



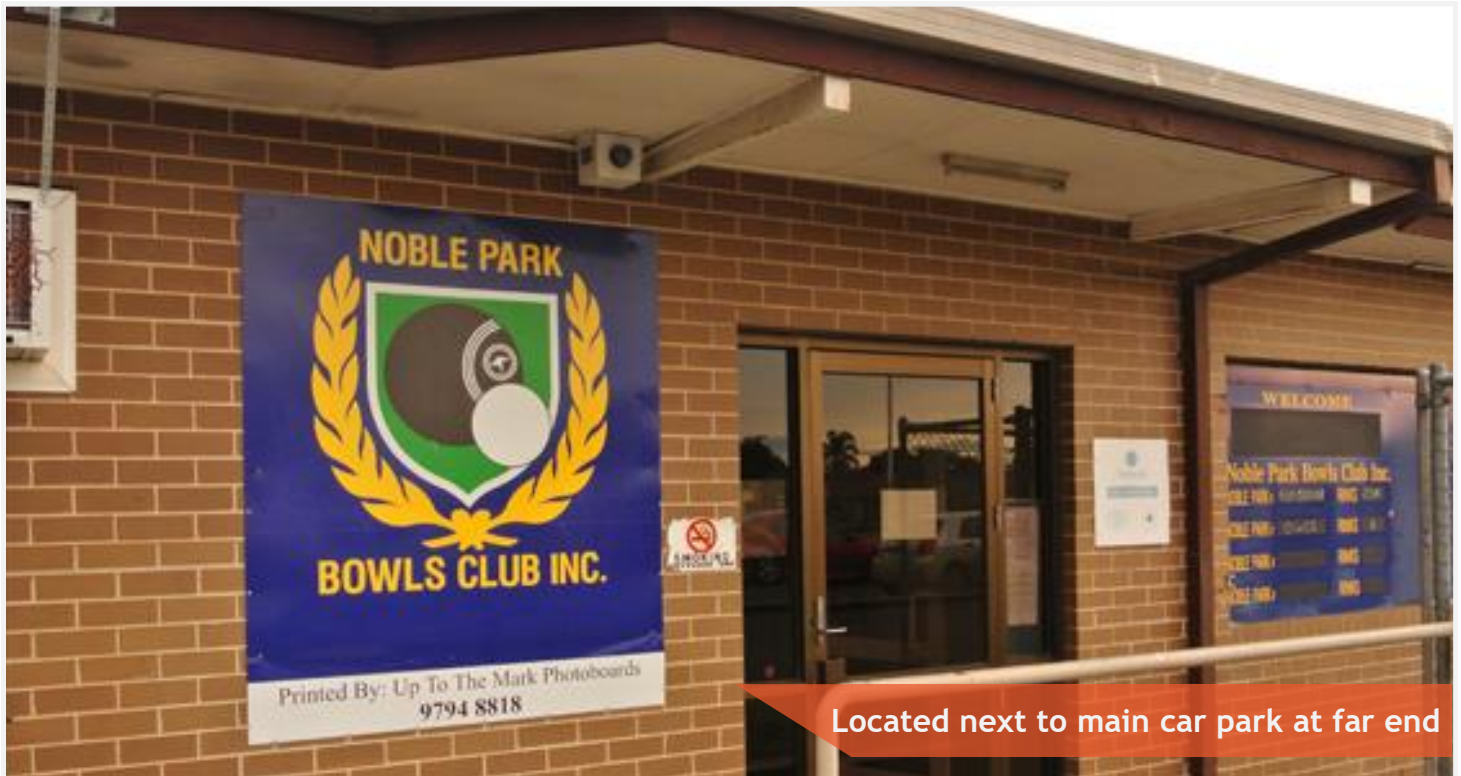
FREE WHEELING

February 2019

Original photo by Maree
Bowker at Butcher Country
track

Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Four Wheel
Drive Club Inc

Registration No
A0002184F



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

2018-2019

President	Steve Pitcher	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	David Bruinsma	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Sally Higgs	secretary@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Tony Barbera	treasurer@vfwdc.com

General Committee

Trip Coordinator	Andre Van Der Walt	trips@vfwdc.com
Magazine Editor	Ly Ho	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	David Bruinsma	delegate@vfwdc.com
General Committee	Stuart Bowker	
General Committee	Callum Brown	
General Committee		

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
Catering	Lisa Barbera	

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 - 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



Welcome to the first edition of Free Wheeling magazine for 2019.

I hope that everyone got to enjoy at least a little bit of down time with their family and friends over the Christmas and New Year period.

The 2019 year is already shaping up to be a great one! We kicked off with a couple of different trip options (Murray River and Butcher Country) over the Australia Day long weekend. There is a cracker of a main prize (a new Ryobi 2-stroke chain saw - kindly donated to the Club by Stephen Dickson's employer) up for grabs at our February Club raffle. And, the annual Victorian 4WD show, set for Sunday, 19 February at its new home Lardner Park, Warragul.

It has again been a long, hot and dry Summer. We have seen lots of natural disasters occur and days of extreme heat (particularly up further north) over the break. Please remember to be fire conscious when heading out bush, to always carry plenty of water (as well as first aid supplies) with you, and to let someone (your 'Ground Charlie') know where you are intending to go before heading out. We already saw reports of 2 hikers missing in the NSW bush just before the Christmas break. Please consider carrying a Personal Locating Beacon (they really are a cheap form of insurance) with you in case of emergency.

This year, there are only 3 working days between the Easter break (which isn't all that far away) and

ANZAC Day long weekends. I imagine that there will be at least a couple of longer distance trips announced in the lead up to this period so please watch this space!

Next month we will have our first guest speaker of the year - please come along to our February meeting to hear more.



I hope to catch up with everybody at our first general meeting for the year or, failing that, at the next 4WD show or out on the tracks.


Take care, keep safe and remember to tread lightly.

Steve Pitcher
President

CLUB NOBLE FORM

Did you know if you're a member of Club Noble (the sporting club next door to the meeting), you get discounts on your meal and drinks. And when it's your birthday, you get more than enough points for a feed and drink. \$10 per year—pretty good I reckon!

[Click here to download the form](#) and hand it to reception desk.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Membership Application (Please tick)

New☐Renewal☐Existing Member No:

Mr☐Mrs☐Ms☐Other☐

Given Name/s:Male☐Female☐D.O.B:/...../.....

Last Name:

Postal Address:Suburb:

State:Postcode:Mobile Number:Home Phone:

Email Address:

Membership Fee (Please Tick)

1 Year \$10☐2 years \$20☐3 Years \$30☐

Payment Details (Please Tick)

Cash☐Cheque☐C/C☐

Card Holders Name:

Card Type: Visa☐M/card☐

Card No:/...../.....

Expiry Date:/...../.....

Signature:

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

I hereby apply to become a member of the Noble Park Football Social Club Ltd and agree to observe the rules and by-laws. I verify that I am over the age of 18 and have received and carefully read and understood the Loyalty Membership terms. I agree to strictly abide by these Loyalty Membership Terms as amended from time to time and declare that the details in the application are true and correct.

I wish to receive communications including promotional material, third party offers that include alcohol or gaming related advertising (Please Tick)

Yes☐No☐


I agree to receive my Player Activity Statement in accordance with government legislation (Please tick one box only)

Mail☐SMS☐Email☐

I agree to accept the Annual Report and Financial Statement via: Please Circle one option

Members Section (Website)Email

Signature:Date:/...../.....



YourPlay gives you the power to track how much money and time you are spending as you play. You can also use YourPlay to set limits on the money and time you spend on gaming machines and to see your playing history online at any time. YourPlay can be added to your loyalty membership card and used on any gaming machine in Victoria. You can register for YourPlay at [yourplay.com.au](#) or ask a staff member for assistance

INTERNAL USE ONLY

Membership Number:Customer ID Sighted:

Staff Member's Name:Confirm Customer's over 18:

THANK YOU AND WELCOME TO CLUB NOBLE

CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

February

6th	Wed	General Meeting		
16th to 17th	Sat to Sun	Firth Park Camping area Lerderderg	Tony Barbera	0417 153 424
18th	Mon	Committee Meeting		

March

6th	Wed	General Meeting		
9th to 11th	Sat to Mon	Labour Day Weekend— Wonnangatta	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
11th	Mon	Labour Day public holiday		
18th	Mon	Committee Meeting		

April

3rd	Wed	General Meeting		
15th	Mon	Committee Meeting		
19th	Fri	Easter Friday public holiday		
19th to 28th	Fri to Mon	Flinders Ranges and Mungo National Park	Sally Higgs	0435 782 207
22nd	Mon	Easter Monday public holiday		
25th	Thu	Anzac Day public holiday		

IMPORTANT

- **Club merchandise has been reduced!** Check out the new prices on page three and pick up some new gear for this warmer 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

5th December 2018

Attendees

As per list, no guests

Apologies

As per list (if any)

Bruce Cremonosi

Phillip Griffith

Minutes from Last Meeting

No minutes from November Meeting to be updated and will be provided at next meeting

Correspondence In/ Out:

Will be updated once Secretary handover is completed with Stephen.

Treasurer's Report

October Report, November Report presented.

Accepted by: Stuart Bowker, Seconded By: Andre Van Der Walt

Association Delegate Report

Wayne Heavey from 4WD Victoria will be guest speaker for this evening.

Upcoming Trips

- Club Christmas Party at Ian and Audrey's - 8/12 approx 15 attendees , cater for 20
- Aberfeldy Sat 15/12 Stuart Bowker trip leader
- Australia Day Long Weekend - Murray River 26/01 - Steve Pitcher Trip Leader
- Australia Day Weekend - Butcher Country Track 26/01 - Brett Trip Leader
- Lerderderg Park - 14th and 15th Feb

General Business

- 2 Committee Member Changes;
 1. Secretary - Sally Higgs
 2. Trips - Andre Van Der Walt
- 4WD Victoria has decided to resign from 4WD Australia - Wayne will be talking to this as Guest Speaker

- Details on Club Insurance Arrangements for accidental death - Benefits. Up to 18 and 76 - 90 years max cover is \$10K between 18 and 75 - \$100K
- Update from response to Make-A-Wish - letters provided and trip completed as a success. Photos and information to come.

Guest Speaker

Wayne Heavey - CEO 4WD Victoria Association

- Gave an overview of the Insurance that the Association has on behalf of its members
 - Indemnity insurance for committee members
 - Insurance to cover trainers for the Association
 - Accident insurance
 - Public Liability Insurance
- Spoke to the resignation of 4WD Victoria from the National 4WD Association
- Spoke to financial status of the Association
- MVO Tracks - anything deemed a wilderness area will not be approved for access. There is an Advisory Committee - 2 DEWLP, 2 from 4WD VIC, 2 from Parks VIC that manages process. Keep requesting access and they will work with us to work out which tracks we are able to go on.
- Spoke to Media Announcement from Labour on funding for 30 new camping grounds, upgrades to the 7 iconic trails.
- Discussed relationship with Vic Govt and Committees for changes to State Parks to National Parks
- Mt Skene permit process - At the Association meeting there was a vote taken on the limiting of the number of cars per club per day and it was passed. Permits are available for during the week as well and not just weekends.
- Camping Fees
- KPIs - Form to be completed and submitted. Details on distance travelled, money spent in the area, food costs for work completed when out on the tracks ie clearing trees.

Wayne to send club form to complete. Requirement is for the Association to complete 2500 hours per year and last year completed 16500 hours from members of the Association.

- Discussed clean up the bush programme.

Past Trip Reports

Melbourne Cup Long Weekend Trips

- Portland Buggy Club - Sally provided report - Colac, Buggy Club, Lots of Camping and Little bit 4WDing
- Deddick Trail - Jeff provided report - Buchan, McKillops Bridge, Bowan Track (Cleared trees), HeliPad lookout, Stayed at Warratah Campsite, Deddick Trail,
- Beachport/ Robe - Brett provided report - getting stuck 7 times, lots of fun some good-on-ya award opportunities

Day Trip

- Marysville - Stuart provided report - Keppels hut, power station, pub and home

Raffle Prizes:

- Tyre Repair Kit - Barney
- Floor Mats - David
- Cleaning Wash Pads x 3 - Des, Steve P, Stewart
- Tupperware Kit - Brett
- Bottle of wine - Tony

Meeting Closed: 22:10 hours

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)

FREE: Fire Wood

FREE

Bring you saw and trailer.

"...I have no photos as the wood varies from fallen branches to dead, but standing trees. All Gum trees. Up to almost 1m in diameter."

492 Yarragon South Road
Yarragon South, 3823

Gary

kiwiau@inet.net.au

0408 093 529



FOR SALE: Sunroof Visor 35.5 inch / 90cm

\$20

Bought it off eBay and didn't measure before buying. So doesn't fit the car and pretty much brand new.

90cm x 16cm. Reinforced Acrylic comes in black. [See this eBay link](#) for more pics and info.

Ly Ho

ly.tri.ho@gmail.com

0433 387 811

35.5" Sunroof Moonroof Visor



FOR SALE: Bridgestone Dueler A/T x 5

\$1000 negotiable

Emily Wimetal

emilynwimetal@gmail.com

265x70R 17 inch Kingwheels

4x near new

1x slight damage but does not effect the use.

Used once for flinders ranges

Bought for \$1600 selling for \$1000 negotiable



Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com



Treasurer's Report December 2018

<u>Cheque A/C`</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/12/2018	\$5,270.58
Add:	Raffle	\$104.00
	Merchandise	\$254.00
	Memberships	\$180.00
	Total Monies In:	\$5808. 58
<u>Less:</u>	Catering	\$25.80
	Total Monies Out:	\$25.80
	Closing Balance as at 31/12/2018	\$5,782.78
<u>Term Deposit</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/12/2018	\$6,570.65
	Interest Paid	\$33.58
	Closing Balance as at 31/12/2018	\$6,604.23
<u>Petty Cash</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/12/2018	\$150.00
	Add:	
	Less:	
	Closing Balance as at 31/12/2018	\$150.00
	Consolidated Closing Cash Position	\$12,573.01

UPCOMING TRIPS

Something goofy happened to someone on a trip? Nominate them for the next “Good on ya” trophy! Send a quick summary to trips@vfwdc.com

DESTINATION	Firth Park Camping area Lerderderg
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Tony Barbera MOB: 0417 153 424
DATE	Saturday 16th Feb to Sunday 17th Feb
MEETING PLACE / TIME	7-Eleven Ardeer North at McDonalds 7:30am
GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: Mostly easy with some medium spots
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Travel to Lerderderg State Park where we will spend the day driving the main tracks and spend some time at the quarry for lunch.</p> <p>Then on to Firth Park Camping Area where we will camp the night. We will arrange for the mini bus to pick us up and take us to the Pig & Whistle pub for a meal and drinks. This is a great trip for kids there's about 5 hrs driving and the rest of the time is relaxing.</p> <p>Leaving Sunday morning.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	100km
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Lots on the way DIESEL: Lots on the way
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Minimal
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Mild lift good tires and all recovery gear.
MAPS REQUIRED	Lerderderg State Park
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

DESTINATION
LEADER/CONTACT NO.

Labour Day Weekend - Wonnangatta

NAME: David Bruinsma
MOB: 0417 747 860

DATE
MEETING PLACE / TIME

Saturday 9th to Monday 11th March
BP outbound - Pakenham Bypass at Officer
Time: Saturday 9th at 6am for 6:30 departure

GRADE

WET: Medium/Easy
DRY: Easy

TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS

Drive up highway to Sale, do a fuel top up there for those that do not have long range fuel tanks. Then upto Dargo, and have a late morning tea in Dargo and look at the historic Dargo Pub.

Drive back to Shortcut Rd and follow along the Wonnangatta River to Kingswell bridge (another good photo opportunity) The drive in is reasonably easy, not very technical at all, lowered tyre pressures helps with the corrugated roads.

I'd like to be arrive in Wonnangatta between 2pm/3pm to set up camp, having lunch alongside the track somewhere.

Relax and base camp. People free to drive and explore the local area, or just chill in the river and walk around the historic area reading the historic signs, visiting the ruins and cemetery.

Happy hours at camp - on Saturday and Sunday. Potential for Roast night as well on Sunday.

Leave again Sunday morning after breakfast, heading out via Zeka Spur track and back down through Licola etc. Zeka has some really fun bits to drive at the moment, lots of rock and but very manageable with tyres at 25psi or lower for most vehicles.

Approx 8 hours drive in - and 8 hours drive out.
Approx. 650 kms round trip (from Berwick and back to Berwick)

VEHICLE LIMITS

MINIMUM: 3
MAXIMUM: 8

**APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE
TO DESTINATION**

400km

LAST AVAILABLE FUEL

PETROL: Dargo
DIESEL: Dargo

DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

300km
Own basic recovery gear, tools and any spares you may require. AT or MT tyres. Must have a UHF radio in vehicle or

MAPS REQUIRED

Dargo high country map is best

RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF

UHF 12, or call me on mobile

GOOGLE MAPS

[See here](#)

DESTINATION
LEADER/CONTACT NO.

Flinders Ranges and Mungo National Park

NAME: Sally Higgs
MOB: 0435782207

DATE
MEETING PLACE / TIME

Easter Week - Friday 19th April - Sunday 28th April
TBC

GRADE
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS

WET and Dry: Easy / Medium

Touring trip to Flinders Ranges and returning via Mungo National Park.

Departing Melbourne on morning of Good Friday 19th April and travelling through to Renmark SA.

Renmark to Wilpena Pound and stay 2 nights at Wilpena Pound Resort and then 1 night bush camping. While in the area do Mt Carnarvon.

Then head to Alpana Station for 2 nights. Drive Mt Samuel and do Sunset Tour.

From Alpana Station head to Broken Hill for a night.

Through to Mungo National Park for a night and then onto Swan Hill and head home to Melbourne on 28th April.

There will be lots of driving but building in time to relax and explore.

VEHICLE LIMITS

MINIMUM: 3
MAXIMUM: 5

Will need early confirmation as accommodation is booking out already.

**APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE
TO DESTINATION**

Total distance travelled will be approx. 3000km

LAST AVAILABLE FUEL

PETROL: Wilpena Pound (plenty of fuel along the way)
DIESEL: Wilpena Pound (plenty of fuel along the way)

DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Max 500km

Camping and 4WD equipment with some self sufficiency as we will be doing combination of bush and caravan park camping

Camper trailers are ok

Food and Snacks to eat along the way but will be opportunity to eat out and get supplies

MAPS REQUIRED

Flinders Ranges and Mungo National Park Maps
Trip leader will have plenty of maps :)

RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF
GOOGLE MAPS

Start on CH11 and see what traffic there is
[See here](#)

PORTLAND MELBOURNE CUP WEEKEND



2nd to 6th November
2018 by Sally Higgs

Tony & Lisa	Ranger
Ly	Landcruiser
Sally, Tristan & Clayton	Discoveroo

We packed up and headed out of town on the Friday night. We were going to meet Tony, Lisa and Ly at Meredith Park Campground on the shore of Lake Colac. We had not even made it to Geelong when we got a call from Tony saying it was blowing a gale and he was unsure of camping. I said give it till sun down as sometimes the wind dies off... well he then phoned back saying it was now making the car rock and roll and the rain was horizontal.. It was then decided that they were going to head into town for a night of glamping. We held off on our decision on camping or not till we got closer.

After being blown all over the road and our truck acting more like a yacht we also decided to join Tony and Lisa at our glamping option in Colac. The motel was well appointed and the lady who took our call at 945pm was very lovely. She left the key out for us when we got there. We saw Tony and Lisa when we arrived and quickly went to bed. Ly arrived after us.

In the morning we packed up and found a place in town for coffee but they did no breakfast so we did a progressive breakfast and had coffee and then round the corner to have our eggs, bacon and pancakes.



It was then off to Timboon where I had heard about a whiskey distillery. It was a lovely location but the whiskey was not to everyone's taste so we carried on towards Portland. We stopped in at Portland to fill up and then we headed out to the buggy club. We found the club without too many issues and started to set up camp in the main camping area. Tony and Lisa spotted a walking trail and went to make sure that they weren't going to have a vehicle or people running into their tent and found a fantastic private area with no other campers. We quickly packed up and moved into the secluded campsite which we got to have all to ourselves.



Tony went to call the guy to have our wood delivered and we just set up camp and kicked back and relaxed. The firewood then turned up on a massive tandem trailer. We were a bit worried as the wood looked like it would burn very quickly but there was A LOT so we thought we will be ok. It turned out that we were wrong and it burnt very well and lasted us the whole weekend.

Saturday morning we woke up to a bit of cloud. We had chatted to some people the previous day on the best way to head so we took a lazy start and then headed out onto the dunes and headed back towards Portland. We wandered the dunes with no real idea on where we were going so just had a good nose around.

There were a few steep dunes that tested us out and warmed us up and there were some that we just decided the angles weren't quite right to do safely.





The first dune straight out the car park gives a small taste of what is to come.

Ly had a bit of fun on the dunes with a difference in power levels and in this instance we were unsure if there was another way out so was easier just to winch him over the top of the dune as he got pretty much all the way up.





We had a look around for a couple of hours and then it was getting near lunch so we headed back to camp to eat. Tony had to go into town to fill up gas bottle and also wanted to have a look around. The rest of us stayed in camp for a lazy afternoon of sleeping and playing cards.

I found a frog near the tent so got Tristan to move it for me as I was worried it would end up in the tent...

The fire was roaring and the rain had gone away so we had a great night by the fire yarning away and solving the problems of the world. We then headed off to bed. As we went to sleep there was some rain and it sounded lovely on the tent. We were warm and dry and the pitter patter of the rain put us to sleep. At some point in the night (I think about 2am) I woke with a start as a cold wet drop landed on my face. I sat up very quickly and woke Tristan to get torch saying I had had water drop on my face and it must be coming in the tent. As I am sitting up looking at my pillow, Tristan put the light on I felt the cold wet drop on my face move, with a super quick flick and a scream a frog landed on my pillow!! I was then flicking my hair going its a frog its a frog. Tristan tried to catch the frog but it kept moving around so I opened the door to the annex and got a bowl and plate from the kitchen bag to catch said frog to let it go outside... I then made sure ALL the zips were done up tight. He must have been partying in the tent most of the night as I think we left the zips undone earlier in the day. Tristan commented later on that he had felt something cold on his face. Lets just say it took awhile to go back to sleep that night.

Monday we woke to more cloud. Today we headed out to the bowl which we could see from our



campsite. It is a MASSIVE sand dune.

This is the bowl as you can see it coming in from the road. Campsite to the left. The 2 lots of tracks are ours. The wind blows them away each night.



I decided to stay down the bottom of the bowl to take photos and video footage of the descent. I had the portable radio with me and then I hear Tristan say, this one looks steep so we are going to have a look. Next thing I hear is Lisa saying, oh oh, those smiles mean trouble. Tristan says he is going down, I then hear Lisa going “ohhhhhhh Sh&%” followed by Ly saying “is it safe” I think I will find another way.

I later got to see this nasty little steep dune and I can understand the conversation now.. It was quite interesting just hearing the commentary and nothing else.

Tristan was the first to drop over the edge of the bowl and drive his way down. It was so steep but the photos never really do it justice. With the train tracks now built Tony had a go and he was yeehaaing all the way down.

Ly was not so sure so Lisa convinced him to go down with Tony and Tony was only too happy to have another go. Ly came down with a big grin on his face so we convinced him to drive with Tony in the car supporting him.

Ly made his way over the edge and all the way down. The grin at the bottom said it all.



The view over the edge of the bowl.



Tony after making his own train tracks down the bowl.

Once we had finished playing at the bowl we headed down to the beach to have a look as Tony had



been thinking about fishing. The water was pretty rough and the rain had set in again.

So we headed back to camp. I wanted to go to a little town on the border called Nelson (my home town in Nelson, NZ) so thought it would be a laugh. So we headed to Nelson for lunch. We tried the local pub but it was closed so went and had some chips and sandwiches at the General Store.

We then went to have a look at the beach at Nelson where we saw fisherman collecting worms



from the sea floor and standing besides their boats fishing.

We had a walk out to the coast through the beautiful bush.

I had seen on a map that there was a track along the border so we crossed over into SA to have a look, sadly we found the track but it had a gate on it and it was locked. Looked like it had not been used for awhile.

We headed back to camp to relax for the evening. There had been some rain around so Tony set up the gazebo for over the fire and we had dinner and told more stories. It was a good thing we set up the gazebo as we got a little bit of rain later in the evening.



Tuesday we woke up to rain so we took it easy having breakfast under the gazebo and packed up as much as we could but in the end had to pack up in the rain. We then went into Portland for lunch and Ly left us to fill up and make his way home and the rest of us headed off back to Melbourne.

Overall it was a fantastic relaxing weekend away with a little bit of 4WDing, a lot of camping with great facilities and a beautiful spot. Will definitely be heading back there soon.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

8th December 2018 by
Maree Bowker

First things first a great big Thank you to Ian and Audrey for the use of there big shed. As we have all come to expect the weather turned to ##### and we would have all been really wet campers without the use of their big shed. Next Thank you is to Ly who provided his culinary skills and the picture needs smell a vision to fully appreciate the whole experience.

We all enjoyed remembering the year that was the good times we shared and the adventures we had. There was small fire and a few frothy beverages

Its been a great year for the club and the friendships formed will last a long time.



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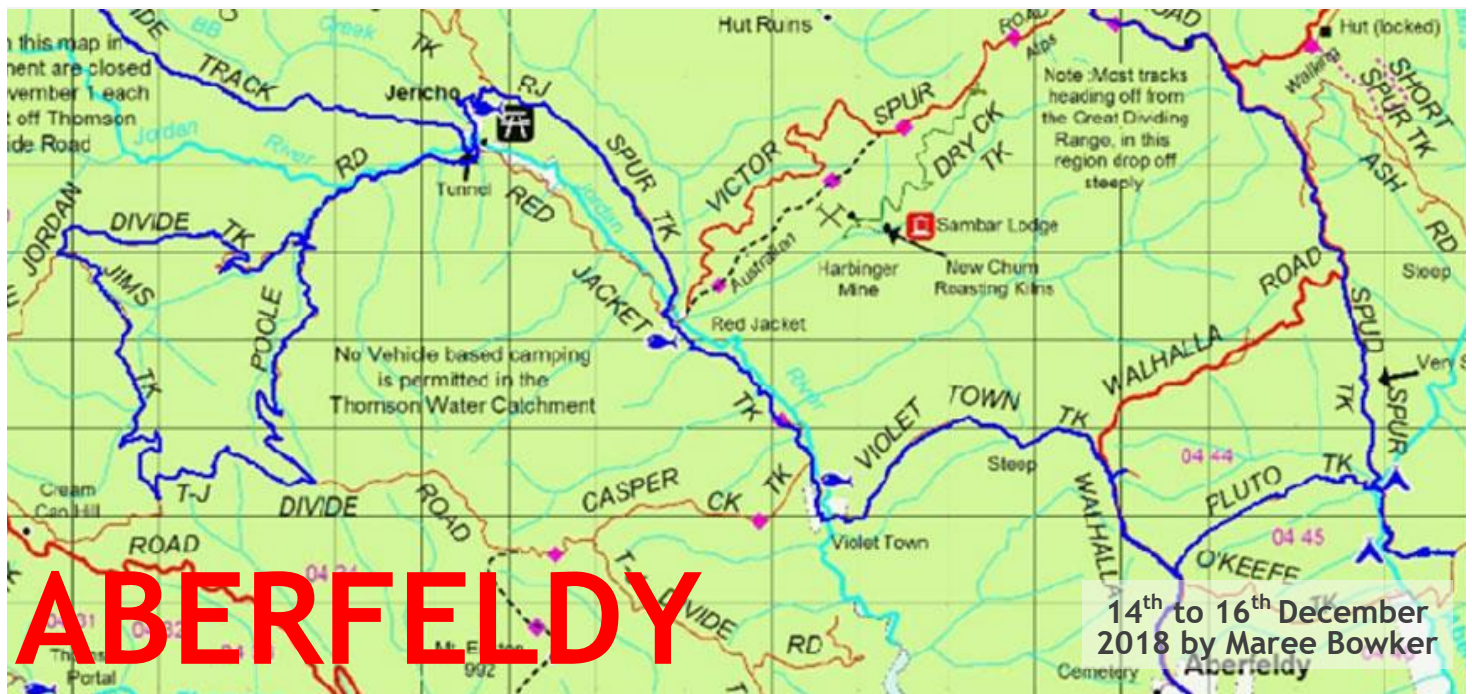


Here is some pictures to enjoy from
Maree and Stuart.



A happy birthday wish to Anne who enjoyed Audrey's cheese cake with all the trimmings including candles.





This weekend started on Friday night with

Maree & Stuart	Landcruiser ute
Half size Joe	Prado
Ian	Patrol
Adam & Zac (visitors)	Lexus

We battled Friday traffic out of town, with the usual bottle necks. Heading to Erica to the pub for dinner. The pub does steak on a hot rock and its really worth the traffic. It has an interesting collection of chain saws hanging from the ceiling. The discussion on the evening was what are the river crossing going to be like as we have had so much rain in the last few days? Passing the empty Merringtons Flat camp ground, so we headed on to Jorgensens Flat hut but it was occupied so we headed to Little O'Tooles for the evening. Just arriving and setting up as the rain came. We huddled for a bit but decided bed was the best option.



Saturday

The creek looks low, so we headed past Codes flat and up Comet spur track, it's a little slippery in the middle and the mud and rocks steps get everyone's heart going for the morning. Next stop is Aberfeldy township where we meet the second group.

Mary & Jeff	BT Mazda
Cullum Trudy Zac & Josh	Ranger
Stephen D	Jeep (precious)
Will & Gavin	Hilux

First stop The Elderdo town site, our club looks after this, so we did a quick tidy up, then headed to Violet town track, and the first rescue was required. Heading out of the river is a short rocky step but today its covered in mud and this proves just too much for the Jeep, Ian to



the rescue, then Mary and Jeff needed a bit of assistance too it's a tricky exit with the mud making it harder as each vehicle churning it up. We will award Jeff a trying award for getting mud on the car above the back window.

Next was on to Red Jacket and RJ Spur track to Jericho all going well a bit of slipping and sliding.

We stopped at the Chinese memorial under the oak trees, The next causality of the day was Ian, he filled his tyres with mud and was slipping and not getting very far at all. His winch proved to be invaluable and he popped over the woop-dy-doo and continued on his way. Poole track and Jim Track headed into BBJ divide track.



Everyone's having a good time, Stuart sees a way over the hill and challenges anyone game to try it. It was a bit of fun We are now at 1224 mts looking at Matlock town last time we saw it was the snow weekend and how different the landscape is today.

Back on the Walhalla road down to Spud Spur Track. Heading for the Aberfeldy river crossing at 569 mts just to show how quickly we change altitude.

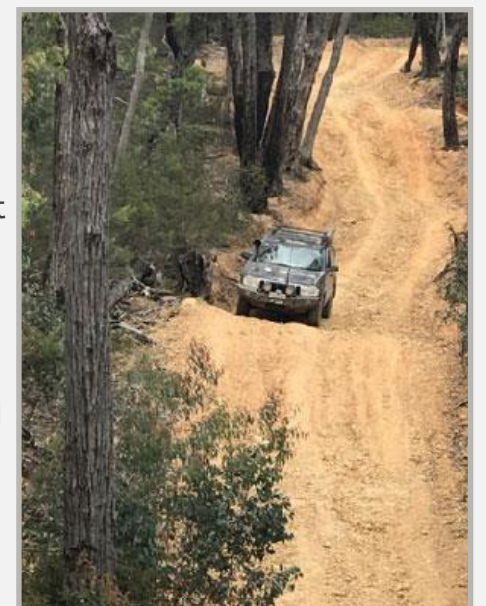
On the way down we saw a Hilux on its side, a timely reminder of the dangers and the need to be careful.

Over the river and the fun stated. Stuart had to take a second bite at Pluto Link track, he warned everyone to be careful and watch out for the ruts. This track proved extremely difficult for the group with wheels sliding into ruts and needing to be winched out. Callum had his winch decide to not work just when he needed it most. Jeff needed assistance too. Stephen, Jeff, Will and Gavin did an awesome job of assistance on the steep slippery slopes.

Joe was our tail end Charlie and it was his tail end that gave out on him, his Prado broke the rear diff and after removing the rear tail shaft he was towed back to the main road up Pluto track where the RACV would pick him up at Aberfeldy.

Finally with Pluto link track completed some of the group headed home via O' Keefe and on to Walhalla road.

We headed to Eldorado and the camping site we were told about behind the main site. The rain held off and we had a small fire and some BBQ meat for dinner.



Sunday

Joe limped his Prado up to Aberfeldy township in front wheel drive where the tow truck was on its way to pick him up. The rest of the group packed up and joined Joe for the wait. We waved Joe

goodbye and headed down to the dam wall car park to air up.

Lunch was at the caravan just near Mc Donald's that's called not maccas in Moe. It's potato cakes with ham and cheese and is worth the stop.

A great weekend and the last word is Joe is getting his Prado fixed and hopes to be back on the tracks in the new year Here's is some photos and there's a few video on the face book page. The pictures do not do it justice.



Callum lifting a wheel on the Ranger



Eating the biggest potato cakes at the not maccas caravan for lunch on the way home.