

Newsletter

March 2018

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

PO Box 5176, Terrace End, Palmerston North

Committee List 2017/2018

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Nathan Thomsen 027 303 6432, Lee Turner 021 834 819

Grant Barnard 0210 887 2941, Jamie Elms



Hawke's Bay River Trip: Philip Law

What's been happening?

Final round of Club Champs, fourth round of National Trials and plenty of prep and planning for the CanTeen Manawatu & Manawatu 4WD Club Fundraiser!

Talking of the final round of Club Champs congrats to all those who competed this season, and also a special mention to Caitlyn Thomsen who won round 3, and become the first female to win a Club Champs round :). Any cups, trophies that you've got at home please bring them to the March Club meeting so we can get them ready for Prize-Giving in April.

Our April meeting will also be the Club AGM. As talked about at the last meeting there are a few committee members stepping down with a number of positions needing to be filled: President, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and a few general committee positions. If you'd like to get more involved with how the Club is run then this is your chance! If you're not sure about what being on the Committee means, or what each position does then come talk to us at the next meeting.

Next weekend is our fundraiser! And with the photos that were taken last weekend from the trip recce it looks to be a stunner of a trip, with awesome scenery and of course four wheel-driving. Massive thanks to those involved with putting this together! See you all soon, Ella

Coming up

Monthly Meeting: Next meeting is Wednesday 21 March, 7.30pm at the Awapuni Community Centre

Manawatu 4WD Club

17-18 March	Club Fundraiser Trip. Trip Leader: Greg Booth
8 April	Big Rigs Event. Contact: Greg Booth

Events

7 April	Central Zone Club Truck Challenge Round 6 - Hosted by Wairarapa 4x4 Club
Easter Weekend	Otapawa Easter Escape, CCVC. Trip Sheet attached.
19 & 20 May 2018	National Conference and AGM. Invercargill

2017/2018 National 4x4 Trial Series

24 March: Inglewood, hosted by Taranaki 4x4	14 April: Hosted by Wanganui 4WD Club
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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 :)

March Pres Report- Greg Booth



Hi all

Has been a fairly busy time over the last few weeks for me ... getting to the business end of Canteen Fundraiser ... track clear and plotting etc. Had the club camp ... poor turn out with only 4 trucks but can't make people attend so is what it is ... I had fun anyway.

Congrats to one of our members Brendon Brown and new wife Kelly ... (party at Kelly Brown's) only older members will remember that add on tv a few years back ...lol

Pleasing result in the Silly seat next to Dean at round 4 of National Trials after a mammoth engine rebuild effort by Dean ...only really got it running sweet and all panels back on the Thursday night before ... finished with a 9th in class 9th overall and first Manawatu Truck home ...

Finally got my bullbar down from Auckland and on the truck thanks to Bronte at Francis Mechanical Services ... really happy with results.

Coming up we need trip leaders for canteen fundraiser ...one of the options is Farm managers need a track pushed through scrub ... along creek bed ... through long grass ...around trees and up n down hills from Grand Bend farm through to Te Apiti farm wide enough to get a tractor through ..we are making this the tuff Truck option for trip .. should be a good one ... If anyone is able to assist ...it will cost \$20 To cover some of the food cost but that's it and will be greatly appreciated ...



Thanks to all who have been stepping up so far Grant, Ella, Andrew, Stu, ... really appreciated.

So, for now
Prez out, Greg



National Trials Round 4, Glencorran

Missing the 3rd round in Hawkes Bay meant we were pumped and ready to go for the 4th round at Mike Gee's property.

While held close to home it was a Northern Zone event which was a bonus meaning reduced travel time over the season. Given the event was only an hour away the decision was made to travel up to scrutineering on the Friday and then back home for a decent night sleep (not that I sleep much before an event).

Saturday morning arrived and we were on the road at 6am to allow plenty of time to get unloaded before drivers briefing. Turned out the trial site was a bit more remote than we expected so lucky we left nice and early.

Our first course of the morning was a speed section – ohps I mean a timed section. It was a course run through a pine plantation so a simple loop was complicated by having to find a gap that the truck could fit through. To make it worse we were the first one on it so had to create the track that later on everyone could follow. You had to do two laps of the track and our first lap was very slow as we tried to identify the correct trees. The second lap was a lot quicker once there were some wheel tracks down to follow. The trick was to go as fast as you can without hitting a tree – Sam did you miss that memo!!!

With the first course nerves gone the morning continued until the air fitting on the dive tank let go. Not sure where part of the fitting went but there was a hole in the tonneau cover where it exited the truck so my guess is a few paddocks over. Luckily the fitting was pointing up and not towards anyone as I suspect it was going at a great speed. Quick bit of modifying and off we went.

During the morning we started to notice a slight noise from the front right hand brake area but it came and went so assumed it was a stone stuck in there somewhere. With two courses to go in the morning the wheel locked on however with a quick release of brake fluid it freed up and we continued on. Sweet just a brake issue will give it a clean out at lunch.

Back to the pits with the morning completed and straight into work trying to fix what we thought was a brake issue. Turned out that it was the wheel bearing. All good lets remove it (with 2 crow bars and a lot of grunt) and chuck a new one on. Crap our spare wheel bearing is the wrong size. All good bound to be someone in the pits with a spare one.





Crap again hardly anyone running safari front ends and the ones that did didn't carry spare bearings. What to do?? Luckily Michael the Safari Wrecker Thomsen had a set in his garage so a two hour round trip back to Marton was undertaken.

Truck all back together and we started our first afternoon course with most people only having a few to go. This mean that our afternoon was a bit rushed but we figured we would try and get through as many as we can before we run out of time. Luckily the afternoon was in one gully as we could jump from course to course quickly and we managed to get through.

Apart from the repair work we really enjoyed the courses and it was an amazing effort by Mike and his band of helpers to through this together.

A quick swim in the river and then off to prize giving. Was a very long day and made for a very tired Stu at the end of the night.

Parts have been ordered and Phantom will get a full front end rebuild prior to the next round in a few weeks. Cheers, Stu

Robina Dunlop Shipwreck Trip, 25 February

Hi Greg,

A note to thank you and your team so much for your support last Sunday. It would have been a very difficult project to do without your support, and because of it we achieved a lot, in fact more than we were expecting I hope you got some positives out of the day.

We also appreciated your team joining in the search. We gathered so much information that there is now quite a lot of writing up to do. Once the write-up is complete, we'll have recorded a bit of New Zealand's maritime history, which is what MAANZ is about. In this case it was a ship (Robina Dunlop) built in England in 1874 and wrecked at Turakina in 1877.

Thanks again

Regards – Mike Johnston



Photos: Sandra Brougham
and Mike Johnston



Hawke's Bay 4WD River Run Weekend Trip 25th February

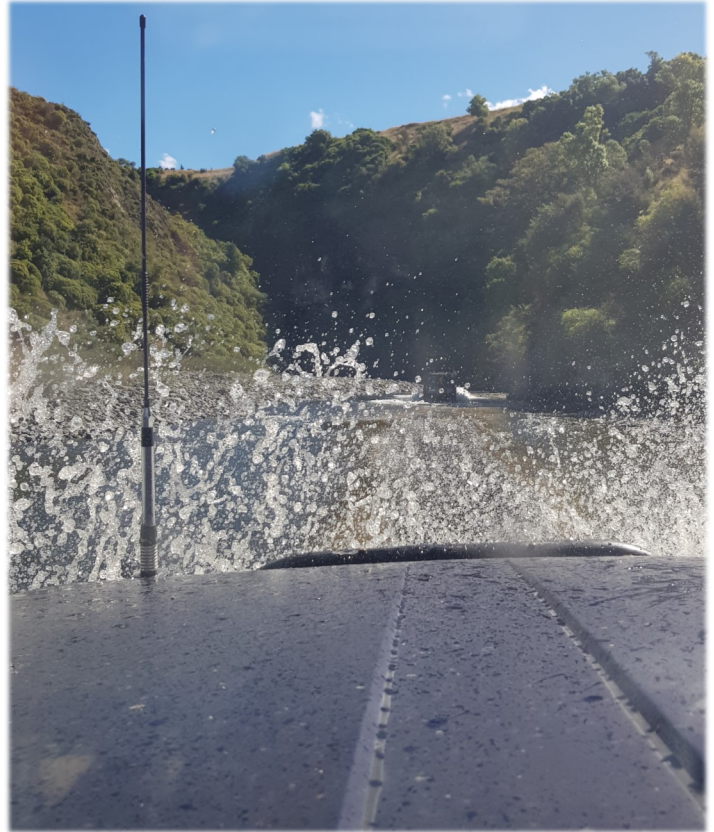
By Phil L

I was still in the south island on my three week off road trip when Pete told me about the Hawkes bay river trip. A lot of people would have thought that after three weeks that I would have had enough, but no way, we were just warming up and keen to get up another river ASAP.

I flicked a message to a member of the Hawkes bay club to confirm the details and if he thought it was safe for me to keep my roof top tent on the GQ. All was good he said and advised me of the meet time and place.

The start time was a leisurely 2pm on Saturday afternoon. Plenty of time to sort out a few last minute things and head over in good time. Meeting place was the TukiTuki road, which by the way meant nothing to me before this trip, and we were going to meet them at the entrance to the river. I assumed a carpark with river access lol. Luckily for me Dick from Hawkes bay was unloading his GQ on the road at the very spot we were to meet. Luckily because we would have driven straight past the narrow over grown track otherwise. Another Hawkes bay driver, Murray, rolled up behind me. The three of us waited until Pete and Shaun rolled up, we heard them coming before we could see them. So there was just the five of us, all GQ safari, and without further ado, off we went.

The TukiTuki river starts in the Ruahine Ranges and flows east eventually coming out into the Pacific ocean in southern Hawkes Bay, it has a shingle bed and felt soft a lot of the time crossing. We made our way up the river criss crossing it many times, lots of big rocks and scratchy bush. The weather was spectacular as was the scenery. Apart from everything being not so big as the Macaulay river down in the Mackenzie country the scenery was every bit just as spectacular. Especially the narrow pass known as the Khyber Pass, which was pretty cool, (because I don't want to repeatedly use the word spectacular).





Everyone except Murray had to get a tow out of the river at some point. But it should be noted that although he didn't get towed out he was the only driver to get out and leave his auto GQ in D. The speed it took off after he got out was impressive, as was the speed he was able to chase after it as it made its way straight towards the river haha.

For some reason none of us had thought about eating before we started the trip which makes no sense. The options were unlimited but with all the trucks parked in a nice shady spot it was decided we had done enough for a cuppa.

We pushed on up the river, Murray knew of an old hut/shelter. The plan was to camp here for the night. I followed Murray off the river up to the Hut as did Dick. For reasons unknown Pete and Shaun didn't see him drive off the river, we'll blame Dick for forgetting the corner man rule. We did get them on the radio and got them back. But we couldn't camp here. Trivago had over booked the Hut and two hunters had already set up camp and took the two hammocks. There wasn't much room and it was decided to push on up river in search for a decent camping spot. It didn't bother me where we camped, I had my comfortable bed on the roof, it was only those other fellas that didn't want to camp on the river bed haha. Eventually Murray drove off the river again into anything but a level area covered in 2mt high scrub. In scenes similar to rolling a stack of silage the five GQs made short work of levelling the scrub to create a decent camping area. No greenies are reading this are they??

Megan had pulled out the stops and had lamb and corn on the cob packed for dinner. By this stage we considered ourselves experienced campers and felt the need to set a standard!!!





The dinner was washed down with a few cold brews and a some old tales.

Sunday morning started like Saturday had finished with clear blue skies and warm sunshine. We had a nice breaky and waited for the sun to dry out the tents before packing up.

The plan this morning was to head downstream a little bit before climbing out the other side and

crossing land. Downstream is heading in the same direction as the water is flowing, this knowledge was shared with us by our trip leader Murray who's wisdom is not to be questioned.

Murray had gained land access from a local land owner so we could leave the river and head north over land up and down some very steep tracks with views to die for. We spent an hour of two crossing the land which included a compulsory morning tea stop. With smaller groups the options for and where we can stop are endless.



We eventually drove down off the farm, you always know when you are getting close to civilization when you pass the cattle yards on any station. Cattle yards almost always have a stock loading ramp which means truck access, so you know you're not far from the road the track will improve accordingly.

We thanked the farmer and headed off down a dusty Hawkes bay road, we turned onto Lookout road although I'm not sure what the lookout was too. We headed downhill and turned into an even narrower track to access the river than yesterday. This track needed some TLC with Murray frequently on the side bars of his GQ with his Huskvarna cutting back branches, most probably mostly for my benefit with my roof top tent. We made our way along the track with a steep drop down into the Waipawa River.

Trip Reports!

The Waipawa river starts in the Ruahine ranges and runs east to eventually join the Tukituki river .It is wider than the Tukituki river with more drivable rocks. We could make faster time along the river banks with lots of criss crossing the river. Lots of splashing although as much as Pete tried to get Megan she wasn't going to make the same mistake twice.

Right at the last crossing is the only place we seen other humans. It looked like a young couple had headed down for a little skinny dip, They appeared to have a look of curiosity as they watched 5 reasonably loud GQs roaring up the other side of the river and then proceed to splash through to their side and out the access track. Whats so unusual about that?

The exit from the Waipawa was right at Dick's backdoor and the afternoon was finished off with an ice cold beverage, one you get in a green or brown glass bottle straight from Dick's fridge. We got our tyres pumped up and Dick was able to show us his current GQ project and workshop.

It was an absolute brilliant weekend trip and one I'd do again in a heartbeat if I get the chance. The weather played a big part as usual and for us the weather gods where on our side. Thank you to the Hawkes bay 4wd club for putting on the trip and letting me tag along with them. Much appreciated.



Club Champs Round 3 - The Final!

By Caitlyn Thomsen

Sunday the 4th of march we made our way out to Pohangina valley for the final round of club champs. Dad and I were a bit worried that we were gonna be making the trip for nothing when the clutch was slipping the whole ride out there.

The day started at 9:30 am and it was proving to be a warm one already. With the ground so dry and plenty of grip the scores were very close in the morning, Kelsey had a good demonstration of the grip we had on this day with a nice little wheel stand on a hill climb which she was not impressed by. Shaun determined to pull ahead had a very impressive time in the first speed section until he ran over a peg! Taking the pressure off us. When it came to the last course of the morning it was only the speed section separating quite a few of us. This ungraded slide lean, proved to be the hazard we needed to get some points on the scores cards. With everyone getting a peg or two on this one I decided to get a little creative. Taking the high line which was already a ballsy move suggested by my brother, this had everyone watching in surprise. It was when I hit second gear at the top which got everyone by surprise. Flooring it down the hill on a bumpy side lean with my wheels barely on the ground inside the blues. I was finally able to breathe again once we stopped down the other side, and I realized I had been the only club truck to zero the course. Pulling the lead I needed.

The afternoon providing some more challenges, as well as a couple of trucks out for the day as Dan broke a cv, and a little black Range Rover blowing its diff on the last course. With the nerves running high in the afternoon all I was focused on was not screwing up my good morning. To the point where on the last hazard for the day Marcus had to pump my tyres up for me as my hands were shaking too much to do it on my own.

All in all, it was a good day with plenty of variety throughout the day and no roll overs to be seen anywhere and tight scores it was some good hazards marked and good driving done by everyone.

Cheers Caitlyn

Umm you forgot to mention you got first and be the first ever girl to win!!! :)



More photos from Club Champs - Sam Bolton Photography



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CanTeen Manawatu & Manawatu 4WD Club Fundraiser

"TAG ALONG TOUR & CAMP OVER"



In memory of Molly Patricia Ross 09/08/2001 - 05/05/2015

Cost includes:

- Packed lunch for the Saturday
- Evening meal Saturday night
- Breakfast Sunday morning

For booking text Greg Booth (President, Manawatu 4WD Club) with name/number attending and email address and an info pack will be sent via email containing entry form, indemnity form and additional trip details.

General enquiries also to Greg Booth 0272 560 470

WHEN:

17 & 18 March 2018

WHERE:

Apiti, Manawatu

STAY: Camping on-site from Friday 16 March - Sunday 18 March

COST:

\$200 per vehicle (2 people)*

***Additional passengers \$50 per person**

**Booking & Enquiries:
Greg Booth
0272 560 470**

**In conjunction
with Manawatu
4WD Club**

