

# CONVOY PROCEDURES



The following 'Convoy Procedures' are taken from the Geelong 4WD Club By-Laws.

## General

- At Club events, members will obey instructions of the Trip Leader.
- Eligibility of vehicles to participate in Club events shall be determined by the Trip Leader.
- All fire regulations that may be in force from time to time are to be obeyed. The regulations governing the location and clearing for campfires are to be observed at all times. No campfires are to be left unattended and must be completely extinguished with water prior to departing.
- Before leaving a camp or meal site, members will clear the site of litter, carrying it out with them if there are no litter receptacles in the area.
- Dogs should not be taken on a trip unless prior permission has been obtained from the trip leader. When dogs are taken on Club events, they must be placed on a fixed leash at meal times and must be placed on a leash at any other time when so requested by the Trip Leader.
- Firearms are prohibited on all Club events unless prior permission has been obtained from the Trip Leader.
- Motorbikes of all types are prohibited on all Club events unless prior permission has been obtained from the Trip Leader.
- Members must comply with regulations relating to drones.
- Members disagreeing with any decision or direction made by the Trip Leader may, on return from the trip, bring the matter before the Committee in written form. The Committee must deal with the matter as soon as possible and collect all relevant information to resolve the matter. If the matter cannot be resolved informally it will be managed as prescribed by the Rules.

## Start

- At the commencement of the trip, the Trip Leader shall arrange the convoy order and nominate an appropriately experienced participant be last in the convoy (Tail End Charlie).
- The trip leader will collect personal details forms from each trip participant
- All vehicles shall stay in the convoy order unless directed otherwise by the Trip Leader.

## Communications

- Convoy communication shall be by the designated UHF Radio channel selected prior to departing.
- The nationally recognised 4WD convoy channel is Channel 10. This may vary depending on other radio traffic.
- If you are unable to make radio contact, flash your headlights onto the vehicle ahead. This is a signal for the rest of the convoy to stop.
- Keep unnecessary chatter on the radio to a minimum when navigating difficult areas. Remember the radio channels are public. Inappropriate language should not be used as any conversation may be overheard or monitored by others.
- If in any doubt about the best or safest way to proceed through hazards or obstacles, ask the Trip Leader or a more experienced driver for advice. Remember you probably won't be the only one experiencing difficulty.
- Acknowledge all radio calls from the Trip Leader.

## **Travelling**

- Where possible keep the vehicle behind you in view at all times and at any decision point (corner, deviation, obstacle):
  - Wait for the following vehicle
  - Indicate where to go (use indicators if appropriate)
  - When acknowledgment is received, then proceed
- Drive at *your* comfortable and safe speed. Generally, keep at least 4-6 vehicle lengths distance between vehicles and keep the convoy moving.
- On steep inclines or obstacles proceed one vehicle at a time.,
- On very steep or difficult terrain call the next vehicle through when you are clear.
- All gates are to be left as they were found. The Trip Leader is responsible to ensure that the last vehicle knows to leave the gate open or closed.
- Vehicles should not leave the convoy other than in exceptional circumstances and before doing so must obtain approval from the Trip Leader.
- Remember you are responsible for the vehicle behind you.

## **Recovery Procedure**

- When a vehicle recovery is necessary, one person will be responsible and co-ordinate the process. This will normally be the trip leader or a person nominated by the trip leader.
- Always use a recovery dampener or substitute.
- All observers should stand well back, ideally at least twice the distance of the length recovery line being used. Keep to the side of the line of the recovery force, rather than in front or behind as any projectile will generally be in the line of force.
- Keep heavy shackles to a minimum.
- It is etiquette to use your own equipment where possible. This particularly applies to snatch and extension straps and recovery boards which suffer "wear and tear" with use.