



# FREE WHEELING

November 2019



Original photo by M Griffiths  
Burgoyne's Track

Official Newsletter of the  
Victorian Four Wheel  
Drive Club Inc

Registration No  
A0002184F



## NOTICE BOARD



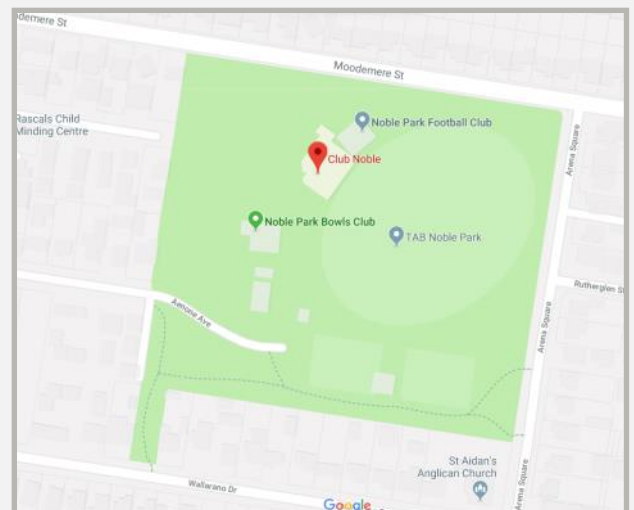
### VFWDC General Meeting Venue

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.

#### Blue and Gold Room

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

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

## 2019-2020

President	Steve Pitcher	<a href="mailto:president@vfwdc.com">president@vfwdc.com</a>
Vice President	David Bruinsma	<a href="mailto:vicepres@vfwdc.com">vicepres@vfwdc.com</a>
Secretary	Sally Higgs	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
Treasurer	Ly Ho	<a href="mailto:treasurer@vfwdc.com">treasurer@vfwdc.com</a>

## General Committee

Trip Coordinator	Des Whall	<a href="mailto:trips@vfwdc.com">trips@vfwdc.com</a>
Magazine Editor	Mary Griffiths	<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	Callum Brown Jeff Griffiths	

## 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>
Catering	Ann Crockett	

## 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 <a href="http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au">Four Wheel Drive Victoria</a> - <a href="http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au">www.fwdvictoria.org.au</a>	

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hi all,

I hope that you enjoy reading this month's edition of *Free Wheeling* magazine.

With so many people taking a break over the Melbourne Cup weekend, please remember that our usual monthly meeting will be delayed by 1 week to be held on Wednesday, 13 November 2019. While I would love to be there for that meeting, it happens to fall on the same date as my eldest daughter's birthday. Apologies in advance that I won't be able to make it to the November meeting. Our VP, David Bruinsma, will chair the meeting in my absence.

This month, we will be holding our annual off-site meeting which will be hosted by our friends at Aussie Disposals at their main headquarters in Dandenong South. This will be a great opportunity for everyone in the club to sample some bush cooking ahead of the meeting, hear about what new products have come into the market, take advantage of some on-the-night specials and grab whatever other camping gear may be needed for the summer ahead. Doors open from 6:30pm (light meal provided for those who attend) with the official part of our meeting kicking off from 7pm.

Cup weekend also marks the reopening of most seasonally-closed 4WD tracks. While many tracks will be re-opened in time for the weekend, there is no guarantee that all tracks will have been opened (or cleared from fallen trees) by then. If you are planning to travel into an area that has been affected by seasonal track closure, please remember to check the Parks Victoria website first or call the local ranger station before you head off and don't forget to pack a chainsaw just in case!

Speaking of trips, we have a local short trip and longer (interstate) trip scheduled over the Melbourne Cup weekend. It's great to see that we have a couple of different trip options available to cater to different needs and interests. If you are interested but haven't yet got your name down for one of these trips, feel free to get in touch with the relevant trip leader (details within the magazine) before it's too late.

Finally, remember to save the date for our annual Club Christmas function. This year, it will be held on Saturday, 7 December 2019 at Gembrook (full details are available within the magazine).

Keep safe, tread lightly and have fun out there!

Steve Pitcher

President



CLUB MERCHANDISE



PRICING


Club Polo Shirt	\$28.00	Club Hoodie	\$50.00
Club Singlet and T-Shirt	\$15.00	Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$50.00
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$45.00	Club Bucket Hat	\$16.00
Club Caps	\$10.00	Club Beanie	\$10.00
Club Wide Brim Hat	\$18.00	VFWDC Windscreen stickers	
Club Drivers Jacket (Coat)	\$70.00	Small	\$6.00
		Large	\$8.00
Club Cloth Badges 120mm	\$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.

# CLUB NOBLE FORM

Did you know if you're a member of Club Noble (the sporting club next door to the meeting), you get discounts on your meal and drinks. And when it's your birthday, you get more than enough points for a feed and drink. \$10 per year—pretty good I reckon!

[Click here to download the form](#) and hand it to reception desk.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Membership Application (Please tick)

New ☐ Renewal ☐ Existing Member No: .....

Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms ☐ Other ☐

Given Name/s: ..... Male ☐ Female ☐ D.O.B: ...../...../.....

Last Name: .....

Postal Address: ..... Suburb: .....

State: ..... Postcode: ..... Mobile Number: ..... Home Phone: .....

Email Address: .....

Membership Fee (Please Tick)

1 Year \$10 ☐ 2 years \$20 ☐ 3 Years \$30 ☐

Payment Details (Please Tick)

Cash ☐ Cheque ☐ C/C ☐

Card Holders Name: ..... Card Type: Visa ☐ M/card ☐

Card No: ...../...../..... Expiry Date: ...../...../.....

Signature: ..... Date: ...../...../.....

I hereby apply to become a member of the Noble Park Football Social Club Ltd and agree to observe the rules and by-laws. I verify that I am over the age of 18 and have received and carefully read and understood the Loyalty Membership terms. I agree to strictly abide by these Loyalty Membership Terms as amended from time to time and declare that the details in the application are true and correct.

I wish to receive communications including promotional material, third party offers that include alcohol or gaming related advertising (Please Tick)

Yes ☐ No ☐


I agree to receive my Player Activity Statement in accordance with government legislation (Please tick one box only)

Mail ☐ SMS ☐ Email ☐

I agree to accept the Annual Report and Financial Statement via: Please Circle one option

Members Section (Website) Email

Signature: ..... Date: ...../...../.....



YourPlay gives you the power to track how much money and time you are spending as you play. You can also use YourPlay to set limits on the money and time you spend on gaming machines and to see your playing history online at any time. YourPlay can be added to your loyalty membership card and used on any gaming machine in Victoria. You can register for YourPlay at [yourplay.com.au](http://yourplay.com.au) or ask a staff member for assistance

INTERNAL USE ONLY

Membership Number: ..... Customer ID Sighted: .....

Staff Member's Name: ..... Confirm Customer's over 18: .....

THANK YOU AND WELCOME TO CLUB NOBLE



# CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

## November

1st to 5th	Fri to Tue	Beachport / Robe—Trip	Cancelled	
2nd to 10th	Sat to Sun	Eyre Peninsula SA-Coodlie Park Farm Retreat	Brett Buchanan	0407 878 970
2nd to 5th	Sat to Tue	Buchan to Mckilops Bridge (Deddick Trail)	Jeff Griffiths	0425 705 224
9th	Sat	Marysville and surrounds	Stuart & Maree	0428 539 157
13th	Wed	Aussie Disposals Dandenong South—Special Meeting		
17 Nov to 8 Dec		Tasmania 22 Days Away	Stuart Bowker	0428 539 157
18th	Mon	Committee Meeting		
22nd to 24th	Fri to Sun	David's 50th Birthday Camp	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860

## December

4th	Wed	General Meeting		
7th	Sat	Club Christmas Party 2019	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
14th to 15th	Sat to Sun	Strathbogie Ranges	Jeff Griffiths	0425 705 224

## January

		No General Meeting		
20th	Mon	Committee Meeting		
25th to 27th	Sat to Mon	Ulupna Beach—Ulupna Island	Steve Pitcher	0421 205 529

## IMPORTANT



**November** meeting will be at Aussie Disposals Dandenong South. Please note the date is Wednesday 13th of November. A delicious BBQ dinner will be served at 7PM. Please RSVP on the trip form at the October General meeting for catering purposes. Meeting will commence around 7:30PM

Address: [345-353 S Gippsland Hwy, Dandenong South VIC 3175](https://www.google.com/maps/place/345-353+S+Gippsland+Hwy,+Dandenong+South+VIC+3175). [Google Maps link here](https://www.google.com/maps/place/345-353+S+Gippsland+Hwy,+Dandenong+South+VIC+3175)

Safety Dave is offering discounts on a range of products for VFWDC members.

Speak to David Bruinsma for more details.



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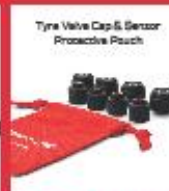
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# MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

4th October 2019

## Attendees

As per attendance sheet

## Apologies

As per attendance sheet

- Phil
- Ben W

## Minutes from Last Meeting

Accepted by Stuart B

Seconded by Jeff

## Matters arising from Last Meeting

- Nil

## Correspondence In/ Out:

Emails In and out:

- Various Four Wheel Drive Victoria Emails
- Four Wheel Drive Victoria E News

## Mail

- Bendigo Bank Statement
- Pajero Nav Event 2020 Details—brochure
- Land Rover Club Magazine
- Four Wheel Drive Victoria Member Stickers

## Treasurer's Report

- As per treasure's report for both August and September
- Accepted by David B
- Seconded by Callum B

## Association Delegate Report

- David attended 4WD Victoria delegates information meeting
- Discussed media response to association position on the changes to the state parks in Victoria
- Secured a further 3 years of funding from Government

- RTO has been achieving its goals and bringing in significant revenue mainly from corporate training they are doing
- Association AGM is in the week after Melbourne Cup weekend. General board positions will be open
- Considering leasing a property to conduct training in own area
- Considering purchasing a building to house the association and lease out balance. Some other clubs considering going in with them
- Looking for clubs to support track clearing in Toolangi - it is on the same weekend as our Aberfeldy working Bee
- Consider snakes when out and about
- Fire Restrictions in the East Gippsland Shire are in place already through to May next year
- Special discounts available for Husquvana Chainsaws through the Association as per their E-News which was sent out 26.09.2019
- Association has closed Facebook group that you can join.
- Remember to gather information if you clear tracks so that you can submit details to 4WD Victoria on the volunteer work that we contribute to.

## New Members/Guests and Prospective Members

Visitors - as per attendance sheet

- Derek

## Driver Training

- Driver training tentatively booked for March 2020.
- Advanced course is being considered
- Shane and Jennie Grant - Proficiency Certificates issued.

## Guest Speakers

No guest speaker tonight

## General Business

- Merchandise - A lot of hoodies are still in stock so please see Des for a deal
- Annual Club offsite—November 13th (Wednesday) - Aussie Disposals Warehouse in Dandenong South—Doors open at 7pm, meeting from 7:30pm
- Club Magazine—Mary Griffiths will be our new Editor
- Travel Buddy deal—Ashley is coordinating a group buy—please contact him via Facebook if interested
- Steve Dixon presented gas bottle holder—aluminium, powder coated—\$120
- Trackwatch Magazine is available
- 4WD Victoria Membership Stickers for 2020 are now available

## Upcoming Trips

See trip data forms attached

- Club Offsite—Aussie Disposals 13.11.2019
- Aberfeldy working bee 19-20 Oct (David) - Staying at Little O'Tooles
- Cup Weekend: Eyre Peninsula (Brett) - Staying at Coodlie Park.
- Cup Weekend (Nov) - Robe/Beachport (David) - looking for 5 other vehicles to go otherwise will need to cancel.
- Cup Weekend (Nov) - Deddick Trail (Jeff) starting from Buchan.
- Tasmania (Stuart) - Full
- Dave's Birthday Trip—O'Tooles 22nd November
- Christmas Party—Venue TBC (Ly) - 7th December
- Australia Day Weekend—Carters Beach Ulupna Island—Steve

Reminder to have personal information form in each vehicle.

Forms can be found here <https://vfwdc.com/forms.html>

Reminder to watch out for the opportunities to nominate someone for a Good on Ya Award.

## Past Trip Reports

- Waterfalls Trip—David B—Mt Worth State Park—Lots of hiking to see waterfalls
- Photography Trip—Steve Dixon—started in Walhalla, Brunton Bridge, Coopers Creek camping area, Coppermine Hotel
- Mitchell Park—Des—Camped in valley at Tabbarabbera

## Raffle Prizes

- Umbrella—Michael
- Chainsaw Sharpening Kit—Tristan
- Map Kit—Des
- Winch Extension Strap—Caroline
- 4WD Adventures Map Book—Tristan
- Ryobi Drill Bit Kit Andre

Meeting Closed: 21:45 Hours

Next meeting: November 13th 2019—Offsite at Aussie Disposals



Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc  
www.vfwdc.com



## Treasurer's Report September 2019

<u>Cheque A/C`</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/09/2019		\$5,336.29
Add:	Raffle	\$100.00	
	Membership renewals	\$260.00	
	Merchandise 1 x beanie	\$20.00	
	Total Monies In:		\$380.00
<u>Less:</u>			
	Catering	\$22.20	
	Club Noble – Room Hire	\$1,000.00	
	Total Monies Out:	\$1,022.20	
	Closing Balance as at 30/09/2019		\$4,694.29
<u>Term Deposit</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/09/2019	\$6,670.26	
	Interest Paid	\$32.78	
	Closing Balance as at 30/09/2019		\$6,703.04
<u>Petty Cash</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/09/2019	\$50.00	
	Add:		
	Less:		
	Closing Balance as at 30/09/2019		\$50.00
	<b>Consolidated Closing Cash Position</b>		<b>\$11,397.33</b>

# UPCOMING TRIPS

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

Eyre Peninsula SA - Coodlie Park Farm Retreat

NAME: Brett Buchanan

MOB: 0407 878 970

**DATE**  
**MEETING PLACE / TIME**

Saturday 2nd November 2018 to Sunday 10th November 2019

On Road - TBA

**GRADE**

WET: Medium

DRY: Medium

**TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS**

Camper Trailer Friendly - Base Camp at Coodlie Farm. Various accommodation options available see [www.coodliepark.com.au](http://www.coodliepark.com.au)

We are going off grid for the 5 days at Coodlie Park. Explore 4wd tracks on northern section of Eyre Peninsula.

- [Talía - Lake Newland Conservation Park](#) - Sand Dunes & Beach Fishing
- [Gawler Ranges National Park](#)
- [Venus Bay Conservation Park](#) - Westall Way Loop
- Coodlie Park Beach
- [Baird Bay Eco Experience](#) - Swim with Sea Lions & Dolphins (nb cost applies approx. \$180 per person half day) include a diversion to Murphy's Hay Stacks
- [Elliston](#) or [Streaky Bay](#)

Warning - Travel to and from Coodlie Park - will be long with minimal breaks - aim for a night which will require a driver change only.



**VEHICLE LIMITS**

MINIMUM: 1 (us)

MAXIMUM: 10 (more the merrier)

**APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION**

1400 kms each way plus local driving

**LAST AVAILABLE FUEL**

PETROL/DIESEL: Main Highway throughout - last fuel before Coodlie Park - Wudinna Eyre Highway

**DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES**

On Highway 2-300 kms

**EQUIPMENT REQUIRED**

Basic Recovery equipment for Sand Driving i.e. Shovel Recovery Boards, Snatch strap etc.

**MAPS REQUIRED**

Hema - leader will have maps

**RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF**

Channel 14

**GOOGLE MAPS**



[See here](#)



<b>DESTINATION</b>	Buchan to McKillops Bridge (Deddick Trail)
<b>LEADER/CONTACT NO.</b>	NAME: Jeff Griffiths MOB: 0425 705 224
<b>DATE</b>	Melbourne Cup Long Weekend 2nd November 2019 to 5th November 2019
<b>MEETING PLACE / TIME</b>	BP McDonalds on the Pakenham Bypass (on the freeway) Meet at 7:30 AM for 8:00 am departure
<b>GRADE</b>	WET: Medium / Difficult DRY: Medium
<b>TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS</b>	<p>Drive up to Jacksons Crossing and camp by the Snowy River</p> <p>Sunday Head up to Raymond falls to have a look then to Waratah Flat camping ground</p> <p>Monday Head to the Deddick trail camp at McKillops Bridge</p> <p>Tuesday Head home might do a few tracks on the way out Please note as this is the first weekend the tracks will be open please bring a chainsaw if you have one.</p>
<b>VEHICLE LIMITS</b>	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 8
<b>APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION</b>	Total kms for weekend about 700kms
<b>LAST AVAILABLE FUEL</b>	PETROL: None after Buchan DIESEL: None after Buchan
<b>EQUIPMENT REQUIRED</b>	Full recovery gear, long range tank or carry extra fuel in jerry cans. AT or MT tyres. High clearance. Must have a snorkel, fitted UHF radio in vehicle or hand held, tools and any spares you may require. All your own camping gear and food for 4 days. Nibbles for happy hour. Sorry no Camper Trailers
<b>MAPS REQUIRED</b>	Rooftops Snowy River -McKillops Bridge -Lakes Entrance
<b>RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF</b>	UHF 12
<b>GOOGLE MAPS</b>	<a href="#">See here</a>

<b>DESTINATION</b>	Marysville and surrounds
<b>LEADER/CONTACT NO.</b>	NAME: Start & Maree Mobile: Stuart 0428539157
<b>DATE</b>	Saturday 09/11/2019
<b>MEETING PLACE / TIME</b>	Marysville main street outside the bakery 9.00am for a 9.30am 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 Buxton if anyone is interested.  Bring packed lunch and munchies for roadside stops
<b>VEHICLE LIMITS</b>	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: n/-
<b>APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION</b>	300-400 km 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 LPG: No LPG
<b>DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES</b>	400 kms
<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
<b>RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF</b>	
<b>GOOGLE MAPS</b>	<a href="#">See here</a>



DESTINATION	Tasmania 22 days away
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Stuart and Maree MOB: 0428 539 157
DATE	Sunday 17th November 2019 day sail to Devonport to Sunday 8th December 2019 9:30 am day sail to Melbourne
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Spirit of Tasmania Departure point Station Pier Port Melbourne 7:30 am or as per boarding requirements
GRADE	WET: Extremely difficult   DRY: Difficult 
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Plan is to do some of Tasmania's iconic four wheel drive tracks.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 5
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	Approximately 2000 km in Tasmania
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Available in most towns in Tasmania DIESEL: Available in most towns in Tasmania
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Available in most towns in Tasmania
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Full recovery gear and well setup vehicles only, lifted, A/T tyres, F&R recovery points, winch etc. Camping gear to be self sufficient for at least four days NO CAMPER TRAILERS as many tracks are rated difficult.
MAPS REQUIRED	Hema Tasmania
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	Channel 12
GOOGLE MAPS	<a href="#">See here</a>

<b>DESTINATION</b>	Aberfeldy—David's 50th Birthday Camp
<b>LEADER/CONTACT NO.</b>	David Bruinsma 0417 747 860
<b>DATE</b>	Friday 22nd November to Sunday 24th November 2019
<b>MEETING PLACE / TIME</b>	O'Tooles Camping Area
<b>GRADE</b>	Wet: Medium Dry: Easy
<b>TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS</b>	<p>I'll be heading off directly after school gets out (probably 4:30pm) on the Friday and going straight up to O'Tools to find and claim an area for everyone who is expected to come.</p> <p>For those that would like to come in a group - so to not get lost, I'll put people in touch with each other to travel in a large group, or a bunch of smaller groups.</p> <p>For those that are interested, I'll can take a convoy around on the Saturday to either show where some of the historic mine shafts that are around (that are safe to enter) and / or I can show people the different locations of the tracks and signs that we as a club are responsible for maintaining.</p> <p>Some real 4wd'ing will be required for that. But feel free to come and go over the weekend doing whatever you want to do - there will be no official stuff organised, we just wing it with whatever happens. (not my usual trip - I usually have everything planned down to ½ hour blocks)</p> <p>Otherwise I'll be very content to just plonk myself down around the camp fire for the weekend and just CHILL.</p> <p>I won't be packing up to leave until AFTER lunch on the Sunday.</p>
<b>VEHICLE LIMITS</b>	N/A —I'm going anyway N/A
<b>APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION</b>	300-400 Km round trip.
<b>LAST AVAILABLE FUEL</b>	Moe: Desiel, Petrol & LPG
<b>DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES</b>	72Km
<b>EQUIPMENT REQUIRED</b>	<p>Own basic recovery gear, tools and any spares you may require, especially if you would like to do some tracks over the weekend.</p> <p>Self-sufficient camping and food for the weekend.</p>
<b>MAPS REQUIRED</b>	Rooftop maps Walhalla-Licola
<b>RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF</b>	UHF 12, or call me on mobile
<b>GOOGLE MAPS</b>	<a href="#">See here</a>

<b>DESTINATION</b>	Club Christmas Party 2019 Gilwell Scout Park 2555 Gembrook-Launching Place Road, Gembrook
<b>LEADER/CONTACT NO.</b>	David Bruinsma
<b>DATE</b>	Saturday 7th December, 2019 Free overnight camping available (BYO gear)
<b>MEETING PLACE / TIME</b>	Gilwell Scout Park 2555 Gembrook-Launching Place Road, Gembrook From 10.00am onwards
<b>GRADE</b>	WET: 2WD accessible DRY: 2WD accessible
<b>TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS</b>	We will be holding the Club Christmas party at Gilwell Scout Park.  The club will put on a spit roast for lunch. Everyone is requested to bring/contribute a share plate/platter, or a salad or cake/dessert to share.
<b>VEHICLE LIMITS</b>	MINIMUM: N/A MAXIMUM: N/A
<b>APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION</b>	
<b>LAST AVAILABLE FUEL</b>	PETROL: N/A DIESEL: N/A
<b>DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES</b>	N/A
<b>EQUIPMENT REQUIRED</b>	Usual camping gear if needed if intending to stay overnight. BYO chairs.
<b>MAPS REQUIRED</b>	
<b>RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF</b>	
<b>GOOGLE MAPS</b>	



<b>DESTINATION</b>	Strathbogie Ranges
<b>LEADER/CONTACT NO.</b>	Jeff Griffiths Mobile: 0425 705 224
<b>DATE</b>	Saturday 14th to 15th December, 2019
<b>MEETING PLACE / TIME</b>	McDonalds Lilydale—7.30am for 8.00am Departure
<b>GRADE</b>	WET: Easy DRY: Easy
<b>TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS</b>	Will be heading up to Strathbogie State Forest for a pre-Christmas weekend away to have a look around the area and check out a few tracks. Saturday night will be camping at James Reserve Camping area. This trip will be an easy relaxing trip suitable for new members.
<b>VEHICLE LIMITS</b>	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
<b>APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION</b>	350k return trip
<b>LAST AVAILABLE FUEL</b>	PETROL: Bonnie Doon DIESEL: Bonnie Doon
<b>DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES</b>	
<b>EQUIPMENT REQUIRED</b>	Basic recovery equipment AT or MT tyres, UHF Radio. Camping gear for overnight, food and drinks.
<b>MAPS REQUIRED</b>	Rooftops Benalla-Mansfield, Strathbogie Ranges Adventure Map
<b>RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF</b>	12
<b>GOOGLE MAPS</b>	

<b>DESTINATION</b>	Australia Day Long Weekend 2019
<b>LEADER/CONTACT NO.</b>	NAME: Steve Pitcher Mobile: 0421 205 529
<b>DATE</b>	Saturday 25 January 2020 to Monday 27 January 2020
<b>MEETING PLACE / TIME</b>	Northbound Shell Service Station at 1175 Hume Highway, Mickleham (Aiming for 10am departure to get to our destination by around (lunchtime).
<b>GRADE</b>	WET: 2WD DRY: 2WD (4WD may be required to camp on foreshore)
<b>TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS</b>	Relaxing weekend camping on the banks of the Murray River at Ulupna Beach, Ulupna Island.  It gets very hot during the day so adequate supplies of water, proper shelter and sunscreen are highly recommended. Camper trailer friendly. It can get extremely gusty of an evening (short bursts) so sand pegs are highly recommended.  Koalas can be found in the area and there is a strawberry farm just up the road.  BYO fishing rods (permits available in Strathmerton), kayaks, hammocks, etc.
<b>VEHICLE LIMITS</b>	MINIMUM: N/A MAXIMUM: N/A
<b>APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION</b>	300kms (approx.) Fuel, ice and other supplies available nearby at Strathmerton township.
<b>LAST AVAILABLE FUEL</b>	PETROL: Strathmerton DIESEL: Strathmerton
<b>DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES</b>	10Km from camp
<b>EQUIPMENT REQUIRED</b>	Usual camping gear (no 4WDing planned - just R&R). If you can bring some firewood, that would really help!
<b>MAPS REQUIRED</b>	N/A—follow signs from Strathmerton
<b>RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF</b>	UHF 12
<b>GOOGLE MAPS</b>	

## Photography 4x4 Trip

Wahalla & Surrounding Areas

Photographer—Jacqui Barr  
Ann Crockett—Prado  
Mary Griffiths & Jeff Griffiths —BT50  
Stephen Dicksen—Jeep



In the early morning of Saturday 14th September a convoy of five vehicles headed off from the Officer Outbound Maccas on their way up to Walhalla. First stop was at Erica Reserve for some refreshments aka scones and coffee whilst photographer Jacqui Barr took the group through the basic operation of DSLR cameras.

Once the foundation was laid, with comprehensive photography manuals for everyone to keep handed out, it was time to put the vehicles into 4x4 high.



The old township of Happy Go Lucky was the first photography location with a large number of bright daffodils in bloom to learn macro photography. The recent bushfires in this part of the forest above Walhalla provided an opportunity to reinforce some more macro photography, with the green shoots contrasting against the charcoal trunks.

Further along we reached Brunton's Bridge which marked the stop for late lunch. The campgrounds were closed for refurbishment, however the trestle bridge provided the perfect backdrop to learn more about landscape photography. A number of vehicles crossing the Thompson River also enabled action shots to be taken.

The final stop required the convoy to drop from high down to low range and tackle a steep decent from the mountainside down to Coopers Creek. Jacqui answered some final questions from the group before the final lesson on tripod photos.



A wonderful group shot was taken before some of the convoy departed back to Melbourne, whilst the rest heading back Walhalla to finish the weekend. A special thank you to Jacqui Barr from Jacqui Barr Photography for offering such a great rate for the 4x4 club. I believe that those who attended left with more confidence on how to use their DSLR cameras, and capture those magical photo on the next big 4x4 trip!

Stephen Dickson



## Aberfeldy—Working Bee

19th—20th September 2019

### Participants:

David and son  
Steve and daughters  
Des  
Shane & Jenny  
Gary

David, Shane & Jen and Steve met at the BP Officer outbound at 6am for the scheduled 6:30am departure.

We met up with Des and Gary as we passed through Moe, then proceeded together up to the lookout just prior to Thompson Dam. David took a small detour to pick up the borrowed whipper snippers from Jason on the way up.

At the lookout, we dropped our tyre pressures, and took advantage of the small shelter beside the toilets to do the required 'sign in' and safety procedure (induction). Only the adults are required to sign in, not youths under 16 years of age.

As we left, we decided to not break into 2 groups like we normally do, thus due to the extra distance I took the executive decision to not go as far as the Water Trough and Fiddlers Green. Our first area of tidy up work was the Aberfeldy walking track on the O'Keefe track. We found this and the short road in, to be in excellent condition and we quickly completed this track.

We had a short break for morning tea, then we continued down the remainder of O'Keefe track and returned to the main red via Pluto track. As we passed through the township of Aberfeldy, Steve sent his daughters out to clean the signage whilst the remainder of us went to the bottom and waited at the main big sign, which Des cleaned around the bases with a whipper snipper. As he finished, the girls arrived to clean the big sign.

At our next destination (Hanging Rock walking track) we stopped at the off track parking area and had lunch, so we were refreshed prior to descending down the longest track in our area of maintenance. Once again, over winter not much has happened, so our work was very quick and easy to accomplish. With just a chainsaw, and 2 whipper snippers (no lawn mower this time) everything was completed. The only negative thing was that I sprained my ankle (again on this track) by stepping into a former wombat hole next to the picnic table. I sent my son to race back to the car to get a stretch bandage, and I wrapped my foot up and managed to very slowly and carefully to walk back to the vehicles. The girls and my son attacked the local termite mound and filled the wombat hole to reduce the risk of injury on future trips.

Back at the cars, at 2:30pm we parted company with Gary who wasn't staying overnight, and he took the shorter route back out to the main road and went home. The remainder of us decided to take the longer more adventurous route as we thought we would have a better chance of collecting fire wood for our overnight camp fire. There was heaps of wood available and at a stop only a few minutes along the track we quickly had my roof rack and Des's roof rack loaded to keep us warm at camp. I had my big 20" Stihl out to cut wood for my roof rack, and Shane got out his electric twin battery chainsaw to load Des's racks. Once my rack was full, my son cheekily asked Shane what toy he was using .....



We finally arrived at Little O'Tooles at approx 4:30pm, unloaded the wood which all had to be cut in half to ensure we were well under the 1 metre rule, so all wood was cut to less than 500mm. Then we started to set up our awnings and camp, and of course that's when it tried to rain. As soon as I put my wet weather gear on, the rain stopped. This happened about 3 times during the remainder of the daylight hours, until the sun dropped out of site and stars appeared, meaning no more clouds. This meant we had a fantastic night around the camp fire without weather dramas.

Everyone enjoyed the night around the evening fire, we were entertained by the kids antics with roasting king sized marsh mellow (thanks Jen) before we all retired for the night.

Next morning was a beautiful morning, warmer than was expected, considering it had actually tried to snow when we were on the ridges during the Saturday's driving excursions (light snow instead of misty rain).

I prepared a very early breakfast for myself and No1 son, then we packed up, aired up tyres and managed to leave by 8:40am, needing to be home well before midday. The remainder had the luxury of leisurely having breakfast and packing up in a more sedate manner.

Over all, even with less numbers than we usually have for a working bee, it was a wonderful success. My thanks to all who attended and participated for the weekend.

Looking forward to the next 'trip' now.

David Bruinsma



# Mitchell River

## National Park Trip

27th to 29th September 2019  
by Des Whall

### Team Mitchell

Des - Patrol  
Joe - 80 Series Landcruiser  
Ian & Audrey - Patrol (White-winged keel)

Met up with Joe at BP Officer at 7.30am Friday morning. McMuffin breakfast and coffee for me, health food and ugly-looking smoothie for Joe. Headed off soon afterwards, after hearing from Ian and Audrey that they were in place along the on-ramp of the Caltex servo further east at Longwarry.

Meandering along the highway it wasn't long before the white-winged keel was in view and assumed the convoy position that we would follow for the rest of the trip. Not a lot of traffic being the middle of school holidays and most were perhaps still at home preparing for the weekend Grand Final.

The next stop was Stratford for a fuel top-up and walk around to let some blood back into my bum, and yes before you all say it, there was a lot of blood required. A quick snack and we were off again, heading through Stockdale to the Bairnsdale-Dargo Road where we turned left toward Dargo.

Surprisingly enough, this is where we performed the only U-turn for the entire weekend. Slightly excited I turned the convoy onto Billy Goat Bend Road instead of Angusvale Road, a further 4 kilometres north toward Dargo.

A kilometre in we turned left into Treasure Track (rated Medium) which turned out to be a bit of fun as well as providing us with our firewood for the weekend. A narrow, reasonably maintained track with several steep climbs and descents. Completing Treasure Track we turned right into Tabberabbera Track (rated Medium) where we challenged Stuarts rein as the pin-strip king. Narrow, winding, steep in sections the track continued to close in with us providing mere whiteboards for the bush to leave its mark. Close to the junction of Halloran Track we came across a small but open window providing panoramic views over Dargo State Forest.





Completing Tabberabbera Track we turned left into Mitchell River Access Road, a wide, well maintained dirt road into Angusvale Camping Area, our camp for the night. Having not been here before, it was quite spectacular, and unexpected to find a huge open grassed valley that would easily accommodate several hundred campers. As you would expect, most of the better locations along the banks of the Mitchell River were taken. We were only staying overnight so camp was set up on a relatively level area not far from the clean and well-maintained amenities.

Having set up camp the trip leader, keen to test the comfort rating of his new sleeping arrangement laid down and promptly fell asleep. Rudely awakened around 6:30pm by a howling wind with accompanying gusts estimated at around 40 knots it was time to batten down the hatches. Thankfully the mini cyclone didn't last long. Additional guide ropes and a bit of manoeuvring of Joe's vehicle offered enough protection until it was over. The fire was relocated in case it blew up again and just as we settled in, it started to rain. It rained off and on until around 9pm when it cleared leaving a brilliant star-filled sky.



We awoke the following morning to a glorious day. Sunny, warm and no wind. After packing up and leaving camp around 8:30am we made our way back along Mitchell River Access Road turning right into Tabberabbera Track, otherwise known as pin-stripe heaven. We followed Tabberabbera Track all the way to Dargo Road which we crossed and then stopped for morning tea at the beginning of McDonald Gap Track (rated Easy).

Following McDonald Gap track up and over Mt Budgee Budgee we then turned left (south) into Killeen Climb Track (Rated Easy) for a bit of fun and low geared descents with a couple of small shallow creek crossings thrown in along the way. Lunch was taken at the junction of Lees Creek Track before continuing along Lees Creek Track (Rated Medium) to the very end, turning right into Freestone Creek Road. Neither track was overly difficult with their ratings fluctuating between Easy and Medium, however both were good to drive, challenging and demanding concentration. Several small campsites discovered along the way may require a return at some stage for further exploration.





Freestone Creek Road was wide and well-maintained allowing us to move out of low range for the first, and as it turned out, the only time for the entire trip. Four kilometres on we turned right into Lloyd Knob Track and started the climb up and over Lloyd Knob (rated Medium) and a bit of fun.

We followed Lloyd Knob Track all the way onto Blomford Jeep Track (rated Easy) continuing on to Upper New Place Creek Road (rated Medium) with the idea of perhaps an early finish, camping overnight at the ruins of Upper New Place Hut. Mother Nature appears to have reclaimed the ruins as we were unable to locate them.

Plan B saw us continue onto Upper New Place Track (rated Medium) with the intention of camping at a camp marked on the Hema at the junction of Grand Final Spur Track. Aptly named given it was Grand Final Day, however without reception we had no idea what was happening at the 'G'. On arrival and finding 20 plus vehicles, hunters and dogs at the campsite, plan 'C' was actioned.



Continuing on down Lower New Place Track (rated Easy) we turned right into Scrubby Creek Road (rated Medium) and right again into Paddy Lee Track to Paddy Lees Crossing on the Avon River where we set up camp for the night around 6pm. A laughter-filled night around a magic fire with awesome company, no better way to finish a trip.

The following morning, we enjoyed a relatively late start with a long breakfast before packing up and leaving camp around 11am. Following Moroka Road then Marathon Road we found bitumen again at Briagalong where we aired up for the journey home.

Thank you to Ian, Audrey and Joe for your company and the experience, it was a great weekend and drive.

## EDITORS NOTE

Something goofy happened to someone on a trip? Nominate them for the next “Good on ya” trophy. Send a quick summary to [trips@vfwdc.com](mailto:trips@vfwdc.com)