

November 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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## ☞ Club Christmas Party update ☛

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

Sites at the Crows Nest Caravan Park, have been booked for those people with their names in the Trips Book and who have paid the required deposit.

If you indicated that you wanted to stay in an onsite cabin, you needed to make your own booking, by phoning the park on 4698 1269.

Some people will be going up Friday. If you choose to do this as well, you do not need to phone the van park to book the extra night for the van sites.

The club will be subsidising the balance of the evening meal on Saturday, so you will only have to pay for your drinks.

## 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@iinet.com.au">prichens@iinet.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>         |

### ***The Johnny Navara Comedy Corner***

*What do these 4 all have in common : Winnie The Poo, Billy The Kid, Alexander The Great, Attila The Hun ?*

*They all have the same middle name.*

*Did you hear about the frog with a broken leg?*

*He's now feeling UNHOPPY.*

# What's Happening this Month

Trip Participation Mandatory Requirements :

**Working UHF radio**  
**2 x 3.25t rated shackles**  
**Club sticker (members only)**

**Snatch Strap with no fraying**  
**Front & rear recovery points**

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.

## 11, 12 November : McCalman's Crystalvale

**Trip Leader:** Adam Murray 0419 015 534

**Cost :** Approx \$20-\$25 per vehicle per day

**Meeting time and place :** 7.00am BP Yatala. Left hand side of the highway, heading South.

**4WD Level:** Bit of everything.

Crystalvale is situated West of Murwillumbah, off the Murwillumbah/Numinbah Rd, near Springbrook Mountain. Being close enough for a day trip and for those wanting to spend a weekend, the camping area is pleasant enough, with hot showers (dollar coin) and flushing toilets. Indications at the October meeting, are that most intend just going for the day drive on Saturday. Contact the Trip Leader for further detail, or if you are going and your name is not in the trips book.

## 2, 3 December : Club Christmas Party – Crows Nest

**Organisers :** Roger & Jenny Gesch 3802 1355 or 0408 644 277

**Cost :** Camping fees and some fuel. As you've all paid your deposit and the club is subsidising the remaining cost of the dinner, you might just need some drinking money.

**Meeting time and place :** 8:00am Chalk St, Redbank Plains. Chalk St is signposted and is off Ipswich Rd.

**4WD Level :** None expected, but likely to be some dirt road driving.

If you haven't got your name in the book or paid your deposit and wanted to go, you'd better ring Jenny G right now and plead and beg for her to forgive you. You've all had plenty of notice.

## 9 December (Saturday) : BBQ / DVD night at the Blacker's

**Co-ordinator :** Jenny Gesch 3802 1355 or 0408 644 277

**Time :** From 4pm

**Where:** Shane & Elle Blacker's – 104 Silvereye Cres, Greenbank. Ph 3200 1553

**BYO :** Drinks, a chair, favourite 4x4 / camping /club related DVD and of course your party spirit.

The club will be providing nibbles, meat, salads, bread rolls etc. A massive thanks to the Blacker's for offering their house. They've got a great entertaining area and are always good hosts. It will be nice to catch up with them again too.

## Plan Ahead

**26<sup>th</sup> December to 1<sup>st</sup> January : Glenn Innes :** a great place to be around this time of the year. It's normally (but not always), a few degrees cooler than Brisbane. Plenty of things to see and do in the area. Wineries, fossicking, forestry drives, strawberry ice-creams, gemstone jewellery for the wife, general touring around the sites, dining out, or just lazing about.

**Trip report –  
Eumundi Markets &  
Mothar Mountain**

The morning started as most mornings on a trip do, the late comers (*us*) straggle in, then want something to eat, holding everyone up. Well, you know, we were hungry. And, we have 2 kids to worry about now making us even later than usual. It was a lovely sunny day, perfect for the beach, or say the *Eumundi Markets*. We headed off, Roger and Jenny leading the way, with Kerrin and Darren in the car for company. Little did I know, we had Kiara with us in the car, she is such a quiet little thing, till I turned around and saw her sitting between Will and Abbey. I would like to say a big thanks to her at this stage for keeping Abbey company and keeping the dummy in Will's mouth when he started bellowing. We arrived up at Eumundi to find it totally packed, parking was at a premium. We paid the token \$3 to get in and found ourselves right down the back of some paddock, far, far away. But

that was ok. The morning was fun with lots to see, and by lunch time, most of us still hadn't seen as much as we wanted to see, so decided after lunch to head back out and do some more marketeering. These markets are huge, and they have so many interesting things that you really do need nearly all day to see it all. So after lunch, it was decided after much debate to go to for a drive up to Mothar Mountain. The day had been organised so that we go to Montville and the Ginger Factory afterwards, but John had offered to do a bit of a drive seeing as though we were up that way. The general consensus prior to going to the markets had been not to do the drive, but after being at the markets most of the day, the consensus turned around and we went for the drive. Jenny was eager to get to the Ginger Factory as she had promised her Mother/In Law some ginger. John said it was only going to be a half hour drive!!!! Ha!!! That was the longest half hour drive I have ever been on. Anyway, it was a lovely drive, and I am glad we went on it just for a change, as I have not been out 4wding for the longest time.

Anyway, we reached our destination, had a drink and some afternoon tea, and then Jenny and Crew, and Anthony and Family and Kermie's mob headed back down the mountain to try to reach the Ginger Factory in time. Well, my little man was hungry, so we waited for a while then headed off too. We met up with the rest of the Gang at the Ginger Factory only to be told by them that they didn't make it in time and that Jenny was ropeable. (*spelling?*) Well, John was in the #\$\$%, until a couple of little birdies let it slip (*by the merchandise they had purchased in the shop*) that they had actually made it in, though it was a mad scramble to get the things they wanted before the doors were closed on them and the lights were turned out.

Some of the gang then headed off, but the rest came back to Bob and Jenny's for the typical after trip "letshavabarbie". it was a most pleasant way to end an already excellent day, thanks to those for organising it.

Deb

**Minutes of the RIVER CITY 4WD CLUB General Meeting – 11/10/2006**

Meeting Opened: 7.34pm  
 Visitors: David, who drives a Patrol and is a friend of Kermie  
 Apologies: Bob & Jenny Cosgrove  
 Minutes of previous meeting: Moved: Bennie Prange    Seconded: Kim Cowell  
 Correspondence Report: Moved: Debbie Murray    Seconded: Kim Cowell  
 Treasurer's Report: Moved: Scott Crawford    Seconded: Kermie  
 Raffle prize for tonight: DVD Outback Challenge 2005  
 4WDQLD: Meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2006-10-12  
 The road into Sundown National Prk at Stanthorpe is now the subject of much discussion between EPA, National Parks & Local Shire Council concerning the maintenance of it.  
 DAU: A power point presentation is now available and the QAWFDC Hall & technical equipment is available for use – a small fee is payable.  
 HALL COMMITTEE: a Key register is required – all club members who hold them need to contact the assoc. Adam Murray has key C9 & Keira Johnstone has key C5.  
 NATIONAL ASSOC.: a new trading name is being investigated.  
 Trips Completed: EUMUNDI – Everyone enjoyed the markets very much (specially John & Helen). 6 carloads went. Not everyone enjoyed Mothar Mountain and no Montville. Those who got to the ginger factory enjoyed the "supermarket 60 second dash"  
 Fines: John – sabotaging the Eumundi market trip & for no club sticker on vehicle.  
 Jenny & Roger – not following club protocol and waiting for rest of convoy.  
 Trips Coming Up: KENILWORTH – cancelled due to lack of attendance.  
 DUCK CREEK – 29<sup>th</sup> October – not a hard drive, some steep bits. Should be a great day.  
 CHRISTMAS at Crows Nest Caravan Park. 2-3<sup>rd</sup> December. Deposits paid for Christmas dinner . Those staying in Cabins have to book and pay themselves, those who have paid their meal deposit and have requested a camp site will be booked for. IF YOU DO NOT TURN UP YOU WILL STILL HAVE TO PAY THE FEE. .  
 CRYSTALVALE: 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. Adam definitely going. 7am BP Yatala.

DAU: Power point almost completed. Books need to be ordered and a \$ decided on. The first session will be for around 5 people to form the initial "group".

Technical Advice: CASTROL RX SUPER DIESEL - \$115 from Supercheap \$92 from Richlands, Cheap also at Qld Diesel Spares. Mack trucks have Bulldog oil. Scott said some 3L have to use a specific oil, so check your service manual.

General Business: John Sainty is organising a speaker from Opposite Lock – thankyou!  
Andrew, Adam & Scott have stuff for sale – check out the "for sale section"

Meeting Closed: 8:10pm

## **The following is a recent "independent" response to an enquiry on aftermarket suspensions :**

Hi Kermie, thanks for the email.

In regard to suspension...that is easy. In no way do we support something just because we are sponsored and whilst many people do think that it is actually quite insulting. In almost every case we have taken on sponsors because we have used their products as well as their competitors and we firmly believe that they are better. To prove this we have actually knocked back big dollar deals with many companies because we could not put our name or our reputation behind their product.

We knocked back TJM and waited for ARB, we knocked back Engel for Waeco, we said no to Cooper tyres, etc. We also know through a variety of industry sources what the engineers of OME think of EFS...and it is not good, because in many cases they wish that OME was as good as EFS. OME were always very expensive and they knocked the other brands because they came from overseas. Well, when the OME engineers started telling management that they needed to make their leaf packs as good as EFS...what do you think happened. They introduced DAKAR...a cheap imported range. Also once the old top engineer left (retired recently) the younger engineers at OME started to change the leaf design to catch up to EFS. The prices of OME also came down as they no longer use Aussie suppliers for all of their gear.

Don't get me wrong OME is an excellent suspension, but just as I ran EFS before the TV show, we now have EFS on all of our 3 vehicles and love it. Like all of the other products I put my name to...EFS is something that I trust and believe in. We have used it, compared it and seen the pros and the cons and we will be sticking with EFS. If we didn't think so highly of EFS, we would replace it...we do have dollar offers on the table waiting for OME, Ridepro and Iron man.

Furthermore EFS have done more to support 4wd driving in this country, than any other supplier through their sponsorship of race and charity vehicles. In fact they have chosen to continue putting dollars into race vehicles when they could have put that money into well needed ads. People like Al Tierney and Norm Walters would not have been able to compete at all this year without the support of EFS.

All is not perfect though and don't get EFS/enforcer which is the budget/commercial range. Get the EFS Elite.

Cheers,

Name withheld (just in case they didn't want this printed)



*Andrew has located someone who custom makes rock sliders at very reasonable prices. Currently he makes them for GQ/GU Patrols, but will make them for anything. He also is developing rear bars for GQ Patrols with or without the lower rear quarter panels removed.*

Can anyone add fuel to the rumour that the Snelson's have purchased a new full-size caravan? Some say it's a Boroma. Some say it's a Coromal. I'm yet to hear it is a Bushtracker or a Kedron ATV.

## \$\$\$\$\$ 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

**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.

### If you love me, you'd do it !!

With our pending annual trip fast approaching, it was time to start doing those last minute jobs that should have been started on our return from the last trip, 12 months ago.

Still being relatively new to the caravan owners scene, a little bit of customising along the way is inevitable.

I have trouble coping without a morning shower and "she" insists on a shower before bed. Thank goodness for single beds. I can get away without a shower every night. It's my stinky bed and I'll sleep in it.

A shower in the van is a creature comfort that one day we'd love to have. Travelling out West in winter, as we prefer to do, tends to get a bit chilly at night. Especially scurrying from the shower enclosure to the van, wrapped only in a towel. The few times our wonderful friends have let us use their in van showers, always makes us say "Ooohh wouldn't that be nice".

Last year we purchased a Coleman Instant Hot Water Heater and it is a

brilliant little device. I know most of the shower hot water heaters around, cost close to the same \$300-\$500, but we opted for the Coleman just on personal preference and the "lifetime warranty". I liked how everything is contained in the one easily carried and very mobile unit.

The downside is the water pressure is pretty pathetic, thanks to a small 6v pump and the filling of the 23litre water container, which the pump is designed to screw into.

Yes you can always use a bucket and drop the pump into it, but then you're talking only a 9 litre bucket and having to fiddle with the pump so it doesn't tip upside down when the water gets low and start to suck air. The designated water container is better and holds enough water for 3 comfortable showers.

We've thrown around the idea of putting in another water tank, solely for the shower, but with less than 2 weeks before our trip, I said "maybe for next years trip".

Well that was it, out came the "It'd really be good for this trip", "even if you just put in a water tank and no plumbing", "what else do you have to do anyway". I don't think "she" said that last comment really.

Fortunately I had an RDO owing. Off to CAMEC for that joyous shopping adventure. Great range of stuff, but service on par with Bunnings. Staff wandering around or in groups chatting, while customers are left moving from one shelf to the other trying to find where the stuff they are looking for is located. At least at Camec, when it's time to pay, they're quick to serve you then. Unlike at Bunnings, where there are 10 checkouts and only one open and you line up for 30mins to pay.

I didn't go there without a plan. The only problem is, when you get there and see what else is available, you start to change your mind and come up with other ideas for a solution. Then it starts to get all confusing and a headache develops.

A couple of hours later, I walked out of there a few hundred dollars poorer. I could have bought a perfectly good \$90 tank, but decided the \$200 tank was a better option. The Camel Group tanks are what we used on our camper trailer and know that they can handle a good pounding from rocks, without needing a stone shield. I also like that you bolt the tank straight to the chassis and don't have to use strapping, which unless tight,

allows the tank to slide around when near empty.

The next job was to head off to the local steel supplier, to buy some 75x50 angle to attach to the van chassis. With everything under control (or so I thought), I headed home.

The weekend came around as quick as usual. It was time to knock this project over. After all this was the last weekend before we headed off. Plenty of time....NOT !!

I removed the underslung 2<sup>nd</sup> spare off the van. This no longer being required, since I converted the van over to the same size wheels and stud pattern as the 'Cruiser.

The tank fitted snugly, as planned, over the spare wheel winch, which was welded in place. Be blown if I was going to attack it with a grinder in one weekend. More of an oxy job anyway and I probably would have ended up with a hole in the floor.

Cutting 5mm angle with a 4" grinder was the next challenge. I'm surprised the Ryobi was up to it. The first length slid in place just like it was meant to. The second one was a bit fiddly, as the chassis cross-members were closer together and the angle had to slot over another piece of angle. After a bit of butchering and some bashing with a hammer, it also fell into place.

With the water tank bolted up to the angle iron and minor adjustments to the positioning of the angle iron on the chassis rails done, I could bolt the angle to the chassis. It was now time to do the plumbing.

Other than being time consuming and awkward sliding around on my back, the plumbing came together fairly quickly. I just wished I had started this project with the van on the concrete and being able to use the floor trolley. I also would have been less likely to be bitten by a green ant, if I was on the concrete.

Of course some fine tuning was required, in that when I bought the

push-on connectors and blue polyurethane water hose from Camec, the helpful mature aged gentleman didn't bother to enlighten me that I would need a handful of the hard little plastic inserts for the cut ends of the water pipe.

It was now Saturday afternoon and I couldn't test everything out, without these little things (I'm sure Bob knows what they're called). Off to Jayco at Tingalpa, as I knew they were open until 3pm on a Saturday and I don't think Camec were open at all. \$4 later and \$5 worth of Gateway Bridge tolls, I was heading home for the big test.

With all the pipes neatly run under the van (by my standards anyway) and the newly acquired push-on connectors hooked up, I then discovered I was missing a couple more fittings. With the weekend now over, I only had an hour in the mornings free for the next week, to get things purchased and working.

Not wanting to drive all the way to Camec at Coopers Plains, or Jayco at Tingalpa, I decided to try Arrow at Virginia. At least it was on my side of town and sort of on my way to work.

Nice friendly staff, probably a good place to take your van for any repair jobs, but they couldn't supply me with the specific push-on connectors I need. At least they did tell me where I could get these nearby. Tony Purcell Pipes at Robinson Rd Geebung.

My jaw dropped when I walked in here. Pipe fittings by the thousands, in every size, configuration and material. Offering me brass push-on fittings had my eyebrows raised. I know brass is the way to go for under the van (hey Bob).

A couple of years ago we were heading from Noccundra to Tibooburra, when Bob had an airbag hose connector damaged by a rock. While crawling around under the van, we discovered a

plastic water tank fitting had been cracked by the impact from a rock, dumping the contents of his water tank all over the ground. We learn by others unfortunate experiences.

I questioned the cost difference between brass and plastic (as my fittings were going to be inside the van or well out of harms way) and was surprised that there was only a matter of cents difference. Further to the price, the brass ones from a pipe supplier, were actually cheaper than the ones I bought from Camec. I hope you all learn from my unfortunate purchases.

As a diversion from the topic at hand, another little project I have been involved in for our trip, required the use of some cheap chinese pulleys. After purchasing two from Bunnings for over \$7 each, I noticed the identical Chinese pulleys (not in a sealed packet though), at a bolt supplier, for just over \$3 each.

Anyway, with everything connected up at last, it was time for the big test.

On went the pump, out came the water from the newly installed rear tap....and from the hose clamp fittings under the sink, off went the pump, out came the mop-up rag.

A few more turns of the hose clamps to tighten them up and the repeat test looked like everything was up and working.

I've even managed to fix up the pulsating pump problem, where having the sink tap only partially turned on, resulted in the pump cutting in and out. A \$45 pressure tank from Camec (probably only worth \$25), connected in the line from the pump to the sink tap, maintains pressure in the line.

Next month, you might get to hear how it all tested out on the trip.

John