

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers  
Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive  
Club Inc.

# Free Wheeling



## VFWDC

## March 2016

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

Registration No A0002184F

# 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 from 6:30pm.

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

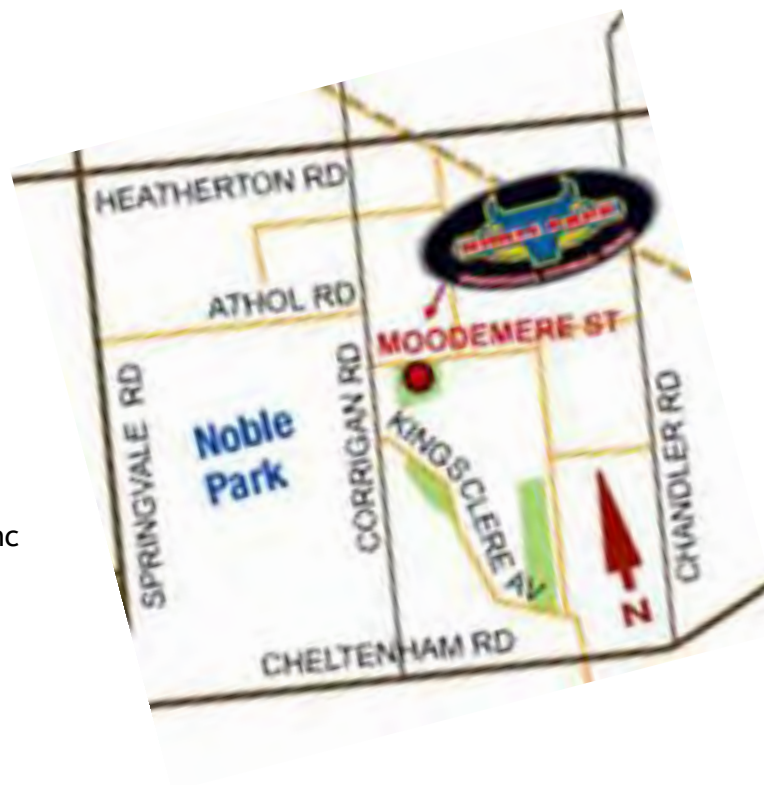
46-56 Moodemere Street

Noble Park

Melways ref: 89 D4

Aberfeldy Track managed by West Gippsland Inc

[www.westgippslandinc.com.au](http://www.westgippslandinc.com.au)



## ***FREE WHEELING***

[editor@vfwdc.com](mailto:editor@vfwdc.com)

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT		
2015-2016		
President	David Bruinsma	<a href="mailto:president@vfwdc.com">president@vfwdc.com</a>
Vice President	Sally Higgs	<a href="mailto:vicepres@vfwdc.com">vicepres@vfwdc.com</a>
Secretary	Bruce Cremonesi	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
Treasurer	Tony Barbera	<a href="mailto:treasurer@vfwdc.com">treasurer@vfwdc.com</a>
GENERAL COMMITTEE		
Trip Co-Ordinator	Stuart Bowker	<a href="mailto:trips@vfwdc.com">trips@vfwdc.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Mandie Lehmann	<a href="mailto:editor@vfwdc.com">editor@vfwdc.com</a>
Associations Delegate	Mick Harris	<a href="mailto:delegate@vfwdc.com">delegate@vfwdc.com</a>
General Committee	Max Germasi	
General Committee	Tony Feltham	
SUPPORT POSITIONS TO COMMITTEE		
Web manager	Ben Whitworth	<a href="mailto:web@vfwdc.com">web@vfwdc.com</a>
Training officers	Phillip Griffith	<a href="mailto:training@vfwdc.com">training@vfwdc.com</a>
Merchandise	Carolyn Bruinsma	<a href="mailto:merchandise@vfwdc.com">merchandise@vfwdc.com</a>
Club Details		
Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club	
Registration No	A002184F	
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong VIC 3174	
Email	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>	
Website	<a href="http://www.vfwdc.com">www.vfwdc.com</a>	
The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of Four Wheel Drive Victoria - <a href="http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au">www.fwdvictoria.org.au</a>		

CLUB MERCHANDISE FOR SALE			
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
Club Drivers Jacket (Coat)	\$80.00 ea	VFWDC Windscreen stickers (small) \$6.00 (large) \$8.00	
We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.			
Email your order to <a href="mailto:merchandise@vfwdc.com">merchandise@vfwdc.com</a> . Please ensure you advise size required.			



## News From The President

Hello and welcome for yet another issue of the VFWDC monthly magazine.

This will be the last issue of the magazine that Amanda will be able to do for us, as she is about to start a new job and will no longer be able to commit to voluntary task. On behalf of the committee and the whole club I would like to thank Amanda for the efforts she has put into the magazine for nearly 2 years, it has been a job well done.

The club year is certainly kicking off to a fine start with lots of trips and activities starting to fill up the calendar. It is also very encouraging to see visitors coming along to the monthly meetings to chat with us and to check out our club. I try to get around to as many new faces as possible to greet people, so if you are a visitor to our club please feel free to come and say hello and introduce yourself to me or any other committee member. We are a friendly bunch, and we try to keep our meetings as informal as possible whilst still maintaining decorum and getting through the important business items all clubs need to do.

As this magazine goes on line, there will be the annual Wandin Show, which our club will be present at, in volunteering at the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Association stand. I hope in being part of the association stand as volunteers, we will get to talk to many people about the activities that we as recreational 4wd'ers undertake when we go bush, and also what the association does for the 4wd movement in Victoria (and broader community). I expect to learn more about the association in the process.

The club has a couple of great trips coming up including (and not limited to) a big Huts trips around Mansfield in March and a trip down into the Wonnangatta Valley over Easter.

I have booked a special guest speaker for the March General meeting. Sharon Chambers (media representative) of the Victorian Huts Association will give us an insight into the Huts History. I made the embarrassing mistake at our last general meeting as referring to her as the 'president' of the association, which I apologise for.

So whatever your plans are over the coming weeks and months, I hope you get a chance to go out and enjoy our great outdoors.

David Bruinsma  
0417 747 860  
VFWDC Club President  
[www.vfwdc.com](http://www.vfwdc.com)



# CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

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2016 March				
2nd	Wednesday	General meeting	President	
5th-6th	Saturday-Sunday	Driving training	Ashley/Phil	0428134399/ 0419865472
12th-14th	Saturday	Huts trip- Mansfield	Bruce	
15th	Tuesday	Deadline for editor	Editor	
25th-28th	Friday-Monday	Wonnagatta	David	0417747860
26th-3rd	Saturday	Pinch River	Mick	
April				
6th	Wednesday	General meeting	President	
15th	Friday	Deadline for editor	Editor	
19th	Tuesday	Committee Meeting	President	
May				
4th	Wednesday	General meeting	President	
15th	Sunday	Deadline for editor	Editor	
18th	Tuesday	Committee Meeting	President	
21st-22nd	Saturday	Aberfeldy Working bee	David	
June				
4th	Wednesday	General meeting	President	
10th-13th	Friday-Sunday	Portland Buggy club	Bruce	
18th	Tuesday	Committee Meeting	President	

## Minutes of General Meeting February 2016

**Meeting opened 8.02pm**

**Members** as per Attendance book

**Apologies** as per Apologies book

**Correspondence in:**

- New Member requests for information
- Other Club Mags
- Committee Stuff
- 4wd Stuff
- AXT Turbos – An Advertising Business offer.
- Serials Vic request for Data.
- Bank Statements
- Invoice for Weighbridge Weekend

**Correspondence out**

- Snail Mail of Magazines
- Replies to new member emails.
- Replies to General emails

**Treasurers Report:**

Figures as per Attachment

**Accept** - Jack

**Second** - Stuart

**New Members**

New Members kits handed out to our new members and they were warmly welcomed into the club.

- Gay Worley
- Carol Hill
- Shane Dodman
- Melanie Dodman

**General Business**

Our new supply of prizes for the monthly club raffles – Many thanks to Ben for arranging discounted items through work.

Wandin and how the club is going this year. We will be sharing a stand with 4wd Victoria. He also asked for volunteers, we heard many crickets chirping.

Isponsorship offer from Everything4wd. The committee didn't think it was in the clubs best interest. Dave went on to explain on why the committee turned it down.

Ashley Martin and Phil Griffith asked the reason we are looking for "sponsorship". It was explained that it is mainly for raffle prizes etc to save the club money.

It was widely agreed that the committee made the correct decision in turning down E4wd.

**Trips:**

**Information on trips is available through -> [trips@vfwdc.com](mailto:trips@vfwdc.com)**

**Please refer to club calendar and trip data forms**

**Driver Training**

Ashley expanded on the driver training weekend, and what is involved. Went into good detail on what's involved.

Bruce added it is highly recommended as not only a training weekend, but you can see how equipment can be used safely and meet other members in a relaxed surrounding.

----- Coffee Break-----

### **Trip Reports (from November onwards)**

2 trips to Marysville Area in November – as per submitted Trip Reports  
Reccy to Mt Matlock to Aberfeldy

Trip to Dargo in January. Did oodles of driving and had a great few campfires and socializing.

"General Business:

Dave asked for volunteers for the Editors for the magazine.

- Joe discussed changing the club colours and getting ladies colours.
  - o Much discussion was had on changing colours.
  - o There was discussion on patches; and getting some patches.
  - o Dave asked for show of hands and was more in favour of not changing but will look into patches
- It was decided that it is to be discuss at committee level.

John Partridge mentioned that it's now written into legislation that 2inch lift is now ok for vehicles with ESS.

Bruce mentioned it would be worth keeping an eye on your rego expiry date. Since there have been a fair few recent fines handed out to people whose rego had expired.

Many people aren't aware of the expiry date anymore since the rego labels have been dispensed with by VicRoads. Bloke in Qld was fined \$1275 for car out of rego and another in Vic close to \$800.

Raffle Draw

Max – Took the Veggies

Andy– Tie downs

Damien – Fruit and veggies

Bruce – Grease Gun (much to his delight after tossing out his tickets already!)

David B – Old HP Laptop

Meeting Closed: 9.50pm"



# Treasurer's Report

## January 2016

Cheque A/C` Opening Balance as at 01/01/2016 \$3,424.26  
Add:

Total Monies In: \$0.00  
Less:

Raffle Prizes from Ben paid in cash -\$50.00  
Refund Membership overpayment -\$400.00

Total Monies Out: -\$50.00

Closing Balance as at 31/01/2016 \$3,374.26

Plus:Un presented Cheque #469/473 -\$420.07

31/12/2015 Actual Balance When Cheque's Presented \$2,954.19

Term Deposit Opening Balance as at 01/01/2016 \$6,171.27

Closing Balance as at 31/01/2016 \$6,171.27

Petty Cash Opening Balance as at 01/01/2015 \$150.00

Closing Balance as at 31/12/2015 \$150.00

**Consolidated Closing Cash Position** **\$9,275.46**



To: All association club members.

Our association treasurer, John Farlow, has recently decided to leave the board. We would like to thank John for the great work he did in bringing the association's finances back under control and into excellent shape especially after what he was presented with when he joined the board at the start of 2014. All members should be extremely thankful of the knowledge that John brought to the position and the huge effort that he put into producing excellent financial reports, presenting these at association meetings and providing guidance to the board and office on the association's spending and budget. He also chaired the business and finance sub-committee which was focussed on the financial operation of the association.

As a result of John's departure the board is seeking applicants to fill this position. If you have experience in such a position, including a working knowledge of MYOB and financial operations in a Not For Profit organisation, we would be keen to hear from you. Qualifications such as being a current, or recent, CPA would be preferred but all reasonable applications will be considered.

Please feel free to contact myself at either of the numbers below if you are interested in applying for this position.

Thanks,

Damian

**Damian Stock**

**President**

**Four Wheel Drive Victoria** RSL Hall, 2 Centreway

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/4WDVictoria](https://www.facebook.com/4WDVictoria)

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Wonnangatta - Easter Getaway - 4 days
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Carolyn + David MOB: 0402 283 031 (0417747860)
DATE	25th March (Friday) till 28th March (Sunday)
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Approx 7am Good Friday morning at BP Pakenham bypass
GRADE	WET: Hard/Difficult if leaving via Licola way DRY: Easy/Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Leaving on Good Friday early in the morning. Planning to head east through to Sale and then up to Dargo, coming back into Wonnangatta from the East.</p> <p>Setting up camp on the Friday late afternoon (should be a reasonably easy drive in with plenty of breaks).</p> <p>Spend Easter Saturday and Sunday being fairly lazy around camp - might go for a drive or a few walk just to break up the days a bit, but nothing strenuous.</p> <p>Pack up early on monday morning and head home either through Licola, or if the tracks are reported to be a bit hard going, the options would be to head north out via Mansfield, or to return back out via Dargo.</p> <p>Wonnangatta is a great place to bring the kids, push bikes etc, big open areas for kids to play - a very gently stream to sit in the shade if it is hot. Plenty of places to get fire wood from too.</p> <p>Good Drop loos available - and I'll be bringing a small water pump to have quick showers.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS	800km round trip
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Sale/Dargo DIESEL: Sale/Dargo
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	About 4 hrs to Dargo, or 4 hrs to Licola, so bring everything in with you.
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	All camping and recovery equipment
MAPS REQUIRED	Roofops - Dargo - Wonnangatta Adventure Map
RADIO CHANNEL      CB / UHF	UHF 12

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>New Members Trip - High Country</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	Name: Bruce Cremonesi Email: secretary@vfwdc.com Mob: 0400 42 52 96
DATE	11-12-13 March 2016. Friday night not compulsory but very social!
Meeting Places and Times	Lilydale Maccas 6pm - 6.15 departure.  Mansfield BP Servo 145 Mount Buller Rd – bout 7.30- 8pm  Or at Sheeppyard Flat. 9.30am departure from campsite in the morning
GRADE	WET: Med  DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Driving around taking in around 10 huts, 2 waterfalls, 1 long tunnel, heaps of mountains, and sheet loads of scenery
VEHICLE LIMITS	MIN: 4  MAX: 8
APPROX KMS	~170klm from Lilydale to Howqua track Turnoff
Meeting place to destination	40klms max on dirt.
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	Petrol or Diesel: Mansfield
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	-- A 4wd.  -- Recovery gear (snatch strap, 2x shackles etc)  -- Compressor and Tyre Gauge.  -- UHF radio and handheld if you have one.  -- Good warm clothing and boots  -- Camping Gear (tent, sleeping bags, pillows, tent, bog roll etc).  -- Cooking stuff, Drinks and Food.  -- Cheese, Dip, Bikkies, Bottle of Wine for Happy Hour.  -- Cameras, there is tons to photograph up there for those that haven't been before.  -- Sense of Adventure and Humour.  There are dunnys at some of the huts along the way, and at Sheeppyard, and at Binderee Hut.  Camper Trailers Welcome.
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftop Maps "Bush Huts Around Mansfield"  (usually available at BP Mansfield where we will stop)
UHF Channel	UHF28

## March High Country trip

Hey team. Bit of information on my March High Country trip. This is about the 12th time running it. This trip suits all members, but is aimed towards newer members to learn and try out their gear and meet some other members on a relaxing trip. The trip is Camper Trailer Friendly – I've run this trip as a 'Learning offroading with your Camper Trailer Trip' for members to see what their trailer can handle. But everyone will have a great time.. Bring your camera along for some great shots. Basics of the trip are no real hard 4wding unless it gets wet! This is a very good trip to use your gear for the first time, try out some new gear, and meet other members. There is LOTS to see if the weather is kind, from mountain tops, huts and scenery. Meet up at Lilydale McDonalds 6pm or you can make your way up yourself Friday night or Saturday morning for a 10am departure from the campsite. Last fuel is at the Mansfield BP and while there if you want to follow the trip yourself, you can pick up the Rooftop Maps Bush Huts Around Mansfield \$10.00 - this whole trip is on the 1 map! We will head out from Mansfield towards Merrijig, past the pub to Howqua Track, and turn in there to the dirt. I recommend airing down there as the track can get corrugated and annoying, but low pressures will make it much more relaxing. First nights camping will be at Frys Flat for the night.

The plan then for Saturday is:

- Tunnel Bend – a tunnel under the road you can walk/crawl through
- Upper Jamieson Hut – nice drive into the valley, across a shallow river. + Dunnys
- Refrigerator Gap – Magic views
- Lovicks Hut – Magnificent snow gums along this section and a great hut. + Dunnys
- Bluff Hut – One of the better huts up there, + Dunnys and great views on this section.
- Pikes Flat – A nice river you can wash your car in.
- Bindaree Hut for the night -- Refreshing freezing river next to it. + Dunnys
- Bindaree Falls – Walk up the hill for those willing, and you can walk in behind the falls and look back down the valley. Really beautiful.
- Monument Track
- Craig's Hut + Dunnys

From here we shall see what people want to do, there are numerous options!!

- Go and see Lake Cobbler for a swim if weather is hot, stay the night then double back.
- Head over Mt Stirling and see the views if it's clear, head from there around to Kings
- See more huts , Kings Hut + Dunnys, Razorback Hut + Dunnys, Refuge Mt. No. 3 Hut, Tomahawk Gap and Hut

And we could do some wineries on the way home after that.

For more information see Bruce at the meeting.

Hope to see you there.

PS. Last one to arrive at Frys Hut does the trip report.

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Source of the Murray</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Brett B MOB: 0407878970
DATE	Easter Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> March – Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> March
MEETING PLACE / TIME	McDonalds Pakenham Bypass Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> 6.30 for 7pm departure and Omeo 11.30 am Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>
GRADE	WET: Hard DRY: Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>This is a repeat trip from Easter 2013.</p> <p>Intention is to head bush from Benambra up in the Far North East of the state. We will head towards the Rams Horn, Mount Wombargo, The Cobberas, and depending upon weather conditions, and participant willingness, hike to the source of the Murray, the Border Cairn and seek out the DC 3 Wreckage that is in the area.</p> <p>The trip will cover a large number of kilometers, constantly moving and will be unsuitable for Camper Trailers.</p> <p>There are steep rocky tracks and numerous water crossings in an isolated part of the state. High clearance vehicles with Quality All Terrain or Mud Tyres recommended.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 5
APPROX KMS	1000 – 1500
Meeting place to destination	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Omeo DIESEL: Omeo
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Omeo on Entry, Orbost on exit
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Self-sufficient, Recovery Gear & Hiking Boots
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftops Corryong – Omeo – Thredbo, Suggan Buggan
RADIO CHANNEL      CB / UHF	UHF 12

## UPCOMING TRIPS



## PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	Victorian Desert
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Max & Sandra Germasi TEL: 0403 101 121 Max MOB:
DATE	Easter long weekend
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE <span style="color: red;">Please adhere to new trip classifications</span>	WET: Easy DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Easy sand driving and camping through Victorian \ Deserts.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	1000 Kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Majors at Dimboola + Minor at Rainbow DIESEL:
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Last supply at Rainbow
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Full recovery gear Self-sufficient with camping, food/drink, water
MAPS REQUIRED	Trip leader has map of Victoria's Desert
RADIO CHANNEL      CB / UHF	12

### PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED:

1. Plan your trip. In particular: meeting point destination, trip grading, trip details, fuel information, camping arrangements.
2. Complete a "PROPOSED CLUB TRIP" form.
3. Pass the form on to the President or Events Coordinator, either in hard copy format or electronically, for approval at the next Committee Meeting. When approved, the Trip Leader will be notified and the trip included in the Club Calendar. Also ensure copy passed to Newsletter Editor for inclusion in calendar and Forthcoming Trip Section.

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Pinch River</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Mick MOB: 0424766616
DATE	26 <sup>th</sup> March-3 <sup>rd</sup> April
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Caltex Longwarry
GRADE	WET: Hard DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	This is a base camp trip.. will explore the Kosciusko area.. There are some good 4wd tracks to do..
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Jindabyne & Buchan DIESEL: Jindabyne & Buchan
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	200kms Roughly
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Normal Supplies for a week or four days.. Petrol Vehicles should bring extra fuel.
MAPS REQUIRED	Snowy-Kosciusko (hema) Kosciusko Alpine Area (SV maps)
RADIO CHANNEL      UHF	12

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Portland Buggy Club @ Portland Victoria</b>
LEADER/CONTACT.	Name: Bruce Cremonesi Email: <a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
DATE	June Long Weekend. 10 <sup>th</sup> to the 13 <sup>th</sup> Departing Friday June 10 <sup>th</sup> not too early.
MEETING INFO	BP Servo on Eastlink Outbound 9.30am for 9.45am departure for a leisurely cruise down there.
TRIP GRADING	DRY : Medium WET : Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Heading to the 1800ha Portland Buggy club to play in the sand. Everything for the sand enthusiast and is a generally great place to relax.</p> <p>BIG hills for sand tobogganing! Bring ya own skim/body board etc. along!</p> <p>You need to apply and pay 2 weeks in advance for a permit - 4 days \$50</p> <p>Form available here at the meeting from Bruce.</p> <p>Awesome place to learn the fine art of sand driving. There are dunnys and showers on site.</p> <p>Nice grassy campsite + bonfire will be spotted from the space station. Fishing was tops in the gutters last time if that floats ya boat.</p> <p>May also be wildlife around the camp as there as last time.</p> <p>If there is interest - Seals tour <a href="http://www.sealsbyseatours.com.au">www.sealsbyseatours.com.au</a></p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 6 MAXIMUM: 40
APPROX KMS	~ 400 klms to Portland. And 10klms past there.
LAST FUEL	Portland has numerous Service Stations.
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	<p><b>Full Recovery Gear required. It's up to you to have the correct gear.</b></p> <p><b>All vehicles must display a red flag of not less than 20cm x 30cm at the top of a pole not less than 4m from the ground. The pole must not lay horizontal at speed.</b></p> <p>Rated front + rear recovery points</p> <p>Snatch Strap + Rated shackles</p> <p>Gloves + Shovel</p> <p>Tyre Pressure Gauge + Compressor for reflatyng tyres</p> <p>UHF Radio</p> <p>Be Self-sufficient food and sleeping wise. Camper Trailers Welcome.</p> <p>Video or Still Camera <b>highly</b> recommended.</p> <p>Warm Clothing</p> <p>Sense of Adventure and Humour + munchies n stuff for happy hour.</p>
UHF Channel	UHF 28

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Xmas in July - St Annes Winery</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: David Bruinsma MOB: 0417 747 860
DATE	Saturday 9th July to Sunday 10th July 2015 ( <i>provisional date</i> )
MEETING PLACE / TIME	At St. Annes Winery from 12 mid-day onwards on the Saturday: 64 Garrards Road, Myrniong VIC 3341
GRADE	easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Twill be an easy relaxing weekend, camping at the winery itself. Come along, set up your camp - go to the cellar door, sample the wonderful variety of Wines and Ports and purchase your supplies for the weekend. The committee intend to supply the Saturday night dinner on our huge BBQ. The Committee will also supply a cooked breakfast on the Saturday morning. Numbers are needed prior to the weekend either by putting you names and passenger number down on the trip data form at a preceding club meeting - or by emailing me on <a href="mailto:president@vfwdc.com">president@vfwdc.com</a> with your details. We need to know if you are coming for DINNER ONLY, or staying for breakfast as well.</p> <p><i>(I need someone from the club who would be interested in arranging the food and/or cooking as Marie will likely be on the trip with Stuart on the Canning Stock Route).</i></p> <p>Happy hour starts on Saturday as soon as you arrive and are set up, please bring plate(s) of goodies to share around for nibbles !!!!!There is NO 4wding intended at all for the weekend (actually no driving at all until the next day as you head home), but for those who would like to get some 4wheeling done, there will be opportunity to do so upon your departure on Sunday to head up through Wombat SF, I can certainly recommend to try the XL track which has some nice bog holes last time I drove through.</p> <p>The winery allowed us to have an awesome bon fire on last year, I expect that will have the same opportunity again this year.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 5 MAXIMUM: whole club
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Bachuss Marsh DIESEL: Bachuss Marsh
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Bachuss Marsh
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Normal camping gear - and then relax around the camp fire.
MAPS REQUIRED	Normal GPS is sufficient to get to St. Annes
UHF	UHF 12

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Border track</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Mick MOB: 0424766616
DATE	Sep 9 <sup>th</sup> Sep 12 <sup>th</sup>
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE  Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Med  DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	We will be exploring some of the big desert and the Murray Sunset country and the border track
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2  MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS  Meeting place to destination	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Fuel is readily available  DIESEL:
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	At most 300km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	This trip could be wet or dry the area is like the high country....unpredictable so be prepared!
MAPS REQUIRED	Victoria's desert map
RADIO CHANNEL      UHF	12

# We Want Your Old Trip Notes

We are looking for old trip notes from leaders who have lead a trip in the past. This is to give other members some ideas of trips they could run. Please email our trip coordinator

[trips@vfwdc.com](mailto:trips@vfwdc.com)

# YOUR PHOTOS WANTED!



If you have any great trip photos please email them to Ben [web@vfwdc.com](mailto:web@vfwdc.com) to add to the website gallery.

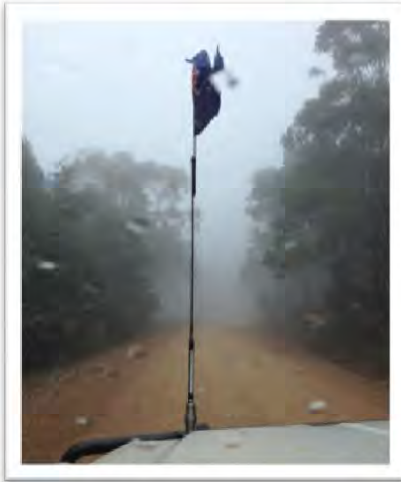
Make Sure you let Ben know which trip the photos are from. Please make sure to blur or black out all license plates.



# Trip Report Australia day weekend 23 January 2016 to 26 January 2016

Participants  
Maree and Stuart  
Sally and Mick  
Audrey and Ian  
Garry  
Joe

Landcruiser  
Patrol  
Patrol  
Patrol  
Prado



## Leaving

Melbourne heading to Sale the weather looks grey, light misty rain and low cloud. Wondering what the weekend end has in store for the intrepid adventurers.

The plan to go down Billy goat track. Everyone succeeded easily, heading up through the clouds provided added adventure, visibility poor. Headed to the Pinnacle for lunch but the fog was



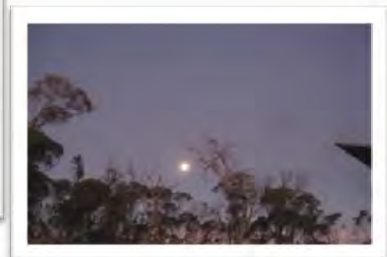
so bad no one even bothered to walk to the fire tower. In true Victorian style the weather cleared and fogged up again.



Into Dargo for a beer at the pub and a last minute what have we forgotten to pack. Idea is to camp at Italian flat, fire wood needed to be collected first, but watching the vehicles coming down the hill we choose to continue up. Camping at the top, over 1000 mts Collecting fire wood, Ian with the chain saw, Audrey walking the wood across the road, The camp fire welcome when camping up the top of the range. We had a full moon over the trees. The clear with stars and satellites



sky was visible.



Sunday 24 January 2016



Blue rag track, Success for everyone,



Down Basalt knob track, and we ran into the Pajaro club on a tight switch back. Ian and Stuart managed to sneak into the grader turn circle, but this made it challenging for the Pajaro club. Just to make life interesting there was over 20 in the procession. Headed into Talbotville for lunch. Heading out via Pioneer race track Ian noticed a strange noise. Tools out and wheels off. A broken hub lock. Back to Talbotville to camp and fix the mighty patrol.



Shaz and Andy found us camping at Talbotville and enjoyed a few funny yarns with friends. Camping in the valley makes for a warmer night. Ian and the boys managed to fix the patrol.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Shaz and Andy headed off for their adventures and we headed back out Pioneer race track. Down Herne spur track and into the Wonnangatta valley. Visited the homestead site and cemetery. Talked to the McAlester 4x4 club who was set up as camp hosts. They explained the history of the area, how



to stay safe in the bush, and handed out show bags. A worthwhile effort. Had lunch by the river. Checked out the camping sites looks inviting, put it on the come back and stay list. Up Zeka spur track to Mt Howitt. Where to next? The boys check out the map.



Garry said how about the Caledonia River track? Looks easy on the map, runs roughly along side Butcher country track. It now close to 4pm. Should have know better. Start with up, shale rock pinches, pinstriping on sides, rock climbs challenging everyone. Then opps MUD, big mud puddles. So we found a friendly place to set up camp, enjoyed a roaring fire and decided to tackle it in the morning



Tuesday Australia Day 26 January 2016



Mud to tackle.  
This went on for 2 hours.



Just when you thought there is no more, another puddle.



Everyone tackled the mud, Stuart got winched when he tried a side track that was worse than the main puddle. Good humour with Garys quote "rear wheel steering for back seat drivers" when he fell into a

rut. Joe said the big tyres made it look easy. Joe checking out a bog hole. Just when we thought the worst was over we started climbing up and up and up some more.



Dingo Hill track and according to the GPS we went from 200mt to 1200 mts. This included seven tight switch backs. Tight rockface pinches followed by 45 degree downs, it felt like we were in a washing machine on tumble. It's putting man and machine against the natural

environment.

Finally hitting civilisation at Tamboritha Road. Heading into Licola for lunch.

A great weekend end was had by all. I think most of the boys will agree this is a track to consider again in dry conditions only.

The last word is it has rained for the rest of this week so how lucky we were to get to this track and back out again.



Report by Maree Bowker

# Wombat State Forest

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Participants

Maree & Stuart	Toyota 79
Tony & Lisa	Ford ranger
Ben & Claire	
Charlie & Jack	Triton
Emilie & Max	Patrol
Jack	Patrol



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

Heading out of Melbourne, the trick is to beat the peak hour traffic. Poor Lisa and Tony were just too late and it took them twice the time to get to Firth Park. We set up camp it's hard to get a flat site. Stuart cut wood to get a roaring fire going.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Starting the day off on No 1 fire break track, on to Ratcliff track, and Blue gum track. We headed to the local quarry for morning tea.



We found some challenging tracks, up and down as Maree said " it's like being in a washing machine on the heavy duty cycle." Wombat State Forest is known for its puddles, this became apparent when we headed into the spaghetti junction, which way is the best way to go.





The local trees show signs of how tight how the turns they are missing barks just at bull bar height. It took a few bites to get round some of the turns. Here is Max working his way through the ruts and

puddles. His tail light proved worse for wear after the experience. Emily



put her arm out the

window to be the blinker and stop light. Tony got to use his winch to get out of a puddle.

Jack and Stuart went out to collect more wood for the fire.

We headed back to Firth Park, and enjoyed the afternoon.

We had booked the courtesy bus to pick up and take us to the Pig and Whistle

hotel for dinner. Definitely put that on your to-do list of places to visit. Food was delicious generous

serving. The management were so helpful nothing too much trouble, including supplying flowers for an anniversary .

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Wakening up to a shower of rain just enough to settle the dust. Its been a great weekend, and only 1 hour from Melbourne.

