



Newsletter

January 2018

www.m4wdc.org.nz - www.facebook.com/manawatu.4wd.club

PO Box 5176, Terrace End, Palmerston North

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Bruce Gilmore 021 815 907, Jason Hamilton 021 142 6338

Nathan Thomsen 027 303 6432, Lee Turner 021 834 819

Grant Barnard 0210 887 2941, Jamie Elms



What's been happening?

There seems to have been heaps of trips recently which is awesome - though I can hardly keep up! We have fantastic Club Christmas BBQ, great afternoon for the WoolShed Café staff who enjoyed it heaps - thank you to all the drivers and trucks :).

There's still heaps of trips planned so make sure you get on them! And a massive thank you to all the Trip Leaders for making this happen! See you all on Wednesday.

Coming up

Monthly Meeting: Next meeting is Wednesday 17 January, 7.30pm at the Awapuni Community Centre

Manawatu 4WD Club	
14 January	Shiny Trip into the Akatarawa Forest. Trip Leader: Jeff Whitehead
4 February	Club Champs Round 2. Trip Leader: Nathan Thomsen
16-18 February	Totara Reserve Pre-Winter Club Camp. Trip Leader: Andrew Francis
1st wkend March	Club Champs Round 3. Trip Leader: Nathan Thomsen
17-18 March	Club Fundraiser Trip. Trip Leader: Greg Booth
8 April	Big Rigs Event. Contact: Greg Booth

Events	
20-22 January	Inaugural Annual Central Zone 4WD Jamboree. Contact: Max Wheatley
11 February	4WD Public Day North Eastern Wairarapa. Contact: Gail Smith
24 February	Central Zone Club Truck Challenge Round 4. Ohakune. Contact: Mark Watchorn
19 & 20 May 2018	National Conference and AGM. Invercargil

2017/2018 National 4x4 Trial Series	
20 January 2018: Hosted by Hawke's Bay 4WD Club	24 March 2018: Hosted by Taranaki 4x4
24 February 2018: Hosted by Mike Gee Taylor (Northern Zone)	April 2018: Final, Hosted by Wanganui 4WD Club

Trip Info

If you are a club member and you have not had your vehicles tow hooks checked and put on the tow hook register, *that vehicle will not be allowed on club trips*. Prospective, new and visiting members can attend trips without vehicles being on the register. Please contact Lee Turner (021 834 819), Nathan Thomsen (0273036432), Bruce Gilmore (021815907), or Andrew Francis (0276864765) to arrange for your vehicle to be checked.

If you've got any ideas of trips or would like to put one on – awesome! Chat to a member of the committee about the details and we'll go from there.

Trip organisers please fill out Trip Sheets and send to the Trip Coordinator (ella.ballantyne@gmail.com). If you require a Trip Sheet please ask, or download one from www.m4wdc.org.nz :)

January Pres Report- Greg Booth



Hi all

Hope everyone had a fantastic Xmas and New Year ... I was working on both (them cows don't stop making milk so just another day in the Dairy Industry) but got away for a long overdue few days camping and relaxing.....

We've got a few things in the pipeline which may be of interest and will need help with .. Central Zone Jamboree run by Max Wheatly ...we are looking for a couple of trucks to be trip leaders for Hills Hills on one of the days over Wellington anniversary weekend 20th 21st and 22nd of January .

We are having another club camp on the 16th 17th and 18th of Feb at Totara Reserve .

And in March we are doing a combined Canteen and Club Fundraiser among other things...so keep an ear open ..

That's all for now

Prez out, Greg



Great to see the Club Shirts out and about and looking fantastic!

Annual Pairs Event, Taranaki 17/10/2017

By Stu Earle

With winter coming to an end and work completed on modifying Phantom it was time to see what the truck can do.

Phantom had been put on a winter diet losing 50kg and also stretched with a longer wheel base and 4 linked rear end. It was going to be interesting lining up for the first hill climb and let it loose.



The annual pairs event held in Inglewood is a great pre-season hit out.

This is a more relaxed event and you enter as a team with your combined points determining overall result.

Team "Mudder Fockers" was formed again with Dave and Myself joined by Dean and Greg.

Before loading up the house chores have to be done and therefore the morning started on Lawnmower duty. While trying to get nice and close to the drain I managed to get the mower stuck and Phantom was fired up for an early morning recovery mission. As it turned out this was a blessing in disguise as we noticed both gauges have stopped working. Turns out not an easy fix as Repco no longer sell them. Plan B was hashed and eventually we ended up at Proparts to get some decent "waterproof" gauges. Quick wire up, load up and we hit the road off to inbred county.



Both trucks flew through scrutineering and it was good to see the new trucks and even check out Deans flash sticker job. Given recent rain camping wasn't allowed on site so into Inglewood for dinner and come up with a plan for accommodation. Liam had been planning on getting the classic butter chicken served on a bed of fries with grated cheese on top however made the biggest mistake of changing his mind and regretted it.

There was plenty of rain during the night and on the way to the pits so this was going to be an interesting day. Only 4wd tow vehicles were allowed in pits and that was only after we unloaded on the road. The pits quickly turned into a mud pit.

The team is assigned a course to start on and you both attempt before moving on. After a brief discussion we decided that Dean would start the morning courses first and we would start the afternoon.

As it happened the first course was a nice rutted up hill which was the perfect way to test out the winter work. What a difference as phantom flew up the hill without once trying to do a wheelie. We both cleared the first course and moved on to the next.



Despite the rain and wet grounds the courses were a lot of fun and even though the event was in the same location as the last few years they were all run slightly different including access into a new area.

Both of us managed to stay on our wheels (I know hard to believe for Dean but he did get close) and come away with no damage which is a good sign.

One of the highlights of the day was watching Jamie drive his big bus around the courses. He even managed to scare Nathan which as we know is a good effort. It was amazing to see where he was managing to get and the places he took the whale.

No side by side racing this year, however given the wet conditions this was a good idea as this would have got nasty real fast.

There was an amazing amount of prizes donated to the event with Greg even managing to take away a tool box (not that he needs it now he doesn't have a jeep).

Now the preseason hitout is out of the way bring on the Nationals.



Rallywoods with Hawkes Bay 4wd Club

By Shaun Robertson

Everything required for the weekend was all packed in the back of the Nissan, tyres and spares etc on the trailer ready to go, even though I finished work at lunchtime to get down there nice and early this did not happen because Friday lol. Once Angus and myself had everything sorted we head off to the green hut in Rallywoods, when we arrived the other boys camps were all setup but no sign of anyone or any trucks until we heard the distinct noise of engines revving in the hills in the distance. So it was time to quickly unpack set up our camp and change tyres, by the time we finished they had come back to camp finding us ready and raring to go find some mud!!



First track we drove down was Alice way (a gnarly rockface climb used in the Kiwi 4x4 winch challenge) it had changed since a digger had been down it which would make it easy to drive up, then we popped out through the pines further on, lots of 7 point turns for some! After having a bit more fun it was back to the camp and dinner was on our minds and we stoked the fire up, one of us reckoned Reece couldn't get the chimney glowing red... They were wrong!!

Saturday morning quick breakfast and time to go find some more tracks, Lookout was the first to do only two of us myself and Alan were game to do it, steep rockclimb down hill a few hundred meters then U turn and drive back up and on the way up you had to watch for roots sticking out that ripped the wheel out of your hands like I found out lol. Next up little Dipper dropping down into the creek and driving up ruts we all had to winch out of, Dick had some trouble with the winchrope breaking where it had been joined "Bigger knots!" were some of the words used here. Once we got him up we repaired the rope better so it wouldn't come undone. Further on after going up tyre shredder JJ's Landcruiser had snapped the tie rod end off the steering lucky there was a spare floating around which was fitted and he drove on and followed us to the track Lulu a big steep climb that we all pretty much ended up in the same spot winching the rest of the way, Josh Lewis almost got up in the V8 hilux but unfortunately the fans weren't switched on and the motor cooked itself and went into limp mode.





After we took his truck back to camp we carried on to drive Wacko that had been dug out with the digger also nice little driveable track for everyone but still enough mud in the bog to fill the radiators with mud, bugger. Back to camp to clean them out a bit then off to another track with another bog in it, this time my winchrope had been damaged and it snapped when I tried to winch out so

more knots were tied. "that's Knot what I planned on breaking!" lol.

By the time we were all out it was dinnertime again so that happened then later myself with Angus, and Dick with Alan in the co drivers seat decided to do a night run which started off going down Fawke hill, up Diffdinger and then up Psycho, the drivetrains were lucky to survive from all the sharp rocks hitting the underbellys of the trucks going up Diffdinger and then poor Dick must have given all his luck away he couldn't get up Psycho and once we got him up we noticed the right rear of the truck was sitting on the bumpstop.. Hmm wonder whats bent there, we looked and all to be seen was mud so he



decided that's a job for another day

lets go on! So we did and drove a few more tracks before heading to bed for the night.



Sunday morning we headed down to the end of the airstrip into some of the older tracks that we spent hours winching up, unluckily after all of that James's cutdown cruiser lost control and he slid backwards in the ruts towards Jeep's truck sitting at the top of the hill in front of me, I had the truck in reverse ready to drop the clutch and back

down incase it came down the hill towards me but Jeeps truck took the impact when James's slid into it and the handbrake held it there. Phew! Close calls like that can happen out



there no matter what. Hardly and damage done to Jeep's front bar but James rear doors were a little out of alignment. We all got up and running again just about to the top when Jeeps truck decided to drop all the coolant from a faulty fan relay not turning the fan on,

great idea to put the radiator in the back in place of a rear side window out of the mud and all that just bore a hole in the roof stick a funnel in and fill the radiator no worries!! Well there wasn't a lot that happened after that we drove to the airstrip and lined up for a group photo and by then it was time to go back to camp and pack up to head home for the weekend.



Great weekend it was great to be out there again look forward to next time and hopefully I won't have to stop outside a public toilet on the side of the road to swap radiators from the overheating issues that were arising from a lot of mud stopping airflow lol.

Great day afternoon and evening at the **WoolShed Café Christmas Do and the Club BBQ** afterwards :) . Big thanks to all the guys who provided rides in their trucks for the WoolShed Café staff. The rest of evening was brilliant, plenty of banter and laughs! I think the last of us went to bed at gone 2am! It was fab seeing loads of Club members there, a good social event! Thank you to everyone who helped out :).



Thank you to Tournemain Couriers
for sponsoring our Club Shirts



An awesome
line-up of trucks!

Caitlyn was a little
terrified on finding
out that Andrew,
not Stu, would be
driving...



Late night
revellers!

Photos: Sandra
Brougham



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