



# FREE WHEELING

April 2026



Official Newsletter of the  
Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

Registration No  
A0002184F

Photo by: Sushant Aggarwal



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> April (Wednesday) 7:30 pm at Club Noble.**

## Club Committee

### 2025 - 2026

President	Neville Van Leeuwen	<a href="mailto:president@vfwdc.com">president@vfwdc.com</a>
Vice President	Ken Kilby	<a href="mailto:vicepres@vfwdc.com">vicepres@vfwdc.com</a>
Secretary	Steve Miller	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
Treasurer	Ly Ho	<a href="mailto:treasurer@vfwdc.com">treasurer@vfwdc.com</a>

### General Committee

Trip Coordinator	Ken Kilby	<a href="mailto:trips@vfwdc.com">trips@vfwdc.com</a>
Magazine Editor	Sushant Aggarwal	<a href="mailto:editor@vfwdc.com">editor@vfwdc.com</a>
Association Delegate	Dennis Alphonsus	<a href="mailto:delegate@vfwdc.com">delegate@vfwdc.com</a>
General Committee	Andy McCarthy	

### Support Positions to Committee

Web Manager	Alec Downs	<a href="mailto:web@vfwdc.com">web@vfwdc.com</a>
Training officer	Phillip Griffith	
Merchandise	Suzy Whitford	<a href="mailto:merchandise@vfwdc.com">merchandise@vfwdc.com</a>

### Club Details

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
Registration Number	A002184F
Correspondence Address	PO Box 778 Dandenong VIC 3175
Email	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.vfwdc.com">www.vfwdc.com</a>

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

## President's Report

Hi All

Hope everyone has had a chance to get out on the tracks recently. We have had a few trips recently / upcoming which is great to see.

I enjoyed a day trip to Noojee recently (Check out my trip report) it was great to get out and join some of the new and current members for the day.

We have a few activities coming up:

With our Christmas in July we have a poll on Facebook / Email on where we should go for the Christmas in July, please add your vote to this so we can lock in our destination for what is always a great weekend.

We are hoping to host a stand at the 4 X 4 show, we have a form so please sign up as we need a fair few people to be able to support this over the 3 days.

It's been a quiet month with no other updates

Looking forward to meeting up next Wednesday to hear what people are doing over Easter



**Neville Van Leeuwen**

VFWDC President

[president@vfwdc.com](mailto:president@vfwdc.com)

## VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 4 March 2026

Time: 7:30 pm – 8:35 pm

Location: Club Noble

**Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Open Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome to the March 2026 club meeting</li> <li>Apologies: Nil</li> </ul>	Neville
Minutes from previous months club meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes from previous meeting accepted:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accepted: Sushant</li> <li>Seconded: Mark</li> </ul> </li> <li>Matters arising from previous minutes for the club meeting on the 04/02/2026: Nil</li> </ul>	Neville
Guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requests have been sent to various parties ... awaiting responses</li> </ul>	Neville
Correspondence	<p>Correspondence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neville picked up mail from PO</li> <li>Bill for PO Box</li> </ol>	Neville Steven M
Treasurer's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per written report from Ly Ho – Written report will be in next issue of the club's magazine.</li> <li>Report for February 2026:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closing cash position \$2,862.87</li> <li>Closing consolidated position \$11,649.10</li> <li>No matters arising from Financial Report.</li> <li>Motion to accept February 2026 Treasurer 's Report:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accepted: Stuart</li> <li>Seconded: Sally</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Ly
Association News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VFWDC doing work in Longwood area to rehabilitate fire affected areas.</li> <li>Presidents and Delegates meeting on or about 22 February 2026.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>35 attendees from multiple clubs</li> <li>Office has relocated to Bayswater</li> <li>Fees have gone to \$62</li> <li>Rowville office has obtained permit and construction to commence shortly</li> <li>Toolangi training ground has upgrades in progress.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>**** QUESTION #1 **** - Stuart queried whether the Toolangi site was leased or purchased ... Dennis to investigate and respond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asked for anyone who has done volunteer work to record hours and submit it via Dennis (Association Delegate)</li> <li>Association Rules being reviewed. Submissions apparently have closed.</li> <li>Volunteers required to assist with clearing tracks in the Otways</li> <li>Proposed a national waiver system for club members.</li> </ul>	Dennis

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Time: 7:30 pm – 8:35 pm

Location: Club Noble

**Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Association News	<p>**** QUESTION #2 **** - What rights are being waived? Waiver is on the FWDV web site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ FWDV wanted feedback on how clubs are trying to cater to different demographics, particularly younger persons.</li> </ul> <p>**** QUESTION #3 **** - Question was raised about FWDV finances ... what are the out goings ... where is the treasurer's report?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CEO role has been made redundant. FWDV President and FWDV Training Officer are taking on the various CEO activities.</li> </ul>	Dennis
Upcoming Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 2026 Portland Dune Buggy Club – Stephen Card.</li> <li>• 07/03/2026 – Noogee, Water Fall, Trestle Bridge – Trip Leader: Neville</li> <li>• 27<sup>th</sup> March – Little O'Tooles Camp Ground – Trip Leader: Sushant</li> <li>• Easter: 5 days - Border Track – Trip Leader Stuart – Mildura, follow the old mail route, camp at Murry River, Pinnaburra (Mallee Highway, One way section), Western Highway – No Dogs permitted</li> <li>• 8<sup>th</sup> April leaving Wednesday – Buchans Caves, Haunted Stream Trip – Trip Leader: Neville</li> <li>• Date TBA - Driver Training at Merringtons.</li> <li>• Date TBA - Trip Leader Training – Training by Sally</li> <li>• 2026 Cape York leaving King's birthday 2026, returning August 2026. Trip Leader: Bruce Dunlop. Approx 13,000km</li> <li>• Date TBA (August) – 4x4 show – volunteers for club stand for 3 days. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ **** Dennis to notify FWDV that we wish to have a stand at the 4x4 show ****</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Ken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looking for new driver trainers, waiting for clarification of driver training instructor qualifications required.</li> </ul>	Neville and Phil
Intermission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intermission 7:50pm to 8:16pm</li> </ul>	
Merchandise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usual items – Existing stock available ... see club magazine for details.</li> <li>• Some anniversary shirts, stickers and other items still available</li> </ul>	Neville

## VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 4 March 2026

Time: 7:30 pm – 8:35 pm

Location: Club Noble

**Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trip procedure refresher               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dog policy and dog form</li> <li>▪ Emergency contact form ... required to be in the glove box of your car.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• New brochures have been printed. Neville will bring them to next meeting for anyone who wants a copy.</li> </ul>	Neville
Magazine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitation to everyone to submit anything of interest relating to camping/four wheel driving/vehicles/trips ... Send through to Sushant</li> </ul>	Neville
Trip Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maree – 4 day Elvis Festival at Parkes in NSW – Great time ... highly recommended. The whole town was Elvis themed, even the bakery products.</li> </ul>	Maree
Raffle	<p>Prizes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First Prize               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Camp Chair</li> <li>2. Or ... Tablet Holder – Carried Over to April Meeting</li> <li>3. Or ... Seat Covers – Carried Over to April Meeting</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Snake Bite 1<sup>st</sup> aid Kit and cup holder</li> <li>3. Cap, Stubbie Holder, Stickers</li> </ol>	Neville
Next General Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Club Noble - Wednesday 01/04/2026, 7:30pm</li> </ul>	Neville
Meeting Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8:35 pm</li> </ul>	Neville

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc  
www.vfwdc.com

## Treasurer's Report February 2026

<u>Cheque A/C`</u> Opening Balance as at 01/02/2026	\$2,562.27	
Add: Donations	\$3.00	
Membership Fees	\$456.00	
Less: Association Fees – FWDV	-\$90.00	
Catering Costs	-\$18.40	
Raffle Prizes	-\$50.00	
Closing Balance as at 28/02/2026		\$2,862.87
<u>Term Deposit</u> Opening Balance as at 01/02/2026	\$8,647.35	
Add: Interest	\$88.88	
Closing Balance as at 28/02/2026		\$8,736.23
<u>Petty Cash</u> Opening Balance as at 01/01/2026	\$50.00	
Closing Balance as at 28/02/2026		\$50.00
<b>Consolidated Closing Cash Position</b>		<b><u>\$11,649.10</u></b>

### **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](http://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](mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com)

### Payments:

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

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**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](mailto: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

## April 2026

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	General Club Meeting	7:30 pm
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Border Track Trip	Stuart & Maree
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	

## May 2026





Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	General Club Meeting	7:30 pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	

### More upcoming trips:

1. Driver Training at Merringtons
2. Trip Leader Training – Training by Sally
3. 2026 Cape York leaving King's birthday 2026, returning August 2026. Trip Leader: Bruce Dunlop

# 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
<b>Overall Description</b>	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
<b>Advisory Sign</b>				
<b>Expected terrain and track conditions</b>	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.
<b>Vehicle suitability</b>	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).
<b>Recovery equipment</b>			Recovery equipment required.	Winch / Recovery equipment required.
<b>Driver Training / Experience</b>	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.
<b>Weather</b>	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.

## Noojee Day Trip – March 2026

### Report by Neville

1. Neville – Triton (Trip Leader)
2. Nick & Stephanie (and there two dogs) – Ford Ranger
3. Dennis – Jeep
4. Yoram & Michal – Toyota Landcruiser
5. Joe & Jo – Toyota Landcruiser
6. Niro & Ehren Toyota Prado
7. Luch Guests
8. Suzy & Andy (& Bobbie)

### Tracks:

1. Tolley's Track onto Suckling Road then onto Reference Track
2. Mannara Road, Cascade Creek Road onto LV2 track, then LV1 track

We all met up at Ampol Longwarry at 8.30 for a 9.00 departure. Once we had all gathered and people had fueled cars and bodies we got together and discussed the days plans. A quick run through on the tracks we were going to do and some information about travelling in convoys and we were off.

Niro's son Ehren took the role of tail-end Charlie and did great job with all the communications. Thanks Ehren!

At Neerim South we turned off and headed East in search of our first tracks. While winding our way through the gravel roads we saw a convoy of Jimnys parked up. They were likely also getting ready to tackle some tracks.

We aired down just prior to the start of the track in a large intersection and set off again. Once we got to the base of the track, I advised everyone that low range would be required and headed up the track. Luckily, I had recommended that the next person wait a minute, as once I headed up, I realized I was on the wrong track. (First U-turn for the day)

## Trip Report

A quick 180 and we were now heading up Tolley's track. (I still need to go back and have a look at Wild Bull Road which is the track I started to go up). We all headed up the track. There were a fair few steep cross-overs on the way up (Approx 28 degrees according to Dennis gauge) but the track was dry and everyone followed without any trouble. About halve way up I accidentally took the wrong fork for a minute (Second U-turn), but we were quickly back on the right track again.

Once we reached the top we turned onto Suckling Road and then onto Reference Track which continued to be easy-medium tracks in the dry conditions. We only found one spot which was a bit greasy.

While parked up we noted how these tracks would be a lot more challenging in the wet.

Now that we were back on the main road it was back into high range and we made our way to the next section of tracks, we had to go through Noojee, and we noticed it was filling up fast at the Pub. I assured everyone I had booked a table. We headed out to the Loch Valley Campground (Poplars). A very quick detour through the campground was all we needed to see that people were camped in like sardines due to the long weekend.

After a few minutes verifying my maps, we headed onto Mannara Road to tackle a few more tracks. We headed towards LV2 track, and we could note the difference to the tracks we had done earlier, there was a fair bit more moisture here.

As we got to LV1 track things became a bit more challenging, we were in a bit more clay here. After stopping to check at one spot which had a short slippery hill with a bit off a drop off, we discussed some techniques on how to tackle this. We all headed down in a bit of a slip slide motion, but the base underneath was still fairly firm.

Shortly after we were at the bottom of the track and headed back into Noojee to meet up with Suzy and Andy who were meeting us for lunch.

## Trip Report

The pub was packed but we settled down with a cold drink and ordered a meal. (Thanks Suzy for placing my order 😊, she had already been in the queue for some time when we arrived)

Niro needed to get back so didn't wait for the long queues and headed home. After lunch the day was already late so Dennis and Nick & Stephanie decided to head for home while the rest of us headed off to Toorongu Falls Walk to work off our lunch.

Unfortunately, about halfway to the falls, Andy called out that Suzy had just been stung by a bee, ouch! So they were going to forego the walk and headed home (Back past the pub to get some Ice, Noojee pub to the rescue, again.)

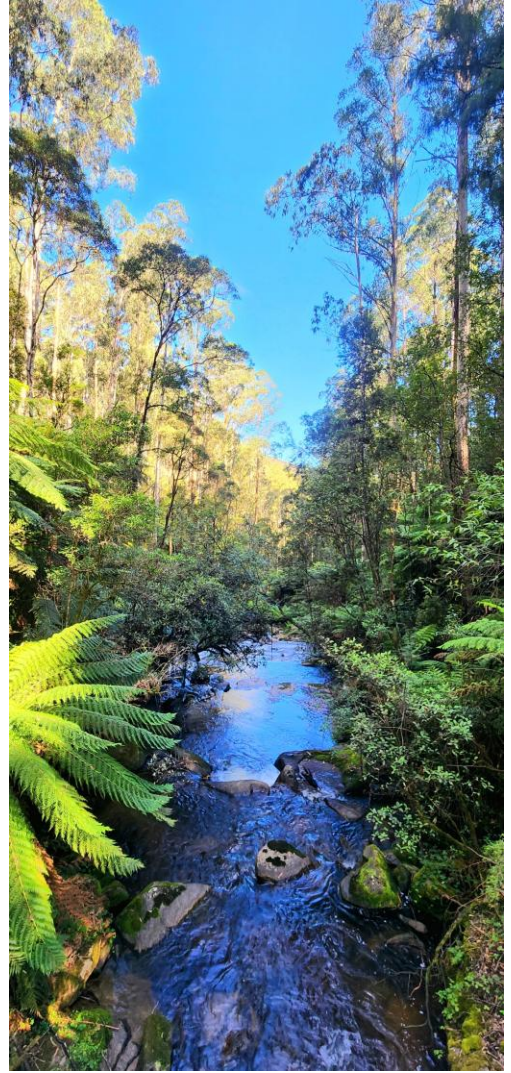
The Toorongu Falls Campground was like the Poplars and was packed.

The few remaining off us headed off on the 2KM return circuit going past the two waterfalls. It was a humid but enjoyable way to close off the day.

Once back at the car park we said our goodbyes and headed home at our own pace.

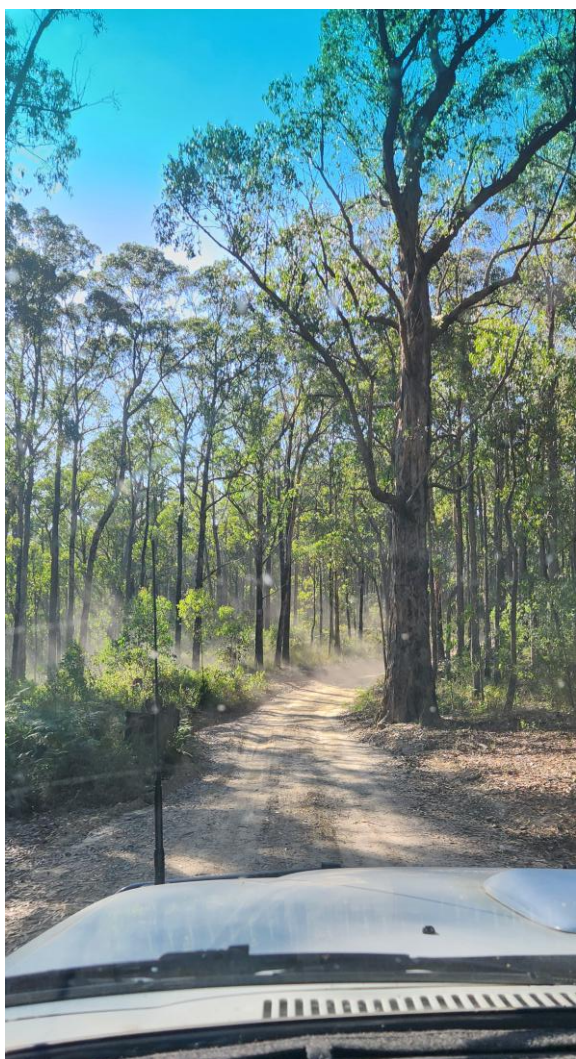
Thanks all for joining me, it was a very enjoyable day.

# Trip Report





# Trip Report





## PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	BORDER TRACK TRIP
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Stuart and Maree Bowker MOB: 0428539157
DATE	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April to the 7 <sup>th</sup> of April
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Bp McDonalds Calder service station outbound just past Calder Raceway at 8:00am for an 8:30am Departure
GRADE <b>Please adhere to new trip classifications</b>	WET: Difficult DRY: Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Will be exploring Murray Sunset country including attractions like the Old Mail Route, VIC, SA Border track, Shearers Quarters. There is no fixed route, so this is a guide. Anyone with only 4 days for Easter could meet us later and leave earlier. We will need to buy online a vehicle entry permit for Ngarkat Conservation Park @ \$13.90 per vehicle per day and if we camp in the park approx. \$10 pp per night
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 8
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	1600kms Return
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Fuel is Readily Available DIESEL:
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	At most 400kms
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Compressor and all of your own recovery equipment, a sand flag if you have one but not required. Food, water and camping equipment. Some nights there may not be toilets so come prepared.  This trip could be wet or dry the area is like the high country.... unpredictable so be prepared!
MAPS REQUIRED	Victoria's Desert Map
RADIO CHANNEL	12 UHF

### 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...**

