



EDITION 281

# OCTOBER 2023 MAGAZINE





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# CLUB INFORMATION

## CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

POST OFFICE BOX 8233

WARNBRO WA 6169

<http://peel4x4club.webs.com>

Secretary: [secretarypeel4x4club@outlook.com](mailto:secretarypeel4x4club@outlook.com)

Treasurer: [peel4x4.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:peel4x4.treasurer@gmail.com)

Magazine Email: [briantanner57@bigpond.com](mailto:briantanner57@bigpond.com)

## NEXT GENERAL MEETING

**25/10/2023**

## GENERAL MEETING MEETING VENUE

**Secret Harbour Surf Lifesaving Club**

Doors open 7.00 pm

Meeting starts 7.30 pm

## NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

**13/12/2023**

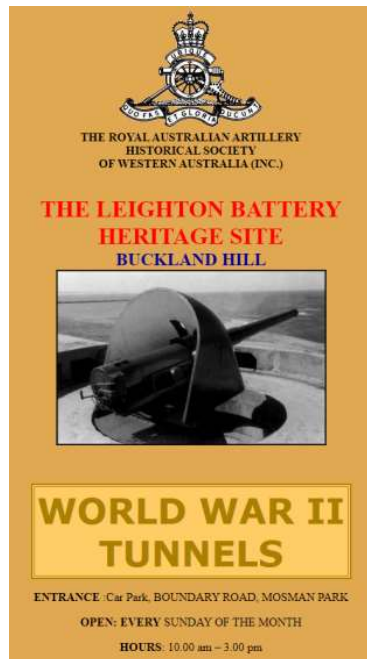
## COMMITTEE MEETING VENUE

**The Powers home**

## Upcoming trips

See trip pages for details

This Sunday October 22



Find us on



Membership Fees \$130.00 for the first year then \$90.00 per annum. Pro rata fees will be charged depending on your joining date.



# CLUB BUSINESS

## Peel 4x4 club Christmas Party



@ the



BIRDIE

### LOCATION

199 Port Kennedy Dr,  
Port Kennedy WA 6172

Sunday 10th December 2023

12noon – 3pm

Finger / Platter style food will be provided

Buy Your Own Drinks

Final numbers by November Meeting November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023

If you require more information

call Julie  
0422 895 121

# GENERAL STUFF

## PEEL 4X4 CLUB BYLAWS

1. The trip leader will delegate the position of Safety/Recovery officer to another member prior to trip departure.
2. All members and visitors are to follow the Safety Officer's instructions at all times
3. No pets allowed on club trips.
4. Each club member is to be responsible for the safety and whereabouts of their own children.
5. Trip Leader responsibilities and Tail End Charlie role to be read out before each trip.
6. After 2 trips you must have adequate front and rear recovery points fitted to your vehicle and must have a UHF CB radio.
7. Vehicles without adequate front and rear recovery points are limited to scenic/social and easy rated trips.
8. All trips are to be rated scenic/social; easy; medium; hard and extreme. Visitors are not permitted on hard and extreme trip. Membership of the WA4Wd Assoc is required for attendance on hard and extreme trips.
9. Proceeds from fundraising will be used for club purposes.
10. A limit of 15 vehicles per trip will apply. Trip leader has the discretion to increase or decrease this number.
11. First in best-dressed, if in excess of 15 vehicles wish to attend a trip, based on prior confirmation.
12. Club bank account to hold a minimum of \$1000 balance. A portion of this amount may be used to purchase urgent items at the committee's discretion.
13. Whilst every care is taken, no responsibility is accepted.
14. Visitors must attend at least 2 trips, rated easy and/or medium, to qualify for membership. Scenic/social trips will not be counted.

## PEEL 4X4 CODE OF ETHICS

1. Keep to the laws and regulations for 4wd vehicles. They may change from state to state.
2. All vehicles must have either comprehensive or third party fire and theft insurance.
3. Keep the environment clean. Carry your own and, maybe, other people's rubbish home.
4. Obey restrictions on use of public lands. Respect national parks and other conservation areas.
5. Obtain permission before driving on private land. Leave livestock alone and gates as found.
6. Keep your vehicle mechanically sound.
7. Take adequate water, food, fuel and spares on trips. In remote areas travel with another vehicle.
8. Respect our wild life. Stop and look but never disturb or chase animals.
9. Respect other recreationalists rights to peace and solitude in the bush.
10. Obey all fire restrictions. Extinguish your fire before leaving. Don't let your exhaust emit sparks.
11. Help in bushfire emergencies and search and rescue but only if you are properly equipped and able.
12. Support 4WD touring as a responsible and legitimate recreational activity.
13. All members should behave in a socially acceptable manner at all times.

This code is valuable only if you observe it



**Club Shirts etc are now available from**  
**Totally Workwear**  
Mandurah

T Shirts	(with logo and name)
Singlet	(with logo and name)
Hoody (zipped front)	(with logo and name)
Peak Cap	(with logo)
Beanie	(with logo)

T Shirts are the same as previous ones. If you know your size you can phone Totally Workwear with your order or call into the store and try one on. They have all our details on record.

Please see our Treasurer/Committee Members at the meeting if you have any questions.



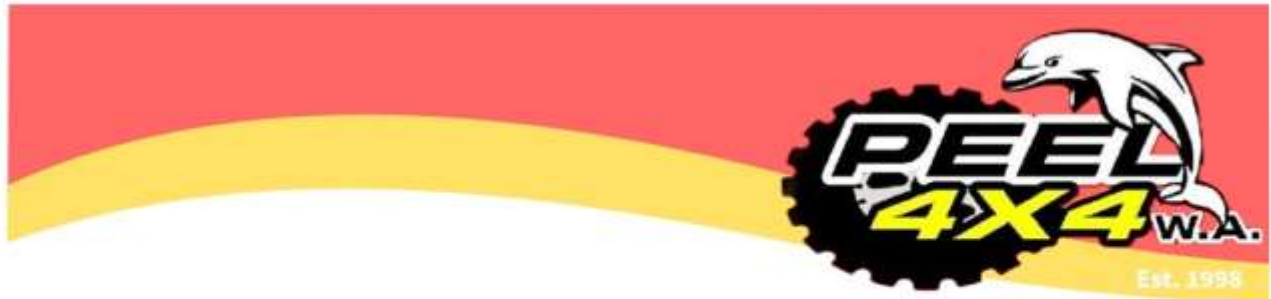
## Peel 4x4 Club Property List

### GENERAL

- ♦ BBQ & Gas Bottle
- ♦ Hand held UHF CB - Uniden UHO40XR (2)
- ♦ Magnetic Numbers (20)
- ♦ ARB Gazebo
- ♦ Wanderer Gazebo and side walls
- ♦ Fines Container
- ♦ Presidents Gavel
- ♦ Shower/Toilet Tent
- ♦ 4 Large pegs
- ♦ Peel 4x4 banner
- ♦ Peel 4x4 flag and stand (2)
- ♦ Beach volleyball net
- ♦ Laminated maps
- ♦ Santa suit

### RECOVERY EQUIPMENT

- ♦ Pulley Block
- ♦ Tree Protector
- ♦ Bridal
- ♦ D shackles (3)
- ♦ Recovery Damper
- ♦ Large Grey Space Case



# Containers for Change



After the AGM we made an account to donate the empty recycling containers to the club.

These funds can then be used towards our social functions or other agreed upon purchases for the club as something a little extra.

No obligation, and we understand people collect their own, but if you have any empty bottles or cans laying around please feel free to use the QR code or account







Peel 4 X 4

We are fundraising with  
 Entertainment

**Buy  
online  
today!**



**SCAN ME**



**SHOW YOUR  
SUPPORT**

Every Membership we sell, 20%  
goes directly to our fundraising



A\_1203

# PRESIDENT'S PARABLE

## Presidents Report

Hi Everyone,

Hope you've all been well, and enjoying the technical segment of the General Meetings that was recently introduced.

The last few meetings we have focussed on Dyneema rope, and different splicing methods.

Although there is still more to share on this topic, after some recent discussion within the group, we will discuss different types of auxiliary batteries, ways to charge them, and alternative ways of setting up a dual battery system at the upcoming General Meeting.

I will still make the Dyneema rope & tools available at the next few meetings also, which will give everyone a chance to have a bit of a play.

Please remember that this is YOUR club, and if there is anything that you would like more information on, something technical you'd like to discuss at a meeting, or just have ideas for the technical segment, please feel free to send them through.

As always, Brian is doing a great with the magazine, where you will see a new section introduced this month, being unique or interesting hobbies that we have.

If you do have a hobby that is not normally undertaken by the masses, please support Brian by sending through a short spiel about what you enjoy, and maybe include a few photos.

Don't forget the WW2 Tunnels this Sunday. I'm sure it will be a very informative event.

Stay safe out on the tracks everyone, and I look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday night, 25<sup>th</sup> October.



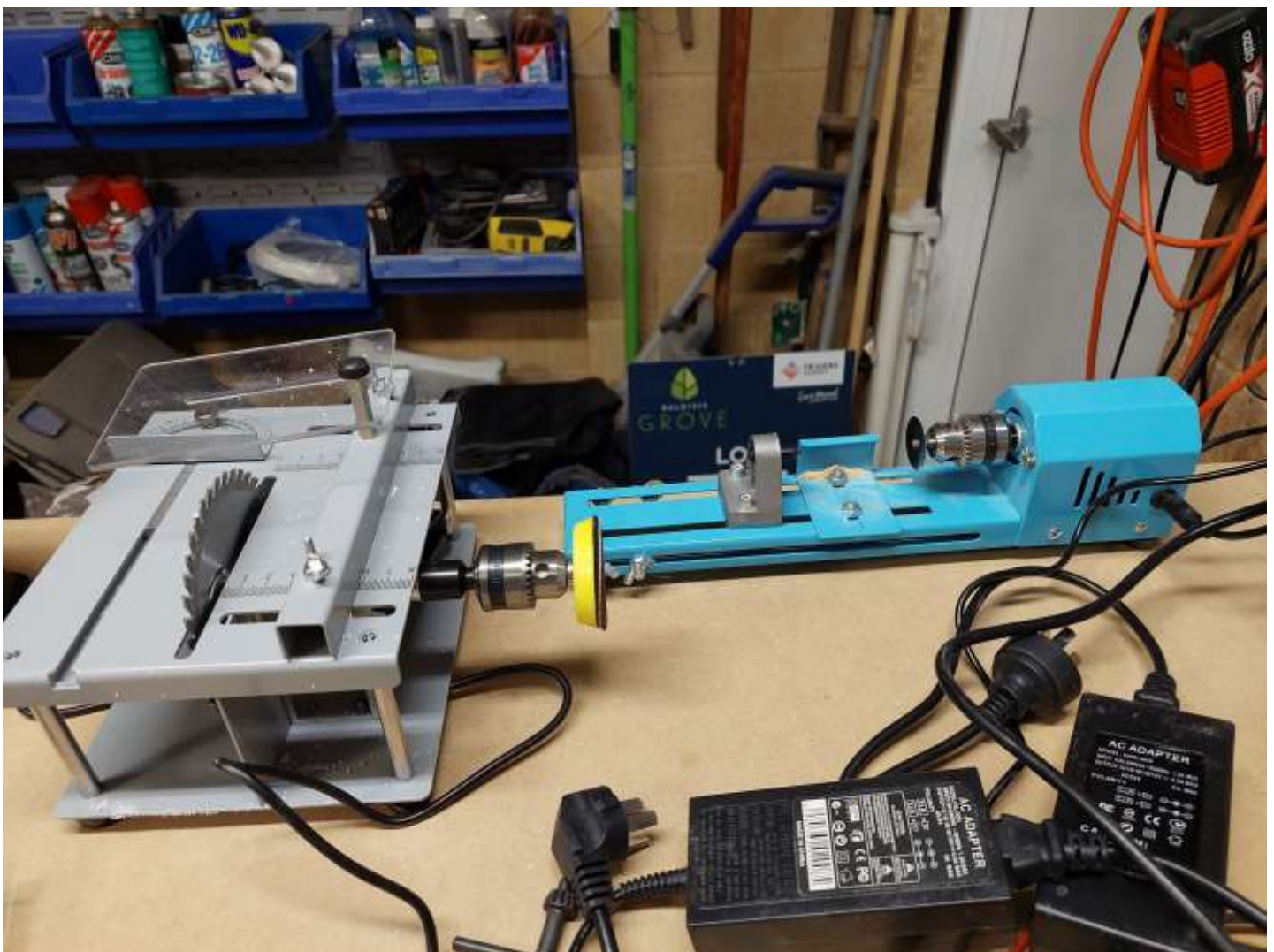
# BRISEY'S BULLDUST

With having a work ute supplied we were struggling to justify having two private cars as well so we made the decision to sell Julie's Honda HRV to our elder daughter a few years ago. This worked well until I finished work but now it has been difficult sharing the one car sometimes. While I was teaching our young bloke to drive we had the use of his car which started us thinking of getting a second car again.

As we have solar on the house and export a fair bit of power back to the grid an electric vehicle is quite attractive so I have been doing some research on and off for a while. Initially the idea of a plug in hybrid was attractive but the smaller battery meant a small range using battery power so either it would need to be charged often or the petrol motor would be used defeating the purpose.

The new (only released in Australia a few months ago) MG4 is the second cheapest entry level EV in Australia, The BYD is \$100.00 cheaper, read very well in the reviews so we went for a test drive and loved it so we bought the only one John Hughes had in stock. Julie is now a very happy chappy with her new EV sitting in the garage. See the Tested to Destruction page for my first impressions.

It's amazing what you can find on Ebay, trawling through I found some cute little benchtop power tools to use for my hobbies and cheap too. The mini circular saw was \$80.00 and the mini wood lathe was \$41.00.



Don't forget that I would like to see some members put keypad to monitor (pen to paper) and send some articles in for the magazine, remembering that what you do, see and know could be very interesting to others.

# MEETING MURMURS



## GENERAL MEETING OF THE PEEL 4X4 CLUB

### General Meeting Minutes

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Venue: Secret Harbour Surf Lifesaving Club



**MEETING OPENED 7.31PM**

#### **1. CONFIRMATION OF ATTENDEES**

ATTENDEES & VISITORS – As per the record book

APOLOGIES / PROXIES: Winton Headlam, Max Milbanke, Dave Philp, Bianca Toi

#### **2. TRIPS SINCE LAST MEETING**

- Mark Skeels – Karrara Ranges. 20<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> August
- Ian Screech – Mellenbye Station. 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> September

#### **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING – 23/08/2023**

Chairperson (Gary) has accepted & signed the minutes.

No objections as to the accuracy of the minutes.

Unanimously Accepted by all in attendance.

#### **4. BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- Nil

#### **5. PRESIDENTS REPORT: Gary Mayes**

- Being part of the Associations Constitution Sub-committee, Gary has had a bit of an insight into how clubs can come unstuck with doing stuff their own way, rather than by their constitution.

Its all well & good until there is a dispute, which is when the commissioner (or representative) start digging into things.

##### **Business for the President:**

- No business for the President.

#### **6. SECRETARYS REPORT: Donna Light**

**Mail In:** 2 x Bank Statements, passed on to treasurer.

##### **Business for the Secretary:**

- No business for the Secretary.





## GENERAL MEETING OF THE PEEL 4X4 CLUB

### General Meeting Minutes

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Venue: Secret Harbour Surf Lifesaving Club



#### **7. TREASURERS REPORT:** Cassie Mayes

- \$7156.68 in the bank. Gary still needs to be reimbursed for the rope that was bought for the splicing demo.
- All bank accounts have now been cleared, so only committee members are signatories. Approvals still need to be readjusted.
- **Any other Business for the Treasurer:**  
No business for the Treasurer.

#### **8. INSURANCE OFFICERS REPORT:** Dave Knudsen

- Affinity is the underwriter for the National Association Insurance Policy, which we are covered by.
  - Certificates of Currency have been sent out to Club Secretaries.
  - No PDS yet. Liz Harding will follow up.
  - Need to ensure trip sheets are kept for all trips, including Reccy runs. - discussion around keeping trip sheets digitally, or even emailing them to the secretary so there is a digital copy.
- Business for the Insurance Officer:**
- No business for the Insurance Officer.

#### **9. PROPERTY OFFICERS REPORT:** Phillip Crewe -

Nil to report.

**Business for the Property Officer:**

- No business for the Property Officer.

#### **10. ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICERS REPORT:** Peter Light

Nil to report

**Business for the Environmental Officer:**

- No business for the Environmental Officer.

#### **11. DELEGATES REPORT:** Gary Mayes

- 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Kaarakin clean up. Would like at least two people from each club. Most likely just fire mitigation.
  - Gin-Gin shire. 10-year plan due to erosion. Public report has been released. Houses have been lost due to erosion, therefore looking after their rate payers.  
This is a different issue to that of mining of the Lancelin dunes.
  - 4WD Association of Clubs Facebook page. For club members. Discussion around adding Cassie as a moderator to the Association's page.
- Business for the Delegate:**
- No business for the Delegate.



## GENERAL MEETING OF THE PEEL 4X4 CLUB

### General Meeting Minutes

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Venue: Secret Harbour Surf Lifesaving Club



#### **12. MAGAZINE EDITORS REPORT: Brian Tanner**

- Deadline for the magazine is now the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, so Brisey can get it out before the weekend.
- Brisey requested for members who were at the Melenbye Station weekend away to contribute some pieces for the magazine, a small trip report, or photos, or anything else they found interesting or funny about the trip.
- Brisey also re-iterated that he is open to any submissions for the magazine, he will welcome anything. 4wd related or not.
- Brisey is also open to new ideas for the magazine, if it is something we haven't done before he is happy to incorporate a new page.

##### **Business for the Magazine Editor:**

- No business for the Magazine Editor.

#### **13. WEBMASTERS REPORT: Cassie Mayes**

The club is nearly at 2000 followers, and we are up 27.8% in views and follows on our socials.

##### **Business for the Webmaster:**

- No business for the Webmaster.

#### **14. TRIP COORDINATORS REPORT: Steven Power & Julie Power**

WW2 Tunnels, Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>. Brisey

- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Youth/Senior carnival.
- 26<sup>th</sup> November, Lancelin Dunes - Knuddo
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December. 12pm – 3pm Christmas party at Birdies Port Kennedy. - Need final numbers by November meeting.
- 30<sup>th</sup> December, Preston beach fishing. (to be confirmed)
- Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January. Surf boat carnival.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Jan – 28<sup>th</sup> Jan, Australia Day trip to Northcliffe. Need final numbers and payment by November's meeting. \$20 per night unpowered, \$30 per night powered, No cabins.

##### **Business for the Trip Coordinator:**

- No business for the Trip Coordinator.



## **GENERAL MEETING OF THE PEEL 4X4 CLUB**

### **General Meeting Minutes**

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Venue: Secret Harbour Surf Lifesaving Club



#### **15. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- Reminder. Headlights on for all trips – DRLs no longer acceptable.
- DO NOT leave a group on a club trip, unless there are exceptional circumstances, or it has been discussed & accepted by the trip leader. Trip leader is in charge of the trip.
- Mick has offered a McGuire's "Waxes and Polishes" morning or afternoon at Autobarn, where the rep has offered to show people how best to use their products. Will put a survey on fb to gauge interest.
- Cassie to give some club flyers to Mick for the Autobarn
- Skeelsy mentioned that Easter is now starting to book up, so suggestions for a trip are welcome.
- Skeelsy also mentioned he will take club flyers to the 4wd Show.
- Red cotton shirts are available through Cassie. They come in ½ or full button fronts, short or long sleeve. The ladies' shirts only come in the closed front.

#### **16. TECHNICAL**

- Splicing of Dyneema rope.

#### **17. NEXT MEETINGS:**

**GENERAL MEETING** – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Secret Harbour Surf Life Saving Club.

Doors open at 7:00pm. Meeting starts at 7:30pm. Pizza for those interested.

**COMMITTEE MEETING** – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Hosted by Dave & Sarah Knudsen

#### **18. MEETING CLOSURE 9.32pm**

The minutes from this meeting have been verified as true & correct.

Gary Mayes

Peel 4x4 Club Chairperson

Date: 06/10/2023





## **COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF THE PEEL 4X4 CLUB**

**MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023**



**MEETING OPENED:** 7:22pm

**PRESENT:** Gary Mayes (GM), Cassie Mayes (CM), Steven Power, Julie Power (JP), David Knudsen (DK), Brian Tanner (BT), Donna Light, Peter Light

**APOLOGIES (A) & PROXIES (P):** Phillip Crewe (A)

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING** – (9<sup>th</sup> August)

Chairperson (Gary) has accepted & signed the minutes.

No objections as to the accuracy of the minutes. Unanimously Accepted by all in attendance.

### **Business from the Previous Minutes:**

- GM advised he had sought advice from DPP, but was not able to help. Spoke with Mandurah Police, who advised that members cannot be liable for the actions of others. Everyone who has a licence knows the legal requirements for driving under the influence, and are responsible for themselves. Also advised that person involved could file a civil case against someone, but this can be done for anything these days.
- GM advised members form has been updated with the required changes.
- GM advised headlights being mandatory rather than daytime running lights has been communicated over the last two General Meetings. No objections to this decision.

**ACTION: GM to update trip bag forms**

- GM still to make a list for First Aid kit. Suggestion to liaise with Laura Murray. Agreed by the Committee to purchase a total of 3x Snake Bite Kits – 1 for each trip bag.

**ACTION: GM to order 3x Snake Bite Kits & liaise with Laura Murray.**

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT:**

- GM discussed WA4WDA Sub-Committee for constitution, and how not following the constitution can lead to the State Administrative Tribunal getting involved if a complaint is raised.
- Following WA4WDA constitution discussions, GM raised that Committee Meeting minutes may contain confidential / personal items. It had been raised that do we send out the minutes to all members. Committee discussion agreed that all members have access to the Red Book for contact details, and sharing of Committee minutes keeps everything transparent. No further action required.
- GM noted that there has been no further progress on the Peel 4x4 Club constitution, as he is waiting to see how the WA4WDA updates go. No further movement on ours. Hopefully have some changes to table to the committee next meeting. Will then look at updating the by-laws.

### **Business for the President:**

- No business for the President





## **COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF THE PEEL 4X4 CLUB**

**MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023**



### **SECRETARYS REPORT:**

- Nothing to report.

#### **Mail In:**

- Westpac bank statement & chocolate fundraiser pamphlet.

#### **Business for the Secretary:**

- No business for the Secretary.

### **TREASURERS REPORT:**

- Balance of \$7211.68. No movement in account from General Meeting.
- Bank account sorted. All previous committee members not currently on the committee have been removed from the approvers list. Just need to add JP as an approver.
- Gary to be reimbursed for rope used for club technical demonstrations & Julie to be reimbursed for tea / coffee items.

#### **Business for the Treasurer:**

- No business for the Treasurer

### **INSURANCE OFFICERS REPORT:**

- Certificate of Currency received.

#### **Business for the Insurance Officer:**

- GM reported that the WA4WDA Chairperson is still chasing up the Product Disclosure Statement from the National Body. NOTE: This was received following the meeting on 14/10/2023, and sent through to the Insurance Officer via email.

### **PROPERTY OFFICERS REPORT:**

- Not present, but earlier correspondence received that there was nothing to report.

#### **Business for the Property Officer:**

- GM advised that Mark Skeels has Trip Bag 3, and GM & SP each have one bag.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICERS REPORT:**

- Nothing to report.

#### **Business for the Environmental Officer:**

- No business for the Environmental Officer.



## **COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF THE PEEL 4X4 CLUB**

**MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023**



### **DELEGATES REPORT:**

- Nothing further to add from the General Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Business for the Delegate:**

- No business for the Delegate.

### **MAGAZINE EDITORS REPORT:**

- New hobby section will be coming out in the upcoming magazine. BT mentioned that we need to get more involvement from members.
- Deadline for magazine entries is Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Business for the Magazine Editor:**

- Phillip has sold the camper trailer, so this can now be removed from the magazine.
- GM asked to have the club Hotmail removed from the magazine as the club email address. The outlook email address is the "official" club email address. Suggestion to change to web email address, as the Hotmail address is now used for web enquiries, and is the one associated with social media accounts.
- GM requested to move the "Duties of Office Bearers & Committee Members" to end of magazine, or remove until closer to the AGM. BT advised he will remove.

### **WEBMASTERS REPORT:**

- Nothing to report.

### **Business for the Webmaster:**

- GM enquired how long until our website subscription expires, and what will be the renewal cost. CM advised January, and that it may be worthwhile keeping the website going, especially with all of the new visits since the website update.

**ACTION: CM to get costs & details for keeping the website going. Committee to make a decision next Committee Meeting.**



## **COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF THE PEEL 4X4 CLUB**

**MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023**



### **TRIP COORDINATORS REPORT:**

- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. World War 2 Tunnels. Trip Leader: Brian Tanner.
- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Surf Club Carnival. Trip Leader: Gary Mayes
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November. Lancelin Dunes. Trip Leader: Dave Knudsen
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Christmas Party. Trip Leader: Peel 4x4 Club Committee
- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December. Preston Beach Fishing Trip. Trip Leader: Steven Power
- Trip Planning Meeting & General Meeting. Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January. Venue TBA
- Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January. Surf Club Carnival. Trip Leader: Gary Mayes

### **Business for the Trip Coordinator:**

- No business for the Trip Coordinators

### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- Discussed as a Committee about having the January General Meeting on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January, at a location that does Pizzas, and preferably on the Train Line.  
GM to look into this.
- AGM Date has been set for Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July. Venue TBA.
- DK looking into Dwellingup RSL for ANZAC Day, however unable to get hold of them. Will go to their next General Meeting.
- CM mentioned that Fire & Safety Australia will charge \$1940 for a full First Aid Certificate for 15 people. It was discussed that more cost efficient options may be available. Need to look at other options to offer to the club.

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD:** Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October @ Secret Harbour Surf Lifesaving Club. Doors open at 7:00pm. Meeting starts at 7:30pm.

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD:** Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Hosted by Steven & Julie Power.

**MEETING CLOSED:** 8:30pm (on the dot 😊 )

The minutes from this meeting have been verified as true & correct.

Gary Mayes

Peel 4x4 Club Chairperson

Date: 19/10/2023





# ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

*To any Club Members or their  
family having a birthday in  
November*





# WHAT FLOATS YOUR BOAT?

Most of us have a hobby of some sort, be it small or life consuming, and a lot of us would like to start a new hobby and would like some inspiration or ideas. This page is to share your pastime with others so they may see what it is that makes your idle time (remember the buzz phrase is “work life balance” not that many of us ever see it) pleasurable. All we need is some pictures and a few words to describe what your hobby is and maybe what got you into it in the first place. Remember there aren’t many limits to this page so you may be an avid footy fan, mountain bike rider, model train buff, string collector we want to hear about it



# TESTED TO DESTRUCTION

As I mentioned in BB we now have an MG4 Excite 52 electric vehicle. We have only had it a few days so these comments are my first impressions.

This is an entry level EV and is the cheapest on the market at the moment (apart from the BYD that is \$100.00 cheaper). There is a good level of safety features including adaptive cruise control, lane departure and driver fatigue monitoring as well as all the things considered standard now such as traction control, ABS, reverse camera etc.

We have only done 150 km so far but the seats are very comfortable with height adjustment and good back support, leg room is good even in the back seats. There are the essential coffee cup and water bottle holders and plenty of storage compartments.

The infotainment system has apple car play and android auto, Bluetooth, USB input and DAB radio. There are heaps of displays and readouts on both screens.

Performance is good with 0—100 in about 7 seconds but obviously driving that way will deplete the battery quickly, driving range is up to 350 km— not huge but good for being a shopping trolley and for our regular visit to the kids in Harrisdale and Averley. Our first drive around averaged 15 KW/100 but we found the air conditioner was on the lowest setting for the whole trip so with a more moderate setting we should see the range improve a bit. The trickle charger supplied with the car isn't as slow as I was expecting with the first charge from 60% to fully charged overnight but for a full charge I was told it could be as long as 30 hours. I bought a wall charger with the car and have ordered a cable to use at public chargers.

Build quality seems good and road noise doesn't cause conversation with my dodgy hearing any problems.

I am very happy with our purchase

Brisey



From Hema Maps

From Hema maps

## How to Stay Fire Smart While Camping in Summer

Enjoy camping without fire risks this summer. Explore vehicle prep, road safety and campfire care for a worry-free journey.



**It's been a hotter than average spring in Australia with bushfires already burning in some states.**

With a forecast long, hot summer there is no better time to be vigilant about fire safety as you head off to your favourite holiday destinations in the great outdoors on your next camping trip.

Much of Australia's native flora is designed to ignite, and in many cases, it needs to do so as part of its regenerative process. At home we're aware of the dangers of fire, but in the wilderness it's necessary to be especially careful. And as always, a little planning will go a long way to being safe in the



summer months.

As the weather warms up and the landscape dries out, our fire services will be active doing everything they can to reduce the risk of a catastrophic event. Back burning and clearing land of flammable debris are important protective measures; however, it's up to every individual to play their part. When you're on the move keep an eye on the conditions and fire safety ratings, which tend to be displayed on large signs along highways throughout the country.



## Preparation

Your vehicle should be in tip-top condition so as not to be a fire hazard. Keep your undercarriage clear of leaves, small twigs, branches, grass and other fire hazards and be sure that appliances are in good order. Check electrical connections and gas lines, as well as anything else that might spark. Keep your vehicle stocked with fire safety equipment such as a fire blanket and fire extinguisher.

Check ahead to see what conditions are likely to prevail at your destination and find out the rules pertaining to those. Throughout parts of Australia there are different restrictions on Total Fire Ban days; in some places you'll be prohibited from using a generator, while in others there's a blanket ban on recreational four-wheel driving.

Aside from the risks of sparking a blaze, breaking the laws around fire bans can result in some hefty penalties, including five-figure fines or prison time.

## On the road

One universal wisdom echoed around bush fires is to always act early. Whether that means leaving a place that's under threat or reducing danger by choosing to go flame-free to begin with, the best way to deal with a dangerous situation is to never encounter it in the first place.

Common sense should lead us all to avoid areas close to active blazes, not only for our own safety but also to keep roads clear for emergency services.



If you do, however, find yourself in such an area, be sure to keep your windows up, switch on your headlights and drive with extreme caution. Don't linger any longer than need be, but also be sure to obey road rules, temporary road closures and so forth.

## Campfire care

It's hard to beat the experience of gathering around a campfire and, if the conditions permit, it can be a great addition to any camp kitchen.



Regardless of the weather, campfires should always be lit with the utmost care but in the drier months, particularly during fire season, you should avoid lighting any solid fuel fires.

### **Keep these tips in mind for a safe campfire throughout the year:**

In campgrounds or caravan parks where fires are allowed, campers may light campfires in campground fireplaces if it is not a day of Total Fire Ban

Don't light fires on hot and windy days

Some national parks do not permit fires at all so it's always best to check with the local park's office

Use prepared fireplaces where they're available, or as directed by signs

Clear 3m radius around the pit by removing any twigs, leaves and flammable debris, and make sure there are no low-hanging branches overhead

Dig a pit around 30cm deep to contain the fire

Use large rocks to create a border around the fire; avoid river rocks and layered rocks as they can explode when they get hot

Keep a shovel and a bucket of water nearby (not sand or dirt as they stay hot for an extended period)

Ensure that the fire is never left unattended and is completely extinguished (cool to touch) before you leave the campsite. Extinguish the fire by pouring water onto it

When it comes to firewood, your best bet is BYO. You can't rely on there being sufficient supplies in the area around your camp. Some public lands will have seasonal restrictions on the collection of wood, while national parks and reserves have a ban to preserve habitat.

**On Total Fire Ban days:**

No campfires or open flame barbecues are permitted, including kettle/Weber style barbecues and solid fuel camp ovens (this includes use of burners in your tent)

No liquid fuel or gas appliances are permitted

Built-in electric or gas barbecues can only be used if a water supply is within 10m, the barbecue is clear of all flammable material for 3m around it, and an adult is present.



For more information contact the relevant fire authority in your state.



# Essential Guide to Alternators: "Smart" vs "Dumb"

## What does the alternator do?

The engine of a 4WD produces mechanical energy, however, it doesn't generate electricity, that task belongs to the alternator. The 4WD charging system consists of a battery, a voltage regulator, and an alternator. The alternator converts mechanical energy to electrical energy with an alternating current.

When the 4WD engine is running, it turns a drive belt that rests on a pulley attached to the alternator. The pulley rotates the alternator's rotor shaft, which spins a set of magnets around a coil. These spinning magnets generate alternating current (AC) around the coil, which is then channelled to the alternator's rectifier. Then the alternating current (AC) is transformed into a direct current (DC). A voltage regulator sends the power from the alternator to the battery and controls the amount of energy provided to allow a steady flow of power to the battery.



# "Dumb" Alternator

A traditional alternator, or “dumb” as we are calling it, has been in use since World War Two when they were installed on vehicles to power radio equipment. They used to be called a generator as they work the same as one, the 4WD engine spins wheels under the bonnet that crank a wheel on the alternator which produces electricity.

The issues with a “dumb” alternator are that it only offers a single voltage target, and that target is often not even correct. The typical target of the “dumb” alternator is between 13.6V and 14.2V, which is too low for an absorption phase and too high for a floating stage. What this means is that the battery may not fully charge and in the long term it may overcharge the battery, in turn, damaging it.

With a secondary battery setup, an intelligent battery management system or a DCDC charger is not required, a simple battery isolator or voltage sensitive relay (VSR) will do. A DCDC charger or intelligent battery management system, however, will look after the second battery better.

## What is a "Smart" Alternator?

Smart alternators, also known as variable voltage alternators, control the output voltage and current produced by the alternator based on the 4WD operating condition. In doing so the smart alternator is more efficient and helps the engine reduce emissions by reducing the voltage supplied to the battery when the 4WD is driving. Unlike a “dumb” alternator, which supplies a constant voltage of between 13.6V and 14.4V when the engine is running, a smart alternator’s voltage is variable.

A smart alternator is unable to charge a secondary battery system due to the variable voltage, which can range between 12.3V and 15V making them ineffective to charge a second battery effectively. A VSR won’t work with a smart alternator, however, DCDC chargers or intelligent battery management systems, such as the Redarc Manager 30 or an Enerdrive Power System have the smarts to charge and maintain a secondary battery setup to 100%.



From Pat Callinan Mr 4x4

## Lazy Gourmet: Camp oven pizza

Words: Jo Clews



Camp oven Pizza, you ask? Yes! It is totally possible **to make a pizza in a camp oven, and as I have as yet to meet** anyone who doesn't like the humble meal it is a winner with everyone.

From the Rug Rats to the Grandfolk, from vegetarians to dedicated carnivores, from pineapple people to anchovy tragics – this camp oven pizza recipe is one for all. There are a couple of ways camp oven pizza can be constructed and it is entirely up to you which method you pursue.

The first is probably a little easier and quicker as you use pre-made flat breads or pre-made bases. These can readily be purchased from the supermarket or you might like to have a go at making your own at home (from bread mix) before you leave. As flat breads are dead easy to make when you are on the road and don't need to be cooked in an oven (just a large frypan), they can be made anywhere. The second way requires you to make bases from scratch from bread mix. It takes a little more time but the results are delicious.

Of course the choice of toppings is entirely up to the individual and this could be a great opportunity for a group to all get together and bring a selection of different toppings for some amazing creations. The secret to a good pizza is to only have about four toppings; cut everything small; and don't overload the pizza as it will take longer to cook. Fantastic way to get the kids involved, too. To perfectly cook a pizza you need a hot camp oven of at least 200°C (with most of the heat on the lid) and, for once, all over the lid... not just around the outer edge.



A cast iron camp oven will need a bit more time to heat up than a Steel Hillbilly although the cast iron one will maintain its heat longer. If you are unsure of the temperature in your camp oven, invest in a BBQ temperature gauge that can be placed into the camp oven five minutes before you are ready to cook – it will tell you exactly how hot it is, and then you have time to cool it down by taking away some of the coals or heat it up by adding more coals (or even some small pieces of wood) to the lid. Always, no matter what you are cooking, have less coals underneath and more on top as they are easier to manage and the food is less likely to burn on the bottom. I have found that the small pizza trays available from homewares stores are great, and they fit easily in my large Hillbilly. If your camp oven is smaller, a sheet of baking paper on top of a trivet that fits inside the camp oven works a treat. Just make sure your pizza is a couple of centimetres smaller than the inside of your camp oven – so it's easy to lift in and out. If your camp oven is hot enough, it should only take about 15 minutes before you are dining on your very own delicious creation.

Now you have all the instructions, it's your turn to use your imagination and have a go at a Camp oven Pizza. Enjoy!



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# TRIPPING OUT

## Mellenbye Station Trip

By Brian Tanner

After dropping the dog off to jail for the day so Julie could do some babysitting duties I was on the road at about 7.30, and thinking the freeway would be a parking lot I ventured north via Rockingham Road until Beliar Ave the cut across to the Freeway the Roe Hwy and the Tonkin. This was the first time I had driven the length of Tonkin Hwy up to Muchea, only having walked sections of it during construction. All was going good until just before Bindoon when someone obviously took exception to me overtaking and sped up to stay on my bumper. It was unbelievable he could keep the rage all the way to Moora where I stopped to let him go ahead. The Camp Host at Mellenbye was a little talkative but finally I got the keys to my donga and went to unpack. The donga was small but comfortable with an ensuite and air conditioner so was comfortable. There was a camp kitchen close and handy but we were invited to cook on the BBQ at Ian and Donna's cabin, then enjoy the merriment at the campfire afterwards listening to the Waldorf and Slater Muppets insulting each other.

Saturday after breakfast we all met at Ian and Donna's mansion for the drive out to Wallanoo Rock, on the way we stopped to look at windmill frame and tank stand ruins and close by an old roo shooters car.



We drove to the top of the rock to take in the vista and the stock horse statue where we found out that one of our number is very fond of horses (an image I am still trying to forget)



On the way back to the camp for lunch we stopped and had a fossick around a paddock full of quartz and interesting rocks. After lunch we met up again to drive the 15 km to the Breakaways passing a few mobs of cattle with their calves. The Breakaways in this area has about a 3 metre drop from where we parked with shallow caves along the face of the breakaway and a large rock formation a few metres from the



face. We all scrambled down for a walk around and to get some photos finding the head of a feral cat, obviously not the tastiest part.



After this we drove back to camp for dinner and the campfire at Screech Manor. Getting back to the donga Frank and I found we had some new neighbours that had only been in Australia for a few weeks, while chatting with them we invited them to join us exploring the next day. Sunday's drive was to Yalgoo and the Jokers Tunnel which is a mine shaft through a hill on the outskirts of town. It must have been dug out by child labour as it was almost hands and knees at both entrances and opened out to stooping / standing (if you weren't too tall). There wasn't much to look at other than some small bats, crickets and red back spiders at various points along the tunnel and lots of dust.



Yalgoo was closed so lunch was at a local park across from the water playground where some of us cooled off. After lunch we drove north again to Chinaman Rock where we finally found a small display of wildflowers along a dry creek bed and also on the way back to camp





Soon after this Max had a flat tyre so we all stopped to help out, but seeing there were heaps of helpers Frank and I kept going to take out visitors up to Wallanoo Rock for a glass of wine and see the sunset. After dinner we met up at Screech Castle for the final campfire of the trip.



I was a little disappointed at the lack of wildflowers, it seems there was not a lot of rain leading up to spring but we saw some and there were a few small roadside clusters south of Perenjori and surprisingly the night sky had very few stars.

Brisey















## Know before you go with Main Roads Travel Map.

**PLAN YOUR TRIP TO AVOID DELAYS.**

Travel map contains live, up to date information on road conditions, closures and other incidents that may impact road use. Main Roads provides this information through its wide network of information sources and local reports to provide the most accurate and informative data possible.



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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

2024 SCHOOL TERM DATES

WA

- Semester 1
- Term 1      Wed 31 January – Thurs 28 March
- Break      Fri 29 March – Sun 14 April**
- Term 2      Mon 15 April – Fri 28 June
- Break      Sat 29 June – Sun 14 July**
- Semester 2
- Term 3      Mon 15 July – Fri 20 September
- Break      Sat 21 September – Sun 6 October**
- Term 4      Mon 7 October – Thu 12 December

NT

2024

^

Term	Start	Finish
Term 1	Tuesday 30 January • for teachers, Monday 29 January	Friday 5 April
Term 2	Monday 15 April	Friday 21 June
Term 3	Tuesday 16 July • for teachers, Monday 15 July	Friday 20 September
Term 4	Monday 7 October	Friday 13 December

Gunbalanya School operate on a flexible school year and separate consultation occurs to determine school term dates.

SA

2024	29 January to 12 April	29 April to 5 July	22 July to 27 September	14 October to 13 December
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# World War II Tunnels

When: 9.45am Sunday October 22

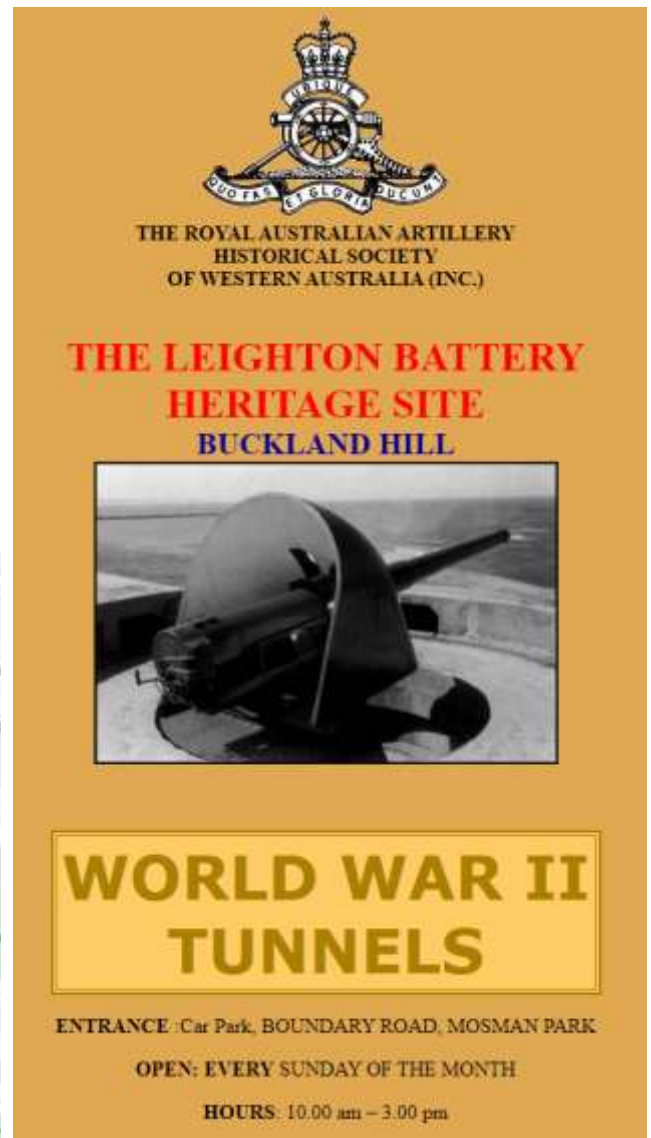
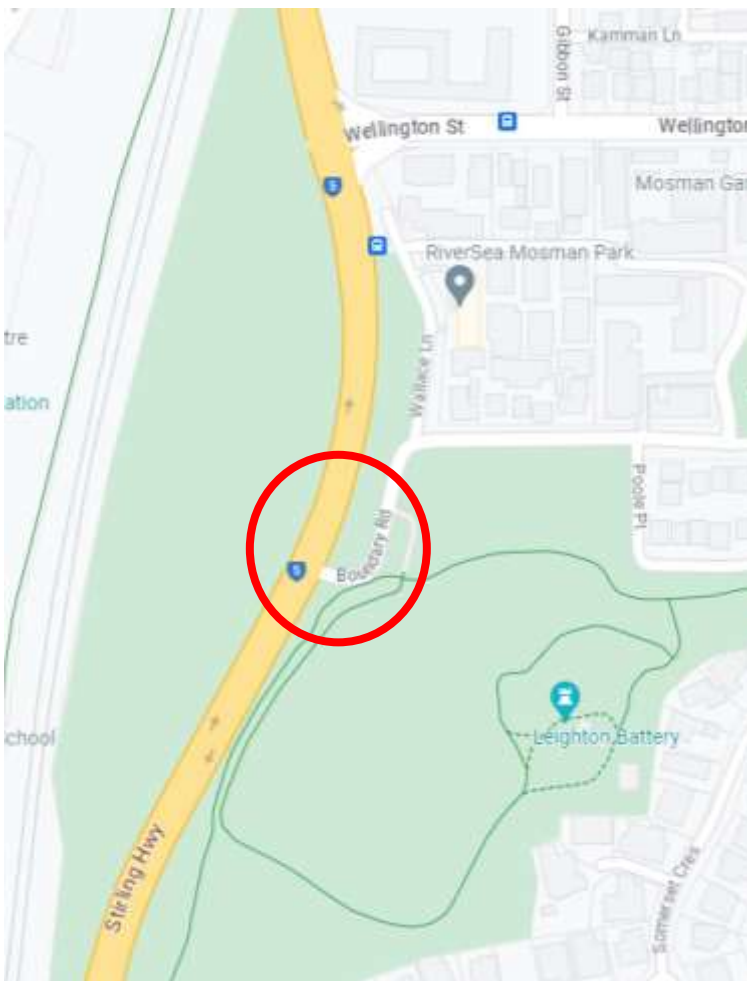
Leader: Brian Tanner 0429 110 957

Meet: The Leighton Battery Heritage Site carpark Boundary Road off Stirling Hwy Mosman Park. Please note carpark can only be accessed by travelling south (toward Fremantle) on Stirling Hwy

Cost: The entrance fee is Adults \$10.00 Children 6 - 16 \$4.00. Cards accepted

Bring: A sense of adventure, picnic lunch, drinks, entry fee

Details: We will meet in the carpark and walk to the entrance as a group. Tours start every 20 minutes. Afterwards for anyone interested we will make our way to Chidley Reserve for lunch



## Chidley Point Reserve

A riverside park containing:

- Picnic tables
- Shelters
- Toilet
- BBQ's
- Small car park





# TRIP CALENDAR

## PROPOSED PEEL 4X4 CLUB TRIP CALENDAR 2023 FROM THE TRIP PLANNING MEETING

### JANUARY

26 KOORDA DRIVE-IN  
23-27 KALGAN RIVER

### FEBRUARY

1 SCHOOL STARTS  
12 OZIEXPLOER WORKSHOP  
25 SOCIAL GATHERING

### MARCH

03 MOVIE NIGHT  
04 & 05 DRAG RACING  
12 WHITEHILLS FISHING  
14-19 CAMPING SANDY CAPE  
19 DAY TRIP FOR DISABLED KIDS

### APRIL

06 SCHOOL ENDS  
29-25 NUNGARIN ANZAC DAY  
24 SCHOOL STARTS  
28-29 4WD ASSOC GATHERING

### MAY

13 DWELLINGUP NIGHT TRIP  
21 North Bannister  
27 AGM

### JUNE

03-04 SWAG TRIP  
11 WILBINGA  
30 SCHOOL ENDS

### JULY

01 SOCIAL GATHERING  
15-16 NANNUP CAMPING  
23 BRUNSWICK HILLS  
17 SCHOOL STARTS

### AUGUST

6 MORNINGTON ROAD  
20-29 KURARA RANGES  
27 COLLIE MURAL TRAIL

### SEPTEMBER

09 NORTH BANNISTER  
22 SCHOOL ENDS  
22-25 STATION STAY KINGS BIRTHDAY

### OCTOBER




07 10 PIN BOWLING  
09 SCHOOL STARTS  
14-15 CAR RALLEY  
22 WW2 TUNNELS

### NOVEMBER

19 LAWN BOWLS  
26 LANCELIN SAND DUNES

### DECEMBER

10 CHRISTMAS PARTY  
14 SCHOOL ENDS  
30 FISHING PRESTON BEACH OVERNIGHT

Trip Name	WW2 tunnels	
Date	22 <sup>nd</sup> October	
Trip Leader	Brian Tanner	
Trip Rating	Easy	
Trip Name	Surf Carnival	
Date	11 <sup>th</sup> November	
Trip Leader		
Trip Rating	Medium	
Trip Name	Lancelin Sand Dunes	
Date	19 <sup>h</sup> November	
Trip Leader	Rob Baxter	
Trip Rating	Medium	
Trip Name	Christmas Party	
Date	10 <sup>th</sup> December	
Trip Leader	Committee	
Trip Rating		
Trip Name	Preston Beach overnight fishing	
Date	30 <sup>th</sup> December	
Trip Leader	Steve Power	
Trip Rating		
Trip Name	Trip Planning Meeting	
Date	7 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	
Trip Leader		
Trip Rating	Hard as	
Trip Name	Surf Carnival	
Date	14 <sup>th</sup> January	
Trip Leader		
Trip Rating	Medium	
Trip Name	AGM	
Date	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	
Trip Leader		
Trip Rating	Extreme	