FREE WHEELING

October 2026



Photo by: Sally Higgs

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

Next club meeting is on 7th October (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	
General Committee	Steve Dishon	
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 - www.fwdvictoria.org.au

President's Report

Hi All

We have a few exciting events coming up as the year comes to a close.

First up is our November Off Site meeting which will be held at ARB Kilsyth. We will be getting a tour of the manufacturing plant that they have their which should be informative and interesting, while it is an early start for a work night I hope everyone can make plans to join this event.

Afterwards we will meet up at a local Pizzeria for a meal. More details in mag.

For our end of year break up we will go to St Annes Winery – hopefully we can avoid the cold weather we usually get in July. This event is a relaxing camp out and a good feed will be put on by the club. As well a wine tasting for those inclined.

We have a few trips coming up so check them out in the trips form and hopefully you can join one.

If you are looking to run a trip please contact Ken or a committee member who will be happy to help you plan your next trip.

We are only a few weeks away from tracks re-opening and with the conditions lately I believe a lot of tracks should reopen in fair to good condition so hopefully we can plan some day trips/ extended trips over summer.

Neville Van Leeuwen

VFWDC President

president@vfwdc.com

M: 0472 680 482

Meeting Minutes

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 2 September 2026
Time: 7:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Location: Club Noble
Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 7th October 2026

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Open Meeting	• Welcome to the September 2026 club meeting • Apologies: Michael Scopel, Alec, Sushant, Dennis, Andy and Suzy, Brett and Nicky, Stuart and Maree • Welcome to ne member, Chris	Neville

Minutes from previous months club meeting	• Minutes from previous meeting accepted:
	  ○ Accepted: Ken
	  ○ Seconded: Mark
	• Matters arising from previous minutes for the club meeting on the 05/08/2026: Nil
		Neville

Guests	• Nil	Neville
Correspondence	• Nil from secretary • Nil from Mail Box	Steven M Neville
Face Book	• No new applications	Ly

Treasurer's Report	• As per written report from Ly Ho – Written report will be in next issue of the club's magazine.
	• Report for August 2026:
	  ▪ Closing cash position $3,479.11
	  ▪ Closing consolidated position $12,352.94
	  ○ No matters arising from Financial Report.
	  ○ Motion to accept August 2026 Treasurer 's Report:
	  ▪ Accepted: Ann
	  ▪ Seconded: Ken
		Ly

Association News	• No updates (Dennis away) • Driver Training will likely be next year	Neville

Meeting Minutes

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 2 September 2026
Time: 7:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Location: Club Noble
Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 7th October 2026

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Upcoming Trips	• Lederberg – Ly Ho – Day Trip – Check out training grounds on the way • Melbourne Cup Weekend - Bindaree Hut, campground, Bluff Hut and look out, look out for snakes, carry spare fuel or fill long range tanks – Ken – 4 hours away. Leaving on Friday, about 10am from McDonalds at Lilydale. Bluff Hut. No dogs allowed as most of the trip is within the Alpine National Park • Neville issued a reminder about having the emergency contact form filled out and kept in the vehicle's glove box. • Neville reminded members that the club has a dog policy which is available on the club website. • Contact the Trip Co-ordinator for more information or to put forward proposals.	Ken
Intermission (Supper)	• 7:42pm to 8:08pm	
General Business	• Reminder about Club's offsite meeting for November. • Christmas function – possibly at St Annes	Neville
Merchandise	• Nil updated (Suzy away)	Suzy
Raffle	• Raffle Prizes: 1. Soft Shackles 2. Recovery kit bag and stubby holder 3. Insulated mug and stubby holder and other accessories	Neville
Next General Meeting	• The next general club meeting will be at Club Noble - Wednesday 07/10/2026 @ 7:30pm	Neville
Meeting Close	• 8:21pm	Neville
Minutes taken by:		Steven Miller



Treasurer's Report
August 2026

Cheque A/C`	Opening Balance as at 01/08/2026	$2,670.01	
Add:	Membership Fees	$811.00	
	Raffle	$86.00	
Less:	Incorporation Fees	-$50.40	
	Catering Costs	-$37.50	
	Closing Balance as at 31/08/2026		$3,479.11
Term Deposit	Opening Balance as at 01/08/2026	$8,823.83	
	Closing Balance as at 31/08/2026		$8,823.83
Petty Cash	Opening Balance as at 01/08/2026	$50.00	
	Closing Balance as at 31/08/2026		$50.00
	Consolidated Closing Cash Position		**$12,352.94**

General Notices

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) Membership Application Form: https://vfwdc.com/membership-apply/

   c) Not sure about how to join the club? Refer to this page: https://vfwdc.com/membership/#Join

   d) Existing Member Renewal Form: https://vfwdc.com/membership-renew/

   e) Payment details are in the membership form (also mentioned on **next page in magazine**)

   f) You must be a paid member to participate in the **snow trips**

   g) Discount Offer: The club is offering a discount of **$5 off your membership for each trip**. you have organized and run since **July 1st, 2025**, 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.

To apply for membership click here.

To renew an existing membership click 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.

Online forms will automatically be sent to the Treasurer. Temporary Forms must be emailed to treasurer@vfwdc.com or presented 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

October 2026		
Wednesday 7th	General Club Meeting	7:30 pm
Wednesday 21st	Committee Meeting	
Friday 30th	Bindaree Hut	Ken
November 2026		
Wednesday 4th	General Club Meeting	7:30 pm
Wednesday 11th	**Club Offsite** 5:30 PM - ARB Kilsyth 7.15 PM: Meet up at Paparizza Pizza	Neville *See trip form for details*
Wednesday 18th	Committee Meeting	
December 2026		
Wednesday 2nd	General Club Meeting	7:30 pm
Friday 4th	**St Anne's Winery End of year break up**	Neville *See trip form for details*
Wednesday 16th	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.

Trip Report

WE FOUND SNOW! – MT SKENE 2026

- by Neville

1. Neville + Aalia, Riley & Lily – Triton (Trip Leader)
2. Marc – Triton
3. Steve & James – Ford Everest
4. Yoram & Michaela – Toyota Landcruiser
5. Joe & Jo – Toyota Landcruiser
6. Vernon – Lexus

Everyone made their own way up to Jamieson with most heading up on the Friday. As Friday was a wonderfully clear day, I decided to drive to the top of the Paps on the way into Mansfield. The kids and I enjoyed lunch to some wonderful 360° views.

Once settled into our cabin we went for a walk down to the convergence of the Goulburn and Jamieson river. It is a special view watching two rivers coming together.

With our hunger building and several other members asking about dinner we decided to meet up at the Pub for dinner and a beer. We got to the pub to find the fire in the dining room roaring. It was great to see the pub was doing very well which was a big improvement from a previous visit a few years ago.

Saturday morning, we met back out the front of the Pub and café (cafe was in the process of re-opening, bakery is still currently closed). After caffeinating and getting some breakfast rolls, we headed off excited to get out and about. We all had curbed expectations of finding snow due to the bout of warm weather recently.

We stopped at Bob's bath for a token photo, unsurprisingly there were no volunteers for a dip. Shortly after taking off, I suddenly heard a very large rattle coming from my roof rack. Pulling over I found a broken bracket after some quick temp repairs we took off again, only to realise what we had done had little improvement, take two on some further securing with everyone offering help and a bit of padding and I was underway much improved. (That reminds me I must go and fix that still).

The road while corrugated was mostly dry and we made our way up with little need to engage 4WD. Right on the peak, Aalia suddenly yells out “We found snow”. Sure enough in the roadside were some patches of snow 😂. Upon pulling up at the summit we were greeted by heavy fog and a patch of snow of about a few square metres.

Not to be disheartened the kids and I quickly grabbed the toboggin out and attempted a very small ride. While the snow was low everyone agreed it was great to be out enjoying the fresh air. We all had lunch and with little chance of capturing any spectacular view photography we decided to head back down.

Once back at the summit we aired up and Yoram and Michaela & Marc headed for home while the rest of us headed back to our accommodation with plans to meet up at the brewery later. Once again we had a great feed with great company, Thanks all for coming.

PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	St Annes Winery
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Neville Van Leeuwen TEL: MOB: 0472 680 482
DATE	Friday 04th Dec – Sun 6th Dec
MEETING PLACE / TIME	St Annes Winery
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: NA DRY: NA
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	A weekend of relaxing….. Arrive at your own leisure on Friday or Saturday. We will go and do some wine tasting (For those that like wine). Otherwise we will relax around a fire. Saturday night will be a meal put on by the club…
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: NA MAXIMUM: NA
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	Approx 100 km from SE Suburbs. 64 Garrards Ln, Myrniong VIC 3341
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: DIESEL:
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Depends how far away you park your car… 😂 😂 😂 😂
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Fully Self Sufficient Camping, toilet on site
MAPS REQUIRED	NA
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12

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	**ARB Kilsyth Off site meeting**
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Neville Van Leeuwen TEL: MOB: 0472 680 482
DATE	11/11/26 – 5.15PM
MEETING PLACE / TIME	**ARB KILSYTH** - 42-44 Garden St, Kilsyth VIC 3137 **Paparizza Pizza** - Eastwood Plaza, Unit 8/102-106 Canterbury Rd, Kilsyth South VIC 3137, Australia
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: NA DRY: NA
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Meeting up at ARB Kilsyth at 5.15 for 5.30pm start. We will be given a tour of the ARB manufacturing plant to see what and how the produce their products. Tour will finish around 7pm. We Will then head over to Paparizza Pizza. Club will provide pizzas. Licensed Bar and standard Drinks will be available for purchase We need to lock numbers in soon for both venues. Please confirm asap that you are attending either/both.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: NA MAXIMUM: NA
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	NA
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: NA DIESEL: NA
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	NA
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	NA
MAPS REQUIRED	NA
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	NA

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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...

