



Reg No A0002184F

Free wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

"Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together"

JUNE 2005

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KING RIVER WEEKEND



Craigs Hut



The Campsite



Windy Lunch Break



Joe in training—Look out David Foster



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, and a member of Tread Lightly! Australia www.treadlightlyaustralia.com.au

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Secretary	Lesley Peters	9540 0007

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Projects Coordinator	Stephen Boyle	9754 4412
Librarian	Barry Leitch	5996 6662
Event Coordinator	Ashley Martin	9540 0007
New Member Contact	George Pledger	9547 4021
Trip Coordinator	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
Assistant Secretary	Paul Ryan	9807 5193
Web Manager	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784 074

Association Delegate	Roger Baird	9704 9045
Club Historian	Phil Alder	9754 8487
Training Officers	Mark Kochan	9763 2052
	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	John Partridge	0428 331 211
Newsletter Editors	Steve Utting	0408 576 171
	Annie Simpson	

Forward Articles to :- anniesinternet1@iprimus.com.au

CLUB DETAILS

<i>Registered Name:</i>	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
<i>Registration No:</i>	A0002184F
<i>All correspondence:</i>	The Secretary
	VFWDC Inc
	P.O. Box 778
	Dandenong Vic 3175
<i>Web Site:</i>	www.vfwdc.com
<i>Meetings:</i>	Held first Tuesday of each month excluding January (no meeting).
	November meeting is held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month due to Melbourne Cup public holiday.
<i>Meetings Location:</i>	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.

Presidents Report June 2005

Welcome all to this month's edition of Freewheeling.

It has been a drama filled month. As reported at the last General Meeting, Derrick Hymas got himself in a spot of trouble, when his vehicle ended up on its side and his caravan on its roof on the Western Ring Road. Derrick was travelling at about 90km/hr, and it was the drivers side that hit the road. Fortunately Derrick was un-injured. His vehicle and caravan were both written off however. His insurance company came through for him and he has already got a new truck and has picked up his new caravan. Very fast work indeed.

On the training weekend, we had an incident where one of our members travelling along the dirt road, was momentarily distracted, and got too close the edge. He hit a tree and his vehicle rolled about 100 meters down the embankment and came to rest against another tree. Once again we were very fortunate that both driver and passenger were un-injured. The vehicle is a complete mess and is a total write off. The two main things that helped save them in both incidents, were that they all had their seat belts on and that they both had a cargo barrier installed.

There are a few things that we can all learn from these unfortunate experiences.

- Caution needs to be exercised at all times. The majority of accidents don't happen on the 4WD tracks but on main roads and secondary dirt roads.
- Seat belts should be worn at all times not just on the made roads.
- A cargo barrier is an essential piece of equipment. Not only for keeping objects in the back of the vehicle but also for the support and strength in the case of a roll over.

The personal information forms should be filled out and placed in your glove box. If there was an accident it could help enormously, especially if you have special medical needs. A copy of this form is in the newsletter and you can download a copy off the Yahoo Group website.

Most of all, every one just take care out there.

It is every trip leaders responsibility to appoint some one to write up a trip report. It is also every club members responsibility to help out and if you're appointed to do the trip report, to have it done as promptly as possible. From now on, we would like the trip leader, after the trip is completed, to send out an email detailing the participants, the types of vehicles on the trip and who has been allocated to do the trip report and for which day. This should be sent to the Editors of the newsletter and each of the people selected to do the report. This will make it a lot easier for people knowing exactly who was on the trip and for the Editors to chase up the report if the deadline is running out. The dead line for all submissions for the newsletter is the 15th of each month. I thankyou for your help in making this easier.

That is all for now. Hope to catch up with you at the next meeting. If not, hopefully we'll see you on one of the upcoming trips in the Calender.

John Partridge.

gujohnno@yahoo.com.au

VFWDC MERCHANDISE

For Sale

New Club Polo Shirts	\$25.00 ea
Polar Fleece 1/2 Zip Jumper	\$36.00 ea
Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$48.00 ea
Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$42.00 ea
New Club Caps	\$15.00 ea
30 th Anniversary Travel Mugs	\$15.00 ea
Flags	\$15.00 ea
VFWDC Stickers (long)	\$ 6.00 ea
Stubbie Holders	\$ 6.00 ea



The Corner

Presenting this months recipe:-

BLUEBERRY MUFFINS

- 375g plain flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 165g firmly packed brown sugar
- 125g butter (melted)and unsalted
- 2 eggs lightly beaten
- 250ml (i cup) milk
- 185g fresh or thawed frozed blueberries

Preheat oven to 210. Grease muffin tins. Sift the flour and baking powder into a large bowl. Stir in the sugar and make a well in the centre.

Add the combined melted butter, eggs and milk all at once.. and fold until just combined.. do not over mix...the batter should look quite lumpy..

Fold in the berries....Spoon the batter into prepared tin...Bake for 20 minutes, or until golden brown....Cool on a wire rack...

Makes 12

Dig In—Annie

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MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 03 MAY 2005

The May General Meeting was held at Dandenong Library and opened at 8.10pm by the President, John Partridge.

41 members present.

APOLOGIES: Leigh and Anne Pettigrew (on their way to the Gulf – have fun!), Brian Martin, Anthony and Aline Van Buiten, Lisa Petrou, Jill Boyle, Ian Warburton, Yvonne Hempston, David and Rosalie Hughes, Derek and Janet Hymas.

VISITORS: Welcome to Chris Jennings and Tim Axtell, who both joined up at this meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Minutes of April meeting as per Newsletter.

Accepted: George Pledger. Seconded: Mark Capper.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Nil.

SUPPER: Thanks Ashley and George.

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

- ◇ Tread Lightly! Australia membership renewal.
- ◇ Promotional material from:
Hillite Campers – manufacturers of rooftop camper at \$2,200 each.
Reverseasy – suppliers of PORON cameras and monitors. Offering miniature camera and 9cm LCD monitor kit at \$595 incl GST.
Caravan & Camping Show.
- ◇ Letter from the Association regarding exclusive insurance offer with Affinity Risk Partners. As requested and provided by 4WDVictoria, copy included with newsletter mail out.
- ◇ Various club newsletters, flyers etc.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

- ◇ Letter from the President to the Ranger-in-Charge at Hattah-Kulkyne National Park.
- ◇ Letter from the President to all club members outlining the need for all members to adhere to driving and camping responsibilities while on trips.
- ◇ Flowers and well-wishes to Mary Wade who is still in coronary care at Monash Medical Centre.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Roger provided an overview of his report for May, including:

Petty Cash:	\$ 200.00
Cheque Account:	\$2,391.08
Term Deposit:	\$5,249.31

Accepted: Dawn Brown. Seconded: Michael Rodger.

PRESENTATION:

Long-time member and creator of the now legendary Bush-B-Q, Don Montague, provided an entertaining demonstration of the product, together with its many new components/add-ons. Don was also happy to answer questions on his countless trips around Australia. He and Thelma have been on numerous

adventures – many with Bluey and Joyce Male – and have seen almost the entire country. He gave us an insight into these trips and the changes that have occurred in the outback over the past 20-odd years, eg the endless restrictions and the modernisation that is taking place in so many areas.

TRIP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Trip Reports:

- ◇ JP gave a report on the NavRun in which he, Anthony, Carl and Paul participated. The event was run by Rudi Paoletti and was not an official club trip. Successful day.
- ◇ King River, 22-25 April: Mark Capper provided a brief overview of the Anzac Day long weekend. Great trip and full report in Trip Reports section of this newsletter.

Forthcoming Trips/Events: Michael Rodger reported on the following upcoming trips as per calendar:

- ◇ Wednesday 11 May: Proficiency Training Theory – Ashley Martin. To be held at Mount Waverley.
- ◇ 14-15 May: Proficiency Training Weekend – John Partridge. JP leaving 6pm Friday night from Officer. Dinner at Erica pub. Camping at North Gardens camping ground.
- ◇ 13-15 May: Jamieson – Steve Pitcher gave a brief run-down on the activities planned for this weekend. This is Steve's first trip as trip leader and he has put a lot of effort into what sounds like a good weekend.
- ◇ 20-22 May: Toombon/Morning Star Creek – Paul Ryan.
- ◇ 5 June: Day trip to be held in conjunction with Bacchus Marsh 4WD Club. Full details in Forthcoming Trips section of newsletter. 16 max vehicle limit on this trip and JP looking for a good attendance.
- ◇ 8-9 July: Paul Ryan running social/driving trip to Daylesford and environs. "Luxury" cottage accommodation (to keep the gals happy!).
- ◇ Saturday 27 August: AGM Dinner – Ashley Martin. Mulgrave Country Club. Details in flyer attached.

TBC: Ten Pin Bowling night.

Michael drew attention to the note in the newsletter regarding trip participation and the need to ensure that members arrive on time at meeting place etc. It is important that the trip leader be advised if a listed member is either running late or unable to attend.

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

Ashley reported that the AGM Dinner will be held on Saturday, 27 August at the Mulgrave Country Club. See details in flyer attached to newsletter.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Ritchies: Leanne and John have organised Ritchies Community Benefit cards/tags for all interested members. These cards/tags can be used at any Ritchies supermarket or liquor store. *"Present your Ritchies Community Benefit Card to the cashier every time you shop. Every time your card is scanned, 1% of the money spent is automatically allocated to your nominated organisation."*

This is of course for the benefit of our club. More details of the RCB can be found on the Ritchies website at www.ritchies.com.au.

4WDVictoria: The Association is currently working on a deal with a fuel company to enable members to avail themselves of discounted fuel. Also companies such as Anaconda (camping supplies) and Ikon Communications.

Bunyip: The submission will be presented in next few weeks.

New Membership Kits: Presented to Andrew and Linda Remenyi, and Peter Davies.

RAFFLE:

Tickets sold by Linda Remenyi.

Won by: Don Montague – LED Torch.

Pat Casey – Bottle of Wine and Cooler Bag.

MEETING CLOSED at 10.20pm.

NEXT MEETING: Will be held at Dandenong Library on Tuesday, 7 June 2005.



On the weekend, 20/21 May, Bill Harwood, Bryan West and Patrick Casey recovered a wrecked vehicle from Donnelly's creek and towed it to Jorgensons. This was organised with Noel Lees from DSE. Unfortunately Paul Ryan's trip to the water wheel at Morning Star was cancelled.

After removing the vehicle we ventured on to Toombon and walked into the boiler and chimney, and then walked a very overgrown track to an oven and other odds and ends, and a mine shaft. Noel has hinted that he would like to organise a track clearing weekend, but for later in the year as he is off to Cape York. We had a long discussion re this and other things with Noel at the Stockyard Pub on Friday night.

A successful, but quiet, weekend for some of the "old blokes" in the club.

A couple comes up to a wishing well. The guy leans over, makes a wish, and throws in a penny. His wife decides to make a wish, too, but she leans over too far, falls into the well, and drowns. The guy says, "Wow, it really works."

CLUB NOTES:

JP received a phone call from Derek Hymas to say that he was unable to attend tonight's meeting as he had been involved in an accident on the Western Ring Road. **Fortunately** Derek is ok.

Unfortunately he was towing his new caravan which jack-knifed – both the van and his vehicle are in fairly critical condition, but thankfully Derek did not sustain any serious injury. It was also fortunate that Janet was not with him at the time.

Thelma Montague is recovering from a recent hip replacement and doing well.

Mary Wade sends her thanks for the "beautiful" flowers and well-wishes from the Club. At the time of reporting, Mary is still in hospital for further tests, but is feeling a little better.

We send our warmest wishes to all three members.

Yahoo Groups

Sign yourself up as a Yahoo user at

<http://groups.yahoo.com>

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. This simply means your application will be reviewed by a real person.

If you experience any problems you can email anthony@calltechsupport.com.au

4WD Sites on the Web

<http://www.exploroz.com/>

ExplorOz® is an interactive site for people interested in camping, four wheel driving and caravanning in Australia.

4WD Debate. A interesting presentation of emotion and fact worth considering. Certainly worth the read.

<http://www.gpsvehiclenavigation.com/RMP/4WD-debate.php>



Four Wheel Drive Victoria 'e' News
at www.fwdvictoria.org.au

CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

JUNE

Sunday 5th	Day trip to Wombat State Forrest with Bacchus Marsh 4WD Club
Tuesday 7th	Club Meeting
Tuesday 28th	Committee Meeting

JULY

Tuesday 5th	Club Meeting
Friday 8-10	Daylesford Social Drive Trip
Tuesday 26th	Committee Meeting

AUGUST

Tuesday 2nd	Club Meeting
Saturday 27th	AGM Dinner at Mulgrave Country Club
Tuesday 30th	Committee Meeting

PROPOSED

TBC	Ten Pin Bowling Night
-----	-----------------------

Daylesford Social Drive

Date:	Friday 8 to Sunday 10 July
Trip Leader:	Paul Ryan
Contact No:	TEL: 9807 5193 MOB: 0438 121148
Destination:	Daylesford/Wombat State Forest
Meeting Time/Place:	Shell Westgate Freeway Friday 8th at 7PM
Vehicle Limit:	<i>Min:</i> none set, <i>Max:</i> none set
Grade:	<i>Wet:</i> Medium <i>Dry:</i> Easy/Medium
Approximate Kms:	none quoted
Last Available Fuel:	Daylesford
Equipment:	Basic recovery (snatch & bow shackles)
Maps:	Wombat State Forest 4WD
Radio Channel:	Channel 12
Trip Activities:	We are planning a joint boys / girls weekend in the Daylesford / Wombat State Forest area over the weekend of 8 th – 10 th July. We plan to travel up on the Friday night and stay at Lulworth Holiday Cottages in Hepburn Springs.

There are still some cottages available for anyone else wanting to stay there. They range from 2 – 6 berth and work out to approx \$50 pp per night. Contact Details are below:

Sheryl

Lulworth Holiday Cottages

03 5476 4428

<http://www.lulworthcottages.com.au/>

On Saturday there will be a drive round the Wombat State Forest for anyone that wants to go or alternatively if you want to take in some of the local amenities e.g. massage, spa, wineries then there will also be a few people doing that. Saturday night will probably be spent enjoying some of the local food and wine so Sunday might involve a bit of a lie in. The idea of the weekend is to have a bit of fun and relax.

Anyone wanting to just come up for the drive on Saturday is more than welcome however if we get more than 12 vehicles we may have to split into two groups.

Wombat State Forest

Date:	<i>Sunday 5th June</i>
Trip Leader:	Steven McAvo (Bacchus Marsh 4WD Club)
Contact No:	Mob: 0414 923 907
Destination:	Wombat State Forest
Meeting Time/Place:	Egans Reserve, Greendale 4-5 PM Opposite Greendale Hotel/ General Store
Vehicle Limit:	<i>Min:</i> 3, <i>Max:</i> 16 (from VFWDC)
Grade:	<i>Wet:</i> Medium <i>Dry:</i> Easy/Medium
Approximate Kms:	60
Last Available Fuel:	Bacchus Marsh
Equipment:	Basic recovery (snatch & bow shackles)
Maps:	None but any map covering Wombat State Forest will suffice
Radio Channel:	Channel 19

Trip Activities: Depart Greendale and amble around the tracks in the Wombat State Forest making our way to Nolans Picnic Area for lunch. After lunch amble our way to Bacchus Marsh via wombat State Forest and the Lerderderg State Park. Ending back in Bacchus Marsh.

After she woke up, a woman told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace for Valentine's day. What do you think it means?" "You'll know tonight." he said. That evening, the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it - to find a book entitled "The meaning of dreams"

JAMIESON TRIP

Friday 13th – Sunday 15th May

TRIP LEADER.....STEVE PITCHER
(his first trip as leader)

PARTICIPANTS:

Steven and Ben.....Landcruiser

Ken.....Pathfinder

George.....Musso

Anthony, Aileen, Connor and RileyPrado

Peter and partner.....Hilux

5 vehicles were on this trip...2 with camp trailers

Departure time should have been 7.00 pm, from McDonalds at Lilydale, but my passenger unexpectedly had to stay behind making me late. I didn't arrive at Lilydale till 7.10...so we left at 7.30 instead.

We headed for Grannys Flat, arriving at 11.15..when George , Peter and Steve set up the trailers and tents, lighting a fire to warm up before retiring for the night. I made up a bed in the 4WD and made use of the heater to take the chill off, and enjoyed a much needed sleep after a long day..

In the morning Peter left to take his trailer to Wrens Flat where Anthony had set his camp up on Friday night

Saturday turned into a lovely sunny day

...and whilst waiting for the others to return, we enjoyed ourselves watching a large group of Mazdas (I counted 15!!!)...traveling down from the direction we wanted to go,.....attempting to cross over, down and up the bank off to the side from where we were...It seems their weekend trip was organized by a Mazda dealer trying to win their business...(they were all fleet owners and couriers)...and a little damage was sustained by 2 or 3 of them...

By 11.15 we were on our way, the track was okay, but steep after crossing the creek...all went well until we began the down hill toward Mitchell's Homestead...which was also very steep...Steven put a call over that if perhaps we found a place to stop and turn around we should...as a tree had fallen across the track..it was maybe 2 ft thick..Steven asked if anyone had a chainsaw...the answer was yes , but back in the trailer at camp...so a lesson is to be learned...remember to take the chainsaw in the 4WD...it may well be needed..

Peter (who was behind me) continued on down the track to Steven, who had tied his winch to the tree and Peter supported Stevens 4WD....they broke the tree in half... (luckily it was not too green), and we continued on our way, after George took a photo for posterity...

George then took us to a picnic area the other way to Mitchell's Homestead. It was very well set up with a properly built cement fire place, with a cooking frame built in, and sturdy table and chairs.

After we had had something to eat, George showed us an interesting walk over a creek, along a track and through some massive rocks.

Away we went again to Wrens Flat, arriving about 4pm,

set up camp, enjoyed our evening meal. We eventually managed to get a good fire going, and had a pleasant evening together around the fire...A normal Saturday evening away..

After a rather chilly start to the day (4 deg.) we packed up and headed off about 11 am towards Jamieson again. On the way I had an interesting encounter with some trail bike riders..Steve had radioed back that riders were coming, and I met them on a right hand bend..One was in the middle of the road and the other on his right, I braked and stalled the motor. The rider in the centre swerved and slid left and the other dropped his bike on it side, and swerved right, his rear wheel wiping some dirt from my front left wheel as he slid past and regained his balance. I am told that after this encounter, they were riding in single file and at a reasonable pace past everyone else.

We arrived at Jamieson Pub at about 12.30, had lunch and headed off about 1.30, along the Big River Road- a very narrow track in many places...arriving in Marysville Park at about 4.15

We enjoyed some hot dogs and a drink, then headed for home...

As we passed Maccas in Lilydale I asked Steven if he had checked his speed on Friday night when we left...He said yes and that he had done 443 kilometres...My own was showing 444 kilometres...His excuse was he had bigger tyres, and that he had gone through the pot holes and I had gone around them..

The only comment from everyone about the trip was ... GREAT!!!

Ken Pitcher

SUNDAY 15 JAMISON

Lazy start to the day after a cold night, got the fire going then breakfast, everyone then packed and headed to Jamieson where we stopped at the Jamieson Brewery and some had a sample tasting of the beverage. We then proceeded to the Big River road and had a rough and dusty trip through to Cambarville Junction, Left the group here and turned left to Warburton while the rest of the group headed to Marysville and then home. Thanks to Steve for a great weekend. – George Pledger



Four Wheel Drive Radio Show

"Talking Four Wheel Drive"

Saturdays at 10.00m

KING RIVER – ANZAC DAY WEEKEND 22-25 APRIL 2005

Trip Leader:

Ashley & Lesley GU Ute + Trailer

Participants:

Graeme & Sue Disco + Trailer

George Musso

Mark & Julie Pathfinder

Maggie Prado

Brian 100 Series LC

Anthony & Aline Prado + Trailer

Joe, Carissa, Shani & Lachlan
GU Patrol + Trailer

Peter & Jamie Nissan X-Trail

Visitors:

Chris & Gavin Toyota Hilux

FRIDAY PM

After fighting the long weekend traffic, we finally met up with Maggie at Lilydale McDonalds at 5.30pm. Maggie had also had a hard time with the traffic, taking over 2 hrs to reach Lilydale from East StKilda – not a particularly pleasant start to the weekend! No time for niceties – we were off to meet up with Brian in Mansfield. After a few more traffic hassles we eventually reached Mansfield at around 7.30PM. Brian beat us there after an uneventful run all the way from Whittlesea. We had a quick dinner, Ashley dashed into the supermarket for a few forgotten provisions, and we were on our way again. We finally arrived at Pineapple Flat at around 9.30pm. Fortunately Sue, Graeme, and George had travelled up earlier in the day and secured a good camping spot for us because, boy, was it busy at the Flat! Mark, Julie, Chris and Gavin were also already there and they had a wonderful big fire waiting. We quickly set up camp (after the usual LP/AM debate) and settled in for a chat and a drink. Anthony and Aline arrived a little later. What? No boys! They had decided that as they were taking the walk to the Bluff on Sunday, they would leave Riley and Connor at home with Aline's mother. It was getting late and we were all a little weary after the drive, so it was off to bed at a reasonable hour – much to Mark's chagrin!

SATURDAY

As Sunday was to be a big'un, Ashley had decided Saturday would be a "relaxing day". So it was a leisurely start – breakfast at 9.30ish. Lunch at 1.00ish. In between, the Galovics arrived after a very early get up and go from home. After lunch, a few went to gather wood for the evening meal's cook-up. The rest stayed back at camp to catch up on sleep, have a read, or just mosie about the

Flat. More vehicles kept arriving all throughout the day. Even the local Ranger said he had never seen it so busy. Peter and (nephew) Jamie arrived mid-afternoon, quickly set up their tent (sorry, Pete, how come we were in the Taj Mahal and you were in the beat-up tent?) and quickly headed off to the river to fish. I had just made myself comfortable with my book and a coffee when a group who were camped near us decided they would tackle the "non-track" located just beside our camp. Well, it wasn't enough for one turkey to attempt this "track", why not everybody have a go! After six different drivers making themselves feel like 4WD champions, I was ready to ... Fortunately, they'd had enough and returned to their camp. The happy wanderers returned shortly after with lots of good wood and the wood-chopping/splitting competition was on. A pre-dinner drink or three and it was time to get the ovens on the fire. This is always a good time for discussion on who's having what and oohing and aaahing over each other's meals. Joe's plastic roast never fails a mention! Pete and Jamie returned with reports of good fishing. Yummy dinner over, the fire was stoked and the night was on! I had a feeling this might be a long one and it was! Most of us eventually wandered off to bed, but it appeared Ashley and Joe were in for a big night (photographic evidence available but gun held to my head if I produced it). As predicted, it was a good, mostly relaxing day. **Lesley**

Anthony, Aline, George, Graeme, Brian and myself decided to go for a short drive to collect some wood and explore the area. We left the Flat and turned off onto Westons Track, and along the way there was a great little camping spot large enough for about four vehicles beside a little stream – this would be a better spot for a small group on those busier weekends. We encountered a few small mud holes but nothing to worry about. At the top of Weston's we came across an area that had timber lying around everywhere. Anthony and I took the opportunity to bring out the saws and cut enough for almost the whole weekend. Once again the ute came in handy. From there we continued along Weston's turning left onto Mine Creek Road and left onto No.3 Road. From here it was back onto the Circuit Road and along King Basin back to camp. The timber was unloaded and the splitters came out, for some reason the owners would not let me use them, I wonder why. **Ashley**



After fighting the long weekend traffic, we finally met up with Maggie at Lilydale McDonalds at 5.30pm.



PINEAPPLE FLAT

Date: Sunday 24th April 2005

Challenge: To reach The Bluff

Elevation: 1,726m

Base Camp; Pineapple Flat

Elevation: 700m

Start Time: 9.00am

Challengers: Lesley, Ashley, Brian George, Maggie, Julie, Mark, Aline, Anthony, Carissa, Joe, Sharni, Lachlan, Sue and Graeme

With much wrenching to remove snugly warm doonas, most rose to a crisp, cold morning, anxious for the 'challenge' and to be on time for departure. After a hearty breakfast for the earlier risers and a quick snack for others it was off to The Bluff, to join everyone else who had the same idea.

Leaving the campground required a short wait in a queue before crossing the King River and starting our excursion through this fabulous high country. The plan was to aim straight for Bluff Hut via Telephone Box Junction, then to wind our way back via Craig's King Hut to complete the full circuit. We arrived at Bluff Hut, but only after a number of complaints about the winding road and something about it not being too good for sore, throbbing head!

Patrick, Ann, Tom, Bill, Coral, Bryan and friend came up from their weekend retreat to share some walking and talking time with us. It is quite exciting to meet up with friends in remote locations!

At this point the group divided between those who went on the walk and those who elected to stay with the vehicles. The excuses, well you would have to hear them to believe them! The walk was just beautiful taking us through some truly magical landscape, the majestic mountains in the background, the hidden valleys in the foreground, the colours and the ever changing ground cover made the three hour (round) walk worth the effort.

Unlike the walk, The Bluff provided a challenge of how to eat lunch when a strong, cool wind

was doing its best to unseat people. The wind also shortened the stay at the top with people quickly setting off on the return journey. Out of the wind the return walk reinforced the beauty of this area of the high country.



Over hearing Patrick talking about staying in a house with "hot" showers they had to suffer, raised eyebrows with others who had to endure more rustic affairs or even no bathing at all.

The return journey took us to Craig's Hut via the Monument Track (a track that has severely eroded over recent years) and what a view, almost as good as the Bluff. The popularity of Craig's Hut (a place of unspoiled beauty) may be spoiled in the future as there are plans in place to carry out such civil works as necessary to cater for the crowds. Imagine in years to come the place may have asphalt, line marked car parking, designated walk ways and other things that will remind visitors of civilisation not the rugged high country that dreams are made of.

Some what disillusioned we set off on the final leg of the day's outing, passing King Hut and picking up some fire wood on the way, arriving back at dusk some 9 hours after we departed in the morning. A long day but a very enjoyable one.

Some highlights of the day.

Brian's grin from ear to ear, on having put his car successfully through its first test, had to be seen to believe, or in this case 'heard' as George gave as a running commentary over the two way describing Brian's facial expression (The Monument track).

For all the ladies on the trip, the naked guy taking a bath in the river and all the children in camp pointing out his embarrassment.

Well done to Carissa's achievement on completing the walk (and The Monument!) Trust that Aline's ankle is better.



CONGRATULATIONS to the large contingent of campers enjoying The 'Flat' for keeping the toilet so clean!!!!



Craig's Hut



Anthony climbing Monument Track

UNEXPECTED TRIP REPORT

At last week's club meeting, some of you would have heard about my accident. John passed on your good wishes to Jan and I and we want to thank you all very much for your kind thoughts.

The accident was on the Western Ring Road last Tuesday afternoon and resulted in both my car and the caravan being written off. The caravan ended up on its roof and the car turned over on to the driver's side. I was very lucky and walked away with just a couple of small grazes on my elbow. Some people who stopped to help said they couldn't believe it when I climbed out of the passenger door.

I'd been getting a few final things done to the van and car and I was driving on my own in the inside lane of the freeway at about 90 - 95 kph. A truck went by in the centre lane and created the partial vacuum that sucks you in towards it. Several had done this before and I was watching for them and compensating as they passed.

This one was different. My car and caravan started weaving and it quickly developed into major stuff, criss-crossing at least two of the three freeway lanes. I applied my electric caravan brakes, but it didn't stop the weaving. Very quickly, it was all over, Land Rover. The vehicles ended up fairly neatly in the emergency lane, facing back the way I had come. Luckily, everything missed me and all the other vehicles on the crowded freeway missed each other.

AAMI have paid up on the car and I will get a cheque later this week. The caravan insurance company are a little slower, but it appears they will do the same.

I spoke to the MD of the caravan company on Friday and he told me he would start building another to get us back on the road as soon as possible. We went to the factory today and he took us for a tour and our replacement van was there at the beginning of the production line with its floor being fitted to the chassis. He says he will be able to finish it by Tuesday next week. I saw a car (another Series 1 Discovery TDi so everything fits in) on Friday and I am taking it into my mechanic tomorrow morning for him to check it out. From my perspective, it looks in good shape so I hope the mechanicals stack up as well. If so, we will be back in business carwise by next week also. If all of the above works out, we hope to be on the road by the end of next week, just a week and two or three days behind schedule. Still, it could have been a lot worse. I am very lucky....

If the car works out, I will need to have some work done on it and I'd like to ask you all for advice on the best places/ways to have it done.

The following are what I need to do:

5 new BF Goodrich A/T's

Electricals:

- ◇ Dual Battery System (I retrieved the second battery)
- ◇ Installation of Anderson plug for connection to caravan to charge van battery
- ◇ Fitting of in-car brake controller (I retrieved this, just need it wired in)
- ◇ Installation of cigarette lighter socket in rear for car fridge
- ◇ Snorkel (I had a Safari in my old Disco)
- ◇ Cruise control
- ◇ UHF radio and antenna

Other:

- ◇ Roof rack gutter attachments and bars (I retrieved the basket)
- ◇ Fittings (brackets, etc) for cargo barrier (I retrieved the cargo barrier)
- ◇ Can't afford all the suspension changes, I'm afraid, probably consider just airbags for the rears (probably will go back to Advantage Suspension)

Regards, Derek Hymas





PERSONAL INFORMATION FORM

The details below are very important in the event of an accident or personal injury. They will be treated with the strictest confidentiality and used only in the case of an emergency.

Please complete the form correctly and in its entirety.

NAME:	
ADDRESS:	Postcode:
CONTACT NOS:	Tel: Mobile:
DATE OF BIRTH:	
NAME OF NEXT OF KIN (not on trip): Relationship: Address:	
NAME OF DOCTOR: Address:	
MEDICARE NO:	
PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE If Yes, Name of Insurer:	
Do you want to be treated as a Private Patient?	YES / NO (Please circle) <i>If No, Private Health insurance details should not be passed to authorities.</i>
AMBULANCE MEMBERSHIP NO:	
BLOOD TYPE:	
MEDICATION:	
KNOWN ALLERGIES:	
OTHER:	

This Personal Information Form should be placed in a sealed envelope with your name on the front. The envelope should be carried in the vehicle together with the envelopes of each person travelling in the vehicle.
Please keep in the glove box or central console.

One sealed copy should also be handed over to the Trip Leader.

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

Signature:

Date:



PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

Please complete all relevant details and return to the President
or Events/Trip Coordinator

DESTINATION	
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	
DATE	
DEPARTURE	
RETURN	
MEETING PLACE	
GRADE	WET DRY
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM MAXIMUM
APPROX KMS (Meeting place to destination)	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL DIESEL
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	
MAPS REQUIRED	
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	
PARTICIPANTS	

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED:

1. Plan your trip. In particular: meeting point destination, trip grading, trip details, fuel information, camping arrangements.
2. Complete a **"PROPOSED CLUB TRIP"** form.
3. Pass the form on to the President or Events Coordinator, either in hard copy format or electronically, for approval at the next Committee Meeting. When approved, the Trip Leader will be notified and the trip included in the Club Calendar



2005 AGM DINNER

When: 7.00pm til Midnight
Saturday, 27 August 2005

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

Cost: \$35.00 per head
Note that deposit of \$10 required at June meeting. Full payment required by July meeting.

Contact: Ashley Martin – Events Co-ordinator
0438 600 904



Mulgrave
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Club

Your Club

