

FEBRUARY 2009

Free Wheeling

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



Get ready for some New Year action...



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



The 2009 show will go live on Sunday February 22nd

Time: 9.00am to 4.30pm

Place: Wandin Park Equestrian Centre
Cnr Victoria Road and Burgi-Hill Road
Wandin North 3225
Melway Map Ref: 119 G7

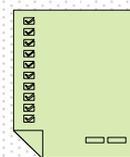
More details in newsletter.

PERSONAL INFORMATION FORM

Members please note that the Personal Information Form (PIF) is available to download from the Club website – www.vfwdc.com.

It is important that a copy of the PIF be completed and placed in a sealed envelope with member's name on the front. The envelope should be carried in your vehicle, together with the envelopes of each person travelling in the vehicle. They should be kept in the glove box or central console. One sealed copy should also be handed to the Trip Leader.

Envelopes should be returned to the participants after the trip for re-use on the next trip undertaken.



VFWDC TRIP CLASSIFICATIONS

Make sure you keep a copy handy and use these classifications when submitting a *Proposed Trip Data Form*.

Copies are available on our website: vfwdc.com.



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 : Archives

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy New Year and welcome to this month's edition of *Free Wheeling*.

I hope everyone has had a great Christmas and are well rested heading into the New Year.

It sounds like a few of our members got away over the break. Unfortunately I have been away for a few months now and I'm itching to load up the fourby and get back out there.

It's looking like we have a couple of choices available for the upcoming Australia Day weekend. Look further in the newsletter for more information.

There are quite a few trips coming up shortly to suit most people's needs, including some training weekends. If you have any questions regarding any of these trips then please contact the trip leader. Please remember that it is your responsibility to contact the trip leader in the week leading up to the trip to confirm that you are still coming on the trip and finalise the meeting arrangements. All too often trips are held up waiting for a participant to arrive, when they have decided not to attend but haven't notified anyone. We try to keep our procedures simple and easy to manage and just a little common sense and courtesy goes a long way to helping out our trip leaders.

If you have some ideas for trips or places to go, please contact our Trip Coordinator, Tim Axtell to discuss. While we are on the subject of trips (and why not, it's the main reason most of us are here), we are keen to run more day trips this year. To do this we need more people to step forward and volunteer to run some of these. If we could get three people who are interested, we could rotate them through with each running a trip every three months.

That's all I have for now. Hope to see you all soon either on a trip or at the meeting.

Take care for now.

John Partridge

Minutes of General Meeting – 2 December 2008

The meeting was opened at 8.05pm by John Partridge.

Present:

There were 20 members present as per the attendance book.

Apologies:

Gary and Paul Johnston, Maxine Ryan, Craig Major, Michael and Verylle Rodger, Phil Griffith, Rosalie Hughes, Shane McNeill.

Visitors:

David Jackson and Jim O'Brien.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Accepted: Paul Ryan

Seconded: Nick Johnson

Matters Arising: Nil.

Correspondence In:

- Landrover Newsletter November 08.
- Toyota Landscape Newsletter November 08.
- Anaconda Grand Opening Sale Catalogue.
- Receipt from Four Wheel Drive Victoria.
- Membership renewal form from the Donald Family.
- Rosella Publication Flyer.

Correspondence Out:

- Monthly Newsletter sent to all members.
- September '08 newsletter to State Library.
- Letter of thanks to Aussie Disposals for open night last month,

Treasurer's Report:

Cheque Account: \$3276.61
Term Deposit: \$6468.64

Closing Balance: \$9,745.25

Accepted: Anthony Van Buiten

Seconded: Mark Felton

Bank account signatory details have changed as follows:
Delete Ashley Martin and add John Partridge and Catherine Thorne.

Trip Co-ordinator's Report:

Trip Reports:

Annual Fishing Trip: A verbal report was given by Paul.

Christmas Party: A verbal report was given by Michael.

Forthcoming Trips:

Nullabour Trip: Verified all details, Bruce has heard about a new recreational place opening up in Port

Augusta is going to take a look at. Thankfully diesel prices have come down since original plans were set in place. Bruce will be taking trailer, other trailers invited.

Christmas Holiday Trip Ashley is organising trip for possibly 4-5 days over Christmas. Plans are to go to Avon River, 2 nights out, travel to Walhalla. If interested please contact Ashley and he will email further details.

Australia Day Weekend: Planning on heading to Walhalla for the weekend, camping in or around Walhalla. Have a day to see the township sites and places of interest. We could possibly have the chance to see some real gold. Then the other days spent tackling some tracks and exploring some mines, old monuments and early settlements. Nice and easy seeing as though this is my first planned trip for the club.

Weekend of 7-8 February 09: Bruce is interested in running a trip to Lake Eildon and travel around the area to see what's there.

20-23 February - Advanced Training: To attend this trip as a driver you need to have completed a Proficiency Training weekend. (You can still go along as a passenger.) You will be trained in winching techniques, understand your vehicle and driving capabilities. Gain hands-on experience, learn the do's and don'ts, have a go at a deep river crossing, around the Walhalla area. More details to follow.

Weekend of 13-14 March 09: Will be a trip to the High Country, same as was done a few months ago, however in the reverse way, to see the place from another point of view.

**Proficiency Training: Theory: Wed 18 March
Practical 21-22 March**

Basic theory night is put on by VFWDV trainers who are all accredited by Four Wheel Drive Victoria. It is an excellent night of training, very informative, then put all that theory into practice on a weekend trip. This weekend is not compulsory but very educational.

Nav Rally Sunday 29 March: Anthony is organising a test/trial. You will get to use maps and GPS. If you're interested please put name down.

Easter Weekend 9-12 April: As for the last 6 years we have headed to the Murray River, it's a favourite camping spot, with the river there, sunset views and the local town close by. Well worth travelling so far for.

Weekend of 25-26 April: Will be a trip to the Thompson Dam and travel around the area to see what's there.
(Editor's Note: This trip now moved to May 16-17)

Association Report:

- Toolangi track has been closed due to that North-South pipeline cutting straight through the Park.
- Cheynes Bridge area is closed for the next 2 months, it "should" be open by Christmas.
- 13BUSH is no longer available due to inactivity. However there are now forms available on the fwdvictoria.org.au website. Please don't approach people, get as much 'evidence' as possible, ie photos, video, Rego plate numbers, description.
- Track classification system and training. Very important, watch this space. Clubs are asked to help get involved with surveys of tracking and help classify. Training will be provided and then go out one weekend to classify.

General Business:

More info from email sent out to everyone in regards to Patrol front end shaking. Pro axel in Camberwell is the only one with Victorian rights to work on this problem.

"Movember": The results are in for the best and worst. Our panel consisted of Ashley, Anthony, Nick, Paul and John (who bowed out early due to hayfever and it being very itchy!). The Club judged for the results: Anthony winning the best mo and John with the worst. (Both Lesley and Ashley's dad, Brian, were no votes for Ashley).

Raffle:

Thanks to all for the donations of DVD player, picnic travel rug, dozen eggs, Christmas table cloth, tea towel and cake.

Winners were David, Bob, Tim, Gary, Bruce and Paul (mind you raffle was drawn 6 times before last prize was awarded).

Meeting Closed: 9.40pm.

Next Meeting: Will be held on Tuesday, 3 February 2009.

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.

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.

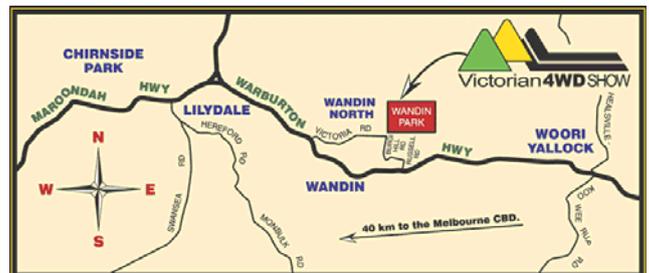
Email your order to committee@vfwdc.com.
Please ensure you advise size required.



Sunday 22 February 2009

Australia's Biggest Outdoor 4WD Show proudly brought to you by the Land Rover Owners' Club of Victoria Inc. The Victorian 4WD show attracts a large number of visitors and provides a great opportunity to look and learn about the latest accessories, motor vehicles, campers, and modifications available to 4Wdrivers.

Each year the Show expands with new types of exhibitors. There is also a large contingent of local 4WD Clubs that are there to answer any questions you may have about joining a club.



See fwdvictoria.org.au for more details.



CLUB KITCHEN

Moorish Lamb Cutlets with Preserved Lemon Yoghurt and Gremolata



INGREDIENTS

1 teaspoon cumin seeds
2 teaspoons ground coriander
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground turmeric
2 tablespoons lemon juice
12 (480g) French-trimmed lamb cutlets
sea salt flakes and freshly ground pepper
1 (40g) preserved lemon wedge, rind only, chopped finely
1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh parsley

Preserved Lemon Yogurt

1 cup (280g) Greek-style yogurt
2 teaspoons lemon juice
1 (40g) preserved lemon wedge, rind only, chopped finely

METHOD

Combine spices and lemon juice in a bowl to form a paste. Rub cutlets with paste; cover and refrigerate for 1 hour.

Preserved Lemon Yogurt

Meanwhile, combine yoghurt, juice and lemon in a small bowl.

Cook the lamb cutlets on a heated, oiled barbecue (or grill or grill pan) until browned on both sides and cooked as desired. Season with sea salt flakes and freshly ground pepper.

Serve topped with Preserved Lemon Yogurt and sprinkled with combined chopped preserved lemon and parsley.



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
Web: www.theldon.com.au

CAMSEW-SEWRENT

Domestic & Industrial Sewing Machine Repairs
Ron Camm
Mob: 0419 884920 Fax: 9766 4598
Email: 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

METALAIR INDUSTRIES

4x4 Camper Trailers, Accessories &
Camping Equipment
David Hughes
Ph: 9798 1492 Fax: 9798 2593
Email: metalair@tenex.com.au

R & D BROWN PAINTING SERVICES

Quality Workmanship at the Right Price
Ray & Dawn Brown
Ph: 5967 1437 Fax: 5967 1439 Mob: 0411 799054

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



CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2009				
JANUARY	Tuesday 20 th	Committee Meeting	Catherine Thorne	0412 758 357
	Saturday 24 th to Monday 26 th	Australia Day Weekend Trip 1: Mitta Mitta - Snowy Creek Trip 2: Top Crossing Hut	John Partridge Bob McKerrow	0428 331 211 0430 014 001
FEBRUARY	Tuesday 3 RD	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Saturday 14 ^h to Sunday 15 th	Lake Eildon Area	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	Tuesday 17 th	Committee Meeting	Craig Major	0432 876 699
	Friday 20 th to Sunday 22 nd	Advanced Training Walhalla	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
MARCH	Sunday 1 st	Day Trip Destination TBC	Michael Harris Johan Leiderberg	
	Tuesday 3 RD	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Saturday 14 th to Sunday 15 th	High Country Tour	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	Wednesday 18 th	Proficiency Training Theory - Waverley	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
	Saturday 21 st to Sunday 22 nd	Proficiency Training Practical - Aberfeldy Forest Area	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
	Tuesday 24 th	Committee Meeting	Tim Axtell	0428 331 221
	Sunday 29 th	Nav Rally Latrobe State Forest	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784 074
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
	Tuesday 21 st	Committee Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Sunday 26 th	Day Trip - Tallarook	John Partridge	0428 331 211

FORTHCOMING TRIPS

Destination	MITTA MITTA WALNUTS CAMPING AREA
Trip Leader	JOHN PARTRIDGE
Contact No	0428 331 211
Date	AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND 23-26 JANUARY 2009
Meeting Time/Place	BP Services at Heathcote Junction (Hume Hwy)
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 2 MAX: 8
Grade	WET: Easy DRY: Easy
Approx Kms	350 kms
Last Fuel Available	PETROL: Wodonga DIESEL: Wodonga
Radio Channel	12
Equipment	Standard recovery equipment. You will need to be self-sufficient with all camping needs. Bring your own water.

Trip Activity Details:

This area is one not visited by the Club for some time which should have a bit of everything depending on your energy levels. Options are: take a drive, fish, visit Lake Dartmouth or just relax. The drive to the camping area is an easy one - bitumen for all but the last approx five kms - and is suitable for both camper trailers and caravans. The camping area is located on the Snowy Creek and has plenty of shade and a drop toilet. As it is easy access we are unsure how busy it will be, but there should be plenty of room.

This will be a relaxing weekend after the hectic festive period, but we will probably take a drive on the Sunday to explore the area.

To celebrate Australia Day (although a little early) we will have a roast night on Saturday. Make sure you bring yours and of course a few beverages to wash it down. We would hope someone could leave on the Thursday or Friday morning to help secure a good spot. If you intend to leave early please let me know.

Destination	TOP CROSSING
Trip Leader	BOB MCKERROW
Contact No	0430 014 001
Date	AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND 23-26 JANUARY 2009
Meeting Time/Place	Service Station at Coldstream 3.30pm Friday 23 rd
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 2 MAX: 8 NO PETS
Grade	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
Approx Kms	350 kms
Last Fuel Available	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield
Radio Channel	12
Equipment	Tents, swimming trunks if you want, good, sense of humour.
Maps	Trip leader has all maps as well

as GPS and excellent knowledge of tracks in area.

Trip Activity Details:

Through Marysville, past Lake William Hovell to camp site at Top Crossing.
Day trips on Saturday and Sunday to include Lake Cobbler, The Staircase, Pineapple Flat, Craigs Hut, No 3 Hut, Tomahawk Hut.
Camping on the banks of the beautiful King River. Bring bothers, books and b...

Destination	LAKE EILDON AREA
Trip Leader	BRUCE CREMONESI
Contact No	0400 425 296
Date	SATURDAY 14 TH to SUNDAY 15 TH FEBRUARY
Meeting Time/Place	TBA
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 2 MAX: 8
Grade	WET: Easy DRY: Easy
Approx Kms	
Last Fuel Available	PETROL: DIESEL:
Radio Channel	12
Equipment	Standard recovery equipment.

Trip Activity Details:

A casual drive around the area to explore the sights.
Further details to be advised at the February meeting.

Destination	WALHALLA Advanced Training Weekend
Trip Leader	ASHLEY MARTIN
Contact No	0438 600 904
Date	FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY- SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY
Meeting Time/Place	6.30pm Longwarry Service Centre
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 3 MAX: 10
Grade	WET/DRY: Medium-Hard
Approx Kms	150
Last Available Fuel	Moe
Maps Required	N/A
Equipment Required	Full recovery equipment
Radio Channel	12

Trip Activity Details:

Want to take the next step from the proficiency training and learn more about how to tackle the harder tracks and vehicle recovery. Well this is your opportunity to learn in a safe environment.

We will be focusing on full vehicle recovery using winch recovery equipment and the associated techniques along with how to tackle those harder tracks. We will walk the tracks, talk about what to look out for and the best lines to take, followed by driving these tracks using several different scenarios.

Those members who may have attended a previous advanced training course but want to brush up on your skills are also welcome to come along.

You must have completed the proficiency training to take part in Advanced Training.

Destination	ABERFELDY STATE FOREST Proficiency Training Weekend
Trip Leader	MICHAEL RODGER
Contact No	0412 530 666
THEORY:	WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH 2009
PRACTICAL:	SAT 21 ST to SUN 22 ND MARCH
Meeting Time/Place	TBC
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 4 MAX: 8
Grade	WET/DRY: MEDIUM
Approx Kms	200
Last Fuel Available	Moe
Equipment Required	Standard recovery equipment
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 outlining many of the basic aspects of 4WDing covering a varied terrain, including steep rocky tracks and river crossings.

There will be something for everyone on this trip, for new and old.

The latest and most up-to-date recovery techniques will be discussed and tested: vehicle setup, recovery gear, Tread Lightly! Principles and more.

Destination	NAV RALLY LATROBE STATE FOREST
Trip Leader	ANTHONY VAN BUITEN
Contact No	MOB: 0413 784 074 AH: 9764 3381
Date	SUNDAY 29 MARCH
Meeting Time/Place	TBC
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 4 Teams MAXIMUM: 10 Teams
Grade	WET/DRY: Medium
Approx Kms	Depends on you!
Last Available Fuel	Petrol: Warragul Diesel: Warragul
Equipment Required	Standard recovery
Maps Required	Rooftop Maps VicMap Springshire Hill 8121-4-4 will be an advantage
Radio Channel	12

Trip Activity Details:

Quite a few people have expressed an interest in some sort of GPS navigational event for the Club.

It will be a one day event starting at 10:00am and finishing up at 4:00pm.

It is not a timed event and speeding or reckless driving will not be tolerated. Pack a lunch as you will need to eat it on the run.

You can participate on your own or you can team up with another vehicle if you wish. Maximum of two cars per team.

I will be setting up the event on the Saturday and camping overnight so if anyone wants to come early they are welcome.

**TECHNICAL COMMENTARY
"PATROL CAMBER SOLUTION"**

by Bob McKerrow

Well, just under a month to go before we start the Nullarbor trip. Fuel prices have come down, except diesel which at least should not have gone up. The weather is always the great unknown so I can't control that. What I can control is the readiness of my vehicle.

For the last few months my truck, a 1990 GQ patrol, has suffered from a terrible shaking when driving over 70-80 km/h. It also had a very high pitched vibration starting at about the same speed. Tried nearly everything after listening to just about everyone. Check the front wheel bearings came a suggestion. First off tightened them, no difference, so I then replaced them. At that stage it was a thank goodness, as I found that I had water in the bearings and also the front diff. It was a recent ingress and in this case I caught it before any damage, apart from replacing the bearings and all the oil but it could have been much worse and also much more expensive.

Next suggestion was the tyres are out of balance. Checked and balanced. No difference. Rotate the tyres. No difference. Replace the tyres. I was running on 32" x 10.5" x 15" "Mudstar" mud terrains. About 30% gone but still very good in the mud. Replaced them with 31" x 10.5" x 15" Hankook All Terrains. This brand was already on the vehicle when I purchased it, ran well, great on road, very good off road, except for real muddy conditions. No difference. Still a real nasty shake from the steering wheel when going over 70 km/h as well as the vibration.

I have a contact in the wrecking industry who told me that they have seen this vibration so bad that they have had to wreck the vehicle because they could not fix it. Didn't sound good.

I then spoke to yet another person who said that he also had the same problem and that a person in Sydney has developed a fix and the only place to get it done in Victoria is at Pro-Axle in Campbellfield. I contacted Wayne at Pro-Axle and arranged to get the vehicle over to them. Delivered on a Monday afternoon, got a call with the examination on Tuesday showing that the problem was one of the worst they had ever seen, but it could be fixed. The bad vibration through the vehicle was from the front and rear universal joints in the front drive shaft which were absolutely stuffed and needed replacing. I was told that many mechanics, especially those who do not specialise in 4WD can sometimes misdiagnose these universal joints. They can sometimes give them a twist, think that they are OK because they feel tight when in fact they are seized. If you can check them yourself or if you do a lot of off roading, ensure that the joints take grease and keep them full.

As for the steering vibration, yes, they can fix it with a camber adjustment kit and some shims. Exactly how this is done cannot be put in print and if told further communication cannot be made.

The end result. What a delight to drive. Up to and over the 100 km/h mark without a problem. No vibration through the vehicle thanks to the new uni joints. No steering vibration thanks to the camber adjustment kit. When the vehicle had previously hit a pothole and severely shaken its head, nothing. Back to the vehicle I had originally. Cost? Not cheap. Over \$1,200 but there were a few problems. Better than going to Halls 4x4 and asking for a wrecking price.

For further information contact the writer or just ring Wayne at PRO-AXLE in Campbellfield, phone 9357 0200. And, no, I didn't get a discount for the good wrap. What I got was a vehicle that is, once again, a joy to drive. Now for that turbo.

Bob McKerrow
Mobile 04 3001 400

