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FEBRUARY

11

GENERAL MEETING

Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

BBQ from 6:30pm

21

ANGLESEA DAY TRIP

21

ADVENTURE PARK DAY OUT

~~CANCELLED~~

25

COMMITTEE MEETING

Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

MARCH

6 - 9

WALHALLA AND SOUTH GIPPSLAND TRIP

11

GENERAL MEETING @ ARB

BBQ from 6:30pm

Meeting @ 7:30pm

25

COMMITTEE MEETING

Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

APRIL

6 - 9

EASTER @ BEACHPORT TRIP

8

GENERAL MEETING

Clubrooms @ 7:30pm

22

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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Cover Photo: Geoff Davey



THE PRES SAYS

Hi Members,

Welcome everyone to 2026 and our first magazine for the year (thanks again Danny).

There has been much correspondence over the last couple of months which is all listed in Club General Meeting Minutes. If you read something you require more info about please do not hesitate to contact Nathan, our club secretary, for further details.

Our meeting attendances have been low over the last couple of months as has the number of trips going out. It is understandable given the time of year and how difficult it can be to get to meetings and events.

As the year settles in please attend meetings and support trips as it is in your and the club's best interests to have as many members possible active and interacting. Again, any suggestion around club improvements and trip wishes are most welcome.

We also have a group of committee members looking at ways to engage and invite new interest from the public to maintain club numbers and understand what people with four wheel drive interest are looking for.

Look forward to seeing you at a meeting or on the tracks,
Graeme.



Graeme

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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Due to insufficient numbers in attendance, no December meeting was held. All agenda items carried over to the February general meeting. We look forward to seeing you all at a well supported February general meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2026

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Update on Facebook group chat and public page.2. Batch of club clothing order- contact Nathan for order / payment by 23rd Feb.3. Moonambel 2026 updates.4. Member reminder of FWDVic Tread Lightly and club code of conduct following discovery of cut locks from track clearing.5. Club sponsor ARB hosting the next (March) general meeting.6. General business.
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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.

- ✓ **Lucky Door Prizes**
- ✓ **BBQ & Refreshments**
- ✓ **Browse, Shop & Expert Advice**

 **Wednesday 11th March from 6:30pm**
 **304 Thompson Rd, North Geelong**

UPCOMING TRIPS

ANGLESEA DAY TRIP

Date: Saturday 21st February

Trip Leader: Nathan Mudge

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

Departing: 9am Bunnings Carpark, Waurn Ponds

Requirements: Standard recovery gear: Snatch, Bow/soft Shackles, rated recovery points (front & rear), Recovery dampener, Compressor & deflator, UHF radio, Basic First Aid kit (with snake bite bandage ideal).

Notes: A friendly trip in the Otways around Anglesea. We'll meet at the Bunnings Carpark in Waurn Ponds before heading off to the tracks. A BBQ lunch will be provided for the convoy.

Contact Nathan on 0431 615 763 or check the Facebook event for more info.



WALHALLA AND SOUTH GIPPSLAND TRIP

Date: Friday 6th - Monday 9th March

Trip Leader: Geoff Davey

Trip Classification: Easy / Medium

Departing: 9am BP Roadhouse, Melbourne Rd, Little River

Requirements: Standard recovery gear, rated recovery points, UHF radio and a sense of humour.



Notes: Friday travel to Walhalla district. Saturday, travel east through the McCallister and Avon Rivers. Sunday, travel south and camp on 90 mile beach. Monday, home. If you are interested in coming along please get in touch with Geoff on 0499 905 975 or check the Facebook event for more info.

EASTER 2026 @ BEACHPORT

Date: Thursday 2nd - Monday 6th April 2026

Trip Leader: Matthew & Juanita Mountjoy

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

Meeting: Meet at Southern Ocean Tourist Park, in Beachport SA.

Notes: We will base camp at the caravan park and run day trips from there. Most of the driving is beach driving so a sand flag, Maxtrax and shovel are non negotiable. Otherwise standard recovery gear is required, including a snatch strap, shackles and rated recovery points front and back. Trip is rated medium, but this can change either way depending on tides. Please contact Juanita on 0467 809 040 if wanting to attend.



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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AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND AT THE GRAMPIANS

22ND - 26TH JANUARY 2026

WORDS: GRAEME JEFFREY - PHOTOS: GRAEME & GEOFF

Thursday afternoon at 1:30PM myself (Trip Leader) Geoff Davey, Colin Hatton & Mark Mensch met at the Anakie Roadhouse to head off to the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park.

I made the trip as a passenger with

Geoff after trading the Challenger in the week before, and my new car not yet ready for offroading.

The trip was planned and listed as an easy / medium with the hope prospective new members would join in. Unfortunately this didn't

eventuate and the four days we spent driving would have been ideal for lesser experienced people.

I had not been four wheel driving through the area before but given its relatively short distance from Geelong it made for an ideal location





for a shorter holiday weekend.

After gathering enough firewood for the evening we arrived at Plantation Campground around 4PM to set up camp.

Plantation Campground is free of charge, has two toilet blocks along with fire pits in each of the designated campsites and is only ten minutes from Halls Gap or the pub, which is where we had made arrangements for dinner.

After a hearty meal we made our way back to camp for a few beverages and a relaxing evening around the camp fire.



Friday morning saw Geoff and I make a dash to Horsham to obtain a part he required to make the trip more enjoyable, leaving Col and Mark to some tourist and coffee time in Halls Gap.

Upon our return about lunchtime we headed into the bush to explore the northern end of the Grampians. We first drove the 6 kilometre Mount Difficult Fireline and whilst marked as medium is quite an easy scenic drive.

From there we continued onto Mount Zero Road where a short distance along is a turn off to Heatherlie Quarry, an old mining site that supplied stone to the town of Stawell but moreover into Melbourne for buildings such as the Town Hall and State Library.

If you are in the area the site is well worth the 1.2 kilometre return walk to experience the site and its history.

We then drove Coppermine Track (rated easy) onto Polners Road around to Chinaman's Track (rated hard), whilst probably medium for us it had some fun sections along it that would have again made for great learning experiences to newcomers to four wheel driving.





This lead us to Lake Wartook for a look and then onto Smiths Mill Campground for the night. Once we gathered the night's firewood and settled in for the evening we were visited by a very inquisitive emu and wallaby more than once, looking for a free feed.

Saturday's forecast of 40 degrees had us rethinking our plan to drive all day so we drove Wallaby Rocks Track in the morning which was a good drive to a great lookout, with views right across the ranges in all directions.

We then travelled on easy tracks across the range to Lake Bellfield to find a shady spot and to cool off through the afternoon heat. Located just 3 kilometres from Lake Bellfield is another larger campground (Borough Huts) with some 30 tent sites and 10 RV sites as it is easy access via sealed road.

Due to the heat there was some of the northwest side of the Grampians we didn't get to explore, however, listed as easy driving on maps it appears to be very similar to tracks the ones we travelled.

Sunday was planned to travel along Ingleton Track (rated hard) however after a kilometre or two down the track we came across a large impassable tree, so our plans again changed.

With a lot of tracks closed due to the recent fires, we were forced to travel on bitumen some way before being able to get back into the bush.

We found an unmarked short track rated medium which turned out to be a good drive, with some steeper sections on it. We then linked onto the bottom of Ingleton Track which is rated easy, located in the flatter part of the park. This is quite a long section, taking us through to lunchtime, so we took a break on the track to make the most of some small shade that was available. We hadn't seen another vehicle all





weekend on the tracks, but whilst lunching two others came through requiring us to move.

A short way along is Griffen Track which is rated medium, and whilst straightforward to drive in the conditions, was one of the few tracks rated close to its designation. We drove it in both directions due to the need to stay on that side of the range, which was a bit of fun.



The rest of the drive to camp at Freshwater Lake Reserve was straightforward, mostly in sandy conditions. The lake was dry and the surrounding land was quite grassy and too dangerous for a fire so a quiet afternoon and evening followed.

The Grampians isn't a large four wheel driving area, but still enjoyable for a shorter trip. Being relatively close to Geelong it was well worth it.

Graeme



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