



# FREE WHEELING

November 2021



Photo: Phil Griffith  
Aberfeldy

Official Newsletter of the  
Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc  
Registration No: A0002184F

## Meeting Details



### VFWDC Meeting Details & Venue

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm with the following exceptions:

No meeting in January

November meeting held at a selected "special" location

Blue and Gold Room  
Club Noble  
46-56 Moodemere Street  
Noble Park 3174  
Melways ref: 89 D4

The monthly meeting will be held online on **Wednesday 10th November** at 8.00pm due to covid restrictions.

Log in via Zoom app or dial in using your phone. Please check your emails for further information and log in links for the meeting.



### 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.

### 2021 - 2022

President	Callum Brown	<a href="mailto:president@vfwdc.com">president@vfwdc.com</a>
Vice President	Andre Van Der Walt	<a href="mailto:vicepres@vfwdc.com">vicepres@vfwdc.com</a>
Secretary	Bruce Cremonesi	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>

### General Committee

Trip Coordinator	David Bruinsma	<a href="mailto:trips@vfwdc.com">trips@vfwdc.com</a>
Magazine Editor	Rory Hall	<a href="mailto:editor@vfwdc.com">editor@vfwdc.com</a>
Association Delegate	David Bruinsma	<a href="mailto:delegate@vfwdc.com">delegate@vfwdc.com</a>

### Support Positions to Committee

Web Manager	Ben Whitworth	<a href="mailto:web@vfwdc.com">web@vfwdc.com</a>
Training Officer	Phil Griffith	
Merchandise	Ann Crockett	<a href="mailto:merchandise@vfwdc.com">merchandise@vfwdc.com</a>

### Club Details

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
Registration Number	A002184F
Correspondence Address	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 Club is an affiliated club of [Four Wheel Drive Victoria](#)

Hi all,

Welcome to the November edition of the magazine.

I hope you are all excited to be coming out of lockdown and are ready to join some trips. Its been a long while since we have been out on the tracks so please check your gear and let's get out there again.

I just wanted to thank everyone that logged onto Zoom to see Tim Bates at the last meeting. It was the biggest zoom meeting we have had. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did.

You should have all received an email from me during the week regarding the club Christmas Party. If you haven't seen it please check your mail. We have decided as the committee to postpone the Christmas Party until January or February. It's not cancelled, just moved. I am hoping to do a camp, have a special guest and make a weekend of it. The main reason for the decision is time. We think members will be flat out catching up with friends and family after being locked down so long.

Well that's about all from me. I hope you enjoy your outings and come back with some brilliant stories (and photos to share).

I hope you have an awesome Melbourne Cup weekend and I will see you all at the meeting this month. (Please note this meeting will still be online via zoom due to capacity restrictions still in force).

Cheers

Callum

Here's the Ranger all hooked up and raring to go.....



## Club Calendar

### November

Tuesday 2nd	Melbourne Cup	
Wednesday 10th	Club Meeting	8.00pm
Wednesday 17th	Committee Meeting	8.00pm

### December

Wednesday 1st	Club Meeting	8.00pm
24th Dec - 2nd Jan	Christmas Camping at Wren's Flat, Jamieson River	See trips for details

### Next Year

22nd - 23rd Jan	Possible Christmas BBQ overnight trip	TBC
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Need a jacket, vest, shirt or hat for your next trip? Get ready and place your order today.

## PRICES

Club SS Polo Shirt	\$30.00	Club Wide-Brim Hat	\$5.00
Club SS Shirt 40th Anniversary	\$10.00	Club Sandwich Peak Hat	\$5.00
Club Polar Fleece Jacket (Full Zip)	\$30.00	Club Woollen Pom Pom Beanie	\$20.00
Club Fleece Hoodie	\$30.00	Club Cable Knit Scarf	\$20.00
Club SS Reversible Vest—double embroidery	\$50.00	Club Neoprene Stubby Holder	\$10.00
Club Drivers Jacket	\$60.00	Club Coth Badges 120mm	\$8.00
Club Trekka Jacket	\$85.00	Windscreen Sticker Small	\$6.00
Club Bucket Hat	\$5.00	Windscreen Sticker Large	\$8.00

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo shirt.

Email your order or any queries to [merchandise@vfwdc.com](mailto:merchandise@vfwdc.com) along with the size you would like.

**Wed 6th October**  
**Online via Zoom**  
**Opened at 08.06pm**

**Attendees:**

- As per attendance sheet

**Apologies:**

- Nil received

**Guests:**

- Tim Bates

**Minutes of previous meeting:**

- Minutes from last meeting - to be read
- Matters arising from previous minutes - nil
- Accepting of minutes - Andre
- Seconding of minutes - Ben W

**Correspondence**

**Mail in:**

- Nil

**Mail out:**

- Nil

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Monthly Treasurer's Report - Sept'21 as per report in magazine
- Acceptance of Report - Andrew
- Seconding of Report - Steve P

**Association Report:**

- Bruce informed that he has a planned call with Wayne Hevey ref driver training

**Upcoming Trips:**

- Xmas trip to Wren's Flat by Sally & Tristan

**Trip Reports:**

- Locked up so no trips to report

**General Business**

- Thanks to Rory for putting hand up to be Editor
- Some issues getting Tim Bates on line
- Interesting Q&A session with Tim Bates

Meeting closed: 21.35

Next Meeting: Wed 10th November



# Treasurer's Report September 2021

<u>Cheque A/C`</u> Opening Balance as at 01/09/2021	\$6,699.88	
Add: Membership Fees	\$350.00	
Total Monies In:		\$350.00
Less: Stamps & Envelopes	\$60.00	
Total Monies Out:		\$60.00
Closing Balance as at 30/09/2021		\$6,989.88
<u>Term Deposit</u> Opening Balance as at 01/09/2021	\$6,844.22	
Closing Balance as at 30/09/2021		\$6,844.22
<u>Petty Cash</u> Opening Balance as at 01/09/2021	\$42.55	
Closing Balance as at 30/09/2021		\$42.55
<b>Consolidated Closing Cash Position</b>		<b>\$13,876.65</b>



## Upcoming Trips

<b>Destination</b>	Christmas Camping - Jamieson River - Wren's Flat
<b>Leader &amp; Contact Details</b>	Sally and Tristan MOB: 0435782207
<b>Date</b>	24-Dec-2021 (Fri) to 02-Jan-2022 (Sun)
<b>Meeting Details</b>	TBC as it depends on when you want to leave Melbourne. We will be leaving before Christmas as it is a tradition for us if we are in town, we go camping. Some people may want to convoy up on Boxing Day or later. We will coordinate closer to the time.
<b>Grade</b>	Wet: Medium Dry: Easy-Medium
<b>Trip Activity Details</b>	Being optimistic about heading away camping between Christmas and New Year. The plan is to head up to Wren's Flat campground off the Jamieson/ Licola Road to set up a base camp by the river for the week. Then have a lazy week in the river taking the odd day trip out and about, into Jamieson to the pub for lunch and dinner, the brewery, and then check out the tracks around the area as day trips. We will need to be flexible for location and timing due to fires, covid and who knows what else. The goal will be to get out and enjoy the great outdoors
<b>Vehicle Limits</b>	Minimum 1. Maximum 5
<b>Approx km's meeting place to destination</b>	250km from Melbourne to Jamieson. 55km from Jamieson to Wren's Flat.
<b>Last available fuel</b>	Both petrol & diesel at Jamieson
<b>Distance between supplies</b>	55km
<b>Equipment required</b>	Camping equipment, recovery gear for the 4 wheel driving, swimming gear inc floats & fun things to do in the river. Food and drink for the week
<b>Maps required</b>	Trip leader will have plenty of maps but if you want to play along: Hema High Country South West, Rooftop Mansfield-Mt Howitt Adventure Map, Rooftop Big River - Rubicon - Sheepyard Forest Activities Map
<b>Radio Channel CB/ UHF</b>	12

Please visit our website at [VFWDC.com](http://VFWDC.com) to view all our current membership forms and club policies.

For all new and renewal of memberships, please complete [the online form here](#)

If you are looking for a Temporary Membership, please complete the online form, [which can be found here](#).

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us via the Club Secretary on [secretary@vfwdc.com](mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com)

### **Payments:**

Payment can be made via Bank Transfer. The details are as follows:

<b>Account Name:</b>	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
<b>BSB:</b>	633108
<b>Account No:</b>	111761979

Please ensure your transfer includes your name as provided on the membership application and renewal form in the reference.

Once you have made your payment/transfer, please send your completed membership application and renewal form to [treasurer@vfwdc.com](mailto:treasurer@vfwdc.com) or you can present it to the Treasurer at any general meeting.

**Thank you for choosing the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club**

If you are interested in joining [Club Noble](#) where we hold our monthly meetings, their application form can be found [here](#).

## “My set up”

Andre’s Trailer - a tale spanning many years, of neglect, love, improvisation, lockdowns and now a fantastic looking homemade camping trailer.

Our story begins about 8 years ago with the arrival of my daughter and the realisation that the Prado just wasn’t big enough to carry all the camping luxuries AND the family, something had to be done. A friend of mine had this old enclosed box trailer sitting in his yard, looking kind of sad and in need of attention, so I made him an offer and took it home.



I had a trailer and I had a plan. The plan was to just put some bigger leaf springs and wheels to match the prado and take it camping. It was a bad plan because I never actually looked under the trailer. When I eventually did, it became clear, 30mm angle, just wasn’t going to cut it. I have to now give credit to Dave, not only did he get me into 4wding, but he offered to help with the mods to the trailer. He didn’t know what he was in for!

First the leaf springs and drawbar were removed. And this is where the original plan gave way for the absurd. A whole new chassis was built from 50mm square tube 3mm thick.

The drawbar is 75x50x3mm. Yes it is long, it is so I can do some tight cornering.

After MANY weekends, the result was pretty good.



The trailer worked fairly well, but as time wore on, I discovered some things that could be improved, especially around the use of space in the trailer itself.

The trailer held up to some pretty tough conditions and has been around a little. Here it is part of an ingenious design by Tristan to keep us dry on a trip in the Otways (don't ask about the trip!!)



As time went on, the trailer got some add-ons, like a height adjustable awning:



But its days were numbered. It just had too many things wrong with it - no weather seals, a rusty floor and just a difficult space to use effectively. It got parked up and saw very little use for about 4 years.



Then "Lockdown 6" started, and I found I had some time on my hands. I also had an idea and a set of drawers I bought. So off came the box from the chassis, and to the recyclers.

Now I am no fabricator and I have limited room available. But I was bored and I wanted to change my camping setup to make it faster to set up and pack up. I drew up some plans to get some direction, got the drop saw going and did some welding, and soon it was starting to take shape.

The enclosed height is 600mm, the box is 1800mm long and 1200mm wide. Pretty standard measurement I soon discovered.



Heavy duty outdoor gate hinges were selected to help with the weight.



The frame structure is 30mm square tube with a 3mm sidewall. I wanted a trailer with a lid so I could access all the space.



I also wanted a striking colour combination to add to the appeal of the trailer, so I went with a black hammer tone paint finish for the frame and floor. I just love the feel of the hammer tone paint once it has dried.

This sets off the shiny aluminium checker plate very well.



The checker plate is 3mm thick but only weighs 60kg for the sides and lid together; it is a little weird to experience. The aluminium is attached to the metal frame with a combination of Sikaflex automotive adhesive and 5mm stainless steel pop rivets - lots of pop rivets!

The lid and drawers were fitted in one session and gave the impression that it was close to being finished, but we are not there just yet.



Final things to finish of the build are as follow:

- Carrier legs for mounting the roof top tent. The roof top tent is mounted to the trailer for a couple of reasons. Ansa, my wife, doesn't want to sleep very high off the ground, as she tends to get up at night. I don't want the rooftop tent on my car because it impacts the usability when you are out 4wd and have already set up camp. And finally, it will be stored under cover so it is protected as opposed to being on the car all the time, or me needing to put it on every time we want to go use it.
- A kitchen setup will be built for the rear door of the trailer. This will swing open 180 degree to allow easy access to the kitchen but also the inside of the trailer.
- The underside needs to be painted.
- Hubs on the trailer need to be changed to match the wheel pattern on my current 4x4.

## Meet the Member

Our new feature where you get to meet and understand some of our members. First up, our illustrious leader, Mr Callum “Moose” Brown, is leading the way and telling us all about his 4WD loves, foul ups and a fascination for mummies!!



**Full name and any nicknames?**

Callum Carver Brown. My nick name at school was Moose - I have no idea why.

**What's your vehicle?**

Black Ford Ranger 2017 model XLT with canopy and most of the fruit.

**First car you ever owned?**

HQ Holden and I wish I had it now, it would be worth a fortune. I found out after I got rid of it that it was used as a get away car in a bank robbery in Queensland.

**Dumbest thing you ever did in a car?**

Mmm that's hard to say which one as there has been a few. I had no idea how steep “Flats Track” was in Aberfeldy and bought my camper trailer down it in the wet. That was quite interesting as the trailer was trying to pass the car on the way down - i still get shivers when I think of it.

**Best mod you have ever done to a car?**

Good quality tyres and suspension.

**Dream vehicle and set up if you could afford it?**

Landcruiser 300 series with all the stuff for comfortable touring.

**Best trip/track/park you have done?**

Frazer Island and Moreton Island

**Top tip to any beginners?**

Take your time, ask questions, do basic training, join a club, get some good quality recovery gear. And enjoy yourself!

**Favourite camp food?**

Bacon, egg and cheese wraps.

<b>Roughest night's sleep on a trip?</b>	One trip, I didn't bring the right sleeping bag for the low temp and spent the night cold to the bone. Its really hard to get warm again once you're that cold.
<b>What snacks are we most likely to find in your cab?</b>	Biscuit and cheese cracker dips - nice little snack :-)
<b>Best piece of camping gear you are never without?</b>	My camper trailer.
<b>Worst upgrade or kit purchase?</b>	I think I have been lucky so far I don't have any regrets. I research the hell out of things before i buy.
<b>Dream track or trip at the top of your bucket list?</b>	Cape York - Simpson - West coast Aus.
<b>Where in the world would you most like to visit?</b>	Egypt - Mummy's and pyramids fascinate me.
<b>What is your go to karaoke song?</b>	I have never done Karaoke. (Ed: What?? Sounds like we need to get a club karaoke machine!!)
<b>Footie, football or rugby?</b>	Footy. Murrumbeena Footy Club - My son plays in under 11's.
<b>What kept you sane during lockdowns?</b>	Gaming with Zach - We play a lot together and we have a great time.
<b>Worst job you ever had?</b>	Quality control inspector for a firm in Hallam that made fireplaces.
<b>What motivates/inspires you?</b>	Zach and paying the mortgage.
<b>You're driving from Melbourne to Perth, anyone in the world, dead or alive, can be your co-driver, who would it be?</b>	First choice with out a doubt would be my little mate Zach but I wouldn't mind having a chat with David Attenborough.



### **This month's meeting**

Please note next month's meeting is being held on **Wed 10th November** instead of 1st Wed of the month - this is so it doesn't clash with any plans around Melbourne Cup days off. It will still be an online event due to ongoing covid restrictions but it could be our last??

### **Christmas Party**

Due to some on-going restrictions, uncertainty and mainly that everyone is catching up with family & friends in coming weeks, the Christmas party has been postponed to become a January camping trip - its still being discussed but committee has earmarked the weekend of 22/23rd Jan as a possible date. Watch this space for more info.

### **Need Inspiration?**

Need inspiration for a location for a trip? Why not go back into the club magazine history and find a long lost camp site or route you had forgotten about. Here's the [link to the magazine page](#) to help you along your way.

### **New magazine features**

You will have noticed a little bit of a shake up of the magazine format/contents. These include:

- **Meet the Member** - meet and learn a bit more in depth about various club members, old and young, newbies and lifers. See what inspires them, hear about their top tips, first cars and who they want to do that long drive with.
- **My Set Up** - A chance for people to share and see each other's set ups, whether that be your vehicle or camping set up. Great opportunity to show off your innovation but also share best practise with others.

What do you want to see in your magazine? Please send any ideas or feedback to [editor@vfwdc.com](mailto:editor@vfwdc.com) Some further ideas and thoughts could be some of the following:

- **Blast from the Past** - dig around and pull out a trip report from years ago to remind people of a long forgotten location.
- **Camp Cooking** - favourite camp & BBQ recipes.
- **Who's Watching What?** - some suggestions for websites or YouTube channels to inspire and educate.
- **Book or map reviews** - any great inspiring reads to get us out and about.

The Club is happy to reward those that submit any articles, which get published, with a small token of appreciation from the club merchandise stocks. So don't be shy, share some words and/or pictures.