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MARCH 2025



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# ON THE HORIZON

## MARCH

**1**  
**SPRINTCAR NIGHT**

**1 - 2**  
**CHAINSAW TRAINING COURSE**

**7 - 10**  
**LABOUR DAY WEEKEND @**  
**MOONAMBEL**

**12 GENERAL MEETING @ ARB**  
BBQ from 6:30pm  
Meeting @ 7:30pm

**26**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

**29**  
**WINERY TOUR**

## APRIL

**9**  
**GENERAL MEETING**  
Meeting @ 7:30pm

**17 - 21**  
**EASTER WEEKEND @**  
**BEACHPORT**

**23**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

## MAY

**14**  
**GENERAL MEETING**  
Meeting @ 7:30pm

**18**  
**4WD MYSTERY ADVENTURE**

**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](mailto: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](http://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  
Keith Murdoch  
Kelvin Rogers  
Alanna Stratford

Cover Photo: Geoff Davey



## THE PRES SAYS

G'day all,

It was good to see about 40 members and visitors attend the first meeting of the year in February. There was plenty of banter making it a great start to the year.

March has already kicked off with the Southern Showdown Speedway event. This was attended by about 22 adults and kids who all had a fun night in the dirt. Thanks to Keith Murdoch for organizing the night.

Six members also attended the chainsaw certification course run by Four Wheel Drive Victoria. This was both an informative and social weekend which facilitated good interaction and networking with a number of other clubs. Particular thanks go to the trainers Micah Spedding from FWDV and Gary Filbay from the Bellarine Club. This further improves our Club's capacity to contribute to the Otway Liaison Group and its track clearing activities in particular. It also increases the expertise within the Club for general trips and incidental clearing of fallen trees.

The next general meeting is on Wednesday 12th March at ARB on Thompson Road (not at the Clubrooms!). This commences with a BBQ from 6.30. There are door prizes and member discounts available on ARB merchandise. Come along, browse, chat and support one of the Clubs long term sponsors.

See you on the tracks,  
Geoff

A handwritten signature of Geoff Davey in black ink.



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# GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	General Meeting
Location	Clubrooms - Edgerton Road, Lovely Banks
Date	Wednesday 12th February 2024
Chair	Geoff Davey
Minutes taken by	Geoff Davey

Agenda	
Meeting opened at	7.33 pm
Welcome to everyone present	Welcome all
New members	Nathan Mudge
Visitors	Ian Scott, Mark and Tanya Bodger, Rylan Bird and Veronica, Stacey Hosking.
Present	Don Bird, Justin Brocks, Sophie Brocks, Levi Brocks, Trevor Brocks, Geoffrey Connors, Jake Cook, Geoff Davey, Josh Eades, Rob Gunn, Dave Hamann, Colin Hatton, Kaleb Horrocks, Emma Van der Weiden, Graeme Jeffrey, Ken Mellross, Mark Mensch, Mathew Mountjoy, Juanita Mountjoy, Nathan Mudge, Keith Murdoch, Rick Neville, Paul Oberli, Heather Oberli, Tim Neville, Harry Parke, John Prowse, PJ Pulasthi, Kelvin Rogers, Peter Searle, Geoff Van Ingen, Sharon van Ingen, Derek Wielands.
Apologies	Jimmy Halikias, Jenny Carpentier, Daniel Murdoch, Danny Sparks-Cousins, Mark Rothon, Byron Willey, Beth Rogers.

Acceptance of the previous General Meeting Minutes	
Moved	Ken Mellross
Seconded	Keith Murdoch
Business arising from the previous General Meeting Minutes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>By-laws review</b> - submissions by members are welcome.</li> <li><b>Moonambel Muster</b> - planning is underway.</li> <li><b>Not for profit tax update</b> - the clubs ABN details have been updated. It is likely we are not tax exempt and will need to lodge an annual tax return.</li> <li><b>Club boards</b> - have been updated.</li> <li><b>Police crackdown on roadworthy compliance</b> - Tim spoke to this.</li> <li><b>Chainsaw Course</b> - We need more chainsaw operators for track clearing and trips. There are currently 5 members enrolled for the course on the 1st and 2nd March. There are still places available. Anyone interested contact Geoff Davey.</li> </ol>

Correspondence	
In	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>FWD Vic</b>- CEO update</li> <li><b>FWD Vic</b>- Revolutionise sport training</li> <li><b>Geelong City Council</b>- Expression of Interest (EOI) process for the open green space at Abe Wood Reserve.</li> <li><b>FWDV</b> - Strategic plan input request.</li> <li><b>JB Racks</b> - email re photo shoot</li> </ol>
Out	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Driveline Magazine</b></li> <li><b>JB Racks</b> - email re photo shoot (Danny Sparks-Cousins)</li> </ol>



## Regular Reports

Treasurer	Presented by Graeme Jeffrey for information
Association Rep	Nothing to report.
Regional Rep	Nothing to report.
Trip Co-Ordinator	<b>Trips Out</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Australia Day 2025</b> - Jan 24th - 27th. Abbeyard district, Geoff Davey, easy / medium.</li> </ul> <b>Upcoming Trips</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Labour Day Weekend @ Moonambel</b> - March 7th - 10th. Contact Geoff Davey.</li> <li><b>Easter 2025 @ Beachport</b> - Contact Juanita Mountjoy if interested. Medium / hard trip.</li> <li><b>Moonambel Muster</b> - Kings Birthday weekend June 6th - 9th 2025.</li> <li><b>Great Australia Bight</b> - September 20th - October 12th. Contact Juanita Mountjoy. Medium / hard trip, tents / swags only and 8 cars max.</li> <li>Anyone interesting in leading trips please speak with Tim.</li> </ul> <b>Reminder club funds available @ \$10 per car to cover eats &amp; drinks.</b>
Editor	No report.
Webmaster	No report.
Club Permit Scheme	No report.
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Winery Tour 2025</b> - Keith Murdoch, Jen Carpentier and Juanita Mountjoy. March 29th 2025. 18+ event.</li> <li><b>Sprint Cars</b> - Saturday 1st March 2025 - Keith Murdoch.</li> <li><b>Barefoot Bowls</b> - TBC - Keith Murdoch.</li> </ul>
Fines	Geoff Davey x2, Colin Hatton, Rick Neville, Graeme Jeffrey, Don Bird, Sharon Van Ingen, Mark Mensch, Josh Eades
Pist 'n' Broke	Colin Hatton
Members Draw	Nathan Mudge

## Other Business

	Nil
Meeting closed at	8.27 pm
Next General Meeting	Wednesday 12th March 2025 @ ARB from 7.30pm - BBQ from 6.30pm

# AGENDA

## Agenda Items for next meeting—Wednesday 12th March 2025

	<b>Moonambel Muster</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clothing at Hip Pocket</li> <li>Food / Coffee vans</li> <li>Trip leaders</li> </ul>
	<b>Bylaws review suggestions</b>
	<b>Chainsaw training report</b>



# PIST'N BROKE FEBRUARY 2025



## COLIN HATTON





# GENERAL MEETING

*Our March General Meeting will be held at ARB Geelong. Come along from 6:30pm - browse the store, enjoy the BBQ and refreshments. Meeting from 7.30pm.*

- ✓ ***\$350 of Lucky Door Prizes***
- ✓ ***BBQ & Refreshments***
- ✓ ***Browse, Shop & Expert Advice***

- 📅 **Wednesday 12th March from 6:30pm**
- 📍 **304 Thompson Rd, North Geelong**





# UPCOMING TRIPS

## LABOUR DAY WEEKEND @ MOONAMBEL

**Date:** Friday 7th - Monday 10th March 2025

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

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

**Departing:** 9am Friday from the Clubrooms, Abe Wood Reserve

**Requirements:** Standard recovery gear, rated recovery points, UHF radio.

**Notes:** This will be a relaxed weekend with possible winery visit(s). Reasonably close, fixed camp, showers and toilets, wineries nearby, camper and caravans are fine, there is power available if required, suitable for beginners and new members. There are plenty of options to 4WD in the district and the degree of difficulty can be tailored to the participants. There is an option to travel up Friday evening or Saturday morning if a day off Friday doesn't work for you. For more information contact Geoff on 0499 905 975.



## EASTER 2025 @ BEACHPORT

**Date:** Thursday 17th - Monday 21st April 2025

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

**Trip Classification:** Medium+ | **Vehicle Limit:** 7

**Meeting:** Participants will make their own way to Beachport SA on the Thursday.

**Notes:** We will run day trips heading out from the caravan park each morning of the Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The trip is rated medium, however depending on the tides, the beach driving can also be easy to hard. Participants must have good ground clearance, long handled shovel, sand flag, basic recovery gear, rated recovery points front and back, Maxtrax (or similar). Please contact Juanita directly on 0467 809 040 if you would like to attend.



## 4WD MYSTERY ADVENTURE

**Date:** Sunday 18th May

**Trip Leader:** Juanita Mountjoy

**Meeting:** Geelong Waterfront, Cunningham Pier - 9am

**Notes:** Back in 1975, a Geelong 4WD convoy vanished while transporting valuable cargo. Their final transmissions hinted at rough terrain, sabotage, and betrayal—but the convoy was never seen again. Now, it's your turn to retrace their journey, solve the mystery, and complete the challenges they faced along the way.



Navigate an off-road route inspired by the convoy's last known path. Decode cryptic clues and uncover the truth piece by piece. Face a mix of driving challenges, problem-solving tasks, and hidden messages. Work as a team to outsmart the saboteur and reveal what happened to the Lost Convoy. Are you ready to test your driving, problem-solving, and survival skills? Will you make it to the final destination in time, or will history repeat itself? This is a half-day event, finishing with lunch and a convoy debrief. Prizes for the quickest and cleverest team to participate. Contact Juanita Mountjoy or indicate your attendance via the Facebook event.





# UPCOMING TRIPS

## MOONAMBEL MUSTER 2025

**Date:** Friday 6th - Monday 9th June 2025 (Kings 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.

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.



## GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT

**Date:** Saturday 20th September - Sunday 12th October

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

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

**Meeting:** *Option 1:* Ampol, Bannockburn. Saturday 20th September, 6.15am.

*Option 2:* Tourist Info Centre, Port Augusta. Sunday 21st September, 9am.

*Option 3:* Esperance, WA. No later than the night of Thursday 25th September.



**Trip Details:** We will begin our trip by crossing the Nullarbor along the Eyre Highway, followed by a few days of rest in Esperance, WA. From there, we'll make our way back across The Great Australian Bight, exploring beaches and coastal tracks.

This trip has been rated as medium to hard, as the beach driving becomes increasingly challenging the further east we go. The return leg across the Bight, from Esperance to Ceduna, spans approximately 1,400 km. We'll aim to cover about 100 km per day in the more difficult terrain, which, while it may not sound like much, will involve slow and demanding driving. We've allocated 15 days to complete the crossing, finishing in Ceduna, SA. Should we finish ahead of schedule, an optional trip up Googs Track will be available for those interested.

**Requirements:** Participants must have the following - A reliable set of recovery tracks (e.g. MaxTrax), front and rear recovery points, spare tyres and a tyre repair kit, long Handled Shovel, basic recovery gear, including a snatch strap, sufficient fuel, water, and food to last the duration of this remote trip.

Our first opportunity to refuel will be on Day 7, and the first water resupply will be on Day 9, likely from a bore water source. This trip will be strictly tents and swags only—no campers. For those interested, fishing and surfing opportunities may be available along the way.

For further details, or to register your interest, please contact: Juanita Mountjoy on 0467 809 040 or Matthew Mountjoy on 0400 389 230.

**Note:** If you are new to beach driving, you'll be required to attend the Beachport trip being run over the Easter school holidays as a prerequisite.



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confirm your spot.





# AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND AT ABBEYARDS

24TH - 27TH JANUARY 2025

WORDS: GEOFF DAVEY - PHOTOS: GEOFF DAVEY & SHARON VAN INGEN



The team met as planned at the BP on Melbourne Road. However Colin discovered he had a fuel leak before we left. Fortunately this was not a difficult repair and we were able to cut and shorten the fuel line to fix the problem.

Lunch was at the Mansfield servo where we refuelled before

continuing towards Merrijig and heading up our first track on Carters Road. We stopped at Tomahawk Hut for an inspection and photo opportunity before continuing on Buckland Spur Track to reach Lake William Hovell. The track around the lake is picturesque with great views across the water and dam wall.

From there we continued past Cheshunt and onto Rose River Road towards camp, stopping for some firewood along the way. Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, depending how you look at it, Colin's Colorado spluttered into camp and stalled as he reached his selected camp spot. As it turned out the car





would not start again! Not to be deterred Colin and Lisa set up camp and settled into a relaxed evening around the campfire.

The next morning, after a slow start, Colin and Lisa jumped in with others and we set off as planned. The morning consisted of a loop back around Lake William Hovell via Basin Track. This included a nice water crossing of the King River which was about top of wheels in depth.

The plan was to continue for lunch at one of the King Valley wineries, however this proved a bit tricky as many were booked out due to a very busy long weekend. Fortunately Nathan was able to secure a booking at the Pizzini winery. It was a warm day of about 30 degrees and it was pleasant under the cool of the spreading trees, overlooking the vineyard. Most enjoyed a cheese or charcuterie platter accompanied by a prosecco for which the region is famous.

After lunch and a fuel top up at Whitfield we made our way back towards camp along Black Range Track. The intention was to be





back in camp early for a swim in the Buffalo River, but just before the end of the track we encountered a large tree across the track. There were three sections requiring cutting and winching out of the way. This held us up for an hour or so, but everyone enjoyed a dip in the river when we reached camp.

Sunday we set off for Lake Cobbler. The plan was to cross the Buffalo River on Durling Track and make our way up Mount Buggery Track. However the exit to the river was steep and deeply rutted and after one of the senior members of the group required winching we had a rethink. It was billed as an easy medium trip after all. Instead we rerouted down Abbeyards Road and onto Mount Cobbler Track.

Lunch was at Lake Cobbler which was bathed in sunshine and provided a beautiful backdrop. Most took the opportunity for swim in the lake, not put off by reports of a large copperhead snake hanging around the entry point. Fortunately we did not see him.

We took the faster route home







via Lake Cobbler Road and Rose River Road and arrived back in camp by about 3pm. Some of the group had expressed disappointment at not being able to try the river exit at Durling Track, so as it was close to camp, 5 vehicles returned to the river for a play. As there was no phone reception in camp, Mark and Colin headed towards Myrtleford to arrange the RACV to flat tow Colin's Colorado. This turned out to be very efficient and a tow was arranged for Monday morning.



Meanwhile at the river exit challenge, all 5 vehicles were eventually able to make it up without assistance, although some of the lines taken could best be described as "agricultural". Michael took the award for best drive. Flushed with this sense of achievement it was back to camp for a dip in the river and a leisurely evening around the campfire.

Monday was the hot day, forecast for about 40 degrees, so the decision was made to head home via the most direct route, rather than take tracks out. The RACV truck arrived at about 9am





and Colin's car was duly loaded. The group then made their way to Myrtleford and to the Hume Highway.

The Hume was busy on the public holiday and the service centres were packed to the extent we would have struggled to even park our convoy for a lunch stop. Fortunately it was Nathan to the rescue again. He had some local knowledge of the Donnybrook area and led us to the Merrifield Shopping Centre for lunch. There were no crowds there and ample choices for lunch. We were even able to avoid the heat and eat in air conditioned comfort!

Overall it was as a relaxed social weekend with a real mix of activities and "events". Thanks to everyone for coming and all your contributions.

**Participants:**

Geoff Davey (Trip Leader)  
Mark Mensch  
Geoff and Sharon Van Ingen  
Nathan and Alma Mudge  
Colin and Lisa Hatton  
Michael Barry  
Graeme Jeffrey (Tail End)







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# CHAINSAW TRAINING

SATURDAY 1ST - SUNDAY 2ND MARCH 2025  
WORDS: MARK ROTHON - PHOTOS: GEOFF & MARK

On track clearing days, we often find ourselves short of people with chainsaw tickets. To tackle this, a chainsaw course was offered to all members. Attendees had to pay for the course, but the club provided a subsidy, recognising the benefit of having qualified members for firewood collections and track clearing days.

The course included a theory evening and two practical days. We also had members from other clubs: Bellarine 4x4, Nissan 4x4, Pajero 4x4, Landcruiser Club, and Ballarat. In total, 12 people attended, with Geelong 4x4 having the strongest turnout with six members: Geoff, Graham, Colin, Josh, Nathan, and Mark.

The trainers, Gary, Nick, and

Micah from the Bellarine 4x4 club, were outstanding. They were very professional and approachable, they all were very knowledgeable and good at sharing their wealth of knowledge with the group.

Everyone passed with flying colours. Well done to all!

All we need now is a club chainsaw, let's make sure that's just a little bit bigger than the one at the Bellarine Club. 😊

The theory session was held on Wednesday, February 26th, at the Bellarine 4x4 club rooms in South Geelong. As expected, we went through a comprehensive explanation of how chainsaws work, how to maintain them, and most importantly, how to use them safely. The evening started

at 6:30 PM and finished around 9 PM. A few people stayed back for drinks at the end of the evening.

On Saturday, March 1st, we met at the property in Gellibrand at 8:30 AM. It was a cool but sunny morning, and the sun continued to shine throughout the day. It got a little hot at times, and we all looked for shade during the breaks.

Del had prepared a welcoming fire, which he kept going for the duration of the weekend, even with his bad back.

After a short introduction, we were given the work order: to cut a fallen tree into 300mm pieces. We split into two groups and assessed the tree, looking for dangers above, around, and







potential trip hazards. We also assessed where the compression and tension would be in each limb and the safest order to remove them.

We spent the day cutting through large trunks and learning various cutting techniques. The plunge cut seemed to be a favourite, along with having a go with the very large chainsaws that the Bellarine Club brought along. The day wrapped up around 4 PM, and we retired to the Otway Tourist Park. People spent the evening enjoying a few drinks together before heading off on the 10-minute walk to the Gellibrand Pub for dinner. It was a great evening, and we sat outside the whole time, with a few heading over to the fire later on as it cooled down. It was great to get to know people from the other clubs; we can all learn so much from each other.



Sunday morning started a bit grey. We arrived on-site at about 9 AM, greeted again by Del and his fire. We spent the morning going over the assessments and chainsaw maintenance. At one point it started to drizzle, but luckily, we could all shelter under





a huge oak tree on the property, it was only a brief shower and the day continued to be dry. Mid-morning, we had one-on-one assessments, demonstrating that we could risk assess the work area, risk assess the tree to be cut, and that we could use the chainsaw safely. I think a few found themselves feeling a little nervous. Following this, it was announced that we had all passed, and we spent the remainder of the day cutting and clearing the fallen trees on the property.

It was a fantastic weekend, and we got a lot from it. A very special thank you to the trainers; they went the extra mile to get this course off the ground, and it is greatly appreciated.

If anyone would like to know more about the course content, I'm sure any of the attending members would be more than happy to help.

# Mark







About 22 of us ventured out to Avalon Raceway for a fun social night of motor racing.

The night was full of racing, including the Mini Sprints. These little machines are typically powered by 600cc, 4 stroke motor cycle engines. They get around the track pretty quickly.

Also, there were even smaller Sprints driven by kids, and it sure looked like they were having a ball.

Super Sedans were also on the schedule, but let's not forget the reason we came - The Big Boys. The Sprint Cars came out for a play, and after a few 'hot laps' we

were all covered in clay. 😊

The racing was slick and quick which made for a great night of entertainment.

Thanks to all who attended.

**Keith**





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