



Victoria Police Four Wheel Drive Club Newsletter



Upcoming Trips:

Club meeting. – 5th March—Guest Speaker

Otway's Trip –14th–16th March

President's Report - February 2008

Hi Fellow Members,

New Members

I would like to welcome Shane Murray, Michael Globen, Robert Vanderleest and John Collins to the club, I am sure you will enjoy being members of our club.



We also have to say good bye to Cameron Sanderson, Paul Kirkbride and Silvana Tridico who have left the club. Cameron has been a member from the club's beginning but he is resigning from Victoria Police and moving to the Northern Territory to join the NT Police, I know all club members will join me in wishing Cameron and his family all the best for the future.

Paul and Silvana have moved to Canberra where Paul has taken up a Chief Forensic Scientist position with the AFP, they are hoping to do some 4WDing in the Brindabella's and Kosciusko.

Training

The 2008 Training Calendar has been published and is also on our website. Notify me of any courses you want to do.

Club Trips

There are a couple of new trips on the calendar, which you can check out the details on the club website. More trips are needed, so how about putting up your own club trip.

See you soon

Wayne Morgan

President

Mobile 0417-054-108

Email webdmorg@exemail.com.au

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Changing Address or other

Contact Details!!

Please advise Club Secretary or President.

OUR COMMITTEE

President - Wayne Morgan

wayne.morgan@police.vic.gov.au W: 9247 6769 M: 0417 054 108

Vice President - Marcus Nash

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Secretary - Rob Garside

robert.garside@police.vic.gov.au

Treasurer - Barbara Tabaka

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Equipment Officer - Marc Drew

Activity Co-ordinator - Rod Kayler-Thomson

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Training Co-ordinator - vacant

Public Relations Officer - Steve Aicher

aicher@melbpc.org.au W: 9665 4348 M: 0411 082 434

Ordinary Committee Member - Gary May

themaze@aapt.net.au W: 9661 8106 M: 0415 400 101



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.



THE BUSH TELEGRAPH

*Report suspicious or destructive
behaviour which puts land, property
or people at risk. Privacy Protected*

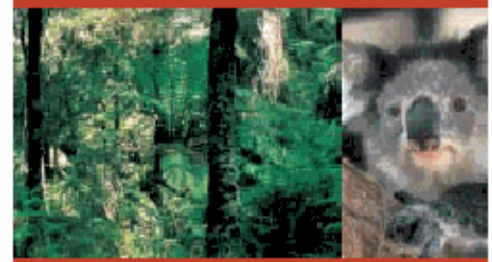
132874 24 hrs/7 days

Call the

BUSH TELEGRAPH

number on **13 2874**

to report suspicious activity





From the Editor

2008 is now well and truly under way and we now have our training calendar available. Again I recommend all members take advantage of these courses as they are great value and very useful courses. I especially should mention our First Aid Course. For \$50, as well as learning what to do in a medical emergency, you will receive a First Aid Certificate which would cost somewhere between \$200 and \$300 else where.

Also keep checking out our website for all dates and dates of up coming trips.

Don't forget—send me your photos articles, etc.

Steve Aicher—Public Relations Officer



Victoria Police 4WD Club Polo Shirt

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Contact Club Secretary to order.

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10 am—11 am every Saturday with Peter Dwyer

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Trip Reports

Wombat Forest Day Trip - 27th January

Probably our biggest club trip to date –with 10 vehicles taking part. It was quite impressive to see the vehicles lined up in the Darley Plaza Car Park, our starting point. It was also fantastic to see some of our newer members and some (at that stage) prospective members attend. Some had travelled quite a distance to take part as well (Frankston and Bendigo).

After a quick briefing by Trip Leader Wayne we headed off to the Wombat State Forest. It was a warm but pleasant day. Overall a relaxing drive along some interesting but not too difficult tracks. It was very dry and the only real hassle was probably the dust (although Wayne who spent the whole time at the front said he didn't find this a problem!).

We found a couple of mud holes which allowed Marcus and a couple of others to have a bit



of a play. We had to snatch Ron out of one hole after a valiant attempt to get through. I experienced a bit of a problem with my 4wd low range at one point (it wouldn't engage) and had trouble making one of the steeper climbs. Amazing the difference trying to make a step slippery climb in 2WD (I couldn't get to top and had to reverse to bottom) compared to 4WD.

We had a pleasant lunch at Firth Park before retracing our steps back to our starting point. Thanks to Wayne (assisted by Marcus) for organizing the trip. I hope we can see similar

support for other upcoming trips.

Steve Aicher

P.S. Thanks to Mike, Rob and Donna for the photos!!





Fellow Club members,

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 Hwy, 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



A few yarns from Smokey

Woods Point Wandering 3

Saturday 22nd to Monday 24th December 2007

This was my 6th trip to Woods Point, but only the 3rd time I've written about it for the Club Newsletter, even though this was not a Club trip. In fact it was a spur of the moment thing, that feeling of needing to get away from it all and find some peace and quiet in the bush. You'll find my previous 2 stories about Woods Point Wanderings, both Club trips I led, in the 2004 Newsletters. All around the town is the evidence of the December 2006 bush fires which came very close. Where the fires were so hot they have killed the Mountain Ash trees, they are being logged. I don't like logging as a rule, being a greenie and tree hugger, but since they won't grow back, they may as well be removed to allow for new trees to grow, which is exactly what's happening everywhere. The brilliant green new growth of tree ferns and eucalypts against the blackened trunks of surviving trees and scorched earth is magnificent.

Saturday was 'introductory four wheel driving and river crossings' for Satoshi, something else he would never get to do in Japan. Apart from privately owned areas, there is no where else the common people of Japan can do what we take for granted. Once again, only the rich can do it, as they are the only ones who can afford to purchase, run and garage four wheel drive vehicles. I am happy to announce that Satoshi tells me Toyota Landcruiser is the preferred vehicle. Yay!!

Sunday I escaped on my own all day. I did some tracks that I've never done before, so I'll tell you about them. Johnson Hill track starts at Gooleys Hut. It climbs and climbs, all rock, for about 5 kilometres, and with a turn or two, you arrive at Johnston (with a t) Hill where the views are 360 degrees, to the west is the valley in which the town sits. 37 35.361Sth 146 17.906East elev 1127mtrs is a nice spot to camp if you want to be the first person to see the sunrise. Head south then and you'll run into the Walhalla - Matlock Rd, turn right and go a couple of kilometers, and you'll see Noble Spur track signposted to the right. More fun, several kilometres of undulating and steep downhill which brings you back to near Comet Flat camp site. All rock and traction isn't a problem even in the wet.

Frenchman's Gap 37 32.021Sth 146 13.080East elev 1094mtrs to Mt Matlock 37 34.497Sth 146 11.426East elev 1332mtrs has been made a lot easier with logging tracks having been bulldozed in, but there's still fun to be had. Right next to my mates house, where we stay, is the start of a good adventure. Head up the hill, straight through the junk yard, and keep heading uphill. At some point it has been named Tinger Spur track and after about 7 kilometres brings you out on the Woods Point - Marysville Rd. All rock once again, and very steep in some places, good fun, and 'a walk in the park' for my trusty truck. 37 35.618Sth 146 13.664East elev 1018mtrs is a nice spot to camp.

Obviously I've been playing with my new Magellan GPS. At all times there were at least 6 satellites in view fixing my position in 3 dimensions to within 10 metres. I also hooked it up to my laptop computer running various map software and had a moving map on the 17" screen. I still took my paper map as well though. My other new toy is a Barrett HF radio, which also worked extremely well from both on top of Mt Matlock and down in a deep valley. At both places I had no difficulty conversing with the VKS-737 network operators in their Adelaide and St Marys Tasmania bases. Both would have made phone calls to anyone I chose at no cost to me. A great investment for isolated remote travelling. This was also the first time I'd had the opportunity to take my new Next Generation mobile phone into the High Country as well. I found it outperformed my previous CDMA mobile giving me usable coverage where Satoshi's digital had none (Frenchman's Gap for instance). The new handset cost me nothing but I am once more on a 2 year \$40 a month contract with Telstra, which I've always been on. My phone guy Bob even threw in a Bluetooth car kit and big external aerial for nothing.

On the way home, about 13km east of Marysville, we stopped to walk to The Big Tree, easy 600mtrs. The tree itself was a bit of a disappointment but not the walk itself, very beautiful almost rain forest with a lovely clear creek. Nearby are the walks to Cora Lyn Falls 550mtrs, and The Big Culvert, which would both be nice as well and worth the effort. The whole trip from my joint in Upper Ferntree Gully was 400km, 320 bitumen and gravel, 80 4wd. I estimate I used about 90ltrs of diesel. I always take 2 jerry cans with me, as the cost of Diesel in Woods Point this time was \$1.95ltr. Enough said.

Now for the funny experience for this story. I also took my Cattle Dog "Cassie", who is bigger than a Blue Healer but not quite as big as a German Sheppard, and not the least bit afraid of cattle. Saturday night I let her out for one last wee before bed time. She came bolting up the slope in front of the house with her tail tucked between her legs, being chased by the biggest Wombat I've ever seen. I swear it must've been a metre long and was very aggressive. I believe it lives under the house and has attacked other dogs. Sunday and Monday she wasn't very enthusiastic about going outside, especially in the dark. 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



Four Wheel Drive Victoria

PO Box 1015G
Balwyn North
VIC 3104

Phone: (03) 9857 5209

Fax: (03) 9857 5260

E-mail: office@fwdvictoria.org.au

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

Signs of the Times

Sign over a Gynaecologist's Office:

"Dr. Jones, at your cervix."

In a Podiatrist's office:

"Time wounds all heels."

On a Septic Tank Truck:

Yesterday's Meals on Wheels

On another Septic Tank Truck:

"We're #1 in the #2 business"

At a Proctologist's door:

"To expedite your visit please back in."

On a Plumber's truck:

"We repair what your husband fixed."

On another Plumber's truck:

"Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber.."

On a Church's Billboard:

"7 days without God makes one weak."

At a Tyre Shop :

"Invite us to your next blowout."

On a Plastic Surgeon's Office door:

"Hello. Can we pick your nose?"

At a Tow Truck company:

"We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want
tows."

On an Electrician's truck:

"Let us remove your shorts."

In a Non-smoking Area:

"If we see smoke, we will assume you are on
fire and take appropriate action."

On a Maternity Room door:

"Push. Push. Push."

At an Optometrist's Office :

"If you don't see what you're looking for, you've
come to the right place."

On a Taxidermist's window:

"We really know our stuff."

On a Fence:

"Salesmen welcome! Dog food is expensive!"

At a Car Dealership:

"The best way to get back on your feet - miss a
car payment."

At the Power Company:

"We would be delighted if you send in your pay-
ment. However, if you don't, you will be."



To Mr Wayne Morgan, President & Committee Members

I am seeking the help and assistance of The Victoria Police 4x4 Club.

I will be raising \$1M for The Cancer Council Australia to help fund further research and treatments for Australians with cancer. I'm doing this by bushwalking from Cape York to Wilsons Prom, leaving Cape York on 5th May 2008. We are currently steaming ahead with our planning and organisation with the number of sponsors growing every day. Our website www.thegreatcancerwalk.com.au will provide you with lots of information about what we're doing and how we're doing it.

A key aspect of the walk is the provision of a support vehicle and off road camper trailer for the length of the 6,000 km trek. Both of these have already been secured with the help of Tru Blu Campers here in Melbourne providing their top of the range model for the event. Our next step is even more important. We require driving teams for our Mobile HQ.

We need drivers, (couples, families, mates!) throughout Queensland, NSW and Victoria to drive our 4x4 and tow our new Tru Blu Camper Trailer. If fortunate enough to find people positioned to volunteer their services for a month at a time, we need 5-6 drivers in Queensland, 5 in NSW and 1-2 in Victoria. Of course, if people can only commit a couple of weeks at a time, that's more than fine! Logically, the longer time drivers can commit, the easier it is to organise. At present, one driving team has already volunteered to look after the first month from Cape York. But this does not preclude other vehicles if they would like to come along!

The route being followed consists of The Cape York Development road, followed by The Bicentennial National Trail from Mount Molloy to Canberra, then The Australian Alps Walking Track. Importantly, as The BNT is designed for non motorised transport, the support crew will be involved in regular contact with the walking party at designated points along its length, usually every 2-3 days, with Sundays as designated Rest Days.

Essentially, I am asking The Victoria Police 4x4 Club and other 4x4 clubs for assistance in spreading awareness of the walk to your associated clubs. I wish to ask these clubs if their members are, firstly, willing and secondly, have the capacity to take care of all or at least some of these sections? The walk would be a great opportunity for people with time at their disposal with a sense of adventure and perhaps their own reasons for wanting to make a contribution to The Cancer Council Australia.

By the way, our Tru Blu Camper Trailer and everything in it is provided for the comfort of the support crew, not me. I'm carrying my own tent!

The Walk has been designed as a community event and an opportunity for 4x4, Bushwalking and a variety of other clubs to work together for a great cause. May I once again invite you to take a few moments to check our website for more information www.thegreatcancerwalk.com.au

The Project Manager, Lisa Burnett 0425710558, or myself, are only too happy to discuss all aspects of the walk with you.

Yours Truly

Michael Mitchell

Bush Walker and Project Adviser

The Great Australian Cancer Bush Walk

People with cancer climb mountains everyday, Let's help make it easier for them.

PO Box 281, Balaclava, Melbourne, Vic 3183

Tel: +61 (0)3 9534 4437, M: 0429 199717

E: michael@thegreatcancerwalk.com.au

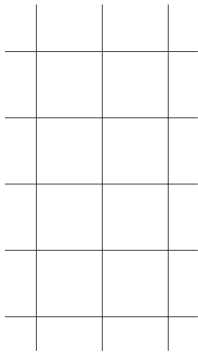
W: www.thegreatcancerwalk.com.au

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Upcoming Training Courses 2008

MARCH			
Saturday 1	Intermediate 4WD Course	Kinglake	\$25 (VP 4WD Certificate)
Sunday 16	Proficiency 4WD Training Course	Bayswater North	\$50 (Vic 4WD Certificate)
APRIL			
Friday 11	Trip Leader Training Course	City	\$20 (V.P. 4WD Certificate)
MAY			
Friday 9 Saturday 10	First Aid Level 2 Training Course	MFB Training College (family welcome)	\$50 (Accredited Certificate)
Saturday 31 Sunday 1	Chainsaw Training Course	Warburton	\$50 (Accredited Certificate)
JUNE			
Sunday 21	Winch Training Course	Kinglake	\$20 (V.P. 4WD Certificate)
JULY			
Sunday 19	Proficiency 4WD Training Course	Bayswater North	\$50 (Vic 4WD Certificate)
AUGUST			
Friday 22	Trip Leader Training Course	City	\$20 (V.P. 4WD Certificate)
NOVEMBER			
Friday 15	Proficiency 4WD Training Course	Bayswater North	\$50 (Vic 4WD Certificate)

SEE CLUB WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS OF COURSES AND VENUES



Club Calendar

For Full Notices & All Details, Please Visit:

www.victoriapolice4wdclub.org.au

2008 Calendar

Date	Details	Rating	Trip Leader
MARCH			
Wednesday 5/3/08	Club Meeting - South Melbourne - Guest Speaker- Rudi Paoletti - Navrun 4WD	Serious Fun	Wayne Morgan Mobile 0417 054 108 Email President
Friday 14/3/08 - Sunday 16/3/08	Otway Trip	Easy/Medium/Hard	Rod Kayler-Thomson Mobile 0409254257 rod@swiftdsl.com.au
Friday 21/3/08 - Monday 24/3/08	7th Australian 4x4 Gathering, Mitta Mitta	Fun	See Club Web Site
APRIL			
Wednesday 2/4/08	Club Meeting - South Melbourne	Serious Fun	Wayne Morgan Mobile 0417 054 108 Email President
MAY			
Wednesday 7/5/08	Club Meeting - South Melbourne - Guest Speaker - George Bitsikas from Invision	Serious Fun	Wayne Morgan Mobile 0417 054 108 Email President
Sunday 11/5/08 to Tuesday 17/6/08	Anne Beadell and Gunbarrel Hwy Trip	Medium	Smokey Dawson Mobile 0427055944 dawson55@bigpond.net.au

And Still More Signs of the Times....

Outside a Muffler Shop:

"No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

In a Veterinarian's waiting room:

"Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

At the Electric Company:

"We would be delighted if you send in your payment. However, if you don't, you will be."

In a Restaurant window :

"Don't stand there and be hungry, Come on in and get fed up."

In the front yard of a Funeral Home :

"Drive carefully. We'll wait."

At a Propane Filling Station ,

"Thank heaven for little grills."

And don't forget the sign at a Radiator Shop:

"Best place in town to take a leak."



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



5 George Street, Spotswood 3015 Phone: 1300 554 944
Order by phone and advise you are club member.

www.toughseal.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://telstrashopbusiness.com.au>



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