



FREE WHEELING

February 2026



Photo by: Sushant Aggarwal

Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

Registration No
A0002184F

Meeting Details



VFWDC General Meeting Details & Venue

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30 PM 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



Next club meeting is on 4th February (Wednesday) 7:30 pm at Club Noble.

Club Committee

2025 - 2026

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------|--|
| 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

I hope everyone had a great break over the Christmas & New Year period and are now looking forward to planning trips for the next year.

Fires have impacted and continue to impact big segments of the high country and many other areas across Victoria including Longwood which was impacted significantly. FWDV were looking for volunteers to help with cleanups. If you would like to assist here, please reach out to the FWDV office. Dennis has sent out an email with more details.

If you are planning a trip to the high country, please be extra vigilant to ensure those areas are open. The club discourages travelling into these areas during periods of extreme weather as we have been experiencing lately.

On a positive note, we do have some great trips coming up so please ensure you are at the next meeting to hear about these.

On another positive note our new website is now live, if you haven't yet, please check it out. The new site looks great. A massive thanks to Alec who has put a lot of work getting this up and working with a modern look.

If you are hoping to go somewhere particular and need a hand to plan a trip please reach out to Ken or a committee member and we will be more than happy to assist you. We are also hoping to run another Trip Leader Training session early in the year.

We are still working on some guest speakers for the year, so if you want to hear from anyone or know someone who would be great reach out to myself or a committee member.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting!

Neville Van Leeuwen

VFWDC President

president@vfwdc.com

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 3 December 2025

Time: 7:30 pm – 8:45 pm

Location: Club Noble

Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 4th February 2026

| Topic | Discussion and Outcomes | Speaker |
|---|--|---------------------|
| Open Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to the December 2025 club meeting Apologies: Daisy, Brett and Nicci, Ian and Audre | 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: Sally Seconded: Sean Matters arising from previous minutes for meeting on the 12/11/2025: Nil | Neville |
| Guests | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael and Eura – Landcruiser - Looking forward to exploring Australia | Neville |
| Correspondence | <p>Correspondence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Track Watch magazine received and copies at the back of the meeting room. Neville picked up mail from PO Brett and Nicci met Toyota Club at FWDV 50th anniversary event. There is an open invite to attend an annual Toyota Gymcana | 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 October 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing cash position \$2,823.21 Closing consolidated position \$11,520.56 No matters arising from Financial Report. Motion to accept October 2025 Treasurer's Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted: Stuart Seconded: Anne Report for November 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing cash position \$2,257.53 Closing consolidated position \$10,954.88 No matters arising from Financial Report. Motion to accept November 2025 Treasurer's Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted: Sean Seconded: Bruce | Ly |

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|------------------|---|--------------|
| Upcoming Trips | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12-15 December 2025 – Friday - Blue Rag, Saturday – Crooked River Sunday - Billy Goats Bluff, Monday – Head Home. Difficulty - Medium to Hard | 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"> Proposed Shrine Trip – Bruce Dunlop – Details to be advised 2026 Cape York leaving King's birthday 2026, returning August 2026. Trip Leader: Bruce Dunlop | Bruce |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neville may run a local trip over the New Years weekend – details to be advised. | Neville |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Shrine Trip – Bruce Dunlop – Details to be advised | Bruce |
| | | |
| Merchandise | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usual items – Existing stock available ... see club magazine for details. Some anniversary shirts still available New hoodies available | Suzy |
| | | |
| Intermission | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermission 7:50pm to 8:27pm | |
| | | |
| General Business | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for persons to be allowed to do driver training course again. Club 4x4 advised that the driver training needs to be renewed every 5 years to maintain discount. Ly to send out expression of interest to club members | Neville |
| | | |
| Magazine | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invitation to everyone to submit anything of interest relating to camping/four-wheel driving/vehicles ... Send through to Sushant | Neville |
| Trip Reports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing Trip organised by Stephen – Spread across 2 camp sites, Great week end though rained out at the end and there was a police check on camp fires – Report by Sally ... See trip report in magazine 07/12/2025 Dargo to Dinner Plain where it promptly snowed – Bruce Dunlop 29/11/2025 End of year breakup at Upper Yarra – Report by Neville – got there early to get BBQ hut. Sun came out. Great day | Neville |
| Web Site | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New web site set up by Alec. Thoroughly modernised the site. Preview will be available this week. Site will go live over Christmas. | Neville |
| Raffle | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prizes Wine and stubbie holder <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recovery Hitch 2. BCF Gift Card 3. Cap, DVD, Stubby Holder and Recipe Book 4. Cap, DVD, Stubby Holder and Recipe Book | Neville/Alec |

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|----------------------|--|---------------|
| Recognition | Thanks to Neville for his efforts with the club for the past year | |
| | | |
| Next General Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none">No club meeting in January 2026.Club Noble - Wednesday 04/02/2026, 7:30pm | Neville |
| | | |
| Meeting Close | <ul style="list-style-type: none">8:45 pm | Neville |
| | | |
| Minutes taken by: | | Steven Miller |

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com

Treasurer's Report December 2025

| | | |
|--|------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Cheque A/C`</u> Opening Balance as at 01/12/2025 | \$2,257.53 | |
| Add: Membership Fees | \$304.00 | |
| Raffle | \$5.00 | |
| Less: Catering Costs | -\$25.06 | |
| Gift Card purchase | -\$50.00 | |
| November Expense Adjustment | -\$0.20 | |
| Closing Balance as at 31/12/2025 | | \$2,491.27 |
| <u>Term Deposit</u> Opening Balance as at 01/12/2025 | \$8,647.35 | |
| Closing Balance as at 31/12/2025 | | \$8,647.35 |
| <u>Petty Cash</u> Opening Balance as at 01/12/2025 | \$50.00 | |
| Closing Balance as at 31/12/2025 | | \$50.00 |
| Consolidated Closing Cash Position | | <u>\$11,188.62</u> |

NEW GENERAL MEETING START TIME

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.

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

February 2026





| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Wednesday 4 th | General Club Meeting | 7:30 pm |
| Wednesday 18 th | Committee Meeting | |
| Friday 20 th | Portland Dune Buggy Trip | Steven Card |

March 2026

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Wednesday 4 th | General Club Meeting | 7:30 pm |
| Wednesday 18 th | Committee Meeting | |

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. |

For Sale

BFG Mud Terrain T/A 265/75R16

Fitted to R616/17 Navara D40 steel rim

\$500 the set (\$100 per tyre).

Pick up from Berwick

Contact David: 0417747860



3NYE Trip Report

December 2025

Report by Andy

1. Bruce - 1994 Patrol
2. Ann & Alan - Toyota Prado
3. Andy - Mitsubishi Challenger
4. Joined on Day 4 by friend of Bruce, Macca - Toyota Land Cruiser (and Bobby)

Day 1 - 259k's to Wedderburn

Free camped at Hard Hill Tourist Reserve - nice place to stay overnight although no amenities.

Day 2 - 339 k's to Ramon Deeds Veterans Retreat in Dareton NSW

Great place to stay but only allowed to stay accompanied by a veteran

Day 3 - 288 k's to Broken Hill Tourist Park, where the pool was given a good workout

Day 4 - Stay day in Broken Hill

Visited Broken Hill railway museum, plenty of Broken Hill history to see (not just railway stuff).

Went to the Living Desert and Sculptures - 12 sculptures shipped in and plastered onto the existing rocks. It was the brainchild of an artist who had been conversing with an eagle.

Great views of the city and outback, only interrupted by many wind turbines.

Macca (friend of Bruce) arrived

Went to Silverton for a meal and was visited by the local donkeys.

After dinner, went to Mundi Mundi to view the sunset

There was barely a cloud in the sky for 2-3 days, unfortunately they arrived as the sun was setting. We still got some great pics.

Trip Report

Day 5 - 353 k's to Tibooburra, camped at The Granites Caravan Park

Driving through the outback, the highway turned into an emergency landing strip for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.....amazing!

Day 6 - 140 k's to Cameron Corner - great place to camp

9 hole golf course over 3 states but couldn't find hole number 4, so went straight from the 3rd to the 10th!

3 NYE's.....most people gathered at the border point and stood in the QLD corner for fireworks at midnight, then shuffled into the S.A. corner for their 12:00 am fireworks and finally over to the NSW corner for the 3rd midnight fireworks.

Day 7 - 456 k's back to Broken Hill Tourist Park.....more pool time!

Day 8 - Bid farewell to Macca and travelled 277 k's to Ramon Deed

Dinner at the local club.

Despite plenty of tickets and 51 prizes up for grabs, we left empty handed

Day 9 - 585 k's home



Alan golfing



Andy golfing



Corner store



Mundi Mundi

Trip Report



Landing strip 1



Landing strip 2



NYE



Outback dawn



Outback 1



Outback 2



Rockart



Silo art



Sunset



Wagons' circle



PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

| | |
|---|---|
| DESTINATION | Portland dune buggy club |
| LEADER/CONTACT NO. | NAME: Steven Card TEL: MOB: 0411202606 |
| DATE | 20-23 rd March 2026 |
| MEETING PLACE / TIME | 8am - location to be finalised |
| GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications | WET: Medium DRY: Medium |
| TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS | Head down to Portland dune buggy club. Spend a couple of days playing in the dunes. Get a bit of fishing in off the beaches. Few nights of camping fun. Head back to Melbourne. |
| VEHICLE LIMITS | MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 8 |
| APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination | 400kms 375kms |
| LAST AVAILABLE FUEL | PETROL: Portland DIESEL: Portland |
| DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES | 35kms |
| EQUIPMENT REQUIRED | Recovery gear Sand flag Temporary membership to the buggy club |
| MAPS REQUIRED | Google maps will be fine. |
| RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF | 12 |
| DOG FRIENDLY? YES/NO | |

No, dogs are not allowed at the park

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...

