



Trail Torque

The official Magazine of the New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association

December 2024/ January / February 2025



Celebrating **50** *Four wheeling* **YEARS** *in New Zealand*

INSIDE
News & Reports
Coming Events
Club Trips
PLUS MORE!

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The objective of the
Association is to
grow, develop
and improve
recreational four-
wheel drive activities in New Zealand.
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.



Contact:
NZFWDA Secretary
secretary@nzfwda.org.nz

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[NZFWDA Website](#)
[TidyHQ](#)

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

Deadlines for Trail Torque Submissions

MAR/APR/MAY 2025
Deadline: 14 February 2025
Out to Members: 2nd March 2025

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

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COVER PIC: Auckland 4WD Club Xmas Picnic. Photo by Peter Vahry.

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.



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.

Coming Changes to Executive and Constitution - SGM 24 February

At the 2024 National AGM in Taupo, the resolution was passed:

"That the National Executive reviews its structure with the aim of improving its effectiveness and potentially reducing its size and that proposed changes resulting from the review be put to the members at the 2025 AGM including any necessary remits."

The Exec has been working on this and now provides a heads-up to members and clubs.

The review has resulted in a detailed recommendation for a new structure, with fewer officers on the Exec and numerous related changes.

Further details will be provided to members and clubs by email in the coming few weeks.

A Special General Meeting, online only, is being planned for Monday 24 February 2025 at 7pm. A preliminary notice of SGM was issued to club Presidents, Secretaries and

Treasurers on Tuesday evening 17th December. The formal notice of SGM will be issued in January.

The SGM is likely to have a number of resolutions, with the aim of allowing work on finalising the new constitution ready for seeking its approval at the AGM in May. Also to allow for election of officers under the proposed new structure at the AGM.

Club Constitution Changes

The Incorporated Societies Act 2022 requires all Incorporated Societies to change or replace their constitution to comply with the new Act, by April 2026.

Please refer to our article on page 3 of the last Trail Torque, the September/October/November 2024 edition,

which you can see on the Association website [here](#) (the PDF version is easier to read).

A key challenge for us and all clubs is the need to get the appropriate consent of every member to be a member, of both their club and the NZFWDA.

The Remit Subcommittee is researching this further and will provide updates to clubs as and when we know more about how this would all work.

And once we have more certainty of all this, we will post some guidelines on our Members Portal in TidyHQ.

2025 NZFWDA AGM INFO

Hi there to all members of the NZFWDA.

We are the 2025 AGM subcommittee and are reaching out in regards to next year's NZFWDA AGM. In this write up we want to confirm that we have locked in the 2025 AGM for Saturday the 24th May 2025. This Conference and AGM has been booked in with Silverstream Retreat in Wellington.

AGM TRIPS LEAD UP

Now for why we are all here, Four-Wheel Driving....

At the 2024 AGM, a challenge was set for Central Zone to not only out do the AGM, but also better the weeks prior 4wd trips leading up to the AGM.

We are looking at running 8 trips in total. That will overlap some trips

during the week, so your trip selection is very important.

From Monday the 19th May, to Friday the 23rd May, we plan on running a shiny trip each day. Ranging from grade 1-5 all run by various clubs, these trips will range from Akatarawas, Redrock's, and a few other places yet to be confirmed.

Here is how we have changed a few things up, we have added two harder winch style trips. Run through Rallywoods and the Akatarawas for trailer trucks, which will be run on the Thursday and Friday.

We have also added a third trip for the Friday, which will be an orienteering/sightseeing trip focused on those that want something a little different than 4wding and that can be done in

cars, this will be aimed at a more socializing event.

What we ask of you as a member, is to keep an eye on your emails, we have sent out a bulk email to all members, to make sure we gather interest for these new trips. The form is a google doc and is NOT for booking, it is just to get a gauge on what is wanted from our members, in this awesome, fun filled week that we have planned. Once we can confirm that we have an interest in these trips then we will put out the official forms with all the information required.

We look forward to hearing back from you.

Thanks from the 2025 AGM Subcommittee.

Thompsons Track update

Thompsons Track (North Island) is now open to all users over the summer months.

There are several small slips on the track that have not been levelled, so caution is required when crossing these areas.

Council asks all track users to be mindful of their responsibilities to protect the environment and to not cause damage to both natural and manmade structures.

We all want to retain ongoing access for all users, so please do not do anything that could jeopardise this.

29TH NOV 2024

Note that access to tracks and areas off the official Track is prohibited and entering these tracks and areas may lead to prosecution by the land owners.

Mike van Bysterveldt | Roothing Team Leader. Matamata-Piako District Council

Membership Cards

Membership cards are becoming very relevant now that we have members discounts available through many suppliers.

To get these discounts you are required to prove your current membership with NZFWDA.

You can add your membership card to either Apple Wallet Or Google Wallet.

To add either of these you need to open the email from NZFWDA **on your phone** or log into TidyHQ **on your phone**.

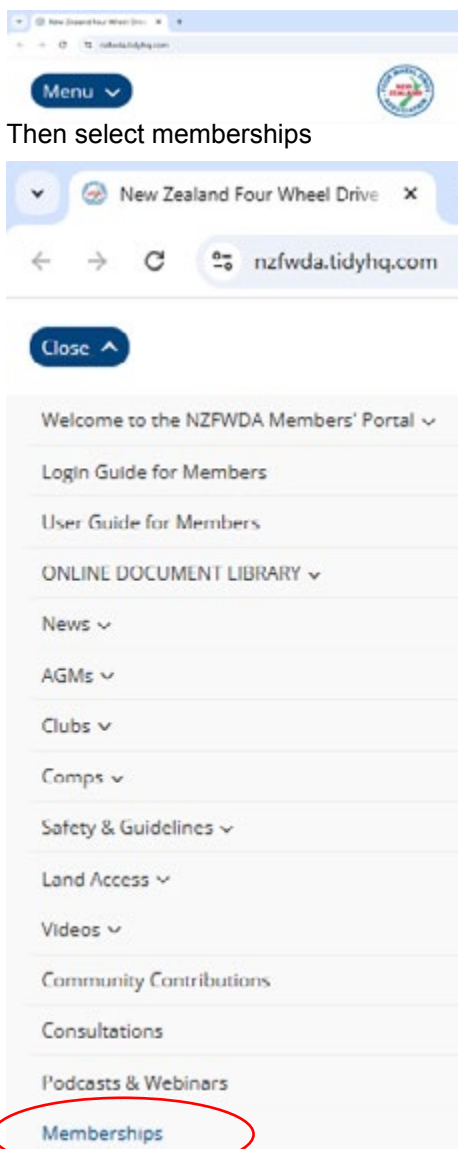
When you receive the email from NZFWDA advising you of your membership update there will be a link to download to Apple Wallet or Google Wallet on that email.

Just click the link to the wallet you have installed **on your phone** and your membership card will download to your wallet.

If you have misplaced that email you can download to Apple wallet or Google wallet to your phone via your log in on TidyHQ.

You must log in to TidyHQ on your phone.

Once you are logged in to TidyHQ go to the "Menu" drop down



Then select memberships

This will come up with all your current and past memberships

2022/23 Full Year

EXPIRED

Expiry: 30-06-2023

Barbara Adam (2020-2250)

[View More Details](#)

2023/24 Full Year

EXPIRED

Expiry: 30-06-2024

Barbara Adam (2020-2250)



[View More Details](#)

2024/25 Full Year

ACTIVE

Expiry: 30-06-2025

Barbara Adam (2020-2250)



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BRINGING REAL BENEFITS TO OUR MEMBERS:**

ARB

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These 7 organisations have helped the NZFWDA bring genuine change to what it means to be an Affiliated Member.

If you are not already a Member of the NZFWDA but curious about it... here's 7 very good reasons to enquire!

If you want to know more email me, Steve - president@NZFWDA.org.nz

Big Thanks to Central Zone members for the planting

ARTICLE BY GRANT PURDIE

On Saturday 28 September there was a great turnout of Central Zone club members to help with the community working bee, planting spinifex and pīngao in the foredunes at Foxton Beach, right near the mouth of the Manawatu Estuary.

Thank you folk so much for doing this, especially the large contingent from the Twin City 4WD Club who came all the way from Hawkes Bay. Along with members from the Central Districts 4x4 Club in Fielding and CCVC in Wellington. If there were others, apologies for missing you.

A very special extra thanks to Trevor Hendra, Central Districts, who had sourced over 1,000 spinifex and pīngao plants. These were gifted by a commercial nursery and were in addition to the 2,000 spinifex and pīngao from the Horowhenua District Council. It was all done in about two and a half hours, along with dragging a burnt-out car wreck to a place where the council contractor could take it away. Then there was the BBQ that HDC put on for us, appreciated by all.

This effort by you all didn't go unnoticed - not only by the HDC and Horizons Regional Council officers on site - the resident botanical guy gave a very positive speech to the 25 people at the Manawatu Estuary Management Team meeting a couple of weeks later.



Hard at work – Trevor in the middle holding 3 plants. Luckily we had great weather!



Several of the club trucks that hadn't already slipped away after the BBQ.

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NZFWDA Helps Protection of Ramsar Site of International Importance

The Manawatu Estuary, on the North Island's west coast between Levin and Whanganui, was recognised under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland site of international significance in 2005.

Foxton Beach is a township located along the north side of the estuary. In the past, part of the area, known locally as the Bowls, was designated for 4wd activities. This was eventually stopped, in about 2008, with our blessing, on safety and environmental grounds.

The Estuary is one of the largest estuary and wading bird feeding grounds in the lower half of the North Island, and retains a high degree of naturalness and biodiversity. The Estuary was designated a Wetland of International Significance on the basis of its various geomorphology, flora, fauna, cultural and social values. Of particular interest are the many species of migratory wading birds that spend part of each season here, among them the Bar-tailed Godwits that migrate between here and Alaska every year.

See more information about the estuary at <https://www.metrust.org.nz/>

As is all too common with our natural environment, the estuary is not in perfect health, one of the largest detrimental factors being the quality of

water arriving down the river. There has been an estuary management plan in place for some years. Sadly it is widely viewed as not having been very effective.

To ramp up the current and future protection and rehabilitation of the estuary, a group known as MEMT has worked for two years to develop a new and much more robust management plan, due to be launched in March 2025.

MEMT is the Manawatu Estuary Management Team. On it are representatives from DOC, Horizons Regional Council, Horowhenua District Council, Foxton Community Board, the three local hapu, Forest and Bird, Manawatu Estuary Trust, Wildlife Foxton Trust, Save Our River Trust, Manawatu River Trust, Foxton Beach Progressive Association, and other environmental and community groups.

And the NZFWDA, where our representative Grant Purdie was elected Deputy Chair.

Why is this significant to us 4wd folk?

North of Foxton Beach lies the McKenzie Trail. Well known to many of us, it runs behind the fore-dunes for some kilometres up the coast, emerging at the mis-named Three Mile Creek.

The McKenzie Trail is of high importance to the 4wd community. It is a challenging drive, yet with relatively low impact on vehicles. It is often referred to as a very technical drive.

Retaining 4wd access to the McKenzie Trail was part of the deal when we agreed to keep out of the Bowls. This was enshrined in the HDC Coastal Reserves Management Plan, and there is a permit and key arrangement in place.

Alongside this, we have kept up a friendly and positive working relationship with HDC and the community, with numerous working bees over the last 25 years doing mainly rubbish clean-ups and dune planting.

That relationship has now greatly extended to other organisations through our contribution to MEMT. One significant example is working alongside DOC, where the NZFWDA is well known at senior levels for our contribution to acceptable 4wd activities throughout NZ and our initiatives with managed access such as at Macetown and other conservation locations.

It is with work like this that NZFWDA strives to retain 4wd access for all our members, and hopefully obtain further access over time.

HDC bylaw

The "Hoons in the Dunes" are still creating havoc in the ecologically valued dunes near the mouth of the Manawatu River at Foxton Beach.

This is terrible publicity for all us well-behaved members of the NZFWDA.

All the efforts over the years to manage this have failed, basically because there is no legal protection of the area, and no way to enforce compliance or to prosecute people. Some 15 years or more since 4wd clubs recommended a bylaw was

needed, Horowhenua District Council (HDC) has now put together a bylaw that will give legal protection to the area. The draft of this bylaw was up for public consultation recently.

There were 64 submissions received. About 10 people spoke at hearing in support of their submissions, including Ian Hutchings (CCVC submission) and Grant Purdie (NZFWDA submission).

Our mana with HDC was strongly recognised, both the chair (Deputy Mayor) and another councillor spoke in our support.

Ours was the only submission where they said that perhaps they hadn't worded parts of the bylaw very well, and they agreed to add some clauses and make some other changes that we had suggested.

The full council approved the duly amended bylaw at its meeting of 27 November.

Now the mission will be to work with HDC to get the necessary compliance measures in place.

Council reminds of rules for vehicles on Kāpiti beaches

PRESS RELEASE: 28 Nov 2024, 2:31 PM

With schools ending and summer on the way, Kāpiti Coast District Council is reminding people that vehicles are not allowed on most beaches in Kāpiti except in defined areas for launching boats.

“We’re not out to stop people having fun, but to educate them about how we can all play a part in promoting beach safety and environmental care”.

Vehicles may drive or park only in these areas:

- the foreshore from Olliver Grove, North Waikanae to the southern end of Rodney Avenue, Te Horo.
- the shingle track beside the foreshore from the northern bank of the Ōtaki River mouth to opposite 100 Marine Parade, Ōtaki Beach
- the foreshore between the official beach access point opposite 8 Marine Parade, Ōtaki Beach, to the northern limit of the district.

Areas that are strictly off limits to all vehicles include:

- Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve
- Waitohu Reserve (which is outside the foreshore).

To read the full Press Release and more information about vehicles on Kapiti beaches visit [their website here](#).

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Coastal Cleanup Success

AUCKLAND FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB & LAND ROVER OWNERS CLUB OF AUCKLAND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



ARTICLE PROVIDED: BY TARIQ WASIM,
NORTHERN ZONE PRESIDENT

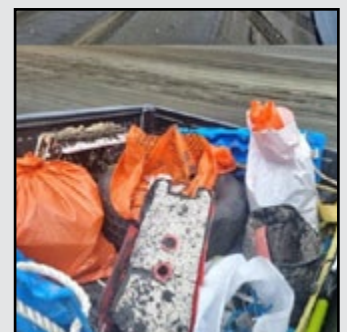
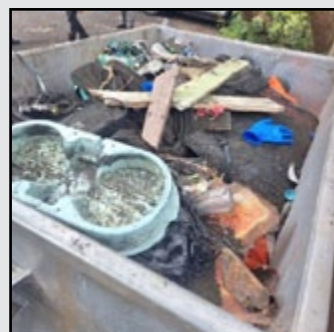
Auckland based clubs joined forces for a rewarding coastal cleanup initiative, organized in partnership with the Auckland City Council again this year.

This is an annual event going on for more than two decades. With 15 vehicles strategically spaced every 5 kilometers apart in groups of three, volunteers diligently scoured the beachfront.

Their efforts yielded a collection of plastic debris, tyres, boat parts, fishing nets, and numerous glass bottles, contributing to a cleaner environment for all. In total, about 3.5 tons of rubbish was removed from the beach.

The day culminated with a celebratory BBQ, generously provided by the Auckland Council, high-lighting the community's dedication to environmental stewardship.

Through collaborative efforts like these, local clubs continue to demonstrate their commitment to making a positive impact and preserving our natural landscapes.



Remember this simple H&S message... you can't indemnify out of being stupid.

NELSON 4 WHEEL DRIVE CLUB



SOURCE: THE PRESS; SARAH ARNOLD; ROWAN COUTTS - PHOTOS BY SARAH ARNOLD & HELEN ANDERSON

The Nelson Four Wheel Drive Club, was formed in 1973, and has provided countless interesting and safe trips for members of all levels of experience for the last 50 years.

The types of four-wheel drive vehicles may have changed over the years, but the family friendly and welcoming ethos of the club members has not.

“The club caters for members of all ages and capabilities, and we enjoy watching kids grow up with the club and return with vehicles of their own,” says Rowan Coutts (President).

“Club members are very aware of their environmental responsibility as no one wants to see land locked away through misuse and abuse,” says Rowan.

“We want to preserve that access for future generations of four-wheel drivers. It is an expectation of being a club member that on trips, all vehicles stick to the designated track and the Trip Leader has the responsibility of ensuring all club rules are adhered to”.

“This sets clubs and club members apart from non-club off-roaders, often perceived as ‘hooligans’ by the public, leading to the misconception that all four-wheel drivers rip up the land and cause serious environmental harm.”

Helping out

The Club works with local landowners to maintain tracks on their land and open up new ones.

And working with the Department of Conservation to take care of areas like Beebys Knob track maintenance and wilding-pine removal.

Club committee members are also part of discussions with Tasman District Council around submission for land use on the Appleby River to mitigate damage by non-club recreational users, both 4WD and quad bikes.

The club provides support for Search and Rescue operations, marshalls



Nelson Four Wheel Drive Club on a trip to Lake Tennyson.



Club members working on road repairs in Rainbow Valley in 2017.



for motorsport events, and vehicles and labour at The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary, delivering and installing sandbags along the predator fence.

There is a real concern for the future of four-wheel driving in New Zealand. “More and more land is being shut off by large companies who want to restrict all public access; an unprecedented number of places in Marlborough, for example, this year closed due to ‘logging activities’”, says Rowan.

“The creation of 4WD drive parks is being discussed and will continue to provide places where new drivers can learn to drive their vehicles, however

being able to run 4WD events and access remote areas of the country is getting harder and harder.”

The Club offers training, oversight & camaraderie

Prospective members of the Nelson Four Wheel Drive Club are asked to come along to a club meeting on the first Wednesday of the month, February to December, at the Ocean Lodge. They can then join two trips under the guidance of a club member before deciding if the club is for them.

The club runs regular training days during the year on a farm, where new members learn about safely navigating

hazards like sidling around hillsides, traversing steep terrain, and river crossing.

“New members do not have to spend a fortune on all the bells and whistles to join the club,” says president Rowan Coutts.

They need basic safety equipment and are taught how to use them correctly. Club rules state that: “Vehicles must be mechanically sound and suitably equipped for off-road driving and before being allowed on Club trips must be checked and have an equipment sticker displayed on the windscreen. The onus for safety rests solely on the owner, who has to maintain their vehicle and equipment in good working condition at all times: and to use them in a safe and responsible manner.”

Safety measures play a large role in all organised events and trips. At the beginning of each trip a driver’s safety briefing is given by the Trip Leader in charge of the day’s activities, and a vehicle is nominated as Tail End Charlie to keep everyone together and alert the Trip Leader of any problems at the back of the pack.

Drivers are reminded of the club rules for trips, including always keeping the vehicle behind you in view; waiting at any turn-offs until the vehicle behind has sighted you; staying in your position in the convoy; and not entering a hazard until the driver in front of you is clear.

‘Tread lightly on the land’

The Club is proud of its reputation for treading lightly on the land, and for providing interesting and varied trips to a wide range of members.

Club trips follow a grading system, with Grade 1 and 2 - ‘shiny’ trips for people who want to enjoy the scenery and not scratch or damage their vehicles.

Grade 3 - the most standard club trips; more challenging than shiny trips and drivers can expect there could be scratches and minor damage to sills or panels depending on the terrain. Grade 4 and 5 - very challenging, serious equipment “come out to play”, winching and strategic driving is essential.



Snowy River



Club enduro event fun day in 2024.



Club trip up to Mt Rochfort.

The club runs trips all over the top of the south, including the historic Aorere Goldfields, Kahurangi Lighthouse, the West Coast from Reefton down to Ross, an annual snow trip through the Rainbow Station, and up the Leatham and Glenroy valleys.

Their hugely popular “Tuesday Trippers” (Grade 1 or 2) on the second Tuesday of the month, has seen many former members and older members return to the club, and can attract anywhere from 12 to 26 vehicles, exploring and enjoying local scenery and history.

More information about the Club can be found here: [Nelson 4 Wheel Drive Club.](#)



River-crossing training day



Club members at the Reefton Challenge in 2017



Nelson Club ladies’ day trip to Speargrass Station in 2017



Transporting and installing sandbags along the predator-free fence at the Brook Waimārama Bird Sanctuary.



Glenroy Valley



The Old Bullock Road at Twynham Station.

Most NZFWDA members would be aware that in recent years the National Executive has been running a H&S Subcommittee. Part of this subcommittee’s role is to handle reports of accidents, incidents and near-misses, which sometimes might result in further investigation.

To date all such reports have shown that the clubs concerned have handled things well. The subcommittee has used many of the incoming reports as inspiration for “lessons learned” to be published to members through safety-related articles in Trail Torque and e-news.

To report any accident, incident or near-miss, use the reporting form on the main page of the Online Document Library in the members portal on TidyHQ and email it to safety@nzfwda.org.nz. It will be logged and reviewed.

Auckland 4WD Club Xmas picnic

WORDS &
PHOTOS BY
PETER VAHRY

Auckland 4WD Club have a tradition of a Christmas picnic with 'easy four wheeling' for families and with the feature being the annual chocolate log and strawberries as a dessert. Again, this year there were two 750mm long chocolate logs consumed!

For 2024 the venue was one of Auckland's more remote regional parks near the top of the South Kaipara Heads. A couple of years ago the Auckland Council updated their Bylaws to ban vehicles in its regional parks, but the club has a long relationship with that park, where it has been doing an annual tree planting project for over 20 years. To get permission to drive in this large park to a beach on the Kaipara Harbour, the club offered to stop along the way and spent around 30 minutes clearing weeds from around the new trees that we'd planted back in May. That was welcomed and a considerable area was addressed on the day.

On December 1, it was raining in many parts of Auckland as we made our way up to South Head, but the weather cleared there and stayed that way until shortly after we departed the area for home. Some tracks are partially graveled, but much of the driving was across grass, which had dried reasonably well from a fresh breeze.

An excellent day out to a big park that few know about, and even fewer



people get to visit most parts, as walking from the carpark to the coast is over a kilometre and uphill on the way back! We were also fortunate to be guided through the maze of tracks by a council park ranger who was able to point out past planting projects, various Pa sites and open the various paddock gates along the way. The park is run as a working farm.



MOSSBURN TRIP REPORT

PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM BOB HOLMES.

Left the hotel at 7am heading toward Mavora Lake. Meet on the gravel patch to off load cars and the day begun.

8 cars; 2 Nissan, 6 Land Cruisers, 21 people, 17 adults, 4 children.

8am - Michelle and Gareth's - truck has over heated. Trying to cool it down with some water, not sure how well it's going to go, but they are back on track now.

Crossing the bridge and heading to the right down the track through to the Gate. I've never seen so many men try and close a gate before, it took 5 of them to work it out.

Beautiful calm day, 3 degrees and no wind, the sunrise behind the mountains looked spectacular.

Heading down the valley, past a hut where some men are staying, which looked like for a few months with the amount of gear they had.

9am heading down a bit further to look at a hut called Lincoln Hut. We headed down the valley, passing four pigs on the left running along the tree line.

9.30am Craig needs to be towed out backwards, Michael hooks on to pull him out, but Craig isn't going anywhere. Neil pulls in position to pull him forwards and just sinks in to the soft ground. Sam hooks up to Neal and winches him out, while Craig is still stuck. Micheal and Gareth hook on together to winch Craig out, Craig taking half the ground with him as he goes. It's very deep and very muddy. We stopped for morning tea.

10.30am contemplating the track ahead of us. How many trucks would get stuck? 6 got stuck in total, Micheals 70 Series with Thomas driving. Rays 45 Series with Cooper driving are the only two trucks that made it through, a little embarrassing that the kids made it through and everyone else got towed out.



Heading in to the hills we wind our way along until we got back to the river. Craig gets stuck again. Towed out by Neil, who was hooked on to Michael's truck.

1pm heading off after lunch up the track through the trees. We made our way along the ridge line through the mud to a hut call Oreti hut. A cute wee orange hut.

We have been heading up and over and down and around the tracks all afternoon playing follow the leader, I've lost count on how many times Craig got stuck.

2.45pm we stopped for a cuppa tea and a biscuit and decided to start heading out, we turned to get on the track and ran in to a bog, this involved Peter being tugged backwards by two trucks and then Gareth got stuck, which involved a line of trucks hooked on, to winch one man out.

4pm as we made it back, Craig (of course), needed one last tug for the day. We headed back to the trailers to load up and head back to the hotel pub for a hot fire and a well deserved drink.



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.

COMING EVENTS

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

18 JANUARY 2025

NZ 4X4 TRIALS Round 3: Mangaweka. Hosted by Levin 4x4 Club. Rangiwhia. See nz4x4trials.co.nz for more.

25 - 27 JANUARY 2025

(Auckland Anniversary weekend). The King Country 4WD Club invites participants to register for the "Matiere Cosy Club Safari". We will be camping at the Matiere Rugby Club and we will traverse over hilltops and valleys with our local guides. This historical settlement on the Forgotten Highway, in the heart of the King Country, would love to show off their panoramic views of rivers, railway, bush, and farmland. Open to 4x4's only with good MT tyres. This 3 day event is \$480 for 2 people for the weekend. Register at www.kc4wd.co.nz

5 - 9 FEBRUARY 2025

EAST COAST 4X4 CLUB RESCUE HELICOPTER FUNDRAISER. 4x4 Charity event. The trip is limited to 50 trucks. Entry is \$670 for the 5 days and 4 nights per person. This is a camping trip with different places to stay every night. The cost includes the hosting camp site to provide dinner in the evening, breakfast and lunch the following day. Mud tyres with at least 60% tread is a requirement (NO All Terrains will be accepted). Your vehicle is at risk of bush rash. All proceeds from this trip are donated to the local community hosting us, and the majority of the fee going to the Eastland Helicopter Rescue Trust. Link for Registration Email address for Questions helicopterfundraiser2024@gmail.com

15 - 16 FEBRUARY 2025

Kauri Coast 4WD Club are hosting another Fundraiser Safari, raising funds for the Northland Rescue Helicopter. Event layout will be similar to previous years, with more farmland and less beach driving than past years. Two full days of four wheel driving, brush marks and scratches are likely, so suitable for club type vehicles. Day one will be a mixture of beach driving and farmland focused

around the Kai Iwi Lakes area, day two will be all farm and bush land driving in the Aranga and Maunganui Bluff area. Boasting spectacular views through out both days. We will be aiming to hold a prize giving event around lunchtime on Sunday. Camping for Friday and Saturday nights are included in the entry fee for two adults. Camping will be in the same location all weekend so suitable for caravans etc. Entry fee is \$350 per vehicle. \$50 discount to all members of NZFWDA clubs. Children are \$15 extra per child. To register interest, please email kauricoast4wdclub@outlook.com

22 FEBRUARY 2025

TUTIRA SCHOOL & TWIN CITY 4WD CLUB 4WD FUNDRAISER Family friendly trip visiting stunning private farmland in the Hawkes Bay. For more details, visit the Facebook page: [Tutira Schools Shiny Truck Fundraiser](https://www.facebook.com/TutiraSchoolsShinyTruckFundraiser) Or email: tutira4wd@gmail.com

22 FEBRUARY 2025*

NZ 4X4 TRIALS Round 4: Feilding. Hosted by Manawatu 4WD Club. See nz4x4trials.co.nz for more *Date change is possible.

23 MARCH 2025

NZ 4X4 TRIALS Round 5: Te Puke. Hosted by BOP Four Wheel Drive Club. See nz4x4trials.co.nz for more

12 APRIL 2025*

NZ 4X4 TRIALS 2024/2025 National Final. Whangarei. Hosted by Counties 4 Wheelers. See nz4x4trials.co.nz for more. *Date change is possible.

15 - 20 APRIL 2025

LAND ROVER RALLY. Three days of safaris in Wanaka, followed by two days of vehicle displays at Wheels in Wanaka. All models of Land-Rovers and Range Rovers from 1948 to 2025 are invited to join in, for an action-packed Land Rover-only rally with exclusive off-road safaris exploring seldom accessed high-country stations. First up is Middlemarch Pre

Easter Mountain Circuit organized by the Land Rover Enthusiasts Club (Otago) with two single day trips followed by Forest Range Station in the Lindis Valley organised by the Canterbury and Otago Land Rover Owners Clubs. Then onto Wheels at Wanaka Friday 18 to Sunday 20 April. Participants must be members of the NZFWDA. To attend the Wheels at Wanaka check out the [website](#) to buy exhibiting enthusiast and supporter tickets. All Landies attending will have their own dedicated parking and display area at the Wheels venue. To register an expression of interest and go on the event email list, fill out this [form](#) More information contact: Colin Brown Ph 0274 333 033 Email cdabrown52@gmail.com Form for Forest Range More info contact: Mike Simmons Ph 027 448 9550 Email mike.simm@xtra.co.nz Or Ross Fraser Ph 021 0287 4414 Email nzarhmfraser@kinect.co.nz For any rally queries contact Rod Corbett Ph 027 433 8772 Email rod.corbett88@gmail.com

19 - 24 MAY 2025

NZFWDA CONFERENCE 4WD TRIPS AND AGM. See page 3 for more details about the trips.

SAFETY INCIDENTS

If there is an incident during any 4wd club trip or event, the club now has an obligation to report it to the NZFWDA Executive. This applies to any significant accident or incident and/or death or serious injury.

Prompt initial advice is best, with further details at later dates once the club has investigated and formed any conclusions.

TUTIRA SCHOOL & TWIN CITY 4WD CLUB 4WD FUNDRAISER



Experience the breathtaking beauty of private farmland on our family-friendly 4WD tour on February 22, 2025!

Enjoy amazing views and create lasting memories with your loved ones.

Date: February 22, 2025

Location: Stunning private farmland

For more details, visit the Facebook page: [Tutira Schools Shiny Truck Fundraiser](#)

Or email: tutira4wd@gmail.com



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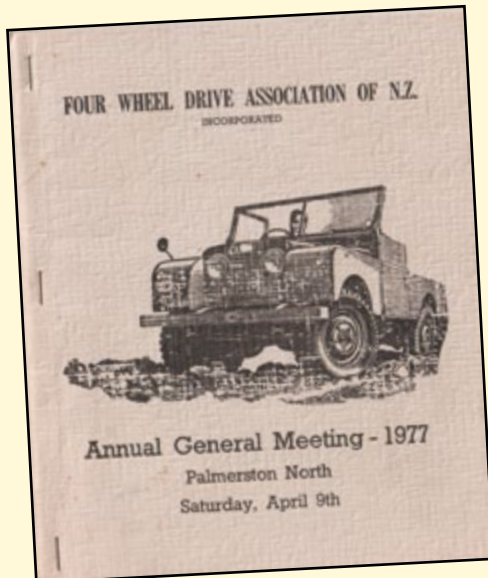
As a valued partner of NZFWDA, Rothbury Insurance Brokers are pleased not only to offer members our market-leading on and off-road vehicle cover, but a range of insurance options from home and contents through to business assets and liability too.

On top of this, our collaborative approach to supporting the association includes a referral agreement where we share a portion of our income back with the association. Between offering market-leading cover to members, and supporting the association, all whilst providing personal service and quality advice, we hope you'll leave your insurance needs to us!

TAKING A LOOK BACK OVER 50 YEARS...

ZOOM IN TO READ

The New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association celebrates 50 years of four wheeling in New Zealand.



One track was slow at the start and faster at the finish, while the other track was the opposite way around, and the trucks usually passed in the mud bogs going in opposite direction, but with a solid earth bank between them so no possibility of a head on collision. After one lap, the trucks would swap places and race again on the opposite track. The fastest combined time would be the winner.

Around 30 club members from several clubs arrived for



the day with a wide range of vehicles. Some members supplying static display vehicles, some members helping out as marshals or timing, some keen to race and some just to drive the course at a sedate speed, and I would like to thank each and every member who turned up.

The twin tracks proved to be a excellent formula with both racing and "tour" driving for the non competitive drivers drawing a large crowd which at times were standing 3 deep behind the extensive fencing.

A most unusual part of the day was to see Winch Challenge trucks racing against Trials Trucks and club trucks all on the same tracks. I was brilliant to see the different styles of vehicles together as it doesn't happen



often. The crowd loved it and we had many inquiries about club membership.

The weather on Monday was not quite as good, but we still had a good turn out of members, including a group

of Trials drivers who had driven home from the National Trial in Taranaki especially to attend the event. That was a great effort on their part, and they



certainly put on a great show. We were also able to welcome a group from the Military vehicle collectors club to our track. It was great to see WW2 era Jeeps in the mud.

On both Sunday and Monday, a few members of the public were given rides in a range of vehicles and they came away with big smiles on their faces. A great public relations exercise. Who won the racing? Well to



be honest, I have no idea who put in the fastest time, the idea of the day to have a bit of fun while show casing our sport to the general public, and we certainly archived that.

I would like to extend a big thank you to all the club members who help out on the day, loaned equipment or just attended. Also a big thanks you to all our sponsors for their support. We couldn't have done it without your support.

Tony Burgess, Northern Zone President

TRAIL TORQUE NOVEMBER 2009



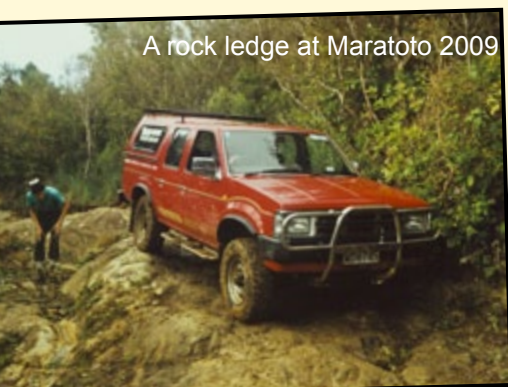


Eileen Austin in Riverhead Forest

PHOTOS BY PETER VAHRY



Riverhead Forest 2009



A rock ledge at Maratoto 2009



Any guesses who this is?



Norwest Winch Challenge 2007

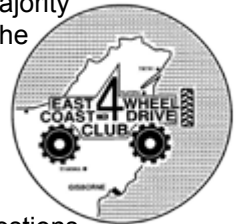
EAST COAST 4X4 CLUB RESCUE HELICOPTER FUNDRAISER

5TH TO 9TH FEBRUARY 2025 - WAITANGI HOLIDAY WEEK

Entries are open for the 4x4 Charity event. This is a reasonable track, covering back country stations. We will be traveling from Gisborne on Wednesday morning (5th) and ending up at the East Cape Lighthouse, Sunday (9th) avoiding SH35. The trip is limited to 50 trucks, first in, first served with \$100 non refundable deposit. Entry is \$670 for the 5 days and 4 nights per person. This is a camping trip with different places to stay every night. The cost includes the hosting camp site to provide dinner in the evening, breakfast and lunch the following day. Mud tyres with at least 60% tread is a requirement (**NO All Terrains will be accepted**).



Your vehicle is at risk of bush rash. Remember, all proceeds from this trip are donated to the local community hosting us, and the majority of the fee is going to the Eastland Helicopter Rescue Trust.



[Link for Registration](#)

Email address for Questions
helicopterfundraiser2024@gmail.com

TOW/RECOVERY HOOKS

As often is the case with the world of LVV certification we 'chase our tails' as new products, materials and trends surface.

One new trend we are starting to see is the addition of large tow/recovery hooks on 4WD vehicles. The issue is that some of these products are bridging crumple zones (see images).



Although some vehicles do not need to meet frontal impact standards, all light vehicles must as a minimum, meet the 'General Safety Requirements' found in the Frontal Impact Rule. From the rule: *the performance of a motor vehicle in relation to protecting occupants in a frontal impact collision must not be reduced below a safe tolerance of its state when manufactured or modified, by any factors, including corrosion, structural damage, material degradation, inadequate repair, the fitting of additional equipment, or the removal of equipment.*



Bridging crumple zones by the fitting of additional equipment is likely to reduce the performance of the vehicle in a frontal impact collision. Moving forward tow/recovery hooks that bridge crumple zones are a modification that cannot be certified. SOURCE: LVVTA



Crate Day: a tradition or an act of stupidity?

Tradition: (from Wikipedia)

"Crate Day is an unofficial celebration in New Zealand, held on the first Saturday of December every year. Participants set themselves the challenge of finishing a crate of twelve 745ml beer bottles between 12pm until midnight. The total alcohol content of a crate, 300 grams, is close to a lethal dose.

Crate Day was first promoted by radio station *The Rock* in 2010, and the event has since grown in popularity, leading to a number of disturbances, arrests, and injuries each year. Many alcohol-related businesses have promotions for the event, and numerous local councils enact liquor bans or restrictions over the weekend. *The Rock* no longer promotes the event.

In December 2022, a group of 70 four-wheel drive vehicles were observed at the Ashley River / Rakahuri in Canterbury on the riverbed where endangered birds were nesting, during an event to mark Crate Day. The endangered species that nest along the riverbed from September to February include banded dotterel and black-fronted tern. Despite signs warning of fines and imprisonment for disturbing endangered species, the drivers went ahead and entered the riverbed. In December 2023, despite the presence of police, Department of Conservation staff, and Environment Canterbury representatives, a group of around 150 4WD vehicles entered the Ashley River again on Crate Day, causing disruption to the breeding colonies of endangered birds and crushing eggs."

Here's a plea from a hardworking and very well-meaning Group called the **Ashley-Rakahuri Rivercare Group**: on Facebook:
"Message for all 4x4 drivers and passengers on Crate Day



Please don't repeat 2023 (photo). Please cancel all planned river runs, including the Ashley Rakahuri and Waimakariri Rivers. It is nesting season".

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE RIVERS (IN BRIEF):

- Eggs are hatching in tarapiroe black-fronted tern colonies
 - Adults are at the nest or catching and ferrying food to days-old chicks
 - Poaka pied stilt are sitting on eggs.
 - Pohowera banded dotterel are guarding tiny chicks.
 - Fledglings are learning the ropes.
 - Paradise shelduck are trying to shepherd large broods of ducklings.
- It's a busy time on rivers for endangered species.

There are many predators. Why add to the list." [Read more here.](#)

MY TWO CENTS WORTH:

As the President of the National organisation the represents 2,500+ four-wheel drivers this is an ACT OF STUPIDITY!

The real basics:

- A river bed is classed as a road under the Land Transport Act 1998 – the rules of the road apply (controversial I know, but it's the law)
- Consumption and under the influence of alcohol whilst driving
- The Shorebirds have been nesting on the river beds, particularly the lower reaches way before 4x4s were invented
- DOC, Regional and Local Councils, Environmental Groups, Shorebird protection groups in particular Ashley-Rakahuri Rivercare Group have been asking for the Crate day activities to stay off the river beds for some time now.

YOU DECIDE

My simple intuition tells me that the asking will turn to something else soon. So those who are involved, I say think about your actions and the consequences of continuing.

Personally, I strongly support the Ashley-Rakahuri Rivercare Group. They do a great job

Steve Adam
President
NZFWDA

UPDATE:

"Environmental organisations have thanked the four-wheel-drive (4WD) vehicle community for staying away from the Ashley-Rakahuri River on a day they have traditionally celebrated Crate Day.

The Ashley-Rakahuri Rivercare Group, chairwoman Sue Mardon said last Saturday's mass refrain was a "good outcome" for the endangered birds who live and breed along the river.

She thanked the police and the Department of Conservation (DOC) for working towards Saturday's outcome and also praised the initial Crate Day organiser Ashley Sargeant for his role in persuading 4WD owners to stay away from the river....
[Read full article here](#)

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be sent to 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.

President Corner

Steve Adam - Email: president@nzfwda.org.nz - Mobile: 027 228 8221



What an interesting and challenging 3 months it has been for your Association; the team have been working intensively with the restructure proposal and the Constitution renewal process.

When I say challenging, I really do mean it, besides the normal day to day stuff that we do on your behalf, the two specific working groups have been meeting regularly after their day jobs to come up with solid plans for the future of the NZFWDA, we're not there yet, but I just want to acknowledge and thank the Remits Sub-Committee doing the Constitution renewal and the Restructure Working Group for the amount of personal time and commitment to these projects. You're a great bunch!

In the last Trail Torque, I mentioned that the restructure review had turned into a right old can of worms, well we got the lid off, some robust debate has been had between some old and young heads with differing views, the outcome being we now have a solid proposal to present to the Executive then onto the Membership for ratification. I'm very proud of the way everyone in the working group conducted themselves at our last meeting.

On a different note; I know some of you will start rolling your eyes – here he goes again: but I feel the need to bang on about the stupidity of some individuals with 4x4s that are ultimately ruining things for the rest of us. Driving back from Christchurch a



couple of weeks ago, I see that some heroes have finally got to the top of this hill right next to SH73, Porters Pass.

This is actually private land, with DOC



Estate at the top of the hill. I know that this is great fun doing a hill climb like this, but join a club and go somewhere more appropriate, with approval to do so.

Just to add to it, this is Lake Lyndon, a high-country lake: care to spot the issue here? This is about 200m away from the hill climb. On the same route, which is a high traffic road with considerable tourism activity. The people partaking in this activity are just giving very outspoken stakeholders more ammunition to keep us on the road – not off road.



This is up to all of us to call out the individuals who are ruining our recreational access.

Last but not least, the uptake on our supporters, GCo Fuels, Rothbury Insurance etc has been very poor to date: all I can say is you snooze, you lose, and so will the NZFWDA.

Tread Lightly
Steve Adam
President
NZFWDA

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National Public Relations Officer Report



Peter Vahry - Email: pro@nzfwda.org.nz

Another calendar year end is in sight, along with the summer months.

Looking back at the past few months there's been a variety of activities involving advocacy and awareness of the NZFWDA. Not all immediately obvious to our members, but sowing seeds with the aim of getting growth and recognition in the future. Among those efforts have been NZFWDA appearances at 4x4 'shows' and plans for widening such visibility to the public. The next such event will be the Northland Field Days in Dargaville at the end of February. Some question why a 'Field Days' event, but we need to build an image of our membership being organised and respectful of access opportunities in rural settings. There is also a Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) currently under consideration for the upper Northland area and being seen advocating for better behaviours by the wider 4x4 community could add value to our earlier submission to that CMS.

There have been efforts supporting the northern zone work to successfully retain access to the western side of the legal road, Thompsons Track in the Kaimai Range, even though that access will be on a seasonal basis in future to minimise environmental impacts. The next step will be to try and change the mindset of the local authorities on the eastern side of the range.

The NZFWDA are starting to get the interest of the commercial world, with a number of 'discount' proposals to members being suggested and followed up. These discount arrangements only work for companies if they are utilised by our membership... please support our friends.

While I watch the Department of Conservation (DOC) website for information about their plans at (<https://www.doc.govt.nz/>) it is also something that our members can do, along with responding to their opportunities to

"have your say". If there is evidence of strong interest in responses, it is harder for DOC to ignore!

I confess that I was largely absent from my role during most of October as I did research into the antiquities of the Middle East in Jordan and Egypt. I also followed up connections to four wheeling in Jordan, which has many wonderful options available... so long as you stay away from the Israeli border! La Beduina Tours & Travel – Jordan is one supplier, but they don't run Jeeps. <https://www.labeduinatours.com/en/tours/jeep-safari>

Unfortunately, the only 4x4 opportunity on my visit, was riding on hard

benches in the tray of a Hilux into the desert of Wadi Rum to reach a Bedouin camp and then a viewpoint to watch the sunset.

There is much still to do to build a better public relationship and our image as an organisation of members who value opportunities to access public and private lands by recognising environmental sensitivities and behaviours. That's something that will need everyone's help.

Take care over the holiday season and best wishes for the New Year.

Peter Vahry
NZFWDA
National Public Relations

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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 please.

As Clubs have AGMs please send the NZFWDA Membership Officer (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.



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Bay of Islands 4x4 Club



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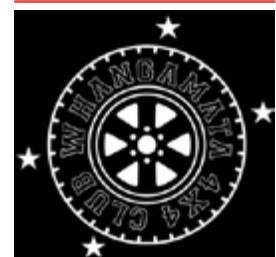
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Wilderness Ridge Riders 4WD Club

Central Zone Clubs

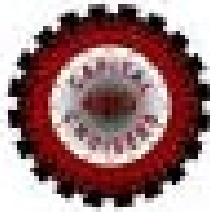
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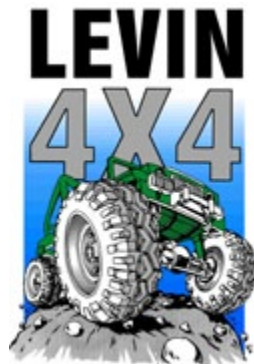
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