

LAND ROVER OWNERS' CLUB

OF GIPPSLAND
MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER



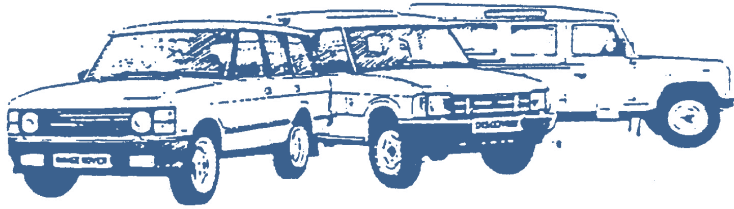
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LAND ROVER OWNERS' CLUB OF GIPPSLAND

P.O. Box 3128 Gippsland Mail Centre 3841 Telephone (03) 51 341 422 Club website lrocg.jimdo.com

Land Rover Owners Club of Gippsland News March 2019.

New Arrival.

Club members Sharna and Wayne Foon have welcomed Indi Acacia Foon into the world. Indi was born on the 6th of March and weighed a healthy 3.42kg. Mother, baby and besotted dad all doing well. Tonee Harlow took flowers to the hospital on behalf of the club, she also got the first cuddle of Indi by any club member.

Fires In The Alps.

The various fires in the southern section of the Alpine National Park and foot-hills look like burning for some time. As you would all be aware the mountains have been extremely dry over last winter and through the summer. Many of the fires have linked up and many of us have experienced days of smoke and falling ash. Good soaking rainfall would be useful!

The implications for the club are that trips into the fire closure areas will have to be, at best, postponed until the spring. Our scheduled weekend working with Parks Victoria on the 4th and 5th of May will possibly be cancelled. The latest news I have from Conor Wilson PV Dargo, today 13/3/2019, is that Talbotville and all our work there is O.K.

Photo Competition.

Charlie and I have decided to extend the photo competition by one month. Entries are now due to myself at my normal email address, by Friday the 24th of May and the winner will be announced by our judge, Charlie Calafiore, at the LROCG meeting on Monday the 3rd of June. A reminder that the photos need to be large jpeg files, the image must include a Land Rover or part of a Land Rover. The photos do not have to have been taken this year. Maximum of 4 entries per member (that means 4 for each family member). I have already received some excellent entries for Charlie to judge.

Great Prize.

There is only one prize for this year's photo competition, and it is a great one. Gippsland Land Rover, thanks to Charlie Calafiore, is going to let the winner have one of the demo fleet vehicles for a weekend. There will be some easy to meet conditions and you don't have to buy it after the weekend. Many thanks to Charlie for this generous prize.

Greg Rose.

LROCG President.

This month's cover; Aaron Taylor's wonderful 80" Land Rover, seen at Victorian 4WD Show, Lardner



Land Rover Owners Club of Gippsland 2018-- 2019 Committee

President	Greg Rose	0427 456 546
Vice President	Bob McKee	0407 963 176
Secretary	Tonee Harlow	
Treasurer	Alan MacRae	03 51744 256
Publicity Officer	Charlie Calafiore	03 51341 422
Events CoOrdinator	David Murray	AH)0438 369 110
Editor	Eric Shingles	03 56232 501
Property Officer	Ross Howell	
4WD Vic Delegate	Greg Rose	0427 456 546
Webmaster	Alan Harlow	

JAGUAR LAND ROVER WINS CASE AGAINST COPYCAT LAND WIND X7

The Range Rover Evoque-inspired model has been pulled from sale, and Landwind will need to pay compensation to the British automaker. The Beijing Chaoyang District Court has ruled the Land Wind X7 copied five unique features from the first-generation Range Rover Evoque. According to the court, similarities between the two cars caused confusion amongst consumers. The court has ordered production, sales and marketing of the Land Wind X7 to stop. It has also said Jaguar Land Rover should be compensated, although a figure has yet to be announced. The Landwind X7 was launched in 2015, and it was immediately apparent the Chinese company had copied Evoque's exterior and interior designs, if not its mechanical underpinnings. A facelift introduced in 2017 tweaked the headlights, tail-lights, and bumpers to give the X7 a little more differentiation from the Evoque, but the basic design remained unchanged. Despite their outward similarity, the X7 retailed for at least half the price of the Range Rover. Given past cases, many thought Jaguar Land Rover would find it difficult to successfully pursue its claim against Jiangling Motor Corporation (JMC), makers of the Landwind marque. Today's verdict in favour of Jaguar Land Rover was hailed as a first win for a global automaker within the Chinese court system. "We welcome this decision of the Beijing Court, which further strengthens our confidence in investing in China and in the fairness of intellectual property adjudication in the Chinese courts," Keith Benjamin, Jaguar Land Rover's global legal chief, said in a prepared statement. "This ruling is a clear sign of the law being implemented appropriately to protect consumers and uphold their rights so that they are not confused or misled, whilst protecting business investment in design and innovation." JMC currently produces vehicles under its own brands, and also has a joint venture operation with Ford. The China-only Ford Territory, revealed last year, is based on JMC's Yusheng SM330.



JAGUAR LAND ROVER RECALLING 44,000 VEHICLES FOR EXCESSIVE EMISSIONS IN THE UK

Indian-owned British manufacturer faces action across Europe for CO2 emissions that 'may not confirm with the certified condition'. There are 1731 vehicles affected locally. Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) has become the latest automaker to be called out over excessive emissions, with the British firm under fire from authorities for select models built between 2014 and 2018. A new report by industry journal, Automotive News Europe, the European Union's Safety Gate Rapex claims JLR vehicles with 2.0-litre engines (both petrol and diesel) may emit "excessive levels of CO2 and may not conform with the certified condition". There's several model lines potentially affected by the impending recall, including the Jaguar E-Pace, F-Pace, XE, XF, Land Rover Discovery Sport, Range Rover Evoque, Velar, and Sport. According to the report, the recall covers engines built between 2014 and 2018, prior to the changeover from NEDC to WLTP emissions regulations. The report adds there's 44,389 engines affected in the UK alone, with 9653 of those being petrol models.

Speaking with Automotive News Europe, Greg Archer, UK director for the European environmental pressure group, said: "JLR has clearly been minimizing the declared CO2 and under estimating emissions. I would call that cheating". "I expect they will claim it was an error," he added.

JLR is believed to be working with the UK's Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) on a fix and the timing of the recall notice. The company said in a statement affected vehicles are being 'rectified' to "ensure the correct CO2 performance is dependably achieved". It's the latest hit for the British automotive group, which has posted massive financial losses in recent months and falling sales across the globe, namely China. The firm recently announced it would be cutting around 4500 jobs to reduce its operating costs, also halting its production lines on numerous occasions last year.

Australia

Speaking with CarAdvice, JLR's local arm confirmed there are 1731 units affected in Australia – 958 Land Rovers and 773 Jaguars. "Jaguar Land Rover is conducting a voluntary recall following the identification of CO2 performance variability with certain 2016-2019 MY Jaguar and Land Rover vehicles fitted with 2.0L diesel or petrol engines," said James Scrimshaw, PR manager for JLR Australia. "The modifications made to affected vehicles will be made free of charge and every effort will be made to minimise inconvenience to the customer during the short time required for the work to be carried out."

Start-up to build Land Rover Defender successor with BMW engines

The British brand's old workhorse off-roader is set for a major shake-up but one start-up wants to preserve its heritage.

BMW engines will power a brand-new but old-school off-roader. Land Rover stopped building the boxy Defender three years ago. Now a Brit-based start-up plans to produce a successor to the boxy workhorse. It'll be called the Grenadier, after the London pub where the idea was born. But this isn't some beer-fuelled fantasy. The Land Rover-reviving start-up is a spin-off of one of the world's biggest chemical companies, Ineos. Company founder, chairman and majority shareholder, Jim Ratcliffe, was one of the group of pint-sippers lamenting the loss of the Defender. So he set up Ineos Automotive in 2016 specifically to fill the gap. His aim is to preserve the Defender's hose-out practicality and rugged personality, but to lift build quality and reliability to Land Cruiser levels. Ineos Automotive plans to unveil a prototype of the Grenadier in 2020. With BMW confirming placement of an order for tens of thousands of petrol and diesel engines, Ineos Automotive has taken a big step towards achieving its objective. And BMW sees more deals like the Ineos Automotive contract in its future. "This is a business area with real growth potential," said BMW boss Pieter Nota. Land Rover's next-generation Defender — due to be revealed at the end of this year — is set to beat a different path compared to its 67-year-old predecessor. While still capable of heading off-road the new Defender will be more capable on road and will skew luxury. Earlier this year the car's interior was leaked online showing a myriad of digital screens and premium materials and hi-tech gear.



2020 Land Rover Defender Caught Looking As Boxy As Ever

It's the long-wheelbase model, but we can briefly see the two-door SWB variant as well. Mercedes took its sweet time updating the G-Class, much like Land Rover is in no rush to launch an overhauled Defender. The Tata Motors-owned marque was seen recently in a winter wonderland putting the finishing touches on the next generation of its off-road icon in the long-wheelbase flavor, but we can also catch a glimpse of the two-door SWB variant as well.

See video here; https://youtu.be/-mB9Uw_hpUw

All the camouflage in the world can't mask the body's boxy shape, which fans of the Defender will surely be happy to see it is being retained for the next decade. Confirmed for a much-awaited U.S. return, the Defender is not wearing the "BEST 4X4 FAR" decal we saw at the end of last year when prototypes of the SWB and LWB versions were caught out and about. Full-LED lights front and rear denote the next generation will keep up with the times, while the short overhangs are exactly what you'd expect to see from a Defender. While we don't get to check out what's going on inside of these two prototypes, let's remember an image with a cabin mockup emerged onto the Internet about a month ago. Bear in mind that didn't show the final design of the SUV's interior, but nevertheless, it was a good opportunity to get an idea about the far more modern dashboard compared to the previous, utilitarian look. Technical details are scarce at the moment of writing, but the new Defender will allegedly ride on a car-like platform and is going to boast independent rear suspension. Various body styles are in the works, including soft-tops and pickup truck versions, while the availability of spartan and upscale interiors should broaden the vehicle's appeal. In total, it is believed Land Rover has plans to offer literally a dozen of body style configurations.

As you may recall, Land Rover stopped making the old-school Defender in January 2016 after 68 years of continuous production. Its replacement is scheduled to come out sometime this year.



New Land Rover Defender Doesn't Feel At Home Testing At The 'Ring

Even an off-roader should be also good on the road, right? Another day, another batch of spy photos depicting the all-new 2020 Land Rover Defender. After seeing the boxy SUV testing in winter conditions on several occasions, this time around it has been spied on a rather unusual place – the legendary Nurburgring race track in Germany. While the Defender definitely doesn't belong there, seeing it undergoing high-speed evaluations still makes sense. Land Rover has already confirmed the new generation of the off-roader will target a broader customer range which means it will have to be just as good on asphalt as it is in the mud. "The one thing I can promise you is that the new Defender will do all that our customers expect of it, without being a copycat of what has gone before. It is a car for the modern world, and that means that it must move the game on if it is to be relevant," Jaguar Land Rover's chief marketing officer, Felix Brautigam, commented a few months ago. With that said, it's not a huge surprise that British test drivers are putting the Defender to its limits on the track. You can clearly see there's a significant body roll and that the independent suspension is under heavy load on the fast right corner. Still, the SUV looks somewhat safe at high speed. Unfortunately, these new photos don't reveal more details about the vehicle's exterior but we've already seen a number of prototypes giving us a pretty good idea of what to expect. Obviously, it's going to be an all-new product but it will retain the boxy overall shape and short front and rear overhangs of its predecessor. Needless to say, the powertrain range will be completely revamped. At its launch, the new Defender will be powered by a 2.0-liter turbo diesel which should be joined by a hybrid motor later during the SUV's lifecycle. At this point, it's not clear what engines Land Rover will offer its U.S. customers once the Defender reaches American shores sometime in 2020. Previous spy photos have already confirmed the model will continue to be offered as both long-wheelbase and two-door SWB variants.



She's one cool kid!

Mia Tindall enjoys an ice cream with mum Zara Phillips during family day out at Gatcombe Park Horse Trials. The royals were making the most of the sunshine today as they attended day two of the Land Rover Novice and Intermediate Horse Trials at Gatcombe Park in Stroud, Gloucestershire. Zara Tindall, 37, who was competing on Class Affair, brought along her very own cheerleaders for support - including daughters Mia Grace, five and Lena Elizabeth, nine months, who was being pushed along in a buggy.

She was joined by ex-rugby player husband, Mike Tindall, 40, who was seen lifting a delighted Mia off her feet before swinging her around, as he kept the family entertained on the sunny day. Donning some rather sparkly trainers and leggings, Mia was arguably the real star of the show as she completed her outfit with a bright pair of yellow shades - just before cooling down with a mint chocolate chip ice cream, complete with a flake.



Adventure startup converts old gas vehicles into electric road trippers

Those old-school SUVs and four-wheel-drive adventure cars are great — except for all the waste-emitting gasoline needed to fuel them on camping trips and scenic drives through nature.

That's where Australian startup Jaunt comes in, converting old vehicles like the 1971 Land Rover Series 2a into electric road trippers. That's the first car the company has raised enough money to revamp. The car should be available in time for the Australian spring and summer.

The company so far only has the Land Rover, named Juniper, but it wants to convert more vehicles to set up for rentals for pre-planned "jaunts" around Australia. So far an Indiegogo campaign has raised more than \$10,000 (over A\$14,000). Ultimately the startup hopes to receive \$50,000 to provide more trips and cars. Car rentals are available for dates starting as soon as June in Byron Bay, the Blue Mountains, and other coastal drives and scenic areas of Australia. A rainforest road trip for a day costs \$142 in Juniper, the converted vehicle.

Before anyone can go on an electric trip in what Jaunt calls an "upcycled" vehicle, the first car needs to be converted. The conversion process involves removing the engine, fuel tank, and exhaust system, and putting in an electric motor, a 100-kilowatt NetGain Hyper9 AC.

There's also the batteries, charging system, and regenerative braking that goes into the old-but-new vehicle. It's not just older, beat-up vehicles getting overhauled with a jolt of electric energy. In February, Porsche's Macan SUV was announced as the latest electric make-over vehicle. The Jaguar classic E-Type is coming back as an all-electric sports car as well. Jaunt's converted Land Rover is only a prototype (that hasn't been finished yet), but it'll give adventurous drivers a way to explore Australia, electrically.

This one-off Land Rover "Bell Aurens Longnose" is up for sale

Yes, what's possibly the most stylish safari vehicle in the world could be yours for just under \$300,000. A little over a decade ago two Land Rover nuts got together and created a beautiful monster, a sort of safari-ready sports car, which they planned to release on the world. But the economic downturn of 2008 threw a wrench into the duo's ambitious plans to put it into production with V8, V12 and V16 engines. Just one was made. Created by Thomas Bell and Holger Kalvelage, the Land Rover Bell Aurens Longnose prototype was built on the bones of a 1967 series IIa Land Rover, but given the powerplant from a more modern LR. Recently the "off-roadster" has been put back on the market by the online seller Classic Trader.

The unintentional one-off's most distinguishable feature is its elongated nose, which was originally intended to shelter an engine twice the size of the Rover V8 that it houses. It makes 235 horsepower — a figure not worth writing home about by today's standards — but the whole vehicle weighs just 3,400 lbs, so it probably moves well enough. The Land Rover feel is retained in the open-air interior with a less-is-more approach on the cockpit, a wide steering wheel and durable leather seats. The Land Rover Bell Aurens Longnose was worth £80,000 (\$141,000) back in 2008. Today Classic Trader has it listed with just 322 km on the odometer for £168,751 (\$299,000).



Suspected drunk driver crashes Land Rover into police station

A drunk driver has allegedly delivered himself directly to the SAPS detective branch in Lyttelton in Gauteng, South Africa. A suspected drunk driver in Centurion, Gauteng has caused damage to both private and government property after allegedly falling asleep at the wheel. It is believed that the man fell asleep while driving his Land Rover Discovery and inadvertently pressed his foot down on the accelerator peddle sending the car through a gate and then on through an adjoining property, over a busy road and into the Lyttelton Police Station's detective branch buildings.

The Land Rover Discovery the suspect was driving inflicted severe damage on the prefabricated building used to house part of the detective branch, it is unclear if any case dockets had been lost or damaged in the chaos.

SAPS spokesperson Captain Colette Weilbach said: "At about 17:15 on Thursday a Lyttelton Manor resident allegedly crashed into his gate at his home in Langebrink Road behind the Lyttelton police station. It is suspected that he passed out with his foot on the petrol pedal." Despite the incident taking place at a busy time the driver and vehicle managed to avoid striking any pedestrians or other motorists as it careered over a busy road. "The vehicle picked up momentum and crashed through his wall into his neighbour's yard and through his neighbour's wall at the back. He drove over the busy Clifton Avenue while miraculously missing all oncoming traffic. He then crashed through the police station's fence and right into some detective offices." "Luckily no one was in the detectives' offices and no one was injured. "The driver was also without any injuries. The detectives' buildings were badly damaged. Dockets had to be removed to another safe building. Some of the offices are without electricity as the power box was also damaged." A middle-aged man has been taken into custody and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and is scheduled to appear in court soon.



New Land Rover Discoverys join Highways England fleet

The first of a new fleet of 70 Land Rover Discoverys has been handed over to Highways England. The vehicles have been modified to meet the needs of traffic officers, including a roof-mounted light array, programmable rear LED board and Battenburg livery. There's also a reinforced load area, with traffic officers having to carry more than 600kg of equipment, including lights, traffic cones and safety barriers. The Land Rover Discovery SE 3.0 Sd6 models will be in service for roughly four years, with each expected to cover around 250,000 miles on England's motorways and major roads. Jaguar Land Rover sales director Scott Dicken said: "For 15 years the Land Rover Discovery has been a trusted workhorse for Highways England, and it gives me great pleasure to see the latest generation Discovery continuing that legacy. "Highways England works tirelessly to keep England's motorists moving and we are proud that this fleet of Land Rover Discoverys has been chosen to keep the team mobile and equipped with everything they need to take on the toughest challenges whatever the location, whatever the conditions." Highways England executive director of operations Nick Harris said:

"Having the right equipment and vehicles for our traffic officers is essential. It allows us to deliver the high levels of customer service and support drivers expect from us while we work to keep England's motorways and major A-roads running smoothly round the clock. "These new vehicles will be a valuable addition to our fleet and we are very pleased to be continuing our relationship with Jaguar Land Rover."



Porsche, BMW fail to make sales for 2 months in luxury car slowdown

Luxury car market was hit by a slowdown in the first two months of the year that saw top brands Porsche and BMW fail to make a single sale. Data released this week by Kenya Motor Industry Association (KMIA) shows sales of Land Rover that also includes Range Rover dropped to eight from the 14 reported in the first two months of last year. Dealers in new luxury cars have witnessed flat growth in sales in the last three years in what industry analysts have linked to increased government scrutiny on individuals' lifestyles in the war on corruption and tax cheats. Reduced flow of bank loans after the government introduced the lending rates cap in September 2016 has also hurt auto dealers. The cap has had the effect of stifling the credit market as banks became more cautious in their lending practices. Jaguar, which is under UK-controlled luxury car dealer Inchcape Plc together with Land Rover and BMW, sold one unit in the two months.

Land Rover Owners' Club of Gippsland - Minutes for Meeting Held On Monday the 4th of March 2019.

Meeting held at Gippsland Land Rover Traralgon.

Meeting started at: 8.04pm

Attending: David Murray, Krystal Murray, Harley Murray, Peter Johnson, Michael Johnson, Don Little, Shirley Little, Ken Markham, Susan Markham, Jan Parniak, Colette Parniak, Ian Blake, Terry Heskey, Ted Allchin, Rod Catchpole, Loris Catchpole, John Kerr, Heather Kerr, Peter Durrant, Annette Fleming, Bob McKee, Alan Harlow, Tonee Harlow, Helen MacRae, Alan MacRae, Charlie Calafiore

Visitors: ..Nil

Apologies: Greg & Lois Rose, Brian Johnson, Wayne & Sharna Foon, Ross & Sue Howell, Barb Heskey, Shirley Allchin, Jim Hood, Jill Beck, Kay Durrant, Eric Shingles, Mal Trull, Shaun Johnson, Siobhan Walker

Chairman, Bob McKee, opened the meeting with updates on members who are unable to attend this meeting.

Our thoughts are with Wayne and Sharna Foon, in the process of moving house, while Wayne is out fighting fires with Parks Victoria, and their baby due this coming Sunday.

Also with Brian Johnson, recovery from an operation

Mal Trull is bus driving for VLine Bairnsdale/Pakenham during the fire crisis causing disruption to rail travel.

Greg is on the mend and we hope to see him back next meeting

Jim Hood's vehicle being assessed for repair. In light of this incident, Bob has printed out maps highlighting to members alternate routes to re-entering the highway. These were handed around to members.

Bob also addressed the issue of being able to be heard at the meeting, with both the acoustics of the building and private discussions among the floor being a problem. We may need to look into the option of a small microphone, however it was noted that members talking among themselves during the meeting is contributing to the difficulty of running a smooth, coherent and efficient meeting and requests all members to refrain from doing so.

Minutes of February Meeting.

Carried Forward to Next Meeting due to not being available.

Correspondence:

In: Obsession from SA,

Out: Nil

Emails:

In:

12/2 David McHendry, LROCV Member...re Series parts in Moe South. Steve Ringe is Series Registrar. .details available from Bob

2/3 Clancy Parsons through our website contact form: wishes to join the club. Regarding 3 Land Rover Discovery Series 2 1997 models. doing them up...seeks expertise....advice etc.

3/3 Graeme Walsh regarding fires in Victorian High Country, any trips planned for this weekend should not proceed. Most areas are closed. Should have the Vic Emergency app on your phone, tablet or computer.

Out:

18/2 By Greg to Mike Dower, Sarah Noonan, Sam Bradley, Helen Dixon, thanking PV for their support in making a very successful display at Lardner for the 4x4 show.

Treasurer's Report:

Moved: Alan MacRae, Seconded: Ken Markham

Publicity Officer's Report:

Last week Charlie attended a meeting where the new Defender was discussed. The details should be released in the last quarter of this year, and the vehicle should be available from the first quarter next year. Many in the club are looking forward to this.

Jag mag 'Cat-a-log' has an article covering the launch of the new dealership venue in Traralgon.

Editor's Report: No report



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18th & 19th May 2019
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PRESERVING AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE

Rally conducted using NHMA Insurance Guidelines

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- Stationary Engines
- Memorabilia
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- Vintage Tractor Pull from 12 noon Saturday and all day Sunday
- Blacksmith Demonstrations throughout the weekend
- Tractor Trek – Saturday
- Grand Parade – Saturday & Sunday
- Saturday night meals for exhibitors
- On-site catering

Contact the Club for more details
Barb Cook (03) 5148 0531 – barbara.cook5@bigpond.com

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Gordon Street, Reserve, Heyfield, Victoria
Gates open 9am-3pm

Webmaster's Report:

Website is up to date with photos and events, and new address of Gippsland Land Rover.

51 visitors to our site last month.

Technical Report.

Charlie pointed out the battery charging points under all vehicles on display inside the showroom, enabling them to now constantly keep all batteries fully charged within the vehicles.

Events Coordinator's report:

Past Events.

Victorian 4WD Show, Lardner Park Report; Ian Blake Members in attendance included Bob McKee, Ian Blake, Eric Shingles, Greg & Lois Rose, Ross & Sue Howell, Mal Trull, Alan MacRae, John & Heather Kerr, David, Krystal & Harley Murray, and Craig Murray. Our site was

changed to a flatter area. Very good display, everyone was happy with the weekend, and some inquiries re club membership resulted.

Future Events.

March.

Sunday the 17th, Boolara Fish Farm – Trip Leader Ian Blake, Meet in Yinnar Main Street by 1pm for a 1pm departure. Ian has an interesting drive arranged for us also, including falls and a lookout.

May.

Saturday the 4th and Sunday the 5th of May.

LROCG/PV. We await confirmation of the activities planned. PV is under a bit of pressure currently given the bush fire situation. We will be accommodated at Surveyors Creek Camp. Details via newsletter. Several members already booked in to this event. The volunteer trailer is nearly finished at PV Heyfield. It sports a large version of the club logo proudly on it, along with other key groups.

November.

Monday the 18th, Tuesday the 19th, Wednesday the 20th.

LROCG/PV. Details via newsletter once confirmed. Several members already booked in to this event.

Four Wheel Drive Victoria Delegate's Report. No report

General Business.

* Club Photo Competition Reminder: Maximum 4 photos per member. Any photo that has a Land Rover or part of a Land Rover. Can be travel photos, close ups, etc. Closes on Friday the 26th of April. Send jpeg entries to Greg Roses's email address. Charlie Calafiore to judge the entries. Winner announced by Charlie Calafiore at the May 6th LROCG meeting. PRIZE: Charlie has offered to provide a demo vehicle on loan for a weekend from Friday to Monday (there will be conditions). Several great entries have already been received

* Bob: Italian Club has been put on notice, after last months disappointing meals. Good to see that everyone was happy with meals there this evening.

* Alan H: Email from 4WDV re camp hosts required over Easter. Anyone interested please see Alan. If we can get a group to do this, the club can get \$250 from our efforts, and should be quite enjoyable. Opportunity to experience some different National Parks.

* Alan M: After some concerns re our site at Lardner this year, we need to decide as a club if we intend to continue having a site at the Lardner display. If so, some concerns will need to be addressed, including but not limited to gaining access to a more preferred site, as we had in 2018. It was voted we would 'do' Lardner again in 2020. Alan MacRae to follow up with Graeme Walsh and LROCV.

* Ken: Warning/reminder to all in regard to safety travelling in areas where the bush fires have been. Even once they are out, roads may still be closed/blocked due to the dangers of falling trees, etc in those areas.

* Alan H: Thanks to Charlie for his hospitality at the official opening of the new dealership, over the weekend of the 8th and 9th Feb. A good time was had by all. It was a wonderful function despite the rain on Saturday.

MEETING CLOSED : 8.48 PM

Next Meeting : Monday April 1st @ Gippsland Land Rover at 8pm

Pre Meeting Dinner from 6pm at the Italian Australian Club, Morwell



Wonnangatta / Bright Trip

On a bright sunny Tuesday 11th Dec 2018, the Foon trip left Stratford just after 9am.

In were Wayne and Sharna Foon in a Toyota, Bob and Annette in their Discovery 4, Alan and Helen in their Defender, Greg and Lois in their Discovery 4, and Alan and Tonee in their Discovery 3.

The first stop was Dargo for morning tea and some great egg and bacon pies.

We then headed off on the Crooked River Road to Eaglevale camp ground for lunch and to check out the great work done by the club only weeks before.

After lunch we headed up the Eaglevale Track which starts with a very steep climb; enough for the Defender to take a second attempt. Turning onto Cynthia Range Track, we headed to Wonnangatta Station to camp for the night. Wayne led us to a secluded camping area where we set up for the night.

After some of the more adventurous had a swim, the camp fire was started and a bbq tea was had by all.

After a good night in our tents, we took the time to look over the old station ruins, and then headed off for Bright.

As we were about to cross the Wonnangatta River, Wayne spotted a camp fire still smoking so a short stop was taken to pour buckets of water over it to ensure it was extinguished.



We stopped for morning tea on top of Van Dammes track. The 360 degree view was awesome! Various cakes were shared before we took off down Harry Shepherd, but we were soon stopped by a fallen tree. The chainsaw was put to good use and we were underway again.

As we got onto Abbeyard Road the speed picked up and we made Abbeyard camp ground for lunch next to the Buffalo River. The river runs into Lake Buffalo which was overflowing.

On reaching Myrtleford we turned onto the Great Alpine Way towards Bright, and our camping ground for the night.

On arrival we were warned of heavy rain and high winds, and the torrential rain certainly eventuated!



Once set up, and showered and changed, we set out to the local brewery for dinner and a few drinks before settling down for the night, hoping our tents stayed up and dry. The MacRaes and Foons were well keeping their feet dry in their roof top tents...

Due to a family requirement, Greg and Lois needed to leave early on the Thursday morning to get home. Our group was down to 8 now. The plan for our day in Bright originally was to see the sights from a few look-outs and vantage points, however due the ceaseless downpour became indoor oriented which evolved to just eat and drink. So it was off to breakfast, then out to Gapsted Winery for a long

lunch, and then after a quick look around some of the shops, back to the brewery for dinner and to stay out of the rain.

The day was completed with a visit to the local cinema (not gold class, but perhaps bronze) to see Bohemian Rhapsody, which was unanimously deemed to be excellent.

On Friday morning we all packed up our wet tents and after filling our fuel tanks with surprisingly well priced fuel, made for Omeo via Hotham, for coffee and more food. The weather was now sunny and the drive home was easy going, with one last stop for the MacRaes and Harlows at the Rose's for a cuppa and more treats.

Kudos to Wayne and Sharna who organised a great trip, and were fantastic trip leaders, with great local knowledge.



Roof of Victoria

When: Friday April 19 till Monday April 22.

General Description:

Once again I'm heading up beyond Benambra, hopefully visiting Mount Gibbo, Tom Groggin, the Davies High plains and the Nunniong plains. Hopefully we'll pop in to visit the Washington winch and Moscow Villa.

Trip Difficulty: Medium

Meeting Place: Park at the end of Creek St in Omeo

Meeting Time: 1:00 PM

Minimum tyre type: All Terrain

Required Equipment: Low Range, Snatch strap & shackle, UHF Radio, Additional Fuel

Approximate Trip Distance: Approx 400km

Maximum Vehicles: six

Trailers permitted: No

Accommodation: Moving bush camping

Trip Leader: Craig Murray,

Ph Craig on 0438 109 063



A Perentie sprinted the quarter mile in 19.812 seconds at the Sydney Motorsport Park drag meet.



How David Murray keeps the kids cool



Are the Harlow's thinking of getting a new van ?

A couple go for a meal at a Chinese restaurant and order the "Chicken Surprise". The waiter brings the meal, served in a lidded cast iron pot. Just as the wife is about to serve herself, the lid of the pot rises slightly, and she briefly sees two beady little eyes looking around before the lid slams back down. "Good grief, did you see that?" she asks her husband. He hasn't, so she asks him to look in the pot. He reaches for it and again the lid rises, and he sees two little eyes looking around before he too slams down the lid. Rather perturbed, he calls the waiter over, explains what is happening and demands an explanation. "Please sir," says the waiter, "what you order?" The husband replies, "Chicken Surprise." "Ah... so sorry," says the waiter, "I bring you Peeking Duck"