

**Bringing Four Wheel Drivers
Together**



**Victorian Four Wheel Drive
Club Inc.**

Free Wheeling



VFWDC

September 2015

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

Registration No A0002184F

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

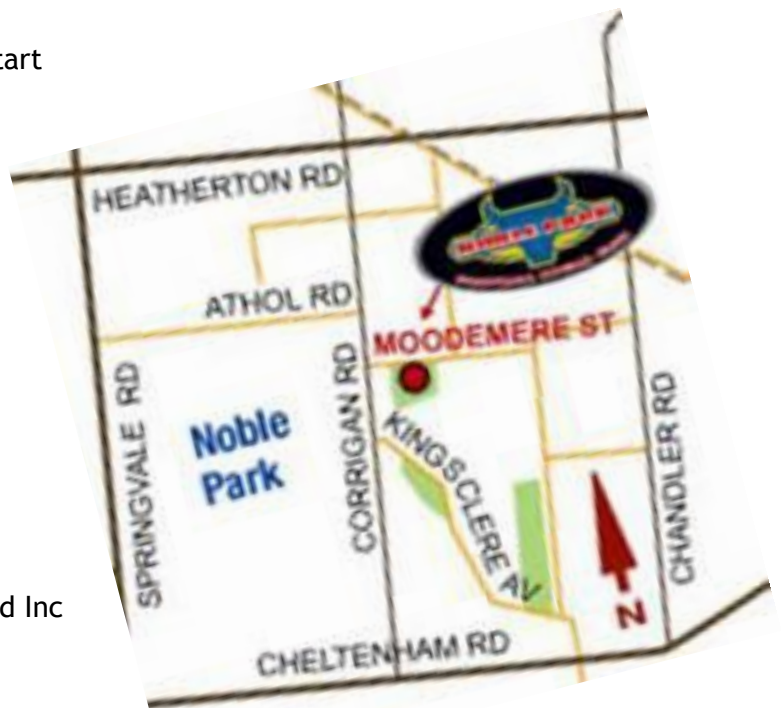
46-56 Moodemere Street

Noble Park

Melways ref: 89 D4

Aberfeldy Track managed by West Gippsland Inc

www.westgippslandinc.com.au



FREE WHEELING

editor@vfwdc.com

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT		
2013-2014		
President	David Bruinsma	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	Sally Higgs	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Bruce Cremonesi	secretary@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Tony Barbera	treasurer@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	Mick Harris	delegate@vfwdc.com
General Committee	Max Germasi	
General Committee	Tony Feltham	
SUPPORT POSITIONS TO COMMITTEE		
Web manager	Ben Whitworth	web@vfwdc.com
Training officers	Phillip Griffith	training@vfwdc.com
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				
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	
17th	Saturday	Aberfeldy Track– Bridge building	David	0417747860
21st	Wednesday	Committee Meeting	President	
30th to 3rd Nov	Long Weekend	Beechport / Robe	David	0417 747 860
30th-3rd	Long weekend	High Country– Wonnangatta	Sally	0435782207
Novemeber				
7th	Saturday	Weighbridge	David	0417747860
11th	Wednesday	Special Meeting - Dandenong ARB	President	
18th	Wednesday	Committee Meeting	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

Minutes of General Meeting July 2015

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 tracs 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

Little O'tools– Aberfeldy.

Wilough by spur track to walking track, to the water wheel and the steam engine. Then Down Tomb star track. Next day went to the white mine up McGuire track across the Aberfeldy river.

Dargo High Country Sally

Dargo Talbotville Bluerag Billy goat bluff- Licola

Minutes of General Meeting July 2015

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

Minutes of General Meeting August 2015

The meeting was held at Noble Park Football Club on the 5th August 2015 and was opened at 8.00pm by Club President David Bruinsma.

Apologies: Ashley Martin
 Kevin Frederickson
 Brett Buchanan
 Sam Ayoubee
 John Partridge
 Joe Spicuza,
 Steve Zonneveldt

Present: Members present as per the Attendance book

Visitors: Visitors as listed in the Visitors Book

Welcome New Members:
 Phil Dixon & Elaine Griffiths

Minutes of July General Meeting

Changes required, suggestions by Sally Higgs - reduce the information recorded in the minutes for the trip reports given on the night - that information should be contained in the official trip reports (*suggest that only incidents are officially recorded in the minutes - ie damage or injuries*)

Request 1st Sally Higgs and 2nd Mick Harris
 To accepting changes to minutes.

Request 1st Sally Higgs and 2nd Mick Harris
 To have the revised minutes issued in the SEPTEMBER magazine.

Correspondence in

Weighbridge Pass Card to access afterhours
 Email from Rudi about materials for bridge at Aberfeldy Walking Track
 Tax Invoice for Affiliation fees and Membership Fees
 Certificates Driver training FWDV
 Tony Feltham Membership renewal
 Bank Statement
 Okka Pies Fundraiser
 Letter from Australia post PO Box Status
 Network News
 Jeep Cross Country
 Overland News
 New member enquiry.

Correspondence out

Application form for Weighbridge Account at Hallam
 Email to Association with photos taken at Mt SKene
 Treasurer to FWDV regarding Fees.

Minutes of General Meeting August 2015

Treasurer's report July 2015:

<u>Cheque A/C</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/07/2015	\$4,382.85
	Add:	
	Raffle Proceeds (July 2015 Meeting)	\$110.00
	Membership Renewals 2015 - 2016	\$870.00
	Total Monies In:	\$980.00
	Less:	
	Association Fees - FWDV	-\$1,340.00
	Deposit - Merchandise Order	-\$1,000.00
	Catering Costs - X-Mas in July	-\$436.64
	Driver Training Course Certificates	-\$90.00
	Security Access Card - Weighbridge	-\$25.00
	Transfer out to Petty Cash Account	-\$33.20
	Total Monies Out:	-\$2,924.84
	Plus: Unpresented Cheque #466	\$25.00
	Closing Balance as at 31/07/2015	\$2,463.01
<u>Term Deposit</u>	(No Change)	\$6,091.60
<u>Petty Cash</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/07/2015	\$150.00
	Add: Transfer in from Cheque A/C	\$33.20
	Less: Catering Costs - Meetings	-\$33.20
	Closing Balance as at 31/07/2015	\$150.00
		\$8,704.61

Consolidated Closing Cash Position

1st Scott Lehmann
2nd Andrew Mc Gregor

General Business:

Issue of Driver Training Certificates - by Phil Griffith
to: Scott Lehmann, Amanda Lehmann, John Targett, Maree Bowker, Timothy Bowker, David Bruinsma, Anthony Barbera, Ben Westhorpe, David Alnwick.

Trip Incident: Mark And Steve had minor mishap that caused damage to vehicles. A report will need to be raised.

Weighbridge: It is the committee's pleasure to be able to advise that we finally have a sustainable way of assisting club members with having club vehicles weighed. This can be done on an individual basis, but will be preferred if a group of people can be organised to make the trip to Hallam worthwhile. The weighbridge can be accessed at any time after hours, and the process is that once a vehicle is stationed on the weighbridge - the access card is swipped over the sensor and a reading is recorded. Each time this happens, a certificate is printed out (without rego details) and our account

Minutes of General Meeting August 2015

is hit with a charge. The committee will need to pay the bill when it comes out monthly. No use equals no charge for the month. There is only a once off set up charge (\$25), and no ongoing charges except for actual usage. Account is with Fiorelli packing Co on Hallam Rd, between the Hallam pub and the train station. The committee will charge \$20 to the club member each time the card is used to weigh a vehicle or trailer, or Vehicle/Trailer combination.

Aberfeldy: I received an email from Rudi, that the materials are available to make a bridge at Aberfeldy Crossing - and to please advise the next time we plan to do a working bee up there, and he will try to tag along with the materials and we can work together as a team to install a footbridge on the Aberfeldy walking track. I replied to Rudi thanking him and we will advise ASAP with a date.

Mt Skene: I received a call from Sam about his trip to Mt. Skene, and was then forwarded photos of vehicles that were up there - with the drivers saying they didn't have any pass's. I forwarded the photos to the Association, and as yet have not received any word back about compliance or non compliance of those reported vehicles.

Next General Meeting in September will be a General meeting (ie no guest speaker) but I will be trying to organise someone for October, then November will be at ARB Dandenong, wrapping up with a normal General meeting in December. As the warmer months approach I'm sure there will be more trips being scheduled, but I think everyone is shivering in their boots atm.

Trip Reports:

St Annes Winery trip - 32 people for dinner on Saturday night, with 25 people staying overnight. The rain stopped at about mid-day and we had a perfect afternoon together on the Saturday with frequent trips down for tastings at the cellar door in between the bus's that came and went. The winery donated a bottle of White Port which we shared around to accompany the desert. A very special thank you to Marie Bowker for organising all of the wonderful food, and a very special thank you to Emily for taking control at the BBQ for the dinner and again the next morning for breakfast.

As the trip organiser, it came as a huge relief and encouragement to see the way the members of this club come together to volunteer their help so selflessly, and it showed again when on Sunday morning all the 'stuff' I had to bring with as trip leader was packed away so quickly and effortlessly I was simply stunned. Once again, a huge thank you to all who participated on the weekend, it was a joy to be able to spend time with you all at St Annes.

The winery donated two more bottles to the club, which will be auctioned off one at a time - the first bottle is on the table tonight - September meeting will be the second bottle.

TWO MT SKENE SNOW TRIPS

Up Coming Trips:

August 15th to October 2nd - Cape York
 September 19th to October 2nd - Fraser Island
 Oct - Working Bee at Aberfeldy (date to be confirmed)
 Oct 30th/Nov 3rd - Melbourne Cup - Beachport / Robe

Raffle

1st: Ian Rhodes (12 volt mini Fridge)
 2nd: Lisa Barbera (Rebellion Port)
 3rd: Adam Howell (12 Eggs)

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
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 destination	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

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Aberfeldy Track, Bridge building working bee
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: David MOB: 0417 747 860
DATE	Saturday 17 th October 2015
MEETING PLACE / TIME	7am at BP on the Pakenham Bypass Should get us up to Aberfeldy by 9:30am
GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	We will be meeting Rudi up in Aberfeldy then proceeding to Aberfeldy track. I expect Rudi will have all necessary materials that we will need. Tools required: Shovels, Picks, Hammers, Chain Saws, Brush Cutters, PPE (like gloves, etc plus chain saw PPE) IF time permits, we shall look at some other areas in our district and do further maintenance and tracks clearing (and sign cleaning). BYO lunch and fluid replenishment for the day. It is very likely that I will be staying overnight down at O'Tools on the Saturday night, coming home after a late breakfast on the Sunday.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS	Approx. 200km from Melbourne CBD
Meeting place to destination	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Moe
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	As listed above
MAPS REQUIRED	
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: David MOB: 0417 747 860
DATE	Melbourne Cup Weekend 2015 Friday 30 th October to Tuesday 3 rd November
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA – Depends on who is coming, and respective departure times I intend to leave Berwick no later than 6am on Friday morning to avoid the worst of the peak traffic
GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
	Please adhere to new trip classifications
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	I plan to leave very early on the Friday morning, setting up camp early afternoon. Planning to camp at the caravan park at Beachport, and then spend family time on the beach (sunning, fishing, swimming) with opportunities for group drives up the beach or for individual family activities whenever and however you want. Planning to pack up on the Tuesday morning and head back to Melbourne. Other members of the club have indicated that they intend to stay the whole week.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 1 MAXIMUM: 10 (flexible)
APPROX KMS	Approx. 550km to Beachport from Melbourne CBD
Meeting place to destination	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Every major town DIESEL: Every major town
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Every major town
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	All Recover gear – Max TraX if you have them Self sufficient for all camping gear etc etc
MAPS REQUIRED	Normal GPS to get to Beachport Beach track maps are available from Beachport
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	High Country - Wonnangatta
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Sally Higgs MOB: 0435 782 207
DATE	30 October – Tuesday 3 rd November
MEETING PLACE / TIME	630pm BP Pakenham Bypass Friday 30 th October. We are also happy to arrange a meeting point on the Saturday as well if that suits better
GRADE	WET: Medium/ Hard DRY: Medium
	Please adhere to new trip classifications
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	We are heading for the high country for Melbourne Cup weekend. Friday we will head off and find a camp site near Licola and on Saturday will be making our way through to the Wonnangatta Valley. We may get there that day or we may not. I have not planned much further than that at this stage. I will be planning over the
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KM	800km
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Licola DIESEL: Licola
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	100km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery Gear, Camping equipment, Food, water and equipment to be self-sufficient for 4 days. Please bring some firewood
MAPS REQUIRED	Roof Top Dargo – Wonnangatta Adventure Map
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	Channel 12 UHF

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Weighbridge afternoon – Hallam
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: David MOB: 0417 747 860
DATE	Saturday 7 th November 2015
MEETING PLACE / TIME	43-47 Hallam S Rd, Hallam
GRADE	WET: Easy DRY: Very Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Please adhere to new trip classifications</p> <p>Planning to have a casual afternoon from 2pm through to 4:30pm Bring your vehicle, and/or trailer(s), loaded or unloaded. Each time you pass over the weighbridge there will be a fee associated with each reading you need/want of your vehicle, vehicle/trailer weights. BRING CASH, as the club will be charged for each reading!</p> <p>(\$20 per weighbridge reading)</p> <p>If we have too many people, I will try to run another event within 6 to 8 weeks of this first event.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 5 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS	Approx. 40km from Melbourne CBD
Meeting place to destination	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Every major suburb DIESEL: Every major suburb
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Every major suburb
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Pen and paper would be a great idea
MAPS REQUIRED	Normal GPS
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12 (yup, I'll have a handheld to chat to you as you get close enough to call up ...)



Trip Report

Mt. Skene Snow Camp - July 2015 By Adam Howell

An early start to the morning, Sam and I left Keysborough at 5:15am to meet up with Dean (and Adam), Simon and Charlie (and Coco) at Mc. Donalds Officer. Dean had a bit of an issue with his Patrol not wanting to start with the key so with a bit of fiddling around and a hot wire later we were on the move. We all left about 7am to head for Heyfield to meet up with Jay. After topping up the tanks and a quick chat we left Heyfield about 8:30am and headed north for Licola. We passed through Licola and begun our ascent on the Licola - Jamieson Road. After close to an hour or so of winding, muddy and snowy driving we came across another 4 wheel driver who informed us that Crows Hut was taken so we did a U turn and head back to a different hut only 10 minutes drive back towards Licola.

We set up our sleeping gear, collected some firewood and arced up the fire inside the hut before heading off for the Mt. Skene Summit. Simon left his Hilux and rode with Sam who Blazed the fresh trail through the snow from Lazarinis Track to the summit where we stopped for some photos. The snow was between half to nearly a meter deep in some places. It was still early afternoon so we decided to head up the lookout track which turned very compacted and icy and had me winching up at one point.

On the way back up to the summit, Charlie managed to jump out of the ruts and got stuck in some fairly deep snow but after a little winching and snatching got moving again and headed back to the Hut for the night. After big day of driving and dinner, everyone was pretty tired and turned in for an early night.

Next morning we woke to about 50mm of fresh snow which made for some nice photos and frozen water bottles. Charlie didn't sleep too well and was not feeling the best in the morning so he decided to pack up and head for home while Sam, Dean Jay and I headed towards the Summit again to meet up with the other group coming up from Jamieson. We all met up with the second group about 11:00am along with other groups of 4 wheel drivers that apparently were not aware of the permit system or just chose to ignore it. The weather turned out to be sunny and clear in the afternoon and the Jamieson group drove down to Crows Hut via Barkly River Jeep Track while Sam and Dean went off to tackle the lookout track again. Jay and myself chose to stay at the top and listen to the two seperate groups on the UHF. After a couple of hours and a few winches and snaches later, the two groups met at the top again. After a bite for lunch and a snowball fight later we went our seperate ways and we headed back to the hut via some side tracks which were a lot of fun. Collected a good supply of firewood on the way back, had some dinner and got the fire roaring and had a nice evening with drinks and good company.

Last morning had no snow overnight but everything still froze over. We had some breakfast and tidied up the hut before heading for home. Once back on the main Licola - Jamieson Road, Dean turned right to head back to the summit with Simon in the Hilux while Sam, Jay and I turned left for Licola and home. About 20kms out of Heyfield we come across a Red Toyota 4Runner stranded with two flat tires. He had been out hiking for two nights, when he got back to his car to find the two rear tires slashed. Using three tire plugs in one of the tires and using the spare, we got him back on the road and mobile to get him back at least to Heyfield and possibly back to his home in Moe.

All in all was a fun trip to the snow yet again and from our group, no incidents or problems to report which always make for a great weekend away.

Thanks to Sam for organising the trip, Jay for his local knowledge of the area and everyone else for a pleasant weekend.

Cheers, Adam.