FREE WHEELING

November 2026

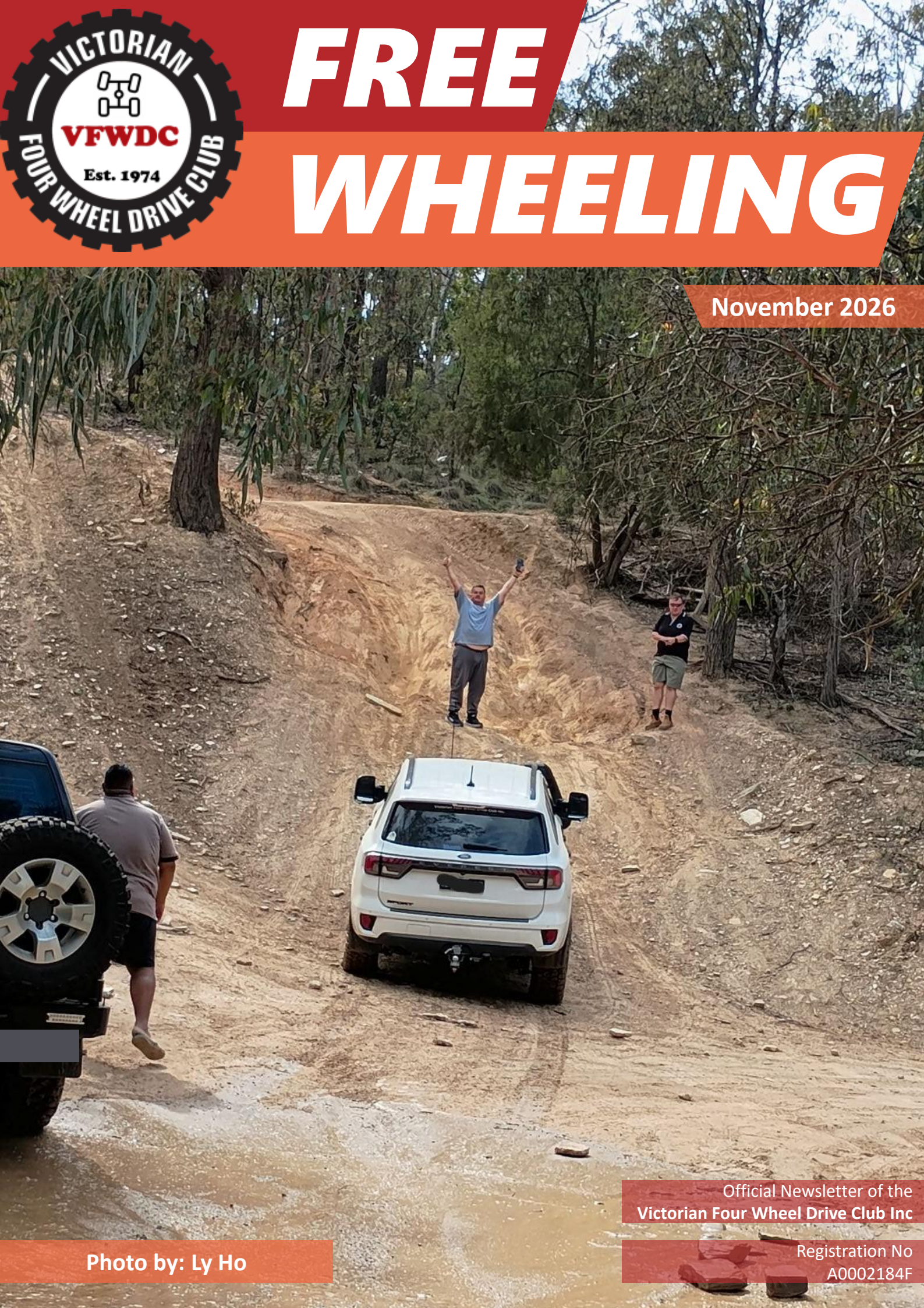


Photo by: Ly Ho

Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

Registration No
A0002184F

Meeting Details



VFWDC General Meeting Details & Venue

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30 PM with the following exceptions:

No meeting at Club Noble in January.



Club Noble Address
Blue and Gold Room
Club Noble
46-56 Moodemere Street
Noble Park

Next club meeting is club offsite on 11th November (Wednesday) 5:15 pm at ARB KILSYTH - 42-44 Garden St, Kilsyth VIC 3137

Club Committee

2025 - 2026		
President	Neville Van Leeuwen	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	Ken Kilby	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Steve Miller	secretary@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Ly Ho	treasurer@vfwdc.com
General Committee		
Trip Coordinator	Ken Kilby	trips@vfwdc.com
Magazine Editor	Sushant Aggarwal	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	Dennis Alphonsus	delegate@vfwdc.com
General Committee	Andy McCarthy	
General Committee	Steve Dishon	
Support Positions to Committee		
Web Manager	Alec Downs	web@vfwdc.com
Training officer	Phillip Griffith	
Merchandise	Suzy Whitford	merchandise@vfwdc.com
Club Details		
Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club	
Registration Number	A002184F	
Correspondence Address	PO Box 778 Dandenong VIC 3175	
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

President's Report

Hi All

A reminder that the **November club meeting is off-site this month on Wed 11/11 at ARB Kilsyth**, followed by a get together for Pizza. Check out the details further in the magazine. This will be a very interesting night. **No catch up on Wed 04/11**.

Our end of year break up will be at St Annes – We need numbers for this soon so we can organize accordingly. I'm looking forward to not camping there in freezing weather (Hopefully)

There was some discussion at the last meeting about proposed works for Ingeegoodbee track, as well Cobberas and Macfarlane tracks, these areas have been closed now since early 2023. These tracks are shown on Parks Vic Procurement Activity Plan as below

Parks Victoria Procurement Activity Plan

It will be great if these areas are repaired and made open to the public again.

This document also shows a lot of other planned works around Victoria.

With summer fast approaching I'm sure we are all keen to get out to our favourite areas again. I will hopefully be planning a camping trip between Christmas and New Years.

Looking forward to seeing some more trip forms come through as well

Neville Van Leeuwen
VFWDC President
president@vfwdc.com
M: 0472 680 482



Throwback photo from our Blue-Rag – Billy Goat trip last year

Meeting Minutes

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 7 October 2026
Time: 7:30 pm – 8:21 pm
Location: Club Noble
Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 3rd December 2026

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Open Meeting	• Welcome to the October 2026 club meeting • Apologies: Steven D, Sushant, Dennis, Brett and Nicky	Neville

Minutes from previous months club meeting	• Minutes from previous meeting accepted:
	  ○ Accepted: Alec
	  ○ Seconded: Suzy
	• Matters arising from previous minutes for the club meeting on the 05/09/2026: Nil
		Neville

Facebook	• No updates	
Guests	• Nil	Neville
Correspondence	• Digital copy of Ridges and Ruts to be distributed to all members • Enquiry from Bairnsdale 4WD for information on club management and potential joint trips • x1 expression of interest from a person about the club. We responded, but no further contact received	Steven M

Treasurer's Report	• As per written report from Ly Ho – Written report will be in next issue of the club's magazine.
	• Report for September 2026:
	  ▪ Closing cash position $3,547.11
	  ▪ Closing consolidated position $12,420.94
	  ○ No matters arising from Financial Report.
	  ○ Motion to accept September 2026 Treasurer 's Report:
	  ▪ Accepted: Bruce
	  ▪ Seconded: Anne
		Ly

Association News	• (Dennis away) • Email received from FWDV advising of new media person whose name is "Poppy"	Neville

Meeting Minutes

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 7 October 2026
Time: 7:30 pm – 8:21 pm
Location: Club Noble
Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 3rd December 2026

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Upcoming Trips	• Melbourne Cup Weekend – 4 day trip to Bindaree Hut, Campground, Bluff Hut and look out, look out for snakes, carry spare fuel or long range tanks – Trip Leader is Ken – 4 hours away – Trip is full but has a waiting list • Off site meeting at ARB Kilsyth 11/11/2026 at 5:30pm, followed by Pizza at Eastwood Plaza Pizza Restraint (Catered by VFWDC) • 4-6/12/2026 End of Year Christmas Function at St Annes Winery. • Little O'Toole's – Trip Leader is Sushant – Details to be advised. Contact the Trip Co-ordinator for more information or to put forward proposals.	Neville
Intermission	• 7:44pm to 8:06pm	
Trip Reports	• 12/09/2026 - Lederberg – Trip Leader was Ly Ho – Turned wrong way straight out of McDonalds. Aired down with new tyre deflators (Highly recommended by Ly). Called into training ground for a site see. Phil provided tour of training ground, the grounds are quite extensive. Had good time trying out various short courses at training ground. Upper track to Link track. Firth Loop Track hit deep mud hole, Ly nearly tipped his car, took some minor damage. Aired up Carol's Lane. Home by 5pm - See trip report in magazine • 2nd snow trip – Trip Leader was Neville – He went up Friday and stayed at pub which was under new management and was much better than previous times. Found a patch of snow about 2m x 2m. Neville's roof rack broke loose. Had dinner at the Jamieson Brewery. See trip report in last magazine.	Neville
Merchandise	• Usual items available including hoodies	Suzy
General Business	• Lederberg State Park is now a National Park with associated increased restrictions on activities. • Sally advised that three new tracks out near Tom Groggin are being fixed up and re-opened after being closed for approximately four years • Query raised by a new member about campgounds and the facilities. It was advised that most campgrounds have some form of drop toilets which vary in quality and the ratio of toilets to campers can be quite poor	Ly Sally

Meeting Minutes

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 7 October 2026
Time: 7:30 pm – 8:21 pm
Location: Club Noble
Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 3rd December 2026

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Raffle	Raffle Prizes: 1. RAM Mount 2. Recovery ring 3. Hat and Window breaker/seat belt cutter	Neville
Next General Meeting	• The next general club meeting will be at ARB Kilsyth - Wednesday 11/11/2026 @ 5:30pm	Neville
Meeting Close	• 8:21pm	Neville
Minutes taken by:		Steven Miller



Treasurer's Report
September 2026

Cheque A/C`	Opening Balance as at 01/09/2026	$3,479.11	
Add:	Membership Fees	$338.00	
	Raffle	$40.00	
Less:	Association Fees	-$310.00	
	Closing Balance as at 30/09/2026		$3,547.11
Term Deposit	Opening Balance as at 01/09/2026	$8,823.83	
	Closing Balance as at 30/09/2026		$8,823.83
Petty Cash	Opening Balance as at 01/09/2026	$50.00	
	Closing Balance as at 30/09/2026		$50.00
	Consolidated Closing Cash Position		**$12,420.94**

General Notices

1. **DRIVER TRAINING**: Driver training has been **postponed** due to certifications issues. **New date will be advised later**.

2. **CLUB RENEWAL FEE**: Club renewal fee will **remain unchanged** for the upcoming financial year (starts 1-Jul-2026).

   a) Following are **membership fee, due** for the upcoming financial year:

      - **Single - $87**
      - **Family/Couple - $97**
      - **Silver - $57**

   b) Membership Application Form: https://vfwdc.com/membership-apply/

   c) Not sure about how to join the club? Refer to this page: https://vfwdc.com/membership/#Join

   d) Existing Member Renewal Form: https://vfwdc.com/membership-renew/

   e) Payment details are in the membership form (also mentioned on **next page in magazine**)

   f) You must be a paid member to participate in the **snow trips**

   g) Discount Offer: The club is offering a discount of **$5 off your membership for each trip**. you have organized and run since **July 1st, 2025**, up to a maximum of $20 per couple. Please mention any trips you have led when you reply.

Club Membership

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

To apply for membership click here.

To renew an existing membership click 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 Name:	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
BSB:	633108
Account No:	111761979

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

Online forms will automatically be sent to the Treasurer. Temporary Forms must be emailed to treasurer@vfwdc.com or presented 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.

Club Calendar

November 2026		
Wednesday 4th	General Club Meeting	7:30 pm
Wednesday 11th	**Club Offsite** 5:30 PM - ARB Kilsyth 7.15 PM: Meet up at Paparizza Pizza	Neville *See trip form for details*
Wednesday 18th	Committee Meeting	
Friday 20th	Little O'Toole's Camping Trip	Sushant *See trip form for details*
December 2026		
Wednesday 2nd	General Club Meeting	7:30 pm
Friday 4th	**St Anne's Winery End of year break up**	Neville *See trip form for details*
Wednesday 16th	Committee Meeting	

Track Classification

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.

Trip Report

Lerderderg Day Trip Report — 2026- by Ly Ho

Meeting Up

We met up at **Bacchus Marsh Maccas**, with everyone arriving one by one.

- Phil was first to arrive — *"How good is the weather?"*
- Then Jason arrived.
- Then Harsha and Melissa's family.

The convoy order was:

Me (Leader) → Jason → Harsha → Phil (Tail-End Charlie)

We headed off, although I managed to take the wrong turn and ended up on the freeway. We had to turn around and head back — **only myself to blame!**

Airing Down & The Training Ground

After the little navigation mishap, we found a nice strip of green grass to air down.

I used my new **KickAss self-deflating tyres**, and they were a game changer! Definitely made airing down much easier.

It had also been a while since Jason had been on a trip, so Harsha gave him a hand getting his tyres deflated.

Once everyone was aired down, we headed towards our first stop — the old quarry, otherwise known as the **"Training Ground."**

Phil offered to take the lead as he had been there numerous times before, so I happily handed the reins over to him.

Everyone switched their cars into low range and followed Phil down the hill. We took a left and headed up the first challenge.

Jason wasn't comfortable with the track, so he took an alternative path and set up his camera to record everyone tackling the obstacle.

Phil crawled up the challenge with a little too much right foot and ended up lifting a wheel **about a metre off the ground!**

Harsha, meanwhile, made it look easy in his Patrol, taking on the same track without much drama.

We tackled a couple more challenges, which Phil summed up perfectly:

"Short and sharp."

We spent about an hour at the Training Ground before I took over as leader again and we headed towards **Lerderderg Campground**.

Lerderderg Campground

I had planned to get there via **Possum Track**, only to discover that it was actually a hiking track! So we changed plans and went via **O'Brien's Road** and then **Upper Chadwick Track**.

When we arrived at the campground, it was packed with campers and motorbike riders.

We stopped at the car park next to the toilets for lunch and had a bit of a debrief about the adventures so far.

And, of course:

“Picked a beautiful day, Ly.”

After filling our tummies, we jumped back in the cars and tackled **Diggers Track**, eventually making our way onto **Chettle Road**.

XL Link Track

We then jumped onto **XL Link Track**, which was once again littered with bog holes, each with several different ways to tackle them.

Jason and I jumped out at a few points to test the depth using the trusty nearby stick — always an important piece of 4WD recovery equipment!

Harsha once again showed what the mighty Patrol could do, taking on some of the more challenging lines through the bog holes.

XL Link Track eventually merged into **XL Track**, which continued the same theme of manageable but muddy bog holes.

Eventually, we made our way onto **Firth Road**.

The Firth Track Incident

As we got closer to the Firth Park campground road, I impulsively said:

“Take a right to Firth Track.”

Unfortunately, it quickly became obvious that this track hadn't been driven in quite some time.

About 20 metres in, I came across a large section of water.

Full of confidence after a day's worth of driving through muddy water, I made the rookie mistake of driving straight in **without checking the depth first.**

There was a **big bang**, followed by the car tipping noticeably to the right.

Jason's assessment from the outside was not particularly reassuring:

“The water's at door-sill level!”

I locked the rear diffs, reversed slightly, and then gave it another go.

Thankfully, the Lexus found traction and started moving again.

I immediately radioed the team and told them **not to follow me**. They reversed back out, while Phil led everyone around to where Firth Track eventually ended.

Meanwhile, I continued navigating through the rough section and eventually met back up with the convoy.

Lesson learned: check the depth before committing!

Calling It a Day

With that unfortunate little side adventure completed, we checked the time and realised it was around **2:30 pm**.

It felt like the perfect time to call it a day.

We headed towards **Carrolls Lane**, where we aired back up.

Everyone said their goodbyes and headed home.

Final Thoughts

A great day out with the crew, with a bit of everything — some technical tracks, muddy bog holes, plenty of laughs, and just enough drama to make the trip memorable.

And most importantly, **everyone and every vehicle made it home.**

Until the next one! 🚙 💨

Trip Report





Trip Report







Trip Report









Trip Report





Upcoming Trips

PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	**ARB Kilsyth Off site meeting**
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Neville Van Leeuwen TEL: MOB: 0472 680 482
DATE	11/11/26 – 5.15PM
MEETING PLACE / TIME	**ARB KILSYTH** - 42-44 Garden St, Kilsyth VIC 3137 **Paparizza Pizza** - Eastwood Plaza, Unit 8/102-106 Canterbury Rd, Kilsyth South VIC 3137, Australia
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: NA DRY: NA
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Meeting up at ARB Kilsyth at 5.15 for 5.30pm start. We will be given a tour of the ARB manufacturing plant to see what and how the produce their products. Tour will finish around 7pm. We Will then head over to Paparizza Pizza. Club will provide pizzas. Licensed Bar and standard Drinks will be available for purchase We need to lock numbers in soon for both venues. Please confirm asap that you are attending either/both.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: NA MAXIMUM: NA
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	NA
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: NA DIESEL: NA
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	NA
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	NA
MAPS REQUIRED	NA
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	NA

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED:

1. Plan your trip. In particular: meeting point destination, trip grading, trip details, fuel information, camping arrangements. If a trip is classified as Dog Friendly, it is the responsibility of the Trip Leader to ensure the trip does not enter areas that do not allow dogs.
2. Complete a "PROPOSED CLUB TRIP" form.
3. Pass the form on to the President or Events Coordinator, either in hard copy format or electronically, for approval at the next Committee Meeting. When approved, the Trip Leader will be notified, and the trip included in the Club Calendar. Also ensure copy passed to Newsletter Editor for inclusion in calendar and Forthcoming Trip Section.

PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	ABERFELDY / LITTLE O'TOOLES CAMPING TRIP
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Sushant Aggarwal MOB: 04055 02069
DATE	20 Nov (Fri arvo) – 22 Nov (Sun), 2026
MEETING PLACE / TIME	BP Officer Outbound 4:30 pm for 5:00 pm departure You can also choose to join at the campground on Saturday morning
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: MED-HARD DRY: MED
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	1. Friday: Leave post work, and setup camp at Little O'Tooles 2. Saturday: 4wding post brekkie: One Spec Tk, Dry Gully South Tk, Fullerton Creek Tk. We may do more tracks depending on time 3. Sunday: Pack up and head back home
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	165 km (BP Officer to Little O'Tooles campground)
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	75 km (O'Tooles to Moe. 150 return)
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	All terrain tyres – Recovery points front and rear. Recovery Gear Self sufficient camp setup. There are drop toilets at campground
MAPS REQUIRED	I will have sufficient maps. Hema for SW Vic High Country
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12
DOG FRIENDLY? YES/NO	Yes

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED:

1. Plan your trip. In particular: meeting point destination, trip grading, trip details, fuel information, camping arrangements. If a trip is classified as Dog Friendly, it is the responsibility of the Trip Leader to ensure the trip does not enter areas that do not allow dogs.
2. Complete a "PROPOSED CLUB TRIP" form.
3. Pass the form on to the President or Events Coordinator, either in hard copy format or electronically, for approval at the next Committee Meeting. When approved, the Trip Leader will be notified, and the trip included in the Club Calendar. Also ensure copy passed to Newsletter Editor for inclusion in calendar and Forthcoming Trip Section.

PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	St Annes Winery
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Neville Van Leeuwen TEL: MOB: 0472 680 482
DATE	Friday 04th Dec – Sun 6th Dec
MEETING PLACE / TIME	St Annes Winery
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: NA DRY: NA
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	A weekend of relaxing….. Arrive at your own leisure on Friday or Saturday. We will go and do some wine tasting (For those that like wine). Otherwise we will relax around a fire. Saturday night will be a meal put on by the club…
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: NA MAXIMUM: NA
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	Approx 100 km from SE Suburbs. 64 Garrards Ln, Myrniong VIC 3341
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: DIESEL:
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Depends how far away you park your car… 😂 😂 😂 😂
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Fully Self Sufficient Camping, toilet on site
MAPS REQUIRED	NA
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED:

1. Plan your trip. In particular: meeting point destination, trip grading, trip details, fuel information, camping arrangements. If a trip is classified as Dog Friendly, it is the responsibility of the Trip Leader to ensure the trip does not enter areas that do not allow dogs.
2. Complete a "PROPOSED CLUB TRIP" form.
3. Pass the form on to the President or Events Coordinator, either in hard copy format or electronically, for approval at the next Committee Meeting. When approved, the Trip Leader will be notified, and the trip included in the Club Calendar. Also ensure copy passed to Newsletter Editor for inclusion in calendar and Forthcoming Trip Section.

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...



