



Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A0002184F

MARCH 2007



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Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)

www.vafwdc.org.au

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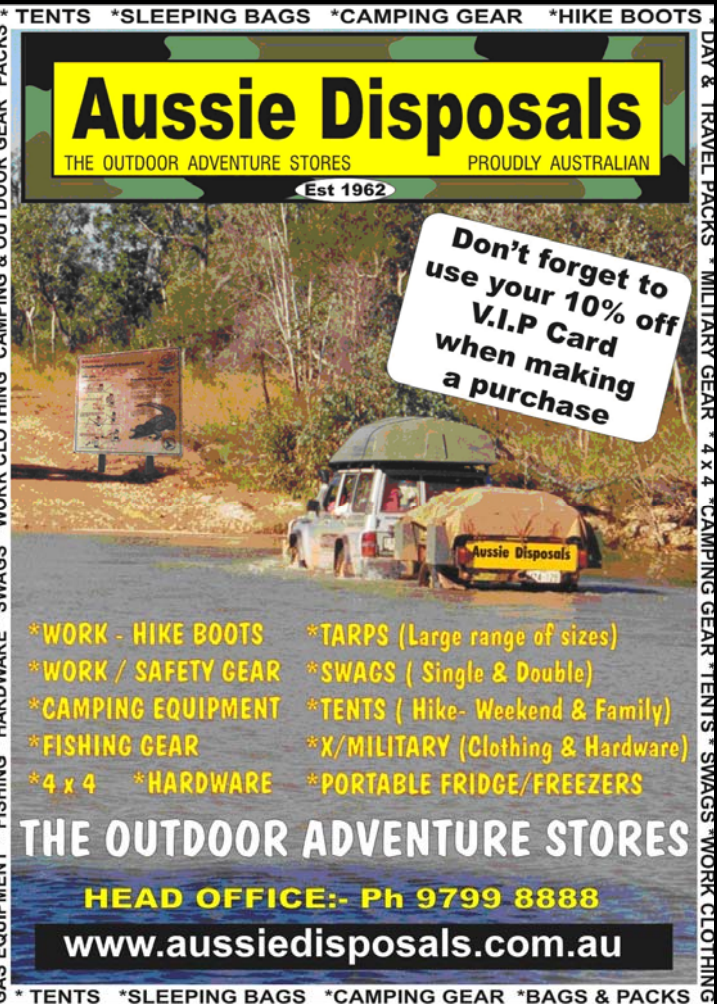
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COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2006-2007

President	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Vice President	Mark Capper	0411 530 484
Treasurer	Craig Major	0432 876 699
Secretary	Paul Ryan	0438 121 148

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Assistant Secretary	Derek Hymas	0438 259 605
Trip Coordinator	John Partridge	0428 331 211
Events Coordinator	James Holden	0448 317 528
Training Coordinator	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
Newsletter Editor	Julie Capper	0411 530 464

Association Delegate	John Partridge	0428 331 211
Training Officers	Mark Kochan	0412 544 668
	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
New Member Contact	Mark Capper	0411 530 484
Web Manager	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784 074
Librarian	James Holden	0433 399 315

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

President's Report

Hello and welcome to another month of *Free Wheeling*.

The year is roaring along, although at a little too fast for my liking. The last few trips have been great and the most recent one at Avoca tested some of the participants, but they came away with more confidence within themselves and their vehicles.

The Family Day is finalised and we have a great day in store for everyone. It would be fantastic to see the majority of members and their families come along as I'm sure the kiddies will have a ball. Accommodation has been booked, but if you require a comfortable cabin I need to know ASAP to ensure one will be available. Don't forget it will be self-catering with BBQ facilities available at the Holiday Park.

There are two other events are coming up that we encourage members to attend. Firstly is the Trip Leader's course which will be a great source of information on how to plan and run a trip. Second is the First Aid course. This is a valuable course that is being run at a discount rate to encourage members to participate. With the remote places visited by us and the time required to gain medical assistance this is a very important program. I hope to see your name on the participants list.

With the recent fires through the high country the Club is investigating whether any assistance is required to help clean or perform maintenance in particular areas. We want to lend assistance to areas that will benefit 4 wheel drivers or the general public. With the disappointment from last year's Grampians cleanup, we felt it would be more advantageous and rewarding to render assistance in such areas. If we can organise something with the appropriate organisation we will post information in the newsletter.

Do you know of a company/guest speaker that you believe would benefit members with a talk or presentation? It may be 4WD related, camping or other areas that would be interesting for everyone. If you have any ideas, please contact Mark Capper and he will follow it up.

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

Ashley Martin
President

Minutes of the General Meeting – 7 February 2007

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

Present:

There were 20 members present as per the attendance book.

Apologies:

Paul & Maxine Ryan
Derek & Jan Hymas
Aline Van Buiten
Roger Baird
Barry Hempston
Ken & Steve Pitcher
Ian Warburton
Steve Boyle
Paula Johnston
Anne Pedigrew
Lesley Peters

Visitors:

Sasha Doelil

Minutes of the December meeting:

Accepted: Michael Rodger
Seconded: John partridge

Matters Arising:

Nil

Correspondence in:

Not Availalbe

Correspondence Out:

Not Available

Treasurer's Report:

The report covers the period from the 30/9/06 to the 31/1/07 due to audit procedure.

Opening balance 31/9/06	\$3417.39 (cheque
account)	
	\$5522.17 (Term deposit
account)	
Total	\$8939.56

RECEPITS:

Raffle	\$99
Memberships	\$440
Merchandise	\$80.10
Christmas party	\$372.00
Total	\$991.10

PAYMENTS:

4X4 Tickets	\$24.50
Christmas party	
(Includes food, equipment etc)	\$434.87
Newsletter	\$103.10
Meeting costs	\$41.24

Total	\$603.71
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Petty cash	\$650 (banked)
Cheque Account	\$3804.78
Term Deposit	\$5522.17

Closing balance as of 31.1.07	\$9975.95
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Accepted: Anthony Van Buiten
Seconded: Verryl Rodger

Tea duties:

Gary & Brian. Thank you ☺

Raffle:

No Raffle this month

Merchandise:

Ashley presented the club uniform, Polo Shirts (2 designs) Beanie, he also continued the gold coin donation for club stubby holders. Money raised to be donated to the Royal Flying Doctors

Trips:

John Partridge reported on the upcoming trips which include:

Cathedral Ranges, Big Desert, Avoca, Lal Lal State Park, Family Day, and a day Trip in the Wombat area – please see club calendar for dates. Due to the recent fires, we are asking that trip leaders scout alternative areas. Also Ashley commented that a second trip at Easter would be a good idea.

John has asked Mark Capper to be the contact for Kate Hill, from DSE in regard to the Animal Rescue Volunteering. Any club members interested in this are to contact Mark Capper.

Trip Leaders course is to be held on Tuesday February 24th, please contact Michael Rodger if you are interested in attending. This is to assist those who would like to lead a trip, and will cover trip standards, the planning process and the club will also nominate a mentor for trips planned for participants.

First Aid course has been arranged by Ashley, venue TBA

Trip Reports:

Robe Trip – Gary told the meeting that he found the trip to a great learning experience in regards to the sand driving. We look forward to reading the trip report.

Otway's trip – Michael reported that quite a number of tracks had been closed, however everyone enjoyed the trip. Once again we look forward to reading the trip report.

Association Report:

Nil

General Business:

Ashley asked for volunteers for the newsletter as Julie Capper will not be able to fulfill this role after the next elections due work commitments. Mark Capper told the meeting that Julie has enjoyed this role and found it to be very rewarding.

John Partridge demonstrated a new Tent, the Speedy Tent, which can be set up in 30 seconds and packed up in minutes with practice. John also demonstrated the Biji Barbi. The Biji Barbi is an Aussie invention. It's a dished BBQ plate that has three fold up legs and a practical, long, fold-up handle.

Ashley spoke about the passing of Mary Wade.

John Partridge was wished a happy Birthday

John Partridge then showed photos and video of Robe and Toolangi

Meeting Closed:

10.00 pm

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 6th March 2007 at 8.00pm at Dandenong Library



Four Wheel Drive Radio Show
"Talking Four Wheel Drive"
Saturdays at 10.00m

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

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,
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Any problems email:

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Contact Mark Kochan on 0412 544 668

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an Oztent RV for sale.

This is the pre RV2 model and is in very good
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The Vendor is looking for an offer of
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CLUB CALENDER AT A GLANCE

MARCH

Tuesday 6th	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Friday 9 th to Monday 12 th	Labour Day Long Weekend – Strathbogie's	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Sunday 18 th	Wombat/Lerderderg	Craig Major	0432 876 699
Tuesday 20 th	Committee Meeting	James Holden	0448 317 528
Saturday 24 th to Sunday 25 th	Family Day/Weekend	James Holden	0448 317 528
Tuesday 27 th	Trip Leader's Course	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666

APRIL

Tuesday 3 rd	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Friday 6 th to Monday 9 th	Easter Weekend - Big Desert Explorer	John Partridge	0428 331 211
Tuesday 17 th	Committee Meeting	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
Saturday 28 th to Sunday 29 th	Cathedral Ranges	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
Saturday 19 th to Sunday 20 th	First Aid Course	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904

JUNE

Tuesday 5th	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Tuesday 19th	Committee Meeting	TBA	TBA

JULY

Tuesday 3 rd	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Tuesday 17 th	Committee Meeting	TBA	TBA

The Cooks Corner



Scones

- 2 cups self-raising flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 egg

Get your fire ready so that you have some hot coals. Sift flour and salt into a bowl and add the sugar. Mix. Rub in the butter until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs.

Add most of the liquid and mix to a soft dough with a knife. Add more liquid if needed. Amount of liquid will vary, depending on the moisture of the flour.

Put on a lightly floured board, mould into a round shape and pat out to about 2cm thickness.

Don't handle the dough too much as it will make the scones heavy.

Cut with a scone cutter (or cut into squares with a knife), brush tops lightly with a little extra milk and place in a lightly greased ovenproof dish.

Place your pre-heated hot camp oven onto a small mound of coals in a slight depression. Put a trivet inside the camp oven and place the dish of scones on top of the trivet.

Put on lid - add coals to lid to help brown the tops of the scones. Bake for approx 10 to 15 mins.

Cooking time will depend on the heat of your coals.

Serve warm with jam and cream.



4x4 Swap Meet and 4x4 Show and Shine



Sunday, 4th March 2007

8.00am-2.00pm

Yarra Glen Showgrounds, Melba Hwy, Yarra Glen

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WHEN

8.00am-2.00pm
(Strictly no buyer access prior to 8.00am. Sellers 6.00am entry).

SELLING YOUR 4WD?

It's cheaper than the newspapers.

SAME DAY AS

YARRA GLEN MARKET

15th Annual Swap Meet organised by the Dandy Ranges 4WD Club.



A friend is someone
who thinks you're
a good egg
even though you're
slightly cracked!

Forthcoming Trips

Destination	Strathbogie's Labour Day Long Weekend
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Trip Leader	Ashley Martin
Contact No	0438 600 904
Date	Friday 9 th March to Monday 12 th March
Meeting Place	Yarra Glen – McKenzie Reserve
Time	6.30pm Friday
Grade	WET: Medium DRY: Easy - Medium

Trip Activity Details

I have not visited this area so it will be new to all of us.

The meeting place chosen is due to trailers being brought for the weekend and the usual haunt does not have suitable parking. The reserve is on the left hand side as you travel north out of town, just past the town center pedestrian lights.

It is an easy drive to the camping area and for those unable to make the departure time there will be maps available at the March meeting highlighting the camping spot.

The plan for the weekend is to explore the tracks around the area on Saturday. It is not a large area and should be a relatively easy days driving, hopefully there will be the occasional challenging track though. Sunday we will call sampling day, wine sampling of course. Apparently there are some good wineries around the region so why not take the opportunity and visit them. I have no preference which wineries so if anyone has visited the area let me know which the better ones are. Or you can stay around camp and enjoy the peace and quiet.

It should make for a great weekend so come along and enjoy.

Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
Approximate Km's	70
Late Fuel Available	PETROL: Port Melbourne DIESEL: Port Melbourne
Equipment Required	Basic recovery equipment
Maps Required	TBA
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12



Destination	Day Trip – Wombat/Lerderderg
-------------	------------------------------

Trip Leader	Craig Major
Contact No	0432 876 699
Date	Sunday 18 th March
Meeting Place	Westgate Shell Service Centre
Time	8.30am
Grade	WET: Medium DRY: Easy - Medium

Trip Activity Details

As this is a region the club does not frequently visit and is a good opportunity to explore the area.

It will be a relaxing days driving and sightseeing. The tracks around the area are not difficult but will hopefully come across a few interesting ones to make it a little challenging. All in all it makes for a great day.

Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: TBA MAXIMUM: TBA
Approximate Km's	TBA
Late Fuel Available	TBA
Equipment Required	TBA
Maps Required	TBA
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12



Destination	Family Weekend - TBA
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Trip Leader	James Holden
Contact No	0448 317 528
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 Verylle. 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
Approximate Km's	200kms
Late Fuel Available	N/A
Equipment Required	TBA
Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12

Destination	Easter Weekend Big Desert Explorer
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Trip Leader	John Partridge	
Contact No	0428 331 211	
Date	Friday 6 th April to Monday 9 th April	
Meeting Place	TBA	
Time	TBA	
Grade	WET:	TBA
	DRY:	TBA
Trip Activity Details		
TBA		
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM:	TBA
	MAXIMUM:	TBA
Approximate Km's	TBA	
Late Fuel Available	TBA	
Equipment Required	TBA	
Maps Required	TBA	
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12	



Destination	Cathedral Ranges
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Trip Leader	Michael Rodger	
Contact No	0412 530 666	
Date	Saturday 28 th April to Sunday 29 th April	
Meeting Place	TBA	
Time	TBA	
Grade	WET:	TBA
	DRY:	TBA
Trip Activity Details		
TBA		
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM:	TBA
	MAXIMUM:	TBA
Approximate Km's	TBA	
Late Fuel Available	TBA	
Equipment Required	TBA	
Maps Required	TBA	
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12	



Trip Clarification

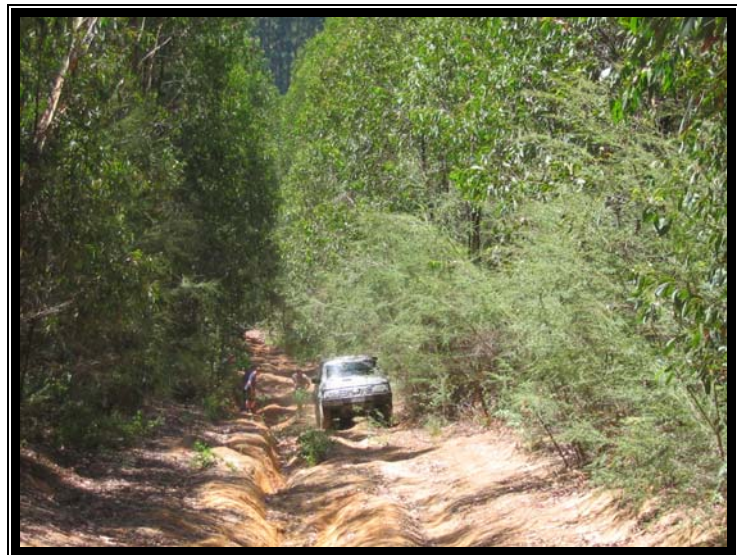
Clarification was sought regarding the level of Approval required before a trip could be considered a "Club" trip.

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





Robe SA 26th to 28th January

John Partridge	Nissan Patrol
Leanne Young	Toyota Hilux
Maggie Melcher	Toyota Prado

Wednesday 27 December

After a sensible 8.30AM start to the day, it wasn't long until I was past the city and on my way to South Australia. With 120 MP3 songs on the CD the time was flying. I caught up with Maggie in Bendigo and finally with Leanne in Colleraine, where we stopped for lunch. It was an easy drive into Mt. Gambier where we did some last minute shopping. Before long we had made it into Southend and choosing our camp for the next week and a half. We set up at the end of the foreshore camping ground, we were just a few meters from the beach.



John

Thursday 28 December

We had an unexpected cold night and woke up to a clear day. Too much wind for my liking, but no flies nor mossies. After breakfast we decided to inspect the surrounding area and make firm plans for the coming days. Beachport was our first port of call. A small, slow coastal town known for its, Leanne and John would say donuts hoops... known for the crayfish industry. The pier, some 700 m long was like a suburb in itself. Fishing boats coming and going. We watched one boat filling up its 3,000 L diesel tank and the poor guys paid \$1.50 pl. Then there were all the guys fishing from the pier and many of us tourists. From there we drove to Robe. On the way we could see the impressive sand dunes. Robe was a little tourist Mecca, lots of shops, lots of people, all surrounded by water and waterways. The township has some lovely old bluestone buildings from the 19th century, and plenty of trendy shops. Had our lunch in a small park, stocked up on some necessities like fuel and beer.

On our way back we found site worth inspecting. A long drain was carved out to irrigate the area. In the early 19 hundreds the drain was dug out by two men only with machinery similar to old mining equipment. It was quite impressive to see the long deep channel cut through deep, narrow limestone rocks leading towards the sea. On the plains there was fertile land due to the created channels. Forgot the name of the site.

We had a quick stop on the beach and got terribly excited, vast, white, empty sandy beaches, ready for our tyres to dig in.

Back at camp, the wind had done alterations to John's cooking quarters. No drama, he just changed it around. We had our dinner and sat together for a meal, drink and a yarn.

Friday 29 December



Well it was slightly warmer than the night before and a lot less windy, that's for sure. Beautiful sunny days, who could ask for more!

This really is a great place to take the kids or even the treasured family member, the honourable pooch... (CP is pet friendly and everyone has a dog..... except me). I actually got up and went for a bike ride along the beach, which was great fun, I must say that was a first... Is this a 4WD trip..... Oh yeh!

Anyway, after Chief LATETORISE (John) navigates out of his Taj Mahal (tent) after Maggie and I were on our third coffee, we began getting ready for our exploration through Canunda NP. But first we check out our lovely sleepy little village of Southend. Well that took as long as it would have taken you to read to this point, but it's a lovely little place, go and have a gander yourself.

Well the local 4WD club have sign posted and marked out the 4WD track along the park that meanders through the dunes as well as along the beaches if you wish.

Chief LATETORISE can give you a copy of the map, he has mine so I cant go into depth, but I highly recommend the trip as there is some amazing scenery and some great sand driving, tubby got to go sand surfing..... lol



There are some camp sites just out of Southend but with 2WD access they were a bit dirty.

So we let the tyres down and off we go stopping at a variety of scenic spots and lookouts like McIntyre Beach (Golly the McIntyre's got around didn't they!) Geltwood Beach, Little Rock, Whale Rock Channel Rock and Number Two Rocks. I was positive at this stage that I had seen more than two rocks but that's what it said on the map.... Early explorers probably couldn't count that well, me thinks.

Anyway if you happen to pass through this way keep in mind the salt lake, apparently the salt content is that high you float like a bird, I believe that it is Bonnie Lake but just ask, its apparently a well known fact.....



There is some great dune driving in a couple of spots... .but watch out for that dip.....lol Further in there were also some 4WD camp sites, I think at about Number 2 Rocks, which had toilets (long drops). The camp sites were nestled behind the dunes, so well protected from the elements (WIND) nice stopover if you are so inclined. But we noted that a lot of people seemed to just camp out on the beaches, cool ha.....



Well as uneventful as the trip was, like I wouldn't have got stuck if Chief LATETORISE gave me the correct directions and yes I will use my brakes if I'm going towards a 5m embankment.... Men golly.....

Anyway, did I mention that John pulled a couple of people out, I think it was some type of male bonding experience to compensate for the female company he was keeping.... So we finished off at the lighthouse and onto the pub at Carpenters rocks, apparently the fish and chips are good.

I would like to extend my appreciation to Chief LATETORISE for a fantastic day and for being a total gentleman taking Maggie and I on this wonderful adventure. :-}

Leanne

Saturday 30 December

The wind was slowing down and it was getting warmer, decided to go slow after our great day in the Canunda NP. Slept in, walked along the beach, John and Leanne cycled along the beach, then another cuppa, a \$3-shower, and more sitting around. The sun was getting stronger and would not do us any good, therefore John decided to go to Coonawarra, good idea. We all hopped into John's car and wineries we're coming, chauffeured all they way. Drove through dry areas and ended up at the Riddoch Highway which is going straight through the Coonawarra. The area is known for its red wines. The red soil and limestone structure is quite unique. It is a small region only, but all major brands have secured their precious piece of land. Went to Wynn's, had a quick bite to eat and then went onto Zema's, Buller, Marjella, Leconfield and Patrick.

We gently s(l)ipped into a very good mood and poor John could only look on. Some buying was done in the process. One the way from Coonawarra to Beachport (via Naracoorte), we checked out 2 possible campgrounds for future reference which were disappointing. One was in a wetland area – which was sadly completely dried up and looked dismal. No-one camped there and all the information about the project looked more like a joke. We went to Beachport for one reason – for I wanted fish n’ chips – small but good compensation for not buying cray fish. We all loved it, but poor John got sick in the middle of the night. By the time we got home and had our night cap we were ready for bed.

I want to say thank you to Leanne and John for being such good company. Because there were only the three of us, we formed a bond which I appreciated very much – though I am sure we did miss the rest of the gang at times!

A happy, healthy New Year to all.

Maggie

Sunday 31 December

Well Maggie was taking off and John and I thought it would be a wonderful opportunity to explore Mt Gambier and surrounds. Our first point of call was the Tantanoola Caves.



I love caves and thought that this really was quite a beautiful one and worth the visit, only about \$9 and easy access. From here we headed into Mt Gambier and stopped at the tourist info centre, which had some great brochures and as always, told us where to go. So off we went into town and had a look at the Sinkhole, which also is used to collect and divert stormwater, quite a unique treatment. Then off to another sinkhole, Umpherston Sinkhole, to explore the Garden Caves. The turn of the 20th century victorian style garden is still quite visible, but the gardens really have seen better days, however, apparently recently the gardens have been taken over by the local government, so I envision grand improvements over the coming years.



Well the day just keeps on getting better, the blue lake - it really is blue, and the observatory affords a grand view of the lakes and Mt Gambier. You can really imagine the Sunday picnic's that would have occurred in the early 1900's, it has this wonderful old time feel, great place for a picnic and some exploring. Also must mention CP looked really nice.....

Well after this we stoped at an old pub, lots of them, so you can take your pick, it is a really nice town. Well that about did it so we headed back to camp to see in the New Year. Garry was all ready set up and we camped on the beach and saw the New Year in SA.....



Lovely. Poof ohhhhh. Ping.... Ahhhh

Leanne

Monday 1 January 2007

After recovering from the previous nights activities, we decided to head out and lock our hubs in for our first 4WD adventure for 2007. We decided to head into Beachport and do the Beachport to Nora Creina run. There are many similarities on this trip to the Canunda trip we did a few days previously. There are some extremely scenic sights of the Limestone coast and some great challenging dunes. Whilst it is only a 27Km trip it can take a few hours to complete. At the top of one of the dunes I was chatting to a guy that turned out to be the club member from the Wattle Rangers 4WD Club that had prepared the excellent trip notes that are available free from the Beachport visitor centre. Apparently he has updated these notes and soon they will be available from the S.A. association and FWDVic.

After completing this run we then joined onto Little Dip Conservation Park which winds its way through the dunes and the beach runs right into Robe where we stopped for an ice cream.

Tuesday 2 January

After spending a full day in the sand yesterday we thought we'd follow it up with another drive back through Canunda National Park as Gary missed out the other day. This time we didn't come across as many bogged trucks but I did manage to get Gary stuck. But some determination and some shovel work guaranteed that he didn't need assistance. Once again we had a great time and once again we topped it off with a cold ale in the Carpenters Rocks pub. We decided to get some fush'n' chops at the Southend takeaway. Not exactly 'fast food' , it took 50 mins!!

Wednesday 3 January

Today we headed inland to the World Heritage listed Naracoorte Caves. The park preserves 600 ha of remnant vegetation, with 26 caves contained within the 305 ha World Heritage Area. Whilst these aren't the most prettiest of caves I have visited, they are probably the most interesting. These caves, as with most of the caves along the Limestone Coast, were formed as the sea began to retreat to its present position millions of years ago. High ground water stands dissolved the limestone to form the caves at Naracoorte. The Naracoorte Caves have acted as pitfall traps and predator dens for over 500,000 years, preserving a rich fossil record of Naracoorte's ancient fauna. This fossil record covers several ice ages and the arrival of humans to the continent. Paleontologists have excavated and dated many of these fossils. They have reconstructed the skeletons of a number of Australia's extinct mega fauna, and have deduced their form and habits.

Thursday 4 January

Time has come to pack up camp and head out. First stop was to view the wind farms that are still in the progress of being built on the outskirts of Millicent. Once completed, there will be 120 windmills with the tallest standing some 120 meters high and they will deliver some 367 gigawatts of power to around 50,000 homes. You would have to burn some 450,000 tonnes of brown coal per year to produce the equivalent amount of electricity. From here we headed down to Port Mac Donnell for lunch, stopping on the way for a dip in the amazingly clear waters of Ewen Ponds. We all said our goodbyes and headed our own ways. Thank you to Maggie, Leanne and Gary for an excellent trip. We might just have to do it all again next Christmas.

John

**LAL LAL Day Trip
18th February**

Trip Leader/s	Michael Rodger	Nissan Patrol
	Verryl & Kids	
	Paul & Duncan	Toyota 4Runner
	Tim	LandCruiser

The convoy of three vehicles left the Todd Road Service Station at 9:30 on the Sunday morning and headed for Ballan. There was a large convoy of heavy trucks heading towards Altona on the Western Ring Road, not sure what they were up to. Our first stop was just out of Ballan at the Ballan Mineral Springs, there was nothing drinkable but the creek bed by the springs was very green. This contrasted to the extreme dryness of the countryside. Leaving Ballan we headed in the general direction of Meredith and after a short detour found ourselves off the bitumen and locked our hubs, just in case. Second stop was the Lal Lal reservoir Look Out Point in the Bangal State Forest. The reservoir looked mostly empty. Continuing on, we stopped at the Bangal reservoir for lunch, where we saw the only flowing water for the day and also whitecaps on the reservoir. A short walk from the car park lead us to the Bangal Blast Furnace, which was used for a short period to smelt iron ore mined locally. After lunch we continued on to the Lal Lal Falls, which would look spectacular if there was any water flowing over them, but unfortunately it was as dry as the rest of the countryside.

Overall the driving was easy and it was not necessary to put the vehicles into 4WD, except for one track straight up a hillside that Michael went up but it petered out.

Paul Gillis



FAMILY DAY

Saturday 24 March 2006



www.yarrollynholidaypark.com.au

Taggerty, Victoria

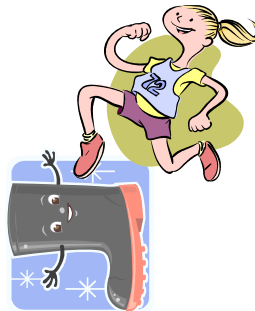
From 10.30am to 4.00pm
(or overnight if you wish)

11.00 - 12.30:	Activities
12.30 - 2.00:	Lunch
2.00 - 4.00:	More Activities

This is a day we encourage all members and their families to come along and enjoy some good family fun.

Activities will include:

- ☺ Face Painting
- ☺ Plank Race
- ☺ Tug o' War
- ☺ Egg & Spoon Race
- ☺ 3 Legged Race
- ☺ Sack Race
- ☺ Sprints (kids and adults)
- ☺ Gumboot Throwing



You will need to provide lunch and all utensils, tables and chairs.
BBQ and fridge available on site.
Drinks and ice creams for the kids will be provided by the Club.

Accommodation is available for those who wish to stay overnight.

Non powered site - \$22-24
Powered site - \$24-26
Cabins - \$65-100

For further details, contact Ashley Martin 0438 600 904.



CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

Labour Day Long Weekend

DESTINATION	Srathbogie's
LEADER	Ashley Martin
CONTACT NO.	0438 600 904
DATE	Friday 9 th March Monday 12 th March
MEETING PLACE	Yarra Glen - McKenzie Reserve
DEPARTURE TIME	6.30pm (Friday)
GRADE	WET: Medium
Please adhere to new trip classifications	DRY: Easy - Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>I have not visited this area so it will be new to all of us. The meeting place chosen is due to trailers being brought for the weekend and the usual haunt does not have suitable parking. The reserve is on the left hand side as you travel north out of town, just past the town centre pedestrian lights.</p> <p>It is an easy drive to the camping area and for those unable to make the departure time there will be maps available at the March meeting highlighting the camping spot.</p> <p>The plan for the weekend is to explore the tracks around the area on Saturday. It is not a large area and should be a relatively easy days driving, hopefully there will be the occasional challenging track though. Sunday we will call sampling day, wine sampling of course. Apparently there are some good wineries around the region so why not take the opportunity and visit them. I have no preference which wineries so if anyone has visited the area let me know which the better ones are. Or you can stay around camp and enjoy the peace and quiet.</p> <p>It should make for a great weekend so come along and enjoy.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	150
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Bonnie Doon DIESEL: Bonnie Doon
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic recovery equipment
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

Wombat / Lerderderg

DESTINATION	Wombat/Lerderderg
LEADER CONTACT NO.	Craig Major 0432 876 699
DATE	Sunday 18 th March 2007
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Westgate Shell Service Centre, 8.30 am
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Medium DRY: Easy - Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>As this is a region the club does not frequently visit and is a good opportunity to explore the area.</p> <p>It will be a relaxing days driving and sightseeing. The tracks around the area are not difficult but will hopefully come across a few interesting ones to make it a little challenging. All in all it makes for a great day.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	70
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Port Melbourne DIESEL: Port Melbourne
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic recovery equipment
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12