

# ANFWDC HALF YEAR REPORT

31<sup>ST</sup> December 2008

The Council met in Sydney during October. The following actions are in progress:

## National 4WD Clubs Competition

Clubs can enter environmental or community projects done during 2009. They could win major prizes. All member associations have been provided with copies of a flyer, entry conditions and an entry form.

**The Grand National Award is \$3,000. State prizes of \$1,000 (1<sup>st</sup>), \$500 (2<sup>nd</sup>) & \$250 (3<sup>rd</sup>)** will be awarded in each state subject to judges' discretion. We intend to maximise the publicity from the competition. Ask your ANFWDC Delegate for more information.

## New Book

We have published a book "**Travelling in Outback Australia**" written by George Cottee. It is receiving positive reviews from all states. It was written to fill a knowledge gap for club members and the public. Plans are under way to sell it via the National Council's website. It is essential reading for all new club members and will no doubt be valuable to experienced club members. Cost is \$15 plus postage. Clubs which order bulk copies of 20 or more will receive a **Cashback** payment of \$5 per copy bought throughout 2009. Individuals may purchase it by contacting [pro@anfwdc.asn.au](mailto:pro@anfwdc.asn.au)

## Website

We have a new website and are already planning further additions to it. News items from all members are being published subject to editorial approval. Merchandising our products has at best been limited until now by the amount of effort volunteers can provide. Moving towards commercial arrangements are under consideration. It is quite some time since the Council resolved to do this, but cashflow considerations have been a limiting factor.

## Standards Australia

A review of the design standards for bullbars appeared imminent. Advice at the moment is that the Standard does not need review.

## Modified vehicles

Industry feedback is that 50mm vehicle plus 25mm tyre might be the end result. Discussions with RTA NSW: Regulators mentioned concerns about braking performance when fitted with oversize tyres.

## SAR Forum

The 10<sup>th</sup> meeting was held at Newcastle in the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Base.

A lone 4WDer was located twenty miles north west of Gosford NSW after switching on his beacon. (bogged). Geez members, the driver could have walked out!

## SAR cont. **ESSENTIAL DISTRESS BEACON INFORMATION**

121.5 MHz distress beacons will not be detected by satellite after 1 February 2009 – you must switch to a 406 MHz distress beacon as soon as possible. Do not risk your life by using a 121.5 MHz distress beacon.

### Canning Stock Route

Anecdotal feedback suggests everyone except one respondent did not have a permit . Another respondent was impressed that everyone encountered had permits. The Council is ready to act on recommendations from Four Wheel Drive Western Australia if signs about permits are required to improve compliance

### National Insurance Scheme

Promotional banners have been purchased for each participating state. A check list for members seeking cover (including from competitors) has been drafted. It will be available from the ANFWDC website. Plans for members to obtain quotes from our scheme's broker via the website are under way.

### FWDV affiliation

Issues regarding the National Insurance Scheme have been resolved and FWDV has paid its affiliation fee. Several Victorian clubs have stayed with the National Scheme.

### Licensing Driver Training Material to Mining industry

Outside firms associated with the mining industry have expressed interest in using our course material in their document subject to agreeing on a suitable licence fee.

### National Promotion on 4WD TV.

Coverage around the nation is incomplete at present. On a report from NSW, ANFWDC has accepted its recommendation subject to 4WD TV going digital.

### Driver Training

NT has employed Qld DTU guidance. TAS is in the process of gaining RTO status. SA audit was successful. NSW registered as RTO. WA considering its position.

### National Tracks & Trails body mooted.

Biennial trails conferences have been poorly supported by 4WD associations to our detriment. FWDQ attended the 2008 conference and raised the alarm. Host states & ANFWDC are to attend future conferences. 2010 conference in Blue Mountains NSW.

### All associations to advertise National Insurance scheme

It was agreed that all members would advertise the National Insurance Scheme to their clubs.

### John Greg's permit report to be displayed on all state websites

Thanks to John for his article about obtaining permits. It was agreed that each member state would place the article on their websites.

### Business plan for review

The plan is old and in need of review. Another job to tackle.

### Contact List for networking

The Council periodically updates its Contact List, so that state officers can easily contact their counterparts to compare views on day to day issues. However its availability has previously been restricted to the point of making it almost useless for effective networking. This will be changed.

### Top Gear objections

A letter was sent to the SBS Ombudsman regarding dangerous driving on the Stockton Beach dunes in the first episode. No response at time of writing.

*Rob Kelly*

President

Attached:

Competition Flyer.

Travelling in Outback Flyer.

