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NOVEMBER 2021



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AT A GLANCE

NOVEMBER

6
SOCIAL NIGHT @ VALLEY INN
From 7:00pm

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

24
COMMITTEE MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

28
**CHRISTMAS PARTY
& PRESENTATIONS**
Clubrooms @ 7Midday

DECEMBER

8
GENERAL MEETING & BBQ
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm
BBQ from 6:30pm

JANUARY

26
COMMITTEE MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

26—30
AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND TRIP

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

PRESIDENT

Geoff Davey
president@geelong4wdclub.org.au

VICE PRESIDENT

Mark Mensch
vice.president@geelong4wdclub.org.au

SECRETARY

Sharon Van Ingen
secretary@geelong4wdclub.org.au

TREASURER

Juanita Mountjoy
treasurer@geelong4wdclub.org.au

TRIP COORDINATOR

Ross Barry
trips@geelong4wdclub.org.au

EDITOR

Danny Sparks-Cousins
editor@geelong4wdclub.org.au

WEBMASTER

Danny Sparks-Cousins
webmaster@geelong4wdclub.org.au

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Mark Mensch
region.rep@geelong4wdclub.org.au

ORDINARY MEMBERS

Keith Murdoch

Kelvin Rogers

Geoff Van Ingen

Cover Photo: Juanita Mountjoy



THE PRES SAYS

G'day to all,

We are now moving to the warmer months which with reducing COVID restrictions gives us a great opportunity to rekindle our Club and its activities.

We were able to successfully run our AGM by Zoom again this year which will hopefully be the last time this format is necessary. Congratulations to our new life members Dave and Allie Hamann who were confirmed at the meeting.

As the magazine goes to press Ross will have run the Melbourne Cup High Country with a full complement of vehicles. We are currently planning further trips for the Australia Day Weekend in January and the Labour Day weekend in March. If anyone would like to run additional trips, please let Ross know.

Keith has organised a "pub night" at the Valley Inn Hotel for Saturday, 6th November. This promises to be a relaxed social evening and opportunity to catch up.

Our first General Meeting in what feels like ages will be on Wednesday 10th November. This will start with a BBQ supplied by the Club. Come along, renew old acquaintances and help get the Club rolling again.

Importantly the Club will hold its Christmas Party and Annual Awards Presentation on Sunday 28th November. This should be a great afternoon with Pizza, Ice Cream, a visit from Santa, children's activities and lots of socialisation. We have been starved of opportunities to get together, so please come along and make this a successful afternoon.

I hope to see you all soon,

Cheers,
Geoff

A handwritten signature of the word 'Geoff' in a cursive, informal script.

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Photo Circa 1982

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AGM MINUTES

Meeting	Annual General Meeting 2021
Location	Via Teleconference—Zoom
Date	Wednesday 13th October 2021
Chair	Geoff Davey
Minutes taken by	Sharon Van Ingen

Agenda	
Meeting opened at	7.33 pm
Welcome to everyone present	Troy Oman, Danny Sparks-Cousins, Sally Sparks-Cousins, Ken Melrose, Keith Murdoch, Geoff Davey, Kaye Witham, Mark Mensch, Juanita Mountjoy, Graeme Jeffreys, Tim Neville, Jimmy Halikias, Kelvin Rogers, Adam Cameron, Dale Robertson, Maryanne Wilson, Bruce Whitten, Adam Mountjoy, Byron Willey, Geoff Van Ingen, Sharon Van Ingen, Harrison Parke, Warren Tedford, Shez Tedford, Gary Tomlins, Deb Kershaw Proxies: David Hamann, Allie Hamann
Apologies	Rob Priddle, David Hamann, Allie Hamann
Confirmation of quorum	A quorum was confirmed

Acceptance of the last AGM Minutes – Wednesday 18th November 2020 by Zoom Teleconference	
Moved Seconded	Byron Willey Danny Sparks-Cousins Carried by the meeting
Business arising from the previous Annual General Meeting	Nil

Correspondence	
In	a) Proxy from Allie Hamann, David Hamann
Out	Nil

Annual Report of the Committee	
	<p>Geelong Four Wheel Drive Club Annual Report from the Committee for 2020 – 2021</p> <p>2020-21 has been a difficult year for the Club, largely due to COVID restrictions which curtailed trips in the first half of the year and prevented us from getting together to meet and socialize. The committee has been able to function by holding its meetings by Zoom teleconference, but we have had to cancel a number of general meetings, sometimes at short notice.</p> <p>Despite these difficulties we have been able to run regular trips from November onwards which has been pleasing. The trips have been varied in structure and degree of difficulty with a recent emphasis on base camp trips with a lower degree of difficulty. These have been well supported and have been more popular with couples and families. Additionally, we have been able to run a limited number of social functions including the family Christmas party in December which was reasonably well attended given the short notice and COVID restrictions. There was social night at the Valley Inn Pub which was well attended.</p> <p>There has been slow but steady progress on the Club By Laws which are nearly ready to be published for input from members. This will provide information and guidance on many aspects of the day to day functioning of the Club.</p> <p>The Club made a successful application to the City of Greater Geelong to install a Telstra signal amplifier at the Clubrooms. This should improve phone and electronic communications in the building where phone reception has been poor.</p>

(Continued on page 8)

Annual Report of the Committee (continued)	
	<p>The aim for the next year will be to increase member participation in Trips and Social activities. In this regard the Committee welcomes any input or suggestions to facilitate participation from all members.</p> <p>Motion: To accept the Committee Report. Moved: Byron Willey Seconded: Juanita Mountjoy Carried by the meeting</p>
Treasurer's Report 2020—2021 Financial Year	
	<p>The treasurers report as previously circulated with the agenda was presented by Juanita Mountjoy</p> <p>Motion: To accept the Treasurer's Report. Moved: Tim Neville Seconded: Jimmy Halikias Carried by the meeting</p>
General Business	
Notice of motion— Ordinary Committee Members	<p>Motion: That the club appoint five (5) ordinary committee members for the 2021-2022 financial year. Moved: Juanita Mountjoy Seconded: Dale Robertson Motion carried</p>
Committee Nominations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> President – Geoff Davey N: Juanita Mountjoy S: Mark Mensch Vice President – N: Juanita Mountjoy S: Juanita Mountjoy Secretary – Sharon Van Ingen N: Geoff Davey S: Ross Barry Treasurer – Juanita Mountjoy N: Geoff Davey S: Danny Sparks-Cousins Trip Coordinator – Ross Barry N: Sharon Van Ingen S: Geoff Davey Editor – Danny Sparks-Cousins N: Ross Barry S: Juanita Mountjoy Web Master – Danny Sparks-Cousins N: Ross Barry S: Juanita Mountjoy Ordinary members (5) Keith Murdoch N: Danny Sparks-Cousins S: Kelvin Rogers Kelvin Rogers N: Keith Murdoch S: Juanita Mountjoy Geoff Van Ingen N: Geoff Davey S: Juanita Mountjoy <p>There was a single nomination each of the committee positions 1-7, therefore no election was necessary, and the positions were confirmed. The number of nominations for ordinary members was equal to the positions available so there here was no requirement for a vote and the positions were confirmed. Thank you to the outgoing committee members Byron Willey and Adan Cameron. Both are former Presidents of the Club and have been longstanding committee Members. Welcome to Geoff Van Ingen as new committee member.</p>
Life Members	<p>Motion by special resolution: That Dave Hamann be accepted as a life member of the Geelong 4WD Club. Moved: Danny Sparks-Cousins Seconded: Adam Cameron Carried Unanimously</p> <p>Motion by special resolution: That Allie Hamann be accepted as a life member of the Geelong 4WD Club. Moved: Danny Sparks-Cousins Seconded: Adam Cameron Carried unanimously</p>
Fees for 2021—2022	<p>Motion: That the annual membership fee for 2022-2023 be set at \$120; the family joining fee - \$40 and the single joining fee - \$25 and associate members at \$80 Moved: Juanita Mountjoy Seconded: Shez Tedford Carried unanimously</p>
Meeting closed at	7.53 pm

CLUB CLOTHING

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BY-LAWS UPDATE

The committee have drafted updated club by-laws, which are now available on the club website for review. These are currently considered for be in draft form for a period of 3 months pending any comments or feedback from members.

Please take the time to review these updated by-laws and feel free to give any feedback to the committee. We will table the updated by-laws for approval at an upcoming general meeting after the review period.

TELSTRA AMPLIFIER



In conjunction with the City of Greater Geelong council, we have installed a Telstra amplifier in the clubrooms to improve the limited Telstra 4G phone reception inside the clubrooms. The installation and tuning have been completed, and the system is working well. Please note this is only for Telstra services.

This project is supported by the City of Greater Geelong through its 'COVID-19 Quick Response Community Grants Program.





UPCOMING TRIPS

BACK TO THE VALLEY—SOCIAL NIGHT

Date: Saturday 6th November

Notes: With lockdowns ending, and restrictions easing, Keith has organised another great social night out for the club. Come along for a meal and a chat at the Valley Inn (120 Fyans St, South Geelong) in the bistro area from 7pm.

There is a limit of 30 people so we can have a great group gathering. As per the current COVID rules it is a condition of entry that all people attending must be fully vaccinated and able to show proof on arrival. Masks will also be required.

Please either post in the Facebook group how many are in your group, or contact Keith directly on 0407 310 931.



CHRISTMAS PARTY & AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Date: Sunday 28th November

Notes: The club will be holding its annual Christmas Party and Awards Presentation on Sunday 28th November from midday at the clubrooms. We will have Pizzas on-site for lunch, and an ice-cream van for desserts (no charge to members). The bar will be open and well stocked for you to purchase refreshments.

Santa will make an appearance shortly after lunch.

Please contact Sharon with numbers if you wish to attend.



AUSTRALIA DAY HIGH COUNTRY WEEKEND

Date: Wednesday 26th to Sunday 30th January

Trip Leader: Geoff Davey | **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: Traveller trip to the High Country—Haunted Stream district. With Australia Day falling on a Wednesday this year, the trip will be 5 days which should make for an interesting trip. More details to come.

Contact Geoff on 0499 905 975 if you are interested in this trip.





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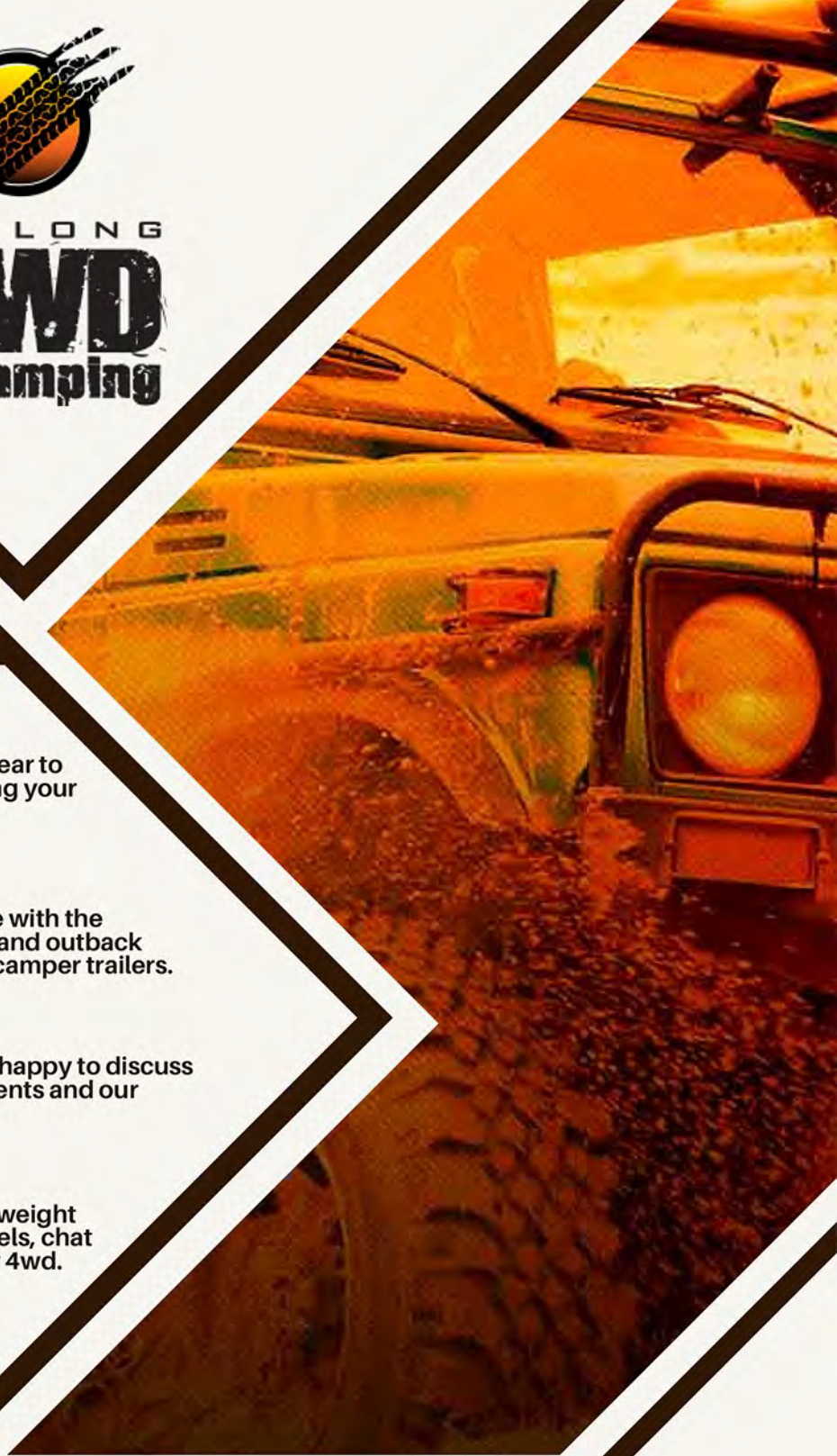
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~~THE SIMPSON DESERT AND McDONALD RANGES~~
~~THE SIMPSON DESERT AND McDONALD RANGES REROUTED~~
~~THE VICTORIAN DESERTS~~
~~LITTLE DESERT~~

THE VICTORIAN DESERTS, BACK ON AGAIN

18TH TO 29TH SEPTEMBER 2021 -- WORDS & PHOTOS: JUANITA MOUNTJOY



The title of this report pretty much sums up how this trip went. We were all planned and booked to cross the Simpson Desert and visit the MacDonnell Ranges when NSW covid cases went berserk and borders were slammed shut. With that, two members of our group were no longer able to join us. No dramas, we made some changes and rerouted our trip through SA. Then Victoria's covid cases went wild too, and

while we held on for as long as we could, praying for a miracle, no one wanted us Victorians in their state.

We thought we would have to cancel our trip altogether, however a last minute announcement was made that regional Victorians could travel within their own state. Quickly, we threw together a rough plan for a trip to visit the Victorian Deserts, and we took off

for Little Desert on the first day of the school holidays.

On Sunday we spend the day driving through Little Desert. In the am, Kelvin managed to stake a tyre, otherwise we travelled around with no incident. The weather was reasonably nice and we enjoyed lunch at one of the campgrounds. After lunch the message came through that Geelong would go

into lockdown that night. Boy were we glad we had made it out, just in time!

Our joy was short lived. As the rain and clouds came across the sky, our moods quickly matched the weather as we learnt, that as Geelong residents, we would have to follow the lockdown rules; stay put, only leaving camp for the 5 essential reasons, or head home. We all debated what to do, most of us finally deciding that we would stay put. A week camping in the desert was better than a week camping out in our lounge rooms! Unfortunately for us, the weather was not looking good.

We spent the Monday at camp, sitting around the fire in the drizzling rain and chatting. The kids amused themselves fishing and exploring the area. Some members of our group went for a small drive, others went into town. While in town, Shaz decided to ring the covid hotline to explain our situation and find out exactly where we stood. Joy! She was told that our party could continue travelling!

The next day we packed up camp. Mark left us in the morning to head home, and the rest of us headed off to Big Desert. We were surprised when we got there how busy the campsite was, but we were still lucky enough to find an area large enough to cater for our 6 vehicles. After setting up camp a large group headed off to have a play on the dunes, while a much smaller group stayed at camp and got the campfire going.





The following day we headed off for a drive in the dunes. It wasn't long before our phones began pinging with the news that there has been an earthquake in Geelong. We had felt nothing! After checking in with our loved ones, we had some fun on some of the larger dunes. A little towing was involved and a lot of fun. The day ended with another night around the campfire, the adults kicking back and relaxing and the kids running around with glow sticks and having the time of their lives.

Another day in the Big Desert saw us driving more tracks and more dunes, again without incident. We ended the day with a trip into Murrayville, some of us staying for hot showers and a meal at the pub, others returning to camp.

On Friday we headed off to Wyperfeld National Park. We took a very scenic, and corrugated route to get there, but make it we did. We came in at the bottom of the park, then headed north to our planned campground. The trip there was fun, with lots of soft patches of sand to keep us amused. When we arrived at the campground, it was chockers, definitely no room for all our vehicles. The second campground was the same, as was the third. By this stage it was getting late, so we headed into Patchewollock and camped at the local "caravan park" which was actually an old school oval, but we had it to ourselves, as well as toilets and hot showers.

On Saturday we took a touristy drive

around Wyperfeld. We found a great big sand dune that the kids could run up and try sliding down. We went for a walk to a lookout and found a few other points of interest along the way. We ended the trip with lunch at Snow Drift. Some campers offered the kids plastic boards to slide down the dune with and a few hours were spent enjoying ourselves on the dune. The day concluded once again around a campfire as we listened to the Dee's beat out the Doggies to win the Grand Final.

Although ready to move off on Sunday, we decided we would stay put for another day as Daniel Andrews was due to announce if Geelong would come out of lockdown or not. So in the morning, many of us went into Ouyen for groceries. In the afternoon half the group, mostly the men and half the kids, headed back into Wyperfeld for some more driving, while the other half, mostly the women and the other half of the kids, lounged about camp enjoying the glorious sunshine. As predicted, Geelong was to come out of lockdown at midnight that night, and we were ready to head off the following day.

Monday saw us heading into Murray Sunset. Again we took a touristy type drive, nothing challenging. We saw the Pink Lakes and went on a walk that really led nowhere. That night we watched the sunset from the top of a lookout. Tuesday we spent the day exploring Murray Sunset, saying goodbye to Shaz and Geoff as they

headed off into Mildura. Rain settled in that night and as we sat around the campfire, we decided to call it a day on our trip. Wednesday the remaining five vehicles went their separate ways, some home to Geelong, others on to Mildura.

While it wasn't the trip we originally planned, Matthew and I would like to thank everyone for their flexibility, adaptability and their willingness to fly by the seat of their pants for most of the trip. While the driving was not overly challenging, it was great to get away after months of being in lockdown. The company was exceptional and Matthew, Evelyn, Isabel and I look forward to travelling with you all again next year when we finally make it to the Simpson Desert and MacDonnell Ranges.

Thank you to:

Beth, Kelvin, Lachlan, Harry and Noah Rogers; our tail end.

Geoff Davey

Sharon and Geoff Van Ingen

Rob, Jaiden and Ethan Gunn

Andrew, Rachel, Tyler and Hollie Smith

Mark Mensch

Juanita



OTWAYS TRACK CLEARING

23rd OCTOBER 2021 -- Words: DANNY SPARKS-COUSINS

Photos: DANNY SPARKS-COUSINS & KEITH MURDOCH



That time of year certainly seems to have come around quickly once again, after just having the regional COVID restrictions eased it was time for the annual track clearing weekend in the Otways.

It was great to have double the turnout this year, and with a total of six vehicles we were able to split into two groups to more easily achieve our allocated track clearing.

After meeting up at the Moriac shop and

grabbing a coffee - it was onto Deans Marsh for the usual safety briefing with Parks Victoria to run through the risk assessments, safety procedures and to have a general chat about the track conditions in the Otways.

We'd recently had plenty of consistent rain in the area (about 25mm the night before!), so things would be pretty wet and wild. A few of the more challenging tracks in the area were to be kept closed for another four weeks minimum, but Parks were keen for us to check out a

couple more tracks that we wouldn't usually get to drive.

We split our group into two - with Keith running one team along with Rob and Dave, heading west towards Lorne and Danny, Mark and Geoff heading the other direction for the tracks around Anglesea.

We expected to find plenty of downed trees with all the wet weather and wind through the area recently - but we found less clearing needing to be done than

previous years. All the rain though had made plenty of the tracks greasy and slippery - lots of fun to drive!

With two teams working the tracks this year we were able to slow the pace down a little, enjoy the drive, and importantly stop for a chat at each clearing site we came across. It was great to be out and catching up after so long in lockdown (again!). Most of the trees and branches we came across were fairly small and manageable this year - although Mark was more than happy to show that his chainsaw still started, and clear a couple of the larger branches.

This year we didn't come across many other people out sharing the bush - I think we only saw one guy on a pushbike, out on a dead end track in the middle of nowhere in the pouring rain. That's dedication for a ride if I've ever seen it.

Both teams finished their allocated tracks around the same time - so we were able to regroup, chat about the day and share a soft drink before heading home. It was a great day out on some fun tracks with a good bunch of people. I really appreciate everyone's help on making it happen, and look forward to doing it again next year.

Danny



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