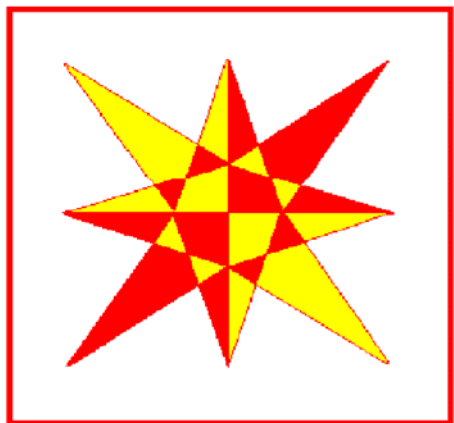


Central Hills



4WD Club

Four-Told

**Issue 154
April 2009**



CENTRAL HILLS 4WD CLUB Inc

newsletter



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CLUB INFORMATION & NEWS

INCORPORATION – the Club was formally incorporated on 13 March 1996
POSTAL ADDRESS – PO Box 1047, Mt Barker 5251
EMAIL ADDRESS - ch4wdc@chariot.net.au
TELEPHONE NUMBER – 0408 847 667. Phone is held by Secretary.
WEBPAGE – http://users.chariot.net.au/~ch4wdc/ . Comments or suggestions should be directed to the Club Secretary via email.
GENERAL MEETINGS – are held on the fourth Thursday of each month (except December) at 7.30 pm in the CWA Hall, corner of Mann and MacLaren Streets, Mt Barker. Meetings normally feature a guest speaker (<i>see the Club Program within this newsletter</i>) followed by light refreshments.
COMMITTEE MEETINGS – are usually held on immediately after a General Meeting - any Member may attend a Committee Meeting.
MINUTES OF MEETINGS – detailed Minutes are recorded of all Committee and General Meetings, and are published in this newsletter (except financial and correspondence records).
NEW MEMBERS – receive an Information Kit (a CD) on joining the Club. This is available from the Membership Officer. It covers 38 topics, with a lot of general advice, and includes a copy of the Club's Constitution and By-Laws.
MEMBERSHIP NUMBER – is issued sequentially by the Treasurer when joining the Club. It lapses when the Member leaves the Club, and is only reissued if the same entity rejoins at a later date.
NAME BADGE – Members are requested to wear their name badge at Meetings. See Membership Officer for replacement.
SUBSCRIPTION FEES – annual Club fees are renewable by 30 June each year. Payment may be made at any Meeting prior to 30 June, or can be posted to the Club Treasurer by that date. The current membership fee is \$75, being prorata from January each year, and a one off \$15 joining fee. Members are requested to complete a Renewal Form each year so that Club lists are kept up-to-date. They are available from the Membership Officer or website.
PARTICIPATING IN CLUB ACTIVITIES – to do so, enter relevant details into the appropriate trip folder, and if you need further information, speak to the Trip Leader. If after registering for a trip, you then decide not to participate, please advise the Trip Leader ASAP. Please note – the Club insurance cover extends to only one vehicle per event/trip per membership. Participants are advised that there may be some degree of risk associated with four wheel driving and camping activities.
PHOTOGRAPHS – the Club Librarian is always seeking photos of Club events – please contribute to our albums.
CHANGE OF ADDRESS ETC - notify Secretary, Membership Officer & Newsletter Editor if changing postal address, e-mail address, or telephone number.
RADIO CHANNEL – the Club utilises UHF Channel 20 as its prime channel.
DISPOSAL OF YOUR VEHICLE - please remove all Association and Club stickers from the vehicle, in case the new owner uses it in a manner that may bring discredit to our Club and the 4WD Movement.
SA ASSOCIATION OF FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUBS INC – the Club is a member of the SAAFWD, to which \$16 of annual fees is paid, plus \$8.00 for Public Liability Insurance (includes 50c GST).
FRIEND OF PARKS – the Club is a registered Friend of all SA Parks.
NEWSLETTER - the newsletter is normally distributed by electronic means. The deadline for contributions closes on the Sunday prior to a Club Meeting. Submit articles etc by email, on a 3.5" floppy disk in Word format or on paper (preferably typed). Receipt will be acknowledged of all articles emailed to editor by return email. Contact Editor via e-mail at
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR – a segment will be made available in every newsletter for any Member to have published any letter sent to the Editor.
REPRODUCTION – any of the articles herein may be reproduced by members of any 4WD Club, providing due accreditation is given to the author and in particular to FOUR-TOLD, the publication of the Central Hills Four Wheel Drive Club Inc.
DISCLAIMER – while all care is taken, no responsibility is accepted for the accuracy of information contained in this Newsletter. The views and opinions of contributors expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Editor of this Newsletter, or the Committee or Members of the Central Hills Four Wheel Drive Club Inc.

NEWSLETTER INDEX:-

Page	Item of interest
3	Club Executive
4	Program
5	Club diary, & Trip leaders
6	Proposing a club trip
8	Technical advice – upgrading your 4WD's GVM
9	DEH regional contacts
10	General Meeting minutes – 26 March 2009
	Committee Meeting minutes – 26 March 2009

GENERAL INFO:

Our Club's AGM has been changed from June to the meeting in August.

Bob has graciously agreed to edit the newsletters for May, June and July, as Ian will be away on a club trip. Please help him out with articles, trip reports, etc.

GUEST SPEAKER INFO:

We really are seeking help in this matter, as Ian does not have time at present to arrange any, and will be away for the next 3 months anyway.

COVER:

The "Dig Tree" taken by Carmel, on a Innamincka/Simpson Desert trip, 2004

<i>How long does litter last</i>	<i>Years</i>
a cigarette butt	1-5
plastic coated paper	5
plastic bags	10-20
plastic film containers	20-30
nylon fabric	30-40
steel cans	50
aluminium cans	80-100
glass bottles	1,000,000
some plastic	indefinite
(Source unknown)	

Club Executive

Club Committee:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretaries
- Treasurer
- Member
- Member
- Newsletter Editor
- Trips Coordinator

Club Officers:

- Driver Trainer
- Environment Officer
- Librarian
- Membership Officer
- Property Officer
- Social & Welcoming Officer
- Webmaster

Club Delegates:

- Aboriginal Liaison Unit Delegate (ALU)
- Driver Training Unit Delegate (DTU)
- Natural Resources Advisory Unit Delegate (NRAU)
- Association Delegate (SAAFWDC)

Association Office Bearers:

- State Secretary
- State Driver Training Officer

<h1 style="color: blue;">Membership Renewal</h1>	<p>Members are reminder that annual subscription fees are renewable by 30 June each year, and that completion of a membership Renewal Form is requested for administrative purposes.</p> <p><i>There will be a blank form at the back of next month's newsletter.</i></p> <p>Payment may be made at any meeting prior to 30 June, or be posted to the Treasurer by that date.</p>
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<h1 style="font-size: 2em;">Trips</h1> <p style="font-size: 1.5em;">we want suggestions</p>	<p>We want more CLUB in the Club, and that means TRIPS. Do <u>you</u> have any ideas for interesting trips?</p> <p>They do not have to be just long 4WD or weekend events, as we also need more one day social activities.</p> <p>Some ideas might be a progressive dinner, wine tasting, quiz night, mangrove walk, brewery visit, factory tour, Yorke Peninsular trip, or a trip to the Grampians.</p>
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How about passing on any suggestions to our Trips Coordinator, and we may be able to come up with someone to lead it (if you do not want to), or help you plan it (if you are uncertain how to go about it).

CLUB PROGRAM

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING	To follow immediately after next General Meeting
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General Meetings – 4th Thursday nights

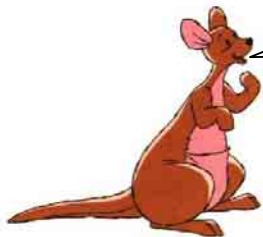
DATE	PROGRAM / GUEST SPEAKER
23 Apr 09	
28 May 09	
25 Jun 09	
23 Jul 09	
27 Aug 09	AGM

NB – please tell the Editor if you have any ideas about possible guest speakers

Club Trips & other Events

DATE/S	TRIP/EVENT	DETAILS	LEADER/S
18-20 Apr 09			
2 May 09 to ?	WA Coast	Trip full	
24-25 May 09	Peake camp	With Nissan Club	
12-28 Jul 09	Broken Hill, Corner Country		
29 Sep-3 Oct 09	Simpson Desert trip	Support cycle race across Desert	
2-5 Oct 09	Langkoop		
Not yet chosen	Christmas picnic		
20 Feb 10	Annual Dinner		
24 Apr-8 May 10	Northern Flinders		

Guest Speakers



my hobby is

At past meetings, we have had some very interesting presentations, but it is a hard job organizing guest speakers, a task which usually falls on the Vice President’s shoulders. Although we ask for suggestions from Members, in the past year we have had minimal input from Members, so we are now asking all of you to come up with some more ideas. Surely everyone must have at least one contribution to make – someone in an interesting business, someone who has accomplished a feat that they may like to tell us about, or someone who has an unusual hobby. Please contribute, and help share the burden.

Insurance cover

Please note – the Club insurance cover extends to only one vehicle per event per membership – if you own more than one vehicle, only one will be covered

Club Diary - May 2009						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1.	2.	3.
				John & Annette birthdays		
4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
	ALU Meeting			Carmel birthday	○ Full moon	
11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.
NRAU Meeting			Brenton birthday	Tim birthday		
			DTU Meeting			
18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.
			SAAFWDC Meeting	Rob birthday		● New moon
25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.
			Club General Meeting	Georgia birthday		

TRIP LEADER/S

People lead trips or organise events because they want to – they want to have a holiday, perhaps go somewhere new, show others their favourite places – and there are dozens of other reasons.

Depending on the trip or event, the organiser/s or leader/s may have spent months planning, researching, disseminating information to participants, etc. There are many decisions to make before the trip actually starts, some of which might not suit everybody. Intending participants may be asked for their input, all of which will be considered by a leader sensitive to others’ opinions, but compromises have to be reached and the decisions made.

If you have indicated an intention to participate in a trip, then change your decision, please notify the leader ASAP.

When a trip is under way, the guy or guys up front may have many things on their minds, besides just trying to drive safely – fuel stops – navigation - radioing obstacles and oncoming traffic - is the group intact – track maintenance - what will the weather do - is the trip going as planned. Where and when to stop for morning tea and lunch – will there be shade - does the schedule allow a full hour or whatever. Where will the group camp – topics like sunset, space, firewood, water, shade, and toilet facilities need to be considered. Possibly there is a better site around the next corner, but when the decision is made, it should not be open to scrutiny.

Enjoy your next trip, consider the others in the group, but also spare a big thought for the poor guy up front who is trying to keep everything together and also have a holiday.

<h1 style="margin: 0;">Membership numbers</h1>	<p>The Club issues each Member a number sequentially as that member joins the Club, for administrative purposes.</p> <p>When a Member leaves the Club, that number lapses and is only reissued if the same entity rejoins the Club at a later date – this has occurred on several occasions.</p>
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How to propose a new trip

Interested in leading a trip somewhere, or organising an event for Club Members?

Here is some advice on how to set about it.

Generally your decision to nominate a new trip or event will be welcomed by the Club, but there are a few steps to consider in the process.

Firstly, **CLUB BY-LAWS AND RULES FOR CLUB ACTIVITIES** – you need to be aware of them all, but specifically the following –

1. **CLUB ACTIVITIES.**

For the purpose of these By-Laws and Rules, only those activities, which have been approved by The Club Committee or a General Meeting and noted in Minutes, shall be recognised as official Club activities. Any activity not so approved shall be considered as a Member's private activity and shall only be discussed at General Meetings during General Business, if time permits.

In these By-Laws and Rules, the word "trip" includes events and activities, and for these the title of "Trip Leader" refers to that Member or those Members who are the principal organiser(s).

6.2 **Trip Leaders.**

On trips, the Trip Leader has absolute authority over the whole trip, and has the right to refuse any Member or Visitor participating in the trip. All Members and Visitors participating in Club activities shall at all times abide by the direction of the Trip Leader.

6.10 **Numbers of Vehicles.**

The number of vehicles on a Club activity shall be determined by the Trip Leader but may also be subject to requirements of outside authorities.

You will note from the above By-Laws, that any proposed trip has to be "approved", and this is normally done at a Committee Meeting by the Club's Committee. You will also see that you have the right of refusal for a trip (eg if a Member's vehicle is not insured, or does not have approved recovery points), and you have the right to determine trip numbers.

To place your proposal before the Committee, complete a "NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED TRIP" form (copy over page), and hand it to the Trips Coordinator (whose job includes submitting new trip proposals to the Committee).

Depending on the trip and your perceived ability and experience, the Committee may approve the trip straight away, or may ask for more details from you. There are several reasons for this, the main one being that you, as Trip Leader, and the Committee, both have a duty of care to Club members.

When you complete the "NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED TRIP" form, give prospective participants (and the Committee) sufficient information to enable them to make an informed decision about your trip. Besides the headings covered on the form, you could include such detail as terrain, radios, trailers, etc.

And finally, an "approved" trip has cover under the Club's insurance scheme for various entities, including you, the Trip Leader.

CENTRAL HILLS 4WD CLUB INC

NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED TRIP

Trip Type -

Trip Area -

Duration - days

Dates - to

Meeting Place -

Departure Time -

Group Limit (including leader) –

Trip Leader -

Telephone -

Approximate Total Distance - about kms

Maximum Fuel Requirement -

Maps -

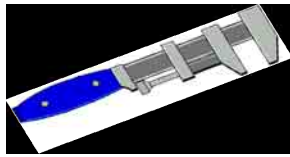
General Comments/Special Requirements -

Participants are advised that there may be some degree of risk associated with four wheel driving and camping activities.

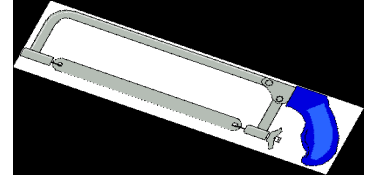
This trip will be conducted according to the Club By-Laws and Travelling in Company Procedure.

Signature (Trip Leader) -

Date -



Technical advice



A Weighty Issue - How to Upgrade your 4WD GVM

Outlined below is the process I followed to increase the GVM of my 4WD.

Please note, this process is for a fully coil sprung, station wagon (passenger vehicle) in South Australia.

If we have added aftermarket accessories, such as a bullbar and a long-range fuel tank, and carry a lot of equipment, especially on remote area trips, many of us are "overloading" our vehicles, which may lead to warranty & insurance arguments.

Every vehicle has a Tare Weight, the unladen or empty weight.

Every vehicle has a Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM), the total weight of the vehicle & all contents.

Remember that this total weight also includes all people & fuel, plus the tow ball weight if towing a trailer.

The carrying capacity, the difference between GVM & Tare Weight, of a 4WD station wagon is often around 600 to 800kg. Especially if you have more than 2 people in the vehicle plus a few aftermarket accessories, plus food & water for a few weeks, plus recovery equipment, the total weight very quickly reaches the GVM.

If you have worked out that you need to increase your GVM, it is not difficult to do.

First:

- get your owners manual & look up GVM, front axle maximum capacity & rear axle maximum capacity
- add together front & rear maximum capacities & subtract the GVM
- it is usual to find the total of front maximum & rear maximum is 200 or 300kg more than the GVM
- this difference is the amount you can increase your GVM quite easily
- * To increase it any more is generally prohibitive, as stronger axles, brakes, springs, etc etc are needed.

Second:

- have a qualified mechanical workshop install stronger springs.
- * If you have not put in stronger springs you cannot increase your GVM.
- get a copy of the technical details of the springs:
 - Manufacturer, part number, spring rate, inside diameter, material diameter

Third:

- contact a certified engineer & supply them with:
 - your compliance plate details (a digital photo is good)
 - your owners manual details of GVM, front axle & rear axle maximum capacities
 - the technical details of your suspension upgrade

Fourth:

- when the engineer has obtained your additional "modification" compliance plate, your vehicle will be inspected to site the modified suspension
- hand over the prescribed fee (\$385 in Jan 2009), attach the additional plate & it's done
- * If you have raised your suspension 50mm or less, you do not need to visit Regency Park.
- * Since a station wagon is rated as a passenger vehicle with a GVM less than 4,500kg, GVM is not recorded on your registration certificate, so there is no point in notifying Transport SA.

The engineer I used is Stuart Croser from Tonkin Consulting at Wayville.

The vehicle is a Landcruiser 200.

Rob

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As this is YOUR newsletter as much as anyone else's, how about getting something of your own in print. As far as this Editor is concerned it would be great to have some more input from Members, so how 'bout it? The deadline for contributions is the first day of each month.

This paragraph appeared in the Club's 4th Newsletter (August 1996), when Dave was Editor, but it has the same meaning now. I would love more contributions from Members, and not just jokes, please.