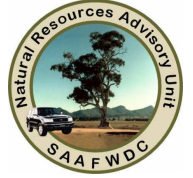




SA ASSOCIATION OF FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUBS Inc
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY UNIT
Access Guide and Newsletter



2003

Summer Edition

OUR FRAGILE ENVIRONMENT - EDUCATING CLUB MEMBERS

Most clubs affiliated with the SAAFWD Inc have their own By-Laws and Rules (BL&R), and generally these BL&R set out clearly how club members should treat the environment, camp, dispose of rubbish, and use unsealed roads and tracks, etc.

When new members join a club, usually they are given a set of the Club's BL&R, but how often are these essential guidelines read. In many cases, they may be, but after a while their impact fades.

The NRAU is working hard to maintain access to many areas of this wonderful State that we all love, but unfortunately many 4WD owners continue to do the wrong thing (and some of them are club members), which puts access to some places in real jeopardy – *see attached article*. We cannot do much about mavericks who do not care and who do not belong to a regulated club, but we can educate our own members, and thereby set an example to others.

Clubs should keep environmental education alive so that all of our members are aware of what is expected of them. There are a number of ways to help achieve this, three of which are to –

- ◆ Include a copy of the NRAU newsletter in your Club's newsletter, or make sure all members get a copy
- ◆ Feature a regular Club BL&R segment in your newsletter
- ◆ Devote a few minutes each meeting to a discussion on one or two of your BL&R's.

PARK PASSES – following closure of The Environment Shop on July 1 2003, Desert Park passes are now available via Freecall 1800 816 078, or as follows -

Parks Pass Agency	Passes Available
◆ Belair National Park	Annual Statewide Parks Pass (excluding Desert Parks Pass)
◆ Innes National Park. ◆ The Ranges & Outback Region, Port Augusta. ◆ Murraylands Region, Berri. ◆ West Region, Port Lincoln ◆ Naracoorte Caves National Park ◆ South East Region, Mt Gambier	Annual Statewide Parks Pass (including and excluding Desert Parks Pass), and Desert Parks Pass
◆ RAA, Adelaide	Desert Parks Pass only

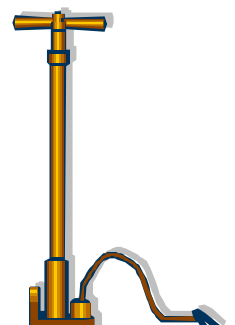


TYRE PRESSURES

When driving through desert areas, particularly soft dunes, remember to lower tyre pressures when you leave the hard surface.

This will give you better traction and lessen wheel spin, leading to less track damage and corrugations.

Re-inflate when you return to the hard road again.



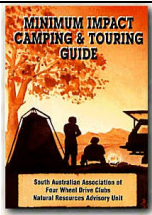


TRACKS CLOSED TO PUBLIC

The **Border Track** through **Ngarkat Park** is temporarily closed. Before visiting this Park, contact the Ngarkat District Ranger Mallee (NPWS PO Box 168 Lameroo 5302, or telephone 08 85763690) to ascertain state of park tracks – see *attached article*.

Several maps of Central Australia of the area south of Alice Springs show three station tracks leading to Maryvale from the Finke to Alice Springs track along the Old Ghan Line. These tracks are not for public use. Public access to **Maryvale and Chambers Pillar** from the south is via Rodinga Railway siding only. Access to Maryvale as shown on the Westprint Alice Springs – Oodnadatta map is correct.

NB - Just because a track is shown on a map does NOT mean the public can access that track – tracks shown on the RAA “Outback” Map are open to the public.



Minimum Impact Camping and Touring Guide - have you got your copy yet?

Choice of Tracks - Use only designated vehicle tracks when driving, and do not drive on walking or riding tracks/trails,

Observe all advisory and regulatory signage with regard to, track/road closures, as well as restrictions (including campsite and fire),

Obtain permission/permits for access, track use and camping on public, indigenous and private lands,

Do not travel on wet, unsealed roads or tracks, where such action is likely to cause damage to the road/track surface.

If conditions are such that there is cause to consider road/track damage, question the need to proceed immediately or to wait until conditions improve, always seek advice from local knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar.

Driving Style

- The driving style employed on unsealed roads and tracks to conserve the environment is most important.
- Drive only to the limits of the track surface and conditions, rather than to the ability of the driver and vehicle,
- Do not leave the road or formed track without permission,
- Where possible, remove any obstacle from the track; do not create a new track by driving around and obstacle,
- Do not widen tracks by cutting corners on bends, turns or junctions,
- Parking vehicles under trees should be avoided to prevent soil compaction which restricts natural irrigation of the root system,
- Avoid prolonged wheel spin. This damages the track surface through rutting, which in turn causes erosion in times of heavy rainfall,
- When in a four wheel drive vehicle in potentially hazardous terrain, select and remain in four wheel drive,
- Take the time to repair any track damage whether you have caused it or not, in the interests of user safety and track conservation,
- Be aware of surface conditions which may require reduction in tyre pressures to improve traction and minimise surface damage,
- On unsealed surfaces, be courteous and safety conscious. Slow down when passing other vehicles (in either direction) so as to minimise possible damage from stones and other debris thrown up from the wheels,
- On dusty surfaces travel slowly near homesteads, outbuildings, campers and other road/track users, thereby reducing danger and discomfort caused by dust.

CLUB ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Nissan Patrol Club Of SA

Environmental responsibility has always been a strong feature of the Nissan Patrol Club and members have been encouraged to participate in many activities to fulfil this responsibility. Activities include:

28 Mile Crossing - In 1995 the Club initiated clean up weekends on the Coorong and 1998 saw the Club adopting the 28 Mile Crossing. This came about when it was mooted that the track would be closed due to excessive vegetation blocking access to the beach. In consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Coorong ranger the Club continues to maintain the track. This year, maintenance included trimming vegetation along the track, planting posts and repainting the tips of guide posts. A new five year "Adopt a Trail" agreement with NPWS was issued on 5 February 2003.

Clean Up Australia - For this year's Club Clean Up Australia commitment, Club members cleared the beach and fore-dunes of rubbish from 42 Mile Crossing to the 28 Mile Crossing, identifying the type of rubbish collected and the quantity of each type as they loaded it into trailers. This information is to included in a summary report to the government.

Deep Creek CP and Second Valley Forest Clean-up - These two areas are visited annually for maintenance and track clearing over a weekend. Activities in these areas are always carried out under the instruction and advice of the local rangers.

Community service - There are two avenues in which the Club supports the community; one being the sponsorship of two animals at the Adelaide Zoo and the other being the support of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. We are members of Friends of Parks.

Other activities - Over past years the Club has participated in and continues to be involved in various activities such as a revegetation planting in the Narrung area, Mallee Fowl Surveys, walking track identification marking in the Flinders Ranges, the Ngarkat Conservation Park clean ups, bird surveys and the Mount Crawford Forrest car body clean up.

If your club is involved in any similar projects, please forward details to The Editor, NRAU Newsletter, PO Box 178, ENFIELD PLAZA 5085, or via email to bigdaddy@picknowl.com.au