

R O F R News

Southern Zone B 4WD Club

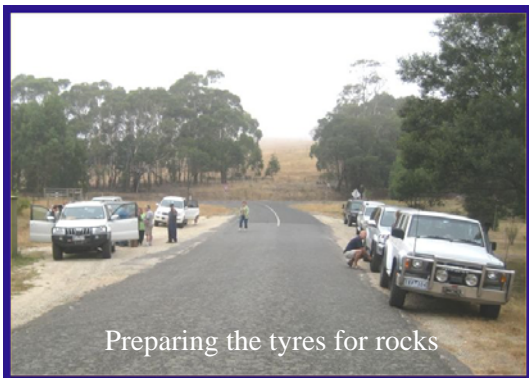
1st February, 2009

Volume 1, Issue 1

4WD Trek in the Wombat State Forest

The oppressive 43° of the last 3 days had finally abated. It was 9:00am Sunday 1st Feb. with slightly overcast skies and a pleasant 20° when 10 vehicles of all makes and models assembled for the 4WD trek through the Wombat State Forest.

The organisational skills of Annie McGennicken were exceptional and the day went off without a hitch. No lost vehicles, damaged tyres, nervous drivers or petrified passengers. No winches, snatch straps, hi-lift jacks, bow shackles or drag chains were required. However, a good Mercedes mechanic would have come in handy, but that's another story.



Preparing the tyres for rocks

After introductions and promptly forgetting peoples names, filling in forms, handing over money, letting some air out of the tyres, assembling in convoy, checking two ways, swapping around hand-held two ways with ones that worked, re-checking two ways, ensuring all were on frequency 15 and could be heard clearly, re-checking two ways and finally getting it right, the convoy was off and running.

The convoy headed down Carrolls Lane, headlights ablazing because of the anticipated dust (that was an understatement), each vehicle registering to the Trip Leader via UHF radio that they were on their way.

The fun was about to start and you could hear the excitement in their voices. We were prepared for anything. (Except the bloody dust).

The first part of the route took us down Radcliffe Track, Blue Gum Track, Blue Gum Link Road, O'Briens Road and Upper Chadwick Track to our much anticipated morning tea destination. It may not sound like many tracks but it took a good 1½ hours. Some steep inclines and declines and very, very deep dried up mud holes slowed the progress somewhat. Isn't it amazing how photos really do not show things as they are. From inside the car this decline was quite steep. Really!!



Downhill to morning tea

Morning tea was spent heating kettles on dinky little gas burners, drinking tea, coffee and water, eating bickies, fruit and

even salmon & rice. Lots of discussions, the likes of "How did your Toyota handle the mud holes? My Patrol had no problem of course, just like driving on asphalt." "Is the Mercedes still in one piece?" "Whose 4WD is full of dust?" "How long before the lunch stop?". Just enough time for a walk to the trees and bushes, for a pit stop, before a group photo.





Time to rock and roll (literally). The route took us from Chadwick Track to Diggers Track, Chettle Road, XL Link Road, Mill Road, Firth Road, Firth Park Road to our lunchtime destination of Firth Park. Another 1½ hours of ups, downs and sideways jolts. Time to unpack the picnic baskets, uncork the wine bottles, secure a shady spot and enjoy food, fresh air and fellowship in idyllic surroundings. Lunch was followed by a quick committee meeting. Apart from the usual meeting formalities it was the perfect time to discuss future 4WD trips. Areas that came up as possibilities were Howqua / Mansfield, Tallarook, Pyreenes and Perth (Post 2010 Conference). All definitely worth looking into and pursuing further. Meeting over, cars packed and we're on our way again. Or are we?.....

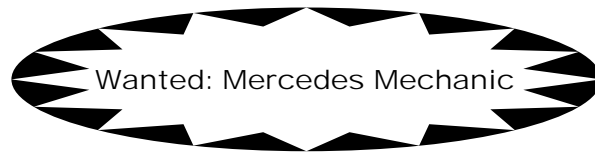
Attendees

- Annie McGennissen
- Charles Morrison
- Chris & Aron Scholz
- Graeme & Sue Harrison
- Jack & Judy Donoghue
- Troy & Eliot Donoghue
- John & Vivian Scarr
- Judy Nettleton & John Nairn
- Keith Ryall & Gabrielle Butler
- Lewis & Sue Bordon
- Jacki Weir
- Ted Findling
- Trevor & Naomi McGilton

Appreciations

Thank you to Lewis & Sue for their publicity efforts prior to our trip.

Thank you to the Executive Committee of Keith, Judy & Annie for compiling the trip.



Just when we thought it was safe to get back into our cars the Mercedes wouldn't start. What now? Turn off your motors, try not to snigger out loud and stumble out of your vehicles. Lift the bonnet, gather all the men around, stare confusedly into the motor, scratch heads, look underneath the car, scramble around frantically for the manual, keep trying to turn it over, swear under your breath and try not to snicker out loud again. Troy to the rescue. Armed with the fuse box and after much frowning and gollygoshing the filthy culprit turned out to be the stupid air conditioning fuse. Go figure! Mercedes now turns over and we can all be on the last leg of the journey.



The final route had us along Firth Road, Unnamed Track, Campaspe Road, Andersons Mill Track, Firth Road, Burnt Mill Road, Saltwater Road, Campaspe Road, Unnamed Track, Burnt Mill Track, Distillery Track, Fingerpost Road and finally back to our start and Carrolls Lane. What a great day. Lots of fun, lots of laughs and the making of new friendships. Many thanks to Annie for her organisational skills. It was now just a matter of re-inflating tyres and we were all on our way home. A little bit dustier but very, very happy. See you all next trip.

Photo Gallery



RVFR 4WD Club

Southern Zone B

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Treasurer: Judy Nettleton
Secretary: Annie McGenniskien
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Advertising

Sponsors and advertisers are welcome
Please contact Lewis or Sue for details

Membership

Membership is open to Rotarian's and non Rotarian's who own a 4WD.
Membership fee is \$15.00 per annum.

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(Rotarian Iven Mackay)