



Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A0002184F

JULY 2006



Toolangi Training
2006



Wonnangatta
Cup Weekend 2004



Lee
Craig's Best Friend



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





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President	David Hughes	
Vice President	Steve Boyle	0411 129427
Treasurer	Carissa Galovic	0423 387159
Secretary	George Pledger	0427 547402

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Asst Secretary	Paul Ryan	0438 121148
New Member Contact	Ian Warburton	0409 797675
Web Manager	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784074
Librarian	James Holden	9755 5790
Trip & Events Coordinator	Ian Webber	0428 518552
	Terry Johnke	0414 350621

Association Delegate	John Patridge	0428 331211
Club Historian	Phil Alder	9754 8487
Training Officers	Mark Kochan	9763 2052
	Ashley Martin	0438 600904
	John Partridge	0428 331211
	Michael Rodger	0412 530666

Newsletter Editors	Mark & Julie Capper	0411 530484
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Forward Articles & Photos for the Newsletter to:-

markcapper@optushome.com.au

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

President's Report

Hello again,

Welcome to another issue of Free Wheeling.

I will start off by thanking Steve and Annie for their efforts producing the magazine over the past year. They are handing over to Julie and Mark Capper who I am sure will appreciate your support.

I had a brief look at the President's report at this time last year and the changes and issues are remarkably similar. On the positive side at least it shows we are consistent!

It's time to look for some volunteers to fill the positions on next year's committee. With all positions declared vacant there is plenty of room for everyone.

If you think you might be interested but aren't sure, give me or any of the other committee members a call to discuss it.

Don't forget the AGM on the 12th of August.

We had a great time last year and it is well worth the effort.

Hope to see you all there.

Steve Boyle
Vice President

Minutes of the General Meeting – June 6 2006

The meeting was held at Dandenong Library and opened by Vice-President Steve Boyle who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present: There were 29 members present as per the attendance book.

Apologies: Maxine Ryan, Anthony Van Buiten, Carissa Galovic, Anne Pettigrew, Barry & Yvonne Hempston, Dave & Rosalie Hughes, Jill Boyle, Lisa Petrou, Bryan West, Gary & Paula Johnston, Steve & Tania Utting.

Visitors: Joe Spicuzza, James Lee

Minutes of the April Meeting:

Accepted: Peter Petrou Seconded: Leigh Pettigrew

Minutes of the May meeting:

Accepted: Michael Rodger Seconded: John Partridge

Matters Arising:

AGM: The venue for the AGM dinner has been finalized as:

Mulgrave Country Club
On Saturday 12th August
\$40.00 per head includes Raffle ticket

Could members please get names and numbers in the trip book ASAP. The booking has been made based on 50 attendees. The dinner is open to friends and family of members. We are also accepting nominations for this year's "Good on ya" Award. This is awarded to the club member or members who have made an outstanding contribution to everyone else's amusement at some point during the year. If you have any one you wish to nominate could you please send details to John Partridge.

Correspondence in:

Tread Lightly
Pajero 4WD Club newsletter
Cross Country Jeep Club Newsletter
Overlander
Bush Telegraph
Dandenong Library – Invoice for meeting room
Public Liability Insurance Renewal
Postcard from George etc
Anaconda
Piranha Open Day 15th July
Aussie Disposals Winter Sale

Correspondence Out:

Club Newsletter
Membership Renewals
Committee election nomination forms

Treasurer's Report:

No Treasurer's report this month.

Tea duties:

Ashley Martin & Ian Webber. Thank you.

Raffle:

No raffle this month.

Trips:

The committee has revised the criteria for trips to be recognized as a club trip. Any trip will be recognized as a club trip as long as the Trip Coordinator is notified. At present the Trip coordinator is Ian Webber. Ian's contact details can be found in the General Committee section of the newsletter. The Committee will review trips to ensure that the trip leader's level of experience is commensurate with the type of trip being run.

Although there were no official trips this month Steve Boyle reported on two unofficial trips.

Carl and Steve took an impromptu trip to the Noojee area where Carl managed to break his winch cable and Steve damaged the last remaining straight panel on his car.

The other unofficial trip was undertaken by Dave and Rosalie in their Holden Statesman. The presence of several whoop-de-do's on a "2 wheel drive" road didn't deter them and by the time they thought of turning back they were nearly at the end of the road and decided to carry on regardless. Needless to say when they reached the end of the track they found a sign saying Four Wheel Drive only.

John Partridge also reported on the track survey weekend that was undertaken at Bunyip. Survey work has now been completed and signage prepared for the area. A leaflet detailing the results of the survey is due for release soon. John also mentioned that similar work for the Wombat State Forest has also been completed.

General Business:

Membership Renewals:

Membership Renewal Notices have been sent via email/post. Can these please be returned with payment by July/August at the latest. Completed forms may be handed to Paul Ryan or posted to his home address as per the notification letter.

Committee:

As usual all committee positions will be up for election at the coming AGM. Nomination forms have been sent out via email/post and will also be available at the General Meeting in July. Nominations should be returned 2 weeks prior to the AGM at the latest. Nominations can be mailed to Paul Ryan as per Membership Renewals or handed in at the General Meeting.

It should also be noted that John Partridge has volunteered to stand in on the committee until the end of the current committee year as a general committee member. Thanks again to John for giving time in what is already a pretty crowded schedule.

Newsletter Editor:

As per the June newsletter Steve Utting and Annie Simpson have resigned their positions as Newsletter Editors due to work commitments. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work and dedication in the past year.

Mark and Julie Capper have kindly volunteered to take on the position henceforth and we would like thank them for stepping into the breach so readily. If you have any contributions for the newsletter can you please forward them to Mark and Julie from now on. Contact details will be published in the July newsletter and will also be mailed / emailed to club members in the coming month. Closing date for contributions remains at 20th of each month until further notice.

Association Report (John Partridge reported as follows):

Bunyip/Toolangi: John Partridge gave the association report details of which are published later in the newsletter.

John also gave a detailed talk regarding the recent work at Bunyip and Toolangi.

Bunyip

- Recreation Framework for Public Land has been released. Three options were put forward for consideration.
 - The association were hoping for Option 2 to succeed which would keep the tracks between Black Snake Ck Rd and Burgess Rd open
 - The minister has gone for option 3 and we have lost these tracks as well.
- We now have 35kms of track network comprising of 12 tracks mostly of Blue to Black Diamond status.
- There is another 10-15kms of tracks to be made into MVO (Management Vehicle Only) tracks, which FWD Clubs will have some access to.
 - How this will work will be sorted out over the next month or two.

Toolangi

- A number of tracks in Toolangi have been graded
- Some of these were proposed in budget, but many were not.
 - Not a big issue with tracks being graded as long as the nature of the track hasn't dramatically changed.
- There are a number of tracks that have been closed
 - We have a big problem with the ranger there and I am looking into it.
 - FWD Vic is supposed to be consulted before track works/closures happen, but this hasn't been the case.
 - I have spoken the forest Manager who will find out what is happening there and will report back to me
 - I have asked for a cessation of works until we can find a way forward on this.
- FWD Vic has a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with both Parks Vic and the DSE outlining procedures to be followed before works are carried out.
 - I have pointed this out and have sent copies to these rangers.
 - Pressure is also being applied for all rangers in charge and forest managers to get up to speed on the MOU.

Thank you to John for speaking at length on issues that affect us all as Four Wheel Drivers.

Other Business:

EFT: Pat Casey asked whether it would be possible to pay membership fees and other club related payments via Electronic Funds Transfer. Whilst this may be possible we do not believe the club is currently registered for electronic banking. The issue will be addressed by the committee however it is unlikely that it will be available for the current renewal cycle. It was also pointed out that this may increase the workload for the treasurer.

Oztent for sale: Ashley has a contact at work who has an Oztent RV for sale. "See Trading Post for details".

Meeting Closed: 10.00pm

Next Meeting: 8.00pm Tuesday July 4 , 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
30 th Anniversary Travel Mugs	\$15.00 ea
Flags	\$15.00 ea
VFWDC Stickers (long)	\$ 6.00 ea
Stubbie Holders	\$ 6.00 ea



Appendix - Association Report given by John Partridge

FWD Vic

- Michael and I attended the FWD Vic general meeting two weeks ago.
- There have been issues with high premiums with Affinity Insurance.
 - FWD Vic are working through them
 - There has been good feedback regarding good service from Affinity.
- Chainsaw training is now available through Swinburne TAFE.
 - Cost is \$160.00
 - All equipment supplied
 - Discounts on equipment are available through Stihl direct at student prices
- Certificate 4 training can be done through Swinburne as well at greatly reduced prices.
- Wonnangatta camp hosts.
 - The association / club have been asked for members to become Wonnangatta camp hosts between 24th December and Easter.
 - Being a host involves handing out information, talking to visitors, liaising with groups
 - Some remuneration is involved but the amount is unclear.
- Track classification has been done in Bunyip and Wombat
 - This will help with Parks on risk management.
 - Keeping of track standards
- 2nd clean up in Wombat was a great success.
- DTU is shedding 'dead wood'
 - Instructors/trainees that aren't helping out at club level, attending updates will be asked to hand in all work books.
 - Women only courses are being held with partners allowed.
 - Competency based training
 - Modules that need to be completed over a period of time.
 - On road course
 - Instructor logbook similar to pilots.
 - New work book to compliment the slide deck
- Personal insurance offer
 - \$5.00 per person
 - Good cover
 - No feed back from clubs whether they wanted to go ahead with it
 - Been chasing up for 3 months
 - Has been cancelled.

Next general meeting is in Geelong on the last weekend of July



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Anyone wishing to advertise in the Club Directory,
Contact the Editors at markcapper@optushome.com.au

CLUB CALENDER AT A GLANCE

JULY

Tuesday 4 th	Club Meeting	David Hughes
Sunday 9 th	Day Trip See Trip Data Form	Ashley Martin
Sunday 16 th	Day Trip See Trip Data Form	Carissa & Joe
Tuesday 25 th	Committee Meeting	

AUGUST

Tuesday 1st	Club Meeting Incorporating Annual General Meeting	David Hughes
Saturday 12 th	AGM Dinner	Steve Boyle
Friday 18 th To Sunday 20 th	Annual Snow Trip	TBA
Tuesday 29 th	Committee Meeting	TBA

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 5 th	Club Meeting	TBA
Saturday 9 th To Sunday 10 th	Advanced Training	John Partridge
Friday 22 nd To Sunday 24 th	Winery Weekend	Ashley Martin
Tuesday 26 th	Committee Meeting	TBA

OCTOBER

Tuesday 3 rd	Club Meeting	TBA
Saturday 7 th To Sunday 8 th	Proficiency Training	John Partridge
Saturday 28 th to Sunday 29 th	NATIONAL 4 X 4 SHOW Melbourne Exhibition Centre	
Tuesday 31 st	Committee Meeting	TBA

NOVEMBER

Melbourne Cup Weekend

Saturday 4 th to Tuesday 7 th	Glenelg River	Ashley Martin
Tuesday 14 th	Club Meeting	TBA
Friday 17 th to Sunday 19 th	Annual Fishing Trip See Trip Data Form	Ashley Martin
Saturday 25 th	Christmas Party Gilwell Park	TBA
Tuesday 28th	Committee Meeting	TBA

DECEMBER

Tuesday 5th	Club Meeting	TBA
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Trading Post



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

Camping Equipment:

Gasmate 2 Burner Cooker with carry case, stand, 4kg gas bottle & steel hotplate with handles. \$60.00
Toilet/Shower Tent with pegs & ropes. \$20.00
Fold up laminated table 600mm x 800mm. \$15.00
Lantern, Rechargeable 3 in 1 light, remote control, night light, 2 x 9W U tubes, weather proof, AC/DC adaptor, car plug & stand \$65.00
4 person Wild Country Tent with awning, complete with all pegs, poles & guy ropes. \$100.00

Contact Mark Capper on 0411 530484

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.

The Corner

STEAMED LEMON CAKE

3 eggs
3/4 cup caster sugar
75 g butter melted
2 tablespoons double thick cream
2 lemons, with the rind finely grated...and juiced
1 cup plain flour
1/2 teaspoon baking powder

LEMON CREAM

1/2 cup lemon curd
200ml double thick cream

Grease and line 6 cm deep, 22cm springform pan
Using an electric mixer, beat eggs and sugar on high speed for about 4 minutes, or til thick and pale.
Stir in lemon rind, cream, butter, and 1/2 cup lemon juice.
Sift flour and baking powder together over egg mixture.
Gently fold into batter.
Spread into prepared pan and smooth the surface.
Place pan in a large steamer basket over a wok of simmering water.
Cover with lid or foil.
Top up water in wok to almost reach the base of the steamer basket.
Steam over low heat for 30 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.

MAKING LEMON CREAM

Combine lemon curd and cream in a bowl...whisk till well combined....

then...run a knife around the edge of the cake pan, release pan side...slice cake and serve with a dollop of the lemon cream...

mmm yummy....enjoy..



The AGM Dinner

"Good On Ya Award"



Nominations for this years
"Good On Ya Award"
are now open!



The award will go the club member or members who have made an **outstanding contribution to everyone else's amusement** at some point during the year.

Please post, email or phone John Partridge with your Nominations.

Nominations will also be accepted on the night of the AGM Dinner.

Forthcoming Trips



Destination Powelltown & Surrounding Area
Trip Leader Ashley Martin
Contact No 0438 600904
Date Sunday 9th July
Meeting Place/Time Lilydale McDonalds @ 8.30am
Grade WET: Medium
 DRY: Easy-Medium

Trip Activity Details

This will be a casual day to explore the area and look at some of the sights. This is not intended to be a hard trip but will hopefully involve some interesting tracks. If the weather is not the best we will stick to easier tracks

Vehicle Limits MINIMUM: 3
 MAXIMUM: 10
Approximate Kms 50
Last Available Fuel PETROL: Lilydale
 DIESEL:
Distance Between Supplies N/A
Equipment Required Basic Recovery Equipment
Maps Required N/A
Radio Channel CB/UHF 12

Destination Big River
Trip Leader Carissa & Jo
Contact No 0423 387159
Date Sunday 16th July
Meeting Place/Time Lilydale McDonalds @ 8.00am
Grade WET: Hard
 DRY: Medium

Trip Activity Details

We will be taking a few different tracks around the area with some options to take some interesting ones depending on weather conditions

Vehicle Limits MINIMUM: 3
 MAXIMUM: 10
Approximate Kms 150
Last Available Fuel PETROL: Lilydale
 DIESEL: Lilydale
Distance Between Supplies N/A
Equipment Required Recovery Gear
Maps Required N/A
Radio Channel CB/UHF 12

Destination Jamieson Area
Trip Leader Ashley Martin
Contact No Mob: 0438 600 904
Date Friday 17th November to Sunday 19th November
Meeting Place/Time Lilydale McDonalds @ 6.30pm
Grade WET: Medium
 DRY: Easy/Medium

Trip Activity Details

The annual fishing trip is once again being organised. This year we will have several awards to hand out for those special fishing moments.

Some will opt to take Friday off making it a long weekend and give themselves every opportunity to catch a fish or 2.

This year I thought Jamieson would be a good destination and we will probably be based at Grannys Flat. This will be finalized as the weekend gets closer

Vehicle Limits MINIMUM: 3
 MAXIMUM: 10

Approximate Kms 200
Last Available Fuel PETROL: Mansfield
 DIESEL: Mansfield

Distance Between Supplies N/A
Equipment Required Basic recovery equipment, Fishing equipment if you choose & patience a necessity
Maps Required N/A
Radio Channel CB/UHF12



Trip & Events Coordinator
Ian Webber 0428 518552

Proficiency Training weekend February 2006

The Saturday section of this report appeared in a previous edition

Trainers	John Partridge	GU Nissan Patrol
	Ashley Martin	GU Nissan Patrol
	Michael Rodger	GU Nissan Patrol
Trainees	Hector Bendix	GQ Nissan Patrol
	Gary Smith	GU Nissan Patrol
	Colin Armour	80 Series Landcruiser
	Ian Webber	Landrover Discover
	Craig & Marijke	Suzuki Vitara

Sunday 19th February

After an easy start to the day, re-capping on some of the things we did on the Saturday, and working out what the trainees would like to go over. The main objectives were to have some more practise on the stall recovery technique in both going up and down hill.



We headed up Lukes Ck Tk, diverting up the steep rocky section that we traversed on the previous day. At the top we turned in a northeast direction and then right onto a disused tramway track that is carved through the hillside. This is an interesting little track that has a clearing where there probably was a steam-powered winch used to pull up the trams loaded with timber in the early days. It is a little tight through here, but is a great drive, having to place your vehicle in the right position to avoid a fallen tree. At the end of this we turned to the left and headed back down part of Lukes Ck Tk and down a rocky/ledgy section to the main road. From here we headed off to an un-named track that used to have a good muddy section at the end, but unfortunately this track has been permanently closed with a massive tree dropped over the track.

We then headed around to Eszter Tk and Gutter Ck Rd, which both turned out to be very easy. We did get to use the winch and snatch block though, to remove a fallen tree blocking our progress.

Next up was an un-named track that headed down to the powerlines and the Melba Hwy. There was a great little section where the guys got to practise their stall recovery down hill.

Further along we came to a section where we had to descend a short steep section then turn left into a bog hole. We all hopped out and discussed the best way to proceed and checked the depth of the bog hole which we found to be quite shallow with a firm base. The guys grabbed their cameras and watched while I showed them the way around.

Every one made it look easy, with Craig showing how good wheel placement can make up for his smaller wheels by straddling the ruts out of the bog hole. We then made our way to the Melba Hwy and found a clearing to air up our tyres.

From all accounts, every one had a great time having gained some invaluable knowledge and a greater appreciation of what they, and their vehicle, can do.



Post script

During the review of the training weekend, it has become apparent that it is impossible to cover all aspects of driver training in a single weekend.

What we plan to do in the future, is to try and cover as best as possible the main conditions/tracks that we more often find ourselves on. ie: Steep and rocky tracks and some muddy sections. So far I have done around 6 recce trips to try and sort out a circuit of tracks suitable, but still find ourselves wanting for some more. Hopefully this will be sorted out before the next training weekend.

I will be running a few 'specialized' training trips over the next 2 years covering water crossings (in the high country on Cup Weekend), Snow driving and sand driving and possibly in the dunes at Portland. Watch out for these trips as they are shaping up to be something special.

John Partridge

Grampians Trip - Working bee in Pomonal March 2006

Trip Leader: John & Leanne
Participants Maggie Melcher
Gary Smith
Ashley Martin
Paul Ryan
Derek Hymas

Saturday 11th March

It was an early start to what turned out to be a very hot day.

Maggie, Gary, Leanne and myself, headed out of camp at about 8.00AM. After a bit of confusion as to where the meeting place was to be, we caught up with the rest of the group at the Lake Fyans Caravan Park.

There were around 35-40 vehicles, which travelled in convoy to the township of Pomonal. Some of them were dropped off at some of the farms on the way to help with re-fencing some of the farms that had severe damage from the Australia Day fires.



Our group, which was joined by Ashley, Paul and Derek along the way, helped with the clearing of fallen trees on a property on the edge of the township.

Here there were around 12 vehicles and some 20+ people, half of which had chainsaws, cutting up and stacking the timber that had fallen along the driveway of this property.



It was amazing to see what a huge amount of work that was achieved in such a small amount of time.

**A big thank you to all of those that helped out.
It was very hot and tiring, but you all did a great job.**

John Partridge

Sign yourself up as a Yahoo User at

<http://groups.yahoo.com>

(There is no charge for this service)



Then go to

<http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/vfwdc>

Click on "Join this group".

To keep non members out of the group, your membership will need to be approved.

Any problems email:

abuiten@comptroub.com

There was a request some months ago for the 4WD Clubs to send in a list of projects that the clubs have undertaken to be used in talks with the Government. I thought it might be good for the membership to see what our Club has done over the previous years.

Projects undertaken by the VFWDC Inc.

The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is a family based club that regularly enjoys the outdoors and takes every opportunity to get out and about in the local forests. Coupled with the immense enjoyment we get from experiencing the great outdoors Australia has to offer, is a sense of giving back to community and forest areas we often visit.

Over the years, the VFWDC has engaged in the following activities;

- Numerous car body removals from the bush trips.
- Rebuilding of the iconic Craig's Hut
- Track clearing of Management Vehicle Only tracks with Parks Victoria and the DSE.
- A special pre Christmas day where we invited people from disadvantaged families in Dandenong. Lunch, activities and presents from Santa ensured a great day
- Christmas tree deliveries raising money for Oxfam Community Aid Abroad.
- A working bee at Merringtons camping ground, planting some 130 tree for the DSE
- Rebuilding of the historic Collins Hut along the Wonangatta River.
- Track clearing on every club trip undertaken.
- Cleaning up of camp grounds that we use.
- Supporting people affected by the fires in the High Country.
- Participating in working bees after the Grampians bush fires.



Craigs Hut

Merringtons Camping Ground
Working Bee & Tree Planting



John Partridge

Gypsy Point - An Unofficial Trip Report

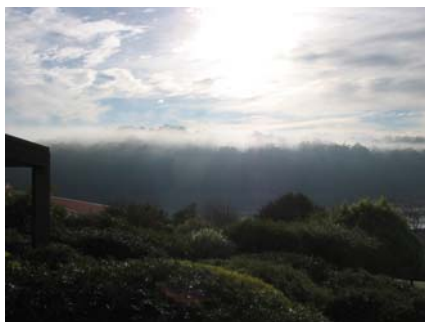
Trip Leader: Mark Capper & Chris Jennings Pathfinder & Hilux
Participants: Julie Capper & Gavin Rickards Passengers

Julie and I left around 12.30 pm Friday for the Gypsy Point Luxury Apartments, the trip was uneventful and we arrived at our accommodation around 6.15pm. The others had arrived a few hours earlier so the apartment was warm from the slow combustion fire. Once our gear was unloaded, Chris and I headed over to the BBQ shelter where the open fire was very inviting, we then cooked our steak, chicken etc while enjoying a good red! The rest of the evening was relaxing, catching up on all the weeks' gossip.

Saturday morning we awoke to a beautiful day, and believe it or not it was warm enough for t-shirt and shorts! I cooked breakfast on the BBQ while the others cooked in our apartment. Once showered, we talked about what to do, go for a drive or hire a boat and go fishing, well the drive won. So we headed off for the Coopracambra National Park, however about 1 hour into our trip my right front tyre decided to let its air out, yes a flat!



I called Chris to tell him of our troubles and he came back to lend some assistance, and of course Julie and Gavin stood around while Chris and I did all the work! Now bear in mind that I wanted to hire a boat and go fishing, but no Gavin wanted to go for this drive, so for the rest of the weekend I gave Gavin my "NOT HAPPY JAN" look! Once the wheel was changed Chris looked at the map only to find that we were on the wrong track! We decided to head back but wanted to stop off at a camp site on the Genoa River, the camp is really only good for one tent, however the river was great, a short walk to some small rapids that would be very nice in the hot weather!



We got back to our cosy little apartment and while the men went fishing Julie stayed and looked after the fire and read her book. The fishing was great if you like catching nothing, so we went back and played scrabble for the rest of the afternoon, while enjoying a wine or 4. Once dinner was over we settled in and watched a movie, and that was the night over.

Sunday we all awoke to a power outage, luckily we had a wood fire but that was it, the managers bought up a thermos of hot water for our coffee, later on Chris made pancakes that we had to cook down at the BBQ shelter. The power did not come on until 1.30pm; the weather was cold, wet and at times freezing! We did not do much, went and fished when it was not raining, and caught to our surprise - nothing!!



So once again the scrabble board came out and so did the wine! Julie made a hot Indian curry for dinner, Chris also made an Indian dish that was not as hot however was just as delicious.



The trip home was uneventful; I thoroughly recommend this place if you want the comforts, very clean, very reasonably priced and very well placed on the Genoa River.

<http://www.gipsy.com.au/default.htm>

Mark Capper

Monday

Got in car, drove home.

Chris Jennings



Chain Saw Training

Four Wheel Drive Victoria

Parks Victoria has requested our assistance in the clearing of fallen trees.

It is necessary for any volunteers to hold a chainsaw certificate before they can participate in any such track clearing exercise. Four Wheel Drive Victoria has made arrangements to hold a **Nationally Recognised Chainsaw Course**.

This training is for club members who wish to be involved in our ongoing track clearing programme. Some track clearing has already taken place in 2006, and further track clearing will be arranged in conjunction with Parks Victoria. You will need to be able to devote time to the task. The Chain saw course will cover cross cutting techniques and safety & is conducted by Swinburne TAFE. Cost of the course is \$160.00 per student.

COURSE DURATION:

Two (2) theory nights each of 2 1/2 hours and two (2) days practical.

WHEN:

Tuesday 25th July, 7.30 till 10.00 Swinburne TAFE
Tuesday 1st August, 7.30 till 10.00 Swinburne TAFE
Saturday & Sunday 5th & 6th at a logging coupe TBA
(Course CH0608A)

Camp out Saturday night
or

Saturday & Sunday 12th & 13th at a logging coupe TBA
(Course CH0608B)
Camp out Saturday night

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Safety Gear consisting of chaps, helmet with ear muffs and visor, leather gloves & Chainsaws will be provided by Swinburne. You will need to provide your own steel capped boots. You may bring your own chainsaw and safety gear if you have it. *For those without this equipment a bulk purchase, at a reduced price from Stihl, can be organised through Swinburne.*

PLEASE NOTE:

Since numbers will be limited, please book on the Four Wheel Drive Victoria's webpage

<http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au/Training%20registration%20form2.pdf>

or contact Hugh McLaren, Training Manager on 9857 4911 or

Email: training@fwdvictoria.org.au

George's Kimberley Adventure

Just to let you know Jan and I have returned from George Pledger's trip.

Towing our off-road caravan and setting out on April 22, we travelled to Broken Hill via Mildura before driving into SA and up the Oodnadatta Track to Marla. The track was no problem for a 4WD or a 2WD car, but there were some rocky sections after William Creek where we took it a bit more steadily because of the van. Being an off-roader, it meant we could take it on to some bush tracks beside the road to make camp at night. We stopped for the night at Beresford Siding and about half-way between Oodnadatta and Marla.

We made contact with the rest of the group (George, Brian, Graeme & Sue) who had left a week later than us, by SMS at Marla and hoped to meet up with them. We didn't know it at the time, but we were one to two hours ahead of them on the road. We camped at Trephina Gorge in the East MacDonnell Range for 3 nights while the rest of the group explored Ulura, the Olgas, Kings Canyon and the West Macdonnells. We'd been there last year so didn't venture back. As we didn't hear from the others, we headed north again hoping to stay three or four nights at the 12 Mile Yards campground in Mataranka to wait for the others to catch up with us. Disappointingly, it was closed - due to flood damage the notice said, although we heard later that saltwater crocodiles had been sighted nearby in the Roper River.

We stayed a night at the Homestead Caravan Park instead but it was too noisy so we went on to Katherine (where salties has been seen in the gorge) and then to Gregory N.P. where we had arranged by SMS to meet the others.

They arrived a couple of days later and we joined them to go to Keep River NP, Kununurra, where left the van in storage, and El Questro. It was while we were there that we heard the road into the Mitchell Plateau was closed, so the group reluctantly decided to adopt Plan B which was to come back out of the Gibb River Road eastwards, go around the Great Northern Highway to Derby and Broome and then eastwards along the Gibb River Road and on to the Mitchell Plateau once the King Edward River had fallen and the flow was slower.

Unfortunately for Jan and I, that route would take too long so we travelled down to the Bungle Bungles with the group where a check with Drysdale confirmed the river was down a bit (700mm) but still flowing fast. When we left, and they headed south and west, we drove back to Kununurra, picked up the van and continued eastwards over the next 12 days to the Queensland coast via the Victoria, Buntine, Buchanan, Stuart and Barkly Highways, stopping for 2 or 3 nights each at Mount Isa, Winton and Longreach.

After the long trip - 3,864 km - we stopped at Yeppoon and Emu Park for a couple of weeks before heading home via Coolool Beach on the Sunshine Coast and then the New England and Newell Highways.

While we missed the main objective - the Mitchell Plateau - we still managed to visit a number of places we hadn't been to before and had good fun, although virtually no 4WD driving.

I'm looking forward to reading the trip report from the others, especially once they made it on to the Gibb River Road and the Plateau.

Derek Hymas



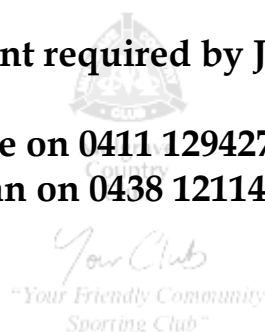
When: Saturday, August 12, 2006
7.00pm til Midnight

Where: Panorama Room
Mulgrave Country Club
Cnr Wellington & Jells Roads
Wheelers Hill

Cost: \$40.00 Per Head
Cost Includes Raffle Ticket

Full payment required by July meeting.

Contact: Steve Boyle on 0411 129427
or Paul Ryan on 0438 121148





PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

POWELLTOWN DAY TRIP

DESTINATION	Powelltown and surrounding area
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	Ashley Martin Mob: 0438 600 904
DATE	Sunday 9 th July
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Lilydale McDonalds 8.30am
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Medium DRY: Easy-Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	This will be a casual day to explore the area and look at some of the sights. This is not intended to be a hard trip but will hopefully involve some interesting tracks. If the weather is not the best we will stick to easier tracks.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	50
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Lilydale DIESEL:
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic recovery equipment
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

BIG RIVER DAY TRIP

DESTINATION	Big River
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	Carissa & Joe Mob: 0423 387159
DATE	16 th July
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Lilydale McDonalds 8.00am
GRADE <i>Please adhere to new trip classifications</i>	WET: Hard DRY: Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	We will be taking a few different tracks around the area with some options to take some interesting ones depending on weather conditions
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	150
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Lilydale DIESEL: Lilydale
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery equipment
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

FISHING TRIP

DESTINATION	Jamieson Area
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	Ashley Martin Mob: 0438 600 904
DATE	17 th – 19 th November
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Lilydale McDonalds 6.30pm
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Medium DRY: Easy/Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>The annual fishing trip is once again being organised. This year we will have several awards to hand out for those special fishing moments. Some will opt to take Friday of making it a long weekend and give themselves every opportunity to catch a fish or 2.</p> <p>This year I thought Jamieson would be a good destination and we will probably be based at Grannys Flat. This will be finalized as the weekend gets closer.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	200
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic recovery equipment. Fishing equipment if you choose Patients a necessity
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB INC

Nomination for Election to the Committee of Management – 2006/2007

I.....Signed:.....

Nominate.....for the position of

.....

I.....Signed:.....

Second the nomination for election to the Committee of Management.

I.....Signed:

Of.....

Hereby accept the nomination for election to the Committee of Management of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc for the position of

.....

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