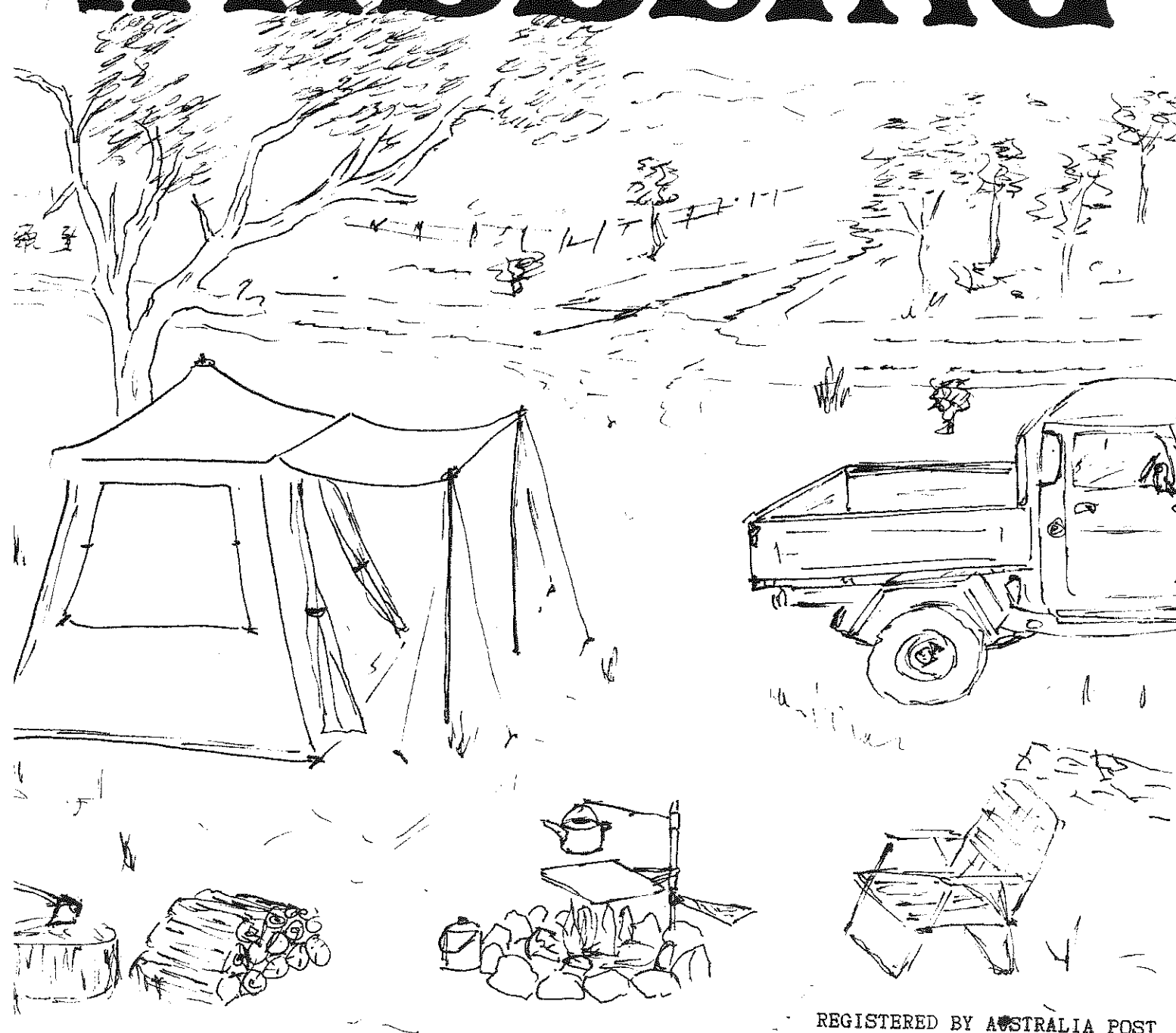


APRIL 1989



FREE WHEELING



REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST



VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB INC. COMMITTEE 1988-89

PRES. Dave Heard 16 Hardy St. Selby. 3159 PH. 754-8406	VICE PRES. Steve Alder 10 Mayfair Crt. Keysborough 3174 PH. 798-2432	SEC. Terry Moore 409 Princess H/Way Narree Warren 3805 PH. 704-6736
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TREAS. Rob Ayton 8 Minerva Cres Vermont Sth 3133 PH. 232-0378	ASS. SEC. Rick Rycken 5 Slater Crt. Narree Warren 3805 PH. 704-9535	SOC. Michelle Heard 16 Hardy St. Selby 3159 PH. 754-8406
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ASSOCIATE DELEGATES

COMMITTEE MEMBER	James Lee 16 Quirk Crt Endeavour Hills PH. 700-5375	Barry Ellis PH. 25-8308
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TRIP CLASSIFICATIONS

"A" GRADE; Extensive use of 4 WD Tracks may be difficult to negotiate chain 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, deep river crossings and overgrown tracks MAX. 6 VEHICLES.

"B" GRADE; Virtually same conditions as "A" Grade but track conditions 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 ect. Types of tyres does not matter and recovery gear still essential NO MAX. VEHICLES.

In all above cases vehicles should be in sound mechanical condition and carry the basic spares, parts 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. Also all drivers must be licensed and shall remain below 0.05 while on club trips.

MEETINGS FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
AT THE DANDENONG LIBRARY TIME 8-00pm

ALL CORRESPONDENCE
P.O. BOX 778
DANDENONG VIC. 3175

PLEASE TRY AND SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS AS THEY ARE SUPPORTING USE !!!!!

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Steve Alder. Phone: 798-2432



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

APRIL 1989

So far I think our requests for photos to adorn the new front cover for our magazine have fallen on deaf ears so I'll ask for the last time, it's in your own interest if you want it to look the way you would like, otherwise, just leave it to the committee as always. That's enough whinging this month or I'll end up sounding like Derryn Hinch.

This years A.G.M. Special Effort has the committee sitting back feeling very proud of themselves. First prize is a weekend stay for two at the Hyatt on Collins in a suite on one of the top four floors, accessible only by your private elevator key. Here you can enjoy continental breakfast, afternoon tea, evening cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. A bottle of champagne awaits your arrival and the health and fitness centre and monsoons night club are included in your stay. You will dine at Max's Seafood Restaurant and to top off all this indulgence we have you picked up and returned home by limousine. Second Prize is an Adelaide Casino weekend for two: This includes coach travel to Adelaide, accommodation and meals (excluding Saturday Evening). Casino vouchers, city and Harndorf tour. Value approx \$250. Third prize is dinner for two at Max's Seafood Restaurant at the Hyatt on Collins to the value of \$150. This year for the first time we will include a ticket sellers prize of \$50 for the seller of the winning ticket. With prizes like these the tickets should sell themselves but we thought a little more incentive may help sales. By the way first prize is valued at approximately \$600.

Bowling Day!! V.F.W.D.C. V NISSAN PATROL CLUB VIC. at Dandenong bowl, May 17th be there. No bodyline. The Shopping Spree Tour on June 17th needs support. As well as saving you heaps it'll raise funds for the Club.

See you at the Meeting

Dave Heard

TRIP COMMITTEE

Below is a list of equipment recommended for vehicles going on 'A' grade trips.

This equipment would also be handy for vehicles on 'B' grade trips, or for that matter, any trip into the bush.

IT IS STRESSED THAT ANY TRIP LEADER OF ANY TRIP HAS THE POWER TO REFUSE A VEHICLE TO PARTICIPATE ON A CLUB OUTING. IF HE THINKS THAT THE VEHICLE IS NOT ADEQUATELY EQUIPPED.

'A' BAR OR FITTING LUGS ON BUMPER BAR

TOWING CABLE OR CHAIN AT LEAST 20' IN LENGTH

TOWING POINTS = FRONT AND BACK

SHACKLES TO SUIT CABLES AND TOWING POINTS

WHEEL CHAINS

SPADE AND AXE OR CHAIN SAW

SNATCH BLOCK

JACK AND GROUND PLATE

AIR PUMP

TUBE TO SUIT TYRES OR PATCHES

50mm OR 2" TOW BALL

TYRE GAUGE

C.R.C. OR SIMILAR WATER REPELLANT

DECENT TOOL KIT

BRAKE FLUID

GLOVES AND HAND CLEANER

GOOD FIRST AID KIT

JUMPER LEADS

It is also handy to carry a supply of appropriate oil for use in your engine, gear box and diffs.



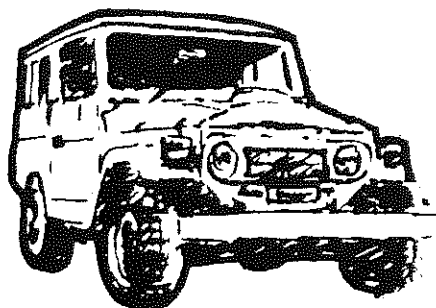
*Specializing in Insurance of
Four Wheel Drive vehicles.*

THE ORIGINAL 4WD INSURANCE SCHEME, PROVIDING SERVICE TO
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FULL "OFF ROAD" COVER ANYWHERE IN AUSTRALIA.

PROMPT CLAIMS HANDLING PROCEDURES WITH YOUR CHOICE
OF REPAIRER.

CHECK OUR FEATURES:

- Windscreen cover available.
- CB radios automatically included to \$500.
(Higher limits can be arranged).
- Cover for trailer to \$400
- Most modifications allowable.
- Camping equipment cover available.



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G O N E F I S H I N '

CAN TROUT SMELL

Recently whilst fishing a small stream near Lake Eildon I walked downstream and then fished back upstream to my camp. Due to the rugged terrain, we were forced to cross the stream frequently.

These crossings were made at the tail end of the pools and mostly in the shallow riffles to avoid any undue noise and disturbance of the water. I was very careful to keep well back from the water and well out of sight when walking around the pools.

During the downstream walk I sighted many fish in station and others visibly feeding. Due to our care to stay out of sight the fish appeared quite undisturbed and I was looking forward to a great day, fishing on the return trip.

After stopping for a brief snack I commenced the upstream fishing, some 2 hours after I started out. During the next 4 or 5 hours I fished upstream spotting as I went. Due to the high banks and vegetation and the clarity of the day we had a good view of the pools and fish were easy to spot using my 'Polaroids'. After an hour or so it became apparent that there were only a fraction of the fish visible that I had seen earlier in the day.

WHY IS IT SO??

Perhaps we were not careful enough when I walked past these fish on the way downstream. Unlikely, as I was well aware of their presence and went out of my way to tread carefully and use all available cover. Perhaps the weather had changed slightly and the fish had gone down. Maybe, although I could see no change. Perhaps another angler had fished the river unknown to me. Impossible, as access is only helicopter or a very long walk and I would have seen his footprints.

Perhaps, and most likely, the trout had scented my body odour as I crossed the stream so many times. I was wearing shorts and sandals so let's look at some facts.

2.

The ol' factory powers of salmon are well documented. They travel hundreds of miles to return to their original spawning grounds, and they detect those original streams by smell.

Salmon are in the same family as trout and many of their habits are similar. Numerous other fish are known to have a sense of smell, including eels which have an acute sense that enables them to detect food even in very muddy waters.

Trout have a nostril that allows a continual passage of water to pass into an olfactory organ where chemical signals are detected by odour sensing cells. If we accept that trout can detect various colours, what does this mean to the fisherperson??

In a river situation, it is better to stay out of the water downstream, It is not so important, from a smell point of view when fishing upstream, although we would have to be careful where there is a back eddy and the water flows in the opposite direction to the current.

We should be careful when placing insect repellent on the palm of our hands which in turn could come in contact with our line, fly, bait and of course the water.

Perhaps it would be better to spray the repellent on the backs of our hands, very few insects land on our palms anyway!!

Perhaps we should think twice before we put foreign substances on our flies. We should use odourless substances where possible. Have you noticed that you seldom get a strike on a wet fly soon after you spit on it to make it sink??

Perhaps it would be better to rub it in some mud instead of spitting on it.

Nobody, including the scientists knows the full extent of the trouts ability to detect odour, but it is better to be safe than sorry.

When on the water, observe the trouts habits and perhaps you will learn the truth.

See You On The Bank!

F. SMELL



TRIP DATA

DESTINATION:

TRIP LEADER:

PHONE NUMBER:

DEPARTURE DATE:

DEPARTURE TIME:

DEPARTURE POINT:

FUEL REQUIRED:

LAST FUEL AVAILABLE:

MAPS REQUIRED:

GRADE: A B C

DURATION:

BASE CAMP:

NATIONAL PARKS: YES NO

ROUTE VIA:

ACTIVITIES:

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

STOP

STOP PRESS

STOP PRESS

STOP PRESS

STOP PRESS

STOP PRESS

SHOPPING SPREE TOUR.

Don't forget the shopping spree tour on June 17th,
at 8-00am - Ring Michelle Heard 754-8406 for details.

1989 AGM RAFFLE

1ST PRIZE: HYATT ON COLLINS WEEKEND FOR TWO

including - Limousine Service, Dinner at Max's Seafood Restaurant,
Champagne on arrival, Pre-dinner cocktails + hors d'oeuvres, + more
Valued at approx. \$600-00

2ND PRIZE: ADELAIDE CASINO WEEKEND FOR TWO

including - coach travel to Adelaide from Melb., accomodation,
meals (excluding Sat. evening), Vouchers for casino, City tour + mc
Valued at approx. \$250-00

3RD PRIZE: MAX'S SEAFOOD RESTAURANT DINNER FOR TWO

at Hyatt on Collins
Valued at approx \$150-00

TICKET SELLERS PRIZE: \$50-00 CASH

to the seller of the winning ticket.

C L U B C A L E N D A R 1 9 8 9

=====

APR	22-25	ANZAC WEEKEND MITCHELL HOMESTEAD STEVE ALDER
MAY	21	BOWLING AFTERNOON 2PM TO 5 PM AT DANDENONG BOWLS, PRINCES HIGHWAY
MAY	27	WINE TRIP TOM BRACHNA
JUNE	17	SHOPPING TOUR \$23 PER HEAD MICHELLE HEARD
JULY	4	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
JULY	29	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING DINNER DRACULAS THEATRE RESTAURANT \$37 PER HEAD FULLY LICENSED
NOV	11	BUSH DANCE

UPCOMING TRIPS - DATES TO BE FINALISED

=====

CAR RALLY - PETER PINK

OTWAYS WEEKEND

GEMBROOK DAY TRIP - ROD LEE (DETAILS MAY MEETING)

V I C T O R I A N F O U R W H E E L D R I V E
M E E T I N G H E L D 4 T H A P R I L 1 9 8 9

Meeting opened 8.15 p.m.

Apologies: John Lake, Steven Lee, Bill Mc Kinnon
Pat Casey

Minutes of previous meeting read and accepted by
Vin Handley seconded by Peter Rowe.

Incoming mail: Other Club magazines,
letters from advertisers.

Treasurer's report: \$1,532.54.

accepted by: Mary Wade
seconded by: Glenn Smith

Outgoing Mail: Club magazine.

Tea duty: Ray Brown & Ken Beith

Social Report: A.G.M. dinner to be held at Dracula's
Restaurant, 4 course dinner, fully licenced, on the
29th July to be seated by 7.30 p.m.

Michelle has organized a shopping spree tour of 8
factories for Saturday 17th June.

A bowling day held against the Nissan Club at the
Dandenong Bowl to be held on the 21st May.

Association Report

A motion was passed to support any group who supports
the four wheel drive movement.

Coming trip: John Lake to lead a trip to Mitchell's
Hut on the Anzac weekend.

Meeting closed at 10.45 p.m.

Members attending: 22
Visitors : 3

PARKS AND PERMITS

Four-wheel drive visitors to remote South Australian desert parks and reserves have been hit with a \$40 permit fee. The 'Desert Parks Pass' came into effect on January 1.

The annual pass gives access and camping rights to Witjira National Park, Lake Eyre National Park, Simpson Desert Conservation Park, Elliot Price Conservation Park and Innamincka Regional Reserve.

Despite paying the fee, visitors will receive little in compensation. Chairman of the Flinders Ranges and Outback Areas of SA Tourist Association, Mr Modris Ozolins, said the 120 members of his organisation believed the pass would be detrimental to Outback tourism. "There are no facilities there for people to use. They will resent having to pay money for things that aren't there. We believe they might bypass the parks and keep heading north", Mr Ozolins said.

About 2000 vehicles visited Witjira National Park, Lake Eyre and the Simpson Desert last year and 30,000 people were estimated to have visited the Innamincka and Coopers Creek region during 1988.

Introduced by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the passes will be sold by local stores, garages, roadhouses and government offices in the South Australian Outback and adjacent interstate areas. Maps and literature will be provided with each pass. Track markers and sign posts will help tourists learn about the areas they visit.

The Desert Pass system will effectively destroy much of the joy of outback travel, with travellers being forced to use designated routes, access corridors and designated bush camping sites, and to traverse a landscape populated with sign posts and 'Road Closed' signs. Travel will be limited to designated routes with overuse, overcrowding and the accompanying effects of concentrated use likely to be a result of the National Parks Service plan. Penalties for straying from the designated routes have yet to be announced although local Aborigines will be employed as on-site wardens.

The Outback will never be the same again.

NEW PARKS FOR OUTBACK

Over four million hectares have been included in two arid-land reserves established in the Far North of South Australia.

The Innamincka Regional Reserve covers 1.4 million hectares and the Simpson Desert Regional Reserve more than 2.9 million hectares. Combined with four nearby conservation and national parks, over seven million hectares is protected in the arid-land reserve system.

The Environment and Planning Minister, Dr Hopgood, said 11.28 per cent of the State was now reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. The Innamincka Reserve contains the Cooper Creek frontage and the associated Coongie Lakes Wetland System. Tourists visiting the area require a \$40-a-vehicle camping permit to enter the reserves.

Under the Draft Innamincka Regional Reserve Management Plan, freedom that four-wheel-drive visitors to the area have traditionally enjoyed will be a thing of the past. As well as the initial \$40 access fee, traditional access will be curtailed with specific tracks designated for use. Others will be closed. Bush camping sites will also be designated with facilities to be developed, including a possible camp booking system and a 'high-use' camping ground to be established at Innamincka.

A designated road and access corridor system will be developed, with additional permits required to access areas other than designated public access routes. All designated routes will be subject to closure or modification as a result of 'management requirements' and seasonal conditions.

Access routes to be developed and retained for public use which will require a Desert Park Pass are :

1. Main route to the Coongie Lake System from Innamincka on the north side of Cooper Creek via Kudriemitchie to Coongie Lake
2. Vehicle access routes for day use to the east side of Coongie Lake and to Lake Marrooculcannie
3. Circle route (4WD) in the sand dune habitat south-south east of lake system (exit in vicinity of Kudriemitchie)
4. Circle route (4WD) in approximate area of the Mitchie turnoff from the main Coongie Road easterly to Cattapirie Well area, then westerly back to main lake road
5. The track from the airstrip to the area of Innamincka Number One Bore in the Merninie land system; and
6. Routes to areas in the Della and Strzelecki land systems.

Access routes to be closed or modified for public use include :

1. Upper section of the Coongie Lake Road approximately one kilometre south of the point where the North West Branch enters Coongie Lake, closed with parking sites and walking access provided to the area
2. All channel crossings on the North West Branch of Cooper Creek designated as controlled access routes and not open for public use
3. The west side of the North West Branch and Coongie Lakes system closed to general access
4. All petroleum or mineral wells, production facilities, seismic operations and pastoral station improvements closed to general access

5. Where practicable, re-route existing public access roads away from pastoral improvements (yards, bores, waterholes and buildings) and disallow public use of major improvement sites
6. All other areas: access available by special permit and guided tours.

It is proposed to issue a limited number of permits annually to allow access to the east side of the Coongie Lake system and this will include the area from Lake Marroocutchanie to the southern arm of Lake Goyder. The route will be defined by a marker system and camping will be restricted to designated sites. It is initially proposed to issue 25 permits, each of which is valid for parties of up to four vehicles and a maximum of 16 people. Permits will be made available on a draw basis to applicants holding a Desert Parks Pass and all users will be required to hold a pass at time of use.

Access to locations and routes on the Reserve other than designated public roads, public access routes, limited access sites and public use areas will be by special permit and through guided tours. Individuals or groups wishing to access restricted areas will be able to apply to the District Ranger who will direct the issue of these permits and the use of a NPWS guide on a fee basis. It is also proposed to operate guided tours to enable public visitation of these areas.

Camping will be provided in developed campgrounds and at designated bush camping areas adjacent to public access routes. Camping permits will be required for camping at developed campgrounds within the Reserve. These may provide facilities such as toilets, ablutions and prepared surfaces. They will be single numbered sites located apart from each other (discreet sites), or group sites with multiple numbered sites located adjacent to each other to provide for group camping.

Bush camping areas are designated camping areas where no facilities are provided except for rubbish pits and signs.

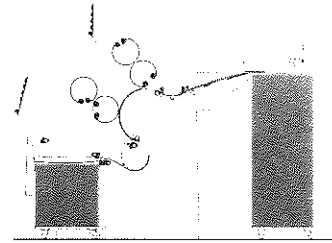
Public comment may be made on the Draft Management Plan for the Innamincka Regional Reserve until March 17th.

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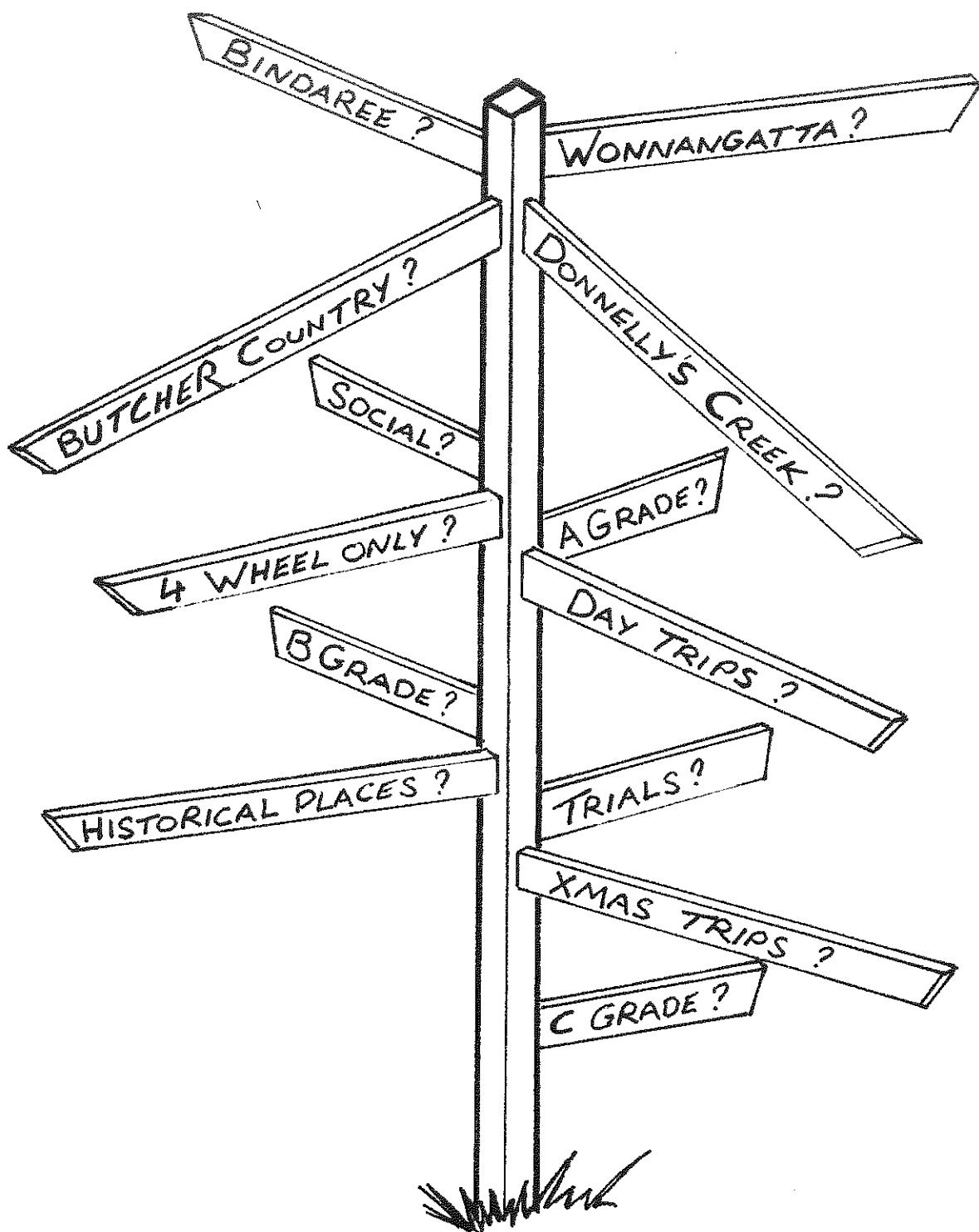


Roland 202 0B

Contact: ANDREW MERLO
Bus: 698-0216 AH: 704-8091

THIS SPACE
TO LET

SEE STEVE FOR DETAILS



WHERE?

TELL YOUR COMMITTEE



TRIP DATA

DESTINATION: GOLDEN POINT HUT

TRIP LEADER: STEVE ALDER

PHONE NUMBER: 798-2432

DEPARTURE DATE: JUNE 10th

DEPARTURE TIME: 6.00 a.m.

DEPARTURE POINT: HALLAM HOTEL

FUEL REQUIRED: FULL TANK EX. HEYFIELD

LAST FUEL AVAILABLE: HEYFIELD

MAPS REQUIRED: WELLINGTON & GLENMAGGIE

GRADE: (A) (B) C

DURATION: JUNE 10-11-12

BASE CAMP: YES

NATIONAL PARKS: YES NO

ROUTE VIA: HALLAM HEYFIELD VALENCIA CREEK

MT. ANGUS AVON TRACK GOLDEN POINT HUT BEN CRUACHAN.

ACTIVITIES: DRIVING, CAMPING, RELAXING, ETC.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: FULL RECOVERY GEAR

LIMIT 5 VEHICLES

The objective of this report is to provide accurate information on use by four wheel drive club members and club visitors of public land. Data if used from this report in submissions to government or government agencies cannot be traced to the Club completing this form. All information is CONFIDENTIAL. Club names and individual names will not be used. Please fill out this report for both Club and personal trips.

CONFIDENTIAL		Date(s) of Trip
Club Name		
Club contact for more information about this Report.		
Name	Phone	

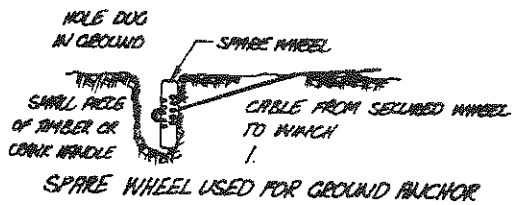
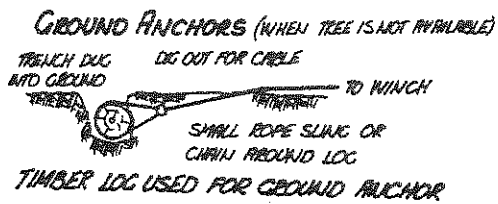
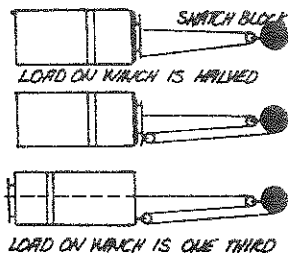
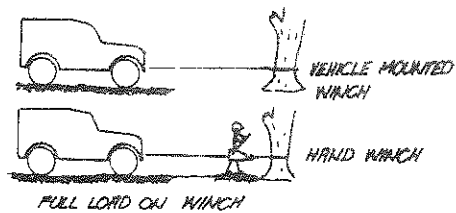
Victoria Association of
Four Wheel Drive
Clubs Inc.



PUBLIC LAND USE REPORT

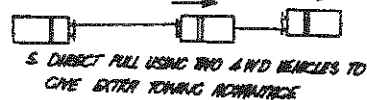
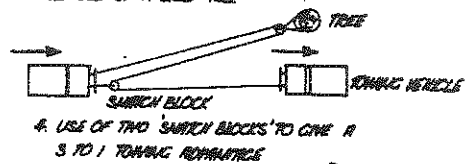
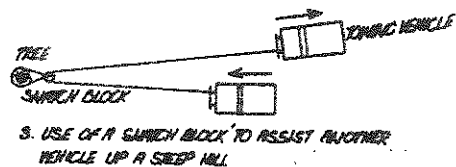
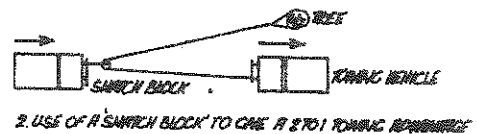
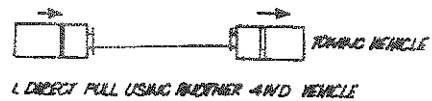
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WINCHING TECHNIQUES



STAKES USED AS GROUND ANCHORS

WITH TWO OR MORE VEHICLES



ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

One of the first jobs that needs to be done after a 4WD trip is to clean and inspect your 4WD. It is usually a good idea to clean your vehicle straight away, as the mud etc. will be easier to wash off. Mud around the wheel arches and underneath the vehicle will cause corrosion (i.e. rust) if not removed thoroughly.

To clean well, use plenty of water with good pressure, your local garages pressure wash or for all you rich people buy a gerni home cleaning unit.

Now your 4WD is clean all over, it is easy to check that everything is OK.

UNDER THE BONNETT

- Check engine oil and brake fluid levels. Top up if necessary. Any signs of leaks?
- Radiator. Check level and clean any bugs, etc. from core.
- Battery. Check level and add distilled water if necessary. Clean and retighten terminals if corroded.
- Air Cleaner. Remove and clean. Replace element if necessary.
- Look for any loose wiring, bolts, etc.
- Check oil filter and fuel filter are still connected properly. Tighten if loose.

UNDER THE VEHICLE

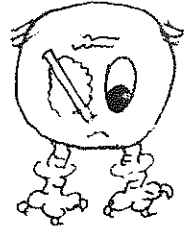
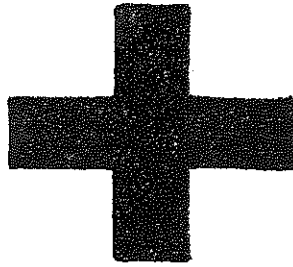
- Check engine, gear box, transfer case and diffs for any signs of oil leaks. Check oil levels as per vehicle manual and top up if required. Note:- If oil in these units are milky in colour, then water has contaminated the oil. You must drain and replace oil.
- Check brake hoses and lines to make sure there is no damage.
- Check condition of rubber brushes on spring hangers.
- While your under the vehicle, give it a quick grease.
- Look underneath for any sticks that may be jammed under the vehicle.

GENERAL

- Are all lights working?
- Inspect tyres (including spares) for any cuts and cracks. Wheel nuts OK? Check pressure.
- Check accessories on vehicle e.g. CB aerial still mounted OK.
- Check any other item you wish that I have forgotten to list.
- Any recovery equipment used is cleaned and checked for damage.

If you discover any problem with your 4WD then fix it straight away, so your vehicle is prepared for its next adventure.

M. CASEY'S CORNER



C A S E Y ' S C O R N E R

EYE INJURIES

Eye injury is an important and extensive topic. One very common and troublesome form of eye problem is when a foreign body (e.g. dirt or grit) becomes lodged in the eye. You may be able to remove the offending particle by using an eye wash or getting a friend to spot and try and remove it with a cotton bud or cotton wool. There is an instrument in the First Aid Kits (that were recently purchased at the Club) for removing foreign bodies.

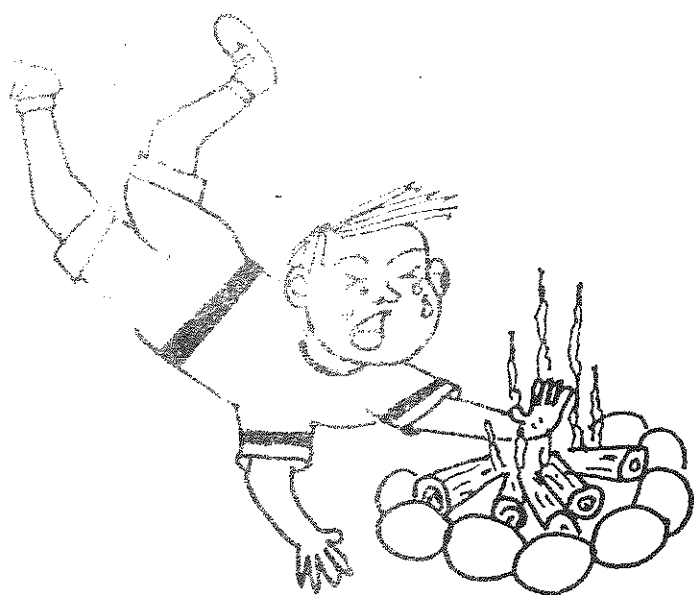
Sometimes the foreign body is under the upper lid. If you instruct the patient to look down and then place a match (unlighted) parallel and approximately .5 cm above the edge of the eye lid, you can then roll back the lid over the match and thus expose the under side of the lid when the dirt should be accessible.

Medical attention should be sought for:-

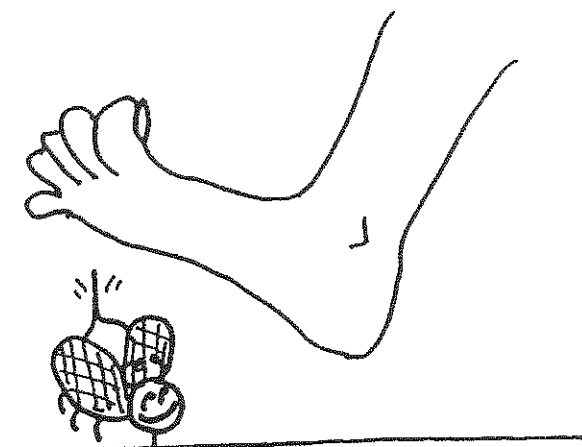
1. Penetrating eye injuries e.g. steel splinters.
2. Visual disturbances e.g. blurred vision.
3. Inability to remove any foreign body.
4. Pain persists after foreign body removed.
5. If you are concerned at all with your eye.

Note

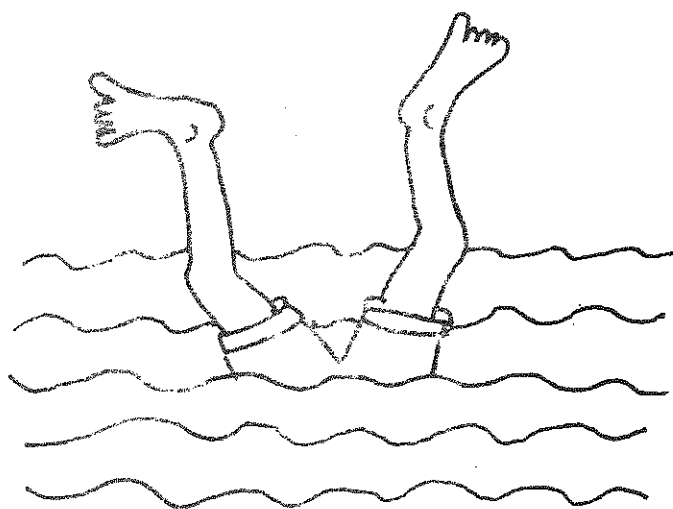
To pad eye for pain relief, it is necessary to pad both eyes- thus temporarily blinding the patient, which may be distressing. If one eye is left unpadded it will naturally look around and the other will follow it causing more discomfort.



NEAR THE FIRE



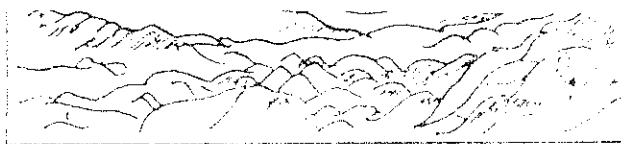
SAFETY FOOTWEAR



NEAR WATER .



AROUND CAMP.



Trip Report

KIMBERLEYS SEPTEMBER 1988

ROLL CALL: Tom Brachna and family
 John & Margaret Smith
 Andy Moore and family
 Ken Beith and family
 Jim Lee and family

Sunday - left 1.20 a.m. Had a great run. Contacted the convoy in Adelaide on Club radio. They were leaving as we were arriving. Run between Adelaide and Port Augusta was fairly tough due to headwinds. We finally met up with the rest, had lunch and off again.

Camped same spot (exactly) as we had last year.

Monday - Had an early start (8 a.m.) heading for Coober Pedy (friendly folk ha ha). We all refuelled cars and ourselves and drove off into the sunset.

Soon found our camp for the night where we spent most of the night fixing Ken's flat (tyre). After the evening meal there was the usual session around the fire and a reasonably early night.

Morning greeted us all bright and early with beautiful warm sunshine and twitterring Budgies. Breakfast was soon over and we were left to face the dreaded packing. Two bright sparks (Josie & Liala) decided to be helpful and pack the tents, but alas someone foiled the effort. The old tent bag had disappeared nowhere to be found. There it was gone, rolled up neatly inside the tent.

Finally we were all ready and eager to set off. Not more than 200 yards down the track John decided to do some freewheeling, with only 2 wheels on the dirt, balanced over the shoulder of the track. At the same time Ken's flat tyre re-appeared. We snatched John off the mound and Andy lent a spare to Ken and we were once again on our way.

cont ...

We took the back road by Mount Connor and stopped at Curtain Springs for lunch, then on to "the Rock". Made camp at Yalara, then set off to the Rock for a bit of a climb. Those who preferred remained at the base watching the smaller children climb their own little mound, while the other braver and stronger folks raced to the top. Two of the little folk, Steven and Dustin made the trek all the way.

After the climb we all had well earned refreshments then on to Maggie Springs to look at the permanent water hole. The water was crystal clear, ice cold and yummy to drink.

We then drove round the base of the rock back to camp where we had a barbi tea, much needed shower and kip.

Had a fairly early start after a cold night. Off to the Olgas on that dusty, corrugated road. Ken and John were having trouble with the dual battery.

We finally arrived at the Olga gorge, equipped ourselves with our touristy bits and headed up the gorge. The budgies dominated the birdlife, however two young men in our party spotted a perfect hole to roost in, half way up the rock face. Bald Eagles I presume!

Returned to the vehicles, had lunch and headed off to Alice where we arrived by 6 p.m. Made our homes at the Caravan Park and began to fix Ken's Flat. (Yes, yes, Ken did leave the screwdriver inside when he fixed it last time!) Another evening of joke telling around the non existent camp fire, just a few drinks and then 'good night'.

Next day, 'fo par' Margaret went to the showers WITH NO TOWEL. Drip!

After packing the vehicles once more we proceeded to fill up at the depot (60¢ per ltr) and replaced Ken's battery and restocked our pantries.

Back on the road again, but not for long. Yep. Ken had another flat tyre, so while he fixed it, we fixed the growl in our stomachs.

Off again and onto the Tanamai Track. 200 Kms later made camp with our friendly bindi eyes.

A reasonable start at 8 a.m. Guess what. Yes another blow out at 8.20 a.m. All fixed and on again to Rabbit Flat where fuel was up to 92¢ per litre so we gave it a miss. Instead we all had lunch and a freshen up in the shower then headed for Wolf Crater About 60 kms out of Wolf Creek, Jim noticed something hanging down under Tom's vehicle. He had done a shocker.

cont....

The Tanamai had taken it's toll on vehicles and people that day.

It was a general overhaul for all that night at Wolf Creek. Even had showers.

Ken found his spare tyre was not repairable so borrowed John's.

An early start the next morning, some fuelled up then on to the Crater.

Arrived at the car park where we rudely interrupted someone's morning sleep in. Donned the camera gear and walked to the edge of the crater. Magnificent sight.

We headed for Billiluna Community where Andy tried without success to find a friend working on the station. Hall's Creek was the next stop where we shopped for spare parts. Ken wasn't impressed with their Rip Off attitudes - new tyre \$276 - but managed to find a second hand one for \$100. Tom had no luck with his shocker as it had to be flown in from Perth or Darwin and would have taken a day or two. We weren't interested in staying.

After a quick lunch we left Hall's Creek for the Bungles Bungles. The road meandered for many miles through beautiful terrain, bull dust patches, and little oasis. We came to the 'T' intersection near the base of the Bungles and turned right towards Belburne Camp, where half of Victoria had arrived before us.

Teas were organised, the trusty blag shower bag was hung and chores completed. Had the usual round chair discussions that night graced with the presence of the Ranger who had come to collect his \$20 per vehicle.

Next morning we were up early and had a leisurely morning around camp. Morning lunch at around 10.30 and then on for a look at the Bungles about 1 hour's drive from camp, and an hour or so up the Cathedral Gorge. (The battery was still playing up and Ken had no radio, John had a flat battery and Tom's indicator was still not working)

We walked up the gorge in at least 40° heat but the views were breathtaking. The sheer cliffs provided some welcome shade and we were rewarded with a small pool at the end of the gorge. Here we propped for several hours enjoying the beauty and peacefulness of this wonder.

cont....

The children enjoyed a swim and so did Ken when Steven decided to test the depth in the middle.

Spent some film in our cameras and headed back to our vehicles and camp at about 4.30 p.m. where some arranged dinner and others attempted repairs to vehicles. We enjoyed the usual problem solving around the circle that night after which Tom decided to become primitive and slept in his little white tree house.

Headed out of Bungalows. No, not Ken this time - Tom had the flat this time. A quick tyre change then Jim took the lead so as to position himself with the video for some action shots through the bulldust. He got more than he bargained for cause he was right in the way of the breeze!

Made our way to the bitumen then on to Kununurra where we propped at the Caravan Park (with no shade) Some partook of the pool where they stayed till sunset, others did their stocktaking and chores, while still others buried their heads in and under their cars.

Next morning we drove to Ivanhoe Crossing and of course the boys (Big) played back and forth across the causeway. The water was crystal clear and the Pelicans and other water fowl hovered in their feeding ground. The river was inviting, but the crocs weren't! So we didn't! Some were seen pruning long, tall, decorative weeds.

Fresh food had been scarce in the past week, so we all stopped at the market garden stalls on the way back to Kununurra where we restocked with fruit and vegie delights.

We then headed to Zebra Rock Gallery and Wildlife Park, where the birds welcomed us with open wings, the Crow said "hello" and Ken shared his ice-cream with his favourite galahs "Peter and Rambo" (when we left we checked Ken's car to make sure he hadn't hi-jacked them). Margaret found a small joey and became quite fond of him. We wandered around the park for a few hours, had lunch under the Mango trees and fed the Cat Fish in the lake. Some of us collected specimens of Zebra Rock as souvenirs.

Returned to the Park and some to town to do some shopping. Had a leisurely tea then converged to the pool till dusk. All had a wonderful night's sleep.

to be continued....



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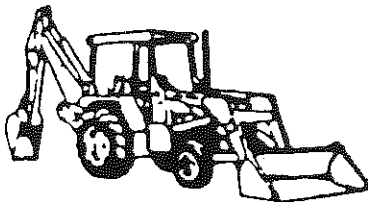


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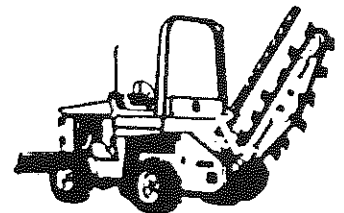
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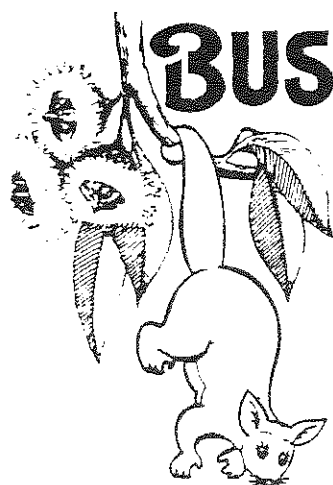
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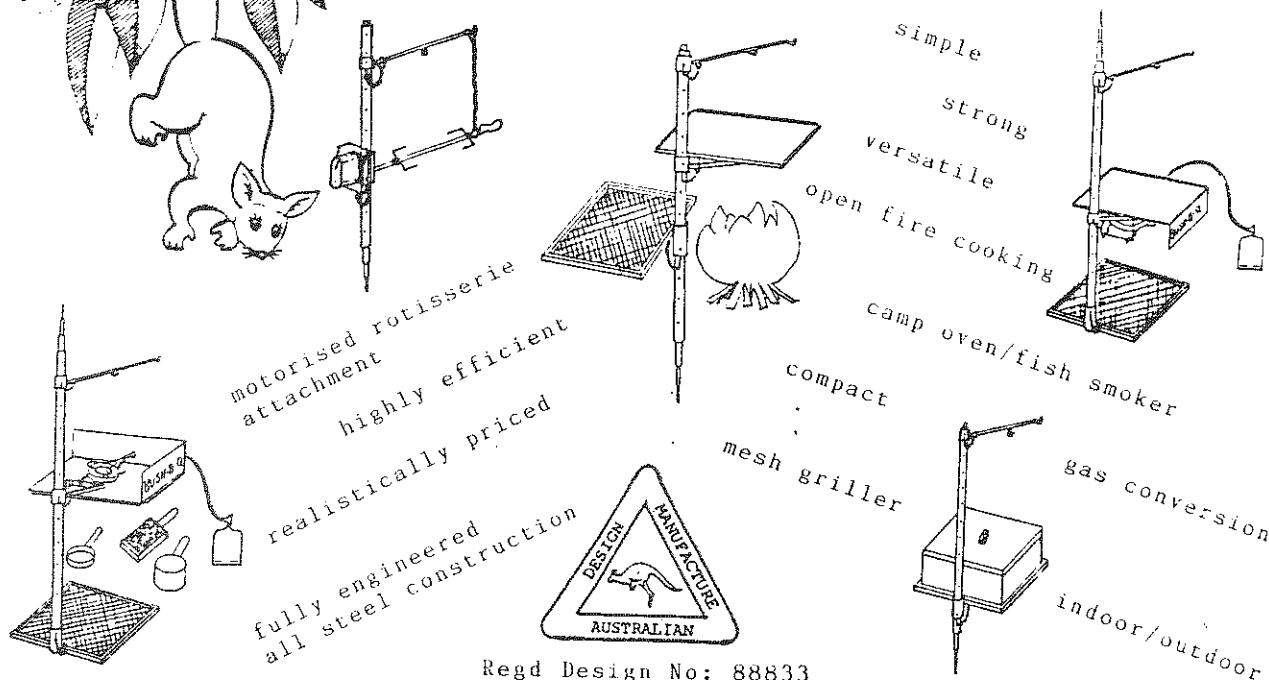
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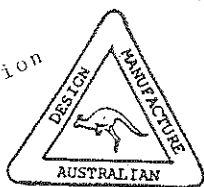


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