



NOVEMBER 2008

Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
Registration No A0002184F



Gembrook – September 2008



The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc is an affiliated club of
the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)
www.fwdvictoria.org.au

NOTICE BOARD



IMPORTANT!! NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Where: **AUSSIE DISPOSALS**
Cnr Pound Road and South Gippsland Highway
Dandenong
When: Tuesday, 11 November
Time: 7.30pm



Specials available to Club members.

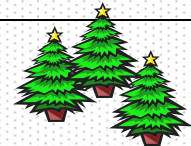
VFWDC CHRISTMAS PARTY

Where: **HEDGEND MAZE**
163 Albert Road
Healesville
When: Sunday, 30 November
Time: 12.00pm
Fee: Adults \$12.50 Children Free



(See flyer and map attached)

OXFAM AUSTRALIA CHRISTMAS TREE PROJECT



Where: Scout Hall, Pakenham Street, Blackburn (Melway Map 47 H 12)
When: Saturday, 6 December
Time: **8.00am sharp**

You will be given a very well organized list of addresses with Melway grid references, all in close proximity to each other. All you do is drop off the tree that has already been paid for. The smiles you receive from the younger recipients would be second only to that of them greeting Santa Claus. It will take each team 1 to 3 hours, and we encourage you to meet for a BBQ or social get together before or afterwards.

We encourage members to give up a few hours of their time for this great cause.

Contact: Tim Axtell, Trip Co-ordinator VFWDC to advise your availability.



COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2008-2009

President	John Partridge	president@vfwdc.com 0428 331 211
Vice President	Ashley Martin	vicepres@vfwdc.com 0438 600 904
Treasurer	Craig Major	treasurer@vfwdc.com 0432 876 699
Secretary	Catherine Thorne	secretary@vfwdc.com 0412 758 357

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Assistant Secretary	Anthony Van Buiten	asstsec@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	Tim Axtell	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Lesley Peters	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	Ashley Martin	
Training Officers	Mark Kochan	
	Ashley Martin	
	John Partridge	
	Michael Rodger	
New Member Contact		
Web Manager	Paul Ryan	web@vfwdc.com

CLUB DETAILS

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
Registration No	A002184F
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3174
Email	secretary@vfwdc.com
Website	www.vfwdc.com
Meetings	Held first Tuesday of each month, excluding January (no meeting). The November General Meeting is held on 2 nd Tuesday of the month due to Melbourne Cup public holiday.
Location	Dandenong Library Stuart Street Dandenong Vic 3175
Newsletter	All articles and photographs to be submitted prior to 20 th of each month. editor@vfwdc.com
Front Cover	Photograph courtesy of : Nick Johnston

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello and welcome to another month of *Free Wheeling*.

First up I would like to mention that the November General meeting is to be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month due to the Melbourne Cup. This year we are holding this meeting at Aussie Disposals, Cnr Pound Road and South Gippsland Highway, Dandenong. They will have some special discounts available to us on the night and some BBQ snack in their courtyard during the break.

Last week I attended the first part of the First Aid Training course that we are running. Andrew from Stitches First Aid did a fantastic job and I would highly recommend him to anyone. If there is enough interest, drop me an email and we can run this course again in the first half of the coming year.

The weather is on the improve and we are heading into our busiest few months as far as trips go. As always we are keen for other people to put their hand up to run trips. There are a lot of experienced Club members out there that are more than willing to help you out with the details and organisation of this. There's not too much involved, you get to go where you want to go, you keep out of the dust and you won't have to write the trip report, what more could you ask for.

We have some great trips coming up, from fishing to touring and our annual Christmas Party. I would like to point out that the Oxfam Christmas Tree delivery is coming up shortly and is a very worthwhile event to get involved in. We normally have a great turn out to this but numbers were down last year. Usually you would be finished within a few hours, put some smiles on kid's faces and help raise a significant amount of money for a great charity. If you would like to know more about this, come and talk to Tim at the next meeting.

Until we meet next, take care.

John Partridge

Minutes of the General Meeting – 7 October 2008

The meeting was opened at 8:15pm by President John Partridge.

Instead of volunteers for tea duties, two people were nominated: Ian Webber and Bill Harwood.

Present: There were 22 members present as per the attendance book.

Apologies: Jill and Steve Boyle, Ian Warburton, Paul Ryan, Gary and Paula Johnston, Mark Felton.

Visitors: Sally and Mick Harris.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Accepted: Phil Griffith

Seconded: Graeme Lyne

Matters Arising:

Secretary's apologies for last month's minutes having Ian Warburton as seconding the previous minutes. The correct person was Ian Webber.

Correspondence In:

- Certificate of Currency from Affinity Insurance Brokers.
- Cross Country Jeep Club Newsletter August 2008.

Correspondence Out:

- Newsletter

Treasurer's Report:

Cheque Account: \$3,017.41

Term Deposit: \$6,076.00

Closing Balance: \$9,093.41

Accepted: Nick Johnston

Seconded: Shane McNeil

Trip Co-ordinator's Report:

Trip Reports:

Gembrook: A few members met at the big servo 30km out of Pakenham. Then we headed into Bunyip State Park. Under some guidance from the map we had missed our turn off, tried a short cut over Gentle Annie, we didn't go very far before Nick got stuck so we turned around and found another way. Finally met Parks Vic ranger Andy around 10:30am and the only job left to do was rubbish removal. Other 4x4 clubs were 3rd Rock and Vic Crawlers. We headed along the main road, jumping out on a few occasions to clean up, then we came across Nash Creek Camping Area where we had a really good clean up. Tried to go up a few tracks; they were a no-go. We saw a Disco going up the hills backwards; Shane was busting to do a recovery and got the chance to with a Lancer at the bottom of a ravine. James from

3rd Rock thanked our Club for participation. Parks Victoria looking at possibly placing barriers around bottom of power line.

Forthcoming Trips:

OCT 17-19	Annual Wine Trip	Ashley Martin
OCT 23-26	4x4 Show	
OCT 26	Toolangi Day Trip	John Partridge
OCT 26	Farm & Lifestyle Expo	
OCT 28	First Aid Course Pt 2	John Partridge
OCT 31- NOV 4	Cup Weekend	??
NOV 21-23	Annual Fishing Trip	Ashley Martin
NOV 30	Christmas Party	Tim Axtell
DEC 6	Oxfam Christmas Tree Deliveries	

If you your name is on the attendance list and you cannot attend a trip, make sure notify the Trip Leader.

Annual Wine Trip - This will be a social trip. The trip will take place around the Heathcote area. On Saturday night there will be a communal dinner where everyone will bring a plate of food for dinner and happy hour.

4x4 Fishing Show - Our Club was sent some half price passes for entry to the show. The show is at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre Southbank from Thursday 23 to Sunday 26 October 2008. Opens Thursday at 12 midday to 9.00pm; Friday 10am to 9pm, Saturday 10am to 7pm, and Sunday 10am to 5pm.

Farm & Lifestyle Expo - at Pakenham Racecourse - apparently great hamburgers in main area.

Toolangi Hard Trip - This weekend is only for the experienced drivers. Your vehicle needs to be set up. If you're still interested in going please contact trip coordinator and will sort out an arrangement to travel with somebody else. We want to tackle some of the hard/steep tracks.

Melbourne Cup Weekend - The plan is to head towards Omeo - not Haunted Stream as this may be closed. We will have a base camp at the Omeo caravan park, so for a change and comfort bring your trailers and caravans.

Annual Fishing Trip - Heading towards the Jamieson area, but definite details will follow closer to the date.

Christmas Party - There will be \$12.50 entry fee for adults, kids free at the Healesville Hedgend Maze; Santa will be visiting, BYO BBQ lunch; well worth going to this event.

Oxfam Christmas Tree Delivery - In last month's newsletter - in the Christmas tree project letter - the start time was listed as 11am. Please note that 11am is

too late. We need to be there at latest by 8am at the Scout Hall, Pakenham Street, Blackburn. Highly recommended event just to see the kids' faces when their Christmas tree is delivered. You can even add to the atmosphere by dressing up both yourselves and your vehicle with decorations.

Association Report:

Last month was the Four Wheel Drive Victoria Annual General Meeting. Michael Coldham continues on as President. Big news of the North-South pipeline will affect some 4x4 tracks in its path; there will be investigation as to which ones.

General Business:

- The library is making a return 'smaller and better'. Shane has volunteered to take on the role and everyone is needed and can help by returning borrowed items and signing the library log book.
- Pajero Club have had a clean up and have found a lot of our old newsletters and asked if we would like them back, we said yes and Ashley would drop by and collect them. There's the possibility of scanning the old newsletters and storing them electronically and making them available through the library.
- Trip reports: Could all members please adhere to the newsletter deadline of the 20th of each month. It makes it easier for you to write the report when it's still fresh in your mind and is a lot easier for the newsletter editor.
- There's some bad news on King Hut which has been burnt down and was only found out by aerial surveillance. Parks Victoria doesn't know how or why but would like to find out.
- Noel Lees had put out a press release on our Lone Graves Working Bee at Toombon - July 2008. A newspaper in the Gippsland area selected the press release and ran an article. From this, Christina Shaw's granddaughter got in contact with Noel Lees and Noel was able to take her up to the cemetery and see all the work we had done. Personally I felt good when I participated on the weekend and now I feel even better from hearing this good news.
- "MOVEMBER" is coming up next month. There are a few members participating and looking at entering as a team. Anybody else interested???
- Club forum: Shane needs to just add some information to the website and see how it reads; the next step is to put it into action and have a 'trial period' to see how it all works.

Tea Duties: No tea break as not many people at meeting.

Raffle:

- 1st Prize: "Bling" Tow Hook - won by Bruce.
- 2nd Prize: Thermos Flask - won by Michael.
- 3rd Prize: Dozen Eggs (donated by Tim) - won by Steve.

Members please don't forget November meeting a mystery - details will be in newsletter and will be held in the second week because of Melbourne Cup. And don't forget the weekend trip to Omeo.
Meeting Closed: 10.00pm

Next Meeting: Will be held on 11 November 2008.

VFWDC MERCHANDISE

For Sale

Club Polo Shirts	\$25.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece ½ Zip Jumper	\$36.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$48.00 ea
Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$42.00 ea
Club Caps	\$15.00 ea
Club Beanie	\$12.00 ea
VFWDC Stickers (long)	\$ 6.00 ea
Stubbie Holders	\$ 6.00 ea

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.

Email your order to committee@vfwdc.com.
Please ensure you advise size required.

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.



Golf for beginners...



CLUB KITCHEN

EASY BAKED BEANS PIE



Ingredients

2 tablespoons oil
1 onion, finely chopped
1 carrot, diced
2 celery stalks, diced
1 leek, finely sliced
400g beef mince
420 can Heinz Boston Bull Mean Beanz
8 sheets filo pastry
40g butter, melted

Method

Preheat oven to 220oC or 200C fan.
Heat oil in a large frying pan on medium.
Cook onion, carrot, celery and leek for 10 minutes, stirring, until soft.
Add mince and cook on high for 5 minutes, stirring to break up lumps, until brown.
Add beans and ¼ cup water and season to taste.
Spoon mixture into a shallow 5-cup ovenproof dish or four 1¼ cup ramekins.

Stack four sheets of filo, brushing with melted butter between each layer.
Roll up loosely and cut into 1cm strips.
Repeat with remaining filo sheets and butter.
Loosen pastry slightly with fingers and place over bean mixture.
Bake for 10 minutes, until golden and heated through.
Serve hot.

This recipe is kid friendly, heart friendly, low cholesterol and low fat!



VFWDC ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

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Anyone wishing to advertise in the Club Directory,
contact the Editor at editor@vfwdc.com



CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

NOVEMBER	Friday 31 st Oct to Tuesday 4 th Nov	Melbourne Cup Weekend Omeo	Mark Felton	
	Tuesday 11 th	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Tuesday 18 th	Committee Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	Friday 21 st to Sunday 23 rd	Annual Fishing Trip Howqua River	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	Sunday 30 th	Christmas Party Hedgend Maze Healesville	Tim Axtell	0414 848 753
DECEMBER	Tuesday 2 nd	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Saturday 6 th	Oxfam Christmas Tree Delivery Project	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	Monday 29 th to January ?? 09	Nullabor Trip	Bob McKerrow	0430 014 001
2009				
JANUARY	Saturday 24 th to Monday 26 th	Australia Day Weekend TBC	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Tuesday 20 th	Committee Meeting	Craig Major	0432 876 699
FEBRUARY	Tuesday 3 RD	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Tuesday 17 th	Committee Meeting	Catherine Thorne	
	Friday 20 th to Sunday 23 rd	Advanced Training Walhalla	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
MARCH	Tuesday 3 RD	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Tuesday 17 th	Committee Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Wednesday 18 th	Proficiency Training Theory	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
	Saturday 21 st to Sunday 22 nd	Proficiency Training Practical Aberfeldy Forest Area	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666

Forthcoming Trips

Destination	CUP WEEKEND OMEQ
Trip Leader	MARK FELTON
Contact No	
Date	FRIDAY 31 ST OCTOBER TUESDAY 4 TH NOVEMBER
Meeting Time/Place	6.30pm Longwarry Service Centre
Vehicle Limits	3-10
Grade	Easy - Medium
Approx Kms	500
Equipment Required	Basic recovery Gear
Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel	12

Trip Activity Details:

This is a trip for everyone. Camping will be at the Omeo Caravan Park which is a great spot with grass, amenities and fires allowed. Bring your tent, trailer or caravan. Activities for the weekend will be a couple of day trips. One of the interesting day trips which we hope to do is Haunted Stream. The area is a fascinating mining area with several old sites. Driving has varying terrain with a few river crossings along the way but will be easy to medium standard. This will be a great relaxing weekend.

Destination	ANNUAL FISHING TRIP 8 MILE FLAT HOWQUA RIVER
Trip Leader	ASHLEY MARTIN
Contact No	0438 600904
Date	FRIDAY 21 ST NOVEMBER TO SUNDAY 23 RD NOVEMBER
Time/Place	6.00pm Friday Evening Lilydale Maccas
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: N/A MAXIMUM: 10
Equipment Required	Basic Recovery, fishing rods etc
Last Available Fuel	Petrol: Mansfield Diesel: Mansfield
Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12

Trip Activity Details:

I am not sure if this trip should be called a fishing trip or just a sit around all weekend doing nothing trip, but I'm sure there will be one person who dares to bring the fishing rod. Camping this year will be at 8 Mile Flat which is an easy drive. Activities for Saturday will be as previous years. Sunday if energetic enough will be drive a few tracks in the area while making our way home. Should make for a great relaxing weekend.

Expressions of Interest	NULLABOR 2008-09
Trip Leader	BOB MCKERROW
Contact No	0430 014 001 lowmacbob@aaptnet.au
Date	29 DEC-??JAN 09

Trip Activity Details:

See September newsletter for a detailed description of this proposed trip.

Is this a definite? No, just getting a list of interested people. There are things happening which I am still not sure about but in reality, to organise a trip like this doesn't take a brain surgeon. I have a journey I would like to take, there is no destination just a date to be completed. Even if I cannot go, maybe someone else is fired up enough to say, "Stuff it, I'll lead this trip".

Destination	WALHALLA Advanced Training Weekend
Trip Leader	ASHLEY MARTIN
Contact No	0438 600 904
Date	FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY- SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY
Meeting Time/Place	6.30pm Longwarry Service Centre
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 3 MAX: 10
Grade	WET/DRY: Medium-Hard
Approx Kms	150
Last Available Fuel	Moe
Maps Required	N/A
Equipment Required	Full recovery equipment
Radio Channel	12

Trip Activity Details:

Want to take the next step from the proficiency training and learn more about how to tackle the harder tracks and vehicle recovery. Well this is your opportunity to learn in a safe environment.

We will be focusing on full vehicle recovery using winch recovery equipment and the associated techniques along with how to tackle those harder tracks. We will walk the tracks, talk about what to look out for and the best lines to take, followed by driving these tracks using several different scenarios.

Those members who may have attended a previous advanced training course but want to brush up on your skills are also welcome to come along. You must have completed the proficiency training to take part in Advanced Training.

Destination	ABERFELDY STATE FOREST Proficiency Training Weekend
Trip Leader	MICHAEL RODGER
Contact No	0412 530 666
THEORY:	WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH 2009
PRACTICAL:	SATURDAY 21 ST to SUNDAY 22 ND MARCH 2009
Meeting Time/Place	TBC
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 4 MAX: 8
Grade	WET/DRY: MEDIUM
Approx Kms	200
Last Fuel Available	Moe
Equipment Required	Standard recovery equipment
Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel	12

Trip Activity Details:

This is a must do trip for any club member who hasn't attended a training weekend in the past. We will be outlining many of the basic aspects of 4WDing covering a varied terrain including steep rocky tracks & river crossings.

There will be something for everyone in this trip for new and old.

The latest and most up-to-date recovery techniques will be discussed and tested.

Discussions on vehicle setup, recovery gear, Tread Lightly! Principles, and more.

VFWDC "MOVEMBER"

The VFWDC *Movember* team has been registered so join in for what is a fun event while at the same time raising money for two great causes.

All members participating will be judged at the December meeting so make sure you are there.

The objective of *Movember* is to improve the state of men's health. *Movember* achieves its objective by:

1. Generating awareness surrounding men's health issues, specifically prostate cancer and depression in men.
2. Raising funds for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia and *beyondblue: the national depression initiative* so they may better achieve their goals and improve the state of men's health.
3. Changing the way men think about, discuss, and treat their own health issues.

Movember (the month formerly known as November) is an annual charity event held during November.

To register in the VFWDC team just follow these easy instructions.

- Log onto movember.com
- Click – Register, Join A Team
- Enter Captain's Registration Number: 1575106 and Captain's Email
Address: ashleymartin@valcor.com.au



THE RULES

1. Once registered each Mo Bro must start November 1st with a clean shaven face.
2. Then, for the entire month of *Movember* each Mo Bro must grow and groom a moustache according to these rules:
There are no beards.
There are no goatees.
A small complimentary growth under the bottom lip is allowed (aka a ticker).

From the Editor...

TRIP REPORTS

As a reminder, the following is an excerpt from the Members Brochure, a copy of which all members receive in their New Members kit:

"A duty of all VFWDC members is to support the Club's monthly newsletter Free Wheeling. The production of the newsletter is NOT the sole responsibility of the Editor.

As members, you should endeavour to make regular contributions of articles, trip reports, etc. This will ensure that the Newsletter provides helpful and informative information..."

So, with regard to Trip Reports and to make my job just that much less laborious, if you are elected as Trip Scribe (lucky you!) please ensure you include ALL relevant details in the trip report, ie:

- Trip name and date
- Trip leader
- Trip participants and associated vehicle
- If submitting photographs, please provide details, eg name of track, vehicle owner etc.

Thanking you in advance for your co-operation.



GEMBROOK DAY TRIP

SUNDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2008

Trip Leader: Tim Axtell

Today was another of the monthly clean up days at Gembrook Forest organised by James at 3rd Rock 4wd Club; members of Vic Crawlers club were also in attendance.

A large group were found having coffee and donuts when I arrived at the designated meeting spot - BP Longwarry Northside. I thought I was early at 8:20am but Tim had organised for the others to meet at 8:00am, so I was actually late. In attendance were 7 cars, 6 Nissans and a lone Cruiser: Mark and Catherine, Tim and kids, Johan and family, Garry, Shane, Craig and co and myself. Anyway, with the promise of a sunny but windy day, we headed off for Dyers Picnic ground to meet the other clubs. Tim asked if I could lead the group into the designated point as I was familiar with the area. Familiar, yeah, still took wrong turns, yeah. When we arrived at Gentle Annie Picnic ground, I realised I had taken the wrong fork in the road.

Nevertheless, I led the group up Gentle Annie Tk (Tim's idea) and I was the first casualty. It was quite clear the conditions were not going to allow most of us up and it was not worth trying any further, so we all reversed out. Shane was keen to test it but came with the rest of the group which was diverted down Tea Tree Tk. Now, I did a quick recce last Sunday and came up Tea Tree Tk with my road AT at 40PSI with no problems, but with a little rain on Thursday, the conditions had changed drastically. Again, I was a casualty belled out on the deep ruts. How can you get stuck going down hill?? A quick snatch back from Shane and a little extra forward momentum got me over ok. A little further down, the rear of Craig's car had got little off line and he was deep in a washout. Very deep! His big MT tyres were suddenly turned into slicks.



Craig's dad says "What the..."

Tim came back up the hill to the rescue as it wasn't safe for anyone behind Craig to pass, and quickly had Craig back on track. We continued on and found the 3rd Rock group under the powerlines with Ranger Andy from Gembrook Parks Vic installing some signs.

Before we could discuss too much, Andy had to unhook his trailer and head off briefly to issue some fines to some people who had passed the "No Off Road Driving or Riding" signs and got stuck in a small bog. The guys were obviously peeved at him as the look on their faces when they passed us told the story. Ranger Andy gave us our tasks and we headed off with the map. Our job was rubbish clean up and 1st stop was Nash Creek Camping Ground where we found heaps of trash and a lone camper hidden in the bush. Had we come across Ivan Mallat?? We then had an aborted attempt at Andersons Tk where we only got to the steep section. We all had to turn around which was not too much trouble, the only problems, Tim clipped a big log and Mark reversed far enough into an embankment to chock the exhaust full with mud. We got him to stop the engine straightaway and he picked it all out. We also tried Little Bunyip Tk but it too had been chopped out. We stopped further north under the powerlines for lunch and the little kids did their version of 4wding down a steep section three abreast on a long stick.



After lunch, we were heading for Ash Landing Tk and came across an obviously stolen late model Lancer in the bog. Shane was itching all day and he decided to winch and then drag this Lancer out of the bog to higher ground.

An awesome effort. Continuing up Ash Landing Tk, along the rutted Blue Range Rd and

finally into Bunyip Ridge Tk. We found heaps of trash along the way.

We stopped just near the powerlines to say our good-byes. Some went home via Gembrook, Tim, Craig and I headed back towards Labertouche. I think the temptation was too much for Craig and Tim and they had to go up Rocky Tk. I had to pick up my daughter so didn't stop to see what eventuated.

We were all pleased to see that Craig's diff housing had changed from brightly polished to a slight mud covering. Thanks to Tim for leading and Shane for TEC. A great day was had by all.

Nick Johnson



Christmas Party



Come along and explore Hedgend – fun filled activities for all ages!

Cost:	Adults	\$12.50 Entry Fee
	Children	Free

BYO Meat and Beverages

The Club will provide the salads, and soft drinks for the kids.



And don't forget – Santa will be coming along with his sack full of goodies for the children.



Join us for this year's festivities and have a great time.

Contact Tim on 0414 848 753 for further information.



