

# Mt Skene (Jamieson – Licola Road) Road Closure



**Commencing on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010, the Mansfield Shire Council have (as last year) gazetted the closure of the Jamieson – Licola Road over Mt Skene from Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June to Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010.**

The Jamieson – Licola Road (C486) is the route used by most people when accessing Mt Skene (1500m) however last year; the Mansfield Shire Council closed the road, due to their concerns regarding public safety.

During the 2008 snow season the local police had cause on several occasions to dispatch a Police vehicle to recover people who having been lulled into a false sense of security by following there Sat Nav device had become stuck while trying to traverse this route in heavy snow conditions. In fact in one instance the driver of a Subaru Outback proceeded so far into deep snow that he become completely immobilised, rang the police for help and the officer sent to help him also become stuck. The main problem with this being that the driver of the Subaru spent the night in a sleeping bag which he had in the vehicle, the young constable was not so fortunate and spent a very cold night in his vehicle in only his uniform and leather jacket. Obviously Victoria Police have a duty of care towards the public, but also to their own members, and as manning of not only regional stations but all police stations these days is an issue, the Police in Mansfield along with the Mansfield Shire Council decided that the best way around having a repeat of this episode was to apply a seasonal road closure.

Upon hearing of the closure last year, the Mansfield 4WD Club contacted Four Wheel Drive Victoria (FWDV) and informed us of the details. A phone call was made to the Mansfield Shire and a meeting was arranged between the Shire, the Inspector of Police for the Region, Michael Coldham (President of FWDV at that time) and Russell Sturzaker – CEO FWDV. After some 2-3 hours of discussion a proposal was reached whereby FWDV would implement an MOU between FWDV and the Mansfield Shire which would provide access to the Jamieson – Licola Road during this seasonal road closure period based on the same guidelines that we have with Parks Victoria and our MVO Track Access Policy.

It is therefore with great pleasure that we are able to inform all FWDV Affiliated Clubs, their members, and all FWDV Associate Members that after a satisfactorily run program of access during last year the Mansfield Shire Council have once again granted us access to Mt Skene via the Jamieson – Licola Road during seasonal road closure.

**This year's closure period has been gazetted as being from Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June to Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010.**

Closure is from Wrens Flat (Mt Sunday Road) to the Mansfield / Wellington Shire Boundary, Mt Buller Road , Walkers Airstrip, Jamieson (across the bridge), Wrens' Flat, Wellington Shire Boundary, Licola, Heyfield, start / finish of snake / Edwards drive, and via Lazarini Spur track.

The road closure will be identified by signs erected by the shire (as long as they remain in position) and FWDV have provided signage to assist with the identification.

Any club or member wishing to conduct a trip on the Jamieson - Licola Road during the closure period need to complete the **Jamieson Licola Road Access Application Form** which is available on the FWDV Website in the **Downloads Section**. Then forward the completed form to the FWDV Office 7 days prior to the trip to enable the application to be processed, and the approved form to be returned to them for the Trip Leader to carry in the glove box of their vehicle.

**JAMIESON LICOLA ROAD SEASONAL ROAD ACCESS Application Form**

Please complete this application form and submit to The Office Manager, Four Wheel Drive Victoria (email: [office@fwdvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@fwdvictoria.org.au) or fax: 03 9857 5200).

In planning a trip it is important to recognise that you are expected to return home on an appropriate date or time or to arrive at a particular destination when you say you will.

There are always other external parties that are affected by where we go, and to this end it is important for all participants to know whom to contact for information when things go wrong or emergency contact is required to a trip participant.

Confirmation of Approval will be forwarded by either Fax or Email, a copy of which **MUST** be carried by the Trip Leader in his Vehicle for inspection by authorised Officers if requested.

**Please Note: Application must be received no later than 7 days prior to the proposed trip date.**

Name of Club:

Date of Trip:

Proposed Route:

Trip Leader's Details:

Name:

Address:

Tel (Bus):  (After Hours: )

Mobile:

Driver Training Certificate Level (please tick relevant boxes):  Proficiency  Advanced

Name and Contact Details of 24 Hour Emergency Contact (Ground Charlie):

Name:

Address:

Tel (Bus):  (After Hours: )

Mobile:

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Victoria Police and the Mansfield Shire have informed us that once again they will have officers monitoring traffic using the road during this closure period, and anyone caught on the road without a FWDV Approved Permit will be fined up to \$250.00 per vehicle.