

**Bringing Four Wheel Drivers
Together**



**Victorian Four Wheel Drive
Club Inc.**

Free Wheeling



**VFWDC
July 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

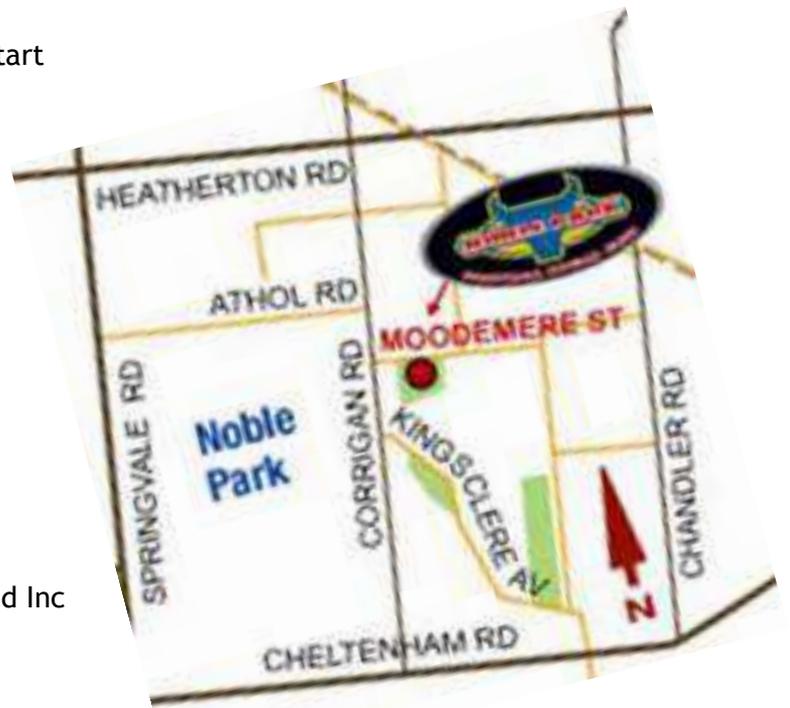
46-56 Moodemere Street

Noble Park

Melways ref: 89 D4

Aberfeldy Track managed by West Gippsland Inc

www.westgippslandinc.com.au



FREE WHEELING

Hello and welcome to the July magazine, this magazine has some stunning pictures of the high country from the Queens birthday weekend. Checkout the trip report from page 19.

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				
JULY				
1st	Wednesday	General Meeting	President	
11th to 12th	Saturday/Sunday	St.Annes' Winery - Xmas in	David	0417 747 860
17th to 19th	Friday to Sunday	Mt Skene	Scott + Mandie	0423 544 551
17th to 19th	Friday to Sunday	Mt Skene	Sam	0414 503 874
22nd	Wednesday	Committee Meeting	President	
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	
18th	Wednesday	Committee Meeting	President	
December				
2nd	Wednesday	General Meeting	President	
12th	Saturday	Christmas Party	David	0417 747 860



News From The President

Hello and welcome to the July issue of our Club Magazine.

Another cold month is upon us as we have really felt Winters grip on our weather. I have been busy getting ready to start a new job which will affect me being able to receive calls during the day on club business, but if you feel that you need to contact me - send me an email or a text message and I will get back to you as soon as I am able. I have managed to confirm our guest speaker for the July 1st general meeting so come prepared to hear about chain saws, safety and other useful bits of information from our Guest speaker from Canings Power quip.

Our Christmas in July is looking to be a great weekend away. A nice camping spot is available to us at St. Anne's Winery, we are permitted to have a camp fire (not too big though), and we have been asked to bring along our own wood as the timber there is for their own winter use. As has been mentioned on a few occasions, the wines and especially the fortified wines are very good quality and we have been made to feel very welcome every time we have been there. There are flushing toilets available for our use for the weekend, but no showers. The committee will be supplying the dinner on Saturday night and the breakfast on Sunday morning, but we do ask that you bring along some nibble food for the afternoon to share around. I am still to see if we have enough number for Sunday lunch at The Plow - so send me your details if that is what you are keen to experience.

This month the eagerly anticipated Annual Mt Skene snow trips will be taking place and I think the trip forms filled out very quickly indeed. FWDV advised the committee by email that the snow permit system has been agreed to by all parties (ie local councils) and our prepared trip leaders already have the permits in place for their respective trips. There is a follow up snow trip planned in August - and I would not be surprised if it has filled quickly too.

In our last magazine, there was lots of information available to inform you about committee positions and responsibilities, hopefully to entice new people to want to join the committee. We certainly are in urgent need of a new treasurer, as Steve will be stepping aside after nearly 5 years in the role. I will be attending the FWDV general meeting on Saturday 27th June, so I hope I can give the club updates at our July General meeting.

The committee should be able to report to you something on a weighbridge day that we are currently looking at. Plenty of reasons to come to the General Meeting on a cold winters night I hope.

If you are planning to come to visit our club for the first time - please don't be shy and come up to the front and introduce yourself to me, I'd love to meet you. That's enough waffling from me for now, otherwise there won't be anything left for me to say at our meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you at our meetings, or on a trip.

David Bruinsma

President

Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club inc.

Minutes of General Meeting June 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: Members as per Apologies book & Cannings unable to make meeting so John is giving a speech on solar panels at short notice:

Visitors: Visitors as listed in the Visitors Book

Minutes of February General Meeting

Accepted: Sally Harris

Second: Tony Feltham

Correspondence in

Bank Statement

Auto Parts online shop

Landrover Review

Cross Country Jeep

Enquiries about Membership

Overland Cruising

Club Insurance Tax invoice

Royal flying Doctors Promotions

Letter from a founding member Dennis Cousins

Enquiry from new member in NSW Joe Dedman

Correspondence out

Names have been sent to association with request for certificates for driver training

Email letter of thanks to Dennis

Email Rudy with regards to maintenance program

Treasurer's report Feb 2015

Cheque A/c	Opening Balance		\$3,997.30
	Raffle Proceeds	\$94.15	
	Memberships & Subscription	\$100.00	
	Merchandise Sales	\$128.00	
	Total Moneys In		\$322.15
	Less:		
	Transfer to petty Cash A/C	-\$35.35	
	Prior Mths Chqs presented(455-458)	-\$464.95	
	PO Box Hire	-\$172.00	
	Total Monies Out:		-\$500.30
	Plus:		
	Unpresented Chq # 454&458	\$464.95	
	Closing Balance 30/04/2015		\$3,819.15
Term Deposit	No Change		
	Closing Balance		\$6045.12
Petty Cash Float	Opening Balance	\$150.00	
	Add:		
	Transfer from Cheque A/C	\$35.35	
	Less:		
	Catering Costs	-\$35.35	
	Closing Balance 31/05/2015		\$150.00
Consolidated Cash Position			\$10,014.27

Accepted: Stuart Bowker

Seconded: Scott Lehmann

Welcome New Members

New Members Pack presented to: Ben & Clare Westhorpe

Items of Business

Carolyn & David have been in touch with merchandise supplier and have place a large order for merchandise. There has been a slight increase in prices.

Memberships are now due please make sure you have filled out membership forms and pay your fees.

August is our AGM so all positions are made vacant and nominations are required for all positions

Steve is stepping down from the position of Treasurer so we need someone to be treasurer so if anyone is interested please put your name forward or contact Steve for more information.

Upcoming trips

Trip leaders

11/7/2015	Christmas in July	St Annes Winery	Club Trip
17/7/2015	Snow Trip	Mt Skene	Scott & Mandie
17/7/2015	Snow Trip	Mt Skene	Sam Ayoubee
14/8/2015	Snow Trip	Mt Skene	Sam Ayoubee
15/8/2015	Cape York & Fraser Island	Queensland	Mick Harris
19/9/2015	Fraser Island	Queensland	Stuart Bowker

Product Information Session

John gave a detailed talk on solar systems including battery management systems, Regulators, Chargers and how they interact with each other.

It was an informative and interesting session

Thank you for your time and effort John

David: Christmas in July

Is an annual event and is being held at St Anne winery this year. The owners have invited us to camp at the winery. The club will supply dinner on Saturday night and breakfast Sunday morning for those that stay the night. 11th and 12th July, the trip is open to all club members and visitors that intend to join. For those that are interested we are interested we can go for lunch at the Plough so let David Know so he can book.

Trip Report

Toolangi Night Run

Scott Lehmann

The tracks were quite wet steep and rocky and muddy Craig and Joe did some minor damage, Dean saw another 4wd club as we went around a hairpin bend Dean who was up front noticed light coming towards him through the bush and called over the radio look at all these cars it must be another club it was the tail end of our group. Sam nearly rolled on the side. We headed down aero-plane track which was muddy and deep ruts. Dean got stuck and had Sam help him out the fog was insane visibility was down to about 10mtrs we finished at about 2:30 am It was a challenging track and didn't disappoint

Thanks Scott for your effort.

Winching and Tyre changing Practice

Stuart Bowker

We went to Bunyip state forest to do the winching practice Mick Harris donated an old tyre and rim to practice with and as soon as I got the tyre out of the back Scott grabbed his drill and without a pause a hole in the side wall so we all had a go at plugging the tyre. We then got our winches out and started to practice Li had a hand turfer he had the hand turfer pulling his car toward a

tree and Li was putting a fair bit of effort into it, he then put a snatch block in and Li was then pulling his car towards the tree effortlessly but at half the pace. We discussed the different types of winches and tyre repair kits plugs glues patches. Stuart then demonstrated how to remove the tyre from the rim and then put it back onto the rim. We then winched Scott's car backwards using his own winch and 3 snatch blocks.

Thanks Stuart for a fun and informative afternoon

Billy Goats Bluff

Sally Higgs

We met up at Pakenham BP Bypass and Andrew had a Alternator fail and had to head home so the rest of us headed for sale where Steve picked up a Pizza and we and topped up with fuel at Sale. We then headed to Bragalong and drove some good 4WD tracks to get to horse yard flat where we stayed that night. The next day we headed to the pinnacles where it was spectacular it was misty and foggy but we were above it and it was beautiful and sunny and could see all the tops of the hills. We then started heading down Billy goats bluff we got to the top of that rocky bit and I said to Tristan to stop here so I can get a picture and when I got out I heard a ticking noise from the front of the car and thought oh my god, what we found was the clutch had come of the air conditioning compressor and was hitting the fan so we put the part in the back and headed off. We then headed to Dargo and had lunch and then onto Talbotville and onto crooked river where we had water come over the bonnet of the car and saw a motor cycle rider enter the river and got stuck half way in the funny part was his mates didn't lend a hand. We then went up Basalt Knob south track and headed for Dargo high planes road and did Blue rag track, we headed home via Bright and down the Hume

We had an awesome weekend and many thanks to Stuart.

Raffle

12 Volt spot light torch	John Targett
Cab Sav Wine	Adam Howell
Eggs 1/2 Dozen	Craig Johnson
Eggs 1/2 Dozen	Max Germasi
Eggs 1 dozen and cold pack	Brett Buchanan
Pink Moscato	Andrew McGregor
Steak Knives	Andrew Pelletier
Australia Flags Car door type	John Targett
Calender	David Bruinsma

10:00 pm meeting closed

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

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Xmas in July - St Annes Winery (updated form)
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	NAME: David MOB: 0417 747 860
DATE	Saturday 11th July to Sunday 12th July 2015
MEETING PLACE / TIME	At St. Annes Winery from 12 mid-day onwards on the Saturday: 64 Garrards Road, Myrning VIC 3341
GRADE	easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>It will be an easy relaxing weekend, camping at the winery itself. Come along, set up your camp - go to the cellar door, sample the wonderful variety of Wines and Ports and purchase your supplies for the weekend.</p> <p>The committee intend to supply the Saturday night dinner. The Committee will also supply a cooked breakfast on the Saturday morning.</p> <p>Numbers are needed prior to the weekend either by putting your names and passenger number down on the trip data form at a preceding club meeting - or by emailing me on president@vfwdc.com with your details. We need to know if you are coming for DINNER ONLY, or staying for breakfast as well.</p> <p>Happy hour starts as soon as you arrive and are set up !!!!!</p> <p>There is NO 4wding intended at all for the weekend, but for those who would like to get some 4wheeling done, there will be opportunity to do so upon your departure on Sunday morning to head up through Wombat SF, I can certainly recommend to try the XL track which has some nice bog holes at the moment.</p> <p>If there is interest, we can conclude the weekend away by making a booking for lunch at the nearby pub 'The Plow' which provided us an awesome dining experience at my recent St. Annes day trip in March. Lunch to be paid by each person - and a group booking will be needed to be made in advance so I need to know numbers for lunch well before the date.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 5 MAXIMUM: whole club (guests are also welcome - if we know in advance)
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Bachuss Marsh DIESEL: Bachuss Marsh
DISTANCE BE- TWEEN SUPPLIES	Bachuss Marsh
EQUIPMENT RE- QUIRED	Normal camping gear - and then relax around the camp fire.
MAPS REQUIRED	Normal GPS is sufficient to get to St. Annes
RADIO CHANNEL CB	UHF 12

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	2015 Mt Skene Snow Trip
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Scott and Mandie MOB: 0423 544 551 (Scott) or 0423 665 923 (Mandie)
DATE	17-19/07/2015
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Lilydale Macca's 7:00pm for 7:30pm departure
GRADE	WET: MED DRY: MED
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>We will be heading up Friday night and camping at Skipworth Reserve (Mansfield-Woods Point Rd, 7.5km South of Jamieson). If you can't make it up on Friday night, you can meet us at camp on Saturday morning. We will be leaving camp at 9am sharp to head up and over the summit of Mt Skene and (hopefully) spend the day playing in the snow.</p> <p>We will return to camp on Saturday afternoon and head home to Melbourne on Sunday around lunchtime.</p> <p>Camper trailers welcome.</p> <p>Please note: We are required to apply for a permit two weeks prior to the trip, so members wishing to attend must confirm before the end of June.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS	300km
Meeting place to destination	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield (Alpine diesel available)
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Snow chains are advised. Alpine diesel recommended for diesel vehicles. Basic recovery gear.
MAPS REQUIRED	Leader will have map.
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Mt Skene
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Sam TEL: MOB: 0414503874
DATE	17 July 2015
MEETING PLACE / TIME	
GRADE <i>Please adhere to new trip classifications</i>	WET: snow conditions DRY:
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 Crowes Hut.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM:
APPROX KMS	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: 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

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Mt Skene
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Sam TEL: MOB: 0414503874
DATE	14 August 2015
MEETING PLACE / TIME	
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: snow conditions DRY:
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 Crowes Hut.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: MAXIMUM: 5
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	
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

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Cape York and Fraser Island
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Mick MOB: 0424766616
DATE	August 15 th to October 2 nd 2015
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE	WET: Mild DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	TBA
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: TBA DIESEL: TBA
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Std recovery
MAPS REQUIRED	Hema Cape York
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

UPCOMING TRIPS

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
	<i>Please adhere to new trip classifications</i>
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Plan is to meet up with Mick and Sally's group returning from
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.
Meeting place to destination	
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 UHF	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>

Temporary member & visitor form <http://vfwdc.com/pdf/Participant.Form.pdf>

Or email Stu our amazing trip coordinator to help you out trips@vfwdc.com

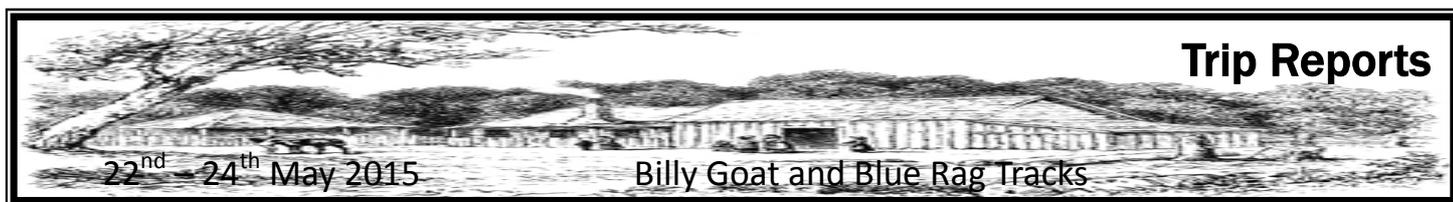
YOUR PHOTOS WANTED!



If you have any great trip photos please email them to Ben web@vfwdc.com to add to the website gallery.

Make Sure you let Ben know which trip the photos are from. Please make sure to blur or black out all license plates.





Queen's Birthday Weekend in the High Country

By Sally Higgs



It was a late notice trip for the club that Tristan and I had originally planned with a few friends but we had a number of people pull out which meant we could open it up to the club to see if anyone wanted to come along.

Brett and Nicki answered the call so on Friday night we met at BP Pakenham bypass and 3 vehicles headed for the hills with a fourth vehicle just behind us. We had a target of being at Stratford before the fuel shop shut so we had until 9pm. Brett led the way as he knew where there was a shortcut to avoid sale. The good news was that we got to the fuel station with 10mins to spare and we were lucky as the lady was not very happy with having a busy day and was shutting up shop at 9pm no matter what.

I always manage to forget something on every trip, the last 2 trips it was the bacon so I definitely remembered that this time. I however forgot the toilet paper which is very important. So I remembered as I walked into the service station and then paid for the diesel and promptly forgot to buy any.

We got our fuel and then headed to the local park to wait for our Nick and had a cuppa with the local SES and talked to them about the area and events that they had been involved with. The realization then hit me that I had failed to buy the important toilet paper!!! The guys said don't panic (and those who know me will know I was panicking!!) but to get some from the public toilet. Well there was 1 sheet left in the whole toilet block! Disaster!! That is ok, we were meeting Mark and Cat the next morning so I text messaged them and asked them to bring me some. Crisis averted!

Nick caught us up and we headed to Dargo. Tristan and I in the lead with our trusty guide TomTom. The good news is that it seems TomTom has had an upgrade and knows where Dargo is and we got there with a minor interruption with our trip to talk to the locals. We then got to Dargo where we met Steve who had spent the evening chatting to the locals and visitors at the Dargo pub.

We were originally planning on pushing through to Talbotville but as it was nearly 1030pm we decided to go to Italian Flat for the night. We stayed over and got up early the next morning. We were due to meet Mark and Cat at the entry to Blue Rag at 11am. We left Brett and Nicki to sleep in and make their way to Blue Rag to meet Mark and Cat and we headed into Talbotville to pitch our tents and grab a spot as we thought it was going to get busy. We had a quick coffee and headed out to Blue Rag.

There was a good layer of snow from Grant all the way through Dargo High Plains to the start of Blue Rag which was just beautiful.

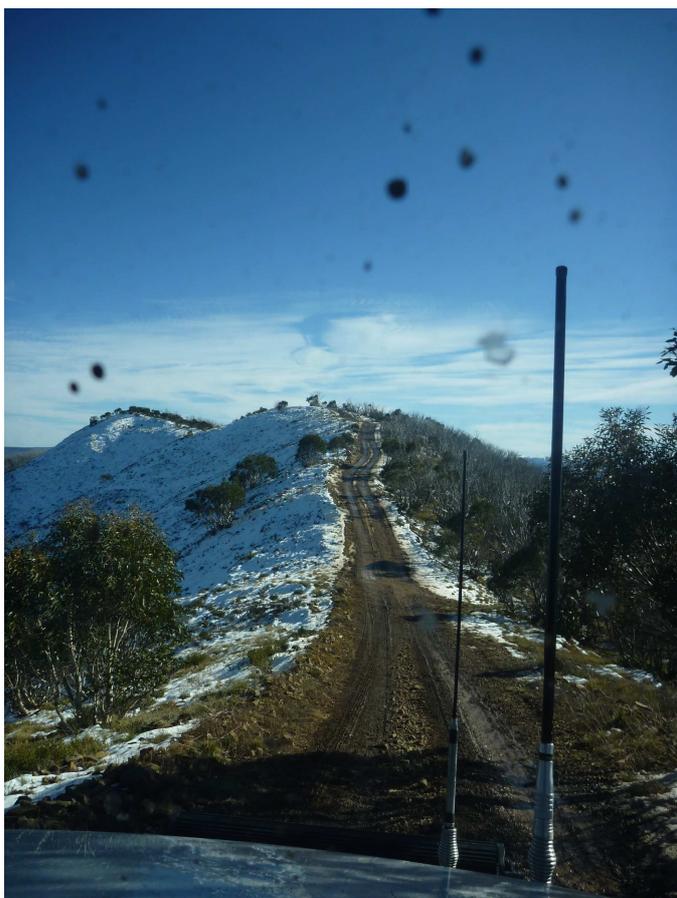
There was a continuous stream of vehicles heading into Blue Rag and Brett had spoken to the ranger who had advised not to go to Basalt Knob track, but not why. We made our way along Blue Rag track through slushy mud and snow to the top. We did not meet too many vehicles which was great but it was pretty full at the top. It was just spectacular.

We then started to head back to Talbotville via Basalt knob North and Brewery Creek Road. It was going nicely and then we got to a slippery corner that we got through ok but had to start concentrating. The next vehicle got through ok and then we noticed 4wds parked on the track below past the next hairpin. We asked everyone to stop so I could go and find out what was happening. In this time Steve slipped on the corner and ended up across the track and was going nowhere. The boys then started to recover him and I found out another 4wd was across the track further down. To get to that vehicle it was super slippery and not very safe. It was parked

horizontally across the track with a nice drop behind it and a steep hill in front. They did not have the right recovery gear but seemed to have it in hand so we left them and started to turn around and head back via the high plains road. Basalt Knob beat us again! We will be back in the summer to do the full length of it.

We got into camp about 530pm and set up for the night to cook dinner and decided what the next day was to bring. We decided to sleep in and have a leisurely breakfast and then check out some of the tracks in the local area with lunch in Dargo.

Sunday we woke to a beautiful day and the introduction to a very cool espresso machine that makes amazing coffee and even frothy milk on the gas stove. Tristan is eying one up for Christmas! It was fantastic to have the smell of freshly brewed coffee in the bush. Unfortunately, Nicki and Brett had to head home so we stayed in camp for a bit taking it easy and then headed off to Dargo via Bull Town Spur Track. A nice wee track with something like 20 river crossings and a very steep track up onto McMillians Road into Talbotville. It was a great warm-up for the day. We had lunch at the busy Dargo pub and then headed back to Talbotville via Crooked River with a whole lot more river crossings. We collected some firewood and got back to camp at about 4pm for a nice lazy evening by the fire. I cooked an apple turnover in the camp oven which came up beautiful and was soon gobbled up by everyone round the fire.



Monday we decided to head up Billy Goats Bluff track and head home via Licola so we packed up the vehicles after a very mild night – the tents were actually dry when we got up it was incredible. We made our way through crooked river and when we got to Kingwell Bridge Tristan decided to drive across the river rather than use the bridge as we had seen some vehicles doing it the day before. It was a nice long crossing so he dropped me off and went round again! In the mean time we spoke to someone who said that Billy Goats Bluff track was closed due to a rollover. At this point Nick decided to head back home through Dargo and the bitumen as he needed to be home early and we could not say what time we would be home. We decided to go and check our Billy Goats Bluff track anyway to see if it was open.

As we were preparing a few vehicles went ahead of us and then we decided to start the climb. It is such an amazing track and this weekend we only met one group so it was nice and quiet. We climbed our way to the top then slushed our way down and through to the Pinnacles. This time the wind was blasting through and freezing cold but we got to see the view of all the valley's and where we had been. Just a stunning spot up there.

Lunch was then on the cards so we headed to Horseyard Flat for a quick cook up and relax before heading down Moroka road to Licola and home. There was still plenty of snow and a nice easy drive home. We farewelled Steve, Mark and Cat at Licola and they headed home over Mt Skene and we headed for home.

It was certainly a weekend of all types of four wheel driving, snow, ice, mud, water, rocks, steep hills and cruisy roads. I think the only thing missing was sand. The car was covered in mud and the smiles were on our faces. It was a fantastic weekend ahead of the winter season. Thanks to all who came along.

The amazing Bellman Espresso Machine and my apple turnover with homemade pastry and all.



Kingwell Bridge River Crossing



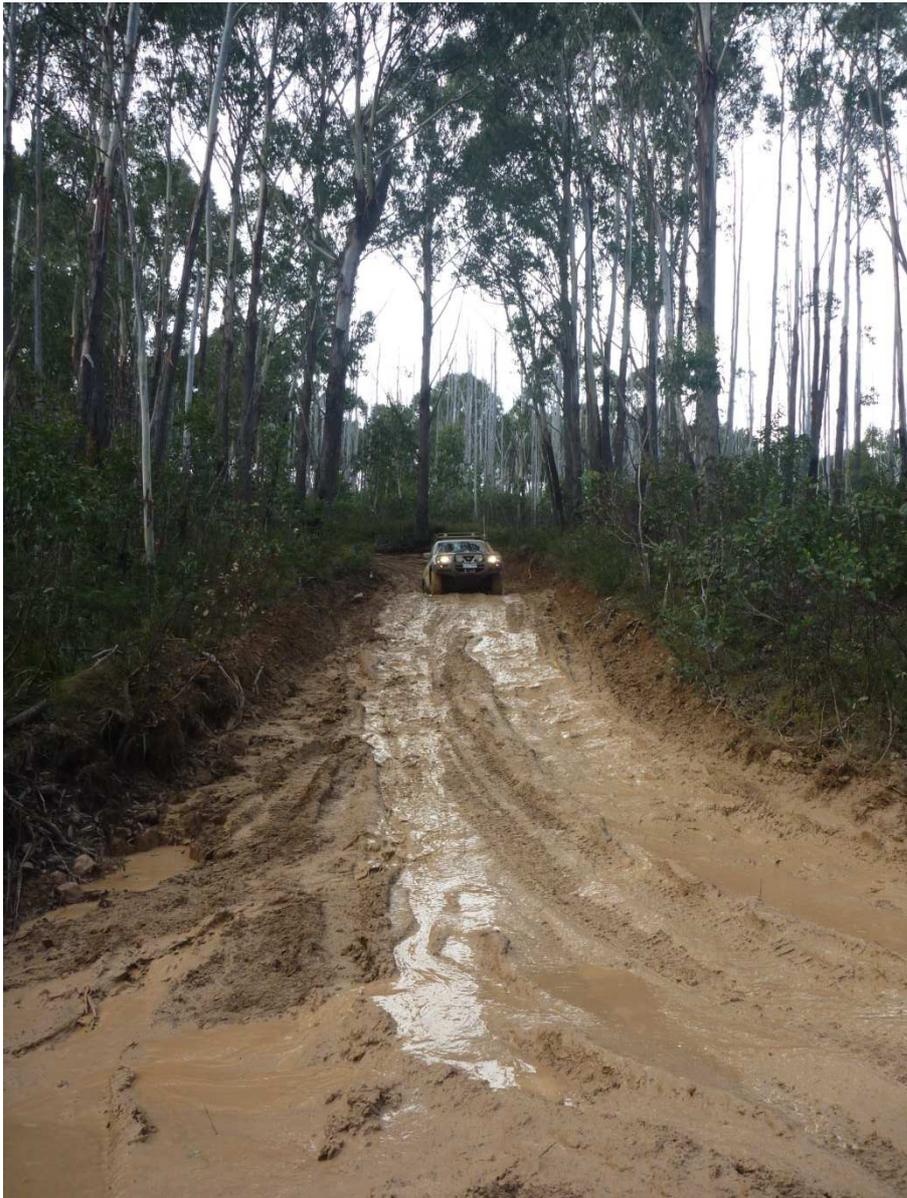
Billy Goats Bluff track helipad



The pinnacles



Billy Goats Bluff track.





Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc.

ARBN A002184F

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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]

I/WE hereby apply to the Committee of Management for new/renewed membership of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc, consent to and agree to follow the Rules, policies (including the Privacy Policy) and conditions of membership as set out by the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club.

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:

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