

**Bringing Four Wheel Drivers
Together**



**Victorian Four Wheel Drive
Club Inc.**

Free Wheeling

VFWDC

August 2015

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

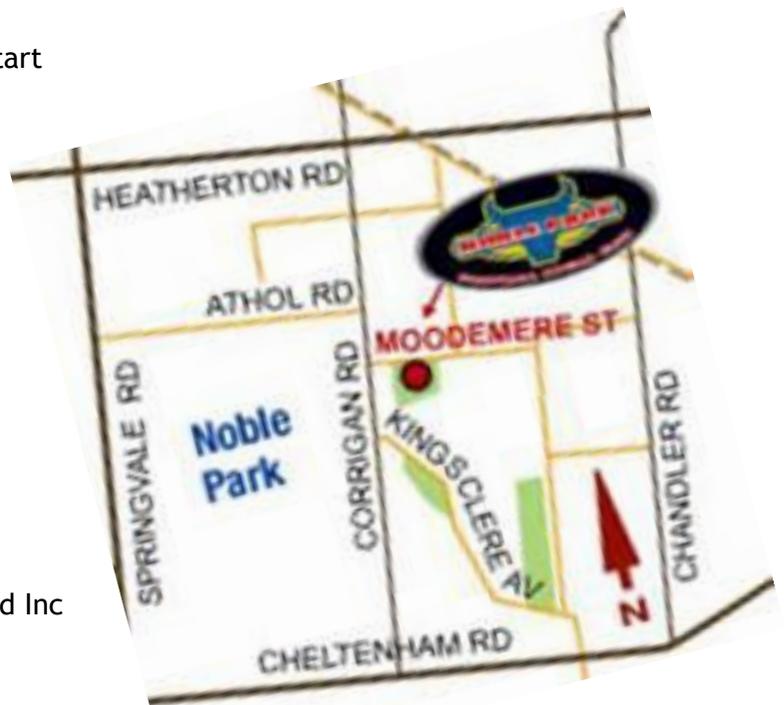
46-56 Moodemere Street

Noble Park

Melways ref: 89 D4

Aberfeldy Track managed by West Gippsland Inc

www.westgippslandinc.com.au



FREE WHEELING

Hello and welcome to the August magazine, Last month we had our snow trips and everyone who came along had a ball.

Thanks, Mandie

editor@vfwdc.com

**AGM Meeting
Held August 5th,
2015.**

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT		
2013-2014		
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	assist@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-Ordinator	Stuart Bowker	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Mandie Lehmann	editor@vfwdc.com
Associations 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 Details		
Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club	
Registration No	A002184F	
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong VIC 3174	
Email	secretary@vfwdc.com	
Website	www.vfwdc.com	
The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of Four Wheel Drive Victoria - www.fwdvictoria.org.au		

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

2015		AUGUST		
5th	Wednesday	Annual General Meeting	President	
14th to 16th	Friday to Sunday	Mt Skene	Sam	0414 503 874
15th to 2nd Oct.	6 weeks	Cape York	Mick	0424 766 616
19th	Wednesday	Committee Meeting	President	
September				
2nd	Wednesday	General Meeting	President	
19th-2nd Oct.	School hol's	Fraser Island Trip	Stuart	0428 539 157
23rd	Wednesday	Committee Meeting	President	
October				
7th	Wednesday	General Meeting	President	
21st	Wednesday	Committee Meeting	President	
30th to 3rd Nov	Long Weekend	Beechport / Robe	David	0417 747 860
November				
11th	Wednesday	Special Meeting - Dandenong ARB	President	



St Anne's Winery

64 Garrards Lane Myrning VIC 3341
 E: info@stanneswinery.com.au
 T: 03 5368 7209
www.stanneswinery.com.au



Enjoy a cheese platter for two or share as a group
 in front of our fire place this winter.

To find out more LIKE us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Stanneswinery>



Organised by the Rotary Club of Ballan
 to support the Ballan District Hospital

0400 141 811
www.vivaladulce.org
vivaladulcefestival@gmail.com



Sunday
 30 August
 11am-5pm

St Anne's Winery
 64 Garrards Rd, Myrning

Wine • Chocolate
 Truffles • Cider
 Beer • Mead
 Cheese • Honey
 Sweets • Cakes
 Local Produce
 Music • Food
 and more...

\$15 GENERAL
 ADMISSION
 INCLUDES
 CAR PARKING



News From The President

Greetings to everyone at the end of this cold month of July. And what a month it has been. Many members of the club have been involved in a couple of the biggest trips of our calendar year.

We had 32 people show up for Saturday night dinner at St. Annes winery with 25 people staying overnight and enjoying the cooked breakfast as well. It seems that the wine tasting in the afternoon and the camp fire that night was a great hit. My personal thanks to Maree for all the effort in preparing the menus and purchasing the food, and to Emily for jumping on the BBQ to expertly cook all the food. Thanks to all the other people who jumped in to help prepare and arrange the table too. St. Annes donated a very nice bottle of white port which was shared with everyone when the deserts came out. My sincere thanks to St. Annes winery for allowing us to camp on their property.

I have started to hear some reports of the fun that was the twin trips to Mt Skene last weekend, and I am eagerly waiting to read the full reports in this magazine and here of some of the 'behind the scenes' that will no doubt be reported at the August General Meeting. Thanks to the trip leaders for running the snow trips again this year, and for your efforts in arranging the required permits prior to the weekend.

Some trips that was discussed at our committee meeting last night, for the next 12 months are: a trips leaders information evening (workshop), working bee weekends up at Aberfeldy, Night runs, turning xmas in July - into an annual event at St. Annes Winery. If any members have other ideas for trips, or would like help with planning and running their own trip, please do not hesitate to speak with any of the committee members and ask for help. After the August meeting we will be sending off a couple of our members for their long anticipated trip to Cape York, so to Mick and crew we wish you safe and happy journeys to and from the Cape, and look forward to hearing of your exploits upon your return.

I expect that our merchandise officer will be very busy this month as we will have the eagerly anticipate hoodies with club logo. We have also topped up other stock items including the auto jackets and beanies, so have a good look at the merchandise rack and ransack it as much as you like Better bring some cash if you want to purchase anything though.

AGM NOTICE: Yes, it is time for our AGM again this August, time to thank the old crew and to vote in a new leadership team. An Annual Report has been prepared by our treasurer, which has been audited by the committee and our treasurer is very organised and prepared with facts and figures to present to the AGM. The report will be emailed to our membership prior to the AGM.

Guests to our club are welcome to attend any of our club meetings, and if you are attending for the first time (or have attended before), please do come up and introduce yourself to me, or any committee member - this will give us a chance to welcome you personally and we can answer any questions you have about how we operate as a club, and if you are seeking information about membership we will probably tell you we are one of the clubs with the cheapest membership fees.

That's it from me for another month, looking forward to seeing you all at the monthly meeting.

David Bruinsma
VFWDC President

Minutes of General Meeting July 2015

The meeting was held at Noble Park Football Club and was opened at 8.00pm by Club President David Bruinsma.

Present: Members present as per the Attendance book

Apologies: Andre Van Der Walt, Tristin Higgs, Scott + Amanda Lehmann, Tony Feltham, Owen Claridge

Visitors: Visitors as listed in the Visitors Book

Minutes of June General Meeting

Accepted: Stuart Bowker Second: Mick Harris

Correspondence in

Land Rover Review, Returned mail, Driver training Certificates

Correspondence out

Certificate of currency to the association

Treasurer's report July 2015

Cheque A/c	Opening Balance		\$3,819.15
	Raffle Proceeds	\$143.00	
	Memberships Renewals	\$1,420.00	
	Merchandise Sales	\$24.00	
	Total Moneys In		\$1587.00
	Less:		
	Transfer to petty Cash A/C	-\$23.30	
	Prepaid Venue Hire 2015-2016	-\$1000.00	
	Total Monies Out:		-\$1023.30
	Closing Balance 30/06/2015		\$4,382.85
Term Deposit	Opening Balance as at 01/06/2015	\$6,045.12	
	Add Quarterly Interest Income	\$46.48	
	Closing Balance 30/06/2015		\$6091.60
Petty Cash Float	Opening Balance	\$150.00	
	Add:		
	Transfer from Cheque A/C	\$23.30	
	Less:		
	Catering Costs	-\$23.30	
	Closing Balance 30/06/2015		\$150.00
Consolidated Cash Position			\$10,624.45

Accepted: Sally Higgs **Seconded:** Max Germasi

Guest Speaker:

“Cannings Outdoor Power Equipment”

259-261 Ferntree Gully Road
Mount Waverley Victoria

9535 2666

Nick gave a very informative speech with great insight into primary safety equipment that should be used when anyone operates a chainsaw. He also explained how cut resistant trousers/chaps work. Nick showed some of the different models of chainsaws that we 4 wheel drivers commonly use. Nick also had a range of Dyneema style rope suitable for our winches, which they can make to order with spliced ends. A big thank you Nick for your talk.

Association Report:

Brief details from the president and delegates meeting that David Bruinsma attended: Some of the highlights—The association is in a better position this year and was running at a loss of about 90,000 two years ago and are looking to close the books with about 70,000. We need to record any work we do when out into the bush and forward the information to 4wd Vic so that 4wd Victoria can show the government the value of recreational 4 wheel drivers and how we assist in keeping tracts open. Other things to consider doing to be more visible in the public eye are camp posts when camping and talk to other campers to get their views of the camp site. 4wd Victoria lease is up at its current location so they will be moving to a new location to be advised.

General Business:

Our AGM is next Month so no guest speaker next month. We need someone financial that is not standing for any position to chair the meeting. Sam had some spare spots available for Mt Scene trip. Stuart had a chat with the police Officer in charge with the Mansfield area and she said the permit system is really important as the police can rely on us if someone gets lost the police know who is on the mountain and in what vehicles and what radio channel they can be contacted on so we could be used to help in an emergency.

TRIP REPORTS:

Aberfeldy Queens Birthday weekend

Adam

This is my first trip as a trip leader at short notice; my mate Kevin from Wedderburn attended as a guest we left on Friday got to little O'tools which was crowded so we headed for O'tools and there was nobody there we set up came then headed up flats track to get some phone reception to let Owen and Wendy know we had moved to O'tools camp ground. Wendy and Owen turned up the next day and we went for a drive up Willoughby spur track to a walking track to the water wheel with the steam engine ruins it's about a 2hr return trip. We then headed up to Mt Useful to the lookout with great views. We then went down Tomb star track by accident with Owen and Wendy followed with a fairly standard ford courier and kept up with us which was amazing considering the track is a double black diamond track.

Then on the Sunday we went to the white star mine. A nice drive up black star track then headed up McGuire track across the Aberfeldy river then saw some of the historic site and had some fun at Merringtons crossing, and then headed home had a some a fun weekend Thanks for all who attended.

Dargo High Country

Sally

It was a weekend of ice snow mud water and rocks pretty much everything but sand. We left Pakenham bypass at 7pm and headed for Stratford just arrive at the servo with minutes to spare before closing and filled up with fuel, we then headed for Dargo where we were pulled up by the police for not turning of the driving lights quick enough, they had a chat and checked our licence and then we were on our way. We got to Dargo where we met Steve

We camped at Talbotville we then headed up to blue rag track which was very muddy and spectacular with all the snow. As we came back we thought we would try to go down basalt south track from the north end we came around a corner slipped on a bit of ice then I looked down where there was another group of vehicles and there was a car over the bank I went to have a look there was a car was cliff road cliff he was completely horizontal bulb-ar hard against the bank and the tail against the edge so we turned around and headed back so the next day we headed out to crooked river and bull town spur onto Talbotville Rd went back in through Wonnangatta rd. The next day we went out to billy goats bluff we thought we would check it out only saw 2 vehicles headed home via Licola

We had a great weekend. We saw the best espresso maker called the Bellman espresso maker.

Raffle

12 Volt Chain saw sharpener	Tony Barbera
Snow ball maker	Phil Dixon
Jumper Leads	Grant Dawson
Calendar	Brett Buchanan
Eggs	Sally Higgs
Eggs	Kevin Frederickson
Movie Tickets	Carolyn Bruinsma

10:00 pm meeting closed



Annual General Meeting

Of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

Held Wednesday, 6 August 2014 at Noble Park Football Club

Meeting Opened at 9:25 pm.

Chaired By: Sally Higgs

Members Present: Members present as per the attendance book

Apologies: Members apologies as per the apologies book

Minutes of AGM Meeting 6 August 2014

Accepted by: Mick Harris Second by: Mark Kochan

President's Reports: Presented by Sally Higgs.

John Partridge step down as President due to work and Vice President Sally Higgs took over the role.

It's been a busy year with trips all over the state and interstate. Very happy with the number of trips run. Happy to help maintain Aberfeldy sites with West Gippsland Historical Trust

Oxfam Christmas tree deliveries later this year.

Thanks to everyone for attending trips and Thank you to all serving committee

Good luck to the new President. Complete report in the club magazine.

Trip Coordinator's Report:

David reported 2 years data

2012/2013 41 trips planned 8 cancelled total 33 real trips ran

Mark and Catherine Felton ran 13 trips wining \$250 prize, there were 11 Trip leaders with 59 participants Ian Rhodes attended most trips as participant wining \$150.00 voucher

2013/2014 Club did not run trip incentive scheme. 27 Trips planned 1 cancelled

There were 13 Trip leaders with 47 participants Ben Whitworth attended most trips as a participant

Special mention to Lisa and Tony Barbera (Tiny) for attending 6 trips in 8 months as new club members

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Steve Pitcher.

Steve has prepared a more comprehensive report which was sent out with the last club magazine,

The club has had an increase in new members and the club is in a good financial position.

Developing a social media policy

Statement of Comprehensive Income

Year Ended	<u>Jun-14</u>	<u>Jun-13</u>
Income		
Merchandise Sales	\$849.00	\$11.00
<i>Less Cost of Goods Sold:</i>		
Opening Stock	\$0.00	\$0.00
Add: Purchases	\$824.60	\$0.00
Less: Closing Stock	<u>\$261.20</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Cost of Goods Sold	<u>\$563.41</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Gross Profit - Merchandise Sales	\$285.59	\$11.00
Fundraising - Raffle	\$1,200.00	\$575.80
Interest Income	\$262.79	\$290.04
Magazine Postage Fees Recovered	\$0.00	\$22.50
Membership Application & Renewal Fees	<u>\$4,570.00</u>	<u>\$3,855.00</u>
Total Income	\$6,318.38	\$4,754.34
Expenses		
Association Fees - Four Wheel Drive Victoria	\$1,406.00	\$1,610.00
Bank Charges	\$5.00	\$40.00
Catering Costs	\$366.66	\$898.35
Course Fees & Associated Costs	\$0.00	\$90.00
Donations	\$41.15	\$0.00
Equipment Purchases (<\$1,000 per item)	\$195.00	\$0.00
Gifts & Entertainment	\$0.00	\$400.00
Insurance Premiums	\$440.00	\$403.33
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$128.61	\$408.90
Post Box, Postage, Printing & Stationary	\$1,131.26	\$595.43
Venue Hire	\$1,000.00	\$1,100.00
Web Hosting & Maintenance	<u>\$179.40</u>	<u>\$184.99</u>
Total Expenses	\$4,893.08	\$5,731.01
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$1,425.30	-\$976.67

CLUB COMMITTEE ROLES

Responsibilities of the PRESIDENT

- Lead the Monthly General Meetings
- Lead the Monthly Committee Meetings
- Attend Association meetings and Aberfeldy meetings when I am able
- Pen a letter for the magazine each month
- Help to proof read the magazine each month
- Organise regular guest speakers for the general meetings - hopefully a diverse range of speakers and topics.
- Encourage fellow committee members, and I am available for any club member to call me about any club related matter or proposed trips that a members is interested in running.

Responsibilities of the VICE PRESIDENT

- Too run a general or committee meeting in the absent of the president.
- Work along side the President in a PR role welcoming members and guess
- Work with the president with aim of stepping up to the president role, in a careful succession plan.

Responsibilities of the TREASURER

- Banking of all cash receipts within 5 working days;
- Coordination of all 3rd party payments to suppliers and service providers (eg. insurance premiums, association affiliation fees, venue hire costs, PO Box hire, website hosting fees, etc);
- Custodian of club cheque book and deposit book;
- Lodgement of Annual Reports (via Club Secretary) to Consumer Affairs
- Maintenance of bank accounts, records and statements;
- Maintenance of the club's books, journals and other financial records;
- Making recommendations and maintaining appropriate levels of cash investments, petty cash holdings and funds held at call;
- Preparation and presentation of Annual Reports (including engagement with independent reviewers, external accountants or auditors, etc) – Annual Reports must be retained for at least the past 7 years;
- Preparation and presentation of monthly Treasurer's Reports;
- Processing electronic payments and maintaining oversight of any electronic security tokens in use; and
- Regular attendance at Club & Committee meetings.

The responsibilities for a SECRETARY

- Collect the club mail from the club PO Box (778) at Dandenong Plaza Shopping Centre prior to the General Meeting.
- Attend the General Meetings ensuring that the Attendance, Apologies and Visitors books are available for members / visitors to sign in
- Take the minutes of the General Meeting
- Present the incoming and outgoing correspondence at the General Meeting
- Type up the minutes noting number of attendees, apologies and visitors
- Attend the committee meeting
- File correspondence in and minutes of the general meeting
- Attend to any outgoing correspondence as determined by the committee
- Ensure new member kits are up to date and available as required
- Maintain the membership list
- Print and Laminate membership cards for current year ensuring that they are signed

Responsibilities of the TRIP COORDINATOR

- Keep and maintain records of each trip undertaken by club members.
- A official club trip is determined by a Member providing notification in advance to the committee (through the trip coordinator) by completing the Trip Data form available on the clubs download page of the website, and emailing it to the trip coordinator (ideal to cc it to the editor at the same time)
- The Trip Co-ordinator is to advise the members of trips by any of the following means:
 - all members email to be sent out (especially if it is a short notice trip)
 - having the trip form published in the monthly magazine
 - advertising the upcoming trips at the monthly club meetings.
 - trips record sheet is to be filled in and made available at monthly club meetings
 - copy of form to be provided to trip leader prior to the trip, and one of the trip folders to be provided to the trip leader
 - carbon copy of the trip form to be returned to the trip coordinator with the trip folder at the conclusion of each trip. Trip coordinator to be immediately advised if there has been any personal injuries, or if there was any vehicular damage or breakdowns on a trip.
 - keep the trip folders refilled with forms for the next trip leader to use
 - attend all monthly general meeting and committee meetings
 - encourage and assist trip leaders plan their trips
- Approximately 6 hours per month which includes attending the general meeting, the committee meeting and paperwork.

The responsibilities for a GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

- To help the main committee members in the running of the club.
- To help out at club functions, meetings & gatherings
- To stand in at club meeting if committee member is absent
- Have a voice at committee meetings

Introduction of new beach camping zones on Fraser Island.

This alert applies to the following parks:

[Fraser Island, Great Sandy National Park](http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/fraser/index.html) (<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/fraser/index.html>)

Beach camping areas bookable online from 15 July 2015.

Beach camping areas on Fraser Island's eastern beaches have now been grouped into nine (9) zones each with a maximum number of places available to alleviate overcrowding, improve the visitor experience and facilitate QPWS in responding to emergency situations.

From 15 July 2015 visitors to Fraser Island using the online booking system to book beach camping on eastern beaches will be required to select one of the 9 zones when making their online booking.

Existing booking holders will not be affected by these changes.

Further information, including the new zoning map for the eastern beaches , will be available from 15 July 2015 on the NPSR website.

Last updated

14 July 2015



UPCOMING TRIPS

Mt Skene		Cape York and Fraser Island	
DESTINATION LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Sam MOB: 0414503874	DESTINATION LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Mick MOB: 0424766616
DATE	14 August 2015	DATE	August 15 th to October 2 nd 2015
MEETING PLACE / TIME		MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE	WET: snow conditions	GRADE	WET: Mild DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DE-TAILS	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 Crowes Hut.	TRIP ACTIVITY DE-TAILS	TBA
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: MAXIMUM: 5	VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination		APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Heyfield DIESEL: Heyfield	LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: TBA DIESEL: TBA
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Approx: 50km	DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery gear & winches and snow chains if you have.	EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Std recovery
MAPS REQUIRED	Leader will have maps	MAPS REQUIRED	Hema Cape York
RADIO CHANNEL	12	RADIO CHANNEL	12

UPCOMING TRIPS

WANT TO PLAN A TRIP?

Find the 10 tips to planning a trip

http://vfwdc.com/pdf/10_steps.pdf

Find the trip data form

<http://vfwdc.com/pdf/Trip%20Data%20Form.doc>

Personal information form

<http://vfwdc.com/pdf/Personal%20Information%20Form.pdf>

DESTINATION	Fraser Island
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Stuart MOB: 0428539157
DATE	19/9/15 to 2/10/15 school holidays
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Plan is to meet up with Mick and Sally's group returning from their Cape York trip and tour Fraser Island with them.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: NA MAXIMUM: NA
APPROX KMS	Meeting place to be arranged closer to departure date, maybe Hervey Bay to allow people to travel up at their own pace.
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: available Eurong beach and Happy Valley DIESEL: available Eurong beach and Happy Valley LPG: Hervey Bay
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	200 - 250k sand driving
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery gear, food and camping gear for 7 days supplies are available on the island.
MAPS REQUIRED	Hema Fraser Island
RADIO CHANNEL	12

Trip Reports

Trip Report - By Adam Howell
 Aberfeldy
 Queens Birthday Weekend
 5th - 8th June, 2015

Day 1

Kevin and I Left Keysborough at 6:00am to head for Pakenham to pick up Tim. Kevin in his 60 Series Land Cruiser had Dianna, his step daughter, as passenger and I had Tim, my brother, as my Navigator.

We got to Moe McDonalds by about 9:00am and after a bite to eat, we top up fuel and headed north for the Thomson Dam and Aberfeldy area.

We crossed the Dam Wall and aired down the tires once we got to the gravel road and took Merringtons Track, heading for Little O'Tooles Camp Ground.

After a couple of nice river crossings and some U turns we found Little O'Tooles by 11:00am which already had a small population of P-plate 4 wheel drives and motorbikes so we moved on to the main O'Tooles Camp Ground.

To our surprise we were the first ones there and had any choice of camp site.

We picked a spot close to the river that gave us nice morning sun and some shade in the afternoon. Not long after that, cars started rolling in.

Once we had set up camp we decided to go for a drive up Flats track which was fun, reasonably steep and shaily. At the top of the ridge we got phone reception and made some calls to let other expected members know that we had moved to O'Tooles.

We drove back down Flats track, stopping for some firewood on the way, got back to camp, had some dinner and packed it in fairly early for the night.

Day 2

A lazy start to a beautiful clear and sunny morning, all up by about 9am and we sat around and had breakfast waiting for Owen and Wendy. They arrived about 11am and once set up we went out for a drive to check out the local tracks. We took a drive on Willoughby Spur and found a parking area beside the creek and went on a 2 hour return walk to the Thomson Water Wheel and the steam powered crusher and equipment ruins.

We continued our drive to White Star Track and McEvoy's Track and after a little snow driving, made it to the Mt. Useful Fire Spotting Tower and Hut which had almost 360 degree views and a nice clear day could see clear to the horizon. After an hour or so we took the main road north to McGuire Track and turned left at Toomstar Track where I had planned NOT to go. It wasn't until we were a fair way down the track before we had realised that we had taken a wrong turn but we continued on anyway.



Toomstar Track is very steep, slippery and rocky and on the map says do not attempt unless carrying recovery gear. It was a lot of fun and challenging but it blew me away how capable Owens' 4wd Ford Courier (no lockers) was and with his technique and experience, got his vehicle through places where i thought no way. Well done Owen.

From there we made our way back to camp just on dark, again collecting wood on the way, had dinner, drinks, music and a nice big fire to see out the night.

Day 3

All up by about 9am to a foggy overcast morning, had some breakfast and hit the tracks about 10:30am. We drove up White Star Track to the White Star Mine Historic Site. The short track down to the mine is extremely steep and rocky so we chose to walk down it, but the walk up was much worse. The mine site itself still had the old steam boiler and some of the crushing equipment skattered around the area and the mine itself was still open and intact but flooded about 2 -3 feet deep. Back on the tracks we took Toomstar and McGuires Tracks (the correct direction) all the way across to the Aberfeldy River where we had Lunch.

After lunch had a light drive and visited some Historic Sites including Aberfeldy township and The Grave of Kitty Cane. Took some photos of the Thomson Dam and drove Sullivans Track, collecting wood and heading back to camp by about 4pm. Again dinner, drinks, music and fire...



Last day

Up about 8am and had a relaxing start. Had breakfast and began to pack for the drive home. We left O'Tooles by 11am, and had a bit of fun at the river crossing at Merringtons before taking Merringtons Track back to the Walhalla Road. All in all everyone had a lot of fun with no damage or incidents to report. I would like to thank Owen, Wendy, Kev-

2015 Snow Trip 17th to 19th July

Participants Mandy and Scott Trip leaders Navara

Maree and Stuart Landcruiser

Nicki and Brett Landcruiser

Ly Ho Landcruiser

Sharon, Andy and Marcus Pardo

Sally and Tristan Landrover

Mark and Cat Patrol

Steve and Hans Patrol



Aim of weekend to drive in snow. We met Sam’s group at the summit.

Aim achieved and a great time had by all. Highlights Scott playing in snow, Stuart asked do you need a hand but Scott said no, going to do it all by myself, and with a few fish tails he was back on the track.

The snatch strap was needed to get out a few who parked at the summit. Sally, Tristan, Brett and Nicky can tell the story.



Not sure how Stuart got the whole chassis covered in snow but he did. Here is the photo to prove it. Scott had his wheels coated in snow as you can see.



The snow was awesome, the sun shined and we all celebrated the achievement of reaching the summit. The trees hung snow and reflected and glistened in the sun. Photos do not do it justice. A few points to ponder, Melbourne had its coldest night in 14 years and our brave souls camped at Skipworth. Packing up the tents while iced over. Even the Landcruiser was frosted over in the morning.



Andy and Sharon had a great BBQ contraption to allow everyone to enjoy the fire and cook great food. Ly I believed consumed some of the port purchased last week at St Ann’s.

The not so brave stayed at the Jamison hotel and enjoyed the local meals and refreshments.



A wonderful trip, if you have any great photos please share by sending to Ben (web@vfwdc.com) for the club web site (please make sure number plates are blacked out). We had a lucky meeting of Sandra and Max and the new 200 Landcuriser. This was at the Jamison brewery. A worthwhile stop as they make their own beer.

Heading back to Melbourne we found more snow at the heli pad have a look at the top of the tower its all iced up. Brett and Nicki were with us when we found Mc Adams gap hotel open. This has a 360 degree view from the top. We headed in for a drink. The heater is an old boiler, the wind at the top of the gap went through you not around. It was extremely cold. The bar has interesting fittings **and furniture, with photos and memorabilia. It's worth a visit if you can find it open only after 12 pm.**



XMAS IN JULY – ST ANNES WINERY

For me the weekend began with me Tony, Lisa and Craig meeting at Tony and Lisa’s house at 8:50am on the Saturday morning for a 9am departure. We were all excited to be heading off for a relaxing weekend away despite the inclement weather forecast. After stopping at a McDonald on the way to the Winery. We arrived at St Anne winery at about 11am I think. Upon arrival we found David and his family were already there and setting up camp as well as Max and Emily.

After everybody did a quick set up it was time to start heading to the pub on the other side of the highway for lunch. So to minimise the amount of cars at the pub and it was pointless taking some many cars to the pub when there was spare seats in other cars. Craig and Emily jumped in the rodeo with me which luckily I was only able to get back on the road the Tuesday night before and Max jumped in with David.

After having an amazing experience with the great food and service at the pub it was time to head back to camp and wait for the others to arrive. While waiting for the others to arrive there was a chance for the people who had already arrived to go down to the winery and sample and purchase some of the great wines and ports that St Anne’s Winery has to offer. I think we ended up with a total of ten four wheel drives with ten camp sites and I cant remember how many total campers we had. Apart from sampling and buying our wines and ports the rest of the afternoon and evening consisted of sitting around the camp fire relaxing and enjoying the company of like minded people. The owners of St Anne winery hospitality included free and full use of the facilities and by mutual agreement we would return to the camp-site when our buses

arrived to explore the winery. Despite a dismal weather forecast the weather wasn’t to bad. We had a little rain when we were setting up our camp-site but apart from that we all had an enjoyable weekend away The wineries kindness extended to giving the club a bottle of one of the most sampled wines to share around the camp fire. After a few more hours of sitting around the camp fire and engaging in many conversations and just enjoying the company of like minded people we all started to head off to bed around 10 or 10:30. I remember waking up around 7am to find there already was a few early risers. The morning consisted of everyone waking up and packing up camp at there own free will, with breakfast being served at about 8:30. After breakfast we all returned to packing up and ensuring that we left the paddock that we were camping in as good as we found it.

After ensuring that everyone was packed up, that the paddock was rubbish free and the camp fire was well and truly out, we made our way down to the winery one more time as a group to thank the the winery one more time for having us for the weekend and also so for anyone that wished to make final purchases for home supplies. After doing so we all started to slowly make our way home to return to the weekly grind. I would like and I am sure that everyone that attended this weekend would also like to thank committee of our club for supplying everyone who attended the weekend with a great dinner and also a great breakfast

Would also like to thank Maree, Emily and anybody else that was involved with preparing the dinner and the breakfast. I would also like to thank Mick Harris and also David Bruinsma, first Mick Harris for asking David on my behalf if I could take the remaining fire wood home for my mum. And secondly to David Bruinsma for allowing me to do so, also to everyone that help to load it into the back of my ute. One final thank you to everyone who attended the weekend for making the weekend such an enjoyable weekend away.



Trip Report

Christmas in July at St Annes Winery

By: John Targett

On Saturday and Sunday the 18th- 19th, the club had it's Christmas in July event for the first time at St Anne's Winery. As a prelude to the weekend of wine tasting, eating and camping, Saturday's lunch was held at The Plough Bistro at Myrniong which was a great introduction to the weekend with a nice array food on offer.

The forecast for the weekend was for rain and cold temperatures. On waking Saturday morning there had been quite a bit rain overnight and the day was not looking very promising, well at least from my place in Essendon. I finally got on the road from my place after being late for most of the morning, then when I got between Melton and Bacchus Marsh with the terrential rain I was wondering if David would cancel the event due to being rained out. I was so wrong and and it appears hasty as by the time we reached St Anne's Winery after lunch the rain had cleared and we were able to set up camp. After setting camp by about 4 pm we headed over to the winery to enjoy some tasting and buy a bottle or 2. I did like how David encouraged everyone to try the 4 tasting barrels unfortunately for me this caused a major first world problem as when I went to try a wine with the staff at the tastings bar, my palette had been killed by the fortified from those barrels, by the way I really enjoyed tasting from those barrels (I'm so glad that I restrained myself from having no more than 1 glass per barrel).

Once everyone had bought what they "needed" for around the camp fire for the night we all ended up around the fire looking forward to dinner and Maree Bowker and a few willing volunteers started preparing dinner. The dinner that was cooked by Maree and those helpers was a great spread. We had an over flow of food so much so that I think some ended up being used for breakfast next morning. After dinner we enjoyed great company and glass or 2 around the camp fire and many a good chat, there was one recurring statement and that was "I'm full, so much food. No I couldn't eat more." I think most will agree we had a great night and thankfully it didn't rain.

Then it was time to hit my new swag for the night of which I didn't enjoy. I was awake for most of the night as every time I rolled over I felt moisture on the inside of my swag and I was informed by a couple of people next morning that this was because of condensation as I didn't allow a breather vent to outside, there's one for the beginners.

Breakfast food wise was as ample as dinner the night before and Maree and those others that help cook couldn't give the food away. After Breakfast, camp pack up and David's debrief we all agreed that we as a group go back over the to winery and thank the staff for their hospitality and there was the chance to make further purchases if so required.

I personally and I think others will agree it was a great weekend and want to thank David in organising the event and Maree for organising the menu, sourcing the food, preparing and cooking for the weekend. Thanks also goes to the committee asa whole for supplying both meals and their involvement.

To any others that were involved to make the weekend what it was, a sincere thankyou to you too.

For any prospective members looking for a club, I'm still relatively new to the club and I'm enjoying what this club has to offer.