

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com



OCTOBER 2007

Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A0002184F



The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc is an affiliated club of
the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)

www.vfwdvictoria.org.au

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President	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	John Partridge	0428 331 211	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	Lesley Peters		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
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	John Partridge	0428 331 211	trips@vfwdc.com
	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666	training@vfwdc.com
New Member Contact	Paul Ryan	0438 121 148	secretary@vfwdc.com.au
Web Manager	Paul Ryan		

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 Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3173
Email:	secretary@vfwdc.com.au
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*.

If you haven't heard already, then you should be aware of the proposal put forward by VEAC to significantly change the current Parks network and surrounding land along the Murray River. Some of the recommendations tabled include:

- Five new National Parks.
- Extension to existing National Parks.
- Huge reduction in camping, fishing, four wheel driving, hunting, bush walking, plus more.
- Banning of camp fires.

While we would all agree that the current climate is having an adverse affect on the Murray River and its surrounding land, and that better management practices are required, the proposal put forward is an extreme change and one that will have devastating affects not only on the user groups but also on local communities who rely on tourism to supplement their incomes. I am at a loss as to why banning many recreational sports will assist in the rejuvenation of the system. Like so many users, we assist in maintaining areas we frequently visit in many ways, eg. clearing tracks, rubbish removal etc. There have been phone polls run by WIN TV asking viewers if they agree, or not, with the proposal and the response was a significant NO (I think about 90%), so even the locals oppose the recommendations. We have seen the reduction in tracks network in the Otways since the National Park was introduced, and the pressure in the High Country to close tracks, so we certainly do not want the Murray moving along these lines. I surely hope the State Government takes into consideration the opposing submissions put forward and rejects the proposal. For more information on this issue, visit Four Wheel Drive Victoria's website (www.fwdvictoria.org.au)

Due to a Dandenong Council oversight, the meeting room has been double booked for our October meeting. Unfortunately, it is our Club that suffers and we must relocate to another venue. The details are: Palm Plaza Meeting Room, located at 1-4 McCrae Street (Melway Map 91A E6). We will be starting the meeting at the normal time of 8pm. There will be a sign at the Library advising of the change.

Don't forget that the November meeting will also not be held at the Library. It will be at the ARB manufacturing facilities. Numbers are limited and further details are in the newsletter.

The weather is warming so for those who hibernate during winter the camping season is upon us again. Check out the calendar and I'm certain there will be something to your liking, so hope to see you on one of the listed trips. Make sure you put the Christmas Party date in your calendar as it is sure to be a fun day for all.

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

Ashley Martin
President

Minutes of the General Meeting – 4 September 2007

The meeting was held at Dandenong Library and opened at 8.15pm by President Ashley Martin who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present:

There were 23 members present as per the attendance book.

Apologies:

Maxine Ryan, Graeme & Sue Lyne, Liz Beaton & Ian Warburton, Anne Pettigrew, Ivan Santurini, Lisa Petrou, Dave Hughes, Bryan West, Bill Harwood, Aline Van Buiten, Steve Varty

Visitors:

Sue & Tudor Owen, John McNeil, Bob McKerrow, Nick Johnson, Stan Chechelnitskiy, Mike McGrath

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Accepted: Annie Simpson
Seconded: Michael Rodger

Matters Arising: Nil

Correspondence In:

- Overland Cruising
- Otway Four Wheeler
- LROCV Newsletter
- Cross Country Jeep Club
- Pajero Club
- Track Watch
- Anaconda
- Preview Books Flyer
- Vic 4WD Show Special Offer

Correspondence Out:

- Newsletter
- Final membership renewal reminder

Treasurer's Report:

Opening Balance:	\$9013.17
Term Deposit	\$5905.44

Receipts	\$1860.00
Payments	\$1290.00

Closing Balance:	
Cheque account	\$3190.53
Term Deposit	\$5905.40
Petty Cash	\$ 12.30

	\$9108.23

Accepted: Anthony Van Buiten

Seconded: Leigh Pettigrew

Tea duties: George and Tim. Thanks ☺

Trip Coordinators Report:

Trips Reports:

- **AGM Dinner:** Michael gave the trip report for the AGM Dinner. The club went to Ellinis Greek Restaurant in Oakleigh. The food was good and a bit of Greek (or pseudo-Greek) dancing took place. About 24 people attended which was not a huge turnout but still thoroughly enjoyable. Music made conversation difficult and so the presentation of the Good Onya Award was held over till tonight's meeting.
- **Snow Trip:** Pat gave trip report. The group camped at Skipworth Reserve on the Friday night and headed up to Mt Skene early Saturday morning. There was still a few feet of snow up on the summit but it was obvious the best of it had already melted. As they descended they came across a group of 20 vehicles waiting to go up, so it appeared they got there about the right time. They then had a crack at Sappers Track before heading back into Jamieson for ice cream. Sunday was spent driving some of the dirt between Knockwood, Gaffneys Creek, and A1 Settlement before making their way home via Noojee.
- **Toolangi Night Run:** Paul gave the trip report for the night run. Paul ended up running the trip because John had experienced some mechanical difficulties en route and wasn't going to make it. Anyway the group met at the Glenburn pub as planned and had dinner before heading off. The trip involved heading into Toolangi via Two Hills Road and then driving some of the tracks in the Luke Creek area. Then it was over Mt Klondyke via Aeroplane Track and onto Mt Tanglefoot via Woodmore Range. A lot of debris across the tracks from recent high winds made the going a little slow so by the time we got to Mt Tanglefoot, Pat and Steve were about ready to hit the grog and call it a night. Andy and I drove home that night and left them to it.

Forthcoming Trips:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| • Narbethong Day Trip: 8 Sept | Paul |
| • Toolangi Challenge: 9 Sept | Shane |
| • Proficiency Training | |
| Theory: Wed 12 Sept) | John |
| Practical: 15-16 Sept) | Michael |
| • Avoca Weekend: 29-30 Sept | Ashley |

- Wine Trip – Whitfield: 13-14 Oct Ashley
- Mt Disappointment: Sun 21 Oct Paul
- Nav Rally, Noojee: 18 Nov Anthony
- National 4X4 Show: 25-28 Oct
- Buffalo River: Cup W/end 2-6 Nov Ashley
- November Gen Meeting – ARB Ashley
- Fishing Trip: 23-25 Nov Ashley
- Christmas Party – Bimbimbie:
Sat 1 December Ashley

Association Report: Nil.

General Business:

John spoke about the recent trouble he has had with his car following a recent service. The service was done by Outback Accessories, who have been used by Club members in the past. Anyway, in the 2 weeks since the service, John has had trouble with the Auto box and more importantly, spat a brake pad resulting in loss of brakes. Fortunately John was not traveling quickly at the time. The service report made no mention of problems with the brakes, yet on inspection the pad in question was down to the metal backing. John has raised this with Outback but their attitude has been less than impressive and they have made lots of excuses and tried to put blame back on John. John has since managed to recoup some of his costs but is still far from satisfied. John wanted to raise this issue at the meeting due to the safety issues involved.

The following new members were welcomed to the Club and presented with New Member Kits:

- Shane Michelin
- Bruce Cremonesi

Other Business:

Rudi Paoletti has donated a Navrun DVD to the library. This will be updated and available at next meeting. Our thanks to Rudi for his continued support of the Club.

Raffle: Tickets sold by Peter Frankland.

1st Prize: Laptop Adapter won by John Partridge
 2nd Prize: DVD's won by Tim Axtell
 3rd Prize: Free Range Eggs won by Colin Armour
 4th Prize: Free Range Eggs won by Michael Rodger.

Meeting Closed: 9.37pm.

Next Meeting:

8.00pm, Tuesday 2 October 2007 at the Dandenong Library.

VFWDC MERCHANDISE

For Sale

Club Polo Shirts	\$25.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece ½ Zip Jumper	\$36.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jumper	\$48.00 ea
Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$42.00 ea
Club Caps	\$15.00 ea
Travel Mugs	\$ 5.00 ea
VFWDC Stickers (long)	\$ 6.00 ea
Stubbie Holders	\$ 6.00 ea

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.

DON'T FORGET !

NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING

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



Melbourne Head Office
42-44 Garden Street, Kilsyth

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



Trip Guidelines for VFWDC Inc

- A completed Trip Data Form needs to be forwarded on to the Trip Coordinator as early as possible.
 - This needs to be done for all club trips, including recce 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 Club's 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 has been completed, the 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 reports are to be completed and submitted to the Newsletter Editor within two weeks. Trip reports can be emailed to editor@vfwdc.com

We have endeavoured to keep this down to a few simple rules to ensure everyone is clear on what is expected of them for the smooth running of club trips.

John Partridge
Trip Co-ordinator

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Anyone wishing to advertise in the Club Directory,
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CLUB CALENDER AT A GLANCE

OCTOBER

Tuesday 2 nd	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Friday 12 th to Sunday 14 th	Wine Trip – Whitfield	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Tuesday 16 th	Committee Meeting	Paul Ryan	0438 121 148
Sunday 21 st	Day Trip – Mt Disappointment	Paul Ryan	0438 121 148
Thursday 25 th to Sunday 28 th	National 4X4 Show	4WDVic	fwdvictoria.org.au

NOVEMBER

Cup Weekend Friday 2 nd to Tuesday 6 th	Buffalo River	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Tuesday 13 th	Club Meeting <i>ARB Factory Tour</i>	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Tuesday 20 th	Committee Meeting	Craig Major	0432 876 699
Friday 23 rd to Sunday 25 th	Fishing Trip – Goulburn River	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904

DECEMBER

Saturday 1 st	Christmas Party <i>Bimbimbie Wildlife Park</i>	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Tuesday 4 th	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Saturday 8 th /Sunday 9 th	Oxfam Christmas Tree Deliveries	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Thursday 27 th to Monday 31 ^s	High Country Touring Trip	John Partridge	0428 331 211

Forthcoming Trips

Destination	AVOCA
Trip Leader	Ashley Martin
Contact No	0438 600 904
Date	Friday 28 September to Sunday 30 September
Meeting Time / Place	3.00pm and 6pm Westgate Shell Service Centre
Grade	WET: Medium Hard DRY: Medium
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 3 / MAX: 10
Approximate Km's	200
Late Fuel Available	PETROL: Ballarat DIESEL: Ballarat
Equipment Required	Basic Recovery
Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12
Trip Activity Details:	
I work in Port Melbourne and will be leaving from the Service Centre at 3.00pm. I'm aware that most will not be able to make this time so there is another departure time better suited to everyone, ie 6.00pm. There will be a leader appointed for this later time to ensure the convoy can travel together.	
This trip will involve a good selection of medium to hard tracks, but we will be driving the medium tracks and looking at the harder sections. There may be some willing to attempt the harder section but there are alternative routes so you will not be forced to drive the more difficult sections. The trip will be run along the lines of an advanced training trip so we are encouraging those who have completed the proficiency training to attend to further improve their driving skills. Vehicles do not have to be heavily modified, but a good set of all-terrains and recovery equipment will be required.	

Destination	WHITFIELD – WINERY WEEKEND
Trip Leader	Ashley Martin
Contact No	0438 600904
Date	Friday 12 October to Sunday 14 October
Time	6.30pm Friday
Meeting Place	McKenzie Reserve, Yarra Glen
Grade	WET: Easy DRY: Easy
Vehicle Limits	N/A
Approximate Km's	150kms
Late Fuel Available	Petrol: Mansfield Diesel: Mansfield
Equipment Required	Headache tablets
Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12
Trip Activity Details:	
Another year gone by and time for another winery tour! This year, we've decided to revisit Whitfield. We were there four years ago and at that time didn't get to see all the great wineries in the area.	
We plan to leave Melbourne on the Friday night, but if you choose to come up on Saturday morning it's an easy drive and depending on numbers, I can arrange a meeting time and place.	
We will be camping in the Valley View Caravan Park	

which has both powered and unpowered sites, onsite caravans and of course a full amenities block. Designated fire areas are available in case it gets chilly. If you are contemplating an onsite van, let me know asap to ensure availability. No guarantees if you leave it til the last week.

Like last year's wine trip, dinner will be an all-in affair. I will arrange a few portable BBQs. When numbers are confirmed, we can sort out who is bringing what. Depending on numbers, I will cater for breakfast and divide the cost between the group.

Prices: Caravan: Per couple \$44 p/n; Family \$55 p/n.
Unpowered site: \$17.60.

Destination	MT DISAPPOINTMENT
Trip Leader	Paul Ryan
Contact No	0438 121148
Date	Sunday, 21 October 2007
Meeting Time/Place	9.00am, Shell Servo Bunker Hill (Cnr Mickleham Rd & Hume Hwy)
Grade	WET: Medium DRY: Medium
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 8
Approximate Km's	
Late Fuel Available	Petrol: Clonbinane Diesel: Clonbinane
Equipment Required	Basic recovery gear
Maps Required	Rooftops Mt Disappointment Forest Activities Map
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12
Trip Activity Details:	
Day trip to Mt Disappointment to take in some of the tracks we drove in the recent NavRun. Some of these tracks may provide a little bit of a challenge so a decent set of muddies wouldn't go astray. There are also quite a few bog holes through the area so we may get a bit muddy depending on the weather between now and then.	

Destination	**NEW TRIP**
GOULBURN RIVER	ANNUAL FISHING TRIP
Trip Leader	Ashley Martin
Contact No	0438 600904
Date	Friday 23 rd to Sunday 25 th November
Time/Place	10.00am Friday Morning 6.00pm Friday Evening Lilydale Maccas
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: N/A MAXIMUM: 10
Equipment Required	Basic Recovery, fishing rods etc
Last Available Fuel	Petrol: Mansfield Diesel: Mansfield
Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12
Trip Activity Details:	
On recent trips through Jamieson we came across this camping area along the Goulburn River and thought it would make for another great fishing trip. It is well grassed	

(hopefully will still be), with easy access to the river and has drop toilets. The river is suitable for those wanting to wade upstream or, like most of us, just throw in a line from the side (if we even get that energetic). The camping area is an easy drive out of Jamieson along the Jamieson/Woods Point Road and is a well-maintained dirt road.

Two departure times have been set as some members will be leaving Friday morning and others on Friday evening. If you can't make either, let me know and I will advise directions (don't be afraid!).

Weather permitting – and the wellbeing of attendees – I will probably take a scenic drive home via a few tracks that I haven't been on for some time, but be too difficult.

Function	CHRISTMAS PARTY
Trip Leader	Ashley Martin
Contact No	0438 600904
Date	Saturday, 1 December 2007
Time/Place	1200-1700hrs Bimbimbie Wildlife Park, Mount Burnett
Vehicle Limits	NIL
Equipment Required	Food, seating/eating equipment
Maps Required	Melway – Map Ref 313 4K
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12
Trip Activity Details:	Lunch, and games, and a wildlife tour for the children – and adults if they wish to participate! And of course, a visit from Santa. All details in attached flyer.



Camp Kitchen

Cannellini Bean, Leek and Sausage Soup

Ingredients:

- 4 spicy lamb sausages
- 15g butter
- 1 medium leek, washed, quartered lengthways, finely sliced
- 2 celery stalks, diced
- 2 medium carrots, diced
- 3 cups (750ml) chicken stock
- 2 x 400g cans cannellini or other white beans drained rinsed
- ¼ cup (65g) pesto

Method:

Heat a frying pan on medium. Cook sausages for 5 mins, turning frequently, until browned. Cool and cut diagonally into 1.5cm slices. Melt butter in large saucepan on medium heat. Saute leek, celery and carrot for 5 mins until softened and lightly coloured. Stir in chicken stock with 2 cups water and bring to boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 5 mins. Add sausage and cannellini beans and simmer for further 5 mins. Season to taste. Serve with a small dollop of pesto – and *naturellement*, crusty bread!



You do not want to miss this event!

The National 4x4 Show, Fishing & Outdoors Expo, co-located with National Fly Fishing & Sport Fishing Expo opens its doors on the 25th of October until the 29th of October at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre.

Bring the whole family down and see special guests, including Wes Denning (presenter on Channel 10's *Totally Wild*), Paul Worsteling (presenter on Channel 10's *iFish*) and many more of your industries experts who will cover the most important issues of today.

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This year we would like to offer **half price tickets** to you and your members. To purchase tickets simply go online at www.4x4show.com.au or www.fishingshow.com.au, click the ticketing link and enter the Promotional Code **4X4MEL07** under **Ticket Type: 4X4 Clubs**. Remember to print a copy of your confirmation (including the barcode provided) and present this at the door to gain immediate entry to the show.

SPREAD THE WORD – this offer is exclusive to your club members!!!

For more information on the shows please visit www.4x4show.com.au or www.fishingshow.com.au

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me. Don't forget to inform your members about this very special ticket offer, they can purchase their tickets online.

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TOOLANGI NIGHT RUN – Friday 31 August 2007

Participants:

Paul Ryan	80 Series
Pat Casey & Peter	80 Series
Steve Varty & Ben	GQ Patrol
Andy & Jan Merlo	GU Patrol

Friday

I was on my way to our designated meeting place of the Glenburn pub when I got the call from John that his car was in difficulties and that he wasn't going to make it, therefore could I lead in his place. No worries, I've never lead a night run before, got no clue where we were supposed to be going or how hard. All in all just like most of the trips I lead.

Anyway I got to the pub to find everyone else already there and well aware that John wasn't leading any more. Dinner was a pretty relaxed affair and we were on the road by 8.00pm. We had debated whether to have a crack at Rocky Track but as it's a bit far from some of the tracks I intended to do we gave it a miss. Instead we headed into Luke Creek campsite via Two Hills Road and aired down.

The tracks we drove were Luke Creek No1 Track, Lukes Creek Road and a steep rocky track that will be familiar to Craig and a few others (where you have to go right to get around a fallen tree). There's a rock step on this track that seems to have got a lot bigger since the last time I came up here. Anyway everyone made it up without incident and we proceeded from there along Aeroplane Track, across Mt Klondyke and down to KK Link Road. The trip down from Mt Klondyke was a little bit of a toboggan run but more remarkable was the amount of debris littering the tracks. We decided to have another crack at Woodmore Range Track that had proved a bit too greasy for some on Craig's recent day trip. No dramas in that department this time however it proved a bit more interesting for Andy and Jan as Pat relates...

Friday night with Andy:

There was a reasonable bog hole on an uphill section, with a large long tree lying down and guarding the right hand entrance to the hole, and continuing to lie along the right hand side of the bog hole. Andy straddled this log. He had the front of the car in the bog on the left side of the log [Jan did not get out into the 2-3 feet of mud], the log was wedged under his side steps and the back right hand tyre was on the right side of the log. He was going nowhere.

Andy had the only chain saw. We aimed to cut the log into sections [under the glow of our torches] and remove the log. Chainsaw stuck at the last second on first cut. Unable to lever out chainsaw, but log cut.

Winch and snatch block out, and end of tree winched into bog hole. Chainsaw recovered. My winch was run down past Andy's car, and snatch block to towbar and vehicle pulled backwards off log. No problems, we were away again into the darkness awaiting Paul's next little adventure.

Patrick

By the time Pat and Andy caught up to us it was starting to get late and the boys were looking a bit thirsty. We decided to try and find somewhere for the boys to camp, (Andy and I were both heading back home that night), but first we had to finish Woodmore Range Track. Lots more debris to skirt around and a bit of a slide back to the main road. We tried to find a decent camp site but settled on Mt Tanglefoot Picnic Area in the end. The lads got a fire going pretty rapidly and began the process of relaxing. Meanwhile Andy, Jan and I headed back to the more civilised comforts of our respective homes. Thanks to all for making this a bit of fun and hopefully we can organise another night run sometime soon.

[Pat takes up the remainder of the story from here...]
Saturday morning was beautiful and clear, the peaceful sounds of the bush frequently interrupted by the planes flying over head. Yes we had camped directly under the Sydney to Melbourne flight path. Steve and I then went searching for some tracks and short cuts. Through Siberia Junction, Xylophone Bridge and down Devils Staircase [flat 2WD track with lots of trees down], Siberia Gap and on to Grotty Creek Track [again sounded promising but flat 2WD track with lots of trees down], Black Range Road and then a few unnamed tracks, Lookout Spur Road and more unnamed tracks. Then we found some reasonable tracks, all downhill, that would be very interesting in the wet. We think that we ended up on the Narbethong Mountain Bike Downhill Course. We came out on to Plantation Road about 4K west of Narbethong. The recent strong winds had brought down many trees and branches. We ventured home for an early finish on another great bush outing.

Patrick

[Sorry no photos]

SNOW TRIP – JAMIESON-MT SKENE 24-26 August 2007

Trip Leader:	Ashley Martin	GU Patrol
Participants	Pat Casey & Peter	80 Series
	Steve Varty	GQ Patrol
	Bas & Mum Swart	80 Series

FRIDAY

After meeting Ashley at Lilydale Macca's on Friday afternoon, we headed off up the Melba Hwy on a magnificent day with the sun shining. The warm sun

obviously had a few skiers a little worried there would be no snow left at Mt Buller as they overtook everyone enjoying the afternoon drive.

After stopping at Mansfield for fuel and supplies we drove to Jamieson and arrived at Skipworth Reserve at around 5:00 pm. The camping ground has a fee payable of \$6 per tent per night, which gives you access to well grassed camping sites on the Goulbourn River with fire pits, toilets and rubbish bins. After collecting some firewood, Patrick and Anne arrived after driving the scenic route via Noojee and Woods Point. A quiet night of campfire chit chat with the occasional beverage of your choice saw the first night out.

SATURDAY

Everyone was up and moving by 8:00 am when the last vehicle of our group, Baz and his mum, arrived at camp after an early start on the road. Our destination for the day was Mt Skene. We headed off around 8:30 am travelling up Jamieson-Licola Rd. We then turned onto Heyfield-Jamieson Rd and the ferocity of the recent bushfires was evident everywhere you looked. After about 1.5 hours of driving we arrived at Mt Skene which still had about 3-4 feet of snow covering the summit. We observed the remains of some igloos that had been built, admired the views across the Alpine region and took a few happy snaps.



Line-up at Mt Skene summit

We descended the top of the mountain to a secluded picnic area to warm up with a cuppa and plan the next stage of the drive.

Ashley then led us back along Heyfield-Jamieson Rd to Sappers Trk which was highly recommended by Patrick. The track started with a steep pinch that had a rock face at the top. Ashley attempted the rock face but found he couldn't move it with his bullbar, so took the easier track around. Patrick also took up the challenge and after a change of line was successful. Baz and I managed to find the chicken track more to our liking. The rest of the track took in some fantastic views of the surrounding areas and we stopped atop a ridge for lunch bathed in sunshine.



After descending Sappers Trk to Jamieson we headed to the main street for an ice-cream.

Patrick and Anne then decided to head back to camp for some R & R, Baz joined them to freshen up before the drive home.

Ashley and I decided to do some more wheeling around Jamieson which I found quite challenging with the 31 inch all-terrains equipped. We lobbed back at camp about 3:30 pm and enjoyed the afternoon relaxing, and well the relaxing didn't stop for some of us until 2:00am.



Snow Bunnies (Patrick and Anne)

SUNDAY

For the return journey we decided to stick to the dirt tracks and made our way through Knockwood, Gaffneys Creek and A1 Settlement which were all badly affected by the fires. We then headed up the steep Frenchmans Gap Trk with great views of Mt Buller at the top, and back down to Woods Point-Warburton Rd via Cornhill Rd. From here we turned left into 9 Mile Rd, followed on to Tooronga Rd and turned left into Ridge Rd. This led us to Fawcett Trk which was a nicely rutted red clay descent that was more like a toboggan track with the no-terrains fitted, this led us to Tooronga Falls campgrounds where we aired up and made our way home on the bitumen via Noojee and a stop at the Trestle Bridge.

Thanks everyone for a great weekend.

Steve

NARBETHONG/TOOLANGI DAY TRIP – 8 September

Trip Leader: Paul & Robert Ryan 80 Series
Participants: Brian Martin & 100 Series
Gary Johnston
Tim, Travis & Charlotte 60 Series
Axtell

This was a first for the club for a while – a Nissan free trip. We met, as usual, at Lilydale Maccas and made our way from there to Narby via Healesville. The entire trip was nearly taken up following a painfully slow truck up Dom Dom Saddle, but he kindly let us pass at the top and so we managed to get the trip under way before the sun got over the yard arm.

We started on a track just off Plantation Road, squeezed past a large tree stump and were straight into a creek crossing and slippery exit that we thought might be a good indication of things to come. Unfortunately that was about it for the next hour or so. However, as Pat remarked following the night run, these tracks would be a totally different prospect in the wet.

We were hoping to stop at Mt Murrindindi to have a bit of morning tea but that's no longer possible as the access track is now a huge quarry, so we carried on to Siberia Gap and stopped there for a break. From there we drove Black Range Road, the Devils Staircase (not entirely sure what was devilish about it) stopping every 50 yards or so to clear debris off the track, then on to Woodmore Range Track for more of the same.



Tim traversing Woodmore Range Track

We stopped at Mt Tanglefoot car park for a spot of lunch then got back into it by driving up Aeroplane Track and down to Klondyke road. This is a track that I have frequently driven down but never up, so it made a pleasant change to put the car in the ruts and drive up the slippery stuff instead of sliding down it.

Up to this point we had pretty much done the Night Run route in reverse.

However, we then took a minor track down off Klondyke Road that isn't very clearly marked on the map. It's a little bit overgrown at the top but the track down is very loose and rocky and definitely one to

earmark for the future. Shane and John may well have driven this track the following day. By this time it was mid afternoon so the plan was to drive the track just along from this one that is just marked on the map as "Steep", then come down Luke Ck 1 and head home. I went up first and snuck over the rock step that we had negotiated the previous week on the night run and then hung around waiting to see how Happy got on. Unfortunately Brian only got as far as the step when his vehicle fell prey to Toyota's notorious front diff. Without elaborating too much we managed to get him back to the bottom of the track where we tried some trackside repairs. However, as none of us was entirely confident in our mechanical abilities we decided to call the cavalry in the shape of the RACV (thanks to Total Care). So instead of being home by 5.00pm as hoped, we eventually got home at 8.00pm. Thanks to Brian, Gary, Tim and the kids for coming along. All in all it was a very enjoyable day up until that infamous last track.

Paul

**PROFICIENCY TRAINING – TALLAROOK STATE FOREST
15/16 September 2007**

Trip Leaders/Training Officers:

John Partridge

Michael Rodger

Participants:

Maggie Melcher

Colin & Brendon Armor

Phil Griffith

Nick & Lynelle Johnson

Day 1

While some began Friday night, for most, the weekend commenced with an early Saturday morning departure. For my daughter and I, this was 6:45am, which proved not quite early enough to top up with fuel and the obligatory Maccas drive through (we live 25km from closest Maccas) and arrive at designated campsite by 9:00am. We arrived shortly after 9:45am to be greeted by John (GU Patrol), Maggie (Prado), Phil (GQ Patrol), Colin (80 series), Brendon (Colin's son in trick D22 Navara), Michael and family (GQ Patrol and camper) and began to set up camp in the sunny but cool conditions. Facilities at the campground were limited to a campfire and an abundance of firewood.

Shortly after, the official training commenced with John and Michael demonstrating John's possey of recovery and safety equipment and their correct uses. We put this into practice with a mock recovery with Phil's GQ Patrol being recovered by Brendon's Navara. This was done on flat ground, but gave us all a good understanding of the procedure. We then went around and viewed each others vehicles, each of us showing recovery points and other modifications to our vehicles. Some were much more extensively modified than others.

The time came to venture off to find some terrain for us to train on. The trek was led by John, while Michael travelled in Brendon's vehicle, while the remainder of Michael's family closely guarded the campsite. We covered various tracks in the southern section of Tallarook State Forest, mainly around the various Tehan tracks.

Quickly getting into 4WD Low range, we traversed some easy downhill grades observing correct wheel placement over the rutted areas of the track. Heading up Tehan's Trk No. 4 we practiced the correct stall recovery techniques that many of us had only seen in the theory session. This is possibly an uncomfortable situation to be placed in, especially in a manual vehicle, but most quickly accepted the discomfort and completed ok, with only Maggie's vehicle coming to grips slightly with an embankment, causing some superficial damage to the rear bumper and right hand rear wheel flare. Later in the trek we came across a deep erosion mound diagonally across the track. John traversed this like it wasn't there and parked his vehicle to assist others in the difficult section. Correct wheel placement was the key here, but next in line was me and I did not quite get the correct approach angle and found myself with no traction (4WD??) and the left front wheel about 75cm in the air! There was no risk of a rollover, despite the high air clearance under the front wheel so I reversed out and took a slightly different approach following John's radio directions. This proved much better and we went over the obstacle fine. Maggie was next and luckily I had got out of my car and had the camera going, catching Maggie here with the left front wheel high in the sky, only to succumb to loss of traction like me! Again, a slightly different line got her through the area. The remainder of the vehicles found the right line first up and traversed the deep rut fine.



Maggie having a fair go!

The trip back to camp found us going up some tracks that we had previously come down and vice versa. This brought a whole new perspective to wheel placement which in most situations was very different to travelling in the opposite direction. Finally back at camp, we discussed the day's events whilst looking for Maggie's tow hitch pin which had wriggled its way off the bumper bar. The evening was filled with food, chat, some beverages and a great campfire to keep us warm. The kids headed off to Michael's trailer for some DVDs while I headed off to bed.

Day 2

After a lovely breakfast of bacon and eggs (some free range eggs needed to be traded for some bacon as I left our bacon at home – thanks Maggie), we went over our vehicles, observing tyre pressures which may have changed slightly overnight and fluid levels which could have changed after possible damage from the terrain covered the previous day.

Upon our departure from camp, Gary and friend (Sandra?) joined us for the day and we ventured off again to a similar area as Saturday. This required a few U turns due to seasonal track closures.

Some quite difficult steep sections were driven on today across a wide range of steep rocky and loose tracks, some small bog holes were driven through without a problem. There was also a short very steep section which John demonstrated the use and non-use of diff locks fitted to his vehicle. John tried his best to upset the angle of the vehicle whilst not using the diff locks to bring on some loss of traction, but due to his tough vehicle, proceeded up the incline with very slight wheel-spin only. His second attempt with diffs locked in did show how easy the section was able to be driven with no wheel-spin whatsoever. Although John's passenger for the day was Michael's daughter Liberty and she did comment about the funny noise coming from the back of the car (air lock compressor). This section was optional for a few vehicles at the instructor's discretion, due to its difficult terrain. Gary, Colin and Brendon went up and down the section with no issues, so after some discussion with John, I was given the opportunity to attempt it in my Pathfinder. My first attempt was a little cautious and after reversing out, a little more right pedal was given on the second attempt to get over the rocky sections. John's concerns were only for mine and my vehicle's safety which I took on board before proceeding up. The rest of the day was spent travelling up some rather steep sections of varying terrain both up and down hill. Then after a short drive, we arrived back at camp for some late lunch, a chat about the day, and pack up, air up and be on our way home. Thanks to both John and Michael for their quality instruction and for giving up their time and weekend to show us the best way in which to tackle this interest in 4WDing that we all have.

Thanks to all for a great weekend, I think we can all go away with tons of information and techniques to absorb and put into practice, along with long wish lists of what we would like to have in and on our vehicles.

Nick and Lynelle Johnson (soon to be VFWDC members)

My neighbour was bitten by a stray rabid dog.
I went to see how he was and found him writing frantically.
I told him rabies could be cured and he didn't have to worry about a writing a Will.
"Will?" he said. "What Will? I'm making a list of the people I want to bite."

ANNUAL PUB-TO-PUB MYSTERY WEEKEND

Trip Leaders: Dave and Rosalie
Happy Campers: Glen and Jessie
Peter and Janine (F)
Andy and Isabel
Gary and Paula
Michael
Terry and Annie
Bryan and Janine (S)
Patrick and Ann

We all arrived at Stoney's Hotel, Bacchus Marsh, at 7pm Friday night. Old acquaintances renewed and new introductions completed. Drinks and meals ordered and the conversations quickly turned into updating family situations, four wheel drive stories, new vehicles, new modifications, recent trips and old trips.

Hours later we all left in convoy to our accommodation for the night. Tonight's mystery destination was The Underbank Stud Farm". Dave informed us that these units were used to house athletes during the Sydney Olympics. Our unit consisted of 4 bedrooms (each slept 7) each with en-suite, off a central living/kitchen area. Very comfortable and suitable for the occasion. A good find. We continued drinks and conversations as we watched the Collingwood-West Coast game. Some of the campers were getting quite excited with the closeness of the football. Much laughter and fun by all.

Saturday morning and beautiful weather. Dave and Rosalie commenced proceedings with a round of Travellers Port by Drinkmore Wine. A variety of questionnaire sheets were issued to each couple to be completed by day's end and all had to guess tonight's destination. Leaving Bacchus Marsh we were quickly touring through The Brisbane Ranges. The area was very dry with harsh reminders of recent multiple bushfires, but still very scenic. We ambled along the two wheel drive roads and took in the sights. We soon arrived at Little River Picnic Area for morning tea. Rosalie produced multiple home made cakes and slices, enough for a small army. We continued our travels, walked around Staughton Vale and the Upper Stoney Creek Reservoirs. On to The Crossing Picnic Area for lunch. After lunch we travelled to the deserted Steiglitz School camp and the old gold town of Steiglitz.



Steiglitz

Along a few more dirt roads and we arrived at a lookout over a large valley where we were entertained by some magnificent wedge tailed eagles soaring and dodging other smaller birds. Soon after this we arrived back at Bacchus Marsh and the bottle shop at Stoney's Hotel, and then our mystery

destination—The Underbank Stud Farm. Not often you get invited back to a stud farm! Happy hour commenced and later we ventured to Flanagan's Hotel for tea. Another boisterous evening. The waiter thought that Isabel was Dave's wife, but Dave corrected her by advising that he had also jumped the fence for his third wife, Andy! Back at the Stud Farm the festivities continued, questionnaire sheets assessed, jokes continued and Kangaroos beat Hawthorn. Again much laughter and fun by all.

Winners were:

Closest guess to Saturday night's accommodation:

Blackwood: Bryan and Janine.

Furthermost guess to Saturday night's accommodation:

Grampians: Glen and Jessie.

Most questionnaire points: Gary and Paula and Michael.

Least questionnaire points: Terry and Annie.

Sunday morning and fine but windy weather. Multiple topics discussed over a leisurely breakfast. Then we travelled to St Anne's Winery about 15K west of Bacchus Marsh. Frank the Cooper gave a very enlightening talk and demonstration on the art of keg building, including samples of his own stored port. Then into the winery for the sampling. We all would highly recommend this place.

Various Happy Campers left from here, while others ventured to Werribee Gorge for lunch before heading back to Melbourne.

Another very successful trip organised by Dave and Rosalie. Thoroughly enjoyed by all and highly recommended to other members in the future.

Some notable quotes from the weekend that have leaked out to the media!

"DALE!"- Ann.

"I feel like I am sitting on a vibrator"- Janine (F).

"Hang on I am lost again" -Dave (Trip Leader).

"Is that you in the front?" -Janine (S) pointing to photograph and questioning Frank after he informed us that he had won this bike race. Frank's response "Yes that is how you win races."

"If I had realised how much of a male magnet the open bonnet of a four wheel drive was, I would have bought one years ago"- Janine (S).

"Where's Terry?"-Annie on numerous occasions, usually as everyone was leaving.

"This is my third wife, Adriana." -Dave, pointing to Andy.

Patrick





TRIP CLASSIFICATIONS

Please keep a copy of this document handy and use these classifications when submitting a Proposed Trip Data Form.

- Scenic/Social:** Sealed roads and some good unsealed roads or tracks.
No four wheel driving experience required.
Road tyres are acceptable.
- Easy:** Little or no Four Wheel Driving experience required.
Road tyres are acceptable.
Front and rear recovery points at Trip Leader's discretion.
Expected track classification to be encountered = **GREEN**.
- Medium:** Low range may be needed with a snatch strap recovery possible.
All-terrain tyres preferred.
Front and rear recover points (rated), basic recovery gear (snatch strap, 2 rated shackles and gloves), Driver Training Certificate for new members.
Expected track classification to be encountered = **GREEN** and **BLUE**.
- Hard:** Steep terrain or rutted tracks.
Snatch strap and/or winching recovery may be required.
All-terrain tyres acceptable, mud terrain tyres preferred, road tyres are NOT acceptable.
Front and rear recovery points (rated), basic recovery gear gear (snatch strap, 2 rated shackles and gloves), Driver Training Certificate.
Winch and full recovery gear an advantage.
Expected track classification to be encountered = mostly **BLUE** or **BLACK**.
- Extreme:** Very steep, deeply rutted tracks or rock hopping will be encountered. Front and rear recovery points (rated), full recovery gear (snatch strap, rated shackles, tree trunk protector, winch extension, drag chain, gloves), Advanced Driver Training Certificate.
Winching will be expected and a hand, electric, or motorised winch is compulsory on all vehicles. Mud terrain or swamper style tyres essential.
Warning: Vehicle damage may occur.
Expected track classification to be encountered = **BLACK** and **RED**.