



Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc.t/a
FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VICTORIA
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
 5th March., 2016 – 9:30 am
 RSL Memorial Hall, GREYTHORN

1.

OPEN MEETING:

Damian Stock opened the meeting at 9:34am. All delegates and visitors were welcomed to the meeting. Attendance and apologies as per sheets and recorded.

2.

ATTENDANCE:

Board of Management:

Damian Stock – President	Michael Martin – Vice President
Neil Chalmers - Secretary	Garry Doyle – Board Member
Lou Catherine – Board Member	
Chris Kershaw – Board Member	

FWDV Staff:

Wayne Hevey – General Manager	Kate Waller – Projects Officer
Alison McLaughlin – Office Administration	Karl Norman - Accounts

Guests:

Bradley Fauteux – PV DEO
 Andrew Marshall – PV Regional Director East Region
 Richard Wadsworth – DELWP Statewide Recreation & Tourism Co-ordinator

Delegates and Club Attendees:

Phil Leach – Off Peak 4x4	Peter White – Yarra Valley 4x4
John Hasler - LROCV	Craig Schmidt – Wimmera
Ross Henderson - Overlanders	Lisa Schmidt - Wimmera
Paul King – Range Rover Club	Russell Dent - Macalister
Charita Ratnatunga – Pajero	Wayne Coddens – Off Peak
Michael Podolak – Toyota Hilux 4wd	Alan Sellars – Pajero / VHCHA
Brian Hay – Pajero	Lynn Fields – Yarraman
Geoff Kenafacke – Midweek	Geoff Lutz - LROCV
Marcel Gomperts - Werribee	Brenda Gomperts - Werribee
Graeme Walsh – LROCV	Prue Hasler – LROCV / Pajero / RRCV
Kellie Dean – Bendigo	Alan Turner – MJOC
Ron Forssman – Bellarine	Graeme Murray - Idlers
Tony Bryant – TLCCV	Brian Lewis – Toyota 4wd Club
Clive Bremmer – Port Phillip 4wd	David McKendry – LROCV
Paul Daly – Pajero	Tony Blair – TLCCV
Terry Roberts – Wanderin’ 4 Wheelers	Colin Oates – Offpeak
Ron Bell – Just Mates	Glenn Arkell – Ballarat4wd
Ian McLaren – Macalister	Garry McKee – RAAF
Peter Hugo – CFA 4wd	David Bruinsma – Victorian FWDC
Tony Barbera – Victorian FWDC	Gary Lyons – Nissan
Nancy Miller – Kyneton	Chris Smith – Idlers

	Neil Brydson – Nissan Bruce Kerr – Yarra Valley 4x4	Chris Whiteside – Sidetr@cked 4x4 Alex Iudicone - ** NIL**																		
3.	<p>APOLOGIES:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Davina Kneebone – Yarraman</td> <td>Robbie Charles – Yarraman</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dulcie Watts – TLCCV</td> <td>Bill Black – TLCCV</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Murray Green - Overlanders</td> <td>Edwina Tampion – Yarra Valley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Steve Pinson – Ballarat</td> <td>Geoff Fisher – Ballarat</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alan McKay – Just Mates</td> <td>Laurie Miles – TLCCV</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fred de Goyer – LROCV</td> <td>Tony Jambu – Pajero</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dave Roberts – Toyota 4wd</td> <td>Chrissy Scicluna – Melton & Districts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neil West – CFA</td> <td>David Goodes – City West</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gary Edwards – Sth Gippsland</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Davina Kneebone – Yarraman	Robbie Charles – Yarraman	Dulcie Watts – TLCCV	Bill Black – TLCCV	Murray Green - Overlanders	Edwina Tampion – Yarra Valley	Steve Pinson – Ballarat	Geoff Fisher – Ballarat	Alan McKay – Just Mates	Laurie Miles – TLCCV	Fred de Goyer – LROCV	Tony Jambu – Pajero	Dave Roberts – Toyota 4wd	Chrissy Scicluna – Melton & Districts	Neil West – CFA	David Goodes – City West	Gary Edwards – Sth Gippsland	
Davina Kneebone – Yarraman	Robbie Charles – Yarraman																			
Dulcie Watts – TLCCV	Bill Black – TLCCV																			
Murray Green - Overlanders	Edwina Tampion – Yarra Valley																			
Steve Pinson – Ballarat	Geoff Fisher – Ballarat																			
Alan McKay – Just Mates	Laurie Miles – TLCCV																			
Fred de Goyer – LROCV	Tony Jambu – Pajero																			
Dave Roberts – Toyota 4wd	Chrissy Scicluna – Melton & Districts																			
Neil West – CFA	David Goodes – City West																			
Gary Edwards – Sth Gippsland																				
4.	<p>CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the General Meeting held on Saturday 05 September 15 were moved by Alan Sellars of Pajero Club and seconded by Geoff Kenafacke of Midweek Club. They were put to the floor and passed. There was no business arising.</p>																			
5.	<p>REPORTS TO MEMBERS:</p> <p>President’s Report:</p> <p>Damian gave the President’s report and opened with the review of the operational side of the business conducted last year by Ian Geddes of Nissan Club. His role was to review the way the office operated in its own right, as well as in relation to the clubs, external sponsors and the board. Ian then produced a range of recommendations based on the report, which are currently being implemented. One of the major changes is that the Wayne Hevey as General Manager, has full autonomy to operate the business for and on behalf of the board, the Association and its members. Damian specifically welcomed the office staff at this time and introduced Karl, Kate and Alison to the meeting. He explained that the office is responsible for the day to day operations of the Association, and that the board is responsible for the governance and the long range strategic plans. Damian addressed how he sees his role in working with the National Council, industry bodies and the various levels of government and their instrumentalities. He spoke of the make-up of the National Council, its role and functions in relation to the various state Associations and their members. He also spoke of the relationships with the various federal and state authorities regarding vehicle modifications and the after-market industry. Damian remarked on our good relationship with Senator Ricky Muir. Damian also addressed the inconsistencies of vehicle regulations between states; that what may be legal in one state is illegal in another. A new National Council website is being developed, that will link down to the state association websites, and ultimately to the clubs’ sites. Damian told the meeting of the \$30 rebate on Canning Stock Route permits (per permit) for club members through the National Council. He also addressed the national members’ discount scheme that has been proposed for around eight years. A discussion about members’ details being released and privacy went around the floor. Damian touched on the Ministerial Advisory Council, noting that it would be covered in greater depth later in the meeting. He also noted that Michael Martin will fill in for himself while he is away on holidays. The Great Forest National Park, and the Latrobe Shire Councils’ push to restrict recreational vehicle use on private land were two topics covered at this time. Vehicle modifications were also discussed.</p> <p>Financial Report:</p> <p>Karl Norman presented the financial statement for the Association, with Profit and Loss figures. Membership fee income has decreased approximately 4% from budget. RTO revenues are up primarily due to corporate courses, however, specialist course revenue decreases almost negate this, primarily due to these courses not being run. This has occurred due to changes in the course content required by ASQA. Costs are under budget, however, this is more due to them not yet being</p>																			

incurred, but they will come in later in the year. It is projected that driver training, in particular, corporate courses, will continue to increase ahead of budget forecasts. A net surplus of approximately \$35,000 is projected for the full year against the budgeted figure of \$15,000. The overall base is that the Association is in a fairly healthy situation. A discussion on government funding and grants, their future, and meeting KPI's ebbed and flowed. Damian thanked Karl for his presentation.

General Manager's Report:

Wayne Hevey rose to give the General Manager's report beginning with our excellent relationship with the government and its' bodies, being DELWP and PV and the Ministerial Advisory Committee. Wayne then spoke about the visit to this meeting of Bradley Fauteux, the new CEO of Parks Victoria, and those who were accompanying him. The situation of new premises for the Association was addressed, but at this stage, there is not yet any resolution.

Wayne noted the development of the new website, and deferred it to general business.

The Regional Reps meeting, originally scheduled for October last year, but deferred due to the Cobaw fires, has been planned for May, at the Epsom offices of PV. Information will be sent out shortly.

Eight Camp Host programs have been carried out so far this year, with another four scheduled for the Labour Day long weekend. Our KPI requires that we hold twenty for the year, so we are well on the way to achieving this. A large multi-club camp host together with VicPol and PV is planned for Easter in Wonnangatta. This will be led by the Macalister, Nissan, and LROCG clubs. This will be an education, compliance, and enforcement project in an effort to reduce hoon and other anti-social behavior. It is hoped that this will then serve as a pilot model for roll-out across the state at other trouble hot spots. A brief discussion about Camp host took place. Mention was made of a number of incidents that had taken place at the Marthavale hut involving vandalism and firearms that then ranged further about anti-social behavior and compliance/enforcement in general.

The "Discover Four Wheel Driving" booklet has now been printed and is available for clubs to collect. The file is so large that it is not available in an e-version. Wayne thanked the many contributors for their input. Wayne spoke about the costs involved and the offset of advertising revenue received, thus reducing the cost to around 34^c per copy. It is hoped that further individually branded copies will be printed for vehicle manufacturers and other accessory sales companies to include with each new vehicle sold or other product.

A discussion around a number of topics flowed, including the appreciation by the public of the Camp Host program; MVO track access, with particular reference to Cowombat Track and Cowombat Flat; multi stakeholder co-operation, and community assistance.

Wayne mentioned that the Explore Australia Expo scheduled for May had been cancelled for a number of reasons.

Projects Report – Clean Up The Bush

Kate reported on the Clean up the Bush program held in Ballarat late December last year, and the recovery/removal phase to be held at the start of April. She spoke of the aims of the program and thanked those businesses who have provided sponsorship in the nature of goods and/or services. Kate indicated the intended roll out of the program beginning with the Wombat State forest in April/May/June.

Kate mentioned that FWDV/PV/DELWP co-branded literature is being developed for distribution to the general public to help educate them about such things as appropriate behavior and environmental care, and a magazine booklet aimed at children to help teach the next generation how to look after the bush.

Volunteer Activity Report

Geoff Kenafacke was called upon to report on the volunteer work carried out by club members around the state in a multitude of activities. Geoff has collected information from more than 30 clubs over the last year and demonstrated the value of this work. Geoff asked those present to indicate their involvement with volunteer work in the community, be it Clean up the Bush; work with disability groups; the Aberfeldy Heritage Trail; tree planting; cemetery clearing; show bag packing; or a host of others, demonstrating the level of involvement by members.

Geoff has distributed a form asking for information on volunteer activities undertaken by clubs so that this can be quantified and presented to the government to prove our works. Information is sought on activities between 01 Jul 2015 and 31 Jan 2016. Please forward this information to the FWDVic office. A comment from the floor suggested that fund raising be included in this, especially

	<p>where it was for organisations such as RFDS, CFA or others. Damian spoke briefly about the value of outdoor recreation, and four wheel driving in particular to the economies of local communities, and how the income provided by tourism helps keep the town viable. A brief discussion about the value of volunteer work ensued with the figure of \$250 per man per day used a base. Given that this figure is three years old, it is probably well undervalued now.</p>
6.	<p>GUEST SPEAKERS</p> <p>Bradley Fauteux - PV CEO Parks Victoria Andrew Marshall – PV Regional Director East Region Richard Wadsworth – DELWP Statewide Recreation & Tourism Co-Ordinator</p> <p>Bradley took the floor and introduced himself and gave a brief history of himself. He spoke about the many similarities between Canada and Australia and some of the differences. He spoke about the diversity of Victoria and its compactness. He urged members to “get out there and tell the world how great this place is”, particularly in relation to nature based recreation. He praised the relationship between FWDVic and PV. He stated that PV manages close to one fifth of the land in Victoria and more than two thirds of the state’s coastline, including both bays. Bradley noted that PV caters for around 100 million visits per year, making it the largest nature based tourism provider in Australia, and one of the largest in the world. Bradley addressed the economic view of Parks Victoria and the land they manage, and the monetary value of all that, and the employment created as a consequence.</p> <p>Bradley spoke about the opportunities we have within Victoria, to promote its nature, and to talk about the land and its form, to tell its story.</p> <p>Bradley spoke about the effects of climate change and the consequences of that, and the role we can play in conservation.</p> <p><u>Questions and Answers:</u></p> <p>Closure of tracks led the question and answer time, and the involvement of volunteers and insurance/litigation issues. Bradley committed to hold PV to transparency in its dealings with the community, and to greater volunteer involvement.</p> <p>Bradley said that PV is basically a business and that it needs to improve in many areas, and that its role as land manager and protector needed to be weighed against promoting the land for tourism and a balance found.</p> <p>He spoke of the budgetary and personnel constraints that he faces, and to build community relationships and trust. Bradley stated that Victoria is renowned around the world for its conservation efforts, and that the “Healthy Parks, Healthy People” brand has been sold around the world, including Finland; USA; Ontario in Canada; and South Korea amongst others.</p> <p>The “Great Forest National Park” was brought up, to which Bradley replied that it was only in the early stages of being looked at, and its classification as National Park, State Park, State Forest or other was not even considered yet. A discussion on many of the issues flowed around the room. This then led into a discussion on feral animal control.</p> <p>Camp site booking and fee payment was a topic that brought about an animated discussion. This also encompassed compliance and enforcement and how that is achieved.</p> <p>Bradley noted how four wheel drivers can help educate future generations in caring for the environment as a social justice responsibility.</p> <p>The discussion then returned to camping booking/fees and their impact on local economies. Bradley mentioned a “Learn to Camp” scheme in Ontario to teach people how to camp responsibly. This is partnered with corporate organisations and fees for no cost to the public. He stated that this is an extraordinary opportunity for four wheel drivers to share their skills and experience with others, and bring a new generation into nature based recreation with an environmental awareness.</p> <p>At this time the meeting broke for lunch.</p> <p>The meeting resumed after lunch and continued with the Q&A session with Bradley and his staff. The discussion led off with the material that flowed from last year’s Regional Reps strategic Planning meeting.</p> <p>The lead topic centred around technology and the PV website. Bradley stated that he was looking to greater user feedback and involvement and “dynamic content”.</p> <p>Bradley again, reiterated the need for education of people to help maintain the parks and the general environment.</p> <p>Damian then took the floor to discuss both the background of the strategic planning meeting and its aims and desired outcomes. He said that it was about how FWDVic, Parks and DELWP worked together overall, and the future working relationships.</p>

	<p>A brief discussion on “soft roaders” followed. Damian then handed over Andrew Marshall from PV. Andrew noted that as we now have the Ministerial Advisory Council, we have a far greater say in the future and how we can work with other organisations. He asked the questions, “What do we see as the future? Where are we aiming? How do we all engage?” Andrew talked about how the whole relationship can be enhanced and refined and to further grow into the future. He spoke about funding and program sustainability, reducing reliance on government allocations. Andrew spoke of a consultant who has been working in “social enterprise” which allows the Association and clubs to become more independent and in control into the future. He stated that the aim was for the strategic plan to become a dynamic operating platform, rather than “a plan on the shelf.”</p> <p>A comment was passed that if the future shifts towards soft roaders/SUV’s, that many tracks will need grading, and how will that impact on traditional four wheel driving. The discussion covered how far do tracks and drives go to make allowances for less capable vehicles. Andrew said that the objective “is not to paint everything beige, it’s to have a colour palette, and be clear about those colours.” To have a diversity of opportunities that require experience, ability and capability of both driver and vehicle to match the terrain. The clubs and the Association more broadly, need to be aware of what expectations are and what’s in it for a user to connect with them. There will always be those who do not understand, or who willfully do not adhere to common sense. The discussion then turned to track classification, and signage. The comment was made that, as conditions are always changing, it is not practical to have hard signs on posts on the tracks. There is a shift towards touring routes and classification will be applied to these as a whole. This will be done electronically as it does not involve any “hardware” to change, and can be “live”.</p> <p>Damian talked about the use of track classification elsewhere, including NSW and Queensland. The Tasmanian Association has approached FWDVic about using the system, and having people trained there. The National Association adopted the FWDVic system six years ago, as the national track classification system. There are challenges in different areas due to the very different conditions encountered, eg: water; sand; etc. General signage would also indicate expected conditions at the start of the track.</p> <p>Richard Wadsworth of DELWP spoke on the use of “PAM” and how tracks are defined was also discussed. DELWP’s “Community Charter” is a “contract” with the community about how they conduct their business and engage to inform them of things like planned burns, track closures/upgrades, and etc. These meetings will be accessible for all stakeholders, and there will be an opportunity to ask questions on all these topics.</p> <p>Crowd sourced data are an invaluable tool for determining the conditions in the bush, but there is a cultural hurdle to overcome in its use. Discussions turned to data in the digital domain for mapping, and its currency and availability brought this time to a close.</p> <p>Damian thanked Bradley, Andrew, and Richard for their time and input into the meeting and this was heartily expressed by those present.</p>
7.	<p>GENERAL BUSINESS:</p> <p>Damian spoke about the changes on the Board that have recently come about and the need for a treasurer. Whilst Karl maintains the finances on a day to day basis, a qualified treasurer is essential to the operations of the Association.</p> <p>There was a comment about communication between FWDVic and the members. This was highlighted by an e-mail sent out to club executives regarding the need for a treasurer that was not passed on in many instances to the club’s members. There needs to be an improvement in what is disseminated to the clubs, and this must come from all involved: club executive; delegates; FWDVic office, via e-mail, e-news, and Delegates Brief Sheet. There is a lack of information to be able to contact members which hinders FWDVic from being able to send information.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the new website, and the ability to send an e-mail to a member’s box directly.</p> <p>There was a call for the establishment of a communications sub-committee, especially for Track Watch. Track Watch is to go to four issues each year, due to ever increasing production and mailing costs. On current figures, we are losing around \$1300 per issue and this will continue to rise.</p> <p>The National Council have seen the “Discover Four Wheel Driving” handbook and were so impressed by it, they would like to sell it on their website.</p> <p>Wayne recounted the chainsaw course held the previous weekend in Ballarat. He noted that it can be difficult to get participants due to the costs involved, and said that a number of options were being explored to provide much lower cost courses, particularly for chainsaw and first aid. Providing courses is an essential part of meeting our KPI’s for our funding. When the courses become available, please avail yourself of them.</p>

8.	<p>RTO Report:</p> <p>Garry Doyle spoke about the newly restructured RTO and the meetings held so far this year. There are two groups/roles within the RTO. The advisory group is responsible for compliance which is a major function to ensure that the RTO meets the requirements, and also content to industry standards rather than “campfire wisdom”. The second group/role is that of the training itself. There has been a surge in requests for corporate training, and for a wide range of types of training: winching; sand driving; and etc. Chainsaw courses will only be run as an accredited course due to the inherent dangers of a chainsaw and the need to ensure that a person is competent in its use. Most other courses will be offered as accredited and non-accredited forms; most corporate courses are accredited as the training is required by their workplace. There is a need for accredited trainers so that more courses can be offered and to spread the workload. Courses will also be able to be run regionally using local facilities. Werribee is no longer commercially viable for a two day weekend course. There is also a role in club support in helping keep club trainers current and to assist as and when necessary.</p> <p>Courses are currently being sent to ASQA to be included on our Scope of Training. The requirements for being an accredited trainer include a holding a Cert IV in Training and Assessment, with Language, Literacy and Numeracy modules. Members cannot operate a chainsaw in track clearing work for PV/DELWP without a valid chainsaw certification. FWDVic has been approached by PV as the preferred provider, to run courses for ADHA/SSAA for deer culling programs. A quote was also prepared for a health and community group in Coober Pedy in South Australia for training, however the costs of travel and accommodation over and above the training costs became unviable. Tasmanian Parks are looking into somebody travelling to Tasmania to teach track classification.</p>
9.	<p>WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>There was a very brief presentation and discussion about the new website by Glenn Arkell and Geoff Kenafacke. Geoff talked about the club website that hangs off the back of the FWDVic website. Following that, Glenn gave a presentation of the new website and options for members to access.</p>
10.	<p>QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE:</p> <p>A question was asked regarding the costs and benefits of Associate Membership. Wayne replied that the cost is \$115 (incl GST), and that all benefits, including things such as insurance and Track Watch, etc, are identical. A question about sole vehicle trips followed, with Wayne stating that solo trips are not covered by insurance, and that all persons must be either: a member of an affiliated club; an associate member; or a temporary member/guest for whom all forms are filled in and insurance must have been paid. Insurance is only available for properly advertised and gazetted trips, which are open to all members. This is written into the insurance clauses, and appears on the FWDVic website. A broader discussion about insurance then went around. The guidelines for a trip are a minimum of three vehicles, and a maximum of ten.</p>
11.	<p>MEETING CLOSED:</p> <p>Damian thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting. There being no more general business, the meeting was declared closed at 3:34 pm.</p> <p>The next general meeting is scheduled for Saturday 25 June 2016 at Manningham Tende Beck Scout Hall, cnr High Street and Doncaster Road, Doncaster (entry via Paul Street).</p>