

MARCH 2013

# Free Wheeling



Ulupna Island - Australia Day 2013

# Notice Board

## VFWDC GENERAL MEETING VENUE

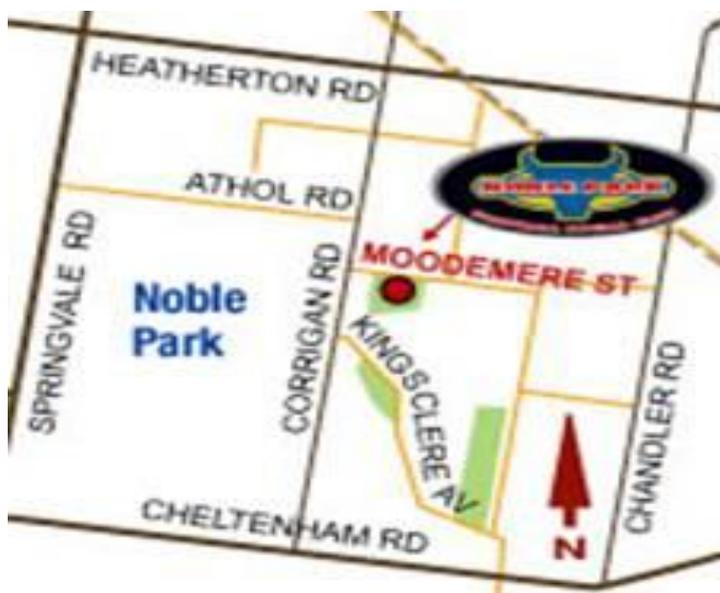
The club meets at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club, 46-56 Moodemere St, Noble Park on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month at 8.00pm (No meeting in January and November meeting at selected location). Members and Guests are welcome to dine at the Bistro before attending the meeting.

First **WEDNESDAY** of each month 8.00PM Start

### **Venue:**

Bowling Club Rooms (Next to Car Park, down the far end of the car park)

Noble Park Football Club  
46-56 Moodemere Street  
Noble Park  
Melways ref: 89 D4



## **FREE WHEELING**

Hello and welcome to the March newsletter. This month see's two long weekends and Easter coming around early, so check out some of the trips in the calendar and put your name down on the trip data forms.

Catherine

Editor@fwdc.com



**COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT  
2012-2013**

President	Mark Felton	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	Catherine Felton	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Steve Pitcher	treasurer@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Andre Van Derwalt	secretary@vfwdc.com
<b>GENERAL COMMITTEE</b>		
Assistant Secretary		assist@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	David Bruinsma	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Catherine Felton	editor@vfwdc.com
Web Manager	Bruce Cremonesi	web@vfwdc.com
Training Officers	Ashley Martin	John Partridge
Association Delegate	David Bruinsma	
Librarian		
Merchandise		
General Committee		

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 8pm, first Wednesday of each month, excluding January (no meeting).
Location	Noble Park Football Club (Bowling club near car park) 46-56 Moodemere Street, Noble Park Melways ref: 89 D4
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>
	The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)



# VFWDC ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

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## CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2013				
March	<b>Wednesday 6th</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>Mark Felton</b>	<b>0439 345 207</b>
	9th	Bunyip State Forrest - New member trip EASY	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	15th	Monthly Night Run	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	20th	Committee Meeting	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
	23rd	Marysville Area - Day Trip	David Jackson	0408 333 313
	29th March - 1st April	Easter Weekend Tolmie Mansfield	Sam Ayoubee	0414 503 874
	29th March - 1st April	The Playgrounds - MacFarlane Flat	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207
April	<b>Wednesday 3rd</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>Mark Felton</b>	<b>0439 345 207</b>
	5th	Monthly night Run	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	14th	Day trip - Castlemaine - New member trip EASY	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207
	17th	Committee Meeting	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
	26th - 28th	Wabonga Plateau Trip	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207
May	<b>Wednesday 1st</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>Mark Felton</b>	<b>0439 345 207</b>
	3rd - 5th	Millers Hut / Lake Tali Karng	Steve Pitcher	0421 205 529
	22nd	Committee Meeting	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
	<b>End of May/June Club Meeting</b>	<b>Club Memberships Are Now Due</b>		
June	<b>Wednesday 5th</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>Mark Felton</b>	<b>0439 345 207</b>
	7th - 10th	Queens Birthday Weekend		
	19th	Committee Meeting	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
July	<b>Wednesday 3rd</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>Mark Felton</b>	<b>0439 345 207</b>
	12th - 14th	Christmas in July - New member trip EASY	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
	19th - 21st	Snow Trip - Permit Required Mt Skene	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207
	24th	Committee Meeting	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
August	<b>Wednesday 7th</b>	<b>AGM General Meeting</b>	<b>Mark Felton</b>	<b>0439 345 207</b>
	16th - 18th	Weekend Trip - Shepparton - New member trip EASY	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207
	28th	Committee Meeting	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
September	<b>Wednesday 4th</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>Mark Felton</b>	<b>0439 345 207</b>
	13th - 15th	Winery Trip - New member trip EASY	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207
	18th	Committee Meeting	Mark Felton	0439 345 207

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to this month's of free wheeling.

Hi all welcome to March, the start of the year has gone very quickly so are the days before the high country closes for the winter and if things go right hopefully the fires are out quickly as well.

March is an exciting month with two long weekends and the days are still long enough to head out and have fun in the sun.

I hope that everyone has a great Easter and labour day weekend away. I also want to wish a great trip to club members running and/or attending the trips over the long weekends, may the travels be fun and safe and we can hear many great adventure stories in the next months to follow.

As you can see from our calendar were now showing you six months at a time, so that you're now well informed of club trips that are coming up over the next few months. Please check out the trip data forms for more details on these trips.

The committee have also come up with an idea to support visitors and guests we have thought of a meet and greet officer to welcome people into the club and make them feel welcome, if you think you would be suitable for this role please don't hesitate to approach the committee at the next meeting.

Have fun stay safe on the roads and tracks and most of all have a great Easter long weekend.

Mark Felton  
President VFWDC

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Bunyip State Forrest – NEW MEMBERS trip</b>	DESTINATION	<b>Bunyip State Forrest</b>
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	NAME: David Bruinsma MOB: 0417 747 860	LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	NAME: David Bruinsma MOB: 0417 747 860
DATES	9 <sup>th</sup> March 2013	DATES	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2013
MEETING PLACE / TIME	BP on the Pakenham Bypass at 8am for a 8:30am departure	MEETING PLACE / TIME	BP on the Pakenham Bypass at 7pm for a 7:30pm departure
GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: Easy/Medium	GRADE	WET: Medium/hard DRY: Easy/Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	A little bit of exploring on and off road. Aim to visit a historic car place, check out a few overnight camp spots to show you some very close by free camps. Look for a few day spots for have BBQ's, and as time permits check out one or two 4wd tracks in the local area.	TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Drive to destination area and find tracks to explore using all the lights our 4x4's have mounted – the more lights you have installed, the more fun you can have in using them. <cheesy grin> Note: you do need to take more care when driving at night, there is greater risk involved in all aspects – especially with recoveries if/when required. I do not intend to try to drive home each time we go out at night, sometimes it might be wiser to throw a swag in the 4x4 and we stay overnight and leave for home in the day light. This would be for your and my safety instead of driving home tired after a few hours playing in the bush.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 8	VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	Less than 100km	APPROX KMS	Less than 100km
LAST AVAIL FUEL	PETROL: Pakenham DIESEL: Pakenham	LAST AVAIL FUEL	PETROL: Pakenham DIESEL: Pakenham
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic Recovery Equipment. Winch recovery Equipment advisable.	EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic Recovery Equipment. Winch recovery Equipment advisable.
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftops – Bunyip	MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftops – Bunyip
RADIO CHANNEL UHF	12	RADIO CHANNEL UHF	12

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Easter Weekend Tolmie Mansfield</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Sam Ayoubee MOB: 0414 503 874
DATE	Easter Weekend
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Tba—Contact Sam Ayoubee for further details
GRADE <b>Please adhere to new trip classifications</b>	DRY:
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Family weekend camping and exploring some of the local attractions and 4wheel drive tracks.
VEHICLE LIMITS	tba
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	tba
RADIO CHANNEL      CB / UHF	UHF 12

DESTINATION	<b>The Playgrounds - MacFarlane flat</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Markncat Felton    MOB: 0439 345 207
DATE	Easter Long Weekend Friday 29th March - 1st April
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Longwarry BP - 7pm
GRADE	Dry: EASY    Wet: MEDIUM
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Were taking advantage of the long weekend and heading up to far North East Victoria. This is an area that we haven't touched on and will take a look around the local area, check out the Rams Horn, Mount Wombargo/ The Cobberas/ Meenak. Stay at Native Dog Flat, the playgrounds and MacFarlane Flat.</p> <p>There are some rocky roads and numerous water crossings in an isolate part of the state. We'll be covering a large number of kilometers. This will be a pick up and travel trip, consistently moving, no stay in camp sorry no trailers.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM:2 MAXIMUM:8
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	1000 - 1500 kms round trip
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Self sufficient
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	Omeo / Jindabyne
MAPS REQUIRED	Suggan Buggan / Rooftop Corryong—Omeo—Thredbo
RADIO CHANNEL UHF	UHF 12

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Marysville Area</b>
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	NAME: David Jackson dkh@me.com MOB: 0408 333 313
DATE	Saturday 23rd March
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Healesville Coles Carpark
GRADE <b>Please adhere to new trip classifications</b>	WET: Cancelled DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Strickland spur track Woods Lookout Marysville for lunch The 'triangle' area
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	100/150km
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Healesville DIESEL: Healesville
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Standard recovery equipment
RADIO CHANNEL UHF	12

DESTINATION	<b>Toolangi State Forrest</b>
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	NAME: David Bruinsma MOB: 0417 747 860
DATES	5 <sup>th</sup> April 2013
MEETING PLACE/TIME	Lilydale McDonalds at 7pm for a 7:30pm departure
GRADE	WET: Medium/hard DRY: Easy/Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Drive to destination area and find tracks to explore using all the lights our 4x4's have mounted – the more lights you have installed, the more fun you can have in using them. <cheesy grin> Note: you do need to take more care when driving at night, there is greater risk involved in all aspects – especially with recoveries if/when required. I do not intend to try to drive home each time we go out at night, sometimes it might be wiser to throw a swag in the 4x4 and we stay overnight and leave for home in the day light. This would be for your and my safety instead of driving home tired after a few hours playing in the bush.
VEHICLE LIM- ITS	MINIMUM: 3      MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS	Less than 100km
LAST AVAIL FUEL	PETROL: Pakenham DIESEL: Pakenham
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic Recovery Equipment. Winch recovery Equipment advisable.
MAPS REQ	Rooftops – Toolangi State Forrest
RADIO CHAN- NEL UHF	12



## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Day Trip to Castlemaine</b>	DESTINATION	<b>Wabonga Plains Trip</b>
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	NAME: Markncat Felton MOB: 0439 345 207	LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	NAME: Markncat Felton MOB: 0439 345 207
DATE	Saturday 14th April	DATE	Friday 26th - Sunday 28th April
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Servo next to Calder Park 7am	MEETING PLACE / TIME	Lilydale Macca's (Back car park) For 7pm departure
GRADE	On sealed roads, no off roading. It will be a sight seeing day.	GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>This will be a sighting seeing day, as it's been a few years since we've been out this direction.</p> <p>We'll be checking out the growing harvest festival, there will be workshops, demonstrations and stalls and check it out on the web. We'll stop off for a bite to eat for lunch, if you choose to or bring your own.</p> <p>Then in the afternoon, we'll check out the Buda historic home &amp; Garden (there is a small entry charge). Possibly stop into a winery or two, time dependant. We'll head home sometime late afternoon.</p>	TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>We'll be camping at Buttercup Five campsite, just out of Sawmill settlement. Option to meet us Saturday morning at this campsite for 9am departure. We'll be going in via Pineapple campsite, take a look at King Hut, travelling along the staircase, passing Lake Cobbler, across the Dandongadale Buffalo divide track, down to Bennies, to take Wild Horse Gap track, along the Razorback, Burnt top track, stop at Top Crossing hut and stopping at Lake William Hovell. If time permits, take a look at Paradise Falls as well and possible come out via Tomahawk Gap.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM:2 MAXIMUM:8	VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM:3 MAXIMUM:8
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	tba	APPROX KMS	200kms off-road from Sawmill settlement/ Gates Mt Buller/Mt Striling. 600kms round trip roughly.
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	N/A	LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	Diesel: Mansfield Petrol: Mansfield
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12	MAPS REQUIRED	TBA
		RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Millers Hut / Lake Tali Karng</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Steve Pitcher MOB: 0421 205 529
DATE	3 – 5 May 2013
MEETING PLACE / TIME <i>A second/later group may depart later in the evening but this is <u>not</u> assured.</i>	BP Service Station, Princes Freeway (Pakenham Bypass), Officer (Meet 1:00 pm for 1:30 departure), GPS Coordinates: Lat: -38° .0699" Long: 145° .3872"
GRADE	WET: C Grade (Medium) DRY: C Grade (Easy-Medium)
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Base Camping at Millers Hut. From there, we can head over to the Sentinels lookout to view Lake Tali Karng from above (no vehicular access down to the lake itself – those that are interested can hike down to the water's edge from camp, and get back in a day, but it is only suited to experienced hikers). I will run a day trip on the Saturday, taking in Moroka Hut and Horseyard Hut (4L most of the way) and a packed lunch or easy to prepare lunch is recommended as we will not return to camp until mid-afternoon. The return trip from Horseyard will be an easy drive back (2WD / 4H) for the most part to cater for those with kids and/or anyone wanting to get a roast on. Camper trailers are welcome (make sure you can lock/secure your trailer if participating in the day trip), families with children are also welcome/encouraged (the length and difficulty of the day trip has been set to cater for those with children and/or anyone who has limited off-road driving experience).
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS (Meeting place to destination)	350 Kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Licola (Heyfield is the 2 <sup>nd</sup> nearest) DIESEL: Licola (Heyfield is the 2 <sup>nd</sup> nearest)
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	50 kms (approx) back to Licola from Millers Hut
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED <i>In case of an emergency (eg. Bushfire), completed Personal Information Forms / Visitor Forms are required for this trip.</i>	All equipment and supplies required to be self-sufficient for 3+ days and to cater for simple vehicle break-downs (eg. Basic tools and spares for your vehicle/trailer) and 4WD recoveries (front and rear but winches are not essential). Quality A/T tyres and spare/s – please remember keys for any spare tyre locks or tow hitch locks.
MAPS REQUIRED	While not essential, all participants are encouraged to have a reasonably new map of the area. Good quality maps include: Rooftop's 'Dargo-Wonnangatta Adventure Map; and Hema Maps High Country Victoria.
RADIO CHANNEL      CB / UHF	Channel 12 UHF

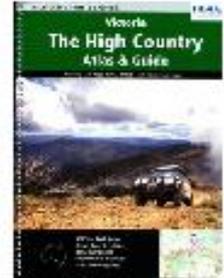
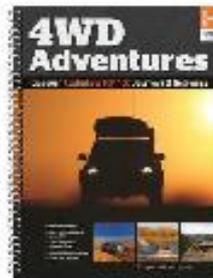
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# Minutes of General Meeting February 2013

## General Meeting 6th February 2013

The meeting was held at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club and was opened at 8.15pm by Committee Member David Bruinsma.

**Present:** as per the attendance book

**Apologies:** as per the Apologies book

**Visitors:** as per the Visitors Book

### Minutes of previous General Meeting

Requested change to minutes under General Business: requested by Bill Harwood:

Bill Harwood asked the committee questions at the end of a presentation relating to new government changes for incorporated clubs. As a club do we need to do some house cleaning in relation to existing issues that have fallen by the wayside, before being bogged down with all this new regulation, i.e.

club name tags, ... *(response being that Andre and David now have that issue well in hand)*

- Receipts of payments *(response being that current treasurer has written receipts for ALL payments received)*
- Accurate data for club magazine delivery, and content of what is being put into our club magazine ( this should not be the responsibility of the editor to proof read each item ).
- What constitutes a club trip and how many vehicles are there to be on a club trip. *(response being that a trip form to be filled in and a participant list available for members to sign up on. min. ONE vehicle, but we prefer more than one of course for safety)*

**Accepted:** Neville Van Leeuwen

**Seconded:** Charlie Costa

Motion to have the amended minutes published in the February Magazine, requested by David Bruinsma

**Accepted:** Ian Rhodes

**Seconded:** Brett Bucannan

### Matters arising:

Consumer affairs - club rules update. Steve Pitcher gave a brief recap of required changes to constitution as per December 2012 meeting. Advised that we 12 months from November 2012 in order to adopt the changes.

An undertaking was given that by 1st March 2012 a sub-committee will be formed to go through and prepare a new 'club rules' in accordance with the new regulations. Mark Kochan volunteered to join committee.

Club names tags were available at the meeting for members who have not yet collected them, only a small handful were handed out to members present - any names tags not yet issued will be mailed out in the coming week.

Receipts of Payments - any receipts not yet issued will be mailed out in the coming week with name tags. Any future names that remain uncollected after 2 consecutive club meetings will also be mailed out promptly.

Club magazine - more checking will be taking place by committee members, so the onus is not solely on our editor (who has been doing a very good job since she took over).

### Correspondence in

Email from Bill response to email from Trip Co-coordinator with extract of Dec minutes General Business

Email from Bill in response to today's Dec general minutes being issued incorrectly

Royal flying Doctors

Jeep Cross Country - November & December 2012

Land Cruiser - November & December 2012

Land Rover Club - November & December 2012

Association email.

**Correspondence out**

Email to Bill with Dec minutes General Business

Email to club members with Dec General meeting minutes

Email to Bill with apology about the minutes with acknowledgement that the minutes will need to be corrected at tonight's meeting.

Letter to the Association accompanied by a cheque for \$210 to cover new and renewed memberships accepted during the period 05/07/2012 to 01/02/2013.

Treasurers report	Dec 2012	Treasurers report	Jan2013
Opening Balance	\$ 6225.26		
Total monies in	\$ 225.00		
Total monies out	\$ 1072.17		
Closing balance	\$ 5378.09	Opening Balance	\$ 5378.09
Term Deposit	\$ 5905.04	Total monies in	\$ 185.00
Interest	\$ 69.74	Less undeposited cheques	\$ 185.00
Term deposit top up	\$ 1025.22	Closing balance	\$ 5378.09
Term Deposit	\$ 7000.00	Term Deposit	\$ 7000.00
Petty Cash	\$ 50.00	Petty Cash	\$ 50.00

Phil Griffith requested change to financial reporting in the minutes. David Bruinsma (chairman for the night) agreed that the reporting should be more in keeping with the Treasurers report.

**Accepted:** Sam Ayubee  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Ashely Martin

**Trip reports**

Mount Terrible - David Jackson. Got lost. Dropped of food and water. 4 Vehicles, Joe, Joe, Audrey, Chris. Trip report requested for March Magazine

December night run - Mark Kochan gave a brief report

Xmas tree delivery - Lots of Happy kids.

**Trip coordinators report**

Committee are going to try to run special 'easy' trips (hopefully one per month) especially to encourage and invite NEWer members to participate. The object being to introduce the new members into trips and to meet some other members on trips, around camp fires etc etc.

1<sup>st</sup> trip will be 16<sup>th</sup> February - Dave. Don't know where. Maybe Gembrook.

Next trip will be 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March (for the weekend)

Night runs: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb - Toolangi

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> march - To be advised

Easter weekend - 2 trips

Hattah to Murray River (Ashleigh) - Limited numbers

Grampians (Sam Ayoubee) - Booking required ASAP

Labourday - Knockwood NEWer members trip. Light driving and easy tracks.

Training (Advanced) - Aberfeldy or Ballarat. April 2013

Training Proficiency - May? 2012 Proficiency certificates on the way.

12-14 April - Huts

8 -10 June - Experiencing huts (Blokes)

10 - 12 May - Cape Otway

17 March - day to Marysville

**Events Report** nil                      **Association Report**nil

## General business

Infinity insurance - Major increase has been noted in cost of Vehicle insurance rates (mentioned by Ashley Martin)  
Clothing orders - Being chased up by the committee

### Raffle

This month there are 5 Prizes

Donated by + Prize	Won by:
Max + Sandra - Tupperware	Brett Buchanan
Mark Felton - Wine	Paul Daily
Mark Felton - wine	Adam Howell
Mark Felton - wine	Mark Kochan
Mark Felton - High Country trips and maps	Andre van der Walt

Meeting Closed: 10:05 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 8.00pm March 6<sup>th</sup> at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club.

# Notice to all club members

I will be shaving and colouring my hair this year on the 10th of March at the Frankston Football Club Oval. It will be happening at 2pm and for those of you who follow Saint Kilda Football Team they will also be there for photos and autographs.

**Jimmy Cupples will be shaving and colouring my hair.**

Please guys just think about the general struggle families these days have with the cost of everything that they need to do so they can get the vital treatment for there loved ones who might not survive as they struggle to get the funds for the treatment that they need.

The Leukaemia Foundation is the only not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the care and cue of patients and families living with Leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma and related blood disorders. Each year, we invest millions in the work of Australia's best and brightest researchers to find better treatments and cures.

The Leukaemia Foundation receives no ongoing government funding. Your support makes our Vision to Cure and Mission to Care possible. Please sponsor me and be generous..

My goal is to raise over \$250 and without your help I wont be able to reach this goal. I would love to say thank-you to everyone at the last club meeting that donated money. The club members have already donated a total of \$144.50. Thank-you everyone for your support and I would love it if you guys could keep supporting me as I'm doing this for a great cause.

Thanks heaps guys The following is a link to my profile and just follow the prompts: <http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/EmilyWimetal>

THURSDAY 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## 4WD VICTORIA RURAL RESPONSE GROUP JOINS BLAZE AID IN FIRE RELIEF EFFORTS

The **4WD Victoria Rural Response Group** (a sub group of Four Wheel Drive Victoria) has joined with **BlazeAid** bringing additional volunteers to assist in the reconstruction of farm fencing and clearing of burnt trees and other debris on affected properties across Victoria.

This additional man-power will allow farmers to consolidate their stock, equipment and materials and move forward in their quest to keep running their respective business operations as quickly as possible.

With approximately 5000 members from 74 associated Four Wheel Drive Clubs across Victoria, the **4WD Victoria Rural Response Group** has performed similar duties in the past and has years of expertise in this environment. Our members are more than pleased to be of assistance in these challenging circumstances.

Through years of active club experience, our volunteers are all self sufficient with regards to their personal requirements, including vehicles, camping and sleeping equipment as well as vital supplies of food and water.

Moving from one location to another, is also no great problem as the group understand the necessity of operating on the most desperate and needy properties, directed by the BlazeAid co-ordinator who is working with the relevant Shire authorities.

The overall purpose naturally, is to make as big an impact on the restoration of those in need as quickly as possible. We have been encouraged by the offers of assistance from our Association members and it therefore makes excellent sense to join with the BlazeAid volunteers to bring about these goals and ensure the well being of communities wherever disaster has occurred.

With this in mind, our workers carry out their task with dedication and professionalism, seeking only to help families return to some sense of normality and restore communities.

In conjunction with this, we are also working to help other areas not covered by the larger groups, so at 4WD Victoria we keep the communication lines open in case of such calls.

For further comment or information please contact:

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**Four Wheel Drive Victoria**

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## Trip Reports

### Australia Day Weekend

Our original plan was to head towards the Otways, but we hadn't done any rec's and we felt like a 'stay in camp' and head towards to the Murray as the club hadn't been there a few years and hadn't done a 'stay in camp' for ages. We put the trip data form



out the club members at the start of January.

I felt like I was having a 'Deja Vu' moment, as we were two weeks out of a club trip and Mark was having was visiting hospital also having his appendix removed, just liked I had six months ago. Luckily enough Mark was wanting to get out of the house for a bit, after being stuck in the house for two weeks.

A response came back from club members, that six vehicles were interested in attending. Steve Pitcher headed up early on Friday, in the midst of 'every man and their dog' was going to be heading away for the weekend was going to secure campsites for us.

Mark & I headed up straight after work, we met Ken & Jane Beard at Lilydale Maccas'. Shortly Lewis and



Adriana arrived and then we were waiting on Owen, who had almost stopped at every Maccas's in the eastern suburbs. He eventually arrived and we took off in convoy to meet up with Anthony & co at Seymour Macca's. We made good timing in getting up there, as there wasn't as much traffic as we thought there would be, as Anthony & his family had enough time to grab a few last things at Safeway.



We were now altogether, so we continued our journey up towards the Murray. Our destination Ulupna Island, just out of Strathmerton. This took us just over three hours to get there, we managed to get Steve over the UHF & tried to locate him. Although Steve was going in and out over the UHF, we tried to head towards the campsite.

Mark had it in his head where we're were heading and Steve had ended up somewhere else. We tried to find Steve, but a call was made to set up camp where we were. As there was plenty of room and Ken was heading for 22 - 23 hours up straight. We would meet up with Steve tomorrow, everyone set up camp and then headed off to bed, while a few decided to stay up for a few more hours, as some other camp site partied on into the early hours.

### Saturday morning

Every one slowly made their own way out of bed and had brekky. People finished off setting up their campsites and it was discussed what the plans were for the day ahead, as no schedule was set in

stone. Ken, Jane & their boys stayed at the campsite, while the rest of us headed down to meet up with Steve.

We eventually found Steve & his family, they were camped on the very busy Ulupna Island itself, where we were about 10minuts away, we ended up at Long



Beach with three other campsites. We stayed there with Steve for a little while, chatting away with his family. Some members decided to head to town, so said their good byes. Some of us stayed on for a bit, then we headed back to Long Beach, past some very dirty campsites, we were all glad we were camping far away from them.

Lunch was consumed & then we all headed down to the edge of the Murray to relax and watch people 'float by' and greet them with 'Happy Australia Day'. Where Anthony had also dressed up for the day. We tried to set up a shelter, but was defeated several times by the strong gale winds that were whipping up the beach & off the cyclone up north. Even my little beach umbrella was defeated, Lewis and Adriana came back from another visit down to Steve, & advised they had to head back to Melbourne, as work called for Lewis.

A called was made to put off the pot roast till tomorrow night, as the gale force winds were still around, so dinner was consumed and we settled down around a small campfire that we set up on the beach. Lots of stories were told and plenty of laughs



followed, eventually everyone headed off to bed for a good nights sleep.

### Sunday

Every one slowly made their own way out of bed and had brekky. People finished off setting up their campsites and it was discussed what the plans were for the day ahead, as no schedule was set in stone.

Owen, a guest, Mark and I headed to do some sight seeing, while the others were going to stay at camp and then go for a drive later. We ended up at The big Strawberry farm, at Koonoomoo. Where we met up with Steve and his family who also visiting the big strawberry. We were given a basket and we could go and pick our own strawberries, which we did and then paid for and brought a few bottles of wine and port on the side as well. We then headed to Monachino winery, just out of Katunga. We sampled a few of their wines, found a few that we liked and



We were all starting to feel hungry, so we headed back to camp for lunch and came across Ken on the UHF, they were heading to take a drive through the Barmah State Forest. We sat around for the whole afternoon, in the shade finally the wind had died down a bit, so we headed down to the rivers edge and sat in the river for a bit. Mark got the fire going ready for the pot roast, while happy hour was consumed, while the others had returned from their

drive, which was interesting till they came across a dead end and had to turn around



and back track their trip. They had arrived in time to put their roasts on and enjoy the spoils of happy hour.

We shared a pot roast with Owen and the sand ended up cooking our tea even quicker (and a lot more smoker) than any of us had thought, even Anthony's roast was over done. Better luck next time, we had to take our car for a drive as our old batteries and the exhausting heat were draining them dry, so we went for a drive around to charge up the batteries. The full moon came out, on a clear starry night and the wind had finally died down and was giving us a rest. It was a great night, a lot of laughs and stories were shared by all again, then slowly we all headed to bed. Tonight was a much quieter night to sleep and the tent wasn't going to spend most of the night half its size, by being bent over by the wind.

## Monday

We woke up to a very still morning, it's always the way. Brekky was consumed and a few were already starting to pack up camp. Ken and Jane and their boys headed off early, as they were getting ready to start school in a few days. Then Anthony and his family head off next, Owen and his visitor were going to stay for a few more hours before they were going to head off. We were ready to go, so we said our good byes. We thank all that came and attended the trip, our apologies to Steve for giving the incorrect directions. It was a great weekend attended by all.



**Lots of Trips!**