



Victoria Police Four Wheel Drive Club Newsletter

December 2007

President's Report - October 2007

Hi Fellow Members,

Another year gone and the holidays here (well, for some of us anyway). On behalf of the committee I would like to wish all members and your family and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

I look forward to seeing you all at a club meeting or on a trip

See you soon

Wayne Morgan

President

Mobile 0417-054-108

Email webdmorg@exemail.com.au



Upcoming Events:

Club meeting. — 6th February

From the Editor

The last issue as 2007 draws to a close.

Hope everyone has a great Xmas and a safe New Year. Hopefully I will have lots of trips and activities to report on in 2008 and it would be great if all club members were involved.

Hope to see you all in 2008.

And as usual — send in those articles — **please!!**

Steve Aicher—Public Relations Officer

Email aicher@melbpc.org.au

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**Changing Address or other
Contact Details!!**

**Please advise Club Secretary
or President.**

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Club equipment (available for use on Club Trips)

First Aid Kit

Satellite Phone

UHF Hand Held Radios

Shower/Toilet Tents

Husqvarna Chainsaw and safety equipment

Recovery Kit

GSM Mobile Phone & sim card

Air Compressor

Air Jack

Contact Equipment Officer or President for further info.

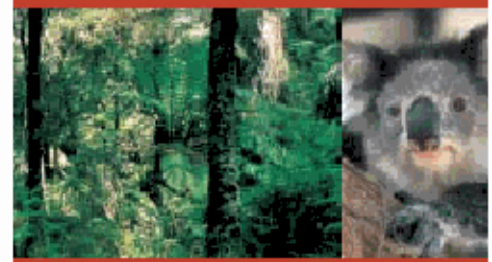


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Letter to the Editor.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Grampians Trip for allowing me to take my 5 year old grandson Caiden on his first 4WD and camping trip.

To Ron and Angela, Wayne, Chris, Marc and Marcus thank you all for ensuring Caiden had a memorable trip.

Everyone was very helpful, kind and accommodating and went out of their way to assist him.

Ron: thanks for teaching him how to catch Blue Tongue Lizards

Angela: thanks for looking after him in the Venus Baths Rock pools and for spotting wildlife

Wayne: thanks for teaching him all about kero stoves and how to maintain them.

Chris: thanks for explaining how a bush shower works.

Marc: thanks for teaching him some new words heard over the radio.

Marcus: thanks for kicking a footy with him.

Caiden is now pestering me about the next trip!

Thanks again.

Gary MAY



and



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Four Wheel Drive *RADIO SHOW*

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Trip Reports

GRAMPIANS TRIP

SATURDAY 17 November 2007

I met Chris, Gary and Gary's grandson; Caiden at Ron and Angela's Bacchus marsh home at 6.45 am. After putting Chris' gear into my car, we were off for a mostly camping and sightseeing long weekend at the Grampians. We met up with Marc and Marcus on the way to Stawell after we stopped for a break at Ararat.

After refuelling and paying for our camping permits at the Brambuk National Park and Cultural Centre, we set up camp at the Plantation Camping Ground, a few kilometres north of Halls Gap on the Mt Zero Rd. The camping ground is a very large area with new 'long drop' toilets, water and fireplaces. One thing it was lacking was showers, but we took the club's shower tent and were able to shower every evening, which was very refreshing after each hot day's activities. The other thing lacking was supplied firewood, but we collected a big supply in the afternoon, which was plenty for the rest of the trip.

After setting up camp and having lunch, we went to Mt William. The waling track was closed due to the fire damage from last summer's fires, so Ron, Gary, Caiden and myself headed off to the lookout



via the maintenance road. Half way along, Caiden got too tired so they turned back. The lookout gives great views of the farm lands to the east and of the Grampians.

When Ron and I got back to the car park, Marcus and Marc had already left having decided to go back to Halls Gap for a coffee. This would later prove to be a fateful decision.

After dinner, Marc and Marcus went to the Halls Gap Police Station for a shower. When they returned Marc said he was feeling sick and had thrown up a few times at the police station. It appears he had a dodgy ham croissant with his café latté. At about 8 pm, the food poisoning having got the better of him, Marc and Marcus decided to go home.

SUNDAY 18 November 2007

After a leisurely breakfast, we headed off to the northern end of the Grampians to Heatherlie Quarry, where sandstone was quarried to build the Victorian Parliament House, Melbourne Town Hall, the State Library and many others. Some stone is still occasionally removed from the area to repair historic buildings that were built with it. This removal is strictly monitored and regulated to ensure the area is not damaged.

We then went to Beehive Falls, which only had a trickle coming down. This was more than was coming over Til Winda Falls.

Reed Lookout gives a magnificent view of the central valley of the Gampians and of Lake Wartook.

That evening I cooked a lamb roast with roast vegetables in the camp oven with sliced peaches and custard for desert. This turned out to be the only night we had a campfire, as the weather was hot the campfire was only going long enough to cook dinner.



MONDAY 19 November 2007

We started the day with a bit of four wheel driving, nothing hard but as a 4WD club we felt it our duty to put the cars into low range as least once during the trip. After a couple of hours honing our off road skills along some of the '4WD Only' tracks on the north east side of the Grampians we headed off to the Venus Baths, a one kilometre walk from Halls Gap. The Baths is a nice area in the creek with a series of rock pools to swim or relax in. As it was a hot day we stayed there for more than an hour while Caiden enjoyed a swim with Ron and the rest of us relaxed and paddled our feet.



Reeds Lookout

This enjoyable time was followed up with ice cream in a home made waffle cone. The rest of the day was spent cooling down at camp. Caiden had been counting all the animals he had seen and was well into the twenties, having seen plenty of kangaroos, some emus and shingle back blue tongue lizards.

TUESDAY 20 November 2007

After breakfast, it was time to pack up camp, which was hurried up with a bit of rain that stopped as soon as we finished loading the cars. Gary and Caiden headed off to Ararat to visit some friends on their way home. Ron, Angela, Chris and I went to Boroka Lookout to admire the excellent views of the valley Halls Gap is situated in.

We then drove south down Glen River Rd through the central valley of the Grampians, most of which had been burnt out in last summer's fires but the area is green again with the gums in full recovery.

Along the road we saw a turtle, which is a bit unusual to see on the road but it shows even the smaller animals survived the fires. Caiden would have loved to have seen it.

This is a very scenic drive that leads to Dunkeld, where we turned towards Ballarat and home. The weekend was a very relaxing camping and sightseeing weekend.



Lake Bellfield



A few yarns from Smokey

It appears that not many of you are attending club trips or functions.

I don't know the reasons why, perhaps you could inform me, but I hope it's not owing to my absence over the last couple of years. If it is I apologize to you.

My initial reason for starting the club was 2 fold; firstly as an information swapping forum, and secondly, so as to have some responsible company when I went 4 wheel driving.

I'm sorry I haven't been doing much 4 wheel driving of late, my illness prevented it, but I'm back!

Next year (2008) I will be going on several 4 wheel drive trips, and I invite all of you to join me.

I'm happy to lead a day trip once a month, and with your knowledge I could increase the localities. I would very much like to go to the Wonnangatta Valley before winter, preferably as a 3 or 4 day trip. I would like to explore more of the High Country, also over 3 or 4 days. I would like to explore places in Victoria's northwest like The Little Desert etc over 3 or 4 days.

I will be taking my family to Woods Point, where we have access to a holiday house, during the winter for 'free' snow play. Those who have previously accompanied us have had a great time on these trips.

And finally, I'll do a trip of about 2 and a bit weeks during the June or September school holidays. I'm thinking maybe The Simpson Desert, maybe the Anne Beadell Highway, places like those, or pick a place and let me know. I'm happy to do the organizing and leading.

So, if there's somewhere you want to go, let's talk about it and do it together. I only have a couple of rules, be responsible and don't shatter the peace and quiet. If there's nothing to see I will drive 600km of highway in a day, but I usually take it much slower and look at everything. Also I'm not rich, so I plan my trips with a view toward making them as cheap as possible.

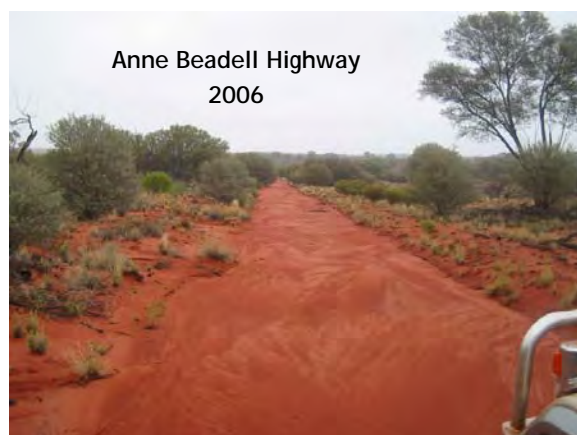
Now, I mentioned the Anne Beadell Highway. I already have family friends who will accompany me. Absolutely anyone with any knowledge or information about this place, I want to hear from. The tiniest detail even. Remember, this was my primary reason for starting the club.

As I'm now retired, I'm around home most of the time. Please drop me a line at:

dawson55@bigpond.net.au

Cheers

Smokey



You're invited...

7th Australian 4x4 Gathering



Where: Mitta Mitta, the doorstep of the High Country, North East Victoria
When: Easter Long Weekend (21st-24th March 2008)

Four Wheel Drive Victoria will host the 7th Australian 4x4 Gathering. This event is open to all four wheel drivers and their families. The weekend will include guided tours, demonstrations on all things four wheel driving, fishing, canoeing, live entertainment and much more. Most meals are provided (three breakfasts, three dinners). Plus a raffle with \$10,000 total prize pool and \$1,500 worth of give a ways! All proceeds go to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.. Cost is \$150 per person, \$75 per child under 12 years old, Children under 5 years old free but must be registered.

For more information or to book your site please visit www.national4wdgathering.org or phone the office on 03 9857 5209.



Proudly hosted by Four
Wheel Drive Victoria



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E-mail: office@fwdvictoria.org.au

Statue human face of war

SUNSHINE RSL unveiled a new statue at the cenotaph in Dickson St last Thursday.

Group vice-president Greg Steer said the small granite statue had been modelled on a guard, Gary May, from the Shrine of Remembrance in St Kilda Rd.

The figure stands at reverse arms with the rifle upside down, which is a soldier's traditional stance as a mark of respect during memorial services.

The original stone at the memorial was laid in 1954.

Mr Steer and wife Liz, who is vice-president of the cenotaph committee, are hoping the statue will help schoolchildren attending services connect with the human face of war.

Several schools attended the unveiling last week.

The statue was funded by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and funds raised by Sunshine RSL.



Guard Robert Meddings with Gary May, the model for the new statue. N20BM609



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Upcoming Training Courses

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Club Calendar

For Full Notices & All Details, Please Visit:

www.victoriapolice4wdclub.org.au

2008 Calendar

Date	Details	Rating	Trip Leader
FEBRUARY			
Wednesday 6/2/08	Club Meeting - South Melbourne	Serious Fun	Wayne Morgan Mobile 0417 054 108 Email President

Male or Female?

You might not have known this, but a lot of non-living objects are actually either male or female.

Here are some examples:

FREEZER BAGS: They are male, because they hold everything in, but you can see right through them.

PHOTOCOPIERS: These are female, because once turned off; it takes a while to warm them up again. They are an effective reproductive device if the right buttons are pushed, but can also wreak havoc if you push the wrong Buttons.

TYRES: Tyres are male, because they go bald easily and are often over inflated

HOT AIR BALLOONS: Also a male object, because to get them to go anywhere, you have to light a fire under their butt.

SPONGES: These are female, because they are soft, squeezable and retain water.

WEB PAGES: Female, because they're constantly being looked at and frequently getting hit on.

TRAINS: Definitely male, because they always use the same old lines for picking up people.

EGG TIMERS: Egg timers are female because, over time, all the weight shifts to the bottom.

HAMMERS: Male, because in the last 5000 years, they've hardly changed at all, and are occasionally handy to have around.

THE REMOTE CONTROL: Female. Ha! You probably thought it would be male, but consider this: It easily gives a man pleasure, he'd be lost without it, and while he doesn't always know which buttons to push, he just keeps trying



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



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