

# Trail Torque

The official Newsletter of the New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association



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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www.nzfwda.org.nz https://nzfwda.tidyhq.com

#### **FACEBOOK:**

https://www.facebook.com/NewZealandFourWheelDrive AssociationInc

Our Behaviour Affects Our Future



# Deadlines for Trail Torque Submissions

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

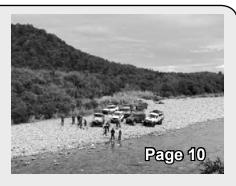
SEP/OCT/NOV 2024 Deadline: 23 August 2024 Out to Members: 8 September 2024

DEC 2024/JAN/FEB 2025 Deadline: 22 November 2024 Out to Members: 8th December 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:** Taupo 4WD Club South Island Trip 2023

# THE NEW ZEALAND FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ASSOCIATION

 Values the highest safety standards before, during and after all 4WD activities. Anything underlined in this edition will either open up in your internet browser or open your email to send the person a query.

- \* Endorses respect and care while participating in 4WD activities in the Environment.
- ★ Acknowledges the contribution of its members and their values.
- \* Values and respects land owners and land users.
- \* Encourages non-discrimination of all participants.

#### ARTICLES AND LETTERS NZFWDA DISCLAIMER.

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

# **Standing Orders**

After a long period of drafting and consulting with Comps, Zones and Clubs, the NZFWDA now has a comprehensive set of Standing Orders. These are mainly about the conduct of meetings and apply to Zones, Comps and the National Exec.

A theme throughout the Standing Orders is to strengthen the role of Clubs in the Zones, given that the Zones are supposed to be the collective voice of their Clubs.

A special vote of thanks goes to lan Hutchings who, as a member of the Remit Subcommittee, has provided great expertise and done most of the work developing the Standing Orders.

The finalised document has been submitted to the Exec for formal

approval. Once approved, the Standing Orders will be published in the Online Document Library and publicised by email.

We will be providing some explanatory notes along with the Standing Orders document, also some proposed Exec resolutions to tide us through until we rework our constitution as required by the new legislation.

# 2024 Regulations Approved

We called for input from clubs and members on any queries or suggestions for improvements to the NZFWDA Regulations. No feedback was received.

The Remit Subcommittee then reviewed the Regulations, and found there appeared to be no changes needed.

The Exec approved the unchanged Regulations, which came into effect as the 2024 version on 25 February 2024. The document was published in the Online Document Library, with version and filename updated accordingly.

At the AGM in May, there will be an agenda item allowing for discussion of the Regulations.

# To the Editor

Phil writes: "Had a good laugh at Dan Barnett's changing winter air" (last edition).

"Will his next be published on 1st April, and titled –why you should only buy your fuel on a cold and frosty morning?"

Phil FOUR WHEEL DRIVER SPEAKING OUT WITH SCIENCE.

# Club Reps

ach Club can nominate one of its members as its representative to the Zone. This is separate to the AGM Delegate system, where a Club can appoint one or more of its members as Delegates.

All this was fully explained in the last two editions of Trail Torque.

The role of the Club Representative is defined in Constitution clause 23 a) and detailed in the new Standing Orders.

So a reminder to Clubs: Email your Zone Secretary with the name of your Club Rep!

# Remits and the New Act

The Incorporated Societies
Act 2022 and Incorporated
Societies Regulations 2023 came
into force on 5 October 2023.

We have long known that a big job lies ahead of the Remit Subcommittee to amend or, more likely, replace our Constitution. When we do that work, we intend to also provide some guidance for Clubs which they may find useful when dealing with their own constitutions.

Meanwhile our current Constitution needed a number of tidy-ups, for which the Remit Subcommittee has drafted several remits. There was also one remit proposed by a Club.

The remits for the 2024 AGM have been submitted to the Exec for confirmation, which may result in some amendments being made. Then the remits will be published to Clubs by 31 March, as required under the Constitution.

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be sent to <a href="mailto:editor@nzfwda.org.nz">editor@nzfwda.org.nz</a> 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.

# Whakaari-White Island – Lessons for recreational activities

With the completion of the Whakaari/White Island proceedings in 2023 it is a useful opportunity to reflect on the event and the implications for recreational four wheel driving.

Most of you will be familiar with the tragic events of 2019 when 22 people lost their lives in the phreatic eruption on Whakaari/White Island. Many more were scarred forever with physical and traumatic injuries and there were those assisting with the rescues and recovery who will also remain traumatised for the rest of their lives.

In the post event reviews and through the courts there were no 'winners': it was tragedy with multiple failures where no person or entity came out of it unscathed whether it was the land owner, the tour operators, or Worksafe. Though the findings relate to adventure tourism there are some salutary lessons for us all to draw from it

As an Association, as clubs, trip leaders and participants we all have a responsibility to do everything we can to make good decisions about what we are going to do, where we are going to go and who we are going to be with.

We also need to understand and accept that landowners will be increasingly nervous. Many are still leery from the Berryman case which dates back to 1994 even though Berryman was ultimately cleared of liability.

Good decisions are informed by experience, by local knowledge, by liaising and listening to the land owners, by checking the weather and understanding the risks posed by natural events before we leave home. These can include heavy rain, rising river levels, thunder and lightning, coastal storms, roads or tracks with surfaces that are beyond driveable

and low cloud or snow. It is up to us all to make good decisions.... to know when to go and when not to, to know when turning back is the right decision or to stop and wait. Above all ......to drive responsibly so you, your passengers and your colleagues all get to go home.

Whakaari/White Island reports can be found here: www.mbie.govt.nz/
dmsdocument/17565-whakaari-white-island-worksafe-report

www.mbie.govt.nz/business-andemployment/employment-and-skills/ health-and-safety/targeted-review-ofadventure-activities

www.simpsongrierson.com/insightsnews/legal-updates/landownersshould-be-on-notice-of-health-andsafety-obligations

## Threats to our land access

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

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

- Have a good relationship with the land owner or land manager, understand their requirements then comply with those. This includes where and when you can go, where and when you cannot go, behaviour expected and any other conditions of access.
- Think safety! Undertake hazard identification and have a safety plan for every trip. See the Health & Safety Policy and Guidelines for Clubs at <a href="http://www.nzfwda.org.nz/healthandsafety">http://www.nzfwda.org.nz/healthandsafety</a>

 Value and safeguard the environment. This includes a "tread lightly" approach and being aware of the requirements of the Resource Management Act. Failure to mitigate for risks to the environment, such as sedimentation and streambed disturbance, can have dire consequences such as loss of future access, the possibility of a fine or prosecution.

## **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

Why you should change your tyre alri...

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.

## CHANGING OF THE GUARD AT LVVTA

Tony Johnson, after 21 years as Chief Executive Officer of the Low Volume Vehicle Technical Association (LVVTA), is passing the torch to LVVTA's current Operations Manager Ken McAdam.

Ken will become only the fourth Chief Executive Officer in LVVTA's 31-year history, after first joining the incorporated society in 2015 as Training Officer, and then taking on the role of Operations Manager in 2018. Ken's involvement in the organisation goes back much further than that however, having represented the NZ Four Wheel Drive Association on the LVVTA Council for over 20 years, and more recently serving as an elected LVVTA Board Member.





**Tony Johnson** 

Ken McAdam

Read the full article here: <a href="https://www.lvvta.org.nz/documents/newsletter\_pub/LVVTA\_Newsletter\_2023\_July-December.pdf">https://www.lvvta.org.nz/documents/newsletter\_pub/LVVTA\_Newsletter\_2023\_July-December.pdf</a>



<u>REMEMBER</u> this simple H&S message... you can't indemnify out of being stupid.



#### Continued from last edition...

day trip up the Godley River was next on the agenda. Reports of a major river impasse didn't give us much hope but we went for a look anyway and, luck was on our side. River levels were low enough for us to get through and the drive to Red Stag Hut was relatively straight forward but very fun. However, further on a vehicle got hung up on a rock which led us to discover it only had 2WD due to a front hub issue. We decided to retreat and the stricken vehicle made it through all but one of the river crossings, where a tow through was in order.

After leaving Tekapo, most of the crew headed to Mt Cook Village and we drove up the Tasman 4WD track. At the end of the track we parked in relative safety, and walked closer to the edge of a massive slip for spectacular views of Tasman Glacier, Tasman Lake and the surrounding mountains. A set of binoculars were great for getting a close up view of the glacier terminal face and icebergs in the lake. We then travelled to Twizel, with one last stop to rip out some wilding pines on the side of Mt Cook Road, in the name of conservation.

From Twizel, we travelled south to Omarama and then headed into Oteake Conservation Park. Oteake Conservation Park is a public park covering 67,000 ha of valleys & ranges with an extensive network of four-wheel drive tracks and several DOC huts. Along with adjoining conservation land, there is a

# South Island Trip 2023





playground of 79,000 ha of tussock, scree, shrubland and wetland. It encompasses parts of the Saint Bathans, Ewe, Hawkdun, Wether, Ida and Saint Mary's ranges and parts of the upper Manuherikia basin. What a fantastic place to go off road.



It was raining as we climbed up to Omarama Saddle, altitude 1250 metres. From the saddle we descended into the valley of the Manuherikia River West Branch and continued a short distance to Top Hut.

We had learnt of an interesting track near the hut that led up to the tops of the St Bathans range. The side track was soon found and we made our way along side a stream before climbing steadily up a spur that led to the range.

It was an inspiring and expansive landscape of rocky scree with very few plants. The track was not too difficult but challenging enough to be interesting. We kept on climbing to about 2050 metres. Most of us walked to the nearby vantage point to enjoy the great views of the surrounding countryside. From here we back tracked a little before turning on to another track that took us back into the valley and a stop at Boundary Creek Hut. We continued along the valley, eventually arriving at Homestead Campsite, our camping place for the night. Established at the site of the original Michael Peak homestead, the camp is sheltered by a wall of tall pines and sits beside a stream stocked with small, lightning-fast brook trout.

After a peaceful night we continued on our journey, following the Manuherikia River heading towards the Hawkdun Range. We started climbing again and were soon back to over 1600 metres. We stopped at Wire Yards Hut and the Ida Railway Hut. Beginning life as a railway station in Ida Valley, the Ida Railway Hut was relocated by bulldozers to Ida Plateau. After a short side trip to Chimney Creek Hut, we began a descent towards the Otematata River. As we got closer to the river, the descent steepened, with steep drops down the side of the track. Some nervous passengers looked away. We crossed the river and climbed a little before the final drive down to Tailings Hut and our camp for the night, near a stream.

The next morning we did a loop towards the imaginatively named Hut Creek Hut. It was a very cute little stone hut, and would be an interesting place to stay. Past the hut the track looped past some old water races, reminders of the area's gold mining past.







...we did a loop towards the imaginatively named Hut Creek Hut. It was a very cute little stone hut...





We followed the leader, crossing a small stream via the track on our way back to camp.

Up next was a stop for a team photo at the Kyeburn gold diggings, then up Mt Kyeburn for views over Oteake and south to the Rock and Pillar range. After a steep descent from Mt Kyeburn we rolled on to Dansey's Pass Hotel, where we were staying in relative luxury for the night. We had an enjoyable evening at the hotel, with a very nice meal.

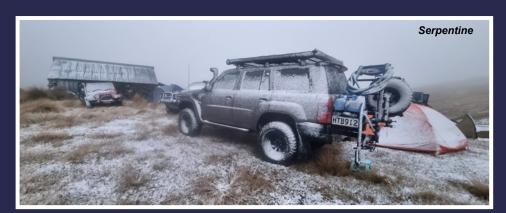
The following day, we were all low on fuel after several solid days away from civilisation. After re-stocking in Ranfurly, we headed up onto the Rock and Pillar Range via the Kinvara Track. Up on top of the range there were some pretty cool rock formations, including some that had been used as strainer posts. The descent from the Rock and Pillar range to the Old Dunstan road had some interesting rutty sections to keep us on our toes and required some spotting to keep the nerves at bay.

Our stop for the night was the Serpentine church – an old stone church that is all that remains of a historic gold mining settlement. It was very cold and windy overnight and we awoke to snow plastered across one side of the tents and vehicles.

From the church there were a number of fairly deep mud holes in the track to negotiate as we made our way southeast to rejoin the Old Dunstan Road. We had a lunch stop at Lake Onslow, then returned to civilisation in Roxburgh. After a quick stop to check out the Roxburgh dam, we set up camp at the Cairnmuir motorcamp near Bannockburn.

Part three next edition!













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# LABOUR WEEKEND TRIP TO

Thursday before the long weekend saw a large crew meet up at East Taieri to head to the coast at 08:00. Initially road works held us up, then we were off on the green light, unfortunately team 'Hall' hit the Red light and played catch up as we headed into Roxburgh for snacks and coffee (guess where) – as usual the tracking device was active on Mr Finigan as he purchased his coffee & treat at Jimmy's Pies and reported into her that shall be obeyed:)

Onward to Wanaka for fuel, blonde moment for Pieter at the McKeown Fuel stop, he casually pulled in with truck and trailer and realised he was on the wrong side to fuel up and had to go round and try again - I'm sure no one else noticed – not. Time for lunch and we all took up Pieter and Craigs suggestion to stop in Albert town at a very cool café and enjoyed a social lunch together before heading to Haast.

Driving towards Makarora we noticed how many more camper vans were on the road and parked up at the scenic stops to take in the scenery. Twelve months ago camper vans were hardly seen on this route to the west coast - the world is opening up again to the el cheapo travellers.

Meanwhile, in a land far far away, Jack and Mike were leading the second group of club members and guests into Barn Bay for a sleep over in the house on the beach.

Our group pulled into the accommodation in Haast around 14:30 in the afternoon with brilliant sunshine and warm temperatures. Vehicles were unloaded and gear moved inside while the kids ran round enjoying the



freedom to explore and stretch their legs after the trip over from Dunners.

Geoff & Jan had already arrived in camp and had their caravan parked in a nice spot in the sun. Slowly the group came together again as we took chairs over and sat by the grass and enjoyed a drink or two and a catch up. The boys took a SAT phone call from Mike & Jack, weather was great on their side of the island and they were all in and settled and we would meet up tomorrow as planned, this year the group would be coming out as we were driving in to save some time when it came to pulling the trucks back up the incline out of the Hope.

We would have a great mix of people this weekend, club members including a returning member, member's who had brought along their partners and kids to enjoy the experience, 3 generations of the Hall family looking forward to putting the Jeep thru it's paces, a new member and of course the all boy crews itching to go. Then we had the 'guests', members from the Blenheim 4WD Club, a couple of clubs from the North Island, past member's and relatives of existing club members along for the drive. Seems we are the cool group to hang out with in the west coast mud ????

#### Barn Bay Trip day one

The kitchen was a hive of industry as breakfast was organised, food and drink packed up for the days trip and people generally coming and going as gear was moved outside and into vehicles.

The temperature was warm and the sky was clear as we finished packing the truck. Departure time for Barn Bay was 07:30 and most people were



# HAAST

SUPPLIED BY THE LANDROVER OWNERS CLUB DUNEDIN









standing around ready to go. We headed down the tarseal onto the gravel road, a couple stopping to unload trucks at the gravel pit. The campers ( whitebaiters ) that were there last year were back again this year.

The convoy made its way down the twisting gravel road, over the saddle and down to the locked gates – yes we had to play 'find the key' to gain the access thru the gates, then assembling in the usual spot near the house. The group congregated for the driver's briefing, with drivers briefing over, we headed to the Cascade river crossing.

It was near perfect condition's, the Cascade was running low and clear. Vehicles made their way across without incident.

Crossing one of the tributaries we came across a random guy in Waders walking his small inflatable boat off the shingle along the edge of the waterway – very odd. Don't think he appreciated us disturbing his 'quiet time'.

In the meantime, Craig Hayward had realised he had a technical issue with the family pie warmer heating up via his connection in the truck and asked us to hook up the pie warmer in our truck so team Hayward could enjoy hot pies for lunch – hold this thought. Jan dutifully kept an eye on progress to ensure the pies didn't turn to mush. Track conditions were dry so we were able to move along reasonably quickly with the assistance of chain saws to clear foliage.

While driving along the call came over the radio from Jack (line of sight) saying they were on their way out of Barn Bay and heading to the river to make the climb back up out of the Hope to meet us on time at the Hut. A couple of surprises for Craig Paddon



along the way, he suffered Alternator issues as well as the right front tyre going flat.

We arrived at the hut to be greeted by the outgoing crew in time for lunch. The Incoming crew made their way thru the welcoming committee either on foot or in their trucks to the drop off point at the Hope River. Some would stay at the hut for lunch and the remainder would head down off the track into the Hope and out to the beach for lunch. Once the Barn Bay participants were organised we sent them over the edge 1 by 1 and left them to amble their way around the corner to the beach. Luckily for team Hayward we remembered who had the lunch and it wasn't them - the pie warmer was formally handed over and Craig, Sarah and rug rats were on their way to the beach.

Jack & Ray had come up with an improved option on the previous year's idea to lower the vehicles and bring them back up without wearing out winches.

It was much more efficient and took less time but still required the coolies to play their part with attaching / disconnecting the ropes etc.

The rest of us returned to the hut with the remaining crew. Lunch was enjoyed in the sun while having a catch up and a laugh with the overnighters. We would then pack up, head back to the Hope and bring the guys up the vertical bank and onto the track and the head back out together - but that's another person's story to tell! Sheriffs fining session on the Sunday night brought in \$146!!!

#### Barn Bay Trip Overnight

There were two groups going to Barn Bay on Thursday to stay down in the Barn bay hut. One group left at about 8:30 in the morning and the next group to come in came in lunchtime after tracking down a person in a 7



story high troop carrier.

It was pretty uneventful for both groups getting in, but there was one bog in the track that only a few people got stuck in, on our way to the Hope river. It was running quite high and flowing very quickly but everyone managed to get through with ease.

The group going in at lunchtime had to cut a trim a few trees down to get the troop carrier through and the early group only had to chop a tree down other than that it was smooth sailing. We made it to the drop into the Hope River around 3:30 to 4:00. We were greeted by Sam and his friends at the top. Both Jack and Ray were deciding if they should go straight into the Hope River but both decided that it wasn't the best idea so we hooked a snatch strap onto the truck behind and another.

Michael lowered the troop carrier into the Hope by himself as Jack was in the river with a rope hooked to him then running through a pulley at the top of the bank, the rope was hooked to the back of Mike's truck and reversed and Mike got lowered down. We made it to the others at the house. We picked rooms and mostly relaxed and talked for the rest of the afternoon.

Thomas and Cooper went on their own small four wheel driving adventure with Kieran's and Brett's mini 4wd RC cars . After dinner Ray, Cooper and Thomas went for a hunt to find any deer sadly there were a few seen but none were caught.

Thanks for the trip Cooper and Thomas.

# Thomsen & Thomsen Take Charge with Win at Turakina BY DANIEL HOWAT

Defending champs Sam Thomsen & Caitlyn Thomsen stick with the lead of the title chase, with their first win of the 2024 Lucas Oils N7 4×4 Trials season!

The third round of the 2024 Lucas Oil NZ 4×4 Trials Series was held in Turakina by the Wanganui 4WD Club. The day started slippery for some with the long grass providing an extra challenge for teams, before the rain came at midday if that wasn't enough!

Competitors were warned to bring their "big boy" pants, with plenty of tough courses on offer providing high risk, but high reward. The day provided plenty of drama & breakages which may come into play as we move onto the second half of the season. Jarred Biggs & Fleche Crawford were fortunate to finish the day, having suffered from different faults during the day as they iron out the teething problems in their radical sub 1000kgs D Class truck. Despite this they still sit in the Top 10 in 8th.

Underdogs Dean Wells & Ben Harvey suffered their first DNF of the season, with a broken front diff in the morning taking them out. They still however hold a shot at creeping into the Top 10, with their consistent performances leaving them tied for 12th Overall.

Shaun Nicholson & Mike Fergusson had a spectacular roll in their CowperTruck which broke the rear suspension and steering arms! The damage put an end to their day, but they too stay in the hunt tied for 12th Overall.

With Dave McKie out nursing a back injury, son Reece McKie made his debut behind the wheel! The former Pairs Event winner teamed up with the current NZ2 navigator Richard

Verner and scored a respectable 11th overall in the morning. Their day would be cut short after electrical issues in the afternoon.

Further up the field Alastair Bevege & Grant MacDonald scored an almighty 11th placing outright in their Homebuilt D Class truck! Bevege originally navigated for father Kevin back in the mid 2000's in the same truck before rebuilding it in 2019. Now running a VQ35 V6, the duo scored 7th overall in the afternoon to take their best ever result, up some 13 places!

Back in the Top 10 was Phil Cameron & Todd Charman. With regular navigator Beau Taylor out, former NZ1 navigator Charman found himself in his third different seat of the season. Having originally navigated for Tim Dodge & Ryan Bold at Round 1 & 2 respectfully. The duo also had a big roll during the day, with the 70+ Cameron showing no signs of slowing down yet! Their 10th place making Cameron's first since 2022 and Charman's since 2019!

Chris Gifford & Shaun Joblin claimed 9th Overall on the day putting them 6th in the season standings. Brent & Michael Ward took their first Top 10 finish of the season with 8th as did Andy Canning & John Boylett in 7th. Russell Hall & Glen Hall took 6th place putting them into 5th outright so far this season! In 5th place only for the second time was Wayne Buckthought & Paul Green in Hell Boy. Their backto-back Top 10 appearances putting their name into the mix as they sit 9th outright so far this season.

Round 1 winner Mitch Caldow & Jamie Elms had a more representable day compared to Round 2, by taking 4th overall. This puts them firmly in the hunt for a Top 3 placing, along with 2nd place finishers Ash Tonkin & Dyon Ross tied on 197 points. Tonkin & Ross have been bouncing their way up the field, with a 3rd position at Round 2 and now a 2nd to their names!

Round 2 winners Scott Biggs & Phil Walton finished 3rd, the former NZ1's bringing the fight to the Thomsen's with only one point between them into the 2nd half of the season!

One of the biggest developments in the C Class title chases comes from 4-time champs Nathan Fogden & Mike Gibbons now out of the running! After missing out Round 2 the defending champs needed a perfect run for the next four rounds, as they dropped the one round not counted to end of season scores. This was not meant to be as a spectacular rollover on their last course of the morning saw their rear diff bend like a banana! Nevertheless, they tried in vain to straighten the housing for the afternoon stages. But the might of two tractors wasn't enough to pull it square, putting an end to their day.

402c Shayne Towers & Tony Hadland and last season's Top 10 finishers retired due to more steering issues that have plagued them since the last round. Although not out the hunt for the C Class title, the consistency of the Top 3 make it an almighty challenge to overcome.

In C Class Rhys O'Brien & Clarrie Vazey claimed their first class win since 2021 and finished 12th overall in their K24 powered buggy! Caleb Adlam & Jarrod Moss were hot in pursuit claiming 2nd & 14th outright just some 30 points behind. John Hawken & Haare O'Brien finished 3rd in class and 21st overall. The top 3 look set to be the contenders for C Class this season, with only 2 points between them. Adlam & Moss currently sit with two wins and 200 points, with O'Brien & Hawken tied on 198.

It marks the best chance for a new C Class champion in over five years, with all three itching to claim the spot! John Hawken is a former champ having won all the way back in 2010 (that's 14 years!) in the same Homebuilt buggy. Rhys O'Brien



challenged Fogden & Gibbons to the final round in 2021 ultimately settling for 2nd. Whilst Caleb Adlam in his 2nd full season has eyes set on becoming the next C Class buggy to crack the Top 10.

In K Class John Sheridan & Willow Eayrs were the sole entrants with regulars Geoff Butcher & Sean Cushing out with COVID. A maiden K Class win for Sheridan was not meant to be, as The Terminator gave up the ghost part way through the speed section during the morning. Ultimately ruling them out of the day. The culprit turned out to be a faulty piece of wiring between the computer and engine, now fixed for another shot this season!

With competitors able to drop their worst score out of the six rounds, the Top 10 starts shaping up as those with DNFs/poor performances average out their points tally as we move on through the season. In an unexpected development for this season, only two of last years Top 10 currently place in this years! Shayne Towers & Tony Hadland are the next closest, down in 30th Overall. With a mix of returning names and new, time will only tell if experience or eagerness will come out on top!

SOURCE: <a href="https://nz4x4trials.co.nz/">https://nz4x4trials.co.nz/</a> thomsen-thomsen-take-charge-with-win-at-turakina/



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

Website: <a href="www.nz4x4trials.co.nz">www.nz4x4trials.co.nz</a> Facebook Page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/">https://www.facebook.com/</a> nz4x4trials?mibextid=ZbWKwL

# JUST IN!! LATEST RESULTS

### **ROUND FOUR Whakatane**

NoDRIVER	Clas	sClass	Placing	O/A
402TOWERS Shavne	. C	1041.25	1	14
113ADLAM Caleb	. C	1109.44	2	19
653MCGILL Hayden				
236FOGDEN Nathan				
480D'ATH Glenn				
950HAWKEN John	. C	1286.88	6	30
333MORRIS Daniel	. C	1380.43	7	34
357TEMPLETON Rebekah	. C	1443.95		35
195DOREE David				
280O'BRIEN Rhys				
521DODGE Matthew	. C	DNF		
711BOLTON Jonathan				
5BIGGS Scott	. O	657 22	1	1
316POTTER Craig	D	666 69	2	2
1NZTHOMSEN Sam	D	683.54	3	
888TONKIN Ashley				
119TOMALIN Chris	. D	870.09	5	5
6LUDERS Russell				
231GIFFORD Chris				
206BOLD Ryan	. D	002 35	γ Ω	<i>i</i>
57CALDOW Mitchell	. D	005 32	α	0
44CAMERON Phil				
370WELLS Dean				
184CANNING Andy				
48DICKSON Scott	ס	1016 44	12 13	12
449BIGGS Jarred	ט	1010.44	13 1 <i>1</i>	15
632HOBART Phil	ט	1044.01	1 <del>4</del> 1 <i>5</i>	16
213WEST Gary				
161WEATHERLY Wayne				
663NICHOLSON Shaun	ט	1101.72	1 <i>1</i> 10	20
451GUEST Aaron	ט	11/10/00	10	21
304MCKIE Reece	ט	1166 04	19 20	22
53BUCKTHOUGHT Wayne				
12CARLSEN Sam				
81DONALD Scott	ש	1240.74	22	20
705BEVEGE Alastair 54WHITING Daniel				
59WHEELER Michael	ט	1298.73	25	31
87HIBBERD Graham				
150FOOTE Graham				
149LACEY Steve				
234VAN WAAS Kelsey	. D	1861.94	30	39
70ALEXANDER Paul				
139DONALD Luke				
375WARD Brent				
391HALL Russell				
655BUTCHER Geoff	. K	1644.94	1	37

#### Find more online at:

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

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

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



Check out all the photo, videos and what people had to say on the Facebook group page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/2775655022755011/



Kellie writes: "In the middle of nowhere for the safari 4wd charity run at Ngamatapouri doing what we all enjoy. Thanks to the Manawatu 4wd Safari for hosting us and thanks to our leader Jordan and Anna. Despite the weather not playing ball, a few recoveries and sliding down muddy hills backwards, it was an awesome weekend exploring some breathtaking scenery of our back country with an awesome group of people. We'll definitely be back!"

"Thank you to everyone who came along over the weekend to support our Charity Safari 2024.

As always we have great support from local business donating goods and merchandise for our raffle on Saturday evening. Please support these businesses if you can.

Porter Group

Claas Harvest Centre CD Not Now James Catering Farm Source Marton Jennian Homes Manawatu The Workshop Bar and Eatery, Fairs Rd. Palmerston North

ARB Palmerston North Bearing Wholesale ABD Group, Auckland and Wanganui

Eastown Timber, Wanganui Naylor Lawrence & Ass, Palmerston North

NZ4WD Magazine

Powerful 4x4

Carousel Confectionery

Lucas Creek Adventure 4wd gear NZ Safety Blackwoods

Central Autoparts

Cooper Tyres Maxxis Tyres Plumbing Plus **Bunnings Feilding** TR Group

McCurdy Trucks

Trundles Automotive

Repco, Tremaine Ave, Palmerston

North

Caltex Raetihi

These two charities (Farm Strong & Kids Can) will benefit from our Charity Safari 2024 event."

Philip Law Manawatu 4WD Club President



FARM STRONG

#### About Manawatu 4WD Club

The Manawatu 4WD club was formed in 1973 by the late Don Wells to enjoy and promote four wheel driving. The first club president was Colin Greange. Many of the founding members are still active in the club today. The first club outing was a drive along North Range Road, May 1973, with fifteen vehicles, 11 Landrovers, 2 Jeeps, a Toyota and one Austin Gipsy. Don's son Dean, is still active in the club. The club was originally named The Manawatu

Overland Club but was changed to its current name in 1989 and is also an incorporated Society. It has approximately 100 members, from all walks of life and a very diverse range of vehicles.

We endeavour to have at least one club run a month. These trips range from reasonably hard where some damage may occur, ( dents scratches etc) to easy or shiny trips. The majority of runs are in farms, forestry, rivers and DOC tracks in and around the Manawatu. Occasionally the

club will do a "camp over" which is great family fun and good four wheel driving.

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month and all are welcome to come along. Information packs are available for prospective members outlining the club rules, vehicle and equipment requirements. Prospective members must attend a minimum of two meetings and two club trips and then be voted in by the club committee.



Generally local Councils and District Councils are not willing to work with the Association in maintaining our tracks and paper roads but here in the Northern Zone we have a District Council that will.

The North Island Thompson Track is in the Matamata-Piako District Council area and we had discussions last year about track maintenance and just on Christmas time, they approached the Association asking if members would undertake cutting back overgrown vegetation on the track, in readiness for their machinery to go in and repair the track. The catch it needed to be done before mid-January.

As Northern Zone PRO, it was left to me to co-ordinate and the call went out to northern zone members for a working bee on January 13th which resulted in a team of 35 people turning up on the day. While most of those attended were Association members representing 10 Clubs, a social media post had a further 8 non-members also assist on the day.

It was on foot only so they had to walk the track and cutting back the vegetation and not necessarily easy going either. A local Kaimai 4x4 Club contact arranged access through a neighbouring property, allowing several to start higher up and walk down, while the others walked in

from the bottom.

The effort was better than expected with the groups meeting up by 1.30-2.00pm having cut up to the big slip.

A fantastic effort by all and we look forward to eventually having the track reopened for 4WD access in the near future. My personal thanks to all to responded to the call. Thank you for a job well done. Hopefully the nonmembers might just consider joining a Club and the Association.

Ashley Lucas Northern Zone PRO.

# COMPRESENTS

**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 <a href="mailto:editor@nzfwda.org.nz">editor@nzfwda.org.nz</a>

#### 10 MARCH 2024

CENTRAL ZONE CLUB TRUCK CHALLENGE 2023/2024 SERIES ROUND 3 WAIRARAPA. This series is those four wheel drivers who wish to use their everyday 4wd or club truck in a slightly competitive but fun environment. Read about it here: https://www.sporty.co.nz/czctc/Home

#### 24 MARCH 2024

NATIONAL 4X4 TRIAL. ROUND 5. Hosted by South Waikato 4WD Club. South Waikato. See <a href="https://www.nz4x4trials.co.nz">www.nz4x4trials.co.nz</a> for more info.

#### 29 - 31 MARCH 2024

Rathkeale Old Boys Association (ROBA) are excited to present their inaugural 4WD tour. Easter Weekend Friday 29th - Sunday 31st. Not only will it be a great opportunity to see some of the Wairarapa's picturesque farming landscape, but you'll do so knowing that you're helping raise funds to provide a scholarship or two to a student/students that would otherwise not have access to an education of this quality and all that Rathkeale has to offer. You'll be making a real difference to a young man's life. https://www. rathkealeoldboys.org.nz/4wd/

#### 13 APRIL 2024

NATIONAL 4X4 TRIAL. ROUND 6. Hosted by Mt Egmont 4WD Club. Taranaki. See <a href="https://www.nz4x4trials.co.nz">www.nz4x4trials.co.nz</a> for more info.

#### 20-21 APRIL 2024

4x4 OUTDOOR EXPO. Kumeu Showgrounds, Auckland. 4x4 Vendors, show and shine, camping and swap meet. 9am - 4pm. www.4x4outdoorexpo.co.nz

#### 21 APRIL 2024

CENTRAL ZONE CLUB TRUCK CHALLENGE 2023/2024 SERIES Round 4 Colyton.

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

Read about it here: <a href="https://www.sporty.co.nz/czctc/Home">https://www.sporty.co.nz/czctc/Home</a>

#### 5 MAY 2024

CENTRAL ZONE CLUB TRUCK CHALLENGE 2023/2024 SERIES Round 5 Taihape.

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

Read about it here: <a href="https://www.sporty.co.nz/czctc/Home">https://www.sporty.co.nz/czctc/Home</a>

#### 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

#### 7 - 8 SEPTEMBER 2024

4x4 OUTDOOR EXPO. Wolfbrook Arena, Christchurch. 4x4 Vendors, show and shine, camping and swap meet. 9am - 4pm. www.4x4outdoorexpo.co.nz

## 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** 



#### **KEY HEALTH AND SAFETY MESSAGES**

REMEMBER - it is everybody's obligation to act safely

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT YOU CAN CONTROL

# **President Report**

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

To slightly misquote the phrase from the Apollo 13 movie:- "Houston we have a problem"

Well, we the NZ 4x4 fraternity, have a problem! a problem that is and will continue to cause us all sorts of issues until we all face up to it and own it.

The problem being "4x4 Vandalism" for the sake of a better term. Most of you will be aware of the recent damage created by some thoughtless individuals in the Macetown area where some Department of Conservation estate had been torn up / rutted / damaged. This area is not only freely accessible to all 4x4ers but trampers, mountain bikers and the likes, who are witness to the damage and, unfortunately, tar the responsible 4x4ers with the same brush. This sort of behavior goes on across the country and the reactions are the same.

On behalf of the NZFWDA I have been talking with Operational Managers of DOC across NZ who are

all facing similar issues. Thankfully these great people can see past the actions of the minority and don't hold it against the rest of us! They are, however under ever increasing pressure from other groups AND the media to lock up the access to 4x4s. What a disaster that would be for our chosen sport / recreation!

I recently had the opportunity to speak with a TV news reporter about the wider issue, who had also interviewed one of the DOC Operations Managers, she wrote an article that was fairly accurate about four-wheel driving in NZ getting a bad rap at the hands of a few.

At the beginning I said that we need to face up and own the problem – this may ruffle some feathers of some of our members, I make no apology for that:- we need to confront (sensibly) the individuals creating the issues, call them out for what they are doing, BUT also offer solutions, invite them along to your local club meetings, trips and events. Share your knowledge and experience in 4x4ing, include them in

what your club is doing. You may not turn them all around but, I bet there'll be some wins.

Now, I know that some of you are not the outward going types that aren't into deep meaningful conversations about your beloved recreation with complete strangers, but something like a positive comment to the driver of a 4x4 that's just pulled up next to you at a service station can open up all sorts of opportunities – give it a go, you'll be surprised at the results.... A potential new club member perhaps! The damage that's being done, don't accept it – report it, please.

Tread lightly Steve President NZFWDA



# **Southern Zone President Report**

Bob Holmes - Email: szpresident@nzfwda.org.nz

Hi Team, well another year gone, the Zone AGM approaching very soon there has been very little happening in the Southern Zone nobody has bought anything to the Zone Executives attention the Eyre Creek situation is still no further head with discussions still going on between the farm manager and DOC.

There has been some bad publicity on the TV and in the local papers about the bad behaviour of 4wd people in DOC conservation parks. Remember if you see this happening take photos and report it to the police and DOC. This type of behaviour is not helping our long term access to these parks and areas.

The Zone Executive have all been busy sitting on sub committees

I myself am on the Remit sub committee sorting out the remits going to the National AGM to be voted on in May mostly around constitutional changes and code of practice.

I see both the Northern and Central Zone's have been working with DOC on track maintenance, like cutting back over growth, hiring small diggers to clean and clear waterways. If any club/member has any suggestions we could take to the local DOC office to do similar things, the Association has all the paperwork like health and safety and contracts in place to make it simpler for us to get involved.

It sounds like all the clubs are running monthly 4WD trip in their local area, even clubs are running them mid week to suit retired and shift workers.

My own club run its Xmas camp with some good high county trips and it was good to see other organised groups tripping around.

I know the Winch Challenge series is a bit on the quiet side with only one official event this year and some private ones. It would be good to see some inter club events similar to the club truck events up north. I know there are still some low key mud plugs in the pipe line just keep the zone executive in the loop.

Well that's it for now, hope to see a representative from each club on the Zone AGM Zoom meeting.

Cheers Bob Southern Zone President



# **National Public Relations Officer Report**

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

The summer weather for most of NZ has been a big contrast to last year and has created significant wildfire risks in many areas. It has however been good for those places where maintenance and earthworks are needed.

Those who read the February E-news, would be aware of the issues that can arise when it comes to getting things right around track maintenance. A district council commissioned slip repairs to a legal road but was then challenged by the regional council about the process. Discussions are ongoing.

The sad fatality on Muriwai Beach in January, as a result of 'hooning', was another bit of ammunition for the 'close the beaches' brigades and hopefully the resulting Police prosecution of the driver might get a few others thinking about their behaviour. A recent incident where people hung on the outside of a 'hooning' 4WD at a popular Queensland beach resulted in a 24-year-old woman driver hit with a hefty fine of AU\$5800 for five traffic infringements at Rainbow Beach!

Please don't forget that to counter the negative views about many four wheeling antics, we need to hear about the 'good' things that our members are doing in our communities. Don't be shy, at least let the NZFWDA know about things, so that we're able to show that there's some balance in our recreation.

A program to 'educate' vehicles users of Ripiro Beach near Dargaville, that involved NZFWDA representation, has been a victim of local district council spending cuts and has lost its budget and administrator. The effort that started last Labour Weekend had started to show some effect according to locals who are now disappointed (although possibly relieved that their rates might not skyrocket.) NZFWDA members using that beach will need to set an example for others with our behaviours.

Efforts have been going on to try and identify the future of the 42 Traverse across the Tongariro Forest, which is still blocked to vehicles by a large slip.

With an increasing interest by local iwi in the management of the Tongariro Forest, inquiries have been made to representatives about their views on regaining the 42 Traverse as a through route for 4x4's. So far responses have been positive, so some pressure may be able to put on the Department of Conservation (DOC) to find a solution.

Sadly, that's not likely to result in that route being open in time to be included in the trips that the Taupo 4WD Club are organising prior to the 50th AGM at Wairakei. Those trips are going to have much lower vehicle numbers than last years adventures

across the wide expanses of South Island braided river valleys.

Around Taupo the 2005 Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) restricted vehicle use on almost every route that entered DOC lands. That CMS should have been reviewed after ten years, but it is heading to twenty years without public input.

Recreations like ours will need to make sure that we make a stand if a review is notified, or maybe we should now challenge DOC about their procrastination?

Peter Vahry NZFWDA National Public Relations

# NZFWDA Directory

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Southern PRO:John McDonaldszpro@nzfwda.org.nz
Patron: Neville Duntonpatron@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 <u>editor@nzfwda.</u> 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



www.geyserland4wd.co.nz

Kaitaia 4WD Club Inc.

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Kaimai 4x4 Club



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# **Central Zone Clubs**



gmail.com





Kapiti Family 4Wheel

**Drive Club** 

www.kiwi4x4.org.nz

**Levin 4WD Club** 



www.naki4wd.org





co.nz











http://wf4x4c.org.nz



wellintonjeepclub. co.nz wjeepc@gmail.com







VEHICLE CLUB

Wellington

# www.hb4wd.co.nz

**Southern Zone Clubs** 



www.4x4events.co.nz

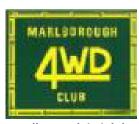
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