



*Newsletter 2014 — Edition 8  
ACT JeepTrAction Newsletter*

*Inside this issue: Camp Bungendore update,*



*Capturing the Live Fantastic in an "XJ"*





## Presidents note...



Well so much has been happening since our last newsletter, with preparations well under way for Camp Bungendore 2014, taking place in a few weeks' time. I would like to express a big thankyou to all those who have been coming out for the drives & helping out with track clearing. A special mention goes out to Paul Hannelly, Kris Farrant & Marek Bilski who have pretty much been at every Reccie/track do so far. With all the work we have been doing clearing tracks, in particular cutting up fallen timber, I think a few members in the club have helped to contribute single handily to the sales figures of local small engine business & garden maintenance tools around Canberra. I would also like to mention that our new club secretary, PJ

Blayney, was instrumental in organising a donation of 10 rolls of hazard tape from Seers Workwear. Thanks PJ, & to Seers Workwear, this has saved the club some money!

On another note it would seem that August was the month to buy new Tyres with 3 members purchasing Mickey Thompson Tyres including 2 sets of Baja MTZ's & 1 set of Baja ATZ P3's being the flavours of the month. Again a big thankyou goes out to our club sponsor Mickey Thompson Tyres & our local representative at National Tyre Wholesalers, Brett Quodling for assistance with these purchases. Being one of the people who purchased MTZ's I can't express how much I was impressed with the service I received from Queanbeyan Tyrepower who did the fitting & wheel alignment for me. This is the first time that I've had MTZ's & so far I have been really impressed with how they have handled in both on & off road conditions!

I would also like to thank Mark Pullen from NTW who stepped into Brett's role of being host for the night when we went out to NTW. Again this was a club BBQ Social Sponsor night & it was great to see the latest & greatest products on offer from NTW & the club really support this event with over 20 people in attendance.

At our September General Club Meeting it was great to see so many people arrive early to socialise over a drink or a meal, prior to the meeting, with several members even taking out a club membership with the Eastlake Football Club group who support our club by providing free room hire & facilities access. Again the meeting was well supported with close to 30 people in attendance & at one point additional chairs had to be sought to cater for everyone. The meeting went well with normal general business being address in good time to allow plenty of time to go through the Camp Bungendore details including the handing out of the Trip Leader packs & briefings.

As well as receiving their packs, folders & camp details briefing, all of the trip leaders were pleasantly surprised when they saw the flash Mickey Thompson Cleaning gift packs, which were so kindly donated by Mickey Thompson Tyres, & handed out to the Trip Leaders, in recognition of them all taking on roll of Trip Leaders during Camp Bungendore. Again thanks to Brett Quodling for arranging these gift packs & to Gavin Bartell, our club's Trip Co-Ordinator for running everyone through our convoy procedures. Pictures of both of these packs are following on the next page.

Also in this edition we have a great article from Colin Duckworth on his photographic joineries into the Canberra surrounding region. Some of the photo's he has taken really capture the beauty of our region & highlight how lucky we are to have a truly beautiful backyard. Great article Col, well done! Plus I've suggested that Col should look at leading a photographic trip out into some the areas he has photographed for others in the club who share the same love of photography. Stay tuned for more details on this possibility!



*Mickey Thompson Tyre cleaning pack*



*Trip Leader information packs*

As mentioned the other night at our club meeting, we are looking at trying to put together some additional information nights for 2015. These nights would encompass more product, business & special interest information nights where as a club we could visit additional 4wd/recreational business in our region, on top of our current club sponsors social nights, ie. to see more new products & demonstrations on accessories available. Suggestions so far in include a how to get the best out of your Camera night, Hema & digital mapping devices night, Chainsaw use & sharpening, other trade visits like Camping World, BCF etc. If you have suggestions please drop me an email or give me a call.

Finally we can all stop guessing with the recent confirmation that the Sydney Jeep Club will be hosting the 2015 Australian Jeep Jamboree again. The event is being held again back at the same place as the 2012 Jamboree, Rydal & many Jeepers from our club who went to the 2012 event can testify what a good time they all had back then. If you haven't done so get on the Facebook site to receive all the latest alerts & info on this future event.

Regards Paul Simmons

## Club happenings....

### Club General Meetings 2014...

- **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> of October**, 7pm, Eastlake Football Club. 3 Oxley St, Manuka, Canberra.

### Club Socials, Sponsor Nights, BBQ's, Trips, Events & Outings...

- **Camp Bungendore Trip Leaders Track Drives 29<sup>th</sup> of September**, 9am meet at Bungendore Showgrounds.
- **Camp Bungendore 3<sup>rd</sup> — 7<sup>th</sup> of October**, Bungendore Showgrounds.
- **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> of November**, 10am - 3pm, **Jeep City BBQ**, Show N Shine, Skilful driving on Jeep city test track/trail.
- **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> of December**, 10am - 4pm, **Christmas Party** – Venue & event details TBA.

## Capturing the Live Fantastic in an “XJ”

Photo's & article by Col Duckworth

If you're a Jeep person, you'll remember the ads. They're the ones with the tag-line of, 'ultimate search engine.' Did you ever watch that ad and, when it got to that tag-line, you sat there and smiled, knowingly? I certainly did. We all love our Jeeps. And, while we will all have some common ground as to why, I bet there's something else, something unique about them, for each of us. It might be the satisfaction of making it along an A grade track, or the enjoyment of being able to take the long way home, or the long way there. For me and my XJ (hereafter to be called Jeepy), though, it's that 'search engine' bit. It's that capability to get to, explore, and see, places and things that many people will never see that holds the allure.

But, this relationship between man and machine is not all a bed of roses. It has come at a cost. Less so in terms of 'Just Empty Every Pocket'; more so in terms of wanting to capture the beauty of the places Jeepy can get me to and to share that with others. The modern mobile 'phone makes that easy. The cameras in them are getting better all the time and they can take a reasonable 'photo. And that's how it starts: harmlessly enough. But it's the slippery slope to hell if you're not careful I tell you. I know that's how it started for me.

When I first started going out with Jeepy it was simple. It is very hard to lift a 'phone camera to one's eye in the high country around Kosciuszko National Park and not take a spectacular 'photo. The scenery is conducive to a good 'photo. Before long, though, it's not enough. You soon run into the limitations of the 'phone camera. Because no matter how good they are, they're limited by that dinky lens and miniscule image sensor. They just don't capture enough light. You need more light. You need a bigger hit.

Soon, you're skulking around the camera cabinets at all the electrical goods retailers. Next, you're on the Internet trying to find out how many megapixels you can get for the change you've scrounged from your worker wage. Then, you're lusting over fast glass. You know you're at the point of no return when you find yourself cursing, "Oh why, oh why must low constant f stop be so costly when I need it so much?" Reality comes crashing down before long, though, and you find yourself compromising, as I did, with 16.2 megapixels and low-rent lenses.

I remember that first night-sky shoot with that camera, though, like it was yesterday. Jeepy had taken me deep into the Brindabella's on a winter's night. Though only 20kms from town, there was no light scatter. The stars shone like diamonds. The Milky Way's image was easily captured. It was amazing. Something no 'phone camera could even hope to aspire to. But, still it wasn't enough. I was soon back to lurking around camera cabinets. I'd even discovered . . . Teds. And. Then. It. Happened. I won a photography competition. Upon hearing that news, Jeepy simply sat there and said nothing. But, the guilt was written all over her lift kit. She'd been party to this and, now, there was no turning back. The challenges were about to get bigger, the stakes more serious and the cost, the cost . . . Then, suddenly, there was another camera. Now there's 24.1 intoxicating megapixels. And there was more glass. Lots of glass. Wide angle glass. Fast-prime glass. Telephoto-zoom glass. Suddenly, all those 'photos taken before were found to be lacking. Each had to be taken again to join the new ones that Jeepy was party to getting me to.

I have lost count of the number of times that I have been waylaid on the way home from work with Jeepy on the premise of capturing the light. Or of the number of times I have woken from a partial daze to realise that it's 10pm and that I truly am driving with Jeepy deep into Namadgi National Park to photograph a light-painted hut against a Milky Way backdrop. It's Jeepy I blame. With Jeepy there's no excuse that can be offered to not get to the next 'photo. Robert Capa's reckoning that the way to the best 'photo is 'f8 and be there' is always possible when there's Jeepy sitting in the driveway.

I urge you, gentle reader: save yourself while there's still time. Be content with the 'point and shoot' camera you bought for your Bala holiday years ago. For, by the time you read this, I will likely have 36 megapixels and a constant f2.8 zoom. I am done for to be certain. But, for you, there may be hope. I am told that if you record the words, 'Nikon D7100' and play it backwards, slowly, that you can clearly hear the words, 'XJ Cherokee'. I haven't put that to the test yet, but it would come as no surprise. It would come as no surprise to me at all. 'Ultimate search engine' indeed. It's a trap I tell you, a trap. You have been warned.

*Front cover photo Brayshaw's Hut by starlight, clockwise from top right Flea Creek, Orroral Homestead at Dawn, Super Moon over Tidbinbilla, the Orroral River, the Milky Way from Flea Creek, & the Road to Tidbinbilla.*





## Camp Bungendore 2014 Update

Well it's not long to go till the first "Camp Bungendore" event is officially kicked off. As the supporting club ACTJeepTrAction members have been busy checking, clearing & building trails ensuring that the event will be a great success & experience for those Jeepers who are attending. In finalising preparations for the camp there is a great selection of trails on offer for Jeeping enthusiasts to select from.

There are trails & drives which include Placid/Discovery drives that take in the very picturesque Tallaganda National Park & State Conservation Area, a tour of local selected Vineyards & Wineries & a self-drive Sights of Canberra drive which includes attractions like "The War Memorial, Old Parliament House, Cockington Green Gardens, The Botanical Gardens, Stromlo, Telstra Tower, Wig n Pen Tavern & Brewery, The Belgian Beer Café & Bentspoke Brewing Co.", just to name a few.

There are Moderate drives that take in the scenery around Tallaganda National Park visiting Mt Cronin lookout, Lowden Forrest, the Donahue Hopkins ruins & a visit to the Great Divide Tours & 4WD Driver Training facility where Jeepers can get a taste of 4wd driving training courses, as well as drive the many obstacles, courses & trails on the property. For those who want a bit more of a challenge there are Moderate Plus Trails that encompass the Tallaganda State Forrest area & Hard Trails at Jeep City & a local Sand Mines properties.

The Bungendore Showgrounds site is our Homebase for the event & the facilities for weekend are a Jeepers delight including plenty of room for campers & caravans with powered sites available. Along with modern amenities including hot showers, toilets etc., and a separate dining hall for those Jeepers who have selected the catered option. There is a fully covered breezeway for trade alley displays & a large hall for night time happy hour & trip briefings & nightly reports. There's even a special undercover area for the military vehicles with their own private courtyard. Communal fire places are available along with plenty of fire wood. All in all, Camp Bungendore makes for a great weekend of Jeepin', catching up with friends, relaxing around the campsite or taking in the sights & local attractions of the Canberra/Bungendore district. We hope to see you there!

*Camp Bungendore is proudly sponsored by:-*



# ANOTHER JEEP ACTION EVENT

Jeep Action subscribers are invited to attend

## camp

JEEP ACTION MAGAZINE

# BUNGENDORE

FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER - TUESDAY 7TH OCTOBER

Supported by the ACTJeepTraction Club

- LOCATED AT THE BUNGENDORE SHOWGROUND (40 KMS EAST OF CANBERRA)
- SHOWERS, TOILETS AND POWER ON SITE
- SIMILAR FORMAT TO CAMP COFFS
- FOUR DAYS OF JEEP FUN
- ON-SITE CATERING
- NIGHTLY TRIP MEETINGS AND PRIZES
- GRADED TRIPS TO SUIT ALL JEEPS
- JEEP CITY WORKSHOP AVAILABLE IF NEEDED (10 KMS FROM CAMP)
- JEEP CITY PARTS AUCTION DURING THE EVENT

Friday 3rd October

Arrive, set up camp,  
meet and greet

Saturday 4th October

Trips

Sunday 5th October

Trips

Monday 6th October

Trips

Tuesday 7th October

Camp closes - depart

Register now at [www.jeepaction.com.au](http://www.jeepaction.com.au)

Adults \$95 Children (16 years and under) Free

## Club Sponsors...

Rolfe Motors

Jeep



Be Part Of The Legend



## Club Contacts details...

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