

LRCACT May 2020

Let The Pressure Out

Newsletter

Issue 2

May 2020

Next Club Meeting - 12 July 2020



The Committee is working towards holding a club meeting on 12 July (subject to health restrictions on the day). After being in lockdown for the past three months I am sure you are

ready to brush off your Sunday best and join us for a lunchtime meeting. More details on how, when and where will be in our next newsletter.

Note from the Editor

G'day Folks. As the first newsletter was so well received, triggering an increase of logins to the Facebook page as well as an increase use of the Club's website, we happily bring you Issue 2.



Although the pandemic restrictions as starting to ease, we are not there yet. So, with this issue I would like to encourage everyone to put up on Facebook a few pictures of their vehicle, showing their favourite accessory, with maybe a few words on their favourite area to visit or trip they have been on.

I understand some outstanding trip reports are in the process of being up loaded to the website. So, head to the website for some interesting reads and possibly to book a trip while you are there. Anyway, as we look to come out of this pandemic let's hope that friendly travel is not too far off.

Cheers folks till next Month
Looking down a fire trail with you

President's Report

It's great to see the reaction for Peter and Gemma's efforts in putting together this newsletter to keep us connected during the pandemic restrictions. Thank you on behalf of the whole membership.



The committee continues to meet and consider the club's business during this time and I thank them for their ongoing commitment. Some key updates are included below.

We have now agreed and approved our budget for next year which the treasurer will update all of us and we continue to look towards recommencing club activity as soon as possible ensuring we stick to the rules.

I urge all members to look at planning club trips and do your recce within the rules, with everyone understanding any advertised/planned trips will always be "subject to change".

Stay safe and well
Andrew Lockley

Message from Membership Secretary

Membership fee for LRC-ACT remains at \$75 for the 20-21 year.



Membership LRC-ACT 2019/20 will lapse on 30 June 2020.

Members will have the opportunity to renew from 1 June 2020. I understand that the process will be very similar to last year, except it will be a little harder to pay the membership Secretary directly, as we are not holding physical meetings. Website options have been setup to accommodate membership renewals via PayPal or EFT.

Using the Membership/Renew Membership option on the Member's home page. Remember to select LRC of the ACT Member - 2020/21 option, and select payment as either PayPal or EFT.

If you elect to pay by EFT, please use your surname as reference. PayPal is pretty much automatic as far as updating your membership status, EFT requires Treasurer or Membership Secretary recording payment received.

If you have not renewed by 30 June 2020, your membership status will change to Unpaid Member. When you log in to website, you will be prompted to renew your membership. Even as an Unpaid Member you should still have full website access until 31 August, when your membership will lapse.

When you undertake the renewal process, please also visit your Membership/My Profile menu and update/complete your contact details.

Thank you for your continued membership of the LRC-ACT, and looking forward to our forthcoming socially distanced activities.

Michael Thomson
Membership Secretary
PS. If the instructions detailed above, end up different, expect a renewal email.

Treasurer's Report



Besides the annual membership fee, which hasn't changed in the last ten years or more, our biggest source of funds to keep the Club running is the 4WD Spectacular, which runs every second year. Typically, every two years the Spectacular provides our club with the equivalent of \$40 per membership per year in benefit. This is used for member and community support and fundamentally allows us to keep our ongoing fees low.

However, this year the Spectacular will not deliver this outcome. As those who were there know only too well, the Spectacular was held on the weekend of a declared fire emergency, and the temperature well and truly exceeded 40 degrees. The (lack of) numbers through the gate said it all.

While we are yet to receive any funds from the Spectacular committee, we hope at best to break even on this year's Spectacular. Therefore, we will have to manage over the next two years without the benefit of the Spectacular money in our Club's bank account. On top of this, with Covid-19 stymieing any Club activities, the committee feels we cannot put up fees, either.

The committee has now approved our budget for the next financial year. The key points are:

- projected income is \$8750, which closely matches projected expenditure, \$8534;
- projected income includes membership fees and Club trailer use only;
- we have assumed that you will want to retain your membership as we work our way through these difficult times;
- the budget does not include subsidies for any social activities;
- projected expenditure comprises fixed costs only, the things we can't avoid e.g. tax agent, audit and compliance costs, 4WD Assn and insurance costs, web costs, trailer rego and insurance, admin costs such as the post box, and so on;
- the committee has done its best to reduce the Club's fixed costs; including managing to near half our tax agent and audit costs.

While the budget doesn't include any funds for social activities, this doesn't mean that such subsidies cannot occur. It largely depends on what you, our members, want to do with our funds. One of the more important committee roles is keeping the Club financially viable, and there is a policy that the Club's financial reserves shouldn't drop below 1.5 times our annual membership income, say \$12 - \$13 thousand dollars or so. Then follows a balancing act as our membership income comes in at the beginning of the financial year, and a lot of our expenditure comes at the end of the year, and the money,

including the reserve, has to be there. If a little surplus is projected, it may be possible to take the idea of a small subsidy for a social function, say for the Christmas Party, to the Club for approval; but no promises.

If you want to delve into the budget detail, please contact me on treasurer@lrc.org.au, and I'll happily send you a copy of the budget.

David Wade
Treasurer

Update from the Social Secretary

Save the Date - 21 November 2020

As mentioned in our first newsletter, we are thinking positively and working towards holding the Christmas Party at Majors Creek Recreation Ground on 21st November 2020 (everything permitting). Further details will be advised in coming months.



Note from The 4WD NSW & ACT



If you are travelling during Covid-19, our public liability insurance through 4WD NSW & ACT will cover us as long as our activities are legal at the time they are undertaken. i.e. they don't breach any COVID-19 restrictions about non-essential travel, regional travel, social distancing, venue restrictions etc.

From the Trip Coordinator

Birdsville September 2019



Tom and Ann de Jongh have submitted a wonderful trip report on their trip to Birdsville last September. It covers bush camping, 4wd and walking tracks, interesting locals, historical Australia and lots of photos to enjoy. A must read. Click on the below link and imagine your next trip.

<https://lrc.org.au/trip-reports/birdsville-september-2019/>



A Trip Down Memory Lane

Reminiscing **Spring in the Park 2018** Trip Report



Our group of 7/8 vehicles met up at the Spotlight carpark in Queanbeyan on Saturday morning and headed out via Captain's Flat. As Sunday was Father's Day, we decided to drive the longer route into Bendethra and the shorter trip home on Sunday.

We turned off Cooma Road onto Middle Mountain Road where we enjoyed morning tea, tyred down and engaged low range for the rest of our time in the Park. We followed the Minuma Range Fire Trail, the Mongamulla Fire Trail, and the Bendethra Fire Trail to our camp alongside the Deua River. All presented enough challenges (steep climbs and descents, hairpins, large rocks) to make the drive interesting, although most of us had had enough of spoon drains by the end of the day! Recovery gear was not needed.

Our camp site was chosen primarily for its distance from a planned 18th birthday party we'd heard about and was just right for our group size. A variety of sleeping accommodation was assembled efficiently and we soon sat down to enjoy drinks and nibbles around a campfire. Dinner comprised a variety of curries shared amongst the group – vegetable, jungle chicken, lamb, cauliflower, with bread and sufficient rice to feed an army. We feasted superbly!

After a leisurely breakfast and a viewing of the Wilsons' new roof-top tent, Sue led us around the other campgrounds along the Deua River, pointing out the qualities of each. We finished at the site of the former Bendethra homestead (since demolished).

Lynelle and Mark's D4 had been losing coolant so they left early, expecting a slow trip back to Canberra. As it turned out, a split hose spurting under pressure was the problem.

Home was via the Dampier Mountain Fire Trail and Middle Mountain Road, which presented similar driving conditions to the previous day, to Captain's Flat.

Return distance from Spotlight was about 360 km, with about 90 km of low range driving.

Thanks to Kevin for organising and leading a most enjoyable trip.

Judy and David Wilson

From the Series Rep.

We have had a couple of folk contact us with Series Land Rover questions and membership enquiries. We were able to help with leaf spring related questions, and also successful with a vehicle sale going to Liam, one of our Sydney based members. Liam has picked up a beauty with a fair bit of galvanising having been applied to the panels – not the normal thing, but sought after anyway.



Peter Mercer

A Trip Invitation

I Have A Dream – From Geoff Banbury



'We all have them ...
They happen just before we wake or in the dead of night ...
Sometimes behind the wheel ...
Sometimes talking to somebody else ...
Or totally on our own, on the top of a hill looking into a perfect sunset...
The long red road disappearing into the distance....
They transport us totally into another world of wonder.
The virus will not stop us dreaming of other places.

My dream - to experience the wild flower season of Western Australia.



I had started to do some work on it before the lockdown with a possibility of this year but other powers came into play so it's a maybe for next year's season.

The season extends from Julyish to Aug-Septemberish. It all depends who you are talking to. It starts right up the top of WA and goes all the way to the south. And it relies on the season.

First problem is getting there and to make that an adventure as it would probably be three weeks or so depending on the way of choice. There are 4 or 5 ways. But that would be very flexible.

Second problem is to find the most spectacular routes south to all the best spots, there are I'm sure 40 different versions of that route. And then to return.

I have another dream of doing the Indian Pacific rail journey. It's on the bucket list.

So perhaps that could be incorporated.

I think that it would be fun to do.

It is a BIG trip and certainly not for the faint hearted, especially if the Canning or Talawana Track is a chosen way of getting there.



Don't t let the virus stop the dreams. We all want to go somewhere at some time.

Anyone with a dream that might work into this one, give me a bell and I would like to talk about it. Dream on....

Geoff Banbury (0430086883)

This dream is virus free.'

Useful Club Contacts

Andrew Lockley
Club President

president@lrc.org.au

Tom and Ann de Jongh

Trip Coordinator

tripcoordinator@lrc.org.au

Rick Robins

Club Secretary

secretary@lrc.org.au

Michael Thomson

Membership Secretary

memberships@lrc.org.au

Gemma Zeitlhofer

Social Secretary

socialsec@lrc.org.au

Peter Mercer

Series Coordinator

series_rep@lrc.org.au