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SEPTEMBER 2020



Geelong



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AT A GLANCE

SEPTEMBER

9

GENERAL MEETING

Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

23

COMMITTEE MEETING

Online @ 7:30pm

OCTOBER

14

GENERAL MEETING

TBA @ 7:30pm

28

COMMITTEE MEETING

TBA @ 7:30pm

NOVEMBER

11

GENERAL MEETING

TBA @ 7:30pm

25

COMMITTEE MEETING

TBA @ 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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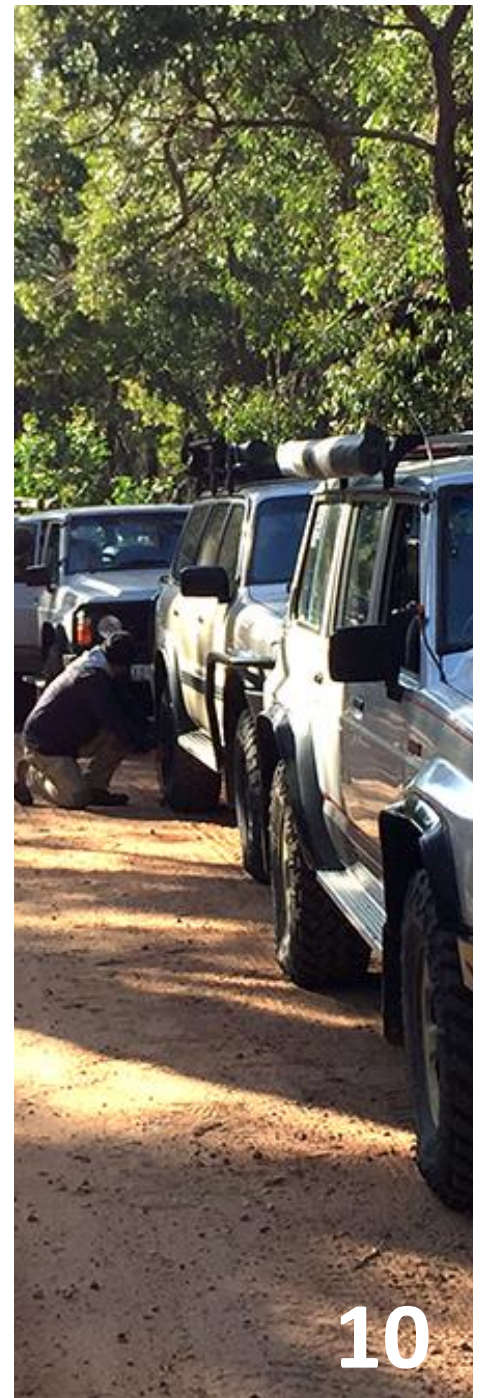
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THE PRES SAYS

G'day to all,

I hope this note finds you all well.

The theme of this update is starting to sound a bit monotonous. Unfortunately things in Victoria are not looking good for a return to any sort of normality in the near future.

Many of you will know that I managed to escape Victoria in early July, along with Warren and Shez Tedford. We have been touring the Darling River in NSW and then Queensland along the Savannah Way, amongst other places. Sorry that you are all still locked in, and I'm sorry if that this may create a pang of envy but it's a slow news week so I thought I'd mention it. Anyway, all good things must come to an end and I will need to return home soon!

It is increasingly looking like we will be unable to hold any sort of full club or general meeting this year and that may well include our Christmas party, which would be disappointing. The Committee has discussed the option of holding our Annual General Meeting by "Zoom" which now looks like our best option. Danny Sparks-Cousins is our Guru on this and assures us that this is not difficult to set up. Further updates to follow on this. If and when this is arranged I would encourage you all to log in and participate (Danny will provide simple instructions).

Danny also arranged a "Virtual Zoom Social Night" on Friday 28th August. This included a virtual fire for ambiance and a virtual cooking demonstration. Thanks to Danny and those who attended, although the numbers were a little disappointing. It was nice to see some faces and have a chat, given that we can't visit or hold meetings.

This prolonged "shutdown" and absence of direct interaction creates a challenge to our club due to a lack of direct participation. I feel that last year we had built some momentum with plenty of trips, good attendance at meetings and a successful Christmas Party. Unfortunately this momentum has been lost this year for obvious reasons, so when we can meet again, the challenge will be to rekindle our club with active participation from all of us. In the first instance this may be as simple as logging into a social zoom meeting to say hello, or importantly joining the AGM when it occurs. Your participation will be more important than ever.

On a sad note our condolences go out to Don Bird and family on the passing of Don Bird Snr. For information, the club sent flowers to Don and family. This is a particularly difficult time for the family, given the current funeral restrictions. Our thoughts are with you. We are all hoping for some better news and easing of COVID related restrictions in the near future.

Best wishes and hoping to catch up in a more direct manner as soon as possible.

Cheers,
Geoff Davey (Vice President)

Geoff

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

No General Meeting was held in August 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 if required.

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

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2020

Date TBA

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

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

Departing: TBA

Essentials: Festive spirit.

Notes: We are reviewing options and hoping we will be able to hold our 2020 Christmas Party in one way or another. Updates will be provided over the coming months.



MOONAMBEL MUSTER 2020

Date TBA

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

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

Departing: TBA

Essentials: Standard recovery gear, rated recovery hooks.

Notes: We are reviewing options and hoping we will be able to hold a Moonambel Muster in 2020. Updates will be provided over the coming months.



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.

You picked a fine time to
leave me, loose wheel.



Last Month's Winning Entry



August Funny Caption Winner—Shez Tedford

Geelong 4wd & Camping
324 Melbourne Rd
North Geelong
Ph 52779697

Geelong Tyrepower
324 Melbourne Rd
North Geelong
Ph 52779922

Lewis Tyrepower
2 High St
Belmont
Ph 52413808

Drysdale Tyrepower
25 Murradoc Rd
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ANGLESEA DAY TRIP

Sunday 2nd August 2020
WORDS & PHOTOS: KEITH MURDOCH

My very first trip as trip leader kicked off from Moriac at about 10am.

With our small convoy underway, we stopped and aired down in Tanners Road before heading down Cecil Track. Unfortunately for us, Allardyce Track was closed for maintenance.—so we hit the black stuff at Gumflats Road and onto Forest Road.

Back in the bush, we made our way onto Pipeline Track with one destination in mind—Powerline Hill. The drive along Powerline Track is pretty straightforward,

but Powerline Hill is currently very rutted and a lot of fun. Being quite dry today the whole convoy made it up the hill without any problem—but I could imagine this would be a totally different situation in the wet.

From the top of the hill we turned left onto Dusty Miller Track, Shiney Eye Track and all the other usual tracks in the area.

Once we made it to Alcoa Boundary Track we continued west along Peregrine Track and headed towards Bald Hill Road, and back onto Alcoa Boundary Track.

Stopping at the recently built lookout, we enjoyed the view for a while as we took the time for a relaxing lunch before backtracking along the route we had taken to finish the day.

Thanks to everyone who came along—it was great to get out and on the tracks while we had the chance. Special thanks to Byron for being Tail End Charlie for the day.

Cheers,
Keith Murdoch



BRING ON BIG RED

WORDS & PHOTOS: SHEZ TEDFORD

Warren and myself have always wanted to see and drive 'Big Red'.

It is one of the outback's 4x4 iconic destinations, so as part of our recent adventures we planned a few days in Birdsville.

The day we arrived in Birdsville a big storm was imminent. For the next two days Birdsville and surrounding regions were hammered with heavy rainfall and as a result roads in and out of Birdsville were cut. We really hoped the road out to Big Red would not be affected and remain open.

Two days later we were advised the road to Big Red was open and to wait until lunchtime before heading out. This would give the road a chance to dry out.

All excited we eventually headed out the 34 kms and aired down. At that time I thought it was odd that we hadn't seen any other vehicles. Perhaps there were people already up top.

With our tyre pressures down, off we went and quickly we arrived at the top of Big Red. Woohoo!!

Wait!! We were quite astounded. There was not another 4by to be seen!!!!

We had Big Red all to ourselves. How good was this?!

For the next hour we played, took photos and were amazed at this spectacular landscape. Still no one else came!!

The colours of this region are just breathtaking. Photos really do not do this place justice.

Big Red was on our bucket list and now it's done.

Shez & Warren



KNOW THE COMMITTEE

JUANITA MOUNTJOY

TREASURER

I grew up in a four wheel driving family. My parents were members of the Toyota Landcruiser Club and the Range Rover Club, which by default made me a member since I was two years old. Much of my childhood was spend four wheel driving and camping as we travelling across this beautiful country of ours, visiting some of the most remote parts of this land.

My dad was a Level 1 instructor with the Victorian Association of 4WD Clubs (VAFWDC) and he taught me, my two brothers and my sister how to drive. I have many memories of being a young teenager and driving through bush or up and down sand dunes with my dad sitting beside me (one hand on the hand brake, like that was going to do anything!). He was always a very calm teacher and an excellent driver; to this day I have not seen one better.

When I was around 10 years old, we moved from Melbourne to the Albury/Wodonga area. Not long after we moved to the area Mum and Dad saw an ad in the paper about a meeting to be held at the Lavington Sports Club, with the view of forming a 4WD Club. They attended the meeting, along with about 30 others and the Albury Wodonga 4WD Club was formed. They joined at that meeting, along with about 20 others, and became inaugural members of the Albury Wodonga 4WD Club. They remained members of the club for 21 years, until Dad became too sick to drive. It's not surprising then that many of my childhood memories involve club trips or events.

Matthew and I began dating in 1997. Matthew and I were both heavily involved in Scouting at the time, so it was no great surprise that we both loved getting out and about in nature. Matthew had a Subaru Leone and we would get together with our mates and drive around the dirt tracks out the back of Corowa.



KNOW THE COMMITTEE

JUANITA MOUNTJOY

TREASURER

Matthew and I bought our first four wheel drive in 2010, a Toyota Prado. We were planning to take a trip around Australia and needed a car that would do the job. Even though all our friends said we were crazy to take off for 2 months with three young kids in tow, we did it anyway. The Prado took us through Central Australia, to the top of Western Australia, down the west coast and across the Nullarbor, towing our Coromal caravan. The car didn't miss a beat.

A few years later we took off for another 2 months in the Prado, this time up Central NSW to Cape York, then down the East Coast. Even though we drowned the car on this trip in Nolan's Brook, on the Old Telegraph Track, it still took us all the way to the tip of Australia and home again, with only minimal problems. To this day the Prado is still running, albeit, not as smoothly as it once did.

We joined the Geelong 4WD Club in 2011 looking for like minded people (others who were crazy enough to take

kids out bush!). Our first club trip was a snow trip run by Gary Welsh. We found the club members that we went away with friendly and supportive and we knew we had found the right club for us.

Both Matthew and I joined the committee in around 2015. Matthew served as Vice President, and Regional Rep. I served as Social Coordinator and Treasurer, a role I currently hold.

Over our time at the club Matthew and I have run numerous trips, from days trips to two weeks adventures. One of my favourite club trips was Fraser Island and Morton Island. Two weeks driving along beautiful beaches with good friends, what could be better than that? Beach driving is certainly a favourite of mine, with my favourite place on Earth being Beachport in South Australia. While we have only run 3 club trips to Beachport (so far), I have been going there every year for the past 30 years.

Matthew and I bought our second four wheel drive in 2016, a Toyota

Landcruiser, 200 series. This car has taken us to The Simpson Desert, The Darling River, The Flinders Rangers, across sand, snow and mud and we love it.

Both Matthew and I love being part of the Geelong 4WD Club. We have made so many good friends within the club, been on some amazing trips and enjoyed some crazy social functions. We can't wait for the current restrictions to be lifted so we can get out on the tracks again.

Juanita



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