



Reg No A0002184F

Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

"Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together"

SEPTEMBER 2005

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Noojee Walk



Mount Arbuckle



Participants in Noojee Trip



Howitt Road



Carl hiding behind tree at Charles Country



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

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COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2005-2006

President	David Hughes
Vice President	Steve Boyle
Treasurer	Carissa Galovic
Secretary	George Pledger

Presidents Report September 2005

Breaka Breaka

Come in all VFWDC Members, this is Daddio, that's right, I'm back as your President providing you want me back.

Unfortunately I do not have very good news for my first Report. Our very good friend and long standing Member Alan Wade passed away in his sleep on Sunday morning 21st August 2005. Alan will be greatly missed by all the older Members. I know there are a lot of new Members who did not have the pleasure of meeting Alan, but I am sure there are enough of us old farts that can tell you some story's about Alan's travels through life. May God be with you Alan and guide you through your new Four Wheel Drive playground in the sky. Our memories will stay with us forever.

To Mary and family, we are all thinking of you in your time of sorrow. Hold on to your memories that you have gained over the years that you had together, they can never be taken away from you.

We are going to hold a Memorial Service for Alan, more about that in the Magazine, and at the next Meeting.

On a slightly happier note, due to the lack of support from Members at the AGM, not all positions on the Committee were filled, this is why we have to call an extra ordinary AGM at the next General Meeting to finalise the new Committee.

However since the AGM, George Pledger has put his hand up for Secretary, but we still have a couple of positions vacant for General Committee Members.

Remember this is your Club, it would be nice to see a full attendance at the next meeting to show your support, not only for the New Committee, but the old Committee as well, to show your appreciation of the hard work they have done over the past twelve months. So let us all pull together and make this an even greater year.

We also need more people to put there hands up and lead trips. I know that I cannot talk because I have not run any trips this year due to work commitments. Members need to become more involved to make this an even greater Club than it already is.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

Till then take care out there.

Daddio

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ian Warburton
Paul Ryan
Anthony Van Buiten
James Holden

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 :-	anniesinternet1@iprimus.com.au	

CLUB DETAILS

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

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

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 th Anniversary Travel Mugs	\$15.00 ea
Flags	\$15.00 ea
VFWDC Stickers (long)	\$ 6.00 ea
Stubbie Holders	\$ 6.00 ea

The Corner

Here is a family favourite...

PORCUPINE MEATBALLS

- 750g minced meat
- half a cup of uncooked rice
- 1 diced onion
- 1 teaspoon beef stock
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 cup evaporated milk
- 1 x 440g tin tomato soup
- 1 cup of water

Mix meat, rice, onion, seasonings and milk together,

Shape into small balls and brown a little in oil.

Heat tomato soup and water to boiling point,

Drop in meat balls.

Cover and simmer gently for about 30 minutes.

Loooverly with mash and vegies..YUMMMY!!!

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MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 02 August 2005

The August General Meeting – incorporating the 2005 Annual General Meeting – was held at the Dandenong Library and opened at 8.10pm by the President, John Partridge.

PRESENT: 32 members present as per Attendance Book.

APOLOGIES: Murray Ogden, Peter and Janine Frankland, Carol Waghorn, Anne Pettigrew, Paula Johnston, Judy Murray, Graeme Ralph, Terry Johninke, Steve Utting, Paul and Maxine Ryan, Rosalie Hughes, Ian Webber, Aline Van Buiten, Jill Boyle, Neil and Norma Stephenson, Derek and Janet Hymas, Steve Young, Lisa Petrou, Pat Casey, Bill Harwood, Bryan West, Ivan Santurini, Mary and Alan Wade, Don and Thelma Montague.

VISITORS: George Pledger introduced the following visitors who were welcomed to the meeting: Iain and Daff Whitecross, Max Brown, Vickie Limprayoon, Ken Appleby, and Ross McLean.

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to Craig and Marijke who joined the Club at tonight's meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of the July meeting as per Newsletter.

Accepted: Ashley Martin. Seconded: Annie Simpson.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: Nil.

SUPPER: Thanks Carissa, Ashley and Ian.

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

Association correspondence:

✦ Minutes of General Meeting held 22 June 2005.

Agenda for General Meeting to be held 27 July 2005.

Letter and promo material from Top Gear 2 Go – manufacturers of equipment and accessories such as flexible magnetic insect screens for all types of recreation vehicles.

Letter from Rover Land Service Centre, a recently opened 4WD automotive business in the Knox area. Owner interested in advertising in the newsletter with a view to joining the Club.

Promotional material from Troopers Saloon, Lodge and Training Camp located in Wartook Valley in the heart of the Grampian Ranges. Situated on the Western Highway between Horsham and Stawell, offers camping, campervan rentals, self-contained units and

a 4 bedroom house that sleeps 10. Also has a restaurant, saloon and mess hall. This could be a good place to investigate if anyone is thinking of running a trip into this area. They have a website – www.troopers.com.au. (Perhaps Ian and Liz might like to have a squizzy during one of their trips to Moyston.)

Promotional material on Mansfield and Mt Buller area.

Promotional material on Flinders Ranges 4WD Tracks and Trails.

Various club newsletters.

The Secretary stated that if anyone was interested in any particular promotional material that had been received throughout the year, please advise and copy will be provided.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

Email response to Glenn Rippon of Rover Land Service Centre.

Newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Roger Baird read the Treasurer's report for the month of July. Summary as follows:

Petty Cash:	\$ 200.00
Cheque Account:	\$2,343.98
Term Deposit:	\$5,249.31
Total:	\$7,793.29

Accepted: Anthony Van Buiten. Seconded: Michael Rodger.

TRIP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Forthcoming Trips/Events: Michael Rodger reported on the following upcoming trips:

5-7 August:	Snow Trip: Carl Surtees gave a rundown on meeting arrangements for the trip. Members invited up for a day trip on Saturday if they did not wish to camp overnight.
16-18 September:	Mystery Pub-to-Pub. David Hughes asked for numbers asap so final arrangements could be made. No details available on this trip as yet.
23 October:	Annual Car Rally: David and

Rosalie still working on this one and will submit Trip Data information next month.

November:

Annual Fishing Trip: Ashley Martin reported that due to unpredictable opening dates for Mayford, this year's trip will be at a different location. Dates and other details TBC at later date.

Roger stated that he would be attending the Ute Muster to be held on 15 October if anyone was interested.

John also mentioned that there was a working bee at Border Track in South Australia on the weekend of 1-2 October. The event is being organised by the South Australian 4WD Association in conjunction with the DSE.

Trip Reports:

Ashley – with comments from Baz – reported on the Noojee day trip, which included a walk into the Ada Tree and a look at the Trestle Bridge. Report by Murray in this newsletter.

Roger reported on a "very pleasant weekend of fun and merriment" in the Daylesford/ Hepburn Springs area. This trip was reported in detail in the July newsletter.

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

Ashley once again reminded members of the upcoming AGM Dinner to be held on Saturday, 27 August at the Mulgrave Country Club. Monies to be paid in full at this meeting. Looking forward to seeing a good turnout this year.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

JP donated prizes from Nav Run for the meeting raffle.

Ian said that he and Liz are taking a trip to the Simpson, leaving 17 September, if anyone was interested in joining them.

Anthony has located a good place to purchase snow chains at a reasonable price of \$139, ie Anaconda in Bayswater. Also said that if you are planning to go on a snow trip, it was a good idea to keep chains in car even if they're not needed.

Steve reported that Geoff, Rochelle and baby daughter doing well, and very much appreciated flowers and

thoughts sent on behalf of members.

Joe raised the issue of Aussie Disposals discount card. Had been to two stores and card not accepted. JP will contact regional manager to sort out the problem.

Anthony mentioned that Ray's Outdoors was having a big sale next weekend!

RAFFLE: Tickets sold by Anthony and Joe.

Won by: Michael Rodger – Meridian Wombat State Forest CD.

Tim Axtell – 2 Books entitled *Walhalla and Its People* and *Locating Treasure on the Victorian Goldfields*.

Steve Boyle – M&W Pate/Cheese Knife Set.

The General Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

The outgoing Committee stood down and the Annual General Meeting was convened by Chairman Peter Petrou.

MEETING CLOSED at 10.10pm.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: To be held at Dandenong Library on Tuesday, 6 September 2005.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

FOR

ALAN WADE

To be held

AT: Picnic Point Park

Old Princes Highway

LONGWORRY NORTH

(Mel Ref: 612 T6)

DATE: 11TH Sept 2005

TIME: 2pm

Afternoon Tea to follow



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



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"Talking Four Wheel Drive"

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CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 6th	Club Meeting	
Friday 16th-18th	Annual Mystery Pub to Pub	Dave and Rosalie Hughes

OCTOBER

Sunday 2nd	Nojee Nav Run	Anthony Van Buiten
Tuesday 4th	Club Meeting	
Friday 14th	Tarra Valley Caravan Park	Mark Cappa
Friday 20-23rd	National 4X4 Show Exhibition Centre	
Sunday 23rd	Annual car Rally—	Dave and Rosalie Hughes

Forthcoming Trips

Broken Hill Trip

- Date:** Friday 28th of August— Wednesday 2nd November
- Trip Leader:** Leanne Young
- Contact No:** MOB: 0411 773 863
- Destination:** Broken Hill
- Meeting Time/Place:** McDonalds Western Ring Road 3PM or camp site
- Vehicle Limit:** *Min: 1, Max: 8*
- Grade:** *Wet: easy Dry: Easy*
- Approximate Kms:** Quite a long way
- Last Available Fuel:** Petrol/Diesel available at Broken Hill
- Equipment:** Basic recovery gear
- Maps:** None
- Radio Channel:** Channel 12

Friday - Drive to overnight stop. Somewhere near Mildura

Saturday - Arrive at Silverton Camping Ground (Bush camping with basic facilities). Set up camp and do a bit of sightseeing in Silverton.

Sunday - Sight See Broken Hill. Walking Tour, Galleries, Pubs and mines. Spend some time exploring the Living Dessert. Many of the galleries and museums are only open on Sunday's so this is the perfect day to spend in town.

Monday - For the more adventurous, a day trip to White Cliffs via Mutawintji NP. (Relaxing and veggieing out is acceptable)

Tuesday - Pack up camp and head off to Kinchega NP. Spend some time looking around before setting up camp for the last night, for those spending an extra night.

Melbourne Cup (V4WDC – style) will be run later in the evening- via the cactus pear.....

Wednesday - Meander home, maybe stop of at a winery or 2..

Forthcoming Trips

Mystery Pub to Pub

Date:	Friday 16th to 18th of September
Trip Leader:	Dave and Rosalie Hughes
Contact No:	TEL: 03 9706 2966
Destination:	That's the Mystery Part
Meeting Time/Place:	To be Confirmed
Vehicle Limit:	<i>Min: 2, Max: TBA</i>
Grade:	<i>Its still early days in the planning but this is an event which is open to everyone so if there is any four wheeling, it wont be very hard</i>
Approximate Kms:	More of the mystery
Last Available Fuel:	TBA
Equipment:	TBA
Maps:	TBA
Radio Channel:	Channel 12
Trip Activities:	This is where the mystery part of it is. We will let you know the meeting place closer to the date. The rest of it is a surprise.

There will be a cost associated with the trip to cover the cost of staying at the pubs. We will let you know closer to the event what else you need to bring.

Noojee Nav Run

Date:	Sunday 2nd October
Trip Leader:	Anthony Van Buiten
Contact No:	0413 784 074 AH: 9764 3381
Destination:	Noojee
Meeting Time/Place:	Latrobe River Camping Area GPS Ref. 55H 402415/ 5806634
Vehicle Limit:	<i>Min: 4 Teams, Max: 10 Teams</i>
Grade:	<i>Easy to Medium</i>
Approximate Kms:	Up to Group
Last Available Fuel:	Noojee, near Yarra junction
Equipment:	Usual recovery gear
Maps:	Rooftops Maps, Vic Maps and any others you have will be an advantage
Radio Channel:	Channel 12

Trip Activities: Quite a few people have expressed an interest in some sort of GPS navigational event for the club. After competing in a few NavRun events I thought I would organise a NavRally for the VFWDC. This will be primarily a navigation event and secondly a driving event. What this means is that all you will need to compete is a 4WD with All Terrains a digital camera and a GPS. I will not be trying to find the biggest hills and the hardest tracks but the driving will still be interesting.

When you navigate your way to a co-ordinate you will be required to take a photo with your vehicle included as proof that you have found it. Cameras with a storage card of just about any description are preferred, but mobile phone cameras will also be accepted.

If you think you are skilled enough in the art of map reading then a GPS may not be necessary. (Special note for Ashley: This does not apply to you!)

Remember to put your names in the register if you intend to participate in these trips

Forthcoming Trips

Noojee Nav Run.. Continued

It will be a one day event starting at 9:00am and finishing up at 4:00pm. It is not a timed event and speeding or reckless driving will not be tolerated. Pack a lunch as you will need to eat it on the run.

You can participate on your own or you can team up with another vehicle if you wish. Maximum of two cars per team..

Tarra Bulga National Park

Date:	Friday 14 October—Sunday October 16
Trip Leader:	Mark Capper
Contact No:	TEL: 03 9706 3939 MOB: 0411 530 484
Destination:	Tarra Valley Caravan Park/Tarra Bulga National Park
Meeting Time/Place:	To be Confirmed
Vehicle Limit:	<i>Min: TBA, Max: TBA</i>
Grade:	TBA
Approximate Kms:	TBA
Last Available Fuel:	TBA
Equipment:	Usual recovery gear
Maps:	TBA
Radio Channel:	Channel 12
Trip Activities:	National Park walks and some four wheel driving.

Make sure you have completed a personal information sheet and are carrying it in your car

Annual Car Rally

Date:	Sunday 23 October
Trip Leader:	Dave and Rosalie Hughes
Contact No:	TEL: 03 9706 2966
Destination:	In the clues
Meeting Time/Place:	To be Confirmed
Vehicle Limit:	<i>As many as possible, the more the merrier</i>
Grade:	Wet—Easy, Dry Easy, Navigationally Challenged—Hard
Approximate Kms:	This is used to work out how many wild goose chases you went on so we cant really tell you at this stage
Last Available Fuel:	TBA
Distance Between Supplies:	This may depend on how lost you get
Equipment:	Lunch and a sense of humour
Maps:	Melways
Radio Channel:	Channel 12

Trip Activities: The car rally is an annual event that is a lot of fun for the whole family. For those that haven't been involved before, a list of directions is provided that may be subject to some interpretation. The idea is to get to the meeting point with the least number of wild goose chases and collect the largest number of items listed on the way. The rally is not a race, starting times are recorded and points will be deducted if you get there too quickly (i.e. no speeding will be allowed).

If you win you will be awarded a trophy and get to run the event next year. Good luck.

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"

Trip Reports

Noojee Day Trip—Sunday 27-Jul-05

Participants

- Ashley Martin and Lesley Peters (fearless leaders)
- Bas Swart and friend, Andre;
- Brian Martin and brave crew, Janice and Vanessa;
- Michael, Verylle Liberty and Elizabeth Rodger;
- Murray and Liz Ogden;
- Barry and Yvonne Hempston;
- Steve and Nicole Pitcher and friends;
- Peter and Jan Davies;
- Tony Waghorn;
- Paul Ryan (tail end Charlie)

...and that's after a couple of last minute apologies.

Track notes (Thanks Paul, as I wasn't paying attention)

- Down Lyrebird Track;
- Up Stringybark Track;
- Back around Lyrebird Road;
- Up Lays Track (had short muddy pinch);
- Braham Track;
- Oat Patch Track (Morning Tea);
- Ada Tree for walk;
- New Turkey Spur Track (with all the bumps and ruts and slide to bottom);
- main road to trestle bridge;
- thenHome

The story

A few days before Sunday 27 July, I convinced Liz to come along on her first club trip, assuring her that it was likely to be easy-peasy with not too many bumpy or scary bits. The

trip had been rated as easy and scenic so I was taking our Fearless Leader's word for it.

I bounced out of bed around 6.30am, got myself (sort of) organised with hot water and a few picnic food items, then looked for a crow-bar to lever Liz out of bed.

Liz and I met a cast of thousands at Lilydale McDonalds at 8.30am Sunday for our easy scenic drive around Noojee. People were finishing their breakfast and yacking about all manner of things, greeting those of us arriving late. Ashley thought we were the last to arrive and so we were awarded the honour of presenting this trip report. That got Steve and crew off the hook when he arrived a minute or two after us.

The Super Parma site on internet (recently notified on our very own club forum) rates the Noojee pub at number three. According to radio gossip on the road, the counter meal at the pub just up the way from Warburton is not too shabby either. But we where never to get to Noojee...there were too many distractions along the way.

The weather in the morning was mild and a bit windy with potential for rain and cold change later. Noojee isn't far away from Baw Baw and it's not surprising that people have taken to



chopping trees down in the area, I suspect as a way to keep warm prior to burning the timber;

Our convoy of 12 left McDonalds soon after 8.30am, and snaked its way towards Warburton along the Warburton

Highway. I wondered who the shorty forty and Suzi was in front of Brian but they turned off before Warburton, so that answered that little question. The convoy was back to a more manageable number.

The sun came out and I had to don the sunglasses, so things were looking up for the day. Liz had pictured a day stuck in the car, possibly with an occasional splash from a brown puddle interrupting her afternoon's viewing.

On a recent trip to Warburton with Pete, my Queenslander brother-in-law as passenger, we had stopped at the traffic light at Seville. There's a little Post Office on your left and next to that a paddock. On that occasion, I had a double look at the elephants grazing in the paddock and casually said to Pete,

'There's something you don't see every day.' The circus was in town much to the amusement of Sunday driving motorists.

So onward the convoy went passing goats, dogs, cattle, and even trout (farms) but no elephants. A bit disappointing but Ashley couldn't have been expected to organise everything!

The time passed with conversation over the radio with some suggesting that the nice red hot dog caravan for sale perched on the roadside somewhere around Yarra Junction would make a good tourer for Ashley and Lesley with the potential for ongoing income. But would it suit Lesley's top and/or glasses?

Just passed Warburton we turned right and stopped a safe area for the convoy to attend to air pressures and hubs. Ashley suggested that some of the tracks may be a little greasy so it wouldn't hurt to lower the pressure. Out came the Stuans, and as they hissed away I admired Brian's beautifully clean Landcruiser, the result of a thorough washing the day before. Never mind....it wasn't long before the gravel and clay turned back time for him.

We turned off the main drag onto Lyrebird track, obviously a favourite of our Fearless Leader's as we managed to loop it a couple of times. Was Ashley trying to lap tail end Charlie? Only time would tell. Generally the tracks were dry, with even a hint of dust puffing up at odds times. To keep the travelling interesting though, we managed to find enough bog holes and deepish puddles to keep those pesky flies off our diffs.

Just when I was getting used to spotting familiar trees and going around in circles, we hit our first fun, slippery challenge on Lays track...a short steep pinch with a nice and greasy clay top. The cameras came out, as one at a time we spun and slewed our way to the top of the pinch that was really only a few metres before the track dried out again. The whole thing was all a bit boring for poor old Paul who was looking for a real test for his newly shod Mickey T tyres, so just to show



off, Paul reversed down and did it again.

Further along on either Braham or Oat Patch Track we shook the clay off our tyres on a nice loose rocky slope. This was another one-at-a-time challenge that we all made without too much fuss. That was typical of the day really...mostly easy tracks that had the odd fun feature that required your attention.

Further along Oat Patch Track, just passed several splashes of Pink Heath, in a recently logged area with eucalypt saplings sprouting left, right and centre, we stopped for a trackside morning tea and chat around 11.15am.

So far we had seen a fair number of burnt trees with regeneration sprouting midway up tracks, majestic trees untouched, and desolate areas recently logged. These were all snapshots of the forest cycle.

Having just had morning tea, the next thing to do was have lunch of course, but were to earn our next break at the Ada tree. I had heard of the Ada tree only recently as a feature on a map, but what was it? We lobbied in to the car park, waited for the girls to avail themselves of the facilities, and set off on the 1.6km walk through a beautiful rainforest, spectacular trees, moss and tree ferns, on a beautiful, if not a little boggy, walk along the creek to the mysterious Ada tree. Well I still don't know what it is! I have seen it with my own eyes, read the speil about it on the information board (and subsequently on the internet) and marvelled at its size. This is one big beastie, and it used to be significantly bigger before the top blew off. So I know it's a big tree, but where did the 'Ada' come into it? Liz speculated that someone's Auntie Ada had it named after her, and I mooted that it sounded vaguely of Aboriginal origin so perhaps all



correspondence on this matter should go to our esteemed editors.

A quick lunch back at the car park and Ashley was getting fidgety looking like he had to hit the road, and that we did along to New Turkey Spur Track, this time with Tail End Charlie in the lead as Paul had a wild idea that he knew

where he was going. We all followed obediently and passed a large rock formation called the Turkey Eggs, to which one of the ladies on the trip commented, 'Ouch'.

It could have been this track or possibly an earlier one or two that

Trip Reports

Noojee Day Trip—Continued

Michael had to employ his tiny chainsaw. I was impressed with it anyway...sure beats handsaws. Yes, we cleared a couple of logs off the tracks while we were on this easy scenic trip. I suspect that Michael was a boy scout in his younger days...so prepared.

This little track was a beauty, with plenty of ruts, bumpy bits ('Hang onto the bar there dear, that's what it's for'), and a terrific toboggan slide at the end. 'Look, Liz, no hands!'

Some said goodbye at this point and the rest of us decided that we should really have a squiz at the old railway Trestle Bridge before calling it a day.

It's here the rest of us said our goodbyes and thanked our Fearless Leaders for a terrific day out and about. We had had a good variety of surfaces, scenery, and a well behaved convoy. Pity the rain didn't start half an hour earlier to loosen some of the mud around the wheel arches on the way home.

- Murray Ogden

Other Noojee facts

A little history...

Noojee township was first settled by gold prospectors in the mid 1860's. Tin was found in good quantities west of Noojee and a road was surveyed in 1878. This opened the area to farmers who selected land up to 15km north of the Latrobe River.

In 1919 the railway was built to Noojee. This allowed the sawmillers to operate in the area. As roads were in a very poor state, more than 200km of tramlines were built to link the mills to the railway station. At least 28 mills were in operation between 1919 and 1926, nearly all on privately owned land.

In February 1926, bushfire destroyed this area. In January 1939 bushfires devastated Victoria, and again razed Noojee. Large areas of forest were killed and a huge timber salvage operation commenced.

Toorongo Falls

The Toorongo Falls Reserve, near Noojee, is a picturesque area of 16 hectares beside the Toorongo and Little Toorongo Rivers in tall mountain forest. The main feature of the Reserve is a circuit walking track to the Toorongo Falls with a branch to the Amphitheatre Falls. The Reserve is managed by the DSE from its Noojee work centre.

The Toorongo Falls are a spectacular feature, particularly following heavy rain. A walking track leads to a viewing point on the way to the base of the falls. The track continues across to the Toorongo River, back to the car park. A branch track may be followed upstream to Amphitheatre Falls.

The walks beside the streams are most pleasant, with rock formations and many species of ferns. The main circuit is around 1800m in length and takes about an hour to walk. The open, grassy areas along the river near the entrance to the Reserve are popular for picnicing, barbeques and camping - ideal for families and large groups.

The Ada Tree

The Ada Tree, a giant Mountain Ash, is considered to be one of Victoria's largest trees. It towers over the surrounding rainforest in the headwaters of the Little Ada River north-east of Powelltown. The tree is accessible from Warburton, Powelltown or Noojee.

Around 270 years old, the Ada Tree stands about 76m in height with a circumference of 15m measured at 1.5m above ground level. Despite its age, the tree appears particularly healthy. It is thought that Mountain Ash can live for up to 500 years but reduce in height due mainly to strong winds. As they age, Mountain Ash commonly form hollows in which many forest-dwelling mammals and birds nest.

From the carpark on the Ada River Road, the tree can be reached by walking 1.6km along the delightful Island Creek walking track. The path meanders through cool temperate rainforest passing under grove of ancient Myrtle Beech, Sassafras and Soft Treefern. Another route to the tree is via the Federal Road, a walk about 2km along a track of easy grade. Strong-smelling Balm Mintbush lines much of the track. This plant produces beautiful flowers in spring.

Trip Reports

Snow Trip 05 to 07 August 2005

Trip Leader	: Carl & Bethany	GQ Patrol
Participants	: Carissa, Joe + Fam.	GU Patrol
	Anthony, Eileen + Fam	Prado
	Tim	Landcruiser
	Mark	Landcruiser
	Bas & Andrej	4Runner
	Chis	Hilux
	Steve & Jill	Landcruiser



Howitt Road



Mount Arbuckle

We all departed campsite at around 10:00AM on the Saturday morning, And proceeded up Tamboritha Road towards Bennison Lookout where the signs of the first snow for the day were. We stopped there for a moment for anyone who wanted to take photo's.

Once done, we got back on the road and headed up to Mount Arbuckle for some serious snow play, and the building of snow men. Snow balls were flying around fiercely and nearly everyone got hit at some time. There was a lot less snow there than the year before. But fun was had by one and all.

From there it was of to the Gorge car park for some morning tea, it was muddy there, and by the time we finished morning tea there was a river flowing down the car park. It was rather warm there.

Back on our way and backtracked to Arbuckle junction around to our left and followed Moroko Road, and followed this to Doolans Plain track, there was nothing to much plain about this track, it was well covered with lots of trees, and made for some challenging driving at times and the trees that could not be traversed were swiftly removed with chain saws. At the end of the track we had lunch, and for the adventurous there was Neilson Crag lookout 800mt up the hill, there was a pretend path to walk up. The view was great !



Neilson Crag Lookout



Carl hiding behind tree at Charlies Country

After lunch we backtracked towards B2 track, and after a couple of cars got stuck we got to practice some recovery skills, once free we arrived at an open area just above Charlies Country where some snow play continued, Carl took a real pounding from some snow balls.

Then alas it was time to start back down the mountain , and the one last trail for the day, where we collected some firewood for the night. We filled up a couple of cars with firewood, and headed back for camp.

It turned out a great day with plenty adventure for one and all.



National 4X4 Show and Fishing Show & Outdoors Expo



TWO GREAT SHOWS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

**Melbourne Exhibition Centre, Southbank
20-23 October 2005**

Discount Admission Tickets for Club Members

Adults: \$8.00 each
Children: \$3.50 each
Family Ticket: \$19.50 each

Now in its seventh year the show offers outdoor enthusiasts the opportunity to spy, try and buy the very latest in 4WD, fishing and camping gear.

This year's show has been tailored with the family in mind, so while mum and the kids head one way, dads should head the other and find displays and demonstrations by leading 4WD manufacturers such as Holden, Nissan, Toyota, Ford, and Jeep. Also, keep an eye out for fishing and camping key exhibitors such as Paddy Pallin, Boots Outdoor World, Kangaroo Tent City, Middle Harbour Marines, Andrew Short Marine, TR Marine, Hobie Cat, Australian Bass Angler, and Oceanic Diving.

*For mum there is plenty of expert advice on where and when to take your next family holiday, along with tips on cooking, camping and adventuring in the great outdoors. Kids will also be entertained and learn new things at **THE NATIONAL 4X4 SHOW AND FISHING SHOW & OUTDOORS EXPO.***

Fishing competitions, clowns, and interactive rock crawl demonstrations by the Tuff Trucks crew will keep children interested and amused for hours.

*Now with easy access parking **THE NATIONAL 4X4 SHOW AND FISHING SHOW & OUTDOORS EXPO** makes for a great day out. Last year thousands of people immersed themselves in the Australian outdoor way of life - indoors! The natural synergy between four wheel driving and fishing and camping ensures **THE NATIONAL 4X4 SHOW AND FISHING SHOW & OUTDOORS EXPO** offers visitors two great shows for the price of one!*

Members orders, together with full payment must be forwarded to the Secretary by mid September for submission to the organisers.

Note: Tickets will only be ordered and distributed upon payment of the required fee.