



Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A0002184F

NOVEMBER 2006



The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc is an affiliated club of the
Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)
www.vafwdc.org.au

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President's Report

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Assistant Secretary	Derek Hymas	0438 259 605
Trip Coordinator	John Partridge	0428 331 211
Events Coordinator	James Holden	0433 399 315
Training Coordinator	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
Newsletter Editor	Julie Capper	0411 530 464
Association Delegate	John Partridge	0428 331 211
Training Officers	Mark Kochan	0412 544 668
	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666
New Member Contact	Mark Capper	0411 530 484
Web Manager	Anthony Van Buiten	0413 784 074
Librarian	James Holden	0433 399 315

Forward Articles & Photos for the Newsletter to:-

editor@vfwdc.com

Please forward all contributions prior to the 20th of each month

CLUB DETAILS

Registered Name:	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
Registration No:	A002184F
All Correspondence:	The Secretary VFWDC Inc PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3173
Web Site:	www.vfwdc.com
Meetings:	Held first Tuesday of each month excluding January (no meeting). The November meeting is held on the 2 nd Tuesday of the month due to Melbourne Cup public holiday.
Location:	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

Hello and welcome to another month of Free Wheeling.

Is it just me or do the years appear to be passing by faster and faster; dare I say it's only 8 weeks until Christmas and so much to fit in.

The arrangements for the Christmas Party are coming along and it promises to be a great event. If you haven't registered your name, please contact James as soon as possible as we require final numbers to ensure we have sufficient food to cater for everyone.

We are organising some great trips and events for the New Year and these should suit all members. One of our priorities is a family weekend to be held in March. For those who attended the 30th anniversary it will be along the same lines, and will include kids games and activities followed by a BBQ dinner. We are finalising the plans and destination so keep an eye out in the December newsletter for all the details. This will be a fun day for all and you will be able to visit for the day or stay overnight.

Another priority we have put back on the agenda is a First Aid Course. There are very few qualified First Aid members in the Club and we want to ensure we have as many qualified members as possible. The course price for this will be discounted and run by an accredited training officer and you will receive a certificate upon completion. Full details will be advertised in a forthcoming newsletter.

Trips

I hope to see more activity from members next year with regard to leading and also trip attendances. As in the past, trips have been organised by a small proportion of members who continue to do a great job but we would like to see new faces leading trips. I am aware not everyone is able to do this due to family and work commitments, but if we had 8 new trip leaders run just one trip per year this would make a considerable difference. With the great work done recently by several members leading their first trip, they proved it is not as daunting as some people may think. The benefit of new trip leaders is that they may travel to areas that are not frequently visited by the club, opening up our eyes to even more areas of this vast country.

If you would like some help planning a trip, please talk to John and he will be more than happy to assist.

Don't forget the November meeting will be held on 14th November at the Dandenong CFA commencing at 7.30pm sharp.

Have a great break over the Cup weekend whatever you are doing.

See you on the next trip – or at the next meeting.

Ashley Martin
President

Minutes of the General Meeting – October

The meeting was held at Dandenong Library and opened by President Ashley Martin who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present:

There were 30 members present as per the attendance book.

Apologies:

Maxine Ryan	Chris Jennings	Paula Johnston
Lesley Peters	David & Rosalie Hughes	Aline Van Buiten
Anne Pettigrew	Barry & Yvonne Hempstone	Jill Boyle
Ian Warburton	Cheryl Gale	

Visitors: Nil

Minutes of the August meeting:

Accepted: Leigh Pettigrew
Seconded: George Pledger

Matters Arising: Nil

Correspondence in:

Pajero 4WD Club newsletter
Cross Country Jeep Club Newsletter
Overland Cruising
LROCV Newsletter
Otway Four Wheeler
Bush Telegraph – Spring Issue
Network News
Anaconda
Association - reminder to renew fees
Association - receipt for renewal of fees
Association – register of club instructors
Flyer – Victoria: Off the beaten track (4WD Route Book)
Oxfam Christmas Tree Delivery
Membership Renewals

Correspondence Out:

Club Newsletter

Treasurer's Report:

Opening Balance \$8939.56

Receipts	
AGM	\$ 80.00
Membership	\$ 940.00
Raffle	\$ 39.50
Sales	\$ 106.00
4X4 Show	\$ 27.50
TOTAL	\$1193.00

Payments	
Postage	\$ 42.10
Florist/Raffle	\$ 244.52
Toner	\$ 254.10
City of Greater Dandenong	\$ 390.00
4WD Victoria	\$1128.60

TOTAL	\$2059.32
Petty Cash	\$ 257.50
Cheque Account	\$2551.07
Term Deposit	\$5522.17

Closing Balance 30/09/2006 \$8073.24

Accepted: Anthony Van Buiten
Seconded: Carl Surtees

Tea duties:

Steve Boyle and Carl Surtees. Thank you ☺.

Raffle:

Tickets sold by Jan Hymas.

1st Prize	Chain & Bar Oil won by Derek Hymas
2nd Prize	Wine & Coffee won by Michael Rodger
3rd Prize	Fishing hooks/baits and picnic blanket won by Tim Axtell

Guest Speaker

Rudi Paoletti of Adventurer Maps.

Rudi has been a frequent guest speaker at the club in the past and as usual he delivered a very interesting talk on the history of mining in the area between Walhalla and Woods Point. Rudi spoke at some length about the history of the towns (now long gone) in the area, the legacy of the mining efforts, the abandoned mines and equipment (much of which can still be seen today) and the current resurgence in mining the area.

Rudi also went on to ask if the club would be interested in volunteering to assist in the clearing one of the historic sites. This was generally agreed and the club will try to set a date for this at some time in the new year.

Once again we would like to thank Rudi for giving up his time to speak to the club.

Trips:

John Partridge reported on the upcoming trips which include:

Sat 6th to Sun 7th October	Proficiency Training
Sat 15th to Sun 16th October	Tarra Bulga
Sun 22nd October	Toolangi Day Trip
Thurs 26th to Sun 29th October	National 4x4 Show
Sat 4th to Tues 7th November	Glenelg River
Fri 17th to Sat 19th November	Annual Fishing Trip (Jamieson or Howqa)
Sat 2nd December	Christmas Party – Gilwell Park
Sat 9th & Sun 10th December	Oxfam Christmas Tree Delivery

Volunteers were called for to form a sub-committee to organise the Club Christmas party. The following members volunteered:

Derek & Janet Hymas
Tim & Donna Axtell
Anthony Van Buiten

Peter Petrou will also be involved with the sub-committee as he will be assisting with catering.

John went on to explain the new trip books.

If club members are thinking of going to Collins Hut over the New Year period and are willing to run it as a trip could they please put it in the trip book.

We are also looking for volunteers to run a day trip sometime in December.

Lastly the November General meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th November at 7.30pm at Dandenong CFA. A reminder will be sent to via email and will be included in the November newsletter.

Trip Reports:

Tim Axtell gave a report on the Advanced Training weekend which was hampered a little by the wet weather. Part of the weekend was spent putting up signage at the Merringtons, O'Tooles and Little O'Tooles camping grounds in an attempt to help DSE discourage reckless behaviour at these sites. Saturday afternoon was devoted to practicing winching techniques whilst Sunday was mostly spent watching John play in his new car.

Barry Leitch gave a report on the Pub to Pub which saw the group travel from Myrniong via the You Yangs and Brisbane Ranges and finished in Talbot. The group stayed at the Old Talbot Hotel. Some of the group visited the Observatory although while others were happy to continue enjoying the hospitality of the hotel. Barry went on to thank David and Rosalie for all the effort they put into making this a very enjoyable annual event.

Derek gave a report on September's Winery Trip which, being one of Ashley's trips seemed to consist of visits to numerous wineries in between periods of being geographically embarrassed. The winery that seemed to be most popular was Longleat which fortunately was also the last one of the day. The group retired to the Nagambie Lakes Resort where they enjoyed a Barbecue, their purchases and frightening the other guests. On Sunday most of the group didn't feel like tasting anymore wine and settled for a slow trip home instead, which considering the atrocious weather was probably not a bad thing.

Association Report

No report this month.

General Business:

Website – the club website is now being hosted by a new company following some issues in September. The new website and club email addresses should now be stable and everything back to normal by the time the November newsletter is due for publication. We would like to apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

4x4 show tickets – these can be booked through the club or via the www.4x4show.com.au website. Anyone booking tickets through the club should place their order and payment with the Treasurer.

Aussie Disposal Discount Cards – these are available to all club members and can be picked up from any Aussie Disposals store.

Extraordinary AGM – the club will need to hold an Extraordinary Annual General Meeting in order to complete business not completed during the AGM. This will be a short addition to the December General Meeting and is required to ensure that all procedures have been adhered to. A notice informing all members of the agenda, date and time of the Extraordinary AGM will be mailed out at least 21 days prior to the December meeting.

Other Business:

Congratulations to David and Rosalie who have become grandparents again to a beautiful baby girl. Word is that another grandchild is on the way at Christmas so it looks like they will be even busier than they already are.

Meeting Closed:

10.15 pm

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 14th November at 7.30pm at Dandenong CFA

VFWDC MERHCANDISE

For Sale

New Club Polo Shirts	\$27.00 ea
Polar Fleece ½ Zip Jumper	\$36.00 ea
Polar Fleece Full Zip Jumper	\$48.00 ea
Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$42.00 ea
New Club Caps	\$15.00 ea
30 th Anniversary Travel Mugs	\$15.00 ea
Flags	\$15.00 ea
VFWDC Stickers (long)	\$ 6.00 ea
Stubbie Holders	\$ 6.00 ea
Club Beanies	\$15.00 ea



Club Stubbie Holders

Club Stubbie holders will be available for a gold coin donation at the next General Meeting on November 14.

All proceeds from the sale of stubbie holders will be donated to the Royal Flying Doctors Service.



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Anyone wishing to advertise in the Club Directory,
Contact the Editor at editor@vfwdc.com

Sign yourself up as a Yahoo User at

<http://groups.yahoo.com>

(There is no charge for this service)



Then go to

<http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/vfwdc>

Click on "Join this group".

To keep non members out of the group,
your membership will need to be approved.

Any problems email:

alfantz@optusnet.com.au

Smiley Time



WE IS FRIENDS!

Me and You is friends

You smile, I smile...

You hurt, I hurt...

You cry, I cry...

You jump off a Bridge

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Lantern, Rechargeable 3 in 1 light, remote control, night light, 2 x 9W U tubes, weather proof, AC/DC adaptor, car plug & stand \$65.00

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Please call Maggie on 0408 291 507

Oztent

Ashley has a contact at work who has an Oztent RV for sale.

This is the pre RV2 model and is in very good condition.

The Vendor is looking for an offer of approx. \$500.00.

If anyone is interested can they please contact Ashley.

Email: ashleymartin@valcor.com.au



CLUB CALENDER AT A GLANCE

NOVEMBER

Saturday 4 th to Tuesday 7 th	Glenelg River Melbourne Cup Weekend	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Tuesday 14 th	Club Meeting – Dandenong CFA	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Friday 17 th to Sunday 19 th	Annual Fishing Trip Running Creek, Howqua River	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Tuesday 21 st	Committee Meeting	Craig Major	0432 876 699

DECEMBER

Saturday 2 nd	Christmas Party – Gilwell Park	James Holden	0433 399 315
Tuesday 5 th	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Saturday 9 th & Sunday 10 th	Oxfam Christmas Tree Project	John Partridge	0428 331 211
Wednesday 27 th to Saturday 6 th	Victorian High Country Adventure	John Partridge	0428 331 211
TBA	Big River, Woods Point, Licola	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904

JANUARY

Friday 26 th to Sunday 28 th	Otways National Park - Australia Day Weekend	John Partridge	0428 331 211
Tuesday 23 rd	Committee Meeting	Derek Hymas	0438 259 605

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 6 th	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Tuesday 20 th	Committee Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211

MARCH

Tuesday 6 th	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Tuesday 20 th	Committee Meeting	James Holden	0433 399 315
Saturday 25 th to Sunday 26 th	Family Day/Weekend	James Holden	0433 399 315

APRIL

Tuesday 3 rd	Club Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Friday 6 th to Monday 9 th	Easter Weekend	TBA	TBA
Tuesday 17 th	Committee Meeting	Michael Rodger	0412 530 666

Annie's Corner



BEEF STOGANOFF

750grams good steak
2 tablespoons butter
2 medium onions – chopped
250grams mushies
1 garlic clove – crushed
1 tablespoon flour
1 cup good stock
1 tablespoon tomato paste
1 cup of sour cream
Seasoning to taste

Cut the meat into thin strips
Melt the butter and fry the onions, mushies
and garlic for 5 minutes
Add steak and brown it gently
Stir in stock and tomato paste
Bring to boil, flavour, and cook for 30 minutes
(simmering)
Add sour cream and heat through.

YUMMY...!!!



Hope you enjoy this one gang..it is one of my mums..

See you next month.

Annie

November Club Meeting



The November Meeting
will be held on

Tuesday 14th November

at the

Dandenong CFA

120-122 Princes Highway
Dandenong
(Parking at Rear)

**Meeting will commence at
7.30pm**

After our meeting they will give us a
tour of the facility and supply tea and
coffee.



Hope to see you all there!

Forthcoming Trips



Destination	Cup Weekend Glenelg River
Trip Leader	Ashley Martin
Contact No	Mob: 0438 600 904
Date	3 rd – 7 th November
Meeting Place	West Gate Shell Service Centre
Time	3.00pm
Grade	WET: Easy DRY: Easy

Trip Activity Details

Camping will be at Pritchards camping area and as they require booking we have a **limit of 10 sites available**. Six of these would be suitable for trailers and there is room for approx six tents. Unfortunately it will be the first 10 names in the trip book or by notifying me. The area we have been allocated is sectioned off from the other area so there will be no-one bothering us. There is an amenities block that will be for our use and it consists of flush toilets and tap bore water. There is a site fee of \$14.90 per night.

I have trip notes from Portland to ensure you can make your way there without getting lost. These will be distributed nearer to the trip date.

Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM:	N/A
	MAXIMUM:	10
Approximate Kms		410
Last Available Fuel	PETROL:	Portland
	DIESEL:	Portland
Distance Between Supplies		N/A
Equipment Required		Standard Camping Equipment

Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel	CB/UHF 12



Destination	Fishing Trip Running Creek, Howqua River
Trip Leader	Ashley Martin
Contact No	Mob: 0438 600 904
Date	17 th – 19 th November
Meeting Place	Lilydale McDonalds
Time	Friday Morning - 9.30am Friday Night – 5.30pm
Grade	WET: East DRY: Easy

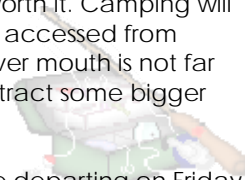
Trip Activity Details

I didn't get the opportunity to check several rivers as I was planning but the Howqua should well worth it. Camping will be at Running Creek Flat which is easily accessed from Mansfield (approximately 40km). The river mouth is not far away from the camp site so this may attract some bigger fish (I wish)

There will be some members who will be departing on Friday morning, for those who unable there is a meeting time for Friday night as well.

I will have a copy of the map for those who require it. This will be available at the November meeting or I can email it.

Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM:	N/A
	MAXIMUM:	10
Approximate Kms		150
Last available fuel	PETROL:	Mansfield
	DIESEL:	Mansfield
Distance Between Supplies		N/A
Equipment Required		Basic recovery equipment, Fishing equipment
Maps Required		N/A
Radio Channel	CB/UHF	12



Destination	Oxfam Christmas Tree Project
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Trip Leader	John Partridge
Contact No	0428 331211
Date	9 th & 10 th December
Meeting Place	Scout Hall, Pakenham St., Blackburn (Melway Map 47 H 12) on Saturday Princes Hill Primary School, Wilson St., Nth Carton (Melway 29 J 11) on Sunday
Time	Before 11am
Grade	N/A

Trip Activity Details

On Saturday we deliver to the south and eastern side of Melbourne and on the Sunday the north and western side. All you do is drop off the tree that has already been paid for. The smiles you receive from the younger recipients would be second only to that of them greeting Santa Claus. It will take each team 1 to 3 hours, and we encourage you to meet for a BBQ or social get together before or afterwards.



Vehicle Limits	N/A
Approximate Km's	N/A
Late Fuel Available	N/A
Equipment Required	Vehicle & Trailer if available
Maps Required	A list of addresses with Melway grid references supplied
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12



Destination	Victorian High Country
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Trip Leader	John Patridge
Contact No	0428 331211
Date	27 th December – 6 th January
Meeting Place	Officer Weigh Bridge
Time	9.00am
Grade	WET: Medium DRY: Medium

Trip Activity Details

I ran this trip a few years ago with Steve Boyle the year after the bush fires and I thought we might re-visit the area to see the change that has occurred. We will head through Licola, Dargo, the Haunted Stream, Hells Gate, Mt Seldom Seen, cross the Snowy River and travel down the Deddick Trail. I will have plenty of information on all of the areas enabling us to improvise the route depending on locations. There will be many one night camps and a few two night stopovers.

Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 5
Approximate Km's	1000kms
Late Fuel Available	N/A
Equipment Required	Full recovery gear, full camping gear & water
Maps Required	Various
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12



Destination	Otways National Park
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Trip Leader	John Partridge
Contact No	0428 331211
Date	26 th to 28 th January
Meeting Place	Dandos Camping Ground
Time	
Grade	WET: Hard DRY: Medium

Trip Activity Details

We will run a few small trips with some good 4 Wheel Driving and maybe a night run. For those less adventurous there are numerous waterfalls to visit as well as the spectacular Otways Forest Tree Walk

Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 12
Approximate Km's	155
Late Fuel Available	N/A
Equipment Required	Basing camping & recovery gear. Bring own water
Maps Required	Merridian Otways NP
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12



Destination	Big River, Woods Point, Licola
-------------	--------------------------------

Trip Leader	Ashley Martin
Contact No	0438 600 904
Date	TBA, After Christmas/New Year
Meeting Place	Lilydale Macas
Time	TBA
Grade	WET: Hard DRY: Medium-Hard

Trip Activity Details

As we are due for a good touring trip, what better time than after Christmas. The exact date is yet to be determined for I will not know my leave details until December. The plan is for 2-3 nights camping at a different site each night. We will start at Big River working our way towards Woods Point and Licola. Some of the tracks will be challenging but not all and there will be alternative routes around the harder sections. Camping sites will be determined on where we are each night but hopefully by a river. Full details will be emailed to the members who have there name in the trip book and will also be posted on the Yahoo site.

Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM N/A MAXIMUM 8
Approximate Km's	200
Late Fuel Available	PETROL Lilydale DIESEL Lilydale
Equipment Required	Full Recovery Equipment
Maps Required	N/A
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12



Trip Leader James Holden
Contact No 0433 399 315
Date Saturday 25th March 2007
 Sunday 26^h March 2007
Meeting Place TBA
Time TBA
Grade WET: Easy
 DRY: Easy

Trip Activity Details

With the enjoyment had by all at the 30th Anniversary party we have decided to run a similar family weekend. Games for the kids during the day followed by a BBQ for dinner and adult time at night.

The destination will be close to Melbourne which will allow both day visitors and overnight camping, this should suit all members.

The activities organized for the kids will include sack race, plank race and many more along with face art by Verryllie. The games will be held in the afternoon and will involve not only kids but adults as well.

Dinner in the evening will be a BBQ. To eliminate any major cost to members each family can provide their own BBQ favorite food. All the cooking items will be provided including BBQs.

Keep an eye out in the December newsletter for more information.

Vehicle Limits MINIMUM: N/A
 MAXIMUM: N/A
Approximate Km's 200kms
Late Fuel Available N/A
Equipment Required TBA
Maps Required N/A
Radio Channel CB/UHF 12

Trip Clarification

Clarification was sought regarding the level of Approval required before a trip could be considered a "Club" trip.

The following clarifications were settled upon:

- Trips do not need to be approved by the trip coordinator but he must be notified in order for the trip to be considered a "Club" trip.
- Trips may be submitted either via Trip Data Form, Yahoo Group or informally however see above to be considered a "Club Trip"
- Trips should be reviewed where necessary at committee level to ensure that the trip was within capabilities of the trip leader.
- If absolutely necessary approval for a trip may be withdrawn if the committee feel that the trip may in anyway expose the participants to an unacceptable level of risk e.g. trip being lead into a high/extreme fire risk area.

Trip Coordinator
John Partridge



Four Wheel Drive Victoria believes that it is time to formally recognise and reward individuals and clubs who enhance our lifestyle through there environmental work.

As a result the Association in partnership with Parks Victoria and other sponsors has created environmental awards for the following categories:

- Best Individual
- Best Club with a membership over 100
- Best Club with a membership fewer than 100

Each category will receive \$1700.00 in products and prizes.

For more information visit the Four Wheel Drive Victoria Website at <http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au/eawards.htm> or contact the office on (03) 9857 5209.

Aussie Disposals Discount Cards



Discount Cards are now available for all Financial Members of VFWDC.

Cards are available from any Aussie Disposals Store on presentation of your current Membership Card.



Trip Reports

Nagambie - Winery Weekend

Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th September

Trip Leaders Ashley Martin & Lesley Peters

Participants Mark & Julie Capper
Mark & Annie Blake
Derek & Janet Hymas
Peter & Janine Frankland
Colin & Katie Armour
Steve & Jill Boyle
Ray & Dawn Brown
Andy & Isabel Riordon
Rosalie Hughes

Happy travellers were:

Ashley & Lesley, Mark & Julie, Mark & Annie, Colin & Kathy,
Derek & Janet & Steve & Jill all meet at Campbellfield.

Peter & Janine – Kalkallo.

Rosalie, Isabel & Andy met up with us at Plunketts Winery.

Ray & Dawn met up with us at Tabilk Winery.

It was a very chilly start to a pleasant Saturday morning.
Arrived at Kalkallo with enough time to fill up with petrol and
grab a cup of coffee before the group that met at
Campbellfield passed us by.

We heard Ashley on the radio and he said he could see us,
so we started the engine and waited to spot Ashley's
vehicle, waiting, waiting. Several 4WD's passed us but none
we recognised. Next thing we know Ashley is asking why we
were not joining them. He'd forgotten to mention that he
was in his company vehicle. We got rolling and soon caught
up with the group.

We arrived at Plunketts Winery just north of Seymour at
around 10:00 am and we all made our way into their
restaurant where we all enjoyed morning tea, after which
we all imbibed in a tasting even though it was still very early
in the day.

Leaving Plunketts at about 11:30 and with a few less dollars
in our pockets and several good wines packed in the
vehicles we headed to Tabilk. After travelling for 15 minutes
or so Ashley felt we weren't heading in the right direction so
we all did a U turn and headed back the way we'd come.
Andy led the way to Tabilk, and we were there in no time.
After plenty of tastings and purchases we found a lovely
spot over looking the river to have our picnic lunches, some
of us ate at the restaurant at Tabilk and others went into
Nagambie to purchase lunch.



At 1:45pm we headed towards Rushworth to 12 Acre Winery,
the poor lady behind the counter nearly had a turn when
we all walked in as she was only looking after the place for
the owner and didn't know much about the wine. Several
more wines were purchased.



From Rushworth it was on to Murchison Winery. We passed
through Murchison and when we passed a sign indicating
we were 8km past Murchison it was decided that we'd
missed the winery. U turn - oh no lost again. It was well worth
the trip back though. The owner/wine maker made us very
welcome and told us all about his wine of which he is very
proud and with good reason. I think everyone enjoyed the
wine, I know we certainly did. His wife is a cheese maker
and some of the group also purchased cheese.



From there we headed to the accommodation which is near the Goulburn Weir. We found the sign to Weir and headed in that direction, there was only one problem Nagambie Lake Country Resort was on the other side of the river and no way to get across.

Back on the road again a few kilometers down the road we found a rather rickety old one way bridge that got us all safely to the other side of the river. Arriving at the accommodation we settled into our rooms and had a wander around. The resort while old was clean, comfortable and had all that we needed. The resort is right on the river and the view was quite beautiful especially at sunset.

After pre dinner drinks a group bbq was enjoyed by all. The rest of the evening was spent sitting around the fire with lots of conversation, laughs and a wine or two, a great evening.



Sunday morning started off bright and sunny. Ashley and Lesley had purchased the makings for a cooked breakfast, so the bbq was fired up again and we all shared a yummy breakfast, cooked by Ashley.



We had no sooner finished breakfast and the sky got very dark and down the rain came. It was planned to walk the short distance from the resort to the Weir once we'd packed the vehicles but with more rain threatening we decided it best to take the vehicles. Some headed straight home from the resort and the rest went to the weir where we spent time before all heading off in our own directions.



We'd like to say a special thank you to Ashley and Lesley for planning and running another enjoyable weekend.

Janine Frankland

Proficiency Training

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th October

Trip Leader/Trainer	John Partridge	Nissan GQ Patrol
	Michael Rodger	Nissan GU Patrol
Participants	Joe Spicuzza & Gino	60 Series Landcruiser
	Tim Axtell	60 Series Landcruiser
	Craig Major	Suzuki Grande

Saturday

Saturday morning Gino and I headed off around 6:30am from Rowville on our way to our meeting place, Moe McDonalds. Driving along the highway this Suzuki passed me, and then this voice came on the CB "is that you Joe?" Tim & I never met before however we spoke over the phone the day before.

Arriving at McDonalds we were welcomed by Tim & Craig at about 8am. After a nice warm coffee, fuel & Safeway stop we hit the road. At the petrol station Gino & I were approached by two young Moe boys who asked us if we could buy a packet of cigarettes for them. We told them we were off duty police & they disappeared very quickly. The guy behind the counter working at the service station also look worried, I thought he was going to disappear, until we told him we were only joking.

We all headed off in convoy towards Thomson Dam with an easy drive on a beautiful sunny morning. Arrived at Merringtons campground at about 10am where we met John & Michael who had camped overnight. After the introductions & unloading the gear we went over the vehicles to ensure all the vehicles were safe & all had the correct recovery points. This was a great way to get a few tips & ideas from the group. John & Michael then went through the recovery process in case it was required.

Approximately 11am we took off in convoy lead by John. Travelled along Junction Track, through my vehicle's first creek crossing. This was nerve wracking to say the least; I wasn't sure how my vehicle would hold the water out. However we all made it across without any leaks.

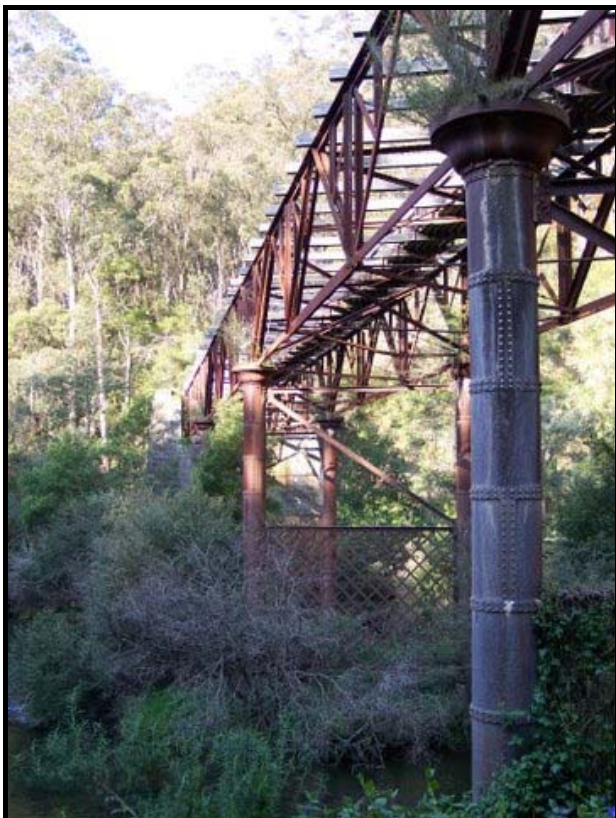


We then headed Up Williamson Spur Track and down Flats Track to O'Tooles Camping Ground where we stopped for lunch.

Also at O'Tooles, Michael got into my vehicle so I could practise the theory that I heard about a few days earlier, 'stall/start recovery'. We practised it until I became comfortable with it on a not so steep track. Had about 5 goes, not bad for a first timer.

We all then returned into convoy and headed back up Flats Track, down & up Peasant Track where I had to use my new stall recovery technique, un-intentionally. I was heading up a woopsy-do when my vehicle began loosing revs and felt I wasn't going to make it over. With the guidance from John over the CB I managed to reverse the vehicle down the steep narrow track that had a steep fall down the side and one very nervous passenger in the vehicle. Reversed back as far as the next woopsy-do, placed it in my trusty 1st gear (rather than 2nd) and drove up without a glitch. The tracks got harder as the day went on, becoming steeper & rocky however I felt comfortable as I knew I had competent people around me for guidance. I continued to practice the stall recovery technique throughout the afternoon. Tim & Craig were also given the opportunity to practice also.

We then headed back onto the bitumen, over the Thomson dam wall and across to Coopers Creek. Up a short cut track to Bruntons Track where we experienced a rutted track and practiced our wheel placement. This made me realise the importance of wheel placement as driving is only part of what's required. We then crossed the Thomson River at Bruntons Bridge, over the other side we had a bus load of spectators who took photos of us going across. Everyone stopped for at least 30 seconds to admire the view when exiting the other side of the river to drain the water from their vehicles, rather than the usual 10 seconds. We then crossed back through the river, back down the short cut track and back across at Coopers Creek.



By this time I thought I had already experienced the steepest tracks for the day, until we headed up Beardmores Track, this track is very steep, rocky & slightly rutted. We all made it through without any problem. We stopped for some firewood, Tim showed us his chainsaw skills and we headed down Merrington's Track to camp. We arrived back at camp at about 7 pm, relaxed around the fire & discussed the day's activities followed by dinner BBQ.

Joe Spicuzza

Sunday

After a very peaceful nights sleep under the stars (what a difference 4 weeks makes.) A leisurely pack up and breakfast, we said our goodbyes to Joe and headed off for the days adventure. Having driven for about 45 seconds from camp we came across our first track for the day Bridle Track, a steep little rocky short cut up to the main road. With heart now pumping in overdrive we had a slight meander along the main drag till we reached Dream Creek. With a sharp left hand turn down the cliff face onto Dream Creek, much to Johns surprise the bulldozer had been down in the last few days, so it was a very easy but steep drive with a couple of tight hairpins to negotiate. Craig wanted to see how his Suzuki (Toyota wheel chock) handled with the difflocker engaged (he promises that it was not purchased using club funds!!!) Must get me one of them!

With a short but slightly deep crossing in a very picturesque gully we made our way along North East Track towards One Speck Track. Yet another VERY steep decent to the depth of the gully having practiced a couple of stall stops on route and wheel placement straddling (sometimes in) the ruts we arrived at a three way junction. A quick consultation with the maps and we were off again slowly up a very rutted part of One Speck Track with John leading us round a tight left hand bend to what looked like a vertical rock face. Having decided to sit tight and watch the line John took up, it was then decided we would find another route out. With the track being too steep and narrow to turn around it was decided that I would reverse down instead. A big thankyou goes to Craig for guiding me. We then followed the gully along till we reached Fulton's Creek Track, Craig's voice came over the radio saying "I'm not going up there that's where my front diff broke last time". Michael, Craig and myself waved John goodbye as he went to investigate. Minutes later he returned with a big grin saying that maybe it would be better if we carried on back up One Speck Track.

With some more practice at wheel placement straddling ruts and getting slightly more competent (much to the relief of my diffs). We took on that "one last Track" up Trigg which yep it was Very steep but good to finish a very enjoyable weekend of 4x4 training. With a bite to eat and some air in our tyres we headed home on the blacktop. Thank you John and Michael for a challenging and an enjoyable weekend of driving.

Tim Axtell

Tarra Bulga National Park

Friday 13th to Sunday 15th October

Trip Leader	Mark & Julie Capper	Pathfinder
Participants	Sue & Graeme Lyne	Discovery
	Brian Martin	100 Series
	Ashley & Lesley	(with Brian)
	Michael & Verryle Rodger	Nissan GU Patrol
	Elizabeth Rodger	
	Paul & Maxine Ryan	Toyota 80 Series
	Robert, Madeline & Hamish	
	John Partridge & Stephanie	Nissan GU Patrol

Friday PM

Well, it was Friday 13th wasn't it, so as expected something just had to go wrong! And it did! What for us was going to be a nice relaxing trip because Brian was the driver and we were the passengers, didn't start that way. We were just about to leave and I decided to do a swan dive onto the lounge room floor – not a pretty sight, but fortunately didn't fall quite flat on my face (no comments please!), missing the coffee table by only inches. Feeling none too flash and just a little ridiculous, picked myself up and we piled into the car and off onto the freeway by 4.30pm. We met up with John and Stephanie at Nar Nar Goon, and apart from the usual traffic hiccups through we had a good run down to the turn-off to Tarra Valley. This is where Friday 13th came into play again. We followed the sign pointing to Tarra Valley and continued on and on and on and on along a winding dirt road for???kms until we decided that something was amiss. (Ararat comes to mind!) Ashley checked the so-called directions and couldn't make head nor tail of where we were so we drove on for a bit until we reached some signage. We turned back on ourselves and eventually heard Mark on the radio, finally arriving into **Tarra Valley Tourist Park "Fernholme"** at about 7.45pm.



We were greeted by Mark, Julie, Sue and Graeme and made our way to our assigned accommodation – Brian, Ashley and I were sharing the "Lyrebird" cabin (very nice indeed, thank you M & J) where we settled ourselves, had some dinner, organised a well-earned drink and headed back to join the others by the fire. The Rogers and the Ryans arrived at around 9.30ish and after settling into their respective cabins, joined the circle around the fire. Some chatter and a few more drinks and last to bed by 1.00am.

Saturday

Up with birds – literally, due to a "Golden Whistler" banging against the window from about 6.00am onwards for at least an hour! I later learned that this silly little bird is attracted by his own reflection, and flying into the window is a daily habit.

Boys were up by 8.00ish and Ashley cooked a yummy egg and bacon breakfast. We met up with the others by 10.00 and were off on our tour of the Tarra Valley area by 10.15.



First stop was Tarra Falls – very pretty – then on to the T-B Visitors' Information Centre at Balook, where we stopped to view a short audio-visual describing the diverse array of flora and fauna in the park.



From here we took the 1.2km walk through the beautiful rainforest to the Corrigan Suspension Bridge which stretches across the rainforest canopy.

With the few drops of rain throughout the morning, everything was particularly lush and green. Throughout this area you can see some of the nation's oldest Beech Myrtles and giant Mountain Ash trees, not to mention the fabulous tree ferns of all shapes and sizes.

We strolled the 1.2km back to the Visitors' Centre then made our way to the Tarra Valley picnic area for lunch.



Here we meandered through the rainforest gully to Cyathea Falls and back – a truly inspiring 35 min return walk.

This area is particularly picturesque with some fascinating ancient Beech Myrtles towering over tree ferns covered in lichen, moss and a variety of strange-looking fungi. I think it was Sue or Graeme who remarked that there may be Hobbits in the area!



We headed back to “camp” at around 3.00pm, sorted ourselves out and caught up a bit later in the BBQ Shed for happy hour(s). The “shed” was well-equipped with full bbq facilities, fridge, microwave, tables and chairs, and a huge open fire. Mark rounded up everyone for a delightful surprise presentation by Stephanie, Madeline and Elizabeth on the occasion of the upcoming birthdays of Verryle, Sue and Brian (aka Happy) – a birthday cake beautifully decorated with flowers and candles. (Thanks Sue!).



We sang Happy Birthday to the three recipients, and then the hors d’oeuvres were on. Mark and Julie also made a fabbo damper with jalapeno chillies and sundried tomatoes which all agreed was delishus!

The foodfest continued with everyone vying for position at the barbecue plate. A couple of the local bushy tail possums came in for a squiz, but left when they realised there was nothing forthcoming for them.

After dinner we settled around the fire for a chat and “Mark’s Quiz Time” where we were all asked some pertinent life and relationship questions – interesting??!! Few more drinks and most off to bed, other than a couple of diehards who stayed up til the early hours of the morning.



Sunday

Woke up to light rain and cool weather – and to Mr Golden Whistler doing his tricks.

As promised, Mark had arranged Devonshire Teas at 10.00am. We all met down at the Fernholme Tea Rooms and happily devoured yummy scones with jam and cream for breakfast. What a task for the owners – but they certainly were obliging enough to cook up enough for everyone! Checked out the crayfish in the river running through the caravan park, walked around the pretty garden area, and then it was time to leave.



We were on the road by 11.15am; heading onto Grand Ridge Road from Tarra Valley Road toward Mirboo North. Although there are many large logging tracts throughout this area, it is still very pretty with an abundance of tree ferns, lush green countryside and many nice looking properties along the way.

Mark had planned to stop off at the Grand Ridge Brewery in Mirboo North for a beer tasting, but it was very busy and as some of the group were a bit “beered out” from the previous night, it was decided to have lunch in the park where we all sat at what is thought to be the longest picnic table in Victoria – cut from one length of wood.



After lunch, the Ryan family left us to visit relatives in the area; Sue and Graeme decided to return home via Leongatha. The rest of us continued our scenic tour home via Trafalgar and Thorpdale – more lush green paddocks and tilled brown land full of those famous Thorpdale spuds!

We arrived home at a very civilised 3.30pm.

A very BIG thank you to both Mark and Julie for a great weekend – their first as trip leaders. And thanks also to Brian for being our pilot for the weekend. It was certainly a treat to be back in the comfort of the 100 Series!!

I love this part of Victoria – so picturesque with so much to see and do. I have therefore appended a brief synopsis for those who haven’t visited the area before. In my opinion, it’s well worth it!

Lesley Peters

Tarra-Bulga National Park is situated in South Gippsland approximately 200 kms east of Melbourne. It is well known for its giant Mountain Ash trees, beautiful fern gullies and ancient myrtle beeches. The park covers 2015 ha of some of the best examples of original cool temperate rainforests of the Strzelecki Ranges. The fern gullies are the home of the Superb Lyrebird, Yellow Robins, Crimson Rosellas, Swamp wallabies, wombats, possums, platypus, bandicoots and native rats. There are also seven species of bats, and numerous reptiles. There are three picnic areas situated within the park – at the Visitor Centre, Tarra Valley and Bulga. Camping is not permitted, but there are several caravan parks and other accommodation scattered throughout the Strzelecki Ranges.



Heritage

Until less than 100 years ago, most of South Gippsland was one vast forest, mainly consisting of Mountain Ash and other eucalypts. From the 1870s, settlers cleared the land for dairy farming purposes in the western Strzelecki Ranges, leaving only a few scattered areas of forest. The rugged and steeper slopes of the eastern Strzelecki Ranges were opened for selection in the 1890s and settlers’ cottages soon dotted the ridges. Due to the harsh conditions and the rugged nature of the land, many farms were abandoned or became neglected. The quality of the fern gullies led Alberton Shire Council, in 1904, to reserve small areas of forest near Balook, and in the Tarra Valley in 1909. The former was named Bulga, an Aboriginal word meaning mountain, while the latter was named after Charlie Tarra, an Aboriginal who guided Strzelecki and his party through Gippsland in 1840. Following recommendations by the Land Conservation Council, the two separate national parks were joined through a land exchange with APM Forests Pty Ltd. The enlarged and re-named Tarra-Bulga National Park of 1,522 ha was declared in June 1986.



Christmas Party

Saturday December 2nd 2006



Gilwell Park

**Launching Place Road
Gembrook**

**Free lunch for the kids at approximately 1.00 pm
followed by a visit from Santa.**

Christmas Dinner will be served at 7.00 pm

Members:	Adults \$18.00 per head, Children Free
Non Members:	Adults \$20.00 per head, Children \$5.00
Camp Site:	\$6.50 (Overnight)

BYO drinks, crockery, cutlery, and seating

**Contact James Holden on 0433 399 315 or email events@vfwdc.com
for further information**

Join us for this year's festivities

**Please don't forget to bring along
your donation to the Christmas Hamper**

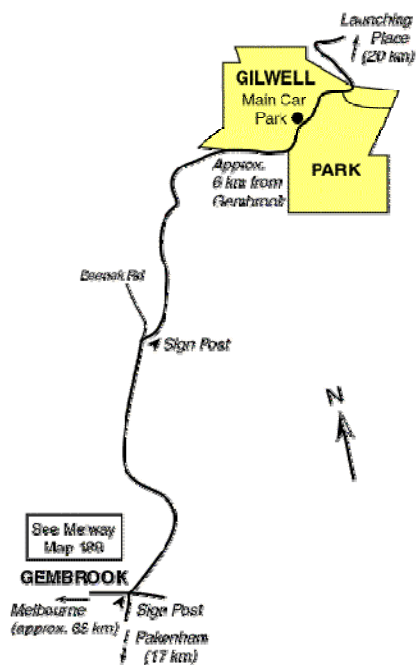


Gilwell Park Launching Place Road Gembrook

Melway Reference 299 E1



Gilwell Park is situated east of the Dandenong Ranges, and is only 75 km from Melbourne (via Belgrave and Gembrook). It can also be easily reached from the south and east (23km from Pakenham), or from the north (20km from Launching Place).





CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

FISHING TRIP 2006

DESTINATION	Running Creek. Howqua River
LEADER	Ashley Martin
CONTACT NO.	0438 600 904
DATE	Friday 17 th November to Sunday 19 th November
MEETING PLACE	Lilydale McDonalds
TIME	Friday Morning – 9.30am Friday night – 5.30pm
GRADE	WET: Easy
Please adhere to new trip classifications	DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>I didn't get the opportunity to check several rivers as I was planning but the Howqua should well worth it. Camping will be at Running Creek which is easily accessed from Mansfield (approximately 40km); the river mouth is not far away from the camp site so this may attract some of the bigger fish (I wish).</p> <p>There will be some members who will be departing on Friday morning, for those who unable there is a meeting time for Friday night as well.</p> <p>I will have a copy of the map for those who require it. This will be available at the November meeting or I can email it.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: N/A MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	150
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic recovery equipment Fishing equipment
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

VICTORIAN HIGH COUNTRY ADVENTURE

DESTINATION	Victorian High Country Adventure
LEADER	John Partridge
CONTACT NO.	0428 331 211
DATE	Wednesday 27 th December to Saturday 6 th January
MEETING PLACE	Officer Weigh Bridge
TIME	9.00am
GRADE	WET: Medium
Please adhere to new trip classifications	DRY: Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>I ran this trip a few years ago with Steve Boyle the year after the bush fires and I thought we might re-visit the area to see the change that has occurred.</p> <p>We will head through Licola, Dargo, the Haunted Stream, Hells Gate, Mt. Seldom Seen, cross the Snowy River and travel down the Deddick Trail.</p> <p>I will have plenty of information on all of the areas enabling us to improvise the route depending on the locations. There will be many one night camps and a few 2 night stopovers.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 5
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	1000kms Approx. (more than half of these off road!)
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	Arrive with full tanks of fuel. There will be plenty of places to refill.
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A (be prepared with a weeks of supplies)
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Full recovery gear. Full camping gear. You will need to be fully self sufficient. Bring your own water
MAPS REQUIRED	Various high country maps. I will advise next month.
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12
Additional Information	I can email the previous trip report to those interested for more information. If possible we will try to meet up with Ashley's trip.



CLUB TRIP DATA FORM


TOURING TRIP 2006/2007

DESTINATION	Big River, Woods Point, Licola
LEADER	Ashley Martin
CONTACT NO.	0438 600 904
DATE	TBA, After Christmas, possibly after News Years
MEETING PLACE	Lilydale McDonalds
TIME	TBA
GRADE	WET: Hard
Please adhere to new trip classifications	DRY: Medium-Hard
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>As we are due for a good touring trip what better time than after Christmas. The exact date is yet to be determined for I will not know my leave details until December. The plan is for 2-3 nights camping at a different site each night.</p> <p>We will start at Big River working our way towards Woods Point and Licola. Some of the tracks will be challenging but not all and there will be alternative routes around the harder sections. Camping sites will be determined on where we are each night but hopefully by a river.</p> <p>Full details will be emailed to the members who have there name in the trip book and will also be posted on the Yahoo site.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: N/A MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	200
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Lilydale DIESEL: Lilydale
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Full recovery equipment
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



CLUB TRIP DATA FORM


AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND – OTWAYS NATIONAL PARK

DESTINATION	Otways National Park
LEADER	John Partridge
CONTACT NO.	0428 331 211
DATE	Friday 26 th January – Sunday 28 th January
MEETING PLACE TIME	Dandos Camping Ground
GRADE <i>Please adhere to new trip classifications</i>	WET: Easy – Hard DRY: Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS 	We will run a few small trips with some good 4WD driving and maybe a night run. For those less adventurous there are numerous waterfalls to visit as well as the spectacular Otways Forest Tree Top Walk.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 12
APPROX KMS (Meeting place to destination)	155kms from Melbourne CBD
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Colac DIESEL: Colac
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	All basic camping and recovery gear. Bring your own water.
MAPS REQUIRED	Merridian Otway's National Park
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

FAMILY DAY/WEEKEND

DESTINATION	TBA
LEADER CONTACT NO.	James Holden 0433 399 315
DATE	Saturday 25 th March 2007 to Sunday 26 th March
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE <i>Please adhere to new trip classifications</i>	WET: Easy DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS 	<p>With the enjoyment had by all at the 30th Anniversary party we have decided to run a similar family weekend. Games for the kids during the day followed by a BBQ for dinner and adult time at night.</p> <p>The destination will be close to Melbourne which will allow both day visitors and overnight camping, this should suit all members.</p> <p>The activities organized for the kids will include sack race, plank race and many more along with face art by Verryle. The games will be held in the afternoon and will involve not only kids but adults as well.</p> <p>Dinner in the evening will be a BBQ. To eliminate any major cost to members each family can provide their own BBQ favorite food. All the cooking items will be provided including BBQs.</p> <p>Keep an eye out in the December newsletter for more information.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: N/A MAXIMUM: N/A
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	200
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: N/A DIESEL: N/A
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12