

# 4x4action >



## > PRODUCT RELEASES

New Air Locker models, Nissan Navara accessories, recovery bags and more

## > GIVEAWAYS

Plenty of competitions to enter plus the chance to win Pat Callinan's new 4WD guide and an ARB Fridge Freezer

## > LATEST NEWS

All the latest 4x4 competition results, plus news on some exciting website updates

## > FEATURES

Hear all about Pat Callinan's 4x4 Adventures and the next chapter in Neil Cocks' African adventure

## Australasian Safari

09

Hailed as the ultimate off road adventure, the Australasian Safari is a test of epic proportions. In 2009, over 100 competitors from around the world descended on the rugged yet magnificent Western Australian Outback to take part. Covering more than 3600 kilometers, the Safari is one of the most punishing yet rewarding off road events. For a behind the scenes look at this awesome spectacle, check out page 07 >>

## > HIGHLIGHTS

Ask ARB **08**

Round Oz on a Shoestring **10**

4WD Action Fridge Comparison **12**

Win an ARB Fridge Freezer **16**

ARB Kids **18**

Kids' Competition Results **20**

Pat Callinan's 4X4 Adventures **22**

Canopy Feature Article **24**

OME News **26**

Aussies in Africa **28**

**Editor:** Debbie Kaye

**Contributors:** Matt Frost, Mark Lowry, Rob Puts, 4WD Action magazine, Pat Callinan, Neil Cocks, Jacob Messemaker, Luke Watson, Dylan Wilson & Chris Darling

**Graphic design:** Vanzella Graphic Design

**Photography:** Offroad Images

**Pre-press:** Splitting Image

**Printing:** Offset Alpine



### ARB Snapshot

I am pleased to report that the dedication, passion and determination of thousands of off roaders around Australia has prevented an absolute disaster occurring in the Australian state of New South Wales (NSW). To cut a long story short, the NSW state government attempted to introduce legislation that would make it very difficult to modify the suspension on any vehicle. In a media release, they practically branded anyone who modified their vehicle's ride height a hoon, which understandably greatly offended many people.

Anyone who uses a 4WD as a touring, towing or work vehicle knows the limitations of standard suspension. In general, vehicles are sold all over the world with the same suspension package. You don't need to be a rocket scientist to work out that a soccer mum in the UK, who uses her fourby to ferry the kids around, will have different requirements to a family in Australia who are about to undertake a Simpson Desert crossing. It is totally impossible for one suspension package to suit everyone, so original equipment suspensions tend to be a compromise. Aftermarket companies on the other hand offer multiple selection options to suit the set up of the vehicle and its intended use.

Thanks to the efforts of many people, there was a huge public outcry, and the legislation has been put on hold. But we need to keep an eye on this type of thing. There are factions within the community who clearly have an agenda, and want to see restrictions placed on our fourbies and where we can take them. We strongly urge all of our customers to get involved with their local 4WD clubs and associations, or at the very least keep abreast of future developments via the internet.

If there is one 'must read' article in this newsletter, it's the summary of the fridge testing conducted by Australian 4WD Action magazine. Australia's top selling 4x4 mag has just undertaken what would have to be the most comprehensive car fridge test ever performed, putting the best selling models on the market through a series of rigorous tests.

The ARB 47 litre fridge was declared the best fridge on the market by the magazine, outperforming all the other brands, many of which have been around for decades. This result is a real testament to the team behind the development of this superb product.

Finally, at the time of compiling this newsletter, we were just making the final preparations for our annual ARB Dealers meeting. This year we are doing away with pie charts, graphs and flow charts, and heading bush for a few days. Every ARB store manager in the country will be converging on Broken Hill for three days of off road adventure. We have a series of 4x4 competitions planned for them to test their driving, navigational and winching skills. We'll bring you a full review of the ARB Outback Adventure in the next newsletter.

Happy 4wheeling!

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



# action



## **Air Lockers for Hummer H3, GMC Canyon, USA model Chevrolet Colorado (full size pick-up), Hyundai Terracan, Mitsubishi Pajero/Montero & Triton/L200**



**Over the last few months ARB has introduced a number of new Air Locker designs into their award-winning range. Designed and built in Australia by a dedicated team of specialist engineers, ARB Air Lockers have been providing 4WDers, travellers, off road competitors and commercial users with the awesome benefits of traction on demand for more than 20 years.**

The simple flick of a dash mounted switch is all that's required when your vehicle starts struggling in tough conditions. Instantly activated via an on-board air compressor, the locking mechanism of the Air Locker prevents the wheels from turning independently, allowing the vehicle to continue on unhindered. Once the obstacle has been overcome, a second flick of the switch disengages the Air Locker, returning it to a standard 'open' style of differential.

Manufactured from high quality, aerospace grade materials, ARB Air Lockers have been tested in extreme environments and incorporate a range of complex and sophisticated features which continue to be developed and enhanced over time to maintain integrity. From the fully machined one piece nodular iron diff carrier case, to the patented 'timed' locking mechanism introduced into many of our recent models, the ARB Air Locker consistently proves it really is the premium choice for consumers. And as well as increasing a 4WD's

ability to traverse steeper and more unpredictable terrain, Air Lockers allow this to be done in a more controlled manner, relying less on momentum, which translates into a reduced risk of vehicle damage and environmental impact.

Hyundai Terracan owners can now experience the full advantages of twin Air Lockers with the recent release of a rear Air Locker model. Combined with an integrated Old Man Emu suspension package specifically tailored to suit this vehicle and its individual requirements, ARB's 4x4 accessories have the ability to transform the Terracan into a highly capable off roader.

Rear Air Lockers are also now available to suit Mitsubishi Pajero/Montero (IFS and live axle) models and Triton/L200 (02 on) models. The introduction of these new products means that vehicle owners can now fit both front and rear Air Lockers in conjunction with a range of other gear, including protection equipment and suspension options, to increase off road ability.

Similarly, a front model completes the Air Locker range for GMC Canyon, USA model Chevrolet Colorado (full size pick-up) and Hummer H3 vehicles, providing owners with the full traction benefits that this exceptional product offers. Along with these new models, front and rear Air Lockers are available for a huge range of 2WD and 4WD applications and will provide outstanding improvements to the off road capabilities of your vehicle. Contact your nearest ARB distributor for more information.

Contact ARB for part numbers

# Compact Recovery Bag

To add to ARB's current range of recovery bags and packs, a versatile new item has just been released. This compact bag is perfect for carrying a single snatch strap with shackles and is small enough to fit under or behind a seat, or in the back of a drawer system.

Manufactured from heavy duty 100% cotton canvas with a PU coating for maximum water resistance, and styled in the same way as ARB's other recovery bags and kits, this tough, durable bag is perfect for your next trip away. Incorporating a moulded rubber carry handle, reflective tape trim for night visibility, reinforced webbing seams and 30kg rated 'Sure Grip' buckles, it has been designed for maximum strength and functionality. With enough room to carry an 8000kg or 11,000kg snatch strap, webbing loops for bow shackle storage and a separate pocket to house recovery



gloves, this bag is perfect to keep in your vehicle all year round. The new bag is available from ARB stores – other items pictured can also be purchased separately.

Part no: ARB503

# Micro Recovery Bag



Developed for keeping smaller items together and for ease of packing and carrying, the new micro bag from ARB is perfect for storing just about anything. From drag chains, bow shackles, tent pegs and even tow bar tongues, you'll always be able to easily locate those smaller, but no less important components.

Like the compact recovery bag above, the micro bag is manufactured from heavy duty 100% cotton canvas with a PU coating for maximum water resistance, and features reinforced webbing seams and reflective tape for night use. With a convenient moulded carry handle for when transporting heavy items, this bag is yet another great addition to ARB's range.

Part no: ARB504

# Magnum Hand Winch Bag

A Magnum hand winch is a cost effective alternative to fitting an electric winch to your vehicle. This handy, portable item is perfect for 4WDers who want the peace of mind of having a back-up should they get into trouble out on the tracks.

And for owners of Magnum hand winches, a new bag for this product has just been introduced. Perfect for storing your winch in, the bag will protect both the winch and the interior of the vehicle when you're rattling down a steep, dusty 4WD track.

Designed to match the same style as ARB's growing range of recovery bags, the Magnum hand winch bag is manufactured from the same heavy duty 100% cotton canvas with a PU coating and reinforced webbing seams. It incorporates high twist webbing straps sewn through the base for maximum strength and a Velcro rap carry handle for convenience when transporting.



Incorporating an external sleeve for the winch's operating handle, these bags are available separately from ARB stores now.

Part no: MHWB2



## Load Carrying Solutions for Nissan Navara D22

**Following the release of the updated version of the Nissan Navara D22/ NP300 (extended bed version), ARB has introduced a number of new accessories to cater for this modified vehicle.**

To provide increased vehicle storage space, a new, standard roof canopy is available in either an original grained exterior, or a heavy duty smooth finish, and can be further tailored with optional colour coding to complement your vehicle. These canopies have been specifically designed to suit the sleek lines of the Navara to provide aesthetic appeal and an optimum fit. Manufactured from strong, recyclable ABS materials, the one piece shell design is premium quality and UV rated to ensure it can withstand the harsh Australian environment.

All ARB canopies come with a number of standard, functional features and this new model is no exception. Tinted and tempered 'safety' glass is used in all windows and doors, and the design incorporates a high mount LED brake light and an internal light.

Sliding side windows come standard with ARB canopies, but owners can choose to fit lift up side windoors which will increase accessibility to the rear section. These windoors are available on one or both sides of the canopy and are keyed alike to the

rear door for optimum practicality. The new Navara canopies are also able to be optioned with a front lift up window instead of the traditional sliding one. This is a feature we are gradually introducing into all our new canopies with the advantages of better visibility and easier cleaning. For both front and side sliding windows, there are additional options including flywire and steel mesh to ensure your canopy will suit your needs.

If you find you need extra space to carry gear, or you regularly transport long and bulky items, you could benefit from an ARB canopy roof rack or bar system. Designed with an internal frame kit that ensures the load is spread evenly and supported by the frame, rather than the canopy itself, ARB canopy roof racks are rated to carry up to 100kg. Suitable Thule or Rhino roof bars are also available from ARB to cater to a variety of load carrying options.

Another additional accessory that is relatively new to our range is the ARB canopy vent. Fitted to the front or rear of a canopy, it will help prevent dust ingress while travelling, and also provides increased circulation if you use your vehicle to regularly transport animals.

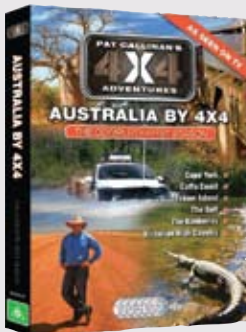
These canopies add to the host of other accessories available for this updated Navara model including bull bars, side rails and steps, Old Man Emu suspension and Air Lockers.



# Pat Callinan's 4X4 Starter Guide



**The outstanding success of Australia's first truly national 4x4 television series, Pat Callinan's 4X4 Adventures, is set to continue with the filming of the second series now well underway.**



Presented by Pat Callinan, who edited Australia's top selling 4WD magazine for many years, and has thousands of kilometres of off road driving under his belt, the show takes viewers on a journey through some of Australia's most spectacular Outback locations. From Cape York and the Kimberley, to Fraser Island and the Victorian High Country,

Pat Callinan's 4X4 Adventures demonstrates that it is possible, with the right equipment and the right advice, for just about anyone to get out into the wilderness and explore the off road regions of the country.

Series two will take viewers to even more exciting locations around Australia, with 4x4 hints and tips, product demos and plenty of other interesting facts and features

along the way. You can read all about it later on in this newsletter, as Pat brings us an update on all the latest.

Along with the show, Pat has also been busy putting together his first book, which is now available along with series one DVDs from ARB stores. Pat Callinan's 4X4 Starter Guide is a practical beginner's guide to 4WDing, and has been designed in a smaller, glovebox style so it can be easily stored in the vehicle for when you need it.

This full colour publication is easy to read and meticulously presented, with handy tabs dividing the book into each unique section. With a durable hard cover and practical spiral bound pages within, this book will ensure that essential 4x4 tips and hints are always close at hand. It takes readers through all the basics of 4x4ing, from vehicle choice, 4WD accessories, driving techniques, advice on tools and spares, and much more.

The book is also packaged complete with a complementary DVD that is housed in a special pouch to ensure it never goes astray, and is full of handy tips for beginners to watch before they head off on their next trip.

Part no: 215936

## GUIDE GIVEAWAY

To celebrate the launch of this fantastic new guide from Pat Callinan, ARB has 25 copies to give away to 4x4 Action readers. To win yourself one, all you need to do is email your full name and postal address (with 'guide' in the subject line) to [marketing@arb.com.au](mailto:marketing@arb.com.au) and the first 25 entries received will be sent a copy of the guide.





# Australasian Safari 2009

**The Australasian Safari 2009 (formerly the Australian Safari) ran from the 1st-8th of August, and was held for the third year in the Outback tracks of Western Australia. Known as the ultimate off road adventure, competitors travel from the capital city of Perth, to the goldmining town of Kalgoorlie, a rugged journey of more than 3600 off road kilometres. This event showcases the incredibly diverse landscape of WA and with its scenic backdrop, ranks amongst the most spectacular and challenging in the world.**

As part of the Australasian Safari adventure, competitors traverse Outback roads and tracks via a route that takes in a great variety of geographical challenges. The inclusion of varying vehicle types, participating in either a competitive or touring element, allows for a spectacle quite like no other. The aim of the Safari is to provide the best, safest and most challenging long distance off road race in the Asia Pacific region.

The 2009 event saw a field of around 100 competitors participate in one of three categories: motorbikes, quad bikes and auto. There were nearly 20 overseas riders and drivers, representing countries including China, USA, Sweden, South Africa, Japan, Hungary, the Czech Republic and New Zealand. This list included five-time Dakar Rally quad bike winner Josef Machacek from the Czech Republic, and American Josh Hall, winner of the famed Baja 1000 desert race on four occasions.

The Safari also included a wealth of Australian talent, including one of ARB's directors, Andy Brown. Teaming

up with son Danny in their 1999 Holden Frontera, these seasoned off road racers enjoyed a challenging yet exciting week. Despite a promising start leading the pack on day two, major mechanical issues caused them to drop back in the field. Determined to finish, they worked together to get their vehicle back on the road. "In terms of the next few days, all we're trying to do is finish. It's great leading the day, but it's more fun chasing than being chased," Andy said.

At the end of the seven day event, the motorbike section was won by 20 year old Condoblin rider, Jacob Smith, making him the youngest person ever to win the Safari. Czech Republic rider, Josef Machacek, easily won the quad bike category in his first Safari, and the auto section was taken out by Leongatha dairy farmer, Steve Riley, who claimed his second win in the same Mitsubishi Pajero that he drove to victory in 2008.

For more information on the Australasian Safari and the full results of the 2009 event, visit the website ([www.australiansafari.com.au](http://www.australiansafari.com.au)).





**WIN!**



**Congratulations to Peter Eichhorn, 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



Dear ARB,

*I have only just joined 4x4 Action and thank you for a most informative mag. On a trip down the Hay River Road, I got well and truly stuck in VERY soft sand at the top of a sand dune, unable to reverse or go forward. Having a Warn 9000lb winch and suitable tree some 50m away, my friend and I set up the winch using extension straps, snatch strap and drag chain. On operating the winch nothing happened except a very tight winch cable! With hesitation, I let the clutch out a little and whammy – the Nissan rocketed out. I'm told that you're not supposed to use the clutch with the winch. My question is, why not? Did I use the wrong technique?*

*Also, I'd like to share with your readers a housekeeping trick I do for the car. I have a list of EVERY thing that is in each drawer, glove box, tucker box etc in the console. In the heat of the moment when one forgets where items are; just look at the list. This is even handier if other people borrow your car and need the D-shackle, fuses or EPIRB.*

Thanks, Peter



Hi Peter,

Amongst 4WDers, what is the right or wrong technique in a recovery situation is always a heated debate. Every situation is different and as such the technique used will have a lot to do with the equipment you have on hand. There is no 'standard' that dictates what you can and can't do, but there are generally accepted methods for winching that are based on safety, and also dedicated and rated equipment for the job.

The situation you found yourself in can be one of the toughest for winch recovery. A vehicle bogged in sand can be the hardest dead weight to move as it will tend to drag through the sand like a grader blade as it is pulled slowly by a winch. From what you described, I'm guessing you were also pulling off a tree that was down a slope which would have an adverse effect on trying to lift the vehicle up out of the sand.

To make the distance to the nearest tree there is nothing wrong with using a drag chain to give extra length to your cable and winch extension strap. But it is the wrong use for a snatch strap. A snatch strap is designed to stretch approximately 20% of its length when used in a snatch recovery. In these situations they rarely meet their peak rated load except possibly for a few seconds before they begin to 'shrink' or return to their normal length. However when used in a winch recovery as an extension strap, they can be stretched at close to peak loading and maintain that stretch for the duration of winching... this can permanently stretch the strap and render it useless when called upon to work as a snatch strap.

Using engine drive/clutch to assist in a winch recovery can, as you've experienced, help. Although you see this practice used extensively in competition, it is not recommended by winch and recovery equipment



manufacturers due to the adverse loads that can be applied to the equipment. When you use engine drive to assist in winching, as the vehicle lurches forward a couple of things can happen. Firstly, the winch cable will lose tension and as the winch may still be operating, this can cause the cable to bundle and tangle. If the vehicle is still not free of the obstacle and you continue to winch, the successive layers will crush the tangled cable, causing flat spots and irreparable damage.

Secondly, if on a steep hill, engine drive can help get over an obstacle, but if no traction is gained on the other side, the vehicle can roll or slide back, causing a shock load to be applied to the cable and other components. Shock loading can cause both cables and extension straps to fail, as they are not designed to give or stretch, and the shock loads can be far greater than the rated load of the equipment. Winches, cables, shackles, drag chains and extension straps are all designed to pull dead loads.

But as I said earlier, every recovery situation is different. In your situation, the fact you stated that 'the Nissan rocketed out' suggests the snatch strap may have indeed helped the recovery in that as you have applied drive to the wheels, the elasticity of the loaded strap has helped pull you out. However if a component such as a strap or cable had failed and broken during the recovery, the snatch strap's energy may have made the situation a lot worse as any projectile like a shackle would have had a lot more damaging force behind it. Using a snatch strap as an extension strap can be very dangerous and is not recommended.

Safety is always the most important factor in any recovery operation and for that reason you should only ever use properly rated and maintained equipment. A better solution for your situation would have been to use a snatch block to help halve the load on the winch and double its pulling power. It's always easier to say this in hindsight, but you probably didn't have enough extension to do this. Being prepared for every situation is not always possible.

So did you use the wrong technique by applying drive? Technically yes, but as it is accepted practice in competition... no. You just need to be aware of the danger of possible damage to your equipment and the unsafe environment that may result. It's in competition that we see the most failures of recovery equipment and that is because of the practices used.

Before you head off on your next trip there are a few things I'd ensure:

- A) Check that your snatch strap isn't permanently stretched. This should be reasonably easy by measuring its current length against its specified length.
- B) Consider your destination and the possibility of becoming stuck. Make sure you've got the right equipment to get you out safely.
- C) Practice makes perfect. Become more familiar with your winch, its capabilities and the accessories that can make it work easier for you. The last place you want to learn the limitations of your equipment is when you are stuck in the middle of nowhere.

Cheers,

Mark 'Lowmount' Lowry  
(Manager – Product Development & Evaluation)



Dear Matt,

*My partner and I are recently retired and will shortly be seeing much more of the 'Wide Brown Land'. We have purchased a HiLux and after some pretty extensive research are now ready to bolt on a few 'goodies' and get out there.*

*After researching both your products and the other major supplier available we have opted to fit out the HiLux with ARB accessories as we see ARB as having the most comprehensive range of options and competitive pricing (knowing we will be spending more than a few dollars to achieve a decent off roader).*

*Besides that, we attended the recent 'Supershow' at Rosehill with the idea of confirming our thoughts on what to do first – bar, suspension, tyres etc. The guys at the ARB site couldn't have been more accommodating. Listened, not pushy and gave me the advice I was seeking. I must add too, the local ARB stockist, Peter Van Wel at All Things Off Road has been really generous with both his time and what I consider to be excellent advice. After 35 odd years in sales and marketing positions, that kind of treatment is appreciated.*

*All we need to do now is make a final decision on a camper trailer and... we're off!*

*Cheers, Mike*

Hello Mike,

What an exciting period it must be for you, getting ready to spend some serious time on the road. I'll always remember bumping into a recently retired couple in the Coober Pedy caravan park about 15 years ago. They had driven up from Melbourne on their big trip. I asked them how long they'd spent on the road so far. The answer... 3 years!!!

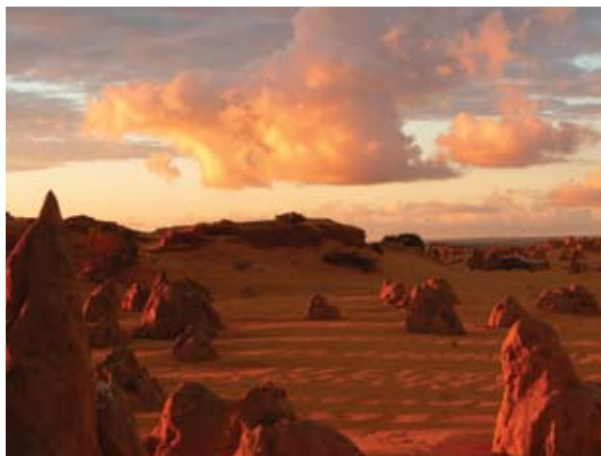
I am really glad we have been able to assist you with your vehicle preparations. The HiLux is a brilliant platform for building up the ultimate off road tourer. I have been regularly driving them on trips since 1994, and they would definitely be one of my first choices of touring vehicle.

As for the camper trailer decision, that is a tough one. There are just so many to choose from. I got chatting to a bloke at the caravan and camping show in Melbourne recently, and he told me he had spent three years looking at them and had managed to narrow it down to about four models. There are some brilliant campers around, with some really innovative features built into them. Conversely, I know a few Outback mechanics that make good money out of recovering poorly designed units that have failed in remote locations. I have been looking at buying one myself recently, so by all means give me a call and we can compare notes.

All the best,

Matt Frost  
(Marketing Manager)

# Round Oz on a Shoestring - Part 3



The Pinnacles

**Money makes the world go round. Soon after departing home, the truth of this adage began to dawn on us all. So, upon our arrival in sunny Perth, with our hard-earned savings of the summer having dwindled alarmingly, we started looking around for work...**

After a few weeks it became apparent that work was not going to be quite as easy to come by as we had previously imagined. The country's financial situation had become personal.

Some members of our group decided to be proactive and return home courtesy of a cheap flight, in order to take advantage of guaranteed employment. Others, after failing to acquire work in Perth, were forced to look at other options like returning home indefinitely or at least until such time as they could increase their funds.

Us lucky ones continued job hunting in Perth and finally, successfully obtained a steady income.

While in Perth we were lucky enough to be able to share a house with some friends. This helped our financial situation enormously, as the cost of accommodation was split nine ways.

Seeing the group split, even if only temporarily, was pretty sad, but practically speaking it actually helped solve the problem of how we were going to get everyone to six different work places with only one vehicle.

Despite work being the number one priority, it didn't stop us from getting out and enjoying

our surroundings. King's Park, Cottesloe Beach, nightspots in both Perth and Fremantle, and a fishing trip off the coast were just some of the highlights.

Life settled into a fairly domestic routine, quite different to our travelling days but enjoyable just the same. Sharing a house with uni students of a similar age and budget was both convenient and fun, however the urge to get back on the road grew with time, and once the bank balance started to look a bit healthier we were keen to set a departure date.

Two members flew back to Perth in time for some quick preparations, and the four of us (Andrew, Chris, Dylan and Nick) were soon ready to leave.

The weather was unkind initially and it was a real rush to pack up the car and trailer in the pouring rain. It soon fined up though, and by the end of our first day's travel we were enjoying a picturesque sunset over the Pinnacles.

Despite this, our near perfect start was short-lived. We awoke the next morning to discover our fridge was not running off the car, even though the auxiliary was fully charged. We traced the problem to a blown fuse which we replaced, only to have it blow as well.

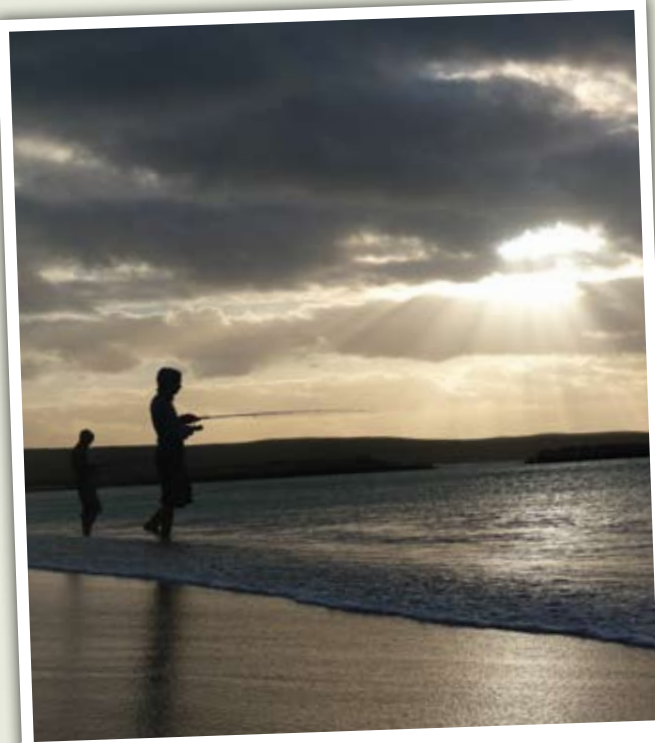
A little further up the road in Geraldton we learned from an auto electrician that the problem was caused by a fault in our solar regulator, which was easy to replace once we had located a new one.

From Geraldton we headed to Kalbarri where we enjoyed a beautiful day of whale and dolphin watching at the various lookouts along the coast, then hiked down into the 'Z Bend' gorge on the Murchison River.

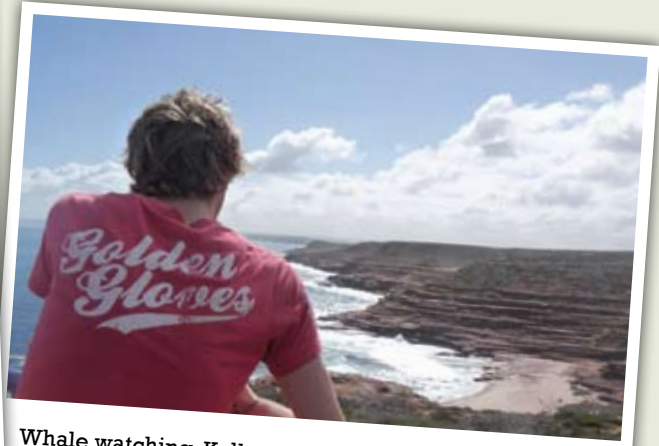


Z Bend, Kalbarri National Park





Fishing, Steep Point



Whale watching, Kalbarri



Sunset, Francois Peron National Park



Kings Park, Perth

After Kalbarri we were keen to get off road for a while, so we headed to Denham and then on to Francois Peron National Park. Cape Peron is a beautiful place with red sand running right down to the white beaches. More dolphins and whales were spotted and as was becoming the norm, the sunsets were spectacular.

Next came the rough journey out to Steep Point, the most westerly point of mainland Australia, a sensational spot for fishing and beach rugby. Not that the fishing was all that successful. We spent many hours trying our luck with various baits and lures but few decent fish were actually caught. Some friendly people camped close by took pity on us and were kind enough to share some of their catch.

As an exciting change from our regular diet of tuna and pasta, we indulged in a special birthday dinner for Nick of lamb chops, vegies and cheap instant pudding. This was a big hit and we are still very much looking forward to the next birthday so we can tantalise our tastebuds without feeling guilty for exceeding our budget.

After our stay at Steep Point, everyone was in the mood for a nice hot shower so we packed up, thinking of heading towards Carnarvon. It turned out to be not quite the simple drive we had in mind, however, as the cranking battery was flat and not charging while we were driving. We stopped for lunch and forgetting about the battery, turned off the car. As a result, when we tried to leave it wouldn't start. Annoyed with ourselves, but unfazed, we hooked up the solar panels and got the footy out for fifteen minutes before starting up and heading off again.

Nearing Carnarvon we noticed our fuel was running low. This wouldn't have been a big deal as we were carrying jerries, but of course if we stopped to fill up we knew the battery would be flat and the car wouldn't start again. So the challenge was set – could we make it to Carnarvon before we ran out of fuel?

Of course we judged it to perfection, made it to Carnarvon, found a battery charger, and got to a caravan park with the fuel gauge well below empty.

And so here we are, a little weary of the minor but persistent car troubles, but having a ball nonetheless. From here it is into the great northwest and its many delights. We'll keep you posted. Bye for now!

**Dylan Wilson and Chris Darling**

# 4WD Action Magazine Mega Fridge Comparison



**In the recent issue 136 of Australian 4WD Action magazine, a massive 4WD fridge comparison test was undertaken, with seven 12V fridges put through a series of rigorous tests. And we are very happy to report that ARB's newly designed 47L Fridge Freezer was the top performer, awarded the prestigious title of Best Overall. Unfortunately we didn't have enough room to reprint the entire article, but here's a summary of the findings.**

Having a portable fridge in your vehicle is an extremely convenient and practical addition to any trip. It means that no matter where you are, you can enjoy cold, fresh or frozen food in a handy and easy to access location. No more soggy food or having to journey into town every few days to top up on ice. Occasionally (mostly in the southern states of the country), it's possible to go without these kinds of luxuries on a short trip, but if you're heading into hot weather or going away for more than a weekend, the benefits of having a portable fridge are many and varied.

"A reliable and efficient fridge on board is more than just a luxury – it's a necessity." 4WD Action Magazine, 2009

The best type of fridge to suit a customer's individual needs depends on exactly that – the customer's individual needs. Often, difficult, technical terms and complicated specifications can cause a lot of confusion with these kinds of products. Subsequently, the 4WD Action fridge comparison has been based on a number of important factors, including price, to help make this decision process easier.

For the purposes of this test, 4WD Action assessed the best-selling fridge from each manufacturer (that fitted into their required specifications), which meant the fridges ranged in internal capacity from 40L through to 56L – a size range commonly found in the back of many 4WDs. The fridges were not only tested in a controlled laboratory environment, but were also sent out into the harsh Australian Outback for in-field testing.

## Test 1 & 2

Firstly, the fridges were sent to VIPAC's NATA approved climate controlled chamber to simulate each fridge being operated in both very cold and very hot environments. The fridges were subjected to two temperature extremes over two 24 hour periods with both current and internal cabinet temperatures monitored during this time.

A number of other important factors regarding this test should be noted as follows:

- › All fridges were tested together, at the same time in the same environment
- › They were connected to 12V, 40A DC power supplies to simulate being run off a car battery
- › Each fridge was packed with the same contents
- › Temperature sensing thermocouples were placed in the centre of each fridge and freezer compartment
- › All fridges were set to 4°C and left to run overnight beforehand
- › The chamber was set to run from 25°C down to zero (over ten hours), then held for two hours before ramping back up to 25°C. They were then stabilised at 25°C and ramped up to 60°C degrees (over ten hours), held for 2 hours and returned back to 25°C





**COMBINED CLIMATE RESULTS FOR TEST 1 & 2: 25°C > 0°C > 60°C > 25°C (AVERAGE AMBIENT AIR TEMP: 28°C)**

FRIDGE	TOTAL POWER CONSUMPTION Ah/48hrs	AVERAGE POWER CONSUMPTION	MAX COMPRESSOR ON TIME at 0°C	MAX COMPRESSOR ON TIME at 60°C
ARB	47.49	0.99	NIL	1hr 47min
BUSHMAN	37.37	0.78	NIL	48min
ENGEL	50.45	1.05	NIL	2hrs
EXPLORER	75.68	1.58	NIL	2hrs
EVAKOOL	34.87	0.73	NIL	53min
NATIONAL LUNA	63.36	1.32	NIL	1hr 35min
WAECO	42.28	0.88	NIL	1hr 35min

**Test 3**

Following the lab analysis, the fridges were taken to the western outskirts of Burke where they could be tested in real world environments. Here, they were run for 72 hours straight to assess how each fridge handled the long hot days, warm evenings and cool nights. During this time, all the fridges were run at their lowest settings and were filled with the same contents as in tests one and two. To further simulate how they would actually be used, lids were randomly opened for one minute intervals.

Compared to the highly technical and very accurate lab analysis the fridges underwent beforehand, this particular test cannot be backed up by scientific data. However, the overwhelming result was that each of the fridges' involved performed as their manufacturer's intended them to. Each kept their contents cold or frozen and stood up to being subjected to harsh Outback conditions for the entire 72 hours while remaining fully operational.





# ARB – 47L

**EXTERNAL:** The ARB fridge is lined on the outside with powdercoated zinc steel and the injection-moulded lid is tough enough for a big bloke like me to sit on. The lid didn't have that annoying free play other fridges have and the quick release mechanism is actually quick, easy and positive locking.

The lid is secured by an over-centre cam latch that takes a bit of getting use to, but definitely had the most positive locking action of all fridges tested. It is important to note that upon returning from testing, ARB had sent us a newly revised handle that now makes opening and closing the lid extremely easy. The recessed steel handles keep the unit compact, and while the design does restrict the way you carry the fridge this wouldn't affect most users as the fridge is permanently mounted in the vehicle. Regardless, the handles are super tough and able to be used as tie down points. The control panel proved easy enough to use and the green LED power light changes to orange when the compressor isn't cycling.

**INTERNAL:** Inside, the ARB fridge uses an integrated evaporator that not only helps keep your food and drinks cold, it also prevents food scraps getting wedged, thus making it easier to clean. A flush fitting internally mounted drain plug further aids cleaning and the interior light was enough to give you some idea where your beers are hidden.

The reversible internal basket is lower at one end so you can store longer items or turning it around allows you to create a separate soft goods compartment for fruit and dairy etc. The internal layout makes for easy food storage and repeat access, meaning you aren't constantly repacking the fridge every time you get something out.

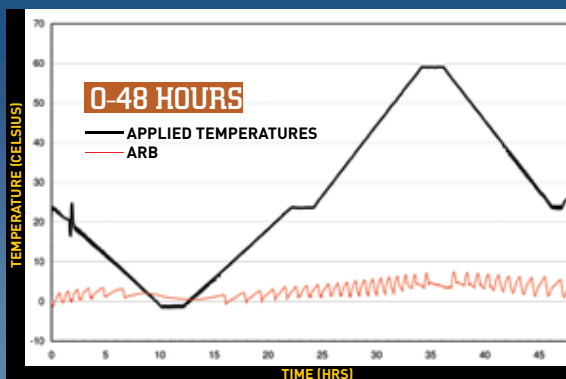
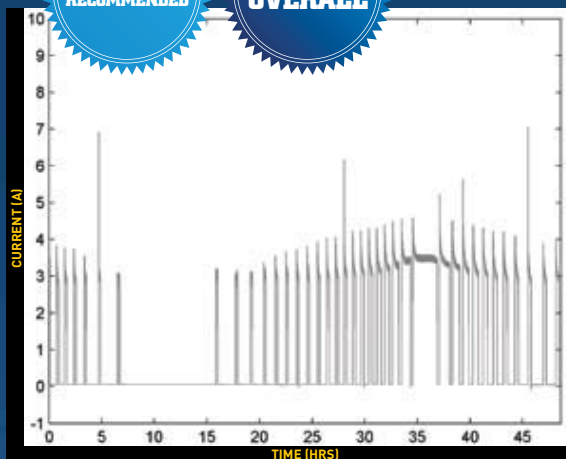
**OVERALL:** The ARB fridge has great features like the reversible basket, integrated drain plug, separate soft food shelf and the compact, rugged outside design will surely be a winner for many. The latch system shouldn't be mistaken for a handle – because it's not.

Performance-wise, the ARB fridge has proved it can maintain internal cabinet temperatures in extreme environments, proving it's sure to have an ice-cold thirst quencher ready whenever you are.

NOTE: At the time of printing, all new ARB fridges will be supplied with the new handle design. Customers with the earlier design handle are able to upgrade to the new handle free of charge.

HIGHLY  
RECOMMENDED

BEST  
OVERALL



**ARB – 47L**  
**COMPRESSOR:** Danfoss BD35  
**WEIGHT:** 22kg  
**POWER SUPPLY:** 12/24V DC and 100-240V AC  
**BATTERY PROTECTION SYSTEM:** Yes  
**FUSED:** Yes  
**MADE IN:** China (Australian designed)  
**PRICE:** \$1199  
**WARRANTY:** 3 years  
**LISTED INTERNAL CAPACITY FRIDGE/  
 FREEZER:** 47L  
**4WD ACTION WATER TEST OF FRIDGE/  
 FREEZER:** 47L  
**EXTERNAL DIMENSIONS:** H508mm x  
 W380mm x L705mm







### Conclusion

The Australian 4WD Action magazine fridge comparison clearly demonstrated that it's important to look at a very broad spectrum of features when choosing the optimum fridge for your needs. Stand out performers from the test were mentioned as follows:

***“First place and congratulations must go to ARB for designing a fridge that has a range of operational features that make it suitable for many users. While the new handle design gives it the most positive locking action of all, it's also power efficient and able to keep internal cabinet temperatures stable across a range of external temperatures. The tough build quality makes it ideal for punishing off road use, all the while keeping your food and drinks icy cold.***

***“Waeco scores second place with a fridge that is power and thermally efficient, wrapped in a tough exterior. Again, internal design is very good and the control panel easy to use. Our testing has proved the Waeco can easily handle any climate without sucking your battery dry.” 4WD Action Magazine, 2009***

### Overall Scores

The overall scores shown at the bottom of the page reflect how the fridge models scored out of ten in each of the nine categories – personal requirements will determine what order of priority should be placed on them. After all, there's no point choosing the smallest, most power efficient fridge if it can't refrigerate enough food for your needs. And similarly, a quick and easy vehicle upgrade can ensure your 4WD is capable of handling a larger power consumption if necessary.



FRIDGE	POWER CONSUMPTION	THERMAL EFFICIENCY	INTERNAL LAYOUT	COMPACT DESIGN	HANDLE DESIGN	LID DESIGN AND FUNCTION	OVERALL RUGGEDNESS	CONTROL PANEL DESIGN	VALUE FOR MONEY
ARB 47L	7	10	10	10	8	10	9	9	9
BUSHMAN 35L-42L	9	10	9	10	6	9	7	10	10
ENGEL MT45F SERIES II 40L	6	10	8	10	10	10	10	7	8
EXPLORER DC-50	4	10	9	10	8	10	10	6	7
EVAKOOL REF47	10	8	8	8	8	9	7	7	8
NATIONAL LUNA 50L TWIN	5	10	8	10	9	9	10	10	7
WAEKO CF50	8	9	9	10	10	8	8	9	9

More information on ARB's innovative Fridge Freezer can be found on the ARB website, or drop into your local store for a chat with our friendly sales staff and a full demonstration.

Parts of this article were reprinted with the kind permission of 4WD Action magazine. Check out the full article in issue 136 of 4WD Action.

# WIN an ARB Fridge Freezer



To celebrate the first anniversary of the release of ARB's new Fridge Freezer, we're giving one lucky reader the chance to win this great product.

To enter, simply write to us, in 50 words or less, and tell us how owning an ARB Fridge Freezer will enhance your off road adventures. Entries will be judged by ARB marketing on their cleverness and originality. Extra points will be awarded for creativity and humour, so put on your thinking cap, have a bit of fun, and you could be the proud owner of an ARB Fridge Freezer.

We'll print a selection of our favourites in the next issue of 4x4 Action, and will contact the winner directly. **Entries close December 1st, 2009.**

› **Email:** [marketing@arb.com.au](mailto:marketing@arb.com.au)

› **Post:** ARB 4x4 Accessories  
Marketing Department  
PO Box 105 Kilsyth VIC 3137

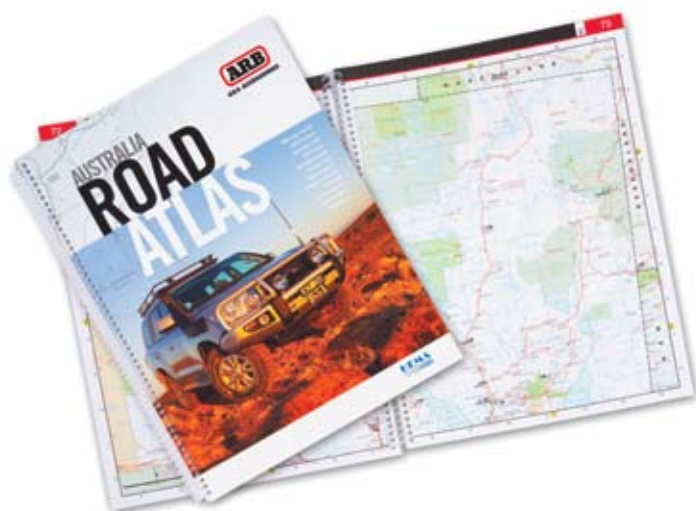
**Please include your full name, and email address or phone number with your entry.**

## ARB Road Atlas

Stay on track with the latest release road atlas from ARB. The eighth edition of this popular atlas has been updated to ensure you've got exactly what you need on hand during your next 4x4 adventure.

Full of detailed and easy to read maps from renowned mapping company, Hema Maps, the atlas covers the entire continent from the major capital cities, to the smaller, secluded places in between. Whether you're embarking on a scenic coastal drive or a major 4WD exploration, this atlas is an extremely beneficial travelling companion. It includes points of interest and numerous other features, all to help prevent you losing your way in the great beyond.

The atlas is spiral bound for practicality when travelling and is also fully indexed and includes GPS locations, distance grids and road distances. Camping areas, rest areas, Outback fuel locations and national parks can all be easily located within the atlas, which comes in handy both when you're out on the road and when you're planning your trip.



Featuring a handy map pocket at the back to store any loose, additional information you need to carry, the ARB Road Atlas is available from stores around Australia now.

Part no: 215934



# New Model Cambuckle Tie Down Straps



ARB introduced its cargo gear range a few years ago, consisting of a selection of load carrying equipment for greater ease when transporting bulky items in or on the vehicle. And due to popular demand, ARB's original 1.8m cambuckle tie down strap is now available in a 3m length.

Coming in a twin pack and using the same buckle and hook design, the extra length allows more versatility when strapping larger loads to racks and trailers. Manufactured from high quality, bright orange polyester webbing, the straps are 25mm wide and feature zinc alloy cambuckles and rubber coated 'S' hooks. Whether you're securing a load on your roof rack, trailer or in the cargo area of the vehicle, these new model cambuckle



straps are a great addition to ARB's range, ensuring all your load carrying solutions can be fulfilled.

Part no: CT02-3



## Holden/Chevrolet Colorado (Thai built) Side Rails to suit Commercial Bars

To add to the range of products for the latest model Holden Colorado, side rails and steps are now available from ARB to suit vehicles fitted with commercial bull bars.

While a bull bar is an extremely formidable piece of protection equipment, if you regularly drive off road and encounter rock ledges or other off road debris, you run the risk of damaging your vehicle's vulnerable side panels. ARB's side rails and steps provide effective protection for these parts of your vehicle, helping reduce the likelihood of expensive side panel damage. Manufactured from durable, steel tube, this product provides a huge amount of protection and also incorporates an integrated step system that improves passenger access to the vehicle.

So regardless of the type of frontal protection system you choose to have fitted to your Colorado, you'll be able to further improve its off road ability with a side rail and step system from ARB.

Part no: 4448200

# ARB KIDS



Hey, kids, Fourby here!

Now that the weather's starting to warm up, I'm looking forward to heading out on some weekend adventures and camping out under the stars. And I'd love to hear about what you kids have all been up to, so keep sending me your letters and drawings! There's some great entries on this page, and for even more excitement, turn onto the next page for the results of my latest competition.



**WINNER!**

This issue's winner is from Dubbo in New South Wales. A Toys R Us voucher and Speedy Seal kit is on its way to you, James. Great work!

Hi, my name is James and I am 8 years old. This is a picture of my Dad's Triton Glx-R driving in the Blue Mountains.



\* Hi, my name is Matthew and I am 7 years old. I like 4WDs because they go through boggy mud and water and they can go up very steep hills. I like to visit the ARB store to look at all the accessories.



\* Ryan from Tasmania has sent in a great drawing of this 4WD fully decked out with ARB accessories.



\* Hi, my name is Mia and I am 9 years old. My brother's interest in 4WDs has inspired me to draw my own. I recently went on a camping trip with friends in their 4WD and had a great time.



\* Dear Fourby, This is a craft project I completed on the holidays - it was going to be a clock for my bedroom but I like it just the way it is. It is made of craft foam shapes

stuck to a sheet of MDF. I made a dual cab ute like my Dad's and put it in an African safari just like in your last newsletter. There are lions, elephants, monkeys and giraffes.

I love 4 wheel driving with my family and we are looking forward to going to the Simpson Desert soon - thank you.

From Matthew (age 6)



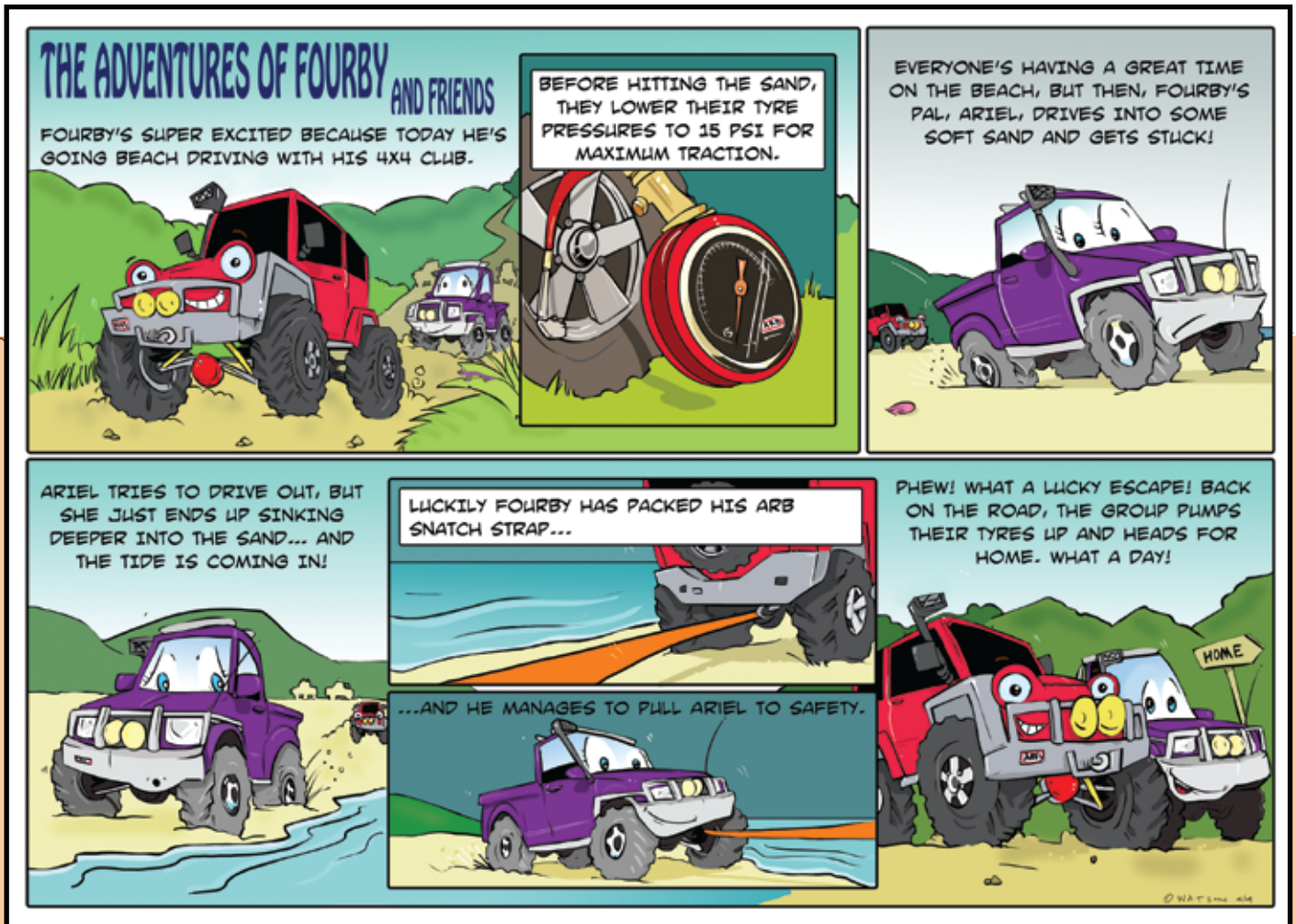
\* Dear Fourby, This is a picture I drew of my Dad's 2004 Toyota Hilux dual cab with me in the back seat and all our stuff packed in for a week away camping in the Simpson

Desert on Drive 4 Life. My sleeping bag is the pink one on the roof rack next to my swag. I love your magazine and love telling people the jokes that I learnt from your page.

Love Sophie (age 8)



# Fourby's Cartoon



## 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.*



\* Hi, my name is Matthew and I am 8 years old. I love going 4 wheel driving and camping in my Dad's HiLux. He is always buying ARB stuff.



\* Six year old Tamsyn from Queensland printed out and coloured in the Fourby & Ariel dot-to-dot - we like how she's used cool, sparkly pens!

# ARB KIDS COMPETITION



A big thanks to all the kids who sent in pictures of themselves on holidays for my competition! My favourite one was from Harris who'll be receiving a Toys R Us gift voucher, but all the other great entrants that are pictured on this page will be sent an awesome ARB Kids' Pack.

## Fourby's Favourite Destinations Competition Results



▲ This is a great picture of 3 year old **Harris** hunting for worms when out fishing with his dad on their latest camping adventure.



▲ Keen young campers, **Rhys** (age 7), **Casey** (age 6) and **Lindsay** (age 2) sent in a couple of great photos of them on a recent trip to Dunns Swamp near Rylestone in New South Wales.



◀ 9 year old **Samantha** is riding her favourite horse, Harry, on a recent family trip around northern Victoria.



◀ This is me on my first camping trip with my family. I don't have a favourite destination yet but I am sure I will once I'm old enough to get out of my pram!  
From **Jordan** (6 months)



▲ This is me on the beach at Hinchinbrook Island - it took us ages to get here on grandpa's boat.  
**Frankie** (age 3)



▲ 15 month old Remy may not be able to drive on his own just yet, but he has already developed a healthy love for the outdoors. Here he is pictured with his dad on a recent trip to Tassie.





# Website Updates

## – New Kids Section & More

Over the last few months there's been a lot of behind the scenes activity going on with the ARB website. And recently, a number of new features and sections have been introduced, making it even more informative and fun for both adults and kids.

A brand new ARB Kids section has been developed, which will help keep the younger ones entertained both online and on holidays. Featuring ARB's lovable kids' mascots, Fourby and Ariel, there are three parts to this section: driving games, print-out games and an exciting online game. The driving games incorporate a selection of fun activities that kids can enjoy both in the vehicle while they're travelling and around the campsite. The print-out games, from word searches to crosswords, allow kids to take them along on their next holiday.

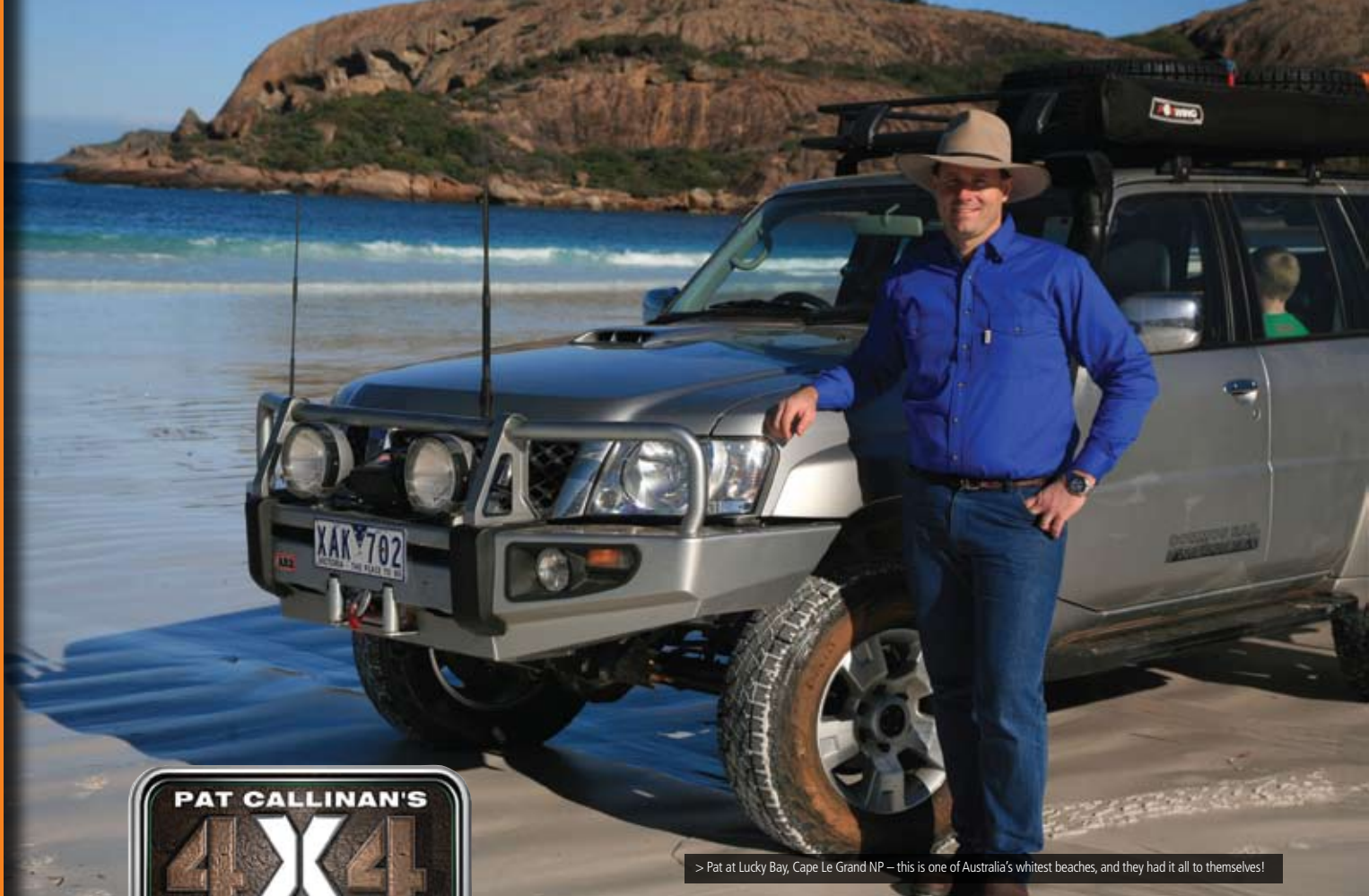
Probably the most exciting addition to this section, however, is the new, online, interactive kids game – Design Your Ultimate 4x4. This simple but fun game allows kids to select a 4WD vehicle and accessorise it with a selection of 4x4 accessories from bull bar to winch, rear bar to tyres and heaps more. There's a huge range of options from vehicle colour to background scenery, and kids are sure to enjoy creating their dream vehicle online. They can then save their ultimate 4x4 as their desktop, or email it to a friend!

The new kids section can be found within the Interactive part of the website, which is located via the tabs at the top of the page. And along with this,

another two components have been added within the same tab – wallpapers and screensavers. A variety of ARB images can be downloaded as wallpapers onto your desktop – simply select your favourite one and the appropriate screen size. The screensaver incorporates a rotating visual display and features a range of ARB scenes and products.

On a separate note, we are constantly working to improve and update the ARB website with as much information as possible. The customised section that was introduced when the website was launched, still enables you to select your specific vehicle and browse through the available products, with specific part numbers and images available for many of the vehicles. However, we are currently working to upgrade this section so that even more images and information is available for our core product range of front and rear protection equipment. Although this is a work in progress, updates have already been made to some of the most popular vehicles such as the latest model HiLux and LandCruiser 200 Series, so keep your eye out over the coming months as more details are added.

As always, the ARB website includes the same great functional features as previously so you can always find out the latest information on our products, sign up to the newsletter, change your contact details and much more. Check it out at: [www.arb.com.au](http://www.arb.com.au)



> Pat at Lucky Bay, Cape Le Grand NP – this is one of Australia's whitest beaches, and they had it all to themselves!

**Pat Callinan's 4X4 Adventures is back again with new tracks, new trucks and a new time slot. We spoke to the bloke in front of the camera to get a sneak peek into the second series of the TV show.**

## Second Time Lucky

**Not content with touring off road to Cape York, the Kimberley, the Gulf, Fraser Island and the Victorian High Country, Australian Network TEN's Pat Callinan is back again with a brand new batch of off road adventures.**

On the agenda this year is an adventure from the Esperance coastline in WA up to Kalgoorlie and beyond. Then the crew heads north to Wiluna to tackle the mighty Canning Stock Route, which Pat is extremely excited about. "The Canning will take us 23 days and I can't wait! It's one of those adventures that you just have to mark off the list before you curl up your toes. There's so much planning and preparation, but that just makes the trip all the more challenging and rewarding."

After that it's southeast on the Tanami Track, before discovering the wonders of the Red Centre. The East MacDonnell Ranges are on the cards, as is Palm Valley and Boggy Hole. Then it's off to the east coast to trek from Barrington Tops to Stockton beach near Newcastle, and finally to the magnificent tracks of Tasmania.

While the flavour of the show will be similar to last year, Pat has given us here at ARB 4x4 Action the scoop on some of the new things we're likely to see. For a start, the vehicles have changed. Pat will be driving Nissan's 4WD range, mostly concentrating on the flagship Patrol turbo-diesel. But also in the crew is a Pathfinder TD and a Navara D40 TD. Pat has wheeled all of these vehicles into ARB workshops around the country to have mods fitted for their gruelling journeys. The Patrol has been fitted with a bull bar and Warn 9500i winch, along with a heavy duty Old Man Emu suspension system incorporating Nitrocharger Sport shock absorbers. It also has a full length roof rack installed, an ARB smart isolator dual battery system and of course a new ARB Fridge Freezer. And for those long desert stretches without fuel, a Long Ranger fuel tank has been bolted into the rear of the Patrol.

As well as new Nissans, Pat will this year be taking the family along for the ride. Wife Karen and children Bill (8), Gus (7) and Charlotte (4) are itching to hit the dirt. "We'll be on the road for 90 days filming almost non-stop, so naturally I wasn't too keen to spend that much time away from the family," Pat said. "Plus, they





> Charlotte (4) and Bill (8) climbing Burra rock, led by Angus (7)



> Wharton Beach, WA.



> Oops, producer bogs the Pathy – Cape Le Grand NP.



> Kalgoorlie Super Pit: As Australia's biggest open cut mine, it's 500m to the bottom of the hole and they haul \$850 million worth of gold out every year!



> From the chopper, near Kalgoorlie

love the bush and the Outback, so it was a natural choice. And I figure if people see that we can safely travel really remote tracks with the family, then they might be encouraged to do the same – and that's what this show is all about."

There will be plenty of great new gadgets and products road-tested on the show this season, from long range radio systems to GPS tracking devices, as well as a new camp cook who has cooked for the likes of Madonna and Michael Jackson! Let's see what he can whip up around a campfire!

This season, the show will be broadcast in Australia in November on ONE HD, Network TEN's new high definition sports channel, and will be aired in prime time – a first for a 4WD television show in Australia.

From mid January, the show will again be shown on Network TEN on Sunday afternoons. For updates and specific airing times, check out [mr4x4.com.au](http://mr4x4.com.au) or [ten.com.au](http://ten.com.au).

**Follow Pat's amazing adventures as he heads around Australia! For up to date information and exclusive content, jump onto [mr4x4.com.au](http://mr4x4.com.au) or [nissan-sportsadventure.com.au](http://nissan-sportsadventure.com.au); follow the links to follow Pat on Twitter or Facebook.**





Rob Puts, ARB's Canopy Product Manager, has only been with the company for a little over a year, but during this time, his enthusiastic and can-do attitude has seen him implement a

number of significant changes into this long-standing ARB product range. In the following article, he highlights some of the important benefits and features of an ARB canopy.

---

## TRANSFORM YOUR UTE INTO AN ADVENTURE

---

**The ever-popular light commercial vehicle segment is dominated by utility vehicles. Over the years we've followed the transformation of the humble ute from its original workhorse status, into a more versatile vehicle suitable for both farm/trade use and overland touring.**

The practicality of a ute is that it provides a separate load carrying space from the cabin area. This is great for transporting produce, tools or large cargo, however customers often need even more storage space and a secure area to carry and protect their valuables.

The most popular solution is the addition of a canopy and ARB has an extensive range to suit current and older model 4WD and 2WD vehicles in dual cab, extra cab and single cab configurations. As an Australian owned company, ARB has been making locally produced 4WD products since 1975 and has more than 30 years experience with canopies. Since the late 90s, ARB has been designing and manufacturing our own range of canopies to suit the harsh and varied environments of Australia, the tropical and temperate zones of Asia and the cooler winter climates of Europe.



Designed in Melbourne, each ARB canopy is master crafted to provide you with an aerodynamic shape and optimised style to enhance and complement the natural lines of your vehicle. ARB canopies incorporate quality materials which have been proven reliable in the rugged terrain and harsh environments of Australia. And they're backed by a full, three year warranty on all parts including handles, struts and windows.





# Canopies by **ARB**



been proven reliable over a wide variety of terrain from rocky mountains to the harsh corrugated roads of the Outback.

## STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE

- Odourless shell material with easy to clean interior
- Tinted windows
- LED third brake light for improved safety
- Easy to reach interior light powered by your vehicle battery
- Quality door gas struts for operation in a wide temperature range
- A rubber seal which prevents dust ingress whilst allowing the canopy to be removed from the vehicle
- Keyed alike handles for operation with a single key
- Patent pending ARB exclusive D handle which is 30% stronger than previous models and utilises a double sided key so you don't have to fiddle around with key orientation

## PERSONALISE YOUR VEHICLE

As every canopy is built to order, we can customise the window configuration to suit your needs. Side windows and doors are manufactured at our Melbourne plant with factory tinted, 4mm thick tempered 'safety' glass to keep your canopy area cooler in summer and improve security. All you need to do is choose your window type at time of order, which depending on your vehicle, can include a sliding or lift up front window in conjunction with sliding or lift up side windows.

We also have a range of ready-made ARB accessories to complement your vehicle. These include:

**Canopy vent:** to help reduce dust ingress when driving off road and improve airflow when transporting animals

**Window accessories:** depending on your window configurations steel screen and flyscreen options are available

**So what are you waiting for? Transform your ute into a ready-made adventure!**

## THE ARB CANOPY ADVANTAGE

ARB canopies will more than double your storage space compared to a soft or hard tonneau cover, and keep your valuables out of the weather. Additionally, with ARB's unique internal frame solution, you can add a quality ARB canopy roof cage or a wide selection of Thule/Rhino roof bars to carry up to a massive 100kg load. The trade roof cage option allows tradespeople to carry long lengths of timber/pipe or sheet material on the large 1850mm long x 1250mm wide footprint. You can even add rollers to the end of the open roof cage to assist with loading such items.

Environmentally friendly, many of our canopy materials are recyclable to help reduce unwanted landfill. Components such as the strong yet lightweight ABS shell, the window and door glass, steel mount rails, alloy bed rails, window frames and roof bow, are all recyclable.

Built on a solid foundation unique to ARB and gained from decades of experience, each ARB canopy is affixed to the vehicle via a strong and sturdy steel mount and alloy bed rail system. This system has

# 25

4X4 ACTION >

# Old Man Emu Racing



**As we reported in the previous 4x4 Action, Greg Scanlon, owner of ARB Bendigo, took out the 2009 Outback Challenge earlier this year running a combination of LTR and the new Nitrocharger Sport shock absorbers.**

And it didn't take long for Nitrocharger Sport to follow up with its first competition win in their own right. Queensland state manager, Roger Vickery, and his trusty sidekick, Lachlan Brosnan, were awarded first in class and second outright after two days of hard fought competition in round 3 of the Cooper Tyres Off Road Rally Series.

Held at LandCruiser Mountain Park in Queensland on the 18th and 19th of June, the event (won outright by Ian Paltridge in his supercharged V8 Nissan ute) was the first Coopers rally to be contested by Old Man Emu racing.

Roger Vickery reported that it was an extremely pleasing result, given it was the Patrol's first event equipped with 'off the shelf' Nitrocharger Sport shocks. The veteran racer went on to say that although he was confident going into the competition, the new Nitrocharger Sport shocks exceeded his expectations with their exceptional and consistent performance over the two day event.

The Nitrocharger Sport's robust build quality and valving system not only delivers great advantages of durability and ride quality to traditional 4x4 customers, but as we are starting to see, is also proving itself in the extremes of off road competition.

The final round of the Cooper Tyres 2009 Off Road Rally Series was held at the end of August, and Roger and Lachlan headed out to test the Sport shocks again. Unfortunately however, due to a vehicle issue they referred affectionately to as a 'fuel gremlin', the team was unable to complete all of the required stages. Despite this, they both had a very enjoyable weekend and are looking forward to their next event.

---

## New Items from OME

Following the launch of the Emu-lution in the April newsletter and the introduction of modern, new branding for ARB's iconic Old Man Emu product range, ARB has been hard at work updating some of our popular promotional items to better represent this innovative style and design.

The OME Evolution cap is a stylish addition to ARB's range of apparel. Black in colour, it features the new logo on the front in the traditional 'yellow' that has become synonymous with the brand. To ensure comfort for most head shapes, the cap features an adjustable strap with a chrome ARB embossed fastener for the ultimate fit.

Another handy new item now available is the OME bottle opener keyring. It's a must-have for every 4WDer and can be easily stored along with car keys so it's instantly ready to open a cold beverage at the end of a long, hot day on the road. Its durable, metal construction ensures it can withstand the extreme punishment faced in off road environments and won't let you down at the crucial moment. For added

convenience, simply flip the keyring over and it also assists with opening ring-pull cans.

Head down to your local ARB distributor to check out these great new items, and keep your eye out over the coming months for more introductions from OME.

Evolution cap > Part no: 217195

Bottle opener > Part no: 217216







# Nitrocharger Sport Shock Absorber Range Expands

Suspension upgrades will provide noticeable improvements to a vehicle's ride performance, towing ability, control and handling, regardless of the road conditions encountered. Whether you're driving around the city during the week, heading off onto the dirt for the weekend, or embarking on an extended Outback adventure, many vehicles can benefit from this type of upgrade. From coil and leaf springs, to torsion bars, shock absorbers and all the required hardware, Old Man Emu has a complete range of specifically engineered 4x4 suspension equipment.

Old Man Emu's Australian designed, integrated suspension systems combine a selection of different part numbers that are tailored not only to suit the vehicle they are fitted to, but also the terrain and load that vehicle will encounter. Nitrocharger shock absorbers have been part of the OME range for many years, but more recently we introduced a new generation of 4x4 shocks: Nitrocharger Sport.

And since this introduction, Nitrocharger Sport has been proving itself in both off road adventures and 4x4 competitions all over the country.

Prior to the release of Nitrocharger Sport, a specific development program was undertaken, involving new valving techniques and components, scientific data logging and comprehensive field testing, to ensure that Nitrocharger Sport would deliver even greater control, durability and comfort over all terrain. And the results speak for themselves, with a superior product that encompasses a range of new features to ensure it is the best available.

You can read the full article on Old Man Emu's Nitrocharger Sport shock absorbers in the online Autumn newsletter. But you don't need to take our word for their premium quality. Over the last few months we've been receiving a lot of feedback from customers who've trialled Nitrocharger Sport and have been very impressed with the results.

One customer wrote of his uncle's recent journey providing vehicle support to a cyclist who was tackling a circumnavigation of the interior of Australia.

"The suspension performed brilliantly. Another vehicle snapped a genuine Toyota 100 Series rear spring halfway through, but the OME suspension would not die. The condition of the tracks was appalling and sometimes the group had to leave the



main trail and venture cross country. They actually had to do the middle section of the Canning Stock Route four times ferrying supplies."

And another customer who was travelling in Rudall River National Park, on the edge of the Great Sandy Desert, with Nitrocharger Sport shocks fitted to the rear of his vehicle, and a competitor's brand fitted to the front, reported:

"I congratulate you on a superior designed shock. I am so impressed by their performance that at the next opportunity I will look to exchange the front pair for the Nitrocharger Sport. The front shocks only have 10,000km on them, however the Nitro's ability to cope with fade provides me and my family with another level of safety, and in turn confidence, which in remote areas is paramount."

Following the initial launch of the range, ARB's team of specialised Old Man Emu engineers has been hard at work developing subsequent models to make this product available to even more 4WDers. Many of these new part numbers are available now, so contact your local ARB store or distributor for more information, and to find out if your particular vehicle can benefit from the exceptional performance of Nitrocharger Sport.

# Aussies In Africa - Part 7

> Where the Nile comes out of Lake Victoria

We had arrived in Nairobi on a Sunday, and we left on a Sunday at about 8am after saying goodbye to everyone at Jungle Junction. It had been a great place to stay and we enjoyed the camaraderie with other travellers while we were there.

An hour out of the city we were pulled up at a police road block where a big policeman approached us to say, "I am here to tell you that you have broken the laws of the land." I emphatically denied his claim that we were speeding. We were the only ones on the road that hadn't been. When asked how he had reached that conclusion, given he had no radar or other device, he said that people further back down the road had informed him. I couldn't help laughing because it was such a blatant act of corruption. If we hadn't been in such a hurry I would have dug my heels in but under the circumstances I paid the fine and we were on our way with much uttering and muttering from me. To make matters worse, the road turned really bad, the traffic was heavy and the dust made for some pretty hair-raising experiences. We made it to our camp just outside Eldoret not long before dark.

The next day we arrived at the Kenyan/Ugandan border and completed all the usual paperwork which took just over an hour (that's quick). Uganda has a population of around 33 million, the vast majority living in rural areas. By African standards Uganda is one of the smaller countries, being around the same size as the UK, but is only one tenth the size of Africa's largest country, Sudan. We were heading for Jinja and the source of the Nile. The road started out as good tar but once again deteriorated and finished up worse than the day before. The Speke Camp (Speke is the man credited with discovering the source of the Nile) is just outside the town of Jinja and is quite run down but in a great location. We were the only ones camped there, just 20m from the northern bank overlooking the Bujagali Cataracts. The Nile at this point is about 500m wide and very swift flowing. There was a small restaurant just 100m away from us and the two cooks came over to watch our premier



> Hippos cooling themselves in the Albert Nile near Murchison Falls

chef, Viv, preparing a meal, and invited us to the restaurant the following night.

The next day was full of activity with lots of kayaks and white-water rafts coming past. About 600 school kids, in very bright school uniforms, from three different schools came to watch the action. They were all around our camp and were very well behaved. It was an exciting day which finished with a meal at the restaurant. Just as we sat down the electricity went off and plunged us into darkness. Neil to the rescue! I went back to camp and returned with my trusty Bushranger Power Pack. It lit up the whole restaurant.

After a visit to the 'Source of the Nile Gardens' and the 'Speke Memorial', we headed for Kampala, Uganda's capital. It was only 90km away and we had the usual 'great' and 'diabolical' road conditions to negotiate. Kampala (pop. 2 million) was probably the most chaotic city we drove through on the entire trip and it was with a sigh of relief we arrived at the Backpackers Club.

The Backpackers Club is a very popular camp and was full of young Americans and Brits doing volunteer work. Most of them were making mud bricks, and you should have seen the state of them when they returned from a day's work – no wonder the hot water was always running out! The camp was owned and run by yet another Aussie – John has been in Uganda for the past 15 years, an ex-SAS soldier originally from Kingaroy in Queensland, and what a character he is!





> African cattle, Uganda



> The very colourful Saddleback Stork



> Crocodiles on the banks of the Albert Nile



> Water buffalo near Murchison Falls

After nearly four days in Kampala we had our Ethiopian visas in our hot little hands, our gas bottles filled (what an adventure that was) and headed for the town of Masindi. From there we had a lovely drive of about 60km along a good dirt track that took us through the Budonga Forest to the Red Chili Bush Camp on the shores of the Nile.

We spent a busy couple of days at Red Chili which included a river cruise to the Murchison Falls. These falls and Albert Lake were discovered by the husband and wife team, Sam and Flo Baker, later to become Sir and Lady Baker. There was plenty of wildlife along the river and when you see how many crocodiles, hippos and buffalo there are on the banks and in the water, we were happy to be in a big, sturdy boat. While we were on the river, a heavy rainstorm came through and Ron and Viv, Helen and myself realised we had left the window flaps down on our tent due to the heat. When we returned to camp we found that our beds were indeed wet, but thanks to the way our vehicles were pointing they weren't too bad. Gillard, a young Israeli bloke camped next to us fared a lot worse. Not only was his bed wet, but his tent had been torn to pieces by wart hogs and baboons. He had made the mistake of leaving food in his tent.

We had been to the bottom of the Murchison Falls and when we left Red Chili we drove in to see the top of the falls – very spectacular. On the way in through the Budonga forest we noticed some new buildings being erected so decided to have a look on the way out. It turned out to be a new research centre for chimpanzees and the people building it... Aussies of course! Kylie, a young lady from the Melbourne suburb of Camberwell was the person in charge. We did an incredible 8km walk with a guide through the forest looking for chimps.

That night we camped in the grounds of the grand old Masindi Hotel. Built in 1923 it has had many celebrities as guests (besides us), not the least of which was Ernest Hemingway, who spent some time recuperating at the hotel after being seriously injured in a plane crash in 1954. Humphrey Bogart

and Katherine Hepburn were also guests while making 'The African Queen'.

After leaving Masindi we made our way back into Kenya and then headed across a number of mountain ranges on our way to Lake Baringo. The scenery was magnificent. At a village near the top of one of those ranges we were hit by a massive thunderstorm. There was no way we could keep driving and I thought we were going to be washed off the side of the mountain! When the rain eased we continued on down the mountain where we had magic views of Lake Baringo. Alas our adventures for the day were not over. 10km from the lake the good bitumen road we were driving on disappeared... and I mean disappeared. A big flood had washed it away a year before and the only way through was a 4WD track where we had to negotiate many bog holes and cross the river twice. The maps were wrong and we finished up doing twice as many kilometres as shown. What was meant to have been an easy day turned into a bit of a marathon. As we have all become fond of saying... well, that's Africa.

### Neil Cocks

#### Next time...

Stay tuned in the next newsletter as Ron and Viv return to Nairobi to have a new fuel pump fitted while Neil and Helen travel through the mountains of northern Kenya, home of the colourful Samburu people and Somali bandits.



> The beautiful grounds of the Masindi Hotel

# Rodlok Quick Release Fishing Rod Holders

**The quick release, state of the art Rodlok fishing rod holder system is now available from ARB stores and distributors around the country. This clever Australian invention has a multitude of applications, able to be used both with your vehicle and/or your boat.**

The bull bar mount allows the rod holder component to be secured to a bull bar or nudge bar, but has been designed to mount to any tubular location from 37.5mm-77.5mm such as a boat rail or sports bar for maximum practicality. This is done with a quick-action, lever-secured, soft-jawed clamp, and twin fishing rods are then secured within the rod holder by a spring loaded lever clamp.

Alternatively, the bonnet mount will magnetically attach to most vehicles, and despite its name, can be positioned in many other suitable locations on the vehicle. Utilising the same rod holder as above, it will also accommodate two fishing rods. An optional tip holder magnetically adheres to the roof of the vehicle and secures the ends of the fishing rods, limiting excess movement while travelling.

This well designed product is manufactured from glass filled nylon (GFN) and stainless steel, while the magnetic bases of these units utilise very powerful and flexible magnetic rubber. Unlike alternative products on the market, they are quick to install and release, and can simply be removed when not required, making the Rodlock fishing rod holder system a versatile and handy accessory for your next fishing trip.

Bull bar mount set > Part no: 7073-002

Magnetic base set > Part no: 7073-003

Magnetic tip holder > Part no: 7073-004



---

## Fourby Magnet

Fourby, ARB's lovable kids' mascot, has been growing in popularity over the last few years, as has his range of promotional items. And the latest product to add to the already available selection is a fridge magnet. Measuring approximately 6.5cm wide by 7cm high, the magnet features Fourby in full colour with a glossy finish. Kids will love being able to stick Fourby around the place, whether it be on the fridge at home, or even on the side of the new ARB Fridge Freezer.

Part no: 217207





## > INSIDE ARB

Seattle  
USA

# Buddy King

Undoubtedly, the key factor to ARB's success over the past 35 years is the hard work and commitment demonstrated by the men and women who make up the company's workforce. It would also be fair to say, that throughout our history there has been a handful of people whose energy, passion and enthusiasm has really shaped how customers perceive the ARB brand and what it stands for.

One such individual is long serving ARB employee, Buddy King, who joined the company in 1984. A Canadian migrant in his mid twenties, Buddy was a keen 4WDer and figured he could make a living selling 4x4 accessories. He was hired on April 4, started work the following day and made his first sale within five minutes, suitably impressing his bosses, Roger and Andy Brown, two of ARB's current directors. Thus started his very long and illustrious career at ARB.

It quickly became apparent that Buddy had a real gift for dealing with the public. Whilst he was certainly a brilliant salesperson, he also had an amazing ability to bond with people, and many of his customers have become lifelong friends. An example of such a person is 4x4 Action contributor, Neil Cocks. A customer of ARB's since the late seventies, Neil and Buddy quickly became mates, and Buddy actually ended up lodging with Neil and his family for a couple of years.

But the characteristic Buddy is best known for is his ability to get the job done irrespective of any hurdles he encounters. He would go to any lengths to keep his customers happy, including working back and lending a hand in the factory to make sure his customers' orders were fulfilled on time.

It was this level of dedication that saw Buddy appointed to the position of Branch Manager in 1993. Buddy wasn't just put in charge of any branch though; he was given the responsibility of opening up ARB's first ever dedicated retail store, ARB Richmond. All of ARB's other branches at that time had large territories servicing resellers, car dealers, trade customers and the general public. Buddy was charged with opening up a new store in a new area, purely servicing retail customers.

ARB Richmond quickly developed a fantastic reputation for its level of service and quality of workmanship, with customers driving from all over Melbourne and even further afield.



Whenever there was a 4x4 show on, business at Richmond would become frenzied, as it was well known that Buddy had a pretty sharp pencil. People from all over the place would visit Buddy to get a great deal on their accessories and it was not unusual for him to sell more at a show than the rest of the sales team put together.

ARB Richmond became the main training centre for ARB's Victorian sales team, with the company keen to get new staff working under Buddy's close supervision. A number of these staff have gone on to fulfil key roles at ARB including Marketing Manager (Matt Frost), Export Sales Manager (Sam Eu) and Victorian State Manager (Paul Anderson).

In 1995 personal circumstances saw Buddy decide to move back closer to Canada, so he took up a position with ARB USA in Seattle. Our US business was still in its infancy back then, and Buddy was charged with assisting the development of our operations over there. Buddy's knowledge and enthusiasm for ARB products has seen him become extremely popular with staff and customers alike in the US, and he has been instrumental in making the USA ARB's biggest market outside of Australia.

When asked to summarise his 25 years at ARB, Buddy states...

"The journey so far has been a fantastic ride. All ARB staff have always treated me as a friend and I am so very proud of the products I represent. I get so much joy seeing an ARB product on every road in America knowing that a team of great people have done their job well and that our accessories have made it to the other side of the world."

Today, Buddy is responsible for ARB's sales operations in Canada, Alaska and the entire east coast of the United States. He continues to motivate, educate and entertain many of us at ARB on a daily basis.

*Photography by Steve Bisig*



**4X4 ACCESSORIES**

**HEAD OFFICE: ARB CORPORATION LTD**

42-44 Garden Street, Kilsyth, Victoria 3137 Australia Tel: +61 3 9761 6622 Fax: +61 3 9761 6807 Web: [www.arb.com.au](http://www.arb.com.au) Email: [exports@arb.com.au](mailto:exports@arb.com.au)