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JUNE 2023

50th Anniversary **SPECIAL EDITION**



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



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TJM GEELONG



ON THE HORIZON

JUNE

9 - 12
MOONAMBEL MUSTER

14
GENERAL MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

24
PUB SOCIAL NIGHT
@ FYANSFORD HOTEL

28
COMMITTEE MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

JULY

12
GENERAL MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

22 - 23
SNOW TRIP 1

26
COMMITTEE MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

AUGUST

9
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

11 - 13
SNOW TRIP 2

23
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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Daniel Murdoch
Jimmy Halikias

Cover Photo: Alanna Stratford



THE PRES SAYS

G'day all,

The 50 year Anniversary Dinner was held at the Royal Geelong Yacht Club on 6th May which marked exactly 50 years from the first Club General Meeting. This was a great success (much to my relief) with 110 people in attendance. There was representation of membership spanning the entire 50 years which was fantastic to see. There were 3 founding members in Werner Brocks, Les Crowe and Pam Crowe, 9 past Presidents, 11 Life Members, 17 Clubmen and Clubwomen of the year and importantly (maybe?) 11 previous Dunny Seat Award winners!

Thanks to everyone who attended it was a great night. There are photos and a more complete report elsewhere in the magazine.

The next event in our 50th Year is the Moonambel Muster on the Kings Birthday Weekend which is almost upon us. This promises to be a big one with over 60 vehicles expected from our club and others. This is a great opportunity to network with other Clubs and is an event not to be missed. Contact Sharon Van Ingen to secure your booking.

The AGM will be on the 9th August. Don't forget that all positions on the Committee are vacated so anyone can nominate for any position. If you are interested in contributing more to the Club I would encourage you to nominate. Formal notice of meeting and nomination forms will be out soon but in the meantime, if you are interested talk to me or any of the current Committee Members.

See you at Moonambel,
Geoff

Geoff

Moonambel Musters

**BOOK
NOW**



GEE LONG 4 WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

2 0 2 3

**OUR BIGGEST AND BEST YET - CLUB 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
FRIDAY 9TH TO MONDAY 12TH JUNE
MOONAMBEL RECREATION RESERVE**

**MONSTER RAFFLE
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\$45 for the weekend if driving, \$15 for passengers (includes FWDV insurance)
No additional fees for members of clubs affiliated with Four Wheel Drive Victoria

Registration and site bookings contact - Sharon Van Ingen

secretary@geelong4wdclub.org.au | 0422 993 415

Clothing orders online through Hip Pocket - geelong.hippocketnetworkwear.com.au

MOONAMBEL MUSTER APPAREL

ON SALE NOW

Moonambel Muster commemorative club clothing is available direct from Hip Pocket Workwear Geelong.

Follow the link and scroll down to 'Shop by Customer' and click on 'Moonambel Muster'

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T-Shirt including Moonambel Muster logo and 50th Anniversary commemorative logo on front, with large Moonambel Muster logo on back.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE

MEMBERSHIPS DUE BY 31/5/2023



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Geelong 4 Wheel Drive Club (Driveline Geelong Inc)

Wednesday 9th August 2023, 7:30pm

at the Clubrooms - Abe Wood Reserve

We hereby advise that the 2023 AGM will be held on Wednesday 9th August 2023 at the Abe Wood Reserve - corner of Edgerton & Evans Roads Lovely Banks, commencing at 7:30pm. The AGM to be followed by the monthly general meeting.

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 separately, prior to the meeting.

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 10th May 2023
Chair	Geoff Davey
Minutes taken by	Sharon Van Ingen

Agenda	
Meeting opened at	7.42 pm
Welcome to everyone present	
New members	
Visitors	Duane Henley, Derek Wielens, Carolyn Wielens, Ben Wielens, Michael Wielens, Corie Hale, Joel Martin
Present	Dirk Agenbag, Levi Brocks, Adam Cameron, Geoffrey Connors, Jake Cook, Geoff Davey, David Dixon, Lachlan Hill, Ebony Gambino, Joel Brincat, Graeme Jeffrey, Ken Mellross, Mark Mensch, Matthew and Juanita Mountjoy, John Prowse, Kelvin Rogers, Mark Rothon, Danny Sparks-Cousins, Jack Stratford, Geoff and Sharon Van Ingen, Tim Neville, Jimmy Halikias, Daniel Murdoch, Keith Murdoch
Apologies	John and Karen Goodall, Dave Hamann, Byron Willey, Ron Bastin, Beth Rogers

Acceptance of the previous General Meeting Minutes	
Moved	Danny Sparks-Cousins
Seconded	Adam Cameron
Business arising from the previous General Meeting Minutes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 50 year anniversary 110 attended and it was an enjoyable evening. Format worked well and attendees were able to share stories from both past and current member experiences. Wayne Hevey from FWDV presented a plaque to acknowledge our 50th anniversary. Adam Cameron thanked all involved in organising the night for a great night. Moonambel 2023 Bookings are beginning to come in. Geoff encouraged those who are intending to go to let Sharon know asap. Three clubs have indicated they will be attending. We are hopeful for 60 – 70 vehicles. Clothing is available through the Hip Pocket website. Membership Renewals Membership renewals are due by May 30, 2023. Juanita reminded those in attendance that until paid you are not considered an official member. It is a requirement to be an official/ paid member in order to attend events. AGM August 9th, 2023 More information to follow

Correspondence	
In	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> FWDV April eNews FWDV First Aid Course Mid City Trophies Invoice - Badges Moonambel Bookings Resignation Letters - Philip Lange, Liz Bailey, Steve and Donna Fagen, Michael Close

Correspondence (continued)	
Out	a) Driveline Magazine b) Membership Invoices

Treasurer's Report	
Presented By:	Juanita Mountjoy
Moved:	David Dixon
Seconded:	Tim Neville

Regular Reports	
Association Rep	NTR
Regional Rep	Regional Meeting in Bairnsdale 27-28 May 2023 Danny, Geoff and Mark attending.
Trip Co-Ordinator	Trips Out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Big Desert - April 14-17. Andrew Smith lead. Club 50th Anniversary - Saturday 6th May, 2023. Upcoming Trips <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moonambel Reccy Run - May 13 - 14. Tim Neville. Moonambel Muster - June 8 - 12. Club annual event. Fyansford Pub - June 24, 2023. Sharon Van Ingen. Snow Trip 1 - 21-23 July, 2023. Mountjoys. AGM - 9th August Snow Trip 2 - 11-13 August, 2023. Tim Neville Tassie Tour - 17th September - 12th October, 2023. Mountjoys. Melbourne Cup weekend - November 3rd - 7th. Geoff Davey.
Editor	Nothing to report
Webmaster	Photos from 50th Anniversary are now on the website and Facebook page.
Club Permit Scheme	Nothing to report
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pub Night - Fyansford Hotel June 24, 2023. 7pm
Fines	Ken Mellross, Geoff Davey x 2
Pist 'n' Broke	Stephen Fagan
Members Draw	Keith Murdoch

New Business	
Other Business	1. Special mention to Geoff Davey and Danny Sparks-Cousins for the amount of work put it to organising the 50th anniversary celebration. 2. Thank you also to Keith Murdoch for his efforts put into memorabilia items.
Meeting closed at	8.10 pm
Next General Meeting	Wednesday 14th June 2023 @ Clubrooms from 7.30pm.

AGENDA

Agenda Items for next meeting—Wednesday 14th June 2023	
	Moonambel Review
	Membership reminder and removal of non members from Facebook
	AGM 9th August

PIST'N BROKE

MAY 2023



STEPHEN FAGAN

GEELONG FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

PUB NIGHT

**24
JUNE**

**FROM
7 PM**



BEER - FOOD - FRIENDS

MORE INFO ON FACEBOOK - OR CONTACT SHARON 0422 993 415

24TH JUNE @ 7PM

FYANSFORD HOTEL

RSVP BY 17TH JUNE



UPCOMING TRIPS

MOONAMBEL MUSTER

Date: 9th - 12th June 2023 (King's Birthday Weekend)

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

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

Notes: Come and join us at the club's biggest event of the year! Support your club in what is always a fun social weekend with a variety of 4WD trip & track options to suit everyone.

Book your site now - \$30/night powered, \$15/night unpowered.

Contact Sharon Van Ingen to book - secretary@geelong4wdclub.org.au

If you're interested in leading a trip (even if you have never led a trip before) this is the perfect opportunity. Anything from easy to extreme can be catered for. Get in touch with Tim on 0478 065 716 if you are keen.



SOCIAL NIGHT @ FYANSFORD HOTEL

Date: 24th June 2023

Notes: Come and join us at the Fyansford Hotel for dinner and a relaxing social night with friends.

RSVP by 17th June to Sharon Van Ingen 0422 993 415, or check out the Facebook event page.



SNOW TRIP 1

Date: 22nd to 23rd July 2023

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

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

Note: We will be base camping at Jamieson Caravan Park. There are cabins on hold for the next two weeks. Please confirm your place on the trip before booking a cabin. We will run day trips both Saturday and Sunday, including a trip over Mt Skene. This trip is limited to 10 vehicles due to permit requirements.

Contact Juanita for more info 0467 809 040.



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

UPCOMING TRIPS

SNOW TRIP 2

Date: 11th to 13th August 2023

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

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

Note: Staying at the Jamison caravan park as per normal. I have cabins on hold for two weeks. Please confirm position on trip with Tim before calling and booking a cabin under your name. Aiming for two permits this year so the limit on cars will be accommodation. Please note: Mud tires highly recommended or very very good quality all terrains, snorkels a must. Winches recommended as we will most likely need them. Plan is to cross Mt Skene, from there assess time and tackle some steep tracks to fill in the day.

Contact Tim for more info 0478 065 716.



TASSIE TOUR 2023

Date: 17th September – 12th October 2023

Trip Leader: Matthew & Juanita Mountjoy

Tail End Charlie: Kelvin & Beth Rogers

Trip Classification: Medium / Hard | **Vehicle Limit:** 8

Departing: Spirit of Tasmania Quay, Geelong

Requirements: We are expecting rain, perhaps even snow, which means the tracks can be unpredictable. Experience driving in a range of conditions is essential. Participants must have a working winch, snorkel, aggressive AT's (as a bare minimum), standard recovery gear and rated recovery points. A rear locker would be desirable.

Note: We will be camping in swags or tents. Off-road campers may be a possibility. Make sure you have plenty of warm clothes, as well as a good sleeping bag! If you are interested in coming along, please contact Juanita directly on 0467 809 040.



MELBOURNE CUP HIGH COUNTRY

Date: Friday 3rd to Tuesday 7th November 2023

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

Trip Classification: Medium/Hard | **Vehicle Limit:** 8

Requirements: UHF radio, standard recovery gear, rated recovery points, good all terrains or better. Snorkel required as we will cross Crooked River. Winch preferred.



Note: Traveller trip. Friday night we will camp the Dargo Pub. Saturday to Billy Goat Track and the Pinnacles then camp on Wonnangatta River. Sunday along Crooked River, camp at Wonnangatta Homestead. Monday Zeka Spur Tack and King Billy Track to Sheep yard Flat. Tuesday home. For more information contact Geoff on 0499 905 975.



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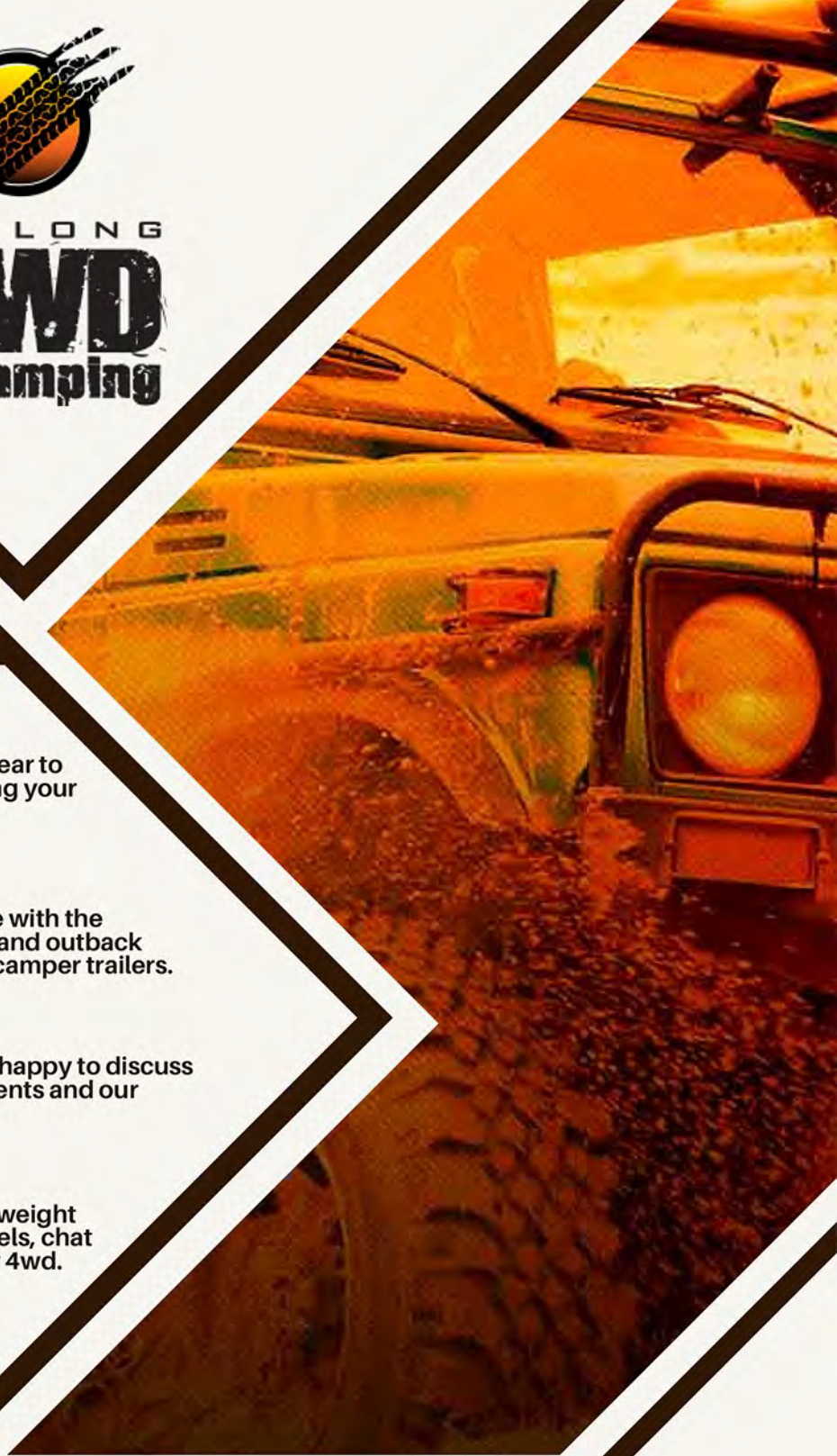
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HOODIE

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S - 5XL

\$60 Each

CAP

Brushed heavy cotton cap including club logo. One size fits most.

\$20 Each



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HOW THE GEELONG FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB CAME TO BE

BY: WERNER BROCKS - PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER 1973

In late 1971 whilst on a working holiday and living in Gladstone, Queensland, I was one of the founding members of the Gladstone 4WD Club, and enjoyed many trips out and the companionship of other families who shared the same interests (camping, four wheeling and the great outdoors). My employer, an American construction firm, asked me to relocate to work on a new construction site in Geelong. In 1972 we arrived in Geelong and our children, Darren and Trevor, were of school age so my wife and I decided to sell the caravan and buy a house making Geelong our home.

After living in Geelong for six to nine months, we looked around and found no local 4WD Clubs in the area so decided to place an advertisement in the local paper to find other people who may be interested in starting up a Geelong 4WD Club. Much to our surprise, Les Crowe showed up on our doorstep and said he had several other families who were also interested. They had been talking about forming a club but never got around to doing it.

On the 6th May 1973, we held our first meeting at Kana Street, Grovedale and officially formed the club. I was voted in as the first President. For the first few

months we held our meetings in Les Crowe's garage (Kana Street) and we were always reminded to bring our own chairs! In our first year we had 12 to 14 families. The main vehicles at that time were Land Rover, Toyota Landcruiser and Nissan Patrol, and one lone 1942 ex-army Jeep. Our first trip was to the Brisbane Ranges.

Shortly after forming our club, other clubs approached us to create the now Association. We were one of the first four clubs in Victoria to be involved in forming the Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs. Brian Tanner, one of our early members, became one of the Association's first Presidents. Today the Association is the umbrella body for all affiliated Four Wheel Drive Clubs in Victoria, and represents the interests of all recreational four wheel drivers in the state. It is presently made up of over 94 clubs which in turn have a membership totalling over 13,000 subscribed members representing four wheel drive enthusiasts and their families.

After some time, we found club rooms at Norlane's D W Hope Centre which was a former Migrant Hut. The Club met there for several years until the centre was demolished. Over the next 8 years we

drifted from school to school to holding meetings as one of our members worked for the Education Department. We eventually found club rooms at the Wood Street Reserve in South Geelong where we resided for approximately 15 years until it was demolished. Up until then we were one of only a few clubs in Victoria to have their own Club Rooms. In mid 2008, the Seaview Social Club invited us to affiliate with them and in January 2009 we officially moved to the Seaview club in Lovely Banks. A couple of years later the Club was successful in taking over the management of a rebuilt Council Hall and has turned this into our permanent home (and managing the sub-leasing to a dance school).

Over the years we have worked in conjunction with several councils to remove car bodies from the bush and other scrapped metals. We have also assisted with the Clean Up Australia Day efforts - mainly clearing the bush. In the mid to late 1970s the Geelong City SES was formed by volunteers from the Geelong Four Wheel Drive Club and some of our members today are still highly recognized in the State Emergency Services. David Dixon and myself were awarded the National Medal through the SES for over 15 years' service.



Our first inter-club activities were held at Forrest at a quarry and we camped at the football oval. This event was run for approximately 8 to 10 years consecutively. Then came Quarry Capers at Maude and then back to the Forrest area, Gellibrand and Dandos. Then it became Forrest Frolics, followed by Otway Antics and then Sokil Scramble. Over the years we developed a good relationship with the Bendigo 4x4 Club, whom until recently we met at least 3 times a year (Forrest, Avoca and Hopetoun). Now there is one annual event held at Moonambel on the Queen's Birthday weekend called the Moonambel Muster.

Our club trips on a regular basis include Beachport and Robe, regular activity in the Dargo High Country area, and in the winter, we often booked out the Woods Point Hotel for all our members and had some great weekends driving in the snow (this became so popular we often ran 2 to 4 trips each year). John Foot, now deceased, was one of our early members to initiate snow trips to the Woods Point area.

We have had many club members leading long trips into the outback such as: Alice Springs, The Kimberleys, Birdsville, Cape York, Fraser Island and the Curdimurka Ball. Not only have we got together in the bush, but often enjoyed social activities in the club rooms - be it a few drinks after a meeting, the large Christmas parties, presentation night held mid year (and even fancy dress ones!), hot dog nights, fundraisers—they were all great.

Over the past 45 plus years since the club was formed, I have met some wonderful people and enjoyed many a good time with them. Their children are now members themselves bringing their families along. We have since celebrated our 25th, 30th and 40th Anniversaries and now on the 6th of May 2023 - our 50th Anniversary.

A Club is only ever as good as its members, and in my opinion, our club is and always has been a fantastic club. Well done to everyone—past and present.

Article printed in the Geelong Advertiser 1978. Updated 2020 & 2023 by Foundation & Life Member, Werner Brocks



50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY 6TH MAY 2023

WORDS: DANNY SPARKS-COUSINS - PHOTOS: SHEZ TEDFORD

Saturday May 6th 2023 marked the 50th Anniversary of the Geelong Four Wheel Drive Club. After a huge amount of planning by many people the night had arrived for everyone to celebrate this remarkable milestone.

The Yot, located at the Geelong Yacht Club, was as our venue for the night. It was selected for its central location and ability to cater for everyone in comfort and style. We were thrilled to have 110 past and present members join us from far and wide with

some members traveling from Queensland, New South Wales and even Western Australia to be part of this auspicious occasion.

The room was arranged with a selection of memorabilia, clothing, and club magazines from across the years. A slideshow featuring photos from various trips and events dating back from the very early days of the club was also played on the big screen. The club clothing from different years was an interesting look back in time ... and not all of it was

green! An array of 50th Anniversary Commemorative Memorabilia was available for purchase including belt buckles, stubby holders, cups & mugs, and hat pins. These items will still be available for purchase throughout the remainder of the year through the committee.

The evening commenced at 5:30pm with guests arriving and making themselves comfortable with a beverage and a chat. We even had a couple of very stylish arrivals make their way to the



party by stretch Hummer limousines – can't get much better than that to kick off the party!

As the room filled and became louder with laughter and chatting the food and beverages began to flow. The Yot supplied a delicious selection of finger foods throughout the night along with plenty of beverage options. Everyone was well-fed and in high spirits which contributed to the joyous and animated atmosphere.

It was great to see many members enjoying the photo slideshow, stirring up memories of past trips, bringing on a few laughs and giggles and getting people talking about times they've shared in the club. Did you know that on the night we had 9 past Presidents attend (spanning a collective 19 years of presidency), 11 Life members, 17 Clubmen and Clubwomen and 11 "Dunny Seat" award members.

Wayne Hevey from Four Wheel Drive Victoria was in attendance and congratulated the club on reaching the 50-year milestone.



He presented the club with a commemorative plaque. The Geelong Four Wheel Drive Club played a significant role in the establishment of the Association and maintains a strong bond and relationship with Four Wheel Drive Victoria still today.

Two separate panels were held through the night to have a very relaxed and informal chat about anything and everything that has happened within the club since its inception. Our first panel discussion for the night, 'A Chat with the Boys' (or maybe 'The Kangaroo Bar') consisted of the following participants:

- Founding member and inaugural President, Life Member, previous Clubman of the Year and 2 time Dunno Seat award winner – Werner Brocks.
- Founding member and the club's second President – Les Crowe.
- Founding member – Pam Crowe.
- Life Member, previous Clubman of the Year – Brian Tanner, and
- Life Member and previous Clubman of the Year – Alex Huybens.



Some of the many and various topics covered by the panel included how the club came about, the early years' trips, vehicles and accessories, the State Emergency Service (SES) and the origins of the club logo. Roving reporter Trevor Brocks made sure everyone in the audience could participate by asking questions for the panel or sharing their own historical anecdotes, memorable moments from trips, events and social nights within the club.

How the club started really is a story within itself and covered by Werner in his story 'How the club came to be' page 12 of the magazine. In the very early days we were one of the very first four wheel drive clubs in Victoria. At the time our club was formed there were only three other clubs: the Land Rover Club, the Jeep Club and the Toyota Club. Now there are over 90 clubs under the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Association.

The early trips were predominantly local with the first one being an easy exploration of the Brisbane Ranges before venturing further afield to Apollo Bay, Forrest, and deeper into the Otways. In those early years the most popular vehicles were Land Rovers, Land Cruisers, Patrols and a few Jeeps. They lacked power

steering, had 3 or 4-speed manuals and no electronic assistance. Driving those vehicles required skill and control. Lowering tyre pressures wasn't common as the tyres couldn't accommodate it and wheel chains were a common necessity when tackling challenging terrain. Bull bars were typically simple, agricultural items made from welded pipes or whatever materials were available, and accessories – there weren't any!

Brian explained a little about the club '4' logo. The original logo was roughly based on a manual gear shift pattern and consisted pretty much of a condensed '4' pattern (a '4' squeezed from both sides). It was used on a few of the early brown covered magazines. Brian redrew it to the more proportioned '4' with the outline around it, somewhere around 1976-77. It was then used on a green windcheater and a run of bronze badges which members attached to their vehicles. That logo is still the official club logo to this day, used on the club magazine and plenty of other places.





Our relationship with the SES started very early on – members of the Club basically were the first SES group in Geelong. They were given a generator and a couple of lights and asked to assist in setting up lighting etc to help at traffic accidents and other emergencies.

The club's first ever meeting was held in Les Crowe's garage! Since then we have held meetings at the DW Hope Centre in Norlane, various schools that were available, the Wood Street Reserve in South Geelong, the Seaview Club and now in our current clubrooms at the Abe Wood Reserve.



One particularly memorable adventure – the 'Whitfield Episode' – included quite a large convoy, multiple boggings, changing weather and a very steep hill. Going downhill while the weather was fine was great – but trying to come back up in the rain not so much. At least the radio could pick up the footy for a little amusement.

Our club has always been willing to lend a hand throughout the



Otways region – helping out in the early days with the removal of Boneseed weed. We have also helped out with removal of car bodies and general rubbish, track classifications and track clearing and opening which we continue to do annually.

During the second panel discussion we had the pleasure of hosting some of the prominent women who have been part of the club throughout the years: Julie Brocks, Jan Napper and Ornella Di Rocco along with past President Adam Cameron. A great discussion was held on the history of the larger annual club events starting off at Apollo Bay and spanning the Boho Bounce, Gippsland Go Down, Quarry Capers, Forrest Frolics, Otway Antics and Sokil Scramble right up to the current Moonambel Muster – which this year we are celebrating 12 years continuous running of this event.



We heard fond memories of how the club and its members have always been up for some competition whether it was between members and other clubs and with many varied games and contests at the events. We've held dress up events, annual Christmas parties for the kids to play and enjoy a visit from Santa, presentation nights, trivia nights and plenty more.

Beachport and Robe have become an annual staple for the club with many families attending over the years and forming strong bonds. The extended club families have always been a feature of the club no matter what age the children (or adults), everyone looks after each other's like their own. The annual Snow Trip up around Woods Point is another annual event looked forward to by so many within the club. The snow trips are so popular that we usually run two!

The Mud Chicks group was originally formed to assist families going through difficult times with an illness of a main family member or even the arrival of a newborn baby. The Mud Chicks would work out meals to be made and delivered to the family to ease the burden. They used to meet one Wednesday a month, usually at the old Pancake Parlour late evening and the women were able to get out and catch up whilst the men stayed home with young kids. They'd plan fundraisers, social night events and other club activities.

Do you know how the Napper's Jokers Hat came to be? Well thanks to Zach and Jan we now know that Jan 'borrowed' it from Zach to take on one of their early trips with the intention of creating a reason to gather together at the end of each day. If the group wasn't able to have a campfire there was still a reason to gather together and share stories of the day. On the first night of the trip Jan nominated someone to wear the hat for the entire next day. It didn't matter if you were in the middle of the outback or in the middle of a

supermarket – the whole next day you had to wear that damn hat. Subsequent nights around the campfire (or just around the hat) the hat would be passed onto whoever had done the funniest, silliest, craziest, or maybe even dumbest thing from the day. Although not everyone may have enjoyed wearing the hat at the time, it was a great source of fun and laughter for the entire convoy and is still talked about to this day.

Ornella recalled some of the more memorable pranks played on trips

by herself and Marg Gill. Marg was always up for a laugh! The first was while everyone else was out driving they decided to catch bugs and flies and fill Dave Purdie's mesh "fly proof" marquee tent. He came back wondering how they got in. Ornella and Marg watched Dave meticulously looking over the tent for holes before eventually letting Dave know they spent the afternoon using the kids bug catcher. The second prank involved a little bush tucker. They made small rum balls from moist sawdust found in a tree, rolled them in sugar and then used left over Ferrero Rocher wrappers to serve them in. When the fellas came back from their drive the tasty morsels were offered along with other treats. Most were very polite until they caught on although Nigel Lloyd didn't hold back, spitting them out saying they were bloody awful. Nigel was known to be a joker and prankster himself adding to the light-hearted atmosphere. No deaths, just a few giggles had.

Adam was able to fill us in a little on the more recent history of different vehicles that we've had



within the club – improvements in tyres, technology and various accessories. We even heard all about the transition of driving lights on members cars – from halogen, to HID, to LEDs and the prevalence of light bars. We did manage to get a group photo towards the tail end of the night – but only squeezed in about half of the total who attended. Thanks to Shez Tedford for taking photos throughout the night, with past and present members enjoying a chat, laughing at good times shared together and thinking about the next trip and getting back on the tracks.

The party continued until close to midnight (I'm sure there were a few who kept going 'til the wee hours of the morning). It was an exceptional celebration befitting our remarkable club and its 50th year of being.

Congratulations to the Geelong Four Wheel Drive Club, Werner Brocks, Les Crowe and other founding members and everyone who has been a member or helped the club in so many different ways over the years. I doubt anyone would have thought they'd be celebrating 50 continuous years in 2023. The event was made possible thanks to the efforts of Geoff Davey, the committee and the special working group who dedicated themselves to organizing a night to remember.

Danny





PRESIDENTS L to R - John Bell, Geoff Davey, George Heather, Dave Hamman, Adam Cameron, Werner Brocks, Mick Riley, Byron Willey (David Dixon was also present)



LIFE MEMBERS L to R - Trevor Brocks, Brian Tanner, Werner Brocks, David Dixon, Alex Huybens, Adrian Ellis, Dave Purdie, Shez Tedford, Warren Tedford, Allie Hamann, Dave Hamann



CLUBMEN AND CLUBWOMEN L to R - Wayne Clayton, Carmel Heather, John Bell, Brian Tanner, Yvonne Clayton, Alex Huybens, Jan Napper, Daryl Napper, Warren Tedford, Juanita Mountjoy, Mick Riley, Geoff Davey, Shez Tedford, Dave Hamann, Allie Hamann



Dunny Seat Award Winners L to R - Wayne Clayton, Don Bird, Werner Brocks, Geoff Davey, Tim Neville, Adam Cameron, Daryl Napper, Zach Napper, Warren Tedford, Mark Mensch, Kelvin Rogers

50TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORABILIA

ON SALE NOW

Get your commemorative memorabilia celebrating 50 years of the Geelong 4WD Club.

50th Anniversary commemorative club clothing is available direct from Hip Pocket Workwear Geelong. Follow the link and scroll down to 'Shop by Customer'

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BELT BUCKLE

Hand crafted brass belt buckle with commemorative 50th Anniversary club logo.

Approximate size 80mm x 55mm

\$65 Each



HAT PIN

Hand crafted brass belt buckle with commemorative 50th Anniversary club logo

Approximate size 30mm x 22mm

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STUBBIE HOLDER

Hand crafted leather stubby holder with commemorative 50th Anniversary club logo.

Fits standard size can or stubby.

\$35 Each

Order directly at club meetings from the Secretary - Sharon Van Ingen OR email secretary@geelong4wdclub.org.au listing the items you wish to purchase.

If you wish to pay electronically, please ETF to BSB: **033-226** ACC: **160294** and note **50MERCH** and your **SURNAME**. Collection after the Celebration Night.

All items will be available to order at the 50th Celebration Night.



SMALL MUGS

Small insulated cup with commemorative 50th Anniversary logo and club logo on reverse.

Approximate size 325ml

\$35 Each



LARGE MUGS

Large insulated cup with commemorative 50th Anniversary logo and club logo on reverse.

Approximate size 500ml

\$35 Each

GEELONG 4 WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

MOONAMBEL RECCY RUN

12-14 MAY 2023

WORDS: GRAEME JEFFREY - PHOTOS: GEOFF DAVEY

The primary objective for the weekend was to clear Morrie's & Cross Tracks for our annual Moonambel Muster or for this year AKA "Tim's Big Moonambel Extravaganza". A small group met early Friday arvo for a play in the Redbank area before being met later that evening by more members keen to achieve Tim's trip objectives.

Members already at Moonambel received a call from Tim inviting them to meet at the Avoca Hotel for a feed, and for the majority it sounded better than what was on their meal plan. After a hearty meal and a couple of beverages we travelled back to the Rec Reserve for

an evening chat around the campfire.

Saturday morning 9 cars with 12 members headed off to Morrie's Track at 9am to primarily fill in a big washout and clear many fallen trees. The trip into the bottom of Morrie's has several washouts and steps making it interesting for some of the less set up vehicles (no recoveries needed). At the bottom we reached the washout which certainly needed some work.

The group then made good the washout and after quite a lot of digging, levelling and filling, everyone could continue. The next

two sections through the creek and up out of the it proved testing for many with one winching and 2 or 3 others needing multiple attempts to get up. Plenty of wheel lifts (me included) made for some cheering and shouts of encouragement from onlookers.

The rest of the track saw many stops and starts with heaps of chainsawing, particularly from the guys with saws big enough to handle the job. Lunch was had about 1pm at the top of Morrie's before we headed off to Cross Track to clear the creek bed section Tim wanted set up for the Muster.



Again the big saws were out to clear many large logs washed in over time so that the “hard” section could be navigated. Much deliberation was required through this “operation” to successfully remove the obstacles and once done only Tim & the Brock’s boys in the “big trucks” were good to go through.

On the way out one very large fallen tree (with a chainsaw bar hanging out of it from someone else’s failed attempt to clear) required a detour via a short but steep entry / exit to the creek bed, again getting several good wheel lifts whilst doing so.

It was then time to collect some firewood before getting back to camp about 5pm. Some members headed off due to other commitments including Mother’s Day the next day. A handful of stayers remained for a few more beverages and tales around the fire through the evening. Sunday, after our gear dried out, the rest of us headed home or to Mother’s Day get togethers as well.

Great weather, great company and solid efforts made the weekend a success, Thanks to all who came, had a crack for the benefit of others going to Tim’s Big Moonambel Extravaganza.

See you there, Graeme.



BIG DESERT TRIP

14 - 17 APRIL 2023

WORDS: ANDREW & TYLER SMITH - PHOTOS: GEOFF DAVEY

Meeting at Batesford Roadhouse, everyone was on time and we managed to leave right on 9 a.m.

Unfortunately, we only got about 10 minutes into the trip and Geoff's electrical gremlin of the 200 Series not going into fourth gear reared its ugly head, so we pulled over and stopped and started the car. This did not fix the problem so we pulled over again and completely disconnected the battery and hooked it back up on the side of the road for a "factory reset" and this seemed to work.

Lunch was short stop in Hamilton - although it does help if the Travelbuddy oven is on or you have cold pies for lunch ... Geoff. We grabbed some firewood on the way and rolled into Big Billy Bore Campground around 4 p.m. Unfortunately it rained all evening and night, so even though a fire was lit the mood was very much dampened by the rain.

Saturday saw us leave camp at the very respectable time of 9 a.m. First on the agenda was Milmed Rock Track. Milmed Rock had an interesting visitor box that

was filled with all sorts of emergency supplies.

We continued along to Milmed Rock Swamp and Arnold Springs and found a new little hill that none of us had travelled up before. It was a great little hill and plenty of fun. Ken struggled at first until he let his tyres down more and then made it up easy. Lunch was on a lookout hill on Milmed Rock Track, once Andrew made it to the top after having two goes and initially choosing the wrong gear. After Milmed Rock Track we started to make



our way home on Whoopy Doo Track, which was hard to stomach at times. Back out onto the main Murrayville Road that was really quite slippery with all the overnight and daytime rain, some firewood was collected, and Andrew cooked a BBQ for everyone to enjoy around the campfire.

Sunday morning we finally woke to blue sky after it continued raining all night. Before getting onto the tracks a quick tyre change was in order on Geoff's car as one of his tyres had the steel belt showing through. We did Brushcutters Track onto Big Dune where Andrew drove up to see what the condition of the track was like, and drove just about to the top in first gear almost by mistake. All the recent rain had made Big Dune the easiest it had been on a club trip, with all of us completing all possible lines except the very far-left that has been the nemesis of many a club trip. We then tested out the dunes on the back side of Big Dune, with Ken's car ending up going into limp mode. With a bonnet up and cool down for 20 minutes the "factory reset"



was complete and all was back to normal. We stopped at White Springs for lunch with some scones, jam, and cream from Tyler - cooked in the Travelbuddy. Some more fun on another great little hill after lunch saw everyone successfully to the top. Just before camp we searched out a track that Geoff had seen on Graeme Jeffrey's trip a week earlier. Geoff had several goes at it with no success and needed Andrews trusty Patrol to winch him back onto the track. I believe there is a bet placed by Geoff that no one will get up that hill next time we are at Big Desert for a trip! We rounded out the day back at camp for a large fire and a relaxing night.

Monday morning we were all packed early and left camp at 9 a.m. for our trip back home. Thanks to Geoff and Ken for coming along for a ripper weekend.

Cheers, Andrew and Tyler

Trip Participants
Andrew and Tyler Smith
Ken Mellross
Geoff Davey (tail end)



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