



FREE WHEELING

SEPTEMBER 2025



Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

Photo by Sally Higgs

Registration No
A0002184F



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 3rd September 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	Ken Kilby	trips@vfwdc.com
Magazine Editor	Sushant Aggarwal	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	Dennis Alphonsus	delegate@vfwdc.com
General Committee	Andy McCarthy	

Support Positions to Committee

Web Manager	Alec Downs	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 3175
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

After our recent AGM we are now looking forward to the following year.

Our calendar is filling up with a few events, but there is plenty of room for you to plan your next adventure.

We only had a few changes at the AGM. A very big thanks to Ben Whitworth who after committing ~10 years on the committee has stepped down from the Web support role. We really appreciate all your work over this time.

Also, a big welcome to Alec Downs who is taking on the Web support role

The new committee is as below:

President - Neville Van Leeuwen

Vice President - Ken Kilby

Secretary - Steven Miller

Treasurer - Ly Ho

Editor - Sushant Aggarwal

Trip Coordinator - Ken Kilby

Merchandise - Suzy Whitford

Web Support - Alec Downs (New committee member)

Association Delegate - Dennis Alphonsus

General Committee - Andy McCarthy

Some of the committee attended the 4X4 show recently and we are looking at the possibility of having a stand there next year. We saw some other 4WD clubs and saw what they were doing. Andy & Suzy got some practice by volunteering at FWDV stand for a few hours. Well done guys! More info to come on this, we will be looking for some volunteers to run the stand for a shift.

We are planning the rest of the year now, so if you have some ideas on guest speakers you would like to hear from, or trips you would like to attend or run please see Ken or another committee member.

Neville Van Leeuwen

VFWDC President

president@vfwdc.com

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 6 August 2025

Time: 7:35pm – 8:38pm

Location: Club Noble

Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Open Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to the August 2025 club meeting Apologies: Daisy, Sally and Tristan, Nicola 	Neville
Minutes from previous months club meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from previous meeting accepted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted: Bruce Seconded: Andre Matters arising from previous minutes for meeting on the 02/07/2025: Nil 	Neville
Guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greg, Four wheel driving for many years ago, was a previous member from about 25 years ago, Landcruiser 105 	Neville
Correspondence	<p>Correspondence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Australia Post Bank Statements Enquiry about club – This was responded to. 	Neville Steven M
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. Report for July 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing cash position \$2,869.00 Closing consolidated position \$11,469.00 No matters arising from Financial Report. Motion to accept July 2025 Treasurer's Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted: Andy Seconded: Stuart 	Ly
Association News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FWDV has 50th anniversary function Visitor (Craig) coming from FWDV next meeting FWDV looking for signatures (Facebook petition) for protesting the discontinuing Aberfeldy track maintenance. Mt Baw Baw Shire won't pay for maintenance. Yarra Shire has been maintaining it even though it is Mt Baw Baw's responsibility. 	Dennis
Upcoming Trips	<p>Mark Skace, Joshua Miller, Anne received certificates for Advanced Driver Training. Adam's certificate is available, but he was absent. Thanks to Phil, John and Ashley for running the course</p>	Neville

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 6 August 2025

Time: 7:35pm – 8:38pm

Location: Club Noble

Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 09/08/2025 Mt Skene Snow Trip #1 – Trip Leader: Nero - Meeting at general store/bakery @ 8am 16/08/2025 Mt Skene Snow Trip #2 – Trip Leader: Andre – May go up and over to Licola if no snow. Trip data form yet to be submitted. Meeting at general store/bakery at 8:45am 06/09/2025 – Trip Leader: Neville – Woods Point, Mt Matlock, Corn Hill, lunch at Woods Point hotel. Day Trip. Medium + difficulty 03/10/2025 - Stargazing a Briars at 7:45pm. Book your own tickets 12-15 December 2025 – Trip Leader: Neville – Friday - Blue Rag, Saturday – Crooked River Sunday - Billy Goats Bluff, Monday – Head Home. Difficulty - Medium to Hard 	Ken, Andre and Neville
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31/12/2025 x3 New Years Eaves at Camerons Corner – Trip Leader Bruce Dunlop 	Bruce
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2026 Cape York – Trip Leader: Bruce Dunlop - leaving King's birthday 2026, returning August 2026 	Bruce
Merchandise	Usual items – Proposal for new hoodie with embroidered logo, sample on table at back, taking expressions of interest, Price to be advised.	Suzy
General Business	23,24/08/2025 - 4x4 Show at Melbourne Show Grounds - Sunday	Neville
Intermission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermission 8:00pm to 8:20pm 	
AGM	Commenced 8:20pm, concluded at 8:35pm See separate AGM Minutes	Steve Pritcher
Meeting Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:38 pm 	Neville
Minutes taken by:		Steven Miller
Meeting Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:38 pm 	Neville

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com

Treasurer's Report July 2025

<u>Cheque A/C`</u> Opening Balance as at 01/07/2025	\$3,216.86	
Add: Raffle	\$82.00	
Membership Fees	\$1,620.00	
Less: Catering Costs	-\$183.15	
Raffle Prizes	-\$49.95	
Association Fees	-\$1,800.00	
Transfer to Petty Cash	-\$16.70	
Closing Balance as at 31/07/2025		\$2,869.06
<u>Term Deposit</u> Opening Balance as at 01/07/2025	\$8,550.55	
Closing Balance as at 31/07/2025		\$8,550.55
<u>Petty Cash</u> Opening Balance as at 01/07/2025	\$33.30	
Add: Transfer from Cheque A/C	\$16.70	
Closing Balance as at 31/07/2025		\$50.00
Consolidated Closing Cash Position		<u>\$11,469.61</u>

NEW GENERAL MEETING START TIME

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Club membership renewals are due for the upcoming financial year. Membership prices:

Single - \$87

Family/Couple - \$97

Silver - \$57

Payment details are in the membership form below:

[https://www.vfwdc.com/pdf/Membership%20Form%20\[2025\].pdf](https://www.vfwdc.com/pdf/Membership%20Form%20[2025].pdf)

NOTE: You must be a paid member to participate in the snow trips

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

Orders are now being taken for a 400gsm heavy hoodie (as colour brand) with several colour options available. The new VFWDC logo will be embroidered on the left chest.

The hoodie is being offered at a great price of **\$65.**

A sample will be available at the September meeting.

For sizing refer to the email which was sent out with a colour and sizing chart. **Speak to Suzy or any other committee member** for more information.

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](#).

Club Calendar

September

Wednesday 3 rd	General meeting	7:30pm Club Noble
Saturday 6 th	Woods Point Hotel Day Trip	Neville
Wednesday 17 th	Committee Meeting	

October

Wednesday 1 st	General meeting	7:30pm Club Noble
Friday 3 rd	Star Gazing Night @8PM	Neville
Wednesday 15 th	Committee Meeting	

November

Wednesday 5 th	General meeting	7:30pm Club Noble
Wednesday 19 th	Committee Meeting	

December





Friday 12 th	Trip to Blue Rag and surrounds (12 – 15 Dec)	Neville
Wednesday 31 st	Triple New Years at Camerons corner	Bruce Dunlop

More upcoming trips:

1. Cape York leaving King's birthday, via Birdsville, Weipa (Next Year – 2026), returning August 2026 (Bruce Dunlop)
2. June - August 2026: Cape York Trip (Bruce)

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.

Trip Report – Mt Skene Snow Trip 1 (9 Aug 2025)

1. Niro - trip leader-Toyota Prado
2. Saj - Toyota Prado
3. Marc - Mitsubishi Triton
4. Steve and Sophie - Mazda BT50
5. Chris, Luca and Xavier - Toyota Prado
6. Andy and Suzy - Mitsubishi Challenger

Many a check of the weather apps, precipitation and snow reports in the week prior to the impending snow trip was done. Hoping that the gods would answer our request for the good old white stuff on Saturday 9th August.

The day arrived, and the time was 8am, the place was Jamieson General Store....we all met to start the day with a debrief from our trip leader, Niro.

Our convoy of 6 vehicles headed off up Jamieson-Licola Road, headed for Mount Skene. On our way out of town, another convoy of Land Rovers courteously gave way to our convoy, so we headed on up ahead of them.

Airing down on the dirt road, found Andy over-deflating one rear tyre, and during reinflation to the correct PSI, gave the opportunity for the convoy of Land Rovers to pass us and head on up the road before us.

The first sighting of a light dusting of snow at 1150 metres altitude was discovered, before view of the picnic area.

Chris reported on the CB that his two youngsters became very excited at the prospect of further snow being discovered. Some big kids also got a little excited (not mentioning any names!).

Trip Report

Passing one abandoned Toyota Camry on the shoulder of the road, (where snow at the roadside was becoming thicker)....viewing the back seat of the Camry as we passed, a thick doona could be seen, but no signs of humans....



Sticking to the ruts in the road, the underbody of the Mitsubishi could feel the bumps of the firm packed snow hitting the bash plate.

The convoy climbed the summit easily, stopping for a lookout and a play in the snow and soaking up the beautiful views and sunshine at the lookout point, even making a snowman



An enjoyable time was had at the summit, adjacent to Barkly River Jeep Track, before the descent. All safely down to Jamieson where a departure photo was taken (no backdrop of snow, as we had too much fun at the top and forgot about a group photo).

Trip Report



We departed ways, all with smiles on our faces, a great day had by all.

Feedback to ground Charlie that an uneventful trip was completed (a sigh of relief heard from Nev)!

Thank you to Niro for running a great trip!

Thank you all for the unity of a great club that is VFWDC ☺

Trip report by Suzy.



PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	WOODS POINT HOTEL DAY TRIP
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Neville Van Leeuwen TEL: MOB: 0472 680 482
DATE	Saturday 06/09/25
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Ampol Longwarry 8AM
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Hard/Med DRY: Med/Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Head up to Mount Matlock – depending on conditions head around cornhill road & spur track to woods point. Otherwise via Warburton Woods point road Have a meal at Woods Point then home via Thomson dam
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	350
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Longwarry DIESEL: Longwarry
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	350
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery Gear
MAPS REQUIRED	TBA
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12
DOG FRIENDLY?	Yes – You will need to make provisions while we have a pub meal

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED:

1. Plan your trip. In particular: meeting point destination, trip grading, trip details, fuel information, camping arrangements. If a trip is classified as Dog Friendly, it is the responsibility of the Trip Leader to ensure the trip does not enter areas that do not allow dogs.
2. Complete a “PROPOSED CLUB TRIP” form.
3. Pass the form on to the President or Events Coordinator, either in hard copy format or electronically, for approval at the next Committee Meeting. When approved, the Trip Leader will be notified, and the trip included in the Club Calendar. Also ensure copy passed to Newsletter Editor for inclusion in calendar and Forthcoming Trip Section.



PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	STAR GAZING NIGHT
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Neville van Leeuwen TEL: MOB: 0472 680 482
DATE	Friday 03/10/2025 8PM
MEETING PLACE / TIME	The Briars Historic Park 450 Nepean Highway MT Martha
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: NA DRY: NA
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>The club has decided to attend a night which is also open to the public, and bookings are now open for the Mornington Peninsula Astronomical society (MPAS) star gazing session on Friday 3rd October at 8pm.</p> <p>As this event is open to the public, it does book out. Please book in yourselves if you wish to attend.</p> <p>Please use the link below/MPAS website which leads you to the Try Booking details....</p> <p>mpas.asn.au</p> <p>Prices are : Adults \$15, Child (up to age 15) \$ 5, and family 2A,2C \$35.</p> <p>All details are on the MPAS website or you can ask Neville for any further information:</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 1 MAXIMUM: While tickets available
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	A ticket
DOG FRIENDLY?	NO

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED:

1. Plan your trip. In particular: meeting point destination, trip grading, trip details, fuel information, camping arrangements. If a trip is classified as Dog Friendly, it is the responsibility of the Trip Leader to ensure the trip does not enter areas that do not allow dogs.
2. Complete a "PROPOSED CLUB TRIP" form.
3. Pass the form on to the President or Events Coordinator, either in hard copy format or electronically, for approval at the next Committee Meeting. When approved, the Trip Leader will be notified, and the trip included in the Club Calendar. Also ensure copy passed to Newsletter Editor for inclusion in calendar and Forthcoming Trip Section.



PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	BLUE RAG TO CROOKED RIVER
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Neville Van Leeuwen TEL: MOB: 0472 680 482
DATE	12 th – 15 th of Dec 25
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Hard DRY: Med
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Plan is take Friday & Monday off work Leave Fri and head to Dargo – refuel, look around and have a meal at the pub. Potentially camp behind the pub or at one of the nearby campsites like Italian Flat Saturday: Pack up and do Blue Rag Range track heading to crooked river via Basalt N Track Camp at Crooked River. Sunday: Most likely do crooked river to Billy Goat Bluff Track Camp at Horseyard flat track (Or closer to Licola) Monday: Pack up and head home via Licola
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	~250 KM between Dargo and Licola
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: DARGO then Licola DIESEL: DARGO then Licola
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	250KM Full trip approx. 800km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery gear & be fully self sufficient to camp at a different location each night
MAPS REQUIRED	Dargo – Wonnangatta Adventure Map or similar
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	250KM Full trip approx. 800km
DOG FRIENDLY? YES/NO	Yes – there will be some long days in the car. We plan on having a meal at Dargo Pub. (People can go direct to campsite)

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED:

1. Plan your trip. In particular: meeting point destination, trip grading, trip details, fuel information, camping arrangements. If a trip is classified as Dog Friendly, it is the responsibility of the Trip Leader to ensure the trip does not enter areas that do not allow dogs.
2. Complete a “PROPOSED CLUB TRIP” form.
3. Pass the form on to the President or Events Coordinator, either in hard copy format or electronically, for approval at the next Committee Meeting. When approved, the Trip Leader will be notified, and the trip included in the Club Calendar. Also ensure copy passed to Newsletter Editor for inclusion in calendar and Forthcoming Trip Section.

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...

