

VICTORIAN FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 1976

P.O. Box 778.
DANDENONG. 3175.

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AUGUST MEETING REPORT

The August meeting was the first full meeting for the new committee. Although a number of members were away on the annual trek (this year being Fraser Island) we had a good turn up for the meeting. Our guest speaker for the meeting was Mr. Brian Lundberg from Gravinier Fire Protection Co. He showed a couple of very interesting films on fire protection followed by an equally interesting practical demonstration with B.C.F. extinguishers. Please see John Lake if you wish to purchase an extinguisher at the special price quoted at the meeting. The name for the clubs newsletter was voted on and after a close ballot, "Free Wheeling" suggested by Daryl Napper was the winner. A number of members who were at the meeting volunteered to help in the track survey for the F.W.D Association report. The survey will be carried out over the weekend of October 9th & 10th in the Licola, Wombat Spur, McAlister Springs area. A meeting of those who wish to participate will be held at Geoff Mann's on Wednesday 29th September to discuss what is required from the survey teams. The committee welcomes suggestions from members for activities, trips etc. Please don't keep suggestions to yourselves, use the suggestion box or see Bluey Male or Dianne Reynolds. Remember the committee is there to serve you.

PROPOSED SEPTEMBER MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th September. Entertainment will be the film "Cattle Carters" and we also hope to have Theis Toyotas promotional films.

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

The deadline for rejoining was 31st August 1976, and membership is now open - first come first served, the limit is 80 and at this printing we have 56 paid up members.

DATES TO REMEMBER

28th September	Monthly meeting held at Dandenong library at 7.30 p.m.
29th September	Meeting at Geoff Mann's to prepare for the Track Survey
9th - 10th October	Track Survey (in lieu of Monthly trip) to be carried out in Licola area. Contact Geoff Mann. T/N 904556.
Late October	Social Night - to be confirmed at monthly meeting
26th October	Monthly meeting at Dandenong Library 7.30. p.m.

13th November

Social Night - Hunter Lodge, Dorset Rd. Croydon.
7.00 p.m. - 12.00 p.m. Cost \$9.50 per head.
We have a booking for 30 which must be confirmed
with Hunters Lodge on 29th September. We will
therefore need a firm yes or no, plus \$2.00 deposit
per head at the September meeting on 28th Sept.

ALTERATION TO COMMITTEE LIST

Please note the following alterations to the list of committee Members and
their addresses -

1: PRESIDENT

John Lake
1 Logan St.,
NOBLE PARK. T/N 792-2006.

2: SECRETARY

Geoff Mann
36 Mill St.,
ASPENDALE. T/N 90 4556.

FOR SALE

For sale: one land rover, series 2A, L.W.B Hard top, fitted with warn
freewheeling hubs, new 202 holder motor, new battery, bull bar, tow bar,
pack rack, registered until January, R.W.C fair condition. Jeep service tyres,
URGENT SALE, \$2,300 or best offer. Phone Daryl Napper. 052-434378 A.H.
052-216177 Work.

For sale: or trade, one P.T.O off a 5 ton Ford. Phone Charlie Farrugia.
Phone No. 546 3919 A.H.

For sale: one cannon 518 movie camera - has power zoom and carry case.
\$130.00. Phone Rob McKay 703 1270.

For sale: Series 2L/Rover motor stripped - rebored and new pistons, best offer.

For sale: Akai Tape Deck 4100 Ex condition. \$150.00
Bolex H.S. Movie camera 100 ft capacity spools 5.5mm switar, 12.5mm
macro-switar, 150mm yuar lens \$350.00 O.N.O. John Lake 792 2066.

NARBETHONG B.B.Q.

After meeting at the Narbethong Hotel, nine vehicles moved off to the Cross Country Jeep Club grounds and set up for a B.B.Q. in fine weather. Prior to eating, it was decided to go for a short drive, and after locating a small quarry, some of the more enthusiastic attempted to climb the rather steep (and slippery) wall from the base of the quarry. All those who attempted were successful, however not without incident:

1. Geoff Mann decided on his 49th try that perhaps the problem was caused by a too lengthy exhaust pipe impeding the gas flow. He immediately remedied this with an almighty crunch while executing a high speed rear slide down the slope.
2. Steve decided that going up was too easy, so attempted a down hill run in 2 wheel drive (only because his rear wheels decided they had had enough and took the easy way down - in the air.).
3. Our illustrious president after a flying start pulling some 20,000 revs. cleared the top with wheels clawing at thin air - and then expired.
4. And the Suzuki? It walked up with a grin all over its radiator, or what ever it is those things have.

After an enjoyable lunch, three vehicles left for a further jaunt. One Nissan, one Toyota and one Landy. Probably the easiest way to describe this is by saying that a 2 hour afternoon run turned into a 4-5 hour enjoyable headache, and note some of the more interesting escapades:

Standard Nissan tyres are useless on slippery uphill runs.

Contrary to all beliefs, Toyotas do get stuck on steep slopes off the edge of the track.

Standard Nissan tyres are useless on slippery downhill runs.

Landy's with Holden motors do boil.

Standard Nissan tyres are useless in slippery bog holes.

Toyotas do require to be winched up the side of mountains.

Landy's with soft wide tyres are good for pulling Nissan's with useless tyres.

Beware of locals doing a good deed by leading a pleasant afternoon drive.

Toyotas do get stuck minutes (no, seconds) after being winched out of embarrassing situations.

Standard Nissan tyres are useless.

FRASER ISLAND REPORT

by BLUEY MALE

Four vehicles left Dandenong at 8.30 a.m. Sunday August 15th and met another at Lilydale. Two more vehicles left Monday afternoon and all met at the Warrumbungle National Park Tuesday lunch time. Much mountaineering and photogtaphy was the order of the day. And plenty of sore feet and aching muscles that evening.

The next day the convoy of seven set off for Lightening Ridge opal fields to make our fortune. But I haven't seen anybody driving new vehicles yet. After a couple of very enjoyable days at the Ridge, we set sail for the coast and Fraser Island. After comping the night at Rainbow Beach we were all up early and ready to drive the eight miles along the beach to catch the ferry across to the Island. Once on the Island we drove about twenty five miles, located a spot and set up our first camp. Spent a few days sightseeing fishing and just laying in the sun "Fabulous". A fishermans dream, bream, whiting, dart, and tailor to be caught at ones fancy. After a few days we shifted camp another thirty miles up the beach. From here we travelled inland and inspected the various lakes and rain forests. Also travelled further north to Indian Head and Orchid Beach. After about eight days on the Island it was time to leave so we made our way south, and across to the mainland. We stocked up with supplies and fuel etc. and drove on down the beach again until we reached Noosa Heads. All told on our trip south, we travelled 150 miles, less than thirty feet from the waters edge. Thats something that you cannot do in Victoria. We spent a day at leisure on the Gold Coast as every one had their own ideas as to what they wanted to do. The next day we headed for home and away from 22 & 23 degrees to 10 & 11 "Brrrrr" there goes my sun tan. Bill & Peter stayed on for another week, lucky devils. All had a very enjoyable trip, can't wait to get back there again.

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THE LANDROVER OWNERS PSALM

from Brisbane 4.W.D. Magazine.

The Landrover is my car, I shall not want another,
It maketh me to lie down in muddy places.
It tireth my soul.
It taketh me in the paths of disgrace for its name sake.

Yea! Tho' I ride through the valleys,
I walk up the hills.
I shall have no comfort whilst it is with me.

The creaks in the springs, they discomfort me.
Thou' breakest down in the presence of mine enemies.

Thou annointest my head with oil.
Thy radiator runneth over.
Surely if this thing shall follow me all the day of my life.
Then I shall dwell in the Dunny forever.

ASSOCIATION NOTES

by BRIAN REYNOLDS

GENERAL MEETING 16/9/76

1: TRACK CLOSURES

The Association has requested the Ombudsman to take up the case of track closures within the Dargo High Plains, on the basis that the closures are illegal due to varying opinions, firstly, on what constitutes a "track", and secondly, which Government department has responsibility for the tracks, Forests Commission or Soil Conservation Authority. The Ombudsman has replied, agreeing to pursue the matter.

2: OVERLANDER MAGAZINE

Overlander have suggested that the Association prepare a series of articles for publication in the magazine, covering aims and roles of 4 x 4 driving, environmental aspect etc., under the association banner. The suggestion has been accepted, and each member club has been requested to compile and article for inclusion in the series.

3: HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Delegation from the Association was received by a representative of the Health Dept. to discuss that bodies influence on the closure of the Thompson River Catchment. Despite presenting a strong argument, the Dept. refuse to veer from their policy of no access.

4: CONVOYS

Clubs were reminded of their verbal agreement to a general policy that trip convoys be limited to a maximum of 10 vehicles.

5: NEWSLETTER

Meeting being convened in the near future of all club newsletter editors to decide on the feasibility of producing a combined club newsletter once per year.

6: LEGAL FUNDS - RAFFLE

A raffle is being organised in the near future for the purpose of raising funds to meet legal costs in the fight to prevent track closures etc. Tickets will be \$1.00 each, and the prizes as follows:

- 1st: Choice of tyres to value of \$300.00
- 2nd: Gas/electric fridge
- 3rd: Gas B.B.Q.

7: "ENVIRONMENT '76" " EXHIBITION

The Association is preparing a stand at the above exhibition which will be running from 8th October to 13th October at the Exhibition buildings.

9: THOMPSON RIVER CLOSURE

Delegation received by the Minister for Conservation Mr. Borthwich to discuss closure of Thompson River Catchment. The minister was particularly receptive towards our cause, agreeing that 4 x 4 drivers have a right of access to public land. Particular emphasis was placed on the fericto area due to historical value.

10: BUSHWALKING CONVENTION

Following on invitation to address the above convention, the association provided a speaker to talk on the various aspects of 4 x 4 driving.

11: LAND AVAILABLE

The association and member clubs have been offered the use of a 200 acre property at Bonnie Doon for weekend trips, driver education, Christmas parties etc. at a nominal cost.

Victorian
Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs

Address all correspondence to :

[illegible]

The Secretary, c/- 2 Hardy Avenue, Craigieburn. VIC. 3064.

4th. September, 1976.

URGENT!

The Secretary:

c.c. Association Delegate:

Victorian H. W. O. Club. . . Rob McKay.
Geoff Mann

Dear Sir or Madam,

Further to our previous conversation re participation of the Association in the Environment '76 Exhibition 8th- 13th October, the general consensus of opinion is that the Association should be represented. It is now up to all clubs to make a positive contribution as time is short.

We ask that you distribute the attached information to your members as soon as possible. If your next meeting is too late to allow full club participation, we ask you to advise by phone members whom you believe willing and able to assist.

It would be of great assistance to me if you could give some rough indication by phone at an early date, of the extent of the contribution your club can make.

Yours faithfully,

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Colin Dunn, Executive Officer

Victorian L.W.D.C.


TO ALL FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUBS

Fellow Four Wheel Drivers, as you know, this Association has been formed for just on two years now, it was born out of necessity due to an increasing amount of bad publicity which has been levelled at Four Wheel Drivers from people who believe they have a devine right to the bush and that there is no room for anybody else. It is the Association's job to make sure that the opinion of these groups does not overcloud the need and rights of others.

It has been noted after two years of hard work with various Government Departments that the thing most worrying to them is public outcry on any issue that is within their control. It is for this reason I am putting pen to paper to urge you, as Four Wheel Drivers and members of the public with rights, to support your Association with written submission. Unjustified track closure and unfair restriction is a matter that must affect each member, but for different reasons. So it is up to you to get your side of the story across, so get out the pen now, don't leave it to someone else to do it.

Finally, not all Clubs have had a delegate at each meeting of the Association which is a pity because it tends to increase the workload on those that attend, also it does not give the Clubs concerned the representation that they are entitled to. So in order that your Club will be well represented in the future, I suggest you start looking for and grooming delegates now.

If you feel that you should be allowed to use the bush just like the other bloke, then think about what you could do to help your Club or the Association win our right to freedom. Remember, the squeaky wheel gets the grease, so keep squeaking.


G. CAMPBELL
PRESIDENT V.A.F.W.D.C.

HELP !

WHAT - WHO ?

Why yourself!

HOW?

by being on the TEAM.

WHEN?

October 8 - 13th.

WHERE?

At the ENVIRONMENT '76 Exhibition
at the Exhibition Building, Melbourne.

What's that got to do with 4 W Driving and Me?

Well, ENVIRONMENT '76 is a trade and public expose of the problems that are destroying the world we live in. What is being done. What isn't being done. What must to done. The solutions. The alternatives.

On display will be equipment, products and services that enter the areas of environment protection, improvement, and solution - in all facets including: Recreational activities which contribute - not destroy, as well as fourteen other facets covering travel, camping, recycling, noise pollution, out-door activities, arts and crafts, health, landscaping, fitness, apparel, etc.

The exhibition is backed by the Ministry for Conservation and the Education Dept., with competition in schools, the best of which will be mounting displays, the business world will be there, and to finish off, our old friends, the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs and the Victorian National Parks Association have space booked.

Here is an opportunity to present ourselves to the public, industry, and government as the responsible, bush based recreation we are, to wash away the misconception many people have about 4WD owners, and to show the public what practical conservation can achieve - no armchair rhetoric in our camp!

What specifically does the 4WD Association need to mount this display?

- 1: Floor space at Exhibition - 20 ft x 10 ft obtained.
- 2: Partitions 40ft x 8ft - already manufactured.
- 3: A display - That's up to US.
- 4: Approximately 60 willing workers to man the display, 2 at a time, 3 shifts a day would mean no one person should be there alone for more than 4 hours. And ladies, don't think it's a male concern. We hope the ladies will be in there punting for our side - the old man can mind the kids for a change. You will be expected to hand out pamphlets, sell "Keep the green scene clean" stickers, answer questions about your club, and protect the display from hordes of school kids who will be present.
- 5: A vehicle - SWB or small make, limited advertising allowed.
- 6: Photos -
 - a. Slides for audio visual presentation. Anyone having good quality slides of works carried out by your club, or of the recreation, is requested to make them available so a good showing can be organized.
 - b. Black and whites that can be blown up - someone to blow them up - an offer has already been made, but let's share the costs around.
 - c. Maybe someone even has the ability to obtain colour blow ups.
 - d. Theme Environment.
 - e. If anyone has a suitable movie it may be of use.

HELP! cont...

- 7: Carpenter - partitions erection - display stands.
- 8: Painters, signwriters, Artists.
- 9: Large potted Eucalypt.
- 10: Display lights.
- 11: Audio Visual slide or film projector system.
- 12: Display stand - rotating box or triangle type.
- 13: Also wanted and organizer to supervise works, meetings, and roster available manpower on two weekends - before and during show - to assist Association Public Relations Officer.

Please don't be backward: the show must go on, and it won't without you. The time left to organize things is, as you can see, very limited.

All persons interested please contact Colin Dunn on 308 1485, or your own club committee, immediately so a meeting may be arranged. Possible date is Friday, 24th September - but if you have some ideas or something to contribute please let me know prior to the above date.

Mr. Colin Dunn.
(Public Relations Officer)

Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs.