



FEBRUARY 2014

# Free Wheeling



## Trestle Bridge - Marysville Day Trip

# Notice Board

## VFWDC GENERAL MEETING VENUE

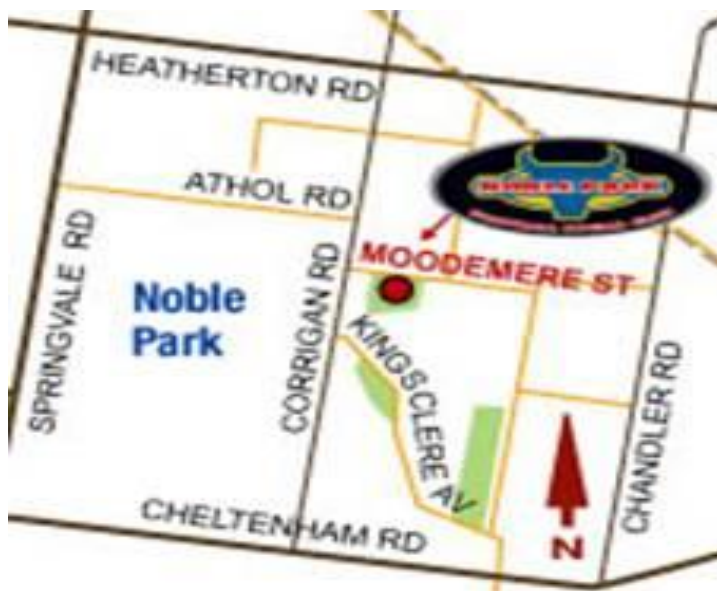
The club meets at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club, 46-56 Moodemere St, Noble Park on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month at 8.00pm (No meeting in January and November meeting at selected location). Members and Guests are welcome to dine at the Bistro before attending the meeting.

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 February newsletter, the first newsletter for 2014, hope you enjoyed your break and ready to get back into it. Hope to see you all bright and refreshed at the February club meeting. The committee has updated the privacy policy, please click on the following link <http://vfwdc.com/forms.html>

Catherine

Editor@fwdc.com



## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2013-2014

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

Club Details	
Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
Registration No	A002184F
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3174
Email	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.vfwdc.com">www.vfwdc.com</a>
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 <sup>th</sup> of each month to <a href="mailto:editor@vfwdc.com">editor@vfwdc.com</a>
	The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)



# VFWDC ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

## BUSH-B-Q

Manufacturer of the Barbeque of the Outback

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**Bill Harwood**

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Anyone wishing to advertise in the  
Club Directory, please  
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## CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2014				
February	<b>Wednesday 5th</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>		
	7th - 9th	Trip to Walhalla area	Sam Ayoubiee	0414503874
	19th	Committee Meeting		
March	<b>Wednesday 5th</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>		
	7th - 10th	Labour Day Weekend		
	19th	Committee Meeting		
April	<b>Wednesday 2nd</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>		
	12th - 25/26th	Flinders Rangers	Max & Sandra	Max: 0403101121 Sandra: 0407949636
	16th	Committee Meeting		
	18th - 26th	Outback NSW	Steve Pitcher	0421 205 529
	19th - 21st	Easter Long Weekend—McKillops Bridge	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207
	25th	ANZAC Day		
May	<b>7th</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>		
	21th	Committee Meeting		
June	<b>4th</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>		
	6th - 9th	Queens Birthday Weekend		
	18th	Committee Meeting		
July	<b>2nd</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>		
	4th - 6th	Xmas In July		
	18th - 20th	Snow Trip - Mt Skene	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207
	23rd	Committee Meeting		
August	<b>6th</b>	<b>AGM &amp; General Meeting</b>		
	20th	Committee Meeting		
September	<b>3rd</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>		
	17th	Committee Meeting		

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

Hello and welcome to the **40<sup>th</sup> year** of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club! Yes that's right, this year marks a milestone in our 4WD Club, it's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Back in 1974, a small group of people with a common interest in exploring Australia by 4WD (which wasn't common practise back then) formed our club.

The very first club trip was to the area that is now covered by the Thompson Dam. The surrounding area has always been popular with club trips ever since then and is an area I am familiar with more than any other area in Victoria/Australia.

Over the coming year we plan to invite some of the original club members back to talk to us about the trips they have been on, the way the areas and access has changed through this period and the difference in vehicles from those very early trips to now. I'm sure there will be some very entertaining stories along the way.

We also plan to hold a dinner half way through the year with more stories to be told as well (hopefully) photo slides and videos of some of these early trips. On another note, the club was contacted by Rudi Paoletti in regards to the maintenance of signage and walking tracks in the Walhalla/Aberfeldy area. This is very near the areas discussed above where the club ran its first trip. We have agreed to take on the responsibility to look after the signage in the Aberfeldy area and keep the Hanging Rock walking track clear for visitors. All that will need to be done is twice a year clean the signs and check that the walking track is clear. I think this would be a great project for the Club and give back to the area we are so fond of.

In the past we have been involved in tree plating at Merringtons camping ground and signage works with the DSE at Merringtons, O'Tooles and the Junction camping areas. As well as marking out lone graves in the Toombon and Store Point areas. I find that these type of activities are great to not only help out in an area that we frequent but also helps bring the club members closer together.

I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Years and hope to see you at this month's meeting.

John Partridge  
President, VFWDC Inc.

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Trip to Walhalla area</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Sam Ayoubie MOB: 0414503874
DATE	7 February to 9 February
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Moe Maccas @ 8pm Friday
GRADE	WET: Depends on weather – trip no go if weather too hot
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Camping down the bottom of Army Track. 4wding around Walhalla. Base camp at Walhalla. Day trips.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 5
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	Approx 100km
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Bring your own supplies
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Winches and recovery gear
MAPS REQUIRED	Trip leader has map of Walhalla area
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

DESTINATION	<b>Flinders Ranges</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Max and Sandra MOB: Sandra 0407949636 Max 0403101121
DATE	12 April till 25/26 April
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE <b>Please adhere to new trip classifications</b>	WET: Easy/ Medium DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Destination: Flinders Ranges. The plan is to go to Quorn and Wilpena Pound to explore the Ranges and surrounds for the first week and then come back to Melbourne via Arkaroola, Innamincka, Cameron Corner, Broken Hill and Yanga National Park the second week.</p> <p>The trip is camper trailer friendly and will be a mix of motels, camping grounds and bush camping. Track levels should be easy to moderate but obviously is weather dependent.</p> <p>The aim of the trip is to explore and relax in the Flinders National Park with some 4WD day trips around the area. The first week is just a holiday in the Ranges and the second week is more of an adventure travelling in the outback.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MAXIMUM: 4-5 Vehicles
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	4000 Km
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: TBA DIESEL: TBA
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Varies
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Usual recovery gear, food and equipment for period of trip
MAPS REQUIRED	Flinders Ranges
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	TBA

## UPCOMING TRIPS

### Notice to all members

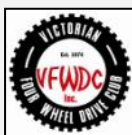
We have an opportunity to help out with the maintenance of some walking tracks and signage in the Aberfeldy area. It would only require 2 trips into the area per year with the works being able to be done within around a half a day. This area is so rich in history and we will be helping to keep the history available for all to see - there's also great 4WDing in this area.

I think this would be a great task for the VFWDC to undertake and I feel we need some projects like this to bring the club closer together.

Rudi Paoletti from the West Gippsland relic, Mining & Heritage protection Inc. has organised a meeting on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February at the St Paul's Anglican School hall 150 Bowen Street Warragul, commencing at 7:30pm.

He would dearly like to invite all interested parties to come along and hear about his planned working bees to install interpretive signage in and around the Gippsland area, highlighting the historic cemeteries and other fascinating areas with connections to the pioneering days of the region.

If you're interested please contact one of the committee members.



### **CLUB MERCHANDISE For Sale**

Club Polo Shirts	\$28.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece ½ Zip Jumper	\$38.00 ea
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VFWDC Sticker (long)	\$ 6.00 ea

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.

Email your order to [committee@vfwdc.com](mailto:committee@vfwdc.com).  
Please ensure you advise size required.

DESTINATION	<b>McKillops Bridge - Snowy River</b>
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	NAME: Markncat Felton MOB: 0439 345 207
DATE	Friday 19th - 21st April
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Longwarry BP - 7pm
GRADE	Dry: EASY    Wet: MEDIUM
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Were taking advantage of the long weekend and heading up to far East Victoria.</p> <p>We had to miss this area at Easter, so with another long weekend, we'll try again.</p> <p>We'll take a look around the local area, checking out McKillops bridge, Gelantipy, Little River &amp; Raymond Creek Falls. Travelling over Mt Deddick &amp; Mt Brown.</p> <p>There are some rocky roads and numerous water crossings in an isolate part of the state.</p> <p>We'll be covering a large number of kilometers. This will be a pick up and travel trip, consistently moving, no stay in camp &amp; sorry no trailers.</p>
VEHICLE LIM- ITS	MINIMUM:2 MAXIMUM:8
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	1000 - 1500 kms round trip
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Self sufficient
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	Orbost
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftop Snowy Mountains
RADIO CHANNEL /UHF	UHF 12

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Outback NSW</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Steve Pitcher MOB: 0421 205 529
DATE	18 (Good Friday) – 26 (Day After ANZSAC Day) April 2014
MEETING PLACE / TIME  A second/later group may depart the following day but this is not assured.	North-bound Service Station near Donnybrook Road intersection, Hume Freeway (Donnybrook – just past Craigeburn) – toilets, fast food and fuel available. Meet at 6:30 am for a 7:00 am departure. It's a 2-day drive so we will be stopping on day 1 at Wodonga for a late breakfast and then at Gundagai (or thereabouts) for lunch. We'll make our way further north to a road-side motel, as the convoy permits.
GRADE	WET: D Grade (Easy) DRY: C Grade (Medium)
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Base Camping for 1 week at Coorongooaba Campground, Wollemi National Park, NSW. About 950 km each way.</p> <p>With children, it takes a 2 days' drive each way so an overnight stop will be required (most likely either Yass or Goulbourn on the way up and at the Fiesta in Wodonga on the return leg – you will need to book this yourselves).</p> <p>Travelling to Capertee in NSW where we will spend 1 night at the local pub. Overnight options include either camping or a hotel room at the pub where we will stay overnight. Prices and facilities are quite modest – it's a country pub.</p> <p>From there, we plan (on the Sunday morning) to make our way to the campsite (about 1 hour's drive). It is a new site (only established in 2009) with very basic facilities on the banks of the Capertee River. Consequently, there are still no drop/bush toilets but the upside of this is that there will be few other campers.</p> <p>We will spend 1-2 days exploring Gardens of Stone National Park (no camping permitted there so a day trip or two will be required to see it properly). For those that are interested, we will also head over to Louee Station at the nearby township of Lue for a day. For anyone that is into off-road riding, this outback station has 5 world-class tracks of varying degrees of difficulty (at a daily cost of \$50 per adult and \$30 per child) but it also has other facilities for those that wish just to explore the area.</p> <p>I will also conduct a couple of day tours to explore the area around Wollemi NP and to do some proper 4WDing. We will also get to see a couple of ghost towns such as Glen Davis.</p> <p>Being on the Capertee river, people can enjoy a bit of fresh water fishing. Other possible activities include kayaking or canoeing, bush-walking, bike riding (BYO push-bike – my children will be), camp cooking and bird-watching. Dogs are not permitted in the National Parks.</p> <p>This trip is purposefully designed to be more around camping, fishing and having fun rather than 4WDing per se. While there will be some 4WDing (and some excellent tracks at that), it is not the main focus of the trip. Anyone wishing to do more in terms of exploring and 4WDing around the area is more than welcome to do so – just let me know and I will build it in to the itinerary. Wollemi is the largest NP in the country so there is plenty of opportunity for those that want to be more active in a 4WD sense. I will, of course, be happy to assist anyone wanting to explore further afield.</p>

TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS cont	<p>For those that are interested in the trip but either don't have children and/or who are not so enthused about the hotel/motel costs, I am quite happy to meet up with members either at Capertee Hotel or at the campsite itself.</p> <p>Access to the campsite is 2WD all the way unless there is severe rainfall immediately prior to the trip. Camper trailers are welcome so come along, bed down and enjoy!</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	<p>MINIMUM: 1</p> <p>MAXIMUM: 10</p>
APPROX KMS (Meeting place to destination)	2,000 Kms (return trip)
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	<p>PETROL: Capertee, NSW (Lidsdale is the 2<sup>nd</sup> nearest)</p> <p>DIESEL: Capertee, NSW (Lidsdale is the 2<sup>nd</sup> nearest)</p>
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	40 kms (approx) back to Capertee from camp
<p>EQUIPMENT REQUIRED</p> <p>In case of an emergency (eg. Traffic Accident, Bushfire, etc), completed Personal Information Forms / Visitor Forms are required for this trip.</p>	All equipment and supplies required to be self-sufficient for 7+ days and to cater for simple vehicle break-downs (eg. Basic tools and spares for your vehicle/trailer) and 4WD recoveries (front and rear but winches are not essential). Quality A/T tyres and spare/s – please remember keys for any spare tyre locks or tow hitch locks.
MAPS REQUIRED	While not essential, all participants are encouraged to have a reasonably new map of the area.
<p>RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF</p> <p>I do have a Flying Doctor Radio but it will be for absolute emergencies only.</p>	Channel 12 UHF (given the length of the trip, we may pick a sub-channel (CTSS) if radio traffic is excessive).



**Lots of  
Trips!**

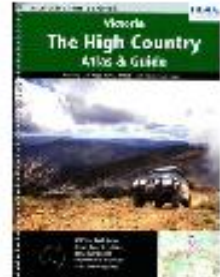
# EVERYTHING 4WD

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## Minutes of General Meeting December 2013

Meeting Started: 20:08

Apologies: Andre, David - (as per apologies book)

Correspondence in: FWDV Annual Report

Treasurers Report:

Opening Balance: \$5542.20

Cash In: \$747.00

Cash Out: \$660.67

Closing: \$6289.27

TD: \$7220.02

Petty Cash: \$150

Closing Balance: 13559.22

Treasurers Report moved: Stewart Malca

Seconded: Max

Minutes from previous meeting:

Moved: Ben

Seconded: Sally Harris

No matters arising

Upcoming Trips:

Christmas at Lysterfield Park 8<sup>th</sup> December

Oxfam Xmas tree delivery - Mark and Cat 7/12

Day Trip to Marysville 21 December - Mark and Cat

Australia Day Weekend - Murray River - Mark and Cat

Tasmania - March/ April - Gary Smith

Email committee if you want to run a trip

Guest Speaker/ Presentation - Glen Tarrant from the CFA

[www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/staying-safe-when-you-travel](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/staying-safe-when-you-travel)

Trip Reports: None

General Business:

John discussed Campsite Safety including size of campfires, code of ethics, no drinking while driving

Short Notice Trips: Discussion on short notice trips and how to go about organising them. The preferred method is to organise trips in advance so that they are able to be put in the magazine and talked about at meetings but if a short notice trip comes up to be a club trip we need to know who is going and where the trip is being run. A trip data form must be completed and sent to the committee. A general email to all members will be sent out. Can use the all members list to email people. The facebook page was raised as a mechanism to arrange trips - there still needs to be a comms to the committee.

There was some discussion around how we can better communicate within the club ie between the members and not just between the committee and the members. it was agreed that this would be looked into in the New Year and how we can facilitate this better.

Raffle:

Sally

Joe

Gary

Marie x2

Steve

Max

Meeting Closed: 22:25

## Trip Reports

### Marysville Day Trip

21st December 2013

This was going to be one last dash before Christmas and a last one for 2013. Our meeting destination was the usual Lilydale Macca's, where the overview of the day was explained to attending club members and then we headed off to Marysville. We made a quick stop at the bakery & last fuel stop, then headed towards Cambarville sawmill village, where we aired



down and headed off into the bush. We travelled down Cambarville rd, Sandstone rd &

Federation rd, when we stopped for morning tea & a chat. We travelled down Coys rd, Snobs creek rd, where we stopped off for lunch. We made our way towards the Rubicon Historical area, by travelling Snobs no 6 track & Herbs rd, we stopped off at the Morris lookout, which gave some spectacular views of Lake Eildon. We made our way onto the Royston river rd



& turned off & took a look at the Royston power station & pasted under a trestle bridge, past the Winch house & came out at the Rubicon power station, where we thought we had finished up for the day, but we headed straight up a hill & a really rough track.

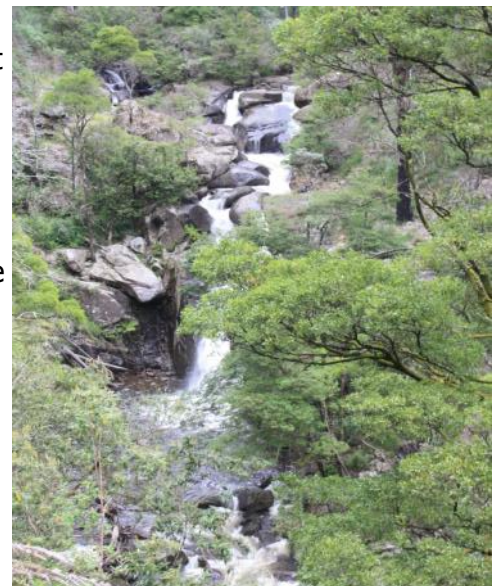
Most of us made it through until Tristan & Sally had a shot at getting through, but got

caught up. We pulled up & most walked back down the hill to help out, while Stu & Maree went a bit up the track to check it out. It took us a few hours to get

turned around & made it safely

back onto the main rd. Good byes, thanks & well wishes were said all round & then we all headed off home. Thanks to all who attended, hope you all enjoyed the day trip.

Catherine Felton



## Trip Reports

### Marysville Trip report

11.1.2014

Weather Prefect for 4x4 about 25 degrees no rain.

Participants

Maree & Stuart	Pajaro
Stanley Mitchell	Land cruiser (had to leave due to mechanical issues)
James, and Tim	Holden Jackaroo
Garry, Anne and family	GU Patrol
Joe, and son	Prado
John & Emily	Land cruiser
Mick & Sally	Patrol

Meeting at the Marysville bakery, we parked across the road and aired down and drove up along Lady Talbert drive to Keppel falls, we took a walk to the falls while the boys looked at Stanleys' Land cruiser. It was decided that he call it quits for the day, sometimes it's better to make the decision to leave if you feel there is a mechanical issue than wait until it gets really tough and that makes it harder to get out.

From there we headed to Keppels hut, the hut has been rebuilt since the 2009 Black Saturday bush fires.

Up McFadyen track that has its challenges but everyone managed it easily, along Quartz creek road, to find the Rubicon Dam a surprising lunch spot. This is a testimony to the engineering difficulties faced in the area. The dam wall was overflowing in a spectacular fashion for all to see and enjoy. We parked along the aqua duct, wondering how long it took to construct it.

A short history via Wikipedia

The Rubicon Hydroelectric Scheme is a small run-of-the-river hydroelectric scheme



located on the Rubicon and Royston Rivers, north east of Melbourne, 40 km (25 mi) south-west of Alexandra, Victoria, Australia. The scheme commenced in 1922, and was the first state-owned hydroelectric scheme to generate electricity in mainland Australia, and among the first in the world to be remotely controlled.<sup>[1]</sup> For the first ten years of its operation it supplied on average 16.9% of electricity generated by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria.<sup>[1]</sup> It is now owned and operated by AGL Energy and contributes approximately 0.02% of Victoria's energy supply-

Up past Whisky hut along Royston river road, to the top of the ridge at Bullfight road, passing the skeletons of Mountain Ash, a stark reminder of the devastation of a bush fire.

A water crossing over the Royston river to get James' trotters wet, some mud puddles at the top of the ranges, still wondering where the water came from. A steep rocky hill to climb in low range, with some needing a second go at it. As with all good plans a yellow "Road Closed" sign will change that, maps out on the bonnet,

and Plan B took us along Conns gap road, up Hobin gap track and along Royston Range road, ending at the Rubicon Power station. Mick and Sally took a drive up the track that Tristin and Sally got stuck on they turned around and rejoined us, the words were "you have got to be joking" with a few others inserted.

A special thanks to Sally and Mick for being-tail end Charlie and putting up with the plums of dust. We all aired up and headed to the Buxton Hotel for dinner. I walked in and said there is 14 of us can you accommodate us for dinner. They said yes with a smile. My meal was lovely, the company was excellent, and everyone agreed, add this to the places to go back to.

It was decided we revisit this same trip to Marysville some time before the gates close for the winter, (maybe May 17<sup>th</sup> we will keep you posted) as this would be a more challenging trip with wet muddy tracks.

How lucky we were as Victoria turned on some of its hottest days the following week, making travelling in this area potentially hazardous.

