



FREE WHEELING

February 2023



Photo: Stuart & Maree
Stuck around
Sheepyard Flats

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 1st February** 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	Vacant	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 and welcome to 2023.

I hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and New Year's break and that you are ready for a new year of exploring this great land of ours. It looks like it's going to be a great year for trips. The committee is also looking at some different activities for our meetings over the year so we should have a load of fun.

A couple of the trips coming up Tristan & Sally's Big Desert Adventure in mid March and Bruce's Flinders Ranges Exploration for 10 days across Easter in April. Check these out later in the magazine and get the dates in your diaries.

If you feel like running a trip but are a bit hesitant then please shout out to me or other committee members and we will gladly help you.

We had a few trips out over the Christmas period and i am looking forward to hearing all about them. And thankfully I have now been freed up from my job hunting and will be looking at running a trips myself.

Thats all from me, Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you at the next meeting

Cheers, Cal.



February

Wednesday 1st	Club Meeting	8.00pm at Club Noble
Wednesday 15th	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8.00pm

March

Wednesday 1st	Club Meeting	8.00pm at Club Noble
Fri 10th - Mon 13th	Big Desert Adventure	Organised by Sally & Tristan (see trip details later in magazine)
Wednesday 15th	Committee Meeting (Virtual)	8.00pm

April

Wednesday 5th	Club Meeting	8.00pm at Club Noble
Fri 7th - Sun 16th	Flinders Ranges Trip	Organised by Bruce (see trip details later in magazine)
Wednesday 19th	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.

Wed 7th December
Opened at 07.58pm

Attendees:

- As per attendance sheet

Apologies:

- Tristan, Sally, Ian & Audrey, Bruce, Ben, Nikki, Steve M, Phil G

Minutes of previous meeting:

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

Guests:

- Nil

Correspondence In:

- Nil

Correspondence Out:

- Nil

Treasurer's Report:

- Monthly Treasurer's Report - Both October & November accounts were presented as per the magazine

Association Report:

- Nil

Merchandise Report:

- Nil

Trip Reports:

Maree gave a report on the recent Sheeppark Flats trip organized by her and Stuart. They left Friday morning, collecting other members en route. Ian and Libby had a sick truck which had to be towed back home. Michael arrived and was able to winch Stu out of the river after too close a look – and that was using a Kings winch!! It was very muddy and boots had to be retrieved from back during this winching operation. They did a number of local tracks including Refrigerator Track, Lovicks Hut, Pitcher Point (which was very very soggy) and back to Sheepparks. Had roaring fire and delicious lemon cake. Next day did Doherty's road since other options were very wet, then back to Mansfield where everyone departed. Maree and Stu then went back in to Sheepparks and stayed rest of the week.

Steve P talked about possible trip to Murray river around Aus Day long weekend. More details to follow

Upcoming Trips:

Marysville - Ly's re-scheduled trip now 26th November - this has been cancelled due to a second postponement

General Business:

Callum said a massive thank you to Daisy and Kelsey for the amazing food spread, thanks to committee for all their work this year, thanks to all those that organized and led trips, and big thanks to all the unsung heroes – the people who show up to meetings, help out and make the club such a great place to be. There was a long mid meeting break to eat the lovely desert platter laid on by Daisy and Kelsey.

Magazine:

Meet the Member - Andy & Suzy
Rig Rundown - Dave B

Andre asked for interest from the club around arranging a remote first aid course in the future – it's a 3 days course. There was general acceptance that it was worth exploring a bit further. Andre will report back to the club at the next meeting

Raffle with many great prizes

Next meeting Wed 1st Feb
Meeting closed at 9.25pm

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com

Treasurer's Report December 2022

<u>Cheque A/C</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/12/2022	\$8,811.03	
Add:	Raffle	\$81.00	
	Transfer from Undeposited	\$90.00	
	Total Monies In:		\$171.00
Less:	FWDV Association fees	-\$52.00	
	Xmas Catering	-\$578.74	
	Zoom licence	-\$230.89	
	Total Monies Out:		-\$861.63
	Closing Balance as at 31/12/2022		\$8,120.40
<u>Term Deposit</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/12/2022	\$6,861.35	
Add:	Interest	\$27.52	
	Total Monies In:	\$27.52	
	Closing Balance as at 31/12/2022		\$6,888.87
<u>Petty Cash</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/12/2022	\$38.30	
	Closing Balance as at 31/12/2022		\$38.30
<u>Undeposited</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/12/2022	\$90.00	
Less:	Transfer to Cheque A/C	-\$90.00	
	Total Monies Out:		-\$90.00
	Closing Balance as at 31/12/2022		\$0.00
	Consolidated Closing Cash Position		<u>\$15,047.57</u>

Happy New Year and all that Jazz!!

We hope everyone had a restful yet exciting summer break and that the January back to work blues haven't kicked in too bad! If they have and you're feeling a bit down, then get yourself onto the Trips pages and book yourself on a trip. You know that's going to make you feel better with something to look forward to. Or even organise your own trip - use up that negative energy by getting your head stuck in a guide book or old trip report and planning up your own crazy adventure (which we can all join too!)

This month's meeting

The first meeting of the year is Wednesday 1st February. Unfortunately we won't be having a desert platter (like December's meeting) but i am sure all our waistlines will be thankful of that. There will be some light refreshments as usual so its not all bad news (perhaps some wafer thin low fat tasteless rice crackers??). It would be good to see everyone there, hear about all our summer adventures and bang our heads together about some upcoming trips.

Delegate Representative Committee Member

The Club are still looking for a Delegate representative for the committee so if you are interested please get in touch.

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.

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](#).

Upcoming Trips

Destination	Big Desert Adventure
Leader & Contact Details	Sally & Tristan (Sally: 0435 782207. Tristan: 0468958444)
Date	Friday 10th to Monday 13th March
Meeting Details	BP Calder Park Outbound 08.00am for 08.30am departure If you want to come later in the day or meet on Saturday morning that is fine and can be coordinated
Grade	Dry: Easy Wet: Medium
Trip Activity Details	Leaving on the Friday before Labour weekend, we will head up to the North Side of Big Desert to our base camp for the weekend at Blue Gum Campsite. Saturday and Sunday will be exploring Big Desert and Big Dune, returning to our base camp each night. Lots of sand dunes and can get very muddy in the area if there has been rain. Head back home on Monday
Vehicle Limits	Minimum 3, Maximum 8
Approx km's meeting place to destination	550 kms
Last available fuel	Ouyen (both petrol & diesel)
Distance between supplies	125 km to Ouyen 35 km to Pinnaroo
Equipment required	Full recovery gear for sand and mud. Camping equipment for 3 nights of base camping. Camper trailers are welcome to come. There is some reasonable sand 4 wheel driving required to get into camp with a couple of nice little climbs.
Maps required	Trip leader has: Victoria's Deserts Map by Meridian Maps FFM Big Desert State Forest 4WD Touring Map
Radio Channel CB/UHF	UHF 13 to start with and then move if its busy

Upcoming Trips

Destination	Flinders Ranges Exploration
Leader & Contact Details	Bruce Cremonsi
Date	Mob: 0400 425296 Friday 7th to Sunday 16th April
Meeting Details	Servo on Eastlink but to be confirmed nearer the date
Grade	Dry: Easy Wet: Medium
Trip Activity Details	Heading to the Flinders Ranges to look around Rest of the plan to be confirmed in due course.
Vehicle Limits	Minimum 2, Maximum 6
Approx km's meeting place to destination	Lots!!
Last available fuel	Easy to get
Distance between supplies	TBC
Equipment required	Full recovery gear for sand and mud. Be self-sufficient for travel. Plenty of food, drinks and stuff.
Maps required	TBC
Radio Channel CB/UHF	UHF 21 to start with and then move if its busy

Meet the Members

Our first married couple “Meet the Members”!! The drive to Perth with Dave Grohl would certainly be interesting, as long as the recorder was not in the car! And genius best bit of kit.....



Full name and any nicknames?

Suzy & Andy (Macca)

When did you join the club?

June 2022

What's your vehicle?

2015 Mitsubishi Challenger PC

First car you ever owned?

Mitsubishi Colt & ZG Fairlane (Editor: Not going to put a picture up of a Mitsubishi Colt!!)



Favourite camp food?

Wood fired pizzas, thanks Joy and Dean

Top tip to any beginners?

Join a club and learn from experience

Best piece of camping gear you are never without?

It's gotta be the camping list, so we don't forget anything!

Where in the world would you most like to visit?

France for the chateau's/NZ for Milford Sound

Worst upgrade or kit purchase?

Worst upgrade or kit purchase? Diesel performance chip, I eventually had to replace the injectors.

What is your favourite tippie?

Bubbly/Cold beer (Editor: I wonder who likes the bubbly and who likes the beer??)

What kept you sane during lockdowns?

Going to work

Footie, football or rugby?

Footie

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

A lap of the map.

Best trip/track/park you have done?

The recent Talbotville trip was the best, beautiful scenery, great company and challenging tracks for a newby.

Dream vehicle and set up if you could afford it?

I'd love a 70 series Land Cruiser, twin cab ute, V8 with all the trimmings

Dumbest thing you ever did in a car?

As a P plater, being the 'designated driver' I was talked into taking 5 passengers, the 5th person laid across the laps of the 3 rear passengers. Another car collided with me. Thankfully no one was hurt. None of our parents wanted to collect us from the city at 3am, so we caught the "Night Rider" bus back home, whilst the car was towed, after receiving a lecture from the boys in blue at St Kilda Road police station.



Best mod you ever did to a car?

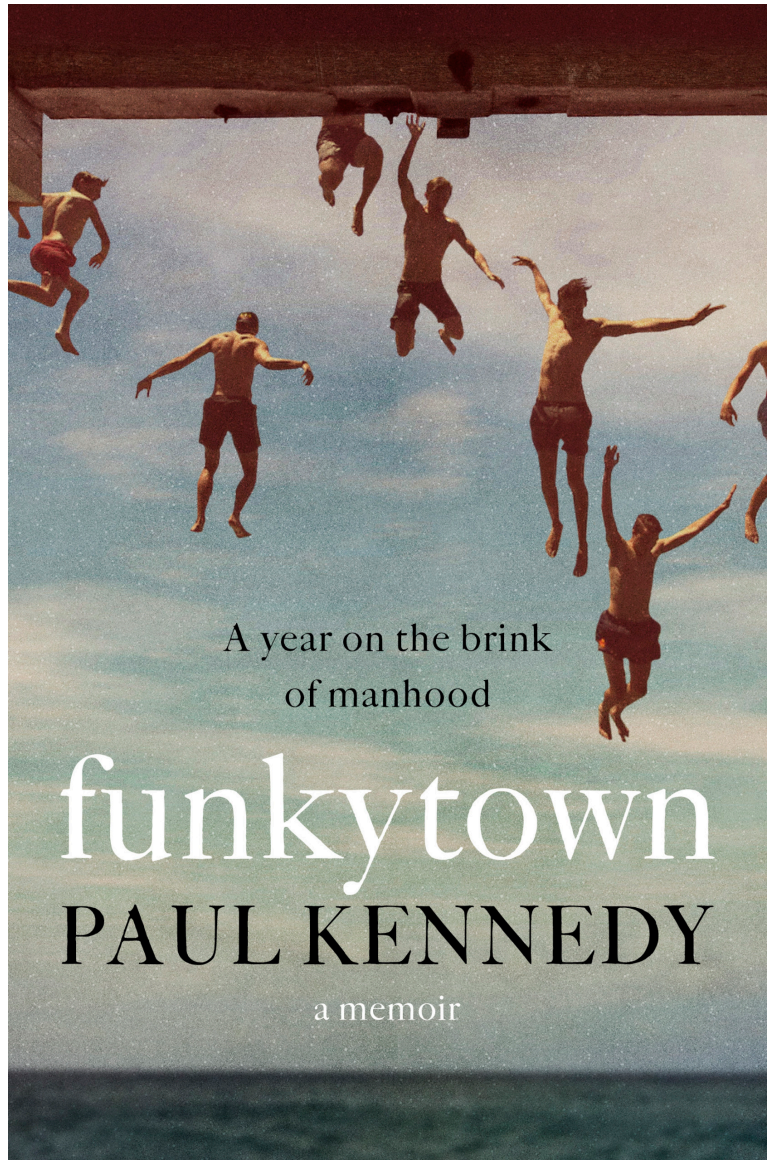
I'd say the drawers and fridge slide, mainly because we did it ourselves otherwise the best mod will be the next one.....we've only just started.

Can you play a musical instrument?

The recorder

Best book you have ever read and recommend to others?

Funkytown by Paul Kennedy.....reminiscing about our younger days in Frankston



Any wildlife encounters on any of your trips?

A magpie walked into our caravan, started singing, then walked over to my plate, which was on my lap, and helped himself to some crumbs.

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

Escape to the Chateau/House of the Dragon

Best overseas trip/location?

Tassie

What is your go to karaoke song?

Powderfinger - My Happiness

Most remote place you have ever been to?

This recent trip, somewhere between Talbotville and Wonnangatta

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

Dave Grohl, great musician and good bloke.



Trip Report

Sheepyard Flat, 25th - 27th November, written by Maree

Participants:

Maree & Stuart - Toyota 79

Ian & Audrey - Patrol

Steve C - Pajero

Michael S - Ranger

Libby & Ian - Ranger

Friday 25th:

Sheepyard Flats nestled in the historic Hawqua Hills welcomed us with a crisp and chilly evening. We soon got the fire going to welcome the group as we assembled for Saturday's adventure. Everyone was in good spirits and happy to be away. The night air was chilly and we had a shower of rain overnight, but that just added to the anticipation.



Saturday 26th:

We found everyone but Ian and Libby had a leaking Ranger. With some investigating, it was found to be the transmission. They decided to take the day to relax and chill while we headed out on our adventures. We headed off up Brook's Road to Tunnel Bend for a short walk. The river was flowing hard and we watched the rocks disappear in the thunderous wake. There was no way you would get through the tunnel because of the sheer volume of water going through.



Next stop was Upper Jamison Hut but the river was fair hooting along and we stopped to check it out. Stuart went in to have a better look and promptly got bogged in the mud at the river crossing.

Luckily we had Michael and his trusty Ranger to attach a winch and drag Stuart backwards and out. (No-one needs to ask which brand of winch it is!!) It was just a case of the nightly LandCruiser having to be rescued yet again. The smile on Michael's face was priceless as his winch slowly pulled Stuart's Landcruiser up the embankment. Ian and Alan attached ropes to the vehicles so it all worked out as an easy winch.

Stuart had to go on a fishing expedition for his mud flap he mislaid in the deep boggy puddles. It was comical to see him slipping and sliding whilst searching for the mud flap but was found in the end and reattached.



From there we headed to Bluff Hut to dodge the puddle and negotiated the rocks steps. The road had taken a beating from the water and traffic. The short walk out to the bluff was a challenge because of the stream of water and boggy sodden soil. The view from the top was spectacular. The sky had cleared but the wind was unforgiving - it went straight through you.



Even Stuart did the walk and there are photos to prove it!!

Next stop was Lovick's Hut where we enjoyed lunch and a loo with view!! The history of the hut and the family connections with the area go back generations. You know you are at a high altitude because the snow gums have that twisted, gnarled old standing. You just look at them and wonder what they have seen in their lives.

Down Bluff Link Track we encountered more boggy puddles and fallen trees but lucky for us someone else had cleared the track. The grader was hard at work and we stopped to admire his smooth road building skills. I think a big thank you to all the grader drivers who are working on these roads at present - it would be a never ending task.

Back on to Brook's Road, we head back to camp but not before picking up a load of firewood as it was going to be another chilly night (even though summer starts next week). Alan was showing off his new wood splitter ax - we all said it was doing a great job!



Sunday 27th:

There was a sprinkle of rain overnight which effected our decision over which tracks to take for the day.

Ian and Audrey headed out with their caravan. Libby and Ian had to call in a tow truck because their Ranger was still leaking. Mansfield Towing came to the rescue with a lime green tow truck so they will have stories to tell (be sure to ask them at the next meeting!!). Its good to get the picture but it can be interpreted in a different way as the tow truck was parked next to Ian's Patrol.

The rest of the group decided going out via Doughty Road. It did not disappoint with vista views of the mountains. We took the detour to the Timber Top summit walk track car park but decided this was better left for another day.

We stopped and aired up and said our goodbyes. Ann & Alan and Stuart & Maree headed to the Mansfield Hotel for lunch and everyone else headed home.

A great trip was had by all.



Post Script: See next page for a heart (and body) warming story about a group of school girls who were wet and cold at the campsite on Saturday night.

This is an article written by Maree for the Track Watch magazine.

Kindness

The Victorian 4x4 Wheel Drive Club, VFWDC, organised a weekend trip to Sheeppark Flats, nestled in the historic Howqua hills, from the 25/11/2022. The group, enjoyed the challenging drive to the iconic hut and the spectacular scenery that unfolded, but the most rewarding part of the weekend, was a random act of kindness. We set up camp, started a fire, and watched as a group of walkers, came in. They were girls on a thirty day walk through this area. They had wet tents, socks, and were just soggy in general. We started a conversation with the group leader, and asked if they could have a fire? We took wood and fire lighting apparatus down to the fire pit nearest their camp. We assisted in starting the fire, and stacking the wood, explaining they needed a bucket of water to put it out, at the end of the night. We headed back to our camp. It was lovely to hear the girls happy voices around the fire

The next morning the girls had packed up their camp, and before starting their walk for the day, they came up with a note, to thank us. They were grateful as they had been able to dry their socks, and feel warm before bed.

It's just a thought that we take it for granted as we travel through areas, we have chain saws, axes, fire lighters. As prepared campers with vehicles its not difficult to leave a pile of wood, because you never know who will be there after you. We all try to do the right thing, and it was this act of kindness towards the walkers that we agreed was our highlight of the weekend.

I have attached the note the girls gave us.



Ed: Thank you for sharing this feel good (and warm) story Maree. And thank you for your wisdom and kindness, and for being an awesome ambassador for our club (and of course the human race as well).