

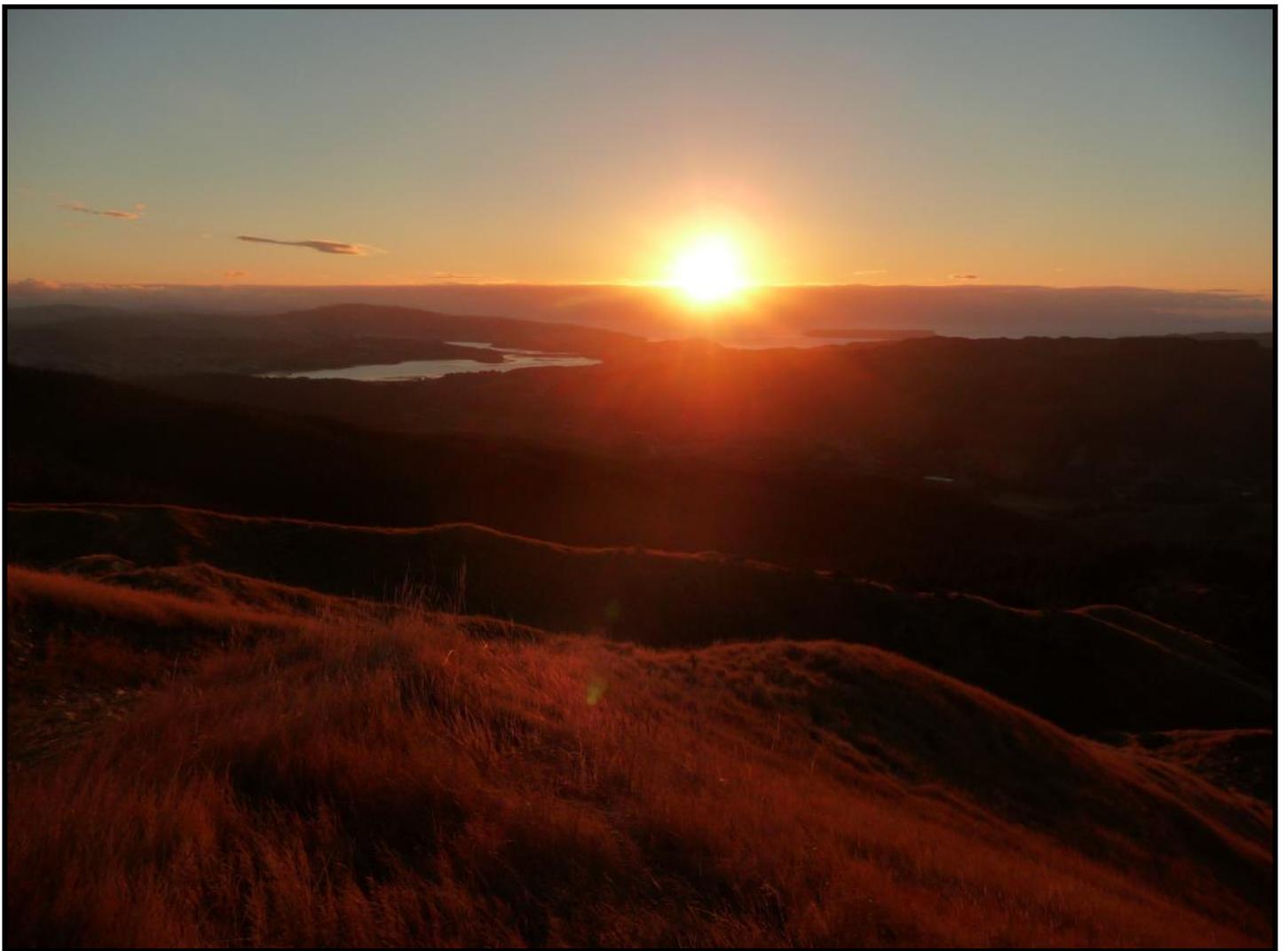


WELLINGTON



VEHICLE CLUB  
Wellington

# Cross Country Chronicle March 2012



The Official Magazine of

**The Cross Country Vehicle Club (Wellington) Inc**

PO Box 38-762, Te Puni 5045, Wellington

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# Cross Country Vehicle Club (Wellington) Inc

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Te Puni 5045

Wellington

[www.ccvc.org.nz](http://www.ccvc.org.nz)



VEHICLE CLUB  
Wellington

The club meets at 7:30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month  
at the Petone Working Men's Club, Udy Street, Petone.

Position	Name	Home Phone	Work Phone	Cellphone	Email
<b>Club Officers</b>					
President					
Vice President					
Immed Past President					
Secretary					
Treasurer					
Club Captain					
<b>General Committee Members</b>					
Driver Training Officer					
Entertainment Officer					
Membership Officer					
Land Access Manager					
New Members Officer					
Newsletter Editor					
Publicity Officer					
Radio Officer					
Safety Officer					
Trip Coordinator					
Competitions Officer					
NZ4WDA Delegate					
<b>Appointments and Other Useful People</b>					
Archivist					
Asset Manager					
Assistant Trip Coordinator					
Club Night Photo's					
Club Recovery					
Help desk					
Membership Database					
External Search & Rescue					
Track Maintenance					
Trophy Officer					
Webmaster					
Welfare					
<b><u>CCVC Life Members</u></b>					
Tom Adams	Graham Barr	George Bean (Deceased)	Leith Bean	Peter Boniface (Deceased)	
Stuart Brown	Andy Cockroft	Owen Farghar	Mike Gall	John Hughes	
Bob Jeffery (Deceased)	Heather Jeffery	Ron Johnson	Steve Lacey	Colin Landy	
Phil Lewton	Vern Lill	Bruce Mulhare	Raynor Mulhare	Ron Oliver (Deceased)	
Peter Osborne	Ross Perkins	Grant Purdie	Tony Street	Ron Wadham	

## WHEN HELP IS NEEDED

Should any members fail to return from any outing, four wheel drive or otherwise, whether as a club member or as a private individual, the following person/s should be contacted in the first instance:

**Anthony Reid 973 8262 or 027 273 6579 or 021 061 1831**

**Morris Jury 566 6197 or 021 629 600**

**Gavin Holden 478 4666 or 027 249 1959**

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### Editorial Ramblings

**WANTED: Society Gossip, Scandal, Rumour, and if all else fails, NEWS! Photos also very welcome ....**

Another month over and done with, better start saving for Christmas again! I was out at the Deadwood as a marshall and thoroughly enjoyed the day (except I came home with sore feet after standing on a hill all day in gumboots!). The day seemed to run smoothly, everyone seemed to be doing ok and the lunch was great!

Time to start thinking about the AGM as may isn't too far away - we will need some new people on the committee so how about giving us a hand in running the club?

And, don't forget to support our advertisers and sponsors, they offer us generous discounts but won't continue to do so if we don't!

We (CCVC) have been advised by the Petone Working Men's Club that everyone who is not a member of the Petone Working Men's Club **MUST** sign in when they enter the club, including CCVC members attending club nights, meetings, etc.

This is standard procedure for licensed clubs and it is a legal requirement that this be done so please ensure you sign in as a visitor whenever you attend CCVC events at the Petone Working Men's Club (if you are not a member of PWMC of course).

It is very important that we comply with their request if we wish to maintain the good relationship we have with them.

### MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

This is your magazine so it can only be as good as the contributions you make!! We need any articles, trip reports, technical items, "How-to's", etc to be in the hands of the editor by the end of each calendar month.

Please email to [newsletter@ccvc.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@ccvc.org.nz) or post to 34a Hine Rd, Wainuiomata or fax to 04 914 8366.

**DISCLAIMER:** The opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the club, it's executive or committee members. Publication of maintenance techniques or mechanical modifications should be weighed against generally accepted procedures and the Club should not be considered an authority in this area.

## Vehicle Inspectors



### **Dayal Landy**

Gold Coast Mechanical  
2 Epiha St, Paraparaumu  
Ph. 04 902 9244

### **Antony Hargreaves**

Epuni Motors 1987 Ltd  
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Ph. 04 569 3485

### **Dave Bowler**

### **Pete Beckett**

Bowler Motors Ltd  
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### **Grant Guy**

### **Richard Blair**

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### **Shane & Carl**

Mendoza Mechanical  
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Ph. 04 527 7274

***NB: Please remember to call and make an appointment before turning up for an inspection!***

## CCVC Trophies

We are trying to find out more details on the history of our club trophies and awards: things like previous winners, where the trophy came from, what it was originally given out for, etc.

So if you know anything that we don't know (see trophy page on the website to see what we do know) then please get in touch with a committee member or drop an email to:

**newsletter@ccvc.org.nz**



## National Events

**Mar 24-25: OCS 4WD Safari** Otamatea Christian School PTA & Rodney Off-Road Club, based at Matakohe (2 hrs north of Auckland). Safari and play runs available. \$170 per vehicle incl driver, passenger & 3 meals each. Camping available. Contact Phillip & Julia Leaf 09 431 6622 or pjleaf@ubernet.co.nz

**Apr 7, 2012: National Trial Series** Final, Thames Valley 4WD Club

**Apr 06-08: Superwinch 24hr Teams Event** Jeep Woodhill 4WD Park over Easter. A fun challenge team for basic club vehicles with tow hooks front and rear, fire extinguisher, first aid kit, and basic recovery gear. Only soft top vehicles will need a roll cage. Limited to 10 teams, three vehicles to a team, two of which must have a winch. All three must complete stages. Good Friday stages open 5pm and close Sat 5pm. BBQ all night, food supplied, but must cook, and coffee and tea 24 hours. Very few rules, only safety rules will be strictly enforced. More details and entry forms [www.auckland4wd.org.nz](http://www.auckland4wd.org.nz) or phone Stephen Reed 021 027 0332

**Apr 27-29: Whangarei Winch Challenge** Venue to be advised. Scrutineering Friday 4pm - 10pm on site. Briefing 10pm Friday. First vehicles on track 6. am Saturday. Brunch prize giving late morning Sunday. Camping on-site

**Apr 28-29: Westport Challenge** organised by Nelson 4WD Club. A series of challenging (and scenic) tracks to be driven on a rotational system based from Westport. Grade 5 tracks. Drivers to be 4wd club members. 15 teams only, three vehicles per team. Entry fee \$600 per team includes meals for six team members for Sat and Sunday night. Extra meals by arrangement. Vehicles must have full rego and WoF, third party insurance, winch, standard club safety equipment, and ground anchor. Max tyre diameter 900mm. No chains or agricultural tyres. Teams must be self-sufficient. More information or for entries [sav@the4x4centre.co.nz](mailto:sav@the4x4centre.co.nz) or phone Andrew Satherley (Sav) 027 627 1972 or 03 548 2731 (work). Full information about Westport and accommodation [www.westport.org.nz](http://www.westport.org.nz)

**Apr late, tba: Glenbervie School Tagalong** in conjunction with Whangarei 4WD Club. Predominantly in Glenbervie Forest (normally inaccessible to public) as well as trails on adjacent farms with amazing native bush, forest and coastal views. Suitable for all road legal 4WD late model vehicles with low range and high clearance, plus SUVs with EBS and traction control (at the discretion of the organisers). Not suitable for 4WD cars. A safe family day out. More information [pauls@glenbervie.school.nz](mailto:pauls@glenbervie.school.nz)

*Some details in this column appear courtesy of Cathy Parker, publisher of the New Zealand 4WD and Sportvehicles magazine. Potential participants should contact the event organiser; CCVC cannot take responsibility for any changes or inadvertent inaccura-*



# Club Sub-Committees

The club has the following sub committees running currently (convenor named first, where applicable):

- **60k:** Terence Broad, Ron Johnson, Bruce Mulhare, Antony Royal, John Vruink, Mark Wolstenholme
- **Club Recovery:** Anthony Reid, Morris Jury, Rodney Bracefield, Gavin Holden
- **Competition:** Neil Blackie
- **Deadwood:** Paul Adams, Roger Seymour, Neil Blackie, Morris Jury, Nick Martin, Dennis Mckinley, John Vruink & Ray Harkness
- **Emergency Comms & Radio:** Ian Hutchings, Grant Purdie, Rodney Bracefield, Jim Johnson, Phil Lewton, Rick Smith, John Vruink, Mark Wolstenholme, Murray Wills, Steve Mercer, Tony Brown
- **Land Access:** Grant Purdie, All trip leaders
- **Police Search & Rescue (SAR):** ???
- **Safety:** Murray Taylor, Carl Furniss, Peter King, Steve Mercer
- **Trip Leaders Forum:** Charles Odlin, All trip leaders
- **Web Project:** Murray Wills, Grant Purdie, Stefen Cook, John Parfitt, Mike Stevens

The club also has the following external organisation liaison people:

- **Akatarawa Recreational Access Committee:** Ralph Dobson, Charles Odlin & Grant Purdie
- **Dept of Conservation Head Office Liaison:** Paul Adams
- **Foxton Beach Coast Care:** Bruce Mulhare, Grant Purdie, Russell Stevens & John Vruink
- **Friends of Belmont:** Stewart Burrell
- **Greater Wellington Regional Council:** Grant Purdie
- **Horowhenua District Council:** Grant Purdie
- **Tread Lightly!:** Ralph Dobson
- **Wellington City Council:** Grant Purdie & Barry Insull



# Presidents Piece

## Presidents Piece March 2012

A busy start to the year for most and today is already the first day of autumn. I was lucky enough to get away overseas again in Feb to the warmer climate of Malaysia so I can't complain about the not seeing any good summery weather.

I had the Suzuki out for a GWRC Sunset Tour and for possibly the first time we did get to see the sun setting over the Sounds. The trip was booked out and we had to provide 30 seats on a Saturday evening. Thanks to the guys that turned up, as leader I think I was the last to arrive. John P had been in touch with the council on my behalf as I was working in Auckland the week before, as usual everything was well planned. After a safety briefing with our crew and the ranger we introduced ourselves and allocated seats, not as easy as one might think with a few last minute juggles. I lead the way with the ranger riding shotgun, lucky as I could well have been up for the gumboot if it was left up to me. We had a nice easy drive for the club members but I am sure the punters got a few thrills, especially the side track just before sunset through the pines, I radioed it was just wide enough for short wheel base trucks to then see Rick Brain come through in the 80 series cruiser. The sunset was spot on and we weren't a minute to early, a quick run down to the car park, a farewell to some happy Wellington locals before a quick change and off to a 50<sup>th</sup>.

We have one more meeting before the AGM, this year we are looking for some new members to come onto the committee as a few guys have now served their maximum of three years on the executive. You would think a club of over 200 wouldn't have too many problems finding people to help out but it is never easy. We are looking for a new Treasurer, David has done a fantastic job and I believe the new person will pick up a very clean set of books to carry us on, if you or you know someone who has some skills with numbers please let one of the committee know, feel free to contact David as he can enlighten you to what the job entails. There are a couple of other posts coming up so please give it some serious thought if you would like to join the team running our successful club.

Zuki Central is happening again this Easter so if you are a Suzuki owner look at joining in, if you don't own a Suzuki you had better get a move on. The event is a little lower key this year but already Steve has got more registrations than we had last year, web site for registration [www.4wdonline.co.nz](http://www.4wdonline.co.nz) but, as club members you

*(Continued on page 8)*

# TBS

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will pay a lesser fee.

I look forward to seeing you all at club night, some feedback I have had is you want more socialising during the meeting but not the late finish so we will try and speed some parts of the meeting up. I am fully aware that we can't please everyone but I am always willing to try something different and see how we go.

Ralph Dobson  
CCVC President



## **Notice of Annual General Meeting**

### **Cross Country Vehicle Club (Wellington) Inc**

Notice is hereby given that the 2012 Annual General Meeting of the Cross Country Vehicle Club (Wellington) Inc will be held on Wednesday 09<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at the Petone Working Men's Club, Udy Street Petone. The AGM will be in association with the May club meeting.

*Dennis McKinlay*

Club Secretary.

### **Notes Regarding AGM.**

#### **Rule 21: Nominations of Candidates for Elected Positions:**

- a. Each candidate for an elected position shall be a Voting Member, and shall be nominated in writing by one Voting Member and seconded by another.
- b. The nomination shall be with the written consent of the nominee, and is to be received by the Secretary prior to the Annual General Meeting. Nominations may also be received at the Annual General Meeting until such time as the Chairperson declares nominations closed.

#### **Rule 39: Procedure at General Meetings (Proxy voting)**

- a. .... proxy voting is not permitted.

#### **Rule 37: Notice of Motion for General Meetings.**

Any notice of motion for consideration by a General Meeting shall be sent in writing to the Secretary at least 20 days before the date of the General Meeting. Such notice shall include the full text of the motion and the names of the mover and seconder both of whom shall be Voting Members. A motion for which such notice has not been given, may be proposed from the floor only at the Annual General Meeting and then only with the consent of the Chairperson.

# Cross Country Vehicle Club (Wellington) Inc



## 2012 CLUB OFFICER NOMINATION FORM

I wish to nominate the person below for one of the following positions of the Cross Country Vehicle Club (Wellington) Incorporated.

Tick one only

<b>Club Officers</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	President
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vice President
<input type="checkbox"/>	Immediate Past President
<input type="checkbox"/>	Secretary
<input type="checkbox"/>	Treasurer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Club Captain
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>General Committee Members</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Competitions Officer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Driver Training Officer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Entertainment Officer
<input type="checkbox"/>	External Organisation Delegate – NZFWD Association
<input type="checkbox"/>	Land Access Manager
<input type="checkbox"/>	Membership Officer
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Members Officer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter Editor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Publicity Officer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Radio Communications Officer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Safety Officer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trip Coordinator
<input type="checkbox"/>	General Committee Member

	Name (print)	Signature	Date
<b>Person Nominated:</b>	.....	.....	...../...../.....
<b>Proposed By:</b>	.....	.....	...../...../.....
<b>Seconded By:</b>	.....	.....	...../...../.....

*Please complete this form **legibly** and return to the secretary (or committee member) so that it is in the secretary's hands by the time the AGM starts. You may post it to **CCVC, P.O. Box 38 762, Te Puni**; please ensure that it is posted in time for our final mail clearance on the day before the AGM. It would be preferred if it could be returned earlier if possible.*

## **Deadwood 2012**

**Upper Hutt Leader, 01 Feb 2012**

All roads led to Whitemans Valley on Sunday with the annual Deadwood Safari cross-country four-wheel-drive vehicle event proving popular, attracting about 1500 spectators, markedly up on a year ago.

Contested on land owned by Colin James, a competitor in his own right, the Deadwood attracted more than 60 entrants in several grades of racing over an exacting 30-hazard course providing plenty of thrills and . . . rollovers.

"The course we use is outstanding with the hazards providing plenty of technical, wet and high options," organising team chairman Paul Adams says. The weather gods were kind too. "The rain came big on Thursday night, to a point where the recovery of vehicles (from several hazards) was a nightmare," he says.

More than 40 years established, the Deadwood was at the James' land for a fourth year in a row, and was the fourth stage in a 10-event national series raced around the country in an October to September season. The aim of the game is to make as few errors as possible.

The event's overall winners, Whanganui's Derek Smyth and Todd Charman, infringed only 19 points all day (from a potential 3200 bloopers) to take the stage and head off the country's top-ranked pairing and fellow Whanganui safari exponents in Dan Cowper and Dave Hoskin. Local hopes lay with Mitch Seymour and Mark Stockler, from the Wellington Cross Country Vehicle Club, Adams says.

"They were leading the champs before we started but then they got the rollover of the day." The racing was carried out in several classes with wins going to Smythe, Clarrie Vazey, Hamish Auret, Pierre Lievre, Graeme Kingstone and Ron Sturme (who won the Jeep Mountain section, the longest and fastest of the day).



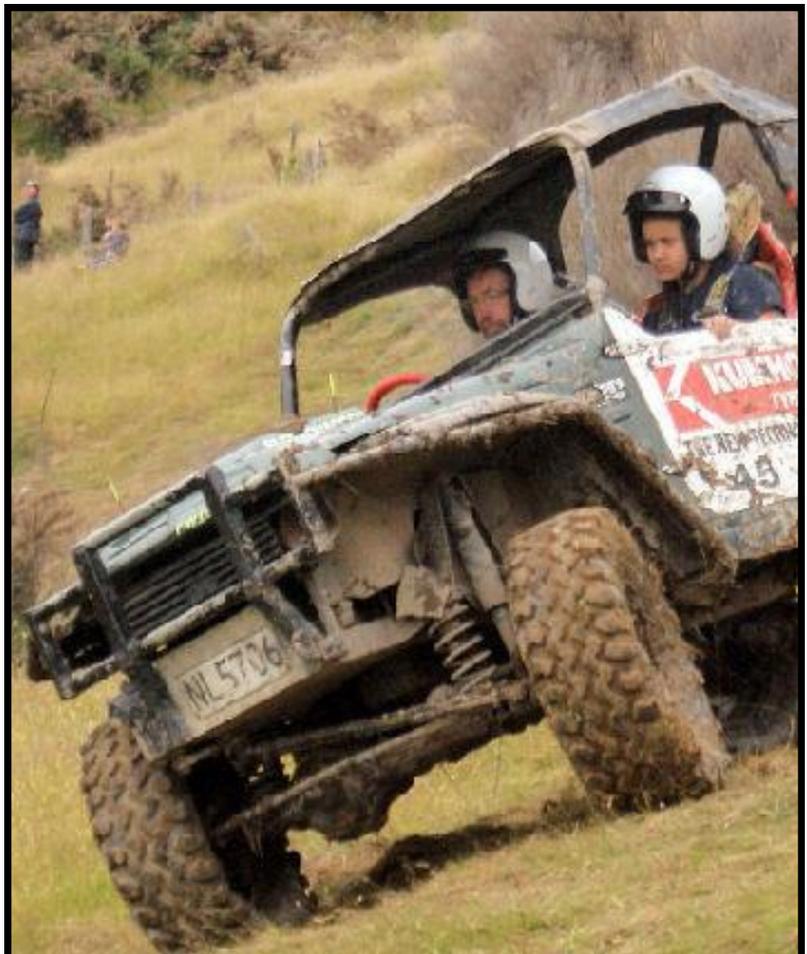
### **Confessions of a Deadwood Marshal**

I arrived on Saturday to scope the layout and was immediately put to work laying out the public car park. After that it was a sneak drive up the competitors track that lead to hazards 1 to 17. A couple of us were then dispatched to erect a sign between hazards 8 and 9 to stop competitors going the wrong way up the access road. We thought that instruction did not make sense, and it was wrong, the sign was to go near hazard ten!!

Sunday had me up and away before the small birds woke to pass wind and first task before briefing was to help erect the small club marquee. Then to the briefing, assemble my team, Murray and his two sons and a ringer (from the scout group?) a lovely young lady – Emily. We were assigned hazard 3, a fair walk up. With a stroke of luck we met Rodger who wanted fire extinguishers delivered so we could use the truck. With 5 of us including Steve Mercer who was on hazard 1 we swiftly made to our destination. Hazard three was a tricky little loop up the gully, over the bank and return to the start gates. The second truck broke its steering arm and was out for the day? And the fifth truck got wedged between the banks and took some time to remove. Indeed the Stewards cancelled the stage at this point because of the long recovery.

So Emily and I moved down to hazard 9 to help Jane and her team leaving Murray and the boys to help out on hazard 4. Number nine was a plough through a mud bog and up a near vertical climb with a couple of

*(Continued on page 11)*



***Home advantage: Course land owner, Whitemans Valley farmer Colin James, with his navigator, 17-year old daughter Shanalee, compete in their Suzuki four-wheel-drive.***

(Continued from page 10)

even steeper steps. We witnessed several rollovers, including one that had young Zac running for his life. I was pleased that it was him there rather than me because my old legs would not have moved fast enough and I would now be about 6 inches high. The real action took place behind our backs with some serious rolls including Mitch's bone cruncher which left him and truck sidelined for the day. ( I managed to get some rollover sequences on my camera –but not Mitch)

Lunchtime arrived, we gathered up the fire extinguishers and headed for the afternoon section to deliver them to as many starts as I could get to. (Sadly 4 starts missed out, sorry Paul) They tell me lunch was good but I never made it back to try it out. Once again seconded into work on yet another hazard that provided more than it's fair share of spills and thrills and the camera got a workout on the results. Once again I had a good view of the hazard behind me which only one truck zeroed !!

End of the day saw the group collecting in the pegs and fire extinguishers, put them in the back of my truck and return them to base camp. Ralph seemed to be short of several extinguishers but later I realised Roger still had some in his truck after we transferred them in the morning, and I suspect by the afternoon he had other things on his mind.

It was from my point of view a fun day. I had been warned that some competitors may get stroppy over our calls, but in my experience all of them were friendly and courteous and were a pleasure to deal with.

Phil Gibbons



### **Jeep girls thoughts on a day in the Orongorongos**

For those that I haven't met me I'm in the process of joining the club, own a jeep called 'Poki' (short for Pocahontas) and love 4WDing.

Morris' trip into the Orongorongos on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> of Feb was my second family shiny and following are my thoughts on the day. We (myself and co-river for the day Scottish friend Emma) headed out of the city with a clean jeep at some ungodly hour (one I rarely see on a Sunday morning) to meet at Wainui beach at 9am.

Bright eyed and bushy tailed we headed off into the Orgongorongo Station, being second in the convoy was defiantly a different pace to being closer to the back (which is where I was on my first trip). The climb up to the air strip was quite entertaining as we came across some cows that were not impressed by being disturbed



by a convoy of trucks - I'm sure most that passed them considered having a big piece of steak for dinner (we ended up at Gasworks after the trip having steak for dinner).

A quick stop at the airstrip to take some photos of the gorgeous views of Wellington and the South Island and we were off again. We headed along cattle ridge and into a steep descend (this is where I fell in love with low ratio gears). This descend was one of my favourite parts of the trip, and I'm sure if Polcat behind me wasn't so loud the convoy would have heard the squeals (sometimes screams or uncontrollable laughter) coming from the jeep.

A small river crossing, morning  
(Continued on page 14)

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**Are you a new member?** Do you get the News emails from the club? Do you have access to the club's web-site memberzone? If not then have a word with a committee member as these are all ways in which the club communicates with it's members. Some useful email addresses are:

- Webmaster@ccvc.org.nz (general web site queries)
- Lists@ccvc.org.nz (person who administers the list servs)
- Trips@ccvc.org.nz (Trip Coordinator)
- Newsletter@ccvc.org.nz (to send stuff to the newsletter editor)
- Database@ccvc.org.nz (membership database administrator)
- Access@ccvc.org.nz (Chairman of the Land Access Management Committee)
- NZFWDAdelegate@ccvc.org.nz (NZ Four Wheel Drive Association delegate)
- Treasurer@ccvc.org.nz (club treasurer)
- Welfare@ccvc.org.nz (club welfare officer)
- David.coxon@xtra.co.nz (Club night photo submission)
- Helpdesk@ccvc.org.nz (any general questions)



The 2011-2012 calendar is:

Round 1	Mt Egmont	22 October 2011
Round 2	South Waikato	20 November 2011
Round 3	Wanganui	31 December 2011
Round 4	Wellington	29 January 2012
Round 5	Bay of Plenty	03 March 2012
Round 6 - Finals	Thames	07 April 2012

*(Continued from page 11)*

tea and we were on our way again along the coast heading towards Lake Ferry. I'm not sure what you call the rocky terrain we crossed but I can tell you that was defiantly not my favourite part as at some points I looked at Emma for some support and she looked as terrified as I was and was clinging to the jesus handle (thanks to Zac for telling us the name of that). At this point I was thankful to be wedged between 2 club members and made an attempt to follow the tracks of who was in front of me as they seemed to know what they were doing. However this didn't always go well as my back bumper still took a bashing and our hearts skipped a few beats on the occasions I tried but failed to avoid large rocks... Other than the rocky terrain we crossed bogs, sandy and grassy parts, and came to a stop in the Wharekauhau station.

After a lovely lunch in the sun we headed back the way we came - through bogs, over sand, slightly traumatised by the rocks again... We jumped off the track at one point to do a loop that included a short steep incline that that I attempted to sneak around but Morris caught me out so gave it my all and made it up, I loved it so much I wanted to do it again (Emma however said she would wait outside the jeep if that was the case), no need Emma as we headed straight back to the track.

Once back to the start we drove up a track by the river few kms, a quick loo stop.... 'ladies to the right'... then turned around and crossed back through the river several times back to the beach. River crossings are also in the running as a favourite part of my day, they are a lot of fun and also resulted in a lot of screams and laughter from within the jeep - however all that water and it still didn't wash off the mud tan the jeep was sporting after the bogs.

Overall rating for the day from us girls was an O for Awesome!! It was a great trip for those learning to drive off-road and Morris and the other club members provided all the support a girl learning to drive off road needs!

Vicki B

## **The Ruts**

**By Dennis McKinlay**

On a fine sunny Saturday in December, 12 Trucks set off to drive the ruts, led by Ian Dixon. There was the usual range of vehicles and driver experience, all looking forward to a great day of driving and fresh air, and it didn't disappoint. I was particularly looking forward to trying out my new set of Silverstone's.

We gathered at Moonshine corner to start on Cooks Road but the logging road was so easy we returned to Pu-



clinging mud and it had to be winched. Yours truly then decided silverstones and plenty of clearance meant an alternate route through the same mud hole would work and ended up beaching myself having to be stopped. We spent quite a bit of time on recoveries at this point in the track – all part of the entertainment of the day.



ketiro Road and headed up the hill to then dropped down to Wainui stream. Those trucks that were open to the elements, and there were quite a few, suffered from dust on Puketiro Rd, due to the dry conditions. Wainui stream was the usual bit of fun, before Ian lead us up Hydro Road and on to the Orange Hut.

After lunch we got stuck - literally - into the ruts. A Toyota Surf shed a tyre which was quickly remedied with a burst of air from a dive tank. Next a Safari decided to take the more challenging mud hole and got truly bogged down. A strop pull wouldn't free it from the

clinging mud and it had to be winched. Yours truly then decided silverstones and plenty of clearance meant an alternate route through the same mud hole would work and ended up beaching myself having to be stopped. We spent quite a bit of time on recoveries at this point in the track – all part of the entertainment of the day.

Then it was up the fence line and here I made a navigation error trying to cross two deep ruts and ended up gently resting on the bank, requiring a winch from John to pull the front down on the ground. There were several rude remarks about changing the oil while the wheels were in the air.

Once in the mud holes at the top of the fence line it was truly on for young and old. Ian pushed and bullied his way through a long deep mud hole, a wave of mud building up in front of his Landcruiser but pure determination and 6,000 revs finally won. John V had too much mud in the radiator and need some cleaning from Ross before continuing to play, and most others got stuck

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at some point. After a great play we returned via concrete ford via side track, over to long crossing, Rimu Rd, Toitoe & down Hydro & back up Wainui Stream and more stuck vehicles.

At the end of Wainui stream there was a large mud hole, which if navigated on the ride hand side, was do able, but some decided they preferred a challenge and tried to drive through on the left. Stewart was one and John another who thought his V8 power and an FJ40 were up to it. I was the vehicle in front of John and had the pleasure of returning the favour of his help on fence line, unfortunately in trying to reach his stop, ended up flat on my back in the mud.

Then it was Cooks Road, air up and home. A great day with plenty of challenges, fun and good company; thanks Ian.



### **Waitangi weekend at Otapawa and Costa Plenty**

Prospect of going on a shiny 4x4trip with exciting driving. Yippee! Chance to practice those cools moves from the Deadwood.

Shopping for food - if there are only 5 of us will there be a BBQ? Take punt and buy one dinner

Pack truck up with 4wd gear, Tools -check, Shovel and grubber - check, Coats and warm gear - check. Good - all set

Turn around and air tank and high lift standing in the corner

Sh\*t. In they go.

Hmm- air tank sounding a little hollow. Check compressor goes - yes. Stow in truck

Finished work early and packed bag. Cup of tea with Erin.

Australia beaten by Kenya in 7s. NZ gives Scotland jolly good hiding

On the road at last

Tea at Maccas in Masterton - seemed like a good idea at the time but afterwards not so sure. Gas up for the rest of the weekend

Otapawa - John has led the charge and is first there.

Graham and Linda, Stewart and Jane and Zac then Ross and Jordan arrive.

General bonhomie

Morning - set to go, air down, warm motors, wait for Donald.

Donald arrives on quad - he just needs to pick tractor up from down the road

30 mins later tractor roars past. We move out and queue by woodshed

Wait for Donald - country time

Tractor comes back and roars up the road

We follow - eventually come to gate. Tractor heads through- Never been on a trip lead by a tractor before

Tractor bulldozes large branch out of he way. Down hill. Come to a stop.

Tractor has to move humungous pipe.

Safari engine off...hmmm brakes feel a bit spongy. Engine on and brakes come right

Onwards and upwards. Leave tractor behind. Donald leading on quad

Grass long and green and a bit slippery but generally ok. Clay tracks are dry.

Stu must have brought plenty of coal with him cos Dasie is pumping out enough smoke to cause localized climate change

Up the top then back to and across the road to airstrip. Donald goes home. John and Stu rub hands together then picked our way along ridges parallel to road.

Cross road and down other side. Narrow bridge

Put front of safari onto bank to get round very sharp turn. Strategy works. No problem for shorties

Vertical drop off into stream. Surprise for Graham

Suzie frightens large rock and rock moves to one side.

Next one down ok. Minor mods to bank for LWB. Good entry and good exit. Lunch. Ross decides to try to go back up drop off. Unsuccessful.

Tour continues in a large loop. Through narrow gate - very tight for LWB - break front indicator lens. Bugger Bog to play in!

Stu goes in. Stu stops. Serious bog - Stu winched out. Rest flag it.

Safari picks up wire round wheel. Find I have parked on a dead sheep. Carefully move on a bit without spinning wheels. Cut wire out. Phew. No damage

Follow Ross up track and watch him go through cut off drain and slither off up the hill

Not enough welly for the safari- slither nowhere. Call for tow out. Ross comes back pulls off side of track to turn around. Can't reverse back on green grass. Goes further off track and turns. Still too slippery

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Does loop through paddock and tows me backwards. Then I drive out through paddock  
Back to steam crossing and drop off.  
All manage to get back up....even Ross!  
Back to narrow bridge. John across. Me next.  
Can't line up safari....turn too long, too tight and too greasy  
Much backwards and forwards. Winch from front to pull round. Nope.  
More back and forth and some digging. Nope  
Put winch extension onto tree and try and pull back around  
Bang ! Brake hose bursts. Dent in side door from corner post, front bumper pushed onto tyre. Bugger  
Suddenly winching has truck lined up. Drive across bridge to flat paddock.  
Blamed wire but hose has a split. Found out when I asked John to push pedal - face full of brake fluid. Bugger  
Ross has clamp - apply and top up reservoir. All set but strong pull to right when breaking  
Note to self - don't forget.  
Back to road. Others carry on and I go back to accommodation. Looks like end of trip for me. Hose down  
truck. Magnificent high pressure. Nozzle blows off hose. Bugger  
Refit and continue hosing. Pressure blows hole in rusty back bumper. Bugger  
Air up with compressor and straighten front bumper with strop and tree stump. Good.  
Others arrive back.  
Great BBQ tea. John causes international incident when he terrifies woofers ( volunteer farm workers) with his  
rum  
Next morning packed up my gear. Battery flat. Compressor drained it as I didn't have the engine running.  
Bugger. Quick pull had it going.  
Stu and Jane and Zac pull out. Run out of coal. Dasie burning/leaking serious oil. They head home.  
Round to Costa Plenty where I was going to park up as I am already nervous about drop offs with 4 brakes.  
Paranoid with prospect of 3!  
Guys headed away but not before Goldie came out with a spare Nissan brake hose.  
Quick repair made. Top man Goldie!  
Air down again - tyre gauge explodes into a zillion bits. Bugger  
Waited for others to complete first track and met at hut for morning tea. Then back into it. Great driving, rut-  
ted with occasional bogs - shiny 4x4 to club 4x4  
Banging and crashing up rutted track diff grinding track centre down. Thinking to self - this truck isn't built for  
this - but good fun eh  
Right to the top - all needed a tow at some stage from bellying out or stuck in mud. Down hill and back to hut  
for lunch.  
Bee swarm sets up camp on my truck. Bugger  
Quickly get in and set off for afternoon. Suzie stays at hut. Graham jumps in with John.  
John first into wet and boggy rut.  
Me next - in, out but not over. Muddy water washed over front of bonnet because of steep approach angle.  
Tow out. John conks out. Water in the dizzy and air intake. Bees have bailed  
Ross through with tow then dry out John's truck.  
Going again. Lots of ruts - takes a few goes to get up them.  
Ross has a 'proper truck' which doesn't get stuck.  
Gets to top of first rutted section and needs to be towed out.  
Something goes bang in the safari. Assume it is from dropping into wheel rut.  
Off we go and get up the top of another hill. Great tracks - drivable and good challenge.  
Start back down hill  
Safari making strange noises. Think the bumper has pushed back on the tyre again. Take it slowly - will be  
ok.. Steering a bit odd though.  
Through creek and steep climb out. Look at truck while others go for a walk. Rear wheels seem to be dis-  
placed. Hmmm. Rear tyre rubbing on exhaust pipe when going over bumps . Strange  
Others return then back to hut which is round the corner. Pick up Linda and the Suzie and head out  
Through gate and air up. Drive out to gate. Bit wobbly. See if we can get back to accommodation  
Along road and wobbling becomes alarming. Pull over and inspect. Rear panhard snapped and jammed up  
above axle. Bugger.  
Back to Costa Plenty. Phew ....a spare on loan  
Jack up truck. Remove broken one and refit. Perfect - good team effort.  
Good bloke that Goldie.  
Back home via Makuri. Nice drive. Decide to stay another night after all  
Remove chilly bin with sense of dread, been round Costa Plenty expecting to find everything covered in diced  
tomatoes. Pleasant surprise. All ok. Beer a little warm though.  
Realize we can see Costa Plenty from the kitchen - great excitement at prospect of a future direct drive to it.  
Dinner, then John assaults more international visitors with his rum. We warn them.

*(Continued on page 18)*

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John then suggests attractive Swiss girl comes along for the ride with him tomorrow.....in her bikini. Swiss girl's partner not so good on the English and nods unknowingly. We quietly choke on our beer.  
Next day ready to go.. Wwoofers and Swiss turn up. No bikini!  
See John topping up petrol tank with rum. Wwoofers worried about drunken truck (a complete fabrication!)  
We head over to the play area and potter around - couple of recoveries - Ross's pintle hook buried in 400mm of thick greasy mud. Ross sits in truck! Bent wheel mounted spade to 45 degrees. Now useful for digging round corners. Ross in mourning for his spade  
Down to the creek and up the hill. Greasy so foot down  
Graham and Linda lose traction three quarters of the way up. Winch out- great spectacle for the tourists.  
On up to the mast measuring for the wind turbines. Great view.  
Along to cabbage tree couldn't help my self - had to pay homage.  
Around the tops and back down to the flats - couple of tows required along the way.  
Had to straighten the bumper out yet again - bugger  
Ross stuck again.  
Round the farm and back down to road and accommodation. Very pleasant morning's drive.  
Passengers loved every minute of it. Lunch, pack up and headed home  
Great driving, big country, great weekend - You should do it next time!

David Sole



### **Otapawa trip, Saturday of Waitangi Weekend**

This was a fun weekend, Saturday and Monday on Otapawa and Sunday at Costa Plenty 4x4 Park. This is a run-down of Saturday's 4WDing on the farm. Five trucks lined up to start, John V, Ross V, Stewart B (Daise), David S and yours truly in Suzi Blue. Don Robbie the farm owner led us up the hill on his tractor and into a paddock. Now it became obvious that Don was combining work and guiding because we got to a large concrete drainage pipe which he proceeded to move off the track with the prongs of his tractor. Once we could get around the pipe he left us and we continued up the track but couldn't orientate ourselves as the track was a bit overgrown. Don caught up with us on the quad bike with one of his back-packer farm workers (Willing Workers on Organic Farms -Wwoof) and led us through several more paddocks. We got stuck in the mud before one gate (hence the trip report) and Ross pulled us out. The gate had an interesting drop-off, and a left angled turn which was too narrow for David to make the turn so he did a "loop -de-loop" in the neighbouring paddock.

Don took us toward the hill with the trig station and offered a walk there but, hey come-on we are 4wders, walking isn't normally in our vocabulary. The boundary fenceline was too overgrown so we back tracked back to David's narrow gate. John said that if we had a chainsaw we could possibly help Don but no-one had brought one. We came to a Zigzag part of the track and Stewart approached the first corner on three wheels. Looked impressive Stu! David's vehicle, being a long-wheel base, had to do some reverse manoeuvres. We had morning tea on the airstrip with 360 °views.

After leaving that track we went down the road onto a more challenging piece of track that Doug Robbie had taken us on one other time. This is a loop track where some areas have to be navigated twice. There were gates on down/uphill slopes with no stopping places to pick up passengers, because of the terrain and/or ruts. We went across a narrow bridge with a right-angled turn off and we all made it around without a challenge going that way; coming back was a different matter but more about that shortly.

Then we got to a creek crossing. "Mutilation Creek"!! Down hill from a gate, then 85 °straight down with a metre drop off into the creek and a large boulder to negotiate around certainly made interesting viewing. Suzi Blue's entry looked almost like a nose stand, being short, then there was a large bumping sound which sounded like panel damage or worse, but was in fact the large boulder being moved with the wheel. Going up a hill further on Ross said "You made hard work of that hill Graeme" as Suzi got caught in a bank side water-rut and churned all the way up and then had three attempts to get across a little knoll on the side of the hill further up.

In a play-bog area Stewart took Daise in and just sunk. He was rescued by John with Ross as an anchor. He was well and truly stuck! We took playing in that area off the itinerary that day. Coming up the hill to a gate John became wedged diagonally across the ruts and Ross had to pull him out. At "Mutilation Creek" on the way back Graeme and Ross elected to be stropped up the exit bank rather than risk breaking anything or

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"tail-stands". After the creek Suzi Blue had three attempts to get up the hill and on the third attempt nearly didn't make it over the lip at the top.

Daise's horn was interesting near the end of the day. Every time Stewart turned a certain direction the horn went off. At first it was funny, (beep- beep) when it went off on it's own accord, beep-beep, but eventually it was BEEP- BEEP, BEEP- BEEP so that it had to be disconnected. Over the day it was noticed also that the white smoke coming from Daise's exhaust was getting thicker.

At the left turn onto the narrow bridge the muddy approach and slipped hillside made a challenging crossing for David's long-wheel base vehicle. He was stropped or winched, every way possible, all to no avail until someone had the brainwave to use the half-round telegraph pole found nearby as a pivot point to enable his rear end to be thrown around the corner once his tyres encountered it, all the while under winch and anchor points. This whole manoeuvre probably took  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour just to get David across.

Suzi Blue almost got stuck in the mud approaching the bridge, but once past that, used the telegraph pole and a hand-brake turn to line up on the bridge. "Boy Racer"!

We drove around another loop and then back to the Shearer's quarters and the fabulous BBQ dinner.

Carnage for the weekend:- Daise's Turbo was definitely failing and the horn was faulty. Stewart, Jane and Zac went home on Sunday morning. Only 3 out of 4 of David's brakes were working and then on Sunday morning David's battery was flat. At Costa Plenty David's brake was fixed with a part that Goldie the owner had and he joined the fun at morning tea time. However he broke his Panhard rod sometime during the afternoon and noticed that he had difficulty steering once he was back on the tarseal. Luckily for him Goldie had one of those to lend too so David's vehicle was fixed on the roadside and he could get home. Ross's spade developed an interesting shape after weird departure angles and eventually broke when he hit it a second or third time. Suzi Blue got a scratch and dent on one side from a tree when an attempt was made to pull John out of a bog-hole at Costa Plenty.

Thank you Stewart and John for a fun weekend.

Graeme and Linda Millard: Suzi Blue

## THIS COULD BE YOUR PAGE!

Go on – step outside your comfort zone and write something for the magazine. Even just a few sentences. You don't have to have been stuck or done anything embarrassing, the rest of the members just like to read your perspective on anything related to the club.

### SO WHAT CAN YOU WRITE ABOUT?

How about a trip report? So you enjoyed the trip and would love to share your experiences but are not quite sure who was on the trip or where you actually went.

Call the trip leader and they will give you the details you need to tell your story. It can be as long or short as you want - even a couple of sentences will be well received.

Not sure you want to write a whole report, but want to share that silly / funny incident or dob a friend in? Send a mole report to [mole@ccvc.org.nz](mailto:mole@ccvc.org.nz) and it might end up in "The Mole Report", a new section of the club mag.



### Writing not your thing?

How about sending some photos for club night. We are keen to have a selection for photos for each trip so here are some guidelines to make it easy for everyone:



Try to pick your best dozen or so photos – we can't show too many on the night so lets make it the best ones.

Photos need to be with me before 8:30pm Monday night. That way I can set them up on Monday night and get them to John on Tuesday night so he can get them ready for Wednesday night.



If you can do so, resize the images to 1152 x 864 pixels (or use a lower resolution setting on your camera). This makes the images small enough to email to [david.coxon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:david.coxon@xtra.co.nz). Alternatively put your pictures on a CD and call me to arrange to get the CD to me. My contact details are:

463 4263 (w)

567 4501 (home before 8:30)

027 451 0361 (m)

Date	Name	Organiser	Category	Place	Status	Notes
<b>March 2012</b>						
Saturday 3rd	South Coast 4wd trip for Seaweek - Bookings Required	David Sole	Shiny 4X4	Wellington South Coast		
Sunday 4th	Aussie Trip Initial Gathering - For those who have signed up to the trip	Ray Harkness	Meeting - 14:30	_Advised when booking		
Saturday 10th	Akatarawa Shiny Trip - Bookings Required	David Coxon	Shiny 4X4	Akatarawa Forest		
Sunday 11th	CCVC Training for Prospective members - BOOKINGS CLOSED	Steve Mercer	Family Shiny	Find out when you book.		
Wednesday 14th	CCVC Club Night - Visitors welcome. 7:30pm, Petone Working Mens Club, Udy St, Petone	Ralph Dobson	Meeting - 19:30			
Saturday 24th	Orongorongo Monthly Trip - Book with Morris (04) 566 - 6197 Cellphone (021) 629 - 600	Morris Jury	Family Shiny	Orongorongo area		
Saturday 24th	Taranaki Tunnels Tour Revealed - Bookings Required - Limited Numbers	Stewart Burrell	Shiny 4X4	Taranaki	Confirmed	
Sunday 25th	Club Champs Standard Class	Neil Blackie	Shiny 4X4	Judd's Farm		
Wednesday 28th	CCVC Committee Meeting	Ralph Dobson	Meeting - 19:30	Porirua Club		

### April 2012

Sunday 1st	Club Champs Club / Modified Class	Neil Blackie	Club 4X4	Judd's Farm		
Friday 6th	Foxton Reccy Trip	John Vruink	Shiny 4X4	Foxton Beach - McKenzie Trail		
Friday 6th	Zuki Central 2012 - at Easter	Steve Mercer	Family Shiny			
Saturday 7th	Foxton Beach at Easter	John Vruink	Shiny 4X4	Foxton Beach - McKenzie Trail		
Sunday 8th	Akatarawa Family Shiny - Book with ???	-tba-	Family Shiny	Akatarawa Forest		
Sunday 8th	Foxton Beach at Easter	Ian Dixon	Family Shiny	Foxton Beach - McKenzie Trail		
Wednesday 11th	CCVC Club Night - Visitors Welcome. 7:30pm, Petone Working Mens Club, Udy St, Petone	Ralph Dobson	Meeting - 19:30	Petone Working Men's Club, Udy St		
Saturday 14th	Sutherlands Track Working Bee - Bookings Required ( Email Preferred)	-tba-	Shiny 4X4	Sutherland's Track		
Sunday 22nd	Orongorongo Monthly Trip - Book with Morris (04) 566 - 6197 Cellphone (021) 629 - 600	Morris Jury	Family Shiny	Orongorongo area		
Saturday 28th	Touring Back in the Wairarapa - Bookings Required Book with Graeme (04) 5267 636	Graeme Millard	Family Shiny	Wairarapa		

### May 2012

Wednesday 2nd	CCVC Committe Meeting	Ralph Dobson	Meeting - 19:30	Porirua Club		
Wednesday 9th	CCVC AGM	Ralph Dobson	Meeting - 19:30	Petone Working Men's Club, Udy St		
Wednesday 9th	CCVC Club Night - Visitors Welcome. 7:30pm, Petone Working Mens Club, Udy St, Petone	Ralph Dobson	Meeting - 19:30	Petone Working Men's Club, Udy St		
Saturday 12th	Akatarawa Family Shiny - Book with ???	-tba-	Family Shiny	Akatarawa Forest		
Friday 18th	NZFWDA National AGM	NZPWD Association	Meeting - 19:30 - 00:00			
Saturday 26th	Orongorongo Monthly Trip - Book with Morris (04) 566 - 6197 Cellphone (021) 629 - 600	Morris Jury	Family Shiny	Orongorongo area		
Wednesday 30th	CCVC Committee Meeting	Ralph Dobson	Meeting - 19:30	Porirua Club		

Do you want to read a "Full Colour" copy of the mag - it is available on the clubs public website. We will also be adding copies of previous magazines as well (once the newsletter editor finds the time to PDF them!).

*As mentioned in Ralph's presidential ramblings, there are a few members of the current club committee that have done their three year stint and are planning to step down at this years AGM. So if you have a bit of time to spare and would like to assist in running the club then why not put your name forward? It doesn't take up a lot of your time and you will get a say in the future direction that the club takes.*

*Talk to any committee member to get more details, but remember that without the volunteers on the committee the club won't run - and you can't leave everything to someone else!*

## Trip Categories

The following trip category definitions, plus any *additional* requirements specified on individual Trip Information Sheets, will be enforced, for safety reasons. Trip Leaders will turn away vehicles or drivers that do not comply. The vehicle and driver requirements given here are a summary of the full requirements listed on the club website. Please refer to [www.cvc.org.nz](http://www.cvc.org.nz) for a definitive list of requirements.

For all Categories: All open or soft-top vehicles must have a roll bar or roll cage.

All Categories **other than Family 4X4** are for members only. Prospective members and visitors are welcome if they can demonstrate to the Trip Leader they are members of another club and have adequate experience.

### **Family 4X4:**

**Description:** Family trip. These trips will be straightforward and will usually include some degree of guidance in driving techniques as necessary.

**Drivers:** Particularly suited to family outings and drivers new to off-road driving, this category is also open to anybody who enjoys this style of trip.

**Members:** Anybody is welcome, especially prospective new members.

**Vehicles:** An important objective is minimal challenge and minimal risk to vehicles. Club safety equipment is mandatory for club members; it is not mandatory for non-members although it is recommended for vehicles once their drivers have participated in one or two trips. All open or soft-top vehicles must have a roll bar or roll cage.

### **Shiny 4x4:**

**Description:** More difficult family trips, for shiny wagons and drivers *with some experience* who want more challenge and don't mind minor bush marks etc on their vehicles.

**Drivers:** Must have some experience, particularly important are experience in stopping, failed hill climbs, steep descents and sidelings. Club members must have completed CCVC Driver Training and participated in at least 2 Family 4X4 trips after becoming a member.

**Vehicles:** Vehicles must have mud tyres, tow hooks and all the required equipment per the club's document "Vehicle Safety & Equipment Inspections". This applies to all vehicles on the trip.

### **Club 4x4:**

**Description:** Challenging trips, for experienced drivers. There will be steep and challenging terrain, modestly deep water and mud, likelihood of bush marks.

**Drivers:** Must have experience beyond that required for Shiny 4x4 trips, including water crossings and vehicle recovery. Club members must have participated in at least 2 Shiny 4X4 trips.

**Vehicles:** Must have mud tyres, tow hooks and all the required equipment per the club's document "Vehicle Safety & Equipment Inspections". This applies to all vehicles on the trip. Accessories such as high-lift jacks, externally mounted spare tyre, bush bars and multiple jacking points are of advantage. Winches are often particularly useful. Generally a short wheelbase vehicle is better suited for the tight tracks.

### **Hard Yakka:**

**Description:** Difficult trips with very challenging terrain and surfaces, where winching, digging, and vehicle damage are all a possibility!

**Drivers:** Experienced drivers only, must have approval of Trip Leader. Club members must have participated in at least 3 Club 4X4 trips.

**Vehicles:** As per the Club 4x4 category. In addition, a roll-bar or roll-cage is recommended for all vehicles on Hard Yakka trips. Often a winch is mandatory on a Hard Yakka trip; this will be specified on the Trip Information Sheet



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