



# FREE WHEELING

April 2022



Photo: New members trip  
to Bunyip State Park

Official Newsletter of the  
Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc  
Registration No: A0002184F



## Meeting Details



### VFWDC Meeting Details & Venue

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm with the following exceptions:

No meeting in January

November meeting held at a selected “special” location

Blue and Gold Room  
Club Noble  
46-56 Moodemere Street  
Noble Park 3174  
Melways ref: 89 D4

This month's meeting will be held on  
**Wednesday 6th April at 8.00pm.**

**It will be held in person at  
Club Noble.**



### 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.

### 2021 - 2022

President	Callum Brown	<a href="mailto:president@vfwdc.com">president@vfwdc.com</a>
Vice President	Andre Van Der Walt	<a href="mailto:vicepres@vfwdc.com">vicepres@vfwdc.com</a>
Secretary	Bruce Cremonesi	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>

### General Committee

Trip Coordinator	David Bruinsma	<a href="mailto:trips@vfwdc.com">trips@vfwdc.com</a>
Magazine Editor	Rory Hall	<a href="mailto:editor@vfwdc.com">editor@vfwdc.com</a>
Association Delegate	David Bruinsma	<a href="mailto:delegate@vfwdc.com">delegate@vfwdc.com</a>

### Support Positions to Committee

Web Manager	Ben Whitworth	<a href="mailto:web@vfwdc.com">web@vfwdc.com</a>
Training Officer	Phil Griffith	
Merchandise	Ann Crockett	<a href="mailto:merchandise@vfwdc.com">merchandise@vfwdc.com</a>

### Club Details

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
Registration Number	A002184F
Correspondence Address	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 Club is an affiliated club of [Four Wheel Drive Victoria](#)

Hi All,

I hope that you enjoy reading this month's edition of Free Wheeling magazine. It was fantastic to see you all at the last meeting. It is so good to be meeting face to face again.

It has been a busy month with several events happening during March. Our normal working bee trip to Aberfeldy was held on Saturday 19th and organised by David. Since we haven't been able to conduct any work in Aberfeldy for several years due to covid, I understand there was plenty of clearing done to try to get back on top of things. I am sure there will be a full report in next month's magazine.

There was also driver training going on in March. The theory session was held at Club Noble with the practical days held over the weekend of 26-27th March. This included an overnigher at Little O'Tooles campground. I am looking forward to hearing all about it and seeing some of our newer members in action in the coming weeks.

I hope everyone has had a great time and many thanks to those that have taken the time out of their busy days to organise and volunteer for the events this month.

Track closures are coming up again soon - we will keep you posted with updates as and when we receive them in the magazine and at meetings where possible.

Well that is it from me. I hope you have managed to get out and about and enjoying yourself.

Cheers

Cal





## Club Calendar

### April

Sat 2nd - Mon 18th	Birdsville Races Trip	Organised by Brett, details on trip pages.
Wednesday 6th	Club Meeting	8.00pm
Fri 15th - Mon 18th	VIC Silo's Exploration trip	Organised by Andre, details to follow on trip pages.
Fri 15th - Tue 26th	Darling River Run	Organised by Tristan & Sally (see Upcoming Trips)
Wednesday 20th	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8.00pm

### May

May	Car Rally. Date and locations a surprise at the moment.	Organised by Cal & Bruce, details to follow on trip pages.
Wednesday 4th	Club Meeting	8.00pm
Wednesday 18th	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8.00pm

### June

Wednesday 1st	Club Meeting	8.00pm
Fri 10th - Sun 12th	New members High Country Huts trip	Organised by Dave & Bruce, details to follow on trip pages.
Wednesday 15th	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8.00pm

### Other Dates

July	Googs Track	Organised by Gary, details to follow on trip pages.
July	Christmas (in July) get together at Stringybark Creek with Kelly Gang tour	To be re-arranged from February. Organised by Cal & committee.



# Club Merchandise



Need a jacket, vest, shirt or hat for your next trip? Get ready and place your order today.

## PRICES

Club SS Polo Shirt	\$30.00	Club Wide-Brim Hat	\$5.00
Club SS Shirt 40th Anniversary	\$10.00	Club Sandwich Peak Hat	\$5.00
Club Polar Fleece Jacket (Full Zip)	\$30.00	Club Woollen Pom Pom Beanie	\$20.00
Club Fleece Hoodie	\$30.00	Club Cable Knit Scarf	\$20.00
Club SS Reversible Vest—double embroidery	\$50.00	Club Neoprene Stubby Holder	\$10.00
Club Drivers Jacket	\$60.00	Club Coth Badges 120mm	\$8.00
Club Trekka Jacket	\$85.00	Windscreen Sticker Small	\$6.00
Club Bucket Hat	\$5.00	Windscreen Sticker Large	\$8.00

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo shirt.

Email your order or any queries to [merchandise@vfwdc.com](mailto:merchandise@vfwdc.com) along with the size you would like.



# Meeting Minutes

**Wed 2nd March**  
**Opened at 08.04pm**

**Attendees:**

- As per attendance sheet

**Apologies:**

- Andre, Daisy, Ian, Stuart & Maree

**Minutes of previous meeting:**

- Minutes from last meeting - Read
- Matters arising from previous minutes - nil
- Accepting of minutes - Steve Pitcher
- Seconding of minutes - Dave B

**Correspondence**

**Mail in:**

- Emails from Aus Post
- Magazine stuff
- New member info emails

**Mail out:**

- Replies to emails

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Monthly Treasurer's Reports - Jan'22 as per magazine
- Acceptance of Report - Sally
- Seconding of Report - Ben
- Memberships currently - 51
- Membership renewals - 2

**Association Report:**

- Nil

**Upcoming Trips:**

- 19 Mar - Blue Pools Briagolong with Callum
- 19-20 Mar - Working bee at Aberfeldy with David B
- 22 Mar - Driver Training theory session at Club Noble
- 26-27 Mar Driver training Practical sessions & camping at Little O'Tooles
- 2-18 Apr - Birdsville Trip with Brett
- 15-18 Apr - VIC silos exploration with Andre

- 15-25 Apr - Darling River Run - Sally & Tristan
- 10-12 Jun - New Member trip - High Country Huts with Bruce/Dave
- Date TBC - Christmas in July at Stringbark Creek
- July (Date TBC) - Googs Track - Gary

**Trip Reports:**

New Members trip to Bunyip - all had fun, learnt a lot with some challenging tracks and sections.

**General Business:**

- Sally put up that the Club pay for prospective members fee to do working bee.
- Steve Pitcher talked about the history of Aberfeldy and importance of continuing to do volunteer work there.
- Ben mentioned that it had been a while since we had Rudi in for a chat to the club members.
- Gary & James nominated for magazine articles in next month edition.

- Lots of prizes given out as part of a club raffle (far too many!!)

Meeting closed: 09.45pm

Next Meeting: Wed 6th April



Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc  
www.vfwdc.com



## Treasurer's Report February 2022

<u>Cheque A/C`</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/02/2022	\$7,789.88
	Add: Membership Fees	\$210.00
	Total Monies In:	\$210.00
	Closing Balance as at 28/02/2022	\$7,999.88
<u>Term Deposit</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/02/2022	\$6,844.22
	Add: Interest	\$8.63
	Closing Balance as at 28/02/2022	\$6,852.85
<u>Petty Cash</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/02/2022	\$42.55
	Closing Balance as at 28/02/2022	\$42.55
	<b>Consolidated Closing Cash Position</b>	<b><u>\$14,895.28</u></b>

### **This month's meeting**

Next month's meeting is being held on **Wed 6th April** and yet again we are able to meet face to face at Club Noble. Just a reminder that you will still need to provide proof of vaccination in order to be allowed into the Club rooms. If you are suffering from symptoms, or have tested positive to covid or are a close contact, then we ask that you respect the other members of the club and stay away. We look forward to seeing you all again and eating those free cookies!

### **Upcoming Trips**

There are quite a few trips that are coming up in the calendar so please keep an eye out here and on the trip website for more details. As ever if you want more details please contact the trip organiser directly or failing that give the committee a poke to help you out.

### **New Memberships**

Recently we have had a run of new members joining the club which is awesome. It's really great to see new faces around the club. The committee have been discussing the fairness of making new members pay full annual membership only a few months out from the end of the financial year. There is some on going discussions to be had but we are hoping to announce clearer and fairer guidelines in the very near future.

### **Need Inspiration?**

Need inspiration for a location for a trip? Why not go back into the club magazine history and find a long lost camp site or route you had forgotten about. Here's the [link to the magazine page](#) to help you along your way.

Here's a link to the [magazine back in April 2017](#) which has a couple of interesting trip reports including High Country Huts trip and Wyperfeld National Park (Murray Sunset). It also shows a trip to Bunyip State Park which definitely wasn't dry and dusty like the one outlined further in this edition of the magazine. Go take a read and be inspired.

### **Free Gifts!!**

Remember, the Club is happy to reward those that submit any articles, which get published, with a small token of appreciation from the club merchandise stocks. So don't be shy, share some words and/or pictures.



Please visit our website at [VFWDC.com](http://VFWDC.com) to view all our current membership forms and club policies.

For all new and renewal of memberships, please complete [the online form here](#)

If you are looking for a Temporary Membership, please complete the online form, [which can be found here](#).

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us via the Club Secretary on [secretary@vfwdc.com](mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com)

### **Payments:**

Payment can be made via Bank Transfer. The details are as follows:

<b>Account Name:</b>	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
<b>BSB:</b>	633108
<b>Account No:</b>	111761979

Please ensure your transfer includes your name as provided on the membership application and renewal form in the reference.

Once you have made your payment/transfer, please send your completed membership application and renewal form to [treasurer@vfwdc.com](mailto:treasurer@vfwdc.com) or you can present it to the Treasurer at any general meeting.

**Thank you for choosing the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club**

If you are interested in joining [Club Noble](#) where we hold our monthly meetings, their application form can be found [here](#).



**Caption this.....**

A new feature which is running to its second month. Fun pictures from our travels which deserve sharing and making cheeky comments about. So caption the photo below and win global recognition at the next club meeting!!





This month we have another veggie meal for all you meat eating maniacs out there. Remember we need to start eating more veggies for our health and also to save the planet. And it keeps you regular too!!

### Turkish One-Pan Eggs & Peppers

Brilliant quick dish for that late brunch, easy and one pan only.

#### Ingredients:

- Olive oil & caster sugar
- 2 onions, sliced
- 1 red pepper & 2 chilis
- 1 tin of chopped tomatoes
- 4 eggs
- Parsley, garlic
- Creamy Yoghurt



#### Method

Heat the oil in a heavy-based frying pan. Stir in the onions, pepper and chillies. Cook until they begin to soften. Add the tomatoes and sugar, mixing well. Cook until the liquid has reduced, season.

Using a wooden spoon, create 4 pockets in the tomato mixture and crack the eggs into them. Cover the pan and cook the eggs over a low heat until just set.

Beat the yogurt with the garlic and season. Sprinkle with parsley and serve from the frying pan with a dollop of the garlic-flavoured yogurt.

## Meet the Member

This month we meet the all action paddling hero Gary “Smithy” Smith whose love of old open top cars may be related to his favourite food. And did we know he owned and ran his own vineyard??



**Full name and any nicknames?**

Gary (Smithy) Smith

**What's your vehicle?**

Nissan GU Patrol

**First car you ever owned?**

Citroen Light 15

**Dumbest thing you ever did in a car?**

I fell asleep at the wheel but woke up and recovered thanks to AWD.

**Favourite camp food?**

Baked Beans (Ed: Is this why his dream car is an open top?? see below!!)

**Dream vehicle and set up if you could afford it?**

Stutz Bearcat



**Best mod you have ever done to a car?**

4 height correctors on a Citroen DS

**Best trip/track/park you have done?**

Cross Australia from eastern most point to western most point.



**Top tip to any beginners?**

Take it easy and learn from other's mistakes

**Best overseas trip/location?**

Southern Africa

**What snacks are we most likely to find in your cab?**

Apple. (Ed: Prize for healthiest snacks to date!!)

**Best piece of camping gear you are never without?**

Shovel

**Where in the world would you most like to visit?**

Antartica.

**Roughest night's sleep on a trip?**

Austrian Alps during a thunderstorm.

**Worst upgrade or kit purchase?**

GPS radio replacement in the GU

**Dream track or trip at the top of your bucket list?**

Kayak in Antarctica

**What is your go to karaoke song?**

George of the Jungle (Ed: By Presidents of the United States and for the movie of same name)

**Footie, football or rugby?**

Kayaking. ???!!!!

**What kept you sane during lockdowns?**

What lockdown??? Rural VIC here!

**Worst job you ever had?**

Running my vineyard 7 days per week most of the year. (Ed: Surely idyllic occupation?)



What motivates/inspires you?

Getting to the final result

You're driving from Melbourne to Perth, and can have anyone in the world as your co-driver, dead or alive, who would it be?

My mate Phil. Good driver and talker.

What is your go to joke?

What's old, pink and wrinkled and hangs out Grandad's pants?

Grandma.





## Upcoming Trips

<b>Destination</b>	<b>Darling River Run</b>
<b>Leader &amp; Contact Details</b>	Sally and Tristan MOB: 0435782207
<b>Date</b>	15th April 2022 (Fri) to 25th-April-2022 (Mon)
<b>Meeting Details</b>	TBC - We will coordinate closer to the time.
<b>Grade</b>	Wet: Easy Dry: Easy
<b>Trip Activity Details</b>	<p>This is a touring trip to drive the length of the Darling River from its source in northern NSW to where it meets the Murray River in Wentworth.</p> <p>We will head up from Melbourne to Brewarrina and then work our way back down through Bourke, Louth, Tilpa, Wilcannia, a side trip to White Cliffs, down to Menindee, Pooncarrie, a side trip to Mungo National Park, Wentworth and then back to Melbourne. We will stay at a combination of free camps, stations, National Parks. Locations to be finalised. Some routes may need to change due to rain and flooding. We will assess nearer to the time.</p>
<b>Vehicle Limits</b>	Minimum 1. Maximum 5
<b>Approx km's meeting place to destination</b>	Meeting place to destination round trip is approx 3,000kms
<b>Last available fuel</b>	Fuel is available all along the route with no more than 250km between stations
<b>Distance between supplies</b>	Varying distances between supplies. Will be going through towns on a regular basis so there will be plenty of opportunities to stock up along the way.
<b>Equipment required</b>	Camper trailer friendly. Camping equipment, food, snacks, water and UHF radio
<b>Maps required</b>	HEMA maps for NSW. Trip leader will have plenty of maps.
<b>Radio Channel CB/UHF</b>	12 to start with and then move if its busy

<b>Destination</b>	<b>Birdsville Races</b>
<b>Leader &amp; Contact Details</b>	Brett
<b>Date</b>	2nd April 2022 (Sat) to 18th-April-2022 (Mon)
<b>Meeting Details</b>	TBC - We will coordinate closer to the time.
<b>Grade</b>	Wet: Easy Dry: Easy
<b>Trip Activity Details</b>	<p>This is a trip up and back to see the Birdsville Races on Sun 10th to Mon 11th April. Participants need to arrange their own tickets.</p> <p>Trip up via Leigh Creek, Maree, Farina, Birdville Track, camping at various locations along the way and ending up camping on Birdsville Common for the event.</p> <p>Return trip via Cordillo Downs, Innamincka (Bourke &amp; Wills Dig Tree), Cameron Corner, Tibooburra, Broken Hill.</p>
<b>Vehicle Limits</b>	
<b>Approx km's meeting place to destination</b>	Round trip 4,000+ kms
<b>Last available fuel</b>	
<b>Distance between supplies</b>	
<b>Equipment required</b>	Camper trailer friendly. Camping equipment, food, snacks, water, recovery gear and UHF radio
<b>Maps required</b>	
<b>Radio Channel CB/UHF</b>	12



### New members day trip to Bunyip (Sat 26th Feb)

With quite a number of new members joining the club during Covid, but never actually getting a chance to go out on a trip, there was quite a good sign up for this trip. Andre kindly volunteered to lead the trip and conducted a detailed recce to find suitable tracks (and less suitable ones too!).

The crew met in Gembrook market car park early on the Saturday morning, with many driving up wondering if the various ute and 4x4 trucks they saw along the way were part of the team (or was that just me?). There were the usual introductions as names were mentioned and went in one ear and straight out the other, followed by a quick round the houses chat about our experience to date. It appeared most of us had some experience and Andre seemed pleased we weren't all completely fresh. There was a little allocating of positions within the convoy, with Nev being deemed the most competent and experienced to bring up the rear. And then we were off, although almost immediately it got a bit confusing as 2 other trucks slipped into our convoy. With the dust and general lack of experience from us all, we nearly followed the wrong cars the wrong way but between us we managed to get back on track and ended up at Dyers Picnic Ground to deflate tyres and get the obligatory team photo.



Once the messing about with the tyre deflators had finished, we saddled up and soon turned off the main track to start heading up Anderson's Track. It was a very dry day so it was dusty and generally pretty easy going on the tracks. The major ascent we lined up and went up one by one with supervision with Andre to make sure we were not doing anything silly. There was of course plenty of photo taking by the passengers and family members as we accelerated steadily up the steep incline.

At the top we stopped, with grins on our faces, and congratulated each other (and ourselves) on achievement of reaching the summit without making a dummy out of ourself. Andre seemed happy with our progress and we jumped back on board, all feeling a little more relaxed for whatever was to come.





We continued along Anderson's Track and onto Blue Range Road before entering Bunyip Ridge Track. Here there were a few more steeper sections and Andre again dismounted and displayed his physical prowess by running back up to guide us down.





After this we wound our way to the start of the infamous Gentle Annie Track. Not sure why its named this but there wasn't anyone called Annie around and it definitely wasn't gentle in sections. In fact it had an ominous wrecked and crushed car marking the start of it.



At the now famous rock step section there was much discussion of the best route to take, who had what clearance and who was foolish enough to give it a go. Andre, being the inspirational leader he is, showed us all how to do it and led by example, being the first to go down. He made it look simple (with some excellent guiding on the radio) and we were filled with confidence that we could also do it. A few graunches and jolts later, and we had navigated our way down and all had an increased sense of what our vehicles were capable of.





Lunch was taken a bit further along whilst dodging some feral looking hooners in their crazy trucks tearing up the track. There were some tasty snacks on offer with Instant Noodles and very comfy looking seats from Luke and Kelsey probably winning the day. The afternoon saw us heading down off Gentle Annie, and further along taking the Quartz track which had some good views along the ridge lines. Of course we waited until all the views had disappeared before deciding it was time for a team photo. We decided to block a track (right on a corner - whose idea was that??!) and line ourselves up for the team photo.



Big shout out to Andre for a great day out. It was run in a very relaxed atmosphere which gave us all the chance to explore our vehicles capabilities without feeling any pressure, fully supported by the rest of the team. It also gave us a chance to meet new people and share our experience. Thanks to everyone who came along and again thanks Andre.

The following photos are so we can all recognise our new members moving amongst us and their vehicles too.

From top left, clockwise:

Andre, our intrepid leader

Nev and his kids.

Sean and his FJ

Luke and Kelsey

Dennis

Steve and his family







## Rig Rundown

This month James has stuck his hand up (yes he actually volunteered) to talk us through his set up. James is probably one of our youngest members and is obviously very proud of his truck. And he came up with a much better name for the section - Rig Rundown. Thanks James!!

Gday, my name is James and this is my 2016 Holden Colorado 7 Trailblazer. This is my first car which i got in April 2021 just before my 17th Birthday. I purchased it off my dad who upgraded to the new Hilux that won't even touch dirt.

I got the car fairly stock as my dad did occasional 4wding but mainly used it for touring. He had an Ironman Bullbar with some Ironman spotlights, Yokohama All Terrains and just a 2" Lift Kit all round.



First thing i did was remove the third row seats to put a draw system. I found a guy from Perth WA who made a custom steel frame that bolted into the existing holes. I have a basic 12V system with a 45L Fridge. In the drawers i just carry around recovery gear in one and camping utensils and food in the other.





Second thing i did was put a Rola Titan alloy roof rack on which i managed to fit myself with a little help from my dad. Then i put on a 42" Kings Slim Light Bar, and two 4" Spot Lights on the back which are wired up for when i put it into reverse, they turn on. I have also just got a Kings Awning and Maxtrax Holders.



I then decided to put on a Dominator Xtreme Winch, Ironman scrub bars and steps and new heavy duty ironman front springs to help with the weight.







Since adding on all these accessories, i've taken my car on a couple trips and haven't had a single problem. I haven't had to use the winch at all yet, as i am a good driver, and it's just a really reliable car. Can't wait to be able to explore more of Australia once i get my licence.

Some future mods i'm looking to do are;

- Stainless steel snorkel
- Clear View Next Gen Mirrors
- Kaymar Rear Bar
- New tyres and rims
- Upgrade to a new 80 Chanel UHF



Did you sit at home during the numerous lockdowns over the past few years wishing you could get out again?



Did you find yourself dreaming of some of those great trips you've done in the past?

Did your mind wander and start to imagine an awesome new place to visit and challenging route to get there?



Did you join this club for more than just the free cookies at the monthly meeting?

(yes potential new members, we have cookies at our monthly meetings, join now!!)

Have you bought a new bit of kit for your vehicle with your saved up lockdown cash but not tried it out yet?



If you answered yes to any of the questions above then you definitely need to be thinking about planning some trips, right now. Let's face it we have 2 years worth of trips to make up, so we better get out there. And if that wasn't incentive enough, then the club want to encourage you further.....

Announcing the re-introduction of the originally named,



## Trip Incentive Scheme



(And yep it does what it says on the tin - it's an incentive scheme to get you planning more trips). Basically you can win cash for doing stuff you love.

Get planning those trips and be a winner!!