

**Bringing Four Wheel Drivers
Together**



**Victorian Four Wheel Drive
Club Inc.**

Free Wheeling

**VFWDC
May 2015**

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

Registration No A0002184F

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:

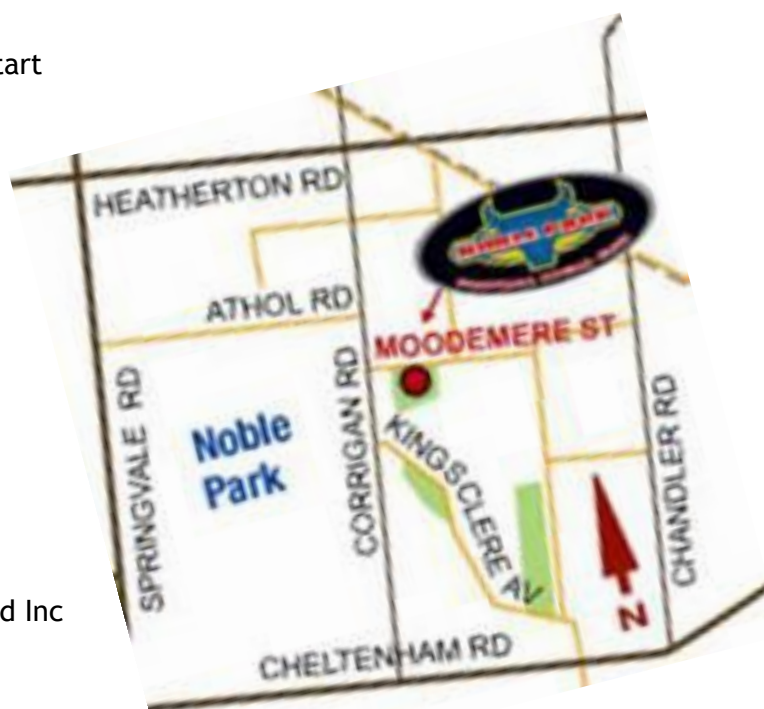
Bowling Club Rooms (Next to Car Park,
down the far end of the car park)

Noble Park Football Club

46-56 Moodemere Street

Noble Park

Melways ref: 89 D4



Aberfeldy Track managed by West Gippsland Inc

www.westgippslandinc.com.au

FREE WHEELING

Hello and welcome to the May Magazine. Last month we had all our Easter trips, I was lucky enough to attend Mick and Sally's trip up at MacKillop's Bridge. I have to say, if you ever get a chance to go to that part of Victoria, it is a must see destination. The views are fantastic and it is now one of my most favourite places I have been to.

Thanks, Mandie

editor@vfwdc.com

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

2013-2014

President	David Bruinsma	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President		
Treasurer	Steve Pitcher (acting)	treasurer@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Tony Barbera	secretary@vfwdc.com
GENERAL COMMITTEE		
Assistant Secretary	Lisa Barbera	assist@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-Ordinator	Stuart Bowker	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Mandie Lehmann	editor@vfwdc.com
Associations Delegate	David Bruinsma	delegate@vfwdc.com
General Committee	Mick Harris	-
SUPPORT POSITIONS TO COMMITTEE		
Web manager	Ben Whitworth	web@vfwdc.com
Training officers	Phillip Griffith	
Librarian		
Merchandise	Carolyn Bruinsma	merchandise@vfwdc.com

VFWDC ADVERTISING DIRECTORY



1B, 280 South Gippsland Highway,

Cranbourne, 3977

P: 03 59955055

E: sales@everything4wd.com.au

W: www.everything4wd.com.au

David Jackson



0408 333 313

Anyone wishing to advertise
in the Club Directory,
Please contact the Editor at
editor@vfwdc.com

CLUB MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

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
Club Drivers Jacket (Coat)	\$80.00 ea	VFWDC Windscreen stickers (small) \$6.00 (large) \$8.00	

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.

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



CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

4

2015				
May	6th	General meeting	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	8th	Toolangi night run	Scott and Mandie Lehmann	0423 544 551
	16th	Winch practice and tyre changing/repair demo	Stuart Bowker	0428 539 157
	22nd	Committee Meeting	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	23rd-24th	Dargo High Country, Blue Rag and Billy Goat Bluff	Stuart Bowker	0428 539 157
June	3rd	General meeting	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	5th-8th	Queens Birthday - Aberfeldy District	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	24th	Committee Meeting	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
July	1st	General meeting	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	11th-12th	Xmas in July St Anne's Winery	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	17th-19th	Mt Skene	Scott and Mandie	0423544551
	17th-19th	Mt Skene	Sam Ayoubiee	0414503874
	22nd	Committee Meeting	David Bruinsma	0417747860
August	5th	General meeting	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	14th	Mt Skene	Sam Ayoubiee	0414503874
	15th-2nd October	Cape York	Mick Harris	0424 766 616
	26th	Committee meeting	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
September	2nd	General Meeting	David Bruinsma	0417747860
	23rd	Committee Meeting	David Bruinsma	0417747860



News From The President

Hello to everyone, and welcome to the readers of this magazine.

This past month has seen more new people join our club as members, many of whom participated in our annual driver training/awareness course conducted by Phil, and assisted by John and Ashley. The theory night was conducted at John's 4wd shop in Cranbourne, and the two practicals were done over two days in Aberfeldy, with a fair bit of rain on the first day which limited the kind of tracks and practice that could be undertaken. I wish to express the committees gratitude to Phil, John and Ashley for their investment of time and depth of knowledge in conducting the driver training courses annually.

This month we don't have any special guest speakers attending our general meeting, which gives us plenty of time to socialise, and to talk about upcoming trips and to hear all the funny stories about trips past, who got lost in the dark and took hours to find a campsite that was only 20 minutes away that will be a funny story when we get to read the trip report. Just a reminder also to members to be aware of our privacy policy (available on the website), especially when posting photos of members or vehicles on social media. Best to keep names to first name basis only, not using full names - and if possible best to blank off vehicle number plates too. We are still working on a specifically tailored media policy, but this will take time to draft appropriately.

As a committee we are busily looking into the Christmas in July which will be at St. Annes winery this year. I have managed to find a rather large BBQ for the Saturday night dinner - I was trying to borrow one for the weekend, but in the end it has been donated to our 4wd club to keep. It is a large 6 burner flat plate BBQ with fold up legs, just fits in the back of my ute. Thanks and appreciate to Mick from MrFisho.com for the donated BBQ.

I really enjoy getting to meet any guest/visitors to our meetings, so if you are reading this magazine thinking about coming along, please feel welcome to check our club out and come along to a meeting. Don't be shy, come and introduce yourself to me, let me know what kind of 4wd you have, or thinking of getting, and what kind of experience you have and where you like to go camping or day trips. Guests are welcome to come on any of our planned outings to check us out at any time, except for the Mt. Skene snow trip, where all participants need to be affiliated with Four Wheel Drive Victoria (usually as a club member).

That's all from me this month, look forward to seeing you at our general meeting.

David Bruinsma
0417 747 860
VFWDC Club President
www.vfwdc.com



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Minutes of General Meeting March 2015

AGENDA - APRIL 1st Meeting - VFWDC

The meeting was held at Noble Park Football Club and was opened at 8.00pm by Club President David Bruinsma.

Present: Members present as per the Attendance book

Apologies: Members as per Apologies book

Visitors: Visitors as listed in the Visitors Book

WELCOME to Members and Guests:

INTRODUCE and welcome: **WAYNE HEVEY** from the Four Wheel Drive Association of Victoria, who will talk to us later in the night.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: ACCEPTED: Stuart Bowker

SECONDED: Tony Feltham

MATTERS ARISING:

Statewide 4x4 ... Once member has already been to have his vehicle GVM upgraded and a new suspension fitted - and now needs a step ladder to get into his vehicle.
Adds for both SafetyDave and Statewide 4x4 have been placed in our magazine as per committee agreement to offer free advertising for a time after outside businesses have come to our General meetings - refer to the ads for contact information

INCOMING MAIL

Bank Statement

Insurance Renewal

Membership application forms

Reminder from Rudy for Tuesday night meeting

Cross Country Jeep

Royal Flying Doctors Service Raffle

Minute Man Brochure Quote

4WD Vic Winch Recovery Course

4WD Vic GPS Course

4WD Vic Looking for a new Assistant

The Association's 40th Anniversary Weekend - 5th to the 8th June (Queens Birthday)

lots of emails from DEPI about local areas of fuel reduction burns

OUTGOING MAIL

EMAIL: David has Booked ARB for November Club Meeting

EMAIL: Power quip declined coming to the April Meeting

EMAIL: new member Grant our Banking Details to pay membership initial fees

TREASURERS REPORT

<u>Cheque A/C</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/03/2015		\$3,729.67
	Add:		
	Raffle Proceeds (March 2015 Meeting)	\$97.00	
	Memberships and Subscriptions	\$220.00	
	Merchandise Sales	<u>\$51.00</u>	
	Total Monies In:		\$368.00
	Less:		
	Prior Months' Cheques Presented	-\$84.67	
	Printing, Postage & Stationary	<u>-\$405.90</u>	
	Total Monies Out:		<u>-\$490.57</u>
	Closing Balance as at 31/03/2015		\$3,607.10
 <u>Term Deposit</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/03/2015	\$6,000.00	
	Add: Interest Income Received	<u>\$45.12</u>	
	Closing Balance as at 31/03/2015		\$6,045.12
 <u>Petty Cash</u>	(No Change)		\$150.00
			<hr/>
	Consolidated Closing Cash Position		<u>\$9,802.22</u>

ACCEPTED: Sally Higgs

SECONDED: Sally Harris

NEW MEMBERS: Members packs presented. A Big welcome to our new members.

Timothy & Kimberley Bouwker

David & Kylie Alnwick

Grant Dawson.

NEW BUSINESS:

We are about to place an order for new merchandise in preparation for winter. How many people would be interested if we introduced a fleece lined zipper hoddie with club logo into the merchandise line up ?

In the June/July magazine's we hope to put a note in about committee titles and roles, in advance of the AGM in August, together with nomination forms (which can also be downloaded off the internet).

David and Tony went to a President/Delegate meeting at Rudi's house about the Aberfeldy Track historic area maintenance. The meeting was very well attended with most of the signed up club around the table to talk about their areas. Rudi conducted the meeting and we were able to report on any damage and/or major works that needs to be carried out. I made mention that the Aberfeldy creek track had a broken directional sign that needed to be replaced, and that a timber log bridge was required to safely walk across a small creek that people with ambulant issues would not manage safely. This was minuted and Rudi will look into both points for us. All in all, it was very productive and at the end of the meeting, made Tony and I feel that our efforts in the area has been appreciated and in the same level of effort as most of the other clubs. Two areas that we (as a committee) need to work on, is better advance notice of any planned Maintenance trips that we have scheduled, and better reporting with before and after photos taken of tracks, and/or clearing around signage. Good photos will show blackberries before, and none after (for instance).

As a club we have been looking into registering as a 'club' with VICROADS in order that we can be in a position to issue 'club permit' Rego plates to members with suitable four wheel drives older than 25 yrs and is in Road Worthy condition (including all aftermarket modifications included on RWC). There would be a new committee member required just for the paperwork and administration side of things for the club. WE have one existing member that is interested in pursuing the CLUB PLATES as an option, and we have recently had an enquiry about someone wanting to change clubs, and has a CLUB PATED vehicle. Perhaps Wayne could offer a few points of view, even if it's got nothing to do with the association - he has a good deal of experience with club plated vehicles.

SPEAKERS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:

At this stage we have booked, JOHN CANNING, of CANNING Outdoor Power Equipment in Mount Waverley (STHIL DEALERSHIP) for our JUNE meeting.

Another business that is interested in coming is CARAC Trailers.

UPCOMING TRIPS

APRIL	1st	General meeting	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	2nd-5th	McKillop's bridge	Mick and Sally Harris	0424 766 616
	2nd-6th	Border Track - Big Desert	John Partridge	0428331211
	3rd-6th	Beachport, Robe	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	17th-19th	Proficiency Training	Phil Griffith, Ashley Martin, John Partridge	0419 865 472 0428 134 399 0428 331 211
	22nd	Committee Meeting	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
May	6th	General meeting	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
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COFFEE BREAK

COMPLETED TRIPS – :

Sally higgs headed to the Grandpians and Camped just outside Arrarat had showers and toilets and cost \$5.00 per night . On Saturday headed down to the south of the Grandpians and had a look around halls gap camp sites were packed went to mc kenzie falls. Drove china mans track on Monday went to Waretook and did some horse riding It was a great weekend.

David Bruinsma took a trip to St Annes Winery in Bacchus Marsh, we headed to the Brisbane ranges looking for some 4wd tracks there were none on offer then headed to st Annes winery for some wine tasting from there headed to The Plough for lunch. After lunch Lisa took the group into Lerderderg state forest looking for some tracks stoped at O'briens crossing and then onto XL track found some bog holes and finished at firth park, and had a great day out.

2015				
MARCH	4th	General meeting	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	6th- 9th	Grampians National Park	Sally Higgs	0435 782 207
	7th	St Anne's Winery	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	18th	Committee Meeting	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860

INTRODUCE and hand over meeting to: **WAYNE HEVEY** from the Four Wheel Drive Association of Victoria

4wd working hard to get onside with the new government and the minister for the environment Lisa Neville The government is receptive to what 4WDV is aiming to do. Committee Presented 6 month KPI data to the minister, 4WDV funding is linked to the KPIs. The base KPI is 1000 volunteer work Hrs and 4WDV had 2275.5 volunteer work hrs. Wayne thanked all 4wd clubs for their efforts in volunteering time to projects helping with the maintenance of the bush. Some of the programs that clubs volunteer time with taking underprivileged children into the bush Helping disabled people ect. Talked to the minister about a forming a statutory body and having a committee with 3 people from delp 3 from government and 3 from 4WDV do form an advisory body that meets 4 time a year and enters into a memorandum of understanding with government on setting policy. One thing that 4WDV has in place that not may people are aware of is access to MVO track there are about 1500 track and have access to about half of those track there are almost no applications to drive the tracks from the clubs. Clubs should look where the MVO tracks are and contact Wayne and apply to drive the tracks down load form and fill it out than send it of. Updating training packages. For those that couldn't meet the standard and that lost their accreditation if they attend a 2 day weekend on the 8th and 9th of August to help people keep their accreditation. The 40th anniversary weekend at Mansfield try the be there. 4WDV has posted seasonal closures if you have any questions contact 4WDV. The Association was formed by the clubs for the clubs and is there to help clubs. There is a program called clean up the bush and is being run by 4WDV and is being used to track data to submit to government the benefits of having 4wd club help clean up the bush. The dollar value for volunteer work is \$250.00 per worker per day and we saved the government 2.5 million dollars last year.

Raffle

First Aid Kit
250 Mtrs 12mm Rope
Narva Light
Eggs
Eggs
Easter Eggs

Aundre Van Der Walt
David Alnwick
Adam Howell
David Bruinsma
James Cong
Carolyn Bruinsma

10:05 pm meeting closed



1975 - 2015

*This Year Four Wheel Drive Victoria Celebrates it's 40th anniversary
To celebrate we are staging a weekend of celebration, fun and Friendship*

Where: *Mansfield in Victoria High Country.*

When: *Queens birthday weekend- Friday 5th -Monday 8th June 2015
Members are invited to arrive Friday night, or Saturday Morning for
Registration.*

Accommodation: *Limited camp sites are available at Mansfield showgrounds
Powered sites \$25 per night, unpowered sites \$20 per night. Sites are rapidly
going with numerous booking received. Fire drum will be available.
Book early to avoid disappointment.*

Activities: *Four wheel driving of all standards are organised for members to
Participate on the weekend.*

Anniversary Dinner: *Saturday night a dinner will be held in the hall at the
Showgrounds. Maximum seating available for the first 200. Cost of dinner is
\$40 per adult, \$20 per child under 12. A DJ will provide entertainment into
the early hours. A communal BYO happy hour will precede the dinner.
Sunday evening BYO Happy hour will again be held at the showgrounds.*

Monster Raffle: *Over \$7000 of quality prizes available*

Bookings: *Are now being taken for camping and the dinner. (Book early).
To book email: 40th@fwdvictoria.org.au or phone Sandra on: 0352661609
Bookings close May 15th, 2015.*

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Toolangi Night run
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Scott Lehmann MOB: 0423544551
DATE	8th May 2015
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Lilydale Macca's - 7:00pm for 7:30pm departure
GRADE	WET: medium to hard DRY: medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Haven't had a night run for a while, thought it was time to blow the dust of the light bar and spotties! Might also be a good chance for our new members or visitors to see what our club is about! The difficulty of the tracks we do will vary depending on the vehicle and driver capabilities of those who come along.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 10 (sorry, trip is now full)
APPROX KMS	100km round trip
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Lilydale DIESEL: Lilydale
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Torches! Basic recovery gear. MT or good AT tyres. Minimum 2inch lift.
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftops Toolangi-Macedon adventure map
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF ch12

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Bunyip State Park
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Stuart Bowker
DATE	Saturday 16 th May 2015
MEETING PLACE / TIME	McDonalds Pakenam Bypass East Bound
GRADE	WET: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Plan is to allow members to practice using their own winches in a controlled environment and I will give a demonstration on roadside tyre repairs and removing the tyre from the rim and refitting it. At this stage no 4x4 driving is planned.</p> <p>All welcome even if you don't have a winch.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2
APPROX KMS	100 Klms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Pakenham Bypass
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	NA
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery gear munchies and lunch
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftop
RADIO CHANNEL UHF	12

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Dargo High Country, Blue Rag and Billy Goat Bluff
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Stuart Bowker MOB: 0428539157
DATE	23 rd – 24 th May 2015
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Pakenham Bypass BP/McDonalds Eastbound 7:30 am for 8:00 am departure
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Very Difficult DRY: Difficult
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Travel to Dargo and do the Blue Rag Range tk, then travel down to Talbotville and the Crooked river tk and up Billy Goats Bluff Tk
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	400 k
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Dargo DIESEL: Dargo
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	200k
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery gear, Camping gear and food for the weekend
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftop Dargo – Wonangatta Adventure Map
RADIO CHANNEL UHF	12

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Queens Birthday - Aberfeldy District
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: David Bruinsma MOB: 0417 747 860
DATE	Friday June 5th to Monday June 8th - 2015
MEETING PLACE / TIME	tba
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Trip to Aberfeldy to do maintenance work in our district on the Saturday - other than that, I plan for the weekend to be a fairly quiet time based around the camp site at Little O'Tools camp ground.</p> <p>There will be other clubs in the area for the weekend doing their working bees as well, we might be able to catch up with the other clubs and do some interclub socializing as well.</p> <p>Whilst I intend to spend a lot of time around the camp fire and relax, I will break up my sitting around doing not much, by exploring some of the local tracks that has been very popular and some part technically challenging. This will be done in consultation with those hanging around the camp fire and I will try to do tracks that will be of interest to the majority.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	300 to 450 kms, depends on how much exploring we choose to do.
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Less than 100 kms
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Camping gear, Recovery gear, Food, Water, Sense of fun and relaxation. For the Saturday - need gloves, chain saws, wipper snippers (with blade if possible) Garden Rake.
MAPS REQUIRED	
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Portland Dune Buggy Club
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Andrew Holman MOB: 0416 019 790
DATE	June Long Weekend
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Portland TBC
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Easy DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Camping in the foot Hills of the sand dunes of the Portland Buggy Club The club has a shower/toilet setup. Fire wood is available to purchase by the trailer load. A very flexible trip
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	420kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Portland DIESEL: Portland
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	All cars must have a sand flag, which the Portland club will supply or make your own. Compressor and tyre gauge. Standard recovery equipment All participants must join the Portland Dune Buggy Club with a membership prior to coming on the trip. This is a very easy process Recovery gear
MAPS REQUIRED	None
RADIO CHANNEL UHF	12 or TBA

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Xmas in July - St Anne's Winery
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: David Bruinsma
DATE	Saturday 11th July to Sunday 12th July 2015
MEETING PLACE / TIME	At St. Anne's Winery from 12 mid-day onwards on the Saturday: 64 Garrards Road, Myrniong VIC 3341
GRADE	easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Twill be an easy relaxing weekend, camping at the winery itself. Come along, set up your camp - go to the cellar door, sample the wonderful variety of Wines and Ports and purchase your supplies for the weekend.</p> <p>The committee intend to supply the meat for the Saturday night dinner, with campers to supply the shared salads for the dinner. The Committee will also supply bacon and egg wraps cooked over the camp fire on the Saturday morning.</p> <p>There is NO 4wding intended at all for the weekend, but for those who would like to get some 4wheeling done, there will be opportunity to do so upon your departure on Sunday morning to head up through Wombat SF, I can certainly recommend to try the XL track which has some nice bog holes at the moment.</p> <p>If there is interest, we can conclude the weekend away by making a booking for lunch at the nearby pub 'The Plow' which provided us an awesome dining experience at my recent St. Anne's day trip in March. Lunch to be paid by each person - and a group booking will be need to made in advance so I need</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 5 MAXIMUM: 50
APPROX KMS	0 kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Bachuss Marsh DIESEL: Bachuss Marsh
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Bachuss Marsh
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Normal camping gear - and then relax around the camp fire.
MAPS REQUIRED	Normal GPS is sufficient to get to St. Annes
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	2015 Mt Skene Snow Trip
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Scott and Mandie Lehmann MOB: 0423 544 551 (Scott) or 0423 665 923 (Mandie)
DATE	17-19/07/2015
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Lilydale Macca's 7:00pm for 7:30pm departure
GRADE	WET: MED DRY: MED
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>We will be heading up Friday night and camping at Skipworth Reserve (Mansfield-Woods Point Rd, 7.5km South of Jamieson). If you can't make it up on Friday night, you can meet us at camp on Saturday morning. We will be leaving camp at 9am sharp to head up and over the summit of Mt Skene and (hopefully) spend the day playing in the snow.</p> <p>We will return to camp on Saturday afternoon and head home to Melbourne on Sunday around lunchtime.</p> <p>Camper trailers welcome.</p> <p>Please note: We are required to apply for a permit two weeks prior to the trip, so members wishing to attend must confirm before the end of June.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS	300km
Meeting place to destination	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield (Alpine diesel available)
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Snow chains are advised. Alpine diesel recommended for diesel vehicles. Basic recovery gear.
MAPS REQUIRED	Leader will have map.
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Mt Skene
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Sam Ayoubiee TEL:
DATE	17 July 2015
MEETING PLACE / TIME	
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: snow conditions DRY:
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Weekend trip to Mt Skene. Leaving Friday morning and returning Sunday. Trip activities meeting point will be announced closer to trip. Will be going to Licola and staying at Mt Skene and staying at Crows Hut.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM:
APPROX KMS	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Heyfield
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Approx. 50km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery gear & winches and snow chains if you have.
MAPS REQUIRED	Leader will have maps
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Mt Skene
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Sam Ayoubiee TEL: MOB: 0414503874
DATE	14 August 2015
MEETING PLACE / TIME	
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: snow conditions DRY:
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Weekend trip to Mt Skene. Leaving Friday morning and returning Sunday. Trip activities meeting point will be announced closer to trip. Will be going to Licola and staying at Mt Skene and staying at Crows Hut.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: MAXIMUM: 5
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Heyfield DIESEL: Heyfield
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Approx. 50km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery gear & winches and snow chains if you have.
MAPS REQUIRED	Leader will have maps
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Cape York and Fraser Island
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Mick Harris MOB: 0424766616
DATE	August 15 th to October 2 nd 2015
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Mild DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	TBA
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: TBA DIESEL: TBA
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Std recovery
MAPS REQUIRED	Hema Cape York
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Fraser Island
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Stuart Bowker
DATE	19/9/15 to 2/10/15 school holidays
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE	WET: Medium
Please adhere to new trip classifications	DRY: Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Plan is to meet up with Mick and Sally's group returning from their Cape York trip and tour Fraser Island with them.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: NA
	MAXIMUM: NA
APPROX KMS	Meeting place to be arranged closer to departure date, maybe Hervey Bay to allow people to travel up at their own pace.
Meeting place to destination	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: available Eurong beach and Happy Valley
	DIESEL: available Eurong beach and Happy Valley
	LPG: Hervey Bay
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	200 - 250k sand driving
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery gear, food and camping gear for 7 days supplies are available on the island.
MAPS REQUIRED	Hema Fraser Island
RADIO CHANNEL UHF	12

UPCOMING TRIPS

WANT TO PLAN A TRIP?

Find the 10 tips to planning a trip <http://vfwdc.com/pdf/10.steps.pdf>

Find the trip data form <http://vfwdc.com/pdf/Trip%20Data%20Form.doc>

Personal information form <http://vfwdc.com/pdf/Personal%20Information%20Form.pdf>

Temporary member & visitor form <http://vfwdc.com/pdf/Participant.Form.pdf>

Or email Stu our amazing trip coordinator to help you out trips@vfwdc.com

YOUR PHOTOS WANTED!



If you have any great trip photos
please email them to Ben web@vfwdc.com to
add to the website gallery.

Make Sure you let Ben know which
trip the photos are from. Please
make sure to blur or black out all
license plates.





McKillops Bridge Trip.

The trip was attended by.
 Mick & Sally (trip leaders)
 Stuart & Maree
 Bret & Niki
 Tony & Lisa
 Owen & Wendy
 Scott & Amanda
 John C
 John W
 Ben & Megan
 Guests..
 David & Kyle

We left home Thursday morning at 930 with John C (Jack) in tow & headed to camp..

We arrived there round 230 set up camp & waited for the others to turn up.

Dave turned up round 330.. Tony & Lisa arrived round 5... after normal club greetings the fire was lit, before we knew it it was late & headed off to bed..

Friday was a nice & sunny... not long after breaky Owen & Wendy arrived..

We had a visit from the local rangers, remembering what Wayne from VFWD told us at our last meeting I wondered over & introduced myself & got to talking... we told them that we were a four wheel drive club, he

turned his car off & spent 20 odd mins with us.. he said that some tracks were closed because of grading work & those tracks were very loose...(w found out on Sunday)

The rest of the troop turned up later in the day.. again same thing club greeting, dinner, all around the fire till 11ish..

Saturday morning was again sunny.. we headed off to do Deddick Tk via Wills Rd, down Bowen Tk onto Deddick.



Well it was dusty, loose, rather rough a lot of hills to climb good fun...

Then we came to Joans Staircase.

Some of the steepest washout you will find... but up the very top someone dug two big holes which some had trouble getting by.. Owen, John W had several go's at it to make it to the top..

Some of our group didn't have lockers & made it up... every brave person our lot...

We made to the end of Deddick Tk this time turned onto Yalmy rd & headed back to camp..

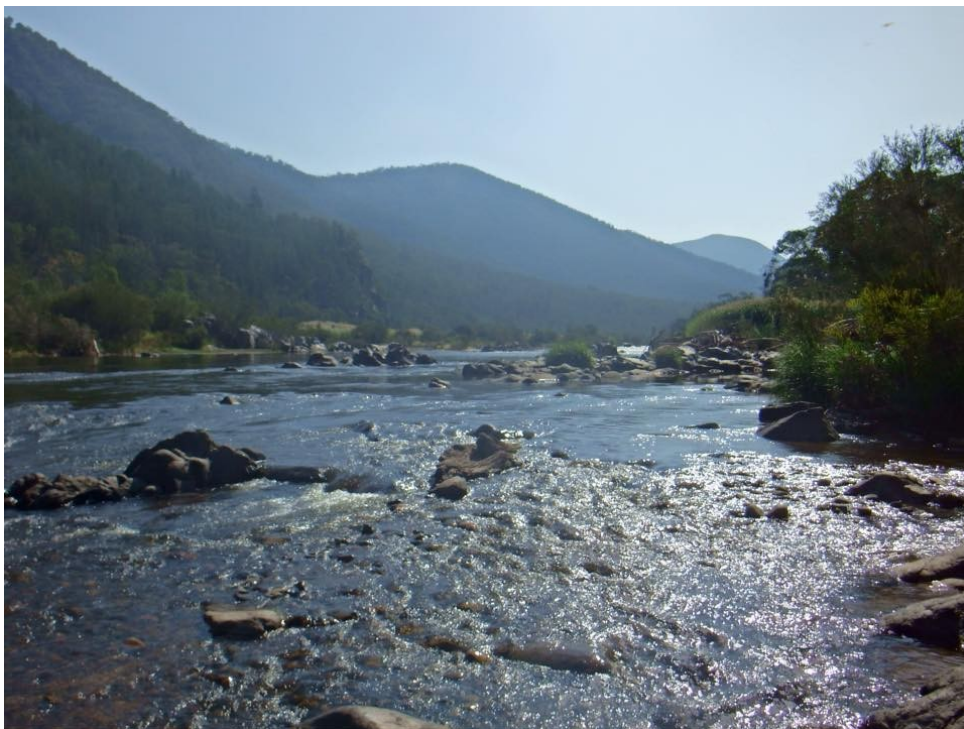
Once again round the fire with dinner & drinks & a lively discussion about the day & other things.

Sunday morning was again very nice. We lost Jack, Brett & Niki they left us to head home early, so we left early so we could get back early for Easter Sunday dinner.. yer right....

We found Tingaringy Tk & off we went.. it was very loose, no one had been on this track.

(the track had been closed for some time with the fire, & the rain damage) the rangers opened it up on Saturday afternoon.. after too river crossing some steep climb's we got very close to the summit when we came across some motor bikes, one stopped & told us that a group of 4wd were doing a recovery just up a head they had been there 3 odd hours.. some of us went up to see if they needed a hand... No was the firm reply so we stood & watched after some time we left, found a spot to have lunch & headed back to camp for dinner..





The recovery that we saw was a rollover(thank god the couple in the car were ok) from what I manage to get out of the group was they were coming down & found it to lose & had turned around to go back up when it happened...

Monday morning we all packed up to head for home...except Ben & his family who were staying one more day..Stuart & Maree, Tony & lisa were heading off for a few days extra exploring..

As we got half way up McKillops Bridge rd I found water pouring out from under my bonnet..

so we backed down into a small area to have a look, before long the hole group were under my bonnet, the problem solved & home we came...

Thanks to all who came it was a good tip



A Weekend at the Beach!



Sally Higgs

The Thursday before Easter saw a mad scramble to pack the four wheel drive and get on the road for a weekend of beach driving at Beachport, South Australia. There were only 2 vehicles going and we were meeting at Green-Hill Lake, Ararat on the Thursday night. We managed to leave town just after 7pm and miss most of the traffic so it was an easy drive out to Ararat where we arrived at around 10pm. We set up camp for a brief overnight stay.

In the morning we set out for Beachport via Mt Gambier. We stopped in to have a look at Nigretta Falls just out of Hamilton, but there was not a lot of water flowing through them at the moment. You could see how amazing it would be after a significant rainfall though.



We got to Mt Gambier at lunch time and headed up to the Blue Lake. It is an explosive volcanic crater that is one of the youngest volcanoes in Australia. The colour of the water is an amazing vivid blue.



We reached Beachport in the middle of the afternoon and made our first call to the information centre to pick up the relevant Maps for the Beachport to Robe and Beachport to Carpenters Rocks runs as neither of us had done the trip before. It is fantastic that the local four wheel drive clubs puts together the tracks and the maps to make sure that everyone has a lot of fun. We bought an "I got bogged at beachport" sticker as we knew we would not be back at the centre when it was open as we thought we would get bogged at least once...

We then headed to the campground that we had seen on our way in but soon discovered that we were at the wrong one.. oops! We then found our way to the right camp ground and they gave us our sites which were tucked nicely away from the chaos of the main camp ground.

We set up camp and the wind was blowing through but we decided that we should head down to the beach and to walk along the second longest jetty in Australia.. There were times on the 750m plus walk out that we were somewhat worried about our safety as it seemed very unstable in areas. It is over a 100 years old though so not surprising.



We then headed back to camp to cook dinner for the night. There was a couple in a very small tent next to us and we started talking to them. They were from Germany and were travelling around Australia for a year in a four wheel drive and a very very very small tent. We showed them Aussie/ Kiwi hospitality and shared our almost famous desert – roast bananas with marshmallows and chocolate, which was an experience for them as they had never had anything like it. We whiled the night away chatting about travel, four wheel driving, camping and general trivia.

The next morning we awoke to sunshine and a stunning day so off we went leaving our German friends for the next leg of their adventure. We decided that we were going to head to Robe. The Maps are pretty good but we soon found out that it was going to be an interesting day as we kept going down tracks to see if we could drive on the beach or trying to work out how it all worked. I did a lot of walking. It was great fun though but as we only had 2 vehicles and the sand is quite soft we were taking it easy. The main channel on the radios here is 10 so we had one radio tuned to that and then another on our own channel. Tristan picked up a group heading our way and they had a Disco leading the group. They were giving the Disco a hard time and Tristan could not help himself and made comments to about how great they were. We then worked out that they were only just behind us so Tristan invited us to join their group. They were very obliging. They were the Naracoorte Four Wheel Drive Club and friends. We joined their group at the back and we were now under the guidance of Danny and his Disco 3 and the President of the Club as Tail End Charlie.



Tristan negotiating the first Beach drive.

We started off the drive and soon found some dunes to play in and we all had a go at getting up. Our tyre pressures were way too high so we had to keep reducing them down to lows of 12psi. We had fun in the Disco with traction control kicking in at the wrong times.

Our new group of friends for the day!



We had a great mix of beach driving and then driving in the dunes for the day. There were a couple of times when people got stuck but nothing that a quick snatch or a set of maxtraxs couldn't solve. We had lunch in Nora Crieda before heading into Little Dip National Park for the afternoon's driving.



The bay at Nora Creina.

We reached Robe where we filled up with gas and prepared to head back to Beachport. Some of the group we were with were staying at the same camp ground as us so we headed back to camp with them. That was after we organised with Danny to meet him and a new group of Naracoorte four wheel drivers the next day to do the run to Carpenters Rocks. We farewelled Danny and crew and made our way back to camp.

We had dinner and then headed over to the group that we met during the day and spent the night around their fire gossiping and playing a card game called Cards Against Humanity. It is a great adult card game for a group of people to play. I am sure that the other campers wanted to join in just by the laughter that was emanating from the camp. We also watched the Lunar Eclipse as it was a fantastically clear night.

The next morning we woke to an overcast day and we met Danny and the Naracoorte group at the information centre at 9am. We then headed towards Carpenters Rocks. It was decided that we would be straight out onto the beach as the group was down to 5 for this trip.

Tail End Charlie advised that he might have some issues with his diff but he was doing ok. We had a play in some of the dunes and then were back out onto the beach. The tide seemed to be coming in and the beach was VERY VERY soft but we kept pushing through. There was an area where Danny said it was extremely soft and we needed to be careful as it was also a washout area where the tide comes right in. We gave it a go and all made it through. Tail End Charlie had some issues so was lowering his pressure and we were discussing if we needed to get off the beach or carry on. We waited for Charlie and he came driving through, he however ended up getting stuck in a low spot and then next

Where we had 2 Disco's tied together and trying to winch him out but he was stuck fast. We ended up having to tie 2 snatch straps together to pull him out which Tristan did a great job getting him out just as the tide came up around his front wheel. We were interrupted by another group that did not listen to us and even after we told them to wait one guy came barrelling through and got stuck in the middle of us. We had to recover him first and then sort our crew out. Very annoying!

We quickly made our way out to the tracks along the back and as Charlie now only had 2 wheel drive so we stayed to the inland tracks for the rest of the day.

Danny then took us through to the biggest sand dunes of the day overlooking Lake Bonnie and boy did we have some fun going up and down.



We finally tore ourselves away from the dunes and drove through to Carpenters Rocks. This is where we farewelled Danny and the Naracoorte crew and we headed back with our new friends to camp. We made dinner and then headed over to say farewell.

The next morning we woke to rain so packed up and headed out of beachport to Melbourne via Naracoorte, Little Desert, Nhill, Horsham and home.

Little Desert had been impacted by fires over the summer but it still looked interesting. We will have to head there for a trip sometime soon.

We had a fantastic weekend and without the Naracoorte Four Wheel Drive club it would have been a completely different trip. It was great to meet locals and experience their area with them. They have been invited to come to the high country sometime soon so we can show them some of our hospitality.



April 24th- 26th 2015

Driver training at Aberfeldy

Trainers: Phil, Ashley and John

Participants : Ben (Triton), David (Triton), Maree & Tim (Pajaro), John (Hilux) Tony (Ford Ranger), David (Navara), Amanda & Scott (Navara), Stuart (Toyota, camping support for Maree & Tim)



The groups left Melbourne either Friday night or Saturday am. Friday groups chanced meeting at the Erica Hotel. Dinner was awesome, so put this back on the places to visit list.

Ashley and John wanted to do a recon on the tracks so they left John (new member) with Stuart to find the way to Little O'tooles. In the dark it looks different and Stuart got misplaced (lost) after four river crossing we finally got to the camping ground. John our new member did an amazing job he had never crossed water before and not in the dark either so well done John in his Hilux. Saturday morning the heavens opened and we all got wet. The other group arrived and it's still



raining. The group split for either vehicle inspections or stall recovery. Vehicle inspections went over recovery points, general maintenance, how to use recovery gear, what is safe ratings, tyres, difficult terrains, tips and hints including water crossing. The understanding behind a basic recovery. The main point is always stop look think and be safe. Went out for some stall recovery practice, Scott got stuck in the mud. David got excited a "recovery" and charged off in the Navara to the rescue but Scott got out before he got there, sorry Woody.

Set up camp had lunch and it's still raining. So off for a drive, looking at tracks too wet, and the biggest issue is if we do use the tracks what damage will we do, so down to the river crossing. This is where Stuart got miss placed last night it looks completely different in the day light.

Over the river and back again, we did not do much because of the rain and wet tracks, so back to enjoy the fire. The highlights of the evening were Mandy and Scott's camp oven chicken, smelt so good. Stuarts damper and his large tarp that we kept ducking under when the rain returned.

Sunday we got a patch of blue sky. Packing up wet camping gear is not fun, it doesn't go back into the bags as good as it came out. Up to "S" track for the practical part of the training.

"S" track has a bit of everything, mud puddles, slippery clay, steep up and down grades, whoop die doo's and one with a big chunk missing to add a challenge. Rockery boulders, slippery shale, and jump ups and as you can imagine the S is for the switch backs.

Each vehicle went up and then the ones with 2 drivers went down and up again. Everyone did a great job. Personally I think the going up over the whoop die doo's missing a bit on a corner was the hardest.

Lunch at the top and down Mc Williams's spur track over to the dam wall where we aired up and headed back to home.

Thank you to Phil, Ashley and John for your time and effort over the weekend, it's great to have your amazing knowledge passed on to help all of the 4x4 drivers be safe in what they do.



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CLEAN UP THE BUSH PROJECT

The Clean up the Bush project is at the stage where we need to have our members join us in the actual retrieval of the rubbish which has already been located and tagged in the bush and bring it to central pick up points which are currently being determined by the land managers and other partner agencies. This action is taking place on Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd May from Hill End which is where we will once again base the project. The recovery process will be made up of trailers and spotter cars so please join us with vehicles and trailers of any description, the larger the better of course. It will be of great importance to have numbers performing these tasks together to make light of the work load in front of us but we guarantee it will be a very rewarding experience. We also require each group to have their own or at least one GPS device per group to assist in the locating of the predetermined areas. All region tracks will be allocated to the groups and a kit provided with a map as well as photographs relating to the rubbish to be collected by the groups. Do not be afraid to get involved and assist us in completing this worthwhile pilot trial, we really do need and want as many participants as possible. Please register your interest with the office to assist us with the internal planning for the weekend and by the way, if you can't commit for the entire weekend, we will accommodate you and your teams either day.

GAS CANISTER COOKERS SAFETY WARNING

There have been a number of incidents recently with butane gas canister stoves resulting in their withdrawal from sale across the country. Further information can be found on the FWDVic website as well as those of the various state and Commonwealth consumer affairs websites. If you have one of these stoves and continue to use it, you should exercise great care and follow the safety guidelines as detailed on the aforementioned websites.

NEW TOURING ROUTES

One of the commitments FWDV has made to DELWP is to devise six new touring routes for inclusion in their "Forest Notes" pamphlets. This, as yet, has not been fulfilled. We need to identify and plan routes that are interesting and exciting throughout the state's forests. They will need to be classified, not only to their difficulty, but also have historical and cultural significance to the area they are in. The aim is to make these drives inviting to a wide range of people, from four wheel drivers to the wider community in all types of vehicles. Crucial to the success of this is standardised track classification, so that all who take these trips know and understand what to expect. If you like to be part of this and help put a drive together, please contact the office.

CLUB INSURANCE

Liability is a four letter word these days. Whether a club is running a display stand, a sausage sizzle or any other event on private property or not, it must ensure proper insurance cover is in place to protect members and the club in general. If in doubt or you just wish to check facts, give the office or Affinity Insurance a call. Together we will efficiently help your club determine its risks and advise the appropriate cover.

CO-OPERATION AND COMMUNITY

A recent event has highlighted how four drive clubs and their members can make a huge difference in the community working with other groups. Parks Victoria's Omeo office approached FWDV for assistance in helping a bush walking club carry out maintenance on the Alpine Walking Track near Misery Trail and Buckwong Track in the Alpine National Park. Midweek 4WD Club was asked and happily volunteered to undertake this project. Club members provided transport for the bush walkers and their equipment to and from each day and each group gained a greater understanding and appreciation of the others pursuits. A great weekend of fellowship was enjoyed by all, enhanced by a roast meal provided by PV on the Saturday evening. This type of co-operation brings a positive outcome for all, with a better relationship with other users of the bush and enhances and reinforces our relationship with the land managers.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Explore Australia: FWDV will have a stand at this event to be held May 27 – 31 at the Melbourne Showgrounds. Our involvement in events like this make the public more aware of the activities of four wheel drive clubs and assists clubs in recruiting

FWDV 40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Four Wheel Drive Victoria. What began as a meeting of concerned clubs trying to work together to have a better voice on all things four wheel drive, resulted in the formation of the Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs (VAFWDC), which has now become Four Wheel Drive Victoria. And now, as we turn 40, it's time to celebrate. We will be gathering at the Mansfield showgrounds on the Queen's Birthday long weekend in June for a time of fellowship and fun. Trips and entertainment to suit all are planned, together with a full sit down meal on the Saturday evening. A monster raffle with more than \$7000 of fantastic prizes, including: an Engel fridge; Hema HN6 GPS unit; and an ARB Air Locker has tickets selling briskly. Places are limited and filling fast, so book now to avoid disappointment.

REGIONAL REPS MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday 16th of May at the offices of FWDV in North Balwyn. This meeting is to be a strategic look at the way the way Regional Reps work and to look at what it aims to achieve and the actual outcomes from the program. All current representatives are requested to attend, as is anyone interested in joining this very worthwhile part of our community. Please advise us as soon as possible of your attendance so that we can cater for you.

FWDV IS ON THE MOVE

The location that our office currently occupies is earmarked for demolition and redevelopment in July next year, and as a consequence of this, we need to find a new home. Several options are being investigated and it is hoped that in the next couple of months the details will be finalised.

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This body meets four times a year and is a face-to-face get together between Four Wheel Drive Victoria and the land managers (Parks Victoria and DELWP). It allows the parties to discuss and work through the various issues that impact upon their own activities as well as others and how these can be best resolved. These meetings are critical in maintaining and strengthening our ongoing relationships between FWDV and the government and its agencies. It also sets performance bench marks for things like: track clearing; Clean Up The Bush; hut and graveyard maintenance and Camp Hosts among others. This work done by club volunteers, helps determine government funding for FWDV for the year, and so the more that are involved, the better.

CAMPING FEES ABOLISHED

On Thursday 2nd of April, the Government abolished the camping fees imposed by the previous government with immediate effect. This is a great relief for all four wheel drivers and campers alike as the scheme had proved difficult to administer and police, and was shown to be nearly impossible to use, particularly when in the bush without phone coverage. We thank the government for its commonsense and action.

Four Wheel Drive Victoria

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