



Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A0002184F

JUNE 2004



Daylesford – May 2004



Licola – April 2004



Warragul Rocks, Tallarook – April 2004



The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc is an affiliated club of the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)
www.vafwdc.org.au, and a member of Tread Lightly! Australia
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Vice President	Ian Warburton	9754 2341
Treasurer	Roger Baird	9704 9045
Secretary	Lesley Peters	9540 0007

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Assistant Secretary	Stephen Boyle	9754 4412
New Member Contact	George Pledger	9547 4021
Trip Coordinator	Ashley Martin	0438 600904
Social Secretary	Rosalie Hughes	9706 2966
Projects Coordinator	Carl Surtees	9706 2692
Insurance Officer	Gerrard Clarke	9707 3013
Librarian	Barry Leitch	5996 6662
Web Manager	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784074
Association Delegate	John Partridge	0428 331211
Club Historian	Phil Alder	9754 8487
Training Officers	Mark Kochan	9763 2052
	Ashley Martin	0438 600904
	John Partridge	0428 331211
Newsletter Editor	Lesley Peters	9540 0007
	lespet03@hotmail.com	

Registered Name: Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

Registration No: A002184F

All correspondence: The Secretary
VFWDC Inc
PO Box 778
Dandenong Vic 3175

Web Site: www.vfwdc.com

Meetings: Held first Tuesday of each month
excluding January (no meeting).
The November meeting is held on the 2nd
Tuesday due to Melbourne Cup.

Location: Dandenong Library
Stuart Street, Dandenong 3175

The opinions given herein are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Committee of Management, or the Member body of the VFWDC Inc.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT June 2004

Welcome all to the June edition of *Free Wheeling*.

First of all I wish to thank everyone who participated in the meeting at Daylesford. We had about 33 members attend, and this was an outstanding effort. Congratulations. There has been quite a lot happening since the meeting and at this stage it looks as though the postal vote might not be going ahead. This doesn't mean that our effort was wasted. By showing how serious we are about our recreation (about 1,000+ people supporting recreation users attended), we have ensured that we won't be forgotten or left out of the future plans for the Wombat State Forest.

Secondly I would like to thank the many people that helped out with the tree planting at the Merringtons Camping Ground. This has gone a long way to showing that four-wheel drivers are not the environmental hoons that we are at times portrayed. When I first contacted the DSE about the damage caused at the camping grounds, they had just come out of a meeting in which they talked at length about the four-wheel drive problems they were facing. The possibility of permanent closures of camping grounds had been discussed. At least they now realise that the four wheel drive clubs are responsible users and that education not closures may be the answer.

The workshop we were hoping to use for the vehicle awareness night is unfortunately unavailable (the hoists are only rated to 2 tons, not enough to lift a full sized 4wd). We will try to organise another venue.

Anthony has been busy this year developing a new website for our club. The site is now up and running, so check it out. I'm sure you'll agree he has done a fantastic job. You will find it at www.vfwdc.com

The trip classifications have been changed to bring them into line with the Adventure Activity Standards and the new Trip Leader Guidelines. This should also make it easier to understand. You can find a copy of the classifications in this newsletter.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting, until then take care.

Regards

John

johnpartrid@hotmail.com

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 4 MAY 2004

Meeting held at Dandenong Library and opened at 8.10pm by John Partridge.

37 members present.

APOLOGIES:

Craig Rea, Stephen & Jill Boyle, Ivan Santurini, Yvonne Hempston, Lisa Petrou, Terry Johninke, Rochelle Brammer, Liz Beaton, Aline Van Buiten, Glenn & Jacki Hughes, Neil & Norma Stephenson, Glenn & Jessie Smith.

VISITORS:

Welcome to Les Beer, Bas Swart, Jackie Fell & Jay Gould, John Bacon, Carissa Galovic, Judy & Ron Simpson, Mike Leggett & Joanne Lincoln.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Minutes of April meeting as per Newsletter.
Accepted: Michael Rodger. Seconded: Paul Ryan.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Nil.

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

- Thankyou note from the Holden family re birth of baby Samuel.
- Variety Club: Notice re Variety Bash Comedy Night fundraiser for Special Kids of Victoria to be held 2 June 2004.
- Letter from North Melbourne Football Club re "Outback Odyssey" trip – Melbourne to the Daintree. Three places still available at a cost of \$4000 p/4wd.
- Letter and promo material from JML Off Road, Victorian agent for Cape York Trailers.
- Various emails from the Association regarding the ongoing activities in relation to the Wombat State Forest CFM.
- Various club magazines.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

- Newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Petty Cash: \$ 183.95
Cheque Account: \$ 654.25
Term Deposit: \$6,797.47

Accepted: Andy Riordon. Seconded: Carl Surtees.
The Treasurer once again raised the issue of monies still outstanding from the Bush Dance. Members were requested to endeavour to make payment as soon as possible and also to check with visitors to ensure they have paid.

TRIP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT:

➤ Forthcoming Trips/Events:

Ashley reviewed the trips as listed in the Club Calendar. Also mentioned a few TBC trips, ie Carl Surtees Warburton day trip; Glenn Smith's annual snow trip to Licola; the Hughes annual pub-to-pub, and the car rally which will be organised by James Holden, winner of last year's rally.

➤ Trip Reports:

Macallister Springs: Ashley reported on what was a very wet weekend, but those who attended still had a good time. April snow made it quite interesting! Unfortunately did not have the opportunity to walk to the Springs but will definitely try again in the future.

Otways: Anthony reported that the weather was also fairly cold but there was plenty of challenging driving to keep them occupied. The Fly Walk was excellent for those who were not afraid of heights!

Wombat CFM Daylesford: John reported on the meeting which regrettably had to be cancelled due to large number of people who attended extending beyond the capacity of the facilities provided. Postal vote will be available for all those members who registered on the day.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- AGM Dinner: Will be held on 14th August at venue to be confirmed. Cost will be \$40-\$50 per head. Deposit of \$10 p/head will be required by July meeting and full payment by August meeting.
- Merringtons Working Bee: JP has been in discussion with local DSE and offered our assistance with planting of trees at Merringtons. This will be incorporated into the O'Toolles Night Run weekend trip. Need as many people as possible. Latrobe Valley 4WD Club will also be helping out.
- Club Training: Anthony asked when the next Training Day will be held. JP advised this would probably be either September or November this year with the location to be confirmed.
- Trip Classifications: Revised in line with FWDVic guidelines. See attachment to newsletter.
- Discount Suppliers List: To be included in next month's newsletter.

TEA DUTIES: Thanks Ashley and Anthony.

RAFFLE: Once again won by a visitor!

1st Prize: Jackie Fell Fire Extinguisher

2nd Prize: Michael Rodger Ground and Seat Cover (to be used while working on your vehicle)

Thanks to Annie's boss for donating the prizes.

MEETING CLOSED at 10.15pm.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 1 June 2004 at Dandenong Library.

LOST

COMPLETE SET OF NISSAN GU
CAR SEAT COVERS

Noticed missing from vehicle on Sunday morning 26.04.04
Contact John Partridge on 0428 331 211 if found...

Welcome to

"THE CORNER"

This month's special is:
Salami and Spinach Toasties

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup of basil pesto
4 turkish pide rolls, split
8 slices Swiss cheese
60g baby spinach leaves
100g thinly sliced salami
150g marinated capsicum (patted dry with paper towel)
olive oil cooking spray

Method:

1. Spread pesto over roll bases. Top each with one slice of cheese, spinach, salami and capsicum. Top with remaining cheese and roll top.
2. Preheat a sandwich press. Cook rolls until golden and toasted. Alternatively, heat a frying pan over medium-high heat, spray rolls with oil and cook for 2 to 4 minutes each side or until golden.
3. Cut rolls in half and serve...



I would like to know if anyone is interested in Scrapbooking. If so, let me know at my email. Also, those interested in an Enjo party... have heard all sorts of good reports about this - it doesn't take long so it will leave lots of time to "socialise"! Also also, if I could have notices of interest regarding aromatherapy. The lady that comes to visit has promised foot massages and all sorts of lovely stuff at our club gathering, so if those who are interested could please let me know soon - either at my email address or on my mobile 0407 529646.

The Corner: If anyone has an interesting snippet they would like included, just email to: anniesinternet1@primus.com.au



TRADING POST FOR SALE

DOUBLE SWAG, Jolly brand, only used about 3 times, comes complete with foam mattress and self inflating mattress. **\$650 value for only \$400.**

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CB RADIO, 27meg SSB, Uniden PC122. **\$50.**

AERIALS, 27 meg **\$10 each.**

Contact Barry Leitch on (03) 9794 3172 work (if that's what they call what I do), or (03) 5996 6662 home (sometimes).

Set of "MONGREL" TYRES, \$500.

Contact Carl Surtees on 9706 2692.

RADIOS, Uniden UHF + 2 Aerials, Total \$300.

Contact John Partridge on 0428 331 211.

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Contact Steve Young on 9880 5227.

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CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

MAY

Saturday 22nd to Sunday 23rd O'Tooles Night Run John Partridge

Tuesday 25th Committee Meeting Lesley Peters

JUNE

Tuesday 1st Club Meeting John Partridge

Queen's Birthday Long Weekend

Saturday 12th to Monday 14th Dandongadale Hut Anthony VB

Sunday 27th Warburton Day Trip Carl Surtees

Tuesday 29th Committee Meeting Rosalie Hughes

JULY

Tuesday 6th Club Meeting John Partridge

Sunday 4th to August 8th Cape York **TRIP FULL** George Pledger

Tuesday 29th Committee Meeting John Partridge

AUGUST

Tuesday 3rd Club Meeting John Partridge

Tuesday 31st Committee Meeting Ian Warburton

4WD INSURANCE

The ANFWDC Insurance Program is available to all members of the VFWDC and other affiliated four wheel drive clubs.

To obtain an insurance quote, the agents – TCIS – require you to fax details regarding your vehicle one month prior to seeking insurance.

Contact the Club Insurance Officer, Gerrard Clarke, for relevant form and further information.

THE # 1 THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

You read about the terrorists; most of them came into USA legally but they hung around on expired visas, some for as long as 10-15 years.

Now, compare that to Blockbuster video rental.

You are two days late with a video and those people are all over you !!

Blockbuster should be in charge of US Immigration & Homeland Security...

Thanks Barry



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FORTHCOMING TRIPS INFO

DANDONGADALE STATE FOREST

Date: 12-14 June 2004 – Queen's Birthday Weekend

Trip Leader: Anthony Van Buiten

Contact Nos: Mob: 0427 547 402 AH: 9764 3381

Destination: Dandongadale State Forest
(see map attached)

Meeting Time/Place: TBC

Approximate Kms: 400

Grade: Wet C/Dry C

Equipment: Standard recovery. Warm gear.

Radio Channel: Channel 12

Trip Activities:

Camp at Manna Gum Picnic Area.

Drive to Wonnangatta Station along the Buffalo River,
stopping at Rileys Creek Hut along the way.

Other day trips TBC (maybe Lake Cobbler).

WARBURTON DAY TRIP

Date: Sunday 27 June 2004

Trip Leader: Carl Surtees

Contact Nos: Mob: 0403 024490 AH: 9706 2692

Destination: Warburton-Mt Donna Buang

Meeting Time/Place: TBC

Approximate Kms: 30

Grade: Wet A/Dry B-C

Equipment: Standard recovery. Warm gear.

Radio Channel: Channel 12

Trip Activities:

Try a few new tracks. Have a play and explore an area
that the Club does not visit very often.

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30 th Anniversary Travel Mugs	\$15.00 ea
Polo Shirts	\$25.00 ea
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Contact Barry Leitch if you wish to place an
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TRIP REPORTS

TALLAROOK STATE PARK DAY TRIP

Sunday 18 April 2004

Trip Leader: Anthony, Aline, Riley & Connor

Participants: Ashley & Lesley

John

Roger

Ian

Paul

James and Callum

Visitors: Bas

Joe, Carissa & kids

We all met at Lilydale McDonalds at 9.00am – a nice civilized hour for a Sunday. As the Melbourne Jeep Club, on a day trip to Marysville, had filled 90% of the parking spots, pulling into the car park and finding a spot was difficult. I thought I might grab some spare parts for the Cherokee, but decided instead to head inside for a feed.

We left Lilydale at around 9.30am and headed up the Maroondah Highway through Coldstream and on to the Melba Highway, up to Glenburn, turning left at the pub. After a while, we met up with a few cyclists that slowed us up and there was a bit of a wait til we all caught up again. Before heading into Tallarook State Forest we let our tyres down.

The area seemed to have missed the heavy rain we had in Melbourne leading up to the trips as the tracks were very dusty. Other than dust, the terrain had a lot of fairly loose rock, the Rocky Track living up to its name!

We headed up Rocky Track to Mt Hicky Road, stopping at the fire tower for a morning tea break.



After the break, as we started down Mountain Track, a cautionary message was read over the radio. The rocks were quite large and I almost lost a mud flap in one of the larger holes between the rocks. A couple more tracks, then we went to Freeman's camping ground for a toilet stop. The toilets were so rank, that outside in the fresh air was a better option (mental note: add bug bomb to recovery gear!).

At around 1.00pm we stopped at The Ruins for lunch, where Callum showed us all how to get really dirty and really tired.



Set off again around 2.00pm, heading up to Warragul Rocks, where the view of the Goulburn River and surrounding hills and valleys was fantastic.

Johnno attempted the aptly named Steep Track, where a tree stump and tree made it a tight squeeze, preventing him from reaching the top; textbook stall recovery, and reversed down the hill without any problems. Then off we went to find some more tracks to explore.



Our intrepid leader didn't get around to checking out the last few tracks that were tackled: Tehans 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or was 4, 5, 3, 2, 6? Who knows? Down the first one, quite a steep rocky track with a good sized rock ledge not far from the bottom to really slow down forward momentum. Some of us turned around and found another route out. However, some had a go.

Johnno first, gave it heaps and bounced his way to the top; followed by Paul, who also bounced his way to the top. However, Ashley turned on the compressor and had a leisurely stroll up she goes! Ian had a couple of tries, but unfortunately he got stuck on a rock with a spring hanger about half way up the hill. Ashley came down backwards, with a couple of snatch straps joined together, pulled Ian clear of the offending rock and was able to drive up the hill without any damage.

After we worked out which Tehans track we were on, and the high and low roaders met up again, we headed out to the main road, stopping at the local pub to pump up the tyres before heading home.

Another great trip, well planned and well led by Family VB. Thanks Anthony and Aline for your first job as trip leaders – well done.
James Holden

MACALLISTER SPRINGS

23-25 April 2004

Trip Leader: George Pledger

Participants: Ashley Martin

Tom and Sheila Corrigan

Visitor: Daniel Sorge

As a recent arrival from the northern hemisphere (17 years ago) I can attest to the feelings that a long wet and often snowy winter can do to the psyche. Those long cold nights and equally short days can only be endured with dreaming of far off sunny shores with sun, sand and sex. This, I imagine is the scenario for a young lad named Daniel who toiled all winter in Austria. All his dreams showed potential to bear fruit when he managed to score a working holiday in a faraway place called Port Melbourne.

Our Austrian friend was lucky to have a work colleague named Ashley. Being a likable sort of bloke Ashley took this stranger under his wing and suggested that he should go four wheel driving with him and his mates. Those winter dreams now seemed like becoming a reality for young Daniel.

Boy was he in for a shock. Friday night at Officer weighbridge was uneventful – Sheila and I, George, and Ashley with Daniel on board made up the 3-car convoy. A visit to McDonalds at Traralgon broke up the trip. We were further interrupted by a joint police and wildlife officer's road check as we approached Licola. We settled down to a wet night on the shores of the Wellington River and got up to a wet and soul-destroying morning.



Ashley ponders, "Is this really worth it... Of course it is!"

Thoughts of abandoning the planned trip to Macallister Springs went through our minds. Eventually we decided to break up camp and head up the road to check out the huts.

As we passed Bennison lookout we soon encountered snow. This must have been the final straw for our Austrian friend. Remember those great winter fantasies? Were they now turning into a nightmare? Had he missed

out on the Sex? Was the only sand from the canteen window at Holden? And is he now about to be up to his bollocks in snow? Far from breaking under the pressure Daniel bore up well. We managed to wade through the snow and barred wire to visit Kelly's Hut. After the usual photographs we were happy to get back into the cars and return to a drier campsite near the previous night's camp.



Daniel, outside Kelly's Hut, ponders the possibility of snow in Oz in April???

Tarps were erected and all hands helped haul sufficient timber to heat up the expected cold night. With a good fire, a hot dinner and a few beers under the belt the mood of these campers improved. We had a very enjoyable evening and retired to bed in a relaxed state.



We hadn't much planned for Sunday morning. George wanted to get home early so packed up and went upon his way. Ashley and Daniel weren't in a hurry and neither were Sheila and I. So off we head down Black Range track and across a wide and one mitre deep Macallister River. Our car coughed a few times as we emerged but soon dried out. A steep and rocky Black Range track didn't cause Ashley too much trouble with his 33 inch wheels and diff-locks but our 80 series struggled at times and needed some persuading to get up.

Daniel really looked happy, even at home on these steep rocky tracks. He ran up and down them like an Alpine goat, really excited with the four wheel driving.

We all got a little disorientated as we tried to find our way to Walhalla and eventually ended up at Lake Glenmaggie. After lunch we headed off to Heyfield where we got gas and decided to call it a day. Ashley wasn't finished for the day and decided to head for Walhalla.

I now trust that Daniel has given up all aspirations of fulfilling his three S's. All he wants to do now is four wheel driving.

Tommy Corrigan

OTWAYS

23-26 April 2004

Trip Leader:	Patrick Casey	80 Series LandCruiser
Participants:	John Partridge	GU Patrol
	Anthony, Aline, Riley & Connor	
	Van Buiten	Prado
	Steve & Jill Boyle	80 Series LandCruiser

"Anzac Weekend in the Otways"

I left Melbourne Friday afternoon in torrential rain. I pondered the degrees of "wetness" in the Otways, and decided that dust would not be a problem. I had Dandos to myself as I set up camp. Considering the weather in Melbourne, Dandos was surprisingly "dry". John Partridge arrived after his feast at the Forrest Pub. Anthony Van Buiten, Aline and the kids, arrived later. Quiet night. A little rain.

Saturday morning brilliant sunshine. I went passenger with John so I could chat and offer advice from the map. We wandered to Beech Forest via Sayers Track. The middle third of Sayers had recently been graded and was quite slippery. Tyre pressures soon dropped. John's 35's soon became 37's. Some fun was had by all trying to stay on the straight and narrow. One was impressed how one could deviate so quickly from one's intended line of travel. Gravity and momentum working in harmony – a wonderful thing. John got to test out his new tyres very quickly.

We checked out Aire Crossing and continued over the bridge along Hall Ridge Track. We encountered a large variety of ruts, water holes and slippery sections. John and Anthony tested out their ability to pick out a rut to travel along and then try and get into that rut. This made for some interesting driving angles. We stopped and snatched out a couple that was bogged in the middle of the track (left their recovery gear behind). We turned right at the top on to Redwater Track and headed towards Clearwater track. The first waterhole was impressive and Anthony decided to wait on this side of it and await our return. We paddled through the first waterhole and then encountered a variety of ruts and water holes of varying depth, slipperiness and mud.



John's crab-like descents, ranging from 30 to 90 degrees, had everyone laughing. We spun up the mud in one waterhole and eventually needed to winch out. We did note the high tide water mark on the rim of the spare tyre on the back door. We u-turned here and winched back through the same hole. We stopped in another large wide muddy area (our previous line was 2 feet to my left) and needed to winch again. It seemed to rain when we were winching. John's entry and departure from the last waterhole was most impressive.

We all headed back to Hopetoun Falls and then the Beech Forrest pub for lunch. As we headed back to Dandos, it was mid afternoon, so I thought that Bernies Track and Sammies Track would interest John and Anthony. They seemed to enjoy the tracks.

As we had had a fairly easy and quiet day, we felt that a night run was in order. We all set off in John's vehicle to an interesting shortcut to Stevenson Falls that Ann and I had discovered. John's rut driving skills and crab technique soon impressed. John and Anthony both looked puzzled when I said to turn hard right at a track junction. Both said "What!!! Down there!!!" "Better than going straight on into a very large bottomless waterhole," I replied. Just the turn made their eyes bulge. 50m later we were back and filling in a tight spot between three trees on a left-hand bend. We wandered quietly through Stevenson Falls – the campers probably wondered where we had come from.

As the evening was still young, I proposed another track on the way back to Dandos. An interesting no-name track with many ruts and white-knuckled areas, a mud bridge that needed repair (we guided John over under torch light), a waterhole in which we had "passenger side down" by 20-odd degrees and a high tide water mark on the bonnet, and a greasy uphill section. The uphill section is worthy of more detail. On the first attempt, forward momentum ceased about 15m from the corner at the top. Stall recovery mode commenced... low 4 reverse... sliding backwards... engine stalled in the excitement... still sliding backwards... windows go down so we can see outside as mud over all windows and outside mirrors... car stops about 50m down from where we started. Excited (?nervous) laughter. Next attempt... 12m short of corner. We "reversed" in low 4 first... speed up to slow

descent speed, and slowing up on throttle to go faster downhill... excited (?) laughter as we felt that we had much more control. Next attempt felt better in high 4 first, about 10m from the corner, still mobile but just, moving steering wheel left and right, and varying throttle, we inched forward. We covered the last 10m in about 5 minutes. Around the corner and on to the next interesting section, but the rest of the track was really a "non-event" compared to the previous incline.

Back at camp, John had a huge grin and now and then just looked at the stars and laughed. John and his vehicle had performed extremely well.

On Sunday Steve and Jill Boyle arrived. We traveled up Lardners Track to Beech Forest and onto the Otway Fly. A leisurely walk on the Otway Fly. An impressive structure.



We headed home along Turtons Track and it started to rain heavily for the first time.

A great weekend enjoyed by all. Good memories to be retold around a campfire. The weather was fantastic compared to Friday afternoon driving over the Westgate.
Patrick Casey

DAYLESFORD – 1-2 MAY 2004

4WDVIC/WOMBAT STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT MEETING

Roll Call:

John Partridge	Roger Baird
Steve & Jill Boyle	Barry Leitch
Tom & Sheila Corrigan	Mark Kochan
Ian Warburton	Tom Brachna
Terry Johninke & Annie Simpson	Robert Potts
Steve & Tania Utting	Patrick Casey
Geoff Petersen & Rochelle Brammer	
Ashley Martin & Lesley Peters	
Anthony, Aline, Riley & Connor	
Carissa, Jo & Lachlan	
David, Rosalie, Craig & Jason	
Andy & Isabel Riordon	

We all headed off from the Westgate Bridge Shell Serrvo on time and made our way to Daylesford making, only one stop to stretch our legs. It was a pretty impressive convoy of around 14 vehicles.

On arrival in Daylesford, it soon became obvious that there was going to be an impressive turnout when we had to park 800 meters away from the school hall.

After registering, a few of us managed to get a seat in the hall, while the rest had to stand outside. As it turned out, there were way too many people in the hall, far exceeding the legal limits. It was suggested and voted that the meeting be moved outside so that everyone could hear the speakers and make an informed decision come voting time. Good idea, but didn't quite work out that way. The PA system that was more than adequate in a hall that seats 600 was totally insufficient in an outdoor environment. Michael Coldham had a good idea of using our UHF radios to transmit to the back of the crowd, but it still wasn't enough. In the end it was decided that the only satisfactory solution was to seal the box with the registrations and have a postal vote.

Most of us headed to the Boomerang Holiday Ranch – where we were to be accommodated overnight. We put our gear in our rooms and had a bite to eat. Most of us made the most of our unexpected free time and headed in to town to have a look around. Some went to the famous Daylesford book shop, the Belgian Chocolate Factory, Hepburn Springs, or just for a drive around the area. Back at the ranch, a pleasant two course meal was had by all before relaxing in front of the open fire in the bunkhouse.

Most of the crew headed back to town in the morning while Anthony, Aline and family, Carissa, Jo and family, Tom and Sheila, and myself went for a drive through the Wombat State Forest. We had lunch in the Lerderderg State Park before heading home via a few other tracks. It was an interesting drive through a seldom-visited area.

John

There were around 1,000 people from various four-wheel drive clubs together with another 400 people from various other groups representing the Recreational Users Group. Although the organisers were forewarned of the expected turnout, they chose to ignore this and hold the meeting in a hall far smaller than required.

It is still in doubt what is going to happen now and it looks likely that there may not be a postal vote. This doesn't mean that our time was wasted. Far from it. You can guarantee that the four-wheel drive community will be taken far more seriously in the future and that there is no way the recreational users will be left out of this process. Thankyou to everyone who put their weekend plans on hold to attend this very important meeting. It was an excellent attendance.

And the streets were littered with 4wd's...



NOTE:

NEW TRIP CLASSIFICATIONS

FOR VFWDC

The VFWDC has changed its trip classifications to bring the Club into line with the Adventure Activity Standards and the new Trip Leader Guidelines set down by Four Wheel Drive Victoria. The classifications are much easier to understand than the old "A B C" that we have used in the past.

Please keep a copy handy and use these classifications when submitting a Proposed Trip Data Form.

- Scenic/Social:** Sealed roads and some good unsealed roads or tracks. No four wheel driving experience required. Road tyres are acceptable.
- Easy:** Little or no Four Wheel Driving experience required. Road tyres are acceptable. Front and rear recovery points at Trip Leader's discretion. Expected track classification to be encountered = **GREEN**.
- Medium:** Low range may be needed with a snatch strap recovery possible. All-terrain tyres preferred. Front and rear recovery points (rated), basic recovery gear (snatch strap, 2 rated shackles and gloves), Driver Training Certificate for new members. Expected track classification to be encountered = **GREEN** and **BLUE**.
- Hard:** Steep terrain or rutted tracks. Snatch strap and/or winching recovery may be required. All-terrain tyres acceptable, mud terrain tyres preferred, road tyres are NOT acceptable. Front and rear recovery points (rated), basic recovery gear (snatch strap, 2 rated shackles and gloves), Driver Training Certificate. Winch and full recovery gear an advantage. Expected track classification to be encountered = mostly **BLUE** or **BLACK**.
- Extreme:** Very steep, deeply rutted tracks or rock hopping will be encountered. Front and rear recovery points (rated), full recovery gear (snatch strap, rated shackles, tree trunk protector, winch extension, drag chain, gloves), Advanced Driver Training Certificate. Winching will be expected and a hand, electric, or motorised winch is compulsory on all vehicles. Mud terrain or swamper style tyres essential. Warning: Vehicle damage may occur. Expected track classification to be encountered = **BLACK** and **RED**.