

# FREE MANAGELING



# **Meeting Details**



# **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 1st October at 7.30pm.

# **Club Committee**

www.fwdvictoria.org.au

2024 - 2025		
President	Neville Van Leeuwen	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	Ken Kilby	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Steve Miller	secretary@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Ly Ho	treasurer@vfwdc.com
<b>General Committee</b>		
Trip Coordinator	Ken Kilby	trips@vfwdc.com
Magazine Editor	Sushant Aggarwal	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	Dennis Alphonsus	delegate@vfwdc.com
General Committee	Andy McCarthy	
Support Positions to Committee		
Web Manager	Alec Downs	web@vfwdc.com
Training officer	Phillip Griffith	
Merchandise	Suzy Whitford	merchandise@vfwdc.com
Club Details		
Club Details		
Club Details Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Dri	ve Club
	Victorian Four Wheel Dri A002184F	ve Club
Registered Name		
Registered Name Registration Number Correspondence	A002184F	
Registered Name Registration Number Correspondence Address	A002184F PO Box 778 Dandenong \	

# **President's Report**

Hi All,

I hope you have all been able to get out or starting to plan your next adventure as the weather starts to slowly improve.

I ran a day trip to Mt Matlock-Woods Point the other weekend and we had a great day on the tracks (Even though we missed our Lunch at Woods Point we still called in for a drink and some snacks. It was a great day with awesome people.

This month (Oct) we have some representatives from FWDV coming to our general meeting, they will be sharing some information about the upcoming 50th celebrations they are organising at Merrijig. They will also be sharing some information on what they have been doing and their future plans.

Next Month is our annual offsite meeting. We have organized to attend Adrenalin Offroad Centre in Pakenham. They are an Ironman stockiest and a have a great map room with large, laminated maps for all of Australia. They also plan and run trips (More details in mag). Please remember this will be held on the 2nd Wed of the Month 12/11/25. There will be Pizza and soft drinks available.

Suzy has been busy organising a new Club hoody, check out the email and put your order in soon so you don't miss out.

The trip calendar is slowly filling up. If you want to join a trip come to the meeting and put your name down or submit your Trip data plan. Check out the trips section.

Trips Include

Noojee – Day trip

Fishing Weekend

Blue Rag

Camerons Corner (New Years Eve)

Hope to see you all on Wednesday at the meeting.



### **Neville Van Leeuwen**

**VFWDC President** 

president@vfwdc.com

# **VFWDC General Meeting Minutes**

Date: 3 September 2025 Time: 7:30pm – 8:21pm Location: Club Noble

Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 1st October 2025

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Open Meeting	<ul> <li>Welcome to the September 2025 club meeting</li> <li>Apologies: Vern, Ken, Glenn and Sandy</li> </ul>	Neville
Minutes from previous months club meeting	<ul> <li>Minutes from previous meeting accepted:         <ul> <li>Accepted: Bruce</li> <li>Seconded: Sushant</li> </ul> </li> <li>Matters arising from previous minutes for meeting on the 06/08/2025:         <ul> <li>Nil</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Neville
Guests	Derek and Ben. Former Land Rover Club members. Looking for smaller less political clubs. GU Patrol	Neville
Correspondence	Correspondence:  1. Australia Post: mail to be collected	Steven M
Treasurer's Report	<ul> <li>As per written report from Ly Ho – Written report will be in next issue of the club's magazine.</li> <li>Report for August 2025:         <ul> <li>Closing cash position \$2,723.06</li> <li>Closing consolidated position \$11,323.61</li> <li>No matters arising from Financial Report.</li> <li>Motion to accept August 2025 Treasurer 's Report:</li></ul></li></ul>	Ly
Association News	<ul> <li>FWDV has 50th anniversary function</li> <li>Training at Toolangi training ground See email from Dennis</li> <li>Representative coming from FWDV for next meeting</li> </ul>	Dennis
Upcoming Trips	<ul> <li>06/09/2025 – Woods Point, Mt Matlock, Corn Hill, lunch at Woods Point Hotel. Day Trip. Medium difficulty. Trip Leader: Neville</li> <li>03/10/2025 Stargazing at the observatory at Briars, Mt Martha at 7:45pm. This is now fully booked out.</li> <li>12-15 December 2025 – Friday - Blue Rag, Saturday – Crooked River Sunday - Billy Goats Bluff, Monday – Head home. Difficulty - Medium to Hard. Trip Leader: Neville. This is fully booked however a waiting list is being kept in case spaces open up.</li> </ul>	Neville

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Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
	31/12/2025 x3 New Years Eaves at Camerons corner – Trip Leader Bruce Dunlop	Bruce
	2026 Cape York leaving King's birthday 2026, returning August 2026.  Trip Leader: Bruce Dunlop	Bruce
Presentation	Adam's driver training certificate was presented to him.	Neville
Merchandise	<ul> <li>Usual items – Existing stock available see club magazine for details.</li> <li>Taking expressions of interest for new hoodie with embroidered logo. No zip. \$65 each, various colours, 400GSM.</li> <li>Taking orders for polo shirts with new logo.</li> <li>Driver jackets with previous logo are available</li> </ul>	Suzy
Intermission	Intermission 7:42pm to 8:05pm	
Magazine	Invitation to everyone to submit anything of interest relating to camping/four-wheel driving/vehicles Send through to Sushant's email: editor@vfwdc.com	Neville
Trip Reports	<ul> <li>09/08/2025 Mt Skene Snow Trip #1 – Trip Leader: Nero - Met at general store/bakery @ 8am and then headed up. Many other clubs up there as well. Snow was very hard packed, and vehicles were sliding around on it like they were on ice.</li> <li>16/08/2025 Mt Skene Snow Trip #2 – Trip Leader: Andre – Met at general store/bakery. Made it to the top of Mt skene by 11:00am. Went over the top and down to snow line on the Licola side. Steve broke an antenna mount. There was an abandoned sedan on the roadside. It had been there more than a week. Dennis made a very enthusiastic recovery of Andre's vehicle after it became stuck on icy ground. Dennis kept trying to snatch recover Andre's vehicle even after it was free.</li> <li>See the full trip reports in the next issue of the VFWDC magazine "Free Wheeling"</li> </ul>	Steven Andre
	Pre run in NSW for Cliff Hanger 4wd winch racing event. More marshals wanted	Sally and Tristar
	Neville, Andy, Suzy, Steven attended 4x4 show to reconnoitre for our VFWDC stand next year.	Neville

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Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 1st October 2025

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
General Business	Steve and Amanda – Recently visited Bribie Island Qld( God's waiting room). Good sand driving especially along the beach, good camping.	
Raffle	<ol> <li>Camp Chair</li> <li>Driver's Jacket</li> <li>Travel mug and mystic fire OR Calander Map and travel mug</li> </ol>	Neville
Next General Club Meeting	<ul> <li>Wednesday 01/10/2025, 7:30pm at Club Noble (Upper floor meeting room)</li> </ul>	Neville
Meeting Close	• 8:21pm	Neville
Minutes taken by:		Steven Miller



# Treasurer's Report August 2025

Cheque A/C` Opening Balance as at 01/08/2025	\$2,869.06	
Add: Raffle	\$101.00	
Membership Fees	\$686.00	
Less: Catering Costs	-\$29.00	
Raffle Prizes	-\$55.00	
Association Fees – FWDV	-\$600.00	
Gift Cards	-\$200.00	
Con <mark>s</mark> umer Affairs Vict <mark>o</mark> ria Fees	-\$49.00	
Closi <mark>ng</mark> Ba <mark>lance as at 31/08/20</mark> 25		\$2,723.06
Term Deposit Opening Balance as at 01/08/2025	\$8,550.55	
Closing Balance as at 31/08/2025		\$8,550.55
Petty Cash Opening Balance as at 01/08/2025	\$50.00	
Closing Balance as at 31/08/2025		\$50.00
Consolidated Closing Cash Position		\$11,323.61

### **General Notices**

### **NEW GENERAL MEETING START TIME**

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

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

Club membership renewals are due for the upcoming financial year. Membership prices:

**Single - \$87** 

Family/Couple - \$97

**Silver - \$57** 

Payment details are in the membership form below:

https://www.vfwdc.com/pdf/Membership%20Form%20[2025].pdf

**NOTE**: You must be a paid member to participate in the snow trips

**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**

Orders are now being taken for a 400gsm heavy hoodie (as colour brand) with several colour options available. The new VFWDC logo will be embroidered on the left chest.

The hoodie is being offered at a great price of \$70.

For sizing refer to the email which was sent out with a colour and sizing chart. **Speak to Suzy or any other committee member** for more information.

# **Club Membership**

Please visit our website at <u>VFWDC.com</u> 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:

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**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 <a href="mailto:treasurer@vfwdc.com">treasurer@vfwdc.com</a> 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 <u>Club Noble</u> where we hold our monthly meetings, their application form can be found <u>here</u>.

# **Club Calendar**

October		
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	General meeting Guest Speaker: FWDV	7:30pm Club Noble
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Dargo Fishing Trip	Steven Card
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Noojee Day Trip	Andy & Suzy
November		
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	General meeting	7:30pm Club Noble
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Offsite Meeting	6:00pm  Adrenalin Off-Road Centre  Factory 2 / 4 Southeast Blvd  Pakenham
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	
December		
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Trip to Blue Rag and surrounds (12 – 15 Dec)	Neville
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Triple New Years at Camerons corner	Bruce Dunlop

# **More upcoming trips:**

- 1. Cape York leaving King's birthday, via Birdsville, Weipa (Next Year 2026), returning August 2026 (Bruce Dunlop)
- 2. June August 2026: Cape York Trip (Bruce)

# **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	EASY	MEDIUM	DIFFICULT	VERY DIFFICULT
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.	drivers with	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.

**Trip Report – Mt Skene Snow Trip 2 (16 Aug 2025)** 

## Snowbound on the High Trail – 16 August 2025

Told in the voice of Old Andries, Mountain Rambler

### **Report by Andre**

- 1. Andre trip leader- Volkswagon Amarock
- 2. Dennis Jeep Wrangler
- 3. Steven Dishon Ford Everest
- 4. Steve and Sophie Mazda BT50
- 5. Harsha Nissan Patrol
- 6. Sushant Toyota Hilux

Now gather 'round, young'uns, and let me spin you a yarn 'bout a day when the mountains wore their finest white coats and the engines of brave rigs echoed through the high country.

It was the mornin' of the 16th, cold enough to make your coffee shiver. We met at the Jamieson General Store, 8:45 sharp. The kind of place where the timber creaks under your boots and the coffee tastes like it remembers the gold rush. We warmed our bellies, made our last peace with porcelain, and rolled out—steel horses pointed toward the Jamieson-Licola Road.

The track was rough, like a washboard played by a drunk banjo picker. But we pressed on, eyes peeled, hearts thumpin'. Wasn't long before we saw the first sign—snow, light and scattered, like the mountain was just wakin' up. But by the time we reached the ol' bathtub landmark, the world had turned white and still. Trees stood cloaked in frost, and the ground was soft with fresh powder. We stopped there, took it all in. Some snapped photos. Me? I just breathed deep. That's the kind of air that puts hair on your soul.

From there, it was a clean run to the top. No tracks but ours—we were the first to break trail from the Jamieson side. Felt like pioneers, it did. We had a bit of fun up there, throwin' snowballs and makin' memories, but the sky was brooding. Wind picked up, and the clouds rolled in like a grumpy old bear.

So we turned our noses toward Licola, curious what the other side of the mountain had to say. That's when we met a group comin' up the other way. I tried to give 'em room, but the Amarok got a little too cozy with the snowbank.

Just a bit stuck, mind you—nothing serious. Denis and his Wrangler came in hot, eager as a pup on its first rabbit. Gave me a snatch that near spun me back to Jamieson, but it did the trick.

We carried on down to where the snow thinned and the flakes started fallin' from the sky like feathers from a winter goose. Real snow, soft and silent. We stood there a moment, just listenin'. Then we turned back, bellies rumblin' for lunch.

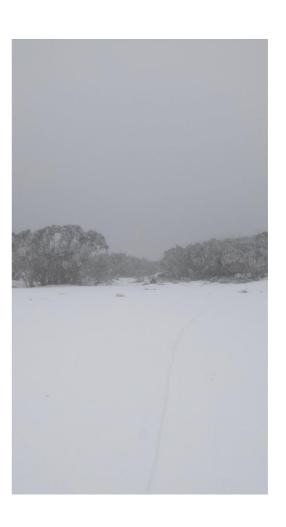
Back at the top, we tried to eat, but the weather had turned mean. Wind howlin', snow sideways. We didn't linger. Packed up and headed back down the way we came.

The ride home was quiet, uneventful. But as we rolled back into Jamieson, wouldn't you know it—the sun broke through like a promise kept. Warm light on wet roads, steam risin' from the hoods. We aired up, shared a few laughs, and tipped our hats before partin' ways.

A fine day in the high country. Snow, stories, and a little stuck Amarok to keep us humble. Photos to follow!

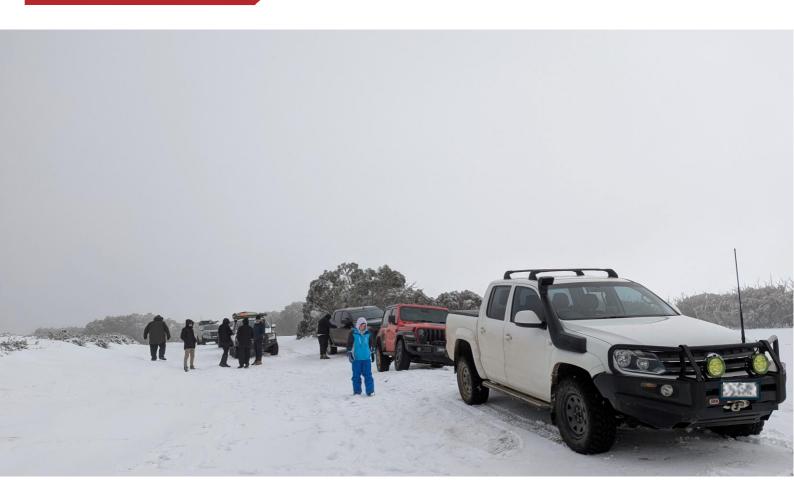
Andre.













### **Trip Report – Woods Point Hotel Day Trip (6 Sep 2025)**

## Reported by – Steven Dishon

- 1. Neville Van Leeuwen and Riley- Mitsubishi Triton
- 2. Sushant Toyota Hilux
- 3. Andy and Suzy Mitsubishi Challenger
- 4. Michael Ford Ranger
- 5. Steven Dishon Ford Everest

We all met up at the Longwarry Servo on a beautiful, fresh Saturday morning, ready for our trip. After a quick briefing from Nev, we headed off. The plan was to head up to Mount Matlock, then head north to check out a few tracks, and then loop back down to Woods Point for lunch at the pub.

We headed up through Neerim and Noojee and had our first stop at Tanjil Bren, which was established during the Victorian Gold Rush. We then continued in what we thought was the correct direction until we ended up at the Mount Baw Baw ticket office, but there was no turnoff in the direction we wanted to head. A quick check of the map revealed that we had to turn off before Tanjil Bren. Nev assured us that we hadn't gone the wrong way; he was just showing us the nice ticket office at Mount Baw Baw.

Anyway, before long, we were back on route and heading up towards Mount Matlock via Toorongo Road, Nine Mile Road, and Warburton-Woods Point Road. We had a quick photo stop at Mount Matlock to check out the views and take a few snaps before heading off. There was still a little bit a snow on the ground left over from the previous weeks cold snap.



From there, we headed up Corn Hill Road to the Corn Hill Lookout, which had spectacular views of the high country



We then kept following Corn Hill Road past the Frenchman's Gap turnoff and followed the ridgeline enjoying the views as travelled along Ryans Spur Track, with a stop at the Ryans Spur Hut.



We then turned off onto the Moonlight Spur Track and continued to follow the ridgeline, slowly descending back down to the Mansfield-Woods Point Road. We headed back down towards Woods Point, looking forward to our counter lunch, only to find that the kitchen had closed an hour ago (it was 3 o'clock by this stage).

So, we had a quick refreshment and some packets of chips, then started heading back down towards Matlock. We then turned off onto the Walhalla Road towards the Thompson Dam. We stopped to air up at the dam, then started to head home from there.

We all had a very enjoyable drive with great views, enjoying some beautiful spring weather up in the high country. Thanks Nev for leading the trip.

The stats for the trip
The Loop from Longwarry 350 Km
The trip took about 11hrs with 8hrs of driving time.
Elevation Gain 5679M
Steepest gradient 25%





DESTINATION	HAWKHURST (BLACK SNAKE CREEK HUT CAMPGROUND)	
LEADER/CONTACT NO	NAME: Steven Card	
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	TEL: - MOB: 0411202606	
DATE	10/10/2025 – 13/10/2025	
DATE	Can come later and leave earlier though communicate your travel plans for	
	a safe trip	
MEETING PLACE / TIME	BP officer outbound 3pm on Friday 10th October	
GRADE	WET: Medium	
Please adhere to new trip		
classifications	DRY: Easy	
	Fishing trip	
	Award ceremony for best catch	
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Dargo pub	
TRIF ACTIVITY DETAILS	Optional 4wd track day decided during trip	
	Swimming	
	Proper good craic	
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3	
VEHICLE LIVING	MAXIMUM: 8	
APPROX KMS	300 kms	
Meeting place to destination	occ mins	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Dargo	
	DIESEL: Dargo	
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	30 minutes to Dargo	
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Camping gear/fishing gear	
	If fishing you will need a VIC fishing license	
	Recovery gear for the optional 4wd day	
MAPS REQUIRED	GPS/google maps (downloading the offline maps is beneficial)	
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12	
	NAME: Steven Card	
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	TEL: -	
	MOB: 0411202606	

### PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED:

- 1. Plan your trip. In particular: meeting point destination, trip grading, trip details, fuel information, camping arrangements. If a trip is classified as Dog Friendly, it is the responsibility of the Trip Leader to ensure the trip does not enter areas that do not allow dogs.
- 2. Complete a "PROPOSED CLUB TRIP" form.
- 3. Pass the form on to the President or Events Coordinator, either in hard copy format or electronically, for approval at the next Committee Meeting. When approved, the Trip Leader will be notified, and the trip included in the Club Calendar. Also ensure copy passed to Newsletter Editor for inclusion in calendar and Forthcoming Trip Section.





DESTINATION	NOOJEE DAY TRIP
	NAME: Suzy & Andy
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	TEL:
	MOB: 0414 332 322
DATE	Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> October, 2025
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Ampol Longwarry 8am
GRADE	NAZET. N.A. aliinina / Hanad
Please adhere to new trip	WET: Medium/Hard
classifications	DRY: Easy/Medium
	Drive some tracks in La Trobe State Forest,
	Aim for Lunch at Noojee Pub.
	After lunch, drive some tracks in Yarra State Forest.
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	
VELUCIE LIBATE	MINIMUM: 2
VEHICLE LIMITS	MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS	450 200lm.
Meeting place to destination	150-200kms
LACT AVAILABLE FLIE	PETROL: Ampol Longwarry
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	DIESEL: Ampol Longwarry
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	150-200kms
	130-200KIIIS
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Pocovory Goar spacks water
	Recovery Gear, snacks, water
MAPS REQUIRED	We will bring Rooftops Yarra Valley – West Gippsland
	and Hema High Country South West
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	Channel 12
	NAME: Suzy & Andy
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	TEL:
	MOB: 0414 332 322

### PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED:

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DESTINATION	BLUE RAG TO CROOKED RIVER
	NAME: Neville Van Leeuwen
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	TEL:
	MOB: 0472 680 482
DATE	12 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> of Dec 25
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE	WET: Hard
Please adhere to new trip	DRY: Med
classifications	DRY: Med
	Plan is take Friday & Monday off work
	Leave Fri and head to Dargo – refuel, look around and have a meal at the
	pub. Potentially camp behind the pub or at one of the nearby campsites like Italian Flat
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Saturday: Pack up and do Blue Rag Range track heading to crooked river via
	Basalt N Track Camp at Crooked River.
	Sunday: Most likely do crooked river to Billy Goat Bluff Track
	Camp at Horseyard flat track (Or closer to Licola)
	Monday: Pack up and head home via Licola
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3
	MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS	~250 KM between Dargo and Licola
Meeting place to destination	
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: DARGO then Licola
	DIESEL: DARGO then Licola
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	250KM
	Full trip approx. 800km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery gear & be fully self sufficient to camp at a different location each
Eggi WEW REgained	night
MAPS REQUIRED	Dargo – Wonnangatta Adventure Map or similar
	Dai 50 Tromanbatta / taventare map or similar
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	250KM
DISTRICT DELIVERING SOFT EIES	Full trip approx. 800km
DOG FRIENDLY? YES/NO	Yes – there will be some long days in the car. We plan on having a meal at
	Dargo Pub. (People can go direct to campsite)

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# 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...

