

AUGUST 2008

Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
Registration No A0002184F



Snow Trip - July 2008



The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc is an affiliated club of
the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)
www.fwdvictoria.org.au

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President	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	John Partridge	0428 331 211	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Craig Major	0432 876 699	treasurer@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Paul Ryan	0438 121 148	secretary@vfwdc.com

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Assistant Secretary	Lesley Peters		asstsec@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	John Partridge	0428 331 211	trips@vfwdc.com
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New Member Contact	Paul Ryan	0438 121 148	
Web Manager	Paul Ryan		

Forward Articles & Photos for the Newsletter to:

editor@vfwdc.com

All contributions to be submitted prior to the 20th of each month

CLUB DETAILS

Registered Name:	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
Registration No:	A002184F
All Correspondence:	The Secretary Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3173
Email:	secretary@vfwdc.com.au
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.

President's Report



Well it has come to the end of the Committee year and after two years as President I will be stepping down from the position. While I will probably take on a lesser role on the Committee, it is time for someone else to take the reins and continue our 34 year history. I must thank all the present and past Committee members who have contributed over time. It is a team effort and everyone has contributed in their own way to make the VFWDC a fantastic club. To all the members who have participated in some way over the years, thank you, and I hope you continue to support the incoming Committee and just as importantly the trip leaders. Remember, we are in the Club for one reason and that is to enjoy the outdoors in the company of family and friends. All the best to the incoming president, who I am sure will continue to develop and strengthen the Club.

Speaking of trip leaders, thanks to all those who have led trips this year, in particular the newer members who have put up their hand. I hope we will see more people nominating to lead trips over the next 12 months.

There has been some confusion regarding the Affinity insurance policy and the cover of a second set of tyres. Tim Axtel contacted them for a quote but was advised they would not cover a spare set of tyres. After discussing this with Affinity they will cover them, but they must be declared on the policy extras. If you have a policy with Affinity and you have a second set of tyres, make sure you contact them and ensure they are declared on your list of extras.

In the past few months the timing to send reports, trip data forms, and other contributions for the newsletter is proving to be slow. The newsletter cannot be compiled overnight and takes at least a week of after hours time to complete. If you have been nominated to write a trip report, could you please ensure it is finished and sent to the editor within 1-2 weeks of the trip date. Making sure the editor receives all information by the 20th of each month ensures the edition reaches you well before the upcoming meeting – and of course keeps the editor happy!

At this year's Annual General Meeting we will be varying from the norm a little. The raffle which is usually drawn at the AGM dinner will be drawn at the meeting, giving those who are unable to attend the dinner a chance at to win a great prize. Make sure you check out the information in the newsletter.

If you haven't already put your name down for the AGM Dinner and you wish to come along, please make sure you do so by the August meeting. It's always an enjoyable night and this one will be no different. Final numbers are required this week, but if you can't make the meeting please give me a call.

Once again thank you to everyone for your support.

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

Ashley Martin
President

Minutes of the General Meeting – 1 July 2008

The meeting was held at Dandenong Library and opened by President Ashley Martin.

Present: There were 32 members present as per the attendance book.

Apologies: Maxine Ryan, Steve and Jill Boyle, Aline Van Buiten, Ian Warburton, Anne Pettigrew, Nick Johnson, Brian Martin.

Visitors: Phil Pledger, Johan Liebenberg..

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Accepted: Tim Axtell

Seconded: Derek Hymas

Matters Arising: Nil

Correspondence In:

- Overland Cruising
- LROCV Newsletter
- Cross Country Jeep Club
- ARB 4X4 Action
- Eureka Echo
- Trackwatch Autumn & Winter
- VKS Radio Network
- Rays Direct

Correspondence Out:

- Membership Renewals
- AGM Minutes 2007
- Newsletter

Treasurer's Report:

Opening Balance: \$8547.30
 Receipts: \$ 966.00
 Payments: \$ 432.75

Cheque Account: \$2884.56
 Term Deposit: \$6076.35
 Petty Cash: \$ 82.60

Closing Balance: \$9043.51

Accepted: **Anthony Van Buiten**

Seconded: **Michael Rodger**

Trip Co-ordinator's Report:

Trip Reports:

Rushworth: Mark Felton gave the trip report for the Rushworth trip. Saturday we walked into and through the Whroo gold mine and followed this up with dinner at the Rushworth pub which was very nice. After dinner it was back to camp and sit around the camp fire. Sunday we took in several wineries, had lunch beside Nagambie Lake and then sampled more wine and cheese at one of the wineries in Murchison. We also went to have a look around the old cemetery at

Whroo. Monday was an easy pack up before heading home.

Grampians: Bob gave the report on his Grampians trip. He stayed at the Pines campground which is very nice and has good facilities. Several members of the Wimmera 4WD Club were playing camp host for the weekend. Some good tracks in the area.

Avoca: Michael gave the report for the Avoca trip. The group camped at the old Glenpatrick footy oval which is a nice spot with flushing toilets and a shelter with a fireplace. The ladies visited a few of the wineries on Saturday while the boys went looking for some tracks to play on. Unfortunately a lot of the tracks in the area have had the dozer put down them and only a small section of Old Bluff Track has been left untouched. Sunday was a bit damp but everyone packed up and were home by lunchtime.

Forthcoming Trips:

11-13 JUL	Annual Snow Trip	Craig Major
25-27 JUL	Lone Graves Restoration	John Partridge
17 AUG	Annual Car Rally	Anthony Van Buiten
29-31 AUG	1. Noojee-Walhalla 2. Mystery Pub-to-Pub	Ashley Martin David Hughes
TBC	Adhoc Snow Trip	Bob McKerrow
?? OCT	First Aid Course	Ashley Martin
29 DEC-10 JAN	Nullabor Explorer	Bob McKerrow

- Annual Snow Trip will be either to Mt Skene or the Licola area depending on the weather. Email will go out closer to the time to confirm details.
- The Lone Graves Restoration will be in the Toombon, Edward's Reef, Store Point area. We will be helping Parks/DSE mark out some of the lone graves (exposed by the bushfires). Camping will be at Merrington's. Going 4wd (C31) will be filming.
- The Noojee-Walhalla trip will be a leisurely touring trip taking in some of the tracks between the two, probably of an easy to medium standard. Will most likely go through the Tanjil Breen area.
- Annual Pub to Pub will be the 10th or 11th Annual Pub to Pub and is sure to be another great weekend away. The cost for both nights accommodation will work out to be about \$110-120 per head (i.e. \$55-60 pp per night). Minimal 4WD-ing, just be prepared to have a good time.
- Ad-Hoc Snow trip. Bob will take names of people interested in an adhoc snow trip. If there has been a good dump of snow then he will lead a day trip into the area around Lake Mountain and Mt Bullfight.
- 1st Aid Course will be held in October and will be run over several nights. This will give participants L2 accreditation.
- Car Rally will be starting at the Junction of Wellington Road and Stud Road. Can be completed in a 2WD vehicle so all comers are welcome.
- Nullabor Explorer - Bob is going to take a leisurely drive out across the Nullabor during late

December/early January. This trip will probably take in a spot of beach driving and apparently the fishing along the Bight is spectacular so take the rods.

Can we please have some volunteers to run trips in September/October as some of our regular trip leaders will be away that month.

Events Co-ordinator's Report:

AGM Dinner: This will be held on Saturday 16 August and will be at the Dandenong Pavilion. Cost will be approx \$40 per head. Can we please have deposit of \$10 as confirmation.

Association Report:

- As reported at last month's meeting the Association proposed a fee increase of approximately \$10 per membership. Ashley and John attended the June meeting of the Association. A number of objections to the increase were voiced and the upshot is that the Association will put together a business plan and proposal in the coming year.
- The Association has created an internet forum which can be accessed from their website as part of improving communication between the association and affiliated clubs. Anyone wishing to use the forum needs to register online.
- Tracks: The association is making progress on gaining access to MVO tracks (this was also recently recommended as a result of the enquiry into the 2006/7 bushfires). DSE has drafted a track closure policy which will be reviewed by the Four Wheel Drive Advisory committee. The framework for the Bunyip SF will also be reviewed. The current policy has placed increased pressure on the existing track network. New camp sites that were proposed in the framework have not happened and there is an increasing police presence in the State forest.

General Business:

- **AGM:** This year will be preceded by a short EAGM to finalise last year's financials. As usual all committee positions are up for grabs and we are particularly looking for a new Secretary.
- Ashley read from a couple of newspaper articles which detailed the breakdown of costs for rebuilding Craig's Hut. Over \$140,000 of the \$300,000 budget was taken up by administration and project management fees. Some of the figures mentioned were
 - Project Management Fees - \$110,000
 - Building - \$150,000
 - Site Works - \$25,000
 - Non Capital Expenditure - \$5,000.Other articles related to a possible Bio diesel plant in the Mansfield area and the recent Camp hosts program.
- Bushfire Enquiry: This report was finalised recently. There is a link to the report on the Association website.
- Merchandise: Ashley showed some examples of fleeces that can be made in Club colours and will be available to members if interested.

Tea Duties: Verylle, Lesley & Liberty. Thanks.

Other Business:

- Club Library: This is being revamped and we require a volunteer to look after the contents. Mark Kochan expressed an interest in taking this on.
- Hilux D-Tronic Chip: Peter Davies has one for sale if anyone is interested.
- 40L Engel: John has one for sale at cost, approx \$1000.00

Raffle: Tickets sold by Jan Hymas.

1st Prize - UHF Radios won by Shane.

2nd Prize - Camp Chair won by George.

3rd Prize - Cookies won by Johan.

4th Prize - Cookies won by Ashley.

Meeting Closed: 10.00pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday 5 August at Dandenong Library Meeting room. Preceded by EAGM and followed by the Annual General Meeting.

VFWDC MERCHANDISE

For Sale

Club Polo Shirts	\$25.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece ½ Zip Jumper	\$36.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$48.00 ea
Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$42.00 ea
Club Caps	\$15.00 ea
Club Beanie	\$12.00 ea
VFWDC Stickers (long)	\$ 6.00 ea
Stubbie Holders	\$ 6.00 ea

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.

Email your order to committee@vfwdc.com. Please ensure you advise size required.

Yahoo Groups

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>

and click on "Join this group".

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



CLUB KITCHEN

Leg of Pork Roasted With Bush Spices



INGREDIENTS

- 1 (2 kg) leg of pork, rind scored
- 2 tablespoons sea salt
- 3 tablespoons bush tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 5 carrots, sliced lengthwise
- 1 onion, roughly chopped

For the Yams

- yams
- olive oil
- salt and pepper
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 20g butter
- 5 small eschallots
- 20 small apples
- 2 tablespoons Munthari berries

Sauce

- ¼ cup brandy
- 1 cup chicken stock

METHOD

Preheat oven to 240°C. degrees.
Grind salt and bush tomatoes along with the oil in a mortar and pestle. Rub the mixture over the pork. Place carrots and onions in the middle of a large baking dish. Place pork on top of the vegetables and bake for 15 minutes. Reduce oven to 140°C and cook a further 4 hours.
Scrub Yams (sweet potatoes) and rub with some oil and salt. Wrap the potatoes in foil and bake for 1 hour.
Heat some oil and butter in a frying pan. Add the eschallots and apples to the pan and cook until slightly browned. Add *Munthari berries. One combined add mixture to pork for the final 40 minutes of baking.
Remove the pork and apples from the pan and cover them with foil. Discard the carrots and onions. Add brandy to the pan. Stir to remove the crusty sediment. Add stock and let simmer for 5 minutes. Slice pork and serve with the apples, yams and sauce.

*Munthari Berries (check internet for description)



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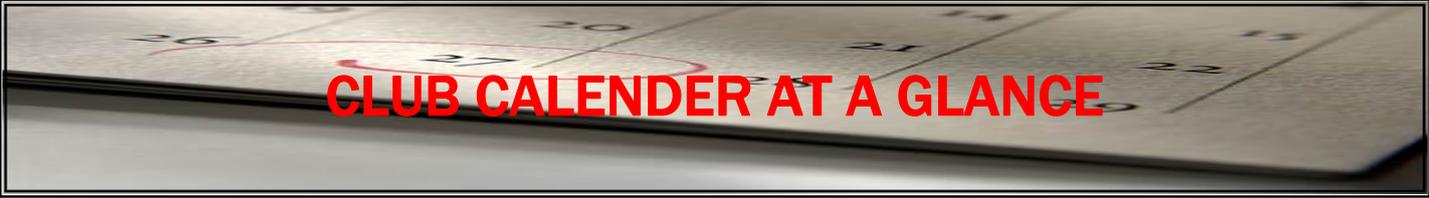
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CLUB CALENDER AT A GLANCE

JULY 2008

Tuesday 1 st	General Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Friday 11 th to Sunday 13 th	Annual Snow Trip	Craig Major	0432 876 699
Tuesday 22 nd	Committee Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Friday 25 th to Sunday 27 th	Lone Graves Aberfeldy Working Bee	John Partridge	0428 331 211

AUGUST 2008

Tuesday 5 th	General Meeting Incorporating Annual General Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Saturday 16 th	AGM Dinner	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Sunday 17 th	Car Rally	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784 073
Friday 29 th to Sunday 31 st	Trip 1: Noojee-Walhalla Touring Weekend	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	Trip 2: Mystery Pub-to-Pub	Rosalie Hughes	0427 865 592

SEPTEMBER 2008

Tuesday 2 nd	General Meeting	TBC	
Sunday 21 September	Bunyip State Forest	Tim Axtel	0414 848 753
Tuesday 23 rd	Committee Meeting	TBC	

OCTOBER 2008

Tuesday 7 th	General Meeting	TBC	
Tuesday 14 th /21 st /28 th	First Aid Training Course	John Partridge	0428 331 211
Friday 17 th to Sunday 19 th	Annual Wine Trip	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Tuesday 21 st	Committee Meeting	TBC	

Forthcoming Trips

Destination	NOOJEE-WALHALLA
Trip Leader	ASHLEY MARTIN
Contact No	0438 600 904
Date	29-31 AUGUST 2008
Meeting Place	Fuel Road House north of Pakenham
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 3 MAX: 10
Grade	WET: Medium/ possibly some hard tracks DRY: Easy/Medium
Approx Kms	
Equipment Required	Basic recovery.
Last Available Fuel	Petrol: Pakenham Diesel: Pakenham
Maps Required	Nil
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activity Details:	
<p>This trip will be a leisurely one taking in areas from Noojee, Tanjil Breen and beyond. At this time of year there should be some wet tracks, therefore a good set of A/T's or muds will be required. Camping on Friday night will be close to Noojee so if you can't make the Friday meeting time, Saturday morning will not be a problem. Camping on Saturday will depend on progress. This is an area not visited for some time and I am sure there will be a good array of tracks.</p>	

Destination	SNOW TRIP EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
Trip Leader	BOB MCKERROW
Contact No	0430 014 001
Date	Saturday after it snows – probably late Aug/early Sept but would run a couple as they are fun.
Meeting Place	Coldstream
Vehicle Limits	2-8 is fine
Grade	Medium to Hard – depending on weather
Approx Kms	300
Equipment Required	Cold weather clothing. Snow chains if you have them. Standard recovery gear. Trip leader has winch.
Last Available Fuel	Marysville. LPG available at Buxton but should not be required for such a short trip.
Maps Required	Rooftops Marysville area.
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activity Details:	
<p>Meet at Coldstream, Saturday morning. Look for snow down to 800 metres on the previous Monday, Tuesday and/or hopefully Wednesday. Through Marysville and then through Cambarville to play</p>	

between Lake Mountain and Mt Bullfight. Come out via Lady Talbot Drive. Lunch in the snow but coffee and nibbles at Marysville Bakery.

Destination	MYSTERY PUB-TO-PUB
Trip Leader	DAVID HUGHES
Contact No	
Date	FRI 29-SUN 31 AUGUST 2008
Meeting Place	TBA
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 4 MAX: N/A
Grade	WET/DRY: Easy
Approx Kms	Unknown
Equipment Required	Basic recovery gear, sense of humour, stubby holder
Last Available Fuel	TBA
Maps Required	Rooftops Marysville area.
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activities:	See attached flyer.

Destination	BUNYIP STATE FOREST
Trip Leader	TIM AXTELL
Contact No	0414 848 753
Date	SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2008
Meeting Time/Place	8.30 am Longwarry outbound servo
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 3 MAX: 10
Grade	WET/DRY: Easy
Approx Kms	N/A
Equipment Required	Basic recovery gear
Last Available Fuel	Longwarry Servo
Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activity Details:	
<p>To explore some of the remaining tracks in the forest. Possibly will be wet so a good set of rubbers required.</p>	

Destination	ANNUAL CAR RALLY
Trip Leader	ANTHONY VAN BUITEN
Contact No	0413 784 074 / 9764 3381
Date	SUNDAY 17 AUGUST 2008
Meeting Time/Place	9.00am, Wellington Village Shopping Centre 2 Gearon Ave, Rowville
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 5 / MAX: N/A
Grade	WET/DRY: Easy
Approx Kms	50
Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activity Details:	
<p>Try to score the most points by answering questions along the way. Try not to get lost. The end location will be provided in a sealed envelope if it all becomes too hard. BBQ and toilet facilities available at the end location.</p>	

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST — NULLARBOR 2008 – 2009

Ah, the Nullarbor. Some say the most boring stretch of road in Australia if not the world. I traveled across it about 4 years ago and it left me with an indelible "Must do this again at leisure".

At this stage I was thinking of traveling across the Nullarbor leaving from Melbourne on Boxing Day.

Day one would see us leaving Melbourne at about 9 am departing from a yet to be decided point. Day one travel would be up to and through Mildura and spending the first night at Renmark or hopefully even Burra.

Day two will take us to Port Augusta hopefully getting in very early afternoon. Early this year (2008) a new Cultural Centre call Re-imagine was opened in Port Augusta and by all accounts is well worth the visit. Once we are set up in a convenient caravan Park, we would visit this centre which explains all things good about the aboriginal culture, the entrance to the Flinders Ranges as well as introducing people to outback South Australia.

Day three would see us travelling down the coast of the Spencer Gulf to Port Lincoln, the home of Tuna Fishing and the home to, among many others, Dean Lukin, 1984 Los Angeles Olympic games Heavy Weight weight lifting Gold medallist and also the home of Makybe Diva, 3 in a row Melbourne Cup winning horse.

We could spend a couple of nights and a full day checking out Port Lincoln or continue west towards Streaky Bay. South Australia allows driving on their beaches and we could stop somewhere along this stretch of coast and throw a line in and fish or just enjoy what ever we see.

From Streaky Bay we continue west, travelling for short bursts and staying wherever we want to.

Once we get to the border of West and South Australia, our vehicles are thoroughly checked for fresh fruit and vegetables which we are forced to throw away so be prepared with little or it will hurt the hip pocket. The silly part of it is this. The stop for fruit and veg for east bound is about 500 kms before the West bound stop. You can't even co-ordinate the exchange. I felt that I should have called up a West bound and told them about the stop and grabbed what they had before they were forced to chuck it away.

Eucla is the first town after the fruit and veg hi-jack for us to top up with our salad vegetables. Slowly crossing the Nullarbor, there are dozens of car parks along the way, which have tracks leading off them so we can travel deep into the bush and set-up camp where-ever we want.

Checking out Cocklebidy and the caves, cave entrance for me but the more adventurous may want to experience more. Madura. There must be something there. Surely. Caiguna, the start of the longest straight stretch of road in Australia, 146 kms without a bend, through to Balladonia. I don't have a destination in mind but I need to be back in Melbourne by the 10th of January so I will turn around on the morning of the 7th and head east again.

If we get to the end of the Nullarbor highway, Norseman, before then, we can either turn right and check out Coolgardie and then Kalgoorlie or we can turn left and go down to the south coast of West Australia to Esperance. If we go the Esperance way, coming back there appears to be a 4wd track leading from just east of Esperance up to Balladonia.

An interesting thing to do, maybe not on this trip but a future trip, for the golfer. 2009 will see a new 18 hole, par 72 golf course started up. First 2 holes are in Ceduna. The next holes are progressive across the Nullarbor, Border Village, Eucla, Madura, Caiguna, Balladonia, Norseman ending with holes 17 and 18 at the Kalgoorlie Golf & Spa Club. A course length of over 1,365 kms, I don't know if this includes the part that you walk. What an achievement that would be. Imagine telling your partner that you are just going out for a quick 18 holes.

The Return. Once I get to the morning of the 7th of January, I need to turn and come home. I will return via Ceduna then go

straight on via Wudinna then Kimba. At Kimba there is an area which has toilets and showers that can accommodate about 6 caravans. The local council is going to take this area over. Provide FREE power, FREE toilets, FREE showers and cooking facilities for more than the current 6 caravans. The catch. Visitors who stay there will need to spend one day a week helping other projects in the area. Sounds great for the grey nomads. After Kimba then back via Pt Augusta, Renmark, Mildura, etc. unless someone particularly wants to see Adelaide.

What will it cost? Staying at Caravan parks on nights 1, 2, 3 and possibly 4 as well as 2 possibly 3 nights on the return at say \$20 per night. The other nights are free camping unless we need to stay somewhere for a shower or for clothes washing. I believe that most roadhouses have showers for about \$2 per person so that would be cheaper.

Fuel. The biggy. Fuel stops are every 300 kms or so across the highway. When I went across and fueled at Ceduna I received a 2¢ a litre discount for every service station across the Nullarbor. At that stage I was using LPG and it was 89.9¢ at the roadhouse at Nullarbor. I also needed to stop that often as I only had about 350kms between fills. I now run diesel and carry about 300 litres so I should make it all the way from Ceduna to Norseman. I rang the roadhouse at the Border Village on Sunday the 15th of June to check out the current prices. I have put these in full words so as not to upset anyone. Price for LP Gas was One dollar and seventeen cents per litre. Price for petrol was two dollars and two cents per litre. Diesel was, wait for it, two dollars and eighteen cents per litre. The way things are going expect over two dollars fifty. So if you don't have long range tanks, make sure you have a long range pocket.

When do we stop. Until we get to Port Augusta, we need to make a mile. We can see Victoria anytime but I am more interested in the South Australia, Pt Augusta to Pt Lincoln, Pt Lincoln to Streaky Bay, Streaky Bay to wherever part. Once past Pt Augusta, if someone sees something they want to see, call out and we will all stop. Prizes may be awarded for the most interesting "that looks interesting" stop. Prizes may be donated by the most boring "that looks interesting" stoppee.

How many can come? Probably 4 or 5 would be comfortable but up to 8 would be OK.

Tents or trailers? I tow a camp trailer. Swags, tents, trailers or caravans. Your choice. No shortage of space if you want to bring a 5th wheeler. My philosophy about 4wds is that just because we have them, doesn't mean we have to use them, but it allows us to go where we want to if we want to.

What if we want to continue or need to leave earlier? Go for your life. I'm not your father. Obviously fuel prices are going to be the guiding factor. A night in an unpowered site at Nullarbor Roadhouse is \$16.00 so road side camping is definitely the go.

Who do I contact? Bob McKerron on 04 3001 4001 or at home on 9800 1335 or email on lowmacbob@aapt.net.au

Is this a definite? No, just getting a list of interested people. There are things happening which I am still not sure about but in reality, to organise a trip like this doesn't take a brain surgeon. I have a journey I would like to take, there is no destination just a date to be completed. Even if I cannot go, maybe someone else is fired up enough to say, "Stuff it, I'll lead this trip".

Think about it. I can't see fuel getting any less, I can't see any of us getting any younger, why waste the now when tomorrow may be out of our reach.



AVOCA – 21-22 JUNE 2008

Participants:

John, Stephanie & Tina	GQ Patrol
Ashley & Lesley	GU Patrol
Michael, Verylle, Liberty & Elizabeth	GU Patrol
Anthony, Aline, Riley & Connor	GU Patrol

Saturday

The morning began slowly with everyone eventually getting into gear. The gents (and kids) organised themselves for a day of wheeling while the ladies studied the winery map for their day. Both groups going their separate ways around 10ish.

The Boys (and kids)

It was a casual start to the morning as the first track was only a five minute drive away. This one is always a good start to the day to clear the cobwebs and this time it was no different. Driving along the main dirt road it was clear a dozer had been around and we were hoping it wouldn't affect the tracks. We decided to go directly to the hardest of the tracks and it provided enough entertainment for us. There was a particularly rough and rutted section that John decided to have a go at while Michael and I took an alternative route. It looked like a lot of fun and it must have been because he decided to have another go a bit later. I don't think Tina enjoyed it quite as much, as she apparently kept her eyes closed the whole time. We drove on a few tracks that the Club had been on in previous trips but all of them had been recently dozed.



While the choice of challenging tracks was limited it was still an enjoyable drive and we managed to get back to camp before the ladies returned from their winery touring.

Anthony

The Ladies – Lesley, Aline, Verylle and Elizabeth.

After deciding which wineries we would visit, and Aline being voted trip navigator, we headed off around 10.30am. The idea was to check out a couple of unknown wineries and then head to Blue Pyrenees for lunch. The first two we visited made such an impression that I've forgotten their names, but we finally reached Blue Pyrenees and settled in for a delightful afternoon of tasting and eating in a very relaxed atmosphere. The guys behind the tasting bar were extremely helpful with advice and we reciprocated by purchasing a few dozen of their excellent wines, together with some local produce. The trip back to camp was somewhat of an adventure. We ended up on a "bit of a track" which I finally decided was **not** a 2wd track. I knew that Ashley wouldn't be too impressed if I had continued in the Commodore, so we turned around and headed back to Glenpatrick, arriving at camp at around 5.30pm. Most enjoyable day out with the gals.

A chilly night was spent around the fire and most went to bed reasonably early.

Lesley

Snow Trip – Mt Skene

Friday 11-Sunday 13 July 2008

<i>Trip Leader:</i>	Craig & Marijke	GU Patrol
<i>Participants:</i>	John & Tina	GQ Patrol
	Ashley Martin	VE Commodore
	Mark & Katherine	GQ Patrol
	Phil & Karen	GU Patrol
	Steve & Ben	GQ Patrol
	Paul & Robert	80 Series
	Nick & Donna	Pathfinder

Friday

We headed towards Yea where we met Ashley, Paul and Robert enjoying dinner at the Yea pub. Phil & Karen, Steve & Ben and Craig & Marijke had all arrived early and had set up camp and were warming themselves and chatting around the camp fire, when we arrived. It was a great atmosphere, and I was rather pleased as I thought that it would have been colder than what it was, but then again we hadn't reached the snow yet and that was still to come, tomorrow.

Saturday

Most of the club were awake early and were enjoying their breakfast and getting their vehicles ready for the day ahead. Nick & Donna met us at the campsite. Everyone was excited, ready and just wanted to see some snow.

We made our way back to Jamieson, drove through the quiet and sleepy town to the Jamieson-Licola Road to Mt Skene.



At the start of the road it was signed posted that the road was closed. As we travelled along the road the light snowfall turned to the track being covered and you could see where the tyres had been.

Then the tyre tracks became deeper and then the colours of the bush were no longer there, the only colour was of the white pure clean snow covering everything.

The snow became really deep (up to your knees) and the place looked like a winter wonderland, something out of a book.

We had a stop; actually it was more like a playtime as everyone was included in a snow ball fight. We continued up the mountain till we came to a bend in the road, which wasn't level and lots of snow where some members had a bit of sideways action and had to be snatched out of the snow.

There was another group that stopped behind us and they had no confidence in us getting through on the right side of the track; however we proved them wrong and continued on up the mountain past a Subaru vehicle parked on the left of the track, which must have been theirs because it wasn't there on the way down and we didn't see them continue behind us.

There were a few more times when somebody needed a hand to get through the snow. At one stage Mark slid out of the wheel ruts and leaned against a wall of snow, he couldn't even open the door as the snow was at least 40-50cms deep.



He had to wait for assistance, and other times when he was waiting for other members, he would entertain himself and anyone watching him doing a face forward fall into the snow to make a snow angel.

We came to a spot on the mountain where it was close (in fact 20 metres close) to the summit, where the trees had opened up and there was once a grassy plain, not today.



Where someone was winching down hill through the snow, that's where we decided to turn around.

We stopped for a late lunch, but it was hard to enjoy as the wind chill factor was in minus degrees. Most members had the bottom of their pants wet from stepping through snow all day that by the time every vehicle had done a "10 point turn around" their pants were frozen solid.

Everyone was ready to go back to camp and get warm and cosy by the fire. We left at 4:30pm, had a real easy run down the mountain and was thankful to approach the dirt road when the daylight was fading. But we past a track familiar to some of the members, where the opportunity couldn't be passed up to have another go at getting up 'Ferguson track'. Steve got his vehicle to the top. Paul and Rob departed and departed at Jamieson and Ashley left early from the campsite. We reached camp after dark, the campfire was relit and dinner was made. The night continued with everyone chatting away recapping from the days experience and absolutely "gob smacked" at really how much snow was up there. Tonight was a little colder than last night.

Sunday

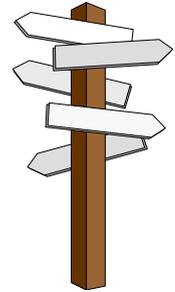
We had a sleep in till 9am as there was no rush; crawled out of bed, made some breakfast and slowly packed up. Craig & Marijke said good bye and headed back home and Steve & Ben, Nick & Donna headed back to Pakenham the scenic way towards Woodspoint. About 11am we were ready to go, said our good byes to Phil & Karen, then headed back home to dry everything out.

Katherine



ANNUAL PUB TO PUB TO PUB

Friday 29th to Sunday 31st August 2008



For those going Friday night:

We are having a counter tea at the American Hotel in CRESWICK, so please be there by 7.00pm if possible.

Accommodation for Friday night:

Bunk Room Accommodation for this night (some special needs will be able to be met)
You are going to need your bedding for both nights.(sleeping bags or doonas, pillows)

For those arriving Saturday morning:

Please be at the **American Hotel by 9.00am**

When you arrive in Creswick the Hotel is on the right hand side. Please contact us on the Mobile (0427 865 592) if we are not there, so that we can verify how far away we are. It would be preferable if everyone could arrive on the Friday night. If not possible, then we will see you on Saturday morning.

We will be travelling from here to there, with various points of interest along the way.

Morning tea eats will be provided, but to make it easier could everyone have there own hot water for tea and coffee.

You will need to have your lunch with you, as you will be unable to buy anything.

Accommodation for Saturday night:

Everyone will have there own room.

We will be organising breakfast for both mornings, so any special needs we will need to know.

The cost for Accommodation for both nights, and breakfast on both mornings will be approximately \$75 to \$80 per head. Then you will have petrol and whatever you have for your dinner on both nights.

Sunday will be a nice leisurely day, and we will not be leaving until after lunch.

After breakfast, we will be heading off to another destination for some more surprises.

From this place of interest, it will be a leisurely drive to your place of residence.

Any further enquiries, then please ring David or Rosalie on
WORK: 9798 1492
HOME: 9706 2966
MOBILE: 0427 865 592