

AUGUST 1981



# FREE WHEELING



COVER : ANDY AND WENDY BRUCE, CAPE YORK, 1980.

Registered for posting as a publication

**CATEGORY "B"**

# VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB



COMMITTEE 1981-82

<b>PRES</b>	<b>TOM BRACHNA</b> 11 Sunnyvale Crt., HAMPTON PARK 799 1998	<b>VICE PRES</b>	<b>ANDREW MERLO</b> 1 Gadd St., OAKLEIGH 3166 579 4119	<b>SEC</b>	<b>BRIAN TUCK</b> 2 Page St., CHELTENHAM. 3192 93 1484
<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>DON MONTAGUE</b> 9 Coronation St., MT. WAVERLEY. 3149 288 1200	<b>ASS SEC</b>	<b>PAUL HOWDEN</b> 9/158 Oakleigh Rd. CARNEGIE 3163	<b>SOC SEC</b>	<b>ANDREW GUINEY</b> 4/4 Beddoe Ave. EAST BRIGHTON 592 0857
<b>PUB REL</b>	<b>THELMA MONTAGUE</b> 9 Coronation St. MT WAVERLEY 3149 288 1200	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>GEOFF DOWELL</b> 4 Genoa Crt. FRANKSTON 3199 789 3153	<b>KEVIN MONAGUE</b> 9 Coronation St. MT WAVERLEY 3149	
<b>ASSOCIATION DELEGATES</b>		<b>GEOFF MANN</b> 10 Fernhill St., GLEN WAVERLEY. 3150 233 2229	<b>JOHN THOM</b> 41 Colby Drv. BELGRAVE HEIGHTS 3160 795 3932		

TRIP COMMITTEE: Brian Tuck, Paul Howden, Andrew Merlo.

Contactable on above address. For any enquiries on trips, conditions and potential trip leaders.

## 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 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 Editor: A. Merlo (as above) all copy to be in by 2nd Tuesday of the month.

**RADIO OFFICER    GEOFF MANN (AS ABOVE)**

Club has one radio for hire at \$1.00 per day, or free if you are leading a trip. All enquiries must go through the officer regarding purchases, licences etc.

**MEETINGS LAST TUESDAY  
OF THE MONTH AT DANDENONG  
LIBRARY**

**CORRESPONDENCE  
P.O. BOX 778,  
DANDENONG**



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello Members,

This is the new pres's first report so bear with him.

First of all I would like to thank last years committee for their tremendous effort during the year. It is difficult to please everybody all the time but all in all things went quite well.

As four wheel driving becomes more and more expensive in the near future, I think more attention will be paid to day trips, and trips closer to home in general, although, the usual four wheel drive trip will be available for people who wish to go on them.

I wish to welcome the new committee into office and hope that together we can make the activities throughout the year enjoyable for everyone.

We hope for everybody's full co-operation and assistance during the year.

See you next meeting.

Tom.

*attendants.*

THINGS TO COME

CLUB MEETING - TUESDAY 25th August.

SNOW TRIP - 29th - 30th August.

Venue : Annual Club Snow Trip  
Destination: Howitt High Plains : Camping on the  
Wellington Rivver off the Howitt Road,  
on the left at the third bridge.  
(Saturday 9.00a.m.)  
Fuel : Available in Licola  
Grade : "C"  
T/Leader : J. Lake (\$55 4800 bus.hours)  
"NEW MEMBERS, THIS IS AN IDEAL TRAINING TRIP".

SUNDAY - 13th September.

Venue : Continuation of Club Clean-up in Shire of  
Sherbrooke - 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.

CHRISTMAS CLUB TRIP - 26th December - Approximately 1 week

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

T/Leader : A Bruce (546 6024)

AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND - 1982

Venue : to be announced  
Grade : "B"  
T/Leader : A. Merlo

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 - 28th July.

Was the A.G.M. and the election results are as on the front page. Geoff Mann gave us an Association report, Keith Brown and Tom Brackna each a report on the Club Clean-Up. The raffle prize was a bottle of Johnny Walker which was won by Kevin Montague.

NEXT MEETING - 25th August.

The A.G.M. raffle will be drawn on all receipts of sold or unsold butts, so please return by this date. Entertainment will be a mystery film by Don Montague.

SPARE PARTS

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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, FUEL FILTER, BRAKE FLUID, ENGINE OIL, DIFF. OIL, DEWATERING FLUID, FUSES, PLASTIC HOSE, SILASTIC, also a can 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.

## ITS AND BITS

Annual fees are now due and are as follows :-

\$ 18.00 Dual  
\$ 11.00 Single  
\$ 9.00 Social

Members who are unfinancial at the September meeting will not be included in the mailing list.

Phil and Debbi Alder are now in Brisban (for six months) with steady employment - their bean picking, paid about \$ 2.00 ton, didn't bother to take it up.

A.G.M. raffle will be drawn AUGUST meeting, so return all butts by then.

Don's annual report was only out by 2 cents.

Thought Geoff Mann was the "Sherbrooke Fire Bug" after setting alight to the Valiant on the clean-up.

During the clean-up some members were getting rather thirsty with the police 4 x 4 club present, but did a fantastic job and a letter of thanks sent out.

Steve Alder has added another Range Rover to the club.

John Lake's trip to the snow at Licola is being led by a Hillman, guess someone will need a ride to the top.

Thelma Montague is planning a girls night out, guess there will be a boys night out also.

The Club is looking into having a Stencilled peak cap on sale soon, also don't forget that any article of clothing can be stencilled for a \$ 1.00 each.

## TRACKWATCH NO 31

### NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUBS.

#### REVIEW 1980/81

The past 12 months have been active ones for the Association. Significant areas of mutual agreement have been reached with the National Parks Service, and many areas defined, or reviewed by the Forest Commission.

The National Parks Service have stated that they DO recognise 4WD touring as a legitimate recreation and would expect it to continue in many of the new parks. The Service recognised their inexperience in managing this form of recreation and their need to liaise with 4WD clubs in forming management plans. A liaison which we wish to cultivate during the coming months.

Complaints have again been directed to the Forest Commission concerning some track closures, and attempts have been made to define types of closures and getting the F.C. to rationalise their methods of closure - ie standard barriers.

The Forest Commission policy is that the network of tracks and roads is generally available for use by the public.

However track closes may take place. These can either be permanent - if a road is disused or its use likely to damage forest values; or temporary - if the road is dangerous to the public or its use likely to cause unacceptable damage. Similarly a holder of a mining lease is not permitted to close tracks unless the land is actually being worked. Holders of a grazing lease are not permitted to close any tracks or discourage 4WD tourers with keep out signs.

One area liable to misunderstanding is that some sections of some tracks on private land are used by the F.C. by agreement with the land owner. The land owner is entitled to lock gates and erect signs to prevent recreational useage.. Therefore the track user MUST obtain permission to use the track.

During the year there was a significant amendment to the Forest Act 1980 which has given the Commission power to close roads and tracks other than those constructed or maintained by it, and allows the Commission to permit the use of specific tracks, by specific persons, for specific purposes, even if it is closed.

The pros and cons concerning camping rights has been investigated, and the result really is that you may camp on much more of Victoria's public lands than previously thought. The N.P.S., F.C., and Dept of Crown Lands all have some provision for camping in the bush other than in camping grounds.

The question of track closures was raised often during the year and unfortunately as shown by 'several choice' articles printed in club magazines, there are some clubs, and members who little understand or appear to care(?) about looking after tracks and the best interests of our recreation. From magazines it would appear that some members are not environmentally conscious, and wish to pursue an attitude of lets damage as many tracks as possible while we can!

As has often been pointed out the attitude of these members is selfish and irresponsible, and there is a definite need for clubs to better police and educate their members in responsible 4WD useage. The Forest Commission has put in writing that.. "because of the unfortunate and irresponsible behaviour of the drivers of some four wheel drive vehicles it is becoming increasingly difficult for the Commission to withstand the mounting pressure to close more of its roads and tracks".

If our recreation is to continue as a viable winter recreation, clubs must act and control these members. We also had a club suggest that they didn't believe that clubs should co-operate with, or contact District F.C. Offices prior to trips. The access at all costs attitude by vehicle-orientated members and the mis use of tracks is completely unacceptable to the Association.

Actions of an irresponsible nature by a minority can easily tarnish months of hard earned public relations and the Association cannot afford to see the reputation of most 'concerned' clubs be damaged by renegade clubs, or members.

On a brighter note we saw the addition to our ranks of the Victorian Police 4WD Club and the Djerriwarrh 4WD Club in October of 1980. Various authorities have been contacted during the year investigating such diverse subjects as proposed bull-bar legislation, Thompson River access, opposition to Queensland National Parks and permits, and the support for the renewal of alpine grazing leases.

The usual amount of complaints against advertising were made to publications including The Bulletin, Overlander and GTV9. Several submissions were prepared including a draft policy on 4WD touring for the CCV. A proposed clean up at Lake Tarli Kärng was made unnecessary by a mysterious clean up by the F.C. and some other body. Other matters too numerous to note were also looked into during the year.

For the Association to be successful during 1981/82 we need the support of ALL the clubs and ask that delegates bring their Club's ideas along to meetings and conversly keep their Clubs informed of Association activities. There are many areas which need attention and we look forward to your input and support.

Brian Tanner.

# Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs



## INCOME FOR THE YEAR 1980 - 1981

STARTING BALANCE ON THE 1st JULY, 1980

\$ 2 520.17

AMOUNT OF MONEY GAINED FROM VARIOUS CLUBS  
AS SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Westernport & Dist.	\$ 23.00	Subaru	\$ 46.00
Gippsland 4WDC	\$ 43.00	Geelong	\$ 58.00
Goulburn Valley	\$ 28.00	Police	\$ 30.00
Land Rover Club	\$ 169.00	Mallee	\$ 28.00
Vict. Military Vehicle	\$ 150.00	Ballarat	\$ 9.00
Dandenong Ranges	\$ 58.00	Daihatsu	\$ 16.00
Range Rover Club	\$ 146.00	Victorian	\$ 60.00
Maroondah Overlanders	\$ 29.00	Wandering	\$ 32.00
Cross Country Jeep	\$ 92.00	Grampians	\$ 21.00
Truckmates	\$ 14.00	Nissan	\$ 35.00
Yarra Valley	\$ 49.00	Toyota	\$ 339.00
		<u>TOTAL</u>	\$ 1,475.00

SALE OF BADGES AND STICKERS	\$ 114.50
SALE OF TEE SHIRTS	\$ 59.00
SALE OF BOOK - WHAT STATE IS THE GARDEN IN	\$ 3.00
INTEREST ON A.N.Z. DEPOSIT No. 142920	\$ 58.24
SALE OF PHOTO COPIER	\$ 50.00

TOTAL INCOME FOR THE YEAR \$ 1,759.74

## EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1980 - 1981

1.	Hire of the hall from September, 1980 to November 1980 @ \$ 10.00 per month.	\$ 30.00
	From January 1981 to August, 1981 @ \$ 20.00 per month.	\$ 160.00
2.	Printing Trackwatch, Newsheets, etc.	\$ 332.85
3.	Stamps, postage to clubs and other groups	\$ 103.14
4.	Refreshments, tea, coffee and biscuits. Also Christmas party and drinks.	\$ 203.54
5.	Treasurer's equipment	\$ 29.15
6.	Printing of "DON'T BULLER THE BUSH" stickers	\$ 190.00
7.	Pamphlets on How to Join a Club	\$ 205.00
8.	World Wide Congress Fee	\$ 40.00
9.	Letterheads and Association envelopes	\$ 250.00
10.	Conservation Council fees	\$ 5.00
11.	Printing of Constitution's	\$ 30.00
12.	Public Relations Fee (Brian Tanner)	\$ 20.00
13.	New files for Secretary's cabinet	\$ 3.06
14.	Post Office Box hire	\$ 65.00
15.	Printing of Submission to Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service. Also printing of entry for the Victorian Conservation Prize	\$ 140.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR \$ 1,806.74

Therefore we have a LOSS for the year of \$ 47.00

STARTING BALANCE

Less

\$ 2 520.17  
\$ 47.00  
\$ 2 473.17

THIS IS MADE UP AS FOLLOWS :-

Building Society	\$ 1,514.24
Bank Balance	\$ 949.00
Cash In Hand	\$ 10.00
	<u>\$ 2,473.24</u>
	+ \$ 0.07

Geoff Mann,  
Treasurer,  
V.A.F.W.D.C.

## Wheel chains

At the moment one of the Government bodies sympathetic towards 4 wheel driving is the Forest Commission. However, the Commission is concerned at the damage being done to their tracks during the winter months by the uneducated use of wheel chains, accelerating natural erosion and causing unnecessary track damage. In order not to alienate our ally, we have compiled a short list of suggested "DOs and DON'Ts".

1. If faced with a steep track that you feel wheel chains must be fitted to successfully negotiate, seriously consider an alternate route even if this may mean turning back or choosing a new objective.
2. If wheel chains are fitted, use a lower gear than normal in an effort to keep wheel spin to a minimum.
3. If the vehicle loses momentum and you are unable to obtain traction STOP immediately. Winch yourself through or reverse and take another line of approach.
4. When travelling in a large party consider having one vehicle assailing the obstacle and either winching or towing the remaining vehicles past thus eliminating the need for fitting chains to the majority.

These precautions may be thought by some to be extreme, but considering that:-

- a) the best four wheel drive tracks are usually Forest Commission access tracks, designed to carry a minimum number of vehicles in summer months and negligible traffic in winter;
- b) taking into account the ever increasing number of recreational four wheel drives using these tracks; and
- c) the proportionately small amount of money made available for their maintenance

common sense must tell you to take extreme care when using these tracks.



## Land Rover Owners' Club

Land Rover Owners' Club

Land Rover Owners' Club

Land Rover Owners' Club

June 6th 1981

The Secretary,  
Victorian 4WD Club,  
P.O. Box 778,  
Dandenong 3175

Dear Secretary,

### 1981 FOUR WHEEL DRIVE MOTOR SHOW AND FIELD DAY

On Sunday, November 22nd 1981, the Land Rover Owners' Club of Victoria will be holding its fourth Annual 4WD Motor Show & Field Day - this year at the Whittlesea Showgrounds.

As previously, the object of the day is to introduce members of the public with an interest in 4WD touring to equipment etc., and, where possible, to provide actual demonstrations. To this end, members of this Club will demonstrate various methods of winching, vehicle jacking, survival tactics, vehicle fitting-out etc., and as in previous years, you are invited to set up a display in an effort to persuade people of the wisdom of joining a Club.

This year, as an added attraction, we are being actively supported by Off Road Action magazine, who are providing prizes for vehicles attending the Show:-

1. Best pre-1950 4WD
2. Best 1950-1960 4WD
3. Best camper conversion using existing body
4. Most innovative and practical feature
5. Best presented 4WD

In addition there will be an area set aside for vehicles for sale.

So fill out the attached form and return it to the Land Rover Owners' Club before November 1st. On receipt, the Club will forward to you 3 complimentary passes to allow your official vehicles into the grounds. In the meantime, your members should be preparing their vehicles in an attempt to take off those prizes!!

Yours faithfully,

PATRICK SUTCLIFFE,  
Field Day Co-Ordinator

FOR 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

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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

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5 Nissan Patrol Rims    \$ 15.00 each    P. Rowe    857 6422

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Pack rack to suit Toyota Landcruiser - factory-made used once    \$ 100.00  
Bull bar suit Toyota    \$ 30.00    791 6425

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

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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

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750 x 16 Chains    \$ 35.00    Geoff Dowell    789 3153    **SOLD**

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

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