



# FREE WHEELING

June 2023



Photo: Sally  
Looking along the  
Border Track

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





### 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 7th June** at 8.00pm.

### 2022 - 2023

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>
Treasurer	Ly Ho	<a href="mailto:treasurer@vfwdc.com">treasurer@vfwdc.com</a>

### General Committee

Trip Coordinator	Neville Van Leeuwen	<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	Matt Marino	<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	Daisy Quinn	<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](#)

**Good day all,**

As I sit here needing to put this report into words, I am again reminded of the amazing work and dedication of our late friend and President, Callum. His ongoing dedication to the club was evident from the first time he joined back in 2016, quickly becoming a committee member in 2017. He was a friend to many and always enjoyed a bit of banter. He will be missed.

In a change of pace and mood, the club is turning 50 next year, which is a super awesome achievement! We need some volunteers from our own members to help us plan how we are going to throw a huge celebration for this milestone. The committee has decided to create a sub-committee to make it extra special. We already have two volunteers from the committee itself but we need three more to join us to make a group of 5. So, when the next meeting rolls around, please come talk to me or any of the committee members, and we will jot your name down and get things started.

Oh and before I forget, I wanted to give a huge shout out to all those amazing members who organise trips and help run the club. Every month, they put in their own time and effort to keep this club running smoothly. We really appreciate all your hard work! Alright have an awesome week and I will see you all at the next meeting.

Cheers, Andre.





## Club Calendar

### June

Wednesday 7th	Club Meeting	8.00pm at Club Noble
Sat 17th June to 16th July	Road trip of SE Australia	Organised by Gary Smith (see upcoming trips)
Sun 18th June	Shrine of Remembrance Tour	Organised by Bruce Dunlop (meeting at 11am)
Wednesday 21st	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8.00pm

### July

Wednesday 5th	Club Meeting	8.00pm at Club Noble
Fri 7th - Sun 9th	Christmas in July get together at St Anne's Winery	Details TBC by committee in coming weeks
Wednesday 19th	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8.00pm

### August

Wednesday 2nd	Club Meeting	8.00pm at Club Noble
Wednesday 16th	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8.00pm

### Other Dates

# Meeting Minutes

**Wed 3rd May**

**Opened at 08.04pm**

**Attendees:**

- As per attendance sheet

**Apologies:**

- Callum, Jeff & Mary, Ben, Bruce D.

**Minutes of previous meeting:**

- Minutes from last meeting - Read
- Matters arising from previous minutes - nil
- Accepting of minutes - Sally
- Seconding of minutes - Ann

**Guests:**

- Nil

**Correspondence In:**

- 4WD VIC emails

**Correspondence Out:**

- Replies to emails

**Trip Reports:**

Nev did a trip out to Bunyip and had a slippery time.

Jeff, Mary & Nev went to Tunnel Bend

Sally - Big Desert

Sally - Border Track

**Merchandise:**

All info on Facebook page for those that have it.

New T shirt being produced - need people to sign up for it.

**Magazine:**

Meet the Member - Jacqui nominated for next edition by Sean

Trip reports due for the magazine.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Monthly Treasurer's Report - as per the magazine
- Accepted: Dave B
- Second: Stuart
- Membership renewals: Nil
- New members: Nil

**Association Report:**

- Nil

**Upcoming Trips:**

- 18th June - Bruce D - Shrine of Remembrance tour - lots signed up but no restrictions on numbers
- Big Tour - 18th Jun - 16th July
- Lunch at Nooj - Daisy
- Christmas in July - 16th July (TBC)
- St Annes Winery - 8-9th July

**Driver Training:**

Certificates to hand out but no Phil.....

**General Business:**

- Discussion on the club's 50th birthday coming up next year. Steve P put his hand up after being nominated.
- Raffle run and won.

Next meeting Wed 7th June

Meeting closed at 9.45pm



Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc  
www.vfwdc.com



## Treasurer's Report April 2023

<u>Cheque A/C</u> Opening Balance as at 01/04/2023	\$8,362.00
Add: Raffle	\$76.00
Merchandise	\$205.00
Less: Catering Costs	-\$29.30
FWDV Proficiency Certificates	-\$77.00
Closing Balance as at 30/04/2023	\$8,536.70
<u>Term Deposit</u> Opening Balance as at 01/04/2023	\$6,888.87
Closing Balance as at 30/04/2023	\$6,888.87
<u>Petty Cash</u> Opening Balance as at 01/04/2023	\$38.30
Closing Balance as at 30/04/2023	<u>\$38.30</u>
<b>Consolidated Closing Cash Position</b>	<b><u>\$15,463.87</u></b>

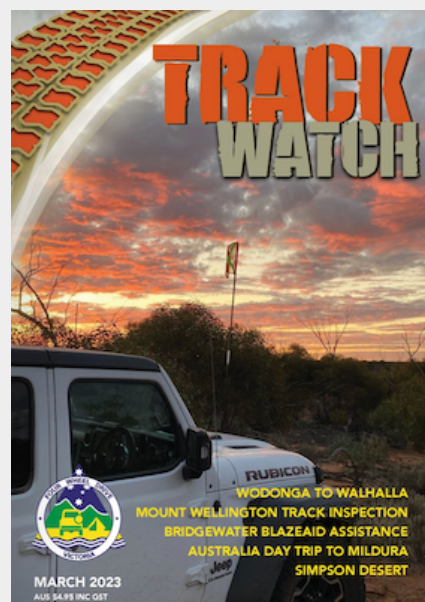
### This month's meeting

Our next meeting is Wednesday 7th June at Club Noble. Dont forget those tasty treats and general interesting chit chat and story telling which makes the meeting unmissable!!

### Trackwatch

[Trackwatch](#) is a quarterly publication produced by Four Wheel Drive Victoria. The content includes 4WD Victoria news, Parks Victoria news, club activities, technical tips, products and events. In excess of 6,000 copies are distributed to members of affiliated four wheel drive clubs. Copies are also distributed to Victorian Parliamentary members, staff at Parks Victoria, DELWP, commercial outlets and interested members of the public, FWDV training courses and four wheel drivers at public events (eg. National 4X4 Show Melbourne, Victorian 4WD Show and other regional outdoor and specialty shows). It is also available for download as a pdf and for viewing as a flip book on their website and the latest edition is here:

<https://www.4wdvictoria.org.au/images/trackwatch/202303/flipbook/?page=1>



### Upcoming AGM

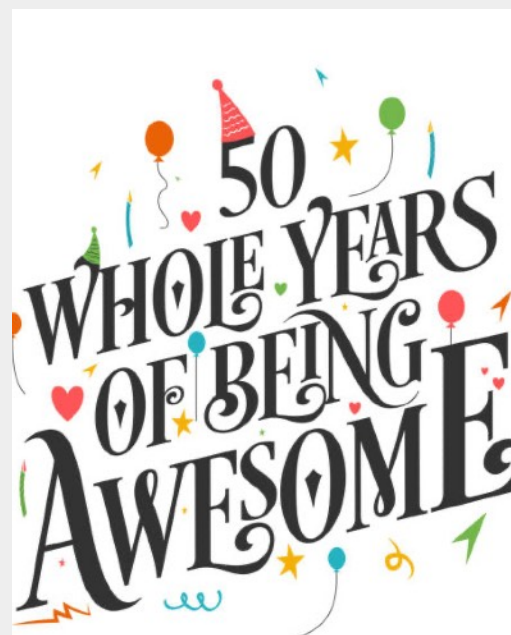
Its nearly that time of year again when we hold our annual AGM and part of this is selecting fresh blood for the key roles within the club. As we all know the club relies on individuals volunteering their time and energy to keep the club ticking over. During our August meeting, we hold formal AGM proceedings and at this time will look for new volunteers for the various roles on the committee. Keep an eye out for an email coming round with the various roles and their responsibilities and please consider carefully whether you could assist the club by volunteering some of your time.

### Club's 50th Birthday

Next year is the club's 50th birthday. A working group has been formed to organise an amazing event(s) and are starting to look into options and ideas. So anyone who has any amazing ideas, please get in contact with any committee members. We are looking to make it an incredible event so all ideas, no matter how crazy are welcomed.

### All and any contributions welcome

Please don't be shy! Help the Editor keep the magazine fun and interesting, and relevant to you, by sharing some words and/or pictures. Literally anything you have is welcome! And big big shout out to the regular contributors - yo know who you are and it is very much appreciated - thank you!





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](#).



**\$79**

# **SPECIAL OFFER**

**CALL US TODAY, DEALS THIS GOOD DONT LAST**

Vehicle is hand washed & waxed ,Dashboard,centre console ,door trims cleaned,carpets & upholstery vacuumed,windows cleaned inside & out,tires dressed.

**save 20%**

Use this coupon and receive 20% off your next purchase. Cannot be combined with other offers. Limit one coupon per customer.

30 JUNE 2023



***CLEAR IMAGE CAR DETAILING***

WE COME TO YOU

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## Upcoming Trips

<b>Destination</b>	<b>Shrine of Remembrance</b>
<b>Leader &amp; Contact Details</b>	Bruce Dunlop (Mobile: 0448 318467)
<b>Date</b>	Sun 18th June
<b>Meeting Details</b>	Meet at 11am at Birdwood Avenue entrance.
<b>Grade</b>	N/A
<b>Trip Activity Details</b>	<p>This is a guided tour of the Shrine of Remembrance by Bruce who was custodian there for many years. It coincides with a wreath laying at 1130 for a Royal Australian Navy group of ships.</p> <p>Possibly book a lunch at a nearby pub or RSL if enough are confirmed 2 weeks prior.</p> <p>Allow approx 1-2 hrs for the tour.</p>
<b>Vehicle Limits</b>	Minimum 2, Maximum Unlimited (within reason)
<b>Approx km's meeting place to destination</b>	N/A
<b>Last available fuel</b>	N/A
<b>Distance between supplies</b>	N/A
<b>Equipment required</b>	N/A
<b>Maps required</b>	N/A
<b>Radio Channel CB/UHF</b>	N/A

## Upcoming Trips

<b>Destination</b>	<b>Christmas in July at St Annes Winery</b>
<b>Leader &amp; Contact Details</b>	Daisy Quinn Mobile: 0447 557100
<b>Date</b>	Fri 7th - Sun 9th July
<b>Meeting Details</b>	64 Garrards Lane, Morning
<b>Grade</b>	Dry: Easy Wet: Easy
<b>Trip Activity Details</b>	Christmas in July has moved to St Anne's Winery. No driving required, mainly sitting around the fire and chatting, eating and drinking. Camp overnight or simply come for the day. Camper trailer and caravan friendly. Club to provide evening meal on Saturday night (details to be finalised) so bring supplies for the remainder of your stay.
<b>Vehicle Limits</b>	Minimum 3, Maximum - no limit!
<b>Approx km's meeting place to destination</b>	110kms
<b>Last available fuel</b>	N/A
<b>Distance between supplies</b>	N/A
<b>Equipment required</b>	Camping gear, wet weather gear just in case. Food and drinks for your stay. Toilet on site.
<b>Maps required</b>	N/A
<b>Radio Channel CB/UHF</b>	Not required



## Upcoming Trips

<b>Destination</b>	<b>Road Trip - South East Australia</b>
<b>Leader &amp; Contact Details</b>	Gary Smith (Mobile: 0408 093529)
<b>Date</b>	3 - 4 weeks between 17th June & 16th July
<b>Meeting Details</b>	TBC
<b>Grade</b>	To be determined at time and place
<b>Trip Activity Details</b>	<p>Bridle track, Barrington Tops, Sundown NP, Noosa-Rainbow Beach, 4 Days Fraser Island, Carnarvon NP</p> <p>Boomi hot pool + others, Darling River run</p> <p>Join or leave trip if you only want to do part of it Mostly Camping. Caravans and campervans should be OK for most of trip</p>
<b>Vehicle Limits</b>	Minimum 1, Maximum 5
<b>Approx km's meeting place to destination</b>	6000km
<b>Last available fuel</b>	N/A
<b>Distance between supplies</b>	500km
<b>Equipment required</b>	Sand matts, winch, camping gear and supplies as required.
<b>Maps required</b>	SE Australia
<b>Radio Channel CB/UHF</b>	TBC

**Are you one of those people who always forgets birthdays and leaves Christmas shopping until the last minute?? Never know what to buy people who seemingly have everything they ever wanted?? If this is you, then read on.....**

Daisy has been putting a lot of effort into revamping our club merchandise and this includes moving on some of the old stock. So here's your chance to kit out your whole family, friends, work colleagues, neighbours and random people you meet in the street with club merch! And if you're clever, you'll tick off Christmas and birthdays at the same time, and at a bargain price. I am pretty sure if you make Daisy a good offer, she will be up for some haggling and further discounts too.

The following are discounted items, with sizes available:

- **40th Anniversary Shirt** (L x 2) - Only \$10
- **T Shirt** (S x 1, 5XL x 1) - Down from \$30 to an amazing \$10.  
(Buy all 3 for family members to use as night shirts! - ask Daisy for \$17 for both)
- **Reversible Vests** (quite a few sizes left) - Was \$50, now an incredible \$30.  
(Winter is coming, help friends keep their heating bills down, buy them a reversible vest to wear around the house - get 3 and ask Daisy for more discount)
- **Hoodie** (S x 4, XL x 1) - Was \$30, now \$20.  
Teenage child's christmas present sorted in a second!
- **Zip up Jumper** (S x 1, XL x 1, 2XL x 1) - Down from \$30 to \$20.  
Who doesn't love an over-sized zip up jumper on Christmas morning???
- **Driver's Jacket** (S x 1, M x 4, XL x 4) - Originally \$60, down to \$40.  
Apparently these make you a better driver and also more handsome/beautiful\*  
(\* delete where appropriate)
- **Stubbie Holder** (loads of these) - 20% discount, down from \$10, to \$8  
Also doubles as a baby bottle warmer, so don't buy that new nephew some kind of baby toy they will never use, get them a unique baby bottle warmer instead.

### New T Shirts:

You should be aware by now that Daisy has designed a new T shirt for us all which will become the T shirt we pass to new members. Its a cool design with our logo on the front chest (small) and on the back the picture here. T shirts will be a grey colour and will be the envy of the fashion world!

We need to get the numbers up a bit to bring down the unit price from \$42 to \$30. So if you haven't ordered one for yourself or extended family members, then please contact Daisy asap. Sizes are from S through to 5XL and are also in a woman/man version. If you are a new member who has never received a T shirt when you joined the club, then again please contact Daisy to let her know.





# Trip Report

## Weekend Trip to Tunnel Bend Reserve 21-23rd April by Mary Griffiths

### Attendees:

Neville & Riley - Mitsubishi Triton

Jeff & Mary - Mazda BT50

The Tunnel Bend and Gaffney Night Trip was going to be led by Bruce but unfortunately, he couldn't make it so Neville kindly took the lead and ran a day trip instead. We met up at McDonalds Lilydale on Friday at 4.30pm and headed up to Tunnel Bend Reserve to base camp ready to drive the tracks on Saturday. The weather was absolutely perfect for camping.



Neville and Jeff came up with a plan, they decided a day trip to Mt Terrible was a good idea. We headed out of the reserve onto Mansfield Woods-Point Road and left onto Flour Bag Track to head towards Mt Terrible. The tracks were dry and there was little dust, I must say DWELP has been busy up here clearing and grading all the tracks, not too challenging but a great drive just the same.







From Flour Bag Track we headed onto Moon Light Spur Track and headed towards Matlock Track.

There are plenty of deer up here. It was exciting to see a deer in the middle of the day on Matlock Track. We didn't pass anyone on the tracks on the way to Mt Terrible. It felt like we were the only ones up here.



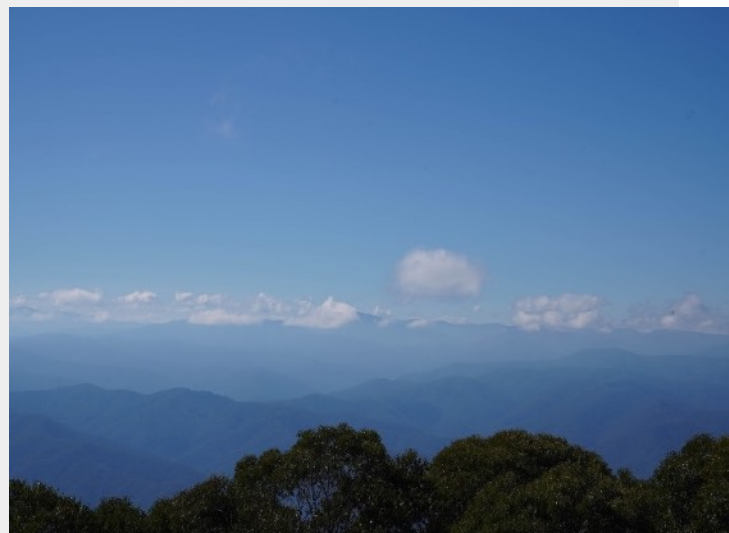




With all the gadgets in the cars, they still referred to their paper maps. These two would definitely not get lost in the bush. They worked out where they wanted to go in no time at all.



Finally made it to the top of Mt Terrible to see the hut and the views did not disappoint.







We stopped and had lunch and enjoyed the sunshine. You couldn't have asked for better weather.

We can tick this trip off our list but we will definitely plan another trip and come up here again. It was time to make our way back to camp so we continued on Mt Terrible Track. At certain points along the track, we had to think skinny thoughts!







The views again were outstanding. I had to stop and take more pictures along Mt Terrible Track. I should have just got out and walked and told them to keep on driving. I could have stayed up here all afternoon.







We continued along and turned onto Donald Track, Jeff enjoyed driving this track as it had few steep descents (He said it was fun). There was no bottoming out with good traction on these tracks.





From here we drove down to Big River Road, onto Matlock Track then onto Ryans Spur Track. We checked out Ryans Hut. (Sorry no pics of the hut on this trip). We decided at this time to head back to camp so we continued onto Corn Hill Road, Gaffneys Creek Track and back into Gaffneys Creek then to Mansfield Woods Point Road to Tunnel Bend Camp Reserve. Overall the trip went well. There was plenty of time to relax and enjoy the rest of the afternoon once we got back to camp.



This Bunnings wood does not like to burn - it's a shocker! However, we were very grateful for the wood though as it does get cold in the evenings.

The campgrounds around here are very well maintained, there is plenty of bird life at this Reserve. The birds came by for breakfast and dinner. The river access is great and the water is crystal clear.

Thanks Neville and Riley for a great weekend





## Easter - McCabe's Corner and Border Track

### Attendees:

Sally & Tristan - Land Rover Discovery 3  
Daisy - Land Cruiser Prado  
Lynton & Ashley - Jeep Wrangler TJ  
Steve C - Mitsubishi Pajero  
Andre & Anna - VW Amarok  
Steve P & Sarah - Land Cruiser

We have a long list of tracks and areas that we want to visit. McCabe Corner and the Border between Victoria and South Australia has been on that list for quite a few years. The goal for this trip was to travel from the Murray River as far south along the direct border between Victoria and South Australia as we could.

**Day 1 - Thursday 6th April** - GOAL: Travel from Home in Melbourne to a campsite on the Murray River past Mildura.- ACHIEVED!!

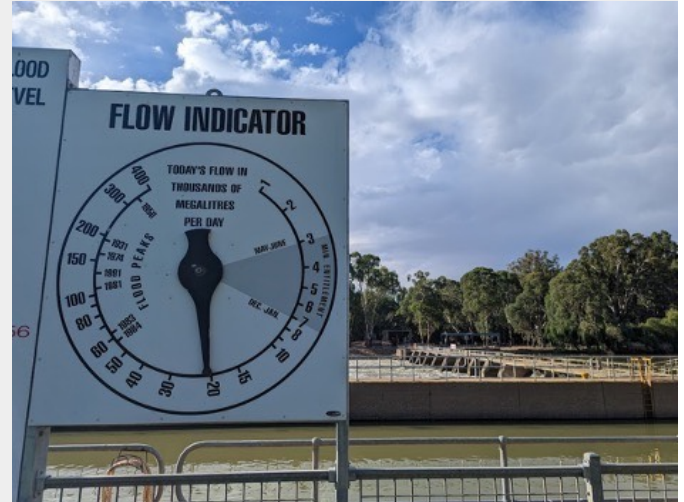
Another early start to get away before the crowds leave Melbourne for the long weekend. We met everyone at Bp Calder Park for an 8am departure except Andre and Ansa and Steve P and Sarah, we were meeting them at our campsite on Friday afternoon. This trip to the Mallee was to be a quick trip up as I was not 100% sure where we were going to camp for the night and needed to allow time to find a good spot. We had a quick snack courtesy of Daisy who had cooked up a storm for our breakfast. We got on the road and the first stop was to be the Wycheproof Bakery for our regular food top up on these trips. This was followed by a short stint to Ouyen for fuel stop and another bakery stop for Daisy to get some Bread. I had left my shower in a can at home so I went to the pharmacy. We had a police checkpoint that we went through to get fuel and then back through again to the bakery so we found a different way out of town because the first 2 times we got waved through.



Our next stop was Lake Cullulleraine General Store which would be our last fuel stop. As we got closer to Red Cliffs I checked to see if anyone had been to see Big Lizzie before and no one had so I said ok we have a slight detour ahead and we will go and meet her. Always an excuse for a u-turn and Big Lizzie is worthy of a u-turn. I had to get people used to it as I was sure more were to come on the trip!

Once we checked out the story of Big Lizzie we got on the road to Lake Cullulleraine General Store where we filled up for our last fuel stop before heading off road. We got a free hot drink from the SES Driver Reviver that was setting up and some snacks. As we were pulling out of the store to head to camp Sally and Tristan spotted a car they knew which was owned by some people they knew through business coaching so we pulled up alongside them to say hi. Gave them a fright as they knew we lived in Melbourne and we were a long way from home! We had a quick chat and then farewelled them and turned off to go and have a look at Lock 9 on the Murray River.

The Locks along the Murray help with the river flow and are well worth the look. Because of the river heights at the moment the loch and river were basically the same. We could also see how high the floods had been through the area which is just incredible. There was a huge amount of carp in the lock so we watched them for a while.



We could not camp at the lock and it was getting later in the day so we headed off down the river to find a spot. I had originally planned to camp closer to Lindsay Point on this night but the weather was looking dodgy and it was getting close to 4pm so we made the decision to camp closer to the lock. We turned down Black Box track and headed to the river. You could clearly see where the floods had been with a thick layer of silt across everything. We came across a few

campers that had some good sites so we kept moving down the river. It did not take long to find a secluded spot with a great outlook down the river so we pulled up and got going on setting up camp.

The whole camp site was covered in dried up silt that dissolved as we walked around on it. It will turn to dust soon enough. It is a beautiful spot and I have it marked so if you want to know where it is just let me know and i will share it with you.

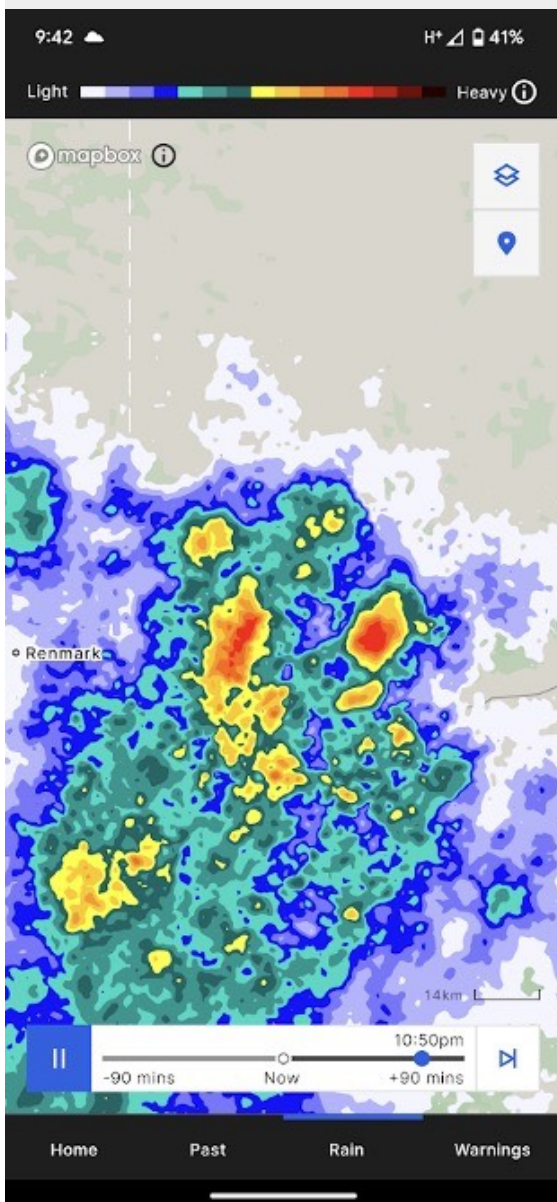






As the sun went down the moon started to come up which was just beautiful across the river.

We were sitting at the fire looking down the river and saw flashing lights. At first we thought it was just other campers but it soon became apparent that it was a lightning storm. We watched the storm as it progressed up the river. I checked out BOM's rain radar and it went from being a small band of rain to full blown all over the screen within in a few minutes in the model.



At around 9pm we checked the progress and it showed us that around 1030pm we were going to be in the middle of the storm so we got everything tied down, and made sure we were set up to be able to weather the storm that was coming. Daisy headed off to bed, Steve C decided that he was going to stay until the rain came. I was somewhere in the middle. Lynton was in a swag so he chose to be in that before the rain came.

The storm came right on time but we did not get a lot of rain as it passed south of us but we still got some thunder and lightning, it was still very cool to be out in it.



**Day 2 - Friday 7th April - GOAL Campsite on the Murray, find McCabe Corner and then down the border to Shearers Quarters campsite in the Murray Sunset National Park: ACHIEVED!!**

We woke the next morning to clear skies and some dampness in our tents but we had to get moving as today was going to be a busy day. Steve C woke to find frogs had decided his accommodation was the best choice and tried to move in. He counted at least 3 on his car and in the door seals.

I got a message from Steve P saying that they were leaving Melbourne. We left camp and carried on along the river bank through to Ned's Corner. This part of the river had huge trees and what was amazing was to see that the flood levels were well above our cars.



We came across a 4WD with camper trailer and he said to us, I am not sure if you will get through there it is a bit tight and boggy for me. Tristan was challenge accepted. It was the first bit of mud for the day. We all made it through with no issues.

We turned out onto the Old Mail route track through to Ned's Corner.





It soon became apparent that we made a good choice in stopping where we did for the night. Whilst it was flat, it was a dirt road and it just takes time to travel along it. As it had some rain the previous night at times it was a little bit slippery. We got to Lake Wallawalla and I said to Tristan as we were driving along, oh it looks like the road goes through the Lake, lets hope there is not too much water! Well there was a lot of water but the road was raised up so we were ok. Steve C spotted a huge flock of birds that turned out to be Pelican's as we came round the corner the lake became obvious and it was packed with Pelicans and other bird life. We stopped for a few photos.



We carried along the old mail road heading towards our first goal for the day which was to find McCabe Corner. This trip goes backwards and forwards across the border so we knew we would not be able to carry fresh fruit and vegetables. There is also the fruit fly exclusion zone. We had stopped at a quarantine bin the day before to eat some banana's that Lynton had bought for the first night and Daisy had an avocado to get rid of as we thought the zone was in a different spot.

You know that they are serious about this stuff when you are four wheel driving and come across a bin and signs in the middle of nowhere. It is great they provide them as it would be devastating to the area if they get pests that can destroy the amazing crops. We then came up to a farm that has over 60,000 almond trees!

We weaved our way through Lindsay Point to find Higgins Cut boat ramp which is not far from McCabe Corner. We came across a guy who had got a little bit stuck and was loading the back of his ute up to get weight on the back to help himself get out. He was so laid back and was like it will dry soon enough and I will get out but we offered to pull him out. He was ok with that so a light pull he was off on his way again.

This part of the trip was definitely slippery as there was water lying around. At one point we were chatting on the radio and Steve C was like, ah just did a 180 and we carried on and then it was like hang on what did he say? We asked for clarification and he was, yeah, just spun a full 180. Needless to say he got the name 180 Steve for the rest of the trip.

Daisy was getting challenged with the mud and slip as she had not experienced it before and was spending time sliding sideways. Lynton was building new mud flares on his car with the amount of mud. It was definitely an adventure.



We found the entry to McCabe corner. Daisy decided to stay at the car while we headed off to find McCabe Corner. And we found it!!

Another geographical point ticked off!

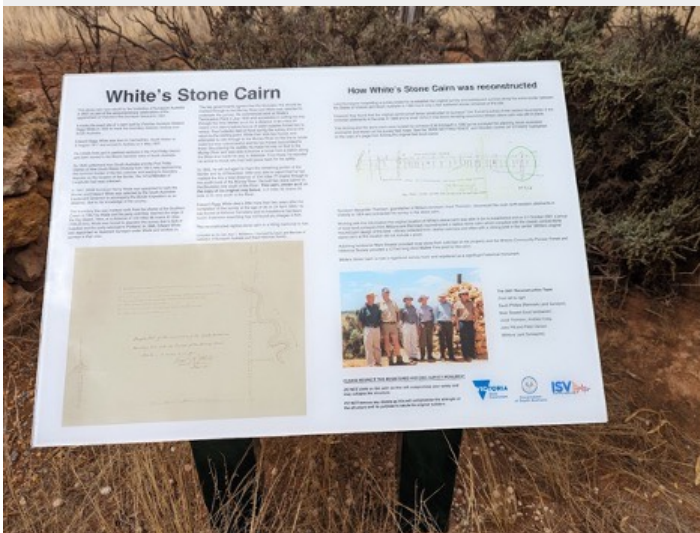
Could we find the Northern Most Point of Victoria? We were running behind time a little bit so we headed off to the Border and to head up to Border Cliffs to see what we could find. It looked like another walk was going to be needed so we went to the boat

ramp and before I knew it Tristan was driving down the ramp into the river. The car was filthy so we gave it a quick wash so we could see again.





Once the cars were a little bit cleaner we headed back down the border as we determined to get the Northern most point of Victoria would require walking and we were a bit late in the day to do that. So back on the road heading to camp. We stopped at White Stones Cairn. A survey Mark from 1850 of the Border between VIC and SA.



This part of the Border is a gravel/ dirt road that is traveled by Cars. We drove down to the Sturt Highway and then crossed over and headed down into the Murray Sunset National Park. We were staying at the Shearers Quarters Camp tonight.

As we were getting closer to camp we thought we heard Steve P and Andre on the radio and then we finally made contact just as we arrived into camp. We got to the Shearers Quarters and the campsite round the back was empty!! So we had the pick of the spots. We started to set up and chatted to Steve P and Andre guiding them into the campsite.

Other campers started arriving but it was only about 4 other vehicles. It was a great spot and we had a great night around the fire.



**Day 3 - Saturday 8th April - GOAL:** Shearers Quarters through Murray Sunset to The Pines Campsite in Ngarkat National Park: **ACHIEVED!**



We got up and going this morning with exploring and adventure on our minds. I had heard there was a crater nearby that was created by an asteroid hitting the earth so the first stop for the morning was to go and have a look. It is only a few kilometers from the Shearers Quarters so it did not take us long to



arrive.



It is phenomenal the power that created this crater. It would be cool to see how big the asteroid was that did it.





The sand of the Murray Sunset is beautiful red/ brown. We did not get a lot of photos but got some great video of us climbing some small dunes that I knew were building us up to the one way section of Border Track. Andre started having some issues with what we thought was a diff so he went back into 2 WD so some of the dunes he had to fly to get up them. Towing his trailer it provided Sarah and Steve P some oh WOW moments as tail end charlie.



Looking at the distance we had to travel I was thinking we might make Pinnaroo for lunch but it soon became apparent it was slower going than that so we found an open area that was a good spot for lunch. We circled the wagons and got about preparing lunch.



We came across spinifex growing in the fields. I was surprised at how green it was, even having to get out of the car to check to see if that is what it was.

We found a bit of a challenge in a dune so stopped to take some videos. It was small but had some sand steps in it. There was a easy route and a harder route. This one Andre had to put on his wings to get up but made it without any problems at all. Just south of the end of the Murray-Sunset National park the track stopped following the border

so we had to do a quick check to see the closet road/ track to get through. I found what i thought was something on the hema so we headed towards it. When we got to it it looked more like a farmers land than track so we carried on past. But it clearly showed on the hema that it was the track so u-turn it was and we headed back to it. We followed the road through and then had a bit of fun finding the end of the track but we got back out on the road back to the Border



We got to the Mallee Highway and you could see across the road cars pulling into the start of “The Border Track” The section south of the Mallee Highway is what everyone calls The Border Track. That is the section that runs through SA and has the extremely large dunes and one way section. It was just after 2pm so we headed to Pinnaroo after topping up the air in some of the tyres. We found the fuel station and filled the cars up, grabbed some snacks and then got on the road to our end destination. Whilst we had booked the whole campsite out we were unsure if we were going to have to deal with people that had chosen not to do the right thing.



There was a sign as we traveled down the border saying this is the last stop for mobile phone coverage and book your permits now. We already had that sorted so just kept driving south.

The sand turned white which was such a contrast from earlier in the day. There were a few dunes that started to grow with soft sand that we warned Andre of so he got the right speed to get up them.

We came across the entry into Ngarkat National Park with an information area so I held the gate for everyone and then some more people caught up to us. They were staying in a campsite nearby. We let them go ahead and then we left to go to camp.

Our campsite was in the one way section of the track so we passed through the signs and made our way down the track to camp. Got into camp around 3:30pm so we had plenty of time to set up. Parks SA made me book both campsites at

The Pines but we decided we could all fit in one of them as there was a bigger site and a smaller site. It was not even that packed in. The good news was it was just us here for the night. It was as Andre was parking his camper trailer than he heard massive clunks and could not reverse properly and he made the decision that this was the last night of their trip. He could not risk pushing the vehicle any harder as the dunes were only going to get bigger and with no reverse it was out of the question. We arranged to escort them back out to a road where they were comfortable being left in the morning.

A sad end to a great day. We got the fire going and settled in for the night. I looked up and it was like hey the stars have gone and then a few minutes later we had a downpour of rain, seats got wet, Lynton's swag got a bit wet and then it cleared again and we dried out in front of the fire.





**Day 4 - Sunday 9th April - GOAL "The Border Track" one way section from the Pines to Red Bluff: PARTIALLY ACHIEVED**

We had agreed with everyone the night before that Sally and Tristan would escort Andre and Ansa back out of the park to the road where they would then make their way home either under their own steam or on the back of a RACV truck and while they were doing that everyone else would have a sleep in and we would aim to be on the road to Red Bluff by 9:30am.

We woke around 6 and Andre and Ansa were up and about starting to pack up so we got up and got packed up ourselves. We then left camp around 7am. We wanted to be ahead of the traffic as we were having to go back down the one way section the wrong way to get them out safely and we did not want to meet oncoming traffic. So sand flags on and hazard lights on we started the trip out. We did not meet anyone which was great. We drove up the border until we were close to the sign for the mobile service and Andre and family were comfortable with us leaving them. We headed back to camp. We got back to camp pretty quickly so it did not end up being a big sleep in for everyone and we got on our way.

It did not take long for our first recovery of the day. The dunes get these little steps in them and then get cut up. Daisy got hung up on some sand so needed a push and some max tracks and muscles to help her out.



We carried along the undulating border track and checked out camp sites as we went along. Our site was definitely the pick of the bunch. We came up to trig point which is about half way along the track. You can see the border track cutting through the desert in both directions from a great look out point. We then had a group of about 7 vehicles pull up so we jumped back into ours and got on our way.





The next section through to Red Bluff I don't have a lot of photos for. We found the big dunes that everyone talks about. There is a track that you can go around them if you want to. We came to one set of dunes and there were 2 vehicles waiting for another group of 6. They had a couple of people having trouble getting up the hills but were still running tyre pressures of 24psi. Tristan had a chat with one of the cars and ended up pulling them back a couple of times. They eventually allowed Tristan to drop their tyres to 16psi. They got to the top of the hill but needed help to get up and over. Daisy decided that she would go around as it was deep sand so she drove till she met the tracks again.

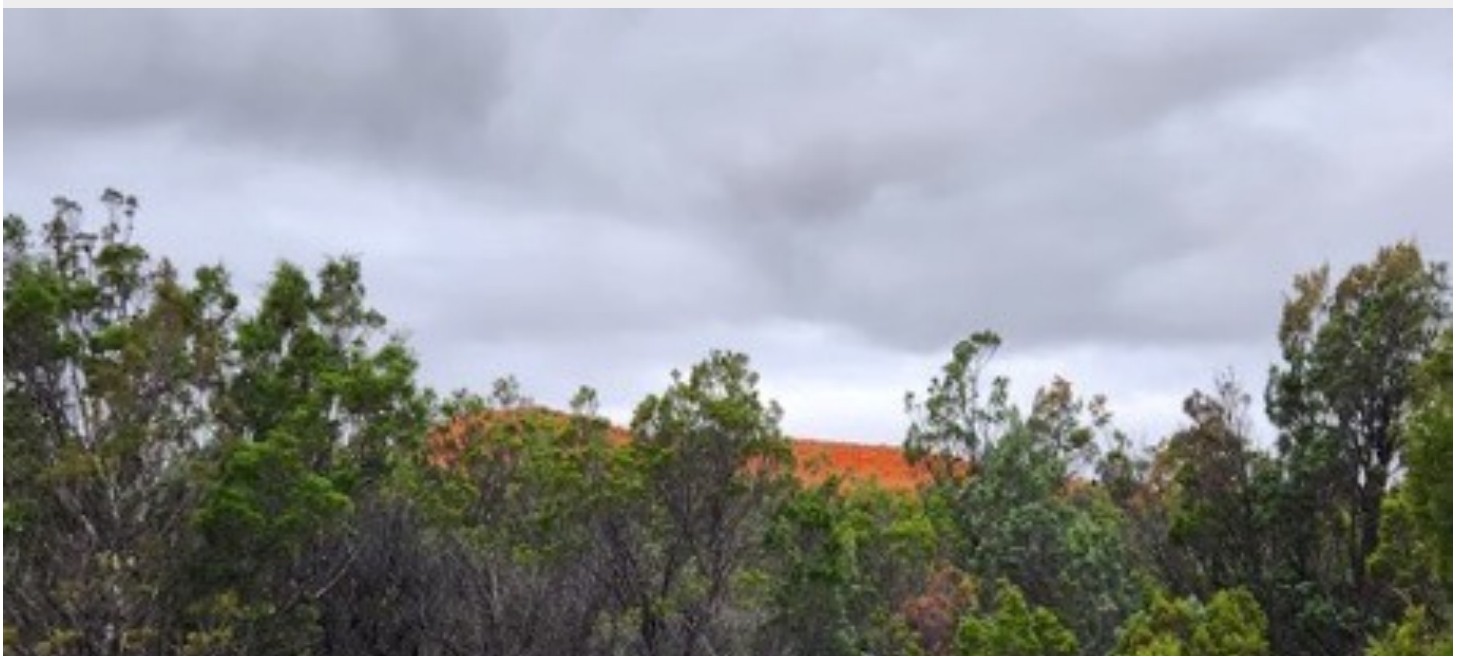
The 2 vehicles that we were chatting to then had a go. They needed a couple of goes to get up but once over the top called us through. I lost all sense of time through this and we were there for a couple of hours. We got to the top and I jumped out to film our crew coming up and as we all had our tyre pressures right it was a good climb up the dune. Once we got over that one there was another dune to climb but once again, with the right pace and tyre pressures we were up and over. This is where we met Daisy again.



A quick check of the time said that it was looking good for us to get to camp around 1:30pm so we pushed through to camp. Red Bluff is not a campsite you can book so first in best camped. We got to camp and there were some cars already there but most of the sites were empty. We found a great campsite right up the back, away from everyone. We settled in for an afternoon/ evening by the fire cooking toastie

sandwiches and talking about the dunes we had conquered. Also chatted about how long it was going to take us to get to the main road for tomorrow's adventures.

We had the most beautiful sunset and the red bluffs do live up to their name!





**Day 5 - Monday 10th April - GOAL:** Red Bluff to home for some and to Bordertown and Little Desert for others: ACHIEVED!

Another great night in the desert with a damp morning but needs must so we packed up and got on the road. This section of Border track is renowned for its bogs. There are some areas where you can easily drive round them but other sections where you just have to pick the best of the bog to go through. I had been asked how far to the main road for this morning as Sara and Steve P needed to head home. I guessed a couple of hours.... That is until Tristan found MUD!!



The first hole was found and not enough forward momentum was had so we came to a stop. Oh and no lockers nor lifted up. A quick snatch out by the mighty Paj and we were on our way again. We all decided to go around this hole.

We came up to a section where another group was working their way through. They took the middle route and Tristan asked what was wrong with the right hand side and they said it is deep and soft. Tristan checked it out and was pretty confident that he could get through. So all the lockers were on, lifted the car to maximum height and then he gave it a go. The Dirty Disco powered its way through the 100m plus bog hole. I was filming it and running backwards to film it. I tripped over another guy who had a blow out in his thongs as he was trying to get out of the way of us all. Super funny but made for a great video.



We had a lot of fun getting through the bogs, we were lucky that there was not a lot of water in them and it could get quite interesting with more water. Daisy was busy learning mud driving and had to be pulled out a couple of times. The Prado does not have a lift so was getting caught up on some of the ruts. We found some holes that literally were deeper than the cars. It is super important to check out depths before going into the hole as it could end up horribly wrong. The holes we found were dry so it was fun to drive through them.



We got to the end of the boggy section at around 11am. The distance covered from Red Bluffs to the end of the bogs was only 26km and it took about 3 hours. When trip planning, take this into account for how far you might travel each day.

This is where Steve and Sara aired up and we said farewell to them for their trip home. Steve C, Lynton and Ashley, Daisy and us carried on down the road along the Border. It was clear that this section was not traveled very often at all. The tracks were tight and not well used at all. Daisy tested out some more recovery techniques including 3 x people power!







When we got to the Western Highway and were preparing to farewell Lynton, Ashley and Steve C in Serviceton, Steve commented that he was getting some decent shaking while driving. This is not surprising considering how much mud we had been through. We pulled over and the team got to work pushing as much mud off the vehicle as we could to help balance up the wheels. Steve then did a test run and it was much better driving.

We then said see you later and safe travels and turned for Bordertown to top up with fuel. We got to a fuel station and it was packed. We had to wait a while to pay for the fuel and it was going to be a 25min wait for some hot chips so we headed into a bakery in town. Managed to get a park near the supermarket and next to the bakery. The bakery was packed with a queue out the door. It was clearly Monday afternoon on Easter weekend! We headed to the supermarket to get some food and eat on the way to camp.

There was a sign as we came into town saying it was Bob Hawkes hometown so we found his childhood home and went to have a look.



We headed out of town back towards border track and the Little Desert. We were driving along heading into Wolseley and spotted these buildings in a paddock so we did a quick u-turn to find out more about them. It was fuel storage for World War 2. Well worth having a look if you are in the area.





We found the border road again and turned down it to find the entry into Little Desert. We found a gate and headed on through and it quickly went from farm land to bush and a completely different environment from the previous parks we had been in. We found our camp for the night, got set up and had dinner. We were all tired out so it was not long after sun set that we all headed to bed for an early night after the adventures of the day.



**Day 6 - Tuesday 11th April - Little Desert to home.**

Woke up early this morning and was on the road as we planned to have coffee and brekkie on the road. I did overestimate the size of the towns so we waited until Horsham for brekkie. We stopped in Goroke to get a drink from the local IGA and then we went to the Goroke Silo Art.

Next stop was the Horsham Silo Art. I just love seeing these amazing works of art across Australia.







We found a great cafe in Horsham so we stopped for breakfast. Once finished brekkie Tristan and I headed off to find a comfort stop and as we came back Daisy is chatting to a lady who was parked next to us to find out she was having trouble getting her car started. Tristan popped his multimeter on the battery and it was showing only 8 volts. Daisy got out her trusty jump starter and we got the car running so the lady could get it sorted out. She was very grateful.

We then pointed our noses home and had an uneventful trip. We stopped at Ballan to get fuel and to top up with some food for the last section to home. We saw a couple trying to start their car while we were eating and as we left we asked them if they needed a hand. They thought it was a key issue and

had been trying for 2 hours to get it sorted. Tristan pulls out his trusty multimeter and you guessed it 8 volts! Flat Battery, so Daisy pulls out her trusty jump starter and we get them going. They were very grateful as they were trying to get back to Melbourne.

No one else needed our help so we got back on the road and got home around 5pm.

It was a fantastic trip with so many different landscapes. We are now left with awesome memories and great photos... oh and half the desert on our vehicle!





## Remember the Member

Here's a little reminder of Mr Callum Carver Brown, who was the very first person to stick up their hand and volunteer for the Meet the Member section of the magazine. It's pretty obvious from reading this again that there were 2 major influences in Cal's life - his off-road adventures and his son, Zach. Have a little read and refresh yourself on Cal.



**Full name and any nicknames?**

Callum Carver Brown. My nick name at school was Moose - I have no idea why.

**What's your vehicle?**

Black Ford Ranger 2017 model XLT with canopy and most of the fruit.



**First car you ever owned?**

HQ Holden and I wish I had it now, it would be worth a fortune. I found out after I got rid of it that it was used as a get away car in a bank robbery in Queensland.

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

Mmm that's hard to say which one as there has been a few. I had no idea how steep "Flats Track" was in Aberfeldy and bought my camper trailer down it in the wet. That was quite interesting as the trailer was trying to pass the car on the way down - i still get shivers when I think of it.

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

Good quality tyres and suspension.

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

Landcruiser 300 series with all the stuff for comfortable touring.

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

Frazer Island and Moreton Island



<b>Top tip to any beginners?</b>	Take your time, ask questions, do basic training, join a club, get some good quality recovery gear. And enjoy yourself!
<b>Favourite camp food?</b>	Bacon, egg and cheese wraps.
<b>Roughest night's sleep on a trip?</b>	One trip, I didn't bring the right sleeping bag for the low temp and spent the night cold to the bone. Its really hard to get warm again once you're that cold.
<b>What snacks are we most likely to find in your cab?</b>	Biscuit and cheese cracker dips - nice little snack :-)
<b>Best piece of camping gear you are never without?</b>	My camper trailer.
<b>Worst upgrade or kit purchase?</b>	I think I have been lucky so far I don't have any regrets. I research the hell out of things before i buy.
<b>Dream track or trip at the top of your bucket list?</b>	Cape York - Simpson - West coast Aus.
<b>Where in the world would you most like to visit?</b>	Egypt - Mummy's and pyramids fascinate me.
<b>Footie, football or rugby?</b>	Footy. Murrumbreena Footy Club - My son plays in under 11's.
<b>What kept you sane during lockdowns?</b>	Gaming with Zach - We play a lot together and we have a great time.
<b>Worst job you ever had?</b>	Quality control inspector for a firm in Hallam that made fireplaces.
<b>What motivates/inspires you?</b>	Zach and paying the mortgage.
<b>You're driving from Melbourne to Perth, anyone in the world, dead or alive, can be your co-driver, who would it be?</b>	First choice with out a doubt would be my little mate Zach but I wouldn't mind having a chat with David Attenborough.

















Photo:  
Thumbs up from Cal