

# Newsletter

May 2018



[www.m4wdc.org.nz](http://www.m4wdc.org.nz) - [www.facebook.com/manawatu.4wd.club](https://www.facebook.com/manawatu.4wd.club)

PO Box 5176, Terrace End, Palmerston North

## Committee List 2017/2018

### President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Trip Coordinator

Newsletter Editor

Website

Club Steward

Zone Delegate

Public Relations

Emergency Services

Store /Equipment Officer

Rivers Users

Clerk of the Course

Safety Officer

Extra Committee

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Kelsey van Waas 027 3795 002

Grant Christian

Ella Shailer 0210 227 8088

Shaun Robertson 027 378 5607

Nick Look 021 499 202

President & Vice President

Ella Shailer 0210 227 8088

President and Vice President

Lee Turner 021 834 819

Phil Shailer 021 130 7913

President and Vice president

Daniel Morris

Jordan Law

Jason Hamilton 021 142 6338, Grant Barnard 0210 887 2941

Brendan Brown, Dan Burke, Chris Shailer, Bronte Vincent, Ben Goodall



**Photos of the month, Left  
Pete Robertson's bent cross-  
member**



**Right, Dan Burke's snapped CV  
Joint**

## What's been happening?

Well to start off we have had the club AGM and prize giving for the season, great to see some new faces stepping up and taking roles within the club, Congratulations to Les Thomsen for the overall club champion award and to Phillip Law for becoming our new president!

Read on through because there are a few decent write-ups in this newsletter to check out so enjoy them and for those who are doing trip reports or want anything put in the newsletter, send it on through to my email [winchman350@gmail.com](mailto:winchman350@gmail.com)

See you out there in the mud;-)

Cheers, Shaun

## Coming up

**Monthly Meeting:** Next meeting is Wednesday 16 May, 7.30pm at the WillowPark Tavern, Tremaine Ave.

Manawatu 4WD Club	
27 May	McKenzie Trial. Trip Leader: Lee Turner
27 May	Bulls - Ratana. Trip Leader: Philip Law
June—TBC	Winch Trucks, Pureora Forest. Trip Leader: Paul McElroy

Events	
19 & 20 May	National Conference and AGM. Invercargill
Queen's Birthday	Kiwi Winch Comp.

### 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](mailto:ella.ballantyne@gmail.com)). If you require a Trip Sheet please ask, or download one from [www.m4wdc.org.nz](http://www.m4wdc.org.nz) :)



Let me introduce myself. For those that missed the AGM last month, our club has a new President. My name is Philip Law and along with my son Jordan we have been involved with the Manawatu 4WD Club for around four years or so. We both drive Nissan Safari trucks with TD42 power plants under the bonnet, aftermarket turbo set ups, lifted suspensions, pto winch etc.

I'm a dairy/cropping farmer on a coastal farm near Turakina, some of you will have already been over my farm in the past with both club competition and CZ competition held here as well as club trips. I have been on the committee for the past two years in the position of Safety officer. There is no doubt that there are plenty of others with a lot more experience in the club than me, but that won't stop me doing the best I can. What I lack in experience I will make up for with enthusiasm. I was approached about this position a few months ago and after a wee bit of consideration I thought that if the majority wanted me in the position then I would be honoured to hold the top dog job for a year or two. It should be noted that no one has yet given me a job description so who knows what I'm getting into! Oh, if you still aren't sure who I am, I'm the one with the Irish accent, short and stout. Make your self-known to me on trips or club meetings.

In the past four months I've done more off roading than in the previous four years. After a complete make over on my truck in January, I set off to the south island with my partner Megan for three weeks around the mainland doing more tracks than I can remember. Since getting back we have taken our truck up rivers in southern Hawkes Bay, the Oroua river in Apiti. At Easter I joined a trip with the CC club near Eketahuna led by Stu. Also believe it or not I went up Takapari road for the first time with Pete on his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. Recently I led a trip over a 22,000 acre station an hour NW from Wanganui with nine trucks. So been busy.

At the moment Jordan and I have his truck pulled apart to replace a few worn out parts and make it better than before. In the next month I intend to lead another trip close to home, more details coming up.

We have a heap of talent on our new committee and lots to do over the next twelve months. Lots of positions have changed hands and new men and women to work with. Our club will host a round of the National trial



series probably in the spring. At least four or our club members will be competing in the National trials and we wish them every success. In the past we have hosted extremely successful rounds of this competition and we fully intend this year to be no different. All hands on deck for this event please. More details closer to the time but please put your hand up to lighten the load for others.

Also in the late summer we intend to run another fund raising trip. We intend to make this an annual event with the first one held in March just past. A great write up in the May edition of the



NZ4WD magazine has some great photos with Andrews Jeep on the front cover. This event is more of a shiny tag along trip to both raise money for a charity and raise awareness of our club and recruit new members.

So back to our club. In my opinion we have one of the best 4wd clubs in the country. We have reasonably stable membership numbers and we are financially secure. We have a strong number of members who have very capable trucks with a lot of experience and we run a very successful club trials competition every year. In my opinion, and this is just my opinion, our weakness is in entry level trips for new club members or families who just want to get off the road but not interested in serious competition. As our membership grows I feel that we need to do more during the year in leading shiny/minimum risk trips. Some club members did lead trips in the past year, some well supported and others not so. You can only lead a horse to water. That is one of my goals going into the new season, to lead more of these trips, recruit new members and keep them in the club. Anyone can lead a trip so if you have any ideas or you have gone for a drive off road before with your friends please put your hand up and lead a trip. If you need advice on leading a trip speak to me or any committee member. A trip sometimes doesn't have to be anything more than a drive up the beach with other trucks.

Well that's enough from me, for new members I'd like to welcome you to the club and hope we meet your expectations, if we don't come speak to me. We can't improve if we don't know what we're doing wrong. For existing members, have a great year in the mud and every success in competition.

Enjoy your 4wd off roading experience and I hope to see lots at the next club meeting. Just a reminder that we have our club meetings on the third Wednesday 7.30pm at the Willowpark Tavern on Tremaine Ave. This is still a bit of a trial but at the moment it looks good. They are enthusiastic about hosting our meetings and they have heaps of parking.

Regards  
Philip Law  
(President)



## Makowhai Station Sneak Peek

The day had finally come ... The Makowhai station Trip.

This had been talked about for some time since Phil Law had done some investigating about access to this massive block of land , some 22000 acres with over 200km of tracks and fairly well formed roads throughout the property.

Plan was to meet at Wanganui Macca's by the roundabout at 07:00am and leave by 07:30am, so fairly early start for those leaving from Palmy etc.

Once filled with coffee and a Macca's B&E McMuffin and the sign in sheet filled in, it was time to head off. Some had to fill with gas, (yay ... not me this time, Diesel is good for me!!! ) so next stop already was Caltex as we leave Wanganui heading for Taranaki.



We had about 9 trucks in all, Phil and Megan, Paul , Pete, Van and Janelle with the road legal trailer Queen in tow, Grant and Vicky with brother and sister in law in the back of his Cruiser, Keith in Red Lux, Evan and passenger in his Pajero, Noobies Grizz and Lesley in their Prado with son in the back and Me in the cruiser, all gassed up ... let's roll, was quite neat leaving in convoy seeing the faces of people passing wondering where we are off to.



## Trip Reports!

Before long we were pulling into a paddock near the Managers house where we set about airing down tyres or changing them ...Aye Pete ... (trailed up his Simexes) which would prove a good idea thankfully later on.

The plan for the day was to do the 65km loop track at the front end of the Station and try to be out and heading home by about 4pm. Phil leading we headed off to see what we could see.

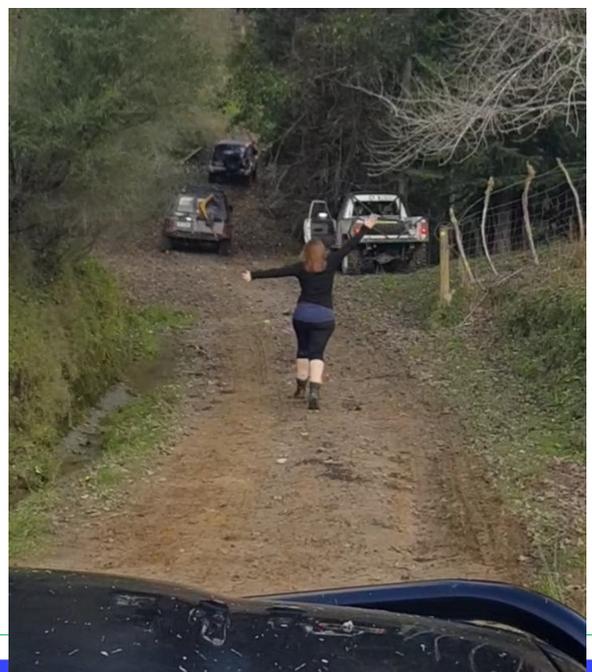
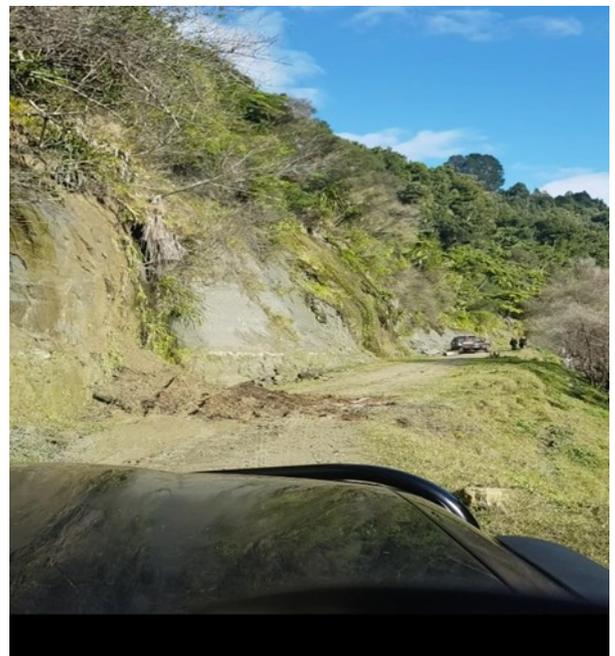
Literally 1 min down the Road we turned into a gate onto a farm track, wow into it already !!! this is gonna be awesome, and we weren't disappointed, tracks were firm but slippery in places (papa clay) and because of recent rain leading up to the day a fair amount of surface water in places.

On rounding a corner our first obstacle presented itself in the form of a slip across the track, not overly big but with a drop into the river on the down side of slip it was decided to get the shovels out and level it a bit, too early in the day to be losing trucks.

Further on up the track we started spotting the local wild life, Deer, goats and wild cattle. Spotted this on the track in front of me.

Not entirely sure what she was up to, but she looked like she was having fun, aye Janelle ??...lol. Certainly a lot to see on this place but hard to take it all in while driving, we came across an old house that was actually occupied up until a few years ago by an elderly gent, forgot his name but the manager and some staff made a weekly trip in with a bottle of whiskey for him, well that's all ya need really ain't it.

What I found amusing was the Fish n Chips sign on the door, and across the track there was a couple of old vehicles, an old Landrover and what looked like an old Morris ute.





Moving on from there it wasn't long before or next challenge, another slip, only this time bigger and full of Manuka trees, bugger. So while standing there figuring out how to winch, tow, and possibly push stuff out of the way, up comes Mr Steve "Grizz" the Noobie Andrell and says, got my chainsaw in the back. "what!! Really ??, yup, dunno how much gas in it but we can give it a crack.

Of course being a safety conscious bunch, we got the hell out of the way and let him at it, in his approved safety gear of course, ..... cough cough ....., it's the dust and pollen from the Manuka .. honest!!! With that all cleared, time to carry on. Not too straight for some of us though



We then started to climb and follow the ridge lines mostly, pausing fairly high up at a long picnic table out in the middle of nowhere really, lunch time, and Coffeeee!!!!

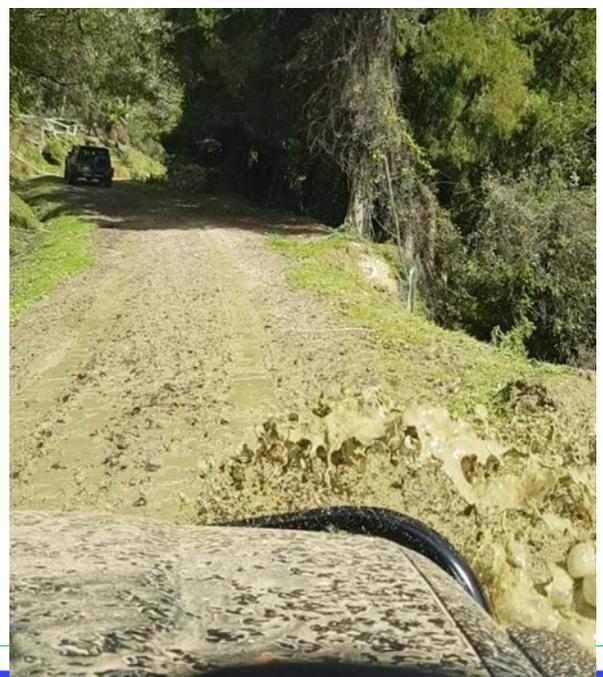
So that was about it really ... lunch over time to go home ... na just kidding ... lol the good stuff was about to start.

## Trip Reports!

We continued to follow the ridge for a bit then started our decent to the farmland below, crossing some quite narrow bridges here and there. Some looked like they would stand up to a decent sized flood, others I wasn't too sure about especially going across them in Fatso, not a lot of room for error. We found our way though and ended up gathering at a woolshed all in one piece, some discussion was had on our route and after a short leg stretch for some we were off again.



And just to prove the Cruiser does get dirty, this is for all the non-believers ... lol



## Trip Reports!

By this stage it was getting quite late in the afternoon and we were still (looking around ) a fair way in country, quite hilly and the tracks seemed to be getting a bit narrower and steeper and slipperier ... AWESOME !!, now here's where Pete in Ninja on Simexes comes in again. Phil had got himself a little off the track while trying to get up a steep muddy bit, when I say a little off I mean there was some of his truck still on it as well but some spade work and a bit of loud pedal had him sorted and on his way. Pete just drove up and it was decided he would position himself so he could winch others or tow if required, which he had to do for Paul in his Patrol and Grizz in the Prado ... much to the delight of the young fella in the back and the screams from Lesley in the front Navi seat. Visibly shaken but not stirred, and damn relieved to be at the top. After Grizz it was my turn, yup nailed it like it was on the flat, whats all the fuss... na seriously .. butt was clenched and the loud pedal all the way down to the sharp corner at the last third of the climb 3 point turn to get fatso around the corner and easy drive to the top, Van and Janelle blitzed it as did Grant and Vicky ( without passengers in the back, they had walked up) and they got round the corner in one swoop, great bit of driving. Evan in the Pajero got up with help from fist pump out the window and a yeeehaaa. Somewhere in the mix was Keith, can't remember what order he came up in but was on simex also and possibly had a locker in, not sure but he didn't seem to have any trouble and later saw him at the top videoing the goings on.

As the sun was starting to get quite low it also started to rain lightly, yup really time to get going home now, before long we were back down in the Valley and heading back to our starting point to air back up and change tyres over etc, one by one as these jobs were completed everyone started to head off at their own pace after saying our goodbyes.

Phil ... you put on a fantastic trip mate, can't wait to get out there camping and spending a couple days looking around .....  
"Absolutely Majestical" to pinch a quote from some movie...

Cheers  
Greg



# Club Champs 2017 - 2018 Final Results

CLUB TRUCK		
PLACE	NAME	POINTS
1	Les Thomsen	298
2	Shaun Robertson	295
3	Caitlyn Thomsen	290
4	Lachlan Fee	280
5	Dan Burke	275
OUTLAW		
1	Stuart Earle	297
2	Sam Thomsen	297
3	Mitch Caldow	296
4	Dean Wells	291



## Certificate of Achievement Club Champs 2017 Awards



Overall Champion	Les Thomsen
Men's Champion	Les Thomsen
Ladies Champion	Caitlyn Thomsen
Outlaw Cup	Stuart Earle
1st Nissan	Les Thomsen
V8 Cup	Les Thomsen
Production Cup	Dan Burke
Modified Vehicle	Les Thomsen
Standard Vehicle Cup	Lachlan Fee
The Triers Trophy	Mark Lambert
Hard Luck Trophy	Brendan Watchorn
Most Helpful Club Member	Stuart Earle

# Club Champs 2017 - 2018 Results

ROUND 1						ROUND 2					
Driver	Class	Place	Class Place	Class Points	OA points	Driver	Class	Place	Class Place	Class points	OA points
Sam T	o	1	1	100		Stu E	o	1	1	100	
Mitch	o	2	2	99		Sam T	o	2	2	99	
Dean	o	3	3	98		Mitch	o	3	3	98	
Stu E	o	4	4	97		Shaun R	m	4	1	100	100
Les T	m	6	1	100	100	Les T	m	5	2	99	99
Jamie	m	7	2	99	99	Nathan T	m	6	3	98	98
Tyran A	p	8	1	100	98	Jamie	m	7	4	97	97
Shaun R	m	9	3	98	97	Caitlyn T	m	8	5	96	96
Nathan T	m	10	4	97	96	Tyran A	p	9	1	100	95
Brendan	p	11	2	99	95	Lachlan F	p	10	2	99	94
Caitlyn T	m	12	5	96	94	Dan B	s	11	1	100	93
Lachlan F	p	13	3	98	93	Shane J	o	12	4	97	
Keith B	m	14	6	95	92	Jordan	p	13	3	98	92
Dan B	s	15	1	100	91	Dan M	s	14	2	99	91
Kelsey	s	16	2	99	90	Marcus	p	15	4	97	90
Bryce I	s	17	3	98	89	Dean	o	16	5	96	
Chris S	o					Cam K	o	17	6	95	
Mark L	m					Brendan	p	18	5	96	89

ROUND 3						FINAL PLACINGS					
Driver	Class	Place	Class Place	Class points	OA points		Class		Place	OA Points	OA place
Stu E	o	1	1	100		Stu E	o	297	1	-	
Mitch	o	2	2	99		mitch	o	296	3	-	
Sam	o	3	3	98		Sam	o	297	2	-	
Caitlyn T	m	4	1	100	100	Dean	o	291	4	-	
Dean W	o	5	4	97							
Les T	m	6	2	99	99	Caitlyn	M	292	3	290	3
Shaun R	m	7	3	98	98	Les	M	298	1	298	1
Marcus	p	8	1	100	97	Shaun	M	296	2	295	2
Cam	o	9	5	96		Jordan	m	195	4	186	
mark W	p	10	2	99	96						
Daniel M	p	11	3	98	95						
Jordan L	m	12	4	97	94	MarkW	p	99		96	
Lachlan F	s	13	2	99	93	Dan M	p	197	1	186	
Kelsey	s	14	3	98	92	Brendan	p	195	2	184	
Dale		15	NM								
Daniel B	s	16	4	97	91	Lach	s	296	2	280	4
Mark L	m	17	4	97	90	Dan B	s	297	1	275	5
						Kelsey	s	197	3	182	

### A Great Day Out at Makowhai Station

Grant Christian

It was still dark when we left Palmy. Heading out Rangitikei line I heard a noise that sounded like it was coming from something turning. With a new wheel bearing and speedo cable during the week I suspected it could be related. It got worse as we continued but a quick stop at Awahuri could not find any problem. I continued to Sanson, worried that I might not make it on this trip. Stopping at Sanson to pick up my brother and sister-in-law, we had another look at what could be the problem. My suspicion was that it could be the speedo cable as the noise sounded like it was coming from behind the dash. Pete Robertson must have noticed me as he went past as he came back and asked what was the problem. He suggested carrying on to Bulls where the lighting could be better. The noise lessened on the way to Bulls but I pulled in to have another check. Pete came for a drive with me but the noise was almost inaudible now so we decided to carry on.

We arrived at McDonalds where trip participants had gathered and some were having breakfast. Shortly after 7:30 we headed off in convoy to our destination. A quick stop to fuel up and another truck joined us. We turned off at Waitotara and headed north along winding country roads. An area I had never visited before. Nearing Makowhai Station we spotted a dead guinea fowl on the road, a couple of its' mates looked on despairingly. Not much further and we came across a dead chicken. What happening out here we wondered. On arrival at Makowhai station we heard that Phil had hit both of them.

There was a rush of activity as Pete changed his wheels for muddies, a tuff truck was unloaded from a trailer and others aired down their tyres. A short briefing and nine trucks headed off at about 9 a.m.



We were driving along good vehicle tracks through native bush with steep ridges and deep valleys down to the Waitotara River. We came across a small slip blocking half the track and many grabbed spades and shovels to clear the track. We were soon on the way again. A bend with a wet slippery surface found me not going in the direction I turned and I ended up with my left wheels off the track in the mud and not going anywhere. I was soon towed out but with the disapproval of Greg for letting down the Landcruiser

## Trip Reports!

team. I was kinda thankful when the next vehicle slid into the same place and I had to give them a tow. At least I wasn't the only one. We came across another slip which we dug out enough to make it passable. We began wondering how long the trip would take if we kept finding slips at this rate. There was another slip where a few manuka trees blocked the way. A chainsaw was brought out and the track was soon clear again. Some good climbs up slippery tracks followed and the drops down the side looked steep. Some of my passengers were feeling a little nervous.

We carried on through a mix of bush and rough grazing country. I heard alerts about fallow deer that were spotted but by the time I got to the spot they had been seen there was no sign of them. Lots of goats though. We passed an old house with a sign up for fish and chips. It was very rustic and I wondered if anyone lived there. I later found out it is some of the accommodation they have available for visitors. We stopped early for lunch at a picnic table with good views of the surrounding countryside. With still a lot of ground to cover we didn't spend too long on lunch.

After more driving through mostly easy tracks we stopped for a short break and to take in the views at a large woolshed. A narrow bridge was negotiated safely. I did wonder about the strength of some of the bridges because there were often broken boards. We had another steepish climb and a gate to turn through at the top. I was close to the left hand post and while watching that didn't see how close my right front wheel got to the edge. We had to stop just after going through the gate and I could see what looked like my wheel track going along the edge. No problem I guess if it is only one wheel.

The reason for the stoppage was another slip. A channel was dug for the left side wheels to prevent anyone going over the edge and Phil lead on.

Everybody seemed to cross easily and I had no

concerns but as I went across the back end started sliding sideways towards the outside edge. "Sh\*\*!" I exclaimed, which didn't exactly inspire confidence in my passengers. Fortunately we got across without any further problem and caught up with the others.

There was soon another delay and people got out to see what the holdup was. The track carried on uphill quite steeply but was also wet & slippery. Our leader Phil was first to try the track. A lot of noise and flying mud saw him slowly gaining ground and he eventually got to the top. Next up was Pete who, with his tuff truck and Simex tyres, got up without too much difficulty. Next one up run out of traction at the first wet spot and Pete backed down to give him a tow up. A few more got up unassisted and then another got to



## Trip Reports!

the first wet spot and Pete helped again. Finally it was my turn. My wife was apprehensive but still wanted to ride up. My other passengers had chosen to walk up. I went up the first section without problem, past the bend and was heading to the very tight corner. No way around here without reversing I was thinking but Pete was standing there directing me to turn before the bend, up the steep side of the track. I'll give it a go, I thought, but don't think I'm going to make it. I put my foot down and, surprisingly, the Landcruiser just kept on going and we soon reached the top where the others had gathered. That was the highlight of the day for me.



Some more wet and slippery climbing followed but everyone appeared to make it without a problem. What goes up must come down and we started to head down some steep and slippery slopes. I was crawling down slowly and felt the wheels start to lose traction. Although there was a run out before the bend, Greg was waiting and was in my path. Luckily he headed off before I got there and I stopped as the track flattened out. I backed up to line up for the next section and was waiting for Greg to get further ahead when my wife warned me that the next vehicle was sliding towards me and the guys in there had frightened looks on their faces. I quickly took off to get out of their way. There was more treacherous downhill but we got through without incident.

The final section was uneventful and we arrived back at the start after a long but enjoyable day. My wife and sister in law, who had earlier wondered if they should have come on this trip, decided in hindsight that it wasn't that bad and they had enjoyed the day. I would certainly recommend this trip to others. Thanks to Phil for organising it.



# Committee Profile

**Who:** Shaun Robertson

**Role:** Newsletter Editor

**And that means:** ... Writing up the club newsletter and sending it out to you every month!

**Truck:** Clifford/Jungle Gym

**Favourite Tracks:** Rallywoods & Pureora forest, anywhere that there is always going to be plenty of fun and entertainment

**Favourite Trips this year:** Tukituki river run campout and club champs round two, my first win haha

**Known for:** Where do I start lol.. Sometimes when out four wheeling not on all 4 wheels, always keen to get out on any trips and competitions, being the quiet one but will have a good time and laugh anytime

**Nick Names:** Shauny

**Blurb:** A full time automotive mechanic that works a normal 8am-5pm shift then go home and work on my projects, cars and 4wd, (and normal daily "stuff") Really enjoy doing club trips and events (4wd camping trips too and anything outdoors) because that's what I enjoy doing:-)

Love to get a little competitive in club champs and winch comps and watch how others drive, they are really great for skill building as well as fun to do too!

*Shaun Robertson*



**A few shots of me my truck and the winch challenge team**



Cheers for reading guys hope you all enjoyed it! Took a few hours of getting it together for the first time in a few years since I did my last one. If you have anything you want put in the mag, ad's or photos or what your doing on your rig, email me winchman350@gmail.com and I will put it in for you.



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