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DECEMBER 2023



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



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ON THE HORIZON

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

FEBRUARY

14
GENERAL MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm
BBQ from 6:30pm

28
COMMITTEE MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS are held at the clubrooms on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm.

Abe Wood Reserve, Edgerton Rd, Lovely Banks

Visitors and new members welcome. During daylight savings a BBQ precedes the meeting at 6.30 pm.

For more information email: info@geelong4wdclub.org.au

Postal Address: Geelong Four Wheel Drive Club
PO Box 976
Geelong Vic 3220

If you have any trips or events you want to include please send an email to the Trip Co-Ordinator two weeks before the next General Meeting.

If you have any trip reports (past or present) please send them through to the Editor for inclusion in the magazine.

For further info about upcoming Club Trips check the website: www.geelong4wdclub.org.au

The opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Geelong Four Wheel Drive Club and/or the Editor and any article tendered for publication will be at the discretion of the Committee.



IN THIS ISSUE

05

PRES SAYS

07

MEETING MINUTES

09

PIST'N BROKE

10

UPCOMING TRIPS

14

CHRISTMAS PARTY

16

HIGH COUNTRY
TRIP REPORT

22

TRACK CLEARING
REPORT

24

ENFIELD DAY TRIP
REPORT

26

ANGLESEA POPUP
TRIP REPORT



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Mark Mensch
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Sharon Van Ingen
Alanna Stratford
Sophie Brocks

Cover Photo: Shez Tedford



THE PRES SAYS

G'day all,

I would like to wish everyone best wishes for the upcoming "festive season".

We kicked the festivities off with an early Christmas Party held on the 18th November. This was a great success with 62 attending which is the best turn up I can remember during my time at the Club. The catering by Mulita BBQ was yummy, there was a jumping castle and a visit from Santa with presents and lollies for all the kids, even the big ones! Many people contributed to a fantastic day but special thanks go to Alanna Stratford and Sophie Brocks for organising the day; to Keith and Belinda Murdoch for helping out in the bar; the jumping castle "setup crew" and also to "Santa" for dropping in all the way from the north pole!

The Club year is not quite over as we still have our final general meeting on the 13th of December. There will be a BBQ so come along and join in. There are also 2 or 3 day trips still to come so watch out for these on the Club Facebook page or email notification.

Graeme Jeffrey is running an Australia Day trip to the Strathbogie Ranges. This is a different area for the Club and promises to be an interesting social trip with cabin accommodation to make it even more relaxed. Contact Graeme if interested.

Merry Christmas and Happy new year to all,
Geoff

Geoff

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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	General Meeting
Location	Clubrooms—Abe Wood Reserve, Edgerton Road, Lovely Banks.
Date	Wednesday 8th November 2023
Chair	Geoff Davey
Minutes taken by	Graeme Jeffrey

Agenda

Meeting opened at	7.30 pm
Welcome to everyone present	
New members	Johnny Atanasov and Debbie Welsh
Visitors	Nil
Present	Michael Barry, Justin Brocks, Richard Brown, Geoffrey Connors, Jake Cook, Geoff Davey, Jimmy Halikias, Graeme Jeffrey, Scott Latham, Mark Mensch, Jaunita Mountjoy, Matthew Mountjoy, Daniel Murdoch, Jenny Carpentier, Keith Murdoch, Tim Neville, Paul Oberli, John Prowse, Kelvin Rogers, Peter Searle, Danny Sparks-Cousins, Jack Stratford
Apologies	Sharon & Geoff Van Ingen, Ron Bastin, Beth Rodgers, Byron Wyllie, Daniel Jennings, Corrie Hale, Harry Preston, Lachie Hill, Ken Mellross

Acceptance of the previous General Meeting Minutes

Moved	Danny Sparks-Cousins
Seconded	Kelvin Rogers
Business arising from the previous General Meeting Minutes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christmas Party November 18th everything is sorted - will be a great day. 3. Club Activities - Member suggestions valued & required. 3. Moonambel 2024 on "Radar" – work in progress – letters have been sent to various 4WD Clubs as prelim' invitation. 4. Awards night went well.
New Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey of members coming soon.

Correspondence

In	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) FWDV AGM advice & association forms (email). b) Liquor Control Vic - Public intoxication reform (email).
Out	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Driveline Magazine

Treasurer's Report

Presented By:	Juanita Mountjoy
Moved:	Tim Neville
Seconded:	Daniel Murdoch

Regular Reports

Association Rep	FWDV AGM Monday 20/11/23 – 7.30pm Manningham Hotel.
Regional Rep	Track clearing was well attended.
Trip Co-Ordinator	<p>Trips Out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tassie Tour • Track Clearing • Melbourne Cup High Country Weekend <p>Upcoming Trips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish & Chip Night - December 2nd – 5.30pm – Daniel Murdoch. • Australia Day Trip - Strathbogie Ranges - Graeme Jeffrey. • Mountjoy Easter Trip Beachport – Park Fees Paid, TBC. • Easter Trip - TBA - pending Mountjoy’s ability to run Beachport. • Border Track Reccy run for Simpson – May. Tim Neville TBC. • Expression of Interest Cape York 2024 - More to follow - Daniel Murdoch.
Editor	Input been good – particularly Tassie Crew.
Webmaster	Nothing to report.
Club Permit Scheme	Nothing to report.
Social	Watch this space.
Fines	Geoff Davey x 12, Mark Mensch x 6, Graeme Jeffrey x 2, Jim Halikias x 3, Matthew Mountjoy x 11, Richard Brown x 8, Daniel Murdoch x 4, Juanita Mountjoy x 1, Geoff Van Ingen x 1, Rob Gunn x 3, Sharon Van Ingen x 1, Tim Neville x 2, Ross Barry x 1, Warren Tedford x 2, Michael Barry x 1, Shez Tedford x 2.
Pist ‘n’ Broke	Matthew Mountjoy.
Members Draw	Jennifer Carpentier.
Meeting closed at	8.25 pm
Next General Meeting	Wednesday 13th December 2023 @ Clubrooms from 7.30pm - BBQ from 6.30pm

AGENDA

Agenda Items for next meeting—Wednesday 13th December 2023

	Christmas party review
	First aid kit for clubrooms / trips
	Update on club participation and activities review

PIST'N BROKE NOVEMBER 2023



MATTHEW MOUNTJOY

UPCOMING TRIPS

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.



BIG DESERT WEEKEND

Date: 1st to 4th March 2024

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

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

Meeting: Various

Requirements: Medium sand driving, you will need basic recovery gear, recovery points, sandflag, compressor, deflator.

Note: Base camp at Big Billy Bore Camp Ground as we have done before. I will be leaving work at 4pm in Melbourne on the Friday, happy to meet others at Ballarat at 5pm and travel in convoy or meet at the campground.

Plans will be weather-dependent but the aim would be a day trip in the area on Saturday (big dune, and possibly cactus bore). Sunday would be a run down part of the Border Track (can call past Pinnaroo on the way to the track to top up with fuel for those that need it) and get back to camp about 4pm. Those that wish to go home then can, I have the Monday off work and will be travelling home on Monday.

This is bush camping with toilets but no showers, you will need to be self-sufficient in terms of food, cooking and sleeping equipment.



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - CAPE YORK 2025

Date: June 2025

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

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

Meeting: TBA

Note: Expressions of interest sought on doing a Cape York trip in June 2025. 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.





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CHRISTMAS PARTY

18TH NOVEMBER 2023

WORDS: SOPHIE BROCKS - PHOTOS: VARIOUS



On 18 November, the club held its annual Christmas Party at the clubrooms.

The event was a great success, with lots of families and friends coming together to share a meal, have a catch up, and for the kiddies to meet Santa!

It was perfect weather for the day with the sun shining and very little

wind, really comfortable for everyone.

We did things a little bit different this year by having the event catered for at the clubrooms by Multia BBQ. The food was fantastic - pulled pork and chicken burgers and perfectly cooked chips.

The kids had a great time - bouncing on the jumping castle, playing

games, and just having fun. Everyone certainly enjoyed their gifts from Santa - even the big kids loved the lolly bags!

A big shout out to everyone involved in making sure the day ran smoothly. We had a lot of happy faces (big and small).

Sophie



MELBOURNE CUP HIGH COUNTRY

2ND TO 7TH NOVEMBER 2023

WORDS: JENNY CARPENTIER - PHOTOS: VARIOUS

Day 1 Thursday 2nd of November 2023

5 cars decided to go up a day earlier than originally planned to enjoy an extra day at the Dargo pub. We met up at the Little River servo at 9am. We were off to a rough start with Graeme being 20 minutes late.

After the long wait for Graeme we headed off to start our even longer travel through the heavy traffic to the tunnel, which was an absolute

nightmare. Once we got further away from Melbourne the traffic improved and we did a quick stop at Trafalgar where some of us got a quick snack from the bakery.

An hour later we stopped for a proper lunch break at Stratford. We found a nice lunch spot at a park off the main road. After lunch, and with constant complaining from Tim that he wanted to go the Dargo pub, we finally made it.

Being just before a long weekend, we were able to find a good spot by the river. To start the trip off right, we all had a great dinner at the pub and stayed till closing.

Day 2: Friday 3rd of November 2023

After a late night, today was an easy day, especially since we were also waiting for 4 more cars to arrive. We headed off around 10:30am for a short trip around Dargo. We started on the Lower Dargo



Road and went up a track or two. We stopped at a nice spot to take some photos and had nothing but 360 degree beautiful views. The tracks were mostly easy and dirt roads.

We had lunch out on the tracks and also collected some firewood. We headed back to camp via Upper Dargo Road. Once back we had a relaxing afternoon at camp and 3 more cars arrived at the pub just in time for dinner. Most of us had an early night, except Jimmy who waited up for Johnny and Deb to arrive.

Day 3: Saturday 4th of November 2023

After two nights at the Dargo pub, it was time to move on. With 9 cars now in the trip, we all got up and ready by 8:45am. Some stopped and got fuel.

The lines were massive at the Dargo general store, so lucky not all of us needed to line up. We hit the road officially at 9am to start the convoy. Once we hit dirt road, we stopped for some to air down. The first tracks were easy dirt roads, a nice warm up. Our main objective today was to climb and descend Billy Goat Bluff Track.

This track was fun, going up we had great luck with hardly any traffic. We stopped at the helipad for some great photos. After the quick stop we continued on our way up Billy Goat and made it to the lookout at The Pinnacle. It's an extremely steep walk to the lookout, but all of us made it and were treated to perfect views of high country.

After all that walking, it was time for





lunch. Once our bellies were full we made our way back down. Ross discovered his lockers had stopped working going down the hill. The way back down had crazy traffic. As we went down Crooked River track we crossed the river several times along the way. These were ankle deep to tire deep.

On the way to camp, Geoff missed our turn and we ended up going the wrong way and had to turn around. This led to a late night into camp, which had a flow on effect of choosing a different camp site, due to being told the first one was packed. So instead of being camped amongst the population, we camped amongst the cows. As we pulled up to this camp site, the cars split due to cows on the road, so the funniest thing happened with Geoff thinking a new convoy was taking our new camp site, when in reality it was just us. This day ended with us all set up and sitting by the fire at 5:19pm.



Tracks:

- Shortcut Road
- Crooked River Road
- Wonnangatta Road
- Billy Goat Bluff Track
- Pinnacles Road
- Talbotville Road
- Racecourse Track
- River Crossings: 6 total

Day 4: Sunday 5th of November 2023
 Today we were all up and at it by 9am ready to go. Today was a semi-easy day with the plan to try and get into camp early.



We had lunch around 12pm at the Mt Hart Helipad and re-traced our steps back down the same tracks. The tracks to the helipad were slightly overgrown, which made it interesting. Again there were more rivers crossing through the day. We came to a cross road where the track leading to the camp at the Wonnangatta Homestead split. There was a new and an old Wonnangatta Track as options.

Geoff made the decision to go down the old track. This made for an interesting way to camp. A few difficult areas with lots of ruts and an interesting water crossing. In the first set of ruts Jimmy had to get his winch out, and on the second set of ruts the Tedford's had to get their winch out. The interesting water crossing had a massive fallen tree

that we had to bypass to get to the other side. We all made it through and to camp in one piece.

We found a nice spot by the river and because it was hot the young ones decided to go down to the river to cool off and soon convinced the others to join in. The water was absolutely freezing! Most of us packed it in early, however some decided to stay up as Lachy was driving up to meet everyone at camp to join the trip.

Tracks:

- Crooked river Track
- Racecourse Track
- Station Track
- Cynthia Range Track
- Wombat Range Track
- Hart Spur Track
- Alley Track
- Mt Hart Track
- Humffray River Track
- Wonnangatta Track
- River crossing: 8

Day 5: Monday 6th of November 2023

Before leaving camp, we all drove over to the Homestead and the cemetery to have a look around. Here you were also able to see the blocked off entrance to Widow Maker Track, which is famous for being extremely steep and dangerous.

Today was the last day of track driving. The aim was to get to Sheeppark Flat camp site. A lot of traffic today which made it hard to stop at some of the places we wanted to visit, but we did get some hut stops in at Howitt Hut, Lovicks Hut and Bluff Hut.

We eventually made our way to camp around 5pm and grabbed a really great spot at Sheeppark Flat North Campsite. Another warm day, so again some of us went down the River to cool off. This one was even colder than the last one and the current was strong. Being the last night, it was a late one for most of us around the camp fire.

Tracks:

- Wonnangatta Trak
- Zeka Spur Trak
- Howitt Road
- King Billy Trak
- Bluff Trak
- Bluff Link Road
- Brocks Road.
- River crossings: 6 total



Day 6: Tuesday 7th of November 2023.

Home time! Everyone was up and ready to leave by 9am. A little bit of rain this morning for the first time which stopped after we had all packed up.

We didn't have far to go to hit the black top. At the end of the dirt road, we stopped and those who hadn't aired up did so. From here we stopped at Mansfield for fuel and the trip was declared officially over. The convoy split up with some going straight home, others stopping at a pub for lunch.

Overall it was a great trip. Everyone enjoyed themselves and had fun. Very minimal damage or issues with cars. There was a great combination of easy, medium and a little bit of hard tracks. A few great stops at historical sites. 360 degrees of nothing but beautiful views. The only thing anyone could complain about was the dust, but we all managed. It was great to see a full trip with 10 cars by the end of it. Thank you to all that came and made it a great long weekend getaway.

Trip Leader: Geoff Davey (with guest Greg Davey in the 200 series)

Tail End: Graeme Jeffrey (Challenger)

Participants:

Tim Neville and Jimmy Halikias (Triton)

Shez and Warren Tedford (D-Max)

John Prowse (Prado)

Johnny Atanasov and Debbie Welsh (Triton)

Michael Barry (Ranger)

Daniel Murdoch and Jen Carpentier (Patrol)

Ross Barry (Patrol Ute)

Lachlan Hill and Eb Gambino(79 series)



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AND GLOVES



MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN THE CLUB BYLAWS

TRACK CLEARING

28TH OCTOBER 2023

WORDS: TIM NEVILLE - PHOTOS: VARIOUS



Track Clearing for 2023 is done and dusted! Geoff had the biggest job of the day, picking up Jimmy, Harry and myself on the way to the meeting point - which meant it was an early 6am wakeup for him.

We caught up with the rest of the

cars out the front of the Moriac General Store where some of us enjoyed a coffee and some of the warm food available. I didn't hear any complaints so it must have been a good feed.

From here Danny ran us through the

safety notes for the day and gave us a brief rundown on where we would be heading. We ventured to Deans Marsh, where Parks provided us the keys needed, and sent us on our way.

Our group started on Five Mile Track.

We lasted all of five minutes before Geoff had wet carpet. This was not from a boghole though. Harry decided to spill a large water bottle through the inside of Geoff's car.

We had numerous trees to clear off the track seeing us stopping every five minutes or so to get the chainsaws out.

From here we weaved our way through a few tracks towards Gentle Annie Track, and then onto Clark Spur Track. Clark Spur Track was my highlight. This is a track with a wonderful view of the Great Ocean Road at the end of it that I used to drive regularly. Unfortunately, it has been permanently closed (MVO) for a few years now.

From here we ventured our way back through the back of Aireys Inlet and finished at the Anglesea Hotel for a cool beverage.

TIM



ENFIELD DAY TRIP

7TH OCTOBER 2023

WORDS & PHOTOS: GRAEME JEFFREY



Myself, Andrew & Tyler Smith, Dirk Agenbag, Ken Melross with son in law Trent were joined by Corie Hale & girlfriend Amelia at Teesdale General Store for an easy afternoon drive concluding with an evening BBQ before heading home.

Given the nature of the reccy run, I decided to enter the forest area lower down. After travelling a couple of easy tracks we headed to Misery Creek Road

and down Peppermint Track before coming to the seasonally closed East Dozed Track.

So we did a quick youie and after travelling a couple of unmarked tracks found ourselves on a track with a rutted creek crossing which lead to a good hill climb on the other side.

Upon reaching the top we came to Long Gully Road which has an unnamed track

running off to the right, quite rutted and in the medium class if wet. I advised the convoy I'd have a go at it and suggested others to only have a try if they wanted a challenge. Tyler jumped in as my spotter / winch man in case it was required.

It took a couple of goes to get through section one before coming up to the deeper rutted part that I totally got wrong - sticking the left front wheel in it

and putting the car in the air on the right side.

After a few unsuccessful attempts to drive out, Tyler was able to squeeze out the passenger door to advise winching wasn't required as long as I went backwards and took a different line. This worked and we made our way off to the top. Corie was the other vehicle to travel up and I believe had no issue in his Patrol.

The rest of the arvo we travelled some pretty easy tracks until we had about 20 minutes to kill before BBQ time, so I decided to do a loop and return to the large clearing at the end of Incolls Road.

This didn't quite go to plan as we encountered a few larger mud holes along the way with myself and Tyler getting stuck in the first one, Dirk in the second – with all avoiding the easy way around them.

We also picked up a couple in a stock standard ute who were a bit lost, trying to exit the forest. We guided them out safely without getting stuck or getting any damage to their vehicle.

We exited a couple of K's down the track from our planned spot which had a good area to set up our BBQ so we enjoyed a good feed then headed home arriving back in Geelong around 8pm.

Graeme



ANGLESEA POPUP DAY TRIP

25TH NOVEMBER 2023

WORDS: MARK ROTHON - PHOTOS: VARIOUS

We started the day on the Cecil Track where our first obstacle was a small creek crossing. I may have regretted telling Bryan to try and get me wet as he managed to pick up all the water in the creek and drop it on me. Luckily it was a hot day - he is now off the Christmas list.

We continued to Allardyce Track which offers spectacular views over

the coast. We all got out of the cars at one point to take a moment to enjoy these views. This track had some steep sections that were a little challenging, but not a problem for our highly skilled team.

We continued along to the Alcoa Boundary Track, Peregrine Track and then onto Denham Track. We hoped that Denham Track would be wet,

muddy and slippery but unfortunately it was dry. The track was still rewarding as it offers some steep sections and amazing scenery. We stopped on a section of this track for a short break and chit chat.

After our break we headed back across Anglesea to the lookout at the top of the Tree Creeper Track where we stopped for lunch while enjoying



the views across Anglesea and the old power station.

After lunch, determined to find mud, we headed to Tip Hill. This gave us all an opportunity to get into low range, flex and slip and slide up these tracks. It's a great little area to play around in. If you're tempted to go I would recommend taking another vehicle as it would be easy to get stuck down there.

These final tracks were a great way to finish the day. No damage to cars and the wet clothes are dry. I have put Bryan back on the Christmas list.

Participants:

Mark Rothern (Trip Leader)

Ross Barry

John Prowse

Geoff Davey

Guests: Isabella Rothern and Bryan Innis

Mark



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