



Trail Torque

The official Magazine of the New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association

June / July / August 2025

CENTRAL ZONE CLUB TRUCK CHALLENGE



INSIDE
2025 NZFWDA AGM
Remembering Mel
Coming Events
PLUS MUCH MORE!

Northern, Central & Southern Zones of the Four Wheel Drive Association

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4X4 ACCESSORIES

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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](#)

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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

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: Chris Mason, Class 1 Champion at the Central Zone Club Truck Challenge. Photo by Andrew Gee.

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.

The 2025 NZFWDA AGM

Following on from the format that's proved popular over the last few years, the Central Zone team organised 5 days of trips which ended with a social event and prizegiving on the Friday evening. Full marks to the organisers and the clubs and their trip leaders, everyone seemed to really enjoy it all.

Then on Saturday morning we had the pre-AGM discussion sessions, again well attended. The first two sessions were presentations and discussions about the new constitution and the budget, which provided a forum to go through and explain all the details, with great questions and useful ideas from the floor.

Those "administration" sessions greatly smoothed the proceedings of the formal AGM in the afternoon. Delegates were well informed and able to vote with confidence on behalf of their clubs.

After those sessions we had three non-admin sessions, one on civil defence, one on our work to lead improvements to the use of the Macetown track, and one from Rothbury Insurance Brokers. These sessions also proved successful.

The AGM in the afternoon was uneventful, with voting on the advertised motions proceeding as expected, thanks to the morning's pre-AGM discussion sessions.

Socialising went well as the sun set, followed by the dinner, the guest speaker and the hilarious auction.

Feedback from everyone seemed positive and that it had been a worthwhile and enjoyable programme over the whole 6 days.

Again, thanks to the Central Zone team who upheld an already high bar which Southern Zone will be working hard to match or better in 2026.

Our New Constitution

The new constitution was approved at the AGM, with no amendments.

It was an amalgamation of the new structure and content required by the new Incorporated Societies Act, and clauses in our old constitution that are unique to us (Zones, Clubs, Delegate voting etc) or that had been agreed by AGM resolutions over the years.

It was a challenging task for the Remit Subcommittee, who nonetheless achieved a very acceptable draft in time for going through our AGM process.

One item that neither the subcommittee nor Exec had enough historic knowledge about was the sports anti-doping clause in our old constitution. To deal with this the Exec had advertised

a motion to add that clause into the new constitution, hoping to be guided by delegates at the AGM with historic knowledge. When this was moved during the AGM, there was no surprise that the motion was lost. So the clause was not added. The task now is to research this further and if necessary add it or something similar by way of a remit to the 2026 AGM.

Also on the workplan before the 2026 AGM will be tidying up some formatting, numbering and minor edits. No doubt other things will come to light, to be handled as minor changes or possibly remits.

One change that will be quite noticeable from now on is that the Exec will now be known as the Committee.

The new NZFWDA Governance Committee

Steve Adam	President	president@nzfwda.org.nz
Tariq Wasim	Vice-President	vp@nzfwda.org.nz
Barb Adam	Treasurer	treasurer@nzfwda.org.nz
Bob Holmes	Southern Zone President	szpresident@nzfwda.org.nz
Sam Whalley	Northern Zone President	nthpresident@nzfwda.org.nz
Darren Pettengell	Central Zone President	czpresident@nzfwda.org.nz
Chris Tomalin	Comp Officer	compofficer@nzfwda.org.nz
Gordon Toms	Committee Member	gordon.toms@nzfwda.org.nz
Grant Purdie	Committee Member	grant.purdie@nzfwda.org.nz
Peter Vahry	Committee Member	peter.vahry@nzfwda.org.nz

Support Roles

Kerry Quigley	Secretary	secretary@nzfwda.org.nz
Neville Dunton	Patron	patron@nzfwda.org.nz

**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

2025 AGM Viewpoint

Following in the footsteps of AGMs in recent years, the challenge had been well and truly set for Central Zone to come up with something special.

And special it was. Not 5 trips, not 6 trips, but 8 trips covering everything from shiny grade 1 road trips to Grade 5 trailer trucks.

Monday saw us up in the hills high above Wellington following the tracks used by CCVC in their predator trapping programme assisting the survival of the Kiwi in the area. The weather was at its worst with the rain coming in horizontally and the mist / fog down with us. But it was still an awesome day out with lots learnt and seen.

Tuesday saw us kick off a little earlier from the Gladstone Inn and heading out and about through the Wairarapa. Taking in Fernglen farm (where they milk the sheep), and stopping off at Riversdale Beach for lunch, before heading to Castle Point light house and an Ice cream along with the group photo. From there we worked our way toward home, stopping off at the Tinui Café and Bar where many of us enjoyed good old fashioned kiwi hospitality and stayed for dinner.

Wednesday saw us all back into the heart of the Capital again as we gathered at the information centre on the waterfront for briefing before heading along the foreshore. What an amazing track / road / facility. The baches and tracks are great with plenty of challenges but nothing too serious. (This was probably the toughest day for me and my vehicle as its basically a bog. Stock standard double cab ute on AT tyres and it struggled with ramp angles and the tighter turns required at Devils Gate and the Cattle Stop). But with some help from fellow members we made it.

Thursday and it was off to Orongorongo Station for those on the shiny trip list. The trailer trucks were off to the Akatarawa forest to test their trucks and the tracks. A quick stop at the Air strip high above the coast, then wind our way through the tracks



and down to the river and onto the coast. This day had a bit of everything, steepish climbs and descents, river crossings, rock flows (or fans) and mud. We had a few of casualties from the day, one vehicle damaged a radiator and 2 lost alternator power. Again, everyone rallied around and out came the "get you home" fix for the radiator and a quick phone call to another club member, who lived nearby, secured the use of a high-pressure hose to try and free up the alternators - unfortunately not successful, so another phone call saw all 3 booked in at the workshop of one of the club's supporters and everyone was up and running again by the weekend.

Friday, the trailer trucks were off to Rallywood's the shiny (Grade 2 trucks) were off to the Akatarawa's to see where the trailer trucks had been the day before and those of a competitive nature took off on a orienteering road trip around the area.

The Akatarawa's. What an amazing facility to have on your back doorstep. Steeped in history and wildlife and everything from gorse to Rata's. Well-maintained tracks to mud bogs (to challenge the toughest trucks) it's all there including Huts. We spent the day cruising around the endless tracks and trails enjoying the views and opportunities the park had to offer.

Then it was the official part of the week, the AGM. As many of you will know I was convinced to put my hand up to be on the committee. Why? Because like many, I believe we need to change. Not so much what we

are doing (that does need a tweak or 2), but how we are doing it. As an Association we have plodded along for years patching this, assisting with that, and in general taking a reactive role in preserving our chosen recreational sport and the areas in which we can do it. We need to change this, we need to take a lead role assist in managing some of the tracks. Helping with maintenance committing resources, be it experience, Manpower, Knowledge. Building long term relationships with the likes of DoC based on our ability and our achievements.

I was asked what the biggest thing was I took away from the AGM itself. My response to that has to be the number of "Younger" next generation members that attended. I did a quick count up on the Saturday and there were around 60 odd people in attendance and about 10 to 12 % of those were in the mid-thirties and below bracket. This is the group that we need to grow. These are the people that will lead our sport going forward so it was pleasing to see more of them attending.

The most memorable part of the whole trip for me though was the friendships being forged. Some of those that attended this year, I first saw or met in 2023 at Methven, then some of those I saw in 23, I met in 24 and in 25, some of those associations were strengthened further.

Its not just the trips, it's the comradery and friendships formed along the way. Being helped out by those around you and being able to in turn help out others in return.

SOUTHERN ZONE AGM HOPKINS VALLEY TRIP

BY PAUL MASON

Picture it, it was a rainy wet start to the day. Myself, along with a couple of extras in my vehicle, and another fellow Southland club member had driven up the day before, and stayed the night at the camping ground. We woke up early to pack up camp, to come along on a trip up the Hopkins Valley. This was a Southern Zone AGM trip that would be held later in the day.

Once all loaded up, we made our way to the meeting point, which was outside the old machinery in Twizel. A quick meet and greet being told we have 10 vehicles coming along, from as far north as Nelson/ Marlborough, to as far south as Invercargill and everywhere in between. We were quickly on our way, with a couple of vehicles meeting us at the turnoff to lake Ohau.

We made our way up past the lake to the start of the track where we aired down tires and unloaded vehicles off trailers. We did the formalities, signed in and Mike, from the Dunedin Club who was our trip leader for the day gave us a quick debrief. After the debrief, we were through the gates and on our way.

This was the first time for me heading up this valley. I had only seen footage from others being up here to go from, and I wasn't disappointed at the view! The further we went up the valley, the better the weather was becoming and most of the cloud had lifted by the time we had made it to the Monument hut. We had a short stop here to look at the hut with a chance to admire the scenery around us. With the rain we had the day before, there were waterfalls popping out from the hills if you looked around.

After an inspection of the normal crossing point of the river, it was decided to drop in a bit further downstream, as a big bank of soft gravel was waiting to claim an unsuspecting soul if they had crossed there. So, we crossed the river

downstream and onwards up stream we continued to get to the Red Hut. We bounced along the riverbed (some suffering more than others with their leaf springs) up the valley to where you would normally cross over to get to the Red hut. After a bit of scouting around up and down stream, it was decided to not cross the Hopkins River as the flow was up from rain and it was very murky to read the river properly. So, it was decided to push up the middle of the riverbed for a bit further to find a nice spot to park up for lunch.

Lunch was had, with some having nice, heated food from a warmer in their vehicle, to the simpler folk like me who had to just enjoy a sandwich. From our lunch spot, time was getting on. So, we turned around to head back down the valley. It always seems to be quicker heading back out, and before we knew it, we were back at the access gate with our compressors buzzing away airing tires back up again.

Thanks to Mike and the Dunedin crew for organising the trip for the day. I will have to come back another



AI-generated content may be incorrect.

time, where I have a couple of days to explore further up the valley. It's a beautiful spot to be.

The following day, as everyone was heading back to their home, James and I decided we'd take the Omarama Saddle route to get home. No campervans to get stuck behind going that way. So, a quick drive past Omarama and then it was a straight up climb to the saddle. What a view you get from the top. If you thought yesterday's trip was bumpy though, this track is not for you. But not a bad way to spend a couple hours touring through more beautiful countryside.

Next years AGM will be held in Central Otago/ Queenstown, so we can't wait to see which trip will be held then.

Advertising in Trail Torque

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

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

All advertising in Trail Torque is on the basis that

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

Membership Renewals

It is time to renew NZFWDA memberships!!!! YAYE!!

I think this is a job neither the clubs nor the committee relish.

For the clubs and the persons involved in the process: to quote, and totally screw up star wars fans

- Use the form
- The form is strong
- The form is your ally and it will guide you
- Do not underestimate the form.

It may not be perfect but we are working towards getting it there. We have already identified some amendments.

Now that the job of updating memberships has fallen on committee members, we now have an insight into what is required to complete the task.

Bear with us and lend a hand please by:

- Ensuring all the details are correct and up to date as we will be copying and pasting the required details direct from the form where possible.
- Not sending too many renewals on one form. We can spread the load by distributing a form.
- Ensure you pay the correct amount to our bank account. (\$50.00 per member)
- Send the form back in excel and in the same format.

There are some things that are required by the Incorporated Society Laws that we must keep. As an Incorporated Club you also are required to abide by these.

76 Consent to become member

- (1) A person must consent to become a member of a society.
- (2) The consent of a body corporate (A) to become a member of a society may be given on A's behalf in writing by a person acting under A's express or implied authority.

A person must consent to become a member.

79 Register of members

- (1) Every society must keep a register of its members.
- (2) The register must contain—
 - (a) the name of each member; and
 - (b) the last known contact details of each member; and
 - (c) the date on which each person became a member; and
 - (d) all other information prescribed by the regulations (if any).
- (2) Every society must update its register of members as soon as practicable after becoming aware of changes to the information recorded on the register.

Every society must keep a register of members.

We would suggest that members fill out a membership form every year and included on that form, a paragraph stating that as part of consenting to being a member of your club they are also consenting to becoming a member of NZFWDA.

If you require any information please feel free to email membership@nzfwda.org.nz

For renewing members.

Please ensure your club has your correct and up to date information. Once you receive your updated membership email from NZFWDA:

- Download your membership card to your wallet on your phone.
- Check out the discounts available to you as a member.

You will require your membership card to claim these discounts.

The NZFWDA fuel discount scheme.

A fuel discount scheme that benefits the NZFWDA has been running for several years now. Several options exist for various fuel suppliers. You get a fuel card for your preferred supplier, maybe even different ones, and pay monthly by direct debit after receiving an itemised invoice.

While there are the discounts on your fuel costs, there is a special benefit to the NZFWDA in that one cent for every litre purchased within the scheme, is donated to the NZFWDA.

So, you get your discounted fuel and to recognise your loyalty, the NZFWDA gets some funding.

Yes, there is some paperwork to set up your agreement to join the scheme, but from there it is simple. Just check your monthly invoice before the direct debit falls due.

Obviously, the more members buying their fuel through the scheme, means a better return to the NZFWDA... everyone wins!

One monthly invoice paid by direct debit on 5th month following.

- Exceptional personal service to clients
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Contact <https://www.gabbcostreduction.co.nz/fuel-savings/> for an application form and information.

RESCUE CHOPPER TIP

One of our members has suggested that you carry a lighter in your vehicle. It doesn't have to go, as long as the flint flashes. The helicopter pilots night vision goggles can pick up the flash of the flint from a long way off to help guide them.

What is the 'Land Access Forum'?

The NZFWDA hosts a monthly 'round table' online meeting that helps to identify some of the issues affecting 4x4 vehicle access around New Zealand.

Held on the second Tuesday evening each month, the forum discussions are just one hour from 7.30pm. The forum is open to those within the 4WD community, not just NZFWDA people.

Conversations range widely around the country, with almost every region having some issues impacting our recreation, or possibly is likely to. Sometimes possible solutions might have been already identified elsewhere, and the forum provides a connection to a solution.

Clubs are encouraged to become involved, as they and our members are the 'eyes and ears' of the NZFWDA and can provide the local knowledge that can be so important.

A recent example was a draft proposal

by Tasman District Council to restrict vehicle access to a riverside park that the NZFWDA were not aware of. With literally just hours to spare, the NZFWDA and the local 4WD Club were able to submit comments to that proposal.

Another example of 'needing to know' is a complete ban on camping and off-roading at the Manorburn Dam Recreation Reserve, a 76ha public space, managed by the Central Otago District Council. The final draft of the plan included the prohibition of all camping, four-wheel driving and motocross activities at the location — moves generally supported by those who submitted on an earlier draft of the plan.

That notification and submission process went through without the NZFWDA being aware, and so unable to have input. The final draft management plan just needs formal adoption by Council to become

enforceable.

To get an invitation to those Teams meetings, simply email peter.vahry@nzfwda.org.nz with the subject 'Land Access'.



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4X4 ACCESSORIES



May seem a little melodramatic - but what comes to mind seeing these signs?

It's an ever-increasing sight around our 4x4 tracks that we have, in the past, taken access to them for granted. Well bad news, you best get used to the sight... just in recent times; 4 more sites have access concerns written all over them: the Manorburn Dam Recreational reserve, the Iconic Mackley Track, the Denniston Plateau, the Upper Rakaia River, the Appleby River area.... Some of these areas have legitimate reasons for limited or no access, but most of the time its because we, as a recreational group have abused our traditional and expected rights of access to public land.

Now before you get your knickers in a twist, you may feel that I have just accused every 4x4er of abusing our right to access Well for every one idiot ripping up tracks, parks, trails, smashing gates, signs barriers etc. there are 20 good, courteous, law abiding 4x4ers not doing anything – and that's our problem – we do nothing. Because we do nothing, the idiot behavior becomes accepted. And that, my fellow 4x4ers is the prime reason why we are losing a significant part of our



access, with more to come.

Of course, over the years there has been significant work by some individuals, groups and clubs who have had enormous success in securing access, Maratoto Wires track comes to mind. Hard fought and easily destroyed by those mentioned above.

There is however a ray of hope. The NZFWDA and some affiliated clubs with the support of the NZFWDA are proactive in engaging with the Authorities, interest groups, mining companies etc to find ways to work together for the greater good of our recreational access.

But we need help from every 4x4er, we need feedback, if you get wind of an issue around a track or access to land, bad behavior etc., please let us know. It's near-on impossible to turn things around once the Stakeholder's teeth are clenched and the gate is welded shut.

Steve Adam
President
NZFWDA

Friends of 42 Traverse Inc update

On June 12 the charitable organization, Friends of 42 Traverse Inc, held its AGM as an online meeting. Several NZFWDA clubs were represented as members of the 'Friends', including CCVC from Wellington, Taupo, Manukau and Auckland 4WD clubs. Individual members also attended.

A new constitution was adopted to conform to the new Incorporated Society rules and the meeting heard of ongoing efforts by the Department of Conservation (DOC) to find solutions to the blocked access along the 42 Traverse. DOC have invited participation by the 'Friends' on a tour of the 42 Traverse to assess maintenance needs. There is still a need to get a definitive ground survey of the slip area to determine if it has finally stabilised.

Membership is encouraged to help strengthen the efforts of the 'Friends' and with the annual fee only \$10 per individual and \$30 for organisations, that membership demonstrates the positive recreational interest in keeping vehicle access along the 42 Traverse.

You can join online at <https://www.friendsof42traverse.nz/membership.html>

Peter Vahry
Chairman,
Friends of 42 Traverse Inc.

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.

Remembering Mel

WRITTEN BY ASHLEY LUCAS

It is with sadness that I advise of the passing of long time NZFWDA member Mel Street.

Mel was originally a member of Waikato 4WD Club in the 1980's and from 1999 joined the Land Rover Enthusiasts Club (Rotorua) Inc.

Mel had been a stalwart of the LRE Club for many years serving as president from 2004 to 2009 and was highly regarded by all. He was a true gentleman and represented the club on the NZFWDA Northern Zone for such a long time.

He has been the Club's representative on the Northern Zone of the NZFWDA where he made his presence felt. Mel is a quiet person by nature but a person who followed the rules and constitution religiously and was possibly an "agitator" (campaigner is probably a better word) for the chairman ensuring everything was done properly for the benefit of all.

It was black and white for Mel and no grey!! That aside, he is a strong supporter and passionate about the NZFWDA.

Mel was awarded life membership to the NZFWDA in May 2021. One of the things Mel got involved with early on was the restoration of a Series 1 Land Rover from the Malayan conflict or as it was known 'The Emergency'. The Land Rover was built up as it would have been used in the Malayan Peninsula and the Club presented the vehicle to the Army Museum at a special club meeting in Rotorua. The said vehicle is an important part of the Museum's display on the Malayan Emergency. Even up to year or so ago Mel was still attending the odd Northern Zone meetings and kept a keen interest on the NZFWDA happenings around the Zone.

Mel was 86 years old.



Mel with his NZFWDA Life Membership



Mel with the restored Jeep

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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200,000
LVV CERTIFICATIONS

“It took 12 years to reach 50,000 LVV certifications, a further 6 years to reach 100,000, and then 14 years to double that number. Overall, there's been a rough average of 50,000 LVV certifications every 7 years.”

LVVTA is an Incorporated Society underpinned by eight Member Associations, the Constructors Car Club, Kiwi Trikers Social Club, MotorSport NZ, NZ Four Wheel Drive Association, NZ Hot Rod Association, NZ Motor Caravan Association, Sports Car Club of NZ, and Vintage Car Club of NZ. In effect, these associations collectively own the LVVTA. Each association elects a delegate to represent their members on the LVVTA Council and advocate on their behalf. Read article [here](#).

CENTRAL ZONE CLUB TRUCK CHALLENGE

ARTICLE & PHOTOS BY ANDREW GEE



Brent Ward Wellington Round

The Club Truck Challenge (CTC) 2025 season finished in May after another good Series of five Rounds held from Wellington to Taihape.

As I was travelling home from Taihape I was behind a motorhome that was emblazoned with the message FIGJAM. That took me back to trips with my old 4wd buddies Steve and Julie Clarke from Mosgiel. Steve had the moniker Figjam on his beanie, his mugs, his Nissan, everything. Figjam? Flip I'm Good, Just Ask Me! In the present day it's an example of the gentle ribbing you get when you just aren't fast enough to beat a well driven Suzuki.

The Club Truck Challenge is a Trials competition run in registered and warranted vehicles that emphasises driver skill over purpose built Trials Trucks.

This year we went to two new venues, Richie's in Turakina and Colin's in Upper Hutt, which bought in a new dimension especially in the Wellington Round which was requested to be a tougher prospect than the previous site. It was unintentionally a truck breaker with a higher than normal number of mechanical dnfs, the worst thing was that one of the victims was myself.

The Wairarapa Round had been a cracker with an excellent turnout of new people trying the CTC for the first time and a lot of them mounted in Jeeps, the thinking person's choice.

Brendan Watchorn was the first holder of the new trophy donated by the Hintz family and it is a nice acknowledgement of the work he does to keep the CTC running from year to year.

People who completed three or more Rounds were in the running for Series points and this year produced the following results (see next page)...



*Dave McGinnity
Wellington speed section*



Clint Carrol Class 2 Champ



Steve Stewart at Wainuioru



Kevin Galbraith
Class 3 Champion



Brendan Watchorn receiving the Hintz award
(pictured with Judith and Dave Hintz).

SEASON 2025 RESULTS

CLASS 1 (STANDARD)

1. ... Chris MasonSuzuki Jimny

CLASS 2 (LIMITED MODIFIED)

1. ... Clint Carrol.....Jeep TJ
2. ... Brendan Watchorn.....Mitsubishi Pajero

CLASS 3 (MODIFIED)

1. ... Kevin GalbraithJeep TJ
2. ... Tyran AshfordNissan Patrol
3. ... Andrew Gee Jeep.....TJ
4. ... Steve StewartNissan Patrol

CLASS 4 (UNLIMITED)

1. ... Brent WardNissan Patrol



Judith Hintz Taihape Round

More about the Manawatu Estuary Management Plan

The story continues...

In previous Trail Torque editions we have proudly spoken about our role in contributing to developing the Manawatu Estuary Management Plan, and most recently the launch of the plan.

It turned out that the Chief Executives of the Regional Council and the District Council were so impressed at the launch, that they got together and agreed to make an application to Local Government NZ for an award relating to community engagement.

The result was a short video supporting the application, which features a few words from our Representative Grant Purdie along with prominent wording "NZ Four Wheel Drive Association"

See it here [Manawatu Estuary Management Plan - LGNZ SuperCollab Award Entry 2025](#)

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The way we were...

TAKING A LOOK BACK ...

Tread Lightly!

As winter approaches, members must be aware of the conditions for the area they are using and each club must take in consideration how much use the area they wish to use has had by others and be careful they are not over using an area. This is why it is always useful for clubs to contact each other when going in another's local area, not to say "Hey you can't", but to be aware of over use and track conditions and to WORK TOGETHER to improve land access, not get it closed. This same attitude must be taken in regard to maintenance of tracks we all use.

Tread Lightly! And leave a good impression.

Regards
Gail Osman

*Snippet from Trail Torque
April 2000*

Threats to our land access

This is a reminder to everybody who likes to go off-road in their 4wd. As we all know, access to land is vital. Without permission to use properties, we have no recreation.

As we have often highlighted to all our members, it is really important to make sure that every one of us complies with the basics:

- Have a good relationship with the land owner or land manager, understand their requirements

then comply with those. This includes where and when you can go, where and when you cannot go, behaviour expected and any other conditions of access.

- Think safety! Undertake hazard identification and have a safety plan for every trip. See the Health & Safety Policy and Guidelines for Clubs at <http://www.nzfwda.org.nz/healthandsafety>

- Value and safeguard the environment. This includes a "tread lightly" approach and being aware of the requirements of the Resource Management Act.

Failure to mitigate for risks to the environment, such as sedimentation and streambed disturbance, can have dire consequences such as loss of future access, the possibility of a fine or prosecution.

My Rothbury Experience

WRITTEN BY
GRANT PURDIE

One of the member benefits introduced for members over the last year or so was an arrangement with Rothbury Insurance Brokers. Note that this is for members' own insurance, it is nothing to do with the Association's insurance.

I was asked to write up my experience with Rothbury, following on from being a bit outspoken during one of the pre-AGM discussions.

First and foremost, they provide an off-road 4wd vehicle policy tailored to our members.

So when the policy for my FJ40 with another company came up for renewal a few months ago, I thought I should look at the Rothbury cover. I was to discover that it included cover off-road, unlike some other companies.

And that it covered all my mods and accessories. Ok, I had to list all those, with dollar values (which was an eye-opener for me!). Which helped me come up with a more realistic sum insured, much higher than before.

The premium Rothbury quoted for that much better cover was very close to the premium at my old company for the same sum insured but with less cover, so it was a no-brainer to go with Rothbury.

Last week I switched our house and contents policies to Rothbury. A saving of about \$2,000 off the premium despite quite a big increase to my sums insured (yes we're in Wellington, very high insurance costs). Again, a no-brainer to go with Rothbury. I'm sure everyone knows that insurance brokers and agents get paid

commission by the companies they place your policy with. This doesn't change what you pay; if you go direct it's usually exactly the same premium.

Did you know, the NZFWDA receives 20% of the commission that Rothbury gets from the Insurer. You do need to go through our designated person though, which is Carol Winter at their Nelson branch (her contact details are below).

For my house and contents policies, the NZFWDA benefits by approximately \$200. Imagine the benefit if hundreds of our members take up this member benefit - that income stream AT NO EXTRA COST TO MEMBERS could help the Association's budget no end, reducing pressure on our affiliation fees.

Is your 4WD too 'extreme' for ordinary insurance? **Leave it to Carol.**

Carol Winter

Commercial Broker | 4WD Off-road Insurance
021 457 427

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!

ROUND FIVE

Biggs & Crawford go Back-to-Back at Bay of Plenty!

Jarred Biggs & Fleche Crawford became the first repeat winners of the 2025 Lucas Oils NZ 4x4 Trials Series, taking their second win and provisional lead of the season after Round 5 at Te Puke!

The penultimate Round of the season took place out of Te Puke, hosted by the Bay of Plenty 4WD Club. With hot weather and plenty of action, the hosts drew in a large crowd with proceeds from the event going towards the

Waipuna Hospice.

Heading into the Round, Ash Tonkin & Dyon Ross in Redback held the provisional lead by a single point with 297 points over Mitch Caldwell & Jamie Elms in Mad Wolf. Jarred Biggs & Fleche Crawford in Hot Wheels had jumped up into third after taking the win at Manawatu, albeit another three points further back. Chris Gifford & Shaun Nicholson in The Punisher had climbed up to fourth after scoring their first podium of the season to sit on 289 points. Defending champs Scott Biggs & Phil Walton in Smokey Joe had

fallen from their initial third position to sit seventh after two Rounds placing outside of the Top 10.

With teams able to drop their worst scoring Round towards their overall points tally, the penultimate round gives the best indication of who's in the fight heading into the final Round.

With the most stages of the season set with 34 across the rolling country, the day was on!

[Read the full article here.](#)

BAY OF PLENTY 4X4 NATIONAL TRIAL - ROUND 5 - 23-3-2025

No DRIVER TOTAL ... Cls O/A
C CLASS

402....	TOWERS Shayne	520.54	1	4
236 ...	FOGDEN Nathan	627.12	2	8
113 ...	ADLAM Caleb	896.5	3	17
950 ...	HAWKEN John	908.03	4	18
280 ...	O'BRIEN Rhys	977.57	5	20
357 ...	TEMPLETON Rebekah	1116.44	6	26
112 ...	STERLING Matthew	1347.53	7	31
540 ...	CUSHING Sean	498.53	..DNF	..DNF

D CLASS

449 ...	BIGGS Jarred	412.75	1	1
231 ...	GIFFORD Chris	475.18	2	2
1NZ ...	BIGGS Scott	512.52	3	3
161 ...	WEATHERLY Wayne	554.46	4	5
57	CALDOW Mitchell	558.16	5	6
44	CAMERON Phil	604.84	6	7
663 ...	NICHOLSON Shaun	664.56	7	9
303 ...	MCKIE Dave	675.82	8	10
213....	WEST Gary	680.78	9	11
888 ...	TONKIN Ashley	713.46	10	12
375 ...	WARD Brent	738.32	11	13
632 ...	HOBART Phil	799.59	12	14

Number 4 pulled due to inconsistent marshaling

No DRIVER TOT ... Cls O/A
D CLASS continued

48	DICKSON Scott	802.75	13	15
521 ...	DODGE Matthew	876.43	14	16
705 ...	BEVEGE Alastair	936.4	15	19
53	BUCKTHOUGHT Wayne	979.47	16	21
370 ...	WELLS Dean	991.88	17	22
150 ...	FOOTE Graham	1031.91	18	23
588 ...	HERMANSEN Kevin	1094.77	19	24
342 ...	OWEN Craig	1099.79	20	25
87	HIBBERD Graham	1122.78	21	27
263 ...	SOUTHWICK Chris	1150.79	22	28
134 ...	HOWAT Daniel	1265.32	23	29
206 ...	BOLD Ryan	1290	24	30
70	ALEXANDER Paul	1369.5	25	32
149 ...	LACEY Steve	1520.03	26	33
3NZ ...	POTTER Craig	1586.9	27	34
12	CARLSEN Sam	DNF	..DNF	..DNF
59	WHEELER Michael	DNF	..DNF	..DNF
119 ...	TOMALIN Chris	DNF	..DNF	..DNF
139 ...	DONALD Luke	DNF	..DNF	..DNF

F CLASS

90	TAYLOR Paul	1879.82	1	35
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A huge thank you to the Clubs that hosted the 2024/2025 National 4x4 Trial Season



ROUND SIX

Scott Biggs & Phil Walton continue their reign on the sand, winning once again in Rotoma and taking out the 50th National 4x4 Trials Final!

The Final Round of the 51st Season of the Lucas Oil NZ 4x4 Trials Series was down to the wire, with three teams all within one point of the top spot. Jarred Biggs & Fleche Crawford were the favourites leading the way, having won the last two

Rounds back-to-back in Hot Wheels. Mitch Caldow & Jamie Elms were tied on points (with only one win) in Mad Wolf. Whilst Ash Tonkin & Dyon Ross who narrowly missed out on a podium placing sat one point behind in Redback. Also in title contention was Chris Gifford & Sam Thomsen in The Punisher, needing a win if they wished to nab the top spot for the Season.

Defending champs Scott Biggs & Phil Walton were out of the running to defend their title, however 3NZ was

on the cards needing to win and the Tonkin & Ross to finish no higher than 11th for them to take the last spot.

The Counties 4 Wheelers hosted the event in the Whakatane Region, renowned for its sandy conditions that require a different style of driving to avoid digging yourself stuck before the blues.

[Read the full article here.](#)

NZ 4X4 NATIONAL TRIAL - ROTOMA - ROUND 6 - 12-4-2025

No DRIVERTOTCls . O/A

C CLASS

402 ...TOWERS Shayne	518.5	1	7
236 ...FOGDEN Nathan	631.53	2	15
119 ...TOMALIN Chris	657.44	3	18
280 ...O'BRIEN Rhys	677.09	4	19
950 ...HAWKEN John	771.15	5	24
113 ...ADLAM Caleb	810.93	6	25
112 ...STERLING Matthew	976.22	7	30
711 ...BOLTON Jonathan	998.03	8	31
357 ...TEMPLETON Rebekah			DNF

D CLASS

1NZ ...BIGGS Scott	361.21	1	1
303 ...MCKIE Dave	376.22	2	2
449 ...BIGGS Jarred	409.21	3	3
161...WEATHERLY Wayne	470.67	4	4
53 ...BUCKTHOUGHT Wayne	488.81	5	5
57 ...CALDOW Mitchell	491.09	6	6
521 ...DODGE Matthew	520.23	7	8
888 ...TONKIN Ashley	522.16	8	9
663 ...NICHOLSON Shaun	532.33	9	10
44 ...CAMERON Phil	548.44	10	11
231 ...GIFFORD Chris	583.53	11	12
48 ...DICKSON Scott	603.19	12	13
213 ...WEST Gary	614.18	13	14

No DRIVERTOTCls . O/A

D CLASS continued

263 ...SOUTHWICK Conner	651.26	14	16
588 ...HERMANSEN Kevin	657	15	17
342 ...OWEN Craig	726.48	16	20
59 ...WHEELER Michael	740.06	17	21
375 ...WARD Brent	743.73	18	22
705 ...BEVEGE Alastair	745.02	19	23
370 ...WELLS Dean	823	20	26
206 ...BOLD Ryan	838.38	21	27
632 ...HOBART Phil	903.6	22	28
87 ...HIBBERD Graham	931.84	23	29
717 ...MICKELL Luke	1107.14	24	32
150 ...FOOTE Graham	1134.27	25	33
70 ...ALEXANDER Paul	1150.81	26	34
3NZ...POTTER Craig			DNF
12D ...CARLSEN Sam			DNF
42 ...HOWAT Brian			DNF
81 ...DONALD Scott			DNF

F CLASS

90 ...TAYLOR Paul	1604.22	1	35
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G CLASS

134 ...HOWAT Daniel			DNF
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1NZ 2024/2025 Season
Jarred Biggs & Fleche Crawford

TJW Photos

2025/2026 NZ 4X4 TRIALS SEASON

ROUND 1

Eastern Bay Twin Diff Club
23rd November

ROUND 2

Rodney - 13th December

ROUND 3

Whanganui - 1st February

ROUND 4

Taranaki - 21st February

ROUND 5

Counties - 21st March

ROUND 6

Hawkes Bay - 11th April

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

1 - 2 AUGUST 2025 FORCE4 SINGLES WINCH CHALLENGE 2025 at Possum Palace hosted by Whangarei 4wd Club. Entry fee of \$160. All drivers must be NZFWDA affiliated. This is a non-spectator event. Camping on-site. All teams must provide a Marshall for the weekend, no Marshall, no entry. No low mount winches as the main winch. 2 x Classes: Outlaw & Modified. Trucks must have a roof over at least the driver & passenger and a roll cage. Helmets are compulsory. Minimum tire size of 31" and maximum tire size of 36.5". Compulsory ground anchor. Trucks do not need to have a registration or WOF but will need to pass event scrutineering. Email adam@npis.co.nz for an entry form.

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 minutes 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 Breakfast 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](#)

23 NOVEMBER 2025 NZ 4X4 TRIALS 2025/2026 National Trials Series. Round 1. Eastern Bay Twin Diff Club. [See nz4x4trials.co.nz](http://nz4x4trials.co.nz) for more.

13 DECEMBER 2025 NZ 4X4 TRIALS 2025/2026 National Trials Series. Round 2. Rodney. [See nz4x4trials.co.nz](http://nz4x4trials.co.nz) for more.

1 FEBRUARY 2026 NZ 4X4 TRIALS 2025/2026 National Trials Series. Round 3. Whanganui. [See nz4x4trials.co.nz](http://nz4x4trials.co.nz) for more.

21 FEBRUARY 2026 NZ 4X4 TRIALS 2025/2026 National Trials Series. Round 4. Taranaki. [See nz4x4trials.co.nz](http://nz4x4trials.co.nz) for more.

21 MARCH 2026 NZ 4X4 TRIALS 2025/2026 National Trials Series. Round 5. Counties. [See nz4x4trials.co.nz](http://nz4x4trials.co.nz) for more.

21ST-22ND MARCH 2026 GIVE IT A GO ENDURO 4WD ENDURO. ALFORD FOREST, METHVEN. Club trucks/Basic trailer trucks. \$100 for Non 4WD Association Members. \$75 for 4wd Association Members Proof of current membership to be provided. Read full details and entry form [here](#).

11 APRIL 2026 NZ 4X4 TRIALS 2025/2026 National Trials Series. Round 6. Hawkes Bay. [See nz4x4trials.co.nz](http://nz4x4trials.co.nz) for more.



KEY HEALTH AND SAFETY MESSAGES

REMEMBER – it is everybody's obligation to act safely
Take responsibility for what you can control.

Central Zone President

Hi all, Darren Pettengell here, the newly elected NZFWDA Central Zone President.

I put my hand up for this position because I would like our Zone to grow. To do this we need good communication and support with the NZFWDA and New Zealand's 4x4 community.

Members of the NZFWDA do a lot of good in our community by contributing to projects like planting, beach clean ups, Civil Defence, Search and Rescue, taking other groups like

schools, Botanical society, Forest and Bird etc, on 4x4 trips to see the sights they normally wouldn't get to see. These projects also help us gain respect with many other organisation's and help us keen 4 wheelers see more of the amazing sights New Zealand has to offer.

This is the image that we want to share with other non NZFWDA 4 wheelers so we can keep the track access we have and encourage more of them to join the fun of being out four wheeling driving while respecting our surroundings.



Kaukapakapa Fire Brigade 4wd Fundraiser.

\$22,000 RAISED!

In March Rodney Off Road Club held their second fundraiser for the Kaukapakapa Volunteer Fire Brigade. The two-day event is held in Kaukapakapa and currently spans across four large adjoining properties. There were 75 vehicles entered and over 200 attendees this year.

The purpose of the event is to raise

funding for the fire station. Entry fees and raffle ticket sold during Saturday evening surpassed the previous total of \$21,000.

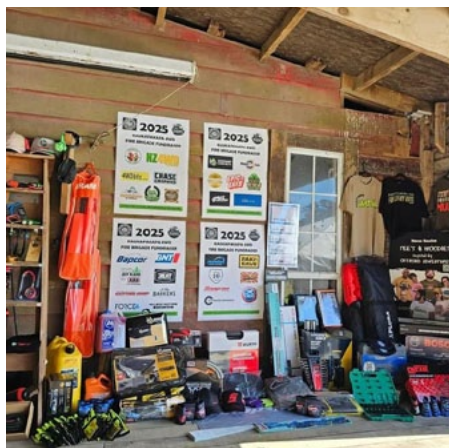
Rodney Off Road Club would like to say a massive thank you to the extremely generous landowners and sponsors of the event. "Without your support this the event would not be possible".

"All our sponsors are locally based,

and/or have businesses within local adjoining areas. Please support them if you can".

The fundraiser will be held again next year around the same time. So please contact them if you, or anyone you know would like to attend, sponsor, or if you have some land that they could use!

Email the Club: rodneyoffroadclub@gmail.com



CLUB MEMBERS' H&S RESPONSIBILITIES

Every person (including every 4wd Club and every member of a 4wd Club) is responsible for:

- Taking reasonable care for their own health and safety
- Taking reasonable care that what they do (or do not do) does not adversely affect the health and safety of anyone else
- Complying with any reasonable instruction given by the Club so that it can comply with its health and safety obligations including all safe work procedures, rules and health and safety training
- Attending any trip briefings, ensuring they can hear it, and paying attention to the details.

President's Corner

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



The NZFWDA Executive team has listened, we have restructured and about to embark on a journey to make a significant difference for our beloved recreation. Keep an eye out for the changes

Before I embark on the virtues of what we are doing. I must give my heartfelt thanks for the considerable amount of work done by a bunch of outstanding volunteers who very seldom receive accolades for their dedication to the members of the NZFWDA:

- **Jenny Jordan**, our long-suffering Membership Officer, what an outstanding job Jenny has done.
- **Brian Howat**, our Events Officer, LVVTA board representative and Central Zone VP, Club Treasurer and Club Delegate x2, working away on the background representing the Association's interests for some years
- **Ian Hutchings**, our Land Access Officer and Submissions extraordinaire, and Club Delegate, has been our champion of the remits subcommittee
- **John McDonald**, our Secretary and Southern Zone PRO and Club Delegate, has served the Association for many years
- **Dan Hawkins**, Central Zone President, Club Treasurer, served on the Remits Subcommittee and the Restructure Working Group,
- **Hamish Wilson**, Central Zone PRO and Club Delegate, represented the Zone well on access issues
- **Ashley Lucas**, Northern Zone PRO and Club Delegate, a wise old head and has contributed enormously, chairing the Remits Subcommittee. But not out – Ashley is now the Northern Zone VP
- **Chris Tomalin**, Competitions Officer, a wise head on a young man, always busy with the Comps, his dairy farm and family. Of course Chris will continue to be involved in the National Body

- **Rowan Coutts**, Southern Zone VP and Club President, a wise contributor to the Executive, remains as the Southern Zone VP
- **Sam Whalley**, our Secretary legend, despite an extremely busy life with responsibilities in the Executive as Systems Officer, Northern Zone as VP, his Cub as Treasurer and his ever-demanding job, he stepped up to fill the Secretary job again. Like Ashley, one for punishment, Sam of course is the new Northern Zone President.
- **Tariq Wasim**, Northern Zone President and Club Delegate, Mr fix it man for Tidy HQ, very active contributor at Exec meetings and a strong voice in the Restructure Working group.
- **Peter Vahry**, National PRO, Club Delegate, Land Access convener, eNews Editor, Facebook Admin, Website Editor, and a contributing member of the Restructure Working Group. Peter has been around the Association for a long time in many different roles.
- **Bob Holmes**, Southern Zone President, Club Membership Officer & Delegate. Member of the Remit Subcommittee, the Health and Safety Committee and the Restructure Working Group.
- **David Sole**, Health & Safety Subcommittee Chair, quietly working behind the scenes ensuring we were doing things right. With Ian Grant, Mike Woodhead and Peter Cutten on the Committee, all doing a great job for the Association
- **Bobbie Kincaid**, Trail Torque Editor extraordinaire producing a quality publication on behalf of us all
- **Ian Grant, Colin Lindsay, Linda Tomalin and Rachel Buckthought**, the ever enduring Zone and Comps Secretaries and Treasurers
- **Neville Dunton**, Patron, ex National President, Club Delegate and general good wise

man to have around

- **Barb Adam**, National Treasurer, Southern Zone Secretary/ Treasurer, Club President, member of the Remits Subcommittee. Tirelessly keeping the Association books and Exec in line around financial matters.
- **Grant Purdie**, Projects Officer, member of the Remits Subcommittee, Restructure Working Group, Deputy Chair of the Manawatu Estuary Management Team, Grant has been a significant and tireless contributor and supporter to the Association. He has had significant input across every facet of the Association for many years and battled on even during times of illness.

The majority of you, this is a major crossroads in your involvement in the Association, you have all been outstanding in your own way in contributing to your roles and the Executive as a whole. On behalf of the New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association, I thank you all and wish you all the very best for the future.

On separate notes,

- 🚗 this last year we had an 8.4% membership increase, great news but to be effective in our work we need to grow exponentially to give us strength in numbers. To reach out to your mates and neighbours etc to join your Club.
- 🚗 We still have some spaces on subcommittees to fill with smart, clear thinking, enthusiastic people – if you want to contribute, flick me an email.

Tread lightly
Steve Adam
President
NZFWDA

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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hunt2@windowslive.com



www.geyslerland4wd.co.nz

Kaitaia 4WD Club Inc.

Kaitaia4x4club@hotmail.com



Kaimai 4x4 Club



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manukau4wd.org.nz



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secretary@norwestohv.org



admin@nzjeepclub.co.nz



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United 4WD supporters
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secretary.waik4wdclub@gmail.com



Whangamata4x4@gmail.com



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Wilderness Ridge Riders 4WD Club

Central Zone Clubs

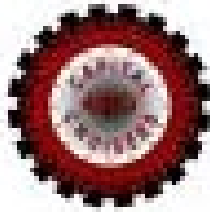
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