



Newsletter No. 37 April 2015

What have we been up to?

Well, it might be easy to list what we haven't been doing to be honest. I can't believe it is already April and that 6 months has passed since my last Newsletter. Ever since I retired from my Govt job, I've been busier than ever! So let's get on with what's gone on, what's going on and what's planned to go on.

Vic's 200 series

A quote from last Newsletter.

"As for the suspension? Well it is an ongoing saga, I had a long talk to my old mate Ken O'Keefe from Ultimate Suspension and he reckons he has all the gear to make it work better for me". Well, Ken has worked his magic on the 200 and finally it is much improved. Ken's setup at Minto is quite amazing, he has a simple pad like machine that he puts the 4wdrive on and from this he can tell you how much toe in and toe out you have, which shocks are working and which are not, what brake bias you have and how much weight is on each wheel. As expected my 200 failed in a few areas and in its relatively unloaded state it weighed over 3.4 tonne.

Now remember you are not supposed to exceed your GVM, which for the 200 is 3330 kgs, so just with all the accessories fitted my 200 is already over GVM. What does this mean, well in theory my insurance could be void and my rego cancelled. I have had a GVM upgrade performed and its new GVM is now 3800kgs. My problem is when loaded with all my camping gear, recovery gear and food etc for a big trip the Cruiser weighs around 4000kgs. The nett result is even with the GVM upgrade the suspension was not handling the weight of the vehicle very well.

The original supplier of the GVM upgrade suspension replaced the rear springs with an even stiffer spring and this overcame the sagging issues I was having. But the rolling effect of the suspension was still there and the axle tramp on sand was abysmal. The rear shocks were replaced with Bilstein shocks to address this, it helped but still wasn't perfect. I fitted air bags, not much difference. So off to Ultimate suspension I went.

Ken suggested a lot of changes, this is what he did, he re-valved the front shocks and replaced the rear shocks with hand built coil over shocks, he also replaced the front and rear sway bars with stiffer units and fitted a progressive bump stop in the rear. The 200 was loaded with 400kgs to bring it up to my normal load weight and the suspension designed for this kind of load. There were several visits to the wheel alignment shop to get everything right.



The big question is of course, did it make a difference. The 200 is now much stiffer in the suspension and possibly a little too stiff, it seems to feel small undulations unduly harshly but for me on the longer undulations the vehicle still feels soft. I had Brian

Sommerville drive the 200 and he agreed it was very odd feeling initially hard and then soft. The big problem I am finding now is that the VSC is over reacting and coming into play when you would not expect it.

I have spoken to Ken about this and he is happy to fit slightly softer sway bars. He suggested that a Toyota dealer could re-map the VSC to adjust it to the new suspension settings but on enquiring with my local Toyota dealer (Bill Buckle) I received a blank stare and "that can't be done".

So, its better but still not perfect, total cost so far just on suspension has been over \$10,000 so that makes me rather unhappy and even more confused as to what to recommend to fellow 200 series drivers. I would be very keen to get feedback from other 200 series owners that have upgraded their suspension and hear what you think, is it just me, or is this a common problem?

I have been very impressed with Ultimate Suspensions attention to detail and Alex recently took his 79series to them and was very happy with the work they did, they even found the source of a noise that no-one else could track down.

On another note with the 200, I am rather appalled at its fuel efficiency. The Taipan exhaust and chip fitted to it has helped on the highway for sure and every now and then I achieve 14L/100k's which is ok given the size and weight of the Cruiser. But on my recent high country trip where a lot of time was spent in low range over 400k's it achieved an appalling 28 litres per 100k's, and no, I'm not driving it hard at all, just plodding along in low second or first depending on the terrain. I'm keen to get feedback from other 200 series owners on their fuel consumption also and any tricks you have found to save fuel?

A camp oven cook off

Back in November we had our camp oven cooking course at our driver training centre.

We did pick a rather hot day to have a big fire pit, no fire bans but the boys who worked on keeping the coals going (Ian Sheppard and Wayne Brady) certainly earned their money. In the meantime, Jenny showed everyone how to make camp oven pizzas for lunch, damper and an incredible roast dinner for the evening meal, at one stage we had 11 camp ovens going full steam in the fire pit.



Maria showing off her beautifully cooked camp roast.

We have another of these great courses on 30 May and need a few more bookings to make it happen, so if you ever wondered what you can cook in a camp oven and how to get the best results from it, come and join us, it will be cooler in May too, so all the more reason to have a roaring camp fire all day.



11 camp ovens all cooking up a storm

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High Country trips galore

Over the November, December and January/February period we had more high country trips than you could poke a stick at. To say these trips were the flavour of the month/s was a real understatement. Wayne Desmond led two trips back to back in late November, then this was followed up Dave Fullerton leading a camp trailer friendly trip between Christmas and New Year, but this trip was quickly booked out so we put a second trip on led by Greg Dickinson (Greg's first trip with us was as a customer in the high country about 24 years ago!) Dave backed up again after the camper trailer trip to lead another 7 day high country trip in early January whilst Wayne D was back down there with our 4 day Snowy Mtns trip.

Then in February Dave F took another group of camper trailers through the magic of the high country.



We had our own adventure high country trip, we had to clear this tree before proceeding.

While this was going on, the Adventure Film Festival kicked off in Bright and I was joined by three adventurous clients, our film crew from Melbourne and my sister Irene and her partner Dave as we enjoyed the many great films and presenters and then took off on our own adventure film trip. We explored a few tracks/locations that we normally visit in the high country such as Wonnangatta Valley, Howitt Hut and Dargo but we also included some new and unseen

tracks. The film crew were there to record our adventures and no doubt we will be seeing this footage on a DVD and on TV later this year.

We had a great time doing these new tracks, and found some really challenging trails. I had done the Butcher Country track about 20 years ago and wanted to go back down (and up it) once more. But after an hour of picking our way through deep bog holes and rock strewn rutted tracks, we met another group coming up the hill. On their advice and given the time of day (mid afternoon) we decided to turn back. This turned out for the better as we found a great camp site along the Howitt Plains road. We then tackled the beautiful Mt Wellington Track in overcast weather which created some beautiful scenes across the cloud covered mountains, take a look at the photos I have attached to this newsletter.

We then had a good camp at Horseyard Flat and went down the infamous Billy Goat Bluff track which has been near impassable of late (going up). We then found this amazing restored hut from the early pioneering days before tackling Eaglevale, Cynthia, Conway and Randalls Tracks. All great, steep tracks. We had an overnight stop in accommodation in Dargo and the next day tackled a track I've wanted to do for over 20 years, the Haunted Stream Track. this was a real challenge, and it took us 5 hours to drive just 17 kilometres. Wait until you see the DVD!



I even got to use my new winch at one stage

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We had planned to exit the high country via Jacksons Crossing on the Snowy river and along the Deddick Trail, but the Snowy was in flood after one huge storm that had hit the area a few days earlier, in fact as we passed McKillops Bridge, we were amazed to see the large amount of damage caused by floods that had washed down from the mountains, carving out several creek beds along the way, the road we were on had only just been reopened the day before, the forces of nature are quite amazing. So we had definitely had our own Adventure film trek. I plan to run a similar trip next year in conjunction with the Adventure Film Festival in Bright once again.

4WD training

We have been very busy since the last Newsletter with lots of bookings for our superb 4wd courses and we continue to be asked by the Aust Federal Police and the Defence Department to provide training for their personnel. In November, we had so many bookings for our Advanced 4wd course that we had to run two courses simultaneously, the beauty of our magnificent 4wd training centre is that it easily allows this duplication of training groups to occur.



Mud driving techniques are important for our ADF personnel

Another feather in our caps with the training centre is that the State Emergency Services are now using it for the training of their personnel and we recently had them attend

and received an extremely complimentary email from them in regard to the facility and the assistance offered by our staff.



At the Advanced course we include a lot of hands on vehicle recovery

Vic's on radio 2GB

Last Newsletter I announced that I had a segment on radio 2GB's new Caravan, Camping and 4WD show that was on air on Saturday afternoons. This show has gone so well that it was increased from its one hour format to a two hour format and over the past 26 weeks or so I've been giving my weekly track talk segment. They are even allowing me up to 12 minutes air time and I'm told the segment I do is very popular, so that is a big winner for everyone.

Unfortunately with the footy season returning the show was destined to end, but instead they decided to keep it on. Problem is it is now live to air on Saturday night between 10pm and midnight. Now, I agree, who listens to the radio at that time? But I'm keeping up my track talk segment and having loads of fun with the two hosts the Duck and Chris Bowen.

The best part is the show is on the 2GB podcasts and you can listen to it anytime you want via the 2GB website.

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Happy listeners on our recent 2GB 4wd trek

Just prior to the start of the footy season we did a live broadcast from Coldy's 4wd store at Windsor and then camped out with about 30 listeners on the Hawkesbury River, then on Sunday I got to lead them and the radio hosts on a day trip to one of my favourite locations overlooking the Wolgan Valley (we go there on our Cliffs and Canyons Tour). Everyone had a great time and it looks like we will be doing more of these listener trips in the future. Tune into the show or listen to the podcast for more details. There is even talk of a live broadcast from our training centre at Braidwood.

And a TV show

Also, the first season of the Off Road Adventure show on Channel 10 has now concluded and was so successful that a second season is now being filmed. GDT is again sponsoring a segment in the show, keep an eye out for re-runs on the first season and the second season will go to air around July, I believe.

The boys from the show joined me in November for a segment on the tracks around Braidwood, they even made me drive a Izuzu Mux towing a trailer! I was pretty impressed with the Mux, a nice little diesel motor that ran well and was easy to drive.

Tony's new job with GDT

As you may recall I offered Tony Davys from New Zealand a full time role with

GDT last year, He took up that offer and moved his whole family to Braidwood in January. They are renting a home in town and Tony has been very busy caretaking the training centre and assisting with many of the training courses. From all accounts, he loves the work, Helen and their twin boys have settled into to Braidwood life well and hopefully this will be a permanent move for them. Tony has certainly got the training centre looking good, mowing lawns, clearing some of the undergrowth and generally keeping the place ship shape, certainly makes it a lot easier for me. We have some more big plans for the centre and hope to work on these over the coming months.



Tony wants me to buy him one of these to help keep the tracks looking good at the training centre, I've told him "you're dreaming bro!"

Of course, part of Tony's job description is to lead several 4wd trips too and this kicks off in July with the Kimberley tour followed by the Arnhem Land trip and then the Flinders trip, so he will certainly get to see a lot of Australia.

Tony needed a good 4wd to do all this work, so during December I set to looking for one and low and behold my mechanic at Artarmon Automotive had one for sale. Well, Chris owned a 100 series turbo diesel and whilst he may not have known it was for sale, I talked him into selling it to me.

This was a great 4wdrive (don't tell Chris) not only was it owned by my mechanic, but

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its previous owner to Chris was one of my customers, so it had been set up with all the right gear and properly cared for. Given my issues with my 200 series, I was tempted to keep the 100 and give Tony the 200!



Tony's amazing 100 series

Anyway, we had new tyres fitted, Coopers of course, had the signage done similar to the 200 which looks just great and had the 100 series coated in Ozicozi to keep it looking good. A big thanks to Brad Bell at Outback Signs who went beyond the call of duty to get the signage done and Andrew Jackson at Ozicozi who worked on the Cruiser from 2am in the morning as he was due to go into hospital for a knee operation the next day. (All of this took place just prior to Christmas and we all know how busy that time of year can be everyone).



This is the real man responsible for maintaining and building all our tracks and obstacles at the training centre, please meet Patrick Byrnes, Bobcat driver extraordinaire.

New Zealand 4wd tour AMAZING!

I have literally just returned from our New Zealand 4wd trip. Julie and I had a week's holiday in the Bay of Islands prior to the trip. What a beautiful location this is, but we had cyclone Pam pass by just off the coast whilst there so it was a bit blowy and wet on a couple of days. We even managed to hire a 4wdrive for a day and drive 90 mile beach on the top end of NZ. A bit of a misnomer actually as the beach is only 70 k's long. Access to the beach is really weird, you actually drive down a running creek bed for 3 kilometres and the creek is all sand. Now if we did that in Oz, I'm sure we would get bogged straight away, oh yes, we didn't even have to drop our tyre pressures, the sand is so hard!

On the beach we were driving at 80kph at some points and had no problems with traction at any time. Still a great experience but has nothing on our Stockton Beach trips (next one is on 7 June).



Driving down the creek bed to access 90 mile beach on the top of the Nth Island in NZ

We then drove down to NZ's beautiful Kauri forests and found a beautiful wood craft centre, before we knew it, Julie was taken with a lovely wooden coffee table. It turns out this wood comes from Kauri trees that were knocked down by giant Tsunami waves over 30,000 years ago, dumped in a sludgy swamp and buried ever since. Farmers are now able to dig up these 30,000 year old logs and harvest them for their beautiful timber. We are anxiously awaiting

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the arrival of our sparkling coffee table by boat from NZ.

We then flew to Christchurch and met all 7 of our couples and our NZ tour guide Steve Beston. The next 7 days we explored some of the best 4wd tracks that NZ has to offer. I can't really put into words just how fantastic this trip is, and I know it costs a lot of money, but it does include hire of your 4wdrive for 10 days, dinner every night, accommodation every night and access into properties that no-one else can get to and the scenery is simply the best I have seen anywhere.

After the 4wdrive section we spent a couple of days in Queenstown and Julie and I did the Shotover Jet boat ride, which proves these guys are mad (and us too!) Others did tandem paragliding off Coronet Peak, I'm going to have a go at that next year and then we went to the Highlands Motor Sport Park at nearby Cromwell where some went for hot laps in a Porsche GT3 and I got to drive a Radical sports car which was... well... radical! (And bloody scary to be honest).

Our NZ tour guide is working on more new tracks for next year's trip so we will probably include a couple of the most outstanding tracks from this year plus the new Fiordland tracks for next year, the trip will be on again late March 2016, I can highly recommend it.

Easter trips

Just last weekend now, we had a day trip scheduled for Sunday up to the Kowmung River area, but with all the rain on Saturday and rising river levels we had to cancel it. But we also had a 4 day Snowy Mtns trip going ahead and although we had to change our route a little due to some wet tracks everyone had a great time. Tony and his family went along to learn from the old master, Wayne Desmond and Tony has been regaling me with stories of howling dingos (or wild dogs) and snorting brumbies in their camp, I think he was suitably impressed

with his first Aust high country trip, he agrees our high country is very different to that found in NZ, apparently there are no weird noises that go bump in the night in NZ!

What's coming up

As usual we have a lot on with everything from photo courses and survival workshops to trips and 4wd shows, so here is a quick breakdown on how you can spend some more time doing what you really love.

It's showtime!

The huge Rosehill Caravan and Camping Supershow kicks off this weekend running from 11 -19 April at Rosehill Gardens. If you are in the market for an off road trailer then this show is a must visit with virtually every manufacturer on display. If you are after a caravan, no show has more vans on display than this one. If you want info on where to go and what to see around this great country then you will be enthralled by the number of exhibitors that can satisfy this need. If you are after some camping gear, its all at the show with some great specials and if you want to pick up our latest brochure (yes I have a new one), have a yarn to me about my 200 series or chin wag about a trip, then we will be there too.



Look for this display at the Rosehill show and say hi!

This year we have double the space in the same location as last year (level 2 of the JR Fleming pavilion) so look for our giant

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mural of Big Red and say hello. As usual we will have some great show specials too, so it is a good opportunity to book a trip or 4wd course and save some cash. I'll also have our 2013 NZ 4wd DVD at the show, first visitor to our stand to mention this newsletter will get one free.

Photo Workshop 25-26 April

I'm running another of my popular photo workshop/tours over the Anzac weekend. If you have a digital SLR camera and would like to learn how to use all the settings other than the auto setting I can help you.



Not only is the weekend about learning your camera but we will travel through some rather special 4wd locations where we can practise all the new tips in situation. We will stop overnight at my 4wd training centre so you have all the comforts of home too. This also gives us a chance to do some night photography and I can show you how to achieve some great results with that too. The cost is \$390 per vehicle and it is a self catered trip but you will have access to our kitchen at the training centre. Drop me an email if you wish to come along info@greatdividetours.com.au

Madigan Line tour

Most people have no idea where this is. If you drove 100 k's north of the SA/NT border in the Simpson Desert and then drove east for 9 days until you reached Eyre

Creek, then you will have done the Madigan Line. In reality, it is the best Simpson Desert crossing I have ever done, it is remote, isolated and only about 10 groups do it each year. We will be doing it from 13-27 May and all the info is here.

http://www.4wd.net.au/Madigan_Line.html

We have a few spots on this trip and I know its short notice but if you want to do a track that is a real adventure, this has to be it.



You can't beat the Madigan Line trip for perfect sand dunes

Barrington Tops/Myall Lakes 16-17 May

One of our most popular trips and this one is even easier as this is the accommodated trip. After doing some great tracks on private property and in the Tops we will be staying in a lovely motel in Gloucester where dinner and breakfast is included in your tour fee. Then on Sunday Alex will take you out to the white sand beaches of Myall Lakes for a picnic on the beach. This is a wonderful mix of bush driving, beach driving and relaxing whilst someone else makes your dinner and your bed. We only have 3 spots remaining so be quick

30 May Camp Oven Cooking course

As mentioned earlier we are running this great event again so if you want to learn how to use your camp oven make sure you join us, details here.

<http://www.4wd.net.au/Camp%20Oven%20Cooking%20and%20GPS%20course.html>

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31 May Survival Workshop

OK there is nothing to be read into the fact that we are running another of our fabulously informative survival workshops the day after our camp oven cooking course, at least I hope not.

Once again we are joined by Scott Heimann from Heimann Habitat, a survival expert, to show us what to do if things really go to mush when you're out travelling. This small investment might save your life or those of your loved ones.

Scott will not only demonstrate how to collect water, what to eat and how to start a fire, (actually he may even get you to do that yourself - sorry, no matches) but he will also show you what you should be carrying in your 4wdrive when travelling the remote tracks that we all love to explore.

We already have 8 people booked on this workshop, so don't be shy, come down and join us for one of the most informative days of your life. Or make it a weekend and do our camp oven cooking course and then learn to survive your own cooking! All the details are here

<http://www.4wd.net.au/Bush%20Survival%20Workshop.html>

Up the Middle Red Centre Trip 19 June to 5 July 2015

This is a new trip being led by Vic and is designed to showcase our beautiful Red Centre. It will explore all the better known locations such as Coober Pedy, Ayres Rock and the Finke River, but also includes Lake Gairdner, Painted Desert, Boggy Hole, Ruby Gap, the Binns Track and the amazing Davenport Ranges in the Northern Territory.



We will camp here in the Finke river Gorge on our Red Centre trip

At this stage we only have two customers on this one, but Vic has vowed to go anyway, he wants to give the 200 series on its new Cooper STT tyres a real work out, so come along and see places that few ever get to see.

All the details are found here <http://www.4wd.net.au/Up-The-Middle.html>



The drive through the Finke gorge is one of the best in the country



You too will see this special place

The outback touring season is upon us

Well it might be, but you could be disappointed if you have not booked your trip with us as yet, this is how our bookings look at present:-

Simpson Desert 18-31 May 2015 1 spot only

Simpson Desert 29 June - 12 July Fully booked

Big Red Concert 1-10 July - 4 spots only

Kimberley tour 9 July - 3 August 1 spot only

Kimberley tour 17 July - 11 August 1 spot only

Canning Stock Route 12 July - 6 August Fully Booked

Cape York 6-24 August 1 spot only

Cape York 27 August - 14 September 5 spots available

Arnhem Land 13-31 August Fully Booked

Arnhem Land 20 August - 7 Sept Fully booked

Flinders Ranges 7-18 September 3 spots only

I have released my dates for 2016 for our outback trips, so if you have missed out on your favourite trip for this year or if you are planning on joining us next year may I suggest you get in early to avoid disappointment. It is great that we are so busy, but sad when we have to say not this year to our customers.

Big Red Bash 1-10 July 2015

This event has been held on the edge of the Simpson Desert at the iconic Big Red sand dune the past two years and its on again this

year. In past years it has had a country and western flavour, although last year day 2 of the concert featured some old rockers such as James Reyne, Daryl Braithwaite and Joe Camilleri. This year the Concert has gone further with its rock style with the headline artist being none other than Jimmy Barnes, other stars include the McClymonts, Jon Stevens, Diesel, Frankie J Holden and Wilbur Wilde to name a few.



The camp site at the base of Big Red, the stage closer to the base and the mammoth sand dune as a back drop, what more could you want for the perfect setting for a rock concert?

Great Divide Tours is running a tag-along tour out and back to coincide with the concert and apart from the great 2 day event at the base of the giant sand dune we will be guiding you through some amazing outback country. Starting at Cobar we head north to Louth and then Tibooburra, crossing into Qld at Warri gate and using little known 4wd tracks to get across to the Dig Tree, then Innamincka and Walkers Crossing track to the Birdsville track. After the concert we head east to Windorah and then spend two days on a real outback cattle station at Kilcowera near Hungerford before returning via Bourke to Nyngan. This is a fabulous event and an equally enjoyable 4wd trip, we have just 4 spots left and your tour fee includes tickets for two to the concert. See all the details [here.](http://www.4wd.net.au/Big_Red_Concert.html)

Are you a Bogan?



Now this photo was taken today (9 April 2015 showing Alex at the Bogan River at Nyngan, perhaps that is appropriate, but did you know that the Bogan Shire Council is considering building a giant Bogan, possibly using Alex as their example. The giant Bogan will be fashioned on the likes of the big Merino, the big Banana and the big Prawn, except it will feature a bloke in shorts with a mullet hair cut, a stubby in hand and an esky nearby. Or should they just blow up this photo of Alex and go with that?

Gas stove recall

Do you have one of those small portable gas cylinder style cookers, like mine shown in the photo below.

Did you know that they have been taken off the market in Australia due to a possibility of explosion, in fact the consumer authority is warning all owners not to use them. This will have a major impact on many campers as there are literally thousands, possibly 100,000's of these being used, I know I use mine all the time.



Got one of these, don't use it

For sale

I have for sale the following items, give me a call if you need anything.

- A brand new VMS 700HDsII portable GPS system (I'm now sponsored by HEMA) \$350
- 5 brand new Dunlop Grandtrek tyres off my FJ cruiser, never used - \$500 the lot
- Standard springs and shocks x 4 off a 200 series Land cruiser never used - \$500 the lot
- and a 2011 model FJ Cruiser with all the gear.



The VMS GPS normal retail around \$700 yours for just \$350



FJ Cruiser tyres brand new \$100 each x 5

FJ Cruiser for sale

Not mine but one that was styled on mine, it is a 2011 model, with 96k on the clock, it is blue and white just like mine and has a host of off road extras, just like mine, but it isn't mine. The FJ is fully equipped for off road use and has been kitted out by Artarmon Auto. Please email waynecarter@me.com
Price \$32,000



This great FJ could be yours

Vale Robert Lovell

I just learned yesterday that Robert Lovell passed away on 4 April. Robert Lovell founded Lovell Springs many years ago and in 1984 when a mate and I thought we would like to have a crack at the Australian Safari, a rally from Sydney to Darwin, he stepped forward as a major sponsor and supplied all the suspension for my mates Hilux. When I started my 4wd business (Great Divide Tours) in 1990 it wasn't long before Robert contacted me about helping out with the suspension on my Landcruiser.

In those days I drove an 80 series Landcruiser and used Lovells Springs extensively. After we broke one of his coil springs, I remember having a meeting with Robert in my lounge room here at home on the northern beaches, he was mortified that one of his springs had broken and as a result he changed the manufacturing process to make sure this never occurred again.

At the same time he designed and built a new spring especially for us and for those people that carried similar heavy loads and nearly always drove loaded in this fashion, He called it his Platinum range of springs and even painted them silver instead of his traditional blue colour.

These were the best springs I have ever used, I had them on both my 80 series and later my 100 series which became so famous travelling all over Australia and appearing in my various books and magazines, all on the same set of Lovell Springs. In 2001 Robert and his lovely wife Beverley joined me on our epic double crossing of Australia, they thoroughly enjoyed our trip but more memorable was me reciting my now famous goat joke to the group and on delivering the punch line, Robert stared blankly at me. I had to explain the punch line, which at the time was more funny to the group than the joke itself.

Robert sold out of his business and eventually retired, and sadly passed away a few days ago at age 72. Thank you Robert for all your support over the years, I don't believe I have ever met a more genuine person. I extend my condolences to Beverley and his family at this sad time.

That's all for now

Please stay safe and be kind to each other.
Vic, Julie, Robert, Wayne D, Wayne B & Jenny, Alex, Brian D, Dave & Irene, Richard, Greg & Helen, Ian B & Skippy/Yarn/Ian, Chris, Greg & Ty Widman, Dave Fullerton, Brian S and Tony.

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**Photos from our Adventure Film High
Country trek**



Stuck between a rock and a hard place



We drove through some beautiful forests



Mitch Milner relaxing in camp



**The Snowy in flood from McKillops
Bridge**



Not so squeezey



**Take a close look, can you see what really
happened here?**



Above the clouds on Mt Wellington



90 mile beach was 70k's long



Nothing beats a high country camp except maybe an outback camp



A perfect spot for lunch in the Sth Island

Photos from New Zealand



Beach driving on 90 mile beach



Tussock grass high plains in NZ



Lord of the Rings country



High on the Remarkable Range



It doesn't come much purer than this



Quick! Duck!



Looking up Lake Wakatipu towards Queenstown



Quick! Vic! Yep I had a drive of this!



We drove up the side of that mountain in the distance, outstanding!

**Be part of our next New Zealand 4wd tour in
March 2016.**



**Did I mention Julie caught her first fish in the
Bay of Islands?**



**Not to be out done I landed this nice
snapper too**