



Trail Torque

The official Newsletter of the New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association

December 2023 / January / February 2024



Inside...

News & Reports

Club Activities

Coming Events

National 4x4 Trials

PLUS MORE!

**Why you should
change your
tyre air...**

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://nzfwda.tidyhq.com>

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



Deadlines for Trail Torque Submissions

MAR/APR/MAY 2024
Deadline: 16 February 2024
Out to Members: 3 March 2024

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2024
Deadline: 9 June 2024
Out to Members: 24 June 2024

SEP/OCT/NOV 2024
Deadline: 23 August 2024
Out to Members:
8 September 2024

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

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COVER PIC: Auckland 4WD Club Christmas Picnic

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.

Improving Our Association

Have your say...

Clubs and Members are welcome to provide feedback on our Constitution, Regulations and Standing Orders.

All these can be found in the Online Document Library in TidyHQ, on the Governance page.

The Duties of Officers document is currently being worked on and is not ready to be included for feedback just yet.

Remits

Remits are what members can use to suggest changes to the constitution. They need to be received by the Secretary (secretary@nzfwda.org.nz) by 31 January.

The Remit Subcommittee will process those, as required by the Constitution, and forward them to the Executive for confirmation by 31 March. Those that

survive this process will be then sent to Clubs by 31 March.

Regulations

NZFWDA Regulations were created in 2020. They have been updated each year in response to feedback from clubs and members and from the Exec.

The constitution was amended through a remit to require an annual review of the Regulations, preferably at least three months before the AGM. These reviews are conducted by the Remit Subcommittee, based on input received from clubs and members, then submitted to the Exec for approval. Last year there was no input from clubs or members.

This year we are publicising the opportunity for clubs and members to provide input – just email it to remit@nzfwda.org.nz and the Remit

Subcommittee will use it as part of the annual review.

Standing Orders

The Executive and its Remits Subcommittee have been developing a new Standing Orders document, which will apply to Zones, Comps and the Exec too. It mainly concerns the conduct of meetings.

This document has taken into account the Constitution and current practices, and in the case of Comps, the way that Comps operates.

The latest draft has been sent out for feedback, which Clubs should channel through their Zone, hopefully by mid-December. If this timing is too short, do provide feedback to remit@nzfwda.org.nz saying that and proposing timing that will work for you.

Club Reps and Club Delegates

Just a reminder about the change in defining how club representation works. This was agreed as a remit at the 2023 AGM and was explained in the previous issue of Trail Torque.

Delegates

This applies to the National AGM and has not changed. Each club has one vote per 20 (or part of 20) members. For example, a club with 63 members has 4 votes.

A club can appoint one or more delegates, each delegate holding a maximum of 3 votes.

See Constitution clause 22 “Voting at General Meeting”.

Club Representatives

This is new, as from 21 May 2023.

Zone meetings have not had clear rules. Usually there was just a show of hands by those present, although now some zones are tightening up.

The National AGM has proportional representation through the delegate method (bigger clubs have more votes).

Zone committees will now include club representatives instead of delegates. This will help clarify the voting method for zones.

The new draft Standing Orders propose single representation at Zone meetings (each club has one vote). It will be interesting to see any feedback from members, clubs and zones about this.

Health and Safety

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

To date all such reports have shown that the clubs concerned have handled

things well. The subcommittee has used many of the incoming reports as inspiration for “lessons learned” to be published to members through safety-related articles in Trail Torque and e-news.

The email address safety@nzfwda.org.nz has been set up as an easy way for clubs and members to contact the H&S Subcommittee. Emails to that

address are automatically distributed to all members of the subcommittee.

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

Help reduce your fuel costs & support the NZFWDA too!

The NZFWDA is working with GCo Fuels, who provide fuel cards for Mobil, BP, and Waitomo fuels. Using these fuel cards provides a 1c per litre return to the NZFWDA, so you save and the NZFWDA benefits too. It is amazing how that 1c adds up each month.

Please remember the BP and Waitomo card option as a viable option. The saving we can provide is generally on average, at least 15c per litre off the BP & Waitomo pump prices. This is based on weekly National pricing.

...on average, at least 15c per litre off the BP & Waitomo pump prices...

Very competitive 11c per litre discount off Mobil pump price. The key difference is that Mobil is a set discount of 11cpl discount, whereas the BP/Waitomo pricing is based on weekly pricing.

Mobilcard is also accepted at many Waitomo, NPD, and Allied branded stations throughout NZ. One monthly invoice paid by direct debit on 5th month following. Exceptional personal service to clients. Option for BP or Waitomo cards with

competitive weekly National pricing
No card or transaction fees
Ability for each card to have transaction, daily, and monthly spend limits.

Contact <https://www.gabbcostreduction.co.nz/fuel-savings/> for information.

An application form can be found at <https://www.nzfwda.org.nz/news/687>

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.

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.



BULLBARS - Alarming Update

Our delegate to LVVTA has alerted us to this new message from Waka Kotahi, or NZTA as we knew it. This is such new news that we can't add any comment until we see if we can find out more about it.

LVVTA has recently had a clarification from NZTA regarding fitting of bull bars on airbag equipped vehicles.

There is a commonly held belief that a vehicle that is not required to meet frontal impact compliance can have a custom or modified bull bar. From a frontal impact compliance perspective there is no change, however, NZTA has made it clear to LVVTA that any light vehicle that is

also fitted with frontal impact airbags AND has modifications that may affect the operation of the airbag system cannot be certified or pass a WoF.

What this means in the context of this discussion is if you are fitting a bull bar to a vehicle fitted with frontal impact airbags, then unless the bull bar is an unmodified frontal airbag compliant bull bar, LVVTA will be unable to certify the vehicle and it will also not pass a WoF inspection.

Although bull bars on utes and 4WD's are the most likely vehicles to be affected by this clarification, this information applies to ALL light vehicle classes and ANY modification

that may affect the operation of the frontal airbag system.

LVVTA appreciate that this is likely to cause some frustration from the public and modifiers. For some it will be different to how it has been previously interpreted and this has been pointed out to NZTA, but it is what we have been told we need to apply.

For reference, NZTA has information about fitting bull bars to vehicles on their website: Bullbars | Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/vehicles/warrants-and-certificates/vehicle-equipment/bullbars/>)



PULLING

ARTICLE BY DAN BARNETT

A lot of us have done some pulling, some have done more pulling than others, some of us have even helped others with their pulling.

So when it comes to winching there are a few things to think about or even remember, to make it an enjoyable experience.

When someone is new to doing something, you don't know whether you are doing it correctly or not, or even if you are doing it safely.

If you see me cutting the top out of a 44gallon fuel drum with a gas axe and then you go away and do it yourself, you may blow yourself up as you didn't see me fill it with water first.

So you or your offsideers get yourselves into a position where you need to do some pulling to extricate yourselves.

You walk around to the front of the vehicle to start spooling out the winch cable.

Do you throw a quick glance at the bolts holding the winch on to see that they appear tight? Is the splicing holding the hook on secure?

You select a winch anchor point to do

your recovery. Is the anchor likely to move towards you when you apply the load, or are you more likely to move towards it? Moving towards it is preferable to ensure a quick winch out. Are the people around you out of the strike range if the selected anchor point or the winch cable decide they wish to part company with their respective anchor points?

Have you established good communications with the person inside the vehicle, who will be operating the winch, pretty important if your hands are close to the winch.

These are all things that those with experience, normally do without even appearing to check or think about, that the new winching people who have not had any training are not aware of.

If you are a new wincher don't be afraid to ask if you are not sure what to do. If you are an experienced wincher, don't be a dick, once upon a time you didn't know what to do either, so if asked, help them out or if you see winching happening in a manner that probably shouldn't be being done, mention it to whoever is doing it.

If winching is done in a correct manner, it works beautifully and makes the days progress faster, and



we all end up doing more 4 wheeling. This is not an exhaustive list of things that need to be done when winching, just some things to be aware of. A new winch owner will spend good coin on a winch and will want to use it.

If you haven't had some tuition/training, GET SOME, it will make your recoveries better and faster. Make sure that the gear you purchase to use with your winching is suitable for the job required.

The Number One Rule for Winching, STOP, Take a breath, Take a look, now decide what you need to do.

This article is not produced for or by the safety committee. It is produced purely to help you have a think before your start applying massive pressures to things that may or may not move in the direction you wish them to.

Celebrate
50
years
of our advocacy.

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY.

The NZFWDA 50th AGM in Taupo, at the Wairakei Resort Hotel, will be Saturday 25th May 2024, with a celebration dinner that evening.

It is probably time to consider making a room booking for that weekend at Wairakei, and by quoting this reference **AGM24**, members get a **10% discount** off the websites best available rate, when they book themselves online.

There will be daily tours organised by the Taupo 4WD Club in the week prior to the AGM.

If you have commercial affiliations with four wheeling and are interested in supporting the annual meeting, in return for some marketing support from the NZFWDA, we'd be pleased to talk with you. You can email pro@nzfwda.org.nz

WHY YOU SHOULD CHANGE YOUR TYRE AIR...

How many of you change the air in your tyres after coming out of winter and going into Summer?

BY DAN BARNETT

Do you know that air is heavier in winter than summer? So by removing the winter air from your tyres and replacing it with summer air you will make your vehicle lighter. If your vehicle is lighter you will use less fuel.

A bit of science, gases compress/contract when colder, so we can say that winter air has more weight per cubic metre than warmer summer air. The greater activity of the heated molecules (warmer air) increases the spacing between neighbouring molecules and thus reduces air density. The decreasing air density then lowers the pressure exerted by the air. Warm air is thus lighter (less dense) than cold air and consequently exerts less pressure.

In summer we don't tend to have the same amount of mud or other terrain that requires as low an air pressure to maintain the required traction.

Density is directly proportional to pressure and indirectly proportional to temperature. As pressure increases, with temperature constant, density



"...winter air has more weight per cubic metre than warmer summer air."

increases. Conversely when temperature increases, with pressure constant, density decreases. This means in Summer, Winter air is

running at higher temperatures and pressures so the science proves that we should change our winter air for summer air.

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.

AUCKLAND 4WD CHRISTMAS PICNIC

Like many other clubs, Auckland 4WD Club sets aside one day ahead of Xmas to have a family picnic trip and for this year it was on the 26 November in the Waiuku Forest. The pine forest is relatively small and sits on the north bank of the Waikato River where that exits to the Tasman Sea.

The Club are able to access it only four times a year, as it is popular with many other recreations. Much of the forest has been gobbled up over the years for its underlying iron sand, which is the base feedstock for the nearby steel mill.

Sixteen families in a variety of 4x4's divided into two groups and were on their way into the forest tracks by 9:45 am.

This is a forest that's not managed for timber, so the trees are often bent, broken, or just inconveniently positioned for easy travel. Slow to negotiate, with some tricky sand climbs, we eventually reached our picnic spot just after midday.

A long-time tradition for these pre-Xmas trips has the Club providing a dessert of strawberries and chocolate

log. For the first time ever, we had to substitute chocolate cakes this year, as a result of the usual supplier putting the wrong date on the order and no chocolate logs to collect early on that morning. The cakes seemed to be agreeable to those present fortunately.

Following the lunch about half the families headed to the gate to go home while others continued their adventures in another section of the forest closer to the river.



SOUTH COAST LOVE

BY BARRY INSULL AND ANDREW GEE



Stick to the track

Wellington's Cross Country Vehicle Club (CCVC) ran its twenty third annual clean-up of the "Red Rocks" coastline on the South Coast earlier this month. It is just part of the community work that the club does, perhaps this year's highlight was the introduction of 63 kiwis to Terawhiti Station as a result of CCVC's

assistance to trapline maintenance that has removed predators to the kiwi over the last four years.

This year's cleanup produced what was described as a "ute" load, the volume of rubbish collected was well down on the early years. Twenty-two vehicles of club members fronted up

on the day. Wellington City Council supported the effort by providing the fixings for the traditional BBQ at one of the historic baches afterwards.

While discussing this very popular area, it is disappointing that a small number of 4x4's and motor bikes continue to act in a manner that



Devil's gate at Red Rocks



irritates both landowners and the general public.

The Club's principal liaison officer, Barry Insull suggests It is quite likely that the Wellington City Council will look closely at the continued, relatively open access to the coast as they draft a new Coastal Reserves Management Plan.

Don't let this behaviour threaten the current easy access to the coast, if heading that way please act in a responsible manner and be mindful that postings on social media are not necessarily correct in terms of public or private areas of access.

Enjoy the South Coast, stick to the track and share the area with all the users.



Capital Kiwi release in Makara



23rd year of beach cleanups



CCVC President Penne meeting kiwi

...act in a responsible manner and be mindful that postings on social media are not necessarily correct...



From Steve Adam,
NZFWDA President

We have been working with Bluebridge Cook Strait Ferries to achieve a special deal:

NZFWDA Members will **SAVE 15% on all public retail passenger and passenger vehicle fares.**

There are, of course, terms and conditions. We will post this on TidyHQ soon.

BLUEBRIDGE

COOK STRAIT FERRIES



CZ CLUB TRUCK CHALLENGE



The Club Truck Challenge has started for this summer, heading to Hintzy's farm in Taihape, on the day that the All Blacks became tomorrow's chip paper. It was a hot day, but the ground was so wet, that only the early starters got a good run, before the ground was churned up to mush. It required sharp tyres and an early run at the hazard for a decent score.

I've spent years trying to promote the Club Truck Challenge, as a level playing field, where things are kept as even as possible, as intended by the original organizer Mark Watchorn. But at recent Club meeting, old mate Bruce, just stood up and said it's a great weekend away and straight away had interest from four new people, I guess I was over thinking it. If you want to be really confused look at the speed section times and see if choice of vehicle makes any difference.



2023/2024 SERIES ROUND 1

TAIHAPE

REPORT BY ANDREW GEE



Kevin Galbraith Jeep action

The next Round is due to be held in Wellington, in February and will be run by the Wellington Jeep Club.

All the comp details can be found at www.sporty.co.nz/czctc



Hintzy speed section

"...old mate Bruce just stood up and said it's a great weekend away..."

SPEED SECTION

1....Chris Mason	Suzuki Jimny	61.34
2....Brent Ward	Nissan GQ	62.49
3....Kevin Galbraith.....	Jeep Wrangler TJ.....	65.07
4....Dave Hintz.....	Nissan GQ	65.99
5....Peter Pope	Jeep Wrangler JK	75.07
6....Dave Seymour.....	Landrover Discovery .	78.28
7....Dave Smithson	Pajero 2wd	80.9
8....Andrew Gee	Jeep Wrangler TJ.....	81.98
9....Dudley Harris.....	Jeep Wrangler JL....	122.85
10...Steve Stewart.....	Nissan GQ	142.53

OA DriverTruck..... Class

1....Brent Ward	Fooken Boogie.....	Nissan GQ LS1	4
2....Dave Hintz.....	Shearers shemozzle ..	Nissan GQ LS1	4
3....Chris Mason	Zook	Suzuki Jimny	1
4....Kevin Galbraith....	Wire rapper rangler	Jeep TJ	3
5....Andrew Gee	Voodoo child	Jeep TJ	3
6....Peter Pope	Popemobile	Jeep JK.....	3
7....Dave Seymour	Disco dancer	Discovery 2	3
8....Steve Stewart.....	Smokey	Nissan GQ	3
9....Dudley Harris	Hi Tec	Jeep JL	4
10..Dave Smithson....	Itsy bitsy	Pajero.....	2
11..Ryan	Bits of bushi	Pajero.....	2
12..Brendan Watchorn..	Broken mitsi	Pajero.....	2



Brent Ward Class 4 boogie

Conservation board nominations are open

The Minister of Conservation is seeking nominations for membership of conservation boards in 2024.

"We are seeking nominations from those with experience, expertise, and links with the local community."

Nominees may have knowledge of nature conservation, kaitiakitanga, natural earth and marine sciences, mātauranga Māori, cultural heritage, tikanga, te ao Māori, recreation, tourism, the interests of the local community, and features of conservation land in the area.

Any person or organisation can make a nomination. Nominations close 5 pm, Wednesday 31 January 2024.

Nominate a conservation board member using the online form at <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/statutory-and-advisory-bodies/conservation-boards/>

Or, if required, use the online form at the above link and return via email or post. Details are in the form.

If you would prefer a paper nomination form or have questions, email: nominations@doc.govt.nz.

How it started....

The NZFWDA Club listing from 1974

CONTACT ADDRESSES		12 6 74
BRIDGE CITY FOUR WHEELERS C/- MR ROBIN ALLEN NEW LYNN MOTORS P.O. BOX 15-110 NEW LYNN AUCKLAND	South Otago LAND-ROVER OWNERS CLUB P.O. BOX 232 BALCLUTHA	
MR SANDY FERGUSON (Secretary) CANTERBURY LAND-ROVER OWNERS CLUB P.O. BOX 13-275 CHRISTCHURCH	Southland LAND-ROVER OWNERS CLUB P.O. BOX 370 INVERCARGILL	
MR BRUCE COOK (Secretary) NELSON FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB 57 TIPANI STREET NELSON	MR S.J. LAWTON (Secretary) OTAGO LAND-ROVER OWNERS CLUB 46 PAINUI ROAD DUNEDIN	
MR IAN GRANSWICK (EAST COAST 4 WHEEL TE KARAKA DRIVE CLUB) GISBORNE	MR ROSS PENNINGTON (Secretary) NORTHLAND RIDGERIDERS P.O. BOX 355 WHANGAREI	
WAIKATO FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB P.O. BOX 9313 HAMILTON	OFF-ROAD RALLY ASSOCIATION INC P.O. BOX 21-250 HENDERSON AUCKLAND	
MR B. GREER MANAWATU OVERLANDERS C/- HOKOMITU SERVICE STATION ALBERT STREET a Te Awa Awa Street PALMERSTON NORTH	MR TERRY REYNOLDS FLAT 9 29 PENTLAND AVENUE MOUNT EDEN AUCKLAND	
MR STUART HALL (Secretary) WAIKARAPPA FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB 19 BROOKLYN ROAD CARTERTON	WELLINGTON CROSS COUNTRY VEHICLE CLUB (INC) P.O. BOX 3752 WELLINGTON	
MR GRANT HOWARD (Public Relations) 36 HIGHLAND AVENUE TITIRANGI AUCKLAND	MR BRUCE BATTIE (SECRETARY) EAST COAST 4 WHEEL DRIVE CLUB TE KARAKA PRIMARY SCHOOL TE KARAKA GISBORNE	
MR ALB TAKE B. CURRAN AUCKLAND 4 WHEEL DRIVE CLUB P.O. BOX 6712 AUCKLAND	MR GEOFFREY J. BRAIN R.D. 9 TE PUKE (DAY OF PLENTY FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB)	

SOURCE: TAUPO 4WD CLUB AGM. COURTESY PETER VAHRY

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 a part 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 - see pages 19 & 20 of this edition!

Before



That wet start to 2023 created problems for many 4x4 venues and the Maratoto track on Department of Conservation (DOC) land was no exception. It was kept closed under the agreement with DOC for much of that time but when opened, it came under heavy use and not all of that use was sympathetic to the concept of sustainability. Eventually the route had to be closed earlier than planned due to the damage.

A new community partnership agreement between DOC and the NZFWDA had to be negotiated too, and that took several months to complete, along with an associated site-specific safety plan for the necessary digger work. That paperwork was eventually completed and agreed to during October and a hired digger manned by Steve Morley as a volunteer, worked the week of 20 to 26 November to do the maintenance along the 7 kilometres of track.

As Steve reported to DOC... "We are well underway even with the moisture content both coming from the sky and what's historic from recent events. We have completed around the gate and up to the first culvert with approx. 50 ton of river rock and fines. Ces carted it which was an enormous help.



Before

Maratoto digger work for 2023

After



Track is very slippery. We are 3 kms along now after 2 days (long) and are nearly up to the last silt traps. We have replaced 90% of the geotek fabric. Some was still OK. Plenty of track reshaping as the water is ponding in a few areas. Man, there are some monster native worms and centipedes!"

He was assisted by a couple of others and by Ces Horan . Ces lives nearby and used his tractor and truck to shift the river rock up to the start of the track to stabilise where water and vehicles had carved deep ruts. As Steve and the digger moved up the track, they cleared water cut-outs, replaced silt netting and tidied the track surface to minimise water pooling and soft soil areas. A culvert pipe was hauled in to drain an area close to the upper Tairua River that has underlying peat which can quickly disintegrate once the hardened surface is damaged.

Steve and his team did find a few moments to check out their surroundings and sent through a photo of a unique Kauri Snail. Although the work was completed, it will need to be inspected by DOC and allowed to settle before the route is opened for public use, which, if the weather is favorable, could be close to Xmas.

After



Ces rock

Unique Kauri Snail





Charles Hut

A group from Taupo 4WD Club spent two weeks exploring Canterbury and Otago in April. Our packed itinerary saw us clock up over 4000km, round trip from Taupo. During the core of the trip, we rarely drove on sealed roads and were off grid for up to three days at a time. We also had nights of luxury on a high country station and at a historic hotel. It rained, the wind blew, the sun shined, and it snowed, at what now seemed like just the right time to give us a better experience. The following is a very brief report of our adventure.

Six vehicles gathered at the Windwhistle Garage to essentially mark the start of the trip. Four more would join later, making a convoy of up to 10 vehicles and 18 people.

We headed straight into the Canterbury High Country. Our destination for the night, Glenfalloch Station, a working farm that offers accommodation in their renovated shearers quarters. They also supplied dinner and breakfast, leaving not much for us to do but enjoy the mountainous surroundings.

The next day we had permission to drive the 20-odd-km through to the far boundary of Glenfalloch Station.

The track sidles around the base of 2000m high mountains, from the Rakaia River through to Lake Stream.

The scenery was impressive. We spotted five wild deer on the way through and stopped at Charles Hut for morning tea. Lake Heron Station



South Island Trip 2023



allowed us to exit via their property. This brought us out at Hakatere, where we stopped to look at some historic buildings.

A poor weather forecast, rising river levels, and an offer to be guided by an experienced local prompted a change to the itinerary's following two days. We headed back to Windwhistle to meet Scott, who would kindly lead us up the Harper and Avoca Rivers... in the rain... and the dark!

The weather was forecast to turn bad by the evening so Scott was keen to show us the best of the area

while the sun was still shining. We nosed onto the massive Wilberforce River for lunch before heading up the Harper River. 4WD tracks led us to the confluence to the Harper and Avoca Rivers. After crossing the Avoca, we followed a steep rocky track to a high point for some awesome views of the river valleys. Back down at river level, Scott led us up the Avoca River to Basins Hut – our campsite for the night. It was now 5pm and leaving Glenfalloch at 8am this morning seemed like a distant memory after a lot of driving. Some of the group were content with setting up camp and settling in. The rest of us carried



Avoca River



Harper River



Harper River



Wilberforce River

on upstream where the boulders got bigger and the driving became more interesting. The valley narrowed and the mountains got steeper. The scenery was stunning – rugged mountains, beech forest, crystal clear water, rocks of all different colours and the setting sun. A couple of us walked the bit of un-drivable track to Avoca Hut which had an outdoor wood fired bath tub and a 44 gallon drum BBQ – what a place!

On our return trip to camp the rain set in... and then it got dark – now that was a fun drive! Finding our way was difficult as we could only see what is in our headlights, nothing to the sides. We made it back to camp at 9pm to set up camp and have dinner.



Mt Studholme

The rain fell for most of the night. The next day we drove out of the Avoca in higher but still clear water. The Harper however was a cloudy blue and turned to brown as the rain continued to fall on our way upstream.

The upper Harper was a fun and technical drive, especially with the higher water levels. We stopped at the end point where a DOC sign states 'no vehicles past this point' and rolled out a couple of awnings for shelter from the rain. It was 3°C at midday and snow was falling on the mountains above.

After a night at Peel Forest, we all stopped in Geraldine for fuel and to have a puncture repaired before driving to the Mt Studholme track. The climb up to the summit was steep but straight forward and we enjoyed great views over the Canterbury Plains.

We headed further into the track and came across a washout that required some track building and spotting to get around.

We got to near the end of the track and could see that it was pretty washed out ahead. Most of the crew decided to retreat and head to Tekapo where we would stay the next two nights. Three vehicles carried on and had a great time navigating the water ruts and steep hills to complete the track.

We drove to Tekapo via Waimate, Meyers Pass and Hakataramea Pass in the evening light and stopped for photos at the summit of Hakataramea Pass. On leaving, one vehicle wouldn't start so it was towed into Tekapo and dropped at the mechanics the next morning where they diagnosed a failed crank angle sensor.

To be continued....PART 2 NEXT EDITION

NATIONAL 4X4 TRIALS

All you need to know about the New Zealand 4x4 Trials is available on line:

Website: www.nz4x4trials.co.nz

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/nz4x4trials?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Sam Bolton Photography: (Generally produces a photo album after each round) <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100059604559620&mibextid=ZbWKwL>

TJW Photos: (Generally produces a photo album after each round) <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063736771139&mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Lucas Oil NZ (Season sponsor) They post our event winner each round. <https://www.facebook.com/lucasoilnz?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Nitro Customs: (builds trials trucks) <https://www.facebook.com/nitrocustomsnz?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Cowper trucks: (builds trials trucks) <https://www.facebook.com/www.cowpertrucks.co.nz?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Generally if you search Youtube there are videos posted after each round aswell:

<https://youtu.be/jCFIKy1kMDE?si=Xzs0K-2xdSJooO2h>

<https://youtu.be/wx4v9nNPw6U?si=0HX3M1RewRctihlz>



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

9 DECEMBER 2023

NATIONAL 4X4 TRIAL. ROUND 2. Hosted by Wairarapa 4x4 Club. Pirinoa - Lake Ferry. See www.nz4x4trials.co.nz for more info.

13 DECEMBER 2023

Thompson's Track clearing day. Cutting back and trimming vegetation, bring your loppers, handsaws and importantly your gloves. As well as those cutting back vegetation people are also required to clear what has been cut off the track. If you can assist please confirm your attendance by email to ntpro@nzfwda.org.nz as soon as possible.

19 - 22 JANUARY 2024

Manawatu 4WD Club Charity fundraising Safari. Steep spectacular tracks around Ngamatapouri in the upper reaches of the Waitotara valley. Camping will be on the sports field. More details here <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2775655022755011>

27 - 28 JANUARY 2024

Ongarue School Family 4WD Safari, run by King Country 4WD Club. This event is a 'follow me' Safari for "shiny" 4WD Vehicles with a low ratio transfer box. Camping at Ongarue School Grounds. Limited to 50 vehicles. Check out www.kc4wd.co.nz for full details.

28 JANUARY 2024

NATIONAL 4X4 TRIAL. ROUND 3. Hosted by Wanganui 4WD Club. Turakina. See www.nz4x4trials.co.nz for more info.

24 - 25 FEBRUARY 2024

CONQUER THE PALACE 2024. Hosted by Norwest OHV Club at Possum Palace. Mix of an individual Enduro & Winch Challenge. Must be a member of the NZFWDA. Non-spectator event. email possumpalace4x4@gmail.com for full details.

25 FEBRUARY 2024

NATIONAL 4X4 TRIAL. ROUND 4. Hosted by Eastern Bay Twin Diff Club. Whakatane. See 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 for more info.

13 APRIL 2024

NATIONAL 4X4 TRIAL. ROUND 6. Hosted by Mt Egmont 4WD Club. Taranaki. See www.nz4x4trials.co.nz for more info.

25 MAY 2024

NZFWDA AGM. Wairakei Resort Hotel, 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

President Report

Steve Adam - Email: president@nzfwda.org.nz - Mobile: 027 267 4676



It's quite easy to get absorbed into the business of life and work, for me I easily forget how fortunate I am, living on the West Coast; a literal hub for 4x4ing, hanging out with like-minded 4x4 drivers and working with a great team on the NZFWDA Executive.

In the last 2 weeks, Barb and I have been up to the Denniston Plateau twice:

The first time we got to rescue a young fella and his 3 female friends... (don't ask !) he was completely unprepared to go 4x4ing, no recovery gear, not even a shovel. We sprung him out of the bog he was in, after explaining the merits of not using a tow ball to snatch off, we sent him on his way with the phone number of his local 4x4 club.

Second time we met up with some of the team from the Nelson Club, we took the easy option of the plateau again, great bunch to hang out with, met up with some Lads from

Canterbury who got a modest lesson of how good the old Nissan safari can be!

The NZFWDA Executive, this bunch of people are outstanding, diverse in background and opinion. Without exception, all with a love of 4x4ing.

The whole team works hard on your behalf and benefit to ensure a future of our sport.

Tread lightly
Steve
President
NZFWDA



National Public Relations Officer Report

Peter Vahry - Email: natlpro.nzfwda@gmail.com



The National Public Relations role

This is a role within the NZFWDA that is possibly a bit of a mystery to many members and given what it encompasses, that's not surprising.

In my view, the role covers both internal and external matters, however it is very dependent on awareness of what is happening within the NZFWDA, affiliated clubs and what land managers positions about 4WD use are.

Tools for our public relations are our website, our Facebook page, the monthly E-news and of course this quarterly Trail Torque publication.

People often point out that there are many other social media options but monitoring and 'feeding' those can become life consuming.

There is an element of being a 'face' of the NZFWDA on occasions, such

as lobbying for four wheeling, or sadly sometimes apologising for it.

At the November executive meeting, it was agreed that we should endeavour to expand the outreach of Trail Torque to raise awareness of what this association is doing to improve opportunities, while also looking after those places where we can enjoy driving our four wheel drives.

Another facet of public profile is being seen by the wider 4x4 community through planning and promotion of the NZFWDA, via 4WD related shows and expos. For these, we still need regional help with representation.

If we arrange to be at a regional 'show', having locals there able to talk about what their region offers is very valuable.

Such events also provide useful contact with the commercial side of

our recreation and the marketing for commercial financial support for NZFWDA activities. We've re-activated the United 4WD category of commercial/corporate supporter for the annual fee of \$230 to encourage greater involvement by those businesses that provide services to the 4x4 community. Reach out to us if you know of interest in supporting the NZFWDA.

Summing up, it is the members who are likely to be the most knowledgeable about local issues, so a public relations person is dependent on them for such news. We can't recognise things we don't know about!

Please keep us informed so we can get the news out to others.

Peter Vahry
NZFWDA National Public Relations

Northern Zone PRO Report



Ashley Lucas

Thompsons Track

The Northern Zone has been talking to the Matamata-Piako District Council about the condition and future of Thompsons track, at least of the Te Aroha side. Apart from damage to the track, it is also very much overgrown with vegetation making it difficult to see the edge of the track.

The District Council are going to put a machine in to repair track damage early in 2024 and have asked for assistance from the NZFWDA to clear the vegetation back. This is an ideal opportunity to help the District Council keep the track open for four wheeling.

The Northern Zone will have a track clearing day on Saturday the 13th

January 2024. Yes, we are aware it is when many are still away on holidays but the work needs to be done before the digger goes in late January. It is hoped enough people will come on the day that there won't be a need to do the Sunday as well.

Plan is to go in and cut back vegetation and the Zone is requesting the assistance from all Clubs and members in the greater Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Auckland (and further afield) areas to come along and help on the day.

We may be able to get a vehicle or two up the track, but that is not confirmed at this stage so it will mostly be a walk in on the day clearing as we go.

It is only cutting back and trimming vegetation so bring your loppers, handsaws and importantly your gloves. Those with power tools that have the appropriate qualifications and experience may be able to use them. Approval is being sought for this. As well as those cutting back vegetation people are also required to clear what has been cut off the track.

If you can assist please confirm your attendance by email to nthpro@nzfwda.org.nz as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Ashley.
NORTHERN ZONE PRO

LIFE MEMBERS OF THE NEW ZEALAND FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ASSOCIATION.

Awarded 2021

Neville Dunton

Awarded 2021

Mel Street

Awarded 2018

Russell Quin

Awarded 2017

Bob Holmes

Awarded 2017

Eileen Revell (nee Austin)

Awarded 2017

Steve McMinn

Awarded 2016

John & Nonnie Cowper

Awarded 2015

Ces Horan

Awarded 2015

Kath Jaggard

Awarded 2011

Peter Vahry

NZFWDA Directory

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Central PRO: John Vruink czpro@nzfwda.org.nz

Southern President: Bob Holmes szpresident@nzfwda.org.nz

Southern Vice President: Ben Thompson szvicepresident@nzfwda.org.nz

Southern PRO: John McDonald szpro@nzfwda.org.nz

Patron: Neville Dunton patron@nzfwda.org.nz

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.



auckland4wd.org.nz

Bay of Islands 4x4 Club



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cozzie4x4@gmail.com



hunt2@windowslive.com



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Kaitia 4WD Club Inc.

Kaitia4x4club@hotmail.com



Kaimai 4x4 Club



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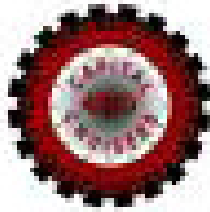
Wilderness Ridge Riders 4WD Club

Central Zone Clubs

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

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Wellington
www.ccvc.org.nz

Featherston Family 4x4 Club



www.hb4wd.co.nz

Kapiti Family 4Wheel Drive Club

kapitifamily4wd@outlook.com



www.kiwi4x4.org.nz

Levin 4WD Club



www.m4wdc.org.nz



www.naki4wd.org



www.twincity4x4.co.nz



<http://wf4x4c.org.nz>



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Southern Zone Clubs



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Clutha 4WD Club



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