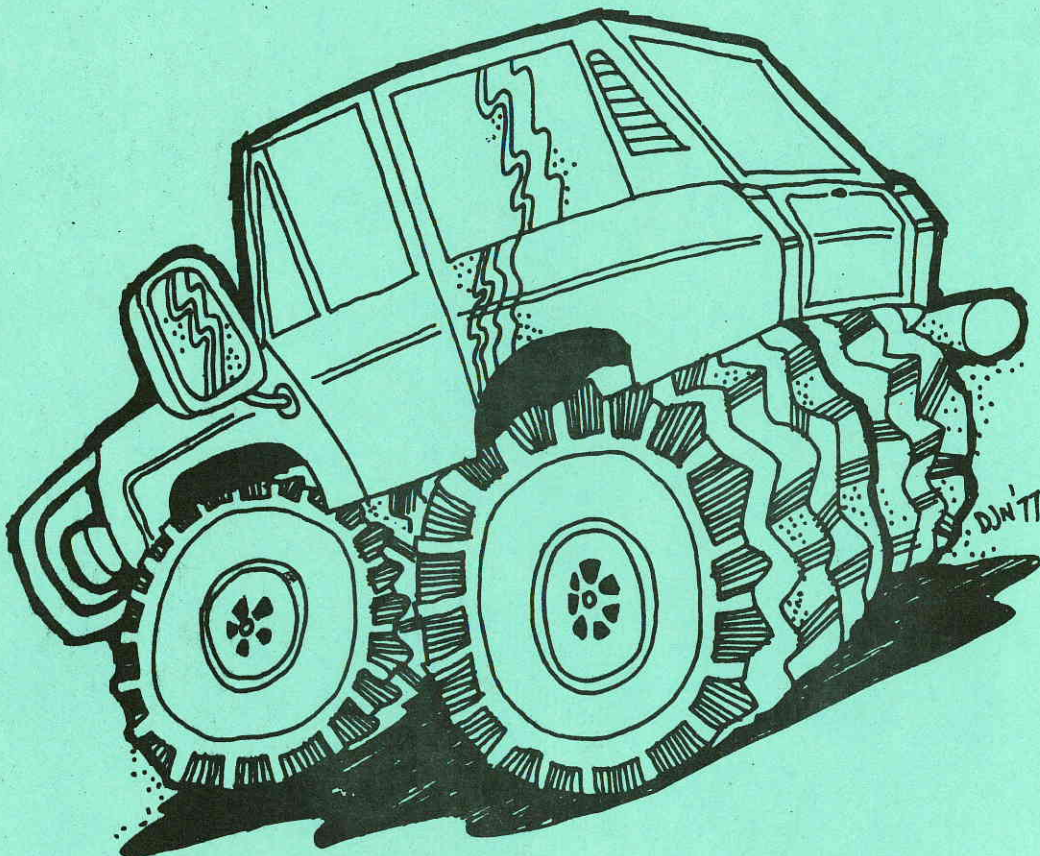


July. 1980.

F
R
E
E



W
H
E
E
L
I
N
G



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF
VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

Registered for posting as a publication
CATEGORY "B"

VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB



COMMITTEE 1979-80

PRESIDENT	GEOFF MANN, 10 Fernhill St., GLEN WAVERLEY. 3150	233 2229
VICE PRESIDENT	PHIL ALDER 7 Dermot Street, STH. OAKLEIGH. 3167	579 3948
SECRETARY	BRIAN TUCK 2 Page Street, CHELTENHAM. 3192	93 1484
TREASURER	WERNER DITTERICH, 14/96 Cavanagh Street, CHELTENHAM. 3192	93 3325
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	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	JOHN THOM (as above)	
RADIO OFFICER,	TED PLASTOW, 22 Mary Street, EDITHVALE 3196.	772 4393

MEETINGS LAST TUESDAY
OF THE MONTH AT DANDENONG
LIBRARY.

CORRESPONDENCE
P.O. BOX 778,
DANDENONG.

PRESIDENTS REPORT (JULY)

Hi,

I'd like to open this report by thanking the Committee for their support and co-operation all through the year, I hope the next President is as well supported as I was.

We have arranged for the Football match against the Nissan Patrol Club to be filmed by one of our members so it can be shown at future meetings, please try and come on Sunday 13th July to cheer us on to Victory.

The Navigation Trial to be held on the 26th July is still on, the Forest Commission has been notified and the meeting place is at the Aberfeldy Bridge between Walhalla and Beadmores, as before first ready on Saturday morning will be first away.

The date for the clean up at the Police Paddocks is the 28th September, quite a few people will be needed for this as a lot of the rubbish will have to be shovelled onto trailers, please try to keep this date free and if you have a trailer please notify the Committee.

Paula Langille has organised a group of orphans to accompany us on a day trip to Kirth Kiln, this will be held on the 26th October, we will need people to pick the children up from the Homes, probably in conventional cars, as well as people with four wheel drives at Kirth Kiln, please contact either Paula or Phil Alder if you can help, remember though, you must have a safety belt for each child.

One thing I forgot to mention about the car rally, please bring your recovery gear, conditions at this time of year can change very quickly with subsequent change to driving conditions so be prepared.

Due to the Elections there will not be any entertainment at the July meeting. However, it is vital you attend so we will have a Quorum.

GEOFF.

News and views of the Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs.

SEASONAL TRACK CLOSURES

On the 1st June, 1980 a number of tracks under the control of the Forest Commission of Victoria have been closed until 31st October, 1980.

These seasonal closures are implemented by the F.C. as a management measure to protect these unformed roads from possible damage during the wetter months of the year.

We often hear complaints from vehicle-orientated club members regarding 'seasonal closures', who believe it a track is at all passable with the use of wheel-chains, winches, etc., it should be available to attempt.

This attitude is irresponsible and selfish.

Irresponsible in that our recreation is environment-based, not vehicle-orientated with the majority of our members genuinely concerned about conservation. The F.C. recognises that 4WD recreation is a legitimate use of state forest and publicly support the access of our vehicles to state forests.

Drivers who are not prepared to support the F.C. in their efforts to protect tracks from unnecessary damage by voluntarily refraining from using tracks susceptible to winter damage have necessitated the concept of seasonal closures.

The 'access at all costs' attitude by vehicle-orientated members is particularly short-sighted and selfish as the resultant damage caused to a wet/muddy track is most likely to lead to a permanent track closure which deprives all recreationists access.

It is obvious that some terrain is particularly vulnerable to erosion under wet conditions, and use of any vehicles on such terrain while wet would inevitably cause track rutting and/or other erosion. For this reason tracks are periodically closed to traffic by the F.C.

It is hoped that club members fully appreciate the importance of such closures, which are made for proper environmental reasons and always abide by them.

The continued use of such tracks during winter is in some cases going to cause grave environmental damage (be it caused by 4WD or trail bike) with the only resultant alternative left to the F.C., being to permanently close the track for an indefinite period.

As an alternative to a permanent track closure, the concept of seasonal closures is to be applauded as an attempt to solve a management problem by the F.C. This system leaves tracks susceptible to damage available in summer months for 4WD touring.

However, this is not to say that the above system cannot be abused and clubs are invited to submit details to the Association if they believe a track has unjustly or inexplicably been seasonally closed! The matter can then be taken up with the F.C.

One further point which is worth documenting is when tracks are officially closed and opened. It has been noted that some tracks have been seasonally closed prior to the advertised date and not opened on time. While this can be a nuisance to trip leaders and trip co-ordinators, it should be noted that under the Forest Commission Act 1958 the Commission can exercise its discretion over when it closes and opens tracks in this respect.

It is in the interests of all responsible four wheel drivers that trip leaders contact the local forestry officers prior to leading trips. A list of these contacts has been circulated to all clubs.

SPARE PARTS

The following list is the suggested minimum that you should have, some vehicles with their own peculiarity should carry more.

HOSES: Radiator, Heater, By-pass.

FAN BELT

ROTOR BUTTON, DISTRIBUTOR CAP, POINTS, SPARE SPARK PLUG, BUEL FILTER, BRAKE FLUID, ENGINE OIL, DIFF. OIL, DEWATERING FLUID, FUSES, PLASTIC HOSE, SILASTIC, also a con of Grease can come in handy at times.

All these things can be packed away in quite a small area, and can make the difference between a good trip and a bad time.

My girlfriend and I are into bare-ass backpacking. We like to take off into the mountains, take it off and then get it on. Oh, natural! Unfortunately, most of the parks in our area are overcrowded. You might as well try to make it in Times Square. Any suggestions? We have an extended vacation coming up and would like to go to some of the least visited areas of the country.—C. M., Cambridge, Massachusetts.

You should check out one of the 135 wilderness areas in the U.S., which comprise some 12,000,000 acres of land protected by law from man-made degradations. No cabins. No vehicles. (If you can't get there on foot, you don't deserve to get there.) The ten least visited areas are Galuro (Arizona), Mazatzal (Arizona), North Absaroka (Wyoming), Gates of the Mountain (Montana), Gearhart Mountain (Oregon), Washakie (Wyoming), Selway-Bitterroot (Idaho/Montana), Teton Wilderness (Wyoming), Scapegoat (Montana) and Pasayten (Washington). But according to a spokesman for the Forest Service, there are reasons these places are not frequented. The two Arizona wilderness areas are bare desert. "Only the snakes go there." The Wyoming and Montana areas offer mountains, forests, streams, etc., which might be more to your liking. You don't need a permit to use these areas: It's first come, first served, but there are quotas and it helps to write ahead. For more information, contact the U.S. Forest Service, U.S.D.A., 12th and Independence, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250. When you finally visit one of these areas, say hello to the 12,000,000 other PLAYBOY readers who have also taken our advice.

THINGS TO COME:

CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 29th July

Elections held on this nite please turn up!!

CANOE TRIP - 2nd-3rd August -

SNOW TRIP - 23rd to 24th August

Venue : Annual Club Snow Trip. Tamborintha Saddle
Departure: Members meet on the Tamborintha Road, which is near
Licola and camp on the Wellington River opposite
the Tarli Khan turn off.
Time : 10.00 am. Saturday morning.
Fuel : Full tank available at Licola
Grade : "B" Grade
Trip Leader John Thom

CLUB MEETING - 26th August

Club Clean Up: Sunday 28th September

Venue: Police Paddocks
Time: 10.00 am. at the Toilet block near the main oval.
Requirements: Members with trailers greatly appreciated and bring all
shovels, forks etc. the more the better.

Kids Trip from the Orphanage: Sunday 26th October

Venue: Kirth Kiln - drives taken around surrounding area.
Time: Depart from Orphanage approx. 9.30 am.
More details later!!

LAST MEETING

Nominations were taken for the coming elections, which we had many willing members. Phil Alder gave us a trip report on the Donnelly's Water Wheel Trip. Bill McKinnon treated us to some of his excellent films for entertainment. The raffle being a bottle of Port & Brandy was won by Werner Ditteri. There were 35 members in attendance.

NEXT MEETING

Dandenong Library 29th July. This night is the Annual General Meeting. The occasion is very important for the club so please turn up. The Annual Special Effort will also be drawn, as will a Sanyo all purpose torch as the nights raffle.

NEW MEMBERS

One new member this month:

Peter Bray

1978 S.W.B. Toyota

IT'S AND BIT'S

Outstanding members with raffle books!!

J. Lake

P. Rowe

S. Trnach

P. Hancock

J. Athron

J. O'Brien

R. West

D. Heard

Could all the above please bring in their books by the A.G.M. as the raffle will be definitely drawn on the night.

And thanks to all those who sold books the effort was a huge success. Don Montague, Andrew Guiney and Paul Howden all sold 4 books or more - a great job.

Below is a list of the members seeking a position on the Committee. Please attend the July meeting as your vote is vital in the club's future.

PRESIDENT:

J. Thom

P. Rowe

VICE PRESIDENT:

J. Thom

P. Rowe

A. Merlo

T. Brackna

T. Hincks

D. Heard

SECRETARY:

B. Tuck

ASSISTANT SECRETARY:

Geoff Dowel

D. Montague

D. Heard

TREASURER:

P. Rowe

D. Montague

T. Brackna

W. Bruce

T. Hincks

G. Dowell

SOCIAL SECRETARY:

T. Brackna

P. Langille

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

P. Langille

COMMITTEE:

A. Merlo

P. Houghton

P. Rowe

D. Montague

T. Hincks

D. Heard

The Football match on Sunday July 13th was a real success. We were the victors by 4 goals. The turn up was disappointing (hopefully only due to the weather) but all were enthusiastic. No injuries occurred except for the opposition where one bloke pulled a ligament. All in all a good day and plenty of fun. Next time we need more players and spectators (only 12 played on the day - 5 non members).

Must take the opportunity to thank Terry Hincks for his permission to use the ground and its facilities, also the old bloke umpired?? the game. The comments made later would turn Barassi's face blue.

Terry did receive his just reward with a thorough drenching in the mud after the match.

Brian Langille and Don Montague have taken about 20 minutes footage throughout the game and should made an interesting film. The people laying all over the ground have not been knocked down they have only collapsed through intense effort!! Ha. Slack-Ack, one of Brian Tuck's friends was best on ground. Not much news came in this month so that is all there is. Cape York is now only 6 weeks away.

CLUB DISCOUNTS:

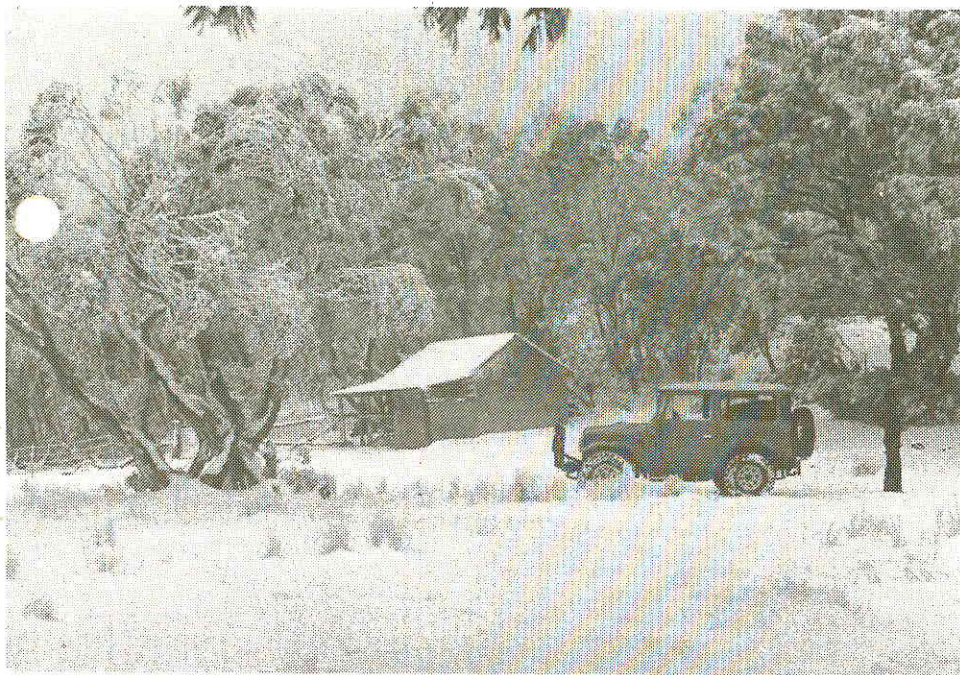
1. Le Mans Toyota, 1547 Dandenong Road, Oakleigh. (Trade Discount) 568 0933
2. ULR Holdings P/L., 1339 High Street, Malvern. " " 20 2130
3. Lonsdale Tyre Service, 26 Plunkett Road, Dandenong (35% Disc.) 791 8666
4. Geoff Mann is able to obtain Koolatron 12V Fridges for the below prices:

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

Club Technical Officer is John Lake available on 95 4800 during business hours

Books available from the club library through Peter Adams at monthly meeting. Fee 10¢ per month.

Name tags at meeting - failure to do so 20¢ fine.



(LEFT) JOHN THOM IN
THE SNOW. LOVICKS HUT:
NAVIGATIONAL TRIAL SURVEY.

(RIGHT) JOHN & BRIAN
TUCK OUTSIDE HOWITT HUT
SAME WEEKEND.



(BOTTOM) JOHN SHOWING
HIS STYLE IN WONNANGATTA
VALLEY.



FOR SALE

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

5 Split Type rims to suit Toyota with Dunlop Road Track (Tyres average only). \$175.00 Phone: 560 8053

* * * *

A Bars made to order. Trailor coupling \$40 or Swivel Type \$45.

Mack type bull bars incorporating oil tank \$140.

Phone: Terry Hincks 798 3798

* * * *

Hayman Reese Tow Bar (square section) R492 to suit Toyota S.W.B. \$60.00

Mobelec "Magnum" Electronic ignition to suit Toyota 2F Motor as new \$50.00

V. Handley 798 2151

* * * *

Nov. 74 H/top Nissan 83,000 km. Bull bar - tow bar CB/Rad/Cass. Rear seat, Aux Tank \$3950 O.N.O. 2 spare tyres. Canvas cover R.W.C.

T. Magrath. 783 5362

* * * *

Club Radio's (2) 25 watt. \$200 each. contact Phil Alder

* * * *

5 Wide rims & Tyres with locking nuts to suit Landrover. Tyres in good condition \$250 O.N.O.

Fairey overdrive 12 months old suit Landrover \$400 O.N.O.

Set wheel chains suit 16 x 750 or 15 x 10 heavy duty \$40

Contact: Colin Grambau 598 0170

* * * *

V.H.F. Radio, wiring and antenna mount to suit Landcruiser \$150.

Contact: Stephan Trnacek.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

*
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)
*

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

*
5 Nissan Patrol Rims \$15.00 each

*
P. Rowe 857 6422

*
Pack rack to suit Toyota Landcruiser - factory made - used once - \$100.00

Bull bar suit Toyota - \$30.00

*
Phone 791 6425

*
6 Cylinder Landrover Carby - \$50.00 O.N.O. - Terry Hincks.

*
Toyota wide wheels and tyres (5) 11X15 , exchange for standard set.
or wanted to buy 5 standard set 7.50 X 16 in good condition.

L.Wells. Ph. 059 853206.

5 Wide Rims and Tyres suit Landrover. Tyres half worn. \$250.00

Contact: J. Lake 95 4800 Bus.
*

Mack type Bull bar suit Toyota - Ex. cond. \$50.00

Contact: B. Tuck 95 0400 Bus.
*

CLUB RADIO's — FOR HIRE

2 sets available at \$1.00 per DAY

see Ted Plastow.

DONNELLY'S CREEK WEEKEND

Roll Call: John & Robyn Thom, Geoff & Heather Mann, Steve Alder & Denise,
Phil Alder & Debbie

Heather, Geoff, Denise, Steve, Debbie and myself got away to a late start on Friday night, intending to travel through Noojee, the Loch Valley Road and then cross the Thomson River on Knappings Track. It was a pretty cold night with some fog in places and by the time we reached the Loch Valley we were all just about asleep at the wheel, so a slight bit of play-racing was indulged in to keep us awake. While this was most effective it did not, unfortunately, gain the approval of all members of our little convoy and was doomed from the very beginning.

We reached the Thomson River crossing alright, but when we climbed up the eastern bank we came to an area that had been heavily logged. We tried to find the way through the resultant maze of bulldozer scrapes and logging tracks but as usual couldn't, and had to turn back to the main road which took us past Swinger's Portal and into Aberfeldy.

We finally got to Donnelly's at about three o'clock and met John who had a fire going for us. He and Robyn had taken time off work and gone to Donnelly's early friday.

The Saturday was devoted to doing as little as possible. We cut a bit of firewood, played a bit of footy, sat in the sun and then sat by the fire till late. There was a group of about 15 Bikers camped nearby who made a lot of noise and mouthed off a bit, but Steve soon put a stop to that.

Sunday we went to look for the water wheel. The hill leading up from Donnelly's Creek to the water wheel was too slippery so we had to go around the back way. When we got to McGuire's we met an old bloke on a bike who told us about a dog he had found locked in a hut, so we stopped at the hut when we got there. It was a deer hound that had presumably been lost and somebody must have put him in the hut so it would be easier for the owner to find him. Anyway the owner hadn't found him and the poor little bloke was nearly starved to death, so we put him in the back of Geoff's car with Bacchus. Within three seconds he was in the front seat and half way through a loaf of bread that was there.

We tried another track, which we later realised must be the one that goes to the water wheel, but we didn't go far enough and didn't find it.

That night a few of the hoon Bikers came over to our camp and apologised for their behaviour of the night before. Half an hour after they left our fire they were just as bad as ever so Geoff went over and spoke to them and they kept quiet after that.

On Monday we left via Flats Track, Williamson's Spur and Army Track. We stopped at the mine and went in, what a hard life those blokes must have had, swinging a pick in there by candlelight.

I think a memorable weekend was had by everybody, especially Geoff's new dog, who is now known as "Ben" and has settled in nicely with Bacchus, and although we never found the water wheel again, at least we know where to look and John Thom's third Annual Water Wheel trip next year is sure to be successful.

TRIP CLASSIFICATIONS:

'A' Grade: Extensive use of 4WD: Tracks maybe difficult to negotiate - chains should be carried along with towing slings and anchor points: good winter tread pattern tyres are a must. Trip leader has the right to refuse a vehicle if above points are not met. Types of conditions likely to be met include: steep climbs and descents on all surfaces - rocky, muddy etc. mud & snow, deep river crossings and overgrown tracks. Max. six vehicles.

'B' Grade: Virtually same conditions as 'A' Grade but track condition is more favourable. Good tyres are a must as well as necessary recovery gear. Max 10 vehicles.

'C' Grade: Very limited use of 4WD. These trips include car rallies etc. Type of tyres doesnot matter and recovery gear not essential.

No maximum number of vehicles.

In all above cases vehicles should be in sound mechanical condition and carry the basic spare part requirements as listed in previous Newsletters.