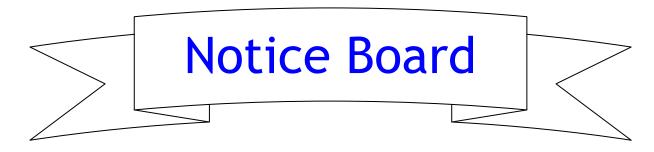


Free Wheeling



Bluff Trip 2nd - 3rd April 2011



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 club 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 May newsletter. There were a few trips that were held over the Easter break, hope all members had a nice and safe Easter break.

Catherine

Editor@fwdc.com



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

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COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2010-2011

President	Bruce Cremonesi	president@vfwdc.com 0400 425 296			
Vice President	Mark Kochan	vicepres@vfwdc.com 0412 544 668			
Treasurer	Phil Griffith	treasurer@vfwdc.com 0419 865 472			
Secretary	David Bruinsma	secretary@vfwdc.com			
GENERAL COMMITTEE					
Assistant Secretary		assist@vfwdc.com			
Trip Co-ordinator	Daniel Robinson	trips@vfwdc.com			
Newsletter Editor	Catherine Felton	editor@vfwdc.com			
Association Delegate	Ashley Martin				
Training Officers	Ashley Martin	John Partridge			
General Committee	Luke Teunissen				
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 20th of each month to editor@vfwdc.com		
	The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)		



CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2011				
May	Wednesday 4th	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	7th - 8th	Chainsaw Course	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
15th		Marysville Day Trip - Second Half	Phil Griffith	0419 865 472
	21st - 22nd	Chainsaw Course	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
June	Wednesday 1st	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	11th - 13th	Queens Birthday Weekend		
July	Wednesday 6th	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	30th - 31st	Xmas In July	Dan Robinson	0407 334 169
August	Wednesday 3rd	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	Melbourne Cup Wend	Expression's Of Interest—Robe South Australia	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860

Our website has been updated, check it out at www.vfwdc.com It would be greatly appreciated if you could bring a cd of the photos of your trips to the club meeting & pass them onto Bruce, so they can be added to our website for advertising. Only if you choose to.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Apologies as there is no Presidents report this month.







Currently targeted for the last weekend in July (30th - 31st). This will be funded by the club excluding Alcohol and drinks & location of Torongo Falls Camping Ground, Noojee.

Saturday night will be a roast meal with salads & deserts, breakfast will also provided on Sunday. All other meals will be have to be self catered by attendees.

Please put your name down on the trip data form at the April meeting, if your interested in attending.

Final numbers required for July club meeting, after this date numbers will not be accepted.

For any further information, please get in contact with Dan Robinson, trip co-ordinator. trips@vfwdc.com or 0407 334 169



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Thanks, Chris Smith



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

(The VFWDC long stickers will be available at the next club meeting. Please see David Bruinsma for these stickers).

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.

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

Minutes of General Meeting April 2011

The meeting was held at the upstairs Rooms, Noble Park Football Club and was opened at 8.05pm by President Bruce Creminisi.

Present: There were 24 members present as per

the attendance book

Apologies: 5

Visitors: 5

Minutes of previous General Meeting

Accepted: John Seconded: Mark

Matters arising:

Grant -

Chain Saw Course: Ashley gave a quick overview of the Grant. We are looking at chain saw course to help Noel lees with clearing of tracks. Theory will be over 2 nights, and the practical will be split into 2 groups of up to 10 people, and again will be 2 sessions. We do feel that members should provide their own protective equipment, and the club will subsidize the course from the Grant money - but people will be needing to cocontribute towards the overall costs. BYO chain saws, BYO protective gear.

Theory will be at Homesglen, the practical will be down the peninsula. (rosebud way somewhere) Applications to be into the club by 16th of April.

Association: (Ashley) not a lot to report at the moment.

Correspondence in

Return of Club Magazine Bendigo bank statement

ARB 4x4action product brochure

Insurance Cert of currency - Affinity Insurance Brokers

The High Country 2010/2011 brochure Ezytrail camper trailer brochure

RFDS brochure

Corner Country brochure

Barworld brochure

Toyota Landcruiser club magazine Cross country jeep Club magazine

Correspondence out

Club magazines

Noble Park Football Social Club - confirming next 12 months of meeting

Association - fees for another 10 members

Treasurers report

Term Deposit \$5390.90

Cash \$

Petty Cash \$50.00 Money In \$155 Moneys Out \$92.50

Balance \$9114.75 (includes \$5000.00 grant)

Accepted: Anthony **2**nd: Mark

Trip reports

Brewery trip (Anthony VB). Started at Yarra valley brewery, then to Hargreaves, then to Healesville (Bucklies) lunch at Beachworth bakery, White Rabit brewery. Then on the way home stopped at Cold stream Brewery.

Holey Plains day trip: Flat and sandy. A couple of U-turns. Full trip with 8 vehicles. Nice drive, all easy access roads/tracks.

Huts Trip: (Catherine and Mark) A lot of fun, meeting at lilydale maccas early. Gary had car issues again. Went up to sheepyard and the fryers hut, upto the bluff then camped at Lovicks hut on Saturday night. Used a battery powered chain saw enough for that night and the next morning. Next morning went to bluffs, then to Craigs hut - all with good weather and then hut is already starting to fall apart again. Then across to sterling before going home. Camper Trailer trip:

Trip coordinators report

The various trip leaders gave a brief overview of the following upcoming trips.

Туре	When	Where	Trip Leader
Day Trip	Sunday 17 th April	Behind Thomsons dam somewhere	(Little) Shane
Long weekend	Easter weekend	Knockwood	Bob
Long weekend	Easter weekend	Hattah	Anthony
Long weekend	Easter weekend	Border Track	Bruce
Day trip	15 th may	Marysville - take 2	Bruce
Xmas in July	July	Tba	Committee

General business

GPS course: This was talked about at the trip leader training course. John McNeil knows someone who can run/lead a course that teaches a GPS course at Frankston and Berwick. BYO GPS and then he will do a overall summery, and then go through individuals one on one with each person. Had a good show of hands of people interested. Club Library: Shane is not able to keep and bring to each meeting, needs someone to take the box.

Other Business

Velco Straps: John McNeil brought in a strap to demonstrate to members. We can buy directly from Velcro for about \$10 or so. Has a 1 ton rating - comes in flouro orange.

Raffle (no raffle this meeting) Meeting Closed: 9:35 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 8.00pm 4th May 2011 at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club.



FWDV Delegates Brief Sheet to be read out at Club Meetings, and printed in Club Magazines.

April 2011

The Great Victorian Camp Oven Festival – Saturday 9th to Sunday 10th April 2011
The Fourth Great Victorian Camp Oven Festival will be held on Saturday April 9th and Sunday April 10th, 2011. The event will be held at Wallaby Rise Caravan Park, Glenmaggie which is approximately 40 minutes from Traralgon and Sale. Wallaby Rise is famous for its Camp Oven Restaurant and indoor venue with its huge open fire. Non powered camping is available and there will is plenty of room for all. Camp oven cooking will once again be the main focus of the festival with a number of competitions taking place. These will include best dampers, best casserole or stew, best afternoon tea and best specialty dish. Prizes will be given in each category. Also on the Saturday and in addition to the cooking extravaganza there will be activities for children, a Billy Boiling competition and country music to entertain us during the evening. For people wanting bring their own caravan, motor home or tent, onsite camping will be available. Sunday's activities will feature bush poetry telling and a pancake breakfast.

For further information, please ring Paul on 5148 0376 or email at wallabyrise@bigpond.com

Noarkat Conservation Park closed

Ngarkat Conservation Park, 34km south of Pinnaroo in the Murraylands region, will be closed from 6pm Sunday, April 10th to 6am Friday, April 15th. Department of Environment and Natural Resources district ranger Donna Haslam said the closure is necessary to ensure the safety of the public during a pest control and monitoring program within the park.

For more information, contact Donna Haslam on 8576 3890 or 0428 103 783.

Park Closure – Wilsons Promontory

Parks Victoria has advised that Wilsons Promontory National Park has been closed due to severe flooding and damage to Tidal River Campsites, General Store and all the cabins. Many of the parks more remote sites are also inaccessible.

Images available via Flickr: http://www.flickr.com/photos/parks_victoria/sets/72157626329725028/

For further information call the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

4WD Victoria Raffle

Tickets for the first of 4WD Victoria's two raffles for 2011 have been sent to clubs to sell on the basis of one ticket per member, and at only \$2.00 per ticket we ask each club for their assistance in selling all of their allocated tickets. 4WD Victoria rely on these two raffles each year to assist with our fund raising activities, and they jointly assist us in keeping down any increase in Affiliation Fee's that may be deemed necessary.

Prizes for the raffle are as follows:

1st Prize – Clarion 10.2* Roof Mount DVD System (Fully Installed) – valued at \$1,895.000.

Donated by Prestige Off Road

2nd Prize – Vicmap Book Range Bundle (consisting of 5 x books) – valued at \$450.00.

Donated by Spatial Vision Innovations Ptv Ltd

3rd Prize - 4WD Victoria Gift Voucher - valued at \$390.00.

Donated by Four Wheel Drive Victoria

4th Prize – Hummers for Hire (1 Hour Tour) – valued at \$200.00.

Donated by Hummers for Hire

Raffle will be drawn at the General Meeting to be held on 22nd June 2011 at Four Wheel Drive Victoria, and winners will be notified.

> Four Wheel Drive Victoria PO Box 1015G Balwyn North VIC 3104 Tel: (03) 9857 5209 Fax: (03) 9857 5260 Email: office@fwdvictoria.org.au Web: www.fwdvictoria.org.au ABN 40 891 301 368 ASSN No: A0013539S RTO 21605



Bluff Trip 2nd - 3rd April 2011

Trip Leader Ken, Jane, Jesse & Jack Beard

Ron Schreiner, John & Kyle Baarsma - Visitors - Land Rover

Ben, Callum & Shae - GU Patrol

Mark & Catherine Felton - GU Patrol

Tail End Charlie - Bruce & Rebecca - GU Patrol



We had a very early morning start on Saturday, with everyone meeting up at 7am, at the Lilydale Maccas. Mark & I were the last ones to arrive of course, thanks to some slow moving traffic. Gary was no where to be seen, that's when Ken decided to give him a call and found him to be still in bed. Gary was left to enjoy his sleep in. We had a really good run into Mansfield; everyone stopped and filled their fuel tanks and then we headed into the bush via Sheepyard Flat.



For not any special/long weekend in particular there were a lot of people camping at Sheepyard Flat, so we continued onto Fry's Hut for morning tea and to air down tyres. The kids were kept busy by playing in and around the hut. We then travelled back to Sheepyard; check the road closures before heading further into the bush, which thankfully for us were all ok.

There were a lot more people camping at the numerous campsites along the Howqua River. We made a stop off at Tunnel bend, which had recently seen some action, due to the heavy rains over the last few months and there was a lot of debris fallen over and we could see just how high the water rose, still however it was very beautiful to look at.

We then travelled down to Lower Jamieson Hut, which had a nice track to get down to the hut and a pretty creek running near it. We then continued to travel up Brocks Road, where we then turned down Cairn Creek Track. This track followed the Jamieson River North, which also showed signs of some action. From this point until we reached Lovicks Hut, the kids were playing eye spy between the cars and at some stages some of the adults even got involved too.

Some of the members had been at Lovicks Hut plenty of times before, but had only seen the main poles standing out of the ground, never a complete Hut.

The only thing that neard before heading

was completed was the toilets. We had heard before heading off on the trip that the Hut was finally complete, it was such a great sight to see, compared to the last trip there. It was voted that this was a great place to camp, as there was no one else, camping at the Hut.

Everyone did there own thing of setting up tents and things, Bruce drove around the Hut and campsite a few times deciding on where the best spot was to set up his tent, he finally decided on a place. We sat around the middle of the campsite and chatted for a bit and then decided to go for a drive further up the hill and also get some fire wood for the night. We got to





the top of the mountain with a gorgeous view of the open ranges as far as the eye could see; it was perfect weather with blue skies and the sun shinning. We took some photos, met some people camping on top of the ridge and everyone got to stretch their legs by going for a bit of a walk.

We headed back to the campsite, stopped along the way for firewood, where a battery power chain saw was brought out and successfully used. We loaded the roof racks up with the wood and continued onto camp for happy hour and the campfire was started by a group effort. Once we were full enough from happy hour, we all started on getting dinner ready. It didn't take long for the temperature to drop and for anyone that moved away from the fire, felt the

sudden chill and was compelled to return to the warmth of the fire. Dinner was quickly consumed and people returned to the fire for comfort, warmth and socialising.

Fortunately for us the wind wasn't around, otherwise it could have been a lot colder. It didn't end up being a late night for most people, probably due to the early morning start, we said our good night's and said good night to day light savings. We jumped into bed, where it was a lot warmer than outside the tent.



Regrettably both Mark and I had to get up and go to the toilet at 2am; we walked to the toilet and found a lot of the grass was covered by ice. It was very crunchy under foot. All the while there were about three different people that were snoring away, that were disrupting the balance of silence of the high country.



We woke up the next morning; with our tent looking like it was going to be a very grey old morning. We got dressed and packed up the tent, then emerged from the tent to be pleasantly surprised by the clear blue sky that was above us with not a cloud in sight. We had breaky and continued packing the car, waited for the sun to be up a bit more to help dry the tent, then we were ready to go and discovered it was 10am. Luckily Ken had said that it was not a rush, it was a get going whenever everyone was ready.

We set out down Bluff Track, to Bluff Hut where we had a quick stop and look around. Then continued down Sixteen Mile Jeep Track, Mark was excited as last time we were here I drove down this track, it was now Marks turn to

have a go. This track took us down to Pikes Flat Campsite, where we stopped for lunch. Ken gave us options as to which way to go home, majority voted for us to head up to Craig's Hut and go over Stirling as today was the perfect day and when it's like this, you don't miss the opportunity as Stirling is only open for a few months of the year and Circuit Road was closed.

We then continued up Bindaree Road and stopped off and had a look at Bindaree Falls. We saw a car with more rims and less rubber then anyone of our cars. Funny that a car liked that reached here when the Circuit Road was closed. We didn't think any more of it, until we reached Craig's Hut via Monument Track, which had been recently graded and Ron did very well for his first time out four wheel driving. We came across a big group of horse riders heading up the hill towards us; so we stopped and let them pass.

We reached Craig's Hut with a few other people there, it was very windy, but still a perfect day to take some photos. Then we got talking to some other people there and found out, they had ignored the road closures signs driven around them and straight on through to Craig's Hut. This was now making a lot of sense with the other car that we had also sighted, back down at Bindaree Falls.



Official Newsletter of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

Registration No A0002184F



We turned around and headed partially the way we came from and then continued up along Howqua Gap Trail, where we were met with extraordinary views of the surrounding mountains. We once again came across the horse riding party. We kept making several stops along Mt Stirling to take plenty of photos. Mark was once again excited, because also last time we were here, I drove over Mt Stirling. Now it was Marks turn, to drive across the track that is closed more times of the year, then it is open.

We finally got to the other end, where we were met by a family in a Holden Captiva that wanted to go up to Mt Stirling, just where we had come down from and asked us how it was. Ken had to explain that it was not a road, that it was a black diamond four wheel drive track. We had arrived back to Circuit Road, where Ken took a right

turn and went around a few bends and then revealed that this was sending us back to the closed road, u-turn, first and last one for the weekend.

We made our way down Circuit Road to the gates for the resort village, where we found a good place to air up the tyres, as now the rest of the driving was on sealed roads. We made our way back to Mansfield, some put fuel in their vehicles and some tried to get some dinner, but no such lucky, by just missing some shops by 10 mins. We decided to continue on back towards home, where we copped a bit of traffic heading back to Melbourne and some were lucky enough (not) to get some really terrible drivers, which held up our travel time of getting home.

We left Bruce and Ben to get Macca's from Lilydale for dinner for their kids, as they were starving and it would be very late by the time they returned home. We arrived home around 8pm ourselves. It was a great trip.



The Thompson State Forest Trip.

Authors Ian & Audrey

Participants. Shane Jim & Children Toyota Land cruiser Ian Audrey Nissan Pathfinder Gary Nissan Patrol.

It was nice and fresh to stat the day. We all meet at BP Longwarry and had the usual introductions. The day stated well for Shane, as his Ute was without a bracken shocker so he moved all his gear into Jim's car and we left about 8:15am at a reasonable pace we made our way down the road to Moe throw the fog. At Moe we turned off the M1and it was turned into a nice sunny day.

We arrived at Thompson dam wall at about 9:15am for the usual pit stop and had another chat & off we went. We started on a nice flat track which for Ian and I being my first time out on serious trip was good until I saw the first climb I couldn't believe the angle and ruts and thought no way was my pathfinder going to get up this track. Shane put me in the middle and told me to use low second and follow him with Gary bringing up the rear to my surprise we made it to the top without any problems. Accept for the pounding in my chest.

We did this on a number of tracks, a few had river crossing thrown in for good measure. We came to this down hill section and I saw how rough and steep it was with the huge ruts and holes I couldn't believe we were going down this track again. I follow Shane and couldn't avoid this deep hole with the front wheel sliding in and then it lifted the back end of the vehicle up along way but we came down in one piece and onto the next section we went. We stopped for lunch about 12:30pm at a river with the remains of a tin hut. We had a more interesting conversation particularly about the scratch down the left side of my car after meeting a tree sticking out onto the track. After lunch Shane tells me the worst was over well I swallowed that line, hook, line and sinker. We started up the last climb and I lost traction and I couldn't get over this hump again loosing traction and slipping sideways across the track. I called Shane and Gary to let them know. Jim came back down and after hooking up the snatching straps and a lot of picture taking he pulled me out all in all a UN believable day for me and Audrey and lot of laughs at my expense. Thank to all who attended the day.

EVERYTHING

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