



APRIL 2012

Free Wheeling



High Country Trailer Tour

Notice Board

VFWDC GENERAL MEETING VENUE

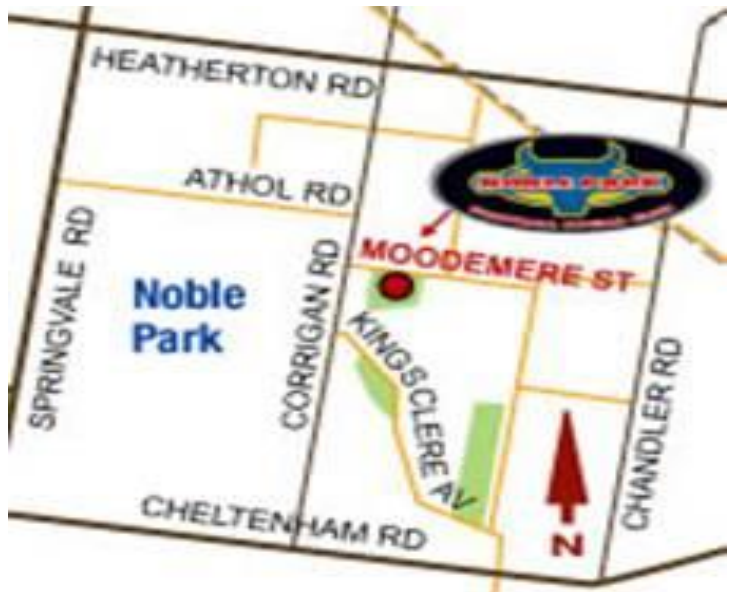
The club meets at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club, 46-56 Moodemere St, Noble Park on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 8.00pm (No meeting in January and November meeting at selected location). Members and Guests are welcome to dine at the Bistro before attending the meeting.

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

Venue:

Bowling Club Rooms (Next to Car Park, down the far end of the car park)

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



FREE WHEELING

Hello and welcome to the April newsletter. This month sees the Easter long weekend, take a look at the upcoming trips, that are planned for Easter, if your interested in tagging along, come along to this months club meeting and have a chat with the trip leader and put your details down on the trip form. Hope you all have a good and safe Easter long weekend and catch you at the next club meeting.

Catherine

Editor@fwdc.com



COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2011-2012

President	Bruce Cremonesi	president@vfwdc.com 0400 425 296
Vice President	Mark Felton	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Jane Spence	treasurer@vfwdc.com
Secretary	David Bruinsma	secretary@vfwdc.com
GENERAL COMMITTEE		
Assistant Secretary	Andre Van Der Walt	assist@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	John Partridge	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Catherine Felton	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	Ashley Martin	
Training Officers	Ashley Martin	John Partridge
General Committee	Luke Teunissen	
Librarian	Andrew Hooper	
Merchandise	Chris Smith	
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)



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CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2012				
April	Wednesday 4th	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	Friday 5th-Monday 9th	Sheepyard Flat-Wonnangatta Valley	Mark & Catherine Felton	0439 345 207
	Easter Weekend	O'Tooles Flat in Walhalla	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	Easter Weekend	Pinch River	Johan Liebenberg	0407 563 210
	21st	Committee Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
May	Wednesday 2nd	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	18th	Committee Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
June	Wednesday 2nd	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	20th	Committee Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	30th June-14th July 30th June-20th July	Simpson Only Simpson & Dig Tree etc	Dan Robinson	0407 334 169
July	Wednesday 4th	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	Friday 13th - Sunday 15th July	Snow Trip - Mt Skene	Mark & Catherine Felton	0439 345 207
	18th	Committee Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	27th-29th	Xmas in July	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
August	Wednesday 1st	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	22nd	Committee Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296

Our website has been updated, check it out at www.vfwdc.com It would be greatly appreciated if you could bring a cd of the photos from your trips to the club meeting & pass them onto Bruce, so they can be added to our website for advertising. Only if you choose to.

For Sale Husqvarna 350 Chainsaw



Saw owned since new and well looked after. Used mainly for camping so not abused and kept clean.
Recent new 18" bar, chain in good condition.
\$430 obo Ashley - 0438 600 904

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to this Month's *Free Wheeling*.

Well things have been a bit busy lately with trips and the floods around the place, causing massive problems for 1000's of people. With this comes the requirement for assistance. So if anyone is interested in giving a hand – 1 day or 1 week, contact Wayne at 4wd Victoria for more info.

There has been some great trips on recently, with the High Country getting a good working out, and sadly Hattah not being suitable for Easter this year. That's a couple of years in a row we haven't been able to get in there...

There is more info on the club forum in regards to the Easter trips, and Johan is still happy to run a trip over Easter! There are 3 trips on that weekend, so get out there and get dirty!

Just a reminder about the club forum, all members can join and participate, take a look at the following link: <http://forum.vfwdc.com/>

Well that's short and sweet for me this month. I still have to clean the car from my last weekends trip away!

See you all at the General Meeting, or out on the trails.

Take care
Bruce
President VFWDC



Minutes of General Meeting March 2012

General Meeting 7th March 2012

The meeting was held at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club and was opened at 8.15pm by President Bruce Cremonesi

Present: There were 22 members present as per the attendance book

Apologies: Andrew Hooper, Mark Felton, Paula Johnston, Ingrid Schreiner, Ken Beard, Joe Spicuzza

Visitors: 5

Minutes of previous General Meeting

Accepted: Tim
Seconded: Dan

Correspondence in

Bendigo Bank statements (x2)
Aust Post renewal
Toyota Landcruiser Club of Aust - Annual CruiserKhana last weekend of March
Toyota Landcruiser Club - magazine
Cross Country Jeep magazine (x2)
Eureko Echo
LROCV Review
VKS-737 Radio network
ARB Catalogue

Correspondence out

Club Magazines as per usual

Treasurers report

Term Deposit	\$	5699.19
Cash	\$	
Petty Cash	\$	50.00
Money In	\$	449.00
Moneys Out	\$	150.00
Balance	\$	7851.95

Accepted: Tim
2nd: Dan

Trip coordinators report

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

Type	When	Where	Trip Leader
Weekend	Labour day w/e	Heyfield	Bruce
Trailer friendly trip	23-35 th March	Mansfield huts	Bruce
	Easter	Pinch river	Johan
Base camp	Easter	Woods Point	Sam
Travelling (no trailers)	Easter	Sheepyard to Wonangatta Valley	Mark & Catherine
Travelling (no trailers)	July (3 weeks)	Simpson Desert to Birdsville	Dan

Event Coordinators Report

Upcoming trips: Looking to have a video projector, so that as we introduce new areas, we can have a couple of piccy's up so that people can visualize where we are wanting to go.

Association Report

Camp host: Looking for people to do some areas (last minute notice)

General business

Winch Challenge 13/15th April up near Mt Bulla

The Committee is looking to encourage more day trips (Marysville / Toolangi) and some night runs too.

Driver proficiency training weekend - might be able to run one after Easter.

Also looking to do a navigation run, with prior night training on oziexplorer.

Trying to get some more Driver trainers 'trained'
Raffle

Prize	Won by:
OL Australia wide map book	Andre
Red Wine	David B
Red wine	Adam
VFWDC travel Mug	Brian

This month there is 4 prizes

Tickets sold by Jane & Son
Meeting Closed: 9:10 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 8.00pm 5th April 2012 at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club.

Notice to all club members

The club has a new forum.

It's free, no spam, nobody knows you except your fellow club members. The forum will have updates on trips, trip notes, urgent club info, and general banter between members. Skies the limit! This is to replace the Facebook page, after the committee received numerous complaints about it.

Go to <http://forum.vfwdc.com/> and register to enter the forum.

When you register please use your Real name (Firstname Surname), no nicknames are allowed. This is just so everyone knows who each other is, especially in relation to club trips!! Also use your email address that is registered with the club, so we can confirm who you are, and stop spammers.

Any questions, queries or complaints about it, please come and see the committee at the next meeting. If you are unable to get there, email us at committee@vfwdc.com

There will be discussion on this at the next general meeting, so come along and put your \$0.02 in the ring...

We hope this tool will be of benefit to our members.

Take care out 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
VFWDCL 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.

If your personal details have changed in the last 12 months, could you please send an email through to the committee advising of your new details. This ensures all club members are kept up to date on the latest club news.

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King Springs	Xrox Bars
Koni Shocks	xXx Driving lights

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Discounts available for all 4WD club members



UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Sheepyard Flat – Wonnangatta Station	DESTINATION	Simpson Desert & the Digtree
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	NAME: Mark & Catherine Felton MOB: 0439 345 207 editor@vfwdc.com	LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	NAME: Dan Robinson MOB: 0407 334 169
DATE	Easter Weekend Thursday 5 th – Monday 9 th April 2012	DATE	30 June – 14 July (Simpson only) 30 June – 20 July (Simpson & Dig Tree etc)
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Thursday : Lilydale Macca's @ 7pm Friday: Sheepyard Flat, leaving @ 9am	MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBD
GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: Easy	GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Easy DRY: Medium
TRIP A CTIVITY DETAILS	Were heading to the usual place of Sheepyard Flat, then head across The King Billy track, which was re-opened Melbourne cup weekend last year and goes through from Lovicks Hut through to Wonnangatta. Travel along the Zeka Spur track. Also stopping off at Howitt Plains Hut and then continue onto Wonnangatta Station, checking out the local history of the area. Also we will visit the area of Talbotville and the historical area of Grant.	TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	We will be leaving Melbourne travelling up to Mt Dare & then through the Simpson desert (West to East), From there we will be travelling on through to Innaminka & the Dig Tree. People coming can pick to head home after Birdsville if they need or stay along & visit Innaminka & the corner country. The route through the desert will be a mixture of the tracks. We will be going through Walkers Crossing to Arkaroola. NO Trailers.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 8	VEHICLE LIMITS	MAXIMUM: 4
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	200kms	APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	Need to travel ~600k's of desert without fuel, we will be filling up at Mt Dare.
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield	LAST AVAIL- ABLE FUEL	PETROL: Mt Dare DIESEL: Mt Dare
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	200 – 300kms	EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	All camping, WATER, food for ~5 days in the Simpson Desert. Some provisions will be available at Mt Dare & Birdsville. Park Pass will be booked & organised in the month before we leave.
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Self-sufficient		
MAPS REQUIRED	Mansfield – Baw Baw Wonnangatta		
RADIO CHANNE CB / UHF	12		



Trip Reports

High Country Trailer Tour

TL: Bruce Cremo + Trailer
 Brett Buchanan
 Ian and Audrey Rhodes + Trailer
 Sam and Max Germasi
 Phil Great trip Griffith + Trailer
 TEC: Dan, Mish and Maddy Robinson

The meeting place for the trip was at Maccas in Lilydale, with 3 cars meeting up there at 6pm. 2 with trailers and 1 without. There was 1 more without a trailer coming up that night with a rooftop, about 2hrs behind. Also 2 more stragglers coming up the following morning – 1 with and one without trailers.

We headed onwards to BP Mansfield for fuel, and a last minute bucket of coffee. Only 1 policeman was seen giving people a hard time in town, with reports in recent times, of 4b's being given hell it was good to see we got through!

Friday night was fairly uneventful, with rain coming and going, giving punters a mad dash from the campfire to under Mish's (it isn't yours Dan) Foxwing. Those things are amazing! Giving up early due to rain, saw us crashing out around 12.

Next morning, coffee, brekkie and a quick pack up saw Phil and Sam arrive in time for a coffee, a quick get to know each other, and a run down from the TL on the weekends events.

Heading off saw a quick run up to Fry's Hut as a bit of a shake down on cars, and people who forgot to turn their UHF's on. No name will be mentioned. The hut itself is in very good condition, the campground was quite empty, and also in good nick.

From here we doubled back and headed towards Tunnel Bend. Arriving there, we spent 30mins walking down to the tunnel, but nobody was brave enough to give the walk through a go!

Moving on, next stop was Upper Jamieson Hut, with the downhill being of some concern if the tracks were too wet. On the way there, once heading down to UJ hut, there was only 1 or 2 humps that

caused a few seat cover inhaling moments, with trailers pushing the cars with people trying to go too slow down there. The river at the bottom was only up to bottom of doors, so no issues there, but the departure on other side of river was a bit chopped up.

Once down at the hut we had a coffee and look around. With ½ the pack never having been through here before plenty of time was spent looking at the place and surrounds. The river was flowing quite well down the back too. There was some concern from a few on getting back up the hill with the trailers on, but the TL had confidence, and lead from the front! Once at the summit, everyone mentioned it was easier going up, than down!

Heading onwards to Bluff Hut, the tracks were in pretty good nick, you could see where the water had washed the roads away too. Dan took a quick detour to check out 16mile Jeep Track, as there are several quite steep sections, and with some new punters and trailers and AT's, we weren't sure if it was do-able. Sadly it wasn't worth the risk. The dozer had been through, and it was 2-3 inches of baby poo light brown clay/slime from top to where you couldn't see. Toboggan rides assured. So, Plan B was needed.

As we got to Bluff Hut, we could see quite a number of cars there, so we kept going to Lovicks Hut. From Bluff to Lovicks, the track was in fairly average condition, rutted and rocky.. adding to a bit of fun but quite slow with trailers on J



The weather up on the Bluff was clear on one side, and poo on the other. Lunch was had while here. Lovicks Hut has been rebuilt and is in great condition now with dunnys, the works. The ground around the hut has been fenced off though, so there isn't any camping round the fire pit anymore, just the back behind the hut. After a whizz, we headed to Bluff Hut, with Phil taking the lead.

Someone needs to ask Phil about him calling Dan Snookums, Im worried!.



After drinks, dinner, and drinks with much challenging from Phil who thought the fire was way too small (Figure 1),

Figure 1



At Bluff we had a quick chat on the plan. The plan was to head back towards Sheeppyard, and setup for a nice fire that night, and head to Craig's Via Telephone Box Junction tomorrow.

So heading back we collected firewood on the way and Bruce had a fight with a tree that pushed him over while chain sawing another fallen tree. Some would say tree 1, Bruce 0. But the jury is out...

We found a campsite at Noonan's Flat, just up from Tunnel Bend – there was only 1 car there! We had the whole far end to ourselves 100's mtrs away from the other people to both our joys! So sites were picked, trailers setup, while Mish and Maddi got the fire going. Poor effort too, like sitting round a candle...

someone decided it was time to make it a TRUE campfire, so it started – challenge accepted (figure 2)... So everyone moved back 4-6ft, the night was set! Much munchies, wine, stories, fibs, and good times were shared.

Figure 2



From there drinks and happy hour was started before dinner. It was still early! After much socialising dinner was started about 7 just as daylight failed.

The next day, we headed from here back towards Merrijig, with Dan and Phil waving bye bye to the party. It was all too much for them. Ian took over as TEC from here.

We headed by road up to telephone box Junction, and climbed up the hill, following a snail up the hill. 20kph all the way... Toyota drivers... We decided to have a look at Razorback Hut, which is regularly used by the horse trail riders for accommodation. This would also be a top spot for a camp. It looks like they have spent quite a lot of money on this hut too, its so much better now than couple of years ago. While there we met up with another punter, that stated that the main track this way to Craig's was still washed out. So Plan C.

Plan C.

Head back to TBJ, and go over Mt Stirling. The track to Stirling was ok, the track OVER Stirling, is another story! I've never seen it in such chopped out condition. Quick look over Howqua Gap Hut, and we chatted to some really keen mountain bikers, photos were taken, and off we sailed into the unknown! The track is now marked Black Diamond, but having done this track many times in the past, I think that it is an over reaction.

We came across another group coming the other way on the way to the summit, they said it was not bad, so we trekked on, not that we could turn around with the trailers on J onwards and upwards, although a few naughty words were heard coming out of Ian's car at a few stages, not sure if that was him or her... Once at the summit, we were surrounded by dudes on pushy's, with a few older gents looking like they were already dead. Sam and Brett were very happy with how things went, stating they wouldn't have done it without a group with them. They both did it quite well, it wasn't an easy drive!

was another group coming through, so we waited there for them, then a group of Motorcycles, which gave everyone a few mins rest.



From this point, it is only 10-15mins from Craig's Hut. Craig's carpark was its usual FULL self in the, so we did the tourist thing, and had lunch there and took loads of pics.

From here our journey was back along Circuit Rd to the main road back past Howqua Hut. We got back to the main road, and then Max Aired up, and the others headed to the BP for air and drinks.

At this point we ended the trip, with everyone heading home.

Thanks to all punters that came along, it was great to get out and inhale smoke again.

See you next time
Secret Squirrel.



This day up on Stirling was the beginning of the legend of NORK ROCK. For more info, see Bruce. With time getting on, we decided to keep going towards Craig's Hut. The track down that side was nowhere near as hard as the one up! Once at the intersection of Monument track, there





March 2012

4WD Victoria on Facebook & Twitter

We are now on Facebook and Twitter, so be sure to 'Like' us on Facebook or 'Follow' us on Twitter to receive exciting updates, enjoy additional offers and be part of the 4WD Victoria Community.

Club/Member Pricing on Training Courses Reduced

There will be no better time than 2012 to participate in one of 4WD Victoria's Training Courses. Pricing for Clubs & Members has been reduced by up to 32% enabling clubs and individuals to take advantage of the extensive range of courses that 4WD Victoria offers.

New Training Courses for 2012

4WD Victoria's ETU (Education & Training Unit) have been working hard over the past months to be able to provide a range of 'New Training Courses' for both Clubs and Individual Members. Detailed below is a listing of the New Courses (for further information refer to 4WD Victoria website: www.fwdvictoria.org.au)

- Intermediate 4WD Course (one day course) – Club / Member Price \$110.00 (incl GST)
- 4WD Driver Awareness Course (one day – mid week course) – Club / Member Price \$110.00 (incl GST)
 - Winch Recovery Course (one day course) – Club / Member Price \$110.00 (incl GST)
- Chainsaw Course (Forest Products Competency) – Club / Member Price \$180.00 (incl GST)
- Chainsaw Course (Two Day / Dual Competency Course – RTC2304A plus FPICOR2205A / FPICOT2204B & 2221B) – Club / Member Price \$280.00 (incl GST)
- Chainsaw Refresher Course (incl Forest Products Competency) – Club / Member Price \$140.00 (incl GST)
- Map Reading & Introduction to GPS (incl Geoscience Australia Map Reading Guide & Vicmap Topographic Map Index) – club / Member Price \$50.00 (incl GST)
- GPS Course (includes a copy of GPS Vehicle Navigation in Australia by Robert Pepper) – Club / Member Price \$50.00 (incl GST)
- Introduction to OziExplorer Course (includes a copy of GPS Vehicle Navigation in Australia by Robert Pepper) – Club / Member Price \$50.00 (incl GST)

Discount for Club Bookings on 4WD Victoria Training Courses:

Club bookings of 10 participants or more on a single course, are eligible for a 10% group discount. Only one Invoice will be issued, and payment must be paid in full prior to the commencement of the course. Discount does not apply to less than 10 participants, but additional participants may be added.

For further details contact the office on 9857 5209 or email: office@fwdvictoria.org.au

4WD Victoria Calendar – Photography Competition

In 2013 4WD Victoria are going to produce a calendar. The concept is for each of the twelve months to carry a full page image of a scene containing a 4WD. Photos provided to 4WD Victoria will be automatically entered into our monthly Photography Competition, in which photos submitted will be judged, with each of the monthly winning photos being used as one of the calendar's twelve monthly images. Each monthly winner selected by our judges will receive a 4WD Gift voucher to the value of \$280.00 (incl GST), monthly winners will also go in to a Final Draw to be held on Monday 3rd December 2012 for the Major Prize of a Digital Camera to the value of \$400 (incl GST) So come on all you budding shutter bugs, get you entries in for your chance to win some great prizes. Further details are available in the February Edition of Trackwatch Magazine (pages 30 & 31).

Four Wheel Drive Victoria

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