

NISSAN 4x4 NEWS

October 2023

Jorgen's Victorian High Country Trip - 2023

Rod's Remote First Aid Course



Heath's Big Desert Attempt Mallee Victoria - 2023





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Nissan 4x4 News is the official magazine of The Nissan Four Wheel Drive Club of Victoria Inc. ("the Club") which is a member of Four Wheel Drive Victoria. Articles, trip reports, social and technical reports etc are welcomed for inclusion in **Nissan 4x4 News**.

General Meetings:

Meetings are held on the **first Wednesday of every month** (except January) at the Keysborough Senior Citizens Club, 352 Cheltenham Road, Keysborough. (Melways Map Ref 89 D9). **General and Committee Meetings commence at 7.30 PM Sharp.**

Correspondence:

All correspondence (except articles for Nissan News) should be addressed to:

**The Secretary
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Advertising Rates

Annual Rates

Full Page:

\$670 (colour) / \$460 (black & white)

Half Page:

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Eighth Page:

\$110 (colour) / \$75 (black & white)

"One off" page advertising (introductions, special promotions etc) per page \$100 (colour) / \$70 (B&W)

For items marked on "For Sale" pages members can list items for sale at no charge for 3 months. Non-members \$10 (conditions apply, contact Editor for details).

CLUB LIFE MEMBERS

Steve Trickey	Clive Garaway
John Barnes	Paul Warner
Peter Simpson	John Tomlinson
Gary Lister	Trevor Heale
*Alan McCabe	John Fowler
Brian Rollins	James Watson
Darren Jones	Steve Nugent

CLUB BANK DETAILS

BSB: 083-237
A/C No: 36-519-5031
A/C Name:
Nissan 4X4 Club of Victoria Inc

Remember to include your name in the reference details.



From the Editor

Hello Members,

Welcome to the October edition of the club magazine.

Apologies for the long time between drinks.

I am still learning the beast that is In-Design which I use to edit the magazine. We are almost friends now.

Once again a big thanks to Heath on coaching me on things I get royally stumped on.

Stay Safe,
Michael Dingli
Editor Nissan 4x4 Club of Victoria

Membership

A new member joins the Club as an Associate Member. Once the following attainments are achieved the member can apply for Full Membership:

Full membership form is available in the members pack or request from Membership Secretary or download from web site. Once a Full Member you are eligible for a key to the club property.

- Been an Associate Member for 6 months.
- Completed Driver Training.
- Attended 2 club trips.
- Participated in a Club working bee and/or kitchen roster at a general meeting.
- Attended at least 4 general meetings.

Membership Fee's as at 1st June 2023

Once off joining Fee of \$110 (this includes driver training).

Annual Subscription of \$165.

Therefore a new members cost would be \$275 for the first year. Pro-rata is calculated for the second years membership fee.

If you have any questions about membership please contact the membership secretary or approach any of the Committee members at the next General Meeting.

Cover: Victorian High Country
Photo by: Jørgen Skogstad
Cover: Albatucya Silo Art
Photo by Heath Glass

The Club wish to sincerely thank the NOBLE PARK FOOTBALL CLUB for the use of their club rooms for committee meetings.

**Are you looking for a 4x4 Club?
Do you enjoy 4 wheel driving?
Do you enjoy the outdoors?
Are you looking to join a fun, family friendly club?**



Take a look at the advantages of becoming a member.

About Us:

The Nissan club was formed in 1976 to engage in and promote four wheel driving for recreation. From those beginnings of some friends with G60 Patrols, we have grown into a well organised and inclusive group of over 200 members.

There is a mixture of 4WDs within the club such as: Patrol, Pathfinder, Navara, Landcruiser, Hilux, Prado, Wrangler, Pajero, Ranger, Defender, Discovery, Amarok, BT-50, D-Max.

Club Events:

Club events and trips are run through out the year. They cover the whole of Australia, so wherever you plan to go for your next trip we can certainly help. Club members have a wide range of experiences and are always keen to assist with suggestions, hints and information for your trip planning. The Events Coordinator ensures there is a good variety of events and trips available, from the Victorian High Country to the deserts of Central Australia - we have a lot to offer.



4x4 Trips have varying levels of difficulty from Novice (Easy) through to Expert (Very difficult). Trips range from half a day, one day, mid-week and weekend or several weeks depending on where you want to go.



Examples of trips are:

- | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------|------|
| Portland Sand Dunes | Victorian High Country | Border Track | Simpson Desert | Snow |
| Victorian Mallee | Wyperfield NP | Cape York | | |

Helping the Community:

We participate in events which help the community. We are associated with a number of organisations and help out with:

- Clean up the bush
- Restoration of historic land marks
- Charity Events
- BlazeAid



Social Events:

The club also has a social committee which organises social events such as dinners, Christmas parties and fun sporting events.

Driver Education:

As part of your membership we have a qualified driver training team that holds driver education programs to assist drivers in 4WD techniques and the safe and responsible use of 4WD equipment.

Club Property:

We are saving the best for last! The club has its own 80 acre property, two hours east of Melbourne, in picturesque East Gippsland. Club members can enjoy the facilities at their leisure, with plenty of sites for tents, camper trailers or caravans, there are also hot showers and flushing toilets. The extensive fire place area for camp cooking or relaxing with other members at happy hour is a popular spot. There are well maintained 4WD tracks on the property, as well as the tracks in the beautiful area of the State Forest which borders the property.



**So what are you waiting for?
Join now and enjoy the experiences of a life time.**

Don't forget to check out the web site for more details.



The members of the Nissan 4x4 Club would like to welcome the following to the club:

Matthew & Nancy Collins and children
Michael & Liat Kremer and children
Tony Leggett & Bienifer Vinluan and child
Simon Rocchi
Victor Rodriguez & Gisella Cano and child
Daniel Wotherspoon & Hannah Williamson

Congratulate the following members for attaining Full Membership:

Michael Batdorf & Caroline Best and child
Matt Callanan and child



For Sale

1) 5 x Cooper Rugged Trek Tyres 285/70/17 - Only done 3000 kms

\$1500 for 5 of them - Please contact Debbie Nugent for further details on 0401677059

2) 2008 Nissan Patrol GU

A reliable family vehicle which has been well maintained with only one previous owner. It runs really well, has a good service history and is being sold with a RWC and up to 3 months rego.

\$19,990 or nearest offer

Good service history, 3ltr Turbo Diesel, automatic transmission, 7 seats, airbags, power windows, central locking, sidesteps, sunroof,

EXTRAS: BG Goodridge All Terrain Tyres with 90% tread, dual batteries, UHF radio, roof rack, awning, Nissan snorkel, Nissan winchbar with Warn Winch, IPF spotlights, dash cam, Steinbaur chip, towbar, electric brake controller, GPS and reverse camera, Rear Anderson plug, bonnet protector, front window weather shields, 2" Suspension Lift

If you need anything else, please do let us know. **See the add on the club website for more photos.**

Steph and Torben

Torben: 0427 390 093

Steph: 0481 179 246






Trips and Events

Below is a list of trips and events for club members to attend.


Full trip details are available on the club web site. If you wish to attend an event or trip, register via the web site and contact the trip leader if you have any questions.

Notice on attending trips: Please make sure that your vehicle is registered, driver has a current drivers licence and your membership subscription is up to date.

18 - 19th Nov
Limitless: infinity




Trip Leader:
Mike Massey




November WORKING BEE 2023


Working bees are held quarterly and are a great way to get us together as a club group to make improvements and repairs to the property we all love. Without the working bees, Wandarrah would not be the draw card she is now. It gives full members a chance to catch up with one another, get out into our native bush lands, and slow time down for a weekend. For new or associate members it's a great way to earn points towards your own full membership



25th - 26th Nov
Limit:




Trip Leader:
Debbie Nugent




Club Annual Christmas Party @ Wandarrah

Please refer to the Club website for further details and costs etc.


BOOKINGS TAKEN RIGHT NOW, PLEASE REGISTER TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS GREAT WEEKEND.(must be booked prior to 11th November for catering purposes)



20th Jan 2024
Limit: ??




Trip Leader:
Steve Moon




Charity Poker Night


Hello members! I'm back from traveling and getting back into the swing of all things in Nissan 4x4 land. With the blessing of our community coordinator (Deb), I've decided to host a charity poker night at my joint in Mount Evelyn! This is a great opportunity for members to meet and mingle in a different environment and to kick back, relax and enjoy a night of fun..



26 - 28th Jan 2024
Limitless




Trip Leader:
Steve Moon




Australia Day at Wandarrah 2024


Saturday will be the main day of fun so dress to impress, costume or character. Prizes will be awarded for best outfit, worst outfit and most original. So chuck some tinnies in ya esky, pack ya thongs and budge smugglers and get in on the fun.



23rd May - 24th Jun 2024
Limit: 7








Trip Leader:
Tony Noble



KIMBERLEYS, KATHERINE & KINGS CANYON

2024 TRIP TO ALL THE MAIN LOCATIONS IN THE KIMBERLEYS AND A DROP INTO THE KATHERINE GORGE AND KINGS CANYON ON THE WAY HOME



	EASY	MEDIUM	DIFFICULT	VERY DIFFICULT
Overview Description	All-wheel Drive and High Range 4WD. Novice Drivers.	Mainly High Range 4WD but Low Range required. Some 4WD experience or training required.	Significant Low Range 4WD with standard 4WD ground clearance. Should have 4WD driver training.	Low Range 4WD with high ground clearance. Experienced drivers.
Advisory Sign/Symbol	Green Circle	Blue Square	Black Diamond	Double Black Diamond
				
Expected terrain & track conditions	Mostly unsealed roads with no obstacles and minor gradients.	Tracks with some steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. May have shallow water crossings.	Tracks with frequent steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy track sections. Possible water crossings.	Tracks with frequent very steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy track sections. May have difficult river crossings.
Vehicle Suitability	All-wheel drive and High range 4WD. Can be low clearance with single range and road tyres.	Suitable for medium clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain or road tyres.	Suitable for medium to high clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain tyres.	Suitable for high clearance vehicles with dual range tyres suitable for the terrain. (Mud terrain tyres)
Recovery Equipment				Winch/Recovery equipment required.
Driver training experience	Suitable for novice drivers.	Recommended that drivers have experience or 4WD training. Recommended to be done in groups of vehicles.	Recommended for drivers with reasonable experience or 4WD training. To be done in groups of vehicles.	Drivers with extensive experience and advanced training should only attempt as there are several technical challenges. Recommended to be done in groups of four or more vehicles.
Weather	May be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.



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Driver Training Program



The initial aim of the club is to ensure that all members are proficient 4 wheel drivers. To assist in this end, our club has a driver education program for new members. The training is run by our own qualified training team.

The team members are very experienced members of the club in touring, and offroading in general. They are there to help people become familiar with their vehicle, with safe four wheel driving techniques, with the various equipment that is available, and to promote responsible bush driving and touring.

Our other aim is to enable people to gain the knowledge and confidence in all aspects of four wheel driving to travel safely and be prepared.

This training is included in your membership fees. Private courses similar to the one provided by our fully accredited training team, may cost hundreds of dollars.

The Driver Education Program is held as a weekend course at the Club Property with theory and practical exercises.

These are some of the points that the course includes:

- Ascending and Descending Steep Hills.
- Recovery Procedures.
- Safety aspects of Vehicle Packing.
- General Tips and Techniques.
- Correct Preparation for Water Hazards.
- Correct Use of Communications Equipment.
- Use and Care of Recovery Equipment.



Who should complete Driver Training?

While the primary driver must do Driver Training, we also encourage partners to complete the training. This will give them more confidence in the vehicles capabilities as well as give them the experience needed should they need to take over driving at any time. Please talk to the Driver Training coordinator about these options and any other members of your family that may benefit the training.

How to register for training?

If you are already a registered member have a look at the dates available in magazine or website when Driver Training is being held. Contact the Driver Training coordinator to make a booking and discuss options.



Awards Day

Report By: Michael Dingli

Award Categories for 2023:

Club Women - Award Recipient: **Michela Massey**

A big thank you to Michela for your tireless effort in baking and cooking for the working bee crowds.

Club Man - Award Recipient: **Len Tucker**

A big thank you to Len for taking the role of club Host to the most and as well as spreading the Nissan 4x4 Club word, goes out of his way to make visitors and new members feel very welcome.

President's Award - Award Recipient: **Steve Moon**

A big thank you to Steve for his work & achievements with his past Land Co-ordinator role and also the great work he has done as Membership Secretary to date.







Remote First Aid Course - 2023

Report By: Rod Barnard

Remote First Aid Course

A Remote First Aid course was run at the club property from August 10th to 13th for several members who participated in advancing their first aid skills.

Participants

- Rod Barnard (crashed his mountain bike in scenario)
- Monica Campi
- Jorgen Skogstad
- Shane Bacon (crashed his bmx in scenario)
- Nick Redwood (squashed by his own car in scenario)
- Fiona Van Leeuwen
- Robin Douglas
- Stuart Hunter

Summary

Well, after an exceptionally long wait from signing up to doing the course, the weekend finally arrived. The weather looked like it could do a bit of everything except warm up, so it was with trepidation we headed to Wandarrah on a Thursday afternoon. Even getting there early afternoon we were not the first to arrive and the trainer and a couple of participants had already got a fire going (as is customary). After setting up

and introducing ourselves it was a lazy afternoon. As none of us were familiar with the hut electrics and projector setup we spent a while getting it sorted for the following morning's start (a few phone calls were made to clarify things and be informed that you need to hit the big button outside for the hut system to work; none of us realised this)

Friday morning started early and was cold with little hope of the temperature rising far. After breaky and a coffee the hut fire was lit. The course started with a little nervousness and a lot of edging closer to the fire, the space blanket sample was seriously considered by some as an addition to the insulation. The trainer (Scott) had a companion dog that was so friendly he was a wandering distraction, happy to get scratches from anyone willing.



The first day went smoothly with us all trying to absorb everything presented. The course began largely like a normal single day course, including CPR etc. we finished day 1 with a meal at the Farmers before chatting around the fire.



Day two and three were just as cold and a little more overcast so the hut fire was lit early each morning to warm it up ready to go. Days 2 and 3 were all about the “remote” component of the course, looking at all sorts of things from bites and stings to broken bones, spinal injuries, head injuries, managing and moving patients for extraction through to how and what to monitor for signs of internal injuries.

We ran a couple of scenarios where various people got to be the accident victim to help learn how to deal with what can be a very overwhelming situation (even knowing that it is only training). Scott turned out to be a very engaging trainer and obviously takes his role very seriously whilst still being able to make it an enjoyable experience. The different scenarios were run through and then we all discussed the good and not so good things we found and could improve on. He has quite the setup with a lot of equipment to enhance the learning experience.

We went through the paperwork side of things as a group on the last afternoon before getting the sign off from Scott. Rather than an exam type test we got to go

through the test paper as a group discussing the questions and coming to group answers before moving on to the next question. This is far more real-world training than sitting in an office or classroom in the city somewhere.

Sunday saw a late afternoon finish after having a stand around discussion with Scott and us about first aid kit contents and so on. He does also sell some supplies and kits.



In closing I'd like to say thanks to everyone who took the time to do this course.

You do this course to be able to help others so I think everyone who attended should be commended for their efforts.

If there is enough interest, we may be able to do another course next year or the year after so please let us know if there are people interested in another course in future, I'd highly recommend it.



A Very Important Article on Safety and Being Prepared

Report By: Brian Smith

Safety of Members & Others

Members may recall my nephew Dan Smith from a working bee in February 2022 (photo next page) when he used his skills to spearhead the refurbishment of the steps at Wandarrah. It was a great weekend for him ending in much praise for his efforts.

You may also recall the recent tragic death (June 10th, 2023) of a female on Donnellys Rd, Mt BawBaw as the vehicle with 2 passengers left the road and ended upside down in the creek below.

As it happened, Dan with three of his mates were camping in the remote area and were first on the scene. After assessing the severity of the situation, he was the only one with a GPS beacon to alert Emergency Services of the accident (no mobile reception). He was also responsible for pulling the two surviving passengers from the vehicle. However, nothing could be done for the driver as she had drowned in the upturned vehicle.

Why do I mention this? These events demonstrate the importance of why you should carry a beacon. It can not only help to save your life should you get into trouble but indirectly, the lives of others. Please consider this particularly when going bush.

Brian Smith
Member
Nissan 4x4 Club of Victoria Inc.





Victorian High Country Trip - March 2023

Report By: Jorgen Skogstad

Dates: March 10th – March 13th 2023

Participants:

- Jorgen Skogstad (Trip Leader) with Anand Singh as guest. Toyota Land Cruiser 79 Series.
- Raymond & Justin Besim. Nissan Patrol GU.
- Uwe Klietz. Toyota Land Cruiser 79 Series.
- Matt Rollins.
- Guest

Friday March 10th

The team got going individually. Jorgen was heading to the airport early in the morning to pick up his mate whereby most parties excluding Uwe was going to meet up in Jamieson. We managed to do that just after mid-day where we grabbed a coffee, pie and had a bit of a yarn before then heading up towards Mt Skene. We stopped for a few photos in the bathtub that's on the way along the side of the road. No time to heat it up and have bath but fun nevertheless. When we were approaching the top, we started looking for the top of mountain marker but with vegetation being quite overgrown we did a few wrong turns and one in particular took us out on a one-way track to an old hut site with some great views. After a stop we tracked back to the main road and then found the marker we were originally looking for a little further down the road. The obligatory pictures before we continued on towards Licola.



As we were approaching Licola, we dropped into the valley off to the left and headed to the Barkley Bridge camp site where Uwe had already arrived. The main section there was propped full but one at the track exit was empty, so we took that and spread out.



Saturday March 11th

Headed off to Licola through the backroads. Awesome scenery and passed a place which must have been where all Land Rovers went to die as there were maaaaany of them. Probably a collector of some sorts lived there. Anyways we made it into Licola and stopped by the general store for a coffee or three and to use the facilities. We were eager to head on where the next destination was Mt Wellington. We made our way up to the junction and turned off through the forest at the base then making our way up gradually. We were greeted with great views but crazy winds! We got some photos done and quickly packed into the cars again and headed further in past the top where the next stop was going to be the Sentinels but that was apparently so

overgrown and would require a walk in so we continued down to a hut where we had lunch. It was a rough and narrow track going in. With lunch done, we turned around and followed the track past the mountain again and came up to Moroka



Hut from the rear. Managed to walk through to the hut for a peek though the track was hard to navigate with the high grass. Once that was done, we continued on up to the Pinnacles where half the group scurried up to the top for photos. Great views as always and then on to Billy Goat Bluff as we were heading towards Dargo for the night. Going down Billy Goat we came across two motorcycles. One was



really struggling and asked whether we could carry his bags and what not down to the bottom of the track. We obliged of course and carried on but it was not long before we hit a snag where a Hilux had snapped his canopy mounts straight off coming out of a rut, so they were going nowhere anytime soon. In the end we managed to help lift it onto the chassis, ratchet it hard onto the chassis and they managed to carry on up the track and us down. Quite uneventful and Billy Goat was quite ok this time around. We made Dargo River by around 5pm I think and we set up camp after having a drink at the pub .. and then onto dinner with “live music” that progressively got worse and worse apparently during the evening as more of their drinks were downed! Campsite was somewhat crowded but no wonder with Dargo being accessible via bitumen and being a long weekend.

Sunday March 12th

Uneventful night and we packed up and got out of camp before 9am heading into Dargo itself for some supplies and fuel with some obligatory pictures taken. Quick stop by the rest-rooms and we were off heading north on the high plains road where the target was Blue Rag. A quick stop by Grant just out of Dargo... then a beeline to the hut (can't recall the name...) just before blue rag turn off. Being a great day with



sunshine and tracks being dry and all, the way into Blue Rag was no problem. Super scenic and Anand commented again and again how beautiful it all was,

and we talked about how many will never see anything like it. Sad really... but yeah, we managed to traverse the traffic jam and make it up on the top where we had lunch, and more photos were had! Soooo many people about which was good to see as well. Belly's full we tracked back to the exit uneventfully and turned left heading towards Mt Hotham. No dramas and when we got there, not really anything was open so we used the facilities and headed back looking at the awesome views making it to the turn off to Mt Murray on the Twin Jeeps Track. First section there was interesting with an almost 180-degree switchback that





was steep. We all made it through, and the track was narrow... really narrow... but we came out on the other end making camp just down from the top. Weather soon turned and rain started falling as we were setting up camp and progressively got worse. Matt & co managed to get a good camp fire going to keep us warm! Whilst getting a bit better eventually the weather was a bit sketchy still through the evening and night!



Monday March 13th

What a morning! Weather had cleared overnight and opening the canopy to check what was going on outside... and wow! What a view. With the weather overnight clearing you now had the valleys filled with fog and cloud cover with us up on top! Magical! Breakfast was had and we all packed up. Being just down from Mt Connor we went the extra distance given the gate to the top was open (or was it broken through by someone??!) we had to give it a crack. Even more stunning views with the mountain top literally being a narrow top where we could circle the cars barely on top. Made for some awesome pictures that much is certain! Once we had that settled, we backtracked the same way we came in with no issues and got back to the main road where we found a chain bay to pull into and air up. Once settled we got down off the mountain and stopped in the first town for breakfast and coffee. The group then decided to break up and go our separate ways... and head back home. This marked the end of the trip and another great long weekend sorted. Thanks for great company and great banter throughout the weekend!



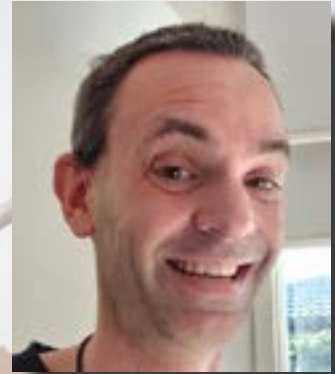


Big Desert - Mallee Victoria

Report By: Heath Glass

PERSONAL TRIP DATA: – Big Desert - Mallee Victoria

DESTINATION: Big Desert (Fail)
DATE: 22/06/2023 (4 days)
Trip Report By: Heath Glass



PARTICIPANTS :

Heath Glass (TL) Y62 Patrol
 David and William Prydderch Ford Ranger
 Rob Welsh Y62 Patrol



TRIP RATING: Medium

Big Desert is a great place to visit to have a play in the sand, but during winter it can be a bit hit and miss. I needed to get away though and I had already recently been to the High Country, so the desert it was.

After putting the trip together, I wanted it posted on the club web site for members to attend, but it was not able to be posted before I left, so I had to run it as a personal trip.

One of my mates (David and his son William) wanted to come so I was not going by myself and Rob Welsh (from the Club) contacted me and wanted to have a play in



the sand as well. It was set, we were all to meet at the Rainbow Shell Servo around 2 pm on the Thursday. Rob and I were meeting at Rockbank BP in the morning and continuing to Rainbow.

THURSDAY:

I met Rob at the BP, but not too early and instead of doing the Silo Route (as we had both done it a few times), I wanted to visit Dimboola and check out a camp site called Horseshoe Bend camp ground as I had heard good reports about it.

I knew the weather forecast for Thursday (5-7mm of rain) so I expected to be travelling through a rain band sometime during the day. We made our way to Horseshoe Bend camp ground and had a look around. In my opinion, it was nothing special as there were no flat camping areas for tents or swags, nor would I try and

get a van in. All the vans were at the free camp spot back in town and that looked good. We had some lunch and I think it had just started to rain a bit. We travelled through the rain on the way to Rainbow and it came and went so that was good.

When we got to Rainbow and met up with David though, all hell broke loose! The heavens opened up and the rain was horizontal! To make things worse the servo was closed between 2 and 4pm and it was getting really dark so finding a camp spot and fuel was a priority.



In my infinite wisdom I said there was a BP in Hopetoun so we could just fill up there. Of course I didn't realise it was 50 km away so it was a 100 km round trip. Half way there I said to the guys, "We should have just stayed at the pub until the servo opened! "Unfortunately" the BP at Hopetoun was self-serve and didn't have 98 so we had to head back to Rainbow. By the time we got back it was only 10min before the Shell opened. Yes, I stuffed up there!

After filling up, I asked at the servo if there were any places in town we could camp the night as I was not going into the desert with the rain still pissing down. They directed us to the old tennis courts where a car and van were already parked. The only issue was it was flooded and not really a place for swags.

After scratching my head for a bit, we headed out of town to see if we could find somewhere on the side of the road. We found a picnic area just before dark. There were places to set up a small camp. David didn't have an awning, so in all that rain, he went back to town and got a room.

Rob and I set up our camp site and also managed to get a fire going. By 9 pm the rain and wind had died down and all was good, it was cold but that's what winter camping is all about.

By 11 pm I was in bed nice and warm, but by 2 pm the wind had picked up again and it was like a freight train, it was crazy loud. Thinking to myself that I had not tied down my awning I didn't care, I was not getting out of bed in the rain and mud, the awning could manage itself! It rained and the wind blew pretty much for the rest of the night.



Looked at rain recording for the previous 24 hours and we got over 20mm (I can't remember actual value). That's why we were soaked.

FRIDAY:

I was so happy after opening my swag at 7 am to realise the awning had not flown away. It had been a rough night. We met David in town ready to see what awaited us in Big Desert as I was not that hopeful we could even get in.

We made our way to Albacutya Silo Art to have a squiz. While the guys were looking at that I wanted to check out the camp site I had been thinking of staying at the previous night when all hell had broken loose with the rain.

The camp site is called Yaapeet Beach and it's just up the track. Well, I got 200 metres down the track and saw water over the track so I decided to stop. I wanted to stop but the car just kept sliding. After a few metres the car managed to stop so I hit the berries in reverse and managed to get off the slick track. Just lucky we



hadn't headed there in the dark last night!

I always head into Big Desert via Milmed Rock track. This is a nice long track with varying sorts of sand obstacles suitable for beginners. The track along the fence line was OK as it's all sand and it was hard after last night's rain, so all good there. When you get to the intersection of Milmed Rock and Pella Tracks there is a sharp right hand turn. I saw a large bog hole and attempted to stop, yes attempted. After sliding for a while, I did stop and was on the radio to Rob warning him to stop as well. After investigating the bog hole and any track around it we determined that this was not the way in, even though I could see the sand on the other side. We were SO CLOSE. After some slippery reversing we got out and went back to the start of Milmed Rock track.

Thinking of our next plan of attack, instead of a long drive around Big Desert to get to a new track entry point, I decided to just abandon Big Desert and head to Little Desert as none of us had been there before. I had heard stories that it was a bit boring so it was time to find out for ourselves.

Heading all the way back to Dimboola, we stopped at Four Mile Beach camp area, located at the bottom of Lake Hindmarsh. It's a huge area with facilities and a cost

per night stay. After a walk around and some food we proceeded on to Dimboola, collected some firewood and went into Little Desert via Pomponderoo Hill Rd.

I figured that as the last night's camp had been terrible we would just head to a camp site and chill out for the day. Looking at the map we headed to Mallee Camp ground. It was not that far in that we hit sand and decided to air down. The sand was not that soft because of the rain so we didn't air down that far (25PSI). Only a little way in we hit Dry Well Track which meant we couldn't get to Mallee Camp after all. We hadn't realised this was a walkers' camp ground and there was no track leading to it!



Looking at the map again I picked another camp called Yellow Gum. After travelling South on Dry Well Track we found what I think is the largest dune in the park, so we had a play on it and a look around. Heading South we hit McCabes Track and headed NW, these were all good tracks. We got to Mallee Track which was the quickest way to Yellow Gum Camp so we turned onto that. After about 1 km in there was a big bog hole. We got out to assess it and after nearly slipping over and our boots collecting large amount of clay/sand/mud there was no way we were going to attempt it.

Another new camp ground was required, so Kiata camp ground was the next candidate. Doing a bit more research I realised that Yellow Gum Camp was another walkers' camp and we had no tracks in there. Kiata was definitely a camp ground more suited to us.

Heading back to McCabes Hut Track we headed North. I figured that if we hit the fence line, we could follow it West straight to the camp. That was my next mistake, as not long after heading East on Warners track we hit swamp land. All the water from the farm lands had drained into the bush making it a swamp.

Heading South back down McCabes Track we hit Pump Jack Track going West. This basically took us to Salt Lake Track to head North for the camp ground. Kiata Camp Ground is massive with toilets and large flat areas with fire pits. I will definitely be coming back here. I had wanted to get to the camp site early but it was now around 4:30pm. It had been a long day on the sand investigating the area, but we had definitely had fun doing it. We set up camp and chilled for a great



night camping with no rain or wind.

SATURDAY:

After a good night's sleep and breakfast we headed back into the Desert for some more fun on the tracks. My goal for the day was to head South East and check out the camp sites along the Wimmera River.

After getting to the South East part of the Desert, I found a ford on the map so that we could get to the other side of the river. When we got there however it was on private property with signs everywhere, so that unfortunately was a no go. The next crossing was either heading back to Dimboola or a few kilometres south. So south it was as that was the direction we needed to go home.

It was lunchtime so time to find a camp place to chill. I found what I thought was a good camp location on the river. After heading east along a track with constant bog holes we finally got to somewhere we could stop but not the camp site as the bog holes just got bigger.

After lunch it was time to hit the black top for good and air up. The location for tonight's camp was Green Hill Lake at Ararat. I had never been there so wanted to check it out. It was a long drive but we finally got to Green Hill Lake after sunset. There were lots of big vans at the start of camp area but nobody on the foreshore. Gee, I wondered why?!

The southerly coming off the lake was crazy with the beach foaming up, but this



was our camp location for the night, so we made the best of it. I suppose it's a great place in summer but it would then be crowded with people. Not my scene! We had an awesome fire and kept out of the wind, so all was good.



SUNDAY:

Time to head home. David had a long drive East, while Rob and myself headed to the big smoke.

Thanks to David, Will and Rob for coming along as I had someone to share the adventure with. Hopefully we can get up there again when it dries out a bit, then we can get into the desert for real.

I could have written a novel on all the things that happen in the 4 days away but tried to keep it short. Hoping to get actual club trips rolling along in the future.

Until next time.

Cheers.

Heath.

GVM UPGRADES

for

Y61 Patrol GU and Land Cruiser 200 Series

Engineer Certified

What is GVM ?

GVM (gross vehicle mass) is the factory and legal maximum weight of the vehicle when loaded with people and cargo. Fitting accessories such as bull bars, winches, rear bars, roof racks and storage systems etc, can quickly use up the available payload allowance before the car is filled with passengers, food, camping equipment or tow ball weight.

Why do a GVM upgrade?

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The 'Aberfeldy Tracks' Project

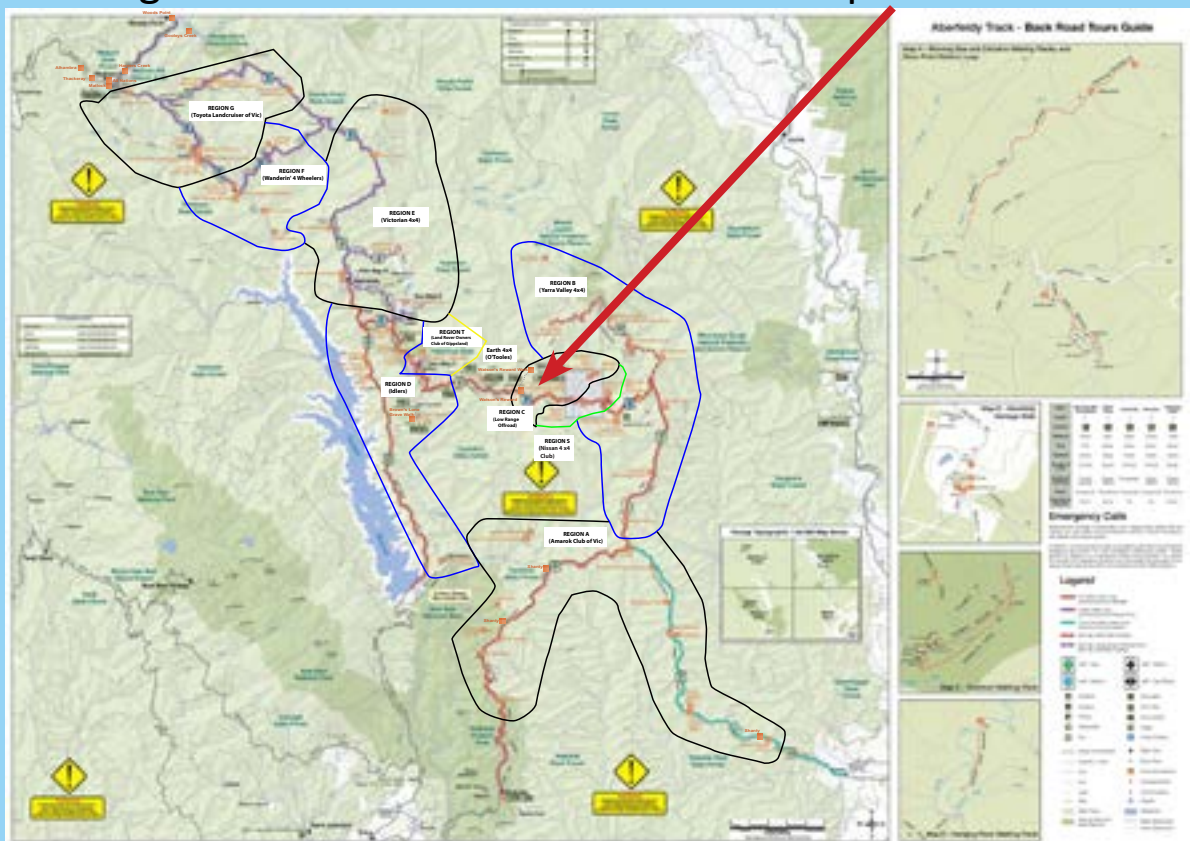
The West Gippsland Relic, Mining and Heritage Protection Inc are maintenance managers of the 'Aberfeldy Tracks' Project.

The Nissan 4x4 Club of Victoria have two regular working bee dates each year for club member volunteers to help maintain the Store Point Discovery Walk and Concord Gully area sign. These areas are a very important part of Victoria's gold mining history.

The trip dates and more details are on the club web site and in the trips and events section of magazine. **Keep an eye out for the next trip as your help is important.**

If you wish to know more about the West Gippsland Relic, Mining and Heritage Protection Inc. then visit their web site: www.westgippslandinc.com.au

Map Showing location of Nissan 4x4 Club clean up area



Some of the clubs that volunteer their time





Information

How to Run a Club Trip

All trips MUST be accepted by the Events Coordinator before being advertised in the Club Magazine or forum. Send an email to the Events Coordinator which details your trip.

Once the Events Coordinator has approved the trip it is posted in the Trips section of the Club Forum. Once posted on the Club Forum, please ensure that you keep the trip entry up to date with attendees and review it regularly for comments or questions from members.

To comply with our insurance requirements it is essential to complete the required paperwork. Members can use the online digital trip participant form to quickly and easily submit the required details. Alternatively a printable version of the form can be downloaded from the club website (<http://www.nissan4x4vic.com.au>) or Four Wheel Drive Vic. website (<http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au>).

All other forms for trip leaders and guests can be downloaded from the club website (<http://www.nissan4x4vic.com.au>) or FWDV website (<http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au>).

If you have any ideas about a trip and/or questions speak with the Events Coordinator (events@nissan4x4vic.com.au) or any of the committee members.

Submitting a Trip Report

I have recently had members ask me how to write a trip report. As trip reports are a fundamental part of the magazine, it's great when members want to share their interesting experiences with the club community.

The general rule of thumb when submitting a report is to provide as much relevant information as possible. For example:

- Specify whether it's Club or Personal Trip.
- Trip name and date.
- Participants on Trip.
- Photos.
- Trip report text.
- Selfie or avatar if you prefer.

When I receive your details I will create a proof of your report and send it to you for changes or approval.

When you write your report, do it from your perspective, how you experienced the trip from start to finish. I find it helpful to look at the map or GPS file as well as photos to jog those memories.

When I receive your draft I will create a proof and send it back to you to make changes if necessary.

Hope this helps to get those reports in.

Cheers. Heath.

Short Notice Trips

In the past members who wished to run trips were asked to provide sufficient notice for their trips to appear in the Magazine and Club website. FWDV have informed us that provided the following information is supplied, short notice club trips will be covered by FWDV insurance.

The short notice trips will typically be trips one week or less from the intended trip start date. It's to have been sanctioned by the Club Events Coordinator prior to commencement and a completed trips participants form is also to be passed on to the Events Coordinator once the trip has been run.

All we ask is that you provide the Events Coordinator with a brief outline of the trip, how many vehicles including you own will be participating, and the trip rating.

With this information at hand we will endeavour to post your trip on the website for members to see.



General Meeting Minutes



October 2023 – General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 4th October 7:30pm

Meeting held at Keysborough Senior Citizens Club at 352 Cheltenham Road, Keysborough 3172

Apologies Evan Wellard, Tony Noble, Rob Barnard, Health & Sarah Glass

Guests#

Approval of Previous Minutes# Michael Dingli, Steve Nugent

Business Arising from previous Meeting#

Reports#

President Stuart Brockwell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant Committee Position - Marketing Role – on line store • Reminder 15th club awards day
Vice President Matt Rollins	No report
Secretary Li-ane Pollard	<p>Hall registration has been submitted and accepted for 2024.</p> <p>Wifi access has been organised for General Meetings in Hall for Committee to use.</p>
Treasurer Evan Wellard	<p>Financials for September have almost been finalised and will be on the website Shortly. At the end of September, we have \$49,847.34 in our NAB bank account, and \$1,700 of funds in our virtual credit card and postage float.</p> <p>Our revenue for September was \$791, of which \$550 New membership subscriptions, \$80 was Christmas Party Tickets and \$151 was from Raffles and fines,</p> <p>Expenses for September were \$1634.28, which includes Rates for Wandarrah of \$386.64, Catering for Working bee and General Meetings of \$154.56, Door and Raffle Prizes of \$270.71 and Membership Affiliation fees of \$224.</p> <p>Our club signatories are being update later this week so everything will be in good stead.</p> <p>Thank you to Wayne Dean for taking his time out to teach me the role of Treasurer.</p>
Membership Steve Moon	Report
Driver Training Darren Jones	Driver Training on the 13th to 15th October with 4 spots still Available



<p>Editor Michael Dingli</p>	<p>October magazine will be out in a week or two.</p> <p>Anyone with anything for sale please pass onto editor@nissan4x4vic.com.au</p> <p>Trips – couple more to upload – any one with trips please send through your photos and trip notes.</p>
<p>Land Coordinator Mick Massey</p>	<p>Next working bee – 18th November 2023</p> <p>John Malaine – has donated trailer to club – many thanks</p>
<p>Trips & Events Coordinator Tony Noble</p>	<p>Since last meeting there was a poll placed on whether there was interest in having a presentation on organising a trip and being a trip leader.</p> <p>Additionally there were questions from some new members on various misunderstandings on how to register for a trip, what happens if they are on the waitlist. So we will look to get something together in the coming months and set a date for this presentation.</p> <p>We will most likely have it online and also at a Nissan Meeting so that there are multiple options for members to attend and then ask questions. There are a number of trips in the works with several new trips being added and completed since our last meeting. We continue to look for new trips to be organised and as we move into the period where all the tracks are opening back up (provided there are no fires in the area) it is time to start organising some day trips and multi day trips so please do give me a call or text if you need some help or advice.</p> <p>Some of the upcoming trips as a reminder are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Driver Training on the 13th to 15th October with 4 spots still Available ▸ Club awards day on 15 th October at Jells Park – Note we still need to have a map for people to follow (help here please Stu) there are currently 40 people registered so should be a great day ▸ Store Point Trail maintenance trip with Heath on 21t and 22 nd October – currently have 10 registrants but more will make it Easier ▸ November working bee on 18 th and 19 th November we have 18 people so far but more would make a great deal of a difference. Remember new members you need at least one working bee to become a full member.
<p>Webmaster Jorgen Skogstad</p>	<p>.</p> <p><u>1. Streaming.</u></p> <p>We have been given a year "permanent" presenter wifi access in the hall. Testing that for the first time today and hopefully we will not have any complaints this time around. Up till my report there was no complaints</p>



	<p>online so assume that means that the wireless option in the hall worked well!</p> <p><u>3. Trip announcements to Facebook with ChatGPT</u></p> <p>Going to reinstate the ChatGPT created trip announcements. They were quite humorous and drove a bit of conversation so rather than the simple announcement we have now will revert back to that. Should give us a few smiles as ChatGPT tries to describe the trips that we are running.</p>
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Sgt at Arms Mark DeSantis	No report
Host Lenny Tucker	Over last couple of weeks – new people have been to the club and enjoyed themselves. 4 new people went to club for grand final – maybe potential members.
Community Co-ordinator Deb Nugent	<p>Awards day – 15th October – Jells Park – A day to get together and socialise with the club putting on a BBQ- There will be an award for Club man and woman will be awarded on the day. Please come along and support the committee.</p> <p>Xmas party 25th November - This is an Annual Event – please put the date in your dairy – even if you don’t have kids. Maffra Spit will be again supplying us a 2 course meal of roast meats/spuds and salads.</p> <p>Games for the kids run by kids committee and during the day father Xmas will come via Newry Fire Brigade Truck with Xmas presents supplied by the parents. – All presents to have the child’s name and to be up to the value of \$20.00</p> <p>There will be raffles on the day so if you wish to donate something please bring it along and plenty of gold coins for the raffle.</p> <p>There is a movie night for the kids after dinner run again by the kids committee. Please register and pay on line for both adults and children that will be attending. - Numbers are to be confirmed no later than 11th November.</p> <p>Xmas – Saturday 25th November – Wandarrah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For kids a present to be supplied by parents - \$20 - Donations welcome for Raffle on day - \$20 adults per head – children 15 and under free - <p>Xmas party at Wandarrah 25th and 26th November so far we have 12 registrants. So sign up and bring the kids I am sure Santa will make a visit.</p>



Ordinary Member 1 Gary Moloney	Nothing to report
Ordinary Member 2 Rob Barnard	Absent

Presenter#

General Business:

Our current president Stuart Brockwell has had to step down due to family commitments. The club would like to thank Stuart for his commitment and time to this role. This role is now vacant anyone wishing to take on this position please put forward your nomination.

Meeting Closed. 8.30pm

Next Meeting Wednesday 1st November



Committee Meeting Minutes

Nissan 4x4 Club of Victoria Inc.

Committee Meeting

October 18th via Google Meet

Meeting opened at 7:40 with Vic President Matt Rollins as Chair.

Attendees: Matt Rollins, Evan Wellard Li-ane Pollard, Steve Moon, Mick Massey , Darren Jones, Michael Dingli, Mark De Santos, Jorgen Skogstad, Len Tucker, Deb Nugent, Gary Moloney, Rod Barnard

Apologies: Tony Noble

Guests: Nichole Tucker, Heath Glass, Neil Brydson, Wanda McLauchlan, David Van Leeuwen, Steve Nugent.

Acceptance of Previous Minutes: Gary Moloney

Reports

President – Evan Wellard (Acting)

- Smoking reminder outside of club – to be mentioned at next AGM.
- Neil Bryson - looking to join a position on committee- will advise in due course.
- Letter from Member regarding bylaws role out, I will be replying to if with your feedback from tonight.
- Member has raised to my attention the use of charcoal BBQ in camp areas at wandarrah. I think we can all agree the use of solid fuel cooking is only permitted in campfire area. This will need to be address to members at next general meeting.
- Sound gear at hall requires to be upgraded regarding general meetings, I'm proposing an ungraded system to better suit the yolo box, I would recommend a budget of \$1500- maximum to cater for this, I am happy to work with Jorgen to see what best suits the yolo box and our setup.
- Member asked when viewing meetings od Facebook can we have Q and A from the stream. I think the easiest way to trial this would be to use the face book comment box on the feed and have 5-10mins max in general business for these questions.
- Late email received by David Van Leeuwen – for presidents' role – joined meeting halfway through. Acting role until approved at the next General Meeting.

Vice President (Matt Rollins)

- Some of minutes from last meetings not online – Matt to check for GM Minutes
- Marketing Role – Potential member interested (Steph) – will need to contact her further to discuss.
- The possibility of splitting marketing into 2 roles – committee roles can only be changed in March 2024- so will re-visit this option . Nicole has shown interest in an assisting role.

Secretary (Li-ane Pollard)

- Payment options for events through paypal – some members having trouble with this option.
- Option for other payment methods to be discussed.

Treasurer (Evan Wellard)

Financials for October, we Currently have \$51,097.31 in our NAB bank account, and \$1,700 of funds in our virtual credit card and postage float.

Our revenue for the month so far is \$990 New membership subscriptions, \$420 was Christmas Party Tickets and \$136.95 was from Raffles and fines,

Expenses for October so far are General Meetings Hall hire and catering of \$104.12, Membership Affiliation fees of \$224, Fuel for Fire Trailer \$42.23 and catering of awards day \$376.93.

- Bank signatures are halfway from being done, we are communicating with NAB to get the glitches sorted for Matt Rollins and Liane Pollard
- Would like to have a deposit card for treasurers' role to make it easier to deposit cash from general meetings, this card is limited to use for deposit ATMs only and can not be used for purchases.

Membership (Steve Moon)

- **Members count**

Associates: 46

Full Members: 121

Life Members: 14

Voting member total: 135

Total members: 181

- **4 new membership applications:**

Michael Kremer – voted via circular resolution so can we please note in minutes

Graham Wright - approved

Anthony Withers - approved

Ash Heap - approved

- **4 members applying for full membership:**

Ian Berryman – DT has confirmed he has done the training so has fulfilled all requirements - approved.

Steph and Torben Svendsen – passed all requirements - approved.

Clinton Lowden – passed all requirements - approved.

Kirriely Briet – passed most requirements. Has only attended 1 general meeting but has asked for consideration as she had been caring for her sick husband that has now passed. - approved

Other Items

Badges for committee have been done - if you weren't at the last general meeting I still have them.

Life member points – audited and updated. Will present each quarter points that have been added. For transparency it is in membership google drive so people can see the current state at any time

Land (Mick Massey)

- Working bee 18th November : many items need to be repaired –
- No2 Toilet Leaking
- Steps to bottom camp area needs new rail
- Balustrades around BBQ Area
- New light needed near Donkey sink

- Double sink & water tank is blocking up
- Kid zip line replacement – cost \$240.00 – Approved.
- Earthworks@ wandarrah – cost \$1800 per day – maybe a committee member could do this work ?
- De-fib pads out of date and need replacing – cost \$450 – Approved.

Driver Training (Darren Jones)

- 4 members have completed Driver training course.
- Host (Len) – has asked if a refresher course can be done for those that may have changed cars since or just need a refresher. Members most definitely can do course again.

Editor (Michael Dingli)

- Has requested a new Microsoft program – Office 365- Cost \$170 per year. Approved.

Marketing (Vacant)

Trips (Tony Noble)

- No Report

Webmaster (Jørgen Skogstad)

- GM & CM Notifications. Updating the scenarios now. Early & on the day notifications.
- Facebook event announcements. Changes to include the GenAI based announcements.
- AGM role transitions. All transitioned. Technically treasurer role remaining.
> Marketing role

Host (Len Tucker)

- New Welcome Pack - cost \$140 – Approved
- Feedback from Driver Training – everyone had a great time and really enjoyed it.

Community Co Ordinator (Deb Nugent)

- Christmas is booked & confirmed with Maffra Spit Roast 24/25 Nov – About 40 people booked for so far.

Sergeant at Arms (Mark DeSantos)

- Discussed about where raffle money goes – Committee Approved Maffra SES.
- Photo board of old photos about history of club and Wandarrah for members to see.
- Matt Rollins to bring Club Merchandise to next general meeting.

Ordinary Committee Members (Gary Molony & Rob Barnard)

- Garry – New keys for wandarrah to be handed out at working bee.
- Rod – No updates

General Business

- . Brochure: Not yet finalized
Need to include images for other vehicles, not just Nissans. Steve Moon sending Photos
Add a version number to the brochure. Heath explained that brochure already has version number and history document.
Add a tag line – Heath asked for explanation on what it is and where its to go on brochure.
– Waiting for email.
- Storage shed - Scanning all items from storage shed.
- Pics to Wandarrah or added to marketing kit for display at shows. All other documents to be destroyed. All scanned items to be moved to google shared drive for committee.
- 4000w inverter – Matt believes it may be dead. I will bring home and test and dispose of if not needed. If works, discuss next CM on what to do with it.
- 15" monitor – dispose
- 3 way fridge – bring home and test. Len has asked to be used for Kids Club.
- Old bottles of wine - extremely old and likely vinegar. As they have the club logo take to Wandarrah for display in hut.

Once done we should only have the BBQ and the marketing gear only so can discuss relocating/removing the storage shed.

Proposals:

Form of indemnity - used to be on back page of new member application. No longer there and not online. Steve to send to all committee for review of wording then work with Jorgen from Monday 23rd October to add to website.

Sign in at meetings - unsure if still a requirement. Darren suggests may be a consumer affairs requirement. Steve to speak with consumer affairs and see exactly what we need. If still required, Steve to work with Jorgen to see if better solution.

Sign in to Wandarrah - Floated idea that this be turned into more of a greeting book then an expectation that everyone signs in to remove angst among members. No resolution. Pick up conversation at another time.





Meeting closed: 10.30 pm













Committee

Committee for the year 2023-2024

Executive Committee

	President Vacancy president@nissan4x4vic.com.au		Vice President Matt Rollins vice_president@nissan4x4vic.com.au
	Secretary Li-ane Pollard 0417 882 767 secretary@nissan4x4vic.com.au		Treasurer Evan Wellard 0422 263 011 treasurer@nissan4x4vic.com.au





General Committee

	Membership Secretary Steve Moon 0411 150 429 membership@nissan4x4vic.com.au		Driver Education Darren Jones driver_education@nissan4x4vic.com.au
	Editor Michael Dingli 0419 327 063 editor@nissan4x4vic.com.au		Land Coordinator Michael Massey wandarra@nissan4x4vic.com.au
	Marketing Vacancy marketing@nissan4x4vic.com.au		Sergeant at Arms Mark De Santis sergeant@nissan4x4vic.com.au
	Trips & Events Coordinator Tony Nobel 0407 347 003 events@nissan4x4vic.com.au		Webmaster Jorgen Skogstad 0426 242 661 webmaster@nissan4x4vic.com.au
	Community Coordinator Debbie Nugent community@nissan4x4vic.com.au		Host Len Tucker 0409 128 137 host@nissan4x4vic.com.au

Ordinary Committee

	Ordinary #1 (Key Master) Gary Moloney ord1@nissan4x4vic.com.au		Ordinary #2 Rod Barnard ord2@nissan4x4vic.com.au
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Non-Elected Positions

	Post Master Wanda McLauchlan		FWDV Delegate Gary Lyons 0411 077 255
	FWDV Delegate Neil Brydson		FWDV Delegate Tony Noble 0407 347 003

Committee meetings are held every third Wednesday of the month (except December) as shown in the calendar of events.

The committee welcomes members to attend committee meetings as well as table items for the agenda. To advise of attendance or items for the agenda, please contact the secretary two weeks before the meeting to ensure appropriate time can be provided.



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- Piranha off road products
- ARB accessories
- RV Storage Systems
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- Roof Racks
- Rhino Racks
- Long range fuel tanks
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- Tyre repair kits
- Air compressors
- 4WD maps and books
- Optima batteries
- Drive Lights & Light bars
- Kaymar step bar and wheel carrier
- Recovery kits
- Safari snorkels
- GME UHF radio antennas
- GPS and EPIRB
- In car Sat navigation
- DP Chip
- Taipan Exhaust
- Hannibal Rooftop Tents



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