

Free Wheeling



Butcher Country, Wonnangatta, Dargo - Easter Trip2012



VFWDC GENERAL MEETING VENUE

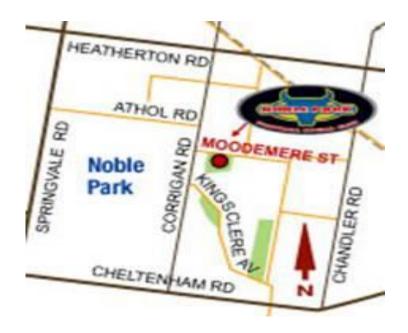
The club meets at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club, 46-56 Moodemere St, Noble Park on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 8.00pm (No meeting in January and November meeting at selected location). Members and Guests are welcome to dine at the Bistro before attending the meeting.

First WEDNESDAY of each month 8.00PM Start

Venue:

Bowling Club Rooms (Next to Car Park, down the far end of the 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. This month sees the day's getting shorter and were getting closer to the time when the seasonal gate's will be closed. There are a few trips coming up between now and, but if you have any other ideas, please fill out a trip data form and send it through to the trip co-ordinator and hep out by running a trip.

Catherine

Editor@fwdc.com



COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2011-2012

President	Bruce Cremonesi	president@vfwdc.com 0400 425 296		
Vice President	Mark Felton	vicepres@vfwdc.com		
Treasurer	Jane Spence	treasurer@vfwdc.com		
Secretary	David Bruinsma	secretary@vfwdc.com		
GENERAL COMMITTEE				
Assistant Secretary	Andre Van Derwalt	assist@vfwdc.com		
Trip Co-ordinator	Ashley Martin	trips@vfwdc.com		
Newsletter Editor	Catherine Felton	editor@vfwdc.com		
Association Delegate	Ashley Martin			
Training Officers	Ashley Martin	John Partridge		
General Committee				
Librarian	Andrew Hooper			
Merchandise				
Web Manager	Bruce Cremonesi	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)		





VFWDC ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

BUSH-B-Q

Manufacturer of the Barbeque of the Outback **Don & Thelma Montague**

Ph: 9808 1200 Mob: 0414 355 488 Email: <u>info@theldon.com.au</u> Web: <u>www.theldon.com.au</u>

FRANKLAND ELECTRICS PTY L TD

Electric Motor Sales, Service, Repairs & Modifications
Power Tool Service & Repairs
Peter & Janine Frankland

Mob: 0417 85 6634 Ph: 03 9772 4062 Email: peterfrankland@optusnet.com.au

METALAIR INDUSTRIES

4x4 Camper Trailers, Accessories & Camping Equipment

David Hughes

Ph: 9798 1492 Fax: 9798 2593 Email: metalair@tenex.com.au

R & D BROWN PAINTING SERVICES

Quality Workmanship at the Right Price

Ray & Dawn Brown

Ph: 5967 1437 Fax: 5967 1439 Mob: 0411 799054

Tayka Trip Trailer Hire

Off Road Camper Trailer Hire
Bill Harwood

Ph: 9707 2144 Mob: 0414 477 503

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



CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2012				
May	Wednesday 2nd	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	12th	Mt Baw Baw Trip	Andre Van Derwalt	0404 191 949
	16th	Committee Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	23rd	Driver Trainer - Theory night	John Partridge	0428 331 211
	25th - 27th	Driver Training - Practical	John Partridge	0428 331 211
June	Wednesday 2nd	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	20th	Committee Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	24th - Sunday	Gembrook - Noojee	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	30thJune-14thJuly 30thJune-20th July	Simpson Only Simpson & Dig Tree etc	Dan Robinson	0407 334 169
July	Wednesday 4th	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	Friday 13th - Sunday 15th July	Snow Trip - Mt Skene	Mark & Catherine Felton	0439 345 207
	18th	Committee Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	27th—29th	Xmas in July	Mark Felton	0439 345 207
August	Wednesday 1st	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	22nd	Committee Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
September	Wednesday 5th	General Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	Expression of interest	Broken Hill, Cameron Corner	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	19th	Committee Meeting	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296

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 from 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 for no presidents report this month.

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Simpson Desert & the
	Digtree
LEADER/	NAME: Dan Robinson
CONTACT NO.	MOB: 0407 334 169
DATE	30 June – 14 July
	(Simpson only)
	30 June – 20 July
	(Simpson & Dig Tree etc)
MEETING	TBD
PLACE / TIME	
GRADE Please	WET: Easy
adhere to new	DRY: Medium
trip	
classifications	
TRIP ACTIVITY	We will be leaving Melbourne
DETAILS	travelling up to Mt Dare & then through the Simpson desert
	(West to East), From there we
	will be travelling on through to
	Innaminka & the Dig Tree.
	People coming can pick to head
	home after Birdsville if they
	need or stay along & visit Innaminka & the corner
	country. The route through the
	desert will be a mixture of the
	tracks. We will be going
	through Walkers Crossing to
	Arkaroola.
	NO Trailers.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MAXIMUM: 4
APPROX KMS	Need to travel ~600k's of
Meeting place to	desert without fuel, we will be
destination	filling up at Mt Dare.
LAST AVAIL-	PETROL: Mt Dare
ABLE FUEL	DIESEL: Mt Dare
FOLITOMENT	LAU : WATER C IC
EQUIPMENT	All camping, WATER, food for
REQUIRED	~5 days in the Simpson Desert.
	Some provisions will be
	available at Mt Dare &
	Birdsville. Park Pass will be
	booked & organised in the
	month before we leave.
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

DESTINATION	Snow Trip— Mt Skene
LEADER/	NAME: Mark&Catherine Felton
CONTACT NO.	MOB: 0439 345 207
DATE	Friday 13th—Sunday 15th July
MEETING	Twelve mile campsite, outside
PLACE / TIME	of Jamieson
GRADE Please	WET: Medium
adhere to new	DRY: Medium
trip	
classifications	
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	We will be heading up Friday night, we will be leave Saturday morning at 9am, to head up and over Mt Skene. Hopefully we will have some snow to play in, up on Mt Skene. Twelve mile, will be our base camp, so trailers are welcome.
	And packing up camp and leaving Sunday morning, heading back to Melbourne.
	Please note, we are required to get a permit two weeks before, finally numbers/details will be taken at June's meeting. It is also mandatory to carry/use snow chains. There is a fine and lose of dermit points, please make sure chains are carried/used.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS	200km
Meeting place to destination	
LAST AVAILABLE	PETROL: Mansfield
FUEL	DIESEL: Mansfield
EQUIPMENT	Self sufficient
REQUIRED	Chains for tyres

Minutes of General Meeting April 2012

General Meeting 4th Arpil 2012

The meeting was held at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club and was opened at 8.10pm by President Bruce Cremonesi

Present: There were 21 members present as

per the attendance book

Apologies: There were 12 members present as

per the Apologies book

Visitors: There were 6 people listed in the

Visitors Book

Minutes of previous General Meeting

Accepted: Seconded:

Correspondence in OverLand Cruisering

Review

Correspondence out

5 emails to prospective new visitors/members Club Magazines as per usual Forms to FWDvic for new Trainers

Treasurers report (not available)

Trip reports

Bruce did a high country trip which included a couple of new and potential members, and whilst he was describing the trip, some of the photos were viewed via projector onto the wall.

Trip coordinators report

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

Type	When	Where	Trip
			Leader
Week-	Easter	Sheepyard	Mark +
end		Flat	Cath
Week-	Easter	Pinch River	Johan
end			
2 weeks	1 st 2 weeks	Simpson	Dan
	July	Desert	
Snow	13/14 July	Mt Skene	Mark +
W/end			Cath
Xmas in	27/29 July	Tba	Mark
July			
Week-	Easter	Walhalla	Bob McKer-
end			row

Event Coordinators Report

Xmas in July

Need someone to run the annual fishing/camping

General business

Driver trainers issues over the past couple of months with the association, but we have now managed to get that sorted out, so we can run training courses again this year. We don't have dates yet, but is likely to be done in May.

Club web site is updated - any issues please let us know.

New members kits are available, and we should be able to hand these out at the next meeting.

Been having some issues with the outgoing club emails - lots of people who were on the list that should not be, and we are checking that those who should be getting email are.

John Partridge and Tina Martini got married on the weekend - and are heading off on their honeymoon.

Club forum is up and running - go and have a look and a play.

Other Business

Visitor - Theo. Offering Diesel/Gas conversions.

Raffle (no raffle)

Meeting Closed: 9:30 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 8.00pm 2nd May 2012 at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club.

NOTICE TO 2 CUID MCMOETS



Xmas in July



After such success last year, we have scheduled in another

Christmas in July, (currently booked in, July 27th - 29th). This will be funded by the club excluding Alcohol and drinks & we were still looking into adequate camping areas within a 1-2 hour of Melbourne.

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 May 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 the trip co-ordinator. trips@vfwdc.com.

For Sale Husqvarna 350 Chainsaw



Saw owned since new and well looked after. Used mainly for camping so not abused and kept clean. Recent new 18" bar, chain in good condition.

\$430 obo Ashley - 0438 600 904



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.

If your personal details have changed in the last 12 months, could you please send an email through to the committee advising of your new details. This ensures all club members are kept up to date on the latest club news.

EVERYTHING

86 Camms Road, Cranbourne, 3977

P: 03 59955055 F: 03 59955199

E: sales@everything 4wd.com.au W: www.everything4wd.com.au



New retail store is now open with full workshop facilities

- Fitting - Servicing - Repairs -

Now selling from the following brands:

Auspit Milford Cargo Barriers **Outback Accessories** Boab

Bush BQ Piranha

Camel Camper Trailers Rhino Roof Racks **Ctek Battery Chargers** Safari snorkels Don Kyatt Spare Parts Silverstone Tyres **Dynamic Rims Sinergex Invertors Hayman Reese Towbars Terrain Tamer**

Ironman Tigerz11 winches

Xrox Bars King Springs Koni Shocks xXx Driving lights

Our products include:

Air Jacks Long Range Tanks **Power Monitors Awnings Power Outlets Batteries**

Battery Chargers Rear Protection Step Towbars

Bullbars Rear Wheel Carriers

Camper Trailer Hire Recovery Gear Camper Trailer Sales **Roof Racks** Compressors **Rooftop Tents** Diff Breather Kits Snorkels **Driving lights Spare Parts**

Dual Battery Systems Storage Systems Dual Battery Trays Suspension Kits

Fridges Synthetic Winch Rope HID Conversion kits **Ute Canopies**

HID Driving Lights Ute Liners High Lift Jacks Water Tanks Inverters Winches

Discounts available for all 4WD club members





















Easter Trip 2012

TL: Mark & Cat Felton Max & Sandra TEL: Gary Smith



Thursday
After having an attendees list
of 7-8 vehicles a few days
before the weekend, we
ended up with a total of three
vehicles. Our two attendees
were meeting us at
Sheepyard early on Friday

morning, so Mark and I made a decision to head up to Sheepyard, straight after work. We had a very good run, travelling in between traffic jams, drove through three lots of breath testing including the numerous ones in Mansfield and we made it to Sheepyard a bit before 10pm, it was not a bad run for the Easter long weekend. Sheepyard Flat was like Bourke Street, we were fortunate enough to squeeze in amongst the hundreds of tents/ trailers/campervans and caravans, that already had already been there for ages. We set up

camp, went to the toilets, where they were very full and it was only the start of the long weekend, it wasn't good, as when their full, people would start going anywhere they liked, making for a very yucky campsite, thank fully we were moving on tomorrow.

Friday

We had headed off to bed early last night and we were very fortunate that it was very peaceful night's sleep, although it may not have been the same for tonight. We packed the car, ate breakfast, all the while listening on the UHF for Max & Sandra and Gary to arrive. We heard Sandra come across the radio and Gary joined in, not far behind them. Greetings were exchanged, discussions were held in relation to the direction we were going to head off in. Original plans were slightly changed and we headed off

in the opposite direction, up to the slate mine, where morning tea was consumed and plenty of photos taken.

We continued on the trails to Mitchells homestead, then on route up some tracks, that Mark & I have



travelled many a times with Scouts many years ago. But since the devastating bush fires a few years ago, the environment had changed greatly. A once tall timber forest was now the resemblance of an overgrown goat track, with lots of short shrubs and looked like nobody had travelled this tracks in awhile. We stopped for lunch break and both Sandra and I drove for a little while till we turned off onto



Grimme track and drove down some pretty hairy stuff, where we stopped for more photos and the boys once again took over the driving.

We then took Blue Plains Spur track, which was a very good track to travel down, to the Macalister River. It was getting very late in the day, when we decided it was time to find a campsite, Gary had suggested there were a few along the Macalister River, where we found ourselves at the bottom of the track we were going to head up tomorrow. We had this whole campsite to ourselves, all three of us. This was as remote as Mark and I had ever been, it was really great, as we were in a big valley and situated next to a big river and roaring falls. We set up camp, and then we searched and gathered firewood. Thanks very much to Max, for

him bringing his chainsaw, which was well used for the whole weekend.





Dinner of fish and salad were consumed, followed by hot cross buns in the jaffle iron, toasted in the fire. We chatted into the night, when the winds started to pick

up and were roaring up the valleys. Then the rumbling and lighting came, so we decided to put everything under, when it started to pour with rain. It kinda put a damper on the night and we all decided to retire to bed, with the winds still fiercely rolling up and down the surrounding valleys. It wasn't until the early hours of Saturday morning, that they died down and I could finally get a few hours of decent sleep. Cat Felton

Saturday

"Well what can we say. We woke up to yet another sunny but cool morning next to a crisp running river surrounded by a wall of gumtrees and rock. Our first track was Butcher Country track and it was "hell and exhilarating" right from the start. Many steep rocky parts. We hit our first hump about 50mtrs up the incline, we all stopped to take a look back down the track and couldn't believe how high we had come in such a short time. We travelled along butcher link road and then we headed onto Caledonia River track. A stunning track giving us so many varying types of scenery and 4wdring. From easy gravel to rocky to bogholes alongside high trees, ferns, shrubs, snowgums, streams and rivers. We hit two bogholes on this track. We stopped, looked, decided what to do and the After breakfast everyone left to visit the graveyard and best place to put your wheels. Mud, water flying



everywhere and smiles and relief after that. Next bog! This one was a beauty. Mark got stuck and couldn't get over the back of the bog. He winched out with Max's virgin tree protector and a virgin no more. With pulling Mark out it smoothed the hump a little enough for Max and Gary to get through the bog without the winch. Max got through with "gutso" and Gary drove through it with such dignity and grace he made it look so easy.

We drove through Mt Howitt rd and drove through the magnificent high plains of the Alpine National Park. We stopped for a quick look at Howitt hut and then proceeded to head down towards Zeka Spur track and onto Wonnangatta Valley towards our camp for the night at Wonnangatta. After alot of rocky and long dusty



tracks later we were rewarded by seeing at close range (within 3-5metres away) two mating pair of wedge tail eagles who were feeding on a dead rabbit, road kill from the night before. Driving along Wonnangatta Valley we settled on an open field to camp for the night, in between two other campsites. After a long hard drive, we were sitting by the camp side, which was such a pleasure with everyone in bed by about 10ish ready for an early rise the Max & Sandra next morning"

Sunday

After what had started out as a cold night I awoke in my roof feeling snug and warm. As I emerged into the real world at Wonnangatta Station I discovered that there was light cloud and some mist in the valley.

homestead site. I stayed back, trying to dry the condensation out on the roof top tent. I caught up with the others before they headed to the homestead ruins. It was there that Max and Catharine decided to have a go at walking up a steep track that had once been open to 4WD's. They didn't make it, and returned to the care park somewhat exhausted.

We then commenced driving along Wonnangatta track via

the Elms Camping area. It was dusty, and had a fair amount of traffic on it. One GO wanted to get somewhere in a hurry and seemed able to see right trough the dust. Eventually we turned onto Wom-



bat Range track some fairly steep sections. Other traffic slowed us down from time to time and visa versa. There was Great views of both sides of the track for those not concentrating on staying on the track itself.



At Cynthia Range track we proceeded down wards into the valley until we got to Station Track and the real decent part of the tracks started. At the old Racecourse we decided to find a lunch spot by the river. That done, we started into our lunch while the local gun club blasted away on the other side of the river. They stopped soon afterwards, but the some voungsters arrived on there motor bikes and raced around us just to keep us company. We then proceed to Talbotville, which was busy. Campsites where at a premium, so we drove off up the Crooked River track looking for a site. 22 water crossings later we found a largish site at Bulltown, or the former site of Bulltown. A dead tree was fetched, and cut up, followed by a blazing fire as the night closed around us. Another pleasant night around the campfire proceeded. I went off to sleep wondering how tough Bulltown spur track would be in the

morning. I don't think the others had driven it before!

Many thanks to Catharine and Mark for yet another great Touring Trip. Gary Smith

Monday
We got up
about same
time as we
had on
previous
days, but
the weather



was not as nice, as dark clouds loomed over our heads. But that did not worry us too much, we had brekky and then we packed up headed off up Crooked River track. We had a few easy river crossings then started climbing up the hill. To get to the top we got to an area which looked like it could of been the top but it was on a turn off to the heli-pad which had great views even with the sky

looking so ominous in the distance.

We had a look and a chatted to another group who was not very well prepared for where they were thinking of heading as they even had a map of where they were going (typical NSW tourists). Once we did get to the top of the mountain we found a possible walking trail to a gold mine which looked like it would not take that long. We were wrong, we got to near half way down when Gary and Sandra decided to head back but Max,

Catherine and I kept heading towards the mine. We got fairly close to where the mine was and looked out through the valley and realised we needed to go back or the rain would make it almost impossible to climb back up to the car and I also realised I left my keys in the door of the patrol (gosh it wasn't a good feeling thinking I had lost the

keys, possibly anywhere in between where we were and where the car was parked). The three of us turned around and headed back to the cars Max went ahead

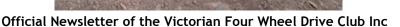
of us and thankfully brought us some Easter eggs and water as we had

almost run out of water. And just as we got back to the cars the heavens opened and we all

decided it was time to head out to Dargo. We stopped at the Grant cemetery where we aired up, Max and Sandra went off in front as they wanted to get to the Dargo pub for lunch where Gary and us caught up with them.

We left Gary at the Dargo pub as he still had more time off, lucky man as we all had to head home it was a great trip with even better company.

Thanks to Gary for his knowledge and help on the tracks and to thanks to Max and Sandra for all their support on the trek. Mark Felton





April 2012

Clubs & Volunteers

New regulations recently introduced regarding Clubs and Volunteers, require club committees to be aware of, and understand their obligations under the new legislation. As a result of this, your Association has arranged for two experts in this field to address these requirements and how they will relate to your club. So at our next President's meeting to be held on Saturday 28th April, we are opening this meeting to both Presidents and their entire Club Committee. Guest Speakers on the day will be Mr Barry Sherriff and Mr Paul Davenport who will present the topic **OH&S and Risk Management in Clubs.** So if you are a Club President or Club Committee Member and have never been to a President's Day before, then this is definitely the one that you can not afford to miss.

4WD Victoria Calendar – Photography Competition

In 2013 4WD Victoria are going to produce a calendar. The concept is for each of the twelve months to carry a full page image of a scene containing a 4WD Photos provided to 4WD Victoria will be automatically entered into our monthly Photography Competition, in which photos submitted will be judged, with each of the monthly winning photos being used as one of the calendar's twelve monthly images. Each monthly winner selected by our judges will receive a 4WD Gift voucher to the value of \$280.00 (incl GST), monthly winners will also go in to a Final Draw to be held on Monday 3rd December 2012 for the Major Prize of a Digital Camera to the value of \$400 (incl GST) Entrants can only win one monthly entry, multiple monthly wins are not allowed. So come on all you budding shutter bugs, get you entries in for your chance to win some great prizes. Further details are available in the April Edition of Trackwatch Magazine (pages 30 & 31).

Jamieson - Licola Road Seasonal Closure

Mansfield Shire Council has advised that they will be closing the Jamieson - Licola Road from Thursday 14th June to Thursday 1st November 2012. Under the MOU signed between 4WD Victoria and the Mansfield Shire Council, Clubs/Members wishing to use the road may apply to do so by completing the Jamieson – Licola Road Permit application on the FWDV Website under the Track Information / Track Permits tab. Once issued the Permit must be carried in the vehicle at all times when using that road. Please Note: A minimum of 14 days notice is required to process applications.

New 4WD Victoria Board Members

4WD Victoria would like to welcome two new members to the Board of Management, namely Colin Oates - Immediate Past President of City Off Peak 4WD Club, and Eric Bishop from the Toyota Land Cruiser Club. We congratulate Colin and Eric on their appointment to the Board and look forward to working with them over the coming months.

Education & Training Unit

The Education and Training Unit are looking for members to join their Sub committee, anyone with an interest in Driver Training, Chainsaw Training, Map Reading / GPS, and Trip Leading may apply, however preference will be given to those members who are already qualified instructors. If you would like to contribute to the success of 4WD Victoria's ETU, please contact the Office and we will put you in touch with a member of ETU who can discuss with you what is required of a member on this very important Sub-committee.

4WD Victoria on Facebook & Twitter

4WD Victoria are now on Facebook and Twitter, so be sure to 'Like' us on Facebook or 'Follow' us on Twitter to receive exciting updates, enjoy additional offers, and be part of the 4WD Victoria Community.

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