



# FREE WHEELING

JUNE 2025



Photo by Sushant Aggarwal

Registration No  
A0002184F





## VFWDC General Meeting Details & Venue

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30PM with the following exceptions:

No meeting at Club Noble in January.

### Club Noble Address

Blue and Gold Room

Club Noble

46-56 Moodemere Street

Noble Park

Melways ref: 89 D4



**This month's meeting will be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm.**

## Club Committee

### 2024 - 2025

President	Neville Van Leeuwen	<a href="mailto:president@vfwdc.com">president@vfwdc.com</a>
Vice President	Ken Kilby	<a href="mailto:vicepres@vfwdc.com">vicepres@vfwdc.com</a>
Secretary	Steve Miller	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
Treasurer	Ly Ho	<a href="mailto:treasurer@vfwdc.com">treasurer@vfwdc.com</a>

### General Committee

Trip Coordinator	Andy McCarthy	<a href="mailto:trips@vfwdc.com">trips@vfwdc.com</a>
Magazine Editor	Sushant Aggarwal	<a href="mailto:editor@vfwdc.com">editor@vfwdc.com</a>
Association Delegate	Dennis Alphonsus	<a href="mailto:delegate@vfwdc.com">delegate@vfwdc.com</a>

### Support Positions to Committee

Web Manager	Ben Whitworth	<a href="mailto:web@vfwdc.com">web@vfwdc.com</a>
Training officer	Phillip Griffith	
Merchandise	Suzy Whitford	<a href="mailto:merchandise@vfwdc.com">merchandise@vfwdc.com</a>

### Club Details

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
Registration Number	A002184F
Correspondence Address	PO Box 778 Dandenong VIC 3174
Email	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.vfwdc.com">www.vfwdc.com</a>

The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of [Four Wheel Drive Victoria](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au) - [www.fwdvictoria.org.au](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au)

## President's Report

Hi All

Another month has flown by, and we are fast approaching the EOFY and our next AGM.

Last month we had Trevor from Autophix with us sharing his range of ODB scanners and gave the members a good discount if they purchased one. A fair few people used this opportunity to purchase a unit.

We have a few trips and events coming up so make sure to check out the trip section of the magazine to see what is coming up.

At the end of the month we have our Christmas in July at the Upper Yarra Reservoir, if you are coming, please RSVP with a head count so we can cater for the event. Please remember you need to book a site (It's free). See the Trip data form for all the details.

Snow trips are also coming up (Hopefully we get enough snow), permits are now available on the FWDV page, see the trips email for more info or reach out to Andy or myself if you need a hand.

The club has managed to get a discount code through Survival First Aid Kits so if you are looking for a new kit check them out and use the code to get a 10% discount. We will share the code at the next meeting as well as via email.

The national 4X4 outdoor show is coming up from the 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> August. If we have enough interest, we will have a club stand.

FWDV will provide:

- Free club exhibition and allocated space to promote the club, membership, trips, or vehicle/s
- Complimentary three-day tickets for those members/volunteers managing the club's exhibition on-site

As mentioned earlier our AGM is coming up in August, please put some thought into the roles you may be able to assist with next year

After more than a decade in the role Ben is stepping down from the "Web Support" role. We are looking for an IT savvy person to fill this role. If you think this describes you please reach out to me or Ben so we can run through the role.

A massive thank you to Ben for his commitment to the club in keeping our web and club emails up and running and being an active committee member this whole time.

**Neville Van Leeuwen**

VFWDC President

president@vfwdc.com

### June

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting	7:30pm Club Noble
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	King's weekend Googs track / Oodnadatta trip (~3 weeks)	Bruce Dunlop
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas in July at Upper Yarra (20-22 June)	Andy

### July

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	General Meeting	7:30pm Club Noble
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	German festival at St Annes Winery	Andy

### More upcoming trips:

1. 22 (Fri) – 24 (Sun) August, National 4X4 Outdoors Show
2. Snow trips – reach out to Andy if you want to run a trip
3. 31/12/2025 Triple New Years at Camerons corner (Bruce Dunlop)
4. Cape York leaving King's birthday, via Birdsville, Weipa (Next Year – 2026), returning August 2026 (Bruce Dunlop)

## VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 7 May 2025

Time: 7:30pm – 9:41pm

Location: Club Noble

**Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Open Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome to the May club meeting</li> <li>Apologies: Marie, Audre and Ian, Daisy, Glen, Dimmey</li> </ul>	Neville
Minutes from previous months club meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matters arising from previous minutes for meeting on the 02/04/2025: Nil</li> <li>Minutes from previous meeting accepted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accepted: Andre</li> <li>Seconded: Bruce</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Neville
Guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steve – Triton (Previously a Ssangyong) – Previous member returning for more adventure</li> </ul>	Neville
Correspondence	<p>Correspondence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TJM Open Day on Saturday 10/05/2025 – To be shared with all members.</li> <li>VFWD has several places available for trainee instructors (27 &amp; 31 May 2025. Please note this offered session is for trainee instructors already in the course. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We made further enquires about this and VFWD provided information regarding joining the trainee instructor program. Anyone interested to see Steven Miller</li> </ol> </li> <li>VFWD sent email requesting feedback on number of digital and physical copies of “Track Watch” clubs would like</li> </ol>	Neville Steven M
Tonight’s Guest Speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trevor from OBD explained benefits and provide experiences of his range of OBD scanners at a discount.</li> <li>Trevor is President of Werribee 4WD Club.</li> <li>Review of OBD2 Scanners. There are two general types (1) Vehicle specific, and (2) Universal or multi vehicle.</li> <li>Tip: Always take a picture of any codes coming up on the scanner before clearing the codes.</li> <li>Youtube Channel: Dirt Road 4x4</li> <li>10% off for tonight’s purchases</li> <li>Very good presentation and OBD2 scanners are highly recommended.</li> </ul>	Trevor
Intermission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intermission</li> </ul>	

## VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 7 May 2025

Time: 7:30pm – 9:41pm

Location: Club Noble

**Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Treasurer's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per written report from Ly Ho – Written report will be in next issue of the club's magazine.</li> <li>Report for April 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closing cash position \$4,629.98</li> <li>Closing consolidated position \$11,128.80</li> <li>Motion to accept April 2025 Treasurer 's Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accepted: Anne</li> <li>Seconded: Steve</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>Association fees have gone up \$2.00 for next financial year. This will be passed on in the upcoming renewals and new members.</li> </ul>	Ly
Association News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructors training - Mentioned in "Correspondence".</li> <li>Magazine supply – Dennis to confirm with VFWD.</li> <li>New chainsaw causes to be held in Pakenham – details to be advised – Dennis to email details to everyone.</li> <li>Mt Skene permits are not yet available.</li> </ul>	Dennis
		Andy
Upcoming Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10,11/05/2025 Murrindindi Trip (Mother's Day Weekend), Trip Leader: Jaqui Conquest</li> </ul>	Jaqui
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17-18/05/2025 Driver Training Course – Course is now fully subscribed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theory night was completed on the Wednesday 12/03/2025 at Club Noble.</li> <li>Camping overnight, basic recovery stuff.</li> <li>Ashley going up Friday morning</li> <li>John going up Friday afternoon</li> <li>Phil is going up Saturday morning. Meeting at Officer BP</li> <li>Vehicle inspections, homework, various tracks, finishing midy Sundy afternoon</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Ashley
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7-9/06/2025 - Kings Birthday weekend - 4-5 weeklong trip - Googs track returning Oodnadatta Track – Trip Leader Bruce Dunlop</li> </ul>	Bruce
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4x4 Show ... VFWD to get further details</li> </ul>	Neville
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10/2025 Peninsular Astronomical Night – Details to be confirmed.</li> </ul>	Suzy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>31/12/2025 New years at Camerons corner – Trip Leader Bruce Dunlop</li> </ul>	Bruce
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2026 Cape York leaving King's birthday 2026, returning August 2025</li> </ul>	Bruce
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20-22/06/2025 - Christmas in July (Main event Saturday Night, Saturday night dinner will be catered by the club - Upper Yarra Reservoir near Warburton – full facilities, Secured area at night. Code needed for access at night. Ken to do reconnaissance trip. Bring your own firewood. Everyone must book their own camp site (Free until July 2025). VFWD cannot do a mass booking. Flushing Toilets but no showers. Andy going up Friday morning. Ken going up Friday afternoon. There are walking tracks and some 4wd tracks nearby.</li> </ul>	Ken

## VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 7 May 2025

Time: 7:30pm – 9:41pm

Location: Club Noble

**Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St Annes event is being investigated for later in the year.</li> </ul>	Neville
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Snow trips (Mt Skene) – Club needs people to lead trips and lock in dates. Please note: When booking on VFWD add 10 random names. Names can be changed but cannot be added after initial booking.</li> </ul>	Neville
Merchandise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Usual items – No updates other than</li> </ul>	Suzy
Magazine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invitation to everyone to submit anything of interest relating to camping/four wheel driving/vehicles</li> </ul>	Neville
Trip Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>05/04/2025 Bruthen Loop – Trip Leader: Bruce Dunlop – Meeting in Bruthen - Via Engineers Track, Haunted Stream. Coming back Sunday. Written report will be in next issue of the club's magazine.</li> </ul>	Bruce Dunlop
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18,19/04/2025 Retrace Aussie Arvos "Ultimate Beginners 4WD Trip" along King River, Cobblers Lake, Tallest waterfall in VIC, huts, Craigs Hut. Written report will be in next issue of the club's magazine.</li> </ul>	Sushi
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17/04/2025 Easter – 11 days – Renmark, Kimber, Streaky Bay, Wallen, Eyre Peninsular trip – Trip Leaders Sally and Tristan. Written report will be in next issue of the club's magazine.</li> </ul>	Sally and Tristan
General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30pm meeting starts will now be adopted as a permanent arrangement.</li> </ul>	Neville
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed existing rule regarding "No dogs allowed" to be amended to allow dogs on trips where trip is declared dog permitted.</li> <li>Dogs – Will be at the trip leader's absolute discretion.</li> <li>Trip Form will have provision to indicate if trip is dog friendly trip</li> <li>In Vic dogs allowed (On leads) in State Forests except Murrindindi and Stephenson's Falls.</li> <li>Dogs not allowed in National Parks.</li> <li>Andre recommended wording be "Dogs Permitted" rather than "Dog Friendly". The onus is on the dog owner to determine if the trip is them appropriate for their dog.</li> <li>General consensus is positive to allow dogs where appropriate.</li> </ul>	Neville



## VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 7 May 2025

Time: 7:30pm – 9:41pm

Location: Club Noble

**Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Raffle	Prizes <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. OBDII device</li><li>2. Wine and stubbie holder</li><li>3. Calendar and stubbie holder</li></ol>	Neville
Next General Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wednesday 04/06/2025, 7:30pm at Club Noble (Upper floor meeting room)</li></ul>	Neville
Meeting Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9:41 pm</li></ul>	Neville
Minutes taken by:		Steven Miller

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc  
www.vfwdc.com

## Treasurer's Report April 2025

<u>Cheque A/C`</u> Opening Balance as at 01/04/2025	\$4,889.98	
Add: Raffle	\$48.00	
Less: Catering Costs	-\$23.00	
P.O Box Fees	-\$240.00	
Raffle Prizes	-\$50.00	
Closing Balance as at 30/04/2025		\$4,629.98
<u>Term Deposit</u> Opening Balance as at 01/04/2025	\$6,465.52	
Closing Balance as at 30/04/2025		\$6,465.52
<u>Petty Cash</u> Opening Balance as at 01/04/2025	\$38.30	
Less: Temporary change for raffle sales	-\$5.00	
Closing Balance as at 30/04/2025		\$33.30
Note: \$5.00 was used from petty cash to provide change for a raffle ticket sale. It will be replenished in May.		
<b>Consolidated Closing Cash Position</b>		<b>\$11,128.80</b>

### **NEW General Meeting start time**

Starting 2025, the general meeting's start time will commence at **7:30PM** at Club Noble.

### **10% Discount on Survival First Aid Kit**

Survival First Aid have offered our club a 10% discount. If you need to get / upgrade your first aid kit go to <https://survivalfirstaidkits.net.au/>

At the checkout please enter the code for a 10% discount. (Code will be provided at the meeting).

### **Merchandise**

See the Merchandise section for available merchandise. Please contact Suzy or a committee member for available sizes and price.

We currently have a range of merchandise in stock, and the list of available items can be found on the pages below. If you are interested, please feel free to speak to one of the committee members during the general meeting or email us at [committee@vfwdc.com](mailto:committee@vfwdc.com).

**Discount Offer:** The club is offering a discount of \$5 off your membership for each trip you have organized and run since March 1st, 2024, up to a maximum of \$20 per couple. Please mention any trips you have led when you reply.



## Merchandise

For available sizes and price, please contact Suzy or feel free to speak to one of the committee members during the general meeting or email us at [committee@vfwdc.com](mailto:committee@vfwdc.com)

### 50th Anniversary Jacket



### Reversible Vest



### Drivers Jacket



### Zip up Hoodie



### Scarf / Beanie / Cap / Stubbie



## Club Membership

Please visit our website at [VFWDC.com](http://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](mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com)

### Payments:

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

<b>Account Name:</b>	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
<b>BSB:</b>	633108
<b>Account No:</b>	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](mailto: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](#).

## Track Classification

[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.





## PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	UPPER YARRA RESERVOIR PARK
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Ken Kilby MOB: 0422 411 790
DATE	20-22 June 2025
MEETING PLACE / TIME	At destination
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: not applicable DRY:
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>Christmas in July Camping</p> <p>No planned 4wd activities although members can explore local 4wd tracks if they wish.</p> <p><b>Please bring a bag of firewood as no firewood can be collected at the Park.</b></p> <p>Event will be dogs allowed, but must be on lead at all times.</p> <p>Suitable for young children</p> <p>Playground</p> <p>Adventure walk through the forest</p> <p>Footy/Cricket oval</p> <p>Flushing Toilets</p> <p>Club will provide Dinner on Saturday night</p> <p>I will be going up Friday night, some will arrive Friday morning.</p> <p>See attached map of facilities &amp; proposed camp site.</p> <p>Bookings <b>MUST</b> be made on the Park Website even though camping is free until 30th June. You will receive a code for the entry gate which is required if arriving after 5:00 pm. (please note the code will be issued by Parks closer to the event, not at time of booking)</p> <p><b>Book at:</b>  <a href="https://bookings.parks.vic.gov.au/upper-yarra-reservoir-camping-area#/accom/34900">https://bookings.parks.vic.gov.au/upper-yarra-reservoir-camping-area#/accom/34900</a> </p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: not applicable MAXIMUM:
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	23 km from Warburton
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Warburton DIESEL: Warburton
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	23 km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Camping gear, food and supplies. Dinner will be supplied Saturday night
MAPS REQUIRED	Not applicable
RADIO CHANNEL      CB / UHF	12

# Trip Report

## Trip Report – 4WD Training weekend, Aberfeldy Area

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Trip By: Phil

Report By: Joshua Miller

### Participants:

Ashleigh – Chopped Landcruiser

John – Nissan Patrol

Phil – Ford Everest

Steven and Joshua – Mazda BT50

Alan and Anne – Toyota Prado

Adam – 200 Series Landcruiser

Mark – Mitsubishi Triton

### Day 1 – Saturday, 17 May

The trip started with a meetup at the BP at Officer at 8am. We would meet up with Mark afterwards, and John met us at the beginning of the tracks.



### Day 1 - Crossing Thomson Dam



## Trip Report

Off to a good start, the morning overcast began to clear up, starting off the weekend with sunshine, enthusiasm, and (apparently) a rare pun from Phil (that Alan proudly caught).

The morning had us covering some fundamentals, including essential stop/start recoveries.



### Crossing a baby creek

We inspected Little O'Toole campground at 11am and flagged it as the point to camp for the night. While at Little O'Toole, we had a mid-morning snack stop. followed by a vehicle walkaround.



Everyone went around and introduced their vehicles: their setups, recovery kits and points, and instructors discussed the must-have recovery gear - including winch-specific extras.



## Trip Report

We then navigated a series of tracks. It was a journey of Flats Track → Williams Spur Track → S Track, and back again in reverse.

I discovered that whoop-de-dos feel much more aggressive on the way down than on the way up, which was surprising/alarming to discover on my first encounter.

At one point, John who was riding shotgun in Mark's Triton, had to dismount to give guidance to Mark to help Mark traverse a tricky rocky downhill section. John was talking Mark through the section via handheld radio, plus accompanying hand signals. With John's guidance Mark got through the tricky section with no mishaps. It was when John jumped back into the Triton he found out that he had taken Mark's radio and had left his in the Triton turned off. We had a laugh about who exactly John was trying to talk to in that moment (No one). Mark had navigated the section on John's hand signals alone. 🤔

A potential candidate for the 'Good on Ya' Award.

Just before driving back into the Little O'Toole campground, we stopped by the main O'Toole area. It used to be a marketplace during the gold rush. The main O'Toole area was surprisingly quiet and clean with only three vehicles there.



We returned to Little O'Toole to set up camp. Dinner was served around 5:30pm and cleaned up by 7:30pm. I cooked up a delicious stir-fry for my dad and me.

The evening saw stories, wine, and beer shared around the fire. A spirited debate about Aldi wine ensued. Verdict: Aldi had surprisingly solid drops. Recommendation noted

Before turning in, the plan for Sunday was laid out: steeper tracks, more recovery practice, and a proper river crossing. We'd begin with a theory review from our 4wd questionnaire homework to kick off the day.





## Trip Report

### Day 2 – Sunday, 18 May

The day began with theory questions and some hands-on training. By late morning, we'd hit some steeper, rockier sections.



One memorable moment: a stubborn rock outcrop got the better of a Mazda (twice, stalling on the first attempt) resulting in a winch recovery and a useful debrief on better wheel placement



Yesterday during the vehicle tours/inspections, I was taught that part of winch maintenance is unspooling it every three months. I was worried, knowing it was 11 months (June 2024) since we last used it. The universe quickly soothed my worries by shortly getting me stuck 3 hours later. Also, I was told I set a record for being the first driver to ever need a winch recovery on a training trip.



## Trip Report

Shortly before we stopped for lunch, I embraced my inner talent for technical driving by managing to stall the Mazda on a whoop-de-do going uphill. Another win for an amateur 4W driver. I certainly did get my practice in for stop/start recoveries this trip.



**Crossing Aberfeldy River**

Lunch at Aberfeldy River gave everyone a break and a chance to reflect



**18th of May, Sunday, 1pm – Lunch at Aberfeldy River**



## Trip Report

The trip wrapped up at the Silver Top picnic area near Thomson Dam. We aired up, said our goodbyes, and left with mud on our tyres, new skills to develop, and more stories for a future campfire.

Thanks again to our instructors - Phil, Ashleigh, and John; for their guidance, patience, and Aldi wine reviews.



A great weekend all around, we left looking forward to joining the club in future trips



# Trip Report

## Trip Report – Easter 4wd Trip

Date: Easter Weekend, 2025

Report By: Andre

### Participants:

Andre and family – Amarok + trailer

Andre's Friend – Mitsubishi Pajero

Steven Miller – Mazda BT-50

Sushant – Hilux

### Day 1: Yarra Glen to Pineapple Flat Campground

Our Easter 4WD adventure began with a lively meetup in Yarra Glen. We had a 4-vehicle convoy: three from the club and a friend of mine, who is looking to get into more adventurous camping. After a quick briefing and ensuring everyone was ready, we hit the road through Mansfield. The journey was smooth until we turned off the sealed road at Buttercup Road, transitioning onto Carters Road. The excitement was palpable!

### First Stop: Tomahawk Hut

Our first stop was Tomahawk Hut, where we encountered the Pajero Club. Parking was a bit of a challenge due to the crowd, but it was a great spot to visit and stretch our legs. We had a good laugh trying to squeeze our vehicles in like a game of Tetris.

From Tomahawk Hut, we followed No3 Road to Razor Back Hut. The drive was scenic and enjoyable, with everyone in high spirits and a few friendly honks along the way.

### Camp for the Night: Pineapple Flat Campground

We arrived at Pineapple Flat Campground via King Basin Road. Despite the busy camp, we managed to find a reasonable amount of space to set up. The drop toilet struggled to keep up with the number of campers, but it was manageable. The kids braved the cold river for a swim, and the climb out into the campground was interesting but not too difficult. We joked about the river being a "refreshing" wake-up call.

## Day 2: Pineapple Flat to Craig's Hut

The next morning, we continued on King Basin Road, crossing the King River multiple times. Our first stop of the day was King Hut, another excellent hut worth visiting. We shared stories and a few laughs about our adventures so far.

## Climb to Cobbler Lake

We took a left up Speculation Road, which turned into a steep climbing track known as Cobbler Lake Track. Cobbler Lake was breathtaking and well worth the drive. While there, we took the opportunity to walk to Dangdongadale Falls, a very high waterfall with a tiny creek trickling over the edge. We even laid down to take photos over the edge, capturing the stunning drop below.

After enjoying the sights, we backtracked to Speculation Road, then took Circuit Road to Clear Hills Track, leading us to Craig's Hut. The view from Craig's Hut was spectacular and a highlight of the trip. Sushant was particularly pleased he decided to come up to the hut before heading home.

## Split in the Group

At this point, Sushant and Steve had to head home and left as a two-vehicle convoy. The rest of us decided to stay, despite the forecasted rain, which fortunately stayed away. We were greeted by a clear morning, making for a pleasant end to our trip. The camp just off Craig's Hut was not too busy, providing a peaceful night. We joked about our luck with the weather, calling ourselves the "Rain Dodgers."

## Special Notes

It was heartening to see many P-Platers out enjoying the bush responsibly. Most of them were courteous, stopping to chat and often pulling over to let our convoy through. A big thank you to everyone who came along and made this trip memorable!

Looking forward to our next adventure!

Andre

Trip Leader



## Trip Report









## Trip Report





# **We need your help on and off the tracks**



**If you have some spare time  
please consider joining the committee.  
Your club needs you— do it for your club!**

**Contact your Committee...**



