



Trail Torque

The official Magazine of the New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association

March / April / May 2025



Clubs cleaning up



**Thompsons
Track**

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4X4 ACCESSORIES

INSIDE
Four Wheel Drive Safaris
Coming Events
50 years of NZFWDA
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Established in 1974,
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

NZFWDA ONLINE:
NZFWDA Website
TidyHQ

FACEBOOK:
NZFWDA Facebook

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

JUN/JUL/AUG 2025
Deadline: 8 June 2025
Out to Members: 22nd June 2025

SEPT/OCT/NOV 2025
Deadline: 22nd August 2025
Out to Members: 7th September
2025

DEC 2025/JAN/FEB 2026
Deadline: 28 November 2025
Out to Members: 14 December
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: Fun at Go Bush, article on page 6. Photo by Lawrence Fisher

THE NEW ZEALAND FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ASSOCIATION

Our Behaviour
Affects Our
Future



- * 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.

The views and opinions of contributors to this publication are those of the author(s) and unless stated otherwise do not necessarily reflect the opinions or views of NZFWDA. Responsibility for the views and information in articles lies with the author(s) concerned. The NZFWDA and its editor reserve the right to edit abridge or discard any or all material submitted for publication. **Copyright.** The New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association claims copyright and the right to be acknowledged as the publisher of Trail Torque and its contents.

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

2025 NZFWDA AGM INFORMATION

The New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association has asked the Central Zone 4x4 clubs to organise daily 4WD trips for attendees of the National AGM. These trips will run over the five days prior to the AGM, which is on Saturday 24th May 2025.

The 4x4 trips will run from the 19th of May till the 23rd (8 trips over the 5 days - some days have multiple trips running). Ranging from Shiny Orienteering style through to full on Hard Yakka winch trips for those that like to get muddy. So get the spanners out and get those vehicles ready for May.

For NZFWDA affiliated members who wish to participate in these trips and attend the **AGM CUT OFF DATE FOR REGISTRATION IS WEDNESDAY THE 30TH OF APRIL 2025.**

Don't miss out.....(check the NZFWDA E-News and your emails for the Information and Registration Pack).

Inside the 'Information and Registration Pack' you will find the following:

1. Trip details – A description of each day's trip and costs
2. AGM location, costs and timetable
3. Other trip information, which must be read and acknowledged via 'Section 5 - Declaration and Indemnity Form'.
4. A registration form link for everything: The 4WD trips, the Friday night meal / get together, the Pre-AGM Discussion Groups, the AGM itself, and the Saturday night dinner.
5. A declaration and indemnity form, which must be signed and returned with the registration form ASAP. Bookings are on a first in first served basis.
6. A generic risk matrix which must be read and acknowledged via 'Section 4'.
7. Accommodation and other activity options
8. Our generous sponsors.

AGM SATURDAY 24TH May 2025

Location:

Silverstream Retreat, Grasslands Facility, 3 Reynolds Bach Drive, Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt, 5019
Time: 09:00 – 22:30

Fee for Pre AGM morning tea and
Lunch: \$25.00 per person
Dinner: \$60.00 per person

AGM Timetable

The Central zone has organised some important discussion sessions and some very interesting guest speakers.

9:00 – 9:15

Welcome, Sponsors, Exec Restructure
Steve Adam, National President

PRE-AGM DISCUSSION SESSIONS

9:15 – 9:45

• New Constitution Ashley Lucas,
Remit Subcommittee Chair
Grant Purdie, Projects Officer

9:45 – 10:15

• Budget Barb Adam, National
Treasurer

10:15 – 11:00

• Morning Tea, visit sponsor displays

11:00 – 12:00

• Civil Defence talk + Q&A Intro by
Trevor Hendra, Central Zone
Guest Speakers: Nick Galpin, Hannah
Tokona

12:00 – 13:30

LUNCH, VISIT SPONSOR DISPLAYS
Delegate registrations during lunch
break Sam Whalley, National
Secretary

13:30 – 15:30

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

15:30 – 18:00

SOCIAL TIME, AND PRE-DINNER
DRINKS

18:00 – 22:30

DINNER, AUCTION AND GUEST
SPEAKER Guest Speaker: Cheryl
Wells

2025 NZFWDA National AGM Sponsors.

We would like to thank our sponsors for their generosity, without their support, the AGM would be a lot more expensive, so please support them by buying their products when you need them.

A huge thankyou goes out to the following:

NATIONAL SPONSORS

Rothbury Insurance –
AGM lunch sponsor
BNT

LOCAL AND CENTRAL ZONE SPONSORS

Epuni Motors -AGM
morning tea sponsor

Action Overland – Pre
AGM trip sponsor Monday
19th

Chester Plumbing – Trip
prizegiving tshirts

Kohl's 4X4(Ironman
supplier)- *Pre- AGM trip*
Sponsor -Thursday Club
truck trip

Trundles Automotive –
Supplier of auction items
and give-aways

**CUT OFF DATE FOR AGM REGISTRATION IS
WEDNESDAY 30TH OF APRIL 2025.**

The Special General Meeting

MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2025

The SGM took place as scheduled. Being our first online General Meeting with voting, the process was somewhat painful given that some delegates had multiple votes and some delegates shared the same meeting logon.

Nonetheless, as reported to members in the 25 February e-news, the

process was conducted with good grace by the participants.

There was quite a lot of discussion, which was great as an important part of the democratic process.

The proposed new Exec structure was approved, along with a couple of minor remits to allow for nominations

and elections of officers under the new structure at the next AGM.

The new structure will comprise 9 officers, who will each be responsible for one or more of 10 portfolios. Further details will be published to members in an upcoming edition of e-news.

Launch of the Manawatu Estuary Management Plan

Readers may have noticed a number of articles about Foxton Beach and the Manawatu Estuary in recent editions of Trail Torque, and mention of a new management plan.

A significant milestone was achieved on Friday 21 March, when the plan was launched at an event held in the Manawatu Marine Boating Club, overlooking the estuary that was showing its best on a mild sunny day.

There were over 60 people present, notably representatives from the three local Iwi, Horizons Regional Council (including the Chair and CEO), Horowhenua District Council (including two Councillors and the CEO), DOC management and rangers, a Palmerston North City Councillor, the Member of Parliament for Otaki, as well as strong representation from Forest and Bird and all the conservation and community groups that had been involved in the project. Also journalists from three news outlets.

And of course NZFWDA, whose presence and contribution was favourably commented on during speeches and, it turns out, already familiar to most of those senior dignitaries.

What is special about all this, is the collaboration that has taken place between so many different groups and especially the strong contribution with folk from the three local Hapu, all in agreement with the vision and the plan, which were developed as a team effort.



New Constitution

The new draft NZFWDA Constitution is being sent to the Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries and PROs of Affiliated Clubs, along with some explanatory notes and a timetable for input from clubs.

It has been a complex task to undertake the drafting to meet the

new Act, new Regulations and to incorporate our uniqueness (i.e. Restructure, Zones, Affiliated Clubs, Delegate voting etc).

The new Constitution will be presented for adoption at the AGM on 24 May.

NZFWDA Directory

President:	 Steve Adam.....	president@nzfwda.org.nz
Secretary:	 Sam Whalley	secretary@nzfwda.org.nz
Treasurer:	 Barbara Adam	treasurer@nzfwda.org.nz
National Public Relations Officer:	.. Peter Vahry	pro@nzfwda.org.nz
Membership Officer:	 Jenny Jordan.....	membership@nzfwda.org.nz
National Events Officer:	 Brian Howat	nationalevents@nzfwda.org.nz
Land Access Officer:	 Ian Hutchings	landaccess@nzfwda.org.nz
Projects Officer:	 Grant Purdie	projects@nzfwda.org.nz
Systems Officer:	 Sam Whalley	systems@nzfwda.org.nz
National Competitions Officer:	.. Chris Tomalin	compofficer@nzfwda.org.nz
National Competitions Secretary/Treasurer.....	Lynda Tomalin	
Northern President:	 Tariq Wasim	nthpresident@nzfwda.org.nz
Northern Vice President:	 Sam Whalley	nthvicepresident@nzfwda.org.nz
Northern Secretary/Treasurer....	Ian Grant.....	nthsecretary@nzfwda.org.nz
Northern PRO:	 Ashley Lucas	nthpro@nzfwda.org.nz
Central President:	 Dan Hawkins	czpresident@nzfwda.org.nz
Central Vice President:	 Brian Howat	czvicepresident@nzfwda.org.nz
Central Secretary/Treasurer	Colin Lindsay.....	czsecretary@nzfwda.org.nz
Central PRO:	 Hamilsh Wilson ...	czpro@nzfwda.org.nz
Southern President:	 Bob Holmes	szpresident@nzfwda.org.nz
Southern Vice President:	 Rowan Coutts	szvicepresident@nzfwda.org.nz
Southern Secretary/Treasurer ...	Barbara Adam	szsecretary@nzfwda.org.nz
Southern PRO:	 John McDonald ...	szpro@nzfwda.org.nz
Report accidents, incidents, near misses		safety@nzfwda.org.nz
Remit Subcommittee		remit@nzfwda.org.nz
Patron:	 Neville Dunton	patron@nzfwda.org.nz

EAST COAST 4WD ENTHUSIASTS RAISE THOUSANDS FOR EASTLAND HELICOPTER

East Coast four-wheel-drive enthusiasts ran a land-based fundraising drive to support the aerial rescues of the Eastland Helicopter Rescue Trust.

Thirty-two vehicles carrying 57 drivers and passengers took off from Gisborne's Awapuni Speedway on a trek more than two years in the making.

The East Coast 4WD Club raised more than \$19,000 for the Eastland Helicopter Rescue Trust and made important community connections throughout the East Coast.



Read the full story [here](#).



Kauri Coast Safari 2025



On the weekend of the 15th and 16th of February, Geoff and Sarah Barnes attended the Kauri Coast 4wd Club 2025 Safari. This is a popular safari, often booking out very quickly. Approximately 90 4WD's, ranging from 'shinies' to bush trucks, divided into 2 groups and spent one day doing a beach and farm run and then on the second day a high-country farm run with spectacular views of the West Coast.

For a small club, the Kauri Coast 4wd Club undertook running this event and did a great job raising \$23,000 for the Northern Rescue Helicopter.

Sarah took some video from both days of the Safari and made two videos of the event.

[Watch video one here](#)

[Watch video two here](#)



PHOTO SOURCE: <https://www.facebook.com/kauricoast4wd>

LIFE MEMBERS OF THE NZ 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



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GO BUSH

Weekend Trip

28 Feb through 2nd March 2025

ARTICLE BY RUSSELL ARDLEY

The Auckland 4WD Club and the NZ Jeep Club had a combined trip to Go-Bush on Friday 28th February 2025, with a total of 17 vehicles present.

The weekend started for us, just after lunch on Friday, as my Co-Driver Dave Jones and I arrived in from Tauranga. The weather forecast was as usual a bit unknown, so we were ready for anything.

3 vehicles were already onsite when we arrived, so after a quick tent setup, and a swap over of road wheels for mud wheels, a few more had arrived, and off we went for a recce.

We heard the Taupo club on the previous weekend had had a ton of rain on the Friday, but nothing since, so off we went up the East Ridge, with nice crisp dry clay underfoot.

Danny had carved out some new tracks recently, so the North East corner had a few fresh tracks which we duly explored. All nice and dry. What could possibly go wrong?

Continuing up the ridge, we broke off and headed down Mr Fisher's track, where he came close to sliding off the track a few trips back. No worries, all nice and dry. Nothing to see here... We headed back to camp, and got some dinner underway and the campfire soon beckoned us in.

An hour or so into some campfire stories, the rain started, light at first, and then a few heavy showers.

We turned in, and a few more heavy



showers through the night had us and everyone else wake up to some leaks, rivers and wet tents.

After Saturday Brekky, we split into 3 groups, and our tuff truck crew headed South west into the boggy tracks. Matt's Jeep had engine troubles and was retired early. Matt and family jumped in with others, and the crew was back on it.

After a couple of easy loop tracks, we headed off into the serious stuff, and the first hill showed us it was going to be a long day winching even getting the extreme tyre guys up the first hill. We backtracked and headed to the north end of the boggy area by the dog kennels, with better things to do than start the tracks with LOTS of winching. Several loops brought us

back to the kennels where we faced the first bog.

With half an hour to get the first truck through, we built a raised section for Maxtrax to lie on and the rest of the crew walked through with ease. A great team building and problem solving track!

Back to camp for lunch, with a couple of good slippery hill climbs on the way there.

Saturday afternoon saw our group in the South West corner of the main valley, with a long uphill climb back to the Main East Ridge. Man, those tracks were slick after yesterday's rain, so the winches got a GOOD workout, especially those on mud terrain tyres. One of the team sent his Jeep just a little too hard and popped a tyre off the bead, so we changed it partway up the slope. The vehicle was secured from rolling down the hill and the team went to work digging out around the wheel and under the axle to jack it up. Nice and safe and another good effort by all.

Once at the top, I found I had launched a bit hard and torn the valve out of the tube, so another (MUCH



EASIER) spare wheel change, and we got back down the hill, with some slippery excitement to help us along.

Saturday evening saw the temperature drop significantly, which must have chased the rain away. Hooray!

Sunday morning had us back in 3 different groups, as some had left early for a big drive home.

All 3 groups headed up the South West ridge down to the hunting lodge.

1 Group peeled off to the river, another down the side track to the lodge, and the 3rd group, down the gravel road to

the lodge.

Our group took the side track down to the lodge, and with a few sections of sliding down the track, past the dam of

huge eels, and past the tight turn that was cut into the bank, we met group 3 at the lodge for a chin-wag and quick cuppa.

Heading back to camp up the same track saw some great driving, with several people taking several attempts on the slippery sections, but no winning in the end.

After a final lunch and pickup and cleanup, the weekend was over and it was back to Tauranga with a few more great memories and tall stories.

Thanks Go-Bush and Team!
Another Awesome weekend!



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4X4 ACCESSORIES

NORTHLAND FIELD DAYS

At the invitation of Northland Field Days, the NZFWDA had a presence in Dargaville over the three days of the 2025 event. The Field Days organisers had decided to add an 'outdoors' category to their exhibitors and had also engaged with the local Kauri Coast 4WD Club to provide some 'on site' entertainment with 4x4's and dirt.

Since our 'category' was new, the designated area for the 'outdoor' exhibitors was a bit away from the main gate, which meant that the foot traffic over the three days was probably lower than an ideal. A check with the organisers after the show, had them indicating an attendance through the gate of some 20,000 people. For this year, the site space was free and the organisers were most helpful.

We did have great support from one of our corporate 'United 4WD Supporters' organisations representing EcoFlow products and they provided a large battery powered chest fridge and soft drinks, a big power bank that ran a 40" TV for three days along with two laptops. To crown it all, they have donated an EcoFlow Delta 2 power bank with a retail value of \$1599 inc gst for a prize draw that will also run at the Kumeu 4x4 Outdoor Expo in early April.

Our display was close to the Northland Fish and Game site and across the 'road' from the site of the Kauri Coast and Whangarei 4WD club's vehicle displays.

The area allocated for the Kauri Coast 'driving/mud' activities was towards the other end of the field days site so, as the sole representative on the NZFWDA stand, I did not get to view those proceedings. Another exhibitor and

NZFWDA member did manage to get some excellent video of the driving performances that has been posted to YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7n7G8XJYZMw> Overall, there were quite a few enquiries about joining 4WD clubs and a lot of comments about poor behaviours by 4x4 drivers on the nearby Ripiro Beach and Pouto Peninsula. There was general

agreement that active policing in the beach environs would help reduce the behaviours that annoy locals and are often illegal. Some of those discussions alone, made attending the field days valuable to the NZFWDA and our future in Northland.

Peter Vahry
National Public Relations



PLEASE REMEMBER the email for contacting the National H&S team to report accidents, incidents and near-misses is safety@nzfwda.org.nz

Kauri Coast 4WD Club and Whangarei 4WD Club trucks and teams went head-to-head on a purpose-built 4x4 mud drag course at the Northland Field Days.

Here are the Lift Junkie Mud Drags winners

SOURCE: <https://www.facebook.com/kauricoast4wd>



Letters to the Editor

Dear Ed,
With respect, I am struggling to understand why people run snorkels facing backwards?

This trend has become fashionable at the expense of common sense, creates more pollution through reduced engine efficiency and looks outright silly.

Forward facing makes more power by feeding the turbo with ram air and I have performed tests and proven beyond doubt data backed up around the world that rear facing loses power.

We don't have major dusty conditions like in Australia - and all outback trucks have fwd facing inlets even in dust clouds 20ft tall.

No one is driving through rivers deeper than their windscreens.

Most of these mechanical abominations are lower than roof racks and lights so it's not a snagging issue.

Fwd facing snorkels made correctly have rain traps and air filters are

there for a reason and manufacturers don't sell vehicles with rear facing snorkels - for very good reasons.

A jet engine faces fwd for a very good reason.

Basic physics calls out these snake oil peddlers that outrageously suggest facing a snorkel backwards makes more power.

My despair further deepens now commonly seeing dual rear facing snorkels, plus other rear facing snorkels that aren't even connected to the engine but are simply there for show. It's absolute madness.

So I might be missing the obvious and am happy to be convinced otherwise if someone can prove why reverse is better than fwd.

This trend has a lot of us in the motor and engineering industry baffled if you can please help explain.

Best regards
Joe



**Hey Joe,
You are entirely correct with all that!**

An exception: Those of us that go off-road in dense bush turn ours backwards so that they don't get snagged by branches and damaged or torn off.

**We learned this the hard way!
Then once out of the bush, we turn them frontwards again.**

**Cheers
Grant.**

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.

CENTRAL ZONE CLUB TRUCK CHALLENGE

PHOTOS BY ANDREW GEE

The Club Truck Challenge started in Taihape in January and heads off at full steam now!

This Series is for those four wheel drivers who wish to use their everyday 4wd or club truck in a slightly competitive but fun environment.

To be eligible to enter you must:

- Have a 4wd with a low range transfer box
- Have a vehicle with a current rego and a current WOF
- Have a crash helmet
- Be a current member of the NZFWDA



Judith Hintz in an unmodified Suzuki



Brent Ward in a super modified Nissan

The Series has been going for over 13 years with competitors from all over the southern North Island. Initially for members of the Central Zone, it is now open to any member of the NZFWDA.

Entrants compete in one of 4 classes - depending on what traction aids they have. There are courses that challenge the novice driver and those more experienced.

It's a lot of fun, so check out <https://www.sporty.co.nz/czctc> to see when the next event is on, check out the rules as to which class you would be in, and come and join us for some fun!

2025 SERIES CALENDAR

Round 2 - 16 February - Turakina

Round 3 - 2 March - Wainuioru

Round 4 - 4 May - Wellington

Round 5 - 18 May - Taihape



Series Convenor
Brendan Watchorn

ROUND 1 TAIHAPE - RESULTS

CLASS 1

- 1... Chris Mason.....Suzuki Jimny 369.13
- 2... Lee Hutchby.....Suzuki SJ413 485.75
- 3... Judith HintzSuzuki Vitara 959.08

CLASS 2

- 1... Brendan Watchorn ..Mitsubishi Pajero.. 451.17

CLASS 3

- 1... Kevin Galbraith ..Jeep TJ 315.14
- 2... Peter Pope.....Jeep JK 542.47
- 3... Bruce Tustin.....Jeep TJ 610.56
- 4... Andrew Gee.....Jeep TJ 671.75
- 5... Morgan HintzToyota Hilux..... 901.95

CLASS 4

- 1... Brent Ward.....Nissan Patrol..... 205.62
- 2... Dave HintzNissan Patrol..... 228.42



**A BIG SHOUT OUT TO OUR PARTNER ORGANISATIONS
BRINGING REAL BENEFITS TO OUR MEMBERS:**



4X4 ACCESSORIES

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

MATIERE COSSIE CLUB SAFARI 2025



HOSTED BY KING COUNTRY 4WD CLUB
OVER THE LONG AUCKLAND ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND.

WORDS BY STEVE WHITTON. PHOTOS FROM KC4WD.CO.NZ



Almost 40 vehicles attended, from various parts of the North Island. Most participants and host crew camped on the nearby Matiere Rugby Field, only a short walk along The Forgotten Highway, State Highway 40. Meals were scrumptious and evening socialising was excellently catered by local farmers at the Matiere Cossie Club premises.

We traversed a number of beef and sheep stations and redwood forests blocks over the three days. We had sunshine and dusty trails, rain and a little bit of mud with a light a cooling breeze on the last half day. We drove through miles of grassy farm trails, rocky creek crossings, majestic forests, green fields and a few dusty gravel roads.

Of the approximately \$20,000 raised, Matiere Cossie Club received about 2/3rds, for much needed building maintenance and outdoor improvements.

The other 1/3rd goes into the KC4WD Club Ngaroma Track Maintenance account. We use the money to carry out road, track, carpark and building maintenance to the Ngaroma 4WD Park in the northern block of the Pureora Forest Park.

Check out more photos from the Event [here](#)



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TAKING A LOOK BACK OVER 50 YEARS...

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



COUNTIES
4 WHEELERS



P.O. BOX 476,
Hunuaui,
15-6-88.



Round two of the Reidrubber XT Series

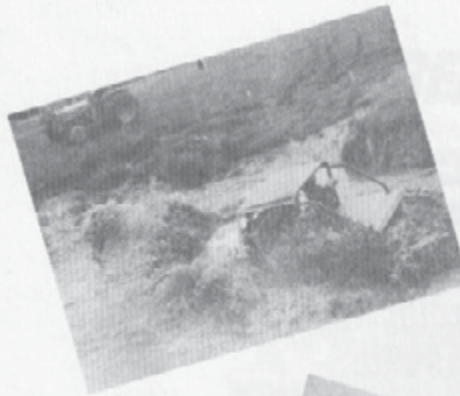
**WAINUI
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GROUNDPOUNDING FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ACTION



Promoted by the Hapori Kumeu Lions
& the Auckland Four Wheel Drive Club

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Nº 3017



Phil Pacey in a 2F Landcruiser
midway through Gisborne's
water hazard on New Year's
Day 1978



Wainui's feared "Wall of Death"
A Wellington contestant in a V8
powered Landcruiser comes to
grief at Wainui last
summer. Photo by
Bruce Wenzlick

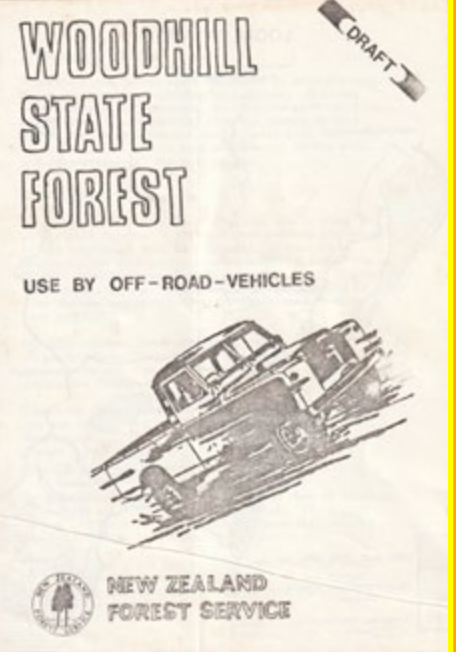
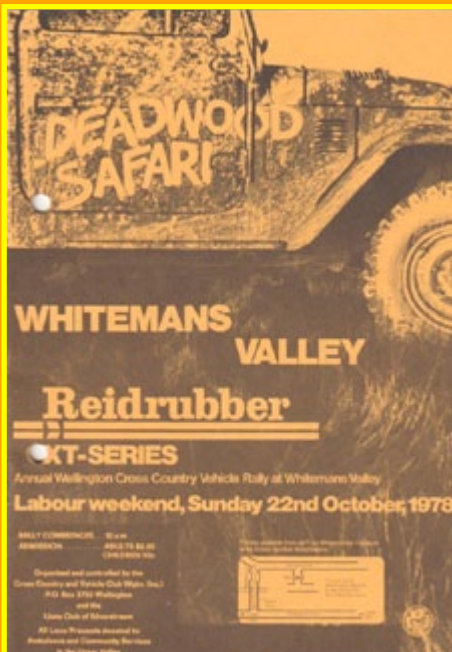


Wainui's "Wall of
Death" claims another
victim, a Landrover from
Tirau; both vehicles were
righted and continued the
rally. Photo by
Bruce Wenzlick.



An Auckland Club member
successfully negotiating
the Wainui "Wall of Death".

Phil Pacey in
"Skull Gully"
at Wainui.



FOR THOSE WHO HAVEN'T READ THIS ITEM WRITTEN BY THE THEN PRESIDENT OF THE NZFWDA AND NOW OUR PATRON, NEVILLE DUNTON, IT IS WORTHWHILE CLICKING ON THE LINK AND HAVING A READ.

IF WE DON'T LEARN FROM THE

PAST, WE ARE DOOMED TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES AGAIN! AND COMPLACENCY IS OUR GREATEST RISK NOW.
TRIP PLANNING / CONSENTING GUIDE

You need to be logged into the members portal of TidyHQ to access this article.

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.

THE HILUX WORLD RECORD BELONGS TO NEW ZEALAND!

On Sunday 2nd March, 1,440 Hilux gathered on the airstrip at Real Country, and sealed the World Record of most Toyota Hilux in one place.

South Africa previously held the record of 495 Hilux gathered on the Atlantis dunes outside Cape Town in 2010.

Read more: <https://gwd.co.nz/the-hilux-world-record/>



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www.rothbury.co.nz/4wd-off-road-insurance



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!

Thompsons Track

saga

ARTICLE & PHOTOS BY PETER VAHRY

Many readers will be aware of the ongoing saga known as Thompsons Track, across the Kaimai Ranges.

It has been a heavily used route with minimal maintenance for many years and that has been one of the reasons for the problems over recent years.



4x4's wandering off into private land adjacent to the legal road prompted a stand off with Waikato Regional Council that closed the road for quite a while, but the thing now preventing vehicles from driving right across the ranges is a gaping hole where a rock face has collapsed, leaving just a one metre wide ledge over a 13 metre drop. That hole is on the Bay of Plenty side of the Kaimai's with the road manager being the Western Bays District Council.

A crew, organised by Tony Burgess, drove up the Matamata/Piako District Council side, which is the easiest way to access the hole, on Sunday 9th March to show some 'machine operators' the problem, along with a surveyor who did detail site measurements to create a 'site map'.

I joined the team of around 10 vehicles on the drive to the top of the ranges. It reminded me that despite a vegetation cut back in January 2024,

that planning for another should be organised, sooner than later!

The 'slip' is significant ... a huge slab of rock has simply broken free and dropped into the valley below. The reason appears to be equally simple, there are several streams of water flowing along the track and had obviously got into a fracture in the rock and eventually lubricated its departure. That water is still flowing down the exposed rock face.

There is no easy solution given the remoteness and the engineering requirements around creating a bridging solution that would comply with 'roading' standards (yes, it's still a legal road). An option to be tested, is to determine whether the rock face above the road can be cut back with machinery. Explosives are being explored, but it could be expensive to drill the required holes.

Whatever solution is found, there will be a need for money to achieve that. Given the wide interest in having an unpaved route across the Kaimai Range by groups like mountain bikes, equestrian, off road vehicles and walkers, it will take some work to find help with that funding. One thought on Sunday was 'what about a 4x4 Safari to help'. Let's give that some strong consideration with clubs in the region.



Talking Trash

02 NOV 2024



VEHICLE CLUB
Wellington

AUTHOR: ANDREW GEE PHOTOS BY: ANDREW GEE



Saturday was rushing up after a week with a lot of trash being talked by Auckland FC ahead of the first NZ Football derby match against the mighty Wellington Phoenix. We had tickets to the sold out Yellow Fever area but first we had a date around the South Coast for the club's annual beach cleanup. Honchoed by Barry, Bev and Tony Insull as usual as it has been for the last 24 years and aided by other South Coast kaitiaki, Ian Hutchings and Arthur Gorton.

Maybe 20 vehicles headed out as far as Long Beach and worked back to the baches to collect a ute full of trash. Thanks to Ross Perkins for hosting the barby and Ranger Frank and Adam for representing Wellington City Council.



A BIG RECOVERY NO-NO

Recently one of our clubs saw some non-members using a tow-ball to anchor their recovery stop. 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.

ROUND ONE

The Hawkes Bay 4WD Club hosted the season opener down in the Central Hawkes Bay, with proceeds going towards the local Ongaonga Volunteer Fire Brigade. The site was located a few kilometres inland from the road, the course was set out in a dried-up riverbed formed many moons ago. A unique site to the world of trials, being largely "flat" with only one large hill at the far end of the course providing elevation, as most of the stages made use of the many contours within the ground.

Teams were warned of how dry the land was during Drivers Briefing, with drier events often meaning harder ground that is easier to cause breakages. Nevertheless, it only took one stage for many to make a trip back to the pits!

Read the full article [here](#)

ROUND TWO

The scene of last season's opener, the location near Huntly has been on the calendar for the past seven years earning a reputation for dry dusty conditions – only for another spin to be thrown into the mix as the Thames Valley 4WD Club hosted the first wet rally of the season. With wet conditions often favouring those with the most power in the lack of traction, the stage was set for the contenders to make their faces known for the year ahead.

Slip'n'slide action made up the bulk of the day, as most teams struggled to get through the stages, with only the Top 8 teams averaging a score of getting further than half way! As with such lovely weather, three stages were pulled during the day.

Read the full article [here](#)



ROUND THREE

The first of the two Manawatu rounds, the Levin 4x4 Club hosted their first National 4x4 Trial in over two decades, at what is to be the last round (for now!) at Rangiwahia. Known as the 'Glencorran Trial' within the 4X4 scene, it has been on the calendar for over 30 years as a Central Zone Trial pre 1999, End-of-season Fun Trial till the 2010's, as well as a National Trial to the present day.

30 stages were set across several valleys in the sausage dog course layout, with the Glencorran Trial notorious for making the most out of the rolling country in the Rangitikei.

Read the full article [here](#)

ROUND FOUR

The Central Zone Final and the fourth Round for the 2025 Lucas Oils NZ 4x4 Trials Series took place out of Feilding, in the Manawatu. As the second half of the season gets underway, it's shaping up to be a fight between Mitch Caldow & Jamie Elms, Ash Tonkin & Dyon Ross and defending champs Scott Biggs & Phil Walton for the National Title.

The Top 10 is all still to play for, as teams can drop their worst scoring round towards their overall points tally. Meaning they could build upon their best two rounds heading into the fourth!

32 stages were laid throughout the valleys in Pohangina, with the Manawatu 4WD Club hosting the event to fundraise for the Grassroots Rescue Helicopter.

Read the full article [here](#)

Still to come...

Round 5: 23rd March 2025
Bay of Plenty National 4x4 Trial
Rangioru

National Final: 12th April 2025
Counties National 4x4 Final
Manawahe

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

5-6 APRIL 2025 4X4 OUTDOOR EXPO. Kumeu Showgrounds.

12 APRIL 2025 NZ 4X4 TRIALS 2024/2025 National Final. Whangarei. Hosted by Counties 4 Wheelers. See nz4x4trials.co.nz for more.

12 - 13 APRIL 2025 WHANGAREI 4WD CLUB Tag Along Safari. Twin Bridges, Northland. \$50 NZFWDA Members. \$80 Non NZFWDA Members. Camping available Friday and Saturday nights. Groups suitable for Shinies and Club Trucks. Email: Whangarei4x4Club@gmail.com for a registration form.

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

4 MAY 2025 CENTRAL ZONE CLUB TRUCK CHALLENGE - Round 4 Wellington. Check out <https://www.sporty.co.nz/czctc> for details.

18 MAY 2025 CENTRAL ZONE CLUB TRUCK CHALLENGE - Round 5 - Taihape. Check out <https://www.sporty.co.nz/czctc> for details.

19 - 24 MAY 2025 NZFWDA CONFERENCE 4WD TRIPS AND AGM. See page 3 for more details about the trips.

22 - 24 AUGUST 2025 METHVEN MUD AND STEEL. Brought to you by 4x4 Events. Located 20 min south west of Methven. There are 3 night stages and 8 day stages, 2hr 4WD Enduro format. Entry fee is \$170 per team for non NZFWDA members. \$140 For NZFWDA members this includes BBQ for you and your crew, proof of current NZFWDA membership must be proven at sign in by Driver or Navi. Camping is available on site with toilets and showers provided. Classes: Outlaw, Open, Clubman, Challenge. See [here](#) for details.

22-24 AUGUST 2025 NZ FISHING & HUNTING EXPO. ROTORUA.

1 SEPTEMBER 2025 METHVEN MUD TRIALS. Located at Carneys Road, Alford Forest, just 10 minuets from Methven Taking over from the famous "Sheffield Mud Plug" this event is based around a Nissan Safari on 35" tyres. The object is to cleanly navigate your way through the marked cones in numerical order to get the points. If a set of cones is too hard or out of your comfort level, you can skip and move on to the next set. The more sets of cones you drive through cleanly the more points you get, each stage has 100 points up for collection. Cost \$50. \$35 for 4wd Association Members. Free for 4x4 Events Club Members. [Full details here.](#)

6 - 7 SEPTEMBER 2025 4X4 OUTDOOR EXPO. Wolfbrook Arena, Christchurch.

14 - 15 NOVEMBER 2025 FORCE 4 KING OF CANTERBURY. New Zealand's First Xtrem 4wd Endurance Race. Carney's road Alford forest just outside of Methven. The course is approx 7.5km long circuit with up to 10 bonus deviations to test teams, made up of fast flowing areas, some rough terrain, possible winch walls, Valleys, rocks and mud. ENTRY \$150 (includes BBQ Tea Friday Night and Beakfast Saturday Morning). \$100 for 4wd Association Members. Free for 4x4 Events Club Members with club credits. We are using the "NZ 4wd Enduro Challenge Rule Book 2024" rule book. Everything you need to know is [here](#)



President Corner

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



Democracy – love it or hate it, democracy is part of our lives.

After the past 6 months of hard work by the Restructure Working Group, debating and working through potential scenarios around a restructure, a proposal was put forward to the Executive for approval to put to a Special General Meeting. I couldn't be prouder of this bunch of people; they worked constructively despite differing views to come up with this proposal.

I have been reflecting on our recent Special General Meeting conducted over Teams – what a challenge that was. I am immensely grateful that I had a terrific team around me who

all did their bit to make it, what was somewhat challenging, work.

Although we could have had more attendance, I was delighted by the engagement (and patience) by those who were there. Those who wanted to have a say, did. We had a diverse range of opinion, which is the part that I appreciated the most. I came away with some things that need consideration going forward.

The democracy has played its part with the majority having spoken. I wish to thank all those who have taken the time to share their thoughts and congratulations after the meeting.

On a separate note. Member benefits,

folks if you don't use them we will lose them, it's disappointing to see how little uptake there has been over the last few months. If you have any questions, please reach out to me.

Tread lightly
Steve Adam
President
NZFWDA



National Public Relations Officer Report

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



This is probably the last report from a national public relations officer, as the role has been disestablished under the new format for the NZFWDA executive structure. Even the zones have lost that officer function.

It has been quite useful to have a 'title' within the NZFWDA when dealing with other organisations, such as local authorities and commercial entities. However, that specific role has now gone, but things have still been happening since the last Trail Torque report. Admittedly I've not been 'engaged' with New Zealand wide activities, largely because there is not really the recognition among clubs that our recreation needs to lift its profile as being useful members of the wider community.

It has been really difficult to realise that aim, as although our members and clubs are getting out and doing great things like fund raising for

community benefits such as rescue helicopters and involvement in environmental projects like tree plantings, beach cleans, etc., those things are not generally notified to the NZFWDA.

So, what have I done as public relations? I recently spent four days in Dargaville at the Northland Field Days representing the NZFWDA and am currently planning to be at the 4x4 Outdoor Expo in Auckland's Kumeu for the weekend of 5/6 April. The presence at such shows takes a fair bit of planning and a policy needs developing to address how to ensure our continued involvement. An immediate example is for the New Zealand Fishing Hunting & 4X4 Expo 2025 in Rotorua on August 23/25, where space is at a premium, but who is going to champion that?

I've assembled those monthly NZFWDA E-news bulletins and maintained relationships with various

DOC teams, several local authorities and answered an array of emails and phone calls on a variety of topics. Those are on top of being involved with NZFWDA general business and several committees within that.

It's been a challenging year with some clear successes and overall, I hope that our levels of appreciation by the wider public have improved. I'm still considering having a tilt at one of the 'portfolio' positions on the new national executive, which will mean crafting a 'CV' fairly shortly to qualify for consideration by your clubs as an executive member.

In the meantime, enjoy your autumnal four wheeling.

Peter Vahry
NZFWDA
National Public Relations

Northern Zone Clubs

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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.



4X4 ACCESSORIES
www.arb.co.nz



auckland4wd.org.nz

Bay of Islands 4x4 Club



bop4x4club@gmail.com



cozzie4x4@gmail.com



hunt2@windowslive.com



www.geysersland4wd.co.nz

Kaitaia 4WD Club Inc.

Kaitaia4x4club@hotmail.com



Kaimai 4x4 Club



www.kc4wd.co.nz



www.lroca.org.nz



manukau4wd.org.nz



norwestohv.org
secretary@norwestohv.org



admin@nzjeepclub.co.nz



rodneyoffroadclub@gmail.com



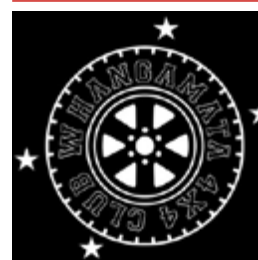
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United 4WD supporters
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Wilderness Ridge Riders 4WD Club

Central Zone Clubs

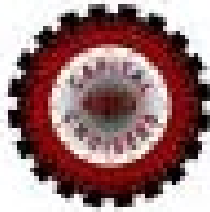
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VEHICLE CLUB
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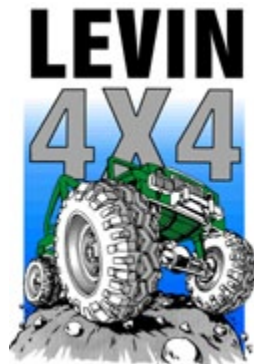
www.hb4wd.co.nz

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kapitifamily4wd@outlook.com



www.kiwi4x4.org.nz



www.m4wdc.org.nz



www.naki4wd.org



www.twincity4x4.co.nz



<http://wf4x4c.org.nz>



wellingtonjeepclub.co.nz
wjeepc@gmail.com



Southern Zone Clubs



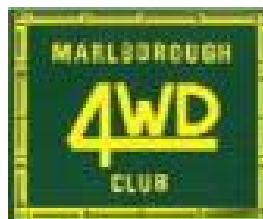
www.4x4events.co.nz

Central Otago 4WD
Club
co4wdc@gmail.com

Clutha 4WD Club



www.lrec.co.nz



marlborough4x4club.weebly.com



nel4x4@gmail.com



www.or4g.org.nz



shotover4wdclub.co.nz



sm4x4club@gmail.com

South Island Deaf
4x4 Club
s.i.deaf4x4club@hotmail.com



southlandlandroverclub.co.nz

