



Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A0002184F

OCTOBER 2006



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

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President's Report

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2006-2007

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| President | Ashley Martin | 0438 600904 |
| Vice President | Mark Capper | 0411 530484 |
| Treasurer | Craig Major | 0432 876699 |
| Secretary | Paul Ryan | 0438 121148 |

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Assistant Secretary | Derek Hymas | 0438 259605 |
| Trip Coordinator | John Patridge | 0428 331211 |
| Events Coordinator | James Holden | 0433 399315 |
| Training Coordinator | Michael Rodger | 0412 530666 |
| Newsletter Editor | Julie Capper | 0411 530464 |
| Association Delegate | John Patridge | 0428 331211 |
| Training Officers | Mark Kochan | 0412 544668 |
| | Ashley Martin | 0438 600904 |
| | John Partridge | 0428 331211 |
| | Michael Rodger | 0412 530666 |
| New Member Contact | Mark Capper | 0411 530484 |
| Web Manager | Anthony Van Buiten | 0413 784074 |
| Librarian | James Holden | 0433 399315 |

Forward Articles & Photos for the Newsletter to:-

editor@vfwdc.com

Please forward all contributions prior to the 20th of each month

CLUB DETAILS

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Registered Name: | Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc |
| Registration No: | A002184F |
| All Correspondence: | The Secretary VFWDC Inc PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3173 |
| Web Site: | www.vfwdc.com |
| Meetings: | Held first Tuesday of each month excluding January (no meeting). The November meeting is held on the 2 nd Tuesday of the month due to Melbourne Cup public holiday. |
| 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

Hello and welcome to another month of *Free Wheeling*.

Those who attended the September meeting would have enjoyed the talk given by Katherine Hill from Erica DSE. Katherine discussed many aspects where we as a club can assist in improving the area for all users. Also raised was the support needed for carers of injured animals. These carers require people with 4WDs to help them enter areas that they are unable to access. We are obtaining more information on this issue which we will include in the newsletter. Early next year we will organise a working weekend to assist the DSE in clearing a walking track to the Toombon Mine. We frequently visit this area so it will be great to help with the occasional project.

At the recently held training course, we assisted Noel Lees with the erection of signs advising users of Merringtons, O'Tooles and Little O'Tooles of the Camping Code of Ethics. This involvement goes a long way to building a good working relationship with DSE and all Four Wheel Drive Clubs. I was disappointed to see the destruction of both O'Tooles and Little O'Tooles by irresponsible people doing burn-outs on the grass. I would not be surprised if both camping areas are closed to help revegetate the grass before summer. Strangely enough, it is these people who will be the first to complain when the areas are closed. Remember if you see any such acts of vandalism, take a photo, record the number plate, location, date, and time, then report the incident to either DSE or the local Police. The new hoon laws now apply for those who are caught and their vehicle will be confiscated.

Mark Capper has arranged a tour of the Dandenong CFA for the November meeting which will be held on 14 November due to Cup Weekend. This should give a good incite into the running of such an organisation and they will no doubt have some great tips for all of us, be it at home or when we are camping.

As Christmas is getting closer, don't forget the Club Christmas Party to be held at Gilwell Park. We are pleased to have chef extraordinaire Peter Petrou back on deck to cook the spit – as only he can do – along with all those yummy vegies (sorry John!), all of which makes for a great feed and a great day. Don't forget Santa will be coming along during the day to visit the kids and will hopefully bring a few presents for those who have been good (me included).

We are looking for trip leaders for the Christmas holiday period. Are you planning on an adventure somewhere which would be suitable for the Club? If so, please speak to John.

Don't forget the forthcoming trips. There's a variety to suit all members, so support the trip leaders and put your name on the list.

See you on the next trip – or at the next meeting.

Ashley Martin
President

Minutes of the General Meeting – September

The meeting was held at Dandenong Library and opened by President Ashley Martin who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present:

There were 25 members present as per the attendance book.

Apologies:

Maxine Ryan
Michael & Verylle Rodger
Anthony & Aline Van Buiten
Brian Martin
Liz Beaton & Ian Warburton
Gary Johnston
Derek & Janet Hymas
Dave & Rosalie Hughes
Chris Jennings
Yvonne Hempston
Steve & Tania Utting
Janine Frankland
Anne Pettigrew

Visitors:

Mick Young
Rodney Bankier
Kevin Turvey
Glenn Smith
Steve Whilesmith

Minutes of the August meeting:

Accepted: John Partridge
Seconded: Ian Webber

Matters Arising:

Nil

Correspondence in:

Pajero 4WD Club Newsletter
Cross Country Jeep Club Newsletter
Overland Cruising
Anaconda
Tread Lightly Australia – Wind Up Notice and Merchandise
Association Reminder to Renew Fees
Association Annual Report 2006
Association – Public Liability Insurance Certificate
Australian 4WD Monthly Subscription Offer
National 4X4 Show Tickets
Oxfam Christmas Tree Delivery
NGK Rally of Melbourne – Request for Volunteer Officials
Advertising Enquiry from Pro Comp, Narre Warren
Membership Renewals
Resignations of Membership (Leanne Young, Iain & Daff
Whitecross, Andrew & Linda Remenyi)

Correspondence Out:

Club Newsletter
Membership Renewal Reminders
Response to Pro Comp regarding advertising
Confirmation of Dates for Hire of Meeting Room

Treasurer's Report:

Opening Balance 31/07/06 \$8466.56

Receipts

Membership Renewals \$ 720.00
AGM Dinner \$ 520.00

Payments

Mulgrave Country Club \$ 745.00
Raffle Costs \$ 22.00

Closing Balance 31/08/06 \$8939.56

Petty Cash \$ 275.00
Cheque Account \$3417.39
Term Deposit \$5522.17
Total \$8939.56

Accepted: Annie Simpson
Seconded: Ron Camm

Tea duties:

Lesley Peters and Ian Webber.
Thank you.

Raffle:

Tickets sold by Graeme Lyne.

1st Prize – Fire Extinguisher won by Ashley Martin
2nd Prize – Tread Lightly Merchandise won by Ian Webber.

Guest Speaker

Katherine Hill, District Manager for Erica District [DSE](#) kindly spoke to the club regarding activities in the Erica District.

Katherine spoke about the 4 key values used to manage the District.

They are:

1. Flora
2. Fauna
3. Water
4. Soil

Each of these key values are assessed when managing and maintaining Industrial (e.g. timber and mining) and Public (e.g. recreational users) impacts. The Mining Industry, in

particular Gold Mining, is ramping up again and the area remains popular with recreational users of all types.

Katherine then went on to speak briefly about her background, which started with managing issues in the Greater Bendigo area. She then spent 4 years in Noojee working in the Toorong Falls area. Katherine formed a working relationship with the Gippsland Valley Four Wheel Drive Club redeveloping sites for use by Four Wheel Drivers and Trail Bikers. The Club assisted by helping care for and re-vegetate camping areas and implement plans to manage the traffic within these areas. The involvement of the Club had a knock on effect and soon the Warragul Motor Cycle Club became involved in setting up and caring for the Comp 22 Unloading Area. This involvement of recreational user groups went a considerable way to improving the facilities in the area and alleviating traffic issues which had been causing local concern for some time.

Katherine then went on to address the main purpose of her visit which was to suggest ways in which we, as a Club, could assist with issues in the Erica District.

These included:

- Signage to be placed at the Merrington's, O'Tooles and Little O'Tooles Campgrounds
- Track Clearing of the Toombon Walking Track
- Hut Maintenance - e.g. Jorgenson's Hut
- Wildlife Shelter Operations
- Camp Hosts - e.g. Commencing a similar program to that initiated at Wonangatta

Ashley and John mentioned how they intended to use the opportunity of the upcoming Advanced Training Weekend to install the signage at the campgrounds. Ashley also noted how much Merrington's had improved since the replanting that the Club assisted with the year before last. The use of signage and the indication that the area is supported by Four Wheel Drivers has been a successful strategy in the past and it is hoped that the new signs will have the same impact here.

The track clearing in the Toombon area involves clearing a path that has been established along an old watercourse. The track takes in a number of historical features of what was once a busy area, such as the old Toombon Pub, mining works etc. This is something that a number of Club Members would be keen to assist with. Katherine mentioned that some Club Members would need to be officially accredited Chainsaw users and that the DSE may be able to assist with this.

The issue of Hut maintenance is a real problem. Many of the huts in this area are of historic significance however the issue is how to maintain them in the face of continued vandalism. The alternative i.e. demolishing them inevitably evokes a very emotional response.

Wildlife Shelter operations was one area that Katherine thought Clubs such as ours would be able to assist with very little effort. Following the Moondarra fires earlier this year the capability of Wildlife Shelter Operators to access areas where injured wildlife may have been hampered by their lack of suitable vehicles. The same problem arises when it comes to releasing wildlife back into suitable areas. Katherine suggested that Clubs such as ours may be able to assist by providing the transport that the operators desperately needed.

Camp Hosts – A program has been established at the Wonangatta Homestead whereby Four Wheel Drivers or other recreational users will act as Camp Hosts during the peak holiday period. The purpose of Camp Hosts is to act as Honorary Park Rangers to provide all four wheel drivers who travel that way with information about the valley, its history, our code of ethics, to talk about our Association and its Member Clubs, to conduct surveys about where visitors come from, how long they stay and to examine and survey the local flora and fauna. It was suggested that a similar initiative could be instituted in the Erica Region.

Ashley thanked Katherine on behalf of all Club Members for giving up her time to talk to us on what was a very interesting subject.

Trips:

John Partridge reported on the upcoming trips which include:

Friday 8th to Sunday 10th September – Annual Pub to Pub
Saturday 9th to Sunday 10th September – Advanced Training
Saturday 23rd to Sunday 24th September – Winery Weekend
Friday 13th to Sunday 15th October – Tarra Bulga
Thursday 26th to Sunday 29th October – National 4x4 Show
Saturday 4th to Tuesday 7th November – Glenelg River

John also asked for volunteers to lead day trips and pointed out the books available in the library and willingness of more experienced trip leaders to assist anyone in planning their first trip as leader.

John also spoke about the new Trip Data Forms and the importance of keeping Personal Information Forms in the car when participating on trips.

Gary gave a report on the Snow Trip which actually found snow, after which they went in search of a track that turned out to be too overgrown to traverse. Another track was blocked by a tree which had to be chain sawed before progress could resume. On the Sunday those without trailers headed home via Burgoyne's Track which presented a few challenges, not least to Ashley's sense of direction. Those with trailers took the more direct and less challenging route via the bitumen.

Ashley gave a brief report on the AGM Dinner which went well despite the low numbers in attendance. Michael Rodger was the winner of the "Good on Ya" award this year after receiving a few nominations. Some of the more "dedicated" attendees eventually left the Mulgrave Country Club at 3.00am.

Graeme gave a report on a 5 day trip that he and Sue attended, run by the Land Rover Owners Club of Victoria. The trip started at Marla and headed west into the Pitjantjatjara Tribal Lands. The trip was conducted under the stewardship of an Aboriginal guide and gave participants an opportunity to take a first hand look at what the community was doing to reclaim the area.

John also read a message he received from Roger Baird who is currently touring the Northern Territory. He is presently at Katherine Station, heading west and sends his regards to the Club.

Association Report

John gave a brief Association Report and spoke about:

- Working Bees at Hoddles Creek training facility. This should be up and running in the very near future and gives the association a dedicated training facility as an alternative to Werribee.
- The Track Classification at Bunyip has now been completed and signage has been erected. The Classification of the Wombat State Forest will be the next cab off the rank. Meridien Maps is working with the Association on this.
- Toolangi State Forest – John met with the Rangers in the hope of finding some middle ground regarding recent works in the area. The Rangers are concerned about an area close to the Melba Highway which is becoming quite badly damaged. John also spoke about recent damage to seasonal closure gates that occurred over the weekend of the 2nd / 3rd September.

General Business:

Ashley gave details of the appointments to the following committee positions:

Assistant Secretary – Derek Hymas
Trip Coordinator and Association Delegate – John Partridge
Events Coordinator and Club Librarian – James Holden
Training Coordinator – Michael Rodger

Privacy Policy – Ashley spoke to the club regarding the Privacy Policy, copies of which were available to be completed by Club Members at the Meeting. Those who have not completed and returned a copy will be receiving a form in the mail in the coming month. The completed form is important in assisting the Committee in servicing our relationship with the members and we would therefore appreciate if all members could complete and return it as soon as possible.

Email communication – we have established club email addresses for Committee positions in order to simplify the process of communicating with the Committee. An all_members email list is also being established which will allow members to communicate on club business without the need to include individual email addresses. This will be available in the coming month.

4x4 show tickets – these can be booked through the club or via the www.4x4show.com.au website. Anyone booking tickets through the club should place their order and payment with the Treasurer.

Other Business:

Lindsay's Tyres – Mark Kochan gave details of Lindsay's Tyres in Mt Evelyn which specialise in more "hardcore" tyres such as Mickey Thompson's, Simex and Silverstone's. Mark said that they offered competitive prices and had details available at the meeting for anyone thinking of purchasing tyres in the near future.

Club Merchandise – Ashley mentioned that new polo shirts would be available at the next General Meeting and that orders could be placed as required. Minimum order needs to be 6 shirts. The shirts are the same as the current design i.e. black with red and white edging on collar.

Meeting Closed:

10.30 pm

Next Meeting:

General Meeting 8.00pm Tuesday 3rd October
Dandenong Library.

VFWDC MERHCANDISE

For Sale

| | |
|--|------------|
| New Club Polo Shirts | \$27.00 ea |
| Polar Fleece ½ Zip Jumper | \$36.00 ea |
| Polar Fleece Full Zip Jumper | \$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 |
| Club Beanies | \$15.00 ea |



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Anyone wishing to advertise in the Club Directory,
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Sign yourself up as a Yahoo User at

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Then go to

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Click on "Join this group".

To keep non members out of the group,
your membership will need to be approved.

Any problems email:

alfantz@optusnet.com.au

Notice to Members

The Committee wishes to advise that due to unforeseen circumstances, our Website is currently offline.

This has unfortunately also affected the email server and as such all email addresses ending in @vfwdc.com are not able to be accessed.

Should anyone have sent articles for the newsletter to the editor@vfwdc.com these may not have been received and we apologise for this. These will off course be placed in the next newsletter.

Like wise, any emails sent to the committee won't have been received but be assured these will be dealt with as soon as the server problems have been rectified.

The Committee

Trading Post



Oztent

Ashley has a contact at work who has an Oztent RV for sale. This is the pre RV2 model and is in very good condition. The Vendor is looking for an offer of approx. \$500.00. If anyone is interested can they please contact Ashley.
Email: ashleymartin@valcor.com.au

Camping Equipment

Gasmate 2 Burner Cooker with carry case, stand, 4kg gas bottle & steel hotplate with handles. \$60.00

Toilet/Shower Tent with pegs & ropes. \$20.00

Fold up laminated table 600mm x 800mm \$15.00

Lantern, Rechargeable 3 in 1 light, remote control, night light, 2 x 9W U tubes, weather proof, AC/DC adaptor, car plug & stand \$65.00

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- ✚ See live demonstrations, meet the experts and win prizes
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Adults: \$8.00

Children: \$3.50

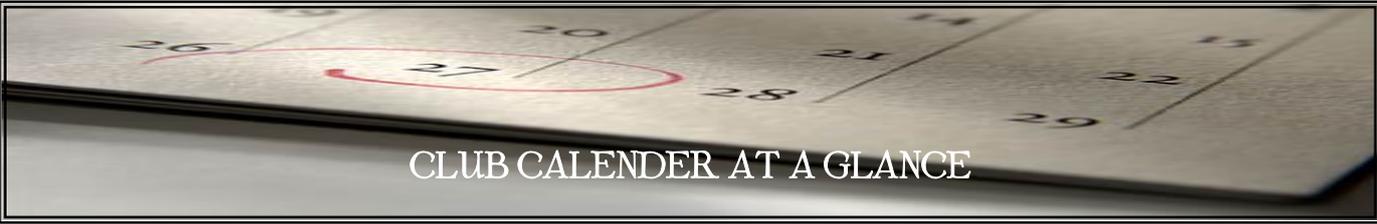
Family Ticket: \$19.50

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

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

Alternatively, you can order your tickets online at www.4x4show.com.au

Click the "ticketing" button and enter your details, including your club name and the **Promotional Code "4x4mel06"**



CLUB CALENDER AT A GLANCE

OCTOBER

| | | | |
|--|---|----------------|--------------|
| Tuesday 3 rd | Club Meeting | Ashley Martin | 0438 600 904 |
| Saturday 7 th to Sunday 8 th | Proficiency Training | John Partridge | 0428 331 211 |
| Friday 13 th to Sunday 15 th | Tarra Bulga NP | Mark Capper | 0411 530 484 |
| Saturday 28 th to Sunday 29 th | NATIONAL 4 X 4 SHOW Melbourne Exhibition Centre | | |
| Tuesday 31 st | Committee Meeting | Paul Ryan | 0438 121 148 |

NOVEMBER

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Melbourne Cup Weekend Saturday 4 th to Tuesday 7 th | Glenelg River | Ashley Martin | 0438 600 904 |
| Tuesday 14 th | Club Meeting Dandenong CFA | Ashley Martin | 0438 600 904 |
| Friday 17 th to Sunday 19 th | Annual Fishing Trip | Ashley Martin | 0438 600 904 |
| Saturday 25 th | Christmas Party - Gilwell Park | Paul Ryan | 0438 121 148 |
| Tuesday 28 th | Committee Meeting | Craig Major | 0432 876 699 |

DECEMBER

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Tuesday 5 th | Club Meeting | Ashley Martin | 0438 600 904 |
| Saturday 9 th & Sunday 10 th | Oxfam Christmas Tree Project | John Partridge | 0428 331 211 |

JANUARY

Australia Day Weekend

| | | | |
|--|-------------------|-----|--|
| Friday 26 th to Sunday 28 th | TBA | TBA | |
| Tuesday 30 th | Committee Meeting | TBA | |

FEBRUARY

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Tuesday 6 th | Club Meeting | Ashley Martin | 0438 600 904 |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|

Annie's Corner



BEEF ARGENTINE

500gm rump steak – cut into 4 serving portions
60gms butter
3 rashers of bacon
125gms mushrooms
1 onion
1 clove of garlic
2 medium tomatoes
1 small green pepper
½ cup stock
Salt and pepper

Melt the butter in a heavy based pan, and brown the steaks well.

Place in a casserole.

Melt remainder of butter and add the sliced onion, crushed garlic, chopped bacon, peeled and sliced tomatoes, seeded and thinly sliced pepper.

Cook for 5 minutes, then add stock and cook for a little longer.

Season and spoon mixture evenly over steaks.

Cover with lid of foil and bake in a moderate oven for 35 – 40 minutes.

Great to do in a camp oven kiddies...xx



See you next month.

Annie

November Club Meeting



The November Meeting
will be held on

Tuesday 14th November

at the

Dandenong CFA

120-122 Princes Highway
Dandenong
(Parking at Rear)

Meeting will commence at 7.30pm

After our meeting they will give us a
tour of the facility and supply tea and
coffee.



Hope to see you all there!

Forthcoming Trips



Destination Tarra Bulga National Park

Trip Leader Mark Capper
Contact No Mob: 0411 530484
Date 13th – 15th October
Meeting Place Officer Weigh Bridge
Time 4.30pm
Grade WET: Easy
 DRY: Easy

Trip Activity Details

Camp at "Fernholme" Tourist Park (Dogs allowed on leash only). I have booked 2 powered sites and 7 unpowered sites (cabins also available). Friday night group BBQ. Main activity on Saturday is walking the many trails of the National Park followed by another group BBQ in the main BBQ area. Music and dancing is OK!
 Sunday we will drive the Grand Ridge Road to Mirboo North and stop for lunch and beer tasting at the Grand Ridge Brewery, then home at your leisure

Vehicle Limits MINIMUM: 2
 MAXIMUM: 10
Approximate Km's 150
Last Available Fuel PETROL: Traralgon/Yarram
 DIESEL: Traralgon/Yarram
Distance Between Supplies N/A
Equipment Required Camping Gear, Basic Recovery Gear and good walking shoes



Maps Required N/A
Radio Channel CB/UHF 12

Destination Cup Weekend Glenelg River

Trip Leader Ashley Martin
Contact No Mob: 0438 600 904
Date 3rd – 7th November
Meeting Place TBA
Time TBA
Grade WET: Easy
 DRY: Easy

Trip Activity Details

See Trip Data Form



Vehicle Limits MINIMUM: N/A
 MAXIMUM: 10
Approximate Kms 410
Last Available Fuel PETROL: Portland
 DIESEL: Portland
Distance Between Supplies N/A
Equipment Required Standard Camping Equipment



Maps Required N/A
Radio Channel CB/UHF 12

Destination Fishing Trip - Jamieson Area

Trip Leader Ashley Martin
Contact No Mob: 0438 600 904
Date 17th – 19th November
Meeting Place Lilydale McDonalds @
Time 6.30pm
Grade WET: Medium
 DRY: Easy/Medium

Trip Activity Details

The annual fishing trip is once again being organised. This year we will have several awards to hand out for those special fishing moments. Some will opt to take Friday off making it a long weekend and give themselves every opportunity to catch a fish or 2. This year I thought Jamieson would be a good destination and we will probably be based at Grannys Flat. This will be finalized as the weekend gets closer

Vehicle Limits MINIMUM: 3
 MAXIMUM: 10

Approximate Kms 200
Last available fuel PETROL: Mansfield
 DIESEL: Mansfield

Distance Between Supplies N/A
Equipment Required Basic recovery equipment, Fishing equipment if you choose & patience a necessity

Maps Required N/A
Radio Channel CB/UHF 12



Destination Oxham Christmas Tree Project

Trip Leader John Partridge
Contact No 0428 331211
Date 9th & 10th December
Meeting Place Scout Hall, Pakenham St., Blackburn (Melway Map 47 H 12) on Saturday
 Princes Hill Primary School, Wilson St., Nth Carton (Melway 29 J 11) on Sunday
Time Before 11am
Grade N/A

Trip Activity Details

On Saturday we deliver to the south and eastern side of Melbourne and on the Sunday the north and western side. All you do is drop off the tree that has already been paid for. The smiles you receive from the younger recipients would be second only to that of them greeting Santa Claus. It will take each team 1 to 3 hours, and we encourage you to meet for a BBQ or social get together before or afterwards.

Vehicle Limits N/A
Approximate Km's N/A
Late Fuel Available N/A
Equipment Required Vehicle & Trailer if available
Maps Required A list of addresses with Melway grid references supplied
Radio Channel CB/UHF 12



Trip Clarification

Clarification was sought regarding the level of Approval required before a trip could be considered a "Club" trip.

The following clarifications were settled upon:

- Trips do not need to be approved by the trip coordinator but he must be notified in order for the trip to be considered a "Club" trip.
- Trips may be submitted either via Trip Data Form, Yahoo Group or informally however see above to be considered a "Club Trip"
- Trips should be reviewed where necessary at committee level to ensure that the trip was within capabilities of the trip leader.
- If absolutely necessary approval for a trip may be withdrawn if the committee feel that the trip may in anyway expose the participants to an unacceptable level of risk e.g. trip being lead into a high/extreme fire risk area.



Trip Coordinator
John Partridge

Smiley Time





Trip Reports

Annual Snow Trip – WHY?

Friday 18th to Sunday 20th August

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Trip Leader | Ashley Martin | GU Patrol |
| Participants | Mark Capper | Pathfinder |
| | Tim, Donna, Charlotte & Travis | 60 Series Land Cruiser |
| | Anthony | GU Patrol |
| | Gary | GU Patrol |
| | Craig & Marjike | Suzuki |
| | Bas | 80 Series Land Cruiser |

Friday afternoon both Ashley and I headed off around the same time. Ashley made contact with me via the radio on the Princes Highway, not far out of Pakenham. The traffic, as usual at 4.30 was heavy. During our trip we regularly talked over the CB, which was a good thing, as we talked about our plans to cook a roast on Saturday night and I realized I had forgotten the spuds, onions and bread! So we stopped at Traralgon, got my things then went to McDonalds for dinner.

Our last 10 minutes of driving was in a fairly heavy rain, and it looked like we were going to get wet setting up, but once at the camp site the rain stopped and the stars appeared. Once we had set up, it was time to light the fire and relax with a few beers.

Around 9pm we heard a vehicle approaching and thought it was a hunter looking for a dog we had heard not long before, but to our surprise it was Tim and Donna and the kids. Once Tim had their camper trailer set up we all sat around the fire and chatted, a very pleasant evening.

Saturday morning we woke to the birds and a little voice asking "why" Ashley had himself a friend, Travis was fixated with him, why? We have no idea, but Ashley cemented his "king of kids" status.

It was not long before the rest of the group arrived.

Once we had the hello's out of the way it was time to head to the snow.



The drive up was extremely easy, especially for me as I was Ashley's navigator. We came to Arbuckle Junction where our leader then instructed everyone to veer right as he veered left; I then commented to Ashley he had given the wrong direction!

Once the convoy had worked out which way to head, it was not long before we saw snow, and by the time we got to the gate there was no dirt to be seen. We turned around and headed back to the car park, and then walked along the snow covered road. The snow ball fights began!





When then had lunch back at the vehicles after which we went for a further drive, ending up on the B2 track.

We came along an obstacle, being a huge tree! After some discussion it was decided Ashley would show off his lumberjack skills.



Once the tree was cut and moved aside, we headed back to camp, stopping at Benisons Lookout for some pics.



Dinner was had by all, and we then all relaxed around the campfire and shared some stories, a very pleasant way to end a great day.



Mark Capper

Sunday

After a pleasant night around the fire, it was a casual pack up in the morning for everyone. Gary, Anthony, Craig and I decided to take a detour via Burgoynes on the way home.



We left camp at 10ish and after a short drive stopped at the start of Burgoynes where we aired down the tyres. The first section of the track is easy enough, but the second is a little more difficult. Craig was a little unsure so to get a feel of it he joined me as passenger as I drove up, we then walked back down to his car. Anthony and Gary made it, then it was Craig's turn. With more than just a few nerves he attempted it but lost traction and had to reverse down. After several more attempts he decided to turn around and make his way back to the road. Anthony also turned around to make sure Craig safely made his way back to the main road (thanks).

Gary and I continued along, making our way to the river crossing where we stopped for a quick bite to eat. Gary had visited this section of the McAllister several times by kayak but never vehicle. We drove the continuous climb out to McEvoy's Road and eventually making our way home at a leisurely pace.

Although there wasn't a lot of snow, it was still a pleasurable weekend enjoyed by all.



Ashley

Annual Pub to Pub

Friday 8th to Sunday 10th September

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Trip Leader | Rosalie & David | Nissan |
| Participants | Barry & Ron | Nissan |
| | Glenn & Jessie | Jackaroo |
| | Tommy & Sheila | Cruiser |
| | Ray & Dawn | Cruiser |
| | Peter & Janine | Mitsubishi |
| | Terry & Annie | Cruiser |

Terry and I were the first to arrive a little after 2pm on Friday at the Plough Inn in Myrningong. We had been on a small discovery tour of our own for the day, around the countryside around Ballan and Greendale. Some really pretty tracks around there...if you get the time...check it out..

Barry and Ron were the next to arrive, followed by all the others, in dribs and drabs, until it was almost dinnertime. (And no...Rose and Dave weren't the last to arrive...!) We moved our gear into our rooms and settled in for a great feed of roasts, schnitzels, fish and chicken with a nice house wine to wash it down...and then it was time for bed..

Breakfast was set at 8am, and we all sat around and enjoyed another hearty meal. After breakfast we all congregated out near the vehicles for our pre-trip sip, and it was time to saddle up for the first day of our "Pub to Pub" Gathering.



We headed off along some sealed roads through the hilly countryside around the back of the Western Highway, towards Greendale. Passing the old General Store and pub, and heading north (I think) towards the Wombat State Forest.

We bumped along down some wide winding tracks through the tall timbers and ferns, everyone remarking on how lovely the scenery was. Daddio told us of some wallabies...black ones he said...but no one saw them but him...was he imagining things????? He says they all "skipped" away before we could get to see them...hmmmm

Turning off onto Cricket Ground Track and across what seemed to be the cricket ground, and past the weather station, we then crossed what we later found out to be the start of the Werribee River. The other side of the river was a

large clearing where we enjoyed the stunning array of cakes, slices and biscuits provided by Rosalie.



Ambling along a little further, we travelled through some really nice countryside, and quaint little towns.

Along the way, there were some "whoopededoo"s of various sizes and difficulties (some more difficult than others)...and some of them had been travelled often, leaving tyre furrows, which made the going VERY interesting.

Our next stop was the old Federation Track, which was the site of the old railway line which ran from Ballarat to Daylesford. There isn't much left of it now..but there are a few interesting walks ranging from 15 to 25 k's...not for us today..

Lunch stop was at the Anderson Flour Mill. It had been built from local timber and bluestone, and ceased operation in the late 50's. The site was closed at the time of our visit, but we were able to wander around and have a really good look at the water wheel, which drove the grinding stones in the mill and actually get an idea of the size of the place.



Travelling through Smeaton, our next port of call after a hearty lunch and a quick look around was the small town of Talbot, which turned out to be the end of our journey...

Our stop for the night was the Courthouse Hotel and Motel. The seven vehicles filled up the tiny car park...both driveways in fact....all of us were glad of the rest...vehicles, drivers and passengers alike, and all showed definite signs of the days meanderings.

But no...our day was not over yet. We enjoyed an early dinner and walked across the road to the Observatory,

which had been built by a local who had a wide-ranging knowledge of things terrestrial. He gave us all a very intriguing discussion on the planets and stars. Most of us went for a guided tour of the observatory and I believe all were suitably impressed.

When the others returned, we had our usual fun quiz on the days events, what we remembered, and what we had guessed would be asked at the end of the trip....some of us had no idea but Jessie and Glenn won the prize of the day - A travel mug specially inscribed with PUB TO PUB 2006. The runners up...that is all of us...received a commemorative stubby holder, with all the participants names on them so we could remember the fun time we had all had.



A few drinks and a good old chinwag about the days adventures...including Daddios Disappearing Skippy's, and we retired to our beds.

In the morning we all trekked off to Terry's Block in Maryborough.....everyone eager to have a sticky beak.....have a coffee and some more of Rosalie's lovely cakies. A few of us then went off to snoop around Maryborough, for example, the old railway station, which is a really wonderful example of early architecture.

Then we all went our own way home.....



The Pub to Pub over for another year.

Thanks go out to Rosalie and Daddio for all their preparation and hard work.....We all had such a terrific time...

Annie and Terry

Advanced Training – Signage Installation Weekend

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th September

Trip

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Leaders/Trainers | Ashley Martin | GU Patrol Ute |
| | John Partridge | GQ Patrol Wagon |
| Participants | Derek Hymas | Landrover Discovery |
| | Tim Axtel | 60 Series Landcruiser |
| | Gary Smith | GU Patrol |

Saturday

I met up with Ashley Friday night at the Trafalgar Pub for a bite to eat before heading up into the hills. We decided to head in via Beardmores Track and collect some firewood along the way. Eventually we made it into Merringtons Camping Ground. We were lucky to have it virtually to ourselves with only one camper on the other side. It was a nice night and we went to bed early.... early in the morning that is.

There were two main reasons for this trip. One was to advance the driving skills of some of our members on some interesting tracks. The other was to do some work with the Parkers Corner DSE with the installation of signage promoting the Visitors Code of Conduct. This came about after talks with Forest Manager Noel Lees regarding the recent damage to the O'Tooles Camping Grounds. I suggested that by having co-signage from both the DSE and FWDV might have a greater impact.

Soon after Noel arrived with the signs and concrete, the rest of the troops arrived. And so did the rain. We erected a tarp for some shelter then we got into erecting the first sign at Merringtons Camping Ground. As the holes had already been bored out it didn't take too long to concrete the posts in and bolt up the signs.



We then headed off to the Little O'Tooles Camping and the big O'Tooles Camping Grounds for the installation of the remaining signs. It was really disappointing to see the extent of damage that had been caused by thoughtless morons wrecking historical grounds for a moment selfish 'fun'.



After a few photo opportunities, we said our goodbyes to Noel and headed back to camp for lunch. The rain still hadn't let up all morning and it was to continue like this until late in the afternoon on Sunday. After lunch we did a couple of different winching exercises in the camping ground trying out a few different combinations with the snatch block. A while later we headed off to gather some firewood for the night ahead.

Sunday

The rain was still maintaining the rage. So it was a quick pack up the off to tackle the tracks. First we headed along Williams Spur Track before heading down S Track. This was particularly interesting for me as I hadn't driven an auto 4wd before. It was very interesting putting the theory into practise and seeing with the right technique, how slow it can be done whilst retaining full control. After hitting Donnelly Creek Road we headed east to Army Track where we had some fun on the rocky ledgy sections. Once up the top we turned around and headed back down. Lunch was at the hut at the bottom of Army. We decided we'd have a go at Morning Star Track then head off from there. Not far into Morning Star Track we found that the ledges towards the top have come back. On my 5th attempt with both lockers engaged and the turbo at full noise I managed to get up the extremely wet and slippery rocks.

After turning around and heading back down I learned that I came within inches of kissing a tree with the rear quarter panel. I could say that good driving was the reason, but truth be known, I never even saw the tree!
We headed back out via Donnelly's Creek Track onto McEvoy's Track down to Seton where we aired up our tyres for the trip back.



We didn't get to cover half the tracks we had planned due to the weather but we managed to gain a bit more experience on driving the slippery steep tracks. Thank you to all that attended. We'll run a few medium to hard trips in the near future to gain a bit more experience and put your knowledge to the test.

John Partridge



Four Wheel Drive Victoria believes that it is time to formally recognise and reward individuals and clubs who enhance our lifestyle through their environmental work.

As a result the Association in partnership with Parks Victoria and other sponsors has created environmental awards for the following categories:

- Best Individual
- Best Club with a membership over 100
- Best Club with a membership fewer than 100

Each category will receive \$1700.00 in products and prizes.

For more information visit the Four Wheel Drive Victoria Website at <http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au/eawards.htm> or contact the office on (03) 9857 5209.

Proficiency Training Weekend

In the next week we are running another training weekend.

This is primarily aimed at the newer members that want to gain a better understanding of their 4WD and how to safely use it in the bush. It is also a great weekend for those that want to refresh their knowledge and keep up with the latest techniques and information.

On the Wednesday night (4th October) we will be holding a theory session where we will be going through the latest version of FWDVic's slide deck. This is one of the highlights of the training program. In this session we go through the environmental impacts of our recreation, some technical information about 4wd's and some of the most important recovery techniques that you'll ever learn.

Over the weekend (7th & 8th October) we'll experience some steep rocky terrain, river crossings, a chance of some muddy sections and get to practice the all important stall recovery techniques. Back at the camp site we'll look over the vehicles, point out some important features and showcase some very useful accessories and modifications that can enhance the 4wd experience.



If you haven't been on one of these training weekends I urge you to make the effort, there's something for everyone.

John Partridge
Training Officer



 *Christmas Party* 

Saturday November 25th 2006



Gilwell Park

Launching Place Road
Gembrook

Free lunch for the kids at approximately 1.00 pm
followed by a visit from Santa.

Christmas Dinner will be served at 7.00 pm

\$12.00 for Club Members

\$18.00 for Non Members

\$ 5.00 per Child

\$6.50 Per Person to Camp Overnight

BYO drinks, crockery, cutlery, seating & camping equipment

Contact James Holden on 0433 399 315 or email events@vfwdc.com
for further information

Join us for this year's festivities

Please don't forget to bring along
your donation to the Christmas Hamper

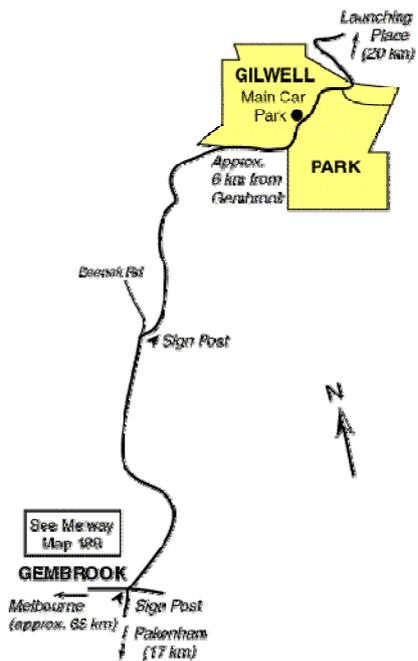


Gilwell Park
Launching Place Road Gembrook

Melway Reference 299 E1



Gilwell Park is situated east of the Dandenong Ranges, and is only 75 km from Melbourne (via Belgrave and Gembrook). It can also be easily reached from the south and east (23km from Pakenham), or from the north (20km from Launching Place).





TRIP DATA FORM

Melbourne Cup Weekend 2006

| | |
|---|--|
| DESTINATION | Glenelg River |
| LEADER | Ashley Martin |
| CONTACT NO | Mob: 0438 600 904 |
| DATE | Friday 3 rd November to Tuesday 7 th November |
| MEETING PLACE | TBA |
| MEETINT TIME | TBA |
| GRADE | WET: Easy DRY: Easy |
| Please adhere to new trip classifications | |
| TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS | <p>This is an area that I have wanted to visit for some time and due to the distance what better opportunity than Cup weekend.</p> <p>Glenelg River National Park is situated past Portland and has an array of activities around the area. Fishing is plentiful, canoe the waters and take in the scenery, visit Margaret River Rose Caves, or the ocean and its marvels are not to far away. I am hoping to have a 2-3 person canoe as this would be perfect for exploring the river at a leisurely pace. The area we have booked has two jetties from which adults can swim, but if the younger kiddies want to swim it is recommended to have a bouncy vest.</p> <p>Camping will be at Pritchards camping area and as they require booking we have a limit of 10 sites available. Six of these would be suitable for trailers and there is room for approx six tents. Unfortunately it will be the first 10 names in the trip book or by notifying me. The area we have been allocated is sectioned off from the other area so there will be no-one bothering us. There is an amenities block that will be for our use and it consists of flush toilets and tap bore water. There is a site fee of \$14.90 per night. I have trip notes from Portland to ensure you can make your way there without getting lost. These will be distributed nearer to the trip date.</p> <p>I recently visited the area and on the return journey through Portland, Warnambool, Colac and Geelong it took 4 ¾ hours from the camp site to West Gate Bridge. For the trip down, you would probably but you would need to add extra time for traffic and a dinner stop.</p> <p>My plan for the weekend is a relaxing day Saturday and for those who wish, exploring around the camp site. Sunday drive to Nelson to visit the caves and other attractions, and Monday will be free to do whatever you like.</p> |
| VEHICLE LIMITS | MINIMUM: N/A MAXIMUM: 10 |
| APPROX KMS - Meeting place to destination | 410 |
| LAST AVAILABLE FUEL | PETROL: Portland DIESEL: Portland |
| DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES | N/A |
| EQUIPMENT REQUIRED | Standard camping |
| MAPS REQUIRED | N/A |
| RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF | 12 |

