



**Wagga Wagga Four Wheel Drive Club Inc**

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Members of the Wagga Wagga Four Wheel Drive Club Inc. are expected to abide by the following Code of Ethics of Four Wheel Drive Australia, and the Activity Rules and Code of Conduct of the Club when participating in Club activities or representing the Club. The Code of Ethics has been developed in the interests of promoting responsible recreational vehicle use, and the Club rules have been developed over many years of Club activities. Basically they are all common sense and are in no way meant to be restrictive. Their purpose is to ensure maximum safety and orderly conduct to promote the enjoyment of our recreation.

## **CODE of ETHICS of Four Wheel Drive Australia**

- Obey the laws and regulations for recreational vehicles that apply to public lands.
- Respect the cultural, heritage and environmental values of public/ private land, by obeying restrictions that may apply.
- Respect our flora and fauna. Stop and look, but never disturb.
- Keep to formed tracks.
- Keep the environment clean. Carry your own, and any other, rubbish out.
- Keep your vehicle mechanically sound and clean to reduce environmental impact.
- Adopt minimal impact camping and driving practices.
- Seek permission before driving on private land. Do not disturb livestock or watering points, leave gates as found.
- Take adequate water, food, fuel, basic spares and a first aid kit on trips. In remote areas travel with another vehicle and Royal Flying Doctor Service, or equivalent, radio contact.
- Enjoy your recreation and respect the rights of others.
- Plan ahead and lodge trip details with a responsible person.
- Support four-wheel drive touring as a responsible and legitimate family recreational activity. Consider joining an affiliated four-wheel drive Club.

## **CLUB ACTIVITY RULES and CODE of CONDUCT**

1. The convoy/trip leader is in charge at all times and is responsible for overseeing the negotiation of all hazards or vehicle recovery.
2. The trip leader shall nominate a "tail end Charlie" sweep car at the beginning of a trip. Vehicles should maintain their position in the convoy unless the convoy leader permits a change.
3. Speed limits are to be observed at all times.
4. Convoy communication is by UHF channel 10. Because it is public and important for safety, communication is to be sensible.

5. Do not drive too close to the vehicle in front. Allow a generous distance between vehicles, particularly on hazardous tracks. Only one vehicle to negotiate an obstacle at any one time.
6. Each driver is responsible for the vehicle behind and must keep it in sight at all times. DO NOT leave an intersection or obstacle until you are sure the vehicle behind knows where you are going or has crossed the obstacle.
7. Persons leaving the convoy MUST notify the trip leader and the following vehicle, and if possible give details of their intentions.
8. No vehicle shall pass the trip leader except in emergency.
9. All gates are to be left as found. The trip leader will advise tail end Charlie whether to leave the gate open or closed.
10. No driver shall drive in a manner, or at a speed, that could endanger themselves or other people, or break traffic regulations.
11. When stopping in convoy, allow plenty of room between vehicles.
12. Before any recovery operation, make sure all safety precautions are observed. All people must stand well clear of cables and straps – allow a minimum of 1.5 times the length of the cable or strap. The winch operator or the driver of the towing vehicle is in charge of the operation under the supervision of the trip leader.
13. Chainsaws are potentially very dangerous. Operators must concentrate fully on the job and wear safety equipment (including safety chaps). All spectators must keep well clear as the operator may not be aware of others nearby. Anyone assisting is to take direction from the operator.
14. A first aid kit is to be carried on all Club trips.
15. Take all rubbish home, leave campsites clean and tidy, and ensure all campfires are out. Always use existing fireplaces if possible.
16. Observe good hygiene. Bury all human waste. Do not pollute waterways.
17. In the interests of conservation, all vehicles are to remain on formed roads while in the bush unless directed by the trip leader to bypass an obstacle.
18. Always observe all regulations laid down by regulatory and management authorities e.g. NPWS, LLS, Local Government. Do not enter private property without permission.
19. A reconnaissance should be done before each trip, and for safety should be done in pairs.
20. Vehicles participating in trips MUST carry basic recovery equipment. The MINIMUM required is a suitably rated snatch strap, recovery points front and rear of the vehicle, shovel and suitably rated shackles. A person needing assistance is expected to use his/her own recovery equipment wherever possible.
21. Pets are **not** allowed in National Parks and are discouraged from Club outings.
22. Observe the Code of Ethics of the Australian National Four Wheel Drive Council.
23. For insurance purposes ALL participants must be recorded on the attendance register.
24. Visitors on Club trips must apply for temporary Club membership using the *Temporary Member / Visitor Trip Participant Form*.
25. Participants travel at their own risk. Vehicle damage or injury is always a possibility. Neither the trip leader nor the Club are liable for such injury or damage.
26. It shall be the sole responsibility of each vehicle driver to decide whether or not to start or continue to participate in the trip. It is recommended that advice is sought from the trip leader.

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