



# FREE WHEELING

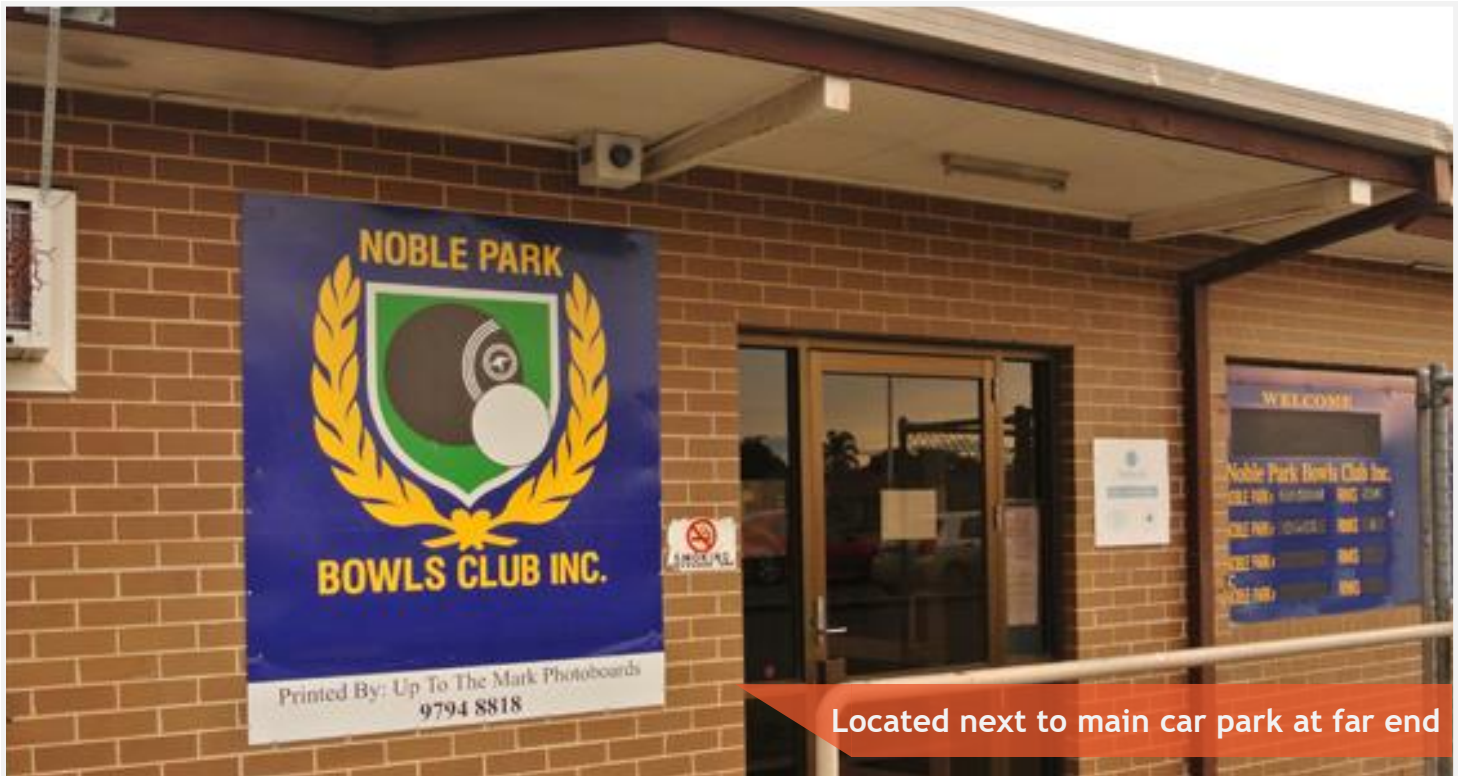
December 2017



Official Newsletter of the  
Victorian Four Wheel  
Drive Club Inc

Original photo by David  
Bruinsma on November,  
Beachport/Robe.

Registration No  
A0002184F



Located next to main car park at far end

### VFWDC General Meeting Venue

The club meets on the first WEDNESDAY of each month at 8:00pm. With the following exceptions; No meeting in January. November meeting is at a selected location, watch the calendar.

### Bowling Club Rooms

Noble Park Noble Football Club  
46-56 Moodemere Street  
Noble Park



Members and guests are welcome to dine at the bistro before attending the meeting from 6:30pm.



### Aberfeldy Track

In association with [Westland Gippsland Relic, Mining and Heritage Protection Inc](#) , the club maintains a section of the Aberfeldy Track with working bees throughout the year. View the club calendar for the next upcoming working bee.



# COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

## 2017-2018

President	Ben Whitworth	<a href="mailto:president@vfwdc.com">president@vfwdc.com</a>
Vice President	Steve Pitcher	<a href="mailto:vicepres@vfwdc.com">vicepres@vfwdc.com</a>
Secretary	Bruce Cremonesi	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
Treasurer	Tony Barbera	<a href="mailto:treasurer@vfwdc.com">treasurer@vfwdc.com</a>

## General Committee

Trip Co-Ordinator	Stuart Bowker	<a href="mailto:trips@vfwdc.com">trips@vfwdc.com</a>
Magazine Editor	Ly Ho	<a href="mailto:editor@vfwdc.com">editor@vfwdc.com</a>
Association Delegate	David Bruinsma	<a href="mailto:delegate@vfwdc.com">delegate@vfwdc.com</a>
General Committee	Ashley Martin	
General Committee	Callum Brown	

## Support Positions to Committee

Web manager	Ben Whitworth	<a href="mailto:web@vfwdc.com">web@vfwdc.com</a>
Training officer	Phillip Griffith	
Training officer	Ashley Martin	
Merchandise	Des Whall	<a href="mailto:merchandise@vfwdc.com">merchandise@vfwdc.com</a>

## Club Details

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
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>

The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of [Four Wheel Drive Victoria](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au) - [www.fwdvictoria.org.au](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au)

## CLUB MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Club Polo Shirts	\$28.00	Club Hoodie	\$54.00
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$48.00	Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$54.00
Club Caps	\$15.00	Club Bucket Hat	\$16.00
Club Wide Brim Hat	\$18.00	Club Beanie	\$12.00
Club Drivers Jacket (Coat)	\$80.00	VFWDC Windscreen stickers	
		Small	\$6.00
		Large	\$8.00

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo shirt.  
Email your order to [merchandise@vfwdc.com](mailto:merchandise@vfwdc.com). Please ensure you advise size required.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hi all,

Welcome to the VFWDC Free Wheeling magazine.

The November meeting this year was early and held at the Dandenong Aussie Disposal. It was a great night and the team at Dandenong Aussie Disposals were tremendous hosts. Klaus presented a range of new and interesting products to our members, many of those products wound up in our club raffle on the night.

Thank you very much to Klaus, Jake and Sabrina for hosting our November club meeting, putting on a great feed and offering our members a nice discount in store. I know that many members, including me, took the opportunity to stock up on camping supplies and maybe some early Christmas presents.

The month of November also saw the club Christmas Party take place. Our well laid plans for this year's Christmas Party went up in smoke when a large uncontrolled bush fire took off in Bunyip State forest near where the event was to be held. The committee made the decision to play it safe and relocate the party to somewhere away from the affected area, after many suggestions for a suitable new location it was decided that we would go to Toorongo Falls Campground in Noojee.

Well that wasn't to be either, Ian and Audrey and I headed into the camp ground on Friday evening before sundown and found it absolutely packed. There wasn't a large enough space available to accommodate the 3 camps we expected on Friday night let alone the 30+ people we were expecting on Saturday for the Christmas Party itself.

Ian put in a call to a friend nearby who had a farm and we hightailed it outta there and headed to this farm for the night. While we sat around out of the rain chatting it was decided that we would play it safe once more and head to Ian and Audrey's property for the Christmas Party on Saturday night.

Despite all the drama in the lead up the Christmas Party was a great success and everyone who attended had a good time, I think. Even our youngest member made an appearance. Little Lucas brought his parents along, Mandie and Scott. A good feed was put on and contributed to by everyone who attended.

A few thank you's are required;

- Thank you to Ian and Audrey for hosting the event at their home. You saved the day.
- Thank you to Ly and Darna for slaving over a hot spit and producing a great feed.
- Thank you to the committee members who helped out with the planning and on the day.
- Thank you to all the members who attended and brought along a dish to share.

This is the last magazine for the year and on behalf of the committee I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. For those who are going away during this time please take care and watch out for fire warnings.

See you in 2018! The first meeting for the year is on the 7th of February 2018.

I hope to see all our members at the out on the tracks.

Ben Whitworth  
President





# CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

December 2017				
6th	Wed	General Meeting		
9th	Sat	Marysville and Surrounds	Stuart	0428 539 157
January 2018				
16th	Tue	No General Meeting		
7th to 21st		Committee Meeting		
		Fraser Island and Moreton Island	Callum	0439 972 204
26th to 28th		Australia Day Long Weekend	Brett & Nicky	
February 2018				
7th	Wed	General Meeting		
20th	Tue	Committee Meeting		
March 2018				
7th	Wed	General Meeting		
20th	Tue	Committee Meeting		

## IMPORTANT

- If you wish to join us for dinner before the General Meeting, please book a spot at [Club Noble](#). Phone 9546 0653 and ask to join “Sally’s table” from the club. You must book **BEFORE** the Monday on the week of the meeting to avoid disappointment!
- Have a safe and fun Christmas everyone!



# MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

## November 2017

This year's November meeting was held at Aussie Disposals Dandenong on Wednesday 1st.

Our host Klaus Kruithoff cooked up a storm—butter chicken, satay chicken, fried rice and salad. All cooked in camp ovens that the store was selling and he even shared the recipe.

While we dined and drank, Ben and Stuart quickly ran through general business and upcoming trips before handing over to Klaus.

Klaus gave a great presentation of the history of Aussie Disposals and showed off some of the great products for sale. He gave a special 20% off discount store wide for our members to shop.

We then hit the store floor and started shopping—some of us left with a couple bags of goodies including myself!

At the end of the night we drew the raffle with the prizes were kindly donated by Klaus.



Members can advertise any four wheel drive or camping related items they wish to sell or buy.

Just email the editor, [editor@vfwdc.com](mailto:editor@vfwdc.com), with the following:

- 1. Description of the item
- 2. Price
- 3. Contact details
- 4. Photos (highly recommended)

FOR SALE: Extra Large Single Swag, Single Swag

\$60, \$30

Burke & Wills Simpson X Large Swag

Second owner of this swag. It's a bit rough looking but it's big and cosy. Comes with egg-shell mattress [More info link here](#)

\$60

Burke & Wills Single Swag—Envelope Style

Had an eventful life, still good. These swags design has no poles—roll out and sleep. [More info link here](#)

\$30

Ly

0433 387 811

Ly.tri.ho@gmail.com







## FOR SALE: Esky

See below

[Sally](#)

Esky \$100. Measurements 720x425x515cm.

0412 464 129





Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc  
www.vfwdc.com



## Treasurer's Report September 2017

Cheque A/C` Opening Balance as at 01/09/2017 \$3,992.70

Add:	Membership Renewals	\$290.00
	Raffle Ticket Sales	\$88.00
	New Memberships	\$240.00

Total Monies In: \$618.00

Less:

FWDV Membership Fees	\$195.00
Venue Hire Club Noble	\$1,000.00
Petty Cash (Catering)	20.00

Total Monies Out: \$1,215.00

Closing Balance as at 30/09/2017 \$3,395.70

Term Deposit Opening Balance as at 01/09/2017 \$6,399.78

Closing Balance as at 30/09/2017 \$6,399.78

Petty Cash Opening Balance as at 01/09/2017 \$150.00

Add:	Cheque Account	\$20.00
Less:	Catering	-\$20.00

Closing Balance as at 30/09/2017 \$150.00

**Consolidated Closing Cash Position \$9,945.48**

<b>DESTINATION</b>	Marysville and surrounds
<b>LEADER/CONTACT NO.</b>	NAME: Stuart & Maree MOB: Stuart 0428539157
<b>DATE</b>	Saturday 9th December
<b>MEETING PLACE / TIME</b>	Marysville main street outside the bakery 9:am for a 9:30 am departure. Bakery should be open for Breaky allow extra time
<b>GRADE</b>	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
<b>TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS</b>	The trip will go to Keppel hut, MacFadyen Tk Quartz Crk Rd, Bull Fight Rd, Royston Range Tk to the Rubicon Power Station and maybe stop for dinner at the Buxton Burger place if anyone is interested.
<b>VEHICLE LIMITS</b>	Bring packed lunch and munchies for roadside stops MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: N/A
<b>APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION</b>	300–400km round trip
<b>LAST AVAILABLE FUEL</b>	PETROL: Marysville credit card sales only best to fuel at Healesville  DIESEL: Marysville credit card sales only best to fuel at Healesville
<b>DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES</b>	No LPG 400km
<b>EQUIPMENT REQUIRED</b>	Own basic recovery gear tools and any spares you may require. AT or MT tyres
<b>MAPS REQUIRED</b>	Rooftop maps Marysville-Lake Eildon or Big River Rubicon
<b>RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF</b>	UHF 12
<b>GOOGLE MAPS</b>	<a href="#">See here</a>



<b>DESTINATION</b>	Fraser Island and Moreton Island
<b>LEADER/CONTACT NO.</b>	NAME: Callum Brown MOB: 0439 972 204
<b>DATE</b>	7th January 2018—28th January 2018
<b>MEETING PLACE / TIME</b>	TBA
<b>GRADE</b>	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
<b>TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS</b>	The intent of this trip is to relax and have fun. We will be traveling to Fraser Island and Moreton Island. We will stay for 7 nights at Fraser Island and we will spend 3 nights at Yurru camp area and 4 nights at Sandy Cape camp area. We will then make our way to Moreton Island for 4 nights and travel the coast roads on the way home.
<b>VEHICLE LIMITS</b>	MINIMUM: 1 MAXIMUM: 4
<b>APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION</b>	4000
<b>LAST AVAILABLE FUEL</b>	PETROL: TBA DIESEL: TBA
<b>DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES</b>	
<b>EQUIPMENT REQUIRED</b>	Self-sufficient camping. This means we will need to bring all food and water for both Islands and considerations will need to be made for waste disposal. Basic recover gear required.
<b>MAPS REQUIRED</b>	Fraser Island and Moreton Island maps
<b>RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF</b>	UHF 12
<b>GOOGLE MAPS</b>	<a href="#">See here</a>

<b>DESTINATION</b>	Alpine National Park ( <b>TRIP IS FULL</b> )
<b>LEADER/CONTACT NO.</b>	NAME: Brett & Niki Buchanan MOB: 0407 878 970
<b>DATE</b>	Friday 26th January 2018 until Sunday 28th January 2018 Inclusive
<b>MEETING PLACE / TIME</b>	Maccas - Pakenham Bypass 8am Friday 26th
<b>GRADE</b>	WET: Very Hard DRY: Medium/Hard
<b>TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS</b>	<p>Enter Alpine National Park via Licola and take Caledonia River Track (includes 13 Fords) up to Howitt Plains (possible camp first or both nights).</p> <p>Day 2 - Visit Bryces Plains &amp; Guys Hut (Approx 8km walk to Conglomerate Falls &amp; Pieman Creek Falls).  <a href="http://www.visitmelbourne.com/Regions/Gippsland/Things-to-do/Outdoor-activities/Walking-and-hiking/VV-The-Bryce-Gorge-Circuit.aspx">http://www.visitmelbourne.com/Regions/Gippsland/Things-to-do/Outdoor-activities/Walking-and-hiking/VV-The-Bryce-Gorge-Circuit.aspx</a></p> <p>Day 3 - Head back via Butcher Country Track (subject to accessibility following fire regrowth).  Adverse weather may alter schedule</p>
<b>VEHICLE LIMITS</b>	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 5
<b>APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION</b>	300
<b>LAST AVAILABLE FUEL</b>	PETROL: Heyfield DIESEL: Heyfield (Licola store reportedly now closed)
<b>DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES</b>	Last supplies Heyfield/Traralgon
<b>EQUIPMENT REQUIRED</b>	Self Sufficient Recovery equipment, Food & Fuel Nibbles to share for Happy Hour each evening
<b>MAPS REQUIRED</b>	Rooftop Maps (Dargo & Wonnangatta Adventure Map) & GPS
<b>RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF</b>	UHF 12
<b>GOOGLE MAPS</b>	<a href="#">See here</a>



**DESTINATION**  
**LEADER/CONTACT NO.**

(Day Hike) Murrindindi Scenic Reserve + Mill Track Loop

NAME: Ly Ho

MOB: 0433 387 811

**DATE**

Friday 2nd February 2018 optional

Saturday 3rd February 2018

Sunday 4th February 2018 optional

**MEETING PLACE / TIME**

TBA

**GRADE (WALKING)**

WET: Medium

DRY: Easy/Medium

HOT: Medium

**TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS**

Primarily a day hike—no 4x4ing at all. Friday night arrive at Murrindindi Scenic Reserve to set up base camp and relax at one of the numerous sites. There is a camping permit fee per vehicle per night.

Saturday morning pay the camping fee at the permit box and wait for any day trippers. Then tackle the Mill Track -[see details and map here](#). We will take our time and enjoy the scenery at an easier pace (depending on the group). Take happy snaps at the waterfall.

For anyone who only want a shorter walk, you return back to camp here and we'll meet you back at base camp.

When we return to base camp, dip in the river, sit back and rest our legs over some food and fire.

Sunday head home.

If you don't wish to camp, feel free to come on Saturday.

**VEHICLE LIMITS**

MINIMUM: 1

MAXIMUM: 4

**APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE  
TO DESTINATION**

58km

**LAST AVAILABLE FUEL**

PETROL: Lilydale

DIESEL: Lilydale

**DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES**

58km

**EQUIPMENT REQUIRED**

Bring enough water (at least 2L) and food for a day walk. Extra water if it's hot. Comfortable hiking boots. Hat, sun-screen and any other creature comforts for walking. Light jacket or jumper if gets cold.

Camping gear for camping

**MAPS REQUIRED**

**RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF**

UHF 12

**GOOGLE MAPS**

[See here](#)

<b>DESTINATION</b>	Cape Trip
<b>LEADER/CONTACT NO.</b>	NAME: Michael Harris MOB: 0424 766 616
<b>DATE</b>	August 18th 2018 to September 22nd 2018
<b>MEETING PLACE / TIME</b>	TBA
<b>GRADE</b>	WET: Med DRY: Easy
<b>TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS</b>	General touring through to the cape & back
<b>VEHICLE LIMITS</b>	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 8
<b>APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION</b>	Depends on where we go...last time we did about 13700 kms
<b>LAST AVAILABLE FUEL</b>	PETROL: TBA DIESEL: TBA
<b>DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES</b>	
<b>EQUIPMENT REQUIRED</b>	Enough surplus to last 5 weeks + all normal gear
<b>MAPS REQUIRED</b>	
<b>RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF</b>	UHF 12
<b>GOOGLE MAPS</b>	<a href="#">See here</a>



#### Participants:

Brett & Oscar	- Pajero
Des	- Patrol
Ken & Jesse	- Landcruiser
Shane & Mel	- Hilux
Steve	- Landcruiser
Ross & Alejandra	- Prado
Anthony & Family	- Everest
David	- Patrol

The bulk of the vehicles arrived Friday at the Tambo Crossing campground and while setting up camp, a large thunder storm rolled in. Whoever was controlling the storm was using electricity to try and zap anyone holding metal tent poles and pegs. Everyone scurried away safely to shelter and once the storm passed, we were rewarded with a nice rainbow.

On Saturday morning, we met up with Ross and Alejandra. It turned out that they had a preference for bed bugs in a Bairnsdale motel rather than the electric light show we had the pleasure of experiencing.

Haunted Stream Track was about 2km up the road from the campground, so everyone aired down and gently cruised down the bitumen to the start of the track. Given that the track had

been closed for a couple of years, we were expecting to encounter a little bit of traffic on the track, but apart from a single oncoming vehicle, we had the entire track to ourselves and were able to meander along taking in the beautiful scenery. According to the map there are 54 water crossings but we lost count. Some crossings have steep entries and exits and small sections of the tracks were a bit rocky but overall the track was not very difficult and very pleasurable to drive.

Quite a lot of wildlife was seen while driving including goannas, red bellied black snakes, tiger snakes, water dragons, wallabies, deers and echidnas.

Arriving at the end of the track, we had two options. A short steep climb up Dawson City Track or a longer but less steep drive along Boomerang Spur Track. Having heard some stories about Dawson City Track, a couple of vehicles did a quick reconnaissance before giving the all clear for everyone to follow.

We continued along Engineers Road and Chester Road to set up camp at Marthavale Hut. We learnt a few things along this short trek. Quarry Creek Track is now permanently closed, the start Chester Road appears to have been realigned and didn't line up with our maps or GPS and Marthavale Hut has unfortunately been



burnt to the ground.

There were no formal plans for Sunday so in the morning. Ken and Anthony needed to be back in Melbourne earlier so they split and went home via Horton's Crossing. Everyone else decided to travel back to Melbourne via Deptford.

It was quite a hot day and halfway down Nicholson track, one of the vehicles got a bit dehydrated and vomited all over the track. Shane got out to comfort the sick vehicle and decided to don his boilersuit to protect his skin from the harsh sun. It wasn't long before Shane was seen seeking shelter from the sun underneath this vehicle. After a dose of sunscreen, aloe vera and some water, the vehicle was well enough continue.

Everyone arrived safely at Deptford via Stuttering Fred Track and Sisters Road and immediately jumped in the river for a swim. Shane, Mel, Steve and Des decided to camp another night while everyone else headed back to Melbourne to work the next day.

It was a fun trip and hopefully our sick vehicle hasn't had any relapses.







Do you tow a trailer or caravan? If so then definitely have a read this article (thanks Bruce for sharing).

[WHY YOU SHOULD BE CHOOSING RATED SHACKLES FOR TOWING](#)  
[Official Document](#)

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I would like to thank Ian and Audrey for allowing the club to host the Christmas Party. It was a great day had by all (minus the everchanging Melbourne weather). Great food and company—what more can you want? Darna and I enjoyed cooking the spit for everyone—delicious.

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With the warm weather upon us, please be careful around the bush. For Melbourne Cup, I was at Wilson's Promontory and walking on a gravel road. 10 metre in front of me was a snake just sun baking. Luckily it decide to shy away to the side of the road because there was some wussy screams coming out of me at that point. I do not like snakes. Nope no thanks.

[Snake safety in the bush](#)