



SEPTEMBER 2008

# Free Wheeling

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



*Lone Graves Working Bee, Toombon – 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](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au)

# NOTICE BOARD



**!!!IMPORTANT!!!**

## **VFWDC SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING**

Will be held on Tuesday 2 September 2008 at the Palm Plaza Meeting Room, McCrea Street, Dandenong, commencing at 8.00 pm. (See Melway Map Ref 91A E6 for directions.)



Australia's No 1 event for touring, towing and off-roading is BIGGER than ever!

The National 4X4 Show, Fishing Show & Outdoors Expo will once again be held in October at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre from 23-26 October.

The 2008 exhibition will run for 4 BIG DAYS from 3pm Thursday right through the weekend.

Exhibition Hours:

Thursday 23 October 2008

Friday 24 October 2008

Saturday 25 October 2008

Sunday 26 October 2008

**Melbourne Exhibition Centre**

## **MELBOURNE LEISUREFEST – 2-5 OCTOBER – SANDOWN**

(formerly known as RV & Camping Leisurefest)

For four days in October, Sandown Racecourse will be jam packed with a huge range of boats, fishing gear, marine accessories, touring vehicles and genuine off road accessories from leading brands.

This new look event, whilst in keeping with its past tradition, is coming together at one great venue to bring you the ultimate lifestyle show.

New interactive attractions include testing of caravans, campers, motorhomes and towable boats on the motor racing circuit, in addition to off-roading demonstrations on the new 4x4 track.

This is your first chance to sit in the passenger seat and fully experience on and off road touring and towing in one location.

It's a great day out for the whole family with free kids' activities over the weekend.

**That's the new Melbourne Leisurefest at Sandown Racecourse**

**Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 October 2008**

**BE THERE!!**



Four Wheel Drive Victoria will be participating in this event. As well as having their own stand, Hugh Mc Laren will be working with FWDV Driver Training instructors who will coordinate the four wheel drive circuit. The circuit will take approx 8 minutes and interested spectators will be able to be a passenger as their qualified instructors navigate the course.



### COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2008-2009

President	John Partridge	president@vfwdc.com 0428 331 211
Vice President	Ashley Martin	vicepres@vfwdc.com 0438 600 904
Treasurer	Craig Major	treasurer@vfwdc.com 0432 876 699
Secretary	Catherine Thorne	secretary@vfwdc.com 0412 758 357

### GENERAL COMMITTEE

Assistant Secretary	Anthony Van Buiten	asstsec@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	Tim Axtell	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Lesley Peters	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	Ashley Martin	
Training Officers	Mark Kochan	
	Ashley Martin	
	John Partridge	
	Michael Rodger	
New Member Contact		
Web Manager	Paul Ryan	vfwdc@vfwdc.com

### CLUB DETAILS

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
Registration No	A002184F
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3174
Email	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.vfwdc.com">www.vfwdc.com</a>
Meetings	Held first Tuesday of each month, excluding January (no meeting). The November General Meeting is held on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month due to Melbourne Cup public holiday.
Location	Dandenong Library Stuart Street Dandenong Vic 3175
Newsletter	All articles and photographs to be submitted prior to 20 <sup>th</sup> of each month. <a href="mailto:editor@vfwdc.com">editor@vfwdc.com</a>
Front Cover	Photograph courtesy of : John Partridge

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello and welcome all to our Club's new year.

The AGM has come and gone and our Club's new committee has been elected.

Firstly I would like to say a huge thank you to all of the previous year's committee members. It sometimes can be a thankless job but your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

Now let me introduce you to our new committee.

Ashley Martin	- Vice President.
Catherine Thorne	- Secretary
Craig Major	- Treasurer
Tim Axtell	- Trip Coordinator
Anthony Van Buiten	- Assistant Secretary
Lesley Peters	- Newsletter Editor

So it is now business as usual with our main focus continuing to be on running trips. This is where we need your help. We need more people to step forward and run some trips. We are also wanting to run more day trips this year. So if you have a place you want to visit or you want to run a trip but don't know how to go about it, give Tim a call and he'll help you out.

This year we are going to change how we do the tea duties during the break as it is often difficult to get 'volunteers'. Each meeting at the start we will nominate two people to help out with this. It is an easy job and we need everyone to help out at some stage. You should only be required to do this once in a year maximum.

Unfortunately I will be unable to attend the September meeting as I am in the middle of a course. Ashley will be chairing this meeting.

Until we meet next, take care.

*John Partridge*

## Minutes of the General Meeting – 5 August 2008

### Incorporating the Annual General Meeting

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, Gary & Paula Johnston, Annie Simpson, Aline Van Buiten, Anne Pettigrew, Verylle Rodger, Donna Axtell, Steve & Jill Boyle, Ian Warburton.

Visitors: Simon & Michelle Kovacic, John Dupree, Stan Chechelnitsky, Nick & Sally Harris, Paolo Martini.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Accepted: George Pledger

Seconded: Mark Felton

Matters Arising: Nil

Correspondence In:

- Overland Cruising
- LROCV Newsletter
- Cross Country Jeep Club
- Association - Insurance Renewal
- Association - Membership Fees
- Association - Committee List
- National Library - Request for Aug 2006 Newsletter
- Warren & Linda Coutts - Resignation from Club - moving Interstate
- Albany Camper Trailers - Promo
- Australasian Safari 2008 23 - 30 August
- National Webbing Products - 4WD Recovery Gear
- Aberfeldy Public Cemetery Trust - Letter of Thanks
- Copy of Inquiry into Impact of Public Land Management on Bushfires in Victoria
- Association - Enews

Correspondence Out:

- Newsletter

Treasurer's Report:

Nil this month.

Trip Co-ordinator's Report:

Trip Reports:

**Snow Trip:** Phil Griffith gave the Snow Trip report. The group camped at 12 Mile Reserve just out of Jamieson. It was a bit wet when Phil set up. Saturday broke camp and headed up the Heyfield-Licola road. Snow started at about 900m. It got pretty slippery and there was plenty of sideways driving. There were about 6 cars in convoy. Everyone got stuck at least once. It was bitterly cold at the top and took some time to turn around. Everyone had a great time. There was heaps of snow that weekend.

**Lone Graves:** Shane gave the trip report for the Lone Graves marking weekend. All met at Erica on Friday night and it didn't take long to find the camp site where Graeme and Sue had the fire going. We set up and enjoyed the social life till 2.30- 3.00am. Next morning we started around 10.00am. Noel Lees from Parkers Corner DSE led the trip. Ian from *Going 4WD* was also there filming. We collected rocks from along Williamsons Spur and did Edwards Reef first. After lunch we collected more rock and then went on to Toombon. Had to snatch Noel up the hill just out of the Junction as he was struggling with trailer. Toombon Cemetery is on a steep hill so it was hard work. We marked a further 20 graves there. Noel was a great guide and provided plenty of info. Noel fell in love with the camera. He also showed us a hut that has been built (illegally) in the last two years just off Williamson Spur track. Sunday we had a drive down Pheasant track, Dream Creek track and Beardmore's, then we headed home.

Forthcoming Trips:

16 AUG	AGM Dinner	Ashley Martin
17 AUG	Annual Car Rally	Anthony Van Buiten
29-31 AUG	1. Noojee-Walhalla 2. Mystery Pub-to-Pub	Ashley Martin David Hughes
OCT	First Aid Course	John Partridge
OCT	Wine Trip	Ashley Martin

If you have your name on attendance list and cannot attend a trip, please notify the Trip Leader.

- AGM Dinner - Sat 16<sup>th</sup> at Dandenong Pavilion. Casual fun night. Numbers tonight please.
- Car Rally - Sun 17<sup>th</sup>. Minimum number 4 vehicles. Usual car rally stuff, 3 hours drive followed by BBQ. Kid friendly. 2WD fine.
- The Noojee-Walhalla - Easy/Medium. Friday night at a camp site (always bonus). Leisurely drive to Walhalla camping somewhere. Not hard unless Ashley makes it hard for himself. Sunday finish at Walhalla.
- 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.
- Pub-to-Pub - mystery, meeting at Creswick, American Hotel on Friday afternoon/night. Leaving 9.00am Saturday. We are trying to keep cost down this year. \$75.00 per head for accom and brekkie for both nights. Excellent value. Numbers tonight as well please. Flyers available.

- Bunyip - day trip to Bunyip SF run by Tim. Medium standard, will involve low range but not too hard. Meeting at new BP after Pakenham bypass.
- First Aid Course - October over 2 nights. Probably 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at Valcor office in Notting Hill \$145.00 each.
- Adhoc Snow Trip - Bob McKerrow. Runs when weather is suitable. Bob will text. Reply if interested. Will also run a Mt Skene boys trip leaving early on a Saturday.
- Wine Trip - October. Heathcote this year. Some great wines apparently. Will probably stay in a caravan park with cabins for those not wanting to camp. Communal dinner. Sunday breakfast bacon and eggs.
- 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.

#### Association Report:

John attended two year review of Bunyip. PV is still keen for MVO tracks to be opened to clubs as a pilot scheme. FWDV want to wait for state wide policy. John is pressing for immediate access.

#### General Business:

Bob can access anti slip treads for side/back steps if anyone wants them. \$45.00 for coarse finish or fine finish and will fit GU rear steps. Also available in varying widths. Very handy for accessing fridges, rear storage etc. Contact Bob. If you want something coated then this can also be done.

Tea Duties: Thanks Carl and Andy.

Other Business: Nil.

Raffle: Tickets sold by Tim Axtell.

1st Prize: Bush-B-Q won by Tim Baker

2nd Prize: Snatch Strap won by Carl Surtees

3rd Prize: Head Torch won by David Hughes

4th Prize: Biscuits won by Colin Armour.

5<sup>th</sup> Prize: Won by David Hughes

Meeting Closed: 9.00pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday 2 September at Palm Plaza Meeting room (see map below)



## 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](mailto: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.



### Little Nancy's Pet

Little Nancy was in the garden filling in a hole when her neighbour peered over the fence. Interested in what the little girl was up to, he politely asked, "What are you up to there, Nancy?"

"My goldfish died", replied Nancy tearfully, without looking up, "and I've just buried him."

The neighbour was concerned, "That's an awfully big hole for a goldfish isn't it?"

Nancy patted down the last heap of earth and then replied, "That's because he's inside your stupid cat."



## CLUB KITCHEN

### Best-ever Banana Bread



The best way to warm up your house and make you feel like cosying up to the fire this winter is this delightful banana bread.

#### INGREDIENTS

2 bananas  
2 tablespoons golden syrup  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar  
1 egg  
1 cup self-raising flour  
pinch of salt

#### METHOD

Heat oven to 180°C (160°C fan forced). Grease and line the base of a loaf pan. In a medium bowl, mash bananas then add golden syrup. Add sugar and stir in. Add egg, sifted flour and salt and lightly mix until combined. Pour into loaf pan and cook for 30 minutes or until a skewer is inserted into the middle comes out clean. Allow to cool in tin for 10 minutes, then turn onto wire rack to cool.

Enjoy it warm straight from the oven or lightly grill it and then enjoy with butter melting on top.

**Tip:** you can also make variations to this by throwing in a handful of chopped dates just before pouring into tin to bake or adding choc chips to make a choc banana bread.

**Serving size:** Serves 8

**Cooking time:** Less than 60 minutes



## VFWDC ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

#### ALL CEREMONIES

Flair-Excellence-Sensitivity  
Sue A Lyne  
Civil Celebrant  
Ph: 9787 5665

#### BUSH-B-Q

Manufacturer of the Barbeque of the Outback  
Don & Thelma Montague  
Ph: 9808 1200 Mob: 0414 355488  
Email: [info@theldon.com.au](mailto:info@theldon.com.au)  
Web: [www.theldon.com.au](http://www.theldon.com.au)

#### B & Y CAPRENTRY

Home & Office Maintenance  
Barry Hempston  
Ph: 9700 1014 Mob: 0412 101450

#### CAMSEW-SEWRENT

Domestic & Industrial Sewing Machine Repairs  
Ron Camm  
Mob: 0419 884920 Fax: 9766 4598  
Email: [sewrent@camsew.com.au](mailto:sewrent@camsew.com.au)

#### FRANKLAND ELECTRICS PTY L TD

Electric Motor Sales, Service, Repairs & Modifications  
Power Tool Service & Repairs  
Peter & Janine Frankland  
Ph: 9555 6624 Fax: 9555 6565  
Email: [fralecpete@aol.com](mailto:fralecpete@aol.com)

#### G. GEES PRINTING CO

General Printing, Stationery, Docket Books etc.  
James Holden  
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Email: [ggprint@hotmail.net.au](mailto:ggprint@hotmail.net.au)

#### METALAIR INDUSTRIES

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Ph: 9798 1492 Fax: 9798 2593  
Email: [metalair@tenex.com.au](mailto:metalair@tenex.com.au)

#### R & D BROWN PAINTING SERVICES

Quality Workmanship at the Right Price  
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#### TECOMA ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Industrial, Commercial & Domestic  
24hr Emergency Service  
Ian Warburton  
Ph: 9754 2341 Mob: 0409 797675

Anyone wishing to advertise in the Club Directory,  
contact the Editor at [editor@vfwdc.com](mailto:editor@vfwdc.com)



## CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

<b>AUGUST</b>	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	1. Noojee-Walhalla Touring W/end 2. Mystery Pub-to-Pub	Ashley Martin David Hughes	0438 600 904 0427 865 592
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	General Meeting Palm Plaza Meeting Room	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Gembrook Day Trip	Tim Axtell	0414 848 753
	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Committee Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	First Aid Training Course (Pt 1)	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Wine Trip - Heathcote	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Committee Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	4x4 Show Fishing & Outdoors Expo		
	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Toolangi Day Trip	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	First Aid Training Course (Pt 2)	John Partridge	0428 331 211
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct to Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Melbourne Cup Weekend	TBC	
	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	Craig Major	0432 876 699
	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> to Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Annual Fishing Trip	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Party	Tim Axtell	0414 848 753
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Oxfam Christmas Tree Deliveries	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904

## Forthcoming Trips

<b>Destination</b>	<b>GEMBROOK</b>
<b>Trip Leader</b>	TIM AXTELL
<b>Contact No</b>	0414 848 753
<b>Date</b>	SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2008
<b>Meeting Time/Place</b>	TBA
<b>Vehicle Limits</b>	MIN: 3 MAX: 10
<b>Grade</b>	WET/DRY: Easy
<b>Approx Kms</b>	N/A
<b>Equipment Required</b>	Basic recovery gear
<b>Maps Required</b>	N/A
<b>Radio Channel</b>	12
<b>Trip Activity Details:</b>	
The morning will be spent assisting in cleaning up a camping ground in the Gembrook area. This is part of a joint venture with a few 4WD clubs and ParksVic. After lunch it will be time to hit the tracks and enjoy some wheeling.	
A meeting place will be advised as soon as confirmation of the camp site is received.	

<b>Destination</b>	<b>ANNUAL WINERY WEEKEND HEATHCOTE</b>
<b>Trip Leader</b>	ASHLEY MARTIN
<b>Contact No</b>	0438 600 904
<b>Date</b>	FRIDAY 17 <sup>TH</sup> TO SUNDAY 19 <sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2008
<b>Meeting Time/Place</b>	TBA. Will depend on members are leaving.
<b>Vehicle Limits</b>	MIN: N/A MAX: N/A
<b>Grade</b>	WET/DRY: Easy
<b>Approx Kms</b>	150
<b>Last Available Fuel</b>	Heathcote
<b>Maps Required</b>	N/A
<b>Equipment Required</b>	Headache tablets ☺
<b>Radio Channel</b>	12

**Trip Activity Details:**

This year we have decided to visit an area close to Melbourne which is becoming well renowned for its Reds.

I will be leaving Melbourne on the Friday afternoon from Port Melbourne. I have not stipulated a meeting time and place as most members will make their own way up. If you choose to come up on Saturday morning it is an easy drive but please be at the caravan park by 10am. Camping will be at Queens Meadow Caravan Park which has both powered and unpowered sites, plus units and of course a full amenities block. If you are contemplating a unit, I need to know by September 15th and how many nights to ensure one will be available. I cannot guarantee one if you leave it till the last minute. You will need to bring full linen if you plan to book a unit.

Costs:  
 Unpowered sites \$16 for 2 people.  
 Powered sites \$22 for 2 people.  
 Units \$40 per double.

As we did with last year's wine trip, Saturday will be spent visiting several wineries and stopping at one for a picnic lunch. We should be back at the Park around 4.30 which will give us time to relax (maybe another game of bocce) before getting ready for dinner. Dinner on Saturday night will again be an all-in affair. As we had heaps of food last year, we plan to scale it down somewhat, eg some members could do happy hour and others dinner, and others maybe a cheese platter. As we get closer and numbers are confirmed we can sort out who will bring what and go from there. I will cater for breakfast and the final tally for the food can be divided between the group. From memory, last year was \$4 pp for bacon, snags, tomatoes, eggs and bread (and maybe Soujouk this year mmmmmm).

<b>Destination</b>	<b>TOOLANGI</b>
<b>Trip Leader</b>	JOHN PARTRIDGE
<b>Contact No</b>	0428 331 211
<b>Date</b>	SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER 2008
<b>Meeting Time/Place</b>	Lilydale McDonalds
<b>Vehicle Limits</b>	MIN: 2 MAX: 6
<b>Grade</b>	WET/DRY: HARD
<b>Approx Kms</b>	200
<b>Last Fuel Available</b>	Lilydale
<b>Equipment Required</b>	A full recovery kit is mandatory, as are mud terrain type tyres. Diff locks would be an advantage
<b>Maps Required</b>	TBA
<b>Radio Channel</b>	12
<b>Trip Activity Details:</b>	
This is a trip for the boys and their toys. We will be tackling the hardest tracks in the area. Therefore, only those with the experience and vehicles suitable for such a trip will be allowed. You will need to have completed the Advanced Training Course.	

<b>Expressions of Interest</b>	<b>NULLABOR 2008-09</b>
<b>Trip Leader</b>	BOB MCKERROW
<b>Contact No</b>	0430 014 001 <a href="mailto:lowmacbob@aaptnet.au">lowmacbob@aaptnet.au</a>
<b>Date</b>	29 DEC-??JAN 09
<b>Trip Activity Details:</b>	
See last month's newsletter for a detailed description of this proposed trip.	

**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".





## LONE GRAVES WORKING BEE 25-27 JULY 2008

*Trip Leader:* John Partridge

*Participants:* Mark Felton & Catherine Thorne  
Ashley Martin & Paul Ryan  
Tim Axtell  
Michael, Verylle, Liberty & Elizabeth  
Rodger  
Gary Smith  
Shane Mc Neill  
Sue & Graeme Lyne  
Nick, Donna Johnson & daughter  
Johan Liebenberg & Son

*Visitor:* Ian Johnson, *Going 4WD*

Most of us met up at the Erica pub for dinner and then cruised into the Merringtons camping ground. Graeme and Sue were already there and had a fire ticking over. The rest of the crew turned up early on the Saturday morning raring to go.

Ian from Going 4WD turned up nice and early and Noel from the Parkers Corner DSE wasn't far behind. Noel gave a short talk to us about what the plan of attack was to be for the day and did his first stint of many in front of Ian's camera. The first stop was to be an area along the Williams Spur Tk where we gathered around a ton of quartz rock which we then took across to the Edwards Reef Cemetery just off Donnelly's Creek Tk.

Along the way we stopped to look at an extremely well made hut that Noel had recently discovered. Clearly the people that built this knew what they were doing and it was of a better and more sound construction than many of the legit hut in the high country. Unfortunately as this is an illegal hut it's destined to have a run in with a front end dozer.

Noel explained to us that he wanted a large rock at the head of the grave going down to smaller rocks at the foot end of the grave. As these graves were unmarked, and we didn't want to dig any up to check where the head was, we assumed that they were buried with the head up hill. It didn't take us too long and we had them all marked out. Noel gave a little talk about the area and they people that were buried there giving us some inspiring insight to the days gone by.

We gathered more rocks along Williamson Spur, this time half filling Ian's ute and then headed towards Toombon. Coming out of the Junction river crossing Noel had all sorts of trouble heading up the greasy hill on the other side, probably the 1 ½ ton of rock in the trailer didn't help. Michael managed to get pass and snatch him up the short section then we continued onto Toombon.



We had a short stop to look at what is left of the Toombon mullock heap which was partially washed away in the floods last year. Some of the guys climbed over the heap to the old mine site and the remnants of the boilers and stamper that are still there. It was only a short distance further on to the Toombon Cemetery and there we met the trustees Graeme & Linda Code. They were very enthusiastic about what we were doing and showed us where the graves laid. This was a lot harder than the previous site as there was a 2 meter embankment that we had to pass the rocks up and the whole cemetery was on a slope. Everyone really pulled together and got the job done. Noel was extremely thankful to us for the work we carried out, stating that it has been the most worthwhile project he has been involved in during his 30 years as a ranger.



Thank you to all of those that helped out with this, you have done your club proud.  
*John Partridge*

## Sunday

The weather had been kind enough not to rain last night while we were around the fire, but I was told it bucketed down while in bed. I'll have to take their word for it because I didn't hear a thing.

It was a casual start to the day but before long most people had breakfasted, packed up and were ready for a short drive. Ian left us to film a comp event while John was heading home and Graham and Sue were slowly organizing themselves.

Our intention was to do a few tracks that I haven't been on for some time, but with the overnight rain they may be a little more difficult than first expected. We made our way from camp to Pheasant Track and this was definitely greasy on the way down with a few getting sideways more than once. We reached the river crossing and were amazed with the changes that have occurred since the floods. Climbing up the other side wasn't too difficult except for one small climb. Johan had several attempts, eventually making it through with a grin from ear to ear. Gary also had a little trouble but with momentum managed to get through. Last but not least was Tim. By this stage the track became a little chewed up but with the mighty power of the 60 and the taco wound all the way he made his way up. I give him his dues as he always manages to entertain. The rest of the track was no problem. From there we headed along Williamson Spur onto North East making our way to Dream Creek. This was also a good drive but not as demanding as Pheasant.

Rather than go over the dam wall we went down Beardmores and across the Thompson. Just on the other side of the river we stopped for lunch aired up and made our way home.

A great weekend had by all and hope we can continue to support this area and DSE.

## Ashley

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### ANNUAL CAR RALLY 17 AUGUST 2008

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**Trip Leaders:** Anthony and Aline  
**Participants:** Ashley and Lesley  
Craig and Marijka  
Mark and Catherine  
Shane Michelin and kids

Started out early on Sunday morning after late night at the Pavilion, so after great night hard to get moving next morning. We all gathered at the Wellington Village Shopping Centre. Some people looked bit worse for wear from the night before. Ashley was able to speak again after having his wisdom teeth pulled Sat arvo. Others were just hungover, too many red wines the night before, won't name anyone there.

We were given our questions, the first one was fairly easy but only one got the second correct - well done to Ashley and Lesley.

Some of the early questions were not too hard but some were very interesting. After going along for a while we came across a road that was more like a driveway than

a road; thankful not to have anyone come towards us we got through without incident along with going over five speed humps. After this we headed up C415.

We meandered along through some small towns where Craig and I had some friendly competition for first place on the road but that didn't help us win.

With some arguing and disagreements in we got most of the questions done we managed to find the final resting place which was Birdsdale Reserve, Belgrave Heights. We arrived just as Anthony pulled in to organise some lunch. Craig pulled in second and Shane came next, but it took quite a bit of time for Ashley and Lesley to arrive.

With the points tallied, slow going won the day as Ashley and Lesley won. Shane was a close second. Catherine and I lost, not by much as it came down mainly to the scavenger hunt. But one thing I learned was slow going can win.

Big thanks to the Van Buitens for the day.

**Mark Felton**

*Anthony has a chuckle before announcing the results...*



*The group waits with bated breath for the outcome...*



*While the winners celebrate, Craig has a laugh cos he doesn't have to run next year's rally !!!*



*And Mark ponders where he went wrong...*



Thanks Aline for the pics...

Christmas Tree Project  
51 Belmont Rd.  
IVANHOE 3079  
Ph 94973227 Fax 94994759

Dear Secretary

Over the last 16 years member clubs of the Four Wheel Drive Victoria have supported Oxfam Australia in their annual delivery of Christmas Trees. This has become a very successful fund raising activity selling and delivering fresh green Christmas trees to homes in metropolitan Melbourne.

This letter is to inform those clubs who have not previously been involved how the operation works and to remind those clubs who have helped in recent years that the deliver dates this year are Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 7th December.

Volunteers carry out the whole operation. Last year nearly \$120,000 was raised, that's about \$500 per delivery vehicle, and went towards alleviating poverty and social injustice within Australia and overseas. That's a total of over \$95,000 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 St., Blackburn (Melway Map 47 H 12) on Saturday 6 December, or Princes Hill Primary School, Wilson St., Nth Carlton (Melway 29 J 11) on Sunday 7 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 organized 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.

If your club can help I would appreciate a phone call with the approximate number of vehicles by late October and I would immediately forward you a form (or use the blank Excel Spread Sheet that should be attached with this document) so the details of each driver can be filled in and returned to us by the end of November. Please email or phone me if you would prefer I post your club a hard copy form now to pass around at your next club meeting for volunteers to add their details.

For further information or for a guest speaker to address your members at a future club meeting about the delivery or the type of self help projects that the money raised will support please contact me on 94973227 (home or work) or write to: 51 Belmont Rd Ivanhoe 3079. email: [christmastrees@tpg.com.au](mailto:christmastrees@tpg.com.au)

Last year the following 4WD clubs generously donated their services: Idlers, Adventurers, CFA, All Terrain, Jackaroo, Knox, Nissan, LROCV, Melb. Jeep Owners, Pajero, Range Rover, CH4WD, Subaru, Toyota Landcruiser, VFWD, Wanderers, Toyota and City West, a total of 18 clubs and about 160 vehicles (plus 55 vehicles from Oxfam's other supporters). Also Four Wheel Drive Victoria threw their weight behind the event and in the past have managed to attract television news coverage of the great work being done by club volunteers. Each of the above groups seemed impressed with the nature of the cause and our organization and indicated a desire to be involved again.

For those club members who may like to purchase a delivered Christmas tree please feel free to mention in your news letter our web site for online orders: [www.fitzroyoxfam.org.au](http://www.fitzroyoxfam.org.au) or our phone number. Orders start early November.

Each year I do the rounds of the media to promote tree sales and always mention the great support given by 4WD clubs. Last year a 7 minute interview with John Faine on Radio 774 netted an extra 600 orders. Our feedback is that listeners are so keen to support a good cause when they know that everyone involved is a volunteer and no middle person profits. In the past I have been fortunate enough to have the opportunity on Macca's 'Australia All Over' to give all involved a mention and let the listeners know this tremendous fundraiser could not happen with generous support by volunteer 4WD club members.

Finally I'd like to thank once again all those clubs and members who have so generously supported this vital community fundraising activity over past years.

Thanking you in anticipation for your support this year.

Brian Moran  
Volunteer  
Coordinator Oxfam Australia Christmas Tree Project