



MARCH 2008

Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A0002184F



"A" GRADE TRIP – LATROBE STATE FOREST



The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc is an affiliated club of
the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)
www.fwdvictoria.org.au

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President	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	John Partridge	0428 331 211	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Craig Major	0432 876 699	treasurer@vfwdc.com
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Assistant Secretary	Lesley Peters		asstsec@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	John Partridge	0428 331 211	trips@vfwdc.com
Training Co-ordinator	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666	training@vfwdc.com
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	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666	training@vfwdc.com
New Member Contact	Paul Ryan	0438 121 148	secretary@vfwdc.com.au
Web Manager	Paul Ryan		

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 Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3173
Email:	secretary@vfwdc.com.au
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 year of *Free Wheeling*.

With the Victorian 4WD Show (Wandin) over for another year, we have been reviewing the success of the Club Stand. The stand itself was very well laid out and the montage of photos made for good viewing and attracted many people. We distributed approx 70 Club brochures and we would hope to see some of recipients at a future meeting. When these people visit, please ensure you make them feel welcome. We may make the Wandin Show a bi-annual event, with some changes to the stand to promote trips/events we conduct, especially driver training which impressed a lot of the visitors. Many thanks to all who assisted in preparations and to those who manned the stand throughout the day.

There is some very good news regarding the Tamboritha Rd (the road out of Licola). While at the Show, a local Gippsland representative visited our stand and advised that the road was now open to traffic. With the floods after the fires, there were sections of the road completely washed away. This was not expected to be repaired for some time, but due to lobbying by certain groups the Government and local Council have made it a priority. While there is still a lot of work to be completed the road is open, but they expressed extreme caution due to only a single lane open in certain sections. This will be a huge boost to Licola which has been hit hard over the past year. There are also plans in place to make the area behind the Licola CFA shed (grassed area along the river) into a picnic area including a shelter and BBQ's. A new toilet block will be erected replacing the old one, so all this work will only assist the local community. It is expected the works will be finished by end of year/early next year.

Prior to the April meeting, I hope to confirm a guest speaker from Affinity Insurance. Along with others companies, I've had quotes from Affinity in the past but their premiums have not always been competitive. At recent Wandin Show, both Maggie and I spoke to a representative who took our details. On the Monday they rang with a revised quote which was very competitive and competitive enough for us to change our provider. They have new benefits in their policy and I am sure a visit from their representative will be very informative and well worth it.

As you will hear at the March meeting, Craig's Hut is still causing some controversy even after the rebuild. It amazes me that a hut built for a movie creates so much interest, while the real High Country huts which were destroyed are virtually ignored. John will have more details at the meeting.

Due to work travel commitments I am unable to attend the March meeting, but John will be there to chair the meeting.

I hope to see you on one of our upcoming trips.

Ashley Martin
President

Minutes of the General Meeting – 5 February 2008

The meeting was held at the Dandenong Library and opened at 8.15pm by President Ashley Martin who welcomed everyone to another year of four wheeling, camping and enjoying the great outdoors.

Present:

There were 27 members present as per the attendance book.

Apologies:

Paul and Maxine Ryan, Paula Johnston, Shane Michelin, Ian Warburton, Aline Van Buiten, Ron Camm.

Visitors: Andy Davis, Dan and Michelle Robinson.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Accepted: Maggie Melcher

Seconded: Carl Surtees

Matters Arising: Nil

Correspondence In:

- Wandin 4WD Show Exhibitors Pack
- Rays Direct Summer Catalogue
- Rays Outdoors Group Rewards Program
- Autobalance: Offer to speak at Club meeting
- Bush Telegraph Issue 037
- Cross Country Jeep Club Dec 07
- Coastline Summer 07/08
- Overland Cruising Dec 07

Correspondence Out:

- Newsletter

Treasurer's Report:

Receipts: \$ 307.00

Payments: \$ 165.96

Term Deposit: \$6076.35

Petty Cash: \$ 107.90

Savings: \$3210.79

Total \$9395.04

Accepted: Michael Rodger

Seconded: Anthony Van Buiten

Trip Coordinator's Report:

John Partridge reported on the upcoming trips which include:

- FEB 10: Warburton Day Trip Craig
- FEB 17: 4WD Show Wandin

- FEB 23-24: A Grade Trip – Noojee John
- MAR 7-10: O'Tooles John
- MAR 11: Mechanics Info Night John
- MAR 21-24: Easter on the Murray Ashley
- APR 2/5-6: Proficiency Training Michael
- APR 25-27: Rushworth SF Paul
- MAY TBC: Otways/Dandos Ashley

John reiterated the importance of submitting names for trips.

Ashley provided information on the VFWDC stand at the Wandin 4WD Show – our site will be No 51 – and encouraged members to drop by to support the Club. Ashley, John, Paul, Maggie and Anthony would be manning the stand.

Association Report:

Nil report this month.

Trip Reports:

Christmas Touring Trip: Both Ashley and John reported on a great trip. While the Rodger family were happy to chill out in and around Omeo, Ashley, John, Gary, Mark and Steve headed off for a few days touring the high country, taking in Davies Plain, Tom Groggin, Mt Pinnibar, Wheelers Hut and more. It was well worth the trip to check out the area, and to take in the scenery and the wildflowers in abundance at this time of the year.

General Business:

High Country Huts:

Craigs Hut was officially reopened a few weeks ago. The Hut itself is complete and there's just some landscaping to finalise.

Three heritage huts – Tomahawk, Upper Jamieson and Razorback Hut – have also been reopened following completion of major works.

Map Website:

Bruce informed the meeting that he had discovered a website where you can download country maps to print on A2 paper. Go to www.ga.gov.au/mapconnect and check it out.

Guest Speakers:

If anyone knows of a company or person who would be willing to give a presentation, advise the Committee.

Tea Duties: Verylle and Jill. Thankyou.

Raffle: Tickets sold by Tim Axtell.

1st Prize: Windy Peak Red won by Phil.

2nd Prize: Winch Dampener won by Bruce.

3rd Prize: Grinders Coffee won by Mark.

Meeting Closed at 9.40pm.

Next Meeting:

8.00pm, Tuesday 4 March 2008 at Dandenong Library.

VFWDC MERCHANDISE

For Sale

Club Polo Shirts	\$25.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece ½ Zip Jumper	\$36.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jumper	\$48.00 ea
Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$42.00 ea
Club Caps	\$15.00 ea
VFWDC Stickers (long)	\$ 6.00 ea
Stubbie Holders	\$ 6.00 ea

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.

Yahoo Groups

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>

and click on "Join this group".

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

Any problems, email

anthony@ctsmonash.com.au

Vehicle Mechanical Night

This event is designed to provide a better understanding of the different types of four wheel drive vehicles available, the differences between them, common associated faults, and some basic bush mechanic fixes to the problems that often occur with these vehicles. We will also look at some of the modifications and how they affect the vehicle and benefits our recreational pastime.

There will be some industry experts on hand to offer information and expertise.

Dinner and drinks will be supplied.

Numbers need to be confirmed by the March meeting (Tuesday 4 March)

Starting Time

6.30pm

Date

Tuesday, 11 March

Location

Glenmount Automotive
F1, 115 Rickets Rd
Mt Waverley

For further details please contact
John Partridge on 0428 331 211

GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING!

**DO NOT
SWALLOW
CHEWING
GUM !!!!**



CLUB KITCHEN

Here's a delish dish
great for both home and camping!

Warm chorizo and potato salad



INGREDIENTS

1kg baby chat potatoes, halved
2 chorizo sausages, 1cm thick slices
400g can red kidney beans, rinsed and drained
1 red onion, thinly sliced
1 cup parsley sprigs

Dressing

1 tablespoon wholegrain mustard
1 tablespoon chopped fresh basil
2 tablespoons lemon juice
¼ cup olive oil
salt and pepper

METHOD

Place potatoes in a large saucepan. Cover with cold water and bring to the boil. Cook for 10 minutes or until just tender. Drain immediately and refresh with cold water; drain well and set aside to cool.

Cook chorizo slices over medium heat for 2-3 minutes or until crispy and golden. Remove and drain on absorbent paper; cut in half.

Whisk dressing ingredients together and season with salt and pepper.

Combine potato, cooked chorizo, kidney beans, onion and parsley, drizzle over dressing. Toss gently until just combined. Serve immediately.

Serving size: Serves 4

Cuisine type: Portuguese, Spanish

Cooking time: Less than 30 minutes

Special options: Egg free, Lactose free, Low Carb, Low cholesterol, Low fat, Low GI, Nut free

Course: Entree, Lunch, Main



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Anyone wishing to advertise in the Club Directory,
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CLUB CALENDER AT A GLANCE

MARCH 2008

Tuesday 4 th	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Friday 7 th to Monday 10 th	Labour Day Weekend O'Tooles	John Partridge	0438 331 211
Tuesday 11 th	Mechanics Night	John Partridge	0438 331 211
Tuesday 18 th	Committee Meeting	John Partridge	0438 331 211
Friday 21 st to Monday 24 th	Easter Murray River- Hattah-Kulkyne	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904

APRIL 2008

Tuesday 1 st	General Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Wednesday 2 nd	Proficiency Training Theory	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
Saturday 5 th to Sunday 6 th	Proficiency Training Practical	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
Saturday 12 th	Big River	Tim Axtell	0414 848 753
Sunday 20 th	Tallarook Day Trip	John Partridge	0438 331 211
Tuesday 22 nd	Committee Meeting	Paul Ryan	0438 121 148
Saturday 25 th to Sunday 27 th	Anzac Long Weekend Horseyard Flat	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904

MAY 2008

Tuesday 6 th	General Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Friday 9 th to Sunday 11 th	Otways-Dandos	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Sunday 18 th	Toolangi Challenge	Shane Michelin	0417 784 599
Tuesday	Committee Meeting	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666

Forthcoming Trips

Destination	LABOUR DAY WEEKEND ABERFELDY FOREST AREA
Trip Leader	JOHN PARTRIDGE
Contact No	0428 331 211
Date	FRIDAY 7 MARCH to MONDAY 10 MARCH
Meeting Place:	8.00 pm, Erica Pub for dinner
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 8
Grade	WET: Medium DRY: Medium
Equipment Required	Standard recovery equipment. You will need to be self-sufficient with all camping needs. Bring own water.
Last Available Fuel	Petrol: Moe Diesel: Moe
Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel	12

Trip Activity Details:

This will be our first visit to the Aberfeldy Forest region since the devastating floods in 2007.

We will be spending our time re-acquainting ourselves with this area with a mixture of driving and exploring some of the old mining areas. We will be walking into some long forgotten mines, finding old boilers and stampers and maybe visit the Morning Star Water Wheel. The camping place will be confirmed closer to the date.

Destination	HATTAH KIULKYNE NP- MURRAY RIVER
Trip Leader	ASHLEY MARTIN
Contact No	0438 600 904
Date	EASTER – 21-24 MARCH
Meeting Place:	TBA depending on numbers
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 12
Grade	WET: Easy DRY: Easy
Equipment Required	Standard recovery equipment.
Last Available Fuel	Petrol: Ouyen Diesel: Ouyen
Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel	12

Trip Activity Details:

This has become an annual trip which Michael normally leads but is unable to this year. The trip will be no different to previous years in that it will be very relaxing. There may be a trip around Hattah taking in some of the area, but you are free to explore at your will. Close by there are several wineries and also the option of taking a trip into Mildura or an overnight trip to Mungo NP.

Sunday night will be roast night, so make sure you bring along your favourite cut, but be assured there will be plenty of different meats to sample.

As the trip in from the main road is extremely hard to navigate, I will place arrows indicating the direction (don't be worried!). I will distribute to participants the directions on how to get to there closer to the date.

This will be a very relaxing weekend sitting, swimming and just taking in the serenity.

Destination	PROFICIENCY TRAINING W/END ABERFELDY FOREST AREA
Trip Leader	MICHAEL RODGER
Contact No	0412 530 666
Date	THEORY: WEDNESDAY 2 APRIL PRAC: SAT 5 APRIL/SUN 6 APRIL
Meeting Place:	TBC
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 8
Grade	WET: Medium DRY: Medium
Last Available Fuel	Petrol: Moe Diesel: Moe
Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel	12

Trip Activity Details:

This is a must do trip for any club member who hasn't attended a training weekend in the past.

We will be covering many of the basic aspects of 4WDing covering a varied terrain including steep rocky tracks and river crossings.

There will be something for everyone in this trip – for new and old.

The latest and most up to date recovery techniques will be discussed and tested.

Discussions on vehicle setup, recovery gear, the Tread Lightly! principles and more.

Destination	BIG RIVER
Trip Leader	TIM AXTELL
Contact No	0414 848 753 / 5629 4171
Date	11-12 APRIL
Meeting Place:	HEALESVILLE PUB
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
Grade	WET: Medium DRY: Medium
Equipment Required	Basic recovery equipment. All terrains.
Last Available Fuel	Petrol: Healesville Diesel: Healesville
Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel	12

Trip Activity Details:

Plan to meet up for a bar meal Friday evening. Then camp Friday night for an earliest (9am) start Saturday. Will be driving medium tracks with some rocky parts and hopefully some gooey stuff. A good set of all terrain tyres required.

Destination	ANZAC LONG WEEKEND HORSE YARD FLAT
Trip Leader	ASHLEY MARTIN
Contact No	0438 600 904
Date	25-27 APRIL
Meeting Place:	BP Service Centre north of Packenham. Time TBA
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10

Grade WET: Easy
 DRY: Easy
Equipment Required Basic recovery.
Last Available Fuel Petrol: Traralgon
 Diesel: Traralgon
Maps Required N/A
Radio Channel 12

Trip Activity Details:

With the opening of the Tamboritha Road we will visit an area that has been shut off for some time. The main plan for the weekend is to walk into Maroka Gorge on the Sunday. This is a medium walk and will take most of the day at an easy pace. We will also tour around on the Saturday taking in the new fire tower built at The Pinnacles which is meant to be impressive. There will be plenty of alternatives for those not wanting to do the walk into the Gorge.

Destination	OTWAYS – DANDOS
Trip Leader	ASHLEY MARTIN
Contact No	0438 600 904
Date	9-11 MAY
Meeting Place:	Shell Westgate
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
Grade	WET: Medium DRY: Easy/Medium
Equipment Required	Standard recovery equipment.
Last Available Fuel	Petrol: Diesel:
Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel	12

Trip Activity Details:

The weekend is to be an easy one exploring some of the many waterfalls throughout the region. Unfortunately the tracks around the area have diminished over time so there won't be a lot of driving. We will try and find a few to explore but I expect these will not be anything too difficult.

Camping will be at Dando's which is near Beech Forest and a very easy drive from Melbourne. The drive in doesn't require any four wheeling. There are toilets facilities at the camping ground. I will distribute trip notes on how to get there closer to the date.

Destination	TOOLANGI "TOOLANGI CHALLENGE"
Trip Leader	SHANE MICHELON
Contact No	0417 784 599 / 9800 1105
Date	SUNDAY 18 MAY
Meeting Place:	9.00AM, YARRA GLEN BAKERY
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 6
Grade	WET: HARD DRY: MEDIUM
Equipment Required	Because this is a Medium/Hard trip, MT tyres, full recovery pack (ie snatch, shackles etc), vehicle recovery points, some lift over standard, low range.
Maps Required	The area is covered by Rooftop Toolangi Map
Radio Channel	12

Trip Activity Details:

Still tying down the tracks, but probably up Aeroplane, down Steep, west on Downies Spur. Other tracks to be determined.

VFWDC STAND – VIC 4WD SHOW WANDIN 17 FEBRUARY 2008





WARBURTON DAY TRIP

10 FEBRUARY 2008

Trip Leader: Craig Major

Participants:

Craig and family	Patrol
James and family	Jeep
Anthony and family	Patrol
Tim and family	Cruiser
Colin	Cruiser
Brendan	Navara
Bas and family	Cruiser
Phil	Patrol
Gary and Ando	Patrol

As a person who has just run their third trip, there is some important information that I need to tell those wood bee new trip leaders:

1) As a trip leader never forget to pick a victim to write the trip report otherwise you will end up on the computer at some ungodly hour attempting to write a report fuelled on bad coffee and 1 Tim Tam.

2) Rain is a funny thing and has a really bad habit of changing dirt track conditions which, in the dry, drive fine.

The group met at Yarra Junction at 8.30am and set off into the hills. The main track for the day was Britannia Range track, but we meandered our way along a number of smaller tracks that due to the rain had become "interesting", with most people finding that the back of the car was often attempting to beat the front of the car in a few spots.

The start of Britannia Range track is a great climb with very deep ruts that need to be straddled about half way up and one huge rock that has the ability to hurt diffs in the middle of the track at the top. All obstacles are easily negotiated in the **dry**. But add water... After walking up the track it still looked like it had enough grip in order to get out of the ruts half way up in order to miss the rock. So I started off and gave it a go with Phil following me. Phil made it over the first lump but then bottomed his diffs out. I pushed ahead, as backing up for where I was wouldn't be good. I tried to get out of the ruts but to no avail and pulled the pin when my own diffs bottomed out. To get out of the mess I was in I had to back down the track for a bit and with Anthony's and Gary's help was able to cross the ruts into a side cutting and assess how I was going to turn a vehicle around that was at 45 degrees (backwards) to a steep and muddy track and get it down in one piece.

During the discussions between Anthony and me, Marijke unfortunately over heard Anthony say "I don't think you will roll but its not going to feel good". Two seconds later all my occupants were out and heading for the hills (traitors!). In any case, with everyone's help, I turned the car around and got to the bottom of the hill where the blood returned to my face and the seat cover eventually dislodged itself. About 5 minutes later my passengers showed up as I had made them walk back down the hill. After finding another way onto Britannia track, the trip continued where everyone got their car dirty (except for me for some unexplainable reason), and Tim attempted to get the occupants of his car covered in mud by accelerating into mud holes before they had the chance to wind up their windows (everyone needs a hobby).

After a few stops in order to admire the scenery and also in order to allow Anthony to change a tyre, which he had rolled, we set off to the other side of Warburton for Lyrebird and Stringy Bark tracks. Along the way we were constantly interrupted by radio cross chatter between two boys who were discussing their fish tank inhabitants. Unfortunately, each time we changed channel to escape them they scanned and found us again. Anyway, we all learned about how not to kill a hermit crab and the importance of pH levels in your tank.

We all finished off the day in Warburton with dirty cars, dirty passengers, an education in hermit crabbery (if there is such a word) and stomachs full of ice-cream.

Not a bad way to spend a Sunday.

Craig

THE VICTORIAN 4WD SHOW (WANDIN) 2008

17 FEBRUARY 2008

It's been some 7 years since the VFWDC had a stand at the Wandin 4WD Show (as we still call it). We figured it was time to visit again to see if we can lure a few new faces into the Club.

We have found over the years that with the influx of a few new members, interest and enthusiasm is renewed and new areas visited.

It turned out to be a hot day (as per usual for Wandin!) and the majority of people who visited our stand did so before 2.00pm. There was quite a bit of interest in the vehicles on display, and the excellent photo boards that Ashley put together.

A big thank you to Ashley, Michael, Paul, Craig, Maggie, and Anthony for helping throughout the day.

John Partridge