

# 4x4action >



## > PRODUCT RELEASES

New accessories for the ARB Fridge Freezer, new canopy/truck tops, canopy accessories & more

## > GIVEAWAYS

There's plenty of ARB gear to be won in this issue, as well as a cool new competition for kids

## > LATEST NEWS

Plenty of news including what some of ARB's employees have been up to recently

## > FEATURES

A report on the Drive 4 Life trip from our competition winner and a winter camping guide

09

## New Look ARB Commercial Bars

After considerable development utilising the latest ARB engineering trends and advanced design principles, ARB is pleased to announce the launch of a major new range of commercial bull bars. With a fresh, distinctive appearance and premium protection at a budget price, the new model commercial bars are available now for the latest Toyota HiLux, Holden/Chev Colorado, Nissan Pathfinder R51 and Navara D40. >>

# 4x4

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### ARB Snapshot

There would be few places in Australia that are more famous for great sunsets than Cable Beach in Broome. This spectacular location is the perfect place to end your day and watch the sun disappear below the horizon. For some time my other half had been on at me for a long weekend away, so recently we left the fourby, camping gear, kids and dogs at home, and the two of us headed to Broome for an indulgent getaway.

We had a fabulous few days away, but I have to say, the whole sunset thing at Cable Beach was a bit of an anticlimax. Sure the scene was spectacular, but having to share the beach with several hundred other people dampened the whole experience for me. You see, only a few months ago, I was sitting on the beach about 50kms further north watching the sun go down. On that occasion, I was with the crew from Pat Callinan's 4x4 Adventures. We had driven up the beach from James Price Point and had the entire coastline, as far as the eye could see, to ourselves. This is exactly the sense of freedom that 4WD ownership delivers. Our trusty fourbies allow us to get to places that the general population doesn't even know exist.

Pat's about to start filming his second series and I know that he's really keen to reinforce this message with the show's viewers. He's planning on visiting some awesome destinations such as the Flinders Ranges, Simpson Desert and Pilbara. ARB is once again supporting the show, and we're looking forward to showing viewers some of our latest gear.

Talking of the latest gear, the new ARB Fridge Freezer has generated an enormous amount of excitement in the marketplace. ARB is very committed to developing this range over time, and we're pleased to launch a line of fridge accessories in this newsletter. If you're not familiar with our new fridge, please check out the Summer 09 edition of ARB 4x4 Action ([www.arb.com.au/news/newsletters](http://www.arb.com.au/news/newsletters)), or give us a call for a brochure. Also, check out an upcoming issue of Australian 4WD Action Magazine which will be featuring a comprehensive review on all of the popular car fridges on the market. At the time of writing, we had not seen the article, but we are very confident that the ARB fridge will perform extremely well in the magazine's testing.

Also in this newsletter you'll find included a lift out Warn poster. Warn recently celebrated their 60th anniversary, and we figured this would be a great way to commemorate the event. Alternatively, for our younger readers, flip the poster over, and you'll find a great picture of Fourby & Ariel's recent adventure to the Simpson Desert.

Finally, I've commented before in this newsletter on the hospitality travellers so often receive when travelling in the Outback, and there is nowhere this was more evident than on a recent visit I had up to Mt Gipps station near Broken Hill. Mt Gipps is one of the oldest stations in the area, first settled in 1860. Former station hands include the likes of Sidney Kidman (Australia's cattle king) and Charles Rasp (one of BHP's founders). There is a wealth of geographical history on the property, spanning 1.7 billion years, and the current owners, John and Kym Cramp are fabulous hosts. Definitely well worth a stay next time you're visiting the Silver City.

Happy 4wheeling

- **Matt Frost**, Marketing Manager, ARB 4x4 Accessories

# action



## NEW Look ARB Commercial Bars (cont)

Manufactured from durable steel and finished in a hard wearing satin black powder coat, the commercial bars utilise individual vehicle designs, maximising functionality and style to set a new benchmark in affordable protection. They are currently available for the latest model Toyota HiLux, Holden/Chev Colorado, Nissan Pathfinder R51 and Navara D40. Cost savings are made possible by simplified manufacturing processes such as the elimination of cosmetic weld grinding and urethane buffers, and yet the bar incorporates the same structural integrity and strength that has made the ARB deluxe bull bar the top choice for 4WDers worldwide.

Designed from scratch, the bar features upswept and tapered wings for excellent approach angle and ground clearance when travelling off road, and a split pan for additional strength and optimised airflow into the engine. The bar also utilises heavy gauge 76.1mm steel centre frame tube and 47.6mm outer frame tube. Further strength is attained

through ARB's proven five fold wing design, which offers considerable protection to these vulnerable areas in the event of a collision or animal strike. ARB's engineers have developed a mounting system specific to each vehicle model, designed to spread impact and winch loads evenly over the vehicle's chassis. This design also takes into account each vehicle's air bag system, ensuring that it is not affected when the bull bar is fitted.

The new commercial bars will accommodate a range of Warn models if you need the recovery power of an electric winch. Other functional features include Hi-Lift jacking points in the centre pan, provision for IPF driving lights and CB aerials, and turning signals integrated into the wings of the bar. These new bars are also fully compatible with ARB's side rails (where applicable) for the next step in vehicle protection.

With such a great range of features and vehicle protection capabilities, the new range of commercial bars is the ideal choice for the budget conscious off roader or fleet customer.

Navara D40 & Pathfinder R51 > Part no: 3438300/10  
HiLux > Part no: 3414410  
Colorado > Part no: 3448400

03

4X4 ACTION >



# 2009 Drive 4 Life High Country Tour

As we've reported in previous newsletters, Drive 4 Life is a not-for-profit organisation that coordinates 4WD tag along tours to help raise vital funds for the Northcott Society. Just prior to Easter, ARB ran a competition and sent a couple of lucky entrants off on the April trip which took place from the 19th to the 24th. Susie Escott, one of these winners, had a fantastic time and kindly offered to write us a report on her experiences of the Drive 4 Life High Country trip.

I read about the 2008 Drive 4 Life tag along tour of the High Country in last year's ARB Winter newsletter, and suggested to my husband, Rob, that it might be good to join the 2009 trek as our next adventure. He laughed, as at the time we were nearing the end of an eight month long trip around Australia and I was reading the magazine whilst sitting by our camper in far north Western Australia. I am a gypsy by nature and have loved travelling ever since I started receiving postcards from around the globe from my two equally nomadic aunts back in the seventies. Some friends joked that it was unfortunate that I fell in love with a farmer who will never leave the land, but I simply encouraged his interest in 4WDing and now most of our trips combine my passion for travel with his desire for the off road.

When we received the ARB Summer newsletter, I read there was to be two Drive 4 Life trips this year. One, as per previous years, to the High Country in April, and a new trip in August to the Simpson Desert. On our way home last year, as we travelled down the Oodnadatta Track, we were so torn with wanting to turn left to Birdsville and continue our adventure, but with money running low, it was a right turn towards home. I thought it would be great to be able to visit the Simpson Desert with Drive 4 Life, but was disheartened as money is tight with the continuing effects of the drought. There was no chance of being able to join one tour, let alone two, not even with Kevin Rudd's stimulus package!

Sure enough my luck changed when I received an email from ARB marketing with an invitation to win a place on the High Country tour. Sophie, Matthew and I each put in an entry, wanting to surprise Rob, but having never won anything like this I didn't hold much hope. When I received a call from ARB, just before Easter, I behaved as I have scoffed at so many winners on game shows for doing in the past – I shook and cried, it truly was a case of "Susie Escott, come on down!"

I then proceeded to call Rob, still very excited, only to have him dejectedly say, "We can't go." His reasons were many and justified, with the drought causing him to only have casual work for the time being, and the starter motor on our 2004 HiLux dual cab misbehaving. That evening Rob came home with a big grin on his



> Just some of the spectacular scenery we came across



> The Escott family



> One of the many river crossings

face, announcing that the boss had given him time off, so it was up to me to find the money to make it through the week. I didn't, but we went anyway.

Sunday afternoon at 3.30pm I drove our heavily laden HiLux into Harrietville cricket grounds to register and complete our equipment scrutineering. We were directed to park beside the other vehicles in group five and met our fellow travellers: our two sets of Team Leaders for the week were Kevin Couter and Karen Carmen in their sparkling new VW Tourareg R50, which looked much too perfect to dare take off road; and Mark and Deb Laidler, their daughter, Sarah, and Mark's father, Ken, all travelling in a Toyota LandCruiser 100 Series. The others in our group consisted of: Kevin, Dan and Alex Taylor, three generations in their Toyota Prado Grande; Dan's mate Darren Swenson and his stepson Aiden Zovik in their Holden Jackaroo; Gordon, Carly, Amy and Aiden Melstrom in the other Toyota HiLux; and Don Egan and his partner Kerrie Linden in a Nissan Patrol.

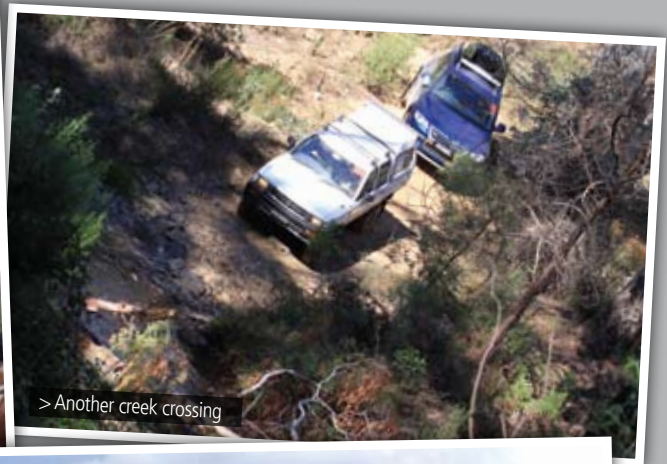
Monday morning saw us lined up at the cricket grounds once again, this time for the promotional photoshoot, before each of the five groups set off in five minute increments to tackle the Alpine National Park. Our group was to spend the first two nights in Talbotville. On the way we drove up to the top of the Blue Rag Range where we met up with one of the other Drive 4 Life groups and amazingly there was also another 4WD group up there, making 21 vehicles in

total. It was a great opportunity to watch other drivers manipulate their vehicles up then down the steep escarpments and across the ridge. Even before we reached Blue Rag for morning tea we had a diversion with Dan finding himself with our first of two flats experienced during the trip. This wasn't Dan's first touch of bad luck. The night before he'd had a flat battery and was very thankful to the RACV and more so grateful that it happened in Harrietville and not out in the thick of the Alpine National Park. That afternoon we traversed the Basalt Knob track into Talbotville.

Monday night was spent sitting around the campfire getting to know each other better and meeting up with two of the other groups. Day two then saw us head off to Dargo with Karen making us count all the creek crossings, some with very steep entries and exits providing a further taste of what we came for – we crossed Crooked Creek 24 times in total before we joined the McMillan Track into Dargo. Dan and Darren didn't join us for this part as they instead drove to Bairnsdale in search of a replacement tyre, but still managed to meet up with us just after we left Dargo. And thanks to Kevin and Karen, they were treated to the crossings back into Talbotville whilst the rest of us took the short cut. >>>



> Mountain cattlemen



> Another creek crossing



> Over the rainbow

>>> On returning to camp the blokes set off to get us some firewood whilst the ladies went for a walk before heading back to camp for happy hour! The fun continued around our campfire that evening enticing another group to leave their camp and join us.

Day three we awoke to find that Mark and Deb had a visitor during the night with a mouse eating its way through a loaf of bread and rustling many packets before Mark shook him out of his hiding spot in the wee hours of the morning. We packed up camp and headed onwards and upwards to Wonnangatta Station. As we travelled we started a brain teaser competition over the UHF with another vehicle overhearing a question and requesting the answer before he lost contact with us – regrettably we didn't discover the answer to that one until he was long gone. The kids recited Fourby's jokes from the kids' page of the ARB Summer newsletter which had been memorised many months previously, and they were a hit.

I had headed out on this trip with bronchitis and a touch of asthma which was exacerbated by the cold and high altitude. The team was fantastically patient as I proceeded to have a pretty awful asthma attack on a track in the middle of nowhere, interrupting the making of fajitas on the tailgate for lunch. Whilst I was trying to catch my breath, Deb was at the other end of the field of cars having her own attack. She had driven up the hair-raising track in the LandCruiser, the first time she had dared do anything so terrifying since rolling Mark's previous pride and joy 80 Series some years earlier. That just provided us with another reason for celebration around the campfire later on in the night. After arriving at Wonnangatta we set up camp near the creek and then, with drinks in hand, set out on another history walk. We visited the cemetery where we read about Annie Bryce,

who walked to the cemetery from the homestead each day for forty years to be near two of her ten children, before she was laid to rest beside them. We also read about the unsolved mystery of the murders of two men from the Station in the early 20th century.

Day four, Thursday, saw us heading to Horseyard Flat for the night. Whilst we were refuelling at the Dargo General Store on Tuesday we were informed that storms were predicted for Friday. On previous Drive 4 Life tours the temperature has often fallen to around negative three degrees overnight. I can handle most things life throws my way, but camping in sub zero conditions and rain is not one of them. I was not looking forward to that night in the tent but neither was I ready to go home.

Some further perilous driving was to follow as we headed upwards along rocky trails hoping we didn't meet anyone heading downwards. As a distraction, Sarah thought up a treasure hunt by placing small packs of Dove caramel filled chocolates on logs and in trees to be discovered by the following six vehicles. There were even a few gaffa-taped to low lying branches, and all but one was recovered.

We ran into the group we spent our first night with in Talbotville whilst having morning tea at Howitt Plains Hut. They were now travelling in the opposite direction to Wonnangatta from Horseyard Flat and reported that it had indeed been three degrees below overnight. It was not looking promising. We told them to look out for 'Doves' sitting in a tree on their way down the side of the hill, and sure enough they found some.

When we set up camp for our final evening we all battened down our tents against the blustery winds



before enjoying one more campfire. Mark and Deb presented each vehicle with an award for something that occurred during the week and Mark recited his 4WDers prayer (based on the Lord's prayer). Before we headed to bed we put on layer upon layer of clothes, laid out our emergency blankets for greater insulation, and Rob and I set the kids up between us to insulate them from the cold before we cuddled into our snug sleeping bags. It then never fell below five degrees all night, the winds and overcast skies that had been worrying us earlier kept the temperatures high, so we spent the night sweltering.

We awoke Friday morning to threatening dark clouds and spitting rain, so we packed up to be on the road a half hour earlier than anticipated. From there we drove to the Pinnacles to see what we could see from the viewing platform – unfortunately not much with such low cloud cover. Apparently on a clear day you can see over 200km each way, south to the Bass Strait and north to Kosciusko. This just means that we will have to come back another time.

It was time to make our way back to Harrierville and to get there we tackled Billy Goats Bluff, a gruelling drive down the mountain. Throughout the week each of the drivers and vehicles proved themselves very worthy in the conditions, handling angles that I wouldn't have thought possible, and clearing obstacles that looked much too cumbersome. One more flat tyre was experienced – this time it was Gordon and Carly in the other HiLux. The only other damage incurred during the trip was when a stick pierced through Mark's side steps causing a big dent in the side of his 100 Series. He was just thankful that it hit there and not under his footwell, as the damage could have been much worse.

That afternoon we sedately drove back in the rain to Harrierville, with Mark lending a cattleman a lift back to his vehicle at the top of the hill. Sarah, being an Agriculture student, was rapt, and on hearing the cattleman had lost the cracker off his whip, proceeded to offer him one of the spares she was carrying in the centre console. We then stopped to let the cattle make their way past us down the hill towards Dargo.

That night we all partied on at the Snowline Motel with the rain falling outside, thankful to have a solid roof over our heads for the night. A cheque for \$36,000 was handed over to the Northcott Society, less than in previous years, but with the addition of the Simpson Desert trip, Mick Whitehead, Chris Bates and all the other organisers from Drive 4 Life hope to raise a total of \$100,000 for the year to match 2008. This money is put to good use, providing mobility solutions for the disabled throughout New South Wales via the Northcott Society equipment loan pool.

The next morning we woke to hear the nearby snow resorts had already had snowfalls with Hotham accumulating 20cms in the preceding few days. I was glad that we were not still up at Horseyard Flat, the timing of our trip could not have been better. And it was most exciting to get home to find that the rain had fallen on the newly sown crops.

A very big thank you to Matt and the ARB team for providing us with the opportunity to join in on a fantastic week in the High Country, and for sponsoring such a great cause. I would recommend the Drive 4 Life tag along charity tours to anyone with a touch of adventure and a well set up 4WD. In fact I look forward to seeing you on August 6th at Birdsville for an adventure not to be missed!

# ARB Open Days

In the previous edition of ARB 4x4 Action, we highlighted a number of new ARB stores, some that had just opened and others that had relocated into larger premises to more effectively cater for the growing demands of their customers.

Despite the somewhat gloomy world economic forecast, ARB is determined not to let it affect our ability to consistently provide 4WDers with all their product needs. With more than 120 stores and stockists located around Australia, and even more worldwide, we can ensure that ARB's quality 4x4 accessories are easily accessible to those that require them.

To celebrate our ongoing success, many of the stores around Australia have been holding official Open Days. This gives customers a chance to drop in and take a look at the showroom and range of products on display, enabling them to speak directly with sales staff and other industry experts for tips and advice, while at the same time enjoying a fun day out with the family in a friendly, welcoming environment. In

the last six months, Open Days have taken place at various stores including ARB Kilsyth, ARB St Peters, ARB Geelong, ARB Maroochydore, ARB Moorebank and ARB Fyshwick.

The aim of these events is to give customers a better insight than they would receive on a regular trading day, into both the individual shop and the 4x4 accessory industry. The ARB Kilsyth Open Day was held in April, and as this is the location of our main manufacturing facility, one additional activity offered to attendees was a full factory tour. This gave the general public the opportunity to check out for themselves how ARB's quality products are made from scratch right here in Melbourne.

At any ARB Open Day, you'll get more than just great bargains on a range of 4x4 accessories. Product demonstrations are generally run throughout the day so you can see how a specific accessory works, before taking it away and using it yourself. The ARB Traction & Travel Bed is also touring the country at the moment, providing a spectacular demonstration of the benefits of ARB Air Lockers and OME suspension. And as well as all that, there's plenty to keep the family entertained from sausage sizzles, raffles, prizes and kids activities.



> Plenty of people turned up to ARB Maroochydore's Open Day in April

**For details of an Open Day event happening near you, visit the 'Calendar of Events' section of the ARB website and check out what's on in your local area. Or subsequently, sign up to our mailing list online, and we'll contact you!**



> ARB's Traction & Travel Bed in action



# Outstanding Achievement at ARB

ARB would like to extend a big congratulations to second year Fitting & Turning apprentice, Trent Witten, who was recently nominated for the prestigious 'Outstanding Second Year Apprentice' award. Trent, who is currently studying Certificate III Engineering (Mechanical) at Box Hill Institute, Melbourne, was short-listed from 40,675 other Box Hill students.

The nomination process requires every facet of the student's work, education and training to be considered. Trent is a quiet but positive young man who enjoys a challenge and works hard to obtain great results. His easygoing nature makes him a pleasure to work with, and both the teachers at Box Hill Institute and the staff at ARB hold Trent in high regard.

Since commencing employment at ARB in January 2007, his training here has allowed him to gain experience in the Tool Room, Maintenance and Machine Shop, while he has broadened his scope at the company by taking on the position of Calibration Coordinator. Trent is also a Young Industry Ambassador, supporting youth that are considering an apprenticeship.

Trent grew up on a dairy farm near Shepparton, before he moved to Melbourne in 2003 at the age of 18. He is a keen camper, enjoys 4x4 driving and loves Aussie rules football.



Trent was joined at the annual Box Hill Institute formal presentation dinner by his parents who travelled from Lismore, NSW, to support him on the night. Despite the award going to another second year student, the nomination was an outstanding achievement for Trent. There is no doubt that he will be setting his sights for third year winner and we wish him well for next year.

## South Australia 4x4 Open Day Extravaganza

South Australian residents are probably already aware of the news that the Adelaide 4x4 Show has been cancelled this year. In light of this decision, our Regency Park branch has decided to hold a 4x4 Open Day extravaganza to ensure that Adelaide residents still have access to the great demonstrations and specials we usually offer at the 4x4 Show.

ARB Regency Park will open their showroom and warehouse (with tours available on request), and there will be plenty of product displays and a range of fully equipped vehicles on show, as well as the impressive Traction & Travel Bed. Plenty of well-known industry brands will also be attending including Adventure Camper Trailers, South Australian 4WD Association, Cooper Tires, Thule, GME and Bushranger, just to name a few. And there'll be heaps of fun things for the whole family to do, with guest appearances and a rock climbing wall!



The date is set for the 10th of October from 8:30am till 3pm, so anyone who wants to check out some great bargains and have a fun day out, head to ARB Regency Park. For up to date details, visit the Calendar of Events on the ARB website: [www.arb.com.au](http://www.arb.com.au)

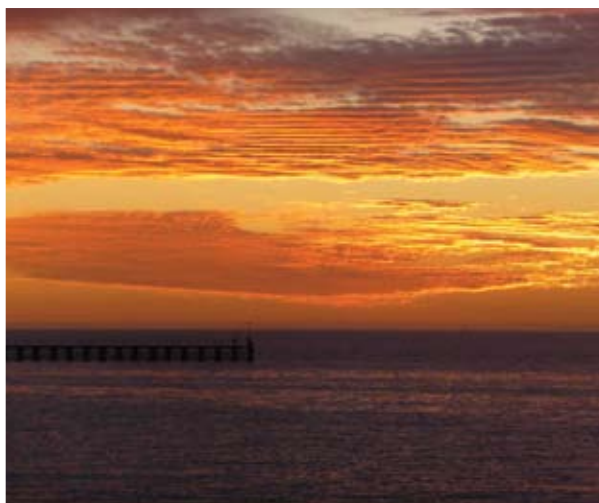
# Round Oz on a Shoestring - Part 2

Introduced in the previous newsletter, we're following the adventures of two of Neil Cocks' grandchildren, Dylan and Ashley, who, after finishing school, decided to head off around Australia to explore the country, and will bring us updates along the way.

Well here we are, three months down the track since we last wrote – not much older but certainly a whole lot wiser. It's amazing the things you learn when you're not in school!

## LESSON 1:

It is always better to drive with four wheels rather than three. Less than a week into the trip, while cruising past the Twelve Apostles along the Great Ocean Road, we had just rounded a bend when we heard multiple, firecracker-like bangs from under the car. Needless to say, we pulled over as soon as we could and piled out to check for a flat tyre. Upon first inspection, everything seemed in order, but after further investigation, we discovered that all but one wheel nut on the rear driver's side tyre were missing, and the studs had completely sheared off. Luckily, we were carrying spares, but our mechanical knowledge wasn't quite equal to the task of fixing the problem. After several hours of futile attempts, the RACV eventually came to the rescue, doing in fifteen minutes what we had failed to do in three hours. The fact that we had the right spares saved us from feeling totally useless and taught us another important lesson – make sure wheel nuts get tightened properly!



Moonta Bay at sunset



Mitch, Andrew, Ash, Chris, Nick & Dylan at Lincoln NP

## LESSON 2:

Food is expensive (yeah, laugh it up parents)!! Initially, we were all a little surprised at the amount of money we were forking out in order to feed ourselves. Soon, however, we discovered our saviour in 'Home Brand'. Every food shop saw a trolley packed to the brim with red and white packages, which earned us more than a few odd looks. We soon realised that eating like we do at home would see us broke in a matter of weeks, and became masters at budgeting and bargain hunting. Did you know that two cans of tuna, a packet of pasta and a jar of sauce can satisfy six hungry teenagers for around \$7?

## LESSON 3:

You might start to sense a recurring theme here – accommodation is expensive. We soon discovered that, while staying in caravan parks is convenient, all those facilities come at a price. For the six of us most parks were costing around \$70 a night for an unpowered site. We quickly decided that showers every day weren't actually a necessity, and that clean clothes are overrated. A system that worked well for us was to intersperse stays in national parks, which are much cheaper, with stays in caravan parks. Also, we discovered that a quick swim at the beach or in a river can remove unwanted odours and be just as refreshing as a hot shower.

## LESSON 4:

In most people's eyes, a carload of teenagers spells trouble (stereotyping is alive and well). On several occasions, upon arrival at a caravan park, we found ourselves on the receiving end of a stern warning about not causing trouble, not being rowdy, minding our language, and, almost universally, not drinking

too much. On one occasion, we were forced to pay \$180 on top of the normal rate as a good behaviour bond. At another park we were denied entry altogether because we were under 21. So much for becoming an adult at 18! The irony is that we have become so laidback that we're lucky to stay up past nine o'clock. In the places we were given a go though we found the other park patrons were extremely friendly and inquisitive, many of them finding our situation fascinating. We made friends with many a retired couple, earning us some free food at one stage, and more importantly a lot of advice and encouragement.

So, with these important lessons learned, life on the road became very enjoyable.

We have taken three months to get to Perth, and our leisurely pace has allowed us to properly experience the great places and diversity of southern Australia. We have stayed in some very beautiful, picturesque locations – the Great Ocean Road, the Flinders Ranges, Cape Arid, and LeGrande and Fitzgerald River National Parks just to name a few. Along the way we have not only done the 'tourist thing', highlights of which include taking photos of the coast, climbing the Gloucester Tree at Pemberton, cheese and wine tasting in McLaren Vale and Margaret River and sampling beers from Western Australia's many micro-breweries, but have also enjoyed the peacefulness and isolation of lesser known and visited places where we fished, read, worked on our tans and sat around the fire at night.

Travelling with six people can of course be challenging at times; having to share the car, tent and food doesn't leave much room for personal space, which can cause the odd frustration. However it does make things (fuel, for one) much cheaper, and there is always someone around who is up for a game of

cricket, a kick of the footy, or an intense card game (UNO can become very heated on occasions). If it all becomes too much there is always the option of going for a walk or a fish, often in lovely surrounds with plenty of scenery and wildlife.

And if the walk/fish still doesn't work, you can always have a good old fashioned wrestle in the sand to settle a dispute – 'The Circle of Justice' (CoJ) has solved many a disagreement so far.

So I guess the moral of the story is: travelling is very enjoyable, but a little hard on the wallet. So for now we are settled down in Perth looking for some work to fund the next leg of our journey. Stay tuned.

**Written by Dylan Wilson**



Beach cricket at the Coorong



Playing cards, Lincoln NP



Letting down the tyres (we have got it down to a fine art, everyone does a tyre simultaneously and we time it), De'entrecasteux NP



Troopy driving over sand, Coffin Bay NP

**WIN!**



Congratulations to **Matt McPhee**, who is our portable compressor kit winner for this issue. Everyone else who appears on these pages will receive an ARB Speedy Seal puncture repair kit to reward their efforts.

## Win an ARB Portable Compressor

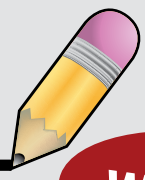
This issue, we're giving away another portable air compressor kit, so here's your chance to win one! Simply write to us and ask us anything you'd like to know about ARB and our products. The letter of the month will be published in the next edition of ARB 4x4 Action, along with our reply. The winner will need to pick up the compressor from their nearest ARB store.

Send your letters (250 words or less) including your address and daytime phone number to:

- > **Post:** ARB 4x4 Accessories  
Marketing Department  
PO Box 105  
Kilsyth VIC 3137
- > **Email:** [marketing@arb.com.au](mailto:marketing@arb.com.au)

*While we will endeavour to reply to all letters, due to the volume received, it may not always be possible. Please note that all entries for this section are only reviewed on a quarterly basis. Should you have a question that requires a more immediate response, please direct it to [sales@arb.com.au](mailto:sales@arb.com.au). We reserve the right to edit all letters for clarity.*

# ASK ARB



**WINNER!**

Dear ARB,

Checking out the latest products from ARB is always an eye opener. There is always something that gets added to the list of wants.

Recently it had come time for me to renew some of my recovery gear, so I went to my local ARB store to check it out. The selection of straps was great and I was almost going to purchase some when I discovered where it was manufactured. I understand the product would be to a standard and do what it was designed to do but I was disappointed to see it was from overseas. With the proud Australian feeling I had, I put the straps down and went and sourced some that were made here at home.

I purchased some straps that were equal in load rating and had recommendations the same as ARB did in the 4WD Action magazine strap test. Pricing was a little cheaper and I felt I had helped in keeping manufacturing in Australia and hanging onto proud Australian jobs. With this, I appreciate the quality of ARB's products and own quite a few; but I, and I hope many others, would like it if in the future we could stick together and produce as much as we can right here in Australia.

Thanks for listening,  
Matt McPhee



Hello Matt, and many thanks for taking the trouble to write to us with your thoughts on the issue of country of origin. The decision to move our recovery strap manufacturing offshore was a long and difficult one, but I'll try and summarise our reasons for doing so.

About five years ago, Australian 4WD Monthly magazine (now known as Australian 4WD Action), did a comprehensive review on all of the snatch straps on the market. I still remember the headline splashed over the front cover, 'the results will shock you'. No one was more shocked than us, when our Australian made snatch straps failed to meet their stated rating. Despite the fact we have always had our straps randomly checked, the ones the magazine tested failed. What was really puzzling though, was that there were other straps on the test sold by our competitors, which were from the same supplier, that passed with flying colours. On discussions with the magazine's editor at the time, Pat Callinan, it became apparent that 4WD Monthly had discovered huge inconsistencies in the supplier's manufacturing process. We were understandably appalled, and started to look for a new supplier.

Switching to another Australian manufacturer was really not an option, as previous experience with other local suppliers had demonstrated that they were unable to satisfy our required volumes. It soon became apparent that if we wanted a great quality strap that we could successfully distribute around the world, we had no choice but to go outside Australia. In the end we spent about two years researching manufacturing techniques before settling on a webbing factory. The straps we are selling now are vastly superior to our old ones, with many additional features. Clearly we made the right decision, as the most recent Australian 4WD Action magazine test scored all three of our snatch strap sizes a perfect 10/10.

At this point, Matt, I want to emphasise that this example is really quite unusual. In fact, I would formally like to invite you to ARB's manufacturing plant at our head office in Kilsyth where you will see that Australian manufacturing is alive and well. At Kilsyth we manufacture products including bull bars, rear bars, side rails, Air Lockers, air compressors and dual battery trays. We actually had to expand operations quite recently, and opened another Melbourne based factory to build our range of canopies. Whilst there are isolated cases such as the strap situation, conversely there are many examples of ARB products which were previously imported, and are now made in-house.

So in summary, as a visit to our head office will demonstrate, the bulk of our core product lines are made right here in Australia. Ultimately, though, we have a responsibility to our customers to deliver the very best products for the best value for money, and if that means we have to go offshore, then so be it.

Finally, with a distribution network that exceeds 100 countries worldwide, in dollar terms, ARB exports more than it imports, so we're definitely doing our bit to keep the balance of payments healthy.

I hope you get plenty of use out of the Aussie made ARB air compressor you've just won.

Regards

Matt Frost  
(Marketing Manager)

Dear ARB,

Recently I updated the family car to a Rodeo diesel 4x4, mainly to extract my boat from the water on increasingly bad launch ramps on the Murray River. And it does the trick too. Now, however, being the owner of a 4x4, the temptation is to do some of those Outback trips one sees in various mags (including yours) and on adventure programs on the telly.

To date, the only non-standard accessories I've added to the ute are a bin liner and ARB canopy. On reading and watching these stories of all Aussie adventures (not necessarily those with Russell Coight), I am amazed at the array of accessories promoted, many apparently 'essential'. It appears to me, given I buy one of each, it is unlikely there will be room for any food or passengers and/or I am going to need a 4x4 trailer to carry everything! ARB Fridge Freezer, extra water and fuel, winches and snatch straps, sand anchor, bull bar, roof rack, driving lights and spare wheels etc etc may make my idea of a trip quite expensive, let alone a bit squeeze. So the question really is: what are the 'essential' 4x4 accessories and gear needed for a happy yet safe Outback adventure?

Rusty



Hi Rusty,

As you have outlined above, there are many so called 'essential' accessories being promoted as vital for a safe Outback, or for that matter, any 4WD adventure. But the most 'essential' message is to be prepared.

With modern 4WDs, it's easy to lose sight of just how prepared you should really be. In 1860, the legendary Burke and Wills expedition left Melbourne with 19 men, 23 horses, six wagons, 27 camels, and enough food for 2 years. All in all over 20 tonnes of equipment. Yet Burke and Wills died on the banks of the Coopers Creek near present day Innamincka.

Today you can visit this remote site in the comfort of a 4WD. You can even sit at their graves and enjoy a cold beer from your ARB fridge. But if you're ill-prepared for a breakdown or accident, you can still suffer the same fate.

The idea behind fitting accessories to your 4WD is to make it as safe as possible for your next adventure, and the best way to approach setting up a vehicle for off road is to first start with a list of where you want to go and what you want to do.

Say your adventure is going to be a weekend in the mountains of the High Country. The High Country is renowned for steep tracks, river crossings and weather that changes from one extreme to the next in a blink of an eye, leaving those steep tracks a slippery mess and those river crossings near impossible to pass. So the accessories you fit may look a little like the following:

- Bull bar, winch and recovery kit – for self recovery on steep tracks, bog holes and rivers
- Driving lights – for a late Friday night get away
- Diff locks – for more traction on slippery surfaces
- Raised suspension – for more ground clearance over obstacles like rocks and fallen trees
- Snorkel and water crossing bra – for deep river crossings
- Mud tyres – for greater traction
- Esky, BBQ plate and some snags, and \$100 for a pub meal – after all it's only a weekend away

But what if your adventure is an Outback trip to a remote area like the Simpson Desert, the Kimberly or even Coopers Creek? Your list may look a little different:

- Bull bar – for animal strikes
- Long range fuel tank – the standard tank may not have enough capacity to get you to the next fuel stop
- Water tanks and jerry cans – for drinking water as bores and creeks may not have drinkable water without first being treated
- All terrain tyres – for traction and greater puncture resistance
- Extra spare tyre and tyre repair equipment – tyre dealers and repairers are few and far between in the Outback
- UHF or HF radio and satellite phone – it may be days before another vehicle comes by in the event of a breakdown or injury
- Comprehensive first aid kit – again, help is a long way away
- 12V fridge – to keep food fresh and drinks cold for longer periods
- Dual battery system – for back up engine starting and running fridge and lighting
- Drawer system and cargo barrier – for organised and safer packing of the cargo area of the vehicle
- Roof rack – for swags, tents and lighter bulky items
- Tool kit and spares – mechanics and spare parts may take days to reach you... even if you do have roadside assist!
- Heavy duty suspension – for safe carrying of the extra load of fuel and gear

Rusty, you can never be over-prepared when it comes to off road travel, as you never know what may happen out there... especially in remote areas. But the trick is to carry the right gear and accessories for the area you are travelling to. What accessories will make your Outback adventure safe will depend on how far off the beaten track you travel and how safe you want to feel. Many accessories for your 4WD are just like an insurance policy, ensuring that you and your vehicle can return home safely from any adventure. So start with a list and fit only what is necessary first. Remember never to overload your vehicle and if you do need to carry more than what will fit in the vehicle safely, an off road 4x4 trailer is a better option than 27 camels...

Cheers,

Mark 'Lowmount' Lowry

(Manager – Product Development & Evaluation)

**Check out the ARB website's 'Getting Started' section under 'tips and techniques' for more information.**

# Earth Trek 08

> Dragon sunning on the rocks



> Richard McKenna with his trusty HiLux

**In the last edition of the ARB newsletter, we took off on a journey with renowned artist and photographer, Richard McKenna, as he travelled his way through Australia's Outback, viewing the spectacular scenery and discovering local wildlife along the way. Here, he completes Earth Trek 08 and brings us the final chapter in his travels, together with some fantastic photography.**

We entered the final stage of Earth Trek 08 via the mining town of Coober Pedy. It's an interesting place to visit with its mining history, colourful characters and subterranean architecture. The landscape in this area is simply stunning and makes a great location for some wild sci-fi flicks. In fact, films like Mad Max and Pitch Black were filmed in and around the Breakaways near Coober Pedy and the salt/mud flats of the area. From Coober Pedy, it's a 168km drive to William Creek through some very dry and remote country of clay pans and salt bush. The William Creek Hotel is the amber waterhole of this region and is well known for its decorative paraphernalia displayed on the rustic interior walls. I was looking forward to a chat with the locals and some well deserved rest.

With our love for the landscape we ventured onward and I took advantage of the light and set off the shutter release on a number of locations around Lake Eyre and the red dunes along the Oodnadatta track. Space is the key canvas here and it never ceases to amaze me how something so simple as a lone tree can become a dynamic subject when the backdrop is a stretch of featureless horizon. Lake Eyre was dry when we visited with brilliant white salt crystals reflecting the afternoon sun. I have never seen the lake in full flood but have been fortunate enough to photograph Lake Gairdner in this state. Inland lakes of this kind are simply stunning examples of the surrealism in arid landscapes and when in full flood they appear as a giant horizontal mirror where the earth's horizon cuts through the heavens – a breathtaking scene. 15m below sea level, Lake Eyre is one of the largest internal drainage systems of the earth covering an area of 9690km<sup>2</sup>. It harbours a number of unique wildlife species at seasonal intervals and is home to the very energetic Lake Eyre Dragon (*Ctenophorus Maculosus*).

Travelling along the Oodnadatta track we came across the old abandoned railway site of Curdimurka and rested before venturing onto Marree and Leigh Creek. Remote outposts like Curdimurka have an eerie feel to them as if time has stood still and voices of yesteryear remain in the hollow winds. They have become great meeting places for travellers on their way to the Simpson Desert.

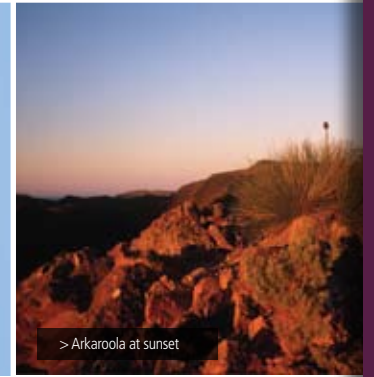
We arrived at Arkaroola around 9pm and quickly set up camp, for the next day's adventure was to provide some very interesting image capture. We met up with Doug Sprigg, the station owner, and were able to experience Doug's famous ridge top tour and discover the unique geological features of this Outback station. Arkaroola is a time capsule of the formation of the earth and Doug certainly presents this history in a very informative manner. 4WDs out here seem small and insignificant as they traverse the steep ravines of this gnarly and



> Lake Gairdner



> King Lizard just chilling out



> Arkaroola at sunset

uneven terrain. The tracks on this occasion were very rocky as they had been stripped of all top soil from heavy flash rains days before we arrived. This was a true 4WD adventure and in some sections low clearance vehicles would not make the grade. Even our HiLux was struggling a little without sufficient underbody protection and a little more lift in the rear would definitely be called for on our next visit. Fortunately, there are a number of good tracks set aside for standard 4WDs, so there is an adventure waiting for everyone in this 4x4 playground. Mud was also on the menu and this was a big plus in trying out the Goodyear MTRs. The 245/75/R16 proved to be very efficient in gripping the slosh but a little more ground clearance would have helped. We tried 265/75/R16s before the trek, but the diameter was too large for the HiLux's small guards. I have been very impressed with the MTRs and look forward to the arrival of the new Kevlar range.

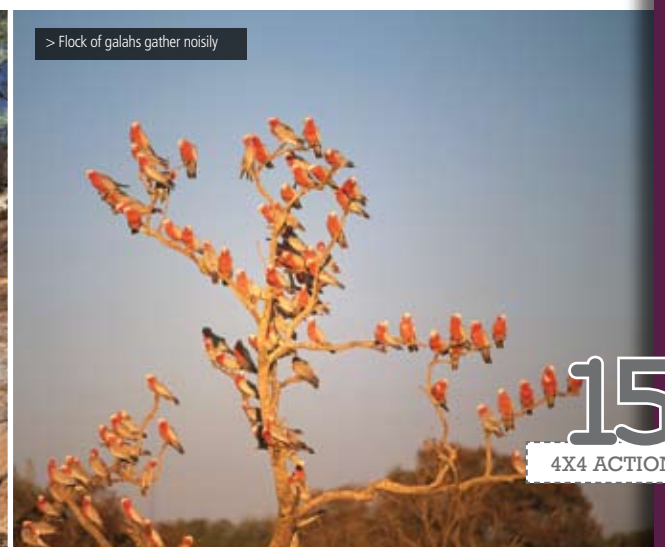
The OME suspension upgrade never tired here and the vehicle body remained firm and in control at all times. However, due to our load carrying requirements exceeding our initial expectations, we'll be upgrading the rear leaf springs to the next ones up. This 08 trek

was a good introduction to the accessories placed on the HiLux and with a few more modifications including increased ground clearance and underbody protection we are expecting to fully test our kit on more serious and ambitious sections in the future.

The aim of Earth Trek 08 was to update images of landscape and reptiles for our image library. We were fortunate with lighting on this trip and captured some stunning examples of surrealism in the Outback. Many lizards were digitally captured including Shinglebacks, Blue Tongues, Sand Monitors, Thorny Devils, Bearded Dragons and a number of small geckos and dragons. With some new publications on the way these images will be very handy.

There is certainly something to be said about travelling Outback in a 4WD. The vast open plains, deep ravines and gullies, obstacles encountered along the way, and most importantly, the incredible photographic scenery. Australia offers this in large doses and it is one pastime many of us will continue to enjoy for years to come.

**Images and copy by Richard McKenna**



> Flock of galahs gather noisily



ARB On Track: (L-R) Allan O'Neil, Sue Flannigan, Grant Jarvis, Jeff Duckworth

## ARB's Oxfam Trailwalker Challenge



Last year's Oxfam Trailwalker Challenge saw two ARB teams participating in the gruelling annual event. And although only one of the ARB teams returned for 2009, they were determined to beat their previous year's time.

Oxfam is an international aid organisation that sponsors community based programs worldwide, and is renowned for the huge amount of projects they have supported over the years. The Trailwalker Challenge now takes place annually in a number of countries, and within Australia, events are held in both Sydney and Melbourne.

This year's Melbourne Trailwalker Challenge saw more than 700 teams of four take part. It is one of the toughest team challenges in the world, with the aim to get your team of four across 100km of Australian bush in less than 48 hours. In the process, participants raise much-needed funds for Oxfam through sponsorship and donations. The event is a massive undertaking, with over 800 volunteers working tirelessly both on, and leading up to the weekend. Their dedication, enthusiasm and hard work plays a pivotal role in the success of the Oxfam Trailwalker.

Beginning at 7am on the Friday morning, the ARB team started off at Jells Park in Melbourne's southeast, heading past Lysterfield Lake, through Belgrave, up over the top of Mt Dandenong, back down to Mt Evelyn and along the rail trail to Mill Grove, finishing with a trek over Mt Little Joe and down into Wesburn in the Yarra Valley. As it sounds,

it is indeed a very long way, through rough bushland and up and down steep inclines.

Though known as an extremely exhausting and tough event, this hasn't stopped scores of people from all different walks of life participating. The right equipment, a good support team and adequate training has allowed even those who thought it impossible to complete this arduous challenge. Being involved in an event such as the Trailwalker calls on an individual's strength, not just in the physical sense, but also mentally, and participants experience an overwhelming sense of achievement and pride when they cross the finish line.

The ARB On Track team finished in a time of just 18 hours and 43 minutes, more than two hours ahead of the previous year, which is a huge accomplishment. Between them they managed to raise \$1600 for Oxfam, and ARB congratulates all who were involved, either supporting or walking, for their efforts.



"The team managed to keep in good spirits throughout the 100km walk, and was extremely happy with the final time result," said Dennis Horton who helped support the team. "And we'll definitely be back to do three in a row, so next year the plan is a faster time, and a bigger fundraising target!"

Next year's walk starts on the 16th of April, and registration opens in only a few months on the 1st of October. Dennis is hoping to have at least two teams back for the 2010 event and is calling for others in the ARB community to step up to the challenge.

**For more details, and up-to-date information on next year's event, you can visit the website at [www2.oxfam.org.au/trailwalker](http://www2.oxfam.org.au/trailwalker)**



# ARB Roof Rack Jerry Can Holder

Heading off the beaten track on a lengthy 4x4 trip usually requires carrying all your essentials in or on the vehicle. With country towns few and far between in the Australian Outback, fuel and water are two such necessities, but quite often where and how to store such liquids can be tricky.

As storing fuel in the vehicle interior is often inadvisable, many people choose to lash jerry cans onto their roof rack. ARB is now ready to introduce the ultimate solution for this exact purpose. Suitable for a wide variety of ARB steel or alloy racks, the new jerry can holder will accommodate two standard sized 20 litre fuel or water cans.

Manufactured from solid steel, the jerry can holder features a lockable, plated lever action catch to keep your fuel safe from theft, and an additional plate to cover the spout caps for extra security. This strong design incorporates rubber anti-rattle pads both inside the base and on the straps and is easily secured onto



your ARB rack for a quick and simple way to store and transport fuel and water on the roof of your vehicle.

Part no: 3500390

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## Rainforest Challenge 2009



The last issue of 4x4 Action featured a full report on the trials and trepidations of the 2008 Malaysian Rainforest Challenge. Following the completion of this exhilarating event, we now look forward to 2009 which will without doubt be every bit as tough as preceding years.

Organisation of this year's Rainforest Challenge, known as 'By the Rivers of Babylon' is already underway, to be held from the 5th-14th December in the state of Johor. Only the most well prepared competitors and vehicles can truly survive this epic event, so if you have a passion for extreme 4x4ing and love jungle adventure and meeting fellow 4x4 adventurers from around the world, the Rainforest Challenge could be just what you've been waiting for. For up-to-date details, and to register for this event, visit the website at [www.rainforest-challenge.com](http://www.rainforest-challenge.com)

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## Water Tank for Tray Back Utes

Finding adequate space for water storage that doesn't interfere with all the other gear you have to transport in your vehicle can be a difficult task. ARB has now introduced a water carrying solution that utilises otherwise redundant space and is extremely versatile. This 30 litre universal water tank suits most drop side tray vehicles, many flat bed trailers and trucks.

Manufactured from durable polyethylene, the tank incorporates quality stainless steel hardware and powder coated steel mounting brackets. With a tapered face designed to match the angle of the original equipment mudguards, the tank can be mounted in front or behind the wheel and incorporates both right and left side outlet ports for driver or passenger side fitment.

Available from ARB stores now, this handy tank is a simple and quick solution to accessing water on the road.

Part no: 11500020



# Aussies In Africa - Part 6

> Tsavo NP, Kenya

Not long after leaving the shores of the mighty Lake Victoria we crossed the border into Kenya. We then travelled a back road that took us to the town of Narok. The road to Narok wasn't too bad and we were lucky to find a secure campsite just before we got into town. Next door there was a school, and as we were putting up camp we were entertained by young girls of the church choir singing magnificent traditional African songs.

The next morning we headed into town to find an ATM and refuel. The road that had been half reasonable now deteriorated badly and for the next 40km it was incredibly rough and dusty, and as usual most of the traffic was driving way too fast for the conditions. We were very relieved to turn onto the main highway 60km from Nairobi. The road conditions were a lot better but the traffic had now become heavier with a high percentage of big trucks. As we climbed the steep side of the Rift Valley, which presented us with some stunning views, Ron and Viv were nearly hit head on by a truck passing another as they raced downhill – some of these drivers are completely insane. At the top of the valley we were at an altitude of more than 7000ft. The closer we came to Nairobi the busier the traffic became. Lucky it was a Sunday!

We found our way to the Upper Hill Camp which is situated on Nairobi Hill a couple of kilometres from the CBD. It was once a private house on a big block and is popular with overlanders, backpackers and expats. The house has accommodation available and there are huts as well as normal campsites, which are AUD\$12 per night. One of the rooms in the house has been turned into a small restaurant which provided good meals at quite a cheap price.

Both Ron and I had to get things done to our vehicles. In my case, a rear axle seal which had been leaking a bit since we were in Zambia, while Ron had some welding



> Massai village in Amboseli

jobs to do and was going to try and get something done about the Nissan's ongoing fuel problems. We drove out of camp into what can only be described as chaos. The traffic was unbelievable and nobody seemed to take much notice of traffic lights. There was an incredible amount of horn blowing and people trying to squeeze in, but Ron and I have been driving in these conditions long enough to know there are no Mr Nice guys, and the ARB bull bar on an F250 can be pretty intimidating to normal sized cars.

The service manager at Nairobi Ford is Tim Jessop, a third generation Kenyan, and boy was he helpful! Although the seal was shot, the bearings looked ok, but we decided to put new ones in just in case, and keep the old ones for spares. Tim had to make a special tool to undo the locknut because they don't have the 7.3L version of the F250 here, only the 4.2 model, which has a smaller back axle assembly. The wheels were swapped around and the vehicle given a service and a thorough checkover before having a good wash. All this went on over a period of six hours, which included a cooked lunch. Tim only charged me for one hour of labour and the new bearings – total bill AUD\$250. He also gave me a DVD of the complete F250 workshop manuals and the special tool he had made. All in all a very successful day.

Ron's day, however, had not been so good. Nissan had sent Ron to a so-called specialist about his fuel problem. When Ron started the car for this bloke he looked bemused. In Africa vehicles either go or they don't. Ron's was going, where was the problem? It was a frustrated Ron that returned to camp that night.



> Male giraffe, Shaba National Reserve



> Elephant, Shaba National Reserve



> Samburu people, northern Kenya



> We gave a lift to this woman, her husband & baby during bad weather



> Massai woman, Amboseli NP, Kenya



> Neil & his bodyguards, Shaba National Reserve

In most cities, we have found it best to hire a taxi recommended by wherever we are staying. It is much cheaper, and a lot less stressful than trying to find places in our vehicles. We gave our driver a list of the places we needed to go and sat back and enjoyed the ride.

It was a very busy six days in Nairobi. Apart from organising visas and working on the vehicles, there was shopping, clothes washing, sight-seeing and in Helen's case a trip to the dentist to have a broken filling repaired. We were warned not to carry laptops or visible cameras anywhere in and around the city or they could be stolen.

Following this, we headed south-east toward Mombasa. The campsite for that night was at a place called the Hunters Lodge, and what a pleasant camp it was, except monkeys pinched half of our dinner! Tsavo West NP was our next stay, and after parting with US\$200, which allowed us one night in Tsavo and one in Amboseli NP, we wasted no time in getting out into the wilds of the park to see as many animals as we could. The next morning, we were moving early for some more game spotting as we had to join a convoy at 10am, complete with armed guards that would take us through the area between Amboseli and Tsavo, as there had been recent bandit activity.

We reached Amboseli without incident and followed tracks all over the place that took us around Amboseli's permanent swamps and across dry, dusty grasslands where there were thousands of animals, especially elephants, buffalo, wildebeest, hippos, hyenas, antelope and an incredible array of birdlife. Unfortunately for us Mt. Kilimanjaro was again bashful, being mostly shrouded in cloud.

On our return to Nairobi the traffic was appalling; the last 20km took us two hours. But the Jungle Junction Camp is an absolute haven in the manic, seething mass of humanity that is Nairobi, and is owned and run by Chris, a German who in his early days in Africa organised tours mostly on motorbikes. As a result he was an incredible source of information on just about anything to do with travelling around Africa. During our four day stay at Jungle Junction two young Englishmen,

Roger and John, limped into JJ in a rather battered and twisted Landy. Seems they had been caught up in a scam that happens all too often in Ethiopia. An Ethiopian bloke had stepped in front of their vehicle and they swerved to avoid running over him, but still clipped him before going over a four metre bank and rolling the Landy. Apparently they have become masters at this game and make a claim against your third party insurance. It's a mighty dangerous way of making some money. Roger and John were only halfway through their "Trip of a Lifetime" which was five years in the planning and they were talking of abandoning the rest. We had a long chat to them and convinced them to do a few repairs and continue onto Dar es Salaam in Tanzania (where they were to meet their girlfriends) before making any rash decisions. I am happy to report that they made it to Dar es Salaam and we received a lovely email from them thanking us for our help and telling us of their decision to continue with their trip (they made it back to the UK the week before we did).

It was now time for us to head for Uganda and the 'Source of the Nile'. Stay tuned for the next instalment in the Spring edition of 4x4 Action.

**Written by Neil Cocks**



> Jungle Junction Camp, a haven in Nairobi



# ARB Fridge Freezer Accessories

**The release of ARB's new Fridge Freezer late last year was the result of three years of extensive research and design that produced an innovative product that truly caters to the specific needs of 4WDers and off road users.**

The convenience of having fresh, cold or frozen food and drinks on hand when you're out and about makes your travelling adventures even more hassle-free. No more driving into town to stock up on ice, and no more food swimming around in a sea of icy water. ARB's new Fridge Freezer design process involved analysing the downfalls of other products on the market, and aimed to not only improve on these where possible, but also to include additional features not previously available. The full release of this product was printed in the Summer 2009 issue of ARB 4x4 Action, which you can view on our website ([www.arb.com.au](http://www.arb.com.au)).

And following the completion of this lengthy development process, our engineers didn't stop there. Instead, they immediately began work on a number of functional accessories that can be used in conjunction with the Fridge Freezer. A range of these versatile products are now ready to be introduced and include a transit bag, fridge slide and tie down straps.

Accessorising your Fridge Freezer with an ARB transit bag serves a dual purpose. Not only is it designed to protect your Fridge Freezer from the inevitable dents and scratches encountered in off road travel, but it also provides extra insulation during periods of extreme temperatures, helping to keep your food and drinks cooler on 4x4 adventures. Made from tough, durable canvas, the functional ARB transit bag features a handy side pocket for items such as the power cord or instruction booklet, as well as openings for the ARB Fridge Freezer's rubber feet, drain plug and power cables.

Most of the time when you're out and about, your Fridge Freezer will remain conveniently in the back

of your vehicle, and accessing it in these cases is made even easier with ARB's fridge slide. Designed specifically for the new Fridge Freezer with a flat base for straightforward mounting, it allows the fridge to be safely and quickly rolled towards you for better access to the contents, and then can simply be pushed back into its original position. For greater versatility, the slide can be locked into place once it's fully extended.

Incorporating solid steel construction with a durable metallic grey powder coat, the fridge slide is superbly detailed with button head cap screws and nylon lock nuts for a superior finish and appearance. The simple to operate ARB engineered spring loaded anti-rattle locking catch can be located on the right or left hand side to suit individual requirements, and the sealed heavy duty steel roller bearings deliver super smooth operation and prevent dust or grit ingress. Coming complete with pre-drilled holes for mounting points and optional tie down kit, the fridge slide will mount most 29-47L fridges. It also has the added capability to be adapted for use in a variety of situations should you need to mount tool or storage boxes and other equipment.

When you're tackling a rocky track or steep incline, you don't want to be worrying about your Fridge Freezer not being fully secure and getting damaged, and subsequently damaging other items in the rear of your vehicle. This is when ARB's simple tie down and release system comes in handy. Incorporating quality black powder coated steel clamps with plastic coated ends, and matching black webbing straps with quality spring loaded clips, it allows the fridge to be quickly fastened to ARB's fridge slide and is just as easy to undo when you want to remove the fridge from the vehicle.

All these products are designed to work in conjunction with the ARB Fridge Freezer, creating the ultimate fridge solution when you're out 4WDing. More accessories to add to this range are currently in developmental stage, so keep an eye out over the coming months for up-to-date news from ARB.

Canvas transit bag > Part no: TBAG47ARB

Tie down kit > Part no: 10900010

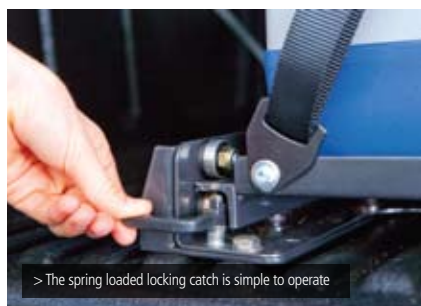
Fridge slide > Part no: 10900020



> ARB's Fridge Freezer accessories have been designed to work together



> ARB's durable canvas transit bag



> The spring loaded locking catch is simple to operate



> Securing your Fridge Freezer is easy

# The Winter Camping Gear Guide

Camping in the southern states over the winter months is a very different experience to heading bush the rest of the year. In places like the Victorian High Country, freezing temperatures, wind, rain, hail and snow can all be expected, and four wheelers need to prepare accordingly. Here we ask four ARB staff members what items they always pack on a winter camping trip. We figure readers of this publication already take the obvious things like snow chains and recovery gear, so we've asked for some of the more unique items that are taken along.



This set up keeps the whole family and our gear dry and warm

## **ROB PUTS (CANOPY PRODUCT MANAGER)**

### **WARM & WATERPROOF CLOTHES**

Camping at this time of the year is refreshing and rewarding, yet there are so many climate variables that it is vital to cater for all types of weather. If the temperature is warmer than expected it is easy to remove layers of clothing, but the chances of inclement weather in places like the High Country is extremely likely. That's why warm and waterproof clothes such as thermals, jackets, shoes and a hat are at the top of my list of essentials to keep your spirits high.

### **TARP OR AWNING**

When the clouds roll in and the rain begins, invariably we head for cover. As camping generally revolves around outdoor activities, it's very frustrating if you're stuck in bad weather with little or no shelter. That's why a conveniently located tarp or awning, preferably attached to the vehicle is a winter essential for our family. As well as somewhere dry for everyone to congregate while it's raining, we also store as much camping gear under there to keep it dry. Packing away wet items is bad enough – getting wet whilst packing up is miserable!



Keeping dry with a tarp attached to the vehicle allows under cover rear access

### **GREAT CAMPFIRE**

Making the great outdoors more enjoyable is a campfire for keeping warm, toasting marshmallows and cooking. Therefore this item on my list covers dry kindling, firewood and firelighters. Bringing your own dry wood for the fire in winter is a good idea if you've got room, otherwise, keeping what you collect under cover by using a tarp or storing it under something solid will ensure it remains dry for when you need it.

### **VEHICLE PREPARATION & ACCESSORIES**

Camping in winter for our family is about comfort and peace of mind. Rounding out my top five is the broad topic of vehicle preparation and accessories to ease the mind if you do get into some trouble. Alpine diesel, anti-freeze and a strong starting battery will have your vehicle in good shape. And don't forget to bring along some recovery gear like a snatch strap and snow chains – just in case.

### **TOP QUALITY SLEEPING BAG**

Keeping warm during the day is one thing, but keeping warm during night time is also very important. This item comes from my first winter trip in the alps where as a much younger and less experienced lad I almost came away with frostbite on my toes! An appropriately rated sleeping bag is an essential item for camping when it's cold. With a sleeping bag temperature rating below zero you will feel roasty/toasty and can always open the zip if you get too hot.

**Why not share your next winter adventure with a small group and remember to always keep your spirits high.**

## MATT FROST (MARKETING MANAGER)

### AUSPIT

I think we would all agree that the single best way to stay warm and toasty when camping is to have a roaring fire going. The only way to really improve on a great campfire is to have a huge, great chunk of meat turning slowly on a rotisserie over the glowing coals. I've tried a few portable spits over the years, but I reckon the Auspfit is well and truly the pick of the bunch. It is extremely well made, has a good quality drive motor on it, and is capable of holding up to 8kgs of your favourite tucker. There is also a great range of accessories available, which allow you to cook a variety of other foods rather than just meat. Best of all, the kit packs up into a neat carry bag, making it easy to store in the back of your 4WD. [www.auspfit.com.au](http://www.auspfit.com.au)



There's nothing better than a giant hunk of meat for dinner

### AKUBRA HAT

I wouldn't dream of venturing into the bush at any time of the year without my trusty Akubra. Despite looking decidedly worst for wear (especially since one of my Rotty's got hold of it a month ago), it's been keeping my head warm and dry for over fifteen years. And if anyone's thinking a beanie would be more appropriate in winter, I've yet to find one that I don't look ridiculous in. [www.akubra.com.au](http://www.akubra.com.au)

### FILSON BOOTS

Regular readers of ARB 4x4 Action may recall that I am a bit of a fan of R.M. Williams boots, and for most of the year that's what you'll find me wearing. But when the temperature drops, and the ground turns icy, I pull out my Filson Highlander boots. Filson is a Seattle based manufacturer of outdoor clothing that was founded in 1897 to meet the demanding requirements of people who were outfitting themselves before heading north for the Klondike gold rush. Their Highlander boot features a full grain, oil tanned leather upper, matched to a soft leather inner lining. The key to the boot's outstanding insulating characteristics though, is its Mackinaw wool lining, which is a unique type of wool sourced from a small band of hardy sheep in the US. What's really amazing about these boots though is not their ability to keep your feet warm in freezing temperatures, but the fact you can venture inside without your feet overheating. [www.filson.com](http://www.filson.com)

### PERFORMANCE CLOTHING

Back in the late eighties, I spent six months travelling across Africa. I was living out of a backpack, and my clothing consisted of mainly shorts and t-shirts. I figured it wouldn't get that cold in Africa, and didn't really have any decent, warm clothing. By the time we got to Tanzania, it was starting to get really quite chilly at night. I remember being camped at the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater, and never feeling so cold in my life. A fellow traveller handed me a Patagonia polar fleece top, and within a few minutes I was toasty and warm. Patagonia has a range of clothing suited to a multitude of outdoor activities, and I have become a huge fan of theirs over the years. The quality and performance is absolutely superb, and their aftersales service is legendary. [www.patagonia.com](http://www.patagonia.com)

### OZPIG

Having established that a campfire is an absolute must when camping in winter, it's pertinent to point out that it seems to be increasingly difficult to light one these days. In many locations campfires aren't allowed, and to be frank, huddling around a 12V light or gas stove just doesn't do it for me. Fortunately, yet again, Aussie innovation has shone through, with the development of the Ozpig. The Ozpig is a fully portable, stand alone, heating and cooking appliance able to operate on wood or heat beads. It throws out an amazing amount of heat, and is fabulous for cooking a variety of meals. It comes with two hot plates which are great for fry-ups or boiling a billy, and can also be used with a camp oven. The whole thing can be disassembled in seconds, and packed into the supplied heavy duty storage bag. And when you're not camping, it's great sitting on your patio or decking at home. [www.ozpig.com.au](http://www.ozpig.com.au)



The Ozpig is just as useful at home in between camping trips



Fuel for the fire is kept dry undercover

**DEBBIE KAYE  
(EDITOR)**

**TENT (AS OPPOSED TO A SWAG)**

Generally when you go camping, throwing a swag in the back of the vehicle is the quickest and easiest way to a good night's sleep. However when it gets cold and wet, I prefer the tent option. As long as it's not pouring with rain while you're trying to put it up (though modern tents make it a pretty quick and simple process), a good quality tent is a lot more versatile. It gives you room to keep a few bits and pieces with you so you don't have to run to the car for a change of clothes in the morning, and it provides a bigger area to change your clothes in. And if the weather's really bad, it also means you've got a bit of space to hang out and play cards until the weather lets up.



Captain loves getting muddy in the river

**BILLY**

Hot water is a luxury when you're camping, in any weather. But when it's cold, warming yourself up with hot liquids (as opposed to alcohol) becomes more of a priority. Keeping a billy on hand is perfect for this. It can be easily filled up from the local stream, or the water you've bought with you and placed on the fire for quick and easy hot water. Great for a hot choccy before you go to bed, or for filling up a hot water bottle. And there's nothing quite like a strong, hot coffee the morning after a big night on the turps, when you're sitting around the smouldering campfire relaxing.



A billy is ideal for keeping yourself warm from the inside out

**WARM UNDERGARMENTS**

My winter camping clothing collection overlaps quite a lot with my skiing wardrobe. Waterproof clothing and good shoes are important, but I think it's just as critical to pay attention to what you're wearing underneath. Full length thermals are my best friends in the winter. Nothing really beats them for staying warm, and you can easily layer plenty of clothes over the top. They are also far quicker to dry if you get them wet. Along the same vein, I wouldn't go anywhere without gloves and beanie. Generally two pairs of gloves: one general (knitted) pair for when I'm hanging around camp, and then a more serviceable pair such as skiing or cycling gloves for when something needs to be done like collecting wood or catching fish. And a beanie not only keeps your head warm, but also hides the fact that you've been camping for days... and it's too cold to wash your hair!



The only time Captain gets tied up is during dinner time, when he's prone to steal food from unsuspecting campers



**MARK LOWRY  
(MANAGER – PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT & EVALUATION)**

**DRIZA-BONE**

When it comes to warm clothing, the High Country cattlemen got it right. Cold days and nights on horseback through rain, hail and snow required the best of wet weather protection, and that came in the form of an oilskin jacket. Originating in the late 1800s, a drover's oilskin was based on those worn by English sailors who made their jackets from old cotton sails treated with linseed oil. Established in 1898, the Driza-bone company (from the term dry-as-a-bone) perfected a new oil treatment which is still used in their Driza-bone jackets today. Since I was a kid, I've been wearing oilskins to keep out the weather. And for a wet camp or 4WD recovery, they offer the best protection from the elements. Able to withstand torrential downpours and howling gales, a full length oilskin jacket is the original bushman's performance clothing. [www.drizabone.com.au](http://www.drizabone.com.au)

**FIRE LIGHTER**

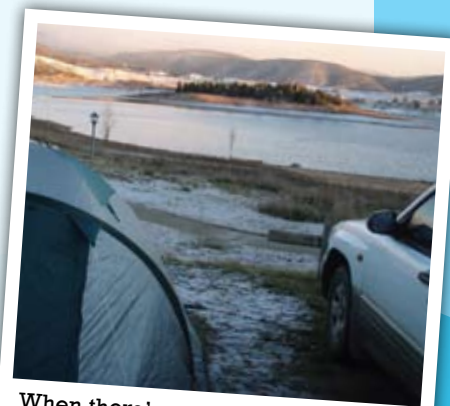
Another thing I always bring with me is a can of WOOF. Never heard of it? Or does it bring back memories of bad cat jokes? At the end of a day's 4WDing when it's bucketing down rain, chances are your dry kindling and newspaper will be drenched before your fire can get going. But with a can of WOOF all is not lost. Simply stack your firewood in the desired campfire pit, pour a little WOOF over the top and light it with a match... WOOF! Instant warm fire. WOOF is basically a five litre can with a 75/25 mix of diesel and petrol. Now I'd never suggest pouring raw petrol on a fire as it is very dangerous and highly explosive. But mixed with diesel (75%) it becomes an effective fire lighter fluid, capable of lighting the wettest of logs. This mix is also commonly used by forestry and fire authorities in drip torches for lighting fire control lines and burn offs.

**STANLEY THERMOS**

Out in the bush you're a long way from a café or bakery where you can get a hot coffee and some warm food to warm your insides on a cold day. To help solve this I always carry a couple of vacuum flasks, more commonly known here as a Thermos. But choosing a good flask means spending a few more dollars, as the plastic/glass versions are prone to breaking with the rigours of 4WDing. My choice has always been the all-steel Stanley Thermos that has been around since 1913. Capable of keeping coffee hot for 24 hours, these things are almost indestructible and spare parts for the oldest models such as stoppers and cups are still available. [www.stanley-pmi.com](http://www.stanley-pmi.com)



Warm up from the inside-out with a hot beverage from your Thermos



When there's snow/ice on the ground in the morning, you know winter's arrived



A good quality chainsaw has many uses on a camping trip

**STIHL CHAINSAW**

No winter camp can be complete without a fire to keep you warm and dry you out after the High Country has thrown its worst weather at you. Carrying weather-proof matches, dry kindling and a bag of wood is always a great start, but won't keep a fire going for long. So I never leave home without my trusty Stihl chainsaw. Not only is a chainsaw great for cutting a load of firewood, but they also come in handy after a High Country storm where the road is blocked by fallen trees. I choose to carry a Stihl Magnum 460, as it packs a lot of grunt for cutting through the largest of fallen logs but at the same time weighs in at only 6.5 kg... a lot less than a bag of wood on the roof rack. Of course, a chainsaw should only be used with the right safety gear and training. Many 4WD clubs as well as retailers provide adequate training to get you started. [www.stihl.com.au](http://www.stihl.com.au)

**CANVAS TARPS**

Last on my list is a good quality canvas tarp. Canvas tarps will cost a lot more than a comparatively sized poly tarp, but at the same time will last a lifetime if looked after. I usually carry a few different sizes to do different jobs. There's one for covering the camp kitchen, another for under the swag, and there's even a small one for covering the engine and radiator of my 4WD for times when we camp above the snowline and don't want the radiator or diesel to freeze. Canvas does a much better job of insulating you from the cold and wet than a poly tarp and you won't find yourself getting up in the middle of the night to tie down that annoyingly loud poly tarp that has torn out an eyelet in the wind.

# ARB KIDS



Hey, kids, Fourby here!

Thanks for all the letters and pictures you've sent me recently! If you'd like to win some cool ARB prizes, why not get creative and send me something! This issue, I've also got a new competition for even more chances to win, so check it out on the next page. And keep up the good work!



**WINNER!**

G'day guys,

My name is Christian Shaw, I am 11 years old. I have drawn a picture of our family's 4WD Nissan Patrol. When we have time we do lots of 4WDing and camping. I love going to Fraser Island.

Our Patrol has a few modifications: 2" lift, long range fuel tank, winch bar, winch, custom made side steps and rails, dual battery system, Outback roller drawers, fridge, Safari snorkel, a/c/o aerial, roof rack, ARB rear step tow bar, spot lights, front/rear Air Lockers, compressor, CB/2 way radio, FOXWING awning, and for us kids... DVD headrest 9" monitors. I hope you like my picture.



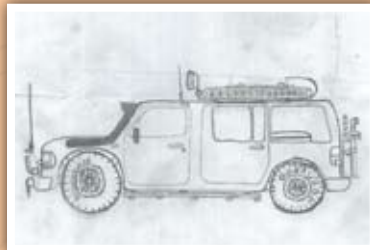
\* Fourby's had this drawing for quite a while, and we think it's great but it seems the artist's name and address went missing somewhere along the way! We'd love to hear from the owner... email Fourby at [fourby@arb.com.au](mailto:fourby@arb.com.au)



\* Nine year old Joe has drawn a picture of his dad going to work in the new Colorado with their dog.



\* A big thanks to Duncan in Mt Crosby in Queensland for sending this fantastic drawing in.



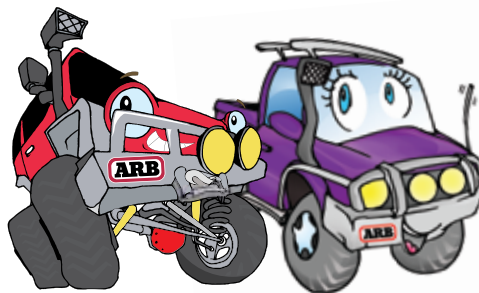
\* Hi Fourby, Do you like my fully kitted out Toyota LandCruiser? I put all the accessories that I could fit on it!  
From Harry



\* 4 year old Shai is one of Fourby's biggest fans and has been helping ARB out by starring in a few videos with 4wdTV. To say thanks, we sent Shai a Toys R Us voucher, and here's a few pictures of her setting the new toys up!

# Fourby & Ariel's Wordsearch

By Gracie-mae & Samuel



B	U	L	L	B	A	R	B	I	W	S
E	S	P	A	M	R	G	P	S	I	I
G	U	T	E	L	I	N	E	R	N	P
D	N	U	D	G	E	B	A	R	C	F
I	K	N	A	T	L	E	U	F	H	L
R	W	I	L	E	K	R	O	N	S	I
F	R	O	O	F	R	A	C	K	L	G
B	K	C	A	J	T	F	I	L	I	H
R	E	C	O	V	E	R	Y	K	I	T
A	F	H	U	F	O	U	R	B	Y	S

## WORDS TO FIND:

- |           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| BULL BAR  | RECOVERY KIT |
| UHF       | GPS          |
| ARIEL     | HI LIFT JACK |
| FUEL TANK | IPF LIGHTS   |
| WINCH     | ARB FRIDGE   |
| UTE LINER | ROOF RACK    |
| FOURBY    | SNORKEL      |
| MAPS      | NUDGE BAR    |

Fourby and Ariel would like to say a big thank you to the Evans family from Tasmania who have not only sent in some great photos of all the kids in their Fourby tops, but also created a fantastic wordsearch for this issue of the newsletter. See if you can find all the words! (solution on page 37)

► Introducing the Evans family: (L-R) Gracie-mae, Samuel, Connor & Ellie-mae



## Kids' Giveaway

Send your letters, drawings and photos, including name, age, address, telephone number and t-shirt size to:

- **Post:** ARB 4x4 Accessories  
Marketing Department  
PO Box 105  
Kilsyth VIC 3137
- **Email:** fourby@arb.com.au

Every issue we'll give our favourite entry a Toys R Us voucher and Speedy Seal Tyre Repair Kit, and all other entries that are printed will receive an ARB Kids' Pack.

Please include your details on the back, or attached to your drawing or letter, as sometimes the envelopes go missing!

*If you want your letter or drawing returned, please enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope.*

# ARB KIDS COMPETITION



Send your entries to:

- > **Post:** ARB Kids Competition  
Marketing Department  
PO Box 105  
Kilsyth VIC 3137
- > **Email:** fourby@arb.com.au

## Fourby's Favourite Destinations Competition

Recently we received a whole lot of pictures from Brad, Tegan and Jack, who celebrated the Australia Day long weekend earlier this year with a trip up to the High Country. They took their Fourby gear and got some great photos of themselves alongside some of the popular attractions in the area.

Brad, Tegan and Jack love going 4WDing and camping in the High Country, and their trip inspired us to run a competition in this issue of the newsletter. So kids, what you need to do is send us a pic of you having a great time in your favourite camping or 4WDing spot. We'll feature our favourite ones in the next edition of 4x4 Action, and there's some fantastic prizes up for grabs!



▲ Brad at the recently reconstructed Craig's Hut

▶ Brad & Jack at Bindaree Hut

▼ Brad inside Bluff Hut



◀ Tegan at King Saddle

▶ Jack & Brad at Bindaree Hut

◀ Brad & Jack at Fry's Hut





Photography by Digital Outback Photography

## ARB Bendigo takes out the Challenge with Nitrocharger Sport

The annual Outback Challenge was once again held in and around the town of Broken Hill in May, with a variety of well set up trucks competing in the tough Australian off road competition. And this year's overall winner was two of ARB's own, store owner, Greg Scanlon, and workshop foreman, Liam Nunns, from ARB Bendigo.

A total of 23 teams, including four international entries, competed in the 2009 Challenge. The team from ARB Bendigo was one of the few vehicles trialling the latest release from Old Man Emu – Nitrocharger Sport shock absorbers. You would have read about the benefits and advantages of this new product in the April edition of the newsletter, and you can find out Greg's thoughts on them later on in this article.

2009 marked Greg's eighth consecutive year at the Challenge, and being his first overall win he was naturally thrilled with the achievement. Despite the fact that the event took him and his workshop foreman out of the store for quite a long period, Greg considered himself lucky to have such a talented and enthusiastic mechanic on hand. They did all the preparatory work on the vehicle themselves and were well-equipped to handle all the in-field repairs required throughout the Challenge.

Averaging about four hours sleep a night, and surviving mainly on a diet of dehydrated food and muesli bars,

the competitors have to endure 17 stages over a period of eight days. These stages are run during both day and night, with a combination of long navigation runs, and shorter, more aggressive crowd pleasers. Competitors are required to be self sufficient in everything except fuel and water and must perform all their own repairs. When asked why Greg keeps going back year after year to compete in this extremely tough event he says:

"The name of the event says it all. It's a challenge just to finish, let alone win! Just completing the event is an accomplishment. It means you've managed to successfully negotiate the week without any major dramas. And in an event like the Outback Challenge... dramas are commonplace and can mean the difference between winning and losing."

Despite experiencing some ongoing fuel injector issues throughout the Challenge, Greg and Liam worked tirelessly to ensure this didn't have an effect on the overall outcome. It was the first time in Greg's eight years of Outback Challenge history that he hasn't had a flat tyre, which he puts down to 'sheer good luck'. Out of the 17 stages, Greg and Liam won five of them outright, and ended up 98 points clear of second place... a great accomplishment.

### VEHICLE SPECS

The team competed in Greg's Nissan Patrol ute (4.2L petrol, fuel injected, turbo charged, intercooled – thanks to Johnsons Performance Centre) which featured a number of modifications and additional accessories to ensure it was Challenge-worthy.

Like a high percentage of Outback Challenge competitors, Greg's vehicle was fitted with front and rear ARB Air Lockers. It also featured a custom Warn high mount winch (modified by Flamin' Fabrications) incorporating twin 6hp motors with an air free spool system. A total of three ARB air compressors were used in conjunction with these accessories – two on-board models for tyre inflation, air tool operation and to

facilitate airflow through the twin winch motors; and the third ARB air compressor was to activate Air Lockers and the air free spool.

For suspension requirements, the vehicle used Old Man Emu LTR's in conjunction with the new Nitrocharger Sport shock absorbers, which Greg reported to be a winning combination. "Unlike some other brands used throughout the field, the Nitrocharger Sport shocks didn't develop any oil leaks. And even after stages of extreme punishment resulting in a massive amount of heat build-up, they still recovered well for the next stage. We have another event in about six weeks and we'll definitely be using Nitrocharger Sport again."



# SUV's Go Bush

For over 12 years, Bushranger has produced a wide variety of clever and award winning 4x4 products tailored to compact SUVs and AWDs. And now they've set out to prove that with the right gear and training, owners of these vehicles can head deep into the Outback safely and with confidence.

In 2007, Bushranger successfully highlighted the off road capabilities of compact SUVs by navigating across the Flinders Ranges in a Kia Sportage. A year later, they repeated the feat with the new Kia Sportage diesel by travelling hundreds of kilometres through the Simpson Desert with scarcely more than aftermarket suspension, a good set of tyres and a number of versatile Bushranger accessories.

"SUVs can take you to some of Australia's most remote places so long as you receive the right advice, don't travel alone and pack the right equipment," says Bushranger CEO, Evan Black.

Having proven that SUVs can journey to remote destinations traditionally thought of as big 4WD territory only, Bushranger has now begun a consumer education program for owners of so-called 'soft roaders' who are thinking of heading off road.

Launched November 2008 amid the sand dunes at Boat Harbour, south of Sydney, the education program is designed to demonstrate that with a little vehicle preparation, the correct recovery gear, and the right amount of advice and training, anyone with a compact SUV can safely traverse many 4WD locations in Australia.

Real life demonstrations to 12 motoring journalists in the sand dunes involved a number of SUVs, including a Kia Sportage, Kia Sorento, Suzuki Vitara, Mitsubishi Outlander and Subaru Forester. Of chief importance was vehicle recovery, selecting the correct tyres and adjusting tyre pressure to suit the terrain. Mick McCulkin from Outback tour company, Tri State Safaris, was also on hand to offer his expertise on the day.

"It is about commonsense and understanding what is trying to be achieved, and, so long as safety is the key, a light duty SUV can go many of the places that traditional big off roaders can go," Mick McCulkin says.

Bushranger has also compiled a compact SUV checklist for people planning to head off road. Based on the travel experiences of the Bushranger team, the checklist catalogues a range of vehicle preparation equipment, recovery gear, and campsite equipment so that travellers are prepared with minimal fuss.

"We want to provide solutions for those SUV owners who do not know where to start when it comes to preparing a car for an off road journey," says Evan. "The items on the checklist are all easily stowed in a small 4WD and are simple to use so long as the guidelines are followed."

Further video footage is available on Bushranger's YouTube page – [www.youtube.com/bushranger4wd](http://www.youtube.com/bushranger4wd) – with how-to videos on vehicle recoveries and other products, and off road adventures including the SUV trip into the Flinders Ranges.

For more information and to download your own copy of the SUV checklist, visit the Bushranger website: [www.bushranger.com.au](http://www.bushranger.com.au)



While we couldn't bring you the full SUV checklist, here is a selection of popular Bushranger items to get you started. All Bushranger products are available from your local ARB store.

## RECOVERY GEAR



### X-JACK EXHAUST JACK

Perfectly suited for use in sand, mud and snow and with a lifting capacity of 4000kg, the SEMA award winning X-Jack provides up to 75cm of vehicle lift. Designed with triangular shaped feet to keep the unit firmly grounded, the X-Jack is positioned under the side of the vehicle body rather than under an axle like traditional jacks. The X-Jack is inflated via a hose that connects directly to the vehicle's tailpipe or alternatively a portable compressor can be used to provide added control in determining the rate and extent of lift.



### X-TRAX

Bushranger's X-trax are specifically designed to offer positive traction in slippery or soft terrain. Measuring 150cm long by 30cm wide, the X-trax incorporates rubber cross beams designed and moulded to create a positive grip on both the tyres and terrain. Built with high quality stainless steel cable for extra durability, the X-trax comes in a handy Velcro strapped wrap bag for compact storage in your vehicle.



### TRI FOLD SHOVEL

Simple and easy to assemble, the tri fold shovel is ideal for transport in a vehicle where storage is an issue. Utilising high quality construction and a tough enamel finish, the shovel incorporates an easy grip 'D' shaped handle and comes with a protective pouch for easy, clean storage.



### STRAPS, WINCHES & RECOVERY POINTS

Bushranger provides a comprehensive range of recovery equipment including straps, bow shackles and hand winches. But one of the most popular items is the recovery hitch, providing a solid recovery point for those vehicles fitted with a rear tow bar. Fully load rated and manufactured from solid milled steel, the Bushranger recovery hitch is a must for those vehicles that have few, if any rear recovery points. All of Bushranger's strap and shackle ranges are fully batch tested and coded to meet all relevant compliances, and are covered by a 'No fuss warranty'.

## ADVENTURE GEAR



### COMPACT BUSH SAW

Offering big performance in a compact size, the bush saw utilises a unique folding design that not only protects the saw teeth from damage, but requires minimum space in your vehicle for transport. The 19cm blade is manufactured from heat treated, fully polished alloy steel and incorporates stay-sharp teeth that will easily cut through branches obstructing your path or for campfire wood.



### HOT WATER SHOWER

Mounted inside your engine bay, the hot water shower offers a hint of luxury even in the middle of the Outback. Requiring no bulky parts or complex set-ups, all that is required for a hot shower is to simply plug in two quick connect hoses (with one dropped into water), and then flick a switch. Coming with easy to fit plumbing and wiring, the shower has a low power draw pump with 360° mounting in the engine bay and a pressure tested 100% copper heat exchanger.



### WHEELIE BIN

The clever solution to storing garbage on your off road trips, Bushranger's wheelie bin is securely strapped outside onto your 4WD's spare wheel. Alternatively perfect for storing wet clothing or muddy recovery gear, the wheelie bin is manufactured from reinforced PVC and has a storage capacity of 57 litres. The adjustable pull straps make it suitable for most vehicles with rear door or rear bar mounted wheels, while the large overlapping flap protects the zipper against water and dust ingress.



### BUSHPAK

Available in three sizes, the Bushranger BushPAK is the ideal solution to storing your belongings on the roof of your vehicle while also protecting them from the elements. Made of super tough, seam welded reinforced PVC, the BushPAK incorporates snap lock buckles for quick and easy installation to your roof rack. The BushPAK also includes a comprehensive repair kit in the event of accidental punctures.



### 33-IN-1 MULTI TOOL

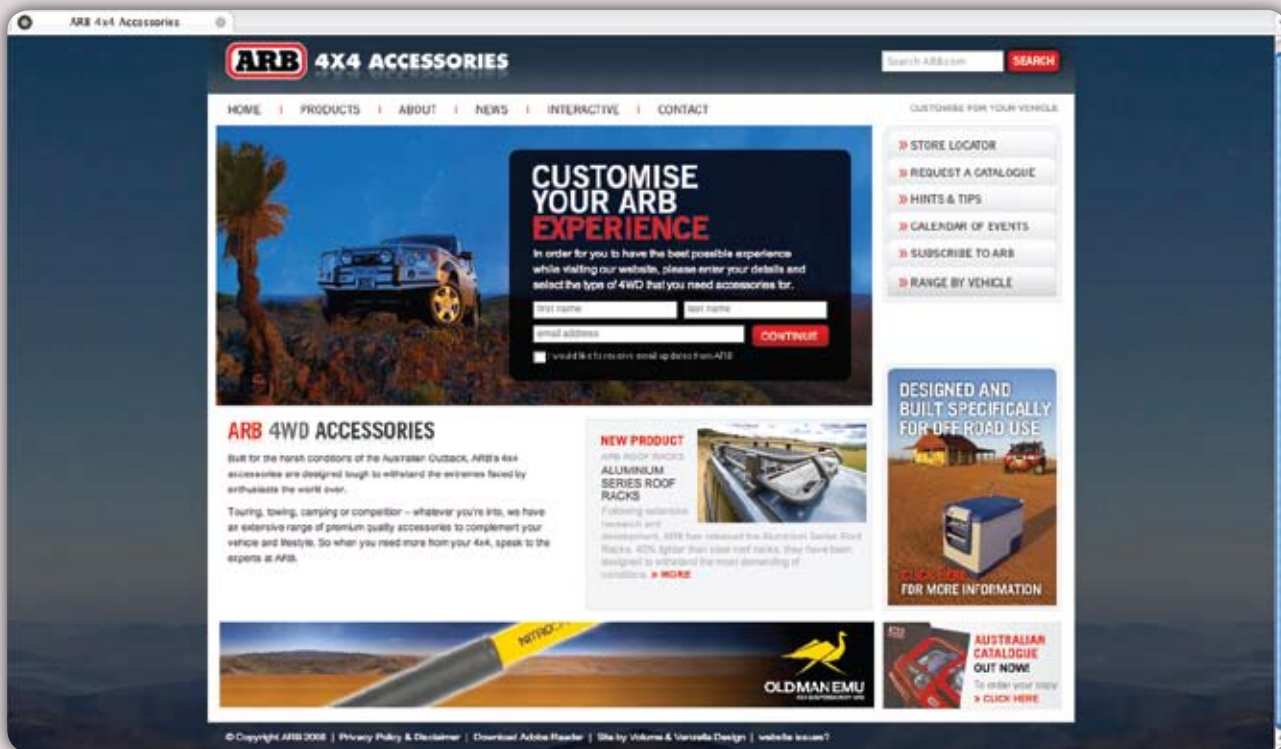
This all purpose multi tool is manufactured from high quality, polished stainless steel construction, with 33 implements and functions built into its compact size. Perfect for use around the campsite or as a glove box emergency kit, the multi tool comes with a heavy duty protective pouch which can be snapped onto your belt so it's always in reach.



### FLOOR MATS

Bushranger offers a comprehensive range of floor mats to suit most 4WDs and SUVs. The Mud Tamer range incorporates raised walls to keep mud, sand, dirt and snow trapped inside, while the multi-directional raised ribs allow you to easily scrape mud from your shoes. Easy to trim with regular scissors, the mats include underside anti-slip nibs to prevent them from shifting underfoot.





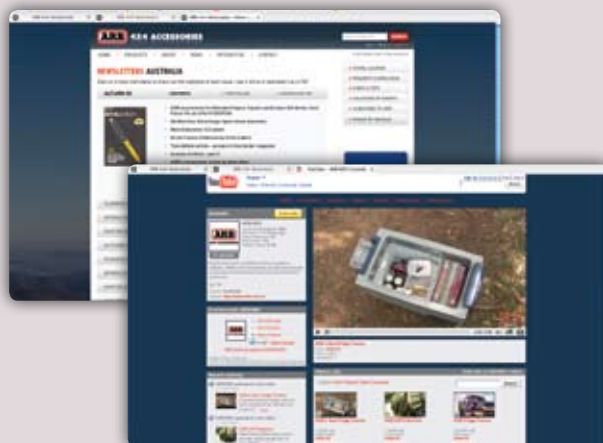
# Go Interactive with ARB

Since the new website's official launch last year, ARB has been hard at work both maintaining current applications and features, and adding new ones to increase functionality. Behind the scenes a huge amount of time and effort goes into ensuring this site is always up to date with the latest products and news. And in conjunction with this, substantial work has recently been undertaken in relation to increasing ARB's online presence in other ways.

If you haven't discovered it already, ARB's very own YouTube site is now up and running and can be found at [www.youtube.com/ARB4WD](http://www.youtube.com/ARB4WD). A number of videos are currently posted on the site, covering a variety of topics and products, from the very popular Air Locker comparison, to the introduction of ARB's new Fridge Freezer and the frequently viewed ARB Factory Tour. With the majority of these videos able to be seen in standard or high quality 'HD', we certainly recommend viewing the latter if your internet speed allows. This site will be continually updated as more videos are produced and makes for a new and exciting way to find out information on ARB's products.

Linking in with the YouTube site, a new Interactive section has been introduced into the ARB website which can be found via the top menu bars. Incorporating various videos of ARB products in action, (some of which you may already be familiar with if you have visited the YouTube site), we have also embedded some of these presentations into the relevant Product pages for easy access and useability.

ARB has also made changes to the way the existing online newsletters are displayed. Every issue of 4x4 Action that appears on the website has now been updated so it is viewable as a flip-book, making them not only easier and quicker to view, but faster to



download. A contents listing has also been introduced, detailing at a glance the main articles featured in each newsletter. This allows you to look for information on a particular vehicle or product, or re-read a past article.

Another new section is Ask ARB, based on the original pages that appear in ARB's newsletter, and incorporating some of the questions that customers ask, along with replies written by ARB product specialists. Many of the questions we receive on a regular basis are similar in their concerns, so you may find that the answer to your query is already available online. You'll find these in the Hints & Tips (located on the right hand side tabs), along with the Getting Started section, making it a great tool for those people looking for a bit of extra information on general products and 4WDing.

Along with all the features detailed above, the ARB website still incorporates everything originally implemented, including the range by vehicle section and full product and company information. Over the coming months, we will continue to employ additional features to further improve the website's functionality, so make sure you check it out regularly for any further changes.



## ARB Ramps Up at Agfest 2009

Agfest, Tasmania's largest outdoor field day, takes place annually in the first week of May on the outskirts of the small northern town of Carrick. This extraordinary event has been organised and run for over 25 years by a dedicated team of local volunteers at the Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania.

And it's there you'll discover a whole range of exhibits where you can do everything from buying a 12 tonne excavator to simply tasting some of Tassie's finest foods. Visitors travel far and wide to experience this truly unique three day event.

The team at ARB Launceston always look forward to attending the annual show, alongside ARB stockists King Trailer Industries and North West Offroad, to showcase the very best in 4WD accessories. This year, the ARB stand featured demonstrations and giveaways from leading industry brands, and gave showgoers the chance to really check out all the latest in 4WD equipment and chat directly with industry experts.

Representatives from Thule car rack systems and Rhino-Rack were on hand to offer advice on how to best set up a vehicle's roof carrying options. Bushranger was there to demonstrate everything from hot water showers to easy to use exhaust operated jacks, and GME offered the extensive range of UHF radios and aerials.

For the first time this year, the ARB team was excited to offer something truly unique to all 4WD enthusiasts. Located opposite the ARB stand in the 4WD Park, was the ARB Traction and Travel Track, designed and built to take showgoers through an experience that demonstrates a 4WD's limitations and capabilities.

ARB worked closely with the Agfest committee to develop the track. Constructed by the teams over several months in the lead up to the show, a pile of dirt and treated pine sleepers soon transformed into a series of obstacles that would test the most capable of vehicles.





## The Agfest Traction and Travel Track

Our requirements were to design a track that would demonstrate the limitations of a standard 4WD and test the vehicle's critical angles: approach, ramp over and departure. When travelling to favoured 4WD destinations, reduced angles can quite often lead to clearance issues, affecting capabilities and at worst resulting in damage to the vehicle. To avoid these problems, protection equipment should be fitted that both improves these angles and provides increased protection.

Our new track also had to test out the vehicle's suspension system. We needed to demonstrate the importance of improved cab stability in difficult terrain, ensuring that all the movement occurs underneath the vehicle, not on top. A suspension height increase, along with increased axle articulation, is important when negotiating uneven terrain. The more stability that is achieved through the cab, the more control is maintained over the track.

Furthermore, the track needed to be designed in such a way as to demonstrate what happens when traction is lost. The slightest hint of uneven terrain can cause standard differentials to have difficulty transferring torque to the wheels that need it. The standard vehicle travelling in low range 4WD has its limitations and these become quite evident on the track. Despite the minimal roll and pitch on the cab at the time, we were able to demonstrate the point at which all power is transferred to the wheels that have lost traction and the vehicle effectively ceases forward momentum.

After several attempts at differing throttle levels and uncontrolled wheel spin, we were going nowhere on the test track. At this point in the real world, we'd be reaching for a snatch strap or winch rope.

The demonstration vehicle was equipped with front and rear Air Lockers. At the flick of a switch, we could lock the differentials and provide maximum control – no wheel spin, no tearing at the track and certainly no going like a 'bull at a gate' to get through the terrain.

At Agfest, spectators were talked through the demonstration while being wowed by the spectacle of the Toyota HiLux climbing and twisting its way along the uneven course. Over the three days hundreds gathered at the perimeter of the 4WD Park and enjoyed the action and giveaways at the ARB Traction and Travel Track.

Get along to Agfest next year and join the action at ARB where we'll show you what it means to truly get locked.

## Fourby & Ariel's Wordsearch Answers

B	U	L	L	B	A	R	B	I	W	S
E	S	P	A	M	R	G	P	S	I	I
G	U	T	E	L	I	N	E	R	N	P
D	N	U	D	G	E	B	A	R	C	F
I	K	N	A	T	L	E	U	F	H	L
R	W	I	L	E	K	R	O	N	S	I
F	R	O	O	F	R	A	C	K	L	G
B	K	C	A	J	T	F	I	L	I	H
R	E	C	O	V	E	R	Y	K	I	T
A	F	H	U	F	O	U	R	B	Y	S

# ARB Canopy/Truck Top Vent

Canopy owners will appreciate the release of a new accessory designed specifically for their vehicles. The ARB high flow canopy vent works to reduce dust ingress when driving off road, and also improves airflow within the canopy if you regularly transport animals or use your vehicle as an occasional sleeping area.

Master crafted to meet the sleek styling of an ARB canopy, the slim-line design makes the vent suitable for placement on the flat section of the canopy located at either the front or rear, and can also be used in conjunction with roof racks or bars. With the open vent facing toward the front of the vehicle, the canopy becomes pressurised when driving, and this in turn reduces dust from entering the internal area from the rear door or tailgate.

Manufactured from UV stable technopolymers, the vent is operable from either inside or outside the canopy. It incorporates a non-corrosive stainless steel pin hinge and a large 12mm closed cell foam external weather seal, with an additional internal seal to stop water entry when closed. Easy to install, the vent comes with comprehensive fitting instructions and all



hardware necessary including black plated mounting screws and rattle free Nyloc nuts (fully retained in the housing for corrugated road use).

The canopy vent is available to suit all models of ARB canopies and can be purchased now from stores and stockists.

Part no: 4700010

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## Navara King Cab Canopy/Truck Top

An ARB canopy is the perfect solution for pick-up owners that need superior protection for their belongings or an increase in vehicle storage space. And to complement the existing range of dual cab canopies to suit the Nissan Navara D40, ARB has released a high roof canopy to suit the King Cab D40 variant.

Made in Australia, this high roof canopy is built from lightweight, thermal-formed ABS sheet and is available in a textured or smooth finish with the full range of window configurations and accessories. Master crafted to meet the modern styling of the Navara and complement its appearance, an ARB canopy is a practical accessory that comes with numerous functional features.

Vehicle owners can choose the option of either sliding side windows or lift up windoors. Sliding windows can be further accessorised with the fitment of flyscreens (helping increase airflow should you use your canopy as an occasional sleeping area), or steel mesh, which is perfect for transporting animals. Steel mesh can also be optioned onto your sliding front window to protect cab occupants in the event of emergency braking. Lift up, lockable windoors provide improved access to the gear in your canopy.

This durable canopy design incorporates 4mm thick frameless and tinted safety glass, and is fixed to the



vehicle with ARB's unique mounting rail system to ensure an optimum and secure fit. Durable double locking handles on the rear door ensure maximum protection for your belongings, and these locks are keyed alike to side windoors where applicable.

Other functional features include a rear LED brake light, a handy interior light and an easy wipe smooth interior. If you are required to carry additional gear or bulky items, this canopy is rated to carry up to 100kg on a suitable ARB canopy roof rack or Thule/Rhino roof bar system.

Coming with a three year warranty, you can be assured you have a reliable, quality product that is backed up with comprehensive service and parts.

## > INSIDE ARB

Queensland  
AUSTRALIA



# ARB Maroochydore



> This issue's Inside ARB section is dedicated to one of our newest stores, ARB Maroochydore, which is owned by Scott Jennings and his wife, Karyn.

Previously Northcoast 4x4 Accessories, Scott and Karyn bought the store six years ago with the long term goal in mind to become the ARB store for that area. The two of them put an immense amount of work into the business, taking it from a basic, tired-old shop, and turning it into a successful, well-known 4x4 accessories outlet.

The opening of ARB Maroochydore was timed to coincide with the relocation of the store to a new property just across the road. The reason for the move was not purely because the new premises was larger, but also because it allowed them to start with a clean slate, which they could then redesign into exactly what they'd always envisaged their ARB store to be.



Some of the new shop's notable features include a custom lounge, fully equipped workshop, heaps of parking, improved vehicle access, and its very own Air Locker test track, which gives customers a unique and effective demonstration of the benefits of ARB Air Lockers. As the leading 4WD store servicing the Sunshine Coast area, and with LandCruiser Mountain Park and Fraser Island right at the back doorstep, ARB Maroochydore is visited by 4WDers and fishing folk of all kinds to equip their vehicles.

ARB Maroochydore currently has a staff of ten, four of these based in the spacious workshop, to accommodate the vehicle accessory fitting needs of their customers, as well as vehicle servicing. The team has a host of 4WDing experience between them and are all in the industry for their passion of 4WDing. Because of this, many of them are very well travelled and specialise in different fields to cater to the diverse needs of 4WD owners around the area.

ARB Maroochydore officially opened on the 1st of March this year, and in April they had a Grand Opening Day. With huge sales across a range of ARB accessories, product displays, Air Locker demos, prizes, giveaways and heaps more, the day was a great success and gave the locals an introduction to the new store. As well as offering the complete range of ARB 4x4 accessories, and having plenty of knowledgeable staff on hand to assist with all your 4WDing requirements, ARB Maroochydore also stocks Cooper Tyres and Mickey Thompson Tyres.

Scott himself has been working in southeast Queensland in the 4WDing industry for more than 20 years and has been involved in 4x4ing and fishing all his life. When he's not in the shop, he's taking some time out on the beach fishing and 4WDing at Fraser Island, or heading up to LandCruiser Mountain Park for a bit of action in his LandCruiser 100 Series stretched dual cab ute.

So if you live in the Sunshine Coast area, or if you're passing through, drop into the shop to say hi to the crew, have a chat about your next trip, and experience an Air Locker demo on the test track.



**4X4 ACCESSORIES**

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