



JUNE 2008

Free Wheeling

Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A0002184F



Guy's Hut – Anzac Weekend 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		

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 VFWD Inc.

President's Report



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

It's hard to believe that June is upon us and its that time for end of year business. You will be receiving your Club membership renewal forms along with election nomination forms in the mail shortly. There are a couple of things you will notice this year. Firstly, we have organised to make your membership payment via electronic bank transfer. This will help not only you, but also take some pressure off the Treasurer during the AGM. Please ensure you follow the instructions on how to notify the Treasurer of your payment. If the correct procedure is not followed it will make it difficult for the Treasurer to process and your renewal may not be recorded. Secondly is the notice for an Extraordinary AGM, which will cover the financials for last year which were unable to be audited in time. It will only be a five minute meeting to conclude last year's AGM and will be held before the general meeting.

You will see in the calendar and forthcoming trip information that John has organized a working bee with Parks Victoria to help outline some long lost grave sites around the Aberfeldy region. I have also spoken to the television show *Going 4WD* regarding our activities and they have confirmed they will be there to film the weekend. While it won't be shown on commercial television it will be great publicity not only for our Club, but also for the four wheel drive movement in general. It will give people the opportunity to see that we are not a bunch of hoons as portrayed in some areas of the media. To make the effort worthwhile, John and I are hoping for good participation from members for what will be a great weekend. We have worked well with ParksVic in the past and this only cements our relationship with them.

We are also fast approaching this year's AGM dinner which will be held on August 9th, so make sure you include this date in your calendar. We are still finalising the venue, but it will be similar to previous years in that it will be a set menu and price plus drinks. This is always a fun night so make sure you don't miss it.

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

Ashley Martin
President

Minutes of the General Meeting – 6 MAY 2008

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

Present: There were 18 members present as per the attendance book.

Apologies: Maxine Ryan, Anne Pettigrew, Steve and Jill Boyle, Aline Van Buiten, Pat Casey, John Partridge, Michael and Verylle Rodger, Brian Martin.

Visitors: Mark Felton and Catherine Thorne, Shane McNeil, Bill Gibson.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Accepted: Tim Axtell

Seconded: Ian Webber

Matters Arising: Nil

Correspondence In:

- Overland Cruising.
- Cross Country Jeep Club x 2.
- LROCV Newsletter x 2.
- ARB 4X4 Action.
- Dandenong Council Library Invoices.
- Association E-News.
- Association CEO's Report and Proposal for Increase of Fees.

Correspondence Out:

- Newsletter.
- Letter to Dandenong Council confirming Library booking and requesting invoices.

Treasurer's Report:

Opening Balance: \$8546.85
Receipts: \$ 38.00
Payments: \$ 345.80

Cheque Account: \$2354.15
Term Deposit: \$6076.35
Petty Cash: \$ 106.30

Closing Balance: \$8536.80

Accepted: **Anthony Van Buiten**

Seconded: **Lesley Peters**

Trip Reports:

- Proficiency Training: Ian Webber reported on the Proficiency Training weekend at Aberfeldy. This was to be Julie's first time driving on the proficiency training weekend. Ian and Julie left

early on Saturday and met up with the group at Little O'tooles. They started by recapping on the theory learnt earlier in the week before moving on to practice snatching and stall recoveries. They later drove Flat's Track which Julie did very well. There was also a lot of wood cutting to be done due to the numbers of trees down. Julie enjoyed herself very much. Big thanks to the trainers.

- Anzac Day: Anthony gave the report for the Anzac day weekend. They travelled up on the Thursday evening meeting up with Ashley, John, Paul and Maggie at Traralgon. We eventually found a campsite at Breakfast Creek and fortunately there was plenty of pre-cut firewood thanks to the clean-up efforts. We moved camp a little further up the track on Friday morning as we were a bit close to the road. Craig and Marijke and Mark and Catherine joined us later that morning, Pat and Anne arrived later in the day. Didn't do much on Friday as weather was good and was a nice day to relax. Saturday we went for a walk into Bryce's Gorge, then drove Butcher Country track and Dingo Hill track. Dinner was a relatively quiet affair. Had a bit of rain Saturday night which made Sunday a damp pack up.

Trip Coordinator's Report:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| • MAY 10: Tallarook Day Trip | Ashley |
| • MAY 18: Toolangi Challenge | Shane |
| • MAY 23-25: High Country Huts | Shane |
| • JUN 7-9: Queens Birthday W/end | |
| 1. Rushworth | Paul |
| 2. Grampians | Bob McK |
| • JUN 21-22: Avoca | John |
| • JUL 11-13: Annual Snow Trip | Craig |

NB: The Otways trip proposed for the weekend 9-11 May was cancelled due to Mothers Day. This will be rescheduled for later in the year.

Events Co-ordinator's Report:

We are considering venues for this year's AGM Dinner. We were thinking of the Mt Dandenong Hotel at Olinda but if anyone else has any good ideas then please let the committee know.

Association Report:

No Association Report. However, we did receive communication from the Association regarding a proposal to:

- Roll insurance fees into the membership fee.
- Increase the membership fees by approx \$10.

Do we need to consider our continued membership of the Association?

General Business:

- Affinity Insurance - feedback was very good. We will send a letter of appreciation thanking them for their time.
- Fuel Prices - Ashley wrote to BP asking for an explanation regarding the price of diesel. He received a reply citing usual reasons relating to price in Singapore.
- *Going 4WD* - is a new 4WD TV program on Channel 31. Shown on Saturday's 1.30pm, Sundays 7.30pm and Mondays 2.30pm. More touring and less comp oriented than 4WDTV on same channel. They may cover our assistance with Noel Lees grave marking project.
- Committee Positions - some committee positions will be vacated at the end of this year. Please consider who you would like on the committee or if you are keen make sure you nominate for elections.
- Membership Renewals - will be going out this month. This year we will be allowing electronic payment i.e. via net banking into the club's account. Details will be in the reminder letter.

Tea Duties: Lesley and Phil. Thanks.

Raffle:

Tickets sold by Anthony Van Buiten.

1st Prize – LED Lamp won by Anthony VB.

2nd Prize – Collapsible Bucket won by Bryan West.

3rd Prize – Free Range Eggs won by Ashley Martin.

4th Prize – Free Range Eggs won by Mark Kochan.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Next Meeting:

8.00pm, Tuesday 3 June 2008 at Dandenong Library Meeting Room.

String Theory

A string walks into a bar with a few friends and orders a beer. The bartender says, "I'm sorry, but we don't serve strings here."

The string walks away a little upset and sits down with his friends. A few minutes later he goes back to the bar and orders a beer. The bartender, looking a little exasperated, says, "I'm sorry, we don't serve strings here."

So the string goes back to his table, Then he gets an idea. He ties himself in a loop and messes up the top of his hair. Then he walk back up to the bar and orders a beer.

The bartender squints at him and says, "Hey, aren't you a string?"

And the string says, "Nope, I'm a frayed knot."

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Club Polo Shirts	\$25.00 ea
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Club Caps	\$15.00 ea
Club Beanie	\$12.00 ea
VFWDC Stickers (long)	\$ 6.00 ea
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We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.

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



Going 4WD



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

Spicy Beef Casserole



INGREDIENTS

600g beef chuck steak
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 medium (150g) onion, finely chopped
2 teaspoons grated fresh ginger
2 small red chillies, chopped
2 cloves garlic, chopped
1 cinnamon stick
1 tablespoons fennel seeds
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon ground coriander
¼ tsp ground cardamom
2 400g cans chopped tomatoes
375ml (1½ cups) water
140g (1½ cup) plain yogurt

METHOD

Preheat oven to 180 °C. Cut beef into 3cm chunks. Heat oil in a frying pan, cook beef over high heat until browned, transfer to an ovenproof dish.

Cook onion, ginger, chilli and garlic in same frying pan, stirring, for 2 minutes or until softened. Add cinnamon, fennel, cumin, ground coriander and cardamom, stir over heat 1 minute. Add undrained tomatoes and the water, cover, bring to the boil; reduce heat, simmer 5 minutes.

Pour sauce over beef, cover with foil or a lid, bake about 1 hour or until meat is tender.

Remove cinnamon stick.

Serve with yogurt, sprinkle with fresh coriander leaves, if desired.

Hint: Serve with rice, mashed potato or couscous. Adjust chilli to your taste.



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CLUB CALENDER AT A GLANCE

MAY-JUNE 2008

Friday 30 th to Sunday 1 st June	Huts of the High Country	Bruce Cremonesi	0438 600 904
Tuesday 3 rd	General Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Queen's Birthday W/end Friday 6 th to Monday 9 th	Trip 1: Grampians	Bob McKerrrow	0430 014 001
	Trip 2: Rushworth	Paul Ryan	0438 121 148
Tuesday 17 th	Committee Meeting	Michael Rodger	412 530 666
Saturday 21 st to Sunday 22 nd	Avoca	John Partridge	0428 331 211

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 17 th	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 9 th	AGM Dinner Venue TBC	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
Sunday 17 th	Car Rally	Anthony Van Buiten	
Friday 29 th to Sunday 31 st	Noojee-Walhalla Touring Weekend	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904

Forthcoming Trips

Destination	WHROO HISTORIC RESERVE RUSHWORTH STATE FOREST
Trip Leader	PAUL RYAN
Contact No	9807 5193 / 0438 121148
Date	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY W/END FRI 6 TH TO MON 10 TH JUNE
Meeting Place	Shell Service Station Cnr Hume Highway & Donnybrook Road
Vehicle Limits	MIN/MAX: N/A
Grade	WET: Scenic DRY: Scenic
Equipment Required	Standard recovery.
Approx Kms	200 kms
Last Available Fuel	Petrol: Rushworth Diesel: Rushworth
Maps Required	Nil
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activity Details:	
<p>We will be camping at Greens Campground which is part of Whroo Historic Reserve, details of which can be found at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/1parkdisplay.cfm?park+214. Last time I was there (Cup weekend) there was one vehicle in the whole campground so I expect that it won't be too busy. The area is surrounded by Rushworth SF, Tahbilk and Mitchelton Wineries (among others), Waranga Basin, Lake Nagambie and the towns of Nagambie, Murchison and Rushworth. We may go into Rushworth for dinner on Saturday depending on how everyone feels. I am hoping to go for a drive on Sunday as I'm told there are one or two good tracks in Rushworth SF.</p> <p>The weekend should be fairly relaxing and one in which participants can pretty much please themselves. As we are north of the divide it shouldn't too cold for the time of year.</p>	

Destination	GRAMPIANS
Trip Leader	BOB MCKERROW
Contact No	0430 014001
Date	FRI 6 TH TO MON 9 TH JUNE
Meeting Place	Depart 2pm Shell/Maccas West Bound Western Ring Road
Vehicle Limits	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 10
Pets	NO PETS
Grade	WET: Easy DRY: Easy
Approx Kms	300
Equipment Required	Standard recovery. Swags, tents, camper trailers, caravans, mobile homes. SENSE OF HUMOUR.

Last Available Fuel	Petrol: Stawell Diesel: Stawell
Maps Required	Trip leader has all maps as well as GPS and reasonable knowledge of area.
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activity Details:	
<p>Stay at The Plantation on Pine Road near Halls Gap – lovely place, toilets, running water etc. Visit Halls Gap, Cultural Centre. See Elephants Hide, Mackenzie Falls, Quarry where stone for Parliament House was quarried from. Lovely area.</p>	

Destination	AVOCA
Trip Leader	ASHLEY MARTIN
Contact No	0413 600 904
Date	FRI 20-SUN 22 JUNE 2008
Meeting Place	3.3pm/6.30pm Westgate Shell Service Centre
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 3 MAX: 10
Grade	WET: Medium-Hard DRY: Medium-Hard
Equipment Required	Standard recovery.
Approx Kms	200kms.
Last Available Fuel	Petrol: Ballarat Diesel: Ballarat
Maps Required	Nil
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activity Details:	
<p>As I work in Port Melbourne I'll be leaving from the Shell service centre around 3.30pm. I'm aware that most will not be able to make this time so there will be an alternative departure time and leader better suited to everyone to ensure the convoy is together. Or (another alternative) it is an easy drive if you wish to come up Saturday morning. The camping area is situated 10 minutes out of Elmhurst and is very easy access along a bitumen road so no 4 wheeling is required. There are basic running toilets and a good shelter with fire place if the weather is not on our side. For those who will be traveling by themselves I can provide a map and directions to get to the camping area.</p> <p>Saturday: <i>Trip 1 (the boys bit)</i> This trip will involve a good selection of medium to hard tracks but we will be driving the medium tracks and looking at the harder sections. There may be some willing to attempt the difficult section but there are alternative routes around them so you will not be forced to drive these sections. Vehicles do not have to be heavily modified, a good set of all terrains and recovery equipment will be required though.</p>	

Trip 2 (the girls bit)

The girls are planning a nice relaxing day exploring 1, 2, 3...? wineries around the area. Lunch will be at one but which one is anyone's guess. Sunday will be a very relaxing day with nothing planned. Basically a leisurely start to the day, pack up and head home.

Destination	SNOW TRIP LICOLA OR MT SELMA
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

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 4WD driving in a positive way.



ANZAC WEEKEND – BRYCE'S GORGE

<i>Trip Leader:</i>	Ashley and John	GU Patrol
<i>Participants:</i>	Paul	80 Series
	Craig & Marijke	GU Patrol
	Van Buiten Family	GU Patrol
	Maggie	Prado
	Pat & Ann	80 Series
<i>Visitors:</i>	Mark & Catherine	GQ Patrol

Anzac Day – Friday 25 April

Waking up too close for comfort near Tamboritha Track, our boys decided we deserve better and want to be tugged away in the bush. Luck was only a few 100 meters up the hill and that is where our convoy of lazy movers crawled to. Who wants to pack up again, so we turfed all in – what did not fit in was put on roofs and off we went slowly rattling up the hill. Some walked to pick up what was lost. The bush drum said that my legendary tent fell from someone's roof, luckily I did not see it. Those 500 metres were our 4-wheel drive experience for the day, quite unexpected for some.

Good decision, lovely spot, we all warmed to it, then time for lunch, time to secure firewood – from the previous spot I think. It is a great welcome to find plenty of good firewood in dedicated camp areas. We lazed around, some read books, some did not stop talking, some got the footy out, and the Collingwood roar was ever present. Patrick and Ann Casey arrived early afternoon.

Ashley & Co got a wonderful fire going which was greatly appreciated. Happy hour was shared then dinners were cooking everywhere. Amazing to see Ashley share a table with Johnno and Aline, away from main compound, with an aura of privacy, no candlelight, but tablecloth, no crystal glasses but plenty of liquid gold. Lesley you were missed; Maxine you were missed ! Work out by whom...

It was a good day and the night went on with some good yarns and laughs. As usual, I like to fall asleep listening to the carry-on out there. Never hear the end of it.

My camping trips have become quite rare and the more I appreciated the two good nights and days I could spend catching up. Thank you.

Maggie

Saturday 26 April

Saturday morning was a bright and early start for most as Ashley wanted to get the walk over and done with by lunchtime so that we could fit a drive into the afternoon. Once everyone was breakfasted and ready to rock we headed out up Tamboritha

Road, past Bennison's Lookout and through Arbuckle Junction on the way to Guy's Hut Car Park. Nothing much to report about this part of the journey, although the drop in temperature when everyone stepped out of the cars produced a few pained looks.

Anyway we all rugged up and made the effort to go for the walk at least as far as Pieman Falls.



Paul, Craig, Marijke, Pat and Ann take in the view...

However, the group soon split into two, with Pat and Ann leading the hardier adventurers and Connor (who could barely be seen above the top of the grass) leading the other. By the time we reached Pieman Falls quite a few had had enough exercise for the day and decided to make tracks back to the car park. For those that don't know, Pieman Falls drops about 700m from Bryce's Plain into Bryce's Gorge below. There are about 3 vantage points (in a type of horseshoe arrangement) from which the falls can be seen. A few of the more adventurous types including Pat, Ann, Ashley, Craig, Marijke and myself decided to carry on the trek and take in the rest of the gorge and Conglomerate Falls about another 2 kms further on.

The track is a fairly easy and level walk although occasionally the markers are a bit far apart, but it didn't take long to get to Conglomerate Falls. It was certainly worth the walk and it was a lot easier to get close to the falls and take a few scenic pics, although possibly a little too close if Anne's face was anything to go by.

Anyway, the walk back took in Guys Hut which was well worth the visit even if we were a little over walking by that stage.



Guy's Hut



Pat and Ann try to warm up(?) by the fireside inside Guy's Hut...

We eventually made it back to the car park around lunchtime to find everyone else huddled round a fire trying to keep warm. A quick spot of lunch and the odd look of disbelief as a separate group of four wheel drivers sped their way out of the car park (more about them later) and we were ready to head back to camp. Rather than head straight back we decided to go down Butcher Country track and up Dingo Hill Track before rejoining the main road. Butcher Country was pretty straightforward, although the descent down into the Caledonia River valley via the link track was pretty steep and seemed to go on forever. Dingo Hill Track looks as though it will become quite interesting in a fairly short space of time, however the switchbacks that have been cut into it already make it interesting enough. If anyone was thinking of trying to take a trailer down there, DON'T.

Even the section of track just before we rejoined Tamboritha Road managed to throw up a couple of small surprises. After that it was a pretty straightforward drive back to the camp.

As we turned off the main road we noticed that our friends from the Guys Hut car park had pulled in to the campsite that we had occupied on the Friday night. We suspected that the evening could get a little lively down there but we were far enough away that we weren't likely to be too bothered by them. In hindsight maybe we should have been a bit more keen eyed and taken note of a few rego numbers.

Anyway, there were a lot of tired people by the time we got back to camp and most got stuck into dinner, had a few quiet drinks (apart from the occasional explosion from the campsite down the road) and then stood around waiting for Anthony to put his awning up (because by this time the rain had set in). The rain came and went for most of the evening not that that put a damper on too many spirits. However, for once (or for some of us at least) it wasn't a particularly late night.

Paul

TALLAROOK DAY TRIP – SUNDAY 10 MAY 2008

<i>Participants:</i>	Ashley Martin	GU Patrol
	John Partridge	GQ Patrol
	Craig Major	GU Patrol

This trip was meant to be the Otways weekend, but unknown to me at the time Sunday was Mother's Day. This made the participant numbers smaller than expected so there was a change of plans to do a day trip only.

John, Craig and I met at the usual launching place of Lilydale Maccas at a bright start of 8.30am. John was a little later than expected as his Nav GPS (in other words his brain) we were meeting at Officer. Fortunately he woke up before going too far out of his way. GOOD-ON-YA!

We made our way quietly along and soon we stopped to air down and begin the day's fun. The first track was easy with a small climb to wet the appetite. From there it was off to Tehans No. ? hoping for a nice rutted climb. Alas, the track had been dozed. From there we made our way to a loose rocky track which was a good drive. Craig was hesitant to tackle this section, but a little encouragement (always easy when it's not your vehicle) and a passenger to help he made it up. There were a few bangs along the way so a quick check of panels and he gave the all clear. We drove a few more tracks before coming to another interesting climb. The track wasn't overly steep but the loose small rocks and tree roots at the top made for an interesting ascent. John made his way up, although there was a loss of traction on a few places even with the lockers in. Craig was unsure again, but I mentioned he should have a go (should have agreed with him this time) and after a couple of attempts he decided to turn around. I made it to the tree stump before coming to a stop, a quick flick of the magic button and I was on my way again. From there we made our way to the lookout tower and had lunch where Craig discovered a dent on the front left panel (SORRY). I am not sure if he was worried about the dent or the fact that he had to tell Marijke.

After lunch it was a casual drive around a few more tracks before calling it a day.

We stopped at Smiths Creek aired up and decided a couple of ales were waiting for us in the Pub. From there we made our way home at a nice early time (sorry Lesley).

Ashley