



# 4 Wheel Drive Spectacular Queanbeyan Showground

1st & 2nd Feb 2014

RM2039531

## Build your skills at the 4WD Spectacular!

By David Butler

WINDING around the test track at Queanbeyan Showground in a 200 series Toyota Landcruiser, it feels like we must certainly tip and roll. The angles are crazy steep, and surely the vehicle must succumb to the forces of gravity and tumble back to the bottom of the dirt bank.

But experienced ACT 4WD Club member and test track coordinator Les Briggs is at the wheel, and steers us over the bumps, banks and steep hills of the track with controlled precision.

He'll be doing the same thing for members of the public who get down to see the annual 4WD Spectacular at the Showground this weekend.

"You can come here and get taken through in a standard vehicle, and actually see how the vehicle performs and where the traction control engages and how it all works," Mr Briggs said.

"With a bit of careful

driving, you can get around this course is standard, production vehicles."

There's also a choice of vehicles on offer, including 200 and 70 series Landcruisers, Hilux dual cabs, Mazda BT50, VW Amaroks, Isuzu autos, Land Rover Discos, Range Rover 90 or 100, Jeep Cherokee and Wrangler and Nissans.

Four-wheel drive enthusiasts can team up with drivers from a number of local 4WD clubs and take on the challenging track, learning more about the techniques used to traverse rough terrain and the capabilities of a standard 4WD vehicle.

"We're trying to show people how to get the most out of their vehicle and enjoy the outdoors in a way that doesn't get them into trouble or harm the environment," Mr Briggs said.

"You're talking about a vehicle that weighs two and a half tonnes or more: you wouldn't want that to become a projectile. You want to be in

control both heading up and down hills.

"It also teaches you how to respond to different situations, like what to do if you stall a vehicle at the top of a hill, how you recover the vehicle," he said.

As well as the test track, the 4WD Spectacular will feature a range of demonstrations and equipment education seminars, modified vehicles, 4WD accessories, performance, camping and outdoors equipment and more.

Gates open from 8.30am to 5pm Saturday and 8.30am to 4pm Sunday. Entry costs \$15 for adults, \$10 concession and entry is free for accompanied children under 16.

Experienced four-wheel driver Les Briggs will take members of the public across the challenging test track at this year's 4WD Spectacular  
PHOTO: Andrew Johnston.



## Fun on four wheels

By Georgina Connery

THE Queanbeyan showground is awaiting transformation for the upcoming 4WD Spectacular this weekend, expected to attract close to 10,000 people from across the region.

Chairman of the Spectacular, John Jedryk, said this year there were more exhibitors than ever. "It's a pretty big event for the region and this year we have 167 exhibitions," he said.

The event boasts 13 new vehicles, sourced from local dealers, that the public can test on the spectacle's test track.

"We make the track with very steep up slopes and down slopes as well as areas where the car leans this way and at angles that you think you might tip out," Mr Jedryk said.

Rob McKenzie is a 4WD club member and said his hobby had rubbed off on his family, who now take part in four wheel driving. For the past 10 years he has helped at the spectacular and this year will help build the spectacle test track and drive visitors around the course.

"The course is not high speed at all," he said. "The most fun is building it. There are series of logs, climbs and holes like an obstacle course to test the vehicle."

Queanbeyan mayor Tim Overall was hosted last year and driven through the test track by Mr Jedryk.

"It was awesome," Cr Overall said. "It was the first time I had been on a course like that with such a high degree of difficulty. If I was driving I'm sure the car would have been on its side in the ditch."

The Southern Tablelands 4WD Club, the ACT 4WD Club and the Land Rover Club of the ACT have held the event in the Queanbeyan showgrounds for the past 20 years.

"It's a huge draw card right across the region and Queanbeyan are very happy to be able to host it again



Rob McKenzie with his highly modified 1992 Suzuki Sierra and 2013 Toyota Dual cab Land Cruiser will be taking part in the 4WD Spectacular  
PHOTO: Elesa Kurtz.

this year," Cr Overall said.

"It brings several thousand people into Queanbeyan over the weekend and gives a significant boost to the local economy."

The profits raised by the clubs are shared equally, after a large portion is donated to local charities.

"There is a lot of interest for the great outdoors and there are a lot of interested trades people," Mr Jedryk said.

"It generates income each year and 40 per cent of the income goes to charities that relate to outdoors and four wheel driving, like The Royal Flying Doctors Service."

Mr Jedryk said alongside vehicle demonstrations, the events program included demonstrations of vehicle recovery, towing and remote first aid techniques.

"People are always looking for what's new, whether it's vehicles, different products or just experiences," he said. "There is something there for everyone."

## Vista RV Crossover



COME & SEE US AT SITE 16  
on February 1st & 2nd

23c Jersey Road, Bayswater VIC 3153  
PH:(03) 9729 1234 Fax: (03) 9720 9200

[www.vistarv.com.au](http://www.vistarv.com.au)

Email: [enquiries@vistarv.com.au](mailto:enquiries@vistarv.com.au)

RM2039530

## Over 140 Exhibitors

- The latest:
  - 4WD vehicles
  - Offroad caravans
  - Soft roaders
  - Comprehensive range of camper trailers
  - Fully equipped touring & off-road 4WD vehicles
  - 4WD accessories, performance and recovery gear
  - ACT & regional 4WD club displays
  - 4WD, camping, cooking & equipment demonstrations
  - Ride on our exciting test track
  - Activities for children
  - Huge range of camping gear

FREE  
PARKING

summitt EARTH WORKS  
DIG IT. MOVE IT. DRILL IT. YOU NAME IT.

RENT A FENCE  
PTY LTD

Contact: 0409 992 810

[www.4wdspectacular.org.au](http://www.4wdspectacular.org.au)

