



August 2026
Newsletter

Responsible Four Wheel Driving And Family Touring"

TRACK TORQUE

Cactus Country, Vic



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https://www.instagram.com/wangaratta4x4_club?igsh=eWo4aTJ2d3Z0eDJ0

<https://www.wangaratta4x4club.com.au/index.html>



WANGARATTA 4X4 CLUB

Wangaratta Four Wheel Drive Club Committee Members

Executive-

President	Gary Jordan
Vice President	Damian O'Connor
Secretary	Mick Knight
Treasurer	Justin Wylie

Other Committee Members-

Newsletter editor	Tom O'Connor
Publicity Officer	tbc
Trip Coordinator	Damian O'Connor
Membership	

Committee-

Craig Cheetham	Kerry O'Connor
Janine Jordan	

Non-Committee Positions-

Training Coordinator	Dave van Zanten
FWDV Representative	
Web Master	Gary Jordan

WEBSITE:

www.wangaratta4x4club.org.au

The Wangaratta 4WD Club has evolved from a few members in 1983, to our current membership of over 30 families. The Club is made up of individuals and families who are interested in responsible Four-Wheel Driving.

There is no restriction on the make or type of four-wheel drive vehicle, and there is always plenty of variety and camaraderie amongst members.

Where we live: Members live all over the North East and beyond, including from Benalla, Beechworth, Corowa, Howlong Glenrowan, Milawa, Albury, Wodonga, Wangaratta, Goorambat, Tatong, Langwarrin, Molyullah, Myrtleford, Mount Beauty, Mulwala, Yarrawonga, Stanhope, Violet Town, Melbourne, Rosebud and Overseas (England).



Wangaratta Four Wheel Drive Club is affiliated with Four Wheel Drive Victoria.

Members of our club are proud to be part of the Adopt a Hut Program and work with Parks Victoria to look after Top Crossing and Lake Cobbler huts.

Membership: Single or family \$100.00 p.a. **Temporary Membership:** \$20.00 (Three trips)

General Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, generally at the North East Car Club Rooms, Tarrawingee Recreation Reserve, commencing 8.00pm. There is no meeting in January. Please refer to the club calendar. **Visitors are always most welcome.**

TRACK TORQUE: Newsletter Contributions may be forwarded to ...

Editor: Tom O'Connor - damnkez@people.net.au

This is your newsletter so be part of it and send in any articles of interest, comments, trips, birthdays etc.

Editorial Deadline: 1st of the month **Advertising:** \$100/yr. Please contact the editor for further details.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in the articles in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or of Wangaratta Four Wheel Drive Club Inc. The editor reserves the right to delete any section of any article, or reject any article, which has been sent in for publication in the Newsletter

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow members,

I hope all of our members, along with our friends from the Albury club, who are currently out exploring the vast and beautiful spaces of the outback are having a wonderful time. We look forward to welcoming you all back safely, and no doubt you will return with plenty of great stories, memorable moments, and photos to share with the rest of us!

A very warm welcome to the prospective new members who joined us at our last meeting and took part in Damo's mystery trip. It was terrific to have you along, and we hope you had as much fun as the rest of us. We look forward to seeing you at future events and hope you choose to become a part of our great club.

Warm regards,

From Gary Jordan – President

Club Contact Details

Name and Position Held	Mobile Number	Email Address
Gary Jordan (President)	0413 688 374	jangarpark@bigpond.com
Damian O'Connor (Vice President)	0417 526 175	damnkez@people.net.au
Justin Wyllie (Treasurer)	0428 767 300	juzwyllie@hotmail.com
Mick Knight (Secretary)	0425 748 630	Mickknight_265@yahoo.com.au
Tom O'Connor (Editor Track Torque)	0459 399 287	damnkez@people.net.au



Wangaratta 4x4 Club Inc.

General Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 14/07/2026

Held at: NECC Rooms Tarrawingee

Attendance

Present: Gary Jordan Justin Wyllie Dave and Fiona
Damian O'Conner John and Beryl Glen and Robyn
Mick and Bev

Apologies: Manfred, Kerry, Janine,
Neville and Monica, Craig,
Ron, Mick, Sue and
Graham, Gill, James and
Kate, Irene and Noel.

Visitors: Zac

Previous Meeting

Motion moved that minutes of the previous meeting held on [Click or tap to enter a date](#).be accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting

Moved: **Seconded:**
Motion Damian Beryl

Business Arising From Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 1 Trailor hitch has arrived. Time to be organised for repairs
- 2 [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Reports

Correspondence **Incoming:** Reminder from 4WD Vic re fees for insurance
Outgoing: Nil

Trips Calendar

Trip Name	Dates	Overview
Anne Beadell, Canning, Bungles, etc. James and Kate Knipping	11 July Start	Trip is full. 8 week trip. Being run in conjunction with AW4WD Club. Have 9 vehicles for Anne Beadell and 6 for Canning Stock Route.
Other side of Dartmouth (West)	TBA, late 2026	Some mining history, Dartmouth dam, Dartmouth wall
Dano's Mystery Trip	July 2026	It's a mystery
Toms Mystery Trip	1/8/2026	It's a mystery
Christmas Camping Trip	Nov	TBA
Plenty of weekends available	Run a trip! If you would like to run a trip but are not sure of how to go about planning a trip talk to one of the committee members.	

General Business

- Welcome to Zac
- New camping store (replaces Aussie Disposals) Justin speaking to new owner re 4x4 club.
- Harry and Tom to do presentation for their trip to Peru on the 13th October (General Meeting).
- Wangaratta Swap meet. Damo to organise sites.
- Website is up and running. Will be changes going forward as I learn Claude who is assisting me.

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Trip Reports

- Bourkes Beach No.3
- Justins Elorado Trip
- Dave to do report on Tassie trip next meeting
- Nortons Travlling report

Meeting Schedule

Committee Meetings	General Meetings
Tue 1st September, 7pm, Wangaratta Club	Tue 11th August, 7:30 for 8pm, NECC
Tue 6th October, 7pm, Wangaratta Club	Tue 8th September, 7:30 for 8pm, NECC
Tue 3rd November, 7pm, Wangaratta Club	Tue 13th October, 7:30 for 8pm, NECC
Tue 1st December, 7pm, Wangaratta Club	Tue 10th November, 7:30 for 8pm, NECC
No meeting January 2027	Tue 8th December, 7:30 for 8pm, NECC
Tue 2nd February, 7pm, Wangaratta Club	No Meeting January 2027

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CLUB NEWS

Here's our new official website, go check it out!

<https://www.wangaratta4x4club.com.au/index.html>



PRE - TRIP REPORTS

- 1. Boys from the Bush Fundraising Event- October 10th & 11th**
More info to come.

Run a trip! If you would like to run a trip but are not sure of how to go about planning a trip, talk to one of the committee members.



TRIP REPORTS

TOM'S MYSTERY TOUR- August 1st 2026

A Day of Scenic Views, Country Towns & Hidden Surprises

There's something exciting about setting off on a trip without knowing exactly where you're headed, and that's exactly what made Tom's Mystery Tour such a memorable day.

On the chilly morning of Saturday, 1st August, the Wangaratta 4WD Club gathered at McDonald's at 8:45 am, rugged up and ready for whatever adventure Tom had planned. With full fuel tanks, plenty of laughs, and a sense of curiosity, the convoy rolled out right on 9:00 am.

Our first destination was Ryan's Lookout, just outside Wangaratta. Overlooking the picturesque countryside, it was the perfect place to stretch the legs, enjoy the fresh country air, and take in the beautiful views before the day's real adventure began.

With time on our side, Tom decided a bushwalk through the Warby Ranges was in order. Of course, every good mystery needs a twist, and this one came in the form of a "slightly unexpected" detour. We're still convinced someone moved the track sign! Thankfully, the extra walk only added to the laughs and became another memorable story from the day.

Back behind the wheel, the convoy made its way to Devenish, where everyone admired the town's impressive silo art and colourful murals. A stop at the local pub for Gary's famous coffee break gave everyone a chance to warm up before continuing to St James, proudly recognised as the first town in Australia to have a Coles store. After taking in another striking silo mural, the tour continued on to Tungamah.

Lunch at the Tungamah Hotel provided a welcome chance to relax, share stories from the morning, and enjoy an hour's break before the second half of the adventure.

The afternoon journey took us north to admire the impressive Katamatite Silo Art, but everyone knew Tom was still keeping one final surprise under wraps.

That surprise turned out to be Cactus Country.

As the convoy arrived, Tom greeted everyone with a grin: "Welcome to Mexico, Wangaratta 4WD Club!" It certainly felt like stepping into another world. With thousands of cacti from across the globe, winding walking paths, and stunning desert-style gardens, Cactus Country was unlike anything most of the group had experienced before. For Justin—and many others—it was a first visit, making the surprise destination an overwhelming success. Before heading home, members browsed the plant nursery, with Kerry and Janine finding a few new additions for their gardens, while others couldn't resist stopping by the café for a well-earned treat.

As the sun began to set, the convoy made the journey home, reflecting on another fantastic day of exploring North East Victoria, discovering places both familiar and unexpected, and enjoying great company along the way.

From scenic lookouts and country towns to incredible silo art and an unforgettable hidden destination, it was a day full of laughs, friendship, and adventure.

We look forward to seeing everyone on the next club run. Until then... see you on the tracks!

– Tom





ANNE BEADELL HWY

Just a few photos to show you what we've been up to on the ANNE BEADELL HWY
- Kate Knipping



The Oombulgurri or Carson River Track

By Craig & Kristen

The Oombulgurri or Carson River Track as it's also known has been on our to-do list for over 15 years with the opportunity to join a tour group this season finally seeing it happen.

We Joined the Just Over the Hills tour at Home Valley Station for the 470km journey over the remote Kimberly track to Kalumburu.

The route starts off innocent enough across dried up mud flats but soon turned nasty on the Durack river. Massive boulders, rock ledges & washouts soon saw the 1st slashed tyre & bent sidestep. A system soon developed, stacking rocks, guiding wheel placement often winching to get the group through. What's left of the track has eroded from recent cyclones & flooding with much of it detoured across country. We were pretty much in low range for the 1st 7 days often at walking pace!



The abandoned town of Oombulgurri has been completely overgrown following it's closure in 2011 with just a dozen buildings & the avenues of Boab trees left.

Camps each night were on rivers, some with perfect swimming holes, others with crocs & great fishing the highlight being the King George Falls.

After 9 days we crossed the Drysdale River & rolled into the former Carson River cattle Station, some cars more beat up than others, one suffering 10 punctures with no spares left for the return run over the Gibb.

Oombi track done 🤖

Craig & Kristen.



2026– Trip & Event Calendar

Track Torque

AUGUST 2026

TUESDAY August 4th	Committee Meeting	Wangaratta Club		6.00 pm
TUESDAY August 11th	GENERAL MEETING	Tarrawingee Club rooms		8.00pm

SEPTEMBER 2026

TUESDAY September 1st	Committee Meeting	Wangaratta Club		6.00 pm
TUESDAY September 8th	GENERAL MEETING	Tarrawingee Club Rooms		8.00pm

OCTOBER 2026

TUESDAY October 6th	Committee Meeting	Wangaratta Club		6.00 pm
TUESDAY October 13th	GENERAL MEETING	Tarrawingee Club Rooms	Tom & Harry Presentation Start at 6:30	6.30pm
SAT & SUN 10 TH & 11 TH	Boys from the Bush event		More Information to come closer.	

NOVEMBER 2026

TUESDAY November 3rd	Committee Meeting	Wangaratta Club		6.00 pm
TUESDAY November 10th	GENERAL MEETING	Tarrawingee Club Rooms		8.00pm
November- TBC	Xmas Camp		Venue TBC	

KEY EVENTS

- Tom & Harry Presentation- Tarrawingee Car Clubrooms @ 6:30PM START.
- Xmas Camp To Be Confirm
- Footgolf TBC
- Boy from the Bush Event- October 10th – 11th

TRACK TORQUE



August 2026



Wangaratta Four Wheel Drive Club

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www.wangaratta4x4club.org.au

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