



NOVEMBER 2009

# Free Wheeling



*Derek during the Cobaw trip 18th Oct 2009*

# 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 and welcome to another edition of Free wheeling. We still have a bumper load of trips so make sure you support our trip leaders and get out there! As Christmas approaches we all have a lot of stuff happening before we know it. With tracks opening, holidays to plan and consider, and many social events to manage it can all get a bit much. Did you know that one of the best stress relievers is a simple day trip? Just get out there and relax.

It looks like the rain is finished, but hopefully the bumper spring rain has helped our bush get back to the lush Victorian country we remember. I'm guessing there might be some track issues after all that rain, but that just makes it more fun right!

Cheers and see you on a trip,

Shane Michelin





## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2009-2010

President	Ashley Martin	president@vfwdc.com 0438 600 904
Vice President	Mark Kochan	vicepres@vfwdc.com 0412 544 668
Treasurer	Phil Griffith	treasurer@vfwdc.com 0419 865 472
Secretary	Paul Ryan	secretary@vfwdc.com 0438 121 148

### GENERAL COMMITTEE

Assistant Secretary	Bruce Cremonesi	assist@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	Daniel Robinson	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Shane Michelson	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	John Partridge	
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	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.vfwdc.com">www.vfwdc.com</a>
Meetings	Held 8pm, first Wednesday of each month, excluding January (no meeting). The November General Meeting is held on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 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 <sup>th</sup> of each month to <a href="mailto:editor@vfwdc.com">editor@vfwdc.com</a>
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

Hello and welcome to this month's edition of *Free Wheeling*.

I sit here thinking what to write for this month and there are no major issues that need to be reported; whether this is a good thing or not I'm not sure. I wonder if it is the calm before the storm, but I hope this is just the beginning of a club running smoothly and offering what the members want.

The Club is in a good position with a great range of trips on offer and new trip leaders which has taken the pressure off some regulars. The Committee has no major issues that need resolving and this will allow us to look at how to increase the membership base. Over the next few months we will discuss how we do this, but one option is to have a stand at Wandin next year. We did this two years ago with mixed results, but at the time thought it would be worth doing on a bi annual basis. Ensuring we have the right stand layout is paramount to attracting people onto the stand then explaining the great benefits of our Club. We will discuss this and make a decision before the end of year but I believe it will be worth the effort.

Don't forget the Christmas party organised at Myuna Farm. This is a great location and has something for everyone. The kids will enjoy the animals and the rides, while adults can join in or just socialise with others members. Please ensure your name is registered at the next meeting or contact me. We need numbers confirmed before the day.

Finally, yet importantly, you will notice the information inside the newsletter for the annual Christmas tree delivery. I have volunteered for this for the past 10 or so years and found it extremely rewarding. If you have half a day spare that weekend consider participating as you will be contributing to a great cause.

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

*Ashley Martin*  
President

# Minutes of General Meeting – 7 October 2009

## General Meeting October 2009

The meeting was held at the Blue & Gold Room, Noble Park Football Club and was opened at 8.00pm by President Ashley Martin.

**Present:** There were 26 members present as per the attendance book

**Apologies:** Maxine Ryan, Aline Van Buiten, John Wimetal, Mick Harris, Derek & Janet Hymas, Lesley Peters, Ken Beard, Shane McNeill, David & Rosalie Hughes, Paula Johnston, Ray & Dawn Brown, John & Marianne McNeil

**Visitors:** Luke Teunissen, Michael Narayan, Richard Unmack, Andrew Hooper, David Hendry

### Minutes of previous Meeting

Accepted : Sally Harris  
Seconded : George Pledger

**Matters arising:** Nil

### Correspondence in

Overland Cruising - Sept 2009  
LROCV Newsletter - Sept 2009  
Cross Country Jeep Club - Sept / Oct 2009  
4WDV - Certificate of Insurance  
4WDV - Information Pack  
License for Cashflow Manager - financial accounting software  
VKS737 Network News  
Demand for Aug 2009 newsletter from State Library

### Correspondence out

Newsletter

### Treasurers report

Term Deposit	\$5,064.86
Cash	\$2,822.19
Moneys In	\$520.00
Moneys Out	\$326.72
Petty Cash	\$45.00

Accepted: John Partridge  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Anthony Van Buiten

We have purchased a copy of Cashflow Manager which is also used by our Auditor to make the year end financial reporting process easier.

## Trip coordinators report

Can members please ensure they place their names on the trip data forms if they are attending a particular trip? Can they also please ensure that they ring the trip leader to confirm they are attending?

Type	When	Where	Trip Leader
Info Night	9/10/09	OziExplorer Info Night	Anthony Van Buiten
Day Trip	18/10/09	Cobaw SF	Craig Major
Weekend Trip	23-25/10/09	Mystery Pub to Pub	Dave & Rosalie Hughes
Weekend Trip	Cup Week-end	Talbotville	Dan Robinson
Weekend Trip	Cup Week-end	Haunted Stream	David Jackson
A Grade Trip	6-7/11/09	Walhalla area	John Partridge
Weekend Trip	20-22/11/09	8 Mile Flat Fishing Trip	Ashley Martin
Xmas Party	5/12/09	Myuna Farm, Doveton	Ashley Martin
Day Trip	12/12/09	Xmas Tree Delivery	Ashley Martin
Multi Day	26/12 - New Year	McKillops Bridge	Ken Beard

### Trip reports

**Cheyne's Bridge** - Phil gave the trip report on Shane's trip to Cheyne's bridge. The going was fairly straight forward until they hit the McAlister River at the gorge, where the water was fairly deep and the current a bit strong. Everyone got through OK although there were a couple of nervous moments. The group camped at Cheyne's Bridge and headed out next morning making their way slowly home. Thanks to Shane who did an excellent job as trip leader.

**Kinglake** - John McNeill gave a report on a trip they did through Kinglake. They drove through a lot of the burnt out area and made their way up to Tallarook that afternoon. Not a hard day's trip but enjoyable all the same.

**Wine Trip** - this was scheduled to be a weekend trip but became a day trip because the bad weather had turned the campground into a quagmire. The group visited 4 wineries finishing at Brandy Creek for Tapas and more tasting. Brandy Creek are talking of doing a Brazilian BBQ in future so that may be something to watch out for.

**Neerim Hard Trip** - Shane Michelin's trip had to be postponed for lack of takers this time out but he is willing to run it in future if there is sufficient interest.

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*(Continued from page 4)*

## Event Coordinators Report

The Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at Myuna Farm, Doveton as reported in previous newsletter. Please ensure you put names down as soon as possible. There should be plenty for the kids to do e.g. pony rides, animal petting, train ride etc. so please come along.

## Association Report

An email was circulated today asking for volunteers to help with track classification. John volunteered to help however has been told that you need to be a qualified track classifier and they are no longer running courses.

A new board has been appointed to the association. The majority of the board is made up of members of the Pajero Club and while it is admirable that they have taken this on, it is of concern that one club is so heavily represented on the board (although this will only change if others nominate for board positions).

John raised the issue of the poor state of many camping areas with the association but has not received a response so far and so will raise this issue again. Our position that these areas need to be policed by Vic Police / Parks & DSE

more frequently than they are at present.

## General business

Merchandise - we now have Bucket Hats, Baseball Caps and Broad Brim hats available. Samples of all merchandise should be available at next meeting.

## Other Business

The episode of Going 4wd featuring the club is available for download from their website.

Library - a request was made to update some of the content. If anyone has any suggestions for content they'd like to see then please let the committee know and we will endeavor to include it.

Raffle Tickets sold by Miss Harris (sorry about the lack of first name - PR)

1st Prize - Winch Damper won by Visitor.

2nd Prize - Frying Pan won by Tim Axtell.

Mystery Prize - Bruce Cremonesi

Meeting Closed: 9.30pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 4th of November at Nobel Park Football Club.



Below is an extract of a letter from the Association regarding the Oxfam Xmas tree delivery. If you can help out, please contact **Ashley**, as he is our club organiser.

This letter is to inform those clubs who have not previously been involved how the operation works and to remind those clubs who have helped in recent years that the deliver dates this year are **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December**. Normally we deliver the first weekend in December but this year we feel the second to be a better weekend to attract the most sales and have the trees looking fresher for Christmas.

Volunteers carry out the whole operation. Last year nearly \$121,000 was raised, that's about \$500 per delivery vehicle, and went towards alleviating poverty and social injustice within Australia and overseas. **That's a total of over \$96,000 raised by members of Victorian Four Wheel Drive Clubs.**

We ask for drivers, navigators and vehicles that can carry 8 to 25 freshly cut trees, with or without a trailer. Many 4WD clubs have found this a fun activity that makes a considerable contribution to the larger community in which we live.

We meet at the Scout Hall, Pakenham St., Blackburn (Melway Map 47 H 12) on Saturday 12 December, or Princes Hill Primary School, Wilson St., Nth Carlton (Melway 29 J 11) on Sunday 13 December. On Saturday we deliver to the south and eastern side of Melbourne and on the Sunday the north and western side. You pick the area you would like to deliver the trees, and the day and time (between 6am and 11am on Saturday and 7-10am on Sunday) you arrive at the depot. We give you a very well organized list of addresses with Melway grid references, all in close proximity to each other. 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.

For further information or for a guest speaker to address your members at a future club meeting about the delivery or the type of self help projects that the money raised will support please contact me on **94973227** (home or work) or write to: **51 Belmont Rd Ivanhoe 3079**. email: [briangum@tpg.com.au](mailto:briangum@tpg.com.au)

**Brian Moran**

**Volunteer**

**Coordinator Oxfam Australia Christmas Tree Project**

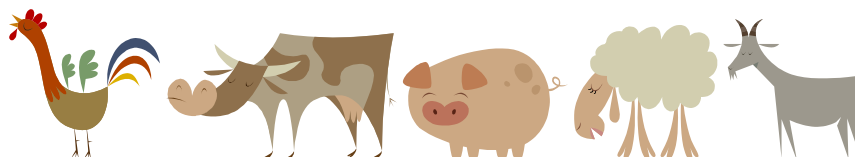
**Phone 94973227 Fax 94994759 Email: brian-**



*The 2009 VFWDC  
Christmas Party will be held on  
Saturday, 5 December from 12.00pm onwards  
at*

# Myuna Farm

*182 Kidds Road, Doveton  
(Melway Map Ref 90 H7)*



- ❖ *Animal Display Centre*
- ❖ *Wetlands Nature Walk*
- ❖ *Aviaries*
- ❖ *Pioneer Theatre*

Prices:	Families (2a, 2c)	\$17.00
	Single	\$ 5.00
	Rides:	
	Pony	\$1.50pp
	Train	\$2.00pp

BYO Meat, Beverages  
The Club will provide salads, and soft drinks for the kids.

Bring along the family and enjoy the festivities.



## 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](mailto:committee@vfwdc.com).  
Please ensure you advise size required.

## Madigan Line Trip 2010

Please be aware that there will be a [Planning Day for the Madigan Line 2010 Trip](#)

<b>Date</b>	Sunday 17th January, 2010
<b>Location</b>	Ken & Jane's house - please ring for the address
<b>Phone</b>	5971 4683

\* BBQ lunch provided

Thanks  
Ken & Jane



## VFWDC ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

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Anyone wishing to advertise in the Club Directory,  
contact the Editor at [editor@vfwdc.com](mailto:editor@vfwdc.com)



## CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

<b>2009</b>				
<b>November</b>	31 Oct–3 Nov *Cup Weekend	Trip–Talbotville & Billy goats bluff	Dan Robinson	0407 334 169
	31 Oct–3 Nov *Cup Weekend	Trip–Haunted Stream	David Jackson	0408 333 313
	Wednesday 4th	General Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	Fri 6th & Sat 7th	Trip A Grade	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Sunday 15th	Trip–Bunyip	Shane Mcneill	0409 359 385
	Tuesday 17th	Committee Meeting	Dan Robinson	0407 334169
	Friday 20th	Trip–Annual Fishing Trip–8 Mile Flat, Howqua River	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
<b>December</b>	Wednesday 2nd	General Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	Saturday 5th	Xmas Party		
	Sunday 6th	Marysville via Toolangi and Strickland Spur	Paul Ryan	0438 121148
	Saturday 12th	Oxfam Christmas Tree Delivery	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	Tuesday 15th	No Committee meeting		
	Saturday 26th	Trip–Snowy River National Park - McKillops Bridge	Ken Beard & Jane Spence	5971 4683
<b>2010</b>				
	Wed 10th Feb 2010	Driver Training Theory	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Sat–Sun 13-14 Feb	Driver Training Practical	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Friday 12 Mar 2010	Advanced Driver Training	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	Tuesday, 29/06/10	Trip–North Simpson Desert - Madi-gan Line	Ken Beard & Jane Spence	5971 4683



## FORTHCOMING TRIPS

<b>Destination</b>	Haunted Stream
<b>Trip Leader</b>	David Jackson
<b>Contact No</b>	0408 333 313
<b>Date</b>	Cup Weekend 31/10-3/11
<b>Meeting Time/Place</b>	TBA
<b>Vehicle Limits</b>	
<b>Grade</b>	Medium
<b>Approx Kms</b>	500
<b>Last Available Fuel</b>	Swifts Creek
<b>Distance Between Supplies</b>	
<b>Maps</b>	Omeo
<b>Equipment Required</b>	
<b>Radio Channel</b>	12
Travel tracks around the Haunted Stream.	

<b>Destination</b>	Talbotville & Billy goats bluff
<b>Trip Leader</b>	Dan Robinson
<b>Contact No</b>	0407 334 169
<b>Date</b>	Cup Weekend 31/10-3/11
<b>Meeting Time/Place</b>	Longwarry BP 7:30am
<b>Vehicle Limits</b>	3-6
<b>Grade</b>	Medium
<b>Approx Kms</b>	500
<b>Last Available Fuel</b>	Dargo
<b>Distance Between Supplies</b>	
<b>Maps</b>	Talbotville
<b>Equipment Required</b>	Standard recovery equipment, Blind or snorkel, Wet weather gear.
<b>Radio Channel</b>	12
Travel some iconic tracks around Talbotville, including Billy Goats, Pinacles & Blue Rag range. Base camping at Talbotville.	

<b>DESTINATION</b>	A Grade Trip . We will be camping Friday night at Seninis Camping Ground & Saturday night TBC dependant on numbers
<b>LEADER/CONTACT NO.</b>	NAME: John Partridge MOB: 0428 331 211 Email: gujohnno@yahoo.com.au
<b>DATE</b>	6-7th November (Also the 8th if we have the numbers)
<b>MEETING PLACE / TIME</b>	Longwarry Service Center 6.00PM Friday night
<b>GRADE</b>	WET: Extreme DRY: Hard - Extreme
<b>TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS</b>	We are setting out to tackle some of the hardest tracks available to us in Victoria. Only those with well setup vehicles will be allowed to come - the Trip Leader has the final say. This trip is not for the faint hearted but will be conducted in a safe manor. More information will be made available at the club meetings.
<b>VEHICLE LIMITS</b>	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 8
<b>APPROX KMS</b>	40Kms
<b>LAST AVAILABLE FUEL</b>	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
<b>DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES</b>	A full tank of fuel ex Moe will see you through
<b>EQUIPMENT REQUIRED</b>	Vehicles will preferably have winches and diff lockers and larger aggressive tyres. Complete recovery equipment will be needed.
<b>MAPS REQUIRED</b>	TBC
<b>RADIO CHANNEL</b>	12



DESTINATION	Bunyip State Forest
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	Shane McNeill 0409 359 385
DATE	Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2009
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Longwarry BP 8:00am
GRADE	Wet; hard Dry; medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Travel around bunyip state forest & possibly get to use some MVO tracks.
VEHICLE LIMITS	Wet: mud terrain tyres,. Dry: Good allterrains.
APPROX KMS	Approx 100Klms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Longwarry DIESEL: Longwarry
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	?
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic recovery
MAPS REQUIRED	Bunyip/ Gembrook
RADIO CHANNEL	12

Destination	Snowy River National Park - McKillops Bridge
Trip Leader	Ken Beard & Jane Spence
Contact No	5971 4683
Date	Saturday, 26/12/09 - Saturday, 02/01/10
Meeting Time/ Place	BP service station Princes Hwy Longwarry DEPART 0600hrs
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 2, MAX: 5
Grade	WET: Moderate DRY: Easy
Approx Kms	Approx 500km.
Last Available Fuel	PETROL: Buchan ( Seldom Seen if they have any ) DIESEL:
Distance Between Supplies	N/A
Maps Required	Optional - Rooftop: Snowy River, McKillops Bridge, Lakes Entrance Adventure map.
Equipment Required	Drinking water & food for 8 days. Basic recovery gear, clothing for hot/cold climate
Radio Channel	12
<b>Trip Activity Details:</b> Camp by the Snowy River. Bring an inflatable tube/canoe, do the Deddick Trail, help us celebrate the New Year or just do nothing at all!	

Destination	Annual Fishing Trip—8 Mile Flat, Howqua River
Trip Leader	Ashley Martin
Contact No	Mob: 0438 600 904
Date	Friday 20th— Sunday 23th Nov
Meeting Time/ Place	Lilydale Macas Friday Morning - 9am Friday night - 6.30pm
Vehicle Limits	Min 0, Max 10
Grade	WET: Easy to get there, medium drive Sunday DRY: Easy to get there, easy/medium on Sunday
Approx Kms	200
Last Available Fuel	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield
Distance Between Supplies	N/A
Maps	N/A
Equipment Required	Basic recovery equipment Fishing equipment
Radio Channel	12

On the last occasion we camped here the weather was not kind to us so second time lucky. The area is well grassed (and hopefully still will be), easy access to the river and has drop toilets The river is suitable for those wanting to wade up stream or like most of us just throw a line in from the side (if we even get that energetic). The camping area is an easy drive out of Jamieson along the Jamieson/Woods Point Rd and is a well maintained dirt road.

I set 2 departure times for some members will be leaving Friday morning and another's Friday night. If you can't make either let me know and will advise directions (don't be afraid).

If weather permitting and the well being of everyone I will probably take a scenic way home via a few tracks. These I have not been on for some time but they will not be difficult.

DESTINATION	<b>Marysville via Toolangi and Strickland Spur</b>
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	NAME: Paul Ryan TEL: 0438 121148 MOB: 0438 121148
DATE	06 December 2009
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Lilydale Maccas 08.30am
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifi- cations	WET: Medium DRY: Easy/Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	I want to drive through from Dixons Creek to Toolangi and go via Stricklands Spur to Marysville. As it's Christmas I thought we might take a few gifts for the people of Marysville. It doesn't have to be much just something that might raise a smile. I would like to get there mid to late afternoon so I want to keep vehicle numbers reasonable however if the demand is high we can always have two trips on slightly different routes.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	Dixons Creek to Marysville approx 50kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Yarra Glen DIESEL: Yarra Glen
DISTANCE BE- TWEEN SUPPLIES	
EQUIPMENT RE- QUIRED	Basic Recovery Equipment Xmas Gift
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftops - Toolangi Black Range
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

DESTINATION	Proficiency Training—Aberfeldy Forest area
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	John Partridge 0428 331 211
DATE	Theory: Wed 10 Feb 2010 8.00PM Practical: Sat 13 & Sun 14th Feb
MEETING PLACE TIME	TBC
GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	
This is a must do trip for any new club member or one who hasn't attended a training weekend in the past. We will be covering many of the basic aspects of 4WDing covering a varied terrain including steep rocky tracks & river crossings.	
There will be something for everyone in this trip for new and old. The latest and most up to date recovery techniques will be discussed and tested. Discussions on vehicle setup, recovery gear, the Tread Lightly! Principles and more.	
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 8
LAST FUEL	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
EQUIPMENT RE- QUIRED	Standard recovery equipment. You will need to be self sufficient with all your camping needs. Bring your own water.
RADIO CHANNEL	12

Destination	<b>(Expression of interest)</b> North Simpson Desert - Madigan Line
Trip Leader	Ken Beard & Jane Spence
Contact No	5971 4683
Date	Tuesday, 29/06/10 (depart Copley, SA) to Birdsville, QLD (Approx 10-14 days later)
Meeting Time/ Place	Copley Caravan Park, S.A.
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 2, MAX: 4 (Diesel Only)
Grade	WET/DRY: Difficult
Approx Kms	Approx 800kms, Mt Dare to Birds- ville.
Last Available Fuel	PETROL: N/A DIESEL: Mt Dare
Distance Between Supplies	260 litres diesel required for 6 cylinder. De- tours/Deviations may be required.
Equipment Re- quired	Desert experience necessary. Vehicle must be in A1 condition. 2x spare tyres/4 tubes. Other specified equipment in detail later on.
Radio Channel	12

**Trip Activity Details:**

Following Dr Cecil Madigan's 1939 track from Old Andado to Birdsville. THIS IS VERY REMOTE & ISOLATED COUNTRY, MUST BE PREPARED FOR ISOLATION AND IN THE EVENT OF BREAKDOWN VEHICLE RECOVERY MAY BE AN ISSUE DOLLAR WISE

**Commitment by Feb 2010 - Permits required**

DESTINATION	Advanced Driver Training— Walhalla
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	John Partridge 0428 331 211
DATE	Friday 12th March 2010 Sunday 14th March 2010
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Longwarry service center 6.30pm
GRADE <b>Please adhere to new trip classifi- cations</b>	WET: Medium - Hard DRY: Medium-Hard
<b>TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS</b>  Want to take the next step from the proficiency training and learn more on how to tackle the harder tracks and vehicle recovery. Well this is your opportunity to learn in a safe environment.  We will be focusing on full vehicle recovery using winch recovery equipment and the associated techniques along with how to tackle those harder tracks. We will walk the tracks, talk about what to look out for and the best lines to take followed by driving them using several different scenarios.  For those who may have been attended a previous advanced training course and want to brush up on your skills are also welcome along.  Participants will be assessed to determine sufficient experience and vehicle capability for this trip.	
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	150
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
DISTANCE BE- TWEEN SUPPLIES	N/A
EQUIPMENT RE- QUIRED	Full Recovery Equipment
MAPS REQUIRED	N/A
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



***Wine Trip—Drouin Area  
Anthony & Aline Van Buiten  
Saturday 3rd October 09***

**Trip Leaders:** Ashley & Lesley

**Participants:** John and Tina  
Derek and Janet  
Shane, Linda and Jackson  
John and Maryanne

The full weekend trip had been cancelled because of a waterlogged camping area in the Drouin caravan park. However, by popular demand Ashley and Lesley reorganised it into a one day trip taking in a few wineries and lunch.

At the leisurely time of 11.00am all but Shane, Linda and Jackson met at the Pakenham McDonalds. After coffee and a chat, we made our way along Princes Highway and on to the freeway east of Pakenham before turning on to Tynong North Road and the Cannibal Creek Winery.

On the tasting list were an unwooded chardonnay, a merlot, a cabernet sauvignon and a dessert wine.

We learned that the vineyard had been open for 12 years and that the winemaker, who had previously been a builder, was self-taught. Behind the counter was an impressively complex contraption of tubes, jars, retorts and bowls all of which he apparently uses to ensure his wines are of the very best quality.

One of the wines was a sauvignon blanc that we were unable to taste. A bottle of it sat proudly on the counter. We were advised that because of the last hot summer, the crop was down so none could be spared for tasting. We were assured it was a very good wine, with a large amount sold to the Melbourne Cricket Club.

Members of the group bought a selection of the different wines. Shane, Linda and Jackson joined us and while they had their tasting, we waited for them in the warm sunshine outside where we admired the winery's wood-fired pizza oven.

Apparently Ashley and John P. have been planning the construction of such an oven at Ashley and Lesley's new home – if and when they find it! Ashley is



determined to build an oven, although they can be bought in kit form. From what I could make out, the pizza oven will be built first, and then the house so at least they will be warm and well-fed, even if they are living in a camper-trailer.

The trip changed from *Ashley and Lesley's* trip into *Linda, Shane and Jackson's* trip as Linda led us back to the freeway and on to the remaining wineries. Along the road, Tim Axtell came on the radio and told us about a new winery that had just opened. This was the Bunyip Vineyard beside the freeway at the Tonimbuk Road turnoff.

Inside the old shed a big sign advertised 'John's Sensational Sausages' and there was a selection of knick-knacks and other bits and pieces and the longest bar of soap I have ever seen. It was about 40cm long and I couldn't help wondering just what you would wash with it.

The vineyard had been open only two weeks and had a small selection of wine – two shiraz's and a dessert wine. A few bottles were purchased here too.

A few vintage cars were in the adjacent garage. A small 4WD, what looked like a motorised pedal car, a restored Bugatti and a 1923 6 cylinder, turbo-charged 2.3 litre racing car that was undergoing restoration. The men all crowded round wide-eyed while the owner described the vehicles and what he was doing to them. The women stood outside rolling their eyes, impatient to get to the next winery.

We then headed up to Labertouche and Gypsy Creek Vineyard on School Road. The vineyard stood in a valley and seemed untouched by the fires of last summer, although all around the land had been burnt out in most places. Several of us had been in the area soon after the fires and recalled just how bare the landscape was a week or two after Black Saturday.

Now, the paddocks were green and many of the trees had regrowth. All the dams were full. We agreed that while this was a good thing, all the growth could become a problem if next summer is again dry and hot.

The Gypsy Creek Vineyard was officially closed while they prepared for a wedding later that afternoon. But after a phone call from Ashley, they had opened specially for us. It's in a good spot, has a restaurant and has just opened B&B rooms in a new building.

We tasted chardonnay, rose, pinot noir, shiraz and cab sav. Some of us relaxed in the sunshine on the sheltered decking outside.

By now, we were all getting hungry and so it was on to the Brandy Creek Vineyard via the Mt Baw Baw, Old Sale and Buln Buln Roads. We drove in the sunshine through rolling green hills dotted with patches of small yellow flowers.

The vineyard's restaurant is on a hillside overlooking the Tarago River with the hills of Bunyip State Park in the distance. The hillsides all around are covered with the vines from which they make their wine. Our table overlooked the view and we whiled away an hour two chatting over tapas and wine.

Some of us were tempted by the dessert menu, but two disappointments were to follow. Firstly, those who fancied a Portuguese Tart were out of luck. She had left for the day. No, that's not right - they had sold them all.

Secondly, when the alternative panna cotta dishes arrived, the waitress explained that they had collapsed and after mutterings all round she agreed not to charge us for them. Suddenly the squashy mess tasted much better.

We were all pretty full after lunch and the afternoon was beginning to pass us by. The appeal of wine tasting had somehow diminished considerably so we all decided to head home.

Truncated though the trip had been, those who attended all enjoyed themselves and it was great to have had a relaxing drive though the spring countryside.

Thanks to Ashley and Lesley for organising the day and for Linda, Shane and Jackson for leading most of the way.

### Derek Hymas

