



FREE WHEELING

MAY 2025



Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

Registration No
A0002184F

Photo by Sushant Aggarwal

Meeting Details



VFWDC General Meeting Details & Venue

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30PM with the following exceptions:

No meeting at Club Noble in January.

Club Noble Address

Blue and Gold Room
Club Noble
46-56 Moodemere Street
Noble Park
Melways ref: 89 D4



This month's meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th May at 7.30pm.

Club Committee

2024 - 2025

President	Neville Van Leeuwen	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	Ken Kilby	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Steve Miller	secretary@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Ly Ho	treasurer@vfwdc.com

General Committee

Trip Coordinator	Andy McCarthy	trips@vfwdc.com
Magazine Editor	Sushant Aggarwal	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	Dennis Alphonsus	delegate@vfwdc.com

Support Positions to Committee

Web Manager	Ben Whitworth	web@vfwdc.com
Training officer	Phillip Griffith	
Merchandise	Suzy Whitford	merchandise@vfwdc.com

Club Details

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
Registration Number	A002184F
Correspondence Address	PO Box 778 Dandenong VIC 3174
Email	secretary@vfwdc.com
Website	www.vfwdc.com

The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of [Four Wheel Drive Victoria](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au) - www.fwdvictoria.org.au

President's Report

Hi All

I hope everyone is refreshed after the Easter and Anzac long weekends (especially for those lucky enough to turn this into an extended break.

I am really looking forward to the next meeting and hearing about the Trips that have been run over this period. I know we have had a couple of great trips run

Also at our next meeting we will have Trevor from Autophix so please make sure you come along to hear about his range of ODB scanners, he will have a bit of a discount for those wanting to purchase a unit.

As the year is ticking by, we are in the process of organizing our Christmas in July. (Actually on 20th – 22nd June) This year to change things up a bit we are planning to have this at the Upper Yarra Reservoir. This is only ~1.5 Hrs from Melbourne so it is close enough for day trippers. There is a large campground, fire pits, covered areas including BBQ's, tennis court and flushing toilets. Also walking tracks and 4WD tracks nearby for anyone who wants to explore further.

As usual the club will cater for Saturday nights dinner with plenty to eat.

Snow Trips – If anyone is interested in running or attending the Mt Skene snow trips this year please put your name down on a form or let Andy know. We will need a few trip leaders and suggested dates so we can organize permits when they become available (Early June).

Our upcoming trip calendar is looking good, but would be great to add a few day trips. If you would like to run a trip and need a hand, please reach out (Or attend a trip leaders training day).

At our next meeting we also have a few rule changes we want to discuss in general business so please make sure you attend to hear about this.

See you all on Wednesday!

Neville Van Leeuwen

VFWDC President

president@vfwdc.com

May

Wednesday 7 th	General Meeting — Guest Speaker: Trevor (Autophix — ODB Scanners)	7:30pm Club Noble
Saturday 10 th	Murrindindi overnight trip	Jacqui
Saturday 17 th	Proficiency Training - Practical	Phil, Ashley and John
Wednesday 21 st	Committee Meeting	

June

Wednesday 4 th	General Meeting	7:30pm Club Noble
Monday 9 th	King's weekend Googs track / Oodnadatta trip (~3 weeks)	Bruce Dunlop
Wednesday 18 th	Committee Meeting	
Friday 20 th	Christmas in July at Upper Yarra (20-22 June)	Andy

More upcoming trips:

1. Christmas in July – St Annes – Dates to be advised (Andy)
2. Camping trip – Dates to be advised (Angus)
3. 31/12/2025 Triple New Years at Camerons corner (Bruce Dunlop)
4. Cape York leaving King's birthday, via Birdsville, Weipa (Next Year – 2026), returning August 2026 (Bruce Dunlop)

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 2 Apr 2025

Time: 7:30pm – 8:40pm

Location: Club Noble

Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 7th May 2025

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Open Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to the April club meeting Apologies: Sushant, Jason, Marie, Michael Scopel, Audrey and Ian Absent: Dennis 	Neville
Minutes from previous months club meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matters arising from previous minutes for meeting on the 05/03/2025: Nil Minutes from previous meeting accepted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted: Anne Seconded: Bruce 	Neville
Guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tony – Tank 300 – changed tyres and is looking forward to some trips 	Neville
Correspondence	<p>Correspondence: Bank statements and Post Office Renewal Jackaroo club sent VFWDC a copy of their monthly magazine. Some adverts for 4WDing in Africa</p>	Neville Steven M
Tonight's Guest Speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
Treasurer's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per written report from Ly Ho – Written report will be in next issue of the club's magazine. March 2025 Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing cash position \$4,889.98 Closing consolidated position \$11,393.89 Motion to accept March 2025 Treasurer 's Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted: Andre Seconded: Ken 	Ly
Association News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No news as Dennis was absent Dennis has been sending out FWDV correspondence as it arrives VW is affiliated with FWDV and offering fleet discounts on vehicle Revolutionize Sport - VFWDC is not proceeding with the platform. The platform is expensive and wanting a lot of personal information (More than VFWDC members wish to provide). Neville to pass this feedback back to FWDV. 	Neville
Upcoming Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 05/04/2025 Bruthen Loop – Trip Leader: Bruce Dunlop – Meeting in Bruthen - Via Engineers Track, Haunted Stream. Coming back Sunday 	Andy Bruce Dunlop

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17-18/05/2025 Driver Training Course – Course is now fully subscribed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some club members expressed interest in doing refresher course for those who have previously done training. Theory night was completed on the Wednesday 12/03/2025 at Club Noble. Camping overnight, basic recovery stuff. Phil is going up Saturday morning. 	John
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17/04/2025 Easter – 11 days – Renmark, Kimber, Streaky Bay, Wallen, Eyre Peninsular trip – One place available – Trip Leaders Sally and Tristan 	Sally
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10,11/05/2025 Murrindindi, Trip Leader: Jaqui Conquest 	Jaqui
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7-9/06/2025 - Kings Birthday weekend - 4-5 weeklong trip - Googs track returning Oodnadatta Trip – Trip Leader Bruce Dunlop 	Bruce
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31/12/2025 New years at Camerons corner – Trip Leader Bruce Dunlop 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2026 Cape York leaving King's birthday 2026, returning August 2025 	Bruce
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas in July – St Annes – German Theme 	Andy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative proposal for Christmas in July - Date TBA - Upper Yarra Reservoir near Warburton – full facilities, Secured area at night. Code need for access at night. Ken to do reconnaissance trip. 	Ken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reminder to have an up-to-date Personal Information Form in our vehicle Reminder to submit trip forms. If a trip form is not submitted, the trip is NOT a sanctioned trip (ie no insurance etc) 	Carried Forward
Magazine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to Winch by Sally 	Neville
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet the member by Steven Miller 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanks to Sushant for taking on the magazine editing. Producing a great product which is a most important aspect of the club. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invitation to everyone to submit anything of interest relating to camping/four wheel driving/vehicles 	
Intermission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermission 	8:05pm – 8:25pm
Trip Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6-9/03/2025 Labour Weekend – Desert Wanderings Trip – Trip Leaders are Sally and Tristan. Extremely hot weekend (high 30s). 2 tyres were rolled off the rims and a 3rd was flat (Daisy, Tristan and Vern) Wycheproof (Smallest mountain in Australia at 42m high). Salt Lakes, Tyrill, Salt Lakes. Sand was like talcum powder. Neville had issues with his car. GPS unit failed in the heat Found a big sand bowl. Written report will be in next issue of the club's magazine. 	Sally

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General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Trevor from OBD coming to May meeting to do presentation. He will be offering his range of OBD scanners at a discount. Neville to confirm Trevor is still coming in May.	General Business
Raffle	<p>Prizes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Super Cheap Auto \$50 VoucherOceana WineMerchandise	Neville
Next General Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wednesday 07/05/2025, 7:30pm at Club Noble (Upper floor meeting room)	Neville
Meeting Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none">8: 40 pm	Neville
Minutes taken by:		Steven Miller

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com

Treasurer's Report March 2025

<u>Cheque A/C`</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/03/2025	\$4,589.98	
	Add: Merchandise Sales	\$35.00	
	Raffle	\$91.00	
	Membership Fees	\$290.00	
	Less: FWDV – Association Fees	-\$116.00	
	Closing Balance as at 31/03/2025		\$4,889.98
<u>Term Deposit</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/03/2025	\$6,465.52	
	Closing Balance as at 31/03/2025		\$6,465.52
<u>Undeposited</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/03/2025	\$85.00	
	Less: Transfer to Cheque A/C	-\$85.00	
	Closing Balance as at 31/03/2025		\$0.00
<u>Petty Cash</u>	Opening Balance as at 01/03/2025	\$38.30	
	Closing Balance as at 31/03/2025		\$38.30
	Consolidated Closing Cash Position		<u>\$11,393.80</u>

NEW General Meeting start time

Starting 2025, the general meeting's start time will commence at **7:30PM** at Club Noble.

Merchandise

See the Merchandise section for available merchandise. Please contact Suzy or a committee member for available sizes and price.

We currently have a range of merchandise in stock, and the list of available items can be found on the pages below. If you are interested, please feel free to speak to one of the committee members during the general meeting or email us at committee@vfwdc.com.

Discount Offer: The club is offering a discount of \$5 off your membership for each trip you have organized and run since March 1st, 2024, up to a maximum of \$20 per couple. Please mention any trips you have led when you reply.

Merchandise

For available sizes and price, please contact Suzy or feel free to speak to one of the committee members during the general meeting or email us at committee@vfwdc.com

50th Anniversary Jacket



Reversible Vest



Drivers Jacket



Zip up Hoodie



Scarf / Beanie / Cap / Stubbie



Club Membership

Please visit our website at VFWDC.com to view all our current membership forms and club policies.

For all new and renewal of memberships, please complete [the online form here](#)

If you are looking for a Temporary Membership, please complete the online form, [which can be found here.](#)

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us via the Club Secretary on secretary@vfwdc.com

Payments:

Payment can be made via Bank Transfer. The details are as follows:

Account Name:	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
BSB:	633108
Account No:	111761979

Please ensure your transfer includes your name as provided on the membership application and renewal form in the reference.





Once you have made your payment/transfer, please send your completed membership application and renewal form to treasurer@vfwdc.com or you can present it to the Treasurer at any general meeting.

Thank you for choosing the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

If you are interested in joining [Club Noble](#) where we hold our monthly meetings, their application form can be found [here](#).

Track Classification

[Four Wheel Drive Victoria](#) have a track grading classification scale which has been developed to assist in advising Trip Leaders and participants on 4WD trips of the type of tracks that they can expect to encounter. On most trips participants can expect that a variety of tracks will be traversed each with an appropriate rating. Trip Leaders should advise participants of the range of track ratings expected to be encountered on the planned route. The following classifications will assist in determining an overall Trip Rating:

Considerations	Easy	Medium	Difficult	Very Difficult
Overall Description	All Wheel Drive and High Range 4WD. Novice Drivers	Mainly High range 4WD but Low range required. Some 4WD experience recommended.	Significant Low range 4WD with standard 4WD ground clearance. Should have 4WD driver training.	Low range 4WD with High ground clearance. Experienced Drivers
Advisory Sign				
Expected terrain and track conditions	Mostly unsealed roads with no obstacles and minor gradients.	Tracks with some steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. May have shallow water crossings.	Tracks with frequent steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. Possible water crossings.	Tracks with frequent very steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. May have difficult river crossings.
Vehicle suitability	All wheel Drive and High Range 4WD. Can be low clearance with single range and road tyres.	Suitable for medium clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain or road tyres.	Suitable for medium to high clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain tyres.	Suitable for high clearance vehicles with dual range and tyres suitable for the terrain. (Mud Terrain tyres).
Recovery equipment			Recovery equipment required.	Winch / Recovery equipment required.
Driver Training / Experience	Suitable for novice drivers.	Recommended that drivers have experience or 4WD training. Recommended to be done in groups of vehicles.	Recommended for drivers with reasonable experience or 4WD training. To be done in groups of vehicles.	Drivers with extensive experience and advanced training should only attempt as there are several technical challenges. Recommended to be done in groups of four or more vehicles.
Weather	May be difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.



PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	PROFICIENCY TRAINING
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	Phil Griffith – 0419 865 472 Ashley Martin -0428 134 999 John Partridge – 0405 058 079
DATE	Practical – Friday 16th March– Sunday 18th May
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Theory – Noble Park Football Club, Blue and Gold Room Practical – Service Centre Officer (Princess Hwy) Friday @5pm / Saturday @7.30am
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Easy / Medium DRY: Easy Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>The Club encourages all members to participate in a proficiency course to ensure the basic fundamentals of 4-wheel driving are gained.</p> <p>Theory provides an overview of the tread lightly principles, vehicles dynamics and functions, tackling various terrains along with other subjects. This provides the background for the practical weekend.</p> <p>Practical we run through individual vehicles and differences, basic recovery equipment and recap some of the theory (including homework). We then begin the practical side running through several techniques to ensure safe vehicle recovery when in difficult situations. Once all participants are confident with these, we hit the tracks to put all the theory into practice.</p> <p>Sunday will be a leisurely start then we will traverse a number of tracks which allow you to become familiar with your vehicles' capabilities and gain further confidence. We should be finished by 2 o'clock arriving back to Melbourne around 4.</p> <p>As with past participants the weekend provides confidence to safely 4WD either with the club or friends</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	300 kms (approx.)
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Moe DIESEL: Moe
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Theory - pen and concentration Practical - You will need to be self-sufficient for camping and have your brain switched on!
MAPS REQUIRED	https://goo.gl/maps/GTrQDz5RLHS2
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	UHF 12 to start with and then move if its busy

Trip Report – Haunted Stream 2025

Report By – Bruce Dunlop

1. Bruce D – Ford Everest Sport
2. Anne, Alan – Toyota Prado
3. Rod (local) – D-Max

The trip started with a set up at the Bruthen Caravan Park on Friday 4 APR,

The intrepid travelers then did a quick shake out of some local tracks, with the Swan Reach Hotel Motel lunch highly anticipated, and enjoyed,

A quick catch up with a local, my co driver tomorrow, and we are ready for the upcoming trip.

Saturday saw us bright eyed, and bushy tailed at the new Bruthen Honey Café, bacon and egg panini anyone?

So, our convoy of three heads off.

We get to the last wooden fire spotting tower at Mt Little Dick. Obligatory photo shoot,

Head towards Engineers Track, it is in better condition than most major Victorian roads,

Any hoot we get to the Drop into Dawson City, its rained recently and its steep, so 4 low is quickly selected, Manual mode for us automagic drivers, M1 for me. Not to far down the track the vehicles go where they want and not where we want, so fight the urge to brake and drive them down, all good, few wide eyes from my back seat, just close your eyes I say, I did,

More photos from Dawson City, saw the only other vehicle on this part of track for the whole trip. Quick lunch and exchange of pleasantries and Haunted Streams 50+ fords await.

These are carried out without any major issues, a log down in a creek saw the introduction of deep-sea chain sawing.

The loss of a treasured Jandel at this stage brought a tear to one participant.

Its out through the gates at private property, air up and express back to Bruthen,

Trip Report

Swan Reach Hotel for dinner, a few cleansing ales had the hill steeper and as slippery as a bar of soap.

Sunday was a relaxed departure due to extra hour of daylight savings, dropping in to local's farm, grand tour.

All in all great weekend, grand time and now to plan the next,







We need your help on and off the tracks



**If you have some spare time
please consider joining the committee.
Your club needs you— do it for your club!**

Contact your Committee...

