



FREE WHEELING

March 2022



Photo: Sally
Mitchell's Track

Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
Registration No: A0002184F

Meeting Details



VFWDC Meeting Details & Venue

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm with the following exceptions:

No meeting in January

November meeting held at a selected “special” location

Blue and Gold Room
Club Noble
46-56 Moodemere Street
Noble Park 3174
Melways ref: 89 D4

This month's meeting will be held on
Wednesday 2nd March at 8.00pm.

**It will be held in person at
Club Noble.**



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.

2021 - 2022

President	Callum Brown	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	Andre Van Der Walt	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Bruce Cremonesi	secretary@vfwdc.com

General Committee

Trip Coordinator	David Bruinsma	trips@vfwdc.com
Magazine Editor	Rory Hall	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	David Bruinsma	delegate@vfwdc.com

Support Positions to Committee

Web Manager	Ben Whitworth	web@vfwdc.com
Training Officer	Phil Griffith	
Merchandise	Ann Crockett	merchandise@vfwdc.com

Club Details

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
Registration Number	A002184F
Correspondence Address	PO Box 778, Dandenong, VIC 3174
Email	secretary@vfwdc.com
Website	www.vfwdc.com

The Victorian Four Wheel Club is an affiliated club of [Four Wheel Drive Victoria](#)

Hi All,

Welcome to the new edition of the magazine. I hope you are all well. The committee and I are very pleased to announce that we will be meeting on site again. Whahoooooooo.....I am looking forward to seeing you all onsite at Club Noble for the next meeting on Wed 2nd March. As always, if you are feeling a little under the weather or displaying any covid symptoms, please consider others and make your own judgement about attending. I believe we are still all required to show our vaccination status at the venue so please arrive ready and prepared.

Exciting news - The club driver training team have sweated over a calendar and worked out the practical weekend for driver training which will be late March. Provided there are enough starters for the training, the dates and details are as below. More info at this month's club meeting.

Theory night: Noble Park Club Wed 23rd March (to be finalised)

Practical days: Sat 26th and Sun 27th March, with camping overnight at Little O'Tooles which is just past Thompson Dam.

It looks like we have some exciting trips coming up and I would encourage you all to sign up as as soon as you can so you don't miss out. The trips are listed later in the magazine and as always you can always contact the trip organiser if you want any further details. One trip which is really encouraging is our new members trip being run by Andre in Bunyip State Park imminently. Its awesome to see so many new members joining the club and getting stuck in (and no doubt stuck on a track too!!). I look forward to getting to know everyone a bit better as we cross paths on the tracks and at the meetings. As ever, any new members struggling to sign up, join in or understand how we do things in the club then please do not hesitate to give me a shout.

Just a further note on trips. If you feel like you would like to organise a trip yourself but dont know how to, please reach out to the Trips Coordinator, Dave, or any other committee member and we can point you in the right direction with requirements and planning etc.

Thank you all and have a great month. See you **IN PERSON** at the next meeting!!! Callum



March

Wednesday 2nd	Club Meeting (in person)	8.00pm
Wednesday 16th	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8.00pm
Sat 19th - Sun 20th	Aberfeldy Working Bee	Organised by David, more details to follow
Wednesday 23rd	Driver Training Theory at Club Noble	TBC
Sat 26th - Sun 27th	Driver Training Practical with overnight at Little O'Tooles	More details to follow

April

Sat 2nd - Mon 18th	Birdsville Races Trip	Organised by Brett, details on trip pages.
Wednesday 6th	Club Meeting	8.00pm
Fri 15th - Mon 18th	VIC Silo's Exploration trip	Organised by Andre, details to follow on trip pages.
Wednesday 20th	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8.00pm

Other Dates

May	Car Rally. Date and locations a surprise at the moment.	Organised by Cal & Bruce, details to follow on trip pages.
Sat 11th - Mon 13th June	Members suggestions for a trip in VIC.	Dave will organise and run most popular suggestion.
June or July	Christmas (in July) get together at Stringybark Creek with Kelly Gang tour	To be re-arranged from February. Organised by Cal & committee.

Club Merchandise



Need a jacket, vest, shirt or hat for your next trip? Get ready and place your order today.

PRICES

Club SS Polo Shirt	\$30.00	Club Wide-Brim Hat	\$5.00
Club SS Shirt 40th Anniversary	\$10.00	Club Sandwich Peak Hat	\$5.00
Club Polar Fleece Jacket (Full Zip)	\$30.00	Club Woollen Pom Pom Beanie	\$20.00
Club Fleece Hoodie	\$30.00	Club Cable Knit Scarf	\$20.00
Club SS Reversible Vest—double embroidery	\$50.00	Club Neoprene Stubby Holder	\$10.00
Club Drivers Jacket	\$60.00	Club Coth Badges 120mm	\$8.00
Club Trekka Jacket	\$85.00	Windscreen Sticker Small	\$6.00
Club Bucket Hat	\$5.00	Windscreen Sticker Large	\$8.00

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo shirt.

Email your order or any queries to merchandise@vfwdc.com along with the size you would like.

Meeting Minutes

Wed 2nd February (Online via Zoom)
Opened at 08.10pm

Attendees:

- As per attendance sheet

Apologies:

- Andre, Tristan & Ashley

Guests:

- Delain, Shaun Massie, Dave Thomas

New Members:

- Balrajdeep Singh, Paul James

Upcoming Trips:

- 26 Feb - Bunyip State Forest, new members trip run by Andre
- March (TBC) - Blue Pools Briagolong with Callum
- 19-20 Mar - Working bee at Aberfeldy with David B
- 2-18 Apr - Birdsville Trip with Brett
- 15-18 Apr - VIC silos exploration with Andre
- 15-25 Apr - Darling River Run - Sally & Tristan
- May (TBC) - Car Rally, more details to follow from Callum & Bruce
- 11-13 Jun - Members to suggest a trip within VIC, run by David B

Trip Reports:

- Sally: Mel Cup weekend, get out of jail weekend after lockdown, had a good time.
- Sally: Christmas Wren's Flat. Few people cruising around via Mansfield. In Jamieson, pillows were in hot demand! Disco died in a cloud of smoke - helps if you connect the battery properly. Then exploding bottle jacks for fun, then tyre off rims for more fun.

Minutes of previous meeting:

- Minutes from last meeting - missing (Andre?)
- Matters arising from previous minutes - nil
- Accepting of minutes -
- Seconding of minutes -

Correspondence

Mail in:

- Emails from Aus Post
- Committee Stuff
- Email magazine from Jackaroo Club
- Email from Association on AGM and affiliation fee invoice
- Email from Ly on association fees - top up
- Email on trips
- Membership enquiries & new members

Mail out:

- Replies to emails
- Email to 4WD VIC asking for covid guidelines

Treasurer's Report:

- Monthly Treasurer's Reports - Nov'21 & Dec'21 as per magazine
- Acceptance of Report - Dave
- Seconding of Report - Sally
- Memberships currently 49

Association Report:

- Nil

Driver Training: Nil

General Business:

- Callum explained the reasons behind online meetings, and committee will make decisions as we go along due to covid.
- Sally asked what the conditions and requirements are for trip leaders in relation to covid. Dave, Callum & Bruce explained the reason behind the meeting being held online due to duty of care and erring on the side of caution. Bruce mentioned waiting on 4WD VIC to see if they have any recommendations. Brett mentioned about numbers at footy etc.
- Callum asked about driver training, Bruce to contact Ash & Phil.
- Callum, Tristan & Sally planning to do Go Pro filming of their set ups.
- Brett B nominated for Meet the Member.
- Trip Incentive Scheme - \$100 voucher for most trips run
- Cal tried to play a video of recent trip but wouldn't play so Sally played a few from her recent trips

Meeting closed: 09.30pm
Next Meeting: Wed 2nd March

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com



Treasurer's Report January 2022

<u>Cheque A/C`</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/01/2022	\$7,569.88	
	Add: Membership Fees	\$220.00	
	Total Monies In:		\$220.00
	Closing Balance as at 31/01/2022		\$7,789.88
<u>Term Deposit</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/01/2022	\$6,844.22	
	Closing Balance as at 31/01/2022		\$6,844.22
<u>Petty Cash</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/01/2022	\$42.55	
	Closing Balance as at 31/01/2022		\$42.55
	Consolidated Closing Cash Position		<u>\$14,676.65</u>

This month's meeting

Next month's meeting is being held on **Wed 2nd March** and thankfully we are able to meet face to face at Club Noble. Just a reminder that you will still need to provide proof of vaccination in order to be allowed into the Club rooms. If you are suffering from symptoms, or have tested positive to covid or are a close contact, then we ask that you respect the other members of the club and stay away. We look forward to seeing you all again and eating those free cookies!

Upcoming Trips

There are quite a few trips that are coming up in the calendar so please keep an eye out here and on the trip website for more details. As ever if you want more details please contact the trip organiser directly or failing that give the committee a poke to help you out.

Member's Pets

Recently discovered in the Ovens River at Porepunkah, fished out by an 8 year old girl called Tammy, is this Horny Winged Dragon Fish. Apparently it thrives in rivers with high urine concentrations so is well suited to the Ovens River around Bright. Tammy was heard to say "I thought it was a tadpole lying on a leaf" Any other fun wildlife pictures or stories welcome and they don't need to be 100% true!!



Need Inspiration?

Need inspiration for a location for a trip? Why not go back into the club magazine history and find a long lost camp site or route you had forgotten about. Here's the [link to the magazine page](#) to help you along your way.

Here's a link to the [magazine way back in May 2005](#) which has quite a few interesting trip reports including Mungo National Park (see Sally & Tristan's Darling River Run in Upcoming Trips). Big River - Woods Point. Mt Seldom Seen and Beyond. Buchan Caves. Hattah-Kulkyne. And if food's more your thing then there are recipes for zucchini bread and Pastitsio?? Go take a read and be inspired.

Free Gifts!!

Remember, the Club is happy to reward those that submit any articles, which get published, with a small token of appreciation from the club merchandise stocks. So don't be shy, share some words and/or pictures.

Please visit our website at VFWDC.com to view all our current membership forms and club policies.

For all new and renewal of memberships, please complete [the online form here](#)

If you are looking for a Temporary Membership, please complete the online form, [which can be found here](#).

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us via the Club Secretary on secretary@vfwdc.com

Payments:

Payment can be made via Bank Transfer. The details are as follows:

Account Name:	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
BSB:	633108
Account No:	111761979

Please ensure your transfer includes your name as provided on the membership application and renewal form in the reference.

Once you have made your payment/transfer, please send your completed membership application and renewal form to treasurer@vfwdc.com or you can present it to the Treasurer at any general meeting.

Thank you for choosing the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

If you are interested in joining [Club Noble](#) where we hold our monthly meetings, their application form can be found [here](#).

Caption this.....

A new feature (maybe only this month!!). Fun pictures from our travels which deserve sharing and making cheeky comments about. So caption the photo below and win global recognition at the next club meeting!!



This month we have something veggie for all you meat eating maniacs out there. Remember we need to start eating more veggies for our health and also to save the planet. And it keeps you regular too!!

Camp Oven Lasagna

This veggie lasagna can be cooked in your campfire ovens as if you were cooking a roast.

Ingredients:

- Olive oil
- Bottled pasta sauce
- Lasagna sheets (fresh if possible)
- Fresh baby spinach
- Shredded cheese
- Herbs such as basil or oregano



Make sure your oven is well coated in olive oil in the base to prevent burning of the bottom layer. Add 1/2 cup of the pasta sauce and spread evenly around the base. Add lasagna sheets then add more sauce. Add baby spinach and 1/3 cup of cheese. Repeat a few more times making sure the final layer has plenty of cheese as the top and then sprinkled with your herbs (basil and/or oregano). Place in the fire and bake for minimum of 30 mins.

You can add any spare veggies lying around which are better if finely chopped. Add some tinned beans (any sort will do) to pad it out a bit more if you want.

Meet the Member

This month we meet Brett (Bukes) and his inspiration and long distance driving companion, Nicola (did she deliberately adjust Brett's answers below??). He's never without his trusty kettle.....



Full name and any nicknames?	Brett Buchanan (Bukes)
What's your vehicle?	Toyota Land Cruiser 100 Series Sahara
First car you ever owned?	Mitsubishi Scorpion
Dumbest thing you ever did in a car?	I stacked my mum's Mazda 323, braking too hard on a gravel road whilst on my P's
Favourite camp food?	Roast in the travel buddy oven. Nothing like turning up to camp with the dinner ready to eat.
Dream vehicle and set up if you could afford it?	Land Cruiser 300 series.
Best mod you have ever done to a car?	Dual battery set up
Best trip/track/park you have done?	Too many to separate and make a decision. All with different attractions. High Country (Butcher Country/Caledonian River), Cobberas (Cowanbat Flat), Flinders Ranges, Yorke Peninsula.
Top tip to any beginners?	Your vehicle's capability will surprise you and take the time to do a driver training course
Best overseas trip/location?	UK and Europe - 3 weeks self drive and 2 weeks on a lightning quick group bus tour
What snacks are we most likely to find in your cab?	Minties
Best piece of camping gear you are never without?	Kettle
Where in the world would you most like to visit?	Antartica.

Roughest night's sleep on a trip?

Portland Sand Dunes - We turned up at about midnight, set up the Oztent and out blew a gale all night.



Worst upgrade or kit purchase?

Stupid wobbly "kit" chair.
(Editor - brand? so we can avoid it too)

Dream track or trip at the top of your bucket list?

Birdsville (being ticked off in April)
(Editor - go check out the Upcoming Trips section for more details)

What is your go to karaoke song?

Mustang Sally
(Editor: Suggestion - Should we start all meetings with a quick blast of karaoke to get everyone revved up and ready to go??)

Footie, football or rugby?

Footie - (Richmond)

What kept you sane during lockdowns?

Fortunately I had an essential job and went to work every day.

Worst job you ever had?

33 years in a bank

What motivates/inspires you?

My wife Nicola. (Editor: Its quite possible this has been doctored by Nicola since she sent the final answers to me!!)

You're driving from Melbourne to Perth, and can have anyone in the world as your co-driver, dead or alive, who would it be?

My wife Nicola. (see above)

What is your go to joke?

What did Big Ben say to the Leaning Tower of Pisa? "I've got the time, if you've got the inclination". (Editor: Obviously an in-joke from that 2 week bus tour round Europe??)



Upcoming Trips

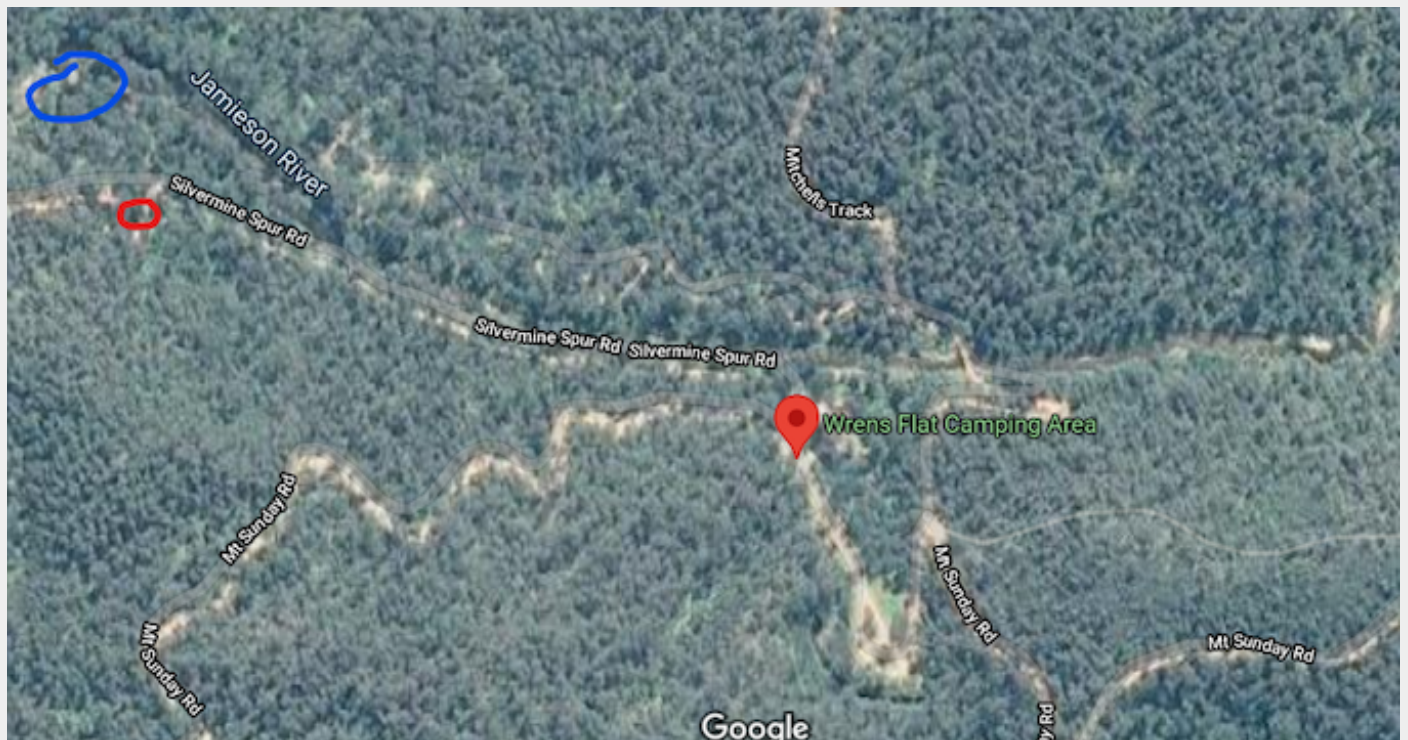
Destination	Darling River Run
Leader & Contact Details	Sally and Tristan MOB: 0435782207
Date	15th April 2022 (Fri) to 25th-April-2022 (Mon)
Meeting Details	TBC - We will coordinate closer to the time.
Grade	Wet: Easy Dry: Easy
Trip Activity Details	<p>This is a touring trip to drive the length of the Darling River from its source in northern NSW to where it meets the Murray River in Wentworth.</p> <p>We will head up from Melbourne to Brewarrina and then work our way back down through Bourke, Louth, Tilpa, Wilcannia, a side trip to White Cliffs, down to Menindee, Pooncarrie, a side trip to Mungo National Park, Wentworth and then back to Melbourne. We will stay at a combination of free camps, stations, National Parks. Locations to be finalised. Some routes may need to change due to rain and flooding. We will assess nearer to the time.</p>
Vehicle Limits	Minimum 1. Maximum 5
Approx km's meeting place to destination	Meeting place to destination round trip is approx 3,000kms
Last available fuel	Fuel is available all along the route with no more than 250km between stations
Distance between supplies	Varying distances between supplies. Will be going through towns on a regular basis so there will be plenty of opportunities to stock up along the way.
Equipment required	Camper trailer friendly. Camping equipment, food, snacks, water and UHF radio
Maps required	HEMA maps for NSW. Trip leader will have plenty of maps.
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12 to start with and then move if its busy

Destination	Birdsville Races
Leader & Contact Details	Brett
Date	2nd April 2022 (Sat) to 18th-April-2022 (Mon)
Meeting Details	TBC - We will coordinate closer to the time.
Grade	Wet: Easy Dry: Easy
Trip Activity Details	<p>This is a trip up and back to see the Birdsville Races on Sun 10th to Mon 11th April. Participants need to arrange their own tickets.</p> <p>Trip up via Leigh Creek, Maree, Farina, Birdville Track, camping at various locations along the way and ending up camping on Birdsville Common for the event.</p> <p>Return trip via Cordillo Downs, Innamincka (Bourke & Wills Dig Tree), Cameron Corner, Tibooburra, Broken Hill.</p>
Vehicle Limits	
Approx km's meeting place to destination	Round trip 4,000+ kms
Last available fuel	
Distance between supplies	
Equipment required	Camper trailer friendly. Camping equipment, food, snacks, water, recovery gear and UHF radio
Maps required	
Radio Channel CB/UHF	12

Christmas Trip to Wren's Flat - Sally & Tristan

Having spent a good part of the last 2 years stuck at home it was time to get out and go camping. We had spent Labour Weekend at Wren's Flat Campground earlier in the year and thought it was a beautiful spot and worth spending some more time at so with time off between Christmas and New Year it was the perfect time to get away.

On Boxing Day we met Neville and his son at our place for an early(ish) getaway. We headed up to Wren's Flat via Mansfield and Jamieson with a stop for morning tea when I realised that I had left the pillows behind... so a stop off at K Hub in Mansfield was required. The funny thing was that I was not alone and lined up behind at least 3 other people with pillows and I was lucky as I got the second to last set. On the way to Jamieson we tested out the limp home mode in the Disco but a quick reset using the nanocom and we were on our way again. Finally a fuel top up at Jamieson before we started the climb up Mt Skene. We got to camp not long after lunch to find a few people there but it was not packed which was awesome. There was a track leading out of the main campsite along the river that Tristan headed down to see what else was available. He came back and had found a meadow for us to set up in that we would have all to ourselves.



Our campsite is the red circle and then there was another campsite in the blue area. Our campsite was not right on the river but it was a short walk with good swimming holes and it is also a popular fishing area.

We set up camp and settled in for a quiet afternoon lazing around. The flowers were knee high and just beautiful. There were also thousands of tiny caterpillars that were cute and furry but with the volume of them i called them critters! There were no facilities at this site so we set up our thunderbox toilet and ensuite tent so we had all the luxuries for camping!



Entry track down Silvermine Road.



The view of the nearby river

The next day was a lazy get up and wander around camp as we were expecting David and Carolyn to arrive around lunch time. They arrived safely on time and got all set up. They set off to get some more firewood later in the afternoon and we got the fire going for a great dinner. Dinner was followed by some ice cream. Having a freezer in the car is awesome!!



The next day we headed off to explore some of the tracks. The plan was to go through Mitchells track into Jamieson and then potentially some other tracks depending on the time we had. No sooner had we started I heard a strange noise and looked out the window, our rear passenger tyre was dead flat, not a skerrick of air left in it at all... typical when we are on an incline... so we got to work changing the tyre. A little bit of digging was required to fit the tyre on that had more air in it. As Tristan drive off the jack the shoulder of the jack blew out which was a surprise as we had driven off the jack a number of times.

We continued along Mitchells track which had some nice climbs, descents and some interesting challenges. We were testing our new air lockers out on one part of the track and we came across the largest rock step I have ever seen, Tristan just climbed right on up. Neville took the flying approach and made it with some rearrangement of gear in the car but he was fine. We then came across an old slate mine which Neville had seen on Stu's trip a couple of weekends before.



We turned towards Jamieson and took a slight detour to check out the mobile phone and radio tower above Jamieson... after a u-turn we then found the track to get out onto the main road heading into Jamieson. We stopped to visit the general store along with lots of other people and David managed to get the last ice creams in the shop. We popped them in the freezer for dessert later that evening.

(Photo: Stunning views to Lake Eildon)



We headed back up Mt Skene towards camp. We still had plenty of day left so we decided to head down Silvermine Spur Road and back to camp that way. This track was an interesting track. Steep in places and very very narrow. We were lucky to not meet any vehicles coming up as there would have been no room to move. Along this track there are some stunning sites to camp right over the river.



We got back to camp and had another great meal over the fire.

(Photo: River Inn Hut)

The next morning David and Neville had to head home so they packed up and left us to it. We went for a walk, a swim in the river and lazed around camp.

The next morning we woke to the tent being stinking hot so decided that it was time to go home. We headed home over Mt Skene towards Licola. Half way down we had to divert down a different road to get into Licola. This was an extremely narrow road. When we got to Licola we found out that there is about 20m of road that collapsed when the earthquake happened last year so there is lots of repairing to do.

Once leaving Licola we had a very uneventful trip home. It was awesome to be out and about again and I cannot wait to go again soon.

**Wild flowers and river view from
Sally & Tristan's trip to Wren's Flat
over Christmas**



Trip Report

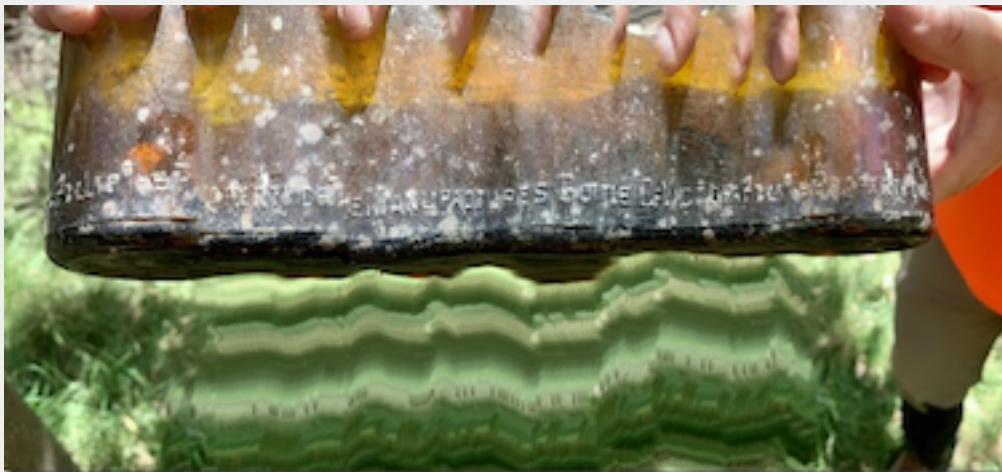
The following is a report from another club of their recent visit to the Aberfeldy area doing a working bee. With our upcoming working bee planned for 19-20th March, this report helps to describe the area and hopefully drum up interest for our own trip.

Tour of Duty – Thur 20th to Sun 23rd January, 2022 written by member Joanne

A wonderful explore and clean-up was had by four members of our group – Rudi, Simon, Alan and myself (Jo), plus Fly the dog, on the Tour of Duty Part 2. Three of us felt like we had our own private historical tour with Rudi championing the history of the settlements as we ventured from sign to sign.

Thursday morning we headed out from our Eldorado camp and four-wheeled along Violet Town Track to Jollys Township to install some professional steps on a steep part of the walking track. Alan discovered some excellent finds in the excavation of the steps, including a horseshoe, which Jo estimates came from a horse around 14-15 h.h. (see photo). We left the finds on a stump so if you visit please leave for the next interested historian. Jolly's hotel chimneys are still half intact and worth a visual in person. There is an excellent photo board which accurately shows the hotel in perspective behind it and encourages your imagination to picture the hustle and bustle of the day.

Onwards across the Jordan River and a big check of all the signs around Blue Jacket and Red Jacket townships. See the photo of a glass bottle found at the Red Jacket school site. Many the bottles had this written on them. Can you make out the writing? The Red Jacket cemetery is built on the craziest incline. Land of sensible gradient was clearly more valuable for other purposes (no insult to the dead buried there)!



Between these townships and the checking of many signs along the way to Jericho Rudi beckoned us off the beaten track (!) to view a Chinese oven still in its entirety, alas partly covered by dirt, blackberries and jack-jumping ants. It was an incredible sight to see such a structure with the old bricks in their circular pattern in the earth. Directly downhill was a large water race. Thanks Rudi for showing us this.

Jericho Township was once a large settlement and has many tales to tell. One of the saddest is the story of the father and son grave on the hill near the Bennett's house. A movie could be made about this story. If you visit the school have a look at the incredible pine trees towering over the road. They must be at least at least sixty metres high and were planted by the school children back in the day. The school building is gone but the trees remain. What a wonderful memento.

The Jericho cemetery is very pretty; almost pretty enough to camp at if you don't mind visitors! We fixed a broken fence railing and checked the general state of the cemetery, something we did at most cemeteries along this tour. Reporting issues needing attention is done by Rudi and then followed up by himself and the committee.

Within Jericho is a diversion tunnel. Incredibly the township blasted a hole thru the bedrock and diverted the Jordan River away from the alluvial river flats. You can see this tunnel in an easy walk and it's a wonderful swimming spot.

It's a shame a lot of Jericho is buried under blackberries and weeds as there is lots of interesting history still left to uncover and enjoy. A big clean up would certainly be saluted by us as we really enjoyed meandering around Jericho and all it has to offer even today. The beautiful and thriving large oak tree and its storyboard is another reminder of many residents loved journey. There are many storyboards around Jericho which give you a very good insight into the history. A big shout out to all the volunteers hard work up unto this point as all the boards on the Alberfeldy Route provide such important information of a bygone era. Thanks to you the public can have a cruisy Sunday drive with a real life appreciation of the history in front of them.



On up out the valley and fighting our way thru a disgraceful amount of weeds, which at times threatened to block our track, we ventured onto one of our scenic bush camps of this trip. Camping with friends and enjoying a fire was a wonderful way to end our hard work days.

Rising at a respectable time our crew packed up camp the next morning and headed off to Mutton Town where we replaced a Historial Marker sign to an existing sign post. Matlock, Thackery and Alhambra were next and are towns that survived icy winters. Matlock has a new picnic area with a well-built shelter complete with a shingle roof! It was a nice place to stop and smell the alpine air, and of course check all our sign boards and the cemetery. All that was missing was a yummy cappuccino!

Heading up out of the valley we followed the original trail to the township of Garibaldi, where there was once multiple dairies as well as the standard hotel, whose site was now clearly visible thanks to the recent slashing of grass. You wouldn't want to venture into the long grass either, as there is a hundred metre shaft from old mine workings not far from the track! The views from here are magnificent and on a calm summery day would've tempted a few of our team to change camp.

After checking some more settlement signs, we took the long four-wheel drive O'Keefe Track down to O'Keefe Hotel site, which is hidden away in the bush. It would be a long and hard horse ride or walk back up this hill back in the day. Nearby is the Aberfeldy River and a great watering spot for stock. We found it quite ravaged by the recent floods, with lots of timber debris.

A spirited drive back up O'Keefe Track and our duties were finished. Thanks to my team members for a wonderful few days working in amongst the scented eucalyptus forests. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and learnt a lot too.

Cheers, Jo

P.S. The glass bottle read

"The Property Of The Manufacturers Bottle Co Victoria Pty Ltd"

Did you sit at home during the numerous lockdowns over the past few years wishing you could get out again?



Did you find yourself dreaming of some of those great trips you've done in the past?

Did your mind wander and start to imagine an awesome new place to visit and challenging route to get there?



Did you join this club for more than just the free cookies at the monthly meeting?

(yes potential new members, we have cookies at our monthly meetings, join now!!)

Have you bought a new bit of kit for your vehicle with your saved up lockdown cash but not tried it out yet?



If you answered yes to any of the questions above then you definitely need to be thinking about planning some trips, right now. Let's face it we have 2 years worth of trips to make up, so we better get out there. And if that wasn't incentive enough, then the club want to encourage you further.....

Announcing the re-introduction of the originally named,



Trip Incentive Scheme



(And yep it does what it says on the tin - it's an incentive scheme to get you planning more trips). Basically you can win cash for doing stuff you love.

Get planning those trips and be a winner!!

