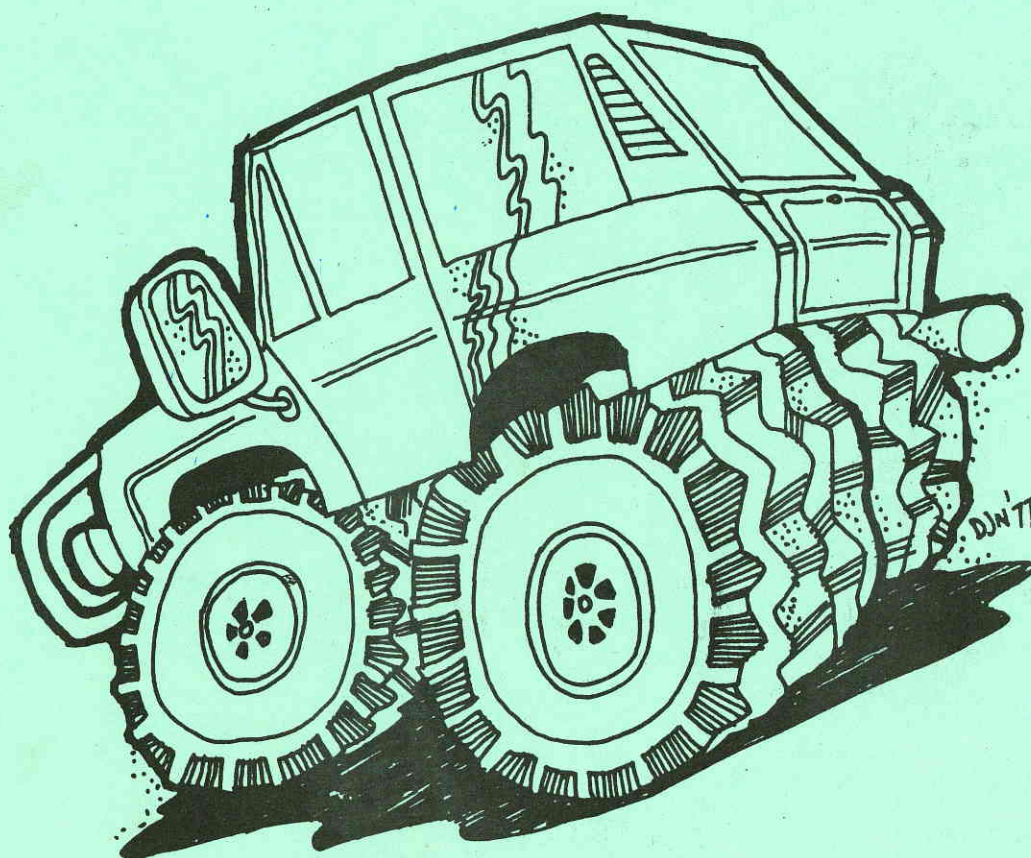


MARCH 1980.

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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

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MEETINGS LAST TUESDAY
OF THE MONTH AT DANDENONG
LIBRARY.

CORRESPONDENCE
P.O. BOX 778,
DANDENONG.

PRESIDENTS REPORT (MARCH)

Firstly I would like to apologise for not being at the last meeting and to thank Philip for filling in for me.

Next meeting Peter Sherlock from the V.A.F.W.D.C. will be a guest and will give a short talk about the Association. If anyone has any questions about the Association please don't hesitate to ask Peter. Also after Peter has finished Don Montague will show his film about his travels.

This year we will be holding another Raffle to be drawn at the A.G.M. in July, first prize will be a 39 litre Engel Fridge, second prize will be a \$40 Voucher for tools, and third prize will be a come-a-long hand winch, Tickets will be \$1.00 each and will go on sale at the next meeting.

See you then,

GEOFF.

FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FOR SALE
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Bull bar tubular type suit Toyota \$25.00 Contact Andy Bruce 546 6024
 * * *

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

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
 * * *

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

Lift up camper roof suit any vehicle with roof rack \$250.00 O.N.O.
 Contact: Paul Taylor (547 3353) or Peter Wall (547 3991)
 * * *

Tow bar suit Nissan Patrol - \$15.00, 2 Tyres Sand Grabber Radial 12 R 15 L.T.
 T/Less raised white lettering \$110.00 each. Toyota F. Engine Manual \$5.00
 V.D.O. Tacho, Cowl and wiring loom. Contact: L. Wells 059 85 3206
 * * *

1977 S.W.B. Soft Top Toyota Landcruiser. 50,000 Km., New Tyres and 12
 months Rego. Excellent Condition. \$5,500. Contact: B. Hipgrave.
 * * *

L.W.B. Landrover parts IIA - Phone 232 0795 *JOHN BRENNAN.*
 * * *

4 Nissan Patrol Rims \$15.00 each P. Rowe 857 6422
 * * *

Pack rack to suit Toyota Landcruiser - factory made - used once - \$100.
 Bull bar suit Toyota - \$30.00 Phone 791 6425
 * * *

Club Radio - complete - all fittings. \$250 O.N.O. Paul Taylor or Ted Plasto
 ** **

6 Cylinder Landrover Carby - \$50 O.N.O. - Terry Hincks
 ** **

1 Genuine rear passenger seat suit S.W.B. Landrover \$40 O.N.O.
 Contact: A. Merlo 93 2383

WANTED TO BUY

Four Landrover Rims, preferably Series 3, Contact A. Bruce 546 6024

THINGS TO COME:

Club Meeting 25th March

Day Trip - Bunyip - Sunday 30th March

Departure : Dandenong Library
Time : 8.30 am. sharp.
Destination : Bunyip, Labortoché, surrounding area.
Fuel : Full tank
Eats : Made lunch, ½ hour break.
Grade :
"B" GRADE.
Trip Leader : Andy Merlo.

Easter: 4th-5th-6th & 7th April.

Venue: Still to be decided either ~~King Hut~~ or Mitchells Homestead.
We are looking for a trip leader and also other suggestions - will be discussed at March meeting.

Anzac Weekend: 25th-26th & 27th April.

Venue: Gold Trip to Cassilus.
Meet: Swifts Creek on Saturday - more details later.

Club Meeting: 29th April.

Gippsland 4WD Ho-down: 3rd & 4th May.

Held at Neerim Recreation Reserve. Price \$7.00 per head, children under 16 free.

Film Nite: 9th May.

Members films to be shown at venue to be announced, we plan to show the films continuously throughout the nite, so members willing to contribute their films please contact Tom Brackna.

May School Holidays: Flinders Ranges, 2 - 3 weeks - Trip Leader Terry Hincks

Club Meeting: 27th May.

Car Rally: 1st June.

Similar to last years held in Gembrook - more details later.

Navigation Trial: Queens Birthday 16th June.

Start Saturday morning - finish early on Sunday afternoon - more details later

Club Meeting: 29th July Annual General Meeting.

August: Pancake night.

LAST MEETING

Tom Brackna gave us a run down on the previous weekends activities at Narbethong, reporting that all had a good time especially himself wallowing through the mud. Films were shown by Keith Brown after the break on various trips throughout the year.

The raffle prize being a bottle of Black Label Scotch was won by Paul Taylor.

NEXT MEETING

Held at Dandenong Library on Tuesday 25th March. Peter Sherlock from the V.A.F.W.D.C. will give a short talk. Also Don Montague will show a film of his trip to the west.

NEW MEMBERS

Jim Athourn - 1977 Landcruiser Hard Top.
David Heard - 1972 FJ 40 Toyota S.W.B.

Our Membership now totals 57.

CLUB DISCOUNTS:

1. Le Mans Toyota, 1547 Dandenong Road, Oakleigh. (Trade Discount) 568 0933
 2. ULR Holdings P/L., 1339 High Street, Malvern. " " 20 2130
 3. Lonsdale Tyre Service, 26 Plunkett Road, Dandenong (35% Disc.) 791 8666
- Geoff Mann is able to obtain Koolatron 12V Fridges for the below prices:

<u>Amount Ordered</u>	<u>\$</u>
3 - 10	181
10 - 24	170
25 +	159

ITS & BITS

Seems at Narbethong that all the tracks that Lakey took the club on, ended up dead-ends or at the pub - no one complained about the latter.

The bog-hole drew a few members of our club - and a special mention to Peter Pink, Stefan Trnaceh and Tom Brackna, who completed the course with six leg drive fitted with chains. Tom said he would like to take up residence in the bog-hole.

Tom quoted at the last meeting that over the previous weekend 200,000 gallons of water were pumped into the course, I calculated that I took home at least half of that inside the Nissan.

A special thanks from Mike and Mal to all those who assisted in recovery of the Nissan - it was a great show on the Tirfor and to Brian and Phil for getting the beast underway. Just for the record 10 vehicles entered and only one finished in the amazing time for 2 laps of 31 minutes 10 secs, last year one lap was completed in 45 secs.

While writing this article the vehicle is now high and dry undergoing surgery at Brian Tucks.

Since the cricket match with the Nissan Club there are many rumours of a football match. So come on fella's we'll start training won't we. (That means no tinnies until the game).

Maybe our clubs getting a little sport minded, at the last committee meeting Brian Tuck donated a football and the Pres a cricket bat for the members use. Also at the meeting a property officer was elected being Don Montague he will now look after all club assets.

For those who are interested the hire for the library room at Dandenong has gone up from \$5.00 to \$11.00 so a greater effort in the monthly raffles would be welcome.

Any members suggestions on technical hints would be gratefully printed in this mag, maybe if you have a problem it could be printed for the benefit of other members.

On a private trip to Moroka on the Labour Day weekend some unfortunate members of the club were still out in the bush early on Tuesday morning. One good think did eventuate they came across a really good spot on the Avon River (top secret).

Whilst the above got a drenching at Moroka, on the other side of the range the club trip to King Hut turned on really good weather.

Just got the news (Friday) that Sue & Werner will take delivery of their new L.W.B. Diesel Landcruiser today. Sue and Werner after the Cape York trip will be holidaying around Australia for an indefinite period. All the best.

TECHNICAL HINTS

If you have a flat tyre on the road and have need to repair it away from the services of a garages, you may be faced with the problem of being unable to separate the bead from the rim because of rust etc. A simple method of overcoming this problem is to lay the tyre under the chassis or strong bumper bar of the vehicle and place the base of a hydraulic jack on the tyre close to the rim. Operate the jack until the seal on the bead breaks. If this is not successful some washing detergent poured around the rim repeating the jacking process in a number of positions should eventually frre the most stubborn tyre. If a jack is not to hand another method is to drive the vehicle over the layed down tyre with the vehicle tyres outer edge as close as possible to the flat tyres rim.

(News and views from the Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs)

Wilderness:

Perhaps one of the most interesting aspects of the word 'Wilderness' is that although it has undergone considerable changes in meaning over the last couple of hundred years, it has always carried a strong symbolic message. At one time conveying a sense of desolation and the agony of loneliness, today it rather suggests ideas of beauty and inspiration.

There is some general agreement about the factors which might be used to define or characterise wilderness areas. These are usually similar to those of the 1964 Wilderness Act of the United States and include:

- * undeveloped land, retaining its primeval character and without human modification or habitation.
- * of adequate size to protect the integrity of natural ecosystems
- * providing opportunities for solitude and for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, and
- * probably containing features of scientific, educational, historic or scenic value.

The issue of size is indeed a vexed one. Helman et al (1970) after a useful analysis, choose to utilise the criteria of a core area of at least 25,000 ha. free of major indentations and at least 10 km. in width, with a buffer zone of similar area. They noted that arid zone areas may need to be considerably larger and that coastal areas may well not require to satisfy these criteria fully. However, the term is applied to smaller areas, while others would doubtless argue that 25,000 ha. is far too small.

The even more subjective criteria of recreational opportunity and scenic or other value are extremely difficult to quantify. However, it seems that the term 'wilderness area' in Australia is generally assumed to imply areas which are both mountainous and forested. The general public, and even many bushwalkers or other wilderness recreationists, do not really appear to think of the Big Desert Wilderness as recommended by the Victorian Land Conservation Council (1977) as being wilderness. Similarly, one never hears such major parks as the Tanami Desert (over 3.7 million ha.), the Simpson Desert or the Great Victoria Desert referred to as wilderness, even though they meet all the criteria except that of relatively easy recreational access and, in some eyes, that of scenic quality.

One further factor referred to in some definitions is the need for appropriate management policies and practices which will maintain the wilderness quality of the area concerned. There are probably good logical grounds for arguing that the question of management does not belong in any definition of wilderness areas, but the fact that this is so often referred to at the point of definition probably highlights not only its importance, but the all-pervasive user conflicts.

Although there has been considerable research on the meaning of the wilderness experience one is inevitably dealing here with something intensely personalised and subjective, and hence much more difficult to find agreement or even common ground. Studies of those utilising wilderness areas may well indicate some common agreement about the meaning of their experience, but when this research is extended to the wider population, most respondents tend

to nominate high density recreation areas as wilderness. One even suspects that there are individuals who would define wilderness as a hotel without air conditioning!

When one attempts to characterise the wilderness experience, some further problems of the current research emerge. Most researchers have failed to distinguish between two inter-related but separated concepts of 'wilderness experience' and 'the use of wilderness areas'. They also fail to distinguish between reasons for visiting wilderness areas on one hand, and the satisfactions gained from doing so on the other. There appear to be six groupings of potentially important factors:

- * Aesthetic-religious: This includes the sense of 'Being one with nature,' notions of heightened experience and perception, inspiration, and appreciation of scenic beauty and grandeur.
- * Escapist: This includes the desire to escape from the cities, to find freedom and spontaneity. Perhaps this is not so much escape as contrast.
- * Challenge: The sense of satisfaction which derives from the development of skills which overcome challenge or threat and heighten ones sense of autonomy is important for at least some, and it is probably epitomised in the climber.
- * Historic-romantic: Although probably of minor importance, at least some gain satisfaction from re-tracing the steps of the explorers. More importantly, it seems very likely that at least part of the attraction of wilderness to urban Australians is based upon our need to live up to the "Australian Legend" of bushmanship.
- * Solitude-companionship: These two apparently opposite elements are frequently linked in discussions of what is most appreciated about wilderness experience. The solitude theme is related very closely to the aesthetic-religious and escapist notions already mentioned, but except for the occasional lone traveller, it is usually seen as inter-related with the special strength of companionship between two or three people isolated from others in wilderness experience.
- * Discovery and learning: The desire for new experience and new knowledge seems to drive people on in all kinds of fields, of which one certainly seems to be wilderness recreation. Even though one may be in areas already traversed by others, the discovery for oneself of a previously unvisited campsite of special beauty or a scenic attraction of some kind is often spoken of as the highlight of a specific recreational journey.

Even the avid users of wilderness areas may well depart at times from the generally accepted land management definitions. For example, it was found that wilderness canoeists saw these elements among the desirable features of a wilderness:

- portage signs, giving name of lake and length of portage
- canoe rests at convenient intervals on portages and
- permanent fire grates at campsites

and also saw as undesirable such natural features as

- insects that bite
- murky or discoloured water

One might well ask how many of those who profess a concern for the establishment of wilderness areas genuinely understand the implications of the land management definitions, as opposed to some more subjective vision of a resource area which provides the optimum opportunity for their own recreation, be it bushwalking, ski-touring or whatever.

Probably the worst news is that obviously, the experiential approach is open to misinterpretation, which goes something like this:

The majority of people are perfectly satisfied with the experience they can get from visiting our present National Parks; those who want big Wilderness areas left untouched compose only a small minority, therefore they don't matter.

We have all heard this line, and it has been well argued against on the basis that a very significant proportion of people gain positive benefit from wilderness even though they only see it from the comfort of their car or even looking at a photographic book in their own home. Moreover, minorities are important, and our kind of society is at least rhetorically committed to meet the needs of minorities as well as the majority.

One other concern which may well arise is the extent to which research suggests that at least a number of wilderness users may well be prepared to bend the land management definition of a wilderness area to favour their own personal interests. The relative absence of public enthusiasm for the Big Desert Wilderness, and the desires of canoeists which have been referred to above are examples of this.

The good news seems to be that it places wilderness areas within a total spectrum of land use, rather than separating it as a special case.

There are also important points for land management policies. The extent to which relatively high-density recreation areas can and should offer a wilderness experience opportunity is all too rarely recognised, and hence rarely optimised. Similarly, the importance of planning for the more specialised kinds of wilderness experience is emphasised.

In conclusion, I would argue that more attention should be paid to the experiential aspects of wilderness, not as an alternative approach to definition, but as a complement to land management definitions and a major stream in deepening our understanding of wilderness recreation.

(This article is an abridged version of a paper by Elery Hamilton-Smith of the Department of Leisure Studies at Preston Institute of Technology. He was also the author of the VAFWDC Alpine submission.)