



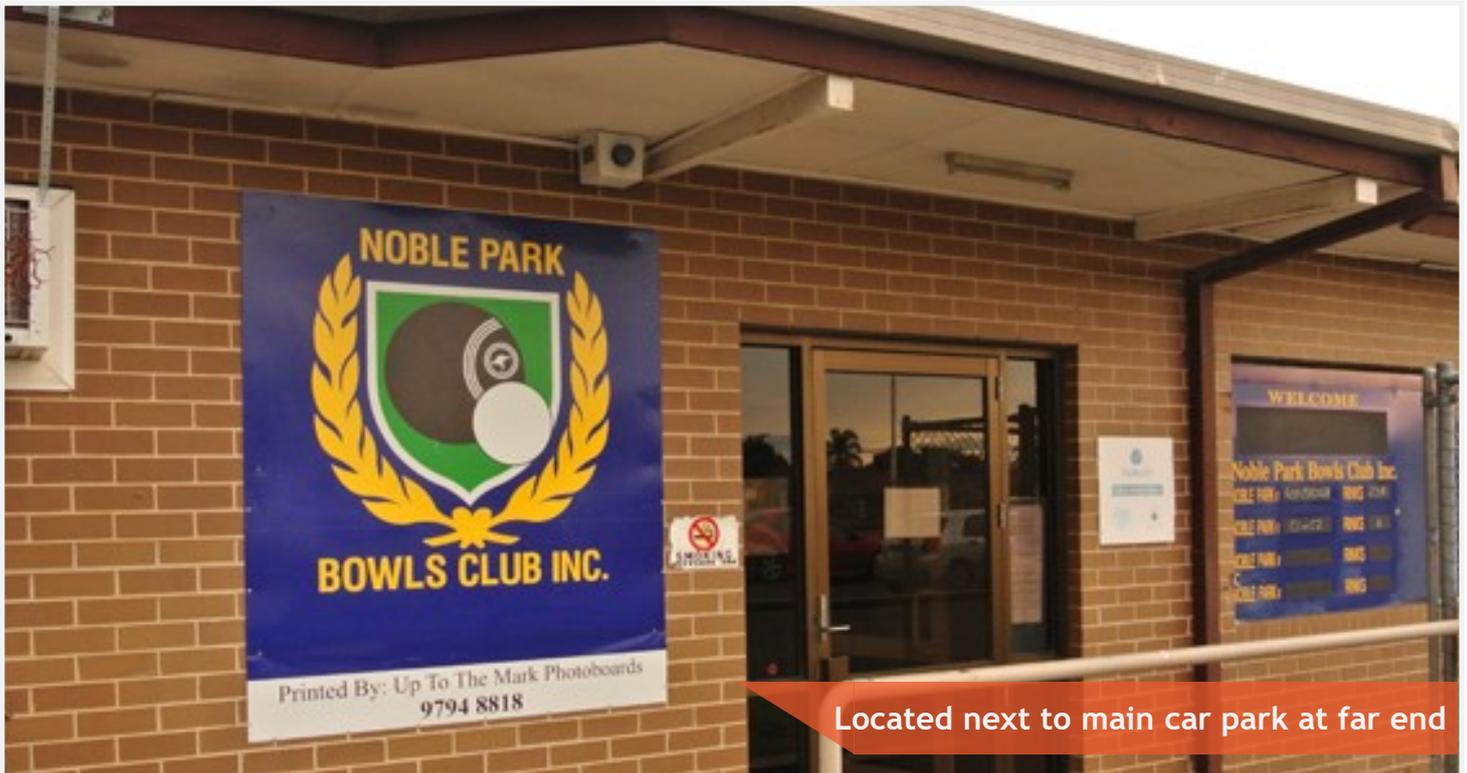
# FREE WHEELING

April 2017



Official Newsletter of the  
Victorian Four Wheel  
Drive Club Inc

Registration No  
A0002184F



## VFWDC General Meeting Venue

The club meets on the first WEDNESDAY of each month at 8:00pm. With the following exceptions; No meeting in January. November meeting is at a selected location, watch the calendar.

### Bowling Club Rooms

Noble Park Noble Football Club  
46-56 Moodemere Street  
Noble Park  
Melways ref: 89 D4



Members and guests are welcome to dine at the bistro before attending the meeting from 6:30pm.

## Aberfeldy Track

In association with [Westland Gippsland Relic, Mining and Heritage Protection Inc](#), the club maintains a section of the Aberfeldy Track with working bees throughout the year. View the club calendar for the next upcoming working bee.

# COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

## 2016-2017

President	Ben Whitworth	<a href="mailto:president@vfwdc.com">president@vfwdc.com</a>
Vice President	Ken Beard	<a href="mailto:vicepres@vfwdc.com">vicepres@vfwdc.com</a>
Secretary	Bruce Cremonesi	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
Treasurer	Tony Barbera	<a href="mailto:treasurer@vfwdc.com">treasurer@vfwdc.com</a>

## General Committee

Trip Co-Ordinator	Stuart Bowker	<a href="mailto:trips@vfwdc.com">trips@vfwdc.com</a>
Magazine Editor	Ly Ho	<a href="mailto:editor@vfwdc.com">editor@vfwdc.com</a>
Association Delegate	David Bruinsma	<a href="mailto:delegate@vfwdc.com">delegate@vfwdc.com</a>
General Committee	Shane Dodman	
General Committee	(position vacant)	

## Support Positions to Committee

Web manager	Ben Whitworth	<a href="mailto:web@vfwdc.com">web@vfwdc.com</a>
Training officer	Phillip Griffith	
Training officer	Ashley Martin	
Merchandise	Carolyn Bruinsma	<a href="mailto:merchandise@vfwdc.com">merchandise@vfwdc.com</a>

## Club Details

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
Registration No	A002184F
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong VIC 3174
Email	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.vfwdc.com">www.vfwdc.com</a>

The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of [Four Wheel Drive Victoria](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au) - [www.fwdvictoria.org.au](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au)

## CLUB MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Club Polo Shirts	\$28.00	Club Hoodie	\$54.00
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$48.00	Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$54.00
Club Caps	\$15.00	Club Bucket Hat	\$16.00
Club Wide Brim Hat	\$18.00	Club Beanie	\$12.00
Club Drivers Jacket (Coat)	\$80.00	VFWDC Windscreen stickers	
		Small	\$6.00
		Large	\$8.00

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo shirt.

Email your order to [merchandise@vfwdc.com](mailto:merchandise@vfwdc.com). Please ensure you advise size required.



Hi all,

Welcome to the VFWDC Free Wheeling magazine.

The latest round of driver training has been completed and by all reports things went very well and all of the attendees learned a thing or two. A big thankyou to our trainers for their efforts. We look forward to hearing all about it at the next general meeting.

Dargo has been on fire. A fire was started by lightning on March 12th near Dargo and it was finally declared contained on March 24th. Much of the area is still closed for clean-up and spot fires at the time of me writing this. Billy Goats Bluff has been affected by the fires. Thanks to Sally Higgs for keeping us up to date via the Club Facebook group.

Parks Victoria have announced that a blue-green algae (BGA) bloom is currently affecting Lake Moodemere, west of Rutherglen. So be sure to steer clear and do not eat any fish caught there. Refer to this page for more information -

<http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/about-us/news/blue-green-algae-warning-for-lake-moodemere>.

Hey, Easter is just around the corner. There are a couple of trips on offer from the Club. Please check them out below and sign up to join in.

Please note that the cost of the club hoodie has gone up from our supplier, the price list in this edition reflects the increase.

I hope to see all our members at the next general meeting and out on the tracks.

Ben Whitworth  
President

## CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

April				
5th	Wed	General Meeting		
14th to 29th	Fri to Sat	Flinders Ranges	Tony	0417 153 424
14th to 17th	Fri to Mon	Alpine National Park—Mitta Mitta	Brett	0405 441 819
18th	Tue	Committee Meeting		
May				
3rd	Wed	General Meeting		
5th to 7th	Fri to Sun	Aberfeldy Working Bee	Stuart	0428 539 157
16th	Tue	Committee Meeting		
June				
7th	Wed	General Meeting		
9th to 12th	Fri to Mon	Portland Buggy Club	Bruce	0400 425 296
19th	Tue	Committee Meeting		
July				
5th	Wed	General Meeting		
TBC		Christmas in July at St. Annes Winery	David	0417 747 860
18th	Tue	Committee Meeting		
November				
1st	Wed	Aussie Disposals Dandenong South—Special Meeting		
3rd to 7th	Fri to Tues	Beachport / Robe	David	0417 747 860

## IMPORTANT

- Easter trips are fast approaching. Please organise with the trip leader
- November's meeting has been locked in!
- If you wish to join us for dinner before the General Meeting, please book a spot at [Club Noble](#). Phone 9546 0653 and ask to join "Sally's table" from the club.

# MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

## March 2017

Members as Per Sheet  
Visitors as Per Sheet  
Apologies as Per Sheet

### February General Mins Accepted

Accepted: Sally  
Seconded: Stuart

### Business from Minutes

Nil

### Correspondence in

Emails from prospective members  
Bank statement  
Post box renewal

### Correspondence out

Replies to prospective members.

### Treasurers Report:

As per attached report in Magazine—February  
Accept: David B  
Second: Brett

### General Business

Nil

### New Members

2 new members received their member packs:  
Callum—Ford Ranger  
Andrew—150 Prado

### Trips Coming Up:

Proficiency Training 0 Phil

- Discussed driver training
- Theory 30th March
- Practical 1st and 2nd April

### Huts Trip—Shane

- 11th—13th March
- Discussed which way to go
- Bruce gave run down on what the plan can be

### Day Trip Mount Disappointment—Ben

- Monday 13th

### Flinders Ranges—Tony

- 14th-29th April

- Base camping at 3 locations:

- Alpana Station
- Beltana Station
- Arkaroola

### Aberfeldy Working Bee—Stuart

- 5th-7th May
- Mowing lawns and fixing isgns makes for an exciting weekend

### Beachport/Robe-Dave

- Staying at Southern Ocean Tourist Park
- Somerville St. Beachport
- (08) 8735 8153
- Walking distance to pub for dinner

### Davis Plains—Mick and Sally

- Info to come if the track is open

### 4wd Vic Presentation

Wayne Hevey  
Chris Whiteside

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### Coffee Break

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### Trips: - Gone

Joe

- Met up BP packy bypass
- Hit tracks straight away Forest Road.
- 5mins up the track, and it was steep and rock
- Gentle Annie, Andersons etc
- Got wet, and piked it :P

### Wandin - Waste of time

### Firth Park - Tony

- Relaxing weekend
- Got there Friday night
- Ratcliff Track, Nuggety Track, steep and rocky up to quarry
- Stuart drove up and back, Tony piked it
- Smoko at the quarry
- Much to Oscars disappointment, Tonys car has no bedroom
- Relaxed for 3 hours

- Bus picked em up took to pub, had dinner.
- Tony did the tracks again in reverse.
- Winery winery winery winery
- Then headed home to live happily ever after...

#### Rainbow Trip - Mick and Sally

- Met 5am for departure
  - Headed to rainbow for lunch in the park
  - Then into Wyperfield to Wonga Campground
  - Then onto Snowdrift
  - China mans Well, Mica Mine,
  - Then headed up to the Murray and the old mail run
  - Neds Corner lookin for campsite, and no access to water, but found it eventually
  - Next day headed to top of Vic/SA custom house, looked around at houseboats
  - Shearers quarters
  - Got a history lesson from one of the locals at the pub
  - Left there and headed to Scorpion Springs but you hadda pay and had no phone reception
  - Big Billys Well, but the bugs were ferocious...
  - Tony hit a puddle and drowned his missus, and was still laughin hour later.
  - Then onto Lakeside Caravan Park, and masses of wildlife.
  - Tony got all Mike Tyson with a Kangaroo that was tryin to get into Mick's tent... but then it stood up, and Tony decided to go back to his car.
- Meeting Closed at 10pm.

#### Raffle:

- 1st - Stuart
- 2nd - Dave B
- 3rd - John



## LAST BARREL

### Last Barrel Wines

492 YARRAGON SOUTH ROAD

YARRAGON SOUTH

VIC 3823 AUSTRALIA

Web: [www.lastbarrelwines.com.au](http://www.lastbarrelwines.com.au)

(M): +61 (0)408 093 529

Export and domestic sales.

Tastings by appointment only.

Members can advertise any four wheel drive or camping related items they wish to sell or buy.

Just email the editor, [editor@vfwdc.com](mailto:editor@vfwdc.com), with the following:

1. Description of the item
2. Price
3. Contact details
4. Photos (highly recommended)

## FOR SALE: 2010 Jayco Starcraft

\$20,000

Pete  
0432828342

Immaculately kept 14ft Jayco Starcraft, only ever used a handful of times.

Always kept undercover in a shed.

Comes with New TV/DVD combo, Convection oven (never been used), microwave, Double bed with quality inner sprung mattress, Fridge and amply cupboards and curtains

Full external annex and floor (used once), TV Aerial, electric brakes, gas bottles plus much more.

We just don't get away enough, so have decided to sell this much loved van.

Inspection will not disappoint, first to see will buy.

[More details and photos here](#)



## FOR SALE: Esky, Sleeping Bags x 2

See below for prices

[Sally](#)

0412 464 129

Esky \$100. 2 Sleeping bags, \$20 for both



## FOR SALE: Free fire wood

FREE

[Gary](#)

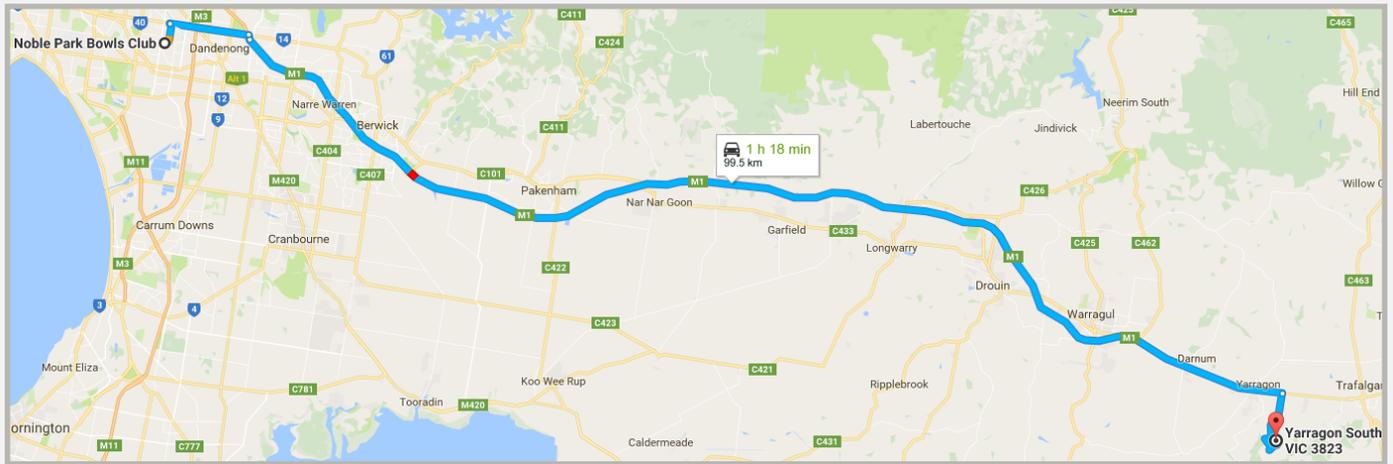
0408 093 529

Blackwood and Gum. Some dry, some are not.

Bring chainsaw and trailer.

I have trees coming down next week, and branches being trimmed also. There is wood on the ground also. Most of it needs cutting up and carting away. Current access is reasonably good.

Location: Yarragon South



## FOR SALE: Samsung CLP-415NW Colour Printer

\$50

[Stuart](#)

0428539157

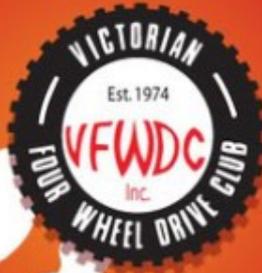
The club's now retired colour printer. Works perfectly.

See the [full specs here](#)



# TREASURER'S REPORT

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc  
www.vfwdc.com



## Treasurer's Report February 2017

<u>Cheque A/C`</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/02/2017		\$3,653.48
	Add: Membership New	\$220.00	
	Merchandise	\$136.00	
	Raffle	\$117.00	
	Total Monies In:		\$473.00
<u>Less:</u>	Stationary	\$20.45	
	Petty Cash	\$15.00	
	Total Monies Out:	\$35.45	
	Closing Balance as at 28/02/2017		\$4,091.03
	Refund Membership overpayment	-\$320.00	
	Plus: Un presented Cheque #498		-\$320.00
30/11/2016	Actual Balance When Cheque's Presented		\$3,771.03
<u>Term Deposit</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/02/2017	\$6,363.69	
	Closing Balance as at 28/02/2017		\$6,363.69
<u>Petty Cash</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/02/2017	\$150.00	
	Add: Cheque Account	\$15.00	
	Less: Catering	-\$15.00	
	Closing Balance as at 28/02/2017		\$150.00
	<b>Consolidated Closing Cash Position</b>		<b>\$10,604.62</b>

# UPCOMING TRIPS

<b>DESTINATION</b>	Alpine National Park - Mitta Mitta
<b>LEADER/CONTACT NO.</b>	NAME: Brett PHONE: 0405 441 819
<b>DATE</b>	Friday 14th April - Monday 17th April
<b>MEETING PLACE / TIME</b>	TBA
<b>GRADE</b>	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
<b>TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS</b>	Explore Mt. Benambra, Mt. Emu, Mt. Wills, Lake Dartmouth and surrounds.
<b>VEHICLE LIMITS</b>	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 6
<b>APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION</b>	350km
<b>LAST AVAILABLE FUEL</b>	PETROL: Eskdale, Mitta Mitta, Dartmouth DIESEL: Eskdale, Mitta Mitta, Dartmouth
<b>DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES</b>	100km
<b>EQUIPMENT REQUIRED</b>	Basic recovery gear. Self sufficient camping, food, water.
<b>MAPS REQUIRED</b>	TBA
<b>RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF</b>	UHF Ch 12
<b>Google Maps</b>	<a href="#">See here</a>

**DESTINATION** Flinders Ranges

**LEADER/CONTACT NO.** NAME: Tony  
MOB: 0417 153 424

**DATE** 14th April to 29th April

**MEETING PLACE / TIME** 7-11 Road house on Western Ring Rd, Derrimut at 6am

**GRADE** WET: Difficult  
DRY: Easy

**TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS** Leaving good Friday the plan is to take 1.5 days to get to camp.

Starting at Alpana station for 4 nights. Then moving onto Beltana station for 5 nights and then moving to the Arkaroola and staying there for 4 nights.

We will be touring each area and seeing as much as possible, we will be trying visit Wilpena pound, Parachilna, Brachina gorge, Blinman pools, Sliding rock copper mine, Parachilna Gorge, Liegh Creek, Skytrak and Arkaroola.

This is a camper trailer/caravan friendly trip.

Camping fees for non-powered sites are \$20.00 per night for two at Alpana and Beltana stations.  
\$25.00 per night at Arkaroola.

Self drive permits at each station is \$50.00 per Vehicle.

**VEHICLE LIMITS** MINIMUM: 3  
MAXIMUM: 10

**APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION** Approximately 3,500 km

**LAST AVAILABLE FUEL** PETROL: 400km  
DIESEL: 400km

**DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES** Approx 200 kms

**EQUIPMENT REQUIRED** All the standard recovery equipment

**MAPS REQUIRED** Flinders Ranges

**RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF** 12

**Google Maps** [See here](#)

**DESTINATION** Aberfeldy area Club WORKING BEE

**LEADER/CONTACT NO.** NAME: Stuart  
MOB: 0428 539 157

**DATE** Friday 5th - 7th May 2017

**MEETING PLACE / TIME** McDonalds on the Pakenham bypass departing 6:30 PM Friday night or meet us at Aberfeldy township Saturday Morning for a 9:00 am Departure

**GRADE** WET: Medium to difficult  
DRY: Easy

**TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS** Idea is to head up past Aberfeldy to start cleaning and clearing of some of the summer grass from the base of the signs together with any fallen trees over the walking tracks our club is looking after.

Then to camp at Little O'Tools for the night and do some four wheel driving Sunday before heading home Sunday afternoon.

Bring packed lunch and munchies for roadside stops

**VEHICLE LIMITS** MINIMUM: 3  
MAXIMUM: N/A

**APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION** 300-400 km round trip

**LAST AVAILABLE FUEL** PETROL: Moe  
LPG: Moe  
DIESEL: Moe

**DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES** 400 km

**EQUIPMENT REQUIRED** Own basic recovery gear, tools and any spares you may require. AT or MT tyres

Self sufficient camping and food for the weekend.

If you have one please bring a chain saw, chain oil and fuel  
Note: Personal Protective Equipment is mandatory for chain saw operators eg; earmuffs, safety visor, chaps, work gloves and sturdy boots.

Lawn mower, whiper snipper or brushcutter if you got one.

**MAPS REQUIRED** Rooftop maps Walhalla-Licola

**RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF** UHF 12

**Google Maps** [See here](#)

**DESTINATION** Portland Buggy Club

**LEADER/CONTACT NO.** NAME: Bruce  
MOB: 0400 425 296

**DATE** 9th to 12th June

**MEETING PLACE / TIME** TBA

**GRADE** WET: Easy  
DRY: Medium (soft boggy sand)

**TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS** It has been requested that we head back to Portland to drive around the 1800 Hectares that are Portland Buggy club. Some of the best dune driving to be had. Steep, flat, soft, hard etc. Up Down around and around.  
Very family Friendly trip.

There is also some magnificent beach fishing to be had in the gutters off the beach.

Camping on site at the buggy club. You will need to be self-sufficient for the weekend - there are no shops.

Or you can drive back into Portland, about 30-40 mins.

But there are dunnys and showers on site.

You will need to apply for a 4 day license with the cost \$50 per driver. Forms will be available at the meeting.

More info: <http://www.portlanddunebuggyclub.com.au/>

**No Buggy Club license - No Buggy Club Driving**

**VEHICLE LIMITS** MINIMUM: 4  
MAXIMUM: 8

**APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION** 400km from Melbourne to Portland  
1–100kms per day in sand

**LAST AVAILABLE FUEL** Portland

**DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES** 30–40mins Portland

**EQUIPMENT REQUIRED** \*\*\* Full Recovery Gear is Mandatory \*\*\*

- Sand Flag
  - At least 1 Snatch Strap
  - 2 x Rated Shackles
  - Winch Blanket
  - Gloves
  - Shovel
  - You will need a tyre deflator and compressor to inflate tyres.
- \*\*\* SAND FLAGS ARE MANDATORY. NO FLAG NO DRIVE \*\*\*

**MAPS REQUIRED**

**RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF** UHF 12

**Google Maps** [See here](#)

**DESTINATION** Beachport / Robe - 2017

**LEADER/CONTACT NO.** NAME: David  
MOB: 0417 747 860

**DATE** Melbourne Cup Weekend 2017  
Friday 3rd to Tuesday 7th (longer if you wish)

**MEETING PLACE / TIME** TBA - Depends on who is coming, and respective departure times

**GRADE** WET: Medium  
DRY: harder if the sand if Dry.

**TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS** I plan to leave very early on the Friday morning from Berwick at approx. 6am to avoid the worst of the peak morning traffic, setting up camp early afternoon.

Hopefully arriving to set up at the caravan park in Beachport, and then spend family time on the beach (sunning, fishing, swimming) with opportunities for group drives up the beach or for individual family activities whenever and however you want.

BIG Sunday Roast (if we can have the camp fire). If we are lucky the fire ban doesn't start until after Cup Weekend. But we got caught out last year, so no fire.

Intending to pack up on the Tuesday morning and head back to Melbourne. Some members usually stay the whole week.

**VEHICLE LIMITS** MINIMUM: 1  
MAXIMUM: 10 +

**APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION** Approx. 550km to Beachport from Melbourne CBD

**LAST AVAILABLE FUEL** PETROL: Every major town  
DIESEL: Every major town

**DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES** Every major town

**EQUIPMENT REQUIRED** All Recover gear - Max Trax if you have them  
Self Sufficient for all camping gear (in a caravan park)  
Sand Flag

**MAPS REQUIRED** Normal GPS to get to Beachport  
Beach track maps are available at Beachport

**RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF** UHF 12

Google Maps [See here](#)

# THE MURRAY SUNSET

## WYPERFIELD NATIONAL PARK

### AUSTRALIA DAY

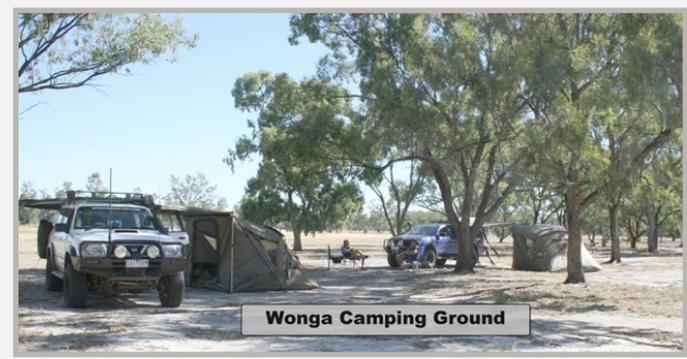


26th January  
Lisa and Tony

Lisa and Tony - Ranger  
Sally and Mick - Patrol

We met up with Mick and Sally at 7/11 Hampton Park at 5am. Our adventure had started we then drove across Melbourne and stopped at 7/11 Ardeer park on the Western Ring Rd where we had breakfast.

We then headed to Wyperfield National Park via Beaufort, Horsham, Dimboola and stopped at Rainbow for lunch. After lunch we headed into Wyperfield National Park and camped at Wonga campground the place was huge and not a soul around we had the whole place to ourselves. We set up camp and explored the area an enjoyable evening.



people enjoy destroying property. I've inserted a section from the sign for easier reading on this.....

After breakfast the next morning we packed up and headed up Pine Plains, then north up Gunners Track and out of Wyperfield National Park then into Sunset country.

We then stopped for lunch at Snowdrift camping site next to a big white sand dune where Tony and Sally climbed to the top, while Mick and I (the smart ones ) stayed at the bottom. you can see Tony at the top in the photo.

Then we drove onto Merbain west to top up our fuel then we had a look at an old Gypsum site.

We stopped for a look at the Mopoke Hut. When you read the sign its a shame some



We headed up Old Mail Rd to Kulnine east then onto Ned's Corner for the night. The temperature was into the high 30's, so had a swim in the Murray river to cool off. Again had the camp area all to our selves :)



This hut was built in 1962 by Alan Henschke for the purpose of having somewhere to stay after driving a mob of cattle down by horse from his property 'Yaramba', or mustering, yarding overnight to drive back home.

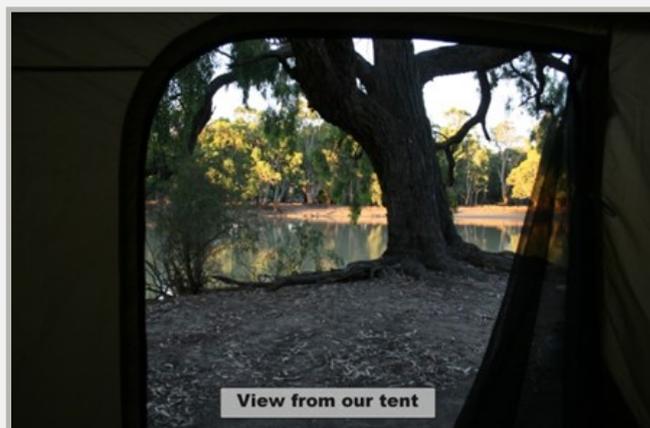
So as not to have to carry camping gear, mattresses blankets, camp oven, cooking utensils, tins of food were left in the hut to be used by Alan on some occasions, wet and cold nights.

Over the many years people from different parts of Australia and even overseas have stayed or just driven through, have stopped for a while and enjoyed the areas wildlife, wildflowers etc and signed Alan's visitors books. There have been two books with visitors comments previous to the ones that are left here now, but there now seems to be the odd few people coming through who don't seem to show the same appreciation of the hut and contents hence most of Alan's bedding, camp oven etc have been taken or burnt. So as not to lose the friendly appreciative comments Alan has taken home the previous books before those too are destroyed.

**PLEASE KEEP THIS HUT TIDY, YOU MAY CALL AGAIN**



Next morning we continued on the Old Mail Track to the S.A. border and then headed north to the Quarantine Station where we had a look at some lovely river house boats. Even got to have a walk on one for a look.



Then had lunch and back on the road. We headed south down the Border Track to the Shearers Quarters to camp the night. Again the temperature was very hot 40+ and sat with buckets of water and towels wetting ourselves down. Once it cooled down and got dark the stars were fantastic.

The next day we headed further south on the western side of Murray Sunset National Park.

Then headed east across the park to Pink Lakes area.

Had a look around then out of the park and onto the Mallee Hwy to Pinnaroo where we decided to go into one of the Pubs and had lunch sitting at the bar.



Was great to see the local pictures on the walls and an elderly gentleman came in and sat in his normal seat at the end of the bar and got chatting.

There was a photo on the wall of four young men sitting in the same places at the bar and he was one of them - sitting in the same seat and the last one left still alive...wow.

It was also great to see that country atmos-

phere as locals came in and the young guy behind the bar already knew what their drinks were and had them ready. We had a good time chatting to the barman over lunch and our meal was HUGE. Country folk feed you well.

Feeling very full we headed south down border track to Scorpion Park and onto the start of the southern part of the track where S.A has now implemented online permits the ones that Victoria has scrapped. With no reception on our phones, we turned around and headed out of the park and into Big Desert.

We made our way across the park and into Big Billy Bore camping area. Again, had it to ourselves, and another hot night.

Just on dusk, millions of small flying bugs come through our camp and got stuck in our hair and in our drinks. They were so bad we decided not to have dinner that night. Instead we had a few wines and all had a nice cool shower and went to bed.

Next morning we headed east across Wyperfield National Park and back into Rainbow where we had lunch at the bakery.

After lunch one of the locals told us to go see the painted silo in Brim. It was brilliant art work on such a large scale—Lisa and Sally at the bottom of them.

We then drove on to Warracknabeal and onto Halls Gap and booked into the Lakeside Caravan Park for the night and had some fun with the wildlife....

After setting up camp and having dinner, we were sitting down with a nice glass of wine. As I turned around, a large male kangaroo was slowly going in between Mick and Sally's car and tent.



I stood up and said to Mick I think he's going into your tent, so Mick got up to have a look and Mr Kanga stood up on his tail. Well Mick just said OK I'll leave you to it and walked away hahaha.

Tony decided to have a turn and at this stage while we were all standing up watching.



Tony walked right up to him and started making shooing noises so Mr Kanga again stood up to his full height and then moved forward towards Tony...

Well that was all it took for the girls to decide Tony was on his own and took off in different directions.

Sally tripping over her tent ropes and Lisa tripping over our tent ropes ending with everyone in fits of laughter and said kangaroo moved off slowly to graze.

Next morning we woke up to a couple of cheeky rosella's drinking Sally's cup of tea and landing on Tony's arm looking for a treat.

We packed up and headed back to Melbourne and home.

We did around 2000 km this trip.

# HIGH COUNTRY HUTS TRIP



10-13th March  
Shane & Mel

- Shane & Mel Hilux (Sluglux)
- Brett, Meily, Hannah & Oscar Pajero (Shredder)
- Steve Landcruiser (Pin striped)
- Brett & Nikki Landcruiser (Cyclops)
- Callum, Rob & Zac Ranger (Grader)
- Bruce Patrol (Hotbox)

## Friday

Four vehicles met at Sheeppyard Flat on Friday evening. It was just us and 400 other people that you could hardly see through the lingering dust. We have all decided that we need to find a new meeting place for trips to the high country. It was fuller than the Rosebud foreshore on Boxing Day.

## Saturday

The remaining two vehicles arrived on Saturday morning, one a little late after dealing with a sick passenger.

We started the day by driving to Fry's Hut before coming back through Sheeppyard Flat and heading along Brocks Road to Tunnel Bend.

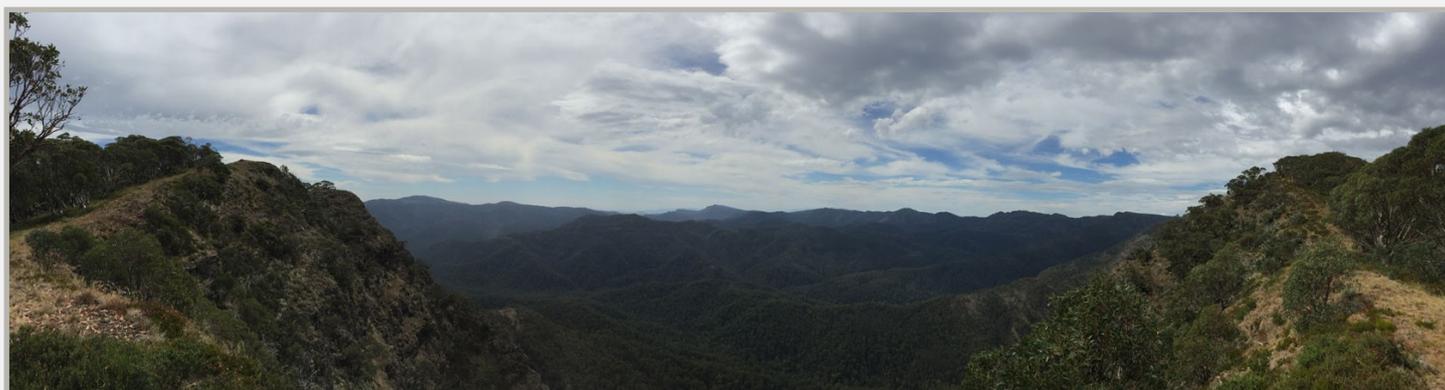
Most people opted to walk through the carved out tunnel where we discovered there is a vertical shaft that doesn't quite make it to the surface as well as a fresh water spring running out of the wall and depositing minerals.

Next stop was Upper Jamieson Hut where we had lunch. After lunch we headed east along Brocks Road until we met Bluff track in the saddle under King Billy.

We continued along Bluff track (a bit lumpy) towards Picture Point where we stopped, climbed up the small hill and had a magnificent view to the north and east.

Back in the cars, we encountered pin heads #1 & 2 for the weekend. We reversed up the hill to avoid being collected.

We continued along Bluff track past Helicopter Spur to Lovicks Hut and then over Mt Lovick to Bluff Hut. After leaving Bluff Hut, we headed down 16 Mile Jeep track to Pikes Flat where after some deliberation we made camp for the night.



## Sunday

Bruce shovelled out his air cleaner and so therefore the convoy order was altered slightly so that those without air con were at the front and trying not to eat dust. Headed to Bindaree Hut and crossed the Howqua river - not enough water to wash the dust from the tyres.

Bindaree Falls was the next stop followed by an easy climb up Monument track where we passed a couple of mobs of horse people.

Upon reaching Clear Hills track intersection, a decision was made to head to Mt Stirling as we had good weather and a bit of time up our sleeve. It was a moderately lumpy track all the way to Mt Stirling. The 360 degree views from the top of Mt Stirling were worth the lumpy ride up.



About two thirds of the way back, the Pajero shredded a front tyre. At this point three vehicles continued on and stopped at the Clear Hills track intersection where we decided to have lunch.

The remaining two vehicles stopped and gave a hand to the Pajero. After about 45 minutes, we regrouped, finished lunch and headed to the High Country Satellite city - also known as Craig's Hut. A quick look around for those that hadn't previously visited, a wait in the toilet queue and we were out of there.

After leaving Craig's hut and encountering many groups on the track heading to Lake Cobbler, we had a quick look in at King Hut, but it was reasonably full. We decided to continue on towards Lake Cobbler along Speculation Road.

At one point on Speculation Road we crossed paths with a group who told us Lake Cobbler was chock-a-block. They told us about a camp spot just off the road at the top of the Staircase. We found the spot they told us about, but the ground was uneven.

Mel & I continued up the road to see if we could locate a hidden bushwalkers campsite

that was marked on my bushwalking map. After driving over the ridge and not locating the camp, we turned around to head back to the rest of the group when we saw an overgrown faint track.



We pulled over and checked it out and it was a large clearing that would easily fit the six vehicles. Camp was made for the night and the firewood supply was plentiful.

## Monday

The day started off well with a beautiful sunrise through the trees. After everyone was packed up, we hit the track and headed for Lake Cobbler. Turns out the information we were given was true - it was chock-a-block. After a quick look around, we were back in the cars and headed for King Hut via Little Cobbler track and then Speculation Road. What a difference a day makes - King Hut is now virtually deserted.

Morning tea was had and then we made for Pineapple Flat. Five river crossings and still not enough water to wash the dust from the tyres.

There were still a few people left camped at Pineapple Flat, but we easily found space to set up and have lunch.

After lunch we headed for Mirimbah via King Basin Road, Circuit Road and Mt Stirling Road. We aired up and said our goodbyes at Mirimbah and headed back to Melbourne.



Little were we to know that the traffic heading back was the worst we have ever seen. It stopped before Bonnie Doon and didn't get any better. It was nice to catch up with the 400+ people from Sheeppark Flat!!

A few of us have decided to give up working and join a club that conducts trips mid-week only....I don't think I could face another trip home like that one again.....



# BUNYIP STATE PARK



18-19th March  
Ly & Darna

Steve	Landcruiser
Callum & Mark	Ranger
Ly & Darna	Landcruiser
Joe	Prado
Brett	?

Arrived at the Pakenham BP to meet up and then made our way to Bunyip State Park. It was my first time being tail-end-Charlie and was super excited for it!

Aired down the tyres at the Forest Road Unloading area. We followed Steve who wanted to ease us in with an 'easy' track... Robertson Creek Track. Quickly found out this track was really rocky, steep and graded at double black diamond!

This group wasn't confident enough and/or have the necessary vehicle modifications to tackle this.

Steve guided us up the first section by spotting us with his handheld UHF. He did lots of running and pointing on where to place our tyres.

All cars got through this small section, but once we examined what lied ahead it was a different story. Big rocks that demanded large tyres and high vehicle clearance. We voted a U-turn as vehicle damage wasn't on the agenda today.

On going down, Callum's siderails were scraping the rocks—ouch. When it was my turn to descend, Steve says through the radio "there's a steep drop here..." and bang, my tow bar slammed down on a rock.

Joe reminded me about the 'driving through the brakes' technique that was taught at the proficiency course. I obviously forgotten :(



Regrouped at the loading zone and figured out where we needed to go next.

Steve wanted to see the other side of Robertson Creek Track looked like so Steve and Joe scouted ahead.

Callum and I sat in our cars and chatted to a motorbiker who had issues with his bike. Joe and Steve returned, and we all went to Tea Tree Track.

We met two young blokes, one in a 76 series and Hilux at the entrance. Would cross paths again later in the day...

Track was getting slippery and saw a motorbiker on the side of the road who couldn't get up a muddy hill. He let us go pass and gave us tips on how to approach it. Steve and Joe got up easily. Callum and I weren't getting the traction so drove on the grass instead.

Next we stopped for lunch at the same spot the tyre/winch training was done last year.

After lunch we marched on. We stopped up top of a hill that had about a dozen cars gathered there for a smoko. We needed to get pass them so Steve made descended this slippery hill with rocks scattered everywhere.

Callum went down and think a rock hit his diff.

Joe and I watched another vehicle go on the lefthand side and thought that was the wiser path selection. This time I remembered and used the driving through the brakes technique which made the drive a cinch.

The weather dropped and even had a very brief moment of hail. Few mins later it was warm again—typical Melbourne.

We chugged along and reached an intersection. Turned left and there was a huge bog hole 50m in front of us. Stuck in the boghole was our friend the Hilux from earlier. He was completely bogged. Steve drove down and offered assistance (by taking a different path) but the 76 series was going to rescue him.

While this was happening a large convoy of early 20 year olds arrived and joined the peanut gallery. Callum was feeling nervous as his Ranger was stock and didn't want to be stuck. Joe wrapped a snatch strap on the Ranger as precaution so if it did bog, Steve could quickly attach it to his car and pull him out.

The Hilux was eventually dug and snatched out. Felt sorry when he opened his doors and water/mud rushed out. Our group got through the bog of doom.

Darna and I had to leave and farewellled everyone. Steve and Joe camped at Kurth Kiln, and the two apparently cooked up a storm. Callum also departed and returned to the action Sunday morning. Brett joined the group on Sunday as well.

They did a few hours driving and noticed the weather was turning for the worst. It was voted the day be cut short unfortunately.

