



Reg No A0002184F

April 2006

Free Wheeling

www.vfwdc.com

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

"Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together"

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Training Angles



Proficiency Training covers many of the situations a novice or beginner 4WDer may find themselves in. This was part of the last course run in Toolangi. Read about the "Zook" maneuver on page 8.



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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Vice President	Steve Boyle	0411 129 427
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Secretary	George Pledger	0427 547 402
Assistant Secretary	Paul Ryan	0438 121 148

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

New Member Contact	Ian Warburton	0409 797 675
Web Manager	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784 074
Librarian	James Holden	9755 5790
Trip & Events Co-ordinator	Ian Webber	0428 518 552
Association Delegate	Roger Baird	9704 9045
Club Historian	Phil Alder	9754 8487
Training Officers	Mark Kochan	9763 2052
	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
Newsletter Editors	Steve Utting	0408 576 171
	Annie Simpson	

Forward Articles and photos for the Newsletter to :-
Editor-vfwdc@tpg.com.au

Help us get the magazine out on time by sending all contributions before the 20th of each month

CLUB DETAILS

<i>Registered Name:</i>	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
<i>Registration No:</i>	A0002184F
All correspondence:	The Secretary VFWDC Inc P.O. Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3175
Web Site:	www.vfwdc.com
Email:	gpl58456@bigpond.net.au
Meetings:	Held first Tuesday of each month excluding January (no meeting). November meeting is held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month due to Melbourne Cup public holiday.
Meetings 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.

Presidents Report March 2006

Welcome once again to another month of Free Wheeling.

We have had a few issues regarding the Magazine of late. Some of the concerning issues relating to trip reports not being put in magazine on time, has been addressed, and others we are still working on

I stated in last month's magazine some of the trip leader's responsibilities. I will endeavour to add some handy hints on planning and running trips over the next few months. To some members it will be common sense, to new members it will be a guide to help plan a trip.

How much you plan and prepare your trip will depend entirely on where you are going and how long you will be away.

A spur of the moment decision to take a day drive up in the hills, may only require a little planning. (Eg: Map, Basic Recovery equipment, cut lunch and a few drinks)

On the other hand, if you were planning a trip through the Simpson Desert or similar, you would need to do a lot more planning. (Eg: time allowed to do the distance, time of the year, how much fuel required, permits that may be needed, what type of radio will be most beneficial, and making sure your vehicle is capable of the trip in the first place)

There are some places you should not go if you are not suitably equipped.

For those of you who would like to lead a trip, but are not sure, then please remember there is always help from the more experienced in our group.

Well that is all for now,

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET THE APRIL MEETING is at the DANDENONG PLAZA MEETING ROOM.

Look forward to seeing you all there, so till then take care.

DADDIO



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

The Corner

Hello all, and welcome to the April Corner. Have something a little warming for you this month, as the weather cools a little. Hope you enjoy it.

CHICKEN AND VEGETABLE SOUP

*1 tablespoon olive oil
1 brown onion, chopped
1 packet soup veggies from the supermarket
4 cups chicken stock
2 cups cold water
1 chicken breast fillet, sliced across the grain into strips
White crusty bread to serve*

Heat the oil in a medium non stick saucepan over medium heat.

Combine the onion with all the ingredients in the soup mix.

Add to pan and cook, stirring for 3-5 minutes or until softened.

Stir in the stock and the water, and bring to the boil.

Reduce heat, and simmer uncovered, for 5 minutes.

Add the chicken and cook, stirring for a further 3-5 minutes or until the chicken is tender and cooked through.

Ladle soup into serving bowls. Serve immediately with crusty bread....

Enjoy...

VFWDC MERCHANDISE

For Sale

New Club Polo Shirts	\$25.00 ea
Polar Fleece 1/2 Zip Jumper	\$36.00 ea
Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$48.00 ea
Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$42.00 ea
New Club Caps	\$15.00 ea
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Minutes of the General Meeting 7th March 2006

The meeting was held at the Dandenong Library and opened by the president David Hughes who welcomed every one to the meeting.

PRESENT; There were 27 members present as per attendance book.

APOLOGIES; Michael & Verylle Rodger, Roger Baird, Aline Van Buiten, Anne Pettigrew, Barry & Yvonne Hempston, Rosalie Hughes, Ian Warburton, Ian Webber.

VISITORS; Glen Smith.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING; Minutes of the previous meeting as per newsletter,

Accepted, John

Seconded. Maggie

MATTER ARISING FROM PREVIOUS

MINUTES; Nil

CORRESPONDENCE IN;

Let's go camping camping trailer.

Pajero 4wd club.

Anaconda.

Track Watch.

Land Rover 4x4.

Otway 4 wheeler.

Cross Country Jeep club.

Boronia Brakes.

Navnet.

Australia Post re renewal of mail box account.

State Library failed to receive February copy of newsletter.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT; Nil

TREASURER'S REPORT; No report this meeting, treasurer unavailable.

TEA DUTIES; Thanks to Steve , James and Leanne.

RAFFLE; Thanks to Terry.

TRIPS; Anthony spoke of his trip to the Grampians and gave directions to the camp site, he has also put a map on the yahoo web site. John spoke of helping with the refencing work to be done the same weekend (result of bushfires) anyone wanting to help out see John for details.

Anthony also informed the club that he has now put the committee nomination form and the membership renewal forms on the club web site, people can download and fill in the forms from the web site.

David informed the meeting that as a result of the library being double booked the 4th April meeting will be held at the Plaza meeting room instead.

On the 2nd May the meeting will be held at the premises of Camper Trailer in Dorset Road, Bayswater starting 7.30pm, we will have a short meeting then be given a talk and tour of the factory.

TRIP REPORTS; Maggie spoke on the trip to Rummphs Flat and described the camping ground and weather experienced.

Anthony spoke on a side trip the same weekend to Barkly River Jeep Track and the excitement of driving this track



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

John spoke of his training weekend run by himself ,Ashley and Michael. They had a theory night on the Wednesday then the weekend away in the Toolangi area where they did the recovery technique, stall recovery, steep tracks etc with a few exciting moments added, all had a good time.

David read an email from Four Wheel Drive Victoria regarding driving instructors training course.

John spoke of training and that he wanted to cover areas with steep rocky tracks and mud and run courses to the high country with plenty of river crossings, winter trips, Big Desert for some sand driving and possibly a trip to the Portland sand dunes.

Supper was taken 9.05 to 9.35pm.

Terry drew the raffle, prizes went to, Barry won the frypan, Richard won the mug, Neil won a mug and Steve got the flag(he was thrilled about this)

There was no general business.

David then spoke of a new clothing supplier and showed a few sample items of the clothing along with the brochure and price list ..Further samples are to be obtained to show the members. Also we are looking at updating the library.

David then read an email from Four Wheel Drive Victoria regarding the next chainsaw course being conducted.

John gave an association report; topics mentioned were;

National enquiry re growth of National Parks in Victoria,

FWDV are looking for a training co-ordinator.

A property of 300 hectares has been obtained for driver training, they need to build offices, toilets and tracks, they are looking for volunteers with expertise in these areas to assist.

Insurance, the deal with infinity insurance and the cost, if too expensive contact FWDV.

May be able to get reversing cameras at reasonable cost.

Debate still ongoing about removal of seats, information available for download from FWDV web site.

Bunyip recreation strategy meeting re tracks to be closed and signage to be put up, also maps to be made available. Power lines tracks to be closed and fenced off. Tracks to be classified with appropriate signage.

22 tracks need to be surveyed in Bunyip area, John will try to organize a trip for this.

John has put together a letter outlining work done by the club in cleaning up areas and other clean up tasks and forwarded it to FWDV for there data base of projects done by Victorian clubs.

John has had talks with Noel Lees of Parks, he is getting a working bee together to open a walking track and would like some volunteers, there may be a free chainsaw course available for a small group, John is following this up.

Meeting closed 10.10pm.

NEXT MEETING IS AT DANDENONG PLAZA MEETING ROOMS 4th APRIL.

THE ROOMS ARE ACROSS THE ROAD, PARKING AVAILABLE IN LARGE CAR PARK BESIDE MYER.

Club Calendar at a Glance

Date Of Trip	Destination (more detail in forthcoming trips)	Contact
4 April 2006	Club Meeting - Dandenong Plaza Meeting Room	David Hughes
29 Apr 2006 for 8 weeks	Kimberly - Western Australia	George Pledger 0427 547 402
2nd May 2006	Club Meeting - Track Trailers 403 Dorset Rd Bayswater	David Hughes
TBA	Rock n Roll Dance	Ian Warburton



Upcoming Event

Kimberley - WA

29 April 2006 for 8 weeks

Trip Leader:	George Pledger
Contact No:	Mob: 0427 547 402
Destination:	Kimberley - Western Australia
Meeting Time/Place:	TBA
Vehicle Limit:	<i>Min: 3, Max: 6</i>
Grade:	<i>Wet: Easy Dry: Easy</i>
Approximate Kms:	10,000
Last Available Fuel:	Petrol/Diesel - towns along the way
Equipment:	Self Sufficient with Water and Food
Maps:	Nil
Radio Channel:	Channel 12

This will be a sight seeing trip with a lot of single overnight stops on the way. Then a tour through the Kimberly viewing gorges and waterfalls etc.....

On the lighter side.. From a recent Email

Who Was:

1. President of the largest steel company?
2. President of the largest gas company?
3. President of the New York Stock Exchange?
4. Greatest wheat speculator?
5. President of the Bank of International Settlement?
6. Great Bear of Wall Street?

These men were considered some of the worlds most successful of their days.

Now, 80 years later, the history book asks us, if we know what ultimately became of them.

The Answers:

1. The president of the largest steel company, Charles Schwab, died a pauper.
2. The president of the largest gas company, Edward Hopson, went insane.

3. The president of the NYSE, Richard Whitney, was released from prison to die at home.
4. The greatest wheat speculator, Arthur Cooger, died abroad, penniless.
5. The president of the Bank of International Settlement, shot himself.
6. The Great Bear of Wall Street, Cosabee Livermore, also committed suicide.

However:

In that same year, 1923, the PGA Champion and the winner of the most important golf tournament, the US Open, was Gene Sarazen. What became of him?

He played golf until he was 92, died in 1999 at the age of 95. He was financially secure at the time of his death.

The Moral:

Don't work, Play golf.

Ed..



Trip Report

Proficiency Training Weekend

18-19 Feb

Trip leaders:

Michael

Ashley

John and Leanne

Participants:

Hector and Ashly

Craig and Marijke

Collin and Brendan

Ian

Gary

With an evening of teaching on the Wednesday under the participant's belts, the teaching session reconvened in the "peaceful" surrounds of Toolangi State Forest for the practical component of the course. Michael, Ashley, John, Leanne, Collin and Brendan made their way up on the Friday night whereas the rest of the participants met up at McD's on the Saturday morning for the trip to the forest. The morning sessions saw Michael, Ashley and John demonstrate the correct recovery equipment to carry and a general inspection of how everyone's 4x4 was set up and possible areas of improvement and of course further modification. With tyre pressures down and everyone carrying a UHF the group set off for a steep hill on which to practice stall recoveries. Some of us took longer than others but eventually everyone grasped the concept and the group continued further up the hill to stop for lunch. At this point Ashley made the suggestion that Marijke should take the wheel of the Suzuki for a while to practice her skills. I had been pre-warned of this scenario and was quietly confident that Marijke and I would not start fighting despite the dire warnings made by Ashley and Michael that it was only a matter of time. Five minutes.....everything is fine, going well. Ten minutes.....still o.k, but starting to sweat. Fifteen minutes into the change of driver....."IT BEGAN". "Drive in the ruts", "I am in the ruts", "no your not", "can you scratch both sides of the car and not just my side" etc etc. Twenty minutes into the change of driver.....drivers swap back.

The lesson and the group then continued to a steep down hill section where everyone was encouraged to try a stall recovery. John went first followed by the Suzuki, Collin in the land cruiser and Michael in the GU with the others tailing off. It was at this point that the weekend became unforgettable for Marijke and myself. After stalling the car on a down hill section I stall recovered the vehicle without checking the direction that the tyres were facing. This resulted in the car moving into a position where the back left wheel was now well and truly not touching the earth any more and the mass of the car rested on the front right hand wheel. This is now a patented manoeuvre called the "zook" manoeuvre (copyright 2006 all rights reserved).



After many photos (which would provide much talk around that night's campfire) and a quick winch (thankyou Michael, John and Collin) the Suzuki was back in action with the other students and instructors making their way safely down the hill without incident. It was at this point that Hector and Ashly left us for the evening. The group headed back to camp, said goodbye to Ian and prepared to while away the evening with food, wine, stories of the days events and oh I forgot to mention the rave party that was pumping out techno at a volume that could be heard for a kilometre. THUMP, THUMP, THUMP, and then thankfully the noise stopped. Five minutes later a 4X4 shows up and asks for directions on how to get out onto the main road, after instructions the driver left and drove off



Trip Report

Proficiency Training Weekend - continued

into the darkness. Only then to pass back via the same way 30 minutes later and drive off into the darkness. THUMP, THUMP, THUMP the music starts again. We believe that we had just given instructions to the fuel man of the rave party's generator system.

The next morning Michael and Ashley left for the Wandin show to spend money. The rest of the students under the expert toot lage of John packed up the camp site and set off for some more driving action. After a few interesting tracks and a track clearance that required a chainsaw and winch we came to a bog hole. There was a variety of ways to get through the

section of track, an "easy" way, a "medium" way and a "don't do this if you like your diff being in tact" way. We all chose the easy way and were successful. John then went back and had a successful crack at the medium option widening the track in the process. John then led the group out of the forest where we found a quiet spot near rocky track and inflated our tyres. John, Leanne and Gary headed for Wandin and Collin, Brendan and Marijke and I set off for home. Thanks to John, Ashley and Michael for a great training weekend.

Craig and Marijke

Place of Interest

- MONTEZUMA FALLS, TASMANIA - by Patrick and Ann Casey

About 19K south of Roseberry, heading towards Zeehan, you will see a sign on your left "Four Wheel Drive Track to Montezuma Falls - Track impassable after heavy rains". "Track 14 K in length and allow one hour in."

It had only rained all night, so hubs in and off we went. Soon we were splashing and bouncing along the old railway line. More rain. More puddles. Very interesting and scenic on and thru the cuttings. A few waterfalls along side and under the track, small river crossings that would close the track if it had rain any more. One hour later we were at the car park. A short 200 meter walk to the suspension bridge and Montezuma Falls. 100 meter drop in most books, 104 meters in others. Good viewing platform once over the suspension bridge.

Very impressive and worth a detour.

There is a walking track that starts just south of Roseberry, takes 90 minutes each way.

Keep this one in mind next time you are in Tasmania.

