

MAY 1981.

FREE WHEELING



COVER : TOM BRACKNA RESTING ON KING BILLY No. 2

Registered for posting as a publication

CATEGORY "B"

THINGS TO COME

Sunday 24th May

Venue : Day trip around Powelltown area
Depart : Dandenong Library 8.00 a.m.
Fuel : Full tank
Lunch : $\frac{1}{2}$ hour lunch stop
Grade : 'B'
Trip
Leader : A. Merlo

CLUB MEETING TUESDAY, 26th MAY.

QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND - 6th, 7th, 8th JUNE.

Venue: Trip to Bluff Hut - ex Mansfield
Depart : 09.00 a.m. from the Pub at Mansfield Saturday morning
Fuel : Full tank and 20 litres
Supplies : Enough for the 3 days - water available
Grade : 'B'
Trip Leader : P. Howden (547 8202)

SUNDAY - 21st JUNE.

Wilhilmina Falls

CLUB MEETING TUESDAY, 29th JUNE.

Nominations for the July elections will be taken on this night so please attend this important date.

SATURDAY 25th, 26th JULY.

Venue : Tentative date for trip in Walhalla area.
Trip Leader : Geoff Mann - more details later.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - TUESDAY 28th JULY.

Election night all members are urged to attend.

SATURDAY - 1st AUGUST.

Venue : Beauchamp Falls - more details later.

LAST WEEKEND - 29th, 30th AUGUST.

Venue : Annual Club Snow Trip to Licola/
more details later

LAST MEETING - APRIL

Andrew Guiney gave us a trip report on the Easter weekend. After the break the raffle was drawn which was a bottle of Southern Comfort and was won by Ray West. Bill McKinnon supplied the entertainment with films of Darwin. There were 25 members and 5 visitors in attendance.

NEXT MEETING - MAY

Entertainment will be Neville Jorgenson from Duncan's Tyre Service.

ITS AND BITS

Congratulations on behalf of the committee and members to Liala and Tom Brackna on the arrival of their first Child Dustin.

Strange tales that Geoff Mann has purchased a LWB & TOYOTA DIE L the truth is just that. Things must be bad when Geoff lowers the Leyland colours.

By the way there is now no Nissan owners in the club - a sad day has come.

Any member with a club radio and has not yet paid annual fees please do so immediately.

The Association has asked that members who buy "DON'T BUGGER THE BUSH" stickers use them solely on their own vehicles - for obvious reasons.

Dave Heard's trip to Terrible was not well patronised (1 member), but they did come across the first snow of the season and had a ball.

Photo's for use on the front cover would be greatly appreciated. See Ed.

Don Montague went along to the Neerim Go-Down and reported their bog-hole (on private property) was 5 times that of Narby. One vehicle successfully completed the course - a Toyota Hi-Lux drive by a woman - there's one for the fellas.

While talking about Don - at a committee meeting during Social report on a winery tour - he did state that he knows all wineries in Victoria.

Ray West who doesn't drink - won the Southern Comfort last meeting but the packet of tea will come to use.

Peter Adams told me he wants something to do - he is our Librarian books, mags. and journals are available at \$ 0.10 per month each.

DON'T FORGET ELECTIONS IN AUGUST - PLEASE CONSIDER YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE CLUB.

EASTER TRIP TO CASSILUS MINE.

Roll Call : Andy and Wendy Bruce (Trip Leader) Andy Merlo and Robyn, Don and Thelma, Andrew Guiney and Denise, Rick and Bill and Paul.

Andy and I arrived at Bindaree Hut by 9.00p.m. Thursday night and lit a fire, Paul arrived soon after.

Around 9.00a.m. Friday morning the rest of the party arrived. We went passed Pikes Flat onto 16mile track, then turned up the steep track to the Bluff Hut. We lunched at Lovicks, then down King Billy onto the Snowy Range Road.

Past the Howitt Hut (bush walkers cars parked everywhere) then onto the Pinnacles Road, from here we went down Billy Goats Bluff which is a great drive, arriving in Dargo just before dark. We all made camp with friends of ours a few Kms. North of town on the Dargo River.

Saturday we stopped at Seldom Seen then onto Mt. Baldhead. Down to Brookville where there used to be a town, and looked for old bottles on the site of the hotel which Andy Merlo's grandmother once held the licence. The blackberries were a bit overpowering and we soon lost interest.

Went onto camp at King Cassillus Mine, but there was no water, so we got permission from a friend to stay on his property under the willows beside a creek, and stayed here for the next two nights. Saturday night saw half the camp go out for a counter tea, rest stayed home and lit a large fire and had for supper Thelma's hot cross buns.

Sunday we tried again to find the turnoff that takes you to the King Cassillus Mine. we were told there was a crusher, and old Blitz truck and many interesting pieces belonging to the gold era. After another failure we decided to visit another tunnel and shaft belong to a mining company called "Cassilus" going via Powers Gully and doing 8 fence crossing (this fence follows the ridge and the road cuts across it at least 8 times). The mine is down a track called "Springs" and after a short walk down a steep hill the mine and old workings are visible. Everyone ventured inside the shaft and agreed it was well worth the visit.

We returned to the vehicles for lunch then to the graveyard at Tongio West which contained a lot of graves of men killed in the local mines. At lunchtime we met friends who were able to give us an exact location of the "King Cassilus", so off again and had success this time.

We were told that a private enterprise owns the mine and as they will be opening it up again they don't like people coming onto the property but the caretaker gave the nod. There were some very old vehicles still around having their engines removed to drive various machinery, the crusher is operational (converted to electric) and the acid baths have been recently used. From the bottom the mine opening could not be seen so Andy Merlo climbed up the mullock heap and at the top there was more machinery and pumps. the door to the mine was heavily chained.

Back to camp for a late tea and supper (this time my Johnny cakes cooked in the camp oven) and a few drinks to wash it down. Monday was another perfect Autumn day, packed up and headed home via Bald Head Road and Bullumwal where we parted from the rest to visit relations and the others to have lunch at Wy-Yung Hotel.

A terrific weekend weather wise and company wise, we travelled 1 100Km.

Wendy and Andy Bruce.

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.

THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE EXPRESS THE FACT THAT IF IN THE OPINION OF THE TRIP LEADER A VEHICLE IS NOT SUITABLE FOR A TRIP THEN THAT VEHICLE MAY BE REFUSED PERMISSION TO PARTAKE.

CLUB RADIO's — FOR HIRE

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LIST OF DISTRICT FOREST OFFICES

<u>Forest District</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Alexandra	Aitken Street, Alexandra, 3714	(057) 72 1633
Ballarat	11 Lydiard Street South, Ballarat, 3350	(053) 31 1300
Barmah	26 Harcourt Street, Nathalia, 3638	(058) 66 2702
Beaufort	Public Offices, 6 Lawrence Street, Beaufort, 3373	(053) 49 2404
Beechworth	Ford Street, Beechworth, 3747	(057) 28 1501
Benalla	55 Wedge Street, Benalla, 3672	(057) 62 2297
Bendigo	State Public Offices, Hargreaves Street, Bendigo, 3550	(054) 43 9000
Bright	46 Bakers Gully Road, Bright, 3741	(057) 55 1362
Broadford	37 High Street, Broadford, 3658	(057) 84 1303
Bruthen	10 Church Street, Bruthen, 3885	(051) 57 5225
Cann River	Princes Highway, Cann River, 3889	(051) 58 6200
Casterton	52 Jackson Street, Casterton, 3311	(055) 81 1311
Castlemaine	37 Hargreaves Street, Castlemaine, 3450	(054) 72 1110
Cohuna	Civic Centre, King Edward Street, Cohuna, 3568	(054) 56 2266
Corryong	Jardine Street, Corryong, 3707	(060) 76 1388
Creswick	Daylesford Road, Creswick, 3363	(053) 45 2200
Dandenongs	The Patch Road, Kallista, 3791	(03) 750 1226
Daylesford	97 Vincent Street, Daylesford, 3460	(053) 48 2211
Dimboola	Wimmera Nursery, Western Hwy, Wail, 3415	(053) 89 1204
Eastern Otways	Grant Street, Forrest, 3236	(052) 36 6204
Erica	School Road, Erica, 3825	(051) 65 3204
Geelong	State Offices, Cnr. Little Malop and Fenwick Street, Geelong, 3220	(052) 26 4713
Gellibrand	Charleys Creek Rd, Gellibrand River, 3239	(052) 35 8201
Heyfield	8 Pearson Street, Heyfield, 3858	(051) 48 2355
Heywood	23 Murray Street, Heywood, 3304	(05527211) 45 (M)
Macedon	Macedon Nursery, Nursery Road, Macedon, 3440	(054) 26 1407
Maffra	52 McLean Street, Maffra, 3860	(051) 47 1081
Mansfield	43 Hunter Street, Mansfield, 3722	(057) 75 2432
Maryborough	Shire Offices, Neill Street, Maryborough, 3465	(054) 61 1055
Marysville	Lyell Street, Marysville, 3779	(059) 63 3306
Mildura	State Offices, Cnr. Eleventh Street and Langtree Parade, Mildura 3500	(050) 23 0319
Mirboo	31 Baromi Road, Mirboo North, 3871	(056) 68 1303
Myrtleford	33 Smith Street, Myrtleford, 3737	(057) 52 1911
Neerim	Main Road, Neerim South, 3831	(056) 28 1239
Nowa Nowa	Forest Road, Nowa Nowa, 3887	(051) 55 7203
Orbost	Browning Street, Orbost, 3888	(051) 54 1130
Rennick	Princes Highway, Rennick, via Mt Gambier, S A 5291	(087) 25 5054
Shepparton	State Public Offices, Welsford Street, Shepparton, 6330	(058) 21 2478
St Arnaud	Court House, Napier St, St Arnaud, 3478	(054) 95 1700
Stawell	23 Patrick Street, Stawell, 3380	(053) 58 1366
Swifts Creek	McMillan Avenue, Swifts Creek, 3896	(051) 59 4245
Tallangatta	34 Towong Street, Tallangatta, 3700	(0607112) 44 (M)
Toolangi	Main Road, Toolangi, 3777	(059) 62 9203
Trentham	Market Street, Trentham, 3458	(054) 24 1261
Upper Yarra	Main Road, Powelltown, 3797	(059) 66 7203
Yarram	31 Campbell Street, Yarram, 3971	(051) 82 5155

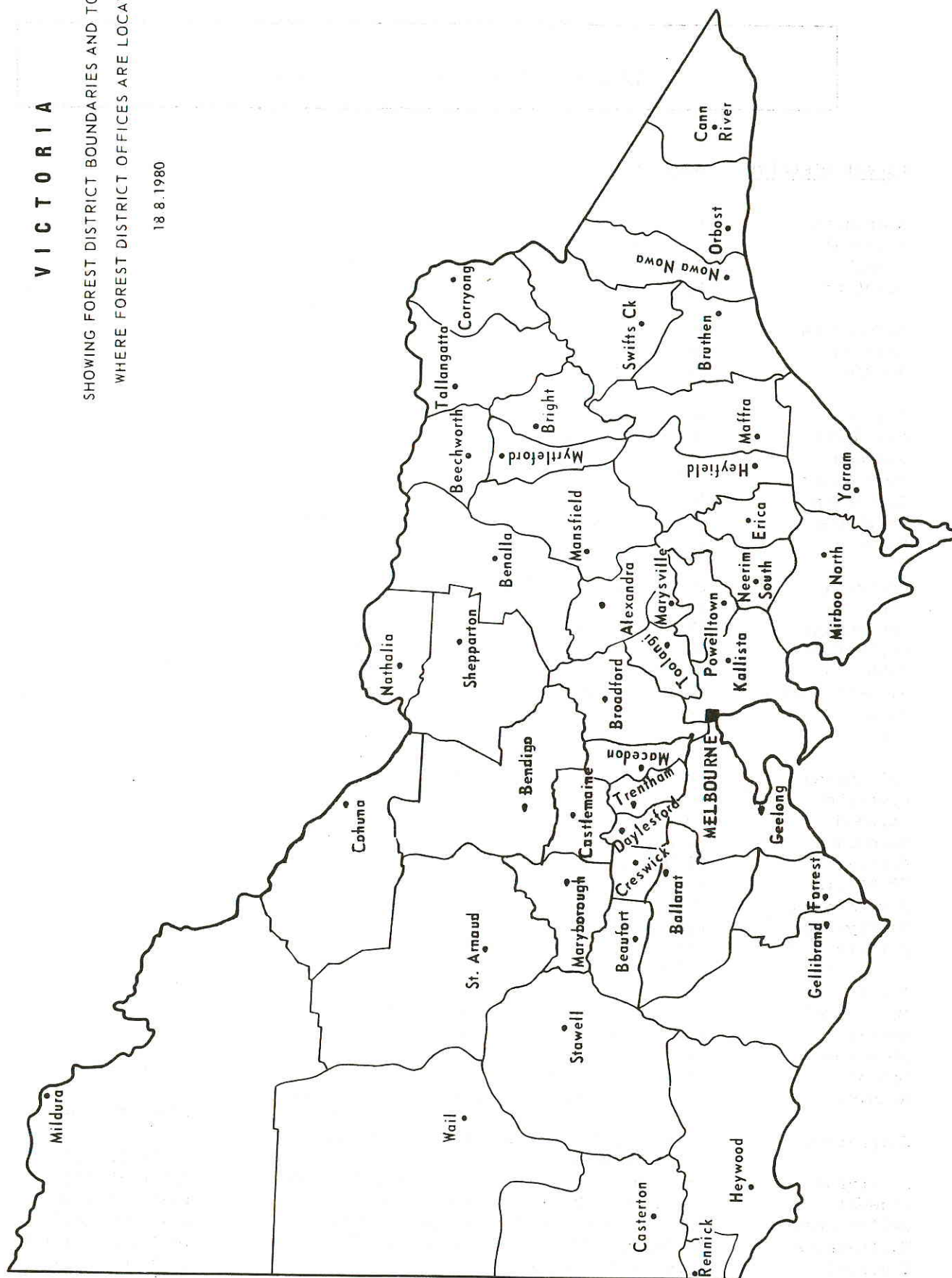
OFFICE HOURS ARE: MONDAY to FRIDAY: 8.15 am to 4.36 pm

(M) Manual Exchange: dial STD code and ask operator for local number.

VICTORIA

SHOWING FOREST DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND TOWNS
WHERE FOREST DISTRICT OFFICES ARE LOCATED

18.8.1980



(News and views of the Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs).

ACCESS TO CLOSED TRACKS?

In keeping with one of the Associations aims of pursuing access to the public land road and track network, we are currently looking at a possible program, and approach to having some tracks re-opened.

This problem and its possible repercussions was discussed at length at a well attended March General Meeting. It is important that clubs consider the proposition of pursuing the re-opening of some tracks and the likely assistance that the clubs will have to provide to the Association if this concept is pursued on a wide-based front.

We want clubs to discuss this problem and to provide a viewpoint/feedback to the Association on whether we pursue this matter broadly, in a sample area, not at all, or any other relevant comments that may arise from your discussions.

As was pointed out in the March "Trackwatch", clubs will have to supply information on their area, and possibly provide photographic evidence of some tracks. The Association will provide the expertise to collate the information and present it to the relevant officials, and act in an overseeing role over the project.

However, much of the field work will be delegated to the clubs, similar to the method employed in the very successful Alpine survey done by the clubs. As a program of direction is formulated, the Association will supply clubs with a list of information/tasks that is required.

Certain approaches have been suggested and are likely to be incorporated into an overall plan. From the outset, we must aim for accuracy and gather facts to support our case. There are several areas where information will be required, and clubs must be aware of the input that they will be expected to make to ensure the success of this project.

We look forward to your clubs views on this matter.

Written comments may be sent: c/- The Secretary,
G.P.O. Box 401C,
MELBOURNE. 3001.

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