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Free Wheeling

www.vfwdc.com

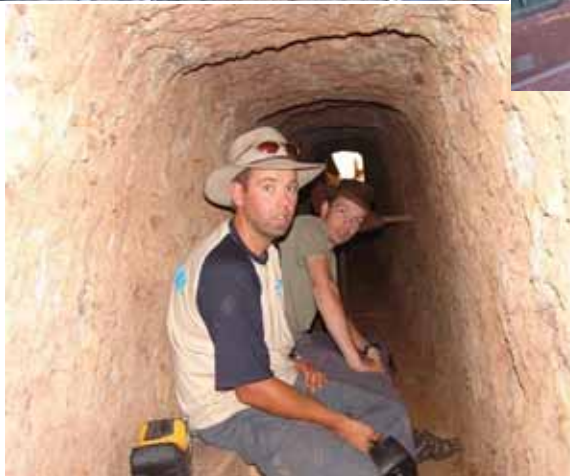
Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

"Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together"

Dargo 2005

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Assistant Secretary	Paul Ryan	0438 121 148

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Forward Articles and photos for the Newsletter to :-

Editor-vfwdc@tpg.com.au

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

CLUB DETAILS

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
Email:	gpl58456@bigpond.net.au
Meetings:	Held first Tuesday of each month excluding January (no meeting). November meeting is held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month due to Melbourne Cup public holiday.
Meetings Location:	Dandenong Library Stuart Street, Dandenong 3175

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

Presidents Report December 2005

Well hello and welcome everyone to which I know will be an exciting and interesting 2006.

For those of you who were fortunate to have Holidays, I hope you had a fantastic time. Rosalie and I were lucky enough to have a few days at Dargo for the New Years Eve Party. Although there were not many of us there, everyone had a great time.

Unfortunately Terry and Annie did not make it, due to a very sick "Big Dog" (Toyota). Lots of TLC required, read all about it in the trip report.

Many thanks to Laurie and Staff at Aussie Disposals of Frankston, for allowing us to hold our December Meeting there, and providing us with sausages and hamburgers on the BBQ with bread, salad and drinks. I know a lot of you spent your money wisely and received some great Bargains

Thank you to all the Members who helped out with the Christmas tree delivery's again this year; it was very much appreciated by Oxfam

This report is a little light on, but that is due to the break, and not a lot happening. But just let me say, let us all have a great time in 2006, and I look forward to meeting up with you all at the next few meetings

Over and Out

DADDIO



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

The Corner

Welcome back to our newsletter folks. I hope you will all enjoy what we have to offer you during the next twelve months of Free Wheeling. Please feel comfortable offering anything you think to be appropriate for any kind of article to be placed in the newsletter for all members to enjoy..

Here is a recipe I found in a recipe book from the Maryborough Country Women's Association. We found the book at the Talbot market....which is on the second Sunday of the month, a great one to visit. They close off all the streets in the centre of town. I then tried it out on Terry the other Sunday.....

HASTY PUDDING

60 grams butter
 1 tablespoon of butter
 30 grams flour
 2 eggs
 600 ml milk
 2 tablespoons jam..{it is preferable to use the spreadable jam}

Pre heat oven to 250 c
 Melt butter in a saucepan, add flour, and stir till smooth.
 Beat egg yolks with sugar, add milk.
 Add mixture to saucepan mixture.
 Cook for 3 minutes
 Pour into buttered pie dish
 Bake in oven until set.
 Spread the jam over pudding.
 Whip egg whites till stiff and fluffy
 Pile on top of pudding and dust with castor sugar.
 Place in oven till egg white is golden.

We found that this pudding is delicious, either hot or cold.

Enjoy. Annie

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
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Minutes of the General Meeting 06 December 2005

The meeting was held at Aussie Disposals Frankston and opened at 7.55pm by President David Hughes.

David started by thanking the staff at Aussie Disposals Lorenzo, Martin, Jason and Caroline for opening the store and allowing the club to hold its meeting there
Tea, coffee and a sausage sizzle were generously provided by Aussie Disposals.

PRESENT: 23 members present as per attendance book.

APOLOGIES: Verylle Rodger, Derrik and Janet Hymas, Lesley Peters, Brian Martin, Maxine Ryan.

VISITORS: Nil

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of the November meeting as per newsletter; due to most people not receiving the newsletter as yet this was left open.

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

- Invoices from the City of Greater Dandenong for hire of Library for 2005 to value of \$594.
- Membership renewal from Derek Hymas.
- Magazines from Otway Four Wheeler, Land Rover Owners Club, Toyota Land Cruiser Club, Cross Country Jeep Club, Pajers 4 Wheel Drive Club.
- Advertising from Anaconda, Trail and track and outlook.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

Letter to City of Greater Dandenong re dates for hiring of Library meeting room for 2006 and requesting invoice.

TREASURERS'S REPORT:

- Receipts \$417.50
- Membership \$210.00
- Raffle \$99.50
- Social \$108.00
- Payments \$135.85
- Postage etc \$38.50
- Raffle \$52.35
- Sundries \$45.00

Accepted....James and Ian

TRIP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT.

Trip to Collins Hut 27/12/05 to 2/1/06 it was suggested that an "early Australia theme" be adopted for a bit of fun.

Australia Day weekend 26th to 29th Jan, trip to the Macalister River run by Ashley.

Proficiency Training run by John , Theory night the 15th Feb and weekend 18th-19th Feb in Tallarook State Forest.

Labour Day weekend trip run by Anthony to the Grampians 11th-13th March

Full details of trips are in the Newsletter.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Graeme queried what is happening with track clearing, no more dates are available from VAFWDC. Maybe contact Parks in new year to check if any tracks still need clearing, Ashley raised the point that a chain saw certificate is needed to assist with track clearing.

The subject of the Newsletter was raised, ie. Mistakes, some parts missing, some articles not included. David said Steve had had hassles and hasn't had a lot of time to put into it, we will sit down with Steve and get it rectified, the venue for tonight's meeting wasn't right to go into great detail, to be discussed in the new year.

Roger wanted to know if trips were put on the Yahoo Web site who is going to authorize the trips, if a new member wants to lead a trip but is unsure he will need approval, if trip is put on Yahoo will it be covered by insurance?

The trip co-ordinator to monitor the Yahoo site.

David stated he would prefer the trips to be in the newsletter but if it can't be in in time to let him know of the trip. Will look into it further in the new year.

John told the meeting of setting up a forum style web site and for people to look at it.

Ashley queried how many doing the xmas tree delivery, so far 5 are participating anyone else notify terry.

Lorenzo Manager of Aussie Disposals Frankston then addressed the meeting and outlined the discounts available for the night.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm and everyone went shopping.

NEXT MEETING 7TH FEBRUARY 2006 AT DANDENONG LIBRARY

Committee Meeting Notes

Again questions were raised about why some articles or reports haven't made it to the magazine. The committee meeting addressed the issue and the following is a summary of the new procedures for submitting trip reports to the editor for inclusion.

- The Trip leaders are responsible for notifying the Editor of the names of the participants of their trip as soon as possible after the trip completion along with the name/s of those nominated to do the report/s.
- The trip report writers must include as part of their report: the published name and date of the trip along with details of the portion they are submitting. For example:

Hi Eds, here is my trip report from the Dargo Trip 29 December. I was asked by Dadio to do the Saturday report...

SATURDAY - NEW YEARS EVE

Well here we are..it is Saturday morning, New Years Eve, and hot, hot hot...once more.....

- Multi part reports will only be included once all parts are received.
- The editor is not required to ring contributors to chase articles but may do so if time permits.
- Trip Reports may be held over till future magazines at the editors discretion.
- The editor is not required to correct grammar or spelling but may assist if asked to do so. (some people express themselves purposely that way)

Club Calendar at a Glance

Date Of Trip	Destination (more detail in forthcoming trips)	Contact
7 February	Club Meeting—Dandenong Library	David Hughes
15 and 18-19 February	Proficiency Training—Tallarook State Forest	John Partridge 0428 331 211
7 March	Club Meeting—Dandenong Library	David Hughes
11-13 March	Grampians	Aline & Anthony Van Buiten 0413 784 703 or 0413 784 074
24 - 26 March	Burgoyne's Track/ Deep Creeks	Paul Ryan 9807 5193 or 0438 121 148
4 April	Club Meeting - Dandenong Plaza Meeting Room	David Hughes
29 Apr 2006 for 8 weeks	Kimberly - Western Australia	George Pledger 0427 547 402
Feb or Mar Exact Details TBA	Rock n Roll Dance	Ian Warburton



Upcoming Event

Proficiency Training

15th and 18th /19th February 2006

Trip Leader:	John Partridge
Contact No:	Mob: 0428 331 211
Destination:	Tallarook State Forest
Meeting Time/Place:	Saturday Lilydale McDonalds 830am
Vehicle Limit:	<i>Min: 3, Max: 10</i>
Grade:	<i>Wet: Medium Dry: Easy/Medium</i>
Approximate Kms:	100
Last Available Fuel:	Petrol/Diesel TBA
Equipment:	Basic recovery gear
Maps:	None
Radio Channel:	Channel 12

This is a great introduction to 4 wheel driving for the new members (and existing if they wish). The theory will be held on the Wednesday night in Notting Hill and will cover the basics of 4 wheeling. Theory will be conducted from 7.30 to approx 10pm.

Saturday will consist of a morning review, vehicle check followed by practical driving. Sunday will a drive around the area to put all the learning into practice.

Due to the Sunday being cancelled on the last proficiency training trip I encourage all participants on that weekend to come along on the Saturday or Sunday drive. .

Trip Leaders - its your responsibility to nominate a member to write the trip report.



Upcoming Event

Grampians

Labour Day weekend 11-13 March 2006

Trip Leader:	Aline & Anthony Van Buiten
Contact No:	Mob: 0413 784 073 or 0413 784 074
Destination:	Grampians
Meeting Time/Place:	Westgate Shell Service Station—time TBA
Vehicle Limit:	<i>Min: 3, Max: 10</i>
Grade:	<i>Wet: C Dry: C</i>
Approximate Kms:	100
Last Available Fuel:	Petrol/Diesel TBA
Equipment:	Basic recovery gear
Maps:	None
Radio Channel:	Channel 12

Easy relaxing weekend. For those who want to be adventurous we will be doing rock climbing/absailing in the beautiful Grampians, one of the most spectacular places to do this in Victoria. We will have expert guides to show us the ropes. The cost will be approx \$40 p/person but there is a discount if we get more than 10 people.

If this adventure is not your style, there are plenty of beautiful walks, waterfalls and nature reserves to discover. Halls Gap is a beautiful little tourist town that beckons the weary traveler stop for an ice cream or cappa.

Put your name down early to avoid disappointment.



Upcoming Event

Burgoyne's Track/Deep Creeks

24 - 26 March 2006

Trip Leader:	Paul Ryan
Contact No:	Tel: 9807 5193 Mob: 0438 121 148
Destination:	Burgoyne's Track / Deep Creeks
Meeting Time/Place:	Fri 24th March 6.00 PM at Officer Weighbridge
Vehicle Limit:	<i>Min: 2, Max: 8</i>
Grade:	<i>Wet: Extreme (won't be going) Dry: Hard</i>
Approximate Kms:	175
Last Available Fuel:	Petrol/Diesel Heyfield or Licola
Equipment:	Basic recovery gear - Front and Rear (rated) Recovery Points
Maps:	Rooftops Walhalla Noojee 2005 Activities Map
Radio Channel:	Channel 12

The plan is to camp up on the MacAlister river in the MacAlister Gorge Scenic Reserve on Friday night. This will mean an early evening (possibly night run) up Burgoyne's Track to get into the campsite. This track is steep and loose to get in and is definitely not trailer country. The same goes for Burgoyne's track out of the campsite therefore good tyres and plenty of clearance is advisable. We will head out of the Gorge on Saturday and make our way down to the Deep Creeks, probably via Fultons Tk. The plan is to drive one or two of the Deep Creeks (time allowing) and then camp overnight at either Aberfeldy bridge or Walhalla. Sunday, we may take in another of the Deep Creeks or just have a late start and leisurely drive back home.



Upcoming Event

Kimberley - WA

29 April 2006 for 8 weeks

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

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



Trip Report

Annual Car Rally

Sunday 23 October

Participants.

Barry and Yvonne.
 Ian and Daff
 David, Joanne and Family
 Barry and Helen
 James, Kathryn and Family
 Ian and Norm
 Andy and Isabel Riordon, with Daughter
 Angela.

The first car to leave left at 9am.

We left at 10am

This is the first car rally we have been on with the club..

We all met at Officer weigh bridge, and left here 10 minutes apart. The first car left at ten to nine, and we were the last to leave at ten to ten.

We went straight over the highway, then took the first turn to the right, got to the end of the road and missed the clues, so did a u`e and started again, there went our kms from the start.

We followed the directions and collected items along the way.

One of the items we had to collect was illama poo.

We were driving along, then Angela said " There are those things back there, like what is in McLeods daughters with the sheep" so Andy proceeded to do another u`e and went back. As we got there Angela said" Dad it is having a shit, so you can collect it fresh". I then laughed my head off and Andy had a slight grin on his face, but the decent old bloke he is, got out and collected some days old illama poo.

We were following the clues and missed a turn, so we were slightly off track, with a lot more kms clocked up, another u`e, Andy needed a toilet stop, while Angela and I did the womanly thing and went and asked for directions, to put us back on the right track.

During the morning and afternoon, we had

Rosalie ringing us to find out where we were. (Just secretly I think David and Rosalie thought that we would get lost, as we don't know our way in the Melbourne area, as we are from the outsticks and country bumkins.)

We completed the course and arrived at the destination at approximately 2pm, the last ones to arrive. We were about 2 hours behind everybody else.

We handed our sheets to Jackie and Rosalie, then awaited the outcome.

Rosalie read out the scores, starting with last and when it got to the last two, we nearly died because "Andy, Myself and Angela had won, " we couldn't bloody believe it.

Even Daddio was blown away.

The course was 82 kms long, and would you believe we did 105 kms, had 22 points deducted from our score and still won. I still don't know how we bloody did it.

So we now have to organise next years rally, it will be rather funny, if we have to do it in Melbourne.

I would like to thank all the participants for partaking of the Rally, and hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did.

On a serious note I would like to thank Rosalie, David, Jackie and Glenn for organising the day, we had a fantastic time. Thank you all.

Isabel Riordon.



Trip Report

Dargo - The Epic

Tuesday 27 December - Tuesday 3 January

A Holiday at Goanna Flats (AH'm)

Attendees

Anne & Leigh Pettigrew with ???
Yvonne & Barry Hempson, Jake and Sam
Dawn & Ray Brown with Sally Ann
Rosalie & David Hughes with Polly
Craig Shining Knight
Shaun Shining Knight
Damien Shining Knight

Scott from Albury Hut resident
Robert from Albury Hut resident

Tuesday 27th December 2005

We left Endeavour Hills at 9:30am and took mum home to Morwell. We arranged to meet Yvonne and Barry at Traralgon (12:45pm) where we obtained last minute supplies as usual. We decided that we would have lunch in Stratford at the Bakery.

We were optimistic of being at camp and set up

by 4:30pm and a relaxing evening around the campfire, not so. We came across an enormous tree across the track, 200 metres from camp, which stopped us in our tracks.

Leigh and Barry pondered for a while as to how to move this gynormous tree. (Leigh had a small chainsaw and Barry an axe). Out came the chainsaw, which became jammed in the tree, then out came the axe and the high lift to free the chainsaw.

Three young guys (younger than us) had come across the tree and had heard the chainsaw as they were trying to make a track to the river and around the tree to no avail, a few too many deep spots in the river, they decided it was time for a swim as they were hot and bothered, they returned to see who was trying to clear the tree that they had come across earlier that day.



Trip Report

Dargo - continued



The five wise MEN put their heads together and worked out a plan of how to get to our camp. Some 3 ½ hours later the track was passable (Thanks to Craig, Shaun, and Damien from Berwick, Carrum Downs, and Langwarrin). These guys were sure organised. (The photos were courtesy of Shaun). If you guys had not turned up, we would have probably spent our time at the Caravan Park.



Connecting three vehicles together to move the tree.

We finally got to camp and invited the boys to camp with us for the night. A few cold beers, Yvonne, and Anne started to set up camp followed with some help later (much) by Barry and Leigh after a few more beers. Craig, Shaun, and Damien went for a swim to cool off. When all were relaxed and cool either from the swim or beer dinner was had at 10pm, by 11pm all were done and it was called a day.

Wednesday 28th December 2005

We did not get much sleep last night as a very strong blow came up overnight. I looked out the window of the Van and discovered that we had no Annexe. Leigh had decided that he would put it up "Free Standing" until the next morning as he was bugged after "The Tree", not a good idea.

Looks like a lazy day today, very hot, undertook repairs and Leigh put the annexe up properly. By this time, it was lunchtime, after which we headed for the river for swim. The boys decided to spend a few days camped with us, and spent most of it in the river swimming with the aid of some "Dishes" as they were very cleanliness conscience.



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



Trip Report

Dargo - continued

The lads decided to investigate the mine.



Leigh set up the shower for Yvonne and Anne, and Barry and Leigh joined in, as they did not have one last night after their efforts. A shower has never felt so good. Leigh tried out his new "Toy" so we had a spit roast and vegies for tea. The lads had spaghetti (cooked enough for an army) Sam and Jake had the leftovers. This was followed by a sit around the campfire where we got to know our new friends better, complete with the usual stall stories and frivolity as the night progressed.

David (Dadio) has decided to invent a table the will repel the fly's and insects, his thoughts provided much entertainment (AH'm).

Anne and Leigh

Thursday 29 December 2005

Well the morning started early for me as our two dogs (Jake and Sam) decided they wanted to go for an early morning walk - so there I was at 5.30 a.m. going for my daily walk. The morning was beautiful and you could see that it was going to be another very warm day ahead. The Kookaburras were calling to each other and laughing, probably thinking, look at that stupid person walking at this hour of the morning! Of course bed called as soon as I got back.

The three guys who had been sharing our campsite with us, left about 7.15 a.m. as they wanted to be home before lunch.

Anne, Leigh, Barry and myself all surfaced about 8.30 a.m., together, of course, with Jake and Sam. Whilst Anne and Leigh decided what they were having for breakfast, Barry, myself and the dogs went for another walk and when we returned Anne and Leigh had finished their brekkie. Barry and I had a leisurely breakfast and then set to tidying up our camp. Anne was busy with her daily chores whilst Leigh decided he should have a look at his chainsaw.

We had a very lazy day today, doing just what we all felt like.

Mid-afternoon Dawn, Ray and Sallyanne arrived and set up their campsite, then they too relaxed for a while.

Next came water duty for the shower, so Barry and I took the buckets and visited the river, where our dogs had a ball of a time swimming around and cooling off. After we got back with



Trip Report

Dargo - continued

the water, it was time for our pre dinner drinks and snacks. A very important time of day for all.

Rosalie, David and Polly arrived about 9.30 p.m. (which surprised all of us, as we were not expecting them until the early hours of Friday). We were all just sitting around the camp fire enjoying each other's company, until it was shattered by the noisy arrival of the Hughes'. Once David had decided where he wanted to set up camp, they got busy sorting themselves out, whilst Polly joined us at the campfire.

Once the Hughes' had settled themselves in, it was almost time for bed, so after chatting and catching up on the news of how Terry's car was coming along, we all gradually made our way to bed.

Friday 30 December 2005

I'm not sure in which order anyone got up this morning, but the camp gradually came to life and everyone busied themselves with getting breakfast and then tidying up and doing the usual chores for the day.

It promised to be a very hot day again and we all decided another lazy day seemed to be in order. David, Rosalie, Ray and Dawn went into Dargo late morning and when they returned, it was decided that after lunch we would go to the river to cool off and have afternoon tea there.

Barry and I decided to stay back at camp for a while and then followed later with the dogs.

We all enjoyed ourselves in the river; it was so cool and lovely. Jake, Sam and Polly were having fun swimming around – I believe

Sallyanne had had a swim earlier and was now relaxing by the cars.

We returned to camp about 5.00 p.m. and after having showers, it was time again for pre dinner drinks and snacks.

A very pleasant evening followed around the campfire until it was time for bed.

I would just like to say thank you to Anne, Leigh, Dawn, Ray, Rosalie and David for making it such a pleasurable time.

Yvonne and Barry Hempston

SATURDAY - NEW YEARS EVE

Well here we are..it is Saturday morning, New Years Eve, and hot, hot hot...once more.

Every one is up and breakfast is over with. David, Ray and myself are going into town, yes that's right..Dargo...before the shop closes for the day due to a funeral, and the pub is closed also.....till 12.30. We need to buy some bread for David and Rose, and David has asked us to get ice for everyone.....at \$2.50 per bag.

As we are coming back down the track, Ray radioed David to tell him he had forgotten to get beer, and it is only 9.15, so back to camp to put the ice in the eskies, a cuppa, the Ray and Leigh

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 Report

Dargo - continued

went into town to get the beer and drinks for Anne.

They had to wait for the pub to open because of the funeral. In the meantime, David, Rose, Anne, Yvonne and Barry went down to the river for a swim and lunch, while I waited at camp for the boys to return. { 2 HOURS LATER..!! }..before we were able to join the others at the river for a swim.

About 6.30, we all decided it was time to go back to camp to get the coals happening for our roast dinner, some in camp ovens and Leigh had a new spit roaster. Nibbles were shared around, with a couple of drinkies,

Dinner was cooked and ready to eat at about 10, and all finished by a little after 11, so there wasn't long to wait to see in the New Year. We had been joined at the campfire by 2 nice young men who had been camping near the river, so they stayed and saw the New Year in with us.

Looking around the campfire, all were tired, well fed, and enjoyed a good day swimming and relaxing at the river.

We saw in the New Year, and i was the first to go to bed at around 12.30, followed not far behind by everyone else....all out and asleep by 1.30...EVEN DAVID AND RAY!!!

SUNDAY 1st January 2006

Once everyone had finished their breakfast, we drove into town to get some icecreams, and some ice. The shop had a sign on the outside door that it had sold out of ice, so we went over to the pub for a drink or three, and to get some ice....HA!!!!HA!!!

It had been extremely hot for 2 or 3 days..so no ice at the shop..the pub was selling it for \$7.20 per bag...We all decided we didn't need ice that badly.!!!

So...back into the cars, and back home to camp for supplies, then down to the river afain for lunch and lots more swimming..

Mr and Mrs Goanna had been around camp for the last couple of days, and were around again today for a walk, and to check up on the goings on.

Early dinner, dishes done, and I had said good night to all by 10.15..another great day at Dargo..

Thanks to all for the great company..

Dawn and Ray

Monday 2nd January 2006

Ray and Dawn were first on the move today with Barry and Yvonne not far behind. I was up at 8am when nature called, but went back to my bed. David rose not long after with Leigh and Anne, technically I was last to rise just after 9am. Nobody was in a great hurry to move today, so all had a leisurely breakfast.

After breakfast, Anne got to work with the shovel and rake. Therefore, I decided I had better help. Then we shamed some of the others into helping, so we tidied the fire area, moved the wood heap, and spread all the old ashes out, cut the grass as well as we could. Ray and Dawn were packing up when Leigh noticed water going everywhere at Ray's camper. The hose to the water pump in the camper had come off. Then to add insult to injury the car would not start (perhaps he should have had a Nissan) consensus being the new dual



Trip Report

Dargo - continued

battery system maybe wired A about P.

David and I went into Dargo for more ice (selling for \$7 a bag on New Years day at the pub as the General Store had run out) and to make some phone calls. On the way back Mondo came on the radio that they were ready to leave, so we met them up the top of the track to say goodbye.

Then back to camp where we had lunch then off to the river for a swim. My family would not believe the amount of time I have spent in the river this trip. After a swim, it was back to camp and showers had by all.

By this time, Leigh had the meat going on the spit over the fire and yes that is right, we had another Spit Roast for dinner tonight. So after mains, it was dessert. Anne made a Banana and Sultana cake, her first attempt at making a cake in the Camp Oven, and what a great attempt it was. We all had it with Custard and Brandy Cream and all enjoyed the cake. Once the dishes were done, the majority headed for bed . Another enjoyable day had by all.

Tuesday 3rd January 2006

Everybody rose at various times again this morning. Nobody was in any great hurry to pack up and start the trek home. We all had an easy breakfast before starting the ominous task of packing up. The three camps were ready to leave at various times. It was about 1pm before the three vehicles rolled out of "Goanna Flats" for the end of another great few days break for some and longer for others.

First stop before heading home was the Dargo

Winery for a top up of port and Chardonnay.

We have finally run out of excuses to prolong the agony of heading for the big smoke.

The Landcruiser and two Nissans travelled together to Stratford where we stopped for a rather late lunch. It was hear that Anne and Leigh left us to head to Morwell for tea with Leigh's Mum and they were going to stay the night. David had a call of nature so Barry and Yvonne headed off and we would catch them up.

We had a good run most of the way, as the traffic was not very heavy. Things were going along nicely until we passed through Kilmany, when a blue apparition went flying past us. So I was on the radio telling Barry he had lost something from his roof rack. David and I could not agree on where it had come from. By the time we pulled over and Barry checked it had not come off the roof, but out the window of the car. After some discussion, again Barry hoofed it down the road to find it. He had quite a work out.

Whilst sitting in the non-movement position Anne and Leigh caught up again, they had stopped in Sale for petrol, so after another short roadside discussion, they headed off as their plans had changed, and after tea in Morwell, they had to continue on home.

Once Barry arrived back with the wayward pillow we were back on the move. From here, it was an uneventful trip home. Thank you to everybody for a great few days together. And so ends another Collins Hut New Years Eve (AH'm) Rosalie and David.