

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers  
Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive  
Club Inc.

# Free Wheeling



**VFWDC**

**February 2016**

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 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month at 8.00pm (**No meeting in January and November meeting at selected location**). Members and Guests are welcome to dine at the Bistro before attending the meeting.

First **WEDNESDAY** of each month 8.00pm Start

### **Venue:**

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

Noble Park Football Club

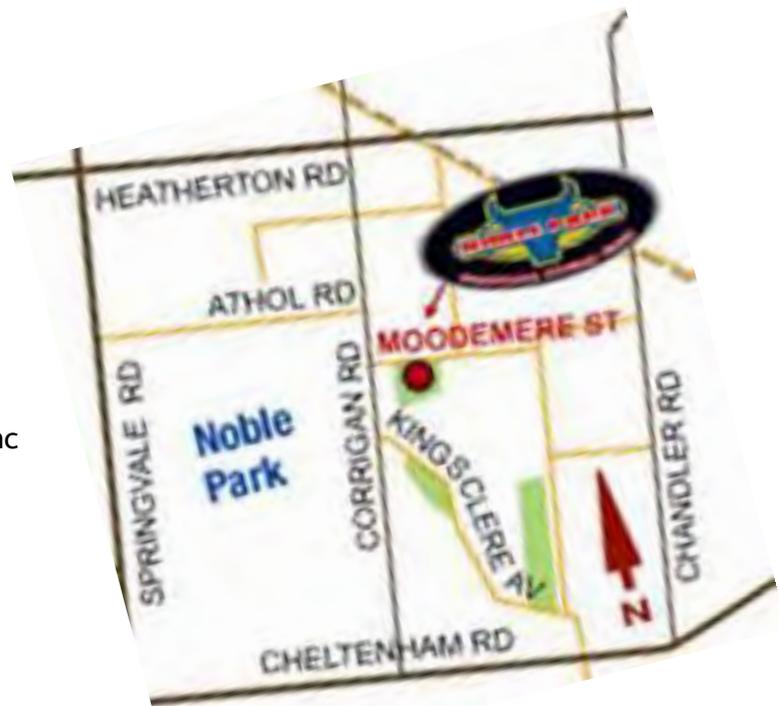
46-56 Moodemere Street

Noble Park

Melways ref: 89 D4

Aberfeldy Track managed by West Gippsland Inc

[www.westgippslandinc.com.au](http://www.westgippslandinc.com.au)



## **FREE WHEELING**

Hello and welcome to the February magazine, hope everyone had a safe and wonderful break. Looking forward to 2016 and the trips and adventures our club has to offer.

Thanks, Mandie

[editor@vfwdc.com](mailto:editor@vfwdc.com)

<b>COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT</b>		
<b>2015-2016</b>		
President	David Bruinsma	<a href="mailto:president@vfwdc.com">president@vfwdc.com</a>
Vice President	Sally Higgs	<a href="mailto:vicepres@vfwdc.com">vicepres@vfwdc.com</a>
Secretary	Bruce Cremonesi	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
Treasurer	Tony Barbera	<a href="mailto:treasurer@vfwdc.com">treasurer@vfwdc.com</a>
<b>GENERAL COMMITTEE</b>		
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Newsletter Editor	Mandie Lehmann	<a href="mailto:editor@vfwdc.com">editor@vfwdc.com</a>
Associations Delegate	Mick Harris	<a href="mailto:delegate@vfwdc.com">delegate@vfwdc.com</a>
General Committee	Max Germasi	
General Committee	Tony Feltham	
<b>SUPPORT POSITIONS TO COMMITTEE</b>		
Web manager	Ben Whitworth	<a href="mailto:web@vfwdc.com">web@vfwdc.com</a>
Training officers	Phillip Griffith	<a href="mailto:training@vfwdc.com">training@vfwdc.com</a>
Merchandise	Carolyn Bruinsma	<a href="mailto:merchandise@vfwdc.com">merchandise@vfwdc.com</a>
<b>Club Details</b>		
Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club	
Registration No	A002184F	
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong VIC 3174	
Email	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>	
Website	<a href="http://www.vfwdc.com">www.vfwdc.com</a>	
The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of Four Wheel Drive Victoria - <a href="http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au">www.fwdvictoria.org.au</a>		

<b>CLUB MERCHANDISE FOR SALE</b>			
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 <a href="mailto:merchandise@vfwdc.com">merchandise@vfwdc.com</a> . Please ensure you advise size required.			



## News From The President

Welcome all to a new year!

I'm looking forward to sharing yet another exciting year of exploring our vast country as we all look and plan forward for trips, both day and long weekends, that we'd love to be part of. There's nothing better than getting out in the bush in your cars with your mates exploring tracks (and getting stuck occasionally too!); having dinner cooked over a fire, having a drink or too and then falling asleep under the stars. What an awesome country we live in to be able to do all this!!

For some of you, the Christmas break has been a time to get your rigs updated and ready for the tracks. We look forward to seeing the improvements you've all made!

We as a committee have much planned and planning that is happening; so keep an eye out on the calendar and the email for updates on things.

The summer is looking at being a hot and dry one again, so let's be extra vigilant about taking care of our bush. This also means making sure that you're taking care also of your car and your persons in your car. We are all aware of how quickly things can turn badly ... Make sure you're super organised over the few months while we continue through the hot season.

We had a few trips happen over the Christmas period, some of the reports may make it into this magazine, the others you will need to come to January's meeting to hear about all the fun stuff.

Like always, if you are reading this on line magazine and are looking for a family friendly club to go exploring with your 4wd, please come along to one of our general meetings and come up to the front and introduce yourself to any of the committee members so we can welcome you to the meeting. We do encourage people to 'check us out' and to even come along on a trip to see if our club would be a good 'fit' for you.

David Bruinsma  
Club President.



# CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2016 February				
3rd	Wednesday	General meeting	President	
12th-14th	Friday	Wombat State Forest	Stuart	0428539157
15th	Monday	Deadline for editor	Editor	
16th	Tuesday	Committee Meeting	President	
20th-21st	Saturday- Sunday	Wandin show	Committee	
March				
2nd	Wednesday	General meeting	President	
Tba		Driving training - Theory	Ashley/Phil	0428134399/ 0419865472
5th-6th	Saturday-Sunday	Driving training - Theory	Ashley/Phil	0428134399/ 0419865472
12th-14th	Saturday	Huts trip- Mansfield	Bruce	
15th	Tuesday	Deadline for editor	Editor	
16th	Tuesday	Committee Meeting	President	
April				
6th	Wednesday	General meeting	President	
15th	Friday	Deadline for editor	Editor	
19th	Tuesday	Committee Meeting	President	
May				
4th	Wednesday	General meeting	President	
18th	Tuesday	Committee Meeting	President	



# Treasurer's Report

## December 2015

<u>Cheque A/C`</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/12/2015		\$3,476.56
	Add:		
	Raffle	\$98.00	
	Membership	\$110.00	
	Total Monies In:		\$208.00
	Less:		
	Prize for raffle	-\$25.00	
	Printing and Stationary	-\$28.00	
	Refund Membership overpayment	-\$400.00	
	Total Monies Out:		-\$453.00
	Closing Balance as at 31/12/2015		\$3,607.26
	Plus:Un presented Cheque #469/473		-\$420.07
31/12/2015	Actual Balance When Cheque's Presented		\$3,187.19
<u>Term Deposit</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/11/2015	\$6,131.52	
	Interest Paid	\$39.75	
	Closing Balance as at 30/11/2015		\$6,171.27
<u>Petty Cash</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/11/2015	\$150.00	
	Add: Transfer in from Cheque A/C	\$24.30	
	Less: Catering Costs - Meetings	-\$24.30	
	Closing Balance as at 31/12/2015		<u>\$150.00</u>
	<b>Consolidated Closing Cash Position</b>		<b><u>\$9,358.46</u></b>

# Stay Safe This Bush Fire Season

## Before You Leave On A Trip

- Check the Fire Ban District and the Fire Danger Rating for the area in which you will be travelling.
- Be prepared to change your itinerary on hot, dry and windy days to avoid areas where bushfires may occur.
- Check for any fire restrictions that may be in force including Total Fire Bans.
- Consider taking picnic food and drinks that do not require cooking or heating.
- Make sure you and your vehicle are prepared for an emergency.
- Inform a friend or family member where you are going and keep them informed if your plans change significantly.

## While You're Away

- Always avoid travelling in areas where bushfires are burning.
- Stay alert. Do not expect an official warning.
- Stay aware of daily Fire Danger Ratings and enjoy bushfire safe activities on dangerous days.
- Be aware that some parks are closed on days of high fire danger-you may be instructed to leave your campsite.
- If you see or smell smoke, try to find out if there is a bushfire nearby that could threaten you: Tune into one of the emergency broadcasters.

## Staying Bushfire Safe On Holiday

*Travelling in the country during the bushfire season can put you at risk. Recognise the warning signs, and learn what to do to keep yourself safe.*

## Fire Ban Districts

Fire restrictions apply throughout South Australia's fire ban districts-including metropolitan Adelaide-during the fire danger season. It is important to know which fire ban district you are visiting in order to know whether a fire ban is current and whether restrictions apply.

Do you know which Fire Ban District you're in?

## Total Fire Bans

The CFS may declare Total Fire Bans in some districts or even across the whole state on days when severe weather-such as high temperatures, strong northerly winds and low humidity-could cause fires to become uncontrollable. Certain activities like barbeques and camp fires are banned on these days.

Do you know what you can and can't do today?

## Fire Danger Ratings

Every day during the Fire Danger Season, weather and other factors are used to calculate Fire Danger Ratings. These ratings are not predictors of how *likely* a bushfire is to occur, but how *dangerous* it could be if it *did* occur.

## Fires Can Threaten Suddenly and Without Warning

Watch for signs of fire, especially smoke and flames

**Know** the Fire Danger Rating in your area and be aware of local conditions

**Have** your Bushfire Survival Plan and kit ready

## If you see a bush fire call 000

Danger rating	What does it mean?	What should I do?
<p><b>Catastrophic</b> <b>Total Fire Ban</b></p>	<p>These are the worst conditions for a bush or grass fire</p> <p>If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be extremely difficult to control and will take significant firefighting resources and cooler conditions to bring it under control</p> <p>Spot fires will start well ahead of the main fire and cause rapid spread of the fire. Embers will come from many directions</p> <p>Homes are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in these conditions</p> <p>The safest place to be is away from bushfire prone areas.</p>	<p>You Need To Act Now</p> <p>Put your survival first and leave bushfire prone areas the night before or early in the day-this is your safest option</p> <p>Act immediately-do not wait and see</p> <p>Avoid forested areas, thick bush or long, dry grass</p> <p>Prepare, know and practise a plan for:</p> <p>when you will leave</p> <p>where you will go</p> <p>how you will get there</p> <p>when you will return</p> <p>what you will do if you cannot leave</p>
<p><b>Extreme</b> <b>Total Fire Ban</b></p>	<p>These are very hot, dry and windy conditions for a bush or grass fire.</p> <p>If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be unpredictable, move very fast and very difficult for fire fighters to bring under control.</p> <p>Spot fires will start and move quickly. Embers may come from many directions.</p> <p>Homes that are prepared to the highest level, have been constructed to bushfire protection levels and are actively defended may provide safety.</p> <p>You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.</p> <p>The safest place to be is away from bushfire prone areas.</p>	<p>You Need To Get Ready To Act .</p> <p>Only stay with your property if you are prepared to the highest level. This means your home needs to have been constructed to bushfire protection levels e.g.; enclosed eaves, covers over external air conditioners, metal flyscreens etc.</p> <p>You must be well prepared and able to actively defend your home if a fire starts. This means you have the right equipment and resources to put out fires around your home e.g.; enough water supply, petrol/diesel portable pump, generator, protective clothing etc.</p> <p>If you are not prepared to the highest level, leaving bushfire prone areas early in the day is your safest option.</p>
<p><b>Severe</b> <b>Total Fire Ban</b></p>	<p>These are hot, dry and possibly windy conditions for a bush or grass fire.</p> <p>If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be hard for fire fighters to bring under control.</p> <p>Well prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety.</p> <p>You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.</p>	<p>You Need To Be Aware</p> <p>Well prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety. This means you have the right equipment and resources to put out fires around your home e.g.; enough water supply, petrol/diesel portable pump, generator, protective clothing etc.</p> <p>If you are not prepared, leaving bushfire prone areas early in the day is your safest option.</p>
<p><b>Very high</b></p>	<p>If a fire starts, it is likely to be controlled in these conditions and homes can provide safety.</p>	<p>Check your Bushfire Survival Plan.</p>
<p><b>High</b></p>	<p>Be aware of how fires can start and reduce the risk. .</p>	<p>Monitor conditions.</p> <p>Action may be needed.</p>
<p><b>Low- moderate</b></p>		<p>Leave if necessary.</p>

**FACT:** About 10 percent of bushfires in Victoria's parks are started by campfires. Make sure you always extinguish your campfire completely before leaving it. It isn't safe unless it's cool to touch. More importantly, never light a fire on a day of total fire ban, or when the weather is hot, dry and windy. It's a good idea to check what you can and can't do on days declared a Total Fire Ban.

Please find more information at these websites:

[http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/iteresources/brochures\\_in\\_large\\_print\\_format/fire\\_safety\\_on\\_holiday\\_during\\_the\\_bushfire\\_season.jsp](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/iteresources/brochures_in_large_print_format/fire_safety_on_holiday_during_the_bushfire_season.jsp)

<http://www.bushwalkingblog.com.au/being-fire-ready/>

<http://www.visitvictoria.com/Information/Health-and-safety/Bushfire-safety>



## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Dargo, Wonnangatta Valley</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Stuart MOB: 0428539157
DATE	23 <sup>rd</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> January Australia Day weekend
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Pakenham Bypass BP/McDonalds Eastbound 7:30 am for 8:00 am departure
GRADE	WET: Very Difficult DRY: Medium to Difficult
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Drive to Horse Yard Flat then down Billy Goat Bluff track, onto Dargo, up to Blue rag then down through Talbotville and up into the Wonnangatta Valley and out via Zeka Spur Track and home via Licola. This may change slightly due to the amount of other people about.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 1 MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS	400 k
Meeting place to destination	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Stratford or Briagolong DIESEL: Stratford or Briagolong
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	300 k
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery gear, <b>bring warm clothing as temperatures will be cold at night, camping at altitude.</b>
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftop Dargo Wonnangatta
RADIO CHANNEL      CB / UHF	UHF 12

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Wombat State Forest</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Stuart & Tony MOB: Stuart 0428539157
DATE	Friday 12/2/16 to Sunday 14/2/16
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Friday night or Saturday morning by 9:30 am at Firth Park in the Wombat State Forest come in via Gisborne or Wood End.
GRADE	WET: Medium to difficult depending on how wet DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	We have been here a couple of times and decided to have another weekend here this time in summer. The Pig & Whistle pub 15 mins up the road has a courtesy bus and said they would come and pick us up and return us after dinner, so Saturday night at the pub for those interested, if not you can stay at camp and cook there. There are plenty of tracks open at this time of the year <b>Roadside stops bring own munchies and</b>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS	100-200 klms round trip
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Gisborne DIESEL: Gisborne
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	150 klms
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Own basic recovery gear, tools and any spares you may require. AT or MT tyres
MAPS REQUIRED	Meridian map: Wombat State Forest
RADIO CHANNEL	12 UHF

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>New Members Trip - High Country</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	Name: Bruce Cremonesi Email: secretary@vfwdc.com Mob: 0400 42 52 96
DATE	11-12-13 March 2016. Friday night not compulsory but very social!
Meeting Places and Times	Lilydale Maccas 6pm - 6.15 departure.  Mansfield BP Servo 145 Mount Buller Rd – bout 7.30- 8pm  Or at Sheeppark Flat. 9.30am departure from campsite in the morning
GRADE	WET: Med  DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Driving around taking in around 10 huts, 2 waterfalls, 1 long tunnel, heaps of mountains, and sheet loads of scenery
VEHICLE LIMITS	MIN: 4  MAX: 8
APPROX KMS	~170klm from Lilydale to Howqua track Turnoff
Meeting place to destination	40klms max on dirt.
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	Petrol or Diesel: Mansfield
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	-- A 4wd.  -- Recovery gear (snatch strap, 2x shackles etc)  -- Compressor and Tyre Gauge.  -- UHF radio and handheld if you have one.  -- Good warm clothing and boots  -- Camping Gear (tent, sleeping bags, pillows, tent, bog roll etc).  -- Cooking stuff, Drinks and Food.  -- Cheese, Dip, Bikkies, Bottle of Wine for Happy Hour.  -- Cameras, there is tons to photograph up there for those that haven't been before.  -- Sense of Adventure and Humour.  There are dunnys at some of the huts along the way, and at Sheeppark, and at Binderee Hut.  Camper Trailers Welcome.
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftop Maps "Bush Huts Around Mansfield"  (usually available at BP Mansfield where we will stop)
UHF Channel	UHF28

### March High Country trip

Hey team. Bit of information on my March High Country trip. This is about the 12th time running it. This trip suits all members, but is aimed towards newer members to learn and try out their gear and meet some other members on a relaxing trip. The trip is Camper Trailer Friendly – I've run this trip as a 'Learning offroading with your Camper Trailer Trip' for members to see what their trailer can handle. But everyone will have a great time.. Bring your camera along for some great shots. Basics of the trip are no real hard 4wding unless it gets wet! This is a very good trip to use your gear for the first time, try out some new gear, and meet other members. There is LOTS to see if the weather is kind, from mountain tops, huts and scenery. Meet up at Lilydale McDonalds 6pm or you can make your way up yourself Friday night or Saturday morning for a 10am departure from the campsite. Last fuel is at the Mansfield BP and while there if you want to follow the trip yourself, you can pick up the Rooftop Maps Bush Huts Around Mansfield \$10.00 - this whole trip is on the 1 map! We will head out from Mansfield towards Merrijig, past the pub to Howqua Track, and turn in there to the dirt. I recommend airing down there as the track can get corrugated and annoying, but low pressures will make it much more relaxing. First nights camping will be at Frys Flat for the night.

The plan then for Saturday is:

- Tunnel Bend – a tunnel under the road you can walk/crawl through
- Upper Jamieson Hut – nice drive into the valley, across a shallow river. + Dunnys
- Refrigerator Gap – Magic views
- Lovicks Hut – Magnificent snow gums along this section and a great hut. + Dunnys
- Bluff Hut – One of the better huts up there, + Dunnys and great views on this section.
- Pikes Flat – A nice river you can wash your car in.
- Bindaree Hut for the night -- Refreshing freezing river next to it. + Dunnys
- Bindaree Falls – Walk up the hill for those willing, and you can walk in behind the falls and look back down the valley. Really beautiful.
- Monument Track
- Craig's Hut + Dunnys

From here we shall see what people want to do, there are numerous options!!

- Go and see Lake Cobbler for a swim if weather is hot, stay the night then double back.
- Head over Mt Stirling and see the views if it's clear, head from there around to Kings
- See more huts , Kings Hut + Dunnys, Razorback Hut + Dunnys, Refuge Mt. No. 3 Hut, Tomahawk Gap and Hut

And we could do some wineries on the way home after that.

For more information see Bruce at the meeting.

Hope to see you there.

PS. Last one to arrive at Frys Hut does the trip report.

# We Want Your Old Trip Notes

We are looking for old trip notes from leaders who have lead a trip in the past. This is to give other members some ideas of trips they could run. Please email our trip coordinator

[trips@vfwdc.com](mailto:trips@vfwdc.com)

**YOUR PHOTOS  
WANTED!**



If you have any great trip photos please email them to Ben [web@vfwdc.com](mailto: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.



## Trip Reports

Trip Report December 12<sup>th</sup> 2015

Participants: Pajero

Stuart, Maree, Kimberley and Tim

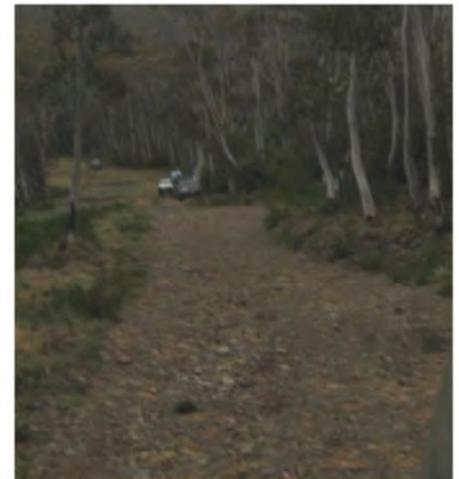


Toyota 76	Ken & Jesse
Hilux	Shane and Melanie
Team Tiny	Tony & Lisa
Navara	Scott & Mandie
Toyota 100	Steve, Nicole, Hayley & Mia

Meeting place Hungry Jacks at Longwarry. Everyone anticipating a great day. It's been raining the night before, so a little bit of mud for Scottie to play in. We headed off to the Matlock communication tower. This trip provided practice for Kimberley, Tim and Jesse as younger drivers. A short pinch up showed how important wheel placement is going over the ruts and whoop die doos. Everyone easily managed.

The panorama from the top of the tower puts the terrain into perspective. We discussed when here in winter there was icicles hanging off the structure. The wind felt like it came off the snow fields.

We took the scenic route up Charles Road to Scott reserve for lunch. From there we headed to Johnston Hill track where Lisa noted "River crossing that is not on bridges." Everyone got their wheels wet. Scott found the muddy puddle to play in. Then up Victor spur track and on to Red Jacket track to Violet town track which completed our circle and we headed to the dam wall to air up.





Ken and Jessie it just puts the magnificent trees into perspective. Look at their size compared to us. Here is Shane and Melanie just heading into a river crossing. Ken and Jessie crossing the river. An exceptional day spent with friends.

To complete the experience we stopped at the 1914 cafe in Erica to share dinner. Worthy of a visit if you have the luck to be in the area. Team Tiny in the river

