

**Bringing Four Wheel Drivers  
Together**



**Victorian Four Wheel Drive  
Club Inc.**

# Free Wheeling

**VFWDC**

**August 2016**

**Xmas in July  
St Annes Winery  
2016**

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 from 6:30pm.

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

### **Venue:**

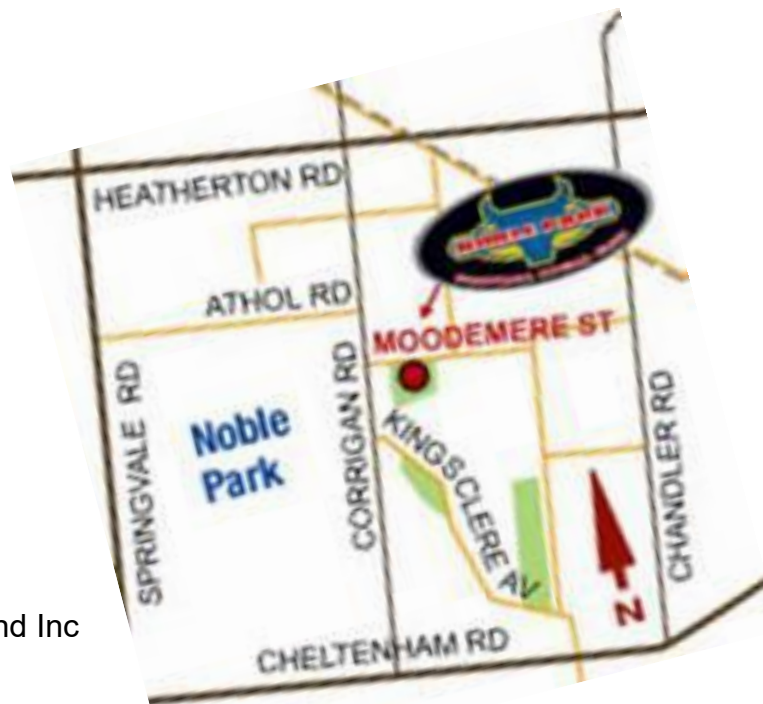
Bowling Club Rooms (Next to Car Park,  
down the far end of the car park)

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](http://www.westgippslandinc.com.au)

### **FREE WHEELING**

[editor@vfwdc.com](mailto:editor@vfwdc.com)



COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT		
2015-2016		
President	David Bruinsma	<a href="mailto:president@vfwdc.com">president@vfwdc.com</a>
Vice President	Sally Higgs	<a href="mailto:vicepres@vfwdc.com">vicepres@vfwdc.com</a>
Secretary	Bruce Cremonesi	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
Treasurer	Tony Barbera	<a href="mailto:treasurer@vfwdc.com">treasurer@vfwdc.com</a>
GENERAL COMMITTEE		
Trip Co-Ordinator	Stuart Bowker	<a href="mailto:trips@vfwdc.com">trips@vfwdc.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	(position vacant)	<a href="mailto:editor@vfwdc.com">editor@vfwdc.com</a>
Association Delegate's	President and Treasurer	
General Committee	Max Germasi	
General Committee	(position vacant)	
SUPPORT POSITIONS TO COMMITTEE		
Web manager	Ben Whitworth	<a href="mailto:web@vfwdc.com">web@vfwdc.com</a>
Training officer	Phillip Griffith	<a href="mailto:Email c/- trips@vfwdc.com">Email c/- trips@vfwdc.com</a>
Training officer	Ashley Martin	<a href="mailto:Email c/- trips@vfwdc.com">Email c/- trips@vfwdc.com</a>
Merchandise	Carolyn Bruinsma	<a href="mailto:merchandise@vfwdc.com">merchandise@vfwdc.com</a>
Club Details		
Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club	
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>	
The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of Four Wheel Drive Victoria - <a href="http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au">www.fwdvictoria.org.au</a>		

CLUB MERCHANDISE FOR SALE			
Club Polo Shirts	\$28.00 ea	Club Hoodie	\$48.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$48.00 ea	Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$54.00 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 ea	
We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.			
Email your order to <a href="mailto:merchandise@vfwdc.com">merchandise@vfwdc.com</a> . Please ensure you advise size required.			



## News From The President

Hello and welcome for yet another issue of the VFWDC monthly magazine.

This will be my last President News after being in the role for the last two years. There are times when it has been hard to write the news, and this last one is perhaps the hardest.

It has certainly been an absolute privilege to be accepted and supported in the role as president of this great club, and to also have served on the committee for the past 6 years. I think it fair to say that there will be big 'void' in my life once my term is up. Hopefully I will be able to fill that void with more club trips with my family.

I have seen many new faces come into the club over the time I have been involved and it has been exciting to meet new people and to encourage them to come along on our club excursions into the bush and other activities we are involved in.

In this particular magazine, there are lots of pages dedicated to trip reports with photo evidence of the fun activities that we have been involved in, over the past couple of months.

I trust and hope that each of you has given careful consideration to whom you would like to see lead this great club for the next year (or more) and that you have spoken to the people you would like to nominate.

I am looking forward to the AGM and to give a 'wrap up' account of the past years worth of activities. See you all at the Meeting.

David Bruinsma  
VFWDC Club President  
[www.vfwdc.com](http://www.vfwdc.com)



# CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

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2016 August				
3rd	Wednesday	AGM and General Meeting	President	
6th	Saturday	1st Aid Course - Melbourne City	David	0417 747 860
14th	Sunday	Mt Matlock - Wood Point	Bruce	0400 425 296
15th		Deadline for magazine articles	Editor	
23rd	Tuesday	Old & New Committee Meeting	President	
27th/28th	Sat/Sun	Cobaw State Forest	Steve	0421 205 529
2016 September				
7th	Wednesday	General Meeting	President	
9th/12th	extended weekend	Border Track	Mick	0424 766 616
15th		Deadline for magazine articles	Editor	
20th	Tuesday	Committee Meeting	President	
2016 October				
5th	Wednesday	General Meeting	President	
15th		Deadline for magazine articles	Editor	
15th/16th	Sat/Sun	Aberfeldy Working Bee	David	0417 747 860
18th	Tuesday	Committee Meeting	President	
2016 November				
9th	Wednesday	General Meeting - Special Event TBA	President	
15th		Deadline for magazine articles	Editor	
22nd	Tuesday	Committee Meeting	President	
2016 December				
7th	Wednesday	General Meeting	President	
10th	Saturday	Xmas Party TBA	Committee	

## Minutes of General Meeting July 2016

**Members** as Per Book  
**Visitors** as Per Book  
**Apologies** as Per book

June Minutes accepted:  
**Accepted:** Joe Tonkin  
**Seconded:** Andy McGregor

**Business from Minutes:**  
 Nil

**Correspondence in:**  
 Emails from prospective members  
 Insurance paperwork  
 Resignation emails from Tony Feltham and Max & Sandra G  
 Magazines from other 4wd clubs  
 We are invited to the National 4x4 Outdoors Show  
 Coonara Springs Restaurant

**Correspondence out:**  
 Replies to prospective members.

**Treasurers:**  
 As per attached report  
 Question on the chq that we have had for 12 months - and if we just send mail to Charlie and if he doesn't pick up we just absorb it. Sam mentioned he would talk with Charlie.

**Accepted:** John Partridge  
**Seconded:** Andre VanDerWalt

**General Business:**  
 Communications Policy  
 At committee meeting we accepted the changes recommended by the member submissions. David briefly explained the changes, and the process from here is that the changes will be incorporated and once completed, the new policy will be added to our existing policies and be made available on-line.

Membership Fees  
 David explained the break down on costs and explained that we are not making enough out of membership to cover costs.  
 The committee has agreed next year we will be increasing the membership costs by \$10, starting for new and renewal memberships for 2017/2018 financial year. Memberhips currently due and owing are not affected.  
 Single Membership will become \$80  
 Family Membership will become \$90

**Trips Coming.****See Magazine for more information on trips.**9-10<sup>th</sup> July - Xmas in July

- please bring firewood
- the popup restaurant is a bit more than Dave thought \$20 p/p
- Werribee 4wd Club will also be present for the day and evening

9-12<sup>th</sup> Sept - Border Track

Mt Skene trip – Andre

Meeting and staying at Skipworth

Andre leaving Friday evening. Arriving at bout 7.

Mt Skene trip – Sam

Departing Friday

6am BP Pakenham

8am Heyfield

3<sup>rd</sup> August – AGM6<sup>th</sup> August - First Aid Course.

20-25 people first aid course

See if people from work are interested.

14<sup>th</sup> August – Matlock, Woods Point, Mt Selma.27<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> August - Cobaw St Forest – Low range Min 2 – Max 6 Cars.9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> September – Border Track**Trips Completed**10 - 13<sup>th</sup> June – Portland Buggy Club trip.

Report by Brett. Brett took over from Bruce - due to Bruce being out for the count with the flu.

Short Notice Trip 10 - 13<sup>th</sup> June – High Country Trip. Sam  
Through Briagolong to High Country.**Trip still in progress:**

July – Canning Trip with Stuart

**Raffle Prizes:**1<sup>st</sup> – Dave2<sup>nd</sup> – Norm3<sup>rd</sup> – Brett**Meeting Closed at 9.30pm**

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together

Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc  
www.vfwdc.com

## Treasurer's Report

### June 2016

Cheque A/C Opening Balance as at 01/06/2016 \$3,243.19

**Add:**

Membership Renewals	\$970.00
Merchandise	\$54.00
Raffle	\$83.20
<b>Total Monies In:</b>	<b>\$1,107.20</b>

**Less:**

Club Insurance Chq 487	\$450.00
<b>Total Monies Out:</b>	<b>\$450.00</b>
Closing Balance as at 30/06/2016	\$3900.39
Refund Membership overpayment	-\$400.00
Plus: Un presented Cheque #469	-\$400.00

31/05/2016 Actual Balance When Cheque's Presented \$3,500.39

Term Deposit Opening Balance as at 01/06/2016 \$6,210.41

Interest Paid	\$39.81
Closing Balance as at 30/06/2016	\$6,250.22

Petty Cash Opening Balance as at 01/06/2016 \$150.00

Closing Balance as at 30/06/2016 \$150.00

**Consolidated Closing Cash Position \$9,900.61**



## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Matlock Woods Point Snow</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Bruce MOB: 0400 42 52 96
DATE	Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Marysville 8am
GRADE	WET: Hard DRY: Not a chance
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Going for a play in the snow if there is any, Coffee up at the phone tower etc... maybe to lake mountain if there's none elsewhere
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 4
APPROX KMS	100+
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Marysville
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUP- PLIES	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	FULL RECOVERY GEAR AND WARM CLOTHING
MAPS REQUIRED	
RADIO CHANNEL    UHF	12

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Cobaw State Forest</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Steve MOB: 0421 205 529
DATE	27 – 28 August 2016
MEETING PLACE / TIME	BP Service Centre, 937 Calder Freeway, Calder Park (Nth-bound, just past Calder Raceway) 8:30 am departure
GRADE	WET: Medium-Hard DRY: Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Explore the Cobaw State Forest. There is a basic campsite (no toilet facilities) for overnight camping. The trip distance is also suitable for anyone wishing to make a day trip on the Saturday only. Several tracks are a little rutted and/or eroded in sections, requiring reasonable vehicle clearance and quality traction tyres. Some technical driving will be required to negotiate sections of track – additional hand-held radios would be useful to help spot vehicles/drivers as needed. Track selection will depend upon the technical driving skills/experience of participants.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	300 to 450 kms, depends on how much exploring we choose to do.
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: BP Service Centre, Calder Park DIESEL: BP Service Centre, Calder Park
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Lancefield is the nearest township with basic supplies, approx 10kms from the eastern boundary of the park.
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Standard Recovery Gear, Camping gear and food/supplies if staying overnight, lunch if doing a day-trip only.
MAPS REQUIRED	Cobaw State Forest by Rooftop Maps
RADIO CHANNEL      CB / UHF	UHF 12

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Border track</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Mick MOB: 0424766616
DATE	Sep 9 <sup>th</sup> Sep 12 <sup>th</sup>
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE  Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Med  DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	We will be exploring some of the big desert and the Murray Sunset country and the border track
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2  MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS  Meeting place to destination	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Fuel is readily available  DIESEL:
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	At most 300km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	This trip could be wet or dry the area is like the high country....unpredictable so be prepared!
MAPS REQUIRED	Victoria's desert map
RADIO CHANNEL      UHF	12

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Aberfeldy District - Working Bee</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: <b>David</b>  MOB: <b>0417 747 860</b>
DATE	Saturday 15th October / Sunday 16th October
MEETING PLACE / TIME	tba
GRADE	WET: Medium/Hard  DRY: Easy/Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Trip to Aberfeldy staying at little O'Tools.</p> <p>Saturday as we go into Aberfeldy area, we will look at all signage and clean and repair as necessary, including trimming weeds and grass at the base of all signage. We will prepare a written report for each sign, so we can send to Rudi for record keeping, and also for our own records so we can ascertain if we need to go back for further works than originally anticipated.</p> <p>After the 'working' bee, we will enjoy some basic 4wd'ing until we reach either Little O'tools or O'tools depending on how busy the area is on the weekend.</p> <p>Happy hour from 5 to 6 (everyone to supply a plate of something)</p> <p>Sunday will be a few more tracks, depending on mood, as we head out and aim for home.</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, cleaning wipes, chain saws, wipper snippers (with heavy duty cord preferred)
MAPS REQUIRED	
RADIO CHANNEL      CB / UHF	UHF 12



# We Want Your Old Trip Notes

We are looking for old trip notes from leaders who have lead a trip in the past. This is to give other members some ideas of trips they could run. Please email our trip coordinator

[trips@vfwdc.com](mailto:trips@vfwdc.com)

# YOUR PHOTOS WANTED!



If you have any great trip photos please email them to Ben [web@vfwdc.com](mailto: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.



## TRIP REPORT

### Xmas in July St. Annes Winery 2016

The weekend was everything and more than we expected! With over 35 for dinner and 20 people remaining overnight for breakfast; fantastic weather and many laughs, it was a brilliant time together.

David, Samuel and myself arrived late morning to set up. On arrival, Tony and Lisa were already there to greet us as they had arrived the Friday night. As the early afternoon soon crept upon us, more and more cars (4bikes) arrived, including the members from the Werribee 4wd club who were also invited by St. Annes to join us in the top paddock.



We slowly began to trickle down to the winery where we had a few (small) samples before heading through to the restaurant that had live music and a fully catered pop up restaurant servings nacho's for lunch. This had been arranged to tie in with the 4wd clubs being present, and it must be noted that St. Annes have set a very high standard for future events as all those who participated certainly appeared to be enjoying the food and the company, we even deliberately sat with people we did not know in order to meet the other 4wd club members. After lunch we headed back up through the winery to buy a few drinks for the evening to accompany our dinner.

Werribee 4wd club also initiated a fun tug of war with the kids (and not so small kids). At one stage it was boys vrs girls (and the girls won that one) then a 'big' kid against everyone else. (yeah, good try kids—the man mountain barely moved).



And to finish off the rope was used to do a game of LIMBO—no photos taken that I'm aware of, just to protect the 'victim's of that game.

Between Emily, David, James and Max (hugest of thanks to them all for cooking our beautiful meal!) we were all fed very well. The kids enjoyed the glow sticks as the sun started setting. As darkness set in the Werribee group had arranged a movie for the kids to watch which was rather special for them, and once again St. Annes offered the use of one of the buildings for the Movie Night. They came back 2 hrs later very excited and full of conversation retelling us of their movie.



As the kids came back, those that were not staying gradually said their good bye's and headed back home. Once the remaining kids had been put to bed, the majority of the wood which had been progressively added to the fire that as getting very big with the large amount of people, burned beautifully and kept us warm as the evening started cooling off.

The next morning we woke to a brilliant red and pink sky. The smell of coffee started getting people out of bed as breakfast was started. While breaky was being made, people started packing up their gear. Everything was all cleaned up, packed and sorted by 10:30 we headed back to the winery for our final purchases before thanking our fantastic hosts once again.

It was a brilliant weekend again!

Thanks to everyone how made the effort to come and join us.  
Until next year!





## TRIP REPORT

### Source of the Murray, Easter 2016

Participants: Scott & Amanda – Navara, Brett & Niki – Landcruiser

#### Thursday

This was a repeat trip that was led by Mark & Cat 3 years prior. With just the 2 vehicles we were eager to set-off and join the rush of traffic exiting Melbourne. With the plan to set-off at 3.30 delayed due to the LC starter battery failing, a quick jumpstart saw us on our way.

First stop was in Bairnsdale for some quick grub and splash of fuel. Next stop a bush camp somewhere north of Bruthen. After consulting the 'Rooftops' we picked out a campsite on the banks of the Tambo and made good pace and with plenty of light left we had a back-up plan if the site was full. What we didn't count on was the overgrown nature of the track due to fire regrowth, and storm damage from saplings hanging across the track. It was slow going with movement at walking pace due track clearing duties and now no natural light. We arrived at a small clearing with room for a couple of vehicles. A quick set up of camp and a small fire had us settled in quickly.

#### Friday

We awoke to a misty, cold morning, so we packed up wet and set off for Omeo.

A last minute shop was in order and a splash of fuel before heading for Benambra and Limestone Road.

Left off Limestone onto Rams Horn track for the 20 min trip to the scenic lookout and the first of the weekends walks.



The views from the top of the Granite outcrop are 360 and worth the walk but don't attempt it in the wet as the rock faces are steep and slippery.





On some paper maps and GPS units they have the Rams Horn track as a through track to the Cobberas, but they aren't. It is clearly signed at Limestone Road that it is a 'No thru Road'.

After lunch, back onto Limestone and then right onto Cobberas track, near Native Dog Dog Flat Camping Ground. Plenty of other groups based there for the weekend.

The track takes about 2.5 hours to traverse and has all conditions with rock, shale, clay, gravel, fords, a little mud and some steep sections - a good days drive. Next stop Macfarlane Flat Track and camp for 2 nights. Plenty of firewood available nearby.

## Saturday

There was high level of excitement as we awaited the arrival of Tony & Lisa before we set off for Cowambat Flat. There were 3 items on the agenda:

- Locate the DC wreckage site
- Find the Source of the Murray
- Locate the Border Cairn

Well the hike in seemed harder than it was 3 years earlier with fire regrowth now lining the track and obscuring vistas of the Cobberas.

After a trek of about 6 k's we located the DC 3 wreckage.

The following is an extract from an online post by ACT Parks & Conservation Service

*On 24th August 1954 RAAF Dakota DC3, A65-50 took off from Sale bound for Bathurst and Richmond. During the flight the starboard engine lost power but the plane was able to make a safe landing at Canberra.*

*No cause for the engine failure could be found and the next morning the DC3 departed Canberra for Sale.*

*At approximately 11am, just before reaching Mt Kosciuszko, the starboard engine again failed. This time however the plane lost altitude dramatically and was subject to severe turbulence. The only option was to attempt a forced landing. At that point an open flat appeared amongst the mass of forested mountains.*

*They circled the flat and made their approach. Before the Dakota could land it had to clear a ridge which resulted in too much height and speed for landing on the open ground.*

*The Murray River had to be negotiated, which runs across the flat as a small gully, as well as the severe turbulence and only one functioning engine. The Co-pilot was killed on impact with a large Eucalypt.*

*The survivors set about finding some shelter and wondered if they would be rescued from this remote location and when it might be. The weather was cold and miserable. The only shelter was the chimney of an old stockman's hut ruin on the northern side of the flat.*

*Two ground search parties then set out. The first was led by Omeo police and contained several men with local knowledge, amongst them four of the Pendergasts, one of the local pioneering mountain families. The second party was the RAAF search party. They drove as far as they could and then continued on foot via an old overgrown mining track for another 10 miles. Late that morning they reached the survivors.*

*After a short rest the long trek out began. The airmen were stiff, sore and no doubt still in shock. Their rescuers were tired having already covered the rugged, densely vegetated terrain.*

*In addition they had to carry out the co-pilots body on a bush stretcher made from saplings. All found the trip arduous. Just before nightfall they reached the vehicles. From there they drove to Benambra and spent the night at the pub.*



*Nowadays there is little left of Dakota DC3, A65-50. The RAAF removed parts for the crash investigation and the Snowy Mountains Authority built a hut using materials salvaged from the shell.*

But we found the 3 remaining pieces.

After trying to work out which parts of the aircraft they were from (with not much success) we set off



for the source of the Murray.

Well we found it and here's a snap shot of the GPS

But given it was now 3.30 we didn't have time to find the Cairn – so Scott is going to lead another trip in 3 years.

It was a massive day of hiking having set off at 10:30, we;

Covered 19km's  
Equivalent of 187 flights of stairs  
35,500 steps in the day

## Sunday

Rest day for recovery sitting around the fire.

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc



Registration No A0002184F

On the last evening it was Scott's Birthday – so a cake was baked.

Happy Birthday Scott!!

### Monday



We packed up and drove MacFarlane Flat Track, Ingeegoodbee Track and re-joined civilisation at Sug-ganBuggan. This was a steep track with many washouts, loose surface but driveable. The heliport was covered in cloud so no views of the Snowy today.

Traffic was horrendous heading back to Melbourne with a queue of 8km's to get back into Stratford alone, so we went the back way via Maffra and Yallourn North.

It was a fun trip with lots of laughs had by all.

Keep Wheeling

Brett



## TRIP REPORT

### Portland Dune Buggy Club, Queens B'day 2016

Participants:

Noske Family – Pajero

Norm & Louiza - Ranger

Max & Sandra – Landcruiser

Brett & Niki – Landcruiser

We all set off at different times during the day and arrived throughout the night, it was blowing a gale and wet. The campsites behind the dunes are wide and expansive with well grassed areas. The next morning we awoke to an improving day.

With the withdrawal of the trip organiser (illness) and other experienced members before the trip, we had no-one experienced on beach sand, so we entered the dunes with some trepidation and high anticipation. It wasn't long until we had our first vehicle stuck. We soon got the hang of things and quickly learnt that you needed a heavier right foot. We let more air out down to the low teens. Each vehicle was different with some operating in High and others Low.

The Vistas from on top of the Dunes were amazing.

All vehicles were either



snatched or recovered another.



Max took out the Hoon award!

We stopped for lunch and found a dune to Tobaggan

On the Sunday we met up with some local members of the Dune Buggy Club, who offered to show us around their backyard. The club members were very hospitable and informed us they go straight to 10 PSI all year round. Some of the slopes looked vertical which is a bit hairy at first but you soon get used to it. There were a few heart in mouth moments, but heaps of fun. I would go as far to say it was the most fun I've had on a short trip!

Thanks to Secretary Bruce for organising the trip and all members attending.

Brett





## TRIP REPORT

### Snow Trip, July 2016

After looking forward to my first 4wd play in the snow for a long time, the day finally arrived and on Friday afternoon after work I was ready to head up to the snow. One other member (Ben) joined the convoy heading to Mansfield. After a couple of hours drive, we caught up to what was essentially a rolling road block that had caught another of the club members (Bruce). Curiously they were mostly regular sedans and no telltale skis or other snow gear visible.

After filling up in Mansfield, we elected to push through to the Kevington pub for dinner as it is just a couple of kilometers from Skipworth and some of the group chose to stay there for the weekend. Dinner was good and they had the fire roaring. After dinner we headed back to Skipworth to setup camp. Some of the members (Shane and Melanie) had arrive earlier in the afternoon and setup their tarp-mahal and we also had some friendly visitors come by a couple of times (Ben and Damion). Later in the evening the remainder of the camping group arrived as we were sitting around the fire.

Expected temperatures were below freezing, but in the morning no one complained about be cold. We had breakfast and got ready to head up the mountain at around 9 in the morning. On our way up to Jamison Andy and Sharyn joined the convoy and we were all present and accounted for.

Driving up through the mountains, it is safe to say there was some anticipation but also doubt as we got higher and higher with no evidence of snow... but finally we started to see more and more of the white stuff.

We made it to the picnic spot with highway pressures and decided to air down there (and address an issue with the Jeep's 4wd selector, thank you for the tools Andy). We threw some snow around and some had a bit of fun roaring away and throwing snow all over. From here the snow just got deeper and softer. Nearing the summit, we had made contact with the other group and all was going well. Tristan and Sally's Disco was doing it a bit tougher due to the narrower wheel track, but they made it easier







for the rest of us. 500m from the summit the Jeep decided it had enough and threw an auto transmission temperature warning, so we pulled over and gave it some time to cool... bad idea to pull over and out of the tracks! Nearly had to get pulled out!

Eventually got the Jeep out under its own power and we all joined the other group at the summit. Everyone had a chinwag and lunch. Catching up with other members we don't see as often as we'd like. Talking about the 4wd, conditions, little tricks and all that!

After some time at the top our group got moving again and went to have a look at the snow on the other side of the mountain. It was great! Bruce and Tristan had a go at doing Barkly river Jeep track, which left the main track and rejoined a couple of hundred meters later. We could hear them having a ball as we went by on the main track. A little further along, we decided to turn around and head back, so we could make it back to camp with some daylight left. Turning around in snow is interesting...



After turning around, which took longer than expected, the rest of the day was less eventful. It was a beautiful day on the mountain, and everyone had a good time. Back at camp there was cooking and chatting and watching bush television. Sunday morning was a slow start and a bit cold. Everyone made breakfast and packed up at a leisurely pace said our farewells. Our group broke up and went a couple of different ways. The trip home was made more interesting by the spur being closed near Marysville and us having to take a scenic detour (after a short but intense argument with the GPS).





I would like to thank everyone for stepping up and stepping in when I asked for help or them to take the lead, it makes for a very pleasurable experience as trip leader when you can ask someone else to drive up front due to their skills and experience, and Tail-end-Charlie to



keep the lesser experienced members from falling behind. Thank you again.

As a reflection on the weekend, a couple of things did become clear.

- Make sure you carry basic tools for your vehicle.

- Make sure you pay attention to conditions, even if you are not driving.

- Spool your winch out and back in before setting off.

- Pack your recovery gear within easy reach.

- Traction boards work well in the snow!

Andre.



# Annual General Meeting

## Of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

**Held Wednesday, 5 August 2015 at Noble Park Football Club**

**Meeting Opened at 9:23 pm on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015.**

**Chaired By:** Steve Pitcher

**Members Present:** Members present as per the attendance book

**Apologies:** Members apologies as per the apologies book

Presidents Address to club: David Bruinsma

Well I took over the reins of this club towards the end of the 40th anniversary celebrations, and happened to preside over the anniversary dinner held upstairs here at the football club. We had a reasonable turnout at the Xmas party in Cranbourne, there has been a few visual changes in the magazine with a new editor (still refining that as we go) and we have just enjoyed another Xmas in July with great success. This past year we have worked hard to improve the merchandise line of products, with the latest top up order being received just today and is now on the rack ready for purchase. Another success is that we now have an account with Fiorelli so we can organise dates for weighing of our vehicles outside of normal office hours, as reported earlier tonight in the general meeting.

It has been an absolute privilege to work with the committee over the past year; I can confidently state we have worked very well together and supported each other as a team. We will be losing Steve Pitcher from our committee after tonight and as a committee and I'm sure as a club, we wish to thank Steve for his financial stewardship over the past 4 years, and the club is still in a financially stable condition through his ongoing efforts.

I have enjoyed this past year in the role as President, and would like the opportunity for another term as president if it is the will of this meeting. Thank you all for attending tonight.

### **Agenda**

Outline key items (previous AGM Minutes, Report, Elections).

### **Participation:**

Reminder that only fully paid ordinary members may participate in the AGM, including nomination of committee members, voting and acceptance of any motions.

Guests and visitors may only observe, as may Associate Members (Including minors), Silver Members who have not paid full membership and any gold Members

Any fully paid ordinary member may wish to nominate themselves or be nominated by another fully paid ordinary member, to occupy a position on the Committee of Management.

### **Minutes of last AGM:**

Distributed in August 2015 edition of club magazine.

Can I have a motion from a member who was present at that meeting (held 06 Aug 2014) to confirm the minutes from last year's AGM?

1st Stuart Bowker

2nd Amanda Lehmann

Are there any matters arising from those minutes: None.

### **Presidents Report:**

A factual report of club activities, any special events or key achievements for the year.

Can I have a motion from a member to accept the Presidents report?

1st Ian Rhodes

2nd John Targett

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Summary of financial performance and position. Highlight:

- a) not required to register for GST or hold an ABN:
- b) No income tax payable
- c) Financials not required to be audited or independently reviewed.

Can I have a motion from a member to accept the treasurer's report?

1st Andre VenDerWalt

2nd Phil Dixon

### **Trip Coordinators Report:**

Summary of trips run, participants, locations etc.

Can I have a motion from a member to accept the Trip Coordinator's Report?

1st David Bruinsma

2nd Mick Harris

### **Outgoing Committee:**

The club rules require re election of the committee at every AGM.

This is just a reminder that nominations are about to close (this is your last chance) for anyone wishing to nominate themselves (or to be nominated) to take a position on the Committee.

As the current term of all serving Committee Members has now reached its conclusion, I formally declare all Committee positions Vacant. We will now move to elect the new Committee of Management.

In the event that only 1 nomination is received for any position within the Executive Committee, that nominee is deemed to have been voted in uncontested.

If two or more nominations are received for any position, each nominee will have the opportunity to briefly address the members before we move to a secret ballot and the person with the most votes will succeed. Voting for general committee members is only required if more than 5 nominations (in total) are received.

With all nominations received, I declare the nominees duly elected.

The Committee elected is as follows:

**Executive Committee:**

President:	David Bruinsma
Vice President:	Sally Higgs
Secretary:	Bruce Cremonesi
Treasurer:	Tony Barbera

**General Committee:**

Trip Coordinator:	Stuart Bowker
Association Delegate:	Mick Harris
General Committee:	Max Germasi
General Committee:	Lisa Barbera

**Support to Committee:**

Web Manager:	Ben Withworth
Newsletter Editor:	Amanda Lehmann
Merchandise Officer:	Carolyn Bruinsma
Training Officer:	Philip Griffith

The new committee took office.

**Meeting Closed at 9:55pm**

## **VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB INC**

**Nomination for Election to the Committee of Management – 2016/2017**

I.....Signed:.....

Nominate.....for the position of

.....

I.....Signed:.....

Second the nomination for election to the Committee of Management.

---

I.....Signed: .....

Of.....

Hereby accept the nomination for election to the Committee of Management  
of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc for the position of

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