



HOLDEN
4WD Club
South Australia

NO HOLDEN BACK

The HOLDEN 4WD CLUB of South Australia

Oct 2014

PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

I find myself in a most unusual position.

As President of the Holden Four Wheel Drive Club, I don't own a Holden and I don't four wheel drive, but I am a very good passenger in a 4x4. I am a reasonably good navigator thanks to the Hema maps and I am a good camp cook so maybe 3 out of 4 is not so bad. I am very fortunate, I only have to suggest a place I would like to go and my driver gets me there. How lucky am I.

Over the past 14 years Ian and I have travelled extensively across this beautiful country of ours. We have seen a lot of the inland places where only a 4x4 could go. We have had dust storms, been bogged for a few days, broke and subsequently repaired a vehicle chassis in the middle of the Simpson Desert and each time we have had these problems we have had the equipment, expertise and confidence to get back on track and safely home.

During our 9 years with the Holden Four Wheel Drive Club we have made some wonderful friendships and been on some fantastic trips with club members. As we and the club age, our vehicles are being upgraded, our camping equipment and vans are getting bigger and more luxurious and why not, if it keeps us seeing more of Australia, I say keep it coming.

The next 12 months are going to be very busy for the committee and also the TRI-state committee organising the 2015 TRI-state. Both committees are very enthusiastic and looking forward to the challenges ahead.

A little while ago Ian and I traveled overseas. As we were travelling, we were constantly being reminded of how fortunate we are to be living in Australia. We found it difficult adjusting to the huge crowds we encountered on a daily basis not to mention the traffic in the cities we visited. In most of the cities people live in high rise apartments and don't own a vehicle. Because of this, these people are not able to experience the peace, quietness, tranquility and isolation of the outback. Ian only saw 2 or 3 tow bars on the thousands of vehicles we have saw. Can you imagine not having a garden or being able to drive in the country or go camping? Unimaginable to us. Looking forward to an exciting and busy year back in Australia, our home.

Wendy

Member Profiles

Steve McRae

I am a kiwi who crossed the ditch back in 1987. I haven't always called Australia home since then but have tended to come back here instead of going back to NZ.

Due to get married next year I will probably be here for life but still enjoy frequent visits back there.

I joined the Holden 4WD Club about 8 or 9 years ago.

I have kept a fairly low profile for most of that time but have been an active member participating in several trips each year. I have spent a year as trip coordinator, one year as membership officer and am now the newsletter editor (sorry for the lateness of this edition, I will try to improve with the next one).

Now on my second caravan, comfort camping is becoming more important. I still own and use a tent for those trips where the caravan cannot be towed. I recently purchased a Coleman quick set up tent (black wolf copy) and have found it to be a good roomy tent that will handle most conditions (including windy conditions) with ease.

Nissan Navara New Car Review, by Jim and Jan Wissell

We were travelling to the tri-state meeting last Easter, towing the caravan, when the "flex-plate" in the automatic transmission of our much loved Nissan Patrol fractured, and we were towed home. This is, apparently, a common problem with the automatic Patrols.

We decided to purchase another 4X4. I did some research by reading a number of articles in various magazines and asking people their opinion.

We decided on a ute, mainly because it had a higher load carrying capacity than the wagons. The comfort or otherwise of the back seat was not an issue for us.

The Nissan Navara D40 ST seemed to meet our needs. They had a special on price and Jarretts Nissan offered a good trade-in price for the Patrol.

Power of 140 Kw at 450 Nm with a 5 speed auto transmission gives an excellent amount of grunt.

The Nissan is very quiet and is pleasant to drive. It tows our 2 ton caravan with ease. The steering and brakes are excellent. The suspension, as in all utes, left a little to be desired. An aftermarket ARB 2" suspension lift made the vehicle very sure footed and was well worth fitting.

The vehicle stability control makes the car grind to a halt on soft sand and mud, and needs to be turned off.

The auto box does not shift down early enough for our driving however this can be over-ridden by the manual control.

The climate control, cruise control and blue-tooth work well.

It needs a bull-bar and canopy to make it more user friendly.

Fuel consumption is 12L/100 km in the city, 10L/100 km in the country and 16L/100 km when towing.

There was a fault in the ERG system. Nissan repaired this and their after sales service was excellent.

We are very happy with this vehicle and we can certainly recommend it if utes are your thing.

Tri State Rydal NSW Easter 2015

As it happened Trevor, Merlot and myself had sometime up our sleeves to get to the Jackaroo Club of NSW Tri State Event. Setting off from Adelaide on the 20th March we made our way along the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers taking in the sights and sounds. Necessity due to a failed battery in the caravan saw us stop at Mildura to purchase a new one. On the road again heading towards Canberra, Batemans Bay, Nowra, Southern Sydney, Western Sydney and then the Blue Mountains.

It is almost Easter and we head towards Lithgow and then a two night stop at Lake Lyell which is just 10ks from Rydal, a pretty man-made lake. We had already ran into Bruce & Denise in Lithgow and we would share the camp that night with Wendy & Ian, Helen & Al. Finally the day arrived that we could enter the Rydal Show Grounds at around midday.

The NSW club had been there days earlier in preparation for the event, as they had been there many times before. So much planning goes into making these Tri States so successful. Many South Aussie's had made the trek over 1200ks, some made a holiday of it while others made almost a sprint of it.

The attendees from SA were: Helen & Al, Wendy & Ian, Pat & Bergit, Graham & Fay, Iggy & Jocelyn, Peter & Au, Nat, Michelle, Teagan & Rebecca, Sue & Simon, Jan & Jim, Bruce & Denise, Trevor & Julie, Paul & Barbara, Wayne (snake gully) the Macca's Kevin & Chris, Luke & Nut, Geoff and Trevor, Moira & Merlot. Not a bad club effort, hope I did not forget anyone.

The show ground itself was a little uneven, the best area was reserved for tents but a few campers and a couple of caravans eventually camped there. There was a lot of levelling going on, holes dug for jockey wheels, bricks, rocks and ramps used in the making of level vans. Two separate toilet blocks, ladies & gents and a toilet & shower block with one toilet & shower for ladies & gents. The two showers only seem to work ok for those who needed them. A couple of taps where you could fill up but no drinking water as such.

The registration was in the canteen where name tags, info, bags, clothing etc we given out. Two halls served as happy hour gatherings and where the entertainment and dinner were held. At happy hour we caught up on the day's trips, events and news. It was here we had the raffles, many prizes each day. Some of the SA group were lucky, Ian & Wendy especially, Helen & Al, Sue & Simon! Julie &

Trevor and the rest of us got a couple of minor prizes, sadly many did not even get a look in.

There was one person who made a very special effort to get to the Tri State, there was a boat, up at 5.30 am to catch a bus to Brisbane. A plane flight to Sydney and then a train to Central and another train to Lithgow. Finally she was picked up at the station to be driven out to Rydal. This great feat was accomplished by Sue Smith who had been competing in the Dragon Boat Nationals in Caloundra.

The trips were very well researched, varied, interesting, scenic, hard, medium, easy and non 4WD. The Quiz night ran along the lines of old TV shows and movies, who remembers the Addams family or the Munsters? If you knew the answer you had to put your hand up and yell Oi while two observers picked the person. This was badly done, we South Aussies did not get a look in as we were down the back. This was to go towards the point score, NSW 17, Victoria 14 & SA 2. It may sound like sour grapes but we were all felt pretty deflated. However we made a good recovery in the games, tunnel ball 1st, egg & spoon 1st and second in the three legged race. On the trips if you got an award you scored points, the number of cars from each state etc. Remember this was all going towards points for the block of wood. NSW had come up with a formula, when $x = y$ which is $< >$, no one understood it either. How there could be .2 difference in the scoring was strange.

The NSW Club ran a great Tri State, at the dinner we thanked them for all their efforts and showed our appreciation with a hearty round of applause. At the dinner Simon made the announcement where the next Tri State would be held with his usual flair and humour. Now was that Lameroo or was that Wha Wha it's original name.

The theme for Sunday nights dinner was a Movie and TV characters, boy there certainly were some characters. Many had gone to a lot of trouble, the sights and the costumes were terrific.

Now remember points go towards the block of wood? Well before the dinner there was only a few points in it. However when Wal made the announcement he had forgot the piece of paper with the scores. As it happens Wal did remember the places, Victoria took home the block of wood, NSW was second which meant we came third. I cannot tell you the score but maybe all will be revealed in the Tri State newsletter.

The weather had been good to us over Easter, sunny days and cool nights. As always it was a very social gathering. On the down side on one of the trips that we were on to Mt Walker, Helen from Victoria slipped and broke her ankle, a trip to hospital and Helen & Chris packed up the next day for home which was sad. On the same trip George put an almighty slit in the side wall of his tyre. After Easter Bruce also discovered a tyre wall problem, a tear that did not required action but a new tyre just in case.

Some members were travelling north, others like us took their time getting back. We had mostly good weather but the nip of winter is in the air.

Once again a big thank you to the NSW Club for a great Tri State and best of luck to our hard working organising committee for the next one at Lameroo.

Seeing the countryside
Moira with the help of Trevor & Merlot



Poem of the Month

Cranky Old Man

What do you see nurses?What do you see?
What are you thinking . . . when you're looking at me?
A cranky old man,not very wise,
Uncertain of habit with faraway eyes?
Who dribbles his food and makes no reply.
When you say in a loud voice . . 'I do wish you'd try!
Who seems not to notice . . .the things that you do.
And forever is losing A sock or shoe?
Who, resisting or not lets you do as you will,
With bathing and feedingThe long day to fill?
Is that what you're thinking?. .Is that what you see?
Then open your eyes, nurse .you're not looking at me.
I'll tell you who I am As I sit here so still,
As I do at your bidding, as I eat at your will.

I'm a small child of Ten . . .with a father and mother,
Brothers and sisters who love one another
A young boy of Sixteen with wings on his feet
Dreaming that soon now a lover he'll meet.
A groom soon at Twentymy heart gives a leap.
Remembering, the vowsthat I promised to keep.
At Twenty-Five, nowI have young of my own.
Who need me to guide And a secure happy home.
A man of Thirty My young now grown fast,
Bound to each other With ties that should last.
At Forty, my young sons . . .have grown and are gone,
But my woman is beside me . . to see I don't mourn.
At Fifty, once more,Babies play 'round my knee,
Again, we know children My loved one and me.
Dark days are upon me My wife is now dead.
I look at the future I shudder with dread.
For my young are all rearing . . . young of their own.
And I think of the years And the love that I've known.
I'm now an old man and nature is cruel.
It's jest to make old age look like a fool.
The body, it crumbles grace and vigor, depart.
There is now a stone where I once had a heart.
But inside this old carcass . A young man still dwells,
And now and again my battered heart swells
I remember the joys I remember the pain.
And I'm loving and living life over again.
I think of the years, all too few gone too fast.
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last.
So open your eyes, people open and see.
Not a cranky old man .
Look closer see ME!!

(originally by Phyllis McCormack; adapted by Dave Griffith)

UPCOMING TRIPS

Put your name and details on the trip sheets at the monthly meeting to book in or phone John (0416075144) if you miss the meetings. All trips can be used for training and assessing when training team members are available.

October 18th–19th

Morgan Quarry

Driving in the quarry ranges from easy to extreme depending on choice of track.

October 25th–26th

Melrose, South Australia

Bushwalking, Socialising, Bike riding etc

December 14th–23rd

High Country Victoria

Driving on undulating country, tracks and water crossings

Jan 23rd–27th

Beachport

April

Tri-State

Lameroo

Other ideas and leaders needed,

Possible ideas; Bushies, SA Deserts, Vic deserts, Vic Hi country, Sunday Drives,

And if you have a great idea or a simple suggestion, there are plenty of dates available.

NOTE: If anyone has any articles of any sort that may be suitable for the newsletter please forward to me at stevmc@hotmail.com.

FOR SALE

1 pair of new fog lights for a 150 series Prado.

Could be mounted to any bar.

Please contact Kym Atwell on 0407 600 833