



Victoria Police Four Wheel Drive Club Newsletter

September-October 2005

Edition Nine



President's Report - September 2005

The club has been approached by Typo Station; an independent, not for profit organisation that operates a life skills, alternate education and mentoring program for troubled and vulnerable youths between 14-17 years who are experiencing difficulties at home and at school. It was founded in 1993 and is named after their property located in the foothills of the Alpine National Park, near Whitfield.

You can learn more about Typo Station from their website www.typostation.org.au.



Part of their program involves a 9 day hike either at Wyperfeld National Park in the Mallee during winter or in the High Country during summer. They have asked us to assist them by providing driver support to the hikes. This involves volunteering your time, while Typo Station provides the vehicles (2003 Toyota Troopcarriers), fuel and food and even camping gear, if required. They will even fill your car up before you return home after the hike.

The driver support involves driving them to and from the hike starting and finishing points, making some food and water drops, giving them weather reports by Sat phone and camping in the area in case of an emergency. The contact with the hikers is limited to the drive to and from the hike. Ideally, they prefer two drivers as they are aware you should not venture into these areas on your own. The hike in the High Country is in the area of Typo Station so the driver support can be broken up into smaller periods and shared between members by tag teaming each other.

This is an all expenses paid camping trip and we support a worthy organisation that is trying to do something for the youths.

I am assisting Typo Station with a Wyperfeld hike at the end of September and will be doing a High Country hike at the end of December. As soon as I get the dates for next year's hikes I will notify all club members so we can compile a roster for them. This is a great opportunity for the club to contribute to the community with the added bonus that the only thing the members contribute is your time.

I will keep you informed about Typo Station.

DARGO TRIP

The club has recently had two small trips away; the Aichers and Tabakas went to Cape York Peninsula, which by all accounts was very successful and you will be able to read about it in a future edition of the Newsletter.

The other trip was to the Dargo High Plains. This trip was a little less successful; Ron and Kevin were hoping to have a bit of a play in the snow. Ron did his homework for the trip contacting the local Ranger and the Dargo General Store for local information before leaving. He was advised which tracks were closed and how much snow there was.

On the second day of the trip they found the snow on the Dargo High Plains Road. They were cautious and when the snow made it too tricky to continue so they turned around. Unfortunately as Kevin was doing this he got a bit off line and his car slowly slid sideways and came to rest against a tree. Ron explained that with the snow you can't make out the actual lie of the land and this led to Kevin's predicament.

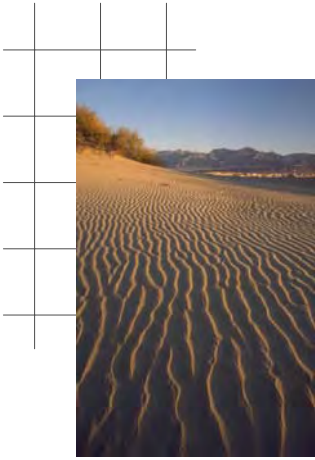
The position of Kevin's car meant they couldn't get it out with a Tirfor so they had to leave it there and it was recovered a few days later by a recovery vehicle from Heyfield at a cost of \$1,100.00.

An unfortunate result of this incident; is that a rumour very quickly started amongst some club members, that Ron and Kevin were on a road that was subject to a "Seasonal Road Closure" and they shouldn't have been there. This rumour was third hand by the time I heard it. I was very surprised as I didn't think Ron and Kevin would do that, as they are both very experienced in navigating in remote areas. Ron told me that they were on the Dargo High Plains Road and this can be confirmed by the Heyfield

Upcoming Trips:

- Trivia Night 28th October, Bells Hotel
- 20th –23rd October– National 4x4 Show, Exhibition Buildings

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President's Message Continued....

recovery crew. A check of the Seasonal Road Closures on the 4WD Victoria and Parks Victoria websites confirms that Dargo High Plains Road is not closed and Ron and Kevin were allowed to be there.

There are a number of lessons to be learnt for this. If any member has an issue or concern about the activities of the club or club member/s, they should talk to me or Marcus (Vice President) so that the matter can be looked into and the Committee and the members concerned can be informed of all the facts.

We all know that driving in the High Country is dangerous but there is a lot more things to be aware of when there is snow around, which is why the club is in the process of developing a range of training courses that will include an Advanced Driving Course for Snow Driving.

The cost to recover Smokey's car was expensive and may have been avoided if the club had foreseen this possibility, but we didn't. So we will put a notice on the Trip forms to contact me or Marcus or any of the Committee if something like this occurs again so we can recover it ourselves.

That's all for now.

Wayne Morgan
President

OUR COMMITTEE

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From the Editor

Welcome to my first edition of the club newsletter. I hope it provides you with some food for thought (especially the article on page 5). I also hope I can keep up the standard set by Geoff and Justine.

I must start by apologizing for the tardiness. I had hoped to have this newsletter out to you by mid September but the Cape York trip, changing work commitments and getting set up to publish took a little bit longer than I had hoped. I have therefore changed this issue to the September-October issue.

However from now my aim is to have the newsletter to you in the first week of each month and have now started on the November issue—but **I NEED YOUR HELP!!** I need something to publish. I need reports, photos, magazine articles (I'm sure most of you subscribe to some form of 4WD magazine) or anything else of interest. I would especially like to start a "What's New" - so if you have purchased or seen a new product that you think may be of interest to club members, please let me know.

I have included a few photos from the Cape York trip and hope to have a written report for the next issue. There are a few fact and figures from the trip below.

Finally I ask you to support the Trivia night. I know Gary and Helen have put in a lot of work to make the night a success so bring along your family and friends, support the club and have a great time. I know I will see you all there!! (see page 6 for details).

Steve Aicher—Public Relations Officer

SOME CAPE YORK FACTS AND FIGURES

	THE SUZUKI (PETROL)	THE TOYOTA (DIESEL)
DISTANCE TRAVELLED	9880 KM	10000 KM
FUEL USED	1134.5 LITRES	1405 LITRES
HIGHEST PRICE PAID	\$1.45 / LITRE	\$1.54 / LITRE
LOWEST PRICE PAID	\$1.05 / LITRE	\$1.08 / LITRE
AVERAGE PRICE PAID	\$1.22 / LITRE	\$1.27 / LITRE
TOTAL FUEL COST	\$1385	\$1860
FUEL CONSUMPTION	11.5 L/100 KM	14.1 L/100 KM



Trip Reports

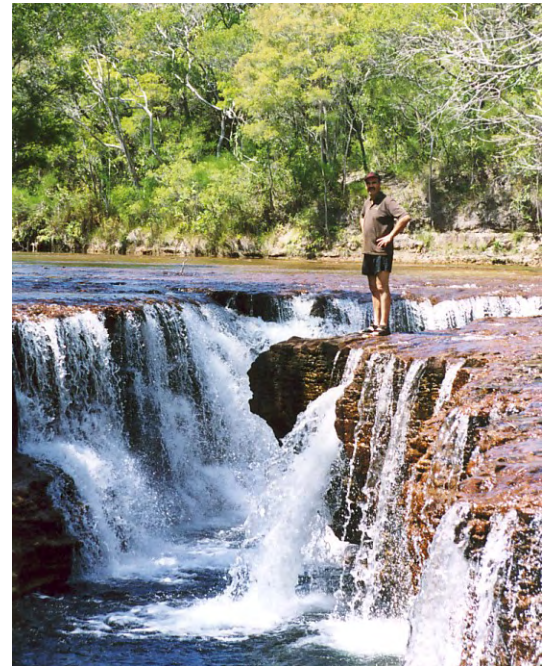
Some Photos from Cape York



Crossing Ducie River on the Old Telegraph Track



The Jardine River ferry



Eliot Falls, Cape York



The Crew (including ShirI) at the tip of Cape York



4WD drivers obese, conservative: study

Forget the fit, rugged, 30-something-year-old navigating flood plains and climbing mountains in the snazzy 4WDs as depicted in the commercials. The reality is, drivers of the suburban monsters are often obese, aggressive, intolerant and aged in their 40s or 50s. A new study has found that city owners of large four-wheel-drive vehicles are less community minded than other drivers, less charitable, more likely to be homophobic and have a low opinion of indigenous culture. The Australia Institute study has also found they are more likely to use force to get their way.

Based on a Roy Morgan Research survey in 2003-04 of 24,718 people aged 14 and over, the study found the typical city driver of a large 4WD is a male in his forties or fifties in full-time work with a higher than average income.

The 4WDs are also far more likely than conventional vehicles to kill or maim other road users, they are less fuel efficient and they are resented by other road users. Two thirds of their drivers in the city are overweight or obese. They also had a lower regard for the welfare system than the general population.

"While over half (57 per cent) of all Australians agree it is the government's duty to support those who cannot find work, only 42 per cent of city drivers of large 4WDs concur," the report's authors, Clive Hamilton and Claire Barbato, said.

"These drivers tend to see themselves as rugged individualists who like physical activity. "Perhaps with implications for how they drive, they are more inclined to say they sometimes use force to get their way," the authors said.

The authors also say 4WDs are marketed as bold, tough, powerful and made for rugged terrain, while the daily reality is that most are driven between school, work and shops in metropolitan areas. The survey counted only city drivers of 4WDs, where over half of the vehicles are owned.

However, drivers of luxury 4WDs are very different.

They are more likely to be female, in their 30s and 40s, and are more materialistic than other Australians. "This group is more than twice as likely as the general population to say, 'I was born to shop' (33 per cent)," the authors said. "And two thirds (65 per cent) say they would normally buy their favourite brand regardless of price, compared with 43 per cent of the population." They also watch their weight, and are less likely to be obese than the general population.

Monash University research indicates 4WDs are far more likely than conventional vehicles to kill or maim other road users. Dr Hamilton said the vehicles are also less fuel efficient and are resented by other road users.

He said special licences and higher taxes should be imposed on 4WD owners.

Reprinted from "The Australian" September 26th 2005.

(Note: the views expressed in this article are not necessarily those of the club or the editor)



Trivia Night

QUESTION: When is the VP4WD Club *Trivia Night?*

ANSWER: Friday October 28, 7-30pm. Put it in your calendar now.

QUESTION: Where is the VP4WD Club *Trivia Night?*

ANSWER: Upstairs meeting room Bells Hotel, Moray St Sth Melbourne.

QUESTION: Who can attend the VP4WD Club *Trivia Night?*

ANSWER: All members, family and friends.

QUESTION: Will there be prizes at the VP4WD Club *Trivia Night?*

ANSWER: Yes there will be prizes to be won.

QUESTION: How much will the VP4WD Club *Trivia Night* cost?

ANSWER: Only \$15 per head including finger food. (\$30 per family of 2 adults & 2 kids, extra kids \$5).

Drinks will be available at bar prices.

Meals will be available at the hotel from 6pm.

QUESTION: Who do we tell that we are coming to the *Trivia Night?*

ANSWER: Please let Gary MAY know by 14 October. Ring 0415400101 or e-mail: themays@vtown.com.au

QUESTION: Will the VP4WD Club *Trivia Night* be fun?

ANSWER: Yes it will, but that really depends on you.

QUESTION: Will there be better trivia questions at the VP4WD Club

Trivia Night?

ANSWER: Yes, there will be lots of trivia and a couple of other games for your enjoyment.

QUESTION: Why is the VP4WD Club holding a *Trivia Night?*

ANSWER: People have said they want more social functions.

QUESTION: Will you be supporting the VP4WD Club *Trivia Night?*

ANSWER: Of course you will! So let Gary know **NOW**.



Trip Calendar

Date	Details	Rating	Trip Leader
5th October	Club Meeting Bells Hotel, South Melbourne		
20th— 23rd October	National 4x4 Show Exhibition Buildings	Fun	
28th October	Club Trivia Night Bells Hotel, South Melbourne	Fun	Gary May themays@vtown.com.au Mobile: 0415400101 <u>by 14/10/05</u>
2nd Novem- ber	Club Meeting Bells Hotel, South Melbourne		
4th Decem- ber	Kids in the Bush: Cystic Fibrosis	Fun	Robert Pepper Phone Mobile: 0408 226354 Email: robert@peppernet.org
7th Decem- ber	Club Meeting Bells Hotel, South Melbourne		

For Full Trip Notices & All Details, Please Visit:

www.victoriapolice4wdclub.org.au



The following businesses offer discounts to all Victoria Police 4WD Club members.



Numerous locations throughout Australia
Produce TJM Members Privilege Card available from the club President

www.4wdmegastores.com.au

Time Plus Communications

49 Sydney Road, Brunswick 3056 Phone: 9380 4172
Produce Club Membership Card

www.timeplus.com.au



690 South Road, Moorabbin 3189 Phone: 9532 5558
Produce Club Membership Card

www.allterrain4x4.com.au



511 Whitehorse Road Mitcham 3132
Mobile: 1300 72 4 784

& also at:

94 Puckle Street Moonee Ponds 3039
Phone: 9326 0808

At either store ask for Geoffrey De Graf and produce your Club Membership Card

<http://teltrashopbusiness.com.au>



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Special thanks to Bell's Hotel
for hosting the club's monthly
meetings

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Women Drivers Olympics

Sixth Place

