

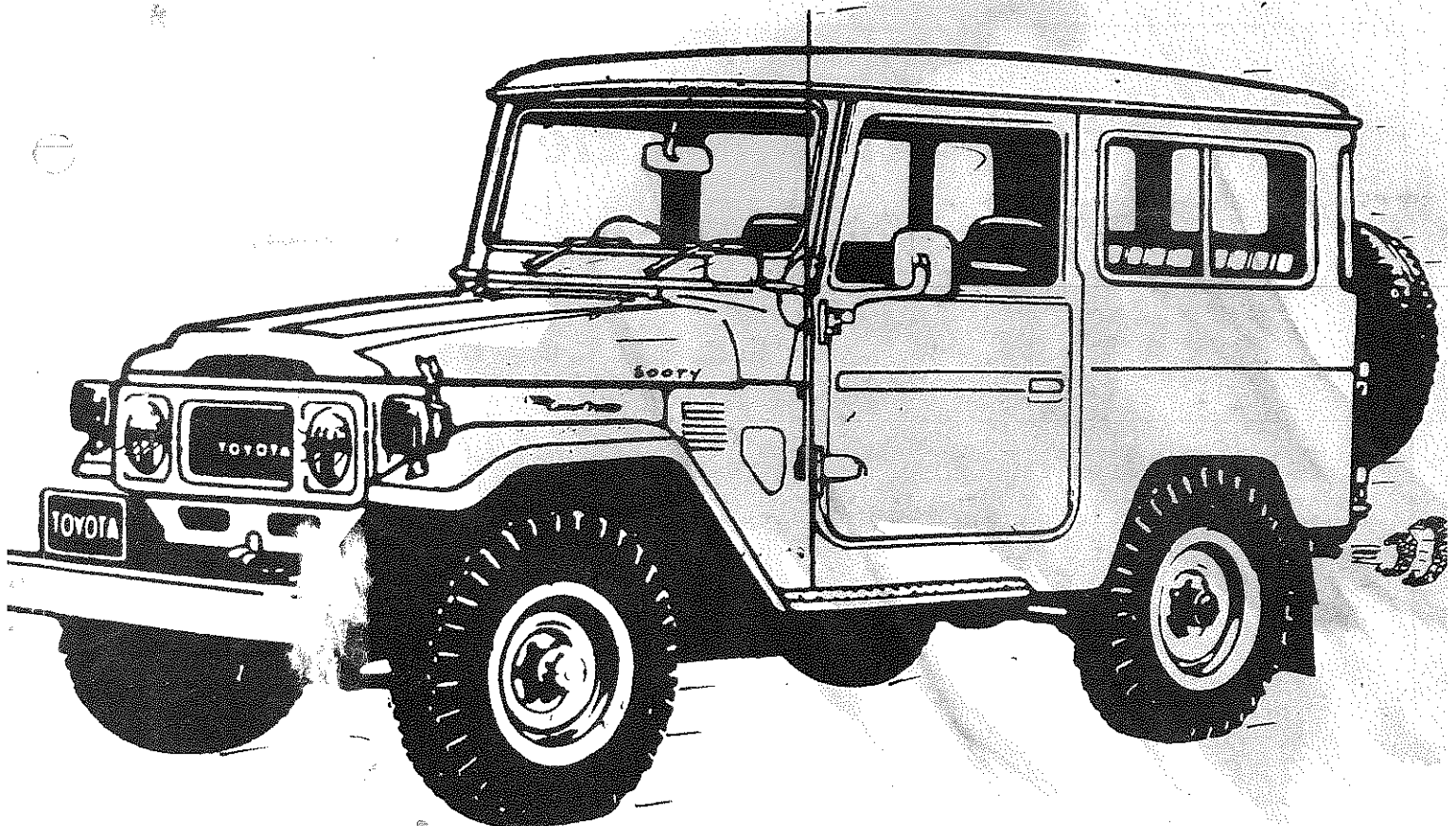
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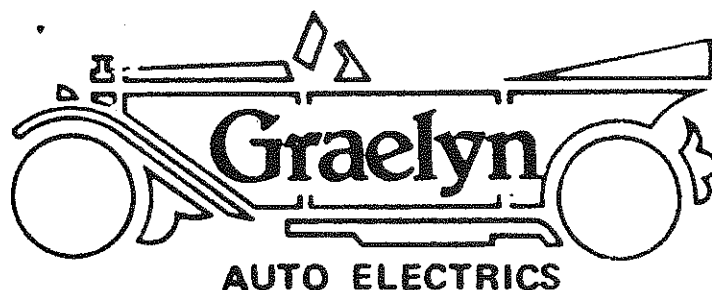
1986

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VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB INC.



COMMITTEE 1985/86

PRES	David Heard 16 Hardy Street Selby 754 8406	VICE PRES	Pat Casey 11 Patterson St Carnegie 3163 5706452	SEC	Tom Brachna, 11 Sunnyvale C Hampton Park 3976 799 1998
TREAS	Rob Ayton 8 Minerva Crs Vermont Sth 3133 232 0378	ASS SEC	Garry Pearl 1419 Mountain Hwy The Basin 3154 762 4013	SOC SEC	Sue Williams 82 Cape St. Heidelberg 458 3573
COMMITTEE	Mark Templeton 13 Alice St. Clayton 3168 543 7196		Peter Handley 5 Wallaroo Ave. Narre Warren 3805 704 6808		Bryan West 164 Monohans Rd. Cranbourne 3977. 059 96 4915
ASSOCIATION DELEGATES	Mark Templeton 798 6055 (Bus Hrs) 543 7196 (A.H.)				

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, mud & snow, deep river crossings and overgrown tracks. Max. 6 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 do not matter and recovery gear not essential. No. Max 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.

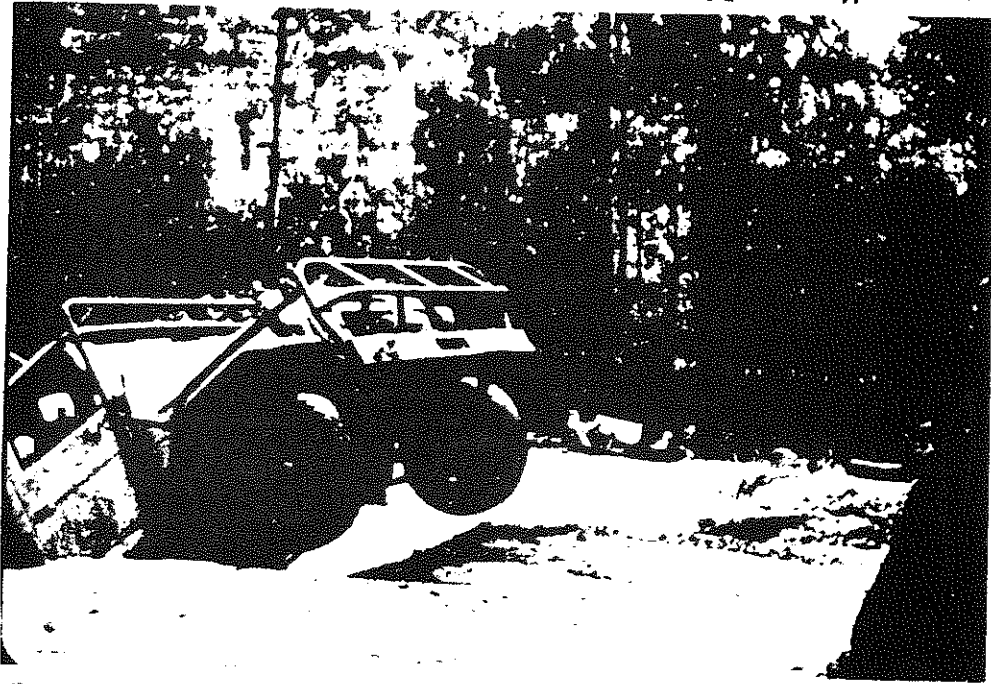
Newsletter items to Tom Brachna by General Meetings at the latest.

MEETINGS LAST TUESDAY OF THE
MONTH AT THE DANDENONG LIBRARY

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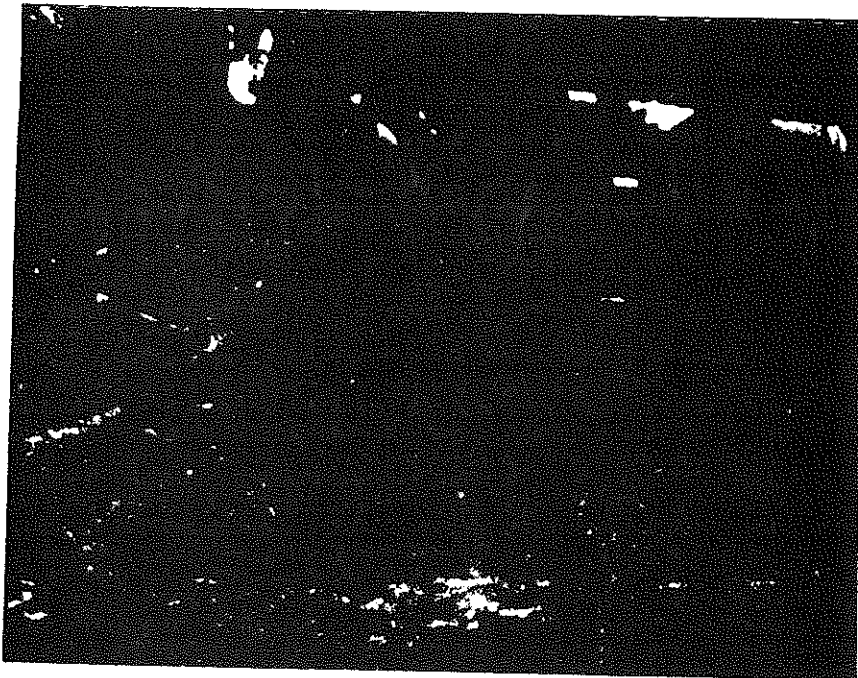
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DAIHATSU - HOLDEN RODEO - DATSUN - QUALITY USED PARTS.**

p r e s i d e n t ' s r e p o r t M A Y 1 9 8 6

Last meeting had a touch of nostalgia when Bill Mc Kinnon showed us some of Lakey's old footage (or is that "inch age" in John's case), back in the days before chrome wheels, air conditioners, cloth seats and 12 foot stickers reading 4 X 4. Thanks John and Bill.

General business again rose the issue of the Alpine National Park which also reminds me to get on your backs to help Mark Templeton with the Association meetings. I can't understand why you don't want to contribute to the club. If the bush dance is left up to the same old few then it will probably be the last as the committee can't do it all.

I have eight names for the driver training weekend and I would say you'll need very good tyres after all this rain, chains would also be handy if you have them or can borrow them.

We are a bit late with our A.G.M. raffle tickets, but you'll get them next meeting so please make a big effort and sell heaps that month. We need to sell about 1,500.

Anyhow enough of my grumbling. I'll see you at the next meeting when, maybe we can find Mark an assistant with the association. Don't forget, we don't want you to necessarily do it every month. Just now and again would be a big help.

Then after we find someone, we can watch Steve Alder on the video.

How about it

David Heard

c a l e n d a r 1 9 8 6

-
- MAY 13 Film Night at Waverly Gardens Cinema to see Crocodile Dundee. Film starts at 7 p.m.
- JUNE 7, 8 & 9 Queen's Birthday weekend. Buckland Valley. Leave Sat. Morning 8 a.m. Coldstream. Further details contact John Smith.
- JUNE 15 Annual Football match against Nissan Club.
(tentative)
- JULY 13 Day trip. Snow trip to Mt. Buller area, skiing. Further details contact Sue Williams.
- JULY 5 & 6 Driver Training weekend. Big River area.
- JULY 19 A.G.M. Dinner at the Last Laugh. \$28.50 per head, \$10 deposit. 64 Smith St. Collingwood, 4 course meal, show, dancing. Not B.Y.O.
- AUGUST 2 to SEPTEMBER 7 Kakadu National Park. Departure: Saturday 2nd August 8 a.m. from Tom 's place. Fuel required: Heaps. Full tanks. Maps required: N.T. pastoral and Maps of Vic., N.S.W., S.A. & N.T. Grade: B & C & S Activities: Driving, camping, touring, F.W.Driving, sightseeing, fishing etc. Further details contact Tom Ph: 799 1998
- AUGUST 16 & 17 Snow trip. Tamboritha area.
- OCTOBER 25 & 26 Bush Dance.
- NOVEMBER 23 L.R.O.C. field day. Wandin Park.
- CHRISTMAS TRIP
DECEMBER 26 Buchan area. Further details contact John Lake

IF YOU WISH TO LEAD A TRIP PLEASE CONTACT COMMITTEE

WE DO STILL NEED TRIP LEADERS ! and accompaniment please.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET YOUR BEST EFFORT WITH PHOTOGRAPHY FOR THE PHOTO COMPETITION.

The Lighting of AustraliaA project sponsored by the Department of SociologyLatrobe University

Very briefly, a seminar on the "Sociology of Culture" has proposed that as an event in the celebration of our bicentennary, a chain of 900 beacons be situated right around Australia, including Tasmania. On the 18th June 1988, the first beacon will be lit in Botany Bay, as the sun sets. The aim is to have the last beacon lit as the sun rises at Botany Bay next morning.

The assistance of four wheel drive clubs throughout Australia is requested because some of the beacons will be located in remote areas, unaccessible to normal vehicles. It should be noted that most of these areas could be serviced by local people in their own four wheel drives. It appears that a great compliment is being paid to our movement in that, at the outset, we are considered for involvement.

This is not a project put forward by a few academics.

The following persons are a few of those supporting the project : -

Major General DCJ Deighton. G.O.C. Logistic Command
 Hon. Sir Rupert Hamer. Chairman, Victoria State Opera
 Mr. H. Rothsay, Deputy Chief Officer (Technical) Country Fire Authority
 Mr. Athol Hodgson, Chief Fire Officer, Department of Conservation Forests & Lands
 Brigadier E.G.C. Gilmore, Director, Australian Counter Disaster College
 Mr. Stephen Lovass, Finance and Administration Manager, The Age.

Other organisations very well represented are

University of Melbourne
 La Trobe University
 Department of Resources & Energy, National Mapping
 The Scout Association of Australia
 Country Womens Association of Victoria
 Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria
 Girl Guides Association of Victoria.

There is no more information available at the present time.

Your club is now asked if it would like, in principle, to involve itself in this project.

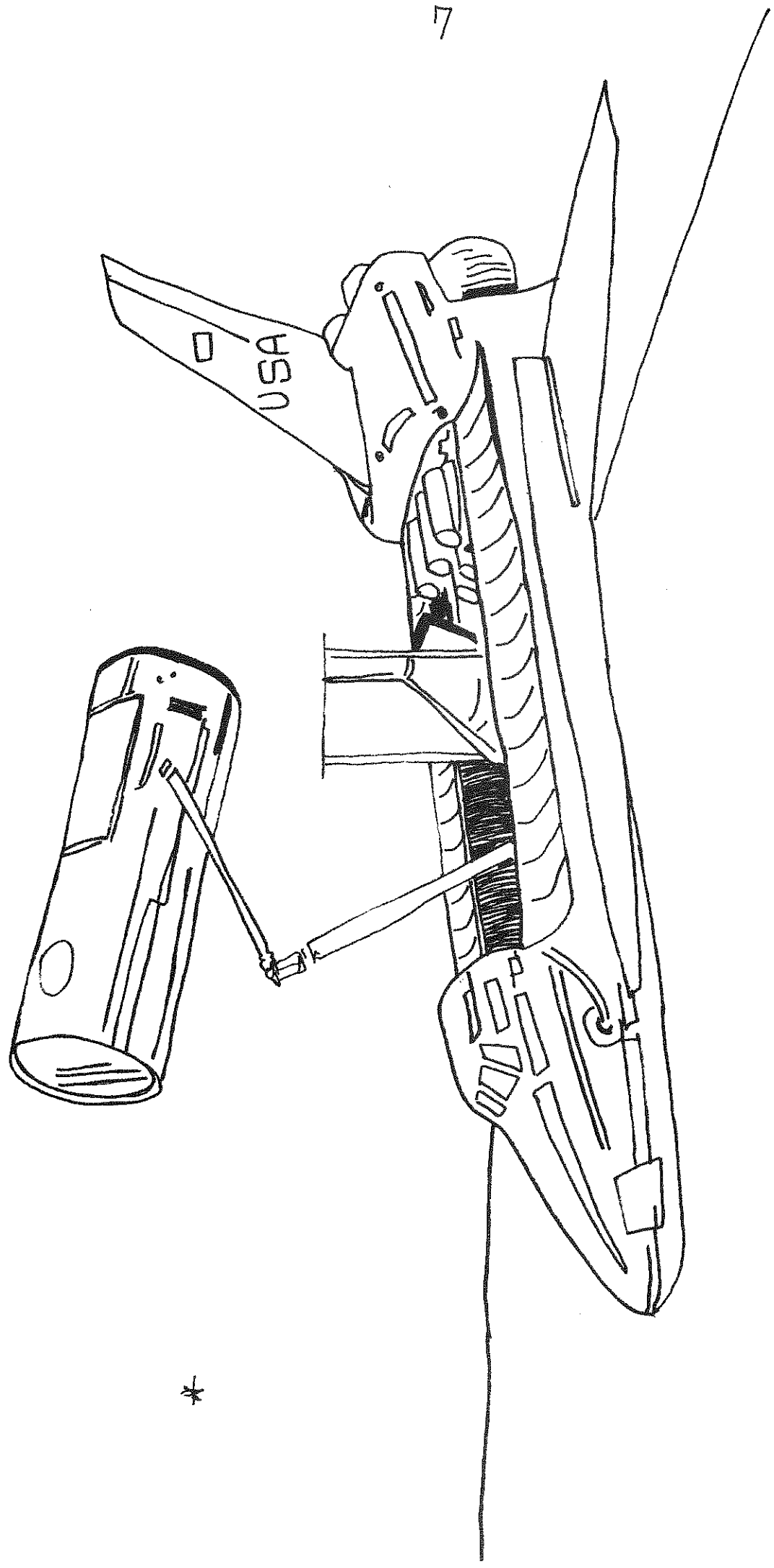
This is not something that delegates to Association should be deciding upon. Your club is asked, please, to discuss it at your next regular meeting and to report your decision to VAFWDC.

Your club is reminded that ANCFWDC will almost certainly be holding a bi centennial event, as will VAFWDC.

Please consider this carefully and report back to Association as soon as possible.

FOR THE LITTLE KIDS)

7



A SPACE SHUTTLE IS ABLE TO PLACE ENORMOUS PHOTOGRAPHIC TELESCOPES IN ORBIT AROUND THE EARTH.

1

AGM

ANNUAL DINNER.

PRESENTS

LAST LAUGH

THEATRE RESTURANT

64 SMITH ST. COLLINGWOOD

ON THE 19TH JULY - 7.30 pm

FEATURING :

THE INFAMOUS 'CABBAGE BROTHERS
AND JERRY CONNELLY'

PLUS 4 COURSE DINNER, DANCING
AFTER THE SHOW AND GREAT CLUB
RAFFLES. TICKETS: \$28.50 PER HEAD

GET YOURS AT THE NEXT MEETING !!!

cricket match NPC VS VFWDC March 23

I arrived at the Mentone Grammar Playing Fields at 6.30 a.m. and began to set up the spit and BBQ for the cooking of the "butt". Peter and Debbie Pink arrived shortly after to lend a hand with the delicate task of preparing the Moose prior to cooking. At this stage all the gear was ready but we realized that a small problem had cropped up. The moose had not arrived yet. As the first signs of panic began to set in, the moose delivery "brick" (Mark's Mini) arrived with a sigh of relief from we would be panickers. The butt was dragged from the "bootlette" and over to the preparation table where surgical skills were required to ready the beast for the heat.

A careful plan was developed which went as follows:

- Step 1 Take the moose out of plastic bag to prevent stench while cooking,
- Step 2 Peter to find a suitable stance and safe holding position to secure the creature to the table,
- Step 3 Mark to find a suitable position from where the bar could be guided in (to the moose).
- Step 4 Me, or I, which ever you prefer, to grab the blunt end of the bar (this was critical as the pointed end is easier to push through the meat) and push like hell without ripping off Mark's guiding hand or stabbing Pete with pointed end.

The meticulous preparation was well worth the effort because on the tenth pass of the bar into the meat, it was sort of balanced. The prongs, holders, guides, forks and counter balances were all attached to the bar and subsequently, the meat and the whole lot placed on the spit. The "hold the meat on to the bar" wire was used to hold the meat onto the bar.

The gas burners were fired up and the motor that turns the meat was made to turn.

After the ordeal was over we had a coffee. A short session was held around the "Beast in heat" and the ceremonial tasting of the wine was done. It was decided that the particular beverage was to be used for cooking purposes ONLY.

At approx. 8 a.m. Mark went to borrow the cricket gear from Terry so we could hone our cricket skills before the game. By the way, remember cricket, this is a story about cricket!

Mark returned without The Gear and said that he had woken Terry who promised he would wake up and come down with the appropriate equipment. Terry arrived shortly afterwards without The Gear so after showing us that he was awake by bidding us a good morning, he went with Peter to get The Gear. They both came back with some of The Gear but had to return to get the rest of The Gear.

When all The Gear finally arrived we went to the nets for some much needed honing.

As the practise session continued relentlessly into the morning, they (NPC members) began to arrive. When they saw our aggressive style they asked if they could have some of The Gear to try and compete with our style.

When all participating sportsmen arrived it was decided unanimously by some of us to start the game.

Opposing captains huddled into a group to perform the ritual of "Flippus of the Coinus" (technical talk to see who would bat first). The NPC won the toss and sent us into bat.

Due to the competitive nature of events that followed we will refer to the opposing team as them and our team as us.

Us padded up to face the onslaught of them who were already on the field.

Two of us at a time went out prepared to give them a punishment at the hands of us batsmen. Unfortunately they had a few tricks up their sleeves and wickets of us began to fall. The wickets of us did not fall as quickly as they would have liked, especially when the tail-end batpersons were at the crease. That small round piece of The Gear was taking a beating until the overs ran out. Us, accumulated 154 runs at the hands of the bowlers of them.

Both teams abandoned play for drinks (woops, sorry I mean Lunch) for approx. the duration of one twenty fourth of one day and then it was back to them and us. This time it was them to bat and us to bowl. As the first batsmen of them prepared to face the first deadly bowler of us, it was detected that a small bead of sweat broke out on his person and then it happened the small round part of The Gear rocketed down the pitch at them and that was it. Part of The Gear was somewhere near the fence. They batted fiercely for their thirty overs, but us knew that fear was in their hearts. Wickets fell and batsmen fell, and bowlers fell and just about everybody had a fell at one time or other.

After both teams had batted and bowled it was up to the keepers of the scores of them and us to inform us and them who had won.

The tension, the heat and the stress was so unbearable that members from both them and us broke down and drank.

The scores were tallied and they had won by twelve runs but only because of the generosity of us because it was their turn to win anyway. Not a bad excuse eh!

Presentations were made by opposing Captains and with tears in his eyes the Captain of us handed over the perpetual trophy to the captain of them and that was the match of 1986.

Now it was time for the VFWDC and our friends from the NPC to indulge in The EATING OF MOOSE. Remember the Moose? Nine and one half hours ago it was a raw butt, but now, it was a cooked butt, ready for the second onslaught of the day.

Peter wielded the FORCE and I the Cockies Beaks as we prepared layer upon layer upon layer of succulent moose to feed the masses.

Dinner over with, some socializing was in order, much discussion about winning batting styles and the effect the round piece of The Gear has on parts of the anatomy.

Enough with the sophisticated writing.

I think everybody including the supporters, teams, kids, etc. all had an enjoyable day with the usual sportsmanship shown throughout the day.

Thanks to all who attended and made it the day it was and see you there sometime next year.

Also a special thanks to the NPC members who helped make it the day it was!

Tom.

i t ' s a n d b i t s

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Troop Carrier combination bolt on A.R.B. wrap around rear protection step with tow bar, white. Good condition. \$130

Rin g Dave Westmacott on 553 1394

Thomas 8,000 lbs electric winch. \$600

Contact Deano Brandi on 792 4720

ON: PHOTO COMPETITION: PHOTO COMPETITION: PHOTOCOMPETITION

THIS IS A COMPETITION WHICH WILL BENEFIT YOU AS A CLUB MEMBER AND THE CLUB.

FIRSTLY, WHAT WE WANT TO DO IS ULTIMATELY PUT TOGETHER AN ALBUM WITH YOUR PHOTO'S TO HAVE, TO DISPLAY AT MEETINGS, SHOWS ETC.

WHAT WE WANT YOU TO DO IS ENTER OUR PHOTO COMPETITION. ALL PHOTO'S WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE ALBUM, THE COMMITTEE WILL MAKE THE FINAL DECISION. WE ASK YOU, IF YOU CAN DONATE YOUR PHOTO FOR THIS PURPOSE OR IF NOT, WE WILL ENDEVOUR TO REPRODUCE YOUR PRINT.

DETAILS

- BRING YOUR PHOTO'S ALONG TO THE CLUB MEETING
- THERE WILL BE FOUR CATERGORIES:

1. ACTION
2. CANDID CLUB
3. LANDSCAPE
4. MISCELLANEOUS

WHAT YOU GET OUT OF IT:

1. GREAT PRIZES (YET TO BE DECIDED)
2. TO HAVE YOUR TERRIFIC CLUB PHOTO'S DISPLAYED AT THE MEETING AND THE CHANCE TO BE IN THE ALBUM
3. THE CHANCE TO VOTE IN THE FINAL JUDGING.

ENTRIES CLOSE AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

(PLEASE TRY AND GET YOUR ENTRIES IN BEFORE THAT, WE WOULD LIKE AN ONGOING DISPLAY EACH MONTH UNTIL THE FINAL IN OCTOBER.)

TRACKWATCH

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

THOMSON CLEAN-UP

FORTY KILOMETRES OF TRACK ARE NOW CLEAR FOR USE BY VICTORIAN FOUR WHEELERS IN THE THOMSON CATCHMENT. CLOSED SINCE 1970 THESE TRACKS WERE CLEARED AND OPENED BY MEMBERS OF THE VICTORIA ASSOCIATION OF FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUBS AS A MAJOR COMMUNITY SERVICE.

On the 30 November, over 280 members descended on the Thomson Catchment Area where clubs' and members were allocated specific tracks and clean-up tasks.

Over 100 vehicles, 63 chainsaws, 32 brushcutters and lots of enthusiasm saw the 50 Sq Mile catchment thoroughly examined and cleared by the members. The majority of fire access tracks were cleared, track maintenance undertaken and future tasks earmarked for further attention.

Three cemeteries were also tackled with blackberries and undergrowth cleared from historic sites at Jericho, Red Jacket and Aberfeldy. The New Chum Mine site was also cleared of trees which had taken root through the top of historic kilms. The kilms are over 100 years old and of special significance in the history of gold exploration in Gippsland.

The Hon Robert Lawson MLC of the Natural Resources and Environment Committee toured the restoration works and paid high compliment to the work of the Association.

The Shire of Narracan also sent congratulations to the work of the Clubs'.

The weekend clean up was coordinated by Association Vice-President John Cribbes who did a fantastic job in bringing together the number of Clubs', and private assistance from several major companies. Great job John!

- THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING -

Guzzardi Petroleum Pty Ltd for donation of two stroke fuel.

Davis Petroleum Traralgon

JRA for suppling VIP transport

Just Communications Pty Ltd - suppling base and communications for the entire area.

Public Trustee of Victoria - printing.

'4x4 Australia' - publicity
Herald & Weekly Times - publicity
Regional TV Stations- publicity
John Wilkinson - Video Team
coordination and production.

Jeff Lake, Latrobe Valley FWDC
and ALL of the Clubs' and their members that attended.

THIRD MELBOURNE OFF-ROAD SHOW

The third Melbourne 4 and 2WD Off-Road Show was recently staged. The Association was represented with a manned display for the duration of the 5 day event. Our Public Relations Officer again put duty before private committments and virtually ate, slept and lived the Show for the duration, often going straight to work

OFF ROAD SHOW...

after a late night. Catch a few hours sleep at his desk, actually do some work for his employer then back to the Show. Again a fantastic effort, but one unfortunately which should not have been required. With various activities on at this time of the year it was difficult for Bernard, John and Maxine to attempt to carry the majority of the load. While some clubs were great in providing assistance and manpower there were others which were noticable by there absence this year.

The Off Road Show is a major activity where over 30,000 people of four-wheel-drive interests attend. Many people flock to our stand for information and advice about various issues.

Next years show is likely to be a completely different event, possibly at a different venue and we ask that Clubs note it now as a club activity for next February, March. Further details about a possible change of date and venue will follow.

WOOD CHIPPING - YES OR NO?

Two films depicting both sides of the argument will be screened at the March Association General Meeting. The showing is being made to allow you to formulate your own views on the matter, and to take the information back to your Club if you wish.

STATE OF THE STREAMS SURVEY

The Department of Water Resources will commence a State-wide survey of the 'state of our streams' in March.

The survey will involve assessing the physical conditions of Victoria's rivers and streams at over 800 sample sites throughout the State. The assessment involves recoding information on visual stream conditions during March, April and May.

BEACON LIGHTING FOR 1988 CELEBRATIONS...

The Association has been asked to assist with an Australia-wide Bicentennial project. The project will involve the siting, and subsequent lighting of 900 beacons around Australia.

These will be located at 30 km intervals around the country. We have been asked to site and light beacons in country generally inaccessible to ordinary vehicles. The first will be lit on June 18, 1988 with the last timed to be lit at dawn June 19 at Botany Bay.

The project Committee is made up of representatives of the Dept Conservation, Forests & Lands, CFA, Latrobe and Melbourne Universities, and other notable groups.

One of the benefits of the project is the likelihood of access to some out-of the way locations. Project coordinator John Cribbes has circulated background information to Clubs for discussion.

Dead end for off-roaders

Geelong region off-road vehicle drivers and riders will soon lose access to many bush tracks.

The closure of about 27 tracks in the Grampians area under a recently released State Government park management plan will start in autumn.

Seasonal closures of many tracks in the Otways will resume in late May.

The State president of the association of four-wheel drive clubs, Mr Brian Tanner, of Geelong, said the three clubs in Geelong and one in Colac had about 210 members who wanted to use the tracks.

Mr Tanner said they accepted seasonal closures but were opposed to widespread permanent closures.

By David Fitzsimons

He said most off-roaders were responsible and cared for the bush.

But some others who did not belong to the clubs were spoiling it for them.

Mr Tanner said they had lobbied politicians to reverse the closures but without success.

He said club members had been involved in a variety of bush track restoration ranging from filling in potholes to building bridges and culverts.

He said the Grampians closures were the most alarming because they were the best tracks for four-wheel drive vehicles in western Victoria.

Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands officer at Stawell, Mr Jeff Walls, said work on the track barriers had not started.

But the highest priority tracks would be closed during autumn.

He said there were no plans to review the closures for five years.

A spokesman for the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, Mrs Kirner, said re-opening the long-term closed tracks ahead of the review was unlikely.

He said use of the bush by four-wheel vehicle drivers and trail bike riders was reduced by the minority who abused the bush.

"We are not in the game of keeping people out of the bush but to stop people abusing the bush," he said.

VAFWDC

Fighting For Your Rights

The Victorian Association of 4WD Clubs was formed specifically to represent the 4WD movement in defending their rights of access to public road networks. Recognising the need to band together and to undertake coordinated actions, the Association was formed in 1975.

The 1970s saw rapid growth in community awareness of the value of Victoria's bushland — particularly the Alpine Region for recreation and conversely for the need to conserve our public lands both now and for the future. The Association supports conservation, but unfortunately the true meaning of conservation was lost, as regrettably the conservation issue attracted (and still does) an element of vocal radicals, the 'armchair environmentalists'. Their aim was the exclusion of all but select groups from public land. The cause of genuine conservation lost much credence.

It was against this impending threat that six Victorian 4WD Clubs had the fore-thought to recognise the need for a collective '4WD voice' or risk losing the very resource upon which our recreation depends — namely access to the bush. They formed the Victorian 4WD clubs.

Then, as now, the principle of a 'united voice' is essential if you wish to tackle government departments and to make your views known. Individuals, and even clubs, can feel helpless dealing with the bureaucracy, but an organisation such as the Association has the muscle to be heard by the departments responsible for managing our public resources. As the organisation representing 4WD recreation, the government is pleased to deal with the Association.

The VAFWDC follows closely the activities of public land management authorities and prepares submissions for the Land Conservation Council, National Parks Service and other organisations to help ensure the natural asset, the bush, is properly managed. The Association has produced over 30 major submissions to management bodies, been represented at government hearings into "off-road" activities in Victoria and Canberra and taken a leading hand in formulating and drafting recommendations concerning our recreation for authorities.

The VAFWDC is well respected in government circles, which are well aware of the work of the Association. While it is unfortunately not uncommon to still hear criticism of some 4WD activities in the bush, it is rare to hear criticism of any club activities by authorities. They are appreciative of the strict environment code that clubs enforce, and new members are taught. If you see a 4WD messing up the environment then the driver is almost certainly not a member of a 4WD club. Conser-

vation is an integral part of modern recreation activities and through the club network, 4WD enthusiasts are encouraged to take an active interest in conservation and the environment.

Land access is a primary aim of the Association, and it is not unusual for new members to clubs' to be ignorant of regulations which govern where they may and may not drive their 4WDs. They are surprised at the large number of track closures and their general exclusion from many parks. With continued track closures and other restrictions, lone four wheelers can best help themselves by supporting Clubs in their representations for continued access to existing road networks. The Association often seeks justification for track closures and, through the system of continuous consultation, performs an important watchdog role.

Track access is, however, often temporarily denied as seasonal track closures are implemented by authorities to protect tracks from erosion over the wetter months of the year. The Association saw the justification for such closures, but not for a 12 month closure and suggested the current system of seasonal, rather than permanent track closures.

Hand-in-hand with track closures is the question of responsible track usage. The Association has undertaken programs aimed at the associated problems of user education, public misconceptions, media treatment of 4WDs, and "greenie" attacks on our recreation. Promotion and education in various forms are now established facets of Association activities. The Association has seen 4WD touring accepted as a legitimate recreation in the eyes of government and is now working to gain the rewards such recognition brings to the recreation in the form of government assistance in educational and promotional activities. It is also essential that the 4WD industry supports the 4WD Association financially in the future if it is to continue to prosper with the movement.

Through the club network, there are now several advanced driver education programs which instruct new members in all aspects of the art of 4WD touring. If many of the unclubbed 4WD operators had the knowledge imparted through such courses, many tracks may now be still open to the public, rather than having to be closed due to damage caused by incorrect and irresponsible driver technique.

The question all new 4WD owners must ask themselves when preparing to venture into the bush is whether they are aware of the responsibilities which come with owning a 4WD vehicle? Do you know where you can legally drive your vehicle? How to drive it in the best interests of the environment and other bush users? What about how to drive it? Are you aware of all the controls in your vehicle and when and how they should be applied? What about correct gear selection — a 4WD gives you an extra four gears to choose from. Do you want to damage the access prospects of other four wheelers through your inexperience? It is questions such as these which are best addressed by becoming a member of a 4WD club. Driver training is an important aspect of club activity along with many practical benefits such as purchasing services, informative magazines, access to interclub events and the feeling of well-being which comes with being part of a respected organisation.

Name your vehicle: there's a club to suit

ANYONE who owns a four-wheel drive and enjoys "going bush" once in a while would benefit from joining a four-wheel drive club, says Mr Brian Tanner, president of the Victorian Association of 4WD Clubs.

More than 35 4WD clubs are affiliated with the Victoria Association of 4WD Clubs, with a total membership approaching 10,000 members.

There are clubs that cater specifically for Range Rovers or Pajeros, Nissans, Landcruisers, Land-Rovers, Jeeps, Subarus, and so on.

Other clubs cater for a mixture of all four-wheel drive vehicles.

Clubs are not confined to the metropolitan area, with active 4WD clubs to be found from Wangaratta, Bendigo and Shepparton, to Gippsland, Geelong, the Mallee and the south-west.

Clubs range in size from several hundred members to smaller local clubs.

IN common with all, is the friendly family atmosphere where the whole family is encouraged to participate in club activities.

By travelling in small convoys in company with other 4WD vehicles, areas can be visited in safety as anyone suffering a breakdown is not going to be left behind!

Says Brian Tanner: "The benefit of club membership extends beyond just participating in 4WD trips.

"New members are instructed in the correct use of their vehicle and are acquainted with the characteristics unique to 4WD vehicles.

"There is so much to learn before a driver can safely and responsibly contemplate leaving the safety of bitumen roads.

"In 1985 one in every nine vehicles sold was a 4WD, but chances are very few of these new owners had any notion as to how they can best take advantage of the tremendous benefits a 4WD vehicle offers.

"The easiest way for the uninitiated 4WD owner to learn how to safely use his vehicle is to join a 4WD club."

Before venturing off the beaten track, club members are confident that they know how to drive their vehicle.

The correct gear selection — high and low range — and knowledge of the different techniques needed to be able to drive in mud and sand, can make the difference between enjoyable touring, and a long walk seeking assistance.

Many clubs have detailed driver education programs which ensure all members — both husband and wife — are capable drivers before they are allowed to participate in regular club 4WD outings.

Clubs are aware of their need to preserve the environment, and through correct driver techniques, minimise impact on bush roads.

Mr Tanner said club members also enjoyed substantial benefits and discounts offered from manufacturers and accessory companies, along with receiving regular informative newsletters.

While 4WD touring is the major activity of clubs, the vehicle is a means to other activities, such as camping, photography, fishing and other activities which the whole family can enjoy.

Regular social outings, film nights, guest speakers, social functions, community service activities, 4WD training days and regular interclub get-togethers are all benefits of club membership.

The Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs was formed in 1975 to represent and defend the four-wheel driver's rights of access to public road networks.

"The organisation has grown to be an integral voice in government circles where decisions effecting 4WD travel are mooted.

"The VAFWDC follows closely the activities of public land management authorities and prepares submissions for the Land Conservation Council and other organisations to help ensure public lands are properly managed.

"Four-wheel drivers have been unjustly restricted from many public road networks, and it is essential that all 4WD operators are aware of regulations and restrictions on where they can drive on public land.

"New members are surprised at the large number of track closures and their general exclusion from many parks.

"Lone four-wheelers can best help themselves by supporting clubs in their representations for continued access to existing road networks.

"In 1985 the only 4WD mountainous environment in western Victoria — the Grampians — was unjustly denied to four-wheel-drivers when 27 tracks were closed from public use.

THE association seeks the support of all Victorian four-wheel drivers to join the club movement, where through a united voice such decisions can be challenged.

"The alternative is to risk losing the very resource on which our recreation depends — namely access to the bush."

Nationally the Victoria Association of 4WD Clubs is a foundation member of the Australian National FWD Council.

The council was established in 1984 to provide a national voice for all four-wheel drivers.

It is united in the cause of promoting, educating and protecting the rights of all four-wheel drivers.

The VAFWDC believes all four-wheel-driver owners should "get clubbed" and is pleased to assist prospective members to join a club, or even start a new club.

□ The 4WD owners not in a club can contact the Victoria Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs, GPO Box 401C, Melbourne 3001, or drop in to the stand at the Recreation Vehicle Show.

Greenie 'radicals' cause bush dilemma: mill men

Melbourne. — A sawmillers' group yesterday accused "radical conservationists" of damaging the public debate on commercial forestry operations in far East Gippsland.

President of the Far East Gippsland Sawmillers' Group, Mr Bob Humphreys, said some radical groups among the conservationists had been allowed to get out of hand and were doing untold damage.

"These radical elements trying to force the closure of public forests in far East Gippsland to logging must surely put the Victorian Government in a dilemma," he said.

"They will cost the Australian taxpayer huge amounts in the form of unemployment benefits to sustain those deprived of jobs."

Mr Humphreys said the radical conservationist groups were campaigning for vast increases in the number and size of national parks in far East Gippsland.

"Through the Land Conservation Council's draft recommendations, they are effectively trying to put the 23 sawmills and 600 workers in the area out of business and out of work," he said.

Mr Humphreys said the Government's own regional task force in East Gippsland was having difficulty substantiating claims of alternative employment opportunities.

"The task force had already found tourism was no panacea for timber industry job losses," he said.

"Locked-up forests and wilderness areas won't attract tourists in sufficient numbers to maintain economic facilities, but established timber towns and their forest activities can provide a nucleus for tourism.

"Far East Gippsland communities will die without the forest products industries," he said.

"The potential cost to the State of the death of these communities is huge." — AAP.

1986 COMING INTERCLUB EVENTS

VICTORIA	
Narbethong "Get-together"	8, 9 & 10 March
Gippsland "Go Down"	19 & 20 April
"Barnadown Run Around"	19, 20 & 21 September
"Boho Bounce"	18 & 19 October
"Forest Frolics"	21, 22 & 23 November
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	
Annual cricket match and field day	8 & 9 March
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	
Bush dance	15 & 16 February
NSW & ACT	
Jamboree '86	28, 29, 30 & 31 March

EFFECTIVE LETTER-WRITING ...

WHEN CORRESPONDING WITH LOCAL PARLIAMENTARIANS, OR WRITING TO EXPRESS YOUR POINT-OF-VIEW TO A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOUR LETTER IS EASILY UNDERSTOOD AND EFFECTIVE...

When writing to your local Parliamentarian, or State representative remembering a few simple rules will help you get your point across more effectively.

Always identify yourself and specify your club affiliations, if any. Identify specifically which Act or issue you're writing about, and be clear and concise.

Brevity is the key, so get to the point immediately. Organise your thoughts and some specific points or opinions you want to express by making some notes or an outline. Remember that quality is more important than quantity.

Use your own words and cover only one issue at a time. If you have several issues you'd like to address, write a separate letter for each. Try to be positive, friendly and positive. Never threaten or make unreasonable demands; politicians do not respond to this kind of barrage and inflexibility almost always leads to failure. Ask for the legislator's viewpoint; this may help you get a reply. Be reasonable in your request or statement and try to be constructive, offer ideas for compromise or volunteer to help resolve the problem or conflict.

Before writing your letter, stay abreast of the news. If you know what's happening, you'll be able to reinforce your statements with credible, current facts. Timing is also very important - it doesn't do any good to write after the law has been passed. Be sure to address your letter to the correct person and send copies to other appropriate people, such as Opposition members and newspapers. You should also try to coordinate your efforts with other concerned people to make your position sound like a majority vote. Finally, make sure your letter is neat, clean, legible and readable.

If in doubt whom to send a letter to, start with the top by addressing it to the Minister of a particular Department, and then it is guaranteed to be seen by several aides and possibly parliamentarians in the course of a reply being formulated. If after a reasonable time you have not received a reply, don't be afraid to write and ask what the hold up is, and restate your position to a particular issue.

Get to know your representatives and their aides, and keep the lines of communication open by writing to them regularly and contacting them whenever possible.

10 COMMANDMENTS OF A GOOD LETTER

1. Specify which interest you represent.
2. Be brief, clear and concise with current information.
3. Be polite, reasonable, positive and constructive - suggest a compromise.
4. Address your letter to the correct person and send copies to other concerned individuals.
5. Be neat, clean and readable.
6. Don't wait for someone else to write: do it now and do it yourself.
7. Don't make threats or demands - they usually don't get results.
8. Don't feel intimidated - YOUR thoughts are important and YOU can do it.
9. Don't 'shotgun' issues. Remember one issue per letter (its only 33c).
10. One letter carries alot of weight. Express YOUR view.

Brian Tanner

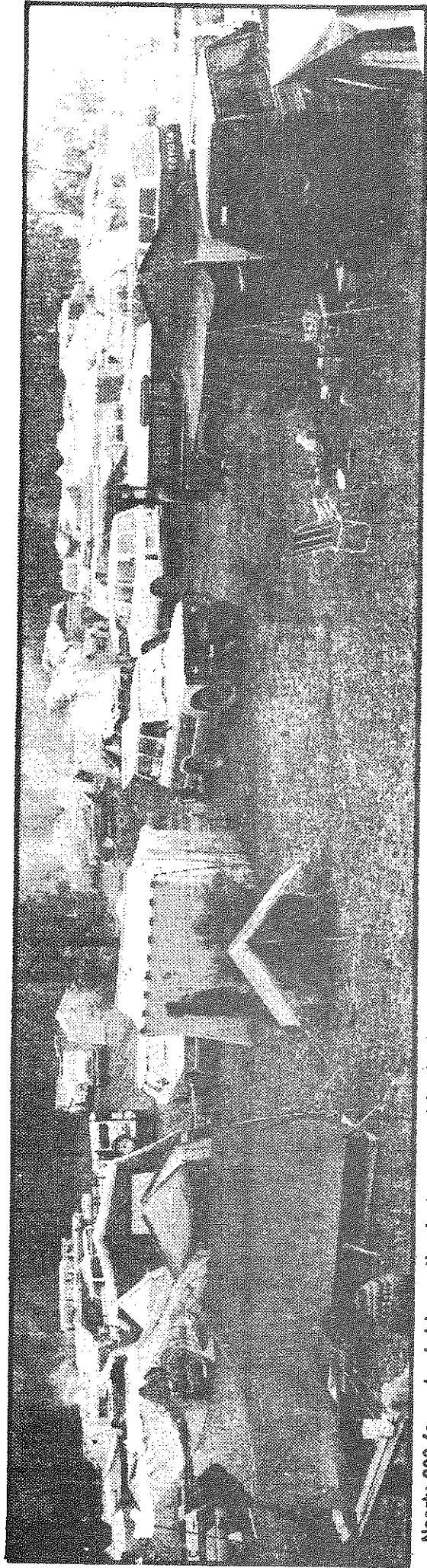
INTERCLUB EVENTS 1986 -

Gippsland GO DOWN - 19 - 20 April

BOHO BOUNCE - 18/19 October

BARNADOWN RUN AROUND - 19/20/21 September

FORREST FROLICS - 21/22/23 November



Nearly 300 four-wheel drive enthusiasts camped in the Thomson River catchment area after a weekend of much-needed "trail blazing" ... clearing 40km of fire trails.

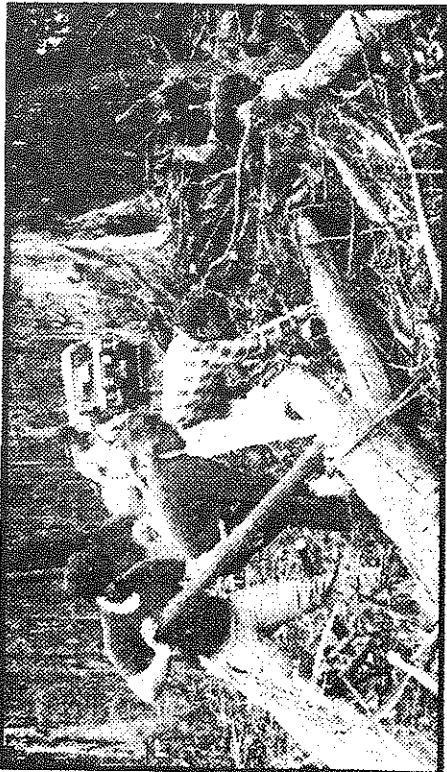
Drivers go bush to clear the way for new image

Four-wheel drive enthusiasts want to dispel any suggestion they are bush-bashers.

"We use the environment for recreation," said the vice-president of the Victoria Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs, Mr John Cribbes.

About 280 association members took to the bush in the Thomson River catchment area at the weekend to carry out some much-needed clearing work as well as giving their public image a boost.

All but a small section of the catchment area, 100 km east of Melbourne, has been closed to the public since 1970 according to Mr Crabbs.



Bracken, logs and blackberries vanished in the big clean-up.

Report: GERARD WRIGHT
Pictures: PETER CHARLES

The result was an area choked by blackberries and other undergrowth.

But after two days, using 118 vehicles, 63 chainsaws, 32 brushcutters, one water pump and a "blackberry muncher" later, 40 km of fire trails had been cleared.

The bush is now safe for fire fighters, Mr Crabbs said.

Control of the catchment area will be assumed by the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands.

"They can look after that land properly, there's no excuse for them now," Mr Crabbs said.

The association is now looking for other trails to blaze according to Mr Crabbs - this time under the direction of the Forests department.

"I doubt that we could do more than one big clean up a year," he said.

"It's certainly worthwhile though. I'm feeling a bit of a glow this morning."

All roads in the area will be open to the public throughout the summer.

NEWS

Clean Up

Victorian 4WD touring club members get together to spruce up the Thomson Catchment tracks. John Cribbes reports:

On Saturday 30 November 1985, the biggest-ever assembly of 4WD touring club members equipped for community work met at Muttontown, adjacent to the old township of Matlock, for the great Thomson Clean Up.

Over 100 vehicles and almost 300 club members have cleared some 50 square miles of the Thomson Reservoir Catchment and made the fire access tracks safe for emergencies.

In addition, three cemeteries have been beautified: Jericho, Red Jacket and Aberfeldy.

MMBW Area Manager, John McConachy, in his capacity as Trustee of both Red Jacket and Jericho cemeteries, said later that he was very impressed with the amount of work done and its quality. He looks forward to any further offers of assistance that may eventuate.

The New Chum Mine site was another important feature worked on. Trees which had taken root in the top of the kilns have been removed although not in time to prevent some damage. The kilns were used about 100 years ago to roast the gold bearing quartz which was heavily impregnated with arsenic.

Some 40 miles of fire tracks which had become overgrown in the last nine years were also serviced and made good.

Inspecting the work, the Hon. Robert Lawson, MLC and a member of the Natural Resources and Environment Committee (Victorian Government committee, at present conducting an inquiry into access to National Parks in Victoria) was also complimentary about the quality of work

done. He advised that it would be in the clubs' interest to consider conducting trips for the physically disabled, as this was a function to which 4WD vehicles are particularly suited.

The weekend's operations were assisted by the unstinting and super efficient services rendered by Just Communications P/L and its Managing Director Peter Greenham. By dragging a caravan up to the top of Matlock Hill and putting in 240 V power, then erecting large aërials, Peter was able to maintain radio communications over the whole area. This service, so freely given, was of great benefit in keeping the whole operation going.

Another member who contributed more than just his labors on the day was Jeff Lake of the Latrobe Valley Club. He spent many hours prior to the clean up arranging services for the clubmen. (Or is it clubpersons?)

The weekend was not without its disappointments. Despite the announcement in the November issue of 4X4 magazine (Joan Green's Victoria Report), not one four wheel driver outside of the club movement was present. Also noticeable by their absence were members of the Conservation movement. Despite invitations, sent personally, or given at conservation meetings, not one attended.

How sad that, when all people interested in the environment should be getting together to preserve what remains of our national heritage, genuine overtures of friendship and co-operation were ignored.

The Victorian clubs must be complimented on an excellent turnout. In attendance were 24 clubs — 118 vehicles, 284 people equipped with 32 brush cutters, 60 chain saws, one auto scythe and a whole host of miscellaneous cutting devices such as machetes. These have made a significant impression on the area.

A number of companies rendered valuable assistance. Guzzardi Petroleum P/Ltd of Traralgon made a donation of two stroke fuel. Davis Petroleum of Morwell also assisted. JRA Ltd loaned two Land

Rover 110s. (It couldn't be persuaded to give them!) The Public Trustee of Victoria generously provided secretarial services to the organiser. As mentioned above, Just Communications were Just Great.

Victorian readers are invited to show their appreciation of the above favors in the obvious way. Thanks also to the editor of 4X4 for allowing this late copy.

Event organiser was John Cribbes, Vice President of the VAFWDC who unfortunately forgot to organise the closing ceremony on the top of Matlock Hill. Never mind, nobody is perfect.

— 4 x 4

Victoria cleans up

Forty kilometres of fire trail have been cleared for 4WD use by members of the Victoria FWDC Association. Tracks which have been closed since 1970 in the outer catchment area of the Thomson reservoir were cleared by 280 members of the association over one weekend.

Using 118 vehicles, 63 chainsaws, 32 brushcutters and lots of enthusiasm, the association members made light work of the enormous task.

Following government recommendations the outer catchment is again to be accessible to the public throughout the summer.

4X4

WHY JOIN A 4WD CLUB?

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'Thinking of putting some accessories on your vehicle? Will your choice be what's best for your vehicle?

'Do you know where you can legally drive your vehicle? How to drive it in the best

interests of the environment and other bush users?

If your answer is NO to any of these questions, then a 4WD Club is your best answer to getting into the 4WD scene safely and responsibly. There are over 35 4WD family touring Clubs' across Victoria.

Contact the VAFWDC for details of the club nearest you.

JOIN A 4WD CLUB.

VICTORIA ASSOCIATION OF FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUBS. GPO BOX 401C, MELBOURNE 3000

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pages open to club news and views, we proudly boast our stand as THE Australian club magazine.

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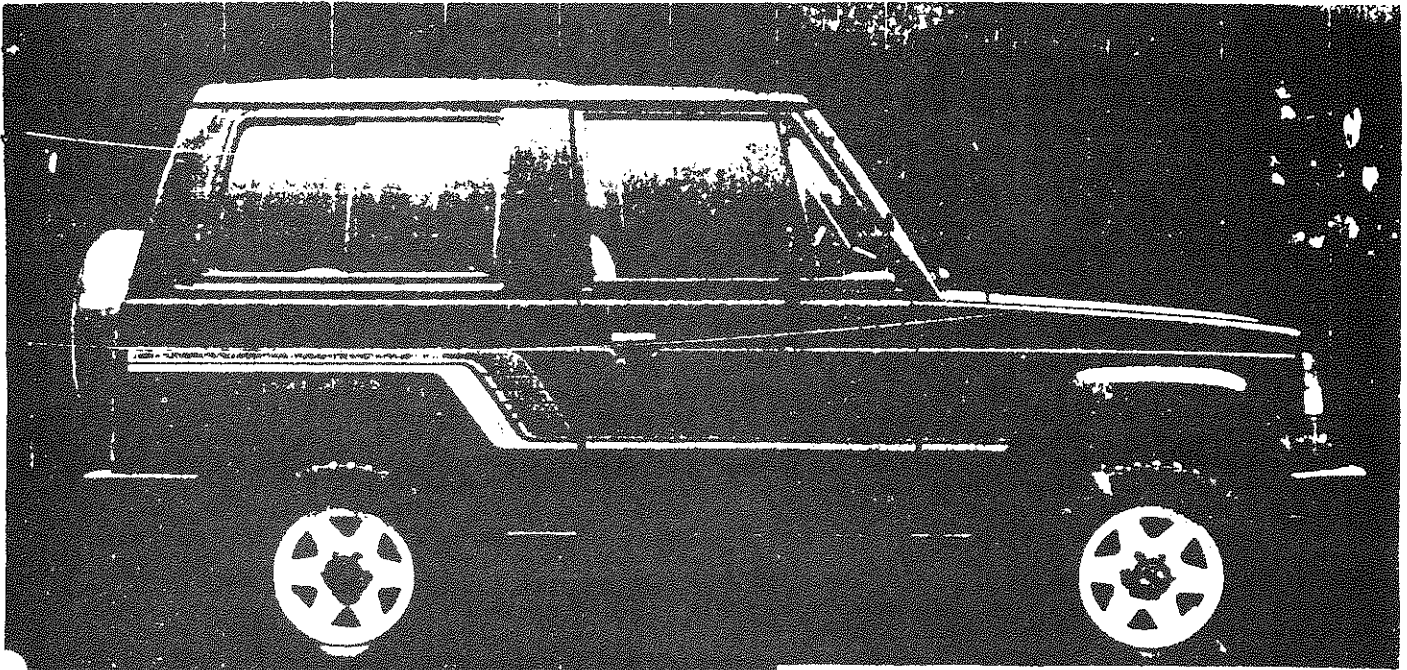
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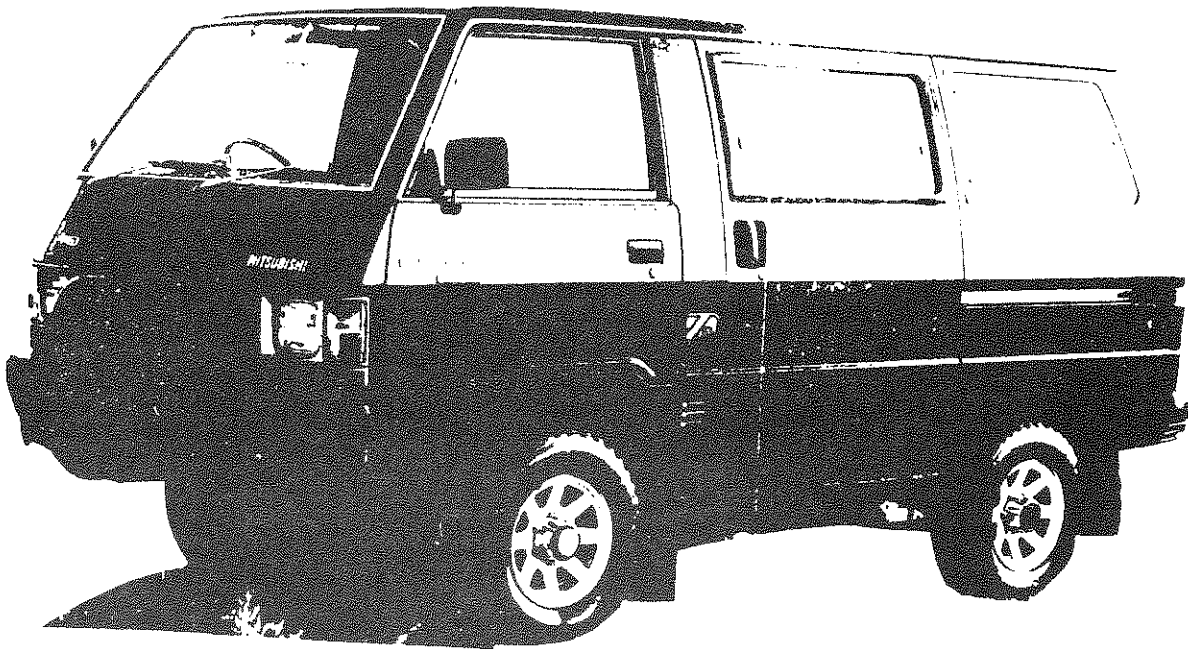
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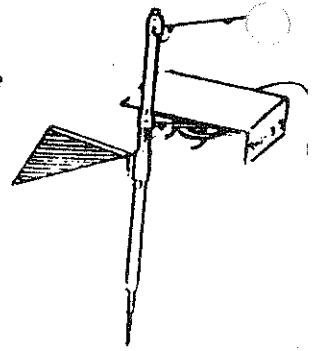
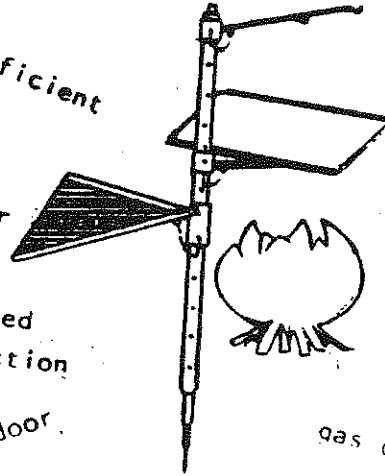
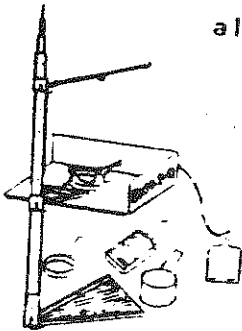
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