

SEPTEMBER 2013

Free Wheeling



Christmas In July - Talbotville

Notice Board

VFWDC GENERAL MEETING VENUE

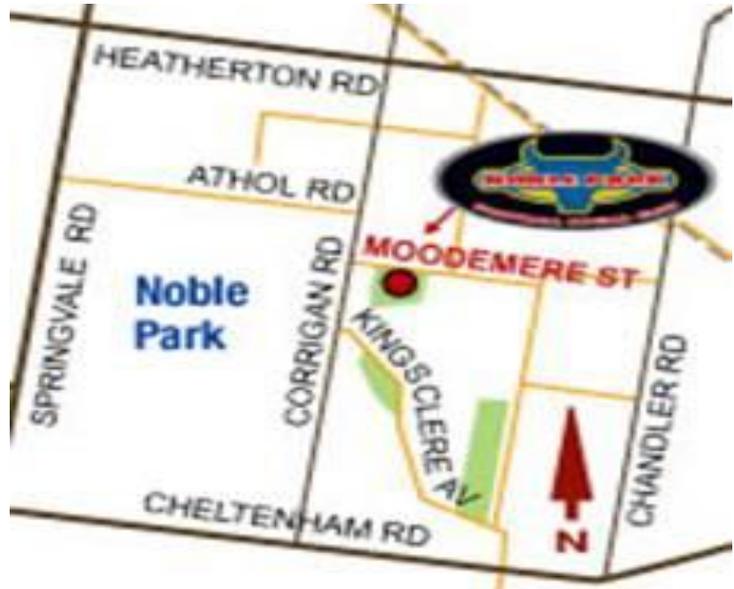
The club meets at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club, 46-56 Moodemere St, Noble Park on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 8.00pm (No meeting in January and November meeting at selected location). Members and Guests are welcome to dine at the Bistro before attending the meeting.

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 September newsletter. This month brings us another month closer to the seasonal tracks being opened again and just a few weeks away from day light savings starting, bring on the longer days and warmer weather.

Catherine

Editor@fwdc.com



**COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT
2013-2014**

President	John Partridge	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	Sally Higgs	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Steve Pitcher	treasurer@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Andre Van Derwalt	secretary@vfwdc.com
GENERAL COMMITTEE		
Assistant Secretary		assist@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	Tristan Higgs	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Catherine Felton	editor@vfwdc.com
Web Manager	Bruce Cremonesi	web@vfwdc.com
Training Officers	Phillip Griffith	
Association Delegate	David Bruinsma	
Librarian		
Merchandise		
General Committee	Ben Whitworth	

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
	The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)



VFWDC ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

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



CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2013				
October	Wednesday 2nd	General Meeting		
	23rd	Committee Meeting		
November	Wednesday 13th	General Meeting		
	1st—5th	Melbourne Cup Weekend - Knockwood Reserve	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207
	21st	Committee Meeting		
December	Wednesday 4th	General Meeting		
	7th	Club Christmas Party Break Up Party		
		Christmas - New Year trip		
January 2014		NO GENERAL MEETING		
	24th - 27th	Murray River Trip - Long Beach (Ulupna Island)	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207
	22nd	Committee Meeting		
February	5th	General Meeting		
	22nd	Committee Meeting		
March	5th	General Meeting		
	19th	Committee Meeting		
April	2nd	General Meeting		
	23rd	Committee Meeting		
May	7th	General Meeting		
	22nd	Committee Meeting		
June	4th	General Meeting		
	19th	Committee Meeting		

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello and welcome to the new (committee) year.

At last month's meeting we held our normal General Meeting, an Extraordinary General meeting to vote in the new rules and also the Annual General Meeting. It was a busy night.

First of all, I would like to thank the outgoing committee members on their efforts over the last year. Without a doubt it was a busy year for them and with around 33 Club trips run throughout the year, I would say it was a very successful one!

Nominations for the new committee were received and accepted. The new committee for this year is:

John Partridge	President
Sally Higgs	Vice President
Steve Pitcher	Treasurer
Andre Van Der Walt	Secretary
Catherine Felton	Newsletter Editor
Tristian Higgs	Trip Coordinator
Ben Whitworth	Web Manager

It's fantastic to see some new faces on the committee this year, I'm sure they will bring some new thoughts and perspectives to the committee to help this great Club moving forward. I look forward to working with you all and I thank you for your enthusiasm.

The new Club rules were successfully voted in. The new rules will be uploaded onto the website for your viewing. If anyone wants a hard copy mailed out to them, please let Andre the Club Secretary know.

The love of the outdoors and exploring it in our 4WD's with likeminded people, is what the Club is about, and is what we do best. Over the years we've had club trips heading to nearly every part of this great land, and I'm looking forward to see where our Club members go this year. The Committee is here to help you in any way we can. If you have any questions, whether it is about destinations, trip procedures or even vehicle preparation, we are here to help.

Until we meet at the meeting, keep it safe,

John Partridge

President, VFWDC Inc.

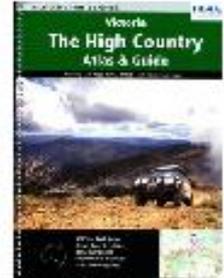
EVERYTHING 4WD

Shop 1B, 280 South Gippsland Hwy,
Cranbourne, 3977
P: 03 59955055
F: 03 59955199
E: sales@e4wd.com.au
W: www.e4wd.com.au

For all your 4x4 needs

**We have move to a new larger shop and workshop on the highway.
10% off stock items for all club members!**

We have a large range of Hema maps, books and GPS's in stock as well as the Rooftop maps + more



We are now approved Redarc solar & 12 volt distributors and installers

Contact us for all your 12 volt power and solar needs for your 4x4, camper or caravan



Everything 4WD is the largest South Eastern Suburb dealer in Tough Dog suspension
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Roadsafe 4WD have a huge range of steering arms, trailing arms, panhard rods, swaybar extensions, tie rod ends, ball joints, shackles, wheel spacers, strut spacers, spare wheel holders, rated tow points and much much more.

Most of this we have in stock ready to go.



Minutes of General Meeting August 2013

The meeting was held in the Bowls club, Noble Park Football Club and was opened at 8.15pm by Club President Mark Felton.

Present: members present as per the attendance book

Apologies: members present as per the Apologies book

Visitors: There was 1 person listed in the Visitors Book

Minutes of previous General Meeting

Accepted : Sally Harris

Seconded : Andrew Hooper

Matters arising:

NIL

Correspondence in

Land rover Review

CCJC

Overland Cruiser

Membership renewals

Correspondence out

August news letter

Treasurer's report

Term Deposit	\$ 7150.53
Cheque A/C opening	\$ 4883.62
Money In	\$ 470
Moneys Out	\$ 1722.09
Cheque A/C	
Closing balance	\$ 3753.63
Petty Cash	\$ 150
Consolidation balance	\$ 11054.16

Accepted: Max Germasi
Tristan Higgs

Trip reports

Snow trip A - Had some rain on Friday night. Woke up at 7 with some fresh snow, all day on Saturday. Had some fun in the snow and did a night run.

Snow trip B - Had rain all weekend. Headed up on Saturday and joined Snow trip A. Threw some snow at each other. Had lunch together and went their separate ways. Mark kissed an embankment, no damage.

Xmas in July - Talbotville camping. Sally and family arrived on Thursday and got blown away! Was very wet and cold. David and convoy arrived on Friday afternoon. Dinner was very good. After dinner we went well. Saturday ladies drive

- Emily did her first 4wding and river crossing.

Trip coordinators report

Type	When	Where	Trip Leader
Non 4wd	16 - 18 August	Shepparton	Mark 'n'Cat
Week long	First week Sept	Murray Sunset to Echuca	Max and Sandra
Easy trip (first time)	Saturday 21 September	Woods point (planned)	Emily
Easy trip (A/T suitable)	First weekend August	Mt Useful	Johan
Night run	Friday night 10 August	Toolangi (Marginal road)	Dean

Events Report

NIL

Association Report

NIL

General business

Mark Kochan presented his 25 year silver membership

Other Business

Committee nomination to be made during the break.

Special Resolution: Replacing the Club constitution with Club rules as per Consumer Affairs Victoria.
Club president puts forward a resolution to Change Rules.

David Bruinsma 2nd the resolution.
 Resolution is passed 27/30 votes.

Raffle

Winner	Item
Bell	Saw blade
John Kokas	Recon Laptop
Andy Pelletiel	Led marker
Tristan	DVD
James	Led marker
Mark	Recon Laptop

Meeting Closed: 9:40 pm

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

Trip Reports

Tour to Talbotville

Sally Higgs

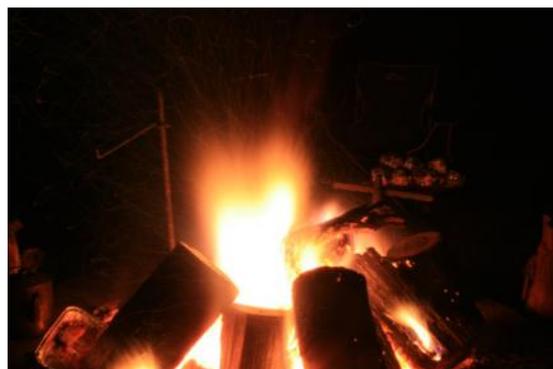
An early start on Saturday 5th July had us meeting Andre and his family on the Princes freeway near Pakenham at just on 7am. Breakfast was at our favourite Golden Arches in Moe to give us the sustenance to make the trip through to Talbotville. Andre had been asked to get some fire wood on the way so not long out of Sale Andre pulled over and we loaded his trailer up with dry firewood for the fire that night. It was a pretty uneventful trip and we made it to Dargo in good time. We made our way up through to Talbotville. We pulled over near the Collingwood Spur track and we had 2 options the 4WD way or the 2WD way....that was a hard decision so we air downed and headed down Collingwood Spur.



At the bottom of the track we turned onto Crooked River track and meandered our way up the track where we came to our first river crossing for the day. Tristan and Andre checked out the best path through as there appeared to be a couple of holes that would not be fun going into (well not this trip) and then we proceeded to cross. Not far up the track we saw a group of campers so we pulled over as we thought they were our crew... they were not so we cruised past their site and did the Queens wave to them and carried on our way and onto the second and last river crossing for the day.



We got to camp just on lunch time so got the tents set up and began to prepare for dinner. First step build a giant fire!



After a beautiful dinner of salads, spit roast pork, lamb and chicken a night drive was on. Most people went but I stayed by with Neola, Bianca and Caroline to tend the fire. It was warm and cozy so we spent the night chatting away while I tried out my first star trail photography as the night was clear and the stars were bright. It took me some time to get the camera on the right settings but I managed to get something that resembled a trail as can be seen in the photo. I will have to do some more practise though to get the best shot.



The morning dawned overcast and a bit chilly as I cracked ice on our tent. The breakfast of champions was cooked



with oatcakes, bacon and eggs the orders for the day.



We headed home in convoy with Andre and his family and John as we all packed up at the same speed. We aired up in Dargo and checked out the general store for some transmission fluid for Andre as he had a light come on but they did not have any so we took it easy driving home stopping in Sale for lunch with Colonel Sanders. The light did not come on again so all was ok. There were a few interesting drivers on the way back to Melbourne which provided some entertainment for us. The rain came in just as we got close to Melbourne. Overall it was a great weekend that was about getting to know people and have a relaxing time in the bush. Thanks to the committee for organising.

I meet up with David and his family at his home at around 10 am on Friday morning. After a trailer brake and light check we were off heading for the high country. It was an easy drive I just had to avoid the large chunks of mud falling off Dave's car, we had a few stops along the way, once for fuel in Sale, two more times to gather timber filling Dave's trailer and the back of his ute and again in Dargo to get the all important maple syrup for the pancakes and a splash of fuel for myself. We arrived at Talbotville at 3:30 pm and were greeted by Sally, Em, Mick and John who had arrived the day before and apparently it was horrible, wet, windy and cold they even had trouble keeping a camp fire going due to the conditions. We wasted no time setting up our own camp sites in case the weather set in again. It remained windy but not that wet for the rest of the weekend.

On Saturday we had a relaxing start to the day by having a late breakfast and sat around the camp fire while deciding to go for a drive and also collect some more fire wood. Em convinced me to let her drive my car as mine is an automatic and she needed the hours - What a WHITE NUCKLE decision that was!!! Only kidding, she did really well. We returned to camp with Dave's and Mick's cars full of wood ready for a large camp fire for the evening. Once the cars were unloaded, it was time to sit around the fire and wait for everyone else to turn up and set up camp and also get ready for the Xmas meal.

Andre and Dave set up and tendered to the spits, Sally and Em took care of the pudding, everyone else did their bit to help - we even squeezed in happy hour before dinner, the meal was great no one went hungry. After we had eaten we decided to go for a short night drive then back to the camp fire and a few drinks.

Sunday was communal breakfast with Dave at the hot plate ,then sadly time to take down the camp and head home. I left with Andre and family and Tristan and Sally. It was a really relaxing weekend - no stress, everyone got on and helped each other.

Regards

John kokas (Jack).=

Saturday July 6th David and family, John, Sally and Mick, Jack (John) and Em (Me) all headed off to go for a nice drive but this drive was a little different. After talking to Jack and David it was decided that I would be doing the driving in Jack's car. This was the first time I had driven while Four Wheel Driving. Jack drove the first river crossing to see how deep it was and then after 10-15 mins we headed back the way we had just gone and this time I drove the river crossing. For me it was quiet scary as it was the first river crossing I had ever done. After that we headed down Crooked River Track.

We did a few river crossings and then we started to have some fun with recording me going through them. It was really good as I had David on the radio guiding my through and showing me where to place my wheels when he went through and I also had Jack in the car guiding me as well. It was so much fun. I loved been able to say that I did my first bit of Four Wheel Driving. In the end all us girls got to drive back to camp. I did 24 river crossings and I actually got the car back to camp in one piece without any damage which was a bonus. Thankyou Jack for letting me drive your car and thankyou David, Jack, Sally, Mick, John for having faith in me that I could do it.

X-mas in July: Emily's Highlights

Mick, Sally, John and me went up Thursday morning. My highlight would have to be the driving I got to do thanks to Jack and David. I hadn't been on a camping trip with David and family, Andre and family, or Tristan and Sally. The roast was great and everyone came to help prepare it. Was a fantastic weekend and we headed home with David and family, Sally, Mick and John



X-mas in July: Sally's Highlights

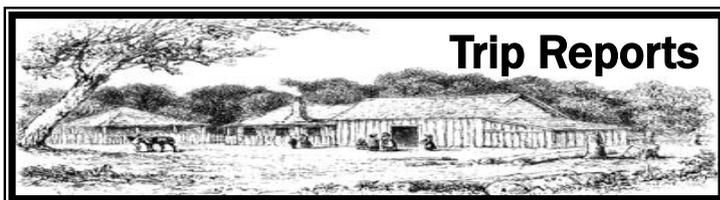
John and Em, Mick and Sal (me) went up on the Thursday morning. We set up camp and found some firewood. It was windy so we all went to bed early. During the night the wind picked up and was so strong it moved our camper. Not much sleep was had.

Friday morning we got up and went for a drive to get fire wood for the weekend. We returned to camp and unloaded the wood. Set a nice fire and waited for Dave and family and John (Jack) to arrive. Which was around 3.30pm. We all sat around the fire and had a few drinks. It was getting cold and the wind was picking up again. So it was an early night again.

Saturday morning we all got up had cuppers and brekky then we went for a drive and to collect more fire wood. We found a camping spot with fire wood cut and found some more that we cut up. On the way back to our camp we girls got to drive. It was my first time driving off road. It was so much fun. I did 13 river crossings. We all made it back to camp in one piece and cars where all fine.

We had lunch and waited for the others to come. Andre and family, Tristan and Sally and Johan and family came around 2.30pm. Dave started cooking the meat and the rest of us put our food together. We had a great feed. After dinner we went on a night drive. Came back to camp and sat around the camp fire trying to keep warm.

Sunday we all packed up. John and Em, Dave and family and Mick and myself went home together.



Trip Reports

Trip report. 29/06/2012 Dave's 'Muddie' day trip - Toolangi state forest

Attendees:

David trip leader - Navara

Mark and Cat - Patrol

Ben - Landcruiser

James - Hilux

Keith - Discovery

Stu and Maree - Pajero

Scott and Amanda - Navara

Andre - Landcruiser

At the end of Dave's latest Toolangi night run in May, we stumbled upon a track that appeared to be a goldmine of bogholes and endless fun. However, it also seemed to be just a little too challenging to be attempted at 11:00pm on a Friday night and was decided it would be much safer during daylight hours and so was born the idea of 'Dave's Muddie day trip'.

We all meet at Lilydale Macca's at 8am Saturday morning for breakfast and coffee. After a short briefing we all took off to find the track we had discovered on our last night run in May. When we arrived at the entrance to the track, we aired down and took the opportunity to capture some pictures of our clean trucks while it lasted.

We stopped at the first boghole and decided it would be best if the first vehicle, Ben's cruiser, took the chicken track, just in case the hole was to prove too challenging for Dave and his Navara. Of course this was not the case and he made it through with ease, followed by Scott and his Navara, also making it through with no problems. Amongst all the excitement, somebody forgot to tell James to prepare his vehicle and attach a strap to the front recovery point, so when the Hilux got stuck in the centre of the bog hole, the people helping with the recovery found themselves having to work in the mud to attach the strap.

Once the Hilux was dragged from the hole, it was time for the Discovery to get stuck in the mud. This time we made sure there was a snatch strap attached and ready to go, the only problem now is that the Hilux was the next vehicle in front and could not get any traction itself. We ended up having to attach the Discovery to the Hilux, which

was still attached to Scott's Navara, which pulled both vehicles about 300m up the track through the ruts and another 2 holes. Stu decided it would be best to go around the first hole. Andre was last through the first hole, making it through with no problems at all.

When we got to the second BIG boghole, Dave went around the side track and got himself into position in the ruts at the end of the hole, Ben then attempted to go through the hole and was stopped after only about 2 metres in. After being snatched out of the hole backwards by Scott, we took the opportunity to let James in behind Dave and we all went around this hole.

Once back on the original track, Ben could not get enough traction and kept spinning his wheels, after dropping the tyre pressures further and packing sticks under all wheels, a few attempts and about 10 minutes later he made it past this short section. Meanwhile, down at the next mud hole, Dave and James were having some issues of their own trying to conquer this muddy pit, as James need to be towed along the track, Dave went in on a nice angle and decided it was time to reverse up and try another line. The winch was prepared, however not needed. On the third attempt, Dave made it through towing James along for the ride.

The next hole was very deep, but there was not a lot of water in it and had a very hard bottom. Dave dropped into the hole with a firm thud on the rear bar and couldn't quite make it up the steep exit. He reversed back to take another run at it, but when James (who's Hilux is still connected to Dave's Navara) saw the reverse lights, thought that Dave might need help to get out of the hole backwards and started to reverse.

Not knowing what is happening behind him, Dave then attempted to drive forward out of the hole, starting an oversize game of tug-of-war. Eventually the strap was disconnected and Dave drove straight out of the hole. All other vehicles took the chicken track around this hole, except Mark who was very excited show us what his patrol could do.

The final part of the track was a straight muddy section which everyone got through easily but the Discovery. After attaching the Discovery's strap to Scott's Navara, Ben took a dive face first in the mud and ended up being the dirtiest out of everyone, including the kids!

After we finished the track, we all stopped on the side of the main road and had some lunch and then decided to tackle another very steep, rocky track on the other side of the forest that was driven by Dave and a few others on a night run at the end of last year.

While the drivers were rechecking tyre pressures after the hour long drive, Cat and a few others decided to walk the first part of the track, after the first 100m or so they radioed down to tell us that the track condition may not be suitable for most or even all of the vehicles there. Dave decided to take a look at the track and drove up to where the others were. It was decided that the track would be too hard to tackle.

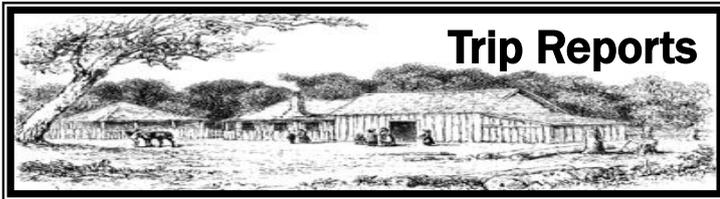
Before we had the chance to turn the vehicles around, a group of about a dozen highly modified trucks began weaving around our vehicles and one by one began driving up the track with very little space between each vehicle. We heard on the UHF a short time later that about half way up the track one vehicle became disabled and had drive to only one wheel. This reassured us that Dave had made the right decision, by not attempting this track.

We then decided to try another hill close by, which would be good for low range driving. Five trucks made it onto the track before it was evident the track turned into yet another extremely hard track and all vehicles were forced to reverse and turn around, which proved easier said than done. Once all the trucks were safely turned around and back down the track, we all headed out to the main road and aired up and said our goodbyes. It was during this time Dave had discovered he had damaged the front guard of his Navara!

Overall it was a very fun and enjoyable day, the sun came out (after the fog cleared), we saw some wonderful wildlife; including a wedgetail eagle, we had some great recoveries and our trucks became very muddy and so did some people (not mentioning names, Ben).

By Amanda Lehmann.





9/8/13 Night Run Toolangi State Forrest

Cars: Dean Pallone "GQ Patrol" Steve "Toyota Land-cruiser" Scott "Navara D40" James "Navara D22"

Heavy showers for Thursday and Friday were expected before the night run and all members knew that it was going to be an interesting night, especially whilst this night run was based more on the harder side of things with Rocky track the first track that we were going to head up. We met up at Toolangi at the corner of Melba Hwy and Marginal Rd for a 7:30pm departure.

I Dean Pallone as Trip leader had made first approach up Rocky track taking it nice and easy and looking out for any obstacles that other cars could/would get caught up on. It was highly recommended to take the chicken side of the track which was on the left hand side when coming up the hill as right side was more suited to 33" tyres and lockers. I had to help winch "Scott" up this hill and then he was back in action in no time at all, but at the same time we also realised a big night was ahead of us.

All vehicles made it up successfully and with out any damage it was time to push on, to find some other tracks which had been highlighted out on my maps. Due to season closures we had to do a few detours and u-turns which one u-turn for my self "Dean" turned out to be a little more challenging then the other ones. Dean had slide down this hill which lead to just a u-turn itself around a tree. It took 4 winch pulls of 4 different trees to pull him around a full 180 degrees as the rest of the crew had already done a u-turn and were back on the road again not realising I was still winching my way around.

From here on a few more tracks took place but not of a lot of action other then slippery roads, after almost calling it a night at 11pm we had decided to go up one last track, and as they say "That one last time is always the one that bites you on the behind". We decided to go up Klondyke Track which runs along Aeroplane Track, as the map says "V. Steep & Rocky" we thought we would give it a crack, up goes James first in his Navara D22 with 2" lift and 32" tyres, 10 minutes later we here over the UHF "WOOWWWW WOW THIS IS REALLY (FREAGN) ROCKY AND STEEP" along goes another 5 mins and then James called for assistants as he could not move at all. Having a unexperienced person as his winch partner wasn't much help so he called for more assistant, mentioning "I need help I don't know what to do but I have the winch holding me from rolling back".

Well this sounded promising, after deciding what the

safest thing to do we as a crew decided to drive around to the top of the hill and walk down to James from the top, BUOY was he a long way down, I wish us humans had a LOW range gear setting too because it would of paid off. Finally getting down to James we realised that he hadn't much of a chance of driving up the rest of the hill, we knew it was time to winch himself up. 4 hours of solid winching, swapping from tree to tree, moving big rocks, chocking the back wheels, double line winch pulls, torches going flat, people falling over, tired faces and patients getting low finally paid off. Finally James had gotten some sort of traction giving his D22 all it had, luckily for the extra boost, computer chip, exhaust and aftermarket large intercooler he finally grabbed some traction, stopping on a flat section of dirt and offered 8 large grown ups a lift straight back up the hill.

The excitement of finally getting him out and knowing that we are now on the road to air up the tyres and make our way home was the best feeling ever. Steve and his mate Ben decided to sleep the night there, having a few drinks and Kranskies which had been spoken about the whole night HAHAAH.

Over all it was a great night, we had worked hard but was rewarding, Scott and I "Dean" got home at 6 o'clock whilst I had work starting at 7am. Thanks for the members who attended and helped out winching it was a great night, lets do it again.....Minus all that winching.



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
VFWD 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.