



Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A0002184F

AUGUST 2007



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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COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2006-2007

President	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	John Partridge	0432 876 699	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Craig Major	0432 876 699	treasurer@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Paul Ryan	0438 121 148	secretary@vfwdc.com

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Assistant Secretary	Derek Hymas	0438 259 605	asstsec@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	John Partridge	0428 331 211	trips@vfwdc.com
Training Co-ordinator	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666	training@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Julie Capper	0411 530 464	editor@vfwdc.com

Association Delegate	John Partridge	0428 331 211	trips@vfwdc.com
Training Officers	Mark Kochan	0412 544 668	
	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904	president@vfwdc.com
	John Partridge	0428 331 211	trips@vfwdc.com
	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666	training@vfwdc.com
New Member Contact	Mark Capper	0411 530 464	
Web Manager	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784 074	
Librarian			

Forward Articles & Photos for the Newsletter to:-

editor@vfwdc.com

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 to another month of *Free Wheeling*.

As the current committee year comes to a close, I would like to thank every member on the committee for their commitment over the past 12 months. It is not always easy and can be trying at times, but the satisfaction of seeing the club grow and move forward outweighs the frustrations. The majority of the present committee will be standing again, but remember all positions are open and new faces with fresh ideas are needed to help the club build on its great foundations. If you are interested, please contact me and I will assist with any information about the positions.

A special thanks to Julie for the sterling job compiling the Newsletter. This role is sometimes underestimated, as the newsletter becomes the face of the club in many ways: from all the members who receive and read it to obtain the trip information and club happenings, to visitors/potential new members accessing it over the internet and 4WD Victoria. It is an extremely important role and many thanks to Julie.

With the recent floods throughout Gippsland, many of the areas have become inaccessible for planned forthcoming trips. Due to the ferocity and flow of the water, it has severely damaged entry/exit points to many of the crossings. As a result, destinations have changed for a number of trips, but the style of trip will remain the same. The snow trip is one that has been changed and there are a couple of new areas earmarked, but this will be finalised in the next couple of weeks. For those who plan to attend, please contact me prior to the trip for full details. The training weekend has also been changed, but the positive is it will now be held closer to Melbourne. For more information please contact Michael.

Once again the trips keep coming. There are a few new trips such as the great annual Pub-to-Pub-to-Pub; David and Rosalie do a fantastic job putting together this event which is generally in areas new to most members. More day trips, a wine trip, and a host of others are in the calendar, so check them out, support the leaders and get out there and have fun.

Please don't forget the AGM dinner to be held at *Ellinis Greek Tavern*. This venue makes for a night of great food and dancing. If you haven't yet registered your name, please do so at the next meeting or contact me via phone/email.

See you on the next trip – or at the next meeting.

Ashley Martin
President

Minutes of the General Meeting – 3 July 2007

The meeting was held at Dandenong Library and opened by Vice-President John Partridge who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present:

There were 26 members present as per the attendance book.

Apologies:

Leigh & Anne Pettigrew
Ashley Martin & Lesley Peters
Maxine Ryan
Leigh & Anne Pettigrew
Brian Martin
George Pledger
Ken Pitcher
Jan Davies

Visitors:

Nil

Minutes of the May meeting:

Accepted: Richard Piotrowski
Seconded: Michael Rodger

Matters Arising:

Nil

Correspondence in:

Overland Cruising
Otway Four Wheeler
LROCV Newsletter
Cross Country Jeep Club
Pajero Club
Association: Details of DSE / Parks Public Works
Association: Flyer for ATECO Warn Winch Challenge
Association: Receipt for Public Liability Insurance
Association: Notice of General Meeting 27/06
Association: Affiliation Fees
Bush Telegraph
Parliamentary Bushfire Inquiry: Letter of thanks for submission
Rays Outdoors: Trade & Leisure Handbook
Bearcom: Sat Phone Hire

Correspondence Out:

Newsletter

Treasurer's Report:

Opening balance 31/5/07	Total	\$8047.96
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RECEPITS:

Memberships	\$ 605.00
Raffle	\$ 82.75
Total	\$ 687.75

PAYMENTS:

Audit	\$ 220.00
General running costs	\$ 19.73
4x4 Victoria membership	\$ 412.50
Total	\$ 652.23

Petty cash	\$ 56.45
Cheque Account	\$1920.84
Term Deposit	\$5905.44

Closing balance as of 31/6/07	\$7882.73
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Accepted: Pat Casey
Seconded: David Hughes

Tea duties:

Steve Pitcher & Rosalie Hughes
Thank you ☺

Raffle:

Sold by Liberty & Elizabeth

1st Prize:	Free Range Eggs - Liberty
2nd Prize:	Wine – John Partridge
3rd Prize:	First Aid Kit – James Holden

Trip Coordinators Report

Ozi Explorer		
set up night	Tuesday 10 July	Paul
Toolangi Day Trip	Sunday 15 July	Craig
Strathbogies	Friday 27 - Sunday 29 July	Ashley
Nav Rally	Sunday 5 August	Anthony
AGM Dinner	Saturday 11 August	Ashley
Snow Trip	Friday 24 – Sunday 26 August	Ashley
Aberfeldy Night		
Run	Friday 31 August	John
Rodney Fountain		
Car Rally	Sunday 2 September	Anthony
Proficiency		
Training - Theory	Wednesday 12 Sept	John
Proficiency		
Training - Practical	Sat 15 – Sunday 16 Sept	John

Trips Reports:

- Noojee hard day trip – Steve Boyle gave trip report on the Noojee day trip. See the July newsletter for details
- Paradise Valley - Paul gave trip report. Richard was asked what had happened to Paradise Valley following the recent floods. Apparently his caravan (along with all the others) is now somewhere in Lake Glenmaggie. Our commiserations to Richard and family.
- Murray River Queens Birthday weekend - Dave Hughes gave trip report. No four wheeling but sounds like they had a good time. Went with Glenn Smith to Bunnalong?. Went in to Shepp to SPC. Tried making armchairs out of old red gum. Had kids and grandkids. Great Spot near the river. Good for wineries
- Labertouche – Tim gave report. Hardest thing was coping with poor navigation from TEC (Ashley). Trip went very well. It's very different being in front, only argued once with Donna but that was Ashley's fault. A little disappointed that they didn't get to last track of day. Participants had a ball.
- Mt. Dissa -Tallarook – John and Ashley went to Dissa. Only rained for ½ hour weather was nice and mild. Lot of tracks were seasonal closures but boys explored those that weren't. Heavy fog on way in Friday night which was a slow crawl in 1st made things a bit interesting.

Association Report:

- Promoting FWDV as Victoria's premier environmental group
- Zac Powell is leaving FWDV and taken up a position with DSE in policy making/Hunters
- FWDV are looking for club information for 4WD Radio
- There will be positions vacant on the FWDV board. Any Interest?
- Treasures report. There was a \$5,000 expenditure on Hoddles Ck. Most of this is in assets that will be re-located to new training premises
- Affinity has a new revised policy fee structure that is believed to be substantially lower than previous. One delegate said he saved \$150 from nearest quote.
 - Affinity now has a 3 year new for old policy on new vehicle insurance.
- Big Sky have credit cards with reduced interest, as well as home and personal loans available to club members.
- 4WD gathering in Mitta Mitta. Easter 2008. Numerous trips, fishing, fly fishing lessons etc.
- Looking for club participation and also trip leaders to run trips.
- The new 4WD track works program is out for review. Committee is looking at this. Any one interested contact me and will forward it on.
- MVO Tracks. FWDV is working closely with PV and DSE to obtain access to MVO tracks Victoria wide.
- 12 Month review of Bunyip strategy is due, but no word when this will start.
- I was critical of FWDV lack of consultation with the Regional Reps and myself regarding the issues we have brought to hand as well as the access issue to tracks in Bunyip.

General Business:

- New Trip Guidelines
 - Over view and discussion
 - Reason - cover by Public Liability Insurance, trips are suitable and within leaders capabilities, for our records
 - Responsibility of participants to contact trip leader and advise of attendance/non-attendance etc.
 - Ensure that vehicle is mechanically sound etc, sufficient fuel, right tyres and equipment for trip you are doing.
 - Email trip coordinator, editor when trip is complete with participants and who is doing trip report.
- Committee elections – nomination forms asap please. Must be financial to stand and to vote so renewals asap please. John went on to speak about duties of club members and serving on committee.

Other Business

Email – some people didn't get forms. Please let us know and we will mail hard copy.

Website - some people have not been able to download newsletter. We can email and if no good then we can, mail hardcopy. We can endeavour to work out why people are having trouble downloading.

New Members – Steven Varty & Brendan Armour. Welcome to the club.

Meeting Closed: 10.00pm

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 7 August 2007 at 8.00pm at 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

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,
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alfantz@optusnet.com.au



Four Wheel Drive Radio Show
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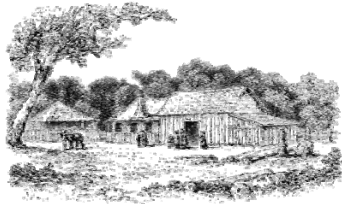
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Wanted

Newsletter Editor



If you are interested in taking on the role of Newsletter
Editor, please contact

Ashley Martin (president@vfwdc.com)
or Julie Capper (editor@vfwdc.com)

Full assistance will be given during the hand over.

NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING

The November Club meeting will be held at the
ARB factory on Tuesday 13th of November.

We will be taken on a full tour of the ARB factory.
Due to the size of the factory the tour will start at
7.15PM sharp.

Please ensure you arrive by 7.00PM

We are restricted to 35 members only, 16 years
and above. It will be first in best dressed.

A form will be available at the next few meetings
for members to put their name on.



John Partridge
Trip Coordinator



CLUB CALENDER AT A GLANCE

AUGUST

Tuesday 7 th	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Saturday 11 th	AGM Dinner	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Friday 24 th to Sunday 26 th	Annual Snow Trip – Mt Skene	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Tuesday 21 st	Committee Meeting	TBA	TBA
Tuesday 28 th	OziExplorer Follow Up Night	Paul Ryan	0438 121 148
Friday 31 st	Toolangi Night Run	John Partridge	0428 331 211

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 2 nd	NavRally	Anthony VanBuiten	0413 784 074
Tuesday 4 th	Club Meeting	TBA	TBA
Sunday 9 th	Day Trip TBA	Paul Ryan	0438 121 148
Wednesday 12 th	Proficiency Training (Theory)	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Saturday 15 th to Sunday 16 th	Proficiency Training (Practical)	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Friday 14 th to Sunday 16 th	Pub 2 Pub	David Hughes	
Tuesday 18 th	Committee Meeting	TBA	TBA

OCTOBER

Tuesday 2 nd	Club Meeting	TBA	TBA
Saturday 13 th to Sunday 14 th	Wine Trip	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Tuesday 16 th	Committee Meeting	TBA	TBA

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 13 th	Club Meeting	TBA	TBA
Tuesday 20 th	Committee Meeting	TBA	TBA
Friday 23 rd to Sunday 25 th	Fishing Trip TBA	Ashley Martin	TBA

The Cooks Corner



Chicken Chilli Verde

700 grams skinless chicken breasts
390 grams prepared salsa verde
1/2 medium onion, chopped
1 bay leaf
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon minced garlic
1-2 tablespoons jarred, sliced jalapeno
2 teaspoons chicken bouillon concentrate
Sour cream
Shredded cheese
Chopped fresh cilantro

Place the chicken in your camp oven and add the salsa verde, onion, bay leaf, pepper, cumin, garlic, jalapenos, and bouillon on top.
Cover and cook slowly for a couple of hours

When the time's up, shred the chicken with a fork.
Serve with sour cream, cheese, and cilantro on top.



NOTICE

Club Library

It has come to notice that we are missing books and DVDs from the Club's Library. Most of the items have been gratefully donated by members, companies or purchased by the Club. These items are there for the benefit of all members, but because they have not been returned, members are missing out.

Could you therefore please search for any items you may have in your possession and return them ASAP. If you do have any library items and are unable to make it to a meeting, please contact one of the committee members and we will arrange for them to be collected.

Thanks you for your co-operation

Ashley Martin

Congratulations to following
Members on
30 years with the Club

Peter & Denise Rowe

Andy Merlo

Congratulations!

"We apologise if we have missed anyone else who has had a significant anniversary, however our records are far from complete. If anyone knows of someone that we have missed then please let the Secretary know and we will update our records accordingly."

Forthcoming Trips

Destination Annual Snow Trip – Mt Skene

Trip Leader Ashley Martin
Contact No 0438 600 904
Date Friday 24th – Sunday 26th
 August
Meeting Place Officer Weight Bridge
Time TBA
Grade WET: Medium
 DRY: Easy

Trip Activity Details

Due to the recent floods around Licola the destination has been changed. We hope to visit Mt Skene but this will be confirmed closer to the date. All camping details and meeting place/time will be finalised by then so please contact me the week prior to the trip. The trip will still consist of the usual fun and snow driving but different scenery. Sunday will be a leisurely pack up and then back to Melbourne.



Vehicle Limits MINIMUM: N/A
 MAXIMUM: N/A
Approximate Km's 150
Late Fuel Available PETROL: Licola
 DIESEL:
Equipment Required Basic recover equipment.
 Warm clothes essential
Maps Required N/A
Radio Channel CB/UHF 12

Destination Toolangi Night Run

Trip Leader John Partridge
Contact No 0428 331 211
Date Friday 31st August
Meeting Place Lilydale McDonalds
Time 6.00pm Sharp
Grade WET: Very Hard
 DRY: Hard

Trip Activity Details

This will be an "A Grade" standard night run tackling the hardest tracks available to us in the Toolangi area making camp in the early hours in the morning where ever we end up.
 This will be an "A Grade" standard night run tackling the hardest tracks available to us in the Toolangi area making camp in the early hours in the morning where ever we end up.

Vehicle Limits MINIMUM: 3
 MAXIMUM: 6
Approximate Km's 40km's
Late Fuel Available Lilydale
Equipment Required All recovery gear, diff locks
 and winches. Basic camping
 gear
Maps Required Rooftops Toolangi
Radio Channel CB/UHF 12

Destination Proficiency Training TBA (Previously Merringtons)

Trip Leader Michael Rodger
Contact No 0412 530 666
Date Theory: Wednesday 12
 September
 Practical: Saturday 15th to
 Sunday 16th September
Meeting Place TBA
Time TBA
Grade WET: Medium
 DRY: Medium

Trip Activity Details

This is a must do course for anyone wanting to learn to safely use their 4WD. The theory night will cover all of the basic driving techniques and recovery. The practical will put all of this in place and cover various terrains including steep hills, rocks and river crossings. Expect possible cold and wet weather, bring appropriate clothing. Vehicles must be in satisfactory road worthy condition, front and rear recovery points.

Vehicle Limits MINIMUM: 4
 MAXIMUM: 10
Approximate Km's 150km's
Late Fuel Available Moe
Equipment Required Basic camping gear, basic
 recovery gear
Maps Required No maps required
Radio Channel CB/UHF 12

Destination	NavRally
Trip Leader	Anthony VanBuiten
Contact No	0413 784 074
Date	Sunday 2 nd September
Meeting Place	Noojee
Time	TBA
Grade	WET: Medium DRY: Medium
Trip Activity Details	
See trip data form. You can participate on your own or you can team up with another vehicle if you wish. Maximum of two cars per team. I will setting up the event on the Saturday and camping overnight so if anyone wants to come early they are welcome	
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 4 Teams MAXIMUM: 10 Teams
Approximate Km's	Depends on you
Late Fuel Available	TBC
Equipment Required	Standard recovery gear
Maps Required	Roof tops Maps, Vic Maps and any others you have will be an advantage
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12

Destination	Mystery Pub To Pub
Trip Leader	David Hughes
Contact No	
Date	Friday 14 th September to Sunday 16 th September
Meeting Place	TBA
Time	TBA
Grade	WET: Easy DRY: Easy
Trip Activity Details	
Travelling anywhere to an unknown destination. Just a fun weekend with a few surprises along the way. Morning Tea and Afternoon tea provided	
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 12
Approximate Km's	Unknown
Late Fuel Available	TBA
Equipment Required	Sense of humour, basic recovery gear & a Stubby Holder
Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12

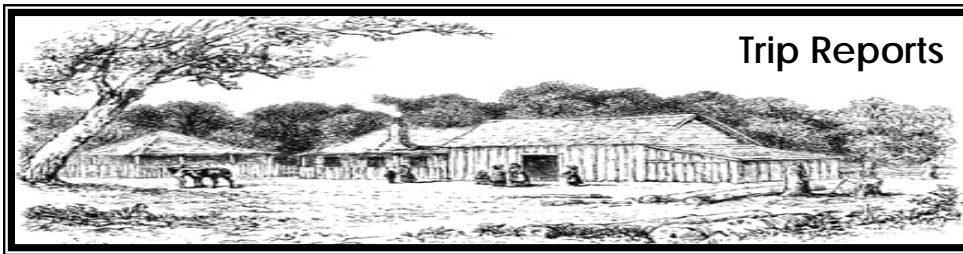
Trip Guidelines for VFWDC Inc

- A completed Trip Data Form needs to be forward onto the Trip Coordinator as early as possible.
 - This needs to be done for recce trips and all club trips.
 - Forms can be emailed to trips@vfwdc.com
- Trip Data Forms need to be approved by the Trip Coordinator for a trip to be an official club trip and to be covered by the clubs insurance.
- It is the responsibility of the trip participant to contact the trip leader to confirm their attendance and time of departure a week before the trip.
- Every participant should ensure that their vehicle is prepared for the trip they are attending and that they have a full tank of fuel.
- At the start of the trip, the trip leader must appoint a **tail end charlie** and a **trip scribe**.
- Once the trip as been completed their trip leader must email the Trip Coordinator, the Newsletter Editor and the trip scribe; a list of attendees, and notification on who will be writing the trip report.
- Trip report is to be completed and submitted to the newsletter editors within two weeks. Trip reports can be emailed to editor@vfwdc.com

We have endeavoured to keeps this down to a few simple rules to ensure every one is clear on what is expected of them and the smooth running of club trips.



Trip Coordinator
John Partridge



Bundalong Trip Report

5 – 14 June 2007

Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Members

Leigh & Anne Pettigrew & Ruby
David & Rosalie Hughes & Poly
Andy & Isabel Riodon
Ray & Dawn Brown & Sally Anne
Terry Joinke & Annie Simpson
Barry Leitch

Others

Craig & Rebekah Pettigrew & Dillon and Thomas
Dean & Deborah Pettigrew & Josh and Joel
Glenn & Jacki Hughes & Owen and Alish
Craig Hughes
Fernando & Jason (Buddha) Valenti

In the absence of those delegated to write the daily reports you can put up with my comments.

Tuesday

We left home at 11:15am after organising to leave by 10:00am on Tuesday and organising to meet at Yarra Glen. On the way Anne's window became stuck down and needed to put on a jumper and coat and gloves etc. as it was a cold and foggy morning. We sat at Yarra Glen waiting for David & Rosalie along with Andy & Isabel, who turned up at 1:30pm for lunch, and so started the day. Our next stop was in Wangaratta (Safeway) for someone to purchase some bread and milk. A shopping trolley later we were on our way. To arrive at our campsite on the Ovens River near Bundalong. Beds were setup in the dark, a fire started and relaxation exercises undertaken. The night was cold with a capital "K"
The weather during the day was perfect.

Wednesday

Leigh logged on to the internet and found that the nearest Toyota dealers were Cobram and Wangaratta, where he took off for the latter for surgery to his Toyota. The fault with the electric window could not be fixed however the window was jammed UP to be repaired upon return to the big smoke. Whilst in town Leigh received a phone call from Rosalie, David's shower pump would not work and had failed the kick test. Travelling from one side of Wang to the other and back again located the said item, however at twice the price of a similar item in the big smoke. A phone call to Craig solved the problem and he would bring one with him. The problem with a sore toe was to be solved medicinally.

A trip to the supermarket in Rutherglen was the order of the late afternoon for guess what. Dinner was had at the Bundalong. Tavern which is a typically bush pub. An enjoyable couple of hours were had.
The weather during the day was perfect.

Thursday

A leisurely start to the day was had and by the time we had just finished breakfast Terry and Annie arrived and friendships renewed, they were followed by Craig and Rebekah and family, this filled in the rest of the day. Dean and Deborah arriving about midnight.
There were no fish caught today.
The weather during the day was perfect.

Friday

Another leisurely start a paddle along the Ovens River and a trip into Yarrawonga for a look around and a counter lunch and resulted in a phone call from Ray & Dawn "where are we" they met up with us in town and after the obligatorily shopping were led to camp. Barry turned up mid afternoon. Glenn & Jacki, and the others arrived that night.
There were no fish caught today.
The weather during the day was perfect.

Saturday

Camp arose to the sounds of children, and the smells associated with cooking bacon, eggs, toast and pancakes over a newly-rekindled fire, resurrected from the bonfire of the previous night's alcohol-fuelled entertainment. The weather experienced the previous days was repeated; sunny and clear. As nice as could be expected for June in the area.
After breakfast and the usual cleanup expected from feeding 22 adults, 6 kids and 3 dogs, Leigh and Anne, Rosalie, Isabelle, Rebekah, Craig, Deborah, Dean and kids plus Jacki and Elysse left for a 2hour return trip to Mooropna to raid the bulk canned goods warehouse of SPC, returning before dusk loaded down with the fruits of their shopping spree.
Those left behind set about dragging suitable 'dead' limbs back to camp with a vehicle, and the battle of chainsaws and axe started. Only casualty, 1 broken axe handle, (and Ashley wasn't on this trip either).
Dave took Ray for a romantic canoe ride down the Ovens, which lasted a couple of hours, where they both ended up clean 'round the bend. In the afternoon, the trio of Barry, 1 Tack and Andy went off in search of 1 Tack's spectacle lens that he lost in a contest with a length of barbed wire. Quite a feat in a thousand hectare park. Funny how it took a few hours to notice it missing; if he hadn't tried to clean the lens, he may still not have noticed it missing.

The late afternoon brought on a contest of duelling chainsaws attempting to build suitable camp furniture, but the makers have yet to modify them in such a way as to make them more portable as well as comfortable. With everybody back at camp, the challenge, after feeding the multitude, was to burn as much wood as possible to enable the guys in the space station to get a navigational fix. Some had a few beverages with and/or after dinner, and the more daring risked their wives housekeeping on a friendly game of poker. No real estate or car ownership changed hands as a result, but apparently it is necessary to drink whilst playing to increase your chances of winning. The main winners on the table were the distilleries.

The first to bed were the kids, the rest of us going in our own time according to degrees of sleepiness or intoxication, (or wives insistence), the last trio of us calling stumps around 3am, but that falls into Sunday, so the next person can report more on the post midnight activities.



Thanks Barrie
No fish today
The weather during the day was again perfect.
Ray and Leigh had a quiet night although Ray still managed to get into trouble.

Sunday

As those that stayed up last night a sleep in was the order of the day, and upon rising it was back to the furniture as again there were no fish caught and another perfect day. The rest of us gathered firewood for tonight's feast. With due diligence the fire was prepared as was the body. Leigh put the spit on however only one Butt would fit and work, back to the drawing board. Most went to bed early in an attempt to catch up on sleep lost the previous night. Jacki left for Canberra.

Monday

Pack up was in order for Ray & Dawn, Annie & Terry, Dean & Deborah, Glenn & Craig and the Valenti's and others. The rest of us spent the afternoon sampling the fare of Rutherglen and surrounds and returned to camp lighter in the pocket and with more fare to bring home.

Tuesday

Leigh & Anne received a phone call of a family emergency in Gippsland and quickly packed up and departed. Craig & Rebekah managed to load their trailer with some of the manufactured furniture and left for home later in the day albeit slowly. This left David & Rosalie, Andy & Isabel to relax and enjoy the surrounds in peace and quiet.

Thursday

All returned home safely

Leigh Pettigrew

Gembrook/Labertouche Day Trip

24 June

Trip Leader/s: Tim, Donna and Kids

Participants: Craig and Marijke
Barry and Family
Phil
Gary and Phil
Steve and Wife
Ashley and Lesley
John

On a day that was cold enough to freeze the preverbal's off a brass monkey we met at Pakenham McDonalds for a thawing coffee and waited for the arrival of the trips intrepid leader. The group speculated as to Tim's whereabouts, many of us believed that he was lost, (he lives 10 minutes from Pakenham in Garfield) and if this was the case we were going home as we now had doubts about ever getting home alive. Tim arrived and faith was re-established. The group headed into the wilderness along Forest Road where, in between shivering, we let tyre pressures down. The first track for the day was Robertson Track which apart from a small band of dirt bike riders attempting to play suicidal chicken with a 4X4 going up a steep and muddy hill was a nice track to start the adventure. At the top of Robertson there were 2 choices, we could continue up the hill or turn left onto Rocky Track. As it happens the decision was made for us. At the top of Robertson Track there was a collection of vehicles (one of them sporting tyres that were the size of my suzuki) that were starting the hill climb. Unfortunately the size of his tyres didn't make up for the fact that he couldn't drive. Half way up the hill big tyre boy stopped. After scanning the UHF channels (they were on channel 22) to establish what was going on the following words were heard....."I AM GOING OVER". The hill was now occupied so we ventured down Rocky Track. We were back onto the main road and headed for Quartz Track and Stolls Track both of which were slippery and boggy. Back on the main road we stopped for lunch. While eating we heard an engine noise that sounded like a V8 screaming its guts out, but we put it down to the sound generated by one of those pesky dirt bikes. But as it turned out it was a V8 powered 4X4, and it had just emerged from the track that we were about to venture up. Everyone looked at each other nervously, everyone thinking the same thing in silent knowing glances.....why was a V8 4X4 screaming on a hill that we were about to start? Fortunately Tim was lead car and so we sent him up first, up south HELLS Track (insert evil laugh here). It turned out to be wet, steep and slippery, but nothing a small amout of consistent right boot pressure wouldn't cure. Phil in a GU with standard tyres had some difficulty but made it up without incident sliding from one side of the track to the other as he fought to keep the GU in straight line. The group then stopped the vehicles and decided to go for a walk to Lawson Falls (return trip 1.1km). There were two problems with this journey i) once we had reached the end of the trail we couldn't see the falls ii) someone (who shall remain nameless) suggested that we return to the cars via the main road.

As it turned out this suggestion was like saying to someone that you can get to Adelaide from Melbourne via Darwin. Tim decided to take the group on the infamous last track for the day (Gentle Annie).

All was going well until meeting a returning vehicle who informed us that his mates truck had destroyed its transfer case and was stuck across the track. Tim took this as a sign and directed the group to safer ground where we aired up and headed home. Tim later informed me that it took him 20 minutes to get home. While by the time that I had gotten home Tim had apparently opened his first beer and had sent me an e-mail for the trip report outlining all the track information (this situation is unacceptable). This got me to thinking that the committee should make a new bi-law creating a small club room/watering hole at Garfield (just outside Pakenham). The question is.....who do we know that lives at Garfield?

Thanks to Tim for a great day.

Craig

Mt Disappointment – Tallarook Touring Trip 29 June-1 July

Trip Leader	John Partridge	GQ Patrol Wagon
Participants	Ashley Martin	GU Patrol Ute

Friday night

We headed off from Ashley's weaving our way through the busy Friday afternoon traffic heading out to Whittlesea for a counter meal dinner. We made some pretty good time partly as there were only the two vehicles (Another *lightweight* dropped out – too cold for some ☺) Dinner was fantastic, a great Parma at a great price.

Before long we were back on the road and heading into Mt Disappointment State Forest. The dirt roads were of good quality and we were quickly nearing our camping spot, until, we hit some of the heaviest fog we have ever encountered! Within a couple of minutes we were at a standstill at the large junction of Lords and Mt. Disappointment Roads and Escreet Road. All we could see was a large expanse of fog and not a sight of the roads which we knew must be here. After 5 minutes searching on foot with torch in hand, we figured out which way to go and gingerly headed off. We were crawling along in 1st gear straining to see the road, even at this slow speed I had to skid to avoid a fallen tree as it couldn't be seen until I was almost on top of it! Back to the intersection and down Main Road to Raynors Road which descended downwards towards Andersons Camping ground. As quickly as the fog appeared it was gone again enabling us to find some firewood before reaching our camp spot for the night.. It was a great camping area and we had it all to ourselves. It turned out to be a pleasant mild night enabling us to stay up late sipping ice tea....

Saturday

After a leisurely start to the day with cooked breakfasts in our stomachs, we headed out and up the sometimes daunting Pipeline Track with its huge ruts that could swallow a 4WD

hole. The track was quite wet and we skirted the worst and straddled the rest of the ruts making our way back to Main Road. We spent the next couple of hours driving in circles consistently finding closed and seasonally closed tracks. Eventually we headed back through the camping ground we started out at and headed up the Three Sisters Tracks. These are steep and very challenging rocky tracks and given the wet conditions, we didn't get too far. On one of my attempts the passenger side engine mount let go enabling the fan to hit the shroud. This was not enough to stop us and after a little more exploring around this area we headed out to Quarry Road. There were numerous trees down in this area but we found some nice challenging tracks to have a nibble at. Most of these tracks were off the side of the map but most looped back around. We came across an abandoned 4WD in the middle of the track. Apparently they were deer shooters; the younger guys spotted a deer and headed off after it, with keys in pocket, leaving their fathers behind. After a brief discussion and having the scare of our lives when they fired an unexpected shot off, we turned around and continued exploring. We found a ripper o a track with a large off camber rock ledge which we tried out.

'Good on ya!' nomination: Ashley Martin

Reason: For travelling so light (read; leaving so much at home) that he struggled for traction and getting thrown sideways and digging himself in on the edge of the track.
There's no room for 100% accuracy of facts for the Good on ya! awards.

After a little digging and leaving half of his tyres on the rock, Ashley managed to get up. We weren't out of it yet! The track kept going up and up with numerous small rock ledges. Finally we made it to the top only to find another fallen tree. This was quickly removed and before long we were back on the bitumen and heading back to find a camp spot for the night.

Sunday

It was almost 11:30 by the time we headed off today. The plan was to check out a couple more tracks, have a look at a waterfall and then head over to Mt. Robinson to find a track I had heard of. After removing about 9 trees within the 1st hour and half, we decided to find the bitumen, air up and head on back.

It turned out to be a fantastic trip with hardly a drop of rain. As there was only the two of us we managed to do some great exploring of an area we know little of. We intend to head back up there once the seasonal closures are over to learn more of this great area close to home.

John Partridge

OziExplorer

10 July 2007

Trainer: Paul Ryan
Assistant: Anthony Van Buiten
Participants: Gary Smith
Ian Weber
Patrick Casey
Ron Camm
Peter & Janice Davies
Tim Axtel
Craig Major
Bill Harwood
Tony Richards (visitor)

On Lookers: Michael Rodger
Ashley Martin

A huge thank you to Paul Ryan for giving a very detailed and professional presentation on an introduction to the workings of OzExplorer. An enormous amount of information was exchanged through out the evening by all the members that attended.

My how things have changed. In the "early days" the maps available were The Eastern Side of Victoria Map, The Forrest Commission Map, and a lucky few had Watershed Maps. Distances then were in yards and miles and around the next bend. Instructions were my side, your side and yeah let's see where this track comes out. East was where the sun rose, west was the direction the empty can went, moss grew on the south side of trees and posts, and north had something with pointing your watch at the sun. Signposts in the bush were a place of reverence—you would all stop, get out, have a read, a relieve, a guessamite of where we were on the map, and a vote on which track to take next. We may have straightened up a few signs during navigation trials.



Now we have to deal with datums, WGS84, UTM and Lat/longs, map files, image files, and index files. There are now three norths—True, grid and magnetic. It is mind boggling. There are so many maps for Victoria that if you do a search on a small town i.e. Parkers Corner—you get ten maps to choose from. Amazing stuff. You can do Waypoints that will ring alarm bells when you approach and then they will tell you where to go. This is handy as you can put all these Waypoints into a Route, and if you happen to nod off, the alarm will wake you up and then tell you where to go. Simply amazing.

You can waypoint all your favourite bog holes and winch points, but unfortunately most GPS's only allow for 500 waypoints.

Now armed with all this knowledge and information a few navigation trials will be organised, and whether we use the new ways and or the old ways—I am sure we will still greatly enjoy the day as we all get LOST.

Patrick



Toolangi

Sunday 15 July 2007

Trip Leader/s	Craig and Marijke	Suzuki
Participants	John & Tina	GQ Patrol
	Steve V	GQ Patrol
	Joe & the kids	60 Series
	Phillip	GU Patrol
	Tim & the kids	60 series
	Steve Pitcher	100 series
	Terry & mates	Navara
	Michael Verylle, Liberty & Elizabeth	GU Patrol
	Ashley & Lesley	GU Patrol
	Anthony Aline, Rylie & Connor	GU Patrol
	Paul & Madeline	80 series
	Tony	Navara

The trip for us started the week before when we went on the recie' with Marijke and Craig and a group of others. The tracks that we proposed to go up and down that day were equally wet and slippery and several of them were closed due to trees down.

But back to the real trip! We met, as usual, at McDonalds in Lilydale where we started the day with numerous breakfast treats, which added to the cholesterol and taste OK on a Sunday morning at 8:00am. We were a rather large convoy, numbering thirteen, as we headed along the Melba Highway towards Toolangi. There were a few balloons navigating the Yarra Valley off to the East as we headed north to our adventure. We looked to the paddocks to the West to see if we could see the dog that lives there and pretends it's a sheep. Alas it must have been on a day off or at least hiding behind the dam.

We turned off at Two Hills Road and made our way down to Luke Creek Track. The week before it had proved interesting for vehicles fitted with road tyres and had had another week of rain on it since then. Craig made it up will no difficulty, as did Garry. We needed to correct our line and had to deal with a bolder under the side steps, but made it up also. A few of the vehicles with road tyres decided to take the safe option and probably made a wise choice given the state of the track.



We made our way along several tracks before stopping and the Mt Tanglefoot picnic ground for a coffee stop. It was a bit wet but we all got to have a chat and stretch the legs before heading off on the next stretch. We headed off for one track but it was a bit tight for Craig so we figured that Steve in his 100 series may well have some difficulties so we went in search for another track that had some width to it. We found one but it was lacking in traction. There was a lot of mud flying, some ending up on the roof of the car, and Johnno looked like he had a brown GQ by the time he got to the top of the track. At that point it was time to turn back for some, as the track was just too slippery to get everyone up safely. Those that had reached the top slowly slid down the other side of the hill and we all met up back at Mt Tanglefoot Picnic ground for lunch.

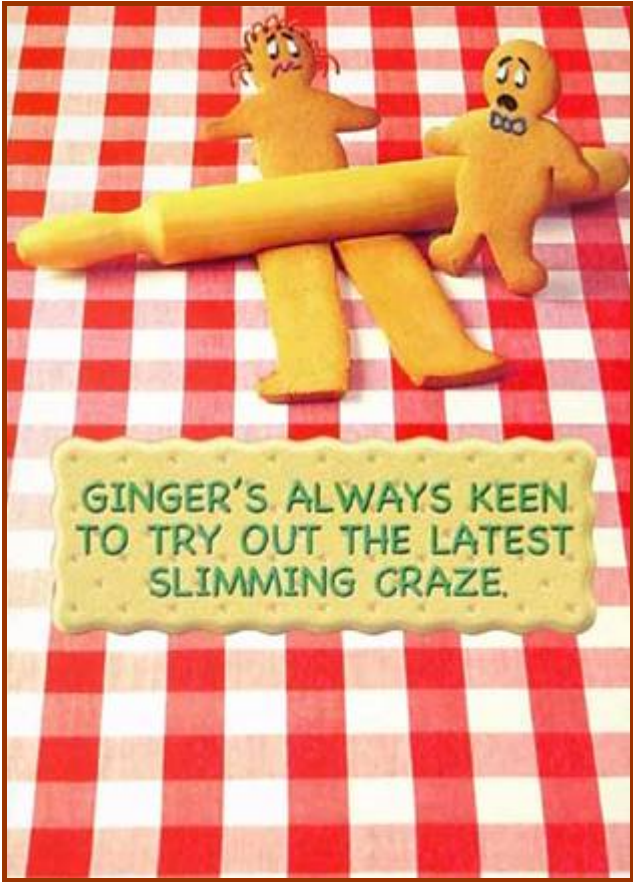
After lunch we headed north towards Cheviot Tunnel. The tracks were easy from this point and it wasn't long before we were at the tunnel. We stopped for a look at the tunnel and aired up the tyres before heading back to Melbourne.

Thanks for a great day Craig and Marijke. I think that everyone enjoyed themselves and we look forward to going on your next trip.



Michael

Ginger Bread Humour





CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

NavRally

DESTINATION	TBC	
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	Anthony Van Buiten 0413 784 074 AH: 9764 3381	
DATE	Sunday 2nd September	
MEETING PLACE	Noojee	
GRADE	WET DRY	Medium Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Quite a few people have expressed an interest in some sort of GPS navigational event for the club.</p> <p>It will be a one day event starting at 9:00am and finishing up at 4:00pm. It is not a timed event and speeding or reckless driving will not be tolerated. Pack a lunch as you will need to eat it on the run.</p> <p>You can participate on your own or you can team up with another vehicle if you wish. Maximum of two cars per team.</p> <p>I will be setting up the event on the Saturday and camping overnight so if anyone wants to come early they are welcome.</p>	
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM MAXIMUM	4 Teams 10 Teams
APPROX KMS (Meeting place to destination)	Depends on You	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL DIESEL	TBC
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Standard recovery.	
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftops Maps, Vic Maps and any others you have will be an advantage	
RADIO CHANNEL	CB / UHF	12



CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

ANNUAL SNOW TRIP 2007

DESTINATION	Mt Skene
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	Ashley Martin Mob: 0438 600 904
DATE	Friday 24 th August to Sunday 26 th August
MEETING PLACE TIME	TBA TBA
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Due to the recent floods around Licola the destination has been changed. We hope to visit Mt Skene but this will be confirmed closer to the date. All camping details and meeting place/time will finalised by then so please contact me the week prior to the trip.</p> <p>The trip will still consist of the usual fun and snow driving but different scenery.</p> <p>With a disappointing snow season last year we will be hoping for a bumper this year. The early falls of snow is an encouraging sign and hopefully this will continue through winter.</p> <p>Sunday will be a leisurely pack up and then back to Melbourne.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: N/A MAXIMUM: N/A
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	150
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: TBA DIESEL: TBA
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic recovery equipment Warm clothes essential
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

Toolangi Night Run

DESTINATION	Toolangi	
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	John Partridge	
DEPARTURE DATE	Friday 31 st August	
RETURN	Saturday afternoon	
MEETING PLACE	Lilydale McDonalds	
TIME	6.00pm sharp	
GRADE	WET DRY	Very Hard Hard
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	This will be an "A Grade" standard night run tackling the hardest tracks available to us in the Toolangi area making camp in the early hours in the morning where ever we end up.	
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM MAXIMUM	3 6
APPROX KMS (Meeting place to destination)	40Kms	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL DIESEL	Lilydale Lilydale
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	150kms max	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	All recovery gear, diff locks and winches. Basic camping gear.	
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftops Toolangi	
RADIO CHANNEL	CB / UHF	12
Further information	This trip is only available the members with suitable vehicles and the experience to match. This will be to the discretion of the trip leader. Mud terrain type tyres with adequate tread depth mandatory. There may be seats available for passengers. Contact me for further details.	



CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

Mystery Pub to Pub

DESTINATION	For you to find out!
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	David Hughes
DATE	14 th , 15 th , 16 th September 2007
MEETING PLACE	TBA
TIME	TBA
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Travelling anywhere to an unknown destination. Just a fun weekend with a few surprises along the way. Morning Tea and Afternoon tea provided
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 12
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	Unknown at this stage
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: TBA DIESEL: TBA
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Sense of Humour, Basic recovery gear and a Stubby Holder
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



Annual AGM Dinner

Venue

Ellinis Greek Taverna

66 Portman Street, Oakleigh

Date

7.30 pm, Saturday 11 August

Cost

\$40.00 Per Head



This year it's time to put on your traditional Greek costume and join us for a great night of food, wine, and dancing. The menu consists of 6 courses ranging from dips, seafood, meat and dessert. The added bonus is all wine and beer is BYO.



For further information please contact
Ashley Martin on 0438 600 904