



FREE WHEELING

April 2023



Photo: Frank
Blue Rag Range Track

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



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 5th April** at 8.00pm.

2022 - 2023

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

General Committee

Trip Coordinator	Neville Van Leeuwen	trips@vfwdc.com
Magazine Editor	Rory Hall	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	Matt Marino	delegate@vfwdc.com

Support Positions to Committee

Web Manager	Ben Whitworth	web@vfwdc.com
Training Officer	Phil Griffith	
Merchandise	Kelsey Pendrey	merchandise@vfwdc.com
General Committee Member	Daisy Quinn	

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 Everyone,

I hope you have had a great month. We have some great trips running over the Easter period which I am sure those going are looking forward to. I hope you have a great time and that the tracks and weather are kind to you.

I was looking to get away on a trip myself but my Ranger spat a transmission! This was during the last long weekend about 2 hours out of Melbourne on the Western. I must have had a premonition as i thought to buy RACV Total Care the weekend before we left. Wow, that turned out to be seriously good value for money! It saved me about \$1,800 in towing fees and only cost just under \$300 for the membership.

Unfortunately the Ranger cost a bit more. To replace the transmission was about \$7,500. I was really lucky as I was looked after by Courtney and Patterson Ford in Heidelberg (unofficial plug!!). They negotiated with Ford to pay for the transmission and i only paid for the labour. I was extremely happy with that result.

Check out the photo below of it being taken away.

Anyways I wish you all a fantastic April and hope you get plenty of time out on the tracks and no time at all in the mechanics or on the back of tow truck.

Cheers, Cal.



April

Wednesday 5th	Club Meeting	8.00pm at Club Noble
Thu 6th - Tue 10th	McCabes Corner & Border Track Trip	Organised by Sally & Tristan (see trip details later in magazine)
Wednesday 19th	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8.00pm
Saturday 22nd	Mansfield Overnighter	Organised by Bruce Cremonsi (see trip details later in magazine)

May

Wednesday 3rd	Club Meeting	8.00pm at Club Noble
Wednesday 17th	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8.00pm

June

Wednesday 7th	Club Meeting	8.00pm at Club Noble
Sun 18th June	Shrine of Remembrance Tour	Organised by Bruce Dunlop (meeting at 11am)
Wednesday 21st	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8.00pm

Other Dates

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 1st March
Opened at 08.09pm

Attendees:

- As per attendance sheet

Apologies:

- Callum, Kelsey, Ashley M

Minutes of previous meeting:

- Minutes from last meeting - Read
- Matters arising from previous minutes - nil
- Accepting of minutes - Stuart
- Seconding of minutes - Ken

Guests:

- Several guests who were welcomed to the meeting

Correspondence In:

- Emails from aussie post & magazine stuff

Correspondence Out:

- Replies to emails

Upcoming Trips:

- 11-13th March - Big Desert Trip Labour day weekend with Sally & Tristan
- 25th March - Mt Speculation - Ly
- 22nd April - Night run Tunnel Bend & Gaffneys
- Border Track at Easter by Sally & Tristan
- 18th June - Bruce D - Shrine of Remembrance tour

Trip Reports:

Neville gave a quick summary of future trips and trips that had run.

Stuart's trip to Marysville was a great success.

Ly & Brett/Nicki volunteering weekend up on Mt Speculation.

Magazine:

Thanks to all who had contributed for previous month's edition especially Ken's Meet the Member.

New nomination for Meet the Member - Matt
Dont forget to send in your trip reports!

Treasurer's Report:

- Monthly Treasurer's Report - as per the magazine
- Accepted: Rory
- Second: Jeff

Association Report:

- Nil

Merchandise Report:

- Daisy showed off some suggestions & asked for preferences
- Show of hands for big on back - small logo on front, big logo on back with 74
- Also showed off some of the items we have in stock to see what we can clear out
- The issue is we don't have a lot of sizes.

Driver Training:

- Phil gave a talk on driver training weekend
- 21st Theory & 25/26th March for practical

General Business:

- Discussion around the upcoming 50th birthday for the club next year.
- Raffle run and won.

Next meeting Wed 5th April
Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com



Treasurer's Report February 2023

<u>Cheque A/C`</u> Opening Balance as at 01/02/2023	\$8,120.40	
Add: Membership Fees	\$130.00	
Raffle	\$106.15	
Merchandise	\$141.00	
Less: Catering Costs	-\$22.25	
PO Box Renewal	-\$224.00	
Closing Balance as at 28/02/2023		\$8,251.30
<u>Term Deposit</u> Opening Balance as at 01/02/2023	\$6,888.87	
Closing Balance as at 28/02/2023		\$6,888.87
<u>Petty Cash</u> Opening Balance as at 01/02/2023	\$38.30	
Closing Balance as at 28/02/2023		\$38.30
Consolidated Closing Cash Position		<u>\$15,178.47</u>

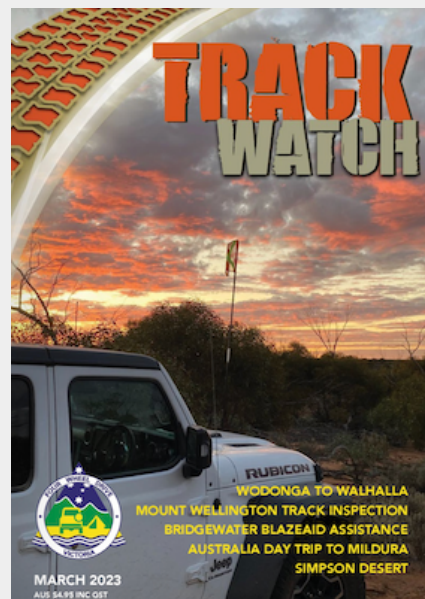
This month's meeting

Our next meeting is Wednesday 5th April at Club Noble.

Trackwatch

[Trackwatch](#) is a quarterly publication produced by Four Wheel Drive Victoria. The content includes 4WD Victoria news, Parks Victoria news, club activities, technical tips, products and events. In excess of 6,000 copies are distributed to members of affiliated four wheel drive clubs. Copies are also distributed to Victorian Parliamentary members, staff at Parks Victoria, DELWP, commercial outlets and interested members of the public, FWDV training courses and four wheel drivers at public events (eg. National 4X4 Show Melbourne, Victorian 4WD Show and other regional outdoor and specialty shows). It is also available for download as a pdf and for viewing as a flip book on their website and the latest edition is here:

<https://www.4wdvictoria.org.au/images/trackwatch/202303/flipbook/?page=1>



Trip Leaders

The club is keen to encourage more members to lead trips, whilst also recognising that some members are still new and/or worried about the requirements to be a leader. The committee is happy to help and hand hold as required any budding leaders and if there was sufficient interest, may consider running a Trip Leader training event. If you are interested to be a Leader please make contact with Neville as Trips Coordinator or any committee member. Its not as hard or difficult as you may think!

Attracting New Members

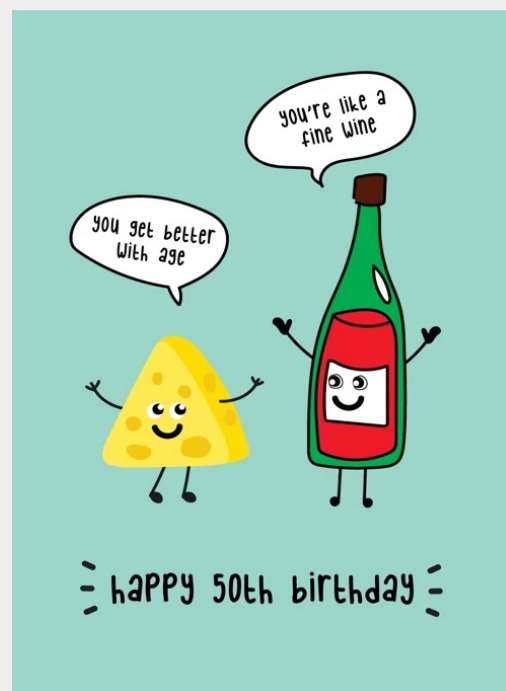
As an active and thriving club, we need to keep attracting new members to join us. The committee is currently considering several ideas to try to attract new members and will be discussing these at a future meeting. If you have ideas that you think might be worth considering then please do make contact with a committee member and share.

Club's 50th Birthday

Next year is the club's 50th birthday. The Committee are starting to discuss ideas and outline thoughts. It is likely a working group will be formed and so anyone who has any amazing ideas or would like to be involved, please get in contact with any committee members. We are looking to make it an incredible event so all ideas, no matter how crazy are welcomed.

All and any contributions welcome

Please don't be shy! Help the Editor keep the magazine fun and interesting, and relevant to you, by sharing some words and/or pictures. Literally anything you have is welcome!



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](#).

Meet the Members

Please meet Matt, our Club Association Delegate, and an all round good guy! Way back when he had hair, he was tearing up the streets in his Toranas but somebody please get him overseas!



Full name and any nicknames?

Matt Marino

When did you join the club?

3 years ago

What's your vehicle?

2012 Toyota Hilux SR5

First car you ever owned?

1970 Holden LC Torana



Favourite camp food?

Bacon & Eggs

Top tip to any beginners?

Always go with another person/people and certainly another capable vehicle.

Best piece of camping gear you are never without?

Swag

Where in the world would you most like to visit?

Italy

Worst upgrade or kit purchase?

Kings 200W solar blanket - absolute rubbish!

Best trip/track/park you have done?

Billy Goats

What is your favourite tipple?

Glenfiddich 21

What kept you sane during lockdowns?

Work

Footie, football or rugby?

Footie - Richmond Tigers!!

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

Fraser Island

Dream vehicle and set up if you could afford it?

I pretty much have it now in my Hilux.

Dumbest thing you ever did in a car?

Mt Dandenong Tourist Road/Devil's Elbow in the wet with steel belts showing out of rear tyres.

Craziest haircut you ever had?

I wish!!! (Ed: I can point you in the right direction for a very classy looking artificial hair style if you want Matt!!)



Best mod you ever did to a car?

Manualised tri-matic in the current Torana I own

What snacks are we most likely to find in your cab?

Chocolate

Any wildlife encounters on any of your trips?

Red Belly Snake in front of the Hill on Billy Goats



Craziest fancy dress you ever wore?

Blues Brothers, Jake Blues.



Can you play a musical instrument?

No

Best book you have ever read and recommend to others?

How to win friends and influence people - Dale Carnegie

What are you currently watching on Netflix that you can recommend?

The King of Tulsa & Stallone

Best overseas trip/ location?

Nowhere - never been overseas!

Favourite subject at school?

English

Worst job you ever had?

Brickie's labourer

Roughest night's sleep?

Mine and Nev's trip from Largo to Nicola - Patrol hub kids and their country music kept me up

What is your go to karaoke song?

Not much of a singer

Most remote place you have ever been to?

Havent been remote as yet but plan to soon.

What is your go to joke?

Other people's expense!

What motivates/inspires you?

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




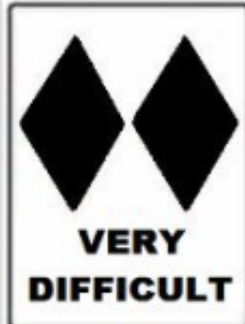
Money and buying new things

Rooty



Track Classifications

Four Wheel Drive Victoria have a track grading classification scale which has been developed to assist in advising Trip Leaders and participants on 4WD trips of the type of tracks that they can expect to encounter. On most trips participants can expect that a variety of tracks will be traversed each with an appropriate rating. Trip Leaders should advise participants of the range of track ratings expected to be encountered on the planned route. The following classifications will assist in determining an overall Trip Rating:

Considerations	Easy	Medium	Difficult	Very Difficult
Overall Description	All Wheel Drive and High Range 4WD. Novice Drivers	Mainly High range 4WD but Low range required. Some 4WD experience recommended.	Significant Low range 4WD with standard 4WD ground clearance. Should have 4WD driver training.	Low range 4WD with High ground clearance. Experienced Drivers
Advisory Sign				
Expected terrain and track conditions	Mostly unsealed roads with no obstacles and minor gradients.	Tracks with some steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. May have shallow water crossings.	Tracks with frequent steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. Possible water crossings.	Tracks with frequent very steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. May have difficult river crossings.
Vehicle suitability	All wheel Drive and High Range 4WD. Can be low clearance with single range and road tyres.	Suitable for medium clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain or road tyres.	Suitable for medium to high clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain tyres.	Suitable for high clearance vehicles with dual range and tyres suitable for the terrain. (Mud Terrain tyres).
Recovery equipment			Recovery equipment required.	Winch / Recovery equipment required.
Driver Training / Experience	Suitable for novice drivers.	Recommended that drivers have experience or 4WD training. Recommended to be done in groups of vehicles.	Recommended for drivers with reasonable experience or 4WD training. To be done in groups of vehicles.	Drivers with extensive experience and advanced training should only attempt as there are several technical challenges. Recommended to be done in groups of four or more vehicles.
Weather	May be difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.

Upcoming Trips

Destination	McCabes Corner and Border Track
Leader & Contact Details	Sally & Tristan (Sally: 0435 782207. Tristan: 0468958444)
Date	Thursday 6th April to Tuesday 10th April (Easter)
Meeting Details	TBC as some will leave on Thursday and some on Friday
Grade	Dry: Medium Wet: Medium/Hard
Trip Activity Details	<p>Thursday: Head to a campsite on the Murray river near Mildura</p> <p>Friday: Try and find McCabe corner marker and meet those people that are going to head up today. Will camp at site behind Shearers Quarters Murray Sunset National Park</p> <p>Saturday: Run down Border Track in the Murray Sunset, head into Pinaroo to top up with Fuel and stay at The Pines at start of Border Track (one way section)</p> <p>Sunday: Border Track (one way section) to Red Bluff or Broken Bucket Camp</p> <p>Monday: Head home for some or maybe stay another night somewhere.</p>
Vehicle Limits	Minimum 2, Maximum 5
Approx km's meeting place to destination	700 kms Round trip approx 1500km
Last available fuel	Red Cliffs/Renmark (both petrol & diesel)
Distance between supplies	200km
Equipment required	Full recovery gear for sand and mud. Sand flags, max tax or equivalent, camping equipment, food, water for pack up and move camping. Also need a permit for Ngarkat Park.
Maps required	Victoria's Deserts Map by Meridian Maps Border Track Map
Radio Channel CB/UHF	UHF 13 to start with and then move if its busy

Upcoming Trips

Destination	Easy Night Cruise
Leader & Contact Details	Bruce Cremonsi Mobile: 0400 425296
Date	Saturday 22nd April
Meeting Details	BP Mansfield
Grade	Dry: Easy Wet: Medium
Trip Activity Details	Basically a new members easy trip. The rough plan is meeting at Mansfield (time TBC), heading to: Tunnel Bend Reserve (air down here) Flowerbag Track Moonlight Spur Ryans Spur Cornhill up to the fire tower Charles Track Out near Old Coach Road Then head toward Gaffney's footy ground to camp the night or feel free to head home. Sunday - open to ideas
Vehicle Limits	Minimum 4, Maximum 10
Approx km's meeting place to destination	20-100 kms
Last available fuel	BP Mansfield (both petrol & diesel)
Distance between supplies	100km
Equipment required	Full recovery gear for sand and mud. Camping equipment, food, water etc. Good lighting, warm clothes (it was cold last time there)
Maps required	
Radio Channel CB/UHF	UHF 12 to start with and then move if its busy

Trip Report

Marysville, Saturday 18th February, by Maree

Attendees:

Maree & Stuart	Toyota 79 Ute
Andy	Challenger
Dennis & Brian	Jeep
Ken	Triton
Ant, Andy & Esty	Ranger
Niro, Sajith, Rehan & Ehiarn	Prado

The day really didn't start off well because of the amount of tracks that had been closed around the area. We headed up Mt Margaret road and there was a sign that the Cathedral Ranges were all closed. So skirting around this, we headed up Boundary Track but that was closed and access to Keppel Hut was also closed. So we were really just doing a "Driving Miss Daisy" day.

After consulting the maps again, we headed to Whiskey Hut Track. It had definitely been a while since this had been used. The first challenge was a log that was cut in the Suzuki style. This required the Landcruiser to rub the left front wheel on the log while the back right was rubbing on the other side. So this was a challenge in wheel placement for some but the skinny cars just cruised through. The little red jeep with attitude just laughed at it.

Next was a bit of track clearing by Stuart and his trusty chain saw. Then there was ruts, to keep on top of. Everyone was now awake and paying attention because the next challenge was mud - a sticky black soupy mud. Thinking it really can't get much worse than this, we then hit a bog hole full of black muddy water and the clouds of insects we disturbed were not happy at all.



So what else can this track throw at us? A river crossing to clean the wheels, with a rock step out and a big hole to negotiate around and then a tight turn to find the parking for the hut. We all said it was definitely an interesting track. Now for the fun bit - we have to do it all in reverse to get out of Whisky Hut.



A bit more of driving Miss Daisy. Then up Bull Fight Track and over the rock steps which provided plenty of fun. The large rocks always remind me of how hard it was for the pioneers. We then headed up Royston River Road and then up Conn Gap Track was just a bit exciting. We turned on to Hughes Track over the top of the range where they had logged recently which challenged everyone. We negotiated the mud puddles and endless ruts caused by the rain.





Heading up Morris Road to Morris Lookout we all decided it was an interesting day and it provided some challenges. The roads were totally unpredictable because of the amount of logging and the weather of the past few months. We stayed at the Boys Camp on the Rubicon River while others in the group headed back to civilisation.

One of the highlights was the lunch stop where we had a cricket match with the kids. The other was the little red Rubicon Jeep got to go to Rubicon Forest - thanks for being our tail end Charlie. All road closures considered it was an interesting day. If anyone is considering going for a day tour just check out the track closures as they change all the time and some are listed open when they are not.



Blue Rag Range - Day Trip 23rd February by Suzy

Attendees:

Bruce Dunlop (Leader) & his mate Frank
Suzy and Andy

Toyota
Challenger

Bruce and Frank met us in their vehicle, at Bairnsdale Maccas. Andy and I had eaten breakfast already, so Bruce literally inhaled his Mc Muffin and we took off to Dargo along the Bairnsdale-Dargo Road. Quick coffee and toilet stop at Dargo.

On the Dargo High Plains Road we travelled past roadworks - had a few stops at "red lights!" up to the start of the Blue Rag Range track. Grading of the road for long lengths and clearing of the scrub at the sides of the road was occurring. Barely nil traffic around.

Aired down at the start of the track. Had to stop at a passing for two vehicles coming down, spotted a motorbike without a rider-apparently the rider was taken to hospital after coming off the bike and sustaining a broken wrist. Perfect weather conditions (20 degrees perfect) for four wheels, not so good track conditions for two wheels-loose rock and wombat holes along the way. Both vehicles reached the top without issue. Two further vehicles joined us up at the summit-Trig point. Spectacular views....thanks to Frank for drone photos. Bruce pointed out the lunch point - the General at Mount Hotham, so off we headed





Bruce and Frank enjoyed their meals, ok a steak takes a bit longer to cook, but alas - the waitress informed us that the chef had gone home and forgotten about steaks to cook, and left Suzy and Andy hungry, so fish and chips it was! Bruce suggested a look at Dog's grave on the way home, so off on the Great Alpine road we headed.

We turned down Dinner Plain track, got about 100m down and met with a biker who told us to expect another 80 or so oncoming motorbikes who had just finished the KTM race meet, so we did a Uey and decided to pull over and air up, jump back on the Great Alpine Road, headed into warmer weather (32 degrees) met up at Bruthen and said thank you to trip leader Bruce and farewell.



Trip Report

Bindaree Flat Camp Ground - Labour Day Weekend

Attendees:

Ken Kilby (Leader & Reporter)
Suzy and Andy McCarthy

Mitsubishi Triton
Mitsubishi Challenger

A late decision to run a trip over the long weekend kept the numbers down but it was an absolutely awesome weekend with just the three of us. The weather was almost perfect, some previous rain in the area kept the tracks moist and mostly dust free and considering it was a long weekend the traffic wasn't too bad.

I deliberately chose Bindaree Flat camp ground hoping that the extra distance from Melbourne would mean we wouldn't be packed in like sardines like all the popular spots (looking at you Sheeppyard Flat). Well that paid off, arriving at 7:00 pm on Friday night ,(having left Melbourne at 2:30 pm) there were only 2 other groups there so camp was set up in a great spot next to the Howqua River.

As Andy and Suzy were coming up on Saturday morning, it was a quiet night around the fire star gazing with the increasingly cold night air only punctuated by the sound of the music from the large group nearby. Ahh the serenity!



After a rather cold night's sleep, the morning promised a great day ahead but started out typical for this time of year with everything covered in dew and an estimated 7-8 deg. Andy & Suzy arrived on time and after setting up we were away at 11:00am to our first stop at Bindaree Falls.



Bindaree Falls is only a short drive from the camp ground and has limited parking when busy. The main car park was full from members of the Land Rover Club. A short 400 metre uphill walk to the falls which are quite unique. There is a large cavern where the rock has fallen away over millennia with a viewing platform and you look out through the cascading water. With masses of tree ferns it is a beautiful spot well worth visiting.



After leaving the Falls, we followed Bindaree road up to Circuit road then almost straight across to the start of Monument track. This was a great little track with a few rocky sections which was great fun.





Turning right at the top at the junction with Clear Hills Track we stopped to collect some firewood before continuing on to Craig's Hut for lunch.

Craig's hut was very busy and we were lucky to get the only 2 parking spots left. Anyone would think there was a Four and Twenty Pie convention being held judging by the number of people having hot pies from their Travel Buddies. Just so happened that I had a pie warming as well but poor Andy and Suzy had to make do with cold rolls straight from the fridge.



With the weather behaving itself the views from the hut were stunning, and I was very fortunate to get a photo of the Hut and vista without anyone else in the picture. To add to the atmosphere a group of Horse riders arrived adding to the Man from Snowing River theme.





Leaving Craig's hut we followed Clear Hills track, but after a while I realised we had gone past things we didn't see on the way up. Another look at the map and I realised I missed the turn off right on the car park coming out of Craig's and in doing so we went the wrong direction. It turned out easier to keep going and do a full loop so we would end up back at the bottom of Monument track again. Seeing as we had so much fun the first time we went up again and then turned left to continue on to Mt Stirling.

Clear Hills Track is very narrow and there was a fair bit of shuffling to getting past the oncoming traffic. Arrived at the top of Mt Stirling, little bit of a breeze and cool enough to need a jacket now. We walked to the two Peaks for some awesome views & the great photo opportunity.





Leaving Mt Stirling we drove down Howqua Gap Track to Howqua Gap and then Bindaree Road back to camp in time for dinner. After dinner a nice night was had around the campfire, again listening to the music from the other camp, this time accompanied by the Karaoke mic which continued on after bedtime. Ahh the serenity!!



Sunday morning started off cold & everything covered in dew again. The day looked to be warming up considerably so I left my tent rear blind up to get some airflow.....you know where this is going..... We set off along 16 mile Jeep track towards Bluff hut with a short stop off at Pikes Flat camp ground for a look around. The camp sites had been slashed and it has great river access so it was a surprise to find it empty. Arriving at Bluff Hut it was packed and there was even a Holden Astra in the carpark





We had lunch and a look around then started off on our next stop at Lovick's hut another ½ hour along Bluff Track. Driving along Bluff track and the weather started to look a bit threatening. Being at 1750 metres, phone service was available so a quick check of the BOM app showed a fair bit of rain was on the way. Of course that's when I remembered leaving the tent flap open!!

The rain started just as we arrived at Lovick's Hut, not too much to begin with, but shortly after we left it came down reasonably hard. Suzy and Andy had to come back to Melbourne that night so with the rain arriving we didn't go to the planned Lookout Point and King Billy Track but instead went back to camp taking the easier Bluff Link Road.

Returned to camp and of course found the rain had gone into my tent leaving a large pool of water on the floor plus soaking parts of my sleeping bag & my clothes. Rather than spend a miserable night on my own I decided to head back with Andy and Suzy.



After packing up and giving over our campsite to another group who were eagerly awaiting our departure, we drove into Mansfield in time for Dinner. Due to the long weekend all the Pubs were booked out so we had to settle for Chinese and dined on the park bench in the middle of main street with the constant passing by of the Local Police providing the entertainment.

Arriving back home just before 10pm meant we had had a full day of driving but still had the opportunity to dry out our gear on Monday without having to deal with the usual traffic jams synonymous with long weekends.

All in all a great weekend, thanks to Andy and Suzy for coming and making it an awesome weekend.

Ken





Photo: Ken Kilby
Drying clothes after a tent mishap. ;-)