



MARCH 2012

Free Wheeling



Davies Plain Hut - Australia Day Weekend 2012

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 in January and November meeting at selected location). 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, down the far end of the car park)

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



FREE WHEELING

Hello and welcome to the March newsletter. Take a look at the upcoming trips, that are planned for the next few months, further into the newsletter and if your interested in tagging along, come along to this months meeting and have a chat with the trip leader and put your details down on the trip form.

Catherine

Editor@fwdc.com



COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2011-2012

President	Bruce Cremonesi	president@vfwdc.com 0400 425 296
Vice President	Mark Felton	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Jane Spence	treasurer@vfwdc.com
Secretary	David Bruinsma	secretary@vfwdc.com
GENERAL COMMITTEE		
Assistant Secretary	Andre Van Der Walt	assist@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	John Partridge	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Catherine Felton	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	Ashley Martin	
Training Officers	Ashley Martin	John Partridge
General Committee	Luke Teunissen	
Librarian	Andrew Hooper	
Merchandise	Chris Smith	
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)



VFWDC ADVERTISING DIRECTORY



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CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2012				
March	Wednesday 7th	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	9th–12th	Heyfield Area	Dan & Bruce	0400 425 296
		Committee Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	23rd–25th	Mansfield Onwards	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
April	Wednesday 4th	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	Friday 5th-Monday 9th	Sheepyard Flat-Wonnangatta Valley	Mark & Catherine Felton	0439 345 207
	Easter Weekend	Hattah-Kulkyne National Park	Johan Liebenberg	0407 563 210
	Easter Weekend	Woods Point	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
May	Wednesday 2nd	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
June	Wednesday 2nd	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	30th June-14th July 30th June-20th July	Simpson Only Simpson & Dig Tree etc	Dan Robinson	0407 334 169
July	Wednesday 4th	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	Friday 13th - Sunday 15th July	Snow Trip - Mt Skene	Mark & Catherine Felton	0439 345 207

Our website has been updated, check it out at www.vfwdc.com It would be greatly appreciated if you could bring a cd of the photos from your trips to the club meeting & pass them onto Bruce, so they can be added to our website for advertising. Only if you choose to.

For Sale Husqvarna 350 Chainsaw



Saw owned since new and well looked after. Used mainly for camping so not abused and kept clean.
Recent new 18" bar, chain in good condition.
\$430 obo Ashley - 0438 600 904

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to this months *Free Wheeling*.

Well the year is off to a flyer with great weather, great trips, and plenty of travel to be had! It's good to see that some people that were on the Trip Leaders course that we ran last year are getting out there and running some good trips, that's why we are here!

I hope all of you got through the new years safely, and look forward to another magnificent year ahead.

To start off with, the club has a new forum. To get to it, go to <http://forum.vfwdc.com/> and register. When you register use your Real name (Firstname Surname), no nicknames are allowed, just so everyone knows who each other is. Also could you please use your email address that is registered with the club, so we can confirm who you are, and stop unwanted spammers. It's free, no spam, nobody knows you except your fellow club members. The forum will have updates on trips, trip notes, urgent club info, and general banter between members. Skies the limit! This is to replace the Facebook page after complaints about it.

The Committee has a few items up their sleeves for this year, including the highly successful Xmas in July from last year, in the same format but this time at another location. Ashley is working on a property he knows about down at Glenburn, so we shall see and advise further! Also we will have a new "AGM" dinner, but again, totally different, again Ashley and Jane are onto a few good ideas there.

This year the committee has decided to get some new club merchandise to promote the club, windscreen stickers, stubby holders, beanies and caps, jumpers, shirts etc. Pretty much what we had before. So if you are interested in purchasing club merchandise, please come see the front bench at the next meeting!

Also Easter is nearly upon us and we have some great trips on, so get out there and support the Trip Leaders. See the further into the Magazine or the club's Forum for more information.

We are looking at running a Driver Training Course around April, so if anybody is interested in attending, please email delegate@vfwdc.com for more information. Remember you should do the Basic course 12mths before you do the advanced course. But Ashley or I can explain this to you, so please come and see us at the next club meeting.

The Meeting venue has had a few issues last year with bookings, but we have been assured that this wont happen again. This is out of our hands, but hasn't been a *big* issue, so lets hold our breath.

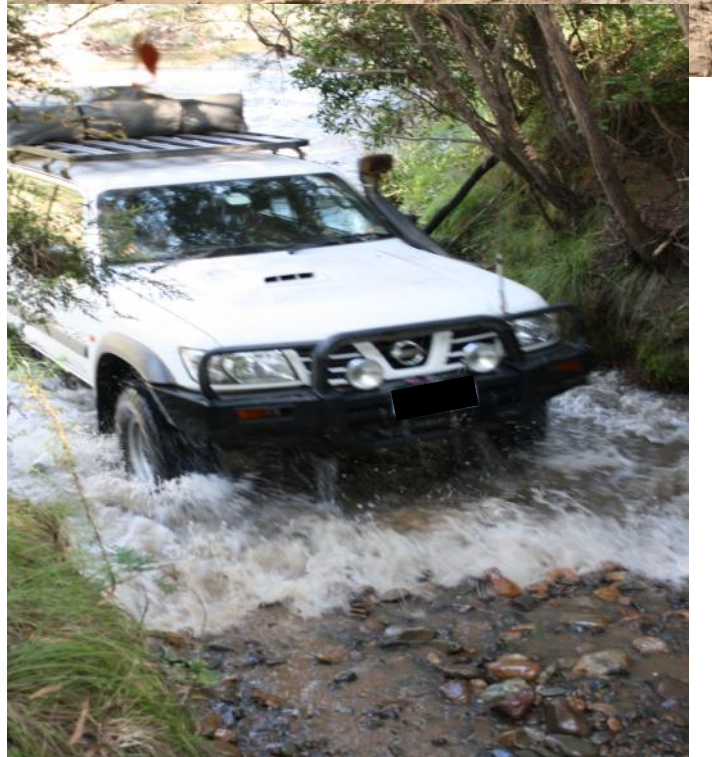
Anyway, see you all at the General Meeting, or out on the trails.

Take care
Bruce
President VFWD

There is no general business minutes.

Treasurers Report

Balance at 1/12/2011	\$7,104.70
Deposits:	
	70
	75
	75
	75
	75
Raffle (Nov)	146
Raffle (Dec)	95
	611
	\$7,715.7
Less Payments:	
	270.75
	42
	179.23
	\$491.98
Plus Unpresented chq's	
	42
	179.23
Balance at Bank as at 31/1/2012	\$7,444.95
Term Deposit:	
30/11/11	\$5,620.71
Plus interest (27/12)	\$78.48
Total	\$5,699.19



More photos
from Australia
Day Trip 2012

Notice to all club members

The club has a new forum.

It's free, no spam, nobody knows you except your fellow club members. The forum will have updates on trips, trip notes, urgent club info, and general banter between members. Skies the limit! This is to replace the Facebook page, after the committee received numerous complaints about it.

Go to <http://forum.vfwdc.com/> and register to enter the forum.

When you register please use your Real name (Firstname Surname), no nicknames are allowed. This is just so everyone knows who each other is, especially in relation to club trips!! Also use your email address that is registered with the club, so we can confirm who you are, and stop spammers.

Any questions, queries or complaints about it, please come and see the committee at the next meeting. If you are unable to get there, email us at committee@vfwdc.com

There will be discussion on this at the next general meeting, so come along and put your \$0.02 in the ring...

We hope this tool will be of benefit to our members.

Take care out there...



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.

If your personal details have changed in the last 12 months, could you please send an email through to the committee advising of your new details. This ensures all club members are kept up to date on the latest club news.

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For all your 4x4 needs

New retail store is now open with full workshop facilities

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Discounts available for all 4WD club members



UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Sheepyard Flat – Wonnangatta Station	DESTINATION	Simpson Desert & the Digtree
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	NAME: Mark & Catherine Felton MOB: 0439 345 207 editor@vfwdc.com	LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	NAME: Dan Robinson MOB: 0407 334 169
DATE	Easter Weekend Thursday 5 th – Monday 9 th April 2012	DATE	30 June – 14 July (Simpson only) 30 June – 20 July (Simpson & Dig Tree etc)
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Thursday : Lilydale Macca's @ 7pm Friday: Sheepyard Flat, leaving @ 9am	MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBD
GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: Easy	GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Easy DRY: Medium
TRIP A CTIVITY DETAILS	Were heading to the usual place of Sheepyard Flat, then head across The King Billy track, which was re-opened Melbourne cup weekend last year and goes through from Lovicks Hut through to Wonnangatta. Travel along the Zeka Spur track. Also stopping off at Howitt Plains Hut and then continue onto Wonnangatta Station, checking out the local history of the area. Also we will visit the area of Talbotville and the historical area of Grant.	TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	We will be leaving Melbourne travelling up to Mt Dare & then through the Simpson desert (West to East), From there we will be travelling on through to Innaminka & the Dig Tree. People coming can pick to head home after Birdsville if they need or stay along & visit Innaminka & the corner country. The route through the desert will be a mixture of the tracks. We will be going through Walkers Crossing to Arkaroola. NO Trailers.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 8	VEHICLE LIMITS	MAXIMUM: 4
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	200kms	APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	Need to travel ~600k's of desert without fuel, we will be filling up at Mt Dare.
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield	LAST AVAIL- ABLE FUEL	PETROL: Mt Dare DIESEL: Mt Dare
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	200 – 300kms	EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	All camping, WATER, food for ~5 days in the Simpson Desert. Some provisions will be available at Mt Dare & Birdsville. Park Pass will be booked & organised in the month before we leave.
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Self-sufficient		
MAPS REQUIRED	Mansfield – Baw Baw Wonnangatta		
RADIO CHANNE CB / UHF	12		



Day 1

Day 1 of our Australia Day long weekend began with most leaving Melbourne nice and early to get to Omeo by 10(ish). Apparently Bruce's alarm didn't work (?) wasn't heard (?) so it caused him and Cam and Mark and Catherine to get to Omeo a little after 10. Anyway, all arrived at our start point and the latecomers met up with Garry and Grant who had managed to arrive at Omeo on time.

After filling up the cars and getting the last of the real coffees for a few days we headed towards Benambra where after no less than 15 minutes on the road and, while still on the black stuff, Mark managed to undertake the first u-turn maneuver of the weekend. (Actually, it wasn't an omen of things to come because his and Catherine's navigational leadership was almost flawless after that).

From Benambra we headed down Limestone Road and left the back stuff, aired down and headed onto Misery Road and then Misery Trail. It didn't take long to realise we were in for a dusty weekend with the tracks being very dry and creating a lovely cloud of dust everywhere you went. We stopped for lunch at Limestone Creek Campground where Bruce felt he had to drive forward and back through the river (creek?) a few times to get some action water photos happening.

We then started to head higher into Alpine territory and enjoyed the great scenery along the Davies Plain Track. There were lots of people out enjoying the super long weekend. Lots of cars and lots of evidence of brumby life that had been inconveniently left along the track...

We had a look at Charlie Creek Campground as well as the lovely campsite at Davies Plain Hut where we stopped for a quick photo shoot. However, it was clear that it was going to be a busy campsite that evening so we decided we'd head on down the Davies Plain Track. Heading from Davies Plain Hut towards Tom Groggin we came across a fellow in a Toyota Kluger (!) that we'd end up bumping into a bit throughout the weekend. He immediately became known as "Mr Kluger Man" while over the radio we debated whether his boss knew how he was treating the company car and whether he would notice the rear bumper half hanging off

(which he incidentally did really well to get where it did - must have been lots of right foot and not much mechanical sympathy we surmised).

It was heading well past happy hour so we were keen to find a good campsite. Luckily for us we came across a Landrover that had managed to well and truly get stuck in some mud and its owner had unsuccessfully tried winching themselves out. It alerted us to the big bog hole on the track and it allowed us to very quickly notice a very convenient chicken track off to the right. Mark helped snatch the Landrover out - while the rest of us were very happy to find the Dogman's Hut Campsite empty, where snaffle it up quickly for the night. After setting up cap and eating dinner it was an early night to bed for everyone, as it had been a long day after leaving Melbourne early in the morning. Grant Renkema

Day 2 Today saw most of us get out of bed early, have brekky and boil a kettle for coffees and teas. We were all soon packed up and ready to head off for the day. We crossed the Murray River and drove through the NSW camp ground, where we found the black stuff; so we all stopped off and aired up. It was spectacular country side to be



travelling through, as the scenery changed from tall trees to the open grassy/snowy plains. As we travelled to Jindabyne, we came across many a bike riders on the road. We came across "Mr Kluger" and tow's camping site on the NSW side, where we headed back over the Murray river and tried a track to see if we could make it to Mt Pinnibar for the night, we came across a road closed sign across the track. We took another look at the map, it looked like another possibility of crossing the Murray, back around on the NSW side. Bruce had some car troubles, which we took a look at. We headed back over the Murray river, found the track we were looking for and got down to the river and discovered the only way cross the Murray, was to have a submarine, as the bridge was washed out years ago. It was getting late in the day, so we made a decision to camp at Tom Groggin for the night & the head to Mt Pinnibar tomorrow. Once again we came across "Mr Kluger" & crossed the Murray river to Tom Groggin.



We had no one at Dogman's Hut, so we started to set up camp, and then we took our chairs down to the river & sat in the river for happy hour's & had a competition of skipping rocks and seeing who could reach the log on the other side of the river first. Cam and I headed upstream of the Murray, where we climbed & looked around the rocks in the river. We took a few turns at floating down the river, in the fast moving rapids. It was getting late, so we headed back to camp, changed into some warm dry clothes, started a fire & make a start on cooking dinner. Dinner was consumed & soon we were settled comfortably around the campfire, till late at night, when most of us headed off to bed. Mark Felton



Day 3 So, u-turn tours continued.

After a nice sleep in and bacon and eggs brekkie, we moved away from our home away from home - the hut and cool river that had become so much of our life over the last few days.

We headed up Shady Creek Track; heading up Mt Pinnibar track to the top of Mt Pinnibar. We just got going up the hill not far from the hut, to find some ruts hidden on the other side of an erosion mound that saw Gary up on 3 wheels with the left front sky high, very impressive but I think he lost his seat cover in the manoeuvre. The drive from here to Mt P was fairly easy cruising & we moved along at a good pace.

Just at the last turn before the summit we came across another club that had just come down from the top, so being the nice people we are, we waited and let them all pass and then moved on. The view from the summit was magnificent as the weather was very clear that day, those that weren't there missed out. Although that top weather wouldn't last the day out!

From the summit, we headed down Shady Creek Track, towards Dunstons road there was a fair wack of dust still around & we stopped for a drink & lunch at Pinnibar Gibsons Hut. While here we checked air filters which was a good thing - in fact some of the filters were worth throwing away, if only I had a spare filter with me. Mine had a good few cm's of shyte on it. There was a bit of water flowing, so dunking heads was in order to cool off, as the high 30's continued.

Back on our way after an hour or so and a couple of u-turns looking for the track (yea mark, she was right), we hit Shady Creek Lower Track, to Cattleman Creek Track, to Wheelers Creek Hut. I hadn't seen these huts before, so out with the Canon again for some more memories.

We hit Paddy Joy Track, to Wild Boar Track, along the Wild Boar Range heading for Zulu Mine, I thought it sounded great! But most of these tracks don't look like they get much traffic, & when we got to the final track Zulu Mine track we only got a few hundred mtrs into it and the skies opened up, and the track was over grown. Back we go again, but at least the dust would stay down, shame the humidity didn't...

So we upped the pace as we went down to Benambra-Corryong road and tried a few tracks off the side, Grant found one nice uphill that he was determined to take - at around 4pm. Yes the famous 4 o'clock track. So we did take it! Having so much fun going up this thing while looking for the turning track to the left, we talked too much & missed it! So U turn again. When Mark looked at this track, she was **straight** down this hill we had gone up several hundred mtrs, Didn't feel like going down it after the rain, as it would have been a toboggan ride. Also not with Marks hubs were knackered. So... off again!

Again our efforts were thwarted as we tackled a bit of RWAP track and tried to find Shannonvale Hut, no luck there either and it was getting late so we headed back down the main road and Mark found a very big open camping area. So the team setup camp there, but I decided to head home at this point. So I helped setup a bit, watched Catherine running with a UDL in 1 hand and ½ a chair in the other trying to beat these other people to the campfire spot was priceless!!!!

In hindsight, we should have headed for Haunted Stream, but hindsight is a bitch! Thanks for Catherine for her first trip, it was a beauty! Keep it up girly, your doing great. Bruce Cremonesi



December 2011

General Meeting (Ballarat) Saturday 25th February 2012

The Board of FWDV has great pleasure in announcing that they have been able to secure Ron Moon as Guest Speaker for our Next General Meeting on Saturday 25th February. *(Ron, who would be known to most if not all 4WD Driver's as the long time Editor of the 4WD magazine, 4x4 Australia, and now as 4x4's Editor-at-Large. Ron & Viv Moon have contributed to, or written 13 guide books on Outback Australia, including books for Lonely Planet, Hema Maps and Global Publications).* We would recommend you try and attend this meeting to hear from Ron about his most recent couple of trips, along with his other 4WD experiences; this is an opportunity not to be missed. The Meeting is to be held at the Ross Creek Community Hall, Sebastapol / Smythesdale Road, Ross Creek (13.6kms past Ballarat) Melway Ref: 627 B4) commencing at 11.00am and finishing at 3.00pm (and a light lunch will be provided). To assist us with catering we ask that you confirm your attendance, by calling the office on 9857 5209 or email office@fwdvictoria.org.au.

Toyota Landcruiser Club CruiserKhana (Yarck) 24th-25th March 2012

So you think you can four-wheel drive, and that your 4WD skills are pretty sharp? The Toyota Landcruiser Club of Australia (Victoria Branch) has thrown down the challenge to four-wheel drivers to compete in its annual CruiserKhana event, where competitors can win major prizes just by showing off your ability to skillfully drive your 4WD. The event consists of two classes: novice and experienced, catering for drivers of all experience levels. Unlike some events that cater for vehicles fitted with the most extreme modifications, the CruiserKhana is known as the "thinking mans 4WD challenge", with the emphasis on the driver's skills, not the amount of modifications on his vehicle. Stock standard 4WDs are welcome – it's the driver's skills, not how good his vehicle looks that will ultimately succeed! Staged on the TLCCV property at Yarck (approx 2 hours from Melbourne) on the weekend of 24-25th March 2012, competitors & spectators will be accommodated with a wide selection of camping sites and a three course meal available for those attending both days. Only a limited number of entrants can be accommodated, so first in guarantees your place in this unique 4WD event. A large number of quality prizes are on offer from major 4WD sponsors. Entries to Cruiserkhana are now open and full information can be obtained from the Clubs website www.tlcv.org.au or the Cruiserkhana website www.cruiserkhana.com.au together with photos and a link to an action You Tube video which will give prospective competitors and spectators some interesting viewing. For those without computer access enquiries should be directed to Jeff on 03 98774749.

4WD Muster (Lardner Park – Warragul) 20th to 22nd April 2012

The 4WD Muster will be a family-friendly event to be held from Fri 20th to Sun 22nd April at Lardner Park, Warragul. The primary objective for the event is raising funds for Variety – the children's charity and creating a World Record parade of 4WD vehicles. Held over 3 days this event consists of exhibits and entertainment, that will include a mix of rock, country and contemporary bands, exhibitions by 4WD and camping suppliers, family activities including a climbing tower, jumping castles, roaming jugglers and clowns, along with food stalls, craft stalls and animal pens. Overnight camping is available, with free entry for children. Friday night will see The Rockits perform on stage, Saturday Night will see four separate bands perform, while Sunday sees the "Big One", the 4WD Muster World Record Attempt, a parade of 4WD vehicles to break the Guinness World Record, so our challenge is to try and get as many 4WD vehicles as we can to attend. 4WD Club Incentive – for every 5 x 4WD Club members attending the 4WD Muster 2012, the club will receive one entry in the draw for \$2,000 worth of 4WD Equipment and accessories courtesy of Prestige Offroad. To help your Club win this great prize, why not get a group of club members together and register now at www.4wdmuster.org.au

Four Wheel Drive Victoria

PO Box 1015G Balwyn North VIC 3104

Tel: (03) 9857 5209 Fax: (03) 9857 5260

Email: office@fwdvictoria.org.au Web: www.fwdvictoria.org.au

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