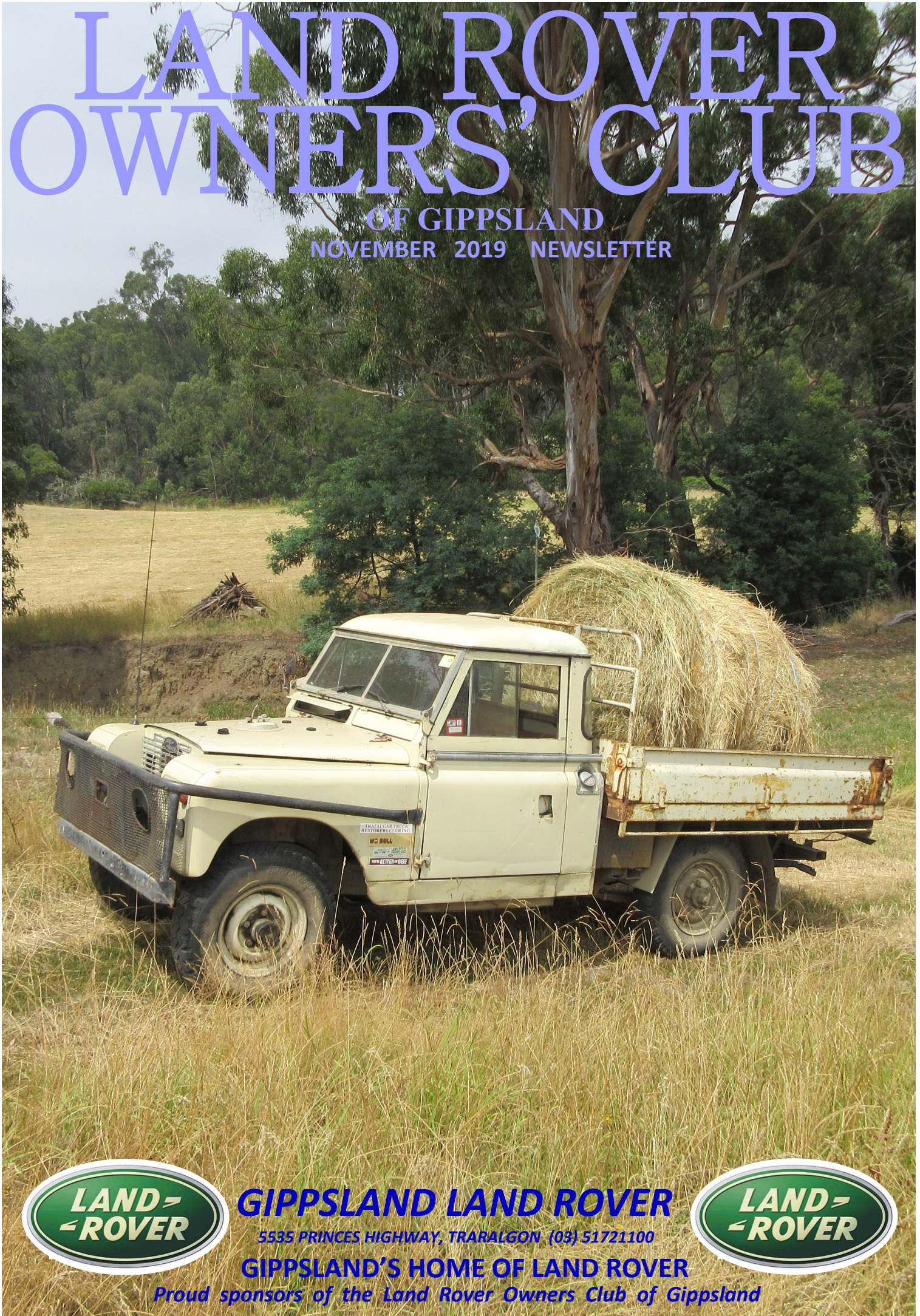


# LAND ROVER OWNERS' CLUB

OF GIPPSLAND  
NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



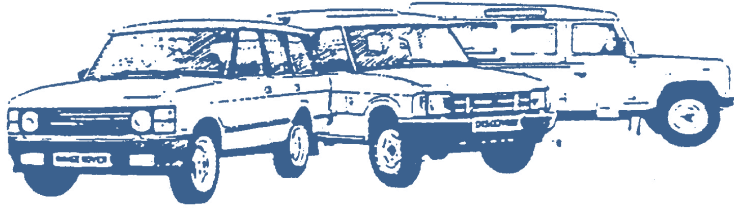
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# LAND ROVER OWNERS' CLUB OF GIPPSLAND

P.O. Box 554 Traralgon 3844 Telephone 03 51721100 Club website [lrocg.jimdo.com](http://lrocg.jimdo.com)

## New 2022 Range Rover revealed: the icon plugs in

Land Rover's all-new, fifth-generation Range Rover is under development in the West Midlands, as Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) rethinks how modern luxury should look in the new decade. Even flagship models like the full-fat RR and Jaguar XJ limousine have to keep up with the times - and both will adopt a range of heavily electrified powertrains to retain relevance in these carbon-crunched times.

The next Range Rover is due in 2022, and it'll be underpinned by JLR's versatile MLA platform, set to see duty first in the newly rebooted XJ. The skateboard architecture can house a range of powertrains, from plug-in and mild hybrids to zero-emission battery-electric systems. And this fully EV Range Rover will be just as able to wade through a muddy riverbed as it will cruise along the Kings Road in Chelsea.

Will the new Range Rover be only electric? No. Expect a range of powertrains; this won't be a Jaguar i-Pace-style electric-or-nothing luxury SUV. Word on the grapevine is that the 2022 Rangie will offer a smorgasbord of motive choices, spanning JLR's new straight-six to be offered alongside diesels and a petrol V8, all with some degree of hybridisation.

Mild hybrids recuperating energy are a given and plug-in hybrids (PHEVs) a dead cert - but all eyes will be on the all-electric model, expected to use a large-capacity battery pack of up to 90kWh. Expect to see the benefits of JLR's collaboration with BMW on electric motors and control systems and a state-of-the-art 4wd set-up is in the works.

A battery powered Range Rover: regal refinement. Range Rover's electrification fits with the company's 'Destination Zero' emissions pledge, but also promises to raise Range Rover's already lofty off-road game, executives have pledged. 'On the road, the increased refinement and silent running of an electrified powertrain excites me,' says JLR vehicle line director Nick Collins. 'And off-road, you get peak torque at zero revs together with much more accurate control.'



### This month's cover; Ian Blake's Series 2A at work

Land Rover Owners Club of Gippsland  
2019-- 2020 Committee

President	Alan Harlow	
Vice President	Bob McKee	0407 963 176
Minute Secretary	Tonee Harlow	
Treasurer	John Kerr	
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Editor	Eric Shingles	03 56232 501
Property Officer	Ross Howell	
4WD Vic Delegate	Greg Rose	0427 456 546
Webmaster	Alan Harlow	
Life Member's	Ray Massaro, Greg & Lois Rose.	

The group's first full EV, the Jaguar i-Pace (which doesn't sit on the MLA platform), re-invented the SUV silhouette with cab-forward proportions. Range Rover won't. 'Technologies will not dictate our form,' says creative director Massimo Frascella. 'We want to control these technologies and do what we think is right for the car.'

What will an electric Rangie look like? 'Designing a new Range Rover comes with a certain pressure - it is clear how important Range Rover is to defining our brand,' adds Frascella. 'But in a way there is less pressure than with the Defender because you have more of a visual evolution; a path that's more defined. There is also more potential in the Velar's reductivist design direction.' CAR's artist's impression (above) shows the direction we believe the new Range Rover will take; don't expect too much Velar/Evoque bling, but in three years' time there will surely be space for a fresh design chapter.

## NEW RANGE ROVER EVOQUE WINS BEST SUV/CROSSOVER AT WOMEN'S WORLD CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Dubai – The new Range Rover Evoque – the original luxury city SUV – has been voted Best SUV/Crossover by the Women's World Car of the Year (WWCOTY) panel for 2019. A total of 21 cars were nominated by 41 judges from 32 countries and shortlisted in seven categories. The award for the Evoque was presented by Shereen Shabnam of the WWCOTY jury panel at the Dubai International Motor Show. The Evoque pioneered the luxury compact SUV market. Now, with 224 international awards to its name, the new Evoque has built on its original instantly recognisable design to combine unrivalled Range Rover heritage with cutting-edge technology. Designed, engineered and manufactured in Britain, it meets the needs of today's customers and is available in 127 countries.

Land Rover Chief Creative Officer, Professor Gerry McGovern, said: "It's an honour for the Evoque to be recognized by the WWCOTY jury. With its compact proportions, this characterful vehicle combines refinement and fun to create that all important emotional connection that customers love."

Built on Land Rover's new Premium Transverse Architecture, the new Evoque features hybrid-electric powertrains, efficient three-cylinder Ingenium engines and innovative natural and recycled materials. In April, the Evoque became the first luxury compact SUV to

be certified under stringent new NOx emissions targets, Real Driving Emissions stage 2 (RDE2), ahead of the official legislative introduction for new models in January 2020.

New Evoque has also been awarded a maximum five-star Euro NCAP safety rating, confirming its status as

one of the most refined, capable and safe luxury compact SUVs on the market. Jaguar Land Rover has featured prominently at the Women's World Car of the Year Awards in recent years, with Jaguar F-PACE winning the Supreme Award in 2016, Fiona Pargeter winning the 'Woman of Worth' Award in 2018 and both the Jaguar E-PACE and Jaguar I-PACE in the top three shortlist for the Supreme Award last year.

### Land Rover Defender India Launch In June 2020

The new generation Defender will hit the Indian shores in June 2020. Land Rover recently introduced the second generation Defender. It is a completely new SUV and carries an iconic name with it. The much awaited new generation Defender will be launched in India in June 2020. The British carmaker will introduce the Defender 110 First Edition, which will be the limited edition model for launch and is expected to be priced at Rs. 1.05 crores (all prices, ex-showroom).

The regular version of the Land Rover Defender 110 is expected to be priced between Rs. 80-97 lakhs. While the Defender 90 is likely to carry a price tag between Rs. 70-90 lakhs.

The short wheelbase Defender 90 will be launched in India by December 2020. Both the variants are likely to be powered by the 2.0-litre, 4-cylinder, 296 BHP Ingenium petrol engine. AWD will be offered as standard.

Land Rover will import the Defender directly as a CBU initially and later in 2021 they plan to commence local assembly of CKD kits in India.

The SUV will be available in four trims – standard, Defender S, Defender SE and HSE. The Defender will compete against the Jeep Wrangler and Mercedes-Benz G350d in the Indian market.



## Tata unveils the Gravitas, Land Rover-based seven-seater SUV

You may be surprised to learn that the India-based automotive corporation Tata Motors actively uses modern Jaguar Land Rover tech for its affordable cars, but things click into place when you realize it actually owns JLR. Now, it has announced a new SUV. The crossover vehicle uses Tata's OMEGA Arc tech platform – essentially a trimmed-down variant of the Jaguar Land Rover D8, which the previous generation of Discovery Sport is based upon. Tata launched its new five-seat SUV Harrier based on this tech in India in early 2019. The company had originally wanted to reuse the name 'Harrier' for the seven-seater, but found that Toyota had been using it for years.

Hence, the car was introduced at the 2019 Geneva International Motor Show this spring as the Buzzard Concept. It will be officially known as the Tata Gravitas in India and as the Tata Buzzard in Europe when it launches there.

The SUV packs three seat rows for seven occupants in total. The short teaser video is almost all that is available right now. We suspect that the Gravitas will imitate the Buzzard Concept depicted here in most visual aspects, from the Harrier front end



to the custom rear. It will also likely pack the same interior trim and tech as the Harrier.

That said, the Buzzard/Gravitas sports a longer rear overhang and is generally slightly larger than the Harrier. Specifically, it measures 4,661 mm (15.3 feet) long, 1,786 mm (5.86 ft.) tall and 1,894 mm (6.21 ft.) wide with 2,741 mm (9 ft.) between the axles. The width and the wheelbase stay unchanged from the Harrier, while the height gains 80 mm (3.1") thanks to roof railings, and the rear overhang adds 63 mm (2.5") of length.

Spec-wise, it is safe to expect the Gravitas to be much simpler trimmed and equipped than its distant relative, the Discovery Sport. Semi-independent suspension, hydraulic power steering, drum brakes at the rear, and permanent FWD are all pretty much guaranteed features. That said, Tata has been known to launch deluxe trims with loads of extras, so maybe it will follow suit with the Gravitas. The SUV will come powered by a 2.0-liter four-cylinder turbo diesel engine designed by FCA. Tata promises to boost it to 170 hp (127 kW) and 350 Nm (254 lb-ft) at the crank. The transmission will be six-speed manual, but Hyundai may provide its six-speed auto as a second option (this remains unconfirmed).

The Tata Gravitas/Buzzard will celebrate its international premiere in February 2020. The event and venue are not specified, but we suspect the company refers to the India Auto Expo scheduled for February 7-12, 2020. The launch dates and pricing remain unknown.

## Jaguar Land Rover introduces free Apple CarPlay and Android Auto retrofit

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) Australia is offering a free Apple CarPlay and Android Auto retrofit to select customers.

The retrofit can be installed in models with the British company's latest-generation Touch Pro and Touch Pro Duo multimedia systems, which debuted in the MY16 Jaguar XF mid-size sedan and MY18 Range Rover Velar mid-size SUV respectively. JLR Australia says it will contact eligible owners and ask them to make an appointment to have the retrofit completed at their preferred dealership. Globally, nearly half a million customers will be contacted regarding the retrofit that is compatible with most MY16-MY19 Jaguar and Land Rover vehicles.

This move comes as JLR announced every Jaguar and Land Rover vehicle sold from now on can update its multimedia system over the air (via either Wi-Fi or an owner-supplied micro SIM card) when new software becomes available, while the same is true of those with the retrofit.

At the same time, these new MY19 and MY20 vehicles now feature Apple CarPlay and Android Auto support as standard if they didn't have it already.

The reborn Land Rover Defender off-roader due in mid-2020 features JLR's next-generation Pivi and Pivi Pro multimedia system, which also support over-the-air software updates and smartphone mirroring as standard.

As reported, Toyota, Mazda and Lexus all offer similar retrofit options Down Under, but unlike JLR Australia's offering, they come at a cost to owners of older vehicles.

## The Bush Tucker Man is back and he's bringing the outback to your smartphone

In the late 1980s, in the depths of remote Arnhem Land, a captain from the Australian Army sleeps in a swag and fishes the creeks. As he ventures through the bush, he picks leaves, berries and bark from the dense, wild land. He knows which are poisonous and which make for a nice cup of tea. He knows how to find fresh water on an isolated beach and how to create fire from tree sap. Thanks to invaluable local knowledge gleaned from local Indigenous communities, he knows exactly how to survive.

This is Les Hiddins — aka the Bush Tucker Man, Australian icon and beloved ABC TV personality — doing what he does best. With no scientific background or formal training, Hiddins was led by natural curiosity. He returned from the Vietnam War in the late 1960s and decided he needed a change of scenery. "When I came back, I transferred from infantry to army aviation and as a result of that found myself in the left-hand seat of a helicopter flying all around northern Australia and Arnhem Land," he said. "When you go to these very remote areas, you've got to ask yourself the question, 'how would I get on if something happened and I had to survive here?' So I started doing it as a hobby. "I would say to the locals, 'what bush tucker have you got here?'" In 1987, he was awarded a Defence Fellowship to continue his research into survival in the bush and principally authored the Australian Army's military survival manual. He was awarded membership of the Order of Australia the same year.

In July 1988, the first episode of Bush Tucker Man aired on ABC TV. It would soon catapult him to national acclaim. In the first episode, Hiddins explained that the only Australia native food exported to the world market was macadamias. That has since changed. "There's a plum we found in NT, it's about as big as my thumb," he said. "Its common name used to be billygoat plum but we renamed it, we called it the Kakadu plum and it is now leading the world in ascorbic acid, Vitamin C. That's a pretty interesting thing."

His passion led him to the most remote parts of the country's north, learning mostly from women in Indigenous communities, and in 2008 he was awarded an honorary doctorate of science from James Cook University. Into the 21st century.

Although his immensely popular TV show ended in 1996 after three seasons, Hiddins didn't stop learning or communicating his fascinating findings. Twelve books later, including the much sought-after Field Guide and four children's books, he has now embraced modern technology. He and wife Sandy set up an Instagram account to showcase their mix of current and archival photos for a new and younger fan base. Mrs Hiddins said they often get messages of appreciation via the app.

"Some of the followers are amazing, they're primary school teachers in remote Indigenous communities in Arnhem Land," she said. "They have written in and sent messages saying, 'this is so great, my grade four kids love your posts and now we're watching the DVDs', and I think that reaches a bigger audience than the books."

Hiddins has also just launched a user-pays website featuring his comprehensive digital database of bush tucker. It allows people to search a location and season to discover the types of flora and fauna they can expect to find in that region.

The website was designed by Brisbane company Ruby 6, with whom Hiddins worked closely to ensure it had the Bush Tucker Man feel. "We did originally put out a field guide but I thought, why do we want to republish again in paper format?" he said. "Ruby 6 put all of that together for me, I just handed across to them the information, the photographs, the distribution map. "I couldn't do that myself so I had to get some other people who knew what they were doing to do that."

The more things change the more they stay the same.

For Hiddins, not much has changed. He said life is good and he and Mrs Hiddins still go on regular camping trips to remote Australia. Mrs Hiddins pointed out that work never really stops for the Bush Tucker Man, but that's not a bad thing. "It's really hard to define that line, the fun and work line, where one ends and the other begins," she said. "The more off-grid and the more remote it is, the better. We really love it."

And even though it's not the original, Hiddins' tell-tale hat is never far from his head. "The original hat is today in the National Museum in Canberra, along with the original camera and my backpack," he said. "They wanted to put me in there too but I objected to that."

<https://bushtuckerman.com.au>



Hiddins's Instagram features archival photos like this, which shows Les writing field notes on location in 1980.



### High Price Land Rover Hulk

I recently attended a clearing sale of old vehicles at Woomalang in Western Victoria. It was an 'eye opening' and 'eye watering' experience. The eye opening experience concerned the prices and the eye watering experience was caused by the huge clouds of dust that blew in across the dry western plains as the day progressed.

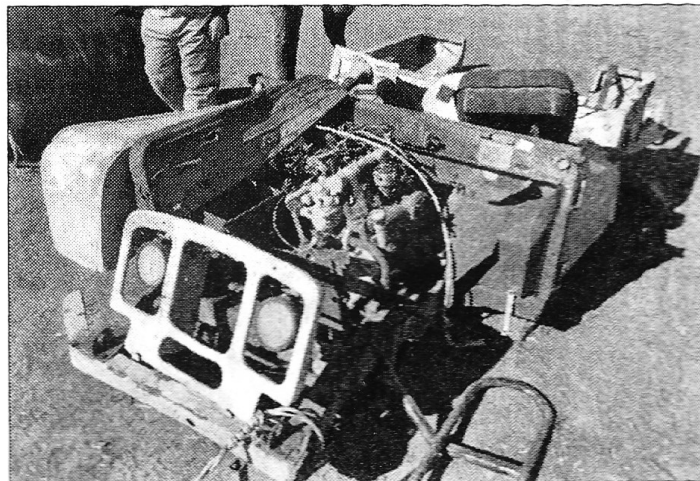
There were approximately 500 lots, most consisting of either just piles of rusty junk from the mid- 1930's to 1970's cars (or remains of). Most vehicles had been picked over fairly well. There were only a dozen or so vintage vehicle remains, one being described as a 1923 Moon, which ended up being the remains of a Maxwell. Ex-military vehicles were popular and sold at reasonable prices. Mid 70's Land Cruisers fetched good prices.

A reasonably complete 1935 Ford sedan (humpy), described as a Ford Pilot went fairly cheap at about \$4,000. A 1950 Ford ute (single spinner), without mechanicals, sold for \$2,250, brought by an interstate buyer just for the bonnet and bumper bar. The rest was given to the scrappers at the end of the day. Just goes to show what prices they are getting for parts these days.

The eye opening experience was the sale of a 1948 Series 1 Land Rover short wheel hulk. Lot 12 started early in the sequence on purpose to maybe influence the crowds on prices.

By hulk, this thing was sitting on the ground, no wheels, front left guard missing, bulkhead collapsed, axles gone, and bonnet gone. Bidding started at \$5,000. By about \$15,000, the crowds started to gather. As the bids surged passed \$30,000, rumors started that it was full of drugs. Final winning bid was \$38,000, plus another 15% buyer premium. That equates to a staggering \$43,700 ! The search is now on for any old Series 1 slab sided Landies. It just so happens my mate does have a couple in his back yard, so we had another look at his treasures on the way home from the auction to check if they were still there. So, an interesting experience to be had by all.

Rob Van Wick.



### New firefighters ready for peak bushfire season

Forest Fire Management Victoria's (FFMVic) new seasonal firefighters will be ready to respond to bushfires this summer following their recent intensive training at Licola's Wilderness Camp.

Gippsland's Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Beth Roberts said "The comprehensive training course ensures our firefighters are trained to the highest levels in fighting fires and reducing bushfire risk."

"This summer FFMVic has employed 192 seasonal firefighters in Gippsland, 58 of whom are new recruits and are going through their training regime," Dr Roberts said. "Seasonal firefighters work alongside our experienced permanent staff to respond to bushfires and undertake planned burning. "The course is a mix of classroom and field-based activities to prepare recruits for the demands of being a forest firefighter.

"The new firefighters learn how to use a wide range of equipment, from water pumps and chainsaws, to operating G-Wagens and Unimog firefighting tankers.

"Topics covered during the camp include emergency management procedures, safety and survival techniques, fire suppression techniques and planned burning. "In addition to increasing their knowledge on fire management, they'll gain an understanding of FFMVic's responsibilities in supporting broader emergencies, such as floods and wildlife emergencies.

"Recruits will continually refine their skills at other training courses throughout the season, making them further





equipped to fight bushfires. “These frontline forest fire-fighters are critical to our resources during the high-risk summer season.

“Many of our firefighters have already been deployed to work on the recent bushfires in East Gippsland’s forests and the new recruits will bolster those crews as the season continues.”

FFMVIC has crews based at depots across the region including Noojee, Foster, Yarram, Erica, Heyfield, Briagolong, Dargo, Bairnsdale, Swifts Creek, Nowa Nowa, Orbost, Cann River and Bendoc.

**For Sale ;**

1997 Land Rover Defender 110 Wagon, White in colour, 300 TDI engine, Registered until June 2020. Travelled 442,802 km., but 99.99% were road miles, no 4 wheel driving, Discovery Series 2 transfer case, Cargo barrier, Rhino roof rack, ARB bull bar, Warn winch, Driving lights, Snorkel, Kaymar spare wheel carrier. Hema sat nav, Heads-up speedo. Codan HF Radio, GME UHF radio. Engel fridge. Had the Head, injectors and glow plugs replaced about three years ago. One owner, fastidiously maintained, always garaged. Deceased estate. \$15,000 ONO.

Contact Eric Shingles 0429 424 791

**For Sale ;**

2006 Ex CFA Land Rover Defender 130 TD5 twin cab, Alloy tray with removable drop sides, 100,000kms, Will be sold with current RWC and registration. PTO winch w. plasma rope, Ridgy Didge bull bar, Reverse camera, Central locking, LED headlights, LED light bar, 80 channel UHF radio, CD, DVD, USB BLUETOOTH, Water tank, Tinted windows, Computer remap, Maxi drive axles, Anderson plugs, Under rear seat storage, Fully plumbed under rear seat camp stove, Front seat rail extensions, Electric trailer brake, Sill rails / 'A' frame, Thousands spent (in my ownership of 4 years) replacing or upgrading with receipts ; New Ashcroft gear box & Reconditioned transfer case (40,000ish kms ago), New clutch and fly wheel (3 months ago), Replaced Front and rear diffs, New starter motor, Always serviced and garaged. Also available by negotiation; Large removable lockable tool box / camping box with; Interior lights, Anderson plug, removable wind up legs on wheels, roof rack, 3 lift up doors with gas struts, Custom made, Cost over \$6000. \$40,000 with everything listed, 10% off for club member, Call, sms, email Chris Brain, 0427 197 923, Chris.brain@chisholm.edu.au



**DEFENDER**  
**110**

## Land Rover Owners' Club of Gippsland — Minutes for meeting held on Monday 11th of November 2019.

Meeting held at Gippsland Land Rover Traralgon. Meeting started at: 8.06pm

Welcome & thanks by Alan Harlow.

Attending; David Murray, Krystal Murray, Harley Murray, Rod Catchpole, Loris Catchpole, Terry Heskey, Brian Johnson, John Kerr, Heather Kerr, Ian Blake, Eric Shingles, Alan MacRae, Helen MacRae, Ross Howell, Sue Howell, Alan Harlow, Tonee Harlow, Wayne Foon, Sharna Foon, Indi Foon, Shaun Johnson, Philip Croft, Sue Markham, Ken Markham, Mark Broadbridge

Apologies: Greg Rose, Lois Rose, Shirley Allchin, Ted Allchin, Barb Heskey, Colette Parniak, Jan Parniak, Bob McKee, Annette Fleming, Charlie Calafiore, Ron Prince, Dot Prince, Mike Dower, Parks Victoria Area Chief Ranger, Foothills and Southern Alps Due to meeting

Confirmation of October Meeting Minutes:

Motion that the October minutes be accepted as true and correct: Moved by. John Kerr, Seconded by Alan MacRae  
Passed

Business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting. Nil

Correspondence:

In:

Request for information on membership via the Web site.

Out:

Report to FWDV by Treasurer On membership numbers. As of 15th October the Club has 35 members.

Alan responded to web request.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's report be received: Moved by: John Kerr, Seconded by: Alan MacRae. Passed.

Questions of Treasure, Nil

Publicity Officer's Report: N/A

Editor's Report:

Hope you like the newsletter, always looking for more stuff.

Webmaster's Report:

Due to a fault there are no recorded detail about the Web site for the month of October. This fault has been fixed. This months question was Tully Qld.

Prize at Christmas meeting for winner of the "Where am I?" quiz questions.

Four Wheel Drive Victoria Delegate's Report: Alan Harlow

The AGM is being held tonight but we have no representative as Greg is attending a meeting on Alpine Rd/Blue Rag opening as the FWDV Regional Rep in Bright.

Wayne Foon spoke on the management of this area.

Worth noting for everyone that if these tracks are used during their closure, you will not be covered for any insurances (vehicle, medical, emergency rescue, etc) if anything happens on a closed road.

FWDV Regional Representatives;

Greg is attending meeting.

Events Coordinator's Report:

Past Events.

\*October Coffee Get Together.

Held at the Black Stump in Darnum, and well attended.

\*November Cup Weekend — Omeo

Omeo Caravan Park from 31st October until the 6th November. Rod gave a verbal report on the great time had by all. Written reports from participants are being submitted to Tonee for collation.

Full reports will be in the November newsletter and on the Web site with photos.

Future Events.

\*November Coffee Get Together

Location will be Old Gippstown Date and Time. Friday 15th at 10am

\*Monday the 18th, Tuesday the 19th, Wednesday the 20th of November.

LROCG/PV.

Details via Wayne Foon. Meet in Heyfield at 9.00am at Parks Depot/office.

Bring wet weather gear. Members needed to help tow trailers. Ian Blake and





Alan Harlow to assist. Wayne will now be only Parks employee to attend. Numbers down this year as some withdrawals due to unavoidable circumstances. Parks to provide the evening meal for one night, and club members to provide the meal for the other.

Motion: Moved by: Alan MacRae, That the club organise and purchase evening meal requirements for attendees for one evening meal (meat, salads & dessert) up to \$100.00. Seconded by: Ian Blake, carried.

\*Sunday December 8th, LROCG Christmas picnic and final meeting for 2019. Annual awards presented. Changed from Cowwarr Weir to another location, and members to be advised via email as soon as possible. Alan Harlow to check venue and confirm. Start time between 10.45am, for meeting followed by lunch.

\*December: Date to be decided. Wayne and Sharna Foon's pre-Christmas madness multi day trip. Details as it gets closer. This will be a mild baby friendly 4x4 adventure with a couple of camping nights. Postponed till after new year.

#### Technical Matters:

Lowering and raising of vehicle (Discovery's) if bogged (oops parked!) in sand not a possible a solution.

Phil raised the question of what tires members were using on Discovery's going off road. Discussion ensued and follow up chat with Dave after meeting advised.

#### News from travelers:

Nil currently travelling, however during our trip to Omeo, members became aware of distinct circular markings/patterns of vegetation in the hillside pastures. Specific plant types simply grow this way, much to the fascination of the horticultural innocents.

#### General Business.

Wayne provided an update on the lost (and found) people in the Alpine area over the past few weeks. President Alan encouraged all members to consider running trips, or providing trip ideas, rather than leaving it to the regular few. Any places of interest could be touted, to see if others would like to join you. Some suggestions from the floor included mid week day trips and an old fashioned car rally, with questions to answer along the way and things to 'collect'. All suggestions were warmly received.

Eric suggested we auction off the donated winch in order to raise funds for Mal Trulls Muscle Car Run in aid of the Leukaemia Foundation. Alan Harlow conducted the auction, with Indi Foon being the highest (winning) bidder. Wayne will raid her bank account to ensure the \$55.00 is paid promptly.

Shaun Johnson kindly brought along 'show and tell, and shared with us the wonders of his LEGO Technique Defender, which he spent 2 full days putting together with some substantial help from his 6 year old grandson. This amazing model kit costs around \$330.00 and comes with a 500 page manual comprising some 860 sections! So many moving parts and equipment and fine detail make this a truly special 'toy'. Thank you, Shaun.

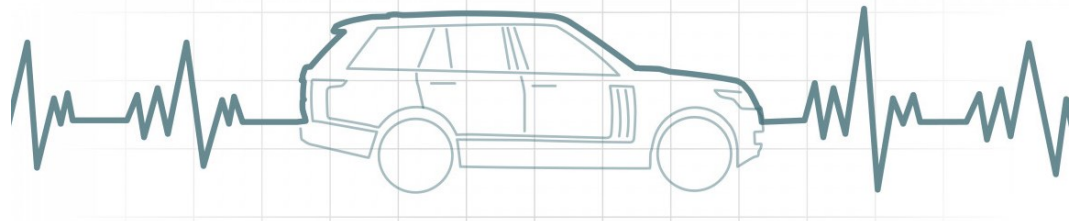
Meeting closed at 9.18,

Next Meeting: Sunday December 8th for our Christmas Meeting & Awards presentation. Venue to be advised.

## KEEP YOUR LAND ROVER'S HEART BEATING STRONG.



ABOVE & BEYOND



Keeping your Land Rover in optimal condition by trusting it to Land Rover Trained professionals who only use Land Rover genuine parts, is not only best for your vehicle but may also be better for your hip pocket. Speak to your Land Rover service centre about price matching any comparable quote.



## CUP WEEK TRIP TO OMEO 31/10-7/11/19

31/10 & 1/11 Ian Blake

Thursday morning, the following members met at Flynn – John and Heather Kerr, Ian Blake, Alan and Helen MacRae, Terry and Barb Hesky, Rod and Loris Catchpole, and Ross and Sue Howell.

A couple of vehicles stopped for fuel in Bairnsdale, all stopped for morning tea in Bruthen.

Continued onto Omeo, arriving at 12.30. The afternoon was spent setting up and relaxing.

Friday morning some members walked into town for coffee and cake. On returning, explored a creek diversion tunnel. After lunch, we travelled to Victoria River Falls; site of an early hydro power scheme.

Returning to the camp ground, we stopped at Kosciusko Lookout.

2/11 & 3/11 Sue and Ross Howell

Saturday 2/11/19; A beautiful sunny morning as we all set off at about "10 ish" for a round trip through the mountain forests led by Rod & Loris. We headed out from Omeo on Birregun Rd, on our



way to the famous "Dog's Grave" in the Spring Creek Conservation Reserve, Baldhead Phipps Forest towards Dargo. It took us a little longer than expected so we had lunch here. A pioneering history of a drover's dog having been poisoned with wild dog bait marks the grave. Continuing on after lunch on the winding, gravel & dusty Birregun Rd through the forest gave us stunning views of the mountains afar and the distant bush tracks. We then pro-



gressed onto Jones Rd. towards Swifts Creek, with everyone looking forward to coffee & cake at the local bakery. Surprisingly the bakery was closed - on a long weekend too. Homeward bound, we settled for a cuppa around a cosy fire back at the caravan park. This was short lived as the rain set in so we all abandoned the fire to get ourselves ready for dinner at the "Golden



Age Hotel". A very satisfying meal & drinks was had by all. A great evening!

Sunday 3/11/19;

Rain, and more heavy rain! Lightning, really loud thunder & hail! What do you do on a cold, cold day like this? Some played Mexican Trains, coached by Alan H, in the camp kitchen, while others stayed warm in their caravans. The roof leaked in the camp kitchen right above where we could have sat around the slow combustion heater. Alan H & Jan found some special silicon in their tool boxes and plugged up the holes. Heather & Colette lovingly cleaned the kitchen prior to this as it was considerably dirty & greasy. After lunch the weather cleared a bit so some of us went into town for a coffee & cake and others went



to the courthouse & museum. Sue H has some close family history in the area so she was lucky enough to obtain copies of pages of relevant history from a local historian offering his services at the court. The local cemetery was of excellent value also. Following this the remainder of us met at the local bakery for coffee & cake as the nice cafe was closed. Back at the caravan park we all met in the camp kitchen with the fire roaring for pre dinner drinks. An early night was had by all.



Monday 4/11/19, Mark and Eliza Broadbridge

We awoke to clear skies after thunderstorms the previous day. A perfect day for a drive! After our briefing, we departed the caravan park at around 10.30am. Rod & Loris were in the lead car with Mark & Eliza as Tail-end Charlie. There were five cars in our convoy. After a couple of false starts, where Jan & Colette followed the wrong convoy, & Rod & Loris followed the wrong road, we were away! Thankfully the previous day's rain settled all the dust on the dirt roads, making for a dust free convoy. We headed up through the clouds up Mt Nugong to Washington Winch. A huge steam powered engine attached to a giant winch which was used to haul huge logs up the mountain to awaiting logging trucks. Many of the male members took great pleasure in pushing & pulling all the levers on the engine!

Then we drove a short distance up the mountain to Moscow Villa Hut; a beautifully restored mountain hut on the Bently Plain. This hut was built by Bill Ah Chow, who was a fire spotter in the summer, who built this as his summer home. The hut is



complete with a loft for a bedroom & large fireplace. It is very spacious. This was our lunch stop. While everyone was still finishing their lunch, Mark & Eliza walked the Douglas Reserve walk, where they saw huge mountain ash trees & a walkway that was taken out by a giant tree recently, forcing them to make their way around the debris. It was a beautiful walk taking you through pristine forest & crystal clear creeks.

From there we headed back down the mountain, with a slight detour to have a look at Mackenzie Track campground, before deciding on a stop at Ensay Winery, where members did some wine tasting and enjoyed the views from the slope of the hill the winery is on. From here the group split up with some deciding on going to the bakery in Swifts Creek for afternoon tea and others going to Little River Inn at Ensay for a quiet drink.

We all arrived back at the caravan park at around 4pm, when wood was collected out of the back of people's cars in preparation for the communal fire pit that Alan lit in time for happy hour and everyone appreciated when the temp dropped in the evening. Then the rain came that forced everyone back inside their vans!

5/11 CUP DAY John and Heather Kerr

What a great Australian traditional day. Parties, BBQs, sweeps, bets and a jolly good time!

We awakened to the smell of a spit beef roast cooking under the watchful eye of Master Chef Rod Catchpole wearing his chef hat. Our neighbours packed up and left such was this alluring aroma.

The camp gradually stirred and readied for an eventful day. A number of willing helpers cleaned tables, chairs and benches and set up for the auction of horses later.

Everyone dressed up in some way or another. It was too cold for most ladies to wear dresses or skirts but Sue Markham was dressed in a lovely dark blue dress with a black hat. Most ladies wore a fascinator in their hair. President Alan looked resplendent in his "dickie" suit with black bow tie, Mark Broadbridge looked like Dr Livingstone in his pith helmet, braces



holding up his trousers and multi coloured bow tie on his white shirt, while John Kerr looked posh in his top hat and tails, horse racing shirt and multi coloured bow tie. Drinkies started early as everyone gathered in the camp kitchen for President Alan and Secretary Tonee's horse auction. Bidding for the 3 and 2 horse pack was frantic as Alan extracted every possible dollar from bidders, even trying to fool bidders into going higher. Ross Howell was



top bidder at \$63, with Sue Howell complaining she wouldn't have any grocery money for the next week. All members attending contributed to receiving at least one horse in the big race. We then enjoyed a wonderful lunch of roast beef, salads and vegetables of all kinds, topped off with Ross's gravy, Barbara Hesky's scones, followed by Pavlovas and fruit. Plenty of chatter, laughs and excitement with the Cup coming up. Then off to the Games Room to watch the race.

- Winners of the two sweeps were –
- 1st \$100 Ken & Sue Markham and Mark and Eliza Broadbridge
  - 2nd \$60 Ron & Dot Prince and Sandi & Lou (caravan park operators)
  - 3rd \$35.50 Ron & Dot Prince and Jan & Colette Parniak
  - Last - Alan & Helen MacRae and Jan & Colette Parniak

We then gathered for a "team" photo in the children's playground (quite





apt!) followed by fellowship outside the camp kitchen. Helen, Tonee and Colette looking like 3 little blackbirds with Sue Markham reciting her original "off the cuff" ditty –  
 Three little blackbirds sitting on a wire  
 Perched behind the fire  
 The flames are missing  
 And so is the kissing  
 After a tea of "leftovers" we ventured to President Alan's campfire for drinks to finish what was a most enjoyable day.



Wednesday 6/11/19 Jan and Colette Parniak  
 On Wednesday morning the forecast was going to be over cast with showers through out the day. Nevertheless we set off at 9.30 on an experience like never before. Ross, our trip organizer, mentioned it's a round trip with a morning tea stop and be back at lunch time.

Into the hills and rugged mountain ranges of Omeo; five vehicles, 1 Defender and 4 Discos with 14 members on board we set off. Ross and Sue lead the contingent with Rod and Loris being tail end Charlie. Setting off we headed north towards Benambra. First stop was at McMillans lookout with some magnificent views of the vast farming plains surrounding Omeo. Continuing on, we travelled still north, viewing the Hinnomumjie race track and rodeo oval and drove around Omeo lake, at this time the lake bed was dry and covered in grass with cattle grazing, beautiful view had by all. Driving past the lake and climbing the ranges we stopped at a peak called Blow Hard Lookout. The 360deg views of farm land and rolling plains was magnificent. Up so high we could see the historical trestle bridge across the Mitta Mitta River (aka Hinnomumjie( Mitta ) bridge. From here



on the road turned from bitumen to gravel, with several gates which had to be opened and shut as we travelled along Kelly's road. The further we got into bush land and steep valleys the road turned into a track with deep wash outs on the track surface.

It looked like we were lost at one stage, when at a "Y" intersection one track was leading straight up to heaven, another around a bend and narrowing and third leading down to hell; we took the third leading to hell . At a slow pace we continued, eventually coming to another "Y" intersection at which point Ross saw a person doing some cross country walking from Canberra to here so far. Talking to him he advised we

should turn right as he had seen a 4wd some-time earlier going down that direction which leads to Taylor's Crossing on the Mitta Mitta River.

At Taylors Crossing there is a magnificent pedestrian swing bridge but for vehicles it's a river crossing. With all the rain in the past couple of days the river was a bit high. After some thought, Ross decided to drive across the river. The water level came up to the top of his fender arch. Seeing the water level so high on Ross's Defender, made the rest have second thoughts, due to the fact some of us didn't have snorkels on our vehicles and the water would have been too close for comfort to the diesel air intakes.

Alan Harlow thought if he walked the crossing and prodded the depth, he might find a shallow crossing but it wasn't to be, so after stripping to jocks, walking the crossing and being unable to part the waters for the rest of us, Alan came back with Ross in his Defender, a little colder than most of us. After morning tea (which was lunch time by now!) we headed back the same way we come. The

narrow track was windy, pot holed, slippery including step descents and a small stream crossing. At one point climbing out of hell, crawling up the track it looked like the shire council was here digging trenches ready to lay water/sewage pipes. As we edged our cars up trying to negotiate the deep ruts, one vehicle slipped off the top and slide into the rut, bottoming the belly of the car and wheels spinning in free air. Ross decided he'd try and pull the Disco out, and so reversed his Defender down, only also to slip off the slippery edge and now we have 2 vehicles in dire straits. This is what 4 wd. is all about, so we got to





work gathered bits of wood, stacked them into the ruts, and with a shovel dug some, to free up the bottomed out cars, and with the use of Ross's winch we proceeded to get the cars out. Wasn't too long before we hit the better part of Kelly's road and then onto the Omeo valley road. Here 3 of the vehicles kept on going back to the caravan park and the other 2 decided we would go into Benambra. We are now off the bitumen and back onto the steep gravel road heading past Blow Hard Lookout again and instead going around Lake Omeo we decided to

drive across the bed of the lake and save a km or two. The Lake bed was very dry and kicked up some dust while driving a cross it. At Benambra we had coffee and chips at the local store and arrived at camp at 3.30 in the afternoon.

That's it, for a short round trip to be home by lunch, it turned out to be a full day which I'm sure we thoroughly enjoyed even if it at times it seemed like going to hell and back. Thanks heaps to you Ross for an unexpected, surprising adventure; we all had a great time. Those who went on the trip were Ross & Sue, Rod & Loris, Ron & Dot, Alan & Helen, Alan & Tonee, John & Heather and Jan & Colette.