



FREE WHEELING



Trip: Bruces Small Trip
Photo VFWDC August Magazine

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



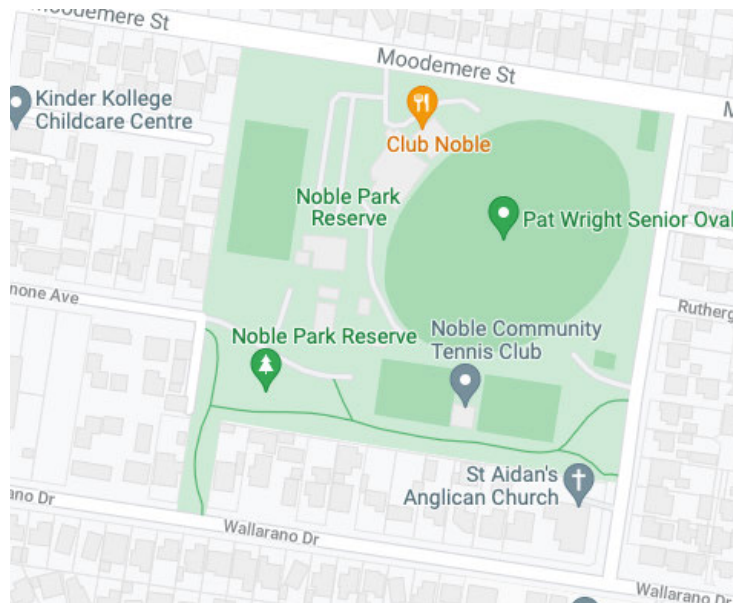
VFWDC Meeting Details & Venue

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 Address

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 4th September 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'm excited to be given the opportunity to be Club President again this year, and with a full committee (including some new faces) it's looking to be a great year. Please check out the Club Committee page to see all the details. I want to thank all the committee members again; without their efforts, our club wouldn't run.

Our 50th Dinner celebration is fast approaching, and planning is well underway. I'm looking forward to celebrating with you all! Please remember we're now celebrating at The Waltzing Matilda Hotel in Springvale. There's an invitation in the magazine, and if you haven't RSVP'd yet, there's still time to join us. (Please remember to let us know if you have any dietary requirements.)

We also have our Club 50th Camping trip on the 14th-15th of this month. It'll be great to get out with everyone and enjoy a trip, along with some campfire relaxation. We're not limiting places for the weekend, but we will need to run some separate trips to cater for everyone who joins. More details are in the magazine.

We have some trips coming up, as well as an Astronomy night, so make sure to check them out and join in. Later next year, we're planning to have a stand at the 4X4 show (August 25), so please keep this in mind. If you have any trip ideas or ideas for Club meeting nights, please let a committee member know, and we'll try to help make them happen.

FWDV is offering a chainsaw course in October; I've emailed out the relevant details. There's a subsidized cost for this course.

With the weather warming up, I'm looking forward to getting back out on the tracks again. While there are still closures in place, we still have plenty of places to explore, so start planning your next adventure!

Best regards,

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

Club Calendar

September

Wednesday 4th	Club Meeting	8:00pm Club Noble
Saturday 14th	Merringtons	Organised by Dave (see Upcoming Trips)
Wednesday 18th	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8:00pm

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)

Other Dates

1st November 2024	Bindaree Hut Campground	Organised by Ken Kilby (see Upcoming Trips)
16th November 2024	Walhalla Day Trip	Organised by Andy McCarthy (see Upcoming Trips)



VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 07/08/2024

Time: 8:08pm – 9:26pm

Location: Club Noble

Next Meeting: Wednesday 4th September 2024

Open Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Announced programme for the night Apologies: Daisy, Sally and Tristan, Phil, Ken, Steve Deshan, Matt Marino, Dennis Absent: Ian and Audrey, Steve and Nicky, Bruce Dunlop 	Neville
Minutes from previous months club meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matters arising from previous minutes for meeting on the 03/07/2024: Nil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept: Andre Seconded: Stuart 	Neville
General Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil 	Neville
Guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Guests 	Neville
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from new CEO of FWDV. He would like to attend a club meeting. It is proposed to invite him to 50th anniversary dinner. 3 items for Ly's attention Neville to check our physical mail box 	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 Ly – Written report will be in next issue of the club's magazine. Closing cash position \$11,762.97 Closing consolidated position \$18,064.15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted: Andre Seconded: Dave B 	Ly



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Association News		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on any Association news – Planning for the National 4x4 Show is 23-24 Aug. With dates set for the 23rd to the 25th of August VFWDC to participate in show next year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each club who attends will be issued 30 passes for their club ensuring plenty of people from your club can get down to enjoy the show and help out on your clubs stand. FWDV ag is on 16/09/2024 	Neville
Upcoming Trips		
	24 th Aug 2024 – Day trip - Meeting at Marysville Bakery, Through the nearby ranges and Rubicon area, camping at Boyd’s camp ground due to Kendyl’s being closed. General exploring.	Ly
	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, 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. 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 8 per convoy. Leaving Merringtons for the 4WD drives about 9:30am Saturday morning. Bring firewood or collect along the way.	Neville/David B
	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	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. \$15 per head inclusive of dinner (Pizza). Pakenham School (Courtesy of Andre). Kid friendly. Approx 1 telescope per 10 people	Neville
	Nov 2024 - St Annes have offered their facility for another event in November. Further details will be provided shortly.	Neville
IT Issues	Web site was down for a few days. It is now back up. Club is migrating to a new hosting service.	Neville/Ben
General Business	No general business	Neville
Merchandise	Old merchandise to be cleared. Everyone is welcome to take advantage of discounted prices. VFWDC calendar proposed for next year.	Suzy and Andy



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Sponsorship Sponsorship continued	St Annes donated bottles for raffle prizes. ARB donated an air compressor and tools for raffle prizes	Neville
New support position	New position of Social Event Organiser available.	Neville
Intermission		8:27pm – 8:45pm
Annual General Meeting Commenced	8:45pm	
	Welcome to the 2024 AGM Nominees must be financial No multiple nominations observed. (A vote would be required if there were multiple nominations) Thanked Neville for his leader ship for the past year.	Steve Pitcher
	Presidents Report (1 st order of business): Transcript in club magazine. Look forward to 50 th anniversary celebrations 15 trips this year including several extended trips Off site meeting Driver training Phil Ashley and John Christmas in July End of year party at Ian and Audry's place. Trip Leader Training Snow Trips Dion from Weigh Station Looking forward to the next year and exploring new places.	Neville
	Treasurers Report (2 nd item of business): Financial report for year ending June 30 th 2024 Copy in club magazine Membership numbers stable Net profit of \$804.00 Club equity is at \$19,213.00 Investment of \$339.00	Ly



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	<p>FWDV has increased affiliation fees. This will be possibly be passed onto members next year.</p> <p>50th Anniversary costs will adversely affect club finances in the short term.</p> <p>Please note the club is a not-for-profit organisation.</p> <p>Thankyou everyone for their support</p>	
	<p>Annual Trip Report (3rd order of business):</p> <p>Bruce Dunlop not available to deliver Trip Report</p> <p>Copy in the club magazine</p> <p>Summary of trips as follows:</p> <p>15 trips for the year</p> <p>10 individual trip leaders</p> <p>90 participants</p> <p>44 participants in trips</p> <p>End of year party at Ian and Audrey's</p> <p>St Annes</p> <p>2 training events – Driver training, Trip Leader training</p> <p>Trip numbers down a little bit on last year</p> <p>2 day trips</p> <p>3 snow trips</p> <p>8 weekend trips</p> <p>2 extended trips</p> <p>A great result for the past year.</p> <p>Look forward to the upcoming year. Particularly more day trips.</p>	Neville
	<p>That concludes the key presentations</p>	Steve Pitcher
	<p>Minutes from 2023.</p> <p>No matters arising from the 2023 AGM minutes.</p> <p>Note from Andre – Steve Pitcher has hosted every AGM for many years now.</p> <p>Accepted by Andre</p> <p>Seconded by Andy</p>	Steve Pitcher
	<p>All committee positions are now declared vacant.</p>	Steve Pitcher
	<p>Nominations are:</p> <p>Neville for Club President</p> <p>Ken Kilby for Vice President</p> <p>Ly Ho for Treasurer</p> <p>Steven Miller for Secretary</p> <p>Andy McCarty for Trips Coordinator</p> <p>All positions filled as nominated.</p>	Steve Pitcher



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	Support roles: Suzy for Merchandise Dennis for Club Delegate Luke for Magazine Editor Ben for IT administrator	Steve Pitcher
	It is 1 st time in a while that all positions have been filled	Steve Pitcher
	FYI ... 50 th Anniversary Sub Committee is comprised of Stuart, Maree, Daisy, Dave, Andre, Neville, Sally	Neville
	Thankyou to Anne for providing supper each month.	Neville
	No other items raised.	Steve Pitcher
Annual General Meeting Concluded	Annual General Meeting closed at 9pm	
Regular General Meeting Resumed		Neville
Trip Reports		
	Steven Miller – Saturday 22 nd June 2024 to approximately 05 th July 2024 (12-14 days) – Route was Melbourne Woomera, Coober Pedy, Lamberts Centre, to Uluru where we meet a two vehicle contingent from WA, then to Alice Springs, down the old Ghan Railway, cross the Simpson Desert (West to East), Longreach (Qantas Aviation Museum), then back down to The Dish (Parkes Radio Telescope), check out the Snowy Hydro Scheme, Snow camping near last camping was in Kosciusko National Park, then returned to Melbourne	Steve Miller
	Christmas In July – St Annes Winery – 19 th July to 21 st July 2024 – Got the same spot as last year. Paddocks were much drier this time. Had a large fire. Spit dinner, wine tasting. Generally it was a great weekend. There was more food than could be eaten. St Annes had another event at the same time which bought large crowds to the venue. Food vans, market stalls. The rain on Saturday night cleared up after the festival making for a much better night. Good fun!	Neville
	Mt Skene – 13/07/2024 – Most participants came up on the Friday. On Saturday, we all met at the general store and had the bacon and egg rolls for breakfast. Once the last people arrived from Melbourne we left for Mt Skene. Unfortunately there was no snow other than a large snow ball found by Suzy and Andy ... we joked that it was the world's shortest ski slope. It turned very cold whilst we were on the mountain. Shortly after we left it began snowing,	Steven Miller



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	which was great for the following ski trip. We all had dinner at the Jamieson Brewery and enjoyed everyone's company.	
	Mt Skene - 02/08/2024 – Fairly easy going, Snow down to below the picnic spot. Landrover club arrived shortly after. Went in to the scenic look out. Then went down to Wren's Flat, very nice camp spot down near the river. Suggest camping there next time. Good trip	Andre
	Note regarding the new automated parks and permits system. Recommend nominating 10 persons at initial application as it is very difficult to add additional persons later, especially if FWDV have allocated the other places to another club. FWDV allow 8 trips of 10 vehicle per day.	Andre
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	4 Winners – Blue Grass Tawny Port, Shiraz, Merchandise, Beef Jerky and Tools	
Next General Meeting	Wednesday 04/09/2024, 8:00pm at Club Noble (Upper floor meeting room)	
Meeting Close	9:28pm	Neville
Minutes taken by:		Steven Miller

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com



Treasurer's Report July 2024

<u>Cheque A/C`</u> Opening Balance as at 01/07/2024	\$10,485.85	
Add: Raffle	\$50.00	
Membership Fees	\$1,615.00	
50 th Anniversary Celebration	\$500.00	
Donations	\$10.00	
Merchandise Sales	\$360.00	
Less: Catering Costs	-\$323.88	
FWDV - Association Fees	-\$696.00	
P.O Box Fees	-\$238.00	
Closing Balance as at 31/07/2024		\$11,762.97
<u>Term Deposit</u> Opening Balance as at 01/07/2024	\$6,262.88	
Closing Balance as at 31/07/2024		\$6,262.88
<u>Petty Cash</u> Opening Balance as at 01/07/2024	\$38.30	
Closing Balance as at 31/07/2024		\$38.30
Consolidated Closing Cash Position		<u>\$18,064.15</u>

This month's meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 4th August, 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.



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

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	Merringtons Camping Ground – Aberfeldy district. 50 th anniversary Club Camping trip.
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: David Bruinsma MOB: 0417 747 860
DATE	Friday 14 th to Sunday 16 th SEPTEMBER 2024
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Friday – TBA Saturday – 6am for 6:30am departure at BP Officer beside the highway outbound.
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: medium DRY: easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Aiming for a 9:30 departure for the day trips – which will be split into a safe number of vehicles per trip leader.</p> <p>Option 1 Visit many of the historic areas that Rudy and friends have set up marker for (soft 4wd driving – some low range will be required)</p> <p>Option 2 Do all the harder tracks that are regularly used for the driver training (medium to hard 4wd – with switch backs)</p> <p>Option 3 Find all the camping spots throughout the area and do recy's for future trips to the area (so we have more future options and trip leaders)</p> <p>Option 4 Explore ?????</p> <p>Suggest everyone be back at camp before 4pm for happy hour 4 – 5pm. Suggested dinner activity – ROAST OFF. Who can make the best smelling (and tasting roast). We also have a club member that is happy to do a large Butter chicken dinner, and offer tastings to all the members that are coming (so have a plate and spoon ready to be served)</p> <p>While we are likely to be spread out around the camp ground – once dinner is over, please come to a central camp fire for a good old fashion yarn with our fellow club members</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 7 per convoy
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	400
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Moe

Upcoming Trips



	DIESEL: Moe
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Moe
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Own camping and cooking equipment
MAPS REQUIRED	Walhalla – Woods point Forest Activities Map
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12 – unless discussed otherwise – each day trip will have its own channel and then come back to UHF 12 heading back to camp.

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

Trip Report: Mt Skene

Dates: 3rd August 2024

Hf]d`6m`Andre

Written By: Andre

Details

It all began on a crisp morning in the quaint little town of Jamieson. Our intrepid crew, including a gaggle of excited children, set out at 9:30 am... ish. The destination? The snowy peaks of Mount Skene. The mission? To conquer the snow and have a blast doing it.

An hour into our journey, we hit the snow line. By the time we reached the Picnic Spot, the ground was blanketed in a promising layer of white, and the excitement in the air was palpable. The snow was going to be perfect for all sorts of shenanigans.

At the top, we unleashed our inner children alongside the actual kids. Snowballs flew through the air with the precision of a well-aimed cricket ball, and laughter echoed through the mountains. We rode boogie boards down the hill, each descent more daring than the last. There were a few spectacular wipeouts, but hey, what's a snow day without a few tumbles?

The kids had a blast, their smiles wide with joy. After exhausting our supply of childish energy, we decided to continue our journey. We descended below the snow line on the Jamieson-Licola road, the scenery changing from winter wonderland to muddy mess.

Feeling adventurous, I (Andre) decided to tackle the Barkly River Jeep track. With a determined look and a firm grip on the wheel, I ventured forth. Alas, the track proved too challenging, and I had to back out. No shame in that – it's all part of the adventure!

Next, we looped into the Mt. Skene Lookout. The view was breathtaking, but the real highlight was Michael's little mishap. In a classic case of "Oops, I'm stuck," Michael managed to get his vehicle hung up. Enter the hero of the day: MaxTrax. With a bit of juggling and traction from the boards, Michael got his Ranger moving again.

Despite the minor hiccups, a good time was had by all. The Amarok, which had a less-than-stellar performance on its first snow trip, redeemed itself admirably. We returned to Jamieson with stories to tell and memories to cherish.

In the end, it was a day of snow, laughter, and a few stuck vehicles – the perfect recipe for an unforgettable 4WD adventure.

Trip Report: Marysville- Rubicon

Dates: August 2024

Host: Ly Ho

Written By: Ken Kilby

Roll Call

- Ly Ho- Trip Leader- Lexus
- Ken Kilby, Lucy Miceli-Mitsubishi Triton- Trip Report
- Steve, Francine & James Dishon- Ford Everest
- Andy and Suzy – Mitsubishi Challenger-Tail End Charlies
- Lynton Balia- Jeep- something or other.
- Melissa & Harsha Fernando-Nissan GU Patrol
- Steven & Amanda Spehar- Nissan Y62 Patrol



Saturday 17th August 2024.

After what seemed like the coldest winter in years, I'm sure everyone was itching to get out and do some 4wding, and it's still a long way off before the tracks reopen in November. Luckily, Ly Ho came to the rescue with a day trip to Marysville and Rubicon where we could enjoy a lovely part of the Victorian Countryside.

The weather report showed potentially 10 mm of rain so it could have turned out to be a very wet trip. Luckily it didn't materialise, and we only had a few showers.

Meetup time was 9:00 am at the Marysville bakery for a 9:30 start. Being the last to get there, I was met with a resounding "you're last, you have to write the trip report", so here we are.

With seven cars in the convoy, we headed off down the Buxton Road to the turn off at Mt Margaret Road where we aired down. From here we drove into the Cathedral State Park stopping at Cook's Mill campground for a toilet stop & group photo.



The track we were supposed to take turned out to be a walking track, so Ly had to do some quick readjustments to the plan. This was the first of a few map discrepancies still to come, we had three different maps, one paper and two digitals. I think there is a lesson there.



Heading back to the Maroondah Hwy, we turned right towards Taggerty. A short stop here to discuss the merits of airing back up again, but it was decided as we didn't have far to go till we would be back onto the gravel so continued on as we were.

Turning towards Thornton then into Rubicon Road we hit dirt again once we turned onto Blue Range Road. A well-formed local road, we followed this until turning left onto Quartz Creek Road. After a short distance, Pine track appeared on our left, so we thought we'd give that a go. It quickly become very narrow & Ly called out for everyone to stop while he walked further along to check it out. As it was becoming more overgrown with a low canopy, we turned around to continue along Quartz Creek Road.

One map showed if we took Tom Burns Track it would take us to the Rubicon River Road, which leads to the Power Station, and another map showed it was a dead end. We had nothing to lose so gave it a shot. Along the way some track clearing was in order before we came to an intersection which also wasn't on one of the maps. One direction was gated and closed so we took the only option, until we hit..... the dead end.

As it was now about 1:30 Ly decided it was a good place for lunch. With a bit of light drizzle and a muddy track we didn't hang around too long.

Backtracking to Quartz Creek Road we followed this until we hit Royston River Road which took us all the way to the Rubicon Hydro-electric Power Station.



Power Station back in the day.

This Power Station is part of the Sugarloaf-Rubicon Power generation Project involving four other power stations and was commenced in 1922.

It is still operational, but certainly looks derelict, the rusty old infrastructure next to the main building has been long decommissioned and left in place.

After a look around and some photos we headed off to Boys Camp just up the road for a toilet stop & airing up before heading back home. Boys camp was quite busy with many people there for the weekend.

All up everyone had a great day, thanks to Ly for organizing.



Suzy



Showdown at Rubicon!



Ly and Amanda getting into the Olympic Spirit, all set for a foot race.

Ken Kilby.

Trip Report: Bruces Small Trip

Hf]d`6m`Bruce Dunlop

Written By: Bruce Dunlop

Details

As the saying goes in the classics, "The journey of a thousand miles starts with one step." This one had a few more miles and a lot of stages:

Stage 1:

Dare say Dennis covered this far more eloquently than I would, so it's a pass from me.

Stage 2:

This day saw two of the convoy turn left and head south from Kulgera Roadhouse, while the other two headed north. Arriving at Alice Springs early enough to get the dreaded Pers Admin tasks of shopping, washing, and generally out of the way. Our first Fly In Fly Out (FIFO) arrived, and it's all directions north and east to Tanami, with the first stop at Tilmouth Well Roadhouse, meeting a group traveling the other way, which filled us with dread and concern. It's rough, nasty, and slow going on the Tanami, so planning around a few cleansing ales has a three-night stop plan.

Next day

The black top runs more than 60km more than my map indicates (yes, no Hema downloads for this dinosaur), and the road has been graded, so we hit the planned first night stop at 1300 ish, quick lunch, and it's wagons away, getting to the night stop at 1600 on the WA NT border free camp, right on a small lake with an abundance of timber, fire pit out, spuds in foil, tough night.

Next night stop

Wolfe Creek! Great spot, free, long drops aplenty, great walk around the rim of the Meteorite Crater, no bloke called Mick; still, cannot watch old Play School episodes after that film. The Tanami we were dreading has been changed to the Tamemi, barely 50 km of harsh roads, 100mts of washout was about it for tough.

Bolt into Halls Creek

Fuel top-up, then night stop at Fitzroy Crossing, the one out of town, good feed.

Hit Broome

24hrs ahead of schedule, so it's force ourselves to stay in a motel with pools for the night; again, tough. Next FIFO in town, so big stock up and next stop.

Barn Hill

5 nights, safe to swim they say, no crocs they say; that's because the sharks have moved in, LOL, we joke, until the shark beached itself just below the campsite the next day. Anyhow, it's feet up, relax, me no moving for 5 days, which is great after the last few weeks of single nights.

Back to Broome

After this and its FIFO changeovers.

Stage 3:

Gibb River Road: After Windjana, Silent Grove, Bell, Manning, and Barn Gorges, my quota is full. I will google any more images if I ever want to see another one; this intrepid traveler has seen enough Gorges. However, Mount Elizabeth Station had the best showers and grass areas seen so far; put that on your list.

Next stop

Kunurra, restock. Included a new tyre to replace the one I shredded 50km from the end. Lake Argyle, two nights stopover, best pool view.

Stage 4:

Bolt to Darwin, had a family bereavement, so had to do a FIFO to Melbourne for a few days.

Stage 5:

Returning to Darwin in the wee hours of the morning, it's a quick nap, then off; Mataranka next stop, and a quick one, no springs or swim here. Daly Waters, overnight, yes, did all the tourist stuff, Kevin the Croc, horse in the bar, look in the museum, didn't sing along with Country and Western, something about bleeding ears and stop the pain! Borroloola, great spot, pool, hot showers, and washing facilities.

However, the next bit of road to Hells Gate roadhouse was a tad rough. Hells Gate, good stop as well. Croydon next overnight, park next to pub, say no more. Undara Volcanic next stop, got me some knowledge and history learning about stuff, didn't do the tour, stole the pamphlet from someone who did. Palmer River roadhouse next point of call, best steak sandwiches this side of somewhere.

Stage 6:

Meet up with fellow VFWDC travelers Bre, Nicky, Ian, and Audrey after the latter had parked the large caravan at Laura. Musgrave Roadhouse next stop, croc feeding at 1700, staff on hand, out the back, 100m from our camp, and the three-strand wire fence around the billabong has a gap of at least 200mm from the ground up. What could go wrong with a hand-fed group of freshwater crocs and a park full of tourists? Glad I'm not in a tent. Passed through Coen, the famous Sexchange hotel, obligatory photo and comfort stop done.

Old Morton Telegraph next stop, green grass is a change, fire pits aplenty, sorry Dennis, used the last of your supply here. Bramwell Roadhouse, the gateway to the Old Tel Track. Set up the camper, and it's Palm Creek first of the crossings. Tick all of them off the list: Dulcie Creek, North and South Alice Creeks, Dulhunty Creek, Bere Creek, Gunshot Creek, Cockatoo Creek, and Fruit Bat Falls for a swim, that's a must, and the Southern Section done. Northern Section full of confidence and bravado, oops, too soon.

The ford or the line to the left is the question. Turns out to be a poor choice, as the cars in the mud and water ingress rate is equaling the Titanic and an iceberg. Winch 101 begins, not sure if the door seals keep the water out or in, but when the door is opened, a tsunami of water floats the thongs out, bugger. The ford is the correct answer, not my choice of the left. Anyway, heater on flat out, doors wide open, and it's onto Elliot Falls, Sam Creek, Mistake Creek (that was two before), Cannibal Creek, Cypress Creek, and Nolans. No water ingress here, no bogged, no worries! However, as the lights are flickering and the carpet smells like wet dog, thinking all might not be 100%, car is still running, so it's crack on. Jardine Ferry next.

Then on to Punsand Bay to meet the other wise, very wise VFWDC members who didn't attempt the crossing and did the ford. Car alarm starts going off randomly, think a cane toad has moved into the console, wet dog smell now a Great Dane version. Few neighbors great joy in pointing that out. Didn't seem as upset when the young folk fired up the music at 2100 and used many, many words at a good volume that would make a sailor blush, until Audrey did point out bedtime.

RAQ at Seisia rates highly recommended, thought alternator had gone to Toyota heaven after a small swim. Turns out terminals don't like creek water, etc., so new battery later and a \$2k bill. Apparently, bash plates are the name of the part, not what you do for hundreds of kms. That was a large chunk of labor as it had to be removed. Wet dog now Pug-ish. The intrepid VFWDC members did a boat trip to Thursday and Horn Islands for more history. We almost ended up as history as the boat driver was so engrossed in his phone whilst returning, he was close to ramming the inter-island barge, sinking in shark and croc waters not an issue? The workers on board did point out his small faux pas in very gentle, subtle terms.

Anyway, he will enjoy his holiday following his deregistration at least. From here, it's all downhill and returning home.

Stage 7:

We bid farewell to fellow VFWDC members as they head to Weipa, so it's express south.

- Bramwell overnight
- Hann River overnight
- Oasis Roadhouse
- Springsure overnight
- Sunshine Coast for two nights
- Narrabri overnight
- Tocumwal overnight
- Home

Trip Epilogue:

Water 1, Toyota Nil - statutory write-off due to water level ingress above door sills, halfway up the speaker. Wolfe Creek is a film, not a documentary! After paying \$2.98 per liter, I'm not going to complain about \$2.00 with a 4c discount voucher. Roadhouses are a good stop, licensed ones are the pick. I damaged only one tire. The 10,000 km service schedule is a bit tight; plan more big cities to fit a mid-way one in, or get a vehicle with better intervals. I did deflate tires, but not enough for some points. The wet dog smell is almost gone, now a small Chihuahua at worst.

A week ago, I was glad it's over, but now I have unfinished business - got to get that winched-out beating, so wait for my next planning ideas. 24 months minimum for those who are keen. Cheers, Bruce!







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...

