



THE OFF-ROADER

Special Edition – November 2007

The Country Fire Authority 4WD Club welcomes new members. The club meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at Scoresby Fire Station and is open to both CFA and non CFA members Victoria wide.

Contact Club President Paul Burke on 0419 361952 for more details

Message from Paul,

As we draw closer to Christmas and the end of another year, I wanted to take this opportunity to wish everyone A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

At our October Club Meeting, those who were there put their heads together and created our club calendar all the way to July 2008. After much deliberation, we think the calendar offers something to everyone. It includes some great off-road driving as well as touring, short trips and long weekends, some social events and of course opportunities to share ideas and skills. Its not an easy task trying to please everyone, in fact it darn-right impossible, but we hope that the calendar at least goes part of the way of making sure our club remains active and enjoyable.

One thing I really need to say however is that a club is only as good as its members. Although we have an elected committee, it's not the committee's responsibility, or the responsibility of just a few members, to keep the club going. Each and every one of us has equal responsibility in making sure our club remains strong.

Anyone can have a CFA 4WD sticker on their windscreen.....all it takes is paying a membership fee. What takes effort though is making sure that a membership is genuine and true to the club itself. True membership means coming along to club meetings, supporting the club by putting ideas and suggestions forward and of course coming along to organised club trips and events. Of course there are times in everyone's life when things come up and we simply can't make it to things, but all I ask is that once Christmas is over and the hype of the New Year has past, that each of us spend just a few minutes of our time to consider our membership and think about how we can all do our bit for the club.

In fact why not start this weekend and come along to our Christmas Picnic and Barbeque at Lilydale Lake this Saturday arvo (starting 6pm). We know it's a busy time of year...but hey you've got to eat anyway. So why not come along to the lake, bring a picnic tea or barbeque, don't forget your Christmas hat, and share a couple of hours with other club members. Even if you haven't been to a meeting, or taken part in a trip for some time, get up off the couch and come along to the lake.....we'd love to see you there.

Merry Christmas

Paul Burke

CIRCULAR TO THE SUPPORTERS OF BLUFF HUT ... November 10 / 2007

We are almost ready to start construction of the new Bluff Hut. The burnt remains have been cleared away with assistance from the Navy, Nigel Watts and crew and Brendan Mahoney.

It was decided the hut will not be a replica of the original, but just a good solid bush hut with a verandah. As the original one did, the new hut will give shelter and enjoyment to travellers while ensuring the continuation of a Mountain Cattleman's hut on the Bluff.

Dave Stoney and Alan Rice together with Phil Taylor have finished the plans and they are about to be signed off by the powers that be. Dave will be the overall co coordinator of the construction. We have had some generous offers from tradesmen to assist.

We have had some generous financial donations which will be of great assistance as we get into construction and we will be making those public in due course.

Because we are unable to source timber from the Park because of Park rules, we have brought in to Stockyard Creek, snowgum posts and Ash poles from Matlock in the area that was cleared for a permanent fire line to protect the Thomson catchment.

We have some corrugated iron that looks well used (therefore appropriate) but could do with some more, if anyone knows of some. See wish list below for some of the materials still required.

Roger Hallam is on standby to come over from Hamilton with his portable mill to cut benches, seats and a timber for a table from snowgum and Chum Creek Sawmill is organising some four by two, s. and hopefully some roundbacks for lining the hut. Thank you all muchly.

There has been a major landslip on the Bluff Link road which will not be fixed for some weeks. Therefore the start to the project has been put back.

The first working bee will be to clean out the holes for the posts and to get materials on site.

We will need some strong arms to shovel out the holes (which have already been loosened with Brendan's auger) and to set up the poles. We will have a front end loader to lift.

We will need people with a couple of good size trailers to cart the iron up from Stockyard and perhaps some timber etc and also rocks for the new fireplace. Don Gaudion will be the fireplace commander in chief.

We are thinking of having the first working bee on the weekend December 1st and 2nd with another one the following weekend Dec 8/9 and/or Dec 15/16

We might even stay over to the Monday if that suited anyone. Could anyone able to assist on any of those dates let Graeme know by email or phone.

We have access to one of the builders' trailers supplied by donations organised by the lobby group Push for the Bush. It has a generator, compressor and other tools. This is a great asset. The Victorian High Country Huts Association has access to the second Push for the Bush trailer for the summer and it will be used on other hut rebuilding projects.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Victorian High Country Huts Association (VHCHA) for its support in assisting us to get the project to this point.

The red tape would daunt lesser mortals!

Please have a look at the wish list below and if you can help out let us know. Just so we don't end up with enough bricks to veneer the hut, check with us first on how we are going! Please let us know if and when you can assist or have any queries or comments

Thank you all for your support.

Graeme Stoney 57775766
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Dave Stoney 0418653658
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Wishlist for Reconstruction of Bluff Hut

Please let Dave Stoney know if you can help.

Email is best dave.stoney@bigpond.com or 0418 653 658

- Secondhand Corrugated iron – 2100, 2500, 3500 lengths
- Laserlite x2 approx 3500 long
- Angle Iron, 100 x 100 x 12 – 10 to 12 metres total (for post stirrups)
- Angle Iron 40 x 40 x 3 – 50 lineal metres
- 16mm rebar (concrete reinforcement bar)
- Bags Cement
- 110 second hand bricks
- Timber window mouldings and beading
- Tongue and groove pine flooring for benches etc – can be shorter lengths
- Bracing ply 7mm
- Hoop iron and tensioners
- Dampcourse
- “Aircell” sisal/insulation
- Roof screws for galv. roofing
- Batten screws 100 and 150 long
- Galv. Bolts approx 270 long x 16mm
- Assort. Bolts for fixings inside
- Galv. threaded rod 2/600 x 12

Upcoming Club Events

December 2007

Saturday 8th - XMAS Tree Deliveries
&
Club Xmas Picnic/BBQ at Lilydale Lake
6pm onwards

January 2008

26th to 28th (Sat/Sun/Mon) Fry's Hut
(Aust Day Long weekend)

February 2008

Sunday 17th – Wandin Field Day

Thursday 21st – Club Meeting and 4WD Presentation by
Rod Hanscomb & Ian Day

Sunday 24th - Driver Training, Lysterfield Quarry

March 2008

Sat/Sun/Mon 8th - 10th Gippsland region
(Labour Day Long weekend)

Thursday 20th – Club Meeting – Prep long/short trips

Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon 21st – 24th - Mitta Mitta 4 x 4 Gathering
(Easter Long weekend)

April 2008

Saturday 12th - Yarra by Boat
(Pricing TBA, booking required)

Thursday 17th Dinner at Club Ringwood,
Pricing TBA,
booking required
(organised by Rod H)

Lightning Ridge – contact Wally & Helen K
(long trip)

Fri/Sat/Sun 25 – 27 - Huts Assoc Maintenance
(Anzac Day Long weekend) – contact Andy Kass

May 2008

Thursday 15th – MEETING

Sat 17th or Sun 18th - Ladies Day

Broken Hill 4x4 Challenge – contact Paul & Maxine Burke