



4X4 ACCESSORIES
PRINCIPAL SPONSOR



AMERICA'S MOST TRUSTED 4x4 TIRE
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MAJOR SPONSOR

4WD FOR WHEELCHAIRS

OVERLANDER – DRIVE4LIFE
LOCKED BAG 5030
ALEXANDRIA NSW 2015

Phone: Chris Bates 0417 229 973
Mick Whitehead 0417 278 105
Fax: 02 9894 9725
Email: drive4life@overlander.com.au
Web: www.drive4life.com.au

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2008

- 1 We still have a few places left on the Tour. Please talk to your friends and give them a copy of the Information Pack or ask them either to phone or email us and we will send them a pack. They can also download this info from the website: www.drive4life.com.au.
- 2 **IT IS NOW TIME TO SEND NORTHCOTT THE BALANCE OF YOUR \$1000 DONATION. BALANCES ARE DUE BY 1ST OF MARCH 2008.**

We request that you send the donation to Northcott as soon as possible. Northcott's bank details are as follows:

Bank:	Bendigo Bank – Leichhardt Branch
Account Name:	Northcott
Reference:	4WD Your Initial Your Surname
BSB:	633-000
Account Number:	127772671 (this is Northcott's A/C)

You **MUST** identify your bank deposit in the following way: “ 4WD Initial Surname” e.g. “4WD J SMITH”. **Do not write “Northcott” or your Christian name(s) in the reference field – either when internet banking or when manually filling out a paper deposit slip.** If you do, there will not be enough space in the reference field of the bank’s computer to fit “4WD Your Initial Your Surname.”

Writing the reference as indicated above will allow Northcott to identify that **YOU** have paid your balance. The “initial” is important as we already have a number of applicants with the same surname.

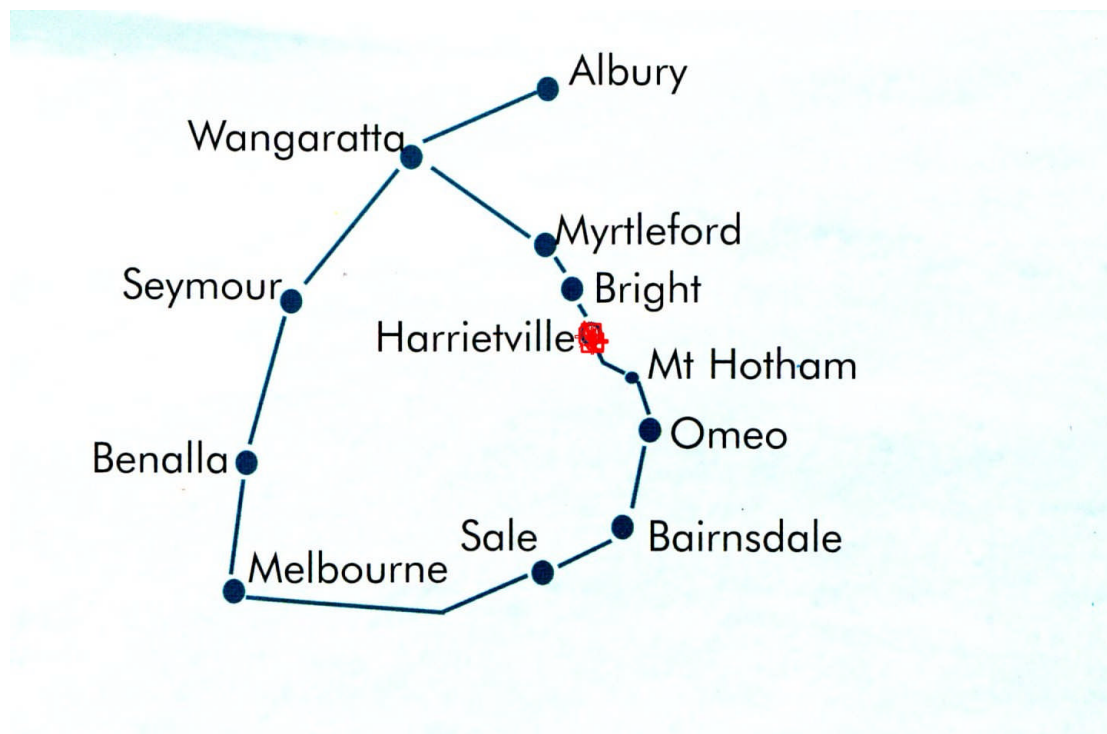
3 **RECEIPTS**

Northcott will transfer all donations from their Trust Bank Account to their Donation Account on Monday 28th of April. They will then start issuing tax deductible receipts. If you wish your receipt(s) to be in a name or names other than your own please email or fax those names. Northcott are quite willing (within reason) to issue multiple receipts up to \$1000.

4 **TIMES AND MEETING PLACES**

WHERE IS HARRIETVILLE?

Harrietville is located 24 kms east of Bright on the Great Alpine Road which leads to Mt Hotham and ultimately Omeo in Victoria. Bright is 100 kms south east of Albury/Wodonga.



SUNDAY 20TH APRIL – 3.30pm

We ask that you all meet at the Harrietville Cricket Ground (see attached mudmap of Harrietville – page 6) by **3.30 pm on Sunday 20 April**. At this time we will introduce you to your Group Leaders. The Group Leaders will also go through the Registration and Equipment Checklist with each vehicle and sight Driver's Licences, Rego papers and vehicle insurance papers. Please make sure you bring copies of them with you.

One of our sponsors – Hema Maps, has provided each vehicle with a copy of their excellent map:- “THE HIGH COUNTRY – VICTORIA”. This map shows 95% of the tracks that we will be driving over, in the following week.

MONDAY 21st APRIL – 8.30 am – Harrietville Cricket Ground

This is where it all starts folks!

I know 8.30 am is an early start but some of the groups have a long way to go to their first campsite on Monday night. When you drive in, you will be directed to the sign that shows your Group Number – please go there and park where your Group Leader directs you. Once everybody is parked we will be taking some photos of the whole group with everyone standing in front of their vehicles. This is being done for a couple of reasons.

An event like this cannot be done without significant financial support – unless we reduce the funds to Northcott – and we certainly are not going to do that. Our Principal Sponsor – ARB and our Major Sponsor – Cooper Tyres have provided that financial support. These group photos will be provided to our sponsors.

Overlander 4WD Magazine has provided immeasurable support to the organizers through copious advertising and their general expertise in organizing 4 wheel driving events. Matt Raudonikis – Overlander's Editor will accompany the Tour and will also be the “Official” photographer. He will use the group photo as part of the coverage of the Tour in forthcoming editions of Overlander.

Once the photography is complete, you will be subjected to a short address from the organizers – no more than 10 minutes - and then the groups with the longest first day trip will lead off.

5 ACCOMMODATION

We have attached the Harrietville Accommodation info sent to you earlier. If you have not yet made a booking you should do it immediately as accommodation is at a premium at that time of year.

HARRIETVILLE ACCOMODATION

WHERE IS HARRIETVILLE?

Harrietville is located 24 kms east of Bright on the Great Alpine Road which leads to Mt Hotham and ultimately Omeo in Victoria. Bright is 100 kms south east of Albury/Wodonga.

Please note that the prices quoted below are applicable to bookings made by participants in this tour. Make sure you identify yourself as a participant when making your booking.

MOUNTAIN VIEW HOLIDAY RETREAT

190 – 194 Great Alpine Road, Harrietville VIC. 3741

Phone: 03 5759 2530 Fax: 03 5759 2795

Email: info@mountainviewretreat.com.au

Website: www.mountainviewretreat.com.au

Manager's Names: Michael Cole & Hilary Morgan

Mountain View has 20 ensuite rooms in 2/4/8 person configuration. Their rates range from \$39 Single, Bed and Breakfast (bring your own sleeping bag/towel/toiletries etc.) through \$49 Single, B&B (Linen supplied) to \$85 Double, Motel style B&B. Call them for more detail.

HARRIETVILLE HOTEL MOTEL

Great Alpine Road, Harrietville VIC. 3741

Phone: 03 5759 2525 Fax: 03 5759 2766

Email: info@harrietvillehotelmotel.com

Website: www.harrietvillehotelmotel.com

Manager's Name: Tony & Julia Mitchell

Harrietville Hotel Motel has 24 family rooms, each with a Queen bed and 3 singles, all with ensuite and linen etc. provided. Rates are \$100 per night per double, \$20 pp/per night (for each additional person). Cooked breakfast \$14, continental breakfast \$10. Again, ring for more details or visit the website.

MARMOT LODGE **NEW TO US FOR 2008**

Bon Accord Track, Harrietville VIC 3741

Mobile Phone: 0407 684 119

Email: marmotlodge@yahoo.com.au

Owner's Name: Karan Courtney

Marmot Lodge can accommodate up to 22 people. It is chalet style consisting of 5 bedrooms each with double and single bed bunks. 4 rooms can sleep up to 4 and 1 room can sleep 6. Each bedroom has an upper and lower level accessible by ladder/stairs. There is a central lounge room with balcony, 3 bathrooms, a games room and fully equipped kitchen for self catering. Meals are not provided. The cost of accommodation for the Drive

For Life participants is a flat rate of \$35 per person per night with no minimum number of people required.

HARRIETVILLE CABINS AND CARAVAN PARK

Great Alpine Road, Harrietville VIC. 3741

Phone/Fax: 03 5759 2523

Email: hville_cpark@netc.net.au

Website: www.alpinelink.com.au/harrietvillecaravanpark

Owner's Name: Meryl and Brian –but everyone calls him Butch

Harrietville Cabins and Caravan Park has 8 cabins

2 x cabins: Bed 1: Queen size bed, Bed 2: Double bed with single bed above.

3 x cabins: Bed 1: Queen bed, Bed 2: 2 x single bunks.

3 x cabins: Bed 1: Queen bed, Bed 2: Triple single bunk.

Linen supplied, byo towels/toiletries. Ensuite and full cooking facilities.

Rates: \$85.00 dbl/pn, \$15.00 ex ad/pn, \$10.00 ex ch/pn.

On-site vans with alumn. Annex. 4 to 8 berth. All bedding required. Cooking facilities in all. Shared amenities.

Rates: \$45.00 dbl/pn, \$10.00 ex ad/pn, \$8.00 ex ch/pn.

N.B. Butch is reluctant to rent Caravans or Cabins either for Sunday 20 April or Friday 25 April only as Victorians are using the Anzac holiday to make a long weekend and are booking 2/3 nights. You can try and talk him into it though.

There is plenty of camping space

Powered sites: \$24.00 dbl/pn, \$10.00 ex ad/pn, \$8.00 ex ch/pn.

Unpowered sites: \$10.00 per ad/pn, \$8.00 per ch/pn.

Shower only: \$4.00 pp.)if not staying in park.

Phone for further details or to book.

DINNER

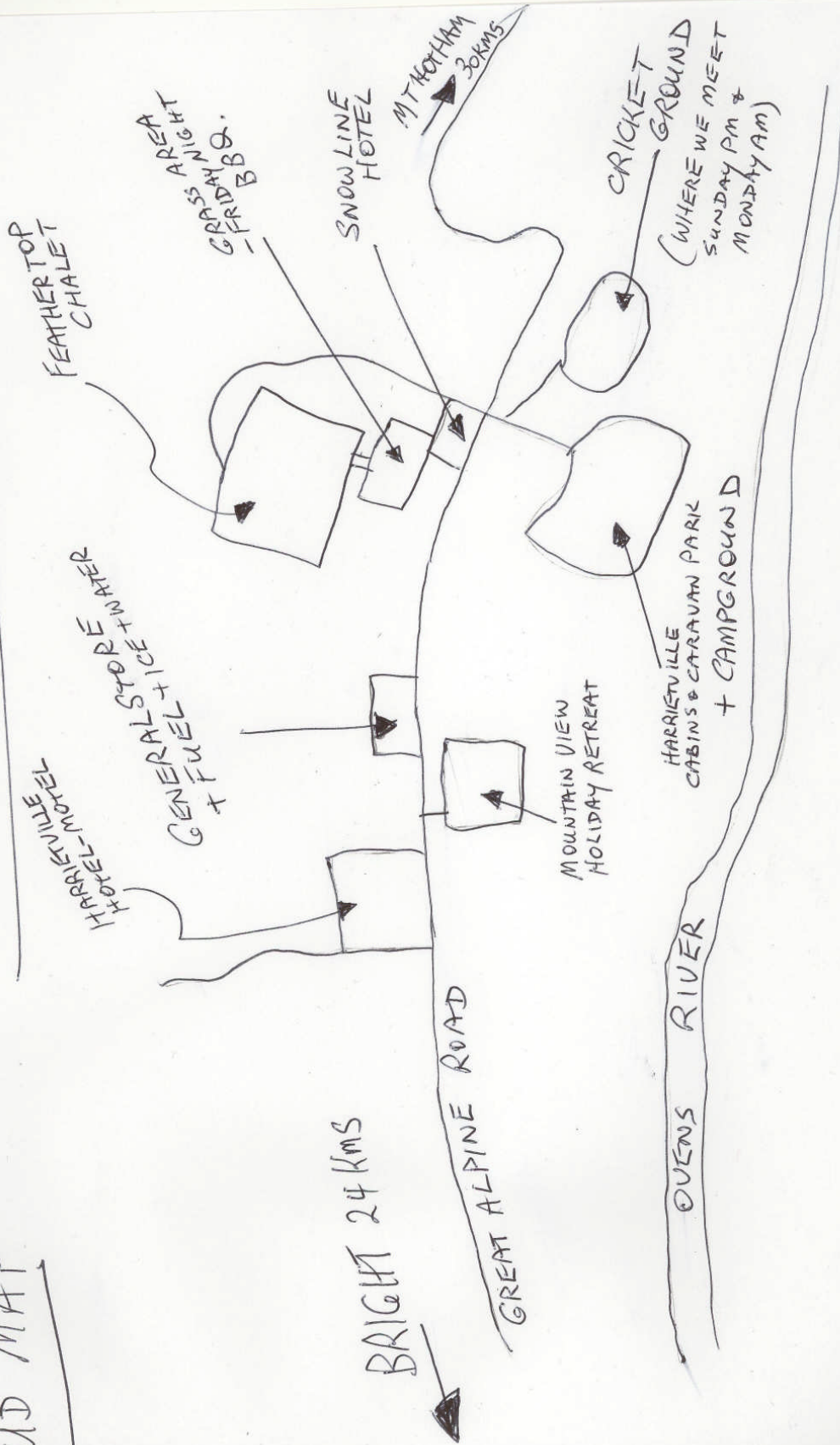
Mountainview and the Hotel/Motel all have dinner facilities. If you require dinner, you should advise them at the time of booking.

There is also another Hotel in Harrietville – THE SNOWLINE HOTEL. It is located on the Great Alpine Road opposite the entrance to the Caravan Park. It has a dining room which will be open for both dinner and breakfast before and after the trip. We've tried both and they are great (and inexpensive).

Unfortunately, all their accommodation is booked out on both Sunday and Friday nights.

(VERY MUDDY)
MUD MAP

HARRIETVILLE



6 T – SHIRTS

We are able to provide **one** free “Drive 4 Life” t-shirt to each vehicle.

Would you please send us your size on the attached order sheet.

These proved to be a popular souvenir on the last tour and we believe will do so again in 2008. In 2006 many people said they would be willing to buy extra t-shirts so we have included an order sheet with this Newsletter. Additional t-shirts cost \$25 each (that’s what they are costing us). If you would like to order more t-shirts please fill out the order and fax or email it to us. **WE NEED YOUR ORDER BY 15 FEBRUARY** so that they can be ready for the Tour. Your Group Leaders will hand over your t-shirt(s) at Registration in exchange for cash for the additional t-shirts.

7 FUEL, ICE AND WATER BEFORE THE TOUR

Harrietville is a small village with a General Store/Petrol Bowsers (ULP & Diesel) – they also sell ice and have a water tap. It would be advisable for you to fill your fuel tank in Bright (24kms west) or in Omeo (83kms east) or in Dargo (95 kms south). You can then top up in Harrietville.

8 FUEL, WATER, ICE DURING THE TOUR

Once we leave Harrietville, fuel, water and ice are available in the village of Dargo. Some groups will drive through Dargo on Day 1 and your Group Leaders will request that you to top up – even though you have only done about 95 kms. Our rule with fuel and water is “top up whenever the opportunity presents itself”. All groups will be at campsites near Dargo during the week and your Group Leaders will arrange for you to top up your fuel, water and ice.

Just a point for those who do not have a car fridge. If you can borrow one or hire one – you’ll find it a lot easier. If you have to use an ice cooler, it is advisable to completely wrap it in an old quilt or sleeping bag to help the insulation. A couple of groups will not get to replenish their ice until Wednesday.

We request that you carry at least **20 litres** of water for each **two** people in the vehicle – if you have four people, you should carry 40 litres etc.. 10 litre containers are easier to pack and handle rather than 20 litre containers. Plastic is better than steel. Do not carry heavy items such as water on a roof rack.

Bring a plastic bucket to get water from low mounted tanks and from creeks.

Water is available in Dargo. Several of the campsites have water tanks as do several of the huts e.g. Howitt Hut. Good, clean, clear river/creek water is also at some campsites – your Group Leader will advise you which rivers/creeks are ok for drinking.

9 APPROXIMATE TOUR DISTANCE

Over the week you can expect to cover between 450 and 550 kms – depending on which group you are in. About half of this will be on bitumen/good gravel roads (transport sections) and the balance will be on bush tracks. As a rule of thumb, your fuel consumption on the steep bush tracks will be about double that of on-road driving.

10 WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Our Tour will crisscross the area bounded by Harrierville, Mt Buller, Howitt Hut, Horseyard Flat, Dargo and the intersection of the Dargo High Plains Road and the Great Alpine Road.

11 WHAT TIME DO WE START AND FINISH EACH DAY

This depends on the length of each day's route, the nature of the terrain and the number of stops for "photo opportunities". Most mornings you will need to be ready to go by 8.30 am. You should get into camp by 4 to 4.30 pm each night.

12 COOKING AND FIRES AND STUFF

Each group will have to do some wood gathering on the way into camp each afternoon. For those who haven't done this before, it involves scouting around, picking up bits of fallen timber and putting them on the floor under your feet or on a tarp on top of your load in the back or on your roof rack (if you have one). Messy? Yes – but if you want a campfire, it's the only alternative. It's a good idea to have a small 1.8 x 1.8 metre plastic tarp (about \$8 at K Mart) to put the firewood on so as not to mess up the inside of your vehicle. Also a pair of gardening gloves for each person as some of the wood is a bit fire blackened following last year's bushfires.

At the time of the last VHC Tour in 2006 some areas were under a total fire ban. We cannot predict what conditions will prevail at the end of April – suffice to say that a total fire ban may well be in force. After the 2007 bushfires in the Victorian High Country the fire ban lasted for

several months and The Central Fire Authority (CFA) are still pretty touchy about fires starting in the new dead wood.

This being the case, we strongly recommend that you bring a gas or spirit stove for your cooking – otherwise you had better get used to cold baked beans and salad.

13 IF YOU ARE CAMPING FOR THE FIRST TIME OR THIS IS YOUR FIRST 4WD GROUP CAMPING TRIP

We suggest that you practice erecting and dismantling your tent before the trip. It's bad enough having to struggle putting up an unfamiliar tent for an hour when it is getting dark but it's worse when there are nine carloads of people tapping their feet waiting for you to pack up in the morning.

14 HOW HOT OR COLD WILL IT BE AND WILL IT RAIN?

At this time of year, temperatures at night can get down to zero degrees Celsius - particularly at the high camps like Horseyard Flat – 1400 metres above sea level. A warm sleeping bag is recommended – so is a warm tracksuit, gloves or other warm gear in case there is a fire ban and we have to sit around a torch instead of a campfire.

During the day, temperatures could get as high as 30 degrees Celsius. Usually, they stay around the low to mid 20's.

As far as rain is concerned, bring your wet weather gear. Traditionally, this time of year is reasonably dry but in these unpredictable weather times it would be imprudent to leave your raincoat and wellies at home.

If it does not rain THERE WILL BE DUST AND BUSHFLIES – sorry, but that's the way it is. A good insect repellent (like “Bushman”) will not go astray as we will be camping near water most nights and out there, water means mozzies. Sunscreen, hopefully, will be needed too.

15 FRIDAY 25TH APRIL

We're back!! Most groups will arrive back in Harrietville by about 3.00 to 4.00 pm – which will allow showers/baths/ring home etc. before the BBQ.

At 6.00 pm we'll gather at the Snowline Hotel (WITHOUT VEHICLES) for a BBQ.

Another of our sponsors – IGA – has provided the meat and salads and the Harrietteville Social Club is providing the BBQs and the cooking skills. You can purchase your refreshments at the Snowline Hotel. It would also be a good idea if you brought your own chairs.

16 RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

This is a repeat of the information given to you with your initial Information Pack but with a little more detail.

WHAT SPECIAL THINGS DO I NEED?

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

- **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 (see below) 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.**
- **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 (see below) 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. (the 4WD shops listed below do pre-trip servicing)**

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 a good one, bring it along. **But don't go out and buy one – especially not a cheap one – they're not worth the plastic they're made of.**
- A plastic bucket to get water from tanks where the tap is too low for a water container. It is also easier to get water from a creek with a bucket.
- A cheap 1.8m x 1.8m plastic tarp to keep the firewood mess under control AND pairs of gardening gloves for use with firewood collection.
- 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 rails of the roof rack.

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

17 FOUR WHEEL DRIVE AND RADIO EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS

ARB Corporation have again agreed to be the PRINCIPAL SPONSOR and we would therefore ask that you utilise ARB outlets and licensed ARB stockists as you will find them most reputable and able to supply all the equipment and services listed above.

Cooper Tyres have also agreed to come back as a MAJOR SPONSOR. Cooper Tyres market a number of tyre designs that are suitable for a tour of this type. They are competitively priced and their longwearing characteristics are legendary.

We have listed below, some suppliers who have contributed in some way to ensure the success of this 4 WHEEL DRIVE FOR WHEELCHAIRS TOUR. They are able to supply all the equipment and services listed above and have offered keener than normal pricing to people who identify themselves as participants on this Tour.

Mannell Motors
5 Pioneer Avenue
Thornleigh NSW 2120
Ask for Nic Mannell
Phone: 02 9980 8855

Total Care 4WD
1/13 Bearing Road
Seven Hills NSW 2147
Ask for Jason Dymock
Phone: 029838 9779

Macquarie 4 X 4 Centre
18 Park Road
Vineyard NSW 2765
Ask for Duncan Scott
Phone: 02 4587 7114

ATS 4X4
90 Fyans St
Geelong Sth 3220
Ask for Darren McRae
Phone 03 5221 6599 Email: Darren@ats4x4.com

ARB BRANCHES

VICTORIA

Melbourne Head Office

42-44 Garden Street
Kilsyth VIC 3137
Tel: (03) 9761 6622

Melbourne

793 Nepean Highway
Brighton VIC 3186
Tel: (03) 9557 1888

Melbourne

4A-6 Lonsdale Street
Dandenong VIC 3175
Tel: (03) 9793 0002

Melbourne

609 Victoria Street
Richmond VIC 3121
Tel: (03) 9427 8666

Melbourne

188 Mahoneys Road
Thomastown VIC 3074
Tel: (03) 9460 9988

Bendigo

251 High Street
Kangaroo Flat VIC 3555
Tel: (03) 5445 7100

ACT

Canberra

188-190 Gladstone Street
Fyshwick ACT 2609
Tel: (02) 6280 7475

NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney

State Office
103 Newbridge Road
Moorebank NSW 2170
Tel: (02) 9821 3633

Sydney

3 McLachlan Avenue
Artarmon NSW 2064
Tel: (02) 9438 4484

Sydney

1/57 Regentville Road
Penrith NSW 2750
Tel: (02) 4731 1266

Sydney

1/500 Princes Highway
St Peters NSW 2044
Tel: (02) 9565 2455

Albury

476 Hume St
Albury NSW 2640
Tel: (02) 6021 2477

Newcastle

89 Griffith's Road
Lambton NSW 2299
Tel: (02) 4953 9555

Tamworth

30 Bridge Street
Tamworth NSW 2340
Tel: (02) 6762 0541

Wollongong

135-143 Princes Highway
Fairy Meadow NSW 2519
Tel: (02) 4227 1900

QUEENSLAND

Brisbane

State Office
615 Nudgee Rd
Nundah QLD 4012
Tel: (07) 3266 3255

Brisbane

1/168 Redland Bay Rd
Capalaba QLD 4157
Tel: (07) 3823 5900

Brisbane

988 Beaudesert Road
Coopers Plains QLD 4108
Tel: (07) 3277 2020

Mackay

26 Gregory Street
Mackay QLD 4740
Tel: (07) 4944 0011

Rockhampton

1/111 Gladstone Road
Rockhampton QLD 4700
Tel: (07) 4922 7788

Toowoomba

14 Laurel Street
Toowoomba QLD 4350
Tel: (07) 4632 1122

Townsville

311 Ingham Road
Garbutt QLD 4814
Tel: (07) 4728 0900

Cairns

403 Mulgrave Road
Westcourt QLD 4870
Tel: (07) 4054 7799

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adelaide

State Office
606-608 South Road
Regency Park SA 5010
Tel: (08) 8244 5001

Adelaide

181-183 Main South Road
Morphett Vale SA 5162
Tel: (08) 8186 6101

Gawler

76 Adelaide Road
Gawler SA 5118
Tel: (08) 8523 2411

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Perth

66 Collingwood Street
Osborne Park WA 6017
Tel: (08) 9244 3553

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Darwin

64 Raphael Road
Winnellie NT 0820
Tel: (08) 8947 2262

TASMANIA

Launceston

48 Holbrook Street
Invermay TAS 7248
Tel: (03) 6331 4190

18 REGISTRATION AND EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

REGISTRATION & EQUIPMENT CHECKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE GROUP LEADERS ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Compulsory Checklist for Registration Day will be:-

- () Entry Donation paid in full.***
- () Current Drivers' Licences for all potential drivers***
- () Signed Terms and Conditions forms for all potential drivers***
- () Vehicle Registration papers (copy)***
- () Insurance Papers (Copy of Comprehensive or 3rd Party Property coverage)***
- () 5 Watt UHF Radio (installed and in working order)***
- () First Aid Kit (Complies with Australian Standard)***
- () All Terrain or Mud Terrain tyres***
- () Min. 20 litres of Water per EACH 2 persons***
- () Cooking Stove/Eating Utensils***
- () All food i.e.: be totally self sufficient for duration***
- () Camping Gear/Tents/Swags/Sleeping bags etc.***
- () Toilet Paper and Spade***
- () Garbage Bags (x5) - if you carry it in – you carry it out!***
- () Snatch Strap***
- () "D" or Bow Shackles (2 x 3.25 Tonnes min.)***
- () Spare wheel, Jack and W/Brace***
- () Recovery Points Front & Rear on vehicle***

19 T Shirt order for:

NAME: _____

Note: One T-Shirt is free.

<u>SIZE</u>	QUANTITY	PRICE	SUB-TOTAL
<u>Child age 6</u>		\$25	
<u>Child age 8</u>		\$25	
<u>Child age 10</u>		\$25	
<u>Child age 12</u>		\$25	
<u>Small</u>		\$25	
<u>Medium</u>		\$25	
<u>Large</u>		\$25	
<u>XLarge</u>		\$25	
<u>XXLarge</u>		\$25	
<u>XXXLarge</u>		\$25	
<u>XXXXLarge</u>		\$25	
<u>TOTAL</u>		XXXX	

PLEASE EMAIL THE COMPLETED FORM TO:**drive4life@overlander.com.au or FAX to: 02 9894 9725**