



JULY 2014

Free Wheeling



Wombat State Forest 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 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

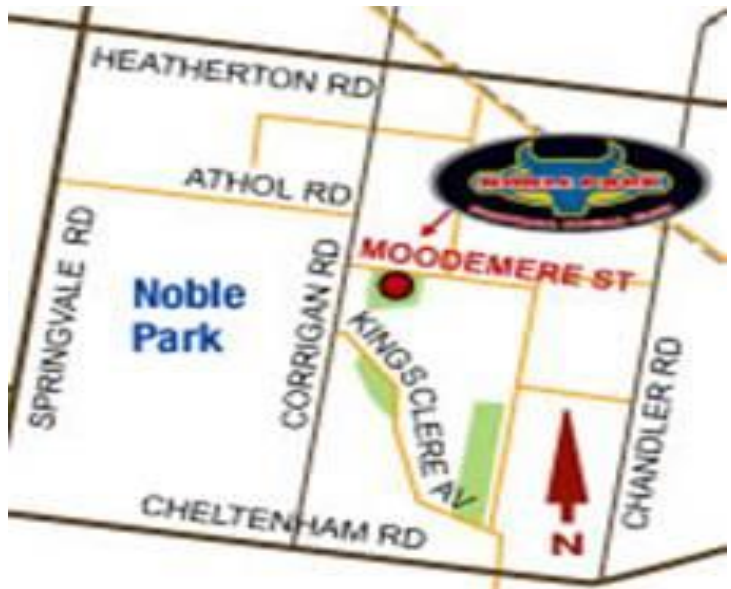
Venue:

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

Firewood Map Link

<http://nremap-sc.nre.vic.gov.au/MapShare.v2/imf.jsp?site=forestexplorer>



Please note : Club membership for the financial year 2014/2015 will be due at the June club meeting. Please return your dues & forms as attached to the last page of this newsletter, by the June meeting. Please also note, club members can't occupy committee positions nor do they have any voting rights if they are not a financial paid member.

FREE WHEELING

Hello and welcome to the July newsletter, this month see's the annual Christmas in July, which is now into it's fourth year, check out the details further into this newsletter for more information.

Catherine

Editor@fwdc.com



COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2013-2014

President		president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	Sally Higgs	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Steve Pitcher	treasurer@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Andre Van Der Walt	secretary@vfwdc.com
GENERAL COMMITTEE		
Assistant Secretary		assist@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	c/o David Bruinsma	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Catherine Felton	editor@vfwdc.com
Web Manager	Ben Whitworth	web@vfwdc.com
Training Officers	Phillip Griffith	
Association Delegate	David Bruinsma	delegate@vfwdc.com
Merchandise	Mark Felton	
General Committee		

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)



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

Web: www.theldon.com.au

METALAIR INDUSTRIES

4x4 Camper Trailers, Accessories &
Camping Equipment

David Hughes

Ph: 9798 1492 Fax: 9798 2593

Email: 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*



CLUB MERCHANDISE For Sale

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
Club Drivers Jacket (Coat)	\$80.00 ea	VFWDC Sticker (short) \$ 6.00 ea (long) \$8.00	

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.

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



CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2014				
July	Wednesday 2nd	General Meeting		
	4th - 6th	Xmas In July - Gilwell Park		
	18th - 20th	Snow Trip - Mt Skene	Sam Ayoubie & Markncat Felton	0414 503 874 0439 345 207
	23rd	Committee Meeting		
August	Wednesday 6th	AGM & General Meeting		
	20th	Committee Meeting		
	23rd	First Aid Training	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	30th	40th Birthday Celebrations Black & Gold Room	at Club Noble	
September	Wednesday 3rd	General Meeting		
	6th - 16th	Murray Sunset Country	Mick Stuart Bowker	0424 766 616 0418 539 157
	17th	Committee Meeting		
October	Wednesday 1st	General Meeting		
	18th	Aberfeldy Area Maintenance	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	22nd	Committee Meeting		
November	Wednesday 12th	General Meeting		
	31st Oct - 4th Nov	Aberfeldy/Little O'Tools - Melb Cup Long Wkend	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	31st Oct - 4th Nov	Knockwood Reserve - Melb Cup Long Wkend	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207
	19th	Committee Meeting		
December	Wednesday 3rd	General Meeting		
	6th	Christmas Break Up Party		
January 2015		NO GENERAL MEETING		
	23rd - 26th	Long Beach - Murray River	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207
	22nd	Committee Meeting		
February	Wednesday 4th	General Meeting		
	18th	Committee Meeting		

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to this month's edition of the Free Wheeling Newsletter.

Another month has disappeared and we are almost in the depths of winter – and going by the weather outside I think it is finally here. Bring on the SNOW!

Anyway, onto business, as advised at the June Club meeting John Partridge has stood down as President. I would like to thank John for his contribution to the club this year as President and wish him well with his business as it grows. Our AGM to elect a new committee and President is due to be held at the August meeting so in accordance with our constitution the committee has endorsed me to be Acting President until the AGM.

AGM

Our AGM is a time for reflection on what we have done over the last year and also a view on the future with the election of the committee for the next 12 months. The AGM will be run at the August Club meeting so please make sure you attend this meeting as it is your chance to have a say in how the club is to be run going forward.

If you want to participate in the committee and be part of running the club then please feel free to talk to any of the committee members at the July Club meeting and get your nominations in or if you want to support the committee but not be on it please consider placing an expression of interest in one of the support roles.

Elected roles are as follows;

Management Committee: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary

General Committee: Up to 5 general committee members can be elected and include the opportunity to undertake one of the key roles to support the management committee.

They include - Assistant Secretary, Trip Co-ordinator, Newsletter Editor, Association Delegate

Other positions that are not elected but can be appointed by the committee include;

Support Positions to the Committee: Web Manager, Training Officers, Merchandise

If you are not able to make the AGM you are able to appoint a proxy – please complete relevant form for the proxy to act on your behalf. The nomination forms and proxy forms will be available at the July meeting.

Other news

We have a busy couple of months coming up with Xmas in July, the snow trip to Mt Skene (and there is plenty of snow this year!) the AGM and the all-important 40th Anniversary celebrations. Please check out the rest of the newsletter to find out all about what is going on.

Have a fantastic month and stay warm.

See you all at the meeting or if not, out on the tracks.

Sally

Acting President

Christmas In July



Gilwell Park - Gembrook Scout Park

4th - 6th July

All welcome from Friday night onwards, day
visitors are also welcome.

We'll have some fun and interesting activities available
for all the kids who attend.

On Saturday night we'll have a long tabled dinner
altogether, if club members could please bring along
their favourite dish to be shared.

There is a small charge of \$12.10 per camper per night.
Day visitors are charged a day visit cost of \$7.50 p/p.

If you're interested in attending, please put your name
and dish down on the trip data form or email David
trips@vfwdc.com.

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Snow Trip - Mt Skene
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	NAME: Markncat Felton MOB: 0439 345 207
DATE	Friday 18th - Sunday 20th July
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Skipworth reserve campsite, at the start of Polletti track
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Medium DRY: Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>We will be heading up Friday night, we will leave Saturday morning at 9am, (you can meet us here on Saturday, if Friday doesn't suit), we'll head up and over Mt Skene.</p> <p>Hopefully we will have some snow to play in, up on Mt Skene. Twelve mile, will be our base camp, so trailers are welcome.</p> <p>And packing up camp and leaving Sunday morning, heading back to Melbourne.</p> <p>Please note, we are required to get a permit two weeks before, finally numbers/details will be taken at the end of June. It is advised if you could carry snow chains.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	200km
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Self sufficient Chains for tyres

DESTINATION	Mt Skene
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Sam Ayoubiee MOB: 0414503874
DATE	18 July 2014
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: snow conditions
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Weekend trip to Mt Skene. Leaving Friday morning and returning Sunday. Trip activities meeting point will be announced closer to trip. Will be going to Licola and staying at Mt Skene and staying at Crows Hut.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: MAXIMUM: 5
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Heyfield DIESEL: Heyfield
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Approx. 50km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery gear & winches and snow chains if you have.
MAPS REQUIRED	Leader will have maps
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



Lots of
Trips!

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Murray Sunset Country
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Mick and Stuart MOB: Mick 0424766616 MOB: Stuart 0418539157
DATE	6 th September through to the 13 th of September
MEETING PLACE / TIME	BP Calder Hwy 7:30am meet for a 8:00am leave
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Medium/Hard DRY: Easy/Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Touring Big Desert and Little Desert, Pink Lakes, Neds Corner, Border Customs House, Shearers Quarters, Scorpion Spring, Centre Track. Whole Boarder Track from the Top Starting at Border Cliffs Customs House and then Continuing on till the end of the Boarder Track. Permits are needed for bottom half of the Boarder Track. They can be purchased in Pinnaroo. Weather can change very quickly. Be prepared.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 8
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Ouyen, Mildura, Renmark, Pinnaroo and Nhill DIESEL: Ouyen, Mildura, Renmark, Pinnaroo and Nhill
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Average 350km.
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Normal Recovery Gear and Self-sufficient for the week.
MAPS REQUIRED	Victoria's Deserts
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

News of new laws for travelling the Simpson Desert in regards to sand flags.

The SA Government District Manager Outback, has issued mandatory Flag requirements for Simpson Desert Travellers.

Relevant portions of the Press Release are below:

Safety Flag requirements for all vehicles by March 16 2014:

All vehicles must be fitted with a Safety flag as detailed below when travelling in the Simpson Desert Conservation Park, or Simpson Desert Regional Reserve.

Flag Specifications: Minimum 300mm wide by 290mm high. Made of Fluorescent materials, Red-Orange or Lime-Yellow in colour.

Motorbikes: Rear mounted flag pole, with top of the flag a minimum 3.5 metres from the ground.

All Other Vehicles: With Front Bullbar - Flag pole attached to the bullbar, with top of the flag a minimum 3.5 metres from the ground. Without Front Bullbar - Flag pole attached via bracket at the front of the vehicle, with top of the flag a minimum 3.5 metres from the ground; alternatively flag pole attached to the front of the roof rack, with top of the flag a minimum 2 metres from the roof of vehicle.

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Aberfeldy Area Maintenance
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: David Bruinsma MOB: 0417 747 860
DATE	Saturday 18th October
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Moe McDonalds at 8.00am
GRADE	WET: easy Please adhere to new trip classifications DRY: easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Planning to get in early before cup weekend and go to at least one of the areas and with a group make an effort to clear some of the vegetation. If we have enough interest, we will break into TWO groups and tackle TWO areas.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	150kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Moe
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Protection gloves, Chain saws, whipper snippers, brush cutters, hand tools, shovels, etc.
MAPS REQUIRED	none
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12

DESTINATION	Aberfeldy/Little O'Tools - Melb Cup Long Weekend
LEADER	NAME: David Bruinsma + family MOB: 0417 747 860
DATE	Friday 31th October to Tuesday 4th November
MEETING TIME	TBA closer to the date
GRADE	WET: medium/hard DRY: easy/medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Last year I did a sand trip - this year I'm hoping for a little bit of mud. I have chosen a location much closer to home this year and I'm intending to really enjoy a lot of camp fire socializing. People who have been on my trips before have experienced easy drives, harder drives, night drives, muddy trips and everything in-between - I'm planning pretty much all of the above, but happy hour around the camp fire where we can kick back, laugh at the fun we have had and cook some great tucker is very high on the priority list for me. Camping, camper trailers etc all welcome. I'm hoping to get in there very early on the Friday morning to secure a good spot for everyone to join when they can make it. Little O'Tools is not hard to find. as we get closer to the date, I'll help people arrange to travel together in groups, especially for any newbies.
VEHICLE LMTS	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 12
APPROX KMS	150kms
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Moe and last available fuel
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Usual safety gear, camping gear, recovery gear (I reckon I'll find some tracks we will need it) and a jolly good sense of humor is mandatory.
RADIO CHANNEL UHF	UHF 12



1B, 280 South Gippsland Highway,
Cranbourne, 3977

P: 03 59955055

E: sales@everything4wd.com.au

W: www.everything4wd.com.au



*We are now distributors of the great **OZTENT** range of products
with great club pricing*



Need a UHF in-car or hand held UHF Radio?
*Everything **4WD** have a great range of*

Uniden

Products as well as antennas, mounting brackets,
dash cams + more.

We also have access to a large range of AM/FM
radios, DVD players, reversing cameras and
cruise controls



Minutes of General Meeting June 2014

The meeting was held in the Bowls club, Noble Park Football Club and was opened at 8.15pm by Committee Sally Higgs.

Present: members present as per the attendance book

Apologies: members present as per the Apologies book

Visitors: There was 1 person listed in the Visitors Book

Minutes of previous General Meeting

Accepted : Emily

Seconded : Stuart

Matters arising:

First aid and Chainsaw training

Association cost \$137 (need 14 people) for first aid

Chainsaw cost \$ 320 (need 6 - 12)

Correspondence in

Land rover Review

CCJC

Overland Cruiser

Membership renewals

Insurance - Certificate of Currency

Correspondence out

May news letter

Treasurer's report

Term Deposit	\$ 7350.43
Cheque A/C opening	
balance	\$ 6735.20
Money In	\$ 199.00
Moneys Out	\$ 1907.70
Cheque A/C	
Closing balance	\$ 6026.50
Petty Cash	\$ 150
Consolidation balance	\$ 13526.93

Accepted: Max
Ben

Association report:

Track classification. DEPI calls for members to help review track classifications. Aberfeldy, Bunyip State, Otways, Wombat and Little desert.

The association have advised that they are having cash flow issues and put a request out to the clubs to consider

paying the annual affiliation fees early so that the association could meet end of financial year commitments. Some other Victorian clubs apparently have been able to make financial commitments to the association, but due to the timing of our committee meetings, we were unable to contribute early payments.

Trip coordinators report

(as per mag)

Xmas in July - \$12.10 per person per night - Frid 4th to Sun 6th July 2014 - further information to be sent out by email to all members.

2 Snow Trips (fully booked this year) 18th to 20th July at Mt Skene

40th Birthday Celebration Dinner - Saturday 23rd August, further information will be available at next meeting.

Probably around \$22 to \$50 pp for the meal.

Future Trips

Mick announced he was planning a trip to do Border track from about 6th to 13th August 2014

Stuart announced he wanted to do another trip to Wombat SF, and was also interest in a trip back to Aberfeldy.

Trip reports

Stuart and Maree talked about their successful trip to Marysville.

David and others spoke about the winery/wombat trip, the tastings, the tracks found closed, the tracks found open and the rain. David also admitted to leaving tent poles behind (his wife not impressed) and his make shift camp site. Mark had further issues with his beloved Patrol, but David and Mick stuck around and made sure Mark N Cath got out safe and sound. Special thanks mentioned to Mick for all his efforts.

Events Report

NIL

General business

John stood down as president effective immediately. Our VP (Sally Higgs) will step up, and lead all meetings until the AGM.

Gary advised laptop and other devices should be out of the way of the airbag, due to potential serious personal injury in the event of an accident and the airbags being set off. Thanks to Gary for the warning.

The Club AGM will be held in August. All of the committee positions will vacated and names are needed to fill Positions.

Be aware that the annual track closures start again this month for the winter period, and that as of July 1st 2014, there will be some camp sites in Victoria that will need to be booked and camp fees will apply for overnight stays.

Other Business

Raffle

Winner	Item
Milly	Lights
Visitor	Kiwi wine
Garry	White wine

Meeting Closed: 9:30 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 8.00pm 2 July at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club.



Trip Reports

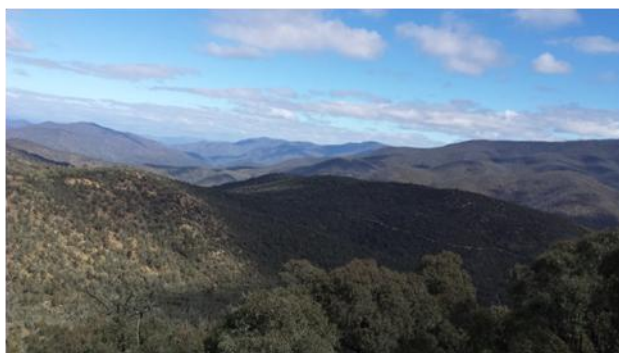


Thursday morning Woody and family met us at our place for our drive to the

snowy mountains. We made camp at about 2.30pm and set up camp and had dinner by the fire. We all went to bed early as we were all tired.

Friday the boys and Em went fire wood hunting and ended up collecting enough wood for us for the whole trip.

Saturday we ended up having to go into Jindabyne for some parts for Woody's camp stove. We had lunch in and headed back to camp for a nice afternoon. And we renamed Woody Carolyn and Samuel to Master Splinter (Woody) shredder (Carolyn) and toothpick (Samuel)



Sunday we went for a drive up to the helipad. On the way up we came across an oncoming car and got told that there was a horse float coming down as well but it was about 20 minutes behind him. We continued to the helipad and waited to see the horse float. It ended up just being a ute with 3 horses walking behind it. While we waited we heard from Stuart and Maree who were heading up to us with Steve and Aaron as Mark and Cat's car broke. After that we headed back down to camp. Monday John and Aaron headed home early to try and beat the holiday traffic. The rest of us went for a drive and had a play day with recovery things as Steve wanted to learn how to use his winch. Mick got the Patrol stuck and then Woody got the mighty Navarra stuck so Steve could recover them.

Tuesday we all headed into Jindabyne for a fun day. We went to the information centre café and then went for a walk around town. After a little while we headed off to Thredbo and drove around town. Steve left us at Thredbo and headed home. After that we drove down to the Wild Brumby Schnapps Distillery for tastings. We stayed there and had some drinks and food and some of us brought some schnapps to take home. We then headed home for dinner.

Wednesday we went out driving again and headed up to the other helipad which the track was very overgrown.

Thursday was a quiet day at camp where we started packing things up and then for the rest of the day we relaxed in camp. Friday morning we all woke up early and started packing up. Stuart and Maree headed off while the rest of us continued to pack up camp. Then we headed off for Buchan. We stopped in Buchan and then we didn't stop till we got home.

From Sally, Mick, John and Em.

Highlights of the weekend

Mick: weather, food, company, some good fun. Renaming Woody and family. Generally was a fantastic 9 days away.

Sally: The distillery, Sunday night family roast and Thursday nights group Spaghetti Bolognese dinner.

Emily: Going to the distillery, seeing 3 groups of Brumby's while driving and just everything else as well. Was an awesome week

John: Just relaxing in camp and having a great time with friends.

What a great week away! The weather was perfect, the food divine and the company awesome. Mick and Sally organised a truly fantastic time.

We left their place at 8:15 on Thursday morning. Stopped at Buchan for lunch and the last stop of civilisation. We arrived at Pinch River at 2:30. We had just enough time to get set up and get a fire going before the sun set and we settled in for a lovely evening.



We enjoyed a few day trips trekking through the tracks and doing some narly stuff. Spent 2 days visiting Jindabyne; beautiful place!

We only experienced a few annoying drops of rain on Friday early evening which helped to settle the dusty roads for the next day.

One of the really special highlights was Maree's damper. She ended up making 3 nights of damper

each a different type- very nice Maree! The views from the helipads were pretty spectacular as was the schnapery that we visited and sampled - hmmm.

Stu and Maree, new member Aaron and Steve Z arrived on Sunday afternoon after their own eventful few days. Aaron only stayed overnight and headed home on the Monday with John W. Steve stayed till Tuesday and headed home after spending half the day with us in Jindy.

One of the most enjoyable culinary treats was David's attempt at making fire cooked pizza. Was a complete success and tasted awesome! Will definitely be making that again :)

David had a few minor run ins with a flat tyre and a front headlight becoming detached from the car. Thanks Mick and Sally for another wonderful time out bush - until next time. We decided to pack up and leave to head home on Friday. From Woody, Carolyn and Samuel



Trip Reports

What a great weekend; so much happened!



Tony, Stuart and Marie arrived at Firth park camping grounds late afternoon and got the hone fires burning. David and Carolyn, Mick and Mark and Cath left Woody's place at 6:45pm and met up with Craig and Millie along the HWY near Dandenong. We arrived in good time at 8pm and set up camp, ready to sit for a few drinks before heading off to bed.

We where up early at 7am; it was a frosty morning - very grateful for a hot coffee. We left just after 9 and headed off to St. Anne's winery. A beautiful place! We met up with Tony and Laney at the winery at 10am. After a few tastings and a few purchases we left an hour later at 11am. We then headed into the local town for a coffee while those who needed to get stuff for lunch headed quickly into Bacchus Marsh.

We took to the road again at 12:15 to find some adventure. The first 4 attempts to find any tracks where all flops as the gates where locked or only MVO ... A bit frustrating and dejecting. As all the tracks we wanted that would take us into Wombat State forest where not a accessible, we decided to take our luck with some tracks on the other side of the road. We found some old disused mines but no tracks that would be noted as challenging. We had lunch and decided to give up and headed towards O'briens campground as we had heard good stories about it. Had a quick pit stop but continued as we wanted to get the fire going for our dinner. We got back at 4pm and enjoyed happy hour. We said goodbye to Tony and Laney and thanked them for a wonderful day. Tony and Craig and Milly left about 5:30pm to head home also. Marie's yummy lamb roast and David's beef roast went down like a treat and was polished off completely! And Cath's yummy chocolate slice washed down with a few samples of our days purchases. Very good indeed.





As evening set in, the light mist of rain descended; it didn't stop all night

The next morning, while the

Not the weekend we had planned but definitely a venue that needs to be visited again for more exploring. A quick summary is that St Anne's has awesome fortified wines - and it was suggested (by Carolyn) that we could try to make this an annual trip, at least to the winery that is.

Regards
David and Carolyn



Intention had been to have a leisurely breakfast and pop past a winery or two on the way home, with everything completely soaked we decided to pack up early, and head home for a late breakfast. With everything and everybody packed we left just after 8:30. We had only driven 2 minutes down the road when Marks car started having problems (again with the front end). Mick, Stuart and Marie had gone ahead to Gisborne to air up tyres at a servo - Mick graciously headed back to help if he could and meanwhile

David suggested to Stuart and Marie to head off home.

After mucking around under Mark's 'troll for nearly 2 hours, we finally had the Pan hard rod back in place secured with a ratchet strap to the front axle - it was



deemed safe enough to drive at very slow speed to the closest township (being Trentham).

We finally ended up in Trentham at 11am for a brunch break at a local bakery. Mark phoned a mate near the area who had a suitable work shed that parts could be scavenged to fix the 'troll, so after Brunch David and Carolyn said goodbye leaving Mick, Mark and Cath to head off to mates place for bits, while David and Carolyn headed off home.





Trip Reports

Arkaroola - Innamincka - Cameron Corner

We left Brett, Nikki and the Flinders Ranges behind on a splendid sunny day and we headed on the main highway to Blinman for a pub lunch. Our final destination on this day was Arkaroola.

We left Blinman and turned left off the main highway and stopped at the warning 'Camels' road sign to air down the tyres. The track to Arkaroola was relatively straight, very dusty and the only interest to the eye was lots of emus, kangaroos and cows. The track had a mix of corrugation and loose rock.

We arrived at Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary to set up camp in the daylight and got ready for a nice relaxing night in front of the fire. Arkaroola has a couple of pretty good low range 4WD tracks called the Echo Camp back track and is well worth spending the day doing this.

The other is Mt Jacobs backtrack. After dinner on the second evening we did an Observatory Star tour. Well worth spending an evening with Doug Sprigg, the son of the founder of the Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary, who showed us the night sky and the stars and boy did we see them.

The next day we set off for Innamincka on another sunny and calm day with all roads open. The first part of the track was mainly through cattle stations and with no other cars to be seen the track was all ours, except for having to share it with a few cows, kangaroos and emus along the way. We stopped to fix a flat tyre and took the opportunity to have a bite to eat off the side of the dusty track.

We finally had arrived at the famous Strezlecki track. For the first time in many hours and in the middle of nowhere, we had to stop and give way at a T-intersection, look right, look left and low and behold a lone rider and his motorbike was going the opposite way! Sometimes the outback just surprises you with these little things.

The Strezlecki is wide, dusty and fully corrugated. Without the corrugation, it would be a super highway. We were lucky enough to be able to keep the pace going relatively well and keeping the speed up at around 80-90kms per hour.

The track wasn't that remote in the sense that there were cars, caravans and trucks going the opposite way. We turned right to join the old Strezlecki track which would take us straight into Innamincka. We passed a few operating gas/oil fields and cattle stations.

We arrived at Innamincka in time for a nice buffet dinner at the local pub (one and only). We set up camp at the Common in a nice quiet spot and spent the night cursing Brett (the banker) for handing us what we would famously name 'The Banker's Wood' - the wood that would never burn out, almost like a mortgage!

After showering at Innamincka's main showering facilities (pretty organised and clean) we drove off to the Dig Tree to take in a bit of Aussie history. A peaceful spot that has a large amount of history boards to read about what happened.

We then headed off to Cameron Corner via the Bore Track. This is where we got to experience some outback isolation with nothing in site but red dust and track, oh and some more cows. After getting lost somewhere past Epsilon we finally asked for directions from a cattle station owner who finally got us going the right way.

The road sign pointing to turn left was not there, hence the reason we got lost. Given we had lost a few hours in the day we were venturing towards the Corner at nightfall and had to take it pretty easy given there were animals on the road, you guessed it...cows. Thanks to Bruce's help he was able to give us the phone number of the Corner so that we could let them know we were on the way.

We had dinner and downed a few well earned drinks at the pub and set up camp outside the pub. During the tour of the pub we noticed hanging on one of the rafters was a sign pointing left to Omricon - the damn sign that shouldn't have been on the track! It had been a long day, so it was an early night to bed.

The next morning we did the obligatory photos in the three States of Australia - NSW, QLD, SA and started our next adventure down south.



VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB INC

Nomination for Election to the Committee of Management –
2014/2015

I..... Signed:.....
Nominate..... for the position of

.....

I..... Signed:.....
Second the nomination for election to the Committee of
Management

I..... Signed:.....
Of

Hereby accept the nomination for election to the Committee of
Management of
the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc for the position of

.....

VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB INC

Nomination for Election to the Committee of Management –
2014/2015

I..... Signed:.....
Nominate..... for the position of

.....

I..... Signed:.....
Second the nomination for election to the Committee of
Management

I..... Signed:.....
Of

Hereby accept the nomination for election to the Committee of
Management of
the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc for the position of

.....

