



AUGUST 2009

Free Wheeling



Dan's Trip to Border Track 6 Jun 2009

Notice Board



VFWDC GENERAL MEETING VENUE

The committee has finally found and booked a new permanent venue for our Monthly meetings. The venue has a very good Bistro so some may wish to take advantage of that before the meetings **Please note the change to Wednesdays!**

First **WEDNESDAY** of each month 8.00PM Start

Venue:

Upstairs Meeting room (Above the Bistro)

Noble Park Football Club
46-56 Moodemere Street
Noble Park
Melways ref: 89 D4



FREE WHEELING

Another month has flown by! We are still very short on trips, so please give some thought to getting out there. After all, it's not much of a club without the trips. Anyone interested in a little bit of a challenge may want to come on my Neerim hard trip in September. Since we have had a bit of rain, it might be worth running a day trip up in the Strickland Spur area. I haven't been there, but I hear it is open and might be a good trip if someone who has been there wants to put their hand up.

Anyway, this is the last month for the current committee. An all new crew soon. I would just like to pass on my thanks to the current committee, not only for running the club, but also running most of the trips! Well done folks. Hopefully the new committee can pick up some of the slack.

Technically, I am only temporarily filling in the Editor role, however I'm happy to keep doing it unless someone really wants it, so I'll see you in another month.

Cheers,

Shane Michelin



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	assets@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	Tim Axtell	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Lesley Peters	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	Ashley Martin	
Training Officers	Ashley Martin	
	John Partridge	
	Michael Rodger	
	Mark Kochan	
New Member Contact	George Pledger	
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	secretary@vfwdc.com
Website	www.vfwdc.com
Meetings	Held first Wednesday of each month, excluding January (no meeting). The November General Meeting is held on the 2 nd Wednesday of the month due to the Melbourne Cup public holiday.
Location	Noble Park Football Club 46-56 Moodemere Street Noble Park Melways ref: 89 D4
Newsletter	All articles and photographs to be submitted prior to 20 th of each month to editor@vfwdc.com
Front Cover	Photograph courtesy of : Phil Griffith
	The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome all to the August edition of Free Wheeling.

Another committee has come and what a quiet year it has been. Due to the rising fuel prices, the GFC (and Ashley going away for 10 weeks) there has been less trips and more cancellations than I can remember in the ten years I have been here. I take some blame for this as my enthusiasm has been somewhat lacking and run and been on fewer trips than normal.

But it is a bit sad that when we have two people busy or away that the participation and activities come to a standstill and highlights a problem that we all as club members face. The Victorian Four Wheel Drive club has been running for 35 years now and I'm sure it will be around for a lot longer *IF* you as members of this club do something about it.

The committee is elected each year to look after the running of the club but they are not elected to be the only active club members and to organize and run every trip. It is every club members responsibility to get involved in the running of the club, and the main function of the VFWDC is to get out there on trips organized by our members for our members and enjoy the beauty of the bush and each other's company. Without everyone pulling together the club is doomed to a slow and painful death. It really is as simple as that.

As I mentioned at the start, I have now been in the club for around 10 years and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time and have made some fantastic friends. In my 1st year in the club I ran my first trip and also joined the committee to try and help out. Since then there has been only been 9 months that I wasn't on the committee before jumping back in.

Also in this time I have noticed that there are many others that have been a member for just as long if not longer that have *never* run a single trip. I really just don't get it and it is *sooo* frustrating.

If every club member ran just ONE trip every two years we would easily double what we would normally run. Is that so hard to ask? I really don't think so.

I am going to run a Trip Leaders training course on Wednesday the 9th of September and I urge anyone that hasn't run a trip to attend and find out how easy it can be. There really isn't that much to it.

This month we have the General Meeting and then following that the Annual General Meeting where we will vote in a new committee. So far we have two nominations for general committee positions, but we are a long way from filling out the committee. I for one will not be putting my hand up for re-election as I really need a break for a while. I'm sure that there are many of you out there that have a lot to offer us and hear is your chance to make a difference. Once again, do not leave it up to a select few. It is your club and we need your help.

Kind regards,
John Partridge.

Minutes of General Meeting – 1 July 2009

Meeting held at Noble Park Football Club and opened at 8pm by John Partridge.

ATTENDANCE: 24 members present.

APOLOGIES: Brian Martin, Maxine Ryan, Karen Walter, Aline Van Buiten

VISITORS: Douglas Belo, John Wimetal, Mark Capper, Richard Unmack

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Accepted: Sally

Seconded: Phil Griffith

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

NIL

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

Trackwatch

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

Newsletter, Membership renewal notice

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Petty Cash: \$
Cheque Account: \$931.00
Term Deposit: \$5180.00
Accepted: Paul Ryan
Seconded: Roger Baird

TRIP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Ø Forthcoming Trips/Events:

Snow Trip coming up. Destination to be finalized, Licola or Mt Selma.
AGM Dinner

Ø Trip Reports:

Shane Michelin discussed recce trip he conducted.
Bruce Cremonesi gave a report about his trip to Lake Cobbler.
Mick gave a report about the Border Track Trip

ASSOCIATION NEWS:

Association are again looking to introduce a fuel card. Melton 4WD Club are setting up "Recover Me Please" for stranded vehicles. Association are looking to introduce a logo for numberplates. There are 350 MVO tracks available, some clubs are accessing these tracks. Calling for volunteers for track clearing. Reclassification of the "Wombat" area. New memorandum of understanding with the DSE. Training centre still going on at Baccash Marsh.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

John discussed the AGM and what will occur at this meeting. Requested some fresh faces on the committee for next term. Nominations are due 2 weeks before the AGM and nominees must be financial members.

John discussed the fee increase from the association and subsequent increase in club membership fees.

John organising the AGM Dinner to be held at "The Pavillion" restaurant in Dandenong.

John called for any interest in a trip leaders course. Five members are interested so he will work out a date.

Johan requested a Navigation info night. Anthony will organise a date.

The volunteer work the club conducted at the Salvation Army depot for the bushfire relief was mentioned in their magazine.

John apologised to members who receive a printed copy of the Newsletter, for problems with printing and delivery.

Shane Michelin asked for recipe contributions for the Newsletter

MEETING CLOSED at 9:45pm

Next Meeting:

8.00pm, Wednesday 5 August 2009 at Noble Park Football Club
46-56 Moodemere Street
Noble Park
Melways ref: 89 D4



CLUB MERCHANDISE

For Sale (Revised Price List)

Club Polo Shirts	\$28.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece ½ Zip Jumper	\$38.00 ea
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Club Bucket Hat	\$16.00 ea
Club Wide Brim Hat	\$18.00 ea
Club Beanie	\$12.00 ea
VFWDC Sticker (long)	\$ 6.00 ea

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.

Email your order to committee@vfwdc.com.
Please ensure you advise size required.

😊😊😊 Humour 😊😊😊

A little fella walks into a bar and orders a beer when suddenly this big fella walks in behind him, screams "HIIII YAAAAA" and chops him to the temple knocking him out. The big fella drinks his beer and says to the barman "When that little bastard wakes up you tell him that was karate from Japan".

The next day the little fella comes in orders a drink and suddenly "Gnnneee Haaaa" the big fella kicks him in the nose knocking him out. he drinks the little fellas beer and

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

says to the barman "When that little bastard wakes up you tell him that was kick boxing from Korea".

On the third day the big fella walks into the bar and the little fella is nowhere to be seen. So the big fella orders a beer. Suddenly "KaWump" he is knocked senseless to the floor. The little fella drinks the big fella's beer and says to the barman "When that big F#@!*&# wakes up you tell him that was a Hi Lift Jack from the USA.



CLUB KITCHEN

This month I have a desert recipe for you. A bit of a Christmas favourite (I know it isn't Christmas yet!)

Camp Oven Fruit Cake



Ingredients

- 1 cup self raising flour
- 395g tin condensed milk
- 375g packet dried mixed fruit
- Pinch of salt

Method

Preheat oven. Mix ingredients together really well, pour into a well greased cake tin. Bake for 45 minutes. Cool in pan.

I know it sounds too easy, but it really does make a very nice cake. The one in the photo has been decorated with pecan nuts and glazed cherries.



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Anyone wishing to advertise in the Club Directory,
contact the Editor at editor@vfwdc.com



CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2009				
August	Wednesday 5 th	General Meeting / AGM	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Wednesday 19 th	Committee Meeting	TBA (New Committee)	
September	Wednesday 2 nd	General Meeting	TBA (New President)	
	Friday 4 th - 6 th	Trip—Cheynes Bridge	Shane McNeill	04096 359 385
	Wednesday 9 th	Trip Leaders Course	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Sunday 20 th	Trip—Neerim Hard trip	Shane Michelin	0417 784 599
	Wednesday 23 rd	Committee Meeting	TBA (New Committee)	

FORTHCOMING TRIPS

Destination	Cheynes Bridge Saturday; Ben Cruachan Reserve Sunday
Trip Leader	Shane McNeill
Contact No	04096 359 385
Date	FRI 04/09/09- SUN 06/09/09
Meeting Time/ Place	Longwarry BP 5-6pm 19th approx Merringtons camp ground 20th; 8am
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 3, MAX: 10
Grade	Wet; hard, Dry; medium
Approx Kms	Approx;100Klms
Last Available Fuel	PETROL/DIESEL: Moe
Distance Between Supplies	
Maps Required	Walhalla - Woods point
Equipment Re-quired	Wet conditions; mud terrain tyres, Snorkel or water bra. Dry conditions; Good allter-rains, Snorkel or water bra. Basic recovery
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activity Details: Travel from merringtons on Saturday head east to Burgoyne gap track Lunch at the Macalister and finish at Cheynes Bridge. Sunday; travel along the MT Margaret track towards Ben Cruachan Scenic Reserve then south home.	

Destination	Neerim (Day Trip)
Trip Leader	Shane Michelin
Contact No	0417 784 599 or (03) 9800 1105
Date	Sun 20 Sep 09
Meeting Time/ Place	Longwarry BP 9am
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 3, MAX: 5
Grade	Wet; Very hard, Dry; Hard
Approx Kms	Approx;100Klms
Last Available Fuel	PETROL/DIESEL: BP Lonwarry
Distance Between Supplies	
Maps Required	Rooftop, Yarra Valley—West Gippsland Adventure Map
Equipment Re-quired	Mud terrains or better, Full recovery kit, Winch preferred, lockers useful.
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activity Details: A hard to extreme day out. Likely winning. Tracks include: Hard Uphaul, Fencline, Youngs Whitelaws Spike.	

Destination	Trip Leaders Course
Trip Leader	John Partridge
Contact No	0428 331 211 gu-johnno@yahoo.com.au
Date	Wed 9th September 8.00PM
Meeting Time/Place	Venue TBA
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 4, MAX: 12
Grade	N/A
Approx Kms	N/A
Last Available Fuel	N/A
Distance Between Supplies	N/A
Maps Required	Any map of an area you would like to visit and run your first trip to
Equipment Required	Note book, pen, maps, enthusiasm
Radio Channel	N/A

Trip Activity Details:

This trip leaders course is designed to give you the knowledge and confidence to be able to run a club trip. There are some basic steps to learn and by the end of the course you will be able to confidently run an organized and enjoyable club trip to a destination of your choosing.

This course is a must for those that have not run a trip before. We will team participants up with some experienced club members to help you plan and run your first club trip. Running a club trip is very enjoyable and rewarding and we encourage all to help out.



Wrong Car



Right Car!



Trip Reports

Border Track Queens Birthday June 5-8 2009

Trip report by DAN

Participants:

Dan, Michelle & Kids GU

Dave & Kids GU

Mick & kid GU

Stan & kid Prado

John & kid Disco

Adam, Lisa & Kid Navara

The meeting was arranged for Friday at the Donald Caravan Park North West Victoria.

We arrived first & quickly setup camp, A few things in town caught our eye so we ran back in to wait for the rest of the convoy. Over the next few hours the rest turned up.

The scene was set for the next few days later in the



evening as the Rain started, it got really heavy throughout the night.

Next morning packing up wet tents & headed for Whyperfield NP. After the rain of the night there was plenty of water around, the roads were mostly bitumen for a while. Once into Whyperfield we stopped to air down & drop it into 4wd. The only track we were planning for the day was Milmed Rock Track. The start of the track was fairly easy going but quite muddy, fun & slippery in places.

The terrain changed several times throughout the day, & just before lunch we happened upon a grey clay patch where I slid off the track into the gutter. Adam tried to snatch me backwards out of the slop but only dug himself in. We tried digging & driving, but in the end the quickest way was to winch myself forward out of the bog. Adam had enough traction to drive himself out & through onto firm ground. The rest of the convoy took it much easier through that section & all made it through.



We had lunch at one of the camp grounds, but it soon started to rain again so we continued on. A few more slimy patches we came into the sandy sections, but due to the rain they were all compacted & easy. We came across Milmed Rock, which was a huge disappointment, being only a small rock about the size of a small car.



Driving on toward the camp ground for the night, & onto

the main road. The main road was very slimy in patches & a little hilly, John slid down one of the hills off too the side of the road & had to be recovered.

Rain that night came on & off so most were in Bed early. Next morning we followed the main route out from Big Billy Campgroupd, the main road was very slippery in patches & we all had a ball.

Following the dirt was a short bitumen section to Pin-naroo for fuel up & Permits to do the Border track.

After a break a quick run to pickup firewood & find the entrance of the Border track.

The Start of the Border Track was fairly easy with all the rain compacting the sand. We quickly caught 2 other convoys, one let some of us past then cut in breaking our convoy. This frustration & the other convoys slow pace called for an early lunch stop.

After lunch we headed further down the Border track having no issues until we got to the first Big sand dune.

I & Adam had no issues with the dune but John with odd tyre pressures & not enough right foot stalled about ½ way up. He backed down & tried again with the same result. Mick called over the radio to give it LOTS of right boot which got John over the dune. It was John's first sand driving experience & he quickly learnt the value of the right foot.



A few more large sand dunes further along we were travelling nicely some of the dunes had multiple track choices, some harder than others but all easy due to the compact sand. However I will do this trip again when there has been little rain as they would be a good challenge when dry & soft.

By the last big dune everyone was into the groove & plenty of right foot was used when needed. Once cleared we drove onto Red Bluff camp ground for the night, typically the Rain started just as we were setting up camp. It cleared a little while after dinner to a nice night sitting around the camp fire.

Next morning after packing Adam left the convoy to return home to Broken Hill whilst we continued south. We had to stop at the last dune as another convoy had blocked the track to change a battery, we couldn't go around & they wouldn't move off the track too the open area whilst 2 of their group tore up the dune. We again got stuck behind their convoy where 2 of their group wanted to play in every bog hole, some where VERY deep, no one in our convoy was interested in trying their luck.



We continued south until Blue Hills Rd where some aired up & the others continued onto Nhill to Air up & lunch.

Thanks to all that came along & made the trip enjoyable despite less than ideal weather.

**LESLEY & ASHLEY'S BIG ADVENTURE
CENTRAL/WEST/SOUTH AUSTRALIA
16 MAY to 24 JULY 2009**

**Part 1: Melbourne to Alice Springs via the Mer-
eenie Loop**

Participants:
Ashley and Lesley
John and Tina

DAY 1 - Saturday 16 May

Left cold and rainy Melb in the dark at 6am. Met up with John and Tina just past Calder Raceway. First stop James-town SA where it was still cold and wet. Up early next morning to continue long journey to Yulara.

DAY 2

Weather improving, we drove on to Port Augusta, fueled up and on to Coober Pedy where we made another quick stop for fuel and an ice cream. Still wanting to make up time, we headed up that long and seemingly never-ending Stuart Highway towards Yulara. Of course we wouldn't

reach Yulara that night so we pulled off the side of the road for some real bush camping and a long-awaited fire.

DAY 3

Up early (again!). More driving that long, endless highway. Quick stops at Marla and NT Border (where the flies seemed to triple in population!) reaching Ayers Rock Resort around midday. Set up camp for a 2-day/3nite stay here. Decided we needed a couple of hours R&R so just spent the day looking around the resort and checking out the "things to do" list. Very nice, except for the constant drone of the generator all day and night.



DAY 4

Just another lovely sunny morning. Rock climbing day... well for some that is. Ashley and John did the walk to the top, after which we all did the perimeter walk. Long day and weather very warm. Still the flies! But Uluru is definitely an amazing place. We also did the Uluru Sunset Experience (quite spectacular) while enjoying happy hour - a few VBs and some cheese and biscuits - unfortunately no champers in fridge on this occasion. Returned to camp for dinner and another early night. Being the night owl that I am, retiring to bed at 9.30pm and waking at 2am is already a pain.

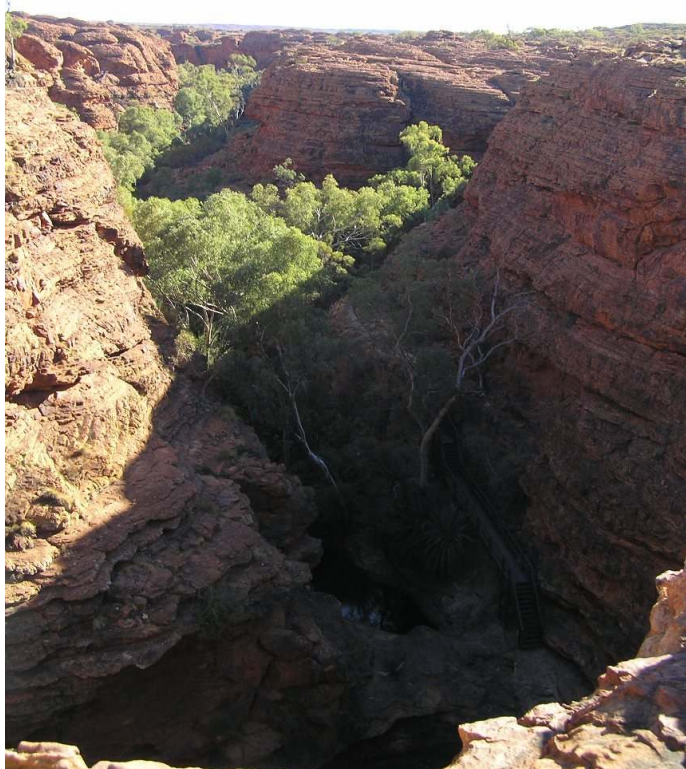
DAY 5

Guess what??? Up early (JP now a little tired of the early rises) to do the Uluru Sunrise Experience. This turned out to be not nearly as spectacular as the sunset and as it was very cold we quickly headed off for our day at The Olgas, another amazing wonder of the world. We all did the shorter walk into Malpa Gorge. Ashley had decided to do the longer walk but as JP's knees were suffering from the day at the Rock, he drove Tina and myself back to camp where we did some girly jobs, ie shopping and washing. The weather had warmed up to a very pleasant 26 degrees - perfect laundry day. Ashley returned and after a few VBs to recover (have to mention this bit), he cooked up a brilliant chicken stir fry - best camp cook I know!

DAY 6

Up early - YEP! We were packed up and out of Ayers Rock

by 8.30am, heading for Kings Canyon. Stopped en route at Kathleen Springs for the 1.2km walk into the Springs - very pleasant surprise in such an arid area. On to Kings Canyon Resort where we had set up camp by 12.30. Good camping spot, particularly as there was no generator noise... just the howl of the occasional dingo wandering through camp. At around 3.00pm and weather bit cooler, the four of us did the shorter walk into Kings Canyon. Beautiful scenery and vegetation, especially the ghost gums which are prevalent in this area. Great night for stargazing but still another early one.



DAY 7

Morning sunshine. Ashley and John up early to do the KC Rim Walk - 6kms. Back by 10.15am with glowing reviews. Packed up and out of camp by 11.15am, heading for Redbank Gorge. Ashley had warned me that we had 200kms of corrugations to look forward to on this leg. FABULOUS! Actually wasn't too bad and the time passed quickly. On the way we drove into Gosse Bluff - fantastic geological history here if anyone interested in checking it out. Hard to believe how many many millions of years ago that this country was fashioned into Terra Australis. Arrived at Redbank Gorge and camped at "Woodlands Campground" - pretty basic bush camping here. Set up camp for a two night stay. This had been a big day and we were all pretty tired so - yes - another early night.

DAY 8

Great weather. Not such an early start today - woo hoo. Off to Ormiston Gorge where Ashley and John tackled the three hour Pound walk while Tina and I walked to the waterhole. This was truly a gorgeous spot to sit on the rocks

and contemplate the surrounds. Then T and me drove into Glen Helen for a coffee to wait for the boys (2 hrs). We all walked into Glen Helen Gorge - more lovely stuff - where the boys had a swim in the very chilly water (just ask John). Drove back to camp where Ashley cooked up a roast beef dinner, accompanied by a couple of bottles of red - very nice! This turned out to be our "big night out" of the trip so far - late one, 11.30pm!

DAY 9

Sunny and warm. Left camp site at 9.30am ready for the so-called 20min walk into Redbank Gorge which turned out to be a rock scrambling 1.5hr return. Well worth the look tho - nice waterhole, great gorge views, and we even sighted two rock wallabies and a dingo. Quick stop at Ochre Pits (not much to see here), stopped at Serpentine Chalet Ruins (should not have bothered), then to Ellery Creek Big Hole. This was definitely worth the stop - another gorge and waterhole. Then on to Standley Chasm where A, J and T walked into the Chasm while LP had a coffee 'cos been there done that. The idea was to then drive on to Hermansberg for the nite - WRONG! On arrival we saw that the camp ground was entirely surrounded by wire fencing topped with barbed wire - not a good look!!!! We drove on to Palm Valley where we found a fab little oasis camping area - solar showers and flush toilets - LUSH - so decided to stay for two nights.

DAY 10

Bright sunshine. After a leisurely start, we drove into Palm Valley (the valley itself) and then tackled the two hour walk through the valley. This is the remains of a rain forest area dating back 45 million years - incredible... according to those in the know, the cabbage palms growing here are not seen anywhere else in Australia. Back to camp for lunch a leisurely afternoon. ADM and JP decided to take another two hour walk to follow the history of the Tawny Frog Man and his son (local aboriginal myth). That evening we were fortunate enough for the local ranger to come to camp to discuss the history of the area. During discussion following the talk, someone asked about track conditions into Boggy Hole (where we were heading the next day). WARNING! Definitely not trailer territory. Of course JP and ADM took this as a challenge!

DAY 11

A 9.00am start. We drove to Fink Gorge - the track through the National Park into Boggy Hole meanders along the Fink River bed which was quite rocky and sandy. We made it through without any problems - champions! Boggy Hole - even with such a strange name - was a small oasis in a large dry landscape. Unfortunately no good camping here so we drove on and eventually made camp on the side of the river.

DAY 12

Overcast and gloomy. JP and Tina's last day with us. As it had rained a little overnite, we didn't waste any time packing up and headed through the NP back onto the main road connecting us with the Stuart Hwy. We said our farewells and we headed north while JP and Tina headed south. Arrived in Alice Springs around 3.00pm where we

contacted Derek and Jan who were already set up at a local caravan park. We were fortunate enough to acquire one of the last camp sites. Time to clean up ourselves and do several loads of washing. Derek and Jan were generous enough to cook a couple of tired travellers a yummy dinner, and it was then off to bed for a well earned sleep - speshly for Ashley after a long day's driving.

DAY 13

Felt like we were home again,,, shopping, washing, cleaning... at least we had a good few hours to get ourselves ready for the next leg of our trip... up the Tanami to Wolfe Creek (scary - hope we don't run into John Jarrett ☹).

That's it for now folks. We will be updating in a week or two once we reach Kununurra, and hopefully send a few pix.

And for all you doubting Thomas's, I'm still here and actually enjoying myself (mostly) ☺