



DECEMBER 2012

# Free Wheeling



Revisiting Lone Graves - November 2012

# Notice Board

## VFWDC GENERAL MEETING VENUE

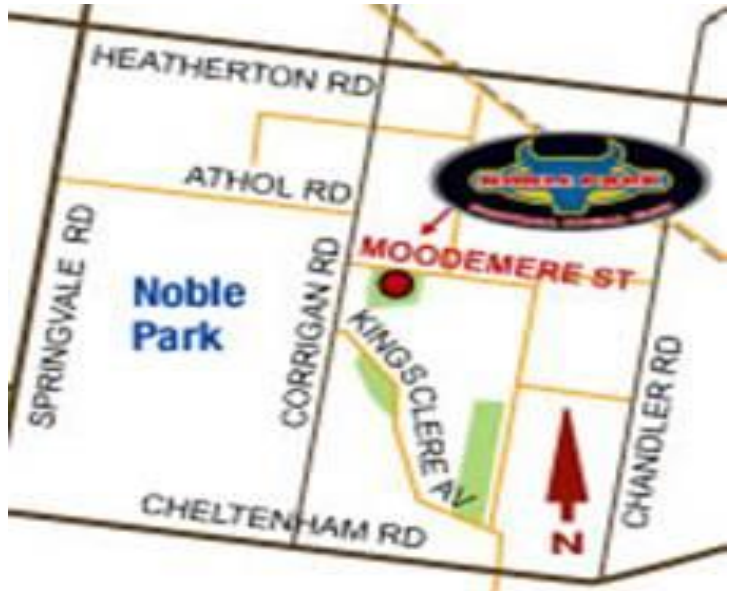
The club meets at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club, 46-56 Moodemere St, Noble Park on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month at 8.00pm (No meeting in January and November meeting at selected location). Members and Guests are welcome to dine at the Bistro before attending the meeting.

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 December newsletter. This month is one of the most hectic of the year for everyone. There is the club Christmas break up party and a few trips coming up over the Christmas period, please see further into the newsletter for more information. Hope everyone has a great Christmas and New Year, stay safe and we'll see you in the new year.

Catherine

Editor@fwdc.com





## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2012-2013

President	Mark Felton	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	Catherine Felton	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Steve Pitcher	treasurer@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Andre Van Derwalt	secretary@vfwdc.com
<b>GENERAL COMMITTEE</b>		
Assistant Secretary		assist@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	David Bruinsma	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Catherine Felton	editor@vfwdc.com
Web Manager	Bruce Cremonesi	web@vfwdc.com
Training Officers	Ashley Martin	John Partridge
Association Delegate	David Bruinsma	
Librarian		
Merchandise		
General Committee		

Club Details	
Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
Registration No	A002184F
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3174
Email	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.vfwdc.com">www.vfwdc.com</a>
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 <sup>th</sup> of each month to <a href="mailto:editor@vfwdc.com">editor@vfwdc.com</a>
	The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)



# VFWDC ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

## BUSH-B-Q

Manufacturer of the Barbeque of the Outback

**Don & Thelma Montague**

Ph: 9808 1200 Mob: 0414 355 488

Email: [info@theldon.com.au](mailto:info@theldon.com.au)

Web: [www.theldon.com.au](http://www.theldon.com.au)

## FRANKLAND ELECTRICS PTY L TD

Electric Motor Sales, Service, Repairs & Modifications

Power Tool Service & Repairs

**Peter & Janine Frankland**

Mob: 0417 85 6634 Ph: 03 9772 4062

Email: [peterfrankland@optusnet.com.au](mailto:peterfrankland@optusnet.com.au)

## METALAIR INDUSTRIES

4x4 Camper Trailers, Accessories &

Camping Equipment

**David Hughes**

Ph: 9798 1492 Fax: 9798 2593

Email: [metalair@tenex.com.au](mailto:metalair@tenex.com.au)

## R & D BROWN PAINTING SERVICES

Quality Workmanship at the Right Price

**Ray & Dawn Brown**

Ph: 5967 1437 Fax: 5967 1439 Mob: 0411 799054



## Tayka Trip Trailer Hire

Off Road Camper Trailer Hire

**Bill Harwood**

Ph: 9707 2144 Mob: 0414 477 503

Anyone wishing to advertise in the  
Club Directory, please  
contact the Editor at [editor@vfwdc.com](mailto:editor@vfwdc.com)



## CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2012				
December	<b>Wednesday 5th</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>Mark Felton</b>	<b>0439 345 207</b>
	1st	Christmas Party - Gumbuya Park	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
	8th - 9th	Oxfam Christmas Tree Delivery	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
	26th Dec - 1st January13	Wonnangatta Station	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	26th - 31st	Alpine Trip	Gary Smith	0414 710 257
January 2013	<b>NO GENERAL MEETING</b>	<b>NO GENERAL MEETING</b>	<b>NO GENERAL</b>	<b>MEETING</b>
	23rd	Committee Meeting	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
	25th - 28th	Australia Day - Otway's Trip	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207
February	<b>Wednesday 6th</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>Mark Felton</b>	<b>0439 345 207</b>
	21st	Committee Meeting	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
March	<b>Wednesday 6th</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>Mark Felton</b>	<b>0439 345 207</b>
	11th	Labour Day Weekend		
	20th	Committee Meeting	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
	29th March - 1st April	Easter Long Weekend	Hattah - Murray River	



### 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](mailto:committee@vfwdc.com).  
Please ensure you advise size required.

# For Sale

For sale Codan 9323.HF Radio.  
Unit is complete & includes the following, Remote Head, Auto Tune Antenna with Stainless Steel Whip, Speaker, All cables & Manuals. This radio has preset VKS-737 & RFDS stations. . \$1550.00 ONO

Contact Bill Harwood  
Mob 0414 477 503  
Email [billh10@westnet.com.au](mailto:billh10@westnet.com.au)

Thanks  
Bill Harwood



*The 2012 VFWDC  
Christmas Party will be held on  
Saturday, 1st of December at*

# **Gumbuya Park**

*2705 Princes Highway, Tynong, VIC, 3813  
(Melways Map 612 Ref -S6)*

*Rides including the following  
Toboggan, Mini Cars, Twister Karts, Paddle Boats,  
Pony Rides & Waterslide  
Wildlife Encounters*

Entry Prices: Adults      \$16.00  
                         Children      \$8.00

Rides:  
         Ride ticket \$5.00  
         Unlimited rides \$35.00

Ultimate Packages:  
         Adult      \$44.00  
         Children      \$36.00

Park Open 10am, Rides Open 11am.  
Please see attachments for more information, shelter "I",  
in building 13 is booked for the club  
BYO Meat, Salads and Beverages  
The Club will provide soft drinks for the kids.  
Bring along the family and enjoy the festivities.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to this month's of free wheeling.

Hi all, wow how the year goes by quick it feels like last week that we had our Christmas in July and now Christmas is almost here. It has been a very busy year for the committee with some things we have been dealing with in the back ground; so that the club could run smoothly thanks to the committee members who throughout the year have put a lot of time and effort into making the club run and it makes me proud to work alongside them all.

The annual Christmas party will be on the 1st of December at Gumbuya park we have booked an area with barby facilities so bring along your favourite barby food and have a good time.

We also have some other great events coming up to look forward too; the ox-fam Christmas tree deliveries, young deans first day trip as a trip leader (well done looking forward to it). Also David is running a trip to Wonnangatta for Christmas new year period & Gary Smith running a trip to the high country. Please support those who are running trips for without them we would not be getting out into the bush and any day out of the suburbs is a pleasure.

We need some volunteers to help on a sub-committee to be formed, in regards to the changes the government has put in place for incorporated clubs which means we need to make some small changes to the constitution, nothing big but member input will make it a lot easier to deal with. I will have more information on this subject at the December meeting. Memberships are now way overdue; there are still several people who are not paid members please let us know if you intend to pay as failure to do so before the end of the year will result in having to pay the joining fee all over again. For those not sure if they have paid or not please contact either the treasurer or secretary to find out if you have. As per tradition there will be no meeting in January sorry to disappoint you all. Have a great Christmas and a safe new year and see you at the February club meeting.

Hope to see you on the tracks

Mark Felton

President VFWDC

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Xmas trip to Wonnangatta Station</b> Camper trailer trip - (with caution)
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: David Bruinsma MOB: 0417 747 860
DATE	(Dec 26 <sup>th</sup> ) Boxing Day departure, for approx 5 to 7 days. <i>(departure date flexible)</i>
MEETING PLACE / TIME	tba
GRADE <b>Please adhere to new trip classifications</b>	WET: medium/hard DRY: easy/medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Intend to drive in from Dargo. Probably stay at Black Snake creek hut the first night (an easy 4 hour drive from eastern suburbs no 4x4ing to get there), then pack up camp the next day to head off to Wonnangatta Station (at least 5 hours mostly in low range).</p> <p>Once at Wonnangatta, my intention is to set up a base camp for the during of our stay. Once or twice we might go for a drive to explore the local area, but it is meant to be a sit down and relax for up to 4/5 days and enjoy each others company and go for walks <b><i>(I mean short walks Bruce!)</i></b></p> <p>After we have had enough time being lazy, we pack up and head home through Licola – the tracks out could be more adventurous than the tracks in. But lucky for me last xmas, the tracks had all been freshly graded (<i>less than 2 months earlier</i>) and no yahoos to stuff them up before I drove on them. I went in and out with a fully laden 4x4 box trailer without any problems.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: (no minimum) MAXIMUM: (no maximum)
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	Est 800 kms round trip (I easily did the trip last xmas with one long range tank of diesel)
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Dargo DIESEL: Dargo
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Dargo to Licola – you work that out for supplies. Basically once your in there, there is NO supplies.
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic Recovery Equipment. Winch Recovery equipment recommended. Fully charged deep cycle batteries for fridges, Solar panels/Generators for charging recommended.
MAPS REQUIRED	Hema high country – and various others can be used.
RADIO CHANNEL      CB / UHF	12

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Various – Toolangi State Forrest</b> (during track closures), <b>Bunyip State Forrest</b> (after Tracks re-open) <i>Other destinations can be included if requested.</i>
LEADER/ CONTACT #	NAME: David Bruinsma MOB: 0417 747 860
DATES	7 <sup>th</sup> September 2012, 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2012 (no November run), 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2012 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2013 <i>Other dates can be included upon request.</i>
MEETING PLACE & TIME	TBA - Driving from Dusk to probably just before midnight. Aiming to be aired up by midnight for those driving home.
GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: Easy/Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<b>MONTHLY NIGHT RUNS</b> (GENERALLY ON A FRIDAY NIGHT) Meet at a suitable location based on selected night run destination (perhaps at a local McDonalds for a dinner whilst waiting for dark). Drive to destination area and find tracks to explore using all the lights our 4x4's have mounted – the more lights you have installed, the more fun you can have in using them. <cheesy grin> Note: you do need to take more care when driving at night, there is greater risk involved in all aspects – especially with recoveries if/when required. I don't intend to try to drive home each time we go out at night, sometimes it might be wiser to throw a swag in the 4x4 and we stay overnight and leave for home in the day light. This would be for your and my safety instead of driving home tired after a few hours playing in the bush.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS	Varies.
EQUIP- MENT REQUIRED	Basic Recovery Equipment. Winch recovery Equipment advisable.
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftops – Toolangi Black Range Rooftops – Bunyip
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

DESTINATION	<b>Alpine Trip</b>
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	NAME: Gary Smith TEL: 97721674 MOB: 0414710257
DATE	26/12/2012 31/12/2012
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Selwyn Creek Rd camping area near Beveridge stn at end of Buckland valley rd. - late afternoon/evening
GRADE	WET: Hard DRY: Medium (No Trailers)
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Travel through the Alpine area in a westerly direction from Mt Hotham taking in some iconic 4WD destinations like Blue Rag, Billy Goat Bluff track and more as time permits. Camping overnight. Drive from about 10am to about 4pm daily with stops Drive back to Melbourne on NY eve probably via Gippsland
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 4
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	800 km Melbourne to Melbourne
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Porepunkah DIESEL: Porepunkah
DISTANCE B/T SUPPLIES	300 km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Self-sufficient with food and camping gear for 5 nights. 5 good AT or Mud tyres and a winch would be good. Tools and some spares. Rubbish Bags.
MAPS REQUIRED	Alpine area
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



# EVERYTHING 4WD

Shop 1B, 280 South Gippsland Hwy,  
Cranbourne, 3977  
P: 03 59955055  
F: 03 59955199  
E: sales@e4wd.com.au  
W: www.e4wd.com.au

*For all your 4x4 needs*

**We have move to a new larger shop and workshop on the highway.**  
**Opening special – 15% off stock for the month of September** (club members only)



## STRONGER BY DESIGN

### New Ironman Bash Plates

- 3mm pressed & folded steel
- 13 models to choose from
- Enhanced off-road protection from rocks mud and debris
- Easy bolt on installation



**NEW!**

# TRED

TOTAL RECOVERY & EXTRACTION DEVICE

AVAILABLE IN 800MM & 1100MM

Now available in store from just **\$199.00** – Perfect for mud, snow & sand



### Everything 4WD is the largest South Eastern Suburb dealer in Tough Dog suspension

- Patrol GQ/GU kits from \$1120.00
- Landcruiser 80/100 kits from \$1120.00
- Prado 120/150 kits from \$1200.00
- 05+ Hilux kits from \$1485.00
- \*\*Less club discount\*\*

## Minutes of General Meeting October 2012

### General Meeting 14th November 2012

The meeting was held at Everything Four Wheel Drive and was opened at 8pm by the President Mark Felton.

#### Treasurer's Report October 2012

<u>Cheque A/C</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/10/2012	\$5,719.26
	Membership Fees Received:	
	2 x New Member Application Fee	\$60.00
	5 x Dual/Family Memberships	\$375.00
	Total Membership Fees Received	\$435.00
	Raffle Proceeds (October Meeting)	\$86.00
	Deposit - Club Merchandise Order	\$56.00
	Total Monies In	\$577.00
	Closing Balance as at 31/10/2012	\$6,296.26
<u>Term Dep.</u>	(No Change)	\$5,905.04
<u>Petty Cash</u>	(No Change)	\$50.00
	<b>Consolidated Closing Cash Bal.</b>	<b>\$12,251.30</b>

Meeting Closed: 10 pm

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





## Trip Reports

After checking with the club members who put their names down on the list, we were left with only one other vehicle going on the trip. Gary Smith was making his way back from Ararat on Friday; so plan's were set in place for us to meet him at O'Tooles campsite, leaving at 10am as now day light savings had arrived a few weeks ago, giving us a few extra hours up our sleeve.

Saturday morning, we left very early and before we know it, we had arrived at Thompson Dam. We tried Gary on the UHF, no such luck and took a few photos of the Dam at a very high level, compared to last time we were there 4 years earlier. We came across a notice about tomorrow, that there would be a motorcycle race based out of Merrington's; there would be heaps of traffic on the road. We would not be coming out this way, we arrived at O'Tooles just after 9am, so Mark put the kettle on and I looked over the maps and decided on the way to head off today and tomorrow.

Gary arrived shortly after; we were introduced to Annie & Tommy, who was travelling with Gary. We asked Gary's opinion where he would like to go and advised them of the motorbike situation. We headed off for the day, we came across the mine. We scaled the big hill to take a look down the mine and the miner's relics.

We continued onto Toombon cemetery, this was one of the cemeteries that the club helped mark out the graves



four years ago, just after the bush fires had swept through and re-viled the graves. There was a new sign and steps up the side of the hill into the cemetery. We then moved onto Aberfeldy cemetery, where the view's across the rolling

mountains was fantastic, but the mountain winds were very cold. We took a look around the cemetery and all the different headstones. This was where we stopped for lunch and we re-assessed our plans and decided on a further route to take.

We made our way up to an old gold mine, we managed to

find the right, but as we headed further down it, it became a very narrow 'goat track'. A decision was made to turn around; Mark & I had to make a 6-point turn around, while we managed to advise Gary of the decision to turn around at the last open area. It was that time in the day, to look out for a place to camp.



We found one of the huts, hidden behind some bushes and very boggy tracks, that hadn't been used in a while. We decided to go on to the next hut, mean while passing a very nice grassy area, that would be been enough for the both of us, we couldn't locate the next hut, too many tracks and very boggy tracks. A decision was made to set up camp back at the grassy area on the side of the road. Camp was set, fire wood was collected, happy hour consumed and dinner was shortly followed. Before darkness fell, the low cloud rolled in and made the air very cold and we couldn't see a metre in front of us. We all sat around the campfire for a few hours, having a lot of chats and laughs. Then we all headed off to bed and fell asleep.

Gary and co arose early, and then we finally crawled out of bed and had brekky and had the car packed and ready to go. I looked over

the maps again, checking our options for the day ahead. The plan was to do a few tracks and head out via Walhalla.

We went up to the Fire tower and then headed down on the tracks. We managed to come across a few more tracks, which were over grown and re-assess decisions to take. We stopped for lunch at the bottom of Army track, the weather was starting to turn, so we headed up Army track before it became slippery. Army track has changed heaps since we were last there, we came to one section of the track, which basically the track was at least 5 metres wide and a huge rock face appearing spread across the 5 metres. We made it to the top, tried to find our way out.

A few u-turns were done and then we decided to tackle one last track, down into Walhalla. This track started out



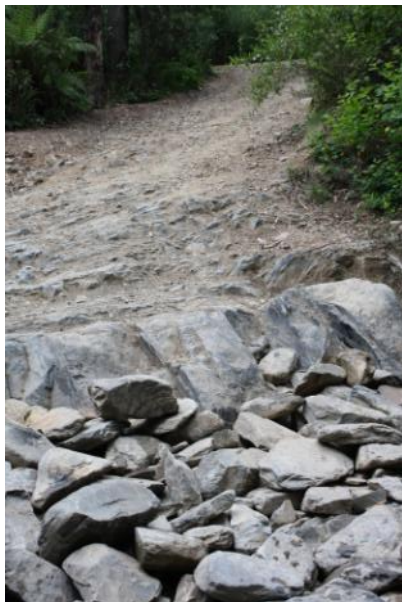


ok, till we came to a point on the track, we some other people had stopped right in the middle of the tracks, changing a flat tyre. We pulled up, waited for them to finish their business, as we couldn't get around them. We asked about the track ahead, they advised it was pretty hairy, that we would have alot of fun. The headed up the mountain and we head basically straight down



the mountain. We made our way slowly down; it was a pretty hairy track, the worst track we had been on in a long time.

We finally got to the bottom and found another car winching, the incorrect way out of the creek. He had no tree protection, all terrains tyres, a cheap nasty winch and by himself. We pulled up and waited yet again, as he was stuck right in the middle of the track. We asked if he would turn around and came back up with us, as he would find it very difficult to get up,



where we just came down from. He was determined to continue on, so we kept going ahead ourselves. We made to make a hard left steep turn down into the creek, as you can see from the photos the track travelled in the creek for the distance of 200 metres. Luckily we came across no one else, as there was nowhere to move over for them. We climb out of the creek and



made our way up the next mountain. Thankfully it wasn't as bad as what we

had just come down on. The Bitumen road

greeted us safely at the top of the mountain. We made our way slowly into Walhalla, as our tyre pressures were still down. Annie spotted a coffee shop that was just about to close their doors, but stayed open to serve us. We enjoyed a coffee and cake, while Tommy visited the local lolly shop. Lots of birds came and stopped by, while we were enjoying our coffees, we chatted about the high lights of the weekend and other trips in the past and plans for other trips in the future.



Tyres were pumped up, while Tommy and I went and had a look around the creek. We made our way down out

of the mountains. We left Gary and co at Moe, as they were going to stop for dinner, as it was getting later in the day. All of us made it home safe and well.



## Christmas Tree Project

51 Belmont Rd. IVANHOE 3079  
Ph 94973227 Fax 94994759



Dear Secretary

Over the last 20 years member clubs of the Four Wheel Drive Victoria have supported Oxfam Australia in their annual delivery of Christmas Trees. This has become a very successful fund raising activity selling and delivering fresh green Christmas trees to homes in metropolitan Melbourne and Geelong. This letter is to inform those clubs who have not previously been involved how the operation works and to remind those clubs who have helped in recent years that the deliver dates this year are **Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th December**. Volunteers carry out the whole operation. Last year nearly \$139,000 was raised, that's an average of over \$750 per delivery vehicle going towards alleviating poverty and social injustice within Australia and overseas. **That's a total of over \$88,000 raised by members of Victorian Four Wheel Drive Clubs.**

We ask for drivers, navigators and vehicles that can carry 8 to 25 freshly cut trees, with or without a trailer. Many 4WD clubs have found this an enjoyable activity that makes a considerable contribution to the larger community in which we live. We meet at the **Scout Hall, Pakenham St., Blackburn (Melway Map 47 H 12) on Saturday 8 December**, or **Princes Hill Primary School, Wilson St., Nth Carlton (Melway 29 J 11) on Sunday 9 December**. On Saturday we deliver to the south and eastern side of Melbourne and on the Sunday the north and western side. You pick the area you would like to deliver the trees, and the day and time (between 5.30 am and 11am on Saturday and 7-10am on Sunday) you arrive at the depot. We give you a very well organized list of addresses with Melway grid references, all in close proximity to each other. All you do is drop off the tree that has already been paid for. The smiles you receive from the younger recipients would be second only to that of them greeting Santa Claus. It will take each team 1 to 3 hours, and we encourage you to meet for a BBQ or social get together before or afterwards. **If your club can help I would appreciate a phone call with the approximate number of vehicles by late October and I would immediately forward you a form (or use the blank Excel Spread**

**Sheet that should be attached with this document) so the details of each driver can be filled in and returned to us by the end of November.** For further information about the delivery or the type of self help projects that the money raised will support please contact me on **9497 3227** (home or work) or write to: **email: briangum@tpg.com.au** Last year the following 4WD clubs generously donated their services: **Idlers, CFA, Dandenong Rangers, Central Highlands, Nissan, LROCV, Melb. Jeep Owners, Pajero, Range Rover, Subaru, Getabout, Toyota Landcruiser, Wanderin' 4 Wheelers, City West, Toyota and Yarra Valley, a total of 16 clubs and about 113 club vehicles** (plus 70 vehicles from Oxfam's other supporters). Also **Four Wheel Drive Victoria** threw their weight behind the event and in past years we managed to attract Channel 7, 9 and ABC television news coverage and were able to mention the great work being done by club volunteers. Each of the above groups seemed impressed with the nature of the cause and our organization and indicated a desire to be involved again. For those club members who may like to purchase a delivered Christmas tree or mention the Christmas Tree Drive in your newsletter, our web site for online orders is: [www.oxfam.org.au/trees](http://www.oxfam.org.au/trees), or our free call phone number 1800 034 034. Both these will be effective after 1st November 2011. Each year I do the rounds of the media to promote tree sales and always mention the great support given by 4WD clubs. Last year an interview with John Faine on Radio 774 netted an extra 425 orders. Our feedback is that listeners are so keen to support a good cause when they know that everyone involved is a volunteer and no middle person profits. In past years I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity on Macca's 'Australia All Over' to give all involved a mention and let the listeners know this tremendous fundraiser could not happen with generous support by volunteer 4WD club members. Finally I'd like to thank once again all those clubs and members who have so generously supported this vital community fundraising activity over past years. Thanking you in anticipation for your support this year. **Brian Moran, Volunteer Coordinator Oxfam Australia Christmas Tree Project Phone 94973227 Fax 94410661 Email: briangum@tpg.com.au**