



FREE WHEELING

DECEMBER 2025



Photo by: Steven Miller

Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc

Registration No
A0002184F



VFWDC General Meeting Details & Venue

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30 PM with the following exceptions:

No meeting at Club Noble in January.

Club Noble Address

Blue and Gold Room
Club Noble
46-56 Moodemere Street
Noble Park
Melways ref: 89 D4



Next club meeting is on 3rd December (Wednesday) 7:30 pm at Club Noble.

Please note, there is no club meeting in January 2026.

Club Committee

2024 - 2025

President	Neville Van Leeuwen	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	Ken Kilby	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Steve Miller	secretary@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Ly Ho	treasurer@vfwdc.com

General Committee

Trip Coordinator	Ken Kilby	trips@vfwdc.com
Magazine Editor	Sushant Aggarwal	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	Dennis Alphonsus	delegate@vfwdc.com
General Committee	Andy McCarthy	

Support Positions to Committee

Web Manager	Alec Downs	web@vfwdc.com
Training officer	Phillip Griffith	
Merchandise	Suzy Whitford	merchandise@vfwdc.com

Club Details

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club
Registration Number	A002184F
Correspondence Address	PO Box 778 Dandenong VIC 3175
Email	secretary@vfwdc.com
Website	www.vfwdc.com

The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of [Four Wheel Drive Victoria](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au) - www.fwdvictoria.org.au

Hi All

As the year comes to an end, I hope we can all look forward to some time off, and perhaps some travel and adventures.

We have been busy recently, we had a great night a few weeks ago for our off-site meeting at Adrenalin Off-road. Plenty of Pizza was enjoyed and we were updated on the products and services offered by this store. Plenty of interest was shown in the new Hema products.

On the weekend just past we got together at Upper-Yarra Reservoir. The morning started with heavy rain, but we secured a good size BBQ hut. We all enjoyed a good feed and social catch up in a relaxed atmosphere. The sun came out in full force, so we were able to go for a walk and enjoy the Park.

I'm looking forward to next year and the committee is busy organising the calendar for next year which we hope to release at the Feb Meeting.

I'm very excited to announce that Alec has been very busy in the background and has created a brand-new website. We hope to be able to release this over the summer break. We will keep you updated on this exciting transformation.

I hope to see you all at our final meeting for the year on December 03/12/25

A reminder that we have no meeting in January.

Wishing you all a Festive Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

May your smiles be big and your tyres dusty.

Neville Van Leeuwen

VFWDC President

president@vfwdc.com

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 12 November 2025

Time: 7:00 pm – 7:24 pm

Location: Adrenaline Off Road

Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 3rd December 2025

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Open Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome everyone and thankyou to Adrenaline Off Road for hosting tonight's General Club Meeting of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club. Discussion of the previous minutes will occur at the December 2025 club meeting 	Neville
October Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be presented at the December 2025 meeting 	Neville
Off Site Meeting Hosts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adrenaline Off Road @ Iron Man 4x4 in Pakenham are hosting tonight's general club meeting. Pizza and Drinks have been provided by the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club. Chris Jules Mastro – State Manager John Connor – Hema Maps Adrenaline Off Road supports the off road touring industry. Iron Man is a very good number 2 in the industry after ARB They have just finished Hema tours. They have done 22 tours this year and have many tours for 2026. These are guided tours with a mechanic, typically 8 vehicles. They can set up and modify vehicles to suit your aspirations. They have great relations with others in the industry. <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do they do GVM upgrades – Yes (But not GCMs) Do many of you tow when going away? Yes, camper trailers and off road caravans. Do they have courtesy cars? – No, but will drop you to the nearest public transport. More details regarding Hema – Last year they had major issues with the software developer. Hema has now remedied that with new software and is again offering a good customer experience. They now have a Hema Box that works through Android auto. Hema is re-mapping approximately 180,000 km of track per year. <p>Thanks very much to Adrenaline Off Road</p>	Neville
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be presented at the December 2025 meeting 	

VFWDC General Meeting Minutes

Date: 12 November 2025

Time: 7:00 pm – 7:24 pm

Location: Adrenaline Off Road

Next Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday 3rd December 2025

Topic	Discussion and Outcomes	Speaker
Treasurer's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be presented at the December 2025 meeting 	
Association News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be presented at the December 2025 meeting 	
Upcoming Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21-24/11/2025 Fishing Trip – Trip Leader Stephen Card 29/11/2025 Dargo – Trip Leader Bruce Dunlop 29/11/2025 End of year breakup proposed at Upper Yarra 12-15 December 2025 – Friday - Blue Rag, Saturday – Crooked River Sunday - Billy Goats Bluff, Monday – Head home via Licola. Difficulty - Medium to Hard (Blue Rag is extremely muddy and treacherous, Billy Goats is medium difficulty) Trip Co-ordinator email not working, send trip related emails to Vice President email 31/12/2025 x3 New Years Eaves at Camerons corner – Trip Leader Bruce Dunlop 2026 Cape York leaving King's birthday 2026, returning August 2026. Trip Leader: Bruce Dunlop 	Ken
Trip Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be presented at the December 2025 meeting 	
Raffle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raffle and Prizes by Adrenaline Off Road – Thanks again 	Jules Mastro
Next General Club Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 03/12/2025 7:30pm at Club Noble 	Neville
Meeting Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:24pm 	Neville
Minutes taken by:		Steven Miller

Bringing Four Wheel Drivers Together



Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
www.vfwdc.com

Treasurer's Report October 2025

<u>Cheque A/C`</u> Opening Balance as at 01/10/2025	\$3,309.06	
Add: Raffle	\$84.00	
Merchandise Sales	\$1,020.00	
Less: Catering Costs	-\$20.15	
Merchandise Expense	-\$1,569.70	
Closing Balance as at 31/10/2025		\$2,823.21
<u>Term Deposit</u> Opening Balance as at 01/10/2025	\$8,550.55	
Add: Interest	\$96.80	
Closing Balance as at 31/10/2025		\$8,647.35
<u>Petty Cash</u> Opening Balance as at 01/10/2025	\$50.00	
Closing Balance as at 31/10/2025		\$50.00
Consolidated Closing Cash Position		<u>\$11,520.56</u>

NEW GENERAL MEETING START TIME

Starting 2025, the general meeting's start time will commence at **7:30PM** at Club Noble.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Club membership renewals are due for the upcoming financial year. Membership prices:

Single - \$87

Family/Couple - \$97

Silver - \$57

Payment details are in the membership form below:

[https://www.vfwdc.com/pdf/Membership%20Form%20\[2025\].pdf](https://www.vfwdc.com/pdf/Membership%20Form%20[2025].pdf)

NOTE: You must be a paid member to participate in the snow trips

Discount Offer: The club is offering a **discount of \$5 off your membership for each trip you have organized** and run since March 1st, 2024, **up to a maximum of \$20 per couple.**

Please mention any trips you have led when you reply.

Club Membership

Please visit our website at VFWDC.com to view all our current membership forms and club policies.

For all new and renewal of memberships, please complete [the online form here](#)

If you are looking for a Temporary Membership, please complete the online form, [which can be found here.](#)

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us via the Club Secretary on secretary@vfwdc.com

Payments:

Payment can be made via Bank Transfer. The details are as follows:

Account Name:	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
BSB:	633108
Account No:	111761979

Please ensure your transfer includes your name as provided on the membership application and renewal form in the reference.

Once you have made your payment/transfer, please send your completed membership application and renewal form to treasurer@vfwdc.com or you can present it to the Treasurer at any general meeting.

Thank you for choosing the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club

If you are interested in joining [Club Noble](#) where we hold our monthly meetings, their application form can be found [here](#).

Club Calendar

December 2025

Wednesday 3 rd	General Club Meeting	7:30 pm
Friday 12 th	Trip to Blue Rag and surrounds (12 – 15 Dec)	Neville
Wednesday 17 th	Committee Meeting	
Friday 26 th	Triple New Years at Camerons corner	Bruce Dunlop

January 2026

No Club Meeting in January

February 2026





Wednesday 4 th	General Club Meeting	7:30 pm
Wednesday 18 th	Committee Meeting	

More upcoming trips:

1. Cape York leaving King's birthday, via Birdsville, Weipa (Next Year – 2026), returning August 2026 (Bruce Dunlop)
2. June - August 2026: Cape York Trip (Bruce)

Track Classification

[Four Wheel Drive Victoria](#) have a track grading classification scale which has been developed to assist in advising Trip Leaders and participants on 4WD trips of the type of tracks that they can expect to encounter. On most trips participants can expect that a variety of tracks will be traversed each with an appropriate rating. Trip Leaders should advise participants of the range of track ratings expected to be encountered on the planned route. The following classifications will assist in determining an overall Trip Rating:

Considerations	Easy	Medium	Difficult	Very Difficult
Overall Description	All Wheel Drive and High Range 4WD. Novice Drivers	Mainly High range 4WD but Low range required. Some 4WD experience recommended.	Significant Low range 4WD with standard 4WD ground clearance. Should have 4WD driver training.	Low range 4WD with High ground clearance. Experienced Drivers
Advisory Sign				
Expected terrain and track conditions	Mostly unsealed roads with no obstacles and minor gradients.	Tracks with some steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. May have shallow water crossings.	Tracks with frequent steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. Possible water crossings.	Tracks with frequent very steep and/or rocky/slippery/sandy sections. May have difficult river crossings.
Vehicle suitability	All wheel Drive and High Range 4WD. Can be low clearance with single range and road tyres.	Suitable for medium clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain or road tyres.	Suitable for medium to high clearance vehicles with dual range and all terrain tyres.	Suitable for high clearance vehicles with dual range and tyres suitable for the terrain. (Mud Terrain tyres).
Recovery equipment			Recovery equipment required.	Winch / Recovery equipment required.
Driver Training / Experience	Suitable for novice drivers.	Recommended that drivers have experience or 4WD training. Recommended to be done in groups of vehicles.	Recommended for drivers with reasonable experience or 4WD training. To be done in groups of vehicles.	Drivers with extensive experience and advanced training should only attempt as there are several technical challenges. Recommended to be done in groups of four or more vehicles.
Weather	May be difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.	Will be more difficult in wet conditions.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION, UPPER YARRA RESERVOIR PARK

Saturday 29th November 2025

Report by Alec

1. Neville (Trip Leader and Chief Tong Wielder)
2. Alec & Alistair
3. Ly Ho & Family
4. Steve Card
5. Steve Miller
6. Steve, Francine & James Dishon
7. Suzy & Andy (and Bobby)
8. Vernon

Saturday, 29th November was the date for the for the Club's 2025 End of Year Celebration, a barbecue and day out at Upper Yarra Reservoir Park.

Initially, the weather did not appear to be in our favour. Driving from Melbourne through what could best be described as torrential downpours interspersed with light rain, it was looking more likely that the barbecue would be a sodden and chilly affair, if it went ahead at all. I cheered myself up remembering that 'sodden and chilly' was how one would best describe summer barbecues back my native Scotland.

While McVeigh's Picnic Area is usually fairly quiet, Neville wasn't taking any chances and rocked up at 9:30am to stake his claim in the Rotunda on behalf of the Club. After cleaning the barbecues to a mirror finish and even wiping down the picnic tables, the area was well and truly claimed, and Neville settled down for a peaceful hour or so reading his book after setting up. Thanks, Neville, for organising everything, buying and cooking the meat, the sides, the esky etc., all the rest of us had to do was rock up.

Rock up we did, with the group taking up one half of the car park in the picnic area. While there were a few people camping further up, our group appeared to be the only day trippers, probably no wonder, given the weather. By the time everybody arrived, the rain had stopped and we even saw the sun peeking out at points. Suzy handed round some delicious date loaf that she had made. Thanks, Suzy!

Neville fired up the gas barbecues and cooked up a selection of sausages, burgers and chicken skewers. Alistair was on onion duty (having just turned 9 he has some time to go before graduating to meat). After some time-honoured standing around watching meat and talking cars and fishing, it was time to eat. Again, thanks to Neville for catering, nobody went hungry, and in fact we had some leftover (which was later stolen, stay tuned...)

After lunch, the sun well and truly came out. Not enough to dry the sodden grass, but definitely enough where some were regretting wearing long pants. We took a walk through the woods, past McVeigh's Water Wheel, a historic 4.3-meter wheel that once powered a gold mine's generator, through some grasslands to the recently built playground. The playground includes a slide, climbing net, crawl tunnel, rock climbing wall, monkey bars and seesaw. Alas the basketball/tennis court was far too wet to use, but this is a great area for kids.

After having a play and/or basking in the sunshine, the group made our way back to the rotunda, to find that some enterprising bird or other had poked through the clingfilm on the plate of leftover meat and absconded with a few burgers and sausages. The prime suspect is a magpie we saw lurking around. I'm sure he's a very well-fed bird!

Everyone then packed up their cars and took a drive up to the top of the dam wall to take in the views. While there was no four-wheel-driving planned on this trip, the road to the top was more pothole than road, so we had an unexpected taste of off-roading.

The views were spectacular, and the peace and quiet were palpable. After a walk around, musing about the purpose of a floating something way out on the reservoir surface in the distance, and a few photos, everyone made their way back to the cars and peeled off one by one to make the journey home, full of sausage and sunshine.

A big thank you again to Neville and the Club for a thoroughly enjoyable day out.

Trip Report



Trip Report



Trip Report





PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	BLUE RAG TO CROOKED RIVER
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Neville Van Leeuwen TEL: MOB: 0472 680 482
DATE	12 th – 15 th of Dec 25
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Longwarry Ampol Outbound 12/12/25 at 9am for 9.30am departure
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Hard DRY: Med
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Plan is take Friday & Monday off work Leave Fri and head to Dargo – refuel, look around and have a meal at the pub. Potentially camp behind the pub or at one of the nearby campsites like Italian Flat Saturday: Pack up and do Blue Rag Range track heading to crooked river via Basalt N Track Camp at Crooked River. Sunday: Most likely do crooked river to Billy Goat Bluff Track Camp at Horseyard flat track (Or closer to Licola) Monday: Pack up and head home via Licola
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	~250 KM between Dargo and Licola
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: DARGO then Licola DIESEL: DARGO then Licola
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	250KM Full trip approx. 800km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery gear & be fully self sufficient to camp at a different location each night
MAPS REQUIRED	Dargo – Wonnangatta Adventure Map or similar
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	250KM Full trip approx. 800km
DOG FRIENDLY? YES/NO	Yes – there will be some long days in the car. We plan on having a meal at Dargo Pub. (People can go direct to campsite)

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED:

1. Plan your trip. In particular: meeting point destination, trip grading, trip details, fuel information, camping arrangements. If a trip is classified as Dog Friendly, it is the responsibility of the Trip Leader to ensure the trip does not enter areas that do not allow dogs.
2. Complete a “PROPOSED CLUB TRIP” form.
3. Pass the form on to the President or Events Coordinator, either in hard copy format or electronically, for approval at the next Committee Meeting. When approved, the Trip Leader will be notified, and the trip included in the Club Calendar. Also ensure copy passed to Newsletter Editor for inclusion in calendar and Forthcoming Trip Section.



PROPOSED CLUB TRIP DATA FORM

DESTINATION	NEW YEARS EVE X 3
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Bruce DUNLOP TEL: MOB: 0448 318 467
DATE	26 Dec 2025-4Jan 2026
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Friday 26 Dec McDee's Calder Park 1300 for 1330
GRADE Please adhere to new trip classifications	WET: Hard DRY: Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wedderburn. (26 DEC) 2. Pooncare, (27DEC) 3. Mennidee, (28 DEC) 4. Broken Hill, (29 DEC) 5. Tibooburra, (30 DEC) 6. CNR time, (31 DEC) 7. Return TBA.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2 MAXIMUM: 6
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	Approx. 200 km
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Fuel listed as available at CNR store. DIESEL: As above
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	300, give or take,
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Camping gear, full noise recovery equipment, maxtracks. BYO food and supplies for 5 nights
MAPS REQUIRED	Australia Travel Atlas
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12
DOG FRIENDLY? YES/NO	No

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED:

1. Plan your trip. In particular: meeting point destination, trip grading, trip details, fuel information, camping arrangements. If a trip is classified as Dog Friendly, it is the responsibility of the Trip Leader to ensure the trip does not enter areas that do not allow dogs.
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We need your help on and off the tracks



**If you have some spare time
please consider joining the committee.
Your club needs you— do it for your club!**

Contact your Committee...

