



MARCH 2011

Free Wheeling



Australia Day - Marysville Trip

Notice Board

VFWDC GENERAL MEETING VENUE

The club meets at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club, 46-56 Moodemere St., Noble Park on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 8.00pm (No meeting January). Members and Guests are welcome to dine at the Bistro before attending the meeting.

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

Venue:

Bowling Club Rooms (Next to Car Park)

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



FREE WHEELING

Hello and welcome to the March newsletter. A few trips were held over the last few months, please see the trip reports for how much fun the club members had. And there's plenty of training and more trips in the upcoming months, please see the upcoming trip for further details.

Catherine

Editor@fwdc.com



VFWDC



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

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COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2010-2011

President	Bruce Cremonesi	president@vfwdc.com 0400 425 296
Vice President	Mark Kochan	vicepres@vfwdc.com 0412 544 668
Treasurer	Phil Griffith	treasurer@vfwdc.com 0419 865 472
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GENERAL COMMITTEE		
Assistant Secretary		assist@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	Daniel Robinson	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Catherine Felton	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	Ashley Martin	
Training Officers	Ashley Martin	John Partridge
General Committee	Luke Teunissen	
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).
Location	Noble Park Football Club (Bowling club near car park) 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
	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 everyone.

Well what a great turnout to the first meeting of the year! And so far, what a sad year it has been so far in many parts of the world. Australia and most recently for our New Zealander friends a devastating earthquake.

Numerous Cyclones, massive floods in several states, hailstorms, politicians pretending they care, it's been true hell out there. While other states seem to have missed out. Then the massive earthquake in Christchurch which is extremely bad for them. So much loss and so many people left with nothing. Let's hope these people can get over this sad time of life quickly and get on with what normal life they can. Just remember if possible, try to donate anything you can. It isn't hard to help or to help someone out. It does not have to be money. Our thoughts go out to all those suffering in VIC, QLD, NSW, WA, and New Zealand.

Club wise we were asked to assist with some flood relief work, and had a few members, who headed west to help out some farmers and locals with fencing and property maintenance. It's a top feeling you get when you help these people, you can tell their thanks and appreciation is genuine. I still get emails from a farmer out Gippsland whose property we helped rip down burnt out fences and tidy up. Great people.

Other club news, we have **THE GRANT**. Our subcommittee of gurus have worked out how best it can be utilised to best benefit for the club. There will be a bit of light discussion at the upcoming meeting.

Trips, we have a couple of stunning trips on at the moment. And with the opening up of many of the high country tracks that were closed due to floods earlier this year things should really kick off! Remember we can never have too many trips, so get out and about! Maybe some of the older/longer term members would be interested in showing us younguns a track or 2 that were some of their favorites sometime. Maybe an overnigher or 2 and some great old stories round a campfire (My style of bonfire that is)! We all know how 4wding has changed over the years, but some may have seen much more than others. And there aren't many people who don't like a few Low Fat Indian Tonic Waters around a campfire!

We also have our 'Nooby' trailer trip'. This is to give those members new to Camper trailers some experience towing their units off-road in a controlled way. Phil and Telstra Tower have worked out some great tracks, so it will also be a NORMAL trip with sightseeing. While at it, it is good to look over other peoples setups to get some ideas for yourself! This trip is also open to people without trailers who would like to come along and socialise.

Also we have Murray Sunset coming up at Easter, so get your name in quick for this one. Will be taking in Pink Lakes, Mopoke Hut, Shearers Quarters, and then down the boarder track. Lets hope for some great weather this time out! Last 3 times I've been there I wished I'd have had Noah's Ark. But nice and slippery fun driving.

We have Driver training and Trip Leader training coming up too. We are lucky to have Dan and John putting their hand up for the TL course. They have both run multiple courses and most of Johns original TL Course notes are now used by 4wd Victoria! It's a fun course, don't think of it as an Algebra exam - its not. It's a FUN course to give you some tips and confidence, added with several hundred of Johns great travel stories to give you ideas on new locations to go. So if you are interested in either course please see Dan at the meeting, or email him at trips@vfwdc.com and he can put your name down. Just assists us with planning and lamingtons.

Those are just what I can think of off the top of my head, there are more trips to be had, so check out the calendar! Remember to get your name down quick for trips too so you don't miss out. I note that Ken's trip to Holey Plains State Park with its 10 car limit had 20 names on it within about 10 mins! We all know Ken runs a brilliant trip, with the assistance of his lovely wife Barbie* whether that be a day trip or one of his mighty 6 week remote outback trips. Truly a great team. I think his High Country trip will fill up just as quick! So get in there.

Our new website is ready for deployment as soon as Paul has 5 mins to spare, it will go live. If anybody has any photos from club trips they would like to or would allow us to put up on the intranet, please burn them to CD and hand them to me at a meeting and I'll upload them. We would really like some from the earlier years of the club if some of the older/longer term members would share with us. This is your club help make it the best you can.

Other than that, I don't have much to add at the moment.

Take care, and be safe.

Bruce Cremonesi
President VFWDC

* Kens wife's name isn't Barbie, its Jane. But it has a nicer ring to it with Barbie. She is going to hit me when she sees me isn't she?

Minutes of General Meeting February 2011

General Meeting 2nd February 2011

The meeting was held at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club and was opened at 8.10pm by President

Present: There were 26 members present as per the attendance book

Apologies: 11 members

Visitors: Nevilee Van Leeuwen, Michael Fabris, Andrew Van Der Walt, Ben Earl

Minutes of previous General Meeting

Held over, due to not being published in magazine

Minutes of November General Meeting (at Everything 4wd)

Accepted : Ken
Seconded : Shane

Matters arising:

Thanks to John for hosting the previous meeting, including his parents that ran the BBQ. Very good turn out.

Correspondence in

- 4wd Victoria - show bags
- Email from Bill re: his membership fees
- Toyota overland cruising
- ARB magazine
- VKS 737 magazine
- Landrovers owners club
- Coastline newsletter
- Variety children's charity - just asking for donations
- The Eureka Echo newsletter
- Email from The association, is looking for volunteers to help rebuild kings hut
- Email from the association, was looking for volunteers to help near Avoca

Correspondence out
magazines

Treasurers report

Term Deposit	\$	5390.90
Cash	\$	
Petty Cash	\$	50.00
Money In	\$	
Moneys Out	\$	
Balance	\$	8626.36

Accepted: Shane
2nd: Andrew

Trip reports

The various trip leaders gave a brief overview of the following trips. Bruce's trip up to Marysville: 5 cars started at Lilydale and took 7.5 hours to get from Healesville to Marysville. Bruce got stuck THREE times ... and in one section it took 2.5 hours to travel about 50m. Finally got through Marysville for a light afternoon tea before taking a visit to Stevens falls.

Trip coordinators report

Upcoming Trips

Ken has an upcoming trip-Holey Plans state park - day trip 27th march - meet at Longwarry at 8am

Ken has a 2nd trip 2/3 April - no trailers 7am at Lilydale MacDonald's.

Labour day weekend - Phil's camper trailer trip either up through Mt Terrible or through king hut ... but basically around the Mansfield area.

Pink lakes, border track (Bruce) over Easter weekend (prefer to keep it as a tent trip, i.e.: no trailers)

Anthony is running the annual trip up near Mildura over the Easter weekend.

Trip Leaders Course - need more names prior to setting a date.

Event Coordinators Report

Association Report

General business

Volunteer Grant (Ashley report)

Planning to do chain saw course's so we can do track clearing around the Aberfeildy area. The course will be funded by the club, but the safety gear will need to be purchased by participants (probably at Cranbourne)
Planning to do First Aid course's (probably at Cranbourne)

Still looking at the possibility of equipment (not chain saw's - i.e. good quality UHF radios)

Will be trying to finalize some of the details over the next couple of weeks, and then put in the club newsletter.

Hoping to have someone from 4wd Victoria at the March meeting. Will find out in the next couple of days

Not going to be involved at Wandin valley this year.

Other Business

Raffle

This month there is 4 prizes

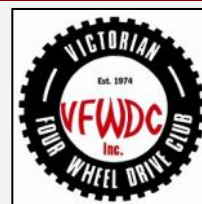
Tickets sold by EMILY

Recover gear (donated by Everything 4x4)

- 1st Prize -2 shackles Won by BILL Hardwood
- 2nd Prize - Tree protector. Won by ASHLEY
- 3rd Prize - recovery blanket. Won by IAN Rhodes
- 4th Prize - tigerz11 bag. Won by Michelle Robinson
- 5th Prize - Red Wine Won by - BEN Earl
- 6th Prize - Tire gauge Wony By David Bruinsma

Meeting Closed: 9:43 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 8.00pm..... at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club.



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

(The VFWDC long stickers will be available at the March club meeting. Please see David Bruinsma for these stickers).

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.

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

Minutes of General Meeting December 2010

General Meeting 1st December 2010

The meeting was held at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club and was opened at 8.00pm by President

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Present: There were 25 members present as per the attendance book

Apologies: 7 members

Visitors: Dean Webster, Mark Gibson, Kyal Baarsma, Robin DeHaan

Minutes of October General Meeting

Accepted : Shane
Seconded : Ken

Minutes of November General Meeting (at Everything 4wd)

Accepted : Ken
Seconded : Shane

Matters arising:

Thanks to John for hosting the previous meeting, including his parents that ran the BBQ. Very good turn out.

Correspondence in

- Bank Statement - Bendigo Bank
- Magazine - Cross Country Jeep Club Victoria
- Magazine - Overland Cruising Toyota Landcruiser club of Australia
- Annual report - Four wheel Drive Victoria
- Victorian 4wd show - newsletter and some hand out brochures
- Rays outdoors Xmas holiday specials
- Royal Flying doctor service - request for financial gift and Wings of the Outback magazine
- Royal Flying doctor service - Xmas catalog for financial gifts
- Email received from Bob McKerrow, re: Xmas trees

- Emails received back from 5 members advising they had paid (which checked out correct)
 - Email received back from 1 member advising would pay at December meeting.
 - Magazine - Review 'The land rover owner's club of VIC inc.'
 - 1 membership renewal by mail
- Thankyou letter from the Beadell family, following passing of Anne Beadell.

Correspondence out

- Cheque and forms to V4WD for membership dues
 - Emails to 39 members with reminders about renewal subscriptions
- Condolence letter sent out by president to Beadell family, following passing of Anne Beadell.

Treasurers report

Term Deposit	\$	5202.49
Cash	\$	
Petty Cash	\$	50.00
Money In	\$	794.00 + 5000 grant
Moneys Out	\$	1440.00
Balance	\$	8439.75

Accepted: Mark
2nd: Andrew

Trip reports

Upcoming Trips

Bruce C. - Day trip in Marysville and surrounds, social trip Australia day.

Labour day weekend - trailer course type trip, perhaps around Kings Hut (near circuit road - which has washed away)

Easter Trip - Border Track, Big lakes work up north, then down border track.

Easter holiday - Dan doing a Simpson desert trip for the two weeks.

Fishing Trip - Anthony went up on Saturday, didn't catch a lot of fish. Weather was good. A couple of idiot drivers again - Anthony took vehicle details to pass on to authorities (again) 7 or 8 people.

Minutes of General Meeting December 2010 Continued

Pub to Pub trip

It was a great weekend getaway. It started at Country Club (Yea) and stayed the night. The weather was wet to start with, went through cheviots tunnel, no-one got stuck. Cape Deresdale railway. Then went to Warrigal rocks (private property) access is possible by prior arrangement. Stayed the night at the Human hovel Cricket grounds. Stayed in the NOT OUT INN. 23 people, 11 cars. Xmas tree deliveries, trees have already been allocated to vehicles, if anyone is interested, forward names through as emergency to be called by Oxfam. Talk to Ashley during the break.

Association Report

New board members. We have a new representative allocated from the association, hopefully he will come out for the March meeting. There are still a lot of track closures

General business

Looking to run a trip leaders course, for people who want to know the ins and outs of what to do. Bring pen and paper and a map of the area you want to run a trip. Date to be decided.

As a committee we want to run a few NOVICE trips to encourage people with their cars and camping gear
Funding: we are still working out what courses we are able to do, and how to get the benefits for the members. There will be a small sub-committee working this out. We want to have invited people to come and do talks at the club - people like Noel Lees (parks vic), have some other ideas as well.

Ken mentioned about First aid training course (level 2). Note, that it is part of the guidelines that a first aid person should be on each trip. Beginners 4x4 Driver training course hopefully would be run in February. Club brochures - send some to VIC 4x4 aust.

Raffle

This month there is 4 prizes
Tickets sold by EMILY

1st Prize - Recover gear (donated by Everything 4x4)

Won by PHIL

2nd Prize - Lights. Won by ASHLEY

3rd Prize - Electric blanket. Won by (missed the name of the lucky winner)

4th Prize - HID lights. Won by Chris

Meeting Closed: 9:29 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 8.00pm..... at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club.

BIG welcome to our newest and youngest member.



Craig and Marijke are very happy to announce the arrival of William James Major to their family. William was born on the 13/2/11 at 12.24pm and weighed 7lb 3.5oz. William and mum both did a great job during the labour and everything went smoothly.

Congratulations and best wishes from all the club members.

Chainsaw Training

As members are aware we were awarded a volunteers grant last year to be used for training and or equipment.

We are in the final stages of organising chainsaw training and hoped to have the details available for this newsletter. Unfortunately I am still waiting for information which is due shortly and once finalised all members will be notified of the course details, cost and date.

EVERYTHING 4WD

86 Camms Road, Cranbourne, 3977
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E: sales@everything4wd.com.au
W: www.everything4wd.com.au

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HID Driving Lights	Ute Liners
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Inverters	Winches

Discounts available for all 4WD club members





CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2011				
March	Wednesday 2nd	General Meeting	Bruce	0400 425 296
	12th - 14th	Camper Trailer Trip	Dan Robinson Phil	
	16th	Trip Leaders Course	Dan Robinson	0407 334 169
	23rd	Driver Training Theory	Dan Robinson	0407 334 169
	27th	Holey Plains State Park	Ken Beard	0427 426 118
April	Wednesday 6th	General Meeting	Bruce	0400 425 296
	2nd - 3rd	Bluff Hut	Ken Beard	0427 426 118
	22nd - 26th	Hattah Easter Weekend	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784 074
	22nd - 26th	Pink Lakes/Border Track	Bruce	0400 425 296
	22/4 - 8/5 (Easter School holidays)	EOI Simpson Desert	Dan Robinson	0407 334 169
May	Wednesday 4th	General Meeting	Bruce	0400 425 296

UPCOMING TRIPS

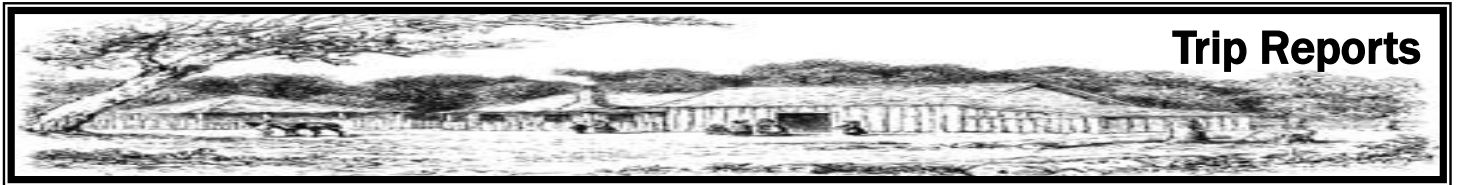
DESTINATION	Holey Plains State Park
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Ken Beard MOB: 0427426118
DATE	Sunday 27 th March 2011
MEETING PLACE / TIME	BP service station Longwarry (Princes Hwy) 0800 depart.
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Family day trip visiting Holey Hill, Fire Tower, Harriers swamp etc. Scenic driving – picnic lunch required. In the event of a CODE RED FIRE WARNING the park will be closed and the trip cancelled.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: Easy MAXIMUM:
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	250kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Longwarry / Rosedale
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic rated recovery gear, picnic lunch
MAPS REQUIRED	Not required
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

UPCOMING TRIPS Continued

DESTINATION	Bluff Hut area
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	NAME: Ken Beard MOB: 0427426118
DATE	Sat / Sun 2 nd & 3 rd April 2011
MEETING PLACE / TIME	McDonalds Lilydale 0700 depart.
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Medium / Hard DRY: easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Exploring Howqua Hills historic area. Bluff Hut, Lovicks hut Etc. Camping is dependent on where we are and how far we get on Saturday. Tents/swags only. Trip will conclude on Sunday arvo some time some place. Must be prepared for the occasional hard track if required.
VEHICLE LIM- ITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 4
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	400 kms
LAST AVAIL- ABLE FUEL	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL:
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic rated recovery gear, A/T- M/T tyres. Warm & cold clothing, drinking water.
MAPS REQUIRED	Mansfield-Mt Howitt adventure Jamieson-Licola adventure
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12 (other channel may be required)

DESTINATION	Brewery Tour Yarra Valley
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	NAME: Anthony Van Buiten MOB: 0413 784 074
DATE	3/4/2011
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Lilydale McDonalds / 9:45am
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Easy DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Our first stop of the day will be to Yarra Valley Dairy to sample some of their cheeses. They also have a selection of local beers to purchase. Next we will travel to Hargreaves Hill Brewery in Yarra Glen where we can sample their beers. From there it's off to Buckley's Beers and White Rabbit Brewery which are both located in Healesville. We will also take the opportunity to have lunch in Healesville. There are plenty of Café's and pubs to choose from or even a sandwich in the park. Last on the list is Coldstream Brewery which is also on the way home. Parking is limited at most of the breweries so I need to put a limit of 10 vehicles. Hopefully people can carpool and 2WD vehicles are acceptable.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	120kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Healesville DIESEL: Healesville
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Designated Driver
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

FYI....For information in relation to track closures, use the link below.
<http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/resources/mresources/Closures-AlpineNP.pdf>



Trip Report – Fishing Trip 19th – 21st October 2010

Author: Paul Ryan

Participants

Paul, Robert – 80 Series

Brian – 100 Series

George – Musso

Anthony, Riley & Luke - Hilux



A trout like 1 of many we didn't catch

Day 1 – Friday 19th October

Rob and I headed up to Pineapple Flat on Friday afternoon after having thrown the swags in the car and stocked up on the important provisions like Soujouk.

We met up with George and Brian who were already at Pineapple Flat having come up earlier in the week.

Anyway not much else happened except the evening meal, drinks and bed.

Day 2 – Saturday 20th October

It was a relaxing start to the day, with Anthony turning up early-ish Saturday morning. We had already tried throwing a line in earlier in the day but to no avail. George had warned us about a big black snake lying on the path but that had obviously got bored and wandered off (thankfully). Riley and Luke also threw a line in from time to time but the rest of us just sat and shook our heads at the nuffers, who were charging in and out of the river crossing like a bunch of 2 year olds. License plate numbers were noted.

We then heard Tim on the radio, who was in the area with Nick doing a 4WD Earth trip. We exchanged a few words and then went back to watching the idiots.

The early evening was spent watching the fish jump everywhere but onto a hook down near the river crossing, but as there were more kids than fish we called it a day early.

Another late meal, drinks and bed.

Day 3 – Sunday 21st October

Packed up and came home. Thanks to all for the good company.

Paul

Trip Report – Lake Eyre Trip 18 – 30 Sept 2010

Author: Paul Ryan

Participants

Paul, Max, Robert, Madeliene – 80 Series

Shane & Jackson – Hilux

Steve, Tamara, Shelby, Flynn – 100 Series

Chris, Marilyn, Jarrad, Trent – 80 Series

Brian – 100 Series

Day 1 – Sat 18th September

I met up with Shane and Chris at Todd Road and we set off to meet up with Brian at Calder Services. The plan was to head up to the Murray and meet up with Steve and family on Sunday as they had commitments in Melbourne that meant they would be starting later in the day.

Originally we had planned to do the Lake Eyre leg first but because of the weather we had switched plans and were going to do this in the 2nd week to give everything time to dry out. So now we were going to do the NSW corner country bit first.

The trip to Hattah Kulkyne was as usual uneventful although the difference in the countryside following the rain was much in evidence, none more so than when we finally reached the Murray.



Day 2 – Sun 19th September

Sunday was a lazy day where everyone did their own thing. Shane headed into town to meet up with Steve, Chris and Marilyn visited relatives in Red Cliffs, we also went into town to get one or two supplies and Brian relaxed back at camp.

The kids all threw a line in at some stage of the day although the take was far short of the enthusiasm. All in all a very pleasant day on the odd occasion when the wind dropped and the sun finally came out.

Day 3 – Mon 20th September

Today we were heading to Mt Gipps Station (<http://www.mountgippsstation.com.au/welcome>) just north of Broken Hill so it was a reasonably early start as we all had varying things to do in Mildura before heading off. Number one order of the day was to shed some of the excess weight in mud that we had all picked up at the local car wash. Chris had some errands to run to the local ARB whilst the rest of us got stuck into morning tea at the bakery near the roundabout. Fuelled with sausage rolls and cappuccinos we left Mildura shortly before lunch and arrived in Broken Hill mid afternoon. A quick stop at the tourist information office to determine which roads were open and which closed and then we headed straight up to Mt Gipps Station.

Mt Gipps is a short 20 – 30 min drive north of Broken Hill. It's an 85,00 acre sheep station and was recently used by ARB for it's 2010 calendar. John and Kym the owners are very friendly. They took over the station a few years ago, originally coming from Wagga, and know Max's cousins. This proves that wherever we go, there is always someone who knows Max's family (usually the Authorities). Anyway this probably explains why they put us as far away from the homestead as possible and after what seemed like a 3 day drive we eventually arrived at our camp spot for the next couple of days.

Today was Max's birthday so we had cake. There may also have been presents.

Day 4 – Tues 21st September

Another day of sightseeing and shopping (for those that needed to). But first showers. We were allowed the use of the showers at the shearer's quarters and I have to say that the facilities were a little on the robust side, not that it really mattered as the opportunity to get clean was most welcome. Most of us headed into Silverton to take in the museum and have a look around before heading back into Broken Hill for lunch.

Shane and Steve arranged to be taken on a tour of the property by Kym whilst the rest of us headed back to camp. Another relaxing night by the fire and then bed.



Day 5 – Weds 22nd September

Although the route for today was only going to be about 250kms from Mt Gipps to Pincally, we were following the Sturts Steps route (as much as possible) along public access roads. For the most part these roads are well defined and maintained and initially the going was pretty good. However we soon turned on to the route between Teilta Lake and Westwood Downs and the road here was very different to our previous experiences.

In large sections the track disappeared under new grown weeds and foliage and all this water meant that the going was a little soft in places. We stopped to look at Teilta Lake nearly stepping on a bearded dragon in the process. Teilta Lake had a reasonable amount of water in it which we assume is not a common occurrence.

From there we passed an abandoned homestead along Jounie Road and continued towards Westwood Downs. A few kilometres short of Westwood the track disappeared into a lake and emerged about 400m away on the other side. The lake shore looked a bit too soft to the left, but firm enough to the right, so we decided to skirt the lake and try to rejoin the track at the northern end. By supreme navigational skills (and not by complete fluke) we hooked up with the track again on the other side. Finding the right track that exited Westwood Downs was more of a challenge but we got there after a few false starts.



We eventually arrived at Pincally, our destination, after about 7 hours driving, our average speed for the day being about 30 – 40 kmh.

Once again we were bush camping at a station however this spot was just a little bit special.

Once again this was another lake that had benefited from the recent rains and was really a beautiful spot to be camping.



Day 6 – Thurs 23rd September

Another relaxation day spent mostly by the lake. The kids had a ball and explored all corners of the lake by foot (the water was only waist deep at it's deepest point). In the afternoon we headed up to the shearers' quarters for showers and were back in time for happy hour and sunset.

Day 7 – Fri 24th September

On Friday we packed up again and headed off toward Tibooburra. The roads were pretty easy and we stopped briefly in Milparinka as we only had a short distance to travel.

Sadly the hotel is closed at Milparinka (due to a family dispute we were told). Still we took the opportunity to look around before carrying on to Tibooburra.

We stayed at the caravan park in town so that everyone had a chance to do laundry, re-stock on certain items and generally get sorted out. Entertainment for the day was provided by an elderly couple setting up a Kimberley Kamper. Every bell, whistle, annexe, sunshade, solar panel, tin opener and truss was carted out and fitted to this thing. All in all it took them the best part of 7 hours to set up by which time I think the warranty must have run out because then they started to pack it away again.

We got talking to a couple from NSW who were due to leave the following day. They were blissfully unaware that there was a game of football on the next day, however they did tell us that we were lucky that we weren't going to be there the following week, as the Rodeo and Show were in town and it was expected to be pretty busy. Dinner was at the pub.

Day 8 – Sat 25th September GF Day

A bit of wandering round the town aimlessly during the morning then it was first in best dressed at the pub for the Grand Final where Collingwood narrowly avoided being beaten by St Kilda. The rest is of course history. The game was second to the entertainment provided by Barb, the St Kilda supporter, who had celebrated every point with a beer (or so it seemed). All good natured fun but I doubt if my hearing will ever be the same.



Thank God we didn't have to put up with a bunch of Pies supporters carrying on about how "Bloody marvellous" they were for the rest of the trip. I couldn't have been happier.

Day 9 – Sun 26th September

On Sunday we packed up again and headed out to Cameron's Corner. The plan was to get as far down the road towards Lake Eyre as we could and camp overnight before completing the rest of the journey the following day.

We reached Cameron's Corner in time for morning tea and everyone did all their photo calls and sightseeing in short order. The journey out from the Corner to Merty Merty was an undulating roller coaster of a road with many blind crests. As lead vehicle, the prospect of meeting something coming in the other direction didn't exactly fill me with joy and I was pretty glad when we eventually reached the Strzelecki Highway.

We had originally thought we might camp at Montecollina Bore however as we were there fairly early in the day we decided to press on to Lyndhurst. This made the day pretty long and we were all fairly glad to pull into Lyndhurst, that is until we saw the campsite. It was a quiet night except for the constant drone of trucks passing.

Day 10 – Mon 27th September

On Monday we began the journey up towards Lake Eyre. The plan was to head into Marree and find out what the track conditions were like before making a final decision about where to go from there. Tip: Fill up at Lyndhurst, it's about 30 cents cheaper than Marree.

We got to Marree pretty quickly, called in at the store for info and ice creams, visited Tom Kruze's (Outback Mailman) old Blitz truck in the town centre and got the obligatory shot of the Lake Eyre yacht club.

Luckily for us Level Post Bay track was now open and we were advised by some members from the Melton and District4WD club that the camping was good at Muloorina. That sounded good to us so we set off and were soon at the campground.

This is one of the nicest camping sites I have been too and there was plenty of room to spread out. There are flushing toilets, shade aplenty and fees are on an honesty system. Everybody set up and had lunch.



After lunch we headed out (no trailers allowed past this point anyway) and on up the track towards Lake Eyre. We were soon level with Lake Eyre South and could see water in the Lake, not that it was particularly accessible. There was also water in the channel that joins Lake Eyre to Lake Eyre South but again the approach would have been pretty muddy. Anyway after about 45 minutes drive we were at the Level Post Bay car park and up over the dune staring at Lake Eyre. A shimmer on the horizon indicated that there was water in the Lake, but as we had been warned it was a fair hike. Everyone set off, mostly in different directions, but with the exception of Jarrad and Trent, no-one else had the stamina to make it all the way to the water's edge. The going underfoot was getting increasingly softer the further you went and even at this time of year it was getting pretty warm out there. Chris was especially happy that the boys went as far as they did as he was the poor bugger who had to go and retrieve them.

Anyway it was a long walk back to the car but mercifully a short drive back to camp. Getting back to camp Shane noticed that his car had developed a downward lean on the front passenger side. As it turned out his front shock had snapped clean on the weld above the lower eye. Luckily for him the lower end of the shock had nestled neatly in to the wishbone of the strut and wasn't going anywhere so we decided that we would limp into Marree the following day and get it looked at.



Day 11 – Tues 28th September

Planning on the fly again we decided to pack up and begin the homeward journey. Rather than head straight home we decided that we would get as far as Marree, seek advice about Shane's vehicle and then make plans from there.

Lo and behold on the way out of Muloorina we hear the dulcet tones of our beloved club President over the airwaves. Dan, Bruce and company were heading in to the Lake from Marree as we were on our way out. According to Bruce his trip wasn't going so well (fridge and kid troubles). We left a message for him back at their camp site about our intended plans (although we ended up changing these at the last minute as it turned out).

Back in Marree we were advised that there wasn't a mechanic / welder who could advise Shane about his shock absorber but there was a gut further back down the road past Lyndhurst who could help out. As it turned out he was about as helpful as leprosy and couldn't spare 30 seconds just to have a quick look.

This is roughly when we decided to go our separate ways, Shane deciding to make the best of it and head home from here, Chris and Marilyn deciding to take a couple days to look around the Flinders Ranges (as his back was giving him trouble), whilst Steve, Brian and I decided to head for Orroroo. We said our various farewells over the radio and carried on.

Orroroo was another fairly ordinary camp site with ground you couldn't get a jack hammer through despite assurances from the owner that "yeah, I've banged a peg in there mate". Yeah with a pile driver maybe.

Day 12 – Weds 29th September

Wednesday morning Steve and Tamara let us know that they were going to catch up with friends at Renmark so Brian and I left them at Orroroo with the intention of having a last couple of nights on the Murray before heading home. We stopped briefly at Morgan, home to the world's largest postie, who either has a specially reinforced bike or is on to this 75th by now. Anyway we made our way to Mildura and did some last minute shopping and topping up of water tanks before making our way back into the Hattah Kulkyne for our last nights.



Anyway to cut a long story short, we haven't gone more than a couple of hundred metres into the park when Brian jumps on to the radio to say that there has been some drama with his trailer. We stop and turn around to find that Brian's trailer has done a complete 36 degree flip on its hitch and has landed back on its wheels. Utterly bizarre as we are not travelling very fast and the track is a bit rutted but not particularly uneven. Anyway thankfully Brian and the car are unharmed, so we decide to call up a friend (Mark Cameron) in Red Cliffs and limp the trailer back there for the night. A great many thanks to Mark for putting us up at such short notice and for sharing his dinner with us.

Day 13 – Thurs 30th September

Thursday morning and Brian had made a couple of calls to his insurance company and soon everything was sorted. We towed the trailer into a caravan yard in Mildura, removed one or two personal items and headed for home. We were back in Melbourne by late afternoon, tired but glad to be home. Shane had also texted to say that he had made it home safely the day before.

Thanks to everyone for a most enjoyable trip.

Marysville & Surrounds...

Well it was supposed to be. 😊

Contestants:

TL: Bruce C

Chris Smith

The Bruinsma Clan

Mark & Catherine Felton

TEC: Shane & Linda McNeill + well behaved kids 😊

What was supposed to be a nice simple trip was a dirty filthy muddy boggy pooy nasty nasty wet day out 😊 😊 😊

We endured hours of gluggy mud, winching, snatching, more mud, more snatching, winching and hopefully lots of photos! 😊 All that in a 100mtr section! WOO-HOO!

Started at Maccas Lilydale for some substance they call "FOOD" and a cup of runny matter known as "COFFEE". After introductions and pleasantries we were off. Hitting the spur, we caught the regulation anushat on the Spur doing 40-50kph that refused to pull over and let the 200 odd cars lined up to go around. He even slowed more when he got to the fog line which was quite thick. Everyone started overtaking him. My thoughts are it was an unmarked cop car setting people up, wait by the letterbox now!



We got to the Dom Dom Saddle car park in thick fog, Shane cleaned up the kiddie spew which had already begun 😊 I reckon that Jackson just wanted the front seat 😊 He won! Mum was relegated to the back seat.

All cleaned up went round the back along Dom Dom Ck rd then Dom Dom Rd, where we missed the Fisher Ck Turn and headed for White Hill. The tracks were quite wet many long puddles only ft or so deep, but the water was running down the hill in the gutter. It looked clear enough to drink. And

there was chitloads of water everywhere too. Must have peaced down last night.

Few kms past Fisher Ck track I came to this big arze bog hole. Not wanting to turn around I thought I'd give it a go. So in I went and the front sank down to the bonnet – I'm only 1/3rd of a car in! Then I realized I couldn't open the door. The embankment I was in was up to the window sill (not the slurry but the bank)!

Then after I took a look at the exit in front of me I gave myself an uppercut for considering giving it a go! It was probably higher than the roof of the GU and one wheel track was a deepish rut, the other was a large mound which would have leaned you to the left, and if no bank was there you would fall onto your door. You could see much panel marks in the deepish rut side of the track as well as broken mirrors, cars would be on a MASSIVE angle going up there. You would be in a serious machine to be driving that section. I'd guess most of it would be



winching. So 20mins later I was winched out by Chris behind me, after several failed snatches, it was onto the winch. The Winch car was anchored to Daves behind him which had turned around, and was in low first stopping the winch car being dragged into me... I don't play games when I get stuck. I was stuck quite well on the diffs ☹

Headed back to Fisher Ck track we continued. After clearing fallen trees again we came to bog #2. Amazingly nobody wanted to turn around. There were 2 sections to the bog (you got thru the first section then there was another series of bogs straight after that before getting to clear track again) with 3 track options on each – Left, right or center!

We stuck them for depth and some areas were soft as baby poo on the bottom. In I went on the right track as it looked easiest sank like the titanic on the first section, ended up sitting on the siderails in the embankment. Thankfully Shane was there on the spot to tell me I had taken the wrong line. Yea, good timing pal! I was winched out backwards I was ready to go again, but with more planning this time. In the mean time... Chris said look out, I'm going the 2 left sections instead. Both lockers got him thru the first part with a cheer of the crowd that was gathering at this stage, but the second part saw him sitting on his bulbar & kaymar – nose down. After digging his winch out of the oh so lovely smelling bogpoo a quick winch and he was out. All too easy!



So logically, everyone would follow him through that nice easy section. Everyone tried a different combo of the 6 track sections. Some took the left/center, middle/right, etc. Next!

Second in was Dave who took the left track at the entry, but nearly took out Grandfather gum tree with the rooftop tent (I knew it was there for a reason!) much to the gasp of his missus and he was left massively crossed up. He had to winch, so decided to winch across the whole lot to the right exit track

(strange!), then winched out of that, then snatched the last bit.

Next!

Next in was little Shane on ROAD TYRES – WOOT!! He straddled the first section well, then got to the center exit and well all I can say is FAIL. I was luckily to be on the spot to inform him he had taken the wrong line. Paybacks are a bitch. Not having a winch, he was snatched out by Chris, who was sliding massively left/right/left but not going forwards. It was hard ground where he was but wet on top.

Next!

Me on my second attempt I decided I'd be





different and go with left and middle, straight thru the left section cleanly and into the exit side I took the center track – my decision was supported again by Shane who this time said I should do it easily. Last time I listen to him. The front left tyre dropped like a brides nighty through the top layer of sticky brown stuff. I couldn't go back, had to go forward. Winch time. Single line pull wasn't going to do alot, double line pull with extension strap and I was crawling – annoyingly slow! It wasn't a long bog I was in just bottomless, with a large mound on the left side inline with the door. My car has a few 100kg of mud under it, I was just pushing/plowing the crap with the diff and bar. Next!

Last effort was Mark, who went Left/Left like Chris and got thru first part ok but stuck on exit part. Had to be snatched by Chris, which was done at around 180kph. All out and no damage! It had taken over 2 hrs but the 5 cars were thru. 12.30ish already!

I'd planned to be in Marysville by this time, yet we hadn't got to Strickland Spur yet ☹ Past the bog another down tree ☹ then past that to White Hill track, and then Old Coach onto Acheron Way. We headed straight for Strickland as we were in need of a bit of a challenge for the day. It had been years since I've been there I was hoping the large rock shelves were still there but they weren't ☹.

We headed up Granton Rd, then right onto Strickland. Quite a bit of Wildlife out there, plenty of Wallabys around. Kids enjoyed them.

Strickland Spur itself doesn't look like it has had any traffic in ages. Very overgrown. The center mound of the track was covered in 2ft high ferns for most of the several km's the track goes. We had lunch along the spur in a nice clear spot surrounded by some massive trees that didn't look like they had been burnt at all. Great planning by the TL.





After lunch, we kept going up Strickland which was surprisingly fairly straight forward with only 2 very loose rocky sections (much to Marks disgust as he'd now swapped driver seat with Catherine). The second steep windy rocky section had LOTS of loose rock on it, so Chris and myself parked up the top and walked back to help the others. This section challenged Shane's Lux on road tyres (should have kept the muddy's!) but Shane isn't scared to bounce off rocks and rev limiters and pepper the underneath of the Lux with billionteen's of rocks – and with a bit of road building and lots of RPM = Shane at the top although his wife and kids had bailed out long before that stage. We drove on through more and more ferns and thousands of bush tomato bushes, which were everywhere.

Next stop was Kepell Lookout and the clouds had disappeared at this time, it was bright blue as far as you could see. The lookout thing you used to walk out onto has gone in the fires, but still a great spot for lunch. From there into Marysville for a coffee, and walk around town showing the kids the Rosellas in the trees next to bakery. Quite a few people and birds there today but no white pointers ☹.

Lastly we headed out to Stephenson's Falls for a look, and it was magnificent. You can see most of it from the carpark! They really have put in some massive time and effort on it.

We pulled the pin on the trip here and aired up. Running out of time, we didn't get to the north section of Marysville, which was the section of the trip I wanted to do more of. Couple of wrong turns, and the bogs had slowed us down lots and time just seemed to get away.

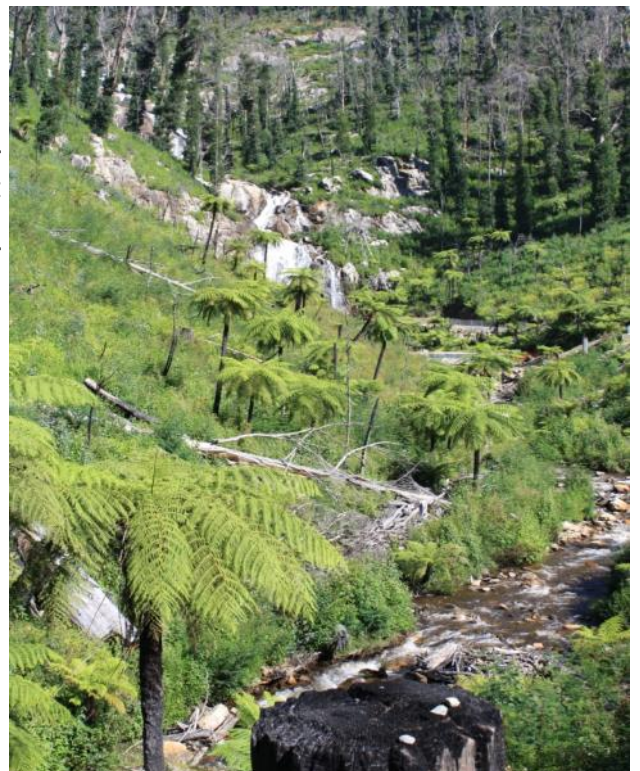
Dave and Mark took off for home from here. Shane took the kids to the Trout farm and cleaned up! They even outdid Linda.

Chris and myself went to the Blackspur pub to see the score in the cricket, and a throat cleaner then were met by Shane and the clan for dinner.

Great trip, everyone had a good time. There was no damage to any cars just masses of gluggy crap under them. I managed to get a stick in the bead of my tyre but no air is coming out so all good, so out with the pliers tomorrow, Shane could have untold damage under his car with the amount of banging of rocks going up Strickland!

Also thanks to Dan for the spot on trip notes.

See ya next time.





FWDV Delegates Brief Sheet to be read out at Club Meetings, and printed in Club Magazines.

February 2011

Severe Damage to Tracks

The recent heavy rains in December and January have resulted in dozens of tracks and areas being severely damaged leaving Parks Victoria and DSE, with no alternative but to close them indefinitely until basic repairs can be carried out. Many of the tracks have been made unsafe to use even for experienced drivers, and the cost to repair them will run into many hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not more. The websites of 4WD Victoria, Parks Victoria and DSE, all have the latest information and some show photos of the damage. When planning a trip into bush areas over the coming weeks, it is recommended that you check these websites for the latest track conditions before you depart.

Bull Bars under Threat

The Federal Government is currently considering the adoption of European developed (UNECE) regulations governing the design and safety performance of vehicles that come into contact with pedestrians. If the regulation were adopted in full, every new vehicle sold in Australia is to meet pedestrian safety criteria which would be administered via the Australian Design Rule (ADR). **Full adoption of this standard could spell the end of the Australian Steel and Alloy Bull Bar as we know them.** As part of this process the Federal Government has prepared a Regulatory Impact Statement and is inviting public comment over a three month period (ending 15 April 2011) 4WD Australia in conjunction with the Australian 4WD Industry Council have launched a national on-line public survey to collect information from the public about their use of bull bars and nudge bars. 4WD Victoria encourages all club members to visit the 4WD Victoria website and complete the on-line survey as soon as possible. The Survey closes on 31 March 2011, and for every person completing the questionnaire, the Council will donate \$1.00 to the Royal Flying doctor Service, to a maximum of \$20,000.

Variety 4WD Trek 2011

The Variety 4WD Trek will start from Croydon and will travel through Mansfield, Licola, Dargo, Omeo, Jindabyne, Eden and Orbost to finish at Lakes Entrance. The dates for this event are 25th March to 2nd April 2011. In 2010 the events raised some \$117,000 for children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs. Information and entry forms are available at janetteconnelly@variety.org.au or visit www.varietyvic.org.au

Beyond Hotham – An exceptional 4WD Experience

Beyond Hotham is on again from April 7th to 17th, this exceptional 4WD event is held at Mt Hotham, and includes graded tag along trips covering high country hut history, gold, pioneering, flora and fauna, and navigation. Also included over the ten days are daily workshops on and around the village where you can learn new 4WD driving skills, or brush up on your techniques! Workshop topics will include: Winching & Safe Vehicle Recovery, Reversing Competition, Getting to know your Vehicle, Camp Cooking, Guided Walks, Night Drives, Navigation & Communications, and Tyre Talk. Plus plenty of social activities like a daily happy hour, with prizes to be won. Registration cost is \$525 per vehicle (maximum 2 people) which includes all day and overnight trips and workshops throughout the 10 day program, official opening night celebrations, along with a delicious meal at "Dinner under the Stars" on the final night of the event. Register by April 1st by going to www.beyondhotham.com.au or email beyondhotham@mthotham.com.au for phone enquiries please call 03 5759 3550. Check the website closer to the date for full program details.

Keep Club information updated

Clubs who have websites are urged to keep their sites regularly updated with information and contact details for their Club and its activities. Clubs are also asked to include 4WD Victoria on their mailing list, as by receiving your Club's magazine this assists in providing current information about your club when we receive enquiries from the public on what club to join. Also don't forget to keep us up to date with brochures advertising and promoting your Club.

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