



JUNE 2014

# Free Wheeling



## Marysville Day Trip - Half of the Group

# Notice Board

## VFWDC GENERAL MEETING VENUE

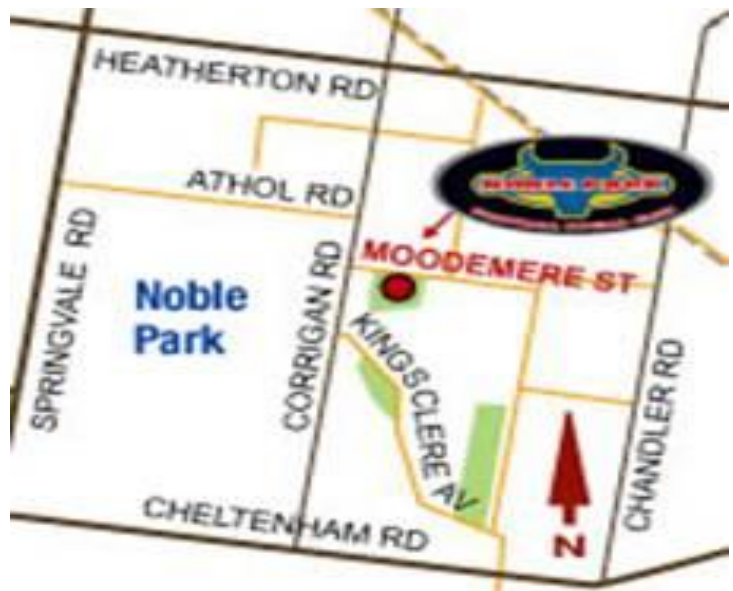
The club meets at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club, 46-56 Moodemere St, Noble Park on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month at 8.00pm (No meeting in January and November meeting at selected location). Members and Guests are welcome to dine at the Bistro before attending the meeting.

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



Please note : Club membership for the financial year 2014/2015 will be due at the June club meeting. Please return your dues & forms as attached to the last page of this newsletter, by the June meeting. Please also note, club members can't occupy committee positions nor do they have any voting rights if they are not a financial paid member.

## **FREE WHEELING**

Hello and welcome to the June newsletter, this month has another long weekend, Queen's birthday. Check out the details further into the newsletter for details on trips, enjoy the trips before the seasonal track closures being on the Queen's birthday weekend.

Catherine

Editor@fwdc.com



## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2013-2014

President	John Partridge	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	Sally Higgs	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Steve Pitcher	treasurer@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Andre Van Derwalt	secretary@vfwdc.com
GENERAL COMMITTEE		
Assistant Secretary		assist@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	c/o David Bruinsma	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Catherine Felton	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	David Bruinsma	delegate@vfwdc.com
SUPPORT POSITIONS TO COMMITTEE		
Web Manager	Ben Whitworth	web@vfwdc.com
Training Officers	Phillip Griffith	
Librarian		
Merchandise	Mark Felton	
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)



## CLUB MERCHANDISE For Sale

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.



## CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2014				
June	<b>Wednesday 4th</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>		
	6th - 9th	Portland Buggy Club - Queens birthday	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	18th	Committee Meeting		
July	<b>Wednesday 2nd</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>		
	4th - 6th	Xmas In July		
	18th - 20th	Snow Trip - Mt Skene	Sam Ayoubee & Markncat Felton	0414 503 874 0439 345 207
	23rd	Committee Meeting		
August	<b>Wednesday 6th</b>	<b>AGM &amp; General Meeting</b>		
	20th	Committee Meeting		
	23rd	VFWDC 40th Birthday Celebrations		
September	<b>Wednesday 3rd</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>		
	17th	Committee Meeting		
October	<b>Wednesday 1st</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>		
	22nd	Committee Meeting		
November	<b>Wednesday 12th</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>		
	31st Oct - 4th Nov	Knockwood Reserve	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207
	19th	Committee Meeting		
December	<b>Wednesday 3rd</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>		
January		<b>NO GENERAL MEETING</b>		
	23rd - 26th	Australia Day Wkend-Long Beach @ the Murray	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207

# President Report

Hi Everyone

I have been asked to write the Presidents Report this month so I thought it would be a good opportunity to introduce myself in a more formal manner. I have been a member of the club for a little over a year now and I stuck my hand up for the Vice President role at the last election so I could learn more about the club.

So here is a little bit about me; After moving to Australia from New Zealand a couple of years ago my days are filled with being a Banker and the nights and weekends (when I am not out four wheel driving) and big storms are filled up with volunteering with the SES. We drive a Land Rover Discovery 2, which is the best 4x4 by far, that we are slowly kitting out for a longer trip across Australia in the future. I have been lucky enough to four wheel drive across a large part of New Zealand and now I am getting to do the same across Australia. For those who I have been on trips with you will know that I am keen to get behind the wheel as well as make sure that Tristan is driving appropriately!

A big reason that we joined this club was to meet people who we could share our passion of four wheel driving and the outdoors with and I can say that we have found it. Everyone is really friendly and keen to share their stories and adventures as well as their favourite four wheel driving spots. Without the club we would not have got to go where we have so far, so thank you for being a part of that.

The purpose of the club meetings is, apart from making sure the clubs affairs are well managed, to meet people, share experiences and learn new things that can make four-wheel driving more fun and safe to do. To make sure that we are doing this we want to bring in some discussion topics and presentations to do as well as the all-important trip reports and notices. Below are some options and there is also a survey in the back so please let us know what interests you and feel free to add other topics. The following are topics that have been raised so far.

- Bush vehicle maintenance – key items to carry to solve for most issues
- Changing and repairing tyres in the bush
- Recovery gear – theory, maintenance and the use of
- Radios/ mobile phones/ sat phones/ EPIRBs and other comms – which to use and why?
- Quiz night on all things 4wd
- Packing a fridge to be most effective – all things bush tucker
- Survival Skills - what to do if you get stuck and or lost in the bush
- Basic Astronomy - so you can enjoy the stars at the campfire
- Basic Navigation - how to read and map and use a compass
- Bush Fire awareness

We will look to get some of these underway soon. If there is a topic that you are knowledgeable about and would like to run a presentation to the club please let the committee know and we will help to coordinate.

The club is 40 years old this year which is an amazing feat and could not have been achieved without the dedication of committees past and present and more importantly your contribution as members. I look forward to celebrating this milestone later in the year and hear some of the stories from the early days.

I will see you all at the meeting and if not I will see you out on the tracks.

Sally Higgs  
Vice President

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Portland Buggy Club</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Bruce Cremonesi MOB: 0400 42 52 96
DATE	June Long Weekend
MEETING PLACE / TIME	BP Service Station on East Link SOUTHBOUND
GRADE <b>Dry or Wet:</b>	Easy - Hard
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Wheeling in the sand dunes of Portland Buggy Club. This 1800 ha area of mainly tall bare dunes is a mecca for off-road enthusiasts. More Info at the club meeting
VEHICLE LIMITS	<b>MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 10</b>
KMS Meeting place to destination	420klms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	Portland has 4 service stations open 7 days Shell Percy Street 24 hour service, BP Percy Street, Caltex Tyers Street & Shell Henty Highway
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Plenty on the way
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	<b>Must have:</b> <b>ALL CARS MUST HAVE A FLAG AND FLAG POLE TO ENTER BUGGY CLUB.</b> <b>EVERYONE WITH FULL RECOVERY GEAR RATED RECOVERY POINTS FRONT AND REAR.</b> <b>Tyre Pressure gauges + Compressor</b> <b>Should have: Shovel/Spade/Digging tool</b> <b>CAMERAS!</b>
MAPS REQUIRED	TBA – As far as I know there are none for the buggy club
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12 or TBA

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Snow Trip - Mt Skene</b>
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	NAME: Markncat Felton MOB: 0439 345 207
DATE	Friday 18th - Sunday 20th July
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Skipworth reserve campsite, at the start of Polletti track
GRADE <b>Please adhere to new trip classifications</b>	WET: Medium DRY: Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>We will be heading up Friday night, we will be leave Saturday morning at 9am, (you can meet us here on Saturday, if Friday doesn't suit), we'll head up and over Mt Skene. Hopefully we will have some snow to play in, up on Mt Skene. Twelve mile, will be our base camp, so trailers are welcome.</p> <p>And packing up camp and leaving Sunday morning, heading back to Melbourne.</p> <p>Please note, we are required to get a permit two weeks before, finally numbers/details will be taken at the end of June. It is advised if you could carry snow chains.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	200km
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Self sufficient Chains for tyres

DESTINATION	<b>Mt Skene</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Sam Ayoubee MOB: 0414503874
DATE	18 July 2014
GRADE <b>Please adhere to new trip classifications</b>	WET: snow conditions
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Weekend trip to Mt Skene. Leaving Friday morning and returning Sunday. Trip activities meeting point will be announced closer to trip. Will be going to Licola and staying at Mt Skene and staying at Crows Hut.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: MAXIMUM: 5
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Heyfield DIESEL: Heyfield
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Approx. 50km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery gear & winches and snow chains if you have.
MAPS REQUIRED	Leader will have maps
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



**Lots of  
Trips!**



1B, 280 South Gippsland Highway,  
Cranbourne, 3977  
P: 03 59955055  
E: [sales@everything4wd.com.au](mailto:sales@everything4wd.com.au)  
W: [www.everything4wd.com.au](http://www.everything4wd.com.au)



*We are now distributors of the great **OZTENT** range of products with great club pricing*



Need a UHF in-car or hand held UHF Radio?  
*Everything **4WD** have a great range of*



Products as well as antennas, mounting brackets, dash cams + more.  
We also have access to a large range of AM/FM radios, DVD players, reversing cameras and cruise controls





## Minutes of General Meeting May 2014

The meeting was held at Noble Park Football Club and was opened at 8.15pm by Club President John.

**Present:** members present as per the attendance book

**Apologies:** members present as per the Apologies book

**Visitors:** There was 1 person listed in the Visitors Book

### Minutes of previous General Meeting

**Accepted :** Sally Harris

**Seconded :** Emily

#### Matters arising:

NIL

#### Correspondence in

Land rover Review

CCJC

Overland Cruiser

Membership renewals

#### Correspondence out

April news letter

#### Treasurer's report

Term Deposit	\$ 7350.43
Cheque A/C opening balance	\$ 6483.10
Money In	\$ 282.00
Moneys Out	\$ 29.90
Cheque A/C	
Closing balance	\$ 6735.20
Petty Cash	\$ 150
Consolidation balance	\$ 14235.63

**Accepted:** David  
Andrew

#### Association report:

Track classification. DEPI calls for members to help review track classifications. Aberfeldy, Bunyip State, Otways, Wombat and Little desert.

#### Trip coordinators report

Aberfeldy - El Dorado walls. McGuire's track some damage to a brake line. Down S16 and up the other side, slippery and challenging. Tomb star track - Rocky and Double black challenge

**Do not put recovery gear in the back...**

Max - outback trip. 1<sup>st</sup> day - lots of driving. 2<sup>nd</sup> day camping at Corn for 2 nights. 4 nights at Rawlsey park did lots of exploring. Had a flight over the flinders ranges.

2<sup>nd</sup> week - Arkaroola to mount Jacobs up to Inaminka. Max "miss placed his map" Got to Cameron corner after dark.

Tracks down to Saegertown and “Mad Max” museum.

Outback NSW - 1<sup>st</sup> day to Young, 2<sup>nd</sup> day Bathurst for some racing.

3<sup>rd</sup> day - explored area, collected firewood. Explored Glen Davis ghost town. Went to Louis station, well set up motocross track. Came back one day early.

Sam left on Friday morning, and had to turn around to get his mattress. Did some fishing, easy weekend.

Snowy river - Horse people took all the good spots. Early first night. Friday, David had a bad morning, battery died. Couldn't get his gas sealing up. **No Coffee**. Mick had a generator, lasted for 5 mins. Saturday got a new coffee grinder. Back to camp. Sunday, went for a drive. Some good tracks. Had lots of firewood!!!

*Sunday, went to Helipad. Spoke to Stuart. Back to camp, some red wine and started waiting. They showed up at around 5. Arron and John left for home at 9. Rest went for a drive and played.*

*Wednesday, had to get stuck! Got stuck promptly! Practiced recovery's!*

*Thursday, went to Gingerbire. Made sure no wine came back.*

Mark'n'Cat - Camped in Rosedale half way to our destination. Headed further and met Stuart in Bairnsdale. Drove through Lakes Entrance. Found a campsite just outside of Buchan. Had some hairy 4wd fun. Mark broke a aftermarket Panhard rod, had to come home early. Ratchet strapped it. Got it welded by a friendly bloke.

### Events Report

NIL

## General business

Membership renewal due in July.

AGM in August

Garry - 1<sup>st</sup> aid course? Alice Springs tour drivers for 2 weeks in August.

### Other Business

#### Raffle

Winner	Item
Amanda	EGGS
Ian	EGGS
...	Tupperware
Tiny	Wine
Nikki	Wine
Nikki	Dog

Meeting Closed: 9:40 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 8.00pm 4 September at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club.



## Trip Reports

### Driver Training

The weekend was perfect for us keen new and/or inexperienced drivers to complete the Proficiency Driving Course. We completed the theory side of the training on the Tuesday night before, now it was time to put it into practice.

Friday night Ben, Tony, John, Ashleigh and I met up at the Pakenham BP then took off to Little O'Tooles campground. John and Ashleigh stopped at the Erica pub for dinner while rest followed Ben into the darkness. All arrived safe and sound and had the entire campground to ourselves. We pitched our tents and swags and made tea. John and Ash arrived with the firewood and started the toasty fire. During the night a 'classy' lady wandered through and wanted to know how to get to Melbourne by foot - Ashleigh kindly showed her the way...

Next morning, with the guidance of Ashleigh, we practiced our Stop/Start uphill techniques then returned to camp and during that time Phil, Joe, Aaron and Leyla arrived. John showed and talked about recovery equipment and then inspected every vehicle. He pointed what equipment we had on board and their uses.

After lunch we continued on a few more tracks with few water crossings. Another important technique that Joe found invaluable was driving through the brakes. By 5pm it was time to cut up firewood and return to camp. Unfortunately my car didn't want to start for a good 10 minutes. Ben brought it back to life by whacking the starter motor with a large stick.

More camp fire jibby-jabber was shared until bedtime. At 5AM we awoke to the gentle sounds of a thunder storm above us. Flashes of lightning could be seen through the tents. I was worried about driving on the wet surface, but Phil correctly said the tracks wouldn't be affected. Packed up and continued on with more fun tracks. Tony's Hilux had difficulty climbing a hill after repeated tries. Phil suggested releasing more pressure from his tyres which did the trick.

John tackled a double-black-diamond rocky climb for demonstration/fun purposes in his Patrol.

At the end of the day, we drove through muddy ruts until we encountered a large river crossing. Aaron kindly volunteered to test the depth by walking in the icy waters. No car floated away thankfully and we pumped our tyres back up. Said our goodbyes and returned home to Melbourne.

Our newest members Leyla and Aaron who had zero 4x4 experience prior came out with the biggest grins of the trip. Leyla showed she paid full attention to theory and studied her notes. While I learnt not to be the one whose car breaks down and end up writing the trip report!

Ly Ho

### Day two: Proficiency Driving Course

Sunday 30th March 2014.

This is my first Trip Report, so I'm not at all sure how it all goes. I do know that I was nominated for this honour as on this day I was the only person who requested assistance whilst attempting an up route. The assistance given was to advise me to drop my tyre pressure from 22 psi down to 18 psi, I then successfully completed the climb. This shows me that in future I will not be the one who asks for help. (Only joking).

The early morning of Sunday 30th March 2014, started with an ominous sign, that being heavy thunder and lightening and the some rain. However by the time I arose, about 7.30am, the rain had stopped and the sky had some clouds but not rain threatening. In fact the day turned out to be quite beautiful. And our fearless instructors, John, Ashley and Phil, informed us that the rain would not have any adverse effects of the tracks we were going to drive.

Our first task for the day was lead by Phil and we went through the homework questionnaire sheet that we had been given on Tuesday 25th March 2014, the Theory Night. Most, but not all the group had completed the sheet. Having discussed that answers we all readied ourselves for the day ahead. Ashley drove Laylah's car and it was pre arranged that we would meet later in the morning so that Laylah could leave, as she had to catch a plane later in the day.

I have no idea of the names of the tracks we drove along during the course of the day, but for most of the groups of newbies, the tracks were challenging and very satisfying/rewarding.

We stopped in some remote area and had lunch and pushed on, again I don't know the names of the tracks. We ended up at the base of the Thompson Dam wall were we pumped up our tyres and headed for home.

It was certainly the consensus that the weekend Proficiency Driving Course had been of great benefit to all the newbies and I would like to state our thanks to John, Ashley and Phil for their time and four wheel driving expertise that they imparted to us.

I personally, and I'm sure I speak for the others, learned a great deal and certainly improved my level of confidence in four wheel driving.

Tony Feltham



## Trip Reports

### Trip Report: Outback NSW

#### Attendees:

Steve Pitcher & Nicole O'Connor-Gunn (Trip Leaders) and kids:  
Toyota LandCruiser

Ken Pitcher: Nissan Pathfinder

Kevin & Lisa Pitcher and kids (Visitors): Kia Carnival

Jason & Denise Richardson (Visitors) and kids: Toyota LandCruiser  
Prado



Under the cover of early morning darkness, we met up at our friends' house on Good Friday for a 5:30am departure. It was a non-stop 4 hour run but we made it all the way to Albury and in time for breakfast. From there we made our way along the rather sedate Olympic Hwy, a great alternative to the Hume. By early afternoon we had made it through to Wagga Wagga where we pulled up for a bit of lunch, a stretch of the legs and to let the kids burn off some pent-up energy. The final leg saw call it a day at Young where we decided to stay overnight.

After a more leisurely start to the morning, Easter Saturday saw us make our way up to Bathurst where we spent a bit of time up around Mt Panorama. It was more by chance than design that a mutual friend of ours (also from Melbourne) was also there, racing that very day. As time was limited, we watched him complete only a handful of laps before we decided it was time to press on.

By late afternoon we had arrived at our intended destination and meeting place, the Royal Exchange Hotel in Capertee. A minor digression...Capertee straddles Woollemi and Garden of Stones National Parks and it lies in the heart of the Capertee Valley, home to the world's largest canyon. Back to the trip...It was at Capertee that we met up with the rest of my family where our convoy promptly swelled to 4 vehicles while the total number of kids on board ballooned out from 4 to 11. We were now a full-blown mob!

Over a quick chat and a 'how-do-you-do', we downed a couple of light refreshments at the pub before pressing forward to what would become our temporary home for the next week - Coorongooba campground (Coorongooba is nestled along the Capertee River on the western flank of Woollemi National Park). While it was dry and a rather pleasant temperature, what was left of the remaining daylight was beginning to fade so we wasted no time getting the main essentials sorted (tent, campfire, dinner, etc). We enjoyed a simple one-pot-meal around the fire and, after a bit more of a yarn, we called it a night.



Our camp lay in the belly of the canyon of the Capertee Valley and was close enough to the outskirts of what is now best described as a settlement, Glen Davis, that we could walk there. Remnants of the original Glen Davis township were so close that the munitions magazine was located on the outskirts of the campground that we occupied. In every direction that we looked, sheer cliff faces stretched skyward for what appeared to be hundreds of metres.

The open grass plain down where we were (where cattle once grazed under a perpetual lease that was never renewed) was home to a mob of kangaroos who routinely revealed themselves from the bush upon dawn and dusk. The views were magnificent and, being so low-slung in the valley, we barely noticed any wind for the entire duration of our stay.

On Easter Sunday, the kids awoke to what looked like evidence of a visit from the Easter Bunny. Very few people got to sleep in that morning but the buzz and the excitement from nearly a dozen little tackers, all on the hunt for that elusive chocolate, was worth watching.



Once things settled down a bit, we were kept busy doing all the things that need to be done when base-camping for an extended period - setting up shelters, hammocks, pit toilets and showers, collecting firewood, cutting and splitting it, etc. The mothers in our group saw this as a great opportunity to head back to civilisation where they proceeded to do a big 'shop-up' to cater for us all. In the afternoon, the kids went exploring down by the river and most even went for a bit of a dip, even though it was a little chilly.

On Easter Monday, we headed about an hour down the road to the township of Rylstone. There we enjoyed some of the most delicious hand made pies from the local bakery before we pressed on to a station on the outskirts of Lue (near Mudgee). Here, we were able to take the kids for a bit of a ride at the local Motorcross park. We spent the rest of their day there until the owners called time before making our way back to camp after dark.



Much to everyone's surprise (and to our tastebuds' delight), the ladies who had remained back at camp for a bit of R&R away from the kids (that would include the men!) had started making wood-fired pizzas by the camp-fire. With appetites big enough to put a dingo to shame, everyone hoed in as we settled in for a relaxing evening around the fire.

Over the next few days we explored what is left of the nearby township, Glen Davis. The town - born from what amounted to a series of failed local and government-backed mining efforts to extract shale oil from the region - was rather short-lived but it is certainly rich in history. Various streets, abandoned shops, empty houses and associated infrastructure still remains (at it's peak, the township was large enough to even have its own picture theatre) but the most interesting aspects were the ruins from the monstrous factory (which is now abandoned and in unstable condition) that was purpose-built to process the shale rock that was extruded from the diggings in an attempt to extrude and refine crude shale oil. I was fortunate enough to meet one of the locals who

lived on a nearby 100 acre property. He moved into the area about 14 years ago but had been collecting all sorts of antiques, artefacts and assorted collectables for the past 40-odd years. His collection was so vast and so impressive that he had his own museum that he was kind enough to take me through along with the rest of our group. He was an interesting chap and was able to show us what it was actually like when the township of Glen Davis was actually abuzz with activity. He even had an old video showing what was left of the original townfolk back in the late seventies or early eighties who would get together once a year for a bit of a reunion. It was a great afternoon and time well-spent.

As with all good things, the end of our holiday period eventually drew to a near. We decided to pack up a day earlier than first planned and headed back into the township of Capertee where we stayed overnight in order to make an early start for home. We were on the road by 5am on Anzac Day and, as we cut across past Jenolan down to Oberon and on to Goulbourn, we passed several dawn service ceremonies through the country towns that we visited.

At Goulbourn we stopped for a bit of brunch before making our way further south to Gundagai. There we stopped to show our friends the Dog on the Tuckerbox before drifting further southward until we hit the border.



We called it a day at the Fiesta Resort where we put on a BBQ dinner with whatever leftovers we had. After tea, the children all went for a swim in the indoor heated pools which was enough to steal the last of their energy. Next day was our last and we made our way further south, stopping first at Glenrowan. There we saw the big Ned Kelly and we embarked on a mini tour which took in a recreation of the original Kelly family homestead. After a brief bite for lunch, it was time to hit the road one last time to do the final leg.

All in all it was a great touring trip with plenty for us to see and do all throughout our travels. This was a part of the world that I had little knowledge of in the lead up to the trip but I think we all learned at least something new at most places we visited. Coorongooba is the sort of place that I could definitely see us returning to at some stage in the future.

**Steve Pitcher**

## Trip Reports

17<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
 Trip report  
 Trip participants



- Maree & Stuart
- Martin, Michelle, Sarah
- Max & Emily Ingrid & Raelene
- Ben & son
- Craig
- Tony, Lisa & Nick (Tony's Dad)
- Scott & Amanda
- Mick & Emily
- John Kokas (Jack)
- Tony & Lainy
- Ian & Audrey
- Steve, (Jumbuck)
- Mark & Catherine

13 vehicles in total

Meeting at Marysville, the last trip for us this season, (Tracks closed to 31<sup>st</sup> October) the autumn leaves mark the coming of winter.

We headed up Lady Talbot Drive and there is a brand new gate with a padlock and road closed sign, oops that



wasn't on the Parks Vic web site last night, not a good start to the day. Oh well, consult the map and plan B is hatched, up to Mt Margaret drive, a bonus of Boundary track with mud puddles and more mud, giant tress down with a readymade bush bashing track to get

around and then back onto the original course.

On to Keppel hut the tools are out the boys are all putting into the discussion? Craig has a loose light, its nuts not doing what nuts should. Fixed with the help of Ian's tools. Guess what's on Craig's present list? A box of tools. A short walk to the hut, a look inside, then to the horse



stalls, down to water fall, all in picturesque beautiful autumn tones. Time for a cup of tea, and a chat.

Let's go more adventures wait. Up the track, down the slippery other side, funny comments on the radio, tail end Charlie 1 (Scott & Amanda) relay to tail end Charlie 2 (Cat & Mark) Mick has radio problems, get to the lunch stop at the dam wall, a

tight squeeze but we all made it. Someone is cooking steak? The smell is not fair. Lunch was enjoyed by all. Sunbeams dances through the giant trees, jet streams of planes passing overhead, must be in the flight path from Melb to Sydney. The gushing water rushing down the aqua duct, at the power station all added to a great lunch spot. Squeeze parking was a bit of a logical challenge.

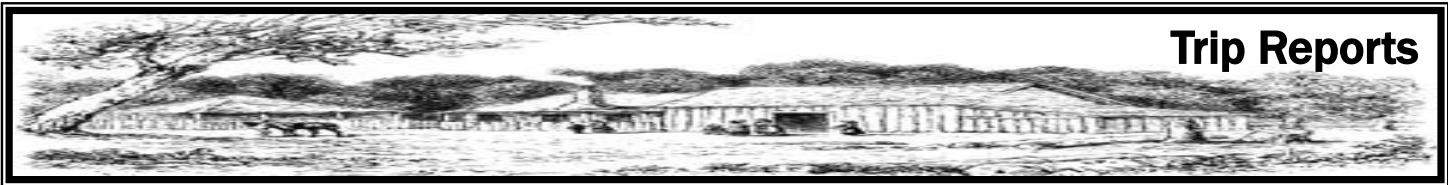
Off again, more tracks, more mud more puddles, and river crossings, the stuff 4x4 adventure is made of. Look at the hole on the road coming out. This sorted out the boys. Caught a few by surprise, spinning tyres, swaying back ends all made it up. More mud more puddles, more rock climbing to get to Morris's lookout out for afternoon tea. The golden trees framing the town ship of Eildon. Rock sitting by the children (big ones too)

Down to the Rubicon Power station to air up at 5pm. As we all know the 4pm track is the last for the day. Stuart asks anyone game to look at Parks Road. Scott said up for a challenge, 5 min later he's back, too hard, Craig said I'll have a go, but not to be, Ben in the trusty Toyota, had a go but he slipped sideways and found himself in a ditch. Head scratched what to do? Winch is the answer. Stuart drove up to play, the plan had already been hatched by Mick, Ian & Craig, Ben was winched sideways out of the rut and backed down.

Every good day has to end; we headed to the Buxton Hotel for dinner, wonderful food and company. Thank you to everyone who participated in making this a memorial day. The prize for dirtiest cars goes to Craig and Mark, who both managed to get mud on the roof and Scott for caking mud on his rear vision mirrors and everyone else gets a participation award.

"Happy washing".  
 Thanks for coming along Maree and Stuart.





## Trip Reports

### Snowy Mountains

#### Trip

#### Attendees:

Markncat  
Arron  
Sally & Tristain  
Steve Zonneveldt  
Stu & Maree



#### Thursday:

On Thursday night Steve, Mankncat, and Tristan and Sally left Markncat's place and made our way towards Rosedale and camped the night there. On Friday morning we made tracks and where we met Stu and Marie at Macca's in Bairnsdale and moved on from there towards Orbost. We got to Orbost and fuelled up and then continued to head on uphill from there. We had lunch at a pretty little picnic ground and then proceeded from there to find that the all the 4wd tracks had been closed Due to recent Fires and rain. From there we had to put in Plan B and headed back down the Buchan road and around the Buchan corner and back into Buchan where we met up with Aaron. We then continued to head up the Buchan hills from there where we made our way to Bailey Hooley campground. Unfortunately due to tracks closed earlier in the day we didn't even get our vehicle's into Four Wheel drive that day but was still a great day and a great little camping spot. We setup camp and got the fire going to cook dinner and had our tea. Then we sat around the fire for a while hand had a good ol' yarn and went to bed to get ready for a big day ahead on Saturday. We had a little bit of rain on Friday during the afternoon/evening but nothing too serious.

Steve Zonneveldt



### Trip Report Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2014

#### Trip participants

Cat & Mark Patrol  
Sally & Tristan Land Rover  
Steve Patrol  
Arron FJ Land cruiser  
Maree & Stuart Pajaro



Left Melbourne at an ungodly hour, to meet group at Mac Donald's in Bairnsdale, Said Hi, talked about the trip and anticipated road /track/ national park closures. Arrived at Wood Point, camping ground had lunch, by the river. A place to come back to. Left Woods Point and found all roads closed into the Alpine national park. Due to recent fires in area. On to plan "B" Back to Buchan, caught up with Aaron, at the local service station, stopped for coffee and hot chips. The rain had set in so the sprits were dampened. Told Bally Hooley a great camping spot. Buchan, was invaded with horse people the Easter gymkhana, is one of the biggest in the state.



Bally Hooley bush camp was a busy place, fire started, wood collected, Marks new chain saw christened. A bit wet under foot, tired campers soon asleep.

#### Saturday,

Walked to the river, easy 5 min, leaving Bally Hooley a bit slippery, (thanks to the rain) Up old Basin road, to Mount Stewart look out. When we say up we mean up. Things started to get interesting. We found a track that lead through a farmers gate, Sally found the farmer on his 4x4 bike and he said "It's a bit slippery so I'll leave the ute at home for a while." Ok so off we go, "slipping skidding and sliding, up and down this track full of black soil that is just wet, that greasy wet, The bad jokes keep coming fast and thick thanks to Steve, Toyota crossed the ford, Nissan crossed the ford, Pajaro crossed the ford where's a ford when you want it? The water caused ruts and the trees, just stayed put on the sides with steep embankments all obstacles to be negotiated around. Some choice words and skilled driving saw everyone through. At 4pm heading up a particular slippery pinch, we get the call, Marks broken something, he's out of the



car, being tail end we still had this to look forward too. Looks like the top of this pinch is home tonight. Where to put the fire? Ask Tristan and Sally they are SES Volunteers, so happy faces drawn and sad faces drawn in the dirt, not in the middle of the road, fire lit and at 5pm another group of 4x4 come through, luck on the fire placement not in the middle of the track.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2014  
Mark has a broken panhard rod, so the boys all discussed the best options, back to the main road for them, Sally and Tristan helped them limp back to civilisation but not before some challenging tracks.



We stopped at an old logging camp for morning tea. Said our good bye, Stuart taking on the lead, we headed for the purpose of the weekend McKillops bridge. (Sorry Cat), a challenging road with cars trying to pass on narrow, scary drop offs, but our quest was to find the other group at the Pinch river camping area.



Mick & Sally Nissan  
John & Emily Land cruiser  
Dave & Carolyn Mighty Navarra (Woody)

welcome us, Stuart cooked a damper under Samuel's watchful eye.  
A great Easter weekend had by all.

Stuart and Maree Bowker



### Snowy River National Park weekend (18-21<sup>st</sup> April)

Attendees: Mark, Catherine, Tristan, Sally, Stewart, Maree, Steve and Arron.

The initial trip plan was to venture throughout the Snowy River National Park. However on Friday it was discovered that most of the National Park was closed due to previous bushfires and heavy rain. As a result, the group stopped off at Buchan for a coffee and formulation of a Plan B. After Catherine had worked out a rough plan B, the group headed to Balley Hooley Camping area on the edge of Snowy River National Park to camp for the night. On Saturday



the group ventured through the state forests just West of Snowy River National Park - Gelantipy State Forest and Nunnett State Forests.

Saturday lunch was had on the top of Mt Stewart, which offered great views of the surrounding mountainous area. Stuart was particularly excited about the naming of the mountain and proudly claimed Mt Stewart to be his own. Throughout the day, the group conquered a number of steep rocky hills which gave the underside of a number of vehicles some souvenir dents from inconveniently placed rocks. There were also a few shallow river crossings.

The major highlight of Saturday was an adventure through a farm where the group hit a downhill section a few hundred metres long. Up until that point, the road was fairly dry with good traction. So it was greatly unexpected when the track quickly turned into a slippery mud slide. Suddenly vehicles were sliding through shallow, slippery mud, trying to make use of deep tyre ruts for some sort of control. The following 5 minutes were heart-racing activity with vehicles sliding precariously close to a number of large obstacles (large boulders and tree stumps) at door height. As vehicles reached the bottom of the hill there was a mix of large grins and slightly pale faces.

What capped off the experience perfectly was that at the bottom of the hill we were greeted by the farmer who owned the property. He was sitting on a 4-wheeler alongside 2 border collies and informed us that the area had received 180mm of rain over past last week. He also expressed that he was amazed we had driven our vehicles down that track.

As we made camp on Saturday night, Mark and Catherine discovered that the front torsion bar of their vehicle had cracked at a weld join. After some close inspection, the group consensus was poor workmanship when the bar was initially installed. Mark, Stewart and Tristan quickly flicked into "bush mechanic" mode and after a few attempts, the torsion bar was reinstalled using some ratchet straps and gaffa tape. With a temporary fix in place, Mark and Catherine decided they needed to limp home in their vehicle the next day.

On Sunday, Mark, Catherine, Tristan and Sally drove back to Melbourne, while Stewart, Maree, Steve and Arron headed further north. The remaining group members firstly visited McKillops Bridge in Snowy River National Park for lunch. The winding narrow road into McKillops Bridge proved a challenge when faced with oncoming vehicles and on a number of occasions, the group needed to reverse vehicles onto wider sections of road so oncoming vehicles could pass.

After McKillops Bridge, the group headed over the VIC/NSW border into Kosciusko National Park to meet with another group from the club who were camping at Pinch River camping ground. The other group were set up for 10 days of camping and had the luxury of a camper trailer, a spit roast oven and plenty of other creature comforts. This became apparent on the Sunday night

when the group turned out a dinner of spit-roast pork and roast veggies followed by a dessert of dumplings with butterscotch sauce and cream. Who said camping was tough? Stuart and Maree added to the food luxury with a damper for the group. Everyone's tummies were left in a happy place that night.

Overall the weekend provided good weather, clear skies and near-zero night time temperatures. A good campfire each night and the good company of fellow adventurers made for a really enjoyable adventure.

Arron





## Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc.

ARBN A002184F

PO Box 778 Dandenong, Vic 3175

www.vfwdc.com

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORM

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP  New Application - \$30 (one-off)  Renewal of Membership  
 (Please select as appropriate)  
 MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY  Single - \$70  Dual/Family - \$80  Silver (25+ Yrs) - \$40

#### MEMBER DETAILS (Please print clearly)

FIRST NAME	Member:	Spouse:	
SURNAME	Member:	Spouse:	
EMAIL		YEAR JOINED	
ADDRESS			
CHILDREN	Name	Age	
	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		
	5.		
	6.		

PHONE Mobile: Home: Work:

#### VEHICLE DETAILS

Make:	Model:	Year:
Reg'n No.:	Colour:	Fuel Type:
Camper Trailer Details (if applicable)	Make:	Model:

#### COMPETENCIES

CURRENT FIRST AID CERTIFICATE	CHAINSAW ACCREDITED	COMPLETED DRIVER TRAINING
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

#### NEWSLETTER

I wish to receive my copy of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Newsletter *Free Wheeling* in the following manner:  
 ELECTRONICALLY [via the VFWDC website] or  REGULAR POST [only if no internet access]

#### INTERNET FORUM AND EMAIL COMMUNICATION

I agree to subscribe (or remain subscribed) to the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club internet forum and receive emails:  
 YES [email address provided above will be used] or  NO/UNSUBSCRIBE [no electronic communication]

I/WE hereby apply to the Committee of Management for new/renewed membership of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc and agree to follow the rules and conditions as set out by the VFWDC.

I/WE acknowledge that fees are as set by the Committee from time to time and are due and payable by 30 June annually.

Signed ..... Signed .....

Dated: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

#### PAYMENT DETAILS

Joining Fee (new applicants only) .....  
 Membership Fee (as per above) .....  
**Total** .....

DATE PAID ..... / ..... / .....

RECEIPT NO. ....

PAID BY: Cash / Cheque / EFT

If paying by EFT, what account name / reference .....

Please select the topics you would like to cover in the club meetings and send to [vicepres@vfwdc.com](mailto:vicepres@vfwdc.com) or [committee@vfwdc.com](mailto:committee@vfwdc.com) We will then see what we can organise.

- Bush vehicle maintenance - key items to carry to solve for most issues
- Changing and Repairing tyres in the bush (come off rim etc)
- Recovery gear - theory, maintenance and the use of
- Radios/ mobile phones/ sat phones/ EPIRBS & other comms - which to use and why?
- Quiz Night on all things 4WD
- Packing a Fridge to be most effective - camping food and bush tucker
- Survival Skills - what to do if you get stuck and or lost in the bush
- Basic Astronomy - so you can enjoy the stars at the campfire
- Basic Navigation - how to read and map and use a compass
- Advanced Navigation
- Other idea .....