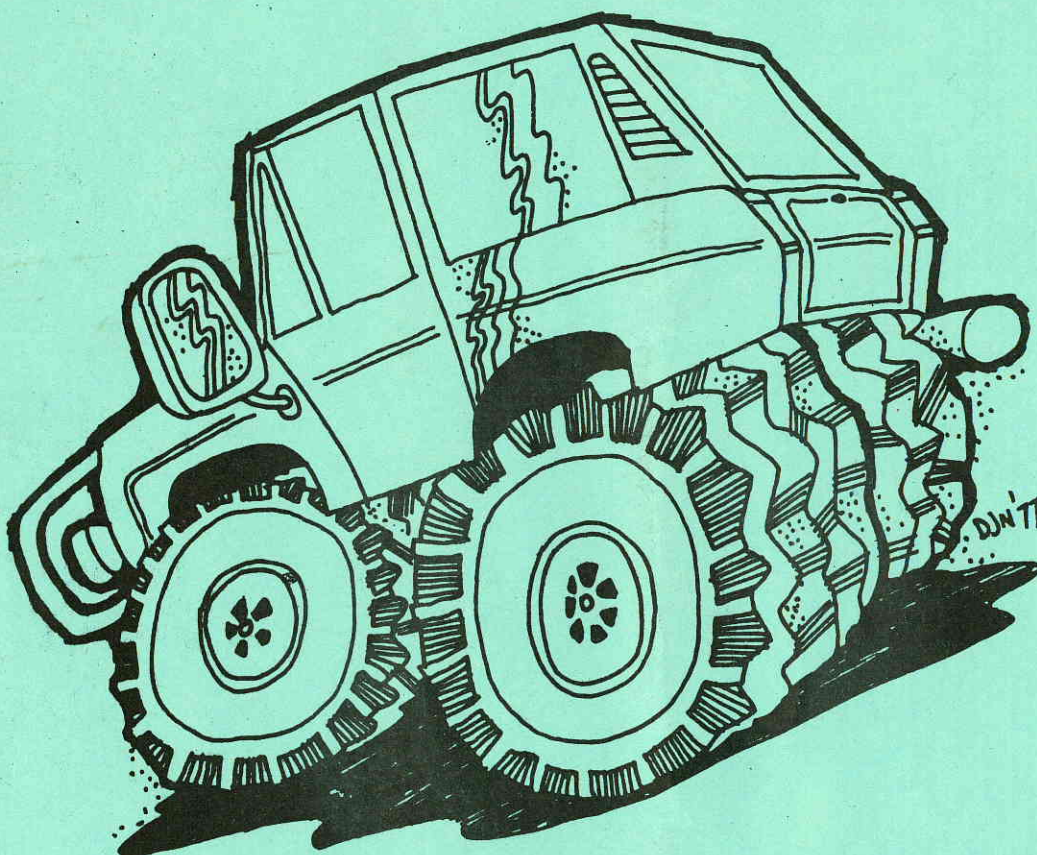


OCTOBER 1980.

**F
R
E
E**



**W
H
E
E
L
I
N
G**



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF
VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

Registered for posting as a publication
CATEGORY "B"

VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

COMMITTEE 1979-80



PRESIDENT	GEOFF MANN, 10 Fernhill St., GLEN WAVERLEY. 3150	233 2229
VICE PRESIDENT	PHIL ALDER 7 Dermot Street, STH. OAKLEIGH. 3167	579 3948
SECRETARY	BRIAN TUCK 2 Page Street, CHELTENHAM. 3192	93 1484
TREASURER	WERNER DITTERICH, 14/96 Cavanagh Street, CHELTENHAM. 3192	93 3325
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	JOHN THOM, 8/7 Green Avenue, MULGRAVE. 3170	547 3510
PUBLIC RELATIONS	PAULA LANGILLE, 6 Rowena Court, KEYSBOROUGH. 3173	798 5835
SOCIAL SECRETARY	PAM BRENNAN, 68 Willow Avenue, GLEN WAVERLEY. 3150	232 0795
COMMITTEE	ANDREW MERLO, 57 Kardinian Avenue, CHELTENHAM. 3192	93 2383
	TOM BRACKNA, 11 Sunnyvale Court, HAMPTON PARK.	799 1998
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	ANDREW MERLO (as above)	
ASSOCIATION DELEGATE	JOHN THOM (as above)	
RADIO OFFICER,	TED PLASTOW, 22 Mary Street, EDITHVALE 3196.	772 4393

MEETINGS LAST TUESDAY
OF THE MONTH AT DANDENONG
LIBRARY.

CORRESPONDENCE
P.O. BOX 778,
DANDENONG.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT. OCTOBER, 1980.

First of all some annoying news to our members. The planned day trip for the St. John's Orphanage on the 26th has been cancelled due to a change of plans from their management. We had a good show of hands with members, being able to take 20 children, the Orphanage - rebuked on this and said only 8 were available, so for all the effort put in it has been decided to defer it until better numbers can be obtained.

Any member interested in participating in the Nissan Clubs Annual Long Weekend at Big River on the 1st to the 4th November, please contact me (phone 277 3902 A.H.) before the 21st October, as I have to give Steve Trickey the final numbers by then.

Last meeting we established a first for the club, - 16 members in attendance. Tom Brachna provided the entertainment throughout the night, Tom being Secretary, Public Relations Officer, Social Secretary, and anything else he could think of. It will be good to see the other Committee members at the next meeting (it's been hell for us the last month).

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the police paddocks clean up, the paddocks looked a picture by 4.30p.m.. WELL DONE!

Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

PRESIDENT JOHN.

P.S. Heard rumors that the phampton Santa Claus could reappear in December.

CANOE TRIP

Roll Call Jeff, Phil, Geof, Peter, Trevor and Tom.

Destination Thomson Road Bridge via Aberfeldy and Thomson Rivers.

Well then, trip began on Friday night with Geoff arriving at Hampton Park at approximately 9.00p.m. On the roof of his Falcon were four carefully arranged canoes ready to fall in every direction. This method of transport was decided against as the canoes did not look safe and they might get damaged. (Ho, Ho, more about that later).

We emptied the rubbish from the trailer and loaded on the canoes making sure they were carefully secured.

After loading our gear into Geoff's vehicle which was already loaded to the hilt and saying goodbye to the wife we were off in more ways than one.

Camping spot was reached with only one liquid stop and one munchies stop. Camp was set up at the Thomson Road Bridge with organised perfection that only Landrover owners possess: Note :- no Toyota owners braved the weekend.

Sleeping bags, lylo's, mattresses were placed in Phil's tent. The car was organised, a couple of quick belts of snake-bite repellent just in case there were snakes in the tent, a flash of near naked bodies and we were all snuggled into our sleeping bags joking about the coming days events. Before we knew it the fish and chips went to work and we were asleep.

In the morning we were woken by the arrival of Geoff and Trevor. Breakfast was cooked, (Yummie Bacon Eggs, Sausages, Toast, etc. Two extra canoes were put on the trailer, and we all climbed into Geoff's Falcon and we were off.

Half an hour later we reached the starting point, the Aberfeldy River Bridge. We unlashed the canoes and donned our wetsuits all except Geoff Mann for he was tough and besides he Didn't have one.

The weather for such a challenging adventure was perfect misty, rainy, damn cold and wet but we set off regardless expecting to be back in our warm sleeping bags later that night.

Once we were in the canoes and on the water it was even colder. Everything went smoothly and without mishap for the first thirty feet then Peter Pink set the example taking the first bend in the river; he decided to hit the bank with a little help from the current and fall over into the water. We all knew he was just testing the water temperature as his legs went purple, which we all decided meant it was cold.

Four others went through without mishap, so, I decided it was easy and followed Peter's example :- into the corner and upside down in the river and, yes, my legs confirmed Peter's research, it was cold water.

We heard onlookers on the bridge saying how clever and brave we were.

We all spent our fair share of time testing the water temp. As we made our way down the river, we found that the Aberfeldy River is not very deep in many places so the canoes were dragged across the rocks and rapids, over and over again in different sections of the course.

By this time we were all cold, very cold, wet, cut from blackberries, canoes and rocks but happy. At about two o'clock and goodness knows how far down the river Peter had a mishap in the rapid his canoe hit a rock, turned sideways, filled with water and snapped. This could have proved disastrous, because the canoe was out of action but trusty old Phil reached between his legs in the canoe and pulled out an invaluable piece of equipment, a one man rubber raft. This was inflated, the wrecked canoe abandoned and we were on our way again.

About two hours later (4 o'clock), and much paddling, dragging and walking Trevor, who was in the lead, found a hut by the river. We stopped to look, the hut had food, beds and most important of all, a fire place. We did not know how far we had to go, or what was ahead, so we decided to spend the night in the hut.

We dragged the canoes onto a ledge away from the water, lit a fire in the fireplace and made ourselves busy trying to warm up. Geoff was so cold he literally rattled his clothes off and sat as close to the fire as was humanly possible. Before long we were reasonably warm so we ate some baked beans, irish stew and quite a few cups of hot tea. After this, feeling contented we sat around the fire, talked and played cards until one by one we dozed off.

Between us we managed a couple of hours sleep and before we knew it it was morning. I think personally the hardest part of the trip was getting back into that freezing water on Sunday morning.

As it rained all Saturday night the river was fuller and running faster on Sunday. With much care we manned the canoes and Peter, the raft and made our way toward the Thomson. After falling in again a few more times we were all as cold as the day before.

Approximately two hours later we reached the Thomson which had risen approximately 6 inches over night and was flowing extremely fast. This river had a few of us worried and was treated with care and respect. We made our way through a few stretches of very dangerous rapids and came to an old tressle bridge crossing the Thompson.

Approximately half an hour later we arrived at our destination; relieved to be back and yet sad that it was over.

We dried off and put on warm clothes, and drank some anti-freeze that we had brought with us.

The weekend was one of the most exciting adventures I think most of us had ever had.

We, as a group, were straned out with nature. The river was beautiful, with the scenery along its banks and the challenge it presented.

Thanks to the organizers, the company, and the rivers and mountains and I hope to make the journey again one day.

This is Tom signing off with a sore wrist.

P.S. Thanks for the cabin and food.

Well, I suppose the big news is that there may be moves underfoot to ban Bullbars. The following is a draft regulation, 1204 Titled - DANGEROUS FITTINGS.

No Motor Vehicle shall be equipped with :-

- a. Any object of fitting, not technically essential to such vehicle, which protrudes from any part of the vehicle so that it is likely to increase the risk of bodily injury to any person.
- b. Any object of fitting technically essential to such vehicle unless its design, construction and conditions and the manner in which it's affixed to the vehicle are such as to reduce to a minimum the risk of bodily injury to any person.
- c. Any object or fitting which, because it is pointed or has a sharp edge, is likely to increase the risk of bodily injury to any person.
- d. Any Bumper Bar the end of which is not turned towards the body of the vehicle to a sufficient extent to avoid any risk of hooking or grazing.

At this point in time it is not very clear what sort of vehicles these proposed regulations will apply too.

At the last Association meeting it was suggested that the Association enter Moomba next year. This was put to the vote and passed by the majority, your delegate voted against this for reasons which will be explained later.

The C. C. V. has passed the Association's policy on Four Wheel Touring, and it appears below, this means the C. C. V. has to represent us when it speaks to the N.P.S. and Soil Conservation Authority, therefore our voice will be heard in these hallowed Institutions.

C.C.V. POLICY ON FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE TOURING

1. The C.C.V. fully endorsed the "Code of Ethics" prepared by the Commonwealth Department of Science and Environment (listed in full in Appendix (i)) and incorporates the code of ethics into this Council policy.
2. Four-wheel drive touring in Victoria should take place only on public roads or "Four Wheel Drive Roads" (i.e. tracks) as defined by the Land Conservation (Vehicle Control) Act of 1972, when no lasting damage will be done to those roads.
3. Land Management Authorities should continue to close any road at any time of the year for protection of that road or to restrict access to environmentally sensitive areas (Forests Act of 1958). This could include permanent closure and revegetation of some roads if deemed necessary by management authority.

4. Where consistent with land use management objectives the existing formed track network should be available for recreation vehicles.
5. To help relieve pressures on environmentally sensitive areas the government should set aside appropriate areas for off-road usage by vehicle oriented recreationists using such vehicles as trail bikes, buggies and similar vehicles. (as under the Recreation Vehicles Act of 1973). These areas would be established and monitored with the understanding that if the areas deteriorate due to over-use or abuse by the said recreationists that further areas will not be made available. Restoration work, if necessary, would be the responsibility of the users.
6. All recreation vehicles *must* conform with E.P.A. noise emission standards.

As a final note the Dandenong Rangers 4W.D.C. will be conducting a survey in the Alps in the near future to determine the amount of 4w.d. using the area.

GEOFF.

CLUB RADIO's — FOR HIRE

2 sets available at \$1.00 per DAY

TRIP CLASSIFICATIONS:

'A' Grade: Extensive use of 4WD: Tracks maybe difficult to negotiate - chains should be carried along with towing slings and anchor points: good winter tread pattern tyres are a must. Trip leader has the right to refuse a vehicle if above points are not met. Types of conditions likely to be met include: steep climbs and descents on all surfaces - rocky, muddy etc. mud & snow, deep river crossings and overgrown tracks. Max. six vehicles.

'B' Grade: Virtually same conditions as 'A' Grade but track condition is more favourable. Good tyres are a must as well as necessary recovery gear. Max 10 vehicles.

'C' Grade: Very limited use of 4WD. These trips include car rallies etc. Type of tyres doesnot matter and recovery gear not essential.

No maximum number of vehicles
In all above cases vehicles should be in sound mechanical condition and carry the basic spare part requirements as listed in previous Newsletters.

GEOFF MANN. Sisters Track, Labertouche.

Nov. '77



Trestle bridge, Noojee.



THINGS TO COME:

LAST WEEKEND IN OCTOBER SATURDAY & SUNDAY 25th-26th

Venue : Goulbourn Valley Bo-Ho Bounce - Bush Dance.

All types of 4WD events.

\$7.00 per head, more details available from the Secretary.

NOVEMBER 1-2-3-4th CUP WEEKEND

Venue : Nissan Club has invited us to participate in the Annual weekend at Big River Camp. More details available from the Secretary.

All members wishing to accept this invitation are to please contact J. Thom on 277 3902 a.h. so that final numbers can be arranged by the 21st October.

Dandenong Ranges Annual Bush Dance - 15th November.

Our club has been invited to the above venue to be held at Monbulk Community Hall 15th November at 8.00p.m. - 1.30a.m. Colonial dress theme - supper provided along with the Captain Moonlite Bush Band - B.Y.O \$ 3.50 per head. Tickets available from our Secretary.

Geelong Four Wheel Drive Club - "FORREST FROLICS" 15th, 16th November.

To be held at Forrest Recreational Reserve and is similar in C.C.J.C.
"Narby". Anyone interested see the Secretary for further details.

Landrover Field Day - 30th November.

This is the third Annual 4WD Motor Show and Field Day held by the L.R.O.C. Held at Hesket, on the Romsey - Woodend Road (follow signs) Melways Map 243 ref. H/10). from 10.00a.m. - 4.00p.m.

Entry is \$ 2.00 per vehicle.

Should be an interesting and informative day and well worth a visit.
More details available from Secretary.

C.C.J.C. Narbethong - 28th February, 1st March.

Annual get together at Valley Farm at Narbethong 55 mile post on Acheron River. Final numbers will be required later. This weekend is real must!

IN THE FUTURE

Club Breakup - 11th December - Admiral Bin Bar
\$ 15.00 per head - all inclusive and bus supplied.

Kids Party - Kirth Kiln - 14th December.

Chinese Banquet.

Fishing Trip.

Last meeting - 30th September.

There were 16 members in attendance - committee only comprised of 3 (due to holidays). Tom Wharton from Dandy Ranges brought tickets in for their bush dance. Steve Trickey from Nissan Club gave us a run down on the Big River weekend. Peter Adams gave a report on the Police Paddocks clean up. Debbi Godson won the Scotch. Cliff Bacon won the Port in the raffle. Entertainment for the night was a darts competition the prize being the the prize being the board and darts which was won by ?

NEXT MEETING

To be held at Dandenong Library on 28th October.

IT'S AND BITS

Heard from the Top that when Don Montague cracked the rear diff to check on water after the Jardine there were bits of pinion gear that came out first. The new diff in the back came in handy.

Also back in Cairns a Peugeot came to grief in the back of Don's - it was a write off and Don broke a trailer plug - and nearly a couple of flagons of his mate on Magnetic Island.

Brian and Kathy Tuck only had battery trouble, David Heard and Co. broke the roof rack and it is now down the tip.

My Nissan didn't make it with gear selector trouble - nothing more said.

Apparently all had an enjoyable trip to the top so I hope we see a trip report in the near future .

Ted Plastow our ex radio officer has resigned from the club - we would like to thank him for his services in the past and wish him all the best in the future (rumors of a round Australia trip).

Geoff Mann has volunteered to take up the above position so all enquires to go through Geoff.

For those that missed the last meeting in the Association report, apparently fire restrictions are now in force from 1st October till mid March.

From the Canoe trip report it was stated that "with organized perfection that only Landrover owners posses" seems after reading the article that they were all "Possessed".

Heard from Werner and Sue (10-10-80) have left Darwin (too expensive and heading for the West. No problems.

Bad luck came Vin Handleys way on his trip north apparently his diesel starting blowing smoke? - strange, seems that the rings had moved around till the gaps were all in align. So it was back home, and now has rectified itself.

Have just seen the latest addition of "OFF ROAD ACTION" and in it is a story of 1980 "Narbethong" look closely at the picture of the Subaru and our Social Secretary is visible in the mud attaching a winch cable.

Club Technical Officer is John Lake available on 95 4800 during business hours.

Books available from the club library through Peter Adams at monthly meeting.
Fee 10¢ per month.

Name tags at meeting - failure to do so 20¢ fine.

CLUB DISCOUNTS:

- | | | |
|----|---|----------|
| 1. | Le Mans Toyota, 1547 Dandenong Road, Oakleigh. (Trade Discount) | 568 0933 |
| 2. | ULR Holdings P/L., 1339 High Street, Malvern. " " | 20 2130 |
| 3. | Lonsdale Tyre Service, 26 Plunkett Road, Dandenong (35% Disc.) | 791 8666 |

CLUB CLEAN UP - POLICE PADDOCKS28th SEPTEMBER.

The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club held a voluntary clean up on 28th September, at the Police Paddocks, off Brady Road, Endeavour Hills, as part of its community service program. This is the third such clean up organised by the club in recent times, and was a great success.

About 20 club members managed to take many trailer loads of rubbish to the tip, and when the tip closed the three dumpmaster bins provided by the Council were quickly filled.

Rubbish removed included old clothing and mattresses, dozens of beer bottles and cans, household rubbish dumped during the garbo's strike and four old car bodies.

Let's hope that in future this historic area receives a bit more respect from the thoughtless litterbugs responsible, and no more clean ups will be necessary.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

Half finished pack rack \$5.00

See Peter Wall 547 3991

Lift up camper roof suit any vehicle with roof rack \$250.00 O.N.O.

Contact: Paul Taylor (547 3353) or Peter Wall (547 3991)

5 Nissan Patrol Rims \$15.00 each

P. Rowe 857 6422

Pack rack to suit Toyota Landcruiser - factory made - used once - \$100.00

Bull bar suit Toyota - \$30.00

Phone 791 6425

6 Cylinder Landrover Carby - \$50.00 O.N.O. - Terry Hincks.

4 Toyota Rims/Tyres R.T.M.'s \$25 each \$100 lot.

M. Valentine Work phone: 615 5238

Home: 233 2073

4WD Trailer, 7 months old, 5 months rego. Newly painted 700-16 Tyres.

All new materials. 3/4" Marine ply floor. Toyota L'Cruiser width w'base.

72" long inside, 43" inside accross, 12" sides, 47" draw bar. \$125.00

Ring Brian Langille. 798 5835

Wrecking L.W.B. Landrover mech. good, most parts.

Paul Taylor 547 3353

Rope - new - hard lay manilla. Lengths to 200 mets.

12 mm. dia 25¢ met.

14 mm. dia 30¢ met.

16 mm. dia 35¢ met.

Paul Taylor 547 3353

3 speed gear box with transfer box.

Radiator, Starter Motor, Alternator, Pressure Plate, Fly Wheel,

Landcruiser 68, Toyota.

H. Schaeffel Phone 707 1246

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

5 Split Type rims to suit Toyota with Dunlop Road Track (Tyres average only). \$175.00 Phone: 560 8053

* * * *

A Bars made to order. Trailor coupling \$40 or Swivel Type \$45.

Mack type bull bars incorporating oil tank \$140.

Phone: Terry Hincks 798 3798

* * * *

Hayman Reese Tow Bar (square section) R492 to suit Toyota S.W.B. \$60.00

Mobelec "Magnum" Electronic ignition to suit Toyota 2F Motor as new \$50.00

V. Handley 798 2151

* * * *

Nov. 74 H/top Nissan 83,000 km. Bull bar - tow bar CB/Rad/Cass. Rear seat, Aux Tank \$3950 O.N.O. 2 spare tyres. Canvas cover R.W.C.

T. Magrath. 783 5362

* * * *

Club Radio's (2) 25 watt. \$200 each. contact Phil Alder

* * * *

5 Wide rims & Tyres with locking nuts to suit Landrover. Tyres in good condition \$250 O.N.O.

Fairey overdrive 12 months old suit Landrover \$400 O.N.O.

Set wheel chains suit 16 x 750 or 15 x 10 heavy duty \$40

Contact: Colin Grambau 598 0170

* * * *

V.H.F. Radio, wiring and antenna mount to suit Landcruiser \$150.

Contact: Stephan Trnacek.

SPARE PARTS

The following list is the suggested minimum that you should have, some vehicles with their own peculiarity should carry more.

HOSES: Radiator, Heater, By-pass.

FAN BELT

ROTOR BUTTON, DISTRIBUTOR CAP, POINTS, SPARE SPARK PLUG, BUEL FILTER, BRAKE FLUID, ENGINE OIL, DIFF. OIL, DEWATERING FLUID, FUSES, PLASTIC HOSE, SILASTIC, also a con of Grease can come in handy at times.

All these things can be packed away in quite a small area, and can make the difference between a good trip and a bad time.