

JOHN'S LAWS OF 4WD DRIVING

We all know of our mate Murphy and his Law which goes something like: “*Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong at the worst possible moment and the most inconvenient place*”. Well, I thought I would share with you my tongue-in-cheek Laws of 4wd driving. These have been learnt from bitter experience over many years, plagiarised from various sources or contributed by others.

1. Murphy was an optimist.
2. Everyone has a different way of doing things ... and everyone thinks their way is the best way. However, I **know** my way is the best way!
3. When you drop a spanner or nut while working on the vehicle it will always end up in the most inaccessible place.
4. You will get bogged – somewhere, sometime, when you least expect it. The more capable your vehicle the further you will end up in the bog and the worse it will be.
5. Every time you change into high range from low range, you will immediately have to change back into low.
6. You will get a flat tyre in the bush – usually when time is short.
7. The most likely time to get a puncture is just after you have bought brand new tyres.
8. Tyres only ever go flat on the bottom.
9. When travelling on a gravel road with tyre pressures down and you air up when you reach the black top, just down the road it will be gravel again.
10. Whenever airing tyres up or down, the valve stem is always on the bottom.
11. Short cuts rarely are.
12. Starting batteries don't.
13. When driving on corrugations, the smoothest part of the road is where you are not driving.
14. When driving on a highway, you will always have a headwind.
15. You can't tell the depth of a puddle by looking at it. That's what snorkels are for.
16. The best time to visit a destination was last week.
17. The remaining distance to your camp site remains constant as twilight approaches.
18. Someone has always beaten you to the best campsite.
19. When you do make camp in the bush, you will find a better camp site half an hour down the track next morning.
20. When you drive past a good camp site mid-afternoon, you will not be able to find another one until dark.
21. Firewood left beside a fireplace is always green and won't burn.
22. It does not matter where you sit around a campfire, or which way the wind is blowing, the smoke is always in your face.
23. Camping gear is designed by someone who has never used it or been camping.
24. When you go to a camp toilet, there is never any toilet paper.
25. On a trip, the item you forgot to pack or thought you would not need is the one you need the most.
26. When packing, the item you threw in at the last moment will be the one that is the biggest nuisance on the trip.
27. The fault on your vehicle or camp setup that you did not have time to fix before you left is the thing that will cause the most grief.
28. Whenever a person makes a rude comment on the radio about another vehicle on the road, or the place you are driving through, someone will be listening and be offended.

29. Common sense is not very common at all.
30. When you are tired is when you will make mistakes.
31. When all else fails, read the instructions.
32. The simplest solutions are always the best.
33. All things are possible – except driving with snow skis on.
34. If you can't understand it, it is obviously obvious.
35. No matter how clearly you give directions, they will always be misunderstood.
36. There are always tracks on the ground that are not on the map, and tracks on the map that are not on the ground.
37. No matter how accurate or up to date your map is, you will always come across an unmarked track with no signpost.
38. The difficulty of finding any given track is directly proportional to the importance of the consequences of not finding it.
39. If you can't locate your position on a map, then ...
 - a. Don't worry, it will be obvious in hindsight.
 - b. Try turning the map up the other way.
 - c. The map is obviously wrong.
 - d. Or – use your map to light the signal fire.
40. The simplest directions will always be worded in the most complicated way.
41. When directions to a destination say "You can't miss it", you can guarantee that it will be impossible to find.
42. The chances of getting lost are directly proportional to the number of people navigating from maps.
43. You GPS and other technology have an inbuilt sensor that ensures it fails when you are in a hurry or at the precise moment you need it most.
44. There is no such thing as "the best 4WD".
45. The "bling" of a 4WD is in inverse proportion to its capability in the bush and the skill of the driver.
46. All vehicles are designed to make driving difficult and servicing impossible.
47. The reliability of a vehicle is inversely proportional to its sophistication and technology.
48. A major fault will always show up the day after the warranty runs out.
49. Major problems with the vehicle will also not show up until just after a major service.
50. The more people giving advice, the longer it takes to negotiate an obstacle.
51. When recovering a stuck vehicle, the snatch strap or winch cable is always 2m too short.
52. A successful trip is one where you do not lose anyone.
53. The best weather forecast is what you see with your own eyes.
54. Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.
55. When all is said and done, a lot more is said than done.

No apologies to anyone offended by these laws. Please forward your contributions to me so I can add them. See you on a track somewhere (unless I am bogged with a flat tyre in an inaccessible place, with no instructions, and with wet firewood). *John Kent*