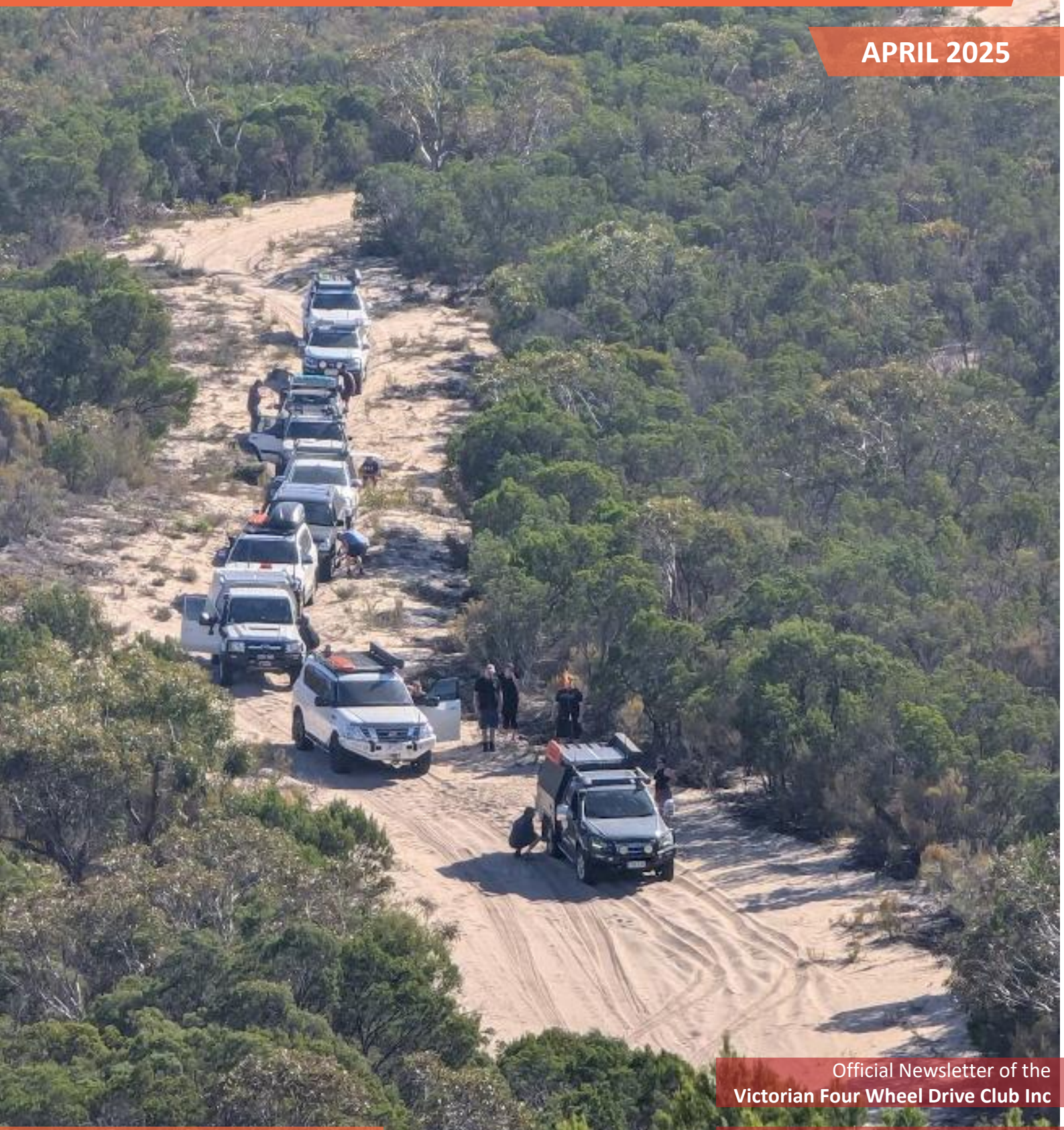




FREE WHEELING

APRIL 2025



Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

Photo by Sally Higgs

Registration No
A0002184F



VFWDC General Meeting Details & Venue

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30PM 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 2nd April at 7.30pm.

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	Sushant Aggarwal	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	Dennis Alphonsus	delegate@vfwdc.com

Support Positions to Committee

Web Manager	Ben Whitworth	web@vfwdc.com
Training officer	Phillip 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 Drive Club is an affiliated club of [Four Wheel Drive Victoria](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au) - www.fwdvictoria.org.au

President's Report

Hi All

The last month has flown but after missing the last meeting I'm looking forward to getting together again at this month's meeting.

I recently enjoyed a trip to Big Desert along with a large convoy including several new members. This was led by Sally and Tristan, and we all had a great time. (Apart from me blowing the turbo hose off a few times which resulted in an engine light code)

Luckily Stuart had an ODB scanner that was able to read and clear the code and with some assistance and bush mechanics I could continue on.

This leads me on to our May meeting where Trevor from Autophix is joining us with his ODB Scanners. I think after seeing how easy it was to read and clear codes and be able to continue without stressing about engine/ error lights I will be looking and getting one myself 😊

I see our Trip calendar filling up nicely with some interesting trips over the next few months. Please sign up at the next meeting if any of this interest you, they all look like great adventures! (Big thanks to Bruce and Tristan & Sally for putting these together)

I did notice we don't have any Day Trips so hopefully we can get 1 or 2 of these on the calendar as well (Any offers to run???)

We are currently looking into a new location for our Christmas in July to change things up, and are hoping to do a different event at St Annes possibly a bit later in the year. We will get you some more details about this soon.

Well, that's all for me here is a pic of the Triton getting a bit of a hand into camp at Big Desert (Before fixing turbo hose)



See you all on Wednesday!

Neville Van Leeuwen

VFWDC President

president@vfwdc.com

Club Calendar

April

Wednesday 2 nd	General Meeting	7:30pm Club Noble
Friday 4 th	Bruthen loop	Bruce Dunlop
Wednesday 16 th	Committee Meeting	
Thursday 17 th	Eyre Peninsula	Sally

May

Wednesday 7 th	General Meeting — Guest Speaker: Trevor (Autophix — ODB Scanners)	7:30pm Club Noble
Saturday 17 th	Proficiency Training - Practical	Phil, Ashley and John
Wednesday 21 st	Committee Meeting	

June

Wednesday 4 th	General Meeting	7:30pm Club Noble
Monday 9 th	King's weekend Googs track / Oodnadatta trip (~3 weeks)	Bruce Dunlop
Wednesday 18 th	Committee Meeting	

More upcoming trips:

1. Christmas in July – St Annes – Dates to be advised (Andy)
2. Camping trip – Dates to be advised (Angus)
3. 31/12/2025 Triple New Years at Camerons corner (Bruce Dunlop)
4. Cape York leaving King's birthday, via Birdsville, Weipa (Next Year – 2026), returning August 2026 (Bruce Dunlop)

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 5 Mar 2025

Time: 7:30pm – 9:35pm

Location: Club Noble

Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 2nd April 2025

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Open Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to the March club meeting • Apologies: Neville, Ben, Ken, Jason, Marie, Phil, Glen and Sandy, Michael Scopel, • Absent: Dennis 	Sally
Minutes from previous months club meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters arising from previous minutes for meeting on the 05/02/2025: Nil • Minutes from previous meeting accepted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accepted: Andy ○ Seconded: Anne 	Sally
General Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due family emergency and Vice President also unavailable, Sally kindly volunteered to chair the club meeting 	Sally
Guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marc – Triton, looking forward to getting out in the bush. • Dimitri - 2017 Landcruiser (Previously had a Patrol, inspired by Vernon, he is going on the Desert Wanderings trip. 	Sally
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RECEIVED: Email enquiry from Marc re joining club and requesting details. • SENT: Response sent to Marc. 	Steven M
Treasurer's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per written report from Ly Ho – Written report will be in next issue of the club's magazine. • February 2025 Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Closing cash position \$4584.85 ▪ Closing consolidated position \$11178.80 ○ Motion to accept February 2025 Treasurer 's Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accepted: Stuart ▪ Seconded: Bruce 	Ly
Association News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No news as Dennis was absent 	

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 5 Mar 2025

Time: 7:30pm – 9:35pm

Location: Club Noble

Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 2nd April 2025

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Upcoming Trips (By Andy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6-9/03/2025 Labour Weekend – Desert Wanderings Trip – Trip Leaders are Sally and Tristan 	Sally and Tristan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15/03/2025 Driver Training Course – Course is now fully subscribed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some club members expressed interest in doing refresher course for those who have previously done training. Theory night on the Wednesday 12/03/2025 @7:30pm at Club Noble. Camping overnight, basic recovery stuff. Phil is going up Saturday morning. Lerderberg FWDV training ground was considered but is too advanced for basic proficiency training ... may consider it for advanced driver training at a later date. 	John
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4/4/2025 Haunted Stream – Trip Leader: Bruce Dunlop 	Bruce
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easter – 11 days - Eyre Peninsular trip, oyster farm tours, camping – Fully subscribed – Trip Leaders: Sally and Tristan 	Sally
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kings weekend 2025 - Googs track returning via Oodnadatta Track - 3 weeks 	Bruce
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cape York leaving King’s birthday, via Birdsville, Weipa (Next Year – 2026), returning August 2026 	Bruce
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31/12/2025 Triple New Years at Camerons corner – Trip Leader: Bruce Dunlop 	Bruce
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas in July – St Annes – Dates to be advised 	Andy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camping trip – Dates to be advised - Trip Leader: Angus 	Andy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ly contacted numerous potential venues/camp sites as potential alternative Christmas In July venues. Ly found they were universally uninterested in hosting a club event. 	Ly
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reminder to have an up-to-date Personal Information Form in our vehicle Reminder to submit trip forms. If a trip form is not submitted, the trip is NOT a sanctioned trip (ie no insurance etc) 	Carried Forward

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 5 Mar 2025

Time: 7:30pm – 9:35pm

Location: Club Noble

Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 2nd April 2025

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Tonight's Guest Speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sally presenting Map Reading Presentation was informative and interesting ... much appreciated by all. 	Sally
Intermission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermission 	8:35pm – 9:05pm
Trip Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 01/03/2025 Trip Leader training morning – review by Daisy, with special mention (and thanks) of the breakfast served by Tristan. Many useful tips, shared experiences and guides. 	Daisy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing trip at Woodside Beach, near Sea Spray– Trip Leader: Steven Card - Daisy nearly bitten by tiger snake. Sally and Tristan got bogged, notwithstanding ... everyone had a great time fishing and relaxing – review by Sally 	Sally
General Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Thanks, Sushant, for doing March magazine Brief review of Revolution from FWDV, Committee is researching the platform and it's cost. Volunteer for Rig Run Down – Sushant “Volunteered” Meet the member – Steven Miller “Volunteered” May meeting will have Trevor from Autofix speaking about OBDs. 	General Business
Merchandise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50th Anniversary polo shirts and jackets have arrived and available for those who have not yet collected their shirt and or jacket. Old merchandise to be cleared. Everyone is welcome to take advantage of discounted prices. There are 2025 VFWDC calendars still available. 	Carried Forward
Raffle	<p>Prizes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Thermal Mug Wireless phone charger Whiskey glass and small bottle set 	
Next General Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 02/04/2025, 7:30pm at Club Noble (Upper floor meeting room) 	
Meeting Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:31pm 	Sally
Minutes taken by:		Steven Miller

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com



Treasurer's Report February 2025

<u>Cheque A/C`</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/02/2025	\$4,454.98	
Add:	Merchandise Sales	\$20.00	
	Membership Fees	\$145.00	
	Closing Balance as at 28/02/2025		\$4,589.98
<u>Term Deposit</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/02/2025	\$6,388.14	
Add:	Interest	\$77.38	
	Closing Balance as at 28/02/2025		\$6,465.52
<u>Undeposited</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/02/2025	\$0.00	
	Merchandise Sales	\$35.00	
	Raffle	\$50.00	
	Closing Balance as at 28/02/2025		\$85.00
<u>Petty Cash</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/02/2025	\$38.30	
	Closing Balance as at 28/02/2025		\$38.30
	Consolidated Closing Cash Position		\$11,178.80

NEW General Meeting start time

Starting 2025, the general meeting's start time will commence at **7:30PM** at Club Noble.

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.

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

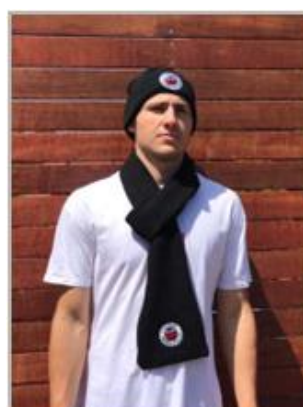
Sizes: S, M, L



Scarf / Beanie / Cap / Stubbie

Holder

Cost - \$5.00 each



Club Membership

Please visit our website at VFWDC.com to view all our current membership forms and club policies.

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

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

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us via the Club Secretary on secretary@vfwdc.com

Payments:

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

Account Name: Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
BSB: 633108
Account No: 111761979

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





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

Thank you for choosing the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

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

Track Classification

[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	PROFICIENCY TRAINING
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	Phil Griffith – 0419 865 472 Ashley Martin -0428 134 999 John Partridge – 0405 058 079
DATE	Practical – Friday 16th March– Sunday 18th May
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Theory – Noble Park Football Club, Blue and Gold Room Practical – Service Centre Officer (Princess Hwy) Friday @5pm / Saturday @7.30am
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Easy / Medium DRY: Easy Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>The Club encourages all members to participate in a proficiency course to ensure the basic fundamentals of 4-wheel driving are gained.</p> <p>Theory provides an overview of the tread lightly principles, vehicles dynamics and functions, tackling various terrains along with other subjects. This provides the background for the practical weekend.</p> <p>Practical we run through individual vehicles and differences, basic recovery equipment and recap some of the theory (including homework). We then begin the practical side running through several techniques to ensure safe vehicle recovery when in difficult situations. Once all participants are confident with these, we hit the tracks to put all the theory into practice.</p> <p>Sunday will be a leisurely start then we will traverse a number of tracks which allow you to become familiar with your vehicles' capabilities and gain further confidence. We should be finished by 2 o'clock arriving back to Melbourne around 4.</p> <p>As with past participants the weekend provides confidence to safely 4WD either with the club or friends</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	300 kms (approx.)
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Theory - pen and concentration Practical - You will need to be self-sufficient for camping and have your brain switched on!
MAPS REQUIRED	https://goo.gl/maps/GTrQDz5RLHS2
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12 to start with and then move if its busy



PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	Bruthen loop inc. Haunted Stream & Mystery loop (TBC)
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Bruce DUNLOP TEL: MOB: 0448 318 467
DATE	Friday 4 APR -Sunday 6 APR
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Café in Bruthen at 0800 for 0830 Most Likely at Maccas
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Hard + DRY: Medium Multiple Creek Crossings 40+
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> RV in Bruthen, Planned route, Engineers Track, Deptford, Dawson City, Dog Town and Stirling. (BYO lunch enroute.) RTN to Bruthen for O/N and debrief, confirming if Brewery is still open, Sat 5 APR A local has given up a FWD loop nearby, visiting a Trestle Bridge a possibility. They have not yet confirmed. If not a trip to Moscow Hut may occur. RTH Bruthen O/N <p>Sun 6 APR wake and go and or visit Lakes via back roads TBC.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	Both Loops 250-300km
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Bruthen,Lakes,Bairsdale DIESEL:
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	150km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Camping gear, Camper trailer off road Van, full noise recovery equipment, maxtracks, water,lunch both days,happy camper face!
MAPS REQUIRED	Aust 4WD atlas
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	EYRE PENINSULA
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Sally and Tristan Sally: 0435782207 Tristan: 0468958444
DATE	Thursday April 17th to Sunday April 27th
MEETING PLACE / TIME	BP Calder Park Outbound 8am
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Easy/ Medium DRY: Easy/ Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	A quick Tour of the Eyre Peninsula to explore and see what we can find. Day 1: Transit day - Melbourne to Renmark Area Day 2: Transit day - Renmark Area to Kimba/ Darke Peak Day 3: 4 Wheel Drive Darke Peak and then head to Pildappa Rock and across to Streaky Bay Day 4: Streaky Bay, Cape Bauer, Murphy's Haystacks and look along the coast until we reach Coodlie Park Eco Resort Day 5: Stay at Coodlie Park Eco Resort and day trip out to Talia Caves, the Tub and woolshed caves Day 6: travel to Coffin Bay national park Day 7: Check out Coffin Bay National Park and area and maybe find some oysters and do a tour Day 8: Lincoln National Park Day 9: Sleaford – Wanna track through to Port Lincoln and find some more seafood Day 10: Transit Day - Start to travel home so head through to Adelaide Day 11: Transit Day - Head home from Adelaide.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	1500km from starting point to furthest destination. Total trip is around 3500km
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	Petrol and Diesel will be available along the way. We are stopping in or travelling through a lot of towns and furthest fuel is about 100km from where we are staying.
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Maximum distance between supplies is around 300km.
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Touring set up with 4-wheel drive capability. I have managed to find some good four-wheel drive tracks that range from steep and rocky to sandy beach and dune tracks so full recovery gear is a must. Camper trailers are welcome but there will be some off-road travel with them on.
MAPS REQUIRED	Eyre Peninsula. Trip leader will have all the maps for the area.
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

Trip Report - Big Desert Wanderings 2025

Report By - Sally

1. Sally and Tristan - Patrol
2. Scott, Mandie and the Kids - Ranger
3. Neville and Riley- Triton
4. Dimitri - 200 Series
5. Vernon - Lexus
6. Adam – Patrol
7. Stuart - 79 Series
8. Ian and Audrey - Patrol
9. Daisy - Prado
10. Anthony and Emma - DMax
11. Alan and Ann - Prado

Friday 7th March

We met at BP Calder Park and everyone was running ahead of time which made for a smooth departure. We spotted a group of Jeeps in the car park so before we left I checked out where they were heading and it was Murray Sunset so we would not be bumping into them which is great.

First stop was Wycheproof Bakery for a snack to help us on our trip through to Blue Gums camp site. As we headed into town I had always seen the sign to go to Mt Wycheproof and in the bakery I spotted that it was Australia's smallest mountain so I figured we should go and climb it. So once everyone was stocked up with bakery goodies we headed to Mt Wycheproof and scaled its heady heights. It stands 42M above the surrounding area. There was a sculpture made out of the railroad nails which would have taken a while to construct and looked great.





Next stop was the famous Sharps Bakery in Birchip. They have some of the best Vanilla Slices in the state and have won the best Vanilla Slice competition numerous times. They missed out this year but it was still worth a stop. Some of the group had not been to Birchip before and got to meet the Mallee Bull in the centre of town. Another 40mins down the road we checked out the Silo Art at Sealake. I have been to this silo at least 6 times and I just noticed the wonderful echidna at the bottom of the Silo. Always something new to see.



The next stop was Lake Tyrrell. They have invested well in the infrastructure here to go out and enjoy the salt lake. The views are incredible and so expansive.



After all the sightseeing it was time to fuel up for the last confirmed fuel stop in Ouyen. We headed to what we thought was the cheapest fuel in the town and others went to different stations in the area.

The fuel station was unmanned so you swipe your card, they put a hold on your cash and you fill up. They then only charge you for what you use. So we started pouring the fuel and it was the slowest pump ever. I swear we would get about 400mls every minute or so. We kept persevering and then it was just crazy slow so we decided that we would try the other pump. We moved the vehicle around to the other side. Fun when we have a trailer on.

We then started again and the fuel was pouring slightly faster than the first time which lured us into a false sense of security... and then...it...slowed...down. Now everyone else was field up and waiting for us. They waited and waited and waited... it took about 45mins for us to fill our 140 litre tank. The price you pay for 20 cent per litre savings!!

We then got on the road for the trip into camp. I had seen that there might be a new fuel stop in Murrayville which is not far from camp and would be great if it is there as it means there is not far to go to top up with fuel once we are in the park. We stopped in Walpeup to have a look at the Silo Art there before heading through to Murrayville.

It was on this part of the trip that I realised that my Hema HX2 was not working properly so I was trying to get it to work but the intermittent mobile coverage was not my friend and it was going to be a weekend of paper maps.

We got to the air down point which is about 2 km from camp. There is a nice small dune to get up that can be quite soft and a bit of a challenge without the right tyre pressures. This is where the practice begins. We took a couple of goes to get up the dune... It helps if you put it in four wheel drive! The sand was hot, puffy and like talcum powder. We coached everyone up the hill with some taking more goes than others. This was the first time using four wheel drive for Vernon and the grin he had was huge. Scott and Mandie whilst have done a lot of four wheel driving, this time they had their camper trailer on. Once Scott dialed in the momentum they were up and at em.

Trip Report

We rolled into camp and got set up. It was hot, which was the theme for the weekend. We had met a couple in Talbotville and they live near Adelaide and we got a message they were going to join us for the weekend so we headed out to meet them as we thought they were going to have a camper trailer and as it was on dark it would be better to meet them and guide them in. They decided not to bring the camper trailer but we met them anyway.



Saturday 8th March

Today was all about getting to know driving in the sand and exploring a few parts of the park. Our first stop was Thompson's Lookout. This is a tricky climb as it has lots of corners. We got to the top and then positioned ourselves so we could see everyone coming up.

The tyre pressures were all dropping and everyone was learning how to drive sand and corners. Tristan got in to support a couple of people to get up the hill. Daisy took off and when she went to go around the corner and we heard a pop phhfff. Her tyre had come off her rim, She backed down slowly and everyone jumped in to help get it all sorted out.

Trip Report



This area kept us well occupied for the morning and then once we all made it to the top of the dune, the views were spectacular. The temperature was rising and was well into the 30's as we travelled along the sand dunes high above the desert. We found another dune to climb.

This was a lot easier as it was straight up but at the top you can either come down the same way.



Trip Report

We then proceed to head to a dune that also gets called Big Dune but isn't. It is close to Murrayville-Nhill Road. This is a dune that we had not done before so we were excited to give it a go.

I did not have enough momentum and got very stuck up the top as I was trying to cross over the top to come down a track. So Tristan had to get out and push the car so I could get it off the berm of sand I was wedged on.

It was another lot of fun. Our plan was to then head down to Big Billy Bore but

Neville was having issues with his car and potentially the turbo. So we decided to head back to camp and take it easy on more formed roads. When we got to the last dune before camp we strapped the Triton onto the back of the Patrol and we pulled Neville up the Dune with puffs of sand and the roar of the V8.



Once we got back to camp it was worked out that the turbo hose had come off. A relatively easy fix and not a major which was great.

It was another stinking hot day so no fire tonight and plenty of cold drinks while we debriefed the day's four wheel driving.

With the heat and the sand so soft we had more tyre issues so far than any other trip.

Sunday 9th March

We knew that Big Dune was going to be a big day so we left a bit earlier to try as it is a couple of hours to get to Big Dune from where we camp. We headed down a track and a four wheel drive came so fast at us on a corner that he went up off the track and he did not stop. He stopped to talk to the car behind us and he was so embarrassed for going too fast. We found where he got stuck and could not go any further, we just drove up and over the dune.

Vernon called and he said he could hear a noise. So we pulled up and then he called and said back up and running. We just cruised along the track and we pulled out to a hard stand area on Murrayville-Nhill Road to regroup. It was then that I got told Vernon's tyre was damaged.

Trip Report

Well it was not just a little damaged. It was destroyed. We learned what the noise was. The tyres had deflated so much and he had driven quite some time with it fully flat. We limped him onto harder sand and the pit crew got to work and before he knew it the spare was changed and we were on our way.

Once we got Vernon's spare tyre on we headed through to Big Dune ready for the challenge of the weekend. We pulled into the parking area at the base of Big Dune and we took off to test it out in the Patrol. Tristan made it up with just the right amount of pace and momentum. The sand was very soft. He had a couple of goes and then it was my turn.



I took off and headed up the dune, but I backed off too early and did not make it to the top. Another try and I got up the top. We then set up to direct everyone up the dune.

It was super hot so everyone was finding shade where they could watch everyone have a go. There was lots of encouragement, ribbing and support. Some made it on their first go and some had to try again to get up or reduce tyre pressures lower so they had more tyres on top of the sand. Stu was so very close to getting his heavy touring 79 Series up to the top but missed it by mere meters.



Once everyone had had a go a few people tried different runs up Big Dune as there are about 4 different tracks to the top. Tristan took Anthony for a blast in the patrol and I was watching from the bottom. As Tristan took the hardest track to the left he then turned towards the top and I heard a pop. Not a great sound when the V8 is roaring. I waited and the engine seemed ok so I radioed Tristan and told him I had heard the pop. He quickly checked the tyre pressure screen and saw 0 PSI on the front right tyre. He had popped the tyre off the bead. He backed slowly down the dune to a flatter spot and I then got Stu and a couple of others to drive up to help them. It did not take long to get the tyre back on the rim.

Trip Report

Once we finished playing at Big dune we went to explore some tracks we had not been on. We found a great wide open area which would be a fantastic campsite for another time. We weren't sure which way to go so Stu went and checked for us.

While he was doing that, there was a challenging dune that we went up and as we got to the top it closed in with a narrow opening at the top like a small skate bowl. We had no idea what we were going to find but had to commit to the soft sand. We popped out into the bowl and there was a track hidden out the back of it so we headed down the track which took us to the bottom where we started. It was great fun but it was already getting late and we had to head back so put it on the list for next time.

We carried on and we stopped in an open area to bring the group back together. 11 cars make for long convoys. I heard a four wheel drive so went to have a look and found a big sand bowl with 2 cars racing around it. Definitely put it on the list for next time.

The group came back together so we carried on. The plan was to head into Murrayville for some fuel and to get a drink. I missed the turn so we carried along firebreak track until we got to a point that looked like we could go right. I asked Stu if he could check it out. He took off and then called radio saying not ideal so we carried onto the left and he carried on. We stayed in touch on the radio and he found his way through to come out ahead of us.

We headed into Murrayville and a few of us fueled up as we were getting low while the others went to the pub to get a drink or to the cafe for an ice cream. It was still very hot so once our thirst was quenched we headed back to camp.



The weather has been building all day with rain in the distance. As we got closer to camp they rain fell harder. It made it easy to drive on the sand and as we pulled into camp I ran around closing tents as best as I could. Neville and Riley had a lot of water on their beds. Daisy has a little bit and we got some too. The danger of leaving tents open due to heat and fickle Victorian weather!

Trip Report

The good news was it managed to cool it down to a level where we could actually light a fire to enjoy for the last night of our trip.

Monday 10th March

Tristan and I had to leave by 830am as we were meeting a work contact in Birchip so we left with Scott and Mandie. Daisy ended up with a flat tyre as we were leaving so she had to get that sorted at camp. It is not often that I have to leave people to sort things out but we were on a timeline and there were still people in camp. Daisy and Neville then headed out together.

The group was splitting up for the trip home as we had to leave early. Adam took the opportunity on this trip to head off to Adelaide for a few days. Stuart was planning on heading through to Nhill to show Alan and Ann and Ian and Audrey some places through that way.

Vernon and Dimitri had a bit of packing up to do and they were leaving a bit later. I heard later on that they had an adventure with another flat tyre on their way home.

Scott blew a connection on his air hose pipe so we helped him fill the rest of his tyres. They had to stop in Walpeup and that is where we left them.

We had a great work meeting and got home not too late. Everyone made it home safe from a great weekend away

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...

