

June 2009

Free Wheeling



Wahlalla 6 -7 May 2009 - "I can't believe the Hilux made it!"

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 all!. As you may have head, I will be Babysitting the Magazine for a few months. I'll try to do it well.

Well, this month the Mag is a bit thin. With the last General meeting a bust due to no power at the meeting room, the the last committee meeting not held due to a lack of numbers, there isn't too much do report on. However we do have at least one trip report on a great trip to wahlhalla by Bruce C.

Remember there is still a bit of a shortage of trips at the moment, so have a look at some of your favourite haunts and see if you can find a good day trip or weekender to run.

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	asstsec@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 : The Editor
	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 month of Freewheeling.

As most of you would know by now we have changed the venue of our club meetings, but more importantly we have also changed the day to the first Wednesday of each month.

We have had an ongoing problem with the City of Dandenong and their management of the meeting room (or lack of) at the Library. It started with the poor facilities, the dirty kitchen, filthy toilets and that most of the chairs were half broken and posed a safety issue. On top of this we have had to endure numerous double bookings leading up to completely losing the meeting room for the rest of the year.

Last month was the last straw when there was no power to the meeting room and the meeting had to be cancelled.

We made it a priority to find another meeting room where we would be treated fairly and with better facilities. The major issue we have had, and we have been looking for some months, is that every one of the 10+ venues we looked into didn't have any Tuesdays available. We couldn't even change it to the 2nd Tuesday of the month. We, the committee, ruled out Mondays as there are too many public holidays, and Thursdays as it is too late in the week.

We found a venue that suits us well in a location not too far from where we have always met; with the Noble Park Football Social Club in Noble Park. Here we have a very nice meeting room, DVD and projector facilities, tea and coffee facilities and downstairs is a fully licensed bistro where we can get a meal before the meeting. As a bonus, Wednesday nights is a two for one night.

If by moving this date has caused any difficulties to any of our club members then I truly apologize. In an ideal situation, we would bring this issue to the club meeting to discuss, but we have had to move quickly as the current situation was unworkable.

I am confident that you all will like our new venue with its better facilities and safer car parking and I think this move will help our club to become stronger and better in the years ahead.

I am off for a couple of weeks touring around the Alice Springs area and will be back in time for our first meeting at our new venue. I hope to see you all there, in the mean time, take care.

John Partridge
President

Minutes of General Meeting – 5 May 2009

The meeting was abandoned due to no power at the meeting room.

Please note the new permanent meeting location and time listed in this newsletter.

Next Meeting:

8.00pm, Wednesday 3 June 2009 at Noble Park Football Club
46-56 Moodemere Street
Noble Park
Melways ref: 89 D4

See you there.

☺☺☺ Humour ☺☺☺

- While fishing in the Darwin harbor, a tourist capsized his boat. He could swim, but his fear of crocks kept him clinging to the overturned craft.
- Spotting a local standing on the shore, the tourist shouted,
- "Are there any crocks around here?!"
- "No mate," the man yelled back,
- "they ain't bin round for years!"
- Feeling safe, the tourist started swimming leisurely toward the shore.
- About halfway there he asked the guy,
- "How'd you get rid of the crocks?"
- "We didn't do nothin'," the local said.
- "The sharks got 'em."



CLUB MERCHANDISE

For Sale (Revised Price List)

Club Polo Shirts	\$28.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece ½ Zip Jumper	\$38.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$48.00 ea
Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$44.00 ea
Club Caps	\$15.00 ea
Club Bucket Hat	\$16.00 ea
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.

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".

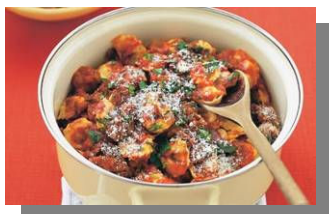
To keep non members out of the group, your membership will need to be approved.



CLUB KITCHEN

It's winter, and we have another stew style dish for you. You could make this one on a trip, or reheat it in a camp oven.

Slow-cooked beef with tortellini



Ingredients (serves 6)

- 1 tbs olive oil
- 900g beef chuck (casserole) steak, cut into 2cm pieces
- 1 brown onion, halved, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 x 800g can diced tomatoes
- 125ml (1/2 cup) water
- 2 tbs tomato paste
- 1 tsp caster sugar
- 2 tbs finely chopped fresh continental parsley
- 2 tbs finely chopped fresh basil
- Salt & freshly ground black pepper
- 1 x 625g pkt veal tortellini
- 20g (1/4 cup) finely grated parmesan

Method

Heat the oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the beef and cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes or until brown all over. Transfer to a heatproof bowl.

Add the onion and garlic to the pan and cook, stirring, for 3 minutes or until onion softens. Add the beef, tomato, water, tomato paste and sugar. Bring to the boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer, covered, stirring occasionally, for 1 1/2 hours or until beef is tender. Cook, uncovered, for 15-20 minutes or until sauce thickens slightly. Remove from heat. Add the parsley and basil, and stir to combine. Taste and season with salt and pepper.

Meanwhile, cook the tortellini in a large saucepan of salted boiling water following packet directions. Drain well.

Add the tortellini to the beef mixture and stir to combine. Sprinkle with parmesan and serve immediately.



VFWDC



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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				
MAY	Saturday 30 th to Sunday 31 st	High Country Huts	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 074
JUNE	Wednesday 3 rd	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Saturday 6 th to Monday 8 th	Queen's Birthday Weekend Trip 1: Border Track Trip 2: Swifts Creek	Dan Robinson Bob McKerrow	0407 334 169 0430 014 001
	Tuesday 19 th	Committee Meeting	Catherine Thorne	0412 758 357
	Friday 26 th to Sunday 28 th	Avoca	John Partridge	0428 331 211
JULY	Tuesday 7 th	General Meeting	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Tuesday 21 st	Committee Meeting	Craig Major	0432 876 699
	Friday 24 th to Sunday 26 th	Annual Snow Trip	Craig Major	0432 876 699

FORTHCOMING TRIPS

Destination	BORDER TRACK
Trip Leader	DAN ROBINSON
Contact No	0407 334 169 9764 0881
Date	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY W/END 6-8 JUNE
Meeting Time/Place	Friday night at Donald Caravan Park. Leaving 9am Saturday
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 0 MAX: 4
Grade	WET/DRY: Easy
Approx Kms	600 kms
Last Available Fuel	Ouyen/Mildura
Distance Between Supplies	200-300 kms
Maps Required	Vic Deserts
Equipment Required	Typical recovery equipment and First Aid Kit
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activity Details: We will be travelling the Border Track from North to South as far as we can go. We will be doing the section that is closed off all other times of the year. There will be plenty of sand driving.	

Destination	AVOCA
Trip Leader	JOHN PARTRIDGE
Contact No	0438 600 904
Date	FRI 24 to SUN 26 JUNE
Meeting Time/Place	TBA
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 3 MAX: 8
Grade	WET: Medium/Hard DRY: Easy/Medium
Approx Kms	350 kms
Last Available Fuel	Ballarat
Distance Between Supplies	N/A
Maps Required	N/A
Equipment Required	Typical recovery equipment and First Aid Kit
Radio Channel	12
Trip Activity Details: This trip will involve a good selection of medium tracks along with one or two harder which can be avoided. 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.	

WALHALLA AND THOMPSON'S DAM AREA 6 - 7 MAY 2009

Participants:

Bruce GU
Eddi & Vera GQ Chopped
Big Shane GU
Little Shane Standard Hilux
Dan and Michelle & Kids GU

The meeting time was arranged for 9:15am with a 9:30am departure from McDonalds in Moe. After a brekkie we then made our way through Yallourn North and then turned off to our first of many river crossings for the day. The interesting thing about this one is the off camber entry to loosen up the drivers and set the scene for the day.



The convoy made its way to Brunton's bridge, with a crossing of the Thompson River to reach the idle island for lunch.



After a 5 mins discussion the convoy decided that the rain wasn't the best spot to stop so we went into Walhalla pub for a counter Meal. After lunch we visited Walhalla for people to explore the township and area. Most people took the opportunity to walk around town. The Lolly shop was very popular.

On the road again we travelled north of the town ship for more hills and river crossings. From here Little Shane took over the Trip leading as he knew the area better.



We drove onto & through Fultons Camping area & across the river, then up One Speck Track. This track had a couple of tricky sections in the wet & on the steepest hill with a few rocky patches little Shane got stuck about 2/3 the way up. After much trying to get himself up under his own steam Bruce had to overtake him mid hill & give him a quick snatch. After the hill it was all straight forward with some steep slippery bits here & there. As dark was fast approaching we headed for Merringtons for our Overnight Stop.



After a hard night, some dragged themselves out of bed for the next days run. Shane again took the lead (In 2nd place) to take us on a few more tracks. These were Jorgenson, Tomboon, Eaton, Comet then into Aberfeldy. After that we were back onto the main road where we headed towards the Dam.

Before the dam we took Beardmores track in the nice sunshine (First bit for the weekend) & stopped for lunch after the crossing of the Thompson. After the lunch & a quick look at the dam we headed for home.

Thanks to all that ran & came on the trip. & especially to little Shane who showed us the tracks we hadn't planned.



Editor:

Sorry Dan, I had to include this picture of a big Stag running down the road in front of me! He must have gone about a kilometre down the road with me following

