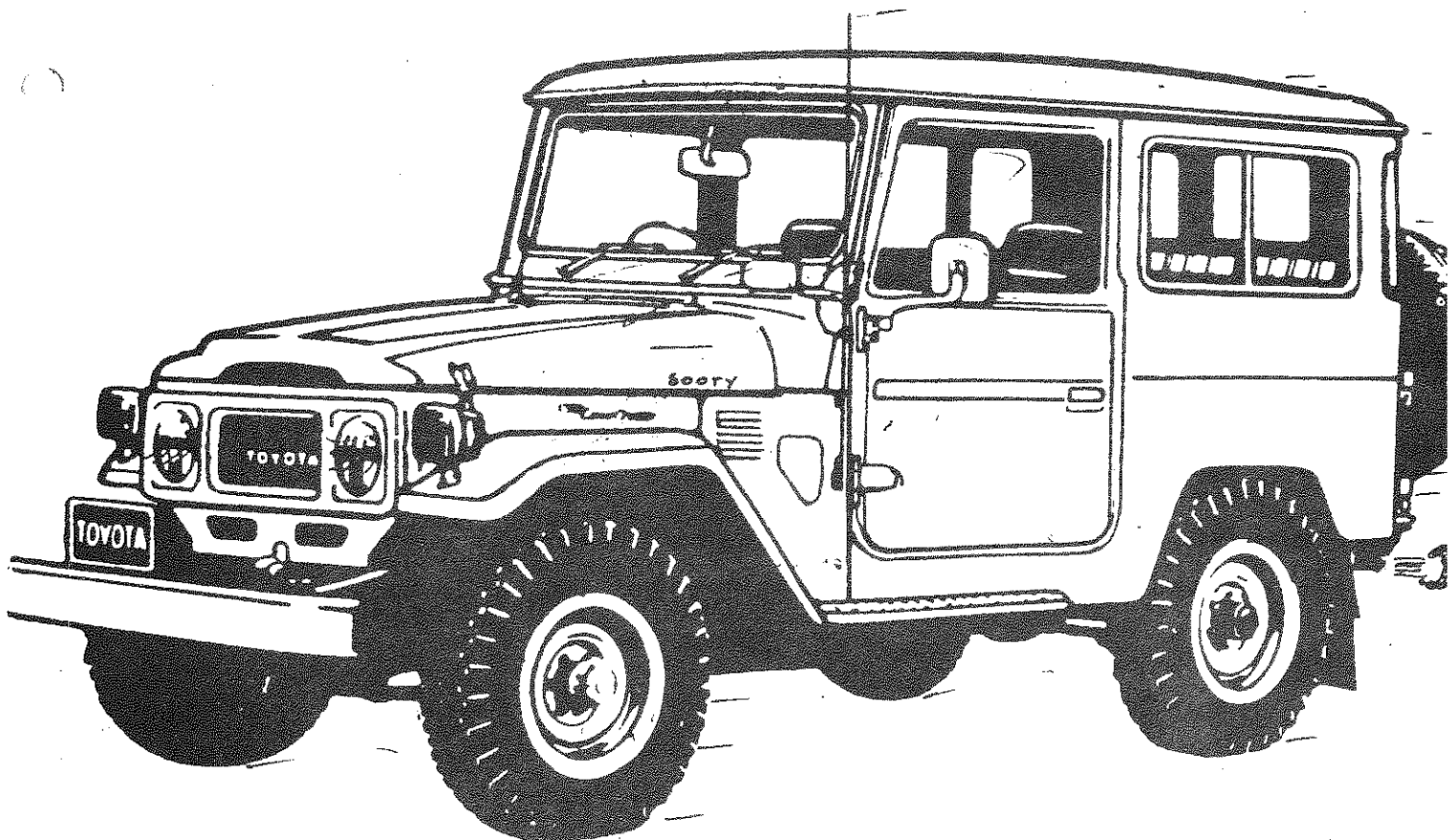


**JULY 1986**

**FREE**



**WHEELING**



# VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB INC.



COMMITTEE 1985/86

PRES	David Heard 16 Hardy Street Selby 754 8406	VICE PRES	Pat Casey 11 Patterson St Carnegie 3163 5706452	SEC	Tom Brachna 11 Sunnyvale Hampton Park 3976 799 1998
TREAS	Rob Ayton 8 Minerva Crs Vermont Sth 3133 232 0378	ASS SEC	Garry Pearl 1419 Mountain Hwy The Basin 3154 762 4013	SOC	Sue Williams 82 Cape St. Heidelberg 458 3573
COMMITTEE	Mark Templeton 13 Alice St. Clayton 3168 543 7196		Peter Handley 5 Wallaroo Ave. Narre Warren 3805 704 6808		Bryan West 164 Monohans Rd. Cranbourne 3977 059 96 4915
ASSOCIATION DELEGATES	Mark Templeton 798 6055 (Bus Hrs) 543 7196 (A.H.)				

## 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 tyres are a must. Trip leader has the right to refuse vehicle if above points are not met. Types of conditions likely to be met include: steep climbs and descents on all surfaces - rocky, muddy, mud & snow, deep river crossings and overgrown tracks.  
Max. 6 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 tyres do not matter and recovery gear not essential. No. Max 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 Tom Brachna by General Meetings at the latest.

MEETINGS LAST TUESDAY OF THE  
MONTH AT THE DANDENONG LIBRARY

CORRESPONDENCE  
P.O. BOX 778  
DANDENONG VIC 3175

## President's Report July 1986

Well, another year over, and we all know what that means. Subscriptions!! Don't forget. Radio Licence Fees! Them too. Bring your raffle tickets and money next meeting also, and if your not already broke, some ~~has~~ haven't paid in full for the last Laugh.

Nominations for the new committee were taken last meeting and additions can be made next meeting. Nominations were as follows

Pres. D. Heard. Vice Pres. P. Casey, G. Pearl, T. Brachna. Treasurer ~~M. Templeton~~ R. Ayton. Secretary M. Templeton. Ass. Sec. G. Pearl, R. Rycken, B. Tuck, T. Brachna. Soc. Sec. T. Nelson, R. Rycken, G. Carou. Committee R. Lee, M. Shaw, B. Tuck, L. Harris, P. Casey, R. Rycken, T. Nelson, T. Brachna, S. Alder, J. Smith. No longer standing for committee are B. West P. Handley and S. Williams.

The training weekend was a bit of flop, due to the preceding weather. Bloody slippery up there at Big River, so maybe we'll try again in the dry season.

This year we hope to see a good number at the snow trip (Aug. 16 & 17) so set that weekend aside, as I can assure you, a good time will be had by all.

See you at the A.G.M.

Dave Heard.

c a l e n d a r    1 9 8 6

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MAY 13	Film Night at Waverly Gardens Cinema to see Crocodile Dundee. Film starts at 7 p.m.
JUNE 7, 8 & 9	Queen's Birthday weekend. Buckland Valley. Leave Sat. Morning 8 a.m. Coldstream. Further details contact John Smith.
JUNE 15 (tentative)	Annual Football match against Nissan Club.
JULY 13	Day trip. Snow trip to Mt. Buller area, skiing. Further details contact Sue Williams.
JULY 5 & 6	Driver Training weekend. Big River area.
JULY 19	A.G.M. Dinner at the Last Laugh. \$28.50 per head, \$10 deposit. 64 Smith St. Collingwood, 4 course meal, show, dancing. <u>Not</u> B.Y.O.
AUGUST 2 to SEPTEMBER 7	Kakadu National Park. Departure: Saturday 2nd August 8 a.m. from Tom 's place. Fuel required: Heaps. Full tanks. Maps required: N.T. pastoral and Maps of Vic., N.S.W., S.A. & N.T. Grade: B & C & S Activities: Driving, camping, touring, F.W.Driving, sightseeing, fishing etc. Further details contact Tom Ph: 799 1998
AUGUST 16 & 17	Snow trip. Tamboritha area.
OCTOBER 25 & 26	Bush Dance.
NOVEMBER 23	L.R.O.C. field day. Wandin Park.
CHRISTMAS TRIP DECEMBER 26	Buchan area. Further details contact John Lake

IF YOU WISH TO LEAD A TRIP PLEASE CONTACT COMMITTEE

WE DO STILL NEED TRIP LEADERS ! and accompanymnt please.

-----

PLEASE DON'T FORGET YOUR BEST EFFORT WITH PHOTOGRAPHY FOR THE PHOTO COMPETITION.

FAIR DINKUM



# BUSH DANCE



O'TOOLE'S FLAT (DONNELLY'S)

OCT. 25-26



'BOBSY DIE' BUSH BAND

\$10- per head \$20- per family

BEEF ON SPIT + B.B.Q included.

B.Y.O. salads + drinks.

Don't forget your hat + boots!



## e a s t e r   t r i p   1 9 8 6

### TALBOTVILLE

Roll call:    Leonie & Scott  
              Sue Williams & Jill (friend)  
              John Smith (the famous Yodler)  
              Peter & Chris Handley  
              Tom, Liala, Dustin & Lee Brachna  
              Gus, Carol & Aiden Pearl  
              & Assorted dogs

We met at the Hallam Pub at 8.00 Friday morning. Being T.E.C. I got there 10 mins. late (perhaps that's why I was T.E.C.). We launched into the traffic and proceeded to our first Wee stop 30 k down the road. Everyone else seemed to wait until Traralgon, but not our little fella, he will have to learn to tie knots before August.

A run for the dogs and ride on the play gear for the kids then back into the traffic heading Stratford, Fernbank and Dargo. A fair run with the traffic and no drinks for the kid, saw us at Dargo for lunch.

Up the Dargo-Hotham Rd., left at the Sandicoote Arms and along to the Collingwood Spur. A quick word of advice to Leonie (new to 4WD) and downwwn we went. A quick check of the packing and off up stream to Talbotville and through to Brewert Creek saw us checking the Ant situation (after Tom's Xmas experiences) and setting up camp about 3 p.m. Peter and Chris arrived about 4 p.m. having left mid-morning.

After dinner a few quiet beers around the fire saw most people in bed early.

Saturday dawned bright and early (those with littlies will know). After the morning ablutions, brekky and cups of coffee, Tom arced up the stihl and the stack of firewood rose. The morning was spent either swimming or lolling about the camp area. A few recce's were taken up Brewert Track to view the scratchings of an F100. I don't think he ever got there, however, later in the weekend Pete got his Hilux to the top "no sweat".

The arvo was spent investigating an old Traction Engine and Stamping Plant up at a nearby mine. It was only a 15 min. walk up hill, but what a hill. Tom and I each had a handicap. About 30 lbs. of joy on our backs. The effort was worth it though to see such a complete relic makes you wonder at the effort and engineering of our forebearers.

A pleasant night was spent around the fire. Much chatting, eating and the odd beer, port and such. Leonie didn't seem to sleep well that night, must have been something she ate!

Sunday dawned cloudy. A little overcast for some. The Easter Bunny found all the kids. We decided a swim was in order (Tom is part fish). We cleaned up the camp, did a few chores and generally hung around.

Easter 1986 cont...

After lunch we went for a swim and wash up. As we walked back the clouds which had looked threatening all day started to roll and thunder. We just got back to camp in time to prepare for a down pour which continued through until dinner. It then cleared up enough to allow a night around the fire which saw a strange "ring around the Port" ritual which saw John "I know how much I want" Smith come unstuck and visit the scrub quietly. The rain cleared up over night.

Monday dawned a nice day (Didn't it John). We packed up and left via the Broken River Road. A quick look up the Cynthia Range Track to the Helipad, back down to the Main Road and down to the Den of Nargun - now the Glenaladale National Park. Dinner at Sale and home in the traffic.

Sue, Jill and I had a good game of pick the person on the radio. Helped to kill time in the traffic jam. Got home about 8.30 p.m.

Thanks Tom & Family. A beaut camp and time. Well led, good company and beaut country.

Gus.

(P.S. Carol lost the toss, but presented an argument I couldn't afford to win).

(PPS. Gus' gravel rash has cleared up now!)

Carol.

The boys on the Easter Trip to Talbotville were seen to be suffering eye-ball gravel rash.

Do all Blue Hilux drivers wear "Y" fronts and hand them in the trees at night?

Did J.S. think he was in Switzerland?

Who was seen drinking wine, port with a funnel via their.....?

There has been a new club formed "the Willie watch".  
Contact the Foundation Members - Sue or Jill.

M U R R I N D I N D I   D A Y   T R I P   -   February

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Trip Leaders:   Brian Tuck   and   Murray Shaw

Roll Call:   Dave Hocking and friend,  
              Peter Pink and Tom Brachna,  
              6 friends of Murray and Brian.

The meeting place was at the Glenburn Pub at 8 a.m. sharp. At about 8.05 a.m. we headed off in our convoy of 6 vehicles toward the forest.

After a short drive down the Highway, we turned right, drove about another 5 kms. and turned down an overgrown track. A few hundred yards further down we were confronted by our first obstacle, a river crossing. Although the river wasn't very deep, the opposite bank was badly eroded, with one Hi-Lux size rutt to negotiate. We all made it across without any interference from crocodiles or sharks so on we went.

Following Murray, it was obvious that he was getting great pleasure testing his hair dryer and locker.

We drove along assorted forest roads in the blinding dust until we came to quite an interesting hill. I won't tell you the names of the tracks because they should be kept secret for another day in the area and beside I don't remember them.

Each vehicle spun, bounced, slid and threw a few gibbers around as they ascended the slope but all made it up. After the climb a few more kilo's were driven to a sort of a main road and a "refreshment break" was had by all. Unfortunately we only had ice cold beer to wash the dust from our throats but we made do.

We drove along a few more roads and sort of came close to our starting point, I think. You lot should know how I excell in navigational skills by now. Anyway we kept following Murray's car (lucky he was there or we might still be surveying the area), up a few more hills and along some extremely dusty roads, when we noticed an object lying in the centre of the road. As the dust cleared and we got closer we discovered that Murray had bowled over a Wallaby. On closer observation the animal was still alive but it's hind legs were badly mangled, so, not one to let animals suffer, I reached for the trusty axe to put it out of it's misery. However the next car pulled up behind us and said he had a .22 riffle. We let him do the job and that was that.

PTO

## Murrindindi Day Trip cont...

Mobile again we soon made it to our lunch stop by a creek where we had a leisurely feed, dangled our toes in the creek and washed down a bit more dust with that horrible ice cold beer. After another few tracks, hills, roads and dust pits we arrived back at the first river crossing. Somehow, Murray and Brian took us right through the area without getting lost which is beyond my capabilities at the moment but I'm still studying.

At the river we had a rest and washed some more dust down with that horrible stuff and cooled down in the river. After this, on the way home, we went our separate ways. Some went fishing, some investigated a track in the Toolangi State Forest and others went home. On finding "The track", Dave Hocking decided to give it a try and after much wheel lifting, spinning and bouncing the "Crab" made it up and down again - thank goodness.

We all said our goodbyes after a good day out and made our way home.

The weather was hot, the company was great and leaders had accomplished their program faultlessly which all added up to the perfect day.

Thanks to Murray and Brian and may we have more such days of fun.

Tom.

# ON: PHOTO COMPETITION: PHOTO COMPETITION: PHOTOCOMPETITION

THIS IS A COMPETITION WHICH WILL BENEFIT YOU AS A CLUB MEMBER AND THE CLUB.

FIRSTLY, WHAT WE WANT TO DO IS ULTIMATELY PUT TOGETHER AN ALBUM WITH YOUR PHOTO'S TO HAVE, TO DISPLAY AT MEETINGS, SHOWS ETC.

WHAT WE WANT YOU TO DO IS ENTER OUR PHOTO COMPETITION. ALL PHOTO'S WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE ALBUM, THE COMMITTEE WILL MAKE THE FINAL DECISION. WE ASK YOU, IF YOU CAN DONATE YOUR PHOTO FOR THIS PURPOSE OR IF NOT, WE WILL ENDEVOUR TO REPRODUCE YOUR PRINT.

## DETAILS

- BRING YOUR PHOTO'S ALONG TO THE CLUB MEETING

- THERE WILL BE FOUR CATEGORIES:

1. ACTION
2. CANDID CLUB
3. LANDSCAPE
4. MISCELLANEOUS

WHAT YOU GET OUT OF IT:

1. GREAT PRIZES (YET TO BE DECIDED)
2. TO HAVE YOUR TERRIFIC CLUB PHOTO'S DISPLAYED AT THE MEETING AND THE CHANCE TO BE IN THE ALBUM
3. THE CHANCE TO VOTE IN THE FINAL JUDGING.

ENTRIES CLOSE AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

(PLEASE TRY AND GET YOUR ENTRIES IN BEFORE THAT, WE WOULD LIKE AN ONGOING DISPLAY EACH MONTH UNTIL THE FINAL IN OCTOBER.)

# PUTTING THE WHEELS ON THE WAGON

## THE STATE CONSERVATION STRATEGY

--- YOUR ORGANIZATION'S ROLE IN MAKING IT HAPPEN

Sunday, July 27th. 9am to 5pm



*A workshop for friends of native flora and fauna, bird watchers. Lovers of trees and parks and people who care for the bush.*

- \* What is the State Conservation Strategy?
- \* How will it affect my organization and can we benefit from it?
- \* How can community groups co-operate and be more effective in convincing the public about conservation?
- \* What would be my organization's role in making it happen?

PLACE: Shenton , Govt. reception centre, 41 Kinkora Rd. Hawthorn. COST: \$5.00

Applications close Friday, 8th. July.

For more details contact:

---

Victorian Association for Environmental Education.

285 Little Lonsdale St. Melb. 663 4985 663 1561)

Please reserve me..... places in your workshop.

Please send me application forms ☐

### What areas should my submission cover?

People wishing to make submissions to the Plan should not feel confined to any particular areas, but rather should include whatever issues or aspects are seen as important.

To provide a guide however, the Community Recreation Council has identified the following broad areas of interest:

- \* Legislation
- \* Training and Instruction
- \* Safety
- \* Facilities
- \* Regulation
- \* Promotion
- \* Planning
- \* Research

It will help the Community Recreation Council if you can identify the stages or years in which your suggestions should be initiated or acted upon.

Any queries on the Outdoor Recreation Plan should be directed to the Chief Executive Officer, Community Recreation Council, P.O.Box 4907, G.P.O. MELBOURNE 3001, phone (03) 606 3230.

Submissions will be received up until 30 June 1986

### Further Contact

Members of the Community Recreation Council are available to discuss your submission further if you wish.

#### C.R.C. Members to contact:

##### Dick Coppin

North-Western Victoria,  
Western Victoria.  
ph: (050) 22 2777 (w)  
(050) 23 6578 (h)

##### Peg Klutke

Barwon region, South-  
Western Victoria.  
ph: (03) 240 1965(h)

##### Frank Cox

North-Western suburbs,  
Central Victoria.  
ph: (03) 354 2242(h)

##### Anna-Maria Dierer

Inner suburbs,  
ph: (03) 481 8461(w)  
(03) 859 1400(h)

##### Noel Spurr

Eastern suburbs  
ph: (03) 221 9126(h)

##### Rob Ewart

Westernport, Gippsland,  
Mornington Peninsula.  
ph: (059) 961 000(w)

##### Don Blackwood

North-Eastern suburbs,  
Upper Yarra region.  
ph: (03) 497 2248(h)

##### Neville Byrne

Alpine area, North-  
Eastern Victoria.  
ph: (03) 651 4441(w)  
(03) 489 5265(h)

Please feel free to contact any of the above C.R.C. members if you wish further advice regarding your submission.



#### OUTDOOR



#### RECREATION

#### PLAN

#### FOR

#### VICTORIA



An opportunity for you to have  
your say about the future of  
outdoor recreation in Victoria



Community Recreation Council  
An advisory group to the Minister  
for Sport & Recreation

What is the Community Recreation Council?

The Community Recreation Council advises the Minister for Sport and Recreation on matters relating to recreation in the community. One of its responsibilities is to prepare a Recreation Plan for Victoria. Outdoor recreation is an important part of such a plan.

Your involvement is being sought in the development of the Outdoor Recreation Plan. You should consider sending a written or taped submission outlining your concerns about the future of outdoor recreation in Victoria.

The Plan will assist in setting government priorities for legislation, planning, funding and promotion of outdoor recreation. It will also help guide the management of land and water for outdoor recreation activities.

What will the Outdoor Recreation Plan be?

The Outdoor Recreation Plan is envisaged to be a series of projects and initiatives (for government departments, recreation and conservation groups) over the next three or four years.

The Plan will reflect the concerns of individuals and organisations involved in outdoor recreation.

Who should make a submission?

Submissions will be welcome from any individual or group with an interest in outdoor recreation.

For the purpose of the Plan, outdoor recreation is defined as those activities and programmes that occur in natural or near-natural environments. Rather than relying on built-up developments or being team oriented/competitive, in the main outdoor recreation activities and programmes involve inter-relationships between individuals or between the individual and the environment.

What will become of my submission?

All submissions will be collated into a unified document that reflects the concerns and issues of people interested in outdoor recreation.

The submissions and suggestions will be examined in the light of current government legislation and priorities dealing with outdoor recreation.

Recommendations will be made to the Minister for Sport and Recreation and through him to other departments with an involvement in outdoor recreation.

Please complete the form below and attach it to your submission

The details provided will assist the Community Recreation Council in demonstrating the importance of outdoor recreation in Victoria and in the preparation of its report to the Minister.

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

Indicate (in order) your most favorite outdoor recreation activities or programmes, the year you first became involved, and an estimate of the number of days you participated in each activity in the last 12 months:

Favorite Activities	Year Began	Days Last Year
---------------------	------------	----------------

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

5.....

Describe the major source of your information about your favorite activities or programmes (eg. club, magazine, friends, other):

.....

.....

# Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs



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

Dear Club Secretary,

Attached please find a copy of a brochure titled 'Outdoor Recreation Plan for Victoria', from the Community Recreation Council - an advisory group to the Minister for Sport and Recreation.

The brochure is self explanatory, and is seeking submissions from interested groups concerning the type of recreation they desire in Victoria.

An outline of types of things which should be contained in a submission are listed on the brochure, but it is not necessary for all of these points to be covered in depth by club submissions if so desired.

This is another excellent opportunity to alert government to the needs of four wheel drivers, and I would ask that clubs consider making a submission in any form - i.e. a letter, a several page document, or even a substantial report to this committee.

We need all the support we can muster in promoting our recreation to the government, and this is an excellent opportunity for clubs to participate directly in this aim.

Thanking you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Brian Tanner'.

Brian Tanner  
PRESIDENT

Att.

# Trackwatch in brief

June 1986.

No. 86/6

## INFORMATION FROM THE VICTORIA ASSOCIATION OF FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUBS THOMSON CATCHMENT DECISION IS A VICTORY FOR COMMON SENSE - ALMOST

The Minister for Conservation Forests and Lands, Mrs. Joan Kirner, has announced her decision on the future of the Thomson Catchment Area.

The 4WD through tracks will be opened from 1st December each year until 30th April in the next year. There is also a proviso for the Land Manager to open the gates one month early and/or keep them open one month later, depending upon the amount of rainfall. The new access compares favourably with the previous situation whereby only the 2WD tracks were open for general use from 1st December until Easter. Entry into the 4WD area was by special permit. The fact that a few clubs applied for this permission and gave a good account of themselves is probably a contributing factor to the relaxation of the old system. Another big factor in the access conditions is probably the great number of submissions made by 4WDers to the Thomson Catchment Committee. It is certainly a victory for common sense and a feather in the 4WD club movement's caps. The new plan leaves only two items to which we could take exception. The Red Jacket Spur Track has been closed for no apparent reason, certainly a close inspection carried out by the Pajero Club on the Thomson Clean Up showed no reason for closure. Recent talks with both M. & M.B.W. and C.F. & L. representatives threw no light on the reason for closure. They were as mystified as we were.

The question of camping at Jericho and eventually at Red Jacket, on the Football Oval, will be addressed shortly with the Minister. The 4WD movement is incensed at the insinuation that it is dirty, whilst the walkers are clean.

Looking ahead to the time when camping is allowed at Jericho and Red Jacket, we must ensure that no one, but NO ONE, is allowed to mess up the camping areas or deliberately damage the area in any way that can be blamed upon the 4WD clubs. It would be great if all metropolitan clubs and country clubs close to the area would start now to plan, say, one trip each season in the catchment. The Land Managers would see it being used, Track Use Reports would prove it's use and vandals might be scared off. Certainly, if clubs encountered any damage taking place, the offenders' licence number plate could be reported to the Neerim South office of the C.F. & L. Perhaps the Gippsland, Latrobe Valley, Thomson Valley and any other local clubs could see to the forming of a 4WD Management Committee to look after the 4WD interests in the area.

### 1986 CLEAN-UP WEEKEND.

The March meeting of delegates was asked if it would discuss with their club the requirement for this year, i.e. does your club favour a big 'all together' clean-up or would it prefer to be given a task and a date to do it, so that it combines it's efforts.

No clubs have indicated their wishes. Obviously, if a mass operation is required, we need to address the task NOW. Date, venue and type of task need to be decided. Talking to Frank Noble last month, I found that he would like assistance with two tasks; replacing sign posts that have been vandalised or smashed up, is one upon which he places a high priority; the other is that he could do with a lot of assistance in the Wonnongatta Valley, tasks unspecified. Obviously the clubs located in the West cannot be expected to come so far to the East. Frank Noble believes that a Statewide clean-up (with a big working party for him) could be beneficial to our movement.

## TALKS WITH FRANK NOBLE

Whilst Frank could not talk on behalf of the whole of the C.F. & L., he did give us (the party which went up to Arbuckle Junction) the benefit of some very frank (no pun) talks. First, whilst some Area Managers are pro 4WD clubs (not hoons), many are not. This is mostly due to the hoons, but not only them. Some of us in the past have acted irresponsibly in the bush, especially in relation to our lack of respect for other users. To drive through a bush walkers camp, even if it is badly situated, is not on. Whilst any of our members persist in this type of behaviour, we are not going to improve our image with the anti-4WD Area Managers. Second, the only reason that anti-4WD Managers allow us to use the tracks is because of the L.C.C. recognising us as a legitimate recreation. Our summation of Frank is that he is a very caring person. He has a vast 4WD problem in his area, but is trying desperately to get a solution that is reasonable to all 4WDers, not just the club movement. He is aware of the steps taken in Queensland and is now attempting to find what conditions prevail in other parts of the World. When he has all the information, he will address the problem in an impartial manner. Another thing about Frank is that he does not like back-stabbers. He likes you to speak your mind. He speaks his.

## THIS TIME

Many have had reservations regarding VAFWA in the past, due to a lack of communication. This is an honest attempt to fill any gap, perceived or actual. However, as well intentioned as the staff of this news-letter is, two things should be borne in mind. First, if anything in this issue, or any future issue offends, please say something. It is the intention that all views should get an airing. Do not bottle it up. Secondly, many of you reading this may have something to write that you would wish to be included. Please send your article, letter or announcement, direct to P.O. Box 401C, Melbourne, 3001. Please don't make your article too lengthy, as it will have to be typed.

## 1985 THOMSON CLEAN-UP

I heard that someone suggested that doing a clean-up and then nothing else is a waste of time. I concur with this view, so let me tell you what went on after we left Muttontown.

Within about ten days, C.F. & L. at Neerim South started spraying the blackberry in the township of Jericho. Today the township is looking very brown indeed, as the main growth of blackberry is now dead. The town will have to be sprayed again next spring/summer to kill the secondary growth. I understand that if 1987/88 the dead blackberry will be cleared, most probably by burning. After that, we will be given the opportunity to volunteer some labour to get the place clean, put down grass seed and plant native trees/shrubs to make a 20 metre barrier around the river. After all that, the area should be quite presentable and nice to camp at. We will not have wasted our time, if these things occur.

## BI-CENTENNIAL BEACONS

The plan to get Australia 'lit-up' has been approved by the Australian Bi-Centennial Authority. Professor Veliz says that a meeting will soon be held to get the plan going. One aspect to be resolved is the concept of starting the fires clockwise, starting in Botany Bay and finishing there. The people of Queensland and Northern Territory have pointed out that they wouldn't start lighting their fires until 3 to 6 o'clock in the morning. So it's back to the drawing board, to devise a system where all the beacons can be lit within four hours.

Another little problem for the 4WD movement, is Tasmania. What is going to happen in Tassie? Will they re-form their Association, or form a Committee to look after the beacons? Will we be expected to organise them? I certainly hope not. Victoria will be enough of an administrative headache without taking on another State.

## THE THOMSON DAM WALL ROAD

Many of you will know that when the M. & M.B.W. built the Thomson Dam, they built a sealed road across the top. Once over to the eastern side,

it becomes a gravel road and continues on its way to join the main Walhallah-Woods Point Road. It is currently used by loggers, local residents and Government officials. The only class of people who are not allowed to use it is you and I, citizens and taxpayers. At first, when this was directed to my attention, the reason given for it's closure to us was that it was felt that 'the public' would tip rubbish into the reservoir. As I resent the implication that I go around the country dispensing rubbish, I thought it would warrant looking into. Well, the official reason doesn't mention rubbish droppers. It is afraid of huge poison laden trucks, driven by kamikaze drivers, hurling themselves into the deep end of the reservoir.

For 4WDers from the South, it is great to use the road, if you wish to tour in the Aberfeldy or Woods Point areas. It knocks an hour off the old route through Walhalla, with consequent savings in fuel and vehicle wear and tear. Investigations reveal that M. & M.B.W. and R.C.A. have started talks, but it will be another two years before a resolution is reached. A very senior M. & M.B.W. official advised me that the R.C.A. is keen to adopt the road if it can relinquish responsibility for the road south of the aforementioned junction, to Walhalla. Apparently the bridge over the Aberfeldy River is in need of repairs to the tune of many hundreds of thousands of dollars. M. & M.B.W. reckons it would be less costly to have the R.C.A. bring the dam road up to their standards for such a crossing. Contacted subsequently, the R.C.A. story is that the main stumbling block to a satisfactory conclusion is that the M. & M.B.W. do not see themselves as providers of roads to the general public, so they can therefore afford to sit back and dictate terms. R.C.A. advise that the M. & M.B.W. are demanding an incredibly strong barrier on both sides of the road, and a caretaker stationed permanently at the dam wall. R.C.A. spokesperson (not without justification) is amazed at the requirements, as the road is and never has been, nor is it envisaged in the future that it will be, used for heavy trucks as a through route. They wonder what the caretaker is supposed to do if a suicidal poison truck heads for the dam.

Personally, I think that there is something very strange about the M. & M.B.W. attitude. The water at the dam wall is going downstream, unless they have found a way of making it flow upstream. The water would have to flow upstream to get to Bells Portal, the place where Melbourne's water is drawn from. In any case, if a poisoner was going to poison Melbourne's water supply, why travel to the Thomson? Why not go out to Cardinia, where you have almost no chance of capture, having done the foul deed. Wake up M. & M.B.W.! The public deserves to see you working for them - not them for you. Don't forget that making the R.C.A. spend money belonging to the taxpayer for no good reason is anti-social. The poor old motorist gets it in the neck. To be fair though, credit where credit is due - a big pat on the back to the M. & M.B.W. for their campaign to save water. The 'Don't be a 'Wally' with Water' campaign must be applauded by the 4WD club movement, as it has worked and that means less land taken for reservoirs.

## THE ENVIRONMENT

Sunday the 27th July gets nearer. This is the day that the Victoria Association of Environmental Education holds a seminar for groups concerned with environmental issues. It gives us the opportunity to meet with mainstream environmental groups and air our views. We should be telling them what nice people we are and how we care for the environment. After all, if all we wanted to do was drive our vehicles up difficult obstacles, we wouldn't need to go bush to do it. I drive my vehicle to go bush. I don't go bush to drive my vehicle. Please ensure that some of your members support us on 27th July.

## NEW CLUB NEWS

This month, May, may see three new clubs affiliated with Association - Peninsula, Thomson Valley and Phoenix. Bairnsdale, Nepean and South West could be in very soon. Please help make the country clubs feel welcome. Volunteer to act as a liason. Ring their contact after the meeting so that they know what went on, what needs to be discussed. Ring them after their meeting to find out what they think about controversial topics, get them to send a proxy vote to the Secretary.

## BI-CENTENNARY YEAR

Our National Council did call for ideas to celebrate 1988. A round Australia tour with V.I.P. 4WDers from overseas seems a must to me but also, what about a nationwide CLEAN-UP, each State Association organising the biggest clean-up ever. A record number of car bodies recovered on one day for the Guinness Book of Records. (Perhaps in the year 2000 we could have a World wide clean-up). Anyway, please think about 1988 and let VAFWDC know what your thoughts are.

## TREE FARMING

A member of the Phoenix 4WD Club, also a Member of Parliament (M.H.R. Chisholm), Helen Mayer has been carrying out a study into the feasibility of tree farming, i.e. growing trees for the express purpose of using the timber. This, she and her team believe, would take a lot of pressure (in time) off the natural areas. I have added her letter to this edition, so you can read it and, if you have something to contribute, let her have the benefit of your advice. Helen and her Husband have been 4WDers for many years. They currently run a Series 3 Land Rover.

## CLUB MAGAZINES

A couple of the larger clubs have been sending Frank Noble a copy of their magazine each month. He reads them because the trip reports give him an indication of the state of tracks in his locality. Without having the expense of sending a team to check track conditions, he can find out how they are. He would be pleased to receive any club's magazines, but especially those that mainly travel in his area. He is sending me a list of other Area Managers who would be interested in receiving club magazines. He specifically asked me to state that his perusal of the magazines is not to check up on what we are doing, simply to glean information about the tracks.

This is a direct admission that our movement can assist the authorities.

SUGGESTION : Country clubs: If you have an anti-4WD Area Manager, make a special point of delivering him a copy of your magazine.

DO NOT EVER CONVERTED SOMEONE TO THEIR POINT  
OF VIEW AT A DISTANCE BY KEEPING AWAY FROM  
THEM. DO NOT IGNORE THE OPPOSITION. TALK TO  
THEM. CONVERT THEM.

## TRACKS

Please ensure you keep a good flow of information coming for Deadly Dave Horne's Track Committee. It was noticeable that Frank Noble had a good look at the format of Deadly's computer output. Shows that Deadly is on the right track?



HELEN MAYER, M.P.  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CHISHOLM

11 April 1986

Members of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs may be interested in project being pursued by a group of Federal MP's.

This year, a small, informal group of Federal MP's has decided to put together a proposal for Government aimed at establishing tree growing as another option for farmers.

Because we believe that there will be increasing, not decreasing need for timber and paper products which will cause increasing pressure on native forests and because Australia is a nett importer of timber, my colleagues and I believe that Government can and should do something to help establish tree growing as a profitable enterprise.

We are consulting with Forestry scientists and economists, foresters, agricultural economists, saw-millers, paper producers, taxation experts and investors in forests to try to understand all aspects of this industry. We are investigating such things as capital and recurring costs, training programs, taxation and/or bounty assistance, tree varieties and usage and so forth. What we hope to do is make it possible for farmers, and others who are interested, to take the long-term option of helping Australia become self-sufficient in timber while at the same time conserving our native forests. Most of our farmers operate on an annual crop or return basis and would need help to diversify into a crop which does not provide a return for many years.

The group consists of myself, Tony Lamb, Member for Streeton, Neil O'Keefe, Member for Burke, Peter Cleeland, Member for McEwan and Elaine Darling, Member for Lilley in Queensland. We would appreciate any information or advice, particularly from members of the public who have an interest in forests, which may help us to achieve our aim. We can be contacted through my office at 12 Ellingworth Parade, Box Hill, 3128. Telephone 898-0675.

Helen Mayer  
MEMBER FOR CHISHOLM



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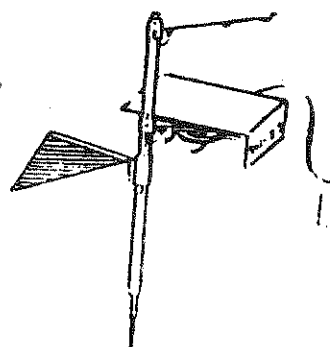
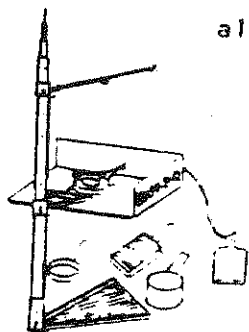
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