



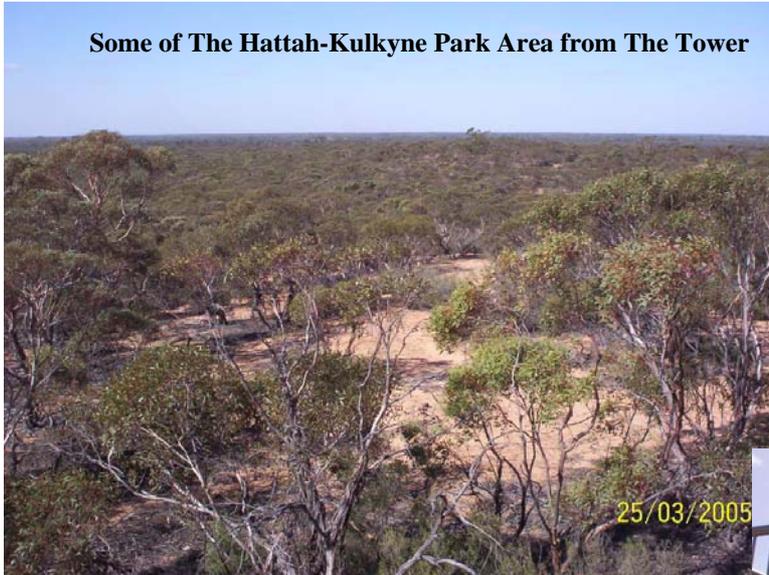
# Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A0002184F

*“Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together”*

May 2005



Some of The Hattah-Kulkyne Park Area from The Tower

25/03/2005

**Leanability** – (adj) the degree of incline that can be achieved by an object before gravity takes over and a vertical surface comes into contact with a horizontal one. Read more about the trip that this photo came from under trip reports..



25/03/2005

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Regular Contributions</b>	
Presidents Report.....	3
Committee Details.....	3
Minutes of Last Meeting .....	4
Club Calendar.....	6
Advertising Directory.....	6
The Corner.....	7
Forthcoming Trips.....	8

<b>Trip Reports</b>	
Easter at Hattah .....	10
Big River—Woods Point.....	13



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



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## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2004-2005

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President	John Partridge	0428 331 211
Vice President	Carl Surtees	9706 2692
Treasurer	Roger Baird	9704 9045
Secretary	Lesley Peters	9540 0007

## GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Projects Coordinator	Stephen Boyle	9754 4412
Librarian	Barry Leitch	5996 6662
Event Coordinator	Ashley Martin	9540 0007
New Member Contact	George Pledger	9547 4021
Trip Coordinator	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
Assistant Secretary	Paul Ryan	9807 5193
Web Manager	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784 074
	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 600 904
	John Partridge	0428 331 211
Newsletter Editors	Steve Utting	0408 576 171
	Annie Simpson	
Forward Articles to :-	utting@tpg.com.au	

*Registered Name:* Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

*Registration No:* A0002184F

*All correspondence:* The Secretary  
VFWDC Inc  
P.O. Box 778  
Dandenong Vic 3175

*Web Site:* www.vfwdc.com

*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

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

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## PRESIDENTS REPORT May 2005

Welcome everybody to a special edition of Free Wheeling. Why is this month's edition special, I hear you ask...? The reason is, that this is the first edition with our new editors at the helm. Steve Utting and Annie Simpson have joined forces and have taken on the role of Editor. Congratulations to both of you! Now it is up to the rest of us to make the transition as easy as possible by submitting your reports on time. That is by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Also if you come across any useful information relating to 4WDing and camping, pass it onto Steve and Annie. Every bit helps.

Whilst on the subject of the newsletter.... We have been lucky that we've only had to pay for the postage over the last few years and that the printing has been done for free one way or another. We are no longer able to have the newsletter printed by Fuji Xerox and from now on we will be printing the newsletter ourselves. We do have our own printer, which we will use for now on, but there are added costs associated with doing this. As most of you would know, we have around \$8,000 in the bank, but we cannot be using this for the day to day running of the club. As of July, there will be the choice of downloading your newsletter from the club website, in full colour and at no cost. If you are unable to do this or would still like to receive a hard copy, we will send it out to you but at a cost of around \$15.00 per year. The printed copies will have a full colour front page but the rest of the newsletter will be in black and white. This is not a decision that we make lightly, but it is a necessary one.

The Bacchus Marsh 4x4 Club have contacted us and asked if we would be interested in running some joint trips. I think this would be a great opportunity to see some areas that we don't often go, led by people with great local knowledge. The Bacchus Marsh 4x4 Club are a small club, but a very enthusiastic club and they're putting a lot of effort into the planning of this trip. They will be also putting on a BBQ lunch for us. In return we will invite them onto some of our trips and even allow some of them to come on our training weekends. Have a look in the forthcoming trips section for more information.

That is all for now. I hope everyone is well and hopefully we can catch up at the next meeting. (8.00 PM sharp start!)

John Partridge.  
[gujohnno@yahoo.com.au](mailto:gujohnno@yahoo.com.au)

## MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 05 April 05

The April General Meeting was held at Dandenong Library and opened at 8.10pm by the President, John Partridge.

33 members present.

**APOLOGIES:** Murray Ogden, Liz Beaton, Ian Warburton, Derek and Janet Hymas, Paula Johnston, David and Rosalie Hughes, Tania Utting, Carissa Galovic, Aline Van Buiten, Terry and Carol Waghorn, Yvonne Hempston, Judy Murray, Terry Johninke.

**VISITORS:** Welcome to John Sharpe, Steven McAvoy (Bacchus Marsh 4WD Club), Simon Williams and Shane Haberle.

### MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Minutes of March meeting as per Newsletter.  
Accepted: Carl Surtees. Seconded: Anthony Van Buiten.

### MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Nil.

**SUPPER:** Thanks Mark Kochan and Ivan Santurini.

### CORRESPONDENCE IN:

Email from Jay Gould advising that due to their travelling commitments, he and Jackie will not be renewing their club membership. Members may have seen the article on their F250 in a recent edition of *Australian 4WD Monthly*.

Cheque from BogCog Off Road for advertising space in newsletter.

Promotional letter from Duncans 4WD announcing new stores in Mitcham, Maidstone and Bendigo, together with \$20 voucher and promotional map.

Promotional letter from JDT Enterprises of Wandin, importers of spot lamps and fluoro lamps.

Australia Post PO Box renewal notice.

Promotional material and catalogue from Waeco Mobile Solutions re their portable fridge freezers and accessories.

Letter and flyer from Roodogs 4WD Spares.

Letter and promotional material from McPhersons Plains Alpine Retreat at Tumbarumba NSW (Snowy Mountains).

Association correspondence:

Letter advising that new strategies are to be put in place regarding the Association's Driver Training Unit's communications and training protocols.

Notification of Bunyip Recreation Strategy Meeting to be held on Thursday 21 April at North Balwyn RSL.

Minutes of February General Meeting  
Notice and Agenda for Regional General Meeting to be held April 16 in Bendigo.

Email re Wombat Forest Assembly to be held in Daylesford on 16 April 2005.

Flyer from Spirit of Tasmania promoting exclusive deals for social clubs.

Various club newsletters, flyers etc.

### CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

Just Corporate merchandise order and cheque for previous order.

Newsletter.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

As our Treasurer has just returned from his most successful trip to Antarctica, he provided a partial report for the previous month. Complete reports for past two months will be available at May meeting.

### TRIP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT:

#### Trip Reports:

Buchan Caves: Graeme Lyne provided a brief report on a very successful weekend to this area. JP noted particularly that the camping ground at Buchan Caves was one of the best we had been to and would definitely visit again. Thanks to Anthony for organising a top trip.

Hattah-Kulkyne NP: Ashley gave a brief synopsis of another great Easter holiday.

Expanded reports on both trips in Trip Report section of this newsletter.

**Forthcoming Trips/Events:** Michael Rodger reported on the following upcoming trips as per calendar:

10 April: Rubicon Day Trip – Ashley Martin.

22-24 April: King or Howqua River – Ashley Martin.

Wednesday 11 May: Proficiency Training Theory )

14-15 May: Proficiency Training Weekend )  
Ashley Martin

Additional trips:

17 April: Gembrook Day Trip – Barry Hempston.

May Day Trip: TBC – Carl Surtees.

### EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

Ashley investigating venue for AGM to be held in August.

### 4WDVICTORIA:

JP reported that the Association was looking to set up a separate company to be able to raise funds to employ full-time staff, ie media liaison etc.

**Wombat Forest Update:** Email circulated on 5 April with notification of a second rally to be held at Dayles-

ford on 16 April. This is a follow-up to support the work that has been carried out since last year's successful rally. All VFWDC members encouraged to attend. JP organising accommodation on the Saturday night for those who wish to stay for the weekend. Numbers required asap.

**Bunyip State Forest:** Public meeting to be held at Association headquarters in Balwyn on 21 April. All members welcome to attend. Aim of meeting to keep tracks open for 4wd drivers.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**Newsletter:** JP announced that Steve Utting and Annie Simpson would be taking over the production of the newsletter as co-editors.

John also raised the issue of problems faced with the printing of the newsletter now that Fuji-Xerox was unable to continue with their offer to print. To cover the costs of printing and distribution of the newsletter, it will be necessary to impose a levy on those members who wished to receive their newsletter in hard copy rather than via the web site. Costings for this levy will be provided in next month's issue.

**Club Member Profile:** As seen in this month's edition, Mark Capper has set the standard for club members to maintain. JP recommended the idea to all members and hoped to see many more future contributions.

**RAFFLE:**

Won by: Tickets sold by Joe and Ashley.  
 Paul Gillis – Duncans \$20 voucher and promotional map.  
 Gerrard Clarke – Fire Extinguisher.  
 Ivan Santurini – M&J Salt & Pepper Shaker Set.

**MEETING CLOSED** at 10.00pm.

**NEXT MEETING:** Will be held at Dandenong Library on Tuesday, 3 May 2005 (NOT 1<sup>st</sup> February!).

**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
30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Travel Mugs	\$15.00 ea
Flags	\$15.00 ea
VFWDC Stickers (long)	\$ 6.00 ea
Stubbie Holders	\$ 6.00 ea

**Thank You Lesley  
A Job Well Done**

Lesley,

Thank you for your very fine efforts in producing a newsletter of quality over the past years. I hope the new editors can maintain your standards.

What will you do with all your new-found spare time?

Derek Hymas

Lesley

Over the years you have coordinated, editing and produced the club magazine, you've done a fantastic job putting together.

Peter K Petrou (AKA Old Timer)

Hi Lesley

Julie and I have only been in the club a short time, however we ran a basketball club for over 10 years and know what sort of work is involved. We both thank you so much for not only the work in the newsletter but also for your friendship and making us feel very welcome

Mark & Julie Capper

**COMPUTER SPELL CHECKERS**

Eye halve a spelling chequer  
 It came with my pea sea  
 It plainly marques four my revue  
 Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word  
 And weight four it two say  
 Weather eye am wrong oar write  
 It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid  
 It nose bee fore two long  
 And eye can put the error rite  
 Its rare lea ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it  
 I am shore your pleased two no  
 Its letter perfect awl the weigh

**Interesting Quote of the Month**

"Creativity is allowing oneself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep." - Scott Adams, The Dilbert Principle

## CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

### May

Tuesday 3rd	Club Meeting	John Partridge
Wednesday 11th	Proficiency Training Theory Night	Ashley Martin
Friday 13th to 15th	Jamison Area	Steve Pitcher
Saturday 14th	Proficiency Training	Ashley Martin
Friday 20th	Tamboon	Paul ryan
Tuesday 31st	Committee Meeting	Roger Baird

### June

Tuesday 7th	Club Meeting	John Partridge
Tuesday 28th	Committee Meeting	Michael Rodger

### July

Tuesday 5th	Club Meeting	John Partridge
Tuesday 26th	Committee Meeting	Roger Baird

### August

Tuesday 2nd	Club Meeting	John Partridge
Tuesday 30th	Committee Meeting	Roger Baird

### September

Tuesday 6th	Club Meeting	John Partridge
Tuesday 27th	Committee Meeting	Roger Baird

### October

Tuesday 4th	Club Meeting	John Partridge
Tuesday 25th	Committee Meeting	Roger Baird

### November

Tuesday 8th	Club Meeting	John Partridge
Tuesday 29th	Committee Meeting	Roger Baird

### Tip....

#### **Ever wondered about the accuracy of your speedo.**

Or maybe, just how does it vary when you change your tyres? On your next club trip grab your GPS and set it to display speed across the ground. As you cruise along compare the GPS speed reading to your Vehicles Speed reading. You will find the GPS speed displayed is extremely accurate. Don't forget to make mental notes about the difference. Ed

## VFWDC ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

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# The Corner

Hello all...here we are for May...survived the wilds of Hattah to return again to send you my yummys...

This one is cheap...and delicious...

## PASTITSIO

1 tblspn olive oil  
1 onion, finely chopped  
1 garlic clove, crushed  
500g lamb mince  
200g button mushies, sliced  
2 cups {500ml} favourite prepared pasta sauce  
half a teaspoon of oregano,  
quarter teaspoon of ground cinnamon  
3/4 cup of grated parmesan  
1 beaten egg

## TOPPING

250g macaroni  
150g broccoli  
150g low fat ricotta  
1/2 cup light sour cream  
1 egg

Preheat oven to 180..lightly grease an 8- cup oven-proof dish..Heat oil in large frypan on medium heat, saute onion and garlic till onion is tender...Add mince and mushies, and brown for 5 mins. breaking up mince with a spoon.....Stir in sauce, oregano and cinnamon, and cook on medium for 10 mins,.....Until most of the liquid evaporates...cool then stir in most of the parmesan and beaten egg.....Transfer to prepared dish.... THEN.....!!! FOR THE TOPPING.

Cook pasta in boiling salted water for 10 mins,...until just tender, adding broccoli for last 3 minutes.  
Drain, then stir through the combined ricotta, sour cream and egg...Spread this over the meat mixture, sprinkling with the remaining parmesan...  
Bake for 20- 25 minutes...serve with a green salad...

I am looking for additions to this column...so if anyone has anything they would like to add please do not hesitate to ring me, or send me an email..

Phone...0407529646

[Email..anniesinternet1@iprimus.com.au](mailto:anniesinternet1@iprimus.com.au)

Thanks all...and have a great month...

See you in June... Annie..xx



## TRADING POST

### FOR SALE

**1 x LANDCRUISER GXL 100 SERIES Diesel 5 Speed White** 1<sup>st</sup> regd Feb 2000, ABS, twin airbags, aircon, after market turbo system, ARB winch bar, IPF driving lights, Kaymar rear bar with swingout arms, King springs, Koni shocks, rear ARB airlocker, tinted windows, RWC supplied, 95,000kms, VGC, **\$45,900 ONO.**

**5 x 100 SERIES FACTORY GXL STEEL RIMS** to suit live axle, new, gunmetal grey powder-coated, EC, **\$400.00.**

**Contact: Ashley on 0438 600904**

### 4WD Sites on the Web

<http://www.exploroz.com/>

**ExplorOz**® is an interactive site for people interested in camping, four wheel driving and caravanning in Australia.

### SAY WHAT!

The Chico, California, City Council enacted a ban on nuclear weapons, setting a \$500 fine for anyone detonating one within city limits.

### Yahoo Groups

Sign yourself up as a Yahoo user at

<http://groups.yahoo.com>

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. This simply means your application will be reviewed by a real person.

If you experience any problems you can email [anthony@ctsmonash.com.au](mailto:anthony@ctsmonash.com.au)

## FORTHCOMING TRIPS

### KING RIVER

**Date:** Friday 22nd to Monday 25th  
April  
**Trip Leader:** Ashley Martin  
**Contact No:** Mob: 0438 600 904  
Tel: 9540 0007  
**Destination:** King River—Pinapple Flat  
**Meeting Time/Place:** Lilydale McDonalds  
**Vehicle Limit:** Min: 3 Max 12  
**Grade:** Wet: Medium Dry: Easy/Medium  
**Approximate Kms:** 200  
**Equipment:** Standard Recovery Gear  
**Maps:** N/A  
**Radio Channel:** UHF Channel 12  
**Trip Activities:** The main activity will be to take a walk on the Sunday out to the bluff near Bluff Hut (from memory approx 2hrs return). For those who don't wish to walk, they can explore some of the other huts around the area—or do nothing! Camping area is easy access and suitable for trailers. The fishing is fairly good, so don't forget the rod (and fishing license). I plan to leave on Friday night, but was hoping there would be somebody leaving early Friday to secure a camp spot. For those who wish to leave Saturday, I suggest you meet at Lilydale Maccas at 830am

### JAMISON AREA

**Date:** 13-15<sup>th</sup> May 2005 (*Note: 15<sup>th</sup> is Mother's Day*)  
**Trip Leader:** Steve Pitcher  
**Contact Nos:** Mob: 0416 087619 (pref) Res: 9766 9447  
**Destination:** Jamieson area – Granny's Flat/Wren's Flat  
**Meeting Time/Place:** Departing 7pm Friday 13/5, Lilydale McDonalds.  
**Vehicle Limit:** *Min: 3, Max: 12*  
**Grade:** *Wet: Medium Dry: Hard.* Note: Easy route available if its really wet and/or people want to take camper trailers.  
**Approximate Kms:** 450-500 round trip.  
**Last Fuel:** Healesville then Marysville (night) Jamieson (day).  
**Equipment:** Standard recovery gear (may involve some snatching/wincing if particularly wet, but an alternative route is available).  
**Maps:** Optional. Will be using "Mansfield" Sheet 8123 Mansfield (part of Sheet SJ 55-6 Warburton by Natmap ©1980 but other/newer maps available in stores.  
**Radio Channel:** Channel 12  
**Trip Activities:** Easy drive to Granny's Flat on Friday evening (along Jamieson River; not far out of Jamieson), then do some 4WDing into the high country on Saturday to Wren's Flat (also along Jamieson River) via Mitchell Homestead (deserted ruins along Mitchell Creek). If some people prefer not to go 4WDing on the Saturday, they can sample half a dozen different ales from the local brewery (Jamieson), go swimming and/or fishing, then

take the easy route direct to Wren's Flat. Sunday will be a fairly relaxed day and we can choose whether we want to: stop at Lake Eildon for lunch, visit the brewery in Jamieson, check out a couple of the country pubs along Goulburn River, or inspect the old A1 mine near Woods Point.

Note: seasonal track closures in the area that we intend to visit will only take effect from June.

### TOOMBON/MORNING STAR CREEK

**Date:** Friday 20<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2005  
**Trip Leader:** Paul Ryan  
**Contact Nos:** Mob: 0437 121148 Tel: 9807 5193  
**Destination:** Toombon/Morning Star Creek.  
**Meeting Time/Place:** Officer Weighbridge, 6pm Friday 20/5.  
**Vehicle Limit:** *Min: 2, Max: 8*  
**Grade:** *Wet: Medium Dry: Medium*  
**Last Available Fuel:** Moe.  
**Equipment:** Full recovery equipment.  
**Maps:** N/A  
**Radio Channel:** Channel 12  
**Trip Activities:** I am planning to run a trip into the Toombon / Morning Star Creek area to have a look at some of the mines in the region and also walk into the Water Wheel at Morning Star Creek. The walk in is about a 4km round trip but is not too strenuous and it is definitely worth the hike. If time permits over the weekend I wouldn't mind having a look at some of the other historic sites in the area. We'll play it by ear.

**OOPS....** "This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us." Western Union internal memo, 1876.



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## Participating in a Trip

Trip leaders usually spend some time planning a trip. This involves working out where to go, how to get there, how long is needed to get to the destination and how long it will take to return home at a reasonable hour.

Could all trip participants please assist trip leaders by ensuring that you are at the meeting place at the designated time with all the supplies and fuel that is needed for the trip! While delays are often going to occur due to unforeseen circumstances, such as vehicle malfunctions, the need for toilet stops and environmental conditions, planning ahead can reduce some of these.

Some simple tips that will help trips to run smoothly are:

1. Arrive on time, or at least call ahead to notify the trip leader that you will be late. Please note that the trip leader may decide that the trip should proceed as planned and you may miss out. **Do not blame the trip leader for your disappointment if this occurs!**

2. Ensure that your vehicle is fuelled ready for the trip. While on longer trips refuelling may be necessary, a day trip of 250 to 350 kms may not have fuel stops planned. Ensure that your vehicle is regularly maintained. While we all experience mechanical difficulties at some point, and those participating in the trip need to deal with these when they occur, it is not reasonable to risk everyone's enjoyment by setting off in a vehicle that has not been properly maintained.

Delays are part of the game that we play, but there will be enough of the kind that we don't have any control over, so let's all try and eliminate those that we can control.

Michael  
VFWDC Trip Co-ordinator.

## Aircraft Maintenance Log Sheets—Pilot and Mechanic Comments—For a chuckle

Problem: "Left inside main tire almost needs replacement."

Solution: "Almost replaced left inside main tire."

Problem: "Test flight OK, except autoland very rough."

Solution: "Autoland not installed on this aircraft."

Problem: "#2 Propeller seeping prop fluid."

Solution 1: "#2 Propeller seepage normal."

Solution 2: "#1,#3, and #4 propellers lack normal seepage."

Problem: "The autopilot doesn't."

Solution: "IT DOES NOW."

Problem: "Something loose in cockpit."

Solution: "Something tightened in cockpit."

Problem: "Evidence of hydraulic leak on right main landing gear."

Solution: "Evidence removed."

Problem: "Number three engine missing."

After much coercing and begging from a number of club members, Suzie has relented and revealed her **Top Secret** recipe for:

## ZUCCHINI BREAD

(Woodgate, Audrey, Sue L)

### Ingredients

3 eggs	3 cups SR flour
2 cups sugar	1 teasp salt
1 cup oil	3 teasp cinnamon
2 cups grated zucchini	1 cup walnuts

### Method

Beat eggs until light and foamy, add sugar, vanilla and oil  
Beat until mousse like

Stir in zucchini, fold in other ingredients

Bake in mod oven 1-1.5 hours

Makes 2 loaves if baked in loaf tin

Warning— memorise and stand back as the recipe will self destruct within 60 seconds



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



Four Wheel Drive Victoria 'e' News  
at [www.fwdvictoria.org.au](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au)

Solution: "Engine found on right wing after brief search."

Problem: "DME volume unbelievably loud."

Solution: "Volume set to more believable level."

Problem: Dead bugs on windshield.

Solution: Live bugs on order.

Problem: Autopilot in altitude hold mode produces a 200 fpm descent.

Solution: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

Problem: IFF inoperative.

Solution: IFF inoperative in OFF mode.

Problem: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.

Solution: That's what they're there for.

## TRIP REPORTS

### Hattah-Kulkynereports:

#### **Thursday 24th March The Trip Up**

Terry and Annie—Trip Leaders  
Jason and Amy  
Steve and Tania  
Graham and Sue from Sea Lake

Heading off at the early hour of 6am from Mc Donalds Dandenong were a lively group of people, especially for that time of morning. The group consisted of Terry & Annie who were our leaders for most of the day, Steve & Tania, Jason, Amy, Dylan & Jasmine.

Once we got through the sea of traffic to the other side of the city it was an easier drive.

We stopped of in Malmsbury just after 8.00am, and Steve got his long awaited coffee & brekkie.

Back on the road again we passed through Wedderburn at around 9.30 am where Terry learnt a very valuable lesson. He accidentally said left instead of right and it haunted him for the rest of the trip. From

then on whenever he gave directions someone would stir him up about it.

We past through the halfway mark of Chaleton at around 10am, with some very strange jokes and interesting conversations along the way, and yes it did help when Terry used the microphone the right way, with a little help from Steve's Microphone Handbook 101. Along the way we had a lot of trouble here and there understanding Terry on the mic, and thankfully Steve informed Terry of the mic handbook steps, Step 1- make sure mic is facing mouth, and is close to mouth, step 2- make sure button is depressed when wanting to talk. Again this haunted Terry for most of the trip.

We eventually reached Sea Lake and met up with another lively couple, Suzie & Graham. After fuelling up we headed of again for the last part of the trip. Graham took over as leader as he seemed to know where he was going. He took us in

through the salt lakes which was just fascinating and into the parks, which then we knew we were almost there. John got a hold of us on the radio and directed us in, it was great to finally get there and set up, and relax for the rest of the day.

#### **Friday 25 March**

After the long drive to Hattah it was going to be a day of relaxation. The morning started like any other, me sleeping in and Lesley waiting for her breakfast. We put the final touches to the trailer (after arriving late the night before), organised what had to be done to make life comfortable for the next few days, and then set about to do nothing. After lunch, Michael and I set out to visit the other camp to say hello and on the way back collect some wood. Unfortunately we missed most of the group as they had ventured out on a trip around the area. Back near camp we stopped and fired up the saws, loaded up the tray (how easy) and returned to camp. The remainder of the afternoon was spent swimming and what else but relaxing and enjoying the peace.—Ashley

#### **Saturday 26 March**

Trip Report Easter Saturday 2005  
Camp "B" approximately 6 kilometres downstream from Retail Bend (Camp A).

Saturday we awoke to the warmth of the sun streaming onto the tent and that pain that I often have first thing in the morning, hoping that it would ease and I could go back to sleep. But no, I pushed the covers back and climbed out, popped my thongs on and flip flopped into the bush. After that there was definitely no going back to sleep.

Time for a cuppa. Liberty and Elizabeth were doing their best to spark up last night's fire but it was causing them some trouble. The additions of some ten-year-old news print helped though. Finally the kettle boiled and my cup of coffee hit

the spot.

After breakfast some of us decided to take a trip into Mildura for a look. So at around eleven o'clock, Peter, Janine, Belinda, Daniel, Brian, Lesley, Paul, Maxine, Robert, and Madeleine headed off with Peter leading the way. We had hardly turned two corners when Peter went the wrong way, so Peter became Charlie and Paul became leader.

When we arrived at Mildura and found parking spots, we as a group, decided to have lunch before doing any touring and found a nice smelling pizza restaurant attached to the Grand Hotel, So we entered, sat, ordered and talked. The pizzas arrived and we ate and then talked some more.

Eventually, we rose from the table and left the building, after paying of course.

Our touring, because time was short, was a casual walk up one side of the shopping strip and back down on the other. That was it, we refuelled, went to the supermarket and headed back to camp via the little place with the backward name starting with N where we found a nice shop that sold icecreams.

We arrived back at camp at around half past three. The weather was fabulous, good swimming weather, so of course most of us braved the chilly water and swam and paddled.

Saturday night was roast night for camp "B" so the fire was stoked to make coals and dinner was prepared. We ate at our own tent sites on this occasion because there was not enough flat ground for us all to set up as group. We made up for that after the dishes were done when we gathered around the fire and delighted in each other's company. Some little kids and some big kids toasted marshmallows and the chatter went on past my bedtime.—Peter

## **Easter Sunday 27-04-05**

### **Attendees Camp A**

John, Leanne and Stephanie day 1 and 2

Anthony, Aline, Riley and Conner  
Carissa, Joe, Sharni and Lachlan  
Barry

Annie and Terry

Tania and Steve

Graham and Susan

Jason, Amy, Dylan and Jessica

### **Attendees Camp B**

John, Leanne and Stephanie days 3 and 4

Ian, Julie, Dylan and Christopher  
Paul, Maxine, Robert and Madeline  
Peter and Janine

Micheal, Verylle, Elizabeth and Liberty

Maggie

Ashley and Lesley

Sunday morning at camp A we did an Easter egg hunt for the children. Easter Bunny had been busy hiding eggs all around the trees, in trees and on the ground. He was a sneaky bunny this year, he even had them in trees so the children had great pleasure in finding all the eggs. Once they found them all they took them to Anthony so they could all be distributed evenly.

Later that morning Carissa, Joe, Sharni, Lachlan, Barry, Tania, Steve, Amy, Dylan and Jessica all went to the other camp B for a visit.

Michael was waiting for us at the tracks beginning as we just weren't sure where we had to go it had been 12 months since we went there last. It didn't take long to remember the windy roads. Once we got there we all split up and did the rounds wishing all a Happy Easter. We were there for about an hour and a half. Steve and I have just bought a house so I brought their brag book of pictures to show to anyone who was in the way or rather wanted to look at ha ha ha ha. Showing our book to Maggie she laughed as she told us that by coincidence she has also bought a house. Congratulations to us both then and now we have all that packing to do YUKK.

It was getting late so we thought it time to leave and go back to our camp for lunch as the camp B were

coming over for a birthday party for Elizabeth.

Was later in the afternoon when they all come over for the party and was lovely to see both the camps together having a lovely time, it made for quite a gathering.

Michael and Verylle were busy getting all the party food organized for the children while some went off for a swim and play on the sand. Once all was organized it was time to call them all up for food which didn't take them long to devour.

Following the food, some went back to the beach while the rest of us chose to sit and chat in a big circle on the main track thru the camp. (we wont mention the collapsing table/banana lounge) Then it was time for the cake to come out and well done Michael and Verylle for the Pavlova with cream and fruit on top now that is really roughing it huh, out camping and we have a Pavlova! Un heard of really, but not for our club, it was wonderful.

After about an hour it was time for them to pack up and head off back to camp B to organize some dinner not that we all ate that much after the food at the party.

### **Easter Evening Meal Camp A**

We all meet for the evening meal at Terry and Annies Taj Mahal. Some campers did roasts, some did spaghetti bolognaise but everyone had a lovely meal. During the afternoon the camp noticed a loan hire campervan in an adjacent campsite so Terry went across and introduced himself and invited them to join us for drinks. So Kate and Kevin from England spent the evening sharing their travel experiences with us and listening to our stories. (and Terries jokes)

Amy and Jason made this wonderful chocolate cake from scratch "if you please (not a packet mix)" and wow did it turn out beautiful another job well done guys. Maybe Annie should feature your method in "Annies Corner" in a future magazine. The cake was so light and fluffy. We all sampled a piece. Our guests were sur-

prised it was made in a camp oven with coals. After the meal and clean up almost everyone went down to the beach for the nightly camp fire and lots more stories to tell our guests.

A great Easter Sunday had by all .

- Tania Utting

### **MUNGO N.P**

side trip 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March

#### **Roll call:**

John, Leanne and Stephanie

We left camp early in the morning, leaving our tent set up and just taking our swags and essentials. Before long we were heading out of Mildura and turning off the Silver City Hwy towards Mungo. It's about 99kms of dirt with some very sandy sections

#### **From the NSW Natural Parks and Wildlife web site**

*Mungo National Park covers most of an ancient dry lakebed. During the last ice age, Lake Mungo was one of a chain of freshwater lakes strung along the Willandra Creek.*

*About 50 million years ago this rocky inland landscape sank, as the Australian eastern highlands rose. Not only was there a lot of tectonic movement at this time, but also a great deal of rain. The Murray, Murrumbidgee and Lachlan rivers all contributed to the transportation of soil and water onto the subsiding landscape.*

*Temperature and climatic conditions continued to change as the Australian continent slowly drifted northwards into hotter, drier climes.*

*About 400,000 years ago dry, windy conditions prevailed and the sluggish, meandering Willandra Creek was cut off, forming the Willandra Lake system.*

*Over time the prevailing westerly winds shaped the lake and continued to shape and create a lunette as the water receded. The lunette consists of layer upon layer of sand and silt deposited over tens of thousands of years.*

that a normal car should handle, though it's much easier in a 4WD.

Upon arriving we looked through the visitors centre where we learnt about the history of Mungo, the fossils that have been found (including Mungo Man and Mungo Woman. The oldest *Homo sapiens* remains found to date.). Then we headed across to the impressive woolshed. This shed was constructed in 1869 out of local native Cypress (*Callitris* spp.) and has stood up to the test of time. It looks almost as good now as when it was built. Due in part to the very dry conditions and the native cypress natural resistance to borer attack. Although they haven't been sheering (not sharing...) sheep for some 50 years, you would think they had just stopped from the smells impregnated into the wood.

From there we started out on the 70km self-guided tour following the trek notes. Our first stop was to look at the amazing lunettes. The lunettes have been formed over thousands of years from erosion from rain and the winds. It was about 5.00pm and with the sun sitting lower the different colours was starting to show. From here the trek goes over the sand dunes into Mallee country. Through here we saw numerous emus and kangaroos, one of which did a dance for us! The next stop was at



the Vigars Wells where we ventured out onto the large sand dunes. As we had started late in our drive we had the area to our selves. There was a stiff wind blowing spectacularly over the crest of the dunes. No sooner had we walked passed, the traces of footsteps had vanished "into thin air" (literally!).



Back into the car and onto the old Zanci homestead site. All that remains of the homestead was its stone chimney. But there was an impressive underground shelter built to escape the searing heat of the summers.

Once we had finished the drive we headed out to the camping spot where we set up camp and rolled out the swags. We then headed back out to the Wall of China where we cracked open a bottle of Champagne, ate some nibbles and watched the sunset and the moon rise. Back to camp for dinner and relax around our little fire. It was a very peaceful night, well, after the generator was switched off that is.

A quick pack up in the morning and back out to Mildura for some supplies and an ice cream. From there we headed out to the Murray Sunset N.P. following the Meridian Line. We had lunch near Kelly's lookout and then continued south. We stopped briefly to have a look at one of the many salt lakes and Leanne quickly found out what lies beneath the thin crust of salt... A very black and sticky goo.... We turned east onto the Nowingi Line following the old railway line that used to go out to Rocket Lake. It was rumoured that when they dismantled the railway line and reached the end at Rocket Lake they found that there was an old steam locomotive still out there. With the tracks gone there was no option but to leave the train out there... (Urban myth...?). If you travel along this track, keep a close eye out for old rail spikes still in the ground, which may pierce your tyres. Upon reaching

the Calder Hwy we continued on the eastern side of the Nowingi Line into the Hatta-Kulkyne N.P. and made our way back to camp via Raak Tk. It was a fantastic trip and we would strongly recommend it to all.

John Partridge

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### Trip Report Buchan Caves Adventure Caving

Bernadette & Martin  
John & Leanne  
Aline & Anthony  
Paul  
Joe & Carissa  
Ashley  
Verylle & Liberty

First of all we put on a pair of overalls and a helmet with a torch. I must admit we looked a bit like oomph lumps. When the tour guide took us to the cave everyone was expecting a hole that you could walk into, but it was a hole in the ground. Once everyone was in, that's when the excitement really started. We climbed through tight spaces, over rocks and under rocks. There was a slope that you could not see the bottom of and you had to move a t the top of the slope on your bum. We then went through the letterbox. It was a hole that you slid through head first, but I went feet first because I was little. Joe got stuck but thanks to the tour guide Joe was free and then there was the worm-hole. You didn't have to do it but I did and got all the way through thanks to Ashley. Once I got out of the adventure cave I realised it will be an experience I will never forget.

Joe reminded me of Winnie-the-Pooh. 'You mean I'd never get out?' said Pooh.

'I mean,' said Rabbit, 'that having got so far, it seems a pity to waste it' Christopher Robyn nodded.

'Then there's only one thing to be done' he said. 'We shall have to wait for you to get thin again'.

'How long does getting thin take?' asked Pooh anxiously.

'About a week, I should think.'

'But I can't stay here for a week!  
'You can stay here all right, silly old bear. It's getting you out which is so difficult.'  
Liberty

Twelve brave and unsuspecting people wearing hard hats with lights and stylish overalls, not something I'd generally have in my wardrobe, but it's the whole



experience and that's what we came for – adventure.

We crossed the road to a hole that looked like a wombat hole. I guess we just have to slide on in.

Dark dirty and damp, how wonderful. Slide squeeze twist; just keep following the person in front. Through crevasses into chambers, climbing up and crawling down and hoping that your foot will find a supportive rock soon. I felt remarkably safe – but this excursion is not for everyone.

I sit here writing this report with my 5 o'clock sherry and a bowl of salted nuts with a kangaroo by my side. The sun is setting through the tall poplars, elms and birches (thanks Leanne), I'm in heaven it just couldn't get better than this.

Thanks Anthony and Aline for organisation this fantastic trip.

Verylle

DATE: ? (SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> March)

### TRIP: \_ Mt Seldom Seen and Beyond

TRIP LEADER: Anthony

ATTENDIES::

Anthony Aileen,

Connor + Riley  
Martin + ? (Wife)  
John, Leanne + Stephanie  
Ashley + Lesley  
Joe Carisa, Cathy and (KIDS)

Well the 4x4 had been sitting idle for a couple of days and a few of the boys were interested in doing a bit of reconnaissance. So off for a lazy Sunday meander through the countryside we go. Up the hill we go and Carisa and Joe soon depart our company due to an overheating problem in their Nissan. With John and I soon to follow if 'FATSO'S' overheating continued. Hum new there was a reason I brought a TOYOTA.... Lol

Anyway we soon turned off the BT and headed up 'Lookout Trk' for 'Mt Seldom Seen Lookout'. John was telling me that before the fires came through a couple of years ago you couldn't see more than 20m because the bush was so thick through here. I suppose one good thing about the fires is we do get to 'Lookout' at the landscape. (That was a 'Johnno-ism') DSE or whoever they are today have rebuilt the tower and hut at the top, but I think I'm going to have to vote that the long drop get the 'BEST VIEWS' award. You would be hard pressed to find better views sitting on a long drop anywhere else. Its good enough to make you wana use one NOT....

So we head out again and hit the BT for a while and turn of down 'Wulgum Ck Trk' to go to 'Little River Falls' which as usual is viewed from the truck.... 'Woo Hoo' we do have legs... God I just realised.... He is never going to leave 'FATSO' know that she has high heels.... I tell you... if he only looked at me that way...

Ops... where were we... right...'Little River Falls'... So we continue down the track a smidge until we find this unused really hard to see Trk and we start to make our way down. John takes the lead and goes down to see how it is... Overall it wasn't that bad but just a bit loose in a couple of spots, there really isn't much room down the bottom so if ya head down that way 4-5 vehicles at the most.

But there is a good view of the gouge, which going by the calling cards the local inhabitants hang out here quite a lot. We all get back up without any dramas and head off for some lunch.

We continue onto 'Mckillops Bridge' an amazing structure that spans 35m above the 'Snowy'. Oh another 'Johnno-ism', prior to the dam etc. the river in flood would reach the top of the bridge, wow. I saw some old movie footage of the 'Snowy in Flood once and standing at the foot of McKillops bridge it is hard to believe that this dying river was once so wild and unpredictable. Oh this is a great spot to have a paddle if you are that way inclined as the black rocks through this area increase the water temperature. Someone's ism....

Heading back to camp we back track and stop off at the official 'Little River Falls' lookout. For those less adventurous the view is just as good and there is a path down to a barrier lookout that is nice and safe for the kids, oh! and only a km up the road from the other one... Thanks Anthony for a lovely day out....

### VFWDC Accredited Training

A number of training days and weekends are conducted throughout the year. These trips are designed for new and/or current members who wish to brush up on their four wheel driving skills and techniques.

Various courses are conducted, including:

- \* Basic four wheel driving techniques.
- \* Four wheel driving recovery techniques.
- \* Advanced four wheel driving.
- \* Snow driving techniques.

The training courses are designed to enable safe and environmentally friendly driving in the bush. All training is conducted free of charge to all members and is carried out by Victoria Association of

Four Wheel Drive Clubs (VAFWDC) accredited Club Training Instructors. Check the Club calendar for the next course and support your club and Trainers by participating.

## Big River – Woods Point Trip Report Jan 10 – 11 2005.

Attendees:

Ashley & John – GU Patrol Coil Cab  
Steve – 80 Series  
Carl & ? – GQ Patrol  
Paul & Robert – 80 Series

**Leanability** – (adj) the degree of incline that can be achieved by an object before gravity takes over and a vertical surface comes into contact with a horizontal one.

I'll try not to bore you with the detail but it was the usual meet up at Lilydale and then off through Marysville to check out some of the tracks along Frenchman's Spur on the way towards Woods Point.

Ashley led, with Robert and I following in the 80, followed by Steve and finally Carl because no-one wanted to sit in his exhaust smoke for the duration of the trip. Anyway we started the day with Shortcut's 1 and 2 which are both interesting tracks and heavily "rooted" according to Robert. After the initial double take I eventually worked out that he meant rutted, although on reflection he may have been right first time. As ever, wheel placement is all important on heavily "rooted" tracks otherwise an uncomfortable degree of **leanability** may be achieved as noted in the picture below.

Fortunately Steve was on hand to extricate me from this particular predicament and with Robert's stern injunction of "Don't do that again Dad!" ringing in my ears we



proceeded on.

The "roots" got worse but with John guiding everyone through progress was made without further incident.

After lunch and a brief stop at Woods Point we carried on to Abbot Link and Abbot Creek Tracks. Abbot Link track still has a pretty rough section at the bottom that was successfully negotiated by all but one car (you'll never guess who) that took the chicken option (but not for lack of trying the other bit). I suppose at that point I really should have listened to Ashley when he said that there was a section further on that "caught them out" last time. Anyway that's where we decided to check out the **leanability** by getting the car at a 45 degree angle across the slope. Poor Robert was feeling decidedly unhappy at this point and to be honest I was feeling a tad glum myself. Not because of the uncomfortable angle but mainly because I was wondering if I'd ever see the drivers side seat cover again. Once again the others came to the rescue but not before they'd all had a good look, laugh and taken the opportunity to get some good photos. About now Robert was saying that he probably preferred "rooted" tracks but most of all he preferred being a passenger with someone else.

Anyway it all ended without

tears or panel damage so it can't have been that bad however that was enough adventure for the day and we made camp soon after.

The following day we headed down towards Aberfeldy and started with Pluto Track and Spud Spur. There was an enormous tree that had fallen across the hairpin bend at the bottom of Pluto Track blocking both the entrance and exit to the bend which took a little while to clear. Spud Spur was a little loose but reasonably easily negotiated by all although while most of us did it on four (or at times three wheels) Carl decided to use only two - the rear ones.

From there we headed off to look at Deep Creeks 1 and 4. Deep Creek 1 involves a crawl through the creek bed at the bottom that was very picturesque and also great fun. Deep Creek 4 has a challenging rocky section that looked pretty daunting but was managed by everyone with varying degrees of ease. After that it was back to Thompsons Dam wall by way of Fultons track to air up and head home.

Thanks to Ashley and John for leading and to Carl and Steve for pulling me out of the cack. But most of all thanks to Robert for providing that little bit of extra ballast when required and preventing **leanability** from becoming **panel-beatability**. After all, those tracks were "rooted".  
—Cheers Paul





# PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

Please complete all relevant details and return to the President  
or Events/Trip Coordinator

DESTINATION	Wombat State Forest
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	Steven McAvoy (Bacchus Marsh 4WD Club) 0414 923 907
DATE	Sunday, 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2005
DEPARTURE	9:30 am Egans Reserve, Greendale.
RETURN	Approx 4 – 5pm Bacchus Marsh
MEETING PLACE	Egans Reserve, Greendale – Trentham Rd, Greendale (Opposite Greendale Hotel/General Store)
GRADE	WET DRY
	Medium Easy - Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Depart Greendale and amble around the tracks in the Wombat State Forest making our way to Nolans Picnic Area for lunch. After lunch amble our way to Bacchus Marsh via Wombat State Forest and the Lerderderg State Park. Ending back in Bacchus Marsh.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM MAXIMUM
	16 from VFWDC
APPROX KMS (Meeting place to destination)	60 kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL DIESEL
	Bacchus Marsh Bacchus Marsh
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Approx 60 kms
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic recovery gear (snatch & bow shackels)
MAPS REQUIRED	None – but any map covering the Wombat State Forest will suffice
RADIO CHANNEL	CB / UHF
	19
PARTICIPANTS	Members from both Bacchus Marsh 4 Wheel Drive Club and the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club.

## PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED:

Plan your trip. In particular: meeting point destination, trip grading, trip details, fuel information, camping arrangements.

Complete a “**PROPOSED CLUB TRIP**” form.

3. Pass the form on to the President or Events Coordinator, either in hard copy format or electronically, for approval at the next Committee Meeting. When approved, the Trip Leader will be notified and the trip included in the Club Calendar.