

Presidents Report – 2012

Greetings members and visitors and compliments of this very special Easter Season, to you all.

I hope you've had a good break and are enjoying the slightly cooler Autumn season - remember Queens Birthday weekend June 10th or there about sees the closing of the high country gates for the winter season. Still, there's plenty of fabulous driving locally - so if you're looking for a drive, have a look at the Trip calendar and put your name down with Tom for our short notice Club trips that come up from time to time.

It was lovely to approve even more new members at the last committee meeting, seems like there's at least one or two new members each month joining our ranks. Thanks to you all for being a club that attracts new members, meaning you're doing something right in making them feel at home. Keep up the good work.

Last month's AGM saw all but three of last year's team re elected. Our thanks go to outgoing Treasurer David Ashford: taking a break for work reasons - Graham Abotomey, who will be on tour the better part of this year and Craig Cheetham who has done an exemplary job over many years, simply taking a break. Thanks guys, we all really appreciate you.

Our new committee members are all fairly new to the club and are all, shall we say, in the very pre- retirement stage of their lives. We welcome Alyce Currie, Toby Currie and Tim Meek who join committee member Tom Barnard, as representatives of our ever increasing number of very keen younger club members. Tom has set a high bar for you 'youngies' and knowing you all as I do, a level I know you will relish attaining too.

As you know, the AGM didn't result in a Treasurer being elected on the night however, at the last committee meeting Tim Meek put his hat in the ring together with two other members with Tim being given the nod. Tim will do a fine job with David Ashford giving strong transitional help.

Final portfolio responsibilities haven't yet been set in stone, so I'll give a full run down on all committee and non-committee positions next month.

Meanwhile remember the 30th Anniversary dinner at the Vine Hotel. Numbers will be very tight as we can only accommodate 90 max. So if you're planning on coming, let Chris know asap and definitely before the RSVP on the 15th April. After that date all remaining tickets not confirmed will be offered to our past membership. (And remember, two local trips on Saturday and Sunday of that weekend are planned).

You will also notice over the next few months (after the training weekend), there will be an added concentration on "new member" day trips, some on Saturdays, some on Sundays - some will still be at an "easy standard" and some will be at the 'medium', so for our newer members, those that are considering joining and those members that don't get out all that often, book early and to secure a place.

For those that are capable of leading even a day trip or a weekend or a three day trip - please urgently consider! Some of the committee members have been tasked to speak personally with our membership base to get more trip leaders leading trips - you know, just like a 4WD club does!!?? – goes out driving in the bush!

If someone is not all that confident in leading a trip or putting one together, put your hand up and we'll get one of the more experienced leaders to sit with you in your car after you've both planned the trip together.

Lastly our training weekend, set aside for all Club members to attain club 4WD certification, this is a bi-annual event - that means it only happens twice a year, SO, for any who don't have at least club certification, you need to really try and get to this weekend event. It's one of the best fun weekends of the year and if you're certified, bring your partner along or vice versa. If you've just joined, this is a fabulous opportunity to gain accreditation - with the added benefit of being able to take part in other than 'easy' status trips once completed. Basic training fees are included in your club membership, nothing extra to pay. Just make sure you are paid up before the weekend.

And lastly, we have a team of seven Wang 4WD Club members who are currently going through a special '4WDVic' training program in order to train us "in house" on improving and upgrading our driving skills, yes seven members and one of them is a lady. Absolutely fantastic - not sure whether there's another club with this sort of talent but hey! We're so fortunate - so to add to our "at least" 23 active woman 4Wdrivers in the club, a driving instructor in the training.

I've got a few more things to say - but not enough space this month - looking forward to a fabulous 30th year.

Catch you at the next meeting.

David Jackson