

February 2008

Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A0002184F



MT PINNIBAR - DECEMBER 2007



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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Vice President	John Partridge	0428 331 211	vicepres@vfwdc.com
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Trip Co-ordinator	John Partridge	0428 331 211	trips@vfwdc.com
Training Co-ordinator	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666	training@vfwdc.com
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New Member Contact	Paul Ryan	0438 121 148	secretary@vfwdc.com.au
Web Manager	Paul Ryan		

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 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



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

I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday period. I managed to squeeze a few days away on John's trip to the high country. The trip was fantastic and some of the best scenery I have seen through this area. The unfortunate thing is that the return to work makes the holidays a distant memory, but in some respects we edge closer to the next trip away somewhere.

I have spoken about the rebuilding of Craig's Hut several times and the official opening has just passed. The Hut itself is basically the same except for a few changes to the rear and a brick floor on the inside. Other huts within the region are also being re built, including Bluff Hut which is not too far from being completed. The Stoney brothers have taken on this project and no doubt it will be just as good as the original. Hopefully in the not to distant future there will be a trip conducted taking in some of the huts and surrounding areas. It has been some time since the Club has run such a trip and it would be good to take in the sights again

As mentioned at the December meeting, we will have a stand at the Victorian 4WD Show (Wandin) to promote the Club. We will have two vehicles on display, along with numerous photos of past trips and activities. Our intention is to attract new members and increase the activity rate for trips, with the prospect of being involved in future committees. If you plan to attend the show, please come by and pay us a visit. Our stand is Number 51 which is located near Four Wheel Drive Victoria.

John has organised a mechanical overview night in March (see calendar). For some time we have discussed running such a night to give people a better understanding of basic maintenance you can perform on your vehicle, along with the inherent problems of some models. If time permits there will be a demonstration of how to perform some of the easier jobs such as wheel bearing etc. Due to the early starting time, light refreshments and drinks will be provided by the company. If you would like to attend please contact John and register your name as numbers will be restricted.

The calendar is looking good. Craig has a day trip, John is revisiting the Walhalla area, and the annual "A" grade trip will be for the more experienced and adventurous. I am also running the trip to the Murray River this year, but due to the distance of this trip, would like to see another trip leader and destination for the Easter weekend, so if you are heading away over Easter consider making it a club trip. All details are in the calendar and forthcoming trips information.

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

Ashley Martin
President

Minutes of the General Meeting – 4 December 2007

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

Present:

There were 24 members present as per the attendance book.

Apologies:

Maxine Ryan, Steve Pitcher, Paula Johnston, Ian Warburton, Anne Pettigrew, Aline Van Buiten.

Visitors: Nil

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Accepted: Anthony Van Buiten
Seconded: Tim Axtell

Matters Arising: Nil

Correspondence In:

- ARB 4x4 Action Spring Issue
- Overland Cruising – Sept/Oct/Nov
- Otway Four Wheeler - October
- LROCV Newsletter – October, November
- Cross Country Jeep Club – October/November
- VIC 4WD Show Feb 2008 flyer
- Dandenong Council response to Library hire fees
- Barry Evans Lifting - 4WD Gear
- Coastline – Spring Issue
- Westprint Outback News – Spring Issue
- Fraser Island Base Camp – Accommodation
- Pajero Club - October, November
- Eureka Echo – Spring Issue
- VAFWDC – Certificate Of Insurance and Annual Report
- Invision – Vehicle Lighting
- Ritchies – New Community Benefit Card
- Grays Online
- PGS 4WD – Dyno day at Mornington

Correspondence Out:

- Newsletter
- Letter to Dandenong Council regarding increase in Library hire fees.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance as at 31 October 2007:

Cheque account: \$3190.53
Term Deposit: \$5905.40
Petty Cash: \$ 12.30

Receipts: \$ 80.00
Payments: \$ 20.00
Closing Balance:

Cheque account: \$3088.79
Term Deposit: \$5905.40
Petty Cash: \$ 108.85

Total \$9103.04

Accepted: Roger Baird
Seconded: Steve Varty

Guest Speaker:

Rudi Paoletti of Adventurer Maps / Navrun spoke to the club about some of his new products. These included:

- *Gold for the Taking* – a new publication
- High Country Ghost Town and Mine Tours some places still left on upcoming trips however 2008 is fully booked.
- Online 4WD Products including Silverstone Tyres, Rims, Ironman 4WD Gear, Cordless LED lights, Battery Systems, Bull Bar. 10 -15% discount to club members.
- 2008 Cliffhanger event at White Cliffs NSW in July 2008. This event is now full, however there is still room for spectators. The event is fully catered. Details can be found at www.navrun.com.au.

Rudi also went on to mention that he has received funding from DSE & Melbourne Water to maintain some of the historically important sites in the Aberfeldy/Jericho area.

Thanks to Rudi for taking the time to come and speak to the club.

Trip Coordinator's Report:

John Partridge reported on the upcoming trips which include:

- 8-9DEC: Oxfam Xmas Tree Delivery Ashley
- 27-DEC: Vic High Country John
- 25-28JAN: Collins Hut Ashley
- FEB TBA: Club Hard Trip – Noojee John
- FEB TBA: Womat SF Craig
- 7-10MAR: Rushworth SF Paul

John also went on to mention the importance of maintaining convoy procedure and keeping trip leaders informed if you decide to break away from the main group on a long trip, ie. several days away.

Trip Reports:

Cup Weekend: Anthony gave the trip report on Cup Weekend at Buffalo River. Apparently the long wet grass meant that most people were soaked from the knees down (or in the kids cases

the forehead down) for the first couple of days. Plenty of rain made the going damp but luckily it was not cold. The group drove to Lake Cobbler and had an interesting slide back down the hill which meant that a few seat covers had to be forcibly retrieved. The roast was postponed till later in the weekend due to the poor weather. The Van Buiten's packed up and headed home on Monday leaving the rest of the group to visit Myrtleford.

Avoca: Bruce's High Country trip had to be postponed so a couple of diehards (Ashley, John and Paul) went to Avoca for Friday night/Saturday day trip. No power at the Elmhurst pub meant that dinner was a pie and a pasty. The following day the boys did Fraser Track, Old Bluff, Donkey Hill, Turpin Track and Slate Quarry. All had good fun and returned Saturday evening.

Annual Fishing Trip: Colin gave the report on the fishing trip which this year was held near Jamieson at 12 Mile Flat just upstream from Kevington pub. The camp site was terrific but the fishing less so, with only a couple of successes namely Liberty Rodger (Carp) and Richard Piotrowski (Trout). Colin and Brendan had no luck but enjoyed themselves all the same.

Christmas Party: John gave the report on the Christmas Party which was held this year at Bimbimie Wildlife Park. Everyone sat down to a BBQ lunch which was followed by a tour of the park (for those who felt adventurous enough to walk). This gave the kids a chance to feed the animals and learn a little more about them. Unfortunately Santa came while the kids were on the tour and had to leave their presents. Some lucky kids got water pistols which kept Ashley amused for what seemed like hours. Everything was done and dusted by 5.00pm and the group made their respective journeys home.

Association Report: Nil this month.

General Business:

Vic 4WD Show Wandin:

The club will be having a stand at the show this year to promote the club to prospective new members.

Craigs Hut:

The tender has gone out to M&C Improvements from Sunbury who commenced work on the hut in November 07. Addendum: this work has now largely been completed.

New Members:

The club welcomed new members Tim and Alison Baker, and Bob and Kathleen McKerrow.

Tea Duties: Lesley and Gary. Thankyou.

Raffle:

1st Prize: Wine won by Tim Axtell.
2nd Prize: Free Range Eggs won by Craig Major.
3rd Prize: Free Range Eggs won by Colin Armour.
4th Prize: Cooler won by Bob McKerrow.
5th Prize: Jaffle Iron won by Gary Johnston.

Meeting Closed at 10.15pm.

Next Meeting:

8.00pm, Tuesday 5 February 2008 at Dandenong Library.

VFWDC MERCHANDISE

For Sale

Club Polo Shirts	\$25.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece ½ Zip Jumper	\$36.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jumper	\$48.00 ea
Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$42.00 ea
Club Caps	\$15.00 ea
Travel Mugs	\$ 5.00 ea
VFWDC Stickers (long)	\$ 6.00 ea
Stubbie Holders	\$ 6.00 ea

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.

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.

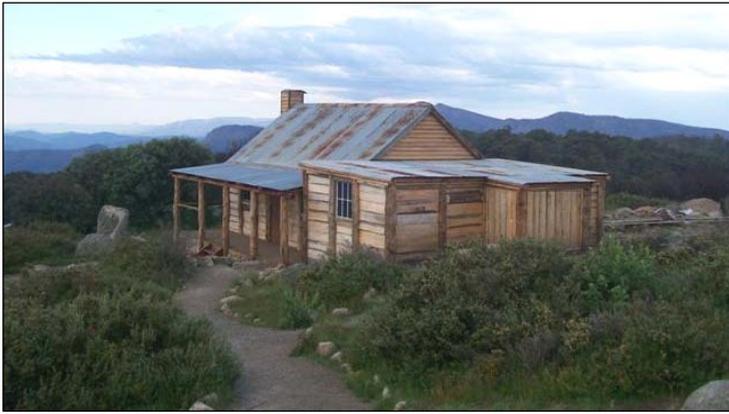
Any problems, email

anthony@ctsmonash.com.au

COMMUNICATION (ko-myoo-ni-kay-shun) n.

Female: The open sharing of thoughts and feelings with one's partner.

Male: Leaving a note before taking off on a 4WD trip with the boys.



The New Craig's Hut

Vehicle Mechanical Night

This event is designed to give you a better understanding of the different types of four wheel drive vehicles available, the differences between them, common associated faults, and some basic bush mechanic fixes to the problems that often occur with these vehicles. We will also look at some of the modifications and how they affect the vehicle and benefits our recreational pastime.

There will be some industry experts on hand to offer information and expertise.

Dinner and drinks will be supplied.

Numbers need to be confirmed by the March meeting (Tuesday 4 March)

Starting Time
6.30pm

Date
Tuesday, 11 March

Location
Glenmount Automotive
F1, 115 Rickets Rd
Mt Waverley

For further details please contact
John Partridge on 0428 331 211



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Anyone wishing to advertise in the Club Directory,
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Forthcoming Trips

Destination	DAY TRIP WARBURTON
Trip Leader	CRAIG MAJOR
Contact No	0432 876 699
Date	SUNDAY 10 FEBRUARY
Meeting Place	Yarra Junction – 8.3am
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
Grade	WET: Medium DRY: Easy-Medium
Equipment Required	Basic recovery gear
Last Available Fuel	Petrol: Lilydale Diesel: Lilydale
Approx Kms	100
Maps Required	TBA
Radio Channel	12

Trip Activity Details:

We will be looking at a variety of medium tracks around the Warburton area and making a few stops to take in the sights along the way. The area can be quite boggy and slippery so a good set of all-terrains would be recommended.

Destination	"A GRADE" TRIP NOOJEE
Trip Leader	JOHN PARTRIDGE
Contact No	0428 331 211
Date	SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY to SUNDAY 24 FEBRUARY
Meeting Place:	Nar Nar Goon BP Roadhouse (Confirm w/JP closer to date)
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 6
Grade	WET: Hard-Very Hard DRY: Hard
Equipment Required	Full recovery equipment to cover all possibilities. 33" mud terrains and at least one air locker is a minimum.
Last Available Fuel	Petrol: Arrive with full fuel tank Diesel: Arrive with full fuel tank
Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel	12

Trip Activity Details:

We will be travelling to Noojee to tackle some of the hardest tracks available to us in Victoria. Expect some very steep, greasy, rocky, ledgy and rutted tracks that will test man and machine. Even though we will take all precautions during the trip there will be some chance of panel damage on such a trip. Only those with the vehicles and the experience to match will be eligible to participate, and the trip leader will have the final say. There may be spare seats available for those who wish to come and experience the harder end of 4WDing. Contact John for availability.

Destination	LABOUR DAY WEEKEND ABERFELDY FOREST AREA
Trip Leader	JOHN PARTRIDGE
Contact No	0428 331 211
Date	FRIDAY 7 MARCH to MONDAY 10 MARCH
Meeting Place:	8.00 pm, Erica Pub for dinner
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 8
Grade	WET: Medium DRY: Medium
Equipment Required	Standard recovery equipment. You will need to be self-sufficient with all camping needs. Bring own water.
Last Available Fuel	Petrol: Moe Diesel: Moe
Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activity Details:	

This will be our first visit to the Aberfeldy Forest region since the devastating floods in 2007.

We will be spending our time re-acquainting ourselves with this area with a mixture of driving and exploring some of the old mining areas. We will be walking into some long forgotten mines, finding old boilers and stampers and maybe visit the Morning Star Water Wheel.

The camping place will be confirmed closer to the date.

Destination	PROFICIENCY TRAINING W/END ABERFELDY FOREST AREA
Trip Leader	MICHAEL RODGER
Contact No	0412 530 666
Date	Theory: Wednesday 2 April Practical: Sat 5 April/Sun 6 April
Meeting Place:	TBC
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 8
Grade	WET: Medium DRY: Medium
Equipment Required	Standard recovery equipment. You will need to be self-sufficient with all camping needs. Bring own water.
Last Available Fuel	Petrol: Moe Diesel: Moe
Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activity Details:	

This is a must do trip for any club member who hasn't attended a training weekend in the past. We will be covering many of the basic aspects of 4WDing covering a varied terrain including steep rocky tracks and river crossings. There will be something for everyone in this trip – for new and old. The latest and most up to date recovery techniques will be discussed and tested. Discussions on vehicle setup, recovery gear, the Tread Lightly! principles and more.



CLUB CALENDER AT A GLANCE

FEBRUARY 2008

Tuesday 5 th	General Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Sunday 10 th	Day Trip	Craig Major	0432 816 699
Sunday 17 th	Victorian 4WD Show	John Partridge	0438 331 211
Tuesday 19 th	Committee Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Saturday 23 rd to Sunday 24 th	"A" Grade Trip Noojee	John Partridge	0438 331 211

MARCH

Tuesday 4 th	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Friday 7 th to Monday 10 th	Labour Day Weekend O'Tooles	John Partridge	0438 331 211
Tuesday 11 th	Mechanics Night	John Partridge	0438 331 211
Tuesday 18 th	Committee Meeting		
Friday 21 st to Monday 24 th	Easter Murray River- Hattah-Kulkyne	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904

APRIL

Tuesday 1 st	General Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Saturday 5 th to Sunday 6 th	Proficiency Training Weekend	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
Tuesday 22 nd	Committee Meeting		
Saturday 25 th to Sunday 27 th	Anzac Day Long W/end Rushworth	Paul Ryan	0438 121 148



CHRISTMAS PARTY – BIMBIMBIE WILDLIFE PARK 1 DECEMBER 2007

Participants: Ashley & Lesley
Craig & Marijke
Axtell Family
Rodger Family
Ryan Family
Van Buiten Family
Webber Family
Harwood Family
Cremonesi Family
Ray & Dawn
Don & Thelma

Everyone arrived at Bimbimbie around 1.00 and enjoyed a barbeque lunch. The kids then took their parents off to check out the wildlife and get up close and personal with some of the creatures.



Brave Foursome: Travis, Charlotte, Riley and Connor "cuddle up" with a python!!



Robert, Christopher and Dillon wrestling with the python...



Michael distributes the presents left by Santa.

CHRISTMAS TOURING TRIP 26-31 December 2007

<i>Trip Leader:</i>	John Partridge	GQ Patrol
	Tina & Stephanie	
<i>Participants:</i>	Ashley Martin	GU Patrol
	Michael, Verylle,	GU Patrol
	Liberty & Elizabeth Rodger	
	Steve Vardy	GQ Patrol
	Gary Smith	GQ Patrol
	Mark Kochan	60 Series

Thursday 27th

John and I left home at a reasonable time to ensure we had a relaxing afternoon at the caravan park before we started touring. The drive to Omeo was better than expected with little traffic and a very easy 5 hour drive. We arrived at midday to find the Rodgers all set up on the edge of the creek which runs through the park. The day was spent at a very slow pace before cutting some timber then taking a swim in the



Bill Harwood is well known for chatting up the birds!

It was a successful day, and the kids had a great time.

river close to town. Gary, Steve and Mark all arrived at different intervals during the day.

Friday 28th

We were all up and at it early to start the day's adventure with a start time of 9.30am. Some were packed earlier than others so it was a quick stop at the bakery for the usual delicious country bakery delights. With John in the lead and me tail end Charlie, it was safe to say there wasn't going to be any problems with the navigation side of things. The route we planned was Misery Trail through to Davies Plain, Tom Groggan, Mt Pinnbar, Wheelers Hut and back to Omeo. We made our way to the start of Misery Trail where we aired down to tackle the first section. This proved to be easy and we continued along taking in the fantastic scenery. This area had been burnt some years ago and the majority of trees have not recovered, leaving bear trunks and limbs with the new growth starting to shoot up.



This made a great sight and would have looked even more spectacular wrapped in fog. Woven through the trees and new growth was a varied array of wild flowers which added to the scenery. This section was a great start to the trip and I was glad to be tail end Charlie to stop whenever and take plenty of photos. At one point John came over the radio advising he had lost his brakes. We pulled over and discovered the non return valve coming from the alternator that provides the vacuum for the brake booster had a hole in it. When we removed it the battery acid had eaten away the plastic. We repaired it with knead it and some tape but it didn't last long before it gave way again. As we were on reasonably flat ground and not far from camp, John carefully nursed the vehicle along until we could have a better look.

We reached the start of Davies Plain track. I have wanted to visit this area for many years but never had the opportunity. Not long into it we pulled up at Charlie Creek camping area which seemed like a great spot to stop for lunch. After lunch I wandered about the plains, coming across Creek which was crystal clear. The area would make for a great spot to camp and relax for a couple of nights. We continued along and made our way to Davies Plain Hut which was surrounded by a camping area that was in great condition. We decided to make camp here, but before we did John and I went a little further along the track to check out the river and see if there was any decent camping near there. After some time we

decided we were better off at the hut and the river was only a short 5 minute walk.

It wasn't long before camps were erected and maintenance began on some vehicles.



Davies Plain Hut camping area



Davies Plain Hut

We fixed John's problem by removing the valve and joining the two hoses together. Steve was having trouble running on petrol and after removing the filter we discovered it was blocked with rust from the tank. After several flushes, enough rust was removed to run on petrol which made Steve a little more comfortable, especially with the remaining distance needed to travel. Mark's fridge wasn't working and after several checks and a fuse replaced it was 100%. My fridge had stopped running and after checking several things with the multimeter, the Piranha isolator wasn't working. I direct linked the 2 batteries together and it was up and running again. The thought of warm beer for the rest of the trip was depressing so thankfully it was an easy fix. After all that work some of us headed to the river crossing for a splash. It looked like the male version of Sirens with Mark, Steve, Gary and me the stars(?) While in the river, a vehicle passed by and stopped for a chat. After looking at one of the group who was down to his jocks, the female passenger commented that the water must be cold - I'm not sure how she came to that conclusion though! Finally it was time to relax for the rest of the afternoon and evening. Steve had his roast sizzling away which smelled delicious. It's a pity there was no invite for dinner especially for the Pres. The flies must have smelt the roast as well 'cos the swarm around the meat while Steve was carving would have been enough to fill Steve's bathroom. The evening progressed and so did the stories with the increasing consumption of alcohol. You know you are in for a ride when the story starts out as "I shouldn't tell you but I will anyway" so the rest of

the night was filled with Mark's Indy Car highlights, special fly tricks, and various other interesting facts that you would only hear around a camp fire.

Ashley

Saturday 29th

After a pleasant night's sleep at Davies Plain Hut, a few woke early to attempt to beat the hordes of flies for breakfast, but apparently didn't succeed. After packing up camp we were on the tracks by about 10:00am and descending down towards the Murray River. We were starting to encounter a fair bit of traffic on the track which indicated we were getting closer to the river crossing and Tom Groggin camping area. When we arrived at the river we were greeted with a steady flowing of only about wheel depth crossing, but still a nice long ford of the river.



After all successfully crossing, we parked up and went to dip the feet and take some photos of the river. While at the river, a fleet of **16** Landrovers and one Troopy arrived at the crossing. The 'Rovers consisted of mostly Disco's, but there were a couple of Range Rover Sports in the mix and it was interesting to watch them utilise their air suspension and raise their vehicles before the crossing.

When mobile again we drove through the Tom Groggin camp site on the New South Wales side, crossed back over into Victoria (we can all say we have driven through the Murray now) and checked out Dogman's Hut next to the Tom Groggin cattle station. After more happy snaps we headed uphill to find Mt Pinnabar track as we were about to head skyward about 1780m up to the summit. We stopped for lunch in a shaded area as the temperature was rising by lunch time. The next hour or so of driving can only be described as breathtaking, with views back towards Mt Kosciusko and around. We stopped for many a photo but the best views were definitely at the top of Mt Pinnabar. With 360 degree views as far as you could see we were blessed with a perfect seeing day. After lining the cars up for a photo shoot we took in the views for ½ hour or so and then made our way down the other ½ side of Mt Pinnabar.



Our destination for the night was Wheeler's Hut and we were all looking forward to a refreshing swim in the river. We arrived at the hut and were lucky enough to find the camping area around the hut vacant. We set up camp just in time as other groups arrived looking for somewhere to stay. We all enjoyed a cool swim in the nearby river, and afterward proceeded to wash the dust out of our throats with some cleansing refreshments. Usual talk around the fire after dinner saw the night out.

Thanks John for a great trip on some of the best scenery around, and to the other attendees for a great time.

Steve

Sunday 30th

As we were not that far away from returning to Omeo it was a more leisurely pack up than normal. We made our way to Pheasant Creek Track which brought us out onto Benambra-Corryong Road. This track had not been used for some time and it appeared as we were traversing the area and making our own tracks. There had been a vehicle through at some stage, but it must have been a small one as the trees that were down and cleared with a chainsaw were nowhere close to getting a Nissan through. It was slow going in places with the saw having to be used on several occasions. We reached the river at the bottom and it was a good spot for a bite to eat. The sun was beating down on us and with no shade the only relief was to strand in the river, although Stephanie did her best to fall in. I'm not sure if she meant it or not but John wasn't worried as she was in my vehicle keeping me company. The climb out was steep but nothing that troubled us. We eventually made it to Benambra and stopped to air up and an ice-cream.

We made it back to Omeo Caravan Park mid afternoon which allowed us time to relax and take in another swim. The evening was spent relaxing and finished up earlier for some than others.

Monday 31st

We all had plans back in Melbourne for New Year's Eve so gradually we packed up and departed at different times. John decided to stay the night and spend new years at the park.

This was an area I had wanted to visit ever since I have been four wheeling and was not disappointed with the trip. The scenery, tracks and rivers were all fantastic and I'm sure I won't leave it as long to revisit.

Many thanks to John for leading the trip and those who participated; everyone had a great time.

Ashley