



# Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A0002184F

APRIL 2004



Labour Day Weekend – March 2004  
Lineup at Tomahawk Hut



The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc is an affiliated club of the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC) [www.vafwdc.org.au](http://www.vafwdc.org.au), and a member of Tread Lightly! Australia [www.treadlightlyaustralia.com.au](http://www.treadlightlyaustralia.com.au)

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## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2003/2004

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President	John Partridge
Vice President	Ian Warburton
Treasurer	Roger Baird
Secretary	Lesley Peters

## GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Assistant Secretary	Stephen Boyle	
New Member Contact	George Pledger	9547 4021
Trip Coordinator	Ashley Martin	
Social Secretary	Rosalie Hughes	
Projects Coordinator	Carl Surtees	
Insurance Officer	Gerrard Clarke	
Librarian	Barry Leitch	
Web Manager	Anthony Van Buiten	
Association Delegate	John Partridge	
Club Historian	Phil Alder	
Training Officers	Mark Kochan Ashley Martin John Partridge	
Newsletter Editor	Lesley Peters lespet03@hotmail.com	

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*Registered Name:* Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

*Registration No:* A002184F

*All correspondence:* The Secretary  
VFWDC Inc  
PO Box 778  
Dandenong Vic 3175

*Web Site:* [www.vfwdc.com](http://www.vfwdc.com)

*Meetings:* Held first Tuesday of each month  
excluding January (no meeting). The  
November meeting is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Tuesday due to Melbourne Cup.  
At Dandenong Library  
Stuart Street, Dandenong 3175

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*The opinions given herein are those of the individual contributors and  
are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Committee of  
Management, or the Member body of the VFWDC Inc.*

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

April 2004

Hi there. Back again for another month of *Free Wheeling*.

Hopefully by now I've recovered from our 'A Grade trip'.

The other week I attended a bridge opening at Toombon where the local residents put on a BBQ to thank the local DSE for the work they have done upgrading the road and improving access to their properties. This was a great opportunity to meet some of the local residents. Rex, who organised the BBQ, owns the Toombon Hotel that we visited on my last mines trip and has offered to show us around his hotel. Another local, Graham Code, owns a large property on Donnellys Creek Rd and has several cottages that we are able to use at very little cost. Sounds like a great place to stay on a mid-winter trip.

Also in attendance was Noel Lees, of the Parkers Corner DSE, with whom I have had frequent contact regarding Merringtons Camping Ground. It was very encouraging that we had about 20 people at the last meeting to volunteer to help plant some 2-300 trees at Merringtons and the DSE was very grateful for our offer of help. As soon as I know when the trees will be ready to plant I'll let you know. At this stage it looks like it will be around late June.

While I was in the area, I visited Merringtons Camping ground to see the work that has been carried out. There has been substantial drainage works completed, rocks placed and new tracks formed which has divided the camping ground into numerous camping spots of varying sizes. At the moment it looks a bit bare and haphazard, but once the trees are planted it will be a great camping area for all to enjoy. I also had a look at O'Tooles Camping ground and was amazed at how much re-growth of grass there has been since it was closed for that short period before Christmas. Apparently they had to get the grass slashed before they could re-open the gates, the first time for many a year. They have also put drainage in that will not only clear the water that comes down the track, but makes it near impossible for the hoons to do their damage.

Please note that the next General Meeting will now **NOT** be held at Sitro, but will be at the Dandenong Library Meeting Room – 8.00pm as usual. I hope to see you all there.

Regards

*John*

[John Partridge]

# MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 2 MARCH 2004

Meeting held at Dandenong Library and opened at 8.15pm by John Partridge.

42 members present.

## APOLOGIES:

Chris and Karyl McGlenn, Judy Murray, Gary and Paula Johnston, Jacki Hughes, Don and Thelma Montague, Murray Ogden, Lesley Peters.

**VISITORS:** Welcome Mick Dows, and Judy & Ron Simpson.

## MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Minutes of February meeting as per Newsletter.  
Accepted: Terry Johnin. Seconded: Carl Surtees.

## MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Nil.

## CORRESPONDENCE IN:

- Promotional material from Tread Lightly!
- Letter of thanks from City of Greater Dandenong for the Club's contribution to their Family Services Christmas Party, together with Certificate of Appreciation.
- Letter and promotional material from VRI Inc, Lifestyle & Leisure organisation.
- Renewal Notice from Domain Registry.
- Letter from Telstat advising that Ch10 – both UHF and AM – has been designated as the National 4WD Channel. A small number of stickers supplied to the Club.
- Letter from Association including:
  - minutes of October general meeting
  - notice of next general meeting: Sat 27 March
  - notice of Presidents Meeting: Sun 4 April.
- Various Club magazines.

## CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

- Email exchange with Jan Scudamore of Tread Lightly! Lesley forwarded our condolences from the Club on the death of her husband, Ivan Scudamore, one of the founders of Tread Lightly! Australia. Jan asked to be included on the mailing list for our newsletter which has been done. Copies of December and February editions of *Free Wheeling* have also been sent. Her email re articles for their website and an offer to provide a link to ours was also read.
- Letter to Sitro Group confirming April meeting to be held at their premises in Mt Waverley.
- Letters to "valued supporters" re advertising in *Free Wheeling* and request for web link at nominal fee.
- Flowers and note of congratulations sent to Kathryn and James Holden on the birth of baby Samuel.
- *Free Wheeling*.

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

Petty Cash: \$ 62.10  
Cheque Account: \$3,851.00  
Term Deposit: \$6,797.47

Accepted: Dawn Brown. Seconded: Verylle Rodger.

## TRIP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT:

### ➤ Forthcoming Trips/Events:

As per Club Calendar on Page 4 of newsletter.

### ➤ Trip Reports:

*Turtons Creek:* Anthony van Buiten.

*Bush Dance:* Ian Webber.

## ASSOCIATION REPORT:

JP reported on his attendance at the Association Meeting held Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

- The Four Wheel Drive Radio Show is back on air and is now on 974 FM. They have an hour to fill with only 5 mins taken up by advertisements. They need people to call in. Ph. 9318 0444. The show is jointly owned by Peter Dwyer of Telstat and FWDVic. Clubs are encouraged to email Brian Cox by Wednesday each week of up-coming events or information.
- The Adventure Activity Standards have been completed.
- A proposed Trip Leaders Guide has been compiled and FWDVic wants clubs to review and submit ideas or changes ASAP.
- We need people to sign a petition opposing the expansion of the Otway NP. If people would please write to your local member, local newspaper or the Minister for the Environment stating your opposition it will help.
- The future for Mount Stirling is bleak. The Resort Management Board has insufficient funds to carry out its objectives and the Government is yet to make a decision about its future.
- Work taking place on Dingo Hill Tk and it will re-open in the near future.
- A new club has joined the Association: The Trackmaster Off-Road Caravan Club.
- The annual Christmas Tree delivery has raised close to \$50,000 for Oxfam.
- A complaint was sent to Ch.7 regarding a story on 4WD's to which Ch.7 has failed to respond in the appropriate time. The complaint has been lodged with the Australian Broadcasting Authority and they are looking into it.
- FWDVics' website address has changed to [www.fwdvictoria.org.au](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au)
- Great deal of interest from the public from the stand at the National 4x4 show.
- A deal is nearly completed with a new insurance company to cover 4x4 to replace TCIS. Same benefits as before. 7½ % goes to FWDVic, 5% discount to club members and a further 5% discount if you have completed a driver training course.
- Parkes Vic and the DSE have accepted the track classification proposal. Green, blue, red and black. Easy to hard.

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

Draft proposal for Trip Leader guidelines from FWDV was discussed. The proposal covered such things as Skills and Attributes required for a club member to become a Trip Leader. It also covers advice on areas such as Planning the Trip, Resources & Contacts, Advertising the Trip, Documentation/Paperwork (providing examples of forms),

Temporary Member or Visitor Attending Trip. There were a number of issues raised which still require further discussion.

JP gave a report on a proposal that is being developed to manage the Wombat State Forest. There is concern that "managing" means locking out four wheel drives. Of real concern is the suggestion that this is the start of "management by stealth", which creates a situation where a proposal for management of an area is developed by a local community group which may not include representation from 4x4 owners. When the proposal is accepted and we are locked out of an area there will be no room for discussion because the "community" has already been consulted.

**Note:** This is my (Steve Boyle) interpretation after listening to what was discussed as well as reading the report from FWDV.

**TEA DUTIES:** Thanks to Jill and Sheila.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday, 6 April 2004 at ~~Sitro Group, 26 Lionel Road, Mt Waverley.~~ **NOW AT DANDENONG LIBRARY MEETING ROOM.**

**MEETING CLOSED** at 10.30pm.

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## In case you don't read the small print !!!

### re APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Regrettably, Sitro Group management have advised that due to staffing and insurance issues, they are now unable to host our meeting.

We will meet as usual at the  
Dandenong Library at 8.00pm.

## VFWDC MERCHANDISE

Those well talked about 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Travel Mugs are now in stock  
at \$15.00 each.

Members requiring Club merchandise, eg

- ❖ Polo Shirts
- ❖ Chambré Long Sleeved Shirts
- ❖ Caps
- ❖ Stubbie Holders

contact Rosalie on 9706 2966.

## Blaze a Trail

The Wright brothers *blazed the trail* that led to the Apollo space program. But the original *trailblazers* were those more modest pioneers in countries throughout the world who simply marked a path through a forest. In fact, the literal meaning of *to blaze a trail* still survives: to indicate your path through woodlands by cutting small notches in the trees to pass.

*Blaze* here is a different word from the *blaze* that refers to fires or outbursts of temper. It is either the whitish mark on a horse's face or a telltale mark cut into a tree. So *to blaze a trail* is not, as is sometimes thought, to burn the vegetation when marking a path, but simply to mark the route by small cuts in the bark of trees.

[from *The Cat's Out of the Bag: Stories Behind Some Everyday Expressions*]

thanks Dawnie ...

Welcome to

## "THE CORNER"

We are starting to plan stuff for the trip to the Murray this year and my thoughts went to barbeque food. Found this one in my favourite barbeque book.

### Sesame Lamb

1kg lamb eye of loin

2 cloves garlic

½ cup of honey

2 teaspoons of sesame oil

500 grams of asparagus, trimmed

1 tablespoon sesame seeds (toasted)

1. combine garlic, honey, lamb and oil in large bowl, cover and refrigerate for 3 hours or overnight;
2. drain lamb, discard marinade, cook lamb on heated, oiled barbeque till browned all over and cook as desired, stand 5 minutes to rest then slice thinly;
3. meanwhile, cook asparagus on heated oiled barbeque till tender.

Serve lamb with asparagus sprinkled with sesame seeds.

Yummo...can't you just imagine sitting down to enjoy this as the sun sets over the Murray.



Mmmm, I can... think I would have a baked spud with it - cooked in the coals of course.



I mentioned in the last issue of *The Corner* that I was planning a "girlie day". A lot of interest has been shown and I promise I will advise when we can do it. Its aromatherapy, foot massages, scented oils, lovely stuff...

Might give you a couple of dates so we can agree on which suits most of you. Will let you know soon. Would those who are interested please, please let me know asap.

**The Corner:** A column created as an alternative to hearing about wheel lifts, difflocks, who has the biggest tyres, etc etc. If anyone has an interesting snippet they would like included, just email to: [anniesinternet1@primus.com.au](mailto:anniesinternet1@primus.com.au)

### Hummer Fleet is a Bummer

A fleet of Hummer vehicles purchased in 1997 by the then Queensland State Coalition Government has cost taxpayers more than half a million dollars in repairs and will be mothballed.

They will be replaced by 11 new armoured vehicles, purpose-designed for transporting prisoners and guarding prison fences. Premier Peter Beattie said in a recent statement that the new vehicles would be thoroughly tested to ensure they were suitable for maintaining security at Queensland prisons

A prototype was expected to be ready for testing in June, with the rest of the fleet ready to roll out from October if all vehicles passed the grade. Police Minister Tony McGrady said nine vehicles would be deployed to maintain perimeters at Queensland prisons. The remaining two would be used for transporting prisoners.

The annual lease cost was expected to be \$282,700 - a saving of more than half a million dollars.

"Former Corrective Services Minister, Russell Cooper, bought the Hummers in a knee-jerk reaction to a series of high-profile escapes, including the mass escape involving Brendan Abbott, and they turned out to be total lemons", said Mr Mc Grady. "For example, when one of the Hummers was delivered to Rockhampton Correctional Centre, it would only operate in reverse. In the end, Q Fleet was forced to advise that the Hummers should not be used in service, due to their numerous mechanical faults".

The Hummers have been retired from the Q Fleet and may be sold for spare parts.

Mr Beattie said the new vehicles would be thoroughly tested to ensure they can do the job.

[Taken from Government News Vol 24]



Submitted by Barry Leitch

☺:☺:☺ Humour ☺:☺:☺

Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail, and with his odd diet he suffered from bad breath. This made him... what? (Oh, man, this is so bad, it's good)

A super callused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.

## CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

### MARCH

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> A Grade Trip Ashley Martin  
Big River/Woods Point

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting Carl Surtees

### APRIL

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting John Partridge

### Easter

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> to Monday 12<sup>th</sup> 1. Murray River Michael Rodger

2. Camm's Top Place Ron Camm  
(see trip data form) **CANCELLED**

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Tallarook Day Trip Anthony VB

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Macallister Springs George Pledger

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Otways Patrick Casey  
(see trip data form)

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting Barry Leitch

### MAY

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> FWDVic/Wombat John Partridge  
Forest Mgt Meeting  
Daylesford (see trip data form)

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting John Partridge

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> O'Tooles Night Run John Partridge  
(see trip data form)

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Trip to Morwell Rosalie Hughes  
Powerworks

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting TBC

## 4WD INSURANCE

The ANFWDC Insurance Program is available to all members of the VFWDC and other affiliated four wheel drive clubs. To obtain an insurance quote, the agents – TCIS – require you to fax details regarding your vehicle one month prior to seeking insurance. Contact the Club Insurance Officer, Gerrard Clarke, for relevant form and further information.

See new Club advertiser  
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## FORTHCOMING TRIPS INFO

### **A GRADE TRIP**

**Date:** Saturday 27 March to Sunday 28 March 2004

**Trip Leader:** Ashley Martin

**Destination:** Big River/Woods Point

**Meeting Time/Place:** Lilydale McDonalds

**Equipment:** Full recovery.

**Radio Channel:** Channel 12

**Trip Activities:** This year we will be camping at Big River on Friday night and on Saturday make our way to Woods Point via a few interesting tracks. Saturday night camp will be at Comet Flat just outside Woods Point. Slow start on Sunday is expected and then more tracks will be explored. Due to limited numbers, participants will be chosen on experience and vehicle setup.

### **EASTER 2004 – MURRAY RIVER**

**Date:** Thursday 8 April to Monday 12 April 2004

**Trip Leader:** Michael Rodger

**Destination:** Hattah-Kulkyne National Park

**Meeting Time/Place:** 5.30pm Thursday 8/4, Calder Thunder Dome

**Equipment:** Bush camping, basic recovery

**Radio Channel:** Channel 12

**Trip Activities:** Watch the river flow past and occasionally jump in it. The Hattah Lakes are only a short drive from the camp spot on the Murray, and Lake Mungo could be explored on a day trip. There are many great wineries in the area and Mildura is an interesting place with art galleries and air-conditioned shopping centres if it gets too hot. There are several other National Parks in the area that could be explored by the adventurous.

### **MACALLISTER SPRINGS**

**Date:** Friday 23 April to Sunday 25 April

**Trip Leader:** George Pledger

**Destination:** Macallister Springs via Licola

**Meeting Time/Place:** 6.30pm, Officer Weighbridge

**Equipment:** Normal camping and recovery gear. Good walking footwear.

**Radio Channel:** Channel 12

**Trip Activities:**

Friday: Travel to Licola and camp on the Wellington River.

Saturday: Travel to Howitt High Plains Road, approx 70km to a car park. Pleasant walk of approx 4km to Macalister Springs, look at the hut and the spring and the toilet with a view, then return to the vehicles. Drive down Butcher Country Spur to the river and set up camp for the night.

Sunday: Leisurely drive home.

### **POWERWORKS – MORWELL**

**Date:** Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2004

**Trip Leader:** Rosalie & David Hughes

**Destination:** Morwell Power Station

**Meeting Time/Place:** TBC

**Equipment:** N/A

**Radio Channel:** Channel 12

**Trip Activities:**

The Powerworks Centre offers an evening tour which commences with finger food and soft drink, then a bus ride around the open coal cut and power generating plant. The tour lasts approximately 3 hours, after which a 2-course dinner is served. Cost is \$45 p/head including beer, wine, soft drinks. Overnight accommodation at the Morwell Motel.

## TRIP REPORTS

### **LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND 5-8 MARCH 2004 WHITFIELD WINERIES AND DRIVING TRIP**

**Trip Leader:** Ashley Martin and Lesley Peters

**Participants:** Janine and Peter Frankland

John Partridge

Aline, Anthony, Riley & Connor

Van Buiten

Tom Brachna

**Visitors:** Brian Martin

The Camilleri Clan – David, Rita, Laura,  
Jessica & Rachel

#### **Friday 5 March**

Ashley and I left home at around 12.30pm and after a couple of detours to look for oil (without luck) – yes, believe it or not, Ashley had planned do an oil change some time during the weekend – we were on our way. There was much less traffic than we had anticipated, although we did encounter a few proverbial lunatics who had to reach their destination at breakneck speed. After a quick stop at Mansfield, we arrived at the sleepy little hamlet of Whitfield at around 5.00pm and settled



ourselves into the Valley View Caravan Park. After an enlightening chat with Ann, co-owner of the park, we had dinner, relaxed and waited for

Janine and Peter to arrive. They were not far behind and were on the radio by 7.30pm, followed by John at



around 9ish. We polished off a beer or three and a few wines(!) and went to bed at around 1.30ish. The park happens to be situated on the main road which was still quite busy late into the night, particularly the trucks rolling into the grape crushing plant nearby!

### *(very early a.m.) Saturday 6 March*

What the!! We were woken very, very early to the sounds of gunshots, trucks, cows mooing, and roosters crowing. The scatter guns started as early as 5.30am. Of course I didn't know what they were and was alarmed to think that shooters might be so close to the caravan park (silly me!). Feeling just a little seedy from lack of sleep (or perhaps the vino) I had some breakfast and tried to convince Ashley to get out of bed – no response from that quarter!

Brian (aka "Happy") arrived at around 10.30 and family Van Buiten pulled in not long after. It was a pleasant surprise to see Tommy drive in. Our little group was growing.

*Lesley*

### *Saturday 6 March*

After an enjoyable, social evening at the camp site, feeling a little tired, decided to go to bed around 2 am.

Woke at around 9am with a slight pounding headache. Breakfast was our normal anti-cholesterol mixture of Vitabrits with a sprinkle of all bran, diced peaches with cold skinny milk, yum yum. Gradually everybody finished breakfast and tidied up in preparation for our tour of local attractions and wineries.

Our illustrious trip leader, Ashley, worked out the day's program, which of course we all agreed with.

Our first stop was to be the trout farm, followed by King Valley Fine foods and several wineries.

We took off from the caravan park at half past, Ashley leading with Happy navigating.

After several kilometers Ashley must have decided that we were lost and did a U turn at the first road to the right in preparation to retrace our steps. We all stopped while Ashley and Happy checked the map, looking around while waiting we noticed that we were parked right beside a sign pointing to the trout farm. With that we did a 180 making a total of 450 degrees and proceeded down the road to the trout farm. After a few dusty kilometers on a very dusty road we discovered that the 7day a week trout farm was bloody closed, so another 180 and a couple of kilometers got us to King Valley Fine Foods. We tasted quite a selection of chutneys, patés and spicy jams, and very tasty they were too. Unfortunately, most of the ones that we liked and were wanting to purchase, were out of stock.

After a short consultation, we decided that we would not stay there for lunch, but instead we went to a beautiful shady spot just over the bridge beside the King River – it was quite hot, so the shade was welcome.

Having had a pleasant lunch and social sit around which we seem to do a lot of, we headed off to Pizzini Wines.



As you can tell by the name, they are Italian and their wines are a mixture of Italian and Australian flavours – we found some lovely wines.

From there, we headed to Station Creek Winery and Chrismont Wines and tasted some more good wines and made some lasting holes in our credit cards.



I am certain that when we arrived at Chrismont my outside temperature gauge was reading 38 degrees. So we were all feeling a bit hot.

By this time everyone was happy to return to the caravan park to consume some of the wine and to prepare our combined dinner.

David, Rita and the girls had arrived while we were out, and while some of us prepared the food others had a noisy game of bocci. Thanks to David for bringing the bocci balls. Our evening was spent sharing good food, wine and company.

*Peter & Janine*

### *Sunday 7 March*

We headed out of camp after a relaxing morning at a leisurely pace at approx 11.00am.

[Tommy had to go up to the Murray to move his father's boat a couple of inches, so he had headed off early in the hope he might meet up with us somewhere along the way.]

Just as we headed out of the Caravan Park Connor decided he wanted his milk (the world stops when a baby wants his milk). The rest of the convoy went on and we met up with them at Lake William Hovell. After a quick look around this beautiful area the boys headed to the cars to let down the tyre pressure for our upcoming drive.



We drove along Buckland Spur Track, which seemed to have a bit of traffic until we got to Tomahawk Hut.

It was a fairly easy drive with a few challenging sections. We stopped and had lunch at the hut where we all took the opportunity to take a few happy snaps.

The road next to the hut was very dusty and every time a car went past our sandwiches got a little crunchier.

When it was time to leave we headed back onto Centers Road then Cambatons Spur Track leading onto Evans Creek Track. We seemed to go through areas where the scenery kept changing, it never got boring looking out the window. We stopped again at the lake where some went for a swim, others paddled their feet and some just sunk in the mud. After the swim we had an impromptu happy hour on the picnic bench where everyone bought out their nibblies to share. We all marveled at the fact that Ashley didn't get lost – not even a little boo boo for the whole day.

We drove back to the caravan park and relaxed for an hour or so until it was time to go to the local Pub for dinner. We all enjoyed our meals while washing it down with some local wines. Tom ordered a magnificent slice of cheesecake after seeing the kids on the next table receive theirs, the slice came with 8 spoons. It was delicious.

We walked back to the caravan park when we spotted a sign on the side of the road that read 'FREE', we all couldn't help but look through the goodies.

Tom and Janine picked up a couple of bargains. Janine picked up a picture in a frame and Tom got a crock-pot – we are all very interested if the crock-pot works.

Back at camp most went to bed after a fantastic day, but of course there were the few who had to stay up around the fire.

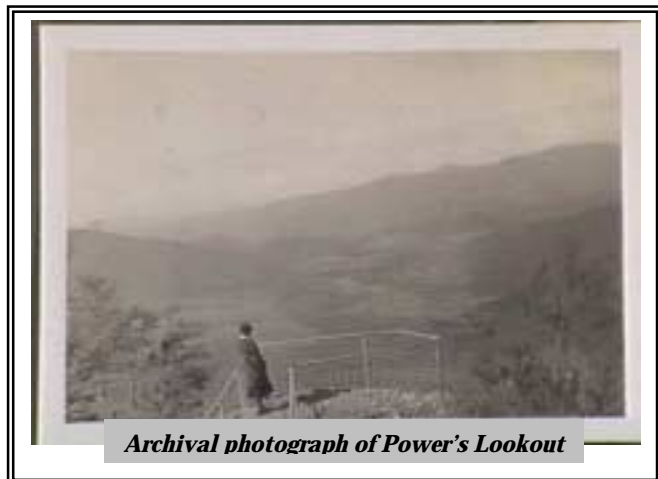
***Aline & Anthony Van Buiten***

### ***Monday 9 March***

Everyone rose in their own good time, had breakfast and slowly packed up. John went on his merry way to meet up with the local Parks Vic ranger at Rawson. David and his four lovely girls were in no hurry – they were going home via Wangarratta. The rest of us left around 11.00, stopped at Mansfield for lunch and then headed home, arriving at an extremely civilised hour.

I think everyone will agree that this was an extremely pleasant weekend – thanks all for your good company.

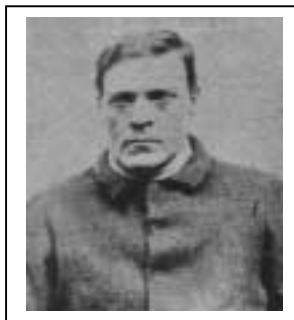
***Lesley***



***Archival photograph of Power's Lookout***

## **Power's Lookout**

Whitfield, Victoria



***Henry Johnson (alias Harry Power) was one of several famous bush-rangers who gained notoriety in the north-east during the gold rush of the 1860s.***

Originally from Ireland (and transported to Tasmania) he spent "time" in Pentridge Prison in Melbourne for wounding a trooper after being confronted for horse stealing.

He escaped from jail in February 1869 and in May held up a coach near Porepunkah. He then continued his "exploits" in the Ovens, Greta and Beechworth districts. There is a strong possibility that he also teamed up with young Ned Kelly in a later armed robbery. A reward was soon offered for information leading to his capture.

On the 27th May 1870, Superintendents Nicholson and Hare, Sergeant Montford and aboriginal tracker Donald left Wangaratta and made a journey into the ranges near the head of the King River after receiving information about Harry Power's hideout.

They came to an area that afforded excellent views of the surrounding country. This is believed to have been close to the site known as Power's Lookout Reserve. Nearby, they surprised Harry Power who was asleep in his bush shelter and arrested him. He is said to have offered his captors a cup of tea.

Harry Power was taken to Wangaratta on the 5th June 1870 where a crowd of curious onlookers gathered. He was sent to trial at Beechworth General Session on 2nd August 1870.

Power was found guilty of four counts of Robbery Under Arms and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment. He was released in February 1885 after serving his full sentence and is believed to have died in 1891.

In 1886 Power's Lookout Reserve was reserved for public land (Crown Lands and Survey). The first grazing lease was granted in 1902 and in 1908 there was a proposal to construct a road for tourist access. The road was constructed by locals in 1924 and finally, in 1980, the Land Conservation Council recommended it to be a scenic reserve.

*[Sourced from the internet by LP]*



# CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

## CAMM'S TOP PLACE - DARGO

DESTINATION	CAMM'S TOP PLACE – DARGO <b>CANCELLED</b>	
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	RON CAMM	
DEPARTURE RETURN	Easter: 9 April to 12 April 2004	
MEETING PLACE	Moe MacDonald's at 7.30am	
GRADE	WET DRY	B B
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Camp, rest, enjoy, plus day trips.	
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM MAXIMUM	3 15
APPROX KMS (Meeting place to destination)	350 kms	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL DIESEL	Dargo Dargo
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Bush camp gear. Standard recovery.	
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftop's Dargo-Wonnangatta Vicmap Crooked River-Steve	
RADIO CHANNEL	CB / UHF	12



*Camm's Top Hut*



# CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

## THE OTWAYS – ANZAC LONG WEEKEND

DESTINATION	OTWAYS	
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	PATRICK CASEY	
DATE	23-26 APRIL 2004 9.00am Saturday – Leave Torquay for the Otways	
MEETING PLACE	FRIDAY PM, 23 APRIL – Patrick's place in Torquay	
GRADE	WET DRY	B C – Maybe A! B C
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Tour tracks in area. Do Otway Fly Walk. Relax.	
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM MAXIMUM	
APPROX KMS (Meeting place to destination)	1-2 hours – depending on tracks	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL DIESEL	Torquay Ditto
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES		
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	ALL recovery gear (just in case!)	
MAPS REQUIRED	Otway Map	
RADIO CHANNEL	CB / UHF	12



# CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

## WOMBAT COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT MEETING

DESTINATION	DAYLESFORD	
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	JOHN PARTRIDGE	
DEPARTURE	Saturday 1 May 2004	
RETURN	Sunday 2 May 2004	
MEETING PLACE	TBC	
GRADE	WET DRY	C C
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Saturday: 10am-5pm Attend meeting. Accommodation TBC. Sunday: Leisurely drive around the area – while we still can!! Home early.	
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM MAXIMUM	N/A Maximum attendance required.
APPROX KMS (Meeting place to destination)	100 kms	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL DIESEL	N/A
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	N/A.	
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A	
RADIO CHANNEL	CB / UHF	12



# CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

## O'TOOLES NIGHT RUN

DESTINATION	LITTLE O'TOOLES CAMPING GROUND	
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	JOHN PARTRIDGE	
DATE	7-9 MAY 2004	
MEETING PLACE	OFFICER WEIGHBRIDGE 6.30 PM, FRIDAY 7 MAY	
GRADE	WET DRY	B+ B+
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Friday pm: Dinner at the Stockyard in Rawson, then set up camp at Little O'Tooles.</p> <p>Saturday: Short drive to Morning Star Tk. Then walk into the waterwheel where we will explore the surrounding area for other mining relics. Back to camp in the afternoon to relax. After dinner we will have the night run driving – some challenging tracks.</p> <p>Sunday: Sleep in! Relaxing start to the day. We will leave via Sullivans Tk and visit the Aberfeldy Cemetery, and head home shortly after lunch.</p>	
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM MAXIMUM	2 12
APPROX KMS (Meeting place to destination)	150 kms	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL DIESEL	Moe Moe
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	40 kms	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Usual camping gear. Full recovery gear.	
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A	
RADIO CHANNEL	CB / UHF	12

## Our Cape York Trip

Liz Beaton and Ian Warburton

*Continued...*

Karumba is an interesting town split in two. You have the Port area situated on the Norman River with all facilities consisting of a tavern, Caravan Park, bread shop, food stores, accommodation places etc and then around the bend 10klms or so away at the point is a fairly similar setup. The sunsets from the point have the reputation of being the best in Australia. As Karumba is an extremely popular place we only stayed the one night. However we were given some freshly caught salmon from a couple from Geelong and this lasted us for days. Yummy!!!

From here we headed to Normanton, a big day's drive of 80klms. Normanton is a small town but has quite a variety of things to see. The first most important place to visit is the Purple Pub where a nice cool ale can be consumed.

Next is a visit to see Krys, the 28'4" crocodile. He is huge and to think he was shot by a female.



*Even with Liz's judo credentials, this boy would be just too big to tackle!*

The other famous attraction for the town is the Gulflander train. Fortunately during the dry season they have extra services and we were able to travel on the train to Critters camp and back, also known as the 16 mile point. They also have Devonshire tea trips. We can highly recommend this train trip; it is a definite must do. As we have been here a few days we thought we had better continue on. Ian did the usual vehicle checks the night before and on checking the radiator he said I think we might have a problem. The next morning on checking the radiator again, you guessed it there was no water in it. Luckily it was Monday morning and the local RACQ fellow rang Cairns (712klms away) and a new radiator was delivered

and fitted the next day. We must say thanks to RACV for looking after us.

Caught up with a friend from Belgrave Sth Fire Brigade. He had arrived in town after doing Cape York (which is where we had expected to run into him, not Normanton) and his group were heading to Lawn Hill Nat Pk. We had heard that Lawn Hill is beautiful and were hoping to go there but due to our extended stay in Normanton we could now not fit it in. We are now traveling across the bottom of the Gulf of Carpentaria calling in to see Camp 119 of Burke and Wills fame along the way and various other bits and pieces. Just as you cross into the Northern Territory is Wologorang Station. We will put this spot on our itinerary for next time as you can camp on the shores of the Gulf. It is an 80klm drive in and \$25 per vehicle per night but from the photos it looks fabulous.

We have traveled 7000klms since leaving home and we have now arrived on the other side of the Gulf of Carpentaria to check out the delights of Borroloola. Visited such places as the Old Police Station, King Ash Bay (bit windy) which is where all the fish people go, and Bing Bong port area. Due to a Rodeo being in town and the locals being a little restless we have decided not to hang around Borroloola.

We are now heading north towards Roper Bar and stopped for lunch at Lomarieum lagoon, a delightful area among ghost gums, heaps of bird life and a croc or two. By traveling via Roper Bar (dirt) has taken us longer to reach the Stuart Hwy at Mataranka but the scenery has been far nicer and more diverse than black bitumen. We have actually just about forgotten what it is like to travel on bitumen. However we do not remain on the bitumen for long as we take the turnoff for Gove

Peninsula.

It is now the 18<sup>th</sup> August and we have achieved our second objective of reaching Nhulunbuy right on time. This had to be achieved as we were booked into the Gove Peninsula Motel (I made the booking in February when applying for our permit). As we soon found out Nhulunbuy is a remote, pristine, unique and beautiful place. It is also the bauxite capital of Australia. It also has the most expensive IGA store in Australia. It has the most sweetest tasting water that we have ever drunk coming via pipeline from New Guinea. We will spend a week in this lovely area (could easily have stayed much longer and will certainly do so next time) and those tales will follow...