



Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc.t/a
FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VICTORIA
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
 Saturday 25th March, 2017 11:00am
 Old Shire Offices, Warragul

1.	<p>OPEN MEETING: Garry Doyle opened the meeting at 11:04am. All delegates and visitors were welcomed to the meeting. Attendance and apologies as per sheets and recorded.</p>																																		
2.	<p>ATTENDANCE:</p> <p>Board of Management:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Garry Doyle – President</td> <td>Kat Marmara-Stewart – Board Member</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lou Catherine – Board Member</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>FWDV Staff:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Wayne Hevey – CEO</td> <td>Alison McLaughlin – Office Manager</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Myles Brown – Projects Officer</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Delegates and Club Attendees:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>David Bruinsma – VFWDC</td> <td>Neil Chalmers – Nissan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Graeme Walsh – LROCV</td> <td>Richard Groom - LROCV</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joe Grosz – RAAF Williams/Werribee</td> <td>Geoff Lutz - LROCV</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Heather Oates – Offpeak 4wd Club</td> <td>Colin Oates – Offpeak 4wd Club</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Geoff Chambers – Idlers</td> <td>Glenn Mitchell – Bushtrek</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Richard Beilhauz – LROCV</td> <td>Geoff Kenafacke - Midweek</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jenny Kenefacke – Midweek</td> <td>Anthony van Boxtel - MJOC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ron Bell – Just Mates</td> <td>Nigel Woods - MJOC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clive Bremner – PP4WDC</td> <td>Greg Edmunds – TLCCV</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ali Hudson – Peninsula 4x4</td> <td>Alan Mackay Just Mates</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gary Lyons - Nissan</td> <td>Shane Howells – Gippsland FWD Club</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fred De Gooyer – LROCV</td> <td>Dick Gill – Wimmera</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dave Mapleson – Gippsland FWD Club</td> <td>Dave Roberts – Toyota 4WD Club</td> </tr> </table>	Garry Doyle – President	Kat Marmara-Stewart – Board Member	Lou Catherine – Board Member		Wayne Hevey – CEO	Alison McLaughlin – Office Manager	Myles Brown – Projects Officer		David Bruinsma – VFWDC	Neil Chalmers – Nissan	Graeme Walsh – LROCV	Richard Groom - LROCV	Joe Grosz – RAAF Williams/Werribee	Geoff Lutz - LROCV	Heather Oates – Offpeak 4wd Club	Colin Oates – Offpeak 4wd Club	Geoff Chambers – Idlers	Glenn Mitchell – Bushtrek	Richard Beilhauz – LROCV	Geoff Kenafacke - Midweek	Jenny Kenefacke – Midweek	Anthony van Boxtel - MJOC	Ron Bell – Just Mates	Nigel Woods - MJOC	Clive Bremner – PP4WDC	Greg Edmunds – TLCCV	Ali Hudson – Peninsula 4x4	Alan Mackay Just Mates	Gary Lyons - Nissan	Shane Howells – Gippsland FWD Club	Fred De Gooyer – LROCV	Dick Gill – Wimmera	Dave Mapleson – Gippsland FWD Club	Dave Roberts – Toyota 4WD Club
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<p>4.</p>	<p>PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION:</p> <p>Garry Doyle welcomed everyone and introduced himself as the new President for those who had not met him before. Garry explained the effort to hold general meetings in regional areas during the year, the RTO update, the compliance weekend held over Labour Day long weekend and the financial report.</p> <p>Garry introduced the agenda for the day and touched on the strategic plan, and the National Council held last weekend in Perth, and some of the positive outcomes. Having stood back in the past and been more of an observer, FWDVic is becoming more involved, and taking a proactive role.</p> <p>Garry then gave a commitment to the members that whatever the board does will be to the benefit of members. He explained that while we are a not for profit organisation, we are a business that needs to generate an income. We cannot distribute a dividend to members but we can still provide benefits.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>REVIEW OF THE RULES</p> <p>Garry addressed the issues of the Rules and the ambiguity and confusion that surrounds a number of areas that were highlighted during last years' AGM and the lead up to it. A quick "round the floor" showed that there is still a level of misunderstanding that needs to be corrected, particularly around the definition of membership and entitlement to vote. A sub-committee has been formed and has presented a first draft for consideration. This review is ongoing, and when a final report is ready, it will be presented to the members for ratification.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>REPORTS TO MEMBERS:</p> <p>The board is working on a range of policies that need to be, and are being developed. We are also entering into discussions with the government at ministerial level, covering a wide range of topics with several different ministers, as well as the opposition. Some of these discussions will be used to formulate policy into the future, and this shows just how much this level of contact is appreciated and involved. It also showing just how much our members are putting in. At this point, we are only 13 hours short of the whole total for last year. The closeness of these contacts is extraordinary. We are seeking to reinstate the "Recover Me Please" program. There are a number of issues to be resolved and address in the Terms of Reference before this can occur, but it is hoped that they can be worked through. There were a number of discussions around four wheel drive registration levies and the funding of Parks Victoria.</p> <p>Vehicle modifications were discussed with the Minister, and in particular major differences between states, and that what may be legal in one state is not elsewhere. There is an endeavour to have a national standard regards to modifications. Oher topics included towing and GVM/GCM issues. These issues are a cause of angst to many members, particularly when travelling interstate.</p> <p>DELWP/PV are developing an app for iPhones that will allow for a large range of activities relating to four wheel driving and camping. Garry noted the differences between the many different websites of the multiple agencies (VicRoads/Shires/DELWP/PV/VicForests and etc). websites regarding closures of roads and tracks. Beta testing of the app is due to start in the next couple of weeks, and volunteers are needed to test it.</p> <p>Garry then asked Kat Marmara-Stewart to introduce herself to the members as the newest member of the board.</p> <p>Garry outlined the plan for future, using today's meeting, the Board's strategic and operational meetings, and calling a President's meeting in May, with the plans to be presented at the June general meeting.</p> <p>A comment was passed on mobile weighing machines being used by various road authorities and people being penalised for exceeding GVM/GCM limits.</p> <p>Garry then introduced the Strategic Plan, being jointly developed by DELWP/PV/FWDVic. He introduced what the vision is and how we hope achieve this. He explained then explained the strategic outcomes desired. There are eight; six externally focussed, and two internally, and how they can be funded. The document is to be made available to the members in the near future.</p> <p>From the outcomes, five strategic initiatives have been developed to achieve the outcomes. Garry clearly noted that it is not just DELWP/PV we partner with, but a much broader range of entities, especially tourism, and we must promote ourselves more.</p>

	<p>A question from the floor regarding consultation with the government and ministers of both sides and the various agencies/authorities was answered by Garry and Wayne Hevey and they noted that because we do consult both sides we are able to achieve so much more than if we took a single sided approach. A meeting is to be held on Wednesday with multiple stakeholder organisations to present a united voice, but also one that does not endanger our position. Wayne spoke briefly about outdoor recreation standards and what is being considered to be introduced in the near future. There followed discussions around the floor regarding what had been presented with a general nod of approval.</p> <p>Garry continued with the National Council update, with the meeting held in Perth last weekend. The primary topic was insurance, with a national insurance scheme being put out to tender and a new company selected to run this. It is believed that this may present a better deal for FWDVic members. The cover will remain broadly the same but with reduced premiums. The policy uses the National Council as an umbrella organisation in the same way that the current policy uses FWDVic as the umbrella. There are changes to the temporary member/guest participation, resulting in reduced administration paperwork. There are a number of other details that need to be investigated before any changes are made. Numerous questions from the floor were addressed as asked and will be considered to help determine whether a change can be justified to move away from Affinity. The primary concern is that there is no reduction in benefit to members.</p> <p>Competency Based Training material was developed by the late Ian Lacey to be able to set a standard for training, based on a specific set of criteria. This has been adopted widely, however there are a number of issues to be resolved around the manuals and documentation. Particular concern centres around currency of the manuals and RTO compliance and standards. These will be addressed by the RTO and will be disseminated to the members as appropriate.</p> <p>The Member Benefits Program was discussed but due to a number of major problems, is now to be discontinued. This is being discussed through National Council to prevent further money wastage.</p> <p>Social media was discussed briefly. The Paw Family Trust in WA is looking to help look after park facilities there.</p> <p>Garry very briefly spoke about the RTO and its new structure, and how it will function in the future. New courses are coming up on scope and chainsaw courses have been returned. Trainers have now been reclassified into accredited and non-accredited. A new operations manual is being produced and will be released soon.</p> <p>The financial report indicated that a surplus for the year is to be expected and that income is ahead of projections, and that most expenses are below budget.</p> <p>The conversation returned to social media, and how it can be exploited by clubs for their benefit. This led into the ongoing topic of communication between the Association and the members, with a number of people expressing that they felt there was a lack of information from the Association and that they want to know more of what is happening. Wayne said that we are only able to distribute material based on the information that we hold. Wayne said that because a number of clubs do not provide any information on their members, we are unable to contact the members. A number of clubs' delegates are also not passing on the information received from the Association to their members, either at the meetings or via the club network, be it social media, club magazine, or other modes.</p>
7.	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:</p> <p>The minutes of the General Meeting, Held at the club rooms of Bellarine 4x4 Club in South Geelong were put to the meeting. It was moved by Joe Grosz from RAAF Williams and seconded by Tony van Boxtel of MJOC that they be accepted. Passed unanimously. There was no business arising.</p>
8.	<p>PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS:</p> <p>After lunch, Geoff Kenafacke presented an update on volunteer input for the year 2016/17 to date. More than 950 individual inputs have contributed nearly 7,400 hours. These members have travelled nearly 190,000 kmls spending more than 3,000 hours in transit. Members from 42 clubs were involved Estimated benefits to local economies is around \$28,000. Geoff demonstrated how the data is collected and compiled, entering onto a spreadsheet. With these latest figures, it shows that we have now well exceeded last years' figures with three months still remaining.</p>

9.	<p>CEO REPORT:</p> <p>Wayne Hevey took the floor to give the CEO's report. He expressed how good it was to have people with a positive attitude and expressed sincere thanks to the office staff and team.</p> <p>Mt Skene application open on Monday. Alison has been representing FWDVic on the Mt Stirling Stakeholder Group, and she gave a brief report on what is occurring there. There was a discussion about possible strategies to help maintain access to Mt Stirling. Track clearing was discussed as a very positive action, particularly with DELWP as they are not very aware of what we do. A Clean up the Bush program is to be held before the end of the financial year in the lakes Entrance area.</p>
10.	<p>Garry thanked Wayne for his presentation, and introduced Myles Brown, Projects Officer FWDVic, to talk about Aussie Mates 4x4, which premieres on Tuesday on Channel 31.</p> <p>Dave Mapleson took the floor to talk about Friends of Rokeby/Crossover Group. He talked about the history of the area and what the Friends Group do. They have received a grant from the government and raised funds to open a rail trail project along the alignment of the former light gauge rail line. They are seeking to preserve the history and relics of the gold era and have the small area reclassified. He is seeking help from the clubs to put in the manual labour to get the project up and running. Dave noted the excellent working relationship he has with the local rangers. Garry thanked Dave for his presentation.</p>
11.	<p>GENERAL BUSINESS:</p> <p>Garry then opened the floor for general business. Shane Howells from Gippsland Four Wheel Drive Club got up to talk about his club reaches a consensus view from a diversity of opinions. He spoke of how social media can be a very useful tool to communicate with a wide group, and what is and is not acceptable behaviour. A number of questions were asked and answered, and other topics around this were discussed.</p> <p>Geoff Kenafacke asked a question regarding virtual four wheel drive clubs, which Garry spoke about, and that people in formal clubs are very much in the minority, and therefore we need to present ourselves in the best possible manner and light.</p> <p>David Bruinsma from Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club invited members from other clubs to join them on the 8th of July at St Anne's winery for a weekend trip for a Christmas in July event. He also spoke about the need to meet and greet visitors as they arrive to make them feel welcome. This has a high success rate of bringing these people into club membership.</p> <p>Mt Skene was the next topic to be debated and there was considerable passion around this. Sentiment seemed to indicate that a maximum of 80 vehicles per day and a maximum of 20 vehicles per club per day was a fairer and more acceptable way to ensure that more people have an opportunity to access the road and enjoy the experience. No one club would be able to block out any days or weekends. The discussion was highly charged, and flowed freely. David Bruinsma asked for feedback on the maximum number of vehicles per club per day being limited to 20, Garry Lyons stated that it is FWDV's ultimate decision and not a motion to be voted on. Wayne Hevey asked the question to the floor and asked for feedback from the members. The result was an almost unanimous show of hands in agreeance of 20 cars per club per day.</p> <p>Nigel Woods, VP from MJOC spoke about their upcoming 20th anniversary at Narbethong this year.</p> <p>Graeme Walsh spoke about a person he met in Licola recently who had organised an online trip with 27 participants and was feeling very anxious about keeping track of so many vehicles. He said this highlighted the need to keep trips to a manageable number of vehicles, with a recommended maximum of 10. Graeme said that the person who had organised the trip was not even sure who all the participants were, This trip almost certainly would not have had any insurance cover.</p>
12.	<p>MEETING CLOSED:</p> <p>Garry thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting. There being no more general business, the meeting was declared closed at 2:52pm.</p> <p>The next meeting is a General Meeting scheduled for Saturday 17th June 2017 at 10:00 am. The venue is the Tende Beck Scout hall on the corner of High Street and Doncaster Road, Doncaster.</p>