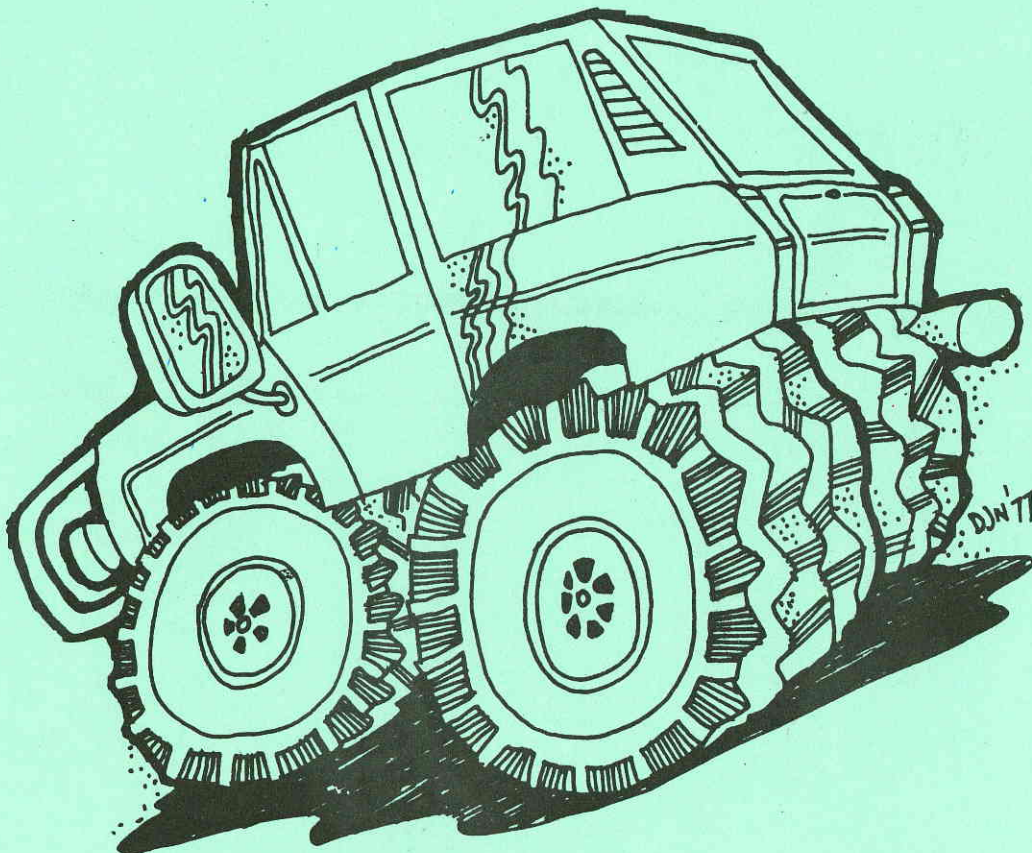


MARCH 1982

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF
VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

Registered for posting as a publication
CATEGORY "B"

VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB



COMMITTEE 1981-82

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

Hi there,

Another month has passed already.

The Association Clean-up which was to be at Mount Buffalo has been changed to Lake Cobbler due to the amount of work that has to be done there. Wind storms have brought many trees down across the tracks and our job will be to remove these obstacles. The persons who gave names at the February meeting will be contacted by Geoff Mann and given relevant information. Those members participating, could you please bring chainsaws if possible. The date of 27th, 28th March remains the same. Members wishing to go up together should arrange meeting times between themselves.

Narbathong 1982 was again a great success. The boghole claimed quite a few vehicles and provided some thrilling action. A V-8 Jeep Renegade from the Cross Country Jeep Club won the competition but David Heard put in a spectacular performance coming in second by one and a half seconds. Mercedes Benz Australia provided some action with a Uni-Mog 5 tonne truck. This also became bogged. Mercedes informs us that any person wishing to part with \$ 44,000.00 can have one too. Congratulations to the Jeep Club again for an excellent weekend.

The Gippsland FWDC "Go Down, 1982" is on again on the 1st and 2nd May at Lardner Park. Tickets available at the gate. Read sheet attached.

Andy Merlo's Easter Trip to Mitchell's Homestead is still on the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th April. Those wishing to go contact Andy.

Those going to the Lake Cobbler Clean-up - see you there and those not going see you at the next meeting.

Tom.

THINGS TO COME :

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 20th - 21st MARCH.

Venue : Water Skiing and 4WD Weekend at Eildon Weir.
Destination : Delatite Arm - Picnic Point.
Departs : Mansfield Saturday morning 9.00a.m. from toilet block.
Trip Leader : Ross Fergusson. phone 80 4309

ASSOCIATION CLEAN UP 27th - 28th MARCH.

Venue : HAS NOW BEEN CHANGED
Instead of Mt. Buffalo it is now changed to "LAKE COBBLER"

All members participating are to assemble at Mansfield on Friday 26th March at 9.00p.m. If you intend going and cannot make it on the time you MUST contact Geoff Mann for further details. (PICKS, SHOVELS, RAKES)

CLUB MEETING Tuesday, 30th MARCH.

EASTER - 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th APRIL.

Venue : Mitchells Homestead
Departs : Mansfield 09.00a.m. Friday 9th at W.C. Block
Supplies : All required for at least 3 DAYS. Water O.K.
Fuel : Full Tank Ex Mansfield and 20 litres
Trip Leader : A. Merlo. phone 579 4119
Grade : "B"

SUNDAY 25th APRIL.

Venue : One Day Car Rally. (requires use of general knowledge and some luck)
More details later.
Grade : Mainly "C" with some "B"

Ideal for the Family.

CLUB MEETING Tuesday 27th APRIL.

MAY 1st - 2nd SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

Venue : Gippsland 4WD Go-Down at Lardner Park (see inserted sheet)
All enquiries to Brian Tuck by March meeting.
A good weekend to have by all.

ITS AND BITS.

First and most important the club has received from Telecom a list to the fact that the below members are "UNFINANCIAL"

Bill McKinnon

P. Adams (Club)

G. Mann

A. Merlo

K. Brown

J. Thom

G. Pearl

B. Male

S. Alder

The above fee's of \$ 22.00 are now due ex "NOV. 81" and are all due again in NOV. 82 on the 16th of the month.

All the above are to pay their dues by the March meeting as the club has to pay a cheque for \$ 506.00 and has NOT got enough funds to do so.

We now have our club T-Shirts and Caps for sale, it was decided the navy blue caps were the go and they retail for \$ 4.00, the T-Shirts are \$ 5.50 or \$ 1.50 if you supply for printing. Thelma Montague is the one to see if interested.

The club questionnaire turned up some interesting facts, results will be published and some changes take place.

Narby was again a great success, weather wise, members present and especially the CCJC for a tour on the Saturday which was quite eventful. Some road work with good hills involved, especially Mt. Gordon which was only conquered by Kevin Montague.

Dave Heard's attempt on the "BOG OLE" was more than words can quote, it was "FANTASTIC". 62.5 seconds on the timed trial, only to be beaten by a Contro 1 second by a CCJC club member (who was told win at all cost, don't worry about your vehicle, it will be looked after.) no sour grapes.

Next year there will be more members competing because it was Dave's year.

Girls trip on the Rutherglen Red on 27th March was cancelled due to the fact that too many people dropped out at the wrong moment. All deposits had been paid, some by the club, so all concerned must redeem them as we lost out. Thanks to Thelma for all the effort she put in, too bad people don't take others efforts to heart.

Thanks extended to Ross Fergurson for his trip to Eildon on the 20th - 21st March. It's what the club needs, more members doing more for their club.

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 closures 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!

TRACKWATCH NO 312

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 Karng 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.

News and Views of the Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs"PROJECT NATIONAL PARKS- 27th/28th MARCH"

The Association has been aware for some time that several clubs' have for a number of years been regularly organising and carrying out community service projects in their local district.

Such activities bring 4WD Clubs into direct contact with the public and are excellent public relations exercises.

Their example is highly commendable, and it is with this desire and the knowledge gained from the Association clean-ups, that we plan to encourage other Clubs' to participate in similar activities.

To gain maximum output for our efforts we propose to direct our energies to two major 4WD community service activities. One being for the National Parks Service, and the second for the Forest Commission.

The first of these activities is titled "PROJECT NATIONAL PARKS".

The NPS have readily co-operated and have prepared a list of 16 projects which we have agreed to undertake on the weekend of the 27th/28th March, 1982.

The projects vary from refuse collection - car bodies, etc; eg. 33 car bodies at Kinglake NP - to construction and development projects.

The NPS have applauded our positive action (unlike many so called conservation groups) and intentions, and it is now up to our Clubs' to fulfill their expectations.

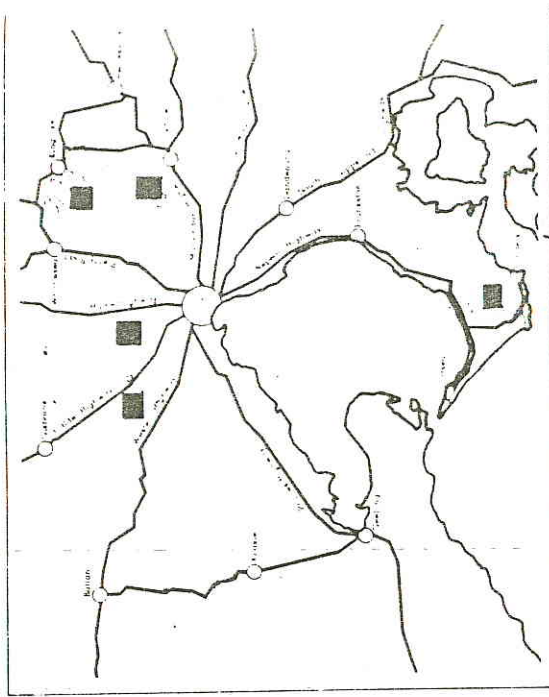
Clubs will be allocated a project - generally as near as possible to their home locality - and in several cases 2 or 3 clubs will be asked to assist on the same task. Each club is asked to appoint a club co-ordinating officer who will be in charge of that clubs' project. Where several clubs are participating in the same job one Club will be appointed overall responsibility for co-ordinating the Clubs' on the day.

A meeting of these co-ordinators will be held on the 8th February at the South Camberwell Tennis Club, when tasks will be allocated and publicity and other aspects of the Project will be finalised. Club co-ordinators are asked to make sure they attend this meeting.

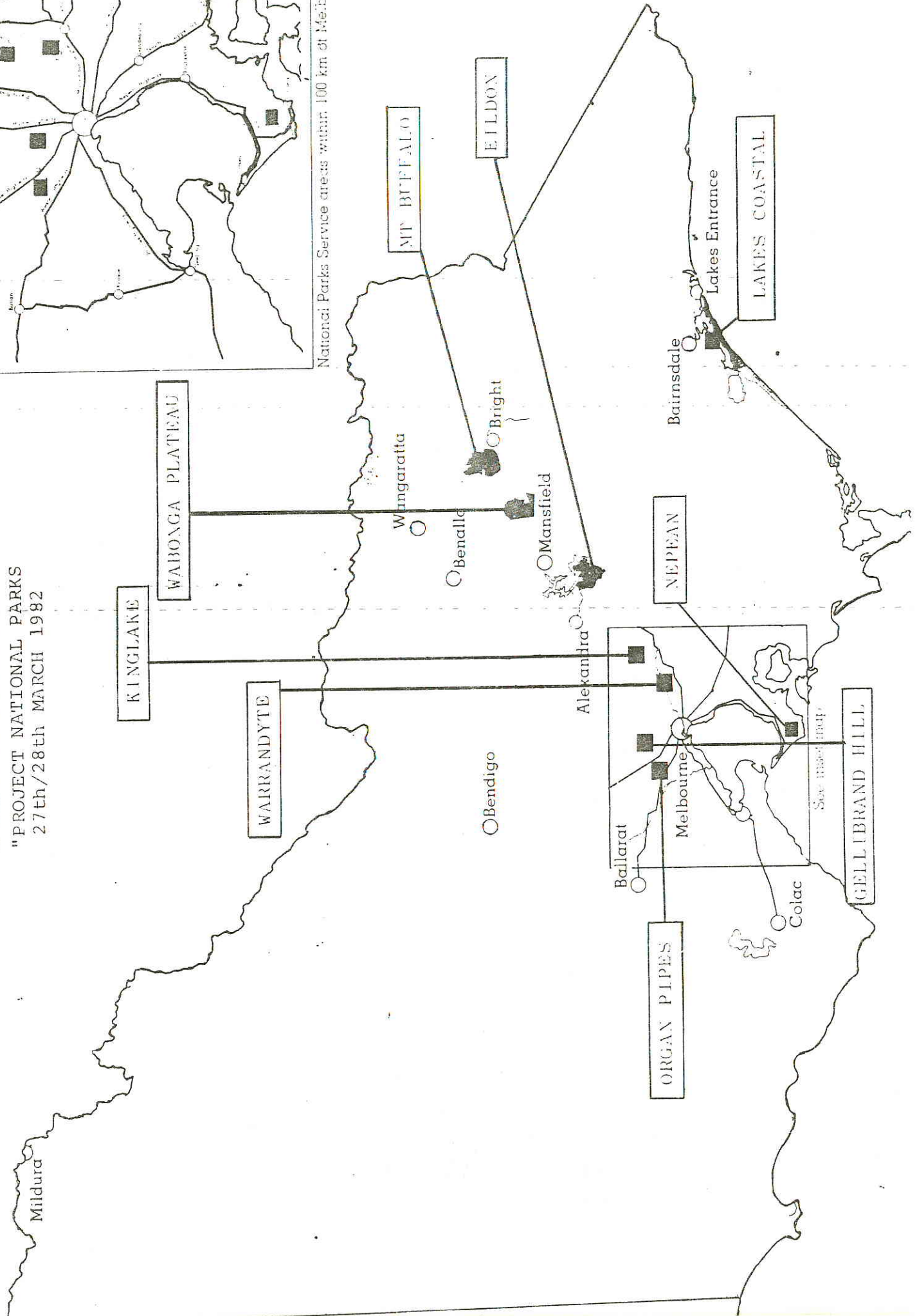
Unfortunately the majority of projects are located in parks in the eastern part of Victoria, and it is unfair to expect Clubs such as Wimmera, Grampians, Mallee, etc. to travel a couple of hundred kms to attend. These Clubs are likely to be more fully utilised in the Forest Commission clean up later in the year.

However, there are many Clubs' based in the eastern fringe of Melbourne and we look forward to their support in this project.

Park locations "PROJECT NATIONAL PARKS 27th/28th MARCH 1982



National Parks Service areas within 100 km of Melbourne



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