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NOVEMBER 2023



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



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TJM GEELONG



ON THE HORIZON

NOVEMBER

3 - 7

**MELBOURNE CUP
HIGH COUNTRY**

8

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

22

COMMITTEE MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

DECEMBER

2

FISH & CHIP NIGHT RUN

13

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

JANUARY

24

COMMITTEE MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

3 - 7

**STRATHBOGIE RANGES
AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND**

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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SAFETY EQUIPMENT



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Geoff Van Ingen
Mark Mensch
Daniel Murdoch
Sharon Van Ingen
Alanna Stratford
Sophie Brocks

Cover Photo: Amy Brown



THE PRES SAYS

G'day all,

Well done to everyone who attended the Club Awards Night. We had a turnout of around 50 people which was really good to see. It was a great night with plenty of social interaction and ideas tossed about.

Congratulations to the awards winners; thanks to Keith Murdoch, Danny Sparks-Cousins and Tim Neville for organizing the night and everyone who participated.

Our next big social event is the Christmas Party to be held at the Clubrooms on Saturday 18th November. Alanna Stratford and Sophie Brocks are trying a few new things this year and have put a lot of effort into the planning. See the flyer in the magazine and Facebook and get your tickets to support Alanna and Sophie and ensure another successful event for the Club.

Watch out for some new trips to be posted soon. We are looking at a few day trips before Christmas and an Australia Day trip in January to be posted shortly.

We are also continuing to look at ways to survey members to help you all get the most out of our Club. All ideas are welcome.

See you at the Christmas Party
Geoff

Geoff

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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	General Meeting
Location	Clubrooms—Abe Wood Reserve, Edgerton Road, Lovely Banks.
Date	Wednesday 11th October 2023
Chair	Geoff Davey
Minutes taken by	Graeme Jeffrey

Agenda	
Meeting opened at	7.30 pm - after 1st BBQ of the season
Welcome to everyone present	
New members	Nil
Visitors	Nil
Present	Justin Brocks, Sophie Brocks, Geoffrey Connors, Geoff Davey, Jimmy Halikias, Graeme Jeffrey, Daniel Murdoch, Jenny Carpentier, Keith Murdoch, Tim Neville, Kelvin Rogers, Mark Rothon, Danny Sparks-Cousins, Mark Mensch, Jack Stratford, Alanna Stratford, Dave Purdie, David Dixon, Ken Melross, John Goodall, Ron Bastin, John Prowse, Scott Latham, Corie Hale, Amelia Tomaras
Apologies	Sharon & Geoff Van Ingen, Juanita & Matthew Mountjoy, Beth Rodgers, Jake Cooke, Dave Hamann, Allie Hamann, Byron Willey, Daniel Jennings, Dwayne Henley, Rob Gunn, Richard Oberley, Amy Oberley

Acceptance of the previous General Meeting Minutes	
Moved	Keith Murdoch
Seconded	Jimmy Halikias
Business arising from the previous General Meeting Minutes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation Night October 28th, 6.30pm. Fyansford Hotel *****Members need to advise attendance for Bookings***** Christmas Party November 18th ***Put it in your diary**** Watch website & Driveline for details Club Activities - Member input required / valued. Moonambel 2024 on “Radar” – work in progress – letters have been sent to various 4WD Clubs as prelim’ invitation.
New Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nil

Correspondence	
In	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> FWDV Email Trackwatch article request. FWDV Presidents Meeting minutes. Rhys Davies, Drew Honey Club Reg interest email’s – Responded to by Danny . Email Stuart Kreek – VASS Engineer Signatory Australia Post Statement.
Out	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Driveline Magazine

Treasurer's Report

Presented By: Moved: Seconded:	Nil report
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Regular Reports

Association Rep	Nothing to report
Regional Rep	Reminder - Track Clearing 28/10/23
Trip Co-Ordinator	Trips Out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tassie Tour - 17th September - 12th October, 2023. Mountjoy's trip report to follow as only arrived back today. Enfield Day Trip - 7th October - Graeme Jeffrey Upcoming Trips <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation Night - October 28th 6.30pm Fyansford Hotel Track Clearing - October 28th, 2023. Danny Organising Melbourne Cup High Country weekend - November 3rd - 7th. Geoff Davey leading. Fish & Chip Night - December 2nd – 5.30pm – Daniel Murdoch. Expression of Interest Cape York – 2024, More to Follow – Dan Murdoch. Australia Day Trip – more to Follow, Geoff Davey? Mountjoy Easter Trip Beachport – Park Fees Paid, More to follow. Easter Trip - More to follow – Graeme Jeffrey. Border Track Reccy run for Simpson – May. Tim Neville T.B.C.
Editor	Received Great Tassie Trip Reports – keep em coming – make for good Mags
Webmaster	Nothing to report
Club Permit Scheme	1 new vehicle registered for the month
Social	Nothing to report
Fines	Geoff Davey x 1, Mark Rothern x 2, Graeme Jeffrey x 2, Scott Latham x 1, Jim Halikias x1, Jack Stratford x 1, Alana Stratford x 1
Pist 'n' Broke	Graeme Jeffrey
Members Draw	Stratfords - Jack claimed.

Meeting closed at	7.58 pm
Next General Meeting	Wednesday 8th November 2023 @ Clubrooms from 7.30pm - BBQ from 6.30pm

AGENDA

Agenda Items for next meeting—Wednesday 8th November 2023

	Christmas party
	Member input to club activities

PIST'N BROKE OCTOBER 2023



GRAEME JEFFREY



GEELONG 4WD CLUB

Christmas PARTY

SATURDAY

18 NOVEMBER, 2023

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UPCOMING TRIPS

FISH & CHIPS NIGHT RUN

Date: Saturday 2nd December 2023

Trip Leader: Daniel Murdoch | **Tail End Charlie:** TBA

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

Meeting: Jan Juc Fish and Chip Shop, 4/2 Stuart Ave, Jan Juc @ 5:30pm

Requirements: Appetite & vehicle.

Note: Family friendly night run. Plan on meeting at the Jan Juc Fish and Chip Shop, order some food from Jimmy's Family Fish And Chip Shop for dinner. Plan on leaving the carpark afterwards around 6.30 - 7 depending on numbers to give the shop enough time to cook and everyone to eat. We are heading back through the Anglesea 4wd tracks.

For more information contact Daniel on 0498 683 330.



STRATHBOGIE RANGES AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND

Date: 25th to 29th January 2024

Trip Leader: Graeme Jeffrey | **Tail End Charlie:** TBA

Trip Classification: Easy / Medium | **Vehicle Limit:** TBA

Meeting: TBA

Requirements: Minimum all terrains, rated front & rear recovery points, own recovery gear.

Note: Planning to stay at Star of the Glen (base camp - TBC). Daily trips out - easy/medium.

For more information contact Graeme Jeffrey or check the Facebook events page.



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - CAPE YORK 2024

Date: 11th June 2024

Trip Leader: Daniel Murdoch | **Tail End Charlie:** TBA

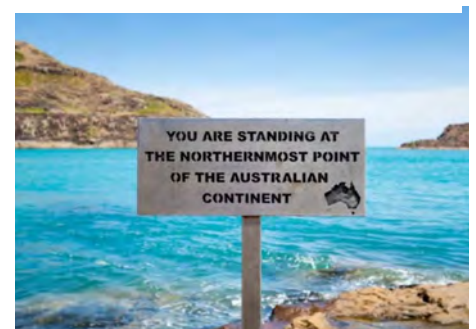
Trip Classification: Medium Plus | **Vehicle Limit:** N/A

Meeting: TBA

Requirements: TBA

Note: Expressions of interest sought on doing a Cape York trip in June 2024. Plan on doing 4 - 5 weeks from Cairns to the Cape and back. It will be a medium plus trip depending on weather conditions.

For more information contact Daniel on 0498 683 330.



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



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GEELONG 4 WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

PRESENTATION NIGHT

SATURDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2023
WORDS & PHOTOS: KEITH MURDOCH

The time of year to recognize some of our most deserving club members has again come and run. This year we held our Presentation Night at the Fyansford Hotel. The meals were delicious and the company even better. We had a good turn out of 40 odd members who all had a great time. Congratulations to all award winners and thanks to all that attended. I can't wait to see you all again at our Christmas party on November 18th.

Cheers, Keith





**CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR
GEOFF DAVEY**



**CLUBWOMAN OF THE YEAR
SHARON VAN INGEN**



**CLUBMAN RUNNER UP
TIM NEVILLE**



**MOST ACTIVE NEW MEMBER
JOHN PROWSE**



**CLUBWOMAN RUNNER UP
JUANITA MOUNTJOY**



**DUNNY SEAT AWARD
GEOFF DAVEY**



**APPRECIATION AWARD
TIM NEVILLE**



**EDITORS AWARD
GEOFF DAVEY**

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Approximate size 500ml

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GEELONG 4 WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

TERRIFIC TASSIE

17TH SEPTEMBER TO 10TH OCTOBER 2023

WORDS & PHOTOS: VARIOUS

Day 1 - Sunday 17th September

Six vehicles left the Sexyland carpark at 8.30am. Tim Neville came to see us off (or maybe he just needed to do some shopping) which was a nice surprise. The Spirit of Tasmania boarding process went smoothly and everyone was settled in the lounge areas in no time. The boys decided to find the front of the ship but Geoff's navigating skills had them going in circles. It turns out you cannot walk from one end of the ship to the other. The voyage was fairly calm, allowing us to enjoy the food,

beverages and entertainment: although the entertainment was debatable. Once the ship was docked we all headed to the Abel Tasman Caravan Park to set up and bunker down for the night. Everyone was very excited to get the trip underway.

Day 2 - Monday 18th September

We woke to a beautiful sunny 18 degree day. We left the campground around 9am for a picturesque drive to Wynyard. We drove some easy to medium tracks with the campers on. One vehicle needed to be snatched

during the day. Thanks Daniel for pulling us up! We stopped for lunch at Dip Falls - MAGNIFICENT! This waterfall was spectacular. It was a great stop for lunch. From Dip Falls we visited the Big Tree. At The Big Tree we walked through a beautiful rainforest that led to the most massive trees. The Big Tree was well worth the visit. Trowutta Arch was next. This area was created by two caves that collapsed and made a stunning sinkhole. Next was wood collection then headed to the Smithton Caravan Park and camped





alongside the river. We enjoyed drinks and dinner around the worst fire ever.

Day 3 - Tuesday 19th September

This morning we travelled from Smithton to Arthur River. After checking in with the Ranger we went to choose our camp spots. This spot had a lovely pink lake very close to camp. During the day Geoff & I went to Stanley and had abalone & scallops for lunch. We also did the chairlifts and 2km walk at The Nut. We highly recommend a trip to Stanley, it was such a beautiful town with old well kept buildings. The others all went beach driving and arrived back at camp very late as the Mountjoy's had car trouble. The beach drivers had a great time and were happy to arrive at camp to a great fire built by Rob.



Day 4 - Wednesday 20th September

The boys got started early fixing the Mountjoy's car. It didn't take too long but we experienced lots rain and hail before leaving camp. Once on the road we headed to Corrina via a very potholed road / track. Once at Corrina a few got to enjoy hot chips for lunch while others were barged across the Piemans River. We headed to Strahan on gorgeous scenic roads and found a camp in the Swan Basin State Forest. We enjoyed the most magnificent views. After camp was



set up some went to the production 'The Ship That Never Was' while others stayed around the campfire. Those that went to the production thoroughly enjoyed it and had some good stories to tell. Daniel tried his hand at some fishing but none of us ate fish for dinner.

Sharon Van Ingen

Day 5 - Thursday 21st September

We left camp in Strahan at 8:30 and headed out towards Montezuma Falls track. Arriving at the start of the track at 10am we proceeded to air down and chunked the cars into 4WD. The track was rated hard, however was actually pretty easy going majority of the way. There were a few areas that were off camber which requiring spotting and a river crossing that added a bit of excitement. The track itself was very scenic, with thick jungle vegetation following the old train tracks carved through the hills for the old mine site.

A highlight of the trip included Jeff needing to fold his mirror in to avoid hitting a large rock ledge. Rather than just winding the window down, he instead proceeded to open his door straight into the ledge resulting in a lot of laughs from the onlookers. We came across a number of fallen trees along the track. Unfortunately, Mathew forgot



to pack his chainsaw; however, he had a red hot crack at chopping through a few trees with his shovel, which provided great entertainment. Luckily, Daniel bought along his trusty Ozito reciprocating saw which got us through majority of the track. With only 3km left of the 15km track we came across a girthy tree that was nearly 1.5 meters in diameter and the root system smack bang in the middle of the track. Matthew tried hitting it with his shovel with no avail. Even with a big chainsaw we would of had no chance, so were left with no choice but to stop for lunch and do a 70 point turn and head back the way we came. We made record time on the way back down, returning back at camp around 5pm feeling a little deflated about not reaching the end of the track. Consolidation beers were had around the camp fire.

Day 6 - Friday 22nd September

Today we left camp with great enthusiasm, ready to check out the much anticipated 'Spray Tunnels'. The Spray Tunnels were used to mine silver back in the day. We arrived after a short drive and were immediately underwhelmed with one dark tunnel about 100m long. With no real reason to hang around we continued our journey to start the iconic Climies track.

We aired down and proceed with great anticipation. The track was very eroded with many rutted sections, well worn areas and chicken tracks. We proceed along the track for about 2km's where we were once again faced with a large obstacle with no alternate routes. A steep rocky river crossing was going to put some of the vehicles in an extremely precarious situation. This part of the track was quite off camber we risked sliding into large rocks, caving in sills and doors. After a lot of discussion about different routes and options it was ultimately decided that the best option was to once again turn around and head back out the way we came. The risk of seriously damaging cars was too great and we didn't know what other surprises the track had in





store for us. It was disappointing to not complete the iconic track however, it was the right decision on the day.

We drove about 20 minutes and ended up in Granville Harbour, a quiet seaside town where we stopped for lunch. After lunch we took a group vote and decided to head back towards Montezuma Falls. This time we would head along the highway on a mission to actually see the waterfalls that we had failed to reach the previous day. It was quiet a drive to get to the parking lot for the falls, to which we arrived at about 1530. We very quickly learned the walk to the falls from the car park was a 3 hour return trip ... with light fading fast and a pub dinner booked in at 1830 it was quickly decided that once again the waterfalls had beaten us. We returned to camp yet again with Montezuma falls remaining unseen.

We ended the day with a delicious dinner at the Strahan Pub to celebrate Logans 15th birthday. The Mountjoy's bought an IGA chocolate mudcake complete with candles. We all sang Logan happy birthday with our best singing voices *cringe*, which we are sure Logan really enjoyed haha.

Day 7 - Saturday 23rd September

Today we all enjoyed a free day to do as we pleased with no tracks planned. The Mountjoy family with the company of Mark Mensch sailed the bay on a cruise which by all reports was excellent. Whilst the rest of the crew spent the day exploring the town of Strahan. We visited the much closer and much smaller waterfall of Bogart Falls, a hotspot for platypus. We were keen on spotting one but unfortunately they were hiding too well. Everyone was back at camp by 4pm and the afternoon was spent fixing cars and drinking beers by the below average campfire ... it turns out finding good dry firewood in Tasmania is quiet the challenge, who knew?

Day 8 - Sunday 24th September

We woke early and packed up camp. Today was a travel day, with the end





goal of reaching Queenstown. The Mountjoy clan along with Mark Mensch and Daniel Murdoch headed to the Henty Sand Dunes just out of the town of Strahan for a bit of sand driving. With the other half of the group opting to head straight to Queenstown to explore the area. We popped past Horsetail Falls for a quick look and headed to the Linda Cafe for lunch which was delightful. Queenstown is famous for its footy oval made from gravel! (we stopped in, and yes, it's actually gravel ... and they actually play on it, ouch). Queenstown is an old mining town that has been heavily logged and is now quite barren compared to the surrounding areas. Queenstown is also famous for its insane mountain bike tracks which need to be seen to be believed, steep and winding. We set up camp at the edge of Lake Burbury which was very scenic. Ultimately this was a quiet day. A few beers were had around the fire in the evening, along with some much needed car maintenance for some. An early night was had in preparation to head to Hobart the following morning.

Richard and Amy Brown

Day 9 - Monday 25th September

It was raining as everyone was packing up camp, a few of us just packed up before it got really heavy. Everyone was on the move by 9am and we were on our way to Cambridge area which is a short drive out of Hobart. First stop along the way was at Nelson Falls. There is a short 20minute return walk to see the falls, Nelson falls has plenty of water flowing over them and was amazing to see.

We jumped back into the cars and was on our way to the next attraction which was the Franklin River. When we got there it just started to drizzle so not everyone got out of the cars, but the walk was 25minute return loop. The river has plenty of water flowing in it and the walk was through a cold rainforest which Tasmania is the only place where there is any in the world.



When we got back to the cars, I bet most people turned there heaters on to warm up.

Once we were ready, we moved on to see The Wall In The Wilderness, which is a wood carving wall who was carved by Greg Duncan in the small town of Derwent Bridge. The carving wall was a 20year+ work piece which was awesome. Some of the carvings had wooden chain links that were free standing off the wall. Unfortunately, we were not allowed to take photos inside the building, so if you want to see them, you're going to have to go there yourself to see them. When we were finished it was time for lunch, so we went to the Hungary Wombat which was a cafe in town.

Over lunch there were a few discussions and Mark said we were not far from the geography point which is the center off Tassie. I looked it up in my GPS to see how far away it as, it wasn't too far from where we were, so everyone agreed to go there. Like always when you're looking for these marks, most of the time you drive past them the first time, but we managed to find it. From here that was our last stop before camp, as we had about of 130kms of windy roads to be travelled.

It was about an hour out of Hobart, you could see the landscape start to change. Going from the wet and very green scenery to dry and dusty farmland. We finally made to the caravan park around 3pm, when checking into the park all of us were thinking this was the longest time ever to check in. As The lady behind the counter kept getting confused, and kept telling everything we didn't need to know and forgot the stuff we needed to know. Mark mentioned it like checking into the 'Fawltly Towers Hotel', but 45mintues later we were all checked in and set up camp.

Day 10 - Tuesday 26th September

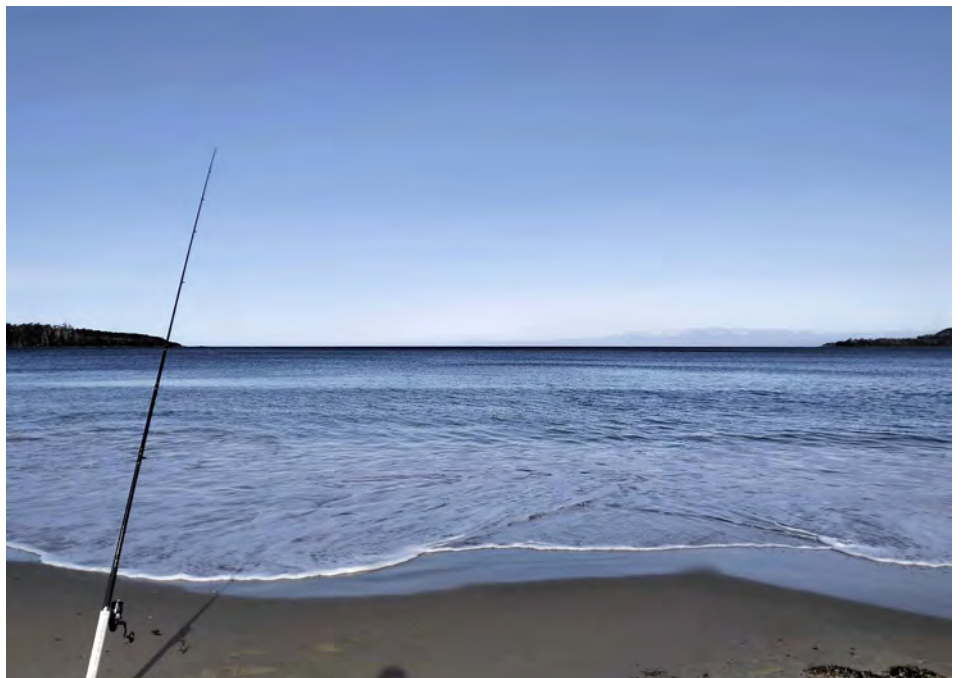
We all left camp around 9.30 to start our day exploring, the first place was Pulpit Rock Lookout. The lookout looks over the Derwent River, on the



day the view was amazing as it was a sunny morning. After being at the lookout for a while, we headed off to the small town of Lachlan to begin the start of Jefferys track. The start of the track was pretty much a firetrail, but once we were a few kilometers in it started getting muddy and the obstacles we had to navigate our way through. At the end of the track there was a good place to stop, as there was a small creek and some shade to get out of the sun in time for lunch. With some food in our bellies, we headed back the way we came, but at the halfway point we turn off onto White Timber Trail. Wasn't long into the track and it start to get fairly narrow as the bushes are overgrown, everyone was enjoying the track but a few were concerned about their paint job afterwards. After the track was done it was time to head back to camp to relax and get some dinner started.

Day 11 - Wednesday 27th September

This day was an unplanned day so people could do what they wanted. A most of us wanted to go for a drive to the top of Mount Wellington, as it was just under an hour drive from camp. Once we were at the base of the Mountain it was a sharp right turn to the road which takes us up the top. The further we got up the road it got narrower and narrower, and it was a popular place to visit as the was a lot traffic along the way. As soon as the trees started to thin out you could see the amazing views. At the top there was a massive car for everyone to park at, when everyone got out of the cars everyone grabbed a jacket as it was windy and very cold. The 360-degree views were stunning, we came on a good day as the views weren't robbed by low cloud cover. There was multiple viewing platforms and a building which at glass windows so you could soak up the scenery without being out in the cold. Afterwards a few of us wanted to go to the Cascade brewery for lunch as it was on the way back. The food was good and so was the beer on tap, but a few drinks later we found out about the tour you could do throughout the





brewery, unfortunately we were told that you had to be sober as it was a working brewery. When we left the brewery, we all parted ways and did our own activities. When all of us got back to camp eventually we all shared what we got up to during the day.

Day 12 - Thursday 28th September

This was the day we were leaving the luxury of staying at a caravan park and venture on to the next camp. Our next destination was to make it to cockle creek, which was the most southern part of Tasmania. Along the way a few decided to turn off and head to the Tahun Forest Reserve, while most of us continued on to find camp. Once we arrived at the spot, we were going to call camp for the night, the sun was out and there was no wind and the view from camp over a small bay was priceless. We all got chairs and sat at the water's edge, I decided it was a good spot to have a fish and see what I could catch. In no time I had my first bite and was reeling in my first fish which a big Australian Salmon, which I kept to cook up over a fire and share among the group.

The sun started to go down in no time and it started to get cold so it was time to light a fire as we were keen as we couldn't have a fire at the previous caravan park. The fire was going for a bit and one of the locals sure we had Victorian rego plates and wanted to pull up a chair to have yarn and the fire. Was a few hours later and the wind picked up and we called it a night after the fire was put out.

Daniel Murdoch

Day 13 - 16

We packed up wet and travelled to Bruny Island on the ferry. After setting up camp we had a free day. Some went to Get Shucked Oyster Farm and the Bruny Island Cheese Factory while others explored the island including the lighthouse. We all met back at camp later in the day.

We left early to catch the ferry back and went to Hobart.



Saturday we went to the Salamanca markets before watching the Grand Final at the pub. Some went to the Mona Museum. We caught up with the Nappers for tea at the pub.

From Hobart we drove to Fortescue Bay. We went to the Unzoo to see the Tasmania Devils and to Port Arthur and Remarkable Cave.

Rob and Sam Gunn

Day 17 - 20

Started the day very ordinary - I woke up at 8.05 am dusty as. Somebody obviously spiked my rum. No probs I thought, trip leaders are always a bit tardy but no not this time - all packed up and ready to go early. Caught not just me but other members of the group off guard.

Off we travel with our first stop at the Tessellated Pavement - amazing what the sea can do. We stopped for lunch at Spiky Bridge which is interesting but why was it built this way? Next stop was Lost Falls - we nearly got lost finding these falls. A couple of us squeezed through a tight track onto a road but some of our group had to backtrack a couple of kilometres.

Our next stop was Meetus Falls and surprise surprise - after walking to see the falls and back to our cars we randomly met fellow club member Michael Barry. We were all surprised but it was good to see he was exploring Tassie like us. That night we camped just outside Coles Bay.

Next day was the most unpleasant as it was a day to do our own thing and unfortunately it rained all day. I ventured to Bicheno for a coffee and lovely carrot cake at the local bakery. I think some of the group went to the Coles Bay Tavern for lunch. I think Matthew decided he would rather try and walk back to camp - don't know how that worked out?

Unfortunately Rob Gunn's swag didn't cope with the rain and was wet through so next morning he and his



family went straight to St Helens to a cabin so he could dry out. The rest of us visited the Bicheno Blowhole which was very impressive. We then went to the Ironhouse Brewery for a tasting and then lunch. I think someone must have spiked Juanita's tasting paddle because she seemed very happy afterwards.

St Helens was the destination for the next 2 nights - we had a regroup, had showers, did some washing and had a drive to a lookout for some views that were a bit hard to see.

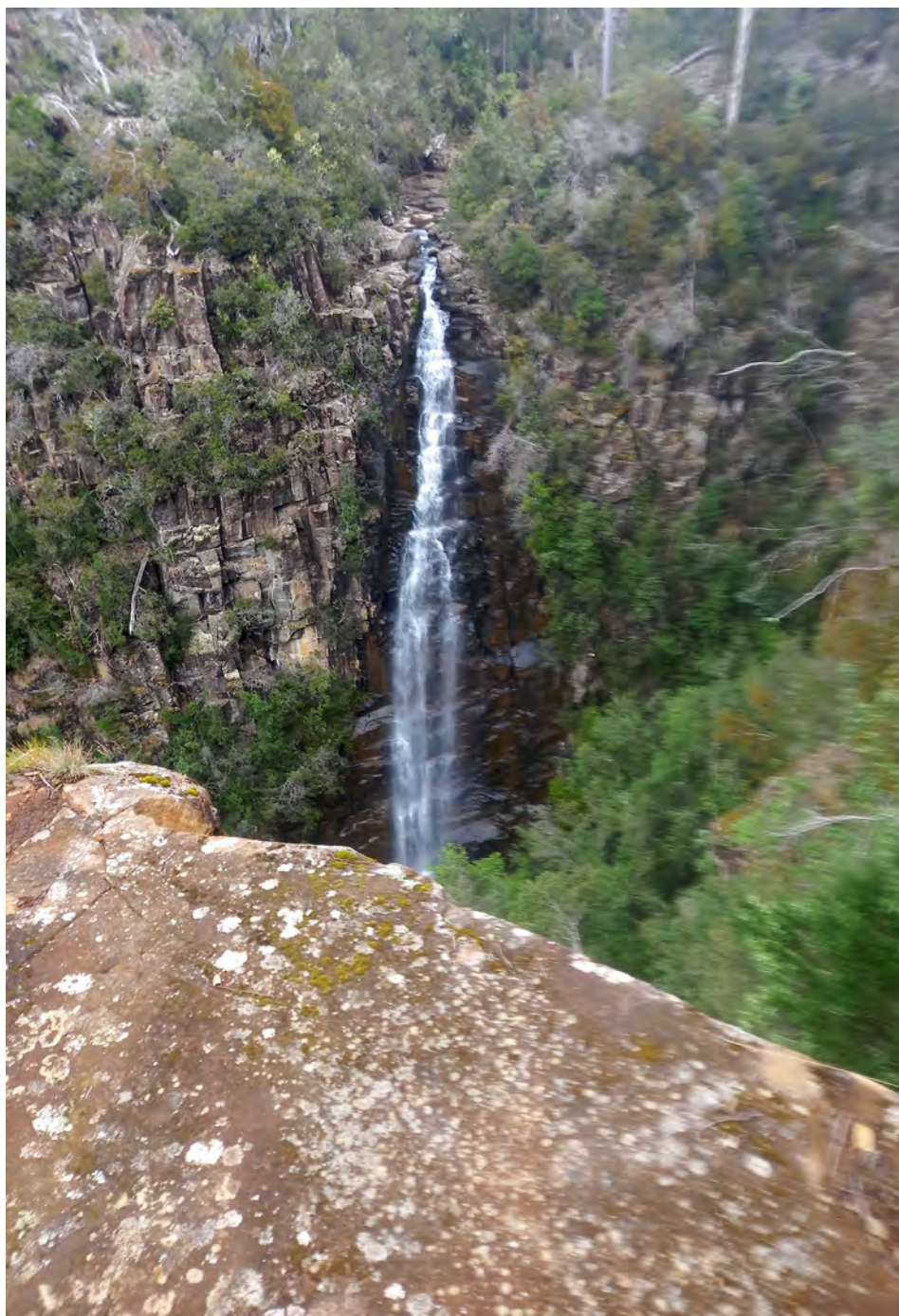
Mark Mensch

Day 21 - Saturday 7th October

We woke this morning in the beautiful town of St Helens, before packing up camp and beginning our journey to Derby. Rather than take the main roads, we travelled along Argonaut Road, an easy 31km track through some beautiful country side. Although signage indicated some of the tracks were not suitable for caravans, we had no issues towing our campers through. The wildlife in Tasmania was incredible and this mornings journey had us viewing majestic wedge tailed eagles and shy echidnas.

A short 20 minute walk took us St Columba Falls. The falls were magnificent and it was incredible watching the power of the water as it cascaded down the rocks. A little further along, and another walk, took us to Ralphs Falls. This waterfall had a single stream of water, and while (in my opinion) not as stunning at St Columba falls, it had it's own appeal, not least of all being the beautiful gorge surrounding it.

Next we headed off to have lunch at the Pub in the Paddock, but upon seeing the prices, a few of the group decided to stick with just a drink instead. The Pub itself was quite picturesque and we all enjoyed our drinks and food in the glorious sunshine.



From there we travelled to Derby, where we set up camp for the night. We ducked in to see the Derby tunnel which was originally built to wash away the tailings from various mines. We walked the 600 meters through the tunnel, but we had to be aware of the numerous bike riders that were flooding the town.

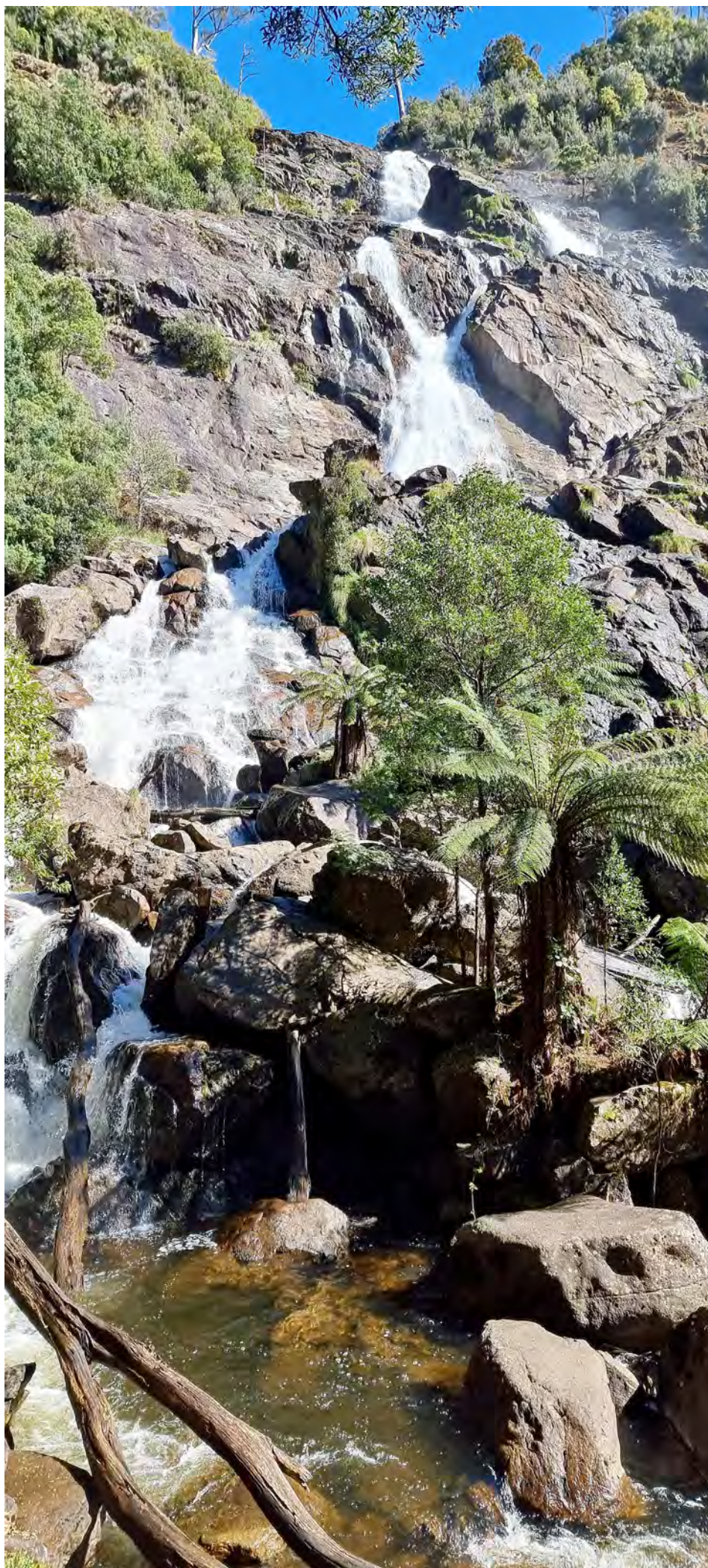
Drinks, bickies and cheese and a night around the campfire ended our day.

Day 22 - Sunday 8th October

After waking from one of the coldest nights so far on the trip, our day immediately began with a bang as wild platypus swam by our campsite. What a way to start the day!

Day 22 saw our group divide in half as Daniel and the Van Ingens headed straight to Launceston (the Gunn's having left us for Launceston the previous morning). The Browns, Menschy and ourselves headed for the iconic St Albans Bay Track, better known as the Bridport to Bellingham 4WD Track. Richard and Amy, Matthew and I headed for Bellingham to drop off our campers, while Menschy headed in to Bridport for a coffee. After leaving our campers, we then travelled back to Bridport, collected Menschy, and made our way to the beginning of the track to air down.

This track was incredible and a highlight of the trip. Although rated a hard beach drive, we did this track with ease. The scenery was out of this world! The ocean was a crystal blue, the sand pure white and sparkling shells dotted parts of the foreshore. Just stunning! The track consisted of a range of inland tracks, dunes and foreshore driving. The dunes were as easy or as challenging as you wanted to take on. Of course, Matthew and Richard took on the hard dunes and after a few attempts, were both successful in getting to the top. We ate our lunch near the end of the track, overlooking the ocean and basking in the sunshine.





After completing the track, we collected our campers then headed off to Launceston to rejoin the rest of the group. As we did most nights, we finished off the day with drinks and laughter around the campfire.

Day 23 - Monday 9th October

Monday was a free day for members of the group to explore Launceston. Daniel headed off on a self-guided walking tour of the town, exploring all the historical buildings. Shaz and Geoff went to the Launceston Zoo, where Shaz got to hold a Tassie Devil. Rob, Sam and Ethan went off to the Seahorse museum. Richard and Amy spent time completing the walks around Cataract Gorge. Mark, Matthew and I went to Beaconsfield where we spent 2.5 hours going through the mining museum. This was a fascinating place!



As soon as you arrived in the town of Beaconsfield, you could see the huge mining tower that was synonymous with the Beaconsfield mine collapse of 2006. I found it quite emotional going through this section of the museum and imagining the terror Todd Russell and Brant Webb must have felt being trapped 950m underground for 14 days. The rest of the museum told the history of mining in the town of Beaconsfield and was very interesting.



In the afternoon Matthew and I headed off to Cataract Gorge, where we took the chairlift across the Gorge, then had a wander around looking at the scenery, the strutting peacocks and the abundance of wallabies.

Day 24 - Tuesday 10th October

Well all good things must come to an end and today was our final day in Tasmania. After packing up camp, the group split in two, with the Van Ingens and the Browns heading straight to Devonport. The rest of us took the scenic route.

Our first stop was Deloraine where we wandered down the main street looking at the sculpture trail which depicted the region's lifestyle and culture. Next we went to Van Diemens Land Creamery and enjoyed an ice cream, before heading in to Elizabeth Town and sampling some cheese at Ashgrove Cheese.

Daniel and The Gunns left us at Sheffield, but Menschy and I took the opportunity to walk in the sunshine and have a look at all the murals in the main street. The murals depicted rural life and historical events. They were beautifully done, some with 3D elements that really made the artwork come alive. Both Menschy and I agreed that these murals were much better than the artwork we had seen at Mona and they were free!

Our final stop was at Anvers Chocolates at La Trobe, before meeting up with the rest of the group at the Devonport docks and boarding the boat back to Geelong.

Matthew and I had such a fantastic time on this trip and we would like to thank those who came along with us and made it the success that it was. So to Logan, Isabel, Richard, Amy, Sharon, Geoff, Rob, Sam, Ethan, Daniel and Mark, thanks for the laughs, stories, patience and everything else you did to make this trip so enjoyable.

Until next time,
Juanita Mountjoy



REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT

MINIMUM FOR EVERY
VEHICLE FOR EVERY TRIP



BASIC FIRST AID
KIT INCLUDING A
SNAKE BITE
BANDAGE

FIRE
EXTINGUISHER IN
WORKING ORDER



RATED RECOVERY
POINTS FRONT
AND REAR

SNATCH STRAP
APPROPRIATELY
RATED FOR THE
VEHICLE



RECOVERY
DAMPENER

APPROPRIATELY
RATED BOW
SHACKLES OR
SOFT SHACKLES



COMPRESSOR
FOR TYRE
INFLATION

UHF RADIO
(CAN BE
HANDHELD)



SPARE WHEEL AND
THE EQUIPMENT TO
CHANGE IT

IDEALLY A SHOVEL
AND GLOVES



MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN THE CLUB BYLAWS

ARB FLINDERS ROOFTOP TENT

FEATURES INCLUDE

4 large windows plus door,
12v lighting and phone
charging, fully attached
cover and sleek profile
when packed.



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PROTECTION



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RACKS



CANOPIES &
UTE LIDS



SUSPENSION
UPGRADES



CAMPING
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