



# **JACKAROO 4WD CLUB**

**VICTORIA'S PREMIER ALL MAKE 4WD TOURING CLUB**

**NOVEMBER 2022**





# Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Wednesday 16th November at our normal venue, the Fairfield Bowling Club at 7.30pm.

This will be our last meeting for the year. Traditionally, we have not had a meeting in December due to Christmas presenting many members with other functions.

Our first meeting next year will be on Wednesday 18th January.

# Newsletter

This Newsletter concentrates on the successful Little Desert weekend held in early October.

This year each of the three states was represented among the thirty two people who attended.

Reports of the event start on page 6 and include one from one of the South Australians who took part.

The cover is from one of the trips.

Thank you to Ian Blainey, Graeme Mitchell and Rod Nicholas for the photos used in the reports.



*An early camper*

**The Jackaroo Club of Victoria**  
**Box 297, Fairfield 3078**

**[www.jackaroo4wdclub.org.au](http://www.jackaroo4wdclub.org.au)**

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# President's Report

Well, the wet weather is still affecting our activities. Many of the High Country tracks have had their opening delayed as access to many areas is restricted.

And, the parlous condition of many of our roads, presents hazards to travellers.

Nevertheless, our Tri-State committee are pressing on with their planning of trips and the miscellany associated with organising the event.

But they need some help from members. The next reconnaissance trip is on 25th to 27th November and I would urge you to try and attend it.

Our meeting next Wednesday will be our last for the year. However, the Christmas breakup at Clunes on the first weekend in December (2nd to 4th) will be a great event and an opportunity to catch up with each other and finish off the year.

Many of the Covid restrictions have been lifted, but please remember, it is still present in the community, so be vigilant.

We will continue to maintain a record of all attendees at Club events. I ask that anyone who contracts Covid at, or close to a Club activity, immediately inform our Secretary.

Finally, a reminder that we are always looking for contributions for the Newsletter and, especially, trips for next year.

Keep warm, dry and safe and I'll see you at the next Meeting. Failing that, at our Clunes breakup.

Rod



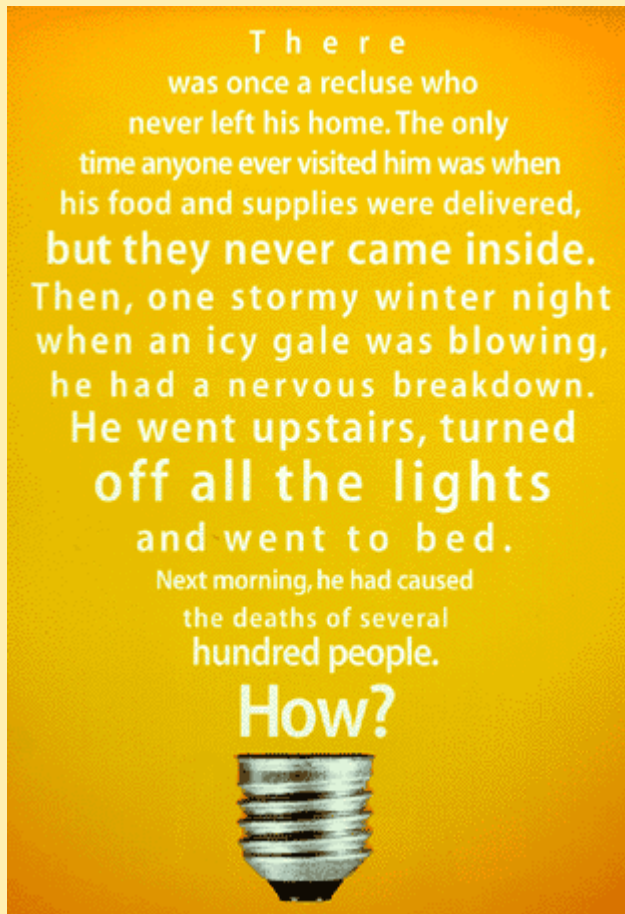
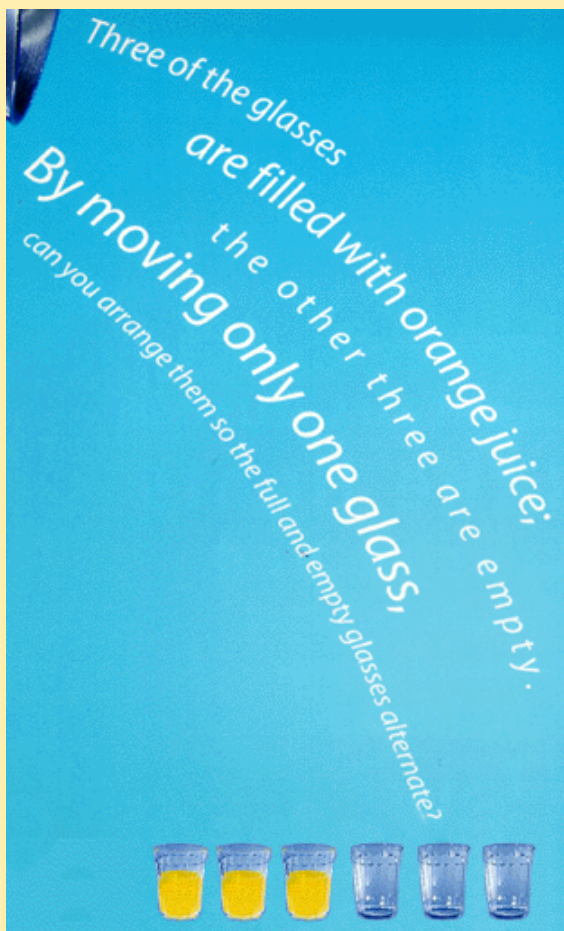
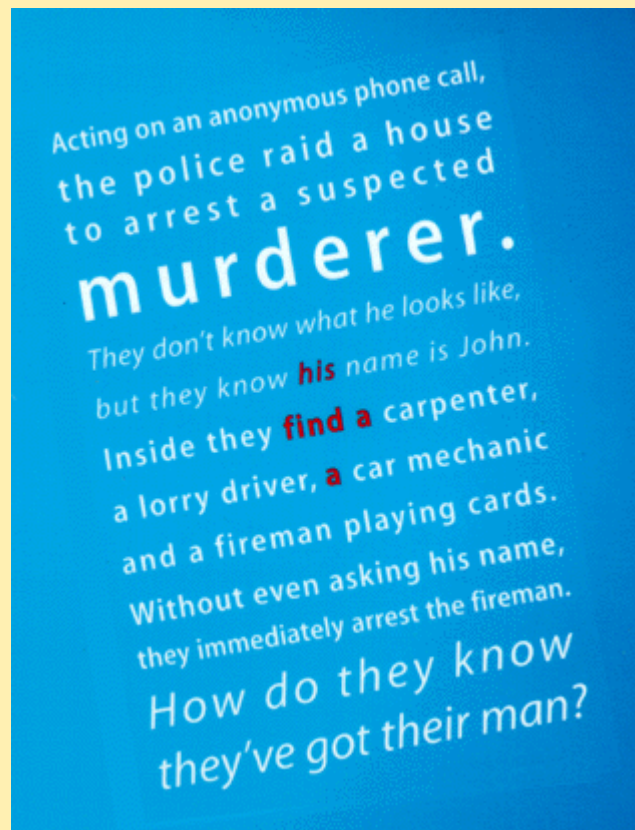
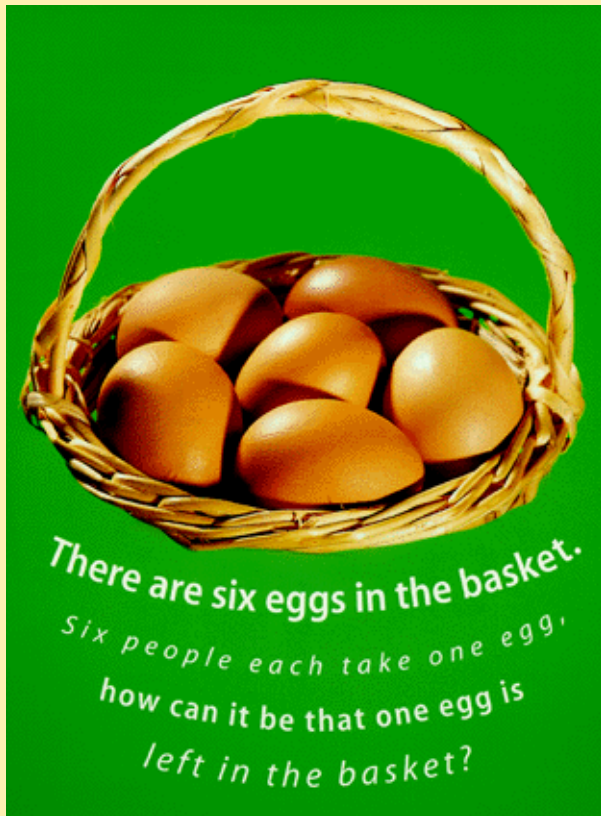
## Tyre Awareness

At our last meeting, Leigh Booth, spoke on the need to regularly check the condition of your tyres. In his illustrated talk, he showed examples of accidents, some fatal, caused by tyre failure.

The main points he emphasised were:

- Rotate all five tyres at each service
- Look for signs of stress - fine cracks in side walls and tread not in a straight line. Replace the tyre if present.
- Temporary tyre repairs are just that. Get fixed as soon as possible.
- Check the age of your tyres, particularly those over five years. The date of manufacture can be found on the wall of a tyre in a MMY format, e.g. 0622 would be June (06) 2022 (22).
- Fit a tyre monitor system, which will inform you if a tyre is losing pressure. The unit from Safety Dave was recommended, but others are available.

# How's Your Lateral Thinking?



Answers page 16



# Jackaroo 4WD Club

## Merchandise



**Polo Triton \$35**

Mens & Ladies Sizes



**Polo Charger \$35**

Mens & Ladies Sizes



**Polo Oceana \$35**

Ladies



**Chambrey Shirt \$40**

Mens & Ladies Sizes

long or short sleeve

### CONTACT

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All prices are subject to change as per suppliers pricing at time of order.

All clothing will include Club Logo on left breast.

Pockets if available with polos can be supplied, however, it will be the responsibility of the purchaser to arrange for sewing on.

Requests for other clothing brands, styles, ladies fits, heavy coats, hats and caps etc. will be considered pending availability, cost and approval.



**Charger Shirt \$40**

Mens short sleeves



**Half Zip Fleece  
Adult \$42**

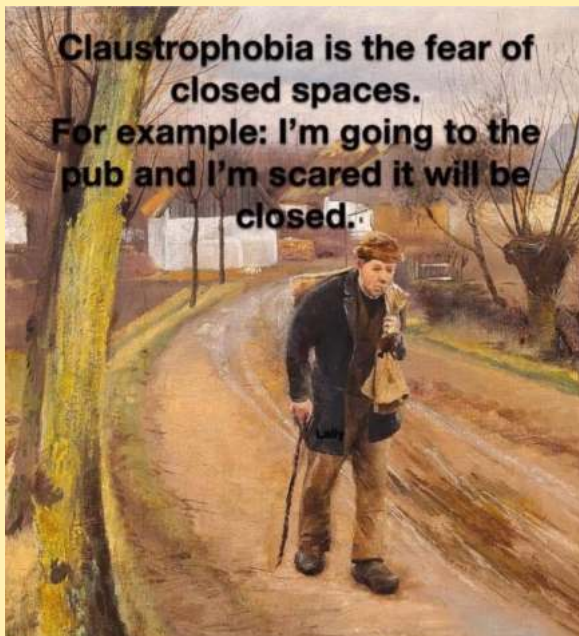
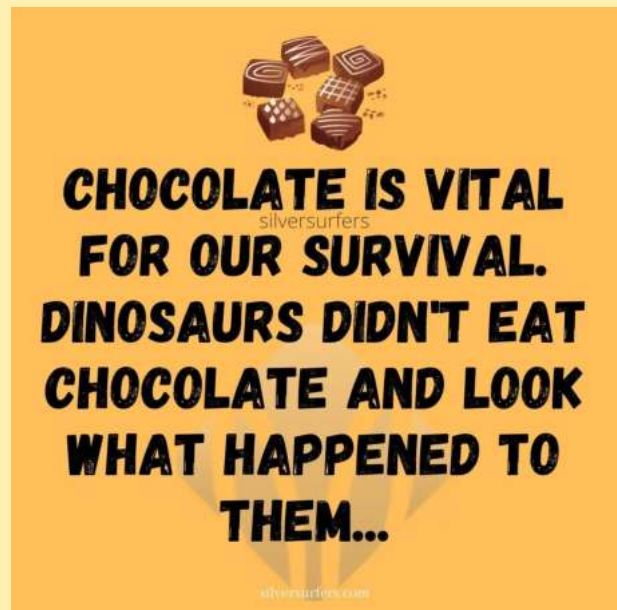
Graphite Marle



**Full Zip Hoodie Fleece  
Adult \$42**

Gun Metal







# Little Desert Weekend

## 30th September - 3rd October

### *Alan Dash reports:*

Since 1989, I have led trips into one of my favourite areas - the Little Desert.

Over the years, a template for the trip has emerged:

- A couple of weeks beforehand, recce the area for possible trips and problems
- Over the weekend, have excursions into different areas of the desert and surrounding areas
- Arrange a Saturday evening meal at a local establishment
- Try to make some new discoveries
- Above all, have fun and make it an enjoyable experience

This year we resurrected the event after an hiatus of two years due to the Covid restrictions and I believe achieved all these goals.

In attendance were two vehicles from NSW, eight from SA and nine from Vic. Each of the clubs minuted the event as a Club trip, thus covering "legals".

Of note among the attendees was Sue and Simon Smith (SA), who joined us direct from Geraldton W.A.

Les Warburton surprised us by arriving unannounced. We were delighted to see him, but Nature not necessarily.



After setting up his camp. A swarm of bees arrived and settled in a tree above his tent, forcing him to move.

The Weekly Times reported the area had 25mm of rain three weeks before our weekend. Two weeks before

another 25mm and the week prior, a miserly 5mm.

Fortunately, the low rainfall and sun meant we could select sand entry into the desert for our trips, rather than using the black top.

The sun also meant that shorts needed to be purchased locally to improve our suntans.

The weekend began with the usual safety briefing covering Covid protocols, emergency procedures for fire and first aid and a reminder on convoy rules.

There were defibrillators in camp and we treated one bee sting and one bull ant bite over the weekend.

On Saturday three trips were offered and all were well attended.



The first trip had a World War II theme and included a visit to the Nhill airport and its display of the role it played in training aircrew during the war.

A drive into the Desert to view the ruins of the practice bombing range followed.

The second trip went into the Desert to Broughton's Waterhole and Mt Turner.

The third trip was again into the Desert to Moree Reserve, then on the Mt Moffat. A road closure curtailed part of that trip.

Saturday evening, thirty attendees filed into Bordertown's Woolshed Inn for dinner. A great get together with lots of chatter through the night.



On Sunday morning, a tour of the grand, historic Serviceton railway station was offered. Otherwise, it was a free day for people to do what they wanted.

Simon Smith led a group of South Australians into the Desert for some sand driving.

Harry and Jill went via Mundulla to have lunch at the Farmers Leap winery. They reported it was a great experience and suggested it could be considered as a trip for next year,

Not such a great experience though, was the nearby Orchid Walk. While they did find some nice orchids, Jill stepped on a bull ant nest and suffered a nasty bite, which later required a visit to the medical centre in Dimboola.

Others ventured into Bordertown to see the photo exhibition and Bob Hawke display at the Information Centre. Alas, they found it was closed.

Our NSW guests wanted a designated driver that evening to take them into Worsley to view the NRL Grand Final.

Of course, I volunteered.

I was pleasantly surprised to find the hotel had been upgraded and the meals were fantastic. Unfortunately, they can only cater for small numbers.

The boys were happy as their team, Penrith, won.

Orchid numbers were down due to the cool, wet weather and lack of sunshine. Those we saw and photographed were sun orchids (*thelymitra* spp), spider orchids (*caladenia* spp), greenhoods (*pterostylis* spp) and pink fingers (*Caledonia earren*) among others.

On the previous Friday, Harry and Jill found lots of orchids and wildflowers at the Billy Ho Nature Walk. Glenda and Rick also found an abundance at Moree Reserve.

I heard that Bronze Wing Pigeons were prolific due to the Wallowa Wattle (*acacia calimifolia*) producing lots of seed over the last couple of years. The vivid yellow was photogenic.

On a trip to Mundulla, Ian and I were shocked to witness a driver, sick of waiting at the red flashing lights at a level crossing, decide to go through the crossing. A fast moving train missed the foolish driver by a few seconds.

Thank you to all who attended. A special thank you to Ian Blainey and Graeme Mitchell who helped with pre-tripping and leading trips over the weekend.

The Serviceton Recreation Reserve has been booked for next year. So note your diaries.

SA has promised a trip into the Big Desert and deep, big sand dunes on the Milmed Track.

They hope to see Victoria's answer to Ayers Rock (Uluru).



# Little Desert Report

## South Australian Version

### *Alan Pickering reports:*

Traditionally, the Jackaroo Club of Victoria run a trip over the first week-end in October every year, to visit the Little Desert National Park and surrounding area.

The wildflowers at this time are usually at their best. Members of the NSW Jackaroo Club and the SA 4WD & Touring Club are always invited to come along too.

With Covid-19 travel restrictions removed at last, this trip was the first return to the Little Desert since 2019.

Thirty two people in seventeen vehicles took part in the weekend's activities.

The following members from the SA 4WD & Touring Club attended:

Brian Grace and Zarina  
Simon and Sue Smith  
Glyn and Heather Wingard  
David Dunkley and Julianne  
Alan Pickering and Alyson  
Trev and Andrena Moore  
Janet and Roger Hall

The Serviceton Recreation Reserve,

located one and half kilometres south of Serviceton, was where we camped.

There are eight powered sites in the main area, with another two general power outlets accessible from the amenities block and water pump.

As it was a base camp, people could arrive and leave on the days that suited them. Some early birds arrived on the Thursday and a few late leavers stayed until Tuesday.

Four trips were on offer, namely:

1. Nhill Historic tour
2. Bordertown Highlights
3. Kaniva Silo Art
4. Mt Moffat area

There was also a tour of the Serviceton railway station on the Sunday.

Given the number of vehicles involved, people were rotated through the trips, allowing six vehicles in any one convoy.

It was all very free and easy, with individuals able to choose what they wanted to do and when.

This made a nice change from normal



tours, where you are on the road most days travelling on an itinerary.

Happy Hours were held around a campfire on all nights, except Saturday when we had a group dinner at the Woolshed Inn in Bordertown.



The sunsets were stunning, keeping some of us at the campfire well into the gloaming.

Weatherwise, there was no rain and the days just got better and better. The early days of overcast cloud improved to blue skies and plenty of sunshine.

The drives were pretty, with bright yellow canola crops interspersed with green wheat and darker green broad beans.

We were told, this area of Victoria grows the bulk of the broad beans grown in Australia.



It's been such a wet year, the wheat crop had to be crop dusted for rust. On Saturday, we were treated to a display of low flying by a crop duster in the fields around the campsite.

Roger Hall explained, GPS guidance enables crop dusting to be perfectly applied these days.

The wet, cold year also meant the wildflowers, especially the orchids, were not yet in abundance.

Our Victorian friends, who have been regular attendees on these weekends for thirty years, were able to point out:

- Purple waxlip orchids
- Fire orchids (or were they Running Postman)
- Greenhood orchids
- Spider orchids
- Donkey orchids

Fringe Myrtle was in abundance in most areas, while south of Mt Moffat, there was Pink Heath.

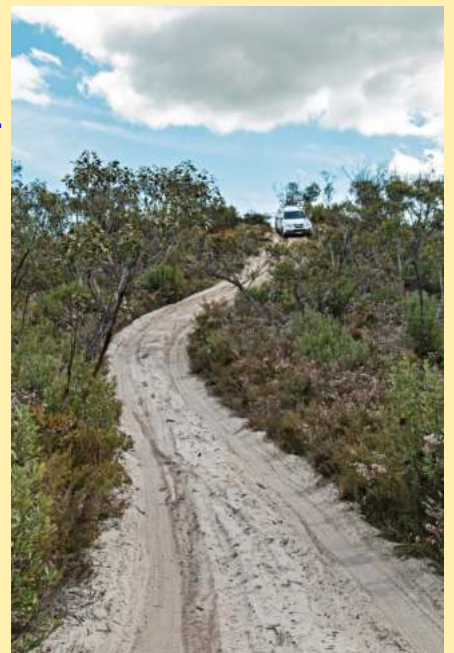
In terms of four wheel driving, the sand was generally firm, with some sections of the tracks holding water in mud holes.

Once we determined the ground was firm at the bottom of these holes, we started to drive straight through, albeit with a little caution. *(Note: I am speaking for myself here)*

Mt Moffat was a highlight. Its summit was a good lunch spot. It provided 360° views over the never ending mallee scrub and in the sun, was perfect.

The steep sand track off the top, down to the floor of the park, provided a bit of a challenge for drivers.

At the other end of the scale, height wise, was Broughton's Waterhole, located just off the





## **McDonald Highway.**

**This was a delightful camp area around a large waterhole, about the size of a football oval. Perfect for a break after we had climbed the nearby Mt Turner.**

**As previously stated, the program was free and easy.**



**On Sunday afternoon, after a visit to the Serviceton railway station, Alyson and I made our way to Nhill to visit the ex-RAAF base, which is only open on Sundays.**



**After a guided tour of the hangar and its three planes, many photographs and displays, we left and crossed the highway to find the target bombing range.**

**We completed a round trip with a drive through the Park and back roads to camp.**

**While we did our trip, others ventured back to Mt Moffat to play in the sand and mudholes.**



**The Recreation Reserve is no longer used for football, or cricket. However its facilities are available in the old pavilion for use by campers.**

**Although the showers and toilets are basic, they are well maintained and kept to a high standard by a shrinking band of local helpers.**

**While we were there, the toilets and showers were refreshed daily. A big thank you to these volunteers.**

**In summary, the weekend was a great little break. Everyone was in good spirits, with much friendliness within the whole group.**

**The weather was good to superb and the trips interesting and enjoyable.**

**Full marks to Alan Dash and the Jackaroo Club of Victoria for making all the arrangements and to everyone who participated so well.**



# Broughton's Waterhole Trip

## Saturday 1st October

*Graeme Mitchell reports:*

### *Participants:*

Graeme & Gayle Mitchell (Trip Leaders)  
Rod & Margaret Nicholas  
Alan & Alyson Pickering  
Graeme & Monica Thornton  
Trevor & Andrena Moore

With all at the departure point, we had a quick pre-trip briefing and radio check, then headed off.



Our first destination was Kaniva to show off the highlights of the town, including the corner shop, the model sheep "mowing" the lawns and the spectacular painted silo.

Actually, we had made a wrong turn and did not want to admit it!



Soon we were back on track and heading down South Serviceton Road to Lillimur Road.

After a few kilometres, it was time for a driver challenge. The challenge was to see if everyone could do a three point turn on a narrow road.

No problems. Everyone completed the exercise and we were on our way again. (We had actually missed a turn, but did not want to admit it!)

A short distance down Leeor Road, we arrived at our morning tea stop, a nice picnic area where we had been told there were lots of wildflowers.

After a cuppa, everyone headed off to find orchids. After a long search, none were found.

As I thought I may have got the wrong information, I made a call to Rick. He told me the flowers were near the entry and we had driven past them.

So back to the vehicles and about one hundred metres back along the track, we found lots of flowers. I don't know how I could have missed them. There were large patches of Donkey





orchids, Running Postman and quite a few other flowers.

Back on the road, we headed south along Tallageira Track, then turned right into Elliots Track.



Here there were scattered patches of various flowers, so we stopped at the intersection with Mt Moffat Track to have a wander around.

On then to Mt Moffat and our lunch stop. Although only 135 metres high, it offers great 360° views.

This was a great spot to stop for lunch -



no wind, a great view and the sun was shining.

The descent on the east side was steep and sandy, but proved no problems.

Shortly after we turned on to Boundary Track. As we travelled along the track, kangaroos and emus darted across in front of us. Gayle called the ones from the left, while I watched out to my right. We had some close calls.

One emu misjudged its jump and hit the fence square on. There was lots of kicking and feathers flying, before it got free and fled to the safety of the thick scrub.

More wild life as we travelled along Lillimur Track. We came across an echidna waddling down the track. When he spotted us, he scurried off to safety.

We stopped at Lillimur South to regroup. At this point, the convoy broke up. Some headed in to Kaniva, while the rest of us headed back to camp.

Our trip ended mid-afternoon, so we had a chance to relax before going into Bordertown for dinner.





# Oh ...







# **Driver Training 2022**

**Due to the closure of the Werribee training ground, our driver training courses have had to be rearranged.**

**Members who wish to do the Driver Training Course in future, will need to register with the Training Course Co-Ordinator (Graeme Mitchell) and when we have three or four registered, course dates will be arranged to suit those involved.**

**The theory will be held in Bundoora and the practical driving at the Lerderderg 4WD park.**

**Currently, two members have registered for the course. If you would like to do the course, please contact Graeme Mitchell on 0190 119 840**

# A word about forthcoming trips ...

## Tri-State Exploratory Trip

25th - 27th November

The Tri-State we are arranging for next Easter is fast approaching and there is still some work to be done. The Organising Committee needs your help.

This weekend will be the last for this year and with Christmas and New Year holidays approaching, time is running out.

There are still some trips which need to be pre-tripped, so if you can come down and assist it would be greatly appreciated.

## Christmas Party at Clunes

2nd to 4th December

The Club breakup is once again to be held at Clunes on the first weekend in December.

The venue once again will be the Clunes Showgrounds. There are powered sites available and we believe there is a new amenities block.

Attendees can come at any time and you are welcome to come up for a day if you wish. Some people will be arriving on Friday and others through the weekend.

On Saturday, Harry Richards is running a trip to the west of Ballarat, taking in old goldfields and historic sites. The trip will leave the camp at 10.00am and return around 4.00pm. Take a picnic lunch with you.

Saturday evening there will be a BBQ. The Club will provide salads and sweets, but we ask you to BYO meat and drink.

On Sunday morning there will be a farmers market in the main street. We will also be checking the health of the tree planting we did a couple of years ago.

All in all, it should be a great weekend.

**DOES ANYONE KNOW  
WHICH PAGE OF THE  
BIBLE EXPLAINS HOW TO  
TURN WATER INTO WINE?  
ASKING FOR A FRIEND.**

### Lateral Thinking Test

1. The last person took the basket with the egg in it
2. All the other card players were women
3. Pour the juice from the second glass into the fifth glass
4. The recluse was a lighthouse keeper

How was your lateral thinking?





# Tri-State Exploratory Trip

25th to 27th November 2022

Explore sites and venues for possible setting of Tri-State 2023.

**Meeting Place & Time:** Twin City Archery Club, Toners Lane Morwell at 10.00 am

**Convoy Limit:** No limit      **Approximate Distance:** 300kms round trip

**Fuel:** Full tank ex Melbourne. Fuel available at Moe

**Trip Standard if Dry:** Easy      **If Wet:** Easy

**Trip Leader:** John Dudley 0412 948 361 or [rjdudley@bigpond.com](mailto:rjdudley@bigpond.com)

**Special Requirements:**

**Registered participants:**



# Christmas Party at Clunes

Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th December

A weekend to celebrate the upcoming Christmas festivities with fellow members and families. Early notice to mark your diaries. Further details closer to the event.

**Meeting Place & Time:** Clunes Showgrounds any time after 12.00 midday

**Convoy Limit:** No limit      **Approximate Distance:** 120kms ex Melbourne

**Fuel:** Full tank ex Melbourne. Fuel available at Clunes

**Trip Standard if Dry:** Social      **If Wet:** Social

**Trip Leader:** Alan Dash 0407 568 700

**Special Requirements:** To be advised

**Registered participants:**



# Tail End ...

## Doctors ...



"My doctor told me to avoid any unnecessary stress, so I didn't open his bill."

