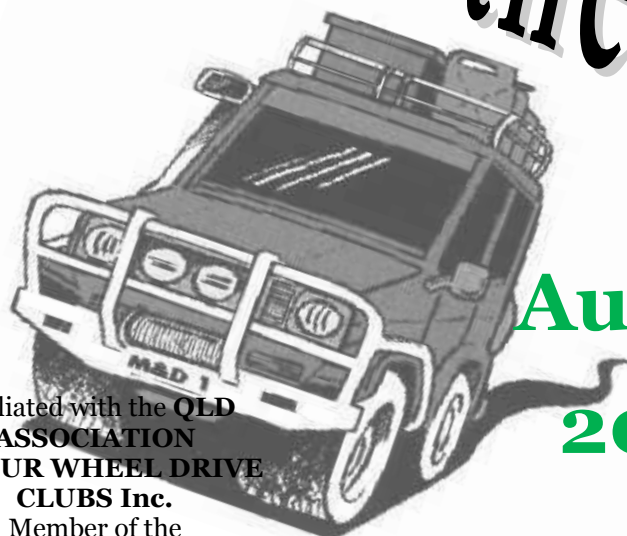


Club Magazine



# Around the Tracks



August  
2010

Affiliated with the QLD  
ASSOCIATION  
of FOUR WHEEL DRIVE  
CLUBS Inc.  
Member of the  
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL  
FOUR WHEEL DRIVE  
COUNCIL

Mackay & District 4WD Club Inc.  
PO Box 3469  
Mackay North Qld 4740

Meetings held  
Second Monday  
of each  
month at  
North Mackay  
Bowls Club

Next meeting  
7.30pm,  
Monday  
13<sup>th</sup> Sept 2010

E-Mail: [enquiry@mackay4wdclub.com](mailto:enquiry@mackay4wdclub.com) Web Site: [www.mackay4wdclub.com](http://www.mackay4wdclub.com)

## Committee Members and Office Bearers 2009-10

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<b>Vice-President</b>	Terry Devery	0428 554115	4942 0280
<b>Secretary</b>	Alan Lovett	0428 719 105	49551513
<b>Treasurer</b>	Fay Devery		4942 0280
<b>Committee Member</b>	Steve Whykes	0407 677 075	4969 6087
<b>Driver Awareness &amp; Environment Off</b>	Paul Whitestyles	0402 576 619	4957 3754
<b>Activities Co-ordinator</b>	Ian McDonald Michael Ward-Grodd	0418 795 607 0447 766 022	4998 5806 4955 2978
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<b>Ass. Editors</b>	Michelle J	4955 2291	<b>Host Person</b> Jeanette VK 4966 8136
<b>Ass. Act. Co-ord.</b>	Michael W-G	4955 2978	<b>Greeter #1</b> Angie Brannan 4955 5305
<b>Insurance Officer</b>	Bruce	4954 6793	<b>Greeter #2</b> Cheryl Oakley 4942 1956
<b>PR Officer</b>	Terry	4942 0280	<b>Ass. Comm. Member</b> Derek VK 4966 8136
<b>QAFWDC Ass Rep #1</b>	David Christensen	0427701362	<b>QAFWDC Ass Rep #2</b> Melissa Christensen 4969 5482
<b>Training Officer #1</b>	Paul W	4957 3754	<b>Web Page editor</b> Sonia +Wendy 4956 4224

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MACKAY & DISTRICT 4WD CLUB Inc. ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS (05-05-04)

ACTIVITIES

- 1) (a) The Trip Leader should remind all drivers before moving off, that convoy procedure should be followed. Participants on trips will obey the Trip Leader's instructions at all times regarding speed, position in convoy, convoy procedure and route to be taken on or off roads and tracks. The Trip Leader's instructions will not be deviated from except in the case of discussion by all members on the trip and a majority vote on the proposed deviation by those members present  
Prior to the start of a trip, the Leader must:
  - i. Arrange suitable rendezvous during the trip at which all vehicles stop. These are based on either time or distance.
  - ii. Inform the driver of the last vehicle that he/she is the last vehicle in the convoy.
  - iii. Check with drivers of vehicles that all basic essential equipment is carried in or on each vehicle. Refer Clauses 4 and 5.
  - iv. Check with drivers that any specially requested equipment is carried in or on vehicles.
- (b) The lead vehicle will stop at any turn-off or intersection at which doubt may exist as to the correct direction. It will wait for the following vehicle before moving off in the correct direction. Each successive vehicle will then wait for the following vehicle before moving off. By this means, all will follow the lead vehicle and a message can also be sent in both directions along the convoy. At other times it is the responsibility of any preceding vehicle to keep the vehicle following in sight.
- (c) No vehicle in convoy will pass another vehicle in convoy without the Trip Leader's instructions, unless under exceptional circumstances, whilst the convoy is moving.
- (d) When travelling in convoy on main roads, the distance between any vehicle should not be less than six (6) vehicle lengths, to assist overtaking traffic.
- (e) Avoid driving too close to the vehicle in front on bush tracks, where ratio changing and braking could be a problem.
- (f) Persons leaving Association convoy or group MUST notify the trip leader and if possible, give details of their intentions.
- 2) No unofficial competitions or displays of "Four wheel driving" shall take place during Association trips without permission of Property Owner and/or Trip Leader. [Refer Clause 1 (a) paragraph 3].
- 3) Vehicles must be registered, maintained and in a good road-worthy condition. The Association reserves the right to demand a Safety Certificate from an authorized Inspection Station designated by the Association, at the Member's expense. All drivers shall hold a current Drivers License.
- 4) Every 4WD vehicle on Association trips and/or 4WD activity must be fitted with front and rear towing points.
- 5) Every 4WD vehicle must carry basic recovery gear and First Aid Kit on Association activities.
- 6) **Permission must be obtained** from property owners before travelling on their property. Permits required MUST BE OBTAINED for Forestry and National Parks.

- 7) No animals will be brought on Association trips.
- 8) Fuel tanks must be filled prior to the departure time of the trip.
- 9) Fire-arms prohibited on all Association trips and activities.
- 10) At Association functions, members are expected to follow verbal instructions and visual signs erected by the organizers. Association members are responsible for their visitors.
- 11) (a) Bushfire regulations shall be obeyed at all times.  
(b) Camp and billy fires must be totally extinguished by water, and/or covered with earth.
- 12) Before breaking camp members will clear the site of all litter and rubbish deposited during their stay, and carry it with them away from the camp area to a designated rubbish dump or receptacle.
- 13) When crossing private property and crown land under lease, gates, clip-rails and property will be left as found, or as instructed by the Trip Leader. Where gates are to be opened/closed, the first vehicle behind the Trip Leader will pull over and open the gate and after the convoy passes this vehicle will close same and fall into convoy in front of Tail End Charlie. This rotation procedure will be repeated for each gate open/closure.
- 14) No member of the Association will at any time knowingly give information of any kind to any person, who is not a member of the Association, which may assist that person to gain access to areas which the Association visits on Association activities where those areas are "off the beaten track", or not general knowledge.
- 15) The wearing of **seatbelts** is mandatory. Riding on vehicle bonnets and tailgates is prohibited.
- 16) (a) Fauna will not be disturbed. Fishing excepted where permitted.  
(b) Flora of any description is not to be removed under any circumstances whilst on Association activities.
- 17) Motorcycles to be excluded from attending Association outings and field days. Property owner has discretionary powers
- 18) No person shall exceed the legal alcohol limit when driving in any Association activity. Nor shall any person consume such alcohol while driving in any Association activity.
- 19) Tracks and roads should not be deviated from. **This is particularly relevant where Parthenium, Giant Rats Tail or other noxious weed is present. Where required by property owner, appropriate vehicle washdown shall take place.** Any damage caused to tracks and roads will be repaired where required and/or where practicable.
- 20) It is mandatory for members of M&D4WDC, if when visiting or traversing official club properties to pursue 4WD activity and on other than a current M&D4WDC event, to register their name and the date in the Activities Book.

ADMINISTRATION

- 1) Any elected Association Member is disallowed from holding the same Official Committee Member position, after having served three consecutive terms of office in that same role.
- 2) The appointed Committee Member term extends to 6 months overall, with the Assistant Committee Member whose term of 3 months is included in the 6 months term assumes voting rights after 3 months when the Committee Member retires and the new Assistant is appointed.

Management Committee



**NORTH JACKLIN**  
New Car Sales, Service & Spare Parts  
All under the same roof, now at  
49 Gordon Street



Whatever your requirements are to fit out your vehicle we at TJM can help



Being four wheel drive enthusiasts ourselves, we know and understand what is required. Many TJM accessories have won national and international awards. Be assured, we can supply the accessories needed to protect your investment and improve its performance, no matter what type of country you drive in.

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## COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

### **MEETING OPENED:**

7.15pm Wednesday 04.08.10 at Steve Johnson's Residence.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Steve Whykes, Steve Johnson, Terry & Fay Devery, Ian Stagg, Ian McDonald, Derek VK, Michael Ward-Grodd, Alan Lovett.

**APOLOGIES:** Nil

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Resolved that the minutes of the previous General Meeting on Monday (12/07/2010), be confirmed as per magazine. Moved by Steve J, Seconded by Alan L, Carried by All.

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:-**

- Proposal for club to purchase a GPS. Steve J to make enquiries into handheld units such as GARMIN to determine ease of use, compatibility with other types etc.
- Updating outings on club website. Des Searle to liaise with Dave C - access to the site for editing.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:** 13/07/2010 to 04/08/2010

#### **Inwards:-**

- 4WD QLD M'ship renewal (to be paid before end Aug).
- 4Wheel Cruisin May / June 2010 mag.
- Traction Action July 2010 mag.
- Mky Land rover club Juny July mag.
- 4WD QLD June 2010 Representatives meeting minutes.
- Burdekin 4WD Club mag.
- TCIS Insurance Cert of Insurance.
- Office of Fair Trading – Association Annual Return..
- Email from Kelvin - Ian MacDonald now trip coordinator contact person.
- Email from Mal Morley - removal from club email list (have left on trip).
- Email from Michael W-G - update contact list.
- Email from Michelle Johnson re handover of contacts list to Secretary / Editor (to discuss).
- Email from trip co coordinators' - upcoming trips.

- Interesting website – [www.outbacktravellaustralia.com.au](http://www.outbacktravellaustralia.com.au)

### **Outwards:**

- Updated contact list to Michael W-G.
- Card to Errol & Desley Younger - arrival of grandchild.
- Membership form to David Clark.

### **TREASURERS REPORT:**

Treasurer read details of report.

Opening Balance	\$ 4424.35
Total deposits	\$ 1122.00
Total withdrawals	\$ -
Bank Acc charges	\$ -
Closing Balance	\$ -

### **ACCOUNTS PASSED FOR PAYMENT**

- 4WD Qld Club Membership - \$806
- 2. July raffle prizes - \$50 to Steve Johnson
- 3. August raffle prizes - \$49.94 to Steve Johnson

Moved by Derek VK, Seconded by Michael W.G, Carried by All.

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT:-**

- Still waiting on bank statements to arrive.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- Maintain / update the club membership list (Terry Devery).
- Driver Awareness books & update of list of members that have done the theory & practical. (Steve Johnson).
- August guest speakers for meeting postponed until the Sept. meeting.
- Club has been receiving numerous enquiries from potential new members.
- Club trips – have started using new form with provision for listing if vehicle has low range.
- Off-road racing event at Retreat Station on weekend 14th & 15th August.
- Winch Truck Challenge in R'ton on weekend 28th & 29th August.
- Preparation of a "Club Loo" kit bag for accessories ie. Hammer, pegs etc (Ian McDonald).
- Plastic drum to Terry for lime storage at Club campground (Alan Lovett).

- Club handheld radio to be repaired (Michael Ward-Grodd).
- Sub committee for 2010 xmas party to be formed (call for interest).

#### ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR:

- Email to all members on upcoming events from Ian McDonald.
- Horse Creek day trip, great day had by all with 10 vehicles participating.
- Diggings trip planned for weekend 7th & 8th Aug.
- Discussion on club by-law that nil dogs allowed on club outings.

#### FUTURE TRIPS:

- Email from Ian McDonald on 8th Aug – August to October 2010 proposed outings.

#### DRIVER AWARENESS OFFICER:

- Matt & Vicky Geach have done their theory & practical awareness sessions with Paul Whitestyles.
- Rob & Glenys Veitch + Hermann L have done theory with Staggy & practical with Terry Devery.
- Paul & Bev Keelin along with Dan ??? have done theory & prac with Staggy.

MEETING CLOSED: 8.50pm

#### FOR SALE

33" MICKEY THOMPSON 12.5 X15" ON NEW SUNRALISA RIMS (CRUISER) TYRES AND RIMS

Have done 300km Mackay to Cape Palmerston and back  
\$1450 ONO

4.2m tinny with a 30 hp Mercury (needs a coil) on near new trailer both reg with safety gear

\$2200 ONO

Please phone Steve Devery on 0457260218

**Please contact me with any stories, photos, business ads, for sale items, trivia change of email or address:**

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## MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

**GENERAL MEETING held at North Mackay Bowls Club** on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

**Meeting opened at:** - 7.40pm by President Steve.

**ATTENDANCE:**

As per the attendance book.

**APOLOGIES:**

Geoff & Karen Bailey, Dave & Melissa Christensen, Sandi Hardy.

**Visitors:** Tom Brooks, Col Skinner, Kirrilee Johnson, Dan Gordon, Paul & Bev Keelin & Kirsten Gillies.

**Previous Minutes:** Resolved that the minutes of the previous General Meeting on Monday 12.07.10 is confirmed as per magazine.

Moved by Mick, Seconded by Kelvin, Carried by All.

**Secretary for Correspondence:**

**Inwards:-**

- 4WD QLD M'ship renewal (to be pd before end Aug).
- 4Wheel Cruisin May / June 2010 mag.
- Traction Action July 2010 mag.
- Mky Land rover club Juny July mag.
- 4WD QLD June 2010 Representatives meeting minutes.
- Burdekin 4WD Club mag.
- TCIS Insurance Cert of Insurance.
- Office of Fair Trading – Association Annual Return.
- Email from Kelvin re Ian MacDonald now trip coordinator contact person.
- Email from Mal Morley re removal from club email list (have left on trip).
- Email from Michael W-G re update contact list
- Email from Michelle Johnson re handover of contacts list to Secretary / Editor (to discuss).
- Email from trip co coordinators' re upcoming trips.
- Interesting website – [www.outbacktravelsaustralia.com.au](http://www.outbacktravelsaustralia.com.au)

**Outwards:-**

- Updated contact list to Michael W-G.
- Card to Errol & Desley Younger re arrival of grandchild.

- Membership form to David Clark.
- The Secretary moved that the Incoming correspondence be received and the Outgoing correspondence be confirmed.

Moved by Alan, Seconded by Natalie, Carried by All.

**Treasurers Report:**

Treasurer Fay read details of report

Opening Balance	\$ 4360.95
Total deposits	\$ 1122.00
Total withdrawals	\$ -
Closing Balance	\$ -

**Accounts passed for payment**

- \$62.50 Rod & Glenys Vichie for pottery mugs
- \$806.00 4WD QLD membership (for Mky & District 4WD Club)

Moved by Fay, Seconded by Michelle, Carried by All.

**Business arising from the Treasurer's report:**

Still waiting on bank statement to arrive.

**Committee Meeting Business:**

Pres. Steve gave a synopsis of the Committee meeting held on Wed 4th Aug.

**General Business:**

- Recommended that all partners do their theory & prac so that they can drive on club outings.
- Learner drivers also to do theory & practical.
- Committee to follow up on QLD restrictions if any for speed limits for learners (ie. Max 90km/hr on h'way).
- Nixons Communications have generously donated 2 new handheld radios to club, taking the number to 3 owned by the club. One of the old club radios is unrepairable.
- Christmas party venue for this year is to be Seaforth Park on 27th-28th Nov 2010. There will be plenty of activities for all & Santa will make an appearance. Dinner is to be at the Seaforth Bowls Club & the party to continue on back at the campsite.
- Call for volunteers to form a sub-committee to arrange the Christmas party – please contact any of the committee if you can help out.

- The new club membership cars are currently being printed & will be issued to all financial members - should be by Sept meeting.
- The club trip boards are to be updated & displayed at meetings. These will have photos of the various outings along with maps of the area travelled.
- All members can assist the activity organizers by notifying of intention to participate in trips asap & also taking turn at leading trips if you are familiar with area.

**Activities Coordinator:**

- 17-18 July trip to Sandy Shores trip led by Ian McDonald. Four vehicles took part & from reports a very relaxing weekend had by all.
- 24-25 July saw a number of members travel to the club campground for a weekend working bee. Many thanks to all that took part & helped in the maintenance & cleanup of the area.
- 1st Aug trip to Horse Ck led by Derek VK. A huuuuge day with no less than 10 vehicles in convoy on the day travelling through a "torturous" 26km winding track. (taking 5.75 hrs) Suggestion was to change this trip name to "Damage Creek" as a number of vehicles bore the marks of some hard country driving on the day. A great time had by all.
- The Diggings trip was postponed until later date.

**Proposed Future Trips:** As per handout

- As per the August to October Activities email sent out by Ian McDonald on 8th August.
- Many hands needed for upcoming club campgrounds weekend – 21st & 22nd August. If possible, can people please bring along any of the following:- whipper snippers, brushcutters, shovels rakes, hoes, or mattocks to help with the maintenance & cleanup of the campgrounds.
- A Navigation Run is planned for the future & is proposed to run on the annual Pink Ribbon day outing.

**Driver Awareness Officer:**

- Matt & Vicky Geach have done their theory & practical awareness sessions with Paul Whitestyles.
- Rob & Glenys Veitch + Hermann L have done theory with Staggy & practical with Terry Devery.
- Paul & Bev Keelin along with Dan Gordon have done theory & prac with Staggy.

**Guest Speaker:**

- Jim & Joyce McNichol gave a very descriptive & informative account of their recent channel country holiday that had many club members thinking about packing the fourby & heading bush again real soon. Thanks Jim & Joyce.
- The new co owners of Mackay Camping World are booked to speak at the September meeting & bring along a number of camping related items for club members to view.

**VOTED IN:-**

Paul & Bev Keelin, Col Skinner, Dan Gordon & Tom Brooks.

A big welcome from all at the Mackay & District 4WD Club.

Moved by Steve J, Seconded by Alan L, Carried by All.

**RAFFLE:**

Congratulations to:-

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize Tool Kit – Lorraine
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize LED Light – Cheryl

Next Committee Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September  
AGM & General Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September

**Meeting Closed:** 8.45pm by President Steve J

**FOR SALE**

*Fridge Slide*

**\$ 100**

***Phone Steve A/hrs 4955 2291***

## SANDY SHORE CAMP 17-18 July

A great weekend was had by all indeed! After meeting at Horselands, Ian McDonald, Kelvin Naylor, the Ward-Grodd and Searle families set out for Sandy Shore on Sat 17 July. We crossed the range to the west of Sarina and entered some beautiful



cattle country. We arrived in time to set up before lunch and the chainsaw was put to good use sorting out some

firewood for the coming evening. After lunch the kids were keen to try out the inflatable boat that Michael brought and had lots of fun paddling in the lagoon and wading around the edge.



A drive up to the original Sandy Shore camp site was suggested and almost everyone headed for their vehicles. Sam, however, decided to relax in camp with her book. We enjoyed a few minor creek crossings on the way up and back and Kelvin



managed to get some serious spray happening. The old camp site was very pretty and there was a lot more sand back apparently.

When we got back to camp, dinner preparations began and we all started to rug up as the temperature dropped. The camp fire was the centre of activities and Sam cooked her famous Moroccan lamb in the camp oven. The fire was put to good use after dinner toasting marshmallows before the Ward-Grodd family headed for bed. Kelvin, Ian, Kathy and Des chatted on beside the fire until eventually just Kelvin and Des were left – drinking the last of their drinks???

An early fog was very pretty over the land and gorgeous over the lagoon! Cameras just did not seem to do the lifting fog justice. After a slowish start, we all headed out for another drive around the loop road. We encountered a lot of cattle, some muddy bits and a side track to play on. Kelvin and Michael had great fun going up and down the hill and through the rock pools at the bottom testing their vehicles. Kathy and Ian got lots of photos!



We then continued up the range admiring the numerous cycads and grasstrees. Eventually the track started descending and we stopped at the muster yards for yet another photo op.



Back at camp, we had a quick lunch and packed up ready to head home but we were reluctant to leave such a restful and scenic site with 'something for everyone' according to Michael. It is a shame the site will be lost soon due to the construction of the new dam as it was an excellent trip.

## CAMPGROUNDS CLEAN-UP WEEKEND 24 July 2010

Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Terry & Fay joined Arthur and Lorraine and we headed up to the Campgrounds for an early start on the clean up weekend. Arthur set to work with the whipper snipper & soon had the camp area at the top of the entry track in order despite a cut water pipe at the fire area which we won't mention. The others attacked the toilets & shower areas & soon all were presentable for the weekend. With our camper set up & Arthur's new Foxwing awning in place we then demolished tea & set about enjoying the sunset over a couple of cool drinks. A nice fire was organised to sit around & set the mood and then a light shower of rain sent us off to bed.

Saturday more of the troops arrived with Herman and Rod & Glenis coming to do their Practical driving test while Ian Mac, Kelvin, Geoff & Karen, Steve & Michelle, Crusty & Co all arrived to help with the work as well. Errol had made a start on slashing the long grass but due to the wind from Cyclone Ului in Feb all of the tracks were blocked with fallen trees & branches. The chain saws were fired up and we attacked the mess.

We were amazed that so many big trees were down along the creek banks. One monster at Patrol Playground area was winched back from the canopy branches which were holding it up & then dispatched with the chainsaws into moveable lengths, so that they could be rolled out of the way. This procedure followed with each track in turn until all were cleared & the whipper snipper crew could then follow & clean up the grass, etc.



While the men were having 'Fun' with the trees, the girls had attacked the Hut area & cleaned all the chairs, swept off the floor, cleaned the kitchen area, etc. We then made use of this area at night as

following baths all around, tea was organised & we then settled in around the fire pit to discuss the day's events & reward ourselves with some liquid refreshments.

Sunday morning arrived and it was found that the light rain through the night had made the grounds & tracks very wet & slippery. We had left the Rear Tracks until today to clean up and as Crusty had ventured out on the Saturday & had dropped his front wheel into a hidden trench which cost a bit of time in recovery, it was decided that discretion was the better part of valour and these would be left for another day.



Charlie plus Dennis & Marie turned up for a day trip & we then continued with the clearing around the hut, driving of the close tracks to knock the grass down etc. Terry swept all the leaves off the roof of the hut while being supported by Kel & Charlie as it is getting a bit shaky by now and is due for replacement if this goes ahead?

Lunch time arrived & then the camps were packed up ready for all to depart. Kel had bought up his 2 wheel drive ute with tools in it for the cleanup and we then had a small recovery exercise as he had to be towed up and out of the last exit slope.

Everyone then left for home after what had been a couple of hard day's work but as usual we all agreed it was another enjoyable weekend at the campgrounds.

By Fay & Terry



## HORSE CREEK DAY TRIP – SUNDAY 1/8/2010

7 vehicles left city gates at 8.10am led by Steve & Michelle with Mick & Wendy as tail-end Charlie. We met 3 more vehicles at Mirani then headed for Captains Crossing where we had a lengthy morning tea.



We had several young children on the trip who enjoyed playing in the lively clear water with their trucks and cars making roads and rivers with the sand. Kathy & Jeanette were yelling instructions about not getting wet but that seemed to fall on deaf ears. With all aboard we left at 10.15am for a very exciting and muddy trip. Kathy Searle was so excited she discarded her thongs and put on her socks and shoes so she could run faster to photograph all the cars getting stuck. We also had a lot of protests from the bush in the form of black cockatoos who let us know in no uncertain terms that we were in their territory and they did not like it.

Creek crossing number one proved to be a bit difficult. Derek had to pull Matt out then Allan got stuck and had to be pulled out also. Next crossing Allan and then Tony got stuck and had to be snatched out. I was told to write snatched out not winched out as there was a big difference. A lot to do with pride I believe.



A lot of the creek crossings were so steep and narrow with muddy exits, most vehicles made several attempts to get out. Kable and Staggy took off to climb a hill but soon realized it was too steep and had to abort the attempt after Kable got stuck.

Jamie Head was next to get stuck (in a big way) and



had to be winched out. Staggy was next but he was able to winch himself out with the help of the only little tree in the midst of a quagmire. Tony was next to getting stuck and got snatched out by Staggy.

We have always had in this club some members who will try anything just to see if it can be done. Kelvin is a name that springs to mind, the other one is Staggy. Last weekend we came to a crossing where we had a choice of two tracks, Derek chose the easier one and everyone followed except Staggy. He thought he would attempt the harder track and soon found himself well and truly jammed up against the embankment and had to be pulled out backwards.



At the next crossing we decided to have a break from slipping and sliding and winching and towing and enjoyed the beautiful surroundings while we had lunch.

After lunch we came across a spot where there was a very steep hill which was heavily rutted and needless to say we had two takers for the climb. You guessed it, Staggy and Scott Head. Both made it to the top once out of four attempts.

Shortly after all the fun we came to river crossing number seventy nine. At least that's what it felt like. I think it was the same creek which meandered back and forth the whole way. This proved a real challenge to Derek who had to be pulled backwards and then it was all hands on deck with axes and rocks and branches to build up the creek bed so we all could get through without any more drama.



Within a few hundred metres Derek announced we had reached the main road. Lumpy Bumpy & Rocky and wet in places but it was in fact the main road. We arrived back at Captains Crossing at 4pm for

afternoon tea. We travelled a total of twenty-six kilometres and with lunch break included it took five hours and forty-five minutes for the trip.

We all had a really good time and it was nice to hear our newest members really enjoyed themselves. Matt and Vicki and children were thrilled with the trip as were Des and Kathy and family. It was nice to see so many young children in the club once again.

Story by  
Angie Brannan



Derek VK dropped into a washout



The kids enjoying the outdoors

## CAMPGROUNDS CLEAN-UP WEEKEND 21 Aug 2010

A working bee to investigate the level of damage to the 'back' tracks at the campgrounds in readiness for the future Sporting Wheelies function had been organised for this weekend.

Ian Mc Donald has stepped in to help fill the role of Activity Organiser & he is quickly finding out how challenging this role can be as all his plans are constantly in a state of flux, depending on the weather.

Ian Stagg had completed his voting duties by 8am and had headed for the campgrounds early. Following our voting we were about to head off when Ian rang to say it had rained at Marian most of the night & was still raining at Eungella. I then rang Ian Mac & President Steve & discussed the wet condition that the back tracks would be in and it was decided that a full club trip would probably not be advisable?

As Staggy was already at the grounds, Ian & Myself decided to take the one vehicle up to join him. We put our gear into my Cruiser & headed off to find that by the time we arrived the rain was down to a drizzle. Leaving Ian Stagg to do more whipper snipping on the tracks around the Hut area, Ian Mc & myself decided to poke out along the back tracks to see how far we could go.

This decision saw us clearing more fallen trees with the chainsaw & using the cane knife to cut back the Lantana that was growing in from both sides of the gullies, etc. Coming into Brno Bog we found water still pouring out of the hills & running down the wheel tracks. Not being able to build up much momentum as we left this bog we were stopped halfway up the exit slope, spinning on the wet grass. Reversing back down & trying to find firmer ground saw us drop the back wheels into a gully & we were stuck.



A radio call to Staggy back at the Hut advised him of our position & that we would be a little longer. We then sat up the winch on to a tree at the top of the hill & pulled ourselves out. We continued on slowly as the track was lost in metre high grass & finally found

the washout in Anschutz Alley that had claimed Crusty on the previous trip.



Digging out the Chainsaw again we decided to drop a large tree as close as possible to the hole and to cut it up to use to fill the trench. This was done and it then became evident that a second tree would be needed to fill this gully. Finished with this second tree, we then drove the Toyota over the logs to settle them into place for future crossings.



Moving right along we then crested another large hill & turned hard to the left to follow what we thought was the track. The grass was still high and the road nowhere in sight. We stopped and walked the hill putting orange tapes on the trees to mark out the track which was about 20 metres from the car. We then pointed the nose of the Toyota in that direction & started to drive back over.



At this point in time we now find ourselves with a question to answer. \* How large a rock does it take to stop a Land Cruiser.?

\* Answer: A BLOODY BIG ONE!!



Hidden by the long grass we drove up the sloping side of this massive rock & dropped the front edge of the Bull Bar over the top edge. As we were pointing downhill any chance of reversing was made all the more difficult as the back wheels dug 2 holes & we were stuck. Another Radio call to Ian to say we



were still coming but would be a little bit longer still.

We then set about our recovery by using a squat jack to lift the front of the wagon up high enough to force a log in on top, to act as a skid to lift the bull bar. The second problem then arose, as another rock was jammed against the back of the front wheel. My co-pilot then earned his keep again by using the mattock to dig this rock out as I reversed & jumped the car off the rock.

Finally out, we proceeded back over to the track we had marked out and onto the next climb. The rest of the route was cleared & cut free until we finally

arrived at the last crossing near the neighbours sheds at Errol's front boundary. Stopping long enough to help this man untangle the goat he had tethered across the track, we cleared the lantana out of the gully & then climbed Savage Summit up to the entry road next to Errol's green sheds.



Ian Stagg was waiting for us as it was about 3.30 by now & he had finished his work as well. Our little jaunt had taken over 4 hours to complete. We then had a late lunch & headed for home. The rear track is now open but we would note that the vehicles that may use it on the Saturday of the 'Wheellie' weekend will need to be aware that it will be a challenge and will become much harder as each vehicle goes through the wet areas.



I would like to thank Staggy for his patience but mostly Ian Mac for the sweat we lost in climbing all the hills & for his help in the recoveries. We had a great day & look forward to the next weekend out at the campgrounds.

Regards,

Terry.

## RED CENTRE TRIP – Natalie and Kelvin Nayler

After the rain hindered our plans to do the Simpson Desert we had to rethink our plans and 4 weeks before we left we decided to go to the Red Centre. We took off and met up with Rik on the Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June. We drove into the night the first couple of nights so we could get to Alice Springs as soon as possible. This is when the cold hit us like a brick. The wind chill factor was below freezing so we put layer upon layer on to keep us a little warm. From Alice we then did the gorge run (Simpsons Gap, Standley Chasm, Serpentine Gorge, the Ochre Pits, Orminston Gorge, Redbank Gorge, St Helens Gorge). We camped at Orminston Gorge. The gorges were absolutely gorge-ous.



We then headed to Kings Canyon and stayed at the resort where you need to try the bushmans pizza (emu, crocodile and kangaroo). We did the rim walk at Kings Canyon which is 8.5kms but the views were fantastic. From Kings Canyon we then went onto Uluru but Ayres Rock. We drove the Maree Loop Road which was the most rugged corrugations we have travelled on. Stayed at Yulara for a couple of days so we could see the Olgas and Ayres Rock at sunrise and sunset. We climbed the rock just after sunrise. It was one of the hardest things we have done but so worth it as we made it right up to the summit.



Back to Alice Springs to stock up. We then camped at Chambers Pillar and then headed along the Old Ghan to Dalhousie Springs. This was one of the highlights of our trip as the water at a constant 37C was a welcome bath from the cold nights and mornings.



We then drove the Oodnadatta Track through to Coober Pedy. This is where we got our first puncture, cracked engine mount and our roof bag ripped open and our clothes ended all across the road. An afternoon tour was a great way to see the way they live in this unique town. From Coober Pedy we then headed along the Oodnadatta Track to Coward Springs – another hot spring but not as warm as Dalhousie. The park is very well set up with the owner making everything out of old Ghan railway relics.

Next day we got up and headed to Lake Eyre. Lake Eyre was extremely impressive and the fullest it has been in many years. We then decided to change our plans and head up the Birdsville Track so we could take the punt across Cooper Creek (the water had stretched 5kms across the width of the road). This is where we got our 2<sup>nd</sup> flat tyre (actually a blow out).

Birdsville on a Friday night was a riot. Then headed off to the Dig Tree taking in Haddon Corner. The Dig Tree had only just reopened after all the rain this year



and it is quite evident the amount of damage the water has caused. From the Dig Tree we took the Bore Track to Noccundra after stopping at the Corner Store at Cameron Corner. Coming towards the end of our trip now so we started winding down at Charleville where we went to the Night Observatory at the Cosmos Centre and did the Bilby Experience. On our way home we stopped at Blackdown Tablelands but not before getting our third flat (yes another blow out) along the Tambo Alpha Road.

Fantastic trip and saw and experienced some awesome sights. So overall we travelled 8666kms, 3 flat tyres, a cracked engine mount and pretty much useless roof bag all in a space of 3 ½ weeks. Pretty much exhausting but wouldn't change a thing.

# Activities Calendar

SEPT – OCT 10

**Mon 13 Sep GENERAL MEETING @ NORTH MACKAY BOWLS CLUB @ 7.30pm**

**Sun 19 Sep DENHAM RANGE / DAY TRIP Grade: 2-3 Trip Leader: Required**  
**Meet at Horseland @ 7.45 for 8.00 am departure.** A scenic drive accessed from Eungella Dam Road.  
**Requirements:** Basic recovery gear. Full tank of fuel, drinking water, first aid kit, lunch.

**Sat Sun 25-26 Sep CHOPPER CREEK Grade: 2-4 Trip Leader: Required**  
**Meet at Horseland @ 7:45 for 8:00 departure.** Travel through some excellent but rugged cattle country. If we have rain this trip may not eventuate. We need to be aware of KEEPING TO THE TRACKS as the property owners are very conscious of spreading noxious weeds. **Requirements:** Basic recovery gear, full tank of fuel, drinking water, first aid kit. Camping gear for weekend. Grade can easily change with rain.

**Sat Sun 2-3 October CAMPGROUNDS – SPORTING WHEELIES**  
**Grade: 1-5 Trip Leader: Committee**

**Generally MOW.** This is a combined activity weekend of play, camping and entertaining guests on Sunday. Members should **notify** their intentions but we can be flexible with arrivals to site. **YOU MUST SIGN IN BEFORE COMMENCING ANY ACTIVITY.** Bring along your favourite camp oven recipe. We will cook and share with others till we've had our fill. Food could be prepared (ie cut up) at home.

The Sporting wheelies will cook us a BBQ lunch on Sunday. **THIS IS A SPECIAL Weekend.**

**Requirements:** Camp gear if stopping over, camp oven, chair, table, plates etc and of course your esky. **FULL** recovery gear, full tank of fuel, drinking water, first aid kit.

**Wed 6 Oct COMMITTEE MEETING @ 7pm**

**Mon 11 Oct GENERAL MEETING @ NORTH MACKAY BOWLS CLUB @ 7.30pm**

**17 Oct – PINK RIBBON BREAKFAST – HARBOUR WITH RALLY AFTER**

**Trip Leader: Natalie and Kelvin Nayler**

**Meet at new park area near Surf Club at 8.30am** Buy your breakfast of champions!! Bacon, eggs, baked beans, sausages, juice, tea and coffee and proceeds go towards Breast Cancer Research. After breakfast we will play board games and/or games of football and cricket. May come just for breakfast or make a day out of it. Donations of pink coloured morning tea would be appreciated (eg. Caramel/ pink marshmallow slice, cup cakes with pink icing) for morning tea.

**Sat Sun 30-31 Oct – HALLOWEEN CAMP at LAKE ELPHINSTONE**

**Grade: TBA**

**Trip Leader: Required**

A good weekend to let the kids have some fun.

**Note: Thursday evening is the final notice to attend a trip. Names in trip book for all activities please.**

#### Trip Contacts

Ian McDonald on 0418795607 or 4998 5806, Email: [mac.ian@bigpond.com](mailto:mac.ian@bigpond.com) or  
Michael Ward-Grodd on 0447766022 or 4955 2978, Email : [ward-grodd@bigpond.com](mailto:ward-grodd@bigpond.com)

Further information on some of these trips can be found on our Web site [www.mackay4wdclub.com](http://www.mackay4wdclub.com)

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**Send to**

**Postage  
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Australia**

***Make the Club Meeting night a social night out!!!  
Join some of our members and enjoy a pre-meeting meal***

***From 6.00 pm Meals from \$12.50  
@ North Mackay Bowls Club***

***Before the Meeting***

***This is a good way for all members, including  
new members to socialize & get to know each other.***