



FREE WHEELING

December 2023



Photo: High
Country

Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
Inc Registration No: A0002184F



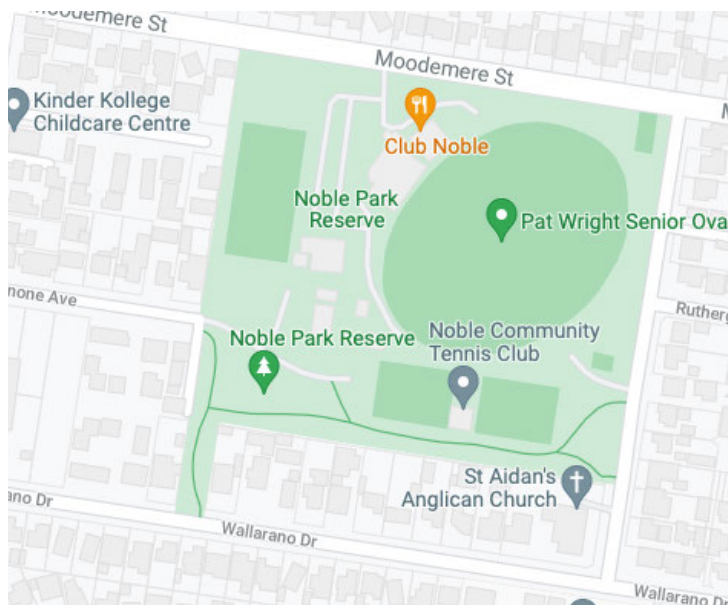
VFWDC Meeting Details & Venue

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm with the following exceptions:

No meeting at Club Noble in January.

Club Noble Addresss

Upstairs Blue and Gold Room Club
Noble
46-56 Moodemere Street Noble Park
3174
Melways ref: 89 D4



This month's meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th December at 8.00pm.

Club Committee

2023 - 2024

President	Neville Van Leeuwen	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	Steve Miller	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Daisy Quinn	secretary@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Ly Ho	treasurer@vfwdc.com

General Committee

Trip Coordinator	Bruce Dunlop	trips@vfwdc.com
Magazine Editor	Luke David	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	Matt Marino	delegate@vfwdc.com

Support Positions to Committee

Web Manager	Ben Whitworth	web@vfwdc.com
Training Officer	Phil Griffith	
Merchandise	Daisy Quinn	merchandise@vfwdc.com

Club Details

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
Registration Number	A002184F
Correspondence Address	PO Box 778, Dandenong, VIC 3174
Email	secretary@vfwdc.com
Website	www.vfwdc.com

The Victorian Four Wheel Club is an affiliated club of [Four Wheel Drive Victoria](#)

President's Report

Hi Everyone,

As the year draws to a close, I hope each of you finds some time to unwind and cherish moments with friends and family, perhaps even embracing the beauty of the great outdoors that surrounds us.

Last month, we gathered for an offsite meeting at Camping Adventures Oz, with a fantastic turnout of over 30 participants. Amidst the camaraderie, we relished delicious pizza and explored a variety of offroad campers and camping gear in their shop. Graham, the owner, warmly welcomed us and shared valuable insights into his products and services.

Our festivities continued the following weekend at Ian and Audrey's place for our end-of-year Christmas dinner, once again with an impressive gathering of over 30 attendees. The highlight of the evening was Ly and Tristan's culinary masterpiece—a massive spit alongside homemade skewers. The tantalizing aromas during the cooking process had us eagerly sampling the flavors.

After the feast, we gathered around the fire thoughtfully organized by Ian and indulged in an array of delectable desserts contributed by various members. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who brought these delightful treats—I confess to overindulging myself.

Special gratitude to Ian and Audrey for graciously hosting us—it was a memorable day.

Looking ahead, next year marks our big 50th anniversary, and we're excited to share updates on our plans in the early months of the new year.

Wishing each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a joyous, safe New Year!



Club Calendar

December

Friday 1st	Neville's Trip	Organised by Neville (see Upcoming Trips)
Wednesday 6th	Club Meeting	8:00pm Club Noble

January

No Club Meeting in January		
Wednesday 10th	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8:00pm

Other Dates

8th June 2024	Bruce's Big Trip	Organised by Bruce D (see Upcoming Trips)
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Meeting Minutes



General Meeting Minutes

Date: 15.10.2023
Location: Camping Adventures

Time: 18.28 pm

Next Meeting: Wed 6th December 2023

Open Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome – Apologies: Jason, 	Neville
Minutes from previous month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from Last Meeting Matters arising for previous minutes? Nil Accept: Sally Second: Sean 	Neville
Guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guests – nil 	Neville
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nil Correspondence out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nil 	Neville
Treasurer Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Treasurers Report for October Accept: Audrey Second: Luke 	Ly
Association News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nil 	Ly
Upcoming Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christmas Party Spit roast, Skewers, Salads at Ian and Audreys block. Please let us know if you're coming. Please bring your own plates, cutlery, drinks and chairs - Neville 1st December to Stringybark Creek Saturday to check out the area, then up to top creek hut. Going to Powers lookout, Tomahawk hut, Evans hut, Sunday going through to Mansfield, up to Papps lookout 	All
Trip Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil 	All
Merchandise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil 	
Magazine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates 	
General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates 	All
Meeting Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18.32 	Neville

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com

Treasurer's Report October 2023

<u>Cheque A/C</u> Opening Balance as at 01/10/2023		\$9,719.16
Add: Raffle	\$48.00	
Less Transfer to Term Deposit	-\$5,000.00	
Club meeting catering	-\$45.40	
FWDV – membership fees	-\$168.00	
Closing Balance as at 31/10/2023		\$4,553.76
<u>Term Deposit</u> Opening Balance as at 01/10/2023	\$6,923.22	
Add: Interest	\$99.50	
Transfer from Cheque	\$5,000.00	
Closing Balance as at 31/10/2023		\$12,022.72
<u>Petty Cash</u> Opening Balance as at 01/10/2023	\$38.30	
Closing Balance as at 31/10/2023		\$38.30
Consolidated Closing Cash Position		<u>\$16,614.78</u>

This month's meeting

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 6th December, at Club Noble. We will have a special guest speaker, so stay tuned for emails from the Committee with further details. The committee would also like to discuss with all members about facelifting the VFWDC logo for release on the club's 50th anniversary. The same logo has been around since the start of the club and needs a modernized facelift, as well as giving us the ability to edit and alter it based on our requirements. Please have a look at the new proposed logos below. If you have any concerns about this change, please email the committee or have a chat with us at the next meeting



Membership Fee Changes

Temporary Membership fees have increased to \$25, and these memberships will no longer be offered for snow trips. You will need to become a full member of the club to attend snow trips. General membership fees have increased to \$85 for a single and \$95 for families. Silver membership fees have increased to \$55.

Club's 50th Birthday

Just in case you weren't aware, next year is the club's 50th birthday. A working group has been formed to organise an amazing event(s) and are starting to look into options and ideas. So anyone who has any amazing ideas, please get in contact with any committee members. We are looking to make it an incredible event so all ideas, no matter how crazy are welcomed.

All and any contributions welcome

You know the score - I need trip reports, photos and any content to make the magazine an interesting read. Don't be shy, send the editor something!!

Please visit our website at VFWDC.com to view all our current membership forms and club policies.

For all new and renewal of memberships, please complete [the online form here](#)

If you are looking for a Temporary Membership, please complete the online form, [which can be found here](#).

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us via the Club Secretary on secretary@vfwdc.com

Payments:

Payment can be made via Bank Transfer. The details are as follows:

Account	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
Name: BSB:	Inc 633108
Account No:	111761979

Please ensure your transfer includes your name as provided on the membership application and renewal form in the reference.





Once you have made your payment/transfer, please send your completed membership application and renewal form to treasurer@vfwdc.com or you can present it to the Treasurer at any general meeting.

Thank you for choosing the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

If you are interested in joining [Club Noble](#) where we hold our monthly meetings, their application form can be found [here](#).

Track Classifications

Four Wheel Drive Victoria have a track grading classification scale which has been developed to assist in advising Trip Leaders and participants on 4WD trips of the type of tracks that they can expect to encounter. On most trips participants can expect that a variety of tracks will be traversed each with an appropriate rating. Trip Leaders should advise participants of the range of track ratings expected to be encountered on the planned route. The following classifications will assist in determining an overall Trip Rating:

Considerations	Easy	Medium	Difficult	Very Difficult
Overall Description	All Wheel Drive and High Range 4WD. Novice Drivers	Mainly High range 4WD but Low range required. Some 4WD experience recommended.	Significant Low range 4WD with standard 4WD ground clearance. Should have 4WD driver training.	Low range 4WD with High ground clearance. Experienced Drivers
Advisory Sign				
Expected terrain and track conditions	Mostly unsealed roads with no obstacles and minor gradients.	Tracks with some steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. May have shallow water crossings.	Tracks with frequent steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. Possible water crossings.	Tracks with frequent very steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. May have difficult river crossings.
Vehicle suitability	All wheel Drive and High Range 4WD. Can be low clearance with single range and road tyres.	Suitable for medium clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain or road tyres.	Suitable for medium to high clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain tyres.	Suitable for high clearance vehicles with dual range and tyres suitable for the terrain. (Mud Terrain tyres).
Recovery equipment			Recovery equipment required.	Winch / Recovery equipment required.
Driver Training / Experience	Suitable for novice drivers.	Recommended that drivers have experience or 4WD training. Recommended to be done in groups of vehicles.	Recommended for drivers with reasonable experience or 4WD training. To be done in groups of vehicles.	Drivers with extensive experience and advanced training should only attempt as there are several technical challenges. Recommended to be done in groups of four or more vehicles.
Weather	May be difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.

Upcoming Trips

Destination	Bruce's Big Trip
	NAME: Bruce Dunlop MOB: 0448 318 467 EMAIL: bdunloptrip@gmail.com
Dates	King's Birthday Long weekend
Meeting Details	<p>Starting around the King's Birthday Long weekend next year this will be a 6-8 week trip.</p> <p>Meet up Friday Night to head up String bark Creek "Kelly Tree Walk Archerton"</p> <p>Sat morning wait for others to join and explore the surrounding area. A lot of the Ned Kelly history is in this area.</p> <p>10.30-11.00 head off to Powers lookout, Top Crossing Hut, Tomahawk Hut , Evans Creek Hut.</p> <p>We may cut this short/extend depending on the time.</p> <p>Sunday relax and pack up just past Mansfield on the way home is Paps Lookout if time permits we will go to the top and have a look.</p> <p>oh IOT = In Order To</p>
Grade	WET: TBC DRY: TBC
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: TBC MAXIMUM: TBC
Approx km's meeting place to destination	Approx. 1000km and 400-500 km apart it's only the Tanami to cover
Equipment required	Water and food for 10 days per person
Maps required	TBC
Radio Channel CB/UHF	UHF Ch 13

Destination	Bruce's Big Trip Continued
Trip Activity Details	<p>Here is the rough plan for the route:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mildura,2. Burra,3.Oodnadatta,4. Mt Dare,5. Lambert Centre,6. Alice Springs,7. Tanami Rd,8. Wolfe Creek,9. Broome, FIFO (Fly In Fly Out)10.Barn Hill Station and or Cape Leveque, FIFO11. Gibb river Rd,12. Mitchell Falls,13. Kununurra,14. Mataranka,15. Borroloola,16. Hells Gate Roadhouse,17. Normanton,18. Cairns, FIFO again19. Palmer River Roadhouse,20. The Tip,21. Palmer River again, (great steak sanger last time),22. Cairns, FIFO ,23. Normanton,24. Burke and Wills Roadhouse,25. Cloncurry,26. Birdsville,27. Innamincka,28. Camerons Corner,29. Wilcannia,30. Hay,31. Echuca,32. Melbourne! <p>The fuel and driving may be a tad too much for the proposed standard trip form. Taking enough for 1000km should cover it with water and food for 10 days per person as well.</p> <p>Given most roadhouses etc are 400-500 km apart it's only the Tanami to cover.</p>

Upcoming Trips

Destination	Stringy Bark Creek Camping + Hut trip
	NAME: Neville Van Leeuwen MOB: 0400 498 191 EMAIL:nevillevanleeuwen@gmail.com
	01-03rd December 2023
Meeting Details	Lilydale Maccas TBA
Grade	WET: Medium DRY: Easy - Medium (Unknown factor)
Trip Activity Details	Meet up Friday Night to head up String bark Creek "Kelly Tree Walk Archerton" Sat morning wait for others to join and explore the surrounding area. A lot of the Ned Kelly history is in this area. 10.30-11.00 head off to Powers lookout, Top Crossing Hut, Tomahawk Hut , Evans Creek Hut. We may cut this short/extend depending on the time. Sunday relax and pack up just past Mansfield on the way home is Paps Lookout if time permits we will go to the top and have a look.
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 1 MAXIMUM: 6
Approx km's meeting place to destination	Approx. 230KM return from Mansfield Approx. 600 KM return from Melbourne
Last available fuel	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield
Distance between supplies	230 KM
Equipment required	Be self-sufficient for the weekend. Recovery gear
Maps required	Bright – Mansfield Adventure Map
Radio Channel CB/UHF	UHF Ch 13

Tynong – Christmas Party

We had our official Christmas party at Ian and Audrey's place. The committee and members would like to thank Ian and Audrey for letting us use their place to host this year's Christmas party. We had a fantastic time, amazing food, and all sat around the fire enjoying the year we have had—4wding and looking forward to future trips to come.



Trip Report



Trip Report



Trip Report



Wonnangatta Wanderings - Trip run by Sally and Tristan

Melbourne Cup Weekend

Attendees

Sally and Tristan - Land Rover Discovery 3

Daisy - Prado

Steve C - Pajero

Lynton - Jeep

Michael S - Ford Ranger

Neville - Triton

Jacqui - 80 Series Land Cruiser

Friday

Wonnangatta has always been on our list to do so Melbourne Cup weekend this year was the year. We met at BP Pakenham Bypass at 8am for an 830am departure. The intention was get to camp early in the afternoon to allow time to go and find a waterfall that I had found on the map.

We got our coffees and morning snacks and hit the road. Our first stop was to the bakery in Heyfield to make sure we had our bread for the weekend. They had one of the best vanilla squares that I have had in a while (and yes I have a few of them!)

Once we had fueled up ourselves it was off to Licola for our last fuel for the weekend. Once the vehicles were all filled and the jeeps jerry can was topped up we crossed the river and then headed up the hill towards Bryces Gorge where we were going to camp for the night. We came round the corner to a Patrol on the side of the road with its bonnet up. They looked like they were by themselves so we stopped to see if they were ok. They were having some fuel system issues. There was no mobile coverage so we had a chat about the options they asked if we could tow them up to the lookout which was about 5km away. So we hooked them up and the mighty Disco towed them up to the lookout. Once we got there, we made sure they were ok, they knew the area well so we left them to get in touch with their mates as there was mobile coverage there.



Travelling along the Howitt Plains was just beautiful and there was very little traffic which was even better. We pulled into Bryces Gorge carpark campsite. This is a campsite that services the Alpine National Walking Trail. We found a great fire pit and got ourselves set up for the night. We quickly got to work gathering firewood for the evening fire. There was plenty available so there was no chance of us getting cold.

From this campsite there are 2 waterfalls - Pieman Falls and Conglomerate. We decided to hike to Pieman as it was a 3km return trip and Conglomerate Falls was 8km return. We started the hike through the plains and there was a very deep creek but it was almost flat. I had not seen a picture of the falls so we were joking that it would be horizontal falls. After about 2km we found the falls and it was anything but horizontal! They were huge and the edge was just there of a very very high cliff. So much that some of us hung back as it was just way way way too steep!





We decided that Conglomerate Falls was too far today so put it on the list for another time. We headed back to camp to settle in around the fire. It was such a stunning site.





Neville made sure the fire was kept topped up and burning bright for the night. It got dark and the stories started flowing around the campfire. The next thing Lynton yells out and flicks his leg going, what is it? what is it? We quickly got a torch and shone it to where he was pointing and there was a possum. It was on the ground near the fire (luckily he was not thrown into it!) It had tried to climb Lynton's leg while he was sitting there. It then climbed up Lynton's table and checked out the dishes and items on there. Animals were definitely going to become a theme for the weekend. He was a very friendly feller that is for sure and not much fear. We headed to bed around ten. We were going to have a relatively early start so we could try and beat the Saturday crowds down Zeka Spur.

Saturday

Saturday we woke to a beautiful day. First stop was just up the road to see Howitt Hut. On our way to the hut we came across a Nissan Tilda. It is a 2wd dirt road through there but it was getting pretty tricky in places for them. We spoke to them and they were heading for a campsite past Howitt Hut and were a bit worried about it as they had researched the road and it was rougher than expected. They were ok and just going to take it easy. They must have done alright as we did not see them again.



After we left the hut we headed for Zeka Spur. At the top of the track it had had a lot of work done on it. Looks like they did a lot drainage work so the track is very smooth. We commenced our descent with good gaps between the vehicles. We caught up with 2 four wheel drives and told them that we had a group of 7 cars. They decided they wanted to join us so jumped into the middle of the convoy. The track was graded and very smooth. There were a few trees down across the track that we could drive under. We came across one tree though that had be trimmed very close to the edge and we decided it was safer to trim it up a bit more so we could more easily get through so Tristan cut that tree back a bit more.



We continued down Zeka Spur with no issues at all. It took an hour or two to get down and then we headed into the valley getting the iconic photo of crossing the river as we went down the valley.



We headed into the main part of the valley where the old homestead was and all the campsites along the river were already taken. More vehicles must have gone in on Friday than we anticipated. So we decided to head along the bottom track along the river to see what we could find. We came round a corner and there was an Alpine Dingo standing in the middle of the track. We knew about them but it was awesome to see them in the wild.



We carried along the track and came across some muddy bogs, it was apparent that this track would be difficult in the wet. There was lots of ruts and dig outs. We had some fun going through the bog.



We then came across a section of the track towards the end of the valley that were very deep and would be tricky to negotiate. We had seen a clearing just before it so while Tristan was going ahead to check if we could find something after the ruts Neville was checking out the clearing as a potential spot for Lunch..



We decided we would have lunch at the clearing and decide what we were going to do. Neville instead found another clearing closer to the river that he reckoned would be perfect for our camp. So we headed in to have a look and it was so we cleared a couple of trees and drove in. We then set up camp and relaxed. Tristan and Michael went for a walk to see what was further up the track we turned back from. Lynton and Steve went fishing and Jacqui went for a hike. The rest of us just hung out at camp.

Tristan and Michael came back saying there was a swamp that was un passable due to a massive tree across it. We all went for a swim in the river which was refreshing and nice once you got used to the cold.



We prepared dinner and Neville made sure we had no shortage of firewood. Lynton and Steve came back with a couple of brown trout that were cooked up on the fire and tasted by all. So so good!

Sunday

Our plan for Sunday was to have a sleep in and a lazy day checking out the valley and kicking around camp. We headed off back along the bottom track towards to homestead area. We ran into the Ranger and a Police Vehicle. We showed them the picture of the swamp and he was like no way I just had a bulldozer clear it out 2 days ago.

We carried on to the homestead and there were a few people around but it was not crazy busy.



Trip Report







We had been told a fun track to look at is Dry River Track. We had the maps and headed up the valley to the start of the track and then turned in. It looked fun and we had a few bog holes. We then came up to a section that was just bog so Tristan went in to have a look, it was too gnarly and deep so went to back out. As he backed out he caught the edge of the rear drivers side flare and ripped it off. The flares on the Disco are attached to the mud flaps so we needed to do some track side repairs. Lets just say that flare is not going anywhere anytime soon!



We decided that this track was not going to be done so turned around. The plan was to then head along the top track up the valley to check out the impassable swamp and then turn around and go back to camp. It was surprising how high up the top track is considering how close it is to the bottom track. We did not meet many vehicles. We got to the intersection of the two tracks so turned down the hill towards the swamp.

As we were heading towards the swamp Jacqui got caught up in a section and needed to be winched. Daisy and us were not far from the swamp so we went ahead to check it out. When we got there we could see that it had been driven through. Someone had spent a lot of time cutting the tree and winching it out of the way. We were still not convinced that it was going to be passable as one end of it was over 800mm deep and very sloppy. The other end looked like it could be ok but required us to go in then turn hard left and then hard right out of the bog. While we were having a look a couple of vehicles came from the other side and we said you could potentially go left (for them) and they said yip, we have been told to go left so we watched them do it and it was not that deep and definitely passable. So we radioed everyone and said yes we can get through. This then meant we had a short 200m section with some very deep ruts to negotiate back to camp that with some picking of lines we would get through.



Everyone had caught up at this stage so we started the process of getting everyone through the swamp. It went without a hitch and we were all through in a short space of time.

Next came the ruts. They were a bit challenging but passable with choosing your lines. We got through ok. Next up was Daisy who was worried about the ruts as she does not have as much clearance as we do. She did really well but at the end hugged a tree too close and bent her side step. Tristan helped her get through the last section to just by our camp. I spotted everyone else through the last section and then we headed back to camp.

The afternoon was a lazy one in front of the fire and swimming. Lynton and Steve went fishing and Daisy cooked up a cob loaf for us on the fire and the camp oven with Michael helping out cooking up the bacon and spring onions.

We all gobbled it up and relaxed for the evening.

Monday

Our original plan was to head out to Cynthia Range and down through to Crooked River but I had spoken to a Ranger before we left and there had been issues with debris in Crooked River that may have caused issues so we decided that we were going to head out towards Myrtleford and head through to Lake Cobbler for the night. So we packed up and headed back up the valley. When we got back to the homestead area we ran into a light truck about to head down the river track. We pulled over to have a chat to them and they were actually trying to head the same way as we were as we advised them that the track they were heading down they would have issues with the swamp. They turned around and left while the rest of our group caught up.





Everyone was leaving the area at the same time. A group headed out ahead of us but went up Zeka Spur and then the truck and then us. There was a group on the same channel worried about the group ahead of them so I jumped on the radio and let them know we were going in a different direction so that it was not as bad as they thought it was.

We headed out towards Abeyard. It was a great climb up and down. As we were coming down an incredibly steep hill we saw a baby echidna on the road. We stopped and hopped out to have a look and it waddled across the track and put its head under a couple of leaves so it was well hidden!



We also came across some hikers who were making their way down the track. They weren't too chatty with us so we let them know how many vehicles were coming down and we carried on our way to the bottom. Michael radioed through to say he had spoken to the hikers and one was injured so he was taking one of them to their car so they could go back and pick them up. We waited down the bottom and had a snack. We then found out that the hikers were in the late 70's and early 80's/. I hope to be still out enjoying the bush at those ages.



We turned off to Lake Cobbler Track which in the dry is great but a little touch of rain and it will turn incredibly crazy very quickly. We came across a lady with a car and camper trailer who said there was a group ahead with a big tree down so we carried on to find out more. It was huge. They had been working for a couple of hours already when we got there. Neville grabbed his chainsaw when we asked him for it as they needed more chainsaws. Tristan and Neville helped out. They used a winch with 2 vehicles tied together and then the winch failed. They switched up vehicles and still could not pull it down on the track. They kept cutting and trimming and then it was about to be called that we could not get through and the driver of the front vehicle now with a broken winch too just pulled the tree like it was on a snatch rope and gave it a couple of big pulls and then it came down onto the track.

Tristan was like lets just push it off and before we knew it there were about 10 guys all lined up and giving the log a huge push over the edge and a big cheer as it took off down the hill.







Trip Report

We carried on down Lake Cobbler Track which had some very very steep sections with a section that was very shaley and was right on the edge of a very big drop off. Once we got down we headed to the lookout to Dangdongadale Falls. The tallest drop of falls in Victoria.





We then made our way into Lake Cobbler. We were hoping that there would be space for us to camp. Most of the sites were taken up with hikers but there was enough space for us to set up next to the Lake Cobbler Hut.

We got all set up and then Jacqui came over and said she wanted to go on a hike as she still had a lot of energy. There was a sign that said Mt Cobbler 4km, 2 Hours. I was like that will be tough but I think I want to do that. I got Tristan and we had no back pack so used my handbag for water and snacks. Jacqui used her chair bag for her water and snacks and we headed off. Jacqui said to the others if we aren't back by

7pm send out a search party....

We climbed over fallen trees, through a gorge and then up and up and up. I looked at the map and was like ah I think it is 4km to the top and 4km back... I think the sign was one way... We were hmmm ok lets keep going. We got to the top of the mountain and luckily ran into a guy who was on his way down so we asked him to find our group and let them know we are ok and will be walking in the dark but all ok with that.

Trip Report

The views were spectacular and it was well worth the trip up. We started our walk back and kept up the pace as best as we could on a trail that was only marked by small orange markers. We had a torch and phones as we thought it would be potential for dark. We also had our Zoleo if we got into any issues. We managed to send a couple of text messages to the group but the coverage at the lake is very intermittent. The kookaburras started singing and we were it is about to go dark. It went dark for the last 2km of trail through a gorge, across a river and we got back to camp safely at 9pm. The good thing was the other hiker had let our group know we were ok as they were starting to worry at 7pm when we did not come back.

When we got back we had a close look at the sign and it could be seen that it was ONE WAY but that had faded and people had written in texter on it. Just goes to show how prepared you need to be when out hiking.









TUESDAY

We woke to a morning that was stunning on the lake but with a bit of rain in the forecast.



I had promised that I would do golden syrup dumplings and as we were packed up and still had plenty of time before we left and the fire was going I made breakfast golden syrup dumplings. They were so tasty I only got the photo of the before and not the after.



We left camp to head through to Cheshunt and Whitfield to get some fuel. On our way through we spotted Mt Cobbler.



This is Mount Cobbler and it was incredible looking up to it knowing we had climbed it the day before.

As we travelled we came across a couple of very young Deer. We followed them for a good few hundred meters as they did not seem to know how to get off the road and into the bush. they eventually found a spot to head away from the road into the bush.



It was not the last fun animal to see. As we came down a straight tristan and I saw a very large, black cat run across the road and then turn around and face us as we drove past. We were very sure that it was a black panther but we thought it was a myth. We had our dashcam so waited till we got home to have a look. It is definitely a large cat so we have joined the group that has seen a black panther in the wild.

At Whitfield we filled up with fuel and farewelled Lynton as he had to get back to Melbourne so headed for the highway. The rest of us went through past Powers Lookout, Mansfield and got to Bonnie Doon Hotel for lunch. We could only get a table inside which at the start was disappointing as there were lots of outside tables that had no one on them. Well a few minutes later the skys opened and the rain poured down and suddenly we had one of the best tables in the place. We had a great lunch and then headed home.

Whilst the weekend panned out differently to our plans we got to see some amazing things, drive some great tracks and had an absolute blast.

We need your help on and off the tracks



**If you have some spare time
please consider joining the committee.
Your club needs you— do it for your club!**

Contact your Committee...



**Photo: Christmas
Party Fire**