



4WD FOR WHEELCHAIRS

OVERLANDER – DRIVE4LIFE
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NEWSLETTER APRIL 2008

Hi All

This is the final newsletter before our 2008 Tour. In this newsletter:

- When and where we meet on Sunday 20 April 2008
- Where is Harrietteville?
- Departure on Monday 21 April 2008
- Our Sponsors
- Last minute Harrietteville accommodation
- Things to bring reminder
- T-Shirts and other goodies
- Mudmap of Harrietteville
- Rego and equipment checklist

Where and when do we meet?

We meet on the Harrietville Cricket Ground (see attached Mudmap) on Sunday 20 April 2008 from **3.00 pm**. The purpose of this is for you and your Group Leaders to meet and for them to check that you have all the necessary gear (see attached Rego & Equipment checklist) to enjoy the Tour.

They will also present you with an ARB backpack with your t-shirt(s), a map, some High Country info and a few other goodies. We really would appreciate if you could be there before **4.00 pm** at the latest. **If you encounter problems phone Chris Bates on 0417 229 973 or Mick Whitehead on 0417 278 105.**

Where is Harrietville?



Departure on Monday 21 April 2008

We request that you are fully loaded and in position on the cricket ground by 8.00 am on Monday 21 April. Your Group Leaders will tell you all about this when you meet them on Sunday afternoon.

Once all vehicles are in position on the oval, our official photographers will take some group photos for inclusion in Overlander 4WD Magazine, for our sponsors and for the Drive 4 Life organisers to use for publicity of future Tours.

Our Sponsors

ARB, Cooper Tires (yes I know it should be "y" but that is how *they* spell it) and Overlander 4WD Magazine are our Principal and Major sponsors and their contribution to the Tour allows every cent

that we donate to go to Northcott. It is imperative that we, as a group, do as much as we can to show that they are supporting this Tour. To this end we will be asking you to display some ARB, Coopers and Northcott signage on your vehicles.

Last minute Harrietville accommodation

There is now no accommodation left in Harrietville for Sunday 20 or Friday 25 April ...BUT...as I write this at 3.00pm on Sunday 6 April, there is a double room available at **both** MOUNTAIN VIEW HOLIDAY RETREAT and the HARRIETVILLE HOTEL MOTEL for Sunday night 20 April and Friday night 25 April. If you are still looking for accommodation for **both** of these nights (they will not sell just one night) please call CHRIS BATES on 0417 229 973 NOW! Don't ring them because the rooms are booked in Chris' name and he will arrange for the bookings to be transferred to you.

Things to bring reminder

WHAT SPECIAL THINGS DO I NEED?

Let's deal with the "MUST HAVES" first:

Your driver's licence and that of your alternate drivers plus a copy of your vehicle registration papers and some printed evidence of either current comprehensive or third party property insurance for your vehicle.

UHF 2 way radio for communication between vehicles so that you can be advised (and advise) of everything from potential hazards to items of interest that may not be immediately obvious. The radio must have 5 watts of power. We have found on previous VHC trips that small 1 or 2 watt radios do not have enough "grunt" to handle the hills and the forests.

First Aid Kit: Again, you don't need something expensive. Most 4WD shops stock good, reasonably priced kits.

"all terrain" or "mud terrain" type tyres. If you intend in the future, to do quite a bit of driving in rocky and/or slushy country then mud terrains would be better – bear in mind they are noisier on the bitumen. For general off-road and normal bitumen driving, all terrain type tyres are very good. They are a bit noisier than the original equipment but a lot quieter than the mud terrains and they will be quite suitable for this tour.

20 litres of water for each two people in a vehicle. You can either carry one 20 L can, two 10 L cans or four 5 L cans. The smaller containers are easier to pack – use plastic containers not metal.

Also, bring a bucket to fill your containers as some of the tanks' taps are too low for a container to fit under.

Snatch Strap – used to pull a vehicle out of or over a section of track where traction is difficult. The people at the 4WD store will explain the operating principle of a snatch strap.

“D” or Bow shackles are used to attach the snatch strap to the vehicle. You need TWO and they must be rated at least 3.25 tonnes. You can tell if they are rated by the pins being painted and by the rating tonnage cast on the side of the shackle itself.

Recovery points front and rear are the points where you attach the snatch strap or winch cable. Do not rely on the shipping “tie-down” loops fitted to most new 4WD's. Your 4WD shop will advise on suitability of existing points. After-market recovery points are not expensive and should be fitted by a reputable 4WD shop.

A full vehicle check (and service if necessary) - having told the servicing company that you are going on an off-road trip.

Now for the “RECOMMENDED ITEMS”:

Cargo Barrier – Recommended to be fitted to “station wagon” type vehicles as this prevents loose items in the back from flying forward under emergency braking situations and more pertinent to this tour, on steep downhill runs.

Fire Extinguisher - a small 1 Kg unit– available from good 4WD shops.

Spare drive belts for fan/alternator/power steer/air-con etc.

Spare radiator hoses (top and bottom).

Tyre Pressure Gauge – you will be lowering your tyre pressures when you go off-road.

12 Volt Electric Tyre Pump (Compressor) – if you already have one, bring it along. But don't go out and buy one – especially not a cheap one.

If you must use a roof rack, keep the weight below 75 kilos. It is a good idea to put light items like clothes and bedding (inside truly waterproof containers) on the rack and heavy items like water containers as low as possible inside the vehicle. One exception - if you are carrying a gas bottle, it should be securely strapped inside the roof rack.

ALL ITEMS, BOTH INSIDE THE VEHICLE AND ON THE ROOF RACK MUST BE SECURELY TIED DOWN.

We will be camping in Victorian National Parks designated campsites that have properly constructed long drop toilets – sometimes they even have paper. But you should bring your own paper.

Here is a short checklist for camping gear:

CAMPING GEAR

Tent/swags/sleeping bags/pillows

Minimum 20 litres of water per two people

Bucket (to fill water containers)

Wash-up dish

Car Fridge or Ice Cooler

Gas/Fuel Stove & Utensils

Small Shovel.

Toilet Paper.

Camp Light

Torch

Suitable clothing for High Country conditions - all weather gear – temps will range between zero degrees at night and mid to high twenties during the day and there is a possibility of rain

All Food & Beverages for duration – there will be at least one opportunity to top up fuel and ice and several opportunities to top up water during the week

Small plastic tarp and gardening gloves for firewood collection. (K Mart sells 2+metre x 2+metre tarps for \$7.89) The gloves are because some of the firewood will be blackened by bushfires and the tarp is to stop debris getting on the stuff inside your vehicle.

Sunscreen

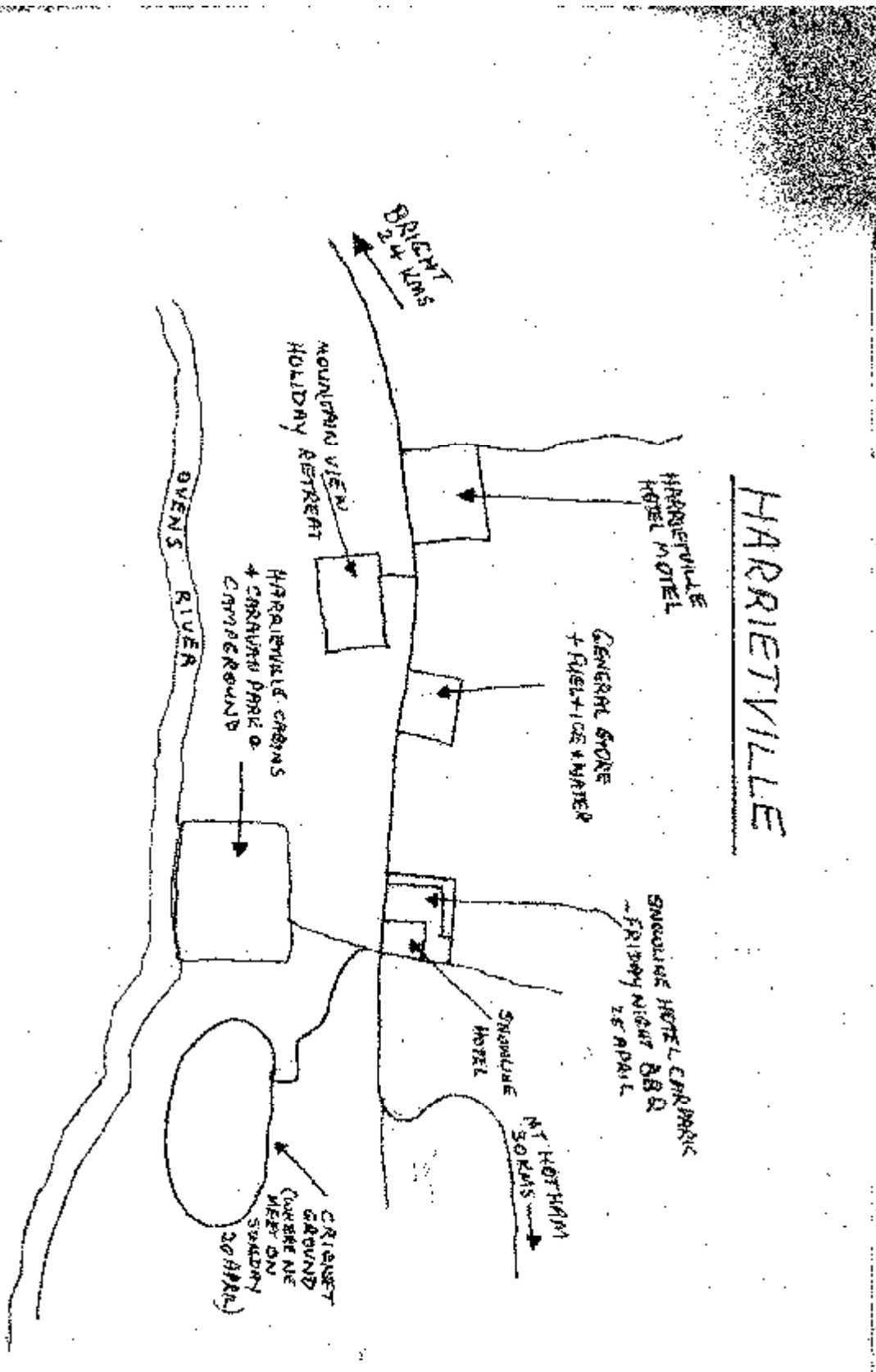
Insect Repellent

T-shirts and other goodies

ARB has kindly provided each vehicle with a backpack containing a Hema High Country map (provided by HEMA MAPS), your free t-shirt (provided by Drive 4 Life) and any other t-shirts that you may have ordered. The good news is that the t-shirt supplier dropped his cost price from \$25 to \$15. We would ask that you pay your Group Leaders cash for your additional t-shirts when you meet them on Sunday afternoon.

There will also be some printed info on some aspects of the High Country, a list of the vehicles and peoples' names in your group and convoy procedures for you to follow during the Tour.

The next two pages contain a mudmap of Harrietville and a copy of the Rego and Equipment Checklist that the Group Leaders will be using at check-in on Sunday afternoon 20 April.



GROUP #:

DRIVERS' NAMES :

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

T-SHIRTS

NUMBER SIZES TO PAY

REGISTRATION & EQUIPMENT CHECKS

Compulsory Checklist for Registration Day will be:-

- Drivers Licences for all potential drivers
- Vehicle Registration papers (copy)
- Insurance Papers (Copy of Comprehensive or 3rd Party Property coverage)
- UHF Radio 5 watts (installed and in working order)
- First Aid Kit (Complies with Australian Standard)
- All Terrain or Mud Terrain tyres
- Min. 20 litres of Water per 2 people
- Cooking Stove/Eating Utensils
- All food i.e.: totally self sufficient for duration.
- Garbage Bags (x5)
- Snatch Strap
- "D" or Bow Shackles (2 x 3.25 T. min)

- () Spare wheel, Jack and W/Brace
- () Recovery Points Front & Rear on vehicle
- () Entry Donation paid in full.