

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers  
Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive  
Club Inc.

# Free Wheeling



**VFWDC**

**December 2015**

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

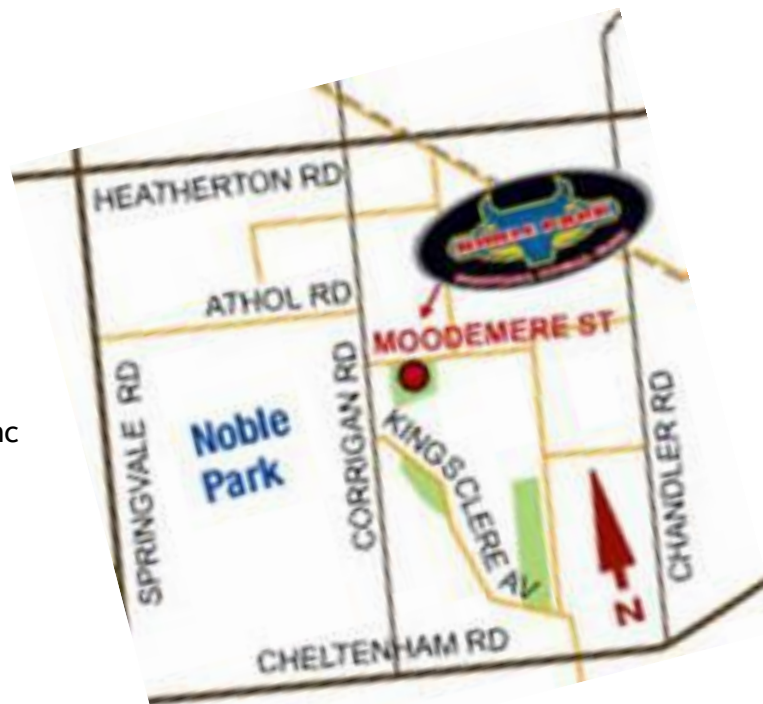
46-56 Moodemere Street

Noble Park

Melways ref: 89 D4

Aberfeldy Track managed by West Gippsland Inc

[www.westgippslandinc.com.au](http://www.westgippslandinc.com.au)



## ***FREE WHEELING***

Hello and welcome to the December magazine, due to having our committee meeting at ARB last month, there are no minutes for November. Please remember we have the clubs Christmas party on the 5th of December, hope to see you all there.

Thanks, Mandie

[editor@vfwdc.com](mailto:editor@vfwdc.com)

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT		
2015-2016		
President	David Bruinsma	<a href="mailto:president@vfwdc.com">president@vfwdc.com</a>
Vice President	Sally Higgs	<a href="mailto:vicepres@vfwdc.com">vicepres@vfwdc.com</a>
Secretary	Bruce Cremonesi	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
Treasurer	Tony Barbera	<a href="mailto:treasurer@vfwdc.com">treasurer@vfwdc.com</a>
GENERAL COMMITTEE		
Trip Co-Ordinator	Stuart Bowker	<a href="mailto:trips@vfwdc.com">trips@vfwdc.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Mandie Lehmann	<a href="mailto:editor@vfwdc.com">editor@vfwdc.com</a>
Associations Delegate	Mick Harris	<a href="mailto:delegate@vfwdc.com">delegate@vfwdc.com</a>
General Committee	Max Germasi	
General Committee	Tony Feltham	
SUPPORT POSITIONS TO COMMITTEE		
Web manager	Ben Whitworth	<a href="mailto:web@vfwdc.com">web@vfwdc.com</a>
Training officers	Phillip Griffith	<a href="mailto:training@vfwdc.com">training@vfwdc.com</a>
Merchandise	Carolyn Bruinsma	<a href="mailto:merchandise@vfwdc.com">merchandise@vfwdc.com</a>
Club Details		
Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club	
Registration No	A002184F	
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong VIC 3174	
Email	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>	
Website	<a href="http://www.vfwdc.com">www.vfwdc.com</a>	
The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of Four Wheel Drive Victoria - <a href="http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au">www.fwdvictoria.org.au</a>		

CLUB MERCHANDISE FOR SALE			
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
Club Drivers Jacket (Coat)	\$80.00 ea	VFWDC Windscreen stickers (small) \$6.00 (large) \$8.00	
We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.			
Email your order to <a href="mailto:merchandise@vfwdc.com">merchandise@vfwdc.com</a> . Please ensure you advise size required.			





## News From The President

Hello to all Club Members.

This month I am preparing my president report a lot earlier than usual, and I'm doing so for a couple of reasons. As a committee we have decided to help Mandie out by bringing forward the deadline for magazine submissions from the 20th of the month to the 15th of the month so that there is plenty of time for the magazine to be completed by the 25th of the month. Also, this month I have a lot on my mind and if I wait to long, I'd probably forget what I wanted to say.

What I want to say is that I am so proud to be a member of this club!

Ok, I managed to say that in only one sentence, but there is a lot of meaning behind those words. This time on a club trip, I happened to be the one that experienced a major mechanical failure of my 4wd. Luckily for me it was a clutch that let go, and not a major motor failure like has happened to 2 other club members recently, but to have a vehicle that you are very reliant on to get you to and from a holiday experience suddenly let you down, it is heart breaking just the same.

It was a humbling experience to have the support of the club members who where with me, aid me and my family to continue the journey to Beachport for Cup Weekend, by towing my trailer, emptying my ute into their vehicles, and making space for myself, Carolyn and Samuel. And when we got to camp and I realised that all my LED lighting was left behind in my Ute, a brand new pack of LED lighting was loaned to me to light up under my camper awning for the weekend.

I won't go into too much detail about all the events of the whole weekend, all I will mention in this presidents report is that we were welcomed into other people's cars all weekend and thus as a family we were still able to thoroughly enjoy our Beachport experience with 'our club members' (should be read as 'our dear friends').

And if that isn't enough to be happy about, our friends aided us on Cup Day Tuesday to bring the family, camper trailer and all our gear back to home at the end of the long weekend.

And wait, there's more! My Navara found its way home late on the Friday night thanks to the late return of other club members who picked it up fully repaired earlier on the Friday! Thanks team Tiny!

As a club we promote ourselves as being a family friendly group, that get together for 4wding and other social activities. I have said and heard it being said, that we will never leave a club member stranded whilst we are on a trip. This time I happened to be the member who was 'helped', and the club rallied around and certainly helped out in a big way.

We have a few activities coming up. By the time this goes into print (oops, goes online) we will already have been to visit the Dandenong ARB store. We also have the annual Christmas lunch gathering (back in Cranbourne) in early December. And Carolyn and I would like to have an open house on New Year's Eve for any club member who hasn't gone off on a trip and would like to have a gathering (yes I will have a fire pit going, and there will be a plunge pool to cool off feet). Please read through the trip data form for more information on ALL upcoming trips and events.

For anyone who has stumbled upon our web site and is reading our online magazine for the first time and are looking for a 4wd club to join, I would encourage you to come check us out at any of our general meetings held in Noble Park. Please come up to the front and take the time to introduce yourself to me, or any other committee member. We are a friendly bunch, and we try to keep our meetings as informal as possible whilst still maintaining decorum and getting through the important business items all clubs need to do.

As this will be the last magazine for 2015, I would also like to thank you all for your participation in the trips this year, and I trust and pray that all our members have a safe and relaxing Christmas break. I am looking forward to seeing you at upcoming meetings and trips.

David Bruinsma  
VFWDC President

David Bruinsma  
0417 747 860  
VFWDC Club President  
[www.vfwdc.com](http://www.vfwdc.com)



# CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

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2015 December				
2nd	Wednesday	General Meeting	President	
5th	Saturday	Day trip - Club Christmas Party	David	0417 747 860
12th	Saturday	Day trip - Woodspoint / Aberfeldy	Stuart	0428 539 157
tba		Possible trip Xmas week	Stuart	0428 539 157
31st	Thursday PM	New Years Eve	President	
2016 January				
15th	Friday	Deadline for magazine articles	Editor	
19th	Tuesday	Committee Meeting	President	
23rd - 26th	Sat. To Tues. Q.B'day weekend	Dargo, Wonnangatta - progressive trip	Stuart	0428 539 157
2016 February				
3rd	Wednesday	General Meeting	President	
15th	Monday	Deadline for magazine articles	Editor	
16th	Tuesday	Committee Meeting	President	
20th	Saturday	Wandin Show - setup	Committee	
21st	Sunday	Wandin Show	Committee	
2016 March				
2nd	Wednesday	General Meeting	President	
tba	tba	Driver Training - Theory	Ashley / Phil	0428134399 / 0419865472
5th -6th	Satu/Sun	Driver Training / Awareness practical	Ashley / Phil	0428134399 / 0419865472
12th-14th	Sat/Sun/Mon	Huts trip - Mansfield	Bruce	
15th	Tuesday	Deadline for magazine articles	Editor	
2016 April				
6th	Wednesday	General Meeting	President	
15th	Friday	Deadline for magazine articles	Editor	
2016 May				
4th	Wednesday	General Meeting	President	
15th	Sunday	Deadline for magazine articles	Editor	
2016 June				
1st	Wednesday	General Meeting	President	
15th	Wednesday	Deadline for magazine articles	Editor	
2016 July				
6th	Wednesday	General Meeting	President	
15th	Friday	Deadline for magazine articles	Editor	



# Treasurer's Report

## October 2015

<u>Cheque A/C`</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/10/2015	\$3,006.76
	Add:	
	Membership Renewals 2015 – 2016	\$190.00
	Merchandise Sales	\$84.00
	Raffle	\$85.00
	Total Monies In:	\$359.00
	Less:	
	Printing and Stationary	-\$507.48
	Four Wheel Drive Victoria Fees	-\$380.00
	Transfer out to Petty Cash Account	-\$38.47
	Refund Membership overpayment	-\$400.00
	Total Monies Out:	-\$457.08
	Closing Balance as at 31/10/2015	\$3,367.36
	Plus:Un presented Cheque #469/474/473	-\$868.87
	Actual Balance When Cheque's Presented	\$2459.88
<u>Term Deposit</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/10/2015	\$6,091.60
	Closing Balance as at 31/10/2015	\$6,131.52
<u>Petty Cash</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/10/2015	\$150.00
	Add: Transfer in from Cheque A/C	\$38.47
	Less: Catering Costs - Meetings	-\$38.47
	Closing Balance as at 31/10/2015	<u>\$150.00</u>
	<b>Consolidated Closing Cash Position</b>	<b><u>\$8,591.40</u></b>

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Christmas Party</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: David MOB: 0417 747 860
DATE	Saturday 5th December 2015
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. Corner of Ballarto road & Botanic Drive  11:30am to 3pm
GRADE  Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: easy  DRY: easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	This is just an opportunity to meet other club members, to socialise and get together without the expense of loading up with a huge amount of fuel and food and camping gear.  Free public car park, a short walk to a sheltered area with plenty of seating available  Good play ground available within viewing of the shelter.  Great toilet block right next door to shelter too.  Great friendship there too ... love to see you there ...
VEHICLE LIMITS	Plenty of parking available - only a short walk to carry your lunch (and the tin lids)
APPROX KMS  Meeting place to destination	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Cranbourne  DIESEL: Cranbourne
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Cranbourne
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Sunscreen - Hats, FOOD, Drinks
MAPS REQUIRED	none
RADIO CHANNEL      CB / UHF	UHF 12





# VFWDC CHRISTMAS PARTY

## 5th December 2015.

**WHERE:** Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. Corner of Ballarto road & Botanic Drive

Please follow the map below, follow the red line which marks the Philip Moors Drive to the car park to where you will need to walk (the yellow line) towards Woodland Picnic Area.

**TIME: 11:30-3pm**

**WHAT TO BRING:** BYO LUNCH AND BRING NIBBLIES TO SHARE. Would be a good idea to bring camp chairs.

Unfortunately Santa is very busy this year in the north pole making presents for all the good boys and girls and he has advised our club that he will not be able to make it to our club Christmas party.



## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Woods Point/Aberfeldy</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Stuart Bowker MOB: 0428539157
DATE	Saturday 12/12/15
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Longwarry (Eastbound) Caltex Hungry Jack's Crn Sand Rd and Princes Highway Longwarry North
GRADE  Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Medium  DRY: Easy to Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2  MAXIMUM: 10
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Longwarry Caltex  DIESEL: Longwarry Caltex
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	140 k
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery gear Picnic lunch and munchies for roadside stops, if anyone's interested we may stop at a café or the pub for dinner on our way home
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftop Walhalla-Noojee
RADIO CHANNEL      UHF	12

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>New Years Eve - Social get-together</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: David and Carolyn MOB: 0417 747 860
DATE	December 31st 2015
MEETING PLACE / TIME	The Presidential Dwelling (Berwick) (members, text me a request for address)
GRADE	WET: indoors DRY: outdoors
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Just an opportunity for club members to come together to celebrate New Year's Eve.  Basically it will be a 7 hr happy hour BYO drinks BYO share nibbles to place on a table If not raining, then we can have a fire pit outside. If it's HOT, there is a kiddies pool to keep us cool. (byo bathers if your keen)  Bring a camp chair - just in case, but we do have seating for about upto 10 to 15 otherwise.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: nil  MAXIMUM: street parking in a quiet court - double park in my front yard, and up the footpath wherever there is room
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL:  DIESEL:
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	The fridge is about a 10 second walk
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	yourselves
MAPS REQUIRED	A gps to navigate by road probably a good idea
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12 if your desperate (once you get close)

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Dargo, Wonnangatta Valley</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Stuart MOB: 0428539157
DATE	23 <sup>rd</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> January Australia Day weekend
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Pakenham Bypass BP/McDonalds Eastbound 7:30 am for 8:00 am departure
GRADE  Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Very Difficult DRY: Medium to Difficult
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Drive to Horse Yard Flat then down Billy Goat Bluff track, onto Dargo, up to Blue rag then down through Talbotville and up into the Wonnangatta Valley and out via Zeka Spur Track and home via Licola. This may change slightly due to the amount of other people about.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 1 MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	400 k
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Stratford or Briagolong DIESEL: Stratford or Briagolong
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	300 k
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery gear, <b>bring warm clothing as temperatures will be cold at night, camping at altitude.</b>
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftop Dargo Wonnangatta
RADIO CHANNEL      CB / UHF	UHF 12



# We Want Your Old Trip Notes

We are looking for old trip notes from leaders who have lead a trip in the past. This is to give other members some ideas of trips they could run. Please email our trip coordinator

[trips@vfwdc.com](mailto:trips@vfwdc.com)

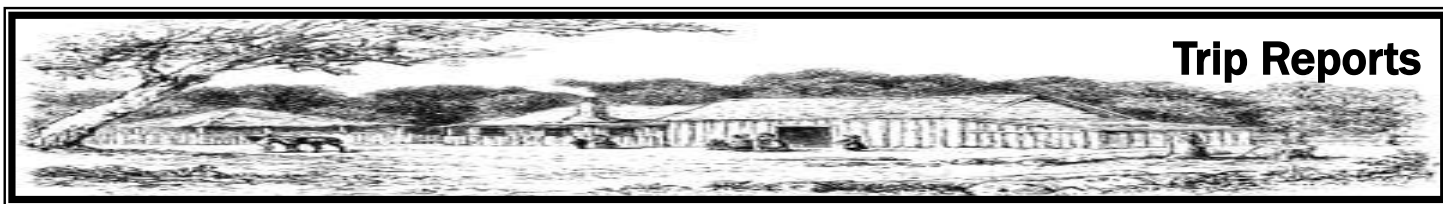
# YOUR PHOTOS WANTED!



If you have any great trip photos please email them to Ben [web@vfwdc.com](mailto:web@vfwdc.com) to add to the website gallery.

Make Sure you let Ben know which trip the photos are from. Please make sure to blur or black out all license plates.





## Trip Reports

### Cup weekend, Beachport/Robe

David, Carolyn, Samuel (car-less Woody) I had a Navara ?!?

John T (bullseye) Hilux

Ben and Claire (Ben 10) Triton

Tony and Lisa (team Tiny) Ranger

Tim and Carah (team X-men) Xtrail

Phil and Elaine (bender)

Bruce and daughter ( ) Patrol

John K (Jack) Patrol

Stuart and Marie (StuMaree) Landcruiser

Mick and Sally (bully) patrol

Ben W and tin lids (Big Ben) Landcruiser



Some of the crew got an early start on the Friday morning to try to beat the worst of the peak traffic. I inadvertently sent the wrong instructions to meet on the Calder freeway instead of the Geelong freeway, and had to pull over to quickly send text messages and make phone calls to redirect people,

which was not a really good start to my day, but I managed to get hold of everyone. Only one person was way ahead and was already on the Calder.

Eventually a small group of us travelled together via the Geelong bypass and headed off to Beachport via Cobden, Warrnambool, Heywood, Mt Gambier then to Beachport. As we were passing through Cobden, I felt my clutch start to let go. So not long after I asked John (bullseye) to tow my trailer to ease the load on my clutch. We managed to get as far as Heywood when my clutch finally gave up, leaving me stranded on the side of the road. A couple of quick phone calls led me about 1km down the road to the local RACV mechanic, and with help from Ben and Claire with the short tow to the mechanic, I got the car all sorted with parts arranged to come up from Melbourne after the weekend.

Team Tiny and Phil (bender) arrived not long after, and the rest of my gear and family got divided between the 4 trucks and we were helped all the way to Beachport. Mick n Sally (team bully) were already set up, and it didn't take long for us new arrivals to get set up and have dinner before dark. There was now time to sit back and have late happy hour to finish day one of the long weekend.

Saturday morning arrived with a little bit of a breeze, a late start by most whilst we enjoyed a leisurely breakfast and the arrival of Tim and Carah (X-men). Once they had their trailer set up, we aired down tires and took off at approx 10am to start our northerly adventure up the beach. With Bruce up front leading, John (jack) with myself as passenger followed by X-men, then bullseye, Ben 10, Phil (bender), team Tiny and in last place was bully (pushing us all along).

We introduced all people to the wave action on the tracks as we bounced along until our first run up the beach.

We eventually got to the 'bowl' and I managed to get plenty of photos and videos of all vehicles safely making up the first solid sand dune.

We kept meandering up the path ways and managed to get X-men stuck in a couple of places, mostly due to not enough clearance, otherwise the Xtrail performed rather well (could be the driver, or beginners luck ....).



We did manage to find one sand dune that had a bad ditch at the bottom which got about half the vehicles stuck on first 2nd, 3rd, 4th attempts, which mean X-men had to be towed up rather than burning the clutch out on further attempts, then bullseye had lots of goes, before I finally encouraged a totally different approach which saw him get up on his own steam which meant a massive scream of relief once he made the top ... (I heard it from outside, poor Caz who was a passenger ....)

All people travelled really well until we hit a really soft patch and team X-men were the first casualty of bottoming out, requiring extraction from Jack - who

promptly got stuck himself, requiring extraction by big Bruce. Further back in the field, bender got stuck as well, and when bullseye tried to help, he got stuck, which meant team tiny had to get bullseye out, then go back to extract bender. Lots of fun was had by all, but only a little bit embarrassing by those getting stuck. We retreated off the beach at this time to find shelter from the offshore breeze and have lunch behind the first big sand dune. After lunch we had our last run up the beach before heading inland to the big stretch of black stuff, airing up tires and heading back to camp.

At one point during the day, bender radios through that he had a weird nose coming from the front of his car. We found a great spot for everyone to pull over and quickly identified that a small leak had developed in his power steering low pressure pipe. Jack had some power steering fluid in his box of spares, then with the power steering topped up we got back on our way, and the bush mechanics were already figuring out how to fix it once we got back at camp. Big Ben and tin lids, and also StuMaree had arrived at camp just prior to our return, and had already set themselves up. An earlier happy hour was enjoyed by all before dinner was cooked (many took advantage of the big club BBQ) and more happy hour time.

On Saturday night, or early Sunday morning we had more wind, and also rain. I woke up determined we should do a road trip instead of the sand driving, but my dear wife managed to get everyone talked into more sand driving despite the rain. (Which ended up being a really good choice - but don't tell her I admitted to that). Tony and Phil were up early in the morning with some tools, magic tape and hose clamps and managed to fix the pipe problem under bender and declared bender ready for another good drive. So, once again we took off at approx 10am and we went south to check out the tracks and softer beaches. Team X-men decided to leave the Xtrail behind and caught a lift with team tiny. Not to sure who was the first victim of the soft beach sand this time, I think it was bullseye, then bender had to stop quickly and then couldn't get going again. Bullseye managed to get himself a bit further down the beach and got stuck again but on the beach exit. Meanwhile I had jogged back and helped bullseye lower tyre pressures down to about 10psi in his Cooper Tyres which saw him gently drive himself out of trouble. I think team tiny was involved in the recovery of bender again. Once we had regrouped off the beach behind another big sand dune, it was lunch time. We where determined to find the massive sand dune that John P had taken us to two years ago, and we finally found it at about marker 23 south. We all went up to the lookout over the lake towards all the wind farm towers, and everyone had at least one or more gos down the big sand dune, and trying to get back up. Momentum was certainly a factor, and low range, especially for the big rig that Stuart now drives.





After a good bit of playing around, we hit the beach again for our final run south to the lighthouse, and the beach was very soft, especially at the exit. Not sure if anyone got stuck, but a lot of wheel spin would certainly have been involved in every truck. At the lighthouse, we got a big group photo at the lookout, even got an interloper in the photo by mistake. After that, we all aired up before heading back to camp. A few people got fuel at the local port convenience shop, the rest of us headed directly back to camp. How bullseye got back to camp on an empty fuel tank I don't know, but his ute would have been on fumes only.

Like usual, happy hour and cooked dinner again on the BBQ. Followed by another happy hour. A group discussion that night meant that some people were interested in checking out some local winery's for the Monday, whilst others were interested in checking out the cave attractions. We lost our son to Ben and kids to check out the caves, whilst Caz and I took the back seat in team X-men's Xtrail as Carah was our designated winery tour guide. With 4 vehicles we went north past Robe to visit 3 particular winery's that were in close proximity to each other, and as a group we were not disappointed. The little boutique winery's were excellent and the tastings were enjoyed by all. We managed to pick up just a couple of bottles to bring home for Christmas. After the winery's we ended up in Robe for fish n chips for lunch, followed by ice cream for dessert. Arriving back at camp mid afternoon, we waited around for Ben and Bruce with all the kids to come back from the caves explorations. After dinner, happy hour was in the awning of Mick n Sally's new camper trailer, where the group thanked me for organising the trip, and for being such a good sport considering as the trip leader I was car-less, and everyone had enjoyed themselves immensely.

I think many people wandered off to bed earlier than usual on Monday evening, as most would be packing up to head home on the Tuesday. On Tuesday morning we battled with the wind to pack up, and once again the 4wd club group community spirit was evident. As each person was ready to pack their trailer up, there was a couple of people on hand, to help to do so, which made everything so much easier. Once again, my trailer was behind one vehicle (with Caz and Samuel as passengers) with a 2nd vehicle to help carry remainder of gear and myself.

Team bully, (Mick n Sally) Ben n kids, Stuart and Marie stayed behind a few more days to further explore the beach driving and other attractions, whilst the rest of us went home. I have since heard that Mick has found a great track up there for a night run next time. My Navara finally got home fully repaired on the Friday night, a big thanks to team Tiny who had offered to pick it up from Heywood and to drive it all the way back as they returned from their extended stay in Beachport. It has already been said by a few people that they are eagerly expecting this trip to be run again (obviously no pressure hey), I think my wife would also be in agreement. My gratitude and thanks to all club members who came along on this trip, it certainly has been memorable for me. I love the way the club members come together to help each other out. I am looking forward to my next adventure and trip with this club.

The Car-less Woody !





## Beachport with the VFWDC: A newbie's perspective

### TIM & CARAH

Hi. My name is Tim, and I own an X-Trail. So when the opportunity came up for my partner Carah and I to join in our first VFWDC trip, I'll be honest – I was a bit hesitant. Even though it's a fairly modified X-Trail (lifted, AT tyres, bash plates, custom rear storage etc)...it's still an X-Trail, with a braked LSD rather than a mechanical one, low ground clearance and no low range, I knew I was in for an interesting time. What I wasn't expecting, though, was the amazingly warm welcome we both received.

It didn't matter that we were in an SUV, everyone was patient and pitched in when we needed a bit of help and were more than willing to share their vast knowledge and some helpful tips (and it wasn't all "get a real 4wd"! ). The group were encouraging and respectful – it didn't matter to them what we were driving, they were just happy we were giving it a go and not killing the car or trying to push past its limits. The combined knowledge of everyone in the convoy meant we learned heaps about driving and recovery (and Carah is now well experienced in attaching the snatch strap!) and got to know the members on a more personal level than what we saw at the meetings.

I do need to take the time to specifically thank one person during the trip, our President David. He took the time to walk me through a number of things before the drive (as it was my first time 4wding, let alone 4wding on sand) and on the drive he put himself as a passenger in the vehicle in front of us. This meant he was on hand to guide me through tougher obstacles or during recoveries, or jump on the radio and just let me know what's coming up ("trust that the track is there" was very helpful!). So David, thank you – your help on that drive was very much appreciated!

Overall, it was a fantastic weekend away and a great introduction to 4wding and the VFWDC. The members were very welcoming and we can't wait to get back out on the tracks with you again – even if we can't drive because of the car we have (although I am looking at fixing that part...), we love the camping side of it just as much, especially with this amazing group of people.

# Beachport

30/10/2015 to 6/11/2015

Participants:

Maree & Stuart	Toyota
Phil & Elaine	Pajero
Bruce & Bec	Patrol
Dave Carolyn & Samuel	Car less
John T	Toyota
Jack	Patrol
Tim & Cara	X-Trail
Lisa, Tony & Tiny	Ranger
Ben, Ruby, Paige, Joel	Toyota
Ben & Claire	Triton
Sally & Mick	Patrol

Great turn out for the weekend



thank you to all who made it so great. Our contribution to the trip report.

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015**

Melbourne cup sweep organised, good luck everyone.

Sturt 1<sup>st</sup> John T 2<sup>nd</sup> Tony 3<sup>rd</sup>.

To retrace the beach drive to Robe.  
Let's describe it, up down the  
whoopsy doos, up and down again  
and again, and just for some changes  
it's up and down yet again. Stuart got



stuck,  
thanks for  
all the boys  
help and  
the max  
tracks back  
to the up  
and down  
and round  
and round.  
The track

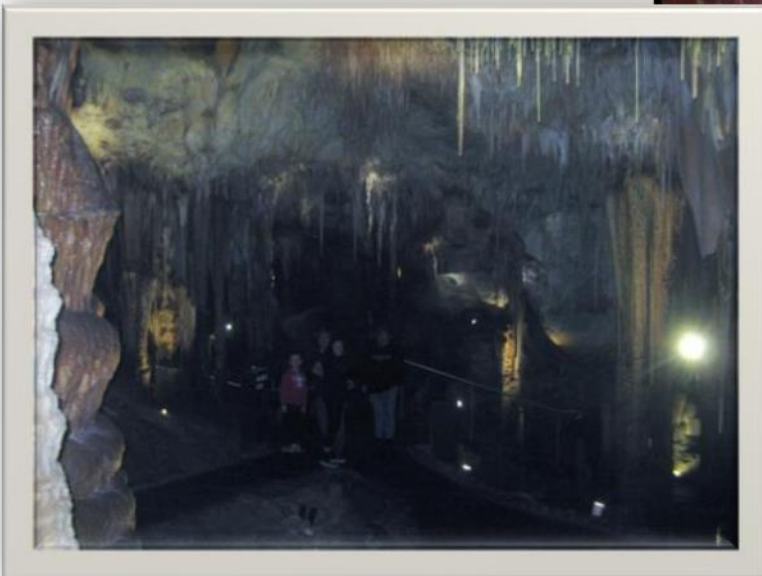
transcended sand dunes and inland tracks. The radio conversations went like this, it's a bit soft. You recon? Watch that next bump? Are you kidding which particular one you are referring too? The one on the track beside the tree. 4 hours later.

The drivers showed experience and very low tyre pressure is the key. Arriving at Robe just for the start of the cup. Airing up and heading to the Ice-cream shop and Mahilia coffee. A great driving experience. The night at the caravan park the wind blew a gale straight off the southern ocean.

### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Tantanoola cave first stop today,

Tantanoola Caves comprises an extraordinary display of cave decorations (speleothems) in beautiful shades of pink and brown, coloured by its dolomite base rock. The 'Up and Down Rocks' is a special highlight. It was great to get out of the rain.



The picture in the cave doesn't do it justice you need to put it on your too visit list if you are down this way. The next stop was the Lady Nelson visitors centre in Mt Gambier, worth a look, the highlight for me was Joel walking in past the brass bust of Lord Nelson and his comment was "great nose for picking boogers out of see" as he proceeded to place his finger up the nose of the bust. We as adults



need to look at things from children's perspectives, funnies as. Lunch, where to go? The weather is still raining.



Off to Jens hotel, in centre of town, the original licence dates back to 1847. An amazing stone building, the details in the decor, lunch, Ben got half a pig in his roast pork, everyone had one complaint **too full**. South Australian pubs have salad bars included.

A walk to the cave garden, we saw waterfalls, (what a difference a day makes, we stopped there the next day on our way home and there is no water to see).



A visit to the corner museum in Mt Gambier, then onto the Blue lake and up the stairs trying to work off the enormous lunch.



Then on to little blue lake and Allendale East sink hole where the road goes around the cave, down to Port McDonald where its blowing a gale.



We decided to move because of the wind last night, and this is Sally taking Bens tent for a walk. Good tent, come on this way, slow and steady does it good tent, Sally was missing her dogs. Ruby and Paige had to take their tents for a walk too.



A great trip and loads of laughs with our 4x4 buddies. I have added the last picture to show that we did get some good weather I think it was Saturday the day we arrived.

Maree and Stuart



# MARYSVILLE DAY TRIP

21<sup>st</sup> November 2015

Maree & Stuart Cruiser

James Jackaroo

Fay, Rodney & Mitchell Prado

Brett Cruiser

Joe & James Prado

Ben, Megan, Paige & Joel Cruiser

Max and Fab Jackaroo

Melanie & Shane Hilux

Lisa & Tony Ranger



The weather driving over the black spur looked like it had set in for the day. Everyone arrived on time, and Stuart did the paperwork and checked out the vehicles. It's better to be safe than sorry. Heading up Margaret track off to Keppel Hut. The rain on Friday has



provided the puddles to get James's trotters wet. A short steep rocky pinch provided the challenges



to get the heart rate up. Over the rocky escarpment. Down to see an old hut, it's a narrow track with a creek crossing. Some elected to wait on the main track Shane a visitor managed to life one wheel off the road, going out of a river crossing. Ben went to the other side of the river to check it out but came back with "Not today people a huge rock ledge" Stuart said I think there was a reason we did not go that way.

Back to regroup, it's amazing what a week does to the tracks. Last week Stuart went up

to scout the tracks, working out what is open and closed. He took his son Tim and a couple of club members, this is the puddle, a week apart. Just to show when we go out we need to keep our wits about us and check puddles.





It's a lesson to all that experience is no substitute for diligence, (and don't be yapping on the radio).

The day progressed with a section that felt like a washing machine. Up down, side to side and up and down again just for good measure. Hang on it's a bit bumpy is an understatement.



Our other visitors Rodney, Fay and Mitchell manage to find some mud. Little Mitchell said "I think we got the dirtiest car dad" with a great big smile on his face.



Joe and James checking out the Rubicon trestle bridge and aqua duct. A short walk over the old trestle bridge

and we

headed to the Rubicon power station to air up. Not before Ben had another crack at Park Road. With Megan saying "Why are we doing this?" The standard answer for all 4x4 owners is "Because we can" The last word on the trip is summed up in Lisa and Tony's faces. A great day was had by all.

