, it was time to have morning tea and feed the children, small and large, so as to travel on contented.

The Lucas Estate was next, nice proprietors, nice paintings and frames, but I wasn't that fussed in the wines, but some were. On to the next which was Ridgehill Estate, we actually went to this one last year. They have a very nice white musquat and other good wines.

Kermie played a classic joke on Lauren at this one. While Lauren had slipped outside for something, the rest of us were making purchases and each bottle of liqueur was being put in a woven reed bag. When Lauren returned, Kermie had put Lauren's wine in a paper bag and told her that the proprietor was upset with her, as she had been rude to him! She was ALMOST speechless, so Kermie played it along a bit longer, I'm sure Lauren felt like jumping the bar to deck this bloke by the look on her face. With that, Kermie pulled the grass bag from behind his back, then it was Kermie she wanted to deck. Good one Kermi, don't forget to bring your fines money to the next meeting.

Travelling right along we arrived at Mt Stirling Olives next. It was rather nice to have something savoury to try for a change, and besides olives don't make my face glow so red! They had a really nice new relish called the Maharajahs something or other and blow me down, I forget to include it in my armful of goodies, never mind will have to get some next time.

Mountainview wines were a little disappointing, as a few of us would like to have tried their white sparkling wine, plus a red which had a very inviting description, but they were both their prize wines and not offered for sampling. So thanks very much for the view and the loo, see ya later!

Rumbalara was next on the agenda; lunch was planned for here as they now do the most fantastic cheese baskets! Ask Adam and Debbie. We ventured in and were amazed by the great renovations to the place. There was a bus load of visitors in at that time, so it was very noisy and jovial, a great atmosphere, and as always we were remembered by the owners. They are a great couple, and obviously doing extremely well.

We tasted, ordered and purchased and all ended up out in the garden area under some shady trees to eat lunch. Noice! These are definitely some of our favourite wines, as some might have noticed. While we were kicking back a little, Megan kept Abbey amused playing chasey, peek a boo or something like it, you know those games that keep little people very happy. Megan was starting to chomp at the bit a little; she was anxious we would not get to the Heavenly Chocolate cottage before it closed, so we did the right thing, loaded up the cars and got moving on to the next place which was the Bramble Patch.

This place is also going through a reno job, but theirs is not complete yet, shame really as it has lost some of the cosiness about it. They have replaced the timber benches with more modern ones and moved the fire away to the centre wall in the shop. Oh well that's progress, the berry products still taste as good and the waffles, pies and ice-creams are just as delicious! So the larder is stocked up again with some nice coulissssss and relishes.

Just thinking back to the tasting, John, Glenda and myself were tasting some of the new relish's, and naturally comparing notes, I then tried the lime and whatever relish, WOW did that wipe the grin off my face or what? Got John to try some, HA! He had to grab for a spoon of jam at speed, Sorry Mate!

Just a bit of trivia! The Bramble Patch were featured on a garden show on Briz 31 last year, they were very excited about the product in their troughs that they grow the strawberries in, it is Radiata pine sawdust, and they were very impressed with the success of the crops.

Back in the vehicles and off to the chocolate place, or so we thought! This is where Lee, Roger's GPS had his second nervous breakdown for the day, at this stage he was threatened with a quick trip out the window. 'Fool of a thing'. No worries we didn't need him anyway we knew where the Wisteria Cottage was. Megan was a happy girl then! So were a few others. We made our selections, and set off back to the camp via the Storm King dam.

It was a nice drive through the beautiful boulders of Girraween National Park. On arrival at the dam we were not surprised to see the little amount of water in the dam, probably about half the capacity to normal. They are also suffering really badly from the drought.

We arrived back at the park late afternoon in time to have a bit of relaxation, and some even snoozed before going to dinner at the local RSL. A nice dinner was had by all then back to camp for chit chats with some and bed for others.

I think I can speak for all of us when I say that we had a great weekend, so many thanks go to Kerin for organising the three days of absolute indulgence. Don't let anything break down or stop you from coming next time; we missed you all very much.

Jenny Gesch

Stanthorpe Trip – Part 3 - Monday

We awoke to a fine sunny day that was completely different to that we found on arrival on Saturday. That day was miserable (to say the least) with fine drizzle, rain, wind and just cold. We later found out that it was only 4 degrees (that was at midday) but what do you expect in Stanthorpe in June.

We did lots of things on Saturday and Sunday and after much chatter on the CB it was decided that we would each take a day to write the trip report for one of the days. So Glenda and I chose this day or was it just given to us and Monday it was and so here it is.

At sunrise it was beautiful and after a nice walk to the park lookout (pity about the trees that blocked the view) we returned to find the others in various stages of movement and activity (Adam cooking sausages and bacon).

Once again Kermie's mighty Patrol did not want to fire into life, so with the help of the other mighty Patrol (Glenda's) all was well once again.

On our Saturday adventure we visited Vincenzo's store and because I only had bought some little cheese I had the urge for some more so we stopped there while Roger and Jenny returned to Castle Glen Liquor Place (they have some funny looking sheep) to exchange some bottle of stuff, whilst waiting for the Murray's to join us.

The plan was to head home via Toowoomba (getting lost in the place is an optional extra for the Os's) however we had learnt from a reliable source that a huge country antique auction was being held at Allora (Glenda said I could not go, but she would slow down as we speed past) and also by going this way and doing a detour into a place called Nobby, we could visit 'Steele Rudds Pub'.

The "Rudd Pub" as it is called, puts on a mighty feed with the option of having a tall story teller (or Bush Poet) delivering them whilst you are eating of which, we accepted. The resident story teller kept us amused with many yarns all of which were amazing and enjoyable to say the least.

After a few drinks and full bellies we did a wander around the town (it took at least 5 minutes to walk the main street) and I discovered at the old railway station that if you needed to weigh something up to 45 tonnes you only needed to call a lady called Sue (she is the weigh bridge master) or if she was not around Cheryl could help out.

Roger with the help of Lee (this is the name of his not so trusty GPS) suggested that we do not go as far as Toowoomba but to drop down over the range via Heffer Creek, which we all agreed would be a nicer drive

(Glenda and I were pleased that we did not run the chance of getting lost in Toowoomba once again as always happens).

We cruised along mostly downhill through pleasant scenery (Roger and Adam liked the old machinery that was lying around) and nice little towns like Ma Ma Creek and finally we rejoined the main road just to the west of Gatton.

After much chatter on the CB and dealing with much heavy traffic, we said our thanks to everyone for a most enjoyable trip with good activities and visits to places of enjoyment and most of all being in the company of the best of people.

As promised (but they can be broken) I did not bring any jokes with me, but I did hear these two whilst down on the New England tableland :

*If Billy Thorpe had a son called Stanley – would he be simply be called Mr Stanthorpe ?
Did you hear about the reformed thief ? He simply took something for it.*

So once again, a BIG THANKS to all that went along.

Glenda & John Patrol (we changed our name for this weekend)
AKA GP & JP (formally Mr and Mrs Navara alias John & Glenda Os)

Just some of the Fines from the Queen's Birthday Weekend (submitted by Jenny)

Johnny Navara – driving without lights on in bad weather, bad lad !

Roger – swearing at passing by motorist that looked so damn miserable.

Kermie – for losing a wheel off his vehicle the day he was supposed to leave.

Johnny Navara – for a few lousy jokes, where do you get them from ? We suggest you change your brand of cereal.

Kermie – teasing Lauren at the wine tasting.

Kermie – needing a tow each morning.

Roger – for exiting out of the Bramble Patch through the entrance.

Adam gets a credit for breaking my camp chair arm.

Johnny Navara gets a credit for the kleptomaniac joke.

The Johnny Navara Comedy Corner

What do you get if 100 strawberries try to go through the same doorway at once.....Strawberry Jam

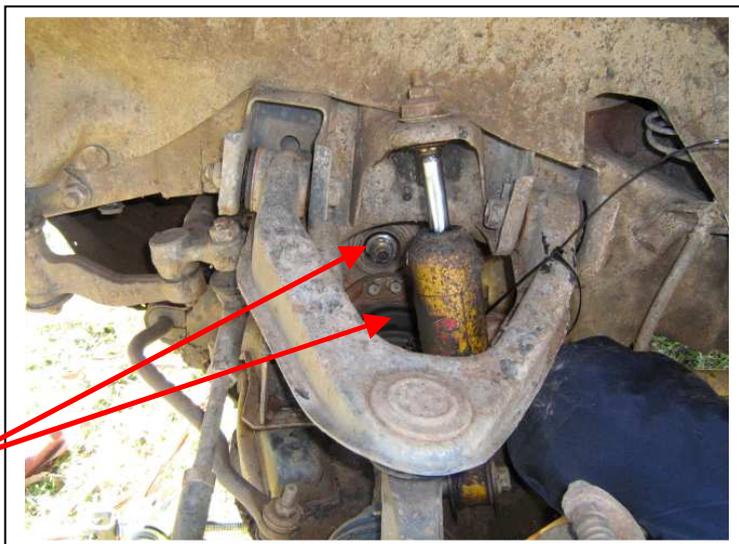
What town in England always has bad foodIt is Oldham

A young knight wanted to improve his skillsSo he enrolled in Knight school

Yes that is a cable tie holding together this 4WD's front end.

On the first Driver Awareness Unit competency weekend at Levuka, the Navara of Johnny Navara finally threw in the towel. After numerous thumps, crunches, creaks and groans over many trips, the Navara broke a front driveshaft on a hill, after performing a recovery keystack reverse descent.

This is supposed to be joined to this



What's Happening this Month

Where: Neurum Creek Bush Camping / 4WDDriving Mt Mee State Forest

When: 14th & 15th July

Meeting Place: BP Caboolture/Morayfield. The big one on the highway heading North.

Meeting Time: 8:15 am Saturday 14th

Trip Leader: John Dibble 0429 428 467

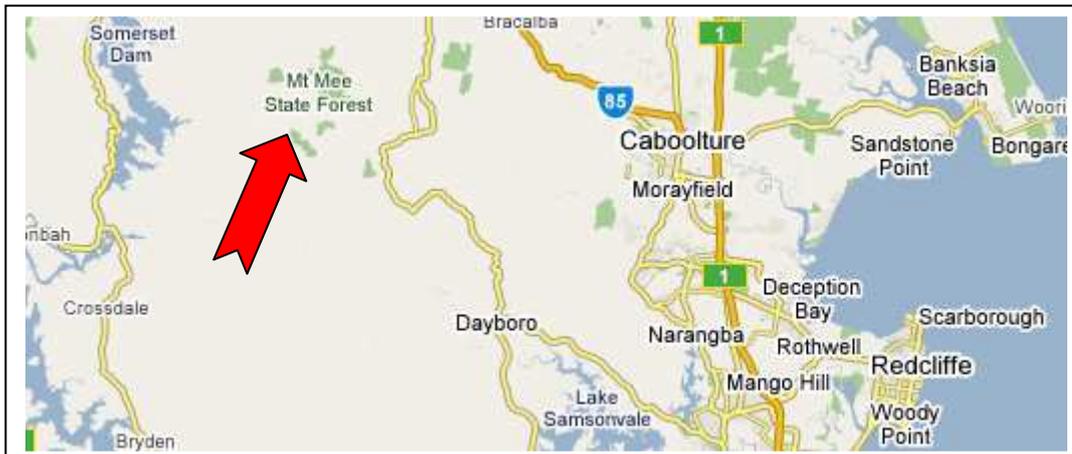
Cost per night: \$26 per family (2 adults & 2-3 children), \$8.50 per adult, \$5 per child, \$2.50 per dog, \$5 for power. There is a single charge of \$7 per site, on top of all this for the first night only.

Note: *The clincher is, to make a reservation ahead of time, you have to book 2 nights. If you only want to pay for Saturday night, they will only take bookings the day before and then you risk not getting a site.*

Neurum Creek is a private camping ground a short drive from Woodford, only about 45mins from the meeting place at Caboolture. There is power for those who want it, flushing toilets, hot showers and plenty of shade (not that you'll probably want it in the middle of winter). We had our Christmas party here, the year before last.

Mt Mee State Forest is 10 minutes away and the intention is to certainly do some exploring over the weekend. This side of Mt Mee is new to me as I haven't done any driving in there, so don't know what to expect. If we get lost too often, I am quite familiar with the other side of the Forest and we can head over there very easily.

For those who want to go up Friday, that's not a problem. It's certainly close enough to leave after work and get up there at a reasonable hour. Of course you will be up for an extra nights fees as per the above mentioned costs.



Trip Participation Mandatory Requirements :

Working UHF radio (Ch 28)

Front & rear recovery points

Snatch Strap with no fraying

Club sticker (members only)

2 x 3.25t rated shackles

- Visitors are welcome to attend trips, for a 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.

Minutes of the RIVER CITY 4WD CLUB General Meeting – 13/6/2007

Meeting Opened: 7:30 pm
Visitors: Derek and Lynlee
Apologies: Kermie, Syd, Toni, Scott
Minutes Previous Meeting: Moved: Kerin Accepted: Debbie Seconded: Anthony
Correspondence: FWD Qld renewal, receipts for hall hire, post-corroboree news, member survey, permit applications, certificate of insurance, network news 4WD radio, Canberra holiday book.
Moved: Kerin Accepted: Debbie Seconded: Johnny
Treasurers Report: None presented, but somewhere around \$1500
Moved: Adam Accepted: Elle Seconded: Darren
Raffle: ARB Recovery Bag valued at \$75 (provided by Outback Jack's for only \$40)
QAWFDC: Letter of thanks from the Mackay Club, to all those who attended the Corroboree.
Trips Completed: Corroboree : had a ball, beautiful place, 40mins inland. Lots of day drives. A bit of 4wd driving. No 4WD parks up there. All 4wd driving is 4-6 hrs away. Deb & Adam had a great time. Checked out heaps of campers, trailers, vehicles etc. One camper trailer cost \$76k- had a shower and toilet but only 2 berth. Came home via the 'pipeline' track towing the van. Emerald, Monto, 1770.
Car Boot Sale : a little disappointing regarding attendance, but was still pretty good.
Stanthorpe : Debbie stocked up enough wine for the next year. It sleeted on Saturday with a max of 6 degrees. Lots of fines were collected.
Trips Coming Up: 14th & 15th July – Neurum Creek & Mt Mee, John and Helen
11th & 12th August – Levuka, Adam and Debbie
DAU: 1st course Mon 18th-theory, Tues 19th-ARB Capalaba, Wed 27th-theory, 30th/1st-Practical
GENERAL: Bennie commented that the last minutes were inaccurate, as he did have spare tyres in Mackay and went on every trip. The Blackie's had a huge trip to NT. Ellie will pass on her diary for details. Big thanks to Rog & Jenny for organizing the car boot sale and Johnny for the softdrinks.
MEETING CLOSED: 8:10 pm

A massive thanks to Abbey Grace, for once again drawing my number out of the hat to win the monthly raffle. You're a little champion. When you can converse with me in a way I can understand you, I'm going to get you to pick me out some Gold Lotto numbers.

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

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

Membership renewal fees were due as of 1st July
The club still only charges \$50 for a 12 month renewal !!

Did you know that when the club first started back in 1988, it charged \$30 for membership. That averages out to only a \$1 rise per year. We've gotta be the cheapest club around.

Committee Position Expectations

Management Committee

President : Other than the obvious, chairing monthly meetings of course, you are expected to oversee the general running of the club. You do hold one of the three main committee positions, but are really the numero uno when it comes to making or breaking the club. (How does that make our past President's feel?) Yes it is the position of the most responsibility, but there is still forgiveness, as all positions are voluntary and you aren't expected to achieve everything yourself. The committee under you must pull their weight. But again, it does really fall on you to ensure this happens.

Vice President: Another very important position on the committee. You need to work closely with the President to assist them in achieving their requirements. Many hands make light work. Traditionally the Vice President does very little, except for maybe fill in for the President at a General Meeting, when they can't attend. This however is not really all the Vice President should be doing. It's up to the President to do a bit of delegating and make some use of their Vice. The Vice President must be prepared to assist the President wherever possible and this could be just as a sounding board for some new ideas.

Treasurer: This position rounds up the top 3 mandatory management positions, that must be filled as per the Club's Constitution. The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining "the books" recording all the incoming and outgoing finances for the club. You must present at each meeting, or at least on-forward in your absence, a brief report on the income, expenditure and balance for the last month. Fortunately the rules have changed regarding auditing of the books, so you're off the hooks with this requirement.

General Committee

Secretary: Another position that must be filled, but strangely does not form one of the 3 mandatory positions, is the Secretary. The Secretary is unique, in that it doesn't have to be filled by a member of the club. Work that one out. Anyway, you're expected to empty out the post office box located at Archerfield and present the contents to the club at the General Meeting. You are also responsible for distributing and responding to any correspondence that requires actioning. Taking minutes of all club meetings and providing a copy to the Newsletter Editor on time, is also an expectation of this role.

4WD Association Representative: The Association of 4WD Clubs in Qld, meet every 3rd Thursday of the month at Moorooka. Each club is required to send a representative to these meetings to be involved in what is happening at a State and National level, that can directly impact our club members. This can range from issues such as access to areas for 4WD driving, community assistance programs, insurance, government regulations and so on. Our Association Representative is expected to provide the means of communication between our club and the State Association, consisting of representatives from all other associated clubs.

Trips Co-ordinator: Without a trips Co-ordinator, how boring would the club be. After all, trips is what it's all about. You're expected to ensure we have a 12 month calendar full of trips and activities. You DO NOT have to lead each trip or actually go on each trip, but you must ensure we have trips organised and a committed Trip Leader. Usually you will arrange a Trips Meeting as soon as practical after your election. At this meeting, those in attendance can put ideas forward and a 12 month schedule can be put in place. Hopefully you'll get Trip leader commitments as well. If not, at least you know what you have to chase up. You will also need to ensure that appropriate trip details get sent to the editor for publishing in the newsletter and on some occasions may need to follow up with organising forestry permits where required.

Trips Assistant: You're there to assist the Trips Co-ordinator in whatever way they need your assistance. They may request that you organise some social activities, or possibly delegate the permit side of things to you. Your specific role, what you have to offer and ideas you have, needs to be discussed with the co-ordinator.

Newsletter Editor: You're expected to produce a monthly newsletter, that fills everyone in on what's going on in the club. The newsletter is possibly the most important means of communication to the members, as it gets distributed to every member, where as not everyone can make the monthly meetings. There is no specific requirement regarding the format of the newsletter, so the editor can essentially present it in whatever way they choose. You'll soon learn from the more vocal members what is and isn't preferred. The current format I

believe is close to the bare minimum (with most of the “padding” removed). In years gone by the newsletter has been at times twice the size, it all depends on the content you have to publish or what gets submitted. Only 3 current members still insist on being sent printed copies. Over time we have tried to totally eliminate this option, as quite frankly it is a pain in the bum. To be able to fill the role of Newsletter Editor, you simply need access to a computer with a Word Processor, a PDF conversion program (plenty of free trial ones on the internet) and an email account.

Tea Lady: Not really an official committee position, but for the sake of sanity, it is good to get the commitment from someone at the AGM that they will fill this position. Your responsibility is to ensure that we have tea, coffee milk, nibbles, clean cups etc, at each General Meeting. Just see how grumpy people are, when no supper is provided. And don't worry, you don't have to pay for anything yourself. As long as you keep your receipts to present to the Treasurer, you will be reimbursed. If you can't make it to a meeting however, you are expected to ensure someone else will fill your shoes.

QAFWDC Meeting Thursday 28th June 2007

Club General Business

The Toyota Landcruiser Club of Qld is hosting the Corroboree for 2008 on the May long weekend, possibly in the area around Pomona.

CARE

All of the issues raised at the meeting have now been taken on board and are part of the ongoing discussions with the powers to be.

The permit system is under ongoing discussions.

The permit issuing has now been transferred from Toowoomba back to Brisbane.

FWD Training

Qld (our Scotty C) hosted a national meeting here in Brisbane and Qld had the best package around.

Promotions

The Qld Assn has received an award for the Fraser Island clean-up.

Hall

A new urn has been obtained for the users of the hall.

National Council

The Canning Stock Route permit system has a problem but it will be fixed soon.

General Business

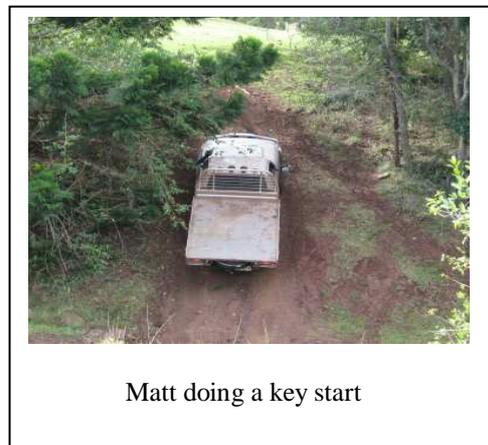
Hook Point on Fraser is still open because the signs have not been erected because they cannot afford them, or the rangers time to erect them. So we can still drive around.

Driver Awareness Unit – Course 1 Completion

Participants Report

It's been a long time coming, in fact I can remember it being talked about on and off for well over 5 years. Although very impressed with the way it's finally got off the ground (a very deserved pat on the back to Scott Crawford and our own dedicated team of volunteers, Deb, Adam and Kermie), I have to admit I was a bit sceptical as to the true value of the course. After all, many of us have been in the club and offroad driving for well over 10 years. The talk of needing the certificate in the future to be able to go driving anywhere, just sounds like scare tactics to me, that will never eventuate. But that's just my personal view.

The first night of theory went through the specifics of what makes a 4WD a 4WD. It involved a basic explanation of the main components under your truck and how it works to get you where you want to go. This included topics such as the structural differences between a 2WD and 4WD, driving characteristics, free wheeling hubs, tyres, diffs, transfer cases and of course the Four O'clock



Matt doing a key start

Track.. Don't know what that is, why don't you ask David about his returning to camp late on Saturday afternoon, on the competency weekend at Levuka.



Syd displaying his mud driving skills

The workshop night at Outback Jack's Capalaba, was all about getting under a 4WD and being able to identify all those components we talked about on the first theory night. John's Patrol was on the hoist for this session. It was good to get the opportunity to have a good look around, without being flat on your back. Adam took us through all the under bonnet bits. At the end of the night, most of us took advantage of the store discount John offered and picked up a few items.

The second theory night was all about driving techniques. We discussed different terrain that you're likely to encounter, trip preparation and planning, hill descents, key starts, basic recovery equipment and of course how to use your recovery gear effectively and safely.

The final part of the course was the competency weekend, where it was all about demonstrating you were able to drive and recover a 4WD, plan for minimal environmental impact, participate in an outdoor activity, carry out vehicle inspections and maintenance.

We started the weekend setting up camp and demonstrating our consideration towards others and the environment. We changed a flat while the vehicle was parked on a slope. We demonstrated our knowledge of our own vehicles and pre-trip checks we'd perform. Heading out towards the playground, we demonstrated our ability to drive in convoy and traverse varying terrain including mud, water, rocks and deep ruts. In the playground we performed ascent and descent key starts and snatch strap recoveries, with each of us having a go at being the recovery vehicle, being recovered and being a third party taking control of the recovery exercise.

The second day was straight into more convoy procedures, driving more varying terrain, more snatch strap recoveries, more key starts and demonstrating safe use of recovery equipment.

I've got to say, after actually doing the course, it is well structured, well organised and presented, has good content and well worth while everyone doing. I stand by my views expressed at the last committee meeting, that I think everyone wanting to participate in an offroad club activity, should do the course. We all can learn from this course and make our trips safer, more enjoyable and promote environmental awareness.

John

2 Month Fridge Calender

	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	
JULY							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						
AUGUST			1	2	3	4	5	AGM
	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			
	13	14	15	16	17			