



Free Wheeling

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

JUNE 2003



Rally for the Bush – Easter 2003

[Photograph courtesy of Peter Frankland]



Hattah Kulkyne NP – Easter 2003

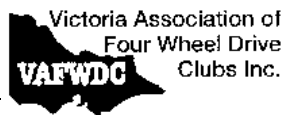
[Photograph courtesy of LP]



Donnelly's Creek Mine Trip – May 2003

[Photograph courtesy of John Partridge]

The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc is an affiliated club of the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)



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COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2002/2003

President	David Hughes
Vice President	Ian Warburton
Treasurer	John Partridge
Secretary	Rosalie Hughes
Assistant Secretary	Stephen Boyle

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

New Member Contact	George Pledger
Insurance Officer	Michael Rodger
Trip/Events Co-ordinator	Gerrard Clarke
Librarian	Carl Surtees
Association Delegate	John Partridge
Club Historian	Phil Alder
Training Officers	Mark Kochan Ashley Martin John Partridge Peter Pink
Magazine Editor	Lesley Peters lesleyp@raptorinternational.com

Registered Name: Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

Registration No: A002184F

All correspondence: The Secretary
VFWDC Inc
PO Box 778
Dandenong Vic 3175

Web Site: www.vfwdc.com

Meetings: Held first Tuesday of each month excluding January (no meeting). The November meeting is held on the 2nd Tuesday due to Melbourne Cup. At Dandenong Library Stuart Street, Dandenong 3175

The opinions given herein are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Committee of Management, or the Member body of the VFWDC Inc.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome everyone to another month of **Free Wheeling**.

Firstly I would like to say many thanks to Peter and Janine, Mark and Mirella, Geoff and Rochelle, Ray and Dawn, Maggie, Ian and Liz, Craig and Buddha for joining Rosalie and myself on the "Rally for the Bush" over the Easter period. It is hard to imagine just how devastating the bushfires were in the High Country until you travel through the areas and see for yourself. I could not believe just how much of this beautiful countryside was burnt. To give you some idea, we traveled just over 1200km from the time we left home until we arrived back again, and just 500km of that was through totally burnt out country. All I can say is go and see for yourself, and support the communities in these areas. The rest you can read in the trip report.

Regarding the gun issue that has been raised. The Committee has made a ruling in a Bylaws book that has now been started that there will definitely be no guns allowed on any Club trip. No matter what the gun is or where the trip, **NO GUNS WILL BE ALLOWED**.

The Committee is considering having some Club flags made to fly on Club trips. If you have any ideas on this, then please let us know at the next meeting.

If you are interested in attending the Open Day and Working Bee at the Nash Creek camping area in the Bunyip State Park on the weekend of the 14th and 15th of June, which is being run by Parks Victoria, then please let us know at the next meeting so that we can let Greg Young from Parks Victoria know how many will be attending.

At the moment we have Mark, Johnno and Ashley as Driver Trainer Instructors. It is very important that all new Members attend the Training Days when they are held. The theory nights are compulsory. Even the older members who would like to do some refresher courses are very welcome.

We have the AGM coming up very soon, and nominations for the Committee of Management are required. If any financial members are interested, then please get someone to nominate you, or if you would like to nominate someone else, then the forms will be available at the next meeting. Just ask Rosalie. It would be nice for a change to have all the nominations signed, sealed and delivered before the AGM on 5th August.

Do not forget the Working Bee at "Collins Hut" over the Queen's Birthday weekend. It won't be all work and no play.

That's it for another month, so take care out there and see you at the next meeting on the 3rd June.

Regards

Daddio

(David Hughes)

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 6 MAY 2003

Meeting opened at 8.20pm by David Hughes.

34 Members present.

APOLOGIES:

Bluey and Joyce Male, Lisa Petrou, Neil and Norma Stephenson, Jessie Smith, Alan and Mary Wade, Peter and Debbie Pink, Barry and Yvonne Hempston, Don and Thelma Montague, Peter Rowe, Christine Fountain, John Smith, Chris and Karyl McGlenn, Maxine Ryan, Steven Pitcher, Nicole O'Conner-Gun, Gary and Paula Johnston, Craig Rea, Graeme Ralph, Judy Murray, Terry Johnke, Liz Beaton, Derek and Janet Hymas, Ivan Santurini, Jill Boyle.

VISITORS:

A big welcome to Kathy, Tracey, Julie, Anthony, Allan and Alastair.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Minutes of February meeting as per the Magazine.

Accepted: Alan Griggs

Seconded: Leigh Pettigrew

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Nil.

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

- ❖ Letter from Bluey Male.
- ❖ Promotional from Utility Campers.
- ❖ Letter from Oxfam.
- ❖ Information on a trivia night by 3AK's Glenn Knight and Peter Dwyer.
- ❖ Fundraiser by Autron Electronics of their Auscruise cruise controls, proceeds for the drought relief appeal.
- ❖ Notification of the Tread Lightly AGM.
- ❖ Various Club Magazines: Cross Country Jeep Club April and May, Pajero Club, Toyota Landcruiser Club, Otway Four Wheel Drive Club, Goulburn Valley 4x4 Club, Landrover Owners Club, Prospectors and Miners Association News.

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

Newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Bendigo Bank Term Deposit \$6500.00

Cheque Account \$3532.77

Petty Cash \$ 121.40

Accepted: Michael Rodger

Seconded: Lesley Peters

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR REPORT:

Johnno – Donnellys Creek Mines weekend.

David – Queen's Birthday weekend Working Bee at Collins Hut.

Ashley – training weekend

ASSOCIATION REPORT: Nil.

TRIP REPORTS: Nil.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

As per the Newsletter.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- ❖ Rudi Paoletti gave a talk on his books and maps that he now has in stock. The Club purchased some for the Library.
- ❖ Ian said thankyou to the people that supported the "Rally For The Bush".
- ❖ Ashley ask if the Pub to Pub was going to be run this year. The answer was yes.
- ❖ Steve asked that we put a policy in place to ban all firearms from all Club trips.
- ❖ David asked if the Membership was in favour of extending the Christmas Party to less fortunate families.

RAFFLE:

Tickets sold by Roger Baird.

Won By: Ian Warburton	Wine
Brett Gale	Wine
Ken Pitcher	Car Wash Kit

TEA DUTIES:

Thanks to George Pledger and Derek Hymas.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 3rd June 2003.

Meeting closed at 10.30pm

4WD INSURANCE

The ANFWDC Insurance Program is available to all members of the VFWDC and other affiliated four wheel drive clubs.

To obtain an insurance quote, the agents – TCIS – require you to fax details regarding your vehicle one month prior to seeking insurance.

See Michael Rodger, Club Insurance Officer, for relevant form.

CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

JUNE

Tuesday 3 rd	Club Meeting	David Hughes
Sat 7 th -Mon 9 th	Queen's Birthday Hut Working Bee (See Trip Data Form)	David Hughes
Tuesday 10 th	Committee Meeting	Ian Warburton
Sat 28 th -Sun 29 th	Gaffneys Creek	John Partridge

JULY

Tuesday 1 st	Club Meeting	David Hughes
Tuesday 8 th	Committee Meeting	John Partridge

AUGUST

Tuesday 5 th	Club Meeting	David Hughes
Friday 8 th to Sunday 10 th	Annual Snow Trip Licola	Glenn Smith
Tuesday 12 th	Committee Meeting	TBC

Things you should know but...

- Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.
- There is a fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness".
- Never lick a steak knife!
- There comes a time when you should stop expecting other people to make a big deal about your birthday. That time is age eleven!
- You should not confuse your career with your life.
- The most destructive force in the universe is gossip!
- You should never say anything to a woman that even remotely suggests that she's pregnant unless you can see an actual baby emerging!



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Anyone wishing to advertise in the Club Directory, email details to the Editor: lesleyp@raptorinternational.com

Free Wheeling is now available (in pdf format)
on the VFWDC the web site each month.
Just go to www.vfwdc.com.

FORTHCOMING TRIP INFORMATION

QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND - DARGO

Date: 6-9 June 2003

Trip Leader: David Hughes

Destination: Collins Hut, Dargo

Meeting Place: Pakenham McDonalds

Time: 6.30pm, Friday 6 June

Grade: C-B

Radio Channel: Ch. 12

Trip Activities: Time to do a little more work on the Hut. We are hoping the Collins Family will pay us a visit and see the progress we have made. Come along and enjoy the weekend.



WANTED

TRIP LEADERS

**Why not try it –
the least you can do is enjoy it !!!!!!!**

Thought for the Day

*Never be afraid to try something new.
Remember that a lone amateur built the Ark. A large
group of professionals built the Titanic...*

Bundy's Bistro presents...

"Cauliflower & Blue Vein Soup"



Cauliflower is one vegetable that is not often used to make a delicious and mouth-watering meal. It's normally used as part of the Sunday roast (cauliflower au gratin), in a vegetarian frittata, and occasionally in Asian stir-fries. In the coming winter months, we tend to make the traditional soups such as Minestrone, Pumpkin, Chicken or Tomato.

I hope this recipe will be enjoyed along with the all-time classics.

Ingredients

150 Grams Butter
1 large Leek (Sliced)
2 medium Cauliflowers (cubed)
2-1/2 litres Chicken Stock
250 grams Blue Vein Cheese (crumbled)
Pepper (and salt if required)
3 cups Croutons
Chives

Method

- 🍴 In a large pot melt the butter and cook leeks for 5 minutes on a medium heat, then add cauliflower and cook for another 5 minutes.
- 🍴 Add chicken stock and pepper, bring to the boil and simmer for half an hour.
- 🍴 Once the vegetables are soft, turn off heat and allow mixture to cool, then blend (use food processor or Bamix) until mixture is smooth.
- 🍴 Return pot to the heat and bring to the boil, add the Blue Vein cheese and stir until the cheese is well mixed in.
- 🍴 *Option if you like to have a richer soup: add ½ cup cream.*
- 🍴 Just before serving, add the croutons and sprinkle with chives.

Happy Cooking
Peter Petrou, le Chef

CLUB TRIP REPORTS

HATTAH-KULKYNE NP – EASTER 2003

Trip Leaders: John, Liz & Stephanie
(*the Imposters*)
Michael, Verylle, Liberty & Elizabeth
(*the Actual Leaders*)

Participants: Steve, Jill, Kate & Dineke
Graham & Sue
Ashley & Lesley
Terry & Annie
Barry & Helen
Alistair, Jill and Fay

Visitors: Anthony, Aline & Riley
David, Rita, Laura, Jessica & Rachel

Thursday

Thursday morning and we're off to Calder Park to meet up with Sue and Graham. The traffic was a bit thicker than we had expected so we were a bit late but we got there all the same. Just after 8:30am we headed up the Calder towards Bendigo. There was a bit of traffic but it thinned out pretty quickly. Just before 10:30 Graham saw the first important sign for the day "McDonalds 10Km". The kids got excited, a chance for something to eat and stretch the legs. We stopped at Charlton to stretch the legs and again just before Ouyen for a cuppa and something to eat.

At about 4:00 we headed towards the river. We went into Tarpaulin Bend and found that there was standing room only so went on to Brett's Bend. There was plenty of space as the sand bar was so big but there were already 2 camps there. It was about 4:30pm and we were about to set up camp but after having a chat with a couple of people we decided to try the next bend south as it was apparently empty. We needed to move a few fallen branches to get through but it was worth it. A sand bar to ourselves.

We set up camp and the kids went exploring. Soon after dark we heard a crackle on the radio, a few minutes later the crackle turned into a little voice saying "Help Michael". Steve and Jill were not too far away. A quick jaunt back along the track to find them and our camp was growing. Graham, Sue and Verylle had got the fire going so we were starting to feel that we could relax a bit. At about 8:00pm I went out to find phone signal so I could let Ashley, Lesley and Co know where we were; back to camp and dinner was just getting started.

At about 12:30am Steve and I decided that we should go and have a look for the convoy. We called on the two-way but nothing. We drove until we found bitumen and called again – still nothing. We sat

at an intersection near the Murray for a while calling but still nothing. At about 1:00am we decided to drive up to the Calder Hwy and see if we could get them on the phone. A few minutes after making contact on the phone we were talking on the two-way. We got back to camp at about 2:00am; the priority for some was to set up tents, for some was to get sleep and others to have a beer. **Michael**

Thursday pm

We (Ashley, Lesley, Terry, Annie, Barry, Helen, Anthony, Aline and Riley) gathered at the Shell on the Westgate, watching the afternoon traffic slowly evaporate, leaving around 6.00pm travelling out the Westgate and then under the Bolte Bridge towards the Western Highway, encountering a fairly heavy amount of traffic near Melton, but that soon eased by the time we drove through the outskirts of Bacchus Marsh. Then on to Ballarat for tea – at the Eureka Café – then with Ashley (later to be known as "Melways") in the lead, we headed out the Western Highway again (a little too far we later discovered) west to Ararat, then took the turnoff to Avoca – travelling east again – then eventually north towards Mildura. Most of the "long distance voyagers" a little tired and a little low on fuel, we found Ouyen where we managed to top up... then out toward the Murray Kulkyn Regional Park where we were met by Michael who guided us into Britts Bend, arriving somewhere around 2.00am, where the nightowls greeted us. One of our numbers decided to try a new trick, or so we thought, and camp in the sand, only to get his cruiser bogged (apparently Steve had tried it earlier and managed the same fate)...destined not to be the night for Cruisers and sand. But this one figured it was too late to try to shift the "Big Dog" til later in the day, so decided to set up the tent where it stood!!

Thank you to Michael and Steve for their late night vigil, and the others for staying awake to greet us.

Good Friday

Most of the voyagers from the night before were content to spend the day setting up, swimming, playing ball with the kids, or just paddling around in the canoe (thanks to Graham and Sue). Others were happy just mooching around, catching up with those who were already there, having a drink or three – elevenses – just generally relaxing.

John, Liz and Stephanie arrived late afternoon. David, Rita and their three girls made a spectacular entrance – Dave must have forgotten he was in the company Commodore (not his LC) as he made three unsuccessful attempts to take the river bank !!

The weather was spectacular – everything was perfect, just perfect. **Annie, Terry and Rocky**



Graham & Sue in their trusty canoe...

Saturday – more of the same. Another relaxing day.

Sunday – most went for a drive around the area. Those who didn't caught some more sunshine.

Monday

Pack up day for about half the camp, but Ashley had decided he needed an extra day's R&R and certainly wasn't fussed about facing the Easter Monday traffic jam on the Calder. Terry and Annie, David, Rita, Laura, Jessica and Rachel also stayed on as they were fortunate enough to be holidaying for a few more days.

We said our goodbyes to the unfortunates who headed off late morningish. Weatherwise the day was pretty hard to take – sunshine and cloudless sky with the temperature in the mid-20s!!! Ashley and I took a short(?) drive into Red Cliffs for fuel. I thought this was going to be our "big day out" but Ashley wasn't in for a sightseeing tour so it was just there and back to see how far... Picked up some icecreams for the gang on the way back and that was the day.

Quiet night around the campfire and off to bed at a reasonable hour so we could make an early start the next morning.

It was definitely a good idea to leave on the Tuesday... An excellent run home on the Calder – just six hours (compared to the trip out this was a piece of cake).

Thanks to Michael and John for choosing this very special part of Victoria for a peaceful and relaxing Easter break.

Lesley



TRAINING WEEKEND – GEMBROOK 24-25 MAY 2003

Trip Leaders

Ashley Martin	100 S L/Cruiser
John Partridge	Bravo

Participants

Ray Brown	80S L/Cruiser
Gerrard Clarke	4 Runner
Brett Gale	Bravo
Travis Grabert	80S L/Cruiser
James Holden	Cherokee
Graham & Sue Lyne	Discovery
Alistair McLean	Forester
Murray Ogden	80S L/Cruiser
Sujee Panagoda	Discovery
Richard Piotrowski	Jackaroo
Paul Ryan	Hilux
Ivan Santurini	Explorer
Peter Sloan	75S L/Cruiser
Anthony Van Buiten	Prado
Alex Van Rheenen	80S L/Cruiser

Theory: Wednesday pm 21/5

The theory session was aimed at introducing the trainees to the basics of four wheel driving. Subjects including environment, stall recovery, sand, mud, snow, and rock driving were covered, along with many other items. The session went well, with plenty of questions and discussion time, and by the end of the night everyone was looking forward to the weekend.

Practical: Saturday 24/5

We met at Ferntree Gully at 8.30am and made our way to Gembrook where we caught up with several other members as arranged. From there we set sail for Kurth Kiln. Once we arrived, cuppas were made before the practical side of the training commenced. Firstly, John went through recovery equipment emphasising the importance of carrying at least one snatch strap and rated bow shackles. A look over the 100S to show recovery points and accessories available to make those trips a little more comfortable, we then checked each vehicle to establish that everyone had adequate recovery points. We left Kurth Kiln and searched for a hill to put all that stall recovery theory into place. As you can imagine, with the number of vehicles it took quite some time for everyone to practice and learn this important procedure. From there, it was time for lunch which we had at Ship Rock Falls.

After lunch we searched for a few tracks for all to learn a little more about the art of four wheel driving. We made our way along Hunters Rd, Ash Landing Rd, Log Dump Tk and Anderson Rd. At this stage,

James took over as trip leader and showed us a few tight, twisty and sloppy tracks. At Black Snake Creek Rd it was time for those who were not staying the night to head on home. John, Anthony, Graham, Sue, and myself stopped to collect firewood and then made our way back to Kurth Kiln to set up camp. Peter headed home to pick up a few supplies and his brother, Craig, and meet us back at camp. A good night was had, and thankfully it was dry and not too cold.

Sunday 25/5

As we had planned to drive a few more tracks, those who had sought the warmth of their own home overnight, returned on Sunday to join us. Paul and family, James and family, and Ray and Dawn joined us in the morning, with Ray and Dawn only spending breakfast with us before heading home with Peter and Craig. The daytrippers made our way to Helmet Rd onto Pines Tk, Lawless Tk and onto Burgess Rd. We (I) thought Two Scouts Tk would be a good one to tackle, but as we made our way down it was decided to get out and have a look. The track turned out to be as greasy as a butcher's... so we turned around rather than slide our way down. Back on Burgess Rd a quick stop at Four Brothers then onto Rankins Tk, Williams Ridge Tk, Wallace Tk, Windy Tk, stopping at Mortimere for lunch.

After lunch, heading along Tonimbuk Rd we turned off onto Ridge Tk. As we made our way up it became steadily more slippery until James, who was in front, stopped due to several vehicles making their way down. These vehicles could not move out of the way due to the greasy conditions. James advised us they said it became worse further up so we decided to turn around. From there we headed onto Guide Tk and Lupton Tk, then making our way to Gembrook. From here we said our goodbyes and headed home.

I'm sure everyone benefited from both the theory night and the practical weekend. The knowledge they gained should ensure that their next four wheel drive trip will be considerably easier and more enjoyable.

We are already planning a more advanced training weekend which will be held at at O'Tooles later in the year.

Many thanks to all who attended; it was excellent to see such great numbers. Also thanks to John for the joint effort in conducting the training program.

Ashley

THE NAV TRIAL....

By Patrick Casey

Before each navigational trial, advice is given on what to expect during the trial. There have been many comments on this advice.

Listed below are examples of such advice and how it should be interpreted, especially after rain.

WHAT PATRICK SAID

WHAT PATRICK MEANT

2WD roads

No winching required.

Extensive use of 4WD

Not much distance travelled today.

Mud tyres recommended

Mud terrains with chains fitted.

Full recovery gear recommended

Bring at least 2 snatch-blocks and all your D-shackles.

Some mud

We measured 1.4K in length of mud on one road.

Short cut

4K in 9 hours.

Winching may be required

Once you get off this winch, try and make it to the next one.

Easy navigation, will not get lost

They will not find this road junction.

Could be slippery

Try and stay on the track.

Back before lunch

Should be back by night fall.

It can get wet in the Otways

They got 20 inches last week.

Good one Patrick !!!