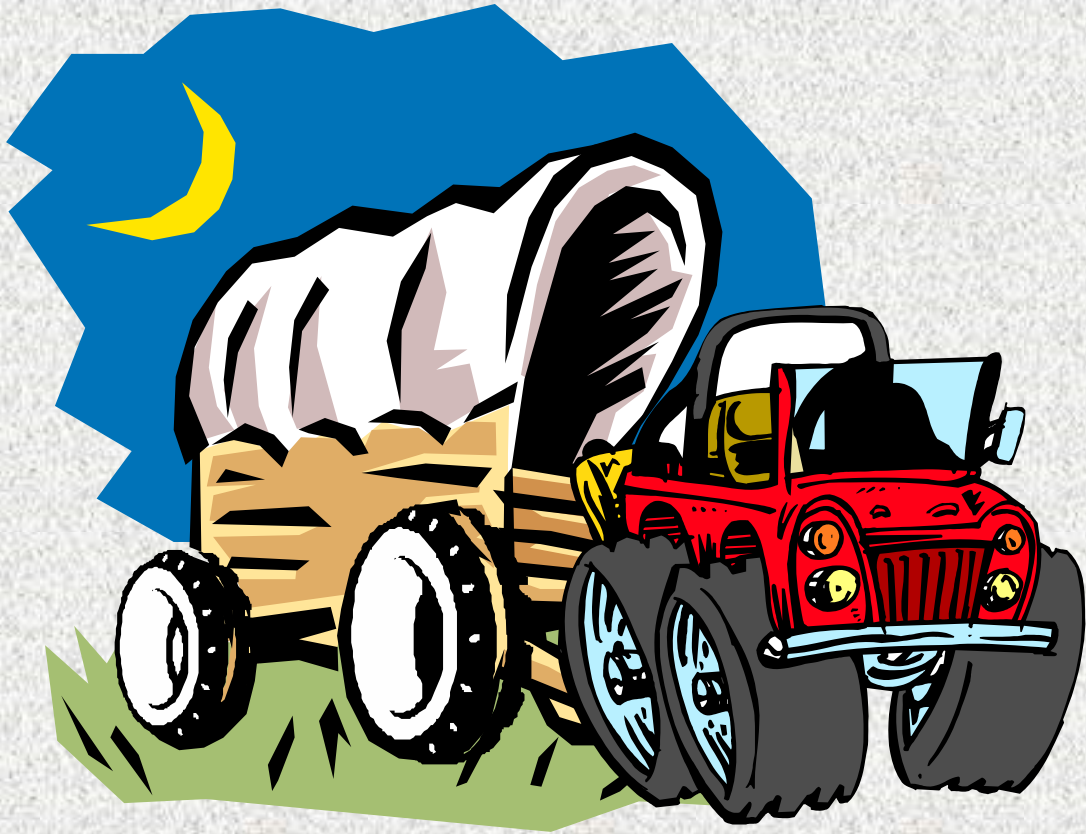


North Coast 4x4 Club Inc. Newsletter Oct - Nov 2012



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.

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Nambour Qld 4560

E-Mail : info@northcoast4x4club.org.au

Website : www.northcoast4x4club.org.au



NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

Management Committee

Position	Name
President	Mark Haeusler
Vice President	David Monaghan
Secretary	Kevin Froggatt
Treasurer	Derek Fox
CARE Officer	Jeremy Broomhall
Insurance Officer	Gunther Kettniss
4WDQ Association Delegate	Mark Haeusler
Hall Chair	Bernie Jaenke & David Monaghan
Newsletter Editor	Keith Daly
Website	Melane Bellamy
Driver Training Coordinator	Gavan Johnson & Scott Crawford
Admin Officer Driver Training	Denise Kettniss
Public Relations	Noel Southern
Trip Committee Coordinator	Denise Froggatt & Cathi Southern

**Upcoming 2012 Meeting Date @ Our Clubhouse,
Cnr. Stegges Road and Carnival Street, YANDINA**

December 19th, Wednesday night 7.30pm



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NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

And now a few words from our Fearless Leader

No, I am NOT a council worker



Presidents Report—Oct-Nov 2012

Man, is it nearly the end of the year already? Christmas and 2013 is approaching very fast. Better pull my finger out and get organised. Unlike our trip committee, who has planned the next 6 months for us. Thanks for that and more on that later.

Congrats to Nick & Tracy, and Ray & Vicky as new members to our club. Good to see great people showing an active interest in 4WDing and the outdoors.

It's sad to hear that the Gold Coast 4WD Club can't find a venue for next year's Corroboree, I was looking forward to great participation from us. I would love to step up to help out but since we have never done one before it would be a huge task at such short notice. Maybe some other time!

I have put out a survey/questionnaire regarding trip treks for next year or upcoming years. I have had several responses and ideas, so it's looking pretty positive. At the next meeting I shall go through this and move into the next phase. Thanks for the feedback. It makes it easy to manage knowing that members support me and each other.

Moving with that thought, there was the suggestion that we could do some more social activities also, what those events are I shall leave up to you to decide of course, but I and older members (experience not age) remember that we did this in the past. A great way to socialise without taking up the whole day or weekend.

As mentioned before, the next 6 months has been planned out. I won't go into details but as usual we have a lot of weekends and day runs planned. Many of these still need coordinators, so it would be great to see some new hands go up. It gets a bit tedious with the same people doing the organising. Without this help then trips may be culled and that's not what we want.

On the last several runs we have had, there have been good recce's done beforehand. These make the actual planned runs flow so much easier and from a visitors or invited club view, an organised and well planned trip. Thank you to those that have put the effort into that.

On a final note, this is your newsletter also. If there is anything you want to talk about, share, sell, cook, repair, gone to, been from, seen, taken a pic of, or whatever then flick Keith an email. He loves it.

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Thanks for making it to the end of my blurb. Get into the rest of the newsletter and enjoy.

If you are away on holidays stay safe and enjoy.

President - Mark



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JANOWEN HILLS 4WD PARK – Fri 28th Sept to Mon 1st Oct 2012

Because we weren't quite sure how long it would take to get to Janowen Hills, and not wanting to miss the 8.30am briefing, Cathryn and I left home at the ungodly hour of 3.00am, stopping at Aratulla for breakfast, and arriving at the Park a little before 7.00am. The group that greeted us comprised Rod, his mate Al with his unique looking GQ Patrol, another of Rod's mates Andy, with his well set up '60 series Cruiser, Mike and Jacqui, Jason and his kids Jade and Lincoln, Noel and Cathi, Chris and Di Rice and Di's mum Barbara, and Neil Baralet.

Our tent was pitched in no time, and at 9.00am, we were off to explore the Park with Trip Leader Rod, sharing his knowledge of this awesome facility.

As soon as we had negotiated one technical track, we were immediately treated to the choice of several others. We soon discovered that one of the features of this Park is the variety and close proximity of all of the challenging tracks. Some involved climbs and descents, while others required a crawling pace along a dry rocky river bed. Apart from Andy snapping his rope winch attempting a recovery, and Mike producing horrible clutch smells from his Navara, the morning passed without incident.

After lunch back at camp, those with lockers went seeking even more extreme challenges, while those without lockers jumped in with those that did. An excellent day ended with a tree being cut into transportable pieces for the return to camp and the traditional evening fire. A slight drizzle that evening threatened to put a dampener on the following day, but amounted to nothing and soon disappeared.

Sunday morning saw Noel and Cathi, Chris and Di, Jason and kids, and Andy heading home. The remainder of us had another great day exploring the Park, and another great fire on Sunday night. Monday was the dreaded "back home" day, and we had all broken camp and hit the road by mid morning.

I would have to say that from my point of view, Janowen Hills is the best 4WD Park that I have so far visited. Our camping area, which had been set aside for us, was excellent. The nearby ablutions were clean (toilets and hot showers), the abundance and variety of 4WD tracks was first class and, as always, the company was brilliant.

I would love to see more of our club be given the opportunity of experiencing this facility, and am pleased to see that it is back on our calendar for the first half of 2013. BRING IT ON!!

Derek

NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

TJM BEACH RUN – Sunday 14th October 2012

The club had received an invitation from TJM to participate in a beach run to Double Island Point and eight members had replied. Due to QPWS's new web site crashing five club vehicles along with 23 other participants were delayed and we finally left the North Shore Wilderness Resort at 9.15am.

Representing our club was Ralph & Glenna along with Ralph's daughter and grandson, Ken Cobbin and his mum & dad, Grant Smith and his son, the Bellamy's and of course myself with a special passenger. Jeannie had agreed to ride shotgun with me because it would not be a serious 4wd trip. High tide was at 7.30am so the run up the beach was on the outgoing tide but there was still plenty of soft sand.

Just after crossing onto the beach we were all pulled over for an RBT. There was a strong police presence all along the beach making sure we didn't exceed the speed limit. It was a pleasant run up the beach with the ocean almost dead flat and a brilliant blue. A stop was made at Red Canyon to stretch our legs and check out the many different hues the dunes had on display. The view over the ocean was delightfully enhanced by its many shades of blue.



The vivid red and the shades of the ocean blue make for a truly beautiful backdrop



Our club members stop for a moment on the hard sand and take in the view

A short time later we stopped again towards the end of the beach camping area. This was our lunch stop with TJM having already set up BBQ's and their banner which an overzealous ranger tried to have removed. Basically we were left to our own devices until lunch was prepared.

Jeannie and I had brought our fishing rods and some bait which soon got used up (apparently I was only supposed to use 2 cm pieces of sand worm instead of 7 cm). Luckily there were plenty of pipis, not that it mattered because we didn't catch anything. After a great lunch, TJM with the help of their special guest Simon from ALL 4 ADVENTURE (the TV series on 7MATE), put on recovery demonstrations using snatch straps, Maxtrax and winching.



NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

TJM BEACH RUN – Sunday 14th October 2012 Cont.

After this we said our goodbyes and with the Bellamy's headed up to Liesha Track and over to the other side of Double Island Point. I had the opportunity to recover a bogged Landcruiser Ute towing a boat using the longest tow rope I've ever seen. We meet up with Ralph and Grant, who had departed earlier and we passed Ken who was heading back home. We also gained another vehicle in our convoy when Keith and Lesley, also guests of TJM, asked to join us for the afternoon. We headed back over Liesha Track and back to Freshwater Campground. The Bellamy's decided to head home along the beach.



The Double Island Point area sure is beautiful !



Ralph, Glenna & grandchildren with Grant & his son following in the Cruiser as they make their way home



The convoy dodging some of the many bog holes and washouts along the Cooloola Way

I had my second recovery here when a young couple attempted to drive their Mitsubishi ASX (AWD) up off the beach and became stuck. After snatching them out I advised that they return to the hard sand on the beach and make their way back to the barge. We continued along the Freshwater Track (having afternoon tea at the day use area) until we reached the Rainbow Beach Rd.

We were going to go along the King Bore Track but it was getting late and the tide would be coming in, so it was decided to air up and head along the Cooloola Way. Boy, hasn't this road deteriorated; it would be the roughest track I have driven without being in 4wd. There were washouts, deep ruts and bog holes galore. We stopped at the Kin Kin Pub for light refreshments and said our final goodbyes.

It was a great day and I thank TJM for inviting us.

Dave M

NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

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NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

TJM OPEN DAY & Club BBQ Fundraiser - Sat 20th October 2012

What a disappointment! An estimated 500 prospective TJM customers didn't materialize, with only 60 to 100 "shoppers" on the day.

We were asked to cater for up to 300 but our sales for the day at only \$174.25, represents 87 sales of \$2.00. Most of these sales were to our Northcoast 4x4 Club volunteers and some of the TJM staff. Thanks guys and gals.

On the positive side we had a great turn out of members who were on hand throughout the morning awaiting the rush. We had 3 BBQ's set up and each shift consisted of 5 members. (Apologies to those who volunteered but were left out, as all my Emails, Excel and Word documents were lost for a week in a Microsoft Office melt down).

There was excellent camaraderie between our Club and TJM. We even had a small handful of prospective new members interested in our activities. It does pay to fly the flag!

In summary we showed our colours and helped out a valued sponsor plus we have plenty of supplies to enjoy or to have another crack at it.

Ralph



What up a fine upstanding bunch of citizens !

Looking good there in the club shirts with banner in the background.

Even though we didn't get the expected customers on the day, it was worthwhile getting exposure for our club.

Congrats to Ralph for coordinating the day !

This must have been the RUSH HOUR.

I hope this bloke is hungry and buys a few snags.

That's the way Bill, stand back and let the missus do all the work.... Only kiddin !

Thanks to all that volunteered for the day. Great support from our members.



NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

CITY VIEW 4WD PARK - 26th to 28th October 2012

This was meant to be the Crows Nest Camping weekend but due to bush fires the National Park was closed, so at the eleventh hour we had to come up with plan B. Because of the change of venue a few people dropped out, so there was only a small group that attended. The club had not been to City View before, so we thought let's give it a go. The park was holding a driving competition this particular weekend so we weren't quite sure what to expect. It turned out to be a great weekend and no doubt it will be on the calendar again.

Jeremy and I had never been to a 4WD park before, so we were really looking forward to the new experience. You are put to the test from the start, as the driveway in is not the smoothest to say the least. Once we had paid, it was campsite here we come. Chris and Diane were already there and just deciding where to set up camp. Unfortunately it wasn't the flattest of areas but we managed to find somewhere and set up. Noel and Cathi arrived not long after. Kevin and Denise, Derek and Catherine and Richard all arrived after dark. We got the fire going, had food and a couple of beers and then all went to bed.



We all woke Saturday morning a little bleary eyed as none of us had got much sleep. The weather turned really windy during the night and our tables and cooking equipment blew over, which I think woke most people up.

The group were joined by Matty (Noel and Cathi's son), Jason Savanh and Jade Saturday morning. Once they had set up camp, we had the briefing and off we went.

We headed off along Camp road going towards Goat track and we got held up here as the competition vehicles gathered to attempt a very steep hill climb.

So we got out to watch and cheer them along, not that you could hear us over the ohhhhh, ahhhhh's & revvvvvs. After all the excitement we eventually went on our merry way.

Pictures never really due a track justice, do they ?

I think this should have been called "Mountain Goat" track.

Some of the comp vehicles lining up for a steep hill climb.

The yellow one looks like a Suzi and the red one looks like a bath-tub on wheels !



NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

CITY VIEW 4WD PARK - 26th to 28th October 2012 Cont.

The first stretch of track was only one vehicle wide so we had to radio to make sure nothing was coming towards us. With all through safely, we came to our first of many descents. The first couple of cars made it through but Jeremy got a bit hung up on one drop. With some guidance we got through, as did everyone else.

From there on it was up hill, down dale (rocky, rutted tracks) & tight turns. A lot of the tracks had two options, so no one felt pressured to try something they weren't comfortable with. We stopped for morning tea and a map consult, as the tracks weren't very well sign posted. We decided to head up to the Ridge, so steadily we started to climb. The views going up to the ridge were amazing and once we got there you had a 360 degree view. At this point the group decided to start heading back to camp as it was nearing lunch time. The loop back to camp was as good as the first part of the morning.



What a serene sight this is with the moon in the background.

Noel you can sit down.... There are plenty of seats to choose from. Not sure about the park bench ?

Everybody had lunch, chilled out and watched a bit more of the competition as we had a good view from our camp site. I think this wet the mens appetite, as they decided to go and have a play on the old Scenic Rim site adjacent to City View.

The ladies stayed back and played scrabble, which Denise won. We also had to do repairs to gazebos and tents because it got really windy again and caused a little damage.

On the mens return we got the fire lit and all settled in for a cosy evening around the fire. It wasn't a very late night as everyone was tired from lack of sleep the night before combined with a challenging days driving.

Come Sunday, we all packed up, said our goodbyes and headed for home.

Jeremy & Lynne



Jeremy in the capable hands of Noel, as he is guided down this drop off.

CAMP OVEN RECIPES

Mini Meat Loaf

500g mince
1 egg
1 small onion
2 tablespoons bread crumbs
1 tablespoon chilli sauce
10 stuffed olives, sliced
¼ cup red wine
Salt and pepper

Method:

*Combine all ingredients in a bowl.
Mix thoroughly with clean hands
Spoon mixture into two greased enamel mugs
Bake in camp oven for about 25 to 30 minutes*

*When done, separate around edges with knife and remove onto plate
Serve with salad or vegetables*

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NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

LAKE BORUMBA – Fri 9th to Sun 11th November 2012

Penny, Tylah and I arrived at the Lake Borumba Campground just before 10am on Friday and were greeted by Bernie & Cheryl, John & Tina and the John's who were camped in a powered area near the entrance and close to the facilities.

We unhitched our camper down at the far end of the campground (unpowered) which had been reserved for the majority of our club members and a few visitors. Penny left Tylah & I to set up as she had to go to work and would join us early Saturday morning.

As the day wound on, we were joined by Andrew & Jo, Ralph, Richard & Diana, Mike & Jackie, Derek (with Cathryn arriving after work), Neil & Catherine, Noel & Cathi, Nick & Tracy and young Beth, The Froggies with their newly acquired Patrol (very nice), Dave & Jenny and visitors Murray & Rachel with young Imogen & Liam.

It was a drizzly afternoon and evening with no chance of a fire to congregate around, so everyone had a reasonably early night in their own campsites. In the morning, we were joined by Dave M, Mark, Udo & Siobhan with daughter Seysha (not sure of correct spelling) and three groups of members from the Twin Rivers 4WD Club plus one visiting group from their club and Penny with our Patrol.



Campsite with the rain drizzling down

It was decided due to numbers to split into two groups with one led by Neil and the other by Dave M. The overnight rain had made even the easiest of slopes a slippery slide of clay which some of Neil's group, including myself, found challenging.

Tyre pressures were reduced considerably and momentum was required to get through a few sections. Ralph in the Pathfinder had to be snatched up by Neil as I think lack of ground clearance got the best of him. Murray and family in their Navara did a great job for their first real 4WDing experience.

At one stage we lost our leader Neil, but we were re-united and the group decided to return to camp for lunch, as a few drivers from both groups wanted to tackle more challenging areas in the planned afternoon run. It seemed the other morning group had its fair share of issues in the slippery conditions with Dave C popping the bead on his front left tyre negotiating a hilly section.

In addition, Mike & Jackie broke a tie rod end on a jump up and had a slow and sometimes assisted drive back to camp due to the lack of steering control. Mike removed the broken item and took it to Imbil to get it welded so they could get home the next day. Have a look at the photo on the next page.



This was one of two tyres that popped a bead in the muddy conditions



This was the exact moment Mike & Jackie's tie rod end broke

NORTH COAST 4X4 CLUB INC

LAKE BORUMBA – Fri 9th to Sun 11th November 2012 Cont.

The afternoon run was definitely more challenging with the group of 10 vehicles having to turn around on the first track. Even vehicles with twin lockers, muddies and heaps of clearance struggled to get up tracks that could only be described as mud slides. Dave M led us to another track where we had to detour around a large washout in a creek and found another mud slide to test us out. I was riding shotgun with Andrew in his Pajero and as we were trying to get up a section that had Dave M sidelined, there was a loud bang. The bead popped on the front right tyre as the Paj lurched sideways in the slippery conditions.

With the tyre changed, we had a slippery slide backwards to get down to level ground. Dave M threw the removed wheel in the back of his Hilux ute and I remember Noel saying “I bet that doesn’t stay in there for long”. Dave M then led us up a main road to a nearby fire tower which was getting a bit slippery on the way up. Just as we got to the top Dave took us down one more track that wound its way back up to the tower. As Andrew & I followed Dave up the hill, the aforementioned wheel came bouncing out of the back of Dave’s ute and luckily landed face down and didn’t take off down the hill towards us or into the scrub.



Which way Mike ? I don't think he even knows !



Mark and “The Pig” smokin !!!!!

After retrieving the wheel, everyone except Andrew, Mark (in the Pig) and Murray mumboed their way up the steep, slippery, rutted track. Comments over the UHF from the Twin Rivers boys were that this track was the best ride they had experienced. The return down the main road was made even more treacherous as the previous slippery sections had become a soupy slop requiring careful touch with the right foot on the throttle and no or minimal braking, otherwise things could go pear shaped.

On returning to camp, we found the ladies having a great time under Noel & Cathi’s awning with laughter erupting every few minutes. We were joined by Denise (returning from work) and Lyn (minus Jem) and Jason S who both came to camp for the night. A large tarp was erected between some large gums, a fire was started and everyone bunkered down out of the drizzly rain. Nibbles, laughter and a good time was had by all with some kicking on into the wee hours.

The next day, the wind got up and the rain for the most part had ceased. Everyone slowly emerged and mingled around various campsites with hot cups of morning brew until enough energy was generated to prepare brekky. An adventurous few went for another morning run with the Twin Rivers crew. One by one the campsites were dismantled and goodbyes were said as another weekend drew to a close. Despite the miserable weather, this was another great club trip with the many visitors thoroughly enjoying their time with us.

Hope to see you all soon. Keith

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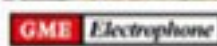
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NOTE FROM NEWSLETTER EDITOR

If you have any suggestions, articles of interest, items for sale, camp oven recipes or pictures for the newsletter, please e-mail them to balfang60@gmail.com

Regards, Keith

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.



Trip Ratings & Standards Guide

EASY:

Touring type trip, using well formed roads or tracks. May require use of 4wd.
No recovery likely.

VEHICLE: Suitable for standard unmodified 4wd in good mechanical condition.

DRIVER: Suitable for novice and beginners.

MEDIUM:

Trip can contain dirt, mud, and sand tracks, with hill climbs, descents and maybe water crossings. High &/or Low Range 4WDing.

VEHICLE: Should preferably have off road tyres, good suspension and suitable solid recovery points fitted as well as being mechanically sound.

DRIVER: Suitable for the more experienced driver.

HARD:

Trip can contain a combination of very steep climbs and descents, side slopes, deep water, mud, rough or overgrown tracks and recovery situations are likely. Low Range 4WDing.

VEHICLE: Should have good ground clearance & suspension, off road tyres in good condition & suitable solid recovery points. Recovery gear must be carried at all times.

DRIVER: Suitable for experienced drivers.

EXTREME:

Contains all of the elements of the above plus possible winching & snatching required.

VEHICLE: Should have off road tyres in good condition, good ground clearance, good suspension, and suitable solid recovery points fitted. Recovery gear must be carried in/on the vehicle at all times.

DRIVER: Suitable for experienced drivers **only**.