



MARCH 2009

Free Wheeling

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



Bushfire Relief Effort - Gippsland - February 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

CHANGE OF MEETING VENUE

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have to change the venue for our monthly meetings. All meetings for 2009 (except November) will now be held at the Palm Plaza Meeting Room. This venue is still in Dandenong - situated around the corner from the Library - and has been used by the Club on previous occasions.

Palm Plaza Meeting Room, McCrae Street Dandenong
(Between McCrae Street and Clow Street)
(Mel 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 : Bruce Cremonesi

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At last month's meeting I spoke a little about the conditions in the bush and the need to make sure all camp fires are put out completely when going to bed or leaving the camping area. Little did I know what was coming the following weekend.

I hope you and your families are safe and well. There are many in our Club who will know someone that has been touched by these fires.

One of the great things about our Club, and many others as well, is that we stick together and help out when needed.

I want everyone to know that we have people in our Club willing to help out when the chips are down. I'm not just talking about the bushfires either. If people are struggling at home or with mechanical issues with their vehicles, drop us a line. We have some very talented and resourceful members and if we can help then we will.

I was talking to David Hughes tonight about Gordon, who has a property in Glenburn. Some of the new members will not know Gordy, but he has a great property backing onto the river/creek and we have used his property in the past for the bush dances we used to hold. Apparently the fires got extremely close to his house, which he managed to save, but most of his fences are gone. I have asked David to touch base with him and see if he is in need of help and to report back on what we may be able to do for him.

Already quite a few members have been out there lending a hand; some of this is through a contact of Bruce's. I helped out on Sunday and it's heartwarming to see how many turned out at such short notice. There would have been well in excess of 100 people from various 4WD clubs, all wanting to help in some way. Over the coming months there will be many more opportunities for those that want to help out as the clean up and rebuilding starts. Thank you to those who have helped out already.

Unfortunately, we have a much reduced area to enjoy our recreation and already we have cancelled a few trips. One bit of good news is that the area up around Walhalla and Aberfeldy is now safe to go. There is only a small area that has been burnt and it's under control. So we can continue with our Proficiency Training and we will reschedule the Advanced Training weekend to be held up there.

That's all for now, hope to catch up at the next meeting.

John Partridge
President

Minutes of General Meeting – 2 February 2009

The meeting opened 8:20pm by President John Partridge. (Meeting moved across the road, as room had already been booked.)

Present:

There were 28 members present as per the attendance book.

Visitors:

David Hendry.

Apologies:

Mick Harris, Anne Pettigrew, Paula Johnston, Ray & Dawn Brown, Patrick Casey, Lisa Petrou, Derek & Janet Hymas, Aline VanBuiten and Paul Ryan.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Accepted: Ken Pitcher

Seconded: George Pledger

Matters Arising: Nil

Correspondence In:

- Letter and flyer from Licola wilderness village
- DSE coastline newsletter
- Rays Outdoors catalogue
- Letter from Melbourne Water/Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance about track closures in Toolangi forest.
- Landrover Club Newsletter Dec 08
- Victorian 4WD show flyers, Sunday 22nd Feb Wandin
- Toyota landcruiser club newsletter Dec 08
- Cross Country Jeep Club Newsletter Dec 08
- Cobra Automotive Accessories letter and flyer
- ARB 4x4 Action Summer 09
- Network News Summer 09

Correspondence Out:

Monthly Newsletter sent out to all members.

Treasurer's Report

No business was conducted during the month of January 2009.

\$3134.82 in the cheque account and \$6468.64 in term deposit account.

Total funds = \$9603.46

Accepted: Shane McNeill

Seconded: Anthony Van Buiten

Trip Co-ordinator's Report

Trip Reports:

Christmas Party: A verbal report was given to the club from Johan Liebenberg.

Oxfam Christmas Tree Delivery: A verbal report was given to the club from Ashley Martin.

SA trip: Verbal report was given to the club from Bob McKerrow.

Avon River: A verbal report was given to the club by Anthony VanBuiten.

Australia Day Weekend Mitta Mitta Trip: Verbal report was given to the club by Ken.

Australia Day weekend Top Crossing Trip: A verbal report was given by David.

Forthcoming Trips:

Lake Eildon area: We are still going to have a look around, fires haven't reached there, still ok to travel and explore. (Bruce thinks Ashley is beautiful!!!)

Advanced Training weekend: Will now be relocated to the Otways. If you're interested please contact Ashley, who will advise of further details closer to the date.

High Country Tour: Bruce is thinking of the tour of the huts of the high country, in reverse from last trip, from a different view. Start early morning Saturday or arrive early Friday night. Meeting at Merrijig; max of 6 vehicles.

Proficiency Training: Plans are still ok for the moment.

Trig Track: Bob wants to try out a track that will include 9 zigzags, 3 point turns, and you will definitely need chunky tyres and lift. The track goes straight up the side of a hill; at most 5-6 vehicles can go and be prepared to camp out overnight. It will be held on either the weekend of 28/3 or 18/4.

Nav Rally Sunday 29 March: Will be held around Noojee area. Please come. Anthony will need to know numbers beforehand. If not enough, the event will not run. Require minimum of 6 vehicles.

Easter Weekend 10-14 April: Plans are still going ahead.

General Business:

Please be aware of the fire restrictions after all that has happened. Trip leaders please also be aware on trips away and to check fires are extinguished completely.

The meeting was presented with a new design for the Club vehicle stickers. It would help the Club have a 'corporate identity'. Club members were asked for their opinions and they were able to give plenty of feedback.

Shane would like to write an article for the newsletter and was asked of how the setting up of the forum was going and a few things need to be discussed further.

Raffle prizes, thanks to John, Mark and Ken for the donations. Winners were Bob for everything 4 wheel drive, George a laptop adaptor and Anthony who took out the mystery prize.

Meeting closed 10:10pm.

VFWDC MERCHANDISE

For Sale

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

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.

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

Yahoo Groups

Sign yourself up as a Yahoo user at
<http://groups.yahoo.com>
(There is no charge for this service.)

Then go to
<http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/vfwdc>
and click on "Join this group".

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



4X4 Swap Meet

Sunday, 1st March 2009
(8am - 2pm)

At the Yarra Glen Showgrounds, Melba Highway,

Yarra Glen - Melways Ref: 275 A2



Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity to make or save money on second-hand 4WD parts and camping gear.

Trade your unwanted parts and accessories for cash, or just come along to pick up a bargain. Looking for a 4WD? Plenty of used 4WD's to choose from.

Selling your 4WD? It's cheaper than the newspapers.

Items available include second hand 4WD parts, bullbars, wheels and tyres, fuel tanks, engines, recovery gear, camping gear and much, much more.

Entry for buyers: \$3 (under 12 free)

Entry for sellers:

\$100 per Trade site.

\$20 per standard site pre-booked (prior to 21/02/09), or \$25 on the day.

\$40 per Undercover site

\$15 per Used Car/Tent site pre-booked (prior to 21/02/09), or \$20 on the day.

For bookings, call Marg on (03) 9763 7131
0409 182 017



CLUB KITCHEN

Lemon Chicken with Cous Cous



INGREDIENTS

1 whole chicken
 10 lemons
 6 cloves garlic, coarsely chopped
 1 cup flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped
 2 tablespoons olive oil
 1 teaspoon sea salt
 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
 1 cup mughrabi cous cous
 bitter greens, to serve

METHOD

Slice the chicken straight down the breast bone and open out flat.
 Juice the lemons and reserve the skins.
 Make a marinade by mixing the chopped garlic, lemon juice, ¾ cup parsley, olive oil, salt and pepper together. Marinate the whole chicken in the refrigerator for at least 1 hour.
 Place the chicken in a baking dish or camp oven. Pour in the marinade then sprinkle with pepper.
 Place the lemon halves, cut surface down, on top of the chicken to cover it.
 Roast at 180°C for 45 minutes, basting at 15-minute intervals.
 Remove the lemon halves and return to the oven for a further 15 minutes.
 While the chicken is cooking, prepare the mughrabi (pearl) couscous by boiling for 15-20 minutes in plenty of water.
 To carve the chicken, run a knife down the backbone to split it in two, then cut each side into thirds.
 Place a small pile of couscous on the plate. Pour 2–3 tablespoons of the lemon sauce from the camp oven into the couscous, top with a piece of chicken and pour on another spoon of sauce.
 Sprinkle with remaining fresh parsley and serve with a salad of bitter greens.

Enjoy with a crisp, cold Sav Blanc or Pinot Gris.



VFWDC ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

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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				
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	Mansfield-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
	Saturday 28 th OR Saturday 18 th April	Trig Track (behind Walhalla)	Bob McKerrow	0430 014 001
	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
MAY	Tuesday	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

FORTHCOMING TRIPS

Destination	MANSFIELD-HIGH COUNTRY
Trip Leader	BRUCE CREMONESI
Contact No	0400 425 296
Date	SATURDAY 14 TH to SUNDAY 15 TH MARCH
Meeting Time/Place	Lilydale McDonalds or Mansfield BP Servo
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 4 MAX: 6
Grade	WET: Mainly Easy/few Medium spots DRY: Easy
Approx Kms	Mansfield to Buttercup Road (towards Merrijig) - 10kms
Last Fuel Available	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield
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: Driving around the High Country. Hopefully it will be dry enough to see sights/wet for driving ☺	

Destination	ABERFELDY STATE FOREST Proficiency Training Weekend
Trip Leader	JOHN PARTRIDGE
Contact No	0428 331 211
THEORY: PRACTICAL:	WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH 2009 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.	

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	WALHALLA - TRIG TRACK
Trip Leader	BOB MCKERROW
Contact No	0430 014 001
Date	SATURDAY 28 MARCH OR SATURDAY 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	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.	

April Meeting Guest Speaker

We have a visitor from Freshield to discuss and demonstrate their Vacuum Sealing machines. They have a number of products ranging from vacuum machines to vacuum containers.

These can be great for sealing all types of food, great for those extended outback trips or even if only for the weekend.

If you would like to know more about their products before the April meeting, please have look at their website.

www.freshield.com.au

Special discounts will be available on the night.



INSURANCE

An article in a 4WD club newsletter regarding an insurance policy payout has been brought to our attention.

The club member was on an outback trip and had a friend along for a passenger. During the trip the passenger was driving and was involved in an accident. Due to the passenger not being listed on the insurance policy as a driver, the insurance company doubled the no claim excess.

This does highlight the fact that in any trips where you know friends/family will be driving it would be worthwhile including them on the vehicle policy, even if only down for 5% of the driving.



"THE WALNUTS" - MITTA MITTA
Australia Day Weekend 24-26 January 2009

Trip Leader:

Ashley Martin & Lesley Peters Commodore

Participants:

Ken, Jane, Jesse & Jack Beard	100 Series
John Partridge & Tina Hodges	GQ Patrol
Brian Martin	100 Series
Anthony, Aline, Riley & Connor Van Buiten	GU Patrol

Saturday

Sat morning was a late start for most, although I heard a rumour that Ken was up at 5am. The plan for the day was to just relax around camp. The four boys found the perfect climbing tree and the adults used the same tree for shade. "The Walnuts" is a great little spot and we managed to have our camp under the shelter of two of



the walnut trees. Even in the extreme heat it was still bearable in the shade of these trees. So we had a splash in the river, a short game of cricket with the kids and a serious game of Ashley's

borrowed version of Bocce. The most strenuous thing we did was to organise some firewood for the evening. Having done that, we thought we deserved some liquid refreshment. We cooked our roasts this night since there was no total fire ban, and a possibility that Sunday could be. As usual, some of us were up way too late in the evening solving all the world's problems around the campfire. Maybe our politicians could learn from us...

Anthony Van Buiten

Sunday

Another hot day ahead and it was decided that a drive to explore the area would be the go. We left camp at around 1030 (early for some and late for others!) after a late camp fire night, with Brian, Ashley and Lesley leading the charge and John and Tina doing Charlie's job (TEC).

We headed out along Holloway Log Road and Razorback Spur Track with Wombat PO Hut being the destination for lunch, making it there at about 1300.

With a quick bite to eat and Lesley adding some human



tomato sauce (with a cut finger) to her sandwich and a great patch up job to rival an Egyptian mummy, from John, it was time to move.

Travelling back along Four Mile

Creek Track (a *seasonally closed track*) we came across a very new 2-door sports coupe BMW heading towards Wombat. We stopped the driver (and passenger) due to our total shock/inquisitive-ness. He admitted to being lost, his "Sat nav wasn't working" but he thought that if he "just kept on driving the track would *eventually* meet up with main road".

Convincing him to turn around (there was no way he would have made it past Wombat), we followed him out, amazed that he got that far. German engineering is first class but doesn't account for driver stupidity!!



We did some more exploring of the area and travelling along Eight Mile Loop Track and Knocker Track required some chainsaw/axe work to remove fallen trees and branches with the track being overgrown after recent fires - our car gaining some more "bush pin striping". Then back along the Omeo Highway, past Mount Wills to camp, arriving at 1700 in time for happy hour, a swim in Snowy Creek and some more tree-house climbing for the kids.

Ken Beard

Trip Organiser: Bruce Cremonesi

To All Members:

Firstly I'd like to say WELL DONE and THANK YOU to everyone that gave their time up on the weekend. The turnout was better than expected, and I haven't had one report of anyone unhappy with the tasks, or how things went. Word back from CFA and the property owners (some weren't expecting help so soon!) - THANK YOU ALL.

Sadly it is only the first of MANY weekends that will be required, but if the response we received on the weekend is anything to go by it will make these tasks that tiny bit easier. Remember, this is volunteer work. Other club members had personal issues and friends to take care of, so let's hope all that is coming along ok for them.

Our teams completed all their tasks on the weekend, starting with Saturday's short notice effort at the Salvos warehouse on Henderson Road Rowville. Many thanks to those that gave up time, AND fuel to deliver goods to Whittlesea, Coldstream, Ringwood, and more. It was good to mingle with other clubs, which we otherwise wouldn't get to know. VicKrawlers, Ontrack, Suzuki Club, Vic ATerrain etc. Great blokes, all there to do the same thing.

Sunday

What a mammoth effort from the clubs that showed up. The look on James Hills face said it all at the briefing. James has really put in so much effort and time into this off his own back, while running his own business. Hate to pay his phone bill this month... He deserves more than a few beers for his effort.

I reckon there were around 50-100 4wds/trucks there on Sunday at Bayles CFA Stn. The number of people, cars, trailers, and trucks was around double what we were expecting! Even our own club's showing was more than we expected!

With the assistance of the Bayles CFA Captain Kayleen, tasks were found for all groups, with some having more than one task. These jobs ranged from delivering feed/hay, chainsaw crews, fencing crews, arranging and forming up some concrete slabs, and more... Most people learnt what they were doing as they went!

The crew I was with, our day started off running up to Drouin West, to an owner that was happy to see us, but didn't require assistance.

We were then tasked to Carlton Lodge at Labertouche North to see the bloke in charge - Terry. Great man to work with. Very clear instructions and on the ball. The owner of this place is in The Alfred with 2nd/3rd degree burns to 40% of his body after saving his stock. We were there to do the work for the wife and kids. This included rolling up 100s of meters of old fencing, cleaning up a

section of the property of fallen trees, fallen sheds, lots of chainsaw work to make it a little more liveable, and safer. Not bad for a team of 6!

Then the big surprise came - LUNCH - a Hot Roast Pork lunch which was straight from the oven to us, along with fresh rolls, chicken/salad sandwiches, cakes, bikkies, coffee etc, and the offer of brown bottles for the end of the day if we wanted. The best part is feeling appreciated, and having achieved something. So thanks to our team. You did a great job.

There are more relief efforts this weekend and the next 2-3 planned. If you're interested in helping, please let me know. You don't have to do a whole weekend, anytime is appreciated, 1/2 days, full days etc.

Remember, this is volunteer work. But the more people that chip in, the easier it is for everyone. If anyone is unable to give assistance on weekends due to work but still wish to assist in some way, the Salvo's may be needing people during the week to deliver some stock. James is also working on some after hours runs (this is early days yet), so this may also be a way to help.

Take care, Bruce Cremonesi

