



Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A0002184F

DECEMBER 2006



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Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)

www.vafwdc.org.au

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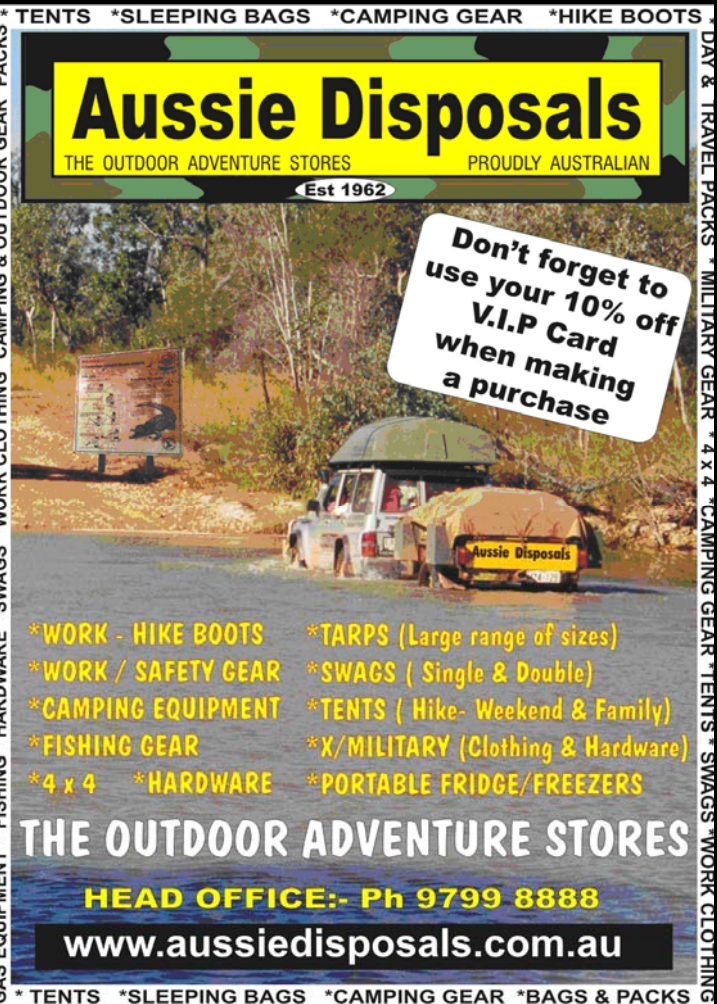
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President's Report

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2006-2007

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Vice President	Mark Capper	0411 530484
Treasurer	Craig Major	0432 876699
Secretary	Paul Ryan	0438 121148

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Assistant Secretary	Derek Hymas	0438 259605
Trip Coordinator	John Partridge	0428 331211
Events Coordinator	James Holden	0433 399315
Training Coordinator	Michael Rodger	0412 530666
Newsletter Editor	Julie Capper	0411 530464

Association Delegate	John Partridge	0428 331211
Training Officers	Mark Kochan	0412 544668
	Ashley Martin	0438 600904
	John Partridge	0428 331211
	Michael Rodger	0412 530666
New Member Contact	Mark Capper	0411 530484
Web Manager	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784074
Librarian	James Holden	0433 399315

Forward Articles & Photos for the Newsletter to:-

editor@vfwdc.com

Please forward all contributions prior to the 20th of each month

CLUB DETAILS

Registered Name:	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
Registration No:	A002184F
All Correspondence:	The Secretary VFWDC Inc PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3173
Web Site:	www.vfwdc.com
Meetings:	Held first Tuesday of each month excluding January (no meeting). The November meeting is held on the 2 nd Tuesday of the month due to Melbourne Cup public holiday.
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

Hello and welcome to another month of Free Wheeling.

Those who attended the November meeting would have enjoyed the insight into the operations of the Dandenong CFA. I was surprised by the number of calls they respond to each year. Thanks to Mark Capper for organizing the visit and we look forward to more interesting guests and tours next year.

The Christmas Party plans have been finalised and it is set to be a great day/night. Once again dinner will be a good feed of Gyros meat cooked on the spit with veggies and followed by Christmas pudding. The prices quoted in the flyer in the November newsletter were incorrect and should be:

Members: Adults \$12, Children free

Non Members: Adults \$18, Children \$5

We look forward to a good attendance this year!

I recently attended the 4WD Victoria Presidents meeting and one item raised was Affinity Motor Vehicle Insurance. They have introduced new features into their policies that should make it more attractive to members and benefits that may not be available with other companies. If your insurance is due give them a call and compare premiums. If you find they are not competitive with your current policy, please contact 4WDVic and advise them as they may be able to assist with a more competitive rate.

The first five months of my presidency have been fulfilling and I am looking forward to the coming year.

The committee is dedicated to ensure we build on what is a fantastic club enjoyed by a great membership. The New Year promises to be a bumper one, full of great trips and social events for all members. Please support those who will be organising trips and remember to ask for help if you need assistance on planning your own trip.

If you are camping, caravanning or just touring over the holiday period, please travel safely while enjoying fantastic country of ours.

On behalf of the Committee and myself, we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

See you on the next trip – or at the next meeting.



Ashley Martin
President

Minutes of the General Meeting – November

The meeting was held at Dandenong CFA and opened by President Ashley Martin who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present:

There were 29 members present as per the attendance book.

Apologies:

Maxine Ryan
Graeme & Sue Lyne
Barry Leitch
Rosalie & David Hughes
Anne Pettigrew
Aline Van Buiten
Nicole & Steve Pitcher

Visitors:

Michael & Tania

Minutes of the October meeting:

Accepted: John Partridge
Seconded: Leigh Pettigrew

Matters Arising:

Nil

Correspondence in:

ARB 4x4 Action
Overland Cruising
Otway Four Wheeler
Association – Notice of Presidents Meeting 12/11/2006
Association – Notice of General Meeting 22/11/2006
Westprint Outback News
Trackwatch Spring 2006
Autobalance – offer to guest speak
DSE – Letter of appreciation for help with signage
VIC 4WD Show 18 Feb 2007 flyer

Correspondence Out:

Club Newsletter
Notice of Extraordinary AGM in December
Privacy Policy

Treasurer's Report:

Nil this month as books still with auditors

Tea duties:

Mark Capper who cooked the sausage sizzle.
Thank you ☺

Raffle:

Nil this month.

Guest Speaker:

Our November meeting was held at the Dandenong CFA Westernport area HQ and Region 8 HQ. After Duty Officer Paul Caligari gave us the Emergency Evacuation procedures, our general meeting was held in the upstairs meeting room of the complex. The room was large enough for twice as many that attended and the walls were filled with memorabilia of the CFA, including many trophies and pictures, a very interesting room.

After our meeting Paul joined us and gave us a brief but informative insight on what this branch of the CFA do, their procedures and the ongoing training. After this, he then took us downstairs to the "engine room" and gave a tour and further information on the vehicles and equipment used. I am sure that all who attended walked away with a greater appreciation of what the CFA members of the Dandenong branch have to do in emergency situations and the type of environment they have to work in, as well as the extensive ongoing training they commit to. The night finished off with an enjoyable sausage sizzle.

I would like to thank all who supported this meeting and also CFA Duty Office Peter Lucas for organizing it and CFA Duty Officer Paul Caligari for his time to give us a memorable November meeting. Mark Capper

Trips:

John Partridge reported on the upcoming trips which include:

Friday 17th to Sunday 19th November – Annual Fishing Trip (Jamieson or Howqua)

Saturday 2nd December – Christmas Party – Gilwell Park

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th December - Oxfam Christmas Tree Delivery

27th December 2006 to 6th January 2007 – High Country Trip, John is running a trip into the Vic High Country over the Xmas / New Year period. Mainly touring but may hook up with Ashley's 'hard' trip.

2nd January to 5th January 2007 – Ashley's Hard trip, heading into the Big River / Woods Point / Licola area, this will concentrate on some of the more difficult tracks.

Australia Day Long Weekend 2007 – Dando's, Otways. This will be an opportunity for people to camp and suit themselves i.e. sightseeing, day trips or just sit and relax.

Family Weekend Saturday 24th to Sunday 25th March 2007- this will be a social day for all the family.

Trip Reports:

Proficiency Training, October. Craig reported on the proficiency training weekend held in October. The trainees took on a mixture of tracks and gained some valuable experience and knowledge along the way. Joe started the day nervously but grew in confidence as the day wore on. On the Sunday Tim and Craig tried a few more challenging tracks such as the section at the top of Flats Track and had a thoroughly good time by all accounts.

Tarra Bulga, October – Michael reported on Mark’s first trip as trip leader. Friday night Michael and family and the Ryan’s were last to arrive having set put from Melbourne late. Everyone else was already there and set up around the camp fire. The cabins were very nice as they required absolutely no set up. Saturday everyone went for a drive through the forest which was very nice. Saturday evening was spent in the communal BBQ hut and a few birthdays were celebrated. Sunday the party came home via Grand Ridge Road and although we stopped at the brewery it was a bit crowded so we just had lunch at the park. Everyone made their own way home from there.

Toolangi Day Trip, October – Gary reported on Derek’s Toolangi day trip. Everyone met at Lilydale Macca’s as usual and made their way from there to Dixon’s Creek. The first obstacle to progress was a locked and bared gate so an easier route to Toolangi was sought. From Toolangi the group drove a number of the tracks around Marginal Road. On the whole it was very dry and there wasn’t a lot of four wheeling but it was still a very enjoyable day out.

Cup Weekend, Glenelg River – Anthony reported on Ashley’s trip. Anthony and Aline were the last to arrive on the Saturday. A lot of people took the chance to throw a line in although in Paul’s case the line only seemed to go backwards. It was also a toss up between Paul and Mark as to who caught the smallest fish of the weekend. Sunday morning we all went to the Princess Margaret Rose caves. Monday the group split up with many going to Mt Richmond. Maggie decided to head off to Coonawarra for the wines and Paul & John headed off to Beachport for a spot of sand driving. Tuesday everyone packed up and headed home via various routes.

Association Report:

John met with Greig Young, Park Ranger for Bunyip. The association has tried to campaign to get more tracks reopened in the Bunyip area. The result is that some of the Management Access tracks will be accessible to affiliated clubs via a permit system.

Toolangi – Vic Range Track was subject to some vandalism recently where the seasonal closure gates had been winched out. The local ranger then took the action of dozing trees across the track. Although this is only supposed to be seasonal, Parks do have budget to upgrade the track and it is highly unlikely that the existing track will

be reopened. A track will open but it will probably be cut along a new course. It’s proposed that in exchange some of the tracks along the northern fence line will be made available again.

General Business:

Could all members please note that the Extraordinary AGM scheduled for the December general meeting will be postponed until February 2007 due to unforeseen circumstances. Minutes of the 2005 AGM will be circulated prior to this meeting.
Other Business:

Congratulations to Steve and Nicole Pitcher who have just had a beautiful baby girl, 9lbs 10 oz.

Meeting Closed:

8.40 pm

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 5th December at 8.00pm at Dandenong Library

VFWDC MERHCANDISE

For Sale

New Club Polo Shirts	\$25.00 ea
Polar Fleece ½ Zip Jumper	\$36.00 ea
Polar Fleece Full Zip Jumper	\$48.00 ea
Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$42.00 ea
New Club Caps	\$15.00 ea
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*Anyone wishing to advertise in the Club Directory,
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Click on "Join this group".

To keep non members out of the group,
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Any problems email:

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OXFAM AUSTRALIA CHRISTMAS TREE PROJECT



A reminder to all members that the deliver dates
this year for Christmas Tree deliveries is **Saturday
9th and Sunday 10th December.**

If you would like to participate and haven't put
your name in the Trip Book, please contact John
Partridge on 0428 331 211 no later than
Wednesday 6th December.



CLUB CALENDER AT A GLANCE

DECEMBER

Saturday 2 nd	Christmas Party – Gilwell Park	James Holden	0433 399 315
Tuesday 5 th	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Saturday 9 th & Sunday 10 th	Oxfam Christmas Tree Project	John Partridge	0428 331 211
Wednesday 27 th to Saturday 6 th	Victorian High Country Adventure	John Partridge	0428 331 211
TBA	Big River, Woods Point, Licola	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904

JANUARY

Friday 26 th to Sunday 28 th	Otways National Park - Australia Day Weekend	John Partridge	0428 331 211
Tuesday 23 rd	Committee Meeting	Derek Hymas	0438 259 605

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 6 th	Club Meeting – Extraordinary AGM	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Friday 9 th to Sunday 11 th	A-Grade Trip - Big River to Woods Point	John Partridge	0428 331 211
Sunday 18 th February	Day Trip – TBA	Michael Rodger	0412 530666
Tuesday 20 th	Committee Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211

MARCH

Tuesday 6 th	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Tuesday 20 th	Committee Meeting	James Holden	0433 399 315
Saturday 24 th to Sunday 25 th	Family Day/Weekend	James Holden	0433 399 315

APRIL

Tuesday 3 rd	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
TBA	Cathedral Ranges	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
Friday 6 th to Monday 9 th	Easter Weekend	TBA	TBA
Tuesday 17 th	Committee Meeting	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666

MAY

Tuesday 1 st	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Tuesday 15 th	Committee Meeting	Julie Capper	0411 530 464

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4 person Wild Country Tent with awning, complete with all pegs, poles & guy ropes. \$100.00



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Please call Maggie on 0408 291 507

Oztent

Ashley has a contact at work who has an Oztent RV for sale.

This is the pre RV2 model and is in very good condition.

The Vendor is looking for an offer of approx. \$500.00.

If anyone is interested can they please contact Ashley.

Email: ashleymartin@valcor.com.au

The Cooks Corner



Lower Glenelg Marinated Prawns

Fresh King Prawns (as many as you like)
Garlic (fresh or garlic salt)
Chilli Flakes
Olive Oil
Fresh Lemon

Shell prawns, de-vein and clean (you can use already cooked headless prawns)

Put prawns into a bowl and cover with Olive oil (just enough to ensure prawns are lightly coated)

Add garlic and chilli and stir, so as the prawns are coated with all ingredients

Squeeze lemon juice over the prawns

Stir again and then put prawns into a sealable plastic bag, pour oil mixture into bag, seal and put into fridge for a couple of hours.

Before cooking give bag a good shake as to ensure mixture covers the prawns

Place prawns onto heated oiled grill and cook until lightly brown and serve and enjoy!



To All Members

My family and I are enthusiastic four wheel drivers and share common interests as yourselves, which has taken us the length and breadth of our great country. We should never forget how privileged we are, able to enjoy such diverse landscapes of our bush.

Unfortunately, part of our touring equipment, a unique, purpose built camp trailer was stolen by someone who has no appreciation of what the trailer means to us, which enabled our family to enjoy camping in the great outdoors.



Hopefully the photos may create some interest and hopefully jog some memories. If in your travels the trailer is spotted, please take the registration number of the tow vehicle and pass it on to us on 5748 4278 or to the Yarrawonga Police on 5744 3641.

A substantial reward is offered for information leading to the return of our trailer.

See you in the bush

Steve & Louise Woodhead

Forthcoming Trips

Destination Oxfam Christmas Tree Project

Trip Leader John Patridge
Contact No 0428 331211
Date 9th & 10th December
Meeting Place Scout Hall, Pakenham St., Blackburn (Melway Map 47 H 12) on Saturday
 Princes Hill Primary School, Wilson St., Nth Carton (Melway 29 J 11) on Sunday
Time Before 11am
Grade N/A

Trip Activity Details

On Saturday we deliver to the south and eastern side of Melbourne and on the Sunday the north and western side. All you do is drop off the tree that has already been paid for. The smiles you receive from the younger recipients would be second only to that of them greeting Santa Claus. It will take each team 1 to 3 hours, and we encourage you to meet for a BBQ or social get together before or afterwards.



Vehicle Limits N/A
Approximate Km's N/A
Late Fuel Available N/A
Equipment Required Vehicle & Trailer if available
Maps Required A list of addresses with Melway grid references supplied
Radio Channel CB/UHF 12



Destination Victorian High Country

Trip Leader John Patridge
Contact No 0428 331211
Date 27th December – 6th January
Meeting Place Officer Weigh Bridge
Time 9.00am
Grade WET: Medium
 DRY: Medium

Trip Activity Details

I ran this trip a few years ago with Steve Boyle the year after the bush fires and I thought we might re-visit the area to see the change that has occurred. We will head through Licola, Dargo, the Haunted Stream, Hells Gate, Mt Seldom Seen, cross the Snowy River and travel down the Deddick Trail. I will have plenty of information on all of the areas enabling us to improvise the route depending on locations. There will be many one night camps and a few two night stopovers.

Vehicle Limits MINIMUM: 2
 MAXIMUM: 5
Approximate Km's 1000kms
Late Fuel Available N/A
Equipment Required Full recovery gear, full camping gear & water
Maps Required Various
Radio Channel CB/UHF 12

Destination Otways National Park

Trip Leader John Patridge
Contact No 0428 331211
Date 26th to 28th January
Meeting Place Dandos Camping Ground
Time
Grade WET: Hard
 DRY: Medium

Trip Activity Details

We will run a few small trips with some good 4 Wheel Driving and maybe a night run. For those less adventurous there are numerous waterfalls to visit as well as the spectacular Otways Forest Tree Walk

Vehicle Limits MINIMUM: 2
 MAXIMUM: 12
Approximate Km's 155
Late Fuel Available N/A
Equipment Required Basing camping & recovery gear. Bring own water
Maps Required Meridian Otways NP
Radio Channel CB/UHF 12



Destination Big River, Woods Point, Licola

Trip Leader Ashley Martin
Contact No 0438 600 904
Date TBA, After Christmas/New Year
Meeting Place Lilydale Macas
Time TBA
Grade WET: Hard
 DRY: Medium-Hard

Trip Activity Details

As we are due for a good touring trip, what better time than after Christmas. The exact date is yet to be determined for I will not know my leave details until December. The plan is for 2-3 nights camping at a different site each night. We will start at Big River working our way towards Woods Point and Licola. Some of the tracks will be challenging but not all and there will be alternative routes around the harder sections. Camping sites will be determined on where we are each night but hopefully by a river. Full details will be emailed to the members who have there name in the trip book and will also be posted on the Yahoo stie.

Vehicle Limits MINIMUM N/A
 MAXIMUM 8
Approximate Km's 200
Late Fuel Available PETROL Lilydale
 DIESEL Lilydale
Equipment Required Full Recovery Equipment
Maps Required N/A
Radio Channel CB/UHF 12

Destination	A-Grade Trip Big River to Woods Point
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Trip Leader	John Partridge
Contact No	0428 331211
Date	9 th February to 11 February
Meeting Place	Healesville Pub for dinner
Time	7.00pm
Grade	WET: Hard DRY: Very Hard

Trip Activity Details

This is a trip for the boys and their toys. We will be tackling the hardest tracks in the area. As such, only those with the experience and vehicles suitable for such a trip will be allowed. You will need to have completed the Advanced Training.

Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 6
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Approximate Km's	200
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Late Fuel Available	PETROL: Healesville DIESEL: Healesville
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Equipment Required	A full recovery kit is mandatory, as are mud terrain type tyres. Diff locks would be an advantage
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Maps Required	TBA
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Radio Channel CB/UHF	12
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Destination	Family Weekend - TBA
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Trip Leader	James Holden
Contact No	0433 399 315
Date	Saturday 24 th March 2007 Sunday 25 th March 2007
Meeting Place	TBA
Time	TBA
Grade	WET: Easy DRY: Easy

Trip Activity Details

With the enjoyment had by all at the 30th Anniversary party we have decided to run a similar family weekend. Games for the kids during the day followed by a BBQ for dinner and adult time at night.

The destination will be close to Melbourne which will allow both day visitors and overnight camping, this should suit all members.

The activities organized for the kids will include sack race, plank race and many more along with face art by Verrylle. The games will be held in the afternoon and will involve not only kids but adults as well.

Dinner in the evening will be a BBQ. To eliminate any major cost to members each family can provide their own BBQ favorite food. All the cooking items will be provided including BBQs.

Keep an eye out in the December newsletter for more information.

Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: N/A MAXIMUM: N/A
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Approximate Km's	200kms
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Late Fuel Available	N/A
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Equipment Required	TBA
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Maps Required	N/A
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Radio Channel CB/UHF	12
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Trip Clarification

Clarification was sought regarding the level of Approval required before a trip could be considered a "Club" trip.

The following clarifications were settled upon:

- Trips do not need to be approved by the trip coordinator but he must be notified in order for the trip to be considered a "Club" trip.
- Trips may be submitted either via Trip Data Form, Yahoo Group or informally however see above to be considered a "Club Trip"
- Trips should be reviewed where necessary at committee level to ensure that the trip was within capabilities of the trip leader.
- If absolutely necessary approval for a trip may be withdrawn if the committee feel that the trip may in anyway expose the participants to an unacceptable level of risk e.g. trip being lead into a high/extreme fire risk area.



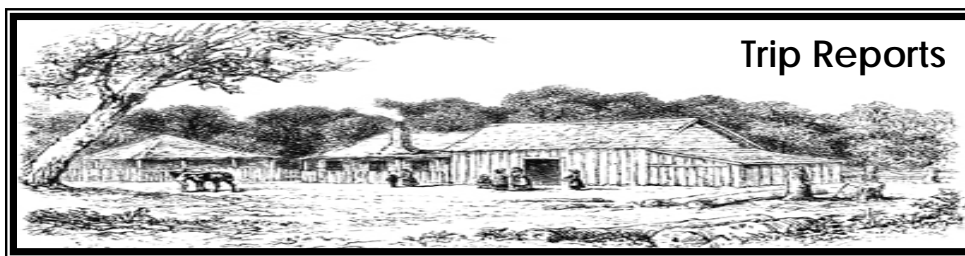
**Trip Coordinator
John Partridge**

Notice of postponement of Extraordinary AGM

Could all members please note that the Extraordinary AGM scheduled for December has had to be postponed due to the late completion of the financial statement for the previous financial year.

The Extraordinary AGM will now be held over until the February general meeting.

The committee would like to apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.



Toolangi Day Trip Sunday 22nd October

Trip Leader Derek Hymas & Daniel Land Rover Discovery

Participants Craig Suzuki
Brian & Jacinta & Friend Toyota 100
Peter & Jan Toyota Hilux

Sunday morning and five vehicles meet up at McDonalds Lilydale (do they sponsor us?). After coffee and eats we all followed Derek out of town and through Yarra Glen and eventually turn off the main road at Dixon's Creek.

The dirt roads were dusty, a sign of what was to come. We stopped at a park gate which was locked, so while Derek checked the maps for alternative routes, the rest of us aired down our tyres. Derek had a new plan, turn hard left and head up another track to Toolangi. A friendly local turned up and wished us "bon voyage" as we set off.

We eventually appeared at Toolangi without much difficulty. From Toolangi we turned right into Spraggs Road and more dust. Eventually we slowed down and descended a steep section with the Hilux showing us a good view under its tray as it picked up one then two wheels.

At the bottom of the hill we stopped for morning tea, then continued along Marginal Road with a detour to take in a nice steep hill.

Derek walked off to check out a track but returned shortly afterwards to tell us it was unsuitable. So we continued until we found a lookout under some power transmission lines. We then followed the track under the lines, but again our travels were halted.

So we back tracked, stopping for lunch and then to Marginal Road. A quick detour found the only mud hole.



Then we were at Two Hills Road and airing up the tyres for the trip home.

I enjoyed the trip as some of it was on the same tracks that I had driven on during my proficiency training earlier in the year. A good chance to check what I had learned.

Thanks Derek for organising the trip and turning on a great spring day. (Pity about the gates though).

Gary Smith

Glenelg River – Cup Weekend Friday 3rd to Tuesday 7th November

Trip Leader Ashley & Lesley GU Patrol

Participants Paul & Robert Toyota 80 Series
Graham & Sue Discovery
Derek & Janet Discovery
Billy & Coral
Mark & Julie Pathfinder
Maggie Prado
Anthony & Aline GU Patrol
John Nissan GQ

Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th

Once again work did me a few favours by suspending the project I was working on the Thursday before the long weekend, so while a lot of people were expressing their concern and hoping I wasn't too disappointed, I was just kicking back and thinking "Beauty, 5 day weekend here we come!"

So after giving the car the once over, hitching up the trailer and picking Rob up from school we headed off on Friday afternoon, meeting up with Ashley, Lesley and Brian on the way. The journey down was uneventful which, considering Ashley was leading, has to be a first. The only surprises were that Ashley had parted with money to hire a canoe and that we arrived during the hours of daylight.

Anyway we arrived to find Sue, Graham, Derek, Jan, Billy and Coral already in place and it didn't take us long to set up, open the first beer and join the others round the fire. John, who had a late start from Melbourne, eventually turned up around midnight and so a couple of us had to stay up and keep him company, because frankly it would have been churlish not to.

Saturday morning was a bit of a slow start for some reason.

Robert was keen to throw a line in to the river where as I was wandering around like a dullard, trying to remember where I parked the car (opposite the trailer) and wondering why it felt like I'd been licking the underside of the trailer for the past 4 hours. Ashley decided that it would be a good idea to drive into Nelson to get some bait. I thought it was a good idea for him to do that as well, so we let him. Mark, Julie and Maggie arrived sometime around lunchtime increasing the numbers marginally and the average IQ considerably.

Whilst the rest of us were content to sit on the jetty and feed bait to the local fish, Ashley and Brian decided to take the canoe up river. The launch was a little like the sale of T3 (lots of fanfare and only moments before a crash) and with Ashley's stern injunction of "What do you think you're doing?" ringing in our ears, we bid them farewell in a scene not dissimilar to Capt. John Smith and Pocahontas paddling away across the Tidewater.



Anthony and Aline and the boys arrived later in the day and joined those of us who were trying to bludgeon the fish to death with heavily baited hooks. John even compared my style to the "Shock and Awe" tactics employed in Iraq, but as I was the only one who had caught anything by this stage, I was happy to let it slide.

At some point Robert wondered where Ashley and Brian could have got to, hoping that they hadn't got lost. "Don't be silly Robert, it's a river, how could they possibly get....." several voices trailed off, as slow realisation dawned that Ashley was in the canoe and "Yes" it was entirely possible

that they may have become geographically embarrassed. We needn't have worried though because the intrepid duo turned up within the hour and displayed fractionally more grace leaving the water than they had when they entered.

The evening meal was to be a communal roast so we had a brief expedition to gather firewood. Once everyone had cooked and eaten a few of us returned to the jetty to see if the fish were feeling any more accommodating. I treated everyone to a further fine display of casting which resulted in:

- several nominations for the "Good on Ya" awards
- my finest effort which actually caught the jetty behind us
- John nearly losing control of his bladder

It was fairly obvious that this "master class" could only continue for so long, so I decided to call it a day and concentrate on the one thing that I could do for the rest of the evening that required no special equipment (and by that I mean sitting by the fire, enjoying the company). Anyway I think it was another late night. Either way it had been pretty good day all round.

Paul Ryan

Sunday 5th

It was the usual start to a beautiful morning camping, nice and relaxed with a spot of fishing for some.



Today was the day that we were going to do the tour of the Princess Margaret Rose Caves. Everyone was focussed on this mission except for Mark and Julie who were moving in slow motion and didn't make the departure time.

The tour was wonderful. The caves are really something to see, there are so many different types of formations that were different to the Buchan Caves (trip from last year). After the tour we drove to Nelson for lunch at the jetty, where we met up with Mark and Julie. It was a very windy day and even the sea gulls had trouble flying in a straight line.



During lunch, Mark and Julie were telling stories of HUGE lobsters and HUGE prawns just down the road. They had bought some prawns for dinner, and I just couldn't resist the fresh seafood so we had to head on down the road for some as well. We left the group and headed toward Port MacDonnell with John who also came along for the drive.



Port MacDonnell is a nice little seaport. We found the seafood shop and I had to have a lobster, lucky for me it was freshly cooked from out the back.

When we got back to camp everyone was already there and some even had a line in fishing. We tried our luck for a while with nothing of size to keep or talk about, unlike some fellow campers (Paul and Mark) who we think caught the same 5cm fish.

Dinner time fast approached and the fantastic aromas wafted through the camp from Mark's fry pan, he was cooking up the prawns with a hint of chilli. Once everyone was finished dinner the campfire was built up for warmth, as the circle was growing larger and larger as people joined in. Just after dusk, while everyone was spinning their yarns, three thumping kangaroos hopped past the group, it gave everyone a surprise that they were so close and they didn't go that far past, but stopped at some other tents. While looking to see where they went we saw our friendly (maybe not so friendly) fox going from camp to camp looking for scraps.



Stories were shared, jokes were told and the usual suspects stayed up until the wee hours.

Aline

Monday 6th

A rather late start to a cold drizzly day did not deter our plans.

4 outings were organised to suit everyone.

Mark, Happy, Lesley, Ashley, Sue, Graeme, Aline, Anthony, Riley, Connor, Coral and Bill drove to Mt. Richmond where we did the ocean view circuit walk. Shame about the weather.... The walk was refreshing.

We enjoyed a picnic lunch in the elements then drove back to Lake Monibeong cutting through the roller coaster tracks of a pine plantation.

The sky managed to clear in time for a group happy hour session. Some found room for tea and we gathered by the very welcome fire under a full moon to relax, chat and sink a few drinks.



Coral

Monday 6th

We had a bit of a slow start to the day. Paul, Robert, Derek, Janet & I leaving for Mt. Gambier at around 10.30am. After a quick look around and gathering some supplies from the supermarket we headed off toward Beachport.

About 30kms from Beachport, Derek and Janet decided to turn around and explore Mt. Gambier a little more before an early return to camp.

Paul and I continued on stopping briefly at the information centre at Beachport for some maps of the tracks along the beach. Before long we were airing down our tyres and heading onto the beach. The track leading down was has numerous small, very small dunes which made progress very slow.

The beach was spectacular and the dunes that we came across were even better. We did come across one very large dune that was extremely soft. We both had numerous attempts with Paul eventually succeeding.



Time was short and we only ended up with just over 2 hours on the sand. But we had a ball and planning a return trip to explore further.

John Partridge

Tuesday 7th

An easy start to the day. Most people were making their own homeward bound arrangements, but the Cappers, VB's, Brian and us decided to return via Hamilton which turned out to be a much quicker trip journey.

We headed off from the camp site around 10.30am, made our way through all the small country towns, passed Mark and Julie along the way. VB's and Happy drove on while we stopped somewhere (?) for lunch. All in all, an uneventful drive home through some beautiful, but very dry, Victorian countryside, including the magnificent Gariwerd National Park (The Grampians).

Thanks to all those who joined us on this trip – I think they will agree that although it was a long drive it was well worth it. It was also good to catch up with Bill and Coral Harwood who we haven't seen on a trip for quite a while. Nice caravan!

Lesley Peters

Fishing Trip
Friday 17th to Sunday 19th November

<i>Trip Leader</i>	Ashley Martin	GUPatrol
<i>Participants</i>	George Pledger	Musso
	Brian Martin	100 Series
	Richard Patrowski	Jackaroo
	John Partridge	GQ Patrol
	Anthony Van Buiten	GU Patrol
	Craig & Geoff Major	Vitara
	Ian, Chris & Dylan Webber	Disco
	Steve & Andrew Young	GQ Patrol
	James Holden & Wazza	Vitara

After leaving work at 5.00pm I met up with Ashley and John in Mansfield for a parma at the pub. Following our meal we headed off to our campsite at Running Creek where George, Brian and Richard had a welcome fire burning.

The campsite was very popular being not far off the main road, but everyone was well spaced out so it wasn't too crowded. After burning almost all of George's collection of wood we called it a night.

The next morning was a slow start for me compared to normally being woken by the kids. I lasted until 8:30 when I just had to get up. Richard had been up since sparrows and was off to catch some fish.

During the morning we had the arrival of Craig and his Father (Geoff), Ian and kids, Steve, Andrew, James and Warren.

The rest of the day consisted of collecting firewood, playing cricket, sitting in the river and having a few beers. Not necessarily in that order and some of them at the same time.



You may notice I didn't mention fishing. Some of us did fish and some of us even brought fishing rods. But it was Richard who justified the naming of the trip by actually catching a rainbow trout late on Saturday afternoon.

After we cooked our dinner the fire was built up for the evening. With such a busy day fishing I was off to bed around 10:30.



The next morning people packed up and moved out fairly early. Ashley, John and myself took a long way out exploring some tracks. One track was fairly interesting; Silvermine Spur and we stopped and had lunch at a shelter that someone had recently constructed. We continued following the track out to the main road and then into Jamieson. While in Jamieson airing up the tyres, Ashley noticed a dent in the passenger rear door of my car. I thought I had brushed against a heavy branch but by the look of the dent it was a log.

We head home after that stopping only for an ice-cream in Yea.

Thanks Ashley for another fishing trip and thanks to Richard for justifying the naming of the trip.

Anthony



The one that got away !!

Heading off to the Fishing Trip on Thursday, on approaching Mansfield this picture was taken of Mount Buller with the peak covered in snow. The locals claim there was more snow in one day than all winter.



George Pledger



The Committee would like to wish all members and their families a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.



Look forward to seeing you all in 2007, which is already looking great for trips and we encourage you all to add to the already interesting list.





PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

A-Grade Trip Big River to Woods Point

DESTINATION	A-Grade Trip Big River to Woods Point
LEADER CONTACT NO.	John Partridge 0428 331 211
DATE	Friday 9 th to Sunday 11 th February
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Healesville Pub for dinner 7.00pm
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Hard DRY: Very Hard
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	This is a trip for the boys and their toys. We will be tackling the hardest tracks in the area. As such, only those with the experience and vehicles suitable for such a trip will be allowed. You will need to have completed the Advanced Training.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	200kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Healesville DIESEL: Healesville
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	A full recovery kit is mandatory, as are mud terrain type tyres. Diff locks would be an advantage.
MAPS REQUIRED	TBA
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12