



# Free Wheeling

**Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club**

Registration No A0002184F

MAY 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](http://www.vafwdc.org.au)



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## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2006-2007

President	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Vice President	John Partridge	0428 331 211
Treasurer	Craig Major	0432 876 699
Secretary	Paul Ryan	0438 121 148

## GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Assistant Secretary	Derek Hymas	0438 259 605
Trip Coordinator	John Partridge	0428 331 211
Events Coordinator		
Training Coordinator	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
Newsletter Editor	Julie Capper	0411 530 464

Association Delegate	John Partridge	0428 331 211
Training Officers	Mark Kochan	0412 544 668
	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
New Member Contact	Mark Capper	0411 530 484
Web Manager	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784 074
Librarian		

Forward Articles & Photos for the Newsletter to:-

**[editor@vfwdc.com](mailto:editor@vfwdc.com)**

**Please forward all contributions prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> 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:	<a href="http://www.vfwdc.com">www.vfwdc.com</a>
Meetings:	Held first Tuesday of each month excluding January (no meeting). The November meeting is held on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month due to Melbourne Cup public holiday.
Location:	Dandenong Library Stuart Street, Dandenong 3175

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

## President's Report

Hello and welcome to another month of *Free Wheeling*.

Importantly, the Certified First Aid Course is coming up next month. To make it easy both the training and accommodation for the Saturday night has been organized at the Black Spur Inn at a very good rate. Numbers are still a little low so if you haven't put your name down please do so or give me a call. This is a great opportunity to take advantage of the special discounted price which will not be available again. See further details in the newsletter.

We have a guest speaker this month from Eco Shot Australia, specialists in diesel gas conversions. They will discuss the process of the conversion and the benefits in both fuel economy and power. There has been plenty of talk about this, so it will be great to hear from the installers who will answer all your questions. I am still trying to finalise a representative from RF Industries who sell UHF aerial and solar panels. Hopefully someone will be able to come to the June meeting to give a talk, and if we're lucky have some product specials.

Trip Reports: Once again, the timely submission of trip reports has been extremely disappointing. It is frustrating for Julie (and me) to continually have to chase people for reports when it comes time to compile the newsletter. If you have been nominated to write a report, please ensure this is completed and submitted to the Editor within 1-2 weeks of the trip. It should not be the responsibility of the Editor or trip leader to follow-up. We all enjoy reading what happens on past trips, so please make the effort and complete reports as soon as possible after the trip.

A few members recently took the opportunity to assist Parks Victoria with the track survey program up around the Moroka area. It was a good (although long) day and we covered tracks not ventured on before. The benefit of this type of survey helps all 4WD drivers by reporting track damage and accessing track signage, a job for which Parks Vic has limited time and resources. The information collected from both our club and other volunteer clubs will assist Parks Vic to allocate working crews to carry out the work and open the tracks sooner rather than later.

We have a great selection of raffle prizes for this month's meeting thanks to Mark Kochan who has donated them. Available to win will be Jumper Leads and other goodies so come along for your chance to win a prize.

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

**Ashley Martin**  
**President**

## Minutes of the General Meeting – 3 April 2007

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

### Present:

There were 17 members present as per the attendance book.

### Apologies:

Michael & Verrille Rodger  
David & Rosalie Hughes  
Maxine Ryan  
Lesley Peters  
Neil & Norma Stephenson  
Aline Van Buiten  
Anne Pettigrew  
Mark & Julie Capper  
Barry & Yvonne Hempston  
Paula Johnston  
Ray & Dawn Brown  
Graeme & Sue Lyne  
Ian Warburton & Liz Beaton

### Visitors:

Nil

### Minutes of the February meeting:

Accepted: Leigh Pettigrew  
Seconded: Richard Piotrowski

### Matters Arising:

Nil

### Correspondence in:

Overland Cruising  
Otway Four Wheeler  
LROCV Newsletter  
Cross Country Jeep Club  
Pajero Club  
Association – Notice of April 14/15 Regional Meeting at Bendigo hosted by Bendigo 4WD Club  
Bush Telegraph  
Eco-Shot Australia – Diesel/Gas Conversions  
Great Grampians & Little Desert Tag-along Tours – 26 & 27 May 2007  
Telstat Communications Open Day 22/07/2007  
Bog Cog – renewal of advertising in Free Wheeling  
Tallarook 4x4 Round-up – 13-15 April 2007  
Twin River Cabins  
Request from Environment & Natural Resources Commission for submission to Inquiry into impact of Public Land Management on Bushfires in Victoria. (to be actioned by Committee).

### Correspondence Out:

Club Newsletter

### Treasurer's Report:

Details not available at time of printing

Accepted: Anthony Van Buiten  
Seconded: Ian Webber

In response to a question posed at last month's meeting regarding the Ritchies community benefit scheme, Craig reported that the club had received \$24.28 from the scheme. This had been directly deposited in the club bank account.

### Tea duties:

Gary Johnston & Ian Webber  
Thank you ☺

### Raffle:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Free Range Eggs won by Ashley Martin  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Travel Rug won by Joe Spicuzza  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Free Range Eggs won by Craig Major  
4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Easter Egg won by Leigh Pettigrew  
5<sup>th</sup> Prize: Torch won by Tim Axtell

### Trips:

John Partridge reported on the upcoming trips which include:

Easter 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> April – Hattah/Kulkyne (Scenic) previously Big Desert explorer but was changed due to availability of campsites. This trip is full but there has been interest from additional club members. If someone would like to lead a second trip into the area then please contact John.

22<sup>nd</sup> April – Tallarook (Medium). This trip should suit anyone who has completed proficiency training.

Weekend Trip – 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> April - Cathedral Ranges (Scenic). This will be a mainly camping/walking trip with little 4 wheeling.

Day Trip Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May – Wombat/Lerderderg (Easy/Medium) was previously scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> March, Craig is now running the trip in May.

Weekend 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> May – First Aid Course. This will be a 2 day course and will cost \$125 resulting in Level 2 certification. Venue to be confirmed but may be held at the Black Spur Inn. Cost of accommodation is expected to be approximately \$20 per head if confirmed.

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Noojee (Hard). This trip will be exploring some of the hard tracks in the area. Participation will be strictly limited to appropriately set up vehicles / experienced drivers. Others are welcome to join the trip as passengers as there will be space available.

Queens Birthday Weekend 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June – Destination TBA

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Tallarook/Mt Dissappointment (Medium).

## Track Clearing Working Bees

The association has organised a number of Track Clearing Working Bees in areas affected by the Bushfires and have now added two more dates:

- Mansfield - 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of April
- Heyfield - 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> of April

Work involves light clearing work, moving vegetation that may have encroached on the track after the slashers have been through, and surveying what remains of signage following the bushfires.

A number of volunteers from the club will probably help out on one or more of these days. Please contact John Partridge in the first instance if you are interested in assisting.

## Trip Submission Process

John briefly reiterated the process for submitting trips which should be submitted either via a Trip Data Form to the Trip Coordinator or via email on the Yahoo Group. Once the trip has been completed could trip leaders please notify the Editor and Trip coordinator of the participants and who will be completing the trip report. It is important that this process is followed in order for trips to be considered as club trips.

## Events Report:

The Family Weekend at Jells Park was a pretty damp affair as it bucketed down for most of the afternoon.

Details for the AGM Dinner will be finalised soon and details published as soon as possible.

## Trip Reports:

Mark Kochan gave a report on the recent Strathbogies trip over the March long weekend. Details were in the April newsletter.

Paul Gillis reported on the Trip Leaders course. The number of attendees and instructors was almost equal but the course was still very interesting and mainly boiled down to common sense. The course helped put a lot of the theory into context.

## Association Report:

John reported on the situation with the Hoddles Creek Training area. The area was originally offered as a training facility in the Bunyip area by Parks Victoria as part of the management plan. Unfortunately due to a combination of misunderstandings, renewed public pressure and differences of opinion this has now been withdrawn. Parks are now looking at other locations in conjunction with the association. On the whole this has been a learning experience for all involved.

Regional Reps meeting – John has been applying pressure to get MVO tracks in the Bunyip area opened to 4wd clubs (as promised during the Bracks election campaign).

DSE have been working hard to reopen tracks in the Aberfeldy area following the summer bushfires.

John also appealed to club members to notify him if they noticed deliberate damage, destruction or track closures when out and about on their travels. DSE and Parks have a memorandum of understanding with VAFWDC that they are supposed to consult before any such action is taken and they cannot be held to account unless the association is made aware of these situations.

## General Business:

Vice President – Mark Capper has had to stand down as vice president due to work commitments which clash with club meetings. John Partridge has kindly agreed to take on the role for the remainder of the year. Mark will continue as a general committee member for the time being. We would like to thank Mark for the time, effort and enthusiasm he has put into the role this year.

Oxfam Christmas Trees – the Oxfam Christmas tree deliveries last year raised \$98,500. This is a 23% increase on previous years. Well done to everyone who assisted.

Guest Speakers – Ashley has approached RFI Antennas and Solar Panels who may speak at the June meeting. We will also approach Eco-Shot (DieselGas systems) to see if they may be able to speak at the May meeting.

Craig's Hut – Mansfield Council have advertised for a project manager to oversee the reconstruction of Craig's Hut.

Nizzbits – Ashley read an email from Nizzbits who are a business supplying Nissan spares at competitive prices. He has used them himself and recommended them to club members.

## Other Business:

Aussie Disposals (Frankston) – Joe Spicuzza mentioned that Aussie Disposal at Frankston were keen to get the club back for a meeting there. We will consider this as a potential venue for our November meeting.

Mark Kochan kindly donated a number of 12v Laptop Adapters and a set of jumper cables from his work which will be raffled off at the May meeting. A letter of appreciation will be sent to Mark's work to thank them for the kind donation.

## Meeting Closed:

9.45 pm

## Next Meeting:

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 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 <sup>th</sup> 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

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Click on "Join this group".

To keep non members out of the group,  
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Any problems email:

[alfantz@optusnet.com.au](mailto:alfantz@optusnet.com.au)

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*Anyone wishing to advertise in the Club Directory,  
Contact the Editor at [editor@vfwdc.com](mailto:editor@vfwdc.com)*

## Trading Post



### BF Goodrich – Mud Terrain Tyres 33 x 12.5 x 15 (x5)

\$65.00 each

Toyota Pre-Cleaner (Factory)  
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'Projector' AC1500 Jump Starter  
(RRP - \$365.00)  
\$300.00 ONO

Contact Mark Kochan on 0412 544 668

## Wanted

### Newsletter Editor



If you are interested in taking on the role of  
Newsletter Editor, please contact  
Ashley Martin ([president@vfwdc.com](mailto:president@vfwdc.com))  
or Julie Capper ([editor@vfwdc.com](mailto:editor@vfwdc.com))

Full assistance will be given during the hand over.

## The Cooks Corner



### FAST RED CHICKEN CURRY

1 tablespoon peanut oil  
800g chicken thigh fillets, sliced thickly  
1 medium (150g) brown onion, chopped coarsely  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup (150g) Thai red curry paste  
400ml coconut milk  
1 cup (250ml) chicken stock  
600g butternut pumpkin, chopped coarsely  
3 leaves trimmed silver beet, chopped coarsely  
1 tablespoon finely grated palm sugar  
1 fresh long red chilli, chopped finely  
2 tablespoons fish sauce  
1 tablespoon lime juice  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped fresh Thai basil leaves  
1 cup (80g) bean sprouts  
Extra lime and steamed jasmine rice, for serving

### METHOD

Heat the oil in a large pan. Cook chicken, in batches, until browned all over; remove from pan.

Cook onion, stirring, until softened. Add paste; cook, stirring, until fragrant. Add coconut milk, stock, pumpkin and chicken. Bring to the boil; reduce heat, simmer, uncovered, for about 10 minutes or until pumpkin is tender.

Stir in silver beet, sugar, chilli, sauce and juice; top with basil and sprouts.

Serve with extra lime and steamed jasmine rice, if desired.





## CLUB CALENDER AT A GLANCE

### MAY

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Noojee Day Trip (Hard)	John Partridge	0428 331 211
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Lerderderg/Wombat Day Trip (Rescheduled)	Craig Major	0432 876 699
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	Julie Capper	0411 530 464
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	First Aid Course	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904

### JUNE

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> to Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Queens Birthday Weekend	TBA	TBA
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	TBA	TBA
TBA	Strathbogies	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	New Trip Leader Day Trip	TBA	TBA
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mt Disappointment/Tallarook	John Partridge	0428 331 211

### JULY

Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	TBA	TBA

### AUGUST

Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Committee Meeting	TBA	TBA

### SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	TBA	TBA



## Forthcoming Trips

### Destination Noojee Day Trip (Hard)

**Trip Leader** John Partridge  
**Contact No** 0428 331 211  
**Date** Sunday 6th  
**Meeting Place** TBA  
**Time** TBA  
**Grade** WET: Hard  
 DRY: Hard

#### Trip Activity Details

TBA  
**Vehicle Limits** MINIMUM: TBA  
 MAXIMUM: TBA  
**Approximate Km's** TBA  
**Late Fuel Available** PETROL: TBA  
 DIESEL: TBA  
**Equipment Required** TBA  
**Maps Required** N/A  
**Radio Channel CB/UHF** 12

### Destination Lerderderg/Wombat Day Trip

**Trip Leader** Craig Major  
**Contact No** 0432 876 699  
**Date** Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>  
**Meeting Place** TBA  
**Time** TBA  
**Grade** WET: TBA  
 DRY: TBA

#### Trip Activity Details

TBA

**Vehicle Limits** MINIMUM:  
 MAXIMUM:  
**Approximate Km's**  
**Late Fuel Available**  
**Equipment Required**  
**Maps Required**  
**Radio Channel CB/UHF** 12

### Destination First Aid Course

**Trip Leader** Ashley Martin  
**Contact No** 0438 600 904  
**Date** Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>  
**Meeting Place** Black Spur Inn  
**Time** TBA  
**Grade** WET: N/A  
 DRY: N/A

#### Trip Activity Details

This course will provide you with the knowledge and skills required to provide First Aid in an emergency situation. This course is suitable for anyone requiring a first aid certificate for the workplace, recreational purposes, sport or home and will give participants the confidence and competence to provide emergency first aid.

**Vehicle Limits** MINIMUM: N/A  
 MAXIMUM: N/A  
**Approximate Km's** PETROL: TBA  
 DIESEL: TBA  
**Late Fuel Available** TBA  
**Equipment Required** TBA  
**Maps Required** TBA  
**Radio Channel CB/UHF** 12

### Destination New Trip Leader Day Trip

**Trip Leader** TBA  
**Contact No** TBA  
**Date** Sunday 24th  
**Meeting Place** TBA  
**Time** TBA  
**Grade** WET: TBA  
 DRY: TBA

#### Trip Activity Details

TBA

**Vehicle Limits** MINIMUM: TBA  
 MAXIMUM: TBA  
**Approximate Km's** TBA  
**Late Fuel Available** PETROL: TBA  
 DIESEL: TBA  
**Equipment Required** TBA  
**Maps Required** TBA  
**Radio Channel CB/UHF** 12

Trip Leader

Contact No

Date

Meeting Place

Time

Grade

John Partridge

0428 331 211

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July

TBA

TBA

WET: TBA

DRY: TBA

Trip Activity Details

TBA

Vehicle Limits

Approximate Km's

Late Fuel Available

Equipment Required

Maps Required

Radio Channel CB/UHF

MINIMUM: TBA

MAXIMUM: TBA

TBA

TBA

TBA

TBA

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.



Trip Coordinator

John Partridge



Regrettably, no trip reports have been submitted for this month's newsletter.



(Photo's from Easter Weekend 2007)



## Track Survey Trip Report

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2007

### Participants:

Paul Ryan and Ashley Martin	80 series
Tim Axtel	60 series
Gary Smith	GU
Bas Stewart	80 series

There had been discussion at the previous meeting regarding assisting with the various bush fire relief programs. After receiving information from 4WD Vic, we decided to take up on the track surveying program around the Moroka area. I met with a Parks Vic ranger who advised what was involved and reviewed the allocated tracks and necessary paperwork. Mainly we had to access signage, report any unstable trees and obstacles obscuring the tracks.

Paul and I departed Friday afternoon and made our way to a pub in Traralgon where we had dinner and waited for Tim to arrive. From there it was an easy run through to Licola. It had previously been decided that we would make camp at Camp 14 along the Wellington, but when we arrived at the river crossing the exit was washed away and too late to try it. We back tracked to Site 13 where we quickly set up camp and got the fire going, thanks to a bag of timber bought at Traralgon (easier than finding it in the dark). The usual chat around the fire and off to bed.

Saturday morning Bas and Garry arrived and we were on our way just after 9.00am. The dozer had been down most of the tracks, but the last one was rather rough. There is a helipad at the end with a good view so at least that made up for it. Overall we reported approximately 25-30 issues that will assist Parks Vic with their survey.

### List of Tracks covered:

Doolans Plain Track  
Moroka River Track  
Mt Wellington Track  
Moroka Range Track  
Moroka Road (to Moroka Hut)  
Kent Road  
Shanty Hollow Road  
Mt Kent Track  
Back on to main road and finish at Horseyard Flat

On our way back to Licola the rain started and as we made our way along the road that follows the Wellington River, there were waterfalls cascading off some cliffs due to the lack of ground cover. Back at Licola we stopped for a quick break and then made our way home (a little later than anticipated).

Although it was a long day, we were happy to make a contribution and would happily do it again in another region.

Thanks to those attended.

**Ashley**

## MAY MEETING GUEST SPEAKER

This month we have a guest speaker from Eco Shot Australia.

Eco Shot specializes in diesel gas conversions and their representative will explain the process and benefits of converting your vehicle.

The meeting will start at 8pm sharp. We will deal with Club business first, then hand over to Eco Shot for their presentation.

Tea break will be held after this which will enable you to talk to the rep about your particular vehicle requirements.

Make sure you can come along for what is sure to be an interesting subject.

**eCo-shot**  
**AUSTRALIA**

**TURBO DIESEL GAS INJECTION SYSTEM**

**4x4's - TRUCKS - BUSES - TRACTORS**



**"My doctor told me to avoid any unnecessary stress, so I didn't open his bill."**



# VFDWC

## First Aid Training Course



### FIRST AID LEVEL 2 Provide First Aid (21593 VIC)

This course will provide you with the knowledge and skills required to provide First Aid in an emergency situation. This course is suitable for anyone requiring a first aid certificate for the workplace, recreational purposes, sport or home and will give participants the confidence and competence to provide emergency first aid.

#### Course Content

- Principles of First Aid
- Personal Safety and Hygiene
- Assessment and Decision Making
- Communication
- Altered Conscious States
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Shock and Bleeding
- Wound Management
- Poisoning, Bites and Stings
- Musculoskeletal Injuries
- Respiratory Emergencies
- Exposure to Heat and Cold

#### Award

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be issued with a Statement of Attainment which is valid for three years from date of issue.

It is highly recommended that a CPR Refresher is undertaken every 12 months.

#### Features

- Nationally Accredited Training
- Recognition of Prior Learning
- Flexible Training
- Assessment will be conducted throughout the training sessions

#### Pre-requisites

- None

#### Duration

- 2 x 7 hour days

#### Dates

- 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> May

#### Fee

- \$125 Per Person

#### Enrolment

- Registration form available at the May meeting or on the day.

#### Location

- Black Spur Inn  
436 Maroondah Highway  
Narbethong
- Bunk accommodation including bedding \$30pp.
- Bar Meal available for the Saturday night.

#### Starting Time

- 10.30am sharp