



MAY 2014

# Free Wheeling



Stu & Maree's Day Trip to Marysville

# Notice Board

## VFWDC GENERAL MEETING VENUE

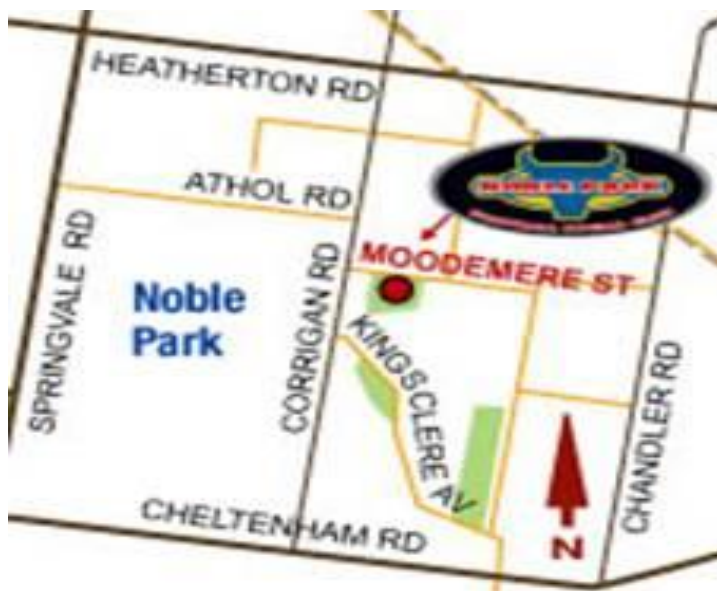
The club meets at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club, 46-56 Moodemere St, Noble Park on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month at 8.00pm (No meeting in January and November meeting at selected location). Members and Guests are welcome to dine at the Bistro before attending the meeting.

First **WEDNESDAY** of each month 8.00PM Start

### **Venue:**

Bowling Club Rooms (Next to Car Park, down the far end of the car park)

Noble Park Football Club  
46-56 Moodemere Street  
Noble Park  
Melways ref: 89 D4



Please note : Club membership for the financial year 2014/2015 will be due at the June club meeting. Please return your dues & forms as attached to the last page of this newsletter, by the June meeting. Please also note, club members can't occupy committee positions nor do they have any voting rights if they are not a financial paid member.

## **FREE WHEELING**

Hello and welcome to the May newsletter, the colder months are now here, but this isn't stopping club members from running trips, check out the ones coming up this month.

Catherine

Editor@fwdc.com



## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2013-2014

President	John Partridge	president@vfwdc.com
Vice President	Sally Higgs	vicepres@vfwdc.com
Treasurer	Steve Pitcher	treasurer@vfwdc.com
Secretary	Andre Van Derwalt	secretary@vfwdc.com
<b>GENERAL COMMITTEE</b>		
Assistant Secretary		assist@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	c/o David Bruinsma	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Catherine Felton	editor@vfwdc.com
Web Manager	Ben Whitworth	web@vfwdc.com
Training Officers	Phillip Griffith	
Association Delegate	David Bruinsma	delegate@vfwdc.com
Librarian		
Merchandise	Mark Felton	
General Committee		

Club Details	
Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
Registration No	A002184F
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3174
Email	<a href="mailto:secretary@vfwdc.com">secretary@vfwdc.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.vfwdc.com">www.vfwdc.com</a>
Meetings	Held 8pm, first Wednesday of each month, excluding January (no meeting).
Location	Noble Park Football Club (Bowling club near car park) 46-56 Moodemere Street, Noble Park Melways ref: 89 D4
Newsletter	All articles and photographs to be submitted prior to 20 <sup>th</sup> of each month to <a href="mailto:editor@vfwdc.com">editor@vfwdc.com</a>
	The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)



# VFWDC ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

## BUSH-B-Q

Manufacturer of the Barbeque of the Outback

**Don & Thelma Montague**

Ph: 9808 1200 Mob: 0414 355 488

Email: [info@theldon.com.au](mailto:info@theldon.com.au)

Web: [www.theldon.com.au](http://www.theldon.com.au)

## FRANKLAND ELECTRICS PTY L TD

Electric Motor Sales, Service, Repairs & Modifications

Power Tool Service & Repairs

**Peter & Janine Frankland**

Mob: 0417 85 6634 Ph: 03 9772 4062

Email: [peterfrankland@optusnet.com.au](mailto:peterfrankland@optusnet.com.au)

## METALAIR INDUSTRIES

4x4 Camper Trailers, Accessories &

Camping Equipment

**David Hughes**

Ph: 9798 1492 Fax: 9798 2593

Email: [metalair@tenex.com.au](mailto:metalair@tenex.com.au)

## R & D BROWN PAINTING SERVICES

Quality Workmanship at the Right Price

**Ray & Dawn Brown**

Ph: 5967 1437 Fax: 5967 1439 Mob: 0411 799054

## Tayka Trip Trailer Hire

Off Road Camper Trailer Hire

**Bill Harwood**

Ph: 9707 2144 Mob: 0414 477 503

Anyone wishing to advertise in the  
Club Directory, please  
contact the Editor at [editor@vfwdc.com](mailto:editor@vfwdc.com)



## CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

<b>2014</b>				
May	<b>Wednesday 7th</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>		
	17th	Day Trip - Marysville & Surrounds	Stuart & Maree Bowker	Stuart: 0428 539 157 Maree: 0418 539 157
	21th	Committee Meeting		
	30th May - 1st June	Wombat State Forrest – Lerderderg State Park	David Bruinsma	0417 747 860
June	<b>Wednesday 4th</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>		
	6th - 9th	Portland Buggy Club - Queens birthday	Bruce Cremonesi	0400 425 296
	18th	Committee Meeting		
July	<b>Wednesday 2nd</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>		
	4th - 6th	Xmas In July		
	18th - 20th	Snow Trip - Mt Skene	Sam Ayoubie & Markncat Felton	0414 503 874 0439 345 207
	23rd	Committee Meeting		
August	<b>Wednesday 6th</b>	<b>AGM &amp; General Meeting</b>		
	20th	Committee Meeting		
	23rd	VFWDC 40th Birthday Celebrations		
September	<b>Wednesday 3rd</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>		
	17th	Committee Meeting		
October	<b>Wednesday 1st</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>		
	22nd	Committee Meeting		
November	<b>Wednesday 12th</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>		
	31st Oct - 4th Nov	Knockwood Reserve	Markncat Felton	0439 345 207
	19th	Committee Meeting		

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to this month's edition of the Free Wheeling Newsletter.

I have just come back from a 1 1/2 week trip into outback NSW and it has refreshed my taste for outback travel. It also highlighted how accessible the outback is from the Brocken Hill area which is just a 12 hour trip from Melbourne. We spent most our time along the Murray river - Darling River and the Menindee Lakes area. The lakes all had decent amounts of water in them which arrives via a 2 month journey from Queensland. The roads were all in terrible condition with extensive corrugations and wash-aways from recent rains. To me the trip highlighted how quickly you can be in remote areas where you have to be self sufficient and ensure your vehicles are maintained to the highest standards. Also judging by the amount of road kill on the edges of the highways, quality frontal protection is a must to ensure your own safety and drivability of your vehicle. Whilst a lot of our members have highly modified vehicles, it is not necessary to have a lot of these fitted to still enjoy safe travelling and exploring of our great country. A suspension upgrade, LT construction tyres, some frontal protection (bullbar) and basic recovery gear will get you to most places without spending big dollars. We saw some people camping out there with just the bare basics and enjoying themselves immensely.

The club membership is a great resource of information and members would be wise to make the most of it and discuss your needs and find out what accessories and camping gear has worked for them so you can buy right first time.

Now that summer has been and gone, winter will soon be upon us. Each season presents its own challenges and with winter comes bigger river crossings and plenty of mud. If you are new to driving off-road in these conditions, please discuss with your trip leader your concerns and they'll help you throughout the trip and ensure other members do the same. There is no shame in asking for help and will only increase your knowledge, safety and enjoyment. It also ensures you have appropriate clothing for the conditions and carry spare dry clothes.

It's great to see such a varied selection of trips available to its members from quite a few different trip leaders. Keep up the good work club members you're doing a great job.

I hope to see you at the next club meeting.

John Partridge  
President, VFWDC Inc.

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>WOMBAT STATE FORREST – Lerderderg State Park</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: David Bruinsma TEL: 0417 747 860
DATE	Weekend <b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June</b>
MEETING PLACE / TIME	TBA
GRADE	WET: easy DRY: easier
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	The idea is to head up the Western Freeway through to Bacchus Marsh and bush base camp in the local state forest. <b>Saturday</b> will be a WINE TASTING at St. Anne's Vineyards just west of Bacchus Marsh @ 10am (can be a meeting point for people coming up on Saturday). After sampling the wines (and having morning tea somewhere nearby) we will head back into the local state forest and try to fully explore the area. I have not done ANY driving there yet at all, so I'm going to do heaps of exploring and don't be surprised if there is the obliquity U turn or 3 on the day. <b>Sunday</b> will be a slow get up, and gradually clear up camp for departing after lunch. Since we are so close to the city we don't need to leave super early to get back.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 2      MAXIMUM: 5
APPROX KMS	Less then 100km from city
Meeting place to destination	Meeting place TBA
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Bacchus Marsh    also at Ballan DIESEL: Bacchus Marsh    also at Ballan
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Bacchus Marsh
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	All camping equipment, safety and recovery equipment for campers. And money for the winery.
MAPS REQUIRED	TBA
RADIO CHANNEL      CB / UHF	UHF 12

News of new laws for travelling the Simpson Desert in regards to sand flags.

The SA Government District Manager Outback, has issued mandatory Flag requirements for Simpson Desert Travellers.

Relevant portions of the Press Release are below:

**Safety Flag requirements for all vehicles by March 16 2014:**

All vehicles must be fitted with a Safety flag as detailed below when travelling in the Simpson Desert Conservation Park, or Simpson Desert Regional Reserve.

Flag Specifications: Minimum 300mm wide by 290mm high. Made of Fluorescent materials, Red-Orange or Lime-Yellow in colour.

Motorbikes: Rear mounted flag pole, with top of the flag a minimum 3.5 metres from the ground.

All Other Vehicles: With Front Bullbar - Flag pole attached to the bullbar, with top of the flag a minimum 3.5 metres from the ground. Without Front Bullbar - Flag pole attached via bracket at the front of the vehicle, with top of the flag a minimum 3.5 metres from the ground; alternatively flag pole attached to the front of the roof rack, with top of the flag a minimum 2 metres from the roof of vehicle.

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Marysville and surrounds - Day Trip</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	MOB: Stuart Bowker 0428539157 Maree Bowker 0418539157
DATE	Saturday - 17/5/14
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Marysville main street outside the bakery 9:am for a 9:30 am departure. Bakery should be open for Breaky allow extra time
GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	This is a repeat of the trip from 11/1/14 we thought on the day it maybe more fun if there was a bit of mud about. The trip will go to Keppel hut, MacFadyen Tk Quartz Crk Rd, Bull Fight Rd, Royston Range Tk to the Rubicon Power Station and maybe stop for dinner at the Buxton Hotel if anyone is interested. Bring packed lunch and munchies for roadside stops
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: N/A
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	300-400 klms round trip
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL & DIESEL: Marysville credit card sales only best to fuel at Healesville NO LPG
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	400 klms
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Own basic recovery gear, tools and any spares you may require. AT or MT tyres
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftop maps Marysville-Lake Eildon or Big River Rubicon
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12 UHF
DESTINATION	<b>Portland Buggy Club</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Bruce Cremonesi MOB: 0400 42 52 96
DATE	June Long Weekend
MEETING PLACE / TIME	BP Service Station on East Link SOUTHBOUND
GRADE <b>Dry or Wet:</b>	Easy - Hard
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Wheeling in the sand dunes of Portland Buggy Club. This 1800 ha area of mainly tall bare dunes is a mecca for off-road enthusiasts. More Info at the club meeting
VEHICLE LIMITS	<b>MINIMUM: 4 MAXIMUM: 10</b>
KMS Meeting place to destination	420klms
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	Portland has 4 service stations open 7 days Shell Percy Street 24 hour service, BP Percy Street, Caltex Tyers Street & Shell Henty Highway
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Plenty on the way
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	<b>Must have:</b> <b>ALL CARS MUST HAVE A FLAG AND FLAG POLE TO ENTER BUGGY CLUB.</b> <b>EVERYONE WITH FULL RECOVERY GEAR</b> <b>RATED RECOVERY POINTS FRONT AND REAR.</b> <b>Tyre Pressure gauges + Compressor</b> <b>Should have: Shovel/Spade/Digging tool</b> <b>CAMERAS!</b>
MAPS REQUIRED	TBA – As far as I know there are none for the buggy club
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12 or TBA

## UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	<b>Snow Trip - Mt Skene</b>
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	NAME: Markncat Felton MOB: 0439 345 207
DATE	Friday 18th - Sunday 20th July
MEETING PLACE / TIME	Skipworth reserve campsite, at the start of Polletti track
GRADE <b>Please adhere to new trip classifications</b>	WET: Medium DRY: Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	<p>We will be heading up Friday night, we will leave Saturday morning at 9am, (you can meet us here on Saturday, if Friday doesn't suit), we'll head up and over Mt Skene. Hopefully we will have some snow to play in, up on Mt Skene. Twelve mile, will be our base camp, so trailers are welcome.</p> <p>And packing up camp and leaving Sunday morning, heading back to Melbourne.</p> <p>Please note, we are required to get a permit two weeks before, finally numbers/details will be taken at the end of June. It is advised if you could carry snow chains.</p>
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS Meeting place to destination	200km
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Mansfield DIESEL: Mansfield
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Self sufficient Chains for tyres

DESTINATION	<b>Mt Skene</b>
LEADER/CONTACT NO.	NAME: Sam Ayoubiee MOB: 0414503874
DATE	18 July 2014
GRADE <b>Please adhere to new trip classifications</b>	WET: snow conditions
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	Weekend trip to Mt Skene. Leaving Friday morning and returning Sunday. Trip activities meeting point will be announced closer to trip. Will be going to Licola and staying at Mt Skene and staying at Crows Hut.
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: MAXIMUM: 5
LAST AVAILABLE FUEL	PETROL: Heyfield DIESEL: Heyfield
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Approx. 50km
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Recovery gear & winches and snow chains if you have.
MAPS REQUIRED	Leader will have maps
RADIO CHANNEL CB / UHF	12



Lots of  
Trips!



1B, 280 South Gippsland Highway,  
Cranbourne, 3977

P: 03 59955055

E: [sales@everything4wd.com.au](mailto:sales@everything4wd.com.au)

W: [www.everything4wd.com.au](http://www.everything4wd.com.au)



*We are now distributors of the great **OZTENT** range of products  
with great club pricing*



Need a UHF in-car or hand held UHF Radio?  
*Everything **4WD** have a great range of*

**Uniden**

Products as well as antennas, mounting brackets,  
dash cams + more.

We also have access to a large range of AM/FM  
radios, DVD players, reversing cameras and  
cruise controls



## Minutes of General Meeting April 2014

The meeting was held at Noble Park Football Club and was opened at 8.00pm by Club President John.

**Present:** members present as per the Attendance book

**Apologies:** members present as per the Apologies book

**Visitors:** Visitors as listed in the Visitors Book

### Minutes of previous General Meeting

Accepted : Sally Harris

Seconded : Ben Withworth

**Matters arising:**

NIL

**Correspondence in**

Not available

**Correspondence out**

Club magazine

### Treasurer's report

<b>Cheque A/c</b>	Opening Balance	\$ 6557.00	
	Deposits	\$104.10	
	Money Out	\$178.00	
	<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b>\$ 6483.10</b>
<b>Term Deposit</b>	Opening Balance	\$7289.32	
	Interest	\$61.11	
	<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b>\$7350.43</b>
<b>Petty Cash Float</b>	Opening Balance	\$150.00	
	Money out	\$20.00	
	Transfer from cheque a/c	\$20.00	
	<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b>\$150.00</b>
<b>Consolidated Cash Position</b>			<b>\$13983.53</b>

Accepted: Jim McMillan

Seconded: Ben Witworth

**Association Report**

Nil

**Trip coordinators report**

All upcoming trips advertised up to end of July - refer to April issue of the club magazine

**Trip reports**

Presentation of Photo to Tony Barbera taken at Aberfeldy of the FORD recovery vehicles by Sally Harris and David Bruinsma

***Aberfeldy field trip with Rudi***

4x Club members vehicles went up on the Friday afternoon and evening, and stayed overnight at Little O'Tooles camp ground

Saturday saw an early start going up Sullivans track to wait for remaining 3 club vehicles at Cast Iron Point, then our club met up with everyone else up at Aberfeldy township. A total of 17 vehicles present for the day from 3 clubs and Rudi with 2 other helper vehicles.

John Partridge said that the day went really well considering the number of vehicles involved and we managed to move on promptly through the various sites.

Our club areas mostly consist of easy to maintain and locate signs in the township of Aberfeldy and also two tracks that will require walking and clearing. One of those tracks we should try to clear prior to the winter closures.

At the end of the day, the other clubs joined with VFWDC to camp at Little O'Tooles, and the 'Wanderin' club also joined VFWDC around the camp fire to enjoy social interaction between the clubs.

***Driver Training (beginners)***

Theory session took place on the Tuesday night at Everything 4WD shop in Cranbourne.

The practical session took place last weekend, with overnight camping once again at Little O'Tooles camp ground.

First track out again on Saturday morning was Sullivans track.

Everyone got some good practice in over the two days, reinforcing what was learnt at the theory night.

Ly Ho took the honours on Saturday of being required to write the trip report, due to his 4wd having a dodgy started motor.

New member Tony Eftham took the honours on Sunday of being required to write the trip report, due to successfully getting stuck and then self recovering.

Enjoy reading the trip reports in the magazine for further details regarding those happenings.

**General business**

Advanced driving course might take place later in the year

Winching course might take place later in the year

***Note of good etiquette when camping:***

Clean up around your camp sites when you leave

Clean out camp fires (before and after) - better still, do not put any rubbish in the fire

If someone is cooking, do NOT add anything on or too the fire, let the person cooking maintain the fire, then build up the fire once all cooking has been finished.

When at a camp site, keep an eye out for hoons. Make use of 'dob in a hoon'. Do not try to be heroes by getting involved, just quickly take information down (vehicle details, time, date etc) and photo's if possible.

***Club Newsletter:***

The free advertising directory will be cleaned up, only CURRENT club members (including gold members) advertising will be retained, this will leave space for other club members to advertise their own businesses.

Club members are welcome to advertise other 4wd related gear (ie, for sale items) in the magazine. To do this, just send the editor and email at any time ([editor@vfwdc.com](mailto:editor@vfwdc.com))

Question was asked of the committee if anything was known about the Fraser Island possible closures - status is unknown by the committee.

***New members Kits***

Tony and Lisa received their membership cards

Craig and Millie were presented with their new membership pack (with membership cards)

Tony Feltham was presented with his new membership pack (and membership card)

*(note, need a membership card for Tony's wife - Lainy Minch)*

**Raffle**

All raffle prizes brought in were donated by various club members

2 x chocolates Easter eggs	Max Mena
2 x chocolates Easter eggs	Jim McMillan
1 dozen chook eggs	Millie Merriefield
2 x movies tickets	Julie Harvey
Toiletry stuff (shampoos etc)	Rob Pizzimento
Tupperware	Tony Efthem

## Trip Reports

5<sup>th</sup> April 2014

Trip report.

### Attending

Pajaro	Maree & Stuart
Patrol	Ian, Daniel, & Jerry
Patrol	Garry
Land Cruiser	John & Emily
Patrol	Sally & Mick



Starting point Bakery, at Yarragon, tourist information centre, sells loads of local produce, and great coffee.

Up to Thompson Dam viewing point, (this has toilets there is none at the dam wall).

Consult the maps, what do we want to achieve today? Mud! Winch practice, river crossings, rock walking, car hopping, jumping, and going sideways. Let's see what the day brings.

First stop Aberfeldy the Eldorado site of the old hotel would have been a great place for a beer or two, but today the vegetation has reclaimed it.

Next O'keefes track to McGuire's track, and a mayday call from John, the Landcruiser has a mechanical problem, the brake fluid is low. Discussion on how to fix it, but sadly we say goodbye. We made it to the Mt Useful spur track and parted with John, Emily, Sally and Mick. They limped back home safe and sound.

The day is wet, there is that drizzle that is annoying, it's wet and damp but not really raining, the mist is at the higher altitudes causing fog, making for interesting driving conditions. Off to the S16 Tk and on to the Mt Selma Tk, first to get stuck is Garry. Good work on the winch and he's on his way.



The track is steep, rocky and challenging with the rain making it slippery. The drivers determination and skill backed up by their trusty steeds managed the conditions. The group decided to take Toomstar track back towards Aberfeldy. When we got to the other end we found the sign. Double black, in dry conditions. So all we can say is oops, (Holy S#@t in the wet).

A total of about 300 kms, Thanks to all drivers and passengers. A great day was had by all.





## Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc.

ARBN A002184F

PO Box 778 Dandenong, Vic 3175

www.vfwdc.com

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORM

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP ☐ New Application - \$30 (one-off) ☐ Renewal of Membership  
 (Please select as appropriate)  
 MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY ☐ Single - \$70 ☐ Dual/Family - \$80 ☐ Silver (25+ Yrs) - \$40

#### MEMBER DETAILS (Please print clearly)

FIRST NAME	Member:	Spouse:	
SURNAME	Member:	Spouse:	
EMAIL		YEAR JOINED	
ADDRESS			
CHILDREN	Name	Age	
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
PHONE	Mobile:	Home:	Work:

#### VEHICLE DETAILS

Make:	Model:	Year:
Reg'n No.:	Colour:	Fuel Type:
Camper Trailer Details (if applicable)	Make:	Model:

#### COMPETENCIES

CURRENT FIRST AID CERTIFICATE	CHAINSAW ACCREDITED	COMPLETED DRIVER TRAINING
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

#### NEWSLETTER

I wish to receive my copy of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Newsletter *Free Wheeling* in the following manner:

☐ ELECTRONICALLY [via the VFWDC website] or ☐ REGULAR POST [only if no internet access]

#### INTERNET FORUM AND EMAIL COMMUNICATION

I agree to subscribe (or remain subscribed) to the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club internet forum and receive emails:

☐ YES [email address provided above will be used] or ☐ NO/UNSUBSCRIBE [no electronic communication]

I/WE hereby apply to the Committee of Management for new/renewed membership of the Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc and agree to follow the rules and conditions as set out by the VFWDC.

I/WE acknowledge that fees are as set by the Committee from time to time and are due and payable by 30 June annually.

Signed ..... Signed .....

Dated: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

#### PAYMENT DETAILS

Joining Fee (new applicants only) .....  
 Membership Fee (as per above) .....  
**Total** .....

DATE PAID ..... / ..... / .....

RECEIPT NO. ....

PAID BY: Cash / Cheque / EFT

If paying by EFT, what account name / reference .....