



JULY 2008

Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A0002184F



Victorian High Country – May 2008



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

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Vice President	John Partridge	0428 331 211	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Craig Major	0432 876 699	treasurer@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Paul Ryan	0438 121 148	secretary@vfwdc.com

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Assistant Secretary	Lesley Peters		asstsec@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	John Partridge	0428 331 211	trips@vfwdc.com
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Web Manager	Paul Ryan		secretary@vfwdc.com

Forward Articles & Photos for the Newsletter to:

editor@vfwdc.com

All contributions to be submitted prior to the 20th of each month

CLUB DETAILS

Registered Name:	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
Registration No:	A002184F
All Correspondence:	The Secretary Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3173
Email:	secretary@vfwdc.com.au
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.

President's Report



Hello and welcome to another month of *Free Wheeling*.

As you may be aware there was a recommendation from Four Wheel Drive Victoria (mainly the CEO) to increase the fees by \$10 for the 08/09 financial year, which equates to an increase of approximately 50%. After talking to several people, including another club's Vice President, there was certainly some angst about the proposal. John and I attended the recent 4WDVic general meeting where the issue was to be discussed and put forward to the members. These are some of the issues raised and information shared.

- Several clubs, including the VFWDC, raised the point of continued closures of tracks. We were informed of what is being done in certain regions such as Bunyip and Toolangi and the ongoing work to re-open these.
- This point raised the question regarding communication with clubs. While we see and hear about closures we don't always hear about the processes in place to re-open or keep them open. As a result, a section is being included in the new forum to discuss tracks and keep abreast of latest action.
- We were informed that a process is being put in place with Parks Vic which includes four criteria before they can close a track. Two of them are that 4WD Vic has to be consulted before a track is to be closed, after which a proposal must be prepared for the 4WD advisory committee to sign off on. This should ensure we don't see the closure of tracks without the knowledge of 4WD Vic.
- PV is unable to close a track that has been formed for more than two years without going through the above process.
- Track classification will ensure a double black diamond (hard) track will always remain such, and same goes with all other classifications.
- PV will possibly manage all forests in the future taking over those currently managed by DSE. Due to the strong relations 4WD Vic have with PV this could be a good outcome for all concerned.

As a result of all the discussions, a business plan will be put forward from the CEO of 4WDVic outlining how much of a fee increase is required and where it will be used. This will be presented later this year and any increase voted on will be for the 09/10 period.

Mentioned above is a new forum on the 4WD Vic website. This will be used to discuss several issues and is available to all club members. For further details log onto their web site where you will be able to join the forum and voice any concerns or highlight information about a particular issue.

AGM Dinner. We have booked the venue (see flyer for details) but have had to change the date. The venue is conveniently located in Dandenong and we are expecting a good turnout this year. Make sure you join us for a rare night out that isn't in the bush.

Last but not least, as you are all aware the elections are not far away and there are a couple of key positions up for nomination. Please consider joining the Committee as there are great benefits in setting the direction of the Club. If you would like any information about any of the Committee positions, please do not hesitate to call me. Remember the Club does not run by itself and it needs your help to continue to operate successfully.

Look forward to seeing you on the next trip – or at the next meeting.

Ashley Martin
President

Minutes of the General Meeting – 3 June 2008

The meeting was held at Dandenong Library and opened by President Ashley Martin

Present: There were 22 members present as per the attendance book.

Apologies: Maxine Ryan, Paula Johnston, Tim Baker, Steve and Jill Boyle, Aline Van Buiten, Gary Smith, Phil Griffith.

Visitors: Catherine Thorne, Stephen and Rhonda McDonald, Shane McNeil, Dan and Mish Robinson, Eddi and Vera Lalanau.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Accepted: Tim Axtell

Seconded: Ken Pitcher

Matters Arising: Nil

Correspondence In:

- Overland Cruising
- LROCV Newsletter
- Aussie Super Springs Flyer
- RFDS Donation Request
- Rays Outdoors 4WD comp at Geelong Store 28.06.08

Correspondence Out:

- Membership Renewals
- AGM Notice
- Newsletter

Treasurer's Report:

Opening Balance: \$8536.80
 Receipts: \$ 57.00
 Payments: \$ 30.70

Cheque Account: \$2339.15
 Term Deposit: \$6076.35
 Petty Cash: \$ 131,80

Closing Balance: \$8547.30

Accepted: **Anthony Van Buiten**

Seconded: **Richard Piotrowski**

Trip Co-ordinator's Report:

Trip Reports:

- Tallarook: Craig gave the trip report for the Tallarook trip. Only John, Craig and Ashley attended, however they still managed to have a

good time and tackled a couple of medium tracks and one or two harder ones. There was a fairly loose track which Craig found a bit challenging but still managed to get up.

- Toolangi Challenge: Ashley gave the report on Shane's Toolangi challenge trip. The participants included Shane, Ashley, John and Tony in his new Prado. The group tackled Aeroplane Track, Steep Track, and some of the other tracks in the Luke's Creek area. They came across a lone Discovery driver who managed to get stuck on Steep track. John managed to flatten his battery helping out and Tony had to winch himself out of one section. All in all it was a good day if a bit wet and slippery.
- High Country Huts: John gave the report on Bruce's High Country Huts trip. Friday night was spent at Sheeppyard Flat and a combination of cold and damp wood meant the Friday night fire took a bit longer to get going than usual. On Saturday the group took in Fry's, Upper Jamieson and Bluff Hut (Lovicks doesn't look like it will be rebuilt). John managed to get some sort of mysterious food poisoning on Saturday night which had absolutely nothing to do with alcohol. On Sunday the group took in Bindaree Falls, Monument Track, Craigs and Kings Hut. The general sentiment is that the rebuilt Craig's Hut is a disgrace. Still everyone enjoyed themselves and Bruce runs a great trip even though he does say so himself.

Forthcoming Trips:

7-9JUN	1. Rushworth 2. Grampians	Paul Ryan Bob McKerrrow
21-22 JUN	Avoca	Ashley Martin
11-13 JUL	Annual Snow Trip	Craig Major
25-27 JUL	Lone Graves Restoration	John Partridge
17 AUG	Annual Car Rally	Anthony Van Buiten
29-31 AUG	Noojee-Walhalla	Ashley Martin
TBC	Adhoc Snow Trip	Bob McKerrrow
29DEC-10JAN	Nullabor Explorer	Bob McKerrrow

Events Co-ordinator's Report:

AGM Dinner: To be held on Saturday 16 August. Venue and details TBA.

Association Report:

As reported at last month's meeting, the Association is proposing a fee increase of approximately \$10 per membership. Ashley and John will be attending the June meeting of the Association as will the majority of clubs. Many

have expressed their opposition to the proposal and we expect to cast our vote opposing the motion as well.

General Business:

- Guest Speakers: We require Guest Speakers for future meetings and suggestions were sought. Safety Dave and the RFDS were amongst suggestions received and these will be approached.
- Aid 2 Survival Handboook: This is a WA Police publication which Bruce kindly obtained numerous copies for us. These were available at the meeting and will be available from the Secretary for those who missed out.
- Insurance: Shane Michelin gave a warning to club members to check their insurance policy. He recently had a number of items stolen from his car which were not covered by his insurer. The committee recommended members to check out Affinity Insurance who were a guest speaker at a recent meeting, and who recommended that items stolen from your vehicle are claimed under household insurance. Anyone wanting information on Affinity can get details from the Club Secretary.

Tea Duties: Time Axtell and Shane McNeil. Thanks.

Raffle: No raffle this month.

Meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Next Meeting:

8.00pm, Tuesday 1 July 2008 at Dandenong Library Meeting Room.



CLUB APPARELL

For those who have Club apparel on order, all items will be ready to collect at the July meeting.

Please make sure you have payment available for the Treasurer.

VFWDC MERCHANDISE

For Sale

Club Polo Shirts	\$25.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece ½ Zip Jumper	\$36.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$48.00 ea
Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$42.00 ea
Club Caps	\$15.00 ea
Club Beanie	\$12.00 ea
VFWDC Stickers (long)	\$ 6.00 ea
Stubbie Holders	\$ 6.00 ea

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.

Email your order to committee@vfwdc.com. Please ensure you advise size required.



7.30pm Sundays

<http://going4wd.com/>

Yahoo Groups

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> and click on "Join this group".

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

Any problems, email

anthony@ctsmonash.com.au



CLUB KITCHEN

Chilli con carne with quesadillas



INGREDIENTS

1 tablespoon olive oil
300g beef mince
1 medium red onion (170g), chopped finely
2 cloves garlic, crushed
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
1 tablespoon Tabasco sauce
2 teaspoons ground cumin
2 teaspoons ground coriander
1 teaspoon dried oregano
400g can crushed tomatoes
½ cup (130g) chunky tomato salsa
400g can kidney beans, rinsed, drained
400g can chickpeas, rinsed, drained

Quesadillas

¾ cup (90g) coarsely grated cheddar cheese
4 x 20cm flour tortillas
20g butter

METHOD

Heat half the oil in medium saucepan; cook beef, stirring, until browned, remove from pan. Heat remaining oil in same pan; cook onion and garlic, stirring, until onion softens.

Return beef to pan with sauces, cumin, coriander and oregano; cook, stirring, 2 minutes.

Add undrained tomatoes then stir in salsa, beans and chickpeas; cook, uncovered, 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, make quesadillas. Serve chilli with quesadillas.



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CLUB CALENDER AT A GLANCE

JULY 2008

Tuesday 1 st	General Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Friday 11 th to Sunday 13 th	Annual Snow Trip	Craig Major	0432 876 699
Tuesday 22 nd	Committee Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Friday 25 th to Sunday 27 th	Lone Graves Aberfeldy Working Bee	John Partridge	0428 331 211

AUGUST 2008

Tuesday 5 th	General Meeting Incorporating Annual General Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Saturday 16 th	AGM Dinner	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Sunday 17 th	Car Rally	Anthony Van Buiten	
Friday 29 th to Sunday 31 st	Trip 1: Noojee-Walhalla Touring Weekend	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	Trip 2: Mystery Pub-to-Pub	Rosalie Hughes	

SEPTEMBER 2008

Tuesday 2 nd	General Meeting	TBC	
Tuesday 23 rd	Committee Meeting	TBC	

OCTOBER 2008

Tuesday 7 th	General Meeting	TBC	
Tuesday 14 th /21 st /28 th	First Aid Training Course	John Partridge	0428 331 211
Friday 17 th to Sunday 19 th	Annual Wine Trip	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Tuesday 21 st	Committee Meeting	TBC	

Forthcoming Trips

Destination	SNOW TRIP LICOLA OR MT SKENE
Trip Leader	CRAIG MAJOR
Contact No	0432 876 699
Date	11-13 JULY 2008
Meeting Place	TBA
Vehicle Limits	MIN: N/A MAX: N/A
Grade	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
Equipment Required	Basic recovery. Warm clothes essential.
Approx Kms	150kms
Last Available Fuel	Petrol: Diesel:
Maps Required	Nil
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activity Details:	
Depending on the snow season will determine which direction we go. If there is plenty, Licola would be a good option as it is not too busy. If the snow is thin Mt Skene would be better as there should be more coverage.	
Camping at Licola will be along the Wellington River or Mt Skene along the Jamieson River.	
Saturday we will drive in search for snow. Lunch will be along the way and this will give us time to get out and enjoy the fluffy stuff. If time permits, a drive around the area in the afternoon and then back to camp to warm up around the fire. Bring the kids along.	
Once the trip gets closer a decision will be made as to which area. An email will be sent by the trip coordinator to advise.	
Sunday will be a leisurely pack up and then back to Melbourne.	
Destination	MERRINGTONS CAMPING GROUND: LONE GRAVES WORKING BEE
Trip Leader	JOHN PARTRIDGE
Contact No	9789 6985 / 0428 331 211
Date	FRI 25 TH TO SUN 27 TH JULY
Meeting Place	Erica Pub for dinner before 8.00pm Friday or at Merrington's Camping Ground by 8.30am Saturday
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 5 MAX: 12
Grade	WET: Easy DRY: Easy
Equipment Required	Good sturdy boots and leather gloves. Gumboots and a change of clothing in case you get wet would

be advisable. The DSE will supply a trailer for the collecting of rocks.

Standard camping gear and fresh drinking water.

Last Available Fuel

Petrol: Moe

Diesel: Moe

Maps Required

Nil

Radio Channel

12

Trip Activity Details:

The plan is to mark out some long lost grave sites in the Aberfeldy Forest area that have been found since the undergrowth has been cleared from the recent fires.

We will be helping out Heritage Victoria and the Parkers Corner DSE with whom we have worked before, namely the re-vegetation of Merrington's Camping Ground.

We will also have the film crew from the Channel 31 TV show Going 4WD who will be filming the weekend for an upcoming episode! (Visit www.going4wd.com for more information about the show)

This will be a great weekend helping out the DSE who have been good supporters of our Club and an excellent chance to promote 4WDiving in a positive way.

Destination	NOOJEE-WALHALLA
Trip Leader	ASHLEY MARTIN
Contact No	0438 600 904
Date	29-31 AUGUST 2008
Meeting Place	Fuel Road House north of Pakenham
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 3 MAX: 10
Grade	WET: Medium/ possibly some hard tracks DRY: Easy/Medium
Equipment Required	Basic recovery.
Approx Kms	
Last Available Fuel	Petrol: Pakenham Diesel: Pakenham
Maps Required	Nil
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activity Details:	
This trip will be a leisurely one taking in the areas from Noojee, Tanjil Breen and beyond. I expect at this time of year there will be some wet tracks and therefore a good set of A/T's or muds will be required. Camping on the Friday night will be close to Noojee so if you can't make the Friday meeting time, Saturday morning will not be a problem. Camping on the Saturday will depend on progress. This is an area not visited for some time and I am sure there will be a good array of tracks.	



Trip Reports

HUTS OF THE HIGH COUNTRY

30 MAY-1 JUNE

Participants: Bruce Cremonsei GU Patrol
John Partridge GQ Patrol
& Ashley Martin
Dan & Michelle GU Patrol

Saturday

We woke to a chilly morning with a slow rising mist in the lovely camping ground of Sheeppark Flats. The camping spots here are plentiful and very nicely grassed. Our first stop for the morning was to the very neat Fry's hut which was literally just around the corner of our camp. Clearly this hut wasn't affected by the recent bushfires and was in excellent condition.

From there we continued onto the Upper Jamieson hut which was nicely situated next to a lovely river with an abundance of tree ferns and shrubbery. Unfortunately the area was spoilt by the muddy surround from the traffic this hut must receive.



We then had a lovely drive up to one of my old favourites, Bluff Hut. This has just been recently rebuilt and was just reopened just a week before. Although it is still a great hut, it is somewhat different to the original hut and is quite a bit smaller.



Continuing along the track from the Bluff hut we found a great place to stop for lunch looking over the valley below and the surrounding mountain ranges. A short distance on from here is the site of Lovicks hut which has been burnt down. There were some signs that this hut was to be rebuilt and there were a few of the beams that had been erected, but it seems as this has been stalled for some reason. We back tracked down for some distance and passed through Pickes Flat and onto Bindaree Hut. We were planning to stay here, but as it was so cold and muddy, we followed the river a little further and found a nice grassed area to make our camp for the night.

John

Sunday

It was another cold start to the day. As well as frost on the outside of the swag, the inside also had patches of frost from the condensation; thankfully I was nice and toasty inside.

Bruce was already up and about and had the fire going, so it was out of the swag and around the fire to keep warm. It was a slow start to the day which was welcome and we leisurely had breakfast and packed up. From camp we stopped at Bindaree Falls which is an easy walk from the road. The falls were tumbling over the edge and you are able to stand behind them and take in the surrounding area which was lush and green with plenty of ferns. The keen photographers captured plenty of photos. From here we made our way to Craig's Hut via Six Mile Jeep Tk and Monument Tk. The area was busy as usual, although Bruce mentioned that a few weeks prior parking was at a premium. John had a slow leaking bead which was changed without fuss, we then took a stroll to the hut. The hut itself is not as well built as the previous one and has plenty of loose timber and gaps, certainly not as sturdy when compared with the new Bluff Hut.

From there we made our way to King Hut where we came across a shooter sitting on the side of the track in his chair. Not sure if this is the new toll system?! Making our way along King Basin Rd and crossing the King River several times (which was low) we came to the Pineapple Flat turn off. From here we took we made our way up to the Circuit Road. As time was getting on, it was decided to make our way for home. We stopped at Mansfield to air up and grab a late lunch.

It has been some time since doing the last hut trip and we greatly enjoyed this one. Many thanks to Bruce and look forward to more like it.

Ashley

**WHROO HISTORIC RESERVE/NAGAMBIE REGION
WINERY TOUR**

Queen's Birthday W/end 7-9 June 2008

Trip Leader:	Paul Ryan	GU Patrol
	& Max, Robert, Madeliene	
	& Hamish (the dog)	
Participants:	Ashley & Lesley	VE Commodore
	Steve, Nicole & Mia	100 Series
Visitors:	Mark & Katherine	GQ Patrol

Saturday, 7 June

Ashley and I met up with the Ryans on the Monash at around 9.30am. The weather was a little gloomy, but as everyone says when heading in this direction "wait til you get over the Dividing Range". Well, I now know that this to be fact because as soon as he hit the ranges, the sky split in two – one side grey and miserable, one side blue and sunny. It was an easy drive up and we arrived at the camping ground at around midday. How nice to set up in daylight for a change! The camping area is very pleasant, plenty of trees and surrounded by remnants of old gold mines. We had a few neighbours but they were all very well behaved – we were probably the noisiest bunch on the block. After settling in and having some lunch, we walked up and into Balaclava Mine.



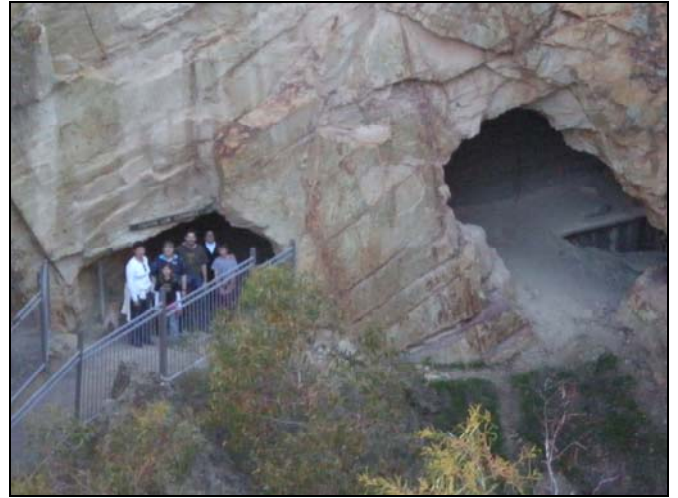
A little history on this mine:

John Thomas Lewis and James Nickinson, both seamen, discovered a large nugget of gold in the grass on the top of the highest hill at Whroo on 25 October 1854. This was the same date as the Battle of Balaklava in Russia during the Crimean War. Hence the Balaclava Mine derived its name from the English spelling.

In May 1855, the Balaclava Mine was opened. In July 1863 Lewis drove a tunnel from west to east through Balaclava Hill to allow a tramline to operate. Gold bearing quartz was carted out of the mine on the tramline to nearby steam driven stamping batteries where it was crushed to release the gold.

Archibald Menzies used wealth gained from his Balaclava Mine venture with John Lewis to build the

majestic Menzies Hotel that was situated on the corner of Bourke and William Streets in Melbourne. Lewis and Menzies crushed 85,804 tons of quartz and recovered 21,340 ounces of gold worth 85,000 pounds sterling from 1866 to 1881.



We walked through to the other side of the mine (you can just see the other entrance in the photo above) and strolled back to camp.

Steve, Nicole and Mia arrived just as we were walking into the camping area, which was fortunate because I think Steve was looking for Ashley's 4WD and didn't recognise the Commodore so was about to head off to look for us. Ashley and Paul went off to gather wood. As per the norm, we had happy hour and then dinner and a very pleasant, longish evening ensued.

Sunday, 08 June

After a relaxed start to the day, we headed out from camp at around 10:30am. Our first destination was to be the Tahbilk winery just out of Nagambie, but we quite accidentally happened upon 12 Acres winery along the way. The only problem was, the gates were still closed (I guess some vineyards like to wait until at least lunch time before opening the cellar door) so we pressed on with a view to stopping in on our return.

In short time, we made it to Tahbilk. It is quite a sizable vineyard. As we made our way to the main

cellar door, the long, meandering driveway which took us past numerous varieties of grape and gave us all an idea of what to expect. The property boasts its own wetlands and, for a small fee, visitors are able to view local birdlife and other sights of interest from the water. Everyone from our group however had one main thing on their minds – wine tasting! Within the main building, one can view the numerous awards, diplomas and medals that Tahbilk has earned over the years.



Some dated back to the early 1930's but there is a much deeper history to this family-owned and run winery which goes back as far as the 1860's. There was a large selection of wines, chutneys, flavoured cooking oils and other wares for sale and I am proud to say that our club did its little bit to stimulate the local economy, After an hour or so at Tahbilk, and with vehicles now half-full with wine and other local produce, it was time to see what else the region had to offer. We next made our way through to Plunkett Fowle's winery at the edge of the Strathbogie Ranges where a meticulously restored 1928 model Graham-Paige saloon car was parked in the main car park. Some headed into the winery to sample the wines on sale while others were happy to listen to the gent who owned the vintage car speak about the history of the marque and the finer points of restoration. After wine tasting at Plunkett Fowle's and a few purchases later, we all drove over to the township of Avenel. here, an arts and craft market was being held in what appeared to be some local's back yard. There were all manner of wares for sale, from needlework to fresh produce, live fowls and even large red gum slabs for the woodworking enthusiast.

We all spent a bit of time working our way through the stalls before realising that time was getting the better of us and that it was already a little past lunchtime. We drove from Avenel to Nagambie township and stopped for a bite to eat along the shores of the lake. The sun was out, a gentle breeze blew and made for a most pleasant and mild winter's day. Nobody was in any particular rush after lunch so we spent a bit of time just basking lakeside in the sun.



Steve and Mia soak up the welcome sunshine...

From there we headed over to Murchison winery and got to sample not only their award winning table wines but also a selection of their own range of Vazzoler cheeses. The quality of produce was excellent and I am sure that the club members were just as happy with their individual purchases as the owners would have been with our visit. It turned out that our timing was impeccable as we learned over the course of a few glasses that the owners were closing the doors for a month in order to holiday and study cheese-making techniques in Europe. From Murchison, we began to make our way back towards camp and stopped briefly to cut and collect a bit of red gum (of which there was plenty) along the way. From there we headed back but detoured via the local Whroo cemetery and a nearby Aboriginal rock well.

The cemetery was steeped in history and the number of different countries from which the town's founding migrants had come was really quite amazing. There were several unmarked sites while others described the relatively young age at which several others had passed, and this gave us all a bit of an idea just how hard life must have been for some.

After spending time at the cemetery and rock well, we all settled in back at camp for a few drinks followed by dinner around the fire. Some were happy to stay up for a bit while others caught up on lost sleep from the previous night. All in all, it was a very relaxing and enjoyable day and the weather was quite pleasant considering the time of year.

Steve Pitcher



2008 AGM Dinner

When: 7.00pm til Midnight
Saturday, 16 August 2008

Where: Dandenong Pavilion
55-61 Princess Highway
Dandenong

Cost: \$40.00 per head
Deposit of \$10 required at
July/August meeting.

Contact: Ashley Martin
0438 600 904

