



FREE WHEELING

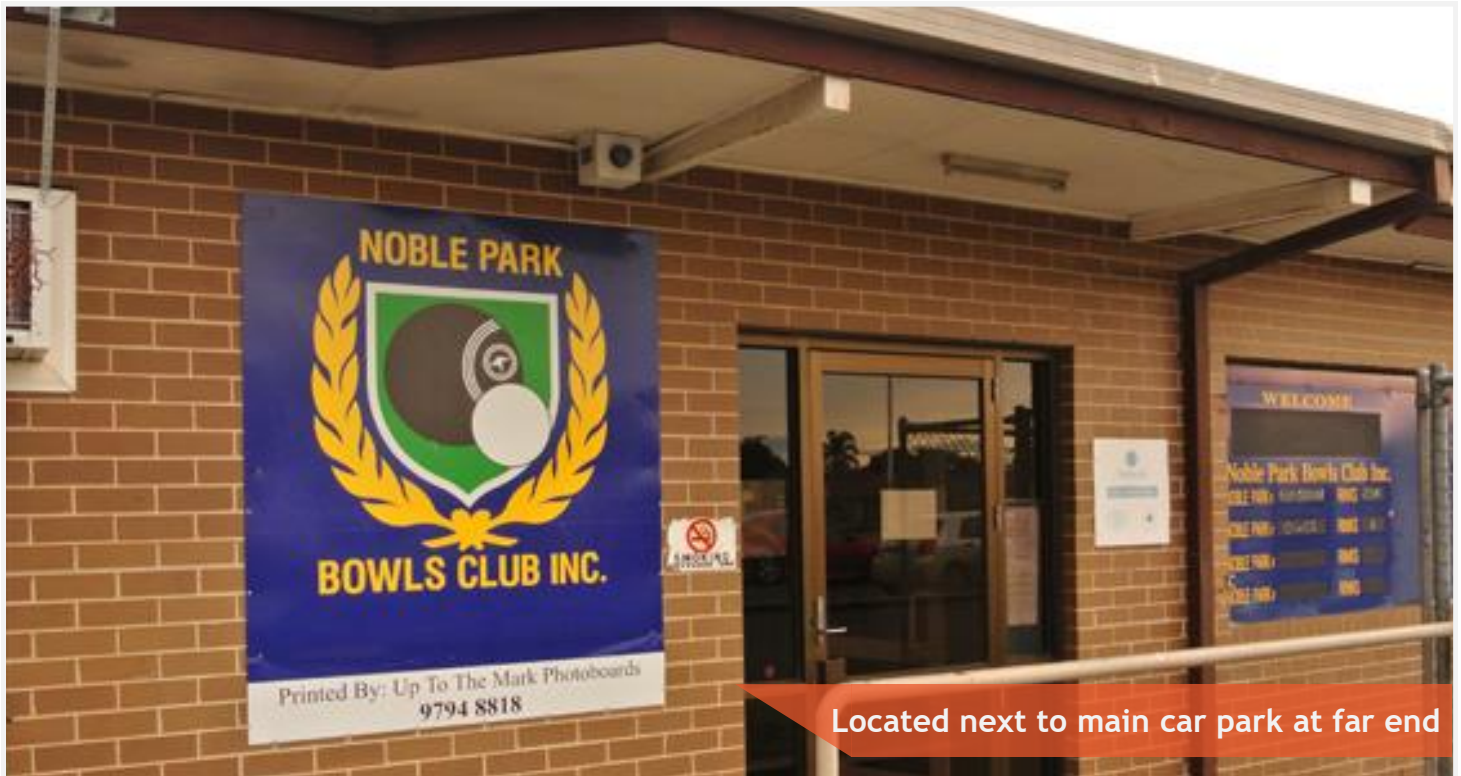
February 2018



Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Four Wheel
Drive Club Inc

Registration No
A0002184F

Original photo by Brett
Nuske on January, Wes-
burn.



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

2017-2018

President	Ben Whitworth	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	Steve Pitcher	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Bruce Cremonesi	secretary@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Tony Barbera	treasurer@vfwdc.com

General Committee

Trip Co-Ordinator	Stuart Bowker	trips@vfwdc.com
Magazine Editor	Ly Ho	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	David Bruinsma	delegate@vfwdc.com
General Committee	Ashley Martin	
General Committee	Callum Brown	

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

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](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au) - www.fwdvictoria.org.au

CLUB MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Club Polo Shirts	\$28.00	Club Hoodie	\$54.00
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$48.00	Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$54.00
Club Caps	\$15.00	Club Bucket Hat	\$16.00
Club Wide Brim Hat	\$18.00	Club Beanie	\$12.00
Club Drivers Jacket (Coat)	\$80.00	VFWDC Windscreen stickers	
		Small	\$6.00
		Large	\$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 VFWDC Free Wheeling magazine.

Happy 2018!

I hope everyone got to have a break and maybe get a little dirty.

I myself have had 5 weeks off and did manage to get away for a week with the family to a quiet spot by a river. That was a bit of relaxation before the hard work of moving house.

Your committee has already met for the first time in 2018 to start planning the year ahead. We are planning some more tutorial sessions and guest speakers for meetings. We have some ideas for trips and activities that should provide something for everyone. Stay tuned.

Our training team has scheduled in a Proficiency Training weekend in March. Thanks to the guys for putting in the time.

For all members that have not done the

Proficiency Training I highly recommend it. You will learn how to do what we love safely. AND if you have insurance with Club 4x4, or are shopping for insurance, simply present your Proficiency Training certificate and you will receive a 10% discount on your premiums.

Check the calendar for more Proficiency Training details.

Please give some thought to running a trip, we really need our experienced members to step up and run some trips.

I hope to see all our members at the meeting and out on the tracks.

Ben Whitworth
President

CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

February

2nd to 4th	Fri to Sat	(Day Hike) Murrindindi Scenic Reserve + Mill Track Loop	Ly	0433 387 811
7th	Wed	General Meeting		
20th	Tue	Committee Meeting		

March

7th	Wed	General Meeting		
14th	Wed	Driver Proficiency Training Theory	Ashley Martin Phil Griffith	0428 134 399 0419 865 472
16th to 18th	Fri to Sun	Driver Proficiency Training Practical	Ashley Martin Phil Griffith	0428 134 399 0419 865 472
20th	Tue	Committee Meeting		

April

4th	Wed	General		
???	???	Winch and Tyre Repair Training (TBC)		
17th	Tue	Committee Meeting		

IMPORTANT

- 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 “Sally’s table” from the club. You must book **BEFORE** the Monday on the week of the meeting to avoid disappointment!

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

December 2017

Meeting started 8pm

Attendees - as per book

Apologies - as per book

Minutes from November Meeting

Read and Accept

Accepted: Brett

Second: Emily

Correspondence from mins

Nil

Incoming Correspondence

- Emails from prospective members

Outgoing Correspondence

- Emails to prospective members

Treasurers Report

As per attachment in magazine.

Accept - David

Seconded - Mick

4wd Vic

Lots of stuff

General bizzo

- Advertising in the Club Magazine. For Sale in the Club Magazine
- Discussion on insurance and make sure you know who your insured with.
- Visitors show of hands – 5 visitors with good variety of cars.
- Xmas party. Massive thanks to Ian and Audrey for use of their property for the party after Plan A and Plan B were fubar.
- Thanks to Ly and Darna for being the cooks.
- Reminder we are coming into fire season.

Merchandise

Des introduced himself

- We have all sizes of all things in stock and went through some of the items in stock.

Mick and Sally stood up and informed the club that they are moving to Qld in January and they plan to stay with the club and do trips..

Coffee Break

New Members:

- Ross Metherell—awol
- Bayani Serrano

Upcoming Club Trips *(Trip forms down the back of the meeting on the bench)*

- Marysville this Saturday with Stuart
- Fraser Island and Morton Island - 7th - 28th January - Callum.
- Caledonia River Trip - Brett B
- Hiking or something crazy like that trip with Ly.
- Cape York - 18th August 5 weeks in total - Mick and Sally.

Past Club Trips

- Proficiency training - Well worth the effort.
- Working bee - Riveting
- Beachport - Daves car fell apart again

Stuart mentioned we need some more trips, so if you have any ideas, please email them through to committee@vfwdc.com

Raffle drawn

- First prize - Callum
- Second Prize - Ly
- Third Prize - Tony
- Fourth Prize - Steve
- Fifth Prize – Dunno
- Sixth Prize – Andrew
- Seventh Prize – Joe

Meeting Closed
10pm

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)

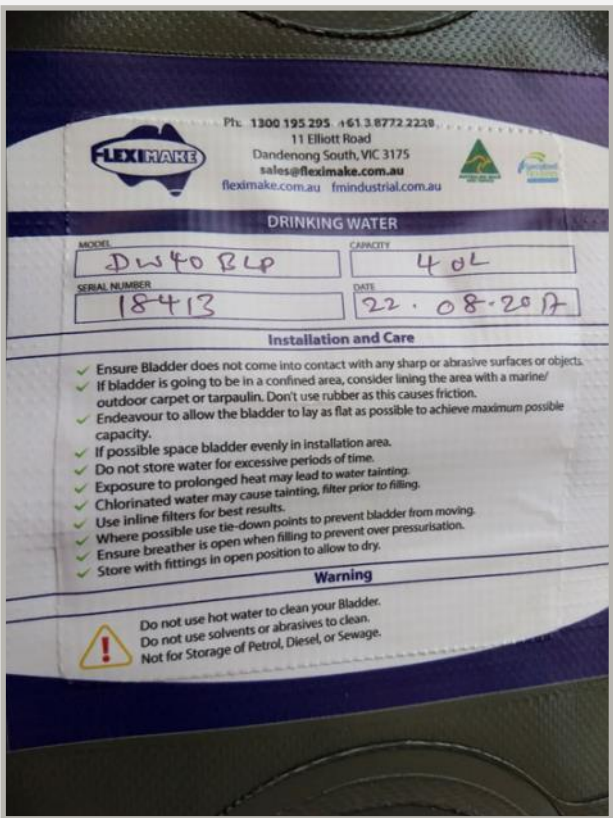
FOR SALE: FlexiMake 40L Drinking Water Bladder

\$100

New-like 40L Drinking Water bladder by FlexiMake. Doesn't fit my set up after installing it once and then emptying it out. Bought it last November.

Comes with everything except the valve-tap which I'm keeping. [More info and photos see here](#)

Ly
0433 387 811
Ly.tri.ho@gmail.com



FOR SALE: BBQ

\$150

[David](#)

Well used but still in great working order. Legs fold up under base. Lid clips on.

0417 747 860

Dimensions are:

Length 1285mm (not including side handles)

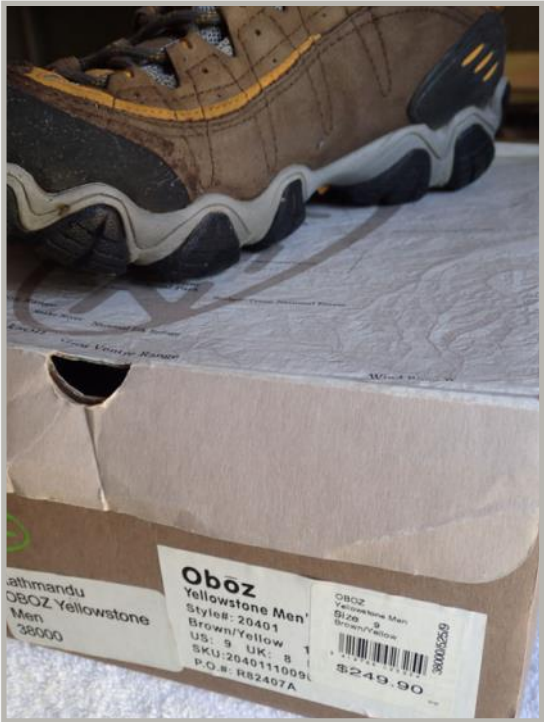
Width 540mm

Height 765mm (ground to top)



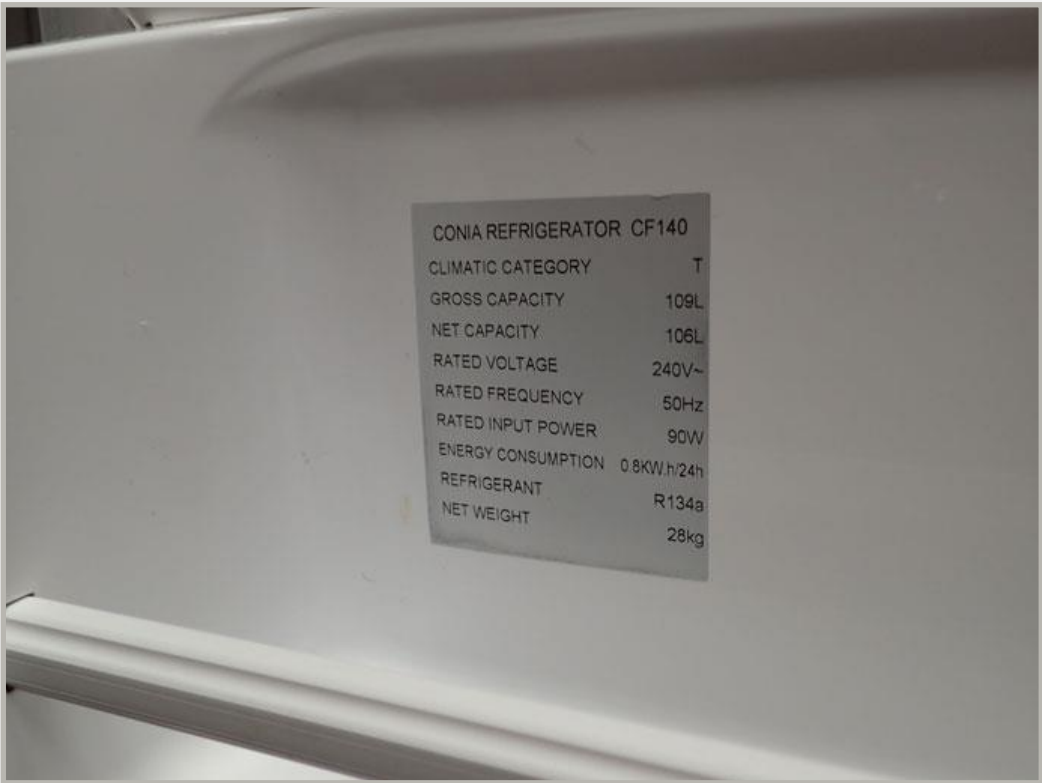
FOR SALE: Hiking Boots—Oboz

\$150	Mark
Hiking Boots - 'Oboz' brown with some orange (see photos). UK size 8. They are in excellent condition, and only worn about 4-5 times. They are very comfortable, but are 1/2 size too small for me. Were \$250, sell\$150 ONO.	0412 544 668
Great for general hiking and 4wdriving.	



FOR SALE: Conia Bar Fridge - 109LT

\$130	Mark
Conia Bar Frigde 109LT for sale. \$130.	0412 544 668
Is in great condition, and only has 3 very small marks in the door. Great for man-cave / garage / outdoor area. See photos.	



Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com



Treasurer's Report September 2017

Cheque A/C` Opening Balance as at 01/09/2017 \$3,992.70

Add:	Membership Renewals	\$290.00
	Raffle Ticket Sales	\$88.00
	New Memberships	\$240.00

Total Monies In: \$618.00

Less:

FWDV Membership Fees	\$195.00
Venue Hire Club Noble	\$1,000.00
Petty Cash (Catering)	20.00

Total Monies Out: \$1,215.00

Closing Balance as at 30/09/2017 \$3,395.70

Term Deposit Opening Balance as at 01/09/2017 \$6,399.78

Closing Balance as at 30/09/2017 \$6,399.78

Petty Cash Opening Balance as at 01/09/2017 \$150.00

Add:	Cheque Account	\$20.00
Less:	Catering	-\$20.00

Closing Balance as at 30/09/2017 \$150.00

Consolidated Closing Cash Position \$9,945.48

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	(Day Hike) Murrindindi Scenic Reserve + Mill Track Loop
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Ly Ho MOB: 0433 387 811
DATE	Friday 2nd February 2018 optional Saturday 3rd February 2018 Sunday 4th February 2018 optional
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE (WALKING)	WET: Medium DRY: Easy/Medium HOT: Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Primarily a day hike—no 4x4ing at all. Friday night arrive at Murrindindi Scenic Reserve to set up base camp and relax at one of the numerous sites. There is a camping permit fee per vehicle per night.</p> <p>Saturday morning pay the camping fee at the permit box and wait for any day trippers. Then tackle the Mill Track -see details and map here. We will take our time and enjoy the scenery at an easier pace (depending on the group). Take happy snaps at the waterfall.</p> <p>For anyone who only want a shorter walk, you return back to camp here and we'll meet you back at base camp.</p> <p>When we return to base camp, dip in the river, sit back and rest our legs over some food and fire.</p> <p>Sunday head home.</p> <p>If you don't wish to camp, feel free to come on Saturday.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 1 MAXIMUM: 4
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	58km
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Lilydale DIESEL: Lilydale
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	58km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Bring enough water (at least 2L) and food for a day walk. Extra water if it's hot. Comfortable hiking boots. Hat, sun-screen and any other creature comforts for walking. Light jacket or jumper if gets cold. Camping gear for camping
MAPS REQUIRED	
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

DESTINATION	Proficiency Training
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Ashley Martin—0428 134 999 Phil Griffith—0419 865 472
DATE	Theory—Wednesday March 14th, 7:30PM start Practical- Friday March 16th—18th
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Theory - Noble Park Football Club, Blue & Gold Room (above dining area) Practical - Service Centre Officer (Princess Hwy) Friday 5pm Service Centre Officer (Princess Hwy) Saturday 7.30am
GRADE	WET: Easy/Med DRY: Easy/Med
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>The Club encourages all members to participate in a proficiency course to ensure the basic fundamentals of 4 wheel driving are gained.</p> <p>Theory provides an overview of the tread lightly principals, vehicles dynamics and functions, tackling various terrains along with other subjects. This provides the back ground for the practical weekend.</p> <p>Practical we run through individual vehicles and differences, basic recovery equipment and recap some of the theory (including home work J). We then begin the practical side running through several techniques to ensure safe vehicle recovery when in difficult situations. Once all participants are confident with these we hit the tracks to putt all the theory into practice.</p> <p>Sunday will be a leisurely start then we traverse a number of tracks which allow you to become familiar with your vehicles capabilities and gain further confidence. We should be finished by 2 o'clock arriving back to Melbourne around 4.</p> <p>As with past participants the weekend provides confidence to safely 4WD either with the club or friends.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	300 kms approximately
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Theory, pen and concentration Practical you will need to be self-sufficient for camping and have your brain switched on.
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

DESTINATION	Cape Trip
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Michael Harris MOB: 0424 766 616
DATE	August 18th 2018 to September 22nd 2018
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE	WET: Med DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	General touring through to the cape & back
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	Depends on where we go...last time we did about 13700 kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: TBA DIESEL: TBA
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Enough surplus to last 5 weeks + all normal gear
MAPS REQUIRED	
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

MARYSVILLE DAY TRIP

9th December 2017
by Stuart and Maree

Maree & Stuart

Norm & Louisa

Audrey & Ian

Mary & Jeff (Visitors)

Steve & Graham (Visitors)

- Toyota

- Ranger

- Patrol

- BT50

- Ssangyong
Kryon

We encountered our first tree down, on Boundary Track, Stuart got out the chain saw and the group worked to clear the track.

We knew it was to be an interesting trip as the weather the week before had been wet and stormy.

Meeting at the bakery in Maysville and discussing the strategies for the day, putting the visitors in-between the experienced members. We headed off out of Maysville and on to Mt Margaret Road then Blue Range road and on to Boundary track. Contacting the local tourist information service we knew Lady Talbot Drive was closed for tree removal.



This was the start of the day of chainsawing. It was the hope it's just another one and that will be it.

After clearing about six trees, Audrey walked the length of the track and finally came to a tree that was just too gigantic for us to clear.

So with all good plans there has to be a "plan B". We turned around and headed back the way we came, stopping for a short lunch stop and to



look at the map. We worked out we were approximately 500 metres from the end of the track when this happened.



So we headed down Blue Range Rd hoping the Middle of Lady Talbert was open to head up Upper Taggety to Keppel hut.

The track out was challenging as its a rockery pinch but the rain we had, had rutted it and exposed the clay base that was still damp. Everyone made it.

We headed a long Bull Fight Track encountering large mud holes and rock steps all ruminates of last week's storms. Finally at 4 pm we chose the scenic option out of the forest via Snobs Creek water-fall. The bonus was it was cascading torrent of water over the falls, well worth the short walk.

A special mention to Mary and Jeff in the new BT 50 who handled the tracks and challenges. The outstanding driving goes to Steve and Graham in the Ssangyong Kryon, as it has limited ground clearance but with careful wheel placement and spotting (from Ian and Norm) managed all the day threw at them.

We ended the day with a burger at Buxton, and laughed how close we came to the end of the track but that's the great thing you never know how it's going to end till you're safely back at home.

It was another great day in the Australian Bush. Thank you to all who attended and I have added a few more photos highlights (see next page), there is photos on Facebook too.





The giant tree that stopped us



Muddy puddles on Bull fight track



Working on a tree over—Boundary track



Oh yes another tree



Now just for something different



Snob creek water fall

NEERIM

13th January
by Brett Nuske

Brett & Nathan	- Pajero
David & Family	- Navara
Joe	- Prado
Norm & Louisa	- Ranger

This trip was a recon trip to Neerim that was organised at short notice after it was confirmed Nathan could get his suspension on his Triton completed on time. Unfortunately, changing his wheels the night before, we discovered a wheel nut had been cross threaded and couldn't get a replacement nut and stud in time.

Meeting on Saturday morning in Longwarry we headed up BT Divide Track, Davies Track and Bennies Creek Road on our way to attempt New Turkey Spur Track. Up until this point the tracks were very gentle however the beginning of New Turkey Spur Track was up a rutted clay hill that was wet.

After some minimal track building, the Pajero got about halfway up before a rock ledge halted progress. It was suggested that we abandon the attempt to avoid potential vehicle damage as all vehicles were running 31s or 32s.

The original plan was to head in the direction of Warburton, but we changed this and headed south with the intention to drive either Tea Tree Track or Gentle Annie Track in the Bunyip area. We travelled via Bennetts Track and Phasmid Ridge Track and learnt this path was heavily overgrown and subsequently added more

pin-striping to our vehicles.

We also came across two trail bike riders who were lost. They seemingly had no map, radio or supplies so they followed us to Tea Tree Track so they could then navigate themselves back to their trailer.

By this time it was about 4pm and raining. We called it a day and headed home safely on gravel roads. The bulk of the day was very easy forest roads and the most technical aspect was the cutting of a large tree branch blocking the way and then winching it off the track.





Brett - Pajero
Des - Patrol

This was another recon trip following on from the previous week's trip to Neerim. It was again short notice to make sure Nathan's Triton could have the wheel's studs and nuts replaced but this time his brakes started playing up so missed out again.

The plan was to start around Wesburn/ Warburton so we met up on Sunday morning at Wesburn Park and tackled Crusher Track and Mineshaft Hill Track first up. These tracks might get slippery in the wet but we were blessed with a dry day so the tracks were very easy.

Next up was Cemetary Track. This was not like anything we had experienced before. It was a steep clay based track with large ruts and rocks. The Pajero bellied out in the beginning and after some track building and winching, reversed back down safely. The Patrol took a different line and made it up easily.

It turns out this was an easier section of the track and what to come was bigger. Wheel position and throttle control were key and we made it to the last 50m of the accent before we stopped to evaluate the course of action. We were in a situation where we couldn't back down this track or reverse so had to tackle one of two big rocks in front of us.

Taking the left side meant risking panel damage if we slipped sideways into as rut, whereas taking the ride side meant taking care not to take out the tree. This particular tree had been painted with the words 'F*** Dat'. With Des looking on from beside said tree, the Pajero attempted the right hand line and took flight going over the crest, allowing Des to get a good look at the vehicle's underbody as it passed by. The Patrol took a slightly different line on the right side but with much less spectacular results.

The next couple of tracks, Burns Track and Ezard Spur Track, were much easier and less eventful so we turned off to try Brittania Range Track. Early on there are a few minor rutted and rocky sections until you come across a number of bog holes.

The most challenging one had multiple lines to choose from however all but one involved plunging into 1m deep water with no idea what was underneath. The more appropriate line involved some delicate wheel placement through shallow bog and between trees that had just enough room for a vehicle to fit.

The challenge was not slipping and hitting the trees that had evidently been hit before. With the help of directions, both vehicles escaped unscathed.

By now it was 4pm and the plan was to head back to the bitumen shortly. With no intention

of attempting Ellis Track, we had a brief look at the latter half of Brittania Range Track and Cop-pice Track before deciding it was too late in the day to be tackling the large rutted descents so we headed or via Portas Road. Apart from a blown hose on the Pajero's compressor, both vehicles and drivers made it out safely having driven on tracks much more difficult than anything we had previously done and I the process learnt a lot of new skills.



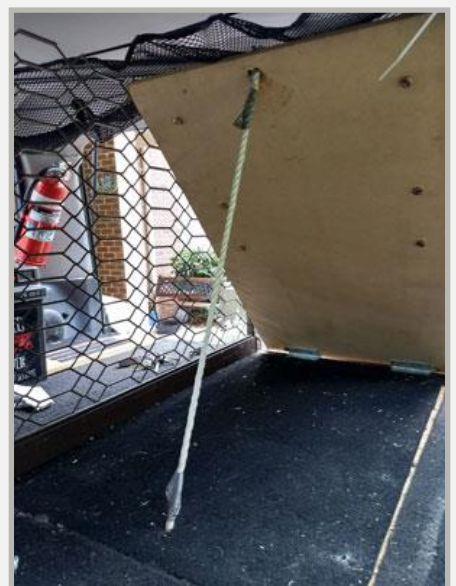
EDITOR'S NOTES

Thought I'll share some photos of my rear storage setup on the back of my 80 Landcruiser. By no means I'm handy with the tools but I managed to put something together to suit my camping and travelling needs.

First up is the storage box that I picked up from a neighbour's hard rubbish pile that had a big "FREE" sign over it. Christmas came early for me that year! It's only a box with no fancy draws and has hinged flap that shuts the box. It stays close with a padlock. The box is bolted to the false floor (9mm marine ply) at the bottom to secure it. Black marine carpet from Clark Rubber covers the box.



The tilt fridge slide is inspired from a user on a Facebook group who made it which I copied. Piece of flat piece of wood, rope, hinges, screws and bolts from Bunnings and a few hours to build it. Before the tilt, the slide was sitting flat on the box. It was impossible to see the contents of the fridge because the fridge lid would hit the roof of the car. And as I'm not a tall bloke, I had to climb on my tailgate to get food out—ugh. The slide was bought off Mick and Sally few years ago for a bargain!



My second battery (AGM deepcycle 120AH) sits at the back in a Thumper Box. It powers the fridge and has various ports to connect additional lighting, charge USB devices and phones. It permanently sits on top of the storage box which I don't like and keep telling myself I should move it down.



One day.

The fridge divider is a security door that I picked up from someone's hard rubbish. It's been cut and filed down on top so doesn't get caught with my netting above. Two bolts hold it in place that can be quickly taken out when I need to transport large bulky items around (happens frequently).

On my roof is some netting I bought off Ebay to throw sleeping bags and sleeping mats on. It's stretched taut and just hooked on some bolts. Does the job. Fire extinguisher in the corner.



For water I have a standard 20L water can. It's connected to a pump that's activated by a switch. Overkill, but I wanted to.



When I'm on 4x4ing, I'll bring along the 12V portable stove (about \$50 from Jaycar, cheaper when on sale). It's simply Velcro-ed down to a piece of wood. Hasn't spilled its delicious contents over yet.

