



FREE WHEELING



Trip: 50th Camp Trip
Photo VFWDC October Magazine

Official Newsletter of the Victorian
Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
Registration No: A002184F



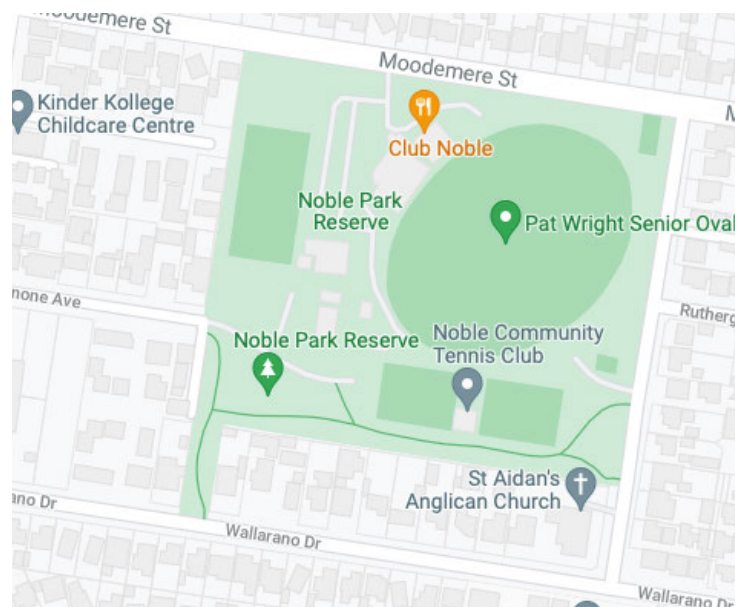
VFWDC Meeting Details & Venue

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 Addresss

Upstairs 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 2nd October at 8.00pm.

Club Committee

2024 - 2025

President	Neville Van Leeuwen	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	Ken Kilby	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Steve Miller	secretary@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Ly Ho	treasurer@vfwdc.com

General Committee

Trip Coordinator	Andy McCarthy	trips@vfwdc.com
Magazine Editor	Luke David	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	Dennis Alphonsus	delegate@vfwdc.com

Support Positions to Committee

Web Manager	Ben Whitworth	web@vfwdc.com
Training Officer	Phil Griffith	
Merchandise	Suzy Whitford	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](#)



President's Report

Hi All

I am very excited for this month's 50th Dinner. Preparation is almost finalised, we are expecting a big turnout including the CEO of FWDV Craig Ryan and a lot of former members so it will be a awesome night to catch up with fellow and past members.

A few weeks ago we had our 50th camping trip to Meringtons Campground, as is typical for our club functions we managed to get one of the coldest weekends of the year.

While numbers were down on what we expected a great time was had by all especially when Saturdays drive turned into an impromptu snow trip which was amazing! Sitting around the Campfire later in the evening with a steaming bowl of Butter Chicken was really appreciated. Thanks Dean!

The club is looking for some feedback from members on what trips they would most like to participate in for the next year, we have created a poll on our Facebook page asking you to pick your preference i.e. day / weekend / extended (I know most of us would love to tick all but we are looking for peoples highest preference). I really encourage everyone to take the time participate in this. We have emailed as well so you can respond here if you don't have Facebook.

We have a few trips coming up as well as the Astronomy night on the 26th. So please check out the upcoming trips section and sign up for some trips I will need RSVP's for the Astronomy night shortly so I can make sure that the Astronomical Society have enough volunteers and telescopes for us. (There is a \$10.00 / head charge for this to cover some of their expenses). Please see trip report.

A reminder to all members, if you have signed up for a trip and can no longer attend please ensure that the trip leader / co-ordinator is aware.

Neville Van Leeuwen

VFWDC President
president@vfwdc.com
M: 0472 680 482

Club Calendar

October

Wednesday 2nd	Club Meeting	8:00pm Club Noble
Wednesday 16th	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8:00pm
Saturday 19th	50th Celebratory Dinner	Venue: Waltzing matilda (more detail in magazine)
Saturday 26th	Astronomical Night Pakenham	Organised by Neville (see Upcoming Trips)

November

Friday 1st	Bindaree Hut Campground	Organised by Ken Kilby (see Upcoming Trips)
Wednesday 6th	Club Meeting	8:00pm Club Noble
Saturday 16th	Walhalla Day Trip	Organised by Andy McCarthy (see Upcoming Trips)
Wednesday 20th	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8:00pm



VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 04/09/2024

Time: 8:00pm – 9:25pm

Location: Club Noble

Next Meeting: Wednesday 2nd October 2024

Open Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Apologies: Ben, Sally and Tristan, Steve and Amanda, Michael Scopel, Daisy, Mark Kochan, Ly Ho, Sushi Absent: Not noted 	Neville
Minutes from previous months club meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matters arising from previous minutes for meeting on the 07/08/2024: Nil Minutes from previous meeting accepted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted: David Seconded: Andy 	Neville
General Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil 	Neville
Guests	<p>Mark, Everest Wildtrac, former member of the Everest Club, looking for Family orientated 4WDing. Con, Former Pajero driver, Wildtrac Ranger, has a cousin also named Con who has Landcruiser 200.</p>	Neville
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No notices from Australia Post Email correspondence – Reminder to RSVP for FWDV AGM 	Neville
Tonight's Guest Speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No guest speaker this month 	
Treasurer's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per written report from Ly Ho – Read by Neville – Written report will be in next issue of the club's magazine. Closing cash position \$10664.24 Closing consolidated position \$16965.38 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted: Andre Seconded: Andy 	Neville
Association News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on any Association news – 	Dennis



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FWDV AGM is on 16/09/2024 • New strategic plan • New CEO • FWDV wants to delve into what the club stats are made up off. • Offer a new platform REVOLUTION SPORT for club member management (Effectively a CRM). FWDV will not be on selling information. • Cost to clubs is \$112 for 100 members. • RTO training is being offered for free. More information to come. • FWDV want to arrange benefits for clubs. • No definitive position on state parks becoming national parks. • FWDV looking for more participants in running FWDV. • Chainsaw course in Warrnabool. • 4WD centre in Rowville under on going development. 	
Upcoming Trips		Andy
	07 th Sept 2024 – Day trip by Nero.	
	14 th to 15 th Sept 2024 - 50 th Anniversary Camping Trip at Merringtons or O'Tooles Campgrounds. More 4wd than can be hosted in a single trip (Max # of vehicles per convoy is 10), so multiple convoys may be arranged. No volunteer work this trip. This is also the area where driver training is carried out. Won't be doing the most challenging tracks. Won't be doing any "4 o'clock" tracks. May do a "Roast night" on the Saturday night. No cap on camping. Trips will be limited to max 10 vehicles per convoy but will attempt to keep numbers to 7 per convoy. Leaving Merringtons for the 4WD drives about 9:30am Saturday morning. Bring firewood or collect along the way. No trips planned for Sunday. Camper trailers only if going direct to camp site.	David Bruinsma
	19 th Oct 2024 - Club 50 th Anniversary Dinner to be held on 19 th Oct 2024 at 7:00pm - \$20 for members, includes dinner and gifts. To be held at the Waltzing Matilda (Banksia Room) in Springvale. Approx a dozen previous members also coming.	Neville
	26 th October 2024 - Astronomical Society - Saturday (Weekend immediately after 50 th anniversary dinner) – May be end of year off site function. Need to know numbers early as VFWDC has to stump up a minimum payment. TBC - \$10 without dinner, \$15 per head inclusive of dinner (Pizza). Pakenham School (Courtesy of Andre). Kid friendly. Approx 1 telescope per 10 people **** Neville to advise if fee has to be prepaid ****	Neville
	Late October 2024 (Before Melbourne Cup Weekend... Melbourne Cup is Tues 5 th Nov 2024) - St Annes have offered their facility for another event in October/November. Further details will be provided shortly. Angus has invited VFWDC to host a camping experience. VFWDC to collect firewood and make a large bonfire. The event will be ticketed.	Neville



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	Melbourne Cup Weekend - Bindaree Hut Trip. 4hrs travel time to get there. River Crossing. Saturday travel to Bindaree Falls, Craigs Hut and a few other huts. 4 day trip	Ken
	16 th Nov 2024 – Trip to Walhalla, details to follow	Andy
	Expression of Interest – Trip Leaders Training	Andy
	2025 Expression of Interest – Driver Training Course	Andy
	Reminder to have an up to date Personal Information Form in our vehicle	Andy
Intermission	Actual Intermission	8:40pm – 9:04pm
General Business	<p>November off site meeting – Proposed to have a normal meeting on the 2nd weekend of November 2024.</p> <p>Mark Kocham advised via email that Don Montegue’s wife Thelma passed away on 16/08/2024. Funeral was last Friday. Don is the inventor of the original bush BBQ. They were long time members. Club to pass on their sympathies and condolences.</p> <p>Notice of proposal to start meetings half an hour earlier ... 7:30pm instead of 8:00pm. Will raise it again at next meeting for more responses.</p>	Neville
Merchandise	<p>Old merchandise to be cleared. Everyone is welcome to take advantage of discounted prices.</p> <p>VFWDC calendar proposed for next year.</p> <p>Proposed having a club Calander to be available for start of 2025.</p> <p>Please submit photos for Calander.</p>	Suzy
Sponsorship	<p>St Annes donated bottles for raffle prizes.</p> <p>ARB donated an air compressor and tool bag for raffle prizes</p>	Neville
New support position	New position of Social Event Organiser available.	Neville
Magazine	<p>Plenty of content for next issue.</p> <p>Buy/Sell available in magazine</p> <p>Advertise your business.</p>	Neville



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December Meeting	Sabre Off Road to come and talk about their products	Neville
Trip Reports		
	24 th Aug 2024 – Day trip - Meeting at Marysville Bakery, Through the nearby ranges and Rubicon area, camping at Boyd's campground due to Kendyl's being closed. General exploring. Weather was fine other than a few light showers. See trip report in club magazine.	Ken
	Big Trip – 72 Days leaving Kings weekend – Alcie Springs, Tanami Desert, Wolf Creek, Broome, Totalled his car in a river crossing. Now has a Ford Everest. Will redo trip in two years. See trip report in club magazine.	Bruce Dunlop
VFWDC 50th Anniversary Updates	Main 50 th celebration trip will be Camping at Merringtons/O'Tooles. 14-15th Sept 2024. See "Upcoming Trips" for details.	Neville
	Club 50 th Anniversary Dinner to be held on 19 th Oct 2024 at 7:00pm - \$20 for members, includes dinner and gifts	Neville
	Club needs nominations for "Onya Award". Email nominations to Neville at president@vfwdc.com There will be a prize for best nomination.	Neville
	Andre collecting photos to put together a slide show for the 19 th Oct 2024 Anniversary Dinner	Neville
	Due to great RSVP response from club members and guests, a new, larger venue will be required. Details to be provided.	Neville
Raffle	Ken won hat. Neville won a bottle of wine. 3 rd prize was a snatch block.	
Next General Meeting	Wednesday 02/10/2024, 8:00pm at Club Noble (Upper floor meeting room)	
Meeting Close	9:25pm	Neville
Minutes taken by:		Steven Miller



Treasurer's Report August 2024

<u>Cheque A/C</u> Opening Balance as at 01/08/2024	\$11,762.97	
Add: Raffle	\$115.00	
Membership Fees	\$380.00	
50 th Anniversary Celebration	\$275.00	
Merchandise Sales	\$71.00	
Less: Catering Costs	-\$23.60	
FWDV - Association Fees	-\$580.00	
Web Hosting	-\$233.18	
Venue Hire	-\$300.00	
Gifts and Entertainment	-\$100.00	
Merchandise Expense	-\$702.99	
Closing Balance as at 31/08/2024		\$10,664.20
<u>Term Deposit</u> Opening Balance as at 01/08/2024	\$6,262.88	
Closing Balance as at 31/08/2024		\$6,262.88
<u>Petty Cash</u> Opening Balance as at 01/08/2024	\$38.30	
Closing Balance as at 31/08/2024		\$38.30
Consolidated Closing Cash Position		<u>\$16,965.38</u>

This month's meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 2nd October, at Club Noble. We welcome all current members and any new members looking to see what our club is about. All of us look forward to the upcoming trips and we encourage anyone thinking of running a trip to speak to anyone in the committee to get some advice and guidance.

Membership Renewals

It's that time of year again! To continue your membership for the next financial year (July 1st, 2024 to June 30th, 2025), please complete the membership form and email it back to treasurer@vfwdc.com. Payment details are included in the form.

Important: If you plan to attend any of the upcoming snow trips, renewing your membership is essential.

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.

Club's 50th Birthday

Just in case you weren't aware, this year marks the club's 50th birthday. A working group has been formed to organize amazing events. Please see further details in the magazine.

Merchandise

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.

In Memoriam

We recently heard of the passing of Thelma Montague on the 16th of August 2024. The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club would like to pass on our condolences to all her family and friends, and in particular to Don Montague.

Thelma Montague was a former long-time member and was married to Don Montague. Don and Thelma had travelled around and through Australia many times. They had just arrived in Mt Isa and were heading to one of their favourite spots, when she sadly and suddenly passed away.

Don was the inventor of the; Bush BBQ, that lots of club members have bought and used for many years.

With deepest sympathy
Neville Van Leeuwen
VFWDC President



YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE

VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL
DRIVE CLUB

50th Anniversary

OCTOBER

SATURDAY | 19 | AT 6 PM
2024

\$20 per person
Includes Dinner and Dessert
Cash Bar

BANKSIA ROOM
WALTZING MATILDA HOTEL
856 HEATHERTON RD,
SPRINGVALE VIC 3171

RSVP: 30 Septemberr
treasurer@vfwdc.com

ARB DANDENONG

ARB Dandenong has generously donated some fantastic prizes for our raffles, including:

- ARB Compressor with Tyre Gauge
- Roll-up Tool Bag

These prizes will be on offer at the following events:

- Compressor: 50th Dinner



- Tool Bag: August AGM



ST ANNES WINERY

We are grateful to St Annes Winery for their continued support. In addition to hosting our Christmas in July celebration each year, they have also generously donated the following wines:

- Liqueur Tawny (1 bottle)
- Bluegrass Tawny (2 bottles)

These delicious drops will be perfect for our raffles or events. Thank you, St Annes Winery!



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](#)

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	Victorian Four Wheel Drive
Name: BSB:	Club Inc 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](#).

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
Overall Description	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
Advisory Sign				
Expected terrain and track conditions	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.
Vehicle suitability	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).
Recovery equipment			Recovery equipment required.	Winch / Recovery equipment required.
Driver Training / Experience	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.
Weather	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	Astronomical Night
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Neville Van Leeuwen TEL: MOB: 0472 680 482
DATE	26/10 at 7:30 PM meetup / approx. 8:30 viewing starts
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Chairo Christian School 585 Bald Hill Road Nar Nar Goon Vic
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: NA DRY: NA
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	We will be meeting up at Chairo Christian School Along with some volunteers from the Astronomical Society of Victoria (ASV) who will have Telescopes setup. #Note this event may need to be rescheduled if the weather is not suitable, ASV will advise
Cost	Cost \$10.00 / person Min Fee is \$250.00 I encourage you to Invite any friends / Family that may be interested so we can be sure to have enough numbers (25+)
Cancellation	ASV will contact us around 2pm on the day, if they believe the weather is not suitable to proceed, if this occurs, we will need to reschedule.
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	NA
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	NA
MAPS REQUIRED	NA
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12 (Will be online to assist anyone if required)



PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	Bindaree Hut Campground
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Ken Kilby TEL: MOB: 0422411790
DATE	1/11/24 to 5/11/24
MEETING PLACE / TIME	KFC Lilydale 4:00pm Friday 1/11/24
GRADE <i>Please adhere to new trip classifications</i>	WET: medium/hard DRY: easy/medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Meet up at Lilydale Friday night to get a spot before it potentially gets crowded. Base camp at Bindaree Campground. If coming up on Saturday morning, come early as we will be leaving to go exploring by 9:30-10:00am. Over the next 3 days, explore the area including; Bindaree Hut, Bindaree falls, Craigs Hut, Bluff Hut, Lovicks Hut, King Billy Tree, Mt Stirling, returning on Cup Day.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	230 km
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	300 km approx. for 3 days, Mansfield to Mansfield (Note: 71 km from Mansfield to Bindaree Hut)
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	All-Terrain Tyres at a minimum, no Hwy tyres. Recovery points and gear. Only one single drop toilet at the campsite, will be a busy weekend, consider bringing your own. A bag of firewood for the first night if you have room. Plenty of good wood to collect while we are out and about. There is a creek crossing with a rock ledge as you come into camp, no problem to traverse, shouldn't be a problem for an off-road camper with high clearance. Personal Information Form.
MAPS REQUIRED	Mansfield/Howitt
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	Walhalla Day Trip
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Andy McCarthy TEL: MOB: 0414 332 322
DATE	Saturday 16 th November 2024
MEETING PLACE / TIME	BP Officer Outbound 9am – depart 9:30
GRADE <i>Please adhere to new trip classifications</i>	WET: medium DRY: hard
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Leave the highway at Moe, head towards Walhalla. Pass Moondarra Reservoir, cross Thomson River at Bruntons bridge. Stop for lunch at one of Walhalla's old town sites; Coopers Creek, Happy Go Lucky, Maiden Town or Mormon Town, before arriving and airing up in Walhalla.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	160km (BP Officer Outbound to Walhalla via scenic route)
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	122km (Moe to Walhalla and back to Moe)
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	All-Terrain Tyres Recovery points and gear Packed lunch Personal Information Form
MAPS REQUIRED	Walhalla rooftop maps, also Hema trip #29 in Hema's top 30 4WD trips guide
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

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...

