



WELLINGTON



VEHICLE CLUB
Wellington

Cross Country Chronicle February 2013



The Official Magazine of

The Cross Country Vehicle Club (Wellington) Inc

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VEHICLE CLUB
Wellington

The club meets at 7:30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month
at the Petone Working Men's Club, Udy Street, Petone.

Position	Name	Home Phone	Work Phone	Cellphone	Email
Club Officers					
President					
Vice President					
Immed Past President					
Secretary					
Treasurer					
Club Captain					
General Committee Members					
Driver Training Officer					
Entertainment Officer					
Membership Officer					
Land Access Manager					
New Members Officer					
Newsletter Editor					
Publicity Officer					
Safety Officer					
Trip Coordinator					
Competitions Officer					
NZ4WDA Delegate					
General Committee					
Appointments and Other Useful People					
Archivist					
Asset Manager					
Assistant Trip Coordinator					
Club Night Photo's					
Club Recovery					
Help desk					
Membership Database					
Track Maintenance					
Trophy Officer					
Webmaster					
Welfare					
CCVC Life Members					
Tom Adams	Graham Barr	George Bean (Deceased)	Leith Bean	Peter Boniface (Deceased)	
Stuart Brown	Andy Cockroft	Owen Farghar	Mike Gall	John Hughes	
Bob Jeffery (Deceased)	Heather Jeffery	Ron Johnson	Steve Lacey	Colin Landy	
Phil Lewton	Vern Lill	Bruce Mulhare	Raynor Mulhare	Ron Oliver (Deceased)	
Peter Osborne	Ross Perkins	Grant Purdie	Tony Street	Ron Wadham	

WHEN HELP IS NEEDED

Should any members fail to return from any outing, four wheel drive or otherwise, whether as a club member or as a private individual, the following person/s should be contacted in the first instance:

Anthony Reid 973 8262 or 027 273 6579 or 021 061 1831

Morris Jury 566 6197 or 021 629 600

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Editorial Ramblings

WANTED: Society Gossip, Scandal, Rumour, and if all else fails, NEWS! Photos also very welcome

Well that's the Christmas, Wellington Anniversary and Waitangi Day holidays been and gone, no more till Easter I'm afraid - hope everyone had a great break and got out and about a bit!

I managed to drive to all four main cities in both islands on my two holidays, first to Auckland then south to Christchurch and Dunedin. Was a tourist as well but no 4WDing unfortunately.

So back to normality and work again now - as a bit of warning I am planning a 2-3 month overseas trip to eastern Europe and Scandinavia in early 2014 so I will be looking for a volunteer to do the mag for a couple of months (like last time I went away) - that is assuming I am still magazine editor as we have an AGM coming up and someone else may want to do the job! Anyway I will worry about this closer to the time.

Alan!

We (CCVC) have been advised by the Petone Working Men's Club that everyone who is not a member of the Petone Working Men's Club **MUST** sign in when they enter the club, including CCVC members attending club nights, meetings, etc.

This is standard procedure for licensed clubs and it is a legal requirement that this be done so please ensure you sign in as a visitor whenever you attend CCVC events at the Petone Working Men's Club (if you are not a member of PWMC of course).

It is very important that we comply with their request if we wish to maintain the good relationship we have with them.

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

This is your magazine so it can only be as good as the contributions you make!! We need any articles, trip reports, technical items, "How-to's", etc to be in the hands of the editor by the end of each calendar month. Please email to newsletter@ccvc.org.nz or post to 34a Hine Rd, Wainuiomata or fax to 04 914 8366.

DISCLAIMER: The opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the club, it's executive or committee members. Publication of maintenance techniques or mechanical modifications should be weighed against generally accepted procedures and the Club should not be considered an authority in this area. The mention of products, service procedures or service organisations herein does not constitute endorsement by the Club, the Cross Country Chronicle or it's Editor.

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Ph. 04 976 5325

Shane & Carl

Mendoza Mechanical
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Ph. 04 527 7274

NB: Please remember to call and make an appointment before turning up for an inspection!

CCVC Trophies

We are trying to find out more details on the history of our club trophies and awards: things like previous winners, where the trophy came from, what it was originally given out for, etc.

So if you know anything that we don't know (see trophy page on the website to see what we do know) then please get in touch with a committee member or drop an email to:

newsletter@ccvc.org.nz



National Events

Feb 16-17: Pirongia Safari Please note change of date. Annual safari by the Te Awamutu Rotary Club based in Pirongia visiting properties in the surrounding district. Event scrutineering at Pirongia on Friday afternoon, 15th February. The Safari itself commences 8.30AM, Saturday morning. \$195 per vehicle including the driver and the vehicle's passengers. Funds raised to benefit projects within the local community. Full details and entry information is available at www.teawamuturotary.org.nz or email David Samuel on dsamuel@clear.net.nz with 'Safari' in subject line for entry details or phone 07 871 9651 (home). No calls after 9.00 PM please.

Feb 24: NZFWDA Trial Round 5 Hosted by the Windy City 4WD Club, central zone, Masterton area.

Mar 02-03: 4x4 National Park Fundraiser of the National Park community, see 4x4nationalpark.co.nz

Mar 08-10: 4th Bi-Annual Hereworth Trip This year the trip will be heading inland to the foothills of central Hawkes Bay. The website for registrations is available with registration details and other details such as costs etc. at www.hereworth4wd.co.nz Alternatively if you want any information you can contact Andrew Thomas on 06 858 4959 or mobile 021 500 024

Mar 09: Tutukaka Coast Safari Hosted by Whangarei 4WD club in conjunction with the Ngunguru School PTA. Fundraiser. Day event including lunch. 4 wheel driving over some of the best scenic farmland on Northland's Tutukaka Coast. Free secure beachside camping available. Following the event, join us for Prize giving and dinner (at an additional cost). Cost \$90/vehicle + driver. Numbers strictly limited. Register now! Contact Maureen or Simon Barradell on 09 434 3972, email maureenbarradell@gmail.com or visit www.ngunguru.school.nz

Mar 16: OCS 4WD Safari Fundraiser The third annual Otamatea Christian School PTA & Rodnet Offroad Club 4WD safari weekend, based at Matakoho (2hrs north of Auckland). Two runs available, play or safari. \$170 per vehicle, this includes driver & one passenger entry plus three meals each. More information from Philip and Julia Leaf, 09 431 6622 or pjleaf@ubernet.co.nz

Mar 30 (Easter): NZFWDA Trail Round 6 The finals, hosted by Eastern Bays Twin Diff Club, Northern Zone at Tahuna Rd, Te Teko. For further information contact the Eastern Bays Twin Diff Club trial secretary at r.dsturme@xtra.co.nz

Some details in this column appear courtesy of Cathy Parker, publisher of the New Zealand 4WD and Sportvehicles magazine. Potential participants should contact the event organiser; CCVC cannot take responsibility for any changes or inadvertent inaccuracies.



Club Sub-Committees

The club has the following sub committees running currently (convenor named first, where applicable):

- **60k:** Terence Broad, Ron Johnson, Bruce Mulhare, Antony Royal, John Vruink, Mark Wolstenholme
- **Club Recovery:** Anthony Reid, Morris Jury
- **Community Response Group:** Steve Mercer, Mike Murphy, David Coxon
- **Competition:** Neil Blackie
- **Deadwood:**
- **Safety:** Murray Taylor, Carl Furniss, Peter King
- **Trip Leaders Forum:** Steve Mercer, All trip leaders
- **Web Project:** Murray Wills, Grant Purdie, Stefen Cook, John Parfitt, Mike Stevens

The club also has the following external organisation liaison people:

- **Akatarawa Recreational Access Committee:** Ralph Dobson, Charles Odlin & Grant Purdie
- **Dept of Conservation Head Office Liaison:** Paul Adams
- **Foxton Beach Coast Care:** Bruce Mulhare, Grant Purdie, Russell Stevens & John Vruink
- **Friends of Belmont:** Stewart Burrell
- **Greater Wellington Regional Council:** Grant Purdie
- **Horowhenua District Council:** Grant Purdie
- **Tread Lightly!:** Ralph Dobson
- **Wellington City Council:** Grant Purdie & Barry Insull



Presidents Piece

February 2013

A very happy new year to you all, here's hoping you all enjoyed the summer weather we have been having.

I hear the trips in the central North Island went well with the 42nd Traverse a highlight. John V also had a trip up to Ohinewairua which is always a great spot to visit. A big thank-you goes out to Morris Jury for arranging to have a kids picnic around the Orongorongo Coast, I hear it was a huge success, thanks to those that helped out. A pity the first Sunset Tour was cancelled due to weather conditions, although it was reasonably fine on the day the decision needed to be made earlier.

2013 is looking to be as busy as ever with plenty on the trip calendar already, watch out for the club champs firing up again and don't forget that all entries in either class put you in the running for a trip to OZ compliments of the club and our sponsor at Windward Holiday Apartments in Mooloolaba.

If anyone can help with the Wellington Round of National Trials on 24/02/2013 near Masterton then please contact Skid skiddynz@live.com or 027 241 7757, always hard to get marshals and Windy City club is considerably smaller than CCVC.

Once again we are looking for new faces on the club committee, I will be finishing up as President as I have been in office for three years (club rules limit officers to three years in one position) and we are again looking for a Treasurer. If you are keen to join the committee please whisper in a committee member's ear so we can plan ahead.

The Suzuki was very quiet over the Christmas break, we are looking forward to the Club Champs and will be leading the second Sunset Tour.

See you on the trail or at club night.

Ralph Dobson
CCVC President

AJ's Turangi area trip

What a perfect time for a trip; the Christmas festivities had been and gone, New Year was still to look forward to and people were on leave from work. A group of us met to start at the Plimmerton Weigh Bridge and gathered other people on the way to Hunterville where we met AJ and the crowd who had travelled south from Turangi. 10 vehicles altogether (11 the next day) AJ was driving his very new, red Toyota FJ series.

As we were having the briefing four cop cars went past with lights and sirens. As it possibly signified a crash on SH1 we were glad we weren't going that way. We travelled on back roads, across to the Turakina Valley, stopped for photos at the beautiful waterfalls, onto Fields Track past the Karioi Domain and to Ohakune where we stopped for lunch. After lunch AJ took us to the Rautiti Scenic Reserve, an idyllic good nymph fishing / camping area. How come we didn't know about these areas when we were fishing at Turangi years ago? We then travelled di-



rectly to National Park and deviated to Turangi via a forestry permitted track. We got to have our only 4wd driving of the day through about 500m of forest track. Suzi Blue had to check out the width of the track by going sideways through a puddle. What is it with puddles and Suzi Blue? Seems like an attraction; to fill the engine bay with water (even when we are going slow!); stop all together; flood under the driver's mat; or dance through the water.

AJ did mention about the new vent that had appeared on Mt Tongariro after the eruption but we had to take his word for it at that point as the mountain was shrouded in cloud. We stopped at the lookout and identified all the salient points that Turangi has to offer and then on the way to AJ's bach paid homage to the land at Turangi that CCVC owns. Yes.....well!! Some people were camping/ baching with AJ (what do you call your sleeping thing John?) and the rest of us dispersed to our own accommodation with the invitation for the BBQ at 7.00 that Sonja, AJ, Maree and Chris organised/prepared and cooked. Two pergolas were erected to seat us all for the BBQ. Thank you guys for the hospitality. Some people were jostled by the two horses from the nearby reserve who definitely wanted a piece of our action.

Day 2: New Year's Eve

We turned the trip around so that at the end of the day we would be furthest south for Peter and Jenny who would leave us at that point to return to Lower Hutt. We visited Rangipo Power station and saw a bunch of trout feeding in the back water by the tail race and then on to the Pillars of Hercules that had us all confused. Some drove to the road - end of the Urchin track while others crossed the swing bridge to look at the Pillars which we couldn't identify and then we swapped over. Lunch was just past a quarry on Tree Trunk Gorge Rd with a good view of Mt Ruapehu. We visited Tree Trunk Gorge and marvelled at the formations of nature. Glenys said that she would have loved to have been a "fly on the wall" when all these land forms were created. Did we (scientists / geologists etc) get it right in our interpretation?

Our last highlight of the day was to travel up the Tukino Skifield, past the locked gate to the ski lodges way up the mountain. What an impressive view of the Rangipo Desert, lahar area and surrounding land! It was quite windy and several people found shelter in the lee of a ski lodge. Others were photographed in appealing poses on a rock with Mt Ruapehu close in the background. We said goodbye at the bottom of the skifield track to Peter and Jenny and we returned via the Desert Rd to Turangi. However we did pass Ian doing a good deed for

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COOKES GOUROCK

(Continued from page 7)

someone whose vehicle had run out of water.

That night we had another, by now infamous, BBQ hosted and prepared by the Awesome Foursome and ably assisted by Jane and Shaun! A quiz was set up with everyone drawing for partners. We had 18 questions in



total and Ashley was heard to say that he had got 21 right! For those people out there "What is the name of the snail in the Magic Roundabout TV series?" I don't think anyone got John's question! After the quiz we split in two groups and with AJ acting as umpire, each group had to sing songs with a colour in the title of the song. That stretched about ½ an hour and then it was animals and countries. Gosh, that showed up the ages and musical

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CLUB RADIO CALL SIGNS

The Club uses a series of radio call signs in the Kxxx series to meet our licence requirements. Once you get on a trip you soon know what call sign is tail end charlie etc for the day.

But basically if you don't yet have a Call Sign you are not authorised to use the Club radio licence.

Call signs are available to Financial Members on request database@ccvc.org.nz

So if you have purchased a suitable radio for CCVC use, make sure you get a call sign allocated.



For all your suspension and steering requirements contact:

12 Petone Avenue
Petone
Lower Hutt

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tastes. No team of course was willing to admit defeat so dredged through the subconscious for yet another song! I know we didn't see the New Year in (others may have); but we were tucked up in our bed in the Backpackers by 10.30.

Day 3: New Year's Day: 42nd Traverse

Our group of vehicles went in convoy from AJ's bach and then we met up with others from Wellington at Ka-poors Rd, 4km from the official start to the 4wd track. There were 17 vehicles in total and those without winches were interspersed with those who had them. There were only 4 of us who didn't have winches. AJ had warned us that it would be scratchy as the vegetation was overhanging the track. He was also quick to point out that there were no loos and definitely no coffee shops on the track; both being salient points of the weekend. We stopped on route and looked at an old bushman's hut. A bit further on we stopped to view the sheer cliff drops down to a valley. Here we met about 5 other vehicles from another club who were actually going the same way we were and who had pulled off the track to view the drop as well. However because of where we had parked and the narrowness of the track they weren't able to pass us. We pulled into a clearing to let them past and spent about ½ an hour parking and backing and literally jigsawing vehicles into the tight space. Suzi Blue, was parked forwards into the toi toi and as we drove in we registered that it was softish. AJ called lunch at that time and strategically let the other team go ahead. We had unofficially heard that there were slips on the second part of the road after the river crossing so if the rumour was true the other team would find them first. Chris was going around and offering left over BBQ steak and sausages.

After lunch we all untangled from our 3-D puzzle and started off. A tyre needed changing in the convoy and

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then we all continued. However when it was our turn to move we found that we were stuck! The soft bit had actually been a hole which we sank deeper into as we were lunching. It was suggested that we might be able to be pushed out with man-power. All that did was cover Ian in mud. A quick stop and we were on our way again. Sorry about the mud Ian and thank you for the pull. It was radioed from the front of the convoy that the river crossing was likely to be a challenge for wider vehicles as they would have had to manoeuvre between the rocks. It would have been interesting for everyone if the water level was high!

Another tyre change toward the back of the convoy-someone radioed that they had a stick poking out of their tyre. Time for another social time in the very pleasant bush! We didn't come across any slips but registered where one had been. We heard about some walkers ambling across the bridge at the end totally unaware of the front of the convoy crawling along behind them. It was being videoed by a member of the public. We were all out by 2.50.

After airing up and hurried farewells a group of us left to go via the Paraparas to Wanganui and an early dinner at an Irish pub there. Others went back to Turangi, some visited the Raurimu Spiral while others left for Raetihi. We arrived home by 9.00 and had just begun unpacking when Graeme got paged at 9.20 to attend a bush fire near Upper Hutt. He finally got home after 3.00am.

Linda Millard
Suzi Blue

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Orongorongo Childrens Christmas Trip
23rd December 2012

🌲 By Saffron Jackson

🌲 Yesterday we went 4X4 driving.

🌲 We found lots of mud puddles and water puddles.

🌲 I loved the rock pools but my feet hurt on the stones.

🌲 My favourite part was the lolly scramble, treasure hunt and the beach but I fell in the water but luckily I had spare clothes.

🌲 For lunch we had sausages and bread.

🌲 My friend Josh was there as well and a couple of other friends were there.

🌲

🌲 **THANK YOU MORRISE FOR THE 4X4 TRIP !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

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Orongorongo Christmas Trip

You have a little difficulty getting over some rocks (mostly because you can't back up enough to see what's there) and someone announces you are writing the trip report. Who said life ever had to be fair – if it was I would never have earned the Orange Roughy (I still maintain that damage to your bank account shouldn't count.)

The Orongorongo trips are renowned for the fact that they are never the same – you do the trip any number of times and it's always different. This one

was very different in that there were lots of children – makes sense, it was advertised as a Christmas Family BBQ trip, and lots of families came. Some people dressed for the occasion (Morris for instance in his Santa Hat), but not expecting to do a report



I took few photos – the best I could do was the Rabbit disguised as a reindeer.

Needing time for the BBQ and games, we did not do the usual trip up to the airfield but went straight along the coastal track, stopping for the ever important coffee break and then heading on to the DOC camp. Everything was being kind to us, the weather was lovely and even the shale was relatively easy going.

Once we got to the camp, most of the trucks were directed to the beach





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to leave lots of room for the BBQ and eating. The BBQ was a great success and there was time for games, such as the treasure hunt, which even recovered a missing camera case!

After lots of fun on the beach we headed back along the track and, having sent spies on ahead, we went down to the rocks so the kids could see a seal – it almost seemed to be showing off.

Then it was time to head for the rocky stream (after the Rabbit finally got over that rock) where we stopped so the kids could play in the water. However, some of the 'kids'



playing seemed rather big, Chris in particular was seen to be throwing a lot of water around. And that wasn't the end of it; Morris started throwing handfuls



of sweets around. Interestingly, not a single sweet escaped the children's vigilant eyes. That was just about that. A good fun trip, which all the 'kids' seemed to enjoy and no

real challenges (except that dratted rock) and a bunch of very happy and very tired kids. Way to go, Morris – a good one.

The Rabbit



Hi everyone and happy new year!

We wrote this newsletter sitting in a pub at Jingelic in the Snowy Mountains, by the upper Murray Rver, enjoying some shade and a nice cool beer or two. We last wrote from Cadoux, when we were just off to an estate sale, and I'm relieved to report that no, Wayne didn't buy a Chamberlain tractor.

After Cadoux, our next stop was Perth, and we stayed with our niece Kirsty and her family, and Heather (Wayne's sister) for a week. They kept us royally fed and housed, and Wayne busy working through a list of maintenance jobs on the house and car. It was a great week, and lovely to catch up with Kirsty. We did some train trips on the excellent Perth rail system, and some cruises on the Swan River. We also went to a couple of metal detecting club meetings. There we met a guy nicknamed locally as the "Lord of the Rings". He had just sold a huge quantity of gold and diamond rings that he'd found with his metal detector in 1 - 2 metres of water at the most popular swimming beaches in Perth.



After Perth we headed south to Wellington National Park (couldn't resist it...) where we found a great campsite at the Honeymoon Pool, with shade and a good river for swimming. The water was freezing cold, because it's released from the bottom of a dam upriver. Locals raft down from the dam down to our campsite, and we asked one of them how long the trip took. He thought for a moment and then said without batting an eyelid "A six-pack". We stayed there for nearly a week and then headed south again, passing through Gnomesville, a cross road in the country where people have left gnomes of many persuasions, to commemorate their passing through. Wayne was really sad he hadn't brought his shotgun...

We headed down to Denmark on the south coast, and had a great few days staying with Sandi and Hud, friends we'd met up at Gyles Weather Station. They were very kind and hospitable and drove us around to see the local sights and try the local chocolates and wines (it's a hard life).

Then we moved on through Esperance and to Cape Arid National Park, along a hot dry and sandy track close to the sea but out of sight, it reminded Wayne of the McKenzie Trail, but much longer. When we finally got to the end - Israelite Bay - there were no facilities, but it was interesting because there are still remnants of an early attempt at settlement, and a long wrecked jetty, and old stone buildings for Customs and Post, and old cottages. We did some rock climbing in the Cruiser to get up on a cliff to see a large fishing boat that had recently dragged its anchor and come ashore. The owners had brought in a bulldozer (driven it all along that sandy track - too narrow and rough for a transporter) to push the boat back to sea, but the next high tide it came back to shore and there it stays.

Then we headed north through Balladonia and up the Balladonia track to Zanthus on the India/Pacific Railway line. The track was very smooth, not at all well signposted, and there were long sections of very soft sand. The Cruiser had to work hard to keep moving. There's not much at Zanthus, it's a small rail depot run by Transfield Services. We headed on east to Rawlinna, we passed through here some months ago on the Connie Sue Highway. We had a good camp site here with excellent water -there's a complete desalination

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unit built for the Cockburn Cement Mine, which closed in 2006, so the unit provides great water for the five current permanent residents and the odd traveller passing through. The mine is complete with all its machinery, and working security lighting, one day the owners hope to get it going again when the demand is there. That will be a great day for Rawlinna.

We abandoned the journey eastwards on the rail line at Haig, because of the 18 inch bulldust. Stock trucks and other users have been bypassing the worst holes and making

new tracks right and left, and these in turn have filled with bull dust. In the end we drove straight down the middle but it was just too deep for us and we turned back.

We went south to the old Eyre Highway and found another great camp at the historic Koonalda Homestead/Roadhouse. It's a graveyard of old cars and trucks that didn't make it across the Nullabor. We camped in a restored two-room hut, with fresh rain water in two big tanks, the whole thing is now part of Nullabor National Park. Then we carried on along the old Nullabor Highway, a dirt track which is virtually unused nowadays, we didn't see anyone else on it while we were travelling. But we did see wombats, sunning themselves on the ramparts of their dens, in the late afternoons. By the way – if you're planning your own Ausie 4WD trip – we met a road crew at the intersection with the road to Cook, and they told us an oil well is being developed north of Cook and consequently the Nullabor/Cook Road has now been rebuilt and is in excellent condition.

We travelled on through the Gawlor Ranges and freecamped in an old quarry – Wayne saw a magnificent lightning display (I slept through it). We heard dingos howling in the night and Wayne amused himself by howling back, but just in case they visited in the night (we were sleeping out on stretchers with no tent) we armed ourselves with our walking sticks and two party poppers each. Next morning Wayne tested the party poppers and just as well the dingos didn't come into camp, the poppers had completely lost their pop.

We found a bridle path which crossed the Gawlor Range from Port Germaine, it was steep and rocky but we were rewarded with stunning views out to the Spencer Gulf and then inland. We headed to Balaklava to catch up with some friends we'd met on Binns Track near Alice Springs. They were also very kind and hospitable and showed us around Adelaide as well. Wayne also had his metal detector checked out by the Garrett agent in Adelaide, who found it was faulty and repaired it.

Then on eastwards through the Murray Sunrise National Park, a vast area of sand dunes and scrub, fabulous 4WDing and very short on track signs. It was easy to get lost – we took one track, and got to the top of a very high sandhill. We couldn't back up and so were committed to keep going. It was so steep and long that Wayne doubted we would get back up it. So we just carried on, with fingers crossed we'd find a way out. Well we must have done, because you're reading this....

On we went through Warracknabeal, St Arnolds and Avoca. Wayne did some fossicking around here, but had no joy unless we're counting hairpins and bolts and horseshoes.

In early December there was a problem with diesel supply in Victoria because of a mechanical breakdown at the Refinery, so we were glad to find enough fuel to get down to our friends Wol and Joc in Melbourne. Had a great few days catching up with them and seeing how grown up Patrick and Sarah are now – we last saw them when we passed through in 2005.

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We couldn't get a booking on the Tasmania ferry, so started heading north to Echuca on the Murray, starting to head homewards. We had Christmas in a free camp at Gunbower National Park on the Murray. Unfortunately we couldn't swim, the banks were too high and the mud was too deep. For Christmas dinner, Wayne cooked a roast of pork and vegies in our new oven perched on top of our two ring gas burner. The oven not Wayne. The roast was excellent.

Our next destination was planned to be Mildura and Cameron's Corner, but the temperatures started getting into the 40s so we turned east and headed for the Snowy Mountains and the rivers. We've had some great camps and at Jingelic we can swim, so it's heaven. But soooo hot.

And since we wrote this newsletter, we've kept travelling, we've just have four days at Tamworth enjoying the annual Country and Western festival. Check out Bob Corbett and the Bush Roo Band.

Anyway, our trip is coming to an end, we've started talking to the shipping agents, and will get to Brisbane late Feb early March to ship the Cruiser home again. We are both well and looking forward to coming home, the truck is still going well, it's really hardly been used in fact.

To our friends in the CCVC - Wayne wants you to know that the Cruiser - a 1987 HJ60 with 12HT engine - is for sale. Available in Wellington or the Wairarapa after we get home. Lots of improvements - internal water tank, pull out storage drawers, auxiliary deep cycle battery, long range fuel tank, UHF radio, roof console, genuine Toyota PTO winch and comes with a sandflag. Fully meets CCVC safety check requirements. And of course, regularly serviced. Make an offer before we put it on Trademe! (Ralph - can you put a note in the newsletter please?) End of advertisement.

All the best for the new year, we hope you and your families have had a great Christmas break.

Cheers,
Rowan and Wayne

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AUSTRALIAN RED CENTRE RAMBLE - SEPTEMBER 2012 - Day Seven
Travelled 170kms

An early rise but a slow start this morning. Three had another dip in the hot spring. We headed off for Mount Dare Station about 9.30am. Similar scenery to yesterday and corrugations with bull dust to boot. A couple of lizards scuttled across the road in front of us and a mini dust whirlwind passed us by. We arrived at Mt Dare Station for lunch. The hotel here had a stopbank built around it to protect it from the flooding sometimes experienced here. Given the current very dry landscape, flooding is hard to imagine, but obviously the outback is a place "of two halves". A sign on the hotel door requested that we remove the flies from your backs before entering to ensure the comfort of the patrons.

After lunch we set off on the Binns Track for Old Andado. A pleasant drive along a winding road between big grassed sand dunes – almost like going through parkland. The customary corrugations and bull dust, to which we were now well used to, were still with us. We went passed Andado Station, which is just over the Northern Territory border, and a short time later arrived at Old Andado - a homestead owned by Mrs Molly Clarke which is still as it was when Molly and her late husband Mac Clarke moved into it back in the 1950's when Molly and Mac owned Andado Station in partnership with H H Overton. By 1969 the Clarks owned it outright. In 1955 a new homestead was built 18 km's west of the old homestead, leaving the 'old place' to fall into ruin. In 1972 Molly restored the old homestead, with the help of her family, to its former glory. In 1978 Mac died of a heart attack while flying his light aircraft and their eldest son Graham, died when his semi trailer collided with a freight train.

Andado Station was one of the first cattle stations in the Northern Territory to undergo Brucellosis & Tuberculosis testing. Because the station bordered with South Australia they had to de-stock (cull) their cattle and subsequently lost the property, having to sell it in 1984 for a pittance. Molly retained the old homestead and a 45 square kilometres block and found a new business venture catering to tourists. She set up camping facilities, cooked meals for visitors and provided personal guided tours of the homestead.

Following her husband's death, Molly lived in the outback mostly on her own. When her declining health forced her to move to Alice Springs in 2006, she decided to still keep the old place open to travelers. She only asked a small donation from visitors and campers. It transpires that Molly died on Saturday 22 September, the day before we left Alice Springs.

It was soon obvious, on arrival at Old Andado, that the water tank was empty so the first task was to get the generator going to pump water from the bore to the tank to give us flushing toilets and cold showers. Old Andado gave an insight of how life was without modern amenities such as mains electricity, hot water systems, mains water, and the telephone.



The materials of the homestead are coolibah, corrugated iron and ripple iron that have been white washed. The floors in the original part of the homestead are cement over ash and fat. The roof was originally covered with grass thatch tied down to split saplings and was later updated to corrugated iron. Lighting and heating and refrigeration were originally fuelled by kerosene and cooking was done on a wood range (which is still in place today). A windmill was used to pump water. Eventually the generator was installed. The inside of the Homestead, still now as it was when Molly left in 2006 at age 84, gives tes-

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timony to the strength the outback women.

The outbuildings, consisting of the meat house and saddle house, were constructed of part Acacia peuce and coolibah with a grass thatching roof. Due to local cattle rubbing against the thatching it had been reinforced with chicken wire.

We enjoyed a peaceful evening in the campsite. The birds were thankful for the water leaking from the now full water tank. As we sat there a Bull wandered over to the bore hopeful of finding moisture. The Galahs set up their sunset chorus, noisy but a beautiful display of colour. All in all an amazing spot and example of how the early pioneers settled the outback of Australia.

AUSTRALIAN RED CENTRE RAMBLE – SEPTEMBER 2012 - Day Eight **Travelled 334kms**

We set off early this morning, heading back to Alice Springs. We first walked up onto a nearby sand dune to study the many varied footprints from the previous night's meanderings of the desert inhabitants. We had a guessing game of what may have made these but how accurate we were we will never know. We were pretty sure there was evidence of a scorpion capturing some prey and dragging it away for dinner. And we would be keen to know if anyone has heard of a GDonk and if so, what it looks like.

We set off on the road again, going between large sand dunes. Trees and green vegetation was dispersed with dry barren patches. Before long we arrived at the Mac Clark Conservation Reserve.

The reserve is located in one of the driest places in Australia, 230km south east of Alice Springs, on an otherwise featureless and windswept gibber plain adjacent to the western fringe of the Simpson Desert. The average annual rainfall is only 150mm. Daily maximum temperatures average almost 40 degrees celsius in January. It covers an area of 3,042 hectares and protects several stands comprising about 2000 individuals of *Acacia peuce*, or Waddywood, one of the rarest and most striking Australian native plants of the arid zone. The name "peuce" is Latin for "pine-like" and the tree closely resembles a pine or casuarina in appearance. In such a harsh environment, only a few shrubs and grasses manage to survive. The Acacia peuce thrives, growing to heights of 17 metres and it is estimated it can live for up to 500 years. One key to the trees survival is their small spiky needle-like leaves. A small surface area ensures little moisture is lost through the leaves.

The reserve lies within the traditional area of the Southern Arrente Aboriginal people. It is a focus of rich cultural history to these people who know the tree as Irrekepe. The extremely hard wood was prized for making waddies, or digging tools, and is thought to have been traded over large distances.



In the first half of this century many of the trees were cut down to build stockyards and shelters, even though the wood is so hard it won't take nails. Mac Clark was a former Andado pastoralist whose interest in the trees led to the declaration of this Reserve, which bears his name.

The area also contains the only sizeable representation of a stony down (undulating gibber plain) and associated herbland tussock grassland formation that is under conservation management and fenced from stock and feral animals in the Northern Territory. When we opened the tin box con-

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MATA SCHOOL 4x4 2013

BASECAMP HUIARUA STATION | TOUR SURROUNDING AREAS

MATA SCHOOL 4x4 1,2,3 March 2013

email mataschool4x4@gmail.com or facebook "mata mud guards"

Windy City Offroaders are hosting round 5 of the National Trials Series on February 24 at Kiriwhakapapa Road just north of Masterton.

We are desperate for volunteers to help with marshalling on this date. It would be great if you could help us with this. We are running a no frills trial, so there will be little to no public there watching, only the locals who hear about it through the community.

If you have had experience before then you will be fine, if you have no experience then I'm sure we can give you a crash course and you will be fine.

All you need to bring is yourself and some food and lots of water and sunscreen.

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. You will need to be there all day from 7.30am till approx 5-6pm. There is camping available across the road at one of our members farms, where a few of the competitors will also be camping.

If you can help out then please let me know if you will be able to make it.

Thanks heaps in advance.

Skid 0272417757 or skiddynz@live.com

Date	Name	Organiser	Category	Place	Status	Notes
February 2013						
Saturday 2nd	Top of the South Island - Bookings essential	Ian Hutchings	Shiny 4X4	see notes section		
Saturday 9th	Greater Wellington Regional Council Sunset Tour - Members of the Public Must book with the Council via their Summer Program	Ralph Dobson	Shiny 4X4	Battle Hill & Puketiro Forest		
Sunday 10th	Pre Tagalong Track Maintenance #1 - Bookings Required	Graeme Millard	Shiny 4X4	Akatarawa Forest		
Monday 11th	CCVC Trip Leaders Forum	Steve Mercer	Meeting - 19:30	Petone Working Men's Club, Udy St		
Wednesday 13th	CCVC Club Night - Visitors Welcome. 7:30pm, Petone Working Mens Club, Udy St, Petone	Ralph Dobson	Meeting - 19:30	Petone Working Men's Club, Udy St		
Saturday 16th	CCVC Club Champs - Standard Class - Round 2	Neil Blackie	Family Shiny / Shiny 4X4	Colin James' property, 615 Whiteman's Valley		
Saturday 16th	GWRC Sunset Tour No2 Backup Date	Ralph Dobson	Shiny 4X4			
Sunday 17th	CCVC Club Champs - Modified Class - Round 2	Neil Blackie	Shiny 4X4 / Hard Yakka	Colin James' property, 615 Whiteman's Valley		
Sunday 17th	Pre Tagalong Track Maintenance #2 - Bookings required	Graeme Millard	Shiny 4X4	Akatarawa Forest		
Saturday 23rd	Greater Wellington Regional Council Akatarawa Tag-a-long - Members of the Public Must book with the Council via their Summer Program	Graeme Millard	Shiny 4X4	Akatarawa Forest		
Sunday 24th	Orongorongo in February - Book with Morris (04) 566 - 6197 Cellphone (021) 629 - 600	Morris Jury	Family Shiny	Orongorongo area		
Sunday 24th	Wellington Round of National Trials Competition	Windy City Off Roaders Inc	Event		Abandoned	
Wednesday 27th	CCVC Committee Meeting	Ralph Dobson	Meeting - 19:30	Porirua Club		

March 2013

Saturday 2nd	Karapoti Classic in the Akatarawa Forest - Forest Closed - Information only	Greater Wellington Regional Council	Event		Confirmed	
Sunday 3rd	NZFWDA Central Zone Truck Challenge	Valley 4WD Club	Shiny 4X4	Colin James' property, 615 Whiteman's Valley		
Saturday 9th	New Zealand Contractors Federation Branch Trip to Orongorongo - Limited Numbers	Morris Jury	Shiny 4X4	Orongorongo area		
Sunday 10th	CCVC Training Day for Prospective Members (Date to be confirmed)	Andrew Johnston	Family Shiny	Orongorongo area		
Wednesday 13th	CCVC Club Night - Visitors Welcome. 7:30pm, Petone Working Mens Club, Udy St, Petone	Ralph Dobson	Meeting - 19:30	Petone Working Men's Club, Udy St		
Sunday 17th	Akatarawa Ramble - Bookings Required - Book with Graeme (04)5267636 Cellphone 0292001700	Graeme Millard	Family Shiny	Akatarawa Forest		
Saturday 23rd	Orongorongo in March - Book with Morris (04) 566 - 6197 Cellphone (021) 629 - 600	Morris Jury	Family Shiny	Orongorongo area		
Wednesday 27th	CCVC Committee Meeting	Ralph Dobson	Meeting - 19:30	Porirua Club		

April 2013

Saturday 6th	Akatarawa Ramble - Bookings Required - Book with Graeme (04)5267636 Cellphone 0292001700	Graeme Millard	Family Shiny	Akatarawa Forest		
Wednesday 10th	CCVC Club Night - Visitors Welcome. 7:30pm, Petone Working Mens Club, Udy St, Petone	Ralph Dobson	Meeting - 19:30	Petone Working Men's Club, Udy St		
Sunday 21st	Orongorongo in April - Book with Morris (04) 566 - 6197 Cellphone (021) 629 - 600	Morris Jury	Family Shiny	Orongorongo area		
Wednesday 24th	CCVC Committee Meeting	Ralph Dobson	Meeting - 19:30	Porirua Club		

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taining the visitors book we were confronted by the "keeper of the book" – a *ratus deadus* (dead dried up rat) – which resulted in some female squeals. As we set off again, the call came over the radio "watch the bull dust!". Too late. Boom, we hit the rut and the bull dust flew over the top of the truck!

As we progressed down the road through the very pleasant scenery, we came across several specimens of Australian fauna – a dingo, 2 lizards – one on the ground and a yellow one which climbed a tree and had turned brown by the time the occupants of the last truck arrived – and some camels.

As we neared Saint Teresa, the empty cans started appearing on the roadside. Once passed Saint Teresa we were on a wide dusty road to Alice Springs with quite a bit of traffic. We booked into G'day Mate Motor Camp for the night and did the washing, showering, shopping thing. As the "Strawberry Man" was no longer on site to provide an evening meal, we were off down the road to the Heavitree Gap Tavern for a roast dinner and an evening with Chris Callaghan and his band and the local Snake Man again.

John V discovered another puncture.

Do you want to read a "Full Colour" copy of the mag - it is available on the clubs public website. We will also be adding copies of previous magazines as well (once the newsletter editor finds the time to PDF them!).

Trip Categories

The following trip category definitions, plus any *additional* requirements specified on individual Trip Information Sheets, will be enforced, for safety reasons. Trip Leaders will turn away vehicles or drivers that do not comply. The vehicle and driver requirements given here are a summary of the full requirements listed on the club website. Please refer to www.cvc.org.nz for a definitive list of requirements.

For all Categories: All open or soft-top vehicles must have a roll bar or roll cage.

All Categories **other than Family 4X4** are for members only. Prospective members and visitors are welcome if they can demonstrate to the Trip Leader they are members of another club and have adequate experience.

Family 4X4:

Description: Family trip. These trips will be straightforward and will usually include some degree of guidance in driving techniques as necessary.

Drivers: Particularly suited to family outings and drivers new to off-road driving, this category is also open to anybody who enjoys this style of trip.

Members: Anybody is welcome, especially prospective new members.

Vehicles: An important objective is minimal challenge and minimal risk to vehicles. Club safety equipment is mandatory for club members; it is not mandatory for non-members although it is recommended for vehicles once their drivers have participated in one or two trips. All open or soft-top vehicles must have a roll bar or roll cage.

Shiny 4x4:

Description: More difficult family trips, for shiny wagons and drivers *with some experience* who want more challenge and don't mind minor bush marks etc on their vehicles.

Drivers: Must have some experience, particularly important are experience in stopping, failed hill climbs, steep descents and sidelings. Club members must have completed CCVC Driver Training and participated in at least 2 Family 4X4 trips after becoming a member.

Vehicles: Vehicles must have mud tyres, tow hooks and all the required equipment per the club's document "Vehicle Safety & Equipment Inspections". This applies to all vehicles on the trip.

Club 4x4:

Description: Challenging trips, for experienced drivers. There will be steep and challenging terrain, modestly deep water and mud, likelihood of bush marks.

Drivers: Must have experience beyond that required for Shiny 4x4 trips, including water crossings and vehicle recovery. Club members must have participated in at least 2 Shiny 4X4 trips.

Vehicles: Must have mud tyres, tow hooks and all the required equipment per the club's document "Vehicle Safety & Equipment Inspections". This applies to all vehicles on the trip. Accessories such as high-lift jacks, externally mounted spare tyre, bush bars and multiple jacking points are of advantage. Winches are often particularly useful. Generally a short wheelbase vehicle is better suited for the tight tracks.

Hard Yakka:

Description: Difficult trips with very challenging terrain and surfaces, where winching, digging, and vehicle damage are all a possibility!

Drivers: Experienced drivers only, must have approval of Trip Leader. Club members must have participated in at least 3 Club 4X4 trips.

Vehicles: As per the Club 4x4 category. In addition, a roll-bar or roll-cage is recommended for all vehicles on Hard Yakka trips. Often a winch is mandatory on a Hard Yakka trip; this will be specified on the Trip Information Sheet



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