



Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A0002184F

SEPTEMBER 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 Partridge	0428 331211
Events Coordinator	James Holden	0433 399315
Training Coordinator	Michael Rodger	0412 530666
Newsletter Editor	Julie Capper	0411 530464
Association Delegate	John Partridge	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 year of *Free Wheeling*.

Just a bit of background on me for my first President's Report.

I have been involved in the VFWDC for 12 years; for 8 of those years I have held several Committee positions but this is my first time as President, so I hope to serve you well. The structure of this year's Committee is a mix of longer serving and new members which we believe will bring fresh ideas to help the Club move forward over the next 12 months.

One of the main aims this year will be Trips. We are all members who enjoy the benefits of four wheel driving and the outdoors, and of course sharing these activities with other enthusiasts.

John Partridge is taking up the position of Trip Coordinator and he will be encouraging all members to participate. We plan to hold a Trip Leader's night to assist first-time Trip Leaders, and introduce a buddy system where you would have the assistance of an experienced member to help with all aspects of the trip. We hope this will help to make the trip more enjoyable for you. Leading a trip is very rewarding, so speak to John and start planning.

All members will be receiving a copy of the revised Privacy Policy which we encourage you to complete and return. With email being the main communication for most members, it is important that everyone understands what we do with your information. Please complete the form and return it as soon as possible either by mail or at a meeting.

There are several members who still have not renewed their membership. A reminder letter will be mailed to all non-financial members, so if you wish to continue to enjoy the rewards of the club, please finalise your renewal before the end of September. If you do not wish to renew, a courtesy letter of resignation would be appreciated.

We will have a guest speaker at the September meeting – Katherine Hill who is the Forest Manager for the Erica district. With the recent damage to both O'Tooles Flat and Little O'Tooles, she will talk about how we as a club can assist. As we frequently visit this area it will be good to hear what the issues are and how we may be able to lend a hand.

Thanks to everyone who attended the AGM dinner, it was a great night enjoyed by all.

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

Ashley Martin
President

Minutes of the General Meeting – August

The meeting was held at the Dandenong Library and opened at 8.10pm by President David Hughes who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present:

40 Members were present as per attendance book.

Apologies:

Chris Jennings
Aline Van Buiten
Steven Young
Maxine Ryan
Steve & Tania Utting
Bary Leitch
Ian Warburton
Jill & Steve Boyle
Steven & Nicole Pitcher
Bill Harwood
Bryan West
Lisa Petrou
Barry & Yvonne Hempston

Visitors:

Kevin was welcomed to the meeting.

SUPER:

Thanks to Sue and Rosalie.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Minutes of the July meeting as per newsletter

Accepted: John
Seconded: Annie

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Nil

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

Pajero 4wd club
Cross Country Jeep Club
Overlander Cruising
ARB 4x4 Action
Anaconda
Association notice of AGM 25 August 2006 and
Minutes of 2005 AGM
Trackwatch
3 Dog Camper
Otway 4 Wheeler

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

Thank you letter to Henry Birman for design of
letterhead
Club Newsletter
Association July E News
Status confirmation request to TLA
Recreation framework for Bunyip Public Land email
from John

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Opening balance 31/7/06	\$6886.51
Receipts:	
Membership Renewals	\$1045.00
AGM Dinner	\$ 600.00
Sales	\$ 11.00
Payments:	
Postage	\$ 75.95
Closing Balance 30/6/06	\$8466.56
Petty cash	\$ 34.40
Cheque Account	\$2944.39
Term Deposit	\$5522.17
Total	\$8466.56

Accepted: Dawn Brown

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR:

The following trips are being organized:

12th August - AGM Dinner
18th to 20th August - Snow trip run by Ashley
9th to 10th September - Training weekend run by John
8th to 10th September - Pub to Pub run by David
22nd to 24th September - Winery weekend run by
Ashley
7th to 8th October - Training weekend run by John
13th to 15th October - Tara Bulga run by Mark
28th to 29th October - 4x4 Show
4th to 7th November - Glenelg River run by Ashley
17th to 19th November - Fishing Trip run by Ashley
25th November - Christmas Party

Full details of trips are in the Newsletter

David gave further details on the Pub to Pub trip and the approximate cost, also requires numbers attending so bookings can be finalised.

ASSOCIATION REPORT:

John Partridge reported that he had sent an e-mail to most club members regarding the Bunyip track closures requesting that as many members as possible write a letter to the Minister complaining about the decisions being made about the area. A meeting on this subject had been organized between the Association and the Minister.

JP has been in touch with ranger Noel Lees, in relation to Little O'Tooles, O'Tooles and Merringtons camping areas being carved up by irresponsible people using the area. It has been suggested that signs be erected in the area and that the club assist in putting the signs in place.

John Partridge has also been in contact with the Ranger for the Toolangi area regarding track closures and damage being done, and offered to assist in the area.

TRIP REPORTS:

Ashley gave a report on the Powelltown trip. Apparently had a good day on a few slippery tracks.

John gave a brief report on the Big River trip. Also very wet, but all had a good time in the area.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Nil

David then informed the meeting that some nominations for the Committee positions were still required. Nominations received to date were:

President	Ashley Martin
Secretary	Paul Ryan
Vice President	Mark Capper
Treasurer	Vacant

General Committee positions:

John Partridge
Michael Rodger
James Holden

David advised that anyone wishing to nominate for a position should do so immediately.

A short break was then taken.

RAFFLE:

Thanks to Dawn for selling tickets
After the break the raffle was drawn
Ron Camm won a bottle of wine
Peter won the clamps
Ron (again) won the map

David then gave a report on the last 12 months (edited version).

The Club continues to grow and we need to look at our goals and objectives. The longer-serving members don't come along to the Club as much as the "younger" members.

We need to look after Collins Hut as we haven't done much recently and it would be a shame to see the work go to waste. Maybe it would be an idea to set up a Sub Committee to look after the hut.

The Bush Dance has been part of the Club for many years, but recently it has gone by the wayside. We need to look at this issue and one suggestion is to raise the fees to cover the Bush Dance and other activities such as the Christmas Party so that the money is available.

I would like to thank the Committee for their support over the last 12 months, especially when I got crook, and for the help and support I received when it was required. I would like you to give your support to the new Committee because without your support the Club doesn't go far.

The General Meeting closed

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was then opened by Peter Petrou who thanked the outgoing Committee. As the minutes of the previous AGM were not available they will be presented at a later date. The Treasurer's Report will also be made available at a later date.

Peter then gave a short address about the VFWDC.

The nominations for the new Committee were then read out:

President	Ashley Martin
Secretary	Paul Ryan
Vice President	Mark Capper
Treasurer	2 nominations were received: Craig Major and Rosalie Hughes

General Committee:

John Partridge
James Holden
Michael Rodger
Derek Hymas
Julie Capper

A vote by Financial Members then took place for the position of Treasurer. The majority vote resulted in Craig Major being elected to the position of Treasurer.

Therefore the new Committee of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club for 2006/2007 is:

PRESIDENT Ashley Martin
VICE PRESIDENT Mark Capper
SECRETARY Paul Ryan
TREASURER Craig Major

GENERAL COMMITTEE

John Partridge
James Holden
Michael Rodger
Derek Hymas
Julie Capper

The new Committee was introduced to the meeting and the new President gave a short address.

The meeting closed 10.10pm.

A short video of the Big River trip was shown for those Members who wished to stay behind.

THE NEXT MEETING will be held at Dandenong Library at 8.00pm, Tuesday 5 September 2006.

VFWDC MERHCANDISE

For Sale

New Club Polo Shirts	\$25.00 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



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

Club Email Addresses



In an effort to improve our communications and help service our relationship with all club members we have instituted several new email addresses which can be used to communicate with the Committee of Management and amongst club members.

The email addresses should be fairly self-explanatory and are as follows:

president@vfwdc.com
vicepres@vfwdc.com
secretary@vfwdc.com
asstsec@vfwdc.com
treasurer@vfwdc.com
editor@vfwdc.com
trips@vfwdc.com
events@vfwdc.com
training@vfwdc.com
committee@vfwdc.com

Therefore if you have a submission for "Free Wheeling" you can submit this to editor@vfwdc.com, similarly proposed trips should be submitted to trips@vfwdc.com.

Paul Ryan

Sign yourself up as a Yahoo User at

<http://groups.yahoo.com>
(There is no charge for this service)



Then go to

<http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/vfwdc>

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



Melbourne Exhibition Centre, Southbank

October 26 to October 29

Discount Admission Tickets for Club Members



Held in conjunction with the Fishing Show & Outdoors Expo and the National Fly Fishing & Sport Fishing Show to give you 3 great Shows for the price of 1!



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- ✚ Plus camper trailers, touring destinations, camping and adventure equipment



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"**

VFWDC ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

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Anyone wishing to advertise in the Club Directory,
Contact the Editor at editor@vfwdc.com

CLUB CALENDER AT A GLANCE

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 5 th	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin
Saturday 9 th To Sunday 10 th	Advanced Training	John Partridge
Friday 8 th To Sunday 10 th	Annual Pub To Pub	David Hughes
Friday 22 nd To Sunday 24 th	Winery Weekend	Ashley Martin
Tuesday 26 th	Committee Meeting	Mark Capper

OCTOBER

Tuesday 3 rd	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin
Saturday 7 th To Sunday 8 th	Proficiency Training	John Partridge
Friday 13 th To Sunday 15 th	Tarra Bulga NP	Mark Capper

Saturday 28th
to Sunday 29th **NATIONAL 4 X 4 SHOW**
Melbourne Exhibition Centre

Tuesday 31 st	Committee Meeting	Paul Ryan
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NOVEMBER

Melbourne Cup Weekend

Saturday 4 th to Tuesday 7 th	Glenelg River	Ashley Martin
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Tuesday 14 th	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin
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Friday 17 th to Sunday 19 th	Annual Fishing Trip	Ashley Martin
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Saturday 25 th	Christmas Party Gilwell Park	Paul Ryan
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Tuesday 28th	Committee Meeting	Craig Major
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DECEMBER

Tuesday 5th	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin
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Saturday 9 th & Sunday 10 th	Oxfam Christmas Tree Project	John Partridge
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JANUARY

Australia Day Weekend

Friday 26 th to Sunday 28 th	TBA	TBA
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Tuesday 30 th	Committee Meeting	TBA
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FEBRUARY

Tuesday 6 th	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin
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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

4 person Wild Country Tent with awning, complete with all pegs, poles & guy ropes. \$100.00



Contact Mark Capper on 0411 530484

Annie's Corner



Hi all and welcome to this edition of Annie's Corner

This is an oldie but a goodie with a twist...
Hope you like it

PUMPKIN SCONES

500g Jap Pumpkin
3 ½ cups self raising flour
Sea salt and cracked pepper
¾ cup of milk
½ cup of shaved parmesan
½ cup grated cheddar
2 rashers of bacon, sliced up or chopped

Preheat oven to 200 degrees celcius
Steam pumpkin till cooked, then mash it.
Put pumpkin, flour, salt, and pepper in a large bowl.
Make a well, gradually adding milk....stirring with a
butter knife till just combined.

Turn out onto a floured surface
Knead gently....smooth out the dough.
Form dough into a rectangle
Top with cheeses and bacon.

Divide into individual scones and place on a baking
tray.

Cook for about 20 minutes..



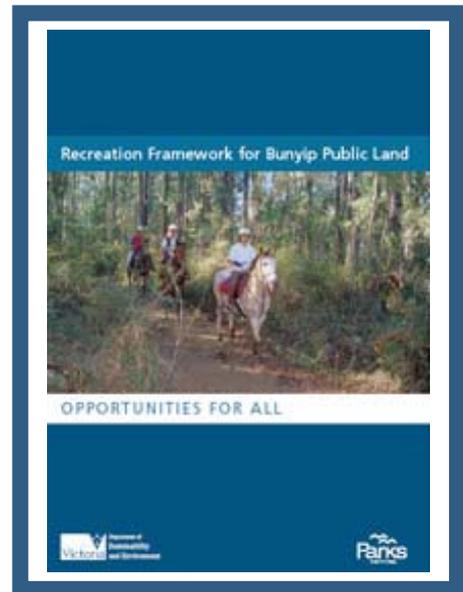
See you all next month....in the mean time, be
good....enjoy yourselves..

Annie xox

WANTED!!

LETTERS TO THE MINISTER ON BUNYIP

We have a great chance to have our say regarding the Minister for Environment choice on the Recreational Framework for Bunyip Public Land.



There was no valid reason for the Minister to close the track of land between Burgees Road and Black Snake Creek Road.

There have been a few of our Members that have put pen to paper to voice their concerns, but I'm sure with a little (very little) effort we could easily do better.

For more information, have a look at

<http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/1ministry.cfm?story=171>



or email me at Trips@vfwdc.com

Thank you,
John Partridge

Forthcoming Trips



Destination	Annual Pub to Pub
Trip Leader	David Hughes
Contact No	Home: 9706 2966 Work: 9798 1492
Date	8 th – 10 th September
Meeting Place	Myrniong Hotel, Myrniong
Time	TBA
Grade	WET: N/A DRY: N/A

Trip Activity Details

Going from one place to another. Visiting points of interest along the way.



Notes to be supplied to participants with more information

Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM	N/A
	MAXIMUM	12
Approximate Kms	150	
Last Available Fuel	PETROL:	N/A
	DIESEL:	N/A
Distance Between Supplies	Does not matter	
Equipment Required	Basic recovery equipment Drinks for morning tea (food supplied) and lunch for Saturday	
Maps Required	N/A	
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12	

Destination	Winery Weekend
Trip Leader	Ashley Martin
Contact No	Mob: 0438 600 904
Date	23 rd – 24 th September
Meeting Place	Ford Factory Campbellfield
Time	9.00am
Grade	WET: Easy DRY: Easy

Trip Activity Details

Time has come for another winery weekend and for something different from previous years. We have decided to visit Nagambie. After meeting at Campbellfield, we will make our way to Plunketts Winery where we will enjoy a few tastings and morning tea. From here we visit Tahbilk for more tasting, followed by lunch on the banks of the river alongside the winery. There is a café there for those who wish to purchase lunch, or bring your own picnic while enjoying the view. Next will be Mitchelton and then 12 Acre Winery. If we have time we will no doubt source a few more.

Accommodation will be at Nagambie Lakes Resort approximately 10km north of Nagambie. The resort overlooks the Goulburn Weir and the Weir wall is within walking distance; tennis courts are available for those feeling energetic.

There is a choice of either a room consisting of 2 single beds and 1 double for \$95.00 or 1 single or 1 double for \$75.00.

Rooms are basic and include linen, fridge and small cooktop/oven.

There are BBQ facilities and a fireplace. The plan for dinner is for everyone to bring a small plate/meal put it on a large table and everyone helps themselves to the smorgasbord while enjoying the purchases from the day.

Breakfast will be bacon and eggs on the BBQ which I will organise and the total will be divided between the group.

Sunday will be a leisurely day and maybe travel a little further north to a couple of wineries in Murchison before returning to Melbourne.

Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM:	N/A
	MAXIMUM:	N/A

Approximate Kms 100

Last Available Fuel PETROL: Nagambie

DIESEL:

Distance Between Supplies N/A

Equipment Required Headache Tablets

Maps Required TBA

Radio Channel CB/UHF 12

Destination	Tarra Bulga National Park
Trip Leader	Mark Capper
Contact No	Mob: 0411 530484
Date	13 th – 15 th 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 Kms	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	4 th – 7 th November
Meeting Place	TBA
Time	TBA
Grade	WET: DRY:

Trip Activity Details

TBA



Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: N/A MAXIMUM: N/A
Approximate Kms	100
Last Available Fuel	PETROL: Nagambie DIESEL:
Distance Between Supplies	N/A
Equipment Required	TBA
Maps Required	TBA
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12



Destination	Fishing Trip - Jamieson Area
Trip Leader	Ashley Martin
Contact No	Mob: 0438 600 904
Date	17 th – 19 th 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	Oxfam Christmas Tree Project
Trip Leader	John Patridge
Contact No	0428 331211
Date	9 th & 10 th December
Meeting Place	Scout Hall, Pakenham St., Blackburn (Melway Map 47 H 12) on Saturday Princes Hill Primary School, Wilson St., Nth Carlton (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 Kms	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 Reports

Big River Day Trip - 16th July

Trip Leader	Carissa & Joe Galovic	Nissan
Participants	Paul Ryan	80 Series Landcruiser
	Carl Surtees & Gerard Clarke	GQ Patrol
	Michael Rodger & John Partridge	GU Patrol
	Tim Axtel & Shane	60 Series Landcruiser
	Anthony & Riley Van Buiten	GU Patrol
	Ashely Martin & Bethany Surtees	GU Patrol Ute

Paul, Michael and I headed out on the Friday night stopping over for a very nice meal at the Healesville Pub. Before long we were off again heading towards Big River Road via Marysville. The easy part was getting there; the hard part was finding a camping spot. You wouldn't have thought it would be hard finding a spot suitable for just three swags would you? In fact it took us nearly 1 ½ hours as all of the spots have been turned into mud baths due to irresponsible people.

Finally we found a place *just* big enough for us. We got the big tarp out to keep us dry whilst we relaxed and about 12.00am Paul got the fire going. It was a very enjoyable night. I woke up to hear Michael giving instructions to the crew heading along the Big River Road. They arrived a tad earlier than we anticipated... Oh well, we didn't need breakfast anyway...

The first interesting track we conquered was Page Track. Carl once again tested his '*leanability*' taking a very interesting line with his right wheels high up on the embankment whilst his left wheels remained in the ruts.



I'm not sure if you would call it courage, but it was certainly amusing watching him take this line at full noise.

Every one else took a more conventional line without any dramas.

We then traversed numerous tracks including Cornhill Track, Boundary Track, and Frenchman's Creek Track before stopping for lunch on the banks of the creek. Shortly after lunch the more adventurous of us, namely Carl, Ashley & Paul veered onto the challenging Short Cut Track No. 1. It is a shortcut in distance only. Some may remember this from a previous 'A Grade' trip. It has some very large ruts on a very steep incline which leads into a nice little rocky section. The rest continued along Frenchman's Track and waited for our thrill seekers at the exit of Frenchman's Spur Track.



Our intrepid leaders then lead us up to the 'one last track', Reefton Logging Road which turned out to be a very steep, loose, rocky track with numerous ledges to negotiate. It was a cracker of a track! I think everyone had accelerated heart beats as they negotiated the steep downhill section. If you tried to steer around some of the rocky sections you quickly found yourself sliding sideways in a very precarious situation. Michael and I were wondering what Tim was up to when he quickly headed towards the tree in the middle. As we were to find out, Tim had accidentally knocked his truck out of gear and was able to bring it to a stop just short of the tree. After assessing the situation I guided Tim down a loose rock ledge after which was a straight forward run to the bottom. A few others needed a bit of guidance and before long we were all at the bottom breathing a sign of relief. It's amazing how far we can go with level heads and bit of knowledge from our driver training courses. After a few more interesting moments on a very boggy section of track we were all airing up our tyres ready for the trip home.

A very big thank you to Joe and Carrissa for a very enjoyable trip. This was their first trip as trip leaders and their preparation showed, with numerous options available depending on weather conditions and level of confidence of participants.

John Partridge

The AGM Dinner

"Good On Ya Award"



A fun part of the AGM Dinner is the presentation of the "Good On Ya" award.

This is an award that I started up last year as an excuse to bring up some of the more memorable and funny moments that often happen on a trip. How many times have you been out in the bush and you have thought... Good on ya?

Last year we had 2 recipients, and very worthy ones at that. Joe received his for his part in the Wonnangatta Roast that we held. As Ashley was checking on the roasts and turning them over, he found that Joe's roast still had the cling wrap on it!! Luckily the camp oven wasn't too hot at that stage and the plastic hadn't melted... "Good on ya Joe!"

Ashley won his for the sheer number of axe handles he has managed to split instead of firewood. On one trip Carl got out his fibreglass wood splitter saying 'even Ashley can't break this one'... famous last words, it only took two swings!! "Good on ya Ashley"

We had some honourable mentions this year. There was Tim for knocking his 4wd out of gear as he was going downhill. But I ruled him out of contention. If we gave out awards for silly things done when starting out I would have a showcase full. Then there was Derek, who travelled all the way to Dargo from Cams Top Place and back to get rid of his rubbish only to find it still sitting in the back of the truck. I guess he didn't make it passed the pub? Of course it wouldn't be the same if we didn't have a nomination for Ashley. On a recent recce trip to Mt Cole, Ashley got his chainsaw out to cut some timber for the camp fire only to find out that there was no chain on it!

But this year's winner got over the line as he had 2 nominations. One for trying to direct Paul to the camping ground without realising that, not only was Paul already there, but he was actually parked right behind him. The second nomination was from when his compressor was playing up. Ashley offered to pump them up for him only to find that Michael had driven around in front of the wrong vehicle. He then had to hop back in, drive around the camp site again to get back to where Ashley was parked!



Good on Ya Michael!
For your outstanding efforts

John Partridge

AGM Dinner



Saturday 12 August 2006

Present:

Table 1: David & Rosalie, Ray & Dawn, Gary & Paula, Ian & Liz

Table 2: Anthony & Aline, Mark & Julie, Brian, James & Kathryn, Gary & Charlotte

Table 3: Paul & Maxine, Michael & Verylle, Ashley & Lesley, John, Craig

Table 4: Pat & Ann, Steve & Jill, Carl & Terry, Mark Kochan

As you all know, the AGM Dinner was once again held at the Mulgrave Country Club. Despite the fact that numbers were significantly diminished this year, everybody appeared to enjoy the evening. The food was plentiful, the beverages flowed, the room was abuzz with chatter and laughter.



Newly-elected President, Ashley, said a few words, and then the raffle was drawn.

Winners were:

Lesley Peters
Ryobi Blower Vac



Verylle Rodger
Melbourne Map Centre \$100 Voucher



Dawn Brown
Mixed Dozen Bottles of Wine



Steve Boyle
Portable Gas Stove



Gary
Nutrimetics



John presented the "Good on ya Award" – Michael being the winner of the inaugural trophy.

Thanks to Paul for organizing the evening. Hopefully next year we will see a better turnout for what really is our annual club event.

Lesley Peters

THE END OF THE BATTLE...TREAD LIGHTLY GOES QUIETLY



In 1989 motoring writers Ian Glover and Brian Woodward attended a release of the Range Rover in the USA and were introduced to Tread Lightly! USA. They both came to the conclusion that this was the sort of thing that Australia needed to handle the ever increasing issue of dialogue with land management. For some time before this, Jan Scudamore and here husband Ivan had been thinking along similar lines, so when Messrs Glover and Woodward returned to Australia the idea began to take shape.

The Scudamore's embraced the Tread Lightly concept with enthusiasm from that point onward, and Brian Woodward agreed to take on the job of Chairman. The first corporate sponsor at the time became Land Rover Australia, and the future for the fledgling organisation was looking rosy. Jan Scudamore recalls; "We really believed that in order to achieve a viable future for recreational land use, there had to be a united representation body that wasn't hamstrung along club lines." She continues, "The only way to do this was to put together a professional lobby group, and to do that we needed the support of the industries involved."

Brian Woodward in his address to the first National Congress told those attending; "It is quite possible that the 4wd companies could well become the tobacco industry of the 21st Century, and end up paying for the damage their products created in the past." Strong words perhaps, but Brian Woodward seldom backed away from a challenge.

Tread Lightly! went on to operate with a large pool of private members, and a goodly number of corporate members such as Overlander Magazine and many of their advertisers but unfortunately never gained the full support of the 4WD manufacturers who would have had much to gain from being involved. While Jeep Australia had been a Corporate Sponsor for a while, was a far cry from the situation in the USA where Chrysler Jeep backed it 100%.

And so today, after 15 years Jan Scudamore has decided to close the shop on something she and Ivan had invested most of their time and no small amount of personal funds in. The recent passing of her husband Ivan was undoubtedly a time of great difficulty for Jan and quite possibly the point at which this immensely dedicated woman began to believe she was fighting a losing battle, despite the efforts of numerous board members and volunteers.

"I think there's another factor here as well," she says. "The Tread Lightly message could even be close to irrelevant today. People are far more environmentally aware than ever before." Going on to cite the changes in attitudes of four wheel drivers to the bush, she added. "I still believe that there will always be a need for a lobby group to cover everyone not just the 4wd people and bike riders, it just won't be me."

So after all those years of riding out to do battle with the bureaucrats, Jan Scudamore will find life a little quieter, just don't write her off yet.

OXFAM AUSTRALIA CHRISTMAS TREE PROJECT



This is to inform and to remind clubs who have helped in recent years that the deliver dates this year are **Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th December.**

Volunteers carry out the whole operation. Last year nearly \$84,000 was raised, that's about \$480 per delivery vehicle, and went towards alleviating poverty and social injustice within Australia and overseas. **That's a total of over \$55,000 raised by members of Victorian Four Wheel Drive Clubs.**

We ask for drivers, navigators and vehicles that can carry 8 to 25 freshly cut trees, with or without a trailer. Many 4WD clubs have found this a fun activity that makes a considerable contribution to the larger community in which we live.

We meet at the Scout Hall, Pakenham Street, Blackburn (Melway Map 47 H 12) on Saturday 9 December, or Princes Hill Primary School, Wilson Street, North Carlton (Melway 29 J 11) on Sunday 10 December. On Saturday we deliver to the south and eastern side of Melbourne and on the Sunday the north and western side. You pick the area you would like to deliver the trees, and the day and time (**before 11am**) you arrive at the depot. We give you a very well organised list of addresses with Melway grid references, all in close proximity to each other. 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.

Brian Moran is still in search for the right person to take over the coordination role he has done for the last 14 years. So if you have some spare time in the second half of the year and would like to take on a challenge that has a significant impact for those less fortunate in this world, please give Brian a call on 94973227 or email briangum@tpg.com.au.

The pay doesn't exist but the rewards gained from raising \$84,000, seeing 2500 happy customers and dealing with such generous drivers like yourselves is enough to keep you on a high until it all rolls around again, 11 months later).



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