

October 2006

# 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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## *Presidents Report*

Well, it's been an interesting month. We had a couple of mix-ups, but we also had some good trips.

The first mix up was The Spings 4x4 Park trip. If you are a trip leader, please make sure your mobile number is on the sheet, not your wife's or your son's or daughter's number. You are the one we want to get in contact with.

If you are on that trip, make sure you have the trip leader's phone number. If you can't make the trip, ring the trip leader, not the President or any other committee member.

Take it for granted that the trip is on, unless you hear otherwise from the trip leader. If you are attending a trip and your name is not in the book, please ring the trip leader to confirm you are coming – in case the trip is cancelled or delayed or otherwise, so you can be contacted in advance and not left waiting at the meeting site if cancelled.

The DAU is slowly happening and hopefully this year it will be up and running.

The Christmas party is just around the corner. Where has this year gone? It sounds like a great venue and it will be well worth attending. There will be a deposit required for those attending. The amount is yet to be decided. This year, because we have had cancellations in the

past and because the club is subsidising the cost of dinner, if you do not attend and have confirmed you are coming by way of deposit, you will be liable to pay the club back the difference. We cannot afford to pay for those not attending, and we can't expect the venue to absorb the cost when they prepare the food and put on extra staff to cater for us.

The Eumundi Markets / Mothar Mountain trip was good fun, although John is in Jenny Gesch's bad books – see trip report!!

Hope to see more vehicles on the Kenilworth trip, there's some good 4wding around there!!!

Prez Adam

## Club Contacts

<b>President</b>	Adam Murray	3821 7063	0419 015 534	<a href="mailto:landy2@optusnet.com.au">landy2@optusnet.com.au</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Peter Richens	3273 6269	0427 600 181	<a href="mailto:prichens@inet.com.au">prichens@inet.com.au</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Kerin Stinear	3879 0161	0419 176 018	<a href="mailto:dbatkin@bigpond.net.au">dbatkin@bigpond.net.au</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tony Appleton	3341 1893	0406 181 810	<a href="mailto:hitower@internode.on.net">hitower@internode.on.net</a>
<b>Trips Co-ordinator</b>	Roger Gesch	3802 1355	0419 644 088	<a href="mailto:ezzi@bigpond.com.au">ezzi@bigpond.com.au</a>
<b>Trips Assistant</b>	Bob Cosgrove	5428 2492	0428 580 118	<a href="mailto:bojencossie@bigpond.com">bojencossie@bigpond.com</a>
<b>QAFWDC Rep</b>	John Osbaldiston	3351 1885	0438 798 226	<a href="mailto:glendajos@telstra.com">glendajos@telstra.com</a>
<b>DAU</b>	Scott Crawford	3206 6497	0409 141 737	<a href="mailto:fwdpatrol@villagenet.net.au">fwdpatrol@villagenet.net.au</a>
<b>Tea Lady</b>	Keira Johnstone		0412 309 683	
<b>Editor</b>	John Dibble	3289 5402	0429 428 467	<a href="mailto:johnmdibble@bigpond.com">johnmdibble@bigpond.com</a>

**Individual Forestry Permits** : despite rumours that it is getting harder and harder to get access to State Forests for recreational 4WD driving, the fact is it is still very easy and straight forward to obtain an individual permit to traverse. These are free of charge and valid for 12 months or when your rego next expires. They are obtainable from the EPA in Ann St the city and permits for the Kenilworth/Gympie areas can be obtained through this office as well.

### *The Johnny Navara Comedy Corner*

*Can a shotgun wedding also be called a case of wife or death ?*

# What's Happening this Month



## Trip Participation Mandatory Requirements

- Working UHF radio
- 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.

## 14, 15 October : Kenilworth SF / Showgrounds

**Trip Leader:** Roger & Jenny Gesch 0419 644 088

**Cost :** \$8 per site per night

**Meeting time and place :** There is no official Saturday convoy, as those who are camping are going up Friday night. Contact Roger or Jenny if you are going and are not in the book.

**4WD Level:** Bit of everything. Mainly easy but some very challenging.

Our recently converted (to the caravan owners club) intended trip leader, Scotty Crawford, can't make it this weekend. Thankyou to Roger & Jenny for stepping up to the Trip Leader role.

Due to the apparent hassles involved in organising pre-booked group camping permits, we will be staying at the Kenilworth Showgrounds instead. Makes it handy if anyone wants to go to the pub for dinner, one of the cafes for breakfast and the cheese factory for lunch. Oh and of course, it's only a few k's from the State Forest.

## 29 October (Sunday) : Duck Creek Rd to O'Reilly's / Cruise Day

**Trip Leader:** Roger & Jenny Gesch 0419 644 088

**Meeting time and place :** 8am - BP Servo, Cnr Wearing & Baudesert Rd, North Maclean.

**4WD Level :** Real easy, just a winding dirt road up a hill..

When heading to the meeting point, WATCH OUT FOR THE CAMERA CAR!

We will travel up Duck Creek Rd to the lookout and have morning tea. There are walks to go on once we arrive at O'Reilly's, so bring comfy shoes. Lunch can be bought at the cafe up there, or bring your own if you please, as there are areas to have a picnic. In the afternoon we can travel down the other road to Canungra, have a look at the tunnel, have an ice cream and wander on home if nothing else can be thought of. Bring morning tea with you. Lunch can be bought up there, or brought along.

## Plan Ahead

**11, 12 November – Crystalvale :** close enough for a day drive, but also a nice place to stay the night. Situated just over the border into NSW, near Chillingham.

## Trip report – The Springs have Sprung

I arrived at the meeting place early, as all good leaders should and after some time, Peter Prado (formerly Peter Pajero) arrived with number one son as passenger. As we were the only ones meeting there, we exchanged pleasantries and headed off. We decided on a comfort stop at the big CALTEX, outside Warwick. After a feed, we headed off and after much tree watching, we came across the entrance to The Springs Park.

I introduced myself to TONI, who I had been speaking to earlier in the week and we did the necessary paperwork and she filled us in on the condition of the tracks. So all fired up with eagerness, we headed off and me not doing the correct leader thing, I let Peter P lead off.

We soon came across the first obstacle in the campground. Some unthinking mob had pitched their tent right across the track. After some more map reading and much chatter over the CB, we headed off again. After much up-hilling, sideways driving, tight squeezing, we found a bog hole (we have seen and driven better) and after some

more uphill and downhill, we arrived at a nice view at the top of Bold Knob.

Also for Kenny C the Sunshine Jeep Club were their in force. As a side note, they are keen as mustard, as one of them had driven all the way from Caloundra without a spare, after he had a blow out. Also, there must have been a Wrangler of every colour and they were everywhere.

After a couple of hours of bush cruisin' we (both Peter and I) decided it was time for lunch and after much more map examination and CB chatter, we found our way back to the campground and detouring around that mob who had their tent in the middle of the road.

We were happily having a feed, when Anthony S, wife Jo and their two little fellas, cruised in. We exchanged greetings and when we all had finished lunch, we headed off to find some more tracks.

It sort of happened, but we all took turns in leading and each time during your turn, we at least once managed to find a track that stopped in a dead end. Anthony takes the prize, as his track ended at a cliff face, while mine ended in a clearing and Peter's

ended in a gully with no see-able way out.

Not wishing to leave Anthony and Jo with a clean vehicle, we found the bog holes again, while junior Prado played the photographer. After much more dust (no mud) we found our way back to the campground from a different Direction, to avoid that camper. We sat around for a while to give our bones a rest from the bumps and found another loop track leading back to the office.

We returned to do the leaving paperwork and thanked both Toni and Ian for having a great park and the thought in how it is set up. All of us agreed that it was a great day out, but a shame it is such a long drive from Brisbane.

The only thing that kept us on our toes while driving up and coming home, were the number of speed cameras. They were everywhere. Even on the downside of the gap. But it was a good day and a place that is worth a return visit and I personally cannot wait

Regards Johnny Os (aka Johnny Navara)

## 🌀 Club Christmas Party 🌀

**If you intend going, we require commitments from members in the form of a \$10 deposit per adult and \$5 deposit per child. Please pay this deposit at the October meeting.**

When : 2 & 3 December 2006  
Where : Crows Nest Caravan Park

We will be dining at the parks licensed restaurant on a 3 course meal. Soup, garlic bread, 3x roast meats, lots of veges, salads, home made bread, plum pudding, pavlova, ice-cream cakes, tea, coffee etc etc. \$22 per head.

Van sites are \$16 double. Dogs are permitted. Cabins are available, but you need to book these yourself. If you phone to book a cabin, let them know you are with the club. Ph 4698 1269

The club Christmas Party is always an excellent weekend, with most members participating.

Please be considerate to the organisers and get your names in the trips book and pay your deposit.

### Minutes of the RIVER CITY 4WD CLUB General Meeting – 13/9/2006

Meeting Opened: 7.36pm  
 Visitors: New member: John Sainty  
 Apologies: Ken Campbell, Scott Crawford, Debbie Murray, Jenny Cosgrove, Shane & Elle  
 Minutes of previous meeting: Moved: Bennie Prange Seconded: Bob Cosgrove  
 Correspondence Report: Moved: Darren Batkin Seconded: Roger Gesch  
 Raffle prize for tonight: Tubeless Repair Kit  
 Treasurer's Report: Moved: Sonja Cowell Seconded: Bob Cosgrove  
 Trips Completed: Cityview – 4 people were there. Kermie was parked at rear of the service station, everyone else met at the front and left without Kermie. It has been suggested that in future just prior to a trip an email is sent out to attending members with contact numbers of the people on the trip. Phone contact must be made by members not attending, and a courtesy call to members who are “no show” or running late is requested to ensure they don't miss out. The trip leader/contact person to carry a handheld radio so can be contacted whilst inside service station etc.  
 Fines: Nil  
 Trips Coming Up: THE SPRINGS – Adam travelling up for the day if anyone wishes to join him.  
 EUMUNDI DAY DRIVE – 30<sup>th</sup> September. Bob Cosgrove to lead. Meeting at BP MORAYFIELD.  
 John Dibble has suggested we do some 4wd and try and find “Mothar Mountain” so bring the 4wd not a sedan.  
 KENILWORTH – 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> October. Staying in showgrounds. Hot showers & approx. \$8 per night.  
 CHRISTMAS at Crows Nest Caravan Park. 2-3<sup>rd</sup> December. Christmas dinner @ \$22 per head, numbers and deposit from members due by next meeting (October). \$10 per adult \$5 per child. The club is subsidising MEMBERS ONLY on their Christmas meal. Further details to come  
 DAU: Debbie Murray has volunteered to do the administrative work as they were under the impression that Kermie did not wish to perform these duties. Kermie said that was not correct. Kermie & Adam will not be trainers.  
 General Business: Congrats to Debbie & Adam on the birth of WILLIAM JAMES born at 2.39am today weighing 6'12oz. ▪ NEW CLUB MEMBERS: JOHN SAINTY ▪ Bob has replaced the mudflap on the cruiser – AGAIN ▪ PERMITS take approx 4 weeks & an application fee of \$22.90 now applies for every application ▪ Kermie & Andrew appeared on 4WD TV and did a great job of representing the club. ▪ Andrew has contacted Jeff Chase & asked for information to be forwarded about the Fraser Island Cleanup. ▪ Kermie has approached 4WD TV about coming along to the Fraser Island Cleanup & other trips. ▪ Last months meeting we were informed that Audits were no longer required for small clubs. This information is incorrect. At this current time it is a proposal only. Audits must still be completed yearly. ▪ Peter Richens has suggested we collate a “new members pack” to try and improve memberships. Including Bulldust, photo's and information on the club. ▪ Pajero Pete is now Prado Pete – 2002 turbo diesel ▪ Hummer is dead! A 350 chev is going in after the hummer died on the way to the Gympie Muster. ▪ Adam has suggested if anyone is interested in doing a bit of bushwalking (as he has done in previous trips whilst we drove) then speak up !  
 Meeting closed: 8.20pm

### RIVER CITY 4WD CLUB – Treasurer's Report 13/9/2006

Balance Carried Forward as at 01/08/06		3392.37
Income:	Memberships	150.00
	Raffle Proceeds	53.00
	Interest	.40
		203.40
		3595.77
Expenditure:	Postage	2.00
	Hall Hire	20.00
	Stationery	13.95
	Excursions – Progressive Dinner/Rally	161.50
	Pizza – AGM	75.40
	Repairs – Hall Cupboard	5.45
	Tea Money	12.00
		290.00
		3305.47
Add:	Unpresented Cheques	
	10173	20.00
	10175	52.17
		72.17
		3377.64
Less:	Undeposited Income	191.00
Balance as per Statement 31/8/06		\$ 3186.64

## Club Noticeboard

***Congratulations to Debbie and Adam on the birth of their baby boy, William James Murray. Born 2:39am 13<sup>th</sup> September 2006. Weighing 6lb 13oz and measuring 51cm. Head size 32.4 cm (so why do people measure the head ?) thanks for the info Grandpa Bob.***

**Welcome to the club our newest members John & Vicki Sainty, who drive a Terracan. Some of you may remember John & Vicki from our previous visit to the Springs.**

***Andrew's finally killed his original MK/MQ (whatever) motor. The "Claytons" Hummer is to receive a 350 Chev and 4-speed auto.***

**Peter Pajero is no longer with us. He is now to be known as Prado Pete. The Pajero has gone where all unwell Pajeros end up (at the vehicle wholesalers). The Prado is an '02 Turbo Diesel.**

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

**Wheels & Tyres**, 235/75/15 Dunlop SP Road Grippers. Two brand new, two done approx. 5000km. Fitted to 6 stud 15x7 white sunraysia rims. All less than 18 months old. Set of 4. \$400  
Ph John Dibble 0429 428 467

**Trailer hubs/electric brake drums**, Melb Axle Sales. 6 stud, includes brand new big 80mmOD inner bearings and 60mmOD outers. Hubs were on van for less than 18 months. New \$600 Sell \$300  
Ph John Dibble 0429 428 467

**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 Backyard Mechanic

Driving to work the other day in the neglected Mazda Astina, radio on (but not pumpin'), I heard a strange hissing noise. I looked around as the lights turned green, turned the radio off and wound my window down to see whose car the noise was coming from. You wouldn't believe it, it was mine.

I glanced at the temperature gauge "bugger", that's not good. It was right up there with my recently filled fuel gauge. As you do when you're in peak hour traffic, I headed for the nearest side street and shut the engine down.

By now a little steam started to emerge from around the edge of the bonnet. I glanced underneath, expecting to see water dripping out of a busted radiator tank. I had only replaced the radiator hoses about 6 months ago, so didn't expect it to be them.

Not seeing any drips, I popped the bonnet and with an old rag over the

radiator cap, slowly removed it to release the pressure from the radiator. Getting a bucket of water from a nearby tyre shop, I proceeded to top up the radiator.

I turned the key and it fired up. Still with the bonnet open, I looked around for anything obvious. Keeping an eye on the temperature gauge, it suddenly dawned on me that the thermo fan had not kicked in. I fiddled with connectors and checked the fuses and relays. Nothing was obvious.

I managed to get to work and home again (in fact for another 3 days), until the weekend came around. I checked voltages at various places and did not seem to be lacking 12v. I removed the cover off a solenoid which feeds the fan, hoping it might be just dirty contacts. There was a burnt looking contact, so I gave it a clean with some fine wet and dry.

Manually operating the solenoid and measuring voltage at the connector to the thermo fan, 12v

was present, however the fan still did not operate. This gave me the impression I had a stuffed fan. I started the engine and watched the temperature gauge start to rise. I left the cover off the fan solenoid, hoping I would see it operate, which would confirm everything was working fine up to the fan.

The temperature gauge went up and up, but the solenoid didn't operate. This indicated that maybe the temperature sensor for the thermo fan was stuffed. Starting to scratch my head, I was wondering what I had missed. I re-checked the voltages at the solenoid with the car running. There was 12v across the coil. When I measured this with the car off, there was still 12v. Shouldn't the thermo temperature switch be open circuit with the engine off and the water cold? It didn't matter whether the car was on or off, the voltages stayed the same at the solenoid.

I removed the connector at the end of the thermo switch, mounted in the thermostat housing. The plastic

end being very brittle, broke off in my fingers, of course. Whether it's faulty or not, looks like I need a new one of those.

I connected the fan straight to the battery. Nothing. That's gotta prove the fan is stuffed. I removed it from the car so I could try and get one that looked the same. I decided to hook it up to 12v again. Bugger me, it spun into action. Disconnecting the battery and then re-connecting it again, the fan started spinning. Hmmm, I must have had a bad connection when I connected it straight to the battery while in its installed position.

I put it back into place, connected up 12v and it wouldn't work. So, I took it out again. This time I held it up vertically (as if it was installed into position), as opposed to lying it flat on the ground. Hooked up 12v and it wouldn't work. Lay it down flat and it did work. Slowly tilt it towards being vertical and it stopped. Definitely a fan problem.

Ignoring the workshop manual and advice from a mate, I discovered that I could actually pull the fan motor apart. It was full of carbon from the 13 year old brushes. I gave it a good clean up and put it

back together. This time it fired up horizontally and vertically first time every time.

I tested its operation installed back in the car and then payed Mazda a visit. I handed over \$125 for a new temperature sensor switch (\$120 from Repco, \$40 for a 13 year old one from a wrecker, not available from Super Cheap) and gave everything a good test. Works like a charm. Shame I haven't had as much luck with the washing machine. But that's another story.

## **QAFWDC Meeting - Thursday 28 September**

### **CARE**

The road into Sundown National Park at Stanthorpe is now the subject of much discussion between EPA, National Parks & the Local Shire Council and it all concerns the maintenance of it.

### **DRIVER AWARENESS**

A Power Point Presentation is now available and the QAFWDC Hall and technical equipment is available for use if needed but a small fee is involved

### **HALL Committee**

A key register is required and all club members who hold them need to contact the association

### **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

A new trading name is being investigated

### **AGM**

Our own Scott Crawford has been re-elected as the QLD President of the QAFWDC

## **A few closing words from the Editor**

I must take advantage of the fact that I haven't received a trip report for the Eumundi/Mothar Mountain day drive yet and defend myself from the scathing remarks and blatant lies you will hear/read about this day. Let's set the record straight.

- **FACT:** I did not sabotage Bob's day trip. I simply made the offer of the Mothar Mountain drive if he had nothing else planned for the arvo.
- **FACT:** It was only a few of the women who didn't want to go to Mothar Mountain and what sort of men would we be if we let them dictate to us. After all, we did take them to the markets.
- **FACT :** Despite half the group siding with Jenny Gesch and blatantly lying to my face (some of you I'll never forgive), they did make it to the ginger factory before closing time.
- **FACT:** It's true, I do hate ginger anyway.
- **FACT:** Despite the grumbles from Jenny G, I had an excellent day, both at the markets and in the State Forest.
- **FACT:** I don't always have to get my own way, but I do prefer it that way.

On a more serious note (aren't I always), Bob & Jenny, Helen & myself and Julianne, will be heading off on our 4 week Murrumbidgee / Murray River trip later this month. I intend putting the newsletter together while I'm away and hope it reaches you all on time. To achieve this, I need to request that the minutes, trip reports and any other submissions for the newsletter be submitted to me no later than Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October, otherwise I can't guarantee their inclusion in the November Bulldust. I would really prefer them ASAP after the associated event, but who am I kidding. If you don't get your November Bulldust for some reason, I apologise now and will sort it out on my return. We intend getting back on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November, so will miss the General Meeting and the Crystalvale trip.

As already mentioned a few times, make sure you pay your deposit for the Christmas Trip at the October meeting. If you can't make it to the meeting, notify Jenny Gesch of your intentions, so we can ensure a booking is made for you. Don't miss out on this weekend, it will be lots of fun for everyone, a good chance for newer members to meet everyone and shouldn't be too expensive if the club is to partially subsidise the weekend.

John