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VEHICLE CLUB
Wellington

1971–2011

Cross Country Chronicle March 2011



The Official Magazine of

The Cross Country Vehicle Club (Wellington) Inc

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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
Club Officers					
President					
Vice President					
Immed Past President					
Secretary					
Treasurer					
Club Captain					
General Committee Members					
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					
Appointments and Other Useful People					
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					
<u>CCVC Life Members</u>					
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

Table of Contents

Cover	South Island Summer Escape, drivers take your marks!!
P. 3	Club Officers, Committee Members
P. 4	Help, Index, Editorial Rambling
P. 5	Safety Inspectors, National Events
P. 6	SISE 2011 - Organisers Perspective
P. 9	SISE 2011 - Day 1
P. 11	Club Clothing Order Form
P. 14	Presidents Piece
P. 16	Riding the Rhino
P. 19	40th Anniversary & Awards Night
P. 20	From the Archives
P. 22	Club Calendar



Editorial Ramblings

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

Another month has gone and I thought to myself that it seems like 2011 has just started and here I am ripping the February page off my calendar - at this rate it will be Christmas on my calendar before I myself get to June!

Great to see trip reports, maybe we should have South Island Summer Escapes each year as 10 days of trips makes 10 reports and one per month takes up most of the year.

Don't forget it is the 40th anniversary of the club in June - see P. 19 for our celebration details and make your booking as tickets are limited.

Alan!

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 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. The mention of products, service procedures or service organisations herein does not constitute endorsement by the Club, the Cross Country Chronicle or it's Editor.

Vehicle Inspectors



Dayal Landy

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

Antony Hargreaves

Epuni Motors 1987 Ltd
2 - 6 Hawkins St, Lower Hutt
Ph. 04 569 3485

Dave Bowler

Bowler Motors Ltd
11 Raiha St, Porirua
Ph. 04 237 7251

Grant Guy

Richard Blair
G Guy Motors
61-63 Thorndon Quay, Wellington
Ph. 04 472 2020

Carl Furniss

Wellington 4WD Specialists
26 Hawkins Street, Lower Hutt
Ph. 04 976 5325

Jim Johnson

Ph. 04 938 9404
or 021 389 404

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



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 11-13: Hereworth School Fundraiser In conjunction with Hillseekers 4WD this trip covers spectacular central Hawke's Bay coastal country. A family affair, it will return to the same campsite each night & includes all meals. Cost is \$400 per vehicle (2 people), extra adults \$180, kids 12 & under \$80. Contact Mark Warren at waipari@xtra.co.nz or Pete Sutherland on 021 244 4013 or register online at www.hereworth4wd.co.nz

Mar 12-13: Hukerenui School 4WD In conjunction with the Whangarei Four Wheel Drive Club a family event for drivers of all experience. Contact Alan or Jill on 09 433 9912 or a.jmoscrip@xtra.co.nz

Mar 12-13: Te Awamutu Rotary Club 4WD Based at Pirongia with scrutineering 11 March. Contact David Samuel on dsamuel@clear.net.nz or 07 871 9651 (not after 9pm). For more details see www.teawamuturotary.org.nz.

Mar 13: National Trials Round 5 Colyton, organised by the Competition Committee.

Mar 19-20: OSC 4WD Safari Otamatea Christian School PTA fundraiser, two hours north of Auckland with tracks through farmland for family to advanced trucks. \$170 per vehicle includes driver and one passenger. Camping available. Contact Philip or Julia Leaf on 09 431 6622 or pjleaf@clear.net.nz

Mar 20: Wairakei School 4x4 Scenic farmland with fun and challenges on KIWITAHI Station (near Taupo). \$65 per vehicle, with details from Kelvyn on 07 378 7952 or Roger on 07 377 1337

Mar 25-27: Project Promise West Coast 4WD Safari (Northland). Drivers must be affiliated to the NZFWDA, \$150 driver plus 1, extra adult \$40, kids \$25. Contact opo4wd@maxnet.co.nz or 09 405 7490 or 027 422 2251.

Mar 26-27: Papanui Junction School & Hall Fundraiser Camp at school with 2 days of rugged tracks over five high country stations in the Turakina Valley (west of Taihape). Vehicle & 2 \$120 per day or \$200 for weekend. Contact principalpjs@xtra.co.nz or Hamish & Amanda 06 388 7405 evenings or Jan 06 388 7590 day, 06 388 1649 evenings.

April 16-17: Way Up High Safari Fundraiser being run in Central Otago to help Special Olympian Tom Sutton represent NZ in the equestrian events at the Special Olympics in Greece. More details available from graham@orarinursery.co.nz

April 22-25: Just Jeep, Reefton Easter weekend, based in Reefton. Details at www.justjeep.org.nz

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



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:** Ash Senior
- **Deadwood:** Roger Seymour
- **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):** Jim Johnson, Gavin Holden
- **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, Mark Wilson

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



Club Email Addresses

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)
- NZFWDAdelagate@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)

As some of you will be aware, a bunch of intrepid CCVC members embarked on a 10 day trip around the South Island - over the next few months we will have daily reports of each day's activities, starting with day one in this month's issue. But first here's a report from an organisers point of view:

South Island Summer Escape 2011.

An organisers perspective; Stub POLCAT

The idea of a proper safari was conceived January 2010 whilst sipping port in front of a campfire in Macetown out of Arrowtown, 700 metres elevation in the solitude of what was a bustling goldmining town in its day! We discussed with the Haast group and were fortunate to have had discussion with a couple of their members at the Motu and other safari's The comment went something like; 'the guys have just got to see this!'

The reality of the idea was shared with a couple of like minded persons with the real work starting in earnest around March last year, I had the vision of commencing around the Waitaki valley and covering the tracks out of the off road adventure books that can be primarily scenic but challenging as well. So when thumbing through the books and talking to my co-organisers areas like the Hakatamera valley, back roads around the lakes in the area, clay cliffs Morven station, Dunstan, Serpentine, Old man Range including the famed Whit-

(Continued on page 7)

Trial Calendar 2009-2010 Season

Round	Club	Date	Zone	Area
Rd 4	South Waikato 4x4 Club	19 February 2011	NZ	Karapiro
Rd 5	Competition Committee	13 March 2011	CZ	Colyton
Rd 6	Mt Egmont 4WD Club	23 April 2011	CZ	Taranaki (FINAL)

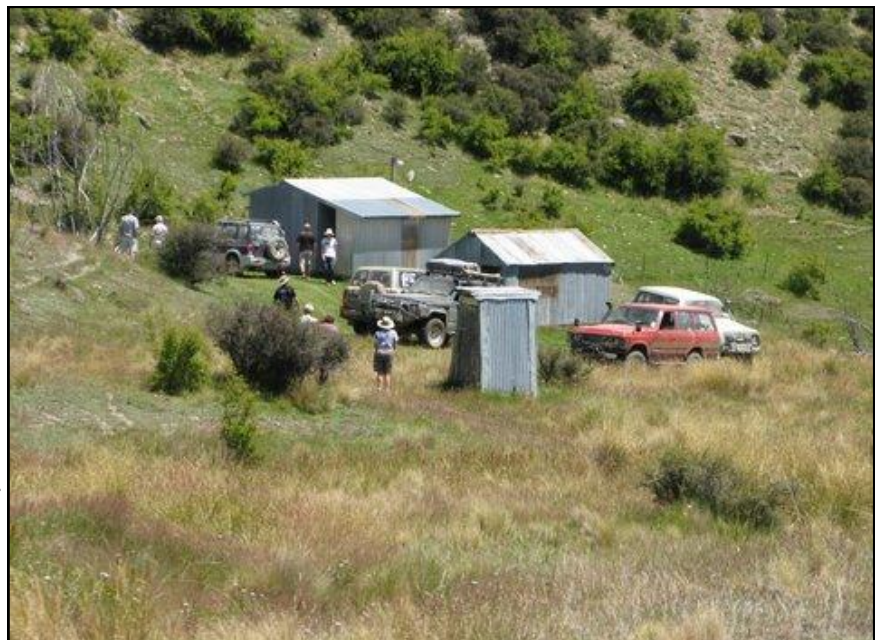


Competition Committee 2010-2011

(Continued from page 6)

coombe Road to Piano Flat, areas to Manapouri and the Boreland Pass, Mavora Lakes, Mt Bee, Eyre Creek, the Nevis Valley, Mace-town and Skippers Rd are but a few that whet the appetite of most 4wders.

The idea of navigating such roads in those stunning central Otago areas and maintaining our independence with self sufficient camping sounded like a boy scout adventure on its own to look forward to. The locations required some investigation and upon the initial investigations we had the makings of a tour to remember and advertised the idea to the club for interest, I had stated to my better half that if we got enough interest then we would probably shut bookings off in the October little realising the interest that came! Booking were simply overwhelming for such a tour with bookings being cut off 72 hours later with 25 vehicle groups interested. Our thoughts were for approx 15 vehicles in number but we could have, managed more if that transpired.



With registration papers having been developed and sent to interested parties we set about firming up the tracks in earnest and not having travelled all of the proposed track the durations would have to be managed on the run as it were. Throughout the development of the trip the work went into land access and we were looking at enhancing participants' experiences where possible with such additions as organised dinners at Morven station with the Snows. Access and bookings at Boreland Lodge, possible passage across one of the lakes and campsite investigation along with replenishment stops and where rest days would likely fall.

Given two of our team had contacts in the areas we were able to sort access to areas like

(Continued on page 8)



the snow farm from Pisa Station, the phone calls and fax was busy up until November sorting access and checking track condition in the areas to be visited. Then there were the vehicle preparations. We had specified some items for the trip and also had to factor in the touring items we wished to take individually including meals to ensure were to advise attendee's and fact that we would be 1600 odd metres up and could potentially be stuck there overnight, factor in fuel stops and the nature of some Suzuki's that had small tanks and thus limited range. Any medical factors to be considered and comm's, the fact that we have our own PLB and lots of experience in the proposed group was confidence building and we believed we were ready for anything the tracks and conditions would throw at us.

Once all the work was completed we were ready for the date start meet at Pleasant Point

pub, famed for the mixed grill dinner meal with the 'can you finish it!' challenge.

We had POLCAT sorted at G Guy and driven down mid December in readiness for us to pick her up on the 9th and get to the meeting point for the start on the 8th January at 7.30am!

Other participants will be giving their recount of the days touring and challenges arising from those days, for the most part I was elated with the trip on how things went and the days and areas covered, it is a lot of work that without the support of the 2 other persons in my team would have been a huge task alone! There are always things you cannot think of that others do and this was the case with our trip development, contingencies' and real world experiences all helped shape the trip to what we lived on the day.



I cannot thank my support people enough for their assistance and support for what transpired to be a very enjoyable tour with 25 people I know a lot more about sharing the grandeur of a magical area of our country we have on our doorstep. My thanks to Graeme Millard and Murray Taylor for making this such an experience and to the team that came along to share my vision, you all, made this such an enjoyable trip, thank you! Lastly I thank my Jane for your support and putting up with all bits around the organisation.

Lookout for the next one or I will be looking for one of you to organise one.

Stewart Burrell

CCVC South Island Summer Escape 2011 - Day 1 - Monday 10 January 2011

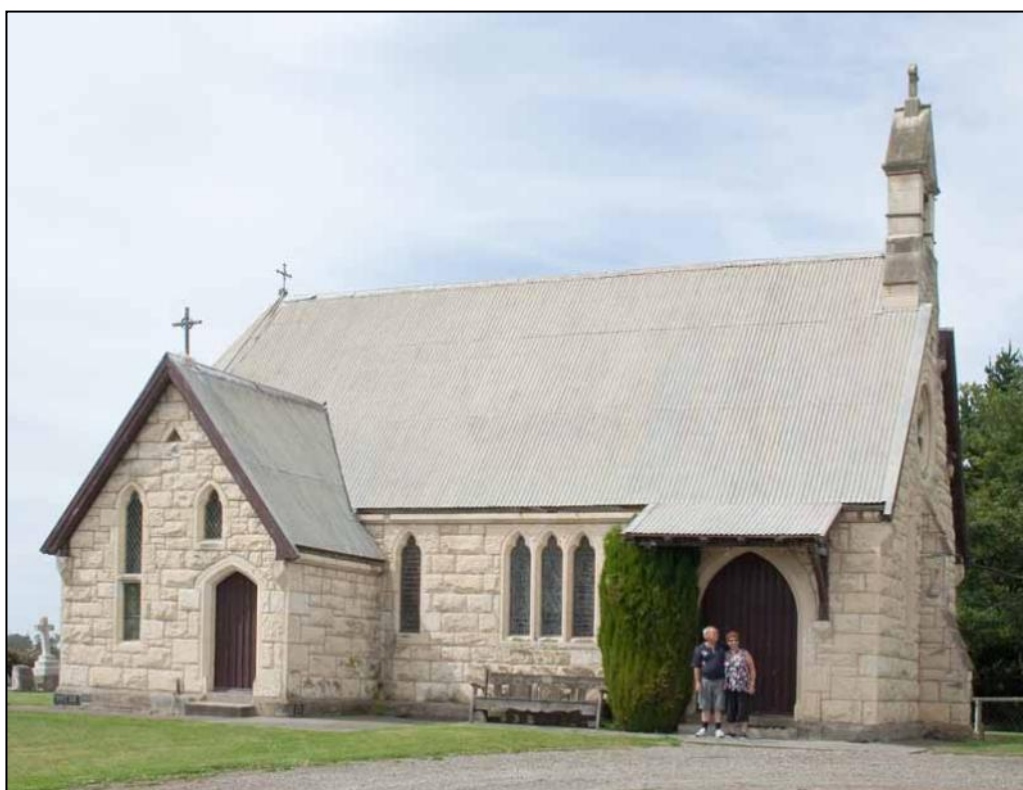
The adventure begins. It's 7.30 a.m. and fifteen trucks are lined up opposite the Pleasant Point Pub awaiting their crews. The drivers and their support team are refuelling on what one can only describe as an excessively large and somewhat greasy breakfast. There seemed to be lots of doggy bags arriving at the briefing at 8.30 a.m.

Murray Taylor (Mr T) and Stewart Burrell (Polcat) undertook our standard briefing, reminding all that we had a fully competent general practitioner in our midst – Andrew was more reassured having three fully fledged mechanics! (more later).

Day One consisted of a pretty challenging start to the trip. We were scheduled to do four tracks totalling just under 200 kms, plus the Valley of the Moa. We were underway and heading out of Pleasant Point in a souwesterly direction to Cave and into the back roads which border the Hunter Hills between Timaru and Waimate heading towards the Valley of the Moa. Here there are two historical sites where one can observe Maori rock drawings attributed to the time when Maori stalked moa in the district. The images were created by the Waitaha people who hunted and lived in the limestone shelters 700 – 1,000 years ago. A number of faded charcoal images of moa can be seen. You pass through private farms including the Elworthy Station where in the late 1980's they arranged for QEII covenants to be put in place to protect the landscape and archaeological features. Mr T was lead for this track but having spotted a good supply of fresh mushrooms (dinner/breakfast) decided that the first stop was in the farmer's paddock rather than at the archaeological site.



It was obvious early on, that if you have fifteen trucks with two major photo stops on the first track, then your day starts to get pushed out. We continued through the back roads diverting through the farm where Linda Millard (Suziblu's better half) was brought up and onto the Church where Graeme and Linda were married. Into Waimate for a fuel stop and lunch.



After lunch we tackled the Old Kaiwarua Road which heads north west from Waimate, through the Hunter Hills to Cattle Creek and onto Hakataramea Pass – a somewhat challenging route of 49 kms – not because it was technically difficult but as the local farmer said at the commencement of the track – he didn't think that anyone had been through it for three to four months and he thought that there had a lot of trees down in various parts. We aired down and headed off to see what it looked like. The track takes you through

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

dry matagouri and tussock lands into rolling farmland – it is also resident to a large number of wallaby which were spotted by Steve Mercer as one crossed in front of him.

The first couple of kms were across open paddocks and then we hit the pine shelter belt where there were a number of trees across the track. The team leaders sorted out an alternative access around some of the fallen trees – hand saws and slasher came in useful. Halfway into the shelter belt we were headed down what looked like a very unused track but a close review of Andrew's Garmin (NZ Topo maps loaded) indicated that we were probably 500 metres off the main track so it was a back track to a previous fork in the road and onward and upward.



It appeared that the track had not been used for some time and progress was relatively slow given the distance we needed to travel. We had to make a number of decisions where the 4WD South Island Tour Book is clearly out of date – gates and other landmarks are not always in the same position as they were in 2006. We passed through Pentland Hill, Kaiwarua Station and Kinbrace Station before arriving at Cattle Creek. The weather turned overcast but broke clear as we approached Cattle Creek where you come out onto the Hakataramea Pass Road. We came across one of the District Council road workers who was repairing one of the many washouts that were around the Pass Road and he

boldly informed us that the road we had come across was closed because of washouts. He obviously hadn't seen the washouts on the Orongorongo Station South Coast – all pretty easy for the CCVC Team!

We regrouped at the Pass and decided that because of the time we would have to give the McKenzie Pass diversion a miss and would head straight south on Haldon Road to Black Forest Station and Lake Benmore (we had refuelled at Waimate in anticipation of having to cut short a fuel stop at Fairlie). It was a pretty quick trip down to Haldon Station where we stopped for photos of the School and then it was Andrew leading us on the Transpower Track from Black Forest Station through to the back of the Benmore Dam (30 kms). It is a relatively straightforward track, pretty well maintained by Transpower and it gets up to some dizzying heights as you look down into the back of Lake Benmore. The weather turned as we were heading up over the saddles with a strong mist rolling in from the east and shrouding the tops and the views. We headed down and out onto the Benmore Dam – two of the spillways were going flat out – it would have made a great kayak ride, the launch into space at the end of the spillway would have landed you on the road 500 metres from the water!

We progressed into town, Otematata, our first night's stop, the Holiday Park for fourteen of the trucks and the Otematata Hotel for the soft traveller Andrew.

It was the next morning when Andrew went to move his Suzuki Jimny (the newest truck in the fleet) that a

(Continued on page 14)

CLUB CLOTHING - ORDER FORM



OIL SKINS - Complete clothing requirements (size, quantity and totals), together with delivery and payment details and post, fax or email to:

Far South Clothing Company
 126 Clyde Street, Invercargill 9010
 Tel 0800 327 768 Fax (03) 208 9012
 Email: sales@farsouth.co.nz

OTHERS - Complete clothing requirements (size, quantity and totals), together with delivery and payment details and post, fax or email to:

A1 Apparel, Embroidery & Screenprint ltd
 325 Jackson St, Petone, Lower Hutt
 Tel (04) 568 6226 Fax (04) 568 2530
 Email: sales@alembroidery.co.nz

Cross out not applic L = Ladies	DESCRIPTION	SIZE						QTY	Price \$	TOTAL \$
		S 8	M 10	L 12	XL 14/ 16	XXL 18/ 20	3XL 22			
86F	Vest, black lined oil skin								99.00	
tba	Forrester Jacket, black lined oil skin								tba	
P3308 L P29322	HERITAGE collar Polo Shirt - Navy/silver								37.69	
P3308 L P29322	HERITAGE collar Polo Shirt - Graphite/Black								37.69	
P3308 L P29322	HERITAGE collar Polo Shirt - Black/silver								37.69	
P3308 L P29322	HERITAGE collar Polo Shirt - Sand/black								37.69	
4015	Cap Black								24.75	
4015	Cap Navy								24.75	
Ice T	Cotton T shirt, Navy or Charcoal								19.15	
Ice T	Cotton T shirt, Black or Stone								19.15	
Delivery, to be arranged at time of order										
Cheque/Credit Card charge value										

ORDER AND DELIVERY DETAILS

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PAYMENT DETAILS

Please find enclosed: CHEQUE (A1 Embroidery & Screenprint Ltd)
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(Continued from page 10)

somewhat disturbing grinding noise emanated from the bowels of the vehicle that necessitated not a visit to the GP but to our resident mechanics. At first it was thought that there might be a rear diff problem but removing the rear driveshaft soon eliminated that and the diagnosis fell onto a major problem with the gearbox. Whilst the rest of the group packed up camp and headed out onto Day Two, Andrew was on the phone to Suzuki Assist and an untimely exit from the Tour. Andrew and the truck were duly delivered to the main Suzuki agents (Hollands) in Timaru who immediately diagnosed failed bearings in the gearbox, apparently a not uncommon fault with the Suzuki Jimny flatbed trucks manufactured by Hollands in Timaru for Suzuki New Zealand. Before they retail the flatbed trucks, Hollands upgrade the bearings to a more robust part which



can take the stress of constant low ratio work. You learn something new everyday. Four days later Andrew and the Jimny were back with the team in Te Anau to continue the South Island Tour.



Presidents Piece – March 2011

Obviously I don't need to tell you that February has been a shocking month for our country, Christchurch has suffered another blow and I am sure most members will have some connection with the Mainland. Luckily our family have come out of it with only property damage but I have talked with plenty of people who have friends and relations missing in the rubble. At time of writing the committee is putting together a donation package on behalf of members, this will include cash for Red Cross and fuel vouchers for fellow 4x4 clubs helping out around the city.



As it happens CCVC support charities in many ways, the Rotary fund raiser mid February was for Wellington Free Ambulance and Life Flight Trust and this couldn't have taken place with our clubs support.

It was a great day with plenty of paying public keen to hit the tracks. The more challenging trip was most popular with punters and club members alike. It was interesting to travel across new properties and I think all the drivers and passengers got good value for money. A huge effort put in by a number of the CCVC team, thanks guys.

The committee met last week and numbers were a bit light, Alan was driving South with a truck load of television equipment for Chch, Charles held up at Auckland airport due to flights being needed to get Chch people out of town. I only just got to the meeting after also being delayed in Auckland, amazing how a disaster can

(Continued on page 15)

4x4 National Park

[Home](#) [Feedback](#) [Site Map](#)

News



Welcome to the 4x4 National Park 2011 event site.

The two previous 4x4 National Park events have shown that this region offers some wonderful scenery and 4x4 driving opportunities, as well as contributing to the local economy and to community facilities, such as the National Park Playcentre and the National Park community hall restoration project.

The 2011 4x4 National Park event will take place over the weekend of 5/6 March and will be based again at The Park Travellers Lodge in National Park.

New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association (NZFWDA) members are offered a 25% discount on accommodation at 'The Park'. (NZFWDA membership is \$30 inc GST)

Contact Information

For accommodation information please contact [The Park Travellers Lodge](#)

Telephone 0800 800 491

Electronic mail

General accommodation Information: bookings@the-park.co.nz

4x4 event information info@4x4nationalpark.co.nz and to request a registration form.

Webmaster: web@4x4nationalpark.co.nz



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(Continued from page 14)

affect an entire country. We did discuss a fair few items and welcomed a couple of new members. The club is to offer to assist with some track maintenance on Orongorongo Station, a planned refresher course for Trip Leaders is set to happen in March, and pricing for a First Aid has got the nod.

See you all at the next club night, Stewart and a couple of others are speaking on the Christmas trip down South. We had a couple of sneak pictures last month and it looked like a fantastic trip.

Regards
Ralph Dobson, CCVC President

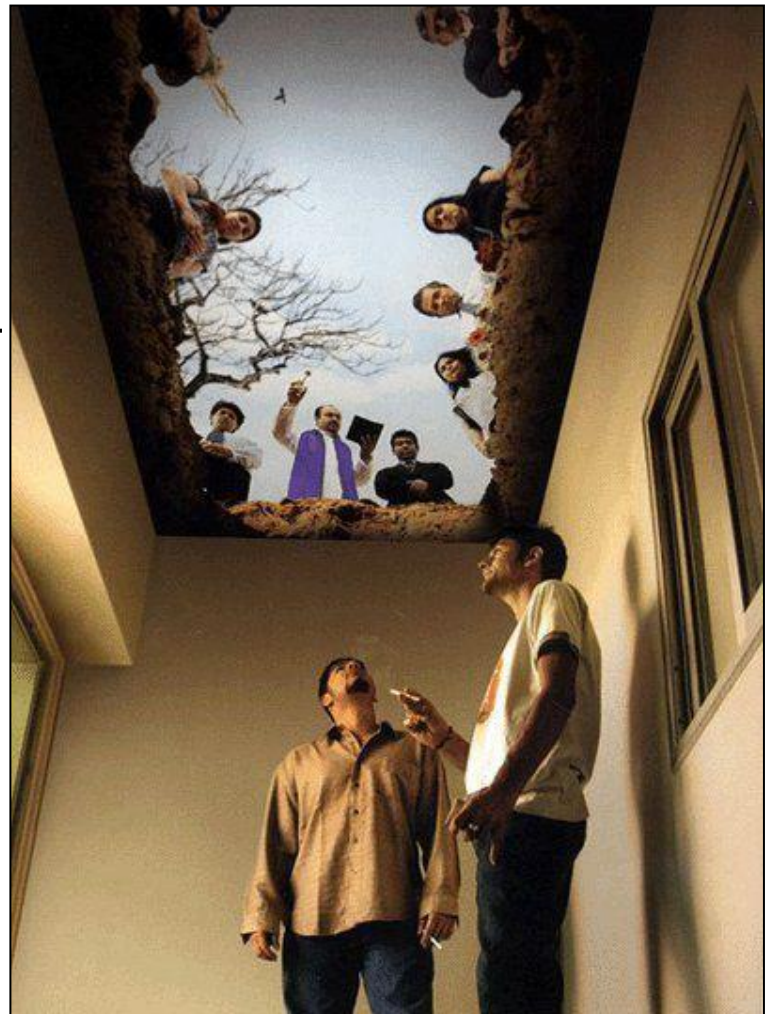
Kimbolton School will be hosting a 4WD fundraising trek on 25 - 27 March 2011. Their last event in 2008 was extremely successful and assisted the school in sending a team of Year 8 students to represent New Zealand in a Problem Solving Competition in the USA.

This year the school is organising another 4WD trek covering new land and seeing new sights.

The event will be held 25 - 27 March 2011.

Attendees are invited to arrive to camp on the Friday night (25th) with driving on Saturday and the morning of Sunday.

Registrations and expressions of interest can be directed to kimschool4x4@hotmail.com



RIDING THE RHINO by Megan Laing.

Africa changed me. It opened my eyes. I had travelled extensively as a child, but not like this. The experience inspired me to write my story and I am thrilled to share this story in my newly published book, RIDING THE RHINO.

My husband Craig, and I left Auckland to explore the big, wide world during what turned out to be a four year journey. As was to come typical of our travelling style, we left our home without any plans in mind and brought two one way tickets to London.

After backpacking around Greece and Turkey for 3 months, we returned to London to find work. We weren't in London for long before the bone-chilling winter set in and sunny, warm South Africa beckoned. We brought two one way tickets to Cape Town and marvelled at the vast expanse of Africa as we flew over the massive continent for hours.

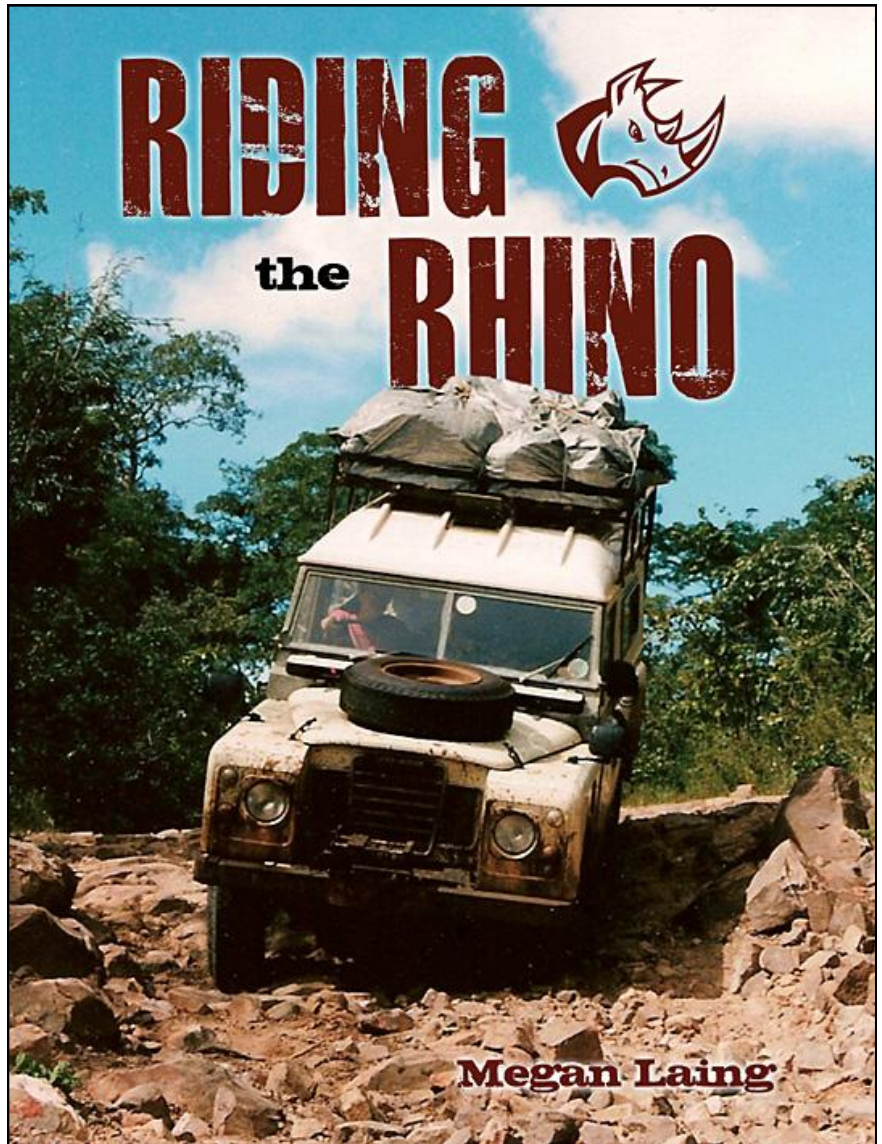
We landed in beautiful Cape Town to the heat we had been longing for and soon met up with two Australian girls (who we had met in Turkey the previous year) who were to become the other duo in our team.

Three weeks of sporadic discussion later, we eventually purchased an old 1972 long wheel based Land Rover and the four excited, yet naive, travellers in our group were raring to begin our big adventure into the unknown.

Our Land Rover (which was christened "The White Rhino" after a close encounter) was a gutsy old girl. Aided by Craig, who is an excellent mechanic and who fixed her up time and time again on a tight shoe-string budget with a few cheap, flimsy tools (which often broke) and his trusty Leatherman pocket knife, we managed to crash and bash, shudder and shake our way over 30,000 kilometres and visited 12 countries in an eight month trip.

Flat tyres and broken engine mounts were the regular problems that poor Craig faced, as the heavy 4.1 Chevrolet engine was all too often broken away from the metal surround as we gained lift off over many potholed, rocky, muddy and horrendous stretches of road. "It's all part of the fun!" Craig often told our white-knuckled crew as we smashed about inside the Land Rover, as Craig gunned the engine to tackle the challenging conditions.

(Continued on page 17)



(Continued from page 16)

We came north through war torn Mozambique and then through tourist friendly Malawi before reaching a cross roads a Tanzania. "Do we do the sensible thing and head east towards the coast like most sane people do, or do we point north towards Uganda and travel Western Tanzania?" we asked ourselves.

Our enquiries about the condition of the roads were usually met with laughter and we were told by many people that it couldn't be done. That was like a red flag to a bull for Craig, who does not like to be told that he can't do something, and he convinced the rest of the team that we should go for it. We reasoned among ourselves that we were travelling at the tail end of the rainy season, so, "How bad could it be, right?"



As it turned out, it could be very bad! We got so far off the beaten track, because we were travelling without a map and there were no sign posts that we ended up completely lost and broken down in the middle of nowhere (in fact, among other issues, we had broken the rear wheel axle and we were tackling the worst stretch of road to date with 2WD!) Luckily, we were picked up by the Red Cross and taken to a village where we were the first tourists to stay. Small children would often burst into tears when they saw us and people would try to rub the colour from our skin!



Close to our destination in Uganda, we were told the devastating news that we couldn't go on because the bridge had been washed away and the locals were crossing the river in canoes. We were forced to make a decision and enter Rwanda. We entered Rwanda fearfully, all too mindful of the ongoing tribal conflict and recent genocide attempt. I'm sure we added quite a few white hairs to our parents' heads when we wrote home saying that we had been hearing machine gun fire while we were getting a wheel bearing fixed! To be honest, we did have some very dangerous moments in Africa and some scary times, but we battled on breathing many, many sighs of relief as the kilometres clicked by.

Eventually, we made it through to Uganda and Kenya with our Land Rover as battered and bruised as our team. We discovered that we couldn't go much further because of the dangers to the north and we were fast running out of money. We weren't left with many other options but to turn around and head south. Also, Craig was getting to the point in our "holiday" where he thought he might as well be earning an income for all the hard and filthy work that he was doing!

Eventually, we smashed our way over a rough figure of eight route back to Cape Town. We sold the long suffering "White Rhino" to an English pair with no mechanical expertise, who pointed her north bound ready to explore the African interior once more. A tear of sadness mixed the happiness when our trusted, embattled and pummelled Land Rover, that had seen us through some of the highest and lowest points of our lives, fired

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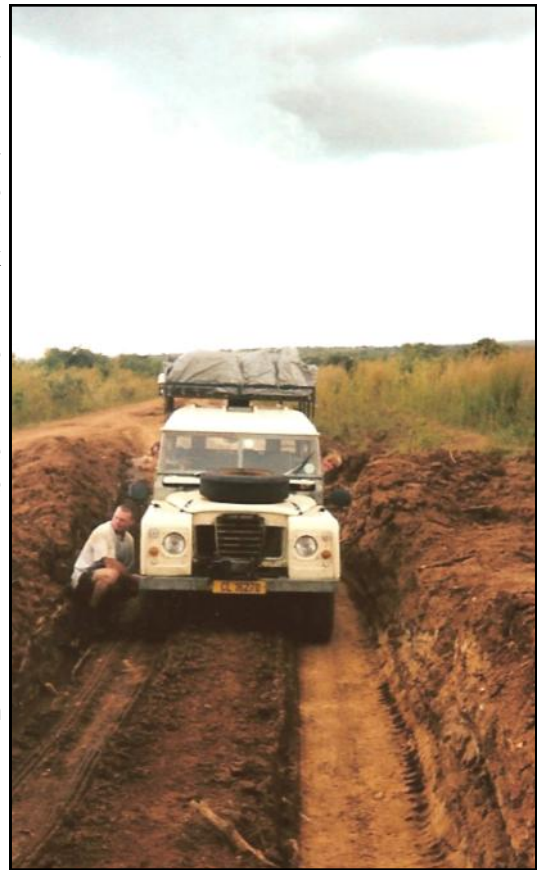
up and roared away into the distance. The tear was soon flicked away and, within days, our team returned to the grind in London.

Africa is an amazing continent. It is vast, volatile, unique and totally unpredictable. The thing I loved the most about Africa was that we never knew what we were going to face next. Around the corner there could be a herd of elephants, a police check point, tribal people, a truck stuck in a bog or a bridge washed away, among many other scenarios. It never failed to keep us on our toes! We had times of being harassed, ripped off and robbed, but then on the other hand, we experience amazing generosity, friendliness and helpfulness.

So Africa changed me! It got under my skin, for better and for worse and my book RIDING THE RHINO helps me relive all the joys and the trials we faced in our eye-opening travels in our admirable, incredible Land Rover!

This fun and entertaining read is 400 pages with 20 pages of interesting colour photos.

Purchase your copy online for NZ\$45 plus postage by contacting Megan at z-laing@clear.net.nz



The link below will take you to a trip report of a Belgium couples 4wd trip through the Democratic Republic of Congo in their Landcruiser Troupie. Its very long but very interesting. Whether they were brave or stupid to tackle the trip is the question but makes our trips look like a stroll in the park. Note that although the link is printed on three lines it needs to be entered into the computer all as one link.

<http://www.expeditionportal.com/forum/showthread.php?s=8450be39d6d462b474548fe996027886&t=50799&highlight=congo&page=1>

Would this mess up your mind? Would you be able to walk into this bathroom? (Note that this is a painted bathroom floor!!).

Cross Country Vehicle Club (Wellington) Inc
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& Awards Evening

Petone Workingmans Club

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COOKES & TWL BRANCHES THROUGHOUT NEW ZEALAND

DIARY OF CLUB OUTING FOR OCTOBER - SUNDAY 12

Started off well - met at Belmont Hall at 10 a.m.; a respectable hour for a change. Unfortunately the organiser forgot that we are not all equipped with super machines, and quoted a second meeting place and time slightly beyond the limits of most Club Members - and the Law. However, true to Club Form, we made our Chau date only $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour late, and set off in the company of 7 Tararua Off-Roaders along the Hokio Beach. And what an assortment! Two Range Rovers; one Gypsy; one Jeep; one Beach Buggy and one light two wheel drive truck; two Toys and SIX Land-Rovers! With Graeme Laing as our Leader (although he nearly wasn't following a Drift on the beach which turned into a two-wheels-up-45-circle-on-the-door-handles-act) we traversed the sands in various fits and starts (onlookers would be more inclined to agree with the 'fits'). However, we finally made it to an oasis of sand where females were set down and instructed to prepare lunch - while menfolk conveniently 'disappeared'. The return of Nev Cole with a frog in Dave McGinnity's sandshoe (there was a shortage of suitable water/frog containers) heralded the commencement of the return trip - and the beginning of an afternoon of fun. 14 vehicles, each trying to dig its own way out of the dunes back up on to the Beach, and each succeeding in burying itself a bit deeper than the last. "Manfeild George" repeated the sidling-on-the-door-handles-act, and managed to drop a coil spring out of position. However, sufficient Club Members manhandling the machine soon rectified that! Coran Taylor, powering his potent little machine up one of the last dunes was distinctly heard to perform a little bit of musical entertainment as he reached the top - new diff for Coran! However, as it is the first he has had go in almost 4 years of off-roading, his activities have only just started to catch up with him! By dint of much 'gentle persuasion' we finally towed Coran out of the dunes to where Richard awaited with his car trailer, and from there on it was plain sailing home. No doubt many private sandpits will have benefitted from the sand collected on this Outing - I know our plumbing system has! Many thanks to Graeme Laing and all those involved in the organising of this Outing.

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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 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

Date	Name	Organiser	Category	Place	Status	Notes
March 2011						
Tuesday 1st	Safety Sub Committee Meeting	Murray Taylor	Meeting - 19:30	-tba-		
Saturday 5th	Historical Pipiriki and the Whanganui River - Bookings Required - Contact Graeme (04) 562 7636 or 029 200 1700	Graeme Millard	Family Shiny	Turakina Valley Whanganui River	Confirmed	
Saturday 5th	Karapoti Classic Cycle Race in Akatarawa forest	-tba-	Event	Akatarawa Forest	Confirmed	
Saturday 5th	Odlins Road - SWB Only - Bookings Required	Charles Odlin	Club 4X4	Odlin's Road	Confirmed	
Sunday 6th	Maritime archaeological Society - Members Only - Bookings Required	Ray Harkness	Shiny 4X4	Wellington South Coast		
Wednesday 9th	Club Night - All Welcome	Ralph Dobson	Meeting - 19:30	Petone Working Men's Club, Udy St		
Saturday 12th	Orongorongo in March - Bookings required for non members. Contact Morris (04) 566 - 6197 Cellphone (021) 629 - 600	Morris Jury	Family Shiny	Orgongorongo Ridges Orongorongo Coast		
Monday 14th	CCVC Trip Leader Refresher (now confirmed)	Grant Purdie	Meeting - 18:30 - 21:00			
Saturday 19th	Otapawa in March - Bookings Required	John Vruink	Shiny 4X4	Otapawa Station, Haunui Rd off Route 52, Tiraumea, (sign posted as you approach Tiraumea) - OR via The Alfredton Road toward the coast from Eketahuna view at http://www.otapawa.co.nz/farmstay.htm		
Sunday 20th	A day in the Akatarawa Forest - Bookings Required for non members. Phone David on 027 451 0361	David Coxon	Family Shiny	Akatarawa Forest	Confirmed	
Saturday 26th	24 Hour Track - Bookings Required	Charles Odlin	Hard Yakka	Akatarawa Forest - 24 Hour Track		
Saturday 26th	Sutherlands Track Weekend - Bookings Required	John Parfitt	Shiny 4X4	Sutherland's Track		
April 2011						
Sunday 3rd	GWRC Akatarawa Tag a long - Non Members should book with the GWRC Summer Programme	David Coxon	Shiny 4X4	Akatarawa Forest		
Saturday 9th	Advanced Recovery and Winch Weekend - Bookings Required	Murray Taylor	Shiny 4X4	-tba-		
Sunday 10th	GWRC Tag a long - Rain Off Date	David Coxon	Shiny 4X4	Akatarawa Forest		
Wednesday 13th	Club Night - All Welcome	Ralph Dobson	Meeting - 19:30	Petone Working Men's Club, Udy St		
Sunday 17th	Orongorongo in April - Bookings required for Non Members	Morris Jury	Family Shiny			
Friday 22nd	Easter Weekend at Foxton	John Vruink	Shiny 4X4	Foxton Coast		
Saturday 23rd	Zuki Central 2011 Suzuki only event Easter 2011	zukicentral@gmail.com	Family Shiny	Find out when you book.		
Sunday 24th	Easter Sunday at Rallywoods - Bookings Required	Steve O'Callaghan	Shiny 4X4 / Club 4X4	Rallywoods		
May 2011						
Saturday 7th	Through the Ruts With Ian D - Bookings Required	Ian Dixon	Shiny 4X4 / Club 4X4	Akatarawa Forest - Slippery Forest & Ruts		
Monday 9th	CCVC Trip Leaders Forum	Charles Odlin	Meeting - 19:30	Petone Working Men's Club, Udy St		
Wednesday 11th	Club Night and AGM - All Welcome	Ralph Dobson	Meeting - 19:30	Petone Working Men's Club, Udy St		
Saturday 14th	Sutherlands Track Maintenance Weekend	ARAC Wairarapa	Shiny 4X4	Sutherland's Track		
Wednesday 18th	CCVC Culb Recovery Sub Committee Meeting	Anthony (Ant) Reid	Meeting - 19:30	-tba-		
Saturday 21st	Bill's Birthday	Grant Purdie	Event		Confirmed	
Sunday 29th	Mountains to the Sea	David Sole	Family Shiny	Takapauri Road, Manawatu see notes section		



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