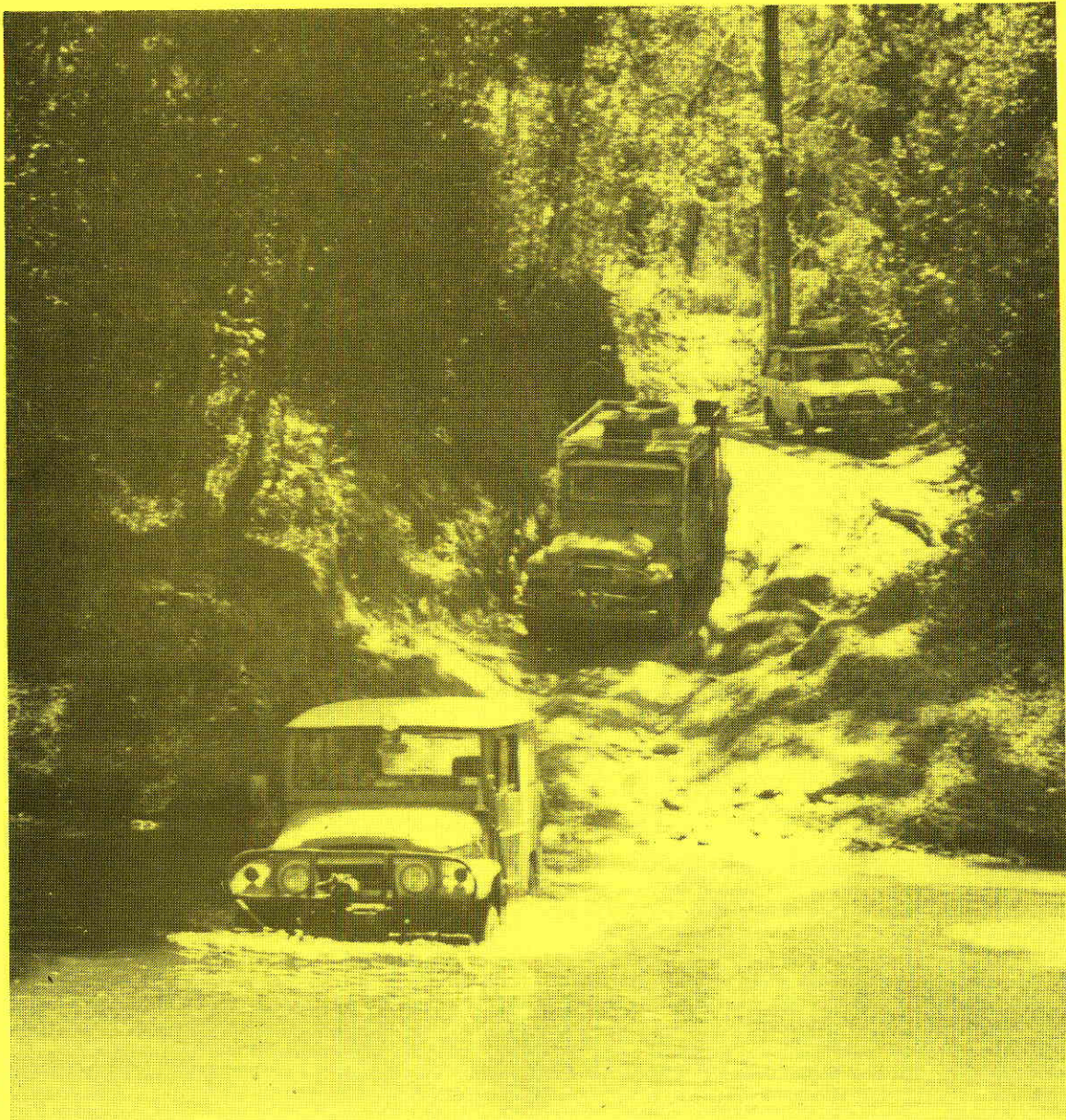


JULY 1981.



FREE WHEELING



Registered for posting as a publication

CATEGORY "B"

VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB



COMMITTEE 1980-81

PRESIDENT	JOHN THOM 41 Colby Drv. BELGRAVE HEIGHTS 3160	795 3932
VICE PRESIDENT	PETER ROWE 6 Fintonia St., NTH. BALWYN. 3104	857 6422
SECRETARY	BRIAN TUCK 2 Page St., CHELTENHAM. 3192	93 1484
TREASURER	DON MONTAGUE 9 Coronation St., MT. WAVERLEY. 3149	288 1200
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	KATHY TUCK 2 Page St., CHELTENHAM. 3192	93 1484
PUBLIC RELATIONS	WENDY BRUCE 128 Noble St., NOBLE PARK. 3174	546 6024
SOCIAL SECRETARY	TOM BRACHNA 11 Sunnyvale Crt., HAMPTON PARK	799 1998
COMMITTEE	DAVID HEARD 43 Mortimore St., MOORABBIN. 3189	557 5915
	ANDREW MERLO 1 Gadd St., OAKLEIGH 3166	579 4119
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	ANDREW MERLO (AS ABOVE)	
ASSOCIATION DELEGATE	GEOFF MANN 10 Fernhill St., GLEN WAVERLEY. 3150	233 2229
RADIO OFFICER	GEOFF MANN (AS ABOVE)	

MEETINGS LAST TUESDAY
OF THE MONTH AT DANDENONG
LIBRARY

CORRESPONDENCE
P.O. BOX 778,
DANDENONG

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Reflecting over the last year as being President of the Club, I'm still not sure in which direction our Club is heading. Attendance has been down at meetings and there seems to be a general feeling of apathy in the Club. I would like to point out that this is not just happening in our Club but most other four wheel drive clubs. This might be because inflation directly or indirectly has hit most people in the pocket - people can no longer afford to go on many trips or maybe it's because we seem to go to the same areas a lot of the time. New Members don't attend outings which in the past injected new life into the Club.

On the social side, outings to things such as the Admiral Ben-Bow have been well attended perhaps this is more the direction we will end up heading. I for one really don't know.

I would like to see Members participate more at meetings. Have your say - remember the Club and the Committee can only be great if you help guide them. So how about putting your point of view across - you might be surprised that someone else agrees with you. This would make life easier for the Committee and if you would like to do something for the President, try volunteering for tea duty! Hey! Wait a minute what am I saying, I will probably cop that duty in August!

I would like to thank the present Committee for their support over the last year. Thanks people.

It's great to see so many people give up a Sunday to help clean up the Dandenongs of eye-sores such as derelict car bodies and rubbish. The Police Four Wheel Drive Club are combining with us on this project.

For Members who didn't attend last meeting. They missed out on a great nights entertainment, Danny Glasgow, from the Police Four Wheel Drive Club gave a very interesting and informative talk on all aspects of Four Wheeling - one of the best nights this year.

Congratulations are in order for Sue and Werner on the birth of their son, Jason.

That's it.

See you soon,
John

R SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE

Tent 8'0" x 8'0" Free Standing. to fit any panel van or
station wagon, Top quality. Specially made by Waters of
Springvale, used once. \$ 220.00 546-6024

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. Hanley 798 2151

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 \$ 30.00 791 6425

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

3 speed gear box with transfer box.
Radiator, Starter motor, Alternator, Pressure Plate, Fly Wheel.
Landcruiser 68, Toyota H. Schaeffel 707 1246

A Bars made to order. Trailor coupling \$ 40.00 or Swivel
Type \$ 45.00
Mack type bullbars incorporating oil tank \$ 140.00
Terry Hincks 798 3798

750 x 16 Chains \$ 35.00 Geoff Dowell 789 3153

Jack-all Highlift Jack \$ 25.00 Andy Merlo 579 4119

'67 TOYOTA SWB \$ 1,800.00 as is
Kevin Montague 288 1200

THINGS TO COME

Saturday 25th - 26th July CANCELLED.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - TUESDAY 28th JULY.

Election night all members are urged to attend.

SATURDAY - 1st - 2nd AUGUST.

Beucahmp Falls cancelled due to condition of the Otways.

Venue : Walhalla area.
Destination: Mt. Useful (snow) Camping at Donnelly's Creek
Departs : Aberfeldy Bridge - north of Walhalla
9.00 a.m. Saturday morning.
Fuel : Full tank and 20 litres
Grade : 'B' (snow will be encountered)
T/Leader : Geoff Mann (233 2229)

CLUB MEETING - 25th August

LAST WEEKEND - 29th, 30th AUGUST.

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

SATURDAY, SUNDAY 26th-27th September.

Venue : Tentative date wine trip to Rutherglen
More details later.

SATURDAY, SUNDAY - 24th and 25th OCTOBER.

Venue : Goulburn Valley - Bo Ho Bounce.
Saturday - B.B.Q., 4WD Tours, Observation Trial
Motorkhama in the quarry on Sunday
morning.

Cost : \$ 7.00 per head, children U-16 free.

More details available from Secretary.

CLUB ANNUAL BREAK-UP - Saturday 21st November.

Venue : Nero's Fiddle - Deposits to be paid July AGM.

CHRISTMAS CLUB TRIP - 26th December - Approximately 1 week

Venue : Trip into Mitta-Mitta/Dartmouth area.
More details later.

T/Leader : A Bruce (546 6024)

SEPTEMBER, 1982

Don Montague is planning a trip up through the centre to Darwin then home via West Cost.

Anyone interested contact Don.

LAST MEETING - 30th JUNE.

Nominations were taken for committee and they are as follows :

PRESIDENT : Tom Brackna
V/PRESIDENT : A. Merlo, Ray West Terry Hincks
SECRETARY : Brian Tuck
TREASURER : Don Montague
ASS. SEC. : Paul Howden
P/RELATIONS : Thelma Montague
SOCIAL SEC. : Andrew Guiney
COMMITTEE : Andrew Merlo, Kevin Montague, Ray West,
Ross Ferguson

Kevin Montague gave a report on the Bluff Hut trip, the raffle which was an air pot and a bottle of Drambuie was won by Alan Coleman, a visitor to the meeting. Entertainment was Danny Glasgow, the police 4 x 4 driving instructor (and Assoc. rep) who gave an interesting lecture and showed some good slides.

There were 30 members and 3 visitors in attendance.

NEXT MEETING - 28th JULY.

Election night is on, so could all financial members attend and help to make everything run smoothly.

ITS AND BITS

Congratulations first go out to Werner and Sue Ditterich upon the arrival of their first baby Jason Werner born on 6th July at Sandringham.

While on the subject of new : ex Pres. Geoff Mann has since buying his Toyota Diesel :

1. bogged down in the suburbs - Range Rover rescued in the middle of the night.
2. got stuck going down Western Firebreak - Labertouche
3. ran out of fuel coming home - rescued by Bluey and Peter Rowe.

Geoff says it's a bit longer and heavier than a SWB Landy.

Don Montague swears that he will never venture into Cornhill Track again especially when a SWB canvas top Landy is leading. He said his vehicle has trouble getting up the hills with 20 teeth missing off the crown wheel.

The Bluff Hut trip brought a few headaches, Kevin's Toyota froze up solid during the night and Paul's Landy almost seized because of the heavy oil in the sump (Interesting note that 3 vehicles were slept in that night and had no freezing problems at all).

Montagues still in the news : Don and Kevin both have bought new vehicle LWB Diesel and SWB petrol. Dons old vehicle was spotted sitting in Braeside truck wrecking yard.

The joint clean up of the Sherbrooke Shire went over real good, as many as eight derelicts made their way to the tip. John Thorn had fun with a Hillman Station Wagon which refused to budge, he pulled off the front bumper bar and kept on going thinking the car was Following. However, a Volkswagen was his next victim and was extensively modified during its recovery. Tom Brackna and Peter Adams had a field day scabbing all the bits and pieces shades of Steptoe and Son.

Must thank Peter on behalf of all the club for his fine job of Librarian during the year. hope he keeps up all the good work. His job get heavier every month.

SOCIAL SECTION CONNECTION.

Hi Members,

This is the last social report from this social secretary for this financial year.

The only thing to come in the future is the Christmas Party at Nero's Fiddle on Saturday 21st November. Numbers will be taken shortly and the \$ 17.50 per head can be paid off monthly if people have no ready cash. The balance, if any, can be paid on the night.

I am grateful for your co-operation during the year and hope you have enjoyed the limited social functions we have had.

This is the social sec signing off for the last time.

Thanks for everything.

Tom

EVERY DOG HAS HIS DAY

Four union members were discussing how smart their dogs were.

The first was a member of the Vehicle Builders' Union, who said his dog could do math calculations. His dog was named T-square, and he told him to go to the blackboard and draw a square, a circle, and a triangle, which the dog did with consummate ease.

The Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union member said he thought his dog was much smarter. His dog, named Slide Rule, was told to fetch a dozen biscuits and divide them into four piles, which Slide Rule did without problems.

The Liquor Trades Association member admitted that both were quite good, but felt his dog could outperform them. His dog, named Measure, was told to get a stubby of beer and pour seven ounces into a ten ounce glass. Measure did this without a flaw.

Then they turned to the Waterside Workers' Federation member and asked "What can your mong do?"

The watersider called his dog, named Tea Break, and said: "Show these bastards what you can do, mate."

Tea Break ate the biscuits, drank the beer, pissed on the blackboard, screwed the other three dogs, claimed he injured his back, filed a workers' compensation form and shot through on sick leave.

Trackwatch in brief

No. 4

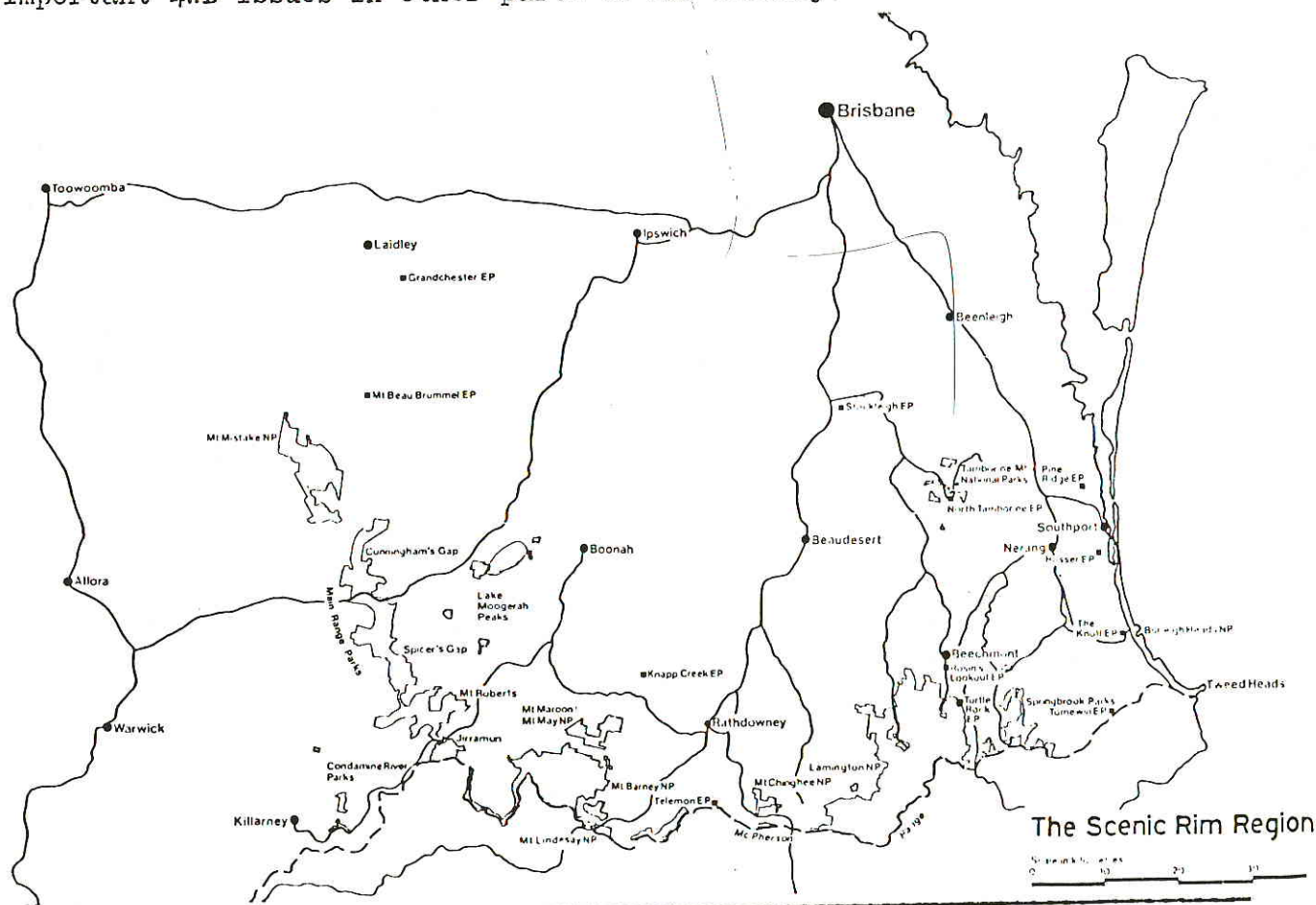
INFORMATION FROM THE VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUBS

SCENIC RIM MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service is preparing a Management Plan for a large area of southern Queensland, known as the Scenic Rim Management Plan. As can be seen from the map below the area is extensive and includes about 12 existing national parks.

The proximity of the Scenic Rim to Brisbane and its rugged grandeur makes the region a firm favourite with local and interstate four wheel drivers. Like past Victorian Government stated objectives of massive increases in areas of Victorian national parks, the Queensland NP & WS have stated that they aim to have 5% of the area of Queensland as national parks.

As such this Association believes that the Queensland 4WDC Association should have our support in opposing this increase were ever possible. Interstate 4WDC Associations must take a broader outlook on four-wheel-drive-touring than just local issues, and as such should support and make submissions on important 4WD issues in other parts of our country.



Victorian Conservation Prize 1981

The Victorian Conservation Prize is an annual award to an organisation or public body who have in the opinion of the CCV judging panel made the greatest contribution to the conservation and preservation of the aesthetic and ecological values of the environment. In presenting our submission for this prize it is hoped that the conservation groups that read it will gain a greater appreciation of the activities and genuine involvement that 4WD Clubs have in looking after the environment.

TRACKWATCH IN BRIEF NO 4continued

As such we hope that in future they will assess our activities with less bias and concede our physical contribution to conservation. At club level it is hoped that member clubs will gain 'inspiration' and initiate similar community service activities in their areas, as those highlighted in the report.

I.A.C. REPORT ON FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES

The Government has announced (11 May, 1981) that there would be no changes made to the existing assistance arrangements applying to 4WD and light commercial vehicles. The decision means that imports of 4WD vehicles would continue to be exempt from quota restrictions designed to preserve about 80% of the passenger vehicle market for local producers. Concern from Subaru owners has proved unjustified as the Minister has ruled that Subarus with 4WD capacity are not significantly competing with 2-wheel drive passenger vehicles.

WAY CLEAR FOR NEW NATIONAL PARKS!

During the Autumn session of Parliament the necessary amendments were introduced to allow the declaration of the parks recommended in the L.C.C.s Alpine and Corangamite reports. The parks are - Bogong, Wonnangatta-Moroka, Cobberas-Tingaringy, and the Otway national park (Cape Otway). A special clause in respect to the parks has allowed for some logging, grazing and mining activities in specified areas. This is an important clause as the precedent has now been set for logging in National Parks.

ANNUAL BOHO BOUNCE!

The Goulburn Valley Four Wheel Drive Club is again holding their popular 'Boho Bounce' on the 24th and 25th October, 1981.

This the 3rd such get-together hosted by Goulburn 4WDC is held in the Strathbogie Ranges. Camping is available from Friday 23rd October for the full weekend.

Activities include conducted 4WD tours, an observational trial and motorkhana. Saturday evening features a BBQ tea, followed by woolshed dance. Fees - \$7.00 per adult, children U16 free.

TRACK CLOSURE MAPS

Most Clubs should have received from the FC maps of the track closures which are effective for the winter period. Individual members who desire their own copy of maps may pick up such on the ground floor at the Forest Commission. Sets of closure maps are free.

VAFWDC TRACK INFORMATION HOTLINE

For all information about closures, or reports of unofficial closures ring Geoff Mann after hours on (03) 233 2229.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Would Club Secretaries and/or magazine editors please note the new address for Truck Mates 4x4 Club. All correspondence should be directed to 77 Mastgully Road,
UPWEY 3158 Vic.

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

RESPONSIBLE TRACK USAGE

On the 1st June, 1981 a number of tracks under the control of the Forests Commission of Victoria will be closed until 31st October (or longer). Other tracks are still closed as part of 3 year re-forestation programs, while still other tracks will be closed for a first time.

The majority of these tracks are closed because they are damaged, are susceptible to damage, are unsafe or not required for management purposes during winter months. Track usage is probably limited to 3 distinct groups:-

1. the Government instrumentalities;
2. the bush-orientated people such as ourselves, fishermen, walkers getting to site, and other environment-based groups, and
3. the vehicle-orientated vandals such as a few "renegade" 4WD maniacs and trail bike riders.

The third group is the one causing most of the bad name which four wheel drivers are occasionally tagged with. The seasonal winter track closures implemented by the F.C. as a management measure to protect these unformed roads are directed particularly against the vehicle-orientated driver.

However, vehicle-orientated four wheel drivers are not restricted to non-club members, as we often hear complaints from vehicle-orientated club members regarding seasonal closures, who believe if a track is at all passable with the use of wheel chains, winches, etc. it should be available to attempt. This attitude is selfish and irresponsible and clubs should better police any "renegade" members which defy F.C. temporary closed tracks, or use other tracks which are in a particularly fragile condition after a wet week, during winter months.

More than any other time of the year, clubs should clear club trips with local district Forest Commission Foresters as failure to do so can result in sometimes mis-directed criticism from the F.C. who hears indirectly that a club was in a particular locality.

The Association is currently trying to defend four wheel drivers' rights in the Otways following an incident which involved 4WD's becoming bogged on a track and causing severe damage in getting out. The Forest Commission have replied to a letter on the subject and stated their case bluntly and possibly accurately- "...the incident is evidence of the unfortunate and irresponsible behaviour of the drivers of some four wheel drive vehicles which is making it increasingly difficult for the Commission to withstand the mounting pressure to close more of its roads and tracks".

It is not often that the Commission is this direct, but it is perhaps an indication of their concern at some 4WD behaviour. While we cannot be responsible for the vehicle-orientated cowboys which many clubs seem to have represented in their ranks. They treat the bush as a frustration escape valve and enjoy nothing better than letting their huge earth-tearing tyres loose in any fragile area. This group is doing much to cause embarrassment to genuine environment-based club members, and is doing untold damage to the respectability of clubs in general.

If four wheel driving is to continue as a viable winter recreation, clubs must act and control these members. A further recent embarrassment to a club was to have several vehicles pulled over by the police because they were unroadworthy!

To the majority of clubs that do the right thing, contact District Forestry Offices prior to trips and engage in active promotion within their club of responsible driving techniques; this irresponsibility displayed by some clubs is incomprehensible. To the Association it is completely unacceptable.

The Forest Commission is the only authority which has in the past recognised 4WD as a legitimate use of their track networks. Networks which are maintained essentially for fire access and management purposes. However, they will not put up with any track abuse and will not hesitate in the future to close any track severely damaged by 4WD's.

Drivers who are not prepared to support the F.C. in their efforts to protect tracks from unnecessary damage by voluntarily refraining from using tracks susceptible to winter damage have necessitated the concept of seasonal closure.

The "access at all costs" attitude by vehicle-orientated members is particularly short-sighted and selfish as the resultant damage caused to a wet/muddy track is most likely to lead to a permanent track closure which deprives all recreationists access.

It is obvious that some terrain is particularly vulnerable to erosion under wet conditions, and use of any vehicles on such terrain while wet would inevitably cause track rutting and/or other erosion. For this reason tracks are periodically closed to traffic by the F.C.

It is hoped that club members fully appreciate the importance of such closures, which are made for proper environmental reasons and always abide by them. After all, a seasonal closure is a better alternative to a permanent closure!

However, this is not to say that the above system cannot be abused and clubs are invited to submit details to the Association if they believe a track has been unjustly or inexplicably seasonally closed. The matter can then be taken up with the F.C.

CAMPING IN NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE AREAS

	<u>CAMPGROUNDS</u>	<u>BUSH CAMPING</u> <u>VEHICLE BASED</u>	<u>BUSH CAMPING</u> <u>(HIKING)</u>
<u>NORTH WEST DISTRICT</u>			
Hattah/Kulkyne NP	*	*	*
Wyperfeld NP	*	o	*
Little Desert NP	*	o	*
Murray Kulkyne P	o	*	*
Pink Lake SP	o	*	*
Big Desert Wilderness	o	o	*
Lake Albacutya P	*	o	*
<u>SOUTH WEST DISTRICT</u>			
Mt. Richmond NP	o	o	o
Mt. Eccles NP	*	o	o
Lower Glenelg NP	o	*	*
Cape Nelson SP	o	o	o
Discovery Bay CP	*	o	*
<u>GEE LONG OTWAY DISTRICT</u>			
Port Campbell NP	*	o	o
Brisbane Ranges NP	o	*	*
Organ Pipes NP	o	o	o
Melba Gully SP	o	o	o
Steiglitz Park	o	*	o
Werribee Gorge SP	o	o	o
Gellibrand Hill P	o	o	o
<u>SOUTH GIPPSLAND DISTRICT</u>			
Wilson's Promontory NP	*	o	*
Mt. Worth SP	o	o	o
<u>EAST GIPPSLAND DISTRICT</u>			
The Lakes NP	*	o	o
Croajingolong NP	*	*	*
Snowy River NP	*	*	*
Tingaringy NP	o	*	*
Glenaladale NP	o	o	*
Alfred/Lind	o	o	o
Gippsland Lakes CP	*	*	*
Coopracambra SP	o	o	*
<u>CENTRAL GIPPSLAND</u>			
Baw Baw NP	*	o	*
Morwell NP	o	o	o
Bulga/Tarra Valley NP	o	o	o
Holey Plains SP	o	*	*
<u>UPPER GOULBURN DISTRICT</u>			
Fraser NP	*	o	*
Kinglake NP	o	o	o
Cathedral Range SP	o	*	*
Eildon SP	o	*	o
Mt. Samaria SP	o	*	*
<u>NORTH EAST DISTRICT</u>			
Mt. Buffalo NP	*	o	*
Burrowa Pine Mountain NE	o	o	*
Wabonga Plateau SP	o	*	*
Beechworth HP	o	o	o
Chiltern P	o	*	*
Warby Ranges SP	o	*	*

	<u>CAMPGROUNDS</u>	<u>BUSH CAMPING</u> <u>VEHICLE BASED</u>	<u>BUSH CAMPING</u> <u>(HIKING)</u>
<u>MELBOURNE DISTRICT</u>			
Fern Tree Gully NP	o	o	o
Churchill NP	o	o	o
Warrandyte SP	o	o	*
Yea River P	o	o	*
<u>NEPEAN DISTRICT</u>			
Cape Schanck CP	o	o	o
Nepean SP	o	o	*

KEY TO AREAS WHERE CAMPING IS PERMITTED

* YES
o NO

NOTE: Vehicle-based camping and hiking camping may be confined to certain sectors or zones within Parks. For further information please contact National Parks Service District or Park Officers. (See brochure on camping in Victoria's National Parks for further details).

April, 1981.

Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs



G.P.O. Box 401C,
Melbourne, 3001

SUMMARY OF VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUBS ENTRY FOR VICTORIAN CONSERVATION PRIZE 1981

1. Name of organisation :
Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs
2. Postal address: G.P.O. Box 401C, Melbourne 3001
3. Nominator: Mr Gary Fewkes,
President, VAFWDC,
No 2 Lot 26 Mary Street,
HAMPTON PARK

Gary Fewkes

4. Introduction and aims: -

The VAFWDC is a voluntary, non-profit organisation which represents and co-ordinates the 4WD clubs in Victoria. Membership currently stands at 28 4WD clubs, with a total membership approximately 8000.

The objectives of the Association are:

- (1) To represent the interests of member clubs and 4WD owners in general, to defend their rights of access to public land road network, and to undertake publicity and other campaigns to achieve this aim.
- (2) To represent the interests of 4WD owners within conservation groups, which the Association may from time to time join, by creating a greater awareness within such groups of the real interests and needs of 4WD owners, and promoting co-operation with the conservation movement in areas of mutual interest.
- (3) To act as a means of free and rapid exchange of information between 4WD clubs subscribing to the Association.
- (4) To conserve the natural environment and undertake action likely to assist in this aim.
- (5) To liaise with controlling authorities, make submissions and send deputations to improve the knowledge of 4WD touring in such authorities.
- (6) To consider conservation matters of wide public interest relating to activities of the subscribing clubs, to frame guidelines for member clubs regarding such issues and to make public statements of Association policy.

Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs



G.P.O. Box 401C,
Melbourne, 3001

... Page 2 of Summary

- (7) To act as a clearing house and repository of information on matters relative to the Association.
- (8) To promote four wheel driving as a responsible recreational activity.
- (9) To encourage the spread of knowledge relating to all, or any of the foregoing.

5. Conservation activities of the VAFWDC:

The VAFWDC actively promotes the ... "concept of the survival of the ecology of the natural environment, the preservation of aesthetic and biological values of the natural environment and the wise use of natural resources."

Briefly this is encouraged by the education of our members, education of the public, education of the media, education of the authorities, and by setting a positive example in the field of environment preservation.

Four wheel drive touring as practised by the member clubs of the Association is an environment-centred form of recreation, rather than a vehicle-centred one, such as trail bike scrambling.

As our recreation is a passive, family oriented one with the primary purpose of the 4WD tourist being to appreciate and enjoy the beauty, peacefulness and remoteness of the country visited, the four wheel drive tourist has a very acute sense for the need for positive preservation.

Unlike other organisations which chose to make verbal and written suggestions to no one in particular, without really ever achieving anything positive in the preservation field, the Association has adopted a policy that a genuine interest in the preservation of the environment must be matched by a genuine and positive input in a practical form.

To this end the Association has been working steadily over the past 6 years implementing positive campaigns to ensure the aesthetic values of the environment are maintained. Members of the Association regularly take part in organised clean ups of often remote areas, where anything from household refuse to car bodies will be removed. These activities often involve the outlay of voluntary given funds and the use of specialist equipment which club members supply. The retrieval, removal and manpower is financed fully by the members.

Other restoration activities have seen the hand-pulling of boneseed from State forest, and the clean up of several national parks. A recent activity has seen the reclamation of a wind-eroded sand dune at Fairhaven.

Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs



G.P.O. Box 401C,
Melbourne, 3001

... Page 3 of Summary

While a large percentage of the Associations conservation activities are in the form of practical and community minded clean ups and other restoration work, the Association also actively promotes the education of the public and our members to the needs of preservation.

The sphere of conservation education takes many directions with the end result being to create awareness in individuals to care for the bush environment. Four wheel drive owners are encouraged to join clubs where they will be able to more fully enjoy their recreation by learning driving techniques which minimise environmental damage to tracks and to become apart of a more aware group of conservationists.

While encouraging the lone four wheel drive owner to join clubs we are also seeking to educate the media which is generally misinformed to the true needs and activities of four wheel drivers. Through misconceived articles, and especially through misleading advertisements there are many forces fighting against the responsible use of four wheel drives. Many adverts promote all the wrong reasons as to why an individual should purchase a 4WD, and often imply that they should be used as environmentally damaging instruments. This is another area where the Association is applying pressure to rid the industry of this irresponsible reporting and promotion which if left unchallenged can only result in the abuse of the environment by some unsuspecting four wheel driver, who hasn't appreciated the responsibilities which accompany the right to drive a 4WD in the bush.

The Association has written to many 4WD manufacturers who have produced offending advertisements, and during 1980 challenged a TV and press campaign by Thiess Toyota, which eventually resulted in the matter being placed before the Advertising Standards Council.

Many of the activities of the Association are geared towards the more responsible use of our environment and to this end the Association has made a large committment in monetary and physical terms.

Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs



G.P.O. Box 401C,
Melbourne, 3001

... Page 4 of Summary

6. Conservation achievements of the VAFWDC:

The VAFWDC in a little over 5 years has achieved much in improving the aesthetic value of the natural environment.

Sites in the Brisbane Ranges, Otway Ranges, Werribee Gorge State Park, Cape Schanck National Park, the Aire Valley, Dandenong Ranges and Gippsland have all been cleared of various refuse which was despoiling previously beautiful locations.

Over 150 individual restoration programs have been completed, with approximately 125 of these involving the recovery of dumped cars from State and National Parks and other public lands.

Over 600 car bodies have been recovered during these exercises.

It is estimated that with a minimum of 10 people assisting at each of these projects that the Association has contributed over 10,500 manhours to conservation programs. Considering many of the projects - such as the clean up at Warrandyte State Park, where 68 car bodies were removed in a day - involved substantially more personnel, that this figure could be substantially more.

In our first attempt at sand dune reclamation over 70 loads of scrub and brush were transported over 4 days a substantial distance down the Fairhaven Beach, where they were laid over the exposed dune. The efforts of the club involved has saved a major erosion problem for the Fairhaven Foreshore Committee.

While not pursuing publicity for our activities, we refer you to our submission where 11 representative activities are documented by the press, spanning the variety of tasks undertaken in the past 5 years.

We believe that in terms of voluntary physical contribution and achievement that the efforts of the Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs are unmatched by any organisation in Victoria.