



APRIL 2009

Free Wheeling

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



Bushfire Relief Effort - Wildlife Sanctuary, Chum Creek - March 2009



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

Notice Board



TEMPORARY VACANCY - NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The editor of *Free Wheeling* will be taking a well-deserved extended holiday this year.

We are looking for someone to take over the position to produce the June, July and August editions of the newsletter.

The transition period would commence immediately.

Expressions of interest should be submitted to editor@vfwdc.com

APRIL MEETING GUEST SPEAKER

Freshfield Vacuum Sealing machines.

Special discounts will be available on the night.



REMINDER RE CHANGE OF MEETING VENUE

All meetings for 2009 (except November) will now be held at the Palm Plaza Meeting Room. McCrae Street Dandenong (Between McCrae Street and Clow Street) (MeI Ref 91A E6)





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	George Pledger	
Web Manager	Paul Ryan	web@vfwdc.com

CLUB DETAILS

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
Registration No	A002184F
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3174
Email	secretary@vfwdc.com
Website	www.vfwdc.com
Meetings	Held first Tuesday of each month, excluding January (no meeting). The November General Meeting is held on 2 nd 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 th of each month. editor@vfwdc.com
Front Cover	Photograph courtesy of : Emo

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to another month of *Free Wheeling*.

Over the past month many of our members have been bush helping out with various fire relief activities. The jobs have varied between cleaning properties of burnt fencing and sheds, sorting and delivering donated goods, delivering hay, delivery of caravans to people in need of accommodation, and the rebuilding of animal enclosures for a wildlife relief centre. Your efforts are to be commended and you do your Club proud. If you are interested in helping out, contact us and we will put you in touch with the relevant co-ordinator.

One of the direct impacts that the fires have had on our recreation is the reduction in areas we are able to visit. If you are planning on running a trip in the near future, it is important that you contact the local Ranger to find out about the conditions. One of my favourite areas, the Walhalla/Aberfeldy/Jordan area is still safe to visit and I will be looking at running some trips there over the next few months, including a mines trip into the Jordan Valley. Stay tuned for dates on this as we will need to get in before the seasonal closures are in place. Hopefully, we will have a visitor along with us who knows the area extremely well.

We have had some great news out of the Association. The agreement between FWDV and Parks Victoria in regard to access to MVO tracks has been finalised. We now have access to 381 MVO tracks in Victoria! There are still more than 1000 tracks to be reviewed so we can expect a lot more to come. FWDV should be congratulated on their efforts in this regard, it is a huge step forward for our recreation. There are a large amount tracks now available in the Grampians, Glenelg, and the Little and Big Desert areas, as well as the Dandenong Ranges to name but a few. While tracks are still being closed in other States, we are having tracks re-opened!

There is some paperwork that will need to be completed and submitted four weeks prior to a trip. As they are made available, we will get the relevant forms and track information onto our web site.

That's all for now. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Take care.

John Partridge
President

Minutes of General Meeting – 3 March 2009

The meeting was held at Meeting Room across from the library and was opened by President John Partridge who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Meeting opened: 8:05pm.

Present:

There were 20 members present as per the attendance book.

Visitors: Nil.

Apologies:

Maxine Ryan, Lesley Peters, Brian Martin, Mick Harris, Michael and Verylle Rodger, Aline Van Buiten, and Karen Walter.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Accepted:

Seconded:

Matters Arising: Nil

Correspondence In:

- Track watch Summer 09
- ARB catalogue
- The variety Queensland magazine 09
- Cross country jeep club newsletter February 09
- Review Landrover owner's club newsletter February 09
- Overland cruising Toyota landcruiser club newsletter February 09
- 4x4 Action Summer 09
- VIP sale flyer

Correspondence Out:

Monthly Newsletter to all members.

Treasurer's Report

Receipts	\$399.00 (membership & raffle)
Payments	\$102.90 (postage & general running costs)
	\$120.21 (raffle & meeting costs)
	\$424.05 (merchandise)
	\$647.16 (Total payments)

Cheque account	\$2636.66
Term Deposit	\$6468.64

Total:	\$9105.30

Accepted: Shane Michelon

Seconded: Mark Felton

Trip Co-ordinator's Report

Trip Reports:

No trips were conducted in the month of February, due to the unforeseen situation of the bushfires; however

the club has been volunteering their time and vehicles in many working bees, conducted over the last month.

The Department of Human Services is co-coordinating the Rural Response Group, where caravans have been donated for temporary homes. Refer to the email that was sent to all members. They have a list of what types of caravans they have, if you have the time to volunteer, please reply directly back to the email with the necessary information required.

Forthcoming Trips:

Nav Rally Sunday 29 March: Anthony explained more details of the day, hint Parks website, Britts Bend. There will be trophies awarded to placewinners.

Easter Weekend 10-14 April: Details on how to get there will be emailed to those who have put names on list. Ashley will be going up early to signpost way in as it is a little complex.

Trig Track: Rescheduling to come out in the Warburton area.

Tallarook Day Trip: Not able to go to Tallarook. Will sort out alternative location, eg Avoca or the Pyrenees.

Please be aware on trips of burnt out trees which may look fine from the outside, but have been burnt on the inside. Also, please remember to always carry a chainsaw for safety reasons.

Association Report:

The Association would like to raise their fees of \$12.70 per member. They have recorded a deficit of \$40,000. There has been a request for financial figures to be shown, but have not been provided. An email was sent out to all club presidents in relation to this, to be brought up at the next meeting on 4 March 09.

On a better note, we are closer to gaining access to 400 MVO tracks.

General Business:

The question was brought up as to why we were not meeting at the Library. John explained there was another group that has booked and paid for the first Tuesday in every month. We will be meeting at this hall for the rest of the year. Alternative venues in the area had been investigated. John will check out some more and report back at the next meeting.

Meeting Closed: 9.55pm.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 7 April 2009 at Palm Plaza Meeting Room, McCrae Street, Dandenong. See you there.



CLUB KITCHEN

A couple of fishy recipes for Easter...

Easy Fish Kebabs

Ingredients

750g white fish fillets, such as flathead, cut into chunks
 juice of 1 lemon, plus lemon wedges to serve
 2 tablespoons chopped mint, plus extra leaves to serve
 1 tablespoon honey
 2 yellow capsicum, cut into 3cm squares
 275g jar anchovy stuffed green olives
 2 2/3 cups (1 cup raw) cooked basmati rice



Method

Place fish in a bowl with combined lemon juice, chopped mint and honey. Season to taste.
 Preheat a grill on medium. Thread fish onto skewers, alternating with capsicum and olives. Grill skewers for 6 minutes, turning halfway, until lightly browned and fish is just cooked through.
 Serve kebabs with basmati rice and lemon wedges, scattered with extra mint leaves.

Easy Seafood Paella

[This recipe is best made just before serving.]



Ingredients

1 tablespoon olive oil
 100g chorizo sausage, sliced
 1 medium (150g) brown onion, sliced
 2 cloves garlic, crushed
 1 medium (200g) red capsicum, sliced
 2 cups (240g) medium grain white express rice
 ¼ teaspoon turmeric
 1 cup (250ml) fish stock
 1 cup (250ml) water
 1 cup (125g) frozen peas
 400g can tomatoes, drained, crushed
 500g marinara mix
 300g firm white fish fillets, chopped
 lemon wedges to serve

Method

Heat the oil in a heated large non-stick frying pan. Add the chorizo, onion and garlic; cook, stirring, until browned.
 Add the capsicum, rice and turmeric, cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Stir in the fish stock, water, peas and Place the seafood over the top of the rice mixture; cover the pan and cook over a low heat for about 6 minutes or until the rice is tender and the seafood is cooked through.
 Serve with lemon wedges, if desired.



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



CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2009				
APRIL	Tuesday 7 th	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Friday 10 th to Monday 13 th	Easter on the Murray Hattah-Kulkyne NP	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Saturday 18 th	Trig Track (behind Walhalla)	Bob McKerrow	0430 014 001
	Tuesday 21 st	Committee Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
MAY	Tuesday 5 th	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Saturday 16 th to Sunday 17 th	Thompson Dam	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	Tuesday 19 th	Committee Meeting	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784 074
JUNE	Tuesday 2 nd	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Saturday 6 th to Monday 8 th	Queen's Birthday Weekend Trip 1: Border Track Trip 2: Swifts Creek	Dan Robinson Bob McKerrow	0407 334 169 0430 014 001
	Tuesday 19 th	Committee Meeting	Catherine Thorne	0412 758 357
	Friday 26 th to Sunday 28 th	Avoca	John Partridge	0428 331 211
JULY	Tuesday 7 th	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Tuesday 21 st	Committee Meeting	Craig Major	0432 876 699
	Friday 24 th to Sunday 26 th	Annual Snow Trip	Craig Major	0432 876 699

FORTHCOMING TRIPS

Destination	WALHALLA - TRIG TRACK
Trip Leader	BOB MCKERROW
Contact No	0430 014 001
Date	SATURAY 18 APRIL
Meeting Time/Place	Macca's Princes Highway Narre Warren
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 8 NO PETS
Grade	DRY: Medium WET: Hard RAINING: Extreme
Approx Kms	200+
Last Available Fuel	ALL: Moe
Equipment Required	Standard recovery
Maps Required	Experienced members only. M/T preferable but good A/T. Winches, all recovery gear. Winches preferable. If weather looks threatening, bring supplies for potential night out.
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activity Details: Through Moe, Walhalla, Binns Road, Mt Useful Road, Williamson Spur Track to Trig Track can be difficult. Early close May 1; late open December 1 says it all. Out onto Aberfeldy Road then home via Aberfeldy, Matlock, Warburton.	

Destination	THOMPSON DAM AREA
Trip Leader	BRUCE CREMONESI
Contact No	0400 425 296
Date	SATURDAY 16 TH to SUNDAY 17 TH MAY
Meeting Time/Place	TBA
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 4 MAX: 6
Grade	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
Approx Kms	Approx 200-250kms
Last Fuel Available	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
Radio Channel	12
Equipment	Recovery gear; UHF Radio; warm clothes, boots and spare dry clothes; camping gear; sense of adventure and humour
Trip Activity Details: Have not driven this area in a few years, so wish to start exploring it again. Suggestions on things to see or do please let me know.	

Destination	BORDER TRACK
Trip Leader	DAN ROBINSON
Contact No	0407 334 169 9764 0881
Date	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY W/END 6-8 JUNE
Meeting Time/Place	8.30am McDonalds Western Ring Road East Sunshine
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 0 MAX: 4
Grade	WET/DRY: Easy
Approx Kms	600 kms
Last Available Fuel	Ouyen/Mildura
Distance Between Supplies	200-300 kms
Maps Required	Vic Deserts
Equipment Required	Typical recovery equipment and First Aid Kit
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activity Details: We will be travelling the Border Track from North to South as far as we can go. We will be doing the section that is closed off all other times of the year. There will be plenty of sand driving.	

Destination	AVOCA
Trip Leader	JOHN PARTRIDGE
Contact No	0438 600 904
Date	FRIDAY 24 TH JUNE SUNDAY 26 TH
Meeting Time/Place	TBA
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 3 MAX: 8
Grade	WET: Medium/Hard DRY: Easy/Medium
Approx Kms	350 kms
Last Available Fuel	Ballarat
Distance Between Supplies	N/A
Maps Required	N/A
Equipment Required	Typical recovery equipment and First Aid Kit
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activity Details: This trip will involve a good selection of medium tracks along with one or 2 harder which can be avoided. There may be some willing to attempt the difficult section but there are alternative routes around them so you will not be forced to drive these sections. Vehicles do not have to be heavily modified, a good set of all terrains and recovery equipment will be required though.	



NAV RALLY SUNDAY 26th MARCH

Organiser:

Anthony Van Buiten GU Patrol

Participants:

Craig & Marijke GU Patrol

Johan & Family GQ Patrol

Shane & Kids GU Patrol

Ashley & John GU Patrol

Well there had been many remarks regarding my chances in this event and I was out to prove them all wrong. I had a secret weapon up my sleeve: yes, John was with me. We left home and arrived at camp on Sunday morning at around 9.40am. Anthony and Johan camped overnight while the rest of the crew arrived Sunday morning.

It was time to start the fun. Anthony ran through a few simple things, including tracks to avoid. We were handed the event notes which included waypoints and photos from the waypoints. The objective was to find these waypoints and distinguish which photo belonged to which point. Once that was determined, there was a marker on a tree with a number, this number was recorded on the photo sheet. All relatively easy... mmmm maybe not.

Each group started planning their way, which included entering the waypoints into their nav program and deciding where to start. John and I decided to take the time and enter the waypoints then mark them all on a map; this would make it easier planning the route which we were to take. One by one the groups left camp with some of them returning straightaway, this was not a good sign for things to come. After some time John and I were organised and our day began.



Johan talks tactics...

We came across the first waypoint just up from camp, there to find Craig and Marijke stopped trying to find the photo and marker. After some time they gave up saying they couldn't find it (was this a ploy?). John and I persisted and luckily figured it out. We continued to tick them off and with John's hand-held GPS to use out of the car and my in-car unit we were making good progress. Anthony had several bonus points question, one where you had to triangulate 3 waypoints to find the actual position. With some rough calculations, paper protractor we roughly marked the spot. Once there, John went one way and I went the other, John found the position, the photo was taken and the marker- not bad for a rough calculation.

While continuing on, there was some radio conversation with mixed results of progress. We managed to find most of the points and with 25 minutes to go before having to be at camp, we tried for one more.

We made it back with 10 minutes to spare to find Shane already returned. Johan was next, but Craig and Marijke timed it to perfection with 2 minutes to spare.

Once all back at camp the totals were tallied with the results being:

- Ashley/John
- 630/645
- Johan & Family
370/645
- Craig & Marijke
290/645
- Shane & kids
260/645

The trophy and medals were presented and celebratory drinks were required.



I was looking forward to this event to learn more about the navigation side of things. I'm sure everyone who participated came away knowing more about their GPS units and map reading.

Many thanks must go to Anthony who put a lot of time into organising this event. The day was not too long and was not extremely difficult enough to begin to lose interest.

We hope to run this event annually and will make sure we advertise it bigger and better next year to attract more participants.

Ashley