

DRIVELINE

JUNE 2020



Geelong



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AT A GLANCE

JUNE

5-8
MOONAMBEL WEEKEND
Moonambel, VIC
CANCELLED

5-8
WYPERFELD / BIG DESERT
Big Desert, VIC
CANCELLED

10
GENERAL MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm
POSTPONED

24
COMMITTEE MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

JULY

8
GENERAL MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

22
COMMITTEE MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

24—26
MT SKENE SNOW TRIP 1
Jamieson, VIC

31—2 AUGUST
MT SKENE SNOW TRIP 2
Jamieson, VIC

AUGUST

12
GENERAL MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

26
COMMITTEE MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS are held at the clubrooms on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm.

Abe Wood Reserve, Edgerton Rd, Lovely Banks

Visitors and new members welcome.

During daylight savings a BBQ precedes the meeting at 6.30 pm.

For more information email: info@geelong4wdclub.org.au

Postal Address: Geelong Four Wheel Drive Club
PO Box 976
Geelong Vic 3220

If you have any trips or events you want to include please send an email to the Trip Co-Ordinator two weeks before the next General Meeting.

If you have any trip reports (past or present) please send them through to the Editor for inclusion in the magazine.

For further info about upcoming Club Trips check the website: www.geelong4wdclub.org.au

The opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Geelong Four Wheel Drive Club and/or the Editor and any article tendered for publication will be at the discretion of the Committee.



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THE PRES SAYS

G'day to all,

With recent Victorian Government announcements to take effect from 01/06/20 and possibly more after 21/06/20, we are tantalizingly close to a return to the tracks. We have just heard (on Thursday 28th May) that campgrounds with communal toilets will be open from the 1st June so it will be possible to run trips of up to 20 people. Naturally, this still requires appropriate personal distancing and personal hygiene.

Unfortunately, notice for this has been relatively late to organize trips for the Queen's Birthday long weekend and I am aware that some people (including myself) have made other arrangements due to the uncertainty. However if anyone is keen to lead a trip it is still possible. Dave Hamann would be happy to provide assistance if required.

Alternatively it is now possible to plan for trips with a longer lead time in a more normal manner. This includes both day trips and those with overnight camping. The status at present is:

- Enquiries regarding Moonambel over the Queen's Birthday weekend indicate that camping at the oval may be closed, however this could change in view of the new announcement.
- Snow trips are still under review.
- Committee meetings will continue by zoom.
- There will be no face to face General Meeting in June, but the committee is exploring the possibility of a virtual meeting by Zoom in June or July.
- No update on fees at this stage. We are waiting for additional advice from Four Wheel Drive Victoria at this stage.

It is great to review the trip to Googs Track from Easter of 2009 (page 11). I have heard this was an enjoyable trip, led by Dave Purdie. It is interesting to look back and see how the faces have changed in just over 10 years. This may provide just the spur we need to arrange a longer trip into South Australia once the borders have lifted. How about either a repeat Googs adventure or an exploration of the Flinders Ranges and Arkaroola, to name a couple of possibilities?

Hope to see you all sooner rather than later.

Geoff Davey (Vice President)

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

No General Meeting was held in May 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

We are hoping to hold General Meetings again as soon as practicable.

The committee is exploring the possibility of a virtual meeting by Zoom in June or July.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Dear Members,

The coronavirus restrictions have had a profound impact of many facets of life, which includes camping and four wheel driving and therefore the functioning of the Geelong Four Wheel Drive Club.

Four Wheel Drive Victoria has contacted the Club with "Preliminary Advice - FWDV Membership Renewal 2020-2021". FWDV has deferred the requirement to pay their affiliation fees and insurance until the 30th of November 2020. The affiliation fee for the remainder of the year has been reduced to \$20 (previously \$39). The insurance component has also been deferred and the cost is to be advised.

Membership renewals for the Geelong 4WD Club were issued on the 1st of April with a due date of 31st May.

In view of the advice from FWDV, the committee has deferred the requirement to pay membership until further notice.

A reduced membership invoice will be sent at a later date, when the situation is clearer.

For those who have already paid their membership, the club will refund this on request. Please contact me if you require this. For those who have already paid, but do not currently require a refund, next year's membership will be reduced to reflect any reduction in this year's fees.

If any members are suffering financial stress and are unable to pay their fees, please contact Byron Willey, Geoff Davey or myself. Any such approach will be treated confidentially.

We will provide further updates as the situation becomes clearer.

Sincerely,
Juanita Mountjoy

Treasurer, Geelong 4wd Club
treasurer@geelong4wdclub.org.au



UPCOMING TRIPS

WYPERFELD / BIG DESERT

Friday 5th to Monday 8th June 2020

Trip Leader: Geoff Davey | **Tail End Charlie:** TBA

Trip Classification: Easy | **Vehicle Limit:** 10 (max 20 people)

Departing: Clubrooms @ 9:00am

Essentials: Standard recovery gear, good all terrain tyres. Working winch, sand flag and recovery boards. If you have the

Notes: A great easy trip to get some experience in sand and desert driving. Close to home but still feels like you are in the middle of the outback. Join us for a fun adventure and a great social time away.

Contact Geoff—0499 905 975



MOONAMBEL MUSTER 2020

Friday 5th to Monday 8th June 2020

Trip Leader: Various | **Tail End Charlie:** Various

Trip Classification: Various | **Vehicle Limit:** N/A

Departing: Moonambel Reserve—Queens Birthday Weekend

Essentials: Standard recovery gear, rated recovery boards.

Notes: We will be running all types of 4wd trips from easy to hard from Friday night through to Sunday. Camping is on site at the Moonambel Reserve which has toilet and shower facilities and if the weather turns for the worse, we will have full access to the hall for shelter. The camp sites have very easy access for all types of camping so no problems with vans campers etc. A limited number of powered sites with some restrictions on power consumption are available so first in best dressed, otherwise there are unlimited non-powered sites available.



If you would like to go on a trip that hasn't been listed, simply contact the Trip Coordinator with details on where you would like to go, what you would like to do, and if any other people you know are interested in going.

If there is enough interest in the trip then it will go ahead. Running a trip is easy to do, and lots of fun.



UPCOMING TRIPS

MOUNT SKENE SNOW TRIP 1

Friday 24th to Sunday 26th July 2020

Trip Leader: Tim Neville | **Tail End Charlie:** TBA

Trip Classification: Medium / Hard | **Vehicle Limit:** 10 (max 20 people)

Departing: BP Service Centre Little River @ 9:00am

Essentials: Standard recovery gear, rated recovery points, good all-terrain tyres.

Working winch, snow chains and recovery boards if you have them.

Notes: Base camping Jamieson caravan park. Please note it is a first in best dressed to get on the trip. Once the trip is full I will take a waiting list. There is a possibility of more people being able to come however they will not be able to take their car over Mount Skene on the Saturday, I'm only getting one permit this year not two like last year. They will have to jump in a car with one of the 10 cars listed with the permit. More details will follow.

Contact Tim—0478 065 716



MOUNT SKENE SNOW TRIP 2

Friday 31st July to Sunday 2nd August 2020

Trip Leader: Matthew & Juanita Mountjoy | **Tail End Charlie:** TBA

Trip Classification: Easy / Medium | **Vehicle Limit:** 10 (max 20 people)

Departing: Clubrooms @ 9:00am

Essentials: Standard recovery gear, rated recovery points, good all-terrain tyres.

Working winch and recovery boards if you have them.

Notes: Base camping Jamieson caravan park. All cabins have been booked, as well as a few powered sites. Please contact Matthew or Juanita as soon as possible if you are attending so we can arrange the correct permits. The trip is classified as medium, to make it a bit more family friendly. First in best dressed.

Contact Juanita—0467 809 040



Make sure you keep an eye on the website and our Facebook page for more information on upcoming trips and social events.

NOW THAT'S FUNNY!



FUNNY CAPTION CONTEST

WIN a club voucher for use at the bar simply by coming up with the funniest caption for the photo above.

Email your entry to editor@geelong4wdclub.org.au to be in the running.

Well they said we had to stay 1.5 meters apart , so we are.



Last Month's Winning Entry



May Funny Caption Winner—Stephen Fagan

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Geelong Tyrepower
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North Geelong
Ph 52779922

Lewis Tyrepower
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LOOKING BACK TO LOOKING FORWARD

GOOGS TRACK—EASTER 2009

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED MAY 2009

WORDS: LAUREENA PURDIE | PHOTOS: LAUREENA PURDIE / DEB KAYLER-THOMSON

After being isolated for weeks on end it truly awakens the desire to get behind the wheel and take off to where the weather is warmer and the body can move once again. I'm dreaming of the moment I can set up that tent, throw in a rod and snap a cap, before I head back to the crackle of the campfire and wait for the stars. Looking back on old trip reports certainly brings back the fun times had and sense of adventure shared with mates. It won't be long now my four wheeling friends ... start your trip planning for the moment we can take off!

Eventually there will be 12 vehicles in the convoy, but the trip begins with individual groups leaving at different times and days. We will all meet up as one at the Waganny camp site in the South Australian Gawler Ranges.

Thursday 9th April

The trip across was uneventful but also

relaxing with the aid of a funny and entertaining audio book. The enormous police presence was a welcome site on the busy Easter Roads.

First night saw the majority of our convoy at Burra Gorge tucked away in our tents under the full Easter full moon with hardly a breath of wind.

Friday 10th April

The usual quick breakfast and pack up and on the road by 8.30am, headed for our next collection of convoy participants at Port Augusta. We lunched here at the park whilst the kids played on the equipment and rolled about in the green grass. No more grass to be had after this stop. Desert country here we come.



We arrived in the Gawler Ranges at 3 o'clockish and visited some of the tourist sites.

Mt Wuddina – After sitting in the car for the last two days we needed to stretch the muscles. We took a strenuous walk to the trig point and caught the magnificent views of the Gawler ranges and surrounding farming areas.

Polda Dam – Slow amble to the top of this smooth granite monolith that provides the water for the dam with its run off.

Last track of the day before headed for Waganny camp in the Gawler Ranges. OOPS!!! Those famous last words. What should have taken 20 minutes by main road was extended to 2 hours with the 'short cut' along Sturts Track which leads around the salt lake. The track required a detour or two, as well as the use of a snatch strap or two. Mind you it was 9pm by this stage and our day trip had become a night run with camper trailers in tow and very hungry children on board. Well it is an adventure after all.

All said and done though, it was indeed a beautiful sight on this track. Just before sunset we got to see the magnificent full Easter moon sitting proudly over the water filled salt lake.

We pulled into Waganny camp at 9.30pm and a few kids hit the sack without tea. Our convoy is all together now – 12 vehicles in all. A quick beer

around the fire and hit the sack.

Saturday 11th April

We get to sleep in today followed by a relaxing breakfast. This warm sunny day will be spent exploring the Gawler Ranges. For the trip leader it was a picturesque sight. For those following it was a thick red dust fog.

The Gawler Ranges National Park reveals an extensive range of native flora and fauna. It includes over 400 species of native plants and 126 bird species. 21 rare or endangered animals and plants have been recorded within the Park. Unique geological formations, salt lakes and historically significant sites are impressive.

We visit Kolay Mirica Falls, Old Paney Homestead, Organ Pipes, Pildappa Rock and Tcharkuldu Hill.

Travelling on dusk in remote areas of Australia is a risky business. There are literally hundreds of roos bounding about with evil glints in their eyes watching Rick with his 'L' Plates and testing his reactions. 'Skippy' joyfully bounded across the path of Ricks vehicle, smiled at him with his evil intent and head dived under the right hand side of the bull bar. Rick slammed on the brakes and skilfully manoeuvred the vehicle down the dirt track in a sideways motion. The car came to a stop in a cloud of red dust. In Rick's right hand vision he could see the tumbling head/tail rotation of the daredevil roo. Rick

jumped out to initiate first aid to the fallen creature, his heart in his mouth. With very little vision in the cloud of dust, Rick ran about in search of his attacker. Once the cloud settled, the kamikaze actor was nowhere to be seen.

Meanwhile, back at camp, one lonely camper was lapping up the sun whilst sitting in a deck chair in his jocks and listening to a Clive Cussler audio tape. Since he had all this privacy, it seemed like an appropriate time to have a sponge bath. Standing in his bucket of warm suds, soap in one hand and sponge in the other he proceeded to lather his naked body in the warmth of the sun. Was that a car he could hear? OMG, the ranger! With a splash and a dive, he ran for the cover of his T-Van and slammed the door behind him and pulled on his jocks. The jolly ranger greeted him with a smile at the door of the T-van whilst the lonely camper obliged him in small talk whilst the suds dried and formed a crusty film on his half naked body. Its not everyday you get to experience a situation like this.

Tonight's fire was roaring. Fabulous warm chatter before a great nights sleep.

Sunday 12th April

The Easter Bunny arrives. The screams of enjoyment "mum, mum, mum, mum, ... dad, dad, dad, dad. Look, Look, Look. Adults wake with smiles on their faces to witness the enjoyment of finding eggs on





their car windscreens and kids searching for melted and elusive chocolate eggs.

A Lazy pack up before paying for camp fees at 'self registration station' - \$18.00 each vehicle total. Back on the black top headed for two nights at Ceduna Foreshore Caravan Park.

Lunch at Wirrulla playground. Set up at Ceduna Caravan Park early in the day. Kids head for the pier to go fishing and crabbing whilst adults head for the showers and laundry. No one has to cook tonight as we are all booked into the pub for a hearty feed – booking for 34 people over 3 tables. No fires in the park so an early night for all

Monday 13th April

A day of individual rest and relaxation. Fishing, sight seeing, laundry, kite flying, supermarket shop, camping permits paid for Googs. Pre-dinner nibbles at camp of fish and crabs - courtesy of the kids fishing catch. Dinner at pub for some. Early night.

Tuesday 14th April

Thunder, lightning and rain were our 4.30 wake up call.

“Wake up honey, its 6.00” says the wife Hubby gets up, dresses and heads for the loo. Upon arriving back to camp he notices the Mr & Mrs neighbours are up and dressed also. They obviously heard him rousing and used him as their alarm clock. He checks his watch. What? 4.30am. His Mrs hasn't allowed for daylight savings and the 30 minute difference for S.A.! Great start for the day.

Damp canvas to pack up today before leaving the park at 7.30am headed for Googs Track. Ten minutes later we're there. Tyre down and all set. The track proved a little challenging for a couple of vehicles with campers. A couple of second attempts were required up a few hills as well as a snatch strap recovery.

Our first night on Googs Track was spent at Red Rocks – an area close to Jellabinna Rocks. We pulled into camp at 3.30pm with a quick set up, before heading out to Jellabinna Rocks for pre-dinner nibbles to watch the sun go down. Besides a flat tyre which was repaired with formula 1 style and speed, our twisty / turny hour and a half drive to the rocks was threatened by the

lowering sun and the chance we would miss the reason for being there. We made it just in time. Beautiful red sunset. Some hilarious rally driving back to camp was had by some.

Wednesday 15th April

One unhappy camper awoke with a headache this morning. He must have enjoyed too much happy chatter around the camp fire last night!

Two vehicles head out to Lucky Strike Rocks for a quick sight see whilst the rest of camp pack up ready to move out today. Our next stop is Googs Lake.

Googs completed the track to the lakes in 1974. The main lake is about 15km in length and more than one kilometre wide. All the lakes in the area are salt lakes and the water evaporates quickly.

Today's adventures included another flat tyre, a snake sighting and a birthday. Once we pulled into camp the birthday girl was presented with the traditional birthday song and a stack of pancakes with sparklers attached. – nobody had a cake mix?! Happy Birthday Sue. It was also discovered that Norm kept his

birthday secret from us all. Happy Birthday for the 9th April, Normy.

The kids headed out to the centre of the lake and danced, dug and played whilst the sun set and the adults cooked and warmed up the fire. After dinner the kids treated us to a dance concert to music. Tonight proved to be a truly wonderful social night around a blazing fire with music playing in the background and not a breath of wind. Quite a memorable night!

Thursday 16th April

As the story was told, one camp member had trouble finding his way into his tent last night. In the middle of the night he also had trouble leaving the tent when he tried to get out through the window for a relief call. It must have been a great night.

Set off for our next camp site at Mt. Finke. Another flat tyre today. That makes the lucky three.

Camping at the base of Mt. Finke. John McDouall Stuart named Mt Finke in August 1858, writing in his diary that *"nothing meets the eye save a dense scrub as black and dismal as midnight A fearful country"*.

Another wonderful night by the fire with yet another dance concert performed. The boys were involved in this concert too. Quite entertaining.

Friday 17th April

A gruelling walk to the top of Mt Finke

through Spinifex, over loose rock and steep obstacles. Well worth the effort. The 360° views of this barren land were awe inspiring. The walk down proved to be almost as difficult.

Our camp was packed and a quick drive around the rocky area below the Mt. was next. A comedy capers of interlocking tracks, u-turns, pushing in, cutting up, and quick wit. A recovery or two was needed before setting off for a group photo shoot on the salt lake.

The last 15km of Googs track also required a few recoveries.

Arrived on dusk at Woomera Caravan Park for much needed showers.

Saturday 18th April

We all said our goodbyes before heading off in our little groups and headed for home on the black top.

Epilogue

Each day was a laugh. Each moment was a new experience. Each person brought a new idea. Each night was awesome relaxation.

One of the greatest pleasures is meeting the eyes of a mate over the top of two foaming glasses of beer.

"Maaaate!" is a greeting sometimes used between mates who are pleased to see one another.

Even if you think you don't have the time for it, spending time with mates helps

you manage your busy and isolating life.

Humans need rests, relaxation, and recreation. We need time to think about things, to clear the mind, and to have fun. What better way to do that than to get together with a few mates, leave the rat race behind and hit the tracks.

Think about it.

Hope to see you on the next trip, Laureena Purdie

Trip Participants

Laureena, David & Rick Purdie – with friend Ethan

Peter Aspley

Peter Barrett

Graham & Georgie Daw (prospective members)

Deb & Rod Kayler-Thomson

Sue, Peter, Charlie & Tom Nouwen

Graham, Bev, Mikaela, Kiara & Jaidyn Purdie (SA family)

Rik, Sonya, Jack & Cassidy Perkins (SA friends)

Aida & Norm Spitty

Helga & Bill Taft

Kerry, Gary & Cooper Welsh

Tracy, Paul, Eilish & Sarah Wielens



GOOGS TRACK - SOUTH AUSTRALIA

A BRIEF HISTORY

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED MAY 2009

WORDS: LAUREENA PURDIE PHOTOS: LAUREENA PURDIE / DEB KAYLER-THOMSON

Googs Track runs South to North from just outside Ceduna in South Australia to Malbooma where it meets the Trans Australian Railway line and dog fence. The track is 154 km in length with over 300 sand dunes up to 25 metres in height.

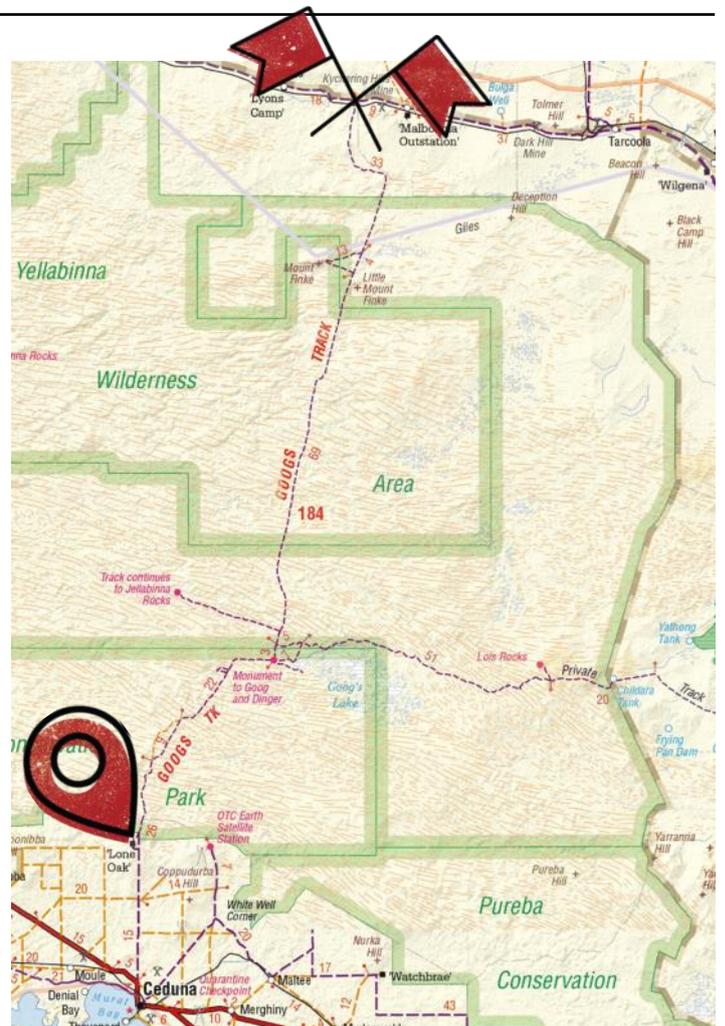
Googs track was originally known as Googs Road when it was built by John Denton (nicknamed Goog) in 1973. Googs aim was to open a road from Ceduna to meet the railway line at Tarcoola so there would be better access for the sales of local produce.

John and his family (wife Jenny and three children Martin, Debbie & Jeffrey) began the track building with a Fordson tractor fitted with a front end loader blade and a Toyota two wheel drive ute. It was hard dirty work – Goog drove the tractor, Jenny brought up the fuel and the children threw the

loose sticks and stumps off the road. As work got tougher a bulldozer was employed. Work continued for almost three years on weekends only.

In August 1976 the track joined with one cut previously from the North. Googs road was finally finished.

All fuel, water and supplies were carted up on the back of three Landrovers. Considerable fuel and supplies were donated by various local people, to assist in the process of making the road to Tarcoola - they could see the value of such a road. Without their support, it would not have been possible to complete the road. The costs involved in clearing the way were enormous and Goog and Jenny would not have been able to do it on their own.



KNOW THE COMMITTEE

GEOFF DAVEY

VICE PRESIDENT

I am now in my 6th year of club membership, having joined in 2015.

Professionally I am a doctor who trained as a haematologist at what was then The Geelong Hospital. I then worked as a laboratory based haematologist in Geelong for almost 40 years before retiring last year in 2019.

When I was younger my main sporting interest was yachting. I was a member of Frankston Yacht Club for many years and later joined the Royal Geelong Yacht Club. In addition, one of my more unusual sporting activities was underwater hockey which I played for a few years when much younger. Coincidentally one of our other members, Heather Oberli played in the same team and we were reacquainted after many years through the four wheel drive club.

My parents had done some four wheel driving over the years, mainly touring and I had always wanted to do something similar myself, but never seemed to make the time. With this in mind I finally organised a trip to Fraser Island with Kaye and another couple in my Mitsubishi Pajero. That was a great trip which enthused me to do more so I sold the Pajero and bought my 2010 LandCruiser which at that time had about 100,000 km on the clock. Soon after I joined the Geelong Four Wheel Drive Club. I had done an introductory four wheel drive course some 10 years earlier, but was inexperienced at the time.

In my first year of membership I was pretty inactive, mainly due to work commitments. My first trip was to the high country on one of Dave Purdie's Melbourne Cup weekends. This was a fantastic weekend which really impacted on me for a number of reasons. It was both exhilarating and terrifying all at the same time. As many of you will know, Dave is a fantastic trip leader and teacher. He has the ability to read the abilities and skill levels of those in his convoys and provide hints and tuition at just the right level. I learned a tremendous amount from Dave on that trip, and also on a number of trips since then.

On that trip, I had no idea where I was most of the time. It was really a case of following the vehicle in front and taking a glimpse of the scenery (which is superb) when composed enough. There seemed to be no time to worry about maps or a GPS, however navigation skills have improved since then! This was also the trip when I started to get to know people better. It is absolutely true, that when you spend two or three days together on a trip and round the campfire together it facilitates friendships and comradery.

There is no doubt that the Victorian High Country is amongst



the best and diverse 4WD regions in the world and I always look forward to going there.

As I gained more experience and met more people, I was enjoying the club more and more, so with a view to contributing a little more, I joined the committee as an ordinary member. I don't think my contributions were that significant in the first instance, it was more a case of learning how the club works.

At about the same time, I was looking to lead a few easier trips myself. I had been to the Little Desert, to Fraser Island and had recently crossed the Simpson Desert with Mathew and Juanita Mountjoy. This provided me the confidence to lead some relatively sand based trips in the Victorian Deserts, particularly at Wyperfeld National Park and Big Desert. At that stage the Club had not really been to this area much, but we have done quite a number of trips since, including the Border Track. I have also now led a few trips at Moonambel, but like to stay within my comfort zone of an easy/medium trip rating. I prefer to leave the harder ratings to others to lead!

As I have mentioned I have made many friends at the Club and have gained a great deal of enjoyment from my membership. With the prospect of retirement last year and more available time, I put my hand up for the Vice President's position. Menschy says I knifed him, but he was really pretty happy to hand the position over! I have enjoyed this last year and the Committee has been working well.

Having been to Cape York last year with Warren and Shez Tedford, I am keen to do some more longer trips.

With a bit of luck, our social distancing restrictions will soon be relaxed and we can again hit the tracks.

Geoff

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