





## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**President:** Mark Honor Email president@subaruclub.com.au 0418 406 118 Vice President: Michael R Hamilton Email vicepresident@subaruclub.com.au 0407 223 843 Secretary: Michael R Hamilton Email secretary@subaruclub.com.au 0407 223 843 **Treasurer:** Brett Hampson Email treasurer@subaruclub.com.au 0408 409 634 Membership: Stephen Bennett Email membership@subaruclub.com.au 0413 368 007 **Trip Convener:** Jo Quinn Email trip convener@subaruclub.com.au 0409 771 019 Trip Convener: Bill Twyman Email trip convener@subaruclub.com.au 0418 681 237 **Trip Convener:** Dave Cook Email trip convener@subaruclub.com.au 0417 258 272 Driver Awareness: Brian Flood Email <u>4wdtraining@subaruclub.com.au</u> 0425 270 385 Driver Awareness: Mark Honor Email <u>4wdtraining@subaruclub.com.au</u> 0418 406 118\_ Driver Awareness: David Wellham Email <u>4wdtraining@subaruclub.com.au</u> 0407 089 071 **Driver Awareness:** Michael R Hamilton Email <u>4wdtraining@subaruclub.com.au</u> 0407 223 843 NSW 4WD Assn. Delegate: David Wellham Email delegates@subaruclub.com.au 0407 089 071 **NSW 4WD Assn. Delegate:** Daniel Sorrasson Email <u>delegates@subaruclub.com.au</u> 0433 304 200 **NSW 4WD Assn. Delegate:** Bill Twyman Email <u>delegates@subaruclub.com.au</u> 0418 681 237 Webmaster: Troy Strickland Email webmaster@subaruclub.com.au 0409 908 977 Editor: Stephen Bennett Email editor@subaruclub.com.au 0413 368 007 Social/Catering: Alex Gatward Email catering@subaruclub.com.au 0402 734 110 **Fundraising:** Fiona Hampson Email <u>fund\_raising@subaruclub.com.au</u>\_0418 677 990 Public Relations Officer: Jo Quinn publicity@subaruclub.com.au 0409 771 019 Serjeant-at-arms: Bill Twyman 0418 681 237

Equipment & Merchandise Officer: Alex Gatward 0402 734 110

## The Club Committee is always here to help you. If you want to email us, please use this address ...

secretary@subaruclub.com.au

#### **SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC.**

#### MINUTES OF APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Date -	Friday, April 12, 2024			
Venue -	Ermington Community Hall			
Meeting Commenced -	8:05 pm with David W as Chair			
Attendance -	Dave Cook, Stephen Eakin, Troy Strickland, Heidi Ploeg, Isabelle Flood, Alex Gatward, Iwan Sujono, John Hocking, Robert Leung, David Wellham, Ron Brown (Life Member)			
Apologies -	M.R. Hamilton, Bill Twyman, Brian Flood, Jo Quinn, Stephen Bennett, Mark Honor, Sandi Strickland, Ray & Cheryl Bonello, Brett Hampson, Kevin McCormack			k
Minutes of Previous Meeting -	Held over till next meeting			
Business Arising -	Nil			
New Members -	Visitor – Karen Buckley, has Forester and looking to attend trips and maybe join			
President's Report -	(Mark)	Away with work		
Vice President's Report -	(Michael)	On the way to Broken Hill to start a tri	p to Birdsville	
Secretary's Report -	(Michael)	On the way to Broken Hill to start a trip to Birdsville		
Treasurer's Report -	(Brett)	) Available funds as at 31/03/2024 = \$8,669.62 \$490 has now been paid for clothing order and \$249 for supplies		
Membership Sec. Report -	(Stephen)	On the way to Broken Hill to start a trip to Birdsville Six enquiries about club and membership		
Editor's Report -	(Stephen)	On the way to Broken Hill to start a trip to Birdsville Cut off for articles on 20 <sup>th</sup> of each month		
Driver Awareness Report -	David (Michael) (Brian)	Turon, Basic awareness on March 16 an good and was well attended Watagans May 11 and 12 Stockton June 22 and 23	nd 17 went very Recoveries Sand	
Trip Conveners' Report -	(Bill) (Jo) Dave	On the way to Broken Hill to start a trip to Birdsville		
Past Trips Future Trips eNews	March 8 – BBQ & General meeting in park at Ermington March 20 – Old Joadja Town & Distillery Tour March 29-April 1 – Dungog for Easter spoken about by Troy 5 Day camp: Murramarang NP – April 29- May 3		3	
				-

Future trips not discussed	Coledale Beach – May I-2 COCO at Mudgee with Association – May 18-19 Day trip to June General meeting – June 15 Lookout – June 19 Winter camp at Wombeyan – July 23-24			
Association Delegate's Report	- David (Daniel) (Bill)	See report in newsletter		
Public Relations -	(Jo)	Jo looking for ideas and assistance re celebrations for our 50th Anniversary next year		
		Brett has volunteered to assist on the sub-com	mittee	
		Event is planned for October Long Weekend 2 Olinda, Craig to request early booking so that secure Olinda		
Equipment / Merchandising	Alex	New range of Club clothing – orders on website		
		placed at a meeting will be delivered at the nex If you have any equipment or items that belong please advise Alex.	long-sleeved shirt with logo -\$72/gold polo shirt with logo -\$42/gold jacket with logo -\$87roidered name for extra cost -\$13ng supplies of caps -\$10efully the 4-week turnaround will mean that ordersd at a meeting will be delivered at the next meetinga have any equipment or items that belong to club	
Webmaster	Troy	Membership renewal for 2024/25 @ \$50 is now open. New members \$50 from 1 April till end June 2025.		
Fundraising	(Fiona)			
SAA	(Bill)			

**General Business** 

Robert asked about children on trips as he has trouble encouraging his to attend (no wifi on tracks) Karen asked about requirement for members to attend meetings/trips – You can attend whenever you are available and event is of interest

Iwan asked about visitors and any limit – no limit as long as they have website logo and register on trip Iwan looking to run Bridle Track trip on May 4 and some of his friends will attend, David to assist with trip Constitution sub committee had I<sup>st</sup> meeting, more information to follow over future months

"How to run enter a Trip onto website" short discussion on 'how to' and some of the common questions answered.

Next Meetings -	Ermington Community Centre, Friday May 10 & Friday July 12
	Mount Wilson with camping option, Saturday June 15

#### SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC.

#### **Treasurers Report**

#### Mar-24

Cash Book Balance Brought Forward			\$8,495.93			
Plus Income	e			\$500.06		
Less Expen	nditure			\$326.37		
Closing Bala	ance			\$8,669.62		
<u>Income</u> -		Reversal of account fees Clothing Interest		\$20.00 \$480.00 \$0.06		
<u>Expendit</u>		Catering Association meeting travel exp Paypal fees	penses	\$44.00 \$270.01 \$12.36		
Bank Reconciliation						
Bank Account Balance as at 31/03/2024 ANZ		\$7,992.23				
Plus Funds held in Pay Pal as at 31/03/2024   Cash on Hand Available Funds as at 31/03/2024		\$382.64 \$294.75 <b>\$8,669.62</b>				
1		i unus as al 31/03/2024		\$0,00 <del>3</del> .02		

#### **Association News & Updates: April 2024**



Hello from Daniel Sorrasson, Bill Twyman and David Wellham – your friendly Delegates to Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT (Association). Association documents are located on our website. Please contact via email at -<u>delegates@subaruclub.com.au</u> for information about these topics or in relation to the Association. Looking forward to seeing you all on the tracks or at a meeting soon.

#### 2024 Members letter & promotional materials

All members should have received a letter with promotional material. If you have not seen this in your letter box, please email Delegates with your postal address and we will send another. Extra promotional materials are available at meetings or by post if requested.

#### **COCO 2024**

COCO will be held on 18 & 19 May 2024 at the Mudgee Showground with the May Association Quarterly. Cook-off with \$425 cash prizes and trophies, will be held on Saturday with nibbles from 5.30pm and Trivia – total prizes of \$2,440 – on Saturday night. The Quarterly meeting will be in the pavilion with chairs provided at 9am on Sunday, beverages and lunch provided and due to finish before 2pm. Tickets on sale NOW! at <u>https://benefits.4wdnow.com/COCO 24 Flyer A4 Full Page</u>

Come along and show off your cooking skills or trivia knowledge. There are trophies and prizes and lots of fun for everyone. Mudgee is a beautiful area and is worth spending a few days looking around. Lots to see and do. Caravans and camper trailers are welcome and powered sites are plentiful. Hot showers and plenty of indoor spaces to stay warm.

#### Camping Tickets are \$32 each adult with children under 15 free. (up to 3 nights). Camping available Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights.

**Non Camping Event Fee**, for those that will be attending the weekend and not camping there is a small fee of \$12 per adult with children under 15 free. This is to help with the costs of the weekend (does not apply for those that will **ONLY** be attending the quarterly meeting on Sunday morning).

When you arrive at the show ground don't forget to check in with our onsite welcoming committee and get your welcome pack! It contains maps and all sorts of useful stuff for the weekend. Especially if you are going to spend the weekend exploring the local area. There is so much to do in and around Mudgee.

The Quarterly meeting on Sunday morning and everyone is welcome. See how it all works and have a nice lunch before you leave for home. This a great chance for you to attend a meeting and see how things happen, you can ask questions and see just how things get done. COCO 2024 is proudly sponsored by West Sydney 4x4



#### 4WD & Adventure Show 2024

The 2024 Show will be on Friday 6, Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 September at Eastern Creek.

Our club will not have a stand at the show this year. Volunteer for 2 hours with Association and receive free entry and lunch. More details on volunteering soon.

#### NSW National Parks & Wildlife updates

- There is a question over the justification for construction of "walks" in National parks which are costing in the tens of millions of dollars with an expected usage of up to 1000 people in a 12 month period (in certain parks) which is poor value from a "return on investment" perspective. Modelled on expected "overseas tourism" but no proof of concept.
- National Parks 2x meetings regarding Dorrigo NP, New plan of Management which is being scrutinised and there has been a lot of "back and forth". Next National Parks meeting will have time devoted to developing a checklist of "inclusions" which should be on a PoM checklist which will make producing future PoM's a lot easier.
- Atticus Fleming New Director for National Parks has been put back in his POSITION (removed from his acting role) and we can expect more action from his office in the coming months

#### ACMC/AAAA/ Transport

- ACMC Momentum at the moment is towards ICV's (Individually constructed Vehicles) and Speedo checks Speedo needs to be verified at 110kph for 4-5 kms.
- Removal of seats Much confusion on this topic discussed pros and cons at the meeting. Finally agreed at meeting that the temporary removal of seats is allowed as long as all bolt holes are closed, and removal is TEMPORARY (i.e. vehicle must be able to be returned to factory spec at time of sale of vehicle and seatbelts may NOT be touched.)

#### Turtle-y Awesome

Researchers are uncovering more about the secret lives of freshwater Murray River and Broad-Shelled turtles. The NSW Government's \$111,500 research project, partnering with the University of New England, uses state-of-the-art tracking technology to study the impact of different water flows on their movements and habitat. The study will use acoustic transmitter tags attached to their shells to monitor the turtles' movement across the Barwon-Darling and Gwydir rivers and floodplains until July 2025. With their home on their backs, turtles are the ultimate travellers, and their journeys can help us better understand river health and connectivity. Turtles are also the scavengers of the river system, helping to control aquatic vegetation and even improving poor water quality caused by decaying fish. The research has already provided valuable information. Our records show 2 male Murray River turtles travelled 75 kilometres upstream, the first scientific evidence of such a long-distance journey. The findings of this project will help inform water management strategies, including water sharing and floodplain management plans.





#### **Club 4X4 Insurance**

Platinum Partner Club 4X4 Insurance offer Association members a 5% discount on 4WD, camper trailer and caravan policies, which can be redeemed with the **discount code FOUWHE01** when quoting online at <u>club4X4.com.au</u> or by calling 1300 296 296. The Member Benefits portal will be updated with more information. Club 4X4 Insurance also offer a multi-vehicle discount and savings for completing recognised 4X4 or towing training that involves a theoretical or practical element, including Association training.

#### Dash Cam Member Discount

Keep safe on the roads with a Dash Cam. We have a special limited time discount for our members. \$30 off any Dash Cam over \$349 + free express postage with signature. Head over to the website and enter the code DC4WD at checkout. DASHCAMS AUSTRALIA



## **CLUB MERCHANDISE**



## **Trip Convener April Report**

Since the March 2024, the club has had 1 outing:

Dungog for Easter March 29 - Apr 1st

A reminder of upcoming trips on the Calendar

- Murramarang NP/ Pretty Beach 5 day camp April 29th NSW Extended Trip Apr 29th May 17th (fully booked)
- .
- .
- .
- Coledale Beach May 1st 2nd(midweek camp) May General Meeting May 10th (Ermington) Driver awareness Watagans May 11th 12th Camp Oven Cook Off May 18th 19th (Mudgee) Tracks Off Bells Line of Road Day Trip .
- June General Meeting + camping option June 15th (Mt Wilson) Lookout Southern Highlands June 19th (midweek) Driver Awarness Stockton Sand Dunes June 22nd 23rd Winter Camp Wombeyan Caves July 23rd 24th (midweek) Club Christmas Function location TBC Nov 30th Dec 1st .
- .
- .
- Clubs 50th Anniversary 2025 Oct long weekend 2025

#### Sgt At Arms Report - Bill Twyman

With few outings this month there has been little opportunity to reward anyone for doing something unusual, out of the ordinary or unexpected.

#### **Easter Weekend At Dungog**

It has been a few years since we have visited the area around Dungog and with the MTB bike park there now, we thought it would be a great spot for Easter. Then after looking at camping options found that this is the Weekend for their annual Dungog Rodeo.

No problem we can work with that, how busy can it get and we only had a couple of members registered for the trip.



We headed up early Friday to check out the showground camping and to see if it was going to be ok. No issues with finding a good spot. Camp was set up, then we headed out for a Bike ride around town and then over to the Dungog Common Bike Park. It was just going to be a quick look but we found ourselves on the 7km crosscountry track, The flow track back down made us forget the grind up the hill. After Rosemary and Steve arrived in their new Forester and set up camp, we walked into town and checked out the buildings and had a sample of the Tinshed



Brewery's offerings.

Friday night had a few people camping but not too many. eNews The next day the move in to the Rodeo was starting. Again, we went for bike ride, this time the 15km track. Rosemary and Steve went for a Drive around the area to Chichester Dam and up into the State Forest.

By the time they returned the place had filled up, even with 2 vehicles deciding to park in between



our camps. We went over and checked out the going on at the Rodeo.

Some of it was quite entertaining and we had a good evening watching the bull riding and other events from the Grandstand.

After the rodeo the band started and played till about midnight. After that the camps got quite noisy as the party goers continued back at their camps.

The morning aftermath saw most of the place pack up and leave by about lunch on Sunday. Rosemary and Steve packed up and headed off while we went for one last ride in Dungog, this time on the 10km track.

The Sunday night was a lot quieter with only us and one other camper still in the showground. We had another drink at the Tinshed Brewery and then had dinner at the newly reopened Royal Dungog Hotel.

Monday saw us go for a morning run and walk before breakfast, then we had a leisurely pack up and headed back down the M1 to Sydney and I think missed the majority of the traffic by the sound of it.

It is definitely a great area to visit and I'm sure we will be back.

Troy and Sandi.

### Dungog at Easter 2024

On Good Friday Steve and I brave the Easter traffic to head north towards the country town of Dungog. We are caught in the exodus from Sydney, with a few spatters of rain, but the traffic at least keeps moving. After we leave the highway and approach the Dungog area, we pass through picturesque rolling hills scattered with forests.

Our campsite for the weekend is the Dungog showground, which is hosting the annual Dungog Easter rodeo on Saturday.

"There's plenty of space for camping" Troy was told when he rang the organisers the week before.

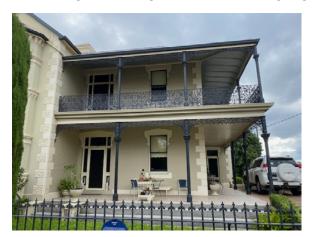
Never having been to a rodeo, we thought it could be interesting, though we suspected we'd be in for a noisy night. We haven't met Troy and Sandi before, but as we drive into the showground gate, they are the first people we see. They'd arrived hours earlier and had set up on a grassy patch by a group of trees. There are just a few campers spread across the grounds and Steve and I pitch our little tent nearby. Just across from us a family group dressed in comical Easter hats poses for photos with their children.



The view hills around Dungog

Plenty of space – at first

The four of us wander into the centre of town, a couple of blocks away. We're impressed by the tidiness of the town, the historic buildings, the neat gardens, and the intriguing, though closed, shops displaying crafty items.











Scenes in the town

There is, however, one establishment open, a craft beer brewery. So guess where we head after we walk the main street? We perch on stools outdoors under a corrugated iron roof surrounded by groups of holidayers, tasting varieties of the brew.

Back at the showground, the stream of cars, trailers, campervans, horse-trailers and trucks begins, pouring through the gate and roaring past our campsite. As the sun sets we look out towards the hills, watching corellas wheeling overhead, hearing horses whinnying and feeling hungry again as the smell of barbecued sausages wafts over from campsites nearby.

When Steve and I emerge from the tent on Saturday morning, Troy and Sandi are off riding the bike trails so we do some exploring. We drive the 20 or so ks to Chichester Dam, a large waterpipe laid parallel to the road leading us there.

The dam was built between 1915 and 1926 and supplies water to a vast area of the lower Hunter Valley, gravity feeding it to local and distant towns, with some of the water supplying as far away as Newcastle. It's surrounded by forests with catchment from the Barrington Tops National Park. In a cleared grassy picnic area, we have lunch and watch 3 young children delighting in rolling down the grassy slope. We walk across the dam wall and read the plaques describing its construction.



#### Chichester Dam

On the way past we stop in to look at Ferndale Park campground that Troy and Sandi had mentioned. It's full of campers, tents and caravans, with families enjoying the Easter weekend. Then we follow the Jerusalem Creek trail into the lower edge of the Barrington Tops National Park. We park at the beginning of a walking trail and follow a 4km loop through rainforest. It's unusual to have rainforest so far south, but the low altitude of close to sea level creates a suitable local climate.

Returning to the Dungog showground, we find we've been camped in on 3 sides, but luckily our car space next to the road is still available. There are now 2 camps set up between us and Troy and Sandi and a table and chairs right next to ours.

The young couple next to us decide to move their tent and table to the opposite side of their car, and with our guidance, instead move their car even closer to us.

The excitement is ramping up for the rodeo and the junior contestants have been competing throughout the afternoon. The campers continue to roll in and we watch with concern as 2 young girls set up a tiny tent right next to the road.

When Steve and I head up to the ring, there's an Easter Show atmosphere with clothing stalls, rides, loudspeakers, food stalls selling oily food, and people swaggering around in skinny jeans, ten gallon hats and cowboy boots. We squeeze into a position in the almost-full grandstand to watch the show.





The showground

Young boys in riding chaps mount a bucking bull in a pen. When the bull is released, it bucks wildly and though they cling valiantly with one hand as the bull turns circles, they are thrown to the ground in seconds. We watch in horror as the bull continues thundering around while 4 men dressed in black lure it away from the fallen boy who hurriedly scrambles to his feet, then swaggers out of the ring. The men in black taunt the bull by getting its attention then running towards the gate. The bull chases them, gathers speed, and just before it reaches them, they leap onto the fence and the bull shoots past. Another person rapidly closes the exit gate behind the bull.

We hear over the loudspeaker that these boys are 14-18-year-olds and I'm damn glad they're not my sons. They look very likely to get trampled once they are thrown and I shudder every time it happens. However, I love those men-inblack, with their antics. They are entertainers, continually making us think they are going to get tossed by the bull, and narrowly escaping. Until they misjudge. One man cuts it too finely, the bull reaches him before he has quite climbed the fence and the bull charges him in the leg. The man looks woozy, supported by his team, and the announcer calls for paramedics. After he's helped from the ring, the show goes on.

The main event starts a little late, at 6:30pm. Troy and Sandi join us in the grandstand. Now it's the adult's turn and most of them manage to stay on the bull for the full 8 seconds that is their goal. The announcer informs us that both the bull rider and the bull are given a score, which contributes to their overall score. This makes sense, because some bulls jump a lot higher, whereas others just turn in circles.

Bull riding is followed by barrel racing. This time it's girls riding horses that tear around barrels laid out in a triangular pattern, trying to complete it in the shortest time. There's also steer roping, where they throw a rope over the steer's neck as they race after it. Then steer wrestling, where they jump off the horse while chasing the steer and wrestle it to the ground. Perhaps the craziest of all is bareback riding, where cowboys lay back on a bucking wild horse, staying on for as long as possible.



Bareback riding – the craziest

The lady next to me worries about the horse falling, telling me they are very likely to snap a tendon if they fall. She says these horses have not been broken in and they buck because they have a flank strap tied around them. The flank strap is also what makes the bulls buck, as they try to kick free of it.

When the rodeo finishes, the live band, Hurricane Fall, starts playing. We watch for a while, then head to bed, but don't sleep for a long while, as the people in the campsite right next to us argue drunkenly. Then the music stops. The revellers come back over the hill and the party ramps up all around us. After some time we fall asleep and wake up later realising it's quiet.

In the morning we emerge from our tent into a fog. The campground gradually clears like the dissipating mist. We pack up too, as we're hoping we'll miss the traffic by going home Sunday. Troy and Sandi stay on to do more mountainbiking.

The fog clears to a beautiful sunny autumn day. We have a cuppa in town in a quaint café named The Barn. On the way home we call in at the Clarence River Campground, thinking it may be a great place for future trips. It is indeed a lovely campground next to the river, with trees and grassy areas and fishing platforms set on the edge of the river. Predictably, it too, is full of campers this weekend.



Clarence River Campground

As Troy and Sandi had suggested that Morpeth is a town worth visiting, we make a slight diversion to it and have lunch at the local deli.



Look what was going down the main street of Morpeth

We have a trouble-free trip home. Thanks Troy and Sandi for putting the run up as an option for Easter. It was great to get away for the weekend and do something a little different.

Rosemary

# FOR YOUR NFORMATION Page

## The SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB CELEBRATES 50 YEARS NEXT YEAR

The committee is seeking member volunteers to join a committee to put together plans to celebrate the 50TH ANNIVERSARY in 2025.

Interested members can contact the Secretary for further information.

## <u>WHERE WAS I</u>

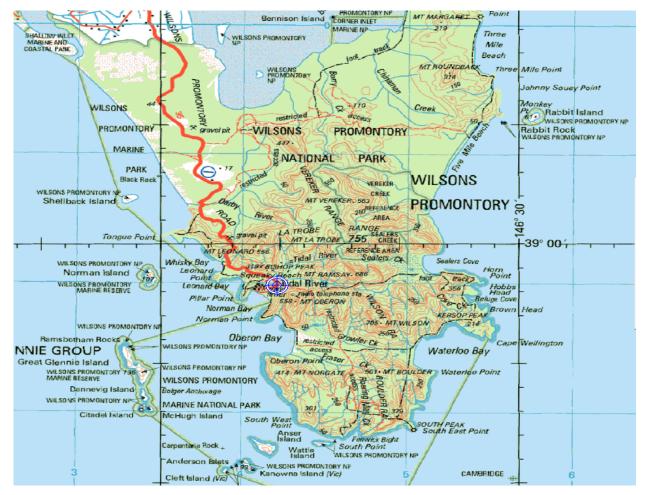
## Last months co-ordinates were 39°01′43.05″S 146°19′0″E which placed me at Tidal River, Wilsons Promontory.

The promontory was visited in 1798 by the English explorer George Bass and was first called Furneaux Land, named for a crew member on the second expedition (1772) of Captain James Cook. It was later renamed for Thomas Wilson, an English merchant. Extensive sealing took place at Sealer's Cove during the 19th Century, such that seals are no longer found there. In 1905 the entire promontory was made a national park.

Wilsons Promontory National Park, also known locally as "the Prom", contains the largest coastal wilderness area in Victoria. Until the 1930s, when the road was completed, it was accessible only by boat. The site was closed to the public during World War II, as it was used as a commando training ground. The only settlement within Wilsons Promontory is Tidal River which lies 30 kilometers (19 mi) south of the park boundary and is the focus for tourism and recreation.

Wilsons Promontory is one of the highest points of this mountain chain and that's the reason there are so many impressive islands off the coast, huge granite boulders on the beaches and mountains scattered across the Prom. There are thirteen islands surrounding the Prom which are part of the national park.

Wilsons Promontory is the largest coastal wilderness in Victoria, and it has been more or less left alone for tens of thousands of years. Tidal River is the only settlement inside the park, and apart from hiking trails and some off-grid campsites, the rest of the Prom has been very well protected.



## WHERE AM I THIS TIME

29°26'02.7"S 142°00'35.9"E

Can you find me.

When you think you have found the secret destination, email me at s\_bennett51@outlook.com with your location. If you have visited this location, send a photo and/or write a few paragraphs of your visit there, or a funny experience you may have had there and what you liked/disliked about the place. There is no prize.



"I actually encourage him to go off-roading. Cleaning his truck is the only exercise he gets."

# Until Next Time