Responsible Four Wheel Driving And Family Touring"

TRACK TORQUE

October 2026
Newsletter



Coober Pedy - SA

Inside this issue:

The President's Page
General Meeting Minutes
Pre-Trip Reports
Trip Reports
Advertisements (Sponsors)
Trip Calendar

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.com.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 - tomo88513@gmail.com 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

Welcome to the October edition of our newsletter.

It's great to see everyone back and settled after the two-month outback adventure. I hope those who travelled had a fantastic time exploring this great country and have returned home with plenty of stories and memories to share with the club.

We have a busy and exciting final three months of 2026 ahead, with plenty happening before we wrap up another great year for the club.

Our first event is coming up at our next General Meeting at the Tarrawingee Car Club Rooms, starting at 6:30 pm. We'll be kicking off the evening with a Bunnings-style sausage sizzle, so come along, grab a snag and enjoy a catch-up with fellow members before the Peru Presentation.

There's plenty more on the calendar, including Craig's Jamieson Trip, the Wangaratta Swap Meet, and, of course, our Annual Christmas Camp and Christmas BBQ to finish off the year.

With so much still to come, let's get out there, support our club events, enjoy some great 4WD adventures and make the most of the final three months of 2026.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming events and finishing the year on a high!

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	Tomo88513@gmail.com

Wangaratta 4x4 Club Inc.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 8/09/2026 **Held at:** North East Car Club Rooms Tarrawingee Recreation Reserve.

Attendance

Present	Apologies
Gary Jordan	Janine
Graham & Sue Abotomey	Kerry O'connor
Damien & Tom O'Connor	Gill s
Ron Grant	Glen & Robyn Norton
Zac Graham	Kerry O'Connor
Justin Wyllie	Nev & Monica French
Manfred Wagner	Kai & Robyn Knight
Narelle	Kate Knipping
Mick Knight	
Jim Polidano	
Bev and Mick Maher	
John and Beryl Strang	
James knipping	
Dave & Fiona Van Zanten	
Craig & Christin Cheetham	

Vistors

NIL

Previous Meeting

Motion moved that minutes of previous meeting held on 11/8/26

Acceted as true and accurate record of that meeting.

MOVED.

Motion Jim Moved Mick

Business Arising from Previous meeting

Outgoing: NIL

Trips Calendar

Trip Name	Dates	Overview
Explore Eldorado	TBA	
Boys to the Bush Event	10th & 11th September	Starting from Wangaratta club Wangaratta
Jamison Camping Weekend	14th & 15th November	See pre trip report in the track torque newsletter
Xmas Camp	27th, 28th, 29th November	Possible Xmas Camp to Broken Creek $15 per night.
Mayfords Flat	January 2027	
Other side of Dartmouth (West)	Early March 2027	Some mining history, Dartmouth dam, Dartmouth wall
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 Minutes

1. Tom and Harry will do a presentation about their explorative adventure trip to Peru. Free Sausage sizzle prior to the presentation, Event starts 6.30 pm at next General meeting.
2. info@wangaratta4x4club.com.au website on line.
3. Instagram page now available. Tell others to take a look. To view the club on web, to be seen by non-members - see Instagram. (wangaratta4x4_club)
4. Possible Xmas Camp Broken Creek camp 26th and 27th Nov $15 per night.
5. Tom has a new e-mail address tomo88513@gmail.com
6. Justin to change the club postal address
7. The Christmas BBQ Tuesday Dec 8th at the NECC Rooms Tarrawingee 6pm. Please bring a salad or desert.
8. Foot Golf Boorhaman – discussions some time in November. Garry will be organising this.
9. Track clearing on the 17th & 18th October, approx. 6 people required to help out. Track clearing, meet at park Whitfield
10. Swap meet Wangaratta 22nd November swap meet site x2 sites, obtained
11. Meeting closed at 9pm.

Trip Reports

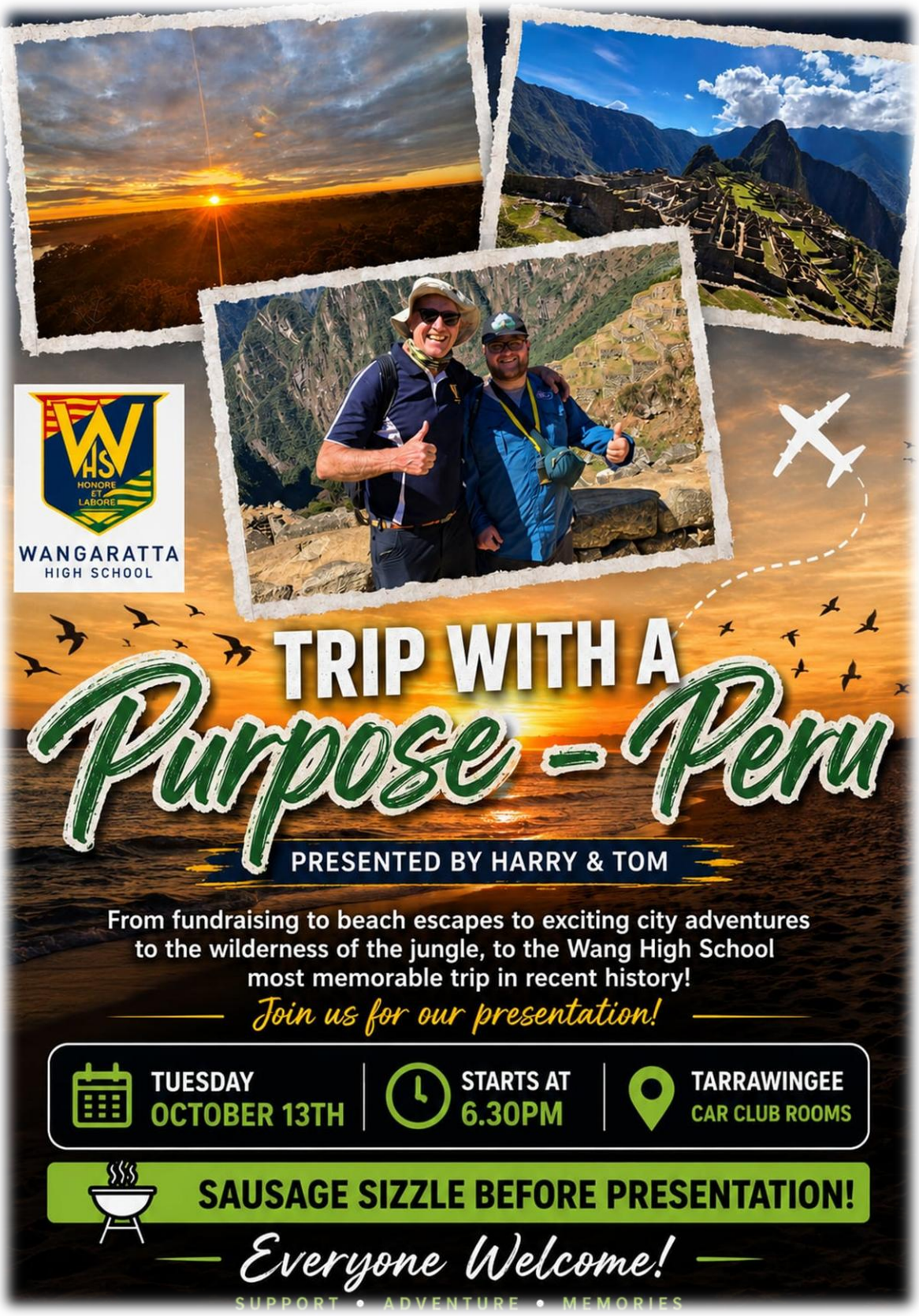
1. James, Graham & Sue talked about their big trip which was the Canning Stock Route, the Anne Beadell Hwy and the Bungle Bungles.
2. Ron talked about his trip to the Northern Territory.

Meeting Schedule

Committee Meetings
Tue 6th October, 7pm, Wangaratta Club
Tue 3rd November, 7pm, No meeting
Tue 1st December, 7pm, Wangaratta Club
No meeting January 2027

General Meetings
Tue 13th October, 7:30 for 8pm, NECC
Tue 10th November, 7:30 for 8pm, NECC
Tue 8th December, 7:30 for 8pm, NECC
No Meeting January 2027

Harry's & Tom's Peru Presentation information



PRE - TRIP REPORTS

1. Jamison/Mitchell's Gorge- 14th to 15th November

Pre Trip Report
Wangaratta 4WD Club

Name of Trip:	Mitchell's Gorge/Jamieson			
Date/s:	14/11/2026 *From*		15/11/2026 *To*	
Timings: Include where to meet, departure time and return time	Main group meeting @ Howqua Inlet 1000 am Sub group leaving Wangaratta 0830 via Mansfield. TBA			
Trip Details: List things such as Destination, Plan, Expected weather, Sights, Places, Key track names, etc	From Howqua we will head up to the Slate mine then drop down to Mitchell's Flat to explore a hidden Gorge. We'll take the SilvermineTk looking for the Jamieson River twin falls. Camp will be at a private property near Kevington. Sunday a short hike to the rarely seen Cinnabar Hut & mine site before looping back through Jamieson & Mansfield mid afternoon. For those with Friday off, there is the option for an extra night as I will be heading into camp mid morning on the 13th.			
Trip Leader:	Craig *First Name*	Cheetham *Surname*	0428538478 *Contact Info*	
Trip Rating: A brief description of likely conditions to be encountered	Medium *Select rating then add notes if needbe*	The tracks in this area can be quite difficult at times particularly after rain.		
Number of Vehicles:	8			
Suitable for: List type of vehicle, whether campers or caravans can be taken, etc.	High clearance 4x4 Unsuitable for any towing.			
Vehicle Requirements:	Tyres	All Terrain	Winch	Recommended
	Lift	Recommended	Snorkel	Recommended
All vehicles on club trips are required to have recovery points and carry their own recovery equipment, a snatch strap, shackles and dampener as a minimum. All vehicles require a UHF radio, the trip leader will advise radio channel prior to departure. Trip leader to list other items that may be required for this trip. Things such as snow chains, water blinds, chainsaw, etc.	If it's wet it can be challenging. Minimum good All terrain Tyres There are several creek crossings. If the Goulburn River is deep we will need to detour.			
Fuel and Supplies: Brief description of where fuel and other supplies can be obtained if at all.	70L ex Mansfield Usually fuel/basic food available at Jamieson if needed *Fuel required, fuel availability, cater for how many meals, spare parts required, etc*			
Trip Specific Info: Food, clothing, prohibited items, fire restrictions, other items to bring, etc	The private property has running water for the hot shower & outdoor baths, composting toilet, fire pit & camp kitchen complete with combustion stove & solar power.			
Permits, Camp fees, etc	Private campsite free.			

Send this completed form to the trip co-ordinator, web site administrator and the newsletter editor.

2. Bridle Track & Hill End, Labour long weekend! - 6-8th March 2027

Victorian Labour Day long weekend run — Wangaratta to the historic Bridle Track and Hill End via Wagga Wagga, Cowra and Bathurst. Approx. 1,200 km round trip with 50 km on the Bridle Track itself. Gravel touring through beautiful NSW Central Tablelands country with river camping, mining history and the scenic climb into Hill End.



TRIP REPORTS

2026 WINTER DESERT TRIP – Anne Beadell Hwy

Days 1 & 2

We met Gill at Benalla and travelled to Mildura via Echuca, Swan Hill and Robinvale where we met with Kate & James and Doug & Di at the Mildura Golf Club Motel. The next day was overcast and grey. Rain in Burra and Orroroo where we were able to get a cabin for the night.

Days 3 & 4



Stopped for fruit and veg and fuel in Port Augusta then onto Pomba then Coober Pedy for a couple of nights. A long day driving but we had booked a cabin to make things easier. Maree, Leon, Blue & Heather finally joined us here. We caught up with domestics and a new expensive auxiliary battery for Gill. Enjoyed a 'get to know you' meal at the Underground Cave Hotel.

Day 5 and we hit the Anne Beadell Highway which was in great condition. Once we were in the Tallaringa Conservation Park we encountered our first small sand dunes.



Pulled up at Tallaringa Native well for lunch. I was walking around the Ranger and saw the bolt on the rear RHS suspension was askew! Leon led a major team effort to fix. 3 Jacks to get bolt back in and found a nut to size to replace the lost nut! Back on the road in an hour.





Further along the track we met 'the walker' pulling his cart behind. 3.30pm and we found a place to camp. Plenty of firewood and camel tracks. 200km today.

Day 6 Today we passed our walker again and visited Ground Zeros Totem 1 and Totem 2 – the sites of the English atomic bomb tests. Just 16 km to the west is Emu the site of the army camp and air strip. Vegetation in still minimal after 70 plus years!





Day 7



Beautiful sunshine after the morning frost and a lovely drive through dunes and over corrugations. Saw an eagle and our first camels for the trip. Camped at Vokes Survey Marker where there is a shade shed, water tank and toilet. Hot showers all around followed by campfire.

Day 8 Woke to another frost. We had packed our awning away last night so didn't have to roll it up wet! Took the detour out to Vokes Hill. This track was very narrow and tight in places and wound up an over sand dunes. We were rewarded with great views from the Hill (sand dune). Met our first 4x4 travellers lunching beside the road. So an easy pass after our chat. After lunch the track turned very rough with wash outs, rocky outcrops and the worst corrugations! 2.30pm saw us make camp beside the dunes.



Day 9

Woke to a red sunrise. Travelled 90km through beautiful sand dunes stopping along the way at a salt lake/pan to the Western Australia border. Signed the book, took pics then a short 10km trip to lunch and early camp and lazy afternoon.



Day 10

Woke to another beautiful, cool clear morning – no dew which makes packing up so much easier.

A short drive to Ilkurika Roadhouse where we topped up with fuel ($3.00 litre) most took on 120 litres. Camped here ($10pp) as some welding repairs were needed to the bash plate on Maree's Prado. Everyone enjoyed hot showers (donkey HWS).





Day 11 saw another detour where we visited the site of a light plane wreck. Came down due to running out of fuel. All were rescued.



We camped at Neale Junction and there were wildflowers everywhere.



Sturt Desert Pea



Sand Hibiscus



Mulla Mulla

Day 12



Road was good and bad in places. Met up with another group heading east. More and more wildflowers. Lunched at Bishop Rileys Pulpit after most of the crew had climbed it. Spectacular scenery.



We then called into the abandoned Yeo Lake Homestead. Shared the Point Sunday camp site with a couple from Margaret River who were heading home.



Day 13



A short drive into Laverton on the black top hoping to get cabins but no accommodation available! Lunch then onto Leonora and again no accommodation or campsites. The Shire arranged for us to stay at the Sports Complex where we had access to toilets and showers. Walked into town for a pub meal.

Days 14 & 15 saw Doug & Di drive 250km to Kalgoolie for a battery which worked well for us – picked up a new UHF aerial as ours had broken. Blue and Heather left us to visit family in Perth and Leon spent the morning fitting a new alternator to Gill's vehicle before heading south and home to Wodonga. Whilst filling our water tanks before heading off I found that the LHS spring wasn't quite right and further inspection found that the nut was missing. We found an engineering workshop where we were given 2 complete second-hand nuts and bolts to fit! Graham fitted the nut and we were finally on our way.



Camp Fire at Leinster Caravan Park

Pulled into Leinster Caravan Park to camp 2 nights ($10 pn/unpowered) and finally found washing machines and drier (and bonus – all free!) Leinster is a BHP Mining town which explains the small cost to stay at the caravan park. They also have a great supermarket and pub. Doug and Di arrived just on dark to join us. The second night saw us walk to the pub for a meal after a busy day of domestics and small repair jobs.

Next The Canning Stock Route .....

Sue & Graham




WANGARATTA 4X4 CLUB INC.
NORTH EAST VICTORIA
EVENTS CALENDAR
Get Out There • Explore • Have Fun
OCT
13
Tom & Harry Peru Presentation
Starts @ 6:30pm
With Sausage Sizzle
NOV
14-15
Jamison Camping Weekend
By Craig Cheetham
NOV
22
Wangaratta Swapmeet
SWAPMEET
NOV
27-29
Xmas Camp Weekend
Broken Creek Bush Camp
DEC
8
General Meeting
Tarrawingee Club Rooms
Christmas Annual BBQ
JAN
-
No Meetings
Enjoy Your Break!
WANGARATTA 4X4 CLUB
Great People • Great Adventures • Together

2026– Trip & Event Calendar

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-Sausage Sizzle**	6.30pm
October – 10th – 11th October- 17th – 18th	**Boys to the Bush Event** **Track Clearing**	**Parks Vic**	**POSTPONED**	

NOVEMBER 2026

	NO COMMITTEE MEETING ON CUP DAY			
TUESDAY November 10th	**GENERAL MEETING**	**Tarrawingee Club Rooms**		8.00pm
November- 14th – 15th November – 27th , 28th & 29th November – Sunday 22nd	**Jamison Camping Weekend** **Xmas Camp** **Wangaratta Swapmeet**	**By Craig Cheetham** **@ Wangaratta Showgrounds**	**See Pre-Trip report in Newsletter** **Xmas camp is at Broken Creek Bush Camp for Friday 27th to Sunday 29th.**	

DECEMBER 2026

TUESDAY December 1st	**Committee Meeting**			6.00pm
TUESDAY December 8th	**GENERAL MEETING**	**Tarrawingee Club Rooms**	**CLUB'S ANNUAL XMAS BBQ**	6.00pm

JANUARY 2027

	NO Committee Meeting			
	NO GENERAL MEETING			

TRACK TORQUE



October 2026

Wangaratta Four Wheel Drive Club

A0001052D
Wangaratta 3676
www.wangaratta4x4club.com.au

"Responsible Four Wheel Driving And Family Touring"