



Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A0002184F

AUGUST 2006



Torrongo Falls
July 2006



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





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President	David Hughes	
Vice President	Steve Boyle	0411 129427
Treasurer	Carissa Galovic	0423 387159
Secretary	George Pledger	0427 547402

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Asst Secretary	Paul Ryan	0438 121148
New Member Contact	Ian Warburton	0409 797675
Web Manager	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784074
Librarian	James Holden	9755 5790
Trip & Events Coordinator	Ian Webber	0428 518552
	John Partridge	0428 331211
	Terry Johnke	0414 350621

Association Delegate	John Partridge	0428 331211
Club Historian	Phil Alder	9754 8487
Training Officers	Mark Kochan	9763 2052
	Ashley Martin	0438 600904
	John Partridge	0428 331211
	Michael Rodger	0412 530666

Newsletter Editors	Mark & Julie Capper	0411 530484
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Forward Articles & Photos for the Newsletter to:-

markcapper@optushome.com.au

Please forward all contributions prior to the 20th of each month

CLUB DETAILS

Registered Name:	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
Registration No:	A002184F
All Correspondence:	The Secretary VFWDC Inc PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3173
Web Site:	www.vfwdc.com
Meetings:	Held first Tuesday of each month excluding January (no meeting). The November meeting is held on the 2 nd 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 VFWDC Inc

President's Report

Hello and welcome everyone.

Yes that means you, to another month of Free Wheeling, and what will definitely be my last President's Report.

It has been very difficult for me to put in the time and enthusiasm that is required to be President. Unfortunately due to work commitments and a stroke of bad luck, I have not been able to put in the time required. That is why I am standing down this year. I hope whoever takes over can put in the hard yards and enthusiasm to keep this great Club running and also get the full support of everyone.

I would truly like to thank all of the present Committee for the support they have given me. They continued on through the thick and thin of everything that confronted them. I know that we did not achieve a lot this year, but we kept the wheels turning.

The next general meeting is also the AGM, so please do not forget this. So if you would like to Nominate for a position, then now is the time to put your hand up.

Just recently Rosalie and I had a week off work, so we decided to do some reconnaissance work for our next Pub to Pub. We travelled all over Victoria to try and find something different, which is getting harder and harder every year. But I think we have found just the place. It has adventure, history and relaxation. The place is just North of East, which is South of West, or is it North West.

So now you all know where we are going, it will be first in best dressed.

There a lot of trips coming up, so please keep your eyes open for what is ahead in the Magazine. On the other hand, if you would like to lead a trip, there is always help at hand. All you have to do is ask.

I look forward to seeing you all, yes, I mean everyone that belongs to the Club at the next meeting. Till then, take care out there.

Thanks everyone for your support ☺

Daddio

Minutes of the General Meeting – July

The meeting was held at Dandenong Library and opened by President Dave Hughes who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present:

There were 37 members present as per the attendance book

Apologies:

Maxine Ryan
Ivan Santurini
Gary & Paula Johnston
Jill Boyle
Anne Pettigrew
Derek & Janet Hymas
Aline Van Buiten
Barry & Yvonne Hempston
Graeme & Judy Ralph
Tania Utting

Visitors:

James Jenkins
Kath Ingram

Minutes of the June Meeting:

Accepted: John Partridge
Seconded: Dawn Brown

Matters Arising:

Nil

Correspondence in:

Pajero 4WD Club Newsletter
Cross Country Jeep Club Newsletter
LROCV Newsletter
Anaconda
Notice to renew fees with the Association
4X4 Discovery offering Web Hosting
Association - Notice of July Regional General Meeting
Association - Minutes of May Regional General Meeting
Association - Change of Address
Association - Receipt for Public Liability Insurance Renewal
Travel Buddy - 12V Reheating Oven
Bell Partners - Change of Address and Bank Confirmation

Correspondence Out:

Club Newsletter
Renewal of Public Liability Insurance

Treasurer's Report:

Opening Balance 31/5/06 \$7831.21

Receipts:

Membership Renewals \$230.00

Payments:

Mulgrave Country Club \$500.00
Victorian Association of Four
Wheel Drive Clubs \$562.50
Julie & Mark Capper
(Toner for club printer) \$112.50
Closing Balance 30/6/06 \$6886.51

Petty Cash \$126.20
Cheque Account \$1364.34
Term Deposit \$5522.17
Total \$6886.51

Accepted: Ian Webber

Tea duties:

Rosalie Hughes & Mark Kochan
Thank you!

Raffle:

Tickets sold by Roger Baird and Mark Capper

1st Prize - Wine won by Maggie Melcher
2nd Prize - Mystery prize won by Paul Ryan
3rd Prize - Torch won by Verylle Rodger

Trips:

Ian Webber reported on the upcoming trips which include:

Sun 9th July - Powelltown/Noojee
Sun 16th July - Big River
Sat 12th Aug - AGM Dinner
Fri 18th to Sun 20th Aug - Snow Trip
Sat 9th to Sun 10th Sept - Advanced Training
Fri 22nd to Sun 24th Sept - Winery Weekend
Sat 4th to Tues 7th Nov - Glenelg River

Other trips which have yet to be entered in the calendar will include the Annual Pub to Pub (scheduled for September) and a trip to the Tarra-Bulga National Park (scheduled for October).

John Partridge also pointed out to members that there are numerous trip books in the library should anyone wish to run a trip and were looking for ideas. Craig gave a trip report on Bas's trip to Walhalla. Craig unfortunately broke the crown wheel in his front diff on Fulton's Track, but now has new diff ratios to show for it.

Graham gave a report on George's trip to the Kimberley. George, Graham, Brian (the Three Musketeers) and Sue (the Apprentice) had a fantastic time. Apparently the trip was planned largely from information contained on toilet walls. George had timed the trip perfectly, coming just after the end of the wet season but just before the crowds arrived. Graham and Sue celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary on the trip at Ormston Gorge. The trip saw the group head across to Broome before coming back via the Gibb River Road. On one night a dingo decided to make off with Brian's shoes, which saw both he and George chasing around clothed only in their night attire. By all accounts this wasn't much.

For George the high point of the trip would have to have been the Mitchell River Falls, for Graham and Sue - the Painted Desert. Anyway it sounds like they all had a marvellous time and we look forward to reading more about the trip in future newsletters.

General Business:

Association Report:

John Partridge gave the association report and recapped on a few details covered last month.

Toolangi - Track works in the Toolangi area have stopped until further notice. It is expected that any further work will not be carried out without consultation with all relevant parties.

Bunyip - the Association has been in contact with the minister regarding the recreational framework for the Bunyip area. Although it was previously reported that the third option (cutting of access to the majority of the area) was most likely to be implemented, there is now a chance that option 2 will now be considered giving access to a further 35kms of tracks. John has appealed to club members to consider making written submissions to the minister stating our case. John will be sending out an email giving guidelines as to the key points to include. IF members do decide to send a letter could they please send a copy to John so that he can also copy to the Association.

Other Business:

Nominations for Committee:
We have a number of nominations for the committee for the coming year however we do have one key position that we have yet to fill, that of Treasurer. If anyone is interested can they please submit their nomination ASAP.

AGM Dinner: As mentioned at last months meeting we would like to get confirmed numbers for the AGM dinner as soon as possible. Last years AGM dinner was very enjoyable and the food and company was great. The dinner is open to all comers, so feel free to bring along family or friends.

Meeting Closed:

9.45pm

Next Meeting:

Annual General Meeting
8.00pm Tuesday 1st August, 2006
Dandenong Library.

VFWDC MERHCANDISE

For Sale

New Club Polo Shirts	\$25.00 ea
Polar Fleece ½ Zip Jumper	\$36.00 ea
Polar Fleece Full Zip Jumper	\$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





Don't forget the AGM Dinner!!

Saturday 12th August 2006
7.00pm til Midnight

Panorama Room
Mulgrave Country Club
Cnr Wellington & Jells Roads
Wheelers Hill

\$40.00 Per Head
Cost Includes Raffle Ticket

Contact: Steve Boyle on 0411 129427
Or Paul Ryan on 0438 121148



(Photos from AGM Dinner 2005)

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*Anyone wishing to advertise in the Club Directory,
Contact the Editors at markcapper@optushome.com.au*

CLUB CALENDER AT A GLANCE

AUGUST

Tuesday 1st	Club Meeting Incorporating Annual General Meeting	David Hughes
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Saturday 12 th	AGM Dinner	Steve Boyle
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Friday 18 th To Sunday 20 th	Annual Snow Trip	Ashley Martin
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Tuesday 29 th	Committee Meeting	TBA
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SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 5 th	Club Meeting	TBA
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Saturday 9 th To Sunday 10 th	Advanced Training	John Partridge
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Friday 8 th To Sunday 10 th	Annual Pub To Pub	David Hughes
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Friday 22 nd To Sunday 24 th	Winery Weekend	Ashley Martin
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Tuesday 26 th	Committee Meeting	TBA
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OCTOBER

Tuesday 3 rd	Club Meeting	TBA
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Saturday 7 th To Sunday 8 th	Proficiency Training	John Partridge
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Friday 13 th To Sunday 15 th	Tarra Bulga NP	Mark Capper
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Saturday 28 th to Sunday 29 th	NATIONAL 4 X 4 SHOW Melbourne Exhibition Centre	
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Tuesday 31 st	Committee Meeting	TBA
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NOVEMBER

Melbourne Cup Weekend

Saturday 4 th to Tuesday 7 th	Glenelg River	Ashley Martin
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Tuesday 14 th	Club Meeting	TBA
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Friday 17 th to Sunday 19 th	Annual Fishing Trip	Ashley Martin
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Saturday 25 th	Christmas Party Gilwell Park	TBA
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Tuesday 28th	Committee Meeting	TBA
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DECEMBER

Tuesday 5th	Club Meeting	TBA
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Trading Post



Oztent :

Ashley has a contact at work who has an Oztent RV for sale.

This is the pre RV2 model and is in very good condition.

The Vendor is looking for an offer of approx. \$500.00.

If anyone is interested can they please contact Ashley. Email: ashleymartin@valcor.com.au

Camping Equipment:

Gasmate 2 Burner Cooker with carry case, stand, 4kg gas bottle & steel hotplate with handles. \$60.00

Toilet/Shower Tent with pegs & ropes. \$20.00

Fold up laminated table 600mm x 800mm. \$15.00

Lantern, Rechargeable 3 in 1 light, remote control, night light, 2 x 9W U tubes, weather proof, AC/DC adaptor, car plug & stand \$65.00

4 person Wild Country Tent with awning, complete with all pegs, poles & guy ropes. \$100.00



Contact Mark Capper on 0411 530484

Annie's Corner



DATE/ NUT LOAF



1 tablespoon butter
½ a cup of sugar
1 egg
Pinch salt
1 cup chopped dates
½ a cup walnuts
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup plain flour
½ a cup self raising flour
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon mixed spice

Cream butter and sugar, then add salt and egg.

Sprinkle soda over dates, and pour 1 cup of boiling water over them.

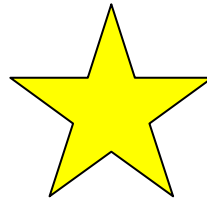
Add nuts, dates and water to butter, sugar and egg mixture.

Lastly add flour and spices.

Bake in log tin in a slow oven for 1 hour (160 deg)

As an alternative to this I found that instead of 1 cup of chopped dates, you add 3 oz dates and 1 ½ oz sultanas, it seems to make the recipe more moist, and it also freezes really well....

Annie



The AGM Dinner

"Good On Ya Award"

Nominations for this years
"Good On Ya Award"
are now open!

The award will go the club member or members who have made an **outstanding contribution to everyone else's amusement** at some point during the year.



Please post, email or phone John Partridge with your Nominations.

Nominations will also be accepted on the night of the AGM Dinner.

Forthcoming Trips



Destination Annual Snow Trip
Trip Leader Ashley Martin
Contact No Mob: 0438 600 904
Date 18th – 21st August
Meeting Place Officer Weigh Bridge
Time TBA
Grade WET: Medium
 DRY: Easy

Trip Activity Details
 Although to date the snow season has not been great hopefully it will improve by the time the weekend is upon us. If not I am sure there will be enough to enjoy driving and playing in.

Camping as usual will be along the Wellington River at site 14 just out of Licola.
 Saturday we will drive up to Arbuckle Junction and beyond in search for snow. Lunch will be along the way and this will give us time to get out and enjoy the fluffy stuff. If time permits a drive around the area in the afternoon and then back to camp to warm up around the fire. Bring the kids along.
 Sunday will be a leisurely pack up and then back to Melbourne.

Vehicle Limits MINIMUM:
 MAXIMUM:
Approximate Kms 150
Last available fuel PETROL: Licola
 DIESEL:
Distance Between Supplies N/A
Equipment Required Basic recovery equipment
 Warm clothes essential
Maps Required TBA
Radio Channel CB/UHF 12



Trip & Events Coordinator
Ian Webber 0428 518552

Destination Annual Pub to Pub
Trip Leader David Hughes
Contact No Home: 9706 2966
 Work: 9798 1492
Date 8th – 10th September
Meeting Place Myrniong Hotel, Myrniong
Time TBA
Grade WET: N/A
 DRY: N/A

Trip Activity Details
 Going from one place to another. Visiting points of interest along the way.

Notes to be supplied to participants with more information

Vehicle Limits MINIMUM N/A
 MAXIMUM 12

Approximate Kms 150
Last Available Fuel PETROL: N/A
 DIESEL: N/A

Distance Between Supplies Does not matter
Equipment Required Basic recovery equipment
 Drinks for morning tea (food supplied) and lunch for Saturday

Maps Required N/A
Radio Channel CB/UHF 12

Destination Winery Weekend
Trip Leader Ashley Martin
Contact No Mob: 0438 600 904
Date 23rd – 24th September
Meeting Place Ford Factory Campbellfield
Time 9.00am
Grade WET: Easy
 DRY: Easy

Trip Activity Details
 See Trip Data Form

Vehicle Limits MINIMUM: N/A
 MAXIMUM: N/A

Approximate Kms 100
Last Available Fuel PETROL: Nagambie
 DIESEL:

Distance Between Supplies N/A
Equipment Required Headache Tablets
Maps Required TBA
Radio Channel CB/UHF 12

Destination	Tarra Bulga National Park
Trip Leader	Mark Capper
Contact No	Mob: 0411 530484
Date	13 th – 15 th October
Meeting Place	Officer Weigh Bridge
Time	4.30pm
Grade	WET: Easy DRY: Easy

Trip Activity Details

Camp at "Fernholme" Tourist Park (Dogs allowed on leash only). I have booked 2 powered sites and 7 unpowered sites (cabins also available). Friday night group BBQ. Main activity on Saturday is walking the many trails of the National Park followed by another group BBQ in the main BBQ area. Music and dancing is OK!

Sunday we will drive the Grand Ridge Road to Mirboo North and stop for lunch and beer tasting at the Grand Ridge Brewery, then home at your leisure

Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 10
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Approximate Kms	150
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Last Available Fuel	PETROL: Traralgon/Yarram DIESEL: Traralgon/Yarram
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Distance Between Supplies	N/A
Equipment Required	Camping Gear, Basic Recovery Gear and good walking shoes



Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12

Destination	Cup Weekend - Glenelg River
Trip Leader	Ashley Martin
Contact No	Mob: 0438 600 904
Date	4 th – 7 th November
Meeting Place	TBA
Time	TBA
Grade	WET: DRY:

Trip Activity Details	TBA
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Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: MAXIMUM:
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Approximate Kms	TBA
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Last Available Fuel	PETROL: DIESEL:
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Distance Between Supplies	TBA
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Equipment Required	TBA
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Maps Required	TBA
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Radio Channel CB/UHF	12
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Destination	Fishing Trip - Jamieson Area
Trip Leader	Ashley Martin
Contact No	Mob: 0438 600 904
Date	17 – 19 November
Meeting Place	Lilydale McDonalds @
Time	6.30pm
Grade	WET: Medium DRY: Easy/Medium

Trip Activity Details

The annual fishing trip is once again being organised. This year we will have several awards to hand out for those special fishing moments.

Some will opt to take Friday off making it a long weekend and give themselves every opportunity to catch a fish or 2. This year I thought Jamieson would be a good destination and we will probably be based at Grannys Flat. This will be finalized as the weekend gets closer

Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
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Approximate Kms	200
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Last available fuel	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield
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Distance Between Supplies	N/A
Equipment Required	Basic recovery equipment, Fishing equipment if you choose & patience a necessity

Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12

Trip Clarification

Clarification was sought regarding the level of Approval required before a trip could be considered a "Club" trip. The following clarifications were settled upon:

- Trips do not need to be approved by the trip coordinator but he must be notified in order for the trip to be considered a "Club" trip.
- Trips may be submitted either via Trip Data Form, Yahoo Group or informally however see above to be considered a "Club Trip"
- Trips should be reviewed where necessary at committee level to ensure that the trip was within capabilities of the trip leader.
- If absolutely necessary approval for a trip may be withdrawn if the committee feel that the trip may in anyway expose the participants to an unacceptable level of risk e.g. trip being lead into a high/extreme fire risk area.

Kimberley Trip Departure Date – April 29

Trip Leader	George Pledger	Musso
Participants	Brian Martin	Toyota 100 Series
	Graeme & Sue	Land Rover Discovery

As the departure date came closer my concern was the weather. As the late arrival of Cyclone Monica flooded Northern Australia it started the first change of plans for the trip. The original plan was north to Katherine, left along the Victoria Highway to Kununurra, the Gibb River Road, Mitchell Plateau, Mitchell Falls then Derby, Broome, Bungles, Tanami Road, Kings Canyon, Olgas, Ayers Rock then home. It was decided to head across to Ayers Rock, the Olgas and Kings Canyon then the Meereenie Loop Road to Alice Springs to give the north time to dry out.

29th April finally arrived and Brian and I headed to Adelaide to meet up with Graeme and Sue after which we all started heading north staying at Woomera, Coober Pedy, and a quick look at the Breakaways then onto Erldunda where we turned left to Ayers Rock. Brian did the walk up the rock while the rest of us did the base walk.



It was then onto the Olgas for another walk and then Kings Canyon for the rim walk of 11 km which was the best walk of the three.



It was then onto the badly corrugated Meereenie Loop Road to visit Glen Helen Gorge and Ormiston Gorge and

later Serpentine Gorge before Alice Springs. It was then north again stopping at Mataranka for a swim then into Katherine which had been flooded a couple of weeks earlier.

Turning left along the Victoria Highway where we later met up with Derek and Janet before stopping at Keep River National Park.



After a walk through part of the park it was then onto Western Australia through the quarantine check point and into Hidden Valley Caravan Park at Kununurra for a couple of days. From there we did day trips to Lake Argyle and surrounds and then Wyndham with its magnificent views from the 5 Rivers Lookout.

The Gibb River Road was still closed so we headed to El Questro where we walked the various gorges, Zebedee Hot Springs, Emma Gorge and El Questro Gorge which were great. We also had a look at the two lookouts that required 4wd: Saddleback Ridge and Brancos Lookout which gave a good view over most of El Questro. The reports we received were the Gibb River Road was open but access to the Mitchell Plateau was still closed so back to the Northern Highway and onto the Bungles for more walking to the various gorges and chasms.



All were very spectacular and worth the effort to have a look. We contacted Drysdale Station for an update on access to the Mitchell Plateau and news was not good, the King Edward River was running at 900mm and flowing fast. Derek and Janet then decided that they would go back east and then head home so we parted with our group heading west having a look at Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing, Geike Gorge and into Broome. We had three days at Broome looking around and getting a new pinion seal fitted to the Musso, some good sunset photo's at Cable Beach while Brian had a camel ride. We then went onto Derby where we did a flight over the bay of 1000 islands to the Horizontal Waterfall and a look at the sunsets from Derby jetty.

We then finally hit the Gibb River Road to Windjana Gorge which was a great walk then a walk through Tunnel Creek which was even better. It was then onto Silent Grove and a walk into Bell Gorge. We then found our way to Mornington Wilderness Camp after a slow 95 km track in. We drove to Dimond Gorge on the Fitzroy River and a look at Cadjeput Waterhole. Next day we went to Sir John Gorge and Blue Bush Waterhole.

Back onto the Gibb River Road stopping at Galvin Gorge and Manning Gorge and Barnett River Gorge then finally Drysdale Station to refuel and camp at Miners Pool on the Drysdale river. Finally we were heading into the Mitchell Plateau, the 1st obstacle being the King Edward River which by this time was about 700mm and flowing but not too bad. We all survived the crossing and a couple of mud holes before arriving at the camp ground which was free with nice clean toilets.

Next day we did the 3.5km walk into Mitchell Falls via Little Mertens Falls, Mertens Falls then wade across the river and wander across the plateau until finally the very spectacular Mitchell Falls.



Due to the late wet season there was a lot of water going over the 5 tiered falls and they were stunning, well worth the effort involved to get there. It was hard to tear ourselves away but it was back to camp. Next day it was back to Drysdale stopping at two locations to look at aboriginal rock paintings.

It was back to the Gibb River Road and we started heading towards Kununurra. Graeme and Sue decided to stop at Home Valley Station while Brian and I continued through the stunning Pentacost Range crossing the Durrack River and

then the Pentacost River. At Kununurra it was time to give the vehicles a good wash and clean out, wash our clothes and ourselves. We also did a walk through the Hidden Valley National Park behind the caravan park.

When we all met up again we headed off back down the Northern Highway to Halls Creek, refuelled then onto the Tanami Road to the Wolfe Creek Meteorite Crater. After a cool night we walked down into the crater for a look. Back on the Tanami Road we did a brief fuel stop at Bililuna which is also the end of the Canning Stock Route. That night we camped along the track and 6 dingoes raided our camp getting into anything that was left outside. They finally stole Brians walking boots, we got one back but the other one could not be found. It was then onto Tilmouth Well and Alice Springs.



After leaving Alice Springs we stopped at the Finke River for a cuppa. When I restarted the car the alternator bearing collapsed which also stopped the alternator from working. Being the weekend I decided to keep going south to Port Augusta where I hoped to get a replacement. Graeme and Sue were going to go down the Oodnadatta Track while Brian followed me in case the alternator seized. At Port Augusta a new alternator was fitted. While waiting for it some other campers told us it was -7 over in the Flinders Ranges which is where we intended to go. This did not impress us so we tossed a coin to decide whether to go inland or down to the coast and home. Luck was with us as the coin decided we would head for the coast so we headed off to Adelaide, down through the Coorong to Mount Gambier, Portland and home.

It was a fabulous trip of about 13100km and 8 weeks. Some of the roads were very rough with corrugations, some caravan parks were pretty ordinary, the worst one being at Elliott, DO NOT stay there it is an insect ridden dump!

With the late wet season forcing us to change our plans several times it actually worked in our favour and the route we finally took was the way we should have planned initially. It was an incredible experience meeting a lot of fellow travellers and swapping stories, getting advice from them as to where they had been and what to look out for. Many thanks to all involved for making the trip a huge success.

George Pledger

Tea/Coffee and The Kimberley

April 27th to June 24th 2006

Destination/Objective

Kimberley and surrounds here we come. With some reservations however, as the weather conditions have invoked a schedule that must be flexible. Reports on road and camping conditions are conflicting.

But why are we travelling over 13,000km and spending \$'000's to see what is considered the last frontier: 'The Kimberley'. Is it the reputation of the Gibb River Road and the Tanami Track that has challenged our sense of adventure?

Is it the opportunity to capture the magnificent scenery of Tunnel Creek, Windjana Gorge, Galvans Gorge or the famous Mitchell River Falls on film? Maybe the sense of adventure in travelling and bush camping in remote areas has rekindled our exploration instincts? Or, is it just the need to escape the rat race, to slow down and take time?

For what ever reason, each participant will have their own driving force to undertake this journey.

Participants

The Three Musketeers

- George (Biggles) Pledger
- Brian (Lawrence) Martin
- Graeme (Scribe) Lyne

The Apprentice

- Sue (Seeker of information) Lyne

Very Special Additions

- Jan Hymas
- Derek Hymas

Many others befriended along the way.



Itinerary

The initial itinerary for this adventure was to travel north along the Stuart Highway to Katherine, west to Kununurra, then along the Gibb River Road to Derby, visiting various scenic spots along the way. Derby to Broome, then back

along the Black Top to Halls Creek and thereafter the Tanami Track to Alice Springs for an exploration of The Centre; finally entering Victoria via Mildura.

But an itinerary must be very flexible when travelling the outback, particularly in the north, as it is amazing what a Category 5 cyclone can do to one's travel plans. In our case many of the features we planned to visit were closed due to water being up to 2 meters deep over the roads.

The first of many variations to the itinerary involved delaying our arrival in the north to allow time for the roads and camping areas to dry out. This was achieved by visiting Ayres Rock, The Olgas, Kings Canyon and Alice Springs first. This still did not allow enough time for the flood waters to recede, so Plan C took us part way along the Gibb River Road to El Questro then back to the Bungle Bungles, Broome and Derby via the all weather road.



Finally the flood waters did drop sufficiently to tackle Gibb River Road, Mitchell Plateau and Tanami Track.

By far the most difficult decision involved Janet and Derek. Derek maintained a very strong desire to see the Mitchell Falls in all their splendour, both from the ground and via helicopter. Several days were spent working out the best solution for us all. Sadly Janet and Derek did not have sufficient time to wait for the rivers to drop so headed in the opposite direction. Ultimately, this proved to be the only solution.

Travelling the Gibb River Road we visited Windjana Gorge, Tunnel Creek, Lennard River Gorge, Bell Gorge, Mornington Wilderness Park, Manning Gorge, Barnett River Gorge, Mitchell Falls, just some of the many famous names one hears about.

After a short recovery period at Kununurra, Plan ???? saw us heading for the Tanami Track via Halls Creek. From here it was on to Alice Springs then Melbourne via Adelaide. A trip of approximately 8 week's duration.

Settling In

Having left Melbourne behind, the rush to get there was on. But to where? Once clear of the rain and the cold weather we began to realize that time was ours, time to slow down and time to stop for a 'cuppa'.

Having realised that we could take our time the pattern for daily life soon developed.

Early rise with the sun, hit the road after a leisurely breakfast, travel a short distance, stop at a scenic stop for a 'cuppa', travel some more then stop for the midday snack, more travel then pull over early afternoon to set up camp. Yes, you guessed it, in time to have another 'cuppa' of sorts whilst reviewing the scenic delights of the day.

Camaraderie

A feature of trips such as this is the time taken to sit, relax and talk about the day's activities and those yet to come. To sit around the camp fire to talk about Brian's upcoming attempt to climb "The Rock", to tease him about updating Wills, protective clothing, his fitness and that WE will look after his Landcruiser should anything happen. This coupled with a sleepless night made Brian's achievement in conquering "That Rock" all the more memorable. Brian's expression on completing the task was one that cannot be described, however the smile was broad and the excitement level high.

There were many memorable occasions, but one that comes to mind is Derek attempting to prepare carrots for the evening meal. First step was removal of the skin, then very slowly an attempt to accurately dissect precise segments. This proved too much for Brian as he appeared with a tape measure to aid Derek's quest for perfection.

The size of a Boab tree can be determined in many ways, it can also be measured by the number of people it takes to give the tree a hug. The Boab under which we camped at Kununurra was measured as a 'four person hug tree'.

Activities

Walks around The Rock, through the Olgas and over Kings Canyon have done wonders to our fitness, as did visiting the many gorges. An eleven km walk around the base of Ayers Rock became the bench mark, hence a mere six km return walk into the Mitchell Falls was looked forward to as a 'walk in the park'!

A tour through the West McDonald Ranges with visits to Glen Helen Gorge, Ormiston Gorge, Serpentine Gorge and the Ochre Pits completed Stage 1 of a trip that exposed us to the many colours and landscapes of the Red Centre. The Green Centre? Many call it the Red Centre but with recent rains we found the sweeping view was green, with flushes of colour from those opportunistic wild flowers.

Along the Mereenie Loop between Kings Canyon and Alice Springs (our first taste of gravel roads) we counted 95 shredded tyres left abandoned along the side of the road.

A swim someone said, so it was off to the warm springs at Mataranka. As the main pool was closed we had to contend with the minor pool. The closure was due to repairs caused by the recent floods having washed away some of the infrastructure. Indications were that the flood water reached an estimated 20 metres above the normal level of the spring.

Bird life was abundant but not so animals. One of the few sightings occurred when Sue was greeted by a Green Tree (?) Snake whilst clambering over rocks on the way to Emma Gorge.



Brian, whilst in Broome, decided that a sunset camel ride along Cable Beach needed to be experienced.

No other members of the expedition was game to take this on, but were very enthusiastic for all details of the adventure.



Brian returned, quite elated at the experience and even a little stoked at his new nickname of "Lawrence"!

The lure of a flight over the Horizontal Waterfall, out from Derby, proved to be too much for George (Biggles), so a quick investigation into flights, a pilot found and he was off! . This time several other members of the expedition took their courage in hand and joined him. Seeing the Kimberly coast line, the mud flats at low tide, The Thousand Islands, the pearl farming areas and the Horizontal Waterfall from the air was just awesome.



The WOW Factor

But how do you compare one magnificent gorge, spring or waterfall against another? How do you decide which area or park is the best?

Enter the 'ooh-ah factor'. A score obtained by simply measuring the enthusiasm attached to the ooh-ah by individuals when a particular site is mentioned.

So far equal billing goes something like:

The Chamberlain River crossing to Branco's lookout - Brian
The Painted Desert and Tunnel Creek - Sue
Lennard River Gorge - Graeme
Mitchell River Falls - George

Menus

Kings Canyon saw our first camp roast, of Beef on a bed of caramelised onion, accompanied by roast potatoes, roast pumpkin, greens and gravy all enjoyed by the light of a silvery moon and a million stars, delicious!

The success of this feast was soon followed up with a camp roast of Lamb and all the trimmings, together with a 'joint venture' dessert: Rosella (bush tucker) and Apricot Crumble with warm Custard.

This feast was a source of interest to our camp neighbour's who had no idea that this sort of food could be accomplished, in the bush, by ordinary travellers!

Our greatest roasting achievement was Pork complete with a crisp crackle.

We enjoyed a 5 star 'Barra' meal at Katherine RSL, an Asian Banquet in Broome and the occasional take away. Eating out only becomes an option if one is in 'Town' or finds the rare eating establishment associated with one of the Station properties. There is another option, ie fellow campers. George and Brian were treated (by strangers) to a casserole meal on their very first night of travel in Adelaide.

Planning/ Forming One's own Opinion

Undertaking a long trip will inevitably involve lots of comments and concerns about what will be encountered and precautions that need to be put into place. Good trip preparation and planning will alleviate many of these concerns.

Concerns are often generated from fear of the unknown or tall tales. It is these concerns that need to be carefully evaluated in the preparation.



Time and time again we found that the only way to determine the true situation is to see for ourselves. For example we were advised that we would have to swim through parts of Tunnel Creek. Our experience was that the water barely reached our knees.

Topics of Discussion

Many an hour was spent contemplating the secrets of our world.

Such diverse topics as:

- Why is it that there appear to be fewer stars on horizon than directly over head?
- How does a Willy Willy work?
- Which way will a large tree branch float down a river?
- Is the world really a large balloon that is slowly shrinking as air leaks out creating the continually changing surface on which we survive?
- How soon will the male Bower Bird be successful in finding a mate after building such a beautiful bower to attract her?

Incidentally

It is a little known fact that they breed racing butterflies around some of the northern outback tracks. There were several occasions when these speeding creatures were seen beating 4*4's.

Australians will gather any where to back their country competing in any international sporting competition. So it was no surprise to see the camp site, on a remote outback station, deserted as everyone gathered around a television, located in the bar, to watch Australia defeat England in the Rugby.

Fellow Travellers

Perhaps Janet and Derek need special mention as they were only able to spend around 2 weeks as part of the trip. The addition of fresh faces always gives a new dimension and an increase in the overall pleasure of the experience. This experience was complimented by West Australians, Monique and Hermann, who accompanied us in the Mitchell Plateau adventure.

Summary

We are so very fortunate to live in a country that is so vast, so diverse and so awesome. A land of contrast, colour and beauty, all of which must be experienced at first hand to be fully appreciated.

This experience and celebration of The Kimberley must be done slowly and over regular cups of tea or coffee.



Your City My Bush

Give me the City
With its busy life
Its traffic snarls
And its pollution

How can you compare the
music
Of birds echoing through the
bush
With the noise of humanity
Bellowing from the streets

Keep your bush
With its trees and
shrubs
Its quiet water
And beautiful form

I have no need for
The peace of the country
And the calm of the breeze
Where animals do play

For I like the stress
Of sleepless times
Of street kids
And committed
crime

For they bring an inner peace
Which has no place with me
For they may change my life
To one of which I am afraid.



Have Faith will travel

Graeme Lyne

Powelltown Day Trip 9th July

Trip Leader	Ashley Martin	GU Patrol
Participants	Ashley & Lesley	GU Patrol
	James, Kath, Callum & Samual	Jeep
	Bas & Dad	80 Series Landcruiser
	Tim, Donna, Charlotte & Travis & Dad	60 Series Landcruiser
	Craig & Mark	Suzuki
	Michael, Verylle, Liberty & Elizabeth	GU Patrol
	Gary & Amanda	GU Patrol
	Colin	80 Series Landcruiser

We met up at Lilydale McDonalds, grabbed some breaky and headed off at around 8.45am. Down the highway we went and turned onto Warburton Highway towards Warburton. We travelled past East Warburton Primary and Ashley voiced over radio that the turnoff to Big Pats Creek Road was up ahead a bit. James said we just went past that road a couple of K's ago. We all turned around and went back. On track again we stopped at about 9.30am to let some air out of our tyres, jumped back in and headed onto Mississippi Creek Road then made a left to Lays Track and put it into high range. Ashley went up ahead to check it out, found that it was a bit of a greasy track and Bas gave it a go too without any success. So Ashley and Lesley came SKATING down the track in the GU! The rest of us turned around and we ended up on Lyrebird Track. This track was a little tricky as it was also pretty muddy.

Bas had some trouble getting a grip, but gave it some stick and crawled up without too many problems. James loves his new tyres! I think the rest of the crew got up without much drama. We continued to climb over some boulders then through some really lovely scenic trees. We continued left then left then left again and eventually got to Brahams Road then Right at No. 7 Track.

We stopped at Starlings Gap for a cuppa and morning tea where the kids had a little run around and re-charge in the wet muddy conditions.



We piled back into the trucks at about 11.45am and headed towards Noojee. On the way it was like changing days, the weather and road conditions completely changed. We came from muddy greasy wet conditions to mild and dry conditions (weird).

At about 12.30pm we arrived at the Torrongo Falls Picnic Ground. We all had our lunch and a break before we headed off on a walking trek to nearly the top of the falls.



What a beautiful spot to visit. If you had a camera (James left ours at home) you could get some great photos here. The walk was about an hour round trip. Both adults and children alike seemed to enjoy the surroundings.

We climbed back into the trucks and left the picnic grounds at around 2.00pm. Bas left the group and headed home. The rest of us went in search of one more track before we were to head home. We ended up heading in the direction towards Yarra Junction. Ashley found the track that he planned on, gave it a go, slid down back and side ways and the rest of us said no, not today, we will give it a miss and head on home. We continued along a dirt road for a bit then stopped just after a bridge, put some air back in our tyres, had a bit of a chin wag, said our goodbyes and headed back to civilization.

Well, we as a family really enjoyed this trip. Thank you to Ashley and Lesley for leading the way and to everyone for an enjoyable day.

Kathryn Holden

Big River 16th July

We look forward to reading about Carissa & Joe's Day trip to Big River on 16th July in the September Edition of Free Wheeling.



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>

Click on "Join this group".

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

Any problems email:

abuiten@comptroub.com

THE BIO-DIESEL STATION

Sydney now has up and running its very first commercial service station selling bio-diesel.

Situated on the corner of Marrickville and Sydney Roads,

Marrickville, the station is the result of hard work by **bio-diesel** supporter Morris Lyda in bringing this alternate fuel into the reach of normal diesel customers, instead of only those able to bulk-purchase the environmentally friendly fuel.



The Bio-diesel Station, as it is known, sells three graded blends of bio-diesel - B20, which is 20-percent bio-diesel to 80-percent petro-diesel, B50, which is a half-and-half mix, and B100, which is a 100-percent bio-diesel. However, the B100 will only be available during the warmer months due to its tendency to gel inside the fuel filter in extra-cold conditions.

Bio-diesel has numerous benefits over traditional 'dino-diesel' in that it has better lubrication qualities, burns more efficiently and smells better to boot. If you've been wondering what all the fuss is about, now it's time to find out.

Visit www.thebiodieselstation.com for more information, or drop in to the station and have a chat to Morris.

Thank you to "Australian Four Wheel Drive Monthly" for this article



John Partridge

Advanced Winter 4WD Driving Course 2006



We are advising all clubs and four wheel drivers that the Winter Advanced Driver Training Course will be held on the weekend of Friday 18th to Sunday 20th August this year, at Woods Point.

Participants must be able to arrive on the Friday night.

Accommodation for this course has been booked at Richmond Cabins, 74 Coster Street, Woods Point. (Blankets and linen supplied). The plan will be to go to the hotel for counter dinners Friday night and Saturday night and this is at your own expense. Each person is to prepare their own breakfasts in the kitchens and provide their own lunches.

This course is only open to drivers who have already completed an Association or Club Proficiency Course and have gained a reasonable amount of 4WDing experience.

Vehicle requirements:

- ✓ Dual range 4WD
- ✓ Full tank of fuel at Woods Point
- ✓ Off-road tyres like BFG Mud Terrains
- ✓ Wheel chains are optional and if carried ensure they fit.
There will be a chain fitting exercise
Rated tow points front and rear but no low slung towbar hitches
- ✓ Recovery gear: shovel, snatch strap, tyre gauge
- ✓ If winch equipped: dampener, tree protector, gloves
- ✓ Ground sheet, (light tarp), (8'x4') with two long octopus straps so that it can be used on the front of the car for water crossings
- ✓ Spares for a weekend trip: fanbelt, tools, jack and jacking plate, wheel brace, radiator hoses, other spares deemed essential for diesel and petrol engine 4WD's on a weekend trip

Personal equipment:

- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Warm clothing and an extra change of trousers, socks and warm sturdy footwear
Gloves, coat and hat
- ✓ Toiletries and medicines
- ✓ Thermos and lunches

Experience level:

All attendees should have done our 4WD Proficiency course.

Costs are: Each trainee - \$330.00 (Inc GST) each including two nights accommodation. If you are bringing your partner an extra \$100.00 (Inc GST) to cover the cost of the extra bed.

Bookings must be received Friday 4th August

All applications will be checked for suitability of both driver and vehicle to complete the course. Vehicles deemed not roadworthy will not be permitted on the course.

Milton Oliver

Chairman, Driver Training Unit

Four Wheel Drive Victoria

PO Box 596

Balwyn North 3104

Tel: 03 9857 5209 Fax: 03 9857 5260

Email: office@fwdvictoria.org.au

Website: www.fwdvictoria.org.au



When: Saturday, August 12, 2006
7.00pm til Midnight

Where: Panorama Room
Mulgrave Country Club
Cnr Wellington & Jells Roads
Whealers Hill

Cost: \$40.00 Per Head
Cost Includes Raffle Ticket

Full payment required by July meeting.


Contact: Steve Boyle on 0411 129427
or Paul Ryan on 0438 121148





PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM


ANNUAL SNOW TRIP

DESTINATION	Licola and Beyond
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	Ashley Martin Mob: 0438 600 904
DATE	Friday 18 th August to Sunday 20 th August
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Officer Weigh Bridge TBA
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS 	Although to date the snow season has not been great hopefully it will improve by the time the weekend is upon us. If not I am sure there will be enough to enjoy driving and playing in. Camping as usual will be along the Wellington River at site 14 just out of Licola. Saturday we will drive up to Arbuckle Junction and beyond in search for snow. Lunch will be along the way and this will give us time to get out and enjoy the fluffy stuff. If time permits a drive around the area in the afternoon and then back to camp to warm up around the fire. Bring the kids along. Sunday will be a leisurely pack up and then back to Melbourne.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: N/A MAXIMUM: N/A
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	150
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Licola DIESEL:
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic recovery equipment Warm clothes essential
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

ANNUAL PUB TO PUB

DESTINATION	Mystery Pub To Pub
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	David Hughes Home: 9706 2966 Work: 9798 1492
DATE	Friday 8 th September to Sunday 10 th September
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Myrniong Hotel, Myrniong (Melway G11/E1)
GRADE <i>Please adhere to new trip classifications</i>	WET: Easy DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS 	Going from one place to another and visiting points of interest along the way Notes to be supplied to participants with more information
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: N/A MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	150
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: N/A DIESEL: N/A
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Does not matter
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic recovery equipment. Drinks for morning tea (food supplied) and lunch for Saturday
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM


WINERY WEEKEND

DESTINATION	Nagambie and Environs
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	Ashley Martin MOB: 0438 600 904
DATE	23 rd – 24 th September
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Ford Factory, Campbellfield 9.00am
GRADE <i>Please adhere to new trip classifications</i>	WET: Easy DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Time has come for another winery weekend and for something different from previous years. We have decided to visit Nagambie. After meeting at Campbellfield, we will make our way to Plunketts Winery where we will enjoy a few tastings and morning tea. From here we visit Tahbilk for more tasting, followed by lunch on the banks of the river alongside the winery. There is a café there for those who wish to purchase lunch, or bring your own picnic while enjoying the view. Next will be Mitchelton and then 12 Acre Winery. If we have time we will no doubt source a few more.</p> <p>Accommodation will be at Nagambie Lakes Resort approximately 10km north of Nagambie. The resort overlooks the Goulburn Weir and the Weir wall is within walking distance; tennis courts are available for those feeling energetic.</p> <p>There is a choice of either a room consisting of 2 single beds and 1 double for \$95.00 or 1 single or 1 double for \$75.00. Rooms are basic and include linen, fridge and small cooktop/oven.</p> <p>There are BBQ facilities and a fireplace. The plan for dinner is for everyone to bring a small plate/meal put it on a large table and everyone helps themselves to the smorgasbord while enjoying the purchases from the day.</p> <p>Breakfast will be bacon and eggs on the BBQ which I will organise and the total will be divided between the group.</p> <p>Sunday will be a leisurely day and maybe travel a little further north to a couple of wineries in Murchison before returning to Melbourne.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: N/A MAXIMUM: N/A
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	100
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Nagambie DIESEL:
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Headache Tablets
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM


TARRA BULGA NATIONAL PARK

DESTINATION	Tarra Bulga National Park
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	Mark Capper 9706 3939 Mob: 0411 530484
DATE	Friday 13 th October to Sunday 15 th October
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Officer Weigh Bridge at 4.30pm or make your own way there. If you are, please let me know your route and approximate arrival time
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Easy DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS 	Camp at "Fernholme" Tourist Park (Dogs allowed on leash only). I have booked 2 powered sites and 7 unpowered sites (cabins also available) Friday night group BBQ. Main activity on Saturday is walking the many trails of the National Park followed by another group BBQ in the main BBQ area. Music and dancing is OK! Sunday we will drive the Grand Ridge Road to Mirboo North and stop for lunch and beer tasting at the Grand Ridge Brewery, then home at your leisure.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	150
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Traralgon from the North/Yarram from the South DIESEL: Traralgon from the North/Yarram from the South
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Camping Gear, Basic recovery equipment and good walking shoes
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

FISHING TRIP

DESTINATION	Jamieson Area
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	Ashley Martin Mob: 0438 600 904
DATE	17 th – 19 th November
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Lilydale McDonalds 6.30pm
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Medium DRY: Easy/Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS 	<p>The annual fishing trip is once again being organised. This year we will have several awards to hand out for those special fishing moments. Some will opt to take Friday of making it a long weekend and give themselves every opportunity to catch a fish or 2.</p> <p>This year I thought Jamieson would be a good destination and we will probably be based at Grannys Flat. This will be finalized as the weekend gets closer.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	200
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic recovery equipment. Fishing equipment if you choose Patients a necessity
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB INC

Nomination for Election to the Committee of Management – 2006/2007

I.....Signed:.....

Nominate.....for the position of

.....

I.....Signed:.....

Second the nomination for election to the Committee of Management.

I.....Signed:

Of.....

Hereby accept the nomination for election to the Committee of Management of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc for the position of

.....

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