



FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VICTORIA
(Victoria Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs Inc. Reg: A0013539S)
MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday 6th October, 2025 at 7:33 pm
held at: Manningham Hotel
1 Thompsons Road, Bulleen. 3105

Attendance as per the Attendance Record

Apologies: Tony Jambu, Alan McKay.

Board Members in Attendance were: Simon van den Berg (President), Gordon Porter (Vice President), Robyn Burke (Secretary), Evan Wellard (Treasurer), Gareth Milloy (Ordinary Member), Eric Bishop (Ordinary Member).

Office staff in attendance: Craig Ryan (CEO), Daniel Whitby (Operations Manager), Di Hodgson (Finance Manager).

1. It was determined that a quorum of members was present and that the meeting could proceed. 19 clubs were represented. RROCV, Pajero, LROC, Werribee, MJOC, Midweek, Nissan, Mansfield Alpine, Northern Ranges, Yarraman, TLCCV, Yarra Valley, Everest, Ballarat, Just Mates, Amarok, Idlers, Subaru.
2. Simon van den Berg welcomed all attending the meeting and those online, followed up with Acknowledgement of Country. Gordon Porter (VP) was introduced to facilitate the meeting.
3. Minutes of the 2024 AGM had been made available to all clubs via links on the Association's website and by links in emails sent to all clubs 30th September 2025. The notice provided the agenda and registration form for delegates

"That the minutes of the September 2024 Annual General Meeting be confirmed as a true and accurate record"

Moved: Ian Fletcher, (MJOC) Seconded: Joe Grosz (Werribee)

Business Arising from the minutes:

The question of the CPI increase in annual affiliation fees was asked and a further explanation given. CPI decision was based around the Melbourne CPI average.

4. Annual Reports:

President's Report: Simon van den Berg

- Simon thanked Athol Clayton and David van Zanten for their participation over their past two years on the Board and welcomed Evan Wellard, who filled the vacant Treasurer position in January.
- Meetings have been held with the Minister Steve Dimopoulos and his advisers, Parks Victoria CEO and DEECA staff advocating for all the great work many clubs undertake in track clearing, clean up the bush, invasive species removal, camp hosting, volunteer training and other programs and were able to secure Government funding again.
- The Association advocated maintaining track access and dispersed vehicle-based camping during the community consultation phase of the Great Alpine National Park and acknowledge the great work that many 4x4 clubs made in contributing individual submissions to the Eminent Panel members.

- Board Members and office have worked collaboratively over the past year on numerous activities, programs and projects together including:
 - Working with the Project Management Committee for the new Victorian Four Wheel Drive Centre.
 - State and local Government approvals for the Toolangi training facility, including some early on ground works to prepare tracks.
 - Review of Board of Governance policies, procedure and induction process.
 - Review of website, digital communication and member management systems with rollout of the RevSport platform as an initial phase of the project.
 - Review of RTO compliance requirements.
 - Updated the Student Management Training System to be an online web-based learning portal.
 - Development of Strategic Plan to 2027.
 - Review of current Rules/Constitution.
 - Planning for the Association 50th Anniversary event.
 - Made submissions to the Eminent Panel on the Future of Central Highlands.
 - Participated in stakeholder workshops with the Great Outdoor Taskforce on the future of Victoria's State Forests.
 - Hosted regional reps meetings at Halls Gap in Nov and in the Otways in May, with Presidents and Delegates meeting in June.
 - Participated in Lardner Park 4x4 Show and National 4x4 Show at Royal Melbourne Show grounds.
- Track Watch magazine, the Association's flagship publication and distribution, sponsorship and advertising will be reviewed so we can continue to provide it in both hardcopy and digital formats.
- Simon thanked fellow Board members for all the great work achieved so far.
- The Board is considering changes to the association rules. There is a need to develop a clear set of purposes for our association moving on from the first 50 years, with a view to the membership engaging in the process so that the formulation of our purposes fits the 21st century.
- The new building in Rowville and joint venture between LROCV and FWDV in what will become the new office for FWDV and clubrooms for LROCV has progressed slowly, just waiting on planning permit from Knox Council.
- The RTO report shows a promising up take since Daniel was appointed as a dedicated RTO manager. The future is promising with Daniel Whitby's enthusiasm for the FWDV RTO to be leader in this field.

5. CEO Report: Craig Ryan.

- In late 2024 FWDV consulted with the membership to commence planning for a new three-year strategic plan for 2025 – 2027.

From the feedback on all objectives, the following came in as the top four priorities in order.

- Track and network accessibility for 4Wdriving.
- Relationships and partnerships with agency bodies.
- Increase/maintain volunteering opportunities for clubs/members and the 4WD community.
- Provide enhanced support for clubs, training, safety and education.
- FWDV strengthened its partnership with Parks Victoria, DEECA and other agency bodies, including regular meetings with the Minister, advisers and collaboration with the Great Outdoors Taskforce.

- The training and RTO for Four Wheel Drive continues to grow and innovate with Daniel Whitby and his leadership in this space, including development, compliance and revenue.
- Jo Somerfield is heading up the office and is the first point of contact for clubs and members and to provide support to the training arm of the association.
- Both the Victorian 4WD Show and National 4x4 show were very successful with a record attendance.
- Over 15,000 hours of club volunteering was logged over a range of activities such as hut rebuilding, track clearing, donating to Lifeblood or the working bees at Wildlife Shelters.
- FWDV partnered with various industry companies, enabling affiliated members to receive discounts on products, and will continue to build the association brand and raise awareness for FWDV through various partnerships.

RTO, Operations and Compliance Report: Daniel Whitby.

- Daniel's report in his role as RTO, Operations and Compliance Manager outlines achievements, challenges and direction which presented over the past 12 months. The Registered Training Organisation (RTO) continues to play a vital role in promoting safe, responsible and environmentally conscious four-wheel driving across Victoria.
- Through accredited and non-accredited training community engagement, and collaboration with key stakeholders, the Association has strengthened its position as a leader in 4WD and chainsaw training in Victoria.
- Over the past 12 months, the FWDV team has delivered 56 courses, reaching 541 participants from a diverse range of backgrounds, including club members, members of the public, and government agency personnel (a record high for both numbers). There has also been a notable increase in demand for training in remote and regional areas, reflecting both the popularity of off-road travel and the growing awareness of safety and compliance requirements.
- **Curriculum Development and Innovation:**
This year a comprehensive review was undertaken of the training materials to ensure alignment with current industry standards and learner needs as well as to prepare for the new RTO Standards 2025.
- **Trainer Development and Compliance:**
The trainer network remains the backbone of the RTO. A trainer update was run with great attendance rates.
Mentoring and onboarding of new trainers, expanding the Association's capacity to meet growing demand.
More availability for training. Daniel thanked those who keep putting their hand up to take on work.
- **Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships:**
Collaboration continues to be a cornerstone of the Association's success.
Partnerships with DEECA and Parks Victoria have been strengthened by aligning training with land access and conservation priorities.
Local Government and emergency services supporting preparedness and response capabilities in remote areas. It shows FWDV is at the forefront of emergency preparedness.
Four Wheel Drive clubs across Victoria ensuring training is accessible and relevant to members.
The Association also participated in Club Come and Try Days and 4WD Shows, promoting the importance of training and reasonable off-road behaviour.
- **Looking Ahead:**
Strategic Priorities for 2026 include:
Expanding training delivery into underserved regions and communities.
Looking into new courses, expanding from just 4WD and chainsaw training.
Enhancing learner support systems including e-learning/digital resources and post-training follow-up for retraining opportunities.

A higher level of club involvement to work alongside them in club driver training units. The Association remains committed to innovation, excellence and community service in all aspects of training operations. Thank you to the dedicated trainers, club volunteers, Jo's hard work in the office and land managers who continue to give the Association an area to train, regardless of where it is held in the state. Together, we are building a culture of responsible four-wheel driving that benefits individuals, communities and the environment.

6. Financial Report: Evan Wellard

- The Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2025 were prepared and audited by Knox Taxation and Business Advisory.
- The Association delivered a deficit of \$54,828.00 for the year but the Association remains solvent due to the 2024 surplus of \$29,000.
- The negative result for the year is due to the payout of wages for the incoming and outgoing CEO's.
- The loss of government funding has shown it's importance to the organisation.
- The delivery of quality driver training resulted in income of \$360,095. Delivering an 18% growth on the 2024 result.
- Membership revenue remained similar on prior year result.
- Net Assets Decrease to be \$1,049,191 compared to \$1,104,018 in 2024. The cash balance is still healthy \$674,001.
- FWDV holds adequate reserves to continue to operate for a considerable period.
- Evan thanked Di for her support.

Matters arising from the Financial Report :

- Joe Grosz (Werribee 4WD Club) raised the issue of the increase in affiliation fees by the Melbourne CPI for the March quarter, rounded up to the nearest dollar. This was confirmed.

"That the FWDV Annual Financial Report 2025 be accepted "

Moved: Gordon Porter

Seconded: Evan Wellard

For: 22

Against: 11

7. Election of Office Bearers:

Gordon Porter chaired the election of board members.

Nominations received are:

POSITION	CANDIDATE	CLUB
President	Simon van den Berg	Range Rover Club Vic
Treasurer	Evan Wellard	Nissan 4WD Club of Victoria
Ordinary Board Member	Frederick De Gooyer	Land Rover Owners Club of Victoria
Ordinary Board Member	Carl Costolloe	Everest 4WD Club Victoria

As there were no other nominations the above named were elected unopposed.

8. General Business:

- John Toogood (Yarra Valley Club) asked why documentation coming out from the office is coming out under revolutionise.com.au not FWDV name. More communication needed with clubs.

- Not happy that a Jimny was used on the National 4X4 Show, FWDV selling memberships not a car.
- Ken Robinson (Mansfield Alpine Club) congratulated FWDV on obtaining funding from the Government.
- David Mitchell, Online question asking how much does FWDV pay for insurances.
- What is happening with the Rowville Project.. Roger Beresford (PMC) replied, \$200,000 each from FWDV & LROCV. Project and Board doing due diligence, Any party can pullout, Projected date to moving in would be middle 2026.

9. Proposed changes to the “Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc” Rules

Gordon Porter spoke to the proposed changes to the Rules.

- The Proposed Rules and the Existing Rules were put side by side on the website for members to view. Emailed out to clubs 18th September and with AGM report 30th September
- Appendices were not put in rules on the website.
- Feedback is needed from Clubs.
- Feedback closes 28 February 2026.

10. There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8:45 PM

President: 

Secretary: 