



## eNews Direct To Members

*This ENews is a new format that Four Wheel Drive Victoria will be sending on a monthly basis or as needed, directly to your Inbox. As a member of Four Wheel Drive Victoria you will have the option to OPT OUT if you do not want this communication from us. If you do not opt out you will continue to receive these emails. You can opt out at any time.*

### The latest news from Four Wheel Drive Victoria

**May 2021**

#### **Articles and Images for Trackwatch**

Winter is fast approaching and with this brings a new edition of Trackwatch for 2021, If your club has any photos or articles you would like to share in Trackwatch please send them to [editor@fwdvictoria.org.au](mailto:editor@fwdvictoria.org.au), furthermore if your club would like to have your trips and photos shared on Four Wheel Drive's social media which has a reach of 40,000 people please send them to [projects@fwdvictoria.org.au](mailto:projects@fwdvictoria.org.au). There are many prospective members that view our social media and it would be a great opportunity to showcase your club to them.

#### **Illegal Trail Use in Victorian Forests**

Illegal trail bike riding and four-wheel driving on the rise in Victoria

Victoria's parks, forests and reserves have become more popular than ever for trail bike riding and four-wheel-driving over the last 12 months, and while there is an extensive network of roads and tracks open to the public, illegal off-road activity is increasing. The Conservation Regulator has issued more than 100 infringements for off-road vehicle use by trail bike riders and four-wheel drivers since January 1. Riding and driving off-road can cause soil erosion and damage native vegetation. The ecosystems in our forests are fragile and vehicles can destroy wildlife habitat.

Authorized officers are patrolling key locations across the state, targeting illegal trail bike and four-wheel driving activity, and on the spot fines of \$165 apply. The maximum fine for riding or driving on closed roads is \$3300, while damaging wildlife habitat can result in a fine of more than \$8000.

For more information on the rules and regulations please visit: [www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recreational-activities/trail-bike-riding](http://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recreational-activities/trail-bike-riding)



*Stay on formed tracks! Photo by Melton and Districts 4WD Club*

#### **Four Wheel Drive Victoria Social Media**

Did you know Four Wheel Drive Victoria has both a public Facebook and Instagram page? Both pages are updated almost daily and contain plenty of useful information that may be missed otherwise. Links to both sites are included below this article.

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/4WDVictoria/>

Instagram [https://www.instagram.com/four\\_wheel\\_drive\\_victoria/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/four_wheel_drive_victoria/?hl=en)

### **RTO Update Day**

A regular Instructor Update Day was facilitated on Saturday 10th April at a conference room at the Manningham Hotel. This was a great venue and approximately 40 instructors and trainee instructors attended.

The purpose of these update sessions is to provide the opportunity for instructors and trainee instructors to stay up to date with any changes. This can be regarding the courses being delivered by Four Wheel Drive Victoria as well as changes in vehicles and equipment.

A vehicle is always provided from an appropriate dealership which allows instructors the opportunity to see what is newly released and familiarise themselves with vehicle updates.

On this occasion, a Mazda BT50 was provided by Essendon Mazda dealership.

Additionally, two representatives from Sabre Offroad provided a presentation of their soft shackles, their use and benefits, along with other recovery gear. They provided a clear and informative session and were happy to answer the many questions by the attendees.

Great to see so many attend. These sessions further increase the quality and professionalism of the instructor team at Four Wheel Drive Victoria.



*Photo by Alison McLaughlin Mansfield 4WD Club*

### **FWDV LifeBlood Challenge Facebook Group**

Four Wheel Drive Victoria now has a Facebook group for our LifeBlood challenge. It can be found though the 'normal' Four Wheel Drive Victoria Facebook page. Each time you donate you can post to the group with monthly tally updates to show the top 5 donors. The challenge runs from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2021, which is only next month, until the 31<sup>st</sup> of June 2022. Whoever/whichever club donates the most will be given a token of thanks at the end of the challenge. If you don't have Facebook, you can also email [projects@fwdvictoria.org.au](mailto:projects@fwdvictoria.org.au) to make sure your donation counts. If you're not a member already sign up, with LifeBlood Teams and join team **Four Wheel Drive Victoria**. We had 19 members make 71 donations in 2020 and hope to beat it within the challenge period! A link is provided below to join the group. As well as a link to view recent donations by the group.

[https://my.donateblood.com.au/app/red25\\_tallies?\\_ga=2.76210781.918917052.1617066662-1621065964.1607390198](https://my.donateblood.com.au/app/red25_tallies?_ga=2.76210781.918917052.1617066662-1621065964.1607390198)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fwdvlifeblood>

### **Seasonal Closures Upcoming**

Just a reminder that seasonal road closures will be coming into effect from the Queen's Birthday weekend (June 12<sup>th</sup>) and roads closer to Alpine areas may be closed earlier due to unfavorable and unsafe conditions on these tracks. Check out the More to Explore app to check tracks before you go, more about the app below! Check the Four Wheel Drive Victoria website (linked below), and Parks Victoria, to see seasonal closures as they are announced.

<https://www.4wdvictoria.org.au/index.php/track-closures>

### **More to Explore App**

To stay up to date with conditions before your trip use the More to Explore free app available on the App Store which is available for both Android and iOS phones, to stay up to date on track conditions and check tracks you want to drive aren't closed. Furthermore, visit Forest Fire Managements website to be informed of planned burns that may be upcoming or ongoing in areas you may drive through or camp. DELWP endeavor to update this app daily however there are times when extreme weather events may occur suddenly and information is not up to date so please drive to conditions and use local information centres to guide you.

<https://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au/>

[www.fwdvictoria.org.au](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au)

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