

# **GREATER WESTERN 4X4 CLUB**

## ***Melbourne Cup Weekend East Gippsland High Country Trip***

***Friday 2nd (evening) to Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018***

**This will be a roaming camp so tents and swags only  
(No Trailers or Caravans)**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- The Victorian High Country area has some great 4WDing in the fantastic surrounding Mountain Ranges with views that will take your heart away.  
The purpose of this trip is to take in six of the well know steep (but not extreme) tracks in Victoria while we transverse the picturesque and historic mountain ranges making up part of the Alpine National Park  
The trip plan is to meet up Friday night & camp at Cheynes Bridge (south of Licola) for the night and move on into the high country first thing Saturday morning. If you wish to come up Saturday morning, be aware that I wish to pull out of camp by 9:00am on Saturday.  
We will take in the Howitt High plains before descending into the historic Wonnangatta Valley. We will then head for (Track No.1) Hearn Spur and making our way to (Track No.2) Station Track and into Pioneer Race Course. From here we will skirt historic Talbotville and head towards our next track (Track No.3) Collingwood Spur. From this point the plan will head into Dargo (fuel up if needed) then head back into the mountains and stop at the historic Grant town site & cemetery before heading back to Talbotville via (Track No.4) Bulltown Spur and onto Crooked River Track (twenty three river crossings on this track). Leaving Talbotville, we will descend down (Track No. 5) Eaglevale Track. After some driving will put us at the base of (Track 6) Billy Goat Track. We will take in the Pinnacles Tower and make our way home via Licola.
- Camp sites will be selected each day based on how far we travel.
- Maps being used for this trip are Rooftop's Dargo – Wonnangatta & Jamieson – Licola as well as Hema's East Gippsland map.
- If you wish to attend the Trip, but may need to leave the Trip early, please advise the Trip Leader prior to the trip so that the Trip Leader can plan for your safe exit. Ideally, you should be registered for the whole event.
- There are drop toilets at different spots along the way including Dargo but, it would be advisable to bring a shovel to bury any toilet waste, which includes toilet paper, should you need to during the remainder of the day – Parks & DSE Policy clearly states that toilet waste must be buried in a 15cm deep hole, which is to be at least 100 metres away from watercourses and campsites.
- Passengers are welcome in Members' vehicles.
- As we will be traveling on some very steep tracks and recoveries maybe required, I as that no alcohol be consumed on the driving components of the trip.
- Trekking is expected to commence at 9:00am on the Saturday morning from the campsite at Cheynes Bridge near Licola. This will also be our sign on point. The trip is expected to conclude approximately 5:00pm Tuesday at Licola.

### **MEETING PLACE:**

The meeting place will be Cheynes Bridge is approx. 25 - 30km south of Licola on the Licola Rd

### **MEETING TIME:**

The Sign on time will be 9:00am Saturday Morning. **(out of respect for other members, please DO NOT be late)**

### **APPROXIMATE DISTANCE:**

650km approximately (including tracks) From Melbourne back to Melbourne

**FUEL:**

Full Tank from Melbourne, and a top up at Traralgon (cheaper fuel) before heading into the mountains. I recommend that we top up at Licola (should not take much but is expensive hence filling up at Traralgon) Licola is the last fuel stop until Dargo. It is recommended that you bring extra fuel.

**CONVOY LIMIT:**

10 Vehicles, which includes the Trip Leader and Tail End Charlie.

**TRIP STANDARD:**

**Hard (But most of the tracks will be medium)** As the six tracks are steep, I've had to make this rated hard.(wet weather can make this trip even harder). Low range will be needed on most of the tracks and snatch strap and/or winch recovery can be expected. Please be aware that on any off road four wheel drive trip, vehicle damage may occur.

**RECOVERY EQUIPMENT:**

The minimum requirement is- A Winch (if you don't have one, contact the trip leader), one Snatch Strap rated 8,000kgs minimum (for this Trip, an extra Snatch Strap would be useful if you have one, but not essential), 2 Bow Shackles rated 3.25 and 4.75 Tonne each, a Winch Dampener and Riggers Gloves (a full recovery kit is preferable and more appropriate, but not essential). Riggers Gloves must be worn when dealing with recovery equipment (especially when winching) or for track clearing if encountered. Although not essential, a Winch Extension Strap is recommended if you have one. Please ensure you have your equipment with you and that it is in very good condition.

**VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT:**

Your vehicle must be Roadworthy and appropriately set up for the trip **(if you know of any mechanical or maintenance issues with your vehicle, you must have these fully resolved/rectified before the Trip)**. Appropriate or Acceptable front and rear recovery points, for snatch strapping or winching, are essential. Due to the terrain of the area, a minimum of All Terrain Tyres with very good tread depth is required, although for Hard Tracks, Mud Terrain tyres are preferred. Tyres on or very close to roadworthy are not acceptable. Onboard UHF Radio, basic vehicle spares and tools, First Aid Kit and Fire Extinguisher.

**FOOD AND GENERAL PROVISIONS:**

You need to be fully self-sufficient and bring enough Food, Water and Snacks for all persons in your vehicle for Morning Tea, Lunch and Afternoon Tea. You also need to bring sufficient Water for every person in your vehicle. Weather can be very unpredictable in the mountains so please bring a warm article of clothing, like a jacket or coat, to protect you from the cold.

**EMERGENCY CONTACT / PERSONAL DETAILS:**

**Each driver must bring three (3) sealed envelopes (with your name and vehicle on the front) containing completed Emergency Contact / Personal Details forms for all persons travelling in the vehicle. Please complete these prior to leaving home.** You should retain one envelope in the vehicle glove box or centre console and provide two envelopes to the Trip Leader at Sign On, which will be returned to you at the end of the trip.

**TRIP REGISTRATION:**

To register for the Trip, please contact the Trip Leader directly per the details below.

**EVENT ORGANISER/TRIP LEADER:**

**Jim Mizzi**

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**Email:** jim\_mizzi@bigpond.com