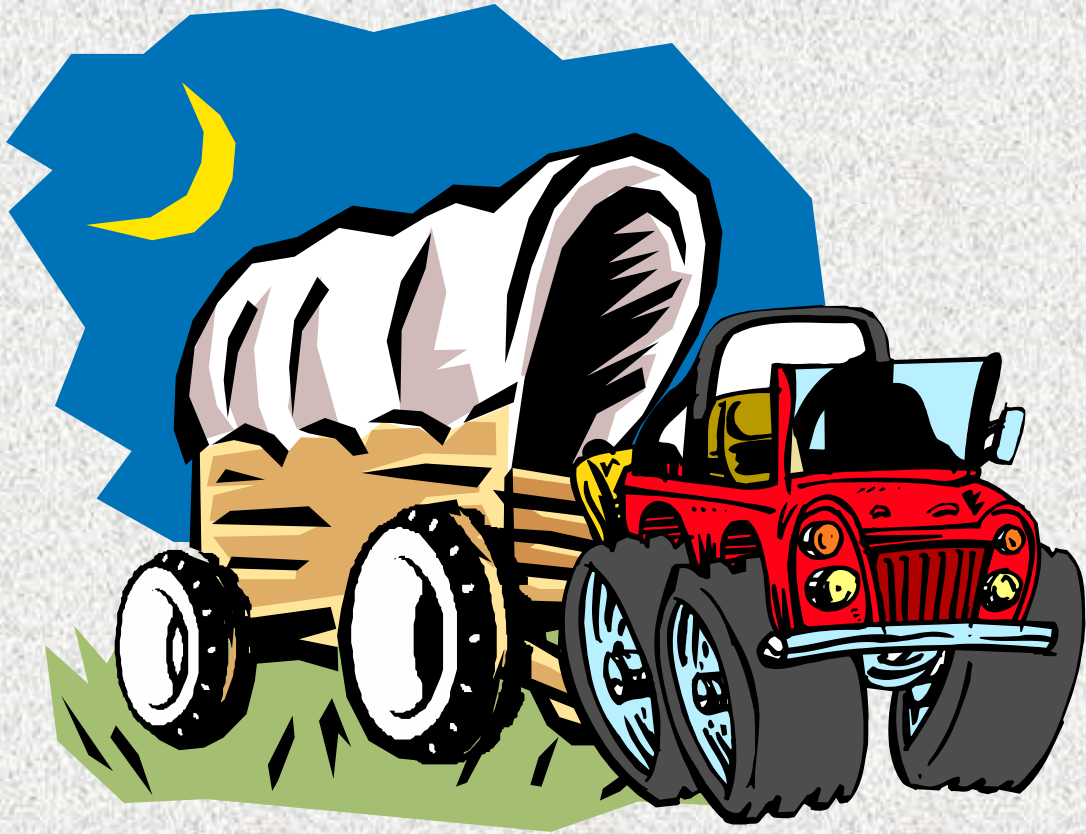


North Coast 4x4 Club Inc.

Newsletter February - March 2014



Mission Statement

“To Foster, encourage and advance the interest in off road and off highway, travelling, camping, socialising, conservation, and the opening up and increased access of our environment for all to enjoy”

North Coast 4x4 Club Inc.

PO Box 1286

Nambour Qld 4560

E-Mail : info@northcoast4x4club.org.au

Website : www.northcoast4x4club.org.au



NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

Management Committee

Position	Name
President	David Monaghan
Vice President	Noel Southern
Secretary	Kevin Froggatt
Treasurer	Sue Penney
CARE Officer	Noel Southern
Insurance Officer	Cathi Southern
4WDQ Association Delegate	Mark Haeusler
Hall Chair	Bernie Jaenke
Newsletter Editor	Keith Daly
Website	Brett Grayson
Driver Training Coordinator	Gavan Johnson & Scott Crawford
Admin Officer Driver Training	Dave Caldwell
Public Relations	VACANT
Trip Committee Coordinator	Denise Froggatt & Lyn Broomhall

Upcoming 2013 Meeting Date @ Our Clubhouse, Cnr. Stegges Road and Carnival Street, YANDINA

April 16th, Wednesday Night 7.30pm



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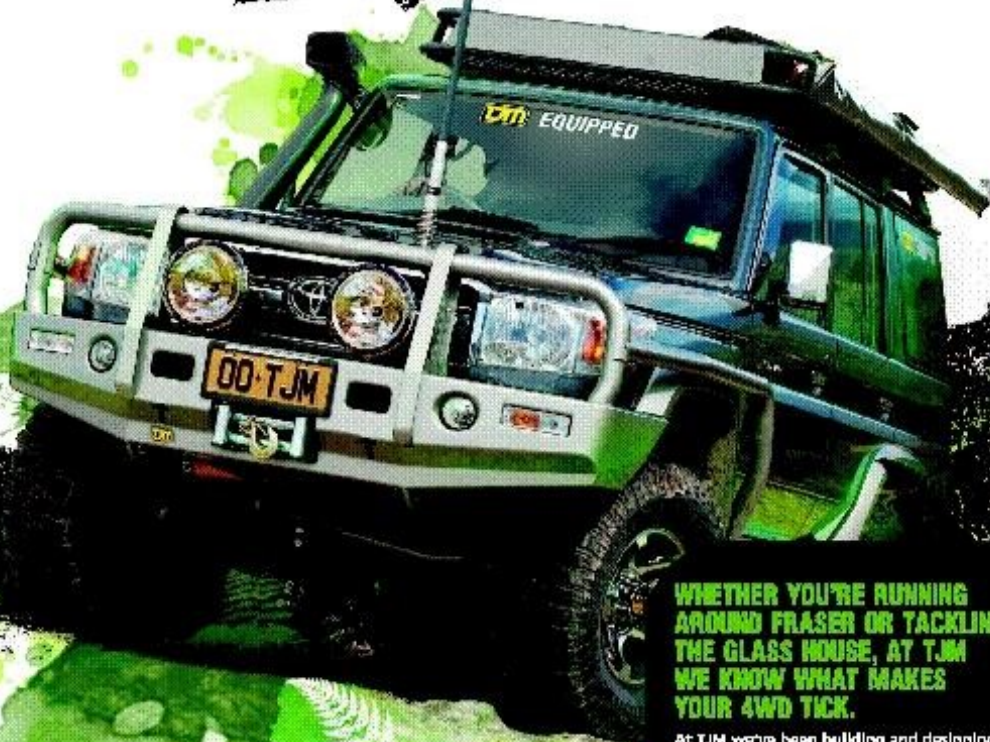
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NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

And now a few words from our Fearless Leader



Our President
"Dave"

President's Report

As I write this, rain is falling. Something that we haven't seen for a while, how soon do we forget just how wet it can get. Twelve months ago we could barely get a run in but there have been some good runs lately, with a camp at Borumba Dam and a day run at Bellthorpe as well as Clean Up Australia Day held at the Power Lines off Brown's Ck Rd near our club house.

Unfortunately due to family commitments I was unable to attend, but thank you to Ian & Di Johnson for taking over as co-ordinators. I've been told a huge amount of rubbish was collected within a short distance of the Transfer Station, with some morons trying to dump their rubbish while our team were picking it up!

We were able to support one of our Supporters when our club attended the TJM Day Run at Kenilworth. Ron Takken and I each led a group around Layla's Run and at Bellthorpe, Bill Penney with Ian & Dianne and myself as Tail End Charlie took eight visitors along Branch Rd and out through Grigor Rd to Conondale.

Since then I've had a number of enquiries about joining our club. It is these types of activities that promote our club, both within the 4WD community and outside, so we need to make sure that we give a positive impression whenever we are out and about.

Recently I've been doing recces for the Wrattens Forest Run. This exercise has shown the importance of doing recces, as we were able to find alternative tracks and contact private land holders in regard to access and we found some very interesting sites.

In other news, Big Scottie Crawford who is a foundation member of our club, has resigned from 4WDQLD as President (a role he has held for a number of years) and we wish him all the best for the future.

**GAVAN JOHNSON
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Our thoughts and best wishes continue to go out to Cathryn and Derek Fox. Derek has, for obvious reasons, stepped back from his role as Public Relations Officer.

If anyone would like to take on this important position, please nominate at the next meeting.

I hope to see you all out on the tracks.

David Monaghan (President)



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Ladies 4WD Training Weekend (Black Mountain) 1st - 2nd Feb 2014

First up, a big thank you to Dave & Jenny Caldwell for allowing us all to use their farm; necessitating installing a brand new toilet cistern and seat in the shed, chopping up firewood/chocks, setting up nice hot shower for our use, mowing the course, and even moving their cattle onto a neighbours property to avoid having to open/close gates or big brown creatures poking noses into our tents.

Di, Gerry, Penny and Siovahn pitched camp on the Friday afternoon/evening, our friendly trainers Scott, Gavan and Dave had the luxury of fixed walls and a roof in the blustery conditions positioned just a little away from the campers; naturally trainers can't be seen to be fraternising with the trainees... As per usual, Sue (unofficially accompanied by Bill) arrived on Saturday morning.



The ladies keen to get into it are from L to R
- Di, Siovahn, Penny, Gerry and Suzi



"Camp Caldwell" sees the ladies set up
for the weekend and ready to go 4WDing

So after a brief briefing at 8.00am it was straight into it. Carol was unofficial photographer with her upmarket equipment although with a few spits of rain in the morning was busy with an umbrella and plastic bag a couple of times. The trainers had marked out a great course of approximately 5kms (by my estimation) with some reasonably angled inclines and descents, a couple of tight S bends downhill through trees (almost clipped a wing mirror), a group of zigzagged logs to represent rocks in a creek bed, plus a couple of side inclines as well.

Fairly early in the day most everyone got stuck on an incline where you had to bounce over a couple of wood boys before giving it the boot to get through some ruts on the steepest section. So straight away we were having a go at snatch strap recoveries.

NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

Ladies 4WD Training Weekend (Black Mountain) 1st - 2nd Feb 2014 Cont.



One of the first snatch recoveries for the weekend supervised by one of the trainers Gav



This was Siovahn's first downhill descent in 4WD when it was discovered that her ute "Bruce" had jumped out of low range into neutral and wouldn't go back in. She did very well to get her and Scott safely to the bottom - GO SHIVVY !



Di in the Pajero iO giving it a bit of right foot to get up the steep incline



Everyone lined up to negotiate a steep little drop into a creek



No Gerry, you do it like this ... You put your left foot in, you put your left foot out. Oh, you know the rest !



Penny in the mighty Patrol "Eileen". We just love this car and it goes anywhere you point it

NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

Ladies 4WD Training Weekend (Black Mountain) 1st - 2nd Feb 2014 Cont.

We were all daunted at the prospect of the stall, key start procedures but after a few attempts, we got the hang of it. Using left foot braking, keeping off the clutch and getting to judge the amount of 'go' pedal to use uphill (and for towing) were new concepts too. However, we were forced oops encouraged by our wonderful trainers, and with lots of practice on the Saturday we were all much improved by the Sunday, most noticeably in our levels of confidence in our 4 wheel low range driving.

At 4.00pm Saturday back at camp, we thought it was all over for the day, well it was for some of us anyway (Scott had a couple of beers), but the trainees were required to change a tyre to the required competency. I think it has been about 10 years since I last had a flat; at that time, I had to stop on the edge of the motorway in peak hour traffic. I was on the phone to Bill to ask where I would find the jack when a Police highway patrol car pulled in behind me and the kindly boys in blue (wanting me on my way ASAP) kindly changed the tyre in about 5 minutes flat! However, with no pressure to get off the paddock, we all did a good job of changing our tyres, some faster than others, the biggest complaint was "Oooo my hands are getting dirty"!



You mean I have to put this thing back on again ...
#%\$@& !!!!!

Where's a passing gentleman when you need one ?



Trainer Gav spotting for Di as she drops into the creek

After dinner the wind dropped substantially and it was lovely to start up a fire and have the usual circle of chairs and convivial chat with a little lubrication. All ladies made an early exit to bed while Bill and Gavan continued yarning (Bill remaining officially absent).

In the morning, there was a repeat of Saturday's practice skills and we were all surprised at how much better and more confident we completed the tasks. Then it was back to camp to sign away our lives on forests of paperwork, pack up and head home.

Bill remained officially absent in making dinner, breakfast and breaking camp for which I was unofficially grateful.

Again, thanks to the trainers for a job well done and to Dave and Jenny for letting us chop up their pasture. Expect to see us ladies behind the wheel more often from now on...

Suzi

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NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

Borumba Dam Weekend – 7th to 9th Feb 2014

After so many of our club members spent so much time in the Imbil area leading up to and over the 2013 Corroboree period, it probably didn't seem too appealing to head back in that direction again, however that is what 12 families did for the weekend of 7th, 8th and 9th of Feb. I personally have driven past the Borumba Dam campgrounds numerous times but never stayed there before.

It proved to be an enjoyable camping spot, relatively level, partly shaded and not too many campers and a place I will return too for sure. The amenities were clean and the caretakers very friendly.

Saturday morning's run led by Kevin and Denise saw us drive only about 500 meters before heading onto the tracks and engaging the hubs. We followed the Dam Fine View track and later turning onto part of Fox Air before returning via Derrier Rd back to camp. This is a very scenic drive with some technical hill climbs. A call on the radio came from one of the front cars saying, this hill will test a couple of cars further back in the group. Yes it did but to some people's surprise, mine included, the little Mitzy well driven by Ian made it unaided after trying a different line or two.



Don, now that is what I call a
NUT !

It is amazing how big Bunya
Nuts can grow to.

You wouldn't want to be
standing under one of these
suckers when it drops.

I hope somebody counted
how many 4WD's went into
this lantana, to make sure
they all came out the other
side.

Oh well ! At least everyone
got some bush pin stripes to
take home with them.

I know I've got plenty on the
Patrol.



Saturday afternoon saw us do Nissan's Nemesis with a half hearted crack at the hill they call Big Red or Gearbox. The drive through the hoop and bunya pine forests is spectacular on this run. Also spectacular was watching Jason's mate, who came along with his family as a visitor, drive his big beautifully presented H3 hummer up some of these steep hills. Needless to say power was not a problem but traction was, but he made it, and the tracks are now cleared that little bit wider.

Saturday night saw the fire raging, burning some of Noel and Cathy's unwanted house bits apparently. A great night was had by all. By the way Noel, the chain saw was not mentioned. Sunday morning most of us left early for Kenilworth to join the TJM run, but that is another story.

Don Reed

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NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

Bellthorpe Day Run (Bill's Group) - 23rd Feb 2014

What a great day! Plenty happening, not too much drama and apart from 3 club members – Dave M (tail end Charlie), Ian and Di (in the middle of the pack) and myself (trip leader) – ALL NEW PROSPECTIVE CLUB MEMBERS... couldn't ask for more really.

As part of a 20 strong contingent, everyone arrived and assembled at Peachester tearooms car park on arrival. Mark and I set about deciding who would lead which group and then picked out a rough idea of where to go. We planned to occupy some of the same tracks during the day, so a bit of coordination was required.

8.30 arrived and passed before we knew it, and everyone was milling around waiting for the briefing. The newcomer vehicles were inspected for the obligatory snatch/hitch points and once passed we started the briefing.

We take the time to read the rules at the beginning of every event, as this crystalizes in all attendees minds, their obligations and rights of withdrawal, should the going get too tough for their capabilities. As trip leader of 8 new faces/vehicles (thanks to Dave, Ian and Di for the support), I was especially pleased about this club custom. Nice to know there is a directive that clearly states what is appropriate, BEFORE we leave.



Co -Trip Leader Mark reading through the rules at the briefing for the benefit of all visitors and members alike



Bill's group stopping at the Stoney Creek day use area for morning tea and to air down for the days proceedings

Mark had his people on the road via Commissioners Flat shortcut, and we followed suite, shortly afterwards. The drive through to meet the Kilcoy Beerwah Road was slow and winding and gave the group a chance to collect their thoughts and get in the groove... Once on the main road we made radio introductions before turning right in to Nonmus and then left in to Bellthorpe Range Road.

After a slow but steady winding climb we were nearing the top when yours truly had a 'DeJaVu' moment. Inexplicably, the Landrover just died! I pulled over to the side and made a hurried inspection, twiddled a few wires, and fortunately the old girl fired... Back on the road without further incident, and as we headed down the metal road past Mark and his group, all was well – until we had almost made it to Stoney Creek day use carpark – it happened again. Obviously this was bad.

Once restarted, I led the group into the carpark, where we decided to have morning tea. Dave and I agreed that if there were any more issues, he would take over the run and I would head for home – ALONE. Lucky for me, nothing went wrong for the remainder of the trip.

NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

Bellthorpe Day Run (Bill's Group) - 23rd Feb 2014 Cont.

We climbed out of Stony Creek and headed off up the hill. The going was relatively simple with no major obstacles and dampish conditions under foot. As we moved higher up the track the conditions turned more to sticky, and then slippery-ish... No one was struggling so we just kept going. By the time we made the intersection back on to Stony Creek Road, it was lunchtime – so – high ratio and off to the Old Mill for a bite to eat.

By this stage everyone was on first name basis and the overall character of the group started to pickup. We took nearly an hour for the break and then headed out once again, in the direction of the Rangers house and Maleny. As a main thoroughfare the road leaves a lot to be desired in places. Still, we made it to our turn off without incident and then headed down the track entitled '4WD ONLY'. This became a gradual downhill descent through some very picturesque scenery and mostly, open tracks. Almost at the end, we negotiated downhill corrugations and ruts, but that was simple for the now more competent group members.



Bill in the "DeJaVu" Discovery negotiating a rutted hill section



Scenes like this is the reason we all love 4WDing. What a great spot !



Bill's group consisting of many new prospective members and some old faces as well - no offence Dave LOL.

It's great to see so many visitors along for the ride. I hope you all had a fun day guys.

As a final treat, we only had to cross a drain that had previously been bridged by a makeshift crossover. Although relatively dry, it managed to snare a few of the group, but after a number of winch and snatch strap recoveries we were all through. Lessons were learned and confidence was instilled for the next time another challenge was presented.

After that it was a short drive out to the road, and air up prior to leaving. Congratulations to all involved: Craig and his Dad Greg, Brian in the recently acquired 100 Series, Col in his Patrol, Trev and his son Dan, Nathan and Michele, Chris, Danni and Brad. Thanks for the assistance of Dave, Ian and Di. It all makes the going that much easier when you have a good team to call on.

Bill Penney

NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

Bellthorpe Day Run (Mark's Group) - 23rd Feb 2014

After a couple of weeks with Jem, Lynne & Bill doing Reces for this run, I managed to nut out a good challenging trip that should test the skills of the experienced and novice drivers that wished to attend.

The numbers rolled in and by the time we all assembled at Peachester we had something like 20 vehicles. Of course this was way too much for 1 group, so we decided to split up into 2 groups and drive in completely different sections of the Park. This would lessen the impact and make it a lot more manageable for all. Thanks to Bill & Dave M for taking on the roll of leading the visitor group.



Some of the more established club members that were part of Mark's group - now I didn't say OLD !



Mark about to head down in his Hi-lux



The convoy lined up around the bend in one of the open forest sections



Stevo and Mark surveying one of the rutted downhill sections

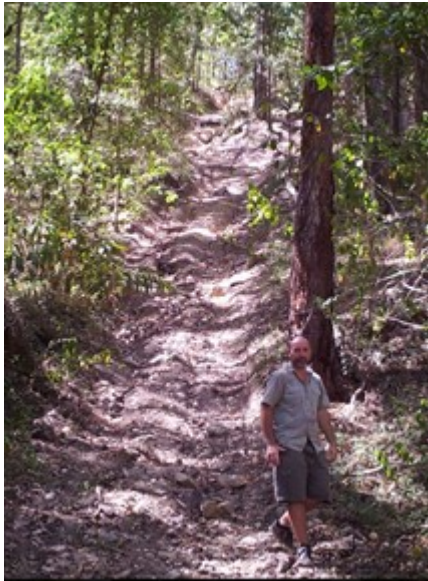
I gave Bill a good map and sent him off with his troops (though with Dave M along I was confident they would get sidetracked/lost). Their run was going to be more scenic by sticking to the regular routes that we have all done before. Bellthorpe is such a beautiful area, with very little lantana, wet sub-tropical rainforest, patches of open forest and the odd hill etc.

NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

Bellthorpe Day Run (Mark's Group) - 23rd Feb 2014 Cont.

The new Bellthorpe Range Rd is quite impressive with a huge amount of works going in to reopen it after the landslips that happened a couple of years back. We avoided the deer and wallabies on the way in and made it to air down. There had been a little rain, but only enough to settle the dust. It seemed that most of it had fallen on the east side of the park, with the west still dry.

The section we traversed through had not been visited by the club, well not in the last 7 or so years, so it was good to see something different. There were challenging climbs and drops with only 1 recovery needed (and it wasn't the Hilux – but another Toyota) and a couple of dry bed creeks to cross.



Nice looking hill climb there
Mark



Ron turning around in the Patrol has drawn
a big crowd of onlookers



Allan airing up at the end of a good days
driving



Denise and Melinda certainly look like they
had a fun day

The run stalled for a little while Neils truck had a small “mechanical” issue. We eventually got it out of the park thanks to the experienced members we have, I won't mention any names. Because of this, we had to cut short a significant section of the run. I am sure we will be going back again to finish it off. From what I heard Bills run was not quite as eventful as ours, but still very much enjoyed by the visitors. Apparently one creek crossing made it interesting for Dave to recover. He likes stomping in the smelly mud I hear.

Mark

NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

Clean Up Australia Day - 2nd March 2014

Hi Noel, this is Bill Penney – is your trailer being used on Sunday? We are short on units to carry stuff to the dump... We are so lucky to have a huge network to call on when things aren't going all that well.

Sunday morning, I headed for the club rooms and arrived to find people already set and waiting. Ian and Di were the appointed officials for the day as Dave M had to follow other more pressing matters down south. Once everybody had arrived, the gloves, bags and sharps containers were distributed, and we were off.

The area chosen this year was only a few kilometres away so the iO Mitsi was left behind in the carpark, and Ian and Di travelled with me.

In all there were 14 of us to do the deed. We followed Steggalls Road to the end, turned right and then turned right again, onto Browns Creek Road. A few kms past the recycling centre and just on to the metal road, we turned right under the power lines. We were greeted by an area, approximately the size of half a football field, littered with rubbish. As we have found with ALL these clean-ups – anything goes. Tyres, fridges, furniture and BBQs were plentiful. Any number of unimaginables were mixed in with the rest, giving us all reason to sweat in the early morning sun. It became a matter of overlapping each successive car, as we made our way further from the main road and 'discovered' more booty!



BEFORE



AFTER



Thick gloves were needed to deal with some of the more undesirable rubbish



Some of the clean up gang posing for a photo

NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

Clean Up Australia Day - 2nd March 2014 Cont.



And off to the tip we go !



You need to watch out for sharps in this pile of rubbish



Many trailer loads and ute trays were emptied at the local tip - it might have been helpful if they had alerted their staff to our proposed arrival.

Regardless, the young lady in attendance, took it all in her stride and directed where we should dispatch all the bits and pieces.

It is truly amazing how people can dump rubbish like this and ruin such a pristine section of bush-land.....And they say 4wding has an adverse impact on the environment !

Don and Aggie took an unplanned drive, in pursuit of some trailers heading past us with 'green waste' under their tarps. We saw one come back with the load unchanged, but never did see the other one...

During the course of our cleanup, a certain load of dumped rubbish turned up an individual's details amongst the debris. He is going to be exposed in an electronically appropriate manner, and may choose to think twice before dumping EVERYTHING down a mud track next time.

Time flew by quickly for the morning and it was nearing lunch when the last trailer load was dropped off in the tip. A small number of us returned to the clubrooms for lunch in the shade, while the remainder made their way home.

Thanks to all who attended. See you again next year.

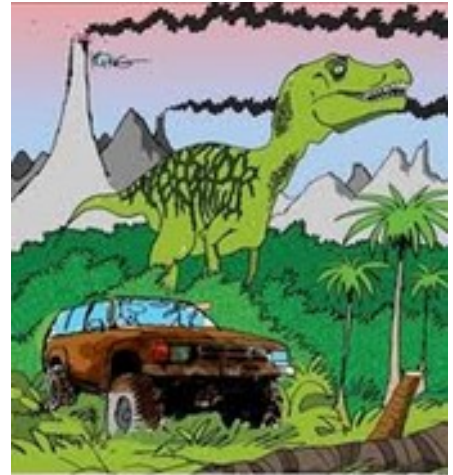
Bill Penney

NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

SOME FUNNIES



"How sweet, he's smiling. He must be dreaming about me."



"Dude, I think we might've gone a little too off-road this time!"



"No, I didn't get hurt from off-roading. My wife beat me after I bought myself a 4X4 for our anniversary."



"Your blood tested positive for mud. Just how often do you take your 4x4 offroad?"



"After the wheel, I invented something fun to go with it."



"It's an IQ test for the driver."

A NOTE FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

If anyone has any item/s of interest for the newsletter e.g. personal trip reports, photos, items for sale, camp oven recipes etc please e-mail them to Keith at newsletter@northcoast4x4club.org.au

NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

NORTH COAST 4 X 4 CLUB CALENDAR JANUARY to JULY 2014

Month	Date	Venue	Coordinator
January	10th - 12th	Cedar Grove	Brett & Catherine
	18th	Meeting (5pm BYO)	Club House
	24th - 27th	Peach Trees (Aust Day long weekend)	Noel & Cathi
February	7th - 9th	Borumba Dam	Don & Agnes
	19th	Meeting (7.30PM)	Club House
	23rd	Day Run - Bellthorpe	Mark
March	2nd	Clean Up Aust Day	Dave M & Mark
	15th	Meeting (5pm BYO)	Club House
	16th	Day Run - TBA	CANCELLED
	28th - 30th	Amamoor /Wratten Forest	CANCELLED
April	6th	Day Run - Kenilworth	Don
	16th	Meeting (7.30pm)	Club House
	18th - 21st	NSW Tour - Easter Week-end	Mark & Melinda
	25th - 27th	Sharpe Park - Canungra or Bigriggen TBA	Lynne & Jem
May	10th	Day Run - TBA	TBA
	17th	Meeting (5pm BYO)	Club House
	23rd - 26th	Fraser Island Clean Up	TBA
June	6th - 9th	Bundaberg Club - Joint Venture	Noel & Cathi
	18th	Meeting (7.30pm)	Club House
	22nd	Day Run - TBA	TBA
July	4th - 6th	Bribie Island - Poverty Creek	TBA
	19th	Meeting & AGM (5pm BYO)	Club House
	27th	Day Run - TBA	TBA

NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

The North Coast 4x4 Club has a mandatory requirement that all members and visitors carry the following Safety Items on any 4WD activity:

Snatch Strap

Probably the most useful single item you will carry. Check that it is a rated **Snatch Strap** and NOT a tow or lifting strap.

Bow or D—Shackles

Must be correctly rated.

Recovery Points

Must be approved and are required to be fitted to both the front and rear of your vehicle. Factory tie down points are NOT acceptable.

UHF Radio

Communication between vehicles is essential to ensure the safety of all concerned. Either a hardwired UHF or handheld radio **MUST** be carried. Some club members may have a spare handheld radio that you can borrow.

The following items are **Highly Recommended** but **not** compulsory:

First Aid Kit

A basic first aid kit is recommended. The club has two first aid kits for use on all club trips.

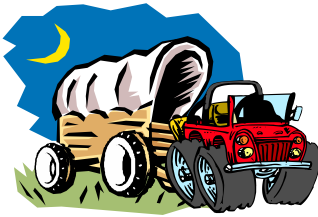
Shovel

While it is preferable to carry a long handle shovel, it is acceptable to carry any shovel that suits your vehicle and is strong enough to assist in recoveries.

Winches (electric or hand) & Ancillary Equipment





A winch, cable damper, winch extension strap, tree trunk protector, snatch block and gloves are handy to have in the event your vehicle cannot be recovered by other means.

NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC



Track Classification - 4WD QLD

Track Classification

	Easy	Medium	Difficult	Very Difficult
Description	All-Wheel Drive and High Range 4WD Novice Drivers.	Mostly High Range 4WD but Low Range required. Some 4WD experience or training required.	Significant Low Range 4WD with standard 4WD ground clearance. Should have 4WD driver training.	Low Range 4WD with high ground clearance. Experienced drivers.
Advisory Sign/Symbol	<p>Green Circle</p> <p>Dry Conditions</p>  <p>EASY</p>	<p>Blue Square</p> <p>Dry Conditions</p>  <p>MEDIUM</p>	<p>Black Diamond</p> <p>Dry Conditions</p>  <p>DIFFICULT</p>	<p>Double Black Diamond</p> <p>Dry Conditions</p>  <p>VERY DIFFICULT</p>
Expected Terrain & Track Conditions	Mostly unsealed roads with no obstacles and minor gradients.	Tracks with some steep and/or rock/slippery/sandy sections. May have shallow water crossings.	Tracks with frequent steep and/or rock/slippery/sandy track section. Possible water crossings.	Tracks with frequent very steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy track sections. May have difficult river crossing.
Vehicle Suitability	All-Wheel Drive and High Range 4WD. Can be low clearance with Single Range and road tyres.	Suitable for medium clearance vehicles with Dual Range 4WD and all terrain or road tyres.	Suitable for medium clearance with Dual Range 4WD and all terrain tyres.	Suitable for high clearance with Dual Range 4WD and tyres suitable for the terrain. (Mud terrain tyres)
Recovery Equipment				Winch recovery equipment required
Driver Training Experience	Suitable for novice drivers.	Recommended that drivers have experience or 4WD training. Recommended to be done in groups of vehicles.	Recommended for drivers with reasonable experience or 4WD training. To be done in groups of vehicles.	Drivers with extensive experience and advanced training should only attempt as there are several technical challenges. Recommended to be done in groups of four or more vehicles.
Weather	May be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.

The tracks are classified in dry conditions and it is noted that in wet conditions and usage that most tracks will increase in difficulty, please confer with Trip Leader if you have any concerns as to ratings of trips if weather conditions change.