



Reg No A0002184F

March 2006

Free Wheeling

www.vfwdc.com

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

"Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together"

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Fire In the Grampians



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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President	David Hughes	
Vice President	Steve Boyle	0411 129 427
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Secretary	George Pledger	0427 547 402
Assistant Secretary	Paul Ryan	0438 121 148

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

New Member Contact	Ian Warburton	0409 797 675
Web Manager	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784 074
Librarian	James Holden	9755 5790
Trip & Events Co-ordinator	Ian Webber	0428 518 552
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
	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
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	Annie Simpson	

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 March 2006

Hello and welcome again to another exciting edition of Free Wheeling.....

We have some very exciting trips coming up such as; The Grampians, Burgoyne's track, the Kimberley's, and many more to come.

On that note I would like to point out some of the responsibilities of trip leaders.

I don't want to scare anyone off being a trip leader, quite the opposite. We have some very good trip leaders. But we need more, and by outlining some of the responsibilities it should make it easier for new members to follow.

The trip leader may delegate individual tasks to a member {or members} of the trip, but the final responsibility remains with the trip leader. Before commencing any trip, it is the trip leaders' responsibility to make sure that the level of ability and knowledge of each participating member is appropriate to the level of difficulty of the trip, and that the vehicles are also suitable for the trip. It is also the trip leaders' responsibility to nominate a member to write a trip report. There is a lot more to go into, but this is a start of the basic responsibilities of a trip leader.

Once again we have had devastating fires in all different directions of the state, and volunteers are wanted. The coordinator of the volunteer program in the Grampians fire region is very keen to have four wheel drive clubs help in their rehabilitation program over the Labour Day weekend.

I know we already have a trip planned for that weekend, but seeing it is in the same area we might be able to help or maybe we can have two trips. There is also a working bee on the border track on the 6th, 7th, and 8th of May which we will talk about at our next meeting.

Due to work commitments, I have not had a lot of time on hand and I am writing this report a little bit later than what I probably should. On that note I will say bye for now, and take care.

Over and out ... **Daddio.**



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

The Corner

Here is a recipe I am sure you will enjoy...

MANGO CHICKEN CURRY

- 1 tablespoon oil
- 4 chicken thigh cutlets
- 4 drumsticks
- 1 red onion sliced
- 1 red capsicum sliced
- 2 cloves of garlic, crushed
- 2 tablespoons finely grated ginger
- 2 tablespoons chicken gravy powder
- ¼ cup chicken stock
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 400g can of mango slices, drained and chopped
- 1 and a half tablespoons mild curry powder
- 2 cups of water
- 2/3 cup sultanas

- Heat oil in a large fry pan and cook chicken over a medium high heat for 10 minutes till well browned.
- Remove from heat, and set aside.
- Add onion and capsicum to pan, and cook for 3 minutes.
- Add garlic, curry powder and ginger and cook for a further minute.
- Return chicken to pan.
- Combine gravy mix, concentrated chicken stock, water and brown sugar, and pour over chicken. Bring to the boil, reduce heat, cover and simmer for 25 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add sultanas and mango pieces, and cook for a further 5 minutes, stirring occasionally until sauce has thickened, and the chicken is cooked through

Serve with steamed rice.. Hope you all enjoy this

anniesinternet1@iprimus.com.au. If you have any suggestions for recipes or bits for the magazine ..Annie..xoxox
anniesinternet1@iprimus.com.au

VFWDC MERCHANDISE

For Sale

New Club Polo Shirts	\$25.00 ea
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New Club Caps	\$15.00 ea
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Minutes of the General Meeting 7th February 2006

The meeting was held at the Dandenong Library and opened by the President, David Hughes who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PRESENT: 40 members present as per attendance book.

APOLOGIES: Verylle Rodger, Yvonne Hempston, Judy Ralph, Paula Johnston, Maxine Ryan, Tania Utting, Jill Boyle, Liz Beaton, Lisa Petrou, Aline Van Buiten, Derick and Janet Hymas.

VISITORS: Ian introduced the following visitors who were welcomed to the meeting : Kelly Adrian, Petrice Lovell, Damian Manning-Clark, Andrea Savage, Craig McHugh.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of the previous meeting as per newsletter.
Accepted: Ian.....Dawn.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: Michael Rodger pointed out that the wrong name was printed for a query he had put forward at previous meeting, it seems I used his surname instead of his christian name, apologies to Michael.

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

Publications <
Land Rover Owners Club
Pajero 4WD Club
Toyota Land Cruiser Club
Eureka Echo
Cross Country Jeep club x2
Coastline
Treadlightly
Network News
Westprint Outback News
Otway Four Wheeler
2006 Queensland Outback Travellers Guide

Advertising
Anaconda
Firebrix
Warraweena Conservation Park S.A.
Bendley Ranges S.A. CD included
Tallarook 4x4 Roundup
Dandenong Ranges 4wd club
TLC International (reversing cameras)
ARB

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

Cheques to Ian Warburton and Ian Webber

Also contacted by Dandenong Council on 10th January advising that the Library meeting room would be unavailable on the 4th April as it had been double booked and we would need to find a new venue for our meeting, after much discussion we were offered the Dandenong Plaza meeting room which is basically across the road.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance at 30/11/05	\$8841.20
Receipts Membership	\$145.00
Social	\$303.00
Total	\$9289.20

Payments	
Social (christmas party)	\$87.45
Hall Hire	\$594.00

Petty Cash	\$112.55
Cheque Account	\$3403.09
Term Deposit	\$5249.31
Total	\$8764.95

Report for 31/1/06

Payments;	
Social xmas party	\$107.00
Petty Cash	\$112.55
Cheque Account	\$3335.62
Term Deposit	\$5522.17
Total	\$8970.34

Accepted; Graeme Ralph Barry Hempson.

TEA DUTIES: Thanks to Annie and Mark

RAFFLES TICKETS: Thanks to Aaron



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

TRIP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT: Ian Webber

Proficiency training 15th Feb and 18th 19th Feb.

15th to be theory night then 18/19 practical. John gave an outline of the training and location as Tallarook or Toolangi, Full details as per magazine.

Anthony gave a talk on the proposed Grampians trip on the Labour Day weekend 11th to 13th March, he has contacted Parkes about access due to the recent bush fires and the trip is still going ahead and then spoke on the absailing part of the weekend, full details as per the magazine.

Burgoynes track 24th to 26th March.

Paul gave an outline of the proposed trip and read a recent report from the Pajero 4wd Club magazine outlining the condition of the track, full details as per magazine.

29th April Kimberley trip, George

3 vehicles signed up for the trip, duration 8 weeks.

No report from the association however there will be a Regional General Meeting at Rawson on 4th March hosted by Latrobe Valley 4wd Club.

Tallarook 4x4 roundup 29th-30th April trying to get most 4 wheel drives in one place.

TRIP REPORTS: David gave a good description of the Dargo trip, no work was done on the hut as terry was unable to get there with the equipment, it was also too hot so nothing was done apart from sitting in the river to keep cool.

Dawn requested information on the Rock & Roll dance. Nothing has been finalized as yet, not sure if it can fit in the schedule, will probably be held at Glenburn if a band can be found.

Dawn gave a lively description o the Tamworth country festival, apparently she enjoyed it.

David asked if anyone had lost a collapsable table.

Tea break at 8.50pm.

Raffle was drawn; Gary won a fire extinguisher

Brian won a headlamp

Colin won a chair

GENERAL BUSINESS:

David thanked Henry Burman of Henry Burman design for designing and donating new letter head for the club and thank you to Leslie for getting it done. A letter of thanks to be sent.

Ian Warburton is putting together an appeal for victims of the bush fires in the Stawell area, if anyone has any old tools etc contact Ian.

Ashley noted the article from the committee meeting re editor not chasing up on articles from the newsletter, spelling etc thought it was editors job.

David replied we are addressing issues with the newsletter and trying to get it running better, the article is a guide to assist the editor put the magazine together. Trip reports to be submitted as per guide in newsletter. Leslie raised an objection to the colourful language in one of the trip reports. This to be addressed at next committee meeting.

David raised the issue of advertising trips on the Yahoo website and who authorizes trips, if members want to lead trips where possible trip should follow usual channels and put in newsletter, if spur of the moment David or Ian to be notified first then place on Yahoo, 1st time trip leaders to be aware of guidelines. Michael took it one step further to include recce trips, do they need to be approved? David replied for insurance

reasons we need to know who is on recce trip.. Michael E-mail to trip co-ordinator re recce will suffice. Club members only because of insurance. Ashley asked if approval system is being reviewed. David.. we are looking at the whole issue.

David asked Ashley about the 1st aid course, replied require a minimum 8 people on the course, sister is ready to go, looking at running the course outside in camp or caravan park. Ashley to sent article for newsletter.

The club library is going to be updated and also a new clothing supplier is being looked at hope to have samples for next meeting.

Paul gave a report on the Australia Day weekend trip to Rums Flat near Licola.

Congratulations to Carrissa and Joe on the birth of new baby boy Nicholas, born 7th January. Good to see Barry back on his feet after a recent operation.

NEXT MEETING DANDENONG LIBRARY 7TH MARCH 2006

Meeting closed 9.50pm.

Club Calendar at a Glance

Date Of Trip	Destination (more detail in forthcoming trips)	Contact
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

Members Contributions

Donation of Tools for Fire Victims - Ian Warburton asked the meeting to have a bit of a dig around in their sheds for tools that they are willing to donate to the victims of the recent fires. Anything that is in reasonable condition will be gratefully accepted. Please contact Ian to arrange collection or drop off.
0409 797 675

The Dandenong Ranges FWDC is holding a 4x4 swap meet on Sunday 5th March.

If anyone has got any gear they want to try to sell let me know, I am considering taking a site and trying to sell a few bits and pieces.

I was also thinking about entering the Show and Shine contest which is going to be held there but I can't afford enough polish to make the truck look good! Steve Boyle

Your Club Magazine

This is the Club magazine and its content should be decided by *ALL* its members. If there is something you feel was inappropriate, drop me an email. Equally if you have a positive comment, drop me an email. Your feed back will help the committee get a grip on the standards that *ALL* its members require for their magazine. Ed. (Steve Utting)



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 cuppa.

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

RUMPFES Flat

Australia Day Weekend
Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 January 2006

Participants

Ashley & Lesley	GU Patrol
Paul, Maxine, Robert & Madeline	80 Series
Anthony, Aline, Riley & Connor	Prado
Ron and Margaret	Troopy
Joe, Carissa, Ashley, Aaron, Lachlan & Nicholas	GU Patrol
Derek & Janet	Disco
Brian (aka Happy)	100 Series
Maggie	Prado
Colin & Shane	80 Series

Thursday, 26th January 2006

Lesley and I had tickets to see Billy Connolly on the Thursday night, but managed to swap with Paul's friends for the Tuesday night instead. (Great show by the way.) This meant we could leave on Thursday as long as my manager let me have Friday off. Late Thursday afternoon all was clear to leave. Paul and I decided on a leisurely departure time so we would be traveling during the afternoon heat in airconditioned cars.

We left just after 12noon, stopping several times for fuel and lunch, eventually making it to Licola around 3.30pm. From there it was an easy 45 minutes to the camping ground where we found the Van Buitens, the Galovics, Ron

Let's start of by saying that yet again we didn't make it to the Macalister. With the current bush fires burning in the Rawson area and the expected weekend temperatures, it was decided to change the venue for safety concerns. It was another hard day at work (club business of course) deciding where to go and then contacting everyone. Over the Christmas period, Paul and I found a nice camping area on the Skene Creek and decided that this would be better suited due to the access. Everyone had been notified and so it was time to get on with the work that I get paid for.





Trip Report

RUMPFES Flat - continued

and Margaret, Maggie, Brian, and Derek and Janet already set up and trying to keep out of the heat. I was surprised there were no other campers there – but definitely not disappointed.

After the usual “discussion” on where to put the trailer and at what angle and... we reached into the fridge for a cold refreshment and joined the group relaxing in the creek.

As the original destination was only approx an hour away, Anthony and others had gone for a drive to check it out. As the Macalister was only a trickle and the camping area would have been a tight squeeze, it was obviously we had made the right decision to camp at Rumpffs Flat.

It was a total fire ban so cold meat and salads seemed to be the preference for dinner. After dinner the evening was spent relaxing, and by the time we went to bed it was cool enough to sleep.

Many thanks to all for attending.

My last couple of trips have been last minute chaos trying to re-organize things. Thanks everyone for their patience while I decided whether to change the destination and then find a new one.

Ashley

Friday, 27th January 2006

We awoke to a cloudy, muggy day which everyone seemed to decide was best spent staying around the campground. A couple of radios went on early to check the fire ban status.

As most people else sat by their tents and trailers, Brian kicked a ball with several of the kids. There was some slow traffic between tents as a few raised enough energy to visit their fellow campers.

As the morning went on and the heat and humidity increased, the trips to the creek became more frequent. But things still ticked over slowly.

There was a burst of energy just after lunch when Derek, Brian, Ashley, Joe, Anthony and Paul dug out the old fire and cleared the area around it. It appeared that it hadn't been cleared out for a long time and it was full of junk that had accumulated through several camps and many buckets of ash, dirt, rocks and odd bits of metal were filled and emptied.

The new fire place was impressive and, with the fire ban lifted, it needed some wood so the fire place crew went off to collect firewood. With two chain saws going, they cut more than could be loaded on to Derek's roof rack and had to leave some at the side of the track. Not to be wasted, it was picked up the next day by those who had gone out for a drive.



While the guys were away collecting wood, some of the gals reminisced as three week old Nicholas was being bathed by Carissa.

During the afternoon, Colin and his son arrived. Later, they went fishing and caught some trout for tea.

By the middle of the afternoon, a larger group had congregated in the creek to watch Joe having his hair attended to by his own personal hairdresser – Lachlan.

There were several styles to choose from and Joe had a face to match each one.

As we sat in the creek's cool waters, the clouds were gathering overhead and thunder heralded the approach of a storm from the east. Oddly, when it



arrived and the rain began to fall, the group jumped out of the creek and hurried back to camp and the shelter of tarpaulins and awnings. For the next couple of hours, we just peeked out at our fellows across the campground as heavy rain fell.

The rain stopped just after most people had finished dinner, so the fire was lit and the evening was spent swapping jokes and good-humoured insults around the campfire. The numbers thinned as the night went on and the stars began to disappear behind more clouds. Those who made it

to the end of the evening were sent off to bed when the rain returned.

Derek Hymas**Saturday, 28th January 2006**

It was good weather for driving so we decided to go for a short trip in the direction of Jamieson. After a lunch break on the Rumpff Saddle, six vehicles attempted the short but deceptive Barkly River Jeep track. This adrenaline raising little link track has something for everyone – narrow track, steep incline, deep wheel ruts, rock ledges, sharp switch backs with the camber all the wrong way, and some big holes as well. The four drivers who managed to go all the way were rewarded with a short stop in a magnificent snow gum and snow grass meadow, before descending to join the rest of the vehicles on the Hayfield Jamieson Road for a gentler return to the campsite. The cooler weather allowed us a campfire at last.

Sunday, 29th January 2006

So long and thanks for all the fish.

Most vehicles returned to Melbourne in the late morning. Margaret and Ron decided to stay one

more night – to catch those elusive fish. We emptied the fridge to make room for all the fish, and were just packing up when the sound and light show began followed by heavy rain. This made for a wet pack up early Monday morning – but the fish didn't seem to mind at all!

Ron and Margaret**Sunday, 29th January 2006**

The last day of our trip and it was a beautiful sunny morning. I felt a bit sad that we were leaving after a great weekend. We really enjoyed this camp site. There was a lot of room for other people to stay, and the small river that ran through the back of the camp was refreshing, particularly after cleaning out the campsite fireplace. On the Thursday this had taken six of us to clear out – it was very messy with tins, bottles and broken glass. But when we finished it was well worth it as everyone said how clean it looked and were happy to sit around a clean camp fire place. After we had breaky, we started packing up. Once we finished we went around and said our goodbyes. Our family had a great time and I think everyone else did too. See you on the next trip.

Joe, Carissa and family.

Fire In the Grampians, My Home

It all started with an email on the Friday saying there was a fire on Moyston West Rd. Hmm I thought, that is not far from my house. We rang friends John and Jennifer on Saturday before we headed away for the weekend to Warburton and Marysville.

Everything is fine we were told. However by this time the Mt Lubra fire had started.

On Sunday evening we received a call from a friend in the CFA at Stawell. The fire had come across this side of the mountain and was traveling fast towards Moyston. It was too late to call John and Jennifer so we waited till Monday morning to phone.

By now the reports were coming in thick and fast as to the situation in the Grampians. Things were not sounding too good. Late Monday evening we found out that John and Jennifer had lost their house. As roads were closed to all traffic up that way we had to wait until Tuesday before we could head up to my house.

Good news. My house was still there.

The fire was put out by the CFA 500 metres from the side of my house. In front of the house the fire continued on it's aggressive path just 400 metres from the house. As you can tell we were very lucky. When you looked from the veranda all you could see was black.

The damage that has been caused up here is incredible, however I still have a house.

Thanks to Annie and Patrick who called.

Lyz