

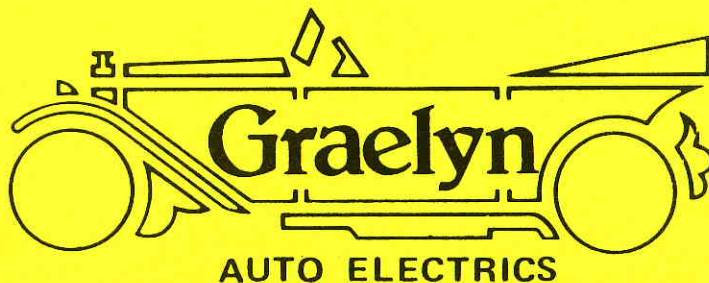
FREE WHEELING



RAY WEST, SKIPPER AND KEITH BROWN AT LAKE COBBLER

SEPTEMBER 83

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PUBLICATION NO VBH161



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VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB



COMMITTEE 1983/84

PRES	PETER ROWE 6 Bickford Plc., HALLAM 703 2346	VICE PRES	RAY WEST 44 Kays Ave., HALLAM 703 2357	SEC	TOM BRACINA 11 Sunnyvale Crt., HAMPTON PARK 799 1998
TREAS	DON MONTAGUE 9 Coronation St., MT WAVERLEY 288 1200	ASS SEC	DAVID HEARD 43 Mortimore St., MOORABBIN 557 5915	SOC SEC	THELMA MONTAGUE 9 Coronation St., MT WAVERLEY 288 1200
COMMITTEE	TERRY HINKS Lot 3 Springvale Rd., KEYSBOROUGH 798 3798		TREVOR WEST 11 Boobyalla St., DOVETON 791 3326		GERRY LAVERY 12 Milliara St., MT WAVERLEY 232 3423
ASSOCIATION DELEGATES:			TERRY HINKS 798 3798		GERRY LAVERY 232 3423

TRIP CLASSIFICATIONS:

'A' Grade: Extensive use of 4 WD: Tracks may be 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 4 WD. These trips include car rallies etc. Type of tyres does not 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.

The Committee would like to express the fact that if in the opinion of the trip leader a vehicle is not suitable for a trip, then that vehicle may be refused permission to partake.

Newsletter items to

Ray West by General Meetings.

Radio Officer

Geoff Mann 233 2229 10 Fernhill St., Glen Waverley.

Club has one radio for hire at \$1.00 per day, or free if you are leading a trip.

All enquiries must go through the officer regarding purchases, licenses etc. ---

MEETINGS LAST TUESDAY
OF THE MONTH AT DANDENONG
LIBRARY

CORRESPONDENCE
P.O. BOX 778,
DANDENONG

SEPTEMBER 1983 PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hi Members,

As stand in for Peter this month, it's my turn to sit and ponder the question "What to write". I guess all those who have been "The Pres" in the past will know what I'm talking about, and to those of you rushing to stand in line for the next election, it will be just one of the delights you'll have to look forward to. Anyhow enough of that, this years snow trip was a beauty, 10 vehicles, 16 adults, 5 kids and the usual Wellington river campsite to ourselves, made for a great weekend.

The next club trip is to Discovery Bay via Portland, good fishing and a bit of sand driving should help make this a good weekend.

Christmas and New Year is not that far away, so how about giving some thought to Club trips, maybe a few new trip leaders, and a few places the Club may not have been to for a while, it all helps to keep it interesting.

We still need more articles for the newsletter!

We hope to be able to sort out the mailing system in the near future so that everyone receives a copy instead of half of them ending up back at the Dandenong Post Office.

That's all for this month.

RAY WEST.

ITS AND BITS

WHAT'S BIG AND BROWN AND IS WEARING A YELLOW CANARY?
PETER BROWN'S TOYOTA.

FOR SALE !!!!! VINIO'S ACCESSORIES - MULTY METERS ETC. ETC.....

TOM BRACHNA CAME OF AGE, HE HAS BOUGHT A SOOTY TOYOTA SWB.
SOON HE WILL NEED A LONG WHEEL BASE FOR THE EXPECTED ADDITION TO THE FAMILY.

BRIAN AND KATHY TUCK ARE NOW SPORTING A 1983 MODEL BABY GIRL

MUSCULAR AND BONE INJURIES

This is a very complex topic that can cover a multitude of situations. A good concise, detailed description of DRESSINGS, BANDAGES, SLINGS, SPLINTS AND FRACTURES AND DISLOCATIONS, is found in the St John's Ambulance First Aid Book, and it is highly recommended that you purchase a copy of this book. Your ability to handle muscular and bone injuries will depend on your knowledge, your expertise, and the situation that you are managing.

1. SPRAIN: This is an injury to the soft tissues (i.e. ligaments and muscles) around a joint. These injuries can usually be dealt with by :- REST, ELEVATION, ICE, BANDAGE/SPLINT AND possible painkillers. The application of HEAT(eg. Deep Heat, Ray Lamps) can commence 24-48 hours after the injury. Also at this time exercises may possibly be resumed.

2. DISLOCATION: This occurs when the bones of the joint are pushed out of their normal contact with each other. Do not attempt to reduce the dislocation unless you know what you are doing. Medical attention is usually required. The joint may require REST, ICE, BANDAGE/SPLINT and possible painkillers.

3. FRACTURES: This occurs when there is a breach in the continuity of bone. The break is usually complete, but in the young the bone can be bent without completely breaking.

TYPES

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. SIMPLE | - i.e. closed. |
| 2. COMPOUND | - i.e. bone exposed through skin wound. |
| 3. COMPLICATED | - i.e. other structures involved - i.e. -
brain, lung, nerves and arteries etc.. |

I will deal briefly with four fractures that may be encountered whilst camping. For details on fractures please consult the St John's Ambulance first Aid Book.

1. FRACTURE OF RIB: The fractures are usually closed and uncomplicated. They may be complicated by lung injury, spleen injury or with a "Flail" segment. A flail segment occurs with some multiple rib fractures, resulting in a segment of the chest wall that moves independantly to the remainder of the chest wall. The application of a firm bandage around the chest wall will help greatly in reducing the pain of closed uncomplicated fractures. Medical attention may be required.

2. FRACTURE OF COLLAR BONE (CLAVICLE): This commonly occurs from a fall on an outstretched hand or point of the shoulder. The application of a collar and cuff or a figure of eight bandage will support this type of fracture.

3. FRACTURE OF FOREARM AND WRIST: These fractures require REST, ELEVATION, ICE, SPLINT AND SLING. Then seek medical attention.

4. FRACTURE OF ANKLE: These fractures require REST, ELEVATION, ICE, BANDAGE AND SPLINT. Then seek medical attention. A rough rule of thumb is that most injuries to the outside of the ankle are sprains, whilst if the inside of the ankle is injured then there are usually fractures.

SNOW TRIP REPORT

Roll Call

Ray and Jodie West, Peter Rowe, Don and Thelma Montague, Peter Adams and Friend, Terry Hincks, Trevor West, Gus and Mark Pearl, Andy and Sue Williams and friend, Ross Lyster, John Dawkins and family and Ralph Kanngiesser and Son.

The lucky ones left early Friday afternoon and arrived just before dark which allowed time to gather firewood etc., in preparation for the cold night, and late arrivers. The next vehicles started rolling in between 11-00 pm - 1 am. To be greeted by a warm fire and hot chicken soup organized by Thelma.

Saturday morning saw some more arrivals and after a late breakfast and start, we headed off up to the snow line. The snow was fairly scarce, and we travelled to lost plain, before sighting too much at all. We proceeded to the same place as last year, where we were content to prop and ski, skate, (in gumboots etc. on a large frozen puddle, dam?) and have snow fights. After having a nice cut lunch, Terry Hincks showed everyone how to ski, (upside down) not just once, but several times. I must say he is a glutton for punishment. About 3-30 - 4 pm we made tracks for camp, intending to traverse a little 4 wd track instead of the usual main drag. But it wasn't to be the case, due to poor condition of track and number of vehicles. After a large tea everyone settled around our glorious campfire with Ports, Spirits and Munchies, and engaged in campfire tales etc.. Ralph cooked a large damper with chocolate and raisins in it. Which by the way disappeared a lot quicker than it was cooked. Many thanks Ralph! Due to the fact everyone had worn themselves out up the snow, all had retired by about 1 am Sunday .

Sunday morning saw another late breakfast and some even later starters (Andy and Co.,). Then after packing up most ventured up to Dinner Creek Gorge for a look and a few photos, then most departed and found their own way home. Peter Rowe, Ray and Jodie West stayed an extra night, (lucky devils), so ended another enjoyable snow trip.

By Peter Adams.

TRACKWATCH

NEWS & VIEWS OF THE VICTORIA ASSOCIATION OF FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUBS

Access to the Alps?

Whatever else the Victorian Alps might be, whatever arrangements are in the end made for their management and protection, what they are, in fact is a resource base.

The Alps contain the basis from which human needs of varying kinds are brought to satisfaction. These include economic needs such as timber for housing, and water for irrigation and hydro-electricity. They also include recreational needs; needs which cover a wide diversity of taste. The frenetic activity of downhill skiing and the hunting of game, for example, are at the end of the spectrum; and these must balance with day touring by car, or bushwalking, or four-wheel-drive touring. These are all needs and wants which are capable of being satisfied by the Victorian Alps.

The capacity of the Alps to satisfy and to continue to satisfy these needs and wants will depend largely on their future status. The present tenure and status will change.

Before any change is made we must be certain it will be for the better - that our next Alpine Estate will not be worse than our present one. Suggestions for change being put forward by such organisations as the Victorian National Parks Association are not in the best interests of the community. (See inside)

Quite obviously there is need for balance. Commitments of land among the various uses, and exclusions of certain uses, the permitting or otherwise of various activities will, if not balanced among the different requirements lead to a distortion in the benefits, of one sort or another, which are derived.

Most informed people agree with the concept of multiple-use, which

attempts to use in harmony all forest values. These include wildlife and flora preservation, recreation, watershed protection, timber production, landscape values and the like. Multiple-use is a real and workable precept, and much of Victoria's forested public land is being managed according to the multiple-use objective.

However, it is asserted by some that the concept of multiple-use does not do other than cloak the conflicts which exist in management towards these aims. Hence it is argued, for example, that within the meaning of multiple-use, "4WD touring should come last, rather than first".

It is hoped that the process by which decisions on future land use in the Alpine area are being made, will provide a fair distribution. The government has already jeopardised a 'fair distribution' by virtually telling the Land Conservation Council 'what their final recommendations will include!' It is hoped that the LCC will stick with their wider principles and as outlined to the Association ensure a true balance in land-use, especially in the area of recreation.

The resources of the Alps are only resources to the extent that they can be used. An unknown waterfall, beautiful though it may be, is not a resource.

INSIDE TRACKWATCH ...

- . Victorian National Parks Association Proposal for the Alps!
- . Project Forest Parks
- . Hut Repairs by Goulburn Valley Club
- . Reorganisation of Land-Management Departments
- . Bluff Hut Nordic Skiing Proposals
- . Seasonal Track Closures
- . Trail Bike useage in State Forests
- . VAFWDC Calendar

One, known to some and accessible only to a few is to some extent a resource, but the pleasure it gives, the need it satisfies, are less than if accessibility was available to multiple-user groups.

Who can say that one person is better than another, or that more or less pleasure is given or received? On whose judgement are we to rely if it is to be decreed that resources are to be withheld from general use? By what criteria are we to preserve some things for exclusive enjoyment of a few while depriving many?

This is one of the central issues in planning the future of the Alps. For if the Alps are to be a resource base for recreation of many kinds or for commercial activities or both there has to be access. Access means roads. And roads are one of the most contentious issues.

Not one person who uses the Alps does not use a road. There is hardly a person who does not have some firm idea of his own about which roads ought or ought not to have been built. Roads are obviously necessary for management, for protection and for use including recreation. Roads are the means by which Alpine features are changed into Alpine resources. Roads allow Victorians into the Victorian Alps.

The most rapidly increasing use to which people are putting the Alps is recreation. By far the most popular recreation seems to be pleasure driving. It was estimated that in 1975 there were approx 5 million day visits made to Victorian State Forests (F.C.V.), and of these 70% were for the purpose of pleasure driving.

One of the most comprehensive visitor surveys carried out in the Alps was in Easter 1977. The survey revealed that a wide cross-section of the community moved away from its home base during the April vacation. Of these 60% visited the area with the intention of camping.

'Camping is not exactly an activity, for people who camp will presumably pursue more specific activities at the same time. Yet access to appropriate forest environment for camping is what the Alpine area has to offer people.'

To the four-wheel-drive tourist this is the crux of the Alpine issue - *the right to tour on existing track/road networks and to have the opportunity for dispersed camping.*

(Adapted from "The Victorian Alps: A Resource Base")

VAFWDC CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER	12th	- Executive Meeting
	28th	- GENERAL MEETING
OCTOBER	22/23rd	- BOHO BOUNCE - Goulburn Valley FWDC get-together
	10th	- Executive Meeting
	26th	- GENERAL MEETING
NOVEMBER	14th	- Executive Meeting
	19/20th	- FORREST FROLICS - Geelong FWDC interclub get-together
	20th	- LROC Field Day
	23rd	- GENERAL MEETING
DECEMBER	12th	- Executive Meeting
	No December General Meeting	
JANUARY	9th	- Executive Meeting
	25th	- GENERAL MEETING
FEBRUARY	13th	- Executive Meeting
	22nd	- GENERAL MEETING

PROJECT FOREST PARKS

Would Clubs' that haven't done so, please supply details of the task that you undertook. The number of members, vehicles, gear supplied, etc.. Direct information to Public Relations Officer.

TRACKWATCH

NO 49

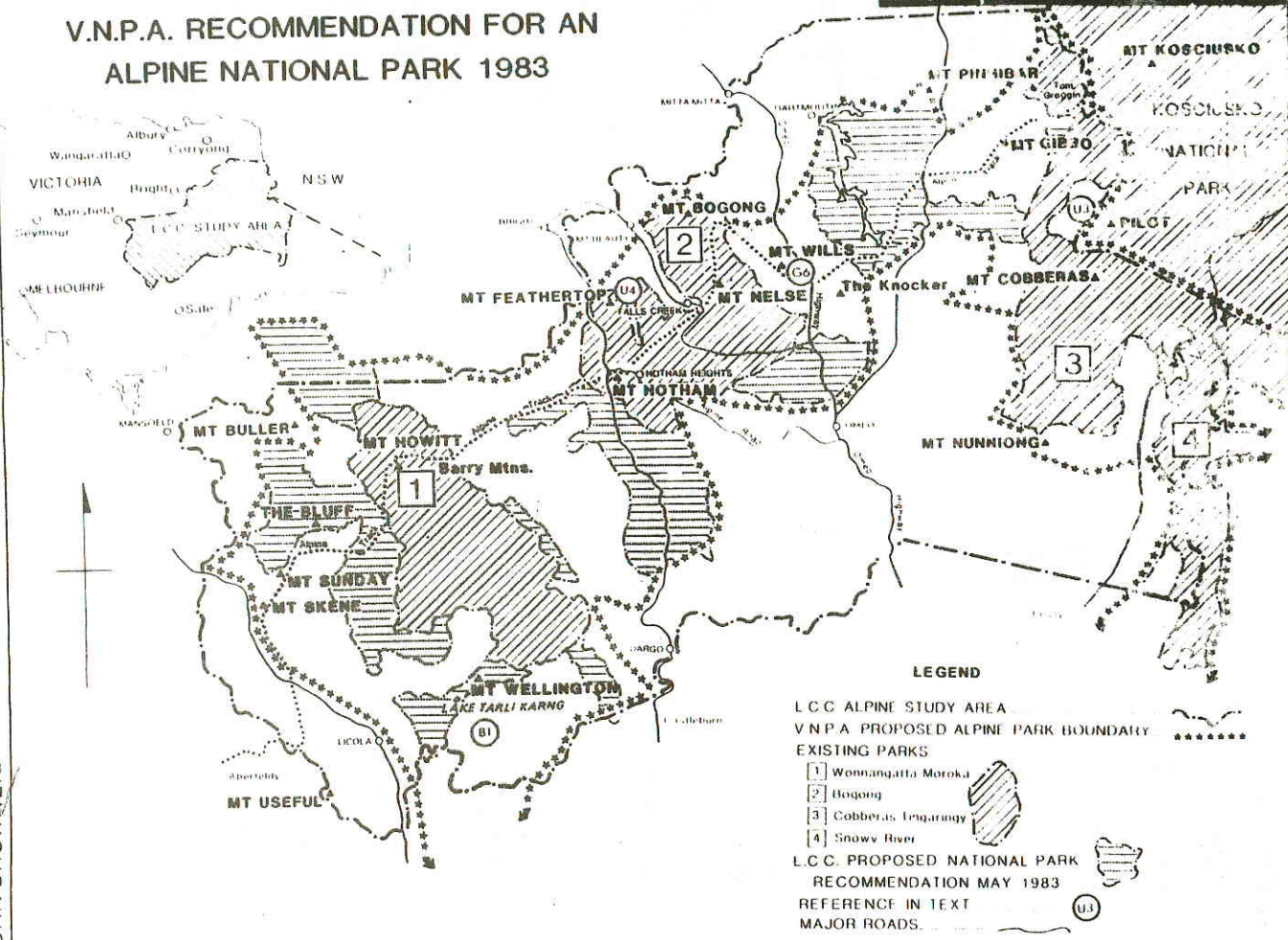
Trackwatch is Edited and Published by Brian Tanner for and on behalf of the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs.

GPO BOX 401C, MELBOURNE VIC 3001. AUG 1983

VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUBS
DON'T BUGGER THE BUSH
BE ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS

V.N.P.A. RECOMMENDATION FOR AN ALPINE NATIONAL PARK 1983

The Alps



JOHN BROWN LIE

New Ministry

The State Government has announced the restructuring of the four depts: the Forests Commission, Ministry of Conservation, Dept of Lands and Dept of Planning. The functions of these departments will be divided between two new departments, the Dept of Planning and Environment and the Dept of Conservation Forests and Lands.

The table opposite shows which area of responsibility goes where under the new structure. The Land Conservation Council will become part of the new Dept of Planning & Environment, whilst the NPS will operate within the Dept of Conservation, Forests and Lands.

Evan Walker will become Minister for Planning and Environment and Rod Mackenzie the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands.

Although the restructuring will commence immediately, the new depts do not formally come into existence until January 1984.

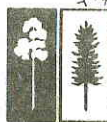
NEW DEPARTMENT	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT	DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, FORESTS AND LANDS
EXISTING DEPARTMENT		
PLANNING	Planning Planning Appeals Board	
CONSERVATION	Land Conservation Council Victorian Archeological Survey Environment Assessment Conservation Planning (Part) Victoria Conservation Trust Victorian National Estates Committee Environment Protection Authority	National Parks Fisheries and Wildlife Soil Conservation Authority Zoological Board Research Institutes Conservation Planning (Part)
FORESTS COMMISSION		Forests Commission
CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY	Coastal Management Port Phillip Authority LANDATA Unit	Division of Survey (excluding LANDATA) Division of Crown Lands Management Royal Botanic Gardens and Herbarium Division of Land Administration Vermin and Noxious Weeds (including Keith Turnbull Research Institute)
NEW UNIT	Environmental Commissioner	

OPERATION



FOREST PARKS

FORESTS
COMMISSION
VICTORIA



Upper Yarra POWELLTOWN

FOREST DIVISION/DISTRICT

059 66 7203

dl JF
6 April 1983

The Secretary
Victorian Association of
Four Wheel Drive Clubs
G.P.O. Box 401C
MELBOURNE 3001

Dear Sir

Could you please pass on, to the Secretaries of your affiliated clubs, and in particular to those individual clubs and club members who gave their time and labour on Sunday 6 March 1983 and Sunday 27 March 1983, our sincere thanks and gratitude for the very thorough and complete job they did of clearing debris that resulted from the recent wildfire from the road network within the Upper Yarra Forest District.

At present, the Forests Commission district labour force is fully committed clearing, repairing and upgrading the road network throughout the district in preparation for the massive salvage logging operations that have become necessary following the fire.

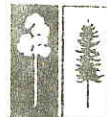
Your prompt offer of assistance and prompt action has meant that all but a small proportion of the minor roads and tracks in the district are open earlier than would otherwise have been possible.

Your assistance in track clearing has released district crews to other priority jobs such as seedling propagation and repair of recreation facilities. I feel sure that the large group of people that will benefit from these activities and those that again have access to the forest thanks to your activities will appreciate your efforts also.

Once again, thanks for your assistance.

R. H. Baker
R. H. BAKER
District Forester

FORESTS
COMMISSION
VICTORIA



601 BOURKE STREET MELBOURNE

Postal Address GPO BOX 401B MELBOURNE VIC 3001
Telephone 031 617 9222
Refer
Your Ref
Our Ref SWC JG 75/700
Date 21 April 1983

Mr B Tanner
Secretary
Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs
G P O Box 401 C
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Mr Tanner

I have much pleasure endorsing the comments made in the attached letter from Mr Baker of Powelltown. I have received many favourable reports of work done by Four Wheel Drive Clubs in connection with the weekend activities in March, and congratulate your Association and participating members in what has been a most timely event.

Yours sincerely

S. W. Calder
S. W. CALDER
Officer in Charge
Forest Environment and Recreation Branch

FORESTS
COMMISSION
VICTORIA



601 BOURKE STREET MELBOURNE

Postal Address GPO BOX 401B MELBOURNE VIC 3001
Telephone 031 617 9222
Refer Mr Milasewicz
Your Ref
Our Ref 75/700 MCH JG
Date 8 April 1983

Mr B Tanner
Secretary
Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs
G P O Box 401 C
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Mr Tanner

The Forests Commission is most appreciative of the work parties organised through your Association for the weekend 26-27 March, and would be pleased if you would pass on our thanks to the many clubs participating in the activities.

The spirit in which the clubs undertook their tasks and the thoroughness in completing them is most commendable and will have benefits to the many who use State Forests.

I am sure the exercise has created more goodwill between your Association and the Commission officers; and for this I again thank you.

Yours sincerely

R. A. Saunders
R. A. SAUNDERS
Secretary

FORESTS
COMMISSION
VICTORIA



ALEXANDRIA FOREST DIVISION

Postal Address 46 Aitken Street Alexandra 5714
Telephone 057 721633
Refer
Your Ref
Our Ref KGT MB
Date 6 April 1983

Mr Warwick Woods
Assistant Secretary
Range Rover Club of Australia
Victoria Branch
P.O. Box 20
MALVERN, 3144

Dear Warwick,

I would like to thank you and your members for the work you carried out on the Old Coach Road along the Big River.

On a recent camper survey conducted in that area we found that many campers enjoy walking in the area. The clearing, cleaning and draining of this historic track will no doubt add to the enjoyment of many people.

It is my intention to construct a small information board near the Chaffie Creek end of the track showing a map of the route and giving a brief history of the track. Acknowledgement will be made of your clubs work in maintaining the track. At the bottom of the information I would like to include the insignia of your club and the Forests Commission.

I hope we may be able to work together again some time in the future.

Yours faithfully,

K. G. Tolhurst
K. G. TOLHURST
Forester.

OPERATION



FOREST PARKS

OFFICE 596 MAIN ST BELGHAVE
Phone 754 7666 Classified 877 6655

Vol. 38 No. 14

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1983 15c

20,145 copies weekly circulation
A B Audit March 1982



Club cleans up the hills

THE Dandenong Ranges Four-wheel Drive Club has carried out two car body clean-up drives recently in the Hills.

Fifteen car bodies were cleared from Ryan's Rd area, Lysterfield and in the Gembrook area, another 18 were recovered from the bush. They will be buried by the Forestry Commission.

The clean-up was done by 15 vehicles and members of the club as a contribution to Forest Week and as a policy of the club to keep the bush clean.

The club now has 50 members and meets every second Wednesday of the month at the Olympic Hall, Croydon.



Clean up and restoration activities for Project Forest Parks wasn't restricted to the "official date of March 27th, 1983.

TRACK CONSTRUCTION

On May 22 members from the Yarra Valley FWDC constructed a walking track near the Silver Gum Reserve, Buxton.

The track of some 300 metres length was along the Acheron River and construction required chainsaws and axes, etc.. which the club supplied.

LAKE ALBACUTYA CLEAN-UP

Members from the Mallee FWDC spent the 2/3 June cleaning up at Lake Albacutya in South West Victoria. Working under the instruction of a Ranger, several trailers were filled with bottles and other junk. The members worked from the "4WD only" sign and cleared the bottom of the Lake.

GRAMPIANS CLEAN-UP

Members from the Grampians FWDC recovered 11 car bodies and 5 trailer loads of rubbish from the Dunneworthy Common and the bottom of One Tree hill.

Its good to hear of the activities of our member Clubs', especially our country members, whose activities often don't get reported to the Association. We often hear of clean up activities having occurred, and congratulate the Clubs' on their efforts.

LAND USE FORMS

We still require these forms to be filled in by Clubs when going on trips, and then return them to the Association. The information so far gathered has been useful in compiling our Alpine Submission.

Similarly track-closure forms should also continue to be used and return as soon as possible.

Trail bike problem

A Report to the State Government has recommended that an area of State Forest be set aside for trail-bike riders. The report recommends that an area be established in State Forest at Narbethong.

The Report titled "Use of trail-bikes on State Forest" was prepared by a working party of representatives from State govt depts, Statutory authorities and local Councils, and trail bike representatives.

Terms of reference were to examine the adequacy of existing legislation, law enforcement in forested areas, reduction of noise, control of trail bikes in specific areas and criteria for suitable trail-bike riding areas.

"The working party formed the view that probably the major source of annoyance

with respect to trail bike usage was noise.

"The high-pitched mechanical sound produced by machines has the ability ... to penetrate for distances in excess of 4 kilometres."

The second major complaint was damage to the environment.

Another problem confronting forest managers was the apprehension, and even the detection of offenders, according to the report.

"Presently land management officers have no direct control over unregistered or unlicensed riders using forest roads.

The Working party recommended that another Working party be established to look at the use of ALL recreational vehicles in State Forests.

Hut Repairs

Members from the Goulburn Valley FWDC recently undertook substantial repairs to Bindaree Hut in north-east Victoria.

All four corner posts had been removed and the stone chimney substantially flattened. The Club notified Manisfield District Forestry Officer Hugh Brown of their intentions and received encouragement for the project.

The Forestry assisted by transporting the poles to the hut.

Club members dug new holes for the replacement poles and cleared the collapsed chimney, ready for rebuilding.

The Club has worked on the task for two weekends, being washed out with heavy rain on each occasion!

A new chimney has been constructed, and the completion of the hut is likely in the near future.

Bluff Hut proposal

A proposal by a private company to operate 4WD and oversnow transport in conjunction with cross-country skiing tours to be based at the Bluff Hut was advertised some time ago. The tours were to be conducted in the Bluff, Mt Lovick, and Mt Clear area. The development also involved the enlargement of the Bluff Hut itself.

Public concern to the development of the Hut lead the Ministry of Conservation to assess the project.

Results of the evaluation of the Project saw the Minister call for the demolishing of what was called "the lodge" in the adverts, a reduction in the term of the T.R.B. licence from 7 to 4 years, and ensuring that the hut was available to all comers on a first-come-first-served basis. Two small additions to the hut that were in keeping with the original style were allowed to be retained.

Further details phone Alistair Brooks (03) 651 4756 at the Ministry of Conservation.

Supplies of all VAFWDC stickers are currently available from the Secretary.



PRESERVE OUR ENVIRONMENT
BY EDUCATION NOT RESTRICTION



The establishment of a large national park in Victoria's Alps has been advocated for almost fifty years. During this time, the concept of this great park has received wide public support. Recognising this fact, the present state government has promised — as part of its conservation policy — that it will establish "a large, contiguous Alpine National Park."

Much of the unique value of the Alps derives from the many different natural environments represented in the region. No other area in Victoria is so diverse, ranging from high Alpine herbfields and tall mountain forests to the dry ridges in the rain-shadow of the Great Divide.

In this article, Rob Lesslie looks at the importance of the Victorian Alps in preserving Victoria's remaining wilderness.

Wilderness is now generally acknowledged as being of considerable value, offering wide range of scientific, recreational, educational, and heritage and ecological benefits. It is particularly scarce in Victoria and is, in many cases, increasingly threatened and eroded by developmental pressures.

The Victorian Alps is critical to the preservation of wilderness in Victoria. Almost the entire remaining temperate wilderness in the State occurs in the Alps. Fortunately many areas of high quality are included in existing Alpine national parks. Nevertheless it is disturbing that significant areas are still unreserved, and in some cases committed to hardwood timber production and other conflicting uses.

Victoria's Alpine wilderness is now fragmented into four principal areas, as described by Feller, Dreher, East and Jung in *Wilderness in Victoria: an inventory* (1979).

Wonnangatta-Moroka Wilderness

This area, situated in the south east of the Alpine area, is of special recreational as well as ecological significance. It comprises one of the most striking parts of the Victorian Alps and is characterized by rugged mountains, escarpments, deeply dissected valleys, and deep gorges. It includes the Wonnangatta River and some of

Rob Lesslie is working on the Latrobe Valley at the Conservation Council of Victoria.

its tributaries, the most notable of which is the Moroka River. The Catherine River drains the northern part of the wilderness. Features include the Moroka and Bryce Gorges, Snowy Bluff, Mt Darling, The Razor, The Viking, the Crosscut Saw, and Mt Howitt.

The lower Catherine River catchment, the west bank of Riley Creek, and part of the Moroka River catchment, are currently committed to hardwood timber production.

Avon
Adjacent

of the Wonnangatta-Moroka wilderness is the Avon wilderness. This area includes the catchments of the upper Avon River and the Carey and Valencia Rivers. Cliffs and escarpments are a feature of the area particularly around Gable End and the Sentinals. Lake Tarli Karng on the Wellington River is a unique feature of the area. The Wellington Plains west of Mt Wellington add a great deal of diversity to the area.

Under the latest Land Conservation Council Proposed Recommendations, management of the Avon wilderness reserve is in line with the Forsts Commission,

rather than the National Parks Service. A further large proportion of wilderness area remains unprotected. Notable in this regard is the Valencia Creek catchment to the east, and the Carey River catchment to the west. The majority of the Carey River catchment is committed to hardwood timber production under the new LCC recommendations.

Indi-Pilot wilderness

The Indi-Pilot wilderness makes up the majority of a large section of wild land bordering New South Wales and the Kosciusko National Park. Land of high wilderness quality extends well into New South Wales. This region includes mountainous country at the headwaters of the Murrumbidgee, the Cobberas, and the area is reserved within Tingaringy National Park or added to the protection of water catchment values. A significant exception is an area part of the Upper catchment, and Omeo catchments. This area, on the Cobberas Park, is presently used for timber production.

One of its tributaries — Reedy Creek — and is generally steep and mountainous with deeply dissected valleys. In contrast to the valleys are some flatter areas at higher elevations, such as the Native Cat Tablelands and Fortorn Hope Plain. Mt Wombargo with its periglacial "rock rivers" is also a feature.

The core of the Reedy Creek wilderness is now reserved within the Cobberas-Tingaringy National Park, although a number of areas within Park boundaries will be subject to logging until 1988. Southern and eastern peripheral sections of the area are however unreserved, some existing as uncommitted land and some committed to hardwood timber production.

The Alpine region includes several other areas of wilderness value. Some of these contain features of particular recreational, scientific, and heritage values. Mt Feathertop, Mt Bogong and the northern part of the Bogong High Plains could collectively be described as wilderness in winter provided roads remain uncleared. Ease of access and level of usage in summer, however, considerably reduce wilderness quality. It is noteworthy that management action to revegetate roads and regulate usage could, in time, considerably improve the wilderness status of these areas. All areas likely to fall within this category are reserved within the Bogong National Park.

The Alpine National Park proposals put forward by the Victorian National Parks Association and currently under consideration by the Land Conservation Council propose the inclusion of presently unreserved areas of high wilderness quality within national park boundaries. Some of these areas are of significant value to the timber industry and any suggestion of reservation is meeting with strong opposition. Nevertheless, because of the scarcity and value of Victorian wilderness, and the few opportunities that still exist for wilderness conservation in the Alps, it is a priority that these areas receive protection within a new Alpine National Park.

REFERENCES
Feller, M., Hooley, D., Dreher, T., East, I. and Jung, R. (1979). *Wilderness in Victoria: An Inventory*. Dept of Geography, Monash University, Melbourne.
Grandage, *Wilderness in Victoria* in Mosley, J.G. *Australian Wilderness*, proceedings of the First National Wilderness Conference. Australian Conservation Foundation, Melbourne.
Helman, P., Jones, A., Pigram, J., and Smith, J. (1976). *Wilderness in Australia: Eastern New South Wales and South Eastern Queensland*. Dept of Geography, University of New England.

into focus Closed tracks Proposals to extend Victorian National Parks boundaries has astounded me. An avid bushwalker until a recent accident, I can now see how proposed four-wheel drive track closures will further restrict the handicapped. I trust the LCC will consider further implications before it draws up its boundaries. GRANT TOKELY, Sunshine.

Restricted parks Grant Tokely (6/7) has reason to be astounded at LCC proposals to extend alpine national parks. According to a Forests Commission survey, 80 per cent of public land users are pleasure-driving or picnicking. Add four-wheeled drivers to this group and it means only a small minority can enjoy Victoria's pine region. COLIN PRITCHARD, Doncaster.

of Victoria alpine wilderness

**NATIONAL PARKS FOR EVERYONE
GO 4x4 AND SEE MUCH MORE!**



Sharing The Outback

The serene and natural beauty of the outback lures more and more tourists each year. Visitors need to take care not to spoil this beauty for others by leaving rubbish or destroying the native vegetation, as the low and unreliable rainfall results in slow vegetation growth and minimal regeneration. Much of the outback provides an income for pastoralists and carelessness by visitors can cause stock suffering and losses.

For your guidance we have set out a visitor code that will help you to share the beauty and appeal of the outback with other visitors, the local pastoralists and with next years or next centuries users.

CODE OF ETHICS

- (1) Observe all the laws and regulations relating to recreational vehicles. Remember these laws vary among States.
- (2) Recognize the right of others to solitude and peace. Avoid competitive activities close to settlements and recreation areas.
- (3) Keep to constructed vehicle tracks. Drive off roads only in areas specially set aside for the purpose or if you have special permission to do so.
- (4) Observe all restrictions on the use of public land. In national parks and other conservation areas use your vehicle only as conventional transport.
- (5) Obtain the landowner's permission to drive on private land. Respect property and livestock. Leave gates as found.
- (6) Alpine areas, swamps and vegetated sand dunes are easily damaged. Strictly avoid these areas.
- (7) Respect our wildlife. Stop and look, but never chase animals. Remember some animals are easily disturbed and disturbance can affect their survival.
- (8) Keep the environment clean; carry your rubbish home. If others have left a mess, consider cleaning it up.
- (9) Observe all fire restrictions. Extinguish your fire before leaving.
- (10) Ensure your vehicle is mechanically sound, has an efficient muffler, and the exhaust does not emit sparks which could cause a fire.
- (11) Ensure you have adequate water, food, fuel and spares for any trip. In remote areas travel with at least one other vehicle to reduce the risk in case of trouble.
- (12) If your vehicle is used primarily for recreation, join an appropriate and responsible club.
- (13) If you and your vehicle are equipped and able, help the authorities in emergencies such as bushfires or search and rescue.

THIS CODE HAS VALUE ONLY IF YOU OBSERVE IT AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO SO.

This code of ethics has been prepared by the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development, in consultation with recreation vehicle clubs and relevant State and Commonwealth authorities.

Sharing With Pastoralists

Much of the outback except the National Parks is used for grazing stock.

- Keep away from stock, sheep may be lambing, cows calving.
- Leave your dog at home.
 - Dogs are prohibited in National Parks.
 - All dogs with Alsatian blood are prohibited north of Quorn
- Protect water supplies—they are extremely valuable.
 - Leave mills, tanks and troughs alone.
 - Camp away from troughs and waterholes.
 - Avoids pollution and allows stock and native animals access to it.
 - Any amount of soap or detergent will pollute.



- Respect gates and private roads.
 - There is often a good reason for water being turned off or gates left open. If you feel something is wrong, contact the owner of the property.
- Roads are expensive to maintain, easily damaged when wet. After heavy rain wait until dry before travelling—this is usually about one day.
- The police may officially close roads after rain. Keep vehicles on existing roads.
- Come prepared to look after yourself.
 - Carry sufficient fuel and water.
 - Respect the privacy of locals and don't abuse your welcome.

Sharing With Nature Is Sharing With The Future

- Protect native flora and fauna.
- Camp only in established places—for locations in Parks consult the Ranger.
- Carry your own energy source (e.g. gas)
 - trees and shrubs take years to re-grow.
- Fires—if you must have a camp fire
 - Observe Fire bans and by-laws.
 - Select a cleared area.
 - Keep the fire small.
 - Use wood sparingly, it is a home for small animals (spiders, snakes, lizards, etc.)
 - Never leave a fire unattended.
 - Extinguish fires when finished.
 - Fire bans apply generally 1 November-30 April.

Sharing With Other Visitors

Rubbish

- Carry it out with you. Do not bury. (Be prepared by taking a large heavy duty bag to put rubbish in.)

Foet Waste

- Bury it (well away from water).
- Bags from portable toilets should also be buried—it's unhygienic to leave them in rubbish bins (they sometimes explode).



Noise

- One of the attractions of the outback is its quiet serenity.
 - avoid noisy disturbances (e.g. portable generators, radios and tape recorders).



Sharing The Heritage

- Aborigines with sacred ties to the land still live in these areas. Please do not touch any Aboriginal painting, carving or relic.
- The outback also contains important pioneer monuments. Leave old buildings unmarked and intact.
- Aboriginal relics and sites are protected by law.
- Many old buildings are protected as Heritage Items and all buildings are somebody's property.

Firearms

- All firearms must be licensed.
- All hunting requires a permit, (check with local police station), and written permission required from landholder.
- Shooting? Most native animals are protected.

BOOK REVIEW

CATTLEMEN OF THE HIGH COUNTRY

by Tor Holth

Rigby 1980, p224 \$18.95

During the 1880s cattlemen from Omeo and the Ovens, Kiewa and Mitta Mitta Valleys began to drive their stock each spring to the high country of the Bogong Ranges, where feed remained lush throughout the summer. The cattle were mustered off again before the first major snowfall. By the 1930s and 1940s some eighteen cattlemen were grazing 10,000 head of stock, and the descendants of many of the original cattlemen continue the

tradition to this day. The detailed description of the practically unchanging routine of hut life, bush clearing, and mustering is the main virtue of Holth's book

Information has largely been gathered from the recollection of the original families. Holth skilfully uses this material to create a comprehensive picture of the generations of mountain cattlemen and their lifestyle, enriched by the inclusion of many interesting photos.

This admirable piece of work will be of interest to many historians and geographers, as well as bushwalkers, four-wheel-drivers, and others interested in north-east Victoria.

Seasonal Track Closures

Forest Commission Seasonal track closures.

Some roads are closed to all vehicular traffic in the following areas as shown.

ALPINE & MOUNTAIN AREA	15 June - 31 October
UPPER ROYSTON AREA	1 May - 31 October
MT STIRLING AREA	15 June - 8 September
BAW BAW ACCESS ROAD	15 June - 30 September
OTWAYS	1 June - 31 October
GRAMPIANS	1 July-30 September
EAST GIPPSLAND	1 June-30 September

National Parks Service Track Closures

Wonnangatta-Moroka National Park

Following roads are closed for the period
15th June 1983 - 31st October 1983.

Wonnangatta Track
Caledonia River Track
Butcher Country Spur Track
Cobbler Lake Track
Zeka Track
Speculation Road
Howitt Plains Road (part)

FOREST COMMISSION ROAD CLOSURES(DETAIL)

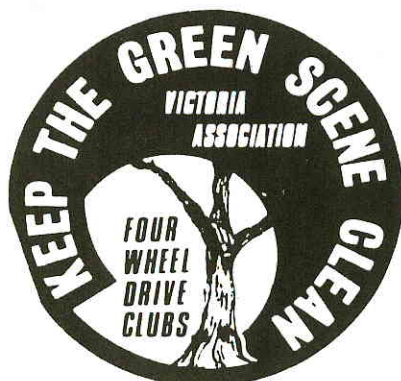
OTWAY RANGES

Seasonal closures 1/6/83 - 31/10/83

1. Duckponds Track
2. Cumberland Station Tracks
3. Lake Elizabeth Track
4. West Barwon Dam Catchment tracks
5. Loves Track
6. Halls Ridge Track
7. West Barham Track
8. Ironbark Spur Track
9. Eastern Link Track
10. Rennick Track
11. Garvey Track to coast link
12. Jamieson Track
13. Kennett - Wye Track
14. Clearwater Track
15. Redwater Track.

Roads closed until 31/12/84
(Subject to further extension)

Cumberland Track
Dam Track
Henderson Track
Cora Lynn Track
Allen Dam Track



The Toyota Landcruiser Club of Australia Victoria Branch has produced an excellent four wheel drive handbook which should be recommended reading for ALL four wheelers. Professionally produced this booklet outdates all previous attempts at such a publication. Orders may be left with the Secretary. Bulk orders subject to discount.

Seasonal Track Closures

FOREST COMMISSION SEASONAL CLOSURES:

EASTERN VICTORIA

Part 1 closed 15/6/83 to 31/10/83

1. Mt Wills Road (from hut to summit)
5. Riley's Creek Track
6. Water Spur Track
9. Trap yard Hill - Millers Hut
10. Billy Goat Bluff
11. Bleak Hill Track
12. Caledonia River Track
13. Butcher Country Spur Track
14. Colemans Creek Track
- 15 King Billy Creek Track
- 16 Mt. Clear Track
- 17 Nobs Track
- 19 Sixteen Mile Track
- 21 King Basin Road
- 22 Black Landing Track
- 23 Tracks to summit of Mt Stirling
- 24 Howqua Hills Track
- 25 Slate Mine-Mitchells
- 26 Wrens Flat- Potatoe Patch
- 27 Howquada Road - Mitchells Track
- 28 Silvermine Spur- Wrens Flat
- 29 Rocky Knob - High Ridge
- 30 Barnewell Plains Road
- 31 Mt Toorongo Track
- 36 King Spur Track
- 37 Bottom Road
- 40 Mt Bullfight Road
- 41 Rubicon River Road
- 42 Mayford Spur Track
- 43 Davies Plains Track
- 44 Humffray Track
- 47 Dartmouth 6 mile creek - Granite Peak
- 48 Poley Road
- 49 Mt Vinegar Road
- 50 Quarry Road -Myrtle Creek Road
- 51 Mt Dispair Road
- 53 No 5 Road
- 54 Hope Track
- 55 Park Road
- 56 Frys Ford Track
- 57 Kalatha North Road
- 58 Winch Road North

SEASONAL CLOSURES GRAMPIANS

1/7/83 to 30/9/83

1. Carter Track from Long Point fireline to Chinaman Track
2. Goat Track
3. Victoria Range Track
4. Launder Track
6. Stockyard Track
7. Mt Cassel Fireline
8. Seven Dials Track

Part 2 closed 1/5/83 to 31/10/83

202. Camarville Track
203. Upper Taggerty Road
204. Bantick Road
205. Silvertop Track
206. Spion Kopje Track
207. Phasmid Track
208. Sisters Track
209. Quartz Creek Road

Part 3 closed 15/6/83 to 8/9/83

301. Circuit Road/Telephone Box Junction to No 3 Road
302. No 3 Road
303. Circuit Road/Telephone Box Junction to Howqua Saddle

Part IV closed 15/6/83 to 30/9/83

401. Baw Baw access Road

ROADS CLOSED UNTIL 31/12/83
(Subject to further extension)

- A. Road 21 (Ovens Plantation)
- B. Long Spur Track
- C. Twins Jeep Track
- D. Tarli Karng Road (extended to 31/12/84)
- J. Boundary Fire Trail No 2
- K. Echo Flat Track
- L. Lake Mountain Track
- M. Snowy Range Track
- N. Tanglefoot Track (extended to 31/12/85)
- R. Royston Gap Road

THE GRAMPIANS

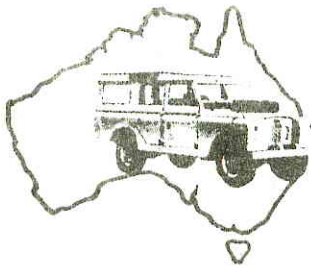
Roads closed until 31/12/85

- A. Hut Creek Fireline
- B. Victoria Range Track
- C. Brown Creek Track
- D. Cave of Hands Track
- E. Deep Creek Track
- F. Track running off Waterworks Track up No 1 Creek
- G. Waterworks Creek Track
- H. Sierra Range Fireline
- K. Ingleton Track
- J. Burma Track
- L. Castle Rock Track.



Victoria Association of
Four Wheel Drive Clubs

MONTH	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS	TRIP LOCATION	TRIP LEADER/S	CLASS	SOCIAL FUNCTION
OCTOBER		Corowa & District	D. Montague & P. Rowe	C	Wine & Pokies Trip 15th & 16th Camp at Wahgunya.
NOVEMBER	Tuesday 1st Cup Day	Discovery Bay, Portland	Terry Hinks	C	
				S	25th November, Annual Xmas Dinner Chinese Restaurant Emperor's Court, 370 Mitchum Rd., Mitchum
	<i>SUNDAY DAY TRIP. POWELLTOWN. 27th Nov.</i>		<i>GARY LANEY</i>	<i>B.</i>	
DECEMBER	Xmas & Boxing Day Holiday	Talbotville	Vin Handley	B	
				S	Xmas Picnic 11th of December at BIMBIMBI.
JANUARY	Monday 2nd New Year Holiday				
	Australia Day Weekend	Pineapple Flat	Peter Rowe	B	



LAND-ROVER OWNERS' CLUB OF VICTORIA LIMITED

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in Victoria

"Land-Rovering since 1963"

The longest established four-wheel-drive club in Australia.

P.O. Box 8, Abbotsford, Victoria, 3067.

July 24th 1983

The Secretary,
Victorian 4WD Club,
P.O. Box 778,
DANDENONG, 3175.

Dear Secretary,

1983 FOUR WHEEL DRIVE MOTOR SHOW AND FIELD DAY

On Sunday, November 20th 1983, the Land Rover Owners' Club of Victoria Ltd will be holding its sixth Annual 4WD Motor Show & Field Day.

As previously, the object of the day is to introduce members of the public with interest in 4WD touring, to equipment etc., and, where possible, to provide actual demonstrations. To this end, members of this Club will demonstrate various methods of winching, vehicle jacking, survival tactics, vehicle fitting-out etc., and, as in previous years, you are invited to set up a display in an effort to persuade people of the wisdom of joining a Club.

IT IS STRESSED THAT THIS IS A PUBLIC RELATIONS EXERCISE FOR YOUR CLUB SO THAT YOU CAN GAIN MORE MEMBERS, AND IS A COURTESY EXTENDED BY THE LAND ROVER OWNERS' CLUB TO YOU. IN RETURN WE WOULD REQUEST YOUR CO-OPERATION. THE PRIVILEGE MUST NOT BE USED TO SET UP AN ADVERTISING DISPLAY (THERE ARE SPECIAL AND SEPARATE SITES FOR THAT), OR TO CLUTTER UP THE SITE WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF CARS.

Each Club is allocated an area of 10 metres by 10 metres, and the ideal set up would be an information tent with display boards, membership forms etc., and up to 3 of the best vehicles in your Club. Other vehicles must enter via the main entrance, and stay in the main car park. This year, entrance to the oval will be strictly policed, with entry by pass only. These passes - three per Club - will be forwarded to you along with the site layout on receipt of your booking form.

So fill out the attached form and return it to the Land Rover Owners' Club Ltd before October 15th, and help make this a day that all people with an interest in 4WD in Victoria will remember. Further information can be obtained from the undersigned on (03)607.7620 during business hours or (03)211.7298 after hours.

Yours faithfully,

PATRICK SUTCLIFFE
Field Day Co-Ordinator

BUSHED

Since I wrote the last editorial of "Bushed", we did, as I mentioned, go on the Club's snow trip and, as was predicted, members found the opportunity to test their abilities at snow driving, snow sliding and snow diving, the latter being claimed to be snow skiing. Anyhow I am sure that the author of the trip report will make enough wise cracks about various people's abilities in the above mentioned skills, so I will continue on where I left off in the last issue.

Fortunately nobody on the snow trip had to test their ability to spend an over-night stay in the snow, though had anyone found themselves lost with no camping equipment they would have been thinking that, that little three man tent and camp fire way-back, below the snow line was better than any \$100 a night room in the Wentworth. There is though, no reason to slum it during your enforced stay at Hotel Izberg.

The first thing to remember is that you are lost (it would probably be hard to forget), there is, therefore no point in continuing on walking until it is dark. Once the sun has dropped out of the sky, continued progress will only assist you in becoming further lost, so stop a good hour before sun-set, this will give you a chance to build a house.

Just as Eskimo's can live in snow conditions, so can you. There are a few ways to build your life saving Igloo, as set out below.

The first is quite simple, though it requires a very convenient snow drift of solid packed snow into which you can dig out a small cavern just large enough to sit in.

If this is not available use tree branches to form an Indian style tepee and then pack snow up against it.

If there are no trees nearby, you can build an Igloo just as the Eskimos do, by cutting blocks out of the hard packed ice and building up a dome shaped Igloo.

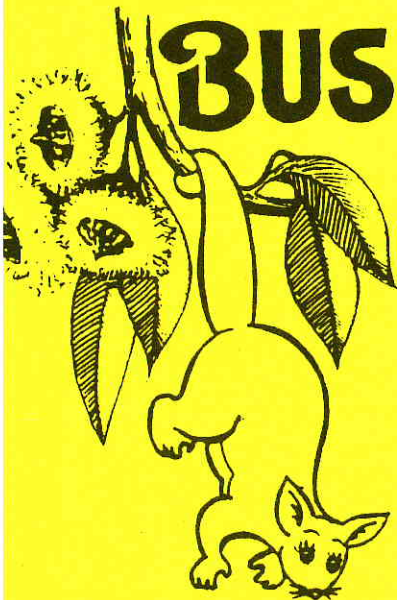
These structures are life saving shelters giving protection from bone chilling winds swept across sub-zero snow plains. In addition they insulate from the outside temperatures and reflect your own body heat making for a relatively warm home for the night.

I hope nobody ever finds themselves having to prove the worth of a snow shelter. In the mean time I'm going to turn up the gas heater and set the electric blanket on three.

ANDY WILLIAMS

BUSH.B.Q

THE BARBEQUE OF THE OUTBACK



simple
highly efficient

strong

compact

open fire cooking

versatile

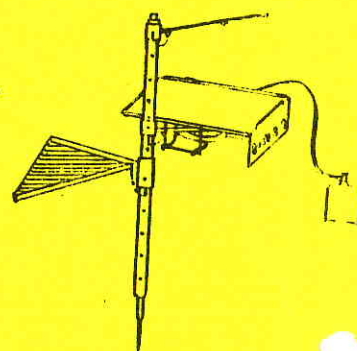
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