



OCTOBER 2009

Free Wheeling



Swift water during Cheynes Bridge trip 5th Sep 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

Well Spring has definitely sprung and with a great big downpour! It's good to see the reservoir's quickly filling up, although it is likely to mean some interesting tracks over the next few months. Does anybody remember why we fit snorkels?

I had a Hard trip to Neerim scheduled during September, but had to cancel as I had only one interested party. Please support your trip leaders, even if they have a tendency to get lost sometimes!

Well, the upcoming month looks very interesting so, support your trip leaders and jump on those trips!

Cheers and see you on a trip,

Shane Michelin



COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2009-2010

President	Ashley Martin	president@vfwdc.com 0438 600 904
Vice President	Mark Kochan	vicepres@vfwdc.com 0412 544 668
Treasurer	Phil Griffith	treasurer@vfwdc.com 0419 865 472
Secretary	Paul Ryan	secretary@vfwdc.com 0438 121 148

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Assistant Secretary	Bruce Cremonesi	assist@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	Daniel Robinson	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Shane Michelon	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 8pm, 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
News/letter	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

Hello and welcome to this month's edition of Free Wheeling.

4WD Victoria has recently held their annual meeting resulting in some changes to the Board positions. As you may know, Michael Coldham has held the role of President for seven years and during that time completely changed the direction of the Association. As with most organizations, there are decisions and directions taken that some people may not agree with, but under Michael's leadership the Association has stepped up to a new level. Anyone who has been on any sort of committee understands the personal time required, but Michael contributed more than most and should be congratulated.

Board members are sometimes difficult to lure, but thankfully all but one executive position has been filled. Like me, I'm sure you will be watching to see what direction the new executive members take 4WD Vic and we wish them every success.

President	Tony Gregor, Pajero Club, 2 year term
Vice President	No Nominations - 2 year term
Treasurer	Ross Wadeson, Asso Mmbr, 2 year term
Secretary	Matt Warren, Pajero Club, 2 year term

As mentioned at our last General Meeting, we are finalising an accounting package that will allow monthly transaction details to be printed and available for all members to view. It is sometimes difficult to follow the monthly report when presented verbally and this will ensure members who accept and second the report have a full understanding of the details. This is not far from being completed and will be available at the November meeting.

With (hopefully) the weather improving and camping becoming more tolerable now the cold nights are disappearing, it is time to take advantage of some good trips. It is very pleasing to see a healthy calendar full of various trips and social events led by existing and newer members. Don't forget the Christmas party which will be a great event for all members - all details are in the newsletter.

We have asked this question a few times and would like a response regarding choice of guest speakers. Preferably the presenter should be linked to the 4wd/camping scene, with products that are interesting and hopefully new. If you have any suggestions please email details or see me at the next meeting.

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

Ashley Martin
President

Minutes of General Meeting – 2 September 2009

General Meeting September 2009

The meeting was held at the Blue & Gold Room, Noble Park Football Club and was opened at 8.00pm by President Ashley Martin.

Present: There were 29 members present as per the attendance book

Apologies: Maxine Ryan, Aline Van Buiten, Mick Harris, Janet Hymas, Karen Wolter, Lesley Peters, Brian Martin, Ken Beard, Tina Hodges, Ray & Dawn Brown, John & Marianne McNeil

Visitors: Adam Bartlett

Minutes of previous Meeting

Accepted : George Pledger
Seconded : Shane Michelon

Matters arising: Nil

Correspondence in

Overland Cruising - June, July, August 2009
LROCV Newsletter - June, July, August 2009
Cross Country Jeep Club - June, July, August 2009
ARB 4x4 Action - Winter 09
Eureka Echo - Winter 09
RoofRackTrader Flyer
RFDS Xmas 09 Catalogue
National 4x4 Show Flyer
Rochford Wines 4x4 Track Flyer

Correspondence out

Newsletter
Request for refund of overpaid fees to Association

Treasurers report

Term Deposit	\$5,064.86
Cash	\$2,519.01
Moneys In	\$375.00
Unknown amt in	\$1,125.00
Moneys Out	\$0.00
Balance	\$9,083.87

Accepted: Anthony Van Buiten
2nd: Johan Liebenberg

Trip reports

Nil.

Trip coordinators report

The various trip leaders gave a brief overview of the following upcoming trips.

Type	When	Where	Trip Leader
Weekend Trip	4-6/9/09	Cheney's Bridge	Shane McNeil
Day Trip	20/9/09	Neerim	Shane Michelon
Day Trip	20/9/09	Kinglake	John McNeil
Weekend	2-4/10/09	Bendigo Wineries	Ashley Martin
Day Trip	18/10/09	Cobaw SF	Craig Major
Weekend Trip	23-25/10/09	Mystery Pub to Pub	Dave & Rosalie Hughes
Weekend Trip	Cup Week-end	Talbotville	Dan Robinson
Weekend Trip	Cup Week-end	Haunted Stream	David Jackson
Weekend Trip	20-22/11/09	Mayford Fishing Trip	Ashley Martin
Day Trip	12/12/09	Xmas Tree Delivery	Ashley Martin

The trip leaders course on 9th September which was noted in the newsletter as postponed is now going ahead as scheduled.

Event Coordinators Report

The Christmas Party is scheduled for Sunday 6th December 2009 at a venue yet to be decided. Some suggestions included Chesterfield or Myuna Farms. It was noted that cost needed to be kept to a minimum particularly for those with larger families.

Association Report

Review of Alpine National Parks - there is an online review of the Alpine National Parks which we are being encouraged to contribute to. It can be found at <http://www.weplan.parks.vic.gov.au/>

The Summer Works program is available for download and comment from the association website <http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au>. Apparently only \$480,000.00 has been allocated for the entire state.

FWDV are now a tour operator and plan to run tours for the general public focusing on education and the environment.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

The management plan for St Arnaud Park notes that a solid fuel fire ban is in place over the entire summer.

MVO Tracks - we now have access to over 381 MVO tracks. IF you are running a trip check if there are MVO tracks in the area that you might like to drive. 30 days notice is required and forms are available from the association website.

Mount Skene - will be accessible next season but will require completion of a Seasonal Road access form. Similar to the above. 7 days notice is required.

General business

National 4x4 Show - volunteers were being sought to help man the association stand.

Sandown Leisurfest - is on 1-4 Oct 09. This is a smaller but similar version of the National show.

Guest Speakers - we are looking at getting some guest speakers to future meetings. Suggestions include Kyo-cera, Safety Dave, RFDS, Accidental 1st Aid, or Polair.

Renewal Reminders will be sent out in the coming month to those who have still not renewed for this year.

Other Business

Mark Kochan mentioned JJ Canvas Repairs and the good service they provide. They custom made Ashley's swag and he has been happy with their work also.

Mark also mentioned Race Radiators, Bennett St, Dandenong who specialize in performance engine equipment e.g. intercoolers, turbos etc.

Raffle

Tickets sold by Shane McNeil

- 1st Prize - Merceds Model Car won by Joe Spicuzza.
- 2nd Prize - Snatch Strap won by Maggie Melcher.
- Special Prize - Shaving Kit won by Ashley Martin in the hope that he'll use it.

Meeting Closed: 9.40pm

From: John Partridge
Sent: Thursday, 10 September 2009 1:06 PM
To: 'events@fwdvictoria.org.au'
Subject: Summer works program VFWDC

I have been looking through the current summer works program. I have noticed this below. It is one of the few tracks left with challenge potential and should be classified as a Double Black Diamond track. It is important that we are left with some of this type of tracks for a varied experience for our club members.

The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club wish FWDV to take this matter up and see if there is a way of keeping this track open. There may be an opportunity to have a "by-pass / chicken track" put into place so that there is an easy and hard option with the appropriate signage applied. We are happy to help out with installation of any signage for this track to warn of the extreme conditions ahead and any new signage that they may wish to implement.

Central	Baw Baw	Erica Forests	Lady Man- ner Sutton Realign- ment	Pri- ority 2	Southern end of this track is very unsafe due to extreme gradient. Realignment is necessary for fire and public egress. Dozer work to build realignment.	
						\$35,000

On another note. Could someone please contact me with an up-date of the re-opening of Abbotts Creek Track. From memory that was to be a temporary closure and should have been re-opened up by now. Once again this would be a great track to have a chicken track maintained leaving the challenging section open for those that wish to try. At abbottos Creek Tk there was already a bypass track available that just needed upgrading.

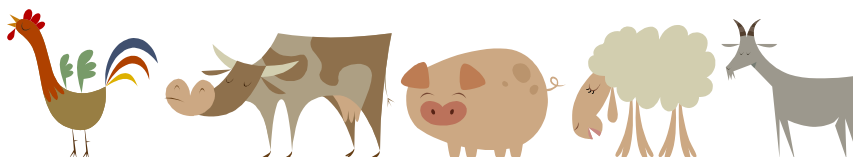
Kind regards,
 John Partridge
 VFWDC.



*The 2009 VFWDC
Christmas Party will be held on
Saturday, 5 December from 12.00pm onwards
at*

Myuna Farm

*182 Kidds Road, Doveton
(Melway Map Ref 90 H7)*



- ❖ *Animal Display Centre*
- ❖ *Wetlands Nature Walk*
- ❖ *Aviaries*
- ❖ *Pioneer Theatre*

Prices:	Families (2a, 2c)	\$17.00
	Single	\$ 5.00
	Rides:	
	Pony	\$1.50pp
	Train	\$2.00pp

BYO Meat, Beverages
The Club will provide salads, and soft drinks for the kids.

Bring along the family and enjoy the festivities.

An Invitation from the FWD Association:



A Girls Night In at Greythorn

This is an invitation to all ladies of Four Wheel Drive Clubs to attend a fundraising event for the Cancer Council.

It's called a Girls Night In. **There are no fella's allowed!**

The Concept:

To enjoy a night in together and donate the equivalent of what you would spend if you went out on the town to a restaurant or the movies. All funds raised will be donated to the Cancer Council to help raise money to conduct research into, and provide support for women with breast and gynaecological cancers. You can read more about it at www.girlsnightin.com.au.

Our Evening:

It is a gathering of girls to meet and mingle over a cuppa and supper without the blokes and bulldust. There will be door prizes, maybe a silent auction and hopefully a guest speaker or two. It's a work in progress.

When: Friday 23rd October, 2009.

Where: Four Wheel Drive Victoria, RSL Hall, Centreway, North Balwyn

Time: 8.00pm to 11.00 ish

Dress: Casual Pink if possible and your club name badge

Bring: Your donation – cash, cheques and credit cards accepted. Receipts will be issued.

Some supper to share (perhaps you could organise this on a club or group basis)

RSVP To: Alison McLaughlin (Pajero 4wd Club)

Email – alison@mclaughlin.net

Mobile - 0417732936

By: 19th October.

Hope to see you there!



CLUB MERCHANDISE For Sale (Revised Price List)

Club Polo Shirts	\$28.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece ½ Zip Jumper	\$38.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$48.00 ea
Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$44.00 ea
Club Caps	\$15.00 ea
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.



VFWDC ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

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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				
October	Friday 2nd	Trip—Winery Weekend—Bendigo	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	Wednesday 7th	General Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	Thursday 8th	OziExplorer Info Night	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784 074 AH: 9764 3381
	Sunday 18th	Trip—Cobaw State Forest	Craig Major	0432 876 699
	Tuesday 20th	Committee Meeting	Phil Griffith	0419 865 472
	Friday 23rd	Trip—Mystery Pub to Pub to Pub	David or Rosalie	WK: 9798 1492 HM: 9706 2966 MOB: 0427 865 592
November	31 Oct—3 Nov *Cup Weekend	Trip—Talbotville & Billy goats bluff	Dan Robinson	0407 334 169
	31 Oct—3 Nov *Cup Weekend	Trip—Haunted Stream	David Jackson	0408 333 313
	Wednesday 4th	General Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	Fri 6th & Sat 7th	Trip A Grade	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Sunday 15th	Trip—Bunyip	Shane Mcneill	0409 359 385
	Tuesday 17th	Committee Meeting	Dan Robinson	0407 334169
	Friday 20th	Trip—Annual Fishing Trip—8 Mile Flat, Goulburn River	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
December	Wednesday 2nd	General Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	Saturday 5th	Xmas Party		
	Saturday 12th	Oxfam Christmas Tree Delivery	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	Tuesday 15th	No Committee meeting		
	Saturday 26th	Trip—Snowy River National Park - McKillops Bridge	Ken Beard & Jane Spence	5971 4683
2010				
	Wed 10th Feb 2010	Driver Training Theory	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Sat—Sun 13-14 Feb	Driver Training Practical	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Friday 12 Mar 2010	Advanced Driver Training	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Tuesday, 29/06/10	Trip—North Simpson Desert - Madi-gan Line	Ken Beard & Jane Spence	5971 4683

FORTHCOMING TRIPS

Destination	OziExplorer Info Night
Trip Leader	Anthony Van Buiten
Contact No	0413 784 074 AH: 9764 3381
Date	Thursday 8th Oct 8pm
Meeting Time/Place	Depends on numbers either Glen Waverly or Rowville
Vehicle Limits	N/A
Grade	N/A
Approx Kms	N/A
Last Available Fuel	N/A
Distance Between Supplies	N/A
Maps	N/A
Equipment Required	N/A
Radio Channel	N/A
A few people have requested an information evening on the practical use of OziExplorer. I will run a 2 hour session on how to use OziExplorer for navigation.	

Destination	Mystery Pub to Pub to Pub
Trip Leader	David or Rosalie Hughes
Contact No	WK: 9798 1492 HM: 9706 2966 MOB: 0427 865 592
Date	23rd–25th October 2009
Meeting Time/Place	Yet to be determined
Vehicle Limits	3–10
Grade	To be advised (easy to medium probably)
Approx Kms	A Mystery at the moment.
Last Available Fuel	
Distance Between Supplies	
Maps	
Equipment Required	First Aid Kit(Panadol) Good sense of humour
Radio Channel	12
Meeting at a designated place, travelling from there to somewhere else, and then on to somewhere else. (ALL A MYSTERY) Morning and Afternoon tea is provided. All other information will be determined at a later date. Just come with a good sense of humor, and prepared to have a lot of fun. Stay somewhere on Friday night and somewhere else on Saturday night, and home sometime Sunday. All information provided closer to the date.	

Destination	Cobaw State Forest
Trip Leader	Craig Major
Contact No	0432 876 699
Date	18 October 2009
Meeting Time/Place	BP Service Center, Calder Park (Next to Thunder Dome) Departing : 8.30am
Vehicle Limits	3–10
Grade	Medium
Approx Kms	60
Last Available Fuel	PETROL: Calder Park DIESEL: Calder Park
Distance Between Supplies	N/A
Maps	N/A
Equipment Required	Basic recovery equipment – snatch etc
Radio Channel	12
With the restricted access into most of the eastern parks due to track closures and fire damage it was time to look for other areas. I have known about this area for some time but the club has never run a trip there. Recently a few members decided to conduct a recce and turned out to be a small but interesting area. The majority of tracks range from easy to medium so will be suitable for everyone.	

Destination	Haunted Stream
Trip Leader	David Jackson
Contact No	0408 333 313
Date	Cup Weekend 31/10-3/11
Meeting Time/Place	TBA
Vehicle Limits	
Grade	Medium
Approx Kms	500
Last Available Fuel	Swifts Creek
Distance Between Supplies	
Maps	Omeo
Equipment Required	
Radio Channel	12
Travel tracks around the Haunted Stream.	

Destination	Talbotville & Billy goats bluff
Trip Leader	Dan Robinson
Contact No	0407 334 169
Date	Cup Weekend 31/10-3/11
Meeting Time/ Place	Longwarry BP 7:30am
Vehicle Limits	3—6
Grade	Medium
Approx Kms	500
Last Available Fuel	Dargo
Distance Between Supplies	
Maps	Talbotville
Equipment Required	Standard recovery equipment, Blind or snorkel, Wet weather gear.
Radio Channel	12
Travel some iconic tracks around Talbotville, including Billy Goats, Pinacles & Blue Rag range. Base camping at Talbotville.	

Destination	Snowy River National Park - McKillops Bridge
Trip Leader	Ken Beard & Jane Spence
Contact No	5971 4683
Date	Saturday, 26/12/09 - Saturday, 02/01/10
Meeting Time/ Place	BP service station Princes Hwy Longwarry DEPART 0600hrs
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 2, MAX: 5
Grade	WET: Moderate DRY: Easy
Approx Kms	Approx 500km.
Last Available Fuel	PETROL: Buchan (Seldom Seen if they have any) DIESEL:
Distance Between Supplies	N/A
Maps Required	Optional - Rooftop: Snowy River, McKillops Bridge, Lakes Entrance Adventure map.
Equipment Required	Drinking water & food for 8 days. Basic recovery gear, clothing for hot/cold climate
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activity Details: Camp by the Snowy River. Bring an inflatable tube/canoe, do the Deddick Trail, help us celebrate the New Year or just do nothing at all!	

DESTINATION	Advanced Driver Training—Walhalla
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	John Partridge 0428 331 211
DATE	Friday 12th March 2010 Sunday 14th March 2010
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Longwarry service center 6.30pm
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Medium - Hard DRY: Medium-Hard
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS Want to take the next step from the proficiency training and learn more on 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 them using several different scenarios. For those who may have been attended a previous advanced training course and want to brush up on your skills are also welcome along. Participants will be assessed to determine sufficient experience and vehicle capability for this trip.	
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	150
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Full Recovery Equipment
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



Destination	Annual Fishing Trip—8 Mile Flat, Goulburn River
Trip Leader	Ashley Martin
Contact No	Mob: 0438 600 904
Date	Friday 20th— Sunday 23th Nov
Meeting Time/ Place	Lilydale Macas Friday Morning - 9am Friday night - 6.30pm
Vehicle Limits	Min 0, Max 10
Grade	WET: Easy to get there, medium drive Sunday DRY: Easy to get there, easy/medium on Sunday
Approx Kms	200
Last Available Fuel	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield
Distance Between Supplies	N/A
Maps	N/A
Equipment Required	Basic recovery equipment Fishing equipment
Radio Channel	12

On the last occasion we camped here the weather was not kind to us so second time lucky. The area is well grassed (and hopefully still will be), easy access to the river and has drop toilets The river is suitable for those wanting to wade up stream or like most of us just throw a line in from the side (if we even get that energetic). The camping area is an easy drive out of Jamieson along the Jamieson/Woods Point Rd and is a well maintained dirt road.

I set 2 departure times for some members will be leaving Friday morning and another's Friday night. If you can't make either let me know and will advise directions (don't be afraid).

If weather permitting and the well being of everyone I will probably take a scenic way home via a few tracks. These I have not been on for some time but they will not be difficult.



DESTINATION	Proficiency Training—Aberfeldy For- est area
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	John Partridge 0428 331 211
DATE	Theory: Wed 10 Feb 2010 8.00PM Practical: Sat 13 & Sun 14th Feb
MEETING PLACE TIME	TBC
GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	
This is a must do trip for any new club member or one who hasn't attended a training weekend in the past. We will be covering 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, the Tread Lightly! Principles and more.	
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 8
LAST FUEL	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Standard recovery equipment. You will need to be self sufficient with all your camping needs. Bring your own water.
RADIO CHANNEL	12

Destination	(Expression of interest) North Simpson Desert - Madigan Line
Trip Leader	Ken Beard & Jane Spence
Contact No	5971 4683
Date	Tuesday, 29/06/10 (depart Copley, SA) to Birdsville, QLD (Approx 10-14 days later)
Meeting Time/ Place	Copley Caravan Park, S.A.
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 2, MAX: 4 (Diesel Only)
Grade	WET/DRY: Difficult
Approx Kms	Approx 800kms, Mt Dare to Birdsville.
Last Available Fuel	PETROL: N/A DIESEL: Mt Dare
Distance Between Supplies	260 litres diesel required for 6 cylinder. Detours/Deviations may be required.
Equipment Required	Desert experience necessary. Vehicle must be in A1 condition. 2x spare tyres/4 tubes. Other specified equipment in detail later on.
Radio Channel	12

Trip Activity Details:

Following Dr Cecil Madigan's 1939 track from Old Andado to Birdsville.

THIS IS VERY REMOTE & ISOLATED COUNTRY, MUST BE PREPARED FOR ISOLATION AND IN THE EVENT OF BREAKDOWN VEHICLE RECOVERY MAY BE AN ISSUE DOLLAR WISE

Commitment by Feb 2010 - Permits required

DESTINATION	A Grade Trip . We will be camping Friday night at Seninis Camping Ground & Saturday night TBC dependant on numbers
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: John Partridge MOB: 0428 331 211 Email: gujohnno@yahoo.com.au
DATE	6-7th November (Also the 8th if we have the numbers)
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Longwarry Service Center 6.00PM Friday night
GRADE	WET: Extreme DRY: Hard - Extreme
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	We are setting out to tackle some of the hardest tracks available to us in Victoria. Only those with well setup vehicles will be allowed to come - the Trip Leader has the final say. This trip is not for the faint hearted but will be conducted in a safe manor. More information will be made available at the club meetings.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS	40Kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	A full tank of fuel ex Moe will see you through
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Vehicles will preferably have winches an diff lockers and larger aggressive tyres. Complete recovery equipment will be needed.
MAPS REQUIRED	TBC
RADIO CHANNEL	12



Trip Reports

***Cheynes Bridge
Anthony & Aline Van Buiten
5 Sep 09***

Participants:

Shane and Jackson
Phil
Anthony and Riley

I managed to get away from work earlier than I expected so I called Shane and organized to meet at BP Longwarry a bit sooner. We managed to get there roughly about the

same time and after topping up the fuel tanks we head off. We called in to the Erica pub for dinner on the way and Shane and I enjoyed a beautiful steak on the stone grill, while the kids had the predictable bowl of chips. We reached the campsite at Merringtons and found a spot that was less muddy than the rest of the place, although it was difficult to see in the dark. We set up the swags and soon had the kids in bed and out of the cold. We started a fire for ourselves to enjoy and tried to warm up a bit.

In the morning there was a thick coating of frost on the swags. The only thing forcing us out of our warm sleeping spots was the call of nature. Shortly after breakfast Phil turned up, completing the roll call for the trip.



So off we went with Shane leading the way and myself falling back as TEC. We travelled a variety of tracks on our way to Cheynes Bridge and most of them were a nice challenge. Nothing too difficult but if you didn't think about wheel placement you would need to have another go. There was one particularly slippery hill which required more right foot that I am usually accustomed to, but we all managed without any issues.

It was just as well that Phil had recently purchased a new chainsaw, as there were a few trees down that would have otherwise barred our way. I lost count the number of times he had to use it but it was a well justified purchase (Isn't that right Karen?).

We were heading down one track when the call came for the chainsaw again. We got out of the cars and Phil grabbed his trusty chainsaw. As we were walking down to the small tree over the road a few dirt bikes started heading up.

The first one struggled to get over the fallen tree but eventually managed to do so with a fair bit of effort. Then the next one had just as much trouble, and we had to help two more get over.



All the while Phil was standing there with the chainsaw ready to go. If the idiots had just got out of the way so he could make two quick cuts, it would have made their life much easier and they would have been on their way a lot quicker.

We eventually had lunch after the threat of mutiny, but it was difficult to find a suitable spot so we ended up pulling off to the side of the track. After lunch we continued our descent towards the Macalister River. We got to the edge of the river and got out to have a look. The water was moving fairly fast with the help of some recent rain-fall.



Our fearless trip leader jumped in his car and showed us the way across the river. It dipped down at first with the water coming up to the windscreen, but then leveled out to about midway up the side of the car. Shane had steered a little bit too far downstream but the river swallowed out near the exit and he was able to angle back towards it.

Next up was Phil. He was a bit dubious about it and not entirely comfortable about making an attempt. I didn't tell him at the time that I was just as nervous. We discussed options of Shane turning around and going a different route. I then volunteered to go next, as Phil and I

have essentially the same vehicle so he could better gauge what to expect. So it was with some trepidation that I went next across the river. I kept to more of a straight line and succumbed to the river pushing me downstream towards the exit. Something we had the benefit of learning from Shane's attempt. Went down into the dip, water up to the windscreen, then it evened out just before halfway across. I was then confident enough to tell Riley to look out the window as I knew we were out of the woods. He was previously mesmerized by his video game and I felt it was better leave him that way rather than him sense my nervousness. So out at the exit, at which the river had still pushed me further down than I intended to be, and onto dry land.



So Phil went next with the same results, again having the benefit of watching Shane and I go through. The water had managed to get behind his number plate and had bent it up, but it was easily repaired. So we were all glad we made the attempt even though it put us out of our comfort zone a little bit.

From there it was a short drive back to the main road where we stopped to air up our tyres. Again it was a short drive down the highway to the camp ground at Cheynes Bridge. We found a suitable spot for us away from the riff raff but unfortunately in between them and the drop toilet. They were the usual crowd you seem to get when there is road access to a campsite. Most of them were dirt bike riders who had towed the bikes up and used the campsite as a base for the weekend.

There was loud music, but they had fairly good taste so it wasn't such an imposition. Then later the fireworks started. This involved the mentally challenged afore mentioned campers putting propane bottles in the fire so that they explode, creating a louder noise than a shotgun going off. Apparently this is so amusing to them that it had to be repeated almost a dozen times throughout the evening. Most of them seemed to have frail legs as they had to use their dirt bikes to ride the short distance to the drop toilets. They must have been busting to go as well, because they travelled there as fast as they could and didn't have time to put their helmets on.

We had our own campfire which took a bit of coaxing to get going and then enjoyed dinner listening to the music provided by our fellow campers, with the occasional 'BOOM' of a propane bottle. "Ah the serenity".

It was a casual start in the morning and I tried to enjoy my Fathers Day sleep in for as long as I could. But eventually I had to get up and make sure Riley had some breakfast. Shane had provided the option of exploring a few more tracks on the way home, but we decided to head straight home to spend Fathers Day with the rest of our families.

Kinglake and Districts Day Trip

9 Sep 09

Tip Leader 1

John and Marianne GU Patrol

Tip Leader 2

Phil and Karen GU Patrol

Participants

Derek and Janet	Landrover Discovery
John and Tina	GQ Patrol
John and Joe	Ford Ranger
Joe, Phil, James,	
Adrian and Stephanie	Toyota Prado

Tail End Charlie 1 Bob and Kathleen

Tail End Charlie 2 Shane, Shaylyn,
and Jackson Toyota Hilux

I had two main reasons for going on this trip. One was that I haven't been in and around the Kinglake area and the second was that I was keen to go on a trip with John Mc Neil as he's quite an experienced trip leader and I was keen to see how he runs his trips.

The first thing I learnt from John was not to be last to the meeting point unless you like writing trip reports. Guess who was last...

After a short briefing and organizing the convoy order we headed out of Yarra Glen and up Mt. Slide Rd. I immediately started to notice something I haven't experienced for quite some time - DUST!

The other most noticeable thing was how close the Black Saturday fires got to Yarra Glen. It was a bit sobering seeing where some houses had been burnt down but encouraging seeing that there were quite a few new houses built already.

Before long we had arrived in Kinglake for our morning tea stop at Kinglake bakery. After our short break we headed out to the Kinglake National Park which was unfortunately gated shut. Everywhere through this area we could see the hit and miss destruction from the fires. A right and a left turn saw us heading into the state forest and onto our first 4wd track of the day. 1st gear low range was selected and down we headed the aptly named long Gully Tk. It was a nice rocky track and it wetted our

appetite for more to come.

We headed across to the Flowerdale Pub for lunch passing through Hazeldene and once again witnessing the aftermath of the destructive fires. There was quite a turnout at the pub and they were struggling to keep up with the orders. Not only was the wait long, but the food was poor and they even forgot Shane's order completely.

Eventually we headed back out and up through Strath Creek and into the Tallarook State Forest. From here the Trip Leaders duties were turned over to Phil and the Tail End Charlie to Shane for some firsthand experience following the Trip Leaders Course we ran just the other week. We turned right down Tehans No. 6 Track and then up the steep and slightly rutted Tehans No. 5 Track. We had a few vehicles with us that were close to stock and with highway tyres yet they all managed very well. At the top we headed virtually straight across to Jenkins track which also had some nice up and down sections and eventually looped back to the main road. A short distance further we stopped at the main camping ground and made use of the facilities there.

Bob headed off to our next track to set himself up to video our ascent. Cool, this might be good, I thought. And it was.

I've been on this track previously, but it was some time ago. It used to be a long rocky and loose track and thankfully it still is. John headed up first followed by Phil. The big Nissans seemed to make light work of it and Derek soon followed with what turned out to be a false sense of confidence as he found himself unable to get passed a slippery rock step. A short tug saw him free and he continued up to the top. As I had my big tyres on I had some fun getting up the old sections with its larger rocks to negotiate. Once up I walked back to the ledge to help guide John up and he did a great job getting to the spot where Derek got stuck. Once again a short tug with the snatch strap got him going again.

Joe was next up with his new Prado and with some encouragement and a fair bit of right foot (and a bit of air) saw him get past the ledge. Shane with his modified Hilux also made light work of the rocks and ledge and before long we all were gathered at the top where the fire tower is. On the ground we found quite a bit of transmission fluid, evidence that some others had struggled on the track and damaged their truck.

From here it was an easy drive off the mountain and we made our own way home.

I would like to thank John and Marianne for a great day out. We all had a ball.

Well done to Phil and Shane on the section that you ran. You did a great job and hopefully you now have a bit more confidence for when you run your next trip.

John Partridge.