

February FREE STATE FREE FEBRUARY FEB

February 2020



NOTICE BOARD



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.

Blue and Gold Room

Club Noble 46-56 Moodemere Street Noble Park Melways ref: 89 D4

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



Aberfeldy Track

In association with <u>Westland Gippsland Relic, Mining and Heritage Protection Inc</u>, 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

2019-2020

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

General Committee

Trip Coordinator Des Whall trips@vfwdc.com
Magazine Editor Mary Griffiths editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate David Bruinsma delegate@vfwdc.com

General Committee Callum Brown

Jeff Griffiths

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 Ann Crockett

Club Details

Registered Name Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

Registration No A002184F

Correspondence PO Box 778 Dandenong VIC 3174

Email <u>secretary@vfwdc.com</u>
Website <u>www.vfwdc.com</u>

The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of Four Wheel Drive Victoria -

www.fwdvictoria.org.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hi all,

I would like to wish everyone a happy new year and extend the Committee's best wishes to all members for a safe and prosperous 2020! This year marks the start of a new decade and, after the extreme effects from recent fires, hopefully the start of a new era that will involve a more mature, open and inclusive approach to land management practices and increased access rights to our public lands by government authorities.

It was quite distressing to witness the extreme devastation we have seen, and continue to see, due to the unprecedented effects of recent fires across many parts of the country. I am sure that we have all been touched and affected in our own way by the tragedies that have occurred - the loss of peoples' lives, their homes, their businesses, their farms and livestock, not to mention the mass destruction of some towns, parks and communities, of native flora and fauna.

One of the things that we should all be so proud of in the aftermath of these extreme events is the unequivocally strong show of support from so many people, communities, businesses, arms of government and of course aid groups, volunteer and community organisations spanning right across the country and indeed from around the world.

Four Wheel Drive Victoria has announced that it will donate \$2,000 of members' funds towards the bushfire appeal and it is accepting donations from affiliated clubs and their members towards this cause. It has also been working with volunteer organisations and local authorities in the aftermath of fires to coordinate essential works, facilitate donations and the transport of essential food, clothing and other supplies to affected communities.

No doubt, this work will be ongoing over coming weeks and months. We will look to show our club's support when the call is made to assist with completion of essential repairs, track reopening, etc. Other ways that we can show our collective support is to schedule and run more trips into these affected towns and communities to help kick start their local economies and to support their businesses while they get back up and running.

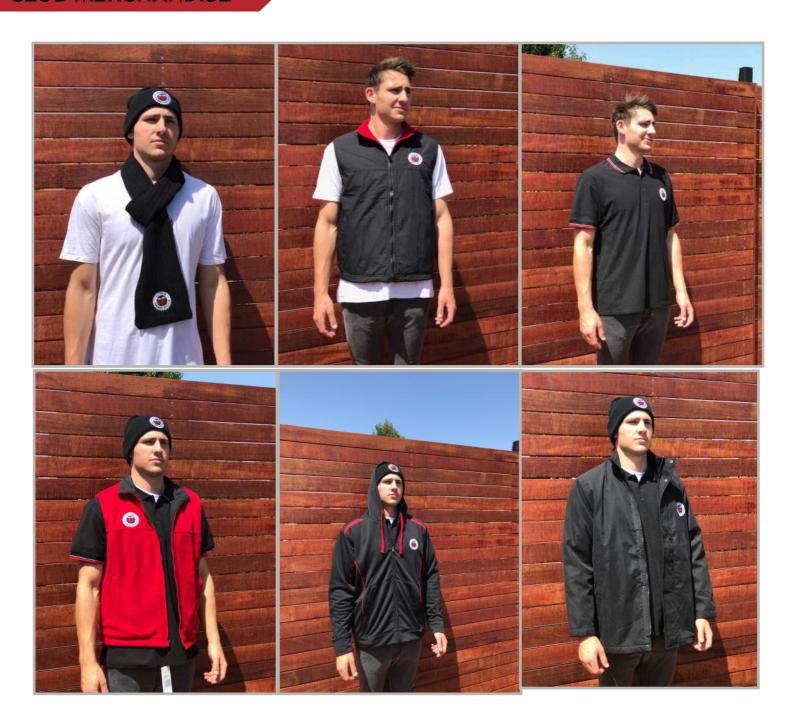
If you want to help with any of these efforts, please consider running a club trip, making a donation, assisting with volunteer works and generally showing your support to these bushfire affected areas.

Keep safe, tread lightly and have fun out there!

Steve Pitcher

President

CLUB MERCHANDISE



PRICING				
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.

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.

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CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

February				
5th	Wed	General Meeting		
14th to 16th	Fri to Sun	Wombat State Forest	Stuart & Maree Bowker	0428539157
17th	Mon	Committee Meeting		
March				
4th	Wed	General Meeting		
9th	Mon	Labour Day Pubic Holiday		
16th	Mon	Committee Meeting		
April				
1st	Wed	General Meeting		
10th to 13th	Fri to Mon	Easter Holidays		
20th	Mon	Committee Meeting		
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

IMPORTANT

- Club meeting venue has changed. The meeting is now held in the Blue and Gold Room, upstairs of Club Noble. You can enter via the front door or at the back where a member will show you up.
- Club merchandise has been reduced! Check out the new prices on page five 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 <u>Club Noble</u>. 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

December 4th 2019

Attendees

As per attendance sheet

Apologies

As per attendance sheet

- Steve P
- Maree and Stuart
- Des
- lan and Audrey

Minutes from Last Meeting

Accepted by Callum Brown Seconded by Ann Crockett

Matters arising from Last Meeting

Nil

Correspondence In/ Out:

Emails In and out:

- Email from Rudi providing feedback from DEWLP on our working bee
- Four Wheel Drive Victoria reminder for the 2019 AGM
- Membership enquiries and responses
- Gilwell Park forms received and completed and sent back

Mail

- Bendigo Bank Statement x 2
- Land Rover Club Magazine
- Royal Flying Doctors information for fundraiser

Treasurer's Report for October

Accepted by: Jeff Griffiths Second by: Tony Barbera

Association Delegate Report

No formal report

New Members/Guests and Prospective Members

 Visitors - as per attendance sheet Dean—2014 Amarok

Driver Training

No report

Guest Speakers

No speaker tonight

General Business

- Christmas Party being held at Gillwell Park. Lunch will be served at 1:30pm. Club will be providing meat on a spit, plates. Please bring own camping chair and a bag of wood, drinks. No dinner or breakfast will be provided by the committee. \$15 per person for overnight stay - pay at the office on arrival.
- Steve and David attended the 4WD Victoria AGM.
- Existing officers were elected unopposed
- National Council has reformed with same representatives except for the treasurer who has been replaced. 4WD Victoria are still waiting on response from National Council on benefits to Victoria to join the National Body and have not yet joined.
- Question raised for summary of the annual reports from 4WD Victoria. David will do a briefing at next meeting. For information you can go to this link to get the full reports

https://www.4wdvictoria.org.au/index.php/association-reports

 Bruce raised event at Eldee Station that happens at Easter every year. Family event with games and events, tours around Station. Expressions of interest.

https://www.eldeestation.com/easter-event.html

Upcoming Trips

- Strathbogie ranges—Sat 14th to Sun 15th December—Jeff
- Australia Day Long Weekend—Ulupna Island— David heading up Friday ad Steve is going up on Saturday
- David is available to do short notice day trips over Christmas period

Past Trips

October

Aberfeldy working Bee - a great trip,
 5 vehicles attended and did great work.

November

- Eyre Peninsula SA Brett Buchanan stayed at Coodlie Farm, visited Baird Bay, sand driving through Dunes
- Buchan to Mckillops Bridge Jeff Griffiths visited Raymond Falls, Barneys Track, camped at Warratah Camp Ground, did not do Deddick due to rain. Did Bowans Track, came back via Orbost. Lots of rain.
- Marysville and surrounds Stuart and Maree
 Started at Marysville Bakery, Rubicon
 Station, Lots of snow, waterfall, Shane
 ended up camping in the rain.
- Tassie still underway report in February
- David's 50th birthday escape Family and Friends weekend - did a number of tracks in the morning and in the afternoon - Army track, S track

Raffles Prizes

- Oil Jeff
- Eggs-Phil
- Gaffer Tape—Steve

Meeting Closed 2130 Hours Next meeting February 5th 2020

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together

Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

\$50.00

G.

Treasurer's Report November 2019

<u>Cheque A/C</u> Opening Balance as at 01/11/2019 \$4,926.29

Closing Balance as at 30/11/2019 \$4,926.29

Term Deposit Opening Balance as at 01/11/2019 \$6,703.04

Interest Paid \$0.00

Closing Balance as at 30/11/2019 \$6,703.04

Petty Cash Opening Balance as at 01/11/2019 \$50.00

Add: Less:

Closing Balance as at 30/11/2019

Consolidated Closing Cash Position \$11,679.33

TREASURER'S REPORT



Treasurer's Report December 2019

Cheque A/C	Opening Balance as at 01/12/2019		\$4,926.29
Ad	d: Raffle November	\$73.00	
	Raffle December	\$60.50	
	Merchandise 1 x jacket	\$20.00	
	Total Monies In:		\$153.50
Les	<u>s:</u>		
	Catering	\$19.20	
	Closing Balance as at 31/12/2019		\$5,060.59
Term Deposit Opening Balance as at 01/12/2019		\$6,703.04	
	Interest Paid	\$32.59	
	Closing Balance as at 31/12/2019		\$6,753.63
Petty Cash	Opening Balance as at 01/12/2019	\$50.00	
	Add:		
	Less:		
	Closing Balance as at 31/12/2019	10-	\$50.00
	Consolidated Closing Cash Position		\$11,864.22
			-

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION Wombat State Forest

LEADER/CONTACT NO. NAME: Stuart & Maree

MOB: Stuart 0428 539 157

DATE Friday 14/2/2020 to Sunday 16/2/2020

MEETING PLACE / TIME Friday night or Saturday morning by 9:30 am at Firth Park in

the Wombat State Forest come in via Gisborne or Wood End. Due to fires currently burning in Victoria this trip may be

cancelled if EXTREAM or a CODE RED day is forecast.

GRADE WET: Medium to difficult depending on how wet

DRY: Easy

TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS We have been here a couple of times and decided to have

another weekend here this summer. The Pig & Whistle pub 15 mins up the road has a courtesy bus and said they would come and pick us up and return us after dinner, so Saturday night at the pub for those interested, if not you can stay at camp and cook there. There are plenty of tracks open at this time of the year Roadside stops bring own munchies and

lunch.

PUB Note:

As they have limited staff the bus can only pick up around 5:30pm at Firth Park and could not be dropped back until after 8pm, when the meal service is finished, or use own

vehicles. Max pax for the bus is 11.

VEHICLE LIMITS MINIMUM: 5

MAXIMUM: 9

APPROX KMS MEETING PLACE 100-200 kms round trip

TO DESTINATION

LAST AVAILABLE FUEL PETROL: Gisborne

DIESEL: Gisborne

DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES 100 Kms

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED Own basic recovery gear, tools and any spares you may

require. AT or MT tyres

MAPS REQUIRED Meridian map: Wombat State Forest

RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF 12 UHF

GOOGLE MAPS See map

TRIP REPORT

South Australia

Eyre Peninsula—Coodlie Park Farm Retreat (Port Kenny)

2nd to 10th November, 2019

Participants:

Clive, Linda & Jonathan Pajero (Club visitors)

Brett & Niki Landcruiser



Eyre Peninsula— Coodlie Park Farm Retreat by Brett & Nicki Buchanan

The North West Eyre Peninsula was on our bucket list and with a new camper in tow we headed to Coodlie Park - A Farm retreat of some 4000 acres on the coast near Port Kenny.

It was a long 2 day drive with Linda and Clive who left on Friday making it to Tintinara that night and to Coodlie Park on the Saturday whereas leaving on the Saturday we made it to Crystal Brook that night and arrived at Camp Coodlie on Sunday. This is a quirky campground with no power relying on solar for camp lighting. The bucket showers would have to be the best camp showers we've seen. There were 10 of them all constructed from former Oyster bed timbers. All you needed to do was take a bucket of warm water from the camp kitchen to the shower block, hoist the bucket using the pulley, turn on the tap and indulge.







There were also numerous swag huts throughout the campground already to roll out the swag. After a leisurely rise on Monday we went to check out the local attractions on the coast. It was a 10 minute drive out the back gate by 4wd track to Talia Caves, the Bathtub and Woolshed cave.





On the Tuesday we were faced with the best weather day on the forecast so we headed to Baird Bay (1 hr west) to swim with the Sea Lions and Dolphins. What an experience if you get the chance - do it!

On the way back to camp we diverted to Streaky Bay for some supplies and later to inspect Murphy's Haystacks. These are a series of Granite boulders that sit on a hill that have been exposed through erosion - fascinating.





Next on the agenda was a trip to the Venus Bay Conservation Park. This was a former farming property (failed) that was acquired by the authorities and fenced off. The noxious weeds and introduced pests have been removed and kept out by the fence that ran across the peninsula. Access was via a large gate and the track whist sandy in parts was easily managed. If you don't like pin striping, then give it a miss!! However the views at the end of the track over Venus Bay were amazing.







On the final day we went for a drive through Lake Newland Conservation Park. In summary it is a mixture of the Portland Sand Dunes and Beachport sand driving but on a scale about 10 times larger.

It was here we had our only recovery that was easily rectified by a drop in tyres to 13PSI and use of the recovery boards. Not a bad spot for a lunch too!!





To finish off on our Camp Coodlie experience we took in the sunset from the cliffs overlooking the Bight on the Friday Night.

In all we did 3890 kms in the 9 days with 3100 of these done in the commute. Would we go back again? - absolutely!!

Keep wheeling

Brett & Niki.

TRIP REPORT

Tasmania

17th November to 8th December 2019

Participants

Maree & Stuart 79 Ute

Steve Landcruiser

Des Patrol

Audrey and Ian Patrol

The boat ride was a good opportunity to work out what everyone wanted to do and how we can manage to fit it into our 3 weeks on the little island.





Our first big thing it's a platypus and from here we found so many big things. We admired the murals at Sheffield. There is some very clever artists in the area. The information center had a competition for a gold coin to vote for the best portrait. It was interesting, we all chose different paintings showing art is in the eyes of the beholder. On to the topiary trees at Railton where the town has embraced pruning trees, my favorite was the horse jumping the fence. Enjoying the backdrop of Mt Roland and the mosaic art in the park our first day zipped bye. Camping in a free camp on the shores of Lake Barrington.

We slipped into Tassie time.



Day 2 started with a drive through Devils gate and a visit to the big Penguin at, you guessed it, Penguin. Our drive takes us along the North coast and there's another lighthouse another stunning coastal lookout and another winding road finally ending at Rocky Cape National Park. We camped at the Rocky Cape pub and it was steak night so that was a bonus, and this is the way the trip progressed. Great food finds.

I am just going to note the highlights as there was so many Stanley and the chair lift to the nut Trowutta arch and the drive through the Tarkwin Valley. Julis river walk, this is the west coast rain forest. How do you do justice to the beauty, the old moss on trees, the huge trees, the smell of the rivers and forest everyone needs to experience it.

This is the boys who somehow got a packet of twisties that turn your tongue blue. As you can see its all about eating and having fun.

We headed down the west coast to tackle some of the iconic tracks Smithton was visited twice because of mechanical issues with Des, the bright side of this was the guy in the cabin next to Des was the one who drowned his Patrol on the Belfour track and gave us the insight of this.

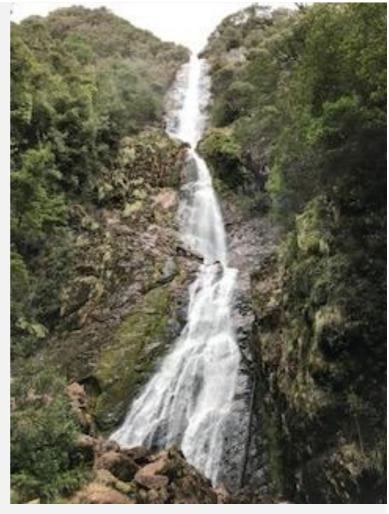
Another bonus was dinner at the Smithton pub, great food again, and the local knowledge of the Belfour hotel and a private tour of the pub and surrounding districts by the people we met when we had the road blocked with Des's breakdown.



We passed the edge of the world viewing platform, and the wind was not pleasant, sure it's off Antarctica past Couta Rocks and into the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area but our aim is to go to Sandy Cape. We stopped at the visitor's center to purchase the permit and get the local knowledge of the track. The track was open and another lighthouse on another spectacular beach, past the quicksand at the river mouths and Stuart getting bogged in the sand, we made it. Sandy Cape. The only way out is back along the same beach and over the same button grass plains to Temma. By now its been a week in Tassie.

The next 4x4 adventure was from Grandville Harbor to the mouth of the Pieman River. Its under 50 kms should be easy right! Took us all morning to get there and then we turned around and did it all again. These black button grass plains, have big holes and rocks to go around and sand driving on the beach this track throws it all at us. Everyone helped to get through and we saw the mouth of the Pieman River. The funny part of it was as we arrived there was all these people walking on the road, wondering where did you come from? It was a tour boat, down the river.

Down to Zeehan to get Steve's broken brake line fixed, and this enabled us a couple of hours to visit the museum, that's one of the best finds as the locals have loved their history and preserved it in a local museum. The weather is not kind to us so in Strahan we opt for cabins, Audrey, lan and Steve did the West Coast Wildness Railway to Queenstown and back, Maree and Stuart did the World Heritage cruise on Macquarie Harbor and the Gordon River. We all decided it was a of a long way to go but well worth the visit. On to Queenstown and the guest to find Montezuma Falls the highest falls in Tasmania. The track is 14 kms long should be easy. Opps! Wrong again it took us 2.5 hours to get in, checking the depth and firmness of all the mud holes, spectacular when we got there but the road was really rutted and with big bog holes. Challenging stuff but we can say we did it.





We headed through Derwent Bridge to the Wall. Its carving on Huon pine and it's just a must see. They ask you to not take pictures (so I got this off google). Everyone agreed it's a must stop and have a look place.



Heading south again we stopped briefly in Hobart for supplies and up to Mt Wellington lookout where it proceeded to snow on us. Let me just explain it's now December should be summer. Heading further south to Bruny Island and another beach drive and another lighthouse visit and another spectacular coastline viewing platform. Really the only thing wrong is the weather as it's freezing cold and raining most of the time, it was definitely red wine and port drinking weather. We are now into week 3.

Port Arthur was on the list of places to visit and we cabined again because of the weather. A highlight was the Dunally pub for a feed, and finally heading north hopefully the weather will be kinder to us. Taking the costal track to Triabunna and past Swansea. Visiting a motor bike museum, and Freyinet National Park. On to Ben Loman National Park for the drive-up Jacobs Ladder. The road provided us with wonderful views from the ski fields of Tasmania. Finally, on to Bridport to attempt the drive to Bellingham Beach drive but this was not to be as the winds were 60 + kms per hour and walking the sand dunes to try to find the track was extremely difficult and we finally said not this time.

On to Launceston and Cataract Gorge and a chair lift ride to the other side. Stunning gardens and another ice cream shop, finally staying at a motel on York St which is on such a steep angle it's really hard to walk up the street.



Heading off to Beaconsfield on the Tamer River we visited the mine museum a real credit to the town.

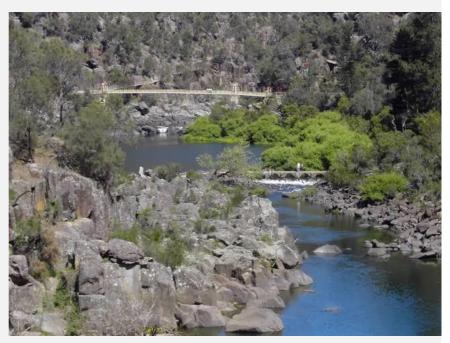
Our final night is at Squeaking Point with friends Warren and Jenny. This allowed Steve to have a fire because of the fire restrictions.

We had a celebration BBQ looking over Sorel Inlet and decided our 3 weeks in Tasmania has been too short. The group headed for the boat on Sunday morning and Maree and Stuart continued to Sorel to stay a few days with my brother before finally heading back.

Final word on Tasmania, it's only a

little island but it packs in so many things to see and do. Not to mention the wonderful foods we encountered in some of the littlest of towns. It makes wonderful port, gin and ice cream.

Lastly here is a few pictures but they don't do it justice.





Audrey and Maree looking cold with Mercy Bluff lighthouse in the background.



Stunning lookout near Stanley.



Des just looking at the fish, at Rocky Cape National Park.



Looking out over the township of Burnie Steve, Ian and Stuart.



Ian and Audrey on the chair lift at Stanley up to the Nut .

TRIP REPORT

Club Christmas Party

7th December, 2019

Gilwell Scout Park 2555 Gembrook-Launching Place Road Gembrook

The annual Christmas Party was attended by a small group at Gilwell Scout Park. The weather was

small group at Gilwell Scout Park. The weather was perfect, we all sat around just relaxing, chatting and enjoying the day. A big thank you goes out to David and Caroline Bruinsma for setting up early and for preparing the spit and also to everyone who brought along a salad and dessert to share.



Annual Christmas Party by Mary Griffiths







A few members decided to stay overnight. Congratulations Maree Dickson for your first time camping in a swag! We packed up in the morning and headed to the Gembrook bakery to have lunch and a coffee and then said our goodbyes.

A perfect way to end the year of 2019.

Mary Griffiths

TRIP REPORT

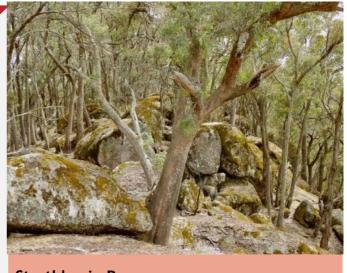
Strathbogie Ranges

14th to 15th December, 2019

Participants:

Jeff & Mary Griffiths
Michael
Stephen Dixon & Friend Peter
Ann & Allun
Shane & Jennie
Caroline Jones

Mazda BT50 Ford Ranger Jeep Cherokee Toyota Prado Holden Colarado Ford Fortuna



Strathbogie Ranges by Jeff Griffiths.

Friday night Jeff, Mary, Stephen, Peter and Michael met up at the pizza truck up at Glenburn on the Maroondah Highway at the Flowerdale turn off. We grabbed a pizza, which I must say are excellent, if you are ever doing a trip up to Mansfield way, this is a great place to meet on a Friday night for tea before heading off on your tip.

We headed off from Glenburn about 7.30pm. The turn off we used was the Dry Creek Road, it is just past Bonnie Doon, it is on the left and then a right into Hells Hole Road where we aired down to hit the tracks. We were heading for James Reserve Camping Area where we were base camping for two nights. As this was an easy trip and it was dark we did Black Creek No 1, left into Ferraris Road, then right into Barjarg Road, then after about 2 Kms left turn into Moonee Moonee Track up to the camping area to setup for the weekend.

We had few beers then off to bed.

Saturday morning I set off back to Bonnie Doon to pick up Ann, Allun, Shane, Jennie and Carolyn and headed back to meet the rest of the gang at camp to then start off the day exploring the Strathbogie Ranges.





Our first stop was to check out Wild Dog Rocks which was a nice place to have morning tea.

We then headed up to Mt Strathbogie, which is 1031 mtrs, it's a good place for checking out the area and the view is great.

After lunch we headed out to look at the Tallangaook-Dry Creek Historic area the main

goldfields along Hells Hole and then onto Tallangalook Hut. This Talangalook Hut really needs a clean up there was so much rubbish around it was a real shame. While on our way to Tallangalook Hut we did a few tracks, the track between Black Creek No 1 and the hut is a seasonally closed track it doesn't have a name on the map but it is a nice track to drive with a few technical bits, Carolyn and Michael did well as this wasn't one of the easiest tracks to navigate. We got back to camp just in time for happy hour.

On Sunday we packed up after breakfast and did Moonee Moonee Track up to Lightening Ridge Track, there are quite a few really good places to stop for photos, there are a lot of big boulders on the right hand side, if you stop and get out of the car, go for a short walk behind these boulders there you will find some amazing views.









Once we finished Lightening Ridge Track it was time to head up to the Yarck Hotel for a counter lunch.

The Strathbogie Ranges is a great place for a weekend trip there are a few really good tracks in the area so you can keep the whole group happy and also it is only a few hours drive to get there.

Thank you to everyone for making this such a great trip. Jeff Griffiths