



DECEMBER 2008

# Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A0002184F



*Annual Wine Tip – Heathcote – October 2008*



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](http://www.vfwdvictoria.org.au)

# NOTICE BOARD



## VFWDC CHRISTMAS PARTY

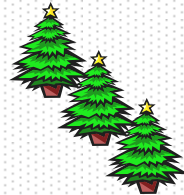
Where: **HEDGEND MAZE**  
163 Albert Road  
Healesville  
When: **Sunday, 30 November**  
Time: **12.00pm**  
Fee: Adults \$12.75 Children Free

*(See flyer and map attached)*



## OXFAM AUSTRALIA CHRISTMAS TREE PROJECT

Where: Scout Hall, Pakenham Street, Blackburn (Melway Map 47 H 12)  
When: Saturday, 6 December  
Time: **8.00am sharp**



You will be given a very well organized list of addresses with Melway grid references, all in close proximity to each other. All you do is drop off the tree that has already been paid for. The smiles you receive from the younger recipients would be second only to that of them greeting Santa Claus. It will take each team 1 to 3 hours, and we encourage you to meet for a BBQ or social get together before or afterwards.

We encourage members to give up a few hours of their time for this great cause.

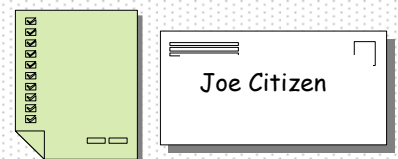
Contact: Tim Axtell, Trip Co-ordinator VFWDC to advise your availability.

## PERSONAL INFORMATION FORM

Members please note that the Personal Information Form (PIF) is available to download from the Club website – [www.vfwdc.com](http://www.vfwdc.com).

It is important that a copy of the PIF be completed and placed in a sealed envelope with member's name on the front. The envelope should be carried in your vehicle, together with the envelopes of each person travelling in the vehicle. They should be kept in the glove box or central console. One sealed copy should also be handed to the Trip Leader.

Envelopes should be returned to the participants after the trip for re-use on the next trip undertaken.







## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2008-2009

President	John Partridge	president@vfwdc.com 0428 331 211
Vice President	Ashley Martin	vicepres@vfwdc.com 0438 600 904
Treasurer	Craig Major	treasurer@vfwdc.com 0432 876 699
Secretary	Catherine Thorne	secretary@vfwdc.com 0412 758 357

## GENERAL COMMITTEE

Assistant Secretary	Anthony Van Buiten	asstsec@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	Tim Axtell	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Lesley Peters	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	Ashley Martin	
Training Officers	Mark Kochan	
	Ashley Martin	
	John Partridge	
	Michael Rodger	
New Member Contact		
Web Manager	Paul Ryan	web@vfwdc.com

## CLUB DETAILS

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
Registration No	A002184F
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3174
Email	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.vfwdc.com">www.vfwdc.com</a>
Meetings	Held first Tuesday of each month, excluding January (no meeting). The November General Meeting is held on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month due to Melbourne Cup public holiday.
Location	Dandenong Library Stuart Street Dandenong Vic 3175
Newsletter	All articles and photographs to be submitted prior to 20 <sup>th</sup> of each month. <a href="mailto:editor@vfwdc.com">editor@vfwdc.com</a>
Front Cover	Photograph courtesy of : Lauren Peters

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to another months edition of *Free Wheeling*.

By the time you read this our annual Christmas Party has come and gone. I hope you all have enjoyed yourselves. A big thank you goes out to those that help with the organization to this.

We have a couple of training weekends coming up in the New Year. The first one up in February is the Advanced Driver Training which we will be holding in the Aberfeldy Forest area. This course is designed for those that have previously attended the proficiency training and want to learn more about their vehicles abilities. We will be talking some harder tracks and spend time talking about advanced recovery situations and various winching techniques. The second training weekend in March is our Proficiency Course. While this course isn't mandatory for all members to do, it is very highly recommended to not only ensure your safety but also to learn to drive in a sustainable environment.

During our recent 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Training Course we discussed, among other things, the use of the Personal Information Forms. Our instructor thought that, not only that the forms are a great idea, but this should become mandatory for all trips that we run. The time saved in an emergency situation in discovering about vital information could make all the difference. These forms are available from our forum and also from our website. We will be asking for all participants on club trip to have their forms filled out and put in a sealed envelope in their glove box.

Parks Victoria have recently closed down its 13BUSH phone line due to limited use. This system has been replaced with a Dob in a Hoon reporting system. Forms for this can be downloaded of the FWDV website at [www.fwdvictoria.org.au](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au)

Well, that's all for now, until we next meet, take care.

**John Partridge**

# Minutes of the General Meeting – 11 November 2008

The meeting was opened at 7.45pm at Aussie Disposals Frankston.

Present: There were 20 members present as per the attendance book.

Apologies: Johan Liebenberg, Brian Martin, Maxine Ryan, Anne Pettigrew.

Visitors: John Steiner, David Jackson, Jim O'Brien and Pete Cox.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Accepted: George Pledger

Seconded: Ashley Martin

Matters Arising: Nil.

## Correspondence In:

- Cross Country Jeep Club Newsletter October 2008
- Evakool product catalogue and information
- Victorian 4WD Show pamphlet (Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2009)
- Rays Outdoors Special Sale Invites
- Westprint Heritage Maps and Books price list
- Rediscover Licola flyer from Wellington Shire Council
- Wings of the outback, Newsletter October 08 from RFDS
- Letter from State Library of Victoria September issue not received
- Long Haul Competition Flyer
- The Eureka Echo Journal Spring 2008
- ARB 4x4 action magazine Spring 2008

## Correspondence Out:

- Monthly Newsletter sent to all members.

## Treasurer's Report:

Cheque Account: \$3441.41  
Term Deposit: \$6,076.00

Closing Balance:

Accepted: Mark Felton  
Seconded: Paul Ryan

## Trip Co-ordinator's Report:

### Trip Reports:

1<sup>st</sup> Aid Training: A verbal report was given to the Club by Ashley.  
Winery Trip Heathcote: A verbal report was given to the Club by Phil.  
Toolangi Hard Trip: A verbal report was given to the Club by John.  
Omeo Trip: A verbal report was given to the Club by Paul.

## Forthcoming Trips:

**Annual Fishing Trip:** Details have changed since last month's newsletter. A change of direction to either Sheepyard Flat or 8 Mile Flat (just past Sheepyard Flat). Ashley plans to meet at the Lilydale Macca's. Free to do what you like weekend. Hope to look at few of the tracks on our way out; Ashley will email the info out to members who put names on the list.

**Christmas Party 30<sup>th</sup> November:** The correct cost to get is \$12.75 not \$12.50 as advertised in last month's newsletter. As you come in we've booked a spot on the left hand side; there is no permanent shelter and no BBQ (a tarp and BBQ will be brought up on the day). Please bring a present for each child (please limit to \$10 per child). The club will provide salad and drinks for the kids. BYO meat.

**Nullabour Trip:** Still going ahead, great to see that the price of diesel has finally dropped. Leaving Boxing Day. We're not going anywhere, but we're going somewhere.

**Australia Day Weekend:** Details will follow in December's newsletter.

**Advanced Training:** To attend this trip as a driver you need to have completed a Proficiency Training weekend. (You can still go along as a passenger.) You will be trained in winching techniques, understand your vehicle and driving capabilities. Gain hands-on experience, learn the do's & don'ts, have a go at a deep river crossing, around the Walhalla area. More details to follow.

**Proficiency Training:** Basic theory night followed by a weekend away. You will learn how to do a stall/start technique, safe recovery and how to do the right thing in the bush. Could all new members to the club please attend this training.

Could all members please remember to bring their Personal Information forms to every trip away in case of an emergency. Fill out the form and either place it in your glove box or centre consol for safe keeping.

If members place their name on the list to attend a trip, could they please contact the trip leader to confirm or give your apologies for not attending. Trip leader is to email the members listed attending the trip info, vehicles, who, where and who is writing the report and could the report please be done and emailed to the editor in the 2 weeks after the trip occurring.

## Association Report:

Last month was the Four Wheel Drive Victoria Annual General Meeting. Michael Coldham continues on as President. Big news of the North-South pipeline will affect some 4x4 tracks in its path; there will be investigation as to which ones.

### General Business:

Shane is organising a trip to Toolangi this weekend. Is anybody interested? Shane will email details to everyone.

*"Movember"* - helping raise money for prostate cancer and depression. Could members please show their support by donating.

Meeting Closed: 8.15pm.

Next Meeting: Will be held on Tuesday, 2 December 2008.

## VFWDC MERCHANDISE

### For Sale

Club Polo Shirts	\$25.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece ½ Zip Jumper	\$36.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$48.00 ea
Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$42.00 ea
Club Caps	\$15.00 ea
Club Beanie	\$12.00 ea
VFWDC Stickers (long)	\$ 6.00 ea
Stubbie Holders	\$ 6.00 ea

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.

Email your order to [committee@vfwdc.com](mailto:committee@vfwdc.com).  
Please ensure you advise size required.

## Yahoo Groups

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

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

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



*Wishing everyone a  
very Merry Christmas and  
a safe and Happy New Year*



## VFWDC "MOVEMBER"

The upcoming meeting will be time for those who are participating in the *"Movember"* challenge to show their mo's.

If you are able to afford a few dollars you can donate to the VFWDC team and help raise money for a great cause. Don't forget donations are tax deductible.

To donate log onto [movember.com](http://movember.com) select Australia and follow the donation prompts.

Use registration # 1575106

A big thank you to all those who have already kindly donated to the cause.



## CLUB KITCHEN

Christmas Day lunch is not far away. Why not try a couple of yummy summer recipes as an alternative to the traditional...

### Coconut Prawn Kebabs

#### Ingredients

270ml can Ayam Light Coconut Milk  
2cm piece of ginger, sliced  
1 garlic clove, sliced  
1 lemon grass stalk, bruised, tied in a loose knot  
1kg (about 24) large green prawns, peeled, deveined, tails intact  
lime wedges, green salad, to serve



#### Method

Place coconut milk, ginger, garlic and lemongrass in a saucepan.

Heat on medium until just at simmering point. Remove from heat and set aside for 30 minutes, until flavours infuse. Strain and discard flavourings. Preheat a chargrill or barbecue on high. Thread each prawn onto a soaked bamboo skewer, tail end first, and brush liberally with coconut milk mixture. Cook for 2 minutes each side, brushing with coconut milk, until prawns are opaque.

Serve with lime wedges and green salad.

Tip: Soak bamboo skewers in water for 15 minutes before using so they don't burn on the barbecue.



### Christmas Cake Cream Parfaits

#### Ingredients

250g mascarpone  
2 tablespoons whisky  
1 tablespoon icing sugar mixture  
½ cup thickened cream  
2 cups (300g) crumbled Christmas cake  
15 teaspoons whisky  
raspberries, optional  
sifted icing sugar, optional



#### Method

Combine 250g mascarpone, 2 tablespoons whisky and 1 tablespoon icing sugar mixture in large bowl. Beat ½ cup thickened cream in small bowl until soft peaks form; fold cream mixture into mascarpone mixture. Layer 1 cup (150g) crumbled Christmas cake in base of six ¾-cup (180ml) glasses; sprinkle ½ teaspoon whisky over cake in each glass. Divide half of the mascarpone mixture among glasses. Repeat process with another 1 cup (150g) crumbled Christmas cake, 2 teaspoons whisky and remaining mascarpone mixture. Cover; refrigerate until required. Serve topped with raspberries and sifted icing sugar, if desired.



## VFWDC ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

### ALL CEREMONIES

Flair-Excellence-Sensitivity  
Sue A Lyne  
Civil Celebrant  
Ph: 9787 5665

### BUSH-B-Q

Manufacturer of the Barbeque of the Outback  
Don & Thelma Montague  
Ph: 9808 1200 Mob: 0414 355488  
Email: [info@theldon.com.au](mailto:info@theldon.com.au)  
Web: [www.theldon.com.au](http://www.theldon.com.au)

### CAMSEW-SEWRENT

Domestic & Industrial Sewing Machine Repairs  
Ron Camm  
Mob: 0419 884920 Fax: 9766 4598  
Email: [sewrent@camsew.com.au](mailto:sewrent@camsew.com.au)

### FRANKLAND ELECTRICS PTY L TD

Electric Motor Sales, Service, Repairs & Modifications  
Power Tool Service & Repairs  
Peter & Janine Frankland  
Ph: 9555 6624 Fax: 9555 6565  
Email: [fralecpete@aol.com](mailto:fralecpete@aol.com)

### METALAIR INDUSTRIES

4x4 Camper Trailers, Accessories & Camping Equipment  
David Hughes  
Ph: 9798 1492 Fax: 9798 2593  
Email: [metalair@tenex.com.au](mailto:metalair@tenex.com.au)

### R & D BROWN PAINTING SERVICES

Quality Workmanship at the Right Price  
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### TECOMA ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Industrial, Commercial & Domestic  
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Ian Warburton  
Ph: 9754 2341 Mob: 0409 797675

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



## CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

NOVEMBER	Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Party Hedgend Maze Healesville	Tim Axtell	0414 848 753
DECEMBER	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Oxfam Christmas Tree Delivery Project	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> to January ?? 09	Nullabor Trip	Bob McKerrow	0430 014 001
<b>2009</b>				
JANUARY	Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> to Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Australia Day Weekend	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	Craig Major	0432 876 699
FEBRUARY	Tuesday 3 <sup>RD</sup>	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	Catherine Thorne	
	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Advanced Training Walhalla	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
MARCH	Tuesday 3 <sup>RD</sup>	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Proficiency Training Theory	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
	Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> to Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Proficiency Training Practical - Aberfeldy Forest Area	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
	Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Nav Rally Latrobe State Forest	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784 074

## Forthcoming Trips

Expressions of Interest	NULLABOR 2008-09
Trip Leader	BOB MCKERROW
Contact No	0430 014 001
	<a href="mailto:lowmacbob@aaptnet.au">lowmacbob@aaptnet.au</a>
Date	26 DEC-??JAN 09

### Trip Activity Details:

See September newsletter for a detailed description of this proposed trip.

Destination	WALHALLA Advanced Training Weekend
Trip Leader	ASHLEY MARTIN
Contact No	0438 600 904
Date	FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY- SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY
Meeting Time/Place	6.30pm Longwarry Service Centre
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 3 MAX: 10
Grade	WET/DRY: Medium-Hard
Approx Kms	150
Last Available Fuel	Moe
Maps Required	N/A
Equipment Required	Full recovery equipment
Radio Channel	12

### Trip Activity Details:

Want to take the next step from the proficiency training and learn more about how to tackle the harder tracks and vehicle recovery. Well this is your opportunity to learn in a safe environment.

We will be focusing on full vehicle recovery using winch recovery equipment and the associated techniques along with how to tackle those harder tracks. We will walk the tracks, talk about what to look out for and the best lines to take, followed by driving these tracks using several different scenarios.

Those members who may have attended a previous advanced training course but want to brush up on your skills are also welcome to come along.

You must have completed the proficiency training to take part in Advanced Training.

Destination	ABERFELDY STATE FOREST Proficiency Training Weekend
Trip Leader	MICHAEL RODGER
Contact No	0412 530 666
THEORY:	WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH 2009
PRACTICAL:	SATURDAY 21 <sup>ST</sup> to SUNDAY 22 <sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2009
Meeting Time/Place	TBC
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 4 MAX: 8
Grade	WET/DRY: MEDIUM
Approx Kms	200

Last Fuel Available	Moe
Equipment Required	Standard recovery equipment
Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel	12

### Trip Activity Details:

This is a must do trip for any club member who hasn't attended a training weekend in the past. We will be outlining many of the basic aspects of 4WDing covering a varied terrain including steep rocky tracks & river crossings.

There will be something for everyone in this trip for new and old.

The latest and most up-to-date recovery techniques will be discussed and tested.

Discussions on vehicle setup, recovery gear, Tread Lightly! Principles, and more.

Destination	TBC NAV RALLY
Trip Leader	ANTHONY VAN BUITEN
Contact No	MOB: 0413 784 074 AH: 9764 3381
Date	SUNDAY ???
Meeting Time/Place	TBC
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 4 Teams MAXIMUM: 10 Teams
Grade	WET/DRY: Medium
Approx Kms	Depends on you!
Last Available Fuel	Petrol: Warragul Diesel: Warragul
Equipment Required	Standard recovery
Maps Required	Rooftop Maps, VicMap Springshire Hill 8121-4-4 will be an advantage
Radio Channel	12

### Trip Activity Details:

Quite a few people have expressed an interest in some sort of GPS navigational event for the Club.

It will be a one day event starting at 10:00am 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.

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 be setting up the event on the Saturday and camping overnight so if anyone wants to come early they are welcome.





## Trip Reports

### ANNUAL WINE TRIP - HEATHCOTE 17-19 October 2008

#### Leader

Ashley and Lesley

#### Participants

Bill and Coral  
Mark and Catherine  
Brian  
Anthony, Aline and Kids  
Peter and Janine  
Phil and Karen

#### Visitors

Lauren and Dan  
Ian and Robyn

#### Friday evening

For newcomers to the annual wine trip we were not really sure of what to expect. Ashley, our illustrious trip leader had given precise instructions on how to find where we were going. Half the crew met at the Tooborac Pub for dinner before heading back to Heathcote Caravan Park for a few bevs and a catch up. Accommodation for weekend was a mix of Cabins including the Taj Mahal which was enjoyed by Dan and Lauren, the lower Cabins, Camper Trailers and Tents.

#### Saturday

Given one of main tasks of the weekend (to relax), Saturday morning most enjoyed the opportunity to have a lie in and a casual morning. Most walked or drove to the thriving metropolis that is the township of Heathcote. We were greeted by some very helpful people in the Tourist Information Centre who gave us a multitude of pamphlets on what to do and see in the region, unfortunately we were only in the region for a short time. The Bakery was a clear favourite to stock up on supplies for the day touring. I can vouch for the Hedgehog slice that was exceptionally good. By mid morning, Anthony and family as well as Michael and family had arrived in town and we were assembling to head out for a short 20 min trip to the first port of call for the day. Approx 40 min later we arrived at Lake Cooper Estate and started. The venue was absolutely superb as they were preparing for their annual event 'A day on the Hill' which was on the following day. Second Winery of the day called Mt Burrumboot was a favourite. We sampled on Cheese and Crackers supplied by the lovely Lesley - tasted great - and some more wine was had. It was a very casual winery, we even got to write out our own credit card receipts! After some tastings and purchases it was back into the cars and time for a U Turn, sorry another winery. We arrived at Munari Wines, where we once again sampled some of the regions finest. This was also an opportunity

to sit and enjoy the picnic lunch many of us were longing for.



*Verylle and Lauren listen intently to the winemaker at Munari...*

We found a shady tree as the weather was starting to warm up, but a gentle breeze was keeping us moderate. After lunch and that great hedgehog slice I purchased earlier, we ventured off to the 4<sup>th</sup> and final winery of the day called 'Jasper Hill'; once again we went off to sample a few more reds. Whilst the wine here was a little more expensive, I believe well and truly worthwhile. The cellar door was sent up the cellar of a house which was able to deliver a perfect temperature to keep the wine. The only hassle with the wine was that it was good for another 7 years - yeah like it will last that long !

Once getting back into town, we were able to locate a car park outside one of the cellar doors in the middle of town overlooking the cricket field. Many chose to wander down the street, some retired back at camp for a well earned rest, whilst we went down the street for a milkshake and a coffee, the only hassle was it was also an antique dealer!

Back at camp some parties were caught up in 'World Series Bocci', and others took an opportunity to relax. Whilst my team was just about to claim victory 2 of the team were summoned for food duty, the last remaining players fought on for a narrow victory thanks to great coaching skills of Bill. (Bill was on the opposition side).



*Mark ponders... how Dan can play bocci with his hands full?*

After shenanigans it was time to get some dinner together. We were treated to some simply scrumptious dishes which is exactly what the doctor ordered after a very emotionally draining day sampling wine. A great effort by all to prepare such great dishes with limited resources.

The long table was a hit and everyone thoroughly enjoyed their meal.



Once the dinner was completed, Brian brought out the washing machine where we were able to have a small fire and have some dessert; once again the food was

exquisite and a credit to those who provided. The evening continued with many laughs and stories concerning flames and camping equipment. Not to mention a couple of glasses of wine, after all it was a wine trip.



*Smile for the birdie everyone...*

The following morning we woke to hear Ashley cleaning the BBQ in anticipation of a big Sunday breakfast. Whilst many started the arduous task of packing up with the realisation setting in that we would have to return home and for most of us, if not all, back to work. Boooooo ! Once Ashley had called 'Breaky is ready' there was a mad scramble to get a chair, plate and rush to the BBQ, well maybe not rush, but more a gather. We dined on bacon, eggs, sausages, mushrooms, and tomato with plenty of food to go around. A sensational breaky - thanks Ashley / Lesley.

The mood was shattered whilst we were all feasting, with our leader advising that we had to vacate our cabins and pack up as there was a large '5<sup>th</sup> wheeler' waiting to come in. Then reality struck and we had to finish up the weekend. Once everyone had packed up we eagerly waited (well the blokes did anyway) for the 5<sup>th</sup> wheeler to enter the park, and reverse into the caravan site. We all bade each other a fond farewell and safe journey home and headed off.

A great weekend had by all.

*Phil & Karen*

## **TOOLANGI DAY TRIP** **Sunday 26 October 2008**

<b>Participants:</b>	John & Tina	GQ Patrol
	Paul, Robert & Jack	80 Series LC
	Shane & Ben	GU Patrol

After meeting at Lilydale McDonalds, we headed up to Toolangi and stopped to prepare at the base of Rocky Track. By now John was getting worried about his lockers which weren't working. After a solid look at fuses and wiring, and finding many rogue wires in the engine bay, we will couldn't get the lockers up and running. John was really going to need his driving skills today!

The first track of the day was Rocky. Because of the lack of lockers, John skipped it and only Paul and myself faced the challenge. With low tyre pressures and full lockers, both vehicles easily walked to the top. At the top, we then headed towards Marginal Road to meet up with John. However, we weren't really sure where to meet him. Fortunately we caught him on the radio and found he was waiting at the bottom of the second challenge - Steep Track.

On the way Paul noticed an unattended camp site. We stopped to put it out and found a camp site completely encircled by litter - everything from toilet paper to discarded bottles and nappies. It was a real mess. Right in the middle was a very large bonfire still roaring away. Using a spade, we did our best to spread the fire out to at least get rid of the flames. After ten minutes of work, we had it down to spread out coals, which would slowly die out. There was no wind and the fire was a good distance from any vegetation, so we left it at that and went on our way.

After reaching Steep Track, we had a short break. While Paul and the kids grabbed a drink, I went up first. Once past the hardest parts, I stopped in case John needed assistance since he didn't have lockers. John started and made it up the large rock step, but not quite over. I reversed back to help and found that he needed a short winch, which he could do himself. After a 2 meter winch, he was off with no further problems. A very good drive without lockers (although perhaps 8psi helped). Paul followed without trouble.

A quick circuit to the bottom of Steep 2 and a short lunch break and then John took off up the hill. After a long game of Spot the Truck through the dust, he advised that he was past the worst of it. After that Paul went up and then I tackled it. A very loose surface made it quite a challenge, but we all made it up ok.

With no more tracks worthy of the challenge, we headed down Steep Track, found a place to air up and headed home.

Thanks again for the day out John.

*Shane Michelin*

# VFWDC TRIP CLASSIFICATIONS

Please keep a copy 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 (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**.





# Christmas Party

12.00 pm, Sunday, 30 November 2008

at

## HEDGEND MAZE

163 Albert Road, Healesville

Come along and explore *Hedgend* – fun filled activities for all ages!

Adults: \$12.75 Entry Fee

Children: Free

BYO Meat and Beverages.

The Club will provide salads and also soft drinks for the kids.

Join us for this year's festivities and have a great time.

Contact Tim on 0414 848 753 for further information.

