



# FREE WHEELING

December 2024



Official Newsletter of the  
Victorian Four Wheel  
Drive Club Inc

Walhalla Road by  
Sushant Aggarwal

Registration No  
A0002184F

## Meeting Details



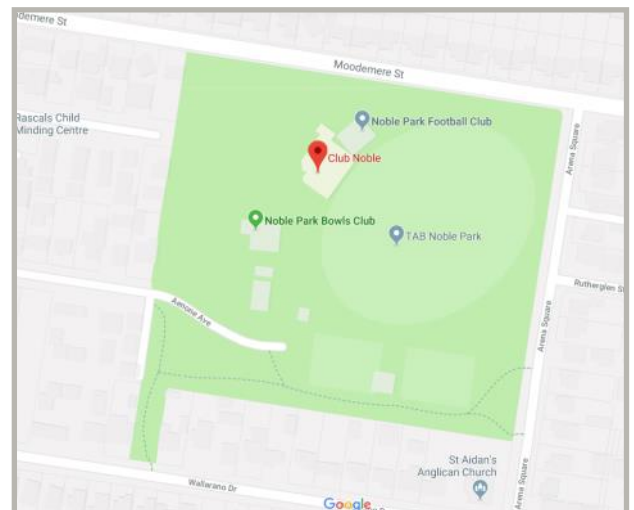
### VFWDC General Meeting Details & Venue

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

No meeting at Club Noble in January.

#### Club Noble Address

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



**This month's meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th December at 8.00pm.**

# Club Committee

## 2023-2024

President	Neville Van Leeuwen	<a href="mailto:president@vfwdc.com">president@vfwdc.com</a>
Vice President	Ken Kilby	<a href="mailto:vicepres@vfwdc.com">vicepres@vfwdc.com</a>
Secretary	Steve Miller	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
Treasurer	Ly Ho	<a href="mailto:treasurer@vfwdc.com">treasurer@vfwdc.com</a>

## General Committee

Trip Coordinator	Andy McCarthy	<a href="mailto:trips@vfwdc.com">trips@vfwdc.com</a>
Magazine Editor	Luke David	<a href="mailto:editor@vfwdc.com">editor@vfwdc.com</a>
Association Delegate	Dennis Alphonsus	<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	Phillip Griffith	
Merchandise	Suzy Whitford	<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 Drive Club is an affiliated club of [Four Wheel Drive Victoria](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au) - [www.fwdvictoria.org.au](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi All,

As we come to the end of this special year it's good to look back on the year we had, celebrating our 50th Anniversary. It has been a great year. I learnt a lot and have a new appreciation for how much people do for the club.

Last weekend we celebrated our breakup at Jells Park..at the time of writing this article it is still in the future so will update you at the meeting how it went. (I'm sure we had a good time)

We have a few trips coming up including the Orphans Christmas, Fishing Trip in Jan and Blue Rag on Australia Day so sign up or put your own trip forward.

We also have the next Trip Leader training course locked in on the 1st of March and seeking interest for the Driver Training. These are both invaluable courses.

For the last meeting of the year, we have Saber Off Road joining us so please come along for their presentation. I am really looking forward to hearing about their products including soft shackles and recovery gear as well as a range of other products

We are now looking to next year and planning what activities/ trips we can run as well as Guest speakers / Information night we can run at the meetings to keep them interesting and informative. If you have any suggestions or ideas please reach out to me or another committee member.

Lastly wishing everyone a great festive season, hope you all have some time to unwind and relax before the New Year.

Neville Van Leeuwen

VFWDC President

president@vfwdc.com

M: 0472 680 482

# Club Calendar

<b>December</b>				
Sunday 1st		Christmas breakup at Jells Park		Jells Park
Wednesday 4th		General Meeting—Saber Offroad		8:00pm Club Noble
		No Committee Meeting		
Monday 23rd-30th		Orphan’s Christmas in Talbotville		Sally
Wednesday 25th		Christmas Day		
Thursday 26th		Boxing Day		
<b>January</b>				
		No General Meeting		
Wednesday 15th		Committee Meeting		
TBC		Woodside Fishing Trip		Steven Card
Friday 24th–27th		AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND WANDERINGS— Blue Rag Range Track - Crooked River		Neville
<b>February</b>				
Wednesday 5th		General Meeting		7:30pm Club Noble
Wednesday 19th		Committee Meeting (Virtual)		7:30pm
<b>Future Dates</b>				
Saturday 1st March		Trip Leader Training Day		Sally

## VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 06/11/2024  
 Time: 8:00pm – 9:01pm  
 Location: Club Noble  
 Next Meeting: 8:00pm Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Open Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome</li> <li>Apologies: None noted</li> <li>Absent: None noted</li> </ul>	Neville
Minutes from previous months club meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matters arising from previous minutes for meeting on the 02/10/2024: Nil</li> <li>Minutes from previous meeting accepted:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accepted: Anne</li> <li>Seconded: Suzy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Neville
General Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nil</li> </ul>	Neville
Guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No guests</li> </ul>	Neville
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notices from Australia Post</li> <li>Saber Off Road regarding beings December 's guest speaker</li> <li>Email from FWDV about road openings and closures – This has been forwarded to all members.</li> </ul>	Neville
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saber Off Road regarding beings December 's guest speaker</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Astronomical; society regarding 26<sup>th</sup> Oct</li> </ul>	
Tonight's Guest Speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No guest speaker this month</li> </ul>	
Treasurer's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per written report from Ly Ho – Written report will be in next issue of the club's magazine.</li> <li>Closing cash position \$4,293.38</li> <li>Closing consolidated position \$6,388.14</li> <li>Motion to accept this month's Treasurer 's Report:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accepted: Dave</li> <li>Seconded: Anne</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Ly
Association News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on any Association news –</li> <li>22/10/2024 Email from FWDV are looking for nominations to fill the treasurer's position.</li> <li>Beachport area has had many areas closed due to poor driver behaviour. It is not known what access is now available.</li> </ul>	Dennis

Upcoming Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanked everyone for making 50th Anniversary night happen – Great event</li> </ul>	Andy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Astronomical Society – May now be on 7th December 2024 @ 7:30pm – Need minimum of 20-30 people to be viable. Viewing starting at 8:30pm Astronomical Society - Saturday (Weekend immediately after 50th anniversary dinner). Need to know numbers early as VFWDC has to stump up a minimum payment. \$10 per head – No dinner included Packenham School (Courtesy of Andre). Kid friendly. Approx 1 telescope per 10 people. Please note that the night is weather dependant. Society will confirm by 2pm on the day if weather is suitable for the night to proceed.</li> </ul> <p>**** Neville to advise if fee has to be prepaid ... minimum fee is \$250 ****</p>	Neville
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16th Nov 2024 – Day trip starting and finishing at Walhalla, details to follow. See trip data form for more information. Andy</li> </ul>	Andy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st December 2024, 11:00 am Sunday – Christmas Lunch at Jells Park, BYO everything.</li> </ul>	Neville
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23-29/12/2024 - Orphans Christmas Trip – Trip Leader: Sally &amp; Tristan – Talbotville, Blue Rag, Billy Goats Azeika Spur</li> </ul>	Sally
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishing trip at Woodside – Trip Leader: Steven Card - date to be advised in January 2025 – depends on when fish are running.</li> </ul>	Andy/Sally
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24/01/2025 to 26/01/2025 - Australia Day Trip – Trip Leader: Neville - Blue Rag, Talbotville, Crooked River, Azeika Spur – Arrive Friday, return Sunday</li> </ul>	Neville
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 Trip Leader Training - Looking for Expression of Interest</li> </ul>	Andy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 Driver Training Course - Request for Expressions of Interest</li> <li>• Some club members expressed interest in doing refresher course for those who have previously done training.</li> <li>• Query from members about doing training a second time ... members indicated they are happy to pay for 2nd training trip (Refresher trip ?)</li> </ul>	Andy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder to have an up-to-date Personal Information Form in our vehicle</li> <li>• Reminder to submit trip forms. If a trip form is not submitted, the trip is NOT a sanctioned trip (ie no insurance etc)</li> </ul>	Carried Forward

Merchandise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50th Anniversary polo shirts and jackets have arrived and available for those who have not yet collected their shirt and or jacket.</li> <li>• Old merchandise to be cleared. Everyone is welcome to take advantage of discounted prices.</li> <li>• 2025 VFWDC calendar is now available.</li> </ul>	Suzy
Intermission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intermission</li> </ul>	8:32pm – 8:47pm
Trip Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 05/10/2024 – Saturday night trip into Bunyip. Meeting at Longwarry Service Station. See trip report in club magazine “Free Wheeling”.</li> </ul>	No one present to provide trip report to club meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19th Oct 2024 - Club 50th Anniversary Dinner was held on 19th Oct 2024 at 6:00pm - It was held at the Waltzing Matilda (Banksia Room) in Springvale. Night went very smoothly and was enjoyed by everyone. FWDV presented a plaque to VFWDC for 50th anniversary. Appreciation awards given out to various members. See trip report in club magazine “Free Wheeling”.</li> </ul>	Neville
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 01/11/2024 to 04/11/2024 Melbourne Cup Weekend - Bindaree Hut Trip. 4.5 hrs travel time to get there. River Crossing. Saturday travel to Bindaree Falls, Monument track, Craigs Hut and a few other huts. Four day trip, Friday to Monday. Was not very crowded which was good. Saw three snakes. Sean nearly stepped on one of them. Trip distance went from an expected 250km to over 400km, some were very low on fuel by trips end. See trip report in club magazine “Free Wheeling”.</li> </ul>	Ken



December Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saber Off Road to come and talk about their products ... details to be advised.</li> </ul>	Neville
General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As of 1st meeting of 2025 will be on the 5th February 2025 (No club meeting in January), club meetings will commence at 7:30pm for a three month trial. The committee will then review how this was received and decide if it should be a permanent feature.</li> </ul>	General Business
Raffle	Prizes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St Annes bottle of wine and mini soft shackle.</li> <li>Kings Bag , Stickers and Magic Fire.</li> <li>Roof Top Map &amp; Foot Lotions</li> </ol>	
Next General Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wednesday 04/12/2024, 8:00pm at Club Noble (Upper floor meeting room)</li> </ul>	
Meeting Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:01pm</li> </ul>	Neville
Minutes taken by:		Steven Miller

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc  
www.vfwdc.com



## Treasurer's Report October 2024

<u>Cheque A/C`</u> Opening Balance as at 01/10/2024	\$11,230.48	
Add: Raffle	\$95.00	
Merchandise Sales	\$6.00	
50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration	\$80.00	
Membership Fees	\$150.00	
Astronomical Night	\$110.00	
Less: Catering Costs	-\$17.15	
Printing	-\$211.96	
Raffle Prizes	-\$29.99	
Venue Expense	-\$3,253.00	
Merchandise Expenses	-\$3,866.00	
Closing Balance as at 31/10/2024		\$4,293.38
<u>Term Deposit</u> Opening Balance as at 01/10/2024	\$6,262.88	
Add: Interest	\$125.26	
Closing Balance as at 31/10/2024		\$6,388.14
<u>Petty Cash</u> Opening Balance as at 01/10/2024	\$38.30	
Closing Balance as at 31/10/2024		<u>\$38.30</u>
<b>Consolidated Closing Cash Position</b>		<b><u>\$10,719.82</u></b>

## Saber Offroad—December meeting

Saber Offroad will be our special guests for the last meeting of the year. Don't miss out!

<https://saberoffroad.com/>



## Driver Proficiency Training

We are looking for expression of interest for the club's Driver Proficiency Training Course. Tentative month is in March. Please reach out to [trips@vfwdc.com](mailto:trips@vfwdc.com) and let Andy know your interest.

## Merchandise

See the Merchandise section for *updated prices and gear*.

We currently have a range of merchandise in stock, and the list of available items can be found on the pages below. If you are interested, please feel free to speak to one of the committee members during the general meeting or email us at [committee@vfwdc.com](mailto:committee@vfwdc.com).

## 2025 Calendars for sale

Our very first club calendars will be for sale at the upcoming meeting. \$20 each with limited stock

**Discount Offer:** The club is offering a discount of \$5 off your membership for each trip you have organized and run since March 1st, 2024, up to a maximum of \$20 per couple. Please mention any trips you have led when you reply.

# Merchandise

## 50th Anniversary Jacket

Cost - \$70.00

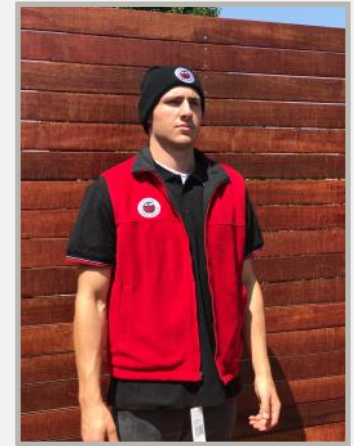
Sizes - XL, 3XL



## Reversible Vest

Cost - \$20.00

Sizes - S, M, L, 2XL, 5XL



## Drivers Jacket

Cost - \$40.00

Sizes - S, M, L, XL, 3XL



## Zip up Hoodie

Cost - \$20.00

Sizes - S, M, L



# Merchandise

Scarf / Beanie / Cap / Stubbie

Holder

Cost - \$5.00 each



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:

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<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](#).

# Track Classifications

[Four Wheel Drive Victoria](#) have a track grading classification scale which has been developed to assist in advising Trip Leaders and participants on 4WD trips of the type of tracks that they can expect to encounter. On most trips participants can expect that a variety of tracks will be traversed each with an appropriate rating. Trip Leaders should advise participants of the range of track ratings expected to be encountered on the planned route. The following classifications will assist in determining an overall Trip Rating:

Considerations	Easy	Medium	Difficult	Very Difficult
<b>Overall Description</b>	All Wheel Drive and High Range 4WD. Novice Drivers	Mainly High range 4WD but Low range required. Some 4WD experience recommended.	Significant Low range 4WD with standard 4WD ground clearance. Should have 4WD driver training.	Low range 4WD with High ground clearance. Experienced Drivers
<b>Advisory Sign</b>				
<b>Expected terrain and track conditions</b>	Mostly unsealed roads with no obstacles and minor gradients.	Tracks with some steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. May have shallow water crossings.	Tracks with frequent steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. Possible water crossings.	Tracks with frequent very steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. May have difficult river crossings.
<b>Vehicle suitability</b>	All wheel Drive and High Range 4WD. Can be low clearance with single range and road tyres.	Suitable for medium clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain or road tyres.	Suitable for medium to high clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain tyres.	Suitable for high clearance vehicles with dual range and tyres suitable for the terrain. (Mud Terrain tyres).
<b>Recovery equipment</b>			Recovery equipment required.	Winch / Recovery equipment required.
<b>Driver Training / Experience</b>	Suitable for novice drivers.	Recommended that drivers have experience or 4WD training. Recommended to be done in groups of vehicles.	Recommended for drivers with reasonable experience or 4WD training. To be done in groups of vehicles.	Drivers with extensive experience and advanced training should only attempt as there are several technical challenges. Recommended to be done in groups of four or more vehicles.
<b>Weather</b>	May be difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.



## PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	<b>Orphan's Christmas in Talbotville</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Sally and Tristan Sally 0435 782 207 Tristan 0468 958 444
DATE	Monday 23rd December to around 30th December
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBC depending on when you are coming
GRADE	WET: Medium/ Hard DRY: Easy/ Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p><b>Please adhere to new trip classifications</b></p> <p>A relaxing Christmas by the river in Talbotville. We will be resting in the river and exploring the area.</p> <p>Will do crooked river, bull town spur, potentially Billy Goats, Harrison's Cut, Randles track.</p> <p>The idea is we do a rest day, an explore day, we just wake up and see what we feel like.</p> <p>Bring your fishing rods, camp ovens and your relaxing vibes.</p> <p>Come when you feel like it and leave when you feel like. (let me know so I know when to look out for you).</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 1 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS	350km
Meeting place to destination	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Dargo DIESEL: Dargo
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	50km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Self Sufficient Camping Gear, food and water for 7days (or how long you are coming for) 4WD Recovery Gear
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftops – Dargo – Wonnangatta Adventure Map Hema – High Country VIC SW
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	Channel 12





## PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	<b>Woodside Fishing Trip</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Steven Card TEL: MOB: 0411 202 606
DATE	Jan 2025 – date TBC
MEETING PLACE / TIME	BP Officer – Friday Afternoon
GRADE	WET: easy DRY: easy
<b>Please adhere to new trip classifications</b>	
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Fishing trip north of Woodside, chasing Snapper. There may be 4x4ing, but the aim of the weekend is Camping and Fishing. Campground suitable for camper trailers but not Caravans. Exact weekend in Jan not yet decided on, so wanting expressions of interest and dates preferred. Potential dates: 3-5 Jan 10-12 Jan 17-19 Jan 24-26 Jan
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 1 MAXIMUM: 7
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	186kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Woodside DIESEL: Woodside
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Yarram is 30kms from Woodside
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Fishing and Camping gear
MAPS REQUIRED	Google Maps
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



## PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	<b>AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND WANDERINGS Blue Rag Range Track – Crooked River</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: NEVILLE VAN LEEUWEN MOB: 0472 680 482
DATE	24/01/25 – 27/01/25
MEETING PLACE / TIME	FRI 24/01 9AM AT BP OFFICER OUTBOUND You will be able to catch us at Dargo if you want to leave later.
GRADE <i>Please adhere to new trip classifications</i>	WET: hard DRY: medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>I plan on taking the Friday of Australia Day weekend off and getting an early start.</p> <p>My main aim of this trip is to do Blue Rag, the rest is flexible depending on what people want to see.</p> <p>Fri – Easy cruise up to Dargo, Camp at Italian Flat or thereabouts for the night.</p> <p>Sat – Pack up Camp and head straight up to Blue Rag Range Track take our time doing the track. On the way back head down Basalt N track to Talbotville Camping Area.</p> <p>Sun – Option 1 Complete the top end of Crooked River (Another thing I haven't done yet) Explore a bit around Grant and head back to Camp and relax for the rest of the day. Mon Head home via Dargo again.</p> <p>SAT or SUN – Option 2 Head out to Wonangatta (Potentially camp at Wonangatta depending on time doing the below tracks</p> <p>Crooked River Track</p> <p>Racecourse track</p> <p>Cynthia Range Track</p> <p>Herne Spur Track</p> <p>Wonangatta Track</p> <p>Zeka Spur to Licola camp somewhere near Licola</p> <p>Mon – Licola to home</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 6

LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: DARGO DIESEL: DARGO
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	We will top up in Dargo, allow for ~330 km of exploring to Licola where we can top up again if re-
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Be fully self-sufficient, recovery gear, recovery points front and back and all terrain tyres essential. Weather could be very warm so lots of water will be required.
MAPS REQUIRED	Dargo High Country
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



## PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	<b>Trip Leader Training Day</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Sally MOB: 0435 782 207
DATE	1st March 2025
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Alykan Electrical Solutions Offices at Factory 11/ 35 Garden Road 8:30am to 1pm (finish time depending on how long we chat and plan)
GRADE  <b>Please adhere to new trip classifications</b>	Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>This event is all about trip leading. How we go about preparing and running a trip.</p> <p><b>Before the trip</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forms</li> <li>• Sources of Information</li> <li>• Maps</li> <li>• Navigation devices</li> <li>• Deciding on grade of trip</li> <li>• Communicating with trip members</li> <li>• Fuel Planning</li> <li>• Gear Required for trip</li> </ul> <p><b>During the trip</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dealing with plan changes</li> <li>• Incidents on a trip</li> </ul> <p><b>After the trip</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trip reports</li> </ul>
VEHICLE LIMITS	No vehicle limits. Max number of people that meeting room hold will be 15
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	We have tea and coffee making facilities and also happy to put on a BBQ brekkie and lunch with a small donation for the food.
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Bring your maps, navigation devices and ideas on where you want to run a trip to
MAPS REQUIRED	Any that you want to bring along. I will have my maps and HEMA
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

# RIG RUNDOWN

Member—Alec Downs

**What 4WDs have you have had over the years?**

Just the one, my Mitsubishi MR Triton (2019)

**What was your favourite 4WD you owned?**

Mitsubishi MR Triton - my only one!

**What are some key features on your car that you use all the time when 4WD?**

Definitely the UHF radio.

**What are some accessories you have installed on your current car giving a run down on your current vehicle?**

1. 120AH AGM Battery
2. ARB Classic Series II 60L fridge
3. Carryboy Canopy
4. Ironman Deluxe Bull Bar, Side Steps, Rails, Rear Protection Tow Bar
5. Frontier 12,000lb Synthetic Winch
6. GME XRS-370C UHF CB Radio
7. Kumho Road Venture All-Terrain tyres
8. OCAM Steel Bash Plates (4mm)
9. Rola Titan MK2 Roof Tray
10. Safari Snorkel
11. Stedi 3301 24.5" light bar
12. Speedliner Spray-On Ute Tray Liner
13. Terrain Tamer Front/Rear Suspension kit & upper control arms

**What accessories would you recommend to other members based on your experience?**

After having taken a hit on my stock bash plates that broke my front diff actuator, after-market bash plates!





















## Trip Report: Walhalla Day Trip

**Date:** 16th November 2024

**Trip By:** Andy & Suzy

**Report:** Sushant Aggarwal

### Participants:

1. Andy & Suzy - Mitishubishi Challenger (Trip Leader)
2. Matteo and Jayden Marino - Hilux
3. Steve, Francine and James Dishon - Ford Everest
4. Sushant Aggarwal - Hilux

### A Day Adventure to Walhalla

The day trip started on a bright, sunny morning—perfect for exploring the picturesque tracks around Walhalla. Everyone was punctual, gathering at BP Officer at 9:30 AM with coffee-to-go in hand. Spirits were high as we prepared for a day of adventure.

### The Journey Begins

With a quick radio check complete, we hit the Princes Highway, cruising towards Moe. About 40 minutes later, we exited the highway at the Moe turnoff and stopped for a group briefing. Andy shared the plan, the vehicle sequence, and safety tips. Steve in his Everest took up the role of tail-end Charlie, while the two Hiluxes followed ahead of him. My Hilux was the odd one out, being the only vehicle without a winch!

After a quick fuel stop at the Moe servo, we headed out of town onto Moe-Rawson Road. The narrow, winding road reminded us we were entering hilly terrain. Twenty minutes later, we turned onto Moondarra-Reservoir Road, a dirt track that took us to our first destination: the Moondarra Reservoir Lookout.

Here, we paused to take in the views and snap some photos. Suzy got us all some delicious cupcakes, adding a sweet start to the trip. A bit of trivia: the name Moondarra originates from the Aboriginal word mundara, meaning "plenty of rain or thunder."



*At Moondarra Reservoir lookout*



*The last remnant of the township of Gould, at the Moondarra Reservoir lookout*



## Tackling the Tracks

With this first stop complete, we were back on dirt roads, beginning with W18 Track, followed by Tyres-Walhalla Road and Cowwarr-Walhalla Road, where we aired down. The increasing heat of the day had raised my tire pressures to 40 PSI, making the ride a bit stiff. A quick air-down to 18 PSI in the rear and 20 PSI in the front worked wonders, smoothing out the drive.



*Airing down at Cowwarr-Walhalla Road*

Our journey eventually brought us to Bruntons Bridge Road and the highlight of the day: the Thomson River crossing. Excitement rippled through the group as we parked to assess the crossing. The river didn't look too deep, but the descent into it was steep and tricky, with the potential for rear-end damage due to lower departure angles on the banks. The exit, too, had a deeper section requiring careful navigation.



*Watching others cross Thomson River at Bruntons Bridge*

### **The River Crossing**

Fortunately, this spot was popular among four-wheel-driving groups, allowing us to observe others attempt the crossing before making our own plans. Once everyone felt confident, Andy and Suzy in their Mitsubishi Challenger led the way. Andy skilfully navigated the descent into the river and powered through the deeper section to reach the far bank with ease.

Next was Matteo in his Hilux. His challenge was managing the steep descent, but his rear

bar provided protection as he bumped it slightly while entering the river. From there, Matteo made the crossing look effortless.

Then it was my turn. Watching Matteo bump his rear bar added a layer of anxiety—my Hilux lacked that extra protection. I decided to take a slightly different line, moving further to the right, and requested Steve to spot me for added reassurance. With careful feathering of the accelerator and constant feedback from Steve over the radio, I made it into the river smoothly. Following the planned line, I crossed the deeper section confidently and felt a huge sense of relief and accomplishment as I reached the other side. This was only my second river crossing, and it was exhilarating!

Finally, Steve brought his Everest across with no issues, completing the crossing for our group. With everyone safely on the far side, we paused for a much-deserved lunch break, sharing stories and laughs by the riverbank.



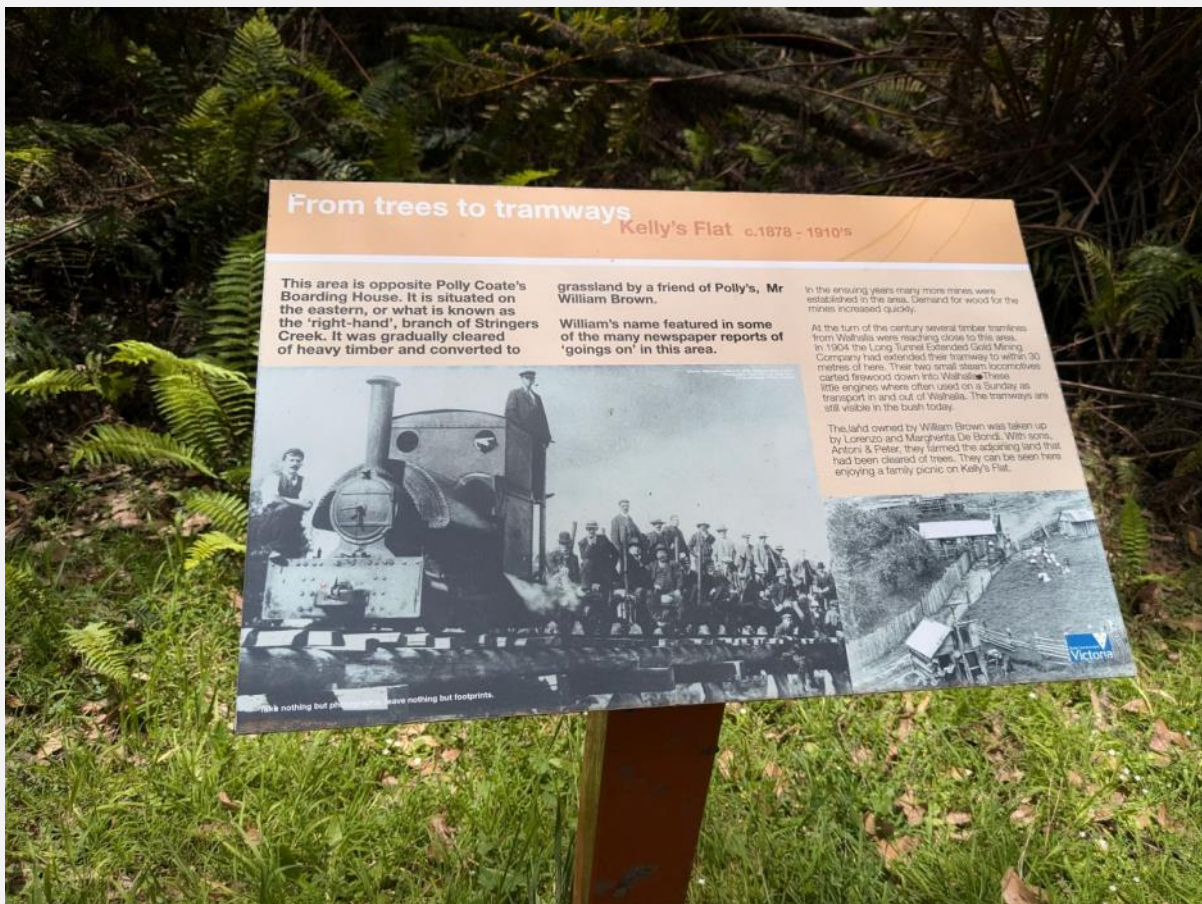
*The section of Thomson river that we crossed*

## **Exploring Walhalla**

After lunch, we revisited the day's plans and set off again. Our route took us through tracks like Happy-Go-Lucky Road, Maiden Town Track, and Lammer Track before connecting with Walhalla Road. Along the way, we stopped briefly to check out a historical marker—a reminder of the rich history in this region.



*Historical marker on the Walhalla Road*



*About the historical marker*

After a quick exploration, we aired up our tires and had lively discussions about navigation units and the largest tire sizes that could fit on a Hilux.

As the day wound down, we made our final stop at the charming town of Walhalla. Its quaint streets and historical sites offered a peaceful conclusion to the day's adventures.



*At the town of Walhalla. 72 tons of gold was stored in the little block of building!*

## **A Day to Remember**

We parted ways at Walhalla. The combination of stunning scenery, exciting river crossing, and great company made this very enjoyable. Thanks to Andy and Suzy for organizing and leading the trip! Here's to many more adventures on the road!

## Trip Report: : Bindaree Camp Ground

**Date: Melbourne Cup Long Weekend 2024**

**Trip By: Ken Kilby**

**Report: Ken Kilby**

### Participants:

1. Ken Kilby -Trip leader- Mitsubishi Triton
2. Andy Macarthy- Mitsubishi Challenger
3. Sean Graydon- FJ Toyota
4. Michael Scopel- Ford Ranger
5. Dennis Alphonsos- Jeep Rubicon



### Friday, Nov 1st

With four days of fun lying in wait, it was fortunate that everyone was able to make an early start. With a driving time of 4.5 hours from Melbourne to Bindaree Camp, the earlier the better. Andy got away in the morning while the rest met at 2:00 pm at the Glenburn truck stop.

After a trouble-free run to Mansfield for final refuelling, we continued on before stopping near the Mt Buller entry to air down for the final gravel leg into camp arriving just after 5:30 pm.

Andy was all set up and had picked out the best spot right at the end of the camping area where we had plenty of room to spread out.

After setting up, it was time to crack the first cold one and relax by the fire. After the long drive we all went to bed early, ready for the next day's adventures.



*Bindaree Campground*

Saturday, Nov 2nd

After breakfast we headed off around 9:00am for the first stop at Bindaree Falls. A short walk brings you to the spectacular falls where there is a viewing platform behind the falls itself inside a large, cavernous area hollowed out from the rock face. Being spring there was plenty of water cascading over the rim creating a lot of noise and spray.



After leaving the Falls we kept heading up Bindaree road to the junction of Circuit road where we changed onto Monument track. This is a great track with some great section to navigate, not too challenging but great fun. I think it was Michael who rated it the best track of the weekend. At the top we turned right onto Clear Hills track for the short run to Craigs Hut. There were only a couple of other cars there which was unexpected seeing as it was a long weekend.

After a look around and all trying to get the “money shot” of the Hut and the view, everyone made use of the available network connection to make calls and texts.



Craigs Hut

Retracing our steps we went along Clear hills track; our intention was to drive to Mt Sterling. Unfortunately, the start of the Mt Stirling track had a locked gate. I had checked the track closures a couple of days prior and it was not mentioned as being closed. I have previously been down it 18 months ago.

With Mt Stirling out of the picture we checked the maps and on Dennis's recommendation went back to Craigs hut following Clear hills track to Speculation Road where we turned off to take us to King Hut.

The short track in from Speculation Road was full of large holes with most needing go-arounds. As it was dry there were no problems but in the wet the track in would be a different story. This turned out to be a lovely sunny spot with a nice flat campground next to the King River. By now it was lunchtime, so it was an ideal place to take a break.



*King Hut*



That was the last item for the day, so we headed back to camp stopping along the way to get a good supply of firewood, arriving back at camp around 3:30 pm.

The rest of the afternoon was spent splitting and stacking the wood, giving us more than enough to last the next few days. Then it was time for another cold beverage and relax to talk about the day's events and go over the next day's agenda.



*Bindaree Camp*

### **Sunday, Nov 3rd**

An early start today as we had a fair bit of driving to do. The original schedule had changed as Dennis had to head back to Melbourne later in the day.

Heading up 16 Mile Jeep track, a short stop was made at Pikes Flat Hut. Not much of a hut, more like a backyard tin shed. From there we continued up to Bluff link Road and then along Brocks Road till we reached Tunnel Bend followed by a short downhill walk for a look at the tunnel.



*Tunnel Bend*

The tunnel was dug by hand back in the gold rush to divert the Howqua River so as to provide easier access to the gold deposits within the riverbed. Next up we drove through the campgrounds at Sheepyard Flat, which were understandably very busy but still had a couple of spots available, then to Fry's Hut for lunch.



*Frys Hut*

After lunch and a look at the hut, Dennis left us to head home while we tackled the Howqua hills track. This track has a quite steep section from Tobacco Flat to Steiners Road and would be very risky in the wet. Turning left at the junction took us to our destination of the old Slate Mine on Mitchell's Track. It was a packed house here with another group of nine vehicles enjoying the views. With the deep blue cloudless skies, the views were excellent. The side of the road where we parked has a very steep drop off, not a place to forget to engage the handbrake. We completed the day by following Steiners Road back to the Mansfield-Woods Point road and looping back the way we came in on Friday night taking us back to camp.



*Old Slate Mine*

Back at Camp and our first snake was spotted just behind my tent, a Red bellied Black going about his business not taking any notice of me only 2.5 metres away.



*Why we do it.*



*Sean asked if I had any electrical tape so he could reseal the bag. I obliged by sealing it with about three metres of tape.*

**Monday Nov 4th**

Today was the big day with a hike planned to Mt Eadley Stoney and to visit some more huts.

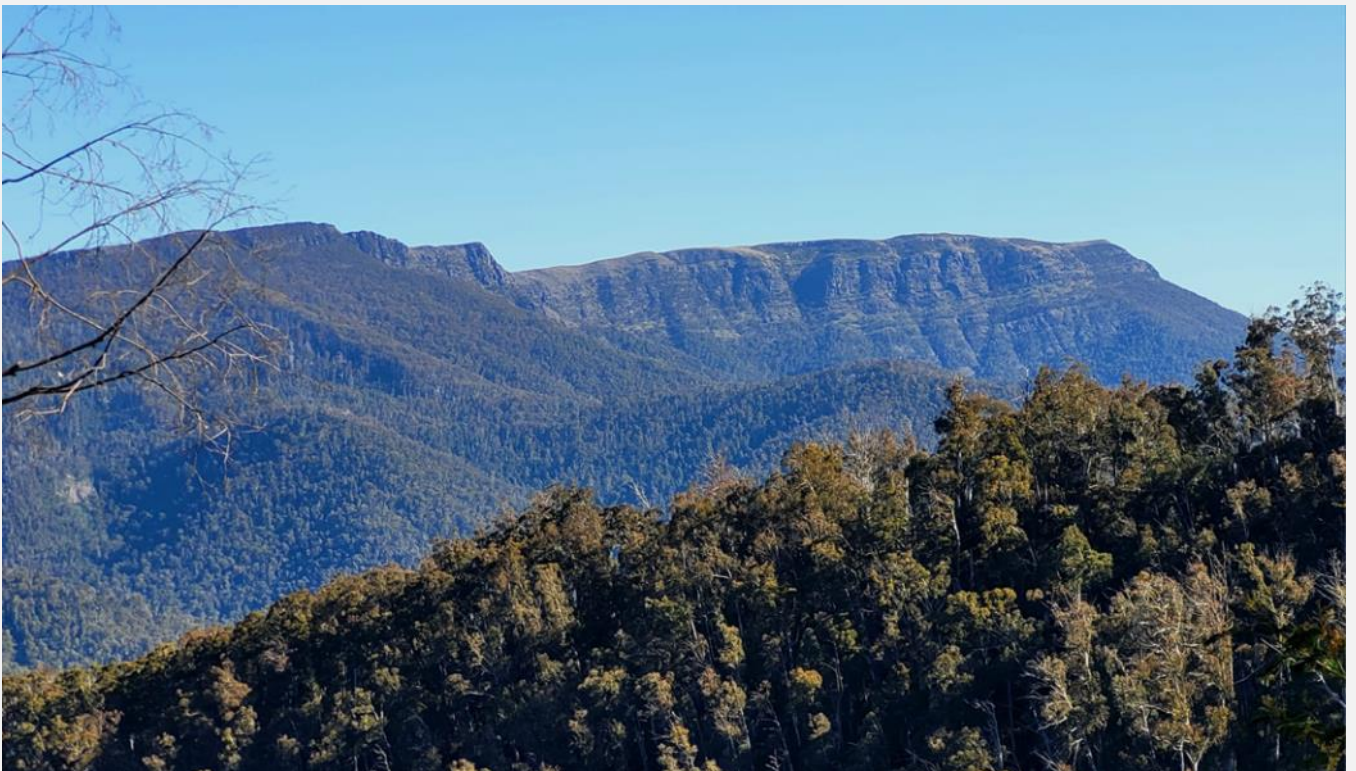
Another early start back up 16-mile jeep track to Bluff hut. We were again surprised at the lack of people there. Only 2 cars when we arrived.



The walking track to the Bluff begins next to the hut. It starts out steepish, having everyone except Michael huffing and puffing before long. Once up above the tree line, the track became easier as it followed the contour of the mountain.

The approx. 3.0 km return walk was well worth the effort. Walking off track to go straight up to the peak of Mt Eadley Stoney gave us one of the best views in the High Country. Continuing further takes you to the Bluff, but that was for another day.

Highly recommended if you are visiting this area.



*The Bluff with Mt Eadley Stoney to the left.*

At the peak, was where snake #2 was encountered. Michael spotted a small Brown Snake quite close and warned Sean, who then proceeded to almost step on it.



*Andy at Mt Eadley Stoney peak*



*Michael and Sean walking to the peak.*



*Michael, Sean, Andy*

After a lot of picture taking, the downhill walk back to the Hut was much more relaxing.

Leaving Bluff hut we continued along Bluff track to Lovick's Hut for our Lunch stop.

The plan was to continue on past Picture point and King Billy before rejoining Brocks Road. Due to low fuel in my car took a short cut back to Brocks Road which would cut off a few kilometres. Cairn Creek Track starts just near Lovicks Hut and its interesting that the Hema Map book rates the track as easy. The first part of the track is steep and rocky, definitely not an easy rating now, but once past this section, it became much easier.



*Cairn Creek Track*

Full credit to the Dept of Whatevertheyarecalledthisweek. Cairn Creek Track is 10 km long and we lost count of the number of trees that had fallen over track. They had obviously all been cleared just before the tracks re-opened and they had worked hard to clear them all. There were so many that I think they just had to do the bare minimum to make them passable. Quite a few had to be carefully negotiated to get around. It was

also clear that the track has very little use.

Joining back up to Brocks Road was where we saw Snake #3. A 1-metre-long Tiger snake was sunning itself in the middle of the road but quickly disappeared over the edge once disturbed. I jumped out to have a look, but he unfortunately was nowhere to be seen.

Refrigerator Gap track was another lightly used track, which completed the circuit back up to Bluff link road, then 16-mile Jeep track again, although downhill this time. Sean had concerns over his tyres having enough grip as their best days were well behind them. The tracks were very dry and shaley, but he made it without any dramas.

## Tuesday Nov 5th

To avoid the potential heavy traffic back to Melbourne, everyone packed up as much as possible the night before and we all got away by 8:30am.

Airing up at the start of the bitumen at Mirimbah, next stop was Mansfield to refuel.

We said our goodbyes here and everyone made their own way home.

That ended a fantastic weekend with great company and plenty of laughs, lots of interesting tracks of varying difficulty and exploring some new areas. The trek up to Mt Eadley Stoney being a real standout.

The weather was warm to hot with only one morning getting down to about 1 or 2 degrees and another with some early showers that cleared quickly

Ken.



# **We need your help on and off the tracks**



**If you have some spare time  
please consider joining the committee.  
Your club needs you— do it for your club!**

**Contact your Committee...**



