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NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2009

1. WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2010?

In 2010 we will be having only one fundraising Tour. The Tour will be in October 2010 and will cover the Flinders Ranges and the Corner Country. It will be of seven days duration, starting and finishing in Broken Hill. More details below.

We have decided that having done three tours in roughly the same area in the VHC we need to try something different. In 2011 we will be back in the VHC with a five day tour covering the area to the EAST of the Dargo High Plains road. Over the next six to nine months we will complete the identification of routes in the new area and will let you know the details in July/August 2010. We still plan to hold the Tour in the last week of April 2011.

2. 2010 FLINDERS RANGES & CORNER COUNTRY

We will meet in Broken Hill on Tuesday afternoon 19 October 2010 for a “meet and greet” with your Group Leaders and then leave Broken Hill on Wednesday morning 20 October 2010.

The Tour will visit places such as:

Wilpena Pound, the Skytrek Tour, Arkaroola, the Gammon Ranges, Chambers Gorge, the Strezlecki Track, Cameron’s Corner and Tibooburra.

We will return to Broken Hill on Tuesday 26 October 2010.

The timing of the Tour allows for travelling time to and from Broken Hill and the Tour itself to fit into a two week holiday package.

Information packs will be available from the website, www.drive4life.com.au in early January 2010.

3. THE DRIVE 4 LIFE WEBSITE (www.drive4life.com.au)

There has been a major overhaul of the website over the past several months. Whilst, visually, not much has changed, but we now have a new service provider with a much larger capacity to store photographs from previous Tours. We will reinstate photographs from previous Tours that had to be dropped to fit 2009 photographs.

There are a number of 4WD *forum* websites in operation in Australia – some freelance and some attached to 4WD clubs. Some of these are not effectively moderated in terms of the type of comments and responses being posted. Following a large number of requests from 2009 Tour Participants we have created a Drive 4 Life Forum. Admission to the Forum will be by invitation only and will be available to all past participants and to future participants once they pay their deposit.

The forum will be moderated by Norm Needham – Drive 4 Life Committee member, founder and past owner of Traction 4 - 4WD servicing and one of Australia’s most experienced 4WDDrivers.

Assisting Norm will be:

Brian Sommerville, Principal of GPSOZ – GPS and Communications Specialists, Drive 4 Life Group Leader and 20+ years of 4WDDriving experience.

Matt Raudonikis – former editor of Overlander 4WD Magazine and now freelance motoring journalist and Drive 4 Life Committee member.

Chris Bates – Drive 4 Life Committee member with over 25 years 4WDDriving experience.

The Forum is in “testing” mode at the moment and should be fully operational by the first week in December 2009.

There are a number of Topic Headings on the Forum and they are:

General Information

- Announcements – Info about Drive 4 Life Tours.**
- Introductions – Tell us a bit about yourself.**

4WD

- 4WD Discussion – Talk about 4WDDriving in general.**
- Techniques – Hints & Tips – give them & get them.**
- Technical – Ask for help, tell about your technical discoveries.**

Travel

- Travel – Been somewhere special or are looking for somewhere to go?**
- GPS – looking for tips on GPS purchase, GPS use. Do you have the coordinates of somewhere worth seeing or for that matter somewhere to avoid.**

As you are receiving this Newsletter as a past participant you are invited to join the Forum. You can do this by emailing Chris Bates at chris@batesy.com. Chris will then email you the Forum address and off you go.

4. WHAT DID DRIVE 4 LIFE DO IN 2009?

In 2009 we conducted two fund raising Tours and a “Wheelies” Tour.

Our fundraising Tours to the VHC and to the East Simpson Desert together raised just on \$80,000 for Northcott. Thank You!

In July we took nine young disabled adults (Northcott’s clients) on a 16 day tour of the Broken Hill, Flinders Ranges, Innamincka, Birdsville, the eastern edge of the Simpson Desert, the Corner Country and Tibooburra.

OUR MARVELLOUS SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

TOYOTA provided us with 12 new vehicles, fuel and accommodation.

IGA SUPERMARKETS provided all the food for the 33 people on the tour.

TRACTION 4/ARB ARTARMON provided their premises for vehicle preparation and cleanup. They also generously loaned us roof racks and radios

ANDREW & WENDY BORGET (Borgs & Wen - previous tour participants and Group Leaders) prepared every meal for all on the Tour.

A super special thanks goes to Toyota, IGA Supermarkets, Traction 4/ARB and to Borgs and Wen for their generosity and commitment to Northcott.

Very special thanks go to:

Norm Needham (the man whose dream the Wheelies Tour was) - Driver

Shane Gerrish – Photographer

Dave Stewart – Driver

Deb Dennis – Driver

Dave Dennis – Driver

Celia Barry – Driver

Terry Leeder – Driver

Trevor Munn – Driver

Denis McGregor – Driver

Matt Raudonikis – Driver/Photographer

Mick Whitehead – Driver

Chris Bates – Driver

All of these took leave/time off and paid their own way to be part of this Tour.

.... and guess what! Norm's talked us into doing another Wheelies Tour to the VHC in March 2010.