President's Report - March 2006

Hi Fellow Members,

The Commonwealth Games are now over and as all emergency service personnel breathe a sigh of relief that the years of planning proved to be worth it with everything seeming to run smoothly and no major incidents to disrupt the games. It is now time to relax after all the hard work and look to having more club activities.

Anzac Weekend sees a trip to the Otways and early May a trip to the Dargo High Plains. The 3rd of June is our Annual Dinner, but keep thinking about and planning trips as there is always room on the calendar for more.

Training Calendar

The club training calendar is up and running with the club’s first Proficiency Training Course having been conducted at the end of March, with Bronco Milic-Zumberski and Andrew Butcher both completing the course very competently.

I would like to thank Steve McWiggan, who only joined the club at the start of March and is a 4WD Victoria Club Instructor, he arranged for the practical driving day of the course to be done at the Metropolitan Traffic Education Centre in North Bayswater and also help run the course.

The Training Calendar is on the club website and I am taking bookings for all courses. At the moment there are a few participants for the next Proficiency Course and Winch Course in July, the Intermediate Course in August, the Chainsaw Course in September and the First Aid Course in November. The Chainsaw and First Aid Courses are both fully certificated courses.

If you haven’t done a recognised 4WD Proficiency Course, then you need to book in to do it. At a minimum, all club members are required to do a Proficiency Course. The club course at $50 will be the cheapest you will find anywhere. The 4WD Victoria course is over $100.

That’s all for now.

Wayne Morgan
President
Mobile 0417-054-108 Email webdmorg@exemail.com.au
OUR COMMITTEE

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Treasurer - Barbara Tabaka
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Equipment Officer - Marc Drew

Activity Co-ordinator - Ron Levett
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Training Co-ordinator - Vacant

Public Relations Officer - Steve Aicher
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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.

THE BUSH TELEGRAPH

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

132874  24 hrs/7 days
From the Editor

Well our training program is off and running with lots more to come and we have few trips on the calendar. Seems the club is moving ahead in leaps and bounds—but all of these activities need your support.

In this issue we have a report from Rob Garside, who with wife Wendy, attended a working bee organised by 4WD Victoria personnel in the Halls Gap bushfire area. I would like to thank Rob for his prompt and comprehensive report and photos. I remind members that if you attend such events—let us all know!!

New seatbelt design: 45% less car accidents!!

A reminder to keep an eye on our website. It is now being constantly updated and provides quite comprehensive information about the club. The calendar now includes all events, trips etc except for training which has its own calendar. All copies of this newsletter are available to download.

Remember I still need your articles, reports, advertisements etc. This is your magazine. Hope to hear from you.

Steve Aicher—Public Relations Officer

and

Present the

Four Wheel Drive RADIO SHOW

10 am—11 am every Saturday with Peter Dwyer

ESSENTIAL LISTENING FOR ANYONE WITH A 4X4
Bushfire assistance to the Grampians Region.

With thousands of hectares of pastoral land and bush destroyed, the farmers around the Grampians area were now faced with hundreds of kilometers of fencing in a state of disrepair after the massive fire swept through the area. The stock that survived the fires were now roaming one large unfenced paddock. 4WD Victoria Executive Secretary, Brian COX took up the challenge and organized a combined 4WD Working Bee to help farmers remove the burnt, bent and twisted fences and replace them with new ones.

The Working Bee was held on the 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th of March, 2006 around the community of Pomonal which is 15 minutes out of Stawell. Accommodation for all volunteers was ‘donated’ by the owners of the Lake Fyan’s Holiday Park. The camping area at the southern end of the Park was to be home for approximately 24 volunteers for the 4 day duration.

Contact was made with Bernie RUDOLPH, Works Co-ordinator, Project Platypus, Upper Wimmera Landcare who was to be our ‘supervisor’ for the special effort. After an early morning briefing on the Saturday at the Park, the 4WD convoy set off armed with shovels, wire cutters, chainsaws, work gloves and a lot of enthusiasm. Split into 4 work teams of 6 members each team was allocated a farm to work at. Once boundary fences had been cleared we moved to the next farm.

Baron land, burnt trees and twisted fences stretched as far as the eye could see. Whilst the task appeared daunting it was surprising how eager everyone was to work, and work and work. One of the work teams had the luxury of a tractor to pull the damaged ‘star pickets’ from the concrete like soil. Our team was really lucky and had a hand operated manual picket remover!! After removing hundreds of pickets, one can only be thankful for leather gloves! The pace was hectic and only slowed when fallen trees blocked our path and had to be chain sawed and removed. The friendships between all 4WD members quickly flourished and made the work more enjoyable. Not one whinge or moan was heard about the heat, the dust or the physical effort needed, as we made progress toward the burnt and charred strainer post at each fences end. Everyone shared responsibilities and had turns at wire cutting, wire rolling, star picket and strainer post removal. There was certainly no ‘I’ in ‘team’ at this working bee!!

On Sunday we were working on a baron prairie in 40 degree heat when we noticed smoke in the distance. It was a day of Total Fire Ban and the northerly wind was gusting at unpleasant strengths. The owner of the farm we were working on quickly downed tools and headed back to his shed and coupled the fire tank onto his car. You could sense the urgency as the dust from other cars billowed out as they raced across the paddocks towards the Fire Station.

A short time later Bernie our Co-ordinator returned and said that the wind gusts had blown over a tree on a farm. That tree, unbeknownst to any one, had been smoldering since the fires had been extinguished some six weeks prior to our arrival!! No signs of smoke or cinders had been evident to any person; the tree just stood like a dormant chimney and the force of the wind blew the tree over and exposed the burnt tunnel inside thereby igniting the sleeping embers. Expect the unexpected!

The evenings at Camp each night were no different to any other gathering - “Your roast looks better than my baked beans.” “Can you take some food out of the fridge to fit some more beer in.” “Who wants another red?” “Where’s the Aerogard?” and of course there were the ‘war stories’ of who had been in the largest mud hole, winched the furtherest and done more things than the Leyland Brothers!!.

Sunday proved to be the same as Saturday. More fences, more barbed wire, more pickets, more fun! Monday was optional to go out and continue working. A few volunteers had a long way to travel and left early in the morning. Fencing continued until about lunchtime when a ‘down tools’ call was made. In excess of 25 kilometres of fencing had been removed by the work teams and about 5 kilometres had been replaced. Doesn’t sound a lot? Then go for a walk with a shovel over one shoulder, a picket puller over the other, work boots, and heat and dust blowing in your face.

The de-brief was the finale’. Humble farmers could not thank you enough. Bernie was rapt with the effort and Brian was happy with the 4WD response. We left the park, leaving only footprints!!

We left Pomonal leaving smiles on a lot of people’s faces. Just for the statistic buffs, 3 Land Rovers, 4 Patrols, 2 Land Cruisers and 1 Hi-Lux, no vehicle damage, lots of blisters and one really good puncture to the Patrol of Brian COX of 4WD Victoria (and yes I assisted him and gave him my Police 4WD ‘calling card’ which was duly snapped up by Bernie RUDOLPH who was very impressed by the card!).

Robert and Wendy GARSIDE
Bushfire assistance to the Grampians Region

...and Wendy rolled and rolled...

Rolling up kilometres of burnt wire.

Inch by inch hundreds of post were removed

Brian Cox (4WD Victoria) and Robert survey the scene

The convoy awaits further directions!!

All the President's Men
True Tracking—Driving a 4WD on the Road

The world is getting fitter. Computers, cars and people. We expect technology to bring us results more quickly. No wonder many of us want to drive faster, but when driving a 4X4 you can't expect the same improvements in traction and speed that cars have had.

You may not be used to the dynamics of a four-wheel drive, which are very different to cars. First-timers in medium and large 4X4s say how imposing they are – they feel big and tall. These vehicles tend to carry more weight; their grip and performance is usually not as good as most cars. Because cars now generally tend to provide such high levels of traction, driving a 4X4 with lower limits doesn’t give you false confidence as a car might.

Before starting, you should do some basic safety and mechanical checks. You can start with regularly checking that your tyres have correct pressures in them (see the tyre placard on the vehicle for manufacturer recommendations) and that underbonnet fluid levels are correct. Check that your rear vision mirrors are adjusted. Pay attention when manoeuvring your 4X4 – be aware of the vehicle’s blind spots.

In city traffic, try to allow more braking distance than you would in a car, anticipating when the traffic stops. While a 4X4’s high seating position helps you to see over traffic, it won’t help the car driver behind you. Try not to brake sharply and see if you can track slightly to the left to allow the car behind to see around your vehicle. Allow a three-second gap behind the car travelling in front of you. The easiest way to do this is note as the car in front passes a landmark and try to pass the landmark three seconds after. In the wet, increase the gap. The same applies for accelerating for gaps in the traffic: some 4X4s, especially diesels, do not have the pick-up of the average sedan. In wet conditions, even though constant 4X4s can accelerate more quickly than 2WD cars, all except the high-performance 4X4s do not have the tyre grip of cars for cornering or braking.

When on a freeway, keep checking mirrors and keep to a three-second gap. Anticipate overtaking moves, as your 4X4 is more likely than a car to be fighting its kerb weight and its bluff aerodynamics to accelerate.

Try to allow more braking distance in a 4X4 than you would in a car

When the freeway turns to secondary roads, the same rules apply; only some extra precautions are needed. Don’t expect the cornering grip achievable by cars and, while constant 4X4 is a safety benefit in the wet, both constant and part-time 4X4s require prudent use of throttle in tight, wet corners. If you wander off the road into gravel, try not to correct steering suddenly; a gentle steering correction and a slight reduction of throttle should see you back on track.

Gravel roads need special attention. Keep speed down on gravel; you don’t need to go more than 80km/h – it gives you a better chance if you need to avoid a ‘roo or stock on the road. If you haven’t done much gravel road driving, it can seem daunting at first: your vehicle will move around much more than you’re used to, but with practice gravel roads can be fun to drive on. Pay particular attention to surface changes; especially potholes, gravel bums and corrugations. You may have to slow down for potholes, so you can safely swerve to miss the worst of them and not damage your vehicle. A good 4X4 touring wagon will soak-up bumps much better than a car but don’t become too comfortable with that – you can still damage a four-wheel drive going too hard at a big bump or pothole.

Armed with these basics and a cautious approach you’ll soon find that driving a 4X4 can be safe and lots of fun.

Reprinted from 4x4 Australia—Off Road Driving Guide
Annual Dinner and Club Presentations

Saturday 3rd of June 2006.
Commencing 7:00pm.
at
Maxy’s
306 Glenhuntly Road, Elsternwick.

$45.00 per person
4 course meal, unlimited soft drinks and corkage fee
BYO Wine only
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.
Action from Club Training Course No 1
### Upcoming Training Courses

**MARCH**

**Completed**
- **Proficiency 4WD Training Course**
  - City and Bayswater North
  - Club President

**JULY**

- **Friday 14**
  - **Proficiency 4WD Training Course**
    - City and Bayswater North
    - Club President
- **Saturday 15**
  - **Winch Training Course**
    - Mt Disappointment
    - Club President

**AUGUST**

- **Friday 11**
  - **Intermediate 4WD Training Course**
    - City and Mt Disappointment
    - Club President

**SEPTEMBER**

- **Friday 1**
  - **Chainsaw Training Course**
    - City and bush location to be decided
    - Club President
- **Friday 15**
  - **Trip Leader Training Course**
    - City
    - Club President

**OCTOBER**

- **Friday 13**
  - **Proficiency 4WD Training Course**
    - City and Bayswater North
    - Club President
- **Saturday 28**
  - **Winch Training Course**
    - Mt Disappointment
    - Club President

**NOVEMBER**

- **Saturday 4**
  - **First Aid Level 2 Training Course**
    - City
    - Club President

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**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.
### Club Calendar

For Full Notices & All Details, Please Visit: 
[www.victoriapolice4wdclub.org.au](http://www.victoriapolice4wdclub.org.au)

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<td>29th &amp; 30th April</td>
<td>Tallarook 4x4 Roundup</td>
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<td>Dargo High Plains Trip</td>
<td>Medium to Hard</td>
<td>Ron Levett</td>
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<td>3rd May</td>
<td>Club Meeting—Guest Speaker</td>
<td>Serious Fun</td>
<td>Club President</td>
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<td>19th—21st May</td>
<td>Communications Jamboree</td>
<td>Educational</td>
<td>See Website</td>
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<td>26th—28th May</td>
<td>Otways Antics 2006</td>
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<td>2nd August</td>
<td>Club Annual General Meeting</td>
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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

All Terrain 4x4

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

www.allterrain4x4.com.au

Telstra Shop business centre

511 Whitehorse Road Mitcham 3132
Mobile: 1300 72 4 784

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

http://telstrashopbusiness.com.au

Numerous locations throughout Australia
Produce Club Membership Card

www.arb.com.au
Our Sponsors

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

BELL’S HOTEL
Corner Moray & Coventry Streets
South Melbourne
9690 4511

The most succulent spit roast you’ll ever taste on the road... well, in the bush!

Auspit—Special Price for Club Members