



SEPTEMBER 2010

Free Wheeling



One of many water crossings on the Simpson Desert Trip

Notice Board



VFWDC GENERAL MEETING VENUE

The club meets at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club, 46-56 Moodemere St., Noble Park on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 8.00pm (No meeting January). Members and Guests are welcome to dine at the Bistro before attending the meeting.

First **WEDNESDAY** of each month 8.00PM Start

Venue:

Bowling Club Rooms (Next to Car Park)

Noble Park Football Club
46-56 Moodemere Street
Noble Park
Melways ref: 89 D4



FREE WHEELING

Hello and welcome to the August newsletter. It's good to see a lot of trips in the mag again. I guess the end of winter is now in sight. This month we have a great trip report on the Simpson trip. Sounds like it was a bit different from most crossings. Please note all the various events and bits of info in the Newsletter this month. We have an open day up at Licola and of course the OXFAM Xmas tree delivery.

Please keep up the trips and send me any articles or things of interest to members.

Cheers,

Shane Michelin

Editor@fwdc.com

(9801 6576 or 0417 784 599)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello and welcome to this month's edition of *Free Wheeling*.

Not really sure what to say, as I'm new at this, but I'll give it a go!

Firstly, on behalf of all members, I wish to thank Paul Ryan and Ashley Martin for their contributions over the last 12mths - in fact the last several years to help run our club and getting the club to where it is now. Their knowledge and passion for the club really shows and they have well and truly done their fair share of time up the front (until next year fellas!). There's an old saying, 'you only get out what you put in' and those 2 blokes really are great examples of that.

So after struggling to live down the growing of that shameful attempt at a tiny grubby beard that made him look homeless Ashley has stood aside this year to work on his new dream home. It is going to be a real challenge for me to fill his size 5 boots but I'll attempt to. Hopefully he will still be involved in the club but in other ways with more time on his hands, like trips and social events if Lesley gives him parole to come along.

Paul too has done more than his fair share of time up the front as secretary too as well as putting his hand up to run trips and arranging other events. So we hope with less pressure writing letters, researching, and sending emails, he can run some more of his great trips. It's great to still have experienced people like these 2 in our club. But let's not burn out and continually rely on the same people. This becomes unfair to them, and when those people finally call it quits things tend to stop.

Trips - To me, this is the main reason we are in this club is to see places, travel and share experiences and knowledge. Over the next few months and through summer we would like to focus a little more on day trips. These day trips will run alongside our weekend trips, long weekend specials and longer trips. If you intend to run a trip, try and give the trip coordinator 2-3 newsletter's notice so he can let members know your trip info and the members can plan for it too. I have heard rumblings of another Robe trip in November, and those that didn't go last time - read the trip reports in last few newsletters we had a blast!

To run a trip is as easy as "I'm going for a drive to Lake Cobbler starting at Mansfield BP on Friday night XYZ date. Taking in these tracks, come along if you like". There - the basis of a trip is created. Not only running trips is important to the club but supporting those that put their hands up to run trips is important. The way I look at it, I'm going for a drive, if nobody shows up, I'm still going J, but can be nice to have others along with you.

Guest Speakers - After the success and great presentations we had recently with the Royal Flying Doctors, and Huts Association (*both are great professional outfits*), we have arranged a few more guest speakers for the next few months. So come along and support your club. If you have ideas on speakers, let one of the Committee know and we will see what we can arrange.

The Newsletter - It has been a tad bare lately, but that happens a bit more in winter! The newsletter is our main form of communication with some members. If you have a trip report, track report or some information you believe is of value please send through to editor@vfwdc.com by the 20th of the month, to give time for making it look all pretty..

Well, if you read down this far I apologise!

I've done my part in filling some newsletter, hope to see you on the next trip - or at the next meeting (I'll be the terrified one up the front).

Bruce Cremonesi
Mr President



COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2010-2011

President	Bruce Cremonesi	president@vfwdc.com 0400 425 296
Vice President	Mark Kochan	vicepres@vfwdc.com 0412 544 668
Treasurer	Phil Griffith	treasurer@vfwdc.com 0419 865 472
Secretary		secretary@vfwdc.com

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Assistant Secretary		assist@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	Daniel Robinson	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Shane Michelson	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	Ashley Martin	
Training Officers	Ashley Martin	John Partridge
	Michael Rodger	Mark Kochan
General Committee	Luke Teunissen	
Web Manager	Paul Ryan	web@vfwdc.com

Club Details

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
Registration No	A002184F
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3174
Email	secretary@vfwdc.com
Website	www.vfwdc.com
Meetings	Held 8pm, first Wednesday of each month, excluding January (no meeting).
Location	Noble Park Football Club (Bowling club near car park) 46-56 Moodemere Street Noble Park Melways ref: 89 D4
Newsletter	All articles and photographs to be submitted prior to 20 th of each month to editor@vfwdc.com
	The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)

Minutes of General Meeting (and AGM) – August 2010

General Meeting August 2010

The meeting was held at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club and was opened at 8.00pm by President Ashley Martin.

Present: There were 26 members present as per the attendance book

Apologies: Maxine Ryan, David & Rosalie Hughes, Michael & Sally Harris, Donna Axtell, Lesley Peters, Pat Casey, Bill & Coral Harwood, John Partridge, Mark Felton, Aline Van Buiten

Visitors: Heather & Tim Vance
Neville Van Leeuwen

Minutes of previous General Meeting and May General Meeting

Accepted : David Bruinsma
Seconded : Shane McNeill

Matters arising:

Nil

Correspondence in

ARB 4X4 Action Winter 2010
LROCV June & July 2010
Overland Cruising June & July 2010
Network News Winter 2010
CCJC - July & August 2010
State Library demand for May 2010 Newsletter
TCIS Club Insurance Certificate
Ironman Catalogue
Refund of overpaid fees from FWDV for \$120.00

Correspondence out

Newsletter
Insurance Renewal

Treasurers report

Term Deposit	\$	5202.49
Cash	\$	2818.75
Petty Cash	\$	50.00
Money In	\$	442.00
Moneys Out	\$	1269.90
Balance	\$	7243.34

Accepted: Anthony Van Buiten
2nd: Bruce Cremonesi

Trip reports

Marysville Day Trip - Andy Hooper gave the Marysville day trip report. It was as Phil had described a quite relaxing day trip in and around Marysville, commencing near Dom Dom Saddle and finishing with Keppel Falls and Lady Talbot Drive. There were one or two patches that were very muddy and slippery and where it would have been much better to be on muddies rather than AT's. Suffice to say that more than one or two people needed help through these sections, something that Andy was quick to point out to Phil (in a good natured way of course).

Everyone had a very enjoyable day and thanks and congratulations to Phil on his first trip as leader.

Trip coordinators report

Dargo / Talbotville - Tim Axtell - Fri 20th August will be doing a loop around Talbotville. Anyone who needs to vote may need to do a postal vote. Tim is an interloper and doesn't need to vote.

Craig's Snow trip - didn't go ahead. Tim or Bruce will organize something between now and the end of the snow season. So maybe the 28th of August. Will keep members posted via all_members email.

Snow Trip - Bob May do his impromptu trip round back of Lake Mountain. Again he will let people know a few days before via all_members email.

Lake Eyre - 18th September - 26/27 Sept - Paul will be going to Lake Eyre first week of School holidays. All welcome, will be fairly relaxed trip. Trailers welcome. Trip Data form to come and will circulate all members email. Please don't reply to secretary@vfwdc.com as Paul won't be using that email from now on.

Craig may run trip to Cheviot Tunnel in September. Dates TBD.

Event Coordinators Report

AGM Dinner - Pavilion, Dandenong, Sat 14th August 2010 hopefully in the Private Room. Don't forget.

Association Report

Nil. However E-News was released yesterday and will be circulated via email.

General business

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Bluey Male after a long battle with cancer. Bluey was one of the earliest members of the club and was very widely travelled. On a training weekend a few years ago Bluey brought a map of Australia with him showing how much of the land he had covered. It was amazing to see how much of Australia he covered. His passing is a great loss to the club.

New members - Lois Thorp was presented with her new member kit.

Rated recovery points - it was noted that on a recent trip some cars did not have rated recovery points. Please make sure that you have rated recovery points on the car. Trip leaders may ask you to leave car and jump in with someone else. It is entirely at their discretion.

Anthony - reported on hoons that did damage to the steps at Collins Hut long drop. He followed this up with FWDV this week and confirmed that this had been passed on to the authorities. The police will have a word with the offenders. On the same subject John Rooth from 4WD Action has also got himself into trouble and will also be contacted by authorities.

Grant - we applied for Vic Volunteer Grants and we have been approved. We have \$5000.00 to spend on chainsaw training and equipment. We will assess what will be done with any left over. Committee will work out how we will spend money on training. We will be contacting Noel Lees to see what we can do to help Parkers Corner DSE.

Other Business

Nil.

Raffle

No raffle this month

Meeting Closed: 9.40 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 1st Sept, at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club.

Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

Held Wednesday, 4 August 2010 at Noble Park Football Club

Meeting Opened at 9.45pm.

Chaired By: Ashley Martin

Members Present: There were 26 members present as per the attendance book

Apologies: Maxine Ryan, David & Rosalie Hughes, Michael & Sally Harris, Donna Axtell, Lesley Peters, Pat Casey, Bill & Coral Harwood, John Partridge, Mark Felton, Aline Van Buiten

Minutes of AGM Meeting 5 August 2009

Accepted by: George Pledger

Second by: Bruce Cremonesi

Trip Coordinator's Report: Presented by Dan Robinson.

There were 23 trips run this year, 21 of which were in Victoria and 2 interstate (Robe Trip and Madigan Line Trip). There were 15 different trip leaders compared to only 7 last year.



CLUB MERCHANDISE For Sale

(Revised Price List)

Club Polo Shirts	\$28.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece ½ Zip Jumper	\$38.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$48.00 ea
Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$44.00 ea
Club Caps	\$15.00 ea
Club Bucket Hat	\$16.00 ea
Club Wide Brim Hat	\$18.00 ea
Club Beanie	\$12.00 ea
VFWDC Sticker (long)	\$ 6.00 ea

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.

Email your order to committee@vfwdc.com.
Please ensure you advise size required.

Unfortunately we don't have the attendance data for trips attended last year however it is encouraging to note that we still managed close to an average of 2 trips per month.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Phil Griffith

Last year we reported a small loss due to the overpayment of fees to the association. This year we have made a small profit however it should be noted that this includes a refund of the overpaid fees from the previous year, so effectively the club broke even. Next year we should be in a slightly better position given that we will not need to outlay as much to restock club merchandise.

President's Reports: Presented by Ashley Martin

It has been an interesting year for the club and whilst we still did relatively well running 23 trips it would have been nice to see more day trips and fewer trip cancellations. It is good to see that we are still attracting new members to the club and this is only to be encouraged as our membership is the lifeblood of our club. I am sure the new committee will embrace and continue this trend and help grow a strong club for the future. Hopefully we can increase the number of trips, especially day trips and with greater participation, not only increase the enjoyment of our hobby for the existing members but encourage new members to join. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the current committee who have worked hard all year to close a number of issues.

Profit and Loss (Cash)

Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

ABN:

Report Period: 1/07/2009 - 30/06/2010

Account(s) in this report: Bendigo Bank 633-108 111761979, Bendigo Term Deposit

Income	\$	\$
Association Adjustments	640.00	
Income - Membership Fees	3510.00	
Income - Raffles	413.30	
Interest Received	137.63	
Merchandise	18.18	
Total Income		4719.11
Expenses	\$	\$
Accounting Fees	369.70	
Advertising & Promotion	300.00	
Bank Charges	5.00	
Clubhouse Supplies	275.00	
Function - Christmas	47.60	
Hire Library Room	1100.00	
Office Equipment < \$1000-	463.80	
Postage	408.47	
Printing & Stationery	412.64	
Purchases for Resale	327.27	
Raffle Costs	175.50	
Total Expenses		3884.98
Net Profit (Loss)		834.13

Please Note: This report may require adjustment for depreciation or 'accrual' items depending on your tax or accounting requirements.

General Business:

Amendment to the Club Constitution - Definition of Membership

Proposed: Paul Ryan

Seconded: Ashley Martin

Paul Ryan presented an amendment to the Constitution regarding the definition of membership in response to previous enquiries regarding Honorary Memberships from Club members. The Committee of Management have revised the categories of Membership of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc. as defined in the Constitution and this was presented to the membership as follows:

There shall be three (3) classes of Member of the Association:

Ordinary Member, comprising Single (Ordinary) Member and Family (Ordinary) Member. An Ordinary Member is defined as an active member of the club who, having paid their application fee and membership fee, is an affiliated member of the Association. Ordinary members have full voting rights and may occupy positions on the Committee of Management. Ordinary members are affiliated members of Four Wheel Drive Victoria and as such a portion of the membership fee is required to cover the costs of affiliation and insurance costs.

Silver Member. A Silver Member is an active member of the club who has had 25 years continuous membership with the Association. In recognition of this the Committee of Management waives the membership fee for the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc. for these members. The member is not a financial member of the Association and therefore has no voting rights and may not occupy a position on the Committee of Management. The member continues to be an affiliated member of Four Wheel Drive Victoria and must pay the associated affiliation fee and insurance costs. A Silver Member may, if they so decide, continue to be recognized as Financial Member of the Association by paying their membership fee. Payment of the fee entitles them to full voting rights and allows them to nominate for and occupy positions on the Committee Management, if they so wish.

Gold Member (formerly known as Honorary Member). A Gold Member is an inactive member of the Association who was formerly recognized as an Honorary Member. Gold Members are non financial members of the Association and do not have voting rights nor may they occupy a position on the Committee of Management. Gold Members are inactive and therefore are not affiliated members of Four Wheel Drive Victoria. Gold Members are not required to pay affiliation fees and insurance costs. Gold Membership may be bestowed on a member at the instigation of the Committee of Management.

The amendment was put to the vote of the membership present at the meeting and was carried unanimously.

The amendment will be included in the Constitution.

Congratulations were given to Peter & Lisa Petrou who were the first members present at the meeting to qualify for Silver membership under this amendment for having been with the club for 25 years.

Under the amendment Silver Membership will also be extended to the following members with our Congratulations and thanks for their continued support:

Ray & Dawn Brown - 26 years
 Pat & Ann Casey - 31 Years
 Don & Thelma Montague - 31 Years
 Peter & Denise Rowe - 33 Years
 Bill & Coral Harwood - 26 Years
 Bryan West - 27 Years

Committee stood down.

Election

Chaired by Paul Ryan.

Thanks to the previous committee

Nominations were received and accepted, the following positions were announced:


President: Bruce Cremonesi
Vice President: Mark Kochan
Treasurer: Phillip Griffith
Secretary: Nil

Committee: Dan Robinson
 Luke Teunissen

No other nominations were received. The position of Secretary will be shared by the committee until an appointment is made.

The new committee took office.

Paul introduced the new committee.


*The 2009 VFWDC
 Christmas Party will be held on
 Saturday, 4th December (10am-4pm) at*

Myuna Farm

182 Kidds Road, Doveton
(Melway Map Ref 90 H7)



- ❖ *Animal Display Centre*
- ❖ *Wetlands Nature Walk*
- ❖ *Aviaries*
- ❖ *Pioneer Theatre*

Prices:	Families	\$18.00 (per 4 people)
	Single	\$ 6.00
	Rides:	
	▪ Pony	\$2.00pp
	▪ Train	\$1.50pp

**Free bags of food for the Kids to feed to the animals*

BYO Meat, Beverages
 The Club will provide salads, and soft drinks for the kids.

This year, due to them doing building and works, we are in a different spot.
 We have the Pioneer Shed - houses 50-100 people!! Has Fridge, Pie Warmer, BBQ, and
 sounds good! Thanks to Ashley for volunteering to be Santa, or talk John McNeill into it!

Bring along the family and enjoy the festivities.



CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2010				
September	Wednesday 1 st	General Meeting	Bruce	0400 425 296
	18 th Sep – 1 st Oct	Lake Eyre	Paul Ryan	0401 014 631
October	Wednesday 6 th	General Meeting	Bruce	0400 425 296
	15 th –17 th	Whitfield	Paul Ryan	0401 014 631
	29 th –31 st	Whalhalla and Beyond	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
November	Wednesday 3 rd	General Meeting	Bruce	0400 425 296
	19 th –21 st	Fishing Trip	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Fishing Trip 2010 – Pineapple Flat, King River
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	Ashley Martin Mob: 0438 600 904
DATE	Friday 19 th November Sunday 21 st November
MEETING PLACE / TIME	McKenzie Reserve, Yarra Glen Friday Morning - 9.30am Friday night - 6.30pm
GRADE	WET: Easy/Medium DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	
<p>The past few fishing trips the weather hasn't been to kind so here's hoping we have better luck this year.</p> <p>The King River is always renowned for its good fishing and on previous visits there's always something caught (didn't say what though). There is also a large pool that's suitable for the kids to throw a line in. While some may think it's a fishing story I did hook the biggest trout I ever hooked in this pool only to have it spit the lure half a meter from the bank, very depressed after that.</p> <p>The camping area is easy access, suitable for campers and has drop toilets.</p> <p>I set 2 departure times for some members will be leaving Friday morning and another's Friday night. If you can't make either let me know and will advise directions (don't be afraid).</p>	
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: N/A MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS	200
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic recovery equipment, Fishing equipment
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A
RADIO UHF	12

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Lake Eyre
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Paul Ryan TEL: 0401 014 631 MOB: 0401 014 631
DATE	18 Sept 2010 - 01 Oct 2010
MEETING PLACE / TIME	7.30am - 8.00am Todd Road Services, Westgate Freeway
GRADE	WET: Easy DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS <p>I am going ahead with the Lake Eyre trip and have set the following itinerary. I expect to leave Melbourne around about 8.00am on the Saturday, hopefully getting to Renmark sometime in the late afternoon. I am planning to camp near Katarapko Creek on the Murray on the first night and then Parachilna Gorge on the 2nd.</p> <p>The idea is to take a relaxed few days getting to William Creek and then use William Creek as a base to do some sight seeing for a couple of days. The only other thing that I have set definite sights on is to be in Tibooburra in time to see the Grand Final on Saturday.</p> <p>Other than that everyone is most welcome to come or go as they please. The route we are taking is most likely 2WD all the way and should be suitable for Campers and / or off road Caravans and there are plenty of places to get fuel (LPG may be a stretch but should be OK).</p> <p>Sat 18th Melbourne - Renmark Sun 19th Renmark - Parachilna Mon 20st Parachilna - William Creek Tues 21st Rest Day Weds 22nd Day trip to Halligans / Belt Bay Thurs 23rd William Creek - Arakaroola Village Fri 24th Arakaroola Village - Camerons Corner (via Strzelecki Track) Sat 25th - GF Day - Camerons Corner - Tibooburra (1/2 day tops with time to watch GF in pub) Sun 26th Tibooburra - Broken Hill Mon 27th Look Around Broken Hill Tues 28th Look Around Broken Hill Weds 29th Broken Hill to Mildura (Hattah / Kulkyne) Thurs 30th Day on River Fri 01st Mildura - Melbourne</p> <p>I think this is do-able without being too non stop. The Arakaroola to Cams Corner run is a comfortable days drive according to Exploroz but there is also a camping spot at Yellow Bus on the way if needs be.</p> <p>Permits for Lake Eyre can be obtained at William Creek. If you wish to venture into some of the other reserves then you may need to organize your own Desert Parks Pass.</p> <p>Any questions then please get back to me.</p>	
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 1 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS	Dixons Creek to Marysville approx 50kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	P/D: Fuel Stops along route
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	200km max
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic Recovery Equipment
MAPS REQUIRED	SA Deserts South East
RADIO CB / UHF	12

DESTINATION	Winery Weekend—Whitfield
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	Paul Ryan - 0401 014 631 Ashley Martin - 0438 600 904
DATE	Fri 15 th —Sun 17 th October
MEETING	McKenzie Reserve, Yarra Glen Time - TBA
GRADE	WET: Easy DRY: Easy

TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS

Another year gone therefore it's time for another winery tour.

This year we have decided to revisit Whitfield. We were there approx 4 years ago and while we visited some of the wineries didn't get time to see them all. There are great wineries around the area like Chris-mont, Pizzini and plan to visit these and some of the smaller ones.

I will be leaving Melbourne early Friday (late morning, early afternoon) but will also have a meeting time in the evening for those leaving after work. The meeting place at Yarra Glen is large enough to group for those bringing campers/caravans. If you choose to come up Saturday morning it is an easy drive and will possibly organize a meeting place and time depending on numbers.

Camping will be at Valley View Caravan Park which has both powered and un powered sites, onsite caravans and of course a full amenities block. We will be able to have a fire in designated areas so if it a little chilly we can stoke it up to keep warm. Prices will be available at the next meeting. If you are contemplating an onsite van I need to know ASAP to ensure one will be available, I cannot guarantee one if you leave it till the last week.

As we've done in previous years dinner will be an all in affair. I will arrange for a few portable BBQ's for meats and snags and no doubt there will be a few curries/casseroles as well. As we get closer and numbers confirmed we can sort out who is brining what and go from there. Depending on numbers I will cater for breakfast and the final tally can be divided between the group. From memory previous years were approx \$4 pp for bacon, snags, tomatoes, eggs and bread.

APPROX KMS	150
LAST AVAILA- BLE FUEL	P/D: Mansfield
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Headache tablets
MAPS RE- QUIRED	N/A
RADIO UHF	12

DESTINATION	Melbourne Cup Weekend—Touring Trip – Walhalla And Beyond
LEADER	Ashley Martin 0438 600 904
DATE	Fri 29 th Oct—Sun 31 st Oct
MEETING	TBA
GRADE	Easy - Medium (Maybe a few hard sections)

TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS

As I only have the main weekend free I thought it would be suitable to take in some of the great tracks around the Walhalla/Aberfeldy area. The plan would be to meet up Friday night and maybe drive a few tracks before stopping at camp. Saturday will be all driving with a great array of tracks available. There maybe be 1 or 2 harder tracks but these can be avoided for those not willing. There will be no base camp and not suitable for trailers.

Sunday will be more driving but I will be heading home Sunday afternoon. This would be a great opportunity for those with the extra few days to find a lovely camping spot, sit relax or maybe meet up with another Club trip.

VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS	250
LAST FUEL	P/D: Traralgon
EQUIPMENT	Basic recovery equipment
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A
RADIO UHF	12

LICOLA WILDERNESS VILLAGE - OPEN DAY

Saturday 30TH OCTOBER - all day

Bring your family and friends for a day of adventure and activities on your way through the Alps.

A great weekend as 4WD tracks re-open, hit the road, take the trip from Dargo, Heyfield or Jamieson, through the awesome mountains. Join us on Saturday as we open up the giant swing, canoes, high ropes course, rock climbing and archery, with face painting and a BBQ lunch - it truly will be great fun for everyone.

So print off the flyer attached and show the club, or just come with your own family and friends for a great day out. Weekend accommodation is available but you should book soon as cabins are limited.

Hope to see you here, from all the team at Licola Wilderness Village.

Kind Regards

Cherry Hatherly
Programs Manager
Licola Wilderness Village
programs@licola.org.au
Ph: (03) 5148 8791

EVERYTHING 4WD

86 Camms Road, Cranbourne, 3977
P: 03 59955055
F: 03 59955199
E: sales@everything4wd.com.au
W: www.everything4wd.com.au

For all your 4x4 needs

New retail store is now open with full workshop facilities

- Fitting – Servicing – Repairs -

Now selling from the following brands:

Auspit	Milford Cargo Barriers
Boab	Outback Accessories
Bush BQ	Piranha
Camel Camper Trailers	Rhino Roof Racks
Ctek Battery Chargers	Safari snorkels
Don Kyatt Spare Parts	Silverstone Tyres
Dynamic Rims	Sinergex Invertors
Hayman Reese Towbars	Terrain Tamer
Ironman	Tigerz11 winches
King Springs	Xrox Bars
Koni Shocks	xXx Driving lights

Our products include:

Air Jacks	Long Range Tanks
Awnings	Power Monitors
Batteries	Power Outlets
Battery Chargers	Rear Protection Step Towbars
Bullbars	Rear Wheel Carriers
Camper Trailer Hire	Recovery Gear
Camper Trailer Sales	Roof Racks
Compressors	Rooftop Tents
Diff Breather Kits	Snorkels
Driving lights	Spare Parts
Dual Battery Systems	Storage Systems
Dual Battery Trays	Suspension Kits
Fridges	Synthetic Winch Rope
HID Conversion kits	Ute Canopies
HID Driving Lights	Ute Liners
High Lift Jacks	Water Tanks
Inverters	Winches

Discounts available for all 4WD club members





10th Aug. 2010

Christmas Tree Project
51 Belmont Rd. IVANHOE 3079
Ph 94973227 Fax 94994759

Dear Secretary

Over the last 18 years member clubs of the Four Wheel Drive Victoria have supported Oxfam Australia in their annual delivery of Christmas Trees. This has become a very successful fund raising activity selling and delivering fresh green Christmas trees to homes in metropolitan Melbourne.

This letter is to inform those clubs who have not previously been involved how the operation works and to remind those clubsth who have helped in recent years that the deliver dates this year are Saturday 4 and Sunday 5th December.

Volunteers carry out the whole operation. Last year nearly \$126,000 was raised, that's about \$500 per delivery vehicle, and went towards alleviating poverty and social injustice within Australia and overseas. That's a total of over \$98,000 raised by members of Victorian Four Wheel Drive Clubs.

We ask for drivers, navigators and vehicles that can carry 8 to 25 freshly cut trees, with or without a trailer. Many 4WD clubs have found this a fun activity that makes a considerable contribution to the larger community in which we live.

We meet at the Scout Hall, Pakenham St., Blackburn (Melway Map 47 H 12) on Saturday 4 December, or Princes Hill Primary School, Wilson St., Nth Carlton (Melway 29 J 11) on Sunday 5 December. On Saturday we deliver to the south and eastern side of Melbourne and on the Sunday the north and western side. You pick the area you would like to deliver the trees, and the day and time (between 6am and 11am on Saturday and 7-10am on Sunday) you arrive at the depot. We give you a very well organized list of addresses with Melway grid references, all in close proximity to each other. All you do is drop off the tree that has already been paid for. The smiles you receive from the younger recipients would be second only to that of them greeting Santa Claus. It will take each team 1 to 3 hours, and we encourage you to meet for a BBQ or social get together before or afterwards. If your club can help I would appreciate a phone call with the approximate number of vehicles by late October and I would immediately forward you a form (or use the blank Excel Spread Sheet that should be attached with this doc-

ument) so the details of each driver can be filled in and returned to us by the end of November. Please email or phone me if you would prefer I post your club a hard copy form now to pass around at your next club meeting for volunteers to add their details.

For further information or for a quest speaker to address your members at a future club meeting about the delivery or the type of self help projects that the money raised will support please contact me on 94973227 (home or work) or write to: 51 Belmont Rd Ivanhoe 3079. email: briangum@tpg.com.au

Last year the following 4WD clubs generously donated their services: Idlers, Adventurers, CFA, Jackaroo, Nissan, LROCV, Melb. Jeep Owners, Pajero, Range Rover, CH4WD, Subaru, Toyota Landcruiser, VFWD, Wanderers, Toyota, Getabout, Port Phillip and City West, a total of 19 clubs and about 175 vehicles (plus 50 vehicles from Oxfam's other supporters). Also Four Wheel Drive Victoria threw their weight behind the event and in the past has managed to attract television news coverage of the great work being done by club volunteers. Each of the above groups seemed impressed with the nature of the cause and our organization and indicated a desire to be involved again.

For those club members who may like to purchase a delivered Christmas tree please feel free to mention in your news letter our web site for online orders: www.fitzroyoxfam.org.au or our phone number. Orders start early November.

Each year I do the rounds of the media to promote tree sales and always mention the great support given by 4WD clubs. Last year a 8 minute interview with John Faine on Radio 774 netted an extra 550 orders. Our feedback is that listeners are so keen to support a good cause when they know that everyone involved is a volunteer and no middle person profits. In the past I have been fortunate enough to have the opportunity on Macca's 'Australia All Over' to give all involved a mention and let the listeners know this tremendous fundraiser could not happen with generous support by volunteer 4WD club members.

Finally I'd like to thank once again all those clubs and members who have so generously supported this vital community fundraising activity over past years.

Thanking you in anticipation for your support this year.

Brian Moran
Volunteer
Coordinator Oxfam Australia Christmas Tree Project
Phone 94973227 Fax 94994759
Email: bringum@tpg.com.au



FWDV Delegates Brief Sheet to be read out at Club Meetings, or printed in Club Magazines.

August 2010

Insurance - Affinity Insurance has had to change its Underwriters from Lumleys to CGU. FWDV's website now has the latest comparisons between both these Underwriters with the new CGU package providing excellent value and benefits for four wheel drivers. There is a lot of information shown and you are encouraged to read it in full.

Iconic 4WD Adventures - On July 15 this new initiative between ParksVic and Four Wheel Drive Victoria was publicly announced by the Environment Minister Gavin Jennings at a function at the Werribee 4WD Training facility. There is a detailed booklet with separate maps about to be released to the public outlining six special drives that four wheel drivers can undertake within Victoria. Full details in the August Trackwatch and coming months.

4WD Hoons - The various authorities (Police, ParksVic and DSE) continue to encounter more 4WD Hoons in the bush. If you witness such actions you are asked not to confront the offenders but to just take photos and details and report them to FWDV via the dedicated section on FWDV's website. Your information will be passed on to the applicable authority for action to be taken. Already there have been quite a few penalties issued of recent times, ranging from driving offences, un-roadworthy vehicles, vandalism, drinking offences, firearm offences, and similar. Many of these result from initial reports from the general public.

Trackwatch - The August (4X4 Show) Issue of Trackwatch will be mailed shortly, and is our largest issue yet with 44 pages in a new and improved look and containing more information than ever before. FWDV hopes you like it and encourage Clubs to submit articles about themselves and events they conduct to help their promotion.

FWDV AGM & Call for Board Nominations - FWDV holds it's AGM on Thursday 16th September along with the election of Office Bearers to the Board. As always it seeks capable members of Clubs to be nominated to the various Board positions. While many of the existing Board will be staying on there are a few positions that will need new people. Your Club is encouraged to have a member on the Board. Details of duties are available from any Board member or the Office.

State Election - While FWDV cannot advise you as to who you should vote for at the forthcoming Federal and State Elections you are encouraged to read the articles in Trackwatch and on the FWDV website so as to give you an insight about the various Parties and how they will affect your recreation of four wheel driving.

PR & Marketing - FWDV requires a suitable person to coordinate the Public Relations and Marketing role within FWDV. If you have such expertise please contact the CEO or the President to discuss it further.

Four Wheel Drive Australia - in recent months FWDV's CEO Russell Sturzaker has travelled twice to Adelaide to work with the National Body in overhauling its Business Plan so the whole organisation can operate more effectively in today's climate.

Coxy's Big Break - Last month we mentioned that FWDV's Michael Coldham would appear on this television show in August highlighting FWDV's On Road Towing Course. Since our previous mention the Federal Elections were announced causing this segment of the Show to move to Saturday 4th September (which is also subject to change!).

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Trip Reports

**NO STAKED TYRES!
 NO BUSTED SHOCKS!
 A REWARDING EXPERIENCE
 (DEFINITELY!!!)**



Does history repeat? Well, yes when you reference our Madigan trip with that of Cecil Madigan's trip in 1939, according to his book "Crossing the Dead Heart". More of that later, let's start at the beginning.



The trip originally had a start of 5 vehicles - three cancelling for different reasons. Two were at the eleventh hour - we received a phone call from Mark that he couldn't make it & Gary to say that his vehicle had blown a turbo at Alice Springs! O.K. - 2 vehicles left to tackle one of the hardest treks the Aussie desert can throw at you - the Madigan Line.

After receiving the near impossible to get permission to access Camps 3,4 & 5 (Pmere Nyente land) and private station access to Camps 20, 21 & 22 we left Mt Dare after refuelling & a good night's rest on the 1st of July . The day started very overcast and the rain came shortly after (damn!) We drove the wet track to Old Andado where we were greeted by a couple of volunteers who were helping look after Molly Clark's property until her arrival that weekend - 90 years of age and still frequents her old house on the edge of the Simpson Desert occasionally.

After a cup of tea with the volunteer caretakers we were on our way - until a truck carrying 44s of diesel arrived. One of the volunteers asked if we could unload the drums from the truck - no worries was our reply. The truck is part of a mining fleet in the area where they exchange water from Old Andado's artesian bore for drums of diesel to power the generators. Leaving Old Andado we arrived at the Mac Clark Acacia Peuce Reserve, signed the visitor book and moved on (still raining).

Now the fun begins. Looking for Camp 1 took us a bit longer than anticipated, with new mining tracks in the area testing Jane's GPS skills. After doing a GOTO we eventually found it.

Camp 2 was easier as there was some resemblance of tracks that we could follow, and then on to The Twins, where we stopped and signed the book again - it goes back to the early 90s, so not much traffic out this way. Camps 3, 4, & 5 in the Pmere Nyente land were less well visited due to the difficulty in obtaining access due to no permits being granted except for scientific or government access. So for us to be granted a permit was very unusual but greatly appreciated.

The so-called track through Pmere Nyente land was very obscure in places, requiring constant GPS / paper map vigilance and the getting out of the vehicle and walking to try and find a way through this area - the terrain changed from rocky outcrops to clay-pans, through to dry river beds. Vehicle speed at this point was about 10-20 kph (little did we know

that this would be the norm for the entire trip).

A lot of pitching and yawing from left to right had us stopping regularly to stretch the limbs. The swales (areas between the sand dunes) were dry underfoot so there were no really soft / boggy areas here. The swales (areas between sand dunes) were dry underfoot and there no really soft/ boggy areas here.



Exiting Pmere Nyente land and heading for Camp 6 threw another obstacle in our way - a new set of tracks where we expected to cross the Colson track (there looks to be some sort of realignment of the Colson, so future travellers beware). Camp 6 is the start of the sand dunes where the going wasn't too bad due to the cold and wet weather making crossing the dunes O.K. due to compactness of the sand. To do his crossing in hotter weather would be testing traction a lot more, not to mention increased fuel usage as dunes were reaching 10-15 metres in this section.



On to Camp 7 with the going pretty much the same through to Camp 16.

At Camp 11 there's another visitor book to sign which goes back even further in time - definitely no

traffic out this way!

The rain started again. By the time we got to Camp 14 it was time to wait out the rain - time for a rest day. It rained for 36 hours - not too bad when you consider that it can rain out here for days on end.



Moving on we reached Camp 16 on the Hay River track where - yes, you guessed it - there's another book to sign! John & Peter had made a stainless steel plaque to commemorate our crossing. This now resides with other plaques near Madigan's Blaze Tree (1939).

We proceeded to Camp 20 after crossing some of the hardest, most isolated and wet areas of the Northern Simpson



With lots of claypans that were underwater to negotiate, spinifex humps (moguls) to drive over and of course having to ask the feral camels if we were on the right track - because there was literally no track to follow, we eventually made it to Camp 20, which was totally under water!



With the Eyre Creek ford under water we were forced to travel the western side of the creek heading south following the sand dune base. We had to blaze our way over the moguls trying to get to the eastern side of the creek when possible. For a lot of the way Eyre Creek was as wide as the Murray - it was the most water up this way in 20 years!

After driving for hours and hours at 5-10 kph, we found a way across a narrow part of the creek. The base was very soft but it was our only option. I had tried crossing on earlier attempts but became bogged a couple of times (thanks John for the recovery).

After walking the creek and looking for a winching base on the other side (in case I got stuck & John couldn't recover me from behind) I decided on a line - OK give it a go! First attempt - 2 metres in & down to the axles - very soft. Second attempt - different line - got to an island in the middle of the creek, waited for John & Peter to get across - success! Now for the other half of the creek - not so successful - down to the chassis! After With lots of claypans that were underwater to negotiate, spinifex humps (moguls) to drive over and of course having to ask the feral camels if we were on the right track - because there was literally no track to follow, we eventually made it to Camp 20, which was totally under water! nearly 2 hours of winching (including a 30 metre extension strap) and a 45° angle, after the bank gave way, we finally made it to the other side. So much for the 4 o'clock track!

John's turns to negotiate the next half after taking a different line to mine. I placed my car in position as an anchor in case John got stuck. He proceeded to cross after stripping down to his undies, in case he had to get out midway. He gunned it with water & mud flying everywhere & made it through in one go! No diff locks either



nice one John!

To everyone's delight we made it onto station tracks on the eastern side of the creek - a freeway compared to the last few days of trackless driving. It was dark now so we set up camp & decided to look for Camp 21 in the morning.

Next day was Jack's 12th birthday. As everyone was awake at 0300 we decided to celebrate early! That is the earliest he's ever got his presents. Sorry John & Peter for the laughter at that time of morning.

After an early pack up we found Camp 21 & Annandale ruins.



It was pretty much straight going from here until we hit Big Red where we had the customary play.



As Lake Nappaneria was flooded (usually dry) we had a big detour (over an hour), around the lake, to get to Camp 25, the Birdsville Hotel.



We hit the Birdsville Caravan Park, ordered a birthday cake from the bakery and made our way to Camp 25 for an eagerly awaited meal.

After our mains the birthday cake came out from the kitchen, candles alight & the whole pub (Lizard Lounge) sang Happy Birthday to Jack- fantastic!



The next day saw us bid farewell to John & Peter as this was the end of the trip. It was great to have their company on this adventure. They did a fantastic job of being TEC !!!

The trip from Mt Dare to Birdsville saw us travel 830kms over 10 days with heaps of detours due to the wet - without seeing another soul!! - This is what it's all about. After doing all the desert tracks from CSR, Anne Beadell, Gunbarrel, etc the Madigan will go down as one of the hardest due to the isolation and remoteness, including the full dependence on a good GPS & paper maps.

By the way, a word of warning - never travel solo on this trip. An HF radio, sat phone & PLB, at a minimum, are mandatory. Be well prepared as nature in all its glory can throw you a curve ball and everything can change instantly.

Bring on the next adventure!!

TL - Ken, Jane, Jesse & Jack - 76 Cruiser

TEC - John & Peter - GU Patrol

Notes:

