



# Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A0002184F

***"Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together"***

**MARCH 2005**



**Mount Disappointment  
Australia Day 2005**



**South Australia – January 2005**



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](http://www.vafwdc.org.au), and a member of Tread Lightly! Australia  
[www.treadlightlyaustralia.com.au](http://www.treadlightlyaustralia.com.au)

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#### COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2004-2005

|                |                |             |
|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| President      | John Partridge | 0428 331211 |
| Vice President | Carl Surtees   | 9706 2692   |
| Treasurer      | Roger Baird    | 9704 9045   |
| Secretary      | Lesley Peters  | 9540 0007   |

#### GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

|                    |                      |             |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Stephen Boyle      | Projects Coordinator | 9754 4412   |
| Barry Leitch       | Librarian            | 5996 6662   |
| Ashley Martin      | Events Coordinator   | 9540 0007   |
| George Pledger     | New Member Contact   | 9547 4021   |
| Michael Rodger     | Trip Coordinator     | 0412 530666 |
| Paul Ryan          | Assistant Secretary  | 9807 5193   |
| Anthony Van Buiten | Web Manager          | 0413 784074 |
| Ian Warburton      |                      | 9754 2341   |

|                      |                       |             |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Association Delegate | Roger Baird           | 9704 9045   |
| Club Historian       | Phil Alder            | 9754 8487   |
| Training Officers    | Mark Kochan           | 9763 2052   |
|                      | Ashley Martin         | 0438 600904 |
|                      | John Partridge        | 0428 331211 |
| Newsletter Editor    | Lesley Peters         | 9540 0007   |
|                      | lespet03@yahoo.com.au |             |

*Registered Name:* Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

*Registration No:* A002184F

*All correspondence:* The Secretary  
VFWD Inc  
PO Box 778  
Dandenong Vic 3175

*Web Site:* www.vfwdc.com

*Meetings:* Held first Tuesday of each month  
excluding January (no meeting).  
The November meeting is held on the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month due to  
Melbourne Cup public holiday.

*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 VFWD Inc.*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT March 2005

Welcome everybody to the March edition of *Free Wheeling*.

This month at the general meeting we have Noel Lees from the Parkers Corner DSE coming in to have a chat to us. He will be discussing various issues that the DSE have to face and will have a few points that we could take aboard to make life easier for them. We will also be able to ask Noel questions regarding the tracks etc. This is a great opportunity for club members to understand what the DSE is about and also for the DSE to learn more about what we do and issues that we face. Noel is also a keen historian of the Aberfeldy-Jericho region and has vast knowledge of the mining history that can still be found in the bush. Noel will be travelling down from Rawson to attend this meeting, so try to make an effort to come on in and listen to what he has to say.

Once again 4WD's are under pressure from some groups. This time it has come around because a Sydney council has decided to double the parking permit fees. This is to "discourage rate payers from owning large cars". Of course, Harold Scruby from the pedestrian council has spoken up...

Mr Scruby said many people chose 4WDs because of the favourable five per cent tariffs, as opposed to 10 per cent for ordinary cars.

***The 4WDs also needed a lot of room to park, were responsible for about 75 per cent of child driveway deaths and more likely to roll than any other vehicle, he said.***

The fact is that in a report published a couple of years ago found that 8 out of 36 fatalities over a three-year period were attributed to 4WD's. Nowhere near the 75% reported by Mr Scruby. By my calculations it would be nearer 22%. Once again, take it easy out there. The size of our vehicles make them stand out from the other vehicles, so take extra care not to draw unwanted attention.

Hope to see you at the meeting

Regards

*John*

**John Partridge**

gujohnno@yahoo.com.au

## MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 01 FEBRUARY 2005

The February General Meeting was held at Dandenong Library and opened at 8.10pm by John Partridge.

28 members present.

**APOLOGIES:** Mark Capper, Derek and Janet Hymas, Rosalie and David Hughes, Paula Johnston, Carol and Christ Waghorn, Aline Van Buiten, Carissa and Joe Galovic, Barry and Yvonne Hempston, Maxine Ryan, Liz Beaton.

**VISITORS:** Welcome to Linda and Andrew Remenyi, Colin Armour. Pleased to announce that all became members on the night.

### MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Minutes of December meeting as per Newsletter.  
Accepted: Paul Ryan. Seconded: Michael Rodger.

### MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Nil.

**SUPPER:** Thanks Sue and Anthony.

### CORRESPONDENCE IN:

- Letter from Department of Sustainability and Environment enclosing copies of new booklet titled "**GPS – A Guide for Users**". This is a free booklet aimed at helping people learn more about GPS technology. Available online or direct from DSE.
- Letter from Jeff Cowie re **4WD Muster at Heyfield**. The people of Heyfield are looking at organising an event next Melbourne Cup Weekend. Theme of the weekend will be the "*Celebration of the Tree*" – an opportunity to see bush craft, timber carving and other timber related exercises. Letter goes on to further explain details about the weekend. Free entertainment, music, dancing, theatre and more. Prizes for Best 4WD etc.
- Further notice from Four Wheel Drive Victoria re 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball on 12 February. Tickets \$75 per head.
- Letter from John Szymanski regarding XJ Jeep Cherokees fitted with Dana 35c axle assemblies. Apparently had serious problems with his vehicle and just sending a warning to owners.
- Various club newsletters and company flyers.

### CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

- Letter to All Terrain 4x4 offering advertising space in *Free Wheeling*. No response to date.
- Newsletter.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer presented February report as follows:

Petty Cash: \$ 200.00  
Cheque Account: \$2,622.03  
Term Deposit: \$5,249.31  
Balance at 1/2/05: \$8,071.34

Accepted: Ian Warburton. Seconded: Tom Brachna.

### PRESENTATION:

Apologies for incorrect entry in calendar re DSE rep. Noel Lees will be at the March meeting.

### TRIP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT:

#### ➤ Trip Reports:

- Oxfam Christmas Tree Deliveries: Murray Ogden reported on another successful year for Oxfam and Community Aid Abroad. The club was represented by 13 vehicles – an excellent turnout. It was reported that funds raised were approx \$70,000 which is a fantastic effort by all concerned. JP commented that in future it is most important that those members who include their name on the list for this day must ensure they turn up, or at least give appropriate notice to the organisers if unable to do so.
- Dargo-Collins Hut: JP reported on another good Christmas/New Year trip. (Trip report in last month's issue.)
- Otways-Dandos, 22-24 January. Carl gave a brief overview of another good weekend at the Otways!
- Mt Disappointment, Australia Day. Maggie reported on a pleasant day's driving.

#### ➤ Forthcoming Trips/Events: Michael Rodger reported on the following upcoming trips as per calendar:

- 4-5 February: Mt Cole – Michael Rodger. (xxld)
- 13 February: Lerderderg Day Trip – Anthony VB.
- 20 February: Wandin 4WD Show.
- 6 March: Warburton Day Trip – Ian Webber.
- 11-14 March: Buchan Caves – Anthony VB.
- 24-28 March (Easter): Hattah-Kulkyne NP – Michael Rodger.
- 10 April: Rubicon Day Trip – Ashley Martin.
- 22-24 April: King or Howqua River – Ashley Martin.

You will find details of all above trips in Forthcoming Trips section.

### EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

Ashley reported on the Christmas Party which was held on 4 December last year. This was one of the most successful events the club has held in a long time. Held at Gilwell Park, but with a change in location which proved to be a better alternative. Everything went off very smoothly, and a huge thankyou to all those involved with the organisation and help on the day. A special thank you to **Peter Petrou** – a magnificent job with the spit; **Secret Santa** who did a great job with the kids; and **Verylle Rodger** for her face painting expertise once again. I'm sure everyone who attended will agree it was a great day and night.

### REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:

As the Club's regional representative, John Partridge reported on the following activities:

- Deep Creek Tracks have been dozed and chicken track put in on DC2, but hard section remains.
- After talks with Noel Lees, blackberries have been sprayed.
- DSE Meeting Monday night.
- Noel Lees will be at March meeting which will give us an opportunity to ask questions to better understand the DSE plans. V.V. opportunity for DSE to better understand us.

### GENERAL BUSINESS:

Following his attack by lightning, Peter Rowe will go into hospital this week for a triple bypass!

Alan Wade also in hospital next week.

We send both Peter and Alan our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

### RAFFLE:

Won by: Alex Van Rheenen – Dual Battery Controller.

Steve Boyle – Rebel Sport Gift Voucher.

Annie Simpson – Melamine tray set.

**MEETING CLOSED** at 10.00pm.

**NEXT MEETING:** Will be held at Dandenong Library on Tuesday, 1 February 2005.

### STOP PRESS

The Pettigrew and Hughes families are proud to announce the birth of another bouncing baby boy.

Congratulations to Dean and Deborah on the safe arrival of Joshua Colin. And a hearty congratulations to Rosalie, David, Anne and Leigh.

## VFWDC MERCHANDISE

### For Sale

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| New Club Polo Shirts                     | \$25.00 ea |
| Polar Fleece ½ 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 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Travel Mugs | \$15.00 ea |
| Flags                                    | \$15.00 ea |
| VFWDC Stickers (long)                    | \$ 6.00 ea |
| Stubbie Holders                          | \$ 6.00 ea |



## SITUATION VACANT

The position of Editor, *Free Wheeling* – the official newsletter of the VFWDC – will become vacant with effect from the end of February 2005.

A secretarial background would be an advantage for this position because to be able to spell (we don't just mean MS spell check!) is an essential requirement. A good sense of humour is recommended.

All interested parties should submit their application to:

The Secretary  
Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc  
at [lespet03@yahoo.com.au](mailto:lespet03@yahoo.com.au)

Note: The current editor will be available for a handover period if required.



## CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

### MARCH

|   |   |                |
|---|---|----------------|
| Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>                                 | Club Meeting<br>Guest Speaker –<br>Noel Lees, DSE | John Partridge |
| Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>                                  | Day Trip – Easy<br>Warburton                      | Ian Webber     |
| Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>                                  | Day Trip – Difficult<br>Toolangi                  | Carl Surtees   |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> to<br>Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>   | Buchan Caves                                      | Anthony VB     |
| Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> to<br>Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Easter</b><br>Hattah-Kulkyne NP                | Michael Rodger |
| Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup>                                | Committee Meeting                                 | Anthony VB     |

### APRIL

|   |                   |                |
|---|-------------------|----------------|
| Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>                               | Club Meeting      | John Partridge |
| Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>                               | Gembrook Day Trip | Ashley Martin  |
| Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> to<br>Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> | King River        | Ashley Martin  |
| Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>                              | Committee Meeting | Ian Warburton  |

### MAY

|                            |                                      |                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | Club Meeting                         | John Partridge |
| Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> | Proficiency Training<br>Theory Night | Ashley Martin  |
| Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>  | Proficiency Training                 | Ashley Martin  |
| Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup>   | Committee Meeting                    | Roger Baird    |

### JUNE

|                          |                   |                |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Club Meeting      | John Partridge |
| Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> | Committee Meeting | Michael Rodger |

### ☺☺☺ Humour ☺☺☺

A couple drove down a country road for several miles, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede their position.

As they passed a barnyard of mules, goats, and pigs, the husband asked sarcastically, "Relatives of yours?"

"Yes", the wife replied, "in-laws!"

[LP]



## VFWDC ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

### BUSH BQ

*Manufacturer of the Barbeque of the Outback*

**Don & Thelma Montague**

Tel: 9808 1200 Mob: 0414 355 488

Email: info@theldon.com.au www.theldon.com.au

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*Industrial, Commercial & Domestic*

*24 hr Emergency Service*

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Welcome to

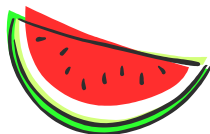
## The Corner

Hello all.

Here we are for another month... Easter... mmm...  
mmmm... Hattah... roll on Easter!!!

Try this one...

### Watermelon Granita



450g watermelon – skin and seeds removed.  
1 tbsp liquid glucose or caster sugar  
½ tsp lemon juice



Puree the watermelon in a blender or food processor,  
or chop finely and push through a metal sieve.



Heat the glucose, lemon juice and 75ml water in a  
small saucepan for 4 mins, or until dissolved.



Add watermelon and stir well.



Pour into a freezer tray (without the dividers!), cover  
and freeze... stirring every 30 mins or so with a form  
during freezing process to break up the ice crystals and  
give a better texture.



Keep in freezer til ready to serve, then roughly fork  
to break up the ice crystals.



Enjoy!!



KNOW WHAT ALLOWS YOUR SPIRIT TO DANCE... OR  
HAVE THE FINEST TIME FINDING OUT!

Have a lovely month folks. See you at the river.  
Cheers, Annie



Five Tips for a Woman...

1. It is important that a man helps you around the house and has a job.
2. It is important that a man makes you laugh.
3. It is important to find a man you can count on and doesn't lie to you.
4. It is important that a man loves you and spoils you.
5. It is important that these four men don't know each other!  
[Thanks Miss Dawnie...]

*The Corner:* If anyone has an interesting snippet they would like  
included, just email to: [anniesinternet1@primus.com.au](mailto:anniesinternet1@primus.com.au)  
All contributions will be gratefully received!



## TRADING POST FOR SALE

**1 x LANDCRUISER GXL 100 SERIES Diesel  
5 Speed White** 1<sup>st</sup> regd Feb 2000, ABS, twin  
airbags, aircon, after market turbo system, ARB  
winch bar, IPF driving lights, Kaymar rear bar with  
swingout arms, King springs, Koni shocks, rear ARB  
airlocker, tinted windows, RWC supplied,  
95,000kms, VGC, **\$47,800 ONO.**

**5 x 100 SERIES FACTORY GXL STEEL RIMS** to  
suit live axle, new, gunmetal grey powdercoated,  
EC, **\$400.00.**

Contact: Ashley on 0438 600904



**STEREO  
97.4**

Four Wheel Drive Radio Show  
"Talking Four Wheel Drive"  
Saturdays at 10.00m



Four Wheel Drive Victoria 'e' News  
at [www.fwdvictoria.org.au](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au)

## Yahoo Groups

Sign yourself up as a Yahoo user at  
<http://groups.yahoo.com>  
(There is no charge for this service.)

Then go to  
<http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/vfwdc>  
and click on "Join this group".

To keep non members out of the group, your  
membership will need to be approved.

Any problems, email  
[anthony@ctsmonash.com.au](mailto:anthony@ctsmonash.com.au)

## FORTHCOMING TRIPS

### TOOLANGI DAY TRIP

**Date:** Sunday 6 March 2005  
**Trip Leader:** Carl Surtees  
**Contact Nos:** Mob: 0403 024490 H: 9706 2692  
**Destination:** Toolangi  
**Meeting Time/Place:** Lilydale MacDonalds  
**Vehicle Limit:** *Min:* 3, *Max:* 6.  
**Grade:** *Wet:* Hard. *Dry:* Hard.  
**Approximate Kms:** 20 kms.  
**Last available fuel:** Yarra Glen.  
**Equipment:** All recovery gear.  
**Maps:** N/A.  
**Radio Channel:** Channel 12  
**Trip Activities:** Have a go at some of the more difficult tracks in Toolangi.

### LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND – BUCHAN CAVES

**Date:** Friday 11 to Monday 14 March 2005  
**Trip Leader:** Anthony Van Buiten  
**Contact Nos:** Mob: 0413 784 074 H: 9764 3381  
**Destination:** Buchan  
**Meeting Time/Place:** TBC  
**Vehicle Limit:** *Min:* 1, *Max:* 10. Maximum of 10 on cave tour.  
**Grade:** *Wet:* Easy. *Dry:* Easy.  
**Approximate Kms:** 325 kms.  
**Last available fuel:** Buchan.  
**Equipment:** Standard recovery.  
**Maps:** N/A.  
**Radio Channel:** Channel 12  
**Trip Activities:** This trip will be to the Buchan area to explore the caves. I have contacted a local guide who will take us caving for 2hrs at \$30pp or \$35pp if overalls are supplied. For those who are not as adventurous, the Buchan Caves Reserve conduct guided tours through two lit caves with hand rails. This is also an excellent picnic ground so we will probably take the opportunity to have lunch there. Note that we are now planning to camp at Buchan Caves Reserve. Unpowered sites \$16.50 (1-3 persons); extra persons over 10 yrs \$3.50 p/n. I will need definite numbers by 14<sup>th</sup> of Feb and a \$10 deposit by the same date to secure our booking. This is only if you are planning on the adventurous tour as bookings are not required for the other tours. We will also do a day trip and explore the area further.

### EASTER – HATTAH-KULKYNE NATIONAL PARK

**Date:** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> to Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2005 (some may stay on longer)  
**Trip Leader:** Michael Rodger  
**Contact Nos:** Mob: 0412 430 666 H: 9504 3839  
**Destination:** Hattah-Kulkyne – somewhere on the Murray River.  
**Meeting Time/Place:** TBC: 6.00pm Service station near the Westgate Bridge (Todd Rd Exit).  
If you plan to travel up during the weekend, please ensure you make arrangements with me to meet. The

place we will be camping is quite secluded and may be difficult to find.

**Vehicle Limit:** *Min:* 2, *Max:* No maximum.

**Grade:** *Wet:* Impassible. We will be camping elsewhere.

*Dry:* Easy. 2wd towing a trailer no problems.

**Approximate Kms:** 600 kms.

**Last available fuel:** Petrol: Colignan/Nangiloc/Hattah  
Diesel: Nangiloc/Hattah

**Distance between supplies:** 10 km from camp, 60km from Mildura (approx)

**Equipment:** Bush camping gear, basic recovery gear if you want to explore the area.

**Maps:** There are several maps of the Hattah area, most that I have seen have very little information and have errors on them. Best way to get there is follow someone who has been before (perhaps not Ashley!).

**Radio Channel:** Channel 12

**Trip Activities:** Watch the river flow past and occasionally jump in it. The Hattah Lakes are only a short drive from where we will camp, and Lake Mungo could be explored on a day trip. There are many great wineries in the area and Mildura is an interesting place, with art galleries and airconditioned shopping centres if it gets too hot. There are several other National Parks in the area that could be explored by the adventurous.

### RUBICON DAY TRIP

**Date:** Sunday 10 April 2005  
**Trip Leader:** Ashley Martin  
**Contact Nos:** Mob: 0438 600 904 Tel: 9540 0007  
**Destination:** Rubicon area.  
**Meeting Time/Place:** TBC  
**Vehicle Limit:** *Min:* 2, *Max:* 10  
**Grade:** *Wet:* Medium *Dry:* Medium  
**Approximate Kms:** 100  
**Equipment:** Standard recovery gear.  
**Maps:** N/A  
**Radio Channel:** Channel 12  
**Trip Activities:** General drive around the area.

### KING RIVER

**Date:** Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005  
**Trip Leader:** Ashley Martin  
**Contact Nos:** Mob: 0438 600 904 Tel: 9540 0007  
**Destination:** King River – Pineapple Flat.  
**Meeting Time/Place:** Lilydale MacDonalds  
Friday: 6.00pm; Saturday: 8.30am.  
**Vehicle Limit:** *Min:* 3, *Max:* 12  
**Grade:** *Wet:* Medium *Dry:* Easy/Medium  
**Approximate Kms:** 200  
**Last Available Fuel:** Mansfield.  
**Equipment:** Basic recovery.  
**Maps:** N/A  
**Radio Channel:** Channel 12  
**Trip Activities:** The main activity will be to take a walk on the Sunday out to the Bluff near Bluff Hut (for memory approx 2 hrs return). For those who don't wish to walk, they can explore some of the other huts around the area – or do nothing! Camping area is easy access



and suitable for trailers. The fishing is fairly good, so don't forget to throw in the rod. I plan to leave on the Friday night, but was hoping there would be somebody leaving early Friday to secure a camp spot. For those who wish to leave on Saturday, suggest you meet at Lilydale Maccas at 8.30am.

## TRIP REPORTS

### **SE SOUTH AUSTRALIA TRIP** **4-15 January 2005**

#### **Trip Leader:**

*Anthony, Aline, Riley and Connor Van Buiten*

#### **Followers:**

*Carissa, Joe, Sharni, Lachlan Galovic*

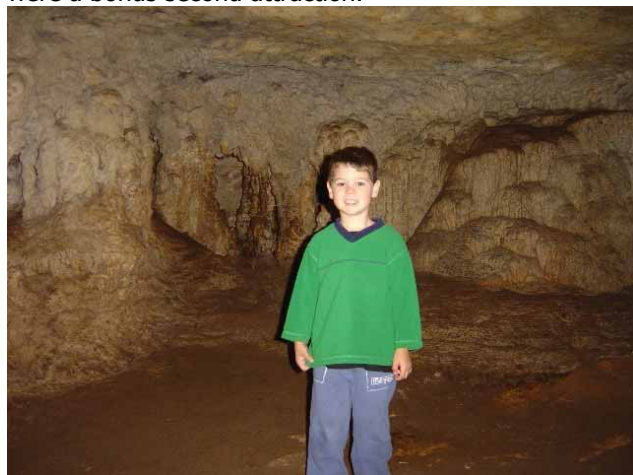
#### **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

We left home at 10.30am to start our epic adventure to the SE SA Coast line. Our first stop was Narracoorte and we arrived there at approx 6.00pm. We had a few stops along the way for the obligatory rest periods as we see sooooo many signs on the road to rest.

We set up camp at the Naracoorte Caves Camp ground. This is a very barren place with open areas and trees lining one perimeter with a row of trees in the middle as well, although the facilities there were very clean and modern. There were no real camp sites marked out, it was plonk where you like and fill in a self registering envelope (this seems to be the norm in all the places we went).

#### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

In the morning we went to have a look at the cave as this is what we came for. They were very pretty caves but not as nice as Buchan in my opinion (club trip in March to Buchan). They were more into the digging for fossils there and it seemed that the cave formations were a bonus second attraction.



*Riley – dwarfed by the cave formations...*

We broke camp at 12.30pm and headed for Robe. We had a look at the camp sites in the Conservation Park camp grounds which turned out to be barren, shadeless

areas. This is not what we wanted, so we headed for the tourist information, just in case we missed that magnificent spot that is all the rage. Nope, nothing was missed. Disappointed, we headed down to Beachport to see if there was anything better. We found a beautiful tea tree sheltered area in the Conservation Park that suited us nicely. We set up camp for the next few days.

#### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

We drove into Beachport to have a look around. It is a very pretty town with a population of only 400. Although, I might add that it is lacking a green grocer. Nice beach and very long jetty for fishing.

We took a drive on the dunes but stayed off the beach as our lesson from being stuck from driving alone was still fresh in our minds (refer report from Dargo on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Dec). After we went through a few dunes we saw that there was traffic on the beach so we thought that we would try it as there were plenty of people around to get us out if needed.

The beach was beautiful; what a different look, vehicles and people sharing the beach together. There were only a few people around which keeps surprising me as everyone told us it was going to be very busy at this time of year.

No open fires made it very difficult to boil large amounts of water for the kid's baths and washing the dishes. My Christmas present from Santa (shower) came in very handy for bath times.

#### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January**

Not much happened today. We started nice and easy and went back to the beach that we drove on yesterday for a bit of a play. We did a bit of exploring or the surrounding tracks to see where they took us as there were some significant Aboriginal sites of interest to see. We tried following the orange markers as you are supposed to do, but they seem to disappear every now and again and if you miss one and take the wrong turn you end up in very soft sand where people have been playing. We lost track of the markers at one point and ended up on a beach with soft sand that just kept going and going. Finally we decided to bite the bullet and turn around as it didn't really look like this was going to take us anywhere of interest and of course the fact that we were on our own (there was some traffic).

#### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

We broke camp at 8.50am (broke the club half past rule) to meet Carissa, Joe and the kids in Millicent. Refreshed our supplies at the supermarket and got all the information for the best camp site from the tourist information centre. We made our way to the spot that the man recommended in Canunda Conservation Park, but in true style for the area they were bare and dusty. Setting up camp in the shade does not seem to be important to anyone, as we see tents set up in full sun with no protection. They must get really really hot! We continued our search around the Conservation Park heading up to Southend and finally found a more suitable spot at Kotgee that was OK.

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January

We had a look around Canunda Conservation Park and made our way to the beach as this was our first truly beautiful day of the holiday. A little paddle, a little fishing at the beach – this is the life.

We drove past some camp sites just over the sand dune from the beach and saw that the caravan park ran it (Southend Caravan Park). When we checked it out they were great; they had shade, grass, and were big with open fire pits – woo hoo! We registered straight away and moved after lunch. Our problem was that we were looking for bush camping in the bush, we should have looked everywhere as this was in town and was called 'bush camping'. To be one-eyed you miss out on the good things.

Southend is a small town with a population of 298, fishing being its main source of income. With this in mind we bought fresh cooked crayfish for dinner from the local seafood shop. What a beautiful day; sun, surf, seafood and a great camp site. The perfect end to a perfect day!



*Happy Days...*

### Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January

Another beautiful day. We took a drive down to Carpenters Rocks as we were told that we were guaranteed of a fish between the lighthouse and the ship wreck. It took a while to get there as the tracks in the dunes are not marked. We finally put a line in the water and caught 3 fish. The man did say we were guaranteed a fish, not an abundance of fish. We caught 2 Salmon and 1 Mullet. It was a fantastic beach, perfect for the kids as the shallows went on for a while and they could jump waves with no worries of falling in deep water.

### Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January

After breakfast we headed off to Robe for a proper look around and some lunch. A day of total fire ban meant we had to buy food to eat, or eat sandwiches tonight. Reluctantly we found a fresh seafood shop in Robe and bought more crayfish and oysters for our evening feast... what a burden. We found Beachport a nicer town than Robe.

On the way back to camp we decided to take the beach/dunes track back. A few minutes into the return trip and the Nissan overheated after going up a large hill. We had to stop and let it cool for a while. While we were stopped, another couple of cars came over the hill (6 guys) and they ALL got out to have a look at the Nissan with the bonnet up (like bees to honey) and of course no-one could do anything so they all turned around and got back into their cars and went on. We decided to turn back and make our way down the highway rather than risk any permanent damage to the Nissan on the sand.

On our return to our camp site we found it a disaster site. The wind had been very strong as the forecast had predicted. We left our windows open in our tent and returned to find a thin layer of sand on everything inside. It must have blown over the dune from the beach as the camp site was grassy. One of our poles had also blown over and put a hole in the canvas (not happy Jan). Carissa and Joe returned to find their annex blown over, but other than that all was fine.

We cleaned, repaired and continued to enjoy the evening feasting on our crayfish.

### Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January

We broke camp at 10.30am and headed towards Mt Gambier to look at the magnificent 'Blue Lake'. It was truly **BLUE** in color with a bright green lining around the edge. After lunch and the viewing of the lake, we continued our journey towards Glenelg River (Vic) our next camping stop. Princess Margaret Rose Cave is where we went first, then we headed down to Nelson to check out the other spots, they were all booked up and only the places on the beach remained, but they had no shelter. We stocked up at the General Store and went back to Princess Margaret Rose Caves to set up camp. They are really nice grassy sites with open fire pits and water. What a luxury of having water close by.

I think Joe did his usual trick of sleeping (snoring) in front of the fire until late (early hours of the morning), but claims the he doesn't know what time he went to bed... hmmm. He claims that he was possum spotting and that they started to surround him and gang up on him.

### Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January

We started the day late with a cave tour at 11.00am. They were beautiful (as good as Buchan in my opinion). These caves had more developed features and the tour guide was excellent in her explanation of them. After that, lunch was had back at camp and then we headed off for a bit of fishing.

First stop was at the mouth of the Glenelg River, as this is supposed to be a superb fishing spot. The shoreline was shallow and you needed a boat to get to the good spots of course. The wind also kept us at bay. We decided to try elsewhere, but on the way stopped at the surf beach. The luxury of being in SA and driving on the beach was missed as now we had a dune to walk over to get to the beach, and for those who know Connor,

carrying him over the dune for a look was not something I was looking forward to.



*The Glenelg River*

Second stop Nelson; fished off the jetty there for a while. Caught some under size bream. Kept us amused for a while. A local there told us that he bagged out here on bream every day. It was just the wrong time of day, it was too bright for the fish.

Third stop Donovan Jetty; again same thing, caught a few bream but had to throw them back. We stayed until we finished our bait, it was fun and Riley caught his first fish.

We headed back to camp with the thought of dinner and more fishing down from the visitor centre on the jetty. Anthony, Carissa, Joe, Lachlan and Sharni went down and I stayed at camp as Riley and Connor were already in bed. They came back with tails of small, just undersized fish. There was only one that measured up. What an unlucky fish. Obviously was not traveling in its school.

In the cool evening we followed the club rule of 'you cut it you burn it' – it was huge.

### Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January

Broke camp at 10.30am to make our way to our final site. We stopped at Warrnambool for supplies and the final night roast. After what seemed like a long drive compared to what we have been doing between camps, we made it to Dando's. We stopped there to break our drive home from Glenelg. There were not that many people around, only another three groups. Most people have gone back to work, only us lucky one's have the extra week off.

We cooked our wonderful lamb roast, prepared by Aline and roasted by Anthony. A bit too hot in the camp oven for the vegetables as they were a bit charcoal in the end, but the roast was very nice even with the outside being a bit crispy the inside was still moist. Luckily we had other vegetables so our feast was not ruined. There was one unfortunate point to mention about Dando's. Obviously lately there have been visitors to the park that have been ignorant of how to take care of our natural forests. We found toilet paper blowing around in

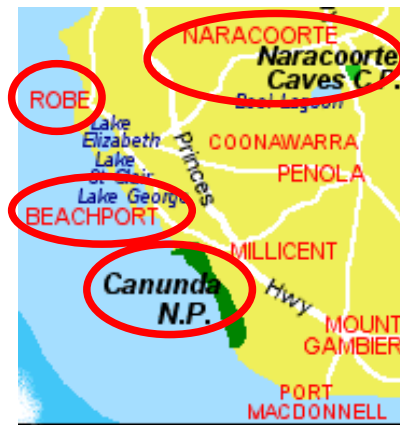
the wind and also people had left beer cans and empty packets of cigarettes by the waterfall. We cleaned up what we saw, but the damage people do is unbelievable.

*Important note for the day:* Connor took his first two steps today.

### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January

We kept true to our easy holiday starts and mozied on out for a hot breakfast of bacon and eggs. A slow pack up and an easy 15 Jandrive back to soft beds, own toilet, hot clean shower and baths for the kids... it's great to get away but even more magnificent to return every now and again.

**Aline Van Buiten**



*The VB's Trip Map*



### OTWAYS

#### 21-23 January 2005

*Trip Leader:* John Partridge

*Participants:* Steve and Jill

Ashley and Lesley

Brian

Michael, Verryle, Liberty and Elizabeth Carl

We didn't travel in convoy for reasons unknown, apart from my own reason being I hadn't decided to go until about 6:30 pm on Friday.

We arrived at Dandos at various times on Friday night. After a reasonably late night talking about springs until about 2:00 am we headed out on Saturday, time unknown.



After trying a couple of tracks which turned out to be closed, and having to tighten up my front left wheel bearing, we turned off the main road and headed towards Aire Crossing on Hall Ridge Road; the small bridge spans the Aire River in a very rocky valley which was a very picturesque spot full of tadpoles and mozzies – it would have been hell at sundown.

John took the lead out of the valley followed by Steve and myself following up the rear, then came the others a bit further back. We turned right into Redwater Tk, which although dry we could see signs of what it would have been like in the wet, tyre marks in the dry mud.

We were confronted with two large logs felled in an attempt to close the track but without any signs or gate. But as true adventurers, we were not going to let a couple of trees stop our progress, so the small (but deep) bog hole at the right-hand side of the logs became our next mission. John first, slowly does it, after being snatched out by Steve, opens doors to let water run out.



*Every picture tells a story, Johnno...*

Next Steve not quite so slowly, still gets the snatch strap out (this little snatch strap was to be worth its weight in gold by the end of the day).

Not to be left out of this little snatching fest of course I had to have a go, not slowly at all:

***I GOT THROUGH IN THE NISSAN.***



I snatched Steve out and after much trepidation and carpet drying, John was last. The rest of the group returned to camp along more sedate tracks.

The three of us made our way along the same track for a while snatching and being snatched until we turned left at what we thought was Clearwater Tk. Wrong! We missed the track somewhere but it didn't really matter as we had a good time; the only damage was to Steve's front right tyre valve and his ego!

Travelling back to camp through a lot of logging activities – which I can only think are the last efforts of the logging companies before these areas are closed off to them – we came across a lot of tracks which had been closed off with gates, probably by the loggers.

Saturday night after more talk about springs and a few beverages mixed with some very hot sausages was not quite as late as the night before, much to Lesley's pleasure due to the fact that her tent was about a grasshopper's jump away from the campfire.

Sunday morning was a slow pack up. Michael, Verrille and children, Ashley and Lesley, and Brian went to the Otways Fly Walk and the rest of us went straight home.

***Carl***



*Carl and John – the camo kids...*





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## **MT DISAPPOINTMENT**

**Australia Day – 26 January 2005**

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*Trip Leader:* Michael, Verylle & Elizabeth

*Participants:* Murray & Jim  
Ivan, James & Phillip  
Tony & Chris  
Maggie  
Brian & Adam  
Derek & Janet

If I had sent the track names for this trip to Tony when I said I would, I wouldn't be writing this report – Tony would have been able to do it before he left for Queensland.

We met at The Ford Factory on the Hume at 10:00am (all but Brian and Adam) and headed north towards Wallan. We headed over to Heathcote Junction where we met Brian and Adam before heading east to the state park along North Mountain Road through Elephant Gap and on to Blues Creek Road. We made our way over to Phosphate Road and headed south to Phone Track. The going was easy and apparently there was some dust, but I'm sure they were all excaudating. It was clear skies from where I was sitting (another good reason to lead a trip).

At Phone Track we started to head north. The track is a little rocky and loose but still fairly easy. This took us up to the picnic area where we would return for lunch after heading to the lookout. The track into the lookout has a few large boulders on it and is fairly tight but nobody had any trouble. This was advertised as an easy trip remember. We stopped at the lookout and enjoyed the view, as well as a fly past by the RAAF in some of their noisy jets.

Heading back to the picnic ground for lunch I asked the question "Do you want to go back the way we came or go through a bog hole". Before I had finished the work "hole" Derek had said "the bog hole". So we went via the bog hole, which all but the tail-end Charlie managed to get through without any difficulty. Did I mention that Derek was tail-end Charlie?

So we pushed and shoved and tried to get him off his front diff but ended up getting out the snatch strap. Brian backed up, we connected them up and a few minutes later we were all back at the picnic ground having lunch.



*OK Murray, your turn...*

After lunch we headed off along Mt Disappointment Road to find several branches over the road. A quick snip with the chainsaw and we were on our way again. We arrived at Strath Falls and went for a short stroll to the look out. After a short break we continued out trip north up Murchison Road to Blackmans Road and then onto Reeve Creek Road before heading east back to Murchison Road again. Once on Murchison Road we made our way back to the bitumen at Strath Creek Road. We stopped there and inflated tyres and took in

the view before heading back down the Hume back to Melbourne. People peeled off at various intersections along the way and we arrived back in town at about 4:30pm.

**Michael Rodger**