



FREE WHEELING

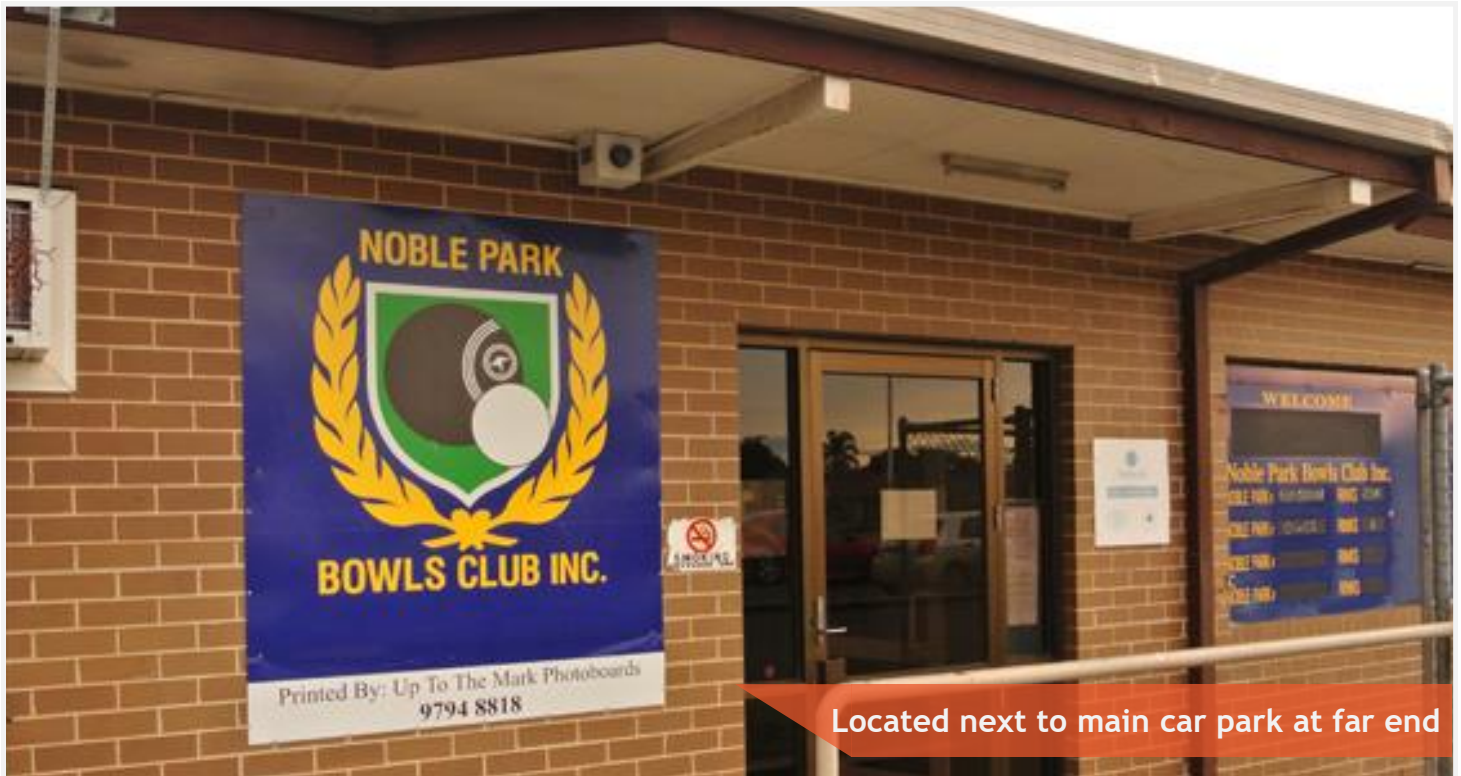
December 2018



Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Four Wheel
Drive Club Inc

Registration No
A0002184F

Original photo by Sally
Higgs at Portland Dunes



Located next to main car park at far end

VFWDC General Meeting Venue

The club meets on the first WEDNESDAY of each month at 8:00pm. With the following exceptions; No meeting in January. November meeting is at a selected location, watch the calendar.

Bowling Club Rooms

Noble Park Noble Football Club
46-56 Moodemere Street
Noble Park



Members and guests are welcome to dine at the bistro before attending the meeting from 6:30pm.



Aberfeldy Track

In association with [Westland Gippsland Relic, Mining and Heritage Protection Inc](#) , the club maintains a section of the Aberfeldy Track with working bees throughout the year. View the club calendar for the next upcoming working bee.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

2018-2019

President	Steve Pitcher	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Vice President	David Bruinsma	delegate@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Sally Higgs	secretary@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Tony Barbera	treasurer@vfwdc.com

General Committee

Trip Coordinator	Andre Van Der Walt	trips@vfwdc.com
Magazine Editor	Ly Ho	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	David Bruinsma	delegate@vfwdc.com
General Committee	Stuart Bowker	
General Committee	Callum Broen	
General Committee		

Support Positions to Committee

Web Manager	Ben Whitworth	web@vfwdc.com
Training officer	Phillip Griffith	
Training officer	Ashley Martin	
Merchandise	Des Whall	merchandise@vfwdc.com
Catering	Lisa Barbera	

Club Details

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
Registration No	A002184F
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong VIC 3174
Email	secretary@vfwdc.com
Website	www.vfwdc.com
The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of Four Wheel Drive Victoria - www.fwdvictoria.org.au	

CLUB MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

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. Please ensure you advise size required.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hi all,

Welcome to the final edition of Free Wheeling magazine for 2018!

Looking back on the year that was, we have achieved a lot as a club. We have run multiple local and interstate trips, we have seen a net increase in our membership base, we have supported community, volunteer and charitable initiatives, and we have had the opportunity to hear from some very interesting guest speakers/presenters over the months.

Speaking of guest speakers, we have arranged for Wayne Heavey, CEO of Four Wheel Drive Victoria, to join us at our December meeting. This is a great opportunity to hear about all the good work that our state representative body does on behalf of its affiliate member clubs, the four wheel driving community at large and, of course, in the preservation of public access rights to tracks, parks and lands. Please come along to hear from Wayne and to ask any questions that you may have about Four Wheel Drive Victoria's operations or our club's affiliation.

As we edge nearer to summer, it is important to ensure that we all remain alert to, and do our bit to reduce, the heightened risks of bushfire. If planning to do a bit of camping or four wheel driving over the summer break, please remain 'fire-ready' in case of an emergency. It may also be worth considering the value of downloading the [CFA's free app](#) to your phone and/or tuning in to our national broadcaster to check for total fire ban announcements and bushfire warnings.

With summer comes Christmas! This year, we will be holding our annual club Christmas party on Saturday, 8 December 2018. The venue remains unchanged from last year - Ian and Audrey's place (full details are available within the magazine) and the Committee will again be preparing a spit roast for dinner. Please make the effort to join in if you can (even if you can't stay too long or overnight) and, to assist with preparations, please put your names down at our December meeting or [send me an email](#) if you can't make the meeting.


If I don't catch you at the next meeting or at the Club Christmas party, have a very merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!

Steve Pitcher
President

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 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

December

5th	Wed	General Meeting		
8th	Sat	Club Christmas Party 2018	Steve Pitcher	0421 205 529
15th	Sat	Aberfeldy & Surrounds	Stuart Bowker	0428 539 157

January

		No General Meeting		
15th	Tue	Committee Meeting		
26th to 28th	Sat to Mon	Australia Day Long Weekend 2019	Steve Pitcher	0421 205 529

February

6th	Wed	General Meeting		
19th	Tue	Committee Meeting		

IMPORTANT

- **Club merchandise has been reduced!** Check out the new prices on page three and pick up some new gear for this warmer season.
- If you wish to join us for dinner before the General Meeting, please book a spot at [Club Noble](#). Phone 9546 0653 and ask to join “Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club” table. You must book **BEFORE** the Monday on the week of the meeting to avoid disappointment!

Come in and see us at *G & C Communications P/L*

for a **"Professional Safety Check"** of your VHF & 27Mhz

Marine Radio Communications Systems in your boat.

Between September 15th and December 15th **ONLY \$55.00**

and go into a draw to **WIN** a GME GX850 VHF Marine Portable Radio

Drawn on December 20th 2018

(Winner will be notified)



G & C Communications P/L Shop 2, 9 Cameron Street Cranbourne 3977

Phone: 03 5996 3298 for your Appointment

Please Like Us On Facebook

www.gccomm.com.au

TRADING POST

Members can advertise any four wheel drive or camping related items they wish to sell or buy.

Just email the editor, editor@vfwdc.com, with the following:

1. Description of the item
2. Price
3. Contact details
4. Photos (highly recommended)

FOR SALE: Sunroof Visor 35.5 inch / 90cm

\$20

Bought it off eBay and didn't measure before buying. So doesn't fit the car and pretty much brand new.

90cm x 16cm. Reinforced Acrylic comes in black. [See this eBay link](#) for more pics and info.

Ly Ho

ly.tri.ho@gmail.com

0433 387 811

35.5" Sunroof Moonroof Visor



FOR SALE: Alloy (Black Widow) Roof Rack

\$500 o.n.o

Phillip Griffith

griffithp@westpac.com.au

Alloy (Black Widow) Roof rack suits a GU Patrol, (may suit other vehicles, though require different legs)

Dimensions 2200mm x 1300mm x 165mm

Australian made, very good condition. Wind deflector and shovel holder included.

Selling because it doesn't fit our new car.



FOR SALE: Bridgestone Dueler A/T x 5

\$1000 negotiable

Emily Wimetal

emilynwimetal@gmail.com

265x70R 17 inch Kingwheels

4x near new

1x slight damage but does not effect the use.

Used once for flinders ranges

Bought for \$1600 selling for \$1000 negotiable



Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com



Treasurer's Report October 2018

Cheque A/C` Opening Balance as at 01/10/2018 \$4899.58

Add:	Raffle	\$103.00
	Membership Renewals	\$290.00
	Merchandise	\$0.00

Total Monies In: \$393.00

Less:

Catering	\$22.00
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Total Monies Out: -\$22.00

Closing Balance as at 31/10/2018 \$5,270.58

Term Deposit Opening Balance as at 01/10/2018 \$6,536.87

Interest Paid	\$0.0
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Closing Balance as at 31/10/2018 \$6,570.65

Petty Cash Opening Balance as at 01/10/2018 \$150.00

Add:

Less:

Closing Balance as at 31/10/2018	\$150.00
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Consolidated Closing Cash Position **\$11,957.45**

UPCOMING TRIPS

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

DESTINATION	Club Christmas Party 2018
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Steve Pitcher MOB: 0421 205 529
HOST/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Audrey Rhodes / Ian Rhodes MOB: 0418 821 581
DATE	Saturday 08 December 2018
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Free overnight camping available (BYO camping gear) 51 Nar Nar Goon Longwarry Road, Tynong VIC, from 2pm onwards
GRADE	WET: 2WD accessible DRY: 2WD accessible
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>We will be holding our Club Christmas party at Ian and Audrey’s place. They have a HUGE shed that we will use as a ‘camp kitchen’ and an even bigger back yard with plenty of space for members to set up camp and stay overnight should they wish.</p> <p>The club will put on a spit roast for the main meal (dinner). Everyone is requested to bring/contribute a share plate/platter, or a salad or cake/dessert to share.</p> <p>We will have some games/activities for the kids (big and small!).</p> <p>BYO breakfast (if staying overnight), drinks and snacks.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	All members are invited and are encouraged to attend if they can.
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	Approximately 20 kms past the BP at Officer bypass.
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: N/A DIESEL: N/A
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Usual camping gear if intending to stay overnight. BYO chairs and, only if you have, any long tables/trestles would be appreciated. There will be a BBQ available for use. Please see the December 2017 edition of Free Wheeling magazine for pictures of last year’s event.
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

DESTINATION	Aberfeldy and surrounds
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Stuart & Maree MOB: 0428 539 157
DATE	15th December 2018 A Christmas madness escape!
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Aberfeldy main street 9:00 am for an 9:30 am departure, or if anyone is interested meeting for dinner at the Erica pub on the Friday night and camping after a night run to Aberfeldy, we could do that too.
GRADE	WET: Difficult DRY: Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Idea is to head up past Aberfeldy and do some four wheel driving for the day. Bring packed lunch and munchies for roadside stops
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: N/A
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	300–400kms round trip
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Moe LPG: Moe DIESEL: Moe
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	400km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Own basic recovery gear, tools and any spares you may require. AT or MT tyres
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftop maps Walhalla-Licola
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

DESTINATION	Australia Day Long Weekend 2019
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Steve Pitcher MOB: 0421 205 529
DATE	Saturday 26 Jan 2019 - Monday 28 Jan 2019
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Northbound service station at 1175 Hume Hwy, Mickleham Aiming for 10am departure to get there around lunchtime.
GRADE	WET: 2WD DRY: 2WD (4WD may be required to camp foreshore)
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Relaxing weekend camping on the banks of the Murray River at Carter's 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 (and permits), kayaks, hammocks, etc.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: N/A MAXIMUM: N/A It gets quite crowded so if anyone can get up there earlier and 'mark a spot' that would be great.
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	300kms (approx.) Fuel, ice and other supplies available at nearby Strathmerton.
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Strathmerton DIESEL: Strathmerton
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	10km from camp
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Usual camping gear (no 4WDing planned - just R&R). If you can bring some firewood, that would really help!
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A - follow the signs from Strathmerton - once you cross on to the island, it's almost impossible to get lost!
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

HELLA PRODUCT FOCUS NIGHT

12th November
by Sally Higgs

Following on from our club night where Hella came and showed off their light trailer they had a limited number of invites to go along to their showroom and spend an evening with them learning about their products and providing feedback to them on how we use driving lights.

The evening started with a challenge in finding the location, they have just recently moved to new premises with the same street name as their old one. The security guard was very helpful and most people made it before the start of the evening.



Hella's Managing Director for Australia welcomed us and gave a brief history of the company. He was very encouraged by his team engaging with the 4WD community. We then had a session on learning about lights, lighting, lumens, lux and how the bigger the lumen it is not always better. There are a lot of factors in lighting and finding the right one for you. I learnt that it is not good for fatigue to have a hard line between light and dark when driving and that it should slowly dissipate to help your eyes out. I also learnt that they tend to have more yellow light (less lumen) for mining sites as it is safer for the miners as it is not as fatiguing to them.

We had the chance to have a look at the competition vehicle that Hella sponsor for the outback competition racing over pizza as well as chatting to the team from Hella. Through the night they were asking us questions on how we drive, what lights we use, what marketing we see, what magazines we read and TV shows we watch. They acknowledged that they have not focused on this market for awhile and it is an area that they want to do more in. We had the opportunity to ask questions and we all got to take a pressie home from Hella. I am sure you will see some of them out on the tracks soon.

Overall it was a fantastic evening where I think people learnt a lot. They have offered to come back soon to show us their lights as well as their other catalogue items that can help with camping.

Thanks Hella for a fantastic evening.

BEACHPORT CUP WEEKEND

2nd to 6th November
by Brett & Niki

John	Patrol
Steve & Talya	Patrol
Andrew & Family	Prado
Ben & Family	Landcruiser
Joe & Josh	Prado
Brett & Niki	Landcruiser

This trip was planned and promoted by our Trips 'Master' Bruce, however he had to pull out the week prior, due to his leave being cancelled. So the show must go on.

We all headed off at varying times on the Friday and met up at the Southern Oceans Caravan Park in Beachport - our home for the next 4 nights. The trip down was uneventful except for the storm force headwinds we had all the way. The conversation around the red torch light that evening (our imaginary fire as it fires were not permitted that evening) was the amount of extra fuel we all went through. I used 77 litres from Ballarat to Hamilton alone.

The next morning we headed off at 9ish for the sand. We made our way south of town, aired down to 15psi and straight onto the beach and headed for Carpenters Rocks. It was high tide and was meant to be receding so we had to stay high on the soft stuff. Within 5 minutes I got stuck, stuck again, stuck again, stuck again, and again - in all 7 times we had to dig me out and set up the recovery tracks before I got passed the really soft stuff - I was now down to 10psi. Whilst recovering and digging out the sand the wave action caught a few of us and I had some wet shorts. Now out I pushed on under heavy right foot and pulled up 100 metres along the beach.



Now it was Ben's turn. Fortunately with a little more of a run up, he only got stuck 3 times! It had been a long morning already with many hands and shovels assisting. Now the remaining 4 had our tracks to follow and with more speed all got through this soft patch without mishap. Of course afterwards there was the usual Nissan & Toyota banter!

We had no other traffic on the beach and with the tail wind we made good speed to Southend, wherein we had to exit and travel along some tracks to the rockpools on the point. We went looking for some shelter in the dunes and stopped for a well-deserved lunch in a camp ground. Whilst out of the wind and as soon as we shut down the beasts we had a sharp rain shower. We'd had it all that morning and had travelled only 6 km's in 3 hours.



After Lunch we pushed on and followed the track through the Canundra National Park. With a little black top driving to get past the rocky outcrops, it was back into the park and on towards the wind turbines. This part of the track through the National Park was rippled with multiple woopy-do like ridges in the track. You had to take them slow as at any pace then the interior was sure to be rearranged. We all felt like we had been in a washing machine.

On this leg we came across a large open section that resembled the Portland Buggy Club. Time for a bit of Fun! Josh launched the drone and then it was a free for all. Ben took out the 'Hoon'

award and John easily took out the 'Michael Jordan' award for the most airtime after launching off a Dune. After his call over the UHF Steve took it to easy approaching the crest and bottomed out. A quick winch was in order to get him off the peak.



Day 3

This was our 'rest day' so we all headed to the Naracoorte caves it was only a 90 min drive from camp! For the ones that hadn't been there before the caves really surprised us. They are World Heritage listed due to the fossils that have been found therein. With many caves and different tours to pick from there was something for everyone.



Day Four

Today it was back on to the sand this time heading north to Robe.



This trip was a mix of Beach & Dune driving. The topography was continually changing with short sharp sand climbs off the beach interspersed with firm tracks. There was a lot of traffic out today with 2 groups front of us, with the larger containing 15 vehicles. The larger group was very slow and at one point seemed to have stopped on the exit from the Beach. With another group of 6 in front of us, we undertook a U turn and went in search of another track around. Whilst successful getting around the large group we did find ourselves behind the smaller group which continually

had difficulty ascending the dunes.

We ended the day in Robe with an ice cream and a short trip to the Oblisk.



Many thanks to all who participated and most of all to Bruce for the effort in organising the weekend.

MARYSVILLE

17th November
by Maree Bowker

Maree & Stuart	Toyota Ute
Ben 2	Isuzu
Marcus (Ben's friend)	Prado
Joe S & James	Colorado
Tim, Tom & Callum	Pajero
Trudy, Callum & Zac	Ranger

The day started with a bang, waking up in the township of Marysville. Marcus (Ben 2's friend) had joined us for the day and he needed to remove his tow ball from the hitch just in case he needed a recovery point added. This proved harder than it needed to be with lots of hammer belting and the looks of the locals enjoying the bakery coffee and treats. All good and we headed off.

Out onto Mt Margaret road then Boundary track was the plan, but the big gate at the entrance to Boundary track had different ideas. First "U" turn back to Lady Talbot Drive and the back way to Keppel Hut. Morning tea declared and time to explore the hut and stream. So far so good, a few mud puddles, some drove through slowly and others got mud on their roofs. Not telling stories but photos don't lie.

Next challenge was up past Keppel Hut, Mc Fadyen track, this provided some challenges as a large tree had fallen and the chicken track was littered with huge boulders to get a round. The boulders put each driver at challenging angles depending on your wheel placement. I believe there was more than one car going Arrrrr #####? We all made it.

We headed to the Rubicon Dam wall for lunch. Think supermarket car parking at a busy time and you get some idea of the manoeuvring needed to fit everyone in for our lunch spot. Well worth the effort, this track has been closed for a long time and we saw the huge tree cleared from the track.



After lunch we headed up Quartz creek road and on to Royston River Road. A hazard we enounced was an echidna slowly crossing the road, such a cute little fellow. We commented on the number of

dead wombats but didn't see any live ones.



The tracks are really overgrown, and the paint work took a beating from some of the trees. There was evidence of trees being cleared everywhere. Next challenge was Bull Fight Road, and its rock steps, then just around a corner, dread, a huge tree, but luck for us someone had put another chicken track around. Just a bit tight for some of the bigger vehicles.



As we came into a logging area and we found this sign. We all changed UHF channels to 39 because then you can hear if there is any trucks in your area, and as you are talking they can hear you and know you are around. This is a safety issue as you don't want to come around a corner and find a log truck. So keep an eye for these signs and hopefully keep everyone safe.

Finally, on to Morrison Lookout out over Lake Eldon and surrounds.

Just because a trip would not be complete without someone breaking something, Marcus (Ben 2's friend) dislodged a protective plate under his Prado, and as you can see there's feet protruding, and the



supervisor with his hand on his hips giving somewhat helpful advice and smart comments.

Down Hobson Gap road on to Buxton township and a look at the mountain bike tracks they have prepared, but we all decided its easier to drive. Dinner was enjoyed at the Buxton Hotel and a great day was had by all. Enjoy the pictures.



Morrison Lookout



Someone found some mud?



More mud





More to Explore App

The More to Explore App was recently launched by DELWP & Forest Fire Management it is ideal for Bushwalkers, Four Wheel Drivers, Fishers etc. to plan and enjoy the great outdoors in Victoria and covers all our State Forest areas.

The app provides an interactive map, descriptive information and photos of our visitor sites and recreational trails and enables you to download maps for use offline, when out of mobile phone range. The data is maintained directly by Forest Fire Management Victoria field staff and provides the latest and most up-to-date information available (includes the latest information on any visitor site or trail closures).



Can you help us?

The More To Explore app includes track data, campsite info, photos and track rating guide which has been previously provided by some of our club members. The track information in the app is limited at this stage so we are asking our members for help in collating more tracks into the App. Four Wheel Drive Victoria is working with DELWP in supporting this App as part of our key volunteer work projects.

So if you could assist by collecting some track data next time you are out on the tracks it would be greatly appreciated. We don't need any data from National Parks at this stage, just from State Forests. This app works really well and will become an asset for all four wheel drivers and recreational users of State Forests. Please make sure you log your hours and kms travelled so we can include them in our volunteer hours log.

So! The information we require is location or name of forest, track name and if possible track log files, track difficulty rating using our track rating guide on www.fwdvictoria.org.au, photos of the track showing the most challenging section to give the user an idea of the track conditions, any other information such as points of interest, scenic spots and picnic areas etc. Have a play in the App yourself and you can see what information is already there.

Please send your files via email to projects@fwdvictoria.org.au.