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JUNE 2024



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



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TJM GEELONG



ON THE HORIZON

JUNE

7 - 10
MOONAMBEL MUSTER

12
GENERAL MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

26
COMMITTEE MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

JULY

5 - 24
SIMPSON DESERT TRIP

10
GENERAL MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

24
COMMITTEE MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

AUGUST

2 - 6
HARD SNOW TRIP

14
GENERAL MEETING
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

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.



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MOONAMBEL
RECCY 2 REPORT



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

Cover Photo: Tim Neville



THE PRES SAYS

G'day all,

Well, Moonambel is now just round the corner. This requires a lot of organisation by the Committee so thanks to everyone involved. There have been two reccy runs so we now have a good idea of track conditions for the trip leaders. Given an estimated 80 vehicles this year there is an obvious requirement for extra trip leaders. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to lead trips. We are also grateful to Steve Drummond and Russell Brooks from the Ballarat club who have offered to lead trips.

There is quite a lot of work in setting up and packing up the event, so particularly at the end of the event any extra help is appreciated.

We are also appreciative of the spud van on Saturday night and coffee and brekky rolls on Saturday and Sunday mornings. These traders are not being subsidised by the Club and are taking a risk that their presence is commercially viable, so please support them in the hope that they will also want to return next year.

Other than that we have the big Simpson Desert trip leaving soon after Moonambel and Justin Brocks is running the hard snow trip which is now full. Watch out also for a couple of day trips which are still in the planning phase.

See you at Moonambel,
Geoff

Geoff

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**FINAL
REMINDER!**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW OVERDUE

UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE
CLUB FACEBOOK GROUP AND MAILING LIST.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	General Meeting
Location	Clubrooms - Edgerton Road, Lovely Banks
Date	Wednesday 8th May 2024
Chair	Geoff Davey
Minutes taken by	Graeme Jeffrey

Agenda	
Meeting opened at	7.40 pm
Welcome to everyone present	Welcome all
New members	Josh & Renee Eades, Corey Crystal & Amy Van Bram
Visitors	Ryan Allen, Rob Gibson, Ash Cook
Present	Michael Barry, Justin Brocks, Levi Brocks, Geoffrey Connors, Jake Cooke, Geoff Davey, David Dixon, Josh Eades, Jimmy Halikias, Graeme Jeffrey, Wayne Kerr, Scott Latham, Matthew Mountjoy, Juanita Mountjoy, Daniel Murdoch, Jennifer Carpentier, Keith Murdoch, Tim Neville, John Prowse, Kelvin Rodgers, Danny Sparks-Cousins, Sally Sparks-Cousins, Jack Stratford, Sharon Van Ingen, Geoff Van Ingen, Mark Mensch
Apologies	Graeme Jeffrey, Sharon Van Ingen, Geoff Van Ingen, Harry Parkes, Kelvin Rogers, Beth Rogers, Daniel Jennings, Jake Cook, Ken Mellross.

Acceptance of the previous General Meeting Minutes	
Moved Seconded	Geoff Van Ingen Sharon Van Ingen
Business arising from the previous General Meeting Minutes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Moonambel 2024 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reminder Clothing now available via Hip Pocket (Geelong) website – follow the link to Moonambel. Get your bookings in. Payment in advance of event preferred. EFT should be available at the gate. The Club is contributing \$1,000.00 to raffle prizes. Coffee van with brekky rolls Sat & Sun Mornings. Baked potato van (Saturday night) The coffee and spud providers are not being subsidised by the club. Please support them and they are likely to help us again next year. Music & Movies for the kids Help with clean up Monday morning would be appreciated. <p>Event looks well planned & organised – SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THOSE PUTTING IN THE EFFORT – doesn't go unnoticed.</p> Reminder memberships are due now Need to be paid pre Moonambel. ARB General Meeting Review There was an excellent turnout of about 40 people. Berin and the ARB crew were happy with the way the night went. Presentation night planned 12 October 2024 – Cremorne Hotel New Sponsor - Bay City Tyres They also do mechanical and suspension upgrades. Thanks to Harry Preston. Clubroom Honour Boards - have all been updated. Track Clearing is on 26th October - more info to follow closer to date.

Correspondence

In	a) FWDV - April eNews. b) FWDV - Not for Profit Organisations Self Reporting Obligations. c) FWDV - Presidents & Delegates Day Minutes. d) FWDV - Trackwatch Articles needed. e) FWDV - National 4x4 Show Free Sites available. f) FWDV - An exclusive invite from Sat Phone Shop. g) Moonambel Stubby Holders - Invoice. h) FWDV - reminder about insurance questionnaire due 17th May.
Out	a) Driveline Magazine

Treasurer's Report

Presented By:	Juanita Mountjoy
Moved:	Daniel Murdoch
Seconded:	Keith Murdoch

Regular Reports

Association Rep	President and Delegates day for Saturday 13th April, 2024 Geoff, Tim & Jim attended.
Regional Rep	Regional Meeting Mansfield and the surrounding areas on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th May. Geoff, Danny & Mark Mensch attending at this stage.
Trip Co-Ordinator	Trips Out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moonambel Reccy - Glenpatrick 25th - 28th April – Tim Neville. Upcoming Trips <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moonambel Reccy - 17th - 19th May - Tim Neville. Moonambel Muster - June 7 - 10. Simpson Desert Trip - July - Tedfords - is still full, however waitlist is available. Snow Trip - Justin Brocks 2 - 4 August. Trip full. Coffs Harbour Trip - 14 - 27 September - Mountjoys - if you are interested or would like more information please speak with Juanita or Matthew. Track Clearing - 26 - 27 October - more info to follow. Anyone interesting in leading trips etc. please speak with Tim. Reminder club funds available @ \$10 per car to cover eats & drinks.
Editor	Nothing to report.
Webmaster	TJM new ownership – supporting Moonambel & very keen to develop relationship further.
Club Permit Scheme	Nothing to report.
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation Night - planned 12 October 2024 – Cremorne Hotel
Fines	Mark Mensch x 1, Matthew Mountjoy x 1, John Prowse x 1, Geoff Davey x 5, Daniel Murdoch x 3, Tim Neville x 1.
Pist 'n' Broke	Geoff Davey - STILL!
Members Draw	Geoff Connors

Other Business

	Nil
Meeting closed at	8.12 pm
Next General Meeting	Wednesday 12th June 2024 @ Clubrooms. Meeting from 7.30pm

AGENDA

Agenda Items for next meeting—Wednesday 12th June 2024

	Moonambel Muster review
	Membership subscription reminder
	Presentation night - 12th October

PIST'N BROKE

MAY 2024



GEOFF DAVEY
(AGAIN - STILL - ALWAYS)



UPCOMING TRIPS

MOONAMBEL MUSTER 2024

Date: 7th to 10th June 2024 (King's Birthday Weekend)

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

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

Note: 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 Graeme Jeffrey 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.

SIMPSON DESERT TRIP

Date: 5th to 24th July 2024

Trip Leader: Warren & Shez Tedford | **Tail End Charlie:** TBA

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

Meeting: TBA

Note: This trip will be run in 2 parts.

Part 1 - Broken Hill to Mount Dare via Cameron Corner, Innamincka, Cordello Downs, Birdsville, QAA Line, Poeppel Corner, French Line, WAA Line, Dalhousie Springs.

Part 2 - Madigan Line - Mount Dare, Lambert Centre, Old Andado Station, Madigan Line, Birdsville.

The trip is currently full however if you are thinking about attending - contact Shez on 0400 154 424 for more info and to jump on the waiting list.



HARD SNOW TRIP

Date: Friday 2nd to Tuesday 6th August 2024

Trip Leader: Justin Brocks | **Tail End Charlie:** TBA

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

Meeting: TBA

Note: Staying at the Jamison caravan park. Please confirm position on trip with Justin before calling and booking a cabin under your name.



Friday - Leave after work (4ish). Saturday - Mt Skene plus tracks, pub dinner. Sunday - Mt Terrible onto Woods Point for those that need to leave. Monday - Head to Bulla for the kids to play on the toboggan run, or back to Mt Skene for the day depending on snow levels. Tuesday - Make our way home.

Mud tires highly recommended or very very good quality all terrains. Snorkels a must. Winches recommended as we will most likely need them.

UPCOMING TRIPS

COFFS HARBOUR TRIP

Date: Saturday 14th to Friday 27th September 2024

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

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

Meeting: TBA

Note: We will be departing Geelong and heading for Bathurst, where we will complete the Bridle Track. From there we'll head towards Forster for some beach driving, then hit Coffs Harbour. The plan is to base camp at different points around the Coffs Harbour area, explore, then after a few days, move on.

There are a range of tracks at Coffs, ranging from easy to extreme, but we'll predominately be doing the medium to hard tracks.

Trip participants can bring **off road** campers/vans, tents or swags. They will need the following recovery gear: Rated recovery points (front and back), recovery equipment, working winch (not mandatory, but highly recommended), aggressive all terrain tyres/mud tyres. If interested, please contact Juanita on 0467 809 040. Responding yes on Facebook will not secure you a place on this trip.



CLUB AWARDS NIGHT DINNER

Date: Saturday 12th October

Come along for dinner at The Cremorne Hotel to celebrate members who have won the various annual club awards.

We'd love to see a huge turnout for this fun social night out. Please register your interest on Facebook in the event page. More info coming soon.



TRACK CLEARING WEEKEND

Date: Saturday 26th to Sunday 27th October

Trip Leader: Danny Sparks-Cousins | **Tail End Charlie:** TBA

Trip Classification: Easy / Medium

Departing: TBA

Note: We will need a couple of ticketed chainsaw operators, and a few helpers to clear logs. Camping at Big Hill Campground. If you're available to help please get in touch with Danny - email, messenger or on 0426 256 030



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. Medium plus trip depending on weather. For more information contact Daniel on 0498 683 330.



GEELONG 4-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB



MOONAMBEL MUSTER 2024

FRIDAY 7TH TO MONDAY 10TH JUNE
MOONAMBEL RECREATION RESERVE

CAMP SITE (UNPOWERED) \$15/NIGHT

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Registration and site bookings contact - Graeme Jeffrey
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No additional fees for members of clubs affiliated with Four Wheel Drive Victoria

NO dogs, firearms or motorbikes permitted



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SUNDAY
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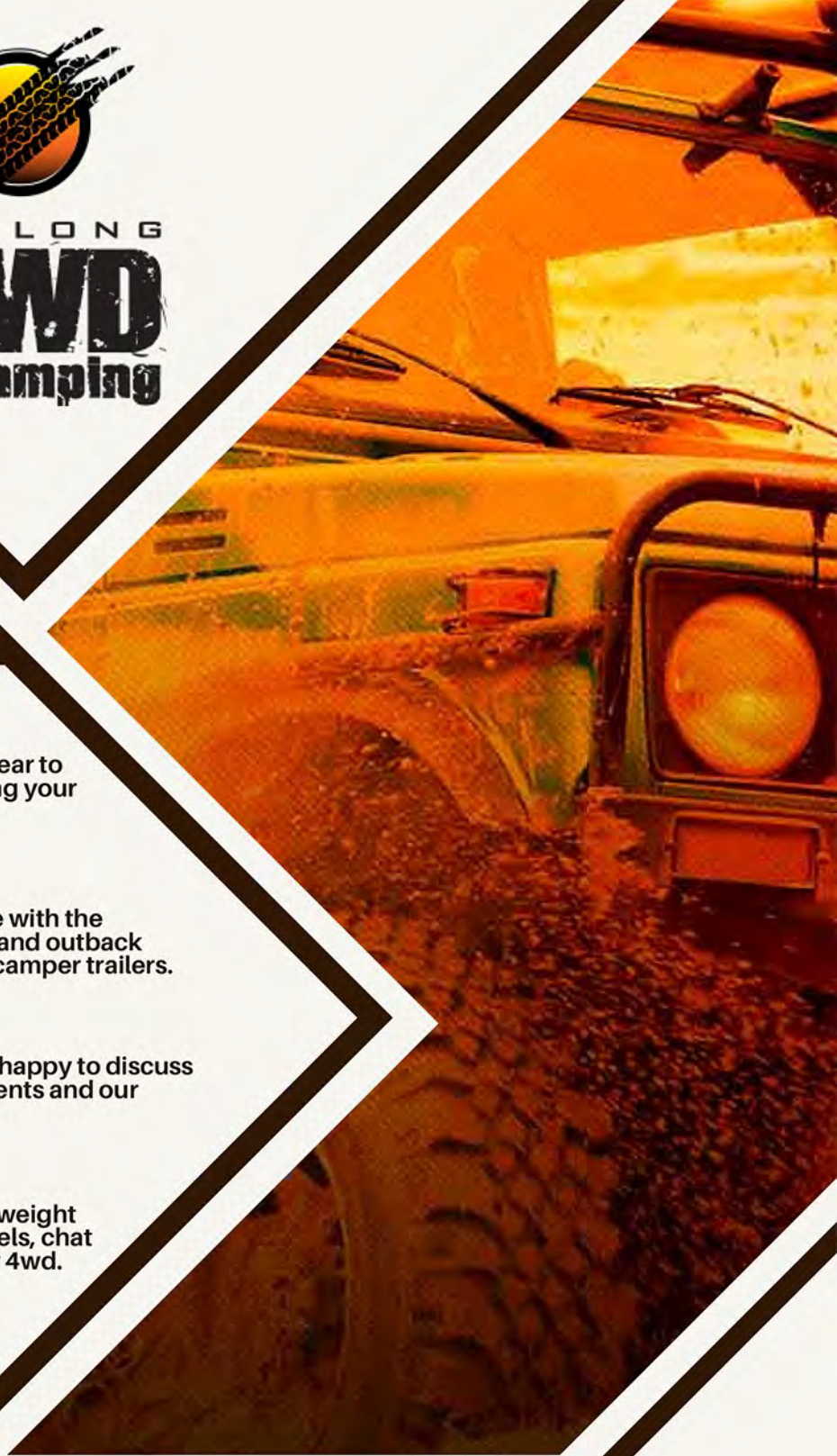
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REGIONAL REPS MEETING

24TH TO 26TH MAY 2024
WORDS & PHOTOS: GEOFF DAVEY

Geoff and Mark travelled up to Mansfield to attend this year's regional meeting.

As we arrived in good time on Friday afternoon, we spent the afternoon researching the local brewery and three pubs conveniently located on 3 of the corners of the main street roundabout. Through this process we were able to identify a range of excellent produce. We were reliably informed that the Mansfield Hotel provided the only on tap Guinness for 100km, so naturally we had to quality control their product.

Later the dilemma was where to eat. After further research, which included checking out a number of open fires, we settled for the Commercial Hotel. We found the

wine list there to be most suitable and were able to sample the local wine of the nearby King Valley. After dinner we were able to unwind from the stresses of the week (of which Mark was in great need) in front of an inviting open fire with comfy chairs. Naturally this also involved a tasty King Valley red. We had this area to ourselves and the publican was kind enough to keep the fire stoked to maintain the ambiance.

Saturday morning we met at the local Parks Victoria office in Highett Street. From there we were led on a tour of the Mount Buller region by the chief local ranger Tegan. This began at Mount Stirling Road then to King Basin Road and a stop at King Hut for morning tea. From there it was onto Bindaree Road and a lunch

stop at Bindaree Hut. After lunch we completed the circuit, travelling up 16 Mile Jeep Track and home via Brocks Road and Sheeppark Flat.

The evening meal was at the Mansfield Hotel where further quality assurance testing was required to ensure that the Guinness remained within specified tolerances. It was Wayne Hevey's last Regional Meeting before he retires as CEO of FWDV so he was in pretty good form as we collectively undertook further research on the local wines. As the evening progressed, those still standing retired to the bar to watch the end of the Richmond v Essendon match and to continue some important "networking".



Sunday is the formal, structured part of the meeting, although it could be argued that the most important component is the interaction through the drive day and at the Saturday evening meal. This gives a great opportunity to interact with other clubs and find out what they are doing.

At the meeting the Regional Club Representatives reported on their activities that relate to Parks Victoria and DEECA (previously DELWP). This includes activities such as track clearing, rubbish cleanup and restoration projects.

There was a specific report from Parks Victoria on volunteering activities and the use of the "Park Connect App". There was considerable feedback about this app at the previous meeting relating to its lack of user friendliness. Some had abandoned its use altogether. Suffice it to say this message has been received by Parks and they are working to improve its ease of use (although there is still a fair bit to do).

There were further reports from the rangers about activities and projects in the local areas. One ongoing problem which has been discussed previously relates to the difficulty in obtaining up to date information on track closures. There has been





behind the scenes work to improve this and display it in visual form on maps, rather than lists; often multiple lists from multiple agencies. While this problem is still not solved there has been some progress. Parks, Forrest Fire Management and DEECA are now beginning to share information which is displayed on the Mapshare and More to Explore apps. There are still problems capturing all information including short term closures and closures by other agencies such as VicRoads and local councils, but the problem has been recognised and is being worked on.

The meeting closed at 3pm on Sunday and most made a bolt for the door to get home at a reasonable hour. It should be recognized that many (in fact most) travel considerable distances to attend this meeting but there is general agreement that these face to face meetings are worthwhile to maintain communications with FWDV, with PV, DEECA and FFM and between the clubs.

Attendees:

Geoff Davey and Mark Mensch

Geoff



MOONAMBEL RECCY NO.2

17TH TO 19TH MAY 2024

WORDS & PHOTOS: GEOFF & TIM



Geoff and Graeme made a head start on Thursday afternoon and settled into a relaxed evening around the camp fire.

Friday morning was a glorious, still, sunny morning which we enjoyed over a leisurely breakfast. We then set off for a tour of the district. Initially we made our way to Percydale via Sardine and Donkey Hill tracks. From there it was south and onto Sugarloaf and Gollop tracks and then past Mount Avoca for lunch at Cameron's Hut. By this time the weather had changed to cloudy skies and a cold breeze.

After lunch we made our way west down Cameron's Track to Dridan Track and the down Billygoat Track. We wanted to look at the south end of Landsborough, particularly Hill Track, so we made our way up Iron Gate and across on Laidlaw Track. Laidlaw is not difficult but includes a single significant rock step which needs some care to negotiate. Unfortunately the tracks we went to see have been recently graded. This has not only removed the interesting rocky section of Hill Track but has also created a lot of really fine "bulldust" to obscure the vision of any following vehicles.

From Landsborough we made our way back to camp via Squatters Track, collecting some firewood on the way. At camp we met up with Geoff Connors, Jimmy and Tim and Harry. Russell and Helen Brookes from the Ballarat Club also joined us. Russell and another Ballarat member Steve Drummond have agreed to lead some trips at the Moonambel Muster.

The decision was made to head to the Avoca Hotel for a meal. There we were met by Justin and Jack and some of their mates. It's a good meal at the pub and

they have Guinness on tap which is always a good thing! On return to camp it was nice to find the fire already alight thanks to Ross and Fossie who had arrived later. The fire was further stoked and we settled into the rest of the evening.

Saturday we split into 2 groups. Tim led one to look at some of the harder tracks and Russell led the other into Redbank and Kara Kara.

Russell's group started on the Redbank lookout, which has been graded on both sides. The more challenging left hand deviation on the west side is still there however and adds a bit of adventure. Then there was some exploration of the tracks in the southern Redbank area. After this we tracked along the east side of the Kara Kara National Park including Diggers, Goat and Mount Separation tracks to arrive at Teddington Hut.

Lunch was a little further on at the Teddington Reservoir. We had passed a number of walkers on the way in and it turns out there was a big Rogaining event there with numerous walkers sharing the camp site which was set up as the central muster point. We learned that the idea of Rogaining is to gain points by visiting as many check points as possible (in any order) and return to base by a set time.

After lunch we made our way to the north end of Landsborough to drive the Landsborough Ridge Track. This has a really good climb which leads to panoramic views of the district from the top of Landsborough Hill. From there





we made our way back to Moonambel via Blue Mountain and Squatters tracks. However Russell led us back via the back blocks of Moonambel, past the cemetery which is an aspect of Moonambel that I had not previously seen.

Tim's Convoy headed southeast to the forest commonly travelled with the aim of clearing some of the tracks the extreme convoys will travel. The thought was to travel downhill on these tracks, with the theory that in the dry we would not need any recoveries. Well that didn't last too long! The first track was what the locals call "madman's", a steep rocky descent. Unfortunately, some incorrect tire placement resulted in Tim's Patrol putting the front diff pumpkin into a rock, lifting the front wheels and seeing forward motion come to an abrupt halt. Thankfully Justin was behind to winch the car back and re-assess the line. Three or so trees were cleared on this track allowing us to have a clear path to attempt the hill the weekend of the Muster. From here we headed to Old Bluff Track. This has seen a grader down the easy lines in the past 12 months but the harder lines are untouched and still great fun! Following this we crossed the top of Mount Avoca and to some coordinates that had been provided to me from Dave Purdie a few years back.

With some walking over the edge of the mountain range we could see where a previous track had been, however it was very overgrown and hard to follow. With this in mind we turned off the edge of the track and re-traced where



this track had been many years ago. A few more trees cleared and we popped out near Waterfalls Campground. We then went for a quick spin up Donkey Hill lookout and down the back side of this, following a track out to the main road and back to camp.

The two groups met up back in camp where we said goodbye to some who had to leave. Jake had already made his way home due to a rear diff lock that didn't want to disengage!

The now reduced group spent a social evening around the campfire. Sunday was a relaxed pack up before making our way home in our own time.

Thanks to Tim and all who attended; another great weekend. Thanks also to Russell and Helen (and Steve who was unable to make the weekend) for participating and agreeing to lead trips at Moonambel.

Participants:

Tim Neville and Harry Preston (Trip Leader)

Jimmy Halikias

Graeme Jeffreys

Geoff Davey

Stephen Foster

Daniel Murdoch

Ross Barry

Jack Stratford

Justin Brocks

Jake Cook

Geoff Connors

Russell and Helen Brooks (Ballarat Club)



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