



Victoria Police Four Wheel Drive Club Newsletter

May 2006

President's Report - May 2006

Swifts Creek Club House

Hi Fellow Members,

The club has taken another step forward in getting a house at Swifts Creek. At the last meeting, Justine asked the members to give an indication as to whether the club wanted the house or not. The members unanimously agreed that we wanted the house as a base for the club in the eastern High Country.

The house is the old police residence (a new police residence is being built) which will be relocated to the rear of a 6 hectare block at the back of the Swifts Creek Police Station. The cost of moving of the house will be paid for by the Police Force and will remain Police property but the club will be given use of the house for as long as it wants it.

The house will be connected to power and septic sewerage; however it will be empty and will need to be furnished by us. We will need everything need to make members' stays at the house liveable.

Things like:

Kitchen - Pots, pans, plates, bowls, cups, mugs, cutlery, toaster, microwave, fridge, etc

Lounge - Lounge suite, coffee table, TV, video/DVD player etc

Bedrooms - bunk beds

Laundry - Washing machine, broom, mop & bucket, vacuum cleaner, etc

There will be other things that will come to mind after we take possession and get up there to see it. It will take a few more months before that happens but we need to start keeping an eye out for suitable items. We need to take care that what we take up there is in good condition as it will be used by all club members.

The Swifts Creek area has heaps of 4WD tracks for beginners to advanced. All members will be able to use the house; it will not just be for club trips. More details will be provided about this at a later date.

If you have or can get any of the above items for the club, let me know.

Annual Dinner

Don't forget the club's Annual Dinner on Saturday 3rd June at Maxy's Glenhuntly Road, Elsternwick. I hope to see you all there.

Wayne Morgan

President

Mobile 0417-054-108

Email webdmorg@exemail.com.au



Upcoming Trips:

Otway Antics – 26th–28th May

Annual Dinner – 3rd June

Bass Coast Sip'n'Sup – 25th June

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OUR COMMITTEE**President - Wayne Morgan**

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jusphelan@hotmail.com

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ronlevett@bigpond.com.au W: N/A M: 0412 480 917

Training Co-ordinator - Vacant**Public Relations Officer - Steve Aicher**

aicher@melbpc.org.au W: 9665 4347 M: 0411 082 434

Ordinary Committee Member - Gary May

themays@vtown.com.au W: 9661 8106 M: 0415 400 101



Changing Address or other Contact Details!!

Please advise Club Secretary or President.

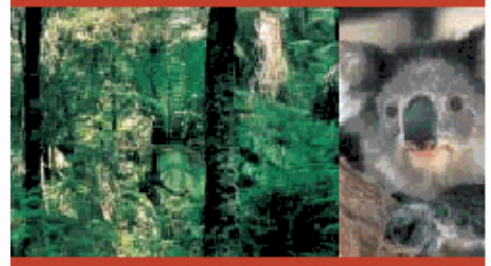


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From the Editor

A bumper issue this month with a number of reports from club members from trips and other activities. Thanks to Rob, Barb and Ron.

The annual dinner and awards night is being held on June 3rd (see page 8 for details). Last years was a great event and this years should be even better—hope you are all attending.

Our secretary, Justine has organised a Wine Tour for June. Should be a great day. See the calendar for details.

Once more a reminder to forward me some articles, items of interest, etc. It makes my job so much easier if I have material to print!!

Steve Aicher—Public Relations Officer

Get Well!!

Club Member Mick Barry underwent cardiac surgery at Cabrini Hospital on Wednesday 10th May. It is reported all went well and he is on the road to recovery.

The president and members wish him all the best and hope to see him on the 4WD tracks as well as the "road" in the not too distant future.



and



Present the

Four Wheel Drive *RADIO SHOW*

10 am—11 am every Saturday with Peter Dwyer

ESSENTIAL LISTENING FOR ANYONE WITH A 4X4

Trip Reports

Bunyip State Forest—18th March



The Vic. 4WD Association has classified a number of tracks and this was the last survey (the 18th) to complete the Bunyip Forest. Other clubs involved were Dandy Ranges, Vic 4WD Club, Geelong, Yarra Valley and Toyota Hilux. Bunyip was the trial area chosen.

This is all done in conjunction with Parks Vic so by 2010 all tracks in Vic will be classified. The aim is to signpost all the tracks and have the drivability posted on them.

The group was broken into lots of two vehicles who were given maps with highlighted areas. These were the ones to drive & classify. It was a matter of putting in the GPS co-ordinates at the start & end of each section (sometimes parts of a whole track had been previously classified) & then describing the state of the track river crossings and classifying either green, blue, black or double black.

Rob Gardner

Otways—21st to 24th April

Otway ranges - noted for highest rainfall in Victoria-2 metres (2000 mm) annually. The region's history started in 1837 with pastoralist Hugh Murray then from 1850 the lure of timber brought the settlers and from 1852 sawmills sent sleepers for the Bendigo railway by ship via Geelong and fishing early 1900's. The Great Ocean Road opened in 1932 and was constructed by World War 1 veterans. Between Princes Highway and Great Ocean Road just outside Geelong are the Otways with Lavers Hill, Forrest, Beech Forest, Apollo Bay entered on the map, so Deb & Rod team leaders (Patrol), Caitlin & Tony (Jeep), and tail end Charlie Barbara & Eddie (60 Landcruiser) went to have a look. With camp set up in the one pub town called Forrest, dishes almost washed and the little hand on the clock starting to work its way south, shake off the bitumen dust definitely in order.

We found very early in the trip there is a problem when taking on timber logging country - the first track we went down was most definitely not the one on the map as it simply just stopped. At least the second track, before it petered out, gave glimpses of a freshly stripped plain to show us we were actually meandering down a couple of driveways the logging trucks had used.

Attempt at a third track. Now the turnoff was where it was supposed to be so onwards we go. The tracks were lovely, flat and wide so plenty of time to take in the scenic hills and valleys and how it changed from enormous ferns and satinwood, mountain ash (not only Australia's tallest tree but the tallest flowering plant in the world), myrtle beech, pines, large ferns, smaller ferns, pinelets... why was everything, track included, getting smaller - and on the decline?

Change of scenery is to be expected, but an impression was forming that the drab grey granite track had gone to a hairdresser and had a hair straightening with a bright orange colour put through. I don't know what was the most memorable with erupting from a cosy well forested



mountain top onto a hillside that closely resembled a 5th day cricket field with a soaked clay pitch; Spending half an hour having your passenger trying to avoid looking out into depths below? Stopping your truck copying a happy tail-waving puppy? Or when you finally get down into the valley meeting up with a large padlocked gate? Thinking back it was whilst the disconcerted finder of the padlock returned to tell the others the bad news, another, when examining the chain, happened to lift it and the gate swung open wide. While the rest of us became most concerned with how much mud was clinging to our tyres, Deb just kept staring at the chain hanging from Rod's hand.

Coming upon a campsite still populated with Winnebago and mobile homes showed how lucky we were to miss out by one week totally packed out areas and our day ended with a most filling dinner at the pub across the road from camp. Alarm bells should have set off on deciding tomorrow's trip on seeing the campervans, all day's spitting that tried to imitate rain, and that ski slope mud slide but we were distracted by the good quality of the food and the Aussie wood in that huge fireplace which forced us to make an early escape from the 40 degrees inside to the 10 degrees out. It was easy to spot the tourists, we were the ones heavily wrapped up in parkas, jumpers and beanies whilst the locals rocked up in t-shirts.

Next morning it looked like to might snow which wasn't unknown in the area so we were going to remain on the trusted and true tracks and start the day with the Otway Fly Tree Top Walk. A good long saunter around which included a strong cling on to the handrails while climbing up the 25 metre high, 120 tonnes of steel tower rocking in the tree tops. Then down to a nice dry valley for lunch in another hidden pitstop, a hall built in honour of the district's loggers with fascinating photos of the fledgling industry showing how they cut then dragged enormous logs through virgin forest (and not via the forest floor either) which reminded our legs about the walk we just had so



waterfalls and lighthouse another day, probably not enough water anyhow.

No wonder it was well nigh impossible to plan a route to accommodate the three of us. The top of the hill had wipers going non stop, going through alcoves they're set intermittent, but down in the valleys it's still powder dry. Going through that Top Walk it was dry, but the cars outside in the car park were getting a drenching. So on to the Pepperdeen Creek track down in the valley and a good straight line back to camp.



It wasn't long before the puddles spread out even further, ruts became deeper and poor Rod's lifted turbo and 33" muddies started to get a workout. The track presented no problems for him, but the two of us behind had other thoughts. First timer Jeep slithered its way along with a strong dislike of curves, but with our 60 cruiser on brand new A/Ts we just left the snatch strap attached, to either pull Tony back out of the mud or more often for Rod to come pull us out. It was a definite learning experience for all of us.

Finally the decision was made, even though we were over half way we knew the slog awaiting us as against taking on the unknown. What was the most memorable this time? Tony trying to do his first snatch and only get pulled back into the mud for his troubles? Watching how an electric winch easily gets a Patrol out of a bog hole so deep you couldn't see the tyres? How some road signallers tried to desperately avoid exploding when signalling left and he turned right straight into the middle? Or arms swinging like a banshee to advance the truck a little more forward or back up but not stop right next to the biggest puddle we had seen all day, a puddle well over ankle deep as both feet agreed. While the rest of us became most concerned with how much mud was clinging to our tyres, Deb just kept staring at the mud dripping from Rod's boots.

When we got back Tony was most proud of his Jeep being such a beautiful orange and was definitely going to show his workmates. We the senior brigade, were more concerned with packing up while everything was dry and get to the first available car wash. Even though still using a tyre lever to get all the clay out, there is a big 'X' marking the spot to come back and take in a waterfall or two and like so many 4wd'ers challenges -getting through to the other end of that final track.

Barbara Tabaka

Wombat State Forest—28th April

This was the second stage of a project being conducted by Vic 4Wd Association to update mapping of the Bunyip and Wombat State Forests. Day started with a 9 a.m. group briefing at Firth Park camping ground. Teams of two vehicles were formed and areas of the park allocated. We were teamed up with Richard in a Nissan Patrol from the Wanderin' 4 Wheelers. Richard was well equipped with GPS and laptop which made our task of locating and surveying the tracks so much easier. We had a bit of a distance to travel to our section of the park so we didn't make it to our first track until about 10.30. However from that point on it was non stop driving. Each track had to be rated, measured and GPS co-ordinates recorded. Also any other features of the track were noted.



A majority of the tracks we travelled we rated as green with a few blues. Only one track we travelled



did we rate as a single black mainly because of the number of mud holes down the track (and as it had been raining almost all the previous night most were pretty full). For most of the mud holes I was able to take the Suzuki around while the Patrol would go down the middle. One hole I didn't quite read correctly and required a recovery. However a bit further down the track I had to return the favour. I was quite proud when the Suzuki had to snatch Richard's Patrol from a bog hole. An audience of about 5 other 4wd's arrived on scene just in time to witness the event.

One track we rated as a double black (we didn't actually travel the full length of this one - although Richard was keen).

Being the conscientious group that we were, we wanted to complete our allocation of tracks for the day, before we returned to the camp. This took us a little bit longer than we planned and the last track we completed in the dark. This meant we did not return to Firth Park until a little after 7 p.m. However we did make it back in time for the spit roast dinner that Vic 4WD supplied. It was much appreciated after a long day in the car.

Final score was 21 tracks surveyed, 3 recoveries (the last track in the dark got me) and a great day. Highly recommend involvement in these sort of projects.

Steve Aicher

Dargo High Plains—1st to 3rd May

Because no one was joining us on this trip we did not need to be in Pakenham by 10 a.m. as proposed in the trip notice. A late morning start onto Dargo. Heavy rain all the way but topped off with magnificent autumn colour as we approached the Dargo pub. Bend after bend we saw a myriad of yellows, oranges and reds. A picturesque time of the year.



We stopped and warmed up in front of the open log fire in the Dargo pub. Almost dark and feeling tired we decided that rather than continuing on to our campsite, we would stay the night in one of the log cabins.

Next morning we drove along McMillans track towards "Grant Historical Site" where a small town of around 3000 once existed. Post offices, banks, stores, pubs are all land marked and a map of the entire town made one realise what a hive of activity the place must have been in it's hay day.

Onwards to "Talbotville" on an easy but scenic drive. Although the track was easy, it certainly came close to the drop off a number of times and only wide enough for one vehicle most of the way. I do not know what one would do if confronted with another vehicle coming the other way, as space for pulling over were few and far between. Talbotville was another small town in the area but now is a great camping ground with two pit toilets and plenty of water available from the Crooked river. We spent the night there and slept in the car. Although it was a windy night it was certainly warm and cosy and for the second night no rain.



Woke up to a pair of visiting kookaburras that were very concerned about us being in their territory. Packed up and headed southeast on the Crooked River track. An easy but scenic drive and crossing the river about five times as it crossed the track. Water level to the bottom of the doors was as deep as it got. I seriously demanded that Angela should get out and walk across the river to take an oncoming photo of the crossings, but beg as I did she would not concede, muttering something about getting wet feet.

Because we were on our own without another vehicle as back up we decided that we would not chance venturing any further than we had done and decided to head for home cutting the trip short by two days.

Ron Levett



Victoria Police Four Wheel Drive Club Inc.

Annual Dinner and Club Presentations

Saturday 3rd of June 2006.

Commencing 7:00pm.

at

Maxy's

306 Glenhuntly Road, Elsternwick,

\$45.00 per person

BYO Wine only

*4 course meal, unlimited soft drinks
and corkage fee*

*Beer and Spirits can be purchased
at the venue*

Register your intention to attend by sending your payment to Barbara Tabaka, Club Treasurer, PO Box 96, World Trade Centre, Melbourne 3005. Electronic Funds Transfer can be made to BSB 704230; A/C 100274738 or you can complete the Police Credit Transfer form. Make sure you let Barbara know you have paid by either of these methods. Payments must be made no later than Tuesday 30th of May.

		<h2>Transfer</h2>	
Date / /			
From		Account Name	
Account Number		Vic Pol Four Wheel Drive Club	
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To		Account Name	
Account Number			
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		<input type="text"/>	
Signature/s: _____			Teller
			<input type="text"/>

Upcoming Training Courses

MARCH			
Completed	Proficiency 4WD Training Course City and Bayswater North	Training	Club President
JULY			
Friday 14 Saturday 15	Proficiency 4WD Training Course City and Bayswater North	Training	Club President
Saturday 29	Winch Training Course Mt Disappointment	Training	Club President
AUGUST			
Friday 11 Saturday 12	Intermediate 4WD Training Course City and Mt Disappointment	Training	Club President
SEPTEMBER			
Friday 1 Saturday 2 Sunday 3	Chainsaw Training Course City and bush location to be de- cides	Training	Club President
Friday 15	Trip Leader Training Course City	Training	Club President
OCTOBER			
Friday 13 Saturday 14	Proficiency 4WD Training Course City and Bayswater North	Training	Club President
Saturday 28	Winch Training Course Mt Disappointment	Training	Club President
NOVEMBER			
Saturday 4 Saturday 18	First Aid Level 2 Training Course City	Training	Club President

SEE CLUB WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS OF COURSES AND VENUES

Proficiency 4WD Training Course

Certificate: 4WD Victoria Certificate. Cost: \$50.00 per member.

Intermediate 4WD Training Course

Certificate: Victoria Police 4WD Club Certificate. Cost: \$50.00 per member.

Advanced 4WD Training Course

Certificate: Victoria Police 4WD Club Certificate. Cost: \$50.00 per member.

Winch Training Course

Certificate: Victoria Police 4WD Club Certificate. Cost: \$20.00 per member.

Level 2 First Aid Training Course

Certificate: Accredited Level 2 First Aid Certificate. Cost: \$50.00 per member (Family welcome).

Trip Leader Training Course

Certificate: Victoria Police 4WD Club Certificate. Cost: \$20.00 per member.

Chainsaw Training Course

Certificate: Accredited Chainsaw Certificate. Cost: \$50.00 per member.

Know what the three wise men



Went up to



Look for?



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

DUE 1st July,2006

See CLUB WEB SITE for Payment Details



Club Calendar

For Full Notices & All Details, Please Visit:

www.victoriapolice4wdclub.org.au

Date	Details	Rating	Contact
19th–21st May	Communications Jamboree	Educational	See Website
26th–28th May	Otways Antics 2006	Easy to Hard	Debbie Kayler-Thomson debbiekt@swiftdsl.com.au mobile: 0409965347
30th May–8th June	Typo Station	Medium	Club President
3rd June	Club Annual Dinner	Serious Fun	Club President
7th June	Club Meeting—Guest Speaker	Serious Fun	Club President
25th June	Bass Coast Sip n Sup (Wine Tour)	Serious Fun	Justine Phelan jusphelan@hotmail.com
5th July	Club Meeting	Serious Fun	Club President
18th- 28th July	Typo Station	Medium	Club President
2nd August	Club Annual General Meeting	Serious Fun	Club President
18th August	Lets Go Camping Factory Tour	Fun	Ron Levett ronlevett@bigpond.com
6th September	Club Meeting	Serious Fun	Club President



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511 Whitehorse Road Mitcham 3132
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& also at:

94 Puckle Street Moonee Ponds 3039
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