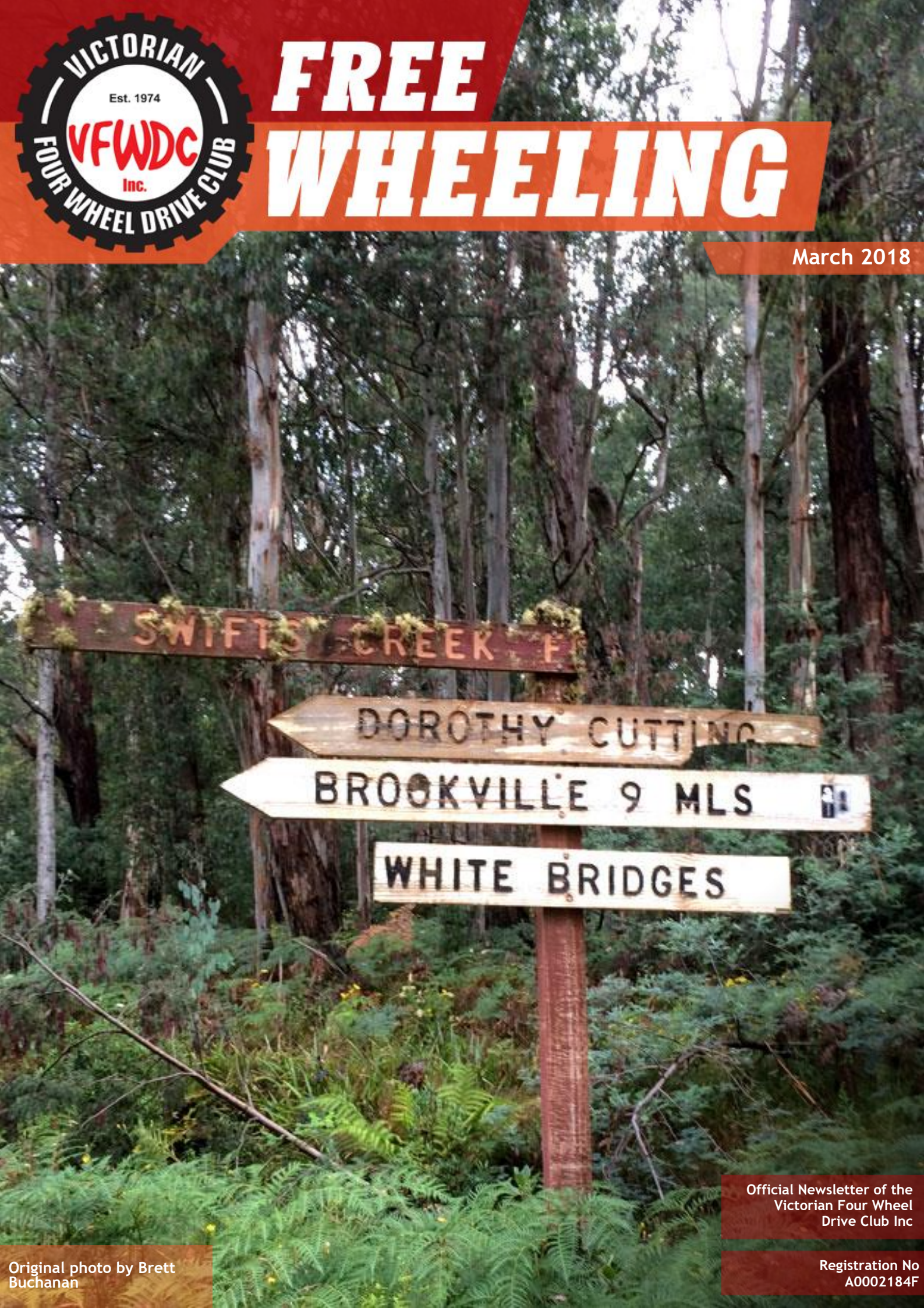




FREE WHEELING

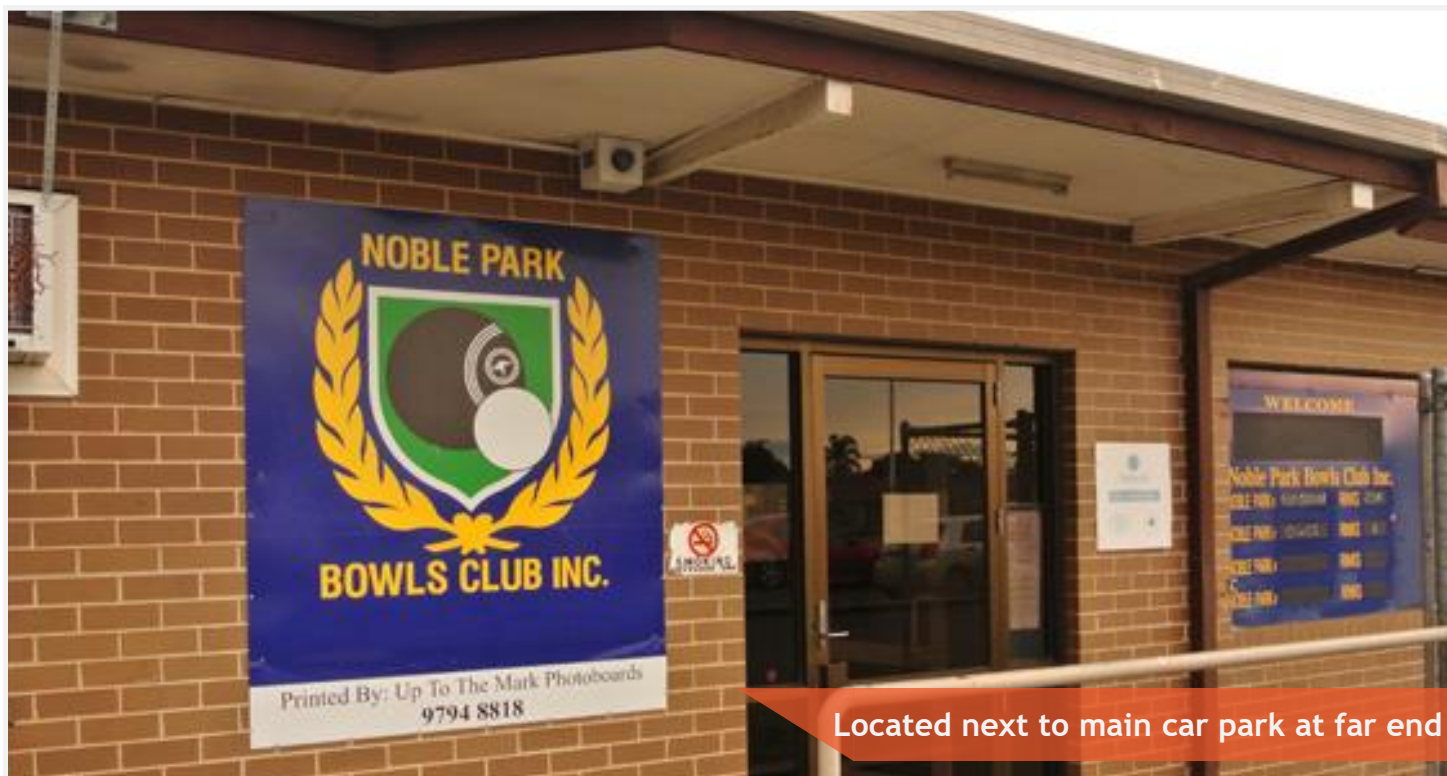
March 2018



Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Four Wheel
Drive Club Inc

Registration No
A0002184F

Original photo by Brett
Buchanan



Located next to main car park at far end

VFWDC General Meeting Venue

The club meets on the first WEDNESDAY of each month at 8:00pm. With the following exceptions; No meeting in January. November meeting is at a selected location, watch the calendar.

Bowling Club Rooms

Noble Park Noble Football Club
46-56 Moodemere Street
Noble Park



Members and guests are welcome to dine at the bistro before attending the meeting from 6:30pm.



Aberfeldy Track

In association with [Westland Gippsland Relic, Mining and Heritage Protection Inc](#) , the club maintains a section of the Aberfeldy Track with working bees throughout the year. View the club calendar for the next upcoming working bee.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

2017-2018

President	Ben Whitworth	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	Steve Pitcher	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Bruce Cremonesi	secretary@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Tony Barbera	treasurer@vfwdc.com

General Committee

Trip Co-Ordinator	Stuart Bowker	trips@vfwdc.com
Magazine Editor	Ly Ho	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	David Bruinsma	delegate@vfwdc.com
General Committee	Ashley Martin	
General Committee	Callum Brown	

Support Positions to Committee

Web manager	Ben Whitworth	web@vfwdc.com
Training officer	Phillip Griffith	
Training officer	Ashley Martin	
Merchandise	Des Whall	merchandise@vfwdc.com

Club Details

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
Registration No	A002184F
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong VIC 3174
Email	secretary@vfwdc.com
Website	www.vfwdc.com

The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of [Four Wheel Drive Victoria](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au) - www.fwdvictoria.org.au

CLUB MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Club Polo Shirt	\$28.00	Club Hoodie	\$50.00
Club Singlet and T-Shirt	\$15.00	Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$50.00
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$45.00	Club Bucket Hat	\$16.00
Club Caps	\$10.00	Club Beanie	\$10.00
Club Wide Brim Hat	\$18.00	VFWDC Windscreen stickers	
Club Drivers Jacket (Coat)	\$70.00	Small	\$6.00
		Large	\$8.00
Club Cloth Badges 120mm	\$8.00		

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo shirt.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hi all,

Welcome to the VFWDC Free Wheeling magazine.

The events calendar in this month's magazine is looking very healthy with plenty on offer. We have training, meetings and plenty of trips. Get on-board and get your name down for an adventure.

This month sees a price update on most of our merchandise, with most prices being reduced. We have all added a couple of new items, a club t-shirt and singlet. Have a chat to our merchandise manager, Des, and get your shirt or jumper or sticker at the new prices.

Has everyone had a look at the Rough Stuff movie?

<http://www.roughstuffmovie.com>

It's an interesting watch, I can't say it's the best movie I've ever seen but it's not quite the worst either. It includes a fair bit of 4wd'ing, some of which is complete fiction but entertaining. If you get the chance take a look, but do NOT mistake it for a training video.

At this month's Club Meeting I will be running a short tutorial on how to edit your photo's to remove any number plates. Let me know if you have any related questions.

That's all I've got for you this month.

I hope to see all our members at the next meeting and out on the tracks.

Ben Whitworth
President

CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

March

7th	Wed	General Meeting		
10th to 12th	Sat to Mon	Wonnangatta Valley	Stuart & Maree	0428 539 157
10th to 12th	Sat to Mon	Alpine National Park (Trip is Full)	Brett & Niki Buchanan	0407 878 970
10th to 12th	Sat to Mon	Craigs Hut and Surrounds	Sally and Tristan Higgs	0435 782 207
14th	Wed	Driver Proficiency Training Theory	Ashley Martin	0428 134 399
			Phil Griffith	0419 865 472
16th to 18th	Fri to Sun	Driver Proficiency Training Practical	Ashley Martin	0428 134 399
			Phil Griffith	0419 865 472
20th	Tue	Committee Meeting		
30th March to 2nd April	Fri to Mon	Easter Weekend High Country Trip	Andre	0404 191 949

April

4th	Wed	General		
17th	Tue	Committee Meeting		
28th	Sat	Night Run to Mt Matlock and beyond	Bruce	0400 425 296
28th or 29th TBC	Sat/Sun TBC	Winch and Tyre Repair Training (TBC)		

May

2nd	Wed	General		
15th	Tue	Committee Meeting		

IMPORTANT

- **Club merchandise has been reduced!** Check out the new prices on page three and pick up some new gear for the upcoming cooler season.
- If you wish to join us for dinner before the General Meeting, please book a spot at [Club Noble](#). Phone 9546 0653 and ask to join “Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club” table. You must book **BEFORE** the Monday on the week of the meeting to avoid disappointment!

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

February 2018

Meeting started 8:15pm

Attendees - as per book

Apologies - as per book

Minutes from December Meeting

Read and Accept

Accepted: Emily

Second: Stuart

Correspondence from mins

Nil

Incoming Correspondence

- Emails from prospective members
- Top secret committee emails
- Email from 4WD Vic
 - Labour day in Wonangatta
 - ½ year invoice
 - Wesley Mission request
 - 4wd show news (Wandin)
 - Mark Kochan has email

Outgoing Correspondence

- Emails to prospective members
- Replies to emails
- Email club magazine to other clubs.

Treasurers Report

As per attachment in magazine.

Accept - David

Seconded - Ly

4WD Vic

Shucks—nothing

General bizzo

- Proficiency training
- Putting together a winch training day
- Discussion on bush mechanics
- Advertising in the Club Magazine. For Sale

in the Club Magazine

- Discussion on insurance and make sure you know who your insured with.
- Visitors show of hands - 5 visitors with good variety of cars.
- Roadsafe recall on their soft shackle - due to wording on the packaging.
- New Safety Standards for snatch straps - they must detail the minimum breaking strength of the strap and include a warning that this must be between 2-3 times the GVM of the vehicle it is used with.
- Ford has a recall on Rangers catching fire.

Coffee Break

Upcoming Club Trips *(Trip forms down the back of the meeting on the bench)*

- Sally Tristan - Huts trip
- Brett - Caledonia River (north of Licola) Trip Labour Day Weekend 12th March
- Proficiency Training Night and Weekend. Wednesday night at Sports bar, and weekend at O'Tooles.
- Winch Training - TBA
- Bruce - Night Run 28th April Mt Matlock
- Andre - Huge trip... Blue Rag, Billy Goats, Craigs, etc and is towing a trailer.
- Mick Harris - Center to Cape York.
- Emily - Date TBA - Marysville, through to Woods Point
- Gary Smith - July/August - Byron Bay from the far Eastern tip of Australia to far western tip of Australia
- Bruce - June Long Weekend - Murray Sunset.

Discussion on tyres.

Past Club Trips

- Brett—Neerim
- Des and Brett—Wesburn
- Brett and Stuart—Australia Day

- Ly—Murrindini Scene Reserve Hike

Stuart mentioned we need some more trips, so if you have any ideas, please email them through to committee@vfwdc.com

Raffle drawn

- First prize - Jack
- Second Prize - Tony
- Third Prize - Steve
- Fourth Prize - Bruce

Meeting Closed

10pm

Members can advertise any four wheel drive or camping related items they wish to sell or buy.

Just email the editor, editor@vfwdc.com, with the following:

- 1. Description of the item
- 2. Price
- 3. Contact details
- 4. Photos (highly recommended)

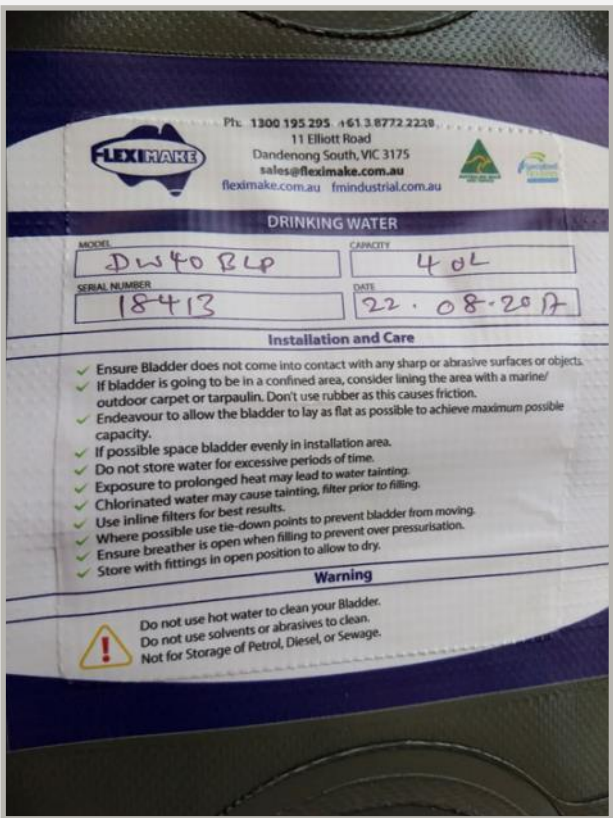
FOR SALE: FlexiMake 40L Drinking Water Bladder

\$100

New-like 40L Drinking Water bladder by FlexiMake. Doesn't fit my set up after installing it once and then emptying it out. Bought it last November.

Comes with everything except the valve-tap which I'm keeping. [More info and photos see here](#)

Ly
0433 387 811
Ly.tri.ho@gmail.com



FOR SALE: BBQ

\$150

[David](#)

Well used but still in great working order. Legs fold up under base. Lid clips on.

0417 747 860

Dimensions are:

Length 1285mm (not including side handles)

Width 540mm

Height 765mm (ground to top)

Any questions ring David after 7pm.



FOR SALE: Hiking Boots—Oboz

\$150

Mark

0412 544 668

Hiking Boots - 'Oboz' brown with some orange (see photos). UK size 8.
They are in excellent condition, and only worn about 4-5 times. They are very comfortable, but are 1/2 size too small for me. Were \$250, sell\$150 ONO.

Great for general hiking and 4wdriving.



athmandu
OBOZ Yellowstone
Men
380000

Oboz
Yellowstone Men
Style: 20401
Brown/Yellow
US: 9 UK: 8 1
SKU: 20401110091
P.O.#: R82407A

OBOZ
Yellowstone Men
Size: 9
Brown/Yellow
\$249.90
3800000

FOR SALE: Conia Bar Fridge - 109LT

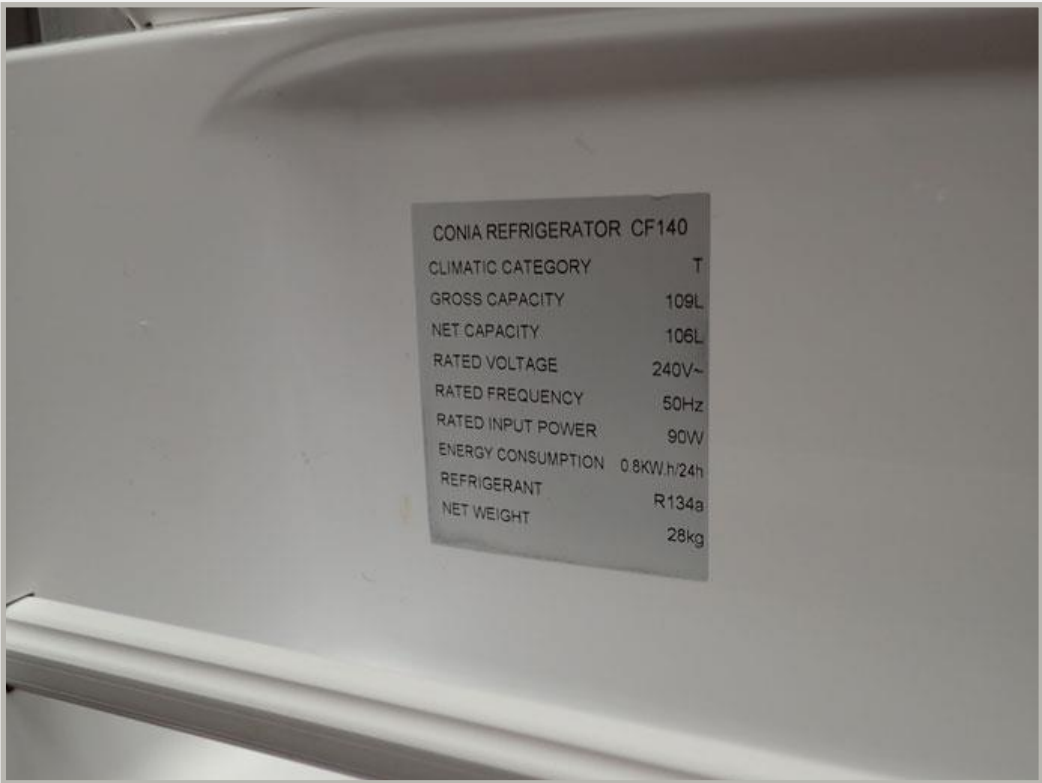
\$130

Mark

Conia Bar Frigde 109LT for sale. \$130.

0412 544 668

Is in great condition, and only has 3 very small marks in the door. Great for man-cave / garage / outdoor area. See photos.



Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com



Treasurer's Report December 2017

<u>Cheque A/C`</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/12/2017	\$3,777.10
Add:		
	Raffle Ticket Sales	\$108.00
	Total Monies In:	\$108.00
<u>Less:</u>		
	Catering	\$12.30
	Total Monies Out:	\$12.30
	Closing Balance as at 31/12/2017	\$3,872.80
<u>Term Deposit</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/12/2017	\$6,434.46
	Interest Paid	\$34.49
	Closing Balance as at 31/12/2017	\$6,468.95
<u>Petty Cash</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/12/2017	\$150.00
	Add:	
	Less:	
	Closing Balance as at 31/12/2017	\$150.00
	Consolidated Closing Cash Position	\$10,491.75



Treasurer's Report

January 2018

<u>Cheque A/C`</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/01/2018	\$3,872.80
Add:	New Membership	\$120.00
	Total Monies In:	\$120.00
<u>Less:</u>		
	Total Monies Out:	
	Closing Balance as at 31/01/2018	\$3,992.80
<u>Term Deposit</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/01/2018	\$6,468.95
	Closing Balance as at 31/01/2018	\$6,468.95
<u>Petty Cash</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/01/2018	\$150.00
	Add:	
	Less:	
	Closing Balance as at 31/01/2018	\$150.00
	Consolidated Closing Cash Position	\$10,611.75

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Proficiency Training
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Ashley Martin—0428 134 999 Phil Griffith—0419 865 472
DATE	Theory—Wednesday March 14th, 7:30PM start Practical- Friday March 16th—18th
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Theory - Noble Park Football Club, Blue & Gold Room (above dining area) Practical - Service Centre Officer (Princess Hwy) Friday 5pm Service Centre Officer (Princess Hwy) Saturday 7.30am
GRADE	WET: Easy/Med DRY: Easy/Med
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>The Club encourages all members to participate in a proficiency course to ensure the basic fundamentals of 4 wheel driving are gained.</p> <p>Theory provides an overview of the tread lightly principals, vehicles dynamics and functions, tackling various terrains along with other subjects. This provides the back ground for the practical weekend.</p> <p>Practical we run through individual vehicles and differences, basic recovery equipment and recap some of the theory (including home work J). We then begin the practical side running through several techniques to ensure safe vehicle recovery when in difficult situations. Once all participants are confident with these we hit the tracks to putt all the theory into practice.</p> <p>Sunday will be a leisurely start then we traverse a number of tracks which allow you to become familiar with your vehicles capabilities and gain further confidence. We should be finished by 2 o'clock arriving back to Melbourne around 4.</p> <p>As with past participants the weekend provides confidence to safely 4WD either with the club or friends.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE	300 kms approximately
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Theory, pen and concentration Practical you will need to be self-sufficient for camping and have your brain switched on.
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

DESTINATION	Wonnangatta Valley
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Stuart & Maree MOB: 0428539157
DATE	Saturday 10th—Monday 12th of March 2018
MEETING PLACE / TIME	BP McDonalds on the Pakenham bypass (on the freeway) Meet at 7:30 AM for an 8:00 AM departure.
GRADE	WET: Difficult DRY: Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Travel up to Dargo then on to the Wonnangatta Valley to attend the centenary of the Wonnangatta Murders, staying 2 nights in the Wonnangatta Valley
VEHICLE LIMITS	No Camper Trailers as leaving via Zeeka Spur Track. See attached sheet MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	400km
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Dargo DIESEL: Dargo
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	300km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Own basic recovery gear, tools and any spares you may require. AT or MT tyres. Must have a UHF radio in vehicle or hand held.
MAPS REQUIRED	All your own camping gear and food for 3 days Trip leader will have maps Hema High country
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

DESTINATION	Alpine National Park (Trip is Full)
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Brett & Niki Buchanan MOB: 0407 878 970
DATE	Saturday 10th March 2018 until Monday 12th March 2018 Inclusive
MEETING PLACE / TIME	McDonalds - Pakenham Bypass 8am Saturday 10th
GRADE	WET: Very Hard DRY: Hard
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Enter Alpine National Park via Licola and take Caledonia River Track (includes 13 Fords) up to Howitt Plains. Head back via Butcher Country Track (subject to accessibility). Adverse weather may alter schedule
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 4
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	300km
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Heyfield DIESEL: Heyfield (Licola store reportedly now closed)
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Last supplies Heyfield
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Sufficient Recovery equipment, Food & Fuel Nibbles to share for Happy Hour each evening
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftop Maps (Dargo & Wonnangatta Adventure Map) & GPS
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

DESTINATION	Craigs Hut and Surrounds
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Sally and Tristan Higgs MOB: 0435 782 207
DATE	Labour Day Weekend Saturday 10th March—Monday 12th March
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Lilydale McDonalds 8AM
GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Beginners trip to look at Mountains, Huts and Waterfalls weekend.</p> <p>We have not been out for a long time so looking to take it easy and have a look around the High Country.</p> <p>We will head to Mansfield, up to Mt. Buller stopping to check out the summit then check out a few huts and tracks on way and Mount Stirling onto Craig's Hut. Staying at Craig's Hut for Saturday night as I want to photograph it at dusk and dawn. Following day head to Bindaree Falls then some more exploring before heading to Lake Cobbler, checking out Dandongadale falls on the way to camp overnight. Head home Monday on a yet to be determined path.</p> <p>This plan may change depending on weather, other vehicle capability and how we feel, also depends on how busy it is. So come with adventure in your heart and see where it may lead.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	209km
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	65km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery equipment, tools for minor repairs, camping equipment, water and food to be self-sufficient for 3 days plus a couple of extra days if we get into issues.
MAPS REQUIRED	<p>Trip Leader will be carrying:</p> <p>Rooftop Mansfield-Mt Howitt Adventure Map</p> <p>SV Maps number 8 (Mansfield Baw-Baw) and Map 6 (Wonangatta)</p> <p>Hema Explorer</p>
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

DESTINATION	Easter Weekend High Country Trip
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Andre Van Der Walt MOB: 0404 191 949
DATE	Good Friday to Good Monday 30/03/18–02/04/18
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Leaving Pakenham early Friday morning (6 am) and returning on Monday
GRADE	WET: DRY: Medium difficulty
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	I am planning to go up to Talbotville and base camp there. Want to head up Saturday to do Blue rag range track (could be a full day thereand back) also want to do Billy goats bluff on the Sunday (about half a day). Basecamp at Talbotville, camper trailers welcome.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: MAXIMUM:
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	200km
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Dargo DIESEL: Dargo
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	300km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Self-sufficient and own recovery gear.
MAPS REQUIRED	Hema High country
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

DESTINATION	Night Run to Mt Matlock and beyond
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Bruce MOB: 0400 425 296
DATE	Saturday 28th April 2018
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Healesville—time TBA
GRADE	WET: Med DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Nice simple easy trip highly suitable for new members.</p> <p>Meet up and head up around Mt Matlock up to the comms tower through to Woods Point, and a few options -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Coach Road through to German Spur ending at Knockwood for the night. • Sunday more fun :) <p>You can camp at Knockwood or head home on the Sunday if you like—it's your call.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	100
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Healesville DIESEL: Healesville
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Full recovery gear, GOOD lights, UHF, warm dry clothes, good attitude
MAPS REQUIRED	Woods Point—Mt Skene Forest Activities map
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12 or thereabouts
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

DESTINATION	Cape Trip
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Michael Harris MOB: 0424 766 616
DATE	August 18th 2018 to September 22nd 2018
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE	WET: Med DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	General touring through to the cape & back
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	Depends on where we go...last time we did about 13700 kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: TBA DIESEL: TBA
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Enough surplus to last 5 weeks + all normal gear
MAPS REQUIRED	
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

HAUNTED STREAM & DARGO SURROUNDS

AUSTRALIA DAY 2018

26th Jan - 28th Feb
by Brett and Niki

Maree & Stuart	- Landcruiser
Audrey & Ian	- Patrol
Steve & Vanessa (Visitors)	- Landcruiser
(from Murray Bridge 4WDC, South Aus.)	
Des	- Patrol
Michael & Simin	- Triton
Joe	- Prado
Brett & Niki	- Landcruiser

Haunted Stream and work our way back to Dargo.

So we headed off to Bairnsdale and fuelled up and next stop Bruthen for some lunch. On departure from Bruthen the Trip Leader lobbed a handball and Stuart caught it and took the lead for the remainder of the trip - Thanks Stuart!!

In preparation for the trip Stuart and I headed off on a recy trip the week before to the Caledonia River and Butcher Country Tracks. What we discovered had us salivating a re-visit in a week's time and armed with updated information we sent out a warning note of the conditions to all participants. (A Trip report on these tracks will appear following Labour Day).

We came across very little traffic and travelled in hot, sunny conditions, until about 4 pm when an afternoon storm rolled in and the track had more of an eerie look to it.

We were primed, packed and ready to leave on the Friday Morning. What we didn't consider was the thunderstorm that went through on Thursday night and as luck would have it, a lightning strike started a bush fire right in the middle of the 2 tracks proposed. With very hot weather forecast over coming days, it wasn't a hard decision to cancel that trip and start the 'wing-it trip'.

We met up at Pakenham bypass and headed to Ian & Audrey's for a meeting around the bonnet and a review of the map and taking into account available info on the status of the fires in the area. We had consensus and decided to head to



Our plan was to see if the Campsite at Dawson City was available but unfortunately it was occupied, so we climbed out of the valley up to Dorothy Cutting Road in search of a campsite.

An open area on the side of the road was located and we were about to set up camp but then found a Deer carcass, so on we went and found another intersection and set up camp at the intersection of Christmas Ridge & Gordons Tracks. It was find a bit of space on the edge of the tracks so other vehicles could get through in need.

The next morning we went for a little stroll down Gordons Track and discovered a flat grassed campsite only 50 metres around the corner - will remember that one!!

The next day we set off along Angora Range Road, Storer Track, Gidley Track to a Helipad and then down what can best be described as an overgrown Goat Track - Mirrors in and a new can of car polish on the shopping list! We ended up at Collins Flat Campground on the Upper Dargo River - A large open well grassed flat campground with plenty of room to spread out. With Camp set up, and after a very hot day the invitation of the river could not be resisted any longer and a plunge was taken by all.

It was around the small camp fire that night that one of the other campers informed us that Parks had recently booked campers in Talbotville for having pieces of wood in their fire greater than a metre in length and a fine of \$100 for every cm over applied. The Committee are now following up to clarify.

After a hot and most enjoyable weekend Michael & Simin, Joe and Niki and myself headed home - Dan sought permission from a most understanding boss and managed to eek out another couple of days of driving along with Stuart & Maree, Ian & Audrey, Steve & Vanessa.



AUSTRALIA DAY

2018 EXTENSION

28th Jan - 2nd Feb
by Stuart and Maree

Maree & Stuart	- Toyota
Audrey & Ian	- Patrol
Steve & Vanessa (Visitors)	- Toyota
(from Murray Bridge 4WDC, South Aus.)	
Des	- Patrol

Sunday 28/1/2018

We headed to Harrison Cutting on the old Dargo Road, then we started to climb out via Matheson Track and over Mt Ewen.

The track is extremely rocky made of a clay with loads of rock steps to negotiate both up and down. At one stage we were at 600 mt then we were at 1100 mt at the Heli pad where the views over the high country were breathtaking.

We headed into Dargo to refuel, and enjoy a meal at the Pub. Its decided the best choice for the afternoon activity is sitting in the river as its over 30 C. We kept a close eye on the fire ready app
We stayed for a second night at Collins Flat camping ground.

Monday 29/1/2018

We headed out Richi track and to the red railway carriage. We stopped at Basalt Knob track and then headed on to Blue Rag. The weather is kind to us about 25C with whisper clouds. Everyone enjoyed the challenge to get to the trig marker at the top of Blue Rag Track.



Stuart had always wanted to go over the edge to see what all the fuss was about at the bottom of Blue rag track. Ian said why not now.



Everyone headed into the unknown. It took about 90 min each way. It makes getting to the trig marker easy. We negotiated rock steps, deep ruts, mud puddles to finally get to a river crossing and a wonderful camp site. We enjoyed the view but decided after looking at the weather forecast not to stay.

So out we all came, back to the trig maker its now 5 pm. We found a camp approx 500 mts from the main road and called it a night.

Tuesday 30/1/2018



What a difference a day can make. The heavens opened and we got drowned. The fog set in, the track turned to mud puddles, we were pleased with our decision to camp near the main road. We headed to Mt Hotham, seeing it in cloud, then to Dinner Plain and finding a coffee shop open we enjoyed the cosy ski resort.

From here we headed into Bright in the rain, found a cafe behind the tourist information service for lunch, and said goodbye to Des who headed home. The rain did not let up, we booked into the caravan park for the night and headed off to Brown Brothers Winery for a tasting. Ian couldn't decide if he liked the port or the Tokay?



Heading back to Bright at 4 pm the rain finally stopped. We walked to the Cascade waterfall over the rope bridges.



Enjoying the quaint whimsical main town centre, with its lolly shops and other quirky tourist stores.

The caravan park was on the river with the town swimming hole and water park just over the bridge.

Wednesday 31/1/2018

The weather is kind to us, we head to Lake Cobbler and on to King Hut. They have improved the camping at King Hut with picnic tables and fire pits. Tonight is the red blood moon once in a life time event so we head to Craig's hut to try and get a good clear view. We head up Monument Track and it lives up to its sign.



The views from the top are stunning but just to let you know it sits at 1450 mt above sea level. This means its going to be cold. We find a camp on Clear hills track 500m from the hut and its cold. Everyone agreed a privileged few get to see a stunning sun set, moon rise and sun rise at such an iconic location. We were so fortunate.



Thursday 1/2/2018

Overnight it was extremely cold we all agreed. Ian had trouble with his car losing power and he thinks it was frozen fuel. We had a couple of other 4x4s stop and give a hand its nice to see everyone helping each other out. With Ian's car sorted we headed down clear hills track to the GGS hut and out the back of Mt Bulla. We headed up corn hills road to Mt Bulla. This is a challenging drive which is closed for the winter.

This is a photo of the fire engine. We headed down the main road to Sheep yard flat for our over-night camp.



Friday 2/2/2018

The birds at Sheep yard flat are friendly as Audrey found out when she was trying to cook dinner. We had king parrots, cockatoos, magpies, finches, and ducks just to name a few. Mix this with kangaroos, wallabies and lizards it was an interesting camp site.

We headed to Frys hut and then up Howqua hills to tunnel bend. We enjoyed the walk and then stopped for lunch at Bluff hut and on to Bindaree falls, we were so lucky after all the rain these falls were in full flight.

We headed up Refrigerator track and as we all know nature has a way of stopping us. The boys did some track clearing with the chainsaws.



We finally headed to Tomahawk hut for afternoon tea and up the DSM Road that was more like a track to finally get to Stringybark creek for our last camp.

We have been lucky to enjoy all the different seasons in the one week of our high country adventures. We got from 36C at Collins flat to 4C at Craig's Hut. Just goes to show you need to respect the weather in Victoria

Stuart and Maree would like to thank those who enjoyed this adventure with us.

We have uploaded photos to face book for everyone to enjoy.



Things you find on the track.



Beware where you put your foot.



Stuart Walking down to tunnel bend



How many years do you think this tree has been there?



Campfires—check your length

Last general meeting there was a mention of campers being fined for putting in pieces of wood greater than one metre long (and fined for every additional centimetre!) I've scanned the brochure for your reading pleasure.

When visiting Victoria's State Forests and Parks, having a campfire or barbeque for personal warmth or cooking is an enjoyable experience. However, campfires can easily escape and start a bushfire.

Restrictions are in place for public land in Victoria to ensure that escapes do not happen and our bushland is protected. It is your responsibility to ensure you understand the campfire and barbeque rules and regulations before you visit.

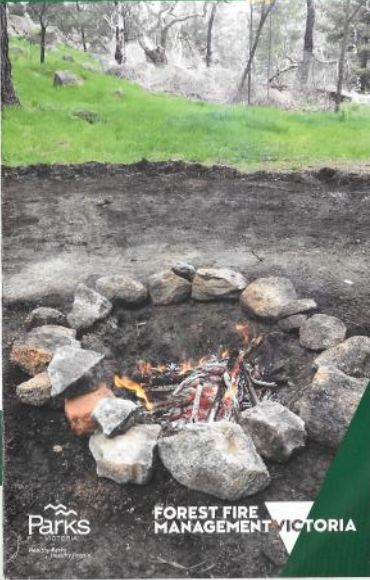
If you light a campfire or barbeque, you are legally responsible for ensuring that it is safe, does not escape, and is completely extinguished before you leave.

Information sources

- Check the long range weather forecast before you leave via bom.gov.au
- Find out about Total Fire Bans via:
 - Vic Emergency Hotline – 1800 226 226
 - emergency.vic.gov.au
 - Vic Emergency App

Can I? Can't I?

Campfires and Barbeques



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To report suspicious or illegal activity call 136 186

Total Fire Ban Days




Total Fire Ban Days = no campfires, and no solid or chemical fuelled barbeques

It's up to you to find out if a Total Fire Ban is in place. You can call the Vic Emergency Hotline on 1800 226 226, download the Vic Emergency App or visit emergency.vic.gov.au. Ask your neighbouring camp if you don't know.

If it's hot or windy use common sense and don't light a campfire or barbeque.

General use*

Do I have to clear around my campfire or solid fuel barbeque?	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep a three metre air and ground perimeter around your campfire or solid fuel barbeque clear of flammable material. Use a designated fireplace where available.
What size can my campfire or barbeque be?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your campfire or solid fuel barbeque must be one square metre or less in size with a trench at least 30cm deep.• Solid fuels placed onto your campfire or solid fuel barbeque cannot be bigger than one metre long.• Please see reference to campfires in National and State Parks.
What is a properly constructed campfire?	A fireplace constructed of stone, metal, concrete or other non-flammable material in a manner which contains the perimeter of a fire.
Can I use a campfire or barbeque that uses liquid fuel, gaseous fuel or chemical solid fuel?	Yes <p>However you must keep a 3 metre air and ground perimeter around your liquid, gaseous or chemical fuel campfires and barbeques clear of flammable material.</p>
Can I leave my campfire or barbeque unattended?	No <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A responsible adult must be in attendance of your campfire or barbeque using solid fuel to supervise at all times.• In attendance means within line of sight of your campfire or barbeque using solid fuel, or within 50 metres from the outer perimeter.
What is the best way to extinguish my campfire correctly when I leave?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You must always fully extinguish your campfire with water, not dirt scraped over the top of it.• You cannot leave any hot embers remaining in your campfire.• Remember, if your campfire is cool to touch, it is safe to leave.



Set up camp and store supplies 3m away

Supervise children at all times

Use water to put out your campfire

30cm
1M
1M

*This image relates to general use, not on a day of Total Fire Ban



Do not deposit glass, aluminium, plastic, rubbish or scrap food products into your campfire. Please take these home with you. Leaving these items at your campsite is littering and subject to on the spot fines.

Total Fire Ban Days



Total Fire Ban Days = no campfires, solid or chemical fuelled barbeques

Can I light a campfire on a day of Total Fire Ban?

No

- It is prohibited to light a campfire on days of Total Fire Ban.
- If in doubt, don't light your campfire.

Can I use a barbeque that is fired by gas or electricity on a day of Total Fire Ban?

Yes

- A barbeque that is fired by gas or electricity and set in a permanently fixed structure built of stone, metal concrete or another non-flammable material, or
- A barbeque that uses only gas or electricity, are designed and commercially manufactured exclusively for meal preparation (including portable barbeques), and when alight are placed in a stable position.

Provided that:

- It is for the purpose of meal preparation.
- The area within a distance of 3 metres from the outer perimeter of the barbeque is clear of flammable material.
- You have either a hose connected to a water supply or a container with at least 10 litres water for immediate use.
- An adult is there at all times when the fire is alight who has the capacity and means to extinguish the fire.
- The fire is completely extinguished before the adult leaves.

In National and State Parks, campfires and barbeques may only be lit in designated fireplaces provided.

Camp checklist

Sally Higgs has shared her camping checklist she uses before a big trip:
“Hi All, this is a checklist that I use when we head away for a trip. I have built it to suit the gear that we have and what we like to take away. I know that there are many many versions out there and this one has taken some refinement but feel free to make it your own.”

Download and use it for your next trip—[PDF version here](#) or [Excel version here](#).

Camping Checklist

☐ Camping Gear

☐ Tent

☐ Beds

☐ Sleeping Bags/ sheets/ blankets

☐ Pillows

☐ Chairs

☐ Table

☐ Lantern

☐ Solar Panel

☐ Fridge Stand

☐ Roof Bag

☐ Gazebo

☐ Gazebo Sides

☐ Water tank filled

☐ Personal

☐ First Aid Kit

☐ Soap

☐ Toothbrushes/ Toothpaste

☐ Glasses/ Sunglasses

☐ Shampoo & Conditioner

☐ Sunscreen

☐ Toilet Paper

☐ Antiseptic

☐ Mozzie Spray/ Coils

☐ Towels

☐ Clothes

☐ Wet weather gear

☐ Tool Kit

☐ Cable Ties

☐ Kitchen/ Laundry

☐ BBQ Tools

☐ Billy

☐ Cups

☐ Plates

☐ Bowls

☐ Chopping Boards

☐ Pots

☐ Bottle Opener

☐ Cutlery

☐ Knives

☐ Peeler

☐ Frying Pan

☐ Camp Oven

☐ Tongs

☐ Thermos

☐ Gas Cooker and Bottle

☐ Sponges/ Wash Cloths

☐ Washing up tub

☐ Detergent

☐ Fridge

☐ Fridge Battery

☐ Navigation

☐ Maps

☐ compass

☐ Recovery Gear

☐ D Shacks

☐ Snatch Straps

☐ Long Handle Shovel

☐ Winch Dampner & Gloves

☐ Tree Protector

☐ Winch extension strap

☐ Max Trax

☐ Snatch pulleys

☐ High Lift Jack

☐ PLB (personal locator beacon)

☐ Air Compressor

☐ Shovel/ Bush Ranger Shovel

☐ Chainsaw

☐ Chainsaw Chaps

☐ Chainsaw file/ tools/ chain

☐ Chainsaw Fuel

☐ Electrical/ Cameras/ Radios

☐ Batteries

☐ Battery Charger

☐ Handheld UHF

☐ Antenna

☐ Head Torch

☐ Camera

☐ Go Pro

☐ Mobile Phone and Charger

☐ Scissors

☐ Fencing Wire

Menu Plan

Sally also shared her four day menu plan:
“Hi All, this is a document that I print out to plan our meals when we are heading away camping. I do this so that we know what we are going to make, what I need to buy and prepare before we head away. This makes it much easier for me when we arrive at camp. I even cut up vege, season and pack so I don't have to worry about it at dinner time. Anyway, hope someone finds it useful.”

[Download here](#)

Four-wheel driving menu

Trip: Date:...../...../.....

Day	Day	Day	Day
Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
Snacks	Snacks	Snacks	Snacks
Drinks	Drinks	Drinks	Drinks