



# Trail Torque

The official Newsletter of the New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association

September / October / November 2023



## How you can help your Community

**Plus...**

- **Club Activities**
- **Snatch Strap Warning**
- **Central Zone Club Truck Challenge**





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.



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

## Deadlines for Trail Torque Submissions

DEC 2023/JAN/FEB 2024  
Deadline: 24 November 2023  
Out to Members:  
10th December 2023

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

**Our Behaviour  
Affects Our  
Future**



New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association Inc.

# Inside this Edition

Deadlines for Trail Torque Submissions .....	2
4wd Club Community Contributions .....	3
Pre-AGM Discussion Groups .....	3
How To Find The Accident Reporting Form .....	3
Online Document Library Announcement.....	4
Safety Incidents .....	4
Who Represents your Club at Zone Meetings.....	4
A Big Recovery NO-NO .....	4
Chainsaw Ban .....	4
Advertising in Trail Torque .....	4
South Coast Plantings .....	5
Marlborough 4WD Club Certificate of Appreciation .....	5
Club H & S Responsibilities .....	5
Cleaning Beaches .....	6
Braking the Habit .....	7
Your Tyre Foot Print.....	7
CZ Club Truck Challenge 2023 Wrap Up .....	8-9
Snatch Strap Warning .....	10-11
Manawatu 4wd and Levin 4x4 Teams Winch Comp 2023.....	12
Taupo 4WD Club help amputees explore .....	12
OR4G - Special Rigs for Kids and Snow Patrol.....	13
What is the LVVTA.....	13
National 4x4 Trials 2023/2024 Season dates .....	14
BOP 4WD Club Donations .....	14
Coming Events .....	15
Frost Flats of Rangitaiki - SF70 .....	15
National Executive Members .....	16
Life Members of the NZFWDA.....	16
Executive Reports .....	16-17
Young Driver of the Year Cup .....	17
Northern Zone Clubs .....	18
Central Zone Clubs .....	19
Southern Zone Clubs.....	19
Why you should join a 4x4 Club .....	20

**COVER PIC:** Dave Hintz Class 4. Central Zone Club Truck Challenge 2023.  
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.

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

### ARTICLES AND LETTERS NZFWDA DISCLAIMER.

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

# 4wd Clubs

## Community Contributions

PETER VAHRY  
NATIONAL PRO

As a recreation, four wheeling does not have a lot of sympathy from many of the wider community. The general public tend to only see what is often referred to as the 'hoon element', which is reinforced by headlines such as [Vandals in 4WDs targeting fields](https://www.odt.co.nz/star-news/star-districts/star-north-canterbury/vandals-4wds-targeting-fields) (<https://www.odt.co.nz/star-news/star-districts/star-north-canterbury/vandals-4wds-targeting-fields>)

The NZFWDA is always keen to counter that image, especially as we know that there are a lot of our members frequently out in their communities doing a variety of community projects.

As your association, we would warmly welcome any information about your activities that demonstrate the values we hold and the positive engagement you make in your community and with the wider community.

Curiously, as I sit writing this, I received a confirmation call from the Muriwai Beach rangers about the

4WD club's annual beach clean, that is being organised for Sunday, 8th of October 2023.

I know there are many similar projects all around the country and it would be great to know more about them and who's involved. To support this, we plan to build a simple guide about how to create and present a 'press release' that clubs can use to send off to local 'media'... newspapers etc. And to us at NZFWDA!

There have been some great examples that we've seen and posted to the NZFWDA Facebook page and our public website, such as the Taupo 4WD Club (see page 12) effort and the Bay of Plenty 4WD Club (see page 14) donations. Not every attempt to get your event into print will succeed, but let's keep trying. Once you've had success with a story and pictures to an editor, it becomes much easier to get recognised as a source of 'good' news.

It often takes a little research to find who to send a news item to and although many years ago the NZFWDA did compile a media contact list, it was not accurate for very long.

We need to lift our profile as four wheelers and become more obvious as a useful part of the community. Regrettably there will always be an antisocial element in almost every part of the wider community. We just need to demonstrate that the New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association members are not in that category through more good news stories than the bad ones.

Even if you can't get your 'good news' story into local media, please send it to us at the NZFWDA so that we can get it into our news channels. Just email the information to [pro@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:pro@nzfwda.org.nz)

## Pre-AGM discussion groups

In the previous edition of Trail Torque there was an article on page 3 about the Pre-AGM Discussion Groups that took place on the Saturday morning, with the AGM dinner following that evening (and what a great function that was!) then the AGM the next day.

All sorts of points came up during the discussion group sessions. Those present asked that these are shared with members, not only those who were there but all our members. The plan is to drip-feed notes from the sessions through e-news and Trail Torque.

We have been doing this, through several articles to date and with promoting the email address [safety@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:safety@nzfwda.org.nz) and our new accident reporting form which is in the Online Document Library.

## HOW TO FIND THE ACCIDENT REPORTING FORM

New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association > ONLINE DOCUMENT LIBRARY > [Online Document Library - Main Page](#)

### Online Document Library - Main Page

The NZFWDA has published these documents that are available for affiliated clubs and members to download.

Got any feedback for us? Send us a message from the [Contact Us](#) page.

Please report any accidents, incidents or near-misses to [safety@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:safety@nzfwda.org.nz). Your email will automatically go to all members of the National Executive's H&S Subcommittee. The reporting form is available below.

#### TidyHQ User Guide for Members

- [Click here.](#)

#### Safety & Guidelines

- NZFWDA Health & Safety Policy Guidelines 2018
- RMA Guidelines - High-Level Step-by-Step Guidelines
- RMA Guidelines - Detailed Guidelines
- COVID-19 Guidance for 4wd Clubs
- NZFWDA Reporting Form for accidents, incidents and near-misses
  - PDF pages 1-2 to take on trips
  - PDF full version for club review
  - Word full version for club review
  - Sample

**ACCIDENT REPORTING FORM**  
**REMEMBER** you have to be logged in to the NZFWDA TidyHQ database to access this page.  
<https://nzfwda.tidyhq.com/>

# Who represents your Club at Zone meetings?

In the past it wasn't always clear how club representation worked at Zone meetings. There were also differing views on how voting should work: Delegate voting like at the national AGM? Or one vote per person? Or one vote per club?

At the 2023 AGM a remit was approved that says a Zone Committee now means "the Zone Officers plus all the representatives as appointed by clubs in the Zone" (clause 23 a) i). So it's a club representative rather than a

club delegate that represents a club at zone meetings.

And it is intended that there will not be delegate voting at Zone meetings.

More details on all this will be in the new Standing Orders that are being drafted.

Meanwhile any comments from members about this can be sent to [projects@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:projects@nzfwda.org.nz) for the Remit Subcommittee to look at.

## ANNOUNCEMENT...

Three new guidelines have just been added to our Online Document Library (the ODL).

[Beach Access](#)  
[Jacking on Uneven Surfaces](#)  
[Equipment Checklist](#)

These are first versions and many members will have something to contribute to future updates - just

send your comments to [safety@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:safety@nzfwda.org.nz)

You can find our guidelines, along with other material, in the Members Portal in TidyHQ. Just log on with your member credentials, then:  
Select Menu  
Then ONLINE DOCUMENT LIBRARY  
Then Online Document Library - Main Page.

**REMEMBER THIS SIMPLE H&S MESSAGE...  
YOU CAN'T INDEMNIFY OUT OF BEING STUPID.**

## CHAINSAW BAN

The use of chainsaws is now banned throughout the Akatarawa Forest.

"How this will play out going forward we (ARAC) are still working through.... This could be similar to DOC's outright ban that only affects staff, or as is our current understanding, a complete ban on staff, contractors and recreational users alike".

"The law of unintended consequences: We can no longer continue to supply firewood at the Orange Hut until this chainsaw ban is resolved!".

SOURCE: <https://arac.org.nz/>

## Advertising in Trail Torque

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

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

All advertising in Trail Torque is on the basis that

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



## SAFETY INCIDENTS

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

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

## 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.



# South Coast Plantings

ARTICLE BY ANDREW GEE

Some forty members from Wellington's Cross Country Vehicle Club (CCVC) took to their southern coastline for another planting season recently.

CCVC Life member Barry Insull told those present that this was likely to be the 17th year the Club has been supporting the local council to re-

establish an assortment of species along the Cook Strait coastline.

This year's effort included planting Pingao, a golden sand sedge, on a small remnant of dunelands and the ever-hardy tauputa and poa (tussock type grass) at a couple of other sites. The Club is always willing to forge community relationships and we were

assisted by members from the local branch of Forest and Bird and another Tawa based community planting group.

The event concluded with a BBQ at one of the historic baches at Red Rocks, thanks to Bev Insull and Ross Perkins for their mahi .



Shaun Ross planting hebes



Duncan Grocott doing hard labour



Barry Insull giving a briefing

## CLUB H&S RESPONSIBILITIES

Trip Leaders and all other club officials have Health & Safety responsibilities.

The NZFWDA recommends that every affiliated 4wd Club:

- Adopts its own Health and Safety Policy.
- Adopts its own health and safety processes, documents and forms.



SOURCE: <http://marlborough4x4club.weebly.com/whats-new.html>



# CLEANING BEACHES

BY PETER VAHRY  
PHOTOS: CIRCA 2018



Auckland's Muriwai Beach has been in the news quite a lot recently as a result of heavy rain over the summer months and the subsequent landslides. Prior to that, the news items were largely about driver behaviors on the beach and the sand dunes.

Back in 2001 a news item in the NZ 4WD magazine, July edition, was about a beach clean effort supported by the Land Rover Owners (Auckland) Club and Auckland 4WD Club. On that occasion over eight trailer loads of rubbish was taken off the beach. Again, this year the clubs will again be out on Muriwai on 8 October to do what's been an annual event since 2000, except for one weather caused cancellation and the interruption of COVID.

Fortunately, the quantity of rubbish has been steadily reducing each year, so it will be interesting to see what this year brings, remembering that the beach itself has had restrictions on vehicle access since Cyclone Gabriel in February. Full access to Muriwai Beach was reinstated on 4th of September.

...the quantity of rubbish has been steadily reducing each year, so it will be interesting to see what this year brings...



## 4WD clubs turn out for Muriwai cleanup

Big tides and a poor weather forecast did not deter a big turnout of four-wheel-drive club members for their regular Muriwai Beach cleanup.

Drivers from The Norwest OHV Club, Land Rover Owners (Auckland) and Auckland 4WD Club had to take different access points to get to the beach safely.

"It was evident that the strong onshore winds and high seas had pushed a lot of debris ashore, but the bulk was assorted logs and seaweed, liberally sprinkled with bluebottle jellyfish," Auckland 4WD Club member Peter Vahry says.

Members also walked through gaps in the dunes where there was clear evidence of drinking parties and campfires with broken bottles cast everywhere.

"A real abuse of our coast," Vahry says.

But he says the rubbish collected was probably less than last year and appears to be steadily reducing.

The members picked up about 6 cubic metres of assorted trash, especially little pieces of plastics and glass.

The Auckland Council rangers treated the group of more than 50 workers to a barbecue.

Muriwai-based ranger Van Haresnape



**Spruce-up:** Linton Ivicvich throws rubbish into a skip during the regular Muriwai Beach cleanup by four-wheel-drive clubs.

says he was impressed with the fantastic turnout, which included a couple of wagons from a local club and an array of vehicles from veteran Land Rovers through to Cruisers.

He says the continuing support of the clubs is essential to having this regular event.



**Knotty problem:** A tangled nylon fishing line is among a variety of rubbish Kinza Vahry picks up on Muriwai Beach.

## HAVE YOU AND YOUR CLUB BEEN DOING GOOD DEEDS?

Too often these good deeds go unrecognised, and the Association has done something about it. Check out the page on TidyHQ called Community Contributions. (<https://nzfwda.tidyhq.com/public/pages/community-contributions>)

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



# BRAKING THE HABIT.....

Many of you reading this will be familiar with loss of braking... water, brake fluid collapse, overheating, mechanical or human error. It is the latter which has come to the attention of the NZFWDA in recent times.

Reports, too many it seems, have been trickling in principally relating to the loss of braking in automatic vehicles. The common threads seem to be when a vehicle is left idling in drive or park brakes simply not holding on their own.

It is all the more important that this issue is recognised because of the terrain we find ourselves in, the often less than ideal positions we have to stop in – up or down hill slopes, sidings or maybe even more benign situations like the driveway at home or the local street.

Regardless, the hazards of unbraked vehicles are very real and have the potential for injury to friends or family, fellow four wheel drivers or third party people who become unwitting victims of rollaways. We can blame the mechanical failures or foibles of individual vehicles but we do know these and blaming the vehicle rather than the driver is small comfort to those who end up on the receiving

end. This without even beginning to explore the consequences of possible vehicle damage.

Good practice can help prevent unwanted rollaways. Ensuring the hand brake is actually applied, turning the vehicle off and leaving in gear or in 'Park' when unattended is the easiest intervention. Some competition vehicles or highly modified vehicles rely on being able to use the auto to hold it in place for a number or reasons we won't go into here though these are the exceptions.

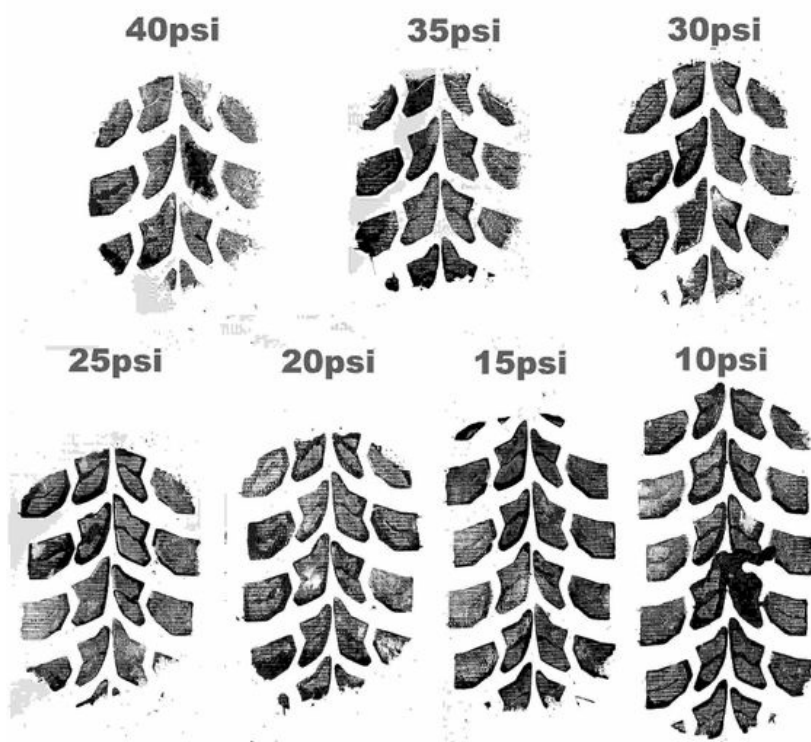
But even with these be sure anyone else involved with the vehicle knows the consequences of turning off the ignition and the resulting loss of any holding capacity of the auto transmission.

Situational awareness is equally important. Regardless of braking, vehicles can slide on even the most gentle of wet greasy slopes when parked and idling. Pets can dislodge handbrakes and gear sticks. Never leave young children unattended in a vehicle. If a vehicle might let go think about where it is likely to end up. If your vehicle isn't mechanically safe to take out then keep it at home. On the trail no-one is interested in excuses when it all goes wrong. It is always up to you, the driver.

**It is always up to you, the driver.**



## YOUR TYRE FOOT PRINT





**CHRIS MASON**  
**CLASS 1 CHAMPION**



# CZ Club Truck Challenge

This year's Club Truck Challenge (CTC) as always had a few stand outs, like the first return to Wellington since the Deadwood Safari, giving us four good events after a Round was cancelled by the Auckland Anniversary Weekend floods, from Taihape to Wellington via Colyton.

For the final Round of this year's CTC we were in Taihape and when Hintzy, the course designer, says more than once, "Its wet out there! "I guess he

would know. He was right and this day needed the best tyres, the best machines and the sharpest minds.

My tyre survey produced some weird and wacky names from the Lakesea Alligator, Land Dragons, Maxxis Carnivores and Wanda Claws to the good old Hankooks and Maxxis Mudzillas to my favourites the no longer obtainable Simex and Silverstone Extreme Trekkers. Maybe you don't choose tyres by their name,

when you need traction and drive, sharp edges on the tread blocks are what you need.

It was so wet we let Brent put all the plug leads back on his LS1.

After the last Round for 2023, we were able to calculate Season results for anybody who had competed in three or more rounds to give us champions in each Class so congratulations to Chris and Joe Mason, topping Class 1



Dave McGinity knows a few tricks



Bruce Tustin Class 3 action



Andrew Gee Wellington Round 3





*Spectacular Brent Ward class 4*

# 2023 Wrapup

ARTICLE & PICTURES BY  
ANDREW GEE

(Standard), Brendan Watchorn, Class 2  
(limited modified), Dave MacGinnity, Class 3  
(Modified) and Brent Ward Class 4 (Unlimited).

As Dominic Toretto says in the Fast and the Furious "Ask any racer. Any real racer. It don't matter if you win by an inch (25.4 mm) or a mile (1.6 km). Winning's winning."

Next Season is scheduled to start in late October, see [www.sporty.co.nz/czctc](http://www.sporty.co.nz/czctc) for the full calendar and rules if you are interested in having a go.

## 2022-2023 SEASON RESULTS

Class 1.....	Chris Mason .....	Suzuki Jimny
Class 2.....	Brendan Watchorn.....	Mitsubishi Pajero
Class 3.....	1st Dave McGinnity .....	Jeep TJ
	.....2nd Bruce Tustin .....	Jeep TJ
	.....3rd Andrew Gee .....	Jeep TJ
	.....4th Steve Stewart .....	Nissan Patrol
Class 4 .....	Brent Ward .....	Nissan Patrol



*Brendan Watchorn Class 2 Champion*



*Ever reliable Steve Stewart*





# Snatch Strap Warning

ARTICLE BY ASHLEY LUCAS

Recently in Australia there was a safety recall made on a particular brand of snatch recovery strap sold through Mitre-10 outlets and other hardware outlets. The media headline in Australia was "Safety straps used by 4WD drivers recalled over safety concerns. The product has been missing a piece crucial to the users safety and could cause severe injury or death."

Sounded rather dramatic but reading on, the crucial piece missing was actually a permanent safety warning label on the actual strap and no instructions on the safe use included with the strap. Seems a bit over the top as the actual strap is not considered unsafe, just missing that warning label. Australia has 'Product Safety Australia', which is part of the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission which has regulated a mandatory standard for motor vehicle recovery straps that came into effect in October 2010. The mandatory standard requires that motor vehicle recovery straps manufactured or imported after 1 October 2010 (and all recovery straps supplied after 1 January 2011) carry prominent labelling and warnings to promote safe usage of the product. The standard applies to "recovery straps, also called snatch straps, used to connect two vehicles when one vehicle is freeing another from being bogged. The straps stretch and release energy under tension to achieve a sharp, jerking action."

The regulations came about due to "at least two fatalities and one serious injury that had occurred in Queensland since 2003 to 2010 as a result of the unsafe use of recovery straps. Incorrect attachment to tow bars and tow hooks have resulted in the tow hooks being sheared from vehicles and recoiled at force, striking and fatally injuring onlookers. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there have been many more incidents involving non-fatal injuries."

The regulations state the strap must be permanently labelled with the name or logo of its Australian manufacturer, importer, distributor or other supplier; its batch code or serial number; its minimum breaking strength, expressed in metric units; a recommendation that the minimum breaking strength of the strap should be between 2 and 3 times the vehicle's gross vehicle mass (GVM); advice that the strap must be suited to the GVM of the lighter of the 2 vehicles used in the recovery process, plus a specific warning as supplied by the commission.

Nowhere do the regulations require mention the type of material used in manufacture of the snatch strap, and in my mind there lays the problem.

New Zealand doesn't have any such regulations over the 4WD recovery snatch straps sold in NZ however I'm not sure a label on the strap would make it any safer in actual use. I

have a bigger problem with the actual material used in the production of the snatch strap as there are 4WD snatch recovery straps marketed within NZ that are made from Polyester which does not have any stretch to remove shock loading from the recovery points.

A little research of rope and fibre





manufacturers on the internet will find they say that polyester has little or no stretch and in fact the advantages and characteristics of Polyester are provided as; low stretch; high strength and high break load; and high UV and abrasion resistance (superior to nylon). This means when using polyester straps for snatch recovery you end up shock loading the recovery points on both vehicles and this can have disastrous consequences if one or other of the recovery points fail. However the characteristics and advantages of nylon, the strongest man-made fibre in common use, are that it has excellent shock absorption, is not affected by wide variations in temperature, and is very elastic, high elongation, stretching up to 46% before breaking. This means that its takes the shock loading out of a snatch recovery and allows the use of the kinetic energy build up to assist in the recovery of the stuck vehicle, if proper techniques are followed.

One of the largest manufacturers of off road equipment and accessories in the Southern Hemisphere, states that Snatch straps are typically manufactured from high elongation nylon webbing. Also the thickness,



width and weave all play a part in allowing the strap to stretch and absorb the energy involved in a recovery. What is very important is that by the simple nature of stretching, shock loads on recovery points are reduced, and the stored kinetic energy helps recover the vehicle. Snatch straps are typically designed to stretch by at least 20%. The more they stretch the less shock is placed on the recovery point. Therefore a snatch strap rated for a heavy vehicle won't stretch sufficiently to reduce the shock loading on recovery points.

Around 10 years ago Supercheap Auto were selling the Ridge Ryder branded 4WD equipment including snatch recovery straps, and 4WD recovery straps which along with winch extension straps and tree protectors, are all made from Polyester, a synthetic fibre that has no stretch and made in China. They also marketed a "Ridge Ryder 4WD Recovery Snatch Strap" that was 100% nylon webbing with a quoted "20% genuine stretch" but at a higher cost. Both had guideline instructions for use that were virtually the same

word for word and were almost identical looking products with similar descriptions most would naturally choose the cheaper option.

A fellow four-wheeler new to the recreation did exactly that 10 years ago and learned the hard way about shock loading recovery points.

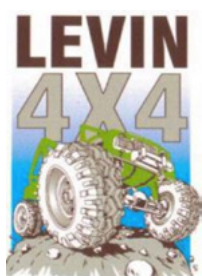
If you are unsure when buying a snatch strap as to if its Polyester or Nylon, then go to the professionals like Cookes Ropes who are rope and webbing experts and actually manufacture the Snatchmaster Recovery strap in NZ and have been doing so for over 25 years. They even offer discounts to 4WD club members.







# Manawatu 4wd and Levin 4x4 Teams Winch Comp 2023



ARTICLE/PHOTOGRAPHY -  
ANDREW FLEMING (LEVIN 4X4)

**M**anawatu 4wd and Levin 4x4 Clubs have teamed up this year to create a two Round Teams Winch Challenge. Teams from around New Zealand compete for ultimate bragging rights through a mixture of tight, technical, and muddy courses.

Manawatu 4wd held the first Round on 4th / 5th August. It took 'Dogg' 4.7km of caution tape and countless weekends to plan over 30km of tracks in a small forest near Palmerston North. There were 2 night stages Friday, and then 15 day stages on Saturday.

The event wasn't without plenty of excitement. The second night stage was mayhem for team NON-SINK who had traveled all the way from Auckland. Driver Mike, and navi Chris sent their Suzuki too hard up one of the hills minutes into the event and exploded their transfer case.

Teams fought hard through the day but by lunchtime it was clear who was going to win. Stan Goodman (driver) / Chris Golding (navi) and Robin Scaife (driver) / Steve Kingswell (navi) left the competition in their dust. "Tararua" finished with 337 points and took out the win.

Second and Third place were a close battle. "Last Resort" from Manawatu totaled 230 points and took out 2nd place. The underdogs from Levin "Sandstorm" put up a great fight with their rusty rigs from the Makara Coast, totaling 209 points they came 3rd.

Levin 4x4 Club are holding the second Round on 16th / 17th September. If previous events they have run are anything to go by, it will be an exciting event with lots of tracks and a great competition. Send them a message if you are interested in entering.



**A** group of amputees were out four-wheel-driving in the mountains and the bush south of Lake Taupō - organisers hope this will be the first of many 4WD excursions into the Kiwi back country.

"Basically what we are doing is saying we have a way now, using four-wheel drive clubs to get mobility-hindered people into the DoC estate for purposes of New Zealanders seeing New Zealand."  
"What I like about four-wheel drive is that it is accessible even for those in a wheelchair."  
Anton Romirer from the Taupō 4WD Club, said another trip was planned for August and would involve snow next time.



Members of the Waikato Bay of Plenty Amputees Society team up with the Taupo 4WD Club for a memorable day out. Photo / Supplied

SOURCE: <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/rotorua-daily-post/>





SOURCE: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/100962806618/>

21/07/2022

## SPECIAL RIGS FOR KIDS

The invitation is for a child with special needs and a supporting adult to have a ride in a truck from Edgar Centre Portsmouth Drive around Dunedin and the Taieri before returning to the Edgar Centre, where there will be a barbecue and entertainment arranged.

There is no need to pre-register, just arrive at the Edgar Centre from 8:30am.

First truck departs at 11:00am

If your child is aged 7 or under please bring their car seat or booster seat with you on the day.

06/10/2022

## SNOW PATROL

This is doing hospital transport for staff who are unable to get in/home for/ from shift changes. One of the things OR4G does as a 'community service' during civil emergencies. *Another reason to join a club folks!*

Snow Patrol by the numbers:

**17 trips** of 3-4 people each trip well over 50 people transported (often taking people home as well as bringing in to hospital)

**Five** club vehicles took part + 3 non members.

- Expect over 400km travelled.

**4:18am** .... when the phone went this morning.

**5:30am** - Control Centre up and running - collation of who could help and what the systems were going to be began.

Massive thanks to DavidM, MatH, BrentM, ShanonA, NigelC, PhilC for your help. And Cam who was able to help.

FROM THE OLD NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

February/March 2008

Visit us on the web @ [www.norwestohv.co.nz](http://www.norwestohv.co.nz)

All Correspondence to: The Secretary, P.O.Box 174, Kumeu, Auckland Email: [norwestohv@xtra.co.nz](mailto:norwestohv@xtra.co.nz)



Low Volume Vehicle Technical Association (inc)

## WHAT IS THE LVVTA

The Low Volume Vehicle Technical Association (LVVTA) enhances road safety for New Zealanders by developing and administering standards for modified and individually constructed vehicles, and the associated low volume vehicle certification system. This system enables enthusiasts and the vehicle modification industry to continue to modify and build vehicles with public safety at the heart of the system.

LVVTA is an association of member associations, ranging from

classic and sports cars to motor homes and disability vehicles. It has a combined total membership of around 160,000 members.

Robert Buchanan is Chair of the LVVTA board, and has had a lifelong career in public law.

Tony Johnson was instrumental in establishing LVVTA in 1992 and has been its Chief Executive Officer for over 20 years.

SOURCE: [https://www.lvvta.org.nz/documents/newsletters\\_pub/LVVTA\\_Newsletter\\_2023\\_November22-June23.pdf](https://www.lvvta.org.nz/documents/newsletters_pub/LVVTA_Newsletter_2023_November22-June23.pdf)



# NATIONAL 4X4 TRIALS 2023/2024 SEASON DATES

**NZ 4X4 TRIALS SERIES**

**ROUND 1**

**COUNTIES**

**12th NOVEMBER 2023**

**OHINEWAI**

HOSTED BY THE COUNTIES 4 WHEELERS

4X4 TRIALS  
BRUNTON  
HYDR  
CET  
AWD

**NZ 4X4 TRIALS SERIES**

**ROUND 2**

**WAIRARAPA**

**9th DECEMBER 2023**

**PIRINOA - LAKE FERRY**

HOSTED BY THE WAIRARAPA 4X4 CLUB

4X4 TRIALS  
BRUNTON  
HYDR  
CET  
AWD

**NZ 4X4 TRIALS SERIES**

**ROUND 3**

**WHANGANUI**

**28th JANUARY 2024**

**TURAKINA**

HOSTED BY THE WANGANUI 4WD CLUB

4X4 TRIALS  
BRUNTON  
HYDR  
CET  
AWD

**NZ 4X4 TRIALS SERIES**

**ROUND 4**

**WHAKATANE**

**25th FEBRUARY 2024**

**WHAKATANE**

HOSTED BY THE EASTERN BAY TWIN DIFF CLUB

4X4 TRIALS  
BRUNTON  
HYDR  
CET  
AWD

**NZ 4X4 TRIALS SERIES**

**ROUND 5**

**SOUTH WAIKATO**

**24th MARCH 2024**

**SOUTH WAIKATO**

HOSTED BY THE SOUTH WAIKATO 4WD CLUB

4X4 TRIALS  
BRUNTON  
HYDR  
CET  
AWD

**NZ 4X4 TRIALS SERIES**

**ROUND 6**

**MT EGMONT**

**13th APRIL 2024**

**TARANAKI**

HOSTED BY THE MT EGMONT 4WD CLUB

4X4 TRIALS  
BRUNTON  
HYDR  
CET  
AWD

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



[facebook.com/Bop4wd](https://facebook.com/Bop4wd)  
Email: [bop4x4club@gmail.com](mailto:bop4x4club@gmail.com)

PHOTO & QUOTE SOURCE  
<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/bay-of-plenty-times/news/waipuna-hospice-gets-financial-boost-from-bop-four-wheel-drivers/>

Bay of Plenty Four Wheel Drive Club donates to the Waipuna Hospice and Te Puke St John.

"With the help of the Powdrell family and BF Goodrich, from three events in four calendar years we have raised \$15,000 for Waipuna Hospice and \$3000 for Te Puke St John," says Club member and C Class 4x4 Champion, Nathan Fogden.

This year the Club is celebrating its 50th Anniversary.

## Waipuna Hospice gets financial boost from BOP Four Wheel Drivers

By Stuart Whitaker

2 Aug, 2023 08:00 AM 2 mins to read

Save Share



C class champion Nathan Fogden (left), BF Goodrich national sales manager John Woolf, landowners Rick, Jenny and John Powdrell, Bop Four Wheel Drive Club vice-president Kendy Owens-Goodall, and Waipuna Hospice funding executive Wayne Bloxham.



# 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](mailto:editor@nzfwda.org.nz)

## 8 - 9 SEPTEMBER 2023

METHVEN MUD AND STEEL. Mainlands 15 year Anniversary Winch Challenge. Located 20 min south west of Methven. Camping is available on site with toilets provided or you can support the local Methven community Limited to 25 trucks, first in first served basis. Classes: Outlaw; Open; Clubman; Challenge (Clubman rules but no WOF required and tyre size up to 930mm). If you have any questions please ask Andy 027 699 1916. Event registration must be completed at least seven (7) days prior to the event. Email [info@4x4events.co.nz](mailto:info@4x4events.co.nz) for details.

## 15 - 17 SEPTEMBER 2023

NZ FISHING HUNTING 4X4 EXPO. ROTORUA DISTINCTION HOTEL.

## 16 - 17 SEPTEMBER 2023

Levin 4x4 Club are holding the Second Round of the Teams Winch Challenge.

## 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

MUD & MEMORIES. Bay of Plenty 4WD Club celebrate 50 years. Fun in the Mud. TECT PARK Waikato Offroad Racing Pits - gates open at 9am. Sausage sizzle lunch. Email [bop4x4club@gmail.com](mailto:bop4x4club@gmail.com) for full details.

## 8 OCTOBER 2023

Auckland 4WD Club's annual Muriwai Beach Clean up.

## 14 OCTOBER 2023

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

## 20 - 23 OCTOBER 2023 - LABOUR WEEKEND

Twin City 4x4 and Hawkes Bay 4x4 Event for NZFWDA members has been cancelled due to damage in the area.

## 3 - 4 NOVEMBER 2023

FORCE4 KING OF CANTERBURY 2023. NZ's First Xtrem 4wd Endurance Race. Carney's Road Alford Forest just outside of Methven. Limited to 30 vehicles. ENTRY \$100. We are using the "2022 King of Canterbury" rule book. 2 Classes: - Unlimited (Outlaw) - As long as the safety gear is there, anything goes eg unlimited tyre size. Truck (Open) - As per Mainland Winch Challenge Rules plus additional gear. Email [info@4x4events.co.nz](mailto:info@4x4events.co.nz) for more details.

## 12 NOVEMBER 2023

NATIONAL 4X4 TRIAL. ROUND 1. Hosted by Counties 4 Wheelers. Ohinewai. See [www.nz4x4trials.co.nz](http://www.nz4x4trials.co.nz) for more info.

## 18 NOVEMBER 2023

Maintenance cut back of the 42 Traverse in Tongariro Forest. Updates on <https://www.friendsof42traverse.nz/news.html>

## 9 DECEMBER 2023

NATIONAL 4X4 TRIAL. ROUND 2. Hosted by Wairarapa 4x Club. Pirinoa - Lake Ferry. See [www.nz4x4trials.co.nz](http://www.nz4x4trials.co.nz) for more info.

## 19 - 22 JANUARY 2024

Manawatu 4WD Club will once again host a Charity fundraising Safari on Wellington Anniversary weekend. Steep spectacular tracks around Ngamatapouri in the upper reaches of the Waitotara valley (the longest no exit road in New Zealand). Camping will be on the sports field. More details will come in due time, but for now keep the weekend free and share with your friends.

## 28 JANUARY 2024

NATIONAL 4X4 TRIAL. ROUND 3. Hosted by Wanganui 4WD Club. Turakina. See [www.nz4x4trials.co.nz](http://www.nz4x4trials.co.nz) for more info.

## 25 FEBRUARY 2024

NATIONAL 4X4 TRIAL. ROUND 4. Hosted by Eastern Bay Twin Diff Club. Whakatane. See [www.nz4x4trials.co.nz](http://www.nz4x4trials.co.nz) for more info.

## 24 MARCH 2024

NATIONAL 4X4 TRIAL. ROUND 5. Hosted by South Waikato 4WD Club. South Waikato. See [www.nz4x4trials.co.nz](http://www.nz4x4trials.co.nz) for more info.

## 13 APRIL 2024

NATIONAL 4X4 TRIAL. ROUND 6. Hosted by Mt Egmont 4WD Club. Taranaki. See [www.nz4x4trials.co.nz](http://www.nz4x4trials.co.nz) for more info.

## 25 MAY 2024

NZFWDA AGM. Taupo. Celebrating 50 years of the NZFWDA. If you are one, or know someone who was part of the initial Taupo meeting 49 years ago and would like to be involved, please contact [pro@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:pro@nzfwda.org.nz)

## FROST FLATS OF RANGITAIKI

Also known as SF70. This is a heads up and a pre warning to all users of SF70....

### STOP IT OR LOSE IT.

It is currently being treated as a dumping ground for poorly fitted plastic trim and as NZ's largest skid pads. "If you enjoy this area as we do and would like to keep access open, please encourage your peers to take home their RUBBISH and 4wd bits. The access track is NOT on DoC land and is private property for access only. You must stay on the track and not skid up the protected frost flats".

There are other users that enjoy skidding up the location as well, side by sides and two wheel motor bikes.

There is a collection of photos with number plates and UTUBE videos on line of these vandals.

**AS ALWAYS PLEASE ENJOY THE AREA AND GIVE IT THE RESPECT IT DESERVES.**



# 2023/2024 NZFWDA Executive

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

**President** - Steve Adam

**Secretary** - John McDonald

**Treasurer** - Barbara Adam

**National PRO** - Peter Vahry

**Membership Officer** -

Jenny Jordan

**National Events Officer** - Brian Howat

**Land Access** - Ian Hutchings

**Projects Officer** -

Grant Purdie

**Systems** - Sam Whalley

**National Competitions Officer** - Scott Biggs

**Southern Zone (SZ) President** - Bob Holmes

**SZ PRO** - John McDonald

**SZ Vice-President** -

Ben Thompson

**Central President** Dan Hawkins

**Central Vice President**

Brian Howat

**Central PRO** John Vruink

**Northern Zone (NZ) President** - Tariq Wasim

**Northern Zone Vice President** -

Dan Barnett

**Northern Zone PRO** -

Ashley Lucas

## President Report

Steve Adam - Email: [president@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:president@nzfwda.org.nz) - Mobile: 027 267 4676



Having recently moved from Ashburton to Greymouth, life has become exceedingly busy with a new job, new home, getting involved in the local community, NZFWDA activities and there's been no time to get the old safari out. Where am I going with this ?

Well, I realised how easy it is to lose sight of how fortunate we are in this beautiful country to be able to go out four wheeling with minimal restrictions to enjoy our chosen form of fun and enjoyment, there is of course the proverbial "but"... those minimal restrictions are increasing rapidly for a number of reasons, most of all, the growing unease and intolerance of 4x4s, in general, due to the irresponsibility of a few (you can add a name here !) that are damaging tracks, parks and reserves, going where they shouldn't etc.

This small group are well on the way to ruin it for everyone else for access to beaches, the DOC estate and

forestry blocks to name a few. What can we do ? As individual 4x4ers, Clubs, Zones, comps and the Association can all reach out to this group to encourage them to join your Club, get them out on a trip or activity, lead by example, strike up a conversation.

As your Association President, I am working with various DOC officials, to build a lasting relationship to keep the door open for NZFWDA Affiliated members ongoing access.

If you want to discuss what you can do, feel free to email me [president@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:president@nzfwda.org.nz)

Tread lightly  
Steve  
President  
NZFWDA



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

**Awarded 2021 - Neville Dunton**

**Awarded 2021 - Mel Street**

**Awarded 2018 - Russell Quin**

**Awarded 2017 - Bob Holmes**

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

**Awarded 2017 - Steve McMin**

**Awarded 2016 - John & Nonnie Cowper**

**Awarded 2015 - Ces Horan**

**Awarded 2015 - Kath Jaggard**

**Awarded 2011 - Peter Vahry**



# National Public Relations Officer Report



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

## National Public Relations

There's another article in Trail Torque about getting involved in 'community works' but from a public relations position there is a big gap in our messaging, and that's being able to reach that large body of four wheelers who don't like rules.

Our recreation has become remarkably popular with vehicle enthusiasts, but less so with many people in the wider community. Almost every week, there are now news items identifying problems created by vehicles off road.

The one-hundred-dollar question is, how do we reach those 'enthusiasts' and get their attention?

It's not something that one person can do, so somehow, we all need to

consider how that might be achieved. There are so many places that four wheelers currently are presently able to access that are very much at risk of being closed off to us, because of poor personal behavior and non-sustainable damage to the environment.

Back 20 years ago in South Africa, that government took dramatic action to try to rein in the impacts of four wheeling on their beaches and backcountry, by banning beach driving and restricting driving on backcountry tracks, unless a training course had been completed, or in a group guided by a trained guide.

That triggered an urgent effort by the various 4WD groups to collaborate in an effort to soften the effects of such rules. They formed a national body and established training protocols

that included the publication of a 4x4 Driver Training Manual. I understand that beaches are still largely off limits, but the back road use is a little more relaxed now.

It would be a severe blow to our recreation if things were to get to that point here in NZ and we must endeavor to ensure that we don't find ourselves dragged into that situation by uninformed 4x4 owners.

Which brings me back to that question, how do we reach those 'enthusiasts' and get their attention?

Peter Vahry  
NZFWDA National Public Relations

## NZFWDA YOUNG DRIVER OF THE YEAR CUP

2008-09	Mitch Seymour
2009-10	Martin Rivers
2010-11	Ash Senior
2011-12	Shaun Robertson
2012-13	William Sturme
2013-14	Renee Harrison
2014-15	Rachel Buckthought
2015-16	Daniel Howat
2017-18	Aaron Tosland
2018-19	Caitlyn Thomsen

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

**REMEMBER** the email for contacting the National H&S team to report accidents, incidents and near-misses is [safety@nzfwda.org.nz](mailto:safety@nzfwda.org.nz)

## FROM THE OLD NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE



Dave O made-it to the surprise of one on-looker

Member of:



tread lightly!  
LEAVING A GOOD IMPRESSION



The Official Magazine of the Shore 4 Wheelers Inc

1



# Northern Zone Clubs

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

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

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



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

Bay of Islands 4x4 Club



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



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



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



[www.geysersland4wd.co.nz](http://www.geysersland4wd.co.nz)

Kaitia 4WD Club Inc.

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



Kaimai 4x4 Club



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



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



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



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



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



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



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[secretary.waik4wdclub@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.waik4wdclub@gmail.com)



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



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

Wilderness Ridge Riders 4WD Club

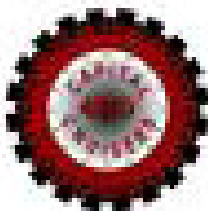


# Central Zone Clubs

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

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

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



Kapiti Family 4Wheel Drive Club

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



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



VEHICLE CLUB Wellington

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

Featherston Family 4x4 Club



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



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

Levin 4WD Club



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



<http://wf4x4c.org.nz>



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



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



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



# Southern Zone Clubs



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

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

Clutha 4WD Club



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



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



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



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



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



[sm4x4club@gmail.com](mailto:sm4x4club@gmail.com)

South Island Deaf 4x4 Club  
[s.i.deaf4x4club@hotmail.com](mailto:s.i.deaf4x4club@hotmail.com)



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





# Why you should join a 4x4 Club...

As a member of a 4WD Club, you will be able to tap into the abundance of knowledge and experience of other members. This can be especially helpful if you are new to 4WDing and want to learn more about off-road driving techniques, vehicle maintenance and equipment advice. Club members can educate and train you on how to tackle certain tracks, and advise what gear ranges you should be on to ensure your safety is paramount.

Get the opportunity to travel with experienced drivers who have traveled far and wide and can provide expert advice on how to prepare for a trip, essentials to pack, and hazards to look out for.

Clubs meet at least once a month and these are a great place for your mental health, to catch up with mates, create memories and meet new people with the same passions and interests.

Stronger in numbers, you are able to work together and negotiate rights to access tracks, parks and lands, to fight against possible restrictions and legislations, and to deliver new opportunities for everyone in the community. You are not only apart of a bigger movement but effectively contributing to the future of 4WDing and its development.

And there is a 4x4 Club in a town near you!

