



FREE WHEELING

March 2024



VFWDC
March Magazine

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 March 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](#)

Hi All,

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday as we kick March off. This month we have the opportunity to sign up for two different training courses. New members or those who haven't yet completed a Driver Training course can sign up for this.

This course will show you the capabilities of your 4WD and teach you how to get out and enjoy the tracks in a safe manner. In addition, some Insurance companies will offer a discount if you have completed this course.

Everyone who has done this course will always say that they got something out of the course.

Also, FWDV is running a chainsaw course.

This course will teach you how to maintain your chainsaw as well as trimming and cutting felled trees. Safety is emphasized throughout the course.

Both of these courses are accredited courses, and the club strongly encourages you to take these opportunities to enroll and develop your skills in a safe manner.

We already have at least one trip each month throughout April – July so sign up to one of these if you can. See the Calendar and upcoming trips further in the magazine for more details.

Next month (April) we will have Dion from Weigh Station coming to our meeting so come prepared with any questions you have regarding weights/loading your vehicle and trailers.

Our 50th Celebration is moving along well, and we now have the 19th of Oct locked in with Club Noble for our Celebratory dinner. Please remember to send along some standout photos of trips that you have done over the last few years.

We also want nominations for awards as well as any suggestions for other fun awards / activities we can run on the night.

We have the:

Onya award – (for anyone that has made a trip memorable in their own way by doing something silly/funny or memorable)

Last month we had a bit of extra items on the tables at the meeting (Map of Vic, Yearly Planner, suggestion list for Trips and guest speakers) I received plenty of positive feedback for these so please make use of them or let me know of any suggestions you have that will make our meetings more interactive

Neville Van Leeuwen
VFWDC President

Club Calendar

March

Wednesday 6th	Club Meeting	8:00pm Club Noble
Tuesday 12th	Driver Proficiency Theory	Organised by Phil/Ashley and John (see Upcoming Trips)
Friday to Sunday 15th to 17th	Driver Proficiency Practical	Organised by Phil/Ashley and John (see Upcoming Trips)
Wednesday 21st	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8:00pm
Friday to Sunday 22nd to 24th	Chainsaw Course	Please see Chainsaw Course information below

April

Wednesday 3rd	Club Meeting	8:00pm Club Noble (Dion from Weigh Station as Guest Speaker)
Wednesday 17th	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8:00pm
Thursday to Sunday 25th to 28th	Big Desert Wanderings Part 2	Organised by Sally, Tristan and Steve Card (see Upcoming Trips)

Other Dates

3rd May 2024	Millers Hut / Lake Tali Karng	Organised by Steve Pitcher (see Upcoming Trips)
8th June 2024	Bruce's Big Trip	Organised by Bruce D (see Upcoming Trips)
14th September 2024	Merringtons or O'Tooles	Organised by David B (see Upcoming Trips)
19th October 2024	50th Celebratory Dinner	Date TBC (Club Noble)

Meeting Minutes



General Meeting Minutes

Date: 07.02.2024

Time: 8.06 pm

Next Meeting: Wed 6th March 2024

Location: Club

Open Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome – Apologies: Dave B, Ben, Bruce, Matt, Jason, Steve Card, Nikki 	Neville
Minutes from previous month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from Last Meeting Matters arising for previous minutes? Nil Accept: Luke Second: Neville 	Neville
Guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new visitors tonight 	Neville
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neville has filled the table at the entry with a laminated map of VIC to choose spots to visit A calendar to see when trips are booked There are currently 4 trips on the table to sign up to Merch, mags, stickers and suggestions Correspondence in - 4wd vic ½ year affiliation fees Membership is now discounted from Dec to June 	Ly
Treasurer Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Treasurers Report for January. Accept: Stuart Second: Maree 	Ly
Association News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4wd vic are offering a discounted chainsaw course – details to follow – please notify Neville if you're interested as Matt isn't here tonight - \$900 down to \$495 Matt is trying to get sponsors for the club and discounts for members The yearly report has been mailed out Club voted tonight to bring back plastic membership cards we will look into what is required – ie name, membership number, expiry date 	Neville
Upcoming Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will offer \$5 membership discount towards trips organized and advertised – maximum of \$20 per couple – must be advertised and shared with the club Phil advised John and Ashley are now certified to run driver training Theory Tues 12 march with practical on 16th and 17 March around Aberfeldie Tents, swags and rooftops are fine, however no campers – capped 4 – 8 vehicles – self sufficient Ly – Feb 15th to 18th Volunteering at the Mt Speculations first aid station Steve Card & Sally Big Desert Anzac Day weekend Blue gums campsite and heading back on the Sunday David B – 25th to 28th Jan Murray river for Australia Day weekend. Camp, cool off and relax Watch the riverboats all day. This will be due north of Shepperton, information to be given closer to the date. 2wd and all wheel drive are fine to come along. Trip contact will be emailed out. Easter – Sally A surprise trip/location with chocolates Steve P – May - Millers Hut to Lake Tali Karng Pack as if you are going to the snow, no facilities – camper trailers ok but challenging Bruce D's Trip June 2024 up to Darwin to the Tip and back down again 	Neville
Trip Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ken NE Vic with Steve Swifts creek, Moscow villa hut, Native dog creek, Suggan Buggan, Gelantipy, McKillips Bridge Daisy – Jacksons crossing over Christmas 	All
Merchandise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will look at doing a new order in the New Year 	Daisy
Magazine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates 	Luke



General Meeting Minutes

General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For the 50th Anniversary• Trip 1 – David B – Merringtons or O’tooles on 14 & 15 Sept• Dinner 19th October – Blue & Gold room at Club Noble• Dinner & entertainment. 4wd VIC vice president will be invited• Awards on the night – “Onya” award! Lets get a poll and vote• Andrew will arrange photo’s to display• April Meeting – Deon from the weigh station will come in and talk about all things weighed, testing ball weights and axle weight You can then arrange a weigh from \$315 per vehicle• Nev is working on getting the astronomical society to come for a visit• Daisy is stepping down from Merchandise and Secretary	All
Meeting Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raffle prizes Engel Esky, Shirt, stubby holder and stickers <p>Meeting close 9.48</p>	Neville

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com



Treasurer's Report January 2024

<u>Cheque A/C</u> Opening Balance as at 01/01/2024	\$3,842.85	
Add: Membership fees	\$150.00	
December Raffle	\$82.90	
Transfer from Undeposited Funds	\$85.00	
Closing Balance as at 31/01/2024		\$4,160.75
<u>Term Deposit</u> Opening Balance as at 01/01/2024	\$12,022.72	
Closing Balance as at 31/01/2024		\$12,022.72
<u>Petty Cash</u> Opening Balance as at 01/01/2024	\$38.30	
Closing Balance as at 31/01/2024		\$38.30
<u>Undeposited</u> Opening Balance as at 01/01/2024	\$85.00	
Less: Transfer to Cheque A/C	-\$85.00	
Closing Balance as at 31/01/2024		\$0.00
Consolidated Closing Cash Position		<u>\$16,221.77</u>

This month's meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 6th March, at Club Noble. We welcome all current members and any new members looking to see what our club is about. All of us look forward to the upcoming trips and we encourage anyone thinking of running a trip to speak to anyone in the committee to get some advice and guidance.

New Logo Coming Soon



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, this year marks the club's 50th birthday. A working group has been formed to organize amazing events. From this committee, we have organized a commemorative camping trip for our 50th on September 14th. We are also planning a 50th Celebratory Dinner at Club Noble, but the date is still being confirmed. Please see 50th Celebrations Brochure on page below.

Merchandise

We currently have a range of merchandise in stock, and the list of available items can be found on the pages below. If you are interested, please feel free to speak to one of the committee members during the general meeting or email us at committee@vfwdc.com.

VFWDC 50th Celebrations



Whats planned so far for our 50th Anniversary as a club

- **Dinner Celebration** so come join us for a fun night with dinner, gifts and many awards to hand out.

Date: 19/10/2024

Venue: Club Noble

- **Camping Trip** so come join us for a weekend away around Aberfeldy. This area was the main go to place when our club originated.

Location: Meringtons / O'Tooles Campground

Date: 14/09 – 15/09

Whats being planned for our 50th Anniversary

- Family Fun Day so Join us for a family fun day.

Date: TBA

Venue: Chesterfield Farm

To make our 50th Dinner Celebrations a great event we need some help!

- We need some photos from your adventures to make a slide show. Photos need to be of high quality and please send to avanderwalt@chairo.vic.edu.au please include web@vfwdc.com so we can add to the website also.

- Nominations for awards (Onya awards)

- Suggestions for other awards

- Any other suggestion can members please send any nominations to president@vfwdc.com

Merchandise

Merchandise - Get in now to get your discount merchandise!

Reversible Vest

Cost - \$30.00

Sizes – S, M , L, XL, 2XL, 5XL



Drivers Jacket

Cost - \$40.00

Sizes - S, M, L, XL



Zip up Hoodie

Cost - \$20.00

Sizes - S & M



Scarf / Beanie / Cap / Stubbie Holder

Cost - \$10.00 each



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	Proficiency Training
	Phil Griffith – 0419 865 472 Ashley Martin -0428 134 999 John Partridge – 0405 058 079
Dates	Theory – Tue 12th March – 7.30pm start Practical – Friday 15 th March– Sunday 17 th March
Meeting Details	<p>Theory – Noble Park Football Club, Blue and Gold Room Practical – Service Centre Officer (Princess Hwy) Friday @5pm / Saturday @7.30am</p> <p>The Club encourages all members to participate in a proficiency course to ensure the basic fundamentals of 4-wheel driving are gained.</p> <p>Theory provides an overview of the tread lightly principles, vehicles dynamics and functions, tackling various terrains along with other subjects. This provides the background for the practical weekend. Practical we run through individual vehicles and differences, basic recovery equipment and recap some of the theory (including homework). We then begin the practical side running through several techniques to ensure safe vehicle recovery when in difficult situations. Once all participants are confident with these, we hit the tracks to put all the theory into practice.</p> <p>Sunday will be a leisurely start then we will traverse a number of tracks which allow you to become familiar with your vehicles' capabilities and gain further confidence. We should be finished by 2 o'clock arriving back to Melbourne around 4. As with past participants the weekend provides confidence to safely 4WD either with the club or friends</p>
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 8
Approx km's meeting place to destination	Approx. 300 km
Last available fuel	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
Distance between supplies	Theory - pen and concentration
Equipment required	Practical - You will need to be self-sufficient for camping and have your brain switched on!
Maps required	https://goo.gl/maps/GTrQDz5RLHS2
Radio Channel CB/UHF	UHF Ch 12

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>So I'm planning a 6-8 week trip next year. Starting around the King's Birthday Long weekend.</p> <p>Please see rough order of the trip on the next page.</p> <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. Given most roadhouses etc are 400-500 km apart it's only the Tanami to cover.</p> <p>As well, leaving earlier, starting mid way or combination of both is more than welcome for the time poor folks.</p> <p>I will take the Cub Camper, caravans at a pinch, but be prepared to park up at places, swags of course an option.</p> <p>Will have some one night stop and prop sleep overs IOT spend longer at destinations ,but will not be doing extended stays IOT get it all done in time.</p>
Grade	TBC
Vehicle Limits	TBC
Approx km's meeting	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	Big Desert Wanderings Part 2
	NAME: Sally, Tristan and Steve Card Sally: 0435782207 Tristan: 0468958444
Dates	Thursday 25 th April – Sunday 28 th April
Meeting Details	BP Calder Park outbound 8am for 8:30am departure
Grade	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
Trip Activity Details	<p>This is a shake down trip for our new Patrol. We will head to Blue Gum campsite (no facilities) on Thursday 25 th to base camp for the weekend. Camper Trailers are able to get into the site with a couple of dunes to climb to get into it.</p> <p>Friday and Saturday will be exploring Big Desert and also having a go at Big Dune again.</p> <p>Head home on Sunday</p>
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
Approx km's meeting place to destination	Approx. 611 km
Last available fuel	PETROL: Ouyen DIESEL: Ouyen
Distance between supplies	250 KM
Equipment required	Recovery Gear. Camping equipment that makes you self sufficient for 4 days. Food and Drinks
Maps required	VIC Desert Maps Hema Maps
Radio Channel CB/UHF	UHF Ch 12

Upcoming Trips

Destination	Millers Hut / Lake Tali Karng
	NAME: Steve Pitcher Mobile: 0421 205 529
Dates	Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th May 2024
Meeting Details	BP Service Station, Princes Freeway (Pakenham Bypass), Officer (Meet 9:00 am for 9:30 am departure), GPS Coordinates: Lat: -38°0699" Long: 145°3872"
Grade	WET: Hard DRY: Medium
Trip Activity Details	Base Camping at Millers Hut (GPS Coordinates: -37° 5415" Long: 146° 7871"). From there, we can head over on the Saturday to the Sentinels lookout to view Lake Tali Karng from above (no vehicular access down to the lake itself – those that are interested can hike down to the water's edge from camp, and get back in a day, but it takes the whole day and the walking trail is really only suited to experienced hikers). Time permitting, we could also head over to Moroka Hut and/or Horseyard Hut. Either way, a packed or easy to prepare lunch is recommended for the Saturday. Camper trailers are welcome but getting into or out of Millers Hut can be quite challenging if it should rain or snow (which is possible that time of year).
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 10
Approx km's meeting place to destination	Approx. 350 km
Last available fuel	PETROL: Licola (Heyfield is the 2 nd nearest) DIESEL: Licola (Heyfield is the 2 nd nearest) – no Alpine diesel available (BYO additive such as IceBreaker)
Distance between supplies	50 kms (approx) back to Licola from Millers Hut
Equipment required	All equipment and supplies required to be self-sufficient for 3+ days / 2+ nights. Be prepared in case it snows. Basic tools, spares and recovery gear (vehicles to be fitted with rated recovery points but winches are not essential). Quality A/T tyres (min) or M/Ts recommended due to rough/rocky terrain.
Maps required	While not essential, quality maps covering the area include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rooftop's Dargo-Wonnangatta Adventure Map; and• Hema Maps' High Country Victoria.
Radio Channel CB/UHF	UHF Ch 12

Huts 2 Huts – Mount Speculation Aid station - Trip run by Ly

Dates of trip: 16/02/2024 – 18/02/2024

Attendees

Toyota 300 Series Landcruiser - Brett

Lexus LX470 - Ly

Details

Our journey began on Friday at Lilydale McDonald's at 9:30 am, where Brett and his mighty 300 series Landcruiser was waiting.

We set out towards Yarra Glen for a quick pit stop before making our way to Mansfield BP to refuel and grab some snacks for the road. With our tanks full and spirits high, we continued our journey towards Mirimbah Park, where we aired down tyres in preparation for the trails ahead. By midday, we were ready to conquer Mount Stirling Road, Circuit Road, and Speculation Road.

Navigating through the rugged terrain proved to be slow going, especially past Little Cobbler Track, where we encountered two bog holes with no easy tracks around. After carefully assessing the depth with sticks, we chose our path and continued our ascent, mostly crawling in 1st or 2nd gear. Near the top we encountered the top three runners were hours ahead of the pack.

Upon reaching the top, we rendezvoused with Adrian, Sharon, Jurgen, Bec, and Jared the medic. Due to limited space near the parking area, we set up our camp in a clearing below. Our duties at the aid station included preparing sandwiches, cutting up fruits, handing out snacks, and pouring drinks to support the passing runners participating in the race.



Trip Report

As night fell, several runners required evacuation down to Kings Hut. By 9pm there was 6 runners waiting. Eventually a 79 series dual cab came and picked them up along with Adrian who volunteered to drive the remaining two down. Driving at night after a long day wasn't my cup of tea. Afterward, we gathered around the campfire, sharing stories and laughter over drinks before retiring for the night.

The next morning, Brett and I embarked on a hike to Mount Speculation that we wanted to do last year, relishing the awe-inspiring views from the summit



Trip Report

After breakfast with the group, we manned the aid station as competitors began passing through. Brett known as 'Spud Man' was frying up potato slices.



By 3pm the sweepers came through. We assisted with packing up the equipment into Adrian's 200 series Landcruiser.



We all left Mount Speculation in convoy formation - I was tail end Charlie. Jurgen was nervous tackling the bog holes. He watched Adrian pick the line, and we assured him his stock Prado was more than capable. Jurgen slowly crawled through the hole, jumped out of the car and gave his daughter a big hug!

Upon reaching the Kings Hut campground, we were greeted with a vibrant party atmosphere. Wood-fired pizzas, soups, BBQ, and beers provided by another 4x4 club added to the festive mood. Brett and I set up our swag and tent in 'tent city,' enjoying a meal with competitors and chatted about their experience. One group flew all the way down from Brisbane to compete!

Trip Report

By 8:30 pm, competitors had retired to their tents in preparation for the 5 am departure. I was awoken by their 4 am phone alarms but managed to roll back to sleep until 5 am. After a quick breakfast, Brett and I decided to pack up and leave instead of going back to sleep. We turned on our driving lights and embarked on some 'night' driving, navigating through King Basin Road with its low river crossings and encountering cows on Black Landing Track.

We exited via Circuit Road and Mount Stirling Road, reaching Mirimbah park by 7:30 am to air up. Brett and I bid farewell to each other before heading back to Melbourne.

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...

