



Reg No A0002184F

Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

"Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together"

JULY 2005

Victoria Four Wheel Drive Club and Bacchus Marsh 4WD Club make a day of it on BMC's side of town

The day had been planned by John Partridge and Steven McAvoy of the Bacchus Marsh 4WD Club (BMC) to join forces for occasional trips on each other's side of town. As they know the Wombat State Forest very well – and we do not – it was decided to take us through the area; this would be a great way to start the relationship between the two clubs.

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The BMC kindly provided a sausage sizzle for lunch which went down very well. It gave everyone an opportunity to mingle and find out a little more about both Clubs. The picnic area was a great spot to keep in mind for future trips in the area...



The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc is an affiliated club of the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC) www.vafwdc.org.au, and a member of Tread Lightly! Australia www.treadlightlyaustralia.com.au

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Secretary	Lesley Peters	9540 0007

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

	Ian Warburton	9754 2341
Projects Coordinator	Stephen Boyle	9754 4412
Librarian	Barry Leitch	5996 6662
Event Coordinator	Ashley Martin	9540 0007
New Member Contact	George Pledger	9547 4021
Trip Coordinator	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
Assistant Secretary	Paul Ryan	9807 5193
Web Manager	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784 074

Association Delegate	Roger Baird	9704 9045
Club Historian	Phil Alder	9754 8487
Training Officers	Mark Kochan	9763 2052
	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	John Partridge	0428 331 211
Newsletter Editors	Steve Utting	0408 576 171
	Annie Simpson	

Forward Articles to :- anniesinternet1@iprimus.com.au

CLUB DETAILS

<i>Registered Name:</i>	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
<i>Registration No:</i>	A0002184F
All correspondence:	The Secretary
	VFWDC Inc
	P.O. Box 778
	Dandenong Vic 3175
Web Site:	www.vfwdc.com
Meetings:	Held first Tuesday of each month excluding January (no meeting). November meeting is held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month due to Melbourne Cup public holiday.
Meetings Location:	Dandenong Library
	Stuart Street, Dandenong 3175

The opinions given herein are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Committee of Management, or the Member body of the VFWDC Inc.

Presidents Report July 2005

Welcome all to this months edition of Free Wheeling. Our new Editors, Steve and Annie are really getting into the swing of things and have given the newsletter a fresh new look. Let us know what you think. 'Positive and constructive' comments are always welcome.

Four Wheel Drive Victoria are offering First Aid Courses to club members at reduced rates. For \$150.00 you can get a Level 2 Certificate in First Aid with some remote modules included. This is a very good deal. The Committee of the VFWDC would like to see as many trip leaders in our club with First Aid knowledge. We are now offering a \$50.00 re-imbursement to members who undertake this course and that run two club trips in the following year. We urge every one to have a think about this as good first aid training has many benefits beyond being able to help out your fellow club members.

The Annual General Meeting is coming up very soon and it's time to think about helping out with the running of the club. Being on the committee can be a very rewarding experience and it's an experience that I have enjoyed for the past five years. There will be a number of vacancies this year, including President, Secretary and Treasurer. Whilst it would be ideal not to have so many positions vacant at the same time, many of us have been on here for many years and are in need of a break. It's always great to see new faces on the committee bringing up new and fresh ideas.

Thankyou to all of those that went on the joint trip with the Bacchus Marsh FWD Club. From all reports it was a great trip and every one had a great time. I have been able to go on a couple of trips with other clubs, mainly through FWDVic regional meetings, and all of these trips have been very enjoyable. It's interesting talking to other club members and discussing the issues facing their clubs. We hope to run a trip into the Tallarook area with the Bacchus Marsh FWD Club when the weather starts to fine up. We'll keep you posted on dates nearer to the time.

At the last meeting I discussed the trips and the lack of feedback from the membership on what they really want and where they want to go. We are yet to receive any comments. It can be hard sometimes trying to give a variety of trips when we hear from the membership what you want. It's important to keep the dialogue open between the committee and the general membership on all issues. If any one has comments on how things are going drop me a line and we'll have a chat about it.

That's all for now,

John Partridge.

gujohnno@yahoo.com.au

VFWDC MERCHANDISE

For Sale

New Club Polo Shirts	\$25.00 ea
Polar Fleece 1/2 Zip Jumper	\$36.00 ea
Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$48.00 ea
Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$42.00 ea
New Club Caps	\$15.00 ea
30 th Anniversary Travel Mugs	\$15.00 ea
Flags	\$15.00 ea
VFWDC Stickers (long)	\$ 6.00 ea
Stubbie Holders	\$ 6.00 ea



The Corner

SNICKERDOODLE SLICE

- 250g's each of caster sugar and plain flour,
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 eggs
- 250 ml milk
- 125g unsalted butter
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 3 teaspoons ground cinnamon , extra

Preheat oven to 180. Lightly grease baking tin and line with baking paper, hanging over the long sides

Sift together the flour, caster sugar, cinnamon, and baking powder, and make a well in the centre. In a small bowl, whisk the eggs and the milk together. Pour into the flour mixture and mix with a metal spoon to roughly combine. Spoon half the mixture in and level the surface.

Combine the sugar and extra cinnamon and sprinkle two thirds over the mixture in the tin. gently spread the remaining mixture into the tin and sprinkle the remaining cinnamon over the surface.

Bake for 20- 25 mins, or until firm....Cool in the tin for 20 minutes, then lift onto a wire rack to cool...

Makes about 20 pieces.

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MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

07 June 2005

The June General Meeting was held at Dandenong Library and opened at 8.05pm by the President, John Partridge.

36 members present.

APOLOGIES: Leigh and Anne Pettigrew, Paula Johnston, Judy Murray, Graeme Ralph, Terry Johninke, Steve and Tania Utting, Murray Ogden, Maxine Ryan, David Hughes, Aline Van Buiten, Steve and Jill Boyle, Ian Warburton, Joe and Carissa Galovic, Derek and Janet Hymas.

VISITORS: Welcome to Lindsay Bartley, Marijke Blair and Craig Major.

A special welcome was conveyed by John to Bluey Male, one of our longest serving members. It was great to see him looking fit and well, and we look forward to seeing Bluey and Joyce at the AGM Dinner.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of May meeting as per Newsletter.

Accepted: Dawn Brown. Seconded: George Pledger.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: Nil.

SUPPER: Thanks Alex, Gary, and Verrille.

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

- ⇒ Association correspondence:
 - ◇ Public Liability Insurance Renewal.
 - ◇ Minutes of General Meeting held 16 April at Kangaroo Flat.
 - ◇ Agenda for June General Meeting.
- ⇒ Email exchange between DSE Rep Noel Lees and JP re ongoing 4WD Works Program.
- ⇒ Letter and flyer from Telstat Communications. Telstat is holding a Trade Day at their Seaford premises on Sunday 10 July. Cost will be \$10 per head to cover costs of food, chairs etc. Anyone interested will need to ring and book a spot. Details available.
- ⇒ Letter and promo material from Australia 4X4 Gear. Wide range of 4x4 products available including new products such as Heater Hose Kit, Universal Heater and Radio Repair Packs, and an "awesome" new Hand Cleaner.
- ⇒ Promotional flyer from Austral Hotel/B&B offering their "Flinders Ranges Four Wheel Drive Experience".
- ⇒ Flyer on the 2005 Glendambo Outback 4X4 Endurance and Field Day to be held on the June long weekend.
- ⇒ Receipts from WPT for printer supplies.
- ⇒ Customer Satisfaction Survey from City of Greater Dandenong in relation to their halls and meeting rooms.
- ⇒ Notification from the organisers of the 4x4 Show regarding the upcoming show and advising of exhibitors requirements.

⇒ Various club newsletters.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

- ⇒ Merchandise order and payment for previous order.
- ⇒ Newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Roger provided an overview of his report for May, including:

Petty Cash:	\$ 200.00
Cheque Account:	\$1866.49
Term Deposit:	\$7,335.80

Accepted: Anthony Van Buiten. Seconded: Michael Rodger.

TRIP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT:

John preceded this report by noting that there had apparently been some talk that he and Carl were only interested in running hard trips! He went on to say that:

1. Both he and Carl have run a variety of trips over the past few years.
2. He has on numerous occasions asked for suggestions regarding trips, but is yet to receive any. Not to mention the amount of times this has been mentioned in the newsletter. Therefore, if no-one is interested enough to make any suggestions, it is only fair that he (and those interested) will run the type of trips in which they wish to be involved.
3. There have been four trips cancelled this year due to lack of interest, all of which were of easy to medium standard.

Trip Reports:

- ⇒ Anthony gave a further run-down on the weekend trip to Jamieson which was reported in the June edition of *Free Wheeling*. Steve Pitcher was congratulated on his efforts as a first-time trip leader and conveyed the fact that being a trip leader is not a difficult experience – just need to do some research on the area you intend to visit. Photos of this trip were submitted by Peter Davies and can be viewed on the Yahoo site.
- ⇒ Ashley provided a brief overview of the day trip to the Wombat State Forest held in conjunction with the Bacchus Marsh 4WD Club. Steven McAvoy, member of the BMC, led the trip which was definitely a successful day's outing with a combined attendance of 15 vehicles. (Full trip report in this edition of *Free Wheeling*.) Ashley also mentioned that the VFWD would be organising a reciprocal trip before the end of the year.

Forthcoming Trips/Events: Michael Rodger reported on the following upcoming trips:

8-10 July	Paul Ryan	Daylesford Weekend Social/Driving Trip
24 July	Ashley Martin	Noojee Day Trip
5-7 August	Carl Surtees	Snow Trip. More information forthcoming
27 August	Ashley Martin	AGM Dinner at Mulgrave Country Club
16-18 September	David & Rosalie Hughes	Annual Mystery Pub-to-Pub
?? September	Ashley Martin	Pizza and Bowling Night
23 October	David & Rosalie Hughes	Annual Car Rally

Full details of Club trips in Forthcoming Trips section.

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

Ashley raised the matter of the AGM Dinner which is to be held on Saturday, 27 August at the Mulgrave Country Club. Details as per flyer attached to the June newsletter. Numbers – and \$10pp deposit – required at this meeting and **definitely** at or before the July meeting for those members who wish to attend and were not at the June meeting. We are hoping for a good attendance this year.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

Bunyip Recreation Framework: JP reported that he had completed his contribution for 4WDVic's response to the Draft Framework which will he will submit on behalf of the VFWDC. Any other members who wish to present a submission is more than welcome. The more views and opinions on this issue, the better. Submissions required by 17 June 2005.

ASSOCIATION REPORT:

Four Wheel Drive Victoria is in the process of organising discount cards for all Association club members with organisations such as Supercheap Auto, and BP fuel cards.

They will also be offering training for Level 2 First Aid Training Certificate at a reduced cost of \$150. Our Club has decided that it will reimburse a third of the cost, ie \$50 to any member who undertakes the course and then runs 2 Club trips in that year. Course details will be available on the FWDVic's web site.

The Association is progressing with the updating of their web site which will offer hosting to clubs at \$50 per annum.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Safety Issues: JP discussed the concerns relating to the unfortunate accidents recently sustained by two Club members. In particular he noted the following:

- ⇒ The absolute need to wear seat belts at all times. (Note that this does not relate to either of the above incidents.)
- ⇒ The need to pay attention to the road at all times. He observed that most accidents happen on either major or secondary roads, not on 4WD tracks.
- ⇒ The importance of having a cargo barrier installed.
- ⇒ The importance of not having heavy items loose in the cabin of the vehicle. These items should be well secured, preferably behind the cargo barrier.
- ⇒ Personal Information Forms to be kept in the vehicle at all times, and trip leaders should be provided with a copy for all drivers and passengers (this copy will be returned to the trip participant at the end of the trip).

VFWDC Elections: JP announced that the Club elections are imminent and currently the following Committee positions will be available next year:

- President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Events Co-ordinator

We have only two members of the current Committee of Management standing for office next year. It's now time for other members to stand up and help out with the running of the Club.

Nomination forms will be distributed with the Application for Renewal of Membership forms to be sent out in next week or so. It is important to note that nominations will be required two weeks prior to the AGM.

ParksVic: JP drew attention to a flyer received (via Leanne) from Parks Victoria regarding the launch of "Federation" and "Mitchell" Alpine Huts to be held at Mt Hotham on Saturday 11 June.

RAFFLE: No raffle this month.

MEETING CLOSED at 9.45pm.

NEXT MEETING: Will be held at Dandenong Library on Tuesday, 5 July 2005.

CLUB NOTES:

MOST RECENT MEMBERS: The following members have joined us in the last six months:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jason and Amy Vetesi | Nissan GQ Patrol (White/Silver) |
| Andrew and Linda Remenyi | Nissan GU Patrol (White) |
| Colin and Katie Armour | 80 Series LandCruiser (White) |
| Tim and Donna Axtell | 60 Series Toyota (Brown) |
| Chris Jennings | Toyota Hilux (Green) |



Four Wheel Drive Victoria 'e' News
at www.fwdvictoria.org.au

Forthcoming Trips

Daylesford Social Drive

Date:	Friday 8 to Sunday 10 July
Trip Leader:	Paul Ryan
Contact No:	TEL: 9807 5193 MOB: 0438 121148
Destination:	Daylesford/Wombat State Forest
Meeting Time/Place:	Shell Westgate Freeway Friday 8th at 7PM
Vehicle Limit:	<i>Min:</i> none set, <i>Max:</i> none set
Grade:	<i>Wet:</i> Medium <i>Dry:</i> Easy/Medium
Approximate Kms:	none quoted
Last Available Fuel:	Daylesford
Equipment:	Basic recovery (snatch & bow shackles)
Maps:	Wombat State Forest 4WD
Radio Channel:	Channel 12

Trip Activities: We are planning a joint boys / girls weekend in the Daylesford / Wombat State Forest area over the weekend of 8th – 10th July. We plan to travel up on the Friday night and stay at Lulworth Holiday Cottages in Hepburn Springs.

There are still some cottages available for anyone else wanting to stay there. They range from 2 – 6 berth and work out to approx \$50 pp per night.

Contact Details are:

Sheryl
Lulworth Holiday Cottages
03 5476 4428
<http://www.lulworthcottages.com.au/>

On Saturday there will be a drive round the Wombat State Forest for anyone that wants to go or alternatively if you want to take in some of the local amenities e.g. massage, spa, wineries then there will also be a few people doing that. Saturday night will probably be spent enjoying some of the local food and wine so Sunday might involve a bit of a lie in. The idea of the weekend is to have a bit of fun and relax.

Anyone wanting to just come up for the drive on Saturday is more than welcome however if we get more than 12 vehicles we may have to split into two groups.

CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

JULY

Tuesday 5th	Club Meeting
Friday 8-10	Daylesford Social Drive Trip
Sunday 24	Nojee Day Trip
Tuesday 26th	Committee Meeting

AUGUST

Tuesday 2nd	Club Meeting
Friday 5th-7th	Snow Trip
Saturday 27th	AGM Dinner at Mulgrave Country Club
Tuesday 30th	Committee Meeting

SEPTEMBER

Friday 16th-18th	Annual Mystery Pub to Pub
TBA	Pizza and Ten Pin Bowling Night

OCTOBER

Sunday 23rd	Annual car Rally
-------------	------------------

Fun With Rearranging Words

Dormitory	Dirty Room
Presbyterian	Best in Prayer
Astronomer	Moon Starer
Desperation	A Rope Ends It
They Eyes	They See
The Morse Code	Here Come Dots
Slot Machines	Cash Lost In Me
Animosity	Is No Amity
Election Results	Lies Lets Recount
Mother In Law	Woman Hitler
A Decimal Point	Im A Dot In Place
Eleven Plus two	Twelve Plus one

Contributed by George Pledger



Four Wheel Drive Radio Show

"Talking Four Wheel Drive"

Saturdays at 10.00m

Forthcoming Trips

Noojee and Surrounding Area

Date: Sunday 24th July

Trip Leader: Ashley Martin

Contact No: MOB: 0438 600 904

Destination: Noojee

Meeting Time/Place: Lilydale McDonalds 8:30AM

Vehicle Limit: *Min: 3, Max: T10*

Grade: *WET: Medium, Dry: Easy-Medium*

Approximate Kms: 50

Last Available Fuel: Lilydale

Equipment: Basic Recovery Equipment

Maps: N/A

Radio Channel: Channel 12

Trip Activities: This will be a casual day to explore the area and look at some of the sights. This is not intended to be a hard trip but will hopefully involve some interesting tracks. If the weather is not the best we will stick to some easier tracks.

Remember to
put your names
in the register if
you intend to
participate in
these trips

Annual Snow Trip

Date: Friday 5th of August

Trip Leader: Carl Surtees

Contact No: TEL: 9706 2692 MOB: 0403 024 490 / 0418 363 878

Destination: North of Licola, Annual Snow Trip

Meeting Time/Place: Officer Weighbridge at 430 PM

Vehicle Limit: *Min: 4, Max: 12*

Grade: *Wet: Medium—slightly different to normal wet conditions Dry: Easy*

Approximate Kms: Quite a long way

Last Available Fuel: Petrol/Diesel available at Licola

Equipment: Warm and waterproof gear to play and camp

Maps: None

Radio Channel: Channel 12

Trip Activities: Just general snow play, camping on the Friday night at the Wellington river below the snow line or for those more adventurous we can camp in the snow. A good trip to brush up on those snow driving skills that we very seldom get to practice

Make sure you
have completed
a personal
information
sheet and are
carrying it in
your car

Forthcoming Trips

Mystery Pub to Pub

Date:	Friday 16th to 18th of September
Trip Leader:	Dave and Rosalie Hughes
Contact No:	TEL: 03 9706 2966
Destination:	That's the Mystery Part
Meeting Time/Place:	To be Confirmed
Vehicle Limit:	<i>Min: 2, Max: TBA</i>
Grade:	<i>Its still early days in the planning but this is an event which is open to everyone so if there is any four wheeling, it wont be very hard</i>
Approximate Kms:	More of the mystery
Last Available Fuel:	TBA
Equipment:	TBA
Maps:	TBA
Radio Channel:	Channel 12
Trip Activities:	This is where the mystery part of it is. We will let you know the meeting place closer to the date. The rest of it is a surprise.

There will be a cost associated with the trip to cover the cost of staying at the pubs. We will let you know closer to the event what else you need to bring.

Be sure your vehicle is fit for the trip. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure

Annual Car Rally

Date:	Sunday 23 October
Trip Leader:	Dave and Rosalie Hughes
Contact No:	TEL: 03 9706 2966
Destination:	In the clues
Meeting Time/Place:	To be Confirmed
Vehicle Limit:	<i>As many as possible, the more the merrier</i>
Grade:	Wet—Easy, Dry Easy, Navigationally Challenged—Hard
Approximate Kms:	This is used to work out how many wild goose chases you went on so we cant really tell you at this stage
Last Available Fuel:	TBA
Distance Between Supplies:	This may depend on how lost you get
Equipment:	Lunch and a sense of humour
Maps:	Melways
Radio Channel:	Channel 12

Trip Activities: The car rally is an annual event that is a lot of fun for the whole family. For those that haven't been involved before, a list of directions is provided that may be subject to some interpretation. The idea is to get to the meeting point with the least number of wild goose chases and collect the largest number of items listed on the way. The rally is not a race, starting times are recorded and points will be deducted if you get there too quickly (i.e. no speeding will be allowed).

If you win you will be awarded a trophy and get to run the event next year. Good luck.

Don't forget to turn up on time. Nothing worse than waiting for stragglers when there is the promise of fun to be had

Trip Reports

Rubicon Day Trip – 10 April

Trip Leader: Ashley with Brian, Lesley and Adam Landcruiser

<i>Participants:</i> Paul and Steve	Prado
Bas & Bas	Pajero
Simon and Tony	Discovery
James, Katherine, Samuel & Callum	Jeep
Tony, Carol & Chris	Pathfinder
Gerard & Shane	Patrol
Paul and Robert	
Landcruiser	
Anthony, Aileen, Riley & Connor	Prado
Mark & Julie	Pathfinder
Derek, Daniel & Hayden	Discovery



Rubicon Group

Although we were running late, we managed to arrive at Lilydale McDonalds just before Anthony and Gerard. However, because I had promised my two passengers a Macca's the resulting further delay meant I was awarded the day's "Star Prize" – the trip report. So here it is.

From Lilydale, we headed to Healesville and the Black Spur en route to Marysville. Gerard and Paul peeled off the tail at Healesville where Gerard refuelled. They caught us up at Marysville and after a short stop we headed out on Lady Talbot Drive.

Our initial destination was Phantom Falls and when we arrived we met the first obstacle of the day. The footpath to the falls was sign posted "bridge down". The bridge a few meters along seemed fine and the

few who made it all the way to the falls reported that a second bridge had collapsed under a fallen tree.

Overcoming our disappointment at not seeing the falls, we set off in search of Keppels Hut which we found, oddly enough, on Keppels Hut Track. It looked in good repair with a few supplies laid in - several 2 litre bottles of water and some tins of beans and spaghetti, although the latter looked as if they had been there for a couple decades. It was obviously a luxury hut because outside someone had set up a wooden television antenna.

Just past the hut, there were a couple of bog holes to add a little spice to the drive and expert opinions were passed about the choices each driver took through the several sets of ruts available.

On McFaddens Track, Anthony reported that his dashboard was lighting up like a Christmas Tree. [He reported subsequently that this was not due to aliens landing nearby but simply a loose plug which was much less exciting]. Wisely, he decided to head for home when we reached the end of McFaddens Road.

We turned on to Tom Burns Road and followed this (and probably some other tracks that I have forgotten) to the Rubicon Power Station where we stopped for lunch and a look around.

Royston Road took us through the old township where we paused for a quick look at the old Post Office. Bas¹ (or was it Bas²) told us that the building was still owned by an 80 year-old woman. I do not wish to be unkind to old people – after all I am nearly one myself – but the place did appear as if it was being looked after by an 80 year-old.

We turned right on to Rubicon River Road and just past the Rubicon Outdoor Centre, Ashley took us up a blind alley to look at a trestle bridge. Very nice, but it meant that at least three of the vehicles were blocking the only way out and their drivers were able to demonstrate their various (and they were various) reversing skills. Paul remarked that "this was no way to run a

convoy" as some of the vehicles were heading forwards up the track while others were backwards in going forwards.

Royston Road led us on to Quartz Creek Road and somewhere in all this was a long rocky section. No-one had stopped to reduce tyre pressures, so this bit was a little bumpier than it need have been.

Also along this part of the journey, we had the experience of not being lost but simultaneously not knowing where



Keppels Hut

we were. There was some subtle difference it seems, at least according to the trip leader.

We might have been on Bull Creek Track at one time, but then again we might not. Eventually, however, we found our way to Snobs Creek Road and Ashley proposed to drive straight out to the main highway and home. He suggested that if anyone wanted a bit more driving, they could take a roundabout route along Track No. 5 and Track No. 6 and return to Snob's Creek Road.

Paul & Steve, Simon & Tony and Derek, Daniel and Hayden thought this a good idea and so we said our farewells to the rest of the group and with Paul leading his first trip we set off.

To begin with the track was interesting with a bit of uphill and down dale driving, some rocks and one or two challenges from fallen trees. Reluctant to use the two chain saws we carried between us, the trees were removed by brute force or simply driven over. Despite the gathering darkness of the storm clouds, we were having fun.

We came to a spot on Track No. 5 where it turned sharp left and dropped down steeply over some big rocks and a sludgy, porridge-like bog hole. After taking a look, and subconsciously realising that once down, it would be difficult to go back up, we bounced, slipped and slid over the rocks and through the mud.



Trestle Bridge

"That was fun," we all thought and agreed we should let Ashley know how good his suggestion had been.

Derek, Daniel and Hayden stopped in Thornton for some food and drink before heading home. Paul & Steve and Simon & Tony stopped for a beer at the Buxton Hotel where they no doubt regaled the locals with the ripping yarn of the adventure they'd just had. **Derek Hymas**

Wombat State Forest — 5 June

Participants:	Ashley and Lesley	GU Patrol
	Barry Leitch	GU Patrol
	Anthony, Aline, Riley and Connor	Prado
	Tony and Carol	Pathfinder
	Paul Gillis	Prado
	Gerrard	GQ Patrol
	Ray and Dawn	80 Series LandCruiser
	Barry and Yvonne	Patrol

Bacchuss Marsh 4WD Club

Trip Leader:	Steven	Hilux
	Heinz & James	Hilux
	Greg	80 Series LandCruiser
	Doug	80 Series LandCruiser
	Scott & Adam	Jeep Wrangler Sport
	Hans (TEC)	Land Rover Defender

The day had been planned by John Partridge and Steven McAvoy of the Bacchus Marsh 4WD Club (BMC) to join forces for occasional trips on each other's side of town. As they know the Wombat State Forest very well – and we do not – it was decided to take us through the area; this would be a great way to start the relationship between the two clubs.

Our Club met at the Westgate Shell servo and made our way to Egans Reserve in Greendale where Steven introduced us to the BMC members. He outlined the day's events and we were on our way. From the meeting point, we turned onto Charcoal Tk and not far along the way encountered our first bog hole, which was of no great concern and we all made it through without any problems. Turning left onto Green Hills Rd, right onto Paradise Rd and then right onto Matties Track, we came across a rather large bog hole with about 10 inches of soft mud at the bottom. It was decided we had no chance, so the alternative route to the right was the only option. This also proved to be a bit of a challenge for some. Steven made his way through but Greg only got to the first hole and had to be snatched backwards. Anthony and I made it through, but Barry L had trouble. After he was snatched backwards he prepared for another shot and a little (lot) more throttle saw him make it through. Barry H succeeded, but Gerrard had to be snatched through, although it wasn't for lack of trying! Hans attempted the more difficult option but only managed to get about 3 meters in – the winch went into action and he soon was out. The remainder of the group turned around and took an alternative track to meet up with us. We continued on until BH required a snatch out of another hole; this one was not as

difficult but had Barry waiting for recovery service. We turned left onto Welcome Tk, left at Swinley, left at Saggars until reaching the T intersection of Paradise Rd. Turning right at the T, we proceeded until we came across Paradise Tk, turning right then left at Blackwood Ridge Rd, right onto Nolans Rd, right onto Nolans Ridge Track, left onto Lerderderg Rd until stopping at Nolan Creek Picnic Area for lunch.

The BMC kindly provided a sausage sizzle for lunch which went down very well. It gave everyone an opportunity to mingle and find out a little more about both Clubs. The picnic area was a great spot to keep in mind for future trips in the area, except that a group of motor bike riders decided to hoon through it while the kids were running about.

After lunch we proceeded along Lerderderg Rd, turning right onto Simmons Reef Rd and then along to the crossroads. At the crossroads it was left onto Greendale-Trentham Road, then veering right towards Blackwood Hotel onto Martin Street. There was a comment from some that it was a first to drive past the pub and not stop for an ale. Some vehicles obviously have auto pilot when only a few hundred meters away from the pub! We proceeded along Martin Street which then becomes Old Blackwood Rd, turning left onto Yankee Rd and right onto Yankee Mine Tk. At the T intersection we turned left onto North Blackwood Rd then turn right onto Chettle Rd. The tracks through this area had been recently graded and this not only took the challenge out of it but also made it very dusty for those travelling behind the leader – as heard from TEC a number of times. We made our way along until we reached Amber Lane, then turned right. Along here we crossed the Lerderderg River (trickle) and then turned right onto O'Brien's Rd, stopping at O'Brien's Crossing. Here we discovered a group of let's say "alternative" people. Actually we could hear them before we saw them! With a turntable set up and huge speaker system blasting out doof doof music, it was a sight to be seen in the usual peaceful setting beside the crossing. The local ranger drove in for the second time that day to attempt to quieten them down – unfortunately to no avail. As you can imagine, we didn't hang around too long.

Making our way to Firebreak No1 Track (also known as Ratcliffe) we turned right then at the next T intersection turned right again which put us on Ratcliffe Tk. Regrettably, the tracks had also been graded, which was disappointing because the last time we visited the area they were becoming interesting. From here we made our way onto Blue Gum Tk and back to Baccus Marsh where we stopped at a service station, pumped up tyres, and some even gave their vehicle a quick squirt (no it was not me!).

I would like to thank all of the members of BMC for their hospitality. The day was well planned and Steven did a great

job as trip leader (we didn't get lost, or so he told us anyway). The tracks were great and gave us a look at an area not well known by our Club. Anthony and I were already discussing where we would take them for a reciprocal trip. Hopefully this partnership will continue as we believe it will be great for both clubs.

If you know of anyone on the western side of town who owns a 4WD get them to get in touch with the Bacchus Marsh 4WD Club, attend a meeting and hopefully they can build their numbers.

Ashley

PS. Thanks to Steven for providing a detailed summary of the route taken. As trip scribe, this certainly made my job a lot easier.



TALLAROOK TRIP—12 June

TRIP LEADER: Anthony Van Buiten

PARTICIPANTS:

Anthony, Aline, Riley & Connor	Prado
David, Rita, Lauren, Jessica & Rachael	Landcruiser 80 Series
Steven	Landcruiser 80 Series
Brian	Landcruiser 100 Series
Peter & Jan	Hilux
Ashley & Lesley	Patrol
Barry	Patrol
Andrew & Linda	GU Patrol
Barry & Bas	Pajero

Visitors:

Craig & Marijke	Vitara
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We met at Lilydale Maccas, departing at 9.10am in light drizzle with the sun trying to come out between the clouds.

Headed up through Yarra Glen to Glenburn and turned off towards Flowerdale with the drizzle getting heavier. On to Strath Creek where we all re-grouped before heading off-road along Horan Track, high up in the hills, very picturesque. This section of the road was quite dry, hopefully the fine weather predicted was now with us. We continued on to Tallarook State Forest, stopping to relieve the pressure - tyres etc.

Continued along Tehan's No 5 Track encountering steep downhill slippery clay, then a very steep uphill section with deep ruts. Barry did a good job of grading the high sections of the ruts with his diff, making it a bit easier for those following him, but this terrain was too much for

Craig & Marijke's Suzuki so Ashley & Lesley led them on an alternative route along Tehan's No 6 Track.

The other 8 vehicles followed a narrow forest track, covered in lots of small rocks and tree debris to Willies Track. Anthony led the way and made it up a very steep, slippery, challenging "mountain side".

The rest of the group stopped to ascertain the situation, Steven and Andrew both had a go but decided against further attempts, loose shale causing a few problems. The track was too narrow to turn around, or for anyone else to pass to attempt the run, so we all had to reverse out, this was a bit tricky and there was a situation where basic recovery gear was put to good use.

Anthony stayed up the top and continued along Willies Track while the 7 other vehicles led by Barry, headed back along Brandy Cnr Road, a much more sedate route for a pleasant Sunday drive.

We all met up again at Brandy Track & Tehan Road, continued up Army Road to Reservoir Track until we came across a fork in the track. Anthony went up the right hand track which was very steep with huge ruts, he managed to get through but advised the rest of us not try this one. The left hand track was very muddy and rutted with a 90 degree right hand turn before a steep uphill section. Ashley, Barry & Peter made it up but Andrew's vehicle slid into a rut on the bend and got well and truly stuck in the mud. Anthony tried pulling him out with the snatch strap, but Andrew's vehicle went sideways and popped a tyre off the rim. It was quite a big job changing the wheel in the deep black mud. As we were going to be there for quite some time we decided to make this our

lunch stop. Andrew was successfully retrieved then Steve, Barry, Brian & David all made it up. This section was not suitable for the Suzuki, so Anthony and family took them back via Falls Creek Road. To do this Anthony had to get back down, which track would he take? He decided to take the same track he

came up (letting Aline know after he had the Prado safely down). Ashley led the rest of the group. We continued on only to encounter another obstacle. Two trees blocking the track, lucky Jan reminded Peter to bring the chain saw. The guys cleared the track and we continued on to Falls Reservoir.

There were a few tricky sections with deep holes full of water and other parts where big boulders formed the track. We met up with Anthony and Craig on East Falls Road.

We passed the Warragul Rocks at 3.50pm and started heading back to Main Road.

Once back on terra firma at Strath Creek we stopped to inflate tyres and dropped into Strath Creek Saloon to satisfy a hard earned thirst.



Thanks Anthony, Ashley and Barry for getting us all to our intended destination safely.

The day was full of challenges and unexpected events and everyone had a GREAT day! Peter & Jan

Yahoo Groups

Sign yourself up as a Yahoo user at
<http://groups.yahoo.com>

Then go to

<http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/vfwdc>

And click on "Join this group"



PERSONAL INFORMATION FORM

The details below are very important in the event of an accident or personal injury. They will be treated with the strictest confidentiality and used only in the case of an emergency.

Please complete the form correctly and in its entirety.

NAME:	
ADDRESS:	Postcode:
CONTACT NOS:	Tel: Mobile:
DATE OF BIRTH:	
NAME OF NEXT OF KIN (not on trip): Relationship: Address:	
NAME OF DOCTOR: Address:	
MEDICARE NO:	
PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE If Yes, Name of Insurer:	
Do you want to be treated as a Private Patient?	YES / NO (Please circle) <i>If No, Private Health insurance details should not be passed to authorities.</i>
AMBULANCE MEMBERSHIP NO:	
BLOOD TYPE:	
MEDICATION:	
KNOWN ALLERGIES:	
OTHER:	

This Personal Information Form should be placed in a sealed envelope with your name on the front. The envelope should be carried in the vehicle together with the envelopes of each person travelling in the vehicle.
Please keep in the glove box or central console.

One sealed copy should also be handed over to the Trip Leader.

Envelopes should be returned to the participants after the trip for re-use on the next trip.

Signature:

Date:



PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

Please complete all relevant details and return to the President
or Events/Trip Coordinator

DESTINATION	
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	
DATE	
DEPARTURE	
RETURN	
MEETING PLACE	
GRADE	WET DRY
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM MAXIMUM
APPROX KMS (Meeting place to destination)	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL DIESEL
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	
MAPS REQUIRED	
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	
PARTICIPANTS	

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED:

1. Plan your trip. In particular: meeting point destination, trip grading, trip details, fuel information, camping arrangements.
2. Complete a **"PROPOSED CLUB TRIP"** form.
3. Pass the form on to the President or Events Coordinator, either in hard copy format or electronically, for approval at the next Committee Meeting. When approved, the Trip Leader will be notified and the trip included in the Club Calendar

Vic Winch '05

Brought to you by **PROCOMP 4x4**

June 2005

Press Release

Stop what you are doing – get the calendar and a big red pen and mark in these dates:

30th September – 2nd October 2005

It's here – Vic Winch Challenge 2005.

This year's event will be held in Willow Grove and is specifically for novice drivers and navigators providing a genuine 'entry level' competition. With room for up to 40 teams (car, driver & navigator) we plan to have between 11 & 12 competition stages over three days (3 on Friday night, 5 to 6 on Saturday and 3 on Sunday).

Expanding on last years success we are promoting the 2005 event as a spectator spectacular and are actively pursuing public attendance for both Saturday (8am – 5pm) and Sunday (8am – 2pm).

With well over \$10,000 worth of cash and prizes this is a prize pool worth going all out for and last years event was full of thrills and spills. To get a feel for last years event please visit Offroad Images website (URL below).

<http://www.offroadimages.com.au/OE/Events/VicWinch2004/Day1www/index.html>
<http://www.offroadimages.com.au/OE/Events/VicWinch2004/Day2www/index.html>

Competitor entries will open mid July 2005 and no previous competition experience is necessary with preference given to complete novices. We will be able to provide prospective competitors with a list of statutory safety requirements and compulsory equipment and also be able to provide details of companies able to help with vehicle preparation. Our goal with this event is to give people a low cost - low risk experience of the world of off road racing and hopefully inspire teams to continue into other events.

For competitors who cannot wait or want a bit of inside goss we can be contacted on 03 9705 6677 or by email on competitor@procomp.com.au.

An event of this nature requires an enormous amount of work to put together and we require all sorts of volunteers both leading up to and on the weekend itself. For anyone is interested in being involved as a track marshal, spectator marshal or just a general helper they can contact us on 03 9705 6677 or by email helper@procomp.com.au.

Henry Lefever
Sponsorship, Marketing & Merchandise
Vic Winch Challenge 2005
W 03 9705 6677
M 0402 484 897
F 03 9705 6733