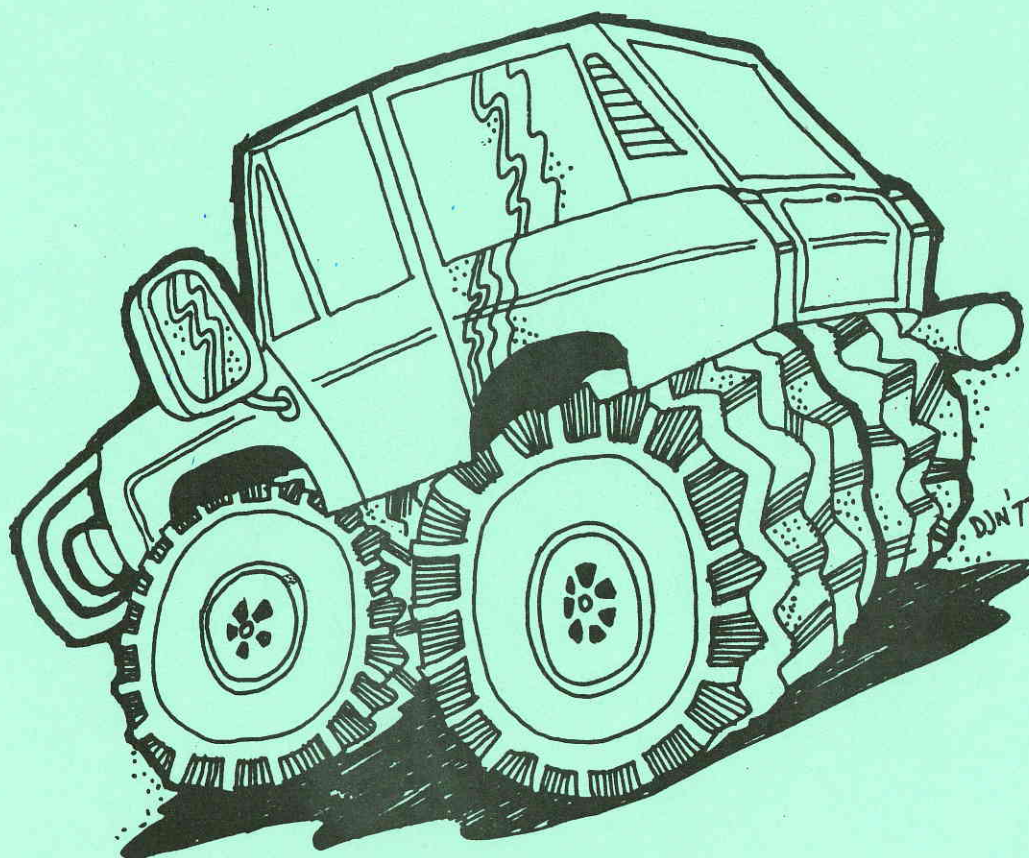


OCTOBER 1979

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF
VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

Registered for posting as a publication
CATEGORY "B"

VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB INC.



 COMMITTEE 1979-80

PRESIDENT	GEOFF MANN, 10 Fernhill St., GLEN WAVERLEY. 3150	233 2229	20P
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ASSISTANT SECRETARY	JOHN THOM, 8/7 Green Avenue, MULGRAVE. 3170	547 3510	
× PUBLIC RELATIONS	PAULA LANGILLE, 6 Rowena Court, KEYSBOROUGH. 3173	798 5835	
SOCIAL SECRETARY	PAM BRENNAN, 68 Willow Avenue, GLEN WAVERLEY. 3150	232 0795	
COMMITTEE 3	ANDREW MERLO, 57 Kardinian Avenue, CHELTENHAM. 3192	93 2383	
	TOM BRACKNA, 11 Sunnyvale Court, HAMPTON PARK.	799 1998	
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	ANDREW MERLO (as above)		
ASSOCIATION DELEGATE S	JOHN THOM (as above)		
RADIO OFFICER,	TED PLASTOW, 22 Mary Street, EDITHVALE 3196.	772 4393	

FIRST

MEETINGS LAST TUESDAY
OF THE MONTH AT DANDENONG
LIBRARY.

CORRESPONDENCE
P.O. BOX 778,
DANDENONG.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello,

This month I would like to thank Ted Plastow for his excellent lecture on the proper use of our two way radio equipment. I think Ted impressed all those present with his experience in this field.

On the 28th October, the first club Gymkhana will be held at Bunyip. As it is held on private land please respect the owners wishes and bring out what you bring in.

I don't suppose many of you realise that most of the Newsletter is compiled by Andy Merlo, now Andy has asked plenty of times at club meetings for articles for the Newsletter but so far not many people have responded, it's your Newsletter so keep your ears open and write down some news items or an article for Andy.

For the Adults Christmas Party held on December 7th, a raffle has been organised, details appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Entertainment next meeting will be provided by a gentleman from "Old Gold and Prospecting Supply" who will talk to us about metal detectors and their proper use. Colin Prigoone is his name and he runs a business in Dandenong.

Thats all,

GEOFF.

SOCIAL SECTION CONNECTION

Its only a few weeks till Xmas, with the warmer weather coming up fast. Personally, I love this time of year. The Club always has some real fun outings arranged and this year is no exception. Whether you are a new or old member the kids Xmas Party on December 2nd. and the Adults Xmas Dinner Dance on the following Friday 7th. is a MUST this year. Dare I say, the Social Event of the Season????!!?

KIDS XMAS PARTY It doesn't matter if you have children or not, you will find the big kids have just as much fun as the under 15's. We have arranged such mind boggling events as the sack race, three legged race, and the egg and spoon etc. for young and old alike. However, if its your scene collapsing under an old gum tree with drink and food in hand, thats fine too. Lets face it at the end of the day 99% of us will be doing the same thing! We charge adults only \$1.50 per head (club members) \$2.00 per head for members friends. For that grand sum you are treated to roast beef on the spit, pavlovas, and Xmas cake. Free icy poles, lollies etc. for the kids ensure the young ones have a good time. Its their day after all. Santa Claus will again honour us with his appearance, and give the children their presents. Please remember to mark your kiddies presents clearly with their names and bring them to the November meeting. A Xmas stocking will be raffled at the party which begins at 10 am. Sunday 2nd December. Venue - Gembrook.

ADULTS XMAS DINNER DANCE At the Windsor, 53 Melbourne Road, Dandenong. Beginning with sherries at 7.30 - 1 am. B.Y.O. Cost \$26.00 per double. Old members know what a great night out we have at our Dinner Dances. However, we would like all new members to come along too. You will be made very welcome, please see me at the next meeting for more information. If you feel a little shy and would like friends to go also - thats fine - the more the merrier. Its a great way to meet other members.

STOP PRESS News has just arrived that Santa Claus will be in the area that night and has kindly consented to draw our Xmas raffle. Thanks Santa!

It is important that I have names and deposit money at the next meeting to finalise the booking so ask your friends now.

See you soon,

PAM BRENNAN.

ROLL CALL +--	Ray and Debbie West & Jodie	Nissan Patrol
	Bluey and Joyce Male	SWB Toyota
	Vin Handley	SWB Toyota
	Garry Pearl	SWB Toyota
	Bonnie Lindsay, Arthur Fraser	SWB Toyota
	Lindsay and Julie Wells	Diesel Toyota
	Rob and Julie Ayton	Range Rover

For a long time now I had dreamed of doing a trip across the Gunbarrel Highway and down the Tanami Track. May this year saw that dream come true as we headed off from Melbourne on Sat May 5th. Months of planning and vehicle preparation finally paid off and we were on our way.

Reports of rain in the outback proved right so we could not use the Oodnadatta road but had to use that great inland open drain called the Stuart "Highway". Vin's trailer was the first casualty so we decided to leave that at Curtain Springs to be picked up on the way home. A couple of days rest at Ayer's Rock saw us doing the tourist bit like climbing the rock, filming sunsets and sunrises, and hiring push-bikes and riding right around the rock. Great fun!

We left the Rock on the Friday and headed west, all very loaded down with fuel, water and supplies to get us to Warburton Mission and our next fuel supplies. We had applied for permission to visit Giles Weather station so were made very welcome. Their hospitality was A1.

The 7 days from Ayer's Rock to Meekatharra was a tremendous experience. We saw only 7 vehicles on the road in that time so had the world to ourselves. From Meekatharra we headed north to the mining town of Newman. Vin and Rob left us here to go on to Port Hedland and the rest of us went off to try and find a place called Willi Willi Springs. A couple of members of the local FWDC gave us directions but after much rain, mud plus Bluey doing a submarine act in the creek we didn't make it to the springs.

After drying out we took off for the Hammersley Ranges and the beautiful scenery of the gorges around Wittenoom. Lindsay and Bluey left us here to go across to Roebourne so the rest of us camped that night in the Hammersley's.

We all met up again at Port Hedland and headed north again. Visited the Eighty Mile Beach on the way and had a look at the Indian Ocean plus the sharks. On to Broome and a couple of days here to do some sightseeing and catch up on the washing etc. We all voted this a super spot.

From Broome we got to Derby only to find the Gibb River road through the Kimberley's was closed. So it was down through Fitzroy Crossing - what a dump! We were stopped here for a day with the Mary River in flood but were gone in 10 mins when the road was opened. The fine for going on the road while closed was \$100 per wheel so we waited.

On to Hall's Creek then up to Wyndham. We explored a little of the Gibb River Road from the East end and really whetted our appetite for another trip. On to Kununurra where we had to leave Rob and Julie for Julie to have her appendix out. It had been niggling all the way.

Another unexpected highlight of the trip was a flight over Lake Argyle in a helicopter. We all kept Mr. Kodak in business that day. From Lake Argyle we turned south and came back to Hall's Creek on the Duncan Highway and then started down the Tanami Track. We stopped at the Tanami ruins and the Granites and also had a couple of hours stop at Rabbit Flat and a very interesting chat with Bruce Farrand and his wife. Rabbit Flat is a real oasis.

Down to Alice Springs and after a brief stopover, Vin and Garry headed off to pick up the trailer, Ray and Debbie left us to go north and across to Qld. to visit Dave and Barb Chalmers and the rest of us took the road to Fink. This track follows the Ghan railway and skirts the Simpson Desert so was great travelling. We camped the night at Chambers Pillar - a little known spot on the map but well worth a visit. On to Fink the next day and met up with Garry and Vin in the bustling main street.

^{WERE} We stopped in at the railway sidings on the way down and we made very welcome. Next morning we broke camp at 4 A.M. with thunder storms all around us and a couple of rivers still to cross. Got into Oodnadatta at 6 A.M. only to find that the Marree Road was closed at the Neales so it was back to the rotten Stuart Highway again. We arrived home on the Monday, only 1 day late but it was a great trip and great company.

Casualties for the trip were;-

Range Rover - sheared wheel studs.
Vins trailer broke coupling and spring.
Lindsay had teething troubles with thermostat.
Ray's roof rack came to grief.
Ray also burnt his whistle - very painful!
Joyce lost her knickers and bras.
Bonnie dunked her camera in the water.
Bluey had trouble getting up the ladder of the Toyota.
Arthur tried body surfing in the desert.
Bluey sunk his Toyota in the creek.
A few headaches after 3 birthdays on the trip.
Bonnie had troubles with a cassette.
Lindsay found lots of handy bits of equipment.
11 punctures between us but no major mechanical problems.

Our thanks to Don Adams for his time. It was a great help to us. Also thanks to Peter Wall for the lend of his maps and his advice.

Written by
Bonnie Lindsay

ASSOCIATION REPORT:

The subject of sensationalist advertising raised its ugly head again. The Toyota advertisements on T.V. and in magazines were the main focus of attention.

The Association needs ideas for the T.V. and sticker promotion campaign - some suggestions already are "4 Wheelers are friendly" and "Care for the Bush". If any member(s) have any ideas for the sticker slogan don't be bashful in coming forward.

The Association has printed its submission to the Land Conservation Council in respect of the investigations to the South West area, District 2. The Club has a copy of this Report and any interested members are welcome to borrow it.

The Delegates will be voting at the next meeting (Association) on the position of a paid secretary.

If you remember at the July meeting I raised the matter of the "Road Show" and how our club will be expected to man the Association stand for at least one night - don't worry the show isn't going to be on this year.

By the way, Geoff and I managed to attend the Association meeting on the right night last month!!!! Tom Brackna is going to accompany us to the next Association meeting, any other member who would like to come along, see me at the next general meeting.

Remember it's your Association acting in your interest.

SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP:

At the last Committee Meeting it was decided that social membership would be strictly limited to those persons with a genuine specific reason. Examples of genuine reasons would be shift workers, people attending night school or those that would have to travel a long distance. We have done this to protect the necessary number of members to create a quorum.

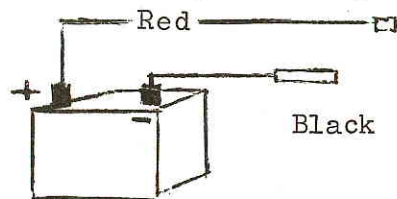
At the present time social members pay a fee of \$10.00, it was also decided that a \$1.00 of this would go towards the association levy.

CLUB RADIO:

Ted Plastow, our Radio Officer has requested that all outstanding monies for licence fees be promptly paid. They are now \$50.00.

The Club has it's own VHF radio which is available to full members for either club or private trips. A fee of \$1.00 per day is imposed for the use of the radio whether it be a club trip or not. If in the case that the trip leader will require its use, then no fee shall be incurred. The radio must then be returned to the radio officer no later than two days after a trips completion, otherwise extra charges will incur. This is to allow maintenance to be carried out as well as give access to other members.

A suggestion has been made that members who are likely to use the club radio frequently install permanent aerial bases on their vehicle as well as suitable wiring (see diagram). This naturally enough, will speed up installation time and make for better reception as your vehicle will have a correctly tuned aerial.



Correspondence received from the Postal & Telecommunications Dept. dated 1.10.79, reads as follows:

"As requested in your previous correspondence a special condition of the licences issued to the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is varied with the removal of "no transmission" within 50 miles of a capital city".

This means that members can transmit on the club frequency as soon as they are out of built up areas. The definition of built up areas can be left to your own discretion. Further changes are in the wind, licenced mobile owners will be notified in due course.

THINGS TO COME:

<u>Sunday October 14th:</u>	Day trip to Narbethong.
Departure:	Narbethong Hotel
Time:	9.00 am.
Destination:	Surrounding area - Red track
Fuel:	Full tank
Eats:	Light lunch - no B.B.Q.
Grade:	"B" Grade - Good Driver training

Saturday & Sunday 20th-21st October: Fishing Trip

Departure: Ring Tom Brackna on 799 1998 for details
Time: As above
Destination: Reeves Beach via Woodside approx. 3½ hours travel
Fuel: Full tank - one jerry can
Eats: B.Y.O. supplies 2 days - include water
Grade: 'C' Grade - limit 6 vehicles due to area size
Equipment: Small powered boats maybe launched off the beach into the inlet.

Sunday 28th October: Gymkhana at Bunyip

Departure: Bunyip Roadhouse/Golden Fleece S/S Princess Highway
Time: 9.30 am.
Destination: Surrounding area - private property
Fuel: Full tank
Eats: B.Y.O. B.B.Q. and refreshments and H₂O
Grade: Gymkhana events - male and female, easy & hard standards

Saturday & Sunday November 10th-11th: Navigation Trial

Departure: Mansfield at first pub on the left
Time: 9.00 am. 1st vehicle earlier
Destination: Licola
Fuel: Fuel tank and 2 jerries (25 gallons)
Eats: 2 days supplies
Grade: "B" Grade on "A" Grade tracks if weather is kind
Equipment: Recovery gear essential - sweep vehicle supplied

Sunday December 2nd: Childrens Christmas Party

Venue: Kirth Kiln Logging Camp - Gembrook
Time: 10.00 am.
Eats: Food supplied/ B.Y.O. Refreshments, cutlery & sweets
\$1.50 per head N/member \$2.00

NEW MEMBERS:

Only one new Member last meeting:

Stefan Trnaceh - 1967 S.W.B. Toyota

Whilst on the subject of new members, the trip committee would like to insist that vehicles be fitted with a towing point front and rear and that a sling at least 10' long be carried at all times.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:

As stated earlier the major prize was going to be an Engel fridge, but as these are now approx. \$400.00 the Club could not afford to spend so much. Instead we now have 400 tickets at \$1.00 each.

1. \$200.00 Assorted spirits and wines
2. Smoked Ham
3. Christmas Cake

LAST MEETING:

At the last meeting (Sept), Ted gave a talk on most aspects of radios including CB, UHF and our own VHF which was very interesting, any more enquiries about obtaining a radio must be channelled through Ted.

Bonnie Lindsay won the raffle, a set of 6 wine glasses.

NEXT MEETING:

We will have a guest speaker talking on metal detectors, this should interest our members as we have good access to the bush. Recently Brian Langille gave us a demonstration at the last Donnelly's Flat trip. Also if time allows films will be shown by Don Montague.

V. F. W. D. C. CALENDAR

October 14th:	Day trip to Narbethong
October 20th-21st:	Fishing trip to Reeves Beach
October 28th:	Gymkhana at Bunyip
October 30th:	Club meeting
November 10th-11th:	Navigation Trial
November 27th:	Club meeting
December 2nd:	Childrens Xmas Party - Gembrook
August 1980	Cape York Peninsula

Congratulations to our 'Pres' Geoff Mann who has announced his forthcoming marriage to Heather on the 24th November. We wish you both all the very best.

Seen on the "Clean Up" a certain 2WD Truck namely the "Happy Wanderer" negotiating 4WD terrain. Thanks to Phil Alder and Kingston Earthmovers, the beast proved invaluable.

Also seen under the hay on the truck was a rather irate member of the club - no names by request.

Coming home from the clean up, Werner departed the group one hour earlier only to arrive at "Stockmans" 20 minutes after the main party - naturally he had taken a short-cut.

The Club recently purchased an initial batch of 8 high-life jacks (Jackall Brand) which are available to members at \$41.00 each. (Saving of about \$9.00). Anyone interested in obtaining one give Geoff Mann your name along with a deposit.

Last meeting the car park looked like a bus depot with those extra long Toyota's present, they even blow black smoke.

The Treasurers phone number listed on the front committee page is wrong it should read 93 5525. Hope Werner can keep his figures okay.

At the moment there are approx. nine vehicles intending to travel to Cape York Peninsula next year (six are definite), and as time is slipping passed rapidly, it is about time the members got together to discuss the trip. At the next meeting could all parties please see Brian Tuck when convenient. We intend arriving at the top approx. 5th September as this is the most ideal time to cross the Jardine. On the return some members intend on going home through Birdsville. We will limit the trip to 10 vehicles so anyone interested could they please let Brian know, as to secure a place in the party.

Articles for the newsletter to be sent to the editor no later than the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Any members knowing of anybody interested in advertising in the magazine please contact the editor.

Books from our library are available from Peter Adams at a fee of 10 cents per month.

The Club Technical Officer is our ex President John Lake, he is contactable on 95 4000 during business hours.

Name Tags at meetings - failure to do so 20¢ fine.

FEEES ARE OVERDUE: UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS HAVE NOW BEEN REMOVED FROM THE MAILING LIST.

STOP PRESS.....

In the newsletter under "Things to come" you will notice on the 28th October we intend to run a gymkhana. This venue has now been cancelled due to the recent wet weather. In the meantime another venue is being sort and could all members interested in attending this day please ring Geoff Mann without delay.

..... Another location has now been found at Cranbourne thanks to Neville Talbot - for full details please ring Geoff Mann. IT IS DEFINITELY ON.

Those who attended were:

G. Mann - S. Alder

P. Alder - P. Howden

M. Bell - D. Bell

B. Tuck - Kathy Tuck

P. Rowe - Ray

A. Merlo - Grub

J. Thom

D. Montague - T. Montague

W. Ditterick - Sue & Lee

T. Brackna - A. Brackna & 2 Friends

At various intervals on Saturday morning, members started arriving at Woodspoint. (Some had ventured up on Friday nite). Around 10.30 am. all began work down on the river flat, firstly all large rocks were removed and placed in holes created by the creek, this gave us an even surface to work on. Then all the timber which had been bulldozed into the bank was either sawn up and trailered away or was dragged by vehicle to a timber stack further down the flat. This was quite time consuming and lunch time came up quite quickly. After a break it was back to work and the "Happy Wanderer" took off to collect all the bales of hay from outside of town. Several full loads later all was down on the flat waiting to be spread out in the morning. Saturday afternoon saw the area clean and fairly even and we called it quits around 5.00 pm. Some members had booked into the pub so it was off for tea, others had set up camp about half a mile from the clean up site - which is known as Comet Flat off the Noble Spur Track.

On Sunday morning the task of spreading out the hay began - naturally by throwing it at one another. The idea here was that the hay would form a solid base for the grass to take hold of. When that was completed super phosphate and grass seed was spread out over the entire surface, hopefully it will take and we will have a nice grassy area. Having being satisfied with the result our next task was to remove old derelict car bodies from various locations, in creeks, blackberries and from off the side of the road. Six in all were removed and some needed considerable amounts of winching and lifting to be eradicated. We placed them manually on top of the "Happy Wanderers" tray and carted them off to the tip. The locals reckon we're real good because they said they were going to do that one day? (most cars were pre-war vintage). Anyway having removed all the bodies we were heading home when the local policeman kindly brought down two dozen tinnies donated by the pub for our terrific effort. These were quickly consumed and we made tracks for home. The majority went down Frenchmans Spur to Stockmans where a football match was started - there were more injuries than would like to be talked about.

As for the "clean up the area looked really smart when we left and we were all pleased. So were the locals, they reckon we're all okay.

A. MERLO.

FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE
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Finch 3 way Fridge as new \$130.00
 Bull bar tubular type suit Toyota \$25.00
 Contact Andy Bruce 546 6024

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Toyota front passenger seat as new \$70.00
 Contact Werner Ditterich 93 5525

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4.1 Diff Centres suit Toyota Land Cruiser. Perfect condition. \$400.00
 Standard fuel tank \$40.00
 Contact 743 6465

Brand new AVM Freewheeling hubs \$40.00 See Geoff Mann 233 2229

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4 - 750 x 16 Landrover Rims as new \$10.00 See J. O'Brien 546 8929

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6'6" x 5'6" All steel heavy duty trailer, fitted with Toyota Wheels.
 Aluminium canopy, insulated and lined.
 2 x 10 gal. water tanks built in. L.P. Gas lines, 12 V. and 240 V.
 wiring. 2 Bunks. \$850.00. See Vin Handley 798 2151

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Car Stereo cassette player and speakers \$40.00 See Barry Stone 544 9900.

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Half finished pack rack \$5.00 See Peter Wall 547 3991.

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Lift up camper roof suit any vehicle with roof rack \$250 O.N.O.

Contact Paul Taylor or Peter Wall
 547 3353 547 3991

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1973 Ford Falcon 4 x 4 Ute \$9,450 See Sec. for further details

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S.W.B. 1973 H/Top Landy. R/Rack, B/Bar, T.Bar, Capstan winch, m/flaps,
 Tool Box, gauges, new tyres F.W.H. 80,000 mls. P.C. \$3500 O.N.O.
 Contact T. Brackna

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Tow Bar suit Nissan Patrol - \$15, 2 Tyres Sand Grabber Radial 12 R 15 L.T.
 T/less raised white lettering \$110 each. Toyota F. Engine Manual \$5 059 85 320