



APRIL 2011

# Free Wheeling



Dargo Trip (Collins Hut and Grant Historic Area)

# Notice Board

## VFWDC GENERAL MEETING VENUE

**PLEASE NOTE FOR THE APRIL GENERAL MEETING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED :** Due to a presentation night they are having on the 6th of April our meeting room will change for that night, it will be held in the Football Club black and gold room (previous meeting room, upstairs in the football club).

The club meets at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club, 46-56 Moodemere St, Noble Park on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 April newsletter. Please note the change of venue for this months meeting. There's plenty of trips in the upcoming months, please see the upcoming trip for further details.

Catherine

Editor@fwdc.com



VFWDC



## ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

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Anyone wishing to advertise in the Club Directory,  
 contact the Editor at [editor@vfwdc.com](mailto:editor@vfwdc.com)

### FRANKLAND ELECTRICS PTY L TD

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## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2010-2011

President	Bruce Cremonesi	<a href="mailto:president@vfwdc.com">president@vfwdc.com</a> 0400 425 296
Vice President	Mark Kochan	<a href="mailto:vicepres@vfwdc.com">vicepres@vfwdc.com</a> 0412 544 668
Treasurer	Phil Griffith	<a href="mailto:treasurer@vfwdc.com">treasurer@vfwdc.com</a> 0419 865 472
Secretary	David Bruinsma	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
GENERAL COMMITTEE		
Assistant Secretary		<a href="mailto:assist@vfwdc.com">assist@vfwdc.com</a>
Trip Co-ordinator	Daniel Robinson	<a href="mailto:trips@vfwdc.com">trips@vfwdc.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Catherine Felton	<a href="mailto:editor@vfwdc.com">editor@vfwdc.com</a>
Association Delegate	Ashley Martin	
Training Officers	Ashley Martin	John Partridge
General Committee	Luke Teunissen	
Web Manager	Paul Ryan	<a href="mailto:web@vfwdc.com">web@vfwdc.com</a>

## Club Details

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
Registration No	A002184F
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3174
Email	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.vfwdc.com">www.vfwdc.com</a>
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 <sup>th</sup> of each month to <a href="mailto:editor@vfwdc.com">editor@vfwdc.com</a>
	The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Welcome Everyone.

Another month has passed us by, with this year seeming to be going so quick. Summer is gone, the good weather has gone and the rain continues around the country. It is that bad the Simpson Desert is closed due to rain and people are being air lifted out of Wilsons Prom!

Happily much of the high country has opened up again after the Xmas flood damage, but there's a huge amount of work that still needs to be done, with a lot of repairs needed on a lot of the track. Dan was saying sections of Carters Rd are just gone... Lots of places with new track bypasses having been put in by Parks.

For something new, this year we are going to have a Xmas in July. We feel that a few more social events will help bring club members together, its not a bush dance that the club used to get 1000's of people to, but we feel it will be a great weekend. This will be catered for by the club with a roast put on, lots of salads, bring your own everything else you want, drinks etc. Breakfast will also be supplied in the morning, bacon/eggs and possibly some sauce. More information is available at the next couple of meetings. To show your interest, you need to put your name on the trip form so we can tell the caterer how much we need him to bring, cook, and dish out!

The decision has been made on how to spend the grant by our sub-committee which we are grateful to. Priority will be given to those members who have their own chainsaw and PPE, and it is only fair that members that run trips get a look in and members who are actually active. Usually Trip Leaders are the ones that come across the downed trees first so only logical to have them involved. The forms for this chainsaw course are out, it would be greatly appreciated if you could return the filled out forms ASAP. The course is being run in May and there are a couple of basic conditions that people will need to meet to be eligible. More information will be available at the next club meeting.

No surprise, but Phil (who we all know runs a good trip) and Dan had a great 'newbie's campertrailer trip up the high country recently. Basically to get some experienced members to show others how to use their trailer off road. The weather was great, with only one wet session all weekend.

We have several good trips in the near future, which is great to see. Ken has a couple on, little Shane has his hand up once again – great to see! Dan had his Simpson trip cancelled (due to flooding) which is very disappointing for him and the other dozen members involved so hopefully he will get a break and run it next year or later this year. Time will tell. Also my trip to the Border Track at this stage is still going ahead but this will depend on weather and the rains coming down the rivers. Last 2 times I've tried to run this trip, it was cancelled due to weather. If it's canned I may head to Beach port-Robe, or maybe Swifts Creek, Wonnangatta, through to Licola... decisions decisions.

We recently ran our Trip Leaders Course, which was supported pretty well! Good to see some of our newer members showing such interest in their club. When they run their trips, let's get behind them and give them all of our support. Anyway see you at the next meeting for a coffee and chat or out on the trail round a campfire.

Take care, and be safe.  
Bruce Cremonesi  
President VFWD

# For Sale

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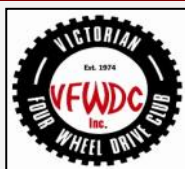
2. EMG Hi Lift Jack BRAND NEW - never been used. \$100

3. Flairs for 80 series Landcruiser - 1990-1992 in good cond. \$200

Please call Chris 0400 540 183 or

Email [smithy1963@optusnet.com.au](mailto:smithy1963@optusnet.com.au)

Thanks, Chris Smith



## 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

(The VFWDC long stickers will be available at the next club meeting. Please see David Bruinsma for these stickers).

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.

Email your order to [committee@vfwdc.com](mailto:committee@vfwdc.com).  
Please ensure you advise size required.

## Minutes of General Meeting March 2011

### General Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2011

The meeting was held at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club and was opened at 8.00pm by President Bruce Cremen

**Present:** There were 16 members present as per the attendance book

**Apologies:** 4 people as per the apologies book

**Visitors:** 8 people as per the visitors book

### Minutes of December General Meeting

**Accepted :** Paul  
**Seconded :** John

### Minutes of February General Meeting

**Accepted :** Dan  
**Seconded :** Chris

#### Matters arising:

Chain Saw Course

The idea of the course is so the club can go out and help DSE after bad weather. (part of the funding requirements is that we use the Grant money for Community benefit). Course has two parts, two days of theory, and a weekend of practical.

We are hoping to put up to 20 club members through on the course. Please only put your name down if you have the time to commit to the whole program. The club will fund most of the course, participants will need to contribute for some cost, i.e. \$70 PPE which is provided as part of the course.

Preference will be given to:

Chain saw owners, and  
Trip leaders, and  
Active members, and  
Longevity of membership

Anyone who already has a Cert II or higher course, is not eligible to participate.

**Correspondence in**

Aust Post - box renewal  
 National Library - request for our magazine back issues  
 FWDV - raffle tickets  
 Overlander Cruising  
 Land roving REVIEW  
 Ken Pitcher - old club magazine

**Correspondence out**

Magazines

**Treasurers report**

Term Deposit	\$5390.90
Cash	\$
Petty Cash	\$50
Money In	\$
Moneys Out	\$
Balance	\$9127.25

**Trip reports**

David B, Chris S, Neville VL went to Collins Hut last weekend, had a good long day 4wheeling on the Saturday including a brief 1 hour night run.

**Accepted:** John  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Mark

**Trip coordinators report**

The various trip leaders gave a brief overview of the following upcoming trips.

Type	When	Where	Trip Leader
Camper trailer trip	March 12/13/14	Sheepyard flat	Dan and Phil
Trip Leaders course	March 16 (wed)	4 Boileau street keysborough	Dan
Driver Training Theory	March 23	Everything 4wd - Cranbourne	John P
Driver training practical	March 26/27	O'tools	John P
	March 26/27	Holey Plains	Ken Beard
No trailers	April 2/3	Bluff hut	Ken Beard
Brewery tour	April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Yarra Valley	Anthony VB
	April 22/26	Pink Lakes	Bruce C
	April 22/26	Hattah Easter w/e	Anthony VB
EOI	April 22/26	Simpson Desert	Dan R
Xmas in July	July	Torongga Falls	Dan R
	April 15/16/17	Thomson Dam	Shane McNeil

**Association Report**

The Bull Bar push (European standards) by the government has been pulled off the table due to the huge user input backlash.

**Raffle**

This month there is 4 prizes, tickets sold by donated and sold by John of Everything 4wd

Prize	Won by:
Winch Blanket	Mark
Tigers 11 recovery equipment	Sam
Winch Rope protector sleeves	Johans
Winch Rope protector sleeves	Neville

**Meeting Closed: 9:30 pm**

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 8.00pm 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club. *(note: we will be in the upstairs room, due to conflict of bookings)*





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

### **March 2011**

#### **Bull Bars to Stay – 4WDers have been heard !!!!!**

The Australian 4WD Industry Council has been advised that the Government's Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been withdrawn on the grounds that the regulation is not appropriate for Australian Conditions. **"This is a significant win for the 4WD Industry and 4WDers in General"**. If the recommendations of the RIS had been adopted into the Regulation, they would have seriously impacted the fitment of 'fit for purpose' Bullbars on Australian vehicles, this spells the end of Government Regulations (GTR09) in Australia, and whilst we still may have some issues within some States, causing problems for the industry and users in the future, it would be unlikely that any State Minister would table GTR09 for adoption in their State. To view the full Press Release please go to:

[http://www.minister.infrastructure.gov.au/ck/releases/2011/February/CK008\\_2011.htm](http://www.minister.infrastructure.gov.au/ck/releases/2011/February/CK008_2011.htm)

4WD Australia in conjunction with the Australian 4WD Industry Council launched a national on-line public survey to collect information from the public about their use of bull bars and nudge bars, and even though we have won this battle, we would still like all users of four wheel drive vehicles to visit the 4WD Victoria website and complete the on-line survey as soon as possible to assist us in obtaining current data on 4WD vehicles and their usage. Please Note: Survey closes on 31 March 2011.

#### **Beyond Hotham 4WD Event – Incredible Offer to Clubs!!!!**

Beyond Hotham is on again from April 7<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, this exceptional 4WD event is held at Mt Hotham, and includes graded tag along trips covering high country hut history, gold, pioneering, flora and fauna, and navigation, and much, much more.....

Hotham Alpine Resort Management Board has agreed to discount the 10 day entry fee for Clubs to a: **Special One-Off Entry Fee of \$200 + GST per CLUB (regardless of the number of members attending)**. Clubs wishing to take up this incredible offer need to Register by April 1<sup>st</sup> by going to the website [www.beyondhotham.com.au](http://www.beyondhotham.com.au) or email [beyondhotham@mtthotham.com.au](mailto:beyondhotham@mtthotham.com.au) For phone enquiries please call 03 5759 3550. Check the website for full list of program details.

#### **4WD Victoria Raffle**

Tickets for the first of 4WD Victoria's two raffles for 2011 have been sent to clubs to sell on the basis of one ticket per member, and at only \$2.00 per ticket we ask each club for their assistance in selling all of their allocated tickets. 4WD Victoria rely on these two raffles each year to assist with our fund raising activities, and they jointly assist us in keeping down any increase in Affiliation Fee's that may be deemed necessary.

Prizes for the raffle are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize** – Clarion 10.2" Roof Mount DVD System (Fully Installed) – valued at \$1,695.000.  
*Donated by Prestige Off Road*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** – Vicmap Book Range Bundle (consisting of 5 x books) – valued at \$450.00.  
*Donated by Spatial Vision Innovations Pty Ltd*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** – 4WD Victoria Gift Voucher - valued at \$390.00.  
*Donated by Four Wheel Drive Victoria*
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize** – Hummers for Hire (1 Hour Tour) – valued at \$200.00.  
*Donated by Hummers for Hire*

Raffle will be drawn at the General Meeting to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011 at Four Wheel Drive Victoria, and winners will be notified.

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Four Wheel Drive Victoria  
PO Box 1015G Balwyn North VIC 3104  
Tel: (03) 9857 5209 Fax: (03) 9857 5260  
Email: [office@fwdvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@fwdvictoria.org.au) Web: [www.fwdvictoria.org.au](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au)  
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**Discounts available for all 4WD club members**







## CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2011				
April	Wednesday 6th	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	2nd - 3rd	Bluff Hut	Ken Beard	0427 426 118
	3rd	Brewery Tour Yarra Valley - Day Trip	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784 074
	17th	Thompson State Forest - Day Trip	Shane McNeill	0409 359 385
	21st - 25th	Knockwood Reserve	Bob McKerrrow	0430 014 001
	22nd - 26th	Hattah Easter Weekend	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784 074
	22nd - 26th	Pink Lakes/Border Track (No trailers trip)	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
May	Wednesday 4th	General Meeting	Bruce Cresmonesi	0400 425 296
	7th - 8th	Chainsaw Course	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	15th	Marysville Day Trip - Second Half	Phil Griffith	0419 865 472
	21st - 22nd	Chainsaw Course	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
June	Wednesday 1st	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	11th-13th	Queen's Birthday Weekend		
July	Wednesday 6th	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	Xmas In July	TBA - Location close to Melbourne	Dan Robinson	0407 334 169
	Melbourne Cup Wend	Expression's Of Interest-Robe South Australia	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860

### UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Bluff Hut area</b>
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	NAME: Ken Beard MOB: 0427 426 118
DATE	Sat / Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2011
MEETING PLACE/ TIME	McDonalds Lilydale 0700 depart
GRADE <b>Please Adhere trip class</b>	WET: Medium / Hard DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Exploring Howqua Hills historic area. Bluff Hut, Lovick's hut etc. Camping is dependent on where we are and how far we get on Saturday. Tents/swags only. Trip will conclude on Sunday arvo some time & place. Must be prepared for the occasional hard track if required.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 4
APPROX KMS	400 kms
LAST AVAIL FUEL	PETROL: Mansfield
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic rated recovery gear, A/T- M/T tyres. Warm & cold clothing, drinking water.
MAPS REQUIRED	Mansfield-Mt Howitt & Jamieson-Licola adventure
RADIO CHANNEL	12 ( other channel may be required )



### Xmas in July



Currently targeted for the last weekend in July (30th - 31st). This will be funded by the club excluding Alcohol and drinks & we are looking into adequate camping areas within 1 hour of Melbourne.

Saturday night will be a roast meal with salads & deserts, breakfast will also be provided on Sunday. All other meals will have to be self catered by attendees.

Please put your name down on the trip data form at the April meeting, if your interested in attending.

Final numbers required for July club meeting, after this date numbers will not be accepted.

For any further information, please get in contact with Dan Robinson, trip co-ordinator.  
[trips@vfwdc.com](mailto:trips@vfwdc.com) or 0407 334 169

## UPCOMING TRIPS Continued

DESTINATION	<b>Brewery Tour Yarra Valley</b>
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	Anthony Van Buiten 0413 784 074
DATE	DAY TRIP - Saturday 3rd April 2011
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Lilydale McDonalds 9:45am
GRADE <span style="color: red;">Please adhere to new trip classifications</span>	WET: Easy DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Our first stop of the day will be to Yarra Valley Dairy to sample some of their cheeses. They also have a selection of local beers to purchase. Next we will travel to Hargreaves Hill Brewery in Yarra Glen where we can sample their beers. From there it's off to Buckley's Beers and White Rabbit Brewery which are both located in Healesville. We will also take the opportunity to have lunch in Healesville. There are plenty of Café's and pubs to choose from or even a sandwich in the park. Last on the list is Coldstream Brewery which is also on the way home. Parking is limited at most of the breweries so I need to put a limit of 10 vehicles. Hopefully people can carpool and 2WD vehicles are acceptable.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	120kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Healesville DIESEL: Healesville
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Designated Driver
RADIO CHL CB / UHF	12

DESTINATION	<b>Thompson State Forest</b>
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	Shane McNeill 0409 359 385
DATE	DAY TRIP - Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2011
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Longwarry BP 7:30am
GRADE <span style="color: red;">Please adhere to new trip classifications</span>	Wet: medium Dry: medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Travel Merringtons, Donnelly, flats, Fulton's, One Speck, Trigg & Beardmores. In doing the trip in this order we will be traveling down the more challenging tracks instead of up. (It will be good exposure to more challenging tracks in a safer manner with less impact on vehicles) This is not a hard trip it's a medium trip.
VEHICLE LIMITS	Wet conditions; mud terrain tyres. Dry conditions; Good all terrains.
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	Approx:130Kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic recovery
MAPS REQUIRED	Walhalla – Woods point
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

FYI....For information in relation to track closures, use the link below.  
<http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/resources/mresources/Closures-AlpineNP.pdf>

## UPCOMING TRIPS Continued

DESTINATION	<b>Knockwood Reserve</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Bob McKerrow TEL: 9800 1335 MOB: 0430014001
DATE	Thu 21 April to Monday 25 April (Easter Weekend)
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Macca's, Canterbury Road, Bayswater
GRADE <i>Please adhere to new trip classifications</i>	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Camping at Knockwood Reserve, Jamieson/Woods Point Road. Trips up to Mt Skene and other places. Camping, camp fires, camp ovens, frivolity.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	100
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Warburton DIESEL: Warburton although both available in Jamieson
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Camping gear, standard recovery
MAPS REQUIRED	Nil
RADIO CHANNEL      CB / UHF	12 or 13 or 14



## Trip Reports



### Dargo Trip (Collins Hut and Grant historic Area)

Author: David Bruinsma

#### Participants

David, Carolyn, Samuel - Nissan Navara  
 (new club member) Neville Van Leeuwin - Toyota Prado (only had it 1 week)  
 Chris Smith - Toyota Landcruiser



#### Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb

Chris got an early start by leaving Melbourne about 10am, to head off to Collins Hut to claim our camp area and to collect fire wood for the first nights fire.

David's crew and Neville left Melbourne at 5pm and joined the peak hour traffic heading from Berwick out past Pakenham and out past to the outer and beyond. We had a walk through and drive off Macca's dinner from Moe and kept on travelling through to the campsite. But due to the highway closure, we followed the drones off the highway before finally joining the highway back on at about Traralgon somewhere. Without any drama's we arrived at Collins Hut just after 9pm. We quickly set up the roof top tent and a small dome tent - young Samuel went to bed almost right away and then we quietly disposed of some liquid refreshments that didn't need to take up room in the fridge for the next day. We pretty much called it a night at midnight.



#### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb

Chris was kind enough to get the fire rekindled again at about 7am, which was nice focal point for those who got up first (i.e. Samuel and Neville). We were all up, breakfast'd and ready for an adventurous day by 9am. With a little prior discussion we deviated from my intended route to check out a few different tracks than what previous trips had been doing in the area. We started off by heading further up Crooked River Rd and up Maguire's Track. Well, we thought it was Maguire's Track initially ... but the track we took went up the hill to the right up to a clearing and a telegraph pole? We did a u-turn around the pole and went right back down again and found the correct Maguire's Track. We then went up the hill to the left of the sign. Neville - was getting used to the frequent U-turns when going 4wheeling with us, it happens nearly all the time. At the top of Maguire's, we took the left turn along Spur Track, then Mt Hurley Rd, then down Grady's Creek Rd and we then found the bitumen of Dargo High Plains Road for a short distance then took a sharp left turn up the Upper Dargo Road. There are some very nice camp spots along the Upper Dargo Road down on the left side, right beside the river - very easily accessible and generally not too busy down there. We were located opposite the 2<sup>nd</sup> such camp site (Jimmy Iverson's Camping Area) and there is a nice track straight up the hill call Mt Ewen Spur Tk. This is the very first off-road track I had ever did when my car was only 2 days old. It was a nice challenge I thought for a first timer, but when we did it on Saturday it had been recently graded. I only saw one set of car tracks going up it since it had been graded. Oh well, it just made it an easy trip for us, with no chance of getting a first timer bogged or stuck or needing recovery. We followed this track in a Northerly direction until it came to Downey Rd - we then turned right becoming the Matherson Spur track. Downey Road is a well formed main road, whereas Matherson Spur track has not been long graded. We went down to Collins Flat where we stopped for about ½ hour for a picnic lunch break. Whilst we were there, we checked the river crossing to head up Stock Route track, but I thought it was just deep enough to NOT send the unmodified Prado across (at least until it gets a snorkel). So I went through in the Navara and returned, then Chris went through in the Landcruiser and came back. A quick little pow-wow, and we decided to take Neville past GRANT and down to Talbotville, this was more as a sight seeing trek rather than a serious 4wd trek. So scooting back down the length of Upper Dargo Rd, then back up the Dargo High Plains Road to Grant Rd, we did a quick drive by of Grant. We stopped and stretched our legs for 5 minutes and then continued on down the McMillan Rd into Talbotville. We were starting to get behind my schedule of getting to camp by 3pm to get the spit ready for dinner (being already 2:30pm) so we made a quick departure down the Crooked River Rd, we had a couple of shallow river crossings for Neville to have some fun in - after I showed him where the deep sections where and NOT to go through them, (I showed Neville how to drive through the shallow sections) all the while trying to dodge the cattle wadding through the river. We found a closed gate across the track so we were forced to do a u-turn and go up Randall's Track.

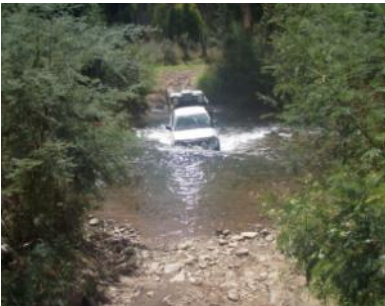




Now I've heard stories that Randall's track was adventurous to say the least. Well, that it was .... It was freshly graded that is. I think I was the first to go up Randall's, as there was NO tyre tracks at all. Considering the amount of loose stuff and bull dust present we should have seen 'some tracks' at least. Poor Neville and Chris had been following behind me all day eating my dust and they were now really 'eating' a lot on this track. The only way up was to just keep going and going, 'cause if we stopped at all I doubt Neville with his road tyres would have got going again. We hung a quick right to go down Conway Track, which we found to be in good and ruff condition, but at least NOT graded.

Wow, we finally got back to Crooked River Rd and was now running really late, so we continued back to the campsite. Somewhere along this Road prior to getting back to camp I made a suggestion about doing a night run, which Chris picked up on.

We got back to camp just after 5pm (this meal was the fastest I've ever light the spit and got the meat cooking) us blokes sat back and talked about whether we should attempt a short night run somewhere or get up early to do a run first thing in the morning before breaking camp at midday Sunday. We finally decided to do a short night run back up the first track (Maguire's) and turn around and come down again, Carolyn stayed at camp to keep an eye on the sleeping Samuel. So after a hearty pork roast dinner with roast potatoes, we left about 8:30pm to have a crack at a night excursion. Needless to say we had to keep the 'lemonades' to a minimum during dinner so we could keep our faculties about us for driving. The track looked very different in the dark. We took off with full lights on high beams, spotties and driving lights all on and we had a ball. I took the lead again, with Neville as co-driver and Chris followed shortly behind. Neither vehicle had any problems getting to the top, so we turned around and I gave Chris the chance to go dust free for the first time all day, and we went back down the track with my 4x HID's lighting up his tail end.



We got back to camp an hour after we left, we then sat around having our last lemonades together before it started to rain, so everyone but Chris, hit the sack at the early hour of 10pm.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>

We awoke to the steady pitter patter of rain, so after a non rushed breakfast we broke up camp by 10am. Deciding to quickly show Neville into Dargo prior to heading home. All in all, a pleasant very full day of driving (some of it in 4wd too) on the Saturday, I think we clocked up about 110km's (not including the night run). Pity about the rain on Sunday morning, but it happens.

## Trip Leader Driver Training

Attendees:

Luke T  
Chris S  
Ben E  
John M  
Catherine F  
Bruce C  
Dan R



First off I would like to say a big thank-you to John McNeil for letting the club use his work offices for the training, there was plenty of tea, coffee's and cakes on offer. Also thank you to Dan, Bruce and John for giving up their time to come and teach us and share some of their experiences and wealth of knowledge of four wheel driving with us.

To start off with, we went over a method on how a trip could be run, for maximum fun enjoyed by all that choose to attend our trip. Lots of stories were shared, with plenty of past experience from our trainers. Attendee's took notes, were given appropriate reading materials for help with preparation of our own trips and heaps of questions were asked of the attendees.

We had a coffee break and a chat, then came back together and had a chat about maps. We discussed the different types of maps, the details that's on the maps and how to read the maps. We then broke up in small groups to practise planning a trip. We looked at the maps, planned a route and had the help and knowledge of the trainers. We came back together, listened to more stories and chatted some more, then headed home. Once again a big thank you to all the trainers.

Written by: Catherine Felton