



FREE WHEELING

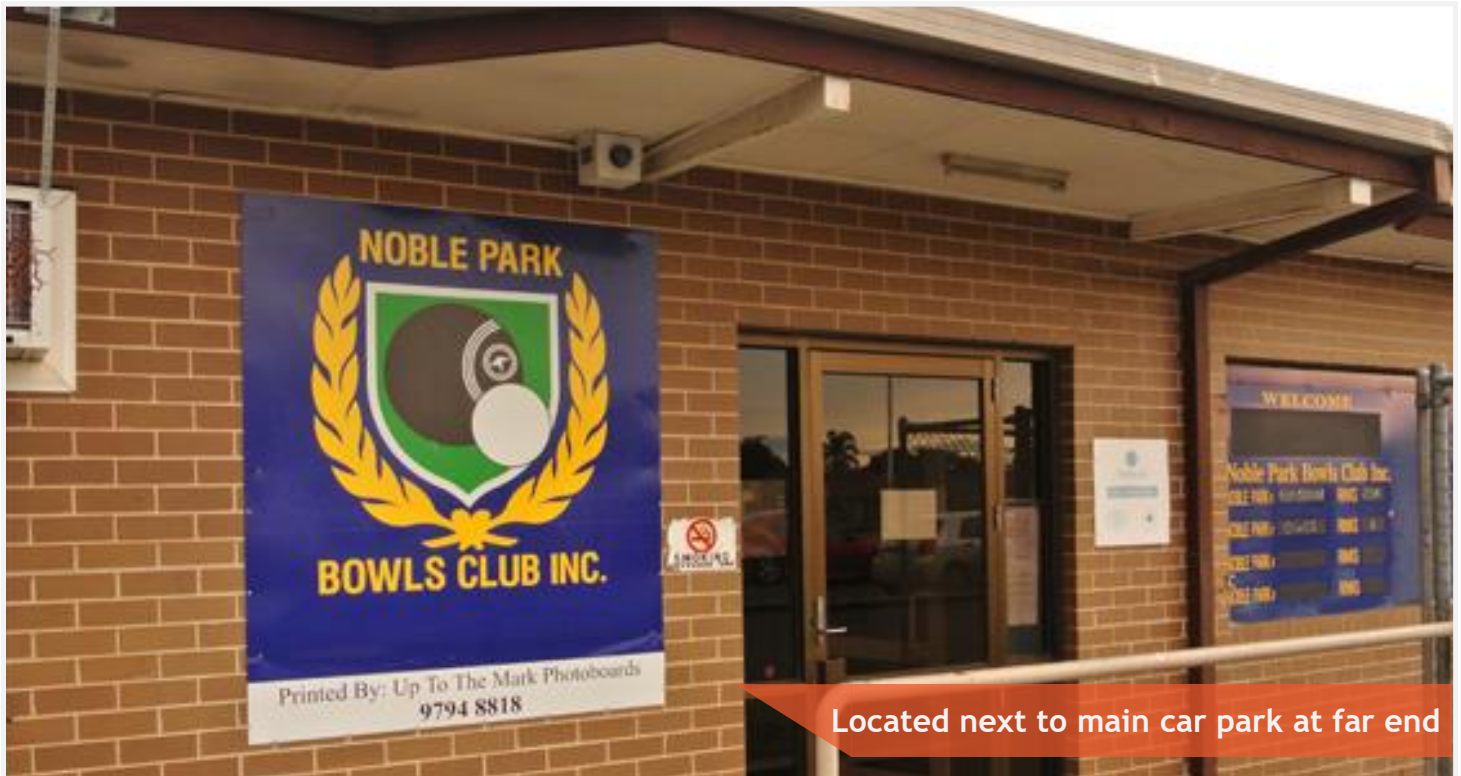
March 2019



Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Four Wheel
Drive Club Inc

Original photo by Ann
Crockett at Haunted
Stream

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

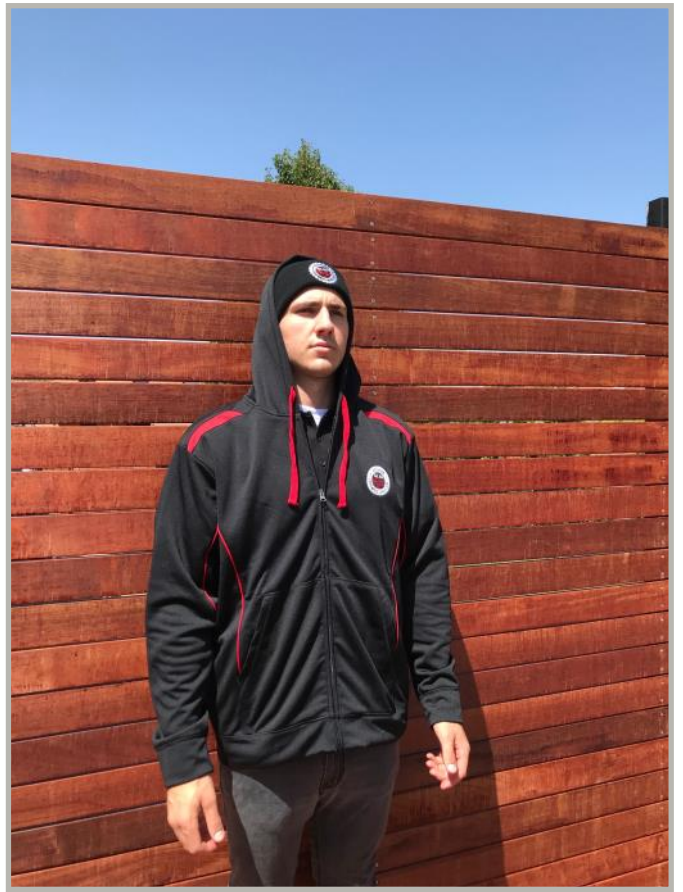
Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
Registration No	A002184F
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong VIC 3174
Email	secretary@vfwdc.com
Website	www.vfwdc.com
The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of Four Wheel Drive Victoria - www.fwdvictoria.org.au	

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



Hi all,

I hope that you enjoy reading this month's edition of Free Wheeling magazine.

It was great to see so many visitors and prospective new members at our last general meeting. Thank you to those in attendance who made our guests feel welcome.

Last month we had the first Victorian 4WD show of the year. There were a number of new products on show, including some new and re-introduced models of off-road vehicles.

This month we will have our first guest speaker of the year, Rudi who heads up West Gippsland Relic, Mining and Heritage Protection Inc. He also coordinates the Aberfeldy Track maintenance project that our club is involved in. Please come along to our general meeting to hear from Rudi and to learn about some of the rich history of the area that we help to maintain.

I am pleased to report that we have a few trips lined up in our pipeline. They include some short distance and longer distance trips. Please consider showing your support for our trip leaders by getting involved in one or more of these trips. We are always on the lookout for new trip leaders so if you haven't yet run a trip to your own favourite area, please consider whether you'd like to run one or speak to our trip coordinator if you'd like assistance in getting a trip up and running.

I hope to see you all at the next general meeting or, if you can't make it, at one of our up-coming trips.


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

March				
6th	Wed	General Meeting		
9th to 11th	Sat to Mon	Labour Day Weekend— Wonnangatta	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
9th to 11th	Sat to Mon	Huts in the High Country	Stuart Bowker	0428 539 157
11th	Mon	Labour Day public holiday		
18th	Mon	Committee Meeting		
April				
3rd	Wed	General Meeting		
13th	Sat	Tyre repairs and winching practice	Stuart Bowker	0428 539 157
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
19th to 27th	Fri to Sun	Border Track / Ngarkat Conservation Park	Roger Blakeman	0490 055 963
22nd	Mon	Easter Monday public holiday		
25th	Thu	Anzac Day public holiday		
May				
1st	Wed	General Meeting		
20th	Mon	Committee Meeting		
November				
TBA	TBA	Biannual Trip to Beachport and Robe for Melbourne Cup weekend	TBA	TBA

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

16th February 2019

Attendees

As per attendance sheets

Apologies

As per attendance sheets

Bruce C

Ben Whitworth

Des

Minutes from Last Meeting

Accepted by Stuart

Seconded by Anne

Matters arising from Last Meeting

Nil

Correspondence In/ Out:

Emails:

- Membership Inquiries
- Confirming Member email address on distribution list
- Email to Ian Fletcher Four Wheel Drive Victoria following up to see if we have replied re our trainer details. 9/12/2018

Mail:

- Land Rover Owners Club Review Magazine
- Bendigo Bank Statement 1/8/18 - 31/8/18
- Letter from Top Level Communications Lynbrook on their services
- Audit Confirmation Request from 4WD Victoria dated 11/10/2018
- Bendigo Bank Statement 1/9/18 - 30/9/18
- Bendigo Bank Statement 1/10/18 - 31/10/18
- Material from Royal Flying Doctor Service requesting Donations
- Trackwatch

Treasurer's Report

- December as per club magazine
- January - no major changes from

December. See report attached

- David B Accepted and Em - Seconded

Association Delegate Report

No Report

New Members/Guests and Prospective Members

- No new member packs to go out
- Prospective members welcomed

General Business

- Committee will be developing some new guidelines around smoking etiquette. Members will be consulted when draft documents are prepared
- We have invited Rudi Paoletti (President of Westland Gippsland Relic, Mining and Heritage Protection) to attend our March meeting and May working bee.

Driver Training

- No trainers at meeting - Steve will follow up and hold topics over till next meeting
- Next likely Driver Training session? - Phil / Ashley (if present)
- Winch practice session in a controlled environment? - Phil / Ashley (if present)

Merchandise

Recent Additions to be showcased will be shown next month

Upcoming Trips

- Firth Park 16-17/02/2019 (Tony)
- Wonnangatta Labour Day Long Weekend (David)
- Flinders Ranges & Mungo NP Easter to ANZAC Day long weekends (Sally)
- 4WD Show also on 17/02/2019 at Lardner Park (notice of event that might be of interest to members.
- David - Expression of Interest on Waterfall Trip

- David - Biannual Trip to Beachport and Robe for Melbourne Cup Weekend

Guest Speaker

No Guest Speaker this evening

Past Trip Reports

- Aberfeldy and surrounds (Stuart) - Mix of tracks Pluto track ended up with winning a few people out
- Ulupna Island (Steve) - Long beach Ulupna Island, relaxing weekend, strawberry farm visit, swimming
- Butcher Country (Brett) - 3rd time tried to run trip - Heyfield, Tamboritha Road, Dingo Hill, Caledonia River track, camped at Mt Howitt, Butcher Country Track, Camped Macalister River
- Haunted Stream (Geoff) - Haunted Stream, Dogs Grave, Dargo
- Bunyip SF (Andre) - Rocket Track, Tea Tree, Andersons, Gentle Annie. All tracks are graded
- REMINDER - "Good on Ya" award to be emailed to trips@vfwdc.com

Raffle Prizes

- Chainsaw - Donated by Techtronic Industries Australia - Tony
- Hella Light - Donated by Hella Australia - Callum
- Air Chair - Jack
- Picnic Bag Kit - Phil



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 January 2019

<u>Cheque A/C`</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/01/2019	\$5,782.78
Add:	Raffle	\$0.00
	Merchandise	\$0.00
	Memberships	\$0.00
	Total Monies In:	\$0.00
<u>Less:</u>	Catering	\$0.00
	Total Monies Out:	\$0.00
	Closing Balance as at 31/01/2019	\$5,782.78
<u>Term Deposit</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/01/2019	\$6,604.23
	Interest Paid	\$0.00
	Closing Balance as at 31/01/2019	\$6,604.23
<u>Petty Cash</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/01/2019	\$150.00
	Add:	
	Less:	
	Closing Balance as at 31/01/2019	\$150.00
	Consolidated Closing Cash Position	\$12,537.01

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
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	Huts in the High Country
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Stuart and Maree MOB: 0428 539 157
DATE	9-11 March 2019. Friday night if anyone is interested
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Sheepyard Flat. Saturday morning 9am for a 9.30am departure
GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Driving around the high country looking at some of the huts and the brilliant scenery. Different camp site each night. Not suitable for camper trailers.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	170kms from Lilydale to Howqua track Turnoff just out of Merrijig Then 30 kms of dirt to Sheepyard Flats.
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield Topping up with fuel is a MUST
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	300kms
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Own basic recovery gear, air compressor, tyre deflater / gauge, tools and any spares you may require. AT or MT tyres. Warm clothing it WILL be cold at night. Self sufficient camping equipment and food/water/munchies for the weekend.
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftop Maps; Bush Huts Around Mansfield or Mansfield Mt Howitt map usually available at BP Mansfield. Hema High country west sheet
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

DESTINATION	Tyre Repairs and Winching Practice—Bunyip State Park
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Stuart Bowker MOB: 0428 539 157
DATE	Saturday 13th April 2019
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Caltex Longwarry (East bound), Corner Sand Rd, Princes Hwy, Longwarry VIC 3816 8:30 am for a 9:00 am departure
GRADE	Wet: Easy Dry: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Plan is to allow members to practice using their own winches in a controlled environment and I will give a demonstration on roadside tyre repairs. At this stage no 4x4 driving is planned. All welcome even if you don't have a winch.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: NA
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	50kms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Caltex Longwarry DIESEL: Caltex Longwarry
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	NA
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery gear, munchies and lunch
MAPS REQUIRED	Roofotp Yarra Valley West Gippsland
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12
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 Carnervon.

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](#)

DESTINATION	Border Track/Ngarkat Conservation Park
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Roger Blakema Email: r_blakeman@hotmail.com MOB: 0490055963
DATE	Friday 19th to Saturday 27th April 2019
MEETING PLACE / TIME	BP Calder Northbound, Calder Park at 8am
GRADE	WET: hard DRY: medium/hard
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Day 1 - Melbourne to Mildura (caravan Park) - 540km Day 2: Mildura to shearers Quarters, Murray Sunset NP - 200km Day 3: Shearers Quarters to Murrayville (Caravan Park) - 100km - Easter egg hunt Day 4: Murrayville - rest day: optional day trip to Karte Conservation Park (100km return and 1.5km walk) Day 5: Murrayville to Pine Hut Soak (Ngarkat CP)- 52km - easy day Day 6: Pine Hut Soak to Red Bluff, Big Desert Wilderness Area - Border track one way - hard) - 85km Day 7: Red Bluff to Keith (Caravan Park) - Border track / Ngarkat CP/Mount Rescue lookout- 145km Day 8: Keith - rest day - (Caravan Park) (optional day trip to wineries) Day 9: Keith - Melbourne - 505km Day 10: spare day.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 4
APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE TO DESTINATION	515km
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Mildura/Pinnaroo-28km from Murrayville)/Keith DIESEL: Mildura/Pinnaroo-28km from Murrayville)/Keith
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Everybody will need to be self-sufficient for the entire trip. Sufficient drinking water must be taken as it is not available at the camp sites.
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Full Recovery gear, shovel, air compressor, maxtrax or equivalent, hat, sunscreen etc.. Sand Flag - advisable
SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS	As this trip requires pre campsite bookings and vehicle permits into Ngarkat Conservation Park, positions will not be confirmed until a deposit has been made. Vehicle registrations and number of people travelling per vehicle need to be provided to my email above. I will respond with payment details. Please specify if you require a powered site when staying at caravan parks.
MAPS REQUIRED	TBA
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12
GOOGLE MAPS	See here

OUR CAPE YORK TRIP

18th Aug to 22nd Sep
2018 by Tony

Our Cape York Adventure started on Saturday 18th of August 2018 where we met up with John & Emily at 7-11 in Hampton park at 6am. Then headed across the city to Wycheproof where we stopped for Nuttella donuts and coffee. We then high tailed it to Broken Hill where we spent our first night in a hotel and it would be the last night in a bed for 5 weeks.



The next morning, we headed for Tibooburra for fuel where we happened to catch up with Mick & Sally at the servo - what a surprise. After we fuelled up and had lunch we headed for Cameron Corner where we set up camp and had a great meal and a warm shower. In the morning we headed for Innamincka where on the Strzelecki Track we came across a land sail car broken down. Powered by wind and electric motor via solar this sort of thing only happens in the outback what an experience. We tried to help but

not much we could do so we then drove to Innamincka for fuel and visited Burke's Grave.



From here we went to the Burke and Wills Dig tree where we camped the night. From here we headed to Birdsville where we had some refreshments at the pub and camped the night at the caravan park. The next day we had breakfast at the Bakery and then headed for Big Red for a little fun. And fun it was there was no stopping Tiny; unlike poor John in the 80 series and Mick in the soft roader 200 series. We had a fun couple of hours.



From Birdsville our next destination was Longreach. We got about 200km out of Birdsville where we decided to camp at Deons Lookout. What a spectacular place to camp beautiful views of the valley below and great sunset. The next morning we continued on to Longreach via Windora where we stopped for fuel and some food at the servo. I get out to fill up and I hear a woman shout "Hey Donga, serve the customers". Out comes a typical outback guy with a flannel shirt with the sleeves

torn off and mullet hair style. It was like a scene out of Crocodile Dundee. So lovely people but so funny.



From Windorah we arrived in Longreach in the afternoon and booked into the caravan park for the night. While we were setting up camp we see a huge bull with a guy riding it. And then not five minutes later a Brolga decided to visit our camp site - a large bird.

Then to top things off I misplaced my car keys, With Tiny locked and my wallet in it, it was steak night at the restaurant. We made every effort to find my keys before they stopped serving. By the time we

found my keys dinner was over so we had to cook dinner that night. I was not impressed. Next morning we toured through the Qantas Museum where we did a guided tour and the wing walk on a 747. The museum was interesting and fun. We then headed to Winton where all the caravan parks were booked out so we continued on looking for some where to camp.





When we came across a truck rest stop on the side of the road so we camped there for a night. The next day we continued on to Kurumba it was a long day so we were happy to book into the caravan park and setup that night. Sally cooked up some Morton bay bugs—what a treat my first try of them. Very nice. Its been one week already since we started and we are just starting to head up the cape. Can't believe how big Australia is.

It's Sunday 26 August and we started bright and early heading for Musgrave Road House by crossing the Mitchell River. What an adventure the Mitchell River was - quite low and was easy to cross. The road to Musgrave was very soft and corrugated in places. We arrived at Musgrave late so we set up camp and had a meal at the roadhouse—well worth it.



It's Monday 27th and from here it's onwards towards the telegraph track on the Peninsula Development Road. We stopped at Coen for fuel and a bite to eat then we headed for Bramwell Road house. We topped up our fuel and then we entered the start of the Telegraph Track—the adventure continues.



We crossed four rivers: Palm Creek, Ducie Creek, North Alice Creek and the Dultunty River where we decided we would camp the night. We setup camp on the edge or the river what a beautiful spot. The next morning we continued on the Telegraph Track by crossing Bertie Creek then on to Gunshot Creek.



Only silly people drive down a 5meter vertical drop down to the river bed. We went down the chicken track then we crossed Cockatoo Creek. Then sailor creek and stopped at Fruit Bat Falls for a swim. After three hours in a hot car it was just what the doctor ordered. Swimming in Fruit Bat Falls was one of the highlights of the trip. After we freshened up we stopped at Eliot Falls camping ground. Perfect spot to camp.



The next morning we headed for Loyalty beach but we first had some rivers to cross. The deep one was Nolans Brook. First crossing was Sam Creek, then Mistake Creek which had a deep section. We had water up over the bonnet and half way up the windscreen, and to top that off we forgot to set the vent controls to recirculate. So we filled the heater box with water and turned the cabin filter dust to mud. Anyway lots of fun—no harm done.

Then we crossed Cannibal Creek and Cypress Creek. We then Crossed Nolans Brook. Mick lead and like lemmings we all followed. John tried to drown the 80 series but still made it across and Tiny just made it. The water was waist deep; about 1.2 metres. We had a short swim then headed for the Jardine river where we crossed the river by ferry.

Then we headed for Bamaga where we stopped for fuel and then on to Loyalty Beach. We set up camp one sand dune from the beach. We decided to have a meal at the restaurant which was set up overlooking the beach. What a place to have a meal and watch the sunset.

The next morning we toured the area visiting WW2 plane wrecks and fuel dumps. It was an interesting day. There were small fires all over the place and they tell us this is normal. Seemed unusual to us.

It's Friday 31st and we headed for the tip which is what we came here to do and it didn't disappoint. On the way back we stopped at the Crock Tent for some souvenirs. That night we cooked a roast on the beach and had dinner at sunset. Just amazing sunsets they are spectacular every night I could get used to this.

The next day we took the ferry to Thursday Island and had a guided tour around the island. The bus driver was great and I would recommend if you are at the cape to take the time and visit Thursday Island.

It's Sunday 2nd Sep and we packed up camp to head for Summerset Beach. We got as far as the start of the beach when we realised that John's 80 series wouldn't select 4wd. The centre diff electric module had burnt out. So we headed back to Loyalty Beach with a plan to take it to a local mechanic on Monday.

The next morning we headed to the mechanic only to find he was having a day off. So back to camp for a quiet day. On Tuesday 4th we took John's car to the mechanic where he repaired the 80 series. So all ended well except for John's hip pocket.

The next day we headed for Summerset Beach driving over sand dunes onto beaches heading for Captan Billys Landing where we camped the night. It was a little windy but a beautiful spot. From here we headed for Bramwell Station where we had lunch and back at the start of the Telegraph Track where we started almost two weeks ago.

Then we headed for Weipa to have a look around and stayed at the caravan park. It's Friday 7th Sep we have been on the road for 20 days and still having a great time. We packed up camp and headed for Frenchman's Track where we came across a F250 stuck on the exit of a river.

So we helped the car get out and then followed them. They had made a mess of the exit. Mick was first to go and he got stuck on the top of the exit. So we winched him out then it was John's turn—he made it. Then it was us and we also made it.

We then crossed the Pascoe river and then onto Archer River Roadhouse where we camped the night. The next morning we headed for Laura caravan park probably the worst place we stayed at.

We then drove to some Aboriginal rock art which date back some 13,000 years. It was a beautiful spot. Then we headed for Cape Town had lunch and then camped at the Lions Den Pub not far from Cape Town. From the Lions Den we drove the Creb Track down to the Daintree where we caught the ferry and booked into the Lync Haven caravan park for three nights. It was an excellent park.

They served the best meals and the owners were amazing people looking after injured wildlife including crocodiles wallabies, snakes and dingos. They had a public display feeding a crocodile and wallabies. The next day we toured the Daintree visiting the forest tree top walk.

The next morning we saw a cassowary and its chick walking behind our tent. What a sight we then had lunch at turtle rock café and tried the best ice cream from the Daintree Ice Cream Co. All made from fresh and local ingredients like mango, davidson plums, soursop (tasted like lemonade) amazing flavours.

The next day we headed for Cairns where we stayed at a Big4 caravan park. Very nice and clean the next day we went to Kuranda using the skyrail and spent the day touring the many Kuranda markets. It's a must do if you visit Cairns. We also visited the Armour & Artillery museum.

Saturday 15th Sep we packed up and headed to Atherton where Mick and Sally's caravan was. This was the last night we would be traveling together so we had a small celebration for what was a great trip. The next day we left Atherton -a sad farewell to Mick and Sally as we started to head for home. We stopped at Townsville for lunch and continued south as far as Belyando Crossing road house where we camped the night.

Monday 17th Sep we have been on the road for 29 days and still having a great time we continued south to Roma where we camped at a gun club on the edge of a shooting range. In the morning we packed up and continued south it took two and a half days drive just to reach the Queensland/NSW border - unreal. Then we stopped at Gilgandra and stayed at the caravan park.

The next day we headed further south through Dubbo and stopped for a visit at the Parks Observatory where we had scones and jam. From here we went as far as Queanbeyan where we camped for the night. Boy was it cold; zero degrees, what a shock to the system. The next day we drove to Cooma then headed down the Monaro Hwy to Cann River and then continued to Lakes Entrance where we parted company with John and Emily. They continued on to home while we stayed a night at a cabin. Our first night for five weeks in a bed.

Friday 21st Sep our last day on the road—an easy three hour drive home and the end of what was an incredible adventure. I urge everyone to try to make it to the Cape. It's everything I expected and more I would like to thank Mick, Sally, John and Emily for making the trip as good as it was.

Stats:

Total distance travelled	10,207.2km
Dearest Fuel	\$2.03 per liter
Cheapest fuel	\$1.49 per litre
Total cost of fuel	\$2,353.69
Total Camping Fees	\$570.00
Total Food	\$923.07
Total Alcohol	\$399.50
Meals	\$1,245.25
Total cost of trip	\$8,106.47

Damage to Vehicles:

80 series	Centre dif solenoid, brake line front RHS, number plate bracket, battery clamp bracket, wet carpet.
Ford Ranger (Tiny)	Sand flag bracket, side step end piece, cracked rear number plate, cabin filter soaked with water.
200 series soft roader (Mellow)	Rear bumper bar scratched and small dints, scratched bulbar

ULUPNA ISLAND MURRAY RIVER

26th to 28th January by
Steve Pitcher

Steve Pitcher and kids

Owen Claridge and Wendy Cameron

Steve Zonneveldt

Eoin & Carrie Keeghan and kids (Guests)

Toyota LandCruiser

Ford Courier

Nissan Patrol

Mitsubishi Outlander

I met up with Owen at our rendezvous point (the Shell servo near Donnybrook) and we were only about 5 minutes apart. A quick cuppa and chat before we hit the road, aiming for Shepparton and then on to Strathmerton. There we stopped and met up with Steve Z who was coming in from Albury and Wendy who was driving down from Sydney. We had a quick lunchbreak before heading towards the island.

The trip in was uneventful - we were on to the island and reached our destination (Longbeach) within about half an hour. We were expecting a swathe of other campers but were presently surprised when we found only a handful of others camped along the beach.



It was hot but nothing unexpected for that time of year. We set about establishing our camp while the kids went for a dip to cool off. We were all done within an hour or two, following which the adults also went for a swim. We were joined later that afternoon by the Keeghans who frequent the area most Australia Day long weekends. It was a pleasant afternoon and it remained hot (close

to 30 degrees) throughout most of the evening.



A little rain appeared from about 2am onwards and it continued on and off until early morning. Owen had to do some emergency repairs to his tent (as in put the fly on) in order to keep things dry.

Next day was a slow start with most people opting for a bacon and egg breakfast. The moisture in the air was welcome but that soon dissipated as the day wore on. Owen and Wendy took the opportunity to test their skills at erecting some spare tents that they had brought up with them while some of us headed out towards Cobram to a nearby strawberry farm.



All the kids had a great time picking (and occasionally sampling) fresh strawberries straight from the garden beds.

These were followed by some cold drinks and ice creams to cool down before we headed back to camp. We watched the sun setting over the river which made for a great photo opportunity.

The next day was the final day. While most of us had another leisurely start, Owen and Wendy had to head off a little earlier so that she could complete the drive back up to Sydney. After saying our goodbyes to them, the rest of us set about packing up our own gear. We broke camp by about 11am before heading off on our separate ways. It was a great weekend spent relaxing on the sandy banks of the Murray River, all the while in great company. Thanks to everyone that came along.



WOMBAT AND LERDERBERG PARK OVERNIGHT TRIP



Participants

Lisa & Tony	Ranger
Maree & Stuart	Toyota
Elaine & Phil	Pajero
Mary & Jeff	BT 50
Audrey & Ian	Patrol
Ann & Alan	Prado

Visitors

Michael S	Ranger
Shane & Jenny	Colorado

Lets start at the beginning Lisa and Tony organized an overnight trip with a bit of 4x4 driving and camping at firth park, dinner at the Pig and Whistle pub this is the plan.

Friday 15 February 2019

Maree and Stuart met Ann and Allan at Hanging Rock for a picnic. A great park we took the rocky steep slog track to the top, not the gentle ramble round the base. The view from the top was spectacular. We recommend the stop. Mt Macedon cross was on the visit list with the stunning drive up the mountain. You will have seen the big cross jutting out of the ranges. The gardens surrounding it had the hydrangeas in full blue flowers with topiary trees surrounding the memorial cross. Alan and Ann sampled the scones in the tea room and reported great so coming from the English that must be a recommendation. On to Firth park for a BBQ dinner and a roaring fire. Ian and Audrey joined us here.



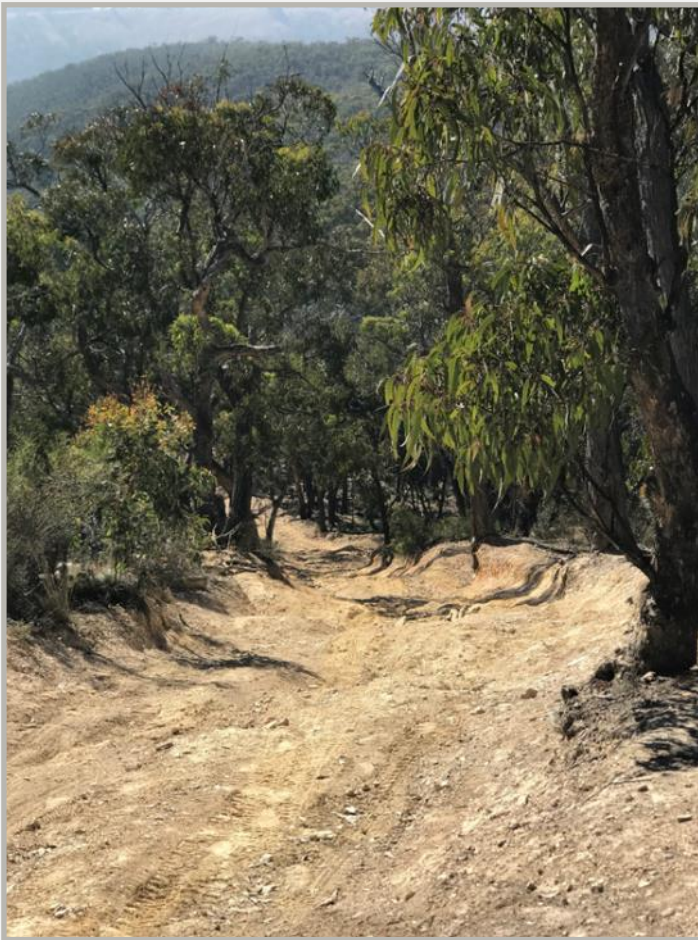
Saturday 16 February 2019

Some had an early start with a McDonalds tour to begin the day, Mary and Jeff, Shane and Jenny (visitors) Michael S (visitor) Phil and Elaine. The forest has a mist to it as we head into Wombat



State Park. First up fire break No 1 then Radcliff track, so far so good, a few rock steps some loose stones but everyone is handling it great. The uphill is challenging with switchbacks proving more difficult for the mighty BT 50 and its turning circle. Along Blue gum to Nuggety track. This is proving more challenging as we head down the hill. Finally coming to a rock step that has been filled with logs and the consensus of the group was its better to U turn and continue than to spend the day winching and breaking things.

So U turn it is, back along Camrons Rd to the quarry for morning tea. Stuart and Ian had a play on the big hill, and everyone enjoyed Audrey's hot cross buns. On to Seerey road and another U turn was in order as the gate at the far end of the track was locked. Great views of the districts but its annoying to have to turn back. All in good sprits and the chatter on the radio provided entertaining interludes. Our guests were feeling more confident in their vehicles. We stopped for lunch in the forest and headed to Big Obrien's link track then found upper Chadwick camp ground it has got new long drop toilets and flat camp sites on the edge of the creek. Just in case someone is looking for a different camp site.



Next up diggers track and now we found MUD lots of mud for Jeff who had been asking all day are we going to find any mud.

Well we got out, worked out a plan and got everyone through with no damage, Jeff was really pleased with his new back bar and Ian may have just bumped his on his exit from the puddle but

these are stories for them to tell. The photos are following. We all arrived back at the camp site and had a happy hour until the bus picked us up. Audrey and Ian had their family join us for a play at the camp site and dinner. Dinner was enjoyed by all. The bus taking us back to camp and a roaring fire and a few stories of the days adventures.



Sunday 17 February 2019

A leisurely morning with the smell of bacon and eggs and coffee. No ones in a hurry and the discussion turns to Shane (Visitor) and he has a bag of shiny new recovery gear still in its plastic packets. So the plan is hatched to have a little practice explaining how things work, and ending in a triple pully winch taking the car backwards. Input from different directions and a whole heap of laughter later we all enjoyed the show.

So now its lunch time and after lunch the group said their goodbyes and headed home.

A big thank you to Lisa and Tony for putting the trip together and all the participants as this is what makes a great weekend.



Maree pulling the pigs ear.



Ian it's a strange angle for your trusty patrol is the back wheel spinning Ian?



Is the front wheel just hanging in thin air? Oops



It's a drop off into a puddle to avoid the bigger puddle



Ok so this bit goes where? Do you think this will work?



Well done everyone the car is going backward.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Last week I volunteered for the [Hut2Hut Oscars 100](#) and want to share the amazing time I had.

Thursday afternoon I drove up to Mansfield and filled up at the BP then headed into Sheepyards Flat. From there I followed the Howqua Track until I got to the start of Refrigerator Gap track. Here I met my other volunteer buddies, the lovely couple Rebecca and Derryn. Us three were going to man this aid station Friday morning until afternoon. I pitched up camp and joined them around the campfire and chatted the night away. Rebecca had raced last year and exclaimed it was the toughest event she ever done. While Derryn said it was great being support—drove around in his 4x4 and fishing while he waited!



Next morning we had breakfast and then set up the aid station—gazebo, water, chairs, fruits, chips, sandwiches, electrolytes and a check-in sheet to mark every runner/hiker coming in. We had close to 200L of water ready to fill. By 8:16am the first runner and eventual race winner came running in. I asked what time did the race start—4:00am. This aid station is about 25kms in with a one kilometre vertical climb...

Throughout the day more and more runners came through thanking us volunteers for filling up their water bladders, providing food and giving them support. By midday the non-runners came through and they rested longer and soon some started pulling out. They had cramps, injuries or didn't know what they got themselves into. We hanged out at the aid station waiting for the pickup



troopy.

Rebecca told me several 4x4 clubs volunteer (Peninsula 4x4 Club was one) and man an aid station at the huts. They cook up a massive feed for everyone and some even provided beer for the runners!

By 5:30pm the sweepers (last runners who make sure everyone is off the track) came through. Our aid station had ran out of vegemite/peanut butter sandwiches and lollies. The next injury-troopy pickup wasn't a few hours and I didn't want to leave the injured out here. So I invited them into my rattley 80 landcruiser and two hours later, dropped them off at Mount Buller ski resort. The event ran into the Sunday, but at 7:30pm Friday I decided this was a big two days and headed home to a comfortable bed.

This was a great experience, hearing every person saying thank you brought a smile on my face. I even overheard several runners say "these four-wheel drivers aren't so bad". While the 4x4 drivers said "these runners/hikers are nuts". Mutual respect was flowing from both sides.

I hope our club can help out in the future. There are multiple running events through the year that are spread throughout Victoria. Perhaps a future trip—driving and camping for a great purpose and feeling? Count me in.

