



**LATEST NEWS FROM  
FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VICTORIA  
December 2018**

The staff are taking holidays

Wayne's polished the Porsche so he's out the door,

Karl bought an Amarok and found more to explore.

Sheila's changed into her cycling gear,

Ian said "Jeepers! Well I'm outa here".

Alison's buzzing with honey and bees,

We're swapping our office for blue skies and trees.

Holiday time, recreation and rest,

We'll see you next year, bye for now, all the best.

*Alison McLaughlin 17.12.2018*

***Have a Happy and Safe Holiday***

We wish you all a merry and safe Christmas break and a happy and prosperous New Year from the Four Wheel Drive Victoria office team. Wayne, Allison, Karl, Ian and Sheila.



***Office Hours over Christmas***

Our office will be closed from 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018 until 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019

***Four Wheel Drive Victoria Funding Secured***

At last weeks Ministerial 4WD Advisory meeting we signed paperwork securing a further 3 years funding commencing July 1<sup>st</sup> 2019. This is an amazing piece of news given we are so far from the start of the next financial year and absolutely shows the respect and rapport we have with the Government and their land managers.

This of course comes on top of the major funding announcement made by the Andrews government to commit \$105.6 million to create more campgrounds, better four-wheel drive tracks and new walking trails, to give people more opportunities to enjoy the beautiful scenery that Victoria has to offer.



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

Four Wheel Drive Victoria  
6/27 Thornton Crescent, Mitcham, Vic. 3132  
(RTO21605)

Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc.



## **Victorian Election Outcome**

Just prior to the recent election Four Wheel Drive Victoria were invited down to Hammond Road Camp ground near Anglesea for a major announcement regarding four wheel driving, 4WD tracks, camping fees and funding for major projects that effect our recreation.

You may have seen some of us in the background on the TV News with Daniel Andrews and Lily D'Ambrosio announcing a \$105.6 million package for funding of the program. The meeting by chance also gave us the opportunity to actually discuss our issues and activities directly with both the Premier and the Environment Minister

Now that we know the result of the election, we can confirm that an allocation of \$10.5 million to improve 4WD tracks and facilities around the state will include \$9.5 million to rejuvenate Victoria's seven iconic 4WD Adventures – Davies Plain Drive, Grampians Drive, Mallee Drive, Otway's Drive, River Red Gum Drive, Snowy River Drive and Wonnangatta Drive.

4WD track maintenance and campsite works will also be undertaken on the High Country touring route, Backroad Tour, Wombat 4WD Tour, Circuit Road Forest Drive, Haunted Steam Track and Nunniong Plains Track. The package also included funding for creation of 30 more campsites and maintenance and upgrading of existing campsites and reduction in Parks Victoria camping fees. All the details of this package are on our [FWDV website](http://www.fwdv.org.au)



## **Central West Investigation Draft Report**

Thank you to all the 4WD clubs that sent in submissions to us (4 of 86 clubs) and to those that sent submissions directly to VEAC. Considering the long lead time and the substantial information that was communicated by us we did expect more input from the clubs. Four Wheel Drive Victoria have sent in a detailed submission on behalf of our members and we are now waiting for the final report. It will be interesting to see what the final report looks like and if our comments have been taken into account. Prior to the deadline and after consultation with Four Wheel Drive Victoria, VEAC did schedule an additional information meeting in Collingwood to allow interested city based people to visit and obtain more information. VEAC also extended the submission deadline for submissions from 31 October to Monday 10 December.

The final report is due to be handed to the Minister in June 2019. You can view our submission on our Four Wheel Drive Victoria [website](http://www.fwdv.org.au)



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

Four Wheel Drive Victoria  
6/27 Thornton Crescent, Mitcham, Vic. 3132  
(RTO21605)

Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc.



## Social Media



Our social media pages have been running hot with over 7000 followers on our public Facebook page. We have also developed a new closed Facebook Group which is just for our affiliated members so we can post information that is only relevant to you, our members. The public page is for exposure to the general public and information of a more general nature is published and shared. Social media is seen as the quickest and easiest communication of information in these modern times and we encourage all our members to use and follow our pages. We are also active on Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Google is the prime source of enquiries to our website closely followed by Facebook and we encourage you to do a Google search for us and complete an independent review on Google and Facebook which will raise our profile even further. Obviously 5 Stars if you think we do a great job.

## Mt Stirling Stakeholder Meeting – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018

The last Mt Stirling Stakeholders meeting for this year was held at Telephone Box Junction on Mt Stirling. The Mt Buller Mt Stirling Management Board was in attendance and we had the opportunity to talk with the newer Board members about our Association, convey the importance of retaining summer access over the summit of Mt Stirling, and give an assurance of our willingness to work with them to educate and promote to visitors our 'Tread Lightly' principles, environmental awareness and responsible 4wd driving. The resort management boards new structure includes Board members that sit on other resort management boards eg; Falls Creek and Mt Hotham and we hope that this cross pollination will work to spreading the good work of the Association, our relationships with land managers.

## Trackwatch

We need interesting articles and high resolution photos about your club activities for Trackwatch magazine. Trackwatch is distributed far beyond just our clubs and is seen by many organizations, businesses, Government agencies and politicians so it is a great way to show your club to the world. Please email your articles and photos to [office@fwdvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@fwdvictoria.org.au)

## Next Members Update Meeting

The next members Update Meeting will be held in Mornington on the Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019. As well as club delegates, club members are more than welcome to come along. The meeting corresponds with the Great Outdoor & 4X4 Expo at Mornington racecourse on the same weekend so keep the date open and make an outing of the weekend. We will advise the details and location of the meeting in the New Year.



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

Four Wheel Drive Victoria  
6/27 Thornton Crescent, Mitcham, Vic. 3132  
(RTO21605)





### **Trainers Needed**

Four Wheel Drive Victoria require experienced trainers to work with our club, public and corporate courses. So if you have any suitable people in your club we would love to hear from them. We have requirements for both weekend and mid-week courses for next year. Club members can become trainers for both club courses, public proficiency courses as well as trainers who have TAE qualifications for RTO accredited courses. Four Wheel Drive Victoria is a registered training organisations (RTO 21605). If you are interested please contact Wayne Hevey on 9874 7222 or [ceo@fwdvictoria.org.au](mailto:ceo@fwdvictoria.org.au)

### **2018 Four Wheel Drive Victoria Members Survey**

We sent our 2018 Four Wheel Drive Victoria Members Survey out to all club delegates and committees recently.. Have you seen it yet? That's ok because the link to the survey is below so you can just follow the link to complete the survey from E-News. It only takes a few minutes. We have already received a massive number of responses to our online survey and the information and feedback we have received so far is very valuable, interesting and positive.

This is our first online club member survey and we invite you all to please participate. The survey is completely anonymous and is completed online via the survey monkey program. Information from the survey will help us to better understand our demographic, plan for the future and be even more influential in dealing with land managers. It will also provide an indication of the influence that our 4WD recreation has on the Victorian economy. The survey is also available on our new closed Facebook Group which is only accessible to affiliated 4WD club members.

Thank you for your assistance

***Simply click on the link below and follow the directions it only takes a few minutes to complete.***

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NZLWVNM>



### **MVO Track Access**

We remind you all that affiliated Clubs and Trip Leaders can access MVO tracks and plan trips that include them. There is a process to be followed to obtain access approval and details are obtainable from Four Wheel Drive Victoria.

Once access has been granted from Parks Victoria and FWDV, you are entitled to enjoy a unique 4WD trip in the bush, as only FWDV affiliated club members are allowed access to MVO tracks.



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

Four Wheel Drive Victoria  
6/27 Thornton Crescent, Mitcham, Vic. 3132  
(RTO21605)



Trip Leaders and clubs are encouraged to research which tracks are available and plan club trips accessing these MVO tracks as historically not many clubs have taken up the opportunity. The expectation from Parks Victoria is that clubs create a report on the condition of the tracks and terrain. More information can be found if you log into [www.fwdvictoria.org.au](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au)

### **Regional Reps Weekend – 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2018**

Our second Regional Representative's meeting for 2018 was held in Mansfield. The weekend started off with the customary drive in the surrounding district and was led and tailed by members of the Mansfield Alpine Four wheel drive Club – Alison & Brian McLaughlin and Karen & Richard Jarvis.

The group visited The Paps and then drove a loop in the Delatite Arm of the Eildon State Park out of Goughs Bay. Most members of the convoy had not visited or driven these two areas and it was a great showcase of different 'high country'. There were, spectacular views and some good low range driving. Everyone gathered for dinner at the Delatite Hotel in Mansfield on Saturday night before all meeting at the DELWP & Parks Vic offices for the official meeting on Sunday.

The Sunday meeting was, once again, a terrific few hours of news and updates by Rangers and Club members from around the State on track maintenance programs, camp ground improvements, up and coming track clearing plans, a major project to reduce bushfire risk with works on tracks, helipads and hazardous trees, the extended seasonal closures in the high country due to bumper snow season and the continuous problems and consequences of unattended campfires and vandalism of gates. The Regional Rep meetings are always interesting and a great opportunity to hear the latest from our Rangers, join in discussion and generally gain a better understanding of management issues in our parks and forests. The next meeting will be held in May 2019 at Heyfield.



### **Track Clearing**

A huge thank you to all the clubs that were involved in track clearing activities over the last few weeks. Many 4WD Club volunteers devoted substantial time and effort in clearing tracks for everyone to enjoy. Our volunteer work is greatly appreciated by the land managers and rangers in the field so well done everyone.



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

Four Wheel Drive Victoria  
6/27 Thornton Crescent, Mitcham, Vic. 3132  
(RTO21605)

Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc.



On almost every trip we take, there are tracks that need clearing. This in fact happens all year round, not just on the designated weekends prior to the season opening. If you and your fellow members find yourself clearing tracks, record your efforts including where you have cleared and send them through to Geoff Kenafacke or the office so we capture your brilliant work.

There are many opportunities for clubs to get involved in clearing overgrown or unused tracks around the state, so if your club would like to get involved in these projects, please contact the office.

### **PHOTOS NEEDED**



We have a requirement for good quality photos of club trips such as convoys and newer model 4WD's in action for use on our website and social media.

Four Wheel Drive Victoria have also had a request for photos that can be used in promotion and marketing of 4WD activities from Parks Victoria and DELWP. If you have any good shots of your club activities and are happy to share them, please send them through to [projects@fwdvictoria.org.au](mailto:projects@fwdvictoria.org.au).

### **Horse Shoe Bend Thompson River Closure**

Early in 2019 the WGCMA will start work on a project to create a fishway at Horseshoe Bend on the Thomson River. Unfortunately that means the area will be closed to the public from Feb – June 2019. We are trying to establish if the nearby Coopers creek Campground will be effected so watch our social media for any updates.

The Thomson River Fishway is an innovative project designed to improve the health of the Thomson River by reconnecting the flow around Horseshoe Bend. Reinstating the flow will have major benefits for the health of the Thomson River. The project will create access to over 80km of pristine upstream habitat for fish. It can also be thought of as an ecological insurance policy, as opening habitat for fish grows their populations, which makes them more resilient to changes throughout the catchment.

For further information about the project [www.wgcma.vic.gov.au/our-region/projects/thomson-river-fishway](http://www.wgcma.vic.gov.au/our-region/projects/thomson-river-fishway)



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

Four Wheel Drive Victoria  
6/27 Thornton Crescent, Mitcham, Vic. 3132  
(RTO21605)





## **LOG YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS! –Current Total 9070 Volunteer Hours.**

Our volunteers do a fantastic job helping the community with Four Wheel Drive Victoria projects such as Camp Host, Track Clearing and High Country Hut maintenance. So far this year we have accumulated a total of 9070 volunteer hours. So make sure you record your hours worked and klms travelled so we can keep track of your volunteer hours. Any work your club does whilst out on club trips such as clearing trees etc. also counts so please send in your hours and we will log it. It is important we do this to certify the time and value your contribution makes to land managers and the community. Also many thanks to our Geoff Kenafacke who compiles all the information into a massive spreadsheet which measures everything from hours worked , klms travelled and \$\$ spent. Please send your volunteer details through to the [office@fwdvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@fwdvictoria.org.au)



## ***Camp Host Program***

Many clubs have recently run successful Camp Hosts at popular camping areas around the state and we thank the many volunteers who have been involved.



Camp Host supports the principle that 4WD Clubs are a lot better at educating and policing not only their own members, but the general public also pursuing their recreation. This is provided in a non-confrontational manner, thus increasing the effect it has on individuals who are more open to learning about reducing their impact on the environment. The 4WD Camp Host program places volunteers from 4WD clubs

at selected camp sites in parks and forests across Victoria to provide visitors with local information on four wheel driving as well as park based information.

Some 35 sites are available for clubs to be part of the camp host program. Visitors to a Camp Host site are given information regarding environmental awareness and education which they can take away with them and utilise on future trips.



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

Four Wheel Drive Victoria  
6/27 Thornton Crescent, Mitcham, Vic. 3132  
(RTO21605)

Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc.



One of the roles of a Camp Host Volunteer is to conduct visitor surveys, from which Four Wheel Drive Victoria produce a detailed report for the Alpine Advisory Committee, Parks Victoria, DELWP and Government about the outcomes.

If your club is interested in being a Camp Host please contact the office on (03) 9874 7222 or email [ceo@fwdvictoria.org.au](mailto:ceo@fwdvictoria.org.au)

### ***Camp Host Over the Summer***

Thinking of running a Camp Host with your club?

DELWP have recently completed extensive renovation of Toorongo Falls campground in Gippsland which has had a major upgrades and extensive works completed which have included fill and leveling of the campground, helping to improve drainage and creating more level camp sites, better vehicle access and car parking, new toilet blocks and designated fire pits and picnic tables throughout the campground

DELWP have suggested that one of our clubs may be interested in running a Camp Host here over the summer period so if you your club is interested contact the office for more information.

For more information about Toorongo Falls, and to help plan your trip, visit: <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/visitingstate-forests>, or download the More to Explore App

### ***ICOM Sponsorship of Four Wheel Drive Victoria***

Four Wheel Drive Victoria are pleased to announce the sponsorship of ICOM Australia to support with our driver training program by supplying hand held UHF radio units for use by participants on our courses.

Masahiko Komoda, Managing Director of Icom (Australia) said "The whole team here at Icom (Australia) sees the importance of 4WD training for safety and growing the 4WD clubs for responsible 4WD in the community. More importantly is the Four Wheel Drive Victoria's focus on conservation, protection and sustainability of the forests so that our children can also experience and use these parks in the future."



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

Four Wheel Drive Victoria  
6/27 Thornton Crescent, Mitcham, Vic. 3132  
(RTO21605)

Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc.





### **See Something Say Something!**

The vast majority of bush users do the right thing and drive in a responsible manner, ensure campsites are left clean and extinguish campfires with water until cold to touch. And, just like you, will do the right thing and respect other users and care for the bush.

But there always seems to be others who do not, so if you see something take a photo and contact authorities on 136186

It is up to us responsible four wheel drivers to set an example to others and do the right thing. But if we witness bad behavior or hoon driving authorities will act on significant information. We all have cameras on our phones so it is easy to snap a vehicle rego and shots of the activity.



### **High Country & Beyond**

High Country and Beyond (HC&B) is a unique annual 4WD event run by High Country & Beyond INC (a not for profit club) who are passionate about the outdoors and keen to share their knowledge and experience. 4WD Tagalong where all Roads lead to High Country and Beyond converging on DARGO

**SAVE THE DATE!** 16th March to 24th March 2019 (half events available) Registrations will open in December 2018! Includes destinations such as Blue Rag, Wonnangatta, Dargo Huts, Butcher Country, Billy Goat, Shannonvale, Mayford, Machinery Spur!

**Guest speakers, Learn about the History of the Area, 4WD tips, Gala Dinner and more!**

This is no ordinary tag-a-long event. It is a non-for-profit event led by those who love the High Country and **designed for both beginners and experienced 4WDers**. This year we are offering two half events for those who can't make it for the full event but want a taste of this great experience. Check it out at <https://highcountryandbeyond.com.au/>



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

Four Wheel Drive Victoria  
6/27 Thornton Crescent, Mitcham, Vic. 3132  
(RTO21605)

Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc.



### **More To Explore APP**

The More To Explore app has just been updated and includes track data, campsite info, photos, track ratings and guide which has been previously provided by some of our club members. The track information in the app is limited at this stage so we are asking our members for help in collating more tracks into the App. Four Wheel Drive Victoria is working with DELWP in supporting this App as part of our key volunteer work projects.

So if you could assist by collecting some track data next time you are out on the tracks it would be greatly appreciated. We don't need any data from National Parks at this stage, particularly from State Forests. This app works really well and will become an asset for all four wheel drivers and recreational users of both State Forests and National Parks. Please make sure you log your hours and kms traveled so we can include them in our volunteer hours log.

So! The information we require is location or name of forest, track name and if possible track log files, track difficulty rating using our track rating guide on [www.fwdvictoria.org.au](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au), Photos of the track showing the most challenging section to give the user an idea of the track conditions, any other information such as points of interest, scenic spots and picnic areas etc. Have a play in the App yourself and you can see what information is already there.

The More to Explore App. was recently launched by DELWP & Forest Fire Management it is ideal for Bushwalkers, Four Wheel Drivers, Fishers etc. to plan and enjoy the great outdoors in Victoria and covers all our State Forest areas. National Parks will be included later.

The app provides an interactive map, descriptive information and photos of our visitor sites and recreational trails and enables you to download maps for use offline when out of mobile phone range. The data is maintained directly by Forest Fire Management Victoria field staff and provides the latest and most up-to-date information available (includes the latest information on any visitor site or trail closures).

More to Explore App Please send your files via email to [projects@fwdvictoria.org.au](mailto:projects@fwdvictoria.org.au).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tB1aAjcX6rs&feature=youtu.be>  
<https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/visiting-state-forests/more-to-explore-apps-and-maps>

Available from the Apple appstore - **Android is also available now.**

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



Four Wheel Drive Victoria  
 6/27 Thornton Crescent, Mitcham, Vic. 3132  
 (RTO21605)



## SOCIAL MEDIA CONTACTS

FACE BOOK Public Page <https://www.facebook.com/4WDVictoria/>

FACEBOOK Closed Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/193808978161976/>

TWITTER <https://twitter.com/4wdvictoria>

INSTAGRAM <https://www.instagram.com/fwdvic/?hl=en>

YouTube [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCmJksNMCNZizMkMCRsmiaw?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCmJksNMCNZizMkMCRsmiaw?view_as=subscriber)

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

EMAIL [office@fwdvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@fwdvictoria.org.au)

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



Four Wheel Drive Victoria  
6/27 Thornton Crescent, Mitcham, Vic. 3132  
(RTO21605)

Victorian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc.