

**Bringing Four Wheel Drivers
Together.**



*Victoria Four Wheel Drive
Club Inc.*

Free Wheeling



VFWDC

September 2014

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 1st 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:

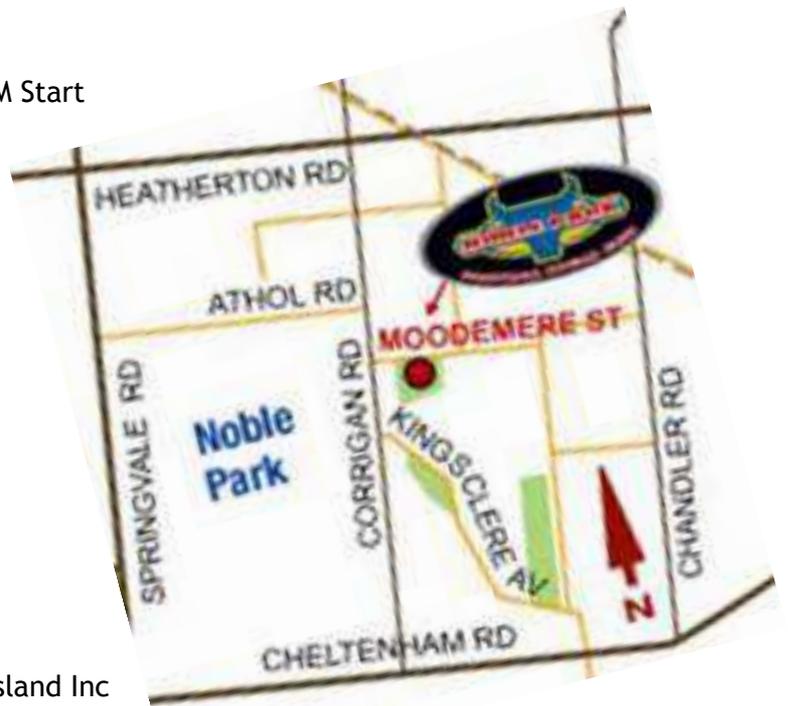
Bowling Club Rooms (Next to Car Park,
down the far end of the car park)

Noble Park Football Club

46-56 Moodemere Street

Noble Park

Melways ref: 89 D4



Aberfeldy Track managed by West Gippsland Inc

www.westgippslandinc.com.au

FREE WHEELING

Hello and welcome to the September newsletter, this month starts with a new committee and some trips. Please check out the newsletter for more information.

Amanda

editor@vfwdc.com

**VFWDC
ADVERTISING
DIRECTORY**



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Cranbourne, 3977

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E: sales@everything4wd.com.au

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David Jackson

ENZED

(info to be supplied)

Anyone wishing to advertise

in the Club Directory,

Please contact the Editor at

editor@vfwdc.com

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2014-2015		
President	David Bruinsma	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President		
Treasurer	Steve Pitcher (acting)	treasurer@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Tony Barbera	secretary@vfwdc.com
GENERAL COMMITTEE		
Assistant Secretary	Lisa Barbera	
Trip Co-Ordinator	Stuart Bowker	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Mandie Lehmann	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	David Bruinsma	delegate@vfwdc.com
General Committee	Mick Harris	-
SUPPORT POSITIONS TO COMMITTEE		
Web manager	Ben Whitworth	web@vfwdc.com
Training officers	Phillip Griffith	
Librarian		
Merchandise	Carolyn Bruinsma	merchandise@vfwdc.com

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
Club Drivers Jacket (Coat)	\$80.00 ea	VFWDC Windscreen stickers (small) \$6.00 (large) \$8.00	

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.

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



CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2014				
September	Wednesday 3rd	General Meeting		
	6th - 16th	Murray Sunset Country	Mick	0424 766 616
			Stuart Bowker	0418 539 157
	16th	Committee Meeting		
	20th Sept - 4th Oct	Uluru Northern Territory	Max	0403 101 121
			Sandra	0407 949 636
	27th	Aberfeldy Track Clearing	Stuart Bowker	0418539157
October	Wednesday 1st	General Meeting		
	18th	Aberfeldy Area Maintenance	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	22nd	Committee Meeting		
November	Wednesday 12th	General Meeting/ VISTING 4WD SHOP (TBA)		
	31st Oct - 4th Nov	Aberfeldy/Little O'Tools - Melb Cup Long Weekend	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	31st Oct - 4th Nov	Knockwood Reserve - Melb Cup Long Weekend	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207
	31-Oct-4th Nov	Haunted Stream	Mick Harris	
	31st Oct- 4th Nov	Otways	Sally Higgs	0418539157
	19th	Committee Meeting		
December	Wednesday 3rd	General Meeting – Presentation, Safety Dave		
	6th	Christmas Break Up Party		
January 2015		NO GENERAL MEETING		
	23rd - 26th	Australia Day Long Weekend - Long Beach - Murray River	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207
	22nd	Committee Meeting		
February	Wednesday 4th	General Meeting		
	18th	Committee Meeting		
March	Wednesday 4th	General Meeting		
	6th - 9th	Labour Day Long Weekend		
	18th	Committee Meeting		
April	Wednesday 1st	General Meeting		
	22nd	Committee Meeting		

News From The President

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Hello to all Victorian Four Wheel drive members, and to all other people who access and read this publication on line. I am privileged to write my first submission as the newly elected President of the VFWDC.

I would like to extend a big thank you to the fine people who served on the committee last year, and I would like to make a special mention about Catherine who has been doing the magazine so faithfully for the past 4 years, and would have continued for another year but she has found work outside of the Melbourne metro area and is now in the process of moving with Mark into regional Victoria. The new committee has met together and is already well into the planning for the next 12 months, I am excited about the possibilities for this year and look forward to keeping you informed about upcoming events and guests as plans can be put into place.

This past weekend a number of people from our club attended the 1st Aid Training in Melbourne city, and had a great informed session with the trainer who did not waste time but got straight into telling the information we needed to hear and know about administering 1st aid. The session was regularly broken up into practical sessions where we got to play patient and 1st aider. Some of the 'wrappings' were done with hilarious results, but we generally got down to business and we were all announced to be 'proficient' and thus we passed the full day training session. To show how organised the company was, our 'certificates' were emailed to us, before we even managed to get from the venue to the local train station to head home.

Steve Pitcher has penned a great follow up 'trip report' on our forum under the section Upcoming Other Events. Feel free to login as a member, read his article and put your own reply up there with any feedback that you would like to mention. Hopefully, at the time this magazine goes live on the internet for you all to read, we will be just about to have our clubs celebratory 40th anniversary dinner at Club Noble. So far we are expecting a virtually FULL HOUSE for attendance, which is very exciting. The committee are planning some items for the projector from very recent trips, and hopefully a presentation from some people who were members back when the club was very young and new. There are a number of trips being planned for right after winter is over, I think we have a record number of trips being planned for Melbourne Cup Weekend - so there will be plenty of choices of locations for you to choose from for going in most directions within Victoria this November.

We also have two trips in the planning for going up to Aberfeldy for track clearing as the weather warms up. I have jumped onto the Four Wheel Drive Victoria website, and one of the articles on the front page there is of more vandalism by hoons, this time up at Mt Disappointment. In brief, the bollards have been removed near the camp ground so people can do burn outs on the grass, and tents have been left burnt and other rubbish left behind also. IF YOU EVER WITNESS any bad behaviour when you are out and about, the advise we have received from the association, is to be very discreet about recording information (photo's, videos, number plates, vehicle types descriptions) and bring all information back and report it through the Association who will pass it onto the park ranges and to the police. Do Not approach the hoons or vandals yourself.

I hope that you like the new look front cover page and some of the inventive layout changes that have and will continue to appear in our club magazine. I feel Mandie is already getting a great grip with the magazine and look forward to some more layout options that she has in mind.

Looking forward to meeting the club members, guests and visitors at our regular monthly meetings, or perhaps even seeing you on one of our club trips.

Kind regards,

David Bruinsma

President.

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Murray Sunset Country
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Mick and Stuart MOB: Mick 0424766616 MOB: Stuart 0418539157
DATE	6 th September through to the 13 th of September
MEETING PLACE / TIME	BP Calder Hwy 7:30am meet for a 8:00am leave
GRADE	WET: Medium/Hard DRY: Easy/Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Touring Big Desert and Little Desert, Pink Lakes, Neds Corner, Border Customs House, Shearers Quarters, Scorpion Spring, Centre Track. Whole Boarder Track from the Top Starting at Border Cliffs Customs House and then Continuing on till the end of the Boarder Track. Permits are needed for bottom half of the Boarder Track. They can be purchased in Pinnaroo. Weather can change very quickly. Be prepared.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 8
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Ouyen, Mildura, Renmark, Pinnaroo and Nhill DIESEL: Ouyen, Mildura, Renmark, Pinnaroo and Nhill
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Average 350km.
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Normal Recovery Gear and Self-sufficient for the week.
MAPS REQUIRED	Victoria's Deserts
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

DESTINATION	Uluru NT
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Max & Sandra MOB: 0403101121 Max 0407949636 Sandra
DATE	20- Sep-2014 to 4- Oct -2014
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE	WET: Medium to Hard DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Melbourne to Uluru via the Old Ghan Route (Marree – Oodnadatta – Mt Dare – Finke - Chambers Pillars – Kings Canyon) Uluru Melbourne via Stuart HWY via Coober Peedy
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 4
APPROX KMS	6,500km Return
Meeting place to destination	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: TBA DIESEL: TBA
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	A Few Kms
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	All camping equipment, safety and recovery equipment
MAPS REQUIRED	Trip leader has map
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Aberfeldy and surrounds
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Stuart Bowker MOB: 0418539157
DATE	27th-28th September
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Yarragon main street outside the bakery 8:00 for an 8:30 am departure. The Breakery should be open for breaky allow extra time.
GRADE	WET: Medium to difficult DRY: easy
	Please adhere to new trip classifications
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Idea is to head up past Aberfeldy and start on clearing some of the fallen trees over the walking tracks our club is looking after, Then to camp at O'Tools for the night and do some four wheel driving Sunday before heading home Sunday evening. Please bring packed lunch and munchies for roadside stops.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: N/A
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	300-400 km
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe LPG: Moe
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Moe
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Own basic recovery gear, tools and any spares you may require. AT or MT tyres. Self sufficient camping and food for the weekend. If you have one please bring a chain saw and fuel. NOTE: PPE is mandatory for chain saw operators eg: earmuffs, safety visor, Chaps, work gloves and sturdy boots.
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftop maps Wallhalla-Licola
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12

DESTINATION	Aberfeldy Area Maintenance
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: David Bruinsma MOB: 0417 747 860
DATE	Saturday 18th October
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Moe McDonalds at 8.00am
GRADE	WET: easy DRY: easy
	Please adhere to new trip classifications
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Planning to get in early before cup weekend and go to at least one of the areas and with a group make an effort to clear some of the vegetation. If we have enough interest, we will break into TWO groups and tackle TWO areas.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	150kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Moe
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Protection gloves, Chain saws, whipper snippers, brush cutters, hand tools, shovels, etc.
MAPS REQUIRED	none
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Aberfeldy/Little O'Tools - Melb Cup Long Weekend
LEADER	NAME: David Bruinsma + family MOB: 0417 747 860
DATE	Friday 31th October to Tuesday 4th November
MEETING TIME	TBA closer to the date
GRADE	WET: medium/hard DRY: easy/medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Last year I did a sand trip - this year I'm hoping for a little bit of mud. I have chosen a location much closer to home this year and I'm intending to really enjoy a lot of camp fire socializing. People who have been on my trips before have experienced easy drives, harder drives, night drives, muddy trips and everything in-between - I'm planning pretty much all of the above, but happy hour around the camp fire where we can kick back, laugh at the fun we have had and cook some great tucker is very high on the priority list for me. Camping, camper trailers etc all welcome. I'm hoping to get in there very early on the Friday morning to secure a good spot for everyone to join when they can make it. Little O'Tools is not hard to find. as we get closer to the date, I'll help people arrange to travel together in groups, especially for any newbies.
VEHICLE LMITS	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 12
APPROX KMS	150kms
DISTANCE B/T SUPPLIES	Moe and last available fuel
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Usual safety gear, camping gear, recovery gear (I reckon I'll find some tracks we will need it) and a jolly good sense of humor is mandatory.
RADIO CHANNEL UHF	UHF 12

DESTINATION	Melbourne Cup weekend.
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Sally Higgs MOB: 0435782207
DATE	November 1st-4th
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE	WET: medium DRY: easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Leaving Saturday morning heading down the Great ocean Road, for a weekend of exploring the Otways, some four wheel driving, sightseeing and camping. Areas to be visited Cape Otway, Triplett Falls and 12 Apostles.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 5
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	500kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Available in towns along the GOR DIESEL: Available in towns along the GOR
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	
MAPS REQUIRED	Otway
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 11



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Minutes of General Meeting August 2014

The meeting was held at Noble Park Football Club and was opened at 8.00pm by Club Vice President Sally Higgs.

Present: members present as per the Attendance book

Apologies: members present as per the Apologies book

Visitors: Visitors as listed in the Visitors Book

Minutes of previous General Meeting

Accepted : Emily Harris

Seconded : Stuart Bowker

Matters arising:

NIL

Correspondence in

4wd Magazine's Jeep, Land rover and Toyota

Correspondence out

Reimbursement for fee's overpayment to Charlie Costa

Treasurer's report

Cheque A/c	Opening Balance	\$ 6186.60
	Deposits	\$1503.5
	Money Out	\$2113.97
	Closing Balance	\$ 5576.13
Term Deposit	Opening Balance	\$7350.43
	Interest	\$62.99
	Closing Balance	\$7413.42
Petty Cash Float	Opening Balance	\$150.00
	Money out	\$20.00
	Transfer from cheque a/ c	\$20.00
	Closing Balance	\$150.00
Consolidated Cash Position		\$13139.55

Minutes of General Meeting August 2014

Treasurers Report cont:

Accepted: Max

Seconded: Mark Felton

Trip reports

Portland Buggy Club

Bruce Cremonesi did a trip in June to the Portland buggy club with about 5 cars, the club bent over backwards to make us feel welcome and everyone had a great time.

Mt Skene snow trip

Two groups went up to Mt Skene one with Sam Ayoubee and Mark and Catherine Felton

Sam's group stayed at a hut on the mountain

Mark and Catherine's group camped further down the mountain a few people got stuck in the snow, plenty of time spent doing recoveries.

Everyone had a great time.

General business

Email sent to Rudi to confirm maintenance program at Aberfeldy

Bruce Cremonesi Running unofficial trip to Woods Point

Raffle

All raffle prizes brought in were donated by various club members

White Wine	Sally Harris
1 dozen eggs	Sandra
1 dozen eggs	Lisa Barbera (Tiny)
Tupperware	Tony Feltham

Trip Reports

A weekend in the snow.

This weekend was amazing!!!! We headed off Friday where we camped at Jamieson Friday night, we arrived late and set up in the dark. After a quick set up, we all sat by the camp fire and talked about the up coming day. Saturday was a morning full of excitement and anticipation, after some breakfast Stu and Maree joined us at camp at 9am. By 9:30am we were on our way with a stop at



Jamieson for some hot 'real' coffee and some photos. Once we were all ready

we got back in our trucks and headed to Mt Skene. We aired down as soon as it was safe to do so. climbing the mounting was exciting for everyone, as the recent heavy snow fall made the track conditions unpredictable. Mark was the first to get stuck and needed to be snatched out by Sally and Tristan. Meaning Sally and Tristan had to take lead. Then Sally and Mick got stuck and then Ly in the same spot as Sally and Mick, this was just the start of a day full of recoveries and team work. Sally and Tristan were leading and making new tracks in virgin snow. This was when we were driving inch by inch in snow up to our knees. We were getting close to the summit when Mark took the lead while the boys (Sam's group) came down to help plough some of the snow. At this point Mark needed to go around the boys coming down the mountain and the boys needed to turn around. That's when Mark and the boys got stuck. Leaving the other trucks with nowhere to go but wait and help recover. After a few hours of trying to recover and it started to become the afternoon a team meeting was called and a plan was discussed within the team that we



were going to turn around and go back to camp. Sounds simple right. This involved a number of people taking turns to dig 700-800cm that was safe for all vehicles' to turn around safely (by doing a 20 point turn), however while this was going on the recoveries were still being attended with Mark and the boys and Brett had also found himself stuck and required a lot of help to get out including a drag chain from Lys car to Mick

car (who was behind Ly) and a snatch strap from Mick's car to Stu's car (Stu's car was behind Mick's car on the left and then a winch and winch extension to Brett's car (which was all the way over to the right behind Stu's car). Brett also required to be pushed out by Sally, Emily, Maree, Darna and





by this time, Mark and Steve had made it to the summit and were winching downhill through the snow to get back to us, when we received a radio call from Mark saying Steve had hurt himself and mark was stuck and needed another pair of hands to help get him out. Tristan and Amanda took torches and a medical kit and walked about 400m up the hill to meet the boys. It was thought that Steve was able to sit in the car till we made it back to camp and mark would take him to hospital for X-rays on his injured leg. Mark's car was free and Tristan Drove Steve's car back down the hill. While Amanda and Tristan were up the hill, Sally was organising what we all had in our cars if we needed to stay the night on the hill.

However, we made it back down the hill as a group and Scott was in the lead. By the time we left, the sun had set and it was getting cold. The track leading back to camp was very icy and we were lucky no one got stuck. We made it back to camp we all ate dinner and went to bed around 10:30pm as we were very tired from a full day of recoveries.



It has been estimated that this trip alone had over 20 recoveries and there was times people had to climb out of windows so they could get out of the car because the snow was so deep the car doors would not open.

There was still time to make snowmen and snow angels and have snowball fights. It was also a day of search and find the max tracks and shovels! Once all the cars were safely turned around the sun was starting to set and it began to become very cold. We've got a big thanks for Sally Higgs, Mick, Stu and Scott for your leadership and team work.





TRIP REPORT – MT SKENE 15 August 2014

Organised a second trip to Mt Skene on 15 August 2014. I was trip leader (Sam Ayoubee), there was Ashley Martin, Anthony Van Buiten, Scott & Amanda Lehmann, Alan San and my friend Cameron.

Ash, Anthony and myself decided to leave around 10 am from Pakenham. Ash couldn't make it on time so he decided to follow us up later. Anthony and I left Pakenham at 10 to head towards Mt Skene hoping to get to Crows Hut.

We stopped at Heyfield to re-fuel and then headed off to Crows Hut. We didn't want to make any further stops as we hoped to get to Crows Hut. We pushed our way up to Crows Hut. For the first time of my years travelling to Mt Skene the hut was taken by someone else. We had to wait on Ash who was around half an hour behind. Anthony waited on the side of the road for Ash and as I started to drive towards the second hut which is in the area I got a call to say Ash had arrived so all three of us went to the second hut which was vacant.

We left our gear at the hut and then drove to the Summit for a quick drive and to my surprise there was still lots of snow. We stayed for a short while and headed back to hut and called it an early night. Alan (guest) showed up Friday night and Scott and Amanda showed up Saturday.



After a good breakfast we decided to make our way up to the Summit. As we were driving up there, there is a track called Jeep Link Track so I decided to drive up it. Behind me was Alan with his 80 series Land Cruiser. I drove up no problem but the 80 series could not get a grip. Bloody Land Cruiser couldn't get a grip on the snow. Typical! Had to winch it most of the way up as it could not get traction. The rest of the crew managed to get up no problem. Even the Nissan Navara (and the mazda) had no problem. Was a bit of a fun morning winching.

As we got closer to Summit I couldn't believe my eyes of the amount of traffic was up the top of Summit. There would have been around 200 or so vehicles up there. We went for a drive up on the Summit and then decided to have lunch at the picnic area at top of the Summit. By then it was around 3-3.30pm. We decided to call it a day and head back to hut.

We stopped for fire wood, went back to hut and light up a fire. The wood fire was absolutely fantastic. The boys did a great job chopping up fire wood. We chilled out and talked about the day and everyone had a great day with no vehicle damage.

Next morning, we decided to pack up early and head back home. So basically the highlight of the trip was my Patrol winching up my mates 80 series Land Cruiser and stirring him about it the whole time and he hates me talking about it. Everyone had a great time. Thanking everyone who came and look forward to the next one in 2015.



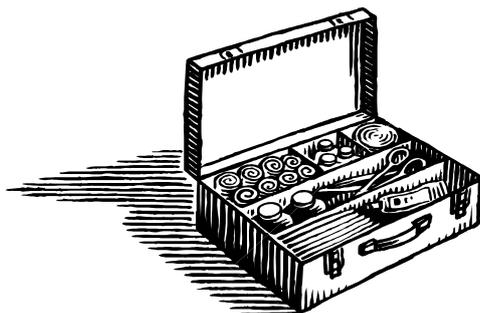
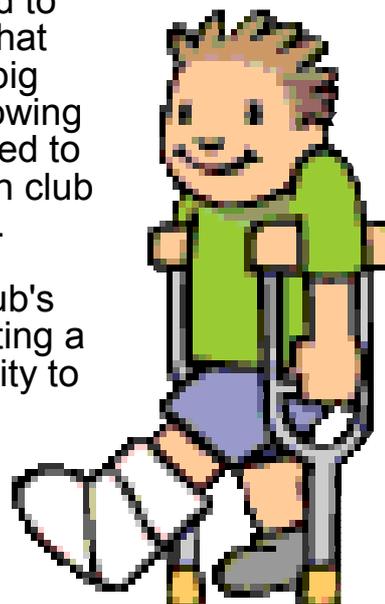
First Aid Course.



It was great to see some familiar faces at the First Aid course that was conducted earlier today through CBD College in Melbourne. I think that all of the members who participated in today's course got a lot out of the theoretical material, the training session and the practical component. From the types of questions raised with the facilitator, I think it provided us all with a great opportunity to think about how we'd respond to some of the situations that may arise as well as a big boost of confidence knowing that we are now equipped to

handle a variety of first aid situations (whether on club trips or in our other activities outside of the club).

The cost was quite reasonable at \$74 for our Club's members (thanks to David Bruinsma for negotiating a \$5 discount for those who attended) and the ability to complete the theory at our own pace from home made it very easy in the lead up to the day-long practical/practice sessions. I would highly recommend this course, particularly to anyone to regularly travels into isolated/remote areas of the bush.



We hope to arrange a session at some stage to enable club members to bring their first aid kits along to a meeting where we can go through people's kits, identify and talk about the more essential first aid items that suit our needs and activities, as well as the common first aid tools and techniques to be aware of when preparing, packing and maintaining your own kit.

We'd very much appreciate any feedback from members on your own thoughts and experiences, as well as whether you'd find such an evening to be of value for your own future trip planning and preparation needs.

Steve Pitcher