



Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A0002184F

"Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together"

OCTOBER 2004



Annual Snow Trip - Licola August 2004



Murrundindi - September 2004



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, and a member of Tread Lightly! Australia www.treadlightlyaustralia.com.au

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COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2004-2005

President	John Partridge	0428 331211
Vice President	Carl Surtees	9706 2692
Treasurer	Roger Baird	9704 9045
Secretary	Lesley Peters	9540 0007

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Stephen Boyle	Projects Coordinator	9754 4412
Ashley Martin	Events Coordinator	9540 0007
George Pledger	New Member Contact	9547 4021
Michael Rodger	Trip Coordinator	0412 530666
Paul Ryan	Assistant Secretary	9807 5193
Anthony Van Buiten	Web Manager	0413 784074
Ian Warburton		9754 2341

Association Delegate	Roger Baird	9704 9045
Club Historian	Phil Alder	9754 8487
Training Officers	Mark Kochan	9763 2052
	Ashley Martin	0438 600904
	John Partridge	0428 331211
Newsletter Editor	Lesley Peters	9540 0007
	lespet03@yahoo.com.au	

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

Meetings: Held first Tuesday of each month
excluding January (no meeting).
The November meeting is held on the
2nd Tuesday of the month due to
Melbourne Cup public holiday.

Location: Dandenong Library
Stuart Street, Dandenong 3175

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.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT October 2004

Hello to all.

Since the last President's report we have held the AGM Dinner which seemed to go well. One of the highlights was watching some of Bluey's slides. Although we struggled to work out who was who in some of the pictures it was good to see the old trucks in action. Although it would have been great to see some of these areas some thirty years ago, I don't think I would want to sacrifice the comfort we have in our modern trucks. It was also great to see some of the longer standing members of the club at the dinner. In fact, Alan and Mary Wade won the first prize in the raffle which was a weekend away to Dudley House in Daylesford. Well done!!

James and Kathryn ran the Rodney Fountain Memorial Car Rally the other weekend and it was very successful. Everyone had a ball and as far as I know there haven't been any divorces! Not only is it a big task to organise such an event, but it was James and Kathryn's first time as trip leaders. Well done to both of you and well done to Dave and Rosalie who took out first place (with some stiff competition from the rest of the field) and the privilege of organising next year's rally.

The year is running away quickly, but there is plenty on offer in the way of trips before Christmas. We have the Advanced and Proficiency training weekends coming up shortly. It is our aim to have all club members to at least complete the Proficiency training so as to ensure that our trips run smoothly and safely. It is important that if someone is stuck on a track, they have the knowledge that the people helping out in the recovery can do so in a safe and efficient manner. Also coming up is the Wonnangatta roast which, as the name suggests, will be held in the Wonnangatta Valley. This is a beautiful area and is one of the must see 4x4 destinations. There's no restriction on numbers for this trip and we plan to have a few day trips from base camp.

At the last meeting we had an informative guest speaker, Rod White from Raw Sales, who showed us a large array of camping lights. If you missed the meeting and wish to have a look at the items Rod supplies, there will be a catalogue and order forms in the club Library. Just see Barry and he will assist you.

Next meeting we have Robert Pepper, author of "GPS Vehicle Navigation in Australia". Robert will be talking about the different GPS devices available, GPS reading, GPS and computers and moving maps. This would be essential for those wishing to compete in our club's November NavRun. So bring your GPS in with you and Robert will try to answer any questions you may have. Hope to see you there and take care in the meantime.

Regards

John

John Partridge

gujohnno@yahoo.com.au

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 7 SEPTEMBER 2004

The September General Meeting was held at Dandenong Library and opened at 8.10pm by John Partridge.

37 members present.

APOLOGIES:

Leigh Pettigrew, Neil & Normal Stephenson, Maxine Ryan, Blue Male, Paula Johntone, Aline Van Buiten, Graham Ralph, Glenn & Jacki Hughes, Jill & Steve Boyle, Liz Beaton, Derek & Janet Hymas.

VISITORS:

Welcome to Carol, Tony, and Chris Waghorn, Norm Barry, Stephen Wilson, Renee Woods, Rod White, Stan Chechelnitzkig, Leanne Young, Jason Vetesi.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Minutes of August meeting as per Newsletter.
Accepted: Ian Warburton. Seconded: Paul Ryan.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Nil.

SUPPER DUTIES: Thanks Gary and Rosalie (and Annie).

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

- Email from the 4WDVic enclosing letter from Oxfam re Christmas Tree deliveries for 2004. Dates are Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th December. Numbers/details required by early October.
- Invoice from Dudley House for AGM accommodation prize.
- Donation cheque from Aussie Disposals for continuance of their advertisement for a further six months.
- Promotional material from Mary Lyn Holiday Resort, Marysville. Special offer of \$115 p/person p/night twinshare accommodation.
- Promotional material from Toughseal – leading paint protection product in the UK for the vehicle market.
- Evaluation survey from Four Wheel Drive Victoria.
- Club magazines.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

- Email advice to members re 4x4 Show and requesting orders and payment to be sent by latest to the Secretary by 30 August.
- Cheque sent to Dudley House in payment of their invoice.
- Letters sent to advertisers to ascertain whether they wish to continue placement of their advertisement in newsletter for a further six months.
- Cheque to Association for payment of fees.
- Order Form and cheque to 4x4 Show organisers.
- Newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Petty Cash: \$ 200.00
Cheque Account: \$2,313.98
Term Deposit: \$7,094.98

Accepted: Dawn Brown. Seconded: Anthony Van Buiten.

PRESENTATION:

Rod White of Raw Sales presented his electronic products and people were invited to place an order during the break. A catalogue of these products is available if anybody wishes to place an order.

TRIP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT:

➤ Trip Reports:

- **Snow Trip:** Carl reported on yet another successful, albeit eventful, snow trip this year. See report in newsletter.
- **AGM Dinner:** Patrick reported on the dinner which was held at the Stamford Hotel, Rowville. Good time had by all. Old trip slides belonging to Bluey Male were shown during the evening.
- **Murrundindi Day Trip:** John gave a brief report on a good easy day's driving in the area. See Ivan's trip report in Trip Report section.

➤ Forthcoming Trips/Events: Michael Rodger, newly elected Trip Coordinator, reported on the following upcoming trips as per calendar:

- Rodney Fountain Memorial Car Rally: Trip Leader James Holden could not reveal too much about this trip – surprise surprise!
- Mystery Pub-to-Pub: Another mystery trip. David Hughes reported that they had the required numbers and reiterated the "travel lightly" issue.
- Advanced Training: Will be run by John and Ashley. Depending on numbers, a Wednesday night briefing to be held at Mt Waverley. Camping Friday night will be at McEvoy's and Saturday night, O'Tooles.
- Ashley (newly elected Events Coordinator) mentioned that assistance was required for organisation of the Christmas Party and asked for volunteers.
- Other trips will be dealt with next month.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

JP announced the Committee Member positions for the coming year:

Paul Ryan	Assistant Secretary
George Pledger	New Member Contact
Michael Rodger	Trip Coordinator
Ashley Martin	Events Coordinator
Steve Boyle	Projects Coordinator
Anthony Van Buiten	Web Manager
Barry Leitch	Librarian
Ian Warburton	

Printer: The issue of the printer and printing of the newsletter has been resolved. We will be outsourcing printing of the newsletter for a trial period of 2 months, and will lease a printer for all other secretarial work and printing jobs.

Association: JP attended the Association AGM last week with Michael Rodger. Great to hear that the Association is in profit and there will be no increase in fees in the coming year.

Regional Representatives Committee: As a direct result of dealings with the Parkers Corner DSE, the Association has set up a Regional Representatives Committee (RRC) of which JP is now a member. There are some 50 club members who will have dealings with DSE and ParksVic at ranger level and report back to the RRC for any decisions to be made.

Guest Speaker: Robert Pepper – expert in all things to do with GPS – will speak at the October meeting. Bring along your GPS for questions.

November Meeting: Will be held at All Terrain 4X4, 690 South Road, Moorabbin.

RAFFLE:

- 1st Prize: Viv Moon Cook Book: Won by
- 2nd Prize: Fire Extinguisher: Won by Michael Rodger.
- 3rd Prize: Glass Coasters: Won by Terry Johnkin.

MEETING CLOSED at 10.15pm.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 5 October 2004 at Dandenong Library.

CLUB NOTES

Re Non-financial Members

All Club members who have not yet paid their annual membership subscription will be considered unfinancial with effect from 30 August 2004. If membership renewal is not received by 30 September 2004 you will be ineligible to receive further copies of the Club newsletter and deleted from all circulation lists.

VFWDC MERCHANDISE

For Sale

New Club Polo Shirts	\$25.00 ea
Polar Fleece ½ Zip	\$36.00 ea
Polar Fleece Full Zip	\$48.00 ea
Sleeveless Vest	\$42.00 ea
Caps	\$10.00 ea
30 th Anniversary Travel Mugs	\$15.00 ea
Flags	\$15.00 ea
Stubbie Holders	\$ 6.00 ea

! IMPORTANT !

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING
will be held on
Tuesday, 09 November 2004
at
All Terrain 4X4
690 South Road, Moorabbin
commencing **7.30 pm sharp.**



**In conjunction with the
Fishing Show & Outdoor Expo**

**Melbourne Exhibition Centre
21-24 October 2004**



**CHRISTMAS TREE
DELIVERIES**



Our club will be involved once again this year
in this worthy cause.

Saturday 11 December 2004
(Normally takes around half a day)

Oxfam needs your details by the end of October, so
please call Ashley on 9540 0007 to advise whether
you wish to lend your support.

Pick-up point is the Scout Hall in
Packenham Street, Blackburn
(Melway Map 47 H12)
before 11.00am.

CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 25th to Sunday 26th Advanced Training Ashley Martin

Tuesday 28th Committee Meeting Carl Surtees

OCTOBER

Tuesday 5th Club Meeting John Partridge

Sunday 10th Labertouche Day Trip Carl Surtees

Saturday 16th to Sunday 17th Proficiency Training John Partridge

Thursday 21st to Sunday 24th **NATIONAL 4 X 4 SHOW**
Melbourne Exhibition Centre

Tuesday 26th Committee Meeting Lesley Peters

Melbourne Cup Weekend

Saturday 30th to Tuesday 2nd Nov Wonnangatta Roast John Partridge

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 9th Club Meeting John Partridge
All Terrain 4X4
Moorabbin

Saturday 13th to Sunday 14th Nav Run John Partridge

Saturday 20th to Sunday 21st Association Regional Meeting, Ballarat Roger Baird

Friday 26th to Sunday 28th Annual Mayford Fishing Trip Ashley Martin

Tuesday 30th Committee Meeting Steve Boyle

DECEMBER

Saturday 4th Christmas Party Ashley Martin

Tuesday 7th Club Meeting John Partridge

Saturday 11th Oxfam Christmas Tree Deliveries Ashley Martin

Tuesday 21st Committee Meeting TBC

Christmas/ New Year Dargo – Collins Hut TBC

Definition of a teenager?
God's punishment for enjoying sex.



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Welcome to

The Corner

This month's recipe:

"GOLDEN SOUP"

Ingredients

500 grams potatoes
2 carrots
1 large onion
1 small parsnip
½ cup pumpkin
1 teaspoon curry powder
30 grams margarine
4 cups stock
salt and pepper
chopped parsley
1 teaspoon cornflour

Method

Peel vegies, cut into small pieces, sauté in margarine with curry powder... do not brown. Add stock and cook for 35 mins until vegies are soft.

Puree in blender, or rub through sieve. Return to saucepan, bring to boil, and thicken slightly with blended cornflour. Serve hot, sprinkled with parsley, and some crusty bread on the side.



Our Aromatherapy hint for this month is **Candlelight...**



Instead of electric lighting, place some candles around your home, adding one drop of your favourite oil to each candle. For the lounge room add Bergamot or Orange... the bedroom Ylang Ylang... for the kitchen Rosemary or Peppermint, and of course for the bathroom Sandalwood or Chamomile. A touch of essential oils can do so much for the atmosphere of your home... enjoy.

The Corner: If anyone has an interesting snippet they would like included, just email to: anniesinternet1@primus.com.au Don't be shy. All contributions will be gratefully received!



TRADING POST

FOR SALE

6x4 TRAILER, 18" sides, near new 245/75R16 BFG all terrain tyres, jockey wheel, rear stabiliser leg, facility to attach bike rack at rear. Has been used mainly for camping. **\$850.00**. Contact Michael Rodger ph: 0412 530 666 email: mjrodger@optusnet.com.au

1999 DAEWOO LANOS (Manual), EC, 45,000 kms, December 04 rego, full service history. **\$7,700** ONO. Great little on road vehicle. Contact Lesley Peters on 9540 0007 or email lespet03@yahoo.com.au. Lauren's gone overseas and left us with the job of selling her car, tyvm!!!



Four Wheel Drive Radio Show
"Talking Four Wheel Drive"
Saturdays at 10.00m



Four Wheel Drive Victoria 'e' News
at www.fwdvictoria.org.au

Yahoo Groups

Sign yourself up as a Yahoo user at
<http://groups.yahoo.com>

(There is no charge for this service.)

Then go to

<http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/vfwdc>
and click on "Join this group".

To keep non members out of the group, your membership will need to be approved.

Any problems, email

anthony@ctsmonash.com.au

FORTHCOMING TRIPS

ADVANCED TRAINING WEEKEND

Date: 25-26 September 2004
Trip Leader: Ashley Martin
Contact Nos: Mob: 0438 600904 H: 9540 0007
Destination: Little O'Tooles Camping Ground
Meeting Time/Place: Time TBA. Officer Weighbridge.
Vehicle Limit: *Min:* 3, *Max:* 10.
Grade: *Wet:* Hard *Dry:* Medium.
Equipment: As per new classifications.
Maps: N/A
Radio Channel: Channel 12
Trip Activities: We will be discussing and then putting into practice some of the more advanced driving techniques, including winch recovery, driving rocky and rutted tracks. Also incorporating *Advanced Port Drinking and Morning Recovery 101*.
Friday night: Camp at McEvoy's.
Saturday night: Camp at Little O'Tooles.

LABERTOUCHE DAY TRIP

Date: Sunday, 10 October 2004
Trip Leader: Carl Surtees
Contact No: 9706 2692
Destination: Larbetouche (near Powelltown)
Meeting Time/Place: TBA.
Vehicle Limit: *Min:* 3, *Max:* 8.
Grade: *Wet:* Hard to Extreme. *Dry:* Medium.
Equipment: As per new classifications.
Maps: N/A
Radio Channel: Channel 12
Trip Activities: Just a day trip to an area that I have heard is similar to Toolangi but without the rocks!

PROFICIENCY TRAINING WEEKEND

Theory: 8.00pm, Wednesday 13 October at Notting Hill. Ashley will advise details.
Practical: Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 October 2004
Trip Leader: John Partridge
Contact Nos: Mob: 0428 331 211, AH: 9789 6985
Destination: Toolangi
Meeting Time/Place: 8.30am, Lilydale McDonalds
Vehicle Limit: *Min:* 3, *Max:* 10
Grade: *Wet:* Medium *Dry:* Medium
Equipment: Basic recovery equipment essential.
Maps: Roof Tops Toolangi-Black Range Tourist Map.
Radio Channel: Channel 12
Trip Activities:
Wednesday: Theory night. Approx 2.5 hours.
Saturday: Training will be conducted at Toolangi where we will be camping overnite, but for those unable to stay overnite welcome for the day. The morning will consist of reviewing some theory items, equipment and vehicle inspection. We will then venture out and cover stall recovery techniques and a range of terrain will be covered, consisting of ruts, hills, and slippery conditions.
Sunday: Driving to put Saturday's training techniques into practice.

2004 NAV RUN

Date: 13-14 November 2004
Trip Leader: John Partridge
Contact Nos: Mob: 0428 331 211, AH: 9789 6985
Destination:
Meeting Time/Place: Officer Weighbridge. Time TBC.
Vehicle Limit: *Min:* 5, *Max:* 15
Grade: *Wet:* Medium *Dry:* Medium
Approx Distance: 160 kms
Last Available Fuel: Moe
Equipment: All basic recovery gear, GPS, compass and camping gear.
Maps: TBA
Radio Channel: Channel 12
Trip Activities: The event will be run using the notes from the ProComp NavRun held recently. You will be given a series of photos with GPS coordinates on them. You will have to find these and take an exact replica of the photo with the Polaroid camera supplied. You may take whatever tracks necessary so you can make it as easy or hard, driving wise, as you like. This is an untimed navigational event that promises to be a lot of fun. A GPS is not essential but will make it easier. You will need a navigator to assist.
I am hopeful of arranging accommodation at very cheap rates, but to do this I will need an idea of numbers at the September meeting.

ANNUAL MAYFORD FISHING WEEKEND

Date: Friday 26th to Sunday 28th November 2004
Trip Leader: Ashley Martin
Contact Nos: Mob: 0438 600904 H: 9540 0007
Destination: Mayford
Meeting Time/Place: 7.30 am, Pakenham McDonalds. For those who cannot make the early morning start: 5.00pm Friday, Pakenham McDonalds.
Vehicle Limit: *Min:* 3, *Max:* 10.
Grade: *Wet:* Medium *Dry:* Medium.
Equipment: As per new classifications.
Maps: N/A
Radio Channel: Channel 12
Trip Activities: The annual fishing trip is back. We will camp at Mayford which is approx 1.5 hrs from Dargo. You can choose to sit and relax or try your luck fishing. I will be leaving Friday morning, but will arrange an afternoon departure for those unable to leave earlier.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Date: Saturday, 4 December 2004
Trip Leader: Ashley Martin
Contact Nos: Mob: 0438 600904 H: 9540 0007
See attached flyer for all relevant details.



TRIP REPORTS

ANNUAL SNOW TRIP – 21-22 AUGUST 2004

Trip Leader:	Carl & Bethany	GQ Patrol
Participants:	Anthony & Riley	Prado
	Craig	60 Series LC
	Carissa, Joe & Lachlan	GU Patrol
	Barry & Ron	GU Patrol
	Gerrard	GQ Patrol
	Tom & Sheila	80 Series
	Baz	Patrol Shorty

Riley and I left late Friday afternoon, a few hours later than planned, and met up with Carissa, Joe and Lachlan in Rosedale. We arrived at camp about an hour or so after sunset to find Barry and Ron had a nice fire waiting for us. About an hour later Carl arrived with the rest of the group. We all set up camp and had a fairly early night in anticipation of the next day's drive.

Saturday morning after breakfast we got stuck into cutting up a big log while waiting for Baz to arrive. As usual by the time we were finished we had enough wood to last a week. Gerrard managed to break an axe handle (without Ashley being present) and Carl thought he would see if his chainsaw could cut through a rock. Baz arrived with a guest who could only have been his father and set up their tent. It was after 11am when we finally set off to play in the snow. We drove up the mountain stopping at Bennison Lookout to admire the view and drop tyre pressures. As we drove further on it didn't take long before we spotted some snow. By the time we stopped at The Lost Plain to play in the snow it was about a foot deep.

We continued on to Arbuckle Junction and shortly after Carl decided to take a slightly different line around a sweeping bend. This resulted in him being stuck on the



inside bank of the road. Joe and Carissa were behind him so they proceeded to snatch him out.

Because of the bend and the camber of the road their car was forced into the side of the road in the attempt. No problem, I was behind them so I hooked up the snatch strap and attempted to pull them out. After a few attempts I found myself in a similar situation and them. Tom and Sheila then proceeded to snatch me out and, you think we would have learnt by now but after a few attempts they were also stuck.

It was left to Craig to save the day in his trusty Toyota to drive around the four stricken vehicles and recover Carl with the use of his winch. While Carl was attaching the winch to a tree he sank in the snow up to his waist and almost had to be recovered himself. Craig and Carl with a snatch strap between them then used both vehicles to recover Joe and Carissa. With four or more tons pulling the Patrol, it had no choice but to come out of the embankment. The same procedure was repeated with Carl and Joe's car to recover me and then Joe and myself to recover Tom. It was very effective and made us wonder why we spent so much time shoveling snow from under the wheels in an attempt to get unstuck.

We drove the few hundred meters further until we got to George CP which is essentially the end of the road at this time of year. We had a late lunch there and had a bit of a play on the small hill with the toboggan and boogie board.



It was snowing while we were eating our lunch which made bread and bread rolls a bit soggy if you put them down for too long. We then turned around and headed down the mountain towards camp. On the way back Carl, Craig and I decided to look for some misadventure on B2 Track. It took Carl a few attempts to get out of the ruts on the main road and onto B2 and even following his new wheel ruts it was difficult to get off the main road. The rest of the group elected to head back to camp. The thick snow didn't last as long as we had hoped and after heading on to B1 track and then back on to the main road it turned out to be uneventful and not the adventure we had hoped for.

Back at camp it was raining and Baz discovered that his tent had a small lake (yes lake) inside it. They soon

packed up and headed off home to the comfort of a warm bed. The rest of us set about making dinner while trying to stay out of the rain. It was looking to be a miserable night so after dinner I went to bed at about 8pm. A few others had the same idea. After lying in bed for a while I realized there was no way I was going to sleep this early so I returned to the fire. In the meantime, Gerrard had also headed home for the comforts of a warm bed. The second time I went to bed it was about 1am and Joe, Craig and Bethany stayed up until 4am for some silly reason??

The next morning we were able to see all the snow that had fallen on the mountain overnight. Joe and Craig were suffering from their advanced port drinking session, and Bethany was bleary eyed from lack of sleep. We thought we would try a few more tracks before heading home and let the tents and campers to dry out in the meantime. We waited around for a while for Barry and Ron to get ready. When someone decided to confirm whether they were actually coming or not, it turned out we were waiting for nothing as they were heading straight home. So it was another late start up the mountain.

We looked around for a few tracks that would take us to Kelly's Hut, but it soon became clear that they were all closed. We then decided to drive up B1 and B2 in the opposite direction from the day before. With all the fresh snow overnight, it was a lot more difficult and Craig at the tail end was soon on the radio letting us know he was stuck. We were a little bit spread out and Carl came walking down the hill with the boogie board. I grabbed the toboggan and we were soon sliding down the hill in the wheel ruts 'to the rescue'. When we reached Craig's car we saw that the back end had slid off towards the edge of the road. When he tried to drive out the vehicle slid sideways closer to the edge of the hill. After attaching the winch to a sturdy tree he was able to pull himself back onto the track. The further up the hill we got the more difficult it became. Carl was blazing a trail by driving up the hill until he couldn't go any further, reversing then taking a run up again. By repeating this, he was able to make it to the main road but those behind saw evidence of his hard work with the black snow he had created.

Tom and Sheila were stuck at a long steep section. They didn't have the ground clearance of Carl's monster truck and couldn't gain enough momentum. Carl reversed back down and pulled them up the hill using their vehicle as a grader for the rest of us. I followed, and Carissa had a little bit of trouble up the hill but after a bit more right foot made it as well. When we got to the main road we continued up to Arbuckle Junction to turn around, as it would have been impossible to do so at the B2 junction.

We then headed back to camp to finish packing up our gear. After what seemed like forever we were ready start our drive home. Bethany had ended up as my passenger during the recoveries and remarked on how much quieter it was in my car compared to the monster truck. I hope this doesn't get her disowned.

As we were driving towards Glenmaggie, Craig lost a wheel as he was driving around a corner. When he told us by radio that he had lost a wheel, at first we thought he meant his spare. It was actually his left rear and we came around the bend to see him walking through a paddock to retrieve his wheel while his stricken vehicle was on the side of the road. After inspecting the wheel we found the nuts had come loose. It was a little bit difficult jacking the car up, but after Tom chained his car to the front of Craig's to stop it moving, and using two jacks, the task was soon finished. We were off again with Craig a bit nervous at first but soon gained confidence in the vehicle the further we progressed.

Apart from stopping at the Golden Arches in Taralgon on the way home, that was the end of another fun filled snow trip. Thanks to Carl for leading in Glenn's absence and looking forward to next year already. **Anthony VB**

MURRUNDINDI DAY TRIP – 4 SEPTEMBER 2004

Trip Leader:	John & Leanne	GQ Patrol
Participants:	Michael, Verylle, Liberty & Elizabeth	Discovery
	Ashley & Lesley	100 Series LC
	Anthony, Aline, Riley & Connor	Prado
	Mark	60 Series LC
	James & Callum	Jeep
	Ivan	Explorer
	David, Michael & Abigael	GU Patrol
Visitors:	Tony, Carol & Chris	Pathfinder

We all met at Macca's Lilydale at 9.00 am. With Johnno and Leanne leading the way nine vehicles set off in convoy at around 9.20 towards Healesville. Participants were:- Michael, Verylle, Liberty & Elizabeth. Ashley & Lesley. Anthony, Aline, Riley & Connor. Mark. James & Callum. Ivan. David, Michael & Abigael. And Tony, Carol & Chris as visitors.

Just through Healesville we turned left opposite the Ampol servo into Leonards Road which turns into Myers Creek Road after about a km or so. Turned right onto Mondo Track, and we ended up seeing a bit of snow on reaching the top of the hill. Veered left onto Hardy Creek Road and then right onto Reeds Trk which was a little boggy and overgrown in some areas. Turned right along a main road and followed this up to quite a scenic ridge with very tall straight timbers on both sides of the road. Around 11.00 am we arrived at The Cascades carpark where we stopped to stretch our legs and had morning tea. The kids were quite enjoying playing around the carpark area even though it was cold and wet. It was great to go for a walk down the walking track to the fast flowing creek with numerous good viewing areas of the cascades. The name "Cascades" really fits.

On leaving the Cascades carpark it was a small detour to the suspension bridge, and the kids (young and old) had quite a time bouncing along making sure the bridge is strong enough.



Driving back the way we came (only for a km or so) we turned left onto Thompson's Trk, then at the T junction right onto Waterwheel Trk which was boggy and with an old 3 tonne limit bridge – Johnno at some stage was concerned that Ashley's vehicle may be too heavy for the bridge! Worked our way along, turned left at Garlicks Trk and carried on till McClue Break Trk on left. Stayed on McClue Break Trk at the T and continued along and down a very steep rocky track. The track from then was quite dry and easy going, but there were numerous steep 4x4 tracks leading off in this area.

We finally arrived for lunch at Stanley Homestead site about 2.20pm. There again the kids let off quite a bit of energy running around and exploring the area.

After lunch we set off along Boundary Road, then veered left onto Limestone Road and we were soon leaving the forest behind. Turned right onto Cheviot Road, through a gate and veered right onto the old railway easement until reaching the Cheviot tunnel where we stopped for pictures etc.



From here we just continued on till reaching the main road to Yea, and by the time we got there we were all hanging out for an ice-cream.

Unfortunately, it was time for us all to start heading back home after having had quite a relaxing drive through some really scenic areas. By the way, there were a number of occasions when we could say it was not really easy!

Ivan Santurini



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS for 4WD Wives/Partners

- 1: Thou shalt not exit a car from which thy husband is driving, no matter how steep the slope prior to arriving at your destination.
- 2: Thou shalt not roll eyes, cross arms, look out the window and say 'Do what you like' when thy husband suggests a river crossing when there is a bridge nearby.
- 3: Thou shalt not ask 'How much was that?' when hubby comes home with a new accessory.
Sub clause a: Should I suspect the accessory be valued in excess of \$1500, commandment 3 null and void.
Sub clause b: Should I suspect that all accessories totalled be valued at more than \$2000 over a 6 month period, commandment 3 null and void and permission granted to highlight the cost of our childrens' education.
- 4: Thou shalt not mention past 4x4 driving disasters whilst in potentially disastrous circumstances.
- 5: Thou shalt learn the specifications of husband's truck so one can join in conversations with his friends.
- 6: Thou shalt please husband and suggest a dirty weekend away four wheel driving for the two of us.
- 7: Thou shalt make husband's dreams come true and suggest a weekend away four wheel driving with his mates while thy happily stay home with the kids.
- 8: Thou shalt secretly master some four wheel driving skills and tackle some tracks to surprise hubby one day.
- 9: Thou shalt understand that there is a direct correlation between a man's anatomy and the size of his tyres.
- 10: Thou shalt appreciate that it is okay to spend your life savings on a 4WD, because a 4WD will always have a better resale value than a 2WD.

(Sourced from Australian 4x4 Monthly and submitted by Julie Webber – who obviously has a great sense of humour!)

"CAPE YORK ADVENTURE"
Saturday 3 July to Friday 6 August 2004

Name	Nicknames from trip		
George	Duke		
Geoff	Scarface	Captain 4WD	Big Boy
Rochelle	Jerky Girl		
Ashley	Rudolph	Stealth	
Brian	Little Boy Lost		
Steve	Nigel Caruthers		
Jill	Half Moon		
Kate	Idjit		
Steve's Car	DC-9	Bush Pig	
Tom	Pogue		
Sheila	Crusher		
Sue	Pussy		
Graeme	Skippy		

The journey continues...

Day Eleven: Tuesday 13th July – Chili Beach

The night was filled with intermittent rain, which continued throughout the day. No plans were made but most people started with a walk along the beach.



Steve decided to do a little more remodelling, it again involved the stump but his aim was to improve the camp site, and allow him to get the car out. The big DC-9 was used to push the stump out.

Kate and Geoff became distracted with collecting fresh coconuts from the trees. They really should have fenced off the area with a danger warning because their wayward shots at the coconuts up the tree nearly took a few people out. With the addition of Ashley's help, they eventually collected 9 coconuts to husk.

It was important to have 9 as Geoff had the idea to make a Bocce set. The one green coconut became the jack and then we drew markings on all the others to create pairs. And then it was on, the Victorian 4WD Club Bocce championship – Chili Beach style.

First up for the challenge was Geoff, Kate, Ashley and Rochelle. It was a tough fought match with points being gained evenly, but eventually the final score was Rochelle 6, Ashley 6, Geoff 5 and Kate 5.



Round 2 was also a tight contest between Sheila, Steve, Jill and Graeme. Sheila's steely determination to win the game earned her the nickname Crusher, but unfortunately she was pipped at the post by Graeme reaching 6 first.

Final Round 3 saw Brian, Tom, Sue and Kate (instead of George) step up to the line. Another hard fought match with Brian the victor. Brian also showed his prowess at scaring the bush turkeys who kept trying to steal our balls.

With the sweat still dripping, the tired competitors took time out for a shower. The braver boys went free balling on the edge of camp while the rest enjoyed the luxury of Sue and Graeme's heated shower. Just as everyone was relaxing, the quiet was disturbed by the cry of "Captain Four Wheel Drive" who came bursting from the shower tent. Some may have mistaken him for Geoff with his Speedos pulled tight over his shorts and his patriotic green and gold Australian towel used as a cape but they would have been wrong (photo opportunity not missed!!).



Day Twelve: Wednesday 14 July – Chili Beach to Moreten
"HAPPY BIRTHDAY SHEILA"

Everyone awoke to find the bocce balls had been stolen by the wild pigs. Once packed, a small presentation was made to Sheila (Crusher), and we were on our way again. While making our way to Frenchmen's Track we stopped at Mt Tozier lookout for a quick photo shoot of

the mountains. The highlight to this track was the crossing of the Pascoe River. With certain vehicles fitted with their bras, we all crossed the mighty Pascoe River (some more than once [Steve]). A quick swim was enjoyed before continuing our day towards the Wenlock River where lunch was eaten and "Half moon" was discovered. (Jill losing half her pants).

Making our way to our final destination for the day was the Morten Telegraph Station. There we celebrated Sheila's birthday with a cake and drinks.

Day Thirteen: Thursday 15th July – Moreten to Elliot Falls
Once leaving the old Telegraph Station we made our way to Bramwell Junction. Here we fuelled up both cars and humans and commenced our journey up the old telegraph route. Making our way through several creek crossings Geoff's car coughed and spluttered a few times before we hit the infamous "Gunshot". After Ashley winching a vehicle in the opposite direction out of the bog hole, Steve filled it again with his car.



Once Steve successfully broke the CV joint on the rescue vehicle, the guy that Ashley had winched out launched his 4WD down a vertical embankment bringing both rear wheels off the ground. By this time George, Tom and Sheila took the detour track around the Gunshot while the rest of us enjoyed the free entertainment supplied by the others. Once Steve was freed from the bog hole, Ashley proceeded to fill it again but this time succeeding a little further but without diff locks. While this was all happening Geoff and Graeme had to then help some SA tag alongs out due to breaking the rear pinion gear. They removed the drive shaft and once completed Graeme, Sue, Geoff and Rochelle also made their way along the bypass track.

By the time Ashley had winched himself clear George, Tom and Sheila arrived on the other side of the Gunshot to find Steve under the car of our SA friends removing the axles. Sending our SA tag alongs back to Bramwell Junction with the others travelling in the opposite direction, we finally continued down the corrugated track to Twin Falls/ Elliot Falls where we enjoyed a well deserved swim and sleep.

To be continued...

Computers & Cars

"For all of us who feel only the deepest love and affection for the way computers have enhanced our lives, read on . . ."

At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, "If General Motors had kept up with the technology computer industry has, we would be driving \$25.00 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon."

In response to Bill's comments, General Motors issued a press release stating:

If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics:

1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash twice a day.
2. Every time they repainted the lines on the road, you would have to buy a new car.
3. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull over to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.
4. Occasionally, executing a manoeuvre such as a left turn, would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.
5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive – but would run on only five percent of the roads.
6. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single "This Car Has Performed An Illegal Operation" warning light.
7. The airbag system would ask, "Are you sure?", before deploying.
8. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key, and grabbed hold of the radio antenna.
9. Every time a new car was introduced, car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again, because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.
10. You'd have to press the "Start" button to turn the engine off.

(Submitted by Anthony Van Buiten)

OTWAYS UPDATE

The Reclaim the Forest Protest Meeting at Apollo Bay has been hailed as an overwhelming success from all quarters. Thank you to everyone who made the effort to attend on such short notice and the wonderful speakers who brought the rally together.

Excellent media coverage on Channel 7 during prime time, in newspapers in the West, and with a record of the event now on the web at Anglesea Online complete with speeches and photos. Politicians of all persuasions have noted the disquiet in the Otways and were surprised at the numbers, the passion and the diversity on display at Apollo 15. The 'lock up brigade' have been temporarily stunned into silence.

On the financial side, all costs for the event have been met with donations, so thank you to everyone for their generosity.

What Next:

Morale in the Otways is now very high and everyone is keen to keep the momentum going.

- We have been verbally informed that the VEAC Final Report, due out on September 3rd, has been postponed until the end of September or maybe the beginning of October but have seen nothing on paper to this effect. Seeking confirmation presently.
- We have also been invited to a meeting with Mr Thwaites and Mr Brumby's advisors either this Friday or Monday of next week. Still keeping us at arm's length from the Minister for the Environment and Minister for Regional Development but a step in the right direction. A representative of VEAC also wanted to attend but we could see no point in their presence.
- Local MP, Terry Mulder has invited us to discuss the issues with Mr Honeywood, Opposition Environment Minister, in Colac in early September.

So there is movement on all fronts at present. We will keep you informed of how the situation evolves here.

Thanks again to everyone for a wonderful day at Apollo Bay. A special thanks to Ralph for letter-dropping the entire Apollo Bay and Colac business districts - an inspiration.

The Otways is a beautiful part of this state and we intend to keep it that way..

[Article and photographs submitted by John Partridge]

