



# FREE WHEELING

June 2026



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 7.30 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 3<sup>rd</sup> June (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)

Hi All

With the weather turning colder and some tracks closing after the Kings Birthday weekend our activities need to be modified but there are still plenty of options to get out and about, with many areas still open over winter. Please check out the below link when planning your trip to ensure the tracks you are planning on travelling on are open. <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/safety-in-nature/seasonal-road-closures>

If you are after some snow fun (hopefully we get some good snow) the Mt Skene Permit applications should be open soon through FWDV. We will send out correspondence once they are available so people can book their desired date. The trip up Mt Skene is always a hit with varying levels of snow to play in. If you need any help organising the permit or planning this trip reach out to a committee member.

After the King's birthday weekend, we are also temporarily farewelling several members as they take an extended trip up to Cape York and many other places along the way. We wish them safe travel and look forward to hearing all about the trip in a few months' time.

For those of us left behind we have our "Christmas in July" coming up soon. Please ensure you have RSVP for this so we can cater accordingly. This is always a great social get together with plenty of food and laughs around a campfire.

**Neville Van Leeuwen**

VFWDC President

president@vfwdc.com

M: 0472 680 482



*A picture of some of the fun on Mt Skene last year*

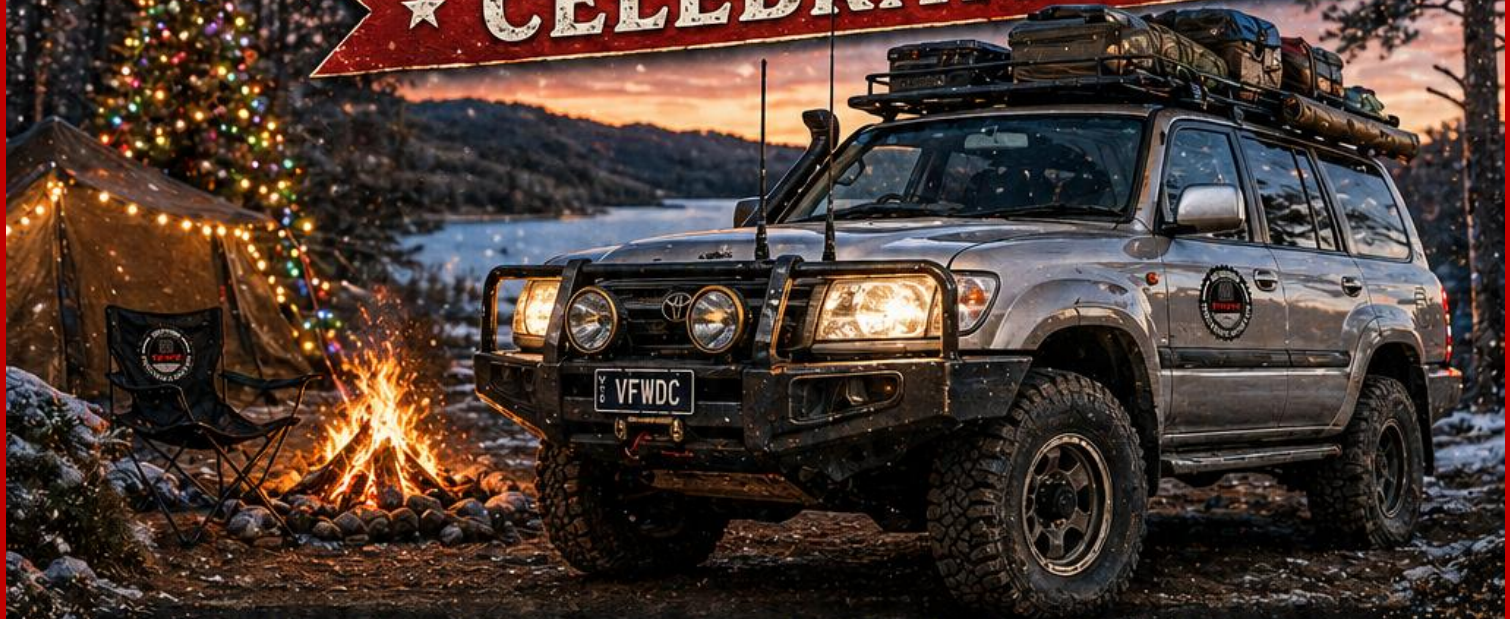


GOOD FRIENDS  
GREAT TRACKS  
MEMORIES THAT  
LAST



# Christmas in July

★ CELEBRATION ★



★ VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB ★



**SATURDAY**  
**4 JULY**  
**2026**



**UPPER YARRA**  
**RESERVOIR**  
**CAMPING AREA**



Celebration on Saturday - join for dinner and optionally camp (bookings essential)



BYO firewood & winter gear



RSVP by June club meeting



[vfwdc.com](http://vfwdc.com)

## VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 6 May 2026

Time: 7:30 pm – 8:47 pm

Location: Club Noble

**Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026**

| Topic                                     | Discussion and Outcomes   | Speaker             |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Open Meeting                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome to the May 2026 club meeting</li> <li>Apologies: Michael Scople, Bruce Dunlop, Andy and Suzy, Sushant, Sally and Tristan, Vern</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: Anne</li> <li>Seconded: Ken</li> </ul> </li> <li>Matters arising from previous minutes for the club meeting on the 01/04/2026: Nil</li> </ul>   | Neville             |
| Guests                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requests have been sent to various parties ... awaiting responses.</li> <li>Steve Hobbs from Tiple A Suspension tentatively scheduled for May Meeting (Organised by Sally Higgs)</li> <li>Zed, Did a lot of four wheel driving when younger. He is now shopping for a club, drives a Ford Everest</li> </ul>   | Neville             |
| Correspondence                            | <p>Correspondence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Mail</li> <li>x1 enquiry regarding the club               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David Hahn</li> </ol> </li> </ol>   | Neville<br>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 April 2026:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closing cash position \$2,556.15</li> <li>Closing consolidated position \$11,342.38</li> <li>No matters arising from Financial Report.</li> <li>Motion to accept April 2026 Treasurer's Report:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accepted: Stuart</li> <li>Seconded: Anne</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>Club fees are remaining the same despite association fees rising to \$62 per head.</li> <li>A reminder that everyone who ran trips in this financial year are entitled to a \$5 per trip discount on membership renewal up to a cap of \$20 per membership.</li> </ul> | Ly                  |

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| Topic            | Discussion and Outcomes   | Speaker |
|------------------|---|---------|
| Association News | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dennis is away tonight, however queries have been sent to FWDV ... no responses received yet.</li> <li>An email has been received outlining details and requirements for becoming a driver trainer/instructor.</li> <li>Anyone interested in pursuing being a driver instructor should forward their expression of interest to the VFWDC committee.</li> </ul>   | Neville |
| Upcoming Trips   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2026 Cape York leaving King's birthday 2026, returning August 2026. Trip Leader: Bruce Dunlop. Approx 13,000km</li> <li>Christmas in July - 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> July at Upper Yarra Valley Reservoir</li> <li>Mt Skene trips in July and August – Requesting trip leaders and participants.</li> <li>Dates TBA – Mt Skene Snow Trips along Jamieson Licola Road to top of Mt Skene (Members Only)</li> <li>Date TBA - Driver Training at Merringtons.</li> <li>Date TBA (June or July) - Trip Leader Training – Training by Sally</li> <li>23<sup>rd</sup> August – VFWDC Stand at 4x4 show – May be cancelled if insufficient volunteers - x12 volunteers minimum needed for club stand for 3 days (4 volunteers to date, more urgently needed). Volunteering includes free pass to enter event (Not including parking).</li> </ul> <p>Contact the Trip Co-ordinator for more information or to put forward proposals.</p> | Ken     |
| Intermission     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intermission 7:55pm to 8:29pm</li> </ul>   |         |
| Merchandise      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suzy away.</li> <li>Carried forward from last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some anniversary shirts, stickers and other items still available</li> <li>Some of the new hoodies are still available - \$70 each</li> </ul> </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 |

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Location: Club Noble

**Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026**

| Topic                | Discussion and Outcomes  | Speaker   |
|----------------------|--|-----------|
| Trip Reports         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trip report for 27<sup>th</sup> March – Little O’Tooles, Camp Ground – Trip Leader: Sushant – Alec did trip report. Sushant’s 1<sup>st</sup> trip. 2 vehicles. Thompsons Dam was very low. Got to camp about 7:30pm. Met by giant black dog. S track. Kept encountering a lot of motorcyclists. An event involving 700 motorcyclists was on, so we changed where we were going to camp. Some very steep tracks. Alec’s 9yr old son loved the trip. Sushant nearly rolled his vehicle in very deep rut late in the day (dreaded 4pm track time), where upon they turned around.</li> </ul> | Alec      |
|                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trip Report for 08<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – Trip to Knockwood – Trip Leader Neville. Gorgeous camping spot. Moonlight Spur track was rougher than normal. Rock step near the top was considered to be too hazardous, so they turned around. Went swimming, in water which was about two degrees. It was noted that the area is already recovering from fires. A lot of parks people were in the area carrying out fire recovery works.</li> </ul>  | Neville   |
|                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steff and Nick’s trip to Bunyip – Steff and Nick went solo into Bunyip. Got stuck several times and had to winch themselves out. Most important they enjoyed themselves.</li> </ul>   | Steffanie |
|                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maree - 18-23 April 2026 - National Volunteers Week – Shout out to all club volunteers.</li> </ul>  | Maree     |
|                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FYI ... Aberfeldy, Merringtons, OTooles are generally open all through winter</li> </ul>  | Neville   |
| Web Site             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No updates</li> </ul>   | Alec      |
| Raffle               | Prizes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seat Covers</li> <li>Jumper Leads and Stubby Holder</li> <li>Cap, Stubbie Holder, Stickers</li> </ol>   | Neville   |
| Next General Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Club Noble - Wednesday 03/06/2026, 7:30pm</li> </ul>  | Neville   |
| Meeting Close        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:47 pm</li> </ul>  | Neville   |

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc  
www.vfwdc.com

## Treasurer's Report April 2026

|  |            |                           |
|--|------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Cheque A/C`</u> Opening Balance as at 01/04/2026  | \$2,609.83 |                           |
| Less: Catering Costs                                 | -\$24.20   |                           |
| Web Hosting  | -\$29.48   |                           |
| Closing Balance as at 30/04/2026                     |            | \$2,556.15                |
| <u>Term Deposit</u> Opening Balance as at 01/04/2026 | \$8,736.23 |                           |
| Closing Balance as at 30/04/2026                     |            | \$8,736.23                |
| <u>Petty Cash</u> Opening Balance as at 01/04/2026   | \$50.00    |                           |
| Closing Balance as at 30/04/2026                     |            | \$50.00                   |
| <b>Consolidated Closing Cash Position</b>            |            | <b><u>\$11,342.38</u></b> |

- 1. DRIVER TRAINING:** Driver training has been **postponed** due to certifications issues. **New date will be advised later.**
  
- 2. CLUB RENEWAL FEE:** Club renewal fee will **remain unchanged** for the upcoming financial year (starts 1-Jul-2026).
  - a) Following are **membership fee, due** for the upcoming financial year:
    - **Single - \$87**
    - **Family/Couple - \$97**
    - **Silver - \$57**
  - b) **Payment details** are in the membership form (also mentioned on **next page in magazine**) : <https://vfwdc.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Membership-Form-2025.pdf>
  - c) You must be a paid member to participate in the **snow trips**
  - d) **Discount Offer:** The club is offering a discount of **\$5 off your membership for each trip**. you have organized and run since **March 1st, 2025**, up to a maximum of \$20 per couple. Please mention any trips you have led when you reply.
  
- 3. CHRISTMAS IN JULY:** Christmas in July to be on **Saturday 4-Jul-2026** at **Upper Yarra Reservoir**
  - a) **Camping fees** applicable if staying overnight
  - b) Book camping slots early as it can get very busy. Rates are **\$17 per night** for up to **6 campers per site**.

## 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:

-----  
**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

## June 2026

|                                       |                              |              |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>             | General Club Meeting         | 7:30 pm      |
| Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> (King's B'day) | Cape York (returning August) | Bruce Dunlop |
| Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>            | Committee Meeting            |              |

## July 2026

|                            |  |         |
|----------------------------|--|---------|
| Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>  | General Club Meeting   | 7:30 pm |
| Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>   | Christmas in July (at Upper Yarra Reservoir)<br>Book camping slots early |         |
| Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> | Committee Meeting  |         |

## August 2026





|                            |                      |         |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>  | General Club Meeting | 7:30 pm |
| Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> | Committee Meeting    |         |

### More upcoming trips / events:

1. Mt Skene Snow Trips along Jamieson Licola Road to top of Mt Skene (Members Only)
2. Driver's Training at Merringtons
3. Trip Leader Training – Training by Sally
4. VFWDC Stand at 4x4 show (August) –12 volunteers needed

## 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.   |

## THE ORIGINAL BUSH SOCIAL NETWORK: WHY YOUR UHF RADIO STILL MATTERS IN 2026

- By Dennis Alphonsus



*The original bush social network. No subscriptions, no passwords, and it still works when your mobile phone doesn't.*

There is a funny thing that happens when you venture deep into the Victorian High Country.

Your smartphone, which normally controls your life, suddenly becomes a very expensive pocket mirror.

No signal.

No emails.

No social media.

No messages marked "urgent" that definitely could have waited until Monday.

Just silence.

Then someone in the convoy inevitably asks:

*"What channel are we on?"*

For all the advances in technology over the last decade, the humble UHF radio remains one of the most important pieces of equipment in any touring vehicle. While modern 4WDs are packed with GPS navigation, touchscreens, satellite connectivity and more computing power than the computers that landed humans on the moon, when it comes to communicating in the bush, many experienced travellers still reach for a technology that hasn't changed much in decades.

And there is a good reason for that.

### **WHY UHF STILL BEATS YOUR SMARTPHONE**

Mobile phones are fantastic.

Until they aren't.

Australia's vast geography means there are still countless locations where mobile coverage is unreliable or non-existent. UHF radios, on the other hand, allow direct vehicle-to-vehicle communication without relying on towers, subscriptions, apps, passwords, updates, or battery-hungry background processes.

When travelling in a convoy, navigating difficult terrain, coordinating a recovery, warning of oncoming vehicles, or simply letting your mates know you've stopped for a photo, nothing beats the simplicity of pressing a button and talking.

The technology may be old, but it remains incredibly effective.



*Today's touring setup contains more technology than ever, yet the UHF radio remains one of the most-used devices on the dashboard.*

### **Australia's Outdoor Communication Network**

Many people purchase a UHF radio because everyone else has one.

What many don't realise is that Australia's UHF CB network is a regulated communications system with designated channels for specific purposes.

Knowing the right channels not only makes communication easier but also helps keep important channels clear for those who genuinely need them.

### **Channel 5 and 35 – Emergency Use Only**

These are Australia's designated emergency channels.

If you require urgent assistance in a remote area, Channel 5 is the primary emergency channel, while Channel 35 serves as the associated repeater input.

These channels should remain clear except during genuine emergencies.

In other words, discussing where to stop for lunch on Channel 5 is unlikely to win you many friends.

### **Channel 10 – The 4WD Channel**

If there is one channel every four-wheel driver should know, it's Channel 10.

Across Australia it has become the unofficial channel for:

- 4WD clubs
- Convoys
- National parks
- Remote area touring

If you encounter another convoy on a narrow track, there is a good chance they are monitoring Channel 10.

### **Channel 11 – The Calling Channel**

Think of Channel 11 as the receptionist at a busy office.

You make contact.

You move elsewhere.

The correct etiquette is simple:

*"G'day mate, switch to Channel 15?"*

Then both parties move to another channel for the conversation.

### **Channel 18 – Caravans and Campers**

Travelling during school holidays?

Tune into Channel 18.

It has become the unofficial communication channel for caravans, motorhomes and touring campers across Australia.

### **Channel 40 – Australia's Rolling Highway Information Network**

For many travellers, Channel 40 is worth monitoring whenever driving major highways.

Truck drivers, pilot vehicles and escort vehicles commonly use it to report:

- Accidents
- Road hazards
- Traffic conditions
- Roadworks
- Oversized loads

Sometimes the information arrives considerably faster than navigation apps.

### **Channels 22 and 23 – Hands Off**

These channels are reserved for telemetry and data transmission.

Voice communication is prohibited.

So if you're tempted to use them because nobody else appears to be there, don't.

### Channels 61–63 – Off Limits

Most people don't realise there are channels that simply cannot be used.

Channels 61, 62 and 63 are reserved for future expansion and transmissions are not permitted.

### UHF SURVIVAL GUIDE

| Channel | Purpose                        |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| 5 / 35  | Emergency only                 |
| 10      | 4WD convoys and national parks |
| 11      | Call channel                   |
| 18      | Caravans and campers           |
| 22 / 23 | Data only – no voice           |
| 29      | Pacific & Bruce Highways       |
| 40      | Trucks and highways            |
| 61–63   | Reserved – do not use          |

### THE REPEATER TRICK THAT FEELS LIKE MAGIC

One of the cleverest features of the UHF network is the repeater system.

Imagine standing on one side of a valley and trying to talk to someone on the other side.

Now imagine a radio tower sitting on top of a mountain listening to your transmission and immediately rebroadcasting it from a much higher position.

That is essentially what a repeater does.

Under normal conditions your radio may only communicate a few kilometres depending on terrain.

Through a repeater, that range can increase dramatically.

This is why you can occasionally hear conversations from locations that seem impossibly far away.

Because sometimes they are.



*Repeaters help extend radio coverage across rugged terrain and remote regions.*

### **WAIT... DON'T WE HAVE STARLINK NOW?**

Absolutely.

And it is fantastic technology.

Satellite messengers, GPS trackers, Starlink, EPIRBs and smartphones all have an important place in modern touring.

The smartest travellers don't choose between old technology and new technology.

They carry both.

Technology works best when it provides layers of redundancy.

If your phone loses coverage, the UHF still works.

If your battery dies, the vehicle-mounted radio still works.

If the convoy becomes separated, everyone can still communicate.

The bush has a habit of reminding us that reliability often matters more than novelty.



*Modern touring isn't about choosing one technology over another – it's about having the right tool for the situation.*

### **THE FUTURE OF BUSH COMMUNICATIONS**

Technology will continue to evolve.

Vehicles will become smarter.

Satellite connectivity will become cheaper.

Navigation systems will become more sophisticated.

Yet it is difficult to imagine the UHF radio disappearing anytime soon.

After all, it remains one of the few technologies that is:

- Simple
- Reliable
- Affordable
- Easy to use
- Independent of mobile coverage

Not bad for a technology that predates the internet.

And besides, no smartphone app has yet matched the entertainment value of listening to two truck drivers debate the quality of servo pies for forty-five uninterrupted minutes.

Some technologies simply deserve to survive.

### COULD YOU BE OUR NEXT FWDV INSTRUCTOR?

- By Dennis Alphonsus

Every club has them.

The members who quietly help newcomers recover a vehicle, explain tyre pressures, organise trips, mentor less experienced drivers, and somehow always seem to know where the best campsite is.

The good news is that Four Wheel Drive Victoria (FWDV) has a structured pathway that allows experienced members to turn those skills into formal instructor qualifications.

If you've ever considered becoming an instructor, here is what the journey looks like.

#### **Step 1: Build Your Experience**

Before applying, prospective instructors need to have completed a Four Wheel Drive Victoria Driver Proficiency Course, or an equivalent course approved by FWDV. Applicants should also have substantial experience driving in a variety of conditions including steep terrain, mud, sand, rocks, snow, water crossings, and remote touring environments.

This isn't about being the best driver in the club.

It's about demonstrating safe, responsible driving practices and having the ability to share that knowledge with others.

### **Step 2: Submit an Application**

The Instructor Traineeship begins with a formal application.

Applicants are required to provide:

- Completed Trainee Instructor application form
- Detailed four-wheel driving resume
- Certified copies of relevant qualifications
- Current Working With Children Check
- Two passport photographs
- Club President's Reference
- Application fee (currently \$90, typically paid by the club)

The application is reviewed by the FWDV Training Advisory Committee, who assess both driving experience and suitability as a future instructor.

### **Step 3: Secure Club Support**

One of the most important parts of the process is the Club President's Reference.

FWDV isn't just assessing technical driving ability. The organisation also wants to know whether applicants are:

- Effective communicators
- Team players
- Positive role models
- Club contributors
- Potential leaders

In other words, they are looking for instructors, not simply skilled drivers.

As many experienced trainers will tell you, teaching people is often harder than driving a difficult track.

### **Step 4: Become a Trainee Instructor**

Once accepted, the real learning begins.

Trainees receive access to FWDV instructor resources, participant guides, lesson plans, presentations, and training materials. They are also issued with an Instructor Logbook that tracks their progress throughout the program.

The first task is observation.

Trainees attend both theory and practical training sessions and observe experienced instructors delivering courses. A minimum of two observation sessions is required before moving to the next stage.

### **Step 5: Start Teaching**

After observation comes participation.

Trainees progressively deliver theory and practical training "clusters" under the supervision of experienced instructors. Feedback is provided after every session, allowing trainees to build confidence and refine their delivery skills.

The focus is not only on technical accuracy but also on:

- Communication
- Adult learning techniques
- Engagement
- Safety management
- Professional presentation

### **Step 6: Final Assessment**

The traineeship can take up to two years to complete.

During the final assessment, trainees are required to deliver both theory and practical components under supervision and demonstrate competence in:

- Content knowledge
- Teaching ability
- Content accuracy
- Course delivery standards

Successful candidates are then recognised as FWDV Proficiency Instructors.

### **Want To Go Further?**

For members who wish to deliver nationally recognised training, FWDV also offers an Accredited Instructor pathway.

This pathway requires:

- Current Certificate IV in Training and Assessment (TAE)
- Relevant Statements of Attainment
- Industry currency
- Professional development records
- Vocational competency in the units being delivered

Accredited instructors may go on to deliver nationally recognised four-wheel driving and chainsaw training units on behalf of FWDV.

### **Why Become an Instructor?**

For many instructors, the greatest reward isn't the qualification.

It's helping others build confidence, learn safe driving techniques, and enjoy our great outdoors responsibly.

Every proficient four-wheel driver started somewhere. The instructors who volunteer their time and knowledge play a critical role in maintaining safe and responsible four-wheel driving across Victoria.

If you've got experience, a willingness to learn, and a passion for helping others, perhaps it's time to consider taking the next step.

The next generation of instructors has to come from somewhere.

Why not from our club?

# **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...**

