

Wangaratta 4x4 Club Inc

A001052D

CLUB MEMBERS HANDBOOK



**Responsible Four Wheel Driving
and
Family Touring**

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Welcome



Thank you for choosing to join the Wangaratta 4x4 Club. Four Wheel Driving is an activity which enables us to experience and enjoy our country with scenery from the magical remoteness of the deserts to the breathtaking views of the High Country. We rely on skills not commonly used in our daily routine to enable us to access these areas and successfully pursue this activity. Travelling together as a

club helps us to provide safety and security to all in the form of shared responsibility and experience, as well as the fun of travelling and camping together. There is always great camaraderie amongst members.

One of the many benefits of involvement in the club is the ability to participate in the many opportunities provided for training and experience. We encourage all members to practice and improve their skills in all facets of four wheel driving.

Membership of the club is not restricted to any particular make or type of four wheel drive vehicle. Wangaratta 4x4 Club offers various standards of trips to cater for all interests.

This handbook will give you an overview of the club, its rules and policies and what the club can offer you as a member.

If you have any questions or queries your first point of contact is always your committee. Contact details for all committee members are published in Wangaratta 4x4 Club's monthly magazine and on the club's website.

History

The Wangaratta 4x4 Club has evolved from a few members in 1983 to a membership of over 80.

The club is financially independent and is proud to be a family club with members' ages ranging from newborn to much more experienced!

Wang 4x4 draws members from all over the North East and beyond, including from Benalla, Beechworth, Corowa, Glenrowan, Milawa, Albury, Wodonga, Wangaratta, Goorambat, Tatong, Langwarrin, Molyullah, Myrtleford, Mount Beauty, Mulwala, Yarrawonga, Stanhope, Violet Town, Melbourne, Rosebud and Overseas (England).

The club is also affiliated with the South Coast Four Wheel Drive Club based at Wollongong, and the Four Wheel Drive Club of WA.

Current members of the respective clubs are entitled to Reciprocal Membership rights.



[Founding members at our 25th anniversary Celebrations](#)

Wangaratta 4x4 Club celebrates its birthday each year with a dinner in May.

General Information

Committee

- ³⁵/₁₇ President
- ³⁵/₁₇ Vice President
- ³⁵/₁₇ Secretary
- ³⁵/₁₇ Treasurer

Plus six other committee members.

Contacts

The Secretary, Wangaratta 4x4 Club, PO Box 494, Wangaratta Vic 3676. All contacts are on the club's website www.wangaratta4x4club.org.au

Meetings

Wangaratta 4x4 Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month, except January, at a venue selected by the committee, normally the North East Car Club rooms located in Tarrawingee.

Meetings start at 8pm.

Newsletter

The monthly newsletter, Track Torque contains minutes of the meetings, general information and information on forthcoming trips.

Members are encouraged to contribute articles and photos to the newsletter and website. Contributions may be forwarded to the Editor and/or the Webmaster.

Please inform the Secretary of any changes to your mail or email address so that newsletters can be forwarded.

Website

www.wangaratta4x4club.org.au

Wangaratta 4x4 Club's website contains trip reports, calendar, newsletter, useful links and other club-related information and is the primary source of club information. Forms and club documents may be downloaded from the website. Comments and suggestions about, contributions to and request for information regarding the website may be forwarded to the Webmaster

Privacy

Members' family details including address and contact numbers have been recorded by Wang 4x4 to help provide service to you. If you do not wish to have your details published please advise the Secretary. Silent phone numbers will not be made available to other club members.

Members' email addresses are only to be used for club purposes and may not be distributed to non-members.



Four Wheel Drive Victoria (FWD Victoria)

www.fwdvictoria.org.au

Wangaratta Four Wheel Drive Club is affiliated with FWD Victoria. FWD Victoria's bi-monthly magazine, Track Watch, is provided to all members.

FWD Victoria liaises with government agencies, motoring clubs and state and national associations to keep tracks open. It provides benchmark training standards.

FWD Victoria also co-ordinates relief activities after events such as the Victorian bush fires. Work parties were coordinated to help farmers rebuild fences, open tracks and move feed and stock about.



Insurance

Wangaratta 4x4 has liability insurance arranged through Four Wheel Drive Victoria. The policy conditions require visitors to pay an insurance levy.



Tread Lightly!

As part of FWD Victoria the club endorses the *Tread Lightly!* code of outdoor recreation, and encourage all our members to apply minimum impact principles :

TTravel and recreate with minimum impact.

Respect the environment and rights of others.

Educate yourself, plan and prepare before you go.

Allow for the future use of the outdoors; leave it better than you found it.

Discover the rewards of responsible recreation.

Adopt a Hut

Wangaratta 4x4 Club participates in the *Adopt a Hut* program and is involved with two High Country huts, Top Crossing Hut and Lake Cobbler Hut. The club assists with repairs & maintenance in consultation with Parks Victoria and High Country Huts Association.



Top Crossing Hut



Cobbler Hut

Community Participation

The club actively supports not-for-profit organisations in the community and special events such as disaster relief work.



Fire Recovery Work

Club Trips

The primary purpose of Wangaratta 4x4 Club is to arrange trips for the benefit of members. The club aims to have at least one trip per month.

Suggestions for trips are given to the committee, which sets dates and arranges trip leaders. The trip leaders plan routes, set itineraries and supervise the running of the trips. Communications, equipment requirements, safety procedures etc. are all taken into consideration during the planning process.

The newsletter & website contain information about trips. Members and guests are requested to register their interest with the trip leader in advance of the trip date.

Guests are required to pay the insurance levy.

Vehicles

Vehicles must have a UHF radio (preferably vehicle mounted) tuned to Channel 14, or that specified by the trip leader, and carry the following basic recovery equipment:

- ³⁵/₁₇ Suitable recovery points both front and rear
- ³⁵/₁₇ Snatch strap and rated bow shackle.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Shovel or spade.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Axe or bowsaw.
- ³⁵/₁₇ First Aid Kit.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Personal medical information.
- ³⁵/₁₇ and any other equipment as specified by the trip leader.

We also recommend the following as being highly desirable:

- ³⁵/₁₇ Spare parts and tool kit suitable to the vehicle and type of trip.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Fire extinguisher within reach of the driver.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Air Compressor.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Tyre Pressure Gauge.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Jacking Plate.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Vehicle Manual.



Convoy Procedures

- ³⁵/₁₇ All participating vehicles are to have UHF radios, preferably fitted to the vehicle, and tuned to the nominated channel.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Each vehicle is responsible for the vehicle behind. When negotiating intersections, or where taking a wrong turn is likely, wait for the following vehicle before proceeding.
- ³⁵/₁₇ A safe distance between vehicles must always be maintained, but to avoid confusion and delays, attempt to keep the forward vehicle in view.
- ³⁵/₁₇ At difficult parts of the trip designated by the trip leader, vehicles should proceed one at a time, and then move off to a position which allows room for the following vehicles.

³⁵₁₇ If problems arise – STOP – notify the trip leader of the problem.

³⁵₁₇ In low visibility situations, use your headlights so vehicles in front and behind can see where you are.

³⁵₁₇ Leave the track clear (for passing traffic) when stopping.

³⁵₁₇ Changing place in a convoy is acceptable provided safety is not compromised.

³⁵₁₇ Consumption of alcohol is unacceptable until the day's scheduled driving is complete.

First Aid

In the case of medical emergency, access to assistance may be extremely difficult.

Members are required to place medical information in their glove boxes for each person in their vehicle. People with existing medical conditions (eg asthma, allergies etc.) must carry sufficient medication to manage these situations.

The club endeavours to have a member with at least basic first aid training on the trips and encourages all members to advance and update their first aid skills.

Camping

As well as following „*Tread Lightly*’ recommendations, members are expected to follow the Parks code when camping.

³⁵₁₇ Take all rubbish home with you.

³⁵₁₇ Choose “low impact” campsites.

³⁵₁₇ Observe fire restrictions at all times.

³⁵₁₇ Keep campfires small, and attended at all times.
Fully extinguish fires before leaving.

³⁵₁₇ The trip leader may decide that fires be restricted to fuel stoves or no naked flame at times of high fire danger or adverse conditions.

³⁵₁₇ Bury toilet wastes at least 100 metres from campsites and watercourses and burn toilet paper before back-filling.

³⁵₁₇ Shower and wash dishes at least 50 metres away from streams.

Also, in respect of other members and campers:

³⁵₁₇ Avoid setting up tents close to others.

³⁵₁₇ Keep noise levels down after dark and early mornings including chopping wood and starting engines.

³⁵₁₇ Use of generators and other noisy equipment such as stereos is not encouraged.

³⁵₁₇ Pets are not to be taken on club trips except when authorised in writing by the trip leader as part of the pre-trip report.

³⁵₁₇ Firearms are not permitted on any club event.

³⁵₁₇ As we are a family club, bad language is inappropriate.



Sponsors

Wangaratta 4x4 Club is fortunate to have a number of local businesses who sponsor the club by placing paid advertisements in the monthly magazine and on the website and through other means.

Members and friends are encouraged to support our sponsors. When purchasing goods please let them know you are a club member. Some of our sponsors also offer member discounts.

Trophies and Awards

A number of trophies and awards are normally presented once a year at the club's annual dinner.

Gear Jammer Trophy

The Gear Jammer trophy is presented to the unfortunate person with the most vehicle damage for the year (not a trophy we strive for).

Observation Trophy

The Observation trophy is presented to the winning family of the annual observation trial.

Sergeant at Arms

An award presented to a lively, active club member. The winner of this award is charged with the responsibility of collecting humorous details of any faux pas committed by members. Fine money is used for worthwhile club activities.

Most Valuable Member

This trophy is presented at the Annual Dinner and is awarded on a points based system.



Observation Day

Training

To ensure the safety of all members *Wangaratta 4x4 Club* requires members to complete a proficiency training course, or equivalent, before participating in trips that are rated medium or hard.

The club conducts regular driver training which is free to members. This is a nationally accredited course which covers the following:

Driver training & driver training for passengers - practical and theory

³⁵₁₇ Winching techniques: cables, snatch blocks and shackles.

³⁵₁₇ Water crossings.

³⁵₁₇ Obstacles: sand, slopes, ruts, mud & rock.

³⁵₁₇ Negotiating sideways slopes.

³⁵₁₇ Use of snatch straps.

³⁵₁₇ Vehicle awareness.

³⁵₁₇ Pre trip inspections.

³⁵₁₇ Vehicle loading techniques.

First aid

Chainsaw operations

Map reading and navigation



Winching Demonstration

Club Equipment and Merchandise

Club Equipment

The property officer has a list of all club equipment available for use by members of *Wangaratta 4x4 Club*. For information or to request use of any property contact the Property Officer.

Members are required to return borrowed equipment in a clean and serviceable condition.

Merchandise

Club T-Shirts, caps, badges, stickers and other items are available.



Equal Opportunity

The club makes every effort to ensure that rules are applied equally, and equal opportunities for participation are made available to all members regardless of size, shape, sex, disability or ethnic origin.

Wangaratta 4x4 Club Inc.

PO Box 494

Wangaratta 3676

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