

TRACK WATCH

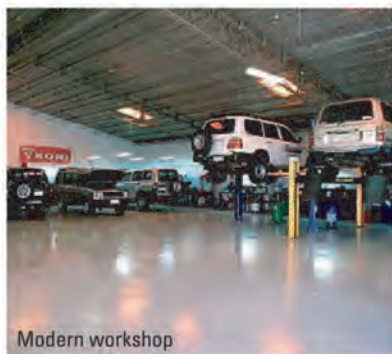
**CLEAN UP THE BUSH PROGRAM -
'RUBBISH SEARCH' KICKS OFF
FIRE DAMAGED HUTS REPLACED
GREAT FOREST NP PROPOSAL
LICOLA SIGNAGE PROGRAM
VARIETY 4WD TREK
ROAD TEST: MADZA BT-50
WONNANGATTA
CLUB EVENTS**



FEBRUARY 2015



Guest 4WD service centre has been established since 1961 with extensive experience gained from operating 4WD tours to some of Australia's roughest and remotest areas. As well as general servicing and vehicle modifications, we pride ourselves on pre-trip preparation and suspension modifications to ensure customers have a trouble free 4WD adventure.



Modern workshop



Extensive
showroom



T-Van hire



With decades and millions of kilometres of 4WD experience, we only stock the best quality accessories in our new showroom - at the best prices.



Services

- 4WD service and tuning
- Pre-trip inspection and advice
- Suspension modification and kits
- Transmission and diff repair
- Pre-purchase inspection
- Clutch and brake repair
- 4WD tyres and wheel alignment
- Dual and triple battery kits
- Turbo & intercooler kits

Products

- Engel & Waeco 12 volt fridge freezers
- Piranha off road distributors
- ARB accessories
- TJM accessories
- Kaymar step bars and wheel carriers
- Black widow storage systems
- Cooper and BF Goodrich Tyres
- Roof Racks
- Rhino Racks
- Long range fuel tanks
- Electronic parking aids
- Tyre repair kits
- T-Van Camper trailer hire
- Air compressors
- 4WD maps and books
- Shower units - hot and cold
- Optima batteries
- Lightforce, IPF, Cibie & Hella lights
- HID head and drive lights
- Recovery kits
- 4WD tours
- Safari snorkels
- GME UHF radio and antennae
- GPS and EPIRB
- In car TV/DVD and Sat navigation



194 Grange Rd, Fairfield, Victoria 3078
Ph: (03) 9497 3899 Fax: (03) 9497 3155
email: info@guest4wd.com.au
website: www.guest4wd.com.au



FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VICTORIA

The peak representative body for all Victorian four wheel drivers since 1975

Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc.
PO Box 1015G Balwyn North VIC 3104

Phone 03 9857 5209

Fax 03 98575260

Email office@fwdvictoria.org.au

Website www.fwdvictoria.org.au

ABN 40 891 301 368

ASSN A00135395

RTP 21605

Print Post PP 100005076

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

EXECUTIVE

President Damian Stock

Vice President Steve de Mamiel

Secretary Neil Chalmers

Treasurer John Farlow

BOARD MEMBERS

Lou Catherine, Ian Ross,
Chris Kershaw, Michael Martin

STAFF

General Manager Wayne Hevey

Office Administrator

Accounts Karl Norman

Projects & Events Manager Wayne Hevey

TRACKWATCH

Editor Brian Tanner

Assistant editor Greg Rose

Email editor@fwdvictoria.org.au

Production Brian Tanner

Copy Deadline next issue

1st March for April 2015 issue

1st May for June 2015 issue

1st July for August 2015 issue

Advertising gm@fwdvictoria.org.au

Individual Contributors

Greg Rose, Brian Tanner, Frank Amato,
Wayne Hevey, Andy Gillham, Ian Chapple,
Geoff Kenafacke

All material appearing in Trackwatch magazine is copyright. Reproduction in whole or in part is strictly forbidden without prior written consent. Freelance contributions and submissions are welcome by this magazine. No responsibility is accepted for unsolicited manuscripts, photographs, etc. The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of Four Wheel Drive Victoria. All statements made, although based on information believed to be reliable and accurate, cannot be guaranteed and no fault or liability can be accepted for error or omission. The publisher reserves the right to omit or alter any article or advertisement. Advertisers agree to indemnify the publisher for all damages or liabilities arising from the published material.

Design and Artwork by Brian Tanner
Printed by Geelong Print Works

From the President



Welcome to the February Trackwatch and a happy new year to all our readers. It has certainly been a different summer so far with nowhere near the number of high temperature days that the state endured last summer. Even as we move into February there is not much in the way of extreme heat being predicted for the foreseeable future. This is great news for our regional fire-fighters, given the high fuel loads in our forests due to the favourable growing conditions prior to Christmas. We must still be diligent when we are in the bush over the coming weeks as this high fuel load could quickly turn a fun trip into a potential nightmare.

It was a busy time for the Association in December with the Oxfam Christmas tree deliveries program and the Rubbish Search trial event. While most Association members were busily preparing for Christmas, a great number were involved in these and other very important volunteer events. The Oxfam event was as successful as ever with around \$250,000 being raised for Oxfam's overseas projects. Association members were very active, distributing trees to many happy buyers across Melbourne.

The Rubbish Search event, held at Hill End, brought together members of a number of clubs, to identify the locations of rubbish dumped in the area. Over one thousand locations have been identified, providing plenty of work for the follow-up rubbish collection. Given the large number of locations identified it is clear that illegal rubbish dumping is a major problem, and one that should

be of concern to all levels of government. Keep the weekend of May 2nd free as we will shortly be looking for volunteers for the next phase of the trial.

In recent weeks there has been some great work coming out of the office, thanks to the hard work of the office staff, our vice-president, Steve DeMamiel, and a number of volunteers. The new Association website is coming along nicely, there is increased activity on the Facebook page, the KPI interim report has been completed and some major work achieved on the RTO audit preparation. Come along to the February general meeting on Saturday, February 28th, for further details.

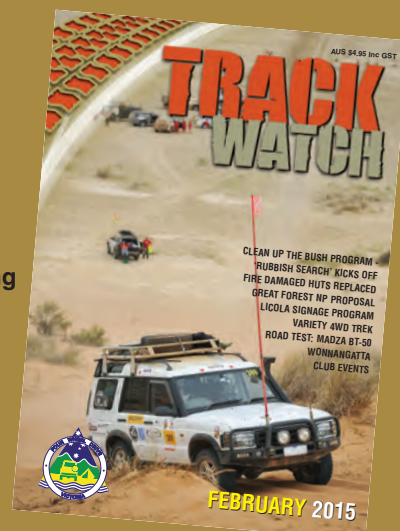
The KPI interim report has now been delivered and it again highlights the great work being done by our members, in support of our government grant. This will be an ideal discussion point for our meeting with the new Environment Minister, Lisa Neville, when we meet with her in mid-February. I am looking forward to this meeting as it will be our first opportunity to present our case for continued funding to the new government.

Damian Stock

President, 4WD Victoria

In this issue

- 1 From the President
- 3 Bush Clean-Up Program
- 9 Goulburn Valley 4WDC Swap Meet
- 10 2015 Pajero Challenge
- 11 FWDV Training Calendar
- 12 Albury-Wodonga 4WDC track clearing
- 13 Fire damaged huts replaced
- 14 Variety 4WD Trek
- 17 Subaru Club Licola signage
- 19 Great Forest National Park Proposal
- 22 Wonnangatta
- 23 The Fitzroy Project
- 25 Road Test: Mazda BT-50
- 28 Insurance



Cover photo by Frank Amato -
Variety 4WD Trek - tackling 'Big Red'

This month sees our Association celebrate 40 years of representing the interests of Victorian four wheel drive drivers to preserve and promote responsible access to existing track networks on public lands.

The Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs held its inaugural meeting on 20th February, 1975. It was formed by seven clubs that saw the benefits of a united 4WD body. In a paper presented to the Institute of Foresters by Secretary Douglas Gardiner in 1978, he reported that by the 20th January, 1977 the individual member count was 842, which had grown to 1,785 by May 1978.

Today our membership both in Clubs and members has multiplied ten fold.

It is impossible to even begin listing substantial projects, access fights and numerous activities that ensued over the last 40 years. Suffice to say - that like today - Victorian four wheel drivers have a wonderfully dedicated group of enthusiasts and volunteers to thank for actively supporting and moving our Association on in a changing political and social environment, resulting in many wins for our recreation.

Accordingly, we are celebrating this auspicious occasion as only four

wheelers can. Everyone loves a party, and this year we invite all four wheel drive clubs affiliated with FWD Victoria to spend the Queen's Birthday weekend in June together in Mansfield.

Celebrations will be centred at the Mansfield showgrounds where there are limited powered and unpowered campsites. Mansfield also has two commercial caravan parks, and a good variety of other accommodation options.

As we go to print, preparations are rapidly advancing, and as details are finalised clubs will be kept up to date by the Office.

Depending on arrival (from Friday night) and departure plans (Monday) members will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of four wheel driving in the surrounding High Country.

Saturday evening a dinner will be held and the formal aspects of the weekend will be performed, followed by a DJ into the early hours.

There will be a modest charge (for the dinner) and clubs (with numbers) attending are asked to register (see below).

This will be a great weekend and an opportunity for clubs to get together and celebrate our many achievements.

Trackwatch Submissions

I apologise to those members that have sent Trackwatch submissions via the Editor's email address below. The Gods of technology have intervened, and I have not been able to access your emails. In the short term it might be best to send submissions to Wayne, who can forward them to me for consideration.

Our advertisers

Trackwatch is fortunate to be supported by a number of loyal advertisers that regularly bring us news of their latest products and services.

I would urge all club members in the market for such products, to first approach our advertisers when looking to source or compare products.

These companies have a wealth of 4WD expertise behind them and are only too willing to discuss your needs. These companies are generally run by experienced four wheel drivers that may not be able to fulfil your needs, but may be able to direct you to another company that can. This is a great service and I ask that members support our advertisers at every opportunity.

Brian Tanner

Editor

editor@fwdvictoria.org.au

This year your Four Wheel Drive Association celebrates its 40th anniversary.

To celebrate we are staging a weekend of fun and friendship at Mansfield on the Queens Birthday weekend - Friday 5th-8th June 2015.



1975 - 2015

Affiliated Club members are invited to attend.

Camping will be available at the Mansfield Showgrounds. Members are invited to arrive Friday night, or Saturday morning for registration.

Saturday afternoon members may enjoy some four wheel driving in the area, or just relax and mix with other Clubs.

Saturday evening a dinner will be held at the Showgrounds, along with a DJ into the early hours. Sunday members can again go four wheel driving.

Fees are yet to be finalised, with powered and unpowered campsites available. (There are also numerous other accommodation options in Mansfield & District)

Please place this event on your Club calendar and make this your Club's Queens Birthday trip.

Further details will be circulated shortly when finalised.



FWDV Clean Up the Bush Campaign success



The Four Wheel Drive Victoria Clean up the Bush Campaign, started in earnest on the morning of the 13th December where some 24 vehicles had assembled at Hill End, just north of Willow Grove, to set off on discovery expeditions to locate and log the rubbish which has been dumped in the bush over many years including more recent times.

The concept had been previously tested a month earlier to iron out any bugs or misconceptions on how the operation would play out. Each vehicle had two participants with two vehicles making one team which, based on the skill sets of those involved, added to

their vehicles particular set up, were allocated certain tracks to traverse in their quest for what we were about to discover.

Prior to departing the base camp, each team was supplied with a kit consisting of maps and particular instructions concerning their area, an A4 corflute board, whiteboard marker pen, USB stick for recording information and a fluorescent pink sticker placed on the windscreen of their car along with a number. All of these elements are an essential part of the program in helping collect and compile the information to record the data for further use down the track.

We must thank Hema Maps for allowing

us the use of 12 of their HN6 navigation units for both of our projects, which had been fully installed with maps of the regions we were working in. These proved invaluable to those who were, like me, novices to these devices and the technology associated with them.

There was also a very well organised communication setup to ensure constant contact with the teams in case of any problems that may have arisen. Obviously each vehicle had their UHF units operating on their own allocated channels, along with the 2 roving teams who placed themselves in areas where they were able to scan all channels and relay information if required.



A moment in time... ...a lifetime of memories



www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay

Breathe in the fresh air, take in the amazing views and stay overnight in nature.

Spending a night in nature is a memorable experience. Overnight visitors to Victoria's national parks, state parks and reserves can now pre-book and pay for their campsite or cabin online, securing it for the duration of their stay.

Your online booking helps to support the maintenance of facilities and services in parks for overnight visitors; ensuring these special natural places are accessible for all into the future.

With over 680 campgrounds and cabins to choose from, there's a camping style to suit everyone in Victoria's parks and reserves.

Secure your night in nature today, book online: www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay or call **13 1963**

For more information visit:
www.parks.vic.gov.au



*Healthy Parks
Healthy People®*



GSDM12002



The plan was to have all personnel back at the base by 4:00pm that day, enabling the information collected to be uploaded to the data base and uncharted areas to be re-allocated for the following day's efforts. A BBQ dinner was offered to all who were able to remain for the night and subsequent days activities.

Sunday morning unfortunately saw our numbers had dwindled somewhat; nevertheless the teams available headed out and searched those areas, which needed to still be done. The weather was very hot on both days enabling us to traverse tracks that would be impassable to attempt on wet days, so we really did achieve our objectives in all areas.

A huge thank you to Richard Wadsworth, DEPI Statewide Recreation & Tourism Coordinator, for the policy and mapping assistance and Andy Gillham, Ranger in Charge Parks Victoria, for his assistance in bringing this stage of the project to this point, his knowledge of the regions concerned was certainly invaluable. To the Gippsland and Just

Mates club members who put in a huge effort behind the scenes to get the project off the ground, especially Mapo, Alan, Andrea, Les, Whitey, Chelsea, Mark, Santa and Joel.

A huge amount of effort was put into getting this project off the ground with both the former minister's office and the land managers' hierarchy being shown presentations as well as being consulted with and then given an actual demonstration in the bush, over many months during the past year. Hours of thought and planning have been spent out of hours by this group of dedicated people and myself and I am pleased to say that the results are now looking very positive in terms of meeting our commitment with regards to our KPI's in this area.

The project now is at the recovery stage and we will be asking for more assistance in the very near future to bring

this about. Please consider getting involved either as a club or an individual, as the rewards are outstanding and the camaraderie amongst friends is excellent.

You are of course helping Four Wheel Drive Victoria keep on the front foot with our partnership and hugely important relationship with those who support and fund our endeavours and activities.

Wayne Hevey
General Manager



It's a freezer!

It's a fridge!

ANNOUNCING THE LATEST IN THE ENGEL FRIDGE FREEZER RANGE
THE NEW MT45FCP COMBI

The new MT45FCP is a fridge and freezer in one and has different options for use!



The new MT45FCP Combi is part of the Next Generation digital range, which have all new features plus the same Engel reliability.

Option 1

Freezer 16 litres and Fridge 23 litres. Total 39 litres.



Option 2

Freezer 23 litres and Fridge 16 litres. Total 39 litres.



Option 3

Refrigerator Only (divider removed) Total 39 litres.



- User friendly LED Digital control, with built in battery protection
- The famous Sawafuji swing motor with only one moving part
- Lowest maximum power draw
- Rugged steel cabinet
- LED interior light
- Tri-voltage
- Removable wire baskets and divider
- Easy clean interior
- 3 year warranty and Australia wide service network

Rubbish Search – A Land Manager's Perspective

Every once in a while a community program comes along that has benefits that far exceed original expectations. Rubbish Search is one of those programs; it not only provides benefits to the individual volunteers participating, but to the land management agencies, the environment and the wider community as a whole. Illegally dumped rubbish in our natural bush-land areas is unsightly, dangerous to other bush users, an environmental ticking time bomb and a financial burden to every Victorian taxpayer.

A program to clean up the bush using volunteers from 4WD clubs was developed and trialled on the weekend of 13th and 14th December 2014. The program and original concept, developed by Dave Mapleson from "Gippsland" 4WD Club, came to life over this December weekend when dozens of four-wheel drive enthusiasts from various Victorian clubs gathered at Hill End in Central Gippsland to test the concept. It was impressive to see so many people turn up over the two days to participate in the official launch of 'Rubbish Search'.

As a local land manager, participating in the trial weekend in December was a truly rewarding experience. It was great to be able to see 'first-hand' all the planning and behind the scenes work that goes into running an activity like Rubbish Search. Being able to work with such enthusiastic individuals who just love to get out into the bush, was fun to say the least.

I am convinced that 'Rubbish Search' both as a concept and a working program will be a huge success and eventually be one of 4WD Victoria's showcase programs. To think 4WD Victoria club members state-wide will have a simple to use process to record illegally dumped rubbish as they drive around the bush is reassuring from a land manager's perspective. These extra sets of eyes for rubbish detection and later extra sets of hands to assist with the rubbish removal, will hopefully lead to a change in community attitude regarding this illegal activity.

Andy Gillham

Parks Victoria – Ranger
Central Gippsland District
5172 2186



Rubbish Search feedback...

Hi Mapo - we really loved the weekend's driving.

Apart from a sense of doing something great towards tidying up the bush it was clearly apparent that the Parks people wanted us there and appreciated our shared concern for the well being of the bush. What I enjoyed most was being asked personally by the ranger to investigate the old unused train line trails and report back with what we found.

Normally that's taboo. And the Water Board fellows opened up the gates for us too.

Everyone worked toward a common cause and I believe excellent results were achieved for the betterment of the bush and the relationships with the people behind keeping our tracks open.

It was an unforgettable experience - Thanks, Hobzee (Steve Hobbs)



Photos courtesy of
Frank Amato, Pajero 4WD Club



Forest Explorer – Treasures of Toolangi and surrounds

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 April 2015

Club members are invited to join John and Prue Hasler for a week-end focussing on some of the world's taller trees, rainforest, rivers and creeks, native wildlife, birds and wildflowers, waterfalls, bush-fire recovery, forest management and historic remnants of European history.



Walks, drives, talks, photography, plant identification, wildlife and bird watching - this is your chance to explore and learn about this marvellous bush that we can sometimes take for granted.

Based at the Black Spur Inn at Narbethong for a Saturday night dinner with great food, accommodation and camping options.

John & Prue, experienced trip leaders, are members of the Land Rover Owners Club of Vic, the Range Rover Club of Vic and the Pajero 4WD Club of Victoria.



Bookings to: Prue Hasler
p.thwait@bigpond.net.au

Club Red Results – 2014

It is with great pleasure that we announce the results of the Australian Red Cross Blood Service "Club Red" for Four Wheel Drive Victoria for 2014. As FWDV was only in "Club Red" for seven and a half months and it was its first year, the overall tally was not particularly high. None the less, we managed to make 103 donations saving 309 lives. These people will never be known to us, but be assured, their lives

have been forever changed by your generosity. This is giving at its altruistic best. We would like to most sincerely thank those who gave up their time to donate and make the world a better place. We would also urge all those who can donate, to roll up their sleeves, get stuck in, and make a positive difference by saving lives.

Dave Roberts.

Co-ordinator,
FWDV "Club Red".



Rubbish Search volunteers

YOUR ONE STOP SHOP FOR LAND ROVER

SALES · SERVICE · PARTS · ACCESSORIES · PANEL & PAINT REPAIRS

MASSARO MOTORS

497 Princes Drive, Morwell Phone: 5134 1422 www.massaromotors.com.au

IF YOU CAN'T COME TO US - THEN WE WILL COME TO YOU!





Nine months in the planning and a big effort from many members saw the success of our first Annual 4WD Swap Meet. We were overwhelmed by the amount of people that came through the gates to look at the big variety of goods that nearly ninety stall holders had for sale from all over the state.

On the morning of 6th April 2014, the weather was perfect and the stall holders already lining up at the gates of the Shepparton Harness Racing Club at 6am, keen to get set up and start selling. Then the gates were opened to the general public at 8am, early shoppers were able to grab a few bargains from a big range of items for sale (or swap) including new and used 4WD parts, car parts, 4WD accessories, camping and fishing gear, crafts, clothing, bric-a-brac, refreshments and various other demonstrations, including a club display of photos, manned by some of our members who spent the day telling people about the club, and what our club is about. We provided an area for any 4WD's, cars, and caravans etc, which were for sale.

A big thank you goes to our sponsors, Shepparton Show Me and Richard Renato, and to all of the members who helped out with the event.

The weather and venue for our swap was perfect, the day was highly successful, and we received a great response from visitors and stall holders alike. Much to our members delight, we were kept very busy throughout the day.

Goulburn Valley 4WD Club Inc.

SWAP MEET



Shepparton Rotary Club held their Show and Shine event on the same day along with other attractions in the Shepparton area, making it very worthwhile for out of town visitors to visit our region.

A brief outline of what our club is about.

The Goulburn Valley Four Wheel Drive Club Inc. was formed in 1976; it now boasts an average of 50 family members. We are not only a social club - although many members enjoy the club trips that are run throughout the year, including learner days (drivers new to the world of four wheel driving are shown how to cope in different driving conditions off road). All members are encouraged to tread lightly to help save our environment for future generations. We also do volunteer work such as

- Gaffney's Creek Cemetery Clean Up twice a year - for the last 22 years
- Farm Assistance after bushfires, storms, floods, etc.



- High Country hut restoration
- Disability Drive days
- Donations to Angel Flight
- Royal Flying Doctor Service
- Berry Street

With the success of our first 4WD Swap Meet, members are happy to hold another meet the same time next year. The swap meet will be held on the 29th March 2015 and gates open at 7am at the same venue, the Shepparton Harness Racing Club Track on Melbourne Road, Kialla, just outside of Shepparton. To find out more information or to book a site, visit our website www.gv4wdclub.org.au or our Facebook page. It will be a great day to be had by all.

I hope to see you there.

Ian Chapple

(President of the Goulburn Valley Four Wheel Drive Club Inc.)

Victorian 4WD SHOW

**Sunday
15th February 2015**

9am - 4:30pm

Australia's BIGGEST Outdoor 4WD Event
'Wandin Park' Victoria Road, Wandin North
(just east of Lilydale) Melway 119, G7

**Entry is just \$15 per adult
Children under 16 FREE**



If you enjoy four wheel driving, camping, touring and the great outdoors, then this is the one day of the year that is just for you!



The Toyota Land Cruiser Club's CruiserKhana will be held at the Club's property at Yarck in central Victoria from 20-22 March this year.

In recent years, Club participation has run at record levels with LROCV, Range Rover, Pajero and Melton and District all fielding a number of teams and vying for the prestigious Inter Club Trophy. In addition there is a huge prize pool donated by many very well known four wheel drive companies.

For the uninitiated CruiserKhana is very much a skills based event, rather than an endurance test or one based on grunt. There is a Standard Class for

novice drivers and a Touring Class for the more experienced. All drivers test their skills over about a dozen obstacles of varying degrees of difficulty that are compulsory, and there is also the opportunity to try one or two harder (optional) ones as well as a few fun light hearted challenges.

Entries are filling very fast and you may be lucky to sneak your entry in around the closing date of 14 February, if the event is not filled before. Costs to enter the event or as a weekend spectator are quite reasonable and day spectators are most welcome. Weekend visitors get free camping and a 3 course meal on the Saturday night.

Further information is available on the Club's web site or www.cruiserkhana.com.au or by phoning Neil on 0419 520 810. There is a FAQs sheet on the web site, merchandise details and an application form.

A fun filled family event awaits all!



The Pajero 4WD Club of Victoria is once again hosting

The Cooper Tires Pajero Challenge on 28th/29th March 2015

This Challenge is a 300 – 400km, 24 hour navigation, 4WD driving event with mandatory breaks.

There is a 12 hour event incorporating the first 2 sections of the Challenge called "Challenge Light". This is for those who would like a taste of the event or those who feel 24 hours is too much.

Entry is open to all. It is recommended that you should have completed an intermediate 4WD course, equivalent or better. Each vehicle must have 2 licenced drivers.

Challenge navigation workshops will be held and are available to those who have registered for the Challenge and have paid the deposit. It is an insight to the navigations skills required for the Challenge. Navigation notes from previous Challenges will be on display



so you can see what to expect. Check the web or Facebook for dates.

<http://www.pajeroclub.com.au/home/PajeroChallenge/PajeroChallenge.html>

All entrants should ensure their vehicle is roadworthy and in sound condition. All vehicles are inspected for first aid, fire extinguisher, recovery gear etc. and that everything is secure.

The event starts in the morning with a briefing, and then notes and show bags are given out.

At the end of the 1st and 3rd quarters there is a half hour break with some food and refreshments.

Dinner is supplied at half way and breakfast at the end. Challenge Light entrants are included in all meals. A Gala Evening including entertainment and a meal is being planned for our Presentation Night on 17th April 2015,

at the Whitehorse Club, Nunawading. All vehicles in the event are allocated 2 tickets for the Presentation Night. Additional tickets can be purchased. It will be a great evening as prizes will be given out to the winners of many categories.

For additional information and to register as an entrant, please log onto the Pajero 4WD Club of Victoria web site or Facebook and follow the links.

Entries are limited. Register now to ensure your place.

Many thanks to our Major Sponsors: Cooper Tires, Engel Australia, Aussie Disposals, Narva/Projecta, TJM, Mitsubishi Motors Limited.



HOPPERS CROSSING

4X4 ACCESSORIES



Put some distance between you and your everyday life.



OUR PRODUCT RANGE INCLUDES:

- ARB Bull Bars & Sahara Bars
- Warn & Magnum Winches
- IPF Lights
- ARB Under Vehicle Protection
- ARB Side Rails & Steps
- ARB Rear Bars
- Old Man Emu Suspension
- Nitrocharger Sport Shock Absorbers
- Outback Solutions Drawers
- ARB Air Lockers & Air Compressors
- Safari Snorkels
- ARB, Thule & Rhino Roof Racks
- ARB Rooftop Tents
- ARB Recovery Equipment
- Hayman Reese Tow Bars
- ARB Canopies & Ute Liners
- ARB Fridge Freezers
- Fuel & Water Tanks
- GME Radios & Auxiliary Batteries
- Cargo Barriers, Seats, Wheel Carriers & More

ARB HOPPERS CROSSING

73-79 Old Geelong Road
Hoppers Crossing

Tel: 03 9749 5905

Web: www.arbhopperscrossing.com.au

TRAINING COURSES 2015

BOOK ONLINE

Open to all club members, the general public and corporate organisations.
Browse courses online at website www.fwdvictoria.org.au and call the office to book on (03) 9857 5209

PROFICIENCY COURSES



- Friday March 13th - PC150314 - Nth Balwyn
- Saturday March 14th - PC150314 - Werribee
- Friday 27th March - PC150329 - Nth Balwyn
- Sunday 29th March - PC150329 - Werribee
- Friday 1st May - PC150502 - Nth Balwyn
- Saturday 2nd May - PC150502 - Werribee
- Friday 22nd May - PC150523 - Nth Balwyn

INTERMEDIATE 4WD COURSE



- Thursday 14th May - IN150516 - Nth Balwyn
- Saturday 16th May - IN150516 - Werribee

TRACK CLASSIFICATION COURSE



- Thursday 26th February - TC150228 - Nth Balwyn
- Saturday 28th February - TC150228 - TBA
- Thursday 7th May - TC150509 - Nth Balwyn
- Saturday 9th May - TC150509 - TBA
- Thursday 10th September - TC150913 - Nth Balwyn
- Sunday 15th September - TC150913 - TBA

4WD WINCH RECOVERY COURSE



- Saturday 18th April - WR150418 - Narre Warren East
- Saturday 11th July - WR150711 - Narre Warren East

FIRST AID COURSE



- Saturday 16th May - FA150516 - Nth Balwyn
- Saturday 10th October - FA151010 - Nth Balwyn

CHAINSAW COURSES



- Thursday 6th August - CS150809 - Nth Balwyn
- Saturday 8th August - CS150809 - Tallarook
- Sunday 9th August - CS150809 - Tallarook

OZIEXPLORER COURSE



- Friday 17th April - OZ150417 - Nth Balwyn
- Thursday 27th August - OZ150827 - Nth Balwyn
- Friday 27th November - OZ151127 - Nth Balwyn

SAND DRIVING COURSE



- Friday 1st May - SA150503 - Portland
- Saturday 2nd May - SA150503 - Portland
- Sunday 3rd May - SA150503 - Portland
- Monday 4th May - SA150503 - Depart Portland

GPS COURSE



- Friday 20th March - GPS150320 - Nth Balwyn
- Friday 24th July - GPS150724 - Nth Balwyn
- Friday 13th November - GPS151113 - Nth Balwyn

MAP READING



- Friday 19th June - MR150619 - Nth Balwyn
- Friday 23rd October - MR151023 - Nth Balwyn

FOR ALL BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES
PHONE (03) 9857 5209
or email:
training@fwdvictoria.org.au



Training Course Refund Policy

Situations occur where for various reasons courses are cancelled by Four Wheel Drive Victoria (FWDV) or students need to cancel. Below describes the refund policy that is applicable.

Fee refunds: If students are unable to attend the course that they are registered for, the following refund fees below apply:

• 30 days prior - less 10% of course cost; • 29 days - 15 days - less 25% of course cost; • 14 days to 8 days - less 50% of course cost; • 7 days prior - no refund allowed

Refund applications must be made in writing to FWDV.

FWDV agree that they will allow for one transfer in a 12 month period to another course date without penalty, with a minimum of 8 days notice, (see below).

Transfer to other courses: Students can transfer to any other course up to 8 working days prior to commencement at no cost. Students transferring to another course 7 working days or less prior to commencement will be required to pay a transfer fee of \$50

Course Cancellations: FWDV will make a full refund of all fees paid should a course be discontinued. FWDV reserves the right to cancel a course if a minimum number of participants are not achieved or for Occupational Health and Safety reasons. Should the students desire to take an alternative course with FWDV, fees will be fully transferrable to that course, for one transfer in a 12 month period. In the event of a course for which the student was enrolled being unavailable or no acceptable alternative course is available, fees are fully refundable.



Albury-Wodonga 4WD club members clear 77km of local 4WD tracks



A little TLC for Upper Murray 4WD tracks

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has teamed up with the Albury-Wodonga 4WD Club to clear more than 70kms of forest tracks in the Upper Murray.

DELWP District Manager Upper Murray, Aaron Kennedy, said: "The 4WD club assists with annual track clearing exercises and have for many years." "A number of tracks in the area from Eskdale to Mt Emu were cleared," Mr Kennedy said. "This included Diggers Creek Track, Shortcut Track, Little Snowy Creek Track, Bowmans No. 2 Track, plus significant sections of both Dorchap Range Track and Eskdale Spur Track (strategic fire access track). "All tracks were within the Mitta Mitta and Eskdale State Forests. "In total, the eight volunteers and one DEWLP Forest and Fire Officer managed to clear approximately 77km of forest tracks. "Works

ranged from clearing light debris, to chain sawing and moving mature trees covering the entire track. "The work the club does is greatly appreciated, and assists with maintaining access throughout the public land estate for a range of forest users. "This exercise builds on our co-operative relationship with the club." Club president, Bill Storms, said: "Regular track clearing is important to our members as it makes it easier for them to get out and enjoy the bush for a day of four-wheel driving." "We run trips on a regular basis and we cater for all levels of experience, so knowing these tracks and any obstacles helps us to plan ahead," Mr Storms said. "Our members are enthusiastic and passionate about their local area and are always happy to help out." You can learn more about Albury-Wodonga 4WD Club via their website at www.4x4albury-wodonga.com.



FUEL PRICING TO HURT

Don't be fooled by the current (and welcome) fuel prices that we are temporarily enjoying.

The rate of excise duty on fuel has risen dramatically recently. The duty to the Government on 45 litres of petrol will rise 14c. Diesel duty will jump 18c for 60 litres of fuel.

The new petrol excise figure is 38.9c per litre.

SIMPSON DESERT AND REMOTE TRACKS SUMMER CLOSURE

The Simpson Desert and four Public Access routes located in the South Australian outback will be closed over the hottest months of the year to ensure safety of visitors and emergency personnel.

The annual closures apply from 30th November (2014) to Sunday 15th March 2015 and affect the Simpson Desert Conservation Park and Regional Reserve, Perdirka, Warburton Crossing and Walkers Crossing.

For further information on annual summer closures on SA visit www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/aridlands/news

NEW NAME AND PLAN FOR COONGIE LAKES NATIONAL PARK

Coongie Lakes National Park in the Marree-Innaminka district has formally been co-named and has adopted a dedicated park management plan. The park is now co-named as the Malkumba-Coongie Lakes National Park.

FIRE DANGER MESSAGE BEING IGNORED

Campfire safety is falling on "deaf ears", with authorities shocked at the number of fires found recently on a day of Total Fire Ban.

The Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) District Manager, Lucas Russell said, "Rangers patrolling campsites in State Forest, National Park and Reserves around Mansfield came across 45 campfires on a day of Total Fire Ban - 6 of them unattended.

Campers must make the effort to know the fire danger ratings, check for Total Fire Bans and ensure they know how to safely construct and light a campfire.

"Campfires are not allowed on a day of Total Fire Ban and must be attended by an adult at all times when going.

"Campfires must be put out before leaving the area using water, not soil, as fires can still smoulder under soil. If a fire is cool to touch, it is safe to leave", he said.

Under the Forest Act 1958, the maximum penalty for leaving an unattended fire is \$14,761.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has worked closely with local contractors and volunteers to rebuild three huts destroyed in the Aberfeldy-Donnelly's Creek fire in January 2013

DELWP Project Manager, Suzette Fullerton said: "We know how popular these huts are and how much they're used, particularly by four wheel drivers." "It's been a long process to obtain the funding and to design and build the huts in conjunction with the Victorian High Country Hut Association (VHCHA), but we're all happy with the results."

"The rebuilt huts include the Junction Hut at the junction of the Aberfeldy River and Donnelly's Creek, and Jorgensons Hut and Goonans Hut, both located along Donnelly's Creek Road," Ms Fullerton said.

"New picnic tables, fire pits, signage and bollards have also been installed, and Jorgensons and Goonans Huts will both have new toilet facilities."

"The huts have already been used over the Christmas period, but they still need some finishing touches, so we ask the public to be patient while we work on those."

"Cosy fire places, internal benches, water tanks and see-through polycarbonate on the windows will be added over the next month or so."

"We're extremely lucky to have these facilities and to have them maintained by our hard-working volunteers."

"The huts and toilets have been popular with visitors on the 'Aberfeldy Track' four wheel drive touring route. The Aberfeldy Track aims to tell the stories of the Walhalla to Woods Point gold belt



Junction Hut before

Fire-damaged huts replaced



Junction Hut after



Junction Hut after



Goonans Hut before



Goonans Hut after



Jorgensons Hut before



Jorgensons Hut after

through a series of interpretation signs along the route."

A reminder about hut etiquette:

- Huts are for temporary shelter only.
- Littering is an offence under the Environment Protection Act 1970—Keep the huts clean and tidy, take your rubbish with you and don't leave emergency food stores in the hut as this

encourages vermin.

- Only collect firewood from the forest floor.
- Respect others recreating in the area.
- When visiting public land areas, know what you can and can't do during declared Fire Danger Periods and on days of Total Fire Ban.

VARIETY VICTORIA 4WD TREK 2014

– Who's Who In the Zoo?



The entire crew at Dingo Caves just out of Birdsville

Yep that's right, Who's Who in the Zoo was the theme this year and being our fourth Trek (and the event's 18th year running) we were ready for the silliness that awaited us! Predictably, the same old fun-loving entrants sprung into action again this year along with some (initially shocked) newbies that took everything in their stride.

Heading off from Swan Hill after a wonderful breakfast and donation ceremony/parade at the Swan Hill Specialist School, we headed off toward Renmark via the Murray Sunset National Park, then along the mighty Murray to our first night's destination. This is always a great celebratory evening as old friends catch up and new friendships are established.

The next 9 days would see us travel some great tracks into South Australia and beyond. We ventured through the Flinders Ranges then meandered our way to Mungerannie, Birdsville, Innamincka, Kilcowera and Trilby Stations then to our final night's celebrations in Griffith, NSW.... Phew!

The Trek was first launched as an alternative to the infamous Variety Bash and specifically designed for 4WD owners with the desire to have fun whilst seeing some of the most picturesque areas of Australia. The tracks and routes driven are suitable for standard 4WD

vehicles with a low range gearbox and fitted with all terrain tyres.

This year 19 vehicles were on board, and we raised a whopping \$135,000 for Victorian Children In Need, an outstanding effort. Two of these were from the Pajero 4WD Club Vic and one from the Nissan 4WD Club (who unfortunately had to pull out of the event on day one due to personal reasons, hence why no photographs of CAR 135 appear). We need a greater representative from 4WD clubs going forward, so please make an effort and find out a little more about the event, it's for a terrific cause! This money raised will go a long way in helping some pretty special people.

All funds raised are officially receipted by Variety and all vehicle expenses are



your own. Meal tickets are also purchased separately which guarantees a ripper breakfast, lunch and dinner every single day!



Heading into the Simpson



Variety works with individual families and organisations to deliver three core programs that help children with special needs to live, laugh and learn.

Firstly, the 'Freedom' program provides mobility equipment such as wheelchairs, modified bikes, walkers, liberty swings and sunshine coaches so children can get out and about and experience a fuller life.

The 'Caring For Kids' Program provides essential medical equipment to help parents care for their seriously ill child at home and in hospital, and the Future Kids Program provides children with an intellectual or physical disability the equipment necessary to learn. This includes electronic aids used to interact and communicate with the wider community.

Like many other deserving charities, Variety Victoria receives no Government funding, solely relying upon the generosity of the Victorian community. If you get a chance log on to the Variety website listed below and see how you can help make a real difference next year or the year after that.

29th April to the 8th May is the dates for the 2015 TREK to Fraser Island. If you miss this one keep an eye out for the MEGA TREK in 2016. Full support, recovery, communication and scout crews are a huge part of the event, so rest assured that you're in safe hands!

Registration fee for the event is \$500.00 and a minimum \$2500 fundraising effort



CAR 389 John & Tracy
from the Pajero Club on a mound somewhere!

is required to start. Don't let that daunt you too much, it's a reasonably achievable task, especially if you get a few corporate sponsors on board.

Feel free to contact me personally if you have any questions about the event - editor@pajeroclub.com.au. For complete information about the 4WD Trek, head to the webpage at www.variety.org.au/VIC/Events/Motoring-Events

If your attending any of the 4WD Shows

soon keep an eye out for the Variety banner, pop in and say G'day!

Frank Amato

Pajero 4WD Club Victoria
CAR 1421 on the Variety 4WD TREK



Fun stops along the way earn you points... Eva won this one!



Birdsville Primary School visit in costume



CAR 1421 Eva & Frank from the Pajero Club happy to be on the way to Birdsville after the floods stopped us back in 2010!





King of the mountain has landed.



**MOUNTAIN
HAWK**

The NEW range of Pro Series LED Driving Lights & Light Bars

With PRO Series quality, outstanding performance
and precision optics – there is no better value.

- 10 Watt Cree LEDs
- 5 Year Warranty
- Install Service (within Victoria)



Coupon Code: **TRACKWATCH2015** for **20% DISCOUNT**

For full product details visit uags.com.au
or call (03) 8750 0926 today



UAG
SERVICES



Subaru 4WD Club of Victoria Help Out Licola Community

Licola is an unusual township. Situated on the banks of the Macalister River in a picturesque valley it seems idyllic. However, over recent years the township has been impacted by multiple fire events and flooding. The town is unique in that it is owned by the Lions Club of Victoria, is the only privately owned town in Victoria and the only one not on mains power. Farming, mainly sheep grazing, is carried out on the properties that spread along the rich river flats south of the town. The Alpine National Park is to the north of Licola.

With the permanent number of residents about ten, the expertise of Four Wheel Drive Victoria was called on to help out with a special project. Greg Rose, Regional Representative for the Southern Alpine National Park was asked to assist with some new signage for the town. The townsfolk, as part of the Licola Community Fire and Flood Recovery Plan, identified a need to replace the old road signs with new sets and include safety advice for the approximately thirty thousand four wheel drives that pass through the locality



each year. The new signs were funded with a grant from the Victorian Department of Transport.

The most popular touring routes and destinations were identified. Text was worked out, in conjunction with the townsfolk, to educate travellers about responsible and safe driving and camping practices specific to the region. The large information sign was to be branded with the 4WDV logo in recognition of the input into the safety message.

Wellington Shire's Tourism Development Officer, Frank Norden, co-ordinated the meetings and the making of the metal signs. All was proceeding well and the signs were ready to be installed prior to the Christmas holidays when Mark Coleman from Licola was bitten several times by a snake. That took care of his ability to dig holes, mix cement and erect signs. Mark is recovering well after a stay in hospital. Greg Rose contacted Damian Stock, President of 4WDV, who quickly arranged for the Subaru 4WD Club of Victoria to travel to Licola in early December and spend the week-end erecting the signs.

The Subaru 4WD Club of Victoria was formed in 1976. Club activities range from social outings through to major trips like their Simpson Desert crossing. A family friendly group, the club welcomes Subaru owners and owners of other four wheel drive vehicles who wish to explore the Australian countryside without causing damage to the environment, the vehicle or the individual. Check out their website at www.subaru4wdvic.com.au or visit their Facebook page www.facebook.com/subaru4wdvic.



The willing and multi talented band of workers had all the poles in place on the Saturday and then discovered there were not enough bolts supplied. Damian rang Greg who waited for Bunnings in Sale to open at 7:00 a.m. on the Sunday morning and then took the bolts up to the work crew. The signs were quickly bolted in place, excess pole length cut off, poles capped and photographs taken.

The Licola community in appreciation of the Subaru 4WD Club stepping in to help them out provided free accommo-

modation at the Licola Wilderness Village and plenty of food for the whole weekend. Subaru 4WD Club President Stephen Whittaker said, "It came together really well and, as a club, we had a fantastic time getting the job done at the weekend. After this weekend, I think we'll be very keen to get involved in other similar activities in the future".

Within the membership of four wheel drive clubs we have people with a wide range of skills and it is rewarding to be able to use those skills helping out rural communities and land managers.

In brief



Licola, 254 kilometres from Melbourne, offers plenty for the four wheel driver and four wheel drive clubs. There is accommodation in cabins at the Lions Club Licola Wilderness Village on weekends; it is primarily used for school camps during school weeks. The store offers camping beside the river in the caravan park and bunkhouse. The store also has basic take away food, groceries, drinks of all kinds and maps of the area. The store sells fuel as well but check opening times and days in the quiet times of the year. There are public toilets and a shelter area with grassy spots for a picnic by the river. Licola is a gateway to many destinations in the Alpine National Park, parkweb.vic.gov.au has information on the area, seasonal closures and camping areas. The camping areas beside the Wellington River are very popular at holiday times but you can have them to yourself mid week or winter weekends.

Greg Rose



5 Year WARRANTY

armourboy@bigpond.com

www.armourboy.com

ARMOURBOY™

STRENGTH | QUALITY | DURABILITY

100% Customer Satisfaction GUARANTEE

0411 661 923

Armourboy Storage Cases are designed to give you safe and secure storage space for your valuables and equipment. The durable materials combined with an innovative design gives you a place to store your valuables and shield them from the elements. Cases range in size and colour, to see the whole range or request a catalogue visit us online at www.armourboy.com

WATER, DUST & MOISTURE RESISTANT

Commercial Grade Rubber Seals

FEATURES:

- Fully Lockable
- Column Tech Design for sheer optimum strength
- 20,000 tonne Crush Proof Capacity
- Tear and Puncture Proof
- Military Spec & Design
- No Sharp Edges
- 5 Year Warranty on Plastic Materials
- 12 Month Warranty on Stainless Steel Fittings
- Spring Loaded Handles
- Work Safe Design - no sharp edges
- Inter Stackable
- Buoyant
- Fire Resistant
- Un Breakable

Partners That Trust In Armourboy





AB1096951

AB875344

AB844343

AB835332

WITH WHEELS AND FREE PADLOCK

AB1096951 - Ext: 1090x690x510mm, Int: 1016x616x498mm @ \$300

AB875344 - Ext: 870x530x440mm, Int: 830x490x430mm @ \$199

AB844343 - Ext: 840x430x430mm, Int: 770x360x420mm @ \$189

AB835332 - Ext: 830x530x320mm, Int: 760x460x290mm @ \$189

To see our whole extensive range of cases visit us online at www.armourboy.com




Great Forest National Park Proposal

What is it, where is it and would it benefit 4WDers?

By Prue Hasler

It was on a Range Rover Club trip to the Toolangi forest earlier this year that our interest in the area so close to Melbourne was re-awakened. Driving and walking in lush rainforest, seeing the remarkable tall trees, hundreds of years old and the tallest flowering trees on Earth, the ancient Myrtle Beech trees, a remnant of Gondwana dripping with mosses, ferns and other vegetation, seeing waterfalls, rivers and streams, plus driving on some easy and challenging tracks – it was an inspiring day.

Having explored the area since the 60s with family in the Series 2 Land Rover, hiking, camping, doing driver training and leading trips, we thought we knew the forest well. Two of the club trips John and I organised in the area were Forest Discovery trips, in 2002 with the timber harvesters and DSE plus in 2012 with DEPI on the Saturday and VicForest on the Sunday.

With a strong interest in the flora, fauna and history of the bush and desert we travel in, we joined the Field Naturalists of Victoria to learn more. A day in the Toolangi bush on a field trip opened our eyes to some of its treasures and we learnt about the Great Forest National Park (GFNP) proposal.

Great Forest National Park Proposal Area

The park proposal, stretching from Kinglake through to the Baw Baws and north-east up to Eildon, would add a new 355,000 hectares of protected forests to the existing 170,000 hectares of parks and protected areas in the Central Highlands of Victoria. This area would be half the size of the parks surrounding Sydney.



Important Features

According to the Great Forest National Park web site there are five important features of the area that require greater protection to ensure survival of forest values and provide ongoing and increased benefits to Victorians:

1. Conservation. The area includes near extinct wildlife such as Victoria's faunal emblem, the Leadbeater's possum and endangered plants that survived Black

Saturday fires.

2. Water catchments of Melbourne, LaTrobe and the Goulburn Murray systems. The largest area of clean water and catchment in Victoria, 98% of Melbourne's drinking water.

3. Tourism. This is Victoria's richest ecological asset, but these magnificent forests have not yet been included in a state plan to encourage tourism.

4. Climate. These ash forests store more



THE ULTIMATE

FRIDGE STAND +

CAR SEAT COOLER +

BBQ SET +

8 L THERMO COOLER

SUMMER

OVER \$300

VALUE

BUNDLE

FREE WITH ANY
WAECO

CFX, CF-80, CF-80DZ & CF-110
PORTABLE FRIDGE/FREEZER
PURCHASED THIS SUMMER



Available from selected & participating retailers - **ONLY WHILE STOCKS LAST**

Get the most out of your fridge/freezer - View a range of accessories, handy tips, FAQ, retailer search and more:

Freecall 1800 21 21 21

www.waeco.com.au

INSPIRED BY COMFORT

WAECO
by Dometic GROUP

carbon per hectare than any other forest studied in the world. They sequester carbon, modulate the climate and can act as giant storage banks to absorb excess carbon if they are not logged. 5. Places of spiritual nourishment. These magnificent forests are a wonderful area of bush for us and next generations to experience.

Current Threats

There are two significant threats to the future of our forests and the benefits they provide:

- industrial clearfell logging
- major bushfires

We now have just 1,886 hectares of old growth forest, spread across 147 different patches which are estimated to be 1.5-3% of the historical area of old growth forest.

Water Catchment

Decades of studies have shown that water yields from Mountain Ash catchments are maximised when forests are dominated by old growth stands. This is due to the significantly increased water usage by a growing forest. On a Land Rover Owners Club trip to the Wallaby Creek Catchment with a Parks Victoria Ranger we learnt that water harvested after a fire event is of no value due to the ash pollution, subsequent water runoff reducing significantly as the forest regrows.

Bush Fires

Recent University studies have shown that areas that have been logged in the

last 10 to 30 years can be subject to increased severity of fire. Many of the oldest trees (200+ years old) in the proposed park area have survived being subjected to fire a number of times.

Leadbeater's Possum

The rediscovery of this tiny and agile possum in 1961 after being thought extinct for 50 years is a great story in itself. The possum requires nest hollows in old growth forest, preferring to jump from tree to tree and not travel on the ground. (see www.leadbeaters.org.au). Logged areas are unsuitable for animals that depend on hollow-bearing trees that are over 150 years old. It has been found that nest boxes aren't suitable for these or other animals and birds that depend on them.

Recent damage

Leadbeater's Possum and Mountain Ash forests have persisted for tens of millions of years, surviving major wildfire events. But in just the last few decades the possum is at risk of extinction, and the forests are at risk of ecological collapse.

Logging of Old Growth Forests



sentative noted that no permission had been granted for this road closure.)

They feel that there are too many 'closed' areas in State forests that prevent 4-wheel driving, biking and exploration due to logging and a lack of funding for weekend Park Rangers.

They will be placing a special focus on better management of existing areas and 'opening the gates' to allow for more recreational experiences. The increased tourism and economic opportunities include activities such as bike riding, bushwalking, fishing, bird watching, four-wheel driving, motor biking and camping.

Comment

My view is that 4WDers care about the bush and the bush experience, with the strong Code of Conduct for club members, talk of following Tread Lightly principals, ongoing clean up and heritage protection campaigns, support of responsible access through seasonal closures, responsible driving practices mandated, Camp Host involvement and support of the Dob in a Hoon program. We enjoy travelling and camping in the bush environment, sharing experiences of wildlife and flora sightings with family and friends.

I encourage you investigate the Great Forest National Park proposal with your club members, travel through the rainforest and other forest areas, camp, walk and drive the tracks. See what is being done to our bush, ask questions, do the maths, study the economics and think about the future of our forests.

Once it is gone we will not see it again in our lifetime or ever. Now is the time to show four wheel drivers care about the conservation of our bush.

Refer to

www.greatforestnationalpark.com.au

Recommended places to visit:

- Wirrawilla Rainforest Walk
- Kalatha Giant





PROUD SUPPORTER OF FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VICTORIA

arbormaster
PARKS & GARDEN EQUIPMENT

4 Scoresby Rd
Bayswater, VIC 3153
Tel 1300 027 267

STOCKIST OF THE FULL RANGE OF HUSQVARNA OUTDOOR POWER PRODUCTS

Chainsaws	Safety Clothing & Gear
Blowers	Chainsaw Accessories
Brushcutters	Chainsaw Sharpening Tools
Ride On Mowers	Oils & Lubricants
Hedge Trimmers	Tree Climbing Equipment
Traffic Safety Equipment	Ropes and Rigging Gear

Visit our showroom
Mon - Fri, 8:30am to 5:00pm
Saturday, 8:30am to 1:00pm

Husqvarna

SECURE 24/7 ONLINE SHOPPING AT
www.arbormaster.com.au

There is a call for the replacement of the timber harvested from old growth forests by timber harvested from sustainably grown plantation timber. Replacing the logging of old growth forests with logging of plantation timber will grow jobs.

Proposed Future Access

At a recent Pajero 4WD Club meeting we heard from a representative of the GFNP group.

Activities such as dog walking, four wheel driving and camping will be allowed. They are encouraging continued access and noted that access to many areas is currently denied due to logging. (We experienced an unauthorised track closure in the forest near Rubicon where a large log was used to block the track. A local Department of Primary Industries (DEPI) repre-



Wonnangatta Work

Land Rover Owners' Club Of Gippsland

In May of 2014 we travelled into the Wonnangatta Valley with Graeme Walsh to look at the results of the then recent environmental burn and the Alpine grazing trial and report to the Regional Representatives meeting. It was interesting to go back in November and see the valley looking at its best. Growth was coming back in the environmental burn area and the temporary cattle grids and fencing for the grazing trial had been removed.

The Land Rover Owners' Club of Gippsland works closely with Parks Victoria staff from the Heyfield and Dargo offices on a variety of projects, identified by the Rangers, in the southern section of the Alpine National Park. The three days we spent with Wayne Foon, Parks Victoria Ranger Heyfield and Vicki Jones Parks Victoria Ranger Dargo, concentrated on work at the Snowy Range airstrip and in the Wonnangatta Valley.

At Snowy Range airstrip the perimeter fence to this vital piece of fire fighting infrastructure had been deliberately cut in several places. Wire was re-strung and the breaches repaired.



**Text and photos
by Greg and Lois Rose**

Our lunch stop was Howitt Hut and we were disappointed to see new graffiti on the historic hut, the wire fence cut and deep wheel ruts beside the hut. The actions of a few rogue individuals once again spoil the High Country experience for all park visitors and undermine the great work done by all the clubs affiliated with Four Wheel Drive Victoria and the members of the High Country Huts Association.

We accessed Wonnangatta via Zeka

Spur Track, which has had a light dozer clean up pushing trees back from the track side and tidying up the switch-backs.

The second day was spent working on several tasks under the direction of the Parks Victoria Rangers. New signs were erected and some older ones repaired, weeds were sprayed, the paths to and areas around the six toilets were whipper snipped, toilet doors were repaired, a significant amount of rubbish



SUPER LOAM

Completely eliminates the voltage drop that causes dull yellow beams.



POWER SHOWER

Continuous hot water. It provides temperatures from warm to very hot.



PREMIUM FLURO

The best 12 Volt portable fluro light Piranha has ever built!



BATTERY TRAYS

Huge range of auxiliary and main replacement trays, 2mm mild steel with Chromate electroplated top coat.



DUAL BATTERY MANAGEMENT

DBE140S & DBE180SX provides the power you require to run lights, shower, air pump, etc...

Call 03 9762 1200 for all your 12 Volt solutions

All Aussie Made!



piranha
OFF ROAD PRODUCTS

For advice call Piranha on **03 9762 1200**.
Visit: www.piranhaoffroad.com.au for a full dealer listing.

www.piranhaoffroad.com.au

Wonnangatta Work



was collected and fire pits were raked out. Despite the rubbish we collected the valley was in very good condition. One message that is not getting through is that glass and cans thrown into fireplaces will not burn away to nothing.

On our final day we loaded the collected rubbish into Wayne's Land Cruiser tray and packed the power tools, saw benches, crowbars and shovels into the tool trailer. The convoy of nine club Land Rovers and twenty-one individuals left via Herne Spur Track and dropped down into Eaglevale for a visit to Harry Smith's Hut before heading home.

It is a privilege to be able to work closely with the land managers maintaining and improving our parks and enjoying some of the best four wheel driving country in Australia.





SHORT COURSES:

**4 Wheel Drive Maintenance,
WELDING: TIG, MIG & ARC,
Laser Art, Info Tech.**





Ringwood Trade Training Facility

RTTF also delivers training for apprenticeships, traineeships and certificates in automotive, fabrication/welding and info tech. RTO No 22475

Contact RTTF Ringwood:
 3 Hill St, Ringwood East
 Phone: 03 9845 7560
 Email: info@rttf.vic.edu.au
 Web: rttf.vic.edu.au



**HIGH PERFORMANCE EYEWEAR FOR
THE ACTIVE OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST!**

SOS EXPEDITION - DESIGNED FOR AND WORN BY SURVIVAL EXPERT BEAR GRYLLS

- Impact resistant, composite shock frames
- Anti fog, anti scratch, shatter resistant lenses
- Polarized and hydrophobic, polycarbonate lenses
- Dupont rubber coated, padded face gaskets
- Lightweight for all day comfort
- Reduce eye fatigue and sun damage



15% DISCOUNT

FOR ALL FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB VICTORIA
MEMBERS AND TRACKWATCH READERS!

4WDVIC

COUPON CODE TO APPLY IN YOUR SHOPPING CART

VIEW AND PURCHASE OUR WIDE RANGE WITH OVER 100 STYLES AT
WWW.SURVIVALOPTICS.COM.AU

NOWHERE TO GO BUT *everywhere*

NO MATTER WHERE YOUR ADVENTURES TAKE YOU, ARB HAS THE GEAR TO GET YOU THERE.



ARB.COM.AU | TEL. 1300 ARB 4X4

ARB 4x4 accessories are designed and engineered to enhance all levels of off road adventure. Available to suit a wide range of 4WDs as well as utes and SUVs, ARB manufactures quality 4WDing equipment to assist you in reaching your next destination.





Maybe they liked the sound of the club's name i.e., Midweek 4WD Club and thought there might be a good chance we really did go four wheel driving during the working week. Or maybe it was because they figured most of our members are grandparents and therefore have had the experience of bringing up their own kids, and now a lot of us have some regular hands-on experience interacting with grand kids.

Regardless, Leading Senior Constable Tony Brewin, Youth Resource Officer at Fitzroy Police Station made direct contact with me and asked if there was a possibility that some of us might be interested in helping out on an initiative they wanted to explore, whereby some police personnel and some inner city youngsters could get the opportunity to go four wheel driving and spend a night camping in the bush. The aim was to introduce vulnerable youngsters to a different set of role models and to have some time out of their usual environment, interacting with their hosts and police in a relaxed social atmosphere.

The idea grew out of discussions in 2012 between Fitzroy Police and Parks Victoria where police had sought help with camping programs and ultimately, Drew Schulz, Parks Victoria's Camp Host Coordinator, brought Four Wheel Drive Victoria into the project. FWDV sought volunteers and in fact, a pilot trip was undertaken in conjunction with members of Offpeak 4WD Club. We were initially to run this second pilot trip in April 2014 but we cancelled it at the last minute due to a spate of bad weather. Ultimately, 8 Midweek members obtained Working with Children Checks so that they could participate in the project.

This second pilot trip finally took place in November, 2014. The morning of 11th November found five members (including one lady) driving their trucks up the Hume Freeway to Wallan Police Station, to meet their new travelling companions. All of us left our usual offsidiers behind, to make room for our special guests. On this occasion we only had one young guest, together with trainee youth worker Laura as well as Tony Brewin.

After affecting introductions and loading up our passenger's gear, we headed further up the highway, turning off into Ennis Road, a little short of Tallarook. We aired down here and then headed up towards the Tallarook State Forest, climbing quickly, occasionally obtaining distant views.

From the outset we made it our business to really try to engage and involve our young guest. We explained why we aired down and got him to help.

THE FITZROY PROJECT OVERNIGHT TRIP



We knew he had some interest in birds so we also tried to spot different bird species as we drove up through the tall timber and the massive granite boulders near Mount Hickey. We also tried to engage his interest via our in-vehicle navigation systems.



We initially drove up and down several tracks in the vicinity of Mount Hickey. Our young guest thought "it was cool" the way the vehicles lurched around as we climbed the more difficult steps.

We opted for an early lunch and decided to move on to the old Forest Commission Camp site near the junction of Magazine Track, Wheelers Track and the Main Road. The tiny Mill Creek meanders below the terraced picnic site and there are picnic tables and nice sunny spots in which to enjoy a break. There was also sufficient room for a few kicks of the footy as well, so there was a bit of a spectacle as some old blokes tried to relive their younger days (and bygone athletic prowess).

After lunch we decided to head for the northern end of the plateau and visit the old bluestone wall retaining the waters of Falls Creek. This was the site of Seymour's earliest formal water supply. On reaching Main Road again it was time to exit the area, so we moved on to Horan Road and began the descent out of the Tallarook Forest, towards Murchison Gap on the Broadford -Strath

Creek Road. Some points on Horans Road offer magnificent distant views. At other times the road balances (seemingly precariously) on a narrow ridge, with the land disappearing spectacularly on either side of the road.

After crossing the Broadford -Strath Creek Road, we headed south along the winding Murchison Spur Road until taking the turnoff to allow us to make a brief visit to the Strath Creek Falls.

Moving further along, we came to the old No.1 Camp site. After taking a few more minor roads and tracks we reached Boundary Road, which we took to finally reach camp, at Anderson Garden Camp, a km or so below Sunday Creek Reservoir. This is a well maintained DEPI picnic and camping area on the edge of Sunday Creek.

One of our crew supplied a nice supply of firewood from within his home on wheels, and another quickly lit the fire while our guests gained experience erecting their little hike tents.

A pleasant evening was spent around the fire yarning and enjoying a variety of nibbles, and later dinner and more yarns and much laughter. We turned in rather late, having all enjoyed a pleasant day in the bush.

On Wednesday, after breaking camp, we explored a few more tracks generally within a radius of about 4 to 5km from Anderson Garden before having lunch and then returning to Wallan.

Our guests individually expressed their appreciation for the efforts of all the members involved in the exercise and Tony judged it as a huge success.

Geoff Kenafacke
Midweek 4WD Club
November 2014



MAZDA 4X4 BT-50

Versatility the key



The latest Mazda BT-50 4x4 incarnation of the iconic dual cab utility is a drivers' vehicle that is just at home on the road as tackling the toughest tracks. Our test vehicle was the Mazda Dual Cab XTR 4x4 auto and it certainly impressed, delivering effortless power, performance, comfort, ride and handling that arguably exceeds that of rivals. The light commercial market is undoubtedly one of the most keenly contested with a host of quality products vying for your dollar and priced under \$51,000 the XTR package is one of the best.

This Thai-built and Australian developed ute was a joint project with Ford that market a similar product – the Ranger. While a collaborative development, both companies have taken different directions in positioning their products. While Ford have taken the 'tough truck' line, don't be fooled as the BT-50 is equally as tough, offering a wicked combination of comfort and versatility. From the B-pillar forward the cabin is as good or better than many SUVs, and the driver would barely know they were driving a utility. The cabin is quiet, the turbo-

diesel responsive, and best of all the ride is comfortable, whether cruising the highway or tackling serious off road conditions.

Design

Mazda have created a distinctive and attractive body that is comfortable in suburbia yet hints at its 4x4 ability. It is available in Freestyle cab chassis and dual cab configurations. The XTR Dual Cab sits below the range topping GT Dual Cab.

Engine

Our test vehicle was powered by the

awesome 3.2-litre five-cylinder turbo-diesel (147kW/470Nm), matched with a six speed automatic transmission. The engine is strong and torquey and tradies will like its genuine 3.5 tonne towing capacity and 1088kg payload.. The transmission has a Sport mode and allows manual shifting. The kickdown feature to move up a gear is also handy. The 4x4 drivetrain is a dual range transfer case, with shift on the fly capacity between 2H and 4H. An electronic locking rear differential is standard on 4x4 models.



As to fuel consumption, we achieved an average on road figure of between 7.2-8.6L/100 while off road it increased to an acceptable 9.7L/100km. The fuel tank has an 80L capacity.

Ride & performance

Most utilities tend to deliver a choppy ride, requiring a hefty load in the back to deliver stability over bumps. Mazda have cleverly calibrated its suspension to be smooth on road, with independent double wishbone at the front and a live rear axle. Yes, the ride can still be mildly choppy, but as a compromise few would be disappointed. It employs a conventional body on a steel frame chassis. Further good news are the back seats that actually accommodate adults with plenty of legroom and reasonably comfortable seating.

Gear

The BT-50 is well equipped and offers a comfortable cabin. Really from the B-pillar forward you would almost think you were in a well equipped SUV. Cabin



finish is good – better than the Ranger – and I found seating to provide an excellent driving position, with commanding view ahead, good headroom and visibility from wide rearview mirrors.

There is a centre armrest, multi-function dash display, information display, steering wheel adjustment, individual climate control switches and steering wheel controls for phone, air conditioning and



Easy access and plenty of room for back seat passengers



radio volume. There are 3 12v plugs to keep all your gadgets going, and the height adjustable front seat is also a plus. There are six airbags, cruise control, 17inch alloys and navigation (small screen). A rear camera would be a welcome addition, and is available as an option.

Off Road

The BT-50 XTR 4x4 employs an electronic locking differential that locks the left and right sections of the rear axle together to form a solid axle. The system automatically disengages at 30kmh. We drove the Mazda extensively on some of the most difficult sand areas of South Australia and have no complaints. We did not have to resort to low range at any point as the torque of the Mazda's power plant, combined with high range, pulled the BT-50 through every time. Off road the Mazda soon showed its capabilities, tackling dunes and beaches with ease. There is



Dynamic Stability Control, (which also controls trailer sway assist), which can be disconnected when four wheel driving. Hill Descent Control is also fitted, operating in conjunction with DSC to provide great control. Departure and approach angles are good.

Modifications suggested for four wheel driving are the removal of side steps (they reduce ground clearance) and there is no rear recovery point.

Value

If you are in the market for a dual purpose daily runabout, come weekend warrior the BT-50 ticks all the boxes. It is a great drive around town – read comfortable - being smooth and comfortable, yet don't be fooled, as whether used for work or recreation, this beast has the power and ability to please. Ride is assured, body noise low, and comfort level and finish in the cabin better than expected.

The BT-50 QTR Dual Cab is priced at sub \$51,000 and offers good value. It is one of a select few dual cabs that offers family friendliness with a decent carrying and towing capacity suitable for genuine work.

Brian Tanner



Do I need to restrain my dog while traveling in my 4WD?

The answer to this question depends on your location and requires a mostly common sense response. Throughout Australia the laws surrounding dog restraint when travelling in or on the back of a vehicle vary from state to state.

In addition to adhering to the relevant state law on pet restraint in vehicles, I believe a common sense approach to safety is required. Firstly any unsecured objects in a vehicle can easily turn into life threatening projectile during an impact. Pets left free to roam can not only be in direct danger of being injured themselves but they are also life threatening to the driver and any passengers or animals travelling in the vehicle.

While there is limited testing and research regarding pet safety, reports state that if you're driving 60km per hour with an unrestrained 20kg dog in your vehicle and it gets thrown onto you, the impact is the same as if it had hit you from a third-floor balcony.

There are three key safety benefits of using pet restraints.

1. Pet safety - your pet will not be tempted to jump from a window or an opened door, nor will they be at risk of falling out of an open window as a result of sudden directional changes or braking.

2. Driver distraction - there's less chance of the driver being distracted if a pet is unable to move around the vehicle.

3. Collision protection - if you suddenly brake or have a sudden impact there is less chance of your dog becoming a projectile.

The RSPCA Australia have been reluctant to publish a written policy on restraining pets in cars due to the lack of formal car and pet safety testing in Australia. They have raised concerns about possible injury from tethering, harnessing and crating when involved in a sudden impact. With this in mind here are some widely used restraint options currently available, although you should take into consideration the type of vehicle you drive and the size and shape of your dog.

Harness - Swivel style attachment systems which anchor to the existing seatbelt and attach to a dog harness. To be effective, it is essential for the harness to be correctly fitted and for the anchor to be secure.

Pet transport crates - For complete safety, crates must be secured to your vehicle and be big enough for a pet to stand up, lie down and turn around as per RSPCA guidelines.

Cargo barriers - Ideal for 4WD's, these can be purchased to suit your make and model of vehicle and are easy to install and remove. If your cargo area is large you should consider the use of a harness as well.

As much as we all love to see a puppy's face poking out from the window and lapping up the breeze, it would be wise for you to consider a restraint when travelling with your pet. If not for your safety, at least consider your family, your pets and other road users.



Affinity Insurance

We do more than 4WD Insurance

At Affinity Insurance Brokers we are proud of our long association with Four Wheel Drive Victoria. We can also assist club members with insurance solutions for the following;

- Business & Commercial Insurance
- Private & Commercial Vehicle Insurance
- Home & Contents Insurance
- Farm & Rural Property Insurance
- Life & Income Protection
- Personal Accident Insurance



Insurer
CGU Insurance Limited
ABN 27 004 478 371

To discuss your insurance needs contact Affinity Insurance Brokers now!

Call **1300 655 850**

Email info@affinityib.com.au

Visit www.affinityib.com.au

This product is issued by CGU Insurance Limited, ABN 27 004 478 371, AFS Licence No. 238291 and distributed by Affinity Risk Partners (Brokers) Pty Ltd trading as Affinity Insurance Brokers ABN 15 091 944 580 Licence No. 241185. It is subject to underwriting acceptance criteria. This is a summary of the benefits available. Conditions apply. To decide if it is right for you please read the Product Disclosure Statement and Policy before you make any decision.



Buchan



Aberfeldy



Walhalla

Reidy Recovery and Vehicle Salvage

(03) 5623 2888



- 24hr 4x4 Bush Recoveries
- Breakdowns
- Bog Jobs
- Insurance Company Affiliated
- Towing
- Vehicle Salvage

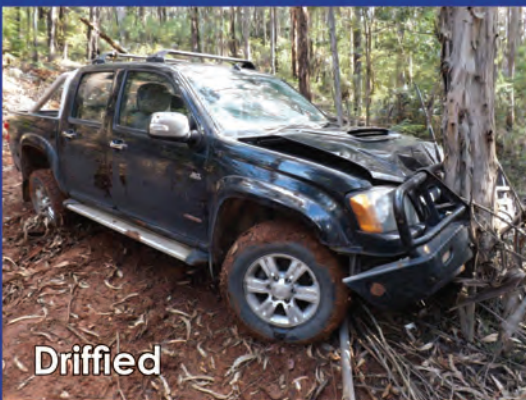
Ben - 0409 998 581

reidyrecovery@gmail.com
www.reidyrecovery.com.au

In most cases, accident towing & recovery can be claimed or charged directly to insurance companies so don't risk driving an accident damaged vehicle



Grantville



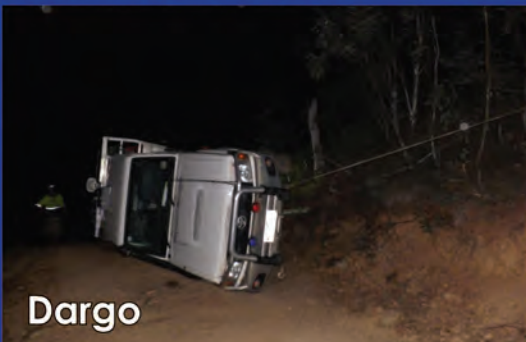
Driffied



Thomson



Valencia Creek



Dargo



Ripplebrook

We are importing

10000s

genuine Nissan Patrol
components from Japan
to bring better prices to you!

Shop online:

www.patrolapart.com.au



4 x 4 ACCESSORIES, PARTS, SERVICE, SALES

The Ultimate Online parts shop for Patrols



[Home](#)
[About Us](#)
[Our Speciality](#)
[Upcoming Events](#)
[Blog](#)
[FAQ](#)
[Cars for Sale](#)
[Cars for Dismantling](#)
[Contact Us](#)

Quick Search

GQ ☒ GU ☐ Other ☐

Select Engine Type

Select Year

Select Category

Product Name or Code




PATROL DISMANTLING SPECIALIST



Browse Products

- Accessories
- Mechanical
- Lighting
- Electrical
- Body Parts
- Wheels & Tyres
- Interior Parts
- Recovery Equipment
- Camping Accessories

Products

Nissan Patrol GQ & Maverick Genuine Body Mount Set

Full Set Of Genuine Nissan Body Mounts Suit GQ Long Wheel Base [more](#)

RRP :\$451.50 Our Price :\$391.23

LED Driving Light

LED Round Driving Lights 51W [more](#)

Our Price :\$250.00

Patrolapart

Member Login

NISSANPATROL

You Tube WATCH VIDEO

FAN PAGE

Subscribe Newsletter

Enter Your Email ID