

JULY 2009

Free Wheeling



Recce Lower West Toolangi 15 Jan 2009 - "Nice Snow, but no open tracks!"

Notice Board



VFWDC GENERAL MEETING VENUE

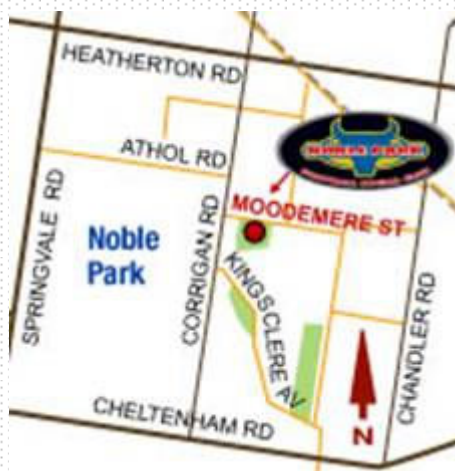
The committee has finally found and booked a new permanent venue for our Monthly meetings. The venue has a very good Bistro so some may wish to take advantage of that before the meetings **Please note the change to Wednesdays!**

First **WEDNESDAY** of each month 8.00PM Start

Venue:

Upstairs Meeting room (Above the Bistro)

Noble Park Football Club
46-56 Moodemere Street
Noble Park
Melways ref: 89 D4



FREE WHEELING

Hi again from your temporary editor. Well it's been a busy month, with a few trips on, although, I think we could really do with some more. So, if you have a free weekend coming up please give some thought to running a trip.

We have a good trip report from Bruce about his High Country trip this month, and I have a trip report from Dan about the Border track which I'm holding off until next issue. I didn't bother with a trip report for the Recce that myself and Phil Griffith went on. Apart from tracks blocked with more trees than a Brachiosaur's digestive tract, all the 4wd tracks were closed.

On another matter entirely, Since I am a bit of a Takeaway kind of guy, I need a little help with some recipes for the Mag. Perhaps a family camping trip favourite?

Cheers,

Shane Michelin



COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2008 -2009

President	John Partridge	president@vfwdc.com 0428 331 211
Vice President	Ashley Martin	vicepres@vfwdc.com 0438 600 904
Treasurer	Craig Major	treasurer@vfwdc.com 0432 876 699
Secretary	Catherine Thorne	secretary@vfwdc.com 0412 758 357

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Assistant Secretary	Anthony Van Buiten	assets@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	Tim Axtell	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Lesley Peters	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	Ashley Martin	
Training Officers	Ashley Martin	
	John Partridge	
	Michael Rodger	
	Mark Kochan	
New Member Contact	George Pledger	
Web Manager	Paul Ryan	web@vfwdc.com

Club Details

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
Registration No	A002184F
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3174
Email	secretary@vfwdc.com
Website	www.vfwdc.com
Meetings	Held first Wednesday of each month, excluding January (no meeting). The November General Meeting is held on the 2 nd Tuesday of the month due to the Melbourne Cup public holiday.
Location	Noble Park Football Club 46-56 Moodemere Street Noble Park Melways ref: 89 D4
Newsletter	All articles and photographs to be submitted prior to 20 th of each month to editor@vfwdc.com
Front Cover	Photograph courtesy of : Phil Griffith
	The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome all to another months Freewheeling.

Well another year has come and nearly gone, which means three things.

1. Time again for our membership renewals. This year our fees have increased \$15.00 due to Four Wheel Drive Victoria increasing their membership fees. There isn't anything we are able to do about this as there is no way we could possibly absorb this cost. We did vote against this at the FWDV meeting, but there was a large amount of support for this rise from the other clubs.

You are able to pay your fees via direct deposit/internet banking. If you do choose this option please ensure you put your name down as a reference so that the treasurer knows who has paid. You will also still need to fill out your renewal form so that we can update our records.

2. Our AGM is nearing. As per our constitution, all committee positions are up for re-election. This year however, quite a few of the committee have indicated that they are looking to have a break for the coming year including yours truly.

It seems that there are quite a few people that seem to be scared of putting their hand up for either coming onto the committee or even just running a club trip. There is nothing hard about any of these roles and they are equally important to the functioning of the club. It is vitally important that we get some new people to raise their hands and give it a go on the committee. New people on the committee bring fresh ideas into the club and keep it interesting for all.

3. Our AGM dinner is nearly upon us. We are hoping to get more of a private area at the same venue as last year. Hopefully the details are finalized by the July meeting. Every one enjoyed the venue last year and the food was great. Be sure to get your name down at the meeting for this as we will need to give numbers as soon as possible to them.

Last month we had our first meeting at our new venue and it looks like it's going to be a winner. There were a few faces at the meeting that I haven't seen for some time and welcome back. I'll be bringing my laptop to the meeting again, so if you have been on a recent trip and want to do a trip report making use of the overhead projector then bring your pics or vids along with you. We'll try to keep these to a 10 minute maximum for the reports. Don't forget that it's on the first Wednesday of the month.

Take care,
John Partridge.

Minutes of General Meeting – 3 June 2009

8:10pm Meeting Open

Intro about venue change. John outlined issues we had experienced with Dandenong Council over recent years.

Present: 25

Apologies: Ashley Martin, Lesley Peters, Aline Van Buiten

Minutes from previous meeting:

Accepted: Ken Beard

Seconded: Ken Prichard

Matters Arising: Nil

Correspondence In: Nil

Correspondence Out: Nil

Treasurers Report:

\$2077.76 cheque account

\$6621.79 term deposit

\$8699.55 total

Accepted: Paul Ryan

Seconded: Phil Griffith

Trips

Thompson Dam

Bruce gave a report about the trip he led in the Thompson Dam area.

High Country

Bruce gave a report about the trip he led in the High Country.

SA/NT

John gave a report on his trip to South Australia and Northern Territory

Trip Co-ordinator

Only a couple of trips coming up, call for trip leaders.

2 trips in June: Border Track and Avoca

1 trip in July: Snow Trip

Shane Michelin will do a recce next week for future day trip.

Shane Mc Neil organizing trip for weekend 20th June

Johan will organize a trip for July

Dan may have one spot left for his Border Track trip. Spoke about itinerary

John spoke about upcoming Avoca trip

Craig spoke about upcoming snow trip

John discussed when running a trip, remember to nominate someone to do the trip report and also to be careful in the current weather conditions.

Guest:

Ian from Going 4WD talked about his show and what motivated him to start it. Going 4WD can be seen on Channel 31.

Raffle:

1st Ken Pitcher - DVD

2nd Michelle Robinson -DVD

3rd Steve Pitcher -Headlamp

4th Johan Leibenberg -Mystery Gift

Meeting closed at 10:05pm

Next Meeting:

8.00pm, Wednesday 5 August 2009 at Noble Park Football Club

46-56 Moodemere Street

Noble Park

Melways ref: 89 D4

See you there.



CLUB MERCHANDISE

For Sale (Revised Price List)

Club Polo Shirts	\$28.00 ea
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Club Wide Brim Hat	\$18.00 ea
Club Beanie	\$12.00 ea
VFWDC Sticker (long)	\$ 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.

☺☺☺ Humour ☺☺☺

Universal Hand Signals

It was announced Friday by the National Institute of Transportation Science, that it is now possible to tell where a person is from by the distinct way that person drives his or her vehicle.

A recent study has shown that if a driver has one hand on the wheel and one on the horn, they are most likely from New York.

A driver with one hand on the wheel, another on a cell phone, a brick on the gas and a gun on the front seat... yup, you guessed it, they're from California.

And when you see a driver with one hand on the wheel and their finger in the air, they're undoubtedly from Chicago. ■



CLUB KITCHEN

After a hearty weeknight meal that's easy to prepare? Look no further than this tasty variation of a pasta bake.

Cheesy gnocchi bolognaise



Ingredients (serves 6)

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 brown onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 750g lean beef mince
- 600ml bottle Italian tomato pasta sauce
- 625g packet fresh gnocchi
- 150g Tasmanian Heritage St Claire Swiss-style cheese, grated

Method

Preheat oven to 200°C. Heat oil in a non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Add onion and garlic. Cook for 5 minutes or until soft. Increase heat to medium-high. Add mince. Cook, stirring with a wooden spoon to break up mince, for 5 minutes or until browned.

Add pasta sauce. Season with salt and pepper. Bring to the boil. Reduce heat to medium. Simmer for 10 to 15 minutes or until sauce thickens.

Meanwhile, cook gnocchi in a saucepan of boiling, salted water for 3 minutes or until partially cooked (see note). Drain. Spoon bolognaise into a lightly-greased, 6cm deep, 24cm x 30cm (base) baking dish. Top with gnocchi. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until cheese is melted and sauce bubbling at edges.



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



CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2009				
JULY	Tuesday 7 th	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Wednesday 22 nd	Committee Meeting	Anthony VB	97643381
	Friday 24 th to Sunday 26 th	Annual Snow Trip	Craig Major	0432 876 699
AUGUST	Wednesday 5 th	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Wednesday 19 th	Committee Meeting	TBA	

FORTHCOMING TRIPS

Destination	SNOW TRIP
Trip Leader	CRAIG MAJOR
Contact No	0432 876 699
Date	24–26 JULY
Meeting Time/Place	12 mile reserve on the jamieson woods point road. Leaving 9am Saturday
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 0 MAX: 8
Grade	WET/DRY: Medium
Approx Kms	
Last Available Fuel	
Distance Between Supplies	
Maps Required	
Equipment Required	Typical recovery equipment and First Aid Kit
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activity Details: Mount skene is the destination but this may change with possible road closures and conditions. Back up location will possibly be licola. Meeting point for mount skene will be 12 mile reserve on the jamieson woods point road. The trip will begin on sat morning at 9am and we will hopefully find lots of the white cold stuff to play in. I will be at the camp site on Fri night.	

Trip Reports

High Country to Powers Lookout Trip 30-31 May '09

Trip report by Bruce C

This is a trip I'd been waiting to do for a while, so after searching through the wonderful always-up-to-date Vic Parks website (noting as I write this, it still says 2008) to check for closures, planning was finished.



Nice convoy of 4 Patrols and 1 Cruiser - Dan Robinson TEC, Dave Johnson, Steve Pitcher, Tim 'too cold to camp' Baker & myself - Captain Wrongway TL.

Meeting up at Maccas in Lilydale, we headed to the Peppercorn Hotel in Yea for dinner. Last time there the food was great, this time it wasn't. The journey was slow. The road works with hidden speed **safety** cameras as the speed limits changed around 20+ times in as many klms - 100-40-80-40-100-40-80 etc. Tell me that is safe!

We made good time as there was little of traffic after Yea, except for one clown in a Zook who didn't realise he was on same UHF channel as us! Sadly he wasn't running on fuel apparently, or none of us would have passed his rocket. A quick stop at BP Mansfield for fuel, & last supplies & we continued on. Few klms out of Mansfield, we turned into Buttercup Rd.

Arriving at the camp grounds, TL got nervous - the first 2 areas were fenced off! Large gulp as we drove on in the dark it was very damp. Finally finding a spot, we took it & quickly setup camp. Mish got a fire going about the size of a book match. We didn't stay up too late as it was warm as dry ice by then.

Waking to the sounds of the dozens of cows on other side of the track, the hills were white with frost, which made us realise how cold it was! Everyone had brekkie, while waiting for Tim to turn up. Once he arrived, quick introduction & we headed off the few klm's of Buttercup, until it turned into Carters Rd towards Tomahawk Hut. I did say towards, but Captain Wrongway missed the turn L. So u-turn #1 for the weekend was within 30

mins!! Yay! J.

Once at the Hut, we headed inside, then noticing there was a fire going in the fire place but nobody in sight. Not a great sign, since a couple of high country huts have burnt down in recent times. We had a few photos aired down the tyres while chatting we headed off *in search of* our next hut.

Our journey took us in search of Mt Hut No.3. We passed a few Landrover club members which I guess were also looking for it. But neither group managed to find it. It may have been a victim of the fires who knows. But it certainly wasn't where it was last time we came through ☹



We headed back to the intersection of Westons track. The views off the ridge in this area are stunning. The call came over the UHF that Tim's GU was making unusual noises. A quick look & listen as he drove around. After much searching & discussion happily no noise was found.



Continuing along we turned right into Mine Creek Road & headed down the mountain. There was enough wood to keep a house running for 2-3yrs! Continuing on, we met back up with No.3 rd heading towards Bus Hut. Heading past the site where the hut is

located, the hut wasn't there. Few U turns, & GPS readings later, we concluded the map was lying! 1 from 3 we found so far.

We continue along No.3 towards the intersection with Circuit Road. Turning Right we headed up to Razorback Hut. The hut is located in a great location, & is still used regularly by the Trail riders up through there, with the bunk house appearing as though it's been fixed up a little. The main hut was also in great condition.



The original plan was to go over the top of Mt Stirling, but seasonal closures hit that section early in May. We knew it was closed so it was Circuit Road to Craig's Hut. We parked, got out, looked at each other, & nobody wanted to walk to the hut, so off to Kings for munchies!

About an hour later we were parked where Kings Hut used to be having lunch. Nice spot, quiet & only a few cars coming through, then decided we'd head to the Staircase along Speculation Road to Cobbler Lake Track.

Anticipation turned to wishing much harm to the lovely people who update the Parks website once an Eon. Yes, the Staircase was **CLOSED**; we were greeted by a lovely yellow **ROAD CLOSED** sign at the start. Much anger was put forth to the nasty sign as this was the main part of doing this trip, not that it's difficult, but it's to cross another "feature" off my list!

Anyway we continued left along Little Cobbler Track which was a bit slimy but no real challenge. We stopped a few times along here for some firewood as it was going to be cold that night. There was plenty of wood around!



We finally found our way along to Lake Cobbler on Cobbler Lake Rd. We drove around the lake, looking for a campsite. There wasn't much to be found to accommodate us all. It was getting late, a decision was to be made in a hurry - here or back to Kings Hut round 1hr away. We decided that it would be freezing being 50ft from the lake so head out of there.

I drove around the lake looking for something else & found a tiny 6in x 4in sign stapled to a tree stating that the Staircase was closed. You would have really had to have been looking for the sign to find it! Heading back towards Little Cobbler track there were a few water falls out to the left, so few pictures then move on again. Once we arrived at the intersection of LC track, we decided to investigate Whites Bridge as it's marked on the map as a decent campground. Dan drove on.



Luckily for us Dan called back, it was PERFECT. 2 different areas & this one we took was spot on for our sized troop with running water too!!

We all setup & got the fire going, started socializing. It was cool not freezing yet, & the fire was great! So dinner was cooked, & we all relaxed. Then Tim decided it was going to be too cold, so decided he was going home. He had been sick recently so we helped him pack up, showed him some

maps, & away he went.

Meanwhile, back at the campfire, social drinks & many stories continued as most of us haven't travelled together before while the fire was kept being fed nicely keeping everyone moving back. J. 11.30 bed time.

The morning was serene & not a hint of warmth in the fireplace, which was a shock as it was doing quite well the night before!

Once on the track, we headed along Lake Cobbler Rd towards Wild Horse Gap Track. We turned left at the intersection & headed up the hill - from the start, it looked like it could be interesting, quite rocky. Heading up the views came into sight again, so we stopped at what was to be the crest for few pictures.

Then we moved on, & went up & up again! Nice track, plenty of views. From there we turned right into Burnt Top Track, which headed north again. We got to the intersection of BTT & Stockyard, & decided to try Stockyard Track, then left into Long Spur, Left into Sandy track to what on the map shows as a River Crossing. Showing how dry it is was only 2ft deep! We followed that to Buckland Spur, which led to Lake William Hovell.

Looking at the view to the left, we witnessed some scumbags in a few acre peat covered area doing donuts ripping it to shreds. I drove down for a look, about 5% of it with any green covering



left. The ruts they had dug were over a foot deep in some areas. Sadly I didn't get # plates, but did take some photos.

We stopped at side of lake, which is more like a puddle these days, for a sanga, & few photos. Was sad sight with the lack of water in there L



From here we headed to Powers Lo Road which was to take us straight to the lookout, but it was fenced off. So a quick stop at a winery for a taste, & discuss the next move was had.

We decided we would try Christopher's Rd to McDonalds Spur to take us up to the main road to the lookout. Christopher's Road passed through a few properties which were gated, with some interesting looking hairy small cows. Michelle informed us that they were more like lawnmowers for trendy people!!

We came to the turnoff with McDonalds, & it went up. Looks like it would be fairly interesting in the wet. This track was about the most challenging of the weekend. Arriving at the top, we aired up, & headed home. That was the trip!

Thanks to all that came along, I really enjoyed the people on this trip and the sights. I hope you enjoyed yourselves, & hope you liked my rambling!

See ya'all next time
Captain Wrongway



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3175

APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP 2009-2010

Please complete ALL details and return to the Secretary.

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: SINGLE - \$70.00

☐

DUAL (FAMILY) - \$75.00

☐

MEMBER DETAILS

FAMILY NAME			
FIRST NAME			
NAME OF SPOUSE/PARTNER			
CHILDREN	NAME:	AGE:	
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
ADDRESS			Postcode:
TELEPHONE	Bus:	Res:	Mob:
EMAIL			

VEHICLE DETAILS

MAKE	MODEL	YEAR
REGISTRATION	COLOUR	ULP/PETROL/DIESEL/LPG

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