



MAY 2009

# Free Wheeling



*Murray River - Hattah-Kulkyne NP - Easter 2009 - "Aaah... the serenity."*

# Notice Board



## VFWDC GENERAL MEETING VENUE

All Club General Meetings for 2009 (except the November meeting) will now be held at the Palm Plaza Meeting Room, McCrae Street Dandenong, located between McCrae Street and Clow Street. (Mel Ref 91A E6)



## *FREE WHEELING*

Shayne Michelin has offered to take over the newsletter in my absence while Ashley and I are having a great time travelling through Alice Springs, as well as the top end and coast of WA.

Please make sure you give him as much assistance as possible by submitting all reports, articles etc by the required time. Thanking you in anticipation. See you in a couple of months - or maybe before?!?!? LP ☺



### 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	Ashley Martin	
	John Partridge	
	Michael Rodger	
	Mark Kochan	
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	<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 the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month due to the Melbourne Cup public holiday.
Location	Palm Plaza Meeting Room McCrae Street Dandenong Vic 3175
Newsletter	All articles and photographs to be submitted prior to 20 <sup>th</sup> of each month to <a href="mailto:editor@vfwdc.com">editor@vfwdc.com</a>
Front Cover	Photograph courtesy of : The Editor
	The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to another month of *Free Wheeling*.

Since I wrote my last report I have been on two great and very different 4wd trips. The first one was Anthony's Nav Rally. For those that didn't come along missed a very well run event and everyone that attended had an absolute ball. We want to make this an annual event and promote it more next time with some full page flyers. Hopefully we can have 8-12 vehicles involved and if the interest is there we can also hold another info night on GPS setups and using computers and moving maps etc.

The other trip was to the Murray River. With perfect weather every day and a great turn out, we all enjoyed ourselves. We probably had more than we bargained for on the trip but we managed to fit everyone in without any real issues. Next year we may need to look at running two separate trips with strict number limits to ensure we don't overload any one particular area. But we can look at that closer to the time.

One issue that has come up recently over a few trips is that we need to tidy up the way people notify us if they intend to go on a trip. The preferred way is either at the Club meeting by filling out the trip participants list, or by emailing the Trip Coordinator *and* the trip leader. We would prefer that it is not done over the phone as often these names don't get added to the list and before we know it we may have too many on the trip. It is important that you do email both the coordinator and the trip leader as it is possible that either of these may have the participants list for the upcoming trip. It is also the participant's responsibility to contact the trip leader a week prior to the trip to confirm that they are coming and when and where we will be meeting up. If you do not contact the trip leader it will be assumed that you are not attending.

We are currently assessing various meeting venues in and around the Dandenong area. We have a couple on the list that we hope to visit in the coming weeks. If you have any suggestions then please email me the details and we will look into it.

That is all for now.

Take care,

*John Partridge*  
President



# Minutes of General Meeting – 7 April 2009

The meeting opened at 8.05pm at Palm Plaza Meeting Room and opened by President John Partridge who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## Present:

As per Attendance Book, there were 28 members present.

## Apologies:

Derek & Janet Hymas, Paul Ryan, Ashley & Lesley, Gary & Paula Johnston, Verrille Rodger, Nick Johnson, Bob, Aline Van Buiten, Leigh & Anne Pettigrew, Ray & Dawn Brown, David & Rosalie Hughes, Mick & Sally Harris, and Karen Walter.

## Visitors:

N/a

## Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Accepted: Ian Webber

Seconded: Mark Felton

## Matters Arising: Nil

## Correspondence in:

- Flyer and entry form for Blue Light Wander.
- Cross Country Jeep Club newsletter March 09.
- Land Rover Club newsletter March 09.
- Toyota Overland Cruising newsletter March 09.
- Flyers & discount ticket form, for Caravan Camping & Touring Supershow.
- Request for September 08 newsletter from National Library of Australia
- Flyers for Variety, the children's charity.
- Position vacant for General Manger's position at Four Wheel Drive Victoria.
- Brochure FWDV & Parks Victoria.

## Correspondence Out:

Club Newsletter to all members.

## Treasurer's Report:

Receipts	\$100.00	(Christmas party catering)
Payments	\$ 16.50	(postage & general running costs)
	\$486.00	(room hire)
	\$257.00	(merchandise)
	<u>\$117.00</u>	(payment Post Office Box)
	\$647.16	Total Payments

Cheque account \$2760.16

Term Deposit \$6621.79

**Total:** \$9981.95

Accepted: Anthony Van Buiten

Seconded: Michael Rodger

## Trip Coordinators Report & Forthcoming Trips:

- The Easter trip is full.
- Nick is heading to Butcher Country. (Not a Club run trip, but if still interested please contact Nick).
- Bob's Trig Track trip is still going ahead.
- Also there is a desperate need for volunteers in the Labertouche area to help with chopping and cleaning up trees. This effort is being run by the Baw Baw Shire Council.
- Tallarook day trip 26 April - medium tracks, low range, lift, good tyres and members who have attended a proficiency training weekend should attend.
- There's a call out for more members to help run day trips around May and June.
- Border Track - Queens Birthday weekend, only time of the year it's ever open, will travel the track and tour around.
- High Country Trip 30-31 May - Bruce Cremonesi.

If you need some extra help organizing your trips, a good idea is to get in contact with the local Ranger in the area of interest and have a chat with them.

Please make sure all camp fires are safe to leave before going to bed or leaving your campsite.

## Trip Reports:

John gave a report on the bushfire relief. All members that attended were given "thank you" tickets to an AFL football match and an open day at the Bales CFA. Thank you.

Shane gave a report on the Proficiency Training weekend.

Johan gave a report on the Nav Rally.

## Association Report:

In the President's report John spoke about the MVO tracks, he explained the paperwork and the 4 weeks notice required when wanting to drive on any of the MVO tracks on the list.

Some attended the last meeting and had a heated debate about the increase in Association fees. However, the increase was accepted and now needs to be passed onto our members. The increase is \$12.70 and will be passed on from next year's membership fees. We need to update our form.

## General Business:

The Advanced Training weekend needs to be re-scheduled until after May sometime, eg towards the end of winter.

Bruce suggested we should update the website with current meeting venue.

John is looking at new locations, as we are not 100% happy with current venue. He has a list of meeting rooms to check out. Do any members have any ideas.

Thanks to the members who have volunteered for the Bushfire caravans.

#### Raffle:

Thank you for the donation of the raffle prizes. Ken Pitcher won the Easter hamper; Anthony Van Buiten won the box of chocolates; and Richard Piotrowski won the mystery prize.

Meeting Closed: 10.15pm.

#### Next Meeting:

8.00pm, 5 May 2009 at Palm Plaza Meeting Room, McCrae Street, Dandenong. See you there.

### ☺☺☺ Humour ☺☺☺

#### *And then the fight started...*

My wife sat down on the couch next to me as I was flipping channels.

She asked, "What's on the TV?"

I said, "Dust."

*And then the fight started...*

My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary.

She said "I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 150 in about 3 seconds."

So I bought her a scale.

*And then the fight started...*

When I got home last night, my wife demanded that I take her someplace expensive... so, I took her to a gas station.

*And then the fight started...*

I took my wife to a restaurant. The waiter, for some reason, took my order first.

"Ill have the steak, medium rare, please."

He said, "Aren't you worried about the mad cow."

"Nah, she can order for herself."

*And then the fight started...*

My wife asked me if a certain dress made her butt look big.

I told her not as much as the dress she wore yesterday.

*And then the fight started...*



## CLUB MERCHANDISE

### For Sale (Revised Price List)

Club Polo Shirts	\$28.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece ½ Zip Jumper	\$38.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$48.00 ea
Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$44.00 ea
Club Caps	\$15.00 ea
Club Bucket Hat	\$16.00 ea
Club Wide Brim Hat	\$18.00 ea
Club Beanie	\$12.00 ea
VFWDC Sticker (long)	\$ 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.



## CLUB KITCHEN

*It's Autumn and the cooler weather is on its way... so time to think about cooking up a batch of hearty soup for those chilly Sunday nights.*

### Beef and Barley Soup

#### Ingredients

1 tablespoon olive oil  
500g gravy beef, trimmed, diced into 2cm pieces  
2 cloves garlic, crushed  
2 medium brown onions (300g), chopped finely  
¾ cup (150g) pearl barley  
3 cups (750ml) beef stock  
1.5 litres (6 cups) water  
1 bay leaf  
1 sprig fresh rosemary  
1 sprig fresh thyme  
2 medium potatoes (400g), diced into 1cm pieces  
2 medium carrots (240g), diced into 1cm pieces  
2 medium zucchini (240g), diced into 1cm pieces  
2 medium yellow patty-pan squash (60g), diced into 1cm pieces  
100g Swiss brown mushrooms, chopped coarsely  
½ cup finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley



#### Method

Heat half the oil in large saucepan; cook beef, in batches, until browned.

Heat remaining oil in same pan; cook garlic and onion, stirring, until onion softens. Return beef to pan with barley, stock, the water, bay leaf, rosemary and thyme, bring to the boil. Reduce heat; simmer, covered, about 1 hour or until beef and barley are tender, skimming fat occasionally.

Add potato, carrot, zucchini, squash and mushrooms to soup; simmer, covered, about 25 minutes or until vegetables are softened. Remove and discard bay leaf, rosemary and thyme.

Serve bowls of soup sprinkled with parsley, and crunchy bread on the side.



VFWDC



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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>2009</b>				
<b>MAY</b>	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Thompson Dam	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784 074
	Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	High Country Huts	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 074
<b>JUNE</b>	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> to Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Queen's Birthday Weekend</b> Trip 1: Border Track Trip 2: Swifts Creek	Dan Robinson Bob McKerrow	0407 334 169 0430 014 001
	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	Catherine Thorne	0412 758 357
	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Avoca	John Partridge	0428 331 211
<b>JULY</b>	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Committee Meeting	Craig Major	0432 876 699
	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Snow Trip	Craig Major	0432 876 699

## FORTHCOMING TRIPS

<b>Destination</b>	<b>THOMPSON DAM AREA</b>
<b>Trip Leader</b>	BRUCE CREMONESI
<b>Contact No</b>	0400 425 296
<b>Date</b>	SAT 16 to SUN 17 MAY
<b>Meeting Time/Place</b>	TBA
<b>Vehicle Limits</b>	MIN: 4 MAX: 6
<b>Grade</b>	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
<b>Approx Kms</b>	Approx 200-250kms
<b>Last Fuel Available</b>	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
<b>Radio Channel</b>	12
<b>Equipment</b>	Recovery gear; UHF Radio; warm clothes, boots and spare dry clothes; camping gear; sense of adventure and humour
<b>Trip Activity Details:</b> 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.	

<b>Destination</b>	<b>BORDER TRACK</b>
<b>Trip Leader</b>	DAN ROBINSON
<b>Contact No</b>	0407 334 169 9764 0881
<b>Date</b>	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY W/END 6-8 JUNE
<b>Meeting Time/Place</b>	Friday night at Donald Caravan Park. Leaving 9am Saturday
<b>Vehicle Limits</b>	MIN: 0 MAX: 4
<b>Grade</b>	WET/DRY: Easy
<b>Approx Kms</b>	600 kms
<b>Last Available Fuel</b>	Ouyen/Mildura
<b>Distance Between Supplies</b>	200-300 kms
<b>Maps Required</b>	Vic Deserts
<b>Equipment Required</b>	Typical recovery equipment and First Aid Kit
<b>Radio Channel</b>	12
<b>Trip Activity Details:</b> 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.	

<b>Destination</b>	<b>AVOCA</b>
<b>Trip Leader</b>	JOHN PARTRIDGE
<b>Contact No</b>	0438 600 904
<b>Date</b>	FRI 24 to SUN 26 JUNE
<b>Meeting Time/Place</b>	TBA
<b>Vehicle Limits</b>	MIN: 3 MAX: 8
<b>Grade</b>	WET: Medium/Hard DRY: Easy/Medium
<b>Approx Kms</b>	350 kms
<b>Last Available Fuel</b>	Ballarat
<b>Distance Between Supplies</b>	N/A
<b>Maps Required</b>	N/A
<b>Equipment Required</b>	Typical recovery equipment and First Aid Kit
<b>Radio Channel</b>	12
<b>Trip Activity Details:</b> This trip will involve a good selection of medium tracks along with one or two 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.	





## **EASTER ON THE MURRAY HATTAH KULKYNE NP - 9-14 APRIL 2009**

*Participants: Cast of thousands...*

*Hymasx 2*

*Martin/Peters*

*Ryans x 4*

*Franklands x 2*

*Partridges x 5*

*Van Buitens x 4*

*Beards x 4*

*Rodgers/Cameron x 6*

*Leiderbergs x 4*

*Chechelnitksys x 5*

*Michelons x 3*

*Axtells x 4*

*Maggie & Thomas*

*McKerrows x 2*

*John & Maryann*

### **Saturday, April 11**

After breakfast, Jan and I went for a drive to the Murray-Sunset National Park with Ken, Jane, Jesse and Jack. On the way out of camp, we found John and Maryann waiting for us beside the track, so the three vehicles set off back to River Track and then along Raak Track.

Ken was leading and I asked him how he was going to get to the Calder Highway when we reached the end of Raak Track. I mentioned a couple of tracks and he invited me to take the lead for that part of the trip. We had a look at Boolca and Dry Lakes tracks, but these were MVO (management vehicles only) so we went on to North Boundary Track and followed the northern boundary of the national park until we reached Nowingi Track leading out to the Calder.

Enough time had passed for Ken to declare a mid-morning break at the Ironclad Tower. It was here that Jane temporarily 'lost' her boys. While she wasn't looking, they climbed on to the roof rack, laid down with their hats over their faces and kept perfectly still. "Oh! Where are the boys?" she asked. "They were there just a minute ago."

We all looked around but could not see the boys until the joke was too much for them and they sat up smiling. Very clever.

Ken led us on along Nowingi Line Track with only a slight pause for re-orientation after driving into a private property. Clearly this has happened before because John was not slow to observe that we were on another of Ken's "Turnabout Tours".

Not much further on, we came across a "Track Closed" sign. It did not look official and, after a short discussion, the view was that it was not a formal track closure and had been put there either by the local farmer to keep the traffic down or was left over from an April Fool's joke.

The track clearly passed through public land between two fence lines. So we ignored the sign and 300 metres up the road passed the sign that welcomed us to Murray-Sunset National Park.

After a short stop at The Hopper, we went on to Rocket Lake where we stopped for lunch.



Pink Lakes was next and we examined some large piles of salt that had been excavated from the lakes. The piles had hardened and become almost like rock but if you broke a piece off, you could taste the salt.



Back on the highway, we stopped while I aired up my tyres - I had dropped the pressures soon after we arrived at camp and I'd had to snatch an unfortunate out of the sand. We had a quick stop at Underbool for ice creams and then drove back to camp.

It was almost dark when we arrived and I discovered just how difficult it can be to see trees as the light is failing. There was a resounding crunch, followed by a tinkling of glass, as I reversed off the track and down into camp. My right rear no longer matched my left rear.

When we looked along the sandbar, we could see multiple fires with small groups of people cooking or sitting at them. After the large fire of the previous night, around which the whole group had sat, tonight was a little cosier.

After dinner, Michael came along with a bottle of malt whisky which he and Ashley set about demolishing.

Their antics kept the others around the fire amused. A bottle of single malt was clearly insufficient so Ashley, resourceful as ever, returned with a cask of port. It turned out to be a long night and as the numbers thinned, bits of the world were put to rights in several different ways.

At the end of the night, I stood alone on the sand bar for a few minutes under the near full moon. I had a strong feeling of déjà vu. I was sure this had happened before after a cask of port had done the rounds. Yes, I'm certain I have woken up in front of the fire at past two o'clock in the morning to find everyone else has gone off to bed.

*Derek Hymas*

### **Easter Sunday**

After a rather social evening around the campfire on Saturday night, it was with trepidation that I went to bed, knowing full well that Easter Sunday would bring an early start to the day with the kids hunting, finding & opening up their chocolate goodies, with all the noise you would expect on such an occasion. Is Easter just for the little ones? I think not, with a lot of the adults indulging in their fair share.

After a chocolate brekky it was time for some more water activities, as was the norm for a weekend when camped on the Murray River, such as swimming, kayaking, fishing, etc.

Oh, by the way, if anyone wants to know if there really are fish in the Murray, just ask Tim for a firsthand account. He can do a 360° roll, complete with daughter, in the kayak - magnificent Tim!! - any fish?? The tent-to tent socializing during the day was par for the course, due to the expanse of the camp site, with 10-15 canvas "beach boxes" spread along the banks of the river.

Did someone mention a roast?? - the majority of members prepared and sat down to a roast dinner for the evening, before the pilgrimage to one of the many camp fires, to discuss politics, religion and agree on why *Cruisers rule* !!!!!

*Ken Beard*

\*\*\*\*\*

Editors Note: Unfortunately, trip reports for the other days were not submitted prior to publication date, so here's a small pictorial viewpoint until next month (maybe?)

The long weekend was basically an R&R opportunity for most, except perhaps for Ashley who decided to do a 40k bike ride on the Sunday! Ken and Jane brought along their kayaks, and Stan and Shayne had rubber dinghies for the kids - big and small - to enjoy.



*The San Tropez end of our sandbar...*



*"Happy Hour" at the Ryan's on Monday evening.*



*The dry and dusty Hattah-Kulkyne NP*