DRIVELINE

FEBRUARY 2021



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FEBRUARY

6—7
OTWAYS WEEKEND TRIP

10 GENERAL MEETING & BBQ Clubrooms @ 7:30pm BBQ from 6:30pm

24 COMMITTEE MEETING Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

MARCH

5—8
MITCHELL RIVER TRIP

10 GENERAL MEETING Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

24 COMMITTEE MEETING Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

APRIL

1—5 BEACHPORT 2021

1—6
EASTER IN THE HIGH COUNTRY

14 GENERAL MEETING Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

23—26 LITTLE DESERT NATIONAL PARK

28 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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2020-21 COMMITTEE

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Ross Barry member5@geelong4wdclub.org.au





THE PRES SAYS

Happy new year to all,

May 2021 be a better year than 2021. It is looking like a return to near normal as far a Club activities are concerned.

It was great to see members in person at the Christmas Party in December, our first face to face event since the General Meeting on March 2020, held at ARB. Thanks to all who attended and to Santa for his appearance for the kids. As there had been no other opportunity this year, there was also a brief presentation of our annual awards. Thanks to Dave and Allie Hamann for arranging this. Congratulations to Dave Hamann and Shez Tedford, our Clubman and Clubwoman of the year for 2020. The other recipients are published elsewhere in the magazine.

We will hold our first General Meeting for 2021 on Wednesday, 10th February at the Clubrooms at Abe Wood Reserve. There will be a barbeque at 6.30, followed by the meeting at 7.30 as usual. Under the current COVID restrictions the Clubrooms have a capacity of 48 attendees. This will not be a problem as our normal numbers are less than this. I look forward to kicking off the year with a good attendance.

In order to re-establish our club activities we will be running regular trips. Already Ross Barry has run a successful Australia Day Trip near Mt Buffalo and Keith Murdoch a day trip in the Otways. We have further trips planned for the March Labour Day weekend and at Beachport over Easter. We expect to run what will be our 10th anniversary event (in the 11th year) at Moonambel on Queens Birthday weekend and we are hoping to arrange a longer trip to the Flinders Ranges later in the year. There will also be a reschedule of the Little desert trip which was deferred due to fires in Little Desert National Park and a return of the annual snow trip.

As always, anyone who is interested in running a trip, with or without assistance, or has ideas about a particular region should contact our Trip Coordinator Dave Hamann, myself or a member of the committee.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the General Meeting.

Cheers Geoff

Geoff

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	General Meeting
Location	ARB, Thompson Road, North Geelong
Date	11th March 2020
Chair	Geoff Davey
Minutes taken by	Shez Tedford

Agenda	
Meeting opened at	7.36 pm
Welcome to everyone present	
New Members	No new members
Visitors	Dale Robinson, Tim Van Backen
Apologies	Byron Willey, Renee Willey, Ron Bastin and Beth Rogers

Acceptance of the last General	Moved: Ken Melross	Seconded: Rylan Bird
Meeting Minutes		
Business arising from the previous	Nil	
General Meeting Minutes		

Correspondence	
In	a) Email from FWDV
	b) Correspondence from COGG
	c) Tax invoice from Australia Post
	d) Liquor licence renewal
Out	a) Previous minutes
	b) Driveline
Business Arising from the	No business arising.
Correspondence	

Treasurers Report	Tabled by Juanita Mountjoy.
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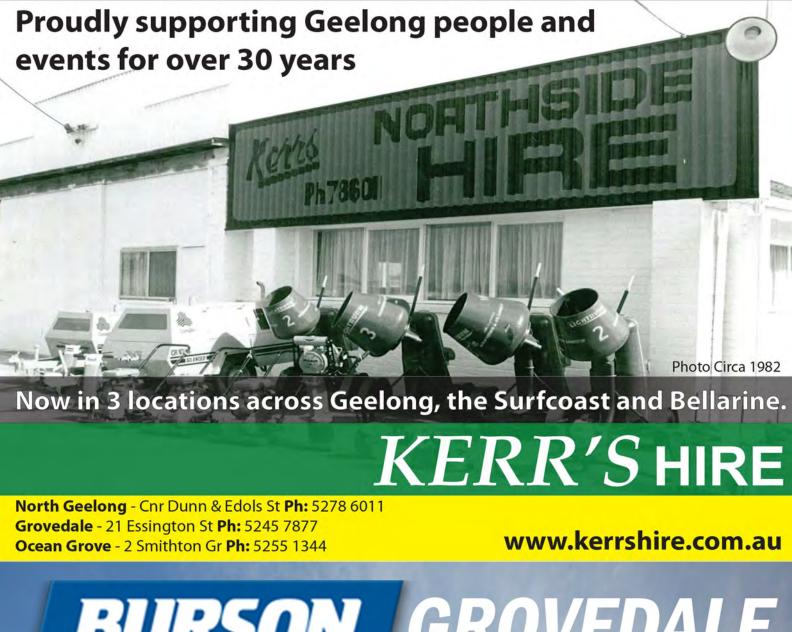
Regular Reports		
Editor	Funny caption winner is Juanita Mountjoy. Allie has kindly agreed to take over Editor Role.	
Regional Rep	Meeting on 1st April in Colac. Dave will have a report.	
PRO	Mark thanked ARB the use of their premises for our meeting.	
Association Rep	No report.	
Social Co-ordinator	No report.	
Trip Co-ordinator	As per magazine.	
Webmaster	Trip reports, calendar all up to date. If any members have photos please send through to Danny.	
Members Draw	Mitch Lever and Nathan Hawkins, Rylan Bird.	
Pist'n Broke	Geoff Connors	

General Business		
AGM date	AGM date set for 8th July 2020.	
FWDV, affiliation fees & insurance	FWDV, Affiliation fees and associated insurance. Each year, part of our membership fee the club pays an Affiliation fee to 4WD Victoria. This is currently \$52 which consists of \$39 for Affiliation and \$13 for insurance. Geoff will explain what this insurance covers at the next General Meeting.	
Membership invoices	Membership invoices will be issued on 1st April. The fees are payable and due by the end of April. However if individuals have not paid their fees by the end of May, a reminder notice will be issued. If fees have not been paid by 30th of June, the membership will be terminated. This will ensure that all active members are insured at the beginning of the financial year (1st July) which corresponds to the insurance.	
Rules of association	Rules of Association progress report. The revised rules are almost complete and will be reviewed for approval at the next committee meeting. After that, The Rules will be published on the website for all members to look at and comment on. It is hoped that these can be finally approved by the club at the AGM.	
Moonambel	Moonambel. Queen's Birthday Weekend. 6th-8th June 2020. Dave will be putting together a subcommittee and welcomes any-one who would like to be a part of the setting up process.	
Club permit scheme	Club permit Scheme. Danny has put together a document for members to look at. The permit is in compliance with VicRoads system and has been approved by the Committee. If anyone has any questions, they can contact Danny Sparks-Cousins.	
Posting of magazine	Posting of our Magazine. The magazine will only be posted out to those members who do not have access to electronic email or FB to reduce the cost and the workload on the editor.	
Secretary & Editor positions	Secretary and Editor positions Warren and Shez will be resigning at the end of March. Allie Hamann has kindly agreed to take on the role of Editor. Thankyou Allie. The role of Secretary now needs to be filled. If anyone would like to take up this position or know more about the role, please contact Shez or Geoff.	
Topics for presentation	Topics for presentation. If anyone would like to do a presentation on a topic they're familiar with, or have something they would like to see presented please contact Geoff. At the next meeting Geoff will explain the Insurance component of the FWD Victoria Affiliation fee.	
ARB Geelong	Geoff thanked the staff at ARB for allowing us to hold our meeting on their premises.	
Meeting closed at	8.05 pm	
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Meeting closed at	8.05 pm
Next General Meeting	8th April 2020 @ our Clubrooms

AGENDA

Agenda Items for next meeting—Wednesday 10th February 2021	
	Meet the new committee
	Plans for 2021 discussion including—Regular trips, social, short presentations at General Meetings, Rules of Association approved and posted on website, committee to develop by-laws, suggestions from floor.
	Kelly's Hut project
	Telstra Network Amplifier



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OTWAYS WEEKEND TRIP

Date: Saturday 6th to Sunday 7th February 2021

Trip Leader: Cam Hamann | Tail End Charlie: TBA

Trip Classification: Hard | Vehicle Limit: 10 Departing: Bunnings Waurn Ponds @ 10am



Notes: A full day's drive Saturday through the Otways. Camp Saturday night at Hammond's campgrounds. Anyone welcome to come just for the camping—if there is enough enthusiasm Sunday morning we will head back out for more tracks. Please contact Cam Hamann on 0401 745 571 if you would like to attend.

MITCHELL RIVER NP TRIP

Date: Labour Day Weekend Friday 5th to Monday 8th March 2021

Trip Leader: Geoff Davey | Tail End Charlie: TBA Trip Classification: Medium | Vehicle Limit: 10

Departing: Little River BP @ 9:00am

Requirements: All terrain tyres or better. Basic recovery gear. Rated recovery points front and back. Notes: Trip is a traveller trip. Please contact Geoff Davey on 0499 905 975 if you would like to attend.



Date: Thursday 1st to Monday 5th April

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

Trip Classification: Medium with the chance of harder tracks | Vehicle Limit: 6

Meeting Place: Southern Ocean Tourist Park, Beachport SA.

Requirements: Arrive on Thursday, first trip going out on Friday. Matthew and I

will run a variety of day trips on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, all leaving from the caravan park where we will be base camped. The trips will predominately be medium, however the beaches can be unpredictable and a medium trip can quickly turn into a hard trip depending on the tides and how soft the sand is. We are hoping this year to tackle some of the beaches closer to Kingston, as well as some of the old favourites around Robe, South End and Carpenters Rocks.

If you are interested in attending this trip you will need to contact Juanita on 0467 809 040. You will be given a site number for the caravan park and you will need to contact them directly to organise a deposit.





UPCOMING TRIPS



EASTER IN THE HIGH COUNTRY

Date: Thursday 1st to Tuesday 6th April

Trip Leader: Byron Willey | **Tail End Charlie:** TBA **Trip Classification:** Medium | **Vehicle Limit:** 10

Meeting Place: TBC

Requirements: Base camping at King Hut, so camper trailers, tents, swags etc...

are welcome. We are going from Thursday till Tuesday, but people can just do the main days if they like.

Please contact Byron Willey on 0417 123 193 if you would like to attend.



Date: Friday 23rd to Sunday 26th April

Trip Leader: Geoff Davey | Tail End Charlie: TBA

Trip Classification: Easy / Medium Sand Driving | Vehicle Limit: 10

Departing: Batesford Roadhouse @ 9:00am

Requirements: Basic recovery gear, Rated recovery points and shovel. Bring

sand flags and recovery boards if you have them.

Notes: The first two attempts were cancelled due to COVID and fires. This will be an easy social weekend away, base camping at Horseshoe Bend Campground which is accessible to caravans and camper trailers if you want to take them. There are flushing toilets. The camp is easy to find and has mobile reception if anyone wants to travel Friday evening.

Need to book campsites with Parks Victoria. Fees are \$15.30 per day with up to 6 people per site.

https://www.parkstay.vic.gov.au/book-your-stay/little-desert-national-park

Please contact Geoff Davey on 0499 905 975 if you would like to attend.





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

AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND AWAY 2021



The initial plan was to base camp at the Smoko Campground near Bright, however we learned that the Alpine Classic Cycling event was on that weekend in Bright and that it would be one of the busiest weekends of the year. We therefore relocated to Ah Youngs Camp on the Buckland Valley Road about 15km south of Porpunkah. Geoff Davey and Geoff and Sharon Van Ingen travelled up on Thursday to reserve an area in the campground. This was a good thing in retrospect because even this campground was very busy.

Ross led the main party up the following day and we formed a ring of camps around a fire pit to create our own private area. This faced bush on one side, so we were hardly aware of the other campers. The campground itself is well grassed and there is short walk down to some nice swimming holes on the Buckland River. These were well

utilised over the weekend as the weather was hot, in the mid 30's each day.

Friday afternoon was relaxed with the second group setting up camp followed by a dip in the river to cool down and later refreshments under the shady trees at camp. This was a great way for the group to interact and get to know each other. The forward scouting group had collected firewood the day before which made the day even easier. After dinner and as the sun retreated over the hills, the fire was duly lit and the focus shifted to a circle around the campfire for an appropriately convivial evening. We did discover that mosquitoes love Dale, but Dale doesn't love mosquitoes. Also that he has a problem with dexterity resulting in considerable difficulty separating mosquito coils!

Saturday was to be our big touring day

with a drive up the iconic Blue Rag Range Track as its showpiece.

In an attempt to avoid the heat we made a relatively early start, rolling out of camp at about 8.30am. This was a little later than Ross had hoped, but it was billed as a cruisy weekend after all. While Blue Rag track is not difficult, there are a few steep sections which can be a bit daunting for relative beginners. Fortunately Geoff D had taken Geoff and Sharon V out for a "training run" on Friday morning before the main group arrived so they were better prepared.

In keeping with the spirit of the trip, we stopped for coffee and some sightseeing in Harrietville on the way. From there it was up the Great Alpine Road towards Mt Hotham for some photo opportunities. The degree of difficulty was increased by the many cyclists from the Alpine Classic event who were also

ascending the mountain at the same time. After taking in the views and some photos we returned down the mountain to the Dargo High Plains Road which leads to Blue Rag Range Track. There are spectacular views on the track which were enjoyed by all, particularly as everyone became relaxed enough to take their eyes of the road immediately in front of them! We had lunch at the Blue Rag trig point and took in the vista.

After lunch we returned to the bitumen at the Great Alpine Road intersection which we reached at about 2.00pm. There was a team meeting to decide whether we returned directly to camp for an early afternoon or continued off road on the Twins Track which branches at the same intersection. To my surprise all members of the group voted to continue off road, demonstrating that Ross hadn't overreached his brief! As we continued it was clear that the overall pace of the convoy was increasing through the day, reflecting an increase in confidence. Towards the end of Twins Track, the trip leader took an unplanned left turn to the helipad at Mt Murray. This was a long steep ascent which was a little outside our "easy track" brief. However everyone made it up without difficulty to be greeted by magnificent 360 degree views at the summit.

Once we returned to Twins Track it was an easy return to Selwyn Creek Road where we topped up with firewood and continued north and back to camp,



arriving at about 4.30pm. This was a pretty long day but was enjoyed by all with no one put outside their comfort zone.

Sunday was a day for the ladies. After a late start it was off to the Gapstead winery for a few white wines overlooking the vineyard. From there we had lunch in the Porepunkah Pub, followed by a walk to the river. Andrew, Tyler and Holly stayed on for a swim with their cousins, who by chance were staying in the same campground and were also lunching at the pub. The rest returned to camp for a lazy afternoon which largely consisted of sitting in the river at camp to cool off.

Unexpectedly that afternoon however, the group did in the course of business save three lives! Tim, Peter and Geoff D were standing with their backs to a group of young Asian girls who were getting into the water from a shallow rocky section upstream. Soon after the girls were splashing and squealing behind our backs but no one took much notice until Dale yelled out for us to turn around because the girls were drowning. Sure enough one of the girls disappeared in front of Tim and did not resurface. He managed to reach out and grab her with some assistance from Peter. The girl near me was also in difficulty so I helped her to the edge of the river, a matter of 1 -2 meters. The third more or less scrambled herself to the edge with some help from Peter. We are expecting our Australia Day awards next year!

Monday morning John and Karen and Geoff and Sharon returned home as they had other commitments. There was also the forecast of rain for Tuesday and the prospect of a wet pack up on Tuesday which made it a little easier for them to leave a day early. Alison arranged to have lunch with her son Jack who was camping at Mount Beauty so Peter jumped in with Geoff. Dale joined Tim and we set off with a smaller convoy of 4 vehicles.

We headed south on Buckland Valley Road and then onto Scotchman Creek Track. Our original destination was Lake





Cobbler but Andrews Nissan started making some worrying noises from the rear axle area. We stopped to sort it out but the collective brains trust couldn't agree whether the sound was coming from the left or the right wheel bearing. Long story short, we took both wheels off and it was neither! Tim eventually worked out that it was (my terminology might not be right here) the cover on the diff at the back of the tail shaft? Anyway that was rubbing and causing the noise at the front of the diff, which explains our inability to localize the sound to one side. Tim did some minor surgery with a hammer which helped. We were then confident that it was not terminal and continued. Due to the delay we abandoned the Lake Cobbler plan and headed up Mount Buggery Track (not as bad as it sounds) and onto Durling Track to the Buffalo River Road. We stopped at Manna Gum Bush camp for lunch and a swim. After lunch we continued north to partially circumnavigate Lake Buffalo. From there it was back south to Dandongadale, then east across the

Goldie Spur Track which takes you across the south side of Mount Buffalo and back to Buckland Valley Road. The scenery across the spur is spectacular.

At the end of the track we stopped to top up on firewood for a big fire on our last night, only to learn on return to camp that it was a total fire ban!

Bummer! It was very hot so we drowned our sorrows in the river and later settled around the fire pit for a "virtual fire" and evening of music.

Tuesday morning the forecast was for rain. There was light rain overnight but little before about 7.30 am. Some were packed relatively dry. Most packed up before it was too wet. Geoff had his camper trailer and delayed packing until it was a bit late. His became a very wet pack up, oops! Ross, Tim, Andrew and Dale were packed and left camp at about 8am. Geoff, Peter and Alison left a bit later at 9am. Both groups experienced very heavy rain in quite different places on the way home. Andrew had some

electrical gremlins in his trailer, but all made it home safely, if not a little wet.

The aim of the trip was to keep things social, base camp in relative comfort and focus on touring and scenery rather than technical driving. The trip was very successful and was enjoyed by both the more experienced members and the relative new comers alike.

Thanks to Ross for leading the trip. This is a slightly different format to many of our tips, but one that we can revisit in the future if there is enough interest.

TRIP PARTICIPANTS

Ross Barry (Trip Leader)
Geoff Davey (Tail End Charlie)
Dale Robinson
Peter and Alison Searle
Andrew, Tyler and Holly Smith
Tim Van Bakkum (Visitor)
John Goodall and Karen Griffen (Visitors)
Geoff and Sharon Van Ingen (Visitors)





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CHRISTMAS PARTY & PRESENTATIONS

DECEMBER 6TH 2020 WORDS: DANNY SPARKS-COUSINS I PHOTOS: SALLY SPARKS-COUSINS

It was great to see such a good turnout for the club Christmas party—our first real social event since the COVID restrictions. Although the day was a little windy and cool, it didn't stop us all from having a great time.

The Hamman's plus Keith & Belinda had done a top job of setting up the clubrooms for us all to have a relaxing afternoon out, quite a different experience to being locked down in COVID. It was a relief to catch up with fellow club members—whilst our top shelf barman Kelvin made sure everyone kept well hydrated. Mark Mensch also helped out with a cameo appearance!

Hot spuds and lashings of toppings courtesy of Mark & Nicole at Country Baked Potatoes went down a treat for a typical Victorian summer's day. A few beers, sensational food and stories to catch up on kept everyone entertained, with the kids playing outside and having fun. A visit from Santa with gifts for the kids topped off lunch, before our presentations for the 2019/20 year were awarded.

Clubman—Dave Hamann Runner Up—Cam Hamann

Clubwoman—Shez Tedford Runner Up—Allie Hamann

Most Active New Member—Jake Cook

Dunny Seat—Geoff Connors

Editors Award—Danny Sparks-Cousins

Thanks to all who attended - I'm looking forward to more great social events in 2021.









ABOUT THE CLUB AWARDS

Club Man and Club Woman of the Year

Is awarded to the most active member based on points accumulated. The winner of the Club Man and Club Woman award has their name placed on the honour board within the clubroom, along with a trophy awarded to the individual at the Annual Presentation.

Runners-up Award for Club Man and Club Woman

The runner-up receives a trophy awarded to the individual at the Annual Presentation.

Editors Award

Is awarded by the Editor in appreciation to an individuals input into content for the club magazine "Driveline". A pen with the winners name inscribed on it is presented at the Annual Presentation.

Most Active New Member

Is awarded to the most active member within their first financial year of membership based on points accumulated. The winner of this award has their name added to the trophy that is kept within the clubrooms, along with a plaque awarded to them at the Annual Presentation.

Dunny Seat Award

Is awarded to the person who receives the most monthly fine awards (Pist'n Broke) from general meetings. The winner of this award has their photo and name placed on the plaque that is kept within the clubrooms.

Pist'n Broke

Is a humerous monthly award given to a member who has suffered vehicle damage or mechanical problems on a trip. Where there is no stand out candidate for this the award, it will go to the member who accumulates the most fines. The President or Chairman decides the winner on the night.

Calculating Points

Points are allocated for gazetted club trips or activities, and attendance at meetings.

- One point for attendance at a general meeting.
- One point per member per day for the duration of a trip or activity to a maximum of seven points for any one trip or activity.
- The Trip Leader or activity organizer will receive two additional points per trip or activity and an official Tail End Charlie will receive one additional point.
- Members participating in extended trips are eligible for the maximum of seven points where the duration of the trip is seven days or more.
- For extended trips, to qualify as an official trip must have a minimum of three vehicles participating.
- One additional point per trip or activity will be awarded to any member participating in an official trip or activity, who submits a written report on the trip or activity to the Editor for publication in the Club magazine.
- The Committee may in special circumstances award points to any member that has organized or performed some outstanding service to the Club.
- It is the responsible of the trip leader to submit the Trip Participants List to the Trip Coordinator so that points can be allocated.



Dave Hamann CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR





LETS GET The COVID rules related to camping and four wheel driving now pose few restrictions to our trips. Let's all make 2021 our best yet! Some trip ideas to get you started Run your first Mystery trip Organise a simple 4WD day trip Plan for the next remote area trip Return to your favourite destination Get away on an overnight camping trip Be social and have a 2WD day and a BBQ Try your luck and visit to a new destination There has also been some interest in a 'weekend with more comfort' Greater emphasis on comfortable camping — caravan parks, campsites with good facilities 🦠 Nearby points of interest—visit the town, winery, café, restaurants & historic areas Accommodation in caravans, campers, cabins or camping Access to a tourist drive with great scenery & places of interest-this could include an easy 4WD track but this might not be the highlight

If you have ideas for a location, venue, or a trip you would like to see, contact Dave Hamann, Geoff Davey or a member of the committee.

NOW THAT'S FUNNY!



FUNNY CAPTION CONTEST



KNOW THE COMMITTEE

ROSS BARRY

ORDINARY MEMBER

I joined the club around 2006/2007.

I owned a GQ Patrol before I joined the club and after doing some four wheel driving in my late teens then getting back into it after purchasing the GQ I joined the club a couple years later to look at more adventures. And still own it today.

Being separated with 3 young children the club gave some great opportunities to spend a day trip with the kids and see more of our bush land. The club has been great with kids and families well accommodated for.

Once I started heading into the Victorian high country I kept getting drawn back there, and it has become my favorite place to head.

I have managed to do a trip to Beachport with Trevor and Julie Brocks which was a great week of driving in the dunes and in the beach. I will definitely be trying to head there again.

The Otway Antics, Sokil Scramble and Moonambel events have always been a great events, and I look forward to more.

I have only recently been to the Big Desert and didn't realize it was so close! Unfortunately I just missed out on the Little Desert trip with fires being there. This trip will have to happen though.

Future destinations for me include Cape York, the Outback and more trips to the High Country.

The club has some great people who are always willing to help others and there is plenty of knowledge within. I have just joined to committee to help support the club and share some of the knowledge I have been taught to new and other members as needed.

See you on the tracks and trips





