



FREE WHEELING

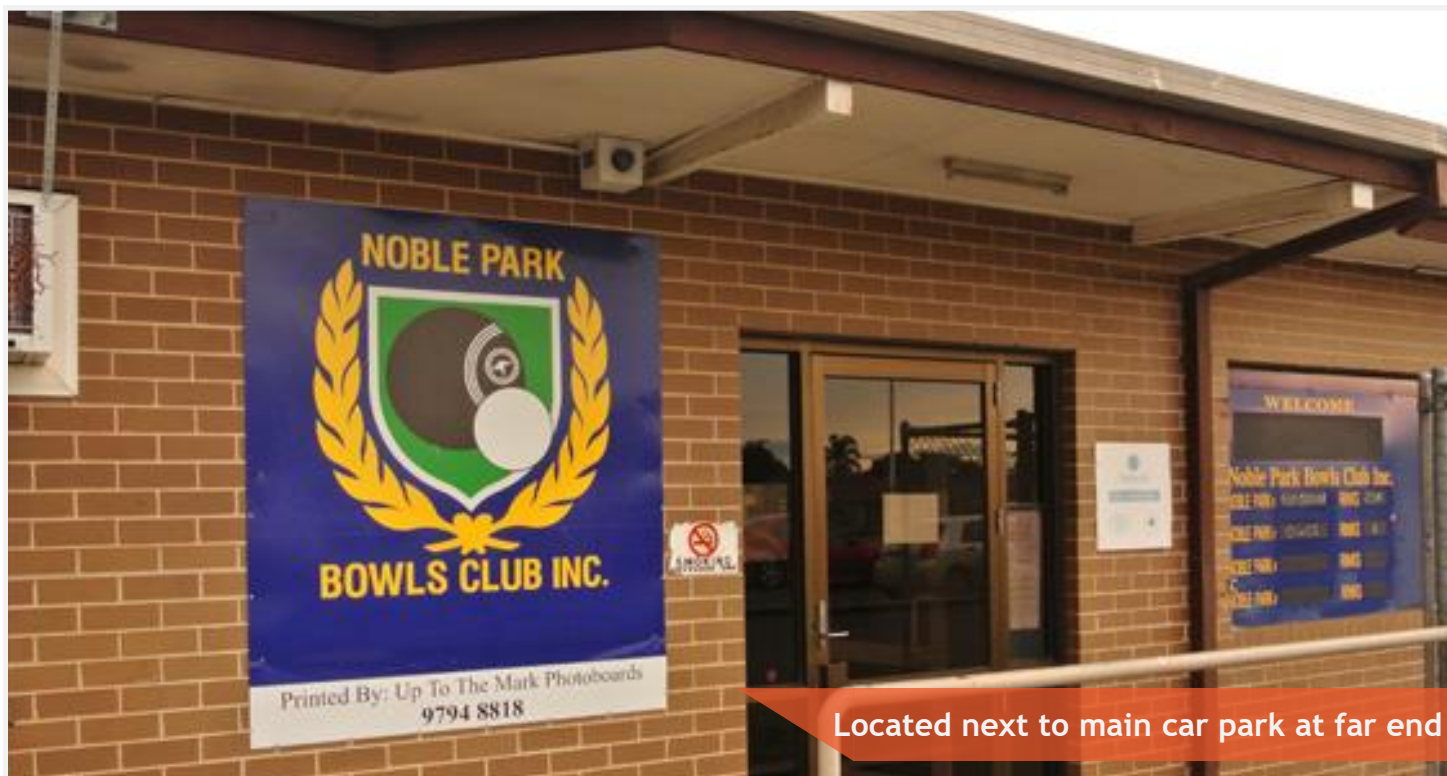
June 2019



Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Four Wheel
Drive Club Inc

Original photo by Ann
Crockett at Thompson
State Forest

Registration No
A0002184F



VFWDC General Meeting Venue

The club meets on the first WEDNESDAY of each month at 8:00pm. With the following exceptions; No meeting in January. November meeting is at a selected location, watch the calendar.

Bowling Club Rooms

Noble Park Noble Football Club
46-56 Moodemere Street
Noble Park



Members and guests are welcome to dine at the bistro before attending the meeting from 6:30pm.



Aberfeldy Track

In association with [Westland Gippsland Relic, Mining and Heritage Protection Inc](#) , the club maintains a section of the Aberfeldy Track with working bees throughout the year. View the club calendar for the next upcoming working bee.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

2018-2019

President	Steve Pitcher	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	David Bruinsma	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Sally Higgs	secretary@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Tony Barbera	treasurer@vfwdc.com

General Committee

Trip Coordinator	Andre Van Der Walt	trips@vfwdc.com
Magazine Editor	Ly Ho	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	David Bruinsma	delegate@vfwdc.com
General Committee	Stuart Bowker	
General Committee	Callum Brown	
General Committee		

Support Positions to Committee

Web Manager	Ben Whitworth	web@vfwdc.com
Training officer	Phillip Griffith	
Training officer	Ashley Martin	
Merchandise	Des Whall	merchandise@vfwdc.com
Catering	Lisa Barbera	

Club Details

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
Registration No	A002184F
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong VIC 3174
Email	secretary@vfwdc.com
Website	www.vfwdc.com
The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of Four Wheel Drive Victoria - www.fwdvictoria.org.au	



Hi all,

Over the month that just passed, we saw a number of members participate in the proficiency level driver training course. Not every club is able to offer this service to their members (with many opting to go through the association or other registered training organisations, and at a financial cost to the participants), making it a particular point of distinction for our club to be able to offer in-house driver training for free. We are very lucky to have a dedicated team of accredited instructors who generously give up their time to share their knowledge and driving expertise to help our members to develop their four wheel driving skills. I would like to thank our very dedicated driver training instructors for so generously volunteering their time and resources and for their continued support of this very popular initiative.

Speaking of volunteering, we also had the first of our half-yearly working bees which was held up in the Aberfeldy area. This month's working be was a little different to most with trip participants treated to a guided tour of a recently-discovered historical mining site. Again, a big thank you to those who volunteered their time to help protect and preserve the important historical sites that lie within the boundaries of our club's working bee area. Some of you might have noticed that I wasn't able to make it along to the working bee this time around. Unfortunately, I had to head back up to Mildura the same weekend that the working bee was on to collect my vehicle after my last trip away didn't go quite to plan...

Looking ahead, it won't be long before seasonal track closures begin to take effect. If you wish to see or explore any of the tracks or areas that are subject to seasonable closure, it might be a good idea to get a trip in before the closures start. If you have an idea for a trip in mind but might be a little unsure as to how best to go about it, please speak with our Trip Coordinator who will be more than happy to help.

Lastly, our annual mid-year 'Club Christmas' celebration (which is really just a great excuse for us all to get together and socialise as a group for an evening) is on again. This year, we have brought this forward by a month to take advantage of the better weather conditions and to minimise the chances of rain. In conjunction with the great hospitality shown by the team at St Anne's Winery, the Committee will be cooking up a delicious evening meal for everyone who attends so please, if you can make the time, do to come along to join in and celebrate.

I hope to see you all at the next general meeting or, if you can't make it, at one of our up-coming club trips or events.

Take care, keep safe and remember to tread lightly.

Steve Pitcher

President

CLUB MERCHANDISE



PRICING


Club Polo Shirt	\$28.00	Club Hoodie	\$50.00
Club Singlet and T-Shirt	\$15.00	Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$50.00
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$45.00	Club Bucket Hat	\$16.00
Club Caps	\$10.00	Club Beanie	\$10.00
Club Wide Brim Hat	\$18.00	VFWDC Windscreen stickers	
Club Drivers Jacket (Coat)	\$70.00	Small	\$6.00
		Large	\$8.00
Club Cloth Badges 120mm	\$8.00		

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo shirt.
Email your order to merchandise@vfwdc.com. Please ensure you advise size required.

CLUB NOBLE FORM

Did you know if you're a member of Club Noble (the sporting club next door to the meeting), you get discounts on your meal and drinks. And when it's your birthday, you get more than enough points for a feed and drink. \$10 per year—pretty good I reckon!

[Click here to download the form](#) and hand it to reception desk.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Membership Application (Please tick)

New☐Renewal☐Existing Member No:

Mr☐Mrs☐Ms☐Other☐

Given Name/s:Male☐Female☐D.O.B:/...../.....

Last Name:

Postal Address:Suburb:

State:Postcode:Mobile Number:Home Phone:

Email Address:

Membership Fee (Please Tick)

1 Year \$10☐2 years \$20☐3 Years \$30☐

Payment Details (Please Tick)

Cash☐Cheque☐C/C☐

Card Holders Name:

Card Type: Visa☐M/card☐

Card No:/...../.....

Expiry Date:/...../.....

Signature:

Date:/...../.....

I hereby apply to become a member of the Noble Park Football Social Club Ltd and agree to observe the rules and by-laws. I verify that I am over the age of 18 and have received and carefully read and understood the Loyalty Membership terms. I agree to strictly abide by these Loyalty Membership Terms as amended from time to time and declare that the details in the application are true and correct.

I wish to receive communications including promotional material, third party offers that include alcohol or gaming related advertising (Please Tick)

Yes☐No☐


I agree to receive my Player Activity Statement in accordance with government legislation (Please tick one box only)

Mail☐SMS☐Email☐

I agree to accept the Annual Report and Financial Statement via: Please Circle one option

Members Section (Website)Email

Signature:Date:/...../.....



YourPlay gives you the power to track how much money and time you are spending as you play. You can also use YourPlay to set limits on the money and time you spend on gaming machines and to see your playing history online at any time. YourPlay can be added to your loyalty membership card and used on any gaming machine in Victoria. You can register for YourPlay at [yourplay.com.au](#) or ask a staff member for assistance

INTERNAL USE ONLY

Membership Number:Customer ID Sighted:

Staff Member's Name:Confirm Customer's over 18:

THANK YOU AND WELCOME TO CLUB NOBLE

CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

June

5th	Wed	General Meeting		
8th to 10th	Sat to Mon	TBD	Sally Higgs	0435 782 207
10th	Mon	Queen's Birthday public holiday		
17th	Mon	Committee Meeting		
22nd to 23rd	Sat to Sun	Christmas in July	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
28th to 30th	Fri to Sun	Knockwood to Aberfeldy	Jeff Griffiths	0425 705 224

July

3rd	Wed	General Meeting
15th	Mon	Committee Meeting

August

7th	Wed	General Meeting		
17th to 18th	Sat to Sun	Strickand Spur & Surrounds	Steve Pitcher	0421 205 529
19th	Mon	Committee Meeting		

November

TBA	TBA	Biannual Trip to Beachport and Robe for Melbourne Cup weekend	TBA	TBA
17th Nov to 8th Dec		Tasmania 22 Days Away	Stuart Bowker	0428 539 157

Something goofy happened to someone on a trip? Nominate them for the next “Good on ya” trophy! Send a quick summary to trips@vfwdc.com

IMPORTANT

- Membership renewals are due by the 30th June
- Club merchandise has been reduced! Check out the new prices on page five and pick up some new gear for this cooler season.
- If you wish to join us for dinner before the General Meeting, please book a spot at [Club Noble](#). Phone 9546 0653 and ask to join “Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club” table. You

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

1st May 2019

Attendees

As per attendance sheets

Apologies

As per attendance sheets

Shane

Callum

Ly

David B

Minutes from Last Meeting

Accepted by Jeff

Seconded by Andre

Matters arising from Last Meeting

Nil

Correspondence In/ Out:

Emails:

- Information from 4WD Victoria on supporting Blazeaid.
- Email sent to members on supporting Blazeaid

Accepted by Andre

Seconded by David B

Treasurer's Report

As per treasures report

Accepted by Des

Seconded by Brett

Association Delegate Report

- No Report due to absence of Associate Delegate

New Members/Guests and Prospective Members

Visitors - as per attendance sheet

New Memberships

- None presented

Driver Training

- Next Driver Training: Theory 15/05/2019 7:30pm-10pm in Blue Room at Club Noble, Practical 18-19/05/2019

Merchandise

- New items, scarves, stubby holders. If you want any merchandise see Des and he might be able to do you a deal

Guest Speakers

- Sally has organized a snake awareness and education evening (set for June meeting)
- Safety Dave is booked in for our September meeting
- If you have ideas on guest speakers that you would like to see or topics covered then let the committee know

General Business

- Membership Renewals due June \$80 individual and \$90 Family
- Good On-Ya award - please nominate for the crazy weird things that happen

Upcoming Trips

- Proficiency Driver Training weekend 18-19 May
- Aberfeldy Maintenance weekend 25-26 May - David B
- Aberfeldy - Heyfield - Queens Birthday Weekend - Stephen Dixon
- TBA - Queens Birthday- Sally
- Knockwood Reserve - Aberfeldy 28th - 30th June - Jeff
- EOI - 6th-14th July - Ayre Peninsular SA
- Christmas in July in June - St Anne's Winery
- Tasmania - 17/11-8/12 - Stuart
- Grampians potentially in July - Roger

Past Trip Reports

- Tyre Repair and Winch Practise - Stuart
- Mungo and Border Track - Roger
- Flinders Ranges - Sally
- Cape York - Tony

Raffle Prizes

- Screw Jack Stands - Des
- Collapsible tripod - Ian
- Collapsible Funnel - Steve
- Windscreen Cleaning Kit - Brett
- Heavy Duty Tarp - Maree

Meeting Closed: 22:03 Hours

Next meeting 5th June 2019

Members can advertise any four wheel drive or camping related items they wish to sell or buy.

Just email the editor, editor@vfwdc.com, with the following:

- 1. Description of the item
- 2. Price
- 3. Contact details
- 4. Photos (highly recommended)

Speedy 4 pop up tent

\$125

Sally

0435 782 207

We now have our Oztent so this one is surplus to requirements. Brand new, never been unwrapped and is still in its delivery box. They normally retail around \$250 but we are looking for \$125.



FREE: Tigerz11 Awning 2 x 2.5m

FREE

Bought a new awning so the one came with the car is free to a good home.

The original velcro straps have lost its stickiness so I stuck some new ones which do the trick. The poles no longer twist-lock so I added collars to hold it place. The bag has a few holes up top but never had trouble with wetness or mould. It's missing a rivet or two that holds it to the aluminium backing.

No mounting brackets or screws—just the awning and bag.

Ly Ho

ly.tri.ho@gmail.com

0433 387 811



Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com



Treasurer's Report April 2019

<u>Cheque A/C`</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/04/2019	\$6,708.03
Add:	Raffle	\$79.35
	Merchandise	\$135.00
	Total Monies In:	\$214.35
<u>Less:</u>	Merchandise	\$1,754.84
	4WD Vic Payment	\$267.75
	PO Box	\$200.00
	Catering	\$16.30
	Raffle Prizes	\$200.00
	Total Monies Out:	\$2,438.89
	Closing Balance as at 30/04/2019	\$4,483.49
<u>Term Deposit</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/04/2019	\$6,604.23
	Interest Paid	\$32.57
	Closing Balance as at 30/04/2019	\$6,636.80
<u>Petty Cash</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/04/2019	\$150.00
	Add:	
	Less:	
	Closing Balance as at 30/04/2019	\$150.00
	Consolidated Closing Cash Position	\$11,270.29

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Knockwood to Aberfeldy
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Jeff Griffiths MOB: 0425 705 224
DATE	28th June 2019 to 30th June
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Lilydale McDonalds Friday 6pm or Saturday 9am Knockwood reserve Camping ground
GRADE	WET: Medium to Hard DRY: Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Friday night drive up to Knockwood reserve camp ground and stay overnight. Saturday 9am head up German spur track and make our way to Aberfeldy to camp the night. Depending on who is on trip we have a few options on which tracks we can do. Sunday I will leave it up to the group if they want to do more tracks or head home. Note if coming up Saturday please let me know before hand
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	350km from Lilydale total
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	75k
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Must have Good AT or Mud Tyres, Front and rear recovery points, Recovery gear, Camping gear and supplies for 2 nights, hand held or in car UHF radio
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

DESTINATION	Strickand Spur & Surrounds
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Steve Pitcher MOB: 0421 205 529
DATE	17 - 18 August 2019
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Maccas Lilydale 8:30 am departure
GRADE	WET: Double Black Diamond DRY: Double Black Diamond
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Tackle Strickland Spur up to the top of Mount Strickland. Explore the surrounding area, camping overnight.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	Less than 200 km return from Lilydale.
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Healesville DIESEL: Healesville
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Marysville is within 10 kms of the area.
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Full Recovery Gear. Front/rear recovery points. Camping gear and food/supplies.
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftop's Toolangi - Black Range Forest Activities Map Or Rooftop's Marysville - Lake Eildon Adventure Map
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	Channel 12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

DESTINATION	Tasmania 22 days away
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Stuart and Maree MOB: 0428 539 157
DATE	Sunday 17th November 2019 day sail to Devonport to Sunday 8th December 2019 9:30 am day sail to Melbourne
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Spirit of Tasmania Departure point Station Pier Port Melbourne 7:30 am or as per boarding requirements
GRADE	WET: Extremely difficult  DRY: Difficult 
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Plan is to do some of Tasmania's iconic four wheel drive tracks.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 5
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	Approximately 2000 km in Tasmania
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Available in most towns in Tasmania DIESEL: Available in most towns in Tasmania
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Available in most towns in Tasmania
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Full recovery gear and well setup vehicles only, lifted, A/T tyres, F&R recovery points, winch etc. Camping gear to be self sufficient for at least four days NO CAMPER TRAILERS as many tracks are rated difficult.
MAPS REQUIRED	Hema Tasmania
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	Channel 12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

FLINDERS RANGES EASTER 2019

19th to 27th April
by Sally Higgs

Ford Ranger

Toyota Prado

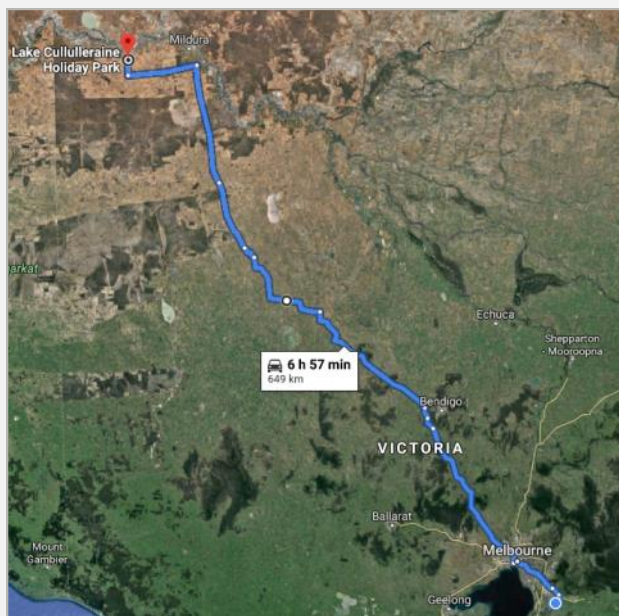
Land Rover Discovery

Callum and Trudi

Ann and Alan

Sally and Tristan

Friday 19th April - Day 1 - Melbourne to Lake Cullulleraine



We left Melbourne with a relatively early start of 7:30am with the goal of getting to Lake Cullulleraine for dinner. Our first stop was at the Bridgewater Bakery, they won the best vanilla slice for 2018. The good news was that it was open and they had some. They were very tasty! It was very busy so must have been a popular place to stop.

Our next stop was Birchip where the previous Vanilla slice winning bakery was. They were closed so we could not compare the quality of the slices and last time they had run out of them so we have decided not to go back. We did have lunch with the Mallee Bull though.



We then headed towards camp at Lake Cullulleraine and as we were driving through Redcliff I spotted Big Lizzie and remembered that I wanted to have a look at her so a quick pull over to the side of the road and we got out to have a look. What an amazing piece of machinery!



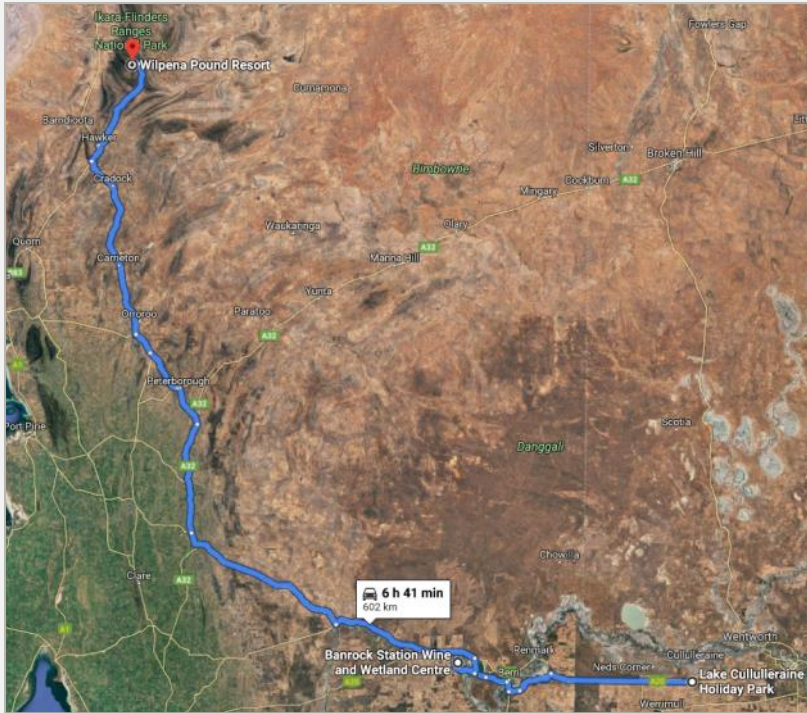
We then carried on a bit further and I had read about the Mallee tree and there was also a sculpture celebrating wheat so we pulled over for a comfort stop and to have a look. We were just sitting in our vehicle and Tristan spotted Steve driving through town so he jumped on the radio and called him. He responded and came back for a chat before heading on our way.

As we were heading into Mildura the quarantine signs appeared and we realised that we had tomatoes on board as did Callum and Trudi so we stopped at the bins to drop them off. I ended up eating a punnet of tomatoes and some strawberries and Callum ate some too before throwing the rest out... little did we know how lucky we were...

We got to Lake Cullulleraine around 4:30pm so managed to get set up before it got dark. They were fully booked out but squeezed us in for the night. We actually had plenty of room which was great. It is a beautiful spot so might have to go back and check it out - but not on a long weekend!



Saturday 20th April Day 2 - Lake Cullulleraine to Wilpena Pound



We were up bright and early as we were heading to Banrock Station for breakfast and had a big drive through to Wilpena Pound. We crossed the border into South Australia and the quarantine station was open and the Quarantine Officers pulled us over and searched our vehicles, fridges and glove boxes for fruit and vegetables. Callum had his trailer checked out as well. We were super glad we had disposed on them the day before.

We headed through to Renmark to stop at the Supermarket to get new fruit and vegetables along with supplies that we had forgotten and then we headed to Banrock Station Winery and Wetlands for breakfast. It was a little bit windy but the meal was wonderful and the view was great too.



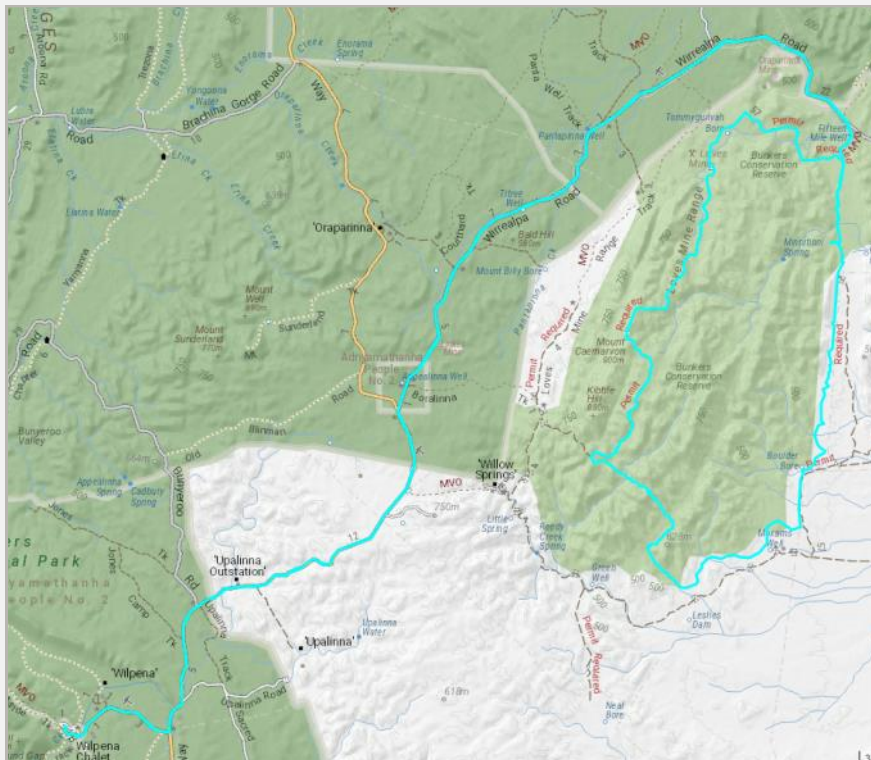
Once we had brekkie we started the long drive up to Wilpena Pound. We had a few issues with the Disco with a bit of “perceived” overheating (we believe that we have a faulty sensor) so we just took our time heading up through the southern flinders ranges. We arrived at Wilpena Pound just on 6pm when the visitors centre was about to close. We had booked and paid for our site but you know it is going to be packed when the ranger says, head down that road and campsites you can stay in are round to the left. Good Luck!! It was packed, we drove around for a bit and then found a spot up towards the back of the campground. It was getting dark so we were working out where Callum could park his camper trailer and while he was doing that we found a slightly better spot

and managed to get in and set up with a comfortable space and room for a fire. I reckon there would have been 1000 people in the campground.

Our neighbours in the campsite had a wonderful mix of music but liked it very loud as they were sitting at their fire which was 20m away from where their music was playing. I went over and asked them to turn it down a touch to which they were quite rude but they did turn it down a little bit

We retired to bed with a bit of a concert with the music going. About an hour later the Disco's alarm went off about 2 mins after the music stopped and they were off to bed. We sorted out the Disco tunes so that we would not keep the campground up all night.

Sunday 21st April Day 3 - Self Drive Tour - [Mt Caernarvon](http://www.caernarvontrack.com) <http://www.caernarvontrack.com>



Mt Caernarvon is on the Bunkers Conservation Reserve and is managed by a charitable trust. It was set up to preserve the environment for the Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby. We met the ranger at the start of the track where they gave us a detailed book with track notes, a safety briefing and places where we were able to stop for lunch and morning tea. You can camp at the Rangers hut where there are toilets and showers and a great view down the valley. You can only drive the track in an anticlockwise direction so we headed off for our adventure.



There are some pretty decent climbs that I would liken to some tracks in the Victorian High Country but none that you needed to have a lift kit for. When we got to the top of Mt Caernarvon (931M) the view is amazing. 360 degree views of the Flinders Ranges which is stunning. We met one of the Rangers there and he said the first time you get to the peak you need to put a rock on the cairn so we all did that and then had our photo taken with it.

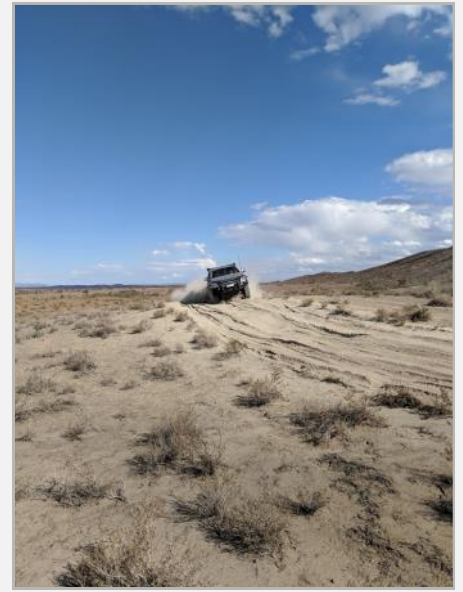


We carried on down to our lunch site which had picnic tables and a toilet spot in a nice valley. As we came towards the south end of the reserve there was a decent climb up to an amazing look-out and then a small walk up to a seat to look out across the expanse of the Flinders.



We then headed down a very steep descent which was quite shaley and had a number of interesting steps down. I can see why they send people anticlockwise now!

As we turned for home up the valley we found a spot of bull dust to have a play in. I managed to avoid the cloud of dust each vehicle put up when I was taking photos until Callum came through and I ran but the cloud enveloped me. It is amazing how fine the dust is.



We then headed back to the rangers hut to hand back the keys we needed for the gates we had to open. We saw emus, wallabies and even a yellow footed one. It was a fantastic day out and I would highly recommend doing the track if you are in the Flinders Ranges. It has a great variety of challenge, terrain and views to boot.

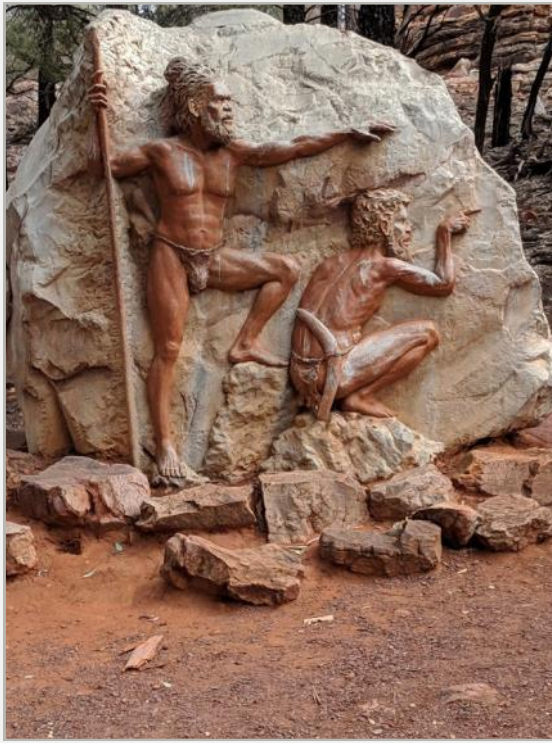
We got back to camp and the weather was not looking great. We decided that we would go to the bistro for dinner. They said it was booked out but we could try our luck. We headed over just after 5pm and managed to get a table. The meal was not too bad and half way through the rain came down. It was absolutely pouring down and people were coming in soaked through. We chose a good night to eat “out”. When we got back to camp there had been a flood and we had debris around our tent. We got a little bit of water in the annex of our tent but most things were stored in plastic. Our neighbours got rained out so no music on this night!

Monday 22nd April - Day 4 - Lazy day around Wilpena Pound

The camp ground emptied out significantly today as everyone from Adelaide packed up and went home. As we had had 3 full days of driving we took a relaxing day to explore our campground and Wilpena Pound. The intention was to have a lazy start to the day and then to head to Sacred Canyon which was only 20mins away.

A couple of us went for a walk up to the old homestead and then the lookout into Wilpena Pound. It was beautiful looking out in the middle of the pound and the return trip was about 6Km.





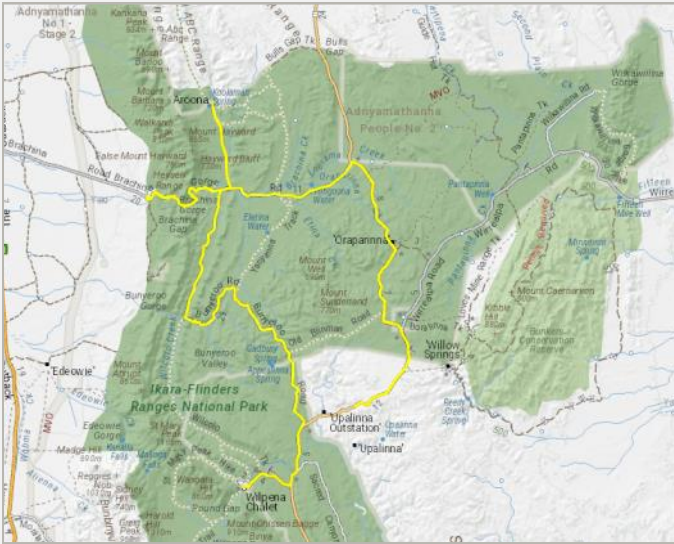
We got back to camp and then got ready to head to Sacred Canyon. Tristan went to start the Disco and there was a horrible scream coming from the back of the vehicle and it would not start... he tried again and it screamed and then nothing... and then nothing.. We had blown up the fuel pump! We checked at the Visitors centre about mechanics and they recommended one in Hawker and as it was still Easter so we had to leave it until Tuesday morning to see if we could get a new one sent to us.

Our neighbours had packed up and most of the campground had emptied out that day so we had a fire to ourselves and sat back and relaxed for the evening as we could not do much with the truck.

Tuesday 23rd April - Day 5 - Bunyroo Gorge, Brachina Gorge, Aroona

The first thing we did today was call the local garage - and when I say local it was in Hawker (100km away) They did not have a fuel pump but could get one from Adelaide for us. This was good news but were not sure how long it was going to take as the Thursday was a public holiday as well. We told him to order it in as we had no other option and then we would arrange with RACV to get our vehicle towed to him to fit.

We decided to carry on with our itinerary and went with Alan and Ann in their vehicle to have a look around Bunyroo and Brachina Gorges. It is so picturesque and many of the photos look fake.



We decided to have lunch Aroona which is a lovely valley and there were old ruins from a home-stead. It must have been such a hard life living here in the 1800's

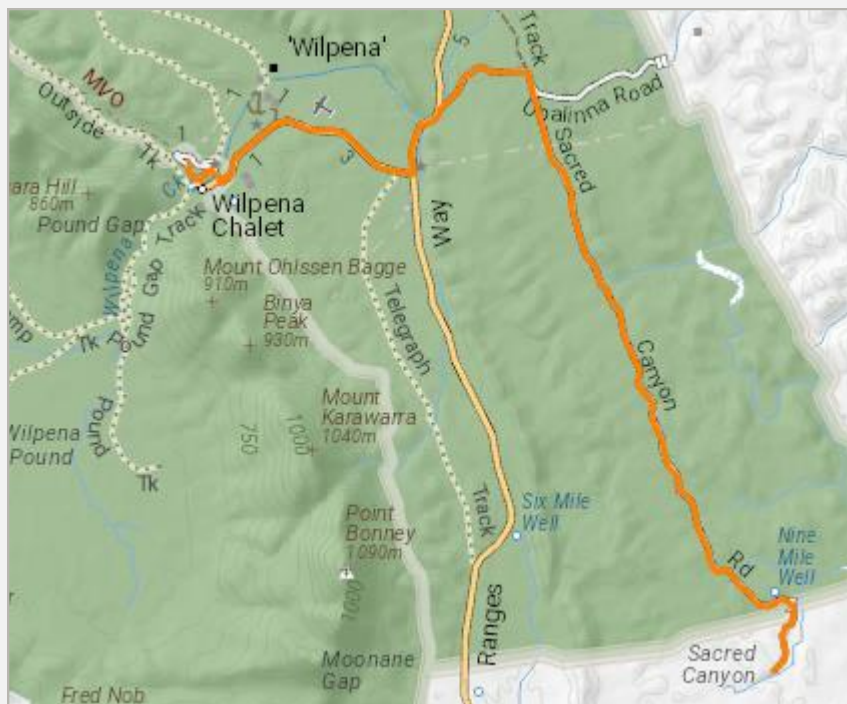


When we got back to Wilpena Pound we contacted RACV to work out getting our vehicle fixed and getting a tow to the garage. We were told they would come and get it on Wednesday.



Wednesday 24th April - Day 6 - “Relaxing” Day around Wilpena

Originally we were meant to be heading to Alpana Station today but that was not able to happen due to our break down so we had another day around camp and waiting for the tow truck. We saw other vehicles getting a tow but it ended up ours was not going until Thursday.



We went down to Sacred Canyon where there is some very old Aboriginal Art. The canyon itself was amazing and well worth the look. The art was interesting but there had been graffiti which made it

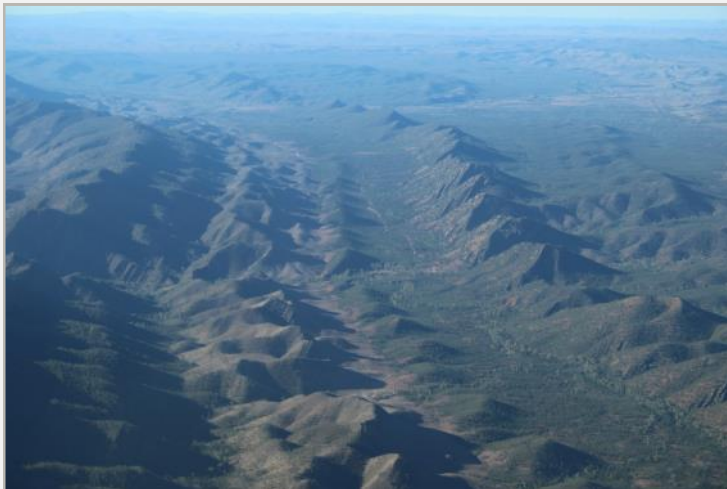
hard to see the original drawings.



Later in the afternoon, Alan, Ann, Tristan and I decided to take a scenic flight over Wilpena Pound and further north where we had driven yesterday. We walked the 2.5km to the airfield from the campground and when we arrived 20 mins early the pilot thought we were crazy.

We took off and headed south around Wilpena Pound to have a look at its remarkable shape. As it was around 4pm the lighting was not great to take photos at the angle we were but I can tell you it was spectacular.

We flew over the ABC ranges which got its name from the 26 peaks that they could see, in fact there is over 100 peaks and they run for 100's of kilometres.



We headed North over Bunyeroo Gorge and Brachina Gorge. You can see in the photo the many different rock types and geology with the age of the rock ranging to over 600 Million years old. When you drive through the gorge you see each type of rock distinctly where from the air you can see the remarkable differences.

After our flight we went back to camp and cooked up a storm.

Thursday 25th April - Day 7 - Wilpena Pound - Hawker return



Thursday morning dawned beautiful and sunny and it was the day that Disco was going on a trip to Hawker to get her fuel pump replaced.

The tow truck turned up and was loaded onto the back of the truck. Tristan went with the vehicle and the rest of us were going to travel down to Hawker to meet Tristan, have a look around and have lunch while the vehicle was being repaired. It was only a 30min job to do. We watch Tristan and the Disco leave and went to follow them. This time Ann and Alan's car did not want to start. We checked the battery and it was flat! That was ok they had a solar blanket so we rolled it out and got to waiting for the charge to go in. We moved it into full sun and it was cranking out 13.5volts so didn't think we would need to wait long. But battery was not taking the charge well. I spoke to Tristan and he thought we had enough voltage being generated we could jump start it from the blanket so we gave it a go. The

car roared into life! Something new learnt today.

We then drove through to Hawker to meet tristan and we had lunch at the Flinders Food Company. A young couple who had recently set up business there. The food was lovely and well worth the visit. We then got a call to say the car was done and Tristan went and picked it up. We had a look at a gallery in town with some amazing artwork that was painted by the owner of the gallery. It was a shame he was not more personable. We picked up some items from the General Store and went back to Wilpena Pound.



The wallaby's around camp are very friendly and also quite hungry, there is just no food around for them. Alan felt sorry for one so gave him a carrot which he absolutely loved. They were very curious and checked out our table and came right up between us and the fire to see what was going on. Good news was that wine was not something they were interested in.



We packed up and were on the road early this morning as we had a big drive through to Silverton. The goal was to get there early enough to be able to go to the Mad Max museum and have a look around the town.



Once we turned towards Silverton from Peterborough there was not much on the road. There were small “towns” that were merely 1 or 2 houses and you might have a general store. We decided that we would have lunch at the border between NSW and SA at Cockburn.

We were very disappointed with the “welcome” that we got. There was a handwritten sign on the door to the Store saying toilets not working and it was not very pleasant at all. We did not even bother going in. We found the public toilets off the main road that were well cared for and there were notices saying that people were working to look after them. I can’t help but think they just need a bit of support and some different ideas as there was a lot of traffic heading through and seems that they were missing out on a lot. We grabbed a snack and decided to drive on through to Silverton.

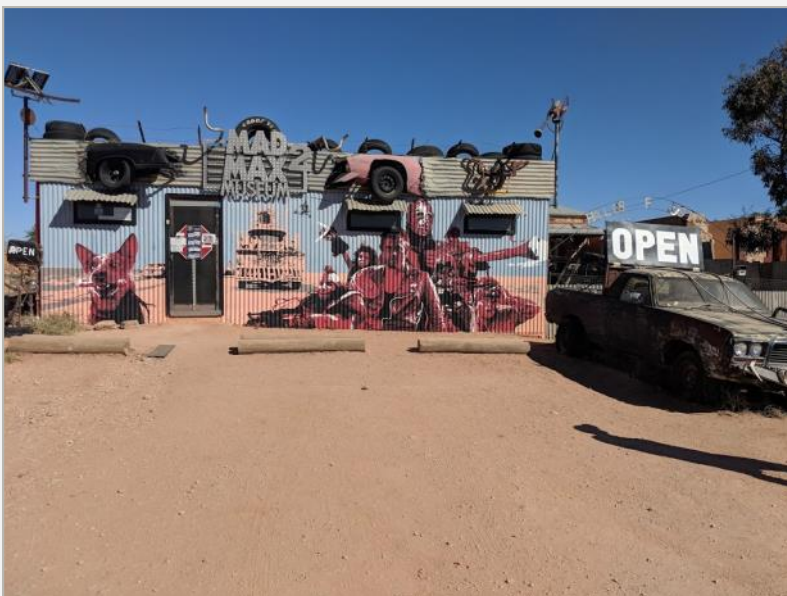
We got to Silverton just before 2pm which gave us plenty of time to have a look at the Mad Max museum.



The Mad Max museum was set up by an English guy who fell in love with the movie to such an extent he moved to Silverton which is where Mad Max 2 was filmed and set up the museum. Inside the



building were photos, memorabilia, costumes, items from the movie set. It was very comprehensive. We weren't able to take photos inside but you could clearly see the passion he had for the



movie. There was a continuous flow of 1 or 2 people into the building while we were there. Once we had had our fill of Mad Max we headed to our campsite for the night to stay at Penrose Park Campground. It was a large campground with showers, toilet blocks and a range of paly equipment. They also had goats, birds etc that had been rescued. It was a lovely park but run down and as they have not had rain in a long time there was no grass at all.

We set up our tents and then headed back into Silverton to go and check out Mundi Mundi lookout. This is where a large part of the Mad Max film was filmed. As we got to the top of the hill we came to the look out and it was spectacular. The desert just goes on and on, it is here where you really feel the vastness of outback Australia. They say the sunsets here are spectacular but we still had to



check out the hotel and the museum so did not wait for the sunset.

Back into town and we went to the old Gaol which had been turned into a museum. There was an amazing collection of photos, items and stories from when Silverton was set up as a mining town. It is older than Broken Hill. We spent a good hour there having a look around and could have spent longer but closing time came so we had to move on.

Silverton has “wild” donkeys that roam the main street. There used to be 6 of them from what I was reading but we only saw 2. We parked up outside the pub and were greeted by 2 donkey’s who were standing blocking the door or peering inside.

Alan took pity on them and got some carrots and a breakfast bar for them. They gobbled up the food and the larger one got cranky with the small one when they were eating the breakfast bar. They particularly liked that and proceeded to demand more from Alan.

Once there was no more food on offer they started to sample our cars. We have lovely scratch marks in the Disco now and they chewed on Alan and Ann’s bumper. They are notorious for it. Later on a lady came with a bucket of vegetables and they followed her home.

Once we got passed the donkeys we headed into the pub to have a drink and to order dinner. There were a couple of people in the bar so we headed through to the undercover outdoor dining area which had a stage and we could imagine a big party going off there.



It was a very quiet Friday night. We were starving as we had not had a proper lunch so quickly ordered snacks and dinner. Dinner was served on paper plates as they don't have a lot of water so this is how they save water. They have accommodation on the back of the pub and a couple of people turned up to stay there while we were having dinner.

We were almost ready to head home when we saw a whole lot of B-Train trucks pulling in. There was at least 5 of them but could have been more. They were full of hay and it looked like they were stopping for the night. Their jackets showed Rotary Need for Feed. We know that they have been delivering feed to drought affected areas but we were not sure where this lot was heading. They looked worn out and needed to be left to have a meal.

So we headed back to camp and went to bed super early again as we had had a big day too.

Saturday 27th April - Day 9 - Silverton - Broken Hill - Home

We were homeward bound and the intention for today was to head home and see how we felt as to whether we were going to stop for another night. We decided to head into Broken Hill for breakfast. We found a great cafe for brekkie and we got into a discussion about what time it was and ended up having to ask a local. Broken Hill is actually on Adelaide time as it is closer to there than anywhere else and they find it easier to deal with them on the same time zone. It had us thoroughly confused.

There is a sign on the way to Mildura that says you are now changing time zones.

We drove through Broken Hill, topped up with fuel and headed towards Mildura. I saw enough of Broken Hill to know that I want to go back and spend some time in the town exploring.



Once we left for the first 300kms there is basically nothing, just desert and sky. Half way there is a rest stop so we pulled over for comfort stop, a walk around and a quick break. In the middle of the rest stop is a green fridge so we go and have a look and it is bush library where you can exchange the books that you have been reading and get fresh ones. What a fun idea. I did not have any books to swap but a very novel idea!



The drive home was uneventful and we made multiple stops along the way at Lake Tyrell and Bridgewater Bakery again (yes the vanilla slices were tasty). We got home around 8pm so a very long day.

It was a fantastic week away and while it did not fully go to plan we learnt a lot, saw a lot and relaxed a lot. Australia is an amazing country and I cannot wait to get out and explore it some more.