



APRIL 2010

Free Wheeling



Water crossing during the Driver Training weekend 13 Jan 10

Notice Board



VFWDC GENERAL MEETING VENUE

The club meets at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club, 46-56 Moodemere St., Noble Park on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 8.00pm (No meeting January). Members and Guests are welcome to dine at the Bistro before attending the meeting.

First WEDNESDAY of each month 8.00PM Start

Venue:

Bowling Club Rooms (Next to Car Park)

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



FREE WHEELING

Hello and welcome to the April newsletter. I have included some partial trip reports from January and February as I don't have any new content to add. Unfortunately there aren't many photo's to go with it.

I asked for some articles or recipe stories but again have receive nothing. There isn't much in the way of upcoming trips, so have a think about running one to your favourite area. I have one in Mid April that should be a nice medium level trip through a beautiful area. There are still places available so have a think about it.

Cheers,

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 Michelon	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	secretary@vfwdc.com
Website	www.vfwdc.com
Meetings	Held 8pm, first Wednesday of each month, excluding January (no meeting).
Location	Noble Park Football Club (Bowling club near car park) 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	
	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*.

Unfortunately Paul, Phil and I were unable to attend the March meeting but thanks to Mark and Bruce for standing in. From all reports the presentation from RFDS was very informative and many were surprised by the size of the organisation. Many thanks to Annette and Gerri from Royal Flying Doctors for taking the time to come and talk to the Club. As mentioned, the raffle proceeds will be donated to RFDS; \$180 was raised and the Club will contribute a further \$120 to make a total donation of \$300 to a very worthy cause.

At this month's meeting, we will be holding an Extraordinary Annual General Meeting to present the financials for the 08/09 year. This will take approximately five minutes and the General Meeting will continue after the conclusion of the EAGM.

While I don't like to harp on the subject, I would like to bring to the attention of members the importance of the Newsletter. This is a great source of information and whether it be upcoming trips, reports, or just general information there should be plenty of information to read. Unfortunately there is a shortage of items being sent through to Shane and this includes trip reports. If you have been nominated as trip scribe, please ensure you have your report finished and sent through to Shane within two weeks of the trip being run; it is not a difficult task. The Newsletter requires input from all members to make it worthwhile. This may include a short article or a good story that relates to our recreation. If you have something you believe is appropriate for inclusion please send through to editor@vfwdc.com. **Let's make Shane's** job easier by contributing to the Newsletter and make it well worth reading.

We have more guest speakers organised for the next few months. In April we have a short presentation from members of the Toyota Landcruiser Club re their Cruiserkhana. In May we have a representative from Opposite Lock to promote their products and services. June we will have High Country Huts Association to discuss the many huts throughout the High Country. Attendance at these meetings will be well worth it, so look forward to seeing you all there.

Please enjoy your Easter break. Remember, if you travelling please be patient on the roads and be safe.

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

Ashley Martin
President

Minutes of General Meeting – 3 March 2010

General Meeting March 2010

The meeting was held at the Bowling Club rooms, Noble Park Football Club and was opened at 8.10pm by Vice President Mark Kochan Martin.

Present: Not Available

Apologies: Not Available

Welcome to Annette Allison and Gerri Christie From RFDS

Visitors: Not Available

Minutes of previous Meeting

No General Business conducted due to absence of President, Secretary and Treasurer

Newsletter: Apologies from Editor for the delay in distributing the newsletter

Correspondence in

Newsletter from Eastern Ranges 4WD Club

Newsletter from RFDS

Correspondence out

Newsletter

Treasurers report

No Report tabled

Presentation by RFDS

Welcomed Annette Allison (Public Affairs Manager) and Gerri Christie (Executive Director) of The Royal Flying Doctors Service. They provided a great and detailed presentation of this truly unique Australian service. Informed then that the club will donate out takings of this evenings raffle money to help and support their services.

Tea Break

Raffle tickets sold by Emily (well done)

Trip reports

No reports provided

Trip coordinators report

Dan went through the upcoming trips and Shane Michelin mentioned he was planning a trip, yet to be put into the newsletter.

Event Coordinators Report Nil

Association Report Nil

General business

The committee (Mark Kochan) informed members that it has been arranged through the Secretary and the President that our club meetings will now be held in the Bowling Club facilities.

The committee (Mark Kochan) also informed members that due to the continual problems with the club meeting venues, the committee is looking into the purchase of some type of visual display system, possibly a projector.

Bill Harwood asked about our membership cards and the

members were informed they are in the process of being organised and made.

It has been brought to the committee attention that there are still some people not receiving the club newsletter through the mail. Members were asked to forward and/or contact the committee with their address to verify that the postal address is correct.

Raffle Tickets sold by Emily

1st Prize - Bosch drill set won by Gary

2nd Prize - Wine donated by Ken Pitcher, won by Mark Kochan

3rd Prize - Winch Dampener provide by Everything 4WD, won by Ken Pitcher

4th Prize - Ferret Tyre deflator won by Emily Harris

5th Prize - Apples donated by David, won by Ken Beard

Meeting Closed: 9.35pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday April 7th at Noble Park Bowling Club

From 4wd Vic forum:

Weplan - a new way to manage our national parks by Michael Coldham on 04 Mar 2010 08:07

I thought it might be of assistance to have a post on this subject because other means of communication and involvement have had little or no response.

Parks Victoria is about to launch a new management plan for the alpine national parks The last plan has been the management tool for the last 20 years and a new way is being promoted.

This new plan has a number of items and we have a four wheel drive discussion paper and other issues such as climate change, recreational use, zoning and other issues.

All clubs could make this an issue to actually do a presentation to their club to highlight the plan and the fact that EVERYONE can comment on the plan on the net from the comfort of their own home. So how about it do you think our members could actually read the four wheel drive discussion paper whilst sitting at home? do you think our members could actually make their own comment what ever they think?

Well I am not so sure and it would be terrific if this post actually generated some discussion in our club meetings and perhaps got us to have a look and, yes, a read and comment of our own.

This is the first time ever that people have been empowered to have their own say.

So were to from here if you think you can -

log on to <http://weplan.parks.vic.gov.au/alpine> and follow the instructions it not too hard and you then can get involved. PLEASE get involved it could be that your comment about others views could just make all the difference

JOHN SMITH

Long-term Club members will remember John Smith and the quiet but witty nature of the man.

John was a member of the VFWDC for many years and those fortunate enough to be on a trip with him would have enjoyed his many quips and stories.

After moving to Minyup some years ago to enjoy the quiet country life, John was unfortunately diagnosed with cancer. Sadly, he lost the battle and passed away last Thursday, 25 March.

The Club passes on sincere condolences to John's family and friends.



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.



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



CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2010				
April	Wednesday 7 th	General Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	16 th –18 th	Licola High Country Trip	Shane Michelin	0417784599 or 9800 1105
	20 th	Committee Meeting at Paul's	Paul Ryan	0438 121 148
	18 th	Day Trip Marysville / Rubicon	Bruce Cremonesi	
May	Wednesday 5 th	General Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
June	Wednesday 2 nd	General Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	29 th	Trip—North Simpson Desert - Madigan Line	Ken Beard & Jane Spence	5971 4683



Mark and Catherine's wedding day on 27 March 2010



Phil and Karen's Wedding 19 February 2010

UPCOMING TRIPS

Destination	Licola—Caledonia Valley
Trip Leader	Shane Michelon
Contact No	9800 1105 or 0417 784 599
Date	Sat/Sun 17–18 April
Meeting Time/Place	Friday Night at Licola or Sat Morn-ing.
Vehicle Limits	MIN: 2, MAX: 6 (4 left at time of printing)
Grade	WET/DRY: Medium
Approx Kms	Approx 150kms (mostly low range)
Last Available Fuel	PETROL: Licola DIESEL: Licola
Distance Between Supplies	Only at Licola
Equipment Re-quired	Medium level trip. Requires reasonable 4wd and moderate skill. Rivers may require snorkel, but depends on depth. No facilities at Caledonia camp.
Radio Channel	12

Trip Activity Details:

Meeting Friday night at campground along Tamboritha rd. Not sure which camp ground at this stage, so the idea is to call on Ch12 or travel up in convoy. We will leave early Saturday and head North through Licola on the Glencairn—Licola rd, turning off at Bull Plain Rd and onto Black Soil Track. Then along Mac-alister River Track and right onto Butcher Country Track. Then Butcher Country Link Track down into Caledonia valley. Camp to the south of the link track. Next day (Sunday), head north along Caledonia River Track and up to Howitt Rd. Then West to Howitt Hut for lunch and then back to the South again heading toward Arbuckle Junction and then down Tamboritha Rd and back out at Licola and back home from there.



Destination	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 Birdsville.
Last Available Fuel	PETROL: N/A DIESEL: Mt Dare
Distance Between Supplies	260 litres diesel required for 6 cylinder. Detours/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



AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND

Sunday 24 January
Macalister River Camp Group (T-0km)

On leaving the Macalister River camping ground, it seemed not to have had much use lately. I remembered that this was my first trip here with the club, before I was a member. From memory, back in early 1988, when I was a guest of an old club member Ken Beeth and his partner. (It rained then, but I had a good time). The area is a lot more overgrown these days.

We back-tracked a little, and went along and up Butcher Country Track. There were great views, as we steadily and patiently made our way up and up. Just before the **top, we came to a "heli-pad" clearing. We had a quick break for photos and chat.** Continuing on, we turned onto Butcher Link Tk, and followed it for some distance. Then we turned onto Caledonia Tk for some distance. These were all tracks that I had heard about over the years, but cannot remember doing them. If I did, it would have been a long time ago. So it was good to finally drive along these tracks and see the area.

We reached another small clearing near the top of Caledonia Tk and stopped for lunch... about 1.40pm. We had so far covered about 37km. It was always good to stop and have a rest. The weather and conditions were hot and dusty. After lunch, we continued a little further before turning onto the main road. A short distance on, we **then made a right turn onto Zeka Spur Tk (2.10pm... T-46.2km).** The sign said Wonnangatta 34km. Track condition not the best. Not difficult, but rocky for most of the time, and a long, slow descent. We had a regular, running commentary by Ashley for a while, as he was describing how he hated this track due to its condition. **It's obviously not one of his favourites. Most of us didn't mind though,** as we were heading down to Wonnangatta to camp and a swim. We were all looking forward to that.

Arrived at Wonnangatta Station about 4.30pm (T-77.0km). Ashley, Derek and Gary stopped off a little before to gather some firewood. John and I had a quick look around at a camp area just across the river. This particular camp area was shadowed by beautiful large oak trees. The unfortunate part was that these trees obviously consume large amounts of water and the ground underneath was all dirt. Despite the obvious beauty and the shade benefit, if you were camping there during any type of rain, the area would turn into a mud pit. **It wasn't raining this weekend, but we really didn't want to camp on the dirt either.** We decided to camp elsewhere. We camped a little further down the river on

a grassy area, under some trees. John and I set up our camps and soon the other guys came with some wood. After all the camps were set up and the wood sorted out, **it didn't take much convincing for us all to head to the river for a good soaking.** We later headed back to camp and relaxed with a couple of drinks. After some good food and chitchat, and with a few more drinks, we **all retired for a good night sleep... Had a good day's driving,** albeit hot and dusty.

Mark K

DAY 3 AUSTRALIA DAY LONG WEEKEND - HIGH COUNTRY TOURING TRIP

It was a misty dull morning that I awoke to. This seemed to enhance the stillness of the Wonnangatta valley. This was day 3 of our Australia day long weekend High Country Touring Trip.

Being first up, I went for a walk. I headed towards the cemetery and noticed the many different tracks left in the dust along the track. Obviously there is a fair amount of animal activity around at night. As I walked **towards the cemetery I remembered Ashley's words** from the previous evening, which we had a big day ahead of us, and that meant an early start. So, I turned around and walked back to camp.

After breakfast and breaking camp we eventually hit the dusty trail. The usual chatter on the radio was interrupted when Mark had a Deer jump over his Toyota, well that's what it sounded like. This was Marks close encounter for the day.

As we traveled on Derrick talked about unusual noises in his Discovery. Eventually Ashley jumped in with him for a test drive and they found that a rear wheel nuts were loose. An easy fix!

By now we were high up on a ridge, and the sun was out, but the valleys were still filled with mist. A subject that John didn't miss with his camera.

We descended down Cynthia ridge track, then Station track to Pioneer Racecourse track and after followed and crossing the Crooked River we arrived at Talbotville. We had a quick stop there, before crossing the crooked river for the last time and heading up South Basalt Knob track. This was really loose and dusty compared with last time I had seen it on Cup Day weekend last year.

Our lunch destination was Blue Rag Trig, and as we headed up towards Blue Rag range a red engine warning light came on in my Patrol. Was this the end of my 3L Patrol. The engine seemed fine but I nursed it along until I found a flat wide spot on the trail. Under the bonnet all seemed OK. I switched off the engine, and had a closer inspection. Nothing obvious, so I tried to restart. No drama, but the red light was still on. I had a final look around, and closed the bonnet. After radioing that I was about to continue, even with the red light on, I

switched off the engine just one more time. Upon re-starting, the red engine warning light went off as per normal. Fixed???

After Lunch at Blue Rag we backtracked a bit before heading towards Hotham via Dargo High Plains Road.

At the main road we immediately turned left at MT St Bernard onto Twins Road and headed bush again. These were easy trails, but not the place to make a mistake. Steep drops into the surrounding valleys seemed even steeper with the lack of vegetation.

Ashley reported a steep and loose section ahead. A little chatter on the radio was interrupted by Derrick saying that he had lost traction and slid down a hill into a tree. I pulled up to let John pass as we approached the hill. We all, bar Ashley walked up the hill to find Derrick on the side of the trail wedged up against a tree. It didn't look to be that difficult a situation, so as John and Mark went back down the trail, I watched Derrick try to drive forwards. The front wheels were spinning and nothing from the left rear, so I waked to the other side and observed what was happening there. Front wheels spinning only. We would have to snatch or winch him back onto the track. Eventually we had Ashley come back down the hill, and winch Derrick back to the track then we lowered him back down the track to a flatter area where we could access / repair the problem.

We managed to open the rear door on the Discovery, so that the beer was accessible, then we (Ashley) removed the prop shaft. A snatch strap was attached between Ashley patrol and Derricks FWD discovery and an attempt was made at the hill.

Question: What has 10 wheel drive and bellows clouds of dust? A Toyota towing a Nissan towing a FWD Discovery. That's how they mad it up the hill, and I believe that only Mark new where he was going as the others just followed into the dust and setting sun.

We got down to the Selwyn Creek road, and then found a campsite beside the Buckland River. A splash in the river got rid of most of the dust, sweat and grease, before dinner and another night sitting around the campfire with a beverage in hand.

And there ends my report on Day 3!

Gary Smith

Valentines Weekend Trip Report—By xxLois and Pedroxx

Wow what can i say????????? What an amazing weekend. It all started ohhhh so early, so here i was waiting ,waiting, waiting at the servo on the hwy, guess what? i was on the wrong side of the highway. After crossing the hwy and having my Lem Sip we were off..... John, Grant, Luke, Andrew, David and myself

with Ashley as my co-pilot. We went out through Moe to a camp area and there was Sue and Graham, they were doing track grading not with a grader. Vehicles were inspected and then a water crossing was on, John showed us what to look for and we all crossed and it was a little bit exciting!!!! After the water we went up a hill and found a tree across the track i think it was the one we heard crashing down earlier. Luke was a saviour on the day as he had a chainsaw and boy did it get a workout. there were many up and down hills and more ups and downs i was amazed it was stunning. i learned soooo much. Silly moi thought Ashley was joking when he said see that track, we will be going on that soon, GULP from me and there we were going up the track. Many trees needed to be cleared from the tracks and Luke's son Blake was full of enthusiasm one of his quotes after coming across yet another fallen tree was "MY DAD WILL FIX IT " and he did. I learned how to use the brakes when driving up and down hills and Pedro (Pedro the Pajero) moaned and groaned some, but i think he did well. Whilst driving along we came across this wide expanse of water and Ashley says to me just slow here Lois this is our next water crossing, i think i may have hit the brakes a bit hard so Ashley may need a stackhat should he ever co-pilot with me again, there was no way i was going to cross this because i had a sore throat.....it was because my heart was in it I think, very very funny Ashley....NOT. Then we arrived at FLATS TRACK i mean what was going on when they named that track?????? its soooooo not flat, I was scared but Ashley talked me through it and it was quite a buzz to have done it. Again silly me when they were talking about going up the track I thought noooo they are having a lend of me. We camped in a great spot and not long after a rousing game of Shovel Cricket commenced. Paul and his son Robert were there for the cricket it was so funny I laughed till I hurt. The after dinner conversation was enlightening I mean blokes do listen I hear about a swag with 56 pillows on it another had tie backs someone who will remain nameless has tassles in his swag, and the QUOTE of the campfire was a certain bloke who has SCRIM in his swag sheesh SCRIM!!!!!!!!!!!! I slept well except for when a really unexpected alarm went off in the middle of the deep dark night , this person shall remain nameless but how considerate was it of Luke to set the alarm off so we could all wake and see the stars, I was the first to be up and at 'em i think. So we were going up Flats Track
ummmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm I dont think I can do it this time maybe next time, so an ever so pleasant drive to the top of Flats Track through some water and there was steam coming from Pedros brakes
hmmmm. Thankyou John, Thankyou Ashley, thanks to Luke, David Grant and Andrew (who is a bit of a joker) I had the most wonderful time and what's even better is I learned so much, even my day to day driving had benefited from the trip. I think i am hooked. sorry this has taken so long to get to you as the first report is in cyber space somewhere .

xxLois and Pedroxx