



Newsletter 2013 — Edition 1
ACT JeepTrAction Newsletter

SNOW comes to the CIRCUS!



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Editors note.....

We kicked off 2013 with a trip into the Victorian High Country lead by Gav & Maree Bartell on the last weekend of February, the trip was well supported with around 20 people & 10 vehicles in attendance. For a full trip report please read the feature article. Other smaller trips that took place included the "Dads with Swags" weekend that Stuart de Bressac organised, a trip out to "Flea Creek/Mt Coree, organised by David Eyles, plus a Micalong Reserve escape organised by myself. I also had the privilege of attending 2 events with Brett Quodling from Jeep City. The first one was the Marathon Spares auction in Tamworth in May. With so many people, vehicles & spare parts on display it was very hard to control myself. Despite what Facebook said, I did not actually buy the new Aussie Hauler, although it would not look out of place in the Simmons garage.



The second event that I went to was the "Classic not Plastic" weekend held in June at Morisset. Again this event was well attended and supported by Jeep enthusiasts., with a good cross section of older Jeeps including military based and full size vehicles plus a few not so classic but rather closer to plastic Jeeps on display. Along with the trips organised for the weekend this event was well worth attending & one that I have marked in my calendar for next year.



As this is our first newsletter for the year I would like to encourage other people to put pen to paper & write an article. It doesn't have to be too long & pictures are always welcome. Just email them through to me at, secretary@actjeepraction.com . Regards Paul Simmons

Club Sponsors...





Fun in the Snow, in The Brindabella, by Paul Hannelly.

A chilly July morning and a short trip to Piccadilly Circus to play in the snow, A lot of other Canberran's also wanted to play in the snow and in no time Piccadilly Circus was crowded, Stuart was also there so we took a drive to Mt Coree with a non Jeep (Tyson in a Patrol) with a quick stop at the picnic spot on Pabral Rd. Then off to Mt Coree to look at the view and as usual there were lots of other 4X4's and people at Mt Coree enjoying the view. Then a drive home in a winter wonderland.



Club Sponsor note....

Jeep City is your local 4wd Jeep Store. We are Jeepers who love our Jeeps & yours. We do servicing on all models using new & genuine parts. Jeep City offers a range of products from well-known suppliers, like Caloffroad, Mickey Thompson Tyres & Wheels, Uneek 4x4 Bars & Winches. Gerry Cans from Expedition One, holding 15 Litres. We can even arrange a loaner vehicle for you if you bring your Jeep out for us to work on. At the moment we have 2 rear bars in stock that have to go. A Uneek 4x4 Rear bar with Tyre Carrier, which we will fit for free! RRP \$2318 plus freight. "I run one and its awesome." It has many extra's available including a winch mount & Gerry can holders. We also have a Smitty Built rear bar & tyre carrier for a TJ, this one is going cheap at \$700 with free fitting!

We also have the new Jeep City Jacket, (I know it's the wrong time of year) but a great bomber jacket to have in the Jeep for those cold nights. It would also make a good Christmas present. Any purchase at Jeep City between now & Christmas will receive a free pair of Mickey Thompson Double Plugger off road thongs & a Jeep City Trucker's cap. We have some great Vintage Jeep items for that special Christmas present. Buckles, Caps, Jackets, T-shirts, Models, toys....all Jeep of course. For more info please contact Brett at jeepcity@bigpond.net.au or catch me on my mobile 0409229782



ACTJeepTrACTion Visit the Victorian High Country

by Paul Simmons



On the Friday the 22nd of February the ACTJeepTrACTion club set out on their annual pilgrimage to the Victorian High Country area for a weekend of wheeling. Paul in his Black KJ and Jayco Van in tow and new club member Keith in his TJ were the first to meet in Jindabyne around lunch time with the plan to arrive early at Geehi to secure a good camping spot for the rest of the group. After crossing the Swampy Plains River twice and inspecting several other sites along the way, Paul and Keith began setting up camp at Keebles Hut. Another early arrival to the campsite was Paul H in his red TJ. What should have been a fairly easy setup was made rather complicated when Paul realised he had busted his main winch cable on his pop up van. After about an hour or so Paul, along with help from Keith and Paul H were able to fabricate a fix and get the van erected.

Later that afternoon the main convoy, led by Gavin and Maree in their Blue JK were rendezvousing just outside of Canberra at Williamsdale. Upon arrival at Williamsdale Kellie noticed that her engine light had come on in her JK and decided that it would be better to head back home. After a quick head count the Jeep convoy included Gavin and Maree in their Blue JK, Alan in his Yellow JK, Jenny in her green JK, new club members including Rowan and Kay in their Grand Cherokee, Peter also in a Grand Cherokee, Troy and Laura in a green JK and Peter and Lyn in a Patrol. After a late dinner and some entertaining idle chat around a warm campfire everyone decided to turn in for the evening to be ready for a full day of wheeling.

Once breakfast duties were dispensed with on Saturday morning, the convoy headed out from Keebles Hut campsite in Geehi, on route to Khancoban, stopping on the way at Scammell's Lookout to take in the lovely views of the western escarpment of the Snowy Mountains. Leaving Scammell's Lookout the convoy made its way into Khancoban, firstly to the NSW Parks and Wildlife Service Office to buy some park passes and then to the local convenience store for some morning tea and coffee refreshments and the fuel station for a quick top up. Several kilometres later, just outside of Khancoban, we were airing down our tyres on a side dirt road with great expectation of what lay ahead us.

Our first dirt trail was short lived as a local cow cocky had strung up an electrical fence line which could not be moved, so we had to make a small detour on the black stuff around the closed off section, re-joining at Corryong. From here we headed straight into a steady hill climb weaving into the hills of Mt Morgan and Gentle Annie. Before too long we faced our first challenging hill ascent of the day which was littered with loose rocks and tricky sections which required picking the right line to get through. While the majority of vehicles managed to make it through this section with minimal fuss, including our new club members Peter, Rowan and Kay. The highlight of this section was certainly provided by Peter and Lyn who were testing out their new Patrol in preference to using their KK Cherokee. In doing so Peter unfortunately managed to stall his Patrol not once, but twice on this section. After a few tongue in cheek comments by the rest of the Jeep enthusiasts, Peter finally managed to get his Patrol in the right gear and make it through the section.







As we navigated our way through the high country tracks we encountered a few more steep ascents and descents, each with varying degrees of difficulty. By this time lunch had crept up on us, so we decided to take a lunch break near Mt Boebeck in the State Forrest, while on route to our next location which was Mt Pinnibar. Again from here we continued to ascend further into the high country taking in the changing scenery from the Elliot Ridge State Forrest bushlands to open panoramic views of windswept mountains filled with bare snow gums. Likewise the dusty and leaf littered State Forrest trails, with the occasional muddy section, gave way to loose, open rocky trails where we finally reached the crest of Mt Pinnibar which is Victoria's highest 4WD track at 1774 metres in the Alpine National Park.

As we disembarked from our cars, once at the peak, we were able to take in the breathtaking 360 degree panoramic views of the Alpine National Park, before making our way down Mt Pinnibar again to Tom Groggin Station. Along the way we encountered several tricky sections including a couple of muddy washouts and a river crossing at Murray River and another river crossing at Swampy Plains River just to get back into Keebles Hut campground at Geehi. After everyone arrived back safely at Keebles Hut, the campground was a hive of activities with people airing up tyres, some trying their luck with a spot of Fly-fishing in the Swampy Plains River and others preparing vegetables and meat for a combined roast dinner night that was most enjoyable. While enjoying the roast dinner the group sat around a cracking good fire, recounting the many stories of the day's trip into the late hours of the night.

The smell of fresh coffee and bacon eggs wafted through the campsite and the warmth of an early morning fire enticed people out of their beds the next morning . For some, Sunday morning had arrived a little bit too early. Once breakfast had been had, everyone began to pack up in preparation for the trip back to Canberra. Taking our time the convoy enjoyed a leisurely drive back, passing through Kosciuszko National Park, Thredbo and the "Wildbrumby Schnapps Distillery and Café" on the Alpine Way before stopping for lunch in Jindabyne. From here everyone pretty much headed back to Canberra via Cooma. All in all a great weekend was had by all.



Club upcoming events/happenings...

8th — 10th November Camp Canberra — Hosting SJC

ACTJT hosting SJC for the weekend including camping at Blue Range Hut and various drives on local tracks. For more information Contact Stuart Ribot de Bressac at trips@actjeepraction.com

11th of November — Club Sponsor/General Meeting 7pm

Venue, National Tyre Wholesalers, 14 Yallourn Street, Fyshwick. The night will include a free Sausage Sizzle & industry presentation from National Tyre Wholesalers along with a club general meeting. For more information contact Paul Simmons at secretary@actjeepraction.com

8th of December — Club Xmas Party 10am

Sand Mines drive + BYO BBQ at Bungendore Oval. 10am Meet & greet at Frogs Hollow Reserve, Corner of Bungendore & Tarago Rd's. Head out to Sand mines for various trails, challenges & driving, off Tarago Rd. At noon head back to Bungendore Oval, Butmaroo St Bungendore, for a BYO BBQ lunch. For more information contact Paul Simmons at secretary@actjeepraction.com

Club contact details....

President - Laz Falusi president@actjeepraction.com

Vice President - Kevin Rourke vicepresident@actjeepraction.com

Secretary - Paul Simmons secretary@actjeepraction.com

Treasurer - Stuart de Bressac treasurer@actjeepraction.com

NSW & ACT 4WD Assoc. Rep. - Troy Rollan 4wdassocrep@actjeepraction.com

Public Relations Officer - Kevin Rourke profficer@actjeepraction.com

Trips Coordinator - Stuart de Bressac trips@actjeepraction.com

Facebook www.facebook.com/ActJeepraction

Website www.actjeepraction.com **Postal** PO Box 132 Erindale ACT 2903

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