



# Trail Torque

The official Newsletter of the New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association

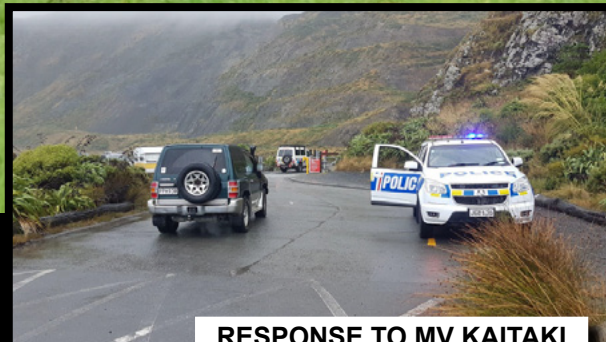
March/April/May 2023



## Central Zone Club Truck Challenge

**Plus...**

- **National Trial Series**
- **Orongorongo Adventure**
- **Our Vision and Mission & much more...**



RESPONSE TO MV KAITAKI  
MARITIME INCIDENT



Established in 1974,  
the objective of the  
Association is to  
further and improve  
Four Wheel Drive  
activities in NZ.

As a member of  
the NZFWDA, you become an  
integral part of this effort to ensure  
that present and future generations  
can continue to enjoy our country in  
four wheel drive vehicles.



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[www.nzfwda.org.nz](http://www.nzfwda.org.nz)  
<https://nzfwda.tidyhq.com>

#### FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/NewZealandFourWheelDriveAssociationInc>

## Deadlines for Trail Torque Submissions

JUN/JUL/AUG 2023

Deadline: 2 June 2023

Out to Members: 18 June 2023

SEP/OCT/NOV 2023

Deadline: 18 August 2023

Out to Members: 3 September 2023

DEC 2023/JAN/FEB 2024

Deadline: 24 November 2023

Out to Members:

10th December 2023

If you would like to share your  
Club's achievements, events or a  
story in Trail Torque, send them  
in to [editor@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:editor@nzfwda.org.nz)

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## THE NEW ZEALAND FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ASSOCIATION

- ✱ Values the highest safety standards before, during and after all 4WD activities.
- ✱ Endorses respect and care while participating in 4WD activities in the Environment.
- ✱ Acknowledges the contribution of its members and their values.
- ✱ Values and respects land owners and land users.
- ✱ Encourages non-discrimination of all participants.

Anything underlined in this  
edition will either open up  
in your internet browser or  
open your email to send  
the person a query.

#### ARTICLES AND LETTERS NZFWDA DISCLAIMER.

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Trail Torque is produced four times a year and delivered via the NZFWDA Membership email database.

# Civil Defence

Quite a mess was left by Cyclone Gabrielle to many people's lives and swathes of countryside in the North Island. It could be years before a sense of normality is restored.

While there were some examples of resourceful uses of farm equipment and 4WD's identified in reports in news media, there appeared to be no organised involvement of four wheelers to assist transporting of people and supplies.

We are aware that some NZFWDA Clubs do have active relationships with Civil Defence in their regions, however there are probably many more that don't. It seems in many places that it has been mostly a case of 'who you know' rather than formal arrangements.

There are some very capable 4x4's in the hands of experienced drivers that could very well supplement the limited

resources of emergency management organisations in both Civil Defence and Search and Rescue situations.

It has been suggested that the NZFWDA engage with the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (<https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/sitemap/>) to identify how we might build a formal relationship.

Before we make that move, it would help if we could get some indication of interest from members in being involved in assisting with community emergency situations.

To get that information we've set up a short survey that we'd welcome your input to.  
[https://us14.list-manage.com/survey?u=659a31855b645156b5331e57a&id=115536abdb&e=\\*\[UNIQID\]\\*](https://us14.list-manage.com/survey?u=659a31855b645156b5331e57a&id=115536abdb&e=*[UNIQID]*)

# General Guidelines

The Health & Safety subcommittee has been hard at work behind the scenes, we have a few projects on the go. One of them is Safety Guidelines, the first one we have completed is the Large Braided River Trip Guideline. This was written for running 4x4 trips in our big, braided rivers and was not intended as a general guideline for river trips.

You will find the guidelines on TidyHQ at <https://nzfwda.tidyhq.com/>, (you will need to be logged on first), then click on the "Menu" button in the top left corner, under that you will see "ONLINE DOCUMENT LIBRARY" click on it and you get a drop down menu, go to "Online Document Library – Main Page" and you will find a heap of useful information.

We have a few other guidelines in the pipeline, that we are working on like, Vehicle Equipment, Jacking vehicles on slopes or uneven ground, Trip grading. The idea is these are guidelines a Club can copy and either use them as they are or adapt them to suit their Club. As well as safety guidelines we are working on environment, administration, Land Access & Competition guidelines. This is a huge project and is going to take some time to complete.

If you have an idea for a guideline or can help, please contact us on [safety@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:safety@nzfwda.org.nz)

## 2023 NZFWDA AGM 15 - 21 MAY 2023

*Monday through Friday there will be a 4x4 trip each day. Come experience a selection of adventures in the Mid Canterbury region. Sunday AGM, Brinkley Resort, Methven.*  
**Contact: John McDonald.**  
**Ph 021 464 639**  
**Email: [john.mcdonald@xtra.co.nz](mailto:john.mcdonald@xtra.co.nz)**

**National Executive Officer positions requiring Nominations as result of current Officers retiring...**  
• NZFWDA President  
• National Treasurer  
• Membership Officer

**REMITTS DUE TO Club Secretaries - 31st March**

# 4wd Community Contributions

We frequently hear stories of great efforts made by 4wd clubs where they contribute to their wider communities. Examples are planting, rubbish clean-ups, taking passengers for off-road trips on public days and more recently helping with pest eradication.

Many people have said that all these types of community-good projects should be publicised, to show the world we are actually responsible people who give something back to the community as a gesture to recognise the privileges of land access that we enjoy.

Positive publicity like that would help assure the public, land owners and council officers that there is a lot more to organised 4wd activities than the old-time perceptions often regarded negatively.

Sometimes we get material to publish about these good deeds, and there's one such article in this edition of Trail Torque. Unfortunately, all too often these good deeds go unrecognised, and the Association has done something about it.

The Association has developed a page on TidyHQ called Community Contributions. (<https://nzfwda.tidyhq.com/public/pages/community-contributions>)

You are welcome to submit material to the National PRO at [pro@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:pro@nzfwda.org.nz)

Your material doesn't need to be up-to-the-minute, although fresh is best, all our stories over recent times should be worthwhile. And don't forget to include your club name, and the general area where it took place!

# Our Vision and Mission

## Update from the SWOT Subcommittee

GRANT PURDIE  
PROJECTS OFFICER

The SWOT Subcommittee has continued to ensure the Exec is clear about the purpose and priorities of the Association, continuing on from the presentation about our Vision, Mission and Strategy that was given to delegates at the 2022 AGM.\*

### Our Vision

The “Objects” wording in the constitution is the Vision statement. As that is wordy and old-school, the 2022 AGM presentation included a commitment to modernise it. The modified wording has now been drafted by the SWOT Subcommittee and is going through the remit process, seeking approval from the Remit Subcommittee and Exec.

The proposed new Vision Statement is:

**Grow, develop and improve recreational four-wheel drive activities in New Zealand**

### Our Mission

Our Mission Statement was included in the 2022 AGM presentation and remains unchanged:

**Work on actions to achieve outcomes that attain our vision.**

### The Outcomes

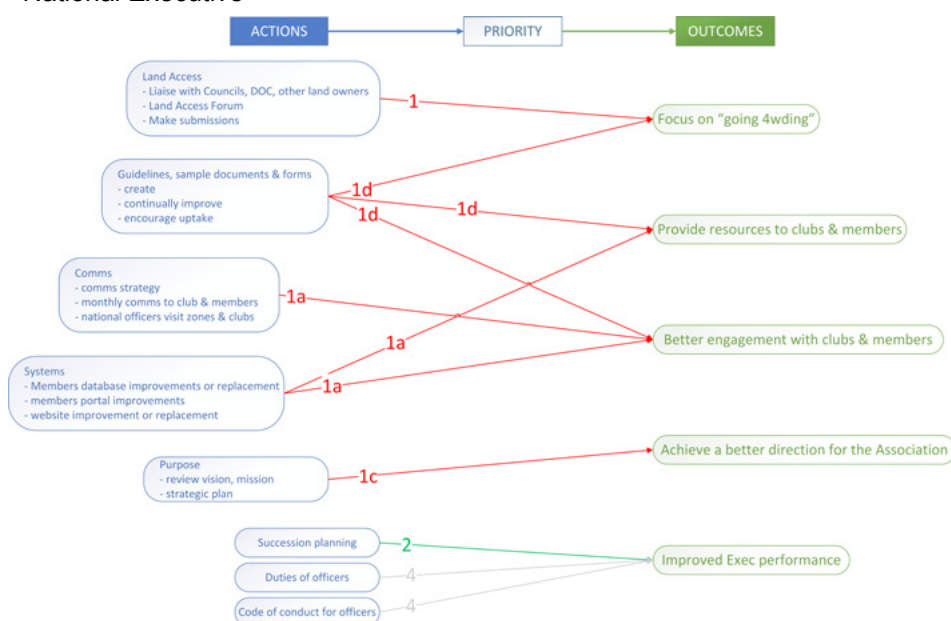
These also remain unchanged from the 2022 AGM:

- Focus on “going 4wding”
- Provide resources to clubs and members
- Better engagement with clubs and members
- Achieve a better direction for the Association
- Improved performance by the National Executive

### The Actions

There is a long list of actions that the SWOT Subcommittee has been working on, and enlisting help from other Exec officers and several co-opted members.

This diagram shows an updated view of the actions and which ones contribute to each outcome:



A full report will be provided for the 2023 AGM.

\* **Members logged on to TidyHQ can find the 2022 AGM presentation in the Online Document Library on the page “SWOT Document Library” under the heading “Other Documents”.**

## SANDBAGS

BY JOHN HICKEY

I am sure that we all know people who have been affected by the storm. Whether it is people who live at Muriwai near Auckland or in the Esk Valley in the Hawke’s Bay, or in the East Cape. I hope you all take care and that you help others when you can.

My wife Penny, my eldest daughter Kathryn, three French backpackers and I, were able to help an old lady by sandbagging the front of her house.

We went to the only sandbagging place we could find that had sand late in the evening before the storm, at Glover Park in St Heliers.

There was a guy there, Alan, who lived in the street and came down to help. He showed us how to fill the bags quickly using a 10 L plastic pail instead of a spade (don’t fill more than half, they are too difficult to manage).

He gave us cable ties to close the bags. He told me he had given out a thousand cable ties to people filling sandbags.

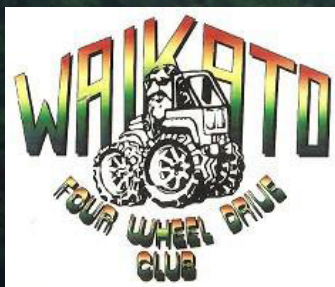
Alan explained how if you fold a tarpaulin in half lengthways and put sandbags on one quarter of it and have the other quarter running up the side of a house or wall in a L shape,



will hold the tarpaulin down and the water will run over the top of the tarpaulin, and the pressure of the water will also help hold the tarpaulin in place.

He said it was nice to see a Land Rover Defender being used for what it was designed for. Then he confessed to owning a Land Rover Discovery Sport... His help was invaluable and just shows how we can all work together to help others.





# 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY GEORGE PALMER



The Club has finally managed to celebrate its 50th Anniversary, 15 months late.

Originally planned for November 2021, it fell foul of Covid and was moved to late Summer in the hope of fine weather, but it was almost a victim of cyclone Gabrielle.

Fortunately, the cyclone had passed and we had a bright sunny day. Our sympathies and thoughts go out to those not so fortunate.

Held at the Club hut known as the Sheraton Karakiriki, there was a good turnout of past and present members. After a BBQ lunch, the ceremonial cake was cut by two of the original members, Bob McDell and Jan Trass, along with Levi McDell, the grandson of the late Keith McDell, one of the founding members.

During the afternoon, Club members ran a number of short bush trips to allow our visitors a look at the



property. Also present were a couple of D class trials trucks that gave demonstrations of their capabilities and an adrenaline rush for those brave enough to take the second seat.

The celebration continued into the night with the traditional bonfire.







# RESPONSE TO MV KAITAKI MARITIME INCIDENT

ARTICLE & PHOTOS  
JOHN VRUINK  
CENTRAL ZONE PRO

On Saturday 28th January the 2.15pm sailing from Picton of MV Kaitaki lost power just before 5.00pm and drifted more than a nautical mile towards the Wellington South coast. With winds gusting over 100kph the ship drifted 0.9 nautical miles from the shore and 0.6 nautical miles from hitting the seafloor.

With 864 passengers onboard the Captain declared an emergency and passengers were made to stay at assembly stations with life jackets, and lifeboats were being prepared.

A massive rescue effort was activated, involving five helicopters, Wellington's two tugs, Police Launch, Interislander ferry - Aratere and nearby fishing boats rushed to the ferry's aid.

On land, Land Search and Rescuers and other emergency services assemble at Te Kopahou visitors centre. Within an hour of the call going out for assistance, the Cross Country Vehicle Club had 20 4x4 vehicles at the assembly area ready to help transport Land SAR members around Red Rocks.

A great response from CCVC members with 20 vehicles turning up with more vehicles available if needed.

A news article was aired on NewsHub TV3 and Prime, with the CCVC Club Captain being interviewed.

The following message was received from NZ Police thanking those involved in responding to the MV Kaitaki incident.....

*"Kia ora Alan, Peter and Ralph.*

*As you will all be well aware, this maritime incident on Saturday evening, certainly had the potential to be a major search and rescue exercise, so the attendance of yourselves and your colleagues to assist us at this event is very much appreciated.*

*Alan/Peter. I am aware that LandSAR Wellington rapidly deployed 20 volunteers to the South coast to work alongside Police, in the event that the MV Kaitaki was to run aground.*

*Ralph. I am aware that the Wellington Cross Country Club turned up with 20 off-road vehicles. They staged on the south coast, ready to transport our emergency first responders and LandSAR Wellington members into the potential search area and to take any potential victims out.*

*The visible presence of all resources at Red Rocks gave me real confidence, that had the worst happened, we were well prepared to react.*

*Could you please pass this appreciation on to your relevant team members, who gave up their valuable time on Saturday evening to assist Police at this event.*

*Ngā mihi maioha.*

*James McKay*

*Inspector JMC422*

*Wellington District Operations Group".*



## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be sent to [editor@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:editor@nzfwda.org.nz) Letters should not exceed 200 words and should carry the author's signature, name and residential address and a phone number so as to enable their authenticity to be confirmed. Letters may not be formally acknowledged and may be edited, abridged or discarded at the discretion of the editor.

# A NEED FOR DATA

For all the efforts of the NZFWDA to advocate for four wheeling, the biggest mystery is how much traffic uses the tracks and trails around the country. We have no way of convincing government or local bodies that our recreation is popular, apart from when places are proposed to be closed off because they are too damaged by excessive use.

In the early part of 2022 I suggested that a solution could be to use a vehicle counting system made by Trafx, a Canadian company. Although discussed at the NZFWDA AGM last year, it was felt that given the finances at the time, the NZFWDA could not support the idea.

Once again I'm suggesting that this system should be one of the 'tools' available to the NZFWDA and its clubs. If we consider the various legal places to use our vehicles as assets; then we need to have data to quantify such assets.

A basic Trafx system comprises of three separate vehicle sensors, a data collecting unit to 'read' from those sensors and computer software to assemble the data.

The system is a little bit more expensive this year due the lower NZ Dollar and now sits at around NZ\$4000.

We spend money on maintaining various 4WD tracks around the country but have no idea of how much actual use by 4WD's those places get. Again, if we are spending money maintaining 'assets' on public lands then we need to be able to put a value on that use.

It is time that we stopped just guessing and started getting some data around our recreation.

Peter Vahry  
NZFWDA National Public Relations  
NZFWDA Life Member

## A BIG RECOVERY NO-NO

Recently one of our clubs saw some non-members using a tow-ball to anchor their recovery strop. As all members know, this is highly hazardous and is not an acceptable practice for vehicle recoveries.

PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

*This message brought to you by the NZFWDA H&S Subcommittee.*

## Advertising in Trail Torque

|              |                 |       |
|--------------|-----------------|-------|
| Quarter Page | (94mm x 135mm)  | \$150 |
| Half Page    | (190mm x 136mm) | \$300 |
| Full Page    | (190mm x 278mm) | \$600 |

These prices are per edition of NZFWDA Trail Torque and do not include GST. Invoices are sent yearly and bookings must be made for a minimum of one year. Advertisements must be received copy ready and sent as jpeg or pdf to: Bobbie Kincaid: [editor@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:editor@nzfwda.org.nz)



All advertising ("advertising") in Trail Torque is on the basis that

1. The Editor at the Editor's discretion may accept or reject any advertisement without giving any reason.
2. The New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association ("the Association") does not endorse or recommend or warrant any advertiser or advertising. The Association at its absolute discretion reserves the right to at any time accept or refuse any advertisement or advertising.
3. The Advertiser must ensure and warrants to the Association that all relevant laws and advertising guidelines are observed for the advertising.

# COMING EVENTS

15 APRIL 2023

NZ 4X4 NATIONAL TRIALS SERIES. Round 6: Thames Valley National 4x4 Trials Final. See [nz4x4trials.co.nz](http://nz4x4trials.co.nz) for more details.

15 - 21 MAY 2023

NZFWDA AGM. Monday through Friday there will be a 4x4 trip each day. Come experience a selection of adventures in the Mid Canterbury region. Sunday AGM, Brinkley Resort, Methven. Contact: John McDonald. Ph 021 464 639 Email: [john.mcdonald@xtra.co.nz](mailto:john.mcdonald@xtra.co.nz)

27 MAY 2023

GIVE IT A GO 4WD ENDURO Alford Forest, Methven. Club trucks/Basic trailer trucks. \$50 per truck for NZ4WDA member. \$55 per truck for non-NZ4WDA member. Great fun day out with like minded people. BBQ & camping available on site. Showers & Toilets. Everyone welcome. Gates on at 9am, Vehicle checks 9.30, Briefing at 10 with racing starting at 11am. Safety requirements Helmets; Seatbelts; Winch; Mud Tyres; Ground Anchor; 2 people per truck. <https://4x4events.co.nz/index.php/give-it-a-go-enduro/>

14 OCTOBER 2023

MT EGMONT 4WD CLUB PAIRS EVENT 2023. Hosted by Mt Egmont 4WD Club, 300 Lower Durham Road, Inglewood. Open to the public. Email [rachel.buckthought@hotmail.com](mailto:rachel.buckthought@hotmail.com) for an entry form.

20 - 23 OCTOBER 2023  
LABOUR WEEKEND

At a recent Central Zone meeting, Twin City 4x4 and Hawkes Bay 4x4 were coaxed into hosting an event for NZFWDA members, at this stage details are scarce so check back next edition!!

**Events Disclaimer.** Care has been taken in entering details of these events. However NZFWDA does not take responsibility for any inadvertent inaccuracies or subsequent changes made by the event organisers. Trips and events will normally be hosted and organised by a Club or Clubs and not the Association itself. All events, trips and runs are the responsibility of the hosting Club. Potential participants should contact the relevant event organiser or Club. Email events to [editor@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:editor@nzfwda.org.nz)



# CENTRAL ZONE CLUB TRUCK CHALLENGE

2022-  
2023

ARTICLE & PHOTOS BY ANDREW GEE  
ROUND 1 TAIHAPE, 30 OCTOBER

It was a great start to the Club Truck Challenge for summer 2023 with the first round held at Hintz's farm near Taihape over Halloween weekend this year, thanks to Dave Hintz, Brendan and Raewyn Watchorn for their work to put on this event.

In the Club Truck Challenge, the main difference to National Trials competition is that the vehicles must be registered and warranted to keep costs down. The drivers range from novices right through to experienced trials competitors and long-time club drivers, the only requirement is that the driver is a member of the NZFWDA.

Soft conditions marked this day at Taihape, but there were ten good hazards and one speed section to finish the day. "Grace's Bog of Shame" was a long tough drag with a tricky exit to stop people who made it that far. Hayley's "Highway to Heck" was tough too, needing good speed to keep moving and then had a clay off chamber to exit, Bruce Tustin teetered on two wheels for a while, but he kept the rubber side down. Mikey Ward lost his membership to the Greta Thunberg Fan Club as he struggled with overfueling in the Nissan V8 all day, but he will have his day next time out.

The day finished with a speed section and an embarrassing comparison of engine size and best time, Chris Mason was fastest at 45.25 seconds driving a 1300cc Suzuki Jimny, seeing off the 4000cc Jeeps and 5000cc Nissans.



Manawatu Club Steve Stewart

The next round was in the Wairarapa on 29 January 2023, rules can be found online at [www.sporty.co.nz/czctc](http://www.sporty.co.nz/czctc)



Chris Mason fastest  
on speed section



Brent Ward  
V8 Patrol  
Class 4

## RESULTS

- Class 1 - Chris Mason  
Suzuki Jimny
- Class 2 - Brendan Watchorn  
Mitsubishi Pajero
- Class 3 - Dave McGinnity  
Jeep Wrangler
- Class 4 - Brent Ward  
Nissan Patrol



Dave and Grace Hintz



Andrew Gee Class 3



Brendan Watchorn  
Pajero Class 2



# New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association, AGM 2023



## 2023 NZFWDA AGM progress Report

Planning is well underway for the 2023 NZFWDA AGM, we have a full program of 4x4 trips, plus a list of backups in case the weather doesn't co-operate. There have been 52 pre-registrations for the AGM, out of that we have 41 that are coming on the 4x4 trips, 31 are coming from the North Island and 19 from the South Island.

It has been a fantastic response and we are hoping it will be an AGM talked about for a long time. With the time ticking by and more details finalized, we have moved on to full registration, where we have a full plan of the event for you to select from. If you are interested or know someone that is, just follow this link [FILL OUT FORM](#) or email [john.mcdonald@xtra.co.nz](mailto:john.mcdonald@xtra.co.nz) or give me a call on 021 464 639.

Some details are still being worked on as we are waiting to see what people are interested in, so some of these details may change.

### Monday to Friday 4x4 Trips

- Monday 15th May, will be a 4x4 trip up the Lawrence River to the Hermitage Hut.
- Tuesday 16th May, we cross the Rangitata to the Havelock River and up to Mistake Flat Hut.
- Wednesday 17th May, is up the Rakaia River to the Reischek Hut.
- Thursday 18th May, is back in the Rangitata River and down to the Harper Skating Rink.
- Friday 19th May, the last trip is up the Wilberforce River to Urquharts Hut.

### Friday Afternoon

- We are having minivans picking people up from the Christchurch Airport, their first pickup will be at 12:30pm, then 3 & 6.
- From 6pm we will have a meet & greet with everyone at Brinkley Resort, Methven where we will be holding the AGM.

**If you are planning on coming to the AGM please register WE WANT YOU THERE but to have a well-run event we need to know how many are coming. FILL OUT THE REGISTRATION FORM HERE**

### Saturday's morning Forum Topics

8:30am to 12:30pm

- Health & Safety
- Training
- Environmental Accreditation
- Tracks of National Interest & Mapping system
- Land Access
- Developing relationships with authorities
- Communication, Website & Facebook
- Constitution, Regulations & Governance

### Saturday's afternoon adventure activities

1:00pm to 5:00pm

- Target Shooting
- Ashburton Aviation Museum
- Scenic flights round Mid Canterbury
- Ashford Village
- Ashburton Museum & Art Gallery
- Jet boat rides in the Rakaia River
- Dirt Bandits UTV Experience
- Mid Canterbury 4x4 park challenge
- Opuke Thermal Pools & Spa
- Golf at the Methven golf club
- Alpine & Agriculture encounter

### Saturday Evening

6:30pm till late

- We will be having a dinner for everyone that is coming to the AGM, at a cost of \$65/person.

### Sunday Morning

8:30am to 10am

- This time is set aside for a catch up with old friends or a one-to-one chat with a member of the executive.
- The National President.
- The Competitions officer.
- The Membership officer.
- Or anyone else, just ask and we will set it up.

### Sunday Morning / afternoon

10:30am to 2:00pm

- Annual General Meeting with a lunch break at 12-12:30pm

### Sunday Afternoon

- We will have an afternoon tea after the AGM and say our farewells.
- The minivans will start taking people back to the airport at 3pm.



# ORONGORONGO ADVENTURE

ARTICLE BY PHIL MAJOR,  
CAR ENTHUSIASTS  
CONVENOR, THE  
WELLINGTON CLUB

Thanks to the Cross Country Vehicle Club and Grant Purdie, a group of our club members were able to take part in an adventure around Wellington's South Coast from Sea to the Sky, starting at the end of the Wainuiomata Coast Road.

I accompanied Grant on this occasion and there were 18 Wellington Club members in total with 3 Wellington Club and 5 CCVC 4X4s.

The control room of Grants bush truck is a serious piece of kit and comes with five radios, video camera, compressor, winch, towing equipment, spare parts and chain saws (which stayed at home and we were able to fit our lunch in!!)

So we receive a briefing with a good selection of our club members listening carefully. Then it is off on a beautiful day.

After a bit of a steep climb, we reach the top of a ridge between the Wainuiomata Valley and the Orongorongo Valley with sweeping views of Wellington and the Harbour. Here are some of our members recording the view across to Sinclair Head.



*Above: the control room of the bush truck. Right: Our CCVC Trip Leader Phil Green (right), who got to open lots of gates for us, and Tour Organiser Wellington Club and CCVC member Grant Purdie. Below: A beautiful day.*



## CLUB H&S RESPONSIBILITIES

TRIP LEADERS AND ALL OTHER CLUB OFFICIALS HAVE H&S RESPONSIBILITIES. THE NZFWDA RECOMMENDS THAT EVERY AFFILIATED 4WD CLUB:

- ADOPTS ITS OWN HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY.
- ADOPTS ITS OWN HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCESSES, DOCUMENTS AND FORMS.

REMEMBER this simple H&S  
MESSAGE... YOU CAN'T INDEMNIFY  
OUT OF BEING STUPID.





Our club members enjoying the view: Robert Whitefield, Peter Mc Knight, John Langford, Craig Pinny, Philip Vavasour, Ross Martin.

We were then to drive a lot higher up to a vantage point where we had even more spectacular views across Wellington city and harbour, the Hutt Valley and the Orongorongos. Somehow we ended up with no photos to publish though, apart from the next one.



After lunch a visit to the spot where the first sheep were carried around a rock bluff to make it to the Wairarapa. Unfortunately they were Merinos from Australia and did not do well in the wet. A few years later an earthquake lifted the bluff up to make it an easy walk around. Club member Philip Vavasour's multi-great grandfather was one of the party taking the sheep around. A plaque commemorates the spot.

Our stop further around the coast was rewarded by a pod of dolphins swimming close to the beach.



*Along the coast and Kaimanawa Horses roaming wild, we are definitely in the back blocks.*



*The Orongorongo River Valley from our high point.*



Then it was down to sea level again and it was steep and narrow.!!!



At the bottom a river crossing not in flood fortunately.

All safely back at the public road and then home. Except for one of our members whose Ford Ranger had a loose earth wire and it did not want to go home! The fault was soon diagnosed and fixed and a happy day ended.

Our thanks to the Cross Country Vehicle Club and its members who so generously gave of their time and equipment to give us a truly memorable day.



# National 4x4 Trials Series

PHOTOS BY WILLOW EAYRS PHOTOGRAPHY

| <div> <div>4x4 TRIALS</div> <div> </div> </div> |     |                                 |    |         |         |              |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|----|---------|---------|--------------|
| ROUND 1 COWLEYS HIRE NATIONAL 4X4 TRIAL         |     |                                 |    |         |         |              |
| WHANGAREI                                       |     |                                 |    |         |         |              |
|                                                 |     |                                 | AM | PM      | TOTAL   | O/ALL        |
| A CLASS                                         |     |                                 |    |         |         |              |
| 1                                               | 238 | Brinn Fogden & Sean Bydeley     |    | 1088.44 | 908.03  | 1996.47 34th |
| C CLASS                                         |     |                                 |    |         |         |              |
| 1                                               | 236 | Nathan Fogden & Mike Gibbons    |    | 277.12  | 161.71  | 438.83 3rd   |
| 2                                               | 402 | Shayne Towers & Tony Hadland    |    | 299.65  | 186.48  | 486.13 7th   |
| 3                                               | 280 | Rhys O'Brien & Clarrie Vazey    |    | 388.47  | 342.31  | 730.78 19th  |
| D CLASS                                         |     |                                 |    |         |         |              |
| 1                                               | NZ1 | Sam Thomsen & Mitchell Caldwell |    | 176.72  | 88.61   | 265.33 1st   |
| 2                                               | NZ2 | Kevin Hermansen & Nick Hamilton |    | 256.28  | 152.78  | 409.06 2nd   |
| 3                                               | NZ3 | Stuart Earle & Liam Earle       |    | 228.00  | 221.03  | 449.03 4th   |
| E CLASS                                         |     |                                 |    |         |         |              |
| 1                                               | 237 | Cody Fogden & Karl Burgener     |    | 862.84  | 1100    | 1962.84 33rd |
| J CLASS                                         |     |                                 |    |         |         |              |
| 1                                               | 540 | Sean Cushing & Geoff Butcher    |    | 660.81  | 740.60  | 1401.41 30th |
| 2                                               | 177 | Tyler Shepherd & Amy Hunter     |    | 942.28  | 873.40  | 1815.68 32nd |
| K CLASS                                         |     |                                 |    |         |         |              |
| 1                                               | 94  | Andrew Graham & Janet Graham    |    | 839.23  | 1800.00 | 2639.23 35th |

| <div> <div>4x4 TRIALS</div> <div> </div> </div> |     |                                 |    |         |         |              |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|----|---------|---------|--------------|
| ROUND 2 EXTREME NATIONAL 4X4 TRIAL              |     |                                 |    |         |         |              |
| WAIRARAPA                                       |     |                                 |    |         |         |              |
|                                                 |     |                                 | AM | PM      | TOTAL   | O/ALL        |
| A CLASS                                         |     |                                 |    |         |         |              |
| 1                                               | 238 | Brinn Fogden & Sean Bydeley     |    | 1176.16 | 908.03  | 2615.00 45th |
| C CLASS                                         |     |                                 |    |         |         |              |
| 1                                               | 236 | Nathan Fogden & Mike Gibbons    |    | 295.19  | 105.50  | 400.70 3rd   |
| 2                                               | 402 | Shayne Towers & Paul Chapman    |    | 330.34  | 136.40  | 466.70 7th   |
| 3                                               | 113 | Caleb Adlam & Jarrod Moss       |    | 429.10  | 227.10  | 656.20 18th  |
| D CLASS                                         |     |                                 |    |         |         |              |
| 1                                               | NZ1 | Sam Thomsen & Mitchell Caldwell |    | 264.10  | 46.00   | 310.10 1st   |
| 2                                               | 245 | Reuben Mason & Shane Mason      |    | 151.99  | 177.30  | 329.30 2nd   |
| 3                                               | 145 | Neville Mather & Richard Verner |    | 290.56  | 127.00  | 417.60 4th   |
| E CLASS                                         |     |                                 |    |         |         |              |
| 1                                               | 237 | Cody Fogden & Karl Burgener     |    | 893.94  | 839.00  | 1733.00 41st |
| J CLASS                                         |     |                                 |    |         |         |              |
| 1                                               | 540 | Sean Cushing & Geoff Butcher    |    | 729.92  | 638.80  | 1369.00 40th |
| K CLASS                                         |     |                                 |    |         |         |              |
| 1                                               | 94  | Andrew Graham & Janet Graham    |    | 810.75  | 516.80  | 1328.00 39th |
| 2                                               | 10  | Graeme Kingstone & Mike Boston  |    | 1032.44 | 1100.00 | 2132.00 42nd |
| 3                                               | 205 | Willow Eayrs & Garry Ledbury    |    | 783.94  | 1463.00 | 2247.00 43rd |

| <div> <div>4x4 TRIALS</div> <div> </div> </div> |     |                                 |    |         |       |              |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|----|---------|-------|--------------|
| ROUND 3 HYDRO PLUMBING NATIONAL 4X4 TRIAL       |     |                                 |    |         |       |              |
| GLENCORRAN                                      |     |                                 |    |         |       |              |
|                                                 |     |                                 | AM | PM      | TOTAL | O/ALL        |
| A CLASS                                         |     |                                 |    |         |       |              |
| 1                                               | 238 | Brinn Fogden & Sean Bydeley     |    | 1118.84 | 1240  | 2358.84 49th |
| C CLASS                                         |     |                                 |    |         |       |              |
| 1                                               | 236 | Nathan Fogden & Mike Gibbons    |    | 268.50  | 280   | 548.50 10th  |
| 2                                               | 402 | Shayne Towers & Tony Hadland    |    | 381.00  | 200   | 581.00 13th  |
| 3                                               | 480 | Glenn D'Ath & Jacob D'Ath       |    | 298.34  | 360   | 658.34 18th  |
| D CLASS                                         |     |                                 |    |         |       |              |
| 1                                               | 145 | Neville Mather & Richard Verner |    | 248.72  | 120   | 368.72 1st   |
| 2                                               | NZ1 | Sam Thomsen & Mitchell Caldwell |    | 263.53  | 120   | 383.53 2nd   |
| 3                                               | 316 | Craig Potter & Mike Hill        |    | 230.18  | 160   | 390.18 3rd   |
| E CLASS                                         |     |                                 |    |         |       |              |
| 1                                               | 237 | Cody Fogden & Karl Burgener     |    | 863.62  | 860   | 1723.62 47th |
| F CLASS                                         |     |                                 |    |         |       |              |
| DNF                                             | 159 | Mike Black & John Black         |    | DNF     | DNF   | DNF DNF      |
| K CLASS                                         |     |                                 |    |         |       |              |
| 1                                               | 94  | Andrew Graham & Janet Graham    |    | 571.28  | 680   | 1251.28 44th |
| 2                                               | 170 | John Sheridan & Mike Rolls      |    | 841.07  | 800   | 1641.07 45th |
| 3                                               | 205 | Willow Eayrs & Garry Ledbury    |    | 838.81  | 880   | 1718.81 46th |





A National 4x4 Trial is based upon the ability of Competitors to drive their vehicles over difficult terrain, including hill climbs, mud bogs, up steep hills, over rocks, along banks and a timed section.

Over 50+ teams in a variety of vehicle classes, from standard production to highly modified vehicles all drive over the same obstacles.

| 4X4 TRIALS<br>Competition Committee |     | LUCAS<br>OIL PRODUCTS<br>INC.   | LUCAS OIL<br>AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND                                              | B.O.P.<br>FOUR WHEEL<br>DRIVE | BF Goodrich |         |      |
|-------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|---------|------|
| ROUND 4                             |     |                                 | BF GOODRICH B.O.P. NATIONAL 4X4 TRIAL                                             |                               |             |         |      |
| TE PUKE                             |     |                                 | AM                                                                                | PM                            | TOTAL       | O/ALL   |      |
| A CLASS                             |     |                                 |                                                                                   |                               |             |         |      |
| 1                                   | 238 | Brinn Fogden & Sean Bydeley     |  | 1320                          | 1157.04     | 2477.04 | 47th |
| C CLASS                             |     |                                 |                                                                                   |                               |             |         |      |
| 1                                   | 236 | Nathan Fogden & Mike Gibbons    |  | 140                           | 280         | 549.57  | 6th  |
| 2                                   | 950 | John Hawken & Blair Harrison    |  | 340                           | 489.01      | 829.01  | 21st |
| 3                                   | 402 | Shayne Towers & Tony Hadland    |  | 190                           | 785.22      | 975.22  | 29th |
| D CLASS                             |     |                                 |                                                                                   |                               |             |         |      |
| 1                                   | 145 | Neville Mather & Richard Verner |  | 140                           | 120         | 386.30  | 1st  |
| 2                                   | NZ1 | Sam Thomsen & Mitchell Caldow   |  | 140                           | 120         | 427.42  | 2nd  |
| 3                                   | 413 | Dan Cowper & Luke Donald        |  | 120                           | 160         | 447.02  | 3rd  |
| E CLASS                             |     |                                 |                                                                                   |                               |             |         |      |
| 1                                   | 237 | Cody Fogden & Karl Burgener     |  | 990                           | 790.69      | 1780.69 | 46th |
| K CLASS                             |     |                                 |                                                                                   |                               |             |         |      |
| 1                                   | 84  | Andrew Graham & Janet Graham    |  | 560                           | 757         | 1317.00 | 45th |

# NATIONAL OVERALL PLACINGS

\*as at 12th February 2023

## A CLASS

No.... DRIVER ..... O/A  
238 .. FOGDEN Brinn ..... 47

## C CLASS

236 .. FOGDEN Nathan ..... 6  
950 .. HAWKEN John ..... 21  
402 .. TOWERS Shayne ..... 29  
113 .. ADLAM Caleb ..... 31  
480 .. D'ATH Glenn ..... 35  
280 .. O'BRIEN Rhys ..... 36  
357 .. TEMPLETON Rebekah .... 42  
521 .. DODGE Matthew ..... 43

## D CLASS

145 .. MATHER Neville ..... 1  
NZ1 .. THOMSEN Sam ..... 2  
413 .. COWPER Dan ..... 3  
451 .. GUEST Aaron ..... 4  
888 .. TONKIN Ashley ..... 5  
119 .. TOMALIN Chris ..... 7  
316 .. POTTER Craig ..... 8  
89 T .. URNER Neal ..... 9  
375 .. WARD Brent ..... 10  
44 .... CAMERON Phil ..... 11  
520 .. DODGE Tim ..... 12  
48 .... DICKSON Scott ..... 13  
81 .... DONALD Scott ..... 14  
NZ2 .. HERMANSEN Kevin ..... 15  
NZ3 .. EARLE Stuart ..... 16  
245 .. MASON Reuben ..... 17  
632 .. HOBART Phil ..... 18  
206 .. BOLD Ryan ..... 19  
5 ..... BIGGS Scott ..... 20  
391 .. HALL Russell ..... 22  
213 .. WEST Gary ..... 23  
70 .... ALEXANDER Paul ..... 24  
59 .... WHEELER Michael ..... 25  
161 .. WEATHERLY Wayne ..... 26  
53 .... BUCKTHOUGHT Wayne . 27  
202 .. GALBRAITH Kevin ..... 28  
327 .. MASON Christopher ..... 30  
182 .. EAYRS Cheryl ..... 32  
705 .. BEVEGE Alastair ..... 33  
87 .... HIBBERD Graham ..... 34  
370 .. WELLS Dean ..... 37  
129 .. BRADLEY Duncan ..... 38  
485 .. HARRISON Grant ..... 39  
234 .. VAN WAAS Kelsey ..... 40  
195 .. DOREE David ..... 41  
149 .. LACEY Steve ..... 44  
231 .. GIFFORD Chris ..... DNF

## E CLASS

237 .. FOGDEN Cody ..... 46

## K CLASS

94 .... GRAHAM Andrew ..... 45



**NZ 4X4 TRIALS SERIES**

# ROUND 6

## THAMES VALLEY

**15th APRIL 2023**

**8800 SH26, Puriri**

**HOSTED BY THE THAMES VALLEY 4WD CLUB**

Read about the National 4x4 Trials here....  
[www.nz4x4trials.co.nz](http://www.nz4x4trials.co.nz)



# THE WINCH ROPE DEBATE!

## Are all synthetic winch ropes the same?

Firstly before we discuss winch ropes we need to calculate what size winch is appropriate for our truck, not much point looking for the best bang for buck winch rope without understanding what the rope must achieve. The calculation is dead easy, GVM (gross vehicle mass = the most your car can legally weigh in total, with accessories and passengers included) x 1.5 (industry standard safety factor) and then convert to pounds x 2.205 (apparently winch manufacturers forgot we started the metric system in 1976)

For example, the max GVM for a Ford Ranger is 3,350kg.

$3,350 \times 1.5 = 5,025 \text{ KGS}$

Then convert that number to LBS. To do this, multiply the mass value by 2.205

$5,025 \times 2.205 = 11,078 \text{ LBS}$

Based on those figures, a 10,000 LBS winch won't be sufficient to safely recover a fully loaded Ford Ranger.... Food for thought! However based on correct industry standards.

Right moving on and now we are all rapidly Googling the GVM of our own trucks.

These days we all talk about synthetic rope being the bee's knees and what's more we see it advertised at a plethora of different prices, we think to ourselves why do we want to pay hundreds of dollars when we can get something with the same name from various Chinese websites for a fraction of the cost.

Do the sayings "let the buyer be aware" and "you get what you pay for" immediately enter your mind? Yes, they should! But at the same time we are possibly also looking at the credit card statement and what we will need to buy our partners for the next birthday, in order to continue our chosen recreation.

### So what are synthetic ropes?

There are multiple different types of synthetic winch lines available today, many of them are made from Dyneema fibres, while others are made from, Technora®, Vectran®, Spectra®, or Kevlar®. Each fibre has advantageous and disadvantages and can be chosen depending on the application.



Phew that confuses the issue when you just type in synthetic rope! Simply put and not getting into registered brand names, most synthetic ropes are either based on Dyneema fibres or Kevlar, but which is best?

In terms of overall durability, HMPE, UHMWPE and Kevlar rank high above other industrial fibres. However, HMPE and UHMWPE fibres like Spectra and Dyneema exhibit resistance five times higher than Kevlar—even using just half the number of synthetic materials.

### What is HMPE and UHMPE?

HMPE stands for High Modulus Polyethylene. It's also commonly referred to as UHMWPE (Ultra-High Molecular Weight Polyethylene) and HPPE (High-Performance Polyethylene). HMPE ropes are high-performance ropes.

You are most likely thinking "crikey" I know I have a synthetic rope but what do I actually have? We must consider that on occasions we may be winching a double pull up a steep hill, and in reality, do I have a good winch line that will protect both my truck and people inside? Sobering thought hey!

Look I could write for hours and name different brands and my perceived advantages or disadvantages, however it is probably best that each person does their own homework on what meets both the budget and rank in quality.

Next we must consider how we maintain our very important winch line that gets pulled out, dragged through the mud and dust and then winched under a load of up to that mentioned earlier. Later hopefully spooled correctly onto the winch drum and not looked at again until the next time we or a buddy is stuck.

Just for a quick mention, I would like to take you back to my time in the marine towage industry in Port Hedland, Western Australia.

In about 2005 I thought to change out tugboat towlines over to a product called AmSteel-Blue that is a high-performance 12-strand single braid of 100% Dyneema® fibre line. This product was around the \$60K mark for each tug and what we all thought would be the ideal towline. However to be certain we would do 1000 towage jobs and then end for end the line and do a 1000 more, the lines were 90 meters and rarely would we have more than 40 meters out at any time. Once the cycle had been finished we tested the lines to destruction. Holy \$hit the lines were failing at as low as 15% of the initial value - Why? The combination of the dusty mining iron ore environment and open weave rope lay was allowing the dust to cause friction when under strain. For the record we worked on a ratio of tug bollard pull times a factor of 3.5 with these ropes having an initial SWL of in excess of 240 tonnes.

### Do we all clean and inspect our winch ropes?

I think I will finish off here and possible write a quick article next time on how to inspect and maintain your "synthetic rope".....

Craig Bramley (Skippy)  
OR4G Dunedin.







# President Report



Neville Dunton - Email: [president@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:president@nzfwda.org.nz) - Mobile: 027 446 5634

Before starting this piece I had a quick scan through past TT reports and discovered that mid 2015 I commented on the 2015 AGM held in Queenstown and made mention of work required by NZFWDA Executive to understand the then recently announced HSWA 2015 Act and possible implications of this new legislation on our collective 4WD sport and recreational activities... fast forward to now, 2023....in the intervening 7+ years those possible legislative implications (including RMA compliance issues) have become a reality.

NZFWDA has responded to the enactment of HSWA2015 and we have also faced RMA prosecutions around environmental harm caused during one of our competition events. In response, NZFWDA has introduced Regulations around how to organise and run an event and there have been a number of incremental changes to our Constitution to better define responsibilities of all Members.

Why so much documentation? Bottomline is there are now many things that need to be considered before embarking on a 4WD "adventure" and, as evidenced by the highly publicised Deadwood RMA prosecutions, ignorance of our individual and collective obligations doesn't give a get out of jail free card. Successful prosecution of any failures of our legislative / legal obligations may result in significant financial or prison penalties.

Multiple recent requests for guidance on trip planning suggests that many Clubs are unaware of the "document library" that can be found in the Members-only "Menu" section of NZFWDA's TidyHQ site. The "ONLINE DOCUMENT LIBRARY" tab opens to a menu with the first item being "Online Document Library – Main Page" which will open to a rather full page of documents including:

- Safety & Guidelines
- Sample Forms & Documents
- NZFWDA Constitution and Regulations
- Insurance

When planning a trip all Members are encouraged to know and follow some (perhaps all) of the guidelines that have been produced by NZFWDA to ensure that member trips / activities are best able to be compliant around

legal obligations and H&S of all folk who might be participating in the planned event.

First, we need to know we can be where we want to be; normally that means getting formal approval from the land owner or confirming the track follows a ULR (or similar, open to public, "road"), and that local authority rules / NZ Law(s) are understood and will be complied with. It's not good enough to rely on your mate's statements that "my cousin said it is ok"; if you don't know, don't go until you do know and that you will also comply with any requirements. This also requires an understanding of knowing if/when you should stop.

The second thing to consider is H&S for all participants. Commonly these first two items are a trip Leader's responsibility to get right and there is a significant amount of documentation to be found under "Safety & Guidelines" and "Sample Forms & Documents". These things have been produced by NZFWDA as guidelines and are published for Members to access and use.

The third component to successful trip planning is to ensure the trip is approved and recorded in your Club's calendar. This can be as simple as a record of a telephone call to one of your club executive who has authority to approve the trip. Sometimes you might bring the trip proposal to a Club meeting and approval might then be recorded in official meeting minutes. Other trips involving members from other Clubs might require Zone Officer approval and National events are expected to be approved by National Executive. We recommend non-member participants should become day or United Members before the trip commences and all drivers and vehicles should have been checked off against any required competency standards.

NZFWDA holds serious liability insurance covers but there is one underlying requirement; every NZFWDA trip / event must have Club, or Zone, or National approval before commencement in order to be covered as a NZFWDA event.

The various legislative and other "local rules" that are now in place are not specific to NZFWDA and our 4WD activities; these obligations are now

front and centre for every individual, group / business undertaking, etc. So, 4WD's aren't alone in being confronted by these matters but compliance has perhaps been a steep learning curve for all of us; Executive Officers, Zones, Clubs, and all Members.

I think it important to state that our Association-wide responses to Legislative impacts on our sport and recreational activities include membership obligations that all of us are expected to know and follow. NZFWDA Executive Committee has done it's bit through promulgation of relevant Regulations and Constitutional changes, all advised to every Club and all Members, with significant effort put into Road Show presentations at Zone meetings and then, at the 2021 AGM, and getting all of these matters wrapped up into a series of remits that have been locked into the NZFWDA Constitution (including some subsequent "refinements").

The Constitution sets out the rules of how we engage within NZFWDA, the Regulations are further rules that define National / Zone / Club activities, and these are supported by the range of "Guidelines for Members" which can be found in our TidyHQ On-Line Document Library.

The old proverb "you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink" springs to mind. The Guidelines, Regulations, and Constitutional changes have all been developed to assist members to plan and be compliant with some rather gnarly legislative obligations, and, NZFWDA Member obligations. NZFWDA doesn't have power or responsibility to pursue legislative breaches but we do have the responsibility and powers to state that all of our NZFWDA / Club / Member activities must be compliant with our Regulations / Constitution and have formal approval before commencement.

We know the legislation and other local rules are here to stay and we strongly recommend all members use and follow the NZFWDA guidance documents that have been produced.

Neville Dunton  
President, NZFWDA Inc





# National Projects Officer Report

Grant Purdie - E: [projects@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:projects@nzfwda.org.nz)



## Update from the National Projects Officer

The second year of this new role has been as busy as the first. The idea is to help achieve improvements to the way the Association operates and what it provides to its members.

As has been often reported to members, the overall aim is to make sure the Association remains relevant and that it delivers what members want. The series of mini-surveys has been a key part of this.

The Projects Officer's work has included:

### Subcommittees

Organise, run and keep records of meetings of all the subcommittees, to date since the last AGM there have been:

SWOT Subcommittee - 12 meetings;  
Remit Subcommittee - 4 meetings;

Budget Subcommittee - 3 meetings;  
H&S Subcommittee - 8 meetings until handed over to John McDonald. Detailed reports on the work and outputs of these will be provided for the 2023 AGM.

### Producing Documents

TidyHQ User Guide for members, plus a different version for the National Exec.

Duties of Officers - significant updates (awaiting Exec approval).

Remits for 2023 AGM (awaiting Exec confirmation).

Articles for Trail Torque and e-news.

Value Proposition - more about this in e-news.

Budget reports.

New draft budget for 2023 - in progress.

### Other

Participation in Exec meetings, usually one each month.

Reporting subcommittee progress to

each Exec meeting.

Supporting the National President and other Exec officers in their roles.

Participation in the Land Access Forum.

Updates to the Members' Portal in TidyHQ - a low slow process only partly done.

Participation in the Manawatu Estuary Management Team.

### What Comes Next

Continue work on all the above.

Annual review of the Regulations.

Produce detailed reports on the work and outputs of 3 subcommittees for the 2023 AGM.

Prepare other material and presentations for the AGM.

Consider accepting nomination to this role for another year.

Grant Purdie  
Projects Officer

# Southern Zone President Report

Bob Holmes - Email: [szpresident@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:szpresident@nzfwda.org.nz)



Hi folks, a meeting of Southern Zone Club Representatives was held Thursday 9th February via Zoom with a good 60% turnout of Club representatives. With the Xmas holiday period over, there were reports from Clubs regarding their holiday activities / trips indicating their Club members were well catered for over the break if they took up the option to go off road.

The LROCO ( that I am a member of ) held their usual Xmas camp in Central Otago offering a range of 4WD trip options to Club members.

This Xmas, new year holiday period we were host to a contingent of four wheel drive enthusiasts and their families from the Tararua 4WD Club. Needless to say, they had a great time in the Southern zone and enjoyed the hospitality offered to them during their stay at the LROCO camp site. It was a great opportunity to mix and mingle and enjoy the discussions on 4WD related topics.

The Southern Zone AGM is coming up, regrettably Steve Adam ( Mid

Canterbury 4WD Club ) is standing down as vice president due to other commitments, leaving the Zone looking for nominations for this position.

The topic of Insurance is ongoing, Rotary Clubs are no longer able to get cover under their own organisation for fund raiser / tag along trips. A local Rotary Cub approached the Southern Zone asking how to go about getting NZFWDA cover for their event, the Rotary Club was being assisted by a NZFWDA affiliated Club for the on the spot running of the event.

The outcome - those on the trip that were not members of the NZFWDA would need to join the NZFWDA.

Neville Dunton and I have been talking about how we can make this happen, more seamless, less challenging with a positive outcome when this type of enquiry is made by an outside organisation.

NZFWDA AGM – John McDonald has advised, organisers now have registrations steadily coming through for both the week of 4WD trips and

the forums, it will be a good turnout of 4WD enthusiasts over the entire event.

In the South Island we are heading towards drought, fire bans and water restrictions. This is nothing in comparison to the last fortnight that has tested the strength of Kiwis in the north island. Cyclone Gabrielle has brought a wave of destruction, of which the extent of the damage is still unknown.

The stories and images coming out of Muriwai, Piha, Coromandel and the Hawkes Bay are deeply concerning. This will severely effect 4WD Clubs and their membership in these areas and the landowners that they held a relationship with for 4WD access.

It will be a long time before some of these Clubs will have the opportunity to get out into the back blocks, or even host a competitive event and enjoy doing what most of us take for granted in our leisure time, something to ponder on.

Bob Holmes  
Southern Zone President



# National Public Relations Officer Report

Peter Vahry - Email: [natlpro.nzfwda@gmail.com](mailto:natlpro.nzfwda@gmail.com)



It's been a rough summer for four wheeling in the north, with the weather affecting many possible venues and Cyclone Gabrielle has had a huge impact on many lives around the North Island. Dry conditions were prevalent in the South, with few issues reported apart from many calls in the media from environmental groups wanting vehicles banned from beaches.

Maratoto earthworks were delayed until late November, but were finally achieved by Steve Morley and his assistant, with Ces Horan in support. Left to settle until after Christmas, the track was opened in the New Year but almost immediately the weather closed in again and it was decided to close the gate. Unfortunately, a couple of four wheelers had camped up the track and as the weather got worse, they drove out in the darkness ...Not noticing that the gate was now closed! The impact damaged the gate and Ces got a late-night call from a Wires Rd resident to open the gate. It was seriously bent and took a lot of effort, so thank you Ces. The Department of Conservation (DOC) agreed to organise repairing the gate, which was finally achieved, just in time to be closed again, under DOC instruction, as a precaution in the light of the pending cyclone. However, that maintenance work done late last year

on the track held up well and hopefully the weather and user behaviour allows it to stay open for the remainder of the season.

The 42 Traverse is still closed as a through route because of a major slip. DOC advised recently that they were finally getting a Geotech survey done to assess what might be possible in the way of repair. They indicated that cost could mean only a narrow walking and cycle option being possible. The DOC representative stated that he would prefer if it was brought back to a vehicle route and indicated that DOC had even talked of 'crowd funding' as an option. A quick [NZFWDA survey](#) that is still open, has had 130 responses with 98% indicating that they would contribute.

Just prior to Christmas, the Kaipara District Council used the NZFWDA club addresses from our website to invite regional clubs to comment on how they use [Ripiro Beach](#) and ideas about management. I followed up on behalf of the NZFWDA and have had a couple of worthwhile exchanges with the Council staffer managing the project. They welcome our interest in being involved and want to work together. They did note that this is early in the process of identifying Council options for management of

vehicles along the beach.

The Muriwai Beach vehicle management issue has gone quiet at present. Cyclone Gabrielle damage to the Muriwai area may affect the proposals to manage vehicle access to the beach, in the immediate future.

Over the weekend of 22-23 April there is a 4x4 Outdoor Expo being organized at the Kumeu Showgrounds and the NZFWDA intend to have a display there.

The loss of the Kopu/ Hikuai SH25A road across the Coromandel Ranges to a huge slip, will limit access to many 4x4 options on the east coast.

Thompsons Track had a couple of slips come down on the track in January after that heavy rain but were subsequently cleared by users. More serious slips occurred during the cyclone. Frankly it is an environmental disaster created by four wheelers.

Auckland's Woodhill Adventure Park future is under a cloud, with a difficulty finding insurance cover. It's popular at present, with over 70 vehicles using it on a recent Sunday.

Peter Vahry  
NZFWDA National Public Relations

## 2022/2023 NZFWDA Executive

*The NZFWDA Executive are volunteers who administer the Association. Divided into three Regional Zone committees - Northern Zone (North Cape to Taupo), Central Zone (Taupo to Wellington), Southern Zone (the entire South Island) and a Competition Committee.*

**President** - Neville Dunton

**Secretary** - Sam Whalley

**Treasurer** - Joanna Lilford

**National PRO** - Peter Vahry

**Membership Officer** - Tariq Wasim

**National Events** - Brian Howat

**Land Access** - Ian Hutchings

**Projects** - Grant Purdie

**Systems** - Max Wheatley

**National Competitions Officer** -

Scott Biggs

**Southern Zone (SZ) President** -

Bob Holmes

**SZ PRO** - John McDonald

**SZ Vice-President** - Steve Adam

**Central Zone (CZ) President** -

Brian Howat

**CZ PRO** - John Vruink

**CZ Vice-President** - Max Charman

**Northern Zone (NZ) President** -

John Hickey

**NZ PRO** - Peter Vahry

**NZ Vice-President** - Dan Barnett

**AS A RESULT OF CURRENT OFFICERS RETIRING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITIONS REQUIRING NOMINATIONS AT THE 2023 AGM.... • NZFWDA President • National Treasurer • Membership Officer**

## NZFWDA YOUNG DRIVER OF THE YEAR CUP

2008-09 Mitch Seymour

2009-10 Martin Rivers

2010-11 Ash Senior

2011-12 Shaun Robertson

2012-13 William Sturme

2013-14

2014-15

2015-16

2017-18

2018-19

Renee Harrison

Rachel Buckthought

Daniel Howat

Aaron Tosland

Caitlyn Thomsen

To nominate a Young Driver in your Club, contact the NZFWDA National Secretary [secretary@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzfwda.org.nz). Entries must be received by 31st January.





# Northern Zone President Report



John Hickey - E: [ntzhpresident@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:ntzhpresident@nzfwda.org.nz) - Mobile: 0274 531 247 - Home: 09 630 4904

Our Northern Zone Quarterly Meeting on Tuesday, 29 November 2022 by way of a zoom meeting at 7:30 pm. It was an attempt to provide an extra meeting to encourage zone participation and make it easier for those who would otherwise have to travel long distances to attend. Due to poor attendance a view was reached that the meeting failed and could not proceed as a meeting to making decisions about financial matters. There was a discussion about whether we had a quorum and a claim by some that the Constitution meant in the absence of standing orders we needed a quorum of 15 people to proceed.

For Northern Zone we should discuss whether Zoom is appropriate for future meetings. I am aware there are some who strongly support Zoom. However there are technical limitations in Zoom meetings. The human interaction that occurs at face-to-face meetings does not occur at Zoom meetings. We need to be careful if we are going to go down the road of Zoom meetings not to lose the collegiality of face-to-face meetings.

We had a subsequent zone meeting, the first of the year, on 11 February 2023 and the following matters were discussed at that meeting.

**Civil Defence - Zone Matters**  
From a Northern Zone point of view, things seem to have reasonably quiet in the Northern Zone.

The recent bad weather events have of course made things difficult for many of us. It got me thinking about how 4WD drivers can help others. My Land Rover Club of Auckland used to have its meetings at Civil Defence base West Auckland. The long serving president Ken Burrows worked at AUT and another AUT employee was the head of Civil Defence on the North Shore, so we used to participate in rehearsals for emergencies. Over time those connections have been lost.

I urge you to see what you can do to connect with your local communities, so that you can provide assistance and support to emergency teams and Civil Defence.

## Maratoto

Ces (Horan) reports that the Maratoto/wires track was opened after Steve Morley had finished his work in late December but has been closed on a number of occasions because of the weather. I understand that on one occasion, users of the track, who did not put any money in the box, got locked out and tried to force their way out. When Ces told them he did not know there was anybody there, because there was no money in the box, they were not apologetic. I understand that DOC has closed tracks in the Waikato and I assume Coromandel tracks.

I sought approval from the National Executive to sign a renewal of the DOC agreement for Maratoto. I submitted a resolution to the National Executive seeking approval for me to sign the agreement with DOC, on the basis that before any work is carried out in the future, health and safety and other matters relevant to the track, have to be first approved by the NZFWDA Health and Safety Committee. That resolution has not been accepted.

## Hull Road

The Council has responded to complaints by locals, about mud being tracked onto the road and they may be carrying out work to restrict access in accordance with suggestions by Tony Burgess, who liaises with the Council on this - which I understand to mean the track will remain open and might mitigate some of the damage caused by those who do not think about others. It is the old story of the inconsiderate or selfish few causing problems for the many.

## Beaches

There have been issues raised by a number of beaches outside Auckland, including Foxton Beach and Poutu. I have suggested that we needed, as an agenda item, for the National Executive a discussion about policy about access to beaches. I do not know whether the discussion will occur and I do not know whether we will reach an agreement on the policy at national level. I consider that Northern Zone committee also needs to discuss a policy about beaches.

I consider the point needs to be made that the NZFWDA, and its Clubs and members promote responsible use of vehicles on beaches and Council land. We need to follow-up with Auckland Council about Muriwai beach but with the recent weather events this is not the time to do that.

## AGMs

Our next Zone Meeting will be the AGM in April 2023. You are welcome to put yourselves forward for any of the positions as officers in the Zone.

The National AGM is, as you should be aware, to be held in Methven I am told that has been a strong interest in the 4x4 trips in the preceding week and also in the Sunday AGM. I encourage you to go if you can. We may need to discuss whether to encourage attendance, the zone contributes towards attendees, as we have done recently in previous years.

Whatever you doing try and stay safe and if you can use your four-wheel-drive to help other people I am sure they will appreciate it.

Take care.  
Regards  
John Hickey

## LIFE MEMBERS OF THE NEW ZEALAND FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ASSOCIATION.

**Awarded 2021 - Neville Dunton**

**Awarded 2021 - Mel Street**

**Awarded 2018 - Russell Quin**

**Awarded 2017 - Bob Holmes**

**Awarded 2017 - Eileen Revell (nee Austin)**

**Awarded 2017 - Steve McMinn**

**Awarded 2016 - John & Nonnie Cowper**

**Awarded 2015 - Ces Horan**

**Awarded 2015 - Kath Jaggard**

**Awarded 2011 - Peter Vahry**



# Northern Zone Clubs

Anything underlined will either open up in your internet browser or open your email to send the person a query.

If your Club logo has been updated, can you send a copy of it to [editor@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:editor@nzfwda.org.nz) please.

As Clubs have AGMs please send the NZFWDA Membership Officer ([membership@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:membership@nzfwda.org.nz)) an updated list of your President, Secretary, Treasurer and NZFWDA delegates details as these are vital in communicating with your club.



[auckland4wd.org.nz](http://auckland4wd.org.nz)

Bay of Islands 4x4 Club



[bop4x4club@gmail.com](mailto:bop4x4club@gmail.com)



Kaimai 4x4 Club



[cozzie4x4@gmail.com](mailto:cozzie4x4@gmail.com)



[hunt2@windowslive.com](mailto:hunt2@windowslive.com)



[www.geyserland4wd.co.nz](http://www.geyserland4wd.co.nz)

Kaitia 4WD Club Inc.

[Kaitia4x4club@hotmail.com](mailto:Kaitia4x4club@hotmail.com)



[www.kc4wd.co.nz](http://www.kc4wd.co.nz)



[www.lroca.org.nz](http://www.lroca.org.nz)



[manukau4wd.org.nz](http://manukau4wd.org.nz)



[norwestohv.org](http://norwestohv.org)  
[secretary@norwestohv.org](mailto:secretary@norwestohv.org)



[admin@nzjeepclub.co.nz](mailto:admin@nzjeepclub.co.nz)



[rodneyoffroadclub@gmail.com](mailto:rodneyoffroadclub@gmail.com)



[Sulphurcity4wheelers@outlook.com](mailto:Sulphurcity4wheelers@outlook.com)



United 4WD supporters  
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[secretary.waik4wdclub@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.waik4wdclub@gmail.com)



[Whangamata4x4@gmail.com](mailto:Whangamata4x4@gmail.com)



[whangarei4x4club@gmail.com](mailto:whangarei4x4club@gmail.com)

Wilderness Ridge Riders 4WD Club

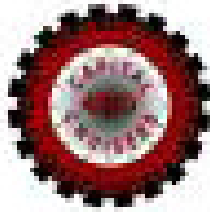


# Central Zone Clubs

Anything underlined will either open up in your internet browser or open your email to send the person a query.

If your Club logo has been updated, can you send a copy of it to [editor@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:editor@nzfwda.org.nz) please.

As Clubs have AGMs please send the NZFWDA Membership Officer ([membership@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:membership@nzfwda.org.nz)) an updated list of your President, Secretary, Treasurer and NZFWDA delegates details as these are vital in communicating with your club.



[cruiser4wdclub@gmail.com](mailto:cruiser4wdclub@gmail.com)



VEHICLE CLUB  
Wellington  
[www.ccvc.org.nz](http://www.ccvc.org.nz)

Featherston Family  
4x4 Club



[www.hb4wd.co.nz](http://www.hb4wd.co.nz)

Kapiti Family 4Wheel  
Drive Club

[kapitifamily4wd@outlook.com](mailto:kapitifamily4wd@outlook.com)



[www.kiwi4x4.org.nz](http://www.kiwi4x4.org.nz)

Levin 4WD Club



[www.m4wdc.org.nz](http://www.m4wdc.org.nz)



[www.naki4wd.org](http://www.naki4wd.org)



[www.twincity4x4.co.nz](http://www.twincity4x4.co.nz)



<http://wf4x4c.org.nz>



[wellingtonjeepclub.co.nz](http://wellingtonjeepclub.co.nz)  
[wjeepc@gmail.com](mailto:wjeepc@gmail.com)



# Southern Zone Clubs



[www.4x4events.co.nz](http://www.4x4events.co.nz)

Central Otago 4WD  
Club  
[co4wdc@gmail.com](mailto:co4wdc@gmail.com)

Clutha 4WD Club



[www.lrec.co.nz](http://www.lrec.co.nz)



[marlborough4x4club.weebly.com](http://marlborough4x4club.weebly.com)



[nel4x4@gmail.com](mailto:nel4x4@gmail.com)



[www.or4g.org.nz](http://www.or4g.org.nz)



[shotover4wdclub.co.nz](http://shotover4wdclub.co.nz)



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[southlandlandroverclub.co.nz](http://southlandlandroverclub.co.nz)

