

# Why do we 4WD?

We do it because our vehicles can take us to beautiful places off the beaten track. We do it to get away from all the stress and business of daily life, to replace it with the great outdoors and the company of good friends. It's the adventure, the scenery, and the camping in unforgettable places.

Getting there is half the fun. The places that are further away or hard to get to are often the best sites. They are less crowded, more isolated, further from civilisation and often the most spectacular. It's the challenges and effort needed to get there. The sense of achievement when conquering difficult terrain.

But it's also having traveling companions that help each other out, getting us through tough tracks and helping to recover stranded vehicles. It's the camaraderie and stories we tell around camp oven roasts and regular get togethers.

It's also the sharing of knowledge; of trips and adventures to undertake, equipment, upgrades, and modifications that can be made to our vehicles to make them safer, more reliable, and more capable of tackling the most challenging of tracks, and the most recent and best gadgets to make camping easier or more comfortable.

But our 4WD club is much more than that. It's the advice and reassurance from experienced members. The comforting encouragement to tackle seemingly impossible drives. It's the training and obtaining nationally recognised and accredited courses in Basic 4WD driving, Advanced 4WD driving, maintenance and use of chainsaws, and Isolated First Aid. It's the talks from mechanics, auto electricians and other trades.

It's how our club contributes to our community, supporting and helping local charities and organisations such as The Royal Flying Doctor Service, Wagga's Light the Night and Wagga's Gears and Beers. It's our partnership with The National Parks and Wildlife Service in track clearing in their Reserves, Parks and recreation areas. It's "having the ear" and being able to advise Government authorities through our State and National affiliated bodies concerning 4WD driving, vehicle modification approvals and gaining access to State and National Parks.

As individuals and as an organisation we acknowledge the damage our vehicles can make to the environment. So, we promote safe and responsible driving; to care for the environment, travel on formed tracks only ('tread lightly'), and never leave any rubbish behind ('enjoy the scene, keep it clean').

So why do we 4WD? It's a lifestyle, an attitude, the company. It's 'Living the Adventure'.

Graham McKenzie  
Publicity Officer, Wagga Wagga Four Wheel Drive Club.

