

DRIVELINE

JUNE 2021



Geelong



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AT A GLANCE

JUNE

9
GENERAL MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

11—14
GLENPATRICK WEEKEND

23
COMMITTEE MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

JULY

2 — 5
MOONAMBEL MUSTER

14
GENERAL MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

28
COMMITTEE MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

30 JULY — 1 AUGUST
MT SKENE SNOW TRIP

AUGUST

11
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

14
MT SKENE SNOW DAY TRIP

25
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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Keith Murdoch

Byron Willey

Mark Mensch

Kelvin Rogers

Ross Barry



THE PRES SAYS

G'day all,

I must have known something when I headed off for a relatively brief trip to Alice Springs and Uluru three weeks ago. The pretence was a scouting expedition for the Mountjoy's trip in September, but not really! I have just returned to Victoria hoping Victoria's "lockdown" would be lifted.

Unfortunately lockdown has been extended, taking us to the brink of Moonambel before the next decision on COVID rules is made. Currently regional Victoria is allowed only 10 people to meet outdoors which is insufficient for us to hold Moonambel. The next potential easing of COVID restrictions would not take place until Friday the 11th of June, which is the day Moonambel is due to start. In view of this, the Committee held an urgent meeting on Wednesday 2nd June and has reluctantly cancelled the Moonambel weekend in its current format.

We are hoping to reschedule Moonambel from Friday 2nd July to Monday 5th July. More information to follow.

It is likely we can still organise one or two trips in the Moonambel and Glenpatrick regions for the Queens Birthday weekend with smaller groups allowing compliance with the COVID restrictions. Many people have put this weekend aside, so this still might work. More information to follow.

It is disappointing to have to make this decision as things looked so good for a return to Moonambel this year. Unfortunately nothing is entirely predictable in the current climate. Hopefully we can still reschedule for a positive outcome.

Fingers crossed,
Geoff

A handwritten signature of Geoff in a cursive, black ink style.



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Geelong 4 Wheel Drive Club (Driveline Geelong Inc)

Wednesday 11th August 2021, 7:30pm

Held at Clubrooms—Abe Wood Reserve
70 Edgerton Road, Lovely Banks

We hereby advise that the 2021 AGM will be held on Wednesday 11th August 2021 at the clubrooms, commencing at 7:30pm.

The AGM is an important procedural meeting for the ongoing functioning of the Club. All members are invited to attend.

- It is critical that we have a quorum of members.
- There will be no coercion to join the committee however anyone who might be interested in a position is encouraged to nominate or discuss the options with one of the existing committee members.
- The Agenda and associated documents will be posted at a later time.

APPOINTMENT OF PROXIES

Members who cannot attend the meeting may appoint a proxy to represent them. Proxy forms will be sent with the agenda and are also available on the club website. Proxy notice must be received by the Secretary no later than 24 hours before the time of the meeting.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	General Meeting
Location	Clubrooms—Abe Wood Reserve
Date	Wednesday 12th May 2021
Chair	Juanita Mountjoy
Minutes taken by	Danny Sparks-Cousins

Agenda	
Meeting opened at	7.40 pm
Welcome to everyone present	
New Members	Oakli Bird
Visitors	Darcy Brocks & Ella Johnson
Present	Geoff Baker, Ross Barry, Trevor & Julie Brocks, Werner Brocks, Geoffrey Conners, Ken Melrose, Mark Mensch, Matthew & Juanita Mountjoy, Daniel Murdoch, Keith Murdoch, Troy Omen, Kelvin Rogers, Peter Searle, Danny Sparks-Cousins, Geoff & Sharon Van Ingen, Wayne Willis
Apologies	Dave Hamann, Allie Hamann, Cam Hamann, Geoff Davey, Dale Robertson, Martin Brayshaw, Ronnie Bastin, Beth Rogers

Acceptance of the previous General Meeting minutes	
Moved	Daniel Murdoch
Seconded	Peter Searle
Business arising from the previous General Meeting Minutes	Nil

Correspondence	
In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) FWDV re participation in National 4x4 Show at Showgrounds in August. b) FWDV invitation to participate in their Strategic Plan. c) COGG re COVID QR Check-in. d) COGG 2020-21 COVID-19 Quick Response Community Grants Round 4 – Outcome Notification. e) Response from hip pocket re problems ordering clothing. f) FWDV Member Feedback Survey.
Out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Response to FWDV Strategic Plan. b) Email to Hip Pocket re problems with ordering clothing. c) FWDV Member Feedback Survey. d) Driveline Magazine.

Treasurer's Report	
Presented By:	Juanita Mountjoy
Moved:	Danny Sparks-Cousins
Seconded:	Keith Murdoch

Regular Reports	
Association Rep	Nil
Regional Rep	Currently no regional representative. Matthew Mountjoy explained the role for any interested persons. Usually two meetings in Colac per year, plus correspondence regarding tracks, closures etc. Liaison with Parks / DELWP. Also two optional state meetings within Victoria – a weekend trip, day track drive, dinner & meeting. It is a good opportunity for the club to be represented with DELWP & Parks. Concerns can be voiced. Anyone interested please talk to any member of the committee.

(Continued on page 8)

Regular Reports (continued)	
Trip Co-Ordinator	<p>Trips that have gone out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moonambel Memorial 16th - 18th April • Little Desert 23rd - 25th April. Geoff Davey • Blackwood Day Trip Sunday 2nd May. Matthew & Juanita Mountjoy • Driver Training 8th – 9th May <p>Upcoming trips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enfield Sunday 16th May. Keith Murdoch • Moonambel Muster. 11th – 14th June • Mt Skene Snow Trip 30th July – 1st August. Geoff Davey • Pre Simpson Darling River 5th – 16th September. Geoff Davey • Simpson / Hay River Track / MacDonnell Ranges. 16th – 29th September. Matthew & Juanita Mountjoy
Editor	Thanks to those taking photos and writing trip reports. Remember anyone on a trip can do it, and it gives a great perspective of trips from different members point of view. Thanks to Bursons Grovedale for this month's trade catalogues. Remember to mention you are from the club when visiting our sponsors.
Webmaster	General updates.
Social	Ten pin bowling probably late June / early July – possibly a Sunday.
Fines	Geoff & Sharon Van Ingen, Adam Mountjoy, Rob Gunn
Piston Broke	Rob Gunn
Members Draw	Ella Johnson won the door prize & opted for a club beanie.
Funny Caption	Currently very little interest – might come back in future magazines.

New Business	
QR scanning is now compulsory	QR sign-in is now compulsory – please sign in using the Services Victoria app or similar when entering the clubrooms.
Secretary Position	Sharon Van Ingen nominated for the position – carried by unanimous vote.
Regional Rep Position	Mark Mensch nominated for the position – carried by unanimous vote.
Moonambel Muster	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Registration for the event / camping – please let Juanita know. 2. Spuds Orders – please let Juanita know. 3. Clothing – Hip Pocket – Get your order in ASAP – ask for Brett
Membership Fee Reminder	Fees are now overdue. Please pay by end of month otherwise you will be unfinancial & removed from Facebook group and mailing lists.
COGG Telstra amplifier grant approved	City of Greater Geelong has approved a grant for us to purchase and install a Telstra 4G amplifier for the clubrooms. With this installed we should get adequate Telstra 4G service within the clubrooms.
Other Business	Nil

Meeting closed at	8.05 pm
Next General Meeting	9th June 2021 @ Clubrooms

AGENDA

Agenda Items for next meeting—Wednesday 14th July 2021	
	AGM—Wednesday 11th August.
	Membership fee reminder
	Other General Business

Moonambel Muster



10th ANNIVERSARY 2021

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MORE INFORMATION ON BOOKING A SITE & ORDERING CLOTHING IN THE
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UPCOMING TRIPS



QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND @ GLENPATRICK

Date: Friday 11th to Monday 14th June

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

Trip Classification: TBA | **Vehicle Limit:** As per COVID restrictions

Departing: TBA

Notes: Geoff & Ross are planning a smaller trip for the Queens Birthday long weekend. Meet at the Glenpatrick Reserve anytime from Friday 11th. Geoff will travel up on the Friday morning, anyone wishing to do the same please contact Geoff. Staying at the Glenpatrick Reserve or Campground. Go to Elmhurst, then North on the Elmhurst-Glenpatrick Rd. This has been booked with the caretaker and there is a flushing toilet and plenty of wood in the area for fires.

Anyone wishing to attend can contact Ross Barry on 0409 253 909 or Geoff Davey on 0499 905 975 or indicate attendance on the Facebook event listing.



MOONAMBEL MUSTER 2021

Date: Friday 2nd to Monday 5th July

Notes: Come and join us at the club's biggest event of the year - celebrating our 10th anniversary of the Moonambel Muster.

Held at the Moonambel Recreation Reserve, camping is available onsite - \$15/night unpowered, \$30/night powered. Powered sites are limited and are available on a first in basis. Camping can be booked through Juanita Mountjoy on 0467 809 040.

We will again be running our Monster Raffle this year, so you might come home with some great prizes. Fresh local pizza will be available to keep the hunger pains away.

Clothing is available - Moonambel hoodies and polo shirts in either black or dark red, including 10th anniversary logo graphics. Polos \$35. Hoodies \$55. Order and payment is direct through Hip Pocket Workwear - 2/170 Torquay Rd, Grovedale. Phone (03) 5222 4744.

Please come along and support your club in what is always a fun social weekend with a variety of 4WD trip & track options to suit everyone.

**DATE
CHANGE!**



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

UPCOMING TRIPS

MT SKENE SNOW WEEKEND TRIP

Date: Friday 30th July to Sunday 1st August

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

Trip Classification: Medium | **Vehicle Limit:** 10

Departing: TBA

Requirements: Basic recovery gear, rated recovery points, long handled shovel and sand tracks if you have them.

Notes: Snow trip based out of Jamieson Caravan park. Trip is limited to 10 vehicles as that's what a Mt Skene permit will allow, trip will be family friendly so snow play will be on the list. 7 Cabins have been allocated to the Geelong 4wd club and bookings should be made prior to adding yourself to the event. Please call +61 3 5777 0567 to reserve your cabin. Please contact Geoff Davey on 0499 905 975 if you would like to attend.



MT SKENE SNOW DAY TRIP

Date: Saturday 14th August

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

Trip Classification: Medium | **Vehicle Limit:** 10

Departing: TBA

Requirements: Basic recovery gear, rated recovery points, long handled shovel, warm clothing.

Notes: This will be a Medium Plus trip, depending on the conditions. It's a great day out – but due to the Mt Skene permit, limited to 10 vehicles. Contact Tim on 0478 065 716 to get your name down so you don't miss out.



DARLING RIVER—PRE SIMPSON TRIP

Date: Sunday 5th to Thursday 16th September

Trip Leader: Geoff Davey | **Tail End Charlie:** Mark Mensch

Trip Classification: Medium | **Vehicle Limit:** 10

Departing: TBA

Requirements: Basic recovery gear, rated recovery points, UHF.

Notes: This will be an easy tour of Darling River between Wentworth and Bourke, and will meet up with the Mountjoy's Simpson Desert Trip at Broken Hill. Some of the roads can be badly corrugated, but with this proviso the trip is suitable for camper trailers or off road caravans. However the Simpson trip is no trailers so anyone wanting to join that trip should be vehicle based. We will be camping along the banks of the Darling River. The camps may include free camps, stations or caravan parks. It is anticipated that one of the stays will be at Dunlop Station near Louth.



If anyone wants to continue on the Simpson Desert trip, you will need to register directly with Juanita Mountjoy. Contact Geoff Davey on 0419 905 975 if you would like to attend.

UPCOMING TRIPS



SIMPSON DESERT—MACDONNELL RANGES TRIP

Date: Thursday 16th to Wednesday 29th September

Trip Leader: Matthew & Juanita Mountjoy **Tail End Charlie:** Kelvin & Beth Rogers

Trip Classification: Medium | **Vehicle Limit:** 10

Departing: Broken Hill

Requirements: Basic recovery gear, rated recovery points, UHF.

Notes: This trip will be run in two parts, with the option for members to leave or join us at the conclusion of part 1.

Part 1 will be the 4WDing part of the trip. We will meet at Broken Hill on Thursday 16th September, heading out from Broken Hill Friday morning. We will travel to Cameron Corner, Innamincka, then on to Birdsville. From Birdsville we will travel along the Hay River Track, coming out of the desert at Jervois Station. From there we will head to Alice Springs, expecting to arrive in Alice on Friday 24th September. We are planning on having a rest day at Alice Springs before embarking on the second half of the trip.

Part 2 of the trip will be more touring as we head into the MacDonnell Ranges. We plan on doing lots of the walks in this area, as well as swimming in the gorges. We'll be visiting Kings Canyon, where those who choose to, can complete the 4 hour rim walk. Our final destination will be Uluru and Kata Tjuta National Park where we will conclude the second part of this trip. From there, everyone is free to make their own way back to Geelong, taking whatever time they need.

Please note, we will be travelling with children and this trip will be classified as a family trip.

Anyone interested in attending can contact Juanita on 0467 809 040



MELBOURNE CUP HIGH COUNTRY WEEKEND

Date: Friday 29th October to Tuesday 2nd November

Trip Leader: Ross Barry | **Tail End Charlie:** TBA

Trip Classification: Medium | **Vehicle Limit:** 10

Departing: TBA

Requirements: UHF radio, standard recovery gear, rated recovery points, good all terrains or better.

Notes: Starting at 8 mile camp ground in the Howqua area for the first night, then traveling to Craig's Hut and onto Lake Cobbler, Wonnangatta, Dargo and if time permits across to Licola before heading home. Will be trying to keep this to a medium trip so it will involve some dirt road driving. It will be a traveller trip not suited to caravans or camper trailers. Must have rated recovery points and good all terrains or better.

Contact Ross on 0409 253 909 if you are interested in this trip.



HIGH COUNTRY EASTER WEEKEND

1ST TO 4TH APRIL 2021 - WORDS & PHOTOS: TIM NEVILLE



The weekend started for some on a Thursday morning with Trevor, Julie, Darcy and Ella leaving Geelong first with Mark following about an hour behind them. The main thing on everyone's mind was navigating through Mansfield without any trouble with the local law enforcement. The first convoy managed to get through Mansfield without issue and arrive at camp securing a cracking campsite right next to King Hut itself just after lunch! They had a relaxing arvo setting up camp, collecting some firewood and enjoying the peace and quiet you get when you don't have phone service.

Lachie, Jack and Jimmy caught up with me at my work in Hoppers Crossing and we were on the road around 4.30pm. Following the GPS and looking at the planned route it was showing the quickest route was to travel through Melbourne Airport itself and through International dropoff. Questioning this multiple times it was decided that we were going to trust technology and follow the planned route, and to our

surprise due to the lack of flights this saved a fair bit of time and we bypassed most of the Melbourne traffic. After a fuel stop the other side of Mansfield we made the journey on the gravel road into camp arriving at a little after 10pm.

Friday morning we left camp at 9 with no set plans apart from travelling to see some of the local huts and see some of the waterfalls in the area. The morning saw us cover a fair bit of distance, including seeing Craigs Hut and Bindaree Falls before having lunch at Bluff Hut. The aim from here was to have a quick look at Lovicks Hut before making our way back to camp via a no name track we had heard was quite a challenge. Unfortunately, Lachie's new ute spat the main belt of the motor, and due to the 24v system that the car has, no spares we had in the convoy would fit. After a few scratches of the head it was decided to make the belt out of cable ties and see how far we would get limping the car back to camp. To our surprise this worked really well, with the exception of hill climbs where the car would start to

overheat. This was due to the water pump not spinning at full capacity. After a few tows from my car and some smooth driving we managed to get back to camp around 5.30pm. By this stage we had been on the phone to Geelong and had arranged Ryan to go for a drive to one of his mates place and steal a belt off a motor to bring up for us. With the sun shining and us all quite dirty from working on the car on the side of the track, a few refreshing drinks were consumed whilst some of us went for a swim in the King River behind our camp. We then had some great laughs around camp, waiting for Ryan to arrive around 10pm.

Saturday morning was another cruisy morning waiting for the sun to poke out and warm us up. We left camp around 9.30am making our way to Lake Cobbler having a look at the hut there. From here we made our way to Wild Horse Gap Track. What a great track this is, with some steep long hill descents and ascents. We stopped half way along this track at the camp ground for lunch next

to the Rose River. With the idea being to have a sunset dinner at craigs hut, I offered two options from here, we could head back to camp or we could find a few more tracks for the arvo. With the statement "we came here to drive tracks" thrown around, we continued driving. We made our way through Pineapple flat campground crossing the King River again, ascending Weston Track we made our way to have a look at Razorback Hut. By this stage it was getting quite late, making a quick dash back to camp we grabbed our dinner and made the drive up to Craigs Hut. What an experience this was seeing the sun set over the mountains, we could not have asked for better weather for this evening. After dark we made our way back along the main road under headlights, arriving at camp around 9.45pm.

Sunday morning we woke to the sounds of screaming children, with a sore head myself it took a few minutes to realize that the Easter Bunny had visited the night before and we had some very happy children in the campground. Once awake, everyone began to chat and it was decided that we would make our own way home from here. With Lachie and Jack leaving around 9am, the rest of us decided to go for another drive and wait for the sun to dry our camp out.

The plan was to go and try and drive the track we went looking for on Friday afternoon before Lachie's car broke down. With a few less cars in the convoy the travel speed was up and we made good time, Passing Howqua Gap Hut, we made our way onto the track. This track has not seen much traffic with tight switch backs and a few trees down for us to climb over, it finished with a steep slippery clay decent into Pikes Flat. Just before crossing the river into Pikes Flat we had a few bog holes to get through, with a splash of mud all made it through. From here we decided to back track the same way we came back to camp to pack up, however withing minutes of leaving Pikes Flat, Mark came over the radio saying he has fallen into some deeper ruts and was bogged in one of the bog holes. A quick winch, he was out. We then had the steep clay hill to climb the other side, this took me two attempts on the harder line to get up.

Darcy then flew up it in the GQ. Then came Mark in the 200, and with some well used all terrain tires fitted the wheels were spinning and Mark was not making any more progress. Rather than winching we decided to turn around and make our way back via the main tracks. Passing by and having a quick look at Bindaree Hut we arrived back at camp just after 1pm.

This saw the Jeep and GQ quite low on fuel, we managed to use the transfer pump on my car to pump the sub tank into jerry cans and put 20L of petrol in each of the Jeep and the GQ. From here we packed up camps and made our way out of the hills and onto the blacktop, we then filled up with fuel in Bonnie Doon before we all headed off on our own way home.

Thanks to Shez, Warren and Byron for the information on the area. And a very big thankyou to everyone who came away and spent Easter with me and supporting the first trip I have lead for the club in a little while.

Trip Participants

Tim Neville & Jimmy Halikias - GU
Lachie Hill - GU
Jack Thompson (temp member) - GU
Trevor and Julie Brocks - JL Jeep
Darcy Brocks and Ella Johnson (temp member) - GQ
Mark Mensch - 200 Series

Tim





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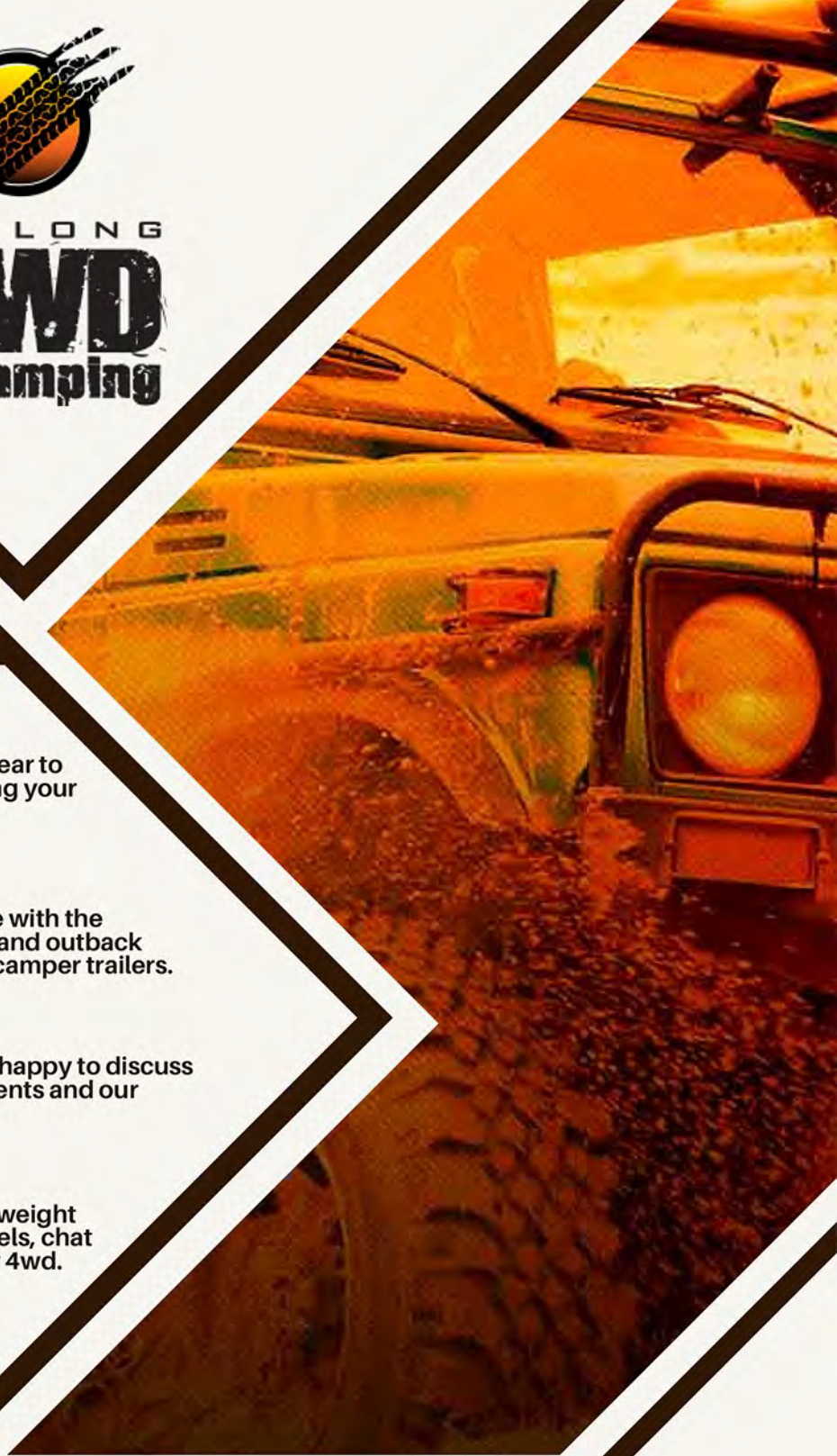
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BLACKWOOD TRIP REPORT

Sunday May 2nd - words & photos: Juanita Mountjoy



After meeting at Corio Bay Roadhouse, we left Geelong and headed to Blackwood for an exploratory day on the tracks.

The first track we took was what we called the Powerline Track, as it ran parallel to the powerlines. This was quite a lengthy, narrow track with some overgrowth we had to work our way through, some fun hill climbs and, as we discovered, bog holes that hadn't been there a few weeks back. Clearly Blackwood had had a fair bit of rain as the track was slippery and it wasn't long before we had our first vehicle stuck for the day.

After reaching the top of the track we turned off and took another side track. After travelling a short way down, the track suddenly dropped off and the convoy was forced to turn around. That presented a bit of a challenge to some vehicles, depending on where they were on the track. I know Matthew and I were slipping around in the mud and came a little too close to the edge of the hill for comfort! It was somewhere along this track that we realised this easy day trip was flirting dangerously close with being medium as opposed to easy.

The next track we took was a marked track named Wheelers Track. After a long drive downhill, we came to another

dead end, so we turned around and drove back up the hill again! By now Ken had lost all faith in my ability to correctly classify a trip (sorry Ken, it really was easy a few weeks ago!). This was definitely now a medium trip.

Next we headed down Bakers Bill Track. We were probably about half way down when we got the call to come back and help. Rob had been momentarily distracted and had driven over a tree stump. Now that doesn't sound like much of a problem, but check out the picture!

It took quite a while to free Rob's car from the tree stump. Surprisingly, when



we assessed the damage we discovered it was minimal. His front quarter panel and door had been pushed upwards and he was unable to open his passenger door, but there was no visible damage under the vehicle itself.

After a lunch break we headed along another unnamed track. It wasn't long before the track split into three and we had to choose which way to go; the bog hole on the right, the bog hole in the middle or the bog hole on the left? None looked overly appealing, but we decided the one on the right looked the best. Matthew headed in, trying to stay out of the wheel ruts, but slipped and managed to get stuck. Adam decided he could get to us by taking the left track and quickly found himself stuck too. Geoff, Ken and Rob were able to get around us by driving high along the right track. From there, Geoff was able to pull Matthew out of the mud, while Adam winched himself out.

Our next track was New Sultan Mine. There were no issues along this track and when we finished up near the main road, Ken decided to leave us and head back to Geelong. The rest of us headed to Pottery Track where we knew was a great hill climb/decent. We started at



the top of the track and went down the hill, only to turn around and go back up again (just for fun).

Our final track of the day was Lerderderg Track. To find this track we had to go into the town of Blackwood itself. This was a great track to finish the day on. It was a more rocky terrain than the other tracks we had driven on throughout the day. After driving the continuous hill climb, we made the call to turn around and head back into town as it was getting late. In my mind I've filed away this track as one I'd like to come back and explore further.

After airing up in Blackwood, we headed back to Geelong after a great day out with great people.

Trip Participants

Matthew and Juanita Mountjoy (Trip Leaders)

Ken Mellross

Rob Gunn

Geoff Connors

Adam and Veronica Mountjoy

Juanita




QR Check-in at Clubrooms

In line with the Victorian Government's further relaxed COVID-Safe settings, all community facility tenants must use the free Victorian Government QR Service for record keeping.


All members & visitors must check-in via the Victorian Government QR Service by simply scanning the QR code posted at the entry to the clubrooms. It only takes a couple of seconds using the Service Victoria app.



If you have any problems or queries with QR check-in at the clubrooms, please have a chat with any member of the committee who will gladly show you through the process.


CHECK-IN
NOW





Geelong 4WD Club - Abe Wood Reserve Hall
70 Edgerton Rd LOVELY BANKS
Geelong 4WD Club - Abe Wood Reserve Hall




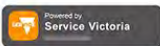
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HOODIE \$55

DRIVER TRAINING TRIP REPORT

8th & 9th May 2021 | Words & Photos: Geoff Davey



The group met Saturday morning at the Batesford Roadhouse and travelled in convoy to the Ballarat District 4WD Clubhouse, which is at the at the Ballarat Airport.

We were welcomed by our trainers Bernie Cook and Ken Campbell. After the obligatory paperwork, the morning session was a presentation comprising a broad range of theory and practical aspects of four wheel driving. This is largely a curriculum set by FWD Victoria. During the morning we were visited by Laurie Gibbs who is the course convenor and training co-ordinator for the Ballarat Club. Laurie had an arthroscopy on his knee a couple of days earlier so was still partially incapacitated.

After lunch at the Clubrooms we moved

out to the Ballarat Club's training facility at Smythesdale. There we were shown a snatch strap recovery with Tim and Paul both pulling Bernie's car out of the "bog". We were then able to walk around the dedicated training area which includes a number of tracks with a variety of obstacles to test vehicles and driving techniques.

The facilities at Smythesdale are great. In addition to the training track itself there are toilets with a hot shower and a large shed with an open fire for the cold winter nights. There is also a big fire pit outside and plenty of room for camping, including trees and bushes for shade / cover as required. We took the softer inside fire option and Geoff and Sharon Van Ingen took the even softer option of a motel room in Ballarat. As there was a potential

for rain, Geoff D and John were first in to grab a spot under the roof of a small outbuilding pergola. The rest braved it in the camping area with the exception of Menschy who was softest (or smartest) of all, parking his swag next to the fire overnight!

After setting up camp we all settled into a social evening around the fire. There was a good mix of older and newer members and visitors so it was a great opportunity for people to get to know each other.

In the morning we were rejoined by Bernie and Ken and a third trainer Raelene Green, to continue with the more practical aspects of the weekend. The morning consisted of negotiating the various obstacles around the facility under the watchful eyes of our trainers, either in the

cars or outside, to provide advice and guidance at various points. One of the focus points of the training was to understand and implement the technique of "driving through the brakes" or "throttle over brake" when ascending or descending on slippery or loose surfaces and during stop / start exercises uphill and downhill. We then went for a short drive in the nearby bushland to apply some of the things we had learned. We also found some steeper hills where, as part of our certification process, we were formally assessed by our trainers on the stop / start hill procedures. From there it was back to Smythesdale for lunch.

After lunch we sat our "exam"! This was an "open book" process, including open discussion about the answers. Really it was just a way of consolidating what we had learned through the weekend. From there the remainder of the time was free to "play" on the training track. There were a couple of deeper water obstacles which were "elective" if anyone wanted to try them. The deepest of these was a rocky crossing which was approaching the bonnet depth on entry. This was driven by Tim and Geoff while the rest watched on for entertainment.

Special thanks to our instructors, Bernie, Ken and Raelene for donating their time and expertise to the course. Thanks also to Laurie for arranging the course and to the Ballarat District 4WD Club for the use of their fantastic facilities.

Overall this was a terrific educational and social weekend. There was a mix of experienced and less experience drivers, but we all learned something. Thanks to all who participated.

Participants:

Geoff Davey
John Cerini (Temporary Member)
Danielle Miller
Peter Wu
Marcus Wu
Tim Neville
Paul Rogasch (Temporary Member)
Geoff Van Ingen
Sharon Van Ingen
Mark Mensch
Dale Robertson

Geoff



ENFIELD STATE FOREST DAY TRIP

16TH MAY 2021

WORDS: ANDREW SMITH, PHOTOS: KEITH MURDOCH

The day started meeting at Teesdale Primary School at around 9am for a chat and catch up. We departed about 9:30 for our drive along the Colac-Ballarat Road, turning into Incolls Rd where we aired down.

We started on Bald Hills Track where Troy and the Disco bounced and hopped through the first puddles with both back wheels getting a foot in the air. We headed through the forest along No Named Track which had been controlled burned and graded since the reccy run. After some minor track clearing we headed onto Vicker Track through to our first bog hole with Keith straddling his way through and Tim being the only person to get through without getting stuck, and the rest of us having to get snatched out.

Morning smoko consisted of scones, jam and cream and choccy fingers. After smoko it was onto the next larger bog hole that was attempted by Tim, Geoff and Andrew with all getting through. Everyone else drove around, a steep slippery incline that prepared us for

lunch at 12:30. During lunch some of us had to top up tyre pressures due to mud in valves and beads.

The next challenge of the day was a larger steep downhill section with tree trunks at the bottom of the track to fill in the ruts, testing some of our off camber skills. Some more steep rock steps and larger ruts to straddle led us to larger bog holes, with only Tim willing to attempt. We ran along Power Line Tracks and one quite steep decline with Troy lifting his rear wheels in the air once again, then onto Dozer Track East to air up around 3pm.

A great day was had by all with no damage and a fun day out with great people.

Trip Participants:

Keith & Daniel Murdoch (Trip Leader)
Geoff Connors (Tail End Charlie)
Andrew & Tyler Smith
Rob Gunn
Ross Barry
Tim Neville
Troy Oman

Andrew



At ARB Geelong...

We Get It



BULL BARS &
PROTECTION



ROOF
RACKS



CANOPIES &
UTE LIDS



SUSPENSION
UPGRADES



CAMPING
GEAR



DRIVING
LIGHTS



TOWING



DRAWERS &
STORAGE