

PATROLLING



***Volume 36 Number 4
August 2014***



Invest in tyres that last.

Your new 4WD tyres should be built to last so they're more puncture resistant, longer wearing and offer more protection in the sidewall of the tyre all while delivering the right amount of traction no matter where you drive.

Invest in tyres made to last

It's Cooper's ongoing commitment to developing new technology and making 4WD tyres that last, while other original equipment brands are being made with lighter construction and less tread. Cooper continues to develop and produce 4WD tyres incorporating modern technology, compounding and design to produce a range of tyres that suit every kind of application.

So what do you need to consider when choosing your next set of 4WD tyres?

Deeper Treads

Ask yourself, how much tread depth is on your tyres? Deeper treads mean you get more kilometres and greater grip.

Stronger Sidewalls & Steel-belts

Cooper engineers have introduced

stronger sidewalls and steel-belts which for you means more impact strength, better puncture resistance and a higher load carrying capacity.

Armor-Tek3 Carcass Construction

The rubber gaps between the sidewall cords are the weakest point of a tyre. Cooper have reduced the rubber gaps by adding a third ply on a patented 8° angle making the tyres 2.5 times more resistant to tearing contributing massively to the durability of its serious off-road tyres.

What Cooper tyre for your kind of driving?

With tyres to suit every kind of driving from highway mileage tyres, all-terrain tyres or serious off-road tyres, Cooper has your 4WD or SUV covered.

A/T³ (All-terrain)

70% Road and Sand, 30% Dirt & Mud
With a round edge shoulder design, the A/T³ is great for off-road trails and tracks as well as sand driving as it won't dig down as much allowing the vehicle to get across the top of loose terrain making this the ideal all-terrain tyre that you

can take just about anywhere without sacrificing highway performance.

S/T^{MAXX} (Heavy Duty All-terrain) 50% Road & Sand, 50% Dirt & Mud

Tested in Australia's outback and introducing for the first time in a heavy duty all-terrain tyre, Cooper's proven Armor-Tek³ carcass construction. With sharp, square shoulders this tyre is better at digging down and suits a more serious four-wheel driver who spends more time on the dirt and needs more traction in hard to get to places.

STT (Super Traction Tyre) 20% Road & Sand, 80% Dirt & Mud

The STT is designed for the 4WD driver who wants a tyre with the grip and puncture resistance to drive the most serious of off-road applications. With Armor-Tek³, the STT now boasts even more strength than before.

With super traction tread employing a combination of features including deep sidewall lugs, notched shoulder lugs and a unique centre traction zone creates a bold, aggressive tyre.

Cooper Tyres are only available from authorised Cooper Tyres dealers. For your closest authorised dealer, a free tyre guide and information on different tread patterns find us on Facebook call 1300 COOPER or visit us at:

www.coopertires.com.au



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What people are saying about Cooper Tyres?



"I wasn't overly happy with my previous tyres, not getting the mileage and wear that I had expected. I put Cooper A/T³'s on and haven't looked back" - John Haenke - DVD Producer

"Out in the scrub, you don't experiment with tyres - unless of course you get a kick out of bush survival! And that's why I chose Cooper's S/T^{MAXX}" - Pat Callinan Mr 4x4

"The Cooper STT is still saving me dollars because it's the toughest off-road radial I've ever driven on... bar none" - Ron Moon - 4WD Journalist and Adventurer

Nissan Patrol Club of South Australia Inc Established 1979



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CLUB MEETINGS are held at the Challa Gardens Primary School, Humphries Terrace (off Torrens Road), Kilkenny on the first Thursday of every month except January. Meetings commence at 7.30 pm.

The Nissan Patrol Club is a member of Four Wheel Drive SA Inc (FWDSA), which is a member of Four Wheel Drive Australia Pty Ltd (formerly the Australian National Four Wheel Drive Council Inc (ANFWDC)).

UHF Channel 21 is recognised as the official Club radio channel.

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Minute Secretary:	Christine Robinson	8248 1186
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Patrolling the Editor's Desk



Welcome to the August edition of Patrolling - This month we have a pictorial record of the 35th Anniversary Celebrations accompanying the written report. If anyone is looking to obtain a formal photo taken on arrival at the Dinner, just see a Committee member to arrange. It is great that the Peake Week-end report was submitted by our newest members John & Maddie - and I hope my notes on Wayne's Kokoda Trek does his experience justice.

Enjoy reading - may I suggest a Mulled Wine or Muscat to help warm you as you undertake this task!
Cheers - Ed.

30 YEARS AGO - 1984

SOME COMMENTS FROM NEW MEMBERS

Having just been accepted as new members of the Nissan Patrol Club, we would like to express our appreciation as to the way visitors and would-be new members are treated by your members. We attended our first meeting in June and even though we were unknown by all except the Bailey's, we were treated as friends by all present at the meeting. The attitude of the Club on the whole, is one of comradeship and belonging to a big happy family.

On June 23rd, we joined in the Mystery Rhyme run organized by Trevor and Lorraine Beythien. I'm sure that everyone that participated thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It was a great way to spend a cold, but thankfully, (for those of us navigating) dry Saturday night. Naturally only the weather was dry by the end of the evening. Good work Trevor and Lorraine.

On Sunday 1st July, we left our land of sunshine and headed into the land of fog at the Tapleys Hill Weighbridge, where we joined about 16 other vehicles on a mystery trip. Upon starting out led by Garry and John, we were led through fog and mist into Clarendon, where we converged en masse on the bakery for hot pasties before heading on to Kuitpo Forest on a round the mulberry bush trek. All went well at first as we were led by Garry and John up and down various tracks, with only our leader getting into a bog hole, which the rest of us managed to cross without mishap. We eventually came across our lunch spot. I think we only passed it twice before discovering it.

Then it was time to move on and the fun and games started. We were led along what appeared to be sheep trails etc. It was fine for those with matchbox toys, but some of us were in fully grown vehicles. As first timers we had a great time with great company and lots of laughs, as one by one the convoy dragged its way through some pretty boggy patches, quite a few needing help at times. At one point after we all acted like mountain goats and scaled one pretty steep incline, we were told the only way down was the way we had come. (It wasn't fully true as another road existed where we all descended). I must admit it was easier going down than it was up. We then again played follow the leader, losing only two vehicles who retired for various reasons and headed home, through rows of trees, before eventually emerging from the forest and heading back towards Clarendon. We only managed to get lost by our leaders about twice and that was on the blacktop.

I'm sure everyone who participated will join us in congratulating Garry and John on a thoroughly enjoyable and enlightening day.

Thank you also to each and every one of you for making newcomers part of your Club. May it always remain that way.

Denise & Alan Parish and Family.

Patrolling Magazine

Trip Reports, photos, and any items of interest are all welcome. Please forward to the Editor. Contact details on page 3.

THE DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER ISSUE IS:- 19 SEPT 2014

Views and opinions expressed in this magazine are not those of the Nissan Patrol Club of SA, unless specific reference is made to the article

Front cover is a February 2011 adaptation from **Marie Schultz's** 2003 original concept.

COMING EVENTS

Dates	Details	Leader	Confirmation Date
17 August	Saunders Gorge	Andrew Jackson	
13 September	Coorong Clean-Up	Dave & Helen Richards	
26 - 28 September	Bushy's Sand Driving	Tony & Chris Moran	
4 - 6 October	Weekend in Whyalla— Registration form emailed to NPC Members	President	Registration forms
3 - 12 October	Pooncarie Races and Mungo National Park - Tentative proposal - easy 4wding, optional canoeing on the Darling River, caravans OK. Register your potential interest on trip sheet.	Kathy Grigg	??
17 October	<i>My Fair Lady</i> - Arts Theatre - 53 Angas St. Adelaide. Advert Page 20.	Jeffrey Schapel	Sept Gen. Mtg
23 November	Family Picnic	President	
21 December.	Christmas Breakfast in the Park- Hazelwood Park	President	

LOOKING TO PLAN A TRIP OR PERHAPS A DAY OUT?

There are plenty of knowledgeable folk within our club who are more than willing to help you organize your intended activity whether large or small—Just ask a member of the Committee to direct you.

All participants must register their name and vehicle registration on the trip sheet, or advise the trip leader of their participation. Registration is required to comply with the Club's public liability insurance policy. Visitors are welcome to join most trips and social events; simply register your name on the sheet in the trip folder or see the Trips Officer. Visitors must also sign the Club "Warning" forms if participating on a trip.

All participants must confirm with the designated Trip Leader by the Confirmation Date that they still wish to attend the event or trip. Failure to do so will indicate to the Trip Leader that you do NOT wish to participate.

If at the last minute you are unable to join a trip for which you have registered, please make every endeavour to advise either the trip leader or someone else joining the trip. This will ensure the group is not held up waiting for a non-arrival.

(Remember to complete your ICE form prior to commencing on your Trip.)

The Club recommends that members have RAA membership to cover mechanical breakdowns on Club trips, and ambulance cover from the SA Ambulance Service or your private health insurer to cover medical emergencies.

The President's Points



Hi Patrollers,

Yes we have made it 1/2 way through the year again. 2014 is moving fast. To all who attended the 35th Anniversary Dinner, thank you for your attendance. We were not disappointed. The night was a thorough success. The "WOW" Factor - From when you were met at the entrance and made your way into the Panorama Room; having your photograph taken and then seated down to a 3 course meal and entertainment for the night. To the Sub Committee for your time, dedication and meticulous way you went about getting the job done - **Thank you.** To me personally that night, I felt proud to be a Nissan Patroller. To be among the other 111 past and present members, was very humbling to me. It will be a night that will stay very close to my heart. Also it was wonderful to see one of our early members Jenny Thompson win the Door Prize (see further information in this edition of magazine.)

The weekend at Peake was a great weekend away for the members who attended. It was also a weekend socially to get to know each other. We had a few new members for the first time and I think we all went away learning something about our 4WD and am looking forward to returning in the near future.

We have quite a few events in the next 6 months. WA Wildflower Trail, Saunders Gorge, Bushy's Sand Driving, WW8 in Whyalla 2014, Pooncarie Races And Mungo National Park. There is a Theatre Night and of course our annual Family Picnic and Breakfast in the Park.

I love this club as we are a very active group. Lets keep this going. If you have an idea or a trip, either day or weekend, grab a folder and start organising yourselves. It would be great to see some trips for 2015 on the table...."food for thought". I am also happy to help anyone who is interested in running a trip.

On a parting note-
"If you can dream, you can do it"

Happy travels,
Your Club President
Helen Richards (364)



GUEST SPEAKER FOR JUNE 2014

Lisa Brock and Sunil from OAMPS Insurance Brokers

Lisa explained the relationship between TCIS and OAMPS and handed over to Sunil who explained to the members attending the meeting what OAMPS could offer regarding Liability Insurance for the Club and its members. These include the following:

- 4WD Vehicle - all listed accessories - fridge; GPS systems; & spare parts; recovery gear
- Legal modifications
- Repairer choice incl. emergency repairs to continue your trip
- Protected no claim bonus; low excesses; after accident care; Hire vehicle after theft.

They also offer Optional Benefits-

- Camper trailers & caravans - agreed or market value; optional contents cover; outback recovery
- Camping equipment - Fire; storm & associated risks; malicious & accidental damage; theft from open air.

Additional Services Include:- Personal insurance for your home, contents & motor vehicle; Financial planning & income protection; Life Insurance—Cover may be obtained for river crossings; beaches; private & govt. land, gazetted roads or the "bush".



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PEAKE JUNE 2014

The weather forecast for the 21 and 22 June was not good, with showers predicted, but that did not deter 13 members in 8 cars who travelled to Peake determined to enjoy a weekend of driving the dunes. Fortunately the weather held off, with only a few showers all weekend and fog on Sunday morning; the sun generally shining brightly.



Several dunes were driven over, with some of us taking more than one attempt (or even 4 on one occasion) to crest the dunes. We were the only ones who managed to get bogged at the top of a dune. Thank you to Andy and Paul on the shovels, and Dave for pulling us free. A massive learning curve.

Dave managed to slide down a dune and get bogged in a small sand ravine, which was a little scary to watch. However, this was actually on purpose so that Angelo could test his new winch. Fortunately the winch worked to perfection.



A reasonable amount of crawling over rocky terrain and flat sand driving was also under-taken. We all had a go at high dune driving, effectively driving sideways along the upper portion of a dune, which was very similar to driving on ice in the UK. All of this was a good test of vehicle; the driver; and Maddie, the passengers' nerves! It was all great fun.



Dave demonstrated the use of the inflatable jack on Sunday, ably assisted by Tony and Chris.

Tony helped pump up the inflatable bag from the rear and Chris gently eased it back down again after the demonstration which went well; however, Helen seemed decidedly on edge as the Patrol leaned further and further towards toppling over.



Much mirth was had over the UHF and around the camp fire both nights. Helen and Chris made a beautiful Damper one evening, which we all enjoyed. A great weekend of fun, friendship and fellowship.

Thank you to DTU Dave for demonstrating/undertaking various tasks and to all who assisted the novices around the sand and dunes.

**Maddie & John.
NPC 407**

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KOKODA TRAIL TALK

Wayne Lucas, a member of the Otways 4WD Club and friend of many NPC members who share combined Annual trips, gave a very informative and interesting talk on his walk along the Kokoda Trail (Trek) in 2008.

Wayne explained that participants were able to have their own Porter to assist them during the trek and that one particular older man and his Porter struck up a wonderful relationship and were noticeably seen to endure the strenuous task hand in hand right up to the final day of the Trek.



Wayne had wonderful photo's accompanying his talk which depicted just how hard the trek was, but as hard and arduous as it must have been, the beauty of the country and the views were amazing.



The bird-life, butterflies and plants were gorgeous and although it must have been extremely humid and muddy, the camaraderie between all on the trip apparently helped to endure the conditions.



The muddy terrain was worsened by the "steps" which as the picture depicts, were very steep to climb.

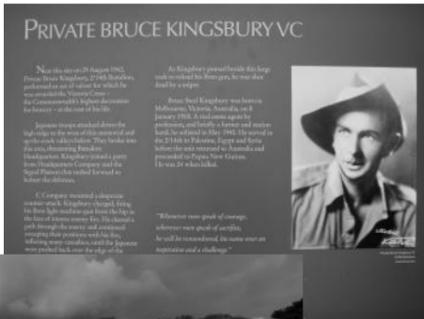


The Porters grouped together at day's end and entertained the walkers with their singing and playing of music around the fires of an evening.

Wayne even provided a CD for us to listen to at the completion of the talk.

Wayne explained the memorials along the way and related the story of Private Bruce Kingsbury, recipient of the Victoria Cross Medal for Bravery.

At the end of his enlightening discussion, Wayne informed us that if he were invited to repeat the Experience - he would in an instant.



Editor - NPC 259

NISSAN PATROL CLUB 35 YEAR ANNIVERSARY DINNER

What a great night!



Saturday 5th July 2014 the members of the Nissan Patrol Club of Sth. Aust. Inc., celebrated the Club's 35 year anniversary. After months of planning by a dedicated committee, the selected venue was the Belair Park Country Club. The presentation and service was appreciated by all and the whole night ran as smooth as silk.

The night began with very professional photos being taken of all the guests on their arrival. The seating was so organised guests easily found their places without a hitch. Helen our current President, welcomed all current members, past members and guests. The night was then very well underway.

During the course of the evening, an organised two stage quiz was ably run by Prof. Rod. The top winner of these quizzes was our knowledgeable Marie Dalitz. Other winners were Aileen Foreman, Angelo Tsirbas, Caig Wood and Melissa Cook.



Another feature of the evening was the filling in of forms identifying highlights members have enjoyed with the Nissan Club over the years and any interesting opinions. The forms were then placed into a Time Capsule and sealed by the club Historian/Archivists; this to be opened at the 40th Anniversary event.



Much chatting and reminiscing was done by all and general interaction brought past and current members together. The meal was good, the venue great and the evening went far too quickly.

The door prize for the evening donated by the owners of "Willangi Bush Escapes" was for one night's accommodation on site and entry to one of the bush tracks. This was won by members Jenny and Garry Thompson.

Some members and visitors stayed in the Caravan Park next door to the venue and some even went up to the Country Club for Sunday breakfast continuing the reminiscing and chatting with new and past acquaintances.



Brian and I, as did our family, had a great time. We thank the Committee for their great organising, the current and past members for attending and the N.P.C. for the last 35 years.

This Club has been an important part of our family's life and we thank everyone for that and we are looking forward to being there for the 40th celebration.

NPC.19 Judy & Brian Cook

Nissan Patrol Club of Sth Aust Inc – 35th Anniversary Celebrations



NISSAN PATROL CLUB OF SA INC 35 YEARS OLD



"In early March 1979, Mr Des Evans of Datsun Distribution invited recent buyers of G60 Nissan Patrols to a meeting at their Dudley Park headquarters at which time the Nissan Patrol Club of South Australia was formed. Some of those who attended this meeting are still members of the Club"

Number 01 member:- ROGER SPENCE
was a guest at the 35th Celebrations at the Belair Park Country Club

**Newest members:- Number 407
MADDIE & JOHN DAY -**

Who also attended the evening - we wish them all the best as they begin their future experiences with the Nissan Patrol Club.



Ed. 259

Email - received from Gill Cibich: (Following the 35th Anniversary Dinner)

From: G Cibich
Sent: Wednesday, 9 July 2014 1:19 PM
To: schapelj@adam.com.au
Subject: Nissan Patrol Club 35th Anniversary

Dear Jeanene,
I would like to congratulate you and the Nissan Patrol Club Committee for organizing the very successful 35th Anniversary Dinner.
Stephen and I really enjoyed every aspect of the evening especially catching up with some old friends. My only regret was that Geoff was unable to be there and to see how fantastically the club has evolved throughout the years. It certainly demonstrates there is still a need for this type of club and shows the commitment, energy and, above all, friendship and fellowship of members. I am proud that Geoff and I were part of the founding committee but very proud of the dedication some of those first members still have to ensure the ongoing success of the Club.
Keep on "Patrolling"

Gill Cibich

CONGRATULATIONS!

35th Anniversary Dinner

Door Prize Winner

Jenny Thompson NPCg

This prize entitles Jenny and Garry Thompson to 1 night's camping and access to 1 track (4WD/2WD) at Willangi Bush Escapes.



Bush Camping

The campsites are situated in secluded bush and mallee areas overlooking beautiful rolling hills. Each campsite has its own environmentally friendly bush long drop loo. There is also a fire ring and firewood for you to enjoy your evening by the campfire. All campsites can hold up to 10-12 campers so groups are most welcome.



4WD Tracks

Willangi has a number of medium to high skill self-driving 4WD tracks over rolling hills, with rocky outcrops to add to the challenge. We also accommodate the good old 2WD family car, with some 2WD accessible tracks to experience the beautiful mallee scrub and rolling hill scenery that Willangi has to offer.



For Information

Willangi Bush Escapes
PO Box 73, Peterborough SA 5422
Mobile: 0427 014 215, Office: (08) 86512410. If no answer, ring Phil 0438 247 365.
Email: info@willangibushescapes.com
Website: <http://www.willangibushescapes.com/>

Email - received from Alan & Marina Langer

Hi Everyone

I thought I would let you know that we reached the tip of Cape York and we are well and the Nissan performed admirably. We did a partial run up the Old Telegraph Line to Palm Creek, saw the need for diff locks and a winch which counted us out. Vehicles did get through though with this setup. Entry and exit through the creeks are where the damage occurs. The creek depths to Elliot Falls are passable but entry and exits are pretty hairy from what we heard.

We did however take the OTL from Wing Bat Falls for the Northern run past Nolans Brook and quite an experience. Deep cut ins in the creek beds with large stair case drops and deep mud and deep water crossings up to the windows. We walked through first, to check the best and shallowest route and had a bra around the front of the grill; Not Marina's though.

A few cars have come to grief at Nolans Brook. They were flooded out (write-offs), electrics going hay-wire etc. due to taking undue care or just plain bad luck. Not for the faint hearted but for extreme 4X4, great stuff.

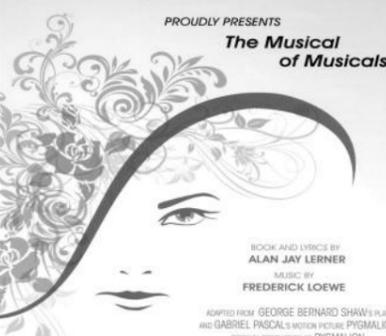
The Development Road is a breeze to go up and down even some heavy duty caravans went past. The weather is good but can be humid at times.

We are having a great time and many experiences. Best regards to everybody.
Allan and Marina
Member 243



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My Fair Lady -

The Club has a group booking for **Friday 17th Oct. 2014** at 7.30pm.

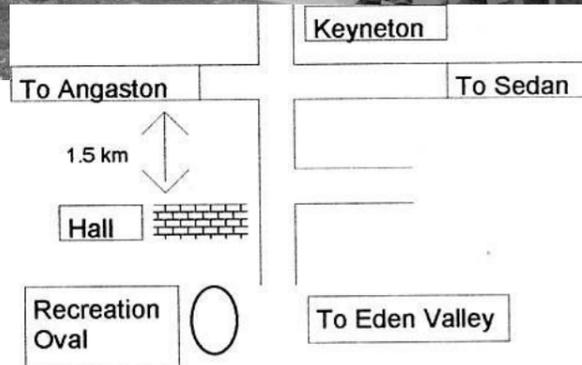
Tickets are \$24.50 each and must be paid for by the Sept. Gen. Meeting. The Venue is:- Arts Theatre-53 Angas St., Adelaide.

If interested in attending - Please see Jeff Schapel

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE NISSAN SQUARE-DANCES AT KEYNETON



Men hard at work again at Keyneton



Can you meet this challenge?

I've seen this with the letters out of order, but this is the first time I've seen it with numbers.

Good example of a Brain Study: If you can read this OUT LOUD you have a strong mind.

And better than that: Alzheimer's is a long, long, way down the road before it ever gets anywhere near you.

7H15	M3554G3
53RV35	7O PR0V3
H0W	0UR M1ND5 C4N
D0	4M4Z1NG 7H1NG5!
1MPR3551V3	7H1NG5!
1N	7H3 B3G1NN1NG
17	WA5 H4RD BU7
N0W,	0N 7H15 LIN3
Y0UR	M1ND 1S
R34D1NG 17	
4U70M471C4LLY	
W17H	0U7 3V3N
7H1NK1NG	4B0U7 17,
B3 PROUD!	0NLY
C3R741N	P30PL3 C4N
R3AD 7H15.	

Thanks to Wayne for providing this Brain tester!

NISSAN—N16 Pulsar, Y61 Patrol, D22 Navara, A33 Maxima and T30 X-Trail vehicles

PRA number: 2014/14182

Date published: 27th June 2014

Product informationProduct description

Nissan N16 Pulsar, Y61 Patrol, D22 Navara, A33 Maxima and T30 X-Trail vehicles built between April 2001 and June 2003.

Identifying features - Campaign number: R1407 - Target number: 25,941

What are the defects?

This is an amendment to the affected vehicles in the previous recall campaign that was launched globally in 2013.

The front passenger air bag inflator contains propellant wafers that are required to properly deploy the air bag. Some incorrect propellant wafers with insufficient density might be installed in certain inflators. This may cause the combustion rate of the propellant to increase inside the inflator, which can lead to internal pressure rising suddenly during air bag deployment and may result in abnormal deployment. In certain cases, the inflator housing may rupture and the metal fragments may scatter.

What are the hazards?

Abnormal passenger airbag deployment or metal fragment scatter may pose a hazard to the occupants of the vehicle.

Where the product was sold - Nationally

Traders who sold this product—Authorised Nissan dealers

Supplier—Nissan Motor Co. (Australia) Pty Ltd

What should consumers do?

Owners of affected vehicles will be advised to contact their Nissan Dealer to arrange for replacement of the front passenger airbag inflator. The replacement will be at no cost to owners.

KEEPING IN TOUCH A PRODUCTION OF THE FWDSA EXECUTIVE

Number 29
22/07/2014

K. I. T.
"KEEPING IN TOUCH"



PRELIMINARY NOTICE
OF THE NEXT NGARKAT WORKING BEE

THE DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR THE WEEKEND
OF THE 28th and 29th MARCH 2015

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW COVERING, MEETING TIMES,
PROJECTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN, CAMPSITE AREA, TOOLS TO BRING



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ACCURATELY MEASURING STATE-OF-CHARGE with Century Yuasa



Determining the state-of-charge of an automotive battery may not be as straightforward as many people may think. A simple test with a multimeter may not reveal the true state of a battery's charge. So what is the best way to accurately measure the state-of-charge of a battery? And what unit of measurement, or rating, should you use? There are two units of measurement which can be used to determine state-of-charge: voltage (V) and specific gravity (SG).

Voltage Test

The most common procedure for determining state-of-charge is an open circuit voltage test. A multimeter is applied to the battery terminals and a voltage reading is used to determine the state-of-charge. The following table shows typical voltage readings and the corresponding state-of-charge.

STATE OF CHARGE	OPEN CIRCUIT VOLTAGE Century Performance Series Batteries
100%	12.6 or greater
75-100%	12.4-12.6
50-75%	12.2-12.4
25-50%	12.0-12.2
0-25%	11.7-12.0
0%	11.7 or less

But voltage readings can be misleading if there is internal damage or a low electrolyte level. For example a low electrolyte level would provide a high voltage reading. Also, a cell with low voltage will be masked by the other cells, providing a normal voltage reading overall. Much like a boiling jug of water, excessive heat also leads to fluid loss in batteries. Even sealed automotive batteries have vents to allow gassing which means they are also susceptible to fluid loss in higher temperatures.

Specific Gravity Test

A more accurate method of testing involves measuring specific gravity of the electrolyte. This method is obviously only suitable for flooded lead-acid batteries where the electrolyte can be accessed through vent plugs with a hydrometer. An hydrometer is a bulb-like syringe designed to extract electrolyte from a battery's cells. The hydrometer contains a glass float inside which is calibrated in terms of specific gravity, commonly ranging from 1.050 to 1.350.

Specific gravity is a unit of measurement for determining the sulphuric acid content of the electrolyte (or its weight compared to water). The lower float sinks in the hydrometer, the lower the specific gravity of the electrolyte. The following table shows typical specific gravity readings at various stages of charge.

STATE OF CHARGE	SPECIFIC GRAVITY Century Performance Series Batteries
100%	1.265
75%	1.225
50%	1.190
25%	1.155
Discharged	1.120

Sealed batteries therefore present a problem. An open circuit voltage test will provide a reading, but this will not necessarily be accurate, and there is no way of extracting electrolyte with a hydrometer.

Load Test

When a specific gravity reading is not possible because the battery is sealed, the best method is a Load Test. A Load Test involves a controlled discharge of the battery while under heavy load. Typically a voltmeter and ampere load equal to 1/2 the CCA rating at -18C is connected to the battery for 15 seconds. The voltage after 15 seconds is measured and used to determine the state of the battery.

Imported Products are Different

A further complication exists when measuring the state-of-charge of imported automotive batteries. Imported batteries typically use a more concentrated form of acid electrolyte, with a fully charged specific gravity measurement of up to 1.300.

A higher specific gravity electrolyte has the advantage of boosting the voltage level and cranking amps of the battery. This is particularly desirable in colder climates where chemical reaction rates are lower. However, in Australia's hotter climate, the disadvantage of high voltage is that battery life can be significantly reduced.

As the acid electrolyte in a battery becomes hotter it becomes more corrosive, eating away at critical internal lead components or reacting to form hard sulphate layers that can inhibit electrical current flows. Australian battery manufacturer Century Yuasa is aware of this problem and uses a lower specific gravity of acid electrolyte in its Century Performance Series to provide longer life.

A side effect of imported batteries, which use more corrosive acid electrolyte, is that the ratings used to determine state-of-charge need to be adjusted. The following table lists the higher specific gravity and voltage ratings for typical imported batteries.

STATE OF CHARGE	OPEN CIRCUIT VOLTAGE (Typical imported battery)	SPECIFIC GRAVITY (Typical imported battery)
100%	12.84	1.300
75%	12.57	1.255
50%	12.33	1.215
25%	12.12	1.180
Discharged	12.00	1.160

For more information on how to obtain accurate test results call Century Batteries on 1300 362 287.

(Continued on page 21)

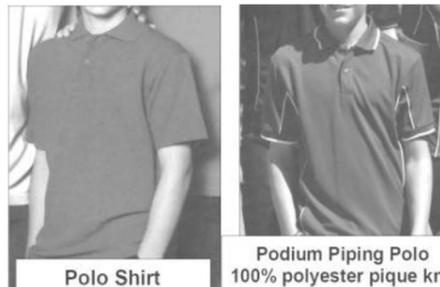
The Automotive Engineer Sep/Oct 06

FOR SALE

Nissan Patrol Club sticker: Large circle \$2.20.
Nissan Patrol Club cloth badges: \$3.00
Nissan Patrol Club Key Rings: \$5.00
Water Bottles: Light stainless steel, \$8.00 each or 2 for \$15.00. Contact Marina.



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MENS POLO LONG SLEEVES	\$21.50
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Full Zip Polar Jacket

FULL ZIP POLAR JACKET \$27.50

Orders will be taken at meetings:

- * Please ensure that you clearly state the item and size required.
 - * All orders must be accompanied by payment.
- Contact Jeanene

REMEMBER - when disposing of your old vehicle, please remove your club stickers, as the person you sell it to may not be as concerned with the do's and don'ts of four wheel driving as you are and therefore will give the Club a bad name.



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