



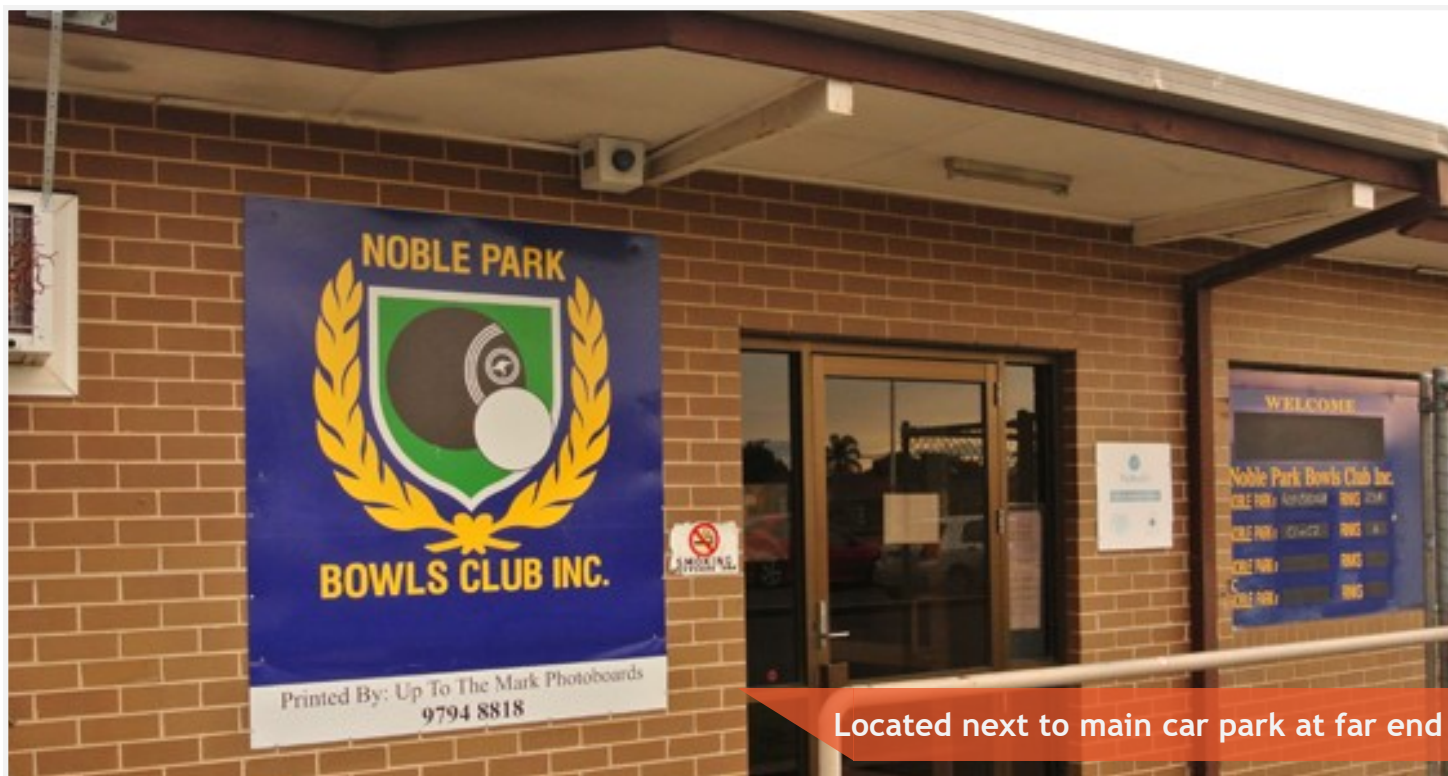
# FREE WHEELING

June 2017



Official Newsletter of the  
Victorian Four Wheel  
Drive Club Inc

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

## 2016-2017

President	Ben Whitworth	<a href="mailto:president@vfwdc.com">president@vfwdc.com</a>
Vice President	Ken Beard	<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	Shane Dodman	
General Committee	(position vacant)	

## 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	Carolyn Bruinsma	<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.





Hi all,

Welcome to the VFWDC Free Wheeling magazine.

I have a good news story for you this month. I was out bush this weekend and found myself stuck in a good way, I couldn't get out of this track alone in either direction. After 2-3 hours winching and not getting very far a group of young 4wd'ers arrived and came to my rescue. This group of 4 vehicles and 8 people were more than happy to help me out.

We decided to make a run for it in the dark back the way that they had come because there was no way we were getting out from the direction that I had come from and the forecast was for bad weather.

They did warn me that it was going to be a hard run to get out that way too. On the first challenging section 2 out of 5 of us needed to winch up a fairly long hill, I was one of those who needed to winch, and these guys did not hesitate to help me out running up and down the track with the winch rope and straps.

The next section was worse again and 4 out of 5 had to winch, and again they were on the cable for me. Obviously I returned the favour and did what I could while the others were winching, but let's face it I am not quite as young and fit as I once was so I spent a bit of time trying not to pass out but these guys didn't care.

The final major section was short but intense. Everyone had to winch here. We spent 3-4 hours on this section alone. At one point one of the vehicles got hooked up on a stump and had to be double pulled from the top and

pulled sideways from below.

Shortly after this section we pulled up and made camp at 1350m, it was about 2am. We were not even half way along the track!! But they were confident that the rest was easy enough.

And again, these guys and girls made me feel welcome while we stood around their fire chatting.

Then the storm rolled in. Lightning, thunder, wind, horizontal hail, horizontal rain and even snow. We all ran to our respective sleeping arrangements to ride out the night. We all survived.

We were back on the go around 9am while snow was falling and the remainder of the track was easy compared to what we had done the night before, no winching required. That being said it would be rated as very hard or extreme by our club standards. We made it out just after 2pm that day.

The reason for this story is as a thank you to that group of friends who saved me. They were truly the nicest bunch and I can't thank them enough. They know who they are and if they read this, thank you and I really hope to run into you again on the tracks.

That's it.

I hope to see all our members at the next general meeting and out on the tracks.

Ben Whitworth  
President

# CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

June				
7th	Wed	General Meeting		
9th to 12th	Fri to Mon	Portland Buggy Club	Bruce	0400 425 296
19th	Tue	Committee Meeting		
July				
5th	Wed	General Meeting		
8th to 9th	Sat to Sun	Christmas in July at St. Annes Winery	David	0417 747 860
14th to 16th	Fri to Sun	Mt. Skene Snow Trip	Bruce	0400 425 296
18th	Tue	Committee Meeting		
August				
2nd	Wed	Annual General Meeting		
November				
1st	Wed	Aussie Disposals Dandenong South—Special Meeting		
3rd to 7th	Fri to Tues	Beachport / Robe	David	0417 747 860

## 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!



## LAST BARREL

### Last Barrel Wines

492 YARRAGON SOUTH ROAD

YARRAGON SOUTH

VIC 3823 AUSTRALIA

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

(M): +61 (0)408 093 529

Export and domestic sales.

Tastings by appointment only.

# MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

**May 2017**

Members as per book

Visitors as per book

Apologies as per book

## April General Mins Accepted

Accepted: Sally

Seconded: John

## Correspondence from mins

1st Nov is our meeting at Aussie Disposals - more info to come.

## Incoming Correspondence

Emails from prospective members

Confirmation from 4wd Vic on snow chains for Mt Skene

Rudi - Regarding working bees at Aberfeldy

4wd Vic Emails on Driver Training and First Aid courses

Email from Chris Hartley with photo of Stuart

## Outgoing Correspondence

Question from 4wd Vic on Snow Chains

Emails to prospective members

## Treasurers Report

As per attachment in next magazine as treasurer was away on holidays in Flinders.

Accept - Dave

Seconded - Stuart

## 4wd Vic

Nil

## General bizzo

- Ben mentioned about the trip Andre went on and had a serious medical emergency and how well they did. Well done to Andre and the others on the trip
- Ben also spoke about First Aid Course and the value in them. Show of hands showed we are in a good position for first aiders on trips, but always good to do a refresher

course.

- Discussed the club mag photo which came from member of public Chris Hartley whose daughter took it while waiting to cross... It was a great action shot and thanks were emailed to Chris for the shot.
- Our web hosts were bought out and the new people bolloxed up the site by reloading an old copy of the site. Ben has sorted this out
- July we have Eddi from Allsat with a great display and also some raffle stuff.
- Heads up - Membership renewals are due at the end of June.
- Reminder that the fees went up \$10.00 Membership Form also now has the BSB number etc so
- Reminder of the club printer is in maggo forsale, and the maggo is free to members to advertise, and small fee for business'
- Merchandising has been restocked with some great new items - check it out.
- Bruce asked for show of hands for an ARB tour - it may happen ... More info to come.
- Ben handed out the new members packs William - AWOL Simon Griffith
- 4wd Vic stickers for those that would like them
- Driver training certificates should be around next meeting
- Ashley Martin asked if we could put the location of the cover photo inside the magazine - everyone thought that was a great idea. Ly to make this happen.. Good work Ashley.
- Discussion on the new South Aussie booking system. It stinks.

## Upcoming Club Trips (*Trip forms down the back of the meeting on the bench*)

Aberfeldy working bee

- Stuart mentioned meeting up Saturday at Aberfeldy 9am.
- Sounds riveting.

#### Avoca - 19-20th to Avoca Ashley Martin

- Camping at Glen Patrick Reserve -bout 8klm from Elmhurst.
- Running dunnys, booked the hut ahead so should have shelter.
- Great driving area, quite challenging tracks
- Will require minimum AT's and
- Meeting Friday afternoon/evening TbA
- Or meet at camp.
- Pub at Elmhurst for dinner bout 6pm
- If its wet, will be called off.

#### Raffle drawn

First prize - Callum The Compressor  
Second Prize - Norm - Pink Straps  
Third Prize - Wire thingy  
Fourth Prize - Tony - Double Adapter  
Last Prize - Phil's Brother- Elastic strap

Meeting Closed  
10pm

#### Marysville - 27th May - Stuart

- Stockmans Reward finishing at Aberfeldy
- May have dinner at Erica pub

#### Portland Buggy Club - Trip June Long Weekend- Bruce

- Weekend camping at Portland Buggy Club
- Opportunity to do some sand driving and learn new techniques
- Must be self sufficient and have FULL recovery gear
- Sand Flag is a must - a Wog pole with a pair of undies on it will do.
- Bring WARM clothes it can be blustery
- Camera for fotos!!

#### Xmas in July - St. Annes Winery

- Dave talked about St Anne's winery
- Will have kids movies on and food and drink.

#### Snow trip - August

- Discussion on the Snow trip
- Sam running top group, Bruce running lower group
- Bruce discussed the requirements for the trip regarding permits, and safety.

#### Coffee break

#### Club Trips Been and Gone

- Andre trip to Bunyip
- Tonys Flinders trip

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: GU Patrol accessories

\$50, \$60

Ashley  
0428 134 399

Kaymar GU Patrol wheel carrier spacer bracket:  
Allows for larger diameter wheels such as 35's and incorporates a fixing for reversing light.  
\$50

ARB GU Patrol dual battery tray  
\$60





## FOR SALE: Esky, roof top bag, swag

See below

[Sally](#)

0412 464 129

**Southern Cross Swag. \$900** Been seasoned, no leaks. Is only a year old. It has been used only 3 times. It is a nice comfy sturdy swag with lots of room. Queen size swag when set up: 1500x2300x950cm  
Queen size swag when rolled up: 1600x400cm

**Rhino Roof Top Bag. \$150** About 12 months old. Hardly used, in very good condition. It works well and keeps everything dry. Measurements: 1000x1200



## FOR SALE: Free fire wood

FREE

[Gary](#)

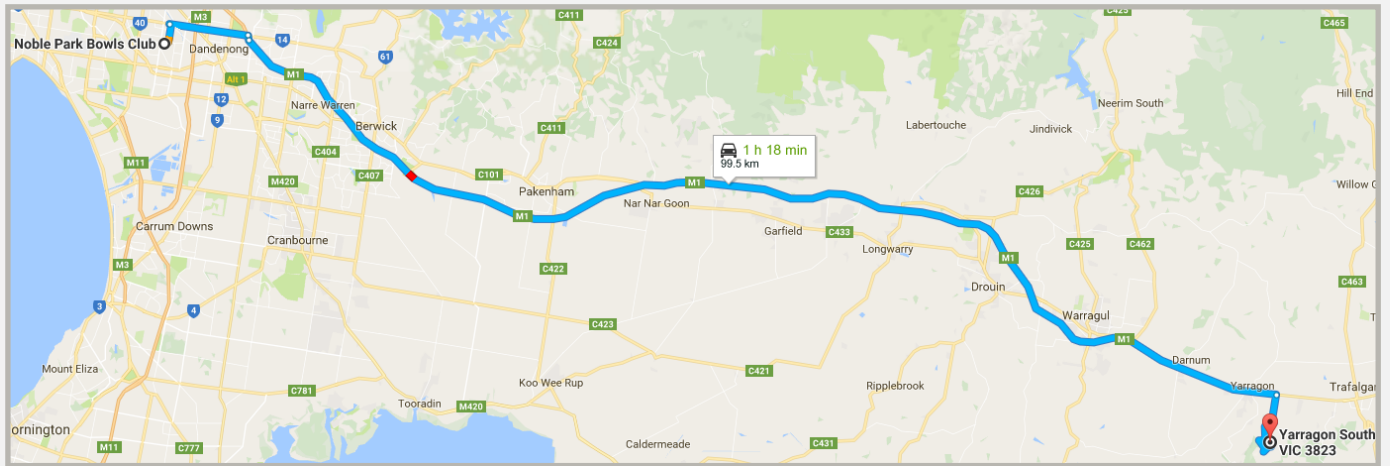
0408 093 529

Blackwood and Gum. Some dry, some are not.

Bring chainsaw and trailer.

I have trees coming down next week, and branches being trimmed also. There is wood on the ground also. Most of it needs cutting up and carting away. Current access is reasonably good.

Location: Yarragon South



## FOR SALE: Samsung CLP-415NW Colour Printer

\$50

[Stuart](#)

0428539157

The club's now retired colour printer. Works perfectly.

See the [full specs here](#)





Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc  
www.vfwdc.com



## Treasurer's Report April 2017

Cheque A/C Opening Balance as at 01/04/2017 \$4,112.10

Add:

Total Monies In: \$0.00

Less: New Membership Cards \$95.00  
Petty Cash \$9.10  
Merchandise \$759.10

Total Monies Out: \$863.20

Closing Balance as at 30/04/2017 \$3,248.90

Term Deposit Opening Balance as at 01/04/2017 \$6,363.69

Closing Balance as at 30/04/2017 \$6,363.69

Petty Cash Opening Balance as at 01/04/2017 \$150.00  
Add: Cheque Account \$9.10  
Less: Catering -\$9.10

Closing Balance as at 30/04/2017 \$150.00

**Consolidated Closing Cash Position \$9,762.59**

# UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Portland Buggy Club
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Bruce MOB: 0400 425 296
DATE	9th to 12th June
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE	WET: Easy DRY: Medium (soft boggy sand)
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>It has been requested that we head back to Portland to drive around the 1800 Hectares that are Portland Buggy club. Some of the best dune driving to be had. Steep, flat, soft, hard etc. Up Down around and around.</p> <p>Very family Friendly trip.</p> <p>There is also some magnificent beach fishing to be had in the gutters off the beach.</p> <p>Camping on site at the buggy club. You will need to be self-sufficient for the weekend - there are no shops.</p> <p>Or you can drive back into Portland, about 30-40 mins.</p> <p>But there are dunnys and showers on site.</p> <p>You will need to apply for a 4 day license with the cost \$50 per driver. Forms will be available at the meeting.</p> <p>More info: <a href="http://www.portlanddunebuggyclub.com.au/">http://www.portlanddunebuggyclub.com.au/</a></p> <p><b>No Buggy Club license - No Buggy Club Driving</b></p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	400km from Melbourne to Portland 1–100kms per day in sand
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	Portland
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	30–40mins Portland
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	<p>*** Full Recovery Gear is Mandatory ***</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sand Flag</li><li>• At least 1 Snatch Strap</li><li>• 2 x Rated Shackles</li><li>• Winch Blanket</li><li>• Gloves</li><li>• Shovel</li><li>• You will need a tyre deflator and compressor to inflate tyres.</li></ul> <p>*** SAND FLAGS ARE MANDATORY. NO FLAG NO DRIVE ***</p>
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12
Google Maps	<a href="#">See here</a>



**DESTINATION** Xmas in July - St Annes Winery 2017

**LEADER/CONTACT NO.** NAME: David  
MOB: 0417 747 860

**DATE** Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th July

**MEETING PLACE / TIME** At St. Annes Winery from 12 mid-day onwards on the Saturday:  
64 Garrards Road, Myrniong VIC 3341

**TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS** Twill be an easy relaxing weekend, camping at the winery itself. Come along, set up your camp - go to the cellar door, sample the wonderful variety of Wines and Ports and purchase your supplies for the weekend.

The Venue will be arranging for a POP UP restaurant for the Saturday LUNCH (we need to know numbers in advance please).

The committee intend to supply the Saturday night dinner for our club on our huge BBQ.

The Committee will also supply a cooked breakfast on the Saturday morning (Bacon and Eggs). Numbers are needed prior to the weekend either by putting you names and passenger number down on the trip data form at a preceding club meeting - or by emailing me on [delegate@vfwdc.com](mailto:delegate@vfwdc.com) with your details. We need to know if you are coming for DINNER ONLY, or staying for breakfast as well. (I need someone from the club who would be interested in assisting with or arranging the food and/or cooking).

Happy hour starts on Saturday as soon as you arrive and are set up, please bring plate(s) of goodies to share around for nibbles!!!!

There is NO 4wding intended at all for the weekend (actually no driving at all until the next day as you head home), but for those who would like to get some 4wheeling done, there will be opportunity to do so upon your departure on Sunday to head up through Wombat SF, I can certainly recommend to try the XL track which has some nice bog holes last time I drove through.

The winery allowed us to have an awesome bon fire on last year, I expect that will have the same opportunity again this year.

**VEHICLE LIMITS** MINIMUM: 5  
MAXIMUM: whole club

**APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION** 400km from Melbourne to Portland  
1–100kms per day in sand

**LAST AVAILABLE FUEL**

**EQUIPMENT REQUIRED** Camping gear if staying overnight. Nibbleys for happy hour.

**RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF** UHF 12

**Google Maps** [See here](#)

<b>DESTINATION</b>	Mt Skene Snow Trip (Easy Group)
<b>LEADER/CONTACT NO.</b>	NAME: Bruce MOB: 0400 425 296
<b>DATE</b>	Friday 14th to Sunday 16th July
<b>MEETING PLACE / TIME</b>	Yarra Glen Bakery Friday night Or make your own way to the campsite Friday night.
<b>GRADE</b>	WET: Hard DRY: It wont be
<b>TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS</b>	Camping overnight around Jamieson area and heading up to Mt Skene to meet up with the other group coming from Lico-la.  Please be Self Sufficient for Snow weather, camping, dinner, drinks, happy hour, etc.  <b>Full recovery gear will be required</b> <b>Front and rear recovery points are a must.</b> <b>Good AT Tyres Minimum</b> <b>Must be financial member of club prior to departure.</b>
<b>VEHICLE LIMITS</b>	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 8
<b>APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION</b>	<30 from camp to camp
<b>LAST AVAILABLE FUEL</b>	PETROL: Jamieson DIESEL: Jamieson
<b>DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES</b>	Not far—Jamieson
<b>EQUIPMENT REQUIRED</b>	FULL RECOVERY GEAR (Any questions see me at meeting) FRONT AND REAR RECOVERY POINTS UHF RADIO GOOD ALL TERRAIN TYRES WARM CLOTHES SPARE WARM CLOTHES CAMPING GEAR ETC CAMERA :) MORE TBA AT MEETING
<b>MAPS REQUIRED</b>	Rooftop maps - Woods Point Mt Skene map
<b>RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF</b>	UHF 12
<b>Google Maps</b>	<a href="#">See here</a>

<b>DESTINATION</b>	<b>NOTE: TRIP IS FULL</b> Mt Skene Snow Trip (Hard Group)
<b>LEADER/CONTACT NO.</b>	NAME: Sam MOB: 0414 503 874
<b>DATE</b>	Friday 14th to Sunday 16th July
<b>MEETING PLACE / TIME</b>	TBC
<b>GRADE</b>	WET: snow conditions
<b>TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS</b>	Weekend trip to Mt Skene. Leaving Friday morning and re- turning Sunday. Trip activities meeting point will be an- nounced closer to trip. Will be going to Licola and staying at
<b>VEHICLE LIMITS</b>	MINIMUM: MAXIMUM: 5
<b>APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION</b>	
<b>LAST AVAILABLE FUEL</b>	PETROL: Heyfield DIESEL: Heyfield
<b>DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES</b>	Approx 50kms
<b>EQUIPMENT REQUIRED</b>	Recovery gear & winches and snow chains if you have.
<b>MAPS REQUIRED</b>	Leader will have maps
<b>RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF</b>	UHF 12
<b>Google Maps</b>	<a href="#">See here</a>

DESTINATION	Beachport / Robe - 2017
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: David MOB: 0417 747 860
DATE	Melbourne Cup Weekend 2017 Friday 3rd to Tuesday 7th (longer if you wish)
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA - Depends on who is coming, and respective departure times
GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: harder if the sand if Dry.
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>I plan to leave very early on the Friday morning from Berwick at approx. 6am to avoid the worst of the peak morning traffic, setting up camp early afternoon.</p> <p>Hopefully arriving to set up at the caravan park in Beachport, and then spend family time on the beach (sunning, fishing, swimming) with opportunities for group drives up the beach or for individual family activities whenever and however you want.</p> <p>BIG Sunday Roast (if we can have the camp fire). If we are lucky the fire ban doesn't start until after Cup Weekend. But we got caught out last year, so no fire.</p> <p>Intending to pack up on the Tuesday morning and head back to Melbourne. Some members usually stay the whole week.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 1 MAXIMUM: 10 +
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	Approx. 550km to Beachport from Melbourne CBD
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Every major town DIESEL: Every major town
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Every major town
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	All Recover gear - Max Trax if you have them Self Sufficient for all camping gear (in a caravan park)
MAPS REQUIRED	Normal GPS to get to Beachport Beach track maps are available at Beachport
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12
Google Maps	<a href="#">See here</a>





# ABERFELDY WORKING BEE

5th to 7th May  
by Maree

Stuart & Maree	Toyota
Tony	Ranger
Pete	Colorado
Garry	Patrol



**Friday 5 May 2017**

Heading up we met at the Erica Hotel, a wonderful meal enjoyed by everyone. We headed to Fiddlers Green for our first camp. A camp fire enjoyed by all. It was a bit chilly up at Fiddlers Green.

**Saturday 6th May**

Up early and packed up, we cleaned the area of rubbish, cleaned the signs and whiper snipped around the area. The water trough next task, another clean up, removing rubbish and unwanted vegetation.

Then to the Eldorado mine site, clean up, remove rubbish and unwanted vegetation. Then moving on to Aberfeldy town where we talked to Barbara Smith who lives there. She



enlightened us on the progress of the historical society, pointed out that there was a toilet block here and it was taken away. Thanking us all for the work we do, as she pointed out everyone does a little and we achieve great things.

Heading down Pluto track, a bit slippery, we removed a tree.

On to Aberfeldy crossing, where we worked on the walking track to the sign at the end, explaining why there is a bottle collection there. The two whiper snipers working, with others removing rubbish, and cleaning the path. The sun shined and we all worked hard.



Then we decided to go down O'Keefe track, the weather turned and we stopped at the communication tower, as you can see the dark clouds. A few drops of rain, as we headed to Little O'tooles for our camp.



As we were setting up camp this little kookaburra sat in the tree laughing at us. I asked did he know something we don't? Yes that it was going to rain all night.



### Sunday 7th May

The weather overnight was a deluge, it precipitated all night long. So we assessed how to get out and we decided to take the safe option, across the river crossing at Jorgenson and there were loads of campers there, obviously the rain made this a popular place. The slipping on the wet road, we passed Merringtons flat and on to the main road.

It was a great weekend even if the weather was not as pleasant on the Sunday.

But all the boys enjoyed a play in the mud on the way home.





# RUBICON STATE FOREST

20th May  
by Brett

Members attended:

Brett (and Oscar)

Callum (and Zac)

With the forecast earlier in the week predicting a large amount of rain, Ashley's trip to Avoca was postponed. However, as the rain didn't seem to eventuate, we decided to do a last minute trip to Marysville on a reconnaissance trip.

We met up at the Beechworth Bakery in Healesville at 9am for breakfast and to stock up on food for lunch before continuing up to Marysville.

It was decided to use Mount Margaret Road as our access into the Rubicon State Forest. The first track we came across was Ghost Point Track and stopped to air down before embarking down the unknown. The going was pretty easy but this track obviously didn't get much traffic and after successfully passing under one fallen tree, discovered our path blocked by a multitude of fallen trees further on. We turned back and continued along Mount Margaret Road again until finding Boundary Track.

Our map highlighted that Boundary Track was rough with bogholes but that didn't deter us from taking a look. While the track was a little loose and muddy, it looked to have been recently graded so we didn't have any particular concerns until a large falling branch narrowly missed Callum's Ranger followed by a suddenly disappearing track.





The track had become overgrown but we were able to continue for a short way before the track magically reappeared and we popped out on Keppel Hut Track. It was here, we saw what had been doing the track grading and let the kids see up close the heavy machinery.

Following this track, we found Keppel Hut and sat down at the picnic bench next to the hut to have our lunch. The hut has been rebuilt after some bush fires and it looks really nice. With our stomachs full, McFayden Track was next and proved to be a little more technical than anything we had done so far on the trip. It was a narrow track with sections of mud and rocks to negotiate and it led us to Tom Burns track which had us testing bogholes for depth before crossing.

It was 2.30pm by now and we arrived at the power station to the south of the Rubicon Historic Area. After a quick stop, we had to start making our way back to a major road to head home. Driving north along Royston River Road, we noticed an interesting track called Snobs No 6 Track that had to be attempted. This turned out to be a really fun track where we were driving in sloppy mud ruts. Taking it slowly and running muddies, we found the vehicles still stepping out, giving the rally driving feel.



Last stop was Snobs Creek Falls as it was on the way out to the Snobs Creek township. It was quite spectacular and quite a lot of water was cascading down, making for great sounds as well. As it was now 4pm, we aired up and high tailed it out home.

The area was very picturesque and the driving fun. We briefly encountered some trail bike riders, mountain bike riders, runners and another 4wd group but otherwise seemingly had the tracks to ourselves. The tracks we drove are subject to seasonal closures so will look to run a trip once they reopen.



# FLINDERS RANGES

14th to 29th April  
by Tony

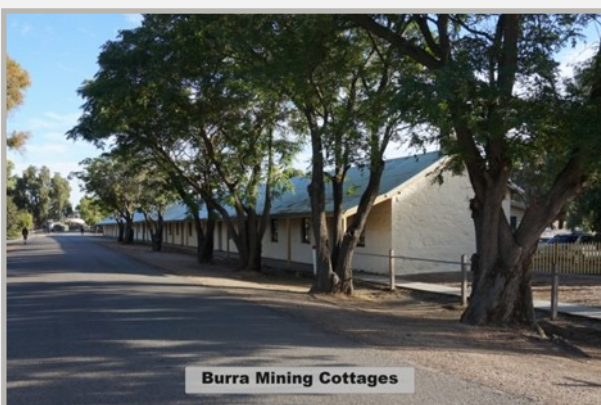
Strzelecki Track

Our trip begins on Good Friday at 6am meeting up with Stuart & Maree and Mick & Sally at the 7 eleven service station in Ardeer North where we had McDonald's for breakfast. From here we headed for Mildura, on our way there we stopped at Wycheproof bakery for morning tee and had some amazing coffee & cakes and I had a magnificent Nutella donut.

From here we continued on towards Mildura where we stopped at Red Cliffs to have a look at Big Lizzie a unique crude oil powered prime mover.

From here Stuart & Maree left us to visit friends of theirs near Mildura so we headed for Renmark where we stopped for dinner and then made tracks for Burra where we stayed for the night in a wonderful miner's cottage and had a relaxing night. In the morning we packed our bags and had a look around town and found a great cafe where we had a cuppa & breakfast.

After we had our fill we filled up the vehicles and had a look around town and found a historic open cut mine on the outskirts of Burra with great views and loads of interesting mining equipment and buildings.







We then left Burra and headed for Hawker where we stopped for lunch some fuel and some fresh vegetables, when we had finished our shopping we then headed for Alpana Station where we set up camp. Stuart & Maree were about one hour behind us. It was great to be there; we had travelled about 1200km to our first camping ground.

After we set up camp we lit a fire with some of the wood I had in Tiny and we relaxed around the camp fire. We got up on Sunday morning and decided to go to Wilpena Pound where we spent the morning. We went for a walk to the homestead and then had lunch at the information centre. From Wilpena Pound we headed for Brachina Gorge.

Driving through Brachina Gorge is a wonderful experience full of beautiful colours and rock formations we stopped about half way take a picture when Maree spotted a yellow footed rock wallaby, we then headed back to camp.



The next day we drove the Mt Samuel self drive 4WD Experience on Alpana property. It took most of the day, with great views and some of the best technical tracks through Mt Buggery Gorge and on to Angorichina Village. We fuelled up and then went to Blinman and stopped at the hotel but it was closed. So we headed back to camp for the night. We had a fantastic day.

The next day we had booked a drive on Mt Caernarvon Track which used to be part of Skytrek but is now separate and run by volunteers. This was the most spectacular track of the trip climbing to a height of 921metres and situated on Bunkers Conservation Reserve and takes most of the day to drive this track.



The views from Mt Caernarvon are stunning and when we reached Davey's lookout there was a short walk to the lookout. When you reach it, there's a bus stop seat to relax and enjoy the views. After this we stopped and had lunch and then headed back to camp for our last night at Alpana Station.





We all packed up and headed for Baltana Station via Parachilna where we stopped at the pub for lunch and had an amazing meal. From here we headed for Baltana station and set up camp Baltana station is massive its 1,876 square km.



**Prairie Hotel Parachilna**



**Prairie Hotel Parachilna**



**Baltana Station Camp**



This is where the trip became interesting as we started to get rain which caused the closure or some of the tracks we had planned to do. So as usual we had a change of plan so we decided to go for a drive to Marree via Farina township and camp ground.

We stopped at Farina and had a look around the ruins reading the story boards and learning about the history of this little town. Lots of fun. We then went and had a look at the war memorial set behind the campgrounds—what a beautiful spot.



From Here we headed for Marree for a look around. Marree was one of the towns that the old Ghan train use to stop at, and is also the point where both the Oodnadatta track and Birdsville track meet. From here we headed back to camp where it's been raining so it looks like tracks will be closed for another day so we will have to think of something to do.



Over the night we had rain again which meant that the tracks would remain closed. So one of the station hands suggested that we take a drive to Aroona Dam and then down a back road following the old Ghan railway to the town of Baltana. Then back onto the main road and back to camp.





This was an interesting day Aroona dam was brilliant and then the town of Baltana was awesome with plenty of buildings in good condition. We visited the art gallery of a local painter that was great to see. We then decided to have lunch in the town. After lunch we headed for Baltana Station the back way and had a look at the Afghan memorial and then back to camp.



The following day we decided because the tracks were still closed we headed to port Augusta to do our washing and make a day of it as well. We got about 35km down the road when we find at Black swamp the road flooded and there were cars and truck parked on each side of the flood water waiting for the water level to drop.



I have never see such a sight where a flooded road becomes a social event. Everyone was patiently waiting for the floodwater to drop. In the mean time we all gathered and had a chat some people had been waiting for four hours. The flood water level was at about 600mm and flowing hard when we first arrived.

When the water level dropped to about 500mm, two road trains decided to cross the floodway. The funniest thing happened when the first truck exited the flood water his one of the spare wheels was floating away from the trailer. So Mick and someone retrieved the wheel - an unusual sight. After about three hrs the water level dropped to 450mm when we decided to head back. Stuart changed into shorts and walked the road to check depth and for water flow and road damage all was good. Stuart decided to give it a go and drive through the flood water so we decided to follow. This is where someone on the other side of the floodway took a picture of Stuart and emailed the picture to the club.





We then headed back to camp that night we decided it was time to leave Baltana and head to Arkaroola. So in the morning we packed up camp and headed for Arkaroola and set up camp. The following morning we drove the difficult track which was a great drive with some interesting tracks. We stopped at Bararranna Gorge and had some lunch. I got a great picture of a yellow footed rock wallaby and some great features.





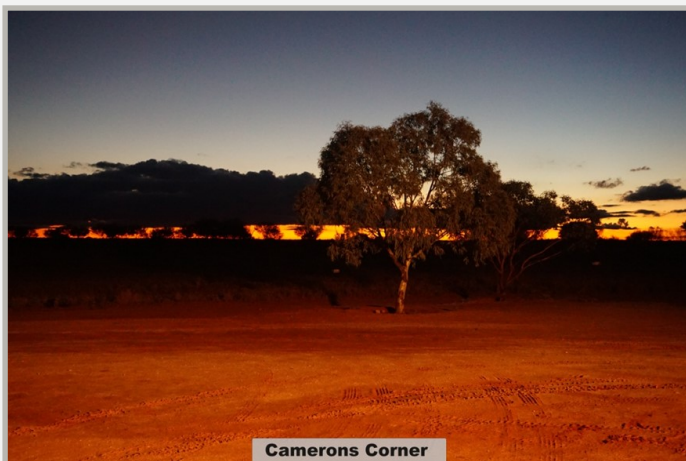
After we completed the track we had to decide where to from here. We looked at what roads were open and where we wanted to visit. So we decided to head for Camerons Corner for one night and then to Tibooburra and onto Broken Hill for two nights.

We packed up the next morning and headed for Camerons Corner the drive there was all dirt road. About two hours in, we came across some real muddy section of roads to the point that Stuart made it through and I just made it. Mick almost made it so Stuart helped pull Mick out and they went around the boggy bit.

We continued on and came across some eagles on the side of the road and when we reached the road to Merty Merty. We stopped to put some fuel in and clean the windscreen. Boy, red mud was everywhere.



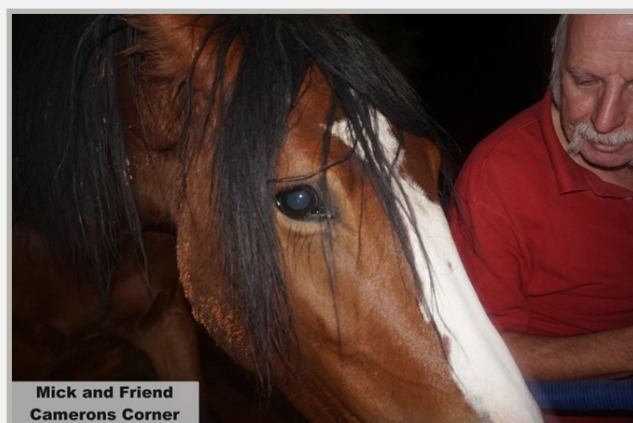
We continued towards Cameron's corner as the sun was setting and the colours of the sand dunes was amazing, We arrived at Cameron's Corner on sunset it was spectacular. We then set up camp and had a meal It was one of the highlights of our trip. The Publican with beer in hand joked and joined us for a short time and made us all feel welcome. Can't wait to get back there. After dinner and a couple of drinks we went back to camp and had another drink where the friendly horse took a liking to Mick.



Camerons Corner



The Corner Store



Mick and Friend  
Camerons Corner

From Cameron's Corner we headed for Tibooburra where we had lunch and filled our fuel tanks. Stuart and Maree decided to leave us as they wanted to go to Deniliquin. So Mick, Sally, Lisa and I headed for Broken Hill where we visited the main attractions such as Art Galleries, Railway Museum and Mining Museum it was a relaxing walk around town.



**Camerons Corner Marker**

From Broken Hill we headed for Wycheproof where we stayed the night and then headed home for what was a fantastic adventure with friends. We travelled about 6,000km over 16 days I would like to thank Stuart & Maree, Mick & Sally for Joining us and for their help. I also would like to thank Bruce, Brett and Ian for Information regarding the Flinders Ranges.