



*Newsletter 2013 — Edition 2
ACT JeepTrAction Newsletter*

Inside this issue:- All JK Affair



SJC Club Exchange!



Abercrombie Magic!



Plus Jeep City Day, Vice President's note, sponsors word & much more!!!



Editors note...

Two trips that I put together & lead out halfway through this year included firstly, a moderate scenic run through the Brindabella's on Sunday the 25th of August, taking in breathtaking views of Canberra from the lofty heights of Pig Hill. Starting out from Uriarra crossing, after a short detour all the way around Stromlo Mountain, through Uriarra Village & back down to our meeting point at Uriarra Crossing, all due to a Road Cycle race that had closed off Uriarra road. After getting to the meeting point a little later than I intended Jenny & myself were warmly welcomed by Col Duckworth & his Son Ari & then by Peter & Lyn Little.

Heading out along Fairlight Rd & Mountain Creek Rd's to link up with Doctors Flat Rd, we began our ascent up to the Pig Hill lookout which sits at 979m, to take in the inspiring views looking back over the Canberra region. This spot is a popular take off point for hang-gliders. On route to Pig Hill, Peter experienced some annoying warning signal issues in his KK which made no real sense. After trying to clear the codes with my scan gauge we pressed on. Arriving at the top of Pig Hill we were greeted with a clear view of Canberra along with a refreshing morning tea.

From here we headed back down to Doctors Flat road, where Peter & Lyn decided to take the safe approach with their KK, not wanting anymore electrical gremlins to catch them out & ruin their day, & head back home. Col, Ari, Jenny & myself continued along Doctors Flat Rd turning off at Baldy Range Trail which leads up to the Baldy Range lookout (1000m), to take in Brindabella National Park views. From here we linked up with Dingi Dingi Ridge & onto Two Sticks Rd, stopping at the power lines to have lunch. After lunch we headed back to Uriarra Crossing via Two Sticks, Mountain Creek & Fairlight Rd's to air up. The trip is a moderate trip classification, but there are a couple of sections where you will get your vehicle into 4wd low involving steep and or rocky climbs, slippery surface (if its rained recently) & well worth doing on clear day.

On Sunday the 22nd September Jenny & myself organised the Canberra District Wine Lovers Social trip. Our rally point for the day was opposite the Hall Village turnoff at 9:30am. Arriving without any unexpected detours this time, it wasn't before to long we were joined by the Farrant's, the McDonalds & the Bartell's. After a small chin wag we headed off in an JK affair to our first Vineyard for the day which was Pankhurst Wines, in Hall, followed by Jeir Creek Wines & Eden Road Wines, both just outside of Murrumbateman. The day had started out a bit overcast and cool but after some wine tasting from each venue it wasn't before too long we weren't so concern with the weather. At each stop people found favourite varieties of wine to taste & purchase. No doubt the crowd favourite Vineyard for the day was the Eden Road Vineyard, with their Reds being the highlight of the trip. From Eden Road Vineyard we proceeded into Murrumbateman to have lunch at the Murrumbateman Country Inn.



We were pleasantly surprised by Paul Hannelly who joined us for the last leg of the trip in his shiny new 10A JK Rubicon, complete with red leather trim & bonnet scoops. Nice bit of gear Paul!

Our final two stops for the afternoon were at Clonakilla Winery, just outside of Murrumbateman, followed by some afternoon tea at Poachers Pantry & wine tasting from their Willy Trout Vineyard. By this time the weather had fined up & the clouds had moved on being replaced by warm sunshine, making our afternoon tea out on the terrace at Poachers Pantry that much more enjoyable. All in all a pleasant social outing was had by all! Regards Paul Simmons.



Rolfe Motors Specials...

Limited Edition Dragon 4 Door Wrangler, based on an Overland concept with orient styling cues. RRP \$56,490. **Drive Away Jeep Club Price \$53,990**. Features of the car are as follows...

Exterior:- Grille & headlight accents in Dragon bronze satin gloss, front & rear Jeep badges finished in Dragon bronze satin gloss, Dragon decal in dark charcoal metallic graphic covering hood, front fender, front & rear doors, & B-pillar on passenger side, 18-inch alloy wheel finished in Dragon bronze satin gloss, Hard spare wheel cover with Dragon graphic in dark charcoal metallic, Mopar fuel filler door with Dragon bronze bolts, Dual top group is replaced with body-colour 3-piece hard top & premium black sunrider soft, top.

Interior:- Black Nappa leather upholstery facings with Dragon bronze contrast stitching (no alternate colours available), Embroidered front seats with laser etched embossed pattern, Leather wrapped steering wheel with Dragon bronze spoke accents, door grab handles finished in Dragon bronze, Bezel rings finished in piano black, grab handle with Dragon applique, instrument cluster with Dragon applique & boot floor mat with embroidered pattern in accent stitching.

Jeep



Other Demonstrator Specials:-

Wrangler 3.6 V6, 4 Door White Overland Moab Leather. Was \$52,244. **Now \$48,990** (C2971).

Compass 2.4 Limited, 6 Speed, Bright White with Sunroof, Bonnet Protector, Front Window Tint, Weather Shields, Mudflaps, Tow Bar, Door Sill Guards, Cargo Net, Rear Cargo Mat. Was \$45,385.00. **Now \$39,990**. (C3067).

Grand Cherokee 3.0 CRD Laredo, Maximum Steel. Was \$56,920.00 **Now \$56,920**. (C3031).

For more info contact Aaron Nixon
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Jeep City Day 2013

by Paul Simmons



On Sunday the 11th of August ACT JeepTrACtion held a club day outing at Jeep City, which is located at Bywong, about a half an hour outside of Canberra. The day was well patronised by the local Jeep community with over 35 Jeeps and more than 50 people in attendance. Events and activities planned for the day included a "Show n Shine", a Skillful driving course, a Travel ramp and capping off the day, a huge Seafood Paella dish was served up for dinner.



The afternoon's proceedings started with a warm welcome address lead by Brett Quodling, the new manager and proprietor of Jeep City. Once formalities had been dispensed with, everybody lined up their Jeeps for the first event which was the "Show n Shine". Once all the cars were lined up in one single file, which almost outstretched the Jeep City driveway, the judges had the difficult job of adjudicating which Jeep would win the coveted "Best Vehicle" award. The event was jointly sponsored by Mickey Thompson Tyres, who donated a special Mickey Thompson Tyres merchandise kit, thanks Mark, and also by Jeep City who supplied a custom made Jeep Trophy. After much deliberation, a clear best vehicle award went to Col in his sparkling JK, which never seems to go off-road. Well done Col!

The next event planned for the afternoon was the "Skilful Driver" course. This course was initially setup as a test track earlier in the year for the official Jeep City launch day which back then, provided great entertainment and challenges to all who attempted it. However since then, the test track has undergone extensive re-engineering with two distinctive courses being created, one hard and one easy track that run side-by-side and cross over in certain places. Leading up to day the track experienced a few days of wet weather which allowed for water to gather in certain spots creating a few challenging muddy sections. Hmmm Jeeps in mud sounds like fun!

Prior to the event the track was opened up for test drives which allowed for drivers to familiarise themselves with the track. In some instances a couple of vehicles needed to take an escape route or be winched over an obstacle to complete the track. Again this provided for great entertainment value with the spectators. Best drives on the course went to Gav and his spotter Stu in his TJ with no penalties on the hard course and Chris and his daughter in his 4 door JK on the easy course! Well done guys! Plus a new record for most penalties accumulated on the course going to Rob in the Jeep City 4 Door JK, (10 penalties) well done mate for having a go!



By this time the Sun was drawing low in the sky and there was only just enough time and daylight left for those who wanted to test out their Jeep on the travel ramp, thanks to Caloffroad. After a few Jeeps gave the travel ramp a good working over, everyone retired to the warm workshop for a beautifully cooked Seafood Paella dish, well done ladies! A big thankyou goes out to Brett Quodling for opening up his business and making available his time and resources at Jeep City for the day. Mark from Mickey Thompsons Tyres, Caloffroad for the travel ramp, plus the Cherokee Chief from Collins racing was there too! OH, and the Batman Jeep was there too!





SYDNEY JEEP CLUB EXCHANGE

© Steven Boyd Photography

by Paul Simmons



On the 8th—10th of November about 12 Jeeps loaded with camping gear & supplies came down for a weekend of wheeling with the ACTJeepTrAction crew. Arriving at “Blue Range Hut” late Friday afternoon, the crew from SJC were warmly greeted by the weekends host Stuart de Bressac. After their long drive the SJC crew quickly began setting up camp & cooking their dinner. Other members from SJC tuned up at later intervals throughout the night. As the night rolled on with friendly banter & rousing Jeep stories, an expectation grew for what lay ahead on the next days trails, hence an early night was had by most.



A welcomed sight of sunshine awoke the campsite & before too long fresh coffee, cereal & hot breakfasts’ were being enjoyed by all. After breakfast Stu gave a quick rundown on what was on offer for the days wheeling activities & it was decided by all, to head out on just the one trip taking in various trails & challenges in the Corin Forest region. Just as we were about to set out we were joined by Dave & Trish Binns, recent new members to ACTJeepTrAction, who arrived in their bright green Gecko Wranglers, making our total of Jeeps 15.



After airing down, the trip took in a moderate hill ascent to start with, passing by “Mushroom Rock” where the group later stopped for a group photo. From here we made our way through other challenging sections arriving at “Death Hill” where we stopped for lunch & contemplated what lay ahead of us. After lunch about half of the group successfully took on the challenge of Death Hill, with only two vehicles needing to be recovered via snatch strap, up the hill. Others who did not want to attempt the hill were able to navigate around the hill via a safer track option. When we all meet up again we proceeded through the forest making a short detour on the black stuff before taking on another challenging section which resembled more of a rocky boulder garden!



After arriving back at campsite & enjoying a hearty dinner three quarters of the group decided to head out on a night drive in & around the power lines area lead by Stu again, while the remainder of the group kicked back around a roaring fire. The group returned after a couple of hours of wheeling & where clearly buoyed by their achievements. After a couple of hours of campfire banter, most people turned in for the evening prior to midnight, realising that the next day required an early rise & departure. Awakening to an overcast morning the plan for the day was to head out to “JeepCity” at Bywong & visit Brett Quolding’s facility & make use of the test track that had been recently created & used by our club,

earlier this year in August. Upon arrival Brett greeted everyone & gave a brief tour of his facility & fielded the odd Jeep modification/restoration question. By this time a few of the Sydney boys were keen to try out the test track, so we headed down to the back of Brett's property & let them loose on the track. Brett did a quick lap around the hard track to demonstrate the course & then opened it up to others. A large portion of the Sydney crew aired down their tyres & queued up their cars to take on the challenge after seeing Brett go around. After everyone had an opportunity to try out the test track, which proved to be quiet challenging and technical in places, it was lunch time so we headed into Bungendore for a counter meal at the Royal George to finish off the club exchange weekend. On departure all of the SJC crew expressed their thanks for the weekend & mentioned that they were looking forward to hosting us in 2014 up their way.

A big thankyou needs to be extended to Stuart for all the good work that he did in putting together the weekend, well done mate, your hard work ensured all had a good time! Plus, thankyou to Brett Quodling from JeepCity, for opening up his place on a Sunday to both of our clubs as well, thanks mate!

Abercrombie Magic! by Troy Rollan

Toward the end of March during the Easter long weekend, the club ventured into the Abercrombie National Park located in the mountainous area approximately 60km north of Goulburn NSW. It was a first into this area for Laura & I, & there were a few of the other usual suspects with Paul & Jenny (coming later), Stuart & Barb, Gavin & Maree, Keith, & Kelli (& co). The area we camped at was the Silent Creek Campground which was nice, grassy, shady & was close to water that was barely running, albeit picturesque. The four wheel driving was great with the only challenge being the constant battle with the dust. The next couple of days we set on some serious driving & exploring with Gavin leading the way in the mighty TJ.

During the weekend we visited most of the other camp grounds in the area & set about exploring the neighbouring areas. There were some tricky steep bits which were pretty cool & overall a great drive. The roads meandered around the mountains & across the many shallow creek crossings. Being a long weekend it was pretty busy. At the end of the day we all hooked in to a hearty cook-up – with Gavin & Paul off into the darkness to Guide Jen in who joined us that evening after work. By the time they got back they had a lot of catching up to do, & we all enjoyed the “baby” which was a water melon with drink in it that kind of tasted like a Mojito... I think...

Our teenage neighbours decided to have a friendly game of ‘kick the fuel dowsed lit toilet roll’ adding to the entertainment for the evening. The road in & out was quite scenic with a lot of riverside camping spotted alongside the blacktop road back to Goulburn. Surprisingly it was one of the few times I was getting quite low on fuel & glad to see a Fuel station by the time we hit Goulburn. Yet somewhere in the grime, the dust, the smell of diff oil & the soft caress of the trickling creek, more was conceived than the roaring Jeeps & the sense of adventure, isn't that right Paul & Jen!



Vice Presidents note...

Hi all Jeepers, the festive season is just about on us again. I would like to wish all our members & their families a very safe, enjoyable Christmas & New Year's break. For those of us that are travelling further afield, watch out for the other driver & please take care on the road & allow plenty of time to get to our destinations. We all have club stickers on our Jeeps, so remember good driving skills will represent our club & what we stand for. Also for those wishing to borrow from the clubs equipment library please contact me to make a booking.

Keep on Jeeping! Kevin Rourke.

Club Contacts details...

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