



FREE WHEELING

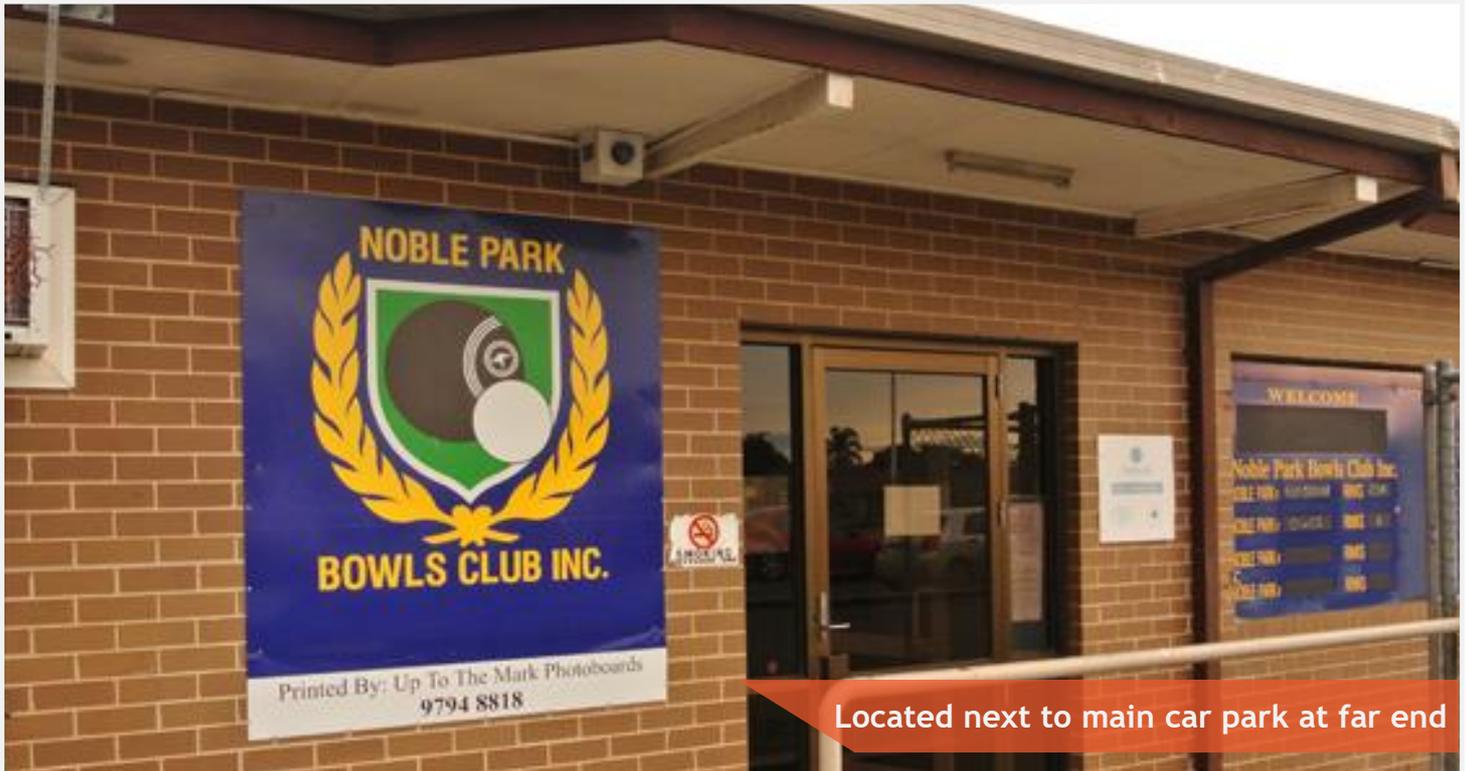
December 2017



Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Four Wheel
Drive Club Inc

Registration No
A0002184F

Original photo by David
Bruinsma on November,
Beachport/Robe.



Located next to main car park at far end

VFWDC General Meeting Venue

The club meets on the first WEDNESDAY of each month at 8:00pm. With the following exceptions; No meeting in January. November meeting is at a selected location, watch the calendar.

Bowling Club Rooms

Noble Park Noble Football Club
46-56 Moodemere Street
Noble Park



Members and guests are welcome to dine at the bistro before attending the meeting from 6:30pm.

Aberfeldy Track

In association with [Westland Gippsland Relic, Mining and Heritage Protection Inc](#) , the club maintains a section of the Aberfeldy Track with working bees throughout the year. View the club calendar for the next upcoming working bee.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

2017-2018

President	Ben Whitworth	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	Steve Pitcher	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Bruce Cremonesi	secretary@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Tony Barbera	treasurer@vfwdc.com

General Committee

Trip Co-Ordinator	Stuart Bowker	trips@vfwdc.com
Magazine Editor	Ly Ho	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	David Bruinsma	delegate@vfwdc.com
General Committee	Ashley Martin	
General Committee	Callum Brown	

Support Positions to Committee

Web manager	Ben Whitworth	web@vfwdc.com
Training officer	Phillip Griffith	
Training officer	Ashley Martin	
Merchandise	Des Whall	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](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au) - www.fwdvictoria.org.au

CLUB MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Club Polo Shirts	\$28.00	Club Hoodie	\$54.00
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$48.00	Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$54.00
Club Caps	\$15.00	Club Bucket Hat	\$16.00
Club Wide Brim Hat	\$18.00	Club Beanie	\$12.00
Club Drivers Jacket (Coat)	\$80.00	VFWDC Windscreen stickers	
		Small	\$6.00
		Large	\$8.00

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo shirt.
Email your order to merchandise@vfwdc.com. Please ensure you advise size required.



Hi all,

Welcome to the VFWDC Free Wheeling magazine.

The November meeting this year was early and held at the Dandenong Aussie Disposal. It was a great night and the team at Dandenong Aussie Disposals were tremendous hosts. Klaus presented a range of new and interesting products to our members, many of those products wound up in our club raffle on the night.

Thank you very much to Klaus, Jake and Sabrina for hosting our November club meeting, putting on a great feed and offering our members a nice discount in store. I know that many members, including me, took the opportunity to stock up on camping supplies and maybe some early Christmas presents.

The month of November also saw the club Christmas Party take place. Our well laid plans for this year's Christmas Party went up in smoke when a large uncontrolled bush fire took off in Bunyip State forest near where the event was to be held. The committee made the decision to play it safe and relocate the party to somewhere away from the affected area, after many suggestions for a suitable new location it was decided that we would go to Toorong Falls Campground in Noojee.

Well that wasn't to be either, Ian and Audrey and I headed into the camp ground on Friday evening before sundown and found it absolutely packed. There wasn't a large enough space available to accommodate the 3 camps we expected on Friday night let alone the 30+ people we were expecting on Saturday for the Christmas Party itself.

Ian put in a call to a friend nearby who had a farm and we hightailed it outta there and headed to this farm for the night. While we sat around out of the rain chatting it was decided that we would play it safe once more and head to Ian and Audrey's property for the Christmas Party on Saturday night.

Despite all the drama in the lead up the Christmas Party was a great success and everyone who attended had a good time, I think. Even our youngest member made an appearance. Little Lucas brought his parents along, Mandie and Scott. A good feed was put on and contributed to by everyone who attended.

A few thank you's are required;

- Thank you to Ian and Audrey for hosting the event at their home. You saved the day.
- Thank you to Ly and Darna for slaving over a hot spit and producing a great feed.
- Thank you to the committee members who helped out with the planning and on the day.
- Thank you to all the members who attended and brought along a dish to share.

This is the last magazine for the year and on behalf of the committee I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. For those who are going away during this time please take care and watch out for fire warnings.

See you in 2018! The first meeting for the year is on the 7th of February 2018.

I hope to see all our members at the out on the tracks.

Ben Whitworth
President



CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

December 2017

6th	Wed	General Meeting		
9th	Sat	Marysville and Surrounds	Stuart	0428 539 157

January 2018

16th	Tue	No General Meeting Committee Meeting		
7th to 21st		Fraser Island and Moreton Island	Callum	0439 972 204
26th to 28th		Australia Day Long Weekend	Brett & Nicky	

February 2018

7th	Wed	General Meeting		
20th	Tue	Committee Meeting		

March 2018

7th	Wed	General Meeting		
20th	Tue	Committee Meeting		

IMPORTANT

- If you wish to join us for dinner before the General Meeting, please book a spot at [Club Noble](#). Phone 9546 0653 and ask to join “Sally’s table” from the club. You must book **BEFORE** the Monday on the week of the meeting to avoid disappointment!
- Have a safe and fun Christmas everyone!

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

November 2017

This year's November meeting was held at Aussie Disposals Dandenong on Wednesday 1st.

Our host Klaus Kruthoff cooked up a storm—butter chicken, satay chicken, fried rice and salad. All cooked in camp ovens that the store was selling and he even shared the recipe.

While we dined and drank, Ben and Stuart quickly ran through general business and upcoming trips before handing over to Klaus.

Klaus gave a great presentation of the history of Aussie Disposals and showed off some of the great products for sale. He gave a special 20% off discount store wide for our members to shop.

We then hit the store floor and started shopping—some of us left with a couple bags of goodies including myself!

At the end of the night we drew the raffle with the prizes were kindly donated by Klaus.



Members can advertise any four wheel drive or camping related items they wish to sell or buy.

Just email the editor, editor@vfwdc.com, with the following:

1. Description of the item
2. Price
3. Contact details
4. Photos (highly recommended)

FOR SALE: Extra Large Single Swag, Single Swag

\$60, \$30

Burke & Wills Simpson X Large Swag
Second owner of this swag. It's a bit rough looking but it's big and cosy.
Comes with egg-shell mattress [More info link here](#)

\$60

Burke & Wills Single Swag—Envelope Style
Had an eventful life, still good. These swags design has no poles—roll out and sleep. [More info link here](#)

\$30

Ly

0433 387 811

Ly.tri.ho@gmail.com





FOR SALE: Esky

See below

[Sally](#)

Esky \$100. Measurements 720x425x515cm.

0412 464 129



Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com



Treasurer's Report September 2017

<u>Cheque A/C`</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/09/2017		\$3,992.70
Add:	Membership Renewals	\$290.00	
	Raffle Ticket Sales	\$88.00	
	New Memberships	\$240.00	
	Total Monies In:		\$618.00
<u>Less:</u>			
	FWDV Membership Fees	\$195.00	
	Venue Hire Club Noble	\$1,000.00	
	Petty Cash (Catering)	20.00	
	Total Monies Out:	\$1,215.00	
	Closing Balance as at 30/09/2017		\$3,395.70
<u>Term Deposit</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/09/2017	\$6,399.78	
	Closing Balance as at 30/09/2017		\$6,399.78
<u>Petty Cash</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/09/2017	\$150.00	
	Add: Cheque Account	\$20.00	
	Less: Catering	-\$20.00	
	Closing Balance as at 30/09/2017		\$150.00
	Consolidated Closing Cash Position		\$9,945.48

DESTINATION	Marysville and surrounds
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Stuart & Maree MOB: Stuart 0428539157
DATE	Saturday 9th December
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Marysville main street outside the bakery 9:am for a 9:30 am departure. Bakery should be open for Breaky allow extra time
GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	The trip will go to Keppel hut, MacFadyen Tk Quartz Crk Rd, Bull Fight Rd, Royston Range Tk to the Rubicon Power Station and maybe stop for dinner at the Buxton Burger place if anyone is interested. Bring packed lunch and munchies for roadside stops
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: N/A
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	300–400km round trip
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Marysville credit card sales only best to fuel at Healesville DIESEL: Marysville credit card sales only best to fuel at Healesville No LPG
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	400km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Own basic recovery gear tools and any spares you may require. AT or MT tyres
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftop maps Marysville-Lake Eildon or Big River Rubicon
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

DESTINATION	Fraser Island and Moreton Island
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Callum Brown MOB: 0439 972 204
DATE	7th January 2018–28th January 2018
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	The intent of this trip is to relax and have fun. We will be traveling to Fraser Island and Moreton Island. We will stay for 7 nights at Fraser Island and we will spend 3 nights at Yurru camp area and 4 nights at Sandy Cape camp area. We will then make our way to Moreton Island for 4 nights and travel the coast roads on the way home.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 1 MAXIMUM: 4
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	4000
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: TBA DIESEL: TBA
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Self-sufficient camping. This means we will need to bring all food and water for both Islands and considerations will need to be made for waste disposal. Basic recover gear required.
MAPS REQUIRED	Fraser Island and Moreton Island maps
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

DESTINATION	Alpine National Park (TRIP IS FULL)
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Brett & Niki Buchanan MOB: 0407 878 970
DATE	Friday 26th January 2018 until Sunday 28th January 2018 Inclusive
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Maccas - Pakenham Bypass 8am Friday 26th
GRADE	WET: Very Hard DRY: Medium/Hard
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Enter Alpine National Park via Licola and take Caledonia River Track (includes 13 Fords) up to Howitt Plains (possible camp first or both nights). Day 2 - Visit Bryces Plains & Guys Hut (Approx 8km walk to Conglomerate Falls & Pieman Creek Falls). http://www.visitmelbourne.com/Regions/Gippsland/Things-to-do/Outdoor-activities/Walking-and-hiking/VV-The-Bryce-Gorge-Circuit.aspx Day 3 - Head back via Butcher Country Track (subject to accessibility following fire regrowth). Adverse weather may alter schedule
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 5
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	300
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Heyfield DIESEL: Heyfield (Licola store reportedly now closed)
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Last supplies Heyfield/Traralgon
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Self Sufficient Recovery equipment, Food & Fuel Nibbles to share for Happy Hour each evening
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftop Maps (Dargo & Wonnangatta Adventure Map) & GPS
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

DESTINATION (Day Hike) Murrindindi Scenic Reserve + Mill Track Loop
LEADER/CONTACT NO. NAME: Ly Ho
MOB: 0433 387 811

DATE Friday 2nd February 2018 optional
Saturday 3rd February 2018
Sunday 4th February 2018 optional

MEETING PLACE / TIME TBA

GRADE (WALKING) WET: Medium
DRY: Easy/Medium
HOT: Medium

TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS Primarily a day hike—no 4x4ing at all. Friday night arrive at Murrindindi Scenic Reserve to set up base camp and relax at one of the numerous sites. There is a camping permit fee per vehicle per night.

Saturday morning pay the camping fee at the permit box and wait for any day trippers. Then tackle the Mill Track [-see details and map here](#). We will take our time and enjoy the scenery at an easier pace (depending on the group). Take happy snaps at the waterfall.

For anyone who only want a shorter walk, you return back to camp here and we'll meet you back at base camp.

When we return to base camp, dip in the river, sit back and rest our legs over some food and fire.

Sunday head home.

If you don't wish to camp, feel free to come on Saturday.

VEHICLE LIMITS MINIMUM: 1
MAXIMUM: 4

APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION 58km

LAST AVAILABLE FUEL PETROL: Lilydale
DIESEL: Lilydale

DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES 58km

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED Bring enough water (at least 2L) and food for a day walk. Extra water if it's hot. Comfortable hiking boots. Hat, sun-screen and any other creature comforts for walking. Light jacket or jumper if gets cold.

Camping gear for camping

MAPS REQUIRED

RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF UHF 12

GOOGLE MAPS [See here](#)

DESTINATION	Cape Trip
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Michael Harris MOB: 0424 766 616
DATE	August 18th 2018 to September 22nd 2018
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE	WET: Med DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	General touring through to the cape & back
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	Depends on where we go...last time we did about 13700 kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: TBA DIESEL: TBA
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Enough surplus to last 5 weeks + all normal gear
MAPS REQUIRED	
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here



HAUNTED STREAM

17th to 19th November
by Brett Nuske

Participants:

- Brett & Oscar - Pajero
- Des - Patrol
- Ken & Jesse - Landcruiser
- Shane & Mel - Hilux
- Steve - Landcruiser
- Ross & Alejandra - Prado
- Anthony & Family - Everest
- David - Patrol

The bulk of the vehicles arrived Friday at the Tambo Crossing campground and while setting up camp, a large thunder storm rolled in. Whoever was controlling the storm was using electricity to try and zap anyone holding metal tent poles and pegs. Everyone scurried away safely to shelter and once the storm passed, we were rewarded with a nice rainbow.

On Saturday morning, we met up with Ross and Alejandra. It turned out that they had a preference for bed bugs in a Bairnsdale motel rather than the electric light show we had the pleasure of experiencing.

Haunted Stream Track was about 2km up the road from the campground, so everyone aired down and gently cruised down the bitumen to the start of the track. Given that the track had

been closed for a couple of years, we were expecting to encounter a little bit of traffic on the track, but apart from a single oncoming vehicle, we had the entire track to ourselves and were able to meander along taking in the beautiful scenery. According to the map there are 54 water crossings but we lost count. Some crossings have steep entries and exits and small sections of the tracks were a bit rocky but overall the track was not very difficult and very pleasurable to drive.

Quite a lot of wildlife was seen while driving including goannas, red bellied black snakes, tiger snakes, water dragons, wallabies, deers and echidnas.

Arriving at the end of the track, we had two options. A short steep climb up Dawson City Track or a longer but less steep drive along Boomerang Spur Track. Having heard some stories about Dawson City Track, a couple of vehicles did a quick reconnaissance before giving the all clear for everyone to follow.

We continued along Engineers Road and Chester Road to set up camp at Marthavale Hut. We learnt a few things along this short trek. Quarry Creek Track is now permanently closed, the start Chester Road appears to have been realigned and didn't line up with our maps or GPS and Marthavale Hut has unfortunately been

burnt to the ground.

There were no formal plans for Sunday so in the morning. Ken and Anthony needed to be back in Melbourne earlier so they split and went home via Horton's Crossing. Everyone else decided to travel back to Melbourne via Deptford.

It was quite a hot day and halfway down Nicholson track, one of the vehicles got a bit dehydrated and vomited all over the track. Shane got out to comfort the sick vehicle and decided to don his boilersuit to protect his skin from the harsh sun. It wasn't long before Shane was seen seeking shelter from the sun underneath this vehicle. After a dose of sunscreen, aloe vera and some water, the vehicle was well enough continue.

Everyone arrived safely at Deptford via Stuttering Fred Track and Sisters Road and immediately jumped in the river for a swim. Shane, Mel, Steve and Des decided to camp another night while everyone else headed back to Melbourne to work the next day.

It was a fun trip and hopefully our sick vehicle hasn't had any relapses.





Do you tow a trailer or caravan? If so then definitely have a read this article (thanks Bruce for sharing).

[WHY YOU SHOULD BE CHOOSING RATED SHACKLES FOR TOWING](#)

[Official Document](#)

I would like to thank Ian and Audrey for allowing the club to host the Christmas Party. It was a great day had by all (minus the everchanging Melbourne weather). Great food and company—what more can you want? Darna and I enjoyed cooking the spit for everyone—delicious.

With the warm weather upon us, please be careful around the bush. For Melbourne Cup, I was at Wilson's Promontory and walking on a gravel road. 10 metre in front of me was a snake just sun baking. Luckily it decide to shy away to the side of the road because there was some wussy screams coming out of me at that point. I do not like snakes. Nope no thanks.

[Snake safety in the bush](#)