



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PARLIAMENT HOUSE, MELBOURNE, VIC. 3002

TELEPHONE 651 8911

DAVID M. E. ...
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

With the Compliments of

The Hon.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "D. M. E.", written over the printed name.

M. L. C.

July, 1986.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
MELBOURNE, VIC. 3002



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TELEPHONE 651 8911

DAVID M. EVANS, M.L.C.

ELECTIONS OFFICES
FAITHFUL STREET,
BOX 447,
WANGARATTA, 3677
TELEPHONE (057) 21 3710

30th July, 1986.

Mr. Brian Tanner,
President,
Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs,
G.P.O. Box 401C,
MELBOURNE. 3002.

Dear Mr. Tanner,

Thank you for your letter of 28th July 1986, on the issue of four wheel drives and trail bikes, causing erosion problems on public land.

I read with interest the enclosed pamphlets from your Association, and welcome the good advice that is contained within it.

I particularly noted the paragraph under the heading "Environmental Care" in which you state: "The 4WD vehicle is not the culprit when it comes to environmental damage. It is only when you combine a 4WD vehicle with an irresponsible driver that the potential for environmental damage is multiplied many times".

I have no doubt there are many people who handle their vehicles with competence and responsibility, and I have no quarrel with them.

However, I consistently receive reports that there are people who travel onto public land, and particularly into the Alpine Regions of Victoria, who do not behave with a proper degree of responsibility.

I have a number of reports indicating the Wonnangatta Valley is now becoming almost impassable because of damage due to touring motor vehicles. I have seen the environmental damage caused in the Howitt Plains and Lanky Plains area by 4 wheel drive vehicles, and have seen the potential for erosion in areas such as The Bluff.

Regretfully, the concerns you express under the heading Environmental Care are not shared by all those people who seek to use Victoria's public lands, and it was those people to whom I referred in my speech.



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ELLECTORATE OFFICES
FAITHFUL STREET,
BOX 447,
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TELEPHONE (057) 213710

30th July, 1986.

Contd. 2.

Perhaps legislation already exists to control such anti social activity, but very clearly it is not being properly applied nor policed.

I would further say that if there is to be 4 Wheel drive, or motor bike touring through the high country areas and other sensitive areas of public land, then at the same time, there will have to be properly constructed tracks made available, and adherence to any legislation will have to be properly policed.

The whole of the document which you sent to me clearly sets out your Club's views that such should be the case, and I can assure you that for those people who reasonably obey the code of ethics set out in your document, that there would be nothing to fear from any National Party initiatives in this area.

However, I can certainly assure you that if the National Party forms a part of Government at any time, that those who do not behave with a proper degree of responsibility will, where apprehended, be dealt with very severely indeed.

I am sure that you would welcome this approach.

Again, thank you very much for your contact, and best wishes in your efforts to maintain a responsible attitude amongst 4WD devotees.

Yours sincerely,

David M. Evans MLC.
Member for North Eastern Province.

Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs

G.P.O. Box 401c,
Melbourne, 3001.

28th July, 1986

The Hon. D.M. Evans,
North Eastern Province,
P.O. Box 447,
WANGARATTA. 3677.

Dear Mr. Evans,

This Association read with interest your comments re. four-wheel-drive vehicles (Hansard 8th May, 1986, p. 1252) concerning your belief that the public is concerned with the problem of erosion caused by 4WD's and trail bikes.

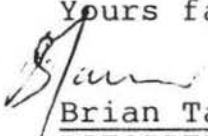
I draw your attention to the fact that contrary to your opinion that the government should "establish some clear guidelines and legal definitions about what those vehicles can do on public land", there exist several very clear guidelines which control vehicular use. The Motor Vehicle Act, Land Conservation (Vehicle Control) Regulations and other Acts offer the most precise of guidelines of any legislation in any Australian State. Of relevance is the fact that no vehicle is permitted off formed roads, an objective this Association fully endorses.

Similarly, this Association supports the concept of seasonal track closures which protect tracks that may be susceptible to erosion during the winter months.

It is hardly relevant to infer that the fitting of a winch on the front of a vehicle is a sign that a driver has any inclination to "see how they can tear up the countryside". I can also assure you that members of our clubs are not, "macho idols" as you would refer to a large number of Victorians that merely seek the right to tour their public lands with a minimum of restrictions and legislation which seeks to remove the individuals rights and deprive him of the opportunity of a wilderness experience only obtainable by touring in remote areas.

I enclose for your information 2 brochures of the VAFWDC, one of which clearly establishes our genuine concern for the environment.

Yours faithfully,


Brian Tanner
PRESIDENT

Encl.

4WD Council

By joining a 4WD club, novice 4WD owners have access to club equipment, club libraries, club discounts (often quite substantial) and the knowledge of more experienced drivers. Field days are held to show new members the safe way to handle equipment and the correct way to drive their vehicles.

Members are kept aware of issues and legislation affecting their recreation and are able to contribute to its future through promoting and practicing responsible 4WD touring.

Many clubs assist local organisations in clean-ups, etc., and the opportunity exists to use your vehicle in the best interests of the community.

Most clubs produce a monthly magazine which keeps all members up-to-date on coming activities.

We need YOU.

Your help is needed to keep our tracks open. The Victoria Association of 4WD Clubs' solely represents the interests of all 4WD vehicle owners who believe that our public road and track network are a benefit to be shared and enjoyed by all — both motorised and non-motorised users.

Your right of access to much public land is in jeopardy. Your support is needed to ensure that our united 4WD voice is heard by the government and its authorities, and to counter those lobby groups who, without reasonable cause, would deny us our rights to use public roads and trails.

Join the Victoria Association of FWD Clubs through one of its affiliated clubs and help keep our 'bush roads' open.



Produced by the
Victoria Association of
Four Wheel Drive Clubs,
G.P.O. Box 401C, Melbourne, 3001.

Why join a 4WD Club?

"So you've just purchased a four-wheel-drive vehicle. Do you know how to drive it? How to make the best use of your gears? The different techniques needed to be able to drive in sand or mud, and the best way of maintaining traction at all times?"

Are you thinking of putting some accessories on your vehicle? A winch, driving lights, tyres, suspension modification or whatever. Will your choice be what's best for your vehicle? Are you aware of the responsibilities that come with owning a four-wheel-drive vehicle? Do you know where you can legally drive your vehicle? How to drive it in the best interests of the environment and other bush users?"

If your answer is NO to any of these questions, then a four-wheel-drive club is your best answer to getting into the four-wheel-drive scene safely and responsibly.

Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs

The VAFWDC is the organisation which co-ordinates and represents the four-wheel-drive clubs of Victoria. The Association promotes responsible 4WD family touring, environmental awareness, public and driver education.

The Association follows closely the activities of public land management authorities and prepares submissions for the Land Conservation Council and other organisations to help ensure the natural asset which we enjoy (the bush) is properly managed.

The Association is a foundation member of the Australian National FWD Council.

The VAFWDC recommends that you join any of the clubs listed in this brochure.

Joining a 4WD Club



Your guide to four-wheel-driving the RIGHT way.
Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs

Public land and the four-wheel-driver

Our public lands are shrinking! Demands on the land are increasing. The ability of our public lands to meet these demands depends largely on the consideration and care with which we treat it.

If the land is managed and cared for properly it can provide the maximum in resource, environment and recreation value. Unwise use by the four-wheel-driver ultimately means closures and substantially reduces access to the resource (the bush) we enjoy.

There are many competing uses for land — timber, agriculture, grazing, mining, water, wildlife and recreation. Respect and co-operation will insure that these competing uses can co-exist. Driving a 4WD vehicle is only one form of recreation on public land.

The acceptability of 4WD touring is determined by what impact this has had on the landscape and what it may have in the future; how much four-wheel-driving might prejudice activities of other bush users, and whether this activity might enhance park use.

As a user of a 4WD vehicle you gain considerable pleasure from touring our public lands. Respect the rights of others and preserve the historical and cultural value of our bushland. Common sense is the key. Keep to formed roads and avoid damaged and weather-effected sections. Where possible enquire at local Conservation, Forests and Lands headquarters for up-to-date conditions of tracks.

Environmental care

The 4WD vehicle is not the culprit when it comes to environmental damage. It is only when you combine a 4WD vehicle with an irresponsible driver that the potential for environmental damage is multiplied many times.

You, as a four-wheel-drive vehicle owner should be the most concerned of all. By your actions you will determine the future of four-wheel-drive touring on public land.

Take your time and enjoy the magnificent natural areas of our public lands. Re-discover the many sights and sounds of nature.

Remember, you are a visitor and strive to leave any area cleaner than you found it (take out what you — and others — take in) and minimise your impact. It takes only a few inconsiderate people to damage the reputation of four-wheel-drive tourers as a whole. Support the following Code of Ethics when you drive and encourage all your friends to do likewise. You will be supporting the responsible, safe and proper use of four-wheel-drive vehicles.

Code of Ethics

1. Keep to the laws and regulations governing the use of four-wheel-drive vehicles. They change from State to State. Observe all restrictions on the use of public land.
2. Others have a right to peace and solitude — avoid noisy driving.
3. Keep to constructed vehicle tracks.
4. Alpine areas, swamps and vegetated sand dunes are easily damaged. Avoid them.
5. Respect our wildlife. Stop and look, but never disturb or chase animals. It can affect their survival.
6. Keep the environment clean. Carry your own — and maybe other people's rubbish home.
7. Obey all fire restrictions. Extinguish your camp fire before leaving. Use existing fire places where possible.
8. Obey all restrictions on use of public land. Respect national parks and other conservation areas.
9. Get permission before driving on private land. Leave livestock alone and gates as found.
10. Keep your vehicle mechanically sound and quiet with an efficient muffler.
11. Take adequate water, food, fuel and spares on trips. In remote areas travel with another vehicle.
12. Join an appropriate and responsible 4WD club if you use your vehicle mainly for recreation.



AVAILABLE ONLY IN
CONSERVATION

Where you can four-wheel-drive

Four-wheel-drive touring is a legitimate recreational activity and an appropriate use of public lands. Responsible use of your 4WD vehicle will not compromise the environment. Four-wheel-drive touring in Victoria is governed by the following regulations:

- All 4WD vehicles used on public lands must be registered and roadworthy as defined under the Motor Vehicle Act.
- All 4WD vehicle use is subject to the provisions of the Land Conservation (Vehicle Control) Regulations 1983. As defined by this act, 'a person shall not cause or permit a motorised vehicle to be within any area of public land otherwise than — (A) on a road; (B) in a parking area; or (C) in an area declared to be a 'free access' area.
- All 4WD vehicles used on public roads are subject to the Recreation Vehicles Act 1973, which provides for compulsory registration, insurance of vehicle, and to control the use of vehicles in public places.
- Under the Land Conservation (Vehicle Control) Act 1972, provision exists for the closure, temporary closure of any road.

The VAFWDC supports the responsible use of 4WD vehicles and asks that all users adhere to these regulations and to the Recreation Vehicle Users Code of Ethics.

If you are in doubt as to the status or condition of a road or track, consult your local District Office of Conservation, Forests and Lands. They will do their utmost to make your visit to public lands enjoyable and safe.

Caring for the Bush

As a four-wheel-driver you have a special responsibility for caring for our environment.

Increasing demands are being made on our public lands, and in the face of continuing access restrictions it is essential that all four-wheel-drive touring is undertaken with as much care as possible with minimum impact on the environment.

One of the easiest ways to protect the tracks and fire trails we tour is to be aware of the abilities of your vehicle, and the correct driving techniques to negotiate different terrain.

Do you know the different techniques needed to drive in mud or sand, and the best way of maintaining traction at all times? Do you know how to drive in the best interests of the environment and other bush users? Are you aware of seasonal track closures and where you can legally drive your vehicle on public lands?

If your answer is no to any of these questions, then a four-wheel-drive club is your best answer to becoming a more competent and environmentally aware four-wheel-driver. There are clubs in most Victorian localities which will be pleased to 'educate' you in the correct use of your four-wheel-drive.

Drop a line to the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs for a copy of the latest Club Directory, and you will soon be welcomed into the four-wheel-drive scene.



Produced by the
Victoria Association of
Four Wheel Drive Clubs,
G.P.O. Box 401C, Melbourne, 3001.

Four-wheel-drive touring and the environment.



Your guide to four-wheel-driving the RIGHT way!
Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs

BALLARAT FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB
P.O. Box 27E,
EAST BALLARAT, Vic. 3350.

BAIRNSDALE FOUR WHEEL DRIVE SOCIAL CLUB INC.
P.O. Box 104,
BAIRNSDALE, Vic. 3875.

BENDIGO FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB INC.
P.O. Box 37,
GOLDEN SQUARE, Vic. 3555.
*Meets 2nd Wednesday of month at
Malple St. Primary School at 7.30 p.m.*
CONTACT: John Paul (054) 48 4445.

CROSS COUNTRY JEEP CLUB INC.
P.O. Box 115,
HAWTHORN, Vic. 3122.
*Meets 2nd Thursday of month at Nth. Balwyn RSL Hall
at 8 p.m.* CONTACT: Malcolm Leslie 459 2859 (Bus.)

DIAMOND VALLEY FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB
P.O. Box 26,
DONCASTER, Vic. 3108.
*Meets 2nd Thursday of month at 1st Heatherdale
Scout Hall, Purches St. Mitcham at 8 p.m.*

DANDENONG RANGES FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB
P.O. Box 33,
FERNTREE GULLY, Vic. 3156.
*Meets 2nd Wednesday of month at Belmont
Tennis Club, Olympus Drive, Croydon at 8 p.m.*
CONTACT: Kathy Grant 580 3067.

DJERRIWARRH FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB
P.O. Box 117,
MELTON, Vic. 3337.

GEELONG FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB
P.O. Box 976,
GEELONG, Vic. 3220.
*Meets 2nd Wednesday of month at Hut N2,
D.W. Hope Centre, Norlane at 7.30 p.m.*
CONTACT: Daryl Marsland (052) 78 1537 (Bus.)

GIPPSLAND FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB
P.O. Box 189,
WARRAGUL, Vic. 3820.
*Meets last Tuesday of month at Bourke St.
Tennis Pavilion, Warragul at 8 p.m.*
CONTACT: Graeme Dowsett (056) 25 1298.

GOLBURN VALLEY FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB INC.
P.O. Box 652,
SHEPPARTON, Vic. 3630.
CONTACT: Keith Hocking (058) 21 9189.

GRAMPYAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB INC.
P.O. Box 109,
ARARAT, Vic. 3377.
*Meets 4th Friday of month alternating between Ararat
and Ballarat each month*

HILUN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB
P.O. Box 286,
ABBOTSFORD, Vic. 3067.
*Meets 3rd Monday of month at Box Hill Town Hall
at 8 p.m.* CONTACT: Steve Clegg 467 4527.

**HOLDEN DROVER SUZUKI FOUR WHEEL
DRIVE CLUB**
P.O. Box 94,
CHELTENHAM, Vic. 3192.
*Meets 2nd Wednesday of month at
Model Railway Association Hall, Glen Iris.*
CONTACT: Alan Johnson 221 8512 (A.H.)

**LAND ROVER OWNERS CLUB OF AUSTRALIA,
VICTORIA BRANCH**
P.O. Box 8,
ABBOTSFORD, Vic. 3067.
Meets 1st Thursday of month at 8 p.m.
CONTACT: Jim Impey 700 6485 (A.H.)

LATROBE VALLEY FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB
P.O. Box 132,
MORWELL, Vic. 3840.
*Meets 1st Tuesday of month at Maryvale High School,
Bridge Rd., Morwell.*

LATROBE VALLEY NISSAN CLUB
C/- 21 Newark Ave.,
NEWBOROUGH, Vic. 3825.

MALLEE FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB
P.O. Box 232,
SWAN HILL, Vic. 3585.
CONTACT: Martin Robinson (050) 32 2377.

**MAROONDAH OVERLANDERS FOUR WHEEL
DRIVE CLUB**
P.O. Box 211,
CROYDON, Vic. 3136.
*Meets 1st Tuesday of month at
Carrington Family Leisure Centre, Bayswater.*
CONTACT: Lyn Lewis 726 6357.

MELBOURNE DISTRICTS FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB
29 Ramsay Ave.,
EAST KEW, Vic. 3102.
Meets 4th Sunday every 2nd month.
CONTACT: Dave Horne 850 2294 (A.H.)

NISSAN PATROL CLUB OF VICTORIA
P.O. Box 351,
SPRINGVALE, Vic. 3171.
*Meets 1st Wednesday of month at
Rowville Community Hall at 7.30 p.m.*
CONTACT: Julie Cass 700 3049.

NORTH CENTRAL FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB
P.O. Box 69,
TONGALA, Vic. 3261.
CONTACT: Michelle Eldridge 59 6240.

OTWAY FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB
P.O. Box 117,
COLAC, Vic. 3250.
CONTACT: Joe Lavery (052) 33 5297.

PAJERO FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB INC.
P.O. Box 193,
PRAHRAN, Vic. 3181.
*Meets 2nd Thursday of month at
Kew Mitsubishi, High St., East Kew at 8 p.m.*
CONTACT: John Wilkinson 726 7198.

PENINSULA FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB
P.O. Box 267,
HASTINGS, Vic. 3915.

PHOENIX FOUR WHEEL DRIVE TOURING CLUB
P.O. Box 495,
MALVERN, Vic. 3144.

**RANGE ROVER CLUB OF AUSTRALIA,
VICTORIA BRANCH INC.**
P.O. Box 248,
BALWYN, Vic. 3103.
*Meets 1st Tuesday of month at East Malvern RSL
at 8 p.m.* CONTACT: John Collins 890 4814 (A.H.)

SUBARU FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB
G.P.O. Box 2456V,
MELBOURNE, Vic. 3001.
Meets last Tuesday of month at 8 p.m. at various dealers.
CONTACT: Ivor Lavington 870 5702.

SOUTH WESTERN 4x4 CLUB
P.O. Box 444,
PORTLAND, Vic. 3305.

**TOYOTA LANDCRUISER CLUB OF AUSTRALIA,
VICTORIA BRANCH INC.**
P.O. Box 363,
HAWTHORN, Vic. 3122.
Meets 3rd Tuesday of month at Caulfield RSL at 8 p.m.
CONTACT: Harold Ross 277 5437.

TRACKERS FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB
16 Rangeview Street,
MT. EVELYN, Vic. 3796.

**THOMPSON VALLEY FOUR WHEEL DRIVE
CLUB**
P.O. Box 730,
MOE, Vic. 3825.

VICTORIAN FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB
P.O. Box 778,
DANDENONG, Vic. 3175.
Meets last Tuesday of month at Dandenong Library.
CONTACT: Tom Brachna 799 1998.