



Club Magazine June 2024 Edition



Miller's Hut trip Photo

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



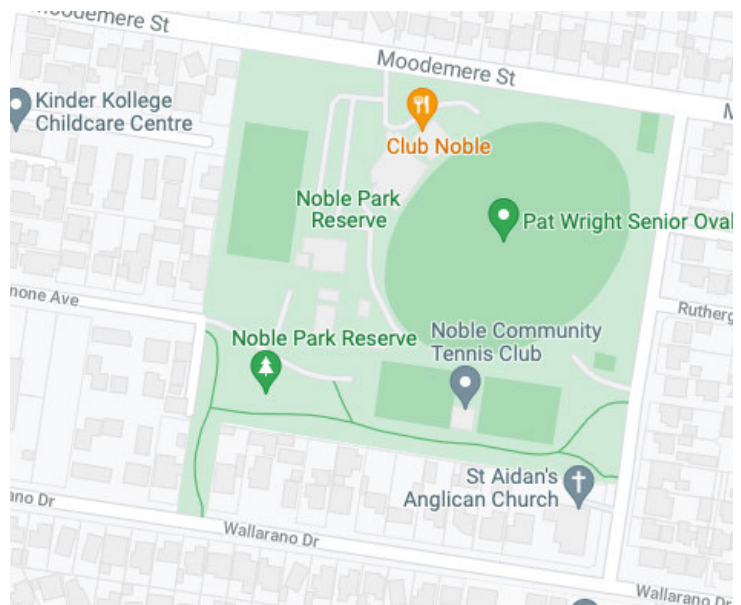
VFWDC Meeting Details & Venue

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

No meeting at Club Noble in January.

Club Noble Addresss

Upstairs 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 5th June at 8.00pm.

Club Committee

2023 - 2024

President	Neville Van Leeuwen	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	Steve Miller	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Secretary (Temp)	Steve Miller	secretary@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Ly Ho	treasurer@vfwdc.com

General Committee

Trip Coordinator	Bruce Dunlop	trips@vfwdc.com
Magazine Editor	Luke David	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	Matt Marino	delegate@vfwdc.com

Support Positions to Committee

Web Manager	Ben Whitworth	web@vfwdc.com
Training Officer	Phil Griffith	
Merchandise	Andy & Suzy (Temp)	merchandise@vfwdc.com

Club Details

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
Registration Number	A002184F
Correspondence Address	PO Box 778, Dandenong, VIC 3174
Email	secretary@vfwdc.com
Website	www.vfwdc.com

The Victorian Four Wheel Club is an affiliated club of [Four Wheel Drive Victoria](#)

President's Report

Hello Everyone,

I hope you're all making the most of the mild weather we've been having before winter sets in and many of the tracks are closed.

We're looking for someone to organize a day trip before the tracks are closed. If you're interested, please reach out to me for assistance.

50th Celebrations Update

Our 50th celebrations are progressing, and we need everyone to confirm their attendance (as per previous emails). Please refer to the information later in this magazine.

Member Trips

Two of our members, Steven Miller and Bruce, are embarking on extended trips soon. Steven will be exploring the Simpson Desert, Uluru, and other destinations, while Bruce will be traveling to the Cape and various other places. If you're interested in joining either of these trips, please contact Steven or Bruce directly.

4X4 Show

FWDV is organizing the next 4X4 Show, scheduled for August 23rd to 25th. If you're interested in helping with our club's stand, please let me know. Each participating club will receive 30 passes, ensuring plenty of members can attend the show and assist with the stand.

Petitions

There are two petitions circulating regarding the proposal to convert state parks to national parks. You can find these petitions on our Facebook page or at <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/petitions> if you don't have Facebook.

Facebook under <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/petitions>

Updated Mobile Number

Please note my updated mobile number: 0472 680 482

Neville Van Leeuwen
VFWDC President
president@vfwdc.com.au
M: 0472 680 482

Club Calendar

June

Wednesday 5th	Club Meeting	8:00pm Club Noble
Saturday 9th	Bruce's Big Trip	Organised by Bruce D (see Upcoming Trips)
Wednesday 19th	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8:00pm
Saturday 22nd	Trip Leader Training Day	Organised by Sally (see Upcoming Trips)
Saturday 22nd	Simpson Desert	Organised by Steven Miller (see Upcoming Trips)

July

Wednesday 5th	Club Meeting	8:00pm Club Noble
Wednesday 17th	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8:00pm
Friday 19th to 20th	Christmas in July St Annes Winery	Organised by Neville (see Upcoming Trips)

Other Dates

14th September 2024	Merringtons or O'Tooles	Organised by David B (see Upcoming Trips)
19th October 2024	50th Celebratory Dinner	Venue: Club Noble (more detail in magazine)

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 01/05/2024
Location: Club Noble

Time: 8:03 pm– 9:24pm
Next Meeting: Wednesday 5th June 2024

Open Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WelcomeApologies: Luke David, David and Carolyn, Bruce Dunlop, Jason, Maree, Matt	Neville
Minutes from previous months club meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Matters arising from previous minutes for meeting on the 03/04/2024: Nil.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Accept: SallySeconded: Tristan	Neville
General Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No general announcements.	Neville
Guests	Glenn – Ford Maverick - just been around Australia, looking for more 4WD experiences. Rula and Ishmael - Ford Wild Trak – wants to see what a 4WD club is about.	Neville
Correspondence	PO Box has not been checked this month	Neville
	Ly to check PO Box as soon as possible.	
Tonight's Guest Speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No guest speaker this month	
Treasurer's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">As per written report from Ly Ho – Read by Neville – Written report will be in next issue of the club's magazine.Closing cash position \$16,012.20\$6000 has been retrieved from term deposit when it rolls over in later in April. This will be to help pay for anticipated 50th Anniversary expenses.Renewal for Four Wheel Drive Victoria Insurance renewal received.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ly went over the coverage that the policy provides. Refer to the FAQ to be distributed by Ly.	Ly
Association News	No update from Matt Marino	Neville

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 01/05/2024

Location: Club Noble

Time: 8:03 pm– 9:24pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 5th June 2024

Association New continued ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on any Association news – • Neville attended the Presidents/Delegates day on the 13/04 • VEAC Report, summary of impacts to FWDV – • Neville will supply the minutes on this, general consensus not likely to see a lot of changes around tracks/closures • FWDV has purchased a property at Rowville – FWDV contributed 50% conjunction with LROC (Land Rovers Owners Club) who contributed the other 50% • Toolangi Training Ground – The training ground is progressing and training will be offered very soon. Still some red tape in the installation of temporary buildings and toilets. • New CEO – Wayne Hevey is retiring this year and Craig Ryan has been announced as his replacement. • Planning for the National 4x4 Show is underway. With dates set for the 23rd to the 25th of August <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each club who attends will be issued 30 passes for their club ensuring plenty of people from your club can get down to enjoy the show and help out on your clubs stand. • Four Wheel Drive Victoria would like to announce that they are planning a Clean Up the Bush event for Mt Disappointment over the 18th and 19th of May 2024. 	Neville/Matt
Upcoming Courses	Trip Leaders Course to be run by Sally on 22/06/2024 at Garden Road Clayton	Sally and Tristan
Incentive to Run a Trip	The club will offer \$5 membership discount towards trips organized and advertised – up to a maximum of \$20 per couple - must be advertised and shared with the club	Neville
Organising a Trip	<p>Trip signup sheets at back of club room.</p> <p>A map of Victoria is provided for picking your next destination.</p> <p>Discuss joining a trip with any of the trip organisers or other participants listed on the trip signup sheets.</p> <p>Please offer suggestions for trips or propose running a trip. If you need any assistance, the club is very happy to help.</p>	Neville
Recently Run Trips	Sally – Big Desert – Anzac Weekend 26 th April 2024, left Friday and came back on Sunday – See trip report in next issue of club magazine	Sally & Tristan
	Marysville trip run in lieu of Chesterville Park Family Day – Day Tip – Several recoveries required; Track clearing was carried out on several occasions -	Neville

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 01/05/2024

Location: Club Noble

Time: 8:03 pm– 9:24pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 5th June 2024

	See trip report in next issue of club magazine – It was proposed that Neville be nominated for the “Onya Award”.	
Upcoming Trips		
	Shrine Tour on Sunday 1 st weekend in June and 2 nd tour in August (When Bruce is back from his trip) *** UPDATE 15/05/2024: Shrine tours have been post posed to a date to be advised later in the year ***	Bruce Dunlop (Former Shrine Ceremonial Officer)
	Bruce Dunlop's Trip – 8 weeks Leaving on the King's weekend. June 2024 up to Darwin to the Tip and back down again. Going via Mildura, Oodnadatta, Alice Springs via Finke, Lamberts Centre, across the Tanami to Broome, Gibb River Road, Katherine, Mataranka, Cairns via Palmer River Roadhouse, back through Cains, Burke and Wills Roadhouse, Burke, and Wills Big Tree. People are welcome to join for specific sections. Some may be joining Bruce at Cairns.	Bruce Dunlop
	Trip Leaders Training Session – 22 nd June 2024- table top session in Garden Road Clayton - highly recommended for everyone. Approx 4 hours. Limited to 15 persons.	Sally & Tristan
	Steve Pritcher's Trip – 4 th – 6 th May 2024 – Millers Hut – Lake Tali Karng. Leaving Friday, set up camp at Millers hut. 1200m high altitude freshwater lake. Diesels will need alpine fuel or appropriate additive to prevent diesel fuel waxing. Saturday – Sentinel's Lookout, bit of a walk involved. Return trip on Saturday – Mooroka Hut if foot bridge is not closed. Horse Yard Flats and hut. Nights are expected to be very cold (at or below zero). Head back on Sunday. Nothing else planned for Sunday. Recommend bringing a chainsaw. It will be cold, and a decent fire is going to be needed.	Steve P
	Steven Miller – Saturday 22 nd June 2024 to approximately 05 th July 2024 (12-14 days) – Route will be Melbourne Woomera, Coober Pedy, Lamberts Centre, to Uluru where we meet a two vehicle contingent from WA, then through the McDonald Ranges, to Alice Springs, down the old Ghan Railway, cross the Simpson Desert (West to East), Longreach (Qantas Aviation Museum), then back down to The Dish (Parkes Radio Telescope), check out the Snowy Hydro Scheme, Snow camping near Kosciusko/Jindabyne, return to Melbourne	Steven M
	Christmas In July – St Annes Winery	Neville
	Astronomical Society- Saturday 26 th October 2024 (Weekend immediately after 50 th anniversary dinner) – May be end of year, off site, function. Need to know numbers early as VFWDC has to stump up a minimum payment. \$15 per head inclusive of dinner (Pizza). Packenham School. Kid friendly. Approx 1 telescope per 10 people	Neville
	50 th Anniversary Camping Trip at Merringtons/O'Tooles Campground	

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 01/05/2024

Location: Club Noble

Time: 8:03 pm– 9:24pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 5th June 2024

Intermission		8:31pm – 8:58pm
	Presentation of driver training certificates to Stephen, Amanda, Nicola, Sushant, Alex, Adam Thanks to the trainers who made it possible.	Neville
IT Issues	None	
General Business	No other general business.	Neville
VFWDC 50th Anniversary Updates	Main 50 th celebration trip will be Camping at Merringtons/O'Tooles. 14-15th Sept 2024	Neville
	Club 50 th Anniversary Dinner to be held on 19 th Oct 2024 at 7:00pm - \$20 for members, includes dinner and gifts	Neville
	Club needs nominations for "Onya Award". Email nominations to Neville at president@vfwdc.com There will be a prize for best nomination.	Neville
	Carried over from March 2024 - Matt said the inaugural winner of the "Onya Award" was for putting a roast in a pot and leaving the plastic on. Neville is to be nominated for Onya award for putting car in 1 st to reverse out of bog hole.	Matt
	Andre collecting photos to put together a slide show for the 19 th of Oct 2024 Anniversary Dinner	Neville
	Presented Logo drafts to club. Suggested putting very small 50 th on each sleeve, large one on back, original on front.	Neville
Magazine	Request for content for club members – Any interesting tales, anecdotes, good or bad experiences, feedback on anything four-wheel drive related for the information of others, anything nifty you have seen or bought in the last month ...	Neville
	A volunteer is providing a Rig run down for the next issue of the club magazine. will do rig run down for June magazine	
Merchandise	Andy and Suzy have been volunteered to take on merchandise.	Neville

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 01/05/2024

Location: Club Noble

Time: 8:03 pm– 9:24pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 5th June 2024

	A list of old merchandise still available is on list at table at back of meeting venue.	
General Business	No general business	Neville
Raffle	Raffle Winners 1. Purple 71 2. Red D14 3. D11	
Next General Meeting	Wednesday 05/06/2024, 8:00pm at Club Noble (Upper floor meeting room)	
Meeting Close	9:24pm	Neville
Minutes taken by:		Steven Miller

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com



Treasurer's Report April 2024

<u>Cheque A/C</u> Opening Balance as at 01/04/2024	\$3,703.52	
Add: Raffle	\$39.00	
Transfer from Term Deposit	\$6,000.00	
Less: Meeting Catering	-\$31.50	
Closing Balance as at 30/04/2024		\$9,711.02
<u>Term Deposit</u> Opening Balance as at 01/04/2024	\$12,022.72	
Add: Interest	\$240.16	
Less: Transfer to Cheque A/C	-\$6,000.00	
Closing Balance as at 30/04/2024		\$6,262.88
<u>Petty Cash</u> Opening Balance as at 01/04/2024	\$38.30	
Closing Balance as at 30/04/2024		<u>\$38.30</u>
Consolidated Closing Cash Position		<u>\$16,012.20</u>

This month's meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 5th June, at Club Noble. We welcome all current members and any new members looking to see what our club is about. All of us look forward to the upcoming trips and we encourage anyone thinking of running a trip to speak to anyone in the committee to get some advice and guidance.

New Logo Coming Soon



Membership Fee Changes

Temporary Membership fees have increased to \$25, and these memberships will no longer be offered for snow trips. You will need to become a full member of the club to attend snow trips. General membership fees have increased to \$85 for a single and \$95 for families. Silver membership fees have increased to \$55.

Club's 50th Birthday

Just in case you weren't aware, this year marks the club's 50th birthday. A working group has been formed to organize amazing events. From this committee, we have organized a commemorative camping trip for our 50th on September 14th. We are also planning a 50th Celebratory Dinner at Club Noble. Please see 50th Celebrations Brochure on page below.

Merchandise

We currently have a range of merchandise in stock, and the list of available items can be found on the pages below. If you are interested, please feel free to speak to one of the committee members during the general meeting or email us at committee@vfwdc.com.

VFWDC 50th Celebrations



Come celebrate the 50th Anniversary as a club with a dinner celebration!

Date: 19/10/2024

Venue: Club Noble (Dinner will be a buffet held in the same room as our meetings)

Join us for a fun night with dinner, gifts, and many awards to hand out.

Please mark this date on your calendar and RSVP. There is a \$20.00 per head charge to book your seat. Children under 12 will be free but need to RSVP as well.

(If you are paying via BSB, please include names and reference - "50th Anniversary")

Account Name: Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

BSB: 633108

Account No: 111761979

To assist in organising, please book before 30/07/2024.

Merchandise

Merchandise - Get in now to get your discount merchandise!

Reversible Vest

Cost - \$30.00

Sizes – S, M , L, XL, 2XL, 5XL



Drivers Jacket

Cost - \$40.00

Sizes - S, M, L, XL



Zip up Hoodie

Cost - \$20.00

Sizes - S & M



Scarf / Beanie / Cap / Stubbie Holder

Cost - \$10.00 each



Please visit our website at 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

Payments:

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

Account	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
Name: BSB:	Inc 633108
Account No:	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 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](#).

Track Classifications

Four Wheel Drive Victoria have a track grading classification scale which has been developed to assist in advising Trip Leaders and participants on 4WD trips of the type of tracks that they can expect to encounter. On most trips participants can expect that a variety of tracks will be traversed each with an appropriate rating. Trip Leaders should advise participants of the range of track ratings expected to be encountered on the planned route. The following classifications will assist in determining an overall Trip Rating:

Considerations	Easy	Medium	Difficult	Very Difficult
Overall Description	All Wheel Drive and High Range 4WD. Novice Drivers	Mainly High range 4WD but Low range required. Some 4WD experience recommended.	Significant Low range 4WD with standard 4WD ground clearance. Should have 4WD driver training.	Low range 4WD with High ground clearance. Experienced Drivers
Advisory Sign				
Expected terrain and track conditions	Mostly unsealed roads with no obstacles and minor gradients.	Tracks with some steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. May have shallow water crossings.	Tracks with frequent steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. Possible water crossings.	Tracks with frequent very steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. May have difficult river crossings.
Vehicle suitability	All wheel Drive and High Range 4WD. Can be low clearance with single range and road tyres.	Suitable for medium clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain or road tyres.	Suitable for medium to high clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain tyres.	Suitable for high clearance vehicles with dual range and tyres suitable for the terrain. (Mud Terrain tyres).
Recovery equipment			Recovery equipment required.	Winch / Recovery equipment required.
Driver Training / Experience	Suitable for novice drivers.	Recommended that drivers have experience or 4WD training. Recommended to be done in groups of vehicles.	Recommended for drivers with reasonable experience or 4WD training. To be done in groups of vehicles.	Drivers with extensive experience and advanced training should only attempt as there are several technical challenges. Recommended to be done in groups of four or more vehicles.
Weather	May be difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.

Upcoming Trips

Destination	Bruce's Big Trip
	NAME: Bruce Dunlop MOB: 0448 318 467 EMAIL: bdunloptrip@gmail.com
Dates	King's Birthday Long weekend
Meeting Details	<p>So I'm planning a 6-8 week trip next year. Starting around the King's Birthday Long weekend.</p> <p>Please see rough order of the trip on the next page.</p> <p>The fuel and driving may be a tad too much for the proposed standard trip form. Taking enough for 1000km should cover it with water and food for 10 days per person as well. Given most roadhouses etc are 400-500 km apart it's only the Tanami to cover.</p> <p>As well, leaving earlier, starting mid way or combination of both is more than welcome for the time poor folks.</p> <p>I will take the Cub Camper, caravans at a pinch, but be prepared to park up at places, swags of course an option.</p> <p>Will have some one night stop and prop sleep overs IOT spend longer at destinations ,but will not be doing extended stays IOT get it all done in time.</p>
Grade	TBC
Vehicle Limits	TBC
Approx km's meeting	Approx. 1000km and 400-500 km apart it's only the Tanami to cover
Equipment required	Water and food for 10 days per person
Maps required	TBC
Radio Channel CB/UHF	UHF Ch 13

Destination	Bruce's Big Trip Continued
Trip Activity Details	<p>Here is the rough plan for the route:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mildura,2. Burra,3.Oodnadatta,4. Mt Dare,5. Lambert Centre,6. Alice Springs,7. Tanami Rd,8. Wolfe Creek,9. Broome, FIFO (Fly In Fly Out)10.Barn Hill Station and or Cape Leveque, FIFO11. Gibb river Rd,12. Mitchell Falls,13. Kununurra,14. Mataranka,15. Borroloola,16. Hells Gate Roadhouse,17. Normanton,18. Cairns, FIFO again19. Palmer River Roadhouse,20. The Tip,21. Palmer River again, (great steak sanger last time),22. Cairns, FIFO ,23. Normanton,24. Burke and Wills Roadhouse,25. Cloncurry,26. Birdsville,27. Innamincka,28. Camerons Corner,29. Wilcannia,30. Hay,31. Echuca,32. Melbourne! <p>The fuel and driving may be a tad too much for the proposed standard trip form. Taking enough for 1000km should cover it with water and food for 10 days per person as well.</p> <p>Given most roadhouses etc are 400-500 km apart it's only the Tanami to cover.</p>

Upcoming Trips

Destination	Trip Leader Training Day
	NAME: Sally Mobile: 0435 782 207
Dates	Saturday 22nd June 2024
Meeting Details	Alykan Electrical Solutions Offices at Factory 11/ 35 Garden Road 9am to 1pm (finish time depending on how long we chat and plan)
Grade	Easy
Trip Activity Details	<p>This event is all about trip leading. How we go about preparing and running a trip.</p> <p>Before the trip</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Forms- Sources of Information- Maps- Navigation devices- Deciding on grade of trip- Communicating with trip members- Fuel Planning- Gear Required for trip <p>During the trip</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dealing with plan changes- Incidents on a trip <p>After the trip</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Trip reports
Vehicle Limits	Max number of people that meeting room hold will be 15
Equipment required	Bring your maps, navigation devices and ideas on where you want to run a trip to.
Maps required	Bring your maps, navigation devices and ideas on where you want to run a trip to.

Upcoming Trips

DESTINATION	Simpson Desert
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	Name: Steven Miller Mobile: 0419 946 258
DATE	22/06/2024 to 07/07/2024
MEETING PLACE / TIME	7:00 am, 22/06/2024, 25 Glencannon Crescent, Clayton South VIC 3169
GRADE	WET: Hard DRY: Medium (Simpson Desert and Khancoban) – The rest of the trip should be easy.
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 25 Glencannon Crescent, Clayton South VIC 31692. Woomera SA3. Uluru NT (National Parks Permit Required)(Booking into caravan park) Joining up with WA contingent.4. MacDonald Ranges NT5. Alice Spring NT6. Binns Track to Lambert Centre NT (Permits Required)7. Mt Dare SA (Permits Required)8. Follow French Line across Simpson Desert to Birdsville, including stopping at Poepple Point (Permits Required)9. Longreach QLD10. Longreach Aviation Museum NT (Booking into caravan park)11. Via Charleville Qld12. Via Bourke NSW13. Parkes Observatory NSW14. Geehi Flats campground - Khancoban area in Kosciuszko National Park (National Parks Permit Required)15. Lake Boga Flying Boat Museum via Murry River16. 25 Glencannon Crescent, Clayton South VIC 3169
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 6 Camper trailers are not recommended though 1 vehicle has already advised they are bringing their camper trailer. No Caravans.
APPROX KMS	9000km
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Mt Dare DIESEL: Mt Dare
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Simpson Desert - 600km which will require up to 200 litres due to slow speed, deep sand and many, many sand dunes – The rest of the trip will have frequent access to fuel.
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	A/T tyres minimum, 1st aid kit, Food for 6 days minimum, 50 liters of water, Fully self-sufficient for a minimum of 6 days. Please note the desert night in winter can get down to -10 degrees Celsius. Camping near base of Mt Kosciuszko can be -20 degrees Celsius. Cold weather gear. Snow Chains (Khancoban area in Kosciuszko National Park, Tyre repair kit and at least x1 spare trimdeck, Recovery Gear, Winch (Optional), 2 vehicles will have winches
MAPS REQUIRED	McDonald Ranges, Central Australia, Central East Australia, Snowy Mountains
RADIO CHANNEL	13

Upcoming Trips

Destination	St Annes Winery
	Name: Neville Van Leeuwen Mobile: 0472 680 482
Dates	Friday 19th July to Saturday 20th July 2024
Meeting Details	St Annes Winery
Grade	N/A
Trip Activity Details	<p>Come and enjoy Christmas in July at St Annes Winery, we will sit around a fire and enjoy some wine tasting and stock up on any low supplies.</p> <p>This is a purely relaxing/ social gathering and is always well enjoyed Saturday Night we will have a Spit Dinner catered by the club.</p> <p>Please RSVP by the end of June so we can cater appropriately. Please bring your own crockery/cutlery and drinks for this meal and be fully self sufficient for the remainder of the weekend.</p>
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 8 - 10 MAXIMUM: no limit
Equipment required	Fully self sufficient – there is a toilet down at the winery
Radio Channel	CH13 to find where we are camped

Trip Report: Miller's Hut

03 – 05 May 2024

Roll Call

Steve & Sara Pitcher (Trip Leaders): Toyota LandCruiser
Andy and Suzy McCarthy: Mitsubishi Challenger
Lynton Balia: Jeep Wrangler
Michael Scopel: Ford Ranger
Neville Van Leeuwen: Mitsubishi Triton
Sally & Tristin Higgs: Landrover Discovery

Details

We all met up at Officer on the Friday morning before setting off in an Easterly direction at a rather leisurely 9:30 am. The sun was out, the skies were blue and the traffic was light.

We reached Traralgon soon enough then went our different ways to stock up on snacks, coffee or whatever else anyone needed before leaving civilisation. Once regrouped, we made our way towards Licola. It was a reasonably straightforward run and we even encountered a motorcyclist that pulled over to let us all pass on the way in.

A final fuel stop and quick lunch break later, we hit the dirt and drove Tamboritha Road towards Arbuckle Junction. From there, we turned off onto Moroka Road until we found Mount Wellington Track. We spotted a decent sized tree that had fallen nearby so out with the chainsaw for some firewood.

Once loaded with wood, we progressed towards the top of Mount Wellington where everyone shifted into low range. Unfortunately, by the time we made the ascent the lovely clear skies that we experienced in the morning had changed to low lying clouds which impeded our visibility. We stopped briefly at the peak to take in the limited views before descending the other side of the mountain.



When we arrived at camp (Miller's Hut), it was around 4pm. There was another group already set up so we went about setting up wherever else people thought was best. Some wood splitting later and we had a nice fire going to keep us warm.



It didn't take long before darkness descended upon us and, after the effects of a full day's drive, the last of us retired at about 9:30 pm.

Next morning, we made our way along the final stretch of Miller's track which would take us to a plateau with views out to the Gables and Lake Tali Karng. The remaining section of track to reach that plateau was only about 4-5 km long but it was extremely overgrown and fallen trees abounded every couple of hundred metres or so. The terrain was very challenging, requiring some careful maneuvering and a few reversals to pick the right lines.



Our chainsaws also got a good workout and I would say we cleared at least a dozen or so fallen trees and snapped branches along the way. Progress was very slow and we even had to do a bit of spotting which, thankfully, Sally and Tristin volunteered to do (thanks guys!) as we inched our way forward.



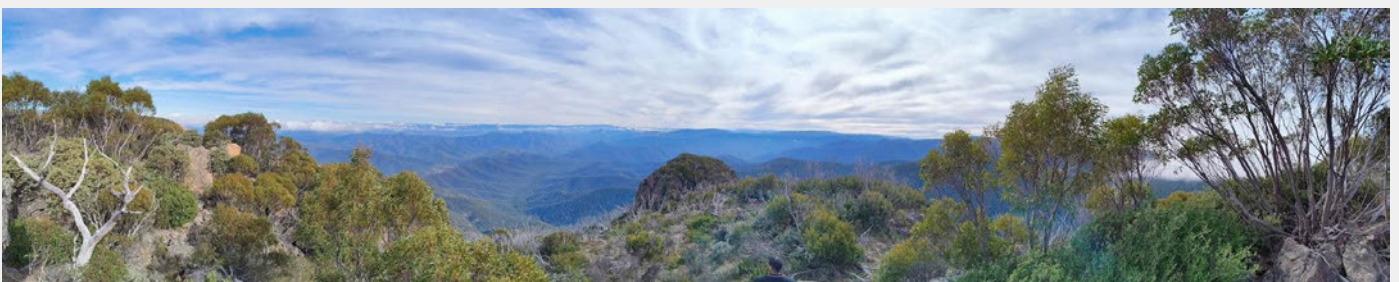
Of the 6 vehicles in convoy, the first 3 made it to the plateau. Given the difficulty of the last 500m or so of track (which included straddling a long erosion gully), the rest of the group decided to walk up. With the exception of Michael who was the only one to drive the entire length of the track, we made our way to the Sentinels on foot. From there we began the walking trail that takes you to a lookout affording views of Lake Tali Karng. Unfortunately, the trail was not well defined and most

of us ended up at a different lookout point to that which we intended. Tristin and Michael did a bit of exploring and made it to the correct lookout. However, it was a good half km away and would have probably taken the group an extra 45 mins or so to get there, plus the same back. So we decided to make our way back towards the vehicles and call it day.

The descent from the plateau was much quicker than the drive up but it still took the best part of an hour to cover all 4-5 km or so back. Once back at camp, we were quick to get a fire going again while we sat around enjoying happy hour. The Subaru club made an appearance but, after evaluating the now rather full campground, decided to press on to another spot for the evening.



On Sunday, we broke camp at around 9:30 am and retraced our tracks back towards Mount Wellington. This time, nature was kind to us and we were able to take in some breathtaking views.



We took a number of photos from the top at the survey marker then made our way along Maroka Range Track towards Maroka Hut. It was here that we spotted the Subaru club again as we completed the short walk towards the hut.



From there we drove out to Horseyard Flat to inspect Horseyard Hut and surrounds.



We stopped for a short lunch break before taking Marathon Road back towards civilisation. We pulled up at Briagolong township about an hour or so later, hoping to grab a cup of coffee. Unfortunately, the coffee shop was closed so we all went our separate ways back towards home.

It was a great extended weekend away in the presence of great company with some challenges along the way.

Thanks to all who attended.

Written By: Steve and Sara Pitcher

Trip Report: Mt Disappointment clean up

Saturday 18th May 2024

On Saturday 18th May, we joined 14 other volunteers from five different 4 x 4 clubs at Mt. Disappointment, cleaning up rubbish that had been left out on tracks.

In total, 14 jumbo bags with a 1.5 tonne capacity were filled with a variety of illegally dumped waste, ranging from whole car interiors, shredded tires to kids' toys and complete lounge room furnishings.

The weather went from a very cool and breezy morning to a sunny and pleasant day, with spirits and camaraderie high amongst people intent on keeping Australia beautiful and upholding the respectable 4 x 4 club members' reputation.

Written By: Suzy Whitford







We need your help on and off the tracks



**If you have some spare time
please consider joining the committee.
Your club needs you— do it for your club!**

Contact your Committee...

