



FREE WHEELING

June 2022

NULLARBOR PLAIN
EASTERN END OF TREELESS PLAIN

Photo: Rory Hall
Eastern end of the
Nullarbor Plain

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:

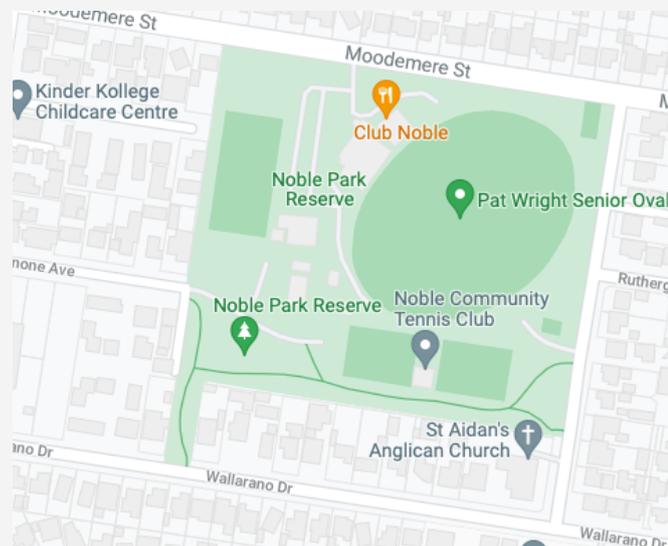
No meeting in January

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

This month's meeting will be held on
Wednesday 1st June at 8.00pm.

**It will be held in person at
Club Noble.**



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.

Club Committee

2021 - 2022

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|--|
| President | Callum Brown | president@vfwdc.com |
| Vice President | Andre Van Der Walt | vicepres@vfwdc.com |
| Secretary | Bruce Cremonesi | secretary@vfwdc.com |

General Committee

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------|--|
| Trip Coordinator | | trips@vfwdc.com |
| Magazine Editor | Rory Hall | editor@vfwdc.com |
| Association Delegate | | delegate@vfwdc.com |

Support Positions to Committee

| | | |
|------------------|---------------|--|
| Web Manager | Ben Whitworth | web@vfwdc.com |
| Training Officer | Phil Griffith | |
| Merchandise | Ann Crockett | merchandise@vfwdc.com |

Club Details

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Registered Name | Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club |
| Registration Number | A002184F |
| Correspondence Address | PO Box 778, Dandenong, VIC 3174 |
| Email | secretary@vfwdc.com |
| Website | www.vfwdc.com |

The Victorian Four Wheel Club is an affiliated club of [Four Wheel Drive Victoria](#)

Hi All,

I hope you are all well and you have had a chance to get out and do some 4x4 before the weather starts to turn against us.

It looks like we have a few trips coming up in the next month or so. I really hope you can get out and encourage you to do your best to sign up for the trip and get yourself out there.

One of the trips is the tour of various alpine huts being organised by Bruce. This is a great opportunity to undertake a relatively easy graded trip and get a chance to explore all the amazing huts and areas that are not so far from Melbourne. Sign up is happening now so don't delay, get your name down. Please also keep an eye out for the snow trips which will be run in July - we are just awaiting the allocated slots before confirming exact details.

What makes our club so successful is the continued participation of everyone in all our activities. Whether that be getting out for trips, attending the meetings for a chit chat, or assisting where you can with things like chipping in with pictures and words for this magazine. I encourage everyone to keep doing what you are doing to keep our club active and fun. The committee is working hard to find interesting speakers at future club meetings, keeping the flow of trips for people to join and make the magazine fun, interactive and attractive to potential new members. Your continued support is much appreciated.

My house is in full "reno" mode and I have moved out with friends so I am hoping to have some free time to run some day trips in the near future.

Thanks again everyone and catch you all soon.

Cheers, Cal.



Club Calendar

June

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday 1st | Club Meeting | 8.00pm |
| Sat 4th - Sun 5th | Wombat State Forest Day Trip | Organised by Ly, details on trip pages. |
| Fri 10th - Sun 12th | New members High Country Huts trip | Organised by Dave & Bruce (see Upcoming Trips). |
| Wednesday 15th | Committee Meeting (Virtual) | 8.00pm |

July

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Wednesday 6th | Club Meeting (Guest speaker from RidePro 4x4 Suspension) | 8.00pm |
| Wednesday 20th | Committee Meeting (Virtual) | 8.00pm |
| Fri 22nd - Sat 23rd | Snow Trip | Organised by Bruce (see Upcoming Trips) |

August

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Wednesday 3rd | Annual General Meeting | 8.00pm |
| Wednesday 17th | Committee Meeting (Virtual) | 8.00pm |

Other Dates

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| July (tbc) | Googs Track | Organised by Gary, details to follow on trip pages. |
| July (tbc) | Christmas (in July) get together at Stringybark Creek with Kelly Gang tour | To be re-arranged from February. Organised by Cal & committee. |
| November Long Weekend | Robe sand driving trip | Organised by Dave & Bruce, details to follow on trip pages. |

Club Merchandise



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 along with the size you would like.

Wed 4th May

Opened at 08.04pm

Attendees:

- As per attendance sheet

Apologies:

- David B, Rory, Daryl

Minutes of previous meeting:

- Minutes from last meeting - Read
- Matters arising from previous minutes - nil
- Accepting of minutes - Andre
- Seconding of minutes - Callum

Correspondence

Mail in:

- Emails from Aus Post
- Magazine stuff
- New member info emails
- Committee communications

Mail out:

- Replies to emails

Treasurer's Report:

- Monthly Treasurer's Reports - Mar'22 as per magazine
- Acceptance of Report - Andre
- Seconding of Report - Ben

Association Report:

- Nil

Upcoming Trips:

- 21-22 May - Night Run in Bunyip - Andre
- Tallarook - TBC, short notice trip with Callum, keep an eye on emails
- 10-12 Jun - New Member trip - High Country Huts with Bruce/Dave
- Date TBC - Christmas in July at Stringbark Creek
- July (Date TBC) - Googs Track - Gary. Meet at Port Augusta. Roughly 2 weeks in total.

Trip Reports:

Birdsville Trip (Brett):

Went through Farina, to Maree and on to Birdsville. Last fuel in Maree. Birdsville Track was in best condition ever although Brett does not agree. Watched the Birdsville Races. Fred Brophy boxing tent was interesting. Less crowds than usual. Bakery has re-opened. Was around 40 degrees. Did Big Red & went to the Dig Tree. Met the first road train - UHF is valuable. Camerons Corner. Fuel was \$\$\$@££!! 5000kms

Darling River Run (Sally & Tristan):

Went through lots of places. There was a lot of water around the area. Roads were closed when wet, apparently means roads are closed when wet? The car broke down again. RACV Total Care very much worthwhile.

General Business:

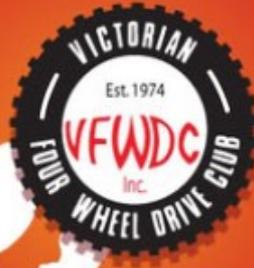
Winch & Recovery Training were discussed

Tristan volunteered for Rig Roundup for their new Patriot Camper set up.

Meeting closed: 09.45pm

Next Meeting: Wed 1st June

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com



Treasurer's Report April 2022

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Cheque A/C`</u> | Opening Balance as at 01/04/2022 | \$7,933.63 | |
| | Closing Balance as at 30/04/2022 | | \$7,933.63 |
| <u>Term Deposit</u> | Opening Balance as at 01/04/2022 | \$6,852.85 | |
| | Closing Balance as at 30/04/2022 | | \$6,852.85 |
| <u>Petty Cash</u> | Opening Balance as at 01/04/2022 | \$42.55 | |
| | Closing Balance as at 30/04/2022 | | <u>\$42.55</u> |
| | Consolidated Closing Cash Position | | <u>\$14,829.03</u> |

General Notices

This month's meeting

Next month's meeting is being held on **Wed 1st June** at Club Noble as usual. Just a reminder, if you are suffering from symptoms, or have tested positive to covid or are a close contact, then we ask that you respect the other members of the club and stay away.

Guest Speakers

The committee is working hard to get a guest speaker or two in for our future meetings. We are just confirming details with RidePro 4x4 Suspension for one of their team to give us a talk during our July meeting. Watch this space for more details but it will of course cover suspension as well as the winches they offer including proper use and maintenance.



Upcoming Trips

There are a couple of new trips posted in the Upcoming Trips section and in the Calendar so take a look and hopefully stick your name down to join. Remember, currently you can use either paper sign up at the meeting or online trip website for getting your name down for any upcoming trips. And of course if you are struggling with either of these then just contact the trip organiser directly by phone or through a FaceBook message.

Raffle Prizes in use

Here it is, the money shot - the world renowned Pegless Clothesline. As the star prize of our recent club raffle, we have been waiting for images of it in use. So here it is, showing how it effortlessly holds up a couple of pairs of budgie smugglers without a peg in sight! Thanks to John Smith for the photo and a glimpse into the future of outdoors living.



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. Here's a link to the [magazine only 5 years back in June 2017](#) which has quite a few interesting trip reports in it. The trip report from Tony about his adventure in the Flinders Ranges is a great read with plenty of photos (and flooded tracks too). Brett was in the Rubicon State Forest and the Club was working at Aberfeldy again.

All and any contributions welcome

Please don't be shy! Help the Editor keep the magazine fun and interesting, and relevant to you, by sharing some words and/or pictures. Literally anything you have is welcome!

Please visit our website at 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

Payments:

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

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Account Name: | Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc |
| BSB: | 633108 |
| Account No: | 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 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](#).

Continuing with the theme of Australia's "BIG" things, here's Australia's biggest windmill in Penong SA, which the Editor snapped on a recent visit to the area. To be honest it didn't look that big, but it's all to do with the diameter of the blades apparently as opposed to height/width etc.



For anyone interested to become a collector of Australia's Big Things, [here's a link you may wish to check out](#). Let's see how many of these we can tick off, and add to, over the coming year or so.

Meet the Member

This month we get to meet Wayne, who is a new member of the club, and his “girlfriend” Sandy! Wayne’s definitely had some interesting old bangers in his past.....Thanks Wayne!



Full name and any nicknames?

The names Wayne, Wayne Collins, but people call me Wayne.

What’s your vehicle?

2012 Toyota FJ Cruiser (Sandy)

First car you ever owned?

Mazda rx4 rotary. Beast of a learner’s car!

Dumbest thing you ever did in a car?

Driving home with my just purchased 62 Chev Belair and at around 60kmh, I accidentally knocked the column gearshift in reverse. There was a big screech and a jolt but luckily no bang



Favourite camp food?

Just keep it simple like pasta or snags

Best mod you have ever done to a car?

Adding electric windows to my previous Suzuki Vitara

Best trip/track/park you have done?

I haven't done a lot of off road trips, but the trip to Craig's hut was memorable

Top tip to any beginners?

To go with a least another vehicle and tag behind as to view how they tackle the obstacles or not.

Best overseas trip/location?

Definitely Disney World in Florida

Best piece of camping gear you are never without?

I would not sleep on the ground again, so my stretcher under the swag is just awesome

Where in the world would you most like to visit?

A trip to the Caribbean man (Ed: Yeh man, loving the Caribbean vibe man!!)



Favourite subject or activity at school?

Definitely lunch

Worst upgrade or kit purchase?

Worst upgrade would be converting from the strong 202 6cyl to a 253 v8 in a Holden Panelvan. What a waste of time and money that was.



Dream track or trip at the top of your bucket list?

A trip to the top end would be magical

What is your go to karaoke song?

To get the crowd going, "Am I ever gonna see your face again" it is.

What kept you sane during lockdowns?

I worked through it, so I was not that affected by it.

Worst job you ever had?

Working in a pizza shop doing deliveries, all for \$6 per hour

You're driving from Melbourne to Perth, and can have anyone in the world as your co-driver, dead or alive, who would it be?

Someone who could entertain me with laughter. Robin Williams, Eddie Murphy. If I were to be drifting off to sleep, then Will Smith, he could slap me to help me stay awake.



What is your go to joke?

Why does Santa have such a big sack?

He only comes once a year



Post Election Night Run (Saturday 21st May) (organised by Andre)

For the night run, we met at the Longwarry servo, three vehicles: Neville in his trusty Triton, Nero in his Prado and me in the Amarok.

We took off at about 5:30pm and made our way into Bunyip State Park on Bunyip River Road, continuing on to Black Snake Creek Road to make our way to the bottom of Anderson's Road which we took to get to Anderson's Track. The conditions to this point were pretty good and we could travel easily enough in 2wd, but elected to be in 4wd high due to the random spots of water on the track. It wasn't until we got out of the vehicles for the first time that we noticed how deceptive the lights make the track appear. What we thought was firm drying clay, was just wet clay. This meant that every so often there was a little slip and slide, but nothing too serious.



That was until we started the climb on the last stretch of Anderson's Track. The combination of the incline and wet clay meant the cautious approach I have been taking didn't work out at the first hump. The Amarok had to have a couple of goes at it, but made it up on the 4th attempt. Next up was Nero in the Prado. Putting all he had learnt at the driver training weekend, he got up and over on his 3rd go to, picking a different line from the one I had used. I had taken the top layer off and it was slippery as all heck. Neville watched us and realised that momentum helps and came in a little faster and cleared the hump on his first go.

The rest of Anderson's Track was easy enough. And on we went to where we turned on to Blue Range Road. We briefly stopped here and took some cool photos of the stars and the light on the vehicles



From here we had planned to go down Blue Range Road to Bunyip Ridge Track. However, Blue Range Road was littered with water holes and in a much different condition to what it was when we had the New Members trip a couple of months ago.

But it was Bunyip Ridge Track where things got really interesting. The track was wet and rutted and it was easy to slip into the ruts, which would then have you crabbing down for a while until the rut flattened out and you can climb out. We got almost all the way down but then at the last section things got crazy and we elected to turn around and try a different track. There were ruts that were waist deep and cross axles and all kinds of interesting stuff. Seeing as it was wet and dark, we decided to not push through, and all agreed that turning around was the smart choice.

We planned to go back to Blue Range Road, then take the Aqueduct Track down, but I made a wrong turn. We ended back at the top of Anderson's Track where we decided we would go down it and then air up and go home. Going down was easy enough as there was enough traction, as long as you didn't touch the brake, and let the vehicle crawl down on its own.

It was a pleasant drive and not too late a night





Upcoming Trips

| | |
|---|--|
| Destination | Wombat State Park |
| Leader & Contact Details | Ly Ho (0433 387811) |
| Date | Saturday 4th - Sun 5th June |
| Meeting Details | Gisborne Bakehouse Café (Google maps it). Grab a coffee, breakfast and lunch there. Leave by 0830am. |
| Grade | DRY: Easy WET: Medium |
| Trip Activity Details | <p>Meet up at Gisborne Bakehouse Café then into the forest via Carrols Lane.</p> <p>Explore some easy to medium tracks, have lunch somewhere.</p> <p>Go to Lerderberg Camp Ground to air up and head home before it gets darks (around 3pm). Or you can join me camp overnight and leave on Sunday morning - no problems!</p> <p>Wombat State Park is about 1 - 1.5hrs from SE suburbs of Melbourne making it a good day trip.</p> |
| Vehicle Limits | Minimum: 2 Maximum: 6 |
| Approx km's meeting place to destination | Approx 100kms from Melbourne Approx 11kms from meeting place to Carrol's Lane |
| Last available fuel | Petrol: Puma Gisborne Diesel: Puma Gisborne |
| Distance between supplies | 26km from Firth Park to Gisborne |
| Equipment required | Basic recovery gear - snatch strap, recovery points, shovel, recovery tracks if you have them. Camping gear if you plan to stay overnight at Firth Park. |
| Maps required | Wombat State Forest - Meridian Maps |
| Radio Channel CB/UHF | UHF 12 to start with and then move if its busy |

| | |
|---|--|
| Destination | High Country Huts Tour |
| Leader & Contact Details | Bruce Cremonsi (0400 425296 or secretary@vfwdc.com Dave Bruinsma trips@vfwdc.com |
| Date | June Long Weekend (Fri 10th - Sun 12th June) |
| Meeting Details | BP Mansfield Friday 7pm or Sheeppark Flat Saturday 9am |
| Grade | Wet: Easy Dry: Medium |
| Trip Activity Details | Nice slow cruise around the huts – Great for newbies. Camping: First night Sheeppark or Frys, depending on population explosion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frys Hut - Tunnel Bend - Upper Jamieson Hut - Refrigerator Gap - Lovicks Hut - Bluff Hut - Pikes Flat - Bindaree Hut (<i>usually camp here at end of the day</i>) - Bindaree Falls - Monument Track - Craig's Hut. - Kings Hut. Options here to see Lake Cobbler, if enough time - Razorback Hut - Refuge Mt. No. 3 Hut - Tomahawk Gap and Hut <p>Then into Mansfield for a coffee, dinner if you like, definately a wee and then home</p> |
| Vehicle Limits | Minimum 4. Maximum 8 |
| Approx km's meeting place to destination | Meeting place to destination round trip is approx 150kms |
| Last available fuel | BP Mansfield |
| Equipment required | Full recovery gear and points on your car, compressor, tyre deflator, etc Tent/Swag/Camping/Cooking/Food/Bog Roll etc. Warm Clothes, Chair, Munchies for Happy Hour |
| Maps required | Bush Huts of the High Country |
| Radio Channel CB/UHF | UHF 12 to start with and then move if its busy |

| | |
|---|---|
| Destination | Snow Trip - Jamieson Side - Group 1 |
| Leader & Contact Details | Bruce Cremonsi (0400 425296 or secretary@vfwdc.com) |
| Date | Friday 22nd - Sun 24th July (TBC and permit dependant) |
| Meeting Details | BP Mansfield Friday 7pm |
| Grade | Snow: Medium to Hard Wet: Oh Shit!! |
| Trip Activity Details | Annual Snow Trip. Leaving from Jamieson Pub 8am to try and be first on the mountain to get the fresh snow. Build Snowman, so families are encouraged to come along. I'll be staying as usual at Jamieson Hotel.. Some rich latte sippers go AirBnB, but pub is nice. |
| Vehicle Limits | Maximum 5. (The Club is limited to 10 cars per weekend) |
| Approx km's meeting place to destination | 50kms |
| Last available fuel | BP Mansfield |
| Distance between supplies | Not relevant |
| Equipment required | Warm Dry spare shoes/socks. Full Recovery Gear and Points on your car Cooking/Food/Bog Roll etc for lunch on mountain Warm Clothes, Chair, Dry Clothes and GOOD footwear |
| Maps required | Nil |
| Radio Channel CB/UHF | UHF 12 to start with and then move if its busy |

Indigenous Community Trip - 1st - 8th May by Rory

This is not strictly a Club or even a 4x4 trip, but I hope its interesting and does have some relevance since there are some interesting things to see and learn for future visits by members to the area. For my work, I run expeditions for school groups, normally internationally into Asia, Africa and Latin America. Covid well and truly bugged that up so we have expanded into Australian domestic trips for schools, and predominantly based in Indigenous communities.

I have been working with the Wirangu indigenous community for several years now and we finally managed to get a school trip organised and approved (no thanks to Covid). The school were from Geelong and they visited the community for a week in early May. I accompanied and led the team throughout so these are some of the images and activities we got up to.



The community is 15 mins drive west of Penong which is 1 hr west of Ceduna, and is about 2hrs from the Eastern end of the Nullarbor Plain. The school group flew from Melbourne into Adelaide and then we drove the 12 hrs by bus, passing through Snowtown (home of the worst serial killings in Australian history??), through Lockiel and its imitation Loch Ness monsters, through Kimba and its Giant Gala, Iron Knob (haha!), and endless straight roads.

The aim of the trip is to try to introduce the students to First Nation's people and their culture, understand the effects of climate change and of course see some sights and have a laugh. During their time they learnt about the Southern Hairy Nosed Wombat which lives all around the community, is still eaten on special occasions and they went out poking about their huge burrows to try to see one (to no avail!) but here's a picture off the web in case you dont know what they look like!



The girl's headed out with the ladies of the community to look for bush medicine ("women's business") whilst the guys mucked about trying to carve and whittle a boomerang. I had forgotten most teenage boys have the attention span of a goldfish so when they hadn't completed it in 3 minutes they started wondering off and causing trouble.

Other visits included looking for bush tucker, going through and along the Dog Fence (all the way from Jimbor, QLD, to Fowler's Bay SA, 5000+ kms), dot painting, working in a nursery planting saltbush cuttings, practising some Wirangu language, and understanding water collection techniques, ancient and modern day.

One of the highlights of the trip was driving out to the edge of the Nullarbor and visiting the Head of the Bight whale watching centre. Unfortunately the whales (Southern Right Whales) dont arrive until the first week of June so we didn't see any but it was still spectacular scenery with stunning cliffs and huge white dunes.

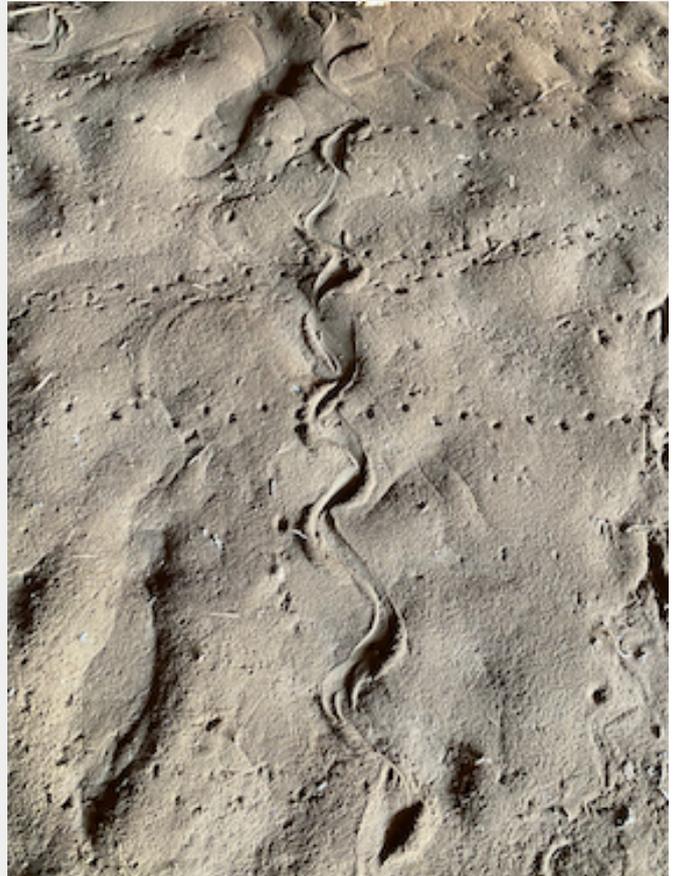


At the back of the Nullarbor Roadhouse, about 10km's away, are the Murrawijinie Caves which are definitely worth a little visit. There are 3 caves there, all of which can be clambered down inside. These are have cultural significance to the community members, being ancient meeting sites and shelters. There is a hand print from long ago on the rocks in the last cave but you will need a local guide to point it out. The obvious ones, of which there are a couple, are not genuine. And beware the other occupants of the caves.....





Another highlight from the day trip was visiting “White Well” which used to be a sheep station many years ago. In fact, several of the elders from the community used to be farm hands on that station and were able to show pictures and tell stories of their time there. They used to drive the sheep from the edge of the Nullarbor up towards Ceduna, taking about a week or more to cover the ground which now takes us just 2 hrs in a car.



Above are snake tracks in the caves and left is one of the fake hand prints (don't be fooled by it!!)

Overall, it was a very successful trip and i hope the students learnt a lot. I have really enjoyed my time with the community and hope to spend more time learning about their culture and history.

Trip Report

Wombat State Park, solo recce by Ly (Sunday 22nd May)

This recce trip was in preparation for the upcoming Wombat State Forest trip in June (go sign up now!!). I arrived at Gisborne Bakery Café at about 10:30am and got a hot pastie that I devoured in the car park and banana bread for 'lunch'. It was an easy drive to Carroll's Lane where I aired down to 26 psi just before entering the gravel road.

As I continued, I saw an off the beaten track that I felt obligated to explore. Since this was my first time ever going solo, I checked the depth of the bog hole which was shallow. 200m further in there was a leaning tree in the middle of the track. I was pretty sure this track had not been driven for a long time so I U-turned out.



I got back to Carroll's Lane ok and made it onto Wombat East No 8 Track. It was peaceful and simple for the first 1km. Then it started to get interesting. I overcame the first set of bog holes which I had depth checked with a stick.

Next there were two holes - the left one looked ridiculous! The right one was manageable. I depth checked again, only half way up my tyres, no problem!

WRONG! The Lexus' rear end went **BANG!!**

I was stuck. I had no traction to get out. Reversing didn't work, driving forward didn't work.



I got the Tred boards out and tried again - still no traction. (Next time I think I will dig them properly). It had been 10 minutes now and no one had come through. It was time to winch out by myself. I hooked on to the tree and managed to get myself out. I moved the car off to the side on the chicken track while i collected my recovery gear. A group then came along and I watched as the lifted GQ with 33' tyres failed to get through the left hole. It went through the right bog hole ok. A Suzuki Grand Vitara and Navara heeded my advice and took the chicken track. The group invited me to tag along with them and said the terrain was pretty much like this all the way through with chicken tracks on the side. I thanked them but said I was going to U-turn.

I got back on Carroll's Lane and reconsidered my plan. It was close to 1PM already and I wasn't feeling confident after that recovery and didn't want to get stuck without another vehicle to get me out. **Always go with another vehicle!!!**

I headed up Finger Post Road, turned left onto Burnt Mill Road, then went up Anderson's Mill Track which was on my original route. Thankfully, that was an easy track with no bog holes! The walking track to Andersons Mill itself was closed due to recent floods and storms.

It felt good to finally do one proper track! The track comes out on to Campaspe Road. On the paper map and google map it said there was a 4x4 track into Firths Park campground. So I started heading down into that. Lo and behold, a giant bog hole right at the start. I checked the depth, and walked up 100m to see more bog holes. No thanks!! I U-turned and went on Firth Road to Firths Park.



Firth Park was closed due to storms and floods as well. This was supposed to be the campground for the upcoming trip ☹️ I drove up to the start of the XL Track which is seasonally closed after Queen's Birthday weekend.



Just as I was about to enter, a lifted Range Rover and Navara came chugging out. The Range Rover went straight in the bog hole and his mate had to snatch him out. They said the track was very boggy and didn't recommend me going in solo with my 'lower spec'd' vehicle. Fair enough.



I continued to Mill Road and turned left on Ambler's Lane to head south. When I then turned onto Chettle Road, I had amazing views of the park. I got back on Firth Road and aired up near the exit on Carroll's Lane where dirt bikes were being loaded on.

I got dirty, used my winch in a 4x4 recovery, experienced some "wtf" moments - fun times, but next time and every other time, I will definitely be doing it with another vehicle.

Head of the Bight
Whale Watching Centre

