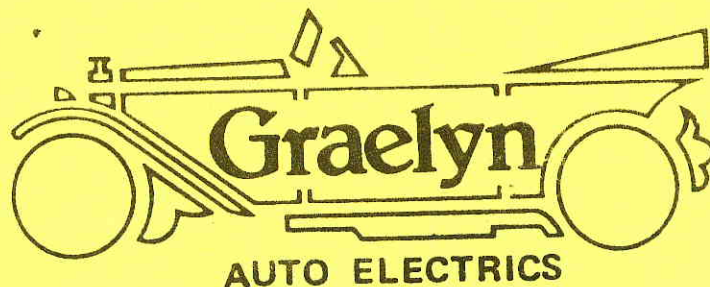




FREE WHEELING

JULY 1985

Registered by Australia Post
Publication No. VBH161

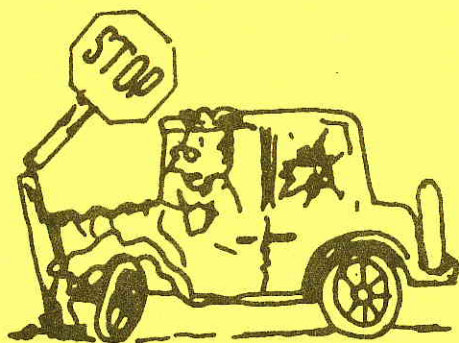


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VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB INC.



COMMITTEE 1984/85

PRES	PETER ROWE, 6 Bickford Pl., HALLAM. 3803 703-2346	VICE PRES	DAVID HEARD, 43 Mortimore St., MOORABBIN. 3189 557-5915	SEC	TOM BRACHNA, 11 Sunnyvale Crt., HAMPTON PARK. 3976 799-1998
TREAS	DON MONTAGUE, 9 Coronation St., MT WAVERLEY. 3149 288-1200	ASS SEC	DAVID HOCKING, 1 Lorraine St., CHELTENHAM. 3192 583-1987	SOC SEC	THELMA MONTAGUE, 9 Coronation St., MT WAVERLEY. 3149 288-1200
COMMITTEE	PATRICK CASEY, 11 Patterson St., CARNEGIE. 3163 570-6452		ANDY WILLIAMS, 22 Erica Cres., HEATHMONT. 3135. 879-2098		GERRY LAVERY, Lot 2 Swans Rd., BACCHUS MARSH. 3340 (053) 67-2899
ASSOCIATION DELEGATES :		MARK TEMPLETON, 798-6055 (Working) (Hours)			

TRIP CLASSIFICATIONS:

'A' Grade: Extensive use of 4 WD: Tracks may be difficult to negotiate - chains should be carried along with towing slings and anchor points, good winter tread pattern tyre 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 4 WD. These trips include car rallies etc. Type of tyre does not 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 to 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.

Newsletter items to Peter Rowe by General Meetings at the latest.

Radio Officer Geoff Mann 46 Dinsdale Rd., Boronia. 221-1170

Club has one radio for hire at \$5.00 per day, or free if you are leading a trip.

All enquiries must go through the officer regarding purchases, licenses etc. —

PAGE ONE

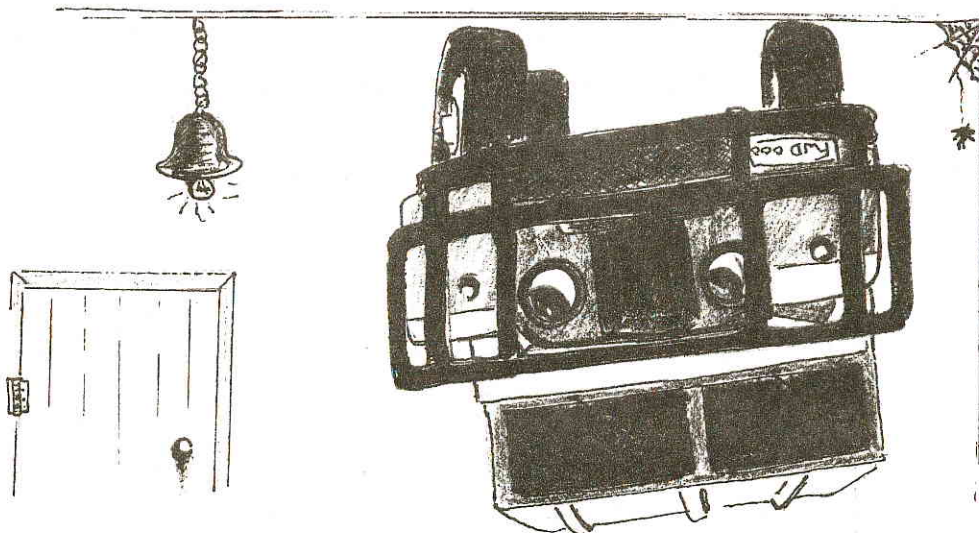
Welcome folks to what we hope will be your new-look club magazine. Over the past few months there have only been a couple of issues of Freewheeling. This has been due solely to the fact that there has been nothing forthcoming from members for inclusion into the magazine. Well, hopefully things will change.

The committee feel that by having a regular Editor (me) to chase up articles and people to write them, that it will provide a sort of focus point and that people may be more inclined to put pen to paper on the odd occasion. No matter that you think that you don't have the command of the english lanwidge as its writ. We can fix it!

Over the next few issues there will be a change of format and lots of interesting articles. But don't forget, we must have input from the members for the magazine to be a success.

EDITOR

(John Smurf)



CARTOON BY JOOLS!

CAPTION COMPETITION - ENTRIES AT A.G.M.
WINNER ANNOUNCED AT AUGUST
MEETING.

PRESIDENTS PAGE

Hi Members,

Well here we are again at the business end of the Club year. The A.G.M. dinner at Hancocks is on 27th July and the Footy Match with the Nissan Club is on the 28th July closely followed by the A.G.M. on the 30th July.

As I'm not standing for President again, this will be my last report. It is time for someone else to have a go. Anyway I'm just looking forward to making the tea and coffee. It will be nice to firstly get one and secondly have a hot cup.

Present Committee not standing again are myself, Don Montague, Thelma Montague, David Hocking, Andy Williams and Gerry Lavery, so as you can see we will need some support from members to fill all those positions left vacant. Last meeting we took nominations for the 85/86 Committee. Out of 85 members we had only 32 members at the last meeting. The names we took were:

For President - Dave Heard & Tom Brachna
Vice President - Pat Casey, Brian Tuck, Dave Heard
Secretary - Tom Brachna, Mark Templeton
Treasurer - Rob Ayton
Assistant Secretary - Garry Pearl, Ray West
Social Secretary - No one was nominated for this position
Committee - 3 Positions - Mark Templeton, Peter Handley,
Bryan West, Pat Casey, John Smith
& Ray Brown.

We will take more nominations during next meeting. Last meeting the Club Radio was sold to Mark Templeton. He will use Mobile 5 so members with Club Radios you can update your card.

On closing down for the last time I'd like to thank the Committees over the last 3 years for everything they have done. A lot of changes have happened to the Club and there has been a lot of work done behind the scenes that no one sees. Thanks again to everyone. Also I'd like to wish the incoming Committee all the best for the future.

Don't forget all A.G.M. Raffle books plus money have to be in by next meeting so everyone has a chance of winning or getting a place.

Also Subs and Radio Fees are now due and should be paid by next meeting.

Mark Templeton will be leading a Snow Trip to Licola area, the weekend after the Club one. For more details see Mark next meeting.

Last meeting Rod Lee won the raffle - a dual Jaffle Iron.

Don't forget, John Lake is now the Club Editor so if you have anything you want to go into the newsletter see John at meetings or contact him at work on 798 6634.

See you at the A.G.M. 30th July.

The almost retired Pres.

TECH. PAGE

Tech Page will be devoted to features which hopefully will appeal not only to the mechanics in the club, but also to the not-so-technically minded who would like to know a little (or a lot) more about the efficient running and maintenance of their vehicles.

Articles and hints from members would be most welcome. No matter how small or insignificant it may appear, it will probably be of assistance to somebody.

Later on if enough people are interested we may do something more adventurous such as describing 5 speed gearbox conversions, or V8 and Diesel engine swaps. If anyone is interested in anything else along these lines and would like such an article written please let Ed know.

TechTechTechTechTechTech

Now that Winter is here it is most important to pay attention to your vehicle's electrical system. Dubious connections which may not give trouble during the warmer months will probably cause rantings and ravings when it is wet and cold.

BATTERY

Make sure that the battery is correctly topped up with distilled water.

Terminals should be clean and tight and coated lightly with petroleum jelly. Keep the top of the battery clean to prevent any possible leakage of current accross damp muddy surfaces.

Check and clean starter terminals and EARTH connections.

ALTERNATOR

Check that the alternator output is up to spec. It may be necessary to have an auto electrician check and adjust it for you. Make sure also that the drive belt is correctly tensioned.

DIESEL OWNERS MAY NOW TURN THE PAGE

DISTRIBUTORS

Make sure the points are in good condition and correctly set. Keep the distributor cap and terminals very clean inside and out. Inspect for cracks! Pay attention to the low tension side as well by cleaning and tightening terminals.

If the preceeding procedures are followed you are well on the way to trouble free Winter motoring.

A CLUB NOTE (S)

A team has been finally arrived at for the Annual Football match between VFWDC and the Nissan Patrol Club at Mentone Grammar Sports Fields in Springvale Road, Springvale South. Rumour has it that Lakey who was to play in the ruck has been dropped for lack of inches. The former 6 footer has been decreasing in height for some years now leading to speculation as to his eventual position in the order of things. There is no truth to the rumour that contracts have been signed with Ferguson Constructions for the manufacture of pedal blocks for Mr. Lake.

In for the match are:-

A SELECT CROWD OF SPORTING GENTLEMEN.

Out (with injuries) IDI AMIN

The event should not be missed as it promises to be a most exciting match. Please come and support your team on the 28th July at 10 am.

TRUE OR FALSE?

Don and Thelma Montague have left on their trip around OZ. First stop Kangaroo Island S.A.

DON'T FORGET NEXT MEETING - A.G.M.

It is proposed that the Radio Officer should be on the committee. This would have the effect of making him more visible especially to newer members who may have queries regarding our V.H.F.network.

The Annual Snow Trip will be held this year on August 3rd. Camp will be before the last bridge across the Wellington River on the left hand side of the Snowy Plains Road. Make your own way there or organize a travelling companion if you wish Friday night or Saturday morning.

For those of you who cannot go on the Snow Trip, Mark Templeton (with new Transfer case) is leading another on the following weekend. Interested parties should contact Mark at the next meeting.

ASSOCIATION PAGE

Public Relations Report:

New Minister, Mrs. Joan Turner is against "anything on wheels" but has now opened Keppels Hut.

Alpine Area

The Alpine National Park is a reality. It will be proclaimed and FWD'ers refused entry. Excusses will be made, i.e. the tracks are in poor condition; it rained the previous week; the tracks are not safe to drive up or down. Clubs should realise that the Association is more important to them than they think.

Mt. Margaret at the Chromite Mine has been closed, but there is nothing wrong with it.

Track Reports

Ballarat T.V. Report - Big Desert, Red Bluff are claimed to have been damaged by FWD's going off the border edge. It is bad publicity for the Clubs, even though it could be a private vehicle.

Narbethong

Rex's Hill is rather dangerous. It is heavily rutted and quite steep. Take care.

The Sand Pit at Narby has been closed off by means of felling trees in the area and dumping them in and around The Pit so no-one can use it. Some of these trees have been said to be 4 to 5 feet in diameter and have been dragged 100's of yards to The Pit.

Mr. J. Mc Donarold from Alexandra Shire states that the sand Pit is an eye sore and gave orders to fill it with live trees. This will really be an eye sore to anyone who does drive to The Pit as it can not be seen from the road. It was man made with a lot of FWD'ers and dirt bikes using it year round with no damage having been caused to the pit.

Sign Posting

There is a lack of sign posting after logging.

Queensland

Noosa Shire now has a permit system to traverse the beach: \$10 per day or \$60 per year. Rainbow Beach has no permit system yet.

c ont...

2...

Association Report cont...

Arnhem Land is now closed to visitors.

Australian National FWD Council

The first meeting was held in Sydney. Northern Territory are the only ones that have not joined. Queensland has a lot of problems. Permits to Fraser Island will probably have to be paid for. They will need to be applied for (approximately 2 weeks prior to camping or traversing) and only during business hours.

Reasons are:-

- a. to make more money,
- b. limit access,
- c. allocate camping sites (which will be numbered)

The National Parks intend doing this throughout Queensland which could mean booking well in advance. There will be substantial fines if permits are not obtained.

Wynn's Safari

A policy has been adopted that any club members who enter must remove anything on their vehicles associating them with a Club.

Tholstrup has altered his Newsletter information. There have been a lot of enquiries. After the rally, a guided tour (something like the R.A.C.V.) of the course taken, will be run (for a prize). 70 motor cycles have been accepted.

It will be compulsory that entries purchase a Cams competitive licence and log book.

State Bank T.V. Advertisement

J. Thomas advised that it was not giving a good impression to 4WDing. It was pointed out that a caption was on the Ad stating that it was all stunt work.

Quartz Track

Trouble with logging trucks in Rubicon area. If on truckie channel, enquire first.

Pedalthon, Perth - Melbourne

This had to be cancelled due to lack of time. It will now be arranged and organised by the FWD and Cycling movement. It can only be a success if members do something.

Mark Templeton

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE VICTORIA ASSOCIATION OF FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUBS

FRASER ISLAND ACCESS

Easter 1985 marked the end of an era for the thousands of people who visit Fraser Island at weekends and for holidays.

The free and easy lifestyle of visitors and fishermen, who have had unrestricted use of the island for 18 years since the barge service began, will end soon.

The Fraser Island Public Access Bill passed through Parliament on the 29 March provides for control of access to the Island by a new Government Authority.

The Act will be in operation by the 1 July, 1985. From then, campers and fishermen will have to buy a permit to land on Fraser Island, and the unrestricted camping along nearly 100 km of ocean beach will end.

In accordance with the Act, Fraser Island will be effectively ruled by a two man junta in an Island management program unique to Australia. Operating under the title of the Fraser Island Recreation Board the conservator of forests and the under-secretary of the Arts, National Parks and Sport Dept will have sole responsibility of devising regulations and by-laws to govern the use of Fraser by the few permanent residents - and the thousands of visitors.

Penalties for any breach will be savage.

The Bill specifies a fine of \$1000 for any person who sets foot on Fraser without permission. No minimum penalty is mentioned.

It is understood that on-the-spot fines will be handed out by rangers for offences such as littering. The amount of the fines and the access fee to the Island have not yet been announced, but speculation is wide among regular visitors to the Island. Some estimates have put the visiting fee as high as \$40.

But this fee, on top of the \$32 barge charge, would be prohibitive for the average family.

A National Parks and Wildlife Official said that campers will soon be directed to specified camping areas. No longer would they be allowed to pitch tents on the banks of the scores of little creeks, and beaches fronting the ocean.

Some Government sources believe the legislation for Fraser will be a model for future control of other islands, such as Moreton. One source said that the end of unrestricted camping on Moreton was a foregone conclusion.

Mr Phil Courtney, Chairman of the Fraser Island Sub-Committee of the FWDC Association of Queensland said "that the new Bill will mean visitors to Fraser Island will pay a levy per person, and per vehicle to set foot on the Island and then will have to pay a camping fee on top of that. Add to the cost of administering the permit the actual cost of managing the Island and then allow for inflation and families could soon be paying more than \$20 a day".

The features of the Bill which have drawn the strongest criticism are that there is no provision for ANY process of public consultation over the management policies and the fees to be imposed, no discussions with the major island user groups such as 4WD vehicle owners, and there is no right of appeal against any decisions such as refusal to issue a visitor permit.

Trackwatch in brief

No. 13

INFORMATION FROM THE VICTORIA ASSOCIATION OF FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUBS

7th ANNUAL BOHO BOUNCE

The Goulburn Valley Four Wheel Drive Club advise that the 7th Annual Boho Bounce will be conducted at Myra Park Farm, Boho South on the 25th-27th October, 1985.

Camping will be available from Friday for the complete weekend.

Activities will include Follow the leader trips, Observation Exercise and Wool Shed dance on Saturday night, featuring the McConkey Bros. The motorkhana will again be held on Sunday morning with the Perpetual Trophy (held currently by the Dandenong Ranges) up for grabs.

The cost of the weekend is \$10 per head.

NEW CLUBS

The latest Club to be accepted into the Association is the Victoria Scout 4WD Service Unit. Correspondence to this club should be directed to the Secretary, Ross Boreham, 70 Duffy Street, Epping 3076.

STATE CONSERVATION STRATEGY WORKSHOP

The Ministry for Planning and Environment will be conducting a weekend workshop at Lorne to discuss various aspects and points of view relating to the State Conservation Strategy. The Association is sending two delegates to this important seminar and workshop meeting.

GENERAL ELECTIONS

The 26 June is the date for the Annual General Meeting of the VAFWDC at which all Executive positions will become vacant. Nominations for positions are required in writing to be received by the Secretary No later than the June Committee meeting.

JEEP AUSTRALIA LEAVES AUSTRALIA

Jeep Australia has ceased operations in Australia, with the majority of outlets and State Offices now closed. Existing dealers will continue to service Jeeps.

THOMSON CATCHMENT PETITION

There are numerous copies of the Petition regarding our desire for future access to the Outer Catchment Zone in the Thomson River Catchment Area still outstanding.

Would Clubs' please ensure that they are filled in and returned as soon as possible.

THOMSON/JORDAN VALLEYS VAFWDC CLEAN UP

At the April General Meeting of the VAFWDC it was agreed that the Association organise a major clean up of blackberries in the Thomson and Jordan Valleys.

The event is scheduled for November and confirmation will be given as soon as the project is given approval by the Soil Conservation Authority, MMBW, etc.

The project will involve clearing fallen trees and blackberries - lots and lots of blackberries from tracks and the old cemetery in the Jordan Valley. The project is being co-ordinated by John Cribbes of the LROC on behalf of the VAFWDC.

NEW CLUBS BEING FORMED

Not only are there many people wishing to join a Club, but on the number of requests for assistance received by the Association there will soon be many more new clubs. Assistance to individuals wishing to form NEW clubs has been given to groups residing in Mildura, Beechworth, Rye, Warrandyte, Hamilton, Frankston, and Bairnsdale and a new Diahatsu club.

We wish all these clubs a successful future.

Appreciation is given to John M. Cribbes, author of the following article, which appears in the Review, LROC of Victoria Ltd. magazine. The article has been copied exactly as it appears in the April 1985 issue and is unchanged.

"Dear Editor:

I have sought permission to have a debate on the attitude of the club towards the Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs (VAFWDC) at our next meeting. Peter Dunn has been kind enough to allow this.

To shorten the time taken on the subject, I want now to publish my point of view, which has been coloured, I suppose, by the negative attitude of a great number of established club members. I do not say that these friends of mine do not have confidence in me or Bernard Parfrey as their delegates to VAFWDC. What I do say is that they have little appreciation of the VAFWDC, its members, its committee, or their efforts in the defence of the rights of the 4WD tourist, and because of this, make my job difficult.

To illustrate this last point, I am at the present time preparing this letter for your perusal, instead of preparing myself for the next meeting of the Conservation Council of Victoria. In other words, I am preparing to "do battle" to change the attitude of "my side", when I should be seeking to alter the views of the "other side".

My very early years were spent in the close proximity of a common. In England there are still a few patches of land that, from medieval times, have belonged to the community. Whilst they used to be used for grazing sheep and cattle, they are now used for recreational purposes. I grew up with the carpet of bluebells in Spring and the rustle of russet in Autumn. (I saw the golden Summer on both days each year!).

I came to Australia in 1969 and "found" Jericho in the Jordan Valley through Owen Tomlin's influence. It was the start of a love for the Australian bush that has developed into a passion just as strong as any of our club members who are native born. In fact my desire for the bush is probably stronger than most.

I tell you this because I don't want you to think of me as some wierdo or crank who goes on about his subject with insincerity. I love the Australian bush and want to retain a degree of freedom in respect of my travels therein.

THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD DENY ME THIS FREEDOM.

LROC, now Limited, was formed 21 years ago for the enjoyment of its members. As far as I know there has been no published history of the club, so I am unaware of the names of the original members. Doubtless many are still alive and if tackled, would positively state that at the time of formation they had no trouble with so-called conservationists, and didn't have too much bother from MMBW Rangers, Forest Commission workers, National Parks Service Rangers or their like. Certainly nobody, private or government, interfered too much with the tracks they travelled upon.

cont...

What is the situation in 1985? The following bodies are all involved with issues that affect 4WD tourists:

1. Conservation Council of Victoria
2. Australian Conservation Council
3. Friends of the Earth
4. Greenpeace Foundation
5. National Parks Service
6. M.M.B.W.
7. Soil Conservation Authority
8. Forests Commission
9. Environmental Studies Association of Victoria
10. Natural Resources Conservation League
11. Victoria Conservation Trust
12. Victorian National Parks Association

Have a look at the 1985 Yellow Pages, page 1400. There are 24 entries under "Organisations - Environment".

Having established that there are a large number of bodies who are trying to affect our recreation, now, in 1985, what do we, LROCV Ltd., have to offset these bodies:

People:

1. A committee of 12 persons
2. 2 delegates to VAFWDC
3. Probably another dozen people actively concerned with conservation issues from the 4WDer's point of view.

Resources:

1. Total financial assets of approximately \$5,000.
2. 3 club radios
3. 1 chain saw
4. A lot of good will with Red Cross and Scouts Association.

The odds look a little heavy in the "Conservationists" favour, until you remember that there are some three dozen 4WD clubs (with aims and aspirations similar to ours) bonded together in the VAFWDC. Although still not very good, (even after including logging interests, cattlemen, AMTRA, shooters, fossickers etc.) there is a little more of a balance.

Until we are as united, with as much government funding, we can hope for no more.

What we cannot hope for is that the good old days will return. Too many "yahoo" 4WD off-roaders have made it certain that the idyllic days will never return. Commercial interests too have made sure that the past freedoms will never return.

We have to look forward. We have to look forward united with all other clubs in VAFWDC and now, with the formation of the Australian National Four Wheel Drive Council, we must look forward with 4WDers in other states, to present a united front to the conservationists. When they see 4WDers as a strong united body, they will have no option but to compromise. Until then, they can and will ignore us.

cont...

My case for stronger bonds with VAFWDC is therefore on three issues:

1. Interchange of news and views with other clubs.
2. A common "enemy" of all 4WD clubs is the "conservationist" movement. United we stand (and drive); divided we fall (and camp on the beach at Rosebud).
3. Government departments are singularly unimpressed by individual clubs "going it alone". Examples in the past six months:
 - (a) National Parks Service went to VAFWDC and requested that clubs restrict convoys to 15 vehicles. As far as I know, they have not been to LROCV, or any other club, with this request. The request was made to the body that they recognise as the governing body of 4WD clubs in Victoria.
 - (b) Through the Soil Conservation Authority, the Thompson Catchment Committee asked for submissions on the future use of the catchment. Mr. Don Mc Kinnon of the SCA advised me that the submissions of 4WD clubs would be grouped together under VAFWDC because that is the body that the SCA recognises as the spokesman for 4WD Drivers in Victoria.

I am the last person to try to stop the activities of LROCV. I have to be realistic though, and say that if we, the oldest club in Australia, don't do our part in the struggle for freedom, then others will follow our lead and VAFWDC will lose its power. After that, five years should be sufficient to see us holding trips along the unused railway at Alamein and camping in my garden.

Yours faithfully

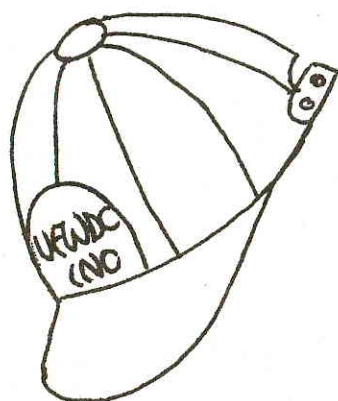
John M. Cribbes.

The opinions expressed by contributing writers in this magazine are not necessarily those of the club.

Thank you John M. Cribbes for the use of the article.

CLUB DIRECTORY.

"WHAT THE WELL DRESSED 4 WHEEL DRIVER IS WEARING THIS SEASON."



CLUB HAT
\$5-50

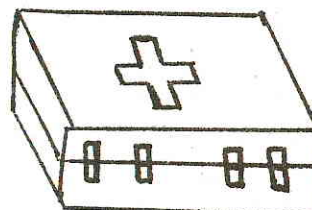


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TRIP COMMITTEE

Below is a list of equipment recommended for vehicles going on 'A' grade trips.

This equipment would also be handy for vehicles on 'B' grade trips, or for that matter, any trip into the bush.

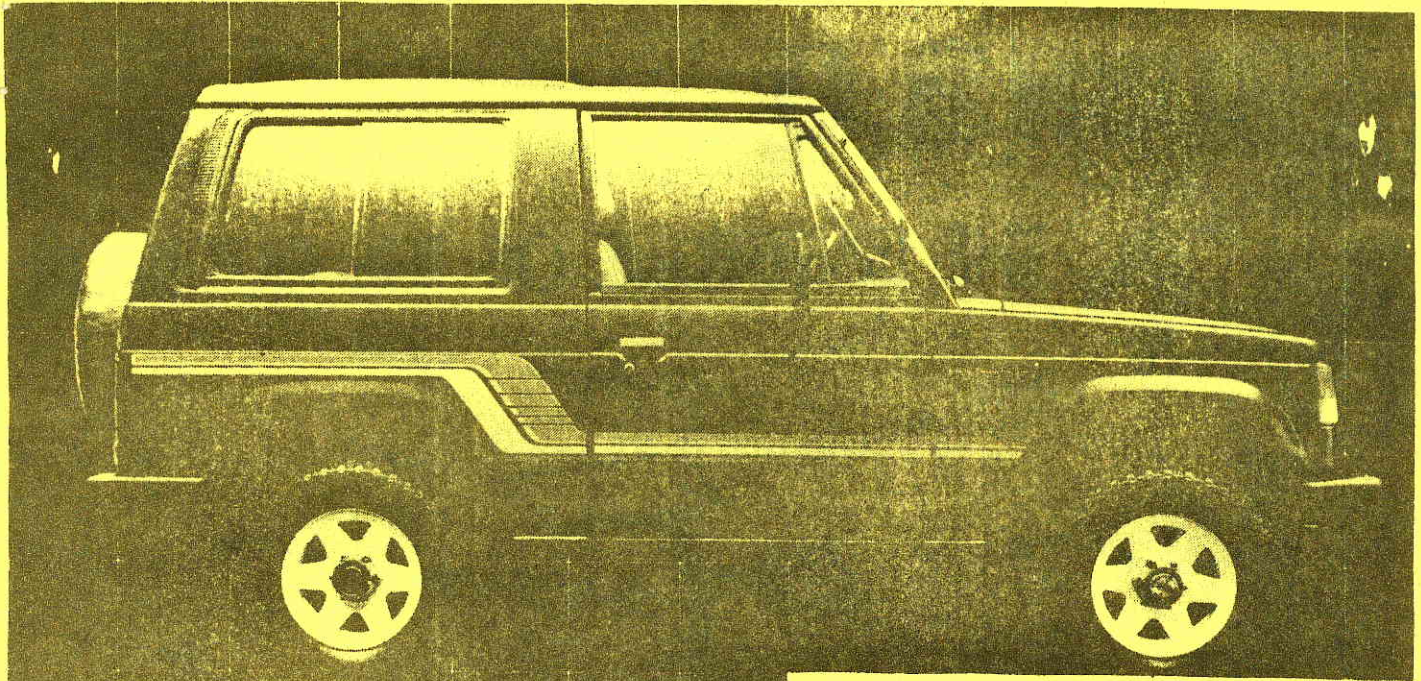
IT IS STRESSED THAT ANY TRIP LEADER OF ANY TRIP HAS THE POWER TO REFUSE A VEHICLE TO PARTICIPATE ON A CLUB OUTING, IF HE THINKS THAT THE VEHICLE IS NOT ADEQUATELY EQUIPPED.

- 'A' BAR OR FITTING LUGS ON BUMPER BAR
- TOWING CABLE OR CHAIN AT LEAST 20' IN LENGTH
- TOWING POINTS = FRONT AND BACK
- SHACKLES TO SUIT CABLES AND TOWING POINTS
- WHEEL CHAINS
- SPADE AND AXE OR CHAIN SAW
- SNATCH BLOCK
- JACK
- AIR PUMP
- TUBE TO SUIT TYRES OR PATCHES
- 50mm OR 20" TOW BALL
- TYRE GAUGE
- C.R.C. OR SIMILAR WATER REPELLANT
- DECENT TOOL KIT
- BRAKE FLUID
- GLOVES AND HAND CLEAN
- GOOD FIRST AID KIT
- JUMPER LEADS

It is also handy to carry a supply of appropriate oil for use in your engine, gear box and diffs.

As the preceeding article shows, we are getting serious about Club trips. At one stage this Club was able to support two trips a month, but for one reason or another the members lost interest.

If anyone wants to become a trip leader, or has an idea for a trip, please contact either Geoff or Steve at the Club meetings or you can give Geoff a ring at home.



MITSUBISHI PAJERO 4WD
Every drive is an adventure.

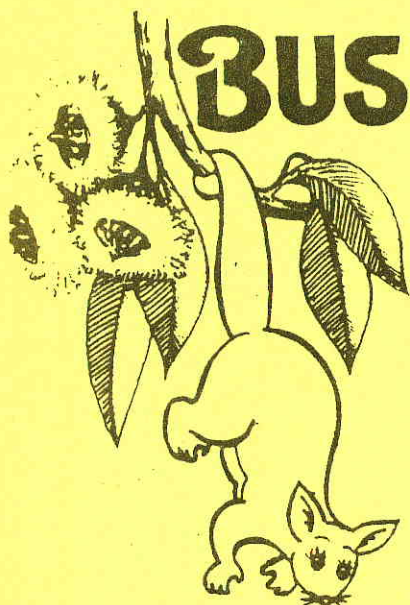


BREAKTHROUGH IN 4WD MOTORING

FOR INFORMATION OR SPECIFICATIONS CALL PETER CORRIGAN AT:

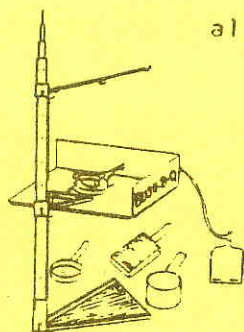
Preston Motors Mitsubishi
1511 Sydney Road,
Campbellfield, 3061
Phone: 359 3999





BUSH.B.Q

THE BARBEQUE OF THE OUTBACK



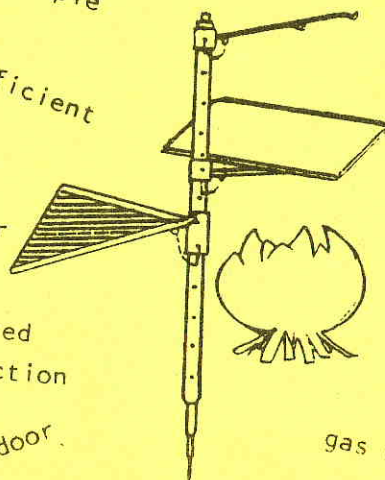
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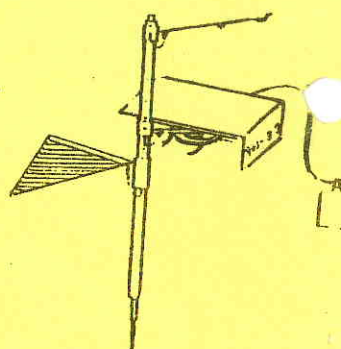
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versatile

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