



OCTOBER 2012

Free Wheeling



Basic Driver Training - September 2012

Notice Board

VFWDC GENERAL MEETING VENUE

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

First **WEDNESDAY** of each month 8.00PM Start

Venue:

Bowling Club Rooms (Next to Car Park,
down the far end of the car park)

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



FREE WHEELING

Hello and welcome to the October newsletter. Last month saw David run his first monthly night run, which was well attended and ending up being a very good trip. Another one is being run this month, if you're interested put your details down at this month's club meeting.

Catherine

Editor@fwdc.com



COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2012-2013

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

Club Details	
Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
Registration No	A002184F
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3174
Email	secretary@vfwdc.com
Website	www.vfwdc.com
Meetings	Held 8pm, first Wednesday of each month, excluding January (no meeting).
Location	Noble Park Football Club (Bowling club near car park) 46-56 Moodemere Street, Noble Park Melways ref: 89 D4
Newsletter	All articles and photographs to be submitted prior to 20 th of each month to editor@vfwdc.com
	The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)



VFWDC ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

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Anyone wishing to advertise in the
Club Directory, please
contact the Editor at editor@vfwdc.com



CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2012				
October	Wednesday 3rd	General Meeting	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
	5th	Night Drive	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
	19th - 21st	Murray River Trip	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207
	24th	Committee Meeting	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
November	Wednesday 14th	At Everything Four Wheel Drive	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
	3rd—6th	Base camping - Walhalla	Andre Van Derwalt	0404 191 949
	16th - 18th	Revisit Lone Graves - Thompson Dam	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207
	21st	Committee Meeting	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
December	Wednesday 5th	General Meeting	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
	1st	Christmas Party TBA	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
	8th - 9th	Oxfam Christmas Tree Delivery	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
	26th Dec - 1st January13	Wonnangatta Station	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
January 2013	NO GENERAL MEETING	NO GENERAL MEETING	NO GENERAL	MEETING
	23rd	Committee Meeting	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
	25th - 28th	Australia Day - Otway's Trip	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207
February	Wednesday 6th	General Meeting	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
	21st	Committee Meeting	Mark Felton	0439 345 207

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to this month's of free wheeling.

I would firstly like to thank all those who attended the night drive that David ran earlier this month, it was a great night enjoyed by all. Finally there was the follow up driver training trip, also a huge thank you to our great driver trainers for providing quality driver training on the other weekend.

We had quite a few prospective members that came along to the meeting last month which is encouraging to see that so many people wish to come along to our club, glad you came along, hope to see you all again at the next meeting.

Also just a quick reminder to all the club members out there memberships are now over due and if possible could they please be paid at the next club meeting thank you.

Hope to see you on the tracks

Mark Felton

President VFWDC

EVERYTHING 4WD

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

For all your 4x4 needs

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



STRONGER BY DESIGN

New Ironman Bash Plates

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



NEW!

TRED

TOTAL RECOVERY & EXTRACTION DEVICE

AVAILABLE IN 800MM & 1100MM

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



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

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- Prado 120/150 kits from \$1200.00
- 05+ Hilux kits from \$1485.00
- **Less club discount****

UPCOMING TRIPS

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

DESTINATION	Murray River Trip
LEADER/ CONTACT #	NAME: Markncat Felton MOB: 0439 345 207
DATES	19 th —21 st October 2012
MEETING PLACE & TIME	Seymour McDonalds Friday 19 th at 9pm - If need be please contact us for another meeting place
GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>The club hasn't had a trip to the Murray for a long time, due to heavy flooding. Hopefully this trip will be ok, we'll check it out a few weeks before the trip and advise further.</p> <p>This will be a relaxing trip, camping along the Murray, camper trailers welcome. You can have a go at fishing, last time we were there, Mark caught a 'stick'. Go for a swim, water activities, go for a drive, whatever takes your fancy, were easy pleased.</p> <p>Camper trailers are welcomed, whatever type of tent you like. There are no toilets, if your prefer, please bring your own utilities or use the services of the 'natural bush'.</p> <p>We will be having 'happy hour' mid afternoon on Saturday afternoon. Please bring a plate of food to share with all, your favourite food/dishes/cheese/dips/chips—finger food.</p> <p>Please put your details down on the trip data form at the next club general meeting.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: No max, all are welcome
APPROX KMS	600 km's approx
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic Recovery Equipment. Self sufficient, water, food & supplies
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Mystery Pub to Pub to Pub
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	David Hughes WK: 9798 1492 HM: 9706 2966 MOB: 0427 865 592
DATE	9 th , 10 th , and 11 th NOVEMBER 2012
MEETING PLACE / TIME	To be advised
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	C or B
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Traveling anywhere to an unknown destination. Just a fun weekend with a few surprises along the way. Morning Tea and Afternoon tea provided
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 12
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	Unknown at this stage
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: ??? DIESEL: ???
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Sense of Humour, Basic recovery gear and a Stubby Holder
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

DESTINATION	Revisit Lone Graves—Thompson Dam
LEADER/ CONTACT #	NAME: Markncat Felton MOB: 0439 345 207
DATES	16th—18th November 2012
MEETING PLACE & TIME	Longwarry BP service station—7pm
GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>The club carried out some volunteering in marking out some graves, just after the fires swept through the area. We are going to revisit the area & see how they are going and to show new club members of our volunteering efforts.</p> <p>We will be travelling around the local area of Aberfedly - Toombon. We'll be checking out the historical area & relics. Also we'll be travelling along Donnelly Creek.</p> <p>It will be a good opportunity to check out Thompson dam, to being near full. Last time we were there, it was very low.</p> <p>Please put your details down on the trip data form at the next club general meeting.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS	600 - 800 km's approx
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic Recovery Equipment. Self sufficient, water, food & supplies
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

Minutes of General Meeting September 2012

General Meeting 5th September 2012

The meeting was held at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club and was opened at 8.10pm by President Mark Felton

Present: There were 11 members present as per the attendance book

Apologies: There were 1 members present as per the Apologies book

Visitors: There were 6 people listed in the Visitors Book

Minutes of previous General Meeting

Accepted : Joe
Seconded : Brett

Matters arising:

nil

Correspondence in

2 membership renewals
EFS brochure
Bendigo Bank Statements
TCIS certificate of insurance
RFDS
Cross Country X2
Landrover Review X2
Overland Cruising X2
ARB
Mt Ive Station (4wd gathering)
FWDV raffle tickets and letter
FWDV 2012-2013 stickers

Correspondence out

Club Magazines as per usual

Treasurers report

Term Deposit	\$	5835.37
Cash	\$	
Petty Cash	\$	50.00
Money In	\$	929.10
Moneys Out	\$	1391.21
Balance	\$	4919.26

Accepted: Brett
Seconded: Sam

Trip reports

Xmas in July: Sam said it was good. Dave said it was wet, had rain and a very big tarp... 2 tents, 2 campers, one caravan. Owen was drenched the first night, but slept in Dave's tent for 2nd night, as Dave returned home. Catering was once again very good. Nice big fire, for all the visitors to gather around and enjoy the atmosphere and chat to each other. Mark made breakfast, for all 12 people, that had stayed out for the night.

Trip coordinators report

The various trip leaders gave a brief overview of the following upcoming trips.

Refresher of theory driver training, depends on when the trainers are free? Club members will be advised, if names are put down on the trip data form.

Type	When	Where	Trip Leader
Night drive	Sept 7 th	Toolangi	David Bruinsma
Driver Training	Sept 22nd	Tba	Ashley
2 week trip	28 th Sept - 14 th oct	Broken hill, Cameron Cnr	Bruce Cremonesi
Night Drive	Oct 5 th	Toolangi	David Bruinsma
Weekend	19 th -21 st Oct	Murray River trip	Mark N Catherine
Long weekend	3-6 November	Walhalla Stay in camp	Andre van der Walt
Fishing trip	November		Ashley
Winery	October		Ashey
Weekend	Cup w'end	High country	Sam

General business

Gary Smith won the most trips attended prize for last year. Gary attending a staggering 10 trips over the 12 months.
Joint winners MarkNCath and David won the most trips run by a leader prize for last year. Both only ran three trips each to win this award.

Other Business

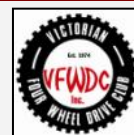
Need a Vice President position to be filled.
Need an Association Delegate position to be filled.

If your interested in joining the committee, please come and have a chat with one of the committee members about the positions and what you can

No Raffle

Meeting Closed: 9:40 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 8.00pm 3rd October at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club.



CLUB MERCHANDISE For Sale (Revised Price List)

Club Polo Shirts	\$28.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece ½ Zip Jumper	\$38.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$48.00 ea
Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$44.00 ea
Club Caps	\$15.00 ea
Club Bucket Hat	\$16.00 ea
Club Wide Brim Hat	\$18.00 ea
Club Beanie	\$12.00 ea
VFWDC Sticker (long)	\$ 6.00 ea

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.

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

Please note:

For any club trips that are planned through the club, you need to have a trip data form filled in & return it to the trip co-ordinator & committee, as stipulated on the bottom of the trip data form.

This is for official documentation for the club and insurance purposes.

Please also make sure you follow through with your trip of reporting it at the next months club meeting and providing a trip report and if possible, provide photos to the editor, to help as promotion for the club to prospective members or if your not going to go ahead with the trip, please notify club members, through all channels of communication.



Trip Incentive Scheme

The committee had decided to re-run this scheme this year, to help promote the club and encourage club members to run more trips. This will be over a period of the committee year.

Prizes will not be awarded to the same person. The prize will be a voucher to a nominated establishment of your choice (within reason), sorry no cash.


The following prizes will be on offer:




\$250
Voucher
awarded to the
club member
who has run the
most trips



\$150
Voucher
awarded to the
club member
who has
attended the most
trips



The winners will be announced
at the September club meeting.
Congratulations to the winners
and all the best wishes for club
members for next year.





Trip Report: Toolangi State Forest Night Drive

7 September 2012

Roll Call

David Bruinsma (Trip Leader), Neville and Jay (Visitors): Nissan Navara
 Steve Pitcher (Tail End Charlie), Ben and Jason (Visitors): Toyota LandCruiser
 Sam Ayoubie: Nissan Patrol
 Mark and Catherine Felton: Nissan Patrol
 Daniel & Family (Prospective Members): Mitsubishi Triton
 "Bobcat" Scott and Family (Visitors and Friends of David): Nissan Navara
 Benson (Prospective Member)

Details

With the exception of Scott and his family, we all met at McDonald's in Lillydale for a quick feed before commencing the trip shortly after 7:00 pm. As Benson was a newbie to the 4WD scene, he opted to play it safe and left his CR-V back in the carpark, preferring to ride instead with Mark and Catherine.

We met up with Scott and his kids further down the road, just out past Dixons Creek. From there we proceeded to Marginal Road, the main entry point to Toolangi State Forrest. Everyone had aired down their tyres and we were 'eating dirt' by about 8:00 pm.

A gentle rain had persisted throughout the evening, making some sections of the track a little wet and others quite greasy. After proceeding along Marginal Road, we eventually made our way to the start of Ridge Track. This track required a bit of a run-up as the turn onto the track took you through a cauldron before almost immediately launching into an ascent up the hill. The conditions weren't too bad but the moisture that had accumulated, due to the rain,

caused most people stick to the ruts.

Everyone made the ascent without any real difficulty, although the climb did raise some pulses (particularly the prospective members'). As the saying goes, "what goes up must come down", and so we did...

Upon returning to Marginal Road, the convoy made its way to Martins Track. While the gate to this track was open, it was marked by the Authorities as being 'closed' due to seasonal track closure. A brief but entertaining debate ensued over the radio between our Trip Leader and one of the guests who interpreted an open gate to over-ride a closed track sign. One point to the Trip Leader and each member that was quick to highlight the risks (as well as the financial penalties) involved for those found driving closed tracks.

After a quick about-face, we proceeded a little further along Marginal Road before following another track that shot off to the left. A 'welcome sign' had been made (a fallen tree at the track entrance which, thankfully, had already been cut open by earlier travellers. After careful negotiation through the tight gap, we made our way to a reasonably large water-hole. There was some concern at the front of the convoy as to just how deep this dirty pool of water might actually be and what the ruts, if any, might look like beneath the surface. It turned out to be nothing too bad so we proceeded to the next challenge...

Being Trip Leader, David had the first crack at a short but rather difficult climb that presented. The combination of persistent rain, deep ruts (due to the slope of the track, the high side was approaching 1 metre deep, descending quickly to about 1 foot on the low side) and an already mud-died track proved to be a bit too much for the Nav' to handle so Sam (and his passenger Jay) gave it a go. It took 3 attempts in all but eventually the front wheels of the 'green machine' crested the climb.

One vehicle up. Five more to go...

Our guest from the Navara internet forum carried a secret weapon under the hood of his ride. It came in the form of a Generation III LS1 V8 (I hope I got that right for all you petrol heads) and it was determined to put its stamp on this track. Move forward to a few attempts later and it became clear that what was needed was not so much power but traction. The track claimed victory in this case. Track, one point.

There was only one other contender left. The call came over the radio as to whether I would accept the challenge. The answer was a simple 'no'. Right then, my 2 guest passengers gave me the death stare - how dare I say 'no' to a challenge! So forward we went, challenge accepted. Quite a bit of bouncing, wheel spinning and LOTS of loud pedal later, the front tyres managed to scramble to the top. What did we all do then? Turn around of course...

So on we went, further along Marginal Road until we hit Lyndells Track. It was at this point that our guests in the Triton and the Navara decided to call it a night. We bid our farewells and then up Lyndells Track went our Trip Leader to see what lay ahead. It turned out to be a wet winch challenge and so, for the next hour or more, both David and Mark (with Catherine and their visitor on board) embarked on a series of winching exercises to see who could get to the top first.

As David was already in the lead, and there was nowhere for Mark to pass, David made it to the top first. Another point for the Trip Leader. Sam did his usual thing (which is to just drive to the top) while I tried to 'rock test' my tyres somewhere near the peak of the climb. Three of my tyres passed while the fourth one literally 'let me down'. Once at the top, we swapped out the old tyre for the new and were back on our way again.

As the night quietly slipped away, midnight was fast approaching. It was then that the convoy decided to call it a day (or night, if you will) and head back home. My passengers and I weren't quite as phased by the rain (which, by then, had become more of a drizzle) so we decided to tough it out under canvas. Upon reaching our campsite, we all said our farewells and went our separate ways (David, Mark, Catherine, Sam and remaining guests headed back home while my guests and I proceeded to set up camp).

All in all, it was an enjoyable, although slightly wet, Friday evening out and I would encourage anyone who may not have tried a bit of night driving to just get out there and give it a go. **Steve Pitcher**

It was a really good turn up for a night drive at Toolangi. The trip leader was David and there were another 4 member cars and a guest of David's and his family with a total of 18 people attending, a really good turn out. Members who came along were Steve and a couple of mates, Sam, Mark and Catherine and new attendees Daniel and his family as well as Benson and Jay who jumped in with David and myself (Neville).

We met at Lilydale Maccas around 6.30-7.00 for a feed before heading out picking up David's mate and his family in a very nice sounding V8 D22 along the way at Healesville. We all aired down at the entrance to Marginal track and made our way in dodging a fair few trees due to the high winds over the previous days as well as a few wombats. Sam pulled us up for a crack at a nice looking track (not sure what it was called) so we all got into low range for the first time and made our way up a fairly slippery hill. We all made it up fairly easily and turned around and went back down to continue along Marginal. We next detoured off onto Luke track circuit which was fairly sloppy and slippery in places. We got to a very rutted hill where trip leader Dave had half a crack before deciding not to proceed. It looked like too much fun for Sam who on his third attempt made it up. Scott (Dave's mate) also had a bit of crack without success. Then Steve came along at pretty much full noise getting up on his first attempt. We then headed back and got to the bottom of Lyndells Track this is where Daniel and Scott & there familys decided to part ways and head for home (probably just as well). Dave headed up first and the track soon turned very rocky and slippery we got up around a 1/3 of the way before it was time for me to get out and play winch buddy for around 200m. We finally got to a spot where we could proceed without the aid of the winch making it to the top of the track. Next was Mark and Catherine who also had to winch a fair way. We all finally got to the top and had to assist Steve who had punctured (a fist sized hole) one of his tyres. Mark also received a bit of cosmetic damage on the way up and as discovered later David's winch could be burnt out. As we had killed a lot of time and it was close to midnight now we decided to pull the pin on any further adventures and head back home, all of us except for Steve and his mates pulled the pin on camping and decided to head for dryer and warmer places. We headed off taking a few tracks in the most direct route back to the main road before heading off in a convoy for home. Despite it being wet and a bit of damage sustained everyone had a great time along the way and it was really good to see some new people come along. A very successful trip David. **Neville Van Leeuwen**



Trip Reports

Driver Training

Saturday

The group gathered at the well-known meeting place at the BP fuel stop at Officer on Saturday morning. The sunny weather looked promising for a good day of training. Once we filled up with fuel, coffees and Macca's we piled into our vehicles and formed our Club convoy, taking over the freeway with Ian and Audrey joining the convoy soon after. We were nine vehicles in total. Our route took us via Thompson Dam, Merringtons Tk, Donnalley's Creek Tk and we arrived at O'Tooles campground at approximately 11ish in the morning. The campground was pretty deserted apart from a father and son camped out in one corner of the ground. We formed a large group at the top of the site, taking full advantage of the sun. After setting up camp, we all sat down to face the truth and nothing but the truth.....will we remember our theory and not embarrass ourselves in front of our club mates? John, Ashley and Phil took us through the theory, recovery techniques, recovery equipment and we took a look at our vehicles to discuss different types of recovery ideas, angles of approach and departure and other hints/tips. Tip of the day – don't forget your sunscreen! The first sun of the year was out in full force and of course it took us by surprise. Thanks to Steve for remembering to pack the sunscreen. After lunch, we jumped into our vehicles and headed towards Flats Tk to learn our stop/start uphill/reverse technique. Upon understanding exactly what the training involved which was stopping mid-way up a STEEP hill to reverse back down a STEEP hill using this technique, Sandra yelled out an expletive to the tune of "Oh S..." – you get the picture. We all took turns learning this technique with our very brave trainers and it turned out to be one of the best and most useful techniques learnt. It really taught you the skill of how to safely be in control of your moving vehicle. We then headed up Flats Tk to Williamson Spur which was a challenging steep run but everyone was handling the task pretty well. On the way up, John took up the challenge of testing if his FJ could conquer a very steep section of the track. After a few attempts and using a different approach line he made it up the hill with a big smile on his face and a little sweat on his brow. Well it was a hot day. Brad, the mechanic, had a go also but something went wrong with his steering arm and he had to give it up but he

did fix his steering problem promptly by himself soon after. We had to avoid a number of fallen trees along the track and we hit a large trunk on S Tk which forced us to retract our steps and turn back. On the way back up the track Audrey put into action her newly learnt stall recovery technique and she handled it really well. We spent all afternoon driving around and practicing the technique. We collected some firewood and headed back to camp via Flats Tk. We returned to find some rowdy newcomers at the campsite and after some discussion a very intimidating committee was formed (Ashley, Ian, Max, John) and armed with beer, cider and a box of Shapes they took off to have a stern discussion with the rowdy mob. It was a sight that would make anyone tremble. They returned unscathed and actually go the job done – the box of Shapes must have done the trick. We spent the night sitting around the campfire talking, drinking, laughing and enjoying good company. We looked forward to the next day to practice our new techniques again. Thanks to Ashley, John and Phil for a marvelous day of practical learning.

Sandra

Notice to all club members

The November club meeting will be held at Everything Four Wheel Drive in Cranbourne. A BBQ will be offered to members who wish to attend, starting around 7pm. A short meeting will be held, then John might have a guest speaker, TBC and shop specials available to members on the night. It would be a good opportunity to check out John's new shop, as he has relocated to the following address.
1b/280 South Gippsland Highway, Cranbourne, VIC 3977.

Christmas Tree Project

51 Belmont Rd. IVANHOE 3079
Ph 94973227 Fax 94994759



Dear Secretary

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

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

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